

Conserved Lands (SOOE Extended)

Methods and Data Sources

The Maine and New Hampshire databases were queried to identify the conservation lands within the Piscataqua Region watershed (HUC8 01060003). The total acres of public and private conservation lands in the watershed, and the 22 coastal communities in the watershed, were calculated by summing the land area of individual conservation polygons (Table 5.1).

The land area was calculated by subtracting the areas of surface waters from the town boundary polygons. To determine the area of surface waters, GRANIT combined the relevant National Hydrography Dataset Waterbody features (with FType = 390 “LakePond,” 436 “Reservoir,” and 493 “Estuary”) and Area features (with FType = 336 “CanalDitch,” 364 “Foreshore,” 403 “Inundation Area,” 431 “Rapids,” 445 “SeaOcean,” 455 “Spillway,” and 460 “StreamRiver”). The percentage of the Piscataqua Region watershed that is conserved was calculated by dividing the total acres of conservation land by the total land area of the watershed. The same method was used to determine the percent of conservation lands in the 22 coastal communities.

Conservation lands were grouped into “permanent,” “unofficial,” and “unknown” categories using the protection level fields in each state database (Table 5.2). Permanent conservation lands are protected from development through legally enforceable mechanisms, such as conservation easements, deed restrictions, or ownership by an organization or agency whose mission emphasizes land protection. Unofficial conservation lands are not permanently protected; rather, they are owned by a public agency or private organization with the stated intent of protecting the land. The “unknown” designation is self-explanatory.

The most recent dataset of conservation lands from the Maine Office of GIS for the Maine towns and NH GRANIT for the New Hampshire towns were the primary data sources for this indicator.

Additional Data, Tables, and Graphs

Town Name	Conservation Lands 2022 (acres)	Town Area (acres)	Percent Conservation 2022
Barrington, NH	6,446.1	29,719.0	21.7%
Brentwood, NH	3,246.7	10,726.0	30.3%
Brookfield, NH	3,845.4	14,593.0	26.4%
Candia, NH	2,708.8	19,328.9	14.0%
Chester, NH	3,084.1	16,606.2	18.6%
Danville, NH	747.4	7,438.7	10.0%
Deerfield, NH	7,205.6	32,575.7	22.1%
Dover, NH*	3,643.1	17,036.9	21.4%
Durham, NH*	6,713.0	14,251.1	47.1%
East Kingston, NH	1,066.6	6,318.0	16.9%
Epping, NH	4,918.4	16,476.6	29.9%
Exeter, NH*	4,151.6	12,540.6	33.1%
Farmington, NH	2,804.8	23,213.0	12.1%
Fremont, NH	1,489.8	11,033.1	13.5%
Greenland, NH*	1,488.2	6,722.5	22.1%
Hampton, NH*	829.7	8,287.3	10.0%
Hampton Falls, NH*	1,195.3	7,719.6	15.5%
Kensington, NH	2,155.6	7,616.4	28.3%
Kingston, NH	2,665.9	12,494.3	21.3%
Lee, NH	3,336.8	12,685.0	26.3%
Madbury, NH*	2,110.1	7,383.6	28.6%
Middleton, NH	2,545.2	11,559.0	22.0%
Milton, NH	5,271.7	21,088.6	25.0%
New Castle, NH*	110.1	506.2	21.7%
New Durham, NH	4,258.3	26,337.9	16.2%
Newfields, NH*	1,324.0	4,540.8	29.2%
Newington, NH*	1,487.5	5,214.5	28.5%
Newmarket, NH*	2,184.3	8,034.5	27.2%
North Hampton, NH*	2,016.1	8,861.8	22.8%
Northwood, NH	3,141.6	17,965.0	17.5%
Nottingham, NH	9,942.9	29,839.7	33.3%
Portsmouth, NH*	1,491.4	9,995.0	14.9%
Raymond, NH	2,358.4	18,438.3	12.8%
Rochester, NH	2,458.4	28,329.2	8.7%
Rollinsford, NH*	919.2	4,681.3	19.6%
Rye, NH*	1,940.7	8,042.4	24.1%
Sandown, NH	1,138.5	8,888.5	12.8%

Seabrook, NH*	537.6	5,664.7	9.5%
Somersworth, NH	729.1	6,219.2	11.7%
Strafford, NH	8,669.4	31,151.8	27.8%
Stratham, NH*	1,928.5	9,655.1	20.0%
Wakefield, NH	1,414.7	25,264.0	5.6%
Acton, ME	834.3	24,216.3	3.4%
Berwick, ME	1,663.9	23,775.4	7.0%
Eliot, ME*	900.3	12,576.4	7.2%
Kittery, ME*	2,050.8	11,377.9	18.0%
Lebanon, ME	1,068.7	34,955.9	3.1%
North Berwick, ME	1,200.5	24,249.9	5.0%
Sanford, ME	2,653.0	30,289.8	8.8%
South Berwick, ME*	4,431.0	20,446.9	21.7%
Wells, ME*	5,968.7	36,427.3	16.4%
York, ME*	9,486.1	34,901.9	27.2%
TOTAL:	151,978.0	838,260.8	18.1%
Coastal Community TOTAL:	56,907.4	254,868.3	22.3%

Table 5.1. Conserved land in the Piscataqua Region communities (municipalities).

* = Coastal Community

All reported acreages refer to land area only; surface water areas not included.

Acreages are reported for entire town; several towns are only partially within the Piscataqua Region watershed.

Protection Type	New Hampshire	Maine	Total	% of Total
Permanent	102,677.0	27,794.5	130,471.5	85.9%
Unofficial	18,017.7	1,954.8	19,972.5	13.1%
Unknown	1,030.3	508.9	1,539.2	1.0%
Total	121,725.0	30,258.2	151,983.2	100%
% of Total	80.1%	19.9%	100%	

Table 5.2. Conservation lands in the Piscataqua Region 2022.**Acknowledgements and Credit**

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