



NATURAL RESOURCES FAST FACTS

Biddeford has an abundance of wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, scenic and recreational space, and other natural resources. These natural resources must be carefully balanced to preserve biodiversity.

Open space and natural resources:



Provide habitat for game



Support rare and threatened species, like turtles and piping plovers



Protect watersheds



Encourage recreation and tourism



Provide economic opportunity



Protect traditional natural resource industries, like farming

Maintaining local farmland and open space improves reliable access to nutritious food, and, along with preserved open spaces, reduces the impact of air and water pollution.

Biddeford's Relationship with Natural Resources



11%

of the total land area in Biddeford (1,700 acres) is permanently preserved through local land trusts, conservation easements, or other mechanisms.

Biddeford is growing its own food, whether on its existing farms or in community gardens at Mission Hill, Pierson's Lane, William's Court and Rotary Park. But building developments outside of the urban core of the city can threaten the preservation of quality farmland, open spaces used for recreation and food gathering (foraging and hunting), and wildlife habitat. Supporting viable markets (groceries & restaurants, for example) for local growers can boost our economy and our food resilience.



Hunting, fishing, and other traditional land uses are supported by many Biddeford residents.

In 2020:



1205

Residents Were Licensed to Hunt



2152

Residents Were Licensed to Fish

Wildlife Habitats

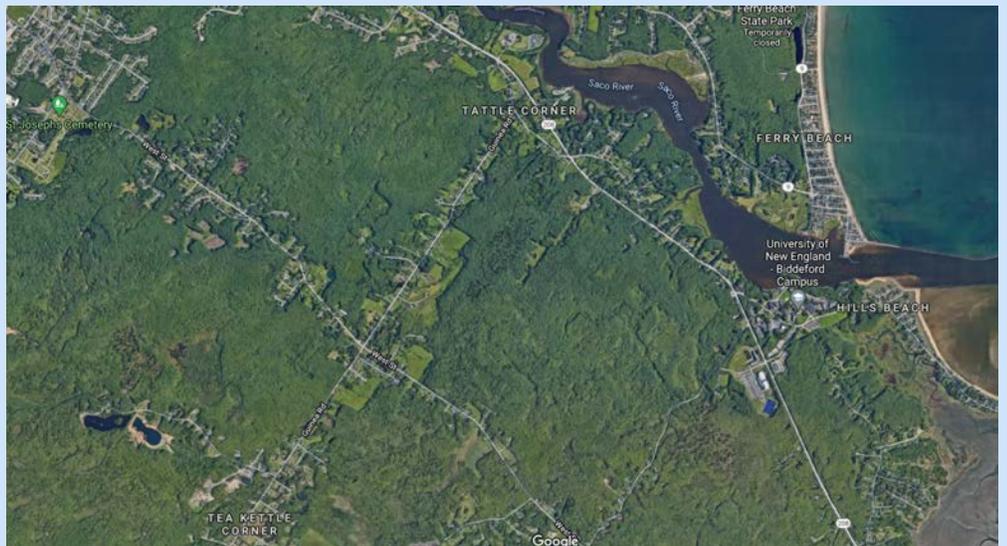


Biddeford is rich in wildlife habitat including a vernal pool complex that continues into Kennebunkport, shoreline and wetland areas, riparian (river) habitat, and other specialized forest areas. It is home to deer, waterfowl and wading birds, rare turtles, salamanders, and many more. Among areas of importance are the Swan Pond Brook habitat block, the Sevigny/Dungeon Brook Area, the Pool Road Bush Brook area, the west Newtown area, the Biddeford/Kennebunkport Vernal Pool Complex and the Pocket (Hemlock) Swamp complex.

Many animals need a variety of habitat types to complete their lifecycle, so they move from place to place throughout the year. It is critical to maintain both the large blocks of land where they typically reside as well as generous corridors for movement between habitats.

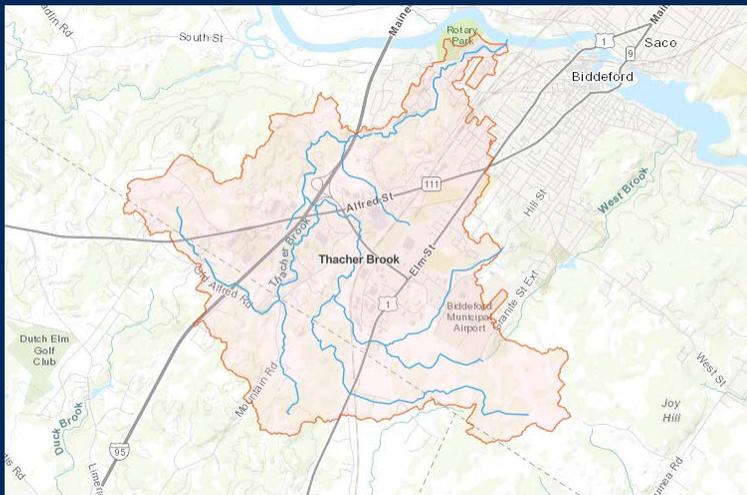
Biddeford-Kennebunkport Vernal Pool Complex

The eastern half of Biddeford is a State-designated Focus Area – The Biddeford - Kennebunkport Vernal Pool Complex – home to several threatened and endangered species of wildlife.



This area also features wetlands, which are the headwaters of several streams feeding rivers flowing through Biddeford and neighboring towns.

Watersheds



There are ten watersheds in Biddeford, with seven flowing into the Saco River. Others flow through blocks of undeveloped land and critical habitat which promote biodiversity.

Several of these waterways are under development pressure, most notably the Thacher Brook, which has been designated as an "Urban-Impaired Stream" by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. A management plan intended to address water quality issues was developed in 2017 but has not yet been implemented.

Water

Saco River

Biddeford sits along the Saco River, which is a rich ecological and economic resource.



Historically, the Native Americans of the Wabanaki Confederacy used the fertile land of the Saco to grow crops, hunt, and fish. Later, the River powered the mills which employed immigrants who came here from Europe and Canada. Today, the Saco River is our chief water supply in Biddeford, as well as a major contributor to our scenic and recreational opportunities, including access at the Rotary Park and Marblehead boat launches.

Beaches and Working Waterfronts

Biddeford is home to over *2 miles of sandy beach*. Public access is available by car, bike or foot. Three parking areas have limited parking spaces, and there is currently no public transit available to access the beaches:

- Gilbert R. Boucher Park (Biddeford Pool)
- Fortune's Rocks Beach
- Middle Beach



Many homes near the ocean are not served by City sewer, but instead by private septic systems (including overboard discharges) prone to leaking or failure. Because of elevated fecal counts, shellfish harvesting is prohibited, restricted, or threatened in Biddeford.

Biddeford has *two working waterfronts*:

- Biddeford Pool Yacht Club & Wharf
- Rumery's Boat Yard



Water Quality

Some of the biggest threats to water quality in Biddeford are:



Failing septic systems



Home pesticide applications



Contamination from roads and streets