

9 RECREATIONAL AND OPEN SPACE

9.1 St. George Parks and Recreation

Recreation has always been an important part of community life in St. George. In the late 1800's and early 1900's many of the villages including Long Cove, Smalley Town, and Clark Island had baseball teams. The construction of a baseball field at the foot of Barter's Hill with a large Grandstand led to the rise of the popularity of the Twilight League. These teams often competed in front of large crowds until participation and interest waned in early 1970's. The ball field and Grandstand fell into disrepair and was torn down. Since 1990, structured recreational opportunities for youth and adults have increased each year. So much so, that the need arose for first a part time and then a full-time director in 2001.

Hunting is a popular natural resource based activity in St. George and there is still a tradition of "permissive trespass" on private land in many parts of town. However, more private land is being "posted" and requires landowner permission to access. In addition, cross country skiing, hiking and bird watching are gaining in popularity with both residents and non-residents attracted to natural beauty of St. George.

In recent years, support and participation for recreation has been strong. The town maintains a close relationship with the St. George School and uses the school gym for many of its programs.

Children's Recreation. Each year since 1995, over a hundred children ages 5 and older have participated in Town Recreation programs in St George. Many clinics are offered through the year with several camps in the summer. St. George recreational sports teams compete with 20 other communities across the area. The town hosts the annual Mussel Ridge Tournament in March for 3rd and 4th grade teams. Many of the popular programs include: Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Softball, and Tennis.

Adult/Family Recreation. The Parks and Recreation Department offers several activities for adults and families including - Old timers game, Lighthouse loop 5k, weekly exercise classes, coed softball, soccer, basketball, tennis, referee & coaching clinics, community trips to Celtics, Sea Dogs and other professional events.

Senior Citizens. Programs such as Luncheons, school connections, shopping trips and tours are offered for senior citizens.

Other Recreational Activities. Other activities in town include the St. George Sailing Foundation (which offers summer programs and scholarships), Neighbor-to-Neighbor ride share program, and the St. George Youth and Scouting Council (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts).

9.2 Recreational Facilities and Sites

Recreational Facilities in Port Clyde

Marshall Point Light. The Town owns the light tower, along with the adjacent property, which is administered by the St. George Historical Society. This is a sightseeing area for residents and tourists alike with picnic tables and a large parking area that has been recently upgraded and appears to be sufficient at this time. The tower with its working, automated light is still maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset and the museum on the first floor of the Keeper's House is opened certain hours during the summer months and staffed by volunteers from the St. George Historical Society.

Drift Inn Beach. Drift Inn Beach is a local beach near Port Clyde used by residents and tourists for swimming and sunbathing with an adjacent parking area.

Port Clyde Public Landing. This is a town-owned wharf with floats and a boat launching ramp. There are a few existing parking spaces on the wharf. The boat ramp was recently upgraded, and the area was expanded for additional tie-up space. There is limited parking on the pier, but the addition of the adjacent 10 Cold Storage Road property presents opportunities for improved parking and access in Port Clyde.

Collins Park. This is a Town owned park that includes an outdoor basketball court. The park has been refurbished with new equipment, hot top and cedar chips added to the area.

Facilities in the Tenants Harbor Area

Tenants Harbor Public Landing. The Town-owned wharf has several floats and a boat ramp. There is limited parking on the pier.

Tennis Courts and Town Baseball Field. This town owned site has outdoor tennis courts and two adjacent baseball diamonds. The tennis courts were rebuilt in 2011. The area is also used for soccer. Dugouts and a refreshment stand have been added, along with more seating.

Softball Field. The softball field is located near the public landing, the Town holds a perpetual easement on this property for children's recreation. A portable toilet is in place for the summer. Parking is a problem.

The Marsh. This site is a privately-owned wetland area and dammed up pond used for ice-skating and an important source of water for the Fire Department. The Gray Garage has been removed which allows for limited parking. The Conservation Commission has planted perennials in a new garden area and placed wood duck houses in the Marsh.

Ponderosa Park/Ponderosa Pond. The area is used for sightseeing and ice-skating and is privately owned. There is no formal agreement between the Town and the owners for use of this property.

St. George School. A property of St George MSU that can be used by residents, with approval of the school district for a variety of recreational and cultural events. The Nature Trail, open to the public, is used for educational field trips.

Facilities in the St. George Area

The Town Forest. The Town Forest is a town-owned tract of approximately 66 woodland acres. The Town recently surveyed the forest to establish and clearly mark its boundaries. A forest management plan has been developed for this resource, as well as a walking trail.

Scouting facilities. The Youth and Scouting Council owns 8.5 acres of land and lodge facilities in the Wiley's Corner area and 32.5 acres of land off of the Wallston Road.

The Friends of St. George Neighborhood Access Path Program. The Friends of St. George, a private organization in town oversees a number of private access trails that are marked and available for public use at the discretion of the landowner. Information is available on the Friends of St. George website.

Facilities Along the St. George River

Fort Point. Fort Point is a state-owned park/picnic area. It was once the site of an old fort which was built in the early 1800s to help protect American shipping interests from the English and French. The state purchased the property in the 1920's. In 2006 the Town purchased additional adjacent land to provide direct public access. Today there is a walking trail from Route 131 and a small parking area.

9.3 Scenic Vistas and Open Spaces

The residents and visitors of St. George value the Town's open spaces and scenic vistas. Some scenic views worthy of mention are:

Table 9-1 Scenic Resources	
Marshall Point Light	Port Clyde
Port Clyde Village/Landing	Port Clyde
Horse Point Road	Port Clyde
Drift Inn Beach Area	Port Clyde
Mosquito Harbor	Martinsville
Tenants Harbor/Landing	Tenants Harbor
Haskell's Cove/Lobster Pound	From Route 131
Seavey Cove	From Route 131
Clark Island	From Caignair
Rackliff's Island Causeway	
Kallio's Cove	Eastward across marsh
Turkey Cove at intersection	
Harrington Cove	Route 73
Watt's Cove	Route 131, Wallston Road
Ponderosa	Wallston Road

There are also many other places throughout the town with wonderful scenic views. Several sites provide vistas along the road. There is usually parking within walking distance of the best site for viewing.

9.4 Goals, Policies, and Strategies

A. State Goal

To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine Citizens, including access to surface waters.

B. Local Policies and Strategies

Strategies proposed in this Comprehensive Plan are assigned responsible parties and a timeframe in which to be addressed. **Short Term** is assigned for strategies to be addressed within one to three years after the adoption of this Comprehensive Plan, **Midterm** for strategies to be addressed within five years, and **Long Term** for strategies to be addressed within ten years. In addition, **Ongoing** is used for regularly recurring activities.

Policy 1: Promote and protect the availability of recreational opportunities for St. George residents.

Strategy	Responsibility	Date
Conduct a regular analysis to examine long-range recreation needs of the community and make recommendations for addressing deficiencies and making improvements. Recommend priorities for	Recreation Director/Town Manager	Ongoing

action and establish cost estimates, and identify funding sources.		
Actively seek easements or ownership of property to be used as a recreation resource and establish a program for land ownership or easements for property to be used for public recreation.	Select Board	Ongoing
Continue to set aside Town monies for the acquisition of land for open space and recreation and investigate other sources of funding. Consider establishing additional funding mechanisms for the purchase of conservation easements and for the purchase of land to preserve public access to St. George waters.	Parks & Recreation/Conservation Commission	Ongoing
Maintain existing trails and encourage development of new trails as appropriate.	Parks & Recreation/Conservation Commission	Ongoing