MEMORANDUM
TO: BELFAST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
FROM: NOEL MUSSON
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES
DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2019

The Agriculture and Forest Resources chapter has been updated to reflect current data:
- Coastal Farms closed in 2014. This has been removed from chapter.
- Agricultural sales (Waldo County) have been updated.
- Timber harvest Information has been updated.

Data that needs to be confirmed:
- Confirm: “The market for local agricultural products is increasing and Belfast residents could likely support more activity in this sector. “
- Confirm: “Within the past ten years, one farming operation has closed but it has not been replaced with residential development. Within this same period, no major residential development has replaced large woodlots. In the next ten-year planning period, no significant farmland or woodlots are seen as vulnerable to conversion to residential use. Also, several persons have purchased property with the intent of establishing a small scale agricultural use.”
- Confirm: City CSA partnership with local banks, still active?
- Confirm: Off Route 1 bypass, 30 acres were cleared – still undeveloped?
- Confirm: Does the school have a farm?
- Confirm: Street Tree Planting Program through City & Greenstreets

Historical knowledge of City events and/or information not found in the State’s Data Pack includes:
- Acres of land in Belfast in the Farmland Protection Program and Open Space Program – is it all in the rural area of town?
- Farmland broken down by crops, pasture, acres in orchard, acres in horticulture
- How many and what kind of operational farms are there in Belfast?
- Confirm that there are no industrialized forest operations (encompassing 500 acres or more per site) in Belfast
- PROTECTED FARMLAND (Waldo County) Permanently Protected: 556 acres (4 farms) have been protected by three nonprofit organizations. Temporarily Protected: Maine Dept. of Agriculture 1,073 acres protected through Farms for the Future (5 years); Enrolled in Farm and Open Space Tax Program, 9,752 acres farmland in 2002 - 4,421 acres cropland plus 5,289 acres woodland, 1,279 acres open space in 2001, Enrolled in Tree Growth Program 54,501 acres in 2001. Note: More recent data was not part of the state-provided community data set.
- Above data coming from Assessor’s office.
Maps Included:
Land Cover
City Property, Open Space & Farmland
Public Facilities and Services
Farmland Soils
AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST RESOURCES

Introduction

Farming is a significant land use activity, important to the economic well-being of numerous Belfast residents. Forestry is also a key land use. Open space is integral to Belfast’s rural character and is important to Belfast’s residents, who have over the years, indicated a strong preference for preserving the City’s rural character. This chapter describes agricultural and forestry resources in Belfast and recommends steps for their protection.

A. State Goal

1. To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources.

B. Analyses and Key Issues

(1). How important is agriculture and/or forestry to the community and region? Are these activities growing, stable, or declining? Are the farms or woodlots in the community important for non-economic reasons, such as scenic landscapes, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, or historic significance?

Agriculture and forestry are more important to the community than the small number of those employed in these sectors might suggest. The market for local agricultural products is increasing and Belfast residents could likely support more activity in this sector. Sustainable forestry provides a small but useful supplemental income to large landowners, and helps reduce property tax valuations, allowing residents who work in the local economy or are on fixed incomes to remain in Belfast. Larger scale, traditional agricultural activities have declined, while specialized, small-scale and niche-farming activities have increased, like the raising of alpacas, organic and heirloom crops. Demand for hay is primarily for horse farms. In 2009, there were 1,601.68 acres in the Farmland Protection Program, up from 434.59 acres in 1997. Farmland in 2009 included 158.5 acres in crops/blueberries, 652.68 acres in pasture, no acres in orchard, and 9.55 acres in horticulture. All of this land is located in the rural area of the City. In 2009, 271.77 acres were enrolled in the Open Space Program. Woodlots in the tree growth program in 1997 comprised 2,130.6 acres; in 2009 that figure was 1,515.2 acres, a decrease of 615.4 acres.

It is specifically noted that in 2012 a new food processing operation, Coastal Farms, was established at the former Moss, Inc., facility on Route 1 near Perkins Road. The concept for Coastal Farms was started by Jan Anderson, a local resident who engages in small-scale agriculture. Coastal Farms features a cold storage facility, processing lines and commercial kitchen facilities which are available for rent to persons engaged in making specialty food products. The facility processed its first blueberries in 2012 which involved 40 plus employees.

Comment [SD1]: Is this accurate? Assume yes-propose to committee?
Comment [SD2]: Assessor?
Comment [SD3]: SHUT DOWN IN 2014
(2). How are land use patterns and land values contributing to the loss of farm or forest land?

The rising value of land for residential uses and the increased valuation of land that could be converted to residential use have reduced the amount of land farmed and forested. Property tax is the primary source of revenue for municipal government services. Residential uses are often sought because of the increased property tax revenue that they will generate. Importantly, however, residential uses consume significantly more municipal services than do farming and forestry activities. Scattered residential development in formerly rural areas breaks up contiguous parcels and facilitates increased residential development. Farming has typically been small-scale; however, niche operations catering to specialized markets can still flourish. No industrialized forest operations (encompassing 500 acres or more per site) are found in Belfast. Voluntary tree growth designation is likely to continue. Although, limited amounts of forestry conservation easements in the City mean that the existing forestry activities may decline as scattered development in formerly rural areas increase.

(3). What regulatory and non-regulatory steps is the community currently taking to support productive farm and forest lands? Are there local or regional land trusts actively working to protect farms or forest lands in the community?

Many of the current zoning districts support agricultural and forestry uses, including the General Purpose A, General Purpose B, Residential Agricultural I, Residential Agricultural II, Protection Rural 1, Protection Rural 2, and much of the Residential Growth zoning district. In addition, many of the City’s commercial zoning districts, allow low scale agricultural activities, and in 2011 the City amended its zoning regulations to allow domestic chickens in urban residential neighborhoods.

The City’s Future Land Use Plan that was adopted as part of this Comprehensive Plan establishes the Rural Road Class 1 and Rural Road Class 2 zoning districts to replace many of the current rural oriented zoning districts. These Road Class districts clearly allow and encourage agricultural and forestry uses, and allow home occupations at a scale that can support small agricultural, husbandry, forestry and similar uses. There are many large undeveloped rural parcels in Belfast, and at present, there is minimal pressure to redevelop these parcels for residential use. Most remain open field and forestry lands.

The Future Land Use Plan, like many current zoning districts, also recognize that many areas in Belfast support a wide range of uses. For example, a furniture store located in the Route 3 Commercial zoning district also supports a horse stable. As such, it is recommended that agricultural activities be allowed in mixed use/commercial zoning districts. The City also will consider policies similar to its domesticated chicken policy for urban areas.
The City is very supportive of non-regulatory steps to support farming and forestry including farmer’s markets, working with the local chamber of commerce to help market agriculture products, and working with local school lunch programs to incorporate local goods. For example, in 2011, the City established a program to encourage CSA’s by working with local banks to establish the equivalent of a ‘christmas club bank account’ for persons to be able to save money for next year’s CSA. The City actively supports outreach and education on the importance of local farms and forestlands to local schools and the public.

Continuing, Belfast has a long established food co-operative that has over 3,000 members and which offers locally grown foods, and access to a fish purchasing cooperative. In addition to providing a market for local farmers, the Co-op provides advocacy and education regarding healthy living and foods. In addition, in 2011, a group of residents broke ground on the Belfast Co-Housing and Eco-Village project, a 38 unit residential subdivision that features net zero energy housing, community gardens, and sustainable development. The housing development is clustered on 3 acres with over 40 acres of surrounding open space and fields. The Co-Housing and Eco-Village project is a significant accomplishment for its founders, particularly at a time when the housing market was very depressed. In 2018, the last unit offered for sale in the Belfast Co-Housing and Eco-Village project was sold. The City role in this project was to use local zoning standards that allowed this type of development.

The Maine Farmland Trust (located in Belfast) and the Coastal Mountains Land Trust work with landowners who wish to conserve their properties for the continuation of sustainable agricultural and forestry operations. See the map titled Public Facilities and Services for land under conservation easements.

(4). Are there undeveloped parts of town in which prime farmland are prevalent? If so, how are these areas currently being used? How are they being protected?

The map titled Farmland Soils shows the locations of prime farmland soils as defined by the USDA. These soils are found throughout the City. Within the US 1 bypass and along shorelines, these soils are in areas largely developed already. A few of the larger contiguous areas of these soils are found along portions of Route 3, Route 141 and crossing an interior portion of Crocker Rd. These areas are less developed. See the map titled Land Cover for uses, development patterns, and intensity. These areas allow for agricultural and forestry uses, see summarized district descriptions in B.3 above and the Belfast Zoning map.

(5). Are farm and commercial forest land owners taking advantage of the state’s current use tax laws?

Those property owners participating in the farmland and tree growth tax programs are benefiting from reduced tax assessments based on the current (non-residential use) of their property or portions thereof. See figures in C.3 and C.4 below. It is estimated that an addition farmland and woodlots might be eligible to participate in these

Comment [SD6]: Confirm that this is still active. Would we like to include a statement about the Farmer’s Market?

Comment [SD7]: Update map

Comment [SD8]: Update map

Comment [SD9]: Update map
(6). Has proximity of new homes or other incompatible uses affected the normal operations of farms or woodlot owners?

No reports have been made to the City recently regarding an impact on the normal operations of farms or forested/woodlot areas.

(7). Are there large tracts of agricultural or industrial forest land that have been or may be sold for development in the foreseeable future? If so, what impact would this have on the community?

See the map titled Land Cover for the locations of Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay in Belfast. Belfast does not have industrial forestland (encompassing 500 or more acres per site). Within the past ten years, one farming operation has closed but it has not been replaced with residential development. Within this same period, no major residential development has replaced large woodlots. In the next ten-year planning period, no significant farmland or woodlots are seen as vulnerable to conversion to residential use. Also, several persons have purchased property with the intent of establishing a small scale agricultural use.

(8). Is clear-cutting an issue in the community? Is the clear-cutting related to normal woodlands management, or is it in preparation for land development?

Clear-cutting has only arisen as an issue in Belfast twice in the past 15 years. In the area of Stevenson Lane, about 80 acres were cleared (timber, other vegetation and topsoil) before a subdivision was proposed. Such clearing is considered liquidation harvesting and is now subject to regulation under the state-mandated subdivision criteria rule. Off the Route 1 bypass, about 30 acres were cleared on property adjacent to and under the same ownership as a mobile home park. Maine DEP fined the owner and they have paid restoration fees, which were likely in excess of the revenue made from the timber sold. The cleared lot has yet to be developed. Selective cutting has occurred as part of regulated woodlands management throughout the rural portions of the City. To date, clear cutting has not been a major concern.

(9). Do local farmers and/or loggers take steps to minimize impacts on natural resources in the community? Do local farms participate in Natural Resource Conservation Service programs?

The City can advise farmers and woodlot owners on best management practices and put these persons in contact with state officials for further guidance. Negative impacts including pollution from farming and forestry in shoreland areas has occurred in the Shepard Rd area within the past ten years and ongoing remediation in accordance with state law has and will continue to take place. Some local farms...
participate in the Natural Resource Conservation Service programs.

(10). Does the community have, or need, a street tree or other tree planting and maintenance program?

Currently, Belfast has a tree warden and a maintenance program for street tree plantings, which is overseen by the City Council and Public Works Department. The City has an ordinance regarding the preservation of street trees.

C. Conditions and Trends

Minimum data required to address state goals:

(1). The community’s Comprehensive Planning Agriculture and Forestry Data Set prepared and provided to the community by the Department of Agriculture, the Maine Forest Service, and the Office, or their designees.

See the map titled Farmland Soils for the location of Prime Farmland soils (USDA defined) and soils categorized as Additional Farmland of Statewide Importance (State defined).

Farmland Protected in Waldo County:

- Permanently Protected: 556 acres (4 farms) have been protected by three nonprofit organizations
- Temporarily Protected: Maine Dept. of Agriculture 1,073 acres protected through Farms for the Future (5 years); Enrolled in Farm and Open Space Tax Program, 9,752 acres farmland in 2002 - 4,421 acres cropland plus 5,289 acres woodland, 1.279 acres open space in 2001. Enrolled in Tree Growth Program 54,501 acres in 2001. Note: More recent data was not part of the state-provided community data set.

Waldo County Agricultural Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All crops</td>
<td>$1,257,000</td>
<td>$1,850,000</td>
<td>$2,796,000</td>
<td>$2,796,000</td>
<td>$5,002,000</td>
<td>$8,479,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock/poultry and their products</td>
<td>$46,202,000</td>
<td>$34,681,000</td>
<td>$14,336,000</td>
<td>$12,229,000</td>
<td>$17,818,000</td>
<td>$14,476,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursery and greenhouse products</td>
<td>$130,000</td>
<td>$185,000</td>
<td>$541,000</td>
<td>$1,211,000</td>
<td>$1,613,000</td>
<td>$2,539,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruits, nuts and berries</td>
<td>$393,000</td>
<td>$723,000</td>
<td>$1,511,000</td>
<td>$650,000</td>
<td>$1,284,000</td>
<td>$1,005,000</td>
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</table>

### Summary of Timber Harvest Information for City of Belfast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Selection harvest, acres</th>
<th>Shelterwood harvest, acres</th>
<th>Clearcut harvest, acres</th>
<th>Total Harvest, acres</th>
<th>Change of land use, acres</th>
<th>Number of timber harvests</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>352</td>
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<td>1992</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>265</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>1996</td>
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<td>430</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>1999</td>
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<td>391</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<td>2007</td>
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<td>533</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>211.5</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>276.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>145</td>
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<td>145</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>543922</td>
<td>408109</td>
<td>4,5486.754.5</td>
<td>259355</td>
<td>263407</td>
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</table>

Source: Department of Conservation - Maine Forest Service

Notes: Data compiled from confidential year-end landowner reports to Maine Forest Service. To protect confidential landowner information, data is reported only where three or more landowner reports reported harvesting in the town.

(2). A map and/or description of the community’s farms, farmland, and managed forest lands including information on the importance of these resources to the local and regional economy and rural character.

See the map titled Land Cover for the location of Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay.
areas. See the [map titled City Property, Open Space & Farmland](#) for parcels in farmland, tree growth, and open space programs. The open space provided by farming and forestry activities is important to the rural character that surrounds the Downtown and is found in backland areas away from the highway commercial development that is spreading along Route 1 and Route 3. Less than 2% of Belfast’s residents worked in agriculture, farming, fishing, and forestry, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining occupations in 2017. However, the public’s attention on the value of locally raised healthy food has boosted the market for these commodities. Accordingly, grocery stores and supermarket chains are offering more local produce and related goods for sale in Belfast. Belfast’s population could become a larger market for dairy and crops raised within Waldo County and nearby.

(3). Information on the number of farms and acres of farmland in the community enrolled in the state farm and open space law taxation program, including changes in enrollment over the past 10-20 years.

In 1997, there were eight active farms in Belfast: one dairy farm, one dairy and sheep farm, and six general agriculture farms. Two of the general farms are also horse farms. There were 434.59 acres registered in Belfast under the States Farm and Open Space Law: 57.5 acres in crops, 365.09 acres in pasture, 4 acres in orchard and 8 acres in horticulture. All of this land is located in the rural area.

In 2009, there were about 12 active farms in Belfast: 1 dairy farm, 2 sheep farm, and 9 general agriculture farms. Two of the general farms are also horse farms. Niche operations, like the raising of alpaca are also found in Belfast. There were 1,601.68 acres in the Farmland Protection Program and 271.77 acres in the Open Space Program. For farmland, 158.5 acres were in crops/ blueberries, 652.68 acres in pasture, no acres in orchard, and 9.55 acres in horticulture. All of this land is located in the rural area.

The increased acreage in crops, pasture, and horticulture from 1997 to 2009 is due to increased participation in the program, rather than an increase in farming activity.

(4). Information on the number of parcels and acres of forest land enrolled in the state tree growth tax law program, including changes in enrollment over the past 10-20 years.

The Tree Growth Tax Law Program allows for the assessment of forestland based on current use rather than market value as long as the land is managed for timber production and remains as forest.

In 1997, there were 2,130.6 acres registered in Belfast under the Tree Growth Tax Law Program. All but 23.75 acres of this acreage are in rural locations. Most of this acreage is located on the west side of the City. In 2009, there were 1,515.2 acres registered in Belfast under the Tree Growth Tax Law Program. Most of this acreage is in rural locations.
(5). A description of any community farming and forestry activities (e.g. street tree program, community garden, farmer’s market, or community forest), including identification of managing officials and/or organizations.

The following agricultural and forestry related programs are active within Belfast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Occurs</th>
<th>Organized/Managed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmer’s Market</td>
<td>April-October (twice weekly)</td>
<td>Farmers Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>Spring/Summer</td>
<td>Civic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Farm</td>
<td>Spring/Summer</td>
<td>RSU 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Tree Planting</td>
<td>Spring/Fall</td>
<td>City &amp; Greenstreets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Policies

(1). To safeguard lands identified as prime farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.

(2). To promote the use of best management practices for timber harvesting and agricultural production.

(3). To support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.

E. Strategies

(1). Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices.

(2). Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices.

(3). Amend land use ordinances to require commercial or subdivision developments in critical rural areas to maintain areas with prime farm soils as open space and agricultural lands.

(4). Limit non-residential development in critical rural areas to natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers’ markets, and home occupations.

(5). Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the current use taxation programs.

(6). Permit activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations, such as roadside stands, greenhouses, and pick-your-own operations.

(7). Include agriculture and commercial forestry operations in local or regional economic development plans.
(8). Protect existing agricultural areas from conflicts that may arise from new, adjacent land use activities. Consider the creation of agricultural buffers for new commercial developments abutting existing agricultural uses and/or an agricultural overlay district to protect existing agricultural activities by limiting or prohibiting conflicting land uses. Amend the Subdivision Ordinance to include a provision requiring a 100-foot buffer strip between new residential or commercial development and active farmland. (Enacting a land use district or zone where agriculture is recognized as the primary use and where residential uses are limited or conditional can reduce property tax assessments based upon the current prevailing use rather than on the potential for residential use. Ever-increasing property taxes due to the potential for residential use are often cited as contributing to the loss of farmland.)

(9). Publicize the availability of free and low cost professional assistance through the U.S. Conservation Service, U.S. Agricultural Stabilization, and Soil Conservation Service, State Service Foresters and woodlot management programs sponsored by the major paper companies. Make this information available at the City Office Building.

(10). Publicize the availability of the Right to Farm and use state forest practice regulations, by including a mailing with tax bills and by developing and/or acquiring resource materials for further distribution. Also, make this information available at the City Office Building.

(11). In the outside Rural Districts, strongly encourage land use development practices, such as cluster housing, that preserve agricultural and forestry resources and open space.

(12). Establish an open space fund, supported by donations, grants and, at the discretion of the City, tax penalties from the sale or change of use status of land which is currently tax exempt or subject to reduced taxation, such as land subject to the tree Growth Tax.

(13). Work cooperatively with local organizations and individuals who engage in agricultural and forestry oriented activities to promote such uses, such as the City's CSA program, the Belfast Co-operative, the Farmers Market, the Farmland Trust and similar organizations.
Map prepared by Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Sources: City of Belfast, Wright-Pierce, CMLT, MDOT and MEGIS
Map revised: January, 2010

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Belfast Ambulance Service and Fire Station
- Waldo County General Hospital
- Waldo County Sheriff’s Department
- Belfast Police Department
- Belfast Free Library
- Belfast City Park
- Belfast Ambulance Service and Fire Station
- Waldo County Sheriff’s Department

LEGEND

- State roads
- City roads
- Private/Undeveloped roads
- Belfast Municipal Airport
- Conserved lands *
- Some conservation lands may not be publicly accessible.

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Belfast Ambulance Service and Fire Station
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- Waldo County General Hospital
- Waldo County Sheriff’s Department
- Belfast Police Department
- Belfast Free Library
- Belfast City Park
- Belfast Ambulance Service and Fire Station
- Waldo County Sheriff’s Department

LEGEND

- State roads
- City roads
- Private/Undeveloped roads
- Belfast Municipal Airport
- Conserved lands *
- Some conservation lands may not be publicly accessible.
Belfast Comprehensive Plan

Public Facilities and Services (Downtown)

LEGEND

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- Belfast Historical Society and Museum
- Belfast Ambulance Service and Fire Station
- Waldo County General Hospital
- Waldo County Sheriff's Department
- Belfast Police Department
- Belfast Free Library
- MDOT Sand Salt Shed
- Belfast City Park
- Boat launch
- School
  1 - Belfast Area High School
  2 - Bcope
  3 - Captain Albert W. Stevens School
  4 - Cornerspring Montessori School
  5 - East Belfast School
  6 - Montessori School
  7 - The School at Sweetser
  8 - Troy A. Howard Middle School
  9 - University of Maine Hutchison Center

WATER MAINS

- Public
- Private

SEWER MAINS

- Public
- Public Force Main
- Major Privately Owned Sewer Line

Point locations are approximate.

Note: Several of the private driveways located on the water side of Searsport Avenue have private force main lines that connect to the City sewer line.

Map prepared by Eastern Maine Development Corporation
Sources: City of Belfast, Wright-Pierce, MDOT, CMLT and MEGIS
Map revised: January, 2010

Map Area

Sources:
- City of Belfast
- Wright-Pierce
- MDOT
- CMLT
- MEGIS
Land cover classifications are defined in the text of the Comprehensive Plan. Original source data based on fused 30-meter LandSat imagery circa 2001 and SPOT-5 imagery circa 2004. Land cover classification is based on a modified NLCD/CCAP 2001 classification (note that some classifications shown on this map have been combined for simplicity). Pixel size of land cover grid is 5 meters.

**Land Cover Acreage and Percentage**

- **Developed Land**: 2,516.5 acres, 3.93 square miles, 10.3%
- **Cultivated Crops and Pasture/Hay**: 2,814.5 acres, 4.40 square miles, 11.5%
- **Forest**: 13,424.9 acres, 20.98 square miles, 54.7%
- **Grasslands/Herbaceous and Scrub/Shrub**: 480.4 acres, 0.75 square miles, 2.0%
- **Wetlands and Wetland Forest**: 799.1 acres, 1.25 square miles, 3.3%
- **Open Water**: 2,656.7 acres, 4.15 square miles, 10.8%
- **Other**: 1,842.8 acres, 2.88 square miles, 7.5%
- **Total**: 24,534.9 acres, 38.3 square miles, 100.0%

**Map Notes**

- Developed Land (High, Medium, Low and Open)
- Forest (Deciduous, Evergreen, Mixed)
- Open Water
- Wetlands and Wetland Forest
- Other includes bare land, heavy partial cut, light partial cut, regenerating forest, roads/runways, and unconsolidated shore.

**Map Preparation**

Map prepared by Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

**Sources**

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Prime farmland soils have the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and that is available for these uses. They have the combination of soil properties, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops in an economic manner if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. In general, prime farmland soils have the following characteristics:

- Adequate and dependable water supply from precipitation or irrigation
- Favorable temperature and growing season
- Acceptable level of acidity or alkalinity
- Acceptable content of salt or sodium
- Few or no rocks
- Permeable to water and air
- Not excessively eroded or saturated with water for long periods
- Either do not flood frequently during the growing season or are protected from flooding.