

GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Forest Resources

Bowdoinham is a rural town with young forests that cover approximately 56% of its land.

Goals

1. To promote sustainable forest management activities.
2. To protect and improve our recreational opportunities through sustainable forest management practices.
3. To maintain and expand our native forestry resources to improve air and water quality, protect and expand wildlife habitat, increase climate resilience, stabilize shorelines, and beautify neighborhoods, town properties, and travel corridors.
4. Develop community forests, including food forests, and tree nurseries.
5. To promote and educate our citizens and businesses about invasive pests, trees, and diseases.

Key Issues

Our forest resources are vulnerable, limited, and fragmented yet highly valued as scenic, economic, environmental and recreational resources. How do we encourage private property owners to manage their forest land in ways that meet these goals? How do we encourage good forest management practices? How do we expand, connect, and protect our forest resources?

Recommendations

1. Create a tree committee to develop a municipal forest management plan which includes tree care and replacement policy.
2. Provide resources and educational opportunities in order to maintain and expand our forestry resources.
3. Create a resource package that includes various options for forest management, such as types of timber harvesting, wildlife habitat enhancement possibilities, and recreational opportunities for the website and distribution to wood lot owners.
4. Install a community forest at the new waterfront park.
5. Develop a school orchard.
6. Explore becoming a Tree City.
7. Encourage enrollment in the Tree Growth Tax Program, and other conservation programs including incentive-based forest carbon programs.