

Public Facilities & Services

Conditions and Trends

(1) *Location of facilities and service areas (mapped as appropriate).*

See the map titled Public Facilities and Services.

(2) *General physical condition of facilities and equipment;*

(3) *Capacity and anticipated demand during the planning period;*

(4) *Identification of who owns/manages the systems;*

For (2) through (4) see the responses below.

(5) *Estimated costs of needed capital improvements to public facilities; and*

See the Capital Investment Plan.

(6) *The following information related to each of these public facilities and services:*

a. *Sewerage and/or Water Supply – Identify number and types of users, and percent of households served*

Bowdoinham has no public sewer, however the Richmond Utility District provides sewer and water to 15 customers in Bowdoinham on South Pleasant Street and River Road. See [Richmond Utility Map](#). As of 2023, the Bowdoinham Water District has 298 water connections in Bowdoinham. Most are residential customers (about 21% of the Town's households are connected). Twelve are commercial customers. Five are municipal accounts (Town of Bowdoinham). The Bowdoinham Community School is connected. There are 48 fire hydrants in Bowdoinham.

b. *Septage – Identify any community policies or regulations regarding septage collection and disposal.*

The Town follows State regulations regarding septage collection and disposal from municipal facilities. The Town enforces the State Plumbing Code regarding subsurface waste.

c. *Solid Waste – Describe the community's solid waste management system. Identify types and amounts of municipal solid waste and recycled materials for the past five (5) years.*

Bowdoinham operates a recycling facility for residents. In November of 2020 the town moved the operations at the former recycling center located at 243 Post Road at the advice of and as a result of an engineering study and relocated to our Public works facility located at 121 Pond Road in Bowdoinham. The town is currently working on designs for a new or rehab facility.

The town provides single stream recycling which accepts plastics #1-7, mixed paper, aluminum/tin cans, and cardboard in Silver Bullets. It also provides a food scrap drop-off kiosk and Christmas trees are collected and chipped for mulch. Further, source separated cardboard gets baled, and scrap metal is collected in 30yd dumpster for recycling. Shredded paper is collected for use at local farms for bedding and compost.

Bulky wastes and construction waste are also collected and hauled to a processing and disposal company. In addition, the Town participates in a yearly regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection drive hosted in neighboring communities. The town can accept and properly dispose of lead acid batteries. Additionally, the Town also participates in the following product stewardship programs at our facility: Paint Care, mercury bulb and thermostat programs, rechargeable batteries and electronics.

Trash pickup is done through private haulers contracted and permitted by the town. Bowdoinham uses the “Pay As You Throw Program” charging \$2.50 per bag, which was increased to \$3.00 in 2023. For more information, see the description below under Solid Waste and Recycling Department.

Below is the recycling and solid waste data available for the last five years. Please note that in 2018 the state was revamping their municipal solid waste reporting system and that construction and demolition debris was not required to be reported to the state until 2021.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management	Amount (tons) 2018	Amount (tons) 2019	Amount (tons) 2020	Amount (tons) 2021	Amount (tons) 2022
MSW (trash) disposed via landfill or waste-to-energy incinerator	-	215.9	253.17	248.53	243.04
MSW recycled - typical household items like containers, cardboard, paper, etc.	-	107.85	115.01	83.97	107.76
MSW recycled - scrap metal/white goods, etc.	-	-	-	36.67	27.32
MSW organics composted or sent for anaerobic digestion	-	16.7	11.8	5	9
Total MSW diverted from disposal	-	124.55	126.81	125.64	144.08
Total MSW generated	-	340.45	379.98	374.17	387.12
Estimated MSW diversion rate includes recycling, composting, reuse and a 5% credit for Maine's bottle bill recycling activity	-	41.6%	38.4%	38.6%	42.2%

Source: Town of Bowdoinham Recycling and Solid Waste Department

Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) Management	Amount (tons) 2018	Amount (tons) 2019	Amount (tons) 2020	Amount (tons) 2021	Amount (tons) 2022
CDD sent to processing facility	-	-	-	8.91	8.19
Tons CDD generated	-	-	-	8.91	8.19
Estimated CDD Diversion Rate	-	-	-	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Town of Bowdoinham Recycling and Solid Waste Department

Total Waste Generated	Amount (tons) 2018	Amount (tons) 2019	Amount (tons) 2020	Amount (tons) 2021	Amount (tons) 2022
All MSW and CDD	-	-	-	383.08	395.31

Source: Town of Bowdoinham Recycling and Solid Waste Department

Total Waste Diverted	Amount (tons) 2018	Amount (tons) 2019	Amount (tons) 2020	Amount (tons) 2021	Amount (tons) 2022
All MSW reused, recycled or composted plus all CDD sent to a processing facility	-	-	-	134.55	152.27
Average MSW & CDD Combined Diversion Rate	-	-	-	69.3%	71.1%

Source: Town of Bowdoinham Recycling and Solid Waste Department

Bowdoinham Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Expenses in 2022			
Municipal MSW Expense	Amount Per Person	Tons of MSW	Population
\$188,313	\$61.80	243.04	3,047

Source: Town of Bowdoinham Recycling and Solid Waste Department

In addition, the Land Use Ordinance has solid waste provisions.

- d. *Stormwater Management – Identify combined sewer overflows. For Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) communities, describe plan and status of the major goals of the MS4 requirements.*

Bowdoinham does not provide public sewer. The Town is not an MS4 community.

- e. *Power and Communications – Availability of 3-phase power, Internet (including broadband), and cable within the community.*

Three-phase power is available on Bay Road and Main Street. Broadband and cable television service is available to most properties abutting State and State aid roads, however, notable gaps are found in several areas.

f. Emergency Response System –Average call response times for fire, police, and emergency/rescue.

In 2023, the Town Fire Department responded to 216 calls a 100% increase from 2013. 87 of these calls were mutual aid in surrounding towns, up 82% from 2013. Within Bowdoinham, the average response time in 2023 was 8 minutes down from 12 minutes in 2013.

Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Office provides police protection for the Town. In 2023, the Sheriff's Office responded to or handled 800 incidents, which made up approximately 13% of the total calls for service in the county and was a 2% increase from 2010. The most common call for service was accident-related incidents. The Patrol Division stopped 291 vehicles and issued 26 warnings and 86 traffic citations. There were 3 burglaries reported in 2023, a 73% drop compared to 2014. Average response time was 19 minutes.

In 2023, Bowdoinham Emergency Medical Services received 218 calls for medical attention. Being staffed with volunteers who hold full time jobs elsewhere presents challenges during the day for local first responders. Further, the Town has had to switch transport service providers in early 2023 from Topsham to Lisbon due to issues with capacity. The additional drive time has had an affect on response times increasing them from 11 minutes in 2010 to 22 ½ minutes in 2023.

g. Education – Identify school administrative unit. Include primary/secondary school system enrollment for the most recent year information is available and for the ten (10) years after the anticipated adoption of plan.

The Town of Bowdoinham is a member community of Regional School Unit / School Administrative District 75. Other member communities are Harpswell, Topsham and Bowdoin. The voters of Bowdoinham elect two School Directors to represent them on the Board of Directors.

The Bowdoinham Community School, Grades K-5, is located on Cemetery Road in Bowdoinham and provides a location for cultural and community events. The local elementary school has served K-5 since 2001. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students attend middle school in Topsham. Until 1998 access to the gymnasium and athletic facilities was severely limited but an agreement allows the Recreation Department access for after school and weekend athletic programs for youth. Secondary School students attend Mt. Ararat High School in Topsham. The next table shows school enrollments of Bowdoinham residents in area schools and the total enrollments for these schools.

School Enrollment as of October 2023			
District/Unit	School	Bowdoinham Resident Enrollment	Total Enrollment
Baxter Academy for Technology and Science	Baxter Academy for Tech & Sciences	3	UNKN
Brunswick Public Schools	Kate Furbish Elementary School	1	UNKN
Lewiston Public Schools	Raymond A. Geiger Elementary School	1	UNKN
Richmond Public Schools	Marcia Buker School	3	UNKN
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Bowdoin Central School	16	197
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Bowdoinham Community School	172	189
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Harpwell Community School	1	129
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Mt Ararat High School	120	743
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Mt Ararat Middle School	87	529
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Williams-Cone School	3	232
RSU 75/MSAD 75	Woodside Elementary School	6	318
	Counts PK	8	27
	Counts K-2	94	483
	Counts K-8	188	1563
	Counts 9-12	123	743
	Total	413	2,333

Source: RSU 75/MSAD 75

As of January 2024, the Superintendent of RSU/MSAD 75 does not have enrollment projections for the next ten years. The RSU records a total enrollment decline of 90 students from 2011 to 2023.

- h. Health Care - Describe major health care facilities (hospitals, clinics) and other providers serving the community. Identify public health and social services supported by the community through municipal subsidy.*

There is no health care facility in Bowdoinham. Bowdoinham is served by the Richmond Area Health Center, two hospitals in Brunswick: Parkview Adventist Medical Center and Mid Coast Hospital. Ambulance services are provided by an annual contractual agreement between the Town of Bowdoinham and Northeast Mobile Health. The Town funds the Bowdoinham EMS annually through the Town operating budget. In 2022 the EMS budget

was \$50,000 and in 2023 the budget was \$250,000. The Bowdoinham EMS currently has 2 licensed AEMTs, 5 licensed as EMTs and one licensed as EMR.

Richmond Area Health Center provides family health care. The health center is an outpatient practice offering referrals to Maine General Medical Center (Augusta) as well as with specialists at Parkview Hospital (Brunswick), Mid-Coast Hospital (Brunswick), Central Maine Medical Center (Lewiston), and St. Mary's Hospital (Lewiston).

Parkview Adventist Medical Center is a not-for-profit, faith-based health services organization. Parkview offers digital diagnostic services and minimally invasive surgery.

In 2001, Mid-Coast Hospital opened a consolidated facility that includes emergency and intensive care departments, in-patient and out-patient surgery, advanced diagnostics, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, a sleep lab, and wound care center.

i. Municipal Government Facilities and Services – Describe facilities and staffing for municipal administrative, enforcement, and public works operations.

Form of Government

Bowdoinham is governed by the Town Manager Plan as defined in Maine Statutes, Title 30 §2631: “The government (under this plan)... shall consist of a town meeting, an elected board of selectmen, an elected school committee, an appointed town manager and any other officials and employees that may be appointed under this subchapter, general law or ordinance. Other town officials may be elected by ballot, including, but not limited to, moderator, assessors, overseers of the poor, clerk and treasurer”.

Staffing/Personnel

Select Board -

In Bowdoinham, the only elected body is the Select Board. They also serve (and are therefore elected as) the Board of Assessors and the Overseers of the Poor. The registered voters elect them for staggered terms of three years.

Assessor -

The Select Board has delegated the authority for assessments to an assessors' agent that is a part-time employee and a Certified Maine Assessor.

Overseer of the Poor -

The Select Board has delegated this authority to the Town Manager who also serves as the General Assistance Administrator. Assistance to the poor is provided according to the General Assistance Ordinance developed and approved by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Municipal Association. This ordinance assures that all members of the public qualifying for assistance shall receive it in a fair and judicious manner.

Municipal Officials Appointed by the Select Board -

Under the Town Manager Plan, the Select Board may choose to appoint all town officials. Bowdoinham has chosen to grant authority to the Select Board to appoint the Treasurer, Tax Collector, and Town Clerk. These officials, who may be elected in other towns, have

statutory responsibilities, but they are still accountable to the Town Manager, unless otherwise assigned by charter or ordinance. The Select Board may remove these officials for cause, after notice and hearing (30 MRSA § 2601)

Town Manager -

The Select Board currently appoints the Town Manager. Because it is such an important administrative position the powers and duties of town manager are quoted in full from Maine Statutes (30A MRSA §2636).

1. “Executive and administrative officer. Is the chief executive and administrative official of the town;
2. Administer offices. Is responsible to the selectmen for the administration of all departments and offices over which the selectmen have control;
3. Execute laws and ordinances. Shall execute all laws and ordinances of the town;
4. Appoint department heads. Shall serve in any office as the head of any department under the control of the selectmen when directed by the selectmen;
5. Appoint town officials. Unless otherwise provided by town ordinance, shall appoint, supervise and control all town officials whom the municipal officers are required by law to appoint, except members of boards, commissions, committees and single assessors; and appoint, supervise and control all other officials, subordinates and assistants, except that the town manager may delegate this authority to a department head and report all appointments to the board of selectmen.
6. Purchasing agent Shall act as purchasing agent for all departments, except the school department, provided that the town or the selectmen may require that all purchases greater than a designated amount must be submitted to sealed bid;
7. Attend meetings of selectmen. Shall attend all meetings of the board of selectmen, and the town manager may attend meetings when the manager's removal is being considered.
8. Make recommendations. Shall make recommendations to the board of selectmen for the more efficient operation of the town;
9. Attend town meetings. Shall attend all town meetings and hearings;
10. Inform of financial condition. Shall keep the board of selectmen and the residents of the town Informed as to the town's financial condition;
11. Collect data. Shall collect data necessary to prepare the budget;
12. Assist residents. Shall assist, insofar as possible, residents and taxpayers in discovering their lawful remedies in cases Involving complaints of unfair vendor, administrative and governmental practices; and
13. Remove appointments. Has exclusive authority to remove for cause, after notice and hearing, all persons whom the manager is authorized to appoint and report all removals to the board of selectmen.”

Treasurer -

The Select Board appoints the Treasurer, traditionally, the Town Manager. The Treasurer shall disburse money only on the authority of a warrant affirmatively voted by the majority of the Selectmen, with the exception of routine payroll, which can be authorized by written policy, on file with the Town Clerk. The Treasurer shall keep all financial accounts, which shall be examined by the municipal officers every month. The Treasurer appoints a Deputy to assure continued coverage. The Treasurer is covered by a Faithful Performance of Duties Bond.

Tax Collector -

Traditionally the Town Manager has been appointed as Tax Collector. The office is responsible for the collection of all excises, real estate, and personal property taxes. The Tax Collector is covered by a Faithful Performance of Duties Bond. The Town maintains insurance against criminal acts by all Town employees.

Municipal Clerk -

Pursuant to state law the office of the Town Clerk is responsible for maintaining the official records of the Town: the supervision of state and municipal elections; the recording of vital statistics (birth, death, and marriage); and the issuing of all permits and licenses as required by state law. The Town Clerk appoints a Deputy and an Assistant to assure there are no lapses of coverage.

Appointed Municipal Staff -

The Select Board confirms the appointment of administrative positions as recommended by the Town Manager.

Assessors Agent -

The Board of Assessors has appointed a professional Assessor as their agent who provides complete assessing services for the town. The Assessors' Agent is a part-time contract position.

Code Enforcement Officer -

This position, which includes Local Plumbing Inspector (LPI), is a certified code enforcement officers and licensed plumbing inspectors. They consult with builders, developers and homeowners, to interpret state environmental laws and local ordinances. They inspect and enforce permits and licenses and act as a liaison with the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.

Registrar of Voters -

This is an appointment every two years in the odd-numbered year (i.e., 2023), and generally resides with the Town Clerk. The position receives no separate compensation. The duties and responsibilities of the Registrar are prescribed by state statute.

Road Commissioner -

The Town Manager is appointed Road Commissioner. This position is required by State statute and serves as the department head for the Public Works Department. This position receives no separate compensation.

Recreation Director & Older Adult Services Coordinator -

This part-time position was converted to full-time position in 2023 due to an increased demand for staff time addressing the needs of the older population and to assist with the work of the Advisory Committee for Age-Friendly Bowdoinham. This is in addition to being responsible for coordinating recreational activities for youth and adults as well as supervising volunteers.

Solid Waste and Recycling Director -

This position is for 22 hours per week and is paid an hourly rate. The Solid Waste and Recycling Director is responsible for the supervision of two part-time employees.

Appointed Stipend Positions -

The Select Board also has authority to appoint positions which receive an annual stipend. The Select Board have adopted a policy to assure fair and equitable treatment of these stipend positions.

Animal Control Officer -

This is an annual appointment required by state law. In addition to an annual stipend the ACO is also paid mileage for the use of a privately owned vehicle used in the execution of the duties and responsibilities of the position as required by state law.

Health Officer -

This appointment is required by state law and until 1997 was filled by the Town Manager. At that time, the Town Manager requested the Selectmen appoint a person with health care training. It is now a stipend position currently filled by a resident with a nursing degree.

Harbor Master -

This is an annual appointment by the Town Manager and confirmed by the Selectmen. This position, authorized by State law, requires certification and receives an annual stipend. The position has the authority to manage the harbor on the Cathance River according to Rules & Regulations for Harbor Management as adopted by the Board of Selectmen.

Fire Chief -

The Town of Bowdoinham has a municipal fire department created by local ordinance. The Fire Chief is appointed by the Select Board for a term of three years. This position receives an annual stipend.

Constable -

There are no appointed constables in the Town of Bowdoinham.

Cemetery Sexton -

In a position created in 1999, the Sexton supervises the maintenance and care of the cemeteries in town. They receive an annual stipend.

Quasi-Judicial or Municipal Boards -

State Law requires the establishment of a Planning Board and the Board of Appeals. Since some of the decisions are like judicial decisions and they have to follow adjudicator procedures, they are referred to as Quasi (somewhat) Judicial.

Planning Board -

The Town appoints 5 members and 2 alternates for staggered 5 year terms. This board is governed by bylaws approved and adopted by the Selectmen. Land Use Ordinances adopted by the Town at Town meeting govern decisions on permits issued by the Planning Board. The members of the Planning Board are volunteers and do not receive an annual stipend.

Planning & Development Director -

This full-time position oversees the Department of Planning and Development to support existing businesses of Bowdoinham through the promotion of their services, educational opportunities, obtaining grants to improve public facilities, community awareness and networking. They also consult with builders, developers and homeowners, to interpret state environmental laws and local ordinances. They inspect and enforce permits and licenses and act as a liaison with the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.

Municipal Property and Structures

John C. Coombs Building -

The Town's administrative offices are located in the Coombs Building at 13 School Street. The building is a three-story, wood-framed converted school building, built in 1911. The Town purchased the building from SAD 75 in 1989 for \$1.00. In 1998 the first floor was extensively renovated to facilitate efficiency in providing services. The first floor has offices for the Town Manager, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Assessors Agent, Recreation Director, and Code Enforcement. It also has a small conference room/kitchen and one restroom, which is accessible. The second floor has been made accessible by the installation of a ramp to the back door of the Select Board's Meeting Room. It has two conference/committee meeting rooms, and two rooms permanently occupied by the Bowdoinham Public Library. Since the third floor is not accessible, it is used primarily for storage for the town and the library.

The building has had several updates over the past decade. The septic system was updated in 2015 and is located at the bottom of School Street on a lot owned by the town. In 2022 the roof was replaced. Emergency exit doors were added for the main office and library. Further, the storage area was renovated to office space along with the installation of fire alarms and emergency lighting in 2023. Also, in 2023 the building was outfitted with heat pumps throughout for supplemental heating and more efficient cooling, and all interior lights were updated to LEDs. Streetlights throughout the town were also updated to LEDs including at the Maily Waterfront Park and at the recreation field.

Areas of Deficiency:

1. Parking Lot - The Coombs School lot cannot completely accommodate parking during heavy use events. When the Town Hall is hosting an election or other event and the administrative offices and the Library are open for business there is an overflow of traffic.
2. Town Office layout – With the increasing requirements for town office staff the current layout of the town office is not efficient and lacks good access to assessing records by the public. The storage room in the northwest side of the first floor should be renovated to house the assessing office and assessing records. The front entryway and surrounding area should be renovated to better utilize the space and to increase energy efficiency.
3. Energy efficiency – All exterior windows are in need of replacement to improve energy efficiency and to add security.
4. There are other cosmetic needs in the building as well. The suspended ceiling in the town office counter area needs to be replaced; carpet needs replacement on the second floor; and the entire interior needs painting.
5. The chimney is in need of replacing.

6. Better accessibility for the library is needed for the library as the parking near the ramp makes it difficult to use.

Town Hall -

The Town Hall is located adjacent to the Coombs Building. The steeple and front foundation was extensively renovated in 1996 and 1997 at a cost of \$40,000. In 1998, the hard wood floor was refinished. The CDBG grant for \$55,000 was used to install a restroom and move the primary entrance so people do not have to step out into traffic and to make the building handicapped accessible. In 2011, the front stairs leading to School Street were replaced by the Public Works Department. In 2012, the entire exterior of the building was scraped, primed and painted at a cost of \$8,600. Many governmental functions took place in this building - elections, town meetings, and public events up until 2023 when the building was closed due to safety concerns found during a study of the buildings condition. This promoted the listing of the building on the Maine Historic Preservation Commission's list of most endangered historic sites in 2023.

Areas of Deficiency:

1. Energy Efficiency – The building has very little, if any, insulation and is heated by an oil-fired boiler. As such, the building is not energy efficient. The oil boiler and vents need replacement. The replacement heating system should be more energy efficient and not oil-fired.
2. Lighting – The building is equipped with several small wall-mounted light fixtures and a few overhead, poorly designed lights that do not produce enough light for meetings and events. These lights need to be replaced by energy efficient overhead lights.
3. Storage space – There is no storage space for tables and chairs when not in use.

Fire Station Post Road -

The fire station is located on a 4-acre corner lot on Post Road and Center Street. It was constructed in 1998 for a cost of \$363,000 for which the voters approved a ten-year general obligation bond. It provides four bays for fire equipment - three to the front of the building and one to the rear. There are two offices for the Fire Chief and administrative needs of the fire department. It has many modern conveniences for the fire staff including a decontamination shower, heated floors, a radio/communications room and more. The building provides a large community room complete with kitchen and handicap accessible rest room. Use Policy has been developed and adopted by the Select Board for the public use of the community room and the adjoining kitchen. The remainder of the building is used exclusively for fire emergency services. Recently the building had a heat pump system installed to provide additional heating and cooling and new audio and visual technology is being installed to improve meeting facilitation.

Public Works Facilities -

The Public Works Facilities include a Public Works Garage, a salt storage building and a cement pad used to store the winter sand pile were removed from its location on the bank of the Cathance River and a new facility was constructed in 2019 at 121 Pond Road.

The Facilities include an 80' x 122' Public Works Garage with an office, crew room, restrooms, vehicle maintenance/repair space and 7 garage bay spaces to store trucks and equipment and a 60' x 120' sand/salt storage building with laminated arches and metal roof.

It also hosts the recycling collections and storage to the rear of the building.

Recreation Field -

The recreation field is located on Ridge Road behind Bowdoinham Community School. The field was developed into two ball fields, a tennis court, and a basketball court in the late 1980's. The courts are owned jointly with RSU 75, which pays for half of its maintenance. In the summer of 2023, both courts were resurfaced and repainted to include lines for one pickleball court on the basketball court and two pickleball courts on the tennis court. The basketball court also received new backboards, rims, and nets.

A "Snack Shack" and storage facility was constructed by community volunteers under the guidance of the Recreation Committee in 1999. It is complete with hot and cold running water and electricity. Extensive repairs were made at the snack shack in the spring of 2022, including a new roof covering and new plumbing. A storage garage was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2011. This is used to store equipment for the Recreation Department, medical equipment for the Age-Friendly "Durable Medical Equipment Loan Program and as well as field maintenance equipment.

In 2012, a group of volunteers began rehabilitating the regulation size baseball field including replacing the turf, creating basepaths, building wooden dugouts, and improving the drainage. The field needs a permanent homerun fence and backstop that will require less maintenance but continue to allow for use of the field for cross country skiing in the winter months.

Philip Maily Park/ Waterfront Park and Harbor -

The reconstruction of the Cathance Landing Waterfront Park is a monument to public private cooperation. The Town and the Maine Department of Conservation had purchased the waterfront property east of Route 24 for development of a boat launch. In 1997 the Town, the Bureau of Conservation, the Seabees, and the National Guard Reserve partnered up with funds and the launching facility received a \$200,000 renovation.

The harbor was organized to accommodate 40 moorings, docks were installed, the lot was completely re-landscaped, and a portion of the parking lot was paved. In 1998, Bowdoinham built a vault privy on the property, using a \$5,500 Department of Conservation grant. This privy was destroyed by fire, was rebuilt and subsequently has been used for storage for the Harbor Master. In 2012, the Town received a planning grant to design a new bathroom facility and possible boat pump-out station for the Waterfront Park. The planning work began in 2013 and in 2015 construction was completed on a new dump station and bathroom facility to meet current and anticipated needs. Further, there was a need for a separate hand-carry launch for non-motorized boats which was completed in 2023 at the new waterfront park. There are additional amenities planned for the new Cathance Waterfront Park across Route 24 from Maily Waterfront Park. These include stabilizing 500 feet of shorefront, creating a pavilion, ADA accessible trails along the river with interpretive signage, informational kiosks, and recreational facilities and natural play areas among others.

River View House -

This single-story wood frame building is located on the bank of the Cathance River and was part of the Central Chemical Company complex until the Town purchased the property in 1998. The building consists of four offices and a small restroom, which is not handicapped

accessible. The building is currently leased by Taurus Systems, Inc. on a yearly basis.

Areas of Deficiency: This building is only 984 square feet - so it is very small. The cellar is wet and a sump pump must be maintained for the integrity of the building. The septic system consists of a holding tank that must be emptied on an annual basis. The building is in the floodplain and the Town is looking into grant funding to flood proof the building.

The site of the Sagadahoc Mill Property -

This parcel located on the Cathance River and was part of the Central Chemical Company complex until the town purchased it in 1998 and moved its Public Works Department there. In 2019 Public Works was moved out and the 20 acre parcel is being transitioned into the Cathance Meadows Waterfront Park. 16 acres have been devoted to the Cathance Meadows Trail system and the other four acres is being redeveloped into a park which will include a pavilion, ADA accessible trails along the river with interpretive signage, informational kiosks, and recreational facilities and natural play areas among others. A non-motorized boat launch was installed at the site in 2023.

Back Hill Storage Building -

This building is located on Back Hill on a 50' x 50' lot. It is of brick construction and was used exclusively for storage of the Historical Society's artifacts of Bowdoinham. In 2012 and 2013, the Historical Society began moving these artifacts to another location as the building is not heated.

Areas of Deficiency: This building does not have electricity so the electric heater is disconnected. The roof is in need of re-shingling and has had leaks over the past several years.

Landfill -

The old landfill, located on the Carding Machine Road was closed in 1992 The Town is required to mow it twice a year to keep the "cap" from being breached by trees and bushes.

Cannon, Veterans' Park -

This area located in the center of the village is a small lot bounded by Route 24 (River Road), and Main Street. It is a commemorative park with a Civil War cannon, a 1908 granite watering trough and a flagpole.

In 2012, as part of the Town's 250th Anniversary Celebration, a group of dedicated volunteers led by Lara Ashouwack renovated the entire park. The base of the cannon was replaced with granite and the cannon was repainted. The flag pole was replaced. The park was completely landscaped to include a walking path with recycled pavement, signs providing information on Bowdoinham's veterans, and new shrubs, trees and flowers. Funding for the project was from the 250th Anniversary Fund created by William Kendall in 1912. The park was rededicated to Bowdoinham veterans on November 11, 2012, Veterans' Day.

Cemeteries and Commemorative Lots Held in Trust -

During the past two centuries, various groups and individuals have left the town designated trust funds for the care and maintenance of a cemetery or a commemorative lot. There are 48

cemeteries in town. The Sexton supervises their maintenance with assistance from the Town Manager and Public Works Department.

Public Services

The administrative offices for the Town of Bowdoinham are located in the Coombs Building at 13 School Street. The staff is adequate for the current population.

Administrative Services

Tax Collection -

The Tax Collector is responsible for the collection of excise taxes on boats, airplanes, and motor vehicles as well as for the collection of taxes on real and personal property.

Treasurer' Office -

The Treasurer's office is responsible for recording all receipts from the Tax Collector and Town Clerk as well as the recording of all accounts payable and payroll.

Town Clerk -

The Town Clerk is responsible for the issuance of all State licenses including hunting and fishing, dog, marriage and burial licenses. The Town Clerk is also responsible for the recording of all vital statistics of the community such as birth and death records.

Planning & Development-

The Town employs a state certified Code Enforcement Officer and Local Plumbing Inspector. The Planning & Development Director works full-time doing planning and community and economic development. Both of these positions consult with builders, developers and homeowners, to interpret state environmental laws and local ordinances. They inspect and enforce permits and licenses. Both staff are liaisons with the Planning Board and the Board of Appeals.

Assessing Services -

The town contracts with an assessing professional to provide tax assessment services on all real and personal property in Bowdoinham.

Departments

The Public Works staff consists of a full-time Public Works Foreman, four full time drivers/laborers and one on-call part time snow plow driver. The Supervisor is the Road Commissioner, which in Bowdoinham is the Town Manager. This department is responsible for the maintenance of all town facilities (with the exception of the Post Road Fire Station), 46 miles of roadway and 92 miles of drainage system, and maintenance and mowing of three cemeteries. Since 2014, the Town has increased the size of the staff for the Public Works Department from three full-time and one part-time seasonal employees to five full-time employees. The Town also purchased an excavator and an additional dump truck. The Department currently rents front-end loaders to assist with its work during the summer construction season and winter plowing season.

Solid Waste and Recycling Department -

The Town previously operated its recycling at a privately held Recycling Barn until it moved operations to the Town's new Public Works facility in 2020. The Solid Waste and Recycling Facility is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays year-round and is staffed by a part-time director and two part-time laborers.

A hauling contractor under a three-year contract picks up household trash and recycling material at curbside. The contractor drops the recyclable material at the Solid Waste and Recycling Facility and takes the bulky waste to Pine Tree Waste, Inc./Cassella in Bath for a contracted tipping fee of \$115 per ton in 2023. In 2013, that fee was 73.39 per ton up from \$50 in 1998. There is also a pay per bag program. Residents may pick up their tags at the Country Store or the Town Office. This fee raised \$81,604 in revenue in 2021/22. The costs of a trash tag went from \$2.50 up to \$3.00 per bag for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Recreation Department -

During the spring of 1998 there was a resurgence of interest in the recreation program. As discussion progressed, the Selectmen believed it more appropriate to have a Recreation Department rather than expecting a fundraising committee to be fully responsible for the program. In July 1998, the Selectmen created a 20-hour per week Recreation Director position. The hours were increased to 22.5 per week in 2013.

As the population continues to age, there is a new focus on providing activities for adults and seniors. In 2014, the Town employed Older Adult Services Coordinator for 10 hours per week to support committee. In 2021, the recreation and older adult coordinator were combined for 30 hours per week. In 2023 the Town approved this becoming a full-time position.

Harbor and Waterfront Department -

The Town owns 1,300 feet of waterfront along the Cathance River and the responsibility to manage the waterfront is assigned to an appointed Harbor Master. Currently the Harbor Master receives a modest stipend.

Community and Economic Development -

This Department supports existing businesses of Bowdoinham through the promotion of their services, educational opportunities, obtaining grants for improvements to public facilities, community awareness and networking. It strives to develop and attract sustainable businesses to Bowdoinham that will reflect the high quality of life and strong sense of community. The Department also develops, organizes, and coordinates community-enhancing events to bring together the citizens of Bowdoinham. It is funded through two TIFs (Tax Increment Financing). The funds are derived from tax dollars of the Maritime & Northeast Pipeline and Central Maine Power properties located in Bowdoinham. The Pipeline TIF originated by town vote in June 2000, was amended in 2019 and set to sunset in 2034. The CMP TIF originated in 2014, was amended 2023 and set to sunset in 2044.

Fire Department & Emergency Medical Services-

The Fire Chief is appointed for a three-year term by the Selectmen and supervises the Fire Department. In 2023, there are 23 fire department personnel who receive stipends. Maintaining adequate staffing is difficult given that many volunteers have full-time

employment, often outside of Town.

Police Services -

The Bowdoinham Police Department was disbanded in the early 1990's. Since that time, the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department has provided police coverage for the community. There are currently no constables appointed.

Public Sewer and Water -

The Town of Bowdoinham has no public sewer system; however, the Bowdoinham Water District provides public water to most of the Village. The Selectmen appoint the trustees to the Water District but otherwise have no voice in the administration of the entity. For further discussion, please see the Water Resources and Bowdoinham Water section of this Plan and the Bowdoinham Water Service Area Map. However, the Richmond Utility District does provide water and sewer to Bowdoinham customers in the northeast corner of Bowdoinham. See [Richmond Utility Map](#).

Public Library -

The Bowdoinham Public Library is located on the second floor of the Coombs Building. The Library is only partially supported by the Town's municipal budget with an annual appropriation. The Friends' of the Bowdoinham Public Library raise funds throughout the year with plant sales, book sales, and other fundraisers for the remainder of funding necessary to operate the library.

Town Committees

Town volunteer committees advise and assist the Town boards and municipal staff to provide municipal services. These committees allow residents a meaningful opportunity to have a say in what types of services the town offers now and should offer in the future. The following is a list of current committees.

- Age Friendly Committee creates opportunities to allow people to continue to live in Bowdoinham as they age.
- Community Development Advisory Committee advises the Select Board to develop plans that support and enhance economic development. This Committee will develop a plan for the goals, strategies and projects for Bowdoinham's economic development.
- Comprehensive Planning Committee creates an updated Comprehensive Plan that is consistent with the Growth Management Act (30-A MRSA §4312 et seq.).
- Finance Advisory Committee assists the Select Board and the Treasurer with financial decisions regarding development of the municipal budget and the investment program for the Town of Bowdoinham.
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee advises the Select Board on matters related to the efficiency and effectiveness of the municipal solid waste and recycling program as well as to educate the community on matters related to solid waste and recycling. Encourage citizens to participate in recycling and to suggest new policies and procedures, which will further strengthen the program.
- Town Hall Committee supports efforts to restore the Town Hall.
- Water District Trustees advises/oversees the Water District.
- Emergency Medical Services Committee was established in 2023 to plan for emergency

medical services for the Town.

Public Water

The original system was constructed for the Bowdoinham Water District in 1959. It consists of a well and pump station located on a 9-acre parcel of land owned by the District adjacent to the West McIver Road on Lot 89 in Bowdoin, east of Route 201 and north of the junction of Route 201 and Route 138. A new pump station and treatment facility was completed in January 1999, which replaced the original pump house constructed in 1959. Two 8-inch by 12-inch gravel pack wells exist on the property one well is 31 feet and the redundant well 34 feet deep in an abandoned gravel pit. These wells were drilled in 1959 and 2010, respectively.

System Storage -

There are two 125,000 gallon welded steel standpipes located on Preble Road, east of I-95. In 2005, a new concrete tank was built in Bowdoin, which added an additional 425,000 gallons of storage capacity. The combined tanks give the District a maximum capacity of 675,000 gallons.

Water Quality -

There have been no water quality problems. The water is disinfected through a hypochlorite feed system. Samples for bacteriological testing are submitted quarterly and are negative. Annual Consumer Confidence Reports are mailed out to residents and can be found also on their website.

Water Demand -

There are currently 298 service connections in Bowdoinham (most are residential, 6 are commercial, 5 are municipal). For fire hydrants, see below. The water line extends to the village, Ridge Road, Main Street, a portion of Millay Road, Post Road, Bay Road to the airport, River Road through one mile north on Brown Point and about ½ mile down Brown's Point Road.

The average demand in 2011 was 43,159 gallons per day. The average daily demand in 2023 was 39,375 gallons, a reduction of 8.7% since 2011.

A 1992 engineering study indicated limited supply and capacity. The 2000 Comprehensive Plan recommended that an updated study should be conducted. However, there have been no studies conducted on water capacity and supply since then. At current rate of development, the district has indicated it can sustain moderate growth. If there were a need to expand capacity the district has taken the initiative to discuss the potential with the Five Rivers Regional Water Council to connect to the Brunswick Topsham Water District.

Fire Protection -

There are 55 fire hydrants connected to the system - 48 in Bowdoinham and 7 in Bowdoin.

Organizational Structure-

The District was chartered in 1957 to provide water to Bowdoinham. The charter was amended in 1961 to allow service to any adjacent town. A five member Board of Trustees manage the District. The Select Board of Bowdoinham appoint all Trustees. The District's

Charter requires that a majority of the Board of Trustees be residents of the Town of Bowdoinham.

The District's Superintendent, who is employed on a part-time basis, oversees operation and maintenance of the District. Billing, accounting, and office services are provided through a contractual arrangement with the Richmond Utilities District.

Note on Private Water Supply -

Approximately 79% of households are on private wells. There is only sporadic and rather unreliable data on private wells. Since there are no significant sand and gravel aquifers in Bowdoinham, most of the wells must draw from bedrock recharged wells. The only regulation of well placement is in the Plumbing Code that wells and septic systems must be 100 feet apart.

Analyses

(1) Are municipal services adequate to meeting changes in population and demographics?

Over the past decade staffing levels have increased. In general, Bowdoinham has the capacity to provide basic and necessary municipal services to its citizens over the ten-year planning period.

(2) Has the community partnered with neighboring communities to share services, reduce costs and/or improve services? In what ways?

The following is a list of inter-municipal and regional efforts in which Bowdoinham participates:

- Emergency dispatch through the Sagadahoc County Regional Communications Center.
- Regional emergency and disaster planning through the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency.
- Police protection through the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department.
- Fire and rescue participation in countywide mutual aid program, as well as mutual-aid agreements with Bowdoin, Richmond, and Topsham.
- Ambulance transportation is provided by Northeast Mobile Health which also serves other communities in the area.
- Public education as a member of RSU/SAD 75, which serves Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham.
- Bowdoinham Water District, a quasi-municipal organization that serves areas within the Town of Bowdoin and the Town of Bowdoinham, and shares an office with the Richmond Utilities District in Richmond.

(3) If the community has a public sewer system, what issues or concerns are there currently and/or anticipated in the future? Is the sanitary district extension policy consistent with the Future Land Use Plan as required by (38 M.R.S.A. §1163), or will it be?

Bowdoinham does not have a public sewer system. There is a concern about the significant

number of small lots in the village area and the potential for groundwater contamination from on-site septic systems.

- (4) *If the community has a public water system are any public water supply expansions anticipated? If so, have suitable sources been identified and protected? Is the water district extension policy consistent with the Future Land Use Plan?*

At current rate of development, the district has indicated it can sustain moderate growth. If there were a need to expand capacity the district has taken the initiative to discuss the potential with the Five Rivers Regional Water Council to connect to the Brunswick Topsham Water District. The Water District anticipates no public water supply expansions for the ten-year planning period. The Water District follows the Maine Public Utilities Commission Chapter 65 extension rules.

- (5) *If the town does not have a public sewer or water system, is this preventing the community from accommodating current and projected growth?*

In 2019 the Town commissioned a study which found that creating a village sewer system would be unfeasible. The lack of a public sewer system has and will continue to inhibit large-scale or higher density growth. Projected growth is modest based upon observed trends and assumes that sewer will remain unavailable during the ten-year planning period of this plan. The Town can accommodate the growth anticipated, predominantly residential, in the form of mostly single-family detached housing units. If multiunit development were sought, sewer or a community wastewater system would likely be needed, especially if such growth were to occur within the village area.

- (6) *Are existing stormwater management facilities adequately maintained? What improvements are needed? How might future development affect the existing system?*

The drainage system in Bowdoinham is a mix of public infrastructure installed over the years, and private stormwater management systems installed as part of subdivision and site plan regulated development. Ongoing maintenance is crucial for these systems to continue to function properly. Needed improvements include improved drainage ditches along Bay Road (state maintained) and on several town-maintained roads that will occur as pavement projects are completed over the the-year planning period. As part of routine road maintenance, the Town corrects drainage issues including replacing culverts and excavating roadside drainage ditches.

Without adequate stormwater management, the cumulative effect of small, piecemeal development (new buildings and impervious surfaces like parking lots), in addition to mid- and large-scale development, would threaten adjacent properties and roadways with increased flooding. Accordingly, the review of all projects through the Land Use Ordinance, its subdivision, shoreland zoning and site plan review provisions includes drainage standards. Improvements to public stormwater facilities that are needed because of development projects have a share of the cost for those improvements borne by the applicant. As well, State regulations for applicable projects address stormwater management.

(7) How do residents dispose of septic tank waste? Are there issues or concerns regarding septic tank waste?

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and disposal of their septic waste. The Town is aware of failing septic systems in some areas and works with property owners to address these issues on a case-by-case basis.

(8) Is school construction or expansion anticipated during the planning period? Are there opportunities to promote new residential development around existing and proposed schools?

The Mt. Ararat regional high school, which educates students from Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham was built in 1979. In 2020, a new high school was built on the same parcel and held its first classes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Given the decline in enrollments seen over the past decade, and the forecasted population increase in the adult population predominately, new school construction or expansion during the planning period is unlikely to be warranted in Bowdoinham.

Funding cuts, which have occurred chiefly at the State level, will dictate the amount of school improvements to be made over the planning period and may result in the closing of underutilized facilities. Regionalization of education has been promoted by the State to reduce education costs, especially administrative costs. The decisions on education spending will be made on a regional basis, not by any one municipality alone.

Under current Town ordinances, and with some undeveloped parcels nearby, new residential development is possible around the Bowdoinham Community School. This school is within the village area and within walking distance of village residences.

Sidewalks were constructed in the village area in 2011 and 2012 on Cemetery Road, lower Ridge Road, River Road, Main Street, School Street and Bay Road. The village area is now served by sidewalks connecting the village with the public library, town office and Community School and recreation fields. See the Transportation Chapter and the Future Land Use Plan Chapter for more information.

(9) Is the community's emergency response system adequate? Are improvements needed?

Bowdoinham's Fire Department and EMS are staffed mostly by volunteers who hold full-time or part-time jobs in other occupations or are retired. Maintaining adequate staffing levels is an ongoing concern. There are no needed facility improvements to existing buildings during the ten-year planning period. New or replacement vehicles (fire trucks and ambulances) anticipated to be needed during this same period include two pumper trucks and a tanker truck. Fire Trucks are the most significant expenditure and they are replaced on a regular basis with funding from a reserve account and bonding.

(10) Is the solid waste management system meeting current needs? Is the community reducing the reliance on waste disposal and increasing recycling opportunities? Are improvements needed to meet future demand?

Recycling has reduced the volume of waste in Bowdoinham. The system is meeting the current capacity. However, there is ongoing investigation through the solid waste committee find ways to improve access to recycling in Bowdoinham.

(11) Are improvements needed in the telecommunications and energy infrastructure?

All businesses require basic public services. In the current economy, access to markets far beyond Bowdoinham is essential for many as well. Internet and telecommunications infrastructure in Bowdoinham is sufficient in some parts of the community but could be improved (as technology advances) and expanded to fill the current gaps in coverage and to increase internet speeds. Town received ConnectME grant, to expand service - <https://www.bowdoinham.com/project/internet-project>.

(12) Are local and regional health care facilities and public health and social service programs adequate to meet the needs of the community?

Health care is provided at a regional level through a clinic in Richmond and two hospitals in Brunswick. See the conditions and trends section below for more information. Locally, Bowdoinham EMS provides emergency response with additional assistance from Northeast Mobile Health. The Town Health Officer, a registered nurse with a master's degree in public health advises residents on issues of local concern like vaccinations, pests, mold, and disposing of expired medications. In addition, there are several social service agencies that provide services to residents include Spectrum Generations, People Plus and KVCAP. The current arrangement works fairly well, however, additional needs may be necessary in the future for the elderly population of Bowdoinham as it increases over the next 10 years. These additional needs may include visiting nurses, in-home care or paramedicine services.

(13) Will other public facilities, such as town offices, libraries, and cemeteries accommodate projected growth?

The Town's public facilities, including the municipal building and fire station, recreation facilities, and the cemeteries generally have adequate capacity for the next ten-year period. The Town has completed designs for a renovated Town Office and expanded facility at Pond Road for Solid Waste, these will be large projects in the next 7 to 15 years.

(14) To what extent are investments in facility improvements directed to growth areas?

Most public facilities (school, town office, public works, recreation fields, library) are located within the village area, which is a designated growth area, and so funding for their improvement, benefits the growth area.

(15) Does the community have a street tree program?

The Town does not have a formal street tree program. Public Works plants trees as requested by the Select Board and Town Manager. Since 2014, such work has occurred at cemeteries and at Maily Waterfront Park.