

Protected Lands



Examples of properties protected with support from the CBEP Habitat Protection Fund in Scarborough, Bridgton, and Pettingill Island (clockwise from top left).

- The Casco Bay watershed continues to provide valuable habitat for a range of fish and wildlife species. Available habitat, however, can be lost or degraded by human activity, especially urban and suburban development.
- 854 parcels in the lower 16 municipalities of the Casco Bay watershed, amounting to more than 25,000 acres and 12 percent of the area of the watershed, are being tracked in a geographic database of conserved and open space lands as of 2010.
- Some 15,694 acres—about 7.5 percent of the area of the towns examined—is considered permanently protected.
- The amount of permanently protected land in the lower 16 municipalities of the Casco Bay watershed has more than doubled since 1997.
- That remarkable achievement reflects the diligence and hard work of many individuals and organizations throughout the region.
- Conservation efforts are playing an important role in protecting the character of the landscape in the watershed.

Protected Lands in the Lower 16 Casco Bay Watershed Towns, 2010

Level of Protection	Number of Parcels	Total Acres Protected	Percent of Casco Bay Watershed
Conservation Land	438	15,694	7.5%
Open Space (no protection)	306	7,494	3.6%
Recreational Land	110	1,917	0.9%
TOTAL	854	25,105	12.0%

Increase in Protected Lands Around the Bay from 1997 to 2010

Year	Number of Sites	Area Permanently Protected (acres)	Percent of Study Area
1997	246	7,300	3.5%
2005	341	10,900	5.2%
2010	438	15,694	7.5%

