

Frequently Asked Questions

Bar Harbor Open Space Plan

1. What is an Open Space Plan?

Answer: Open Space Plans define and identify open space within communities, they address community concerns and provide decisional reasoning pertaining to the challenges facing open space within the community.

2. Why should Bar Harbor have an Open Space Plan?

Answer: Bar Harbor's character is defined by our open space natural habitats, water, scenic, cultural and recreational resources, as well as working lands and waters. Bar Harbor's history of preserving unique and valuable open space should be a planning priority as new visions of open space uses and needs continue to emerge.

3. What are the community benefits of an Open Space Plan?

Answer: The Open Space Plan inventories open space within Bar Harbor, including open space valued by our community. The Open Space Plan also provides a vision, protection, and celebration section for each type of open space, as well as establish goals and strategies which address needs, concerns, planning, and challenges facing open space in our community.

4. Why are goals and strategies used within the Open Space Plan?

Answer: The Open Space Plan's goals and strategies which are located in Appendix A, address current open space issues and provide an actionable "toolkit" to assist the Town and community with future planning and decisions regarding open space.

5. How is the Open Space Plan relevant to Bar Harbor's Comprehensive Plan?

Answer: Bar Harbor's Comprehensive Plan contains several goals and policies with relevance to the Open Space Plan, including protecting fresh water resources, protecting natural resources, and promoting sustainable systems for energy conservation, waste management, transportation and other operations.

6. Where can more information be found regarding the Open Space Plan?

Answer: Bar Harbor's Open Space Plan can be found on the Town's web site. While printed copies of the Open Space Plan are currently unavailable to the public, the Conservation Commission is available to answer any questions or provide assistance with any section of the Open Space Plan. Please see the Town's web site for the email address of the Conservation Commission Chair.

7. How can the community support the Open Space Plan?

Answer: Bar Harbor's efforts with open space are ongoing and valued by our community – past and present. Open Space Plan educational and outreach efforts will need the current community's continued support, participation, and vision to protect and preserve open space for future generations.

Please read the Open Space Plan and select one or more strategies that you would like your group or organization to implement. We invite you to join the Conservation Commission as we work to put the plan into action.