

APPENDIX K

REGIONAL COORDINATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The City of Bath is the Service Center for the towns of Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath. The City serves as the downtown and employment center for these communities. Throughout the Comprehensive Plan, we discuss Bath as compared to the Bath Region, including the other towns' population, housing, employment, and other characteristics. We also included Brunswick and Topsham in the comparisons. We referred to this grouping of municipalities as the Bath Region. As shown, the smaller towns of Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath rely heavily on Bath for employment and retail and service needs. The larger towns of Brunswick and Topsham, however, are employment, retail, and service centers and do not rely as heavily on Bath. BIW, nonetheless, employs many residents of both Brunswick and Topsham.

In addition to being an informal service and employment center, the City of Bath has several partnership arrangements with various neighboring and nearby municipalities and is a member of other regional organizations and partnerships. The following table lists the various formal and informal regional partnerships as well as potential partnerships.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Regional Activities	Partners
Sagadahoc County	Bath, Arrowsic, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Georgetown, Phippsburg, Richmond, Topsham, and Woolwich
Regional Planning	Midcoast Council for Business Development & Planning (MCBDP) (Sagadahoc County municipalities, Brunswick, and Harpswell)
Regional Economic Development	Midcoast Economic Development District (MCBDP and Lincoln County)
Education	RSU 1 (Bath, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath)

Library Services	Patten Free Library (Bath, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath)
Municipal General Assistance	Bath, West Bath, and Brunswick
Emergency Dispatch	Sagadahoc County
State Drug Enforcement	Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (Maine Department of Public Safety)
Regional Drug Enforcement	Midcoast Drug Taskforce (primarily Bath, Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties, and Rockland)
Sagadahoc County Community Justice Project	Sagadahoc County
Regional County Jail	Two Rivers Regional Jail (Sagadahoc and Lincoln Counties)
Fire Suppression	Automatic Aid from BNAS. Mutual Aid with Brunswick and West Bath.
Household Hazardous Waste Collection	Bath, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, West Bath, Brunswick, Topsham, Harpswell, and Dresden
Community Recreation	Bath, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Woolwich, Phippsburg, and West Bath
Public Housing	Bath Housing Authority (serves the housing needs in Bath, Georgetown, Arrowsic, Phippsburg, and West Bath)
Public Drinking Water	Bath Water District (water supplied to Bath, Woolwich, West Bath, East Brunswick, and Wiscasset)
Joint Purchasing of Various Commodities	MCBDP and Greater Portland Council of Governments
Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advocacy, Education, Promotion, and Celebration	Five Rivers Arts Alliance (Sagadahoc County municipalities, Brunswick, and Harpswell)
New Meadows Watershed Planning	Bath, Brunswick, Phippsburg, West Bath, and Harpswell
Land Preservation and Conservation	LKRLT (preserving land in Bath, Arrowsic, Georgetown, West Bath, Westport Island, and Woolwich)
Open Space and Rural Natural-Resource Planning	Sagadahoc Region Rural Resources Initiative (Eastern Cumberland County and Central Sagadahoc County)
Regional Housing Opportunities	Midcoast Community Housing Coalition (Sagadahoc County municipalities, Harpswell, and Brunswick)

POTENTIAL REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Municipalities can and do enter into other shared activities and agreements. Looking twenty years into the future, some of these may include the joint delivery of municipal recreation services, joint purchase of firefighting equipment, more coordinated firefighting (beyond mutual aid to one regional fire department), the purchase of public works equipment time when the equipment is not needed in Bath (e.g., graders, street sweepers, and catch-basin cleaners), shared wastewater treatment, regional animal-control services, regional codes enforcement, regional development review and planning, regional tax assessing, and regional municipal clerk and treasurer services.

PLANNING IMPLICATIONS OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION INVENTORY

1. Many services—municipal, cultural, and nongovernmental—are shared in the Bath Region. This sharing provides more and better services and opportunities, as well as lower costs.
2. As was pointed out in Appendix J, Fiscal Inventory, a significant percentage of Bath residents' taxes support the facilities and services of the Sagadahoc County government. This highlights the need for elected officials and other Bath residents to be as involved as possible in influencing Sagadahoc County Commissioners when they prepare the county budget.
3. As the cost to provide services increases and as new residents in the Bath Region towns demand additional services, municipalities will have to become more efficient. Doing so may reduce past concerns over the loss of local control when services are provided regionally and may encourage additional coordination.