

# Community Development Department December 2023 Report



## General Updates/Community Highlights



Bridgton was looking beautiful this December thanks to our Public Services Department and Rec Department! Organized by Mike Davis of the Bridgton Historical Society and Arts & Culture Subcommittee, a group of community members lead the Festival of Lights Parade by candle-lit procession. This was a Bridgton tradition long ago and has been resurrected for the second consecutive year. Community Development Director, Tori and Deputy Town Manager, Georgiann joined this year and had a great time.

## Comprehensive Plan / Vision Bridgton (VB)

[Our project website is live! Check it out](#) 😊

Please leave comments on the [discussion board!](#) (photo below) This is a great way to start conversations with your neighbors or share your opinions. **It's completely anonymous.**

The three discussion points are: Challenges, What I love about Bridgton, and Ideas and Suggestions.

This month we started our new [Question of the Month](#) activity to engage more folks in the comprehensive planning

Share with us about ...



Challenges



What I love about Bridgton



Ideas and Suggestions

Plan ahead for continuing growth in Depot St area. Current Community Center building should be expanded, rehab and add on. Old school should be torn down and open space with wonderful access to Stevens Brook and trails within Pondicherry Park.

Start a discussion

Ideas and Suggestions | a day ago Like +1 Dislike

I love the natural beauty of this region. That includes the wooded areas. Please protect the rural nature of our outer corridor.

I love the beautiful gardens around downtown. They are very well designed and cared for. Love to see lots of color throughout the summer and fall and plenty of native plants too. They make a difference for people, place, and pollinators.

Start a discussion

What I love about Bridgton | 13 days ago Like Dislike

Implement changes to our ordinances that require a greater emphasis on dense housing focused near the town center, rather than sprawl, which decimated our natural landscape. Implement greater buffers and enlarge the

Improve trails, trail connectivity, and wayfinding to make Bridgton more walkable and bikeable. It would be great to have attractive, well-designed signs around town that indicate where parking is, where trails are, major landmarks etc to encourage folks to park and explore. In addition - a centrally located outdoor information kiosk with an event bulletin board would be great and benefit local businesses and organizations.

Start a discussion

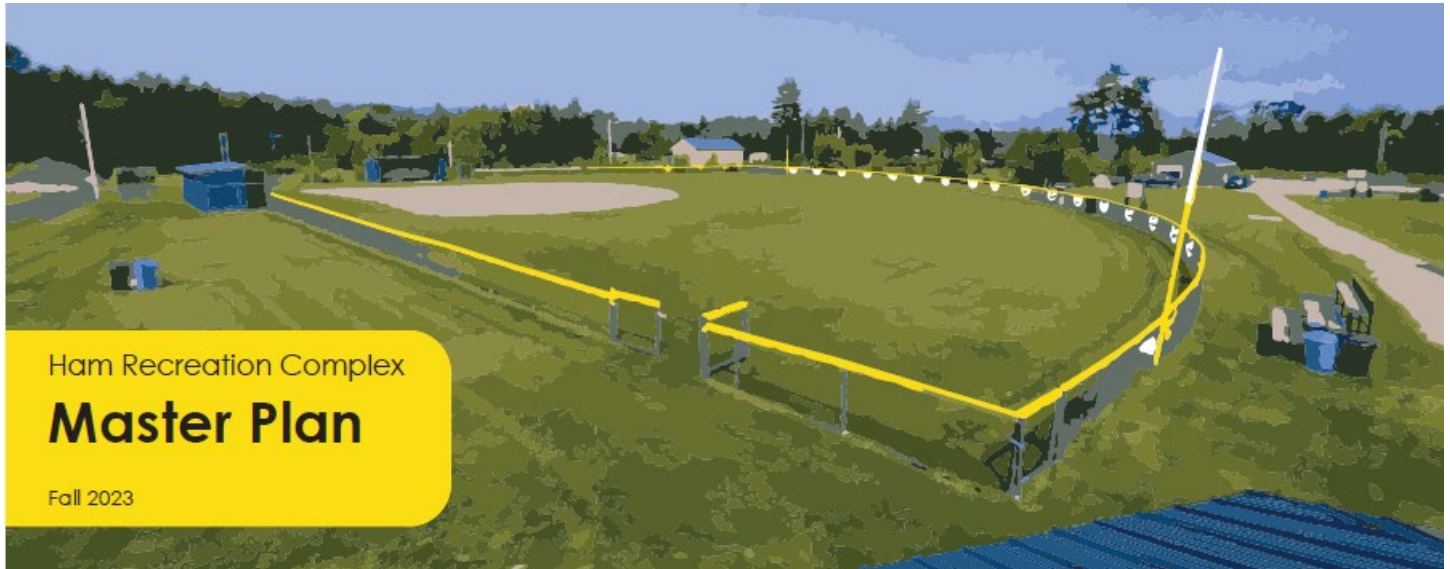
Ideas and Suggestions | 15 days ago Like +4 Dislike

The rapid growth of housing has resulted in the

process. The Comprehensive Plan Task force has been reviewing our big community survey, and we plan to launch in early-mid January. Please spread the word on all the ways to provide feedback for this important planning effort!

### Ham Complex Master Plan

The Town has been working with [Viewshed](#) for the past 3 months to create a master plan for the recently acquired Ham Complex. The designs were based on the public input we received in the Open Space Plan (summer 2023), and staff has paired three designed down to two. The final draft will appear before the Selectboard during their first meeting in January for Town-adoption.



### Open Space Plan

The Open Space Committee has been formed and their first meeting takes place on January 4<sup>th</sup>. We're excited to have a brand-new, community-informed Open Space Plan and a group of dedicated residents to carry it out.

**MISSION AND CHARGE:** The Open Space Committee acts as an advisory committee and resource to the Select Board. The Committee will coordinate with other entities within the Town government including the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force, Recreation Department, and Community Development Advisory Committee. The key element of the Committee's mission is to carry out the implementation chapter (chapter 7) of the Town of Bridgton Open Space Plan.

### Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Applications for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 are open! You can access them on our [webpage](#), and please reach out Community Development staff with any questions. All applications are due to the Town Office on January 4<sup>th</sup> by 4:00pm.

Bridgton's 2023-2024 CDBG-funded infrastructure project:  
Church Street Sidewalk (Dates TBD)

Bridgton's 2023-2024 CDBG-funded service-provider projects:  
Bridgton Community Center Navigator Program  
Bridgton Food Pantry

### Grants & Other Funding Streams through the Community Development Office (~~Closed~~ / Open)

#### Secured:

- CDBG – annual allocation +/- \$200,000
- \$50,000 – Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future (GOPIF) – allocated to our open space plan
- \$10,000 – Community Heart and Soul Seed Grant – allocated to community engagement process (Bridgton Public Library acts as the fiscal sponsor for this)

- \$8,000 from GPCOG to assist with the transportation chapter of Bridgton's comp plan
- ARPA – \$450k for Bridgton Sewer Main Extensions Project
- 1.4 million – EPA Earmark for Bridgton Sewer Main Extensions Project – extending sewer lines down Smith Avenue, Maple Street, Efficiency Way, and part of South High Street – Application submitted by W&C in 2021 – qualifying paperwork submitted by Finance and CDD in 2023.
- \$50,000 – Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation, and the Future (GOPIF) – Mountain Road Stormwater Evaluation

In Progress:

The CDD is partnering with the Rec Department to explore the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This would potentially be used to implement pieces of the Ham Complex Master Plan.

Committee Updates – CDD staff serve as “staff liaisons” to the following committees:

**Community Development Advisory Committee:** The CDAC is continuing a series of guest speakers and gearing up for CDBG season.

**Ordinance Review Committee:** ORC did not meet this month.

**Planning Board (workshops):** The Board held a workshop on December 18<sup>th</sup> to review Land Use Code revisions for the June Warrant. Two public hearings will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> regarding Maine's new Housing Law and our minimum lot size restrictions.

**Bridgton Memorial School Ad Hoc Committee:** The BMS Ad Hoc Committee is drafting three potential uses for the site to present to the Select Board in January.

**Comprehensive Plan Task Force:** The CPTF reviewed the community survey and gave comments to staff and consultants for changes. Their final review of the survey takes place on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

**NEW – Open Space Committee:** First meeting will be held January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Thank you for reading,



Tori Hill  
Community Development Director