

# Regional Coordination Program

**Landfill Site:** Unity cooperated for many years with the towns of Thorndike and Troy in disposing of trash at the regional landfill site in Unity. We continue to cooperate with the closure of that site and the testing.

**Lake Winnecook:** Lake Winnecook is shared with the towns of Troy and Burnham. It is one of our most important assets and we plan to reach out to those communities to put into effect a plan to improve the water quality of that water body. Including a plan to evaluate all non-designed septic systems and identify ways to assist landowners in replacing failed systems (Strategy 7a-4). There is an active lake association, Friends of Lake Winnecook, and the town plans to work with them in our coordinated effort to involve all three towns in water quality improvement measures. (Strategies 5b-1, 6a-2, 7a-1, and 9a-5)

**Transportation:** The town of Unity has evolved as a small service center, in part because we are at the crossroads of state routes 202, 220, and 139. These roads provide important links to larger service centers all around us. It is our plan to assure that state and federal government knows how important these links are to our community and to the people in our region. (Strategy 1c-3) Unity has historically supported groups financially at the annual town meeting like the Waldo Community Action Partners who offer rides to people without means of personal transportation. There are no established public transportation like rail or bus lines in Unity or the immediate area.

**Recycling:** Unity is a member of the Regional Recycling Center located in Thorndike and is the largest contributor to that site. It is our plan to continue to work with the center to remove as much material from the trash stream as possible. (Strategy 5b-6)

**Education:** Unity is part of an eleven-town district, RSU 3, and home to the administrative offices. Associations like the Unity Barn Raisers and MOFGA offer educational programming on a variety of topics that benefit people of many ages and skill levels. These programs are offered to the public (not just Unity residents).

**Ambulance Service:** Unity is home to Unity Ambulance Corp. which serves several towns in our region. It has always been a very efficient and effective service with well-trained, dedicated volunteers from the communities served.

**Fire Protection:** Unity is involved in a mutual aid program with the following towns: Albion, Burnham, Troy, Thorndike, Freedom and Fairfield. The Fairfield mutual aid contract is because Fairfield covers Benton and Benton borders Unity Plantation. Unity has a contract with Kennebec County to provide fire protection to Unity Plantation. The towns share training, equipment, and personnel resources depending on the situational need.

**Roads:** Unity coordinates the purchase of culverts, salt, and asphalt with surrounding towns and with state projects.

**Recreational Trails:** Unity plans to coordinate the efforts of the snowmobile club, ATV club, horse riding club, Waldo County Trails Coalition, and several land trusts in the creation, maintenance, signage, and promotion of multi-use trails that connect Unity with the region. (See Strategy 8a-3)

**Agriculture:** The town of Unity supports Maine Farmland Trust, Sebasticook Regional Land Trust, and Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners, all of which have offices in Unity, in their efforts to protect and preserve farmland and farming in the region. (Strategies 1b-1, 1b-2, 1e-1, 1e-2, and 8b-1 through 8b-4) The town should also work to create a vibrant farmer's market in Unity (see Strategy 1b-1) that would benefit the region.

**Recreation:** The town of Unity is home to Triplet Park which provides a wide variety of children's programming which serves children from several communities around us, The Field of Dreams which offers a wide variety of athletic programming and social activities i.e. Unity Days, and the state boat launch facility (which includes the town of Unity swimming program).

**Housing:** The town of Unity is home to 3 elderly housing and family housing opportunities with 64 total units of subsidized and market housing that provide quality housing for people from communities around us. Additionally, there are approximately 100 residential rental housing units in Unity.

Economic: Unity offers jobs to the region, with Unity College being the largest employer by far, as well as retail and service needs like banking, groceries and fuel, just to name a few.

**Food:** The Unity Regional Food Pantry is strongly supported by the town and supports many communities around us, not only with much needed food but also with education and training on how to grow food and how to prepare-, cook and serve their bounty and the bounty of the burgeoning farmers in our region. Unity plans to have a larger, and more diverse market's market to not only introduce more people to the health benefits of locally grown foods but also to support the rapidly growing number of farmers growing produce in Unity and our region. (Strategy 1b-1)

**Health Services and Healthy Living:** One of the goals in our last plan was to work toward the creation of a health center in our community. That goal was met with New Horizons Health Center which provides a wide variety of health services to Unity residents along with residents of many towns around us. The goal in this plan is to encourage more residents to take advantage of those services to lead healthier lives and to encourage residents to be more physically active, with a more walk-able and bike-able downtown, more multi-use and multi-season trails, and more organized outings to draw people out. (Strategies 6a-7, 8a-1 thru 8a-7, and 8b-1 thru 8b-4)

**Police Services:** Unity helps fund and relies upon the Waldo County Sheriff's Department and the Maine State Police for police services.