

State Growth Management Goals
(30-A M.R.S.A. §4312 subsection 3)

3. State goals. The Legislature hereby establishes a set of state goals to provide overall direction and consistency to the planning and regulatory actions of all state and municipal agencies affecting natural resource management, land use and development. The Legislature declares that, in order to promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State, it is in the best interests of the State to achieve the following goals:

- A.** To encourage orderly growth and development in appropriate areas of each community and region while protecting the State's rural character, making efficient use of public services and preventing development sprawl;
- B.** To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development;
- C.** To promote an economic climate which increases job opportunities and overall economic wellbeing;
- D.** To encourage and promote affordable, decent housing opportunities for all Maine citizens;
- E.** To protect the quality and manage the quantity of the State's water resources, including lakes, aquifers, great ponds, estuaries, rivers and coastal areas;
- F.** To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas;
- G.** To protect the State's marine resources industry, ports and harbors from incompatible development and to promote access to the shore for commercial fishermen and the public;
- H.** To safeguard the State's agricultural and forest resources from development which threatens those resources;
- I.** To preserve the State's historic and archeological resources;
- J.** To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters;
- K.** To encourage municipalities to develop policies that assess community needs and environmental effects of municipal regulations, lessen the effect of excessive parking requirements for buildings in downtowns and on main streets and provide for alternative approaches for compliance relating to the reuse of upper floors of buildings in downtowns and on main streets;
- L.** To encourage municipalities to develop policies that accommodate older adults with aging in place and that encourage the creation of age-friendly communities;
- M.** To encourage municipalities to develop policies that provide for accessory dwelling units; and
- N.** To plan for the effects of the rise in sea level on buildings, transportation infrastructure, sewage treatment facilities and other relevant state, regional, municipal or privately held infrastructure, property or resources.

State Coastal Management Policies
(38 M.R.S.A. §1801)

1. To promote the maintenance, development, and revitalization of the State's ports and harbors for fishing, transportation and recreation;
2. To manage the marine environment and its related resources to preserve and improve the ecological integrity and diversity of marine communities and habitats, to expand our understanding of the productivity of the Gulf of Maine and coastal waters and to enhance the economic value of the State's renewable marine resources;
3. To support shoreline management that gives preference to water-dependent uses over other uses, that promotes public access to the shoreline and that considers the cumulative effects of development on coastal resources;
4. To discourage growth and new development in coastal areas where, because of coastal storms, flooding, landslides or sea-level rise, it is hazardous to human health and safety;
5. To encourage and support cooperative state and municipal management of coastal resources;
6. To protect and manage critical habitat and natural areas of state and national significance and maintain the scenic beauty and character of the coast even in areas where development occurs;
7. To expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation and to encourage appropriate coastal tourist activities and development;
8. To restore and maintain the quality of our fresh, marine and estuarine waters to allow for the broadest possible diversity of public and private uses; and
9. To restore and maintain coastal air quality to protect the health of citizens and visitors and to protect enjoyment of the natural beauty and maritime characteristics of the Maine coast.