

Regional Coordination Program

Overview

There are a variety of cooperative arrangements between southern Maine towns that allow the exchange of information, assets and cost sharing.

Coastal towns from Kittery north are impacted by sea level rise, and all are engaged in managing the thriving tourism industry. All towns have been impacted by the effects of Covid-19, which has changed the logistics of education, jobs, healthcare, traffic, transportation, recreation and local business. These challenges have necessitated more inter-town communication and consideration of regional solutions. At this time, there are no conflicts with neighboring towns' policies or strategies, and there is a shared sense of responsibility to serving the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

Long-Term Regional Partnerships

- Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel have an ongoing conjoined relationship in the form of a shared pre-K through Grade 12 school system – RSU-21, which serves in excess of 2500 students in the three towns.
- The Chamber of Commerce also serves the three towns as a unified whole, with more than 500 member businesses.
- Kennebunk and Kennebunkport share a Harbormaster, to manage the use of moorings and work with the (also shared) Kennebunk River Committee to protect the safety of river users.
- Kennebunk's emergency dispatch for Fire Rescue and KPD is managed by the Sanford Regional Communications Center, which handles calls for Acton, Alfred, Kennebunk, Lebanon, Limerick, Hollis, Newfield, North Berwick, Sanford, Springvale, Shapleigh and Waterboro.
- Kennebunk Fire Rescue works with all its immediate neighbors to provide Mutual aid for both fires and EMS calls, including Arundel, Wells, Kennebunkport and Alfred. Outside of that immediate circle it also operates under the York County Mutual Aid agreement and serves many other Towns, including Sanford, Biddeford, Goodwin's Mills, and Wells. In 2020 the Department provided mutual aid 90 times and receive aid 63 times. These numbers are on the increase.
- The Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District's service area is joined to a larger network that extends 25 miles along the York County coast and includes the Towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Wells, Ogunquit, Arundel and portions of Biddeford and York.
- Kennebunk's active participation in the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (39 member communities) provides economies of scale for planning and regulatory issues.
- Kennebunk is one of the 26 towns and 3 cities in York County that signed a Disaster Mutual Aid Agreement to establish and implement a plan for disaster preparedness and response in case of an event or incident that may prove too great for any one municipality to deal with unassisted.
- Community Outreach Services of Kennebunk operates the Food Pantry, which provides both perishable and non-perishable food daily upon request to residents of Arundel, Kennebunk, and Kennebunkport.
- The Police Department shares some specialty services with other towns, including York County assistance for Accident Reconstruct, and has a staff Drug Recognition Expert called upon by other agencies. The Department is part of District 1 Training Counsel that encompasses all law enforcement agencies in York County, which collaborates on bringing training at shared costs to all departments.
- Along with other towns in the Southern Maine Planning & Development region, the Town Public Services Department participates in a program to purchase bulk materials including sand and salt, which allows the Town to take advantage of cost efficiencies. The Department has informal agreements with

other area towns, in particular Kennebunkport and Arundel, and with the RSU, to share larger pieces of equipment for specific tasks as needed.

- Kennebunk and Kennebunkport share costs for the annual July 4th fireworks.
- Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District initiated the Branch Brook Consortium consisting of the towns of Kennebunk, Wells and Sanford to protect Branch Brook surface water.

Ad hoc Regional Partnerships

- Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Arundel and Lyman are partially funding a multi-year study overseen by York County Soil and Water Conservation to investigate sources of pollution in the Kennebunk River and recommend strategies to improve the River's water quality. The 2021-2031 Kennebunk River Management Plan report detailing "next steps" was issued in February 2021.
- Kennebunk and Arundel are currently exploring joint adoption of an Independent Transportation Network for residents who cannot drive.
- Kittery, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Wells, and York, working with the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) in a Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program, with town funding to support the regional two-year pilot program and the creation of a Sustainability Coordinator position. Housed within and managed by SMPDC, the Sustainability and Resilience Program will support both regional and individual community efforts. SMPDC staff will coordinate and lead sustainability and coastal resiliency efforts for the six-town group with the aim of enhancing sustainability, climate preparedness, and coastal community resilience of the individual towns and of the region.
- Kennebunk Parks & Recreation Department has partnered in past years with both Kennebunkport's and Arundel's Recreation Departments to put on a community fall and spring soccer (KAK Soccer) as well as a basketball program (KAK Basketball). Residents of each town registered with their respective town to facilitate expense tracking and volunteer coach participation, but practices and games are held jointly. In 2020, during the pandemic, all three recreation departments joined together to supply and deliver themed summer camp recreation bags with fun activities to homes of registered children in the three-town area.