

OXFORD COUNTY

2017 BUDGET PRESENTATION

SUPPORTING MATERIALS TO
SELECT DEPARTMENTAL AND
ORGANIZATIONAL REQUESTS

OCTOBER 7th, 2016

STATE OF MAINE

Andrew S. Robinson
District Attorney

James A. Andrews
Deputy District Attorney



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY DISTRICT THREE

Assistant District Attorneys
Claire G. Andrews
Richard R. Beauchesne
Lisa R. Bogue
Michael B. Dumas
Patricia A. Mador
Andrew P. Matulis
Joseph M. O'Connor
Patricia Reynolds Regan
Joshua W. Robbins
Nathan R. Walsh
Alexandra W. Winter

To: Oxford County Commissioners & Budget Committee Members
From: Andrew S. Robinson
Date: October 5, 2016
Re: District Attorney's Office Budget 2017

Dear Commissioners and Budget Committee Members:

The Oxford County District Attorney's Office is responsible for prosecution of all the criminal cases that occur within the county ranging from speeding cases all the way up to attempted murder. This involves traveling to the Rumford District Court and the Bridgton District Court, as well as working in the two courts in South Paris. The District Attorney's Office is unique because it is comprised of state and county employees working together. This structure is a result of a legislative scheme that made all prosecutors state employees (in lieu of the county attorney model), but kept the responsibility of providing staff, office space and supplies with the county. It is a good example of two levels of government working together to address a common need for the public.

Enclosed please find the 2017 budget request for our office. This year's budget moves us further along the path of becoming a paperless office and providing our staff access to case information while in every courtroom. The most important result of this transition is that we will finally be using the Justware database as the sole repository of our case information. Currently, some case information is written on the paper file and some is retained in the computer. Requiring us to have both to make a complete picture. The equipment requested under line 7300 will allow us to change our data retention practices and retain all of the information in Justware. The transition will also require us to purchase Justware licenses for our prosecutors which is reflected in line 4820. There is also an increase in the telephone line in 4315 in order to secure a wireless hot spot for use in any courtrooms where reliable internet access is not provided. The end result will be a more efficient office using our current technology to its fullest.

On a positive note, one of our prosecutors is on a grant that has been renewed through 2019. We have asked the grant administrator to reimburse the county for the cost of one of the new computer systems and a Westlaw subscription. These funds could not be guaranteed, but the administrator indicated that although these items are not specifically in the grant they are willing to review the grant award and provide reimbursement if the funds are available. This is not guaranteed, but we are trying to explore every avenue that will help bring the cost down for Oxford County.

Thank you for taking the time to review our budget and for your unwavering support in the past. If you have any questions or would like further explanation, then please feel free to contact me.



OXFORD COUNTY REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

26 Western Avenue • P.O. Box 179 • South Paris, Maine 04281
(207) 743-9554 • oxfordrcc@oxfordcounty.org
James P. Miclon, Director • Geffrey V. Inman, Deputy Director

October 07, 2016

This year's budget request sees an increase in staffing levels designed to accommodate, support, and safely handle the continuously growing volume of emergency and non-emergency calls for service.

Over the past year during many conversations with municipal emergency first responder agencies, I continuously hear the call for more services, more specialized dispatching request, and the need for more staffing to accommodate fifty public safety agencies we take calls for and dispatch.

With the newest unfunded state mandate, and the future ones effecting our "Call Takers" our agency must adapt to Maine Law and spend more time with emergency 911 callers, which will and does benefit the first responders, but requires more staffing to handle and properly process calls for service.

The Oxford County Regional Communications Center / Public Safety Answering Point remains in the top six of twenty-six answering points throughout Maine as it relates to call volume and dispatching services.

In order for the communications center to stay proficient in our responsibilities as the nucleus of all emergencies and non-emergencies throughout Oxford County, we must invest in our center for the safety of all citizens, visitors, first responders, and the current staff.

As I have said many times, there isn't much that occurs in this county that doesn't pass through the communications center first, and our dispatchers must be trained, certified, and licensed more than ever before. The changing times of our communities, and additional municipal fire services and increases in law enforcement staffing as well as new technology methods of communications and monitoring of agencies, our center has reach a maximum capacity of the ability to safely perform our duties, and must seek additional dispatchers to keep all parties involved safe.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Miclon".

James P. Miclon, Director



2017 Information Services Budget 1060 - 1075 line 7400
Oxford County Sheriff's Office
South Paris, ME

9/14/16

Please see the attached proposed budget request for the Computer line 7400 in budgets 1060, 1075.

2016 Highlights

- Continue MDT replacement program, new Getac S410 trials
- Upgrade Spillman to Spillman Flex
- Pilot GPS service from 2 providers
- Continue equipment replacement schedule
- Upgrade CID services and network
- Pilot GPS programs

2017 Highlights

- Convert from UCR to NIBRS
- Vehicle Fleet GPS program
- Continue MDT replacement program
- Continue substation equipment upgrades
- Upgrade Barracuda Backup Appliance

The proposed 2017 budget is an increase of 24% from 2016. The largest part of the increase is for funding new services with the Spillman NIBRS conversion and the GPS service for Sheriff's office vehicle fleet being the 2 biggest additions.

The Spillman NIBRS (National Incident Based Reporting System) replaces UCR (Unified Crime Reporting) which is federally mandated to occur by 2020. We will see substantial savings by joining Maine users and agreeing to purchase and implement NIBRS by July, 2017.

The proposed GPS service for the Sheriff's Office fleet of vehicles is being proposed primarily as a safety feature. Should an officer not respond to radio, phone or other means of communication, the location or last know location of the vehicle can be obtained using the GPS Tracking service. Our Dispatch center will have the ability to see the location of all vehicles in near real time which will help them dispatch calls more efficiently. We've piloted GPS services from 2 companies to compare the services, feature sets and costs. We found that Network Fleet which partners with Verizon Wireless offered the best overall package.

The Spillman Conference budget line is something that we have funded for the past 2 years with money approved by the 3 departments but not budgeted. This year I am adding it to the budget in order to be more transparent.

The Redhat and IBM support lines have been added to extend these essential services 2 more years at which time we will decide whether to extend the life of the Spillman server beyond its 5 year life expectancy or prepare for a replacement.

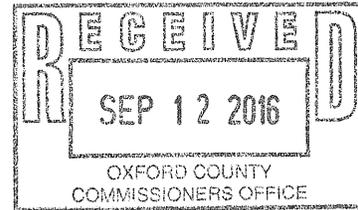
We are in the process of upgrading the CID building network services, replacing extended services from the RCC building with its own Internet and local network with a secure connection to Spillman and shared services.

If you have any questions or comments don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,



Alan Larrivee
Information System Administrator
207-743-9554 ext. 107
207-515-3795 (mobile)
alarrivee@oxfordcountysheriff.com



240 Bates Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
Phone (207) 795-4065

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Community Concepts Finance Corporation

2017 Funding Request to the Oxford County Budget Committee and Commissioners

Community Concepts Finance Corp. (CCFC) is the provider of business and economic development services to Oxford County. For the upcoming fiscal year, CCFC is requesting \$112,000 for support from the Oxford County government to cover salaries, office space and program funds. CCFC functions in several different capacities:

- As a facilitator of economic development in Oxford County CCFC collaborates with a variety of public, nonprofit and private partners to serve as a catalyst for economic growth. The key areas of emphasis are business growth and retention, job creation, business lending, workforce development, transportation infrastructure, and effective advocacy for and marketing of Oxford County.
- As a commercial lender it is a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) serving the State of Maine with a focus on Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin and Cumberland Counties. As a CDFI CCFC provides loans and technical assistance to business start ups, existing business and partners with other financial institutions to provide additional capital.
- As a residential lender it is a licensed supervised lender that makes loans to first time homebuyers and others who are having a difficult time accessing conventional financing. CCFC also provides credit counseling, homebuyer education and foreclosure counseling.

CCFC's track record in Oxford County in 2016:

1. **Creating and retaining permant jobs.** CCFC is helping facilitate development of a 60-room Best Western Hotel in Rumford that is being developed by a small group of local investors. The hotel will create **25-35 permanent jobs**.

From July 2015 to mid August 2016 CCFC has financed 26 businesses in Oxford County in the following Oxford County towns. This financing has helped **create 108 permanent full and part-time jobs and retain 34 permanent jobs**.

Bethel (1)	Brownfield (1)	Buckfield (1)	Fryeburg (2)	Greenwood (1)
Mexico (1)	Norway (3)	Oxford (6)	Porter (1)	Rumford (3)
S. Paris (3)	Roxbury (1)	Stoneham (1)	Waterford (1)	W. Paris (1)

CCFC helped finance the new Mexico-Rumford University Center in the River Valley Technology Center which is retaining four jobs and creating three jobs.

2. **Delivering training and grant assistance to businesses in the tourism industry.** CCFC continues to deliver training for Oxford County businesses in the tourism industry in collaboration with the Maine Woods Consortium. Over the past 12

months CCFC offered three workshops and trained 38 workers and business owners on changes to Facebook and Google Adwords and Search Engine Optimization. CCFC will be offering a workshop on Instagram this fall.

Again in collaboration with the Maine Woods Consortium, CCFC awarded two \$1000 grants to a business in the recreation/tourism industry and the River Valley Chamber of Commerce to help defray the cost of upgrading their respective websites. CCFC will be awarding four more grants to Oxford County businesses in the recreation/tourism industry.

3. **Delivering training for entrepreneurs and new businesses.** This is the fourth year CCFC is offering the Quick Start workshops in S. Paris and Lewiston. They are a series of six workshops that are two hours each and focused on marketing, business planning, cash flow management, legal issues in forming a business, accounting and financial planning, and resources and technical assistance for start up businesses. In 2015 ten businesses and entrepreneurs participated in the S.Paris workshop series.
4. **Marketing the advantages of doing business in Oxford County and available locations.** CCFC maintains a list of available commercial land and buildings in Oxford County and posts this information on its website. CCFC assists property owners in identifying potential tenants as well as businesses and organizations that are looking for space to buy or lease.
5. **Assisting Oxford County communities with Economic Development.**
 - a. CCFC continues to work with EnvisionRumford which is organizing the fourth annual Pumpkin Fest in downtown Rumford and has focused much of its efforts last year and this year on planning and seeking local government support for replacing the sidewalks in the downtown.
 - i. CCFC surveyed residents on the Island to help qualify Rumford to apply for CDBG funds for replacing the sidewalks and water and sewer lines on the Island.
 - ii. CCFC organized a forum to inform local business owners and residents about historic tax credits and the impact that they and historic preservation can have on local economic development.
 - iii. CCFC also researched and prepared information documenting the historic background of Rumford's downtown to qualify it to apply for historic district designation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Rumford is in the process of soliciting proposals from consultants to prepare nomination papers for historic district designation.

- b. CCFC continues to serve as a resource to the Fryeburg Economic Development Committee and the South Paris Revitalization Committee.
 - i. During the past year Fryeburg received Business Friendly Certification from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development and is the first town in Oxford County to receive this designation.
 - ii. With assistance from CCFC, Fryeburg is also considering expanding its downtown historic district and has begun cleaning up a brownfield site at a former public school to facilitate repurposing the school.
6. **Advocating for Passenger Rail in Oxford County.** CCFC continues to facilitate the Androscoggin-Oxford-Coos Counties Rail Coalition which is working to reinstate passenger rail service between Montreal and Portland with stops in Oxford fall 2015 to build support for passenger rail and testified before the Maine County. CCFC was instrumental in planning and organizing a second Rail Rally in legislature in support of funding to complete a study for extending passenger rail from Portland to Lewiston.
7. **Raising awareness about the value and uses of broadband technology and assessing the need for improving digital literacy and broadband service.** CCFC organized an informational forum in Bethel and will hold similar forums in the Oxford Hills and River Valley. CCFC also created an online survey to identify Oxford County residents' and businesses' broadband needs and priorities and a Facebook page to share information about broadband.

CCFC's priorities for 2017: CCFC will continue working on the long-term initiatives outlined above and providing financial and technical assistance to businesses in Oxford County for whom access to capital is a barrier. We will continue to work closely with the Chambers of Commerce and other business organizations to protect the businesses we have and grow rural Maine. CCFC will continue to assist the County in reusing the Oxford Airport for aviation purposes and identifying suitable tenants.

Respectfully submitted,



Glen E. Holmes
Director of Operations

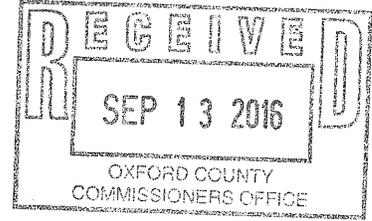
OXFORD COUNTY EXTENSION ASSOCIATION
9 Olson Road, South Paris, ME 04281 207.743.6329 or 1.800.287.1482

Officers

September 2016

Martha McLean
President
Phoebe Call
Vice President
Theresa Kelly
Secretary
David Saar
Treasurer

Commissioner Steven Merrill, Chairman
Commissioner David Duguay
Commissioner Timothy Turner
Members of the County Budget Committee



FY2017 Budget Request

Members

TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST: We respectfully request the same appropriation as we received in FY2016, \$111,250.

Jake Cash
Poland
Midge Leighton
South Paris
Chris Longley
Albany Twp

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is your doorway to University of Maine expertise. For more than 100 years, we've been putting university research to work in homes, businesses, farms, and communities—in every corner of Maine. The focus of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension – Oxford County's work has developed in response to county need, identified by guidance from local clients and community leaders.

Our educational efforts focus on the **Maine Food System** (commercial agriculture, home horticulture, food security and nutrition), **Positive Youth Development** (4-H and youth nutrition), and **Community and Economic Development** (business development, senior companion and extension homemakers).

We are part of the nationwide Cooperative Extension System, which works through the land-grant universities in each U.S. state. Maine's land-grant university is in Orono at the University of Maine. In addition to our state offices in Orono, we have a network of county-based offices staffed by experts who provide practical, locally based solutions for farmers, small business owners, youth, parents, seniors, consumers, and others. We receive federal support through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), state support through the University of Maine, and local support through Maine county governments.

County support is crucial to funding the local infrastructure to Extension. Oxford County has generously supplied the University of Maine Cooperative Extension – Oxford County office in South Paris with funds to cover building maintenance and utilities, equipment, office supplies, support staff salaries and programming support. It is important to know that every dollar of county funding secures a \$5.66 match from the University of Maine, thereby ensuring the continuation of the programs in our community. Thank you for your support to our office. We sincerely appreciate your strong and continued financial commitment to this office's work over the years.

We are committed to using the county's financial support to fully leverage our impact to youth, seniors, and low-income individuals and families in Oxford County. In 2016, we continued to provide quality educational programming and improved our administrative systems to maximize the effectiveness of our office.

OXFORD COUNTY EXTENSION ASSOCIATION

9 Olson Road, South Paris, ME 04281

207.743.6329 or 1.800.287.1482

Please refer to our 'Annual Report 2016' and 'Programming Map' for a comprehensive look at how and where our work impacts our county. We will continue and expand on this work in 2017!

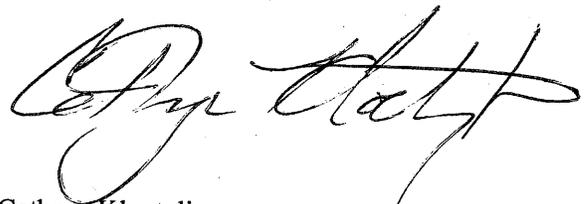
Highlights of 2017 Request

- We have been able to devote \$6,850 in savings, earned from streamlining office expenses, towards fully staffing our office. These savings allow us to accommodate the 10% increase in staff salary and benefits costs to our office in FY2017 while continuing to operate at our current funding level.
- We are maximizing the use of our educational programming staff by welcoming two new support staff. Jillian Pendexter, Administrative Specialist, joined our team in June 2016 and provides full-time client service, financial recordkeeping, marketing and program support to our office. Dawn Robinson joined us in August 2016 as part-time program and administrative support for 4-H as well as our office.
- Although this is not reflected in our budget request, as it is being funded through the University of Maine, we expanded our programming efforts in the Maine Food System in the areas of commercial agriculture and horticulture. Starting in January 2016, Cathryn Kloetzli was hired as a full-time Agriculture and Food Systems Professional whose focus is to provide educational support to 550+ commercial farms in the county. She also responds to the needs of home gardeners and has overall responsibility for the county Master Gardener Volunteer program.
- We have kept our funding support to educational programs the same at \$19,500. This gives program staff the resources they need to carry out programming in Agriculture, Home Land Stewardship, Eat Well, Homemakers, Senior Companion and 4-H workshops, clinics, and demonstrations at the Fryeburg, Oxford & Waterford County Fairs.

Respectfully submitted,



Martha McLean
President
Oxford County Extension Association



Cathryn Kloetzli
Agriculture and Food Systems Professional
& Office Coordinator
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- Oxford County

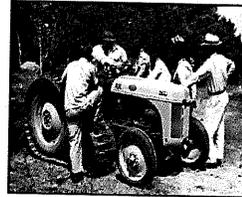
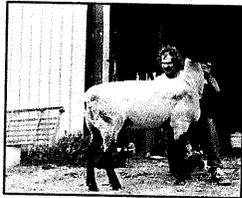
Oxford County Extension Association

9 Olson Road, South Paris, ME 04281
207.743.6329 1.800.287.1482 (in Maine)

2017 BUDGET

Staff Salaries & Benefits.....	\$ 67,000
Administrative Specialist (F/T)	\$27,900
4-H Community Education Assistant (P/T)	\$19,100
Horticulture CEA (P/T at 16 hours).....	\$15,500
Food Corps (half-year)	\$4,500
Building Maintenance	\$ 6,000
Office Services	\$ 3,750
Insurance	\$ 1,000
Fuel.....	\$ 2,500
Electricity	\$ 1,500
Telephone.....	\$ 1,000
Office Supplies	\$ 3,000
Postage/Freight	\$ 150
Equipment & Repairs.....	\$ 1,000
Printing/Copier.....	\$ 4,600
Board Expense	\$ 250
Program Support	\$ 19,500
4-H/Youth Traditional.....	\$10,000
Agriculture/Home Hort.....	\$ 7,500
Nutrition/EFNEP	\$ 1,000
Senior Companion.....	\$ 800
Homemakers	\$ 200
TOTAL.....	\$111,250

1865 THE UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE
Cooperative Extension



Color photos by Edwin Remsberg

*Putting university research to work
in homes, businesses, farms, and communities
for over 100 years.*

*Our annual report features highlights
of recent accomplishments and the difference
we make in the lives
of Maine citizens and their communities.*

**University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Oxford County
Annual Report 2016**

The University of Maine is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

Oxford County

UMaine Extension is your doorway to University of Maine expertise. For more than 100 years, we've been putting university research to work in homes, businesses, farms, and communities—in every corner of Maine. Our educational efforts focus on the **Maine Food System, Positive Youth Development, and Community and Economic Development.**



Oxford County Staff (L to R):

- Jill Pendexter, Administrative Specialist
- Anna Saar, Senior Companion Community Education Assistant & Extension Homemakers
- Karen Toohey, Eat Well Community Education Assistant
- Dawn Robinson, 4-H Administrative Specialist
- Becky Mosley, 4-H Community Education Assistant
- Cathryn Kloetzli, Agriculture & Food Systems Professional

Program Highlights

Bryant Pond 4-H Experiential Outdoor Education

Evidence of high student motivation, increased positive relationships between youth and adults, and significant feelings of responsibility toward solving environmental problems are all significant results of 4-H Environmental Education. 4-H Youth Development has clearly demonstrated through research and pilot programs with Oxford Hills, Molly Ockett and Telstar school districts that the relevant connection made between experiential outdoor learning and formal classroom educational curricula helps young people make real connections for life-long learning. 4-H Youth Development has worked with the USM Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation (CEPARE) evaluators directly on the research and impacts of the 4-H Environmental Education programs.

Initial results include the following combined data from all sites:

- 77.7% of students said, "I learn in the outdoors, it is easier to see how the things we are studying actually mean something in real life."
- 92.3% of students reported that the hands-on experiences outdoors is helpful to learning.
- 85% of students reported that as a result of their experience; "Humans have a responsibility to solve environmental problems."
- 75.6% of students reported that; "I am aware of the environmental impacts of my actions."

Bryant Pond summer programs serves well over 1,000 youth with camps from Junior Maine Guide to our naturalist path. Each program is unique for a small group of 12 campers with ten sessions

University of Maine Cooperative Extension's successful educational programs result from a federal, state and county government partnership. Since 1919, when the Maine Legislature passed the County Extension Act, the University of Maine has been in all Maine communities with a county office whose operations are funded by county government. Our educational programs anticipate and respond to local and state needs and issues. We also communicate those issues and opportunities to UMaine faculty to influence their research and development plans.

A sampling of our educational program areas:

- 4-H
- Agriculture
- Business & Community
- Food & Health
- Gardening & Horticulture
- Home, Family & Youth
- Insect & Plant Disease Management
- Maine Food System
- Natural Resources
- Safety & Preparedness

running simultaneously. Many local youth take advantage of the scholarships available sponsored by local individuals, Outdoor sporting groups, organizations, foundations and by IF&W. Many of our local youth come back each year and we often hear comments like:

- "Bryant Pond is the best 4-H Camp ever!"
- "I see the connection between a healthy environment and healthy human communities."
- "It is experience that makes the difference. Outside I am always wondering what is next."
- "Camp teaches me leadership and independence."

Our 4-H Camps and learning centers served over 9,000 Maine youth in the past year alone.

For more information, call 207-665-2068 or the University of Maine Cooperative Extension in Oxford County, 207-743-6329 or visit: <http://extensionlumaine.edu/bryantpond/>

Maine 4-H Foundation Golf Tournament

The Maine 4-H Foundation worked this year with a number of businesses to support a new partnership with Paris Hill Country Club. The project included a summer of golf, advertising and a tournament dedicated to helping local youth through agricultural education, health and wellness, and growing whole nutritional foods. 4-H is working to expand the program in Western Maine to reach more youth through 4-H, FoodCorps and agricultural education.

4-H Clubs

Our Oxford County 4-H Club Program serves over 300 youth and their families. Youth develop leadership through conducting their own meetings and a dedicated league of adult 4-H volunteers serve in the very important role of being mentors to these youth. This bond between adult mentor and 4-H youth often lasts for many years and, through this interaction, youth become grounded in their communities and more confident in school and the workplace.

In keeping with our 4-H motto "Learn By Doing", our youth gain lifelong skills through hands-on

activities. A very powerful part of 4-H is sharing what is learned with others. Skills learned in the 4-H setting benefit the family, classroom and sometimes an entire school. Our youth are active in their communities where they further their learning while helping others.

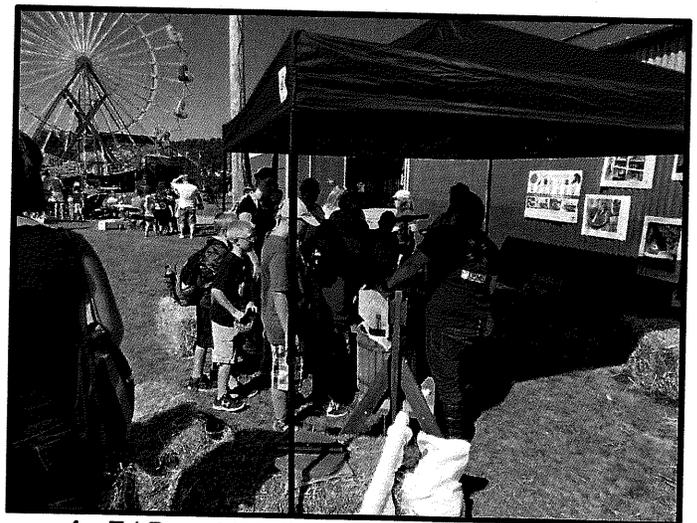
Through traditional clubs, 4-H in the classroom and after school programs, youth discover and develop many new interests such as gardening, health and nutrition, entrepreneurship and science. Please read below for some highlights from Oxford County's 4-H Club program.

4-H Fair

Oxford County 4-H Members and Club Volunteers work hard all year to prepare for exhibition at county fairs. Fairs provide a wonderful opportunity for youth to display project work, present demonstrations and to show and sell their animals in livestock competitions.

County Fairs also give the general public an opportunity to learn more about our local 4-H Program. 4-H is well represented by our youth at the Waterford, Oxford and Fryeburg fairs and in other fairs across Maine.

Each year, the county fairs make significant contributions to our program and provide very positive learning experiences for our 4-H members. Over 300 youth will exhibit their projects in our 4-H halls.



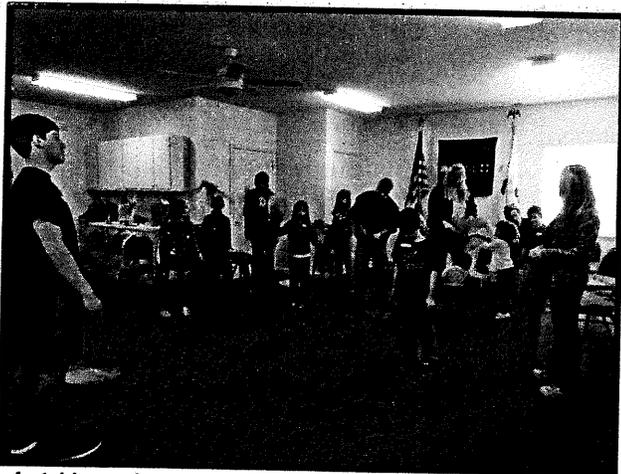
Ag Ed Day at the Oxford County Fair. Children attending a talk on balanced nutrition.

ARK – Area Resources for Kids

Our Oxford County ARK program offers a series of six Saturday morning workshops each spring and again in the fall. Workshops, designed for youth ages three and older, provide enrichment in the visual and performing arts, international cultures, and in the sciences. Workshops encourage parent and child interaction through safe and fun learning opportunities.

Cindy Tinsley, ARK Volunteer, organizes and oversees the workshops.

We have vibrant participation in this program with between 18 and 24 youth and their parents attending each Saturday. For many families this program serves as an introduction to 4-H and UMaine youth education.



A 4-H youth teaching a class to other children in his community. This builds personal confidence and strengthens community unity.



An art activity for youth. Each class has a nutrition education component as well. Youth tasted and learned how to make fruit smoothies on this day.

Oxford County June Jamboree Livestock Clinic

Every June, Oxford County provides in-depth training in the Animal Sciences. This supports the many youth who participate in 4-H large animal projects. Extensive training at our three day Jamboree in the care and safe keeping of livestock, washing, clipping, showmanship and animal handling is provided. Youth learn record keeping, create marketing plans and work directly with a vet.

Youth also meet and get to know other hard working youth involved with raising show and market animals, often sharing ideas and teaching each other.

Workshops are primarily geared for youth raising market lamb, market hog, working steer and fiber animals. This program also provides opportunity for career exploration. Over 50 people participate in this event.

Eastern States New England Center Program and Livestock Program

The Oxford County 4-H Program represents Maine each year at the Big E in the New England Center Building in West Springfield, MA. This is a demonstration program which showcases our talented 4-H members in pods and on the stage. The Oxford County office supports the dedicated 4-H leaders who plan and implement this fantastic effort each September. Over 50 leaders and members will be representing Maine at Eastern States Exposition this year.

In addition to our New England Center presentations, Oxford County 4-H members are also competing on the Maine State 4-H horse, beef, dairy and working steer teams. Competing at this level is a highly educational experience that allows youth to strengthen their leadership and problem solving skills.

Eat Well Nutrition Program

The Eat Well Nutrition Education Program teaches skills on basic nutrition, food budgeting, and food safety to eligible children and families. Our nutrition associate, Karen Toohey, provides lessons in

individual's home, in community group settings and in SAD17 classrooms.

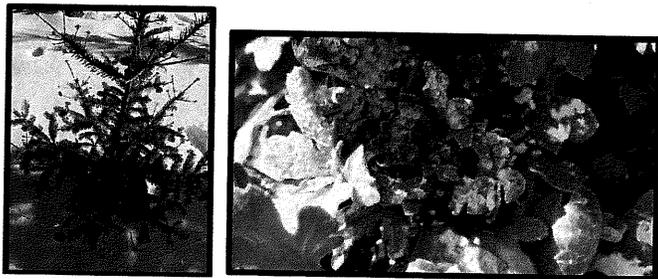


*Karen Toohey,
teaching about
healthy eating and
nutrition at Mother
Seton House in
Fryeburg*

As many as 57 families with 91 family members have participated in Oxford County at any given time. Over 1,200 youth have been involved in various lessons on what the importance of food safety, eating fruit and vegetables, whole grains and dairy foods play in good health. Our community partners include:

- Elementary Schools in West Paris, Waterford, Fryeburg, Denmark, Norway, Otisfield, Paris, Andover, Oxford and Harrison.
- Early Headstart and Headstarts in Bridgton, South Paris and Norway
- Mother Seton House
- Local Food Pantries in Sweden and Waterford.
- Summer recreational programs in Harrison and Hartford.
- After-school enrichment programs in Hartford, Woodstock, Rumford, Mexico, Hebron and Denmark
- South Paris DHHS Food Stamp office

Agriculture & Economic Development



*Assisting growers battling
plant disease and insect damage*

Advancing agricultural viability, economic development and environmental stewardship by

supporting sustainable agricultural production, business management & farm food safety is at the heart of this program. This is done through on-site farm visits, consultation with University of Maine specialists, and the use of the soil testing facility and Plant & Animal Disease diagnostic labs.

Cathryn Kloetzli started in this role in January 2016 and her work centers on the educational support and strengthening of Oxford County's 550 commercial farms and residential communities. Cathy has worked in agriculture for 19 years — 6 years in commercial greenhouse production, and 13 years in educational outreach programs — with Cooperative Extension, Peace Corps and USAID's Farmer-to-Farmer program.

Cathy's experience in educational outreach focuses on product business development, sustainable agriculture production practices, improving access to local foods and food safety. She looks forward to putting this experience to work in Oxford County, as she continues discovering how best to serve its citizens.

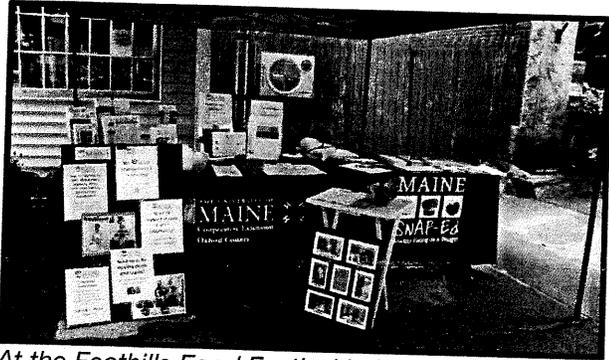
Land Stewardship at Home

University of Maine Cooperative Extension is a primary resource for research based, reliable information on a variety of gardening, home landscape and land stewardship issues in Oxford County. In addition to the on-site and in-office consultations that we provide, the plant diagnostic and soil testing labs are routinely used to help us properly identify and find effective solutions to any problems that arise.

An additional, critical link in our work is to make sure we are reaching out and providing educational support to all in our communities who request assistance. Master Gardener Volunteers allows us to expand this office's reach many times over. Extension Master Gardener volunteers "bring to bear the science base of the land-grant university system in service to their communities, through the training and certification they receive as well as the research-based answers they provide." said Bill Hoffman, national program leader and Master Gardener contact at Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Services, CSREES.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Program is one of the more popular programs offered by University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Over 1,000 Mainers are currently active in the statewide program. In exchange for 45 hours of intensive horticulture training, participants return 40 hours of volunteer work to their communities.

The Master Gardener program continues its work in Oxford and will keep refocusing and expanding in the coming years to ensure it best meets local priorities and needs. Stay tuned!



At the Foothills Food Festival in Norway this August, providing information on land stewardship

Food self-sufficiency

Cooperative Extension is helping Oxford County families improve their resilience by teaching the basic skills of gardening and food preservation.

Canning and preserving workshops are being conducted throughout the harvest season in addition to one-on-one support for gardening questions. For more information on these workshops please contact us at 207-743-6329 or visit <http://extension.umaine.edu/gardening/>



Hands-on workshops taught how to make pickles and salsa. Participants left with a sealed jar of the food they made that night and the skills to home preserve these foods and more!

Senior Companion Program



Senior Companions attending a monthly continuing education program to sharpen their skills and better assist their clients

Helping elders stay independent can be a challenge in our rural areas. Many older adults do not have relatives living nearby and must rely on others to help them. Senior Companions, making regular visits, are making it possible for elders to stay in their homes longer.

Senior Companions meeting eligibility requirements spend 15-20 hours per week visiting homebound/ isolated adults in an effort to combat their loneliness and isolation. Senior Companions also provide much needed respite for caregivers, giving them a break from their everyday care giving responsibilities.

In the past year, Senior Companions received training on such topics as elder abuse, coloring for fun and relaxation, technology for the home, summer food safety, when should I call the ambulance, ethics and boundaries, dealing with loss and grief, fraud and senior scams and winter driving skills. Senior Companions, in turn, pass on this information to their clients and families.

Companions also benefit from this program as well; having the opportunity to help others, forming new friendships, receiving a small stipend for their volunteer activities, but most of all knowing they are making a difference in the lives of others.

We are fortunate to have 3 program partners - Clover Health Care, SeniorsPlus and Catholic Charities SEARCH program.

In the past year, six Senior Companions in Oxford County have served over 4,803 volunteer hours

with 271 hours of respite. They have traveled over 20,359 miles, making over 1,263 visits with clients.

Oxford Co. Extension Homemakers



Bernadette Gautreau spoke on Cree Indian cultural awareness this Spring. The group also assembled paper goods for the Norway women's shelter.

The Oxford County Extension Homemakers continue to be a vital organization in Oxford County. Seven local Extension Homemaker groups, with approximately 171 members, are located throughout Oxford County in Canton, East Hebron, Fryeburg, Peru, South Paris, Swift River and Woodstock. New groups are always welcome and encouraged to form!

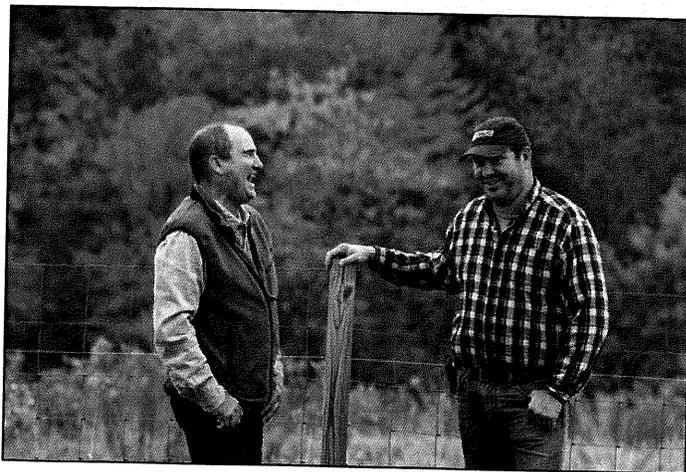
The local groups meet monthly to conduct a wide variety of educational programs such as alternate energy sources, mixes from the kitchen, and growing herbs. Community service projects are also woven into each month's meeting and includes gathering supplies for the local shelters, donations to local food pantries, and special support to other local worthy causes.

In addition, the local groups join together for educational and volunteer activities at the county and state levels. Sylvia Simmons, a member of the

Local Partnership

Our **County Extension Association** is the vital link between the county, our communities and UMaine. The Association's Executive Committee is comprised of local **volunteers** who represent community interests by advising UMaine Extension staff on educational programs, advocate for and secure funding from county government to support the county office, oversee the office budget and facilities, and guide **UMaine Extension staff** in identifying their programming goals.

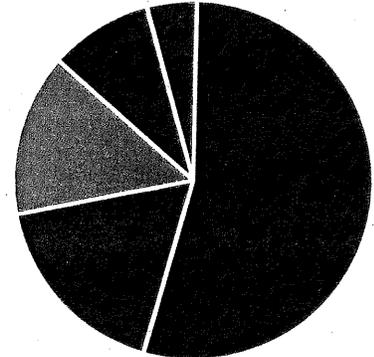
Canton Extension Homemakers, serves as president of the Oxford County Extension Homemakers Advisory Board. Cooperative Extension serves as an education resource for the organizations' educational programming. Find out more by going to their website at <http://extension.umaine.edu/homemakers/>



**University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Support for Oxford County**

Oxford County Budget

CY 2015	
Local Salaries and Benefits	\$117,764
Prorated Support from UMaine*	\$457,772
Computer Equipment & Networking	\$3,317
Statewide Animal Diagnostic Lab	\$3,039
Marketing, Publications, Video	\$816
Local Programming Supplies & Expenses	\$29,075
Postage	\$1,411
Telephone	\$601
Travel	\$17,582
Total	\$631,377
Prorated support from UMaine* reflects salaries & benefits for administrative and statewide support.	



- Support Staff Salaries
- Programming Support
- Building Maintenance & Utilities
- Equipment
- Office Supplies

This pie graph illustrates the financial resources for programs offered, supported and managed out of the Oxford County office.

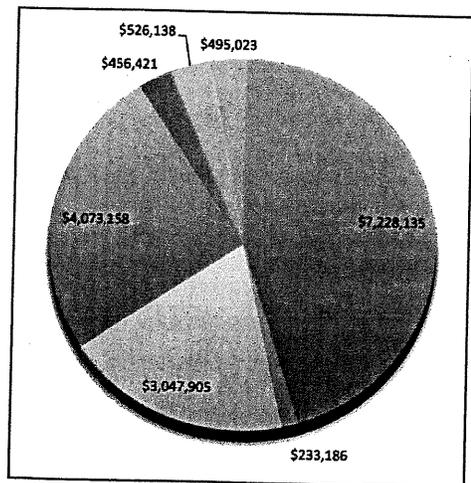
Each year, Oxford County tax dollars support UMaine Extension with physical office space, support staff salaries, office supplies, equipment and some programming expenses.

Without statewide support, UMaine Extension would not be present in this county. Every dollar of county funding secures a \$5.66 match. Funds are provided through the University of Maine, Federal Formula Funds, grants, contracts, and fees.

Dollars from other sources support salaries and benefits for Extension Specialists, County Educators, Extension administration, postage, computer equipment and networking, publications, telephone and travel.

Statewide Extension Funding

As a unique partnership among federal, state and county governments, UMaine Extension uses funding from Maine counties and the University to match and leverage support from the United States Department of Agriculture, other federal grantors, state agencies and private foundations. Each county UMaine Extension office is also part of a statewide organization and the national Extension system.



- University of Maine
- Maine Economic Improvement Fund
- Grants and Contracts
- Federal Capacity Funds
- Gifts and Fundraising
- County Funds
- Income from Operations

Statewide Highlights

Protecting Maine's Poultry and Egg Industry

Maine's poultry and egg industries are worth over \$75 million yearly. Because the University of Maine Animal Health Lab (UMAHL) provides the FDA-required salmonella testing for medium- to large-sized egg producers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, these farms can operate within FDA's Egg Rule. This work aids in prevention of human salmonellosis (SE) that might be acquired through eggs. The estimated cost to the egg industry of an SE outbreak could be higher than 10% of production. The impact of salmonella prevention is estimated to be more than \$7 million per year. UMAHL handled over 6,000 avian samples during reporting year 2015. During 2015, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) caused the death of more than 49 million poultry in the United States. If this disease comes to our region, substantial losses to the commercial egg industry would result. UMAHL is working with small and large producers to increase biosecurity and preparedness for emergencies such as HPAI.

Protecting Maine's Dairies

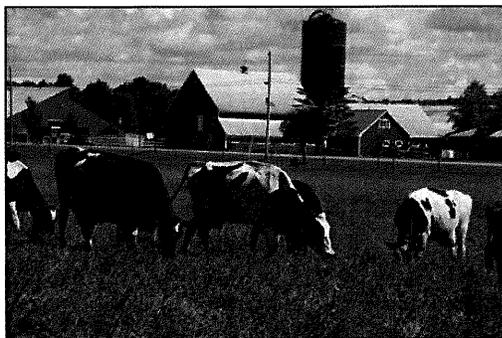
Many of Maine's more than 8,000 small farms have dairy animals. Increasingly, organic and small ruminant dairies are producing a diverse collection of artisanal cheeses and alternative milk products. For public safety and quality control, dairies must keep pathogenic bacteria out of their dairy animals and dairy products. Culturing milk samples is key to protecting all of Maine's dairies. In 2014-2015, the UMaine Animal Health Lab cultured approximately 2,000 milk samples for mastitis; 4.5 percent were positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*, which can cause serious human illness. Because *S. aureus* cannot usually be cleared from the udder, culling chronically infected cows is advised to protect the public and avoid the spread of this disease on dairies. Maine's dairy owners and dairy product consumers benefit from our local, responsive mastitis diagnostic service. We screen samples from both large and small dairies for mycoplasma, *S. aureus*, and other pathogens. Allowing farmers to administer antibiotics appropriately, and to avoid excessive antibiotic use by culling animals with incurable infections, saves money and protects public health.

IPM Strategies for Sweet Corn

Sweet corn comprises nearly half of the commercial vegetable acreage in Maine but may bring only marginal profits due partly to high pest management costs. Sweet corn is an ideal candidate for integrated pest management (IPM) strategies. UMaine Extension set up insect traps and trained student field scouts to monitor sweet corn pest populations. Information gathered was summarized and shared with growers, ag consultants, and extension educators around Maine through a weekly newsletter and blog. Corn IPM techniques were demonstrated at two grower field days. Growers adopting these techniques noticed significant reductions in pest management costs and reduced risk of pesticide exposure to themselves and the environment. Of the participants responding to a post-season survey, 61% used the information to reduce the number of pesticide sprays they applied, 69% found the program significantly reduced pest management costs, and more than 75% found that IPM techniques improved their crop yield and quality. Applying sample results to numbers from recent state agricultural statistics suggests that Maine growers conservatively reduced insecticide applications by over 100,000 gallons this season and saved over \$100 per acre on insecticide costs.

Expanding and Diversifying Maine's Local Wheat Economy

UMaine Extension secured over \$1 million of funding in 2015 for a diverse program that generates region-specific, research-based information and provides educational and networking opportunities for participants in the grain economy. Key collaborators include MOFGA, the Maine Grain Alliance, the University of Vermont, and the US Organic Grain Collaboration. Maine and New England farmers have access to ground-truthed information on local grain production, markets, quality standards, and economics. Research trials started in 2013 on field peas as a rotation crop for cereal grains inspired and informed at least 5 farmers to grow about 800 acres of field peas in 2015 for local markets. Three winter grain farmers adjusted seeding and fertility methods based on on-farm research results, affecting another 800 acres. Aroostook



County farmers grew approximately 1,000 acres of organic grains. Two farmers planted a specialty heirloom rye for a new Nordic restaurant in New York City as a result of our connections and 3 years of trialing. With our guidance, a cooperating farmer produced Maine's first crop of blue tag certified organic grain seed, and one of the region's first certified seed of an heirloom variety. Farmers are successfully supplying new and expanding grain markets with high quality grain.

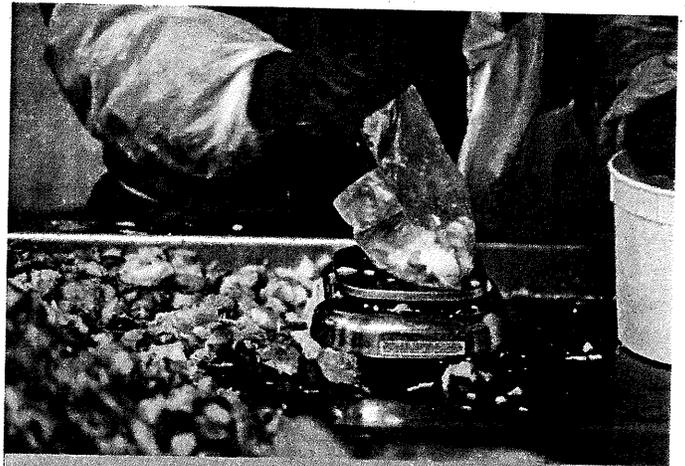
Food Safety Education for Families and Commercial Food Producers

Each year 48 million people in the U.S. contract foodborne illnesses. Food safety risks exist in home food preparation and preservation, in people serving crowds, and in retail and commercial manufacturing and sales. These groups prepare or process food for others, often without proper food safety training, leading to increased occurrences of foodborne illness. UMaine Extension provides food safety training programs including food preservation; home food safety; Cooking for Crowds; industrial food sanitation; Good Agricultural Practices; Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification; and soon, Food Safety Modernization Act trainings. Extension provides private food safety consulting and process authority food product reviews to companies statewide. These programs directly reached and trained over 10,000 people in Maine in the past year and we estimate that over 500,000 consumers of food produced by New England-based food businesses have a reduced potential to contract foodborne illness because of our trainings.

In addition, the food process authority lab reviewed over 500 products, leading to added income and jobs across Maine and New Hampshire. In almost all cases one-on-one food safety consulting led to increased revenue, retention of jobs, and/or increased hiring. One new startup company hired 171 employees and said, "Extension's work with our company has contributed to the safe production of 7.2 million pounds of lobster per year with a value of over \$36 million." These results are decreasing the occurrences of foodborne illness and increasing overall health in Maine and wherever Maine foods are sold and consumed.

The "Whole Schools Whole Communities" Initiative

The Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students (ELLMS) Project secured a \$275,000 grant to implement the *Whole Schools Whole Communities Initiative*. The project partners—UMaine's 4-H centers, Chewonki, the Schoodic Institute, and the Ecology School—joined with 10 Maine school districts. The ten Maine public school districts, representing nearly 8,000 students, are deeply engaged in the process of envisioning and which implementing significant



The County Extension Act

The County Extension Act explains the role of county government in funding local Extension offices.

Cooperative Extension work shall consist of the giving of practical demonstrations in agriculture and natural resources, youth development, and home economics and community life and imparting information on those subjects through field demonstrations, publications and otherwise. For the purpose of carrying out this chapter, there may be created in each county or combination of two counties within the State an organization known as a "county extension association," and its services available to all residents of a county. The county extension is viewed as a unique and important educational program of county government. The executive committee of each county extension association shall prepare an annual budget as requested, showing in detail its estimate of the amount of money to be expended under this chapter within the county or counties for the fiscal year. The executive committee shall submit to the board of county commissioners on a date requested by the county commissioners, and the county commissioners may, if they deem it justifiable, adopt an appropriate budget for the county extension program and levy a tax therefore. The amount thus raised by direct taxation within any county or combination of counties for the purposes of this chapter shall be used for the salaries of clerks, provision of office space, supplies, equipment, postage, telephone, a contribution toward the salaries of county educators and such other expenses as necessary to maintain an effective county extension program.¹

¹Excerpted from Title 7, Chapter 7 of the Maine Revised Statutes, §191-§195.

change in teaching and learning. The process includes facilitated planning sessions during school leaders, teachers, community stakeholders, and ELLMS Project representatives are collectively shaping the future of education to include meaningful connection to community through service learning opportunities, leadership development, place-based curricula, outdoor field science, and STEM. The ELLMS partners are also conducting an integrated research project using "Most Significant Change" methodology. The research is designed to ascertain the longitudinal impact of quality environmental education opportunities for students and teachers.

Maine Harvest for Hunger

Maine has the highest rate of food insecurity in New England, and ranks twelfth in the United States. Forty-three percent of food-insecure people do not qualify for food stamps or other government program. It is challenging for food-insecure people to afford fresh, nutritious food, and donations of fresh produce to Maine's emergency food system have declined recently. Since 2000, UMaine Cooperative Extension's statewide Maine Harvest for Hunger (MHH) program has mobilized gardeners, farmers, businesses, schools, and civic groups to grow, glean, and donate high quality produce to distribution sites and directly to neighbors in need. The objective is to mitigate hunger, improve nutrition and health, and help recipients develop lifelong positive nutritional habits. Through a dialogue between recipients, donors, and staff, the team has made significant progress in expanding the variety of offerings readily accepted and used by recipients, minimizing donation waste and extending the donation season. In 2015, record-breaking donations of over

318,000 pounds (value of \$537,000, based on an average \$1.69 per pound) went to 188 distribution sites and to individuals. Nearly 500 volunteers in 14 counties collectively logged more than 5,000 hours. To learn more, <http://extension.umaine.edu/harvest-for-hunger/>

Eat Well: Responding to Food Insecurity

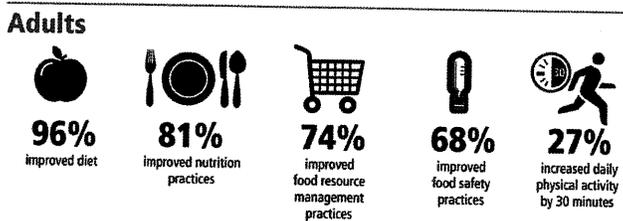
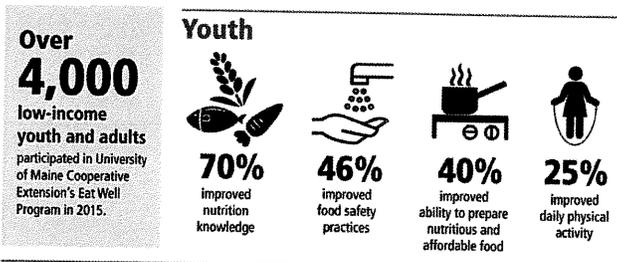
Maine Cooperative Extension's EFNEP paraprofessionals educate Maine's limited-income families and youth to help them make better lifestyle choices and improve their nutritional well-being. EFNEP participants learn how to eat well on a budget and apply what they learn to their daily lives. These positive changes will eventually help reduce the incidence of obesity and chronic disease of limited income families in Maine. As a result of completing the Eat Well program (320 adult participants surveyed): 74% showed improvement in one or more food resource management practice, 81% showed improvement in one or more nutrition practice, and 68% showed improvement in one or more food safety practice. Eat Well graduates reported increasing fruit and vegetable intake by one-half cup per day and self-reported increases in fiber, calcium, and vitamin D intake. 15% of Eat Well graduates also reported increasing physical activity to at least 30 minutes per day.

EatWell...Supporting Children's Learning and Health

In Maine, more than a quarter of school-aged youth are overweight or obese, and nearly a quarter of the state's children are food insecure. UMaine Extension's Eat Well Program (funded by federal EFNEP dollars) provides limited-income youth in grades K-12 free education on healthy habits. Eighty percent of participants improved their ability to choose foods according to USDA MyPlate recommendations; 45 percent used safe food handling practices more often; and 32 percent improved their physical activity. Developing a solid foundation of healthy habits in childhood will help improve the health of Maine's population long term.

Parent Education: Laying the Foundation for Future Success and Well-Being

Research demonstrates that the experiences a child has during the first three years of its life affect the developing brain and lay the foundation for future well-being. Adverse experiences can have lasting negative outcomes and affect physical and emotional health, school achievement, relationships, self-sufficiency, and overall functioning and success. With federal, state, and local funding, Parenting Education Professionals (PEPs), part of the Maine Families Program, supported families in 3 counties. Seven certified PEPs made 1,984 home visits to 248 families. Using the Parents as Teachers model, PEPs met with families in their homes to share activity ideas to support



UMaine Extension's Eat Well Program brings nutrition education to limited-income families and youth in Maine.

child development, build parenting skills, and provide links to community resources. Results from the annual parent survey showed that 99% of families used the child development information they received during home visits, 92% of families reported the program to be helpful, and 97% reported increased confidence as parents. In addition, breastfeeding rates for participating children were above the statewide average, 98% of children enrolled prenatally were up to date with well child visits, 94% of eligible children completed developmental screening, and all enrolled families were assessed for basic needs and referred to services as appropriate.

4-H Camps Connecting Youth to Positive Community Experiences and Mentorship



In 2015 UMaine 4-H summer camps served 1,732 youth from all sixteen counties in Maine, thirty states, and three countries. Through living and working together, campers and staff became part of an interconnected community committed to a sustainable future. In living and working alongside positive adult mentors and peers, youth become members of a community to which they make positive contributions. The opportunities to develop mastery of skills happens in the context of the residential camp and learning center setting where the “implicit curriculum” includes healthy nutrition and activities, inclusive and safe learning environments, and intentional leadership development. Youth and program alumni report that the 4-H Camp and Learning Center experience has helped them develop greater self-confidence, civic engagement, and personal and academic success.

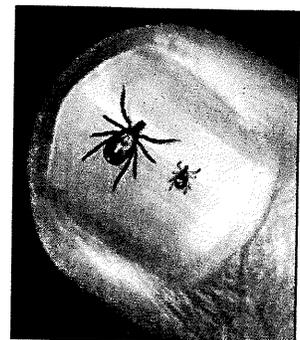
Protecting Wildlife Health

Maine has joined a group of laboratories that can “link” regional agencies with local diagnostic assistance for wild animals, the Northeast Wildlife Disease Cooperative (NWDC). Collaboration with the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife has yielded information about the health of Maine and New Hampshire moose. We have documented health status at capture of over 200 radio-collared moose over a 3-year period, performed surveillance of hunter-killed moose lung parasites, and provided diagnostic services for radio-collared moose

dying of natural causes. The University of Maine Animal Health Lab (UMAHL) has hosted wildlife biologist trainings, provided diagnostic information for wildlife cases, and assisted in investigations of lead toxicosis in waterfowl. Participation in the NWDC is bringing more expertise to the region and to the UMAHL. UMaine Students benefit from opportunities to work with wildlife disease researchers and biologists benefit from improved safety in the field due to the information conveyed at the workshops. Regionally acquired information provides better disease surveillance, which is useful to wildlife managers. A 2014 report to the Maine Office of Tourism and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife found that moose and waterfowl hunting brought more than \$33 million to Maine annually, and supported more than 450 full- and part-time jobs. The work of the UMAHL helps ensure continued hunting opportunities in Maine.

Protecting Maine Citizens Against Lyme Disease

There were approximately 1,400 reported cases of Lyme disease in Maine last year (estimated to be a fraction of the actual number of cases). Providing outreach and services related to this increasingly common public health threat is an important issue in Maine. In 2014 UMaine Extension created and implemented an in-state tick identification program. This program has been expanded by creating and consistently updating an informational website, providing public presentations on ticks and vector-borne disease, and developing informational tick cards for distribution. Program activities also aided in the passage of an \$8 million bond for construction of a new biosecure laboratory that will be able to test ticks for pathogens. Clients now have access to a wide range of tick information targeted specifically at issues relating to Maine. Tick specimens can be identified more quickly within the state, and upon completion of the new lab, ticks will be tested for pathogens, a service that is not currently offered in Maine.



For more information contact:

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Oxford County
9 Olson Road
South Paris, ME 04281
Phone: 207.743.6329 or 1.800.287.1482 (in Maine)



Photos: Edwin Remsberg, tick: G. Dill, moose: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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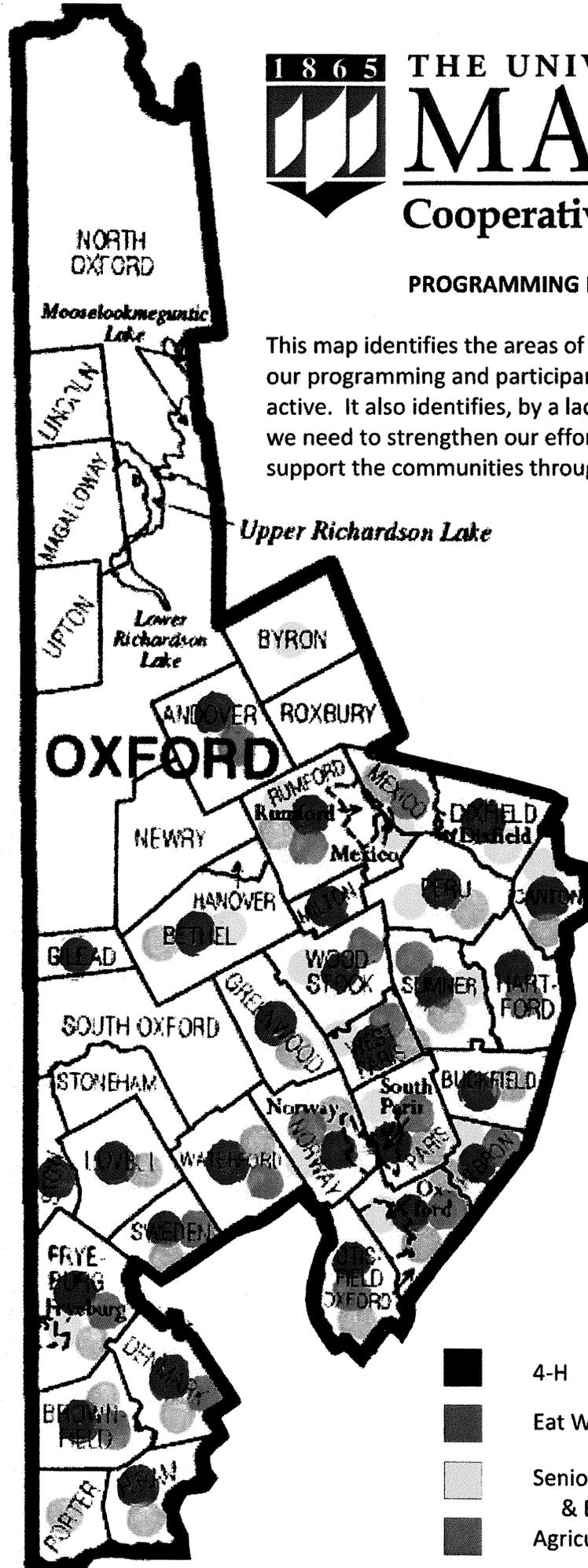


MAINE

Cooperative Extension

PROGRAMMING MAP

This map identifies the areas of the county where our programming and participants are currently active. It also identifies, by a lack of color, where we need to strengthen our efforts to reach out and support the communities through our work.



-  4-H
-  Eat Well
-  Senior Companion
& Extension Homemakers
-  Agriculture & Food Systems

TOWN OF BETHEL

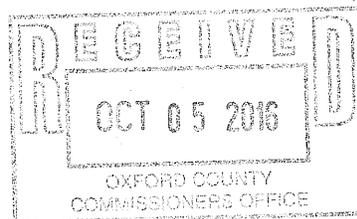
19 Main Street
PO Box 1660
Bethel, ME 04217

Phone: 207-824-2669
Fax: 207-824-3355
www.bethelmaine.org



October 5, 2016

Oxford County Commissioners
Oxford County Budget Committee
26 Western Avenue
South Paris, ME 04281



Re: 2017 Funding Request – Bethel Regional Airport

Dear Commissioners and Budget Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Bethel Regional Airport to request a \$3,000 appropriation in the 2017 county budget.

Thank you for approving Bethel's 2016 funding request of \$3,000. These funds have helped to defray the cost of airport operations. The Bethel facility is home base for a number of aircraft owners, many of whom live in neighboring towns.

It is our hope that the 2017 request will find equal favor and on behalf of all town officials, I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Landes/dm".

Christine Landes
Town Manager

The Town of Fryeburg

Settled 1762 - Incorporated 1777

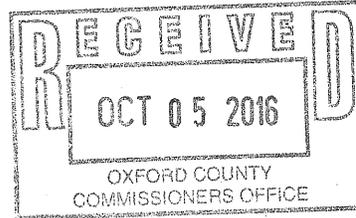
Municipal Office

16 Lovewell Pond Road

Fryeburg, ME 04037

207-935-2805 telephone

207-935-6008 fax



October 5, 2016

Oxford County Commissioners
Oxford County Budget Committee
26 Western Avenue
South Paris, ME 04281

Re: 2017 Funding Request – Eastern Slope Airport Authority

Dear Commissioners and Budget Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Eastern Slope Airport Authority to request a \$3,000 appropriation for the 2017 budget.

Thank you for approving the 2016 funding request for \$3,000 for the ESAA. The Town of Fryeburg appreciates your past support and would like to thank you for approving the 2016 request for \$3,000.

Sincerely,

Sharon Jackson
Town Manager



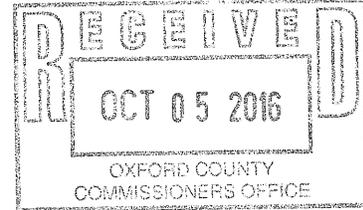
Western Maine Transportation Services, Inc.

Kurt Schaub, Chairperson

Sandy Buchanan, General Manager/Operations Director

October 5, 2016

Oxford County Commissioners and Budget Committee
26 Western Avenue
South Paris ME 04281



Commissioners and Budget Committee members:

Thank you for funding Western Maine Transportation (WMTS) for FY 2016. WMTS is, again, requesting **\$11,500** for FY 2017. Funding received from Oxford County is used both to pay directly for services and is applied as local match to draw down Federal Transit Administration funding through MaineDOT. All of the funding provided by and because of Oxford County's contribution goes to providing transportation services in Oxford County.

Town	Trips	Miles	Riders
Bethel	63	1951	6
Buckfield	12	370	3
Canton	39	400	5
Dixfield	66	804	17
Fryeburg	12	842	4
Greenwood	3	156	1
Hartford	4	77	1
Hebron	4	115	2
Mexico	1354	4760	55
Newry	6	356	2
Norway	2629	30592	72
Otisfield	3	148	2
Oxford	2733	22974	47
Paris	2567	13821	104
Peru	7	42	1
Rumford	3126	13895	171
Sumner	21	342	2
Waterford	9	75	1
West Paris	503	18645	14
Woodstock	11	404	5

As shown in the table to the left, WMTS provided **13,172** trips in Oxford County from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, not including the separately-funded Mountain Explorer seasonal bus in Bethel and Newry.

During the past year we had the opportunity to consult extensively with Bethel on the transportation component of their AARP Age Friendly Community project. Separate from that, we are now providing limited bus service for Bethel and are seeking a way to expand that. We are also looking into ways to provide more service throughout the county as we work to untangle ourselves from DHHS requirements to make additional vehicles and drivers available while continuing to serve the DHHS riders under a more traditional "public transportation" model.

We sent out surveys in Bethel, Newry, Woodstock, Greenwood, Otisfield, Sumner and Hartford. We had a good return from Bethel and Newry, and a few from Woodstock and Greenwood. Unless surveys have been turned-in at town offices and have not made it back to us, we were disappointed that no surveys were received from Otisfield, Sumner and Hartford.

In April, WMTS assumed operation of the Brunswick Explorer bus in Brunswick under agreement with MaineDOT. Although it may seem unrelated, as part of this new venture, MaineDOT has agreed to fund a route study and business plan for WMTS. This includes studying how to provide service in, and from, rural areas. Oxford County is included in this request for proposals (RFP) which will be published within the next few weeks. We wish the process could be faster, but we are very optimistic that this will provide information needed for us to vet and move forward to provide services we are very much aware are needed throughout our service area.

Again, thank you for your funding this past year and we hope we are earning your continued support for 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Craig Zurhorst
Community Relations Director
czurhorst@westernmainetrans.org
207-333-6972 ext. 208



76 Merrow Rd Auburn, Maine 04210
Telephone 207-333-6972 Fax: 207-795-6725
www.wmtsbus.org

Additional support from:
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area
United Way of Oxford County
SeniorsPlus



Rumford Group Homes, Inc.

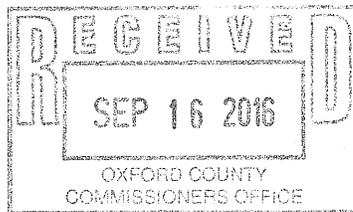
160 Lincoln Avenue
Rumford, Maine 04276
(207) 364-3551 • (207) 364-2886
FAX: (207) 364-3544
E-mail: rghinc@rumfordgrouphomes.org
www.rumfordgrouphomes.org



National Council for
Community Behavioral Healthcare

September 14, 2016

Oxford County
26 Western Avenue
South Paris, Maine 04281



Oxford County Commissioners and Selectmen,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Rumford Group Homes, Inc., serving the area of Oxford County, we respectfully request \$5,000 from Oxford County to support funding for Emergency Shelter services to support our county's most vulnerable population.

Financial support is requested for 2017 to fund this project due to our desire to continue to provide emergency shelter services to single men in Oxford County. Rumford Group Homes, Inc. currently operates three Emergency Shelters in Oxford County, two in Rumford and one in Norway, which are all family centers and do not have the capacity to offer shelter services for single men, due to the design and population (women and their dependent children). There are no shelters for single men in Oxford County and homeless individuals must travel out of the area to receive supportive services which is difficult with no transportation. We find that in order to assist people with accessing permanent housing, employment and stabilization, it is much better for people to remain where their support systems are.

At Rumford Group Homes, Inc., we feel that the services we perform for the local communities are extremely valuable. We support the area's most underserved population and assist people with regaining a sense of purpose, a stable home and access to other area supportive services. We receive many referrals from other agencies within Oxford County who are working with homeless individuals and have been turning away single males and sending them out of the area to other shelters in Lewiston and Skowhegan.

We serve people from all over Oxford County and operate all of our programs with sound fiscal practices and tight budgets. We save General Assistance funds but providing housing and support to people who would normally ask the town's General Assistance Administrators for assistance.

1974 ~ Celebrating 42 years of service to children, youth and families ~ 2016

Mental Health Programs of Rumford Group Homes, Inc.
Turner Family Support Center - Case Management Services

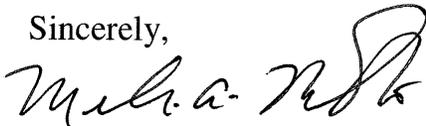
Other Programs: Franklin Street Permanent Housing, Pinewoods Supportive Housing, Washington Street Permanent Housing, Federal Maternity Group Home Program, Housing Navigator Services, Rumford Family Center, Norway Family Center, South Paris Men's Shelter

Additionally, we work with local landlords frequently to place formerly homeless individuals in local apartments, which benefits landlords struggling to keep their units filled. We also offer educational assistance, vocational readiness training and job search assistance to our guests to help put them back to work in Oxford County.

Our homeless and housing programs continue to meet a great need here in western Maine. Last year alone we served 80 families in our shelter programs alone and helped them access permanent housing. As a private, nonprofit organization providing programs and services to hundreds of men, women and children who are homeless, we are challenged to raise funds to ensure these programs and services can continue. Our goal is to move people out of homelessness for good.

We hope you will join with us and support our homeless programming. If you have any questions, about this application, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 364-3551 ext. 212. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa A. McEntee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "A".

Melissa A. McEntee
Executive Director

Mailing Address:
PO Box 291
South Paris, ME 04281

(207) 743-5833



United Way of Oxford County

Physical Address:
369 Main St
Norway, ME 04268

www.uwoxfordcounty.org

October 5, 2016

Oxford County Commissioners Office
26 Western Ave #2
South Paris, ME 04281

Dear Commissioners Merrill, Duguay, Turner and Mr. Cole:

United Way of Oxford County would like to respectfully request a donation of \$1,000 to be included in the 2017 budget. United Way of Oxford County is working to build a resilient and strong Oxford County through its impact areas of educational achievement, meeting basic needs, and improved health.

Since its founding in 1989, United Way of Oxford County has invested over \$1.5 million in Oxford County. Programs such as Meals on Wheels, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Community Rides, and support for victims of Domestic Violence as a small example of the impact United Way of Oxford County has in our community. Additionally, United Way of Oxford County has launched some new initiatives such as the Food Pantry Project and the Diaper Drive.

As a small United Way, every donation truly makes a difference for our neighbors. If you have any questions on this request please contact Kimberly Preble, Executive Director at 743-5833 or by email at kpreble@uwoxfordcounty.org. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly Preble". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kimberly Preble
Executive Director

Oxford County Commissioners
Oxford County Budget Committee
P. O. Box 179
26 Western Ave.
South Paris, ME 04281



September 22, 2016

Dear Commissioners and Budget Committee Members,

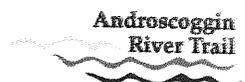
I am writing today requesting a \$25,000 line item contribution be added to the Oxford County 2017 Budget in support of the Androscoggin River Watershed Council (ARWC). The Androscoggin River runs 170 plus miles from Lake Umbagog in NH to Brunswick, ME. Approximately 60 miles run through Oxford County with some of the best trout fishing in Maine. The tributaries that feed into the Androscoggin are some of the last native trout spawning grounds left in Maine. Tributaries in Oxford County include the Sunday River, Swift River, Wild River, Ellis River, Bear River, Nezinscott River and many smaller streams such as Chapman Brook, Larry Brook, and Worthley Brook.

With the assistance of partners, ARWC stewards over 50 launch sites on the Androscoggin; provides water quality testing on the Androscoggin and its tributaries; identifies and strives to remove barriers to brook trout passage; and creates a forum for many diverse interests in the watershed. ARWC has played a major role in developing new and improving existing access sites in Oxford County and has undertaken other major projects to enhance access and keep the watershed healthy.

We sponsor the Source to Sea, a twenty-day guided paddle down the Androscoggin River with educational speakers on each day. Most recently we have developed a River Trail App to assist people looking for information on river access and local points of interest. We have provided assistance to Oxford Hills Wellness Group and Land Trust with access to the Little Androscoggin River and provided some guidance to Woodstock for access to North Pond. We are prepared to assist local groups with development of access to lakes and rivers throughout the watershed.

Given the improved water quality of the Androscoggin and the increase in recreational tourists to the area, the river has become an economic driver in Oxford County in the form of new outfitters, boat rentals, fishing guides and campgrounds. Along with this economic growth comes more people on the river and more people spending money in Oxford County towns. They need places to stay, places to eat and information about the river and the surrounding areas. ARWC also recognizes the need to manage over-use and abuse of the river watershed through interpretative panels on launch site kiosks and through our Stewardship program.

The Androscoggin River Trail



Although the Watershed Council does apply for grants for major projects, that funding does not cover staff time and materials for our ongoing projects that are important to keeping the river user friendly and the watershed healthy. Your generous contribution would be used to support our Trout Habitat Restoration work, River Trail Stewardship Program, Source to Sea and river etiquette education. I am happy to answer any questions you may have or supply additional information about any particular piece of our work and look forward to discussing this request with you in person. I hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely yours,



Becky Secrest
ARWC Program Coordinator
P. O. Box 1541
Bethel, ME 04217
207 824-3813 Office
207-754-8158 ARWC Cell
207-318-4217 Alternate Cell

The Androscoggin River Trail

