

10. REGIONAL COORDINATION

The Town of Raymond has worked closely with other towns in the region in the preparation of this Comprehensive Plan. In addition, Raymond continues to be linked in a number of ways to other nearby communities. The following is a summary of Raymond's regional coordination/cooperation efforts. This Plan envisions that these efforts will continue and that they will benefit all participating communities.

Regional Comprehensive Planning Committee. Representatives of the Comprehensive Plan Committee met on several occasions with representatives from up to 10 other communities that were at various stages of preparing their comprehensive plans. These representatives shared their thoughts and ideas, but also agreed that a series of regional, topical workshops would be very beneficial since they could draw resource people that might not otherwise be able to meet individually with each committee.

Regional Workshops. One of the Co-Chairs of the Raymond Comprehensive Plan Committee made arrangements for and coordinated several regional workshops, including one on transportation that was held in Naples on January 15, 2003, and one on land use that was held in Naples on May 6, 2003.

Lake Region Development Council. Raymond works with four other communities (Bridgton, Casco, Naples and Windham) to support the efforts of the Lake Region Development Council, an organization formed for the purpose of supporting and improving the economy of the Lake Region.

Route 302 and You Committee. The Route 302 and You Committee was formed in 2001 by the Lake Region Development Council. The Committee is an advocacy group that is committed to improving traffic conditions along the Route 302 corridor. The Committee is composed of representatives from Raymond, Bridgton, Casco, Frye Island, Gray, Harrison, Naples and Windham.

Dispatch Services. The Raymond Dispatch Center serves Raymond, Poland and Frye Island, as well as covering mutual aid for surrounding towns. Raymond is working with other communities to establish a coordinated dispatch facility in Raymond at the new Public Safety Building.

Fire Protection. The Fire Department works with other communities to provide mutual aid, with Casco, Naples and Windham being the primary assistance communities.

Solid Waste. The Town of Raymond works with a number of communities on solid waste services. Household trash is taken by a private hauler to the Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC) facility in Auburn. Raymond is one of the original 12 owners of the facility. Recyclable items are taken by a private hauler to the City of Lewiston Solid Waste Recycling Facility. Bulky wastes are taken by individual citizens to the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility in Casco.

Education. Raymond's School Department offers educational instruction from pre-school through the 8th grade. Students in grades K-4 attend Raymond Elementary while those in grades 5-8 attend Jordan-Small School. Students in grades 9-12 are then enrolled in high schools in other communities, with the Town paying the tuition for this service. The majority of students attend high school either in Windham, Gray, Westbrook or Poland.

Watershed Protection. Raymond’s Conservation Commission works with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District on a number of watershed protection projects.

Comprehensive Plan Policies. There are a number of Comprehensive Plan policies and strategies that support continued regional coordination. These include the following:

Natural Resources

4. Work with neighboring towns and regional and state agencies to protect and manage the quality of the water in shared water bodies and watersheds.

Economy

- 2.d. Support the efforts of the Lake Region Development Council to locate clean industry in the Lake Region. Consider opportunities for regional industrial parks outside of Raymond.

Transportation

- 2.b. Work with the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Study (PACTS), the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, the Maine Department of Transportation, and neighboring communities, on long-term solutions to the region’s traffic problems, including those identified in MDOT’s Route 302 study.
- 2.d. Work with other Lake Region communities for creative solutions, such as alternative transportation, to improve traffic problems on the major road systems in Raymond and the region.
- 4.a. Encourage additional public transit opportunities within the Lake Region and to and from regional employment and service centers. Encourage cooperation with neighboring communities.

Public Facilities and Services

- 1.a. Continue to work with the County Sheriff Department and other communities on the establishment of a coordinated dispatch facility in Raymond.
- 1.c. Increase police coverage, either through a contract with the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Department for greater coverage, or through a shared service with a neighboring community.
- 1.d. Pursue cooperation between the Town, local waterway associations, neighboring communities, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, for enforcement of watercraft speed, safety and noise regulations.

3. Work with local and regional community organizations to continue to provide quality community services to the Town.
- 4.e. Work with neighboring communities to establish a regional hazardous waste collection site as may be required by law.