

5. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

A thorough understanding of a town's public services is necessary to determine any current constraints to growth and development. A plan should assess how changing demographics and development trends will affect the demand for town services and assess their adequacy. A plan should also identify likely future capital improvements.

State Goal:

To plan for, finance and develop an efficient system of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth and economic development.

OVERVIEW

Bucksport has a fairly complete array of public services for a town of its size. In general, the town has made extensive use of capital improvement planning to keep its services and facilities in prime condition. Continued improvements, such as replacing aging water mains, will be needed. Overall, services and facilities are adequate. However, Bucksport faces several public service and facility challenges.

Bucksport shares many of its various public services and facilities with neighboring towns, including recreation, wastewater treatment and emergency services. Educational services are also provided regionally in Bucksport through RSU 25. There is further discussion of shared services in the chapter sub-sections to follow.

This chapter is organized by six categories:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. Town Government | D. Health & Social Services |
| B. Emergency Services | E. Public Works |
| C. Educational Services | F. Utilities |

See Chapter 6 for a description of town **Recreational** services & facilities.

HIGHLIGHTS

Accomplishments since 2003, current regional service sharing as well as key findings and issues are addressed in each Category. Major highlights are listed below:

- ★ Town programs adjust to economic and social effects of the paper mill closure.
- ★ Natural gas lines are extended into downtown commercial/residential areas.
- ★ Secondary wastewater treatment facilities are being built at the WWTP.
- ★ RSU 25 seeking to sustain adequate levels of programming by possible expansion.
- ★ Regional dispatch and a Fire House Sub-station are considered.
- ★ The local Hazmat Team is gone with the mill closure.

5.A TOWN GOVERNMENT

The Town of Bucksport adopted a Town Manager/Selectmen form of government in 1946, continuing with the annual town meetings tradition until 1971 when the Council/Manager form of government was approved by the citizenry. The seven-member Town Council serves as the general legislative body of the Town, and the Town Manager, who is appointed by the Town Council, serves as the Chief Administrative Official of the Town. The powers and duties of each are identified in the Bucksport Town Charter. The Town Manager oversees all Town Departments and the administrative staff.

Regulatory Documents

The functions of town government and the privileges, rights and responsibilities of the public are regulated to a certain extent by ordinances adopted by the Bucksport Town Council and, in some cases, approved by the voters of Bucksport. In 1978, the Town Council codified the ordinances of the town in a document identified as the Bucksport Town Code. This code originally contained twelve ordinances and the Town Charter, but twelve more ordinances were added over the years. The Town Charter requires the Town Code to be codified (arranged in a systematic collection) every five years, but no codification has been done since 1978. The result is a collection of ordinances without a common formatting style, and provisions that are outdated, inaccurate or that conflict with other provisions in the Code, as well with state laws. The same concern applies to the Town Charter, which has been amended with voter approval several times over the years, but it too contains conflicts and confusing provisions that need to be addressed with a full review and revision.



Town Administrative Offices

The town office building at 50 Main Street houses the town council chamber, management, assessing, clerical, code enforcement, community & economic development, finances, general assistance, licensing & registration, payroll, tax collections and utilities functions. The 5,000 square-foot facility built in 1990 houses ten full-time staff and part-time staff providing janitorial and IT services. A rotation of up to

five people attends the front desk to serve walk-in customers from 8 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Overall, current levels of staffing are mostly adequate. A deficiency noted was enough staff to keep websites, local access television, and newsletters updated on a timely basis. Volunteer help has begun to bridge that gap. The public’s expectations for timely communications are increasing with improving technology. The need for a full-time staff in positions such as finance director will be weighed by town management moving ahead as it adjusts to fiscal changes.

The size and adequacy of individual rooms in the town office building is described in Table 5.1. The facility was not designed to house all of the current positions. A space utilization study is needed to explore options for future improvements. Expanding the building would be challenging given its orientation and proximity to other buildings, roadways and required parking. Some possible upgrades include air conditioning all rooms and more space for IT equipment and staff.

Table 5.1		
Town Office Building Spaces		
Description of room/purpose	Square Feet	Overall Adequacy
1. Main Office Area (Clerical)	800	satisfactory
2. Assessor’s Office	289	See note #2.
3. Lobby	264	satisfactory
4. Town Manager’s Office	186	satisfactory
5. Upstairs Storage Room	56	satisfactory
6. Conference/Lunch Room	227	See note #6
7. Town Council Chambers	900	See note #7
8. Code Enforcement Office (downstairs)	249	satisfactory
9. Northwest corner office (downstairs)	150	satisfactory
10. Comm/Econ Dev. Office (middle downstairs)	116	See note #10
11. Storage Room (downstairs)	80	satisfactory
12. Information Technology Space (downstairs)	See note #12	See note #12
13. Mechanical Room (downstairs)	122	satisfactory

NOTES (numbers refer to building #'s above)

- 2. The Assessor’s Office is large and shared with other staff. .
- 6. The lunch room, as such, is not available when occupied by closed meetings.
- 7. The Council Chamber is not air conditioned and meetings during hot weather can become uncomfortable. It is usually sufficient in size. Larger functions must be held at other venues.
- 10. This office has no exterior walls or windows and no mechanical air exchange. It is also the only pathway to the downstairs storage vault.
- 12. IT equipment for computer networking, data storage, local access television and etc. is located throughout the building. The main server is in the clerical office, the local access TV controls are in the code enforcement area and the racks for LATV are in the downstairs storage room. There is no designated office space for IT staff.

5.B EMERGENCY SERVICES (Police, Fire , Ambulance, Dispatch, Management)

(5.B.1) Police Protection

Staffing. Police protection in Bucksport is provided primarily by the Bucksport police department. There are eight full-time, sworn law enforcement officers, including the chief, a detective/sergeant, six patrol officers and an animal control officer. There are also six part-time officers. No additional personnel are hired during the summer.

All clerical work is handled by the dispatch center. The officers comply with the Maine Criminal Justice yearly training standards. New standards are enacted on a regular basis. For example, in 2014 the department was learning new domestic violence assessment tools.

Facilities and Equipment. The department is housed at the public safety building on Franklin Street. The facility meets the current and anticipated future needs of the department. It includes a two-bay garage, booking room, interview room, offices, training areas, and storage and evidence rooms.

The current inventory of vehicles and major equipment is shown on Table 5.2. The department anticipates replacing current vehicles and smaller pieces of equipment as they reach the end of their service life. It does not expect to expand its fleet.

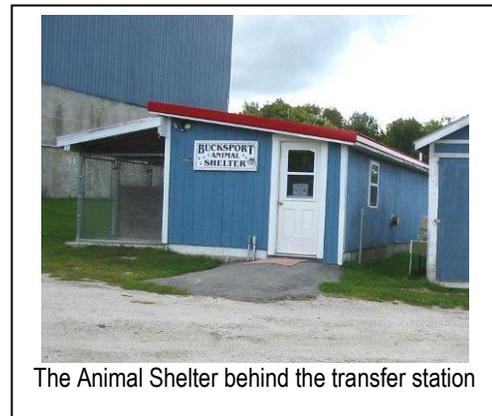
Type	Year	Condition	Estimated Years of Service Left
Ford SUV	2013	Prime	4
Ford Cruiser	2011	OK	3
Ford Cruiser	2010	OK	2
Ford Cruiser	2008	OK	2
GMC Envoy	2006	Prime	10
Dispatch Console	2006	OK	10
SOURCE: Bucksport Police Department			

Level of Service. The department has worked with other public safety service providers in implementing lock down and disaster/emergency response plans. It has also participated in programs to help the elderly age in place in partnership with Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities. These programs are part of a broader effort to serve the chronically ill and disabled. Police officials also support programs aimed at troubled or at risk youth. These are described in the Recreation Chapter.

The average response time to a call is five to ten minutes. It may take over ten minutes to reach the most remote part of town. Calls for service are summarized on Table 5.3. The total number of calls has fluctuated rather than showing a steady increase or decrease.

Table 5.3 Police Calls for Assistance	
Year	Number of Calls
2005	6290
2006	6078
2007	5596
2008	5790
2009	6468
2010	6136
2011	5762
2012	5566
2013	4795
2014	4980
SOURCE: Bucksport Police Department	

Future Needs. The department reports that its major challenge is obtaining sufficient funding to operate an adequate department.



(5.B.2) Fire Protection

Staffing. Fire protection is provided by the Bucksport Fire Department. There are five full-time staff, (a chief and four fire fighters who are also EMT’s). There are also 30 paid on-call staff members.

Like most fire departments, it is difficult for volunteers to meet all the training requirements. About 100 hours of initial training is required. For fire fighter 1 and 2 levels, 200 hours is required. This does not include annual mandatory training or rescue and other specialized training.

The department provides contractual fire protection to Verona Island. It has automatic mutual aid arrangements with Orland, Orrington, and Dedham. There are also mutual aid agreements with all of Hancock County and the towns of Prospect and Stockton Springs. The mutual aid plans are being updated, including a tri-county agreement with Penobscot and Waldo Counties. This would greatly enhance the department’s abilities and its access to additional equipment, especially specialized apparatus such as ladder trucks and haz-mat gear.

Facilities. The fire station is located at 89 Franklin Street in the Public Safety building. The facility has approximately 1,800 square-feet of floor space on the first floor plus 4,000 square-feet in the garage (see Table 5.4). These meet the department’s current needs.

Table 5.4 Fire Department Rooms	
Description of room/purpose	Approximate sq. footage
Chief's Office	182
Sleeping quarters (2)	88 (each)
Bath	64
Hall	80
Living Quarters	306
Closet	24
Closet	100
Kitchen	234
Training	1536
Closet	168
Bath (2)	72 (each)
Stairwell (2)	128 (each)
Hall	140
Office	126
Work Room	880
Boiler Room	242
Bath/Locker Room	100
SOURCE: Bucksport Fire Department	

The station has five heated bays that each hold two trucks. There is also an unheated outdoor shed behind the station used for seasonal storage and excess equipment. These arrangements meet the department’s current needs.

The department has an antique station. It serves as storage space for two hand tubs, a horse-drawn pumper, two antique trucks, and other artefacts. This station is not used for fire-fighting purposes.

Equipment. The current inventory of vehicles is shown on Table 5.5. Apart from scheduled replacements, no additional vehicles are needed. Ongoing replacement of computers, communication equipment, and breathing apparatus will be necessary.

Type	Year	Condition	Estimated Years of Service Left
International/Rosenbauer Pumper/Tanker	2013	Prime	28
Ford 550 Mini Pumper	2006	Excellent	20+
HME/Central States Pumper	2000	Good	15
Ford Pick-up	2005	Good	10
Ford Rescue	1994	Good	11
International Tanker	1998	Good	10+
Simon Duplex 100' Ladder Truck	1992	Good	15
16' Boat (motor 3-5 years left)	1988	Good	10
SOURCE: Bucksport Fire Department			

Level of Service. The average response time to a call is 4-5 minutes. It may take up to 15-20 minutes in poor weather conditions to reach the most remote part of town. According to the fire department, two-thirds of Bucksport is located more than five miles from a fire station. This results in higher (sometimes more than double) homeowner insurance rates.

A substation in the outer Millvale area would dramatically reduce the area beyond the five mile radius. The department has the apparatus needed to equip that station. Department officials maintain that the reduced insurance rates would pay back the increase in taxes due to construction costs within two to three years. The annual operation and maintenance costs for the branch station are presently estimated to be under \$10,000.

The department reports that most public roads are accessible for its vehicles. Many private roads and/or drives are not adequate, particular during mud or winter conditions. The older subdivisions sometimes have minor access problems. The more recent ones provide easy access.

The department has several inspection and fire prevention programs. These include voluntary inspections of businesses, apartments and rentals and woodstove/chimneys and responding to complaints. It does annual prevention classes for pre-K through eighth grade. It would like to expand these programs and increase compliance with basic safety codes.

Call and inspection data are shown on Table 5.6. Calls fluctuated during the period shown. There is no discernable pattern to indicate changing demand for services.

Year	Number of Calls	Number of Inspections
2005	137	82
2006	168	93
2007	162	83
2008	138	87
2009	123	99
2010	130	101
2011	123	98
2012	133	81
2013	135	81
2014	108	82
SOURCE: Bucksport Fire Dept.		

Water Supply. The department has adequate access to water in the area served by hydrants. It is more difficult to obtain water in rural parts of town. The dry hydrants system is limited. The addition of underground cisterns would improve access to water and also lower insurance ratings in those areas. The department recommends that cisterns be installed along Route 15 and at other strategic locations outside of the compact area.

Hazmat Team. Until its recent closure, the paper mill used to provide the town access to its hazardous materials clean-up team. The nearest available team now is based in Orono.

Future Needs. Department officials feel it is important to continue to seek alternative funding and to retain current budget support in order to maintain quality emergency services to Bucksport and the surrounding areas. Any cutbacks or shortfalls could drastically affect response capabilities. The Department should evaluate the potential need for Hazmat services in light of recent changes.

(5.B.3) Ambulance and Rescue Service

Facilities and Staffing. Ambulance and rescue services are provided by the Bucksport fire department. The department provides contractual services to Orland and Verona

Island. It is funded by fees for service and municipal appropriations. Its annual budget for 2012-2013 was \$367,900. This includes a line item of \$103,500 for uncollectible fees.

The service is housed in the Public Safety building on Franklin Street. The building is shared with police and dispatch. The facility is adequate for current needs.

As mentioned under the Fire Protection section, there are five full-time EMT's who are also fire fighters. The department would like to expand coverage to one per-diem day-time person seven days a week.. This position would also serve the fire department.

Recruitment of on-call EMT's is difficult due to the cost of training. All new employees take their initial training on their own time and their expense. This amounts to \$900 for 200 hours plus travel and study time. Training for an EMT-1 involves 300 hours plus \$2,000. Paramedic training requires 700-800 hours plus \$8,000. There is a limited pool of recruits willing and able to assume this expense. The department needs to find new funding sources to help with training.

Level of Service. The average response time to a call is 5.5 minutes. In poor weather conditions, it may take 15-20 minutes to reach the more remote parts of town. Call data are shown on Table 5.7. The data show fluctuations rather than a definite upward or downward trend.

The department has participated in a voluntary outreach program to the elderly and shut-ins in cooperation with the police department and other service providers. This involves collecting family and friend emergency contact information. This program also gathers any special medical information that may be of value during a call for service.

Year	Number of Calls
2005	728
2006	778
2007	801
2008	764
2009	858
2010	761
2011	779
2012	810
2013	852
2014	873

SOURCE: Bucksport Fire Department

Equipment. The current inventory of equipment is shown in Table 5.8. In addition to regular replacement of vehicles, the department would like to replace its second stretcher and E-Fib unit.

Table 5.8 Rescue Vehicles, 2013			
Type	Year	Condition	Estimated Years of Service Left
AEV/Ford	2008	Good	5+/-
AEV/Ford	2003	Average	<1
AEV/Ford	2014	Prime	10
SOURCE: Bucksport Fire Department			

Future Needs. Staffing is an ongoing problem. The department needs to explore other funding sources to cover training costs.

(5.B.4) Dispatch

Bucksport Public Safety Communications is a 24-7-365 dispatch center that handles calls involving police, fire and ambulance services for the town of Bucksport, and fire and ambulance services for the towns of Orland and Verona Island. The dispatch center is staffed by four full-time, one permanent part-time and two reserve dispatchers.



(5.B.5) Emergency Management

Authority for emergency management in Maine comes from the Maine Civil Emergency Preparedness Act (MRSA Title 37-B, Chapter 13) that requires each community to appoint an Emergency Management Agency Director. Bucksport’s EMA Director is the Fire Chief. His duties are to oversee planning, training, and preparing for emergency response during non-disaster times, and to act as the coordinator of emergency operations during disasters.

All levels of government share emergency Management responsibilities. Local government is the front line of emergency management and the County agency serves as a link between local government and the State.

More can be read about the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency at: <http://co.hancock.me.us> .

5.C Educational Services (Schools and Public Library)

(5.C.1) Schools

Overview. Bucksport is fortunate to have multiple educational offerings available for its citizens, including a pre-K through 12 public school system operated by Regional School Unit (RSU) 25 begun in 2009, which also offers an adult education program. In addition to the public school system, the Reach School provides an alternative approach to education for those more in tune to a non-traditional curriculum. The town also has a private school that serves students in grades K-12. Bucksport Christian School is a coed school located on the Bucksport Bible Church campus.

Current Conditions-Facilities. Bucksport is a member of Regional School Unit (RSU) 25. The other towns in the unit are Prospect, Orland, and Verona Island. RSU 25 budgets are adopted annually by the Regional School Unit through a process outlined in Maine Statutes and then validated by a referendum vote in each member town. The RSU owns four school buildings, a central office, athletic fields, and two storage facilities. It has shared use agreements with the town, allowing access and use of school facilities and defined town athletic fields for both parties.

The Luman Warren building is a two-story masonry structure built in 1923. It currently serves as the central office complex for the RSU. The building has received ongoing improvements in the past 20 years. In addition to regular repairs, energy efficiency and HVAC improvements have been made and fiber optic lines installed. According to the 2013 RSU capital improvement plan, the facility needs further window replacements, a new telephone system, and paving of the parking lot. The facility is expected to remain as an administrative office for the foreseeable future unless declining enrollment makes it feasible to shift operations to another RSU-owned building.

The G. Herbert Jewett School was built in 1950, expanded in 1957, and substantially renovated and expanded in 2004-2005. The facility is shared by the town and the RSU. The town's section of the facility houses the head start program, several community use rooms, and recreation department and health planning offices. The school section currently accommodates the all-day kindergarten. It has also housed first grade. It has ten classrooms and a rated capacity of 200 and current (fall 2015) enrollment of 125. The facility is in sound condition. Its priority capital investment needs in 2013 were energy efficiency upgrades, a new telephone system and asbestos floor tile abatement.

The Miles Lane School was built in 1989 and is in excellent condition. It houses grades 1-4. The school has a rated capacity of 340 and a fall 2015 enrollment of 306. There are sixteen regular classrooms plus additional rooms for special education, music, art, tutoring, and small group instruction. It also has a library, administrative

offices, gym, kitchen, and cafeteria. The major capital improvement needs were replacing the roof and the hot water and telephone systems.

The Bucksport Middle School (grades 5-8) was completed in 2003. It has a rated capacity of 380 students and a fall 2015 enrollment of 320. It has fourteen regular classrooms plus rooms for art, music, computer, and technology. There are also smaller rooms for special education, a gymnasium, library, kitchen, and cafeteria. The 500-seat performing arts center is used for a variety of community functions. The major capital improvement need is a new telephone system.

The Bucksport High School was built in 1963 and expanded in 1970 and 2000. It has a rated capacity of 420 and a 2013 enrollment of 311. It has fourteen regular classrooms plus specialized rooms. The RSU 25 communities supported a \$2.5 million renovation plan that began in the summer of 2014. It replaced the existing façade and installed air exchange and heat recovery units, new ceiling and lighting throughout the 1963 and 1970 sections of the building. The library was renovated and windows replaced windows in both the 1963 and 1970 sections of the building. The project included new parking lot lighting and the addition of a sidewalk to improve safety.

Facilities Maintenance. RSU 25 has a facilities and maintenance subcommittee of the school board, which includes appointed representatives from each of the four communities in addition to two elected school board representatives. This subcommittee works with the RSU 25 administration to establish priorities for the facilities plan and to advise the director of facilities in the budgeting process associated with the facilities and maintenance program. The director of facilities annually updates and maintains a comprehensive facilities plan that allows for the planned maintenance of all district buildings as required.

Staffing and Enrollment Trends. Regional School Unit 25 has about 185 faculty and staff serving approximately 1,100 students from the member towns. The school unit provides programming from Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12. The programming meets the operating requirements of Maine law and Bucksport High School is fully accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The PK-12 curriculum offers a full range of services to students including special education, gifted and talented programming, advanced placement courses at the high school, and dual enrollment courses that allow students to earn college credit while at Bucksport High School.

Bucksport High School has articulation agreements with the University of Southern Maine, University of Maine at Fort Kent, and Eastern Maine Community College. These agreements allow BHS students to access courses approved by the colleges and taught at BHS for reduced rates. Currently there are twelve courses approved for dual enrollment. In addition, Bucksport High School participates in a program that allows students to access an engineering class offered through Maine Maritime Academy.

RSU 25 houses a welding program, which is a satellite program for Hancock County Technical Center. The welding program operates five days per week and serves students across Hancock County. Students have the opportunity to access this program for two years and have the potential to earn multiple national welding certifications. There is also an adult education program that provides services to adults for high school completion, work force training, literacy acquisition, higher education distance learning opportunities, and general interest courses.

The RSU participated in a two-year associate's degree program allowing enrollees to earn the skills necessary for work in a paper mill. Tax Increment Financing covered tuition costs. The Program was cancelled following the mill closure.

Enrollment trends are shown in Table 5.9. Total Bucksport enrollment decreased from 841 in 2003 to 694 in 2007. It fluctuated between 2008 and 2013, but remained below 2003 levels. K-8 Bucksport enrollment decreased from 539 in 2003 to 444 in 2007. After some fluctuations it reached 477 in 2013. High school enrollment also fluctuated but total Bucksport enrollment in 2013 was 198, which is a decrease of 104 students (34 percent) from 302 students enrolled in 2003.

Future Needs. The RSU has a detailed capital improvement program. Its focus is on maintenance and the needs of current students rather than accommodating additional students. As mentioned in the Population chapter, current projections anticipate an overall decrease in population and an increase in the median age. This means that one challenge will be maintaining the current range of services if the student population decreases.

One option is to have more towns join the RSU. The possible addition of other towns is being explored. The excess capacity means there is space for new programs aimed at older segments of the population and vocational training. Local employers report a shortage of trained cooks and people with background in hospitality services. The RSU coordinates its vocational programs with those in Penobscot County but no student transportation is presently provided.

Before the shift to the RSU, the school system was a municipal department. New channels of communication are being established between the town and the school. The town council has less direct input to the RSU budgetary process.

Walkability. Bucksport schools are all located in residential areas. The town has a system of sidewalks and clearly marked cross-walks that make it easier for many students to walk to school. There is more discussion of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Transportation chapter. There are further opportunities for residential development near the schools.

Year	K-8	9-12	Total
2003 Bucksport	539	302	841
Other RSU 25 Towns	124	147	271
2003 Total	663	449	1112
2004 Bucksport	531	305	836
Other RSU 25 Towns	124	150	274
2004 Total	655	455	1110
2005 Bucksport	515	294	809
Other RSU 25 Towns	126	160	286
2005 Total	641	454	1095
2006 Bucksport	486	283	769
Other RSU 25 Towns	111	182	293
2006 Total	597	465	1062
2007 Bucksport	444	250	694
Other RSU 25 Towns	129	189	318
2007 Total	573	439	1012
2008 Bucksport	466	242	708
Other RSU 25 Towns	119	177	296
2008 Total	585	419	1004
(Start of RSU 25)	K-8	9-12	Total
2009 Bucksport	514	232	746
Other RSU 25 Towns	269	155	424
2009 Total	783	387	1170
2010 Bucksport	477	220	697
Other RSU 25 Towns	301	156	457
2010 Total	778	376	1154
2011 Bucksport	500	214	714
Other RSU 25 Towns	292	167	459
2011 Total	792	381	1154
2012 Bucksport	510	202	712
Other RSU 25 Towns	305	129	434
2012 Total	815	331	1146
2013 Bucksport	477	198	675

Other RSU 25 Towns	289	127	416
2013 Total	766	325	1091
2014 Bucksport	473	178	651
Other RSU 25 Towns	298	133	431
2014 Total	771	311	1082
2015 Bucksport	478	194	672
Other RSU 25 Towns	288	117	405
2015 Total	766	311	1077
SOURCE: RSU 25. Figures are for fall enrollment.			

(5.C.2) Public Library

Current Conditions. Bucksport is served by the Buck Memorial Library, a non-profit organization. The building of the same name was built in 1887 and expanded in 1990. There is a 1,240-square-foot basement and a 2,340 square-foot main floor. The rooms are described in Table 5.10.

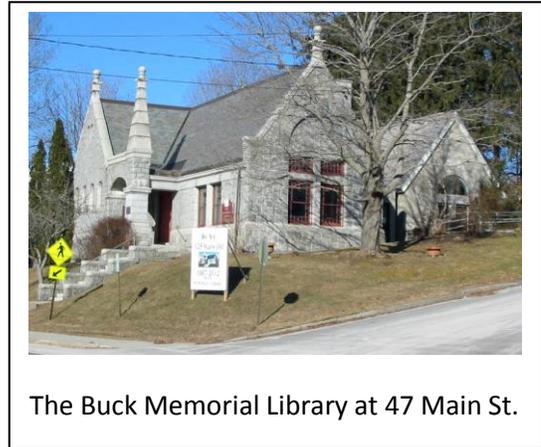
Table 5.10 Library Rooms	
Description of room/purpose	Approximate sq. footage
Reading room	480 square-feet
Reference room	500 square-feet
Children’s area	380 square-feet
Adult fiction	220 square-feet
Circulation area & office	180 square-feet
Foyer & computer area	500 square-feet
Bathroom	60 square-feet
SOURCE: Bucks Memorial Library	

The library trustees note several problems with the facility. There is limited space for its collections and gatherings. Two walls of the foundation in the old section need repairs. The estimated cost is about \$125,000 per wall. The roof in the new section is in poor condition and will probably need replacement in the near future. There are also persistent leaks in the roof of the old section.

There are two full-time employees and four volunteers (three adults and one high school student). There are no plans to add staff. Volunteers also participate in the annual financial appeal.

The library is presently open 37 hours a week. Monday through Friday hours are 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. There are no plans to expand hours. A trial period of evening hours did not attract patrons.

The library has a special collection of Bucksport town history materials. This includes family histories, cemetery records, and vital records for Bucksport, Orland, and Prospect. There is also a collection of early Bucksport newspapers.



The Buck Memorial Library at 47 Main St.

The electronic media collection includes audio books, DVD's, and CD's. The trustees have discussed the addition of e-books, but the cost and copyright/publisher issues have delayed efforts. Additional books can be obtained through interlibrary loan. The patron is asked to pay for postage.

Circulation trends are shown in Table 5.11. They show an overall decrease (from 22,717 in 2005 to 12,324 in 2012). This may be due to national trends in library usage. Many libraries are experiencing a decline in circulation due to the advent of e-books and other on-line technology.

Year	Number of Volumes Circulated
2005	22,717
2006	20,178
2007	18,052
2008	16,639
2009	15,182
2010	12,830
2011	11,648
2012	12,324

Source: Bucks Memorial Library

The total number of volumes is shown in Table 5.12. While there have been some fluctuations, the overall trends show a decrease. This may be due to a culling of older books. Here again, the national trend has been a shift toward electronic titles.

The library provides various services to the community. It has two public-access computers with high-speed fiber optic connections. There is also an open WiFi connection for lap top users.

There is a story time for children every Wednesday morning and an annual teddy bear picnic. Other children’s services include a collection of gift books during Christmas and hosted children’s class visits. Adult services include a series of lectures on Bucksport’s history. Books are delivered to shut-ins via caregivers.

Year	Number of Volumes
2005	29,664
2006	30,000
2007	29,620
2008	27,799
2009	27,194
2010	27,490
2011	27,215
2012	26,243

Source: Bucks Memorial Library

Future Needs. The trustees would like to expand adult programs and seek more volunteers. One option is to create a “Friends of the Library” group. Another is a library newsletter. The library is still assessing options to introduce e-books. As mentioned above, some significant building improvements are needed.

5.D Health & Social Services

Recent Trends. Significant changes have occurred in the delivery of health care services in the last decade. Today, it is critical for every citizen to be registered with a primary care provider in order for children and adults to have access to services. Capacity of primary care practices to respond to these needs is challenging because of the difficulty of recruiting health care providers to rural communities in Maine. Hospitals in Hancock County have gone through a series of reorganizations. Funding for social services has been significantly cut, leading to a reduction or complete elimination of services. Bucksport’s location presents geographic challenges to the delivery of social services by agencies that are usually located in



The Recreation Dept., BBHCC and RSU 25 students “Make a Difference Team” takes on issues like bullying.

larger service center communities. Capacity of these agencies to extend satellite services in rural areas is limited. These circumstances create a fragmented system of care, which can lead to:

1. Elders being displaced from their communities to receive the level of care needed
2. Families unable to find affordable child care services
3. Limited access to specialty health care services such as pediatric care and adult day service centers
4. Unnecessary use of high cost emergency and hospital services
5. Lack of timely access to mental health care

Current Conditions. This section presents a brief overview of current services. More information is available at: www.bucksportbayhealth.org. The website also lists local health care providers.

In 2014 Bucksport Family Practice, which was operated by Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, closed its practice. This change launched a collaborative planning process between Blue Hill Memorial Hospital and Bucksport Regional Health Center to plan for the needs of patients served by Bucksport Family Practice.



Blue Hill Memorial Hospital has a presence on Main Street to provide rehabilitation and other specialties.

Bucksport Regional Health Center (BRHC) collaborates with Blue Hill Memorial Hospital (BMMH) in providing health care services. BRHC's focus is primary care. BMMH provides specialized services such as rehabilitation. BMMH also leased space at BRHC to provide specialty care. Later in 2014 BMMH moved its specialists from BRHC to its old primary care site downtown with their rehab program.

BRHC contracts with BMMH for a diabetic educator and nutritionist two days a week. The health center collaborates with Aroostook Mental Health to provide a behavioral health manager. Other services are provided on a part-time basis. These include pediatric dentistry, a psychiatric nurse practitioner from Acadia Hospital, and a podiatrist.

BBHCC launched the Thriving in Place program in 2015. This program is designed to help older adult residents and those living with the challenges of chronic illness and disabilities to live happily and safely in their own homes for as long as possible. Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition has partnered with 16 local and regional healthcare and service agencies, combined with a core volunteer support team that will provide resources, support, education, referral to services and more to make this goal possible. This model approach has the potential to significantly improve how services are coordinated between health and social service agencies and reduces duplication of

services. Additionally, these organizational partners can identify gaps in services in a timelier manner. This type of continuous planning function strengthens the local continuum of care.

For more than a decade the BBHCC's Early Childhood Network has been committed to addressing the community's ability to provide families with access to quality early care and education services. In the 2011 Maine Children's Growth Council Report

School Readiness reported that "65% of Maine Children 5 years and younger have all parents in the workforce. The early childhood system must ensure access to reliable, quality early care and education."

In 2014, the BBHCC's Early Childhood Network further assessed the local area capacity of licensed center-based and home-based day care, as well as facilities that offer formal pre-k programs. The assessment determined that there were existing local pockets of availability at the center-based facilities and with some licensed home-based care providers, but the reduction in MaineCare vouchers had left some agencies forced to cut staff and some families struggling to afford private fees.

RSU 25, in partnership with Child and Family Opportunities recognized the need to increase the number of Pre-K classrooms at the Jewett School from two to three classrooms. Bucksport Area Child Care Center also offers a pre-k program. It remains a goal of RSU 25 to offer a true universal pre-K program within the services offered by the RSU. Other needs/concerns that arose out of this assessment process included delays in available therapy through Child Development Services, the coordination of resource development and the construction of a comprehensive early care and education plan; as well integration of private case management services, DHHS programs and funding, and parent or kinship care training and/or coaching. Bucksport Area Child Care Center put off a planned expansion of its building following the closure of the mill. The center plans to continue to assess the need for expansion and will remodel and upgrade as needed.

In 2015, Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities in partnership with RSU 25 received a grant from the Maine Children's Trust to develop and operate a parent coaching program aimed at helping parents and caregivers to effectively prepare their children to succeed in school. This program, The Incredible Years, was extremely successful in attracting over 20 families to participate.

Bucksport is also home to faith-based initiatives that help people with physical, social and spiritual needs. One example is Bucksport Community, a not for profit, all volunteer agency, dedicated to providing emergency and supplemental food to individuals and families in Bucksport, Orland and Verona Island. The Food Pantry is located at 31 Elm Street in the basement of the Elm Street Congregational Church. The pantry is also a



Bucksport Regional Health Center on Broadway has offices for primary medical care & dental services and lab facilities. A major addition was added in 2013.

distribution point for 'Coats are for Kids', provides baby layettes for first time mothers, supplies backpacks and school supplies to low income children, coordinates the 'Christmas is for Kids' program along with providing a Christmas dinner, provides limited fuel assistance and is a site for the University of Maine's Center on Aging Senior Companion Program.

BCC also runs the Talk'n Shop, a thrift shop supported by donations of clothing and household goods. The profit from the Talk'n Shop is used to fund the food pantry. Most of the pantry's funding, however, comes from both private and business donations. Another source of income is monies received by the towns the pantry serves through budget requests. The pantry also receives nonperishable food donations from local food drives organized by the public schools, the post office and the Boy and Girl Scouts. BCC serves 140 families per year. This volume of service is consistent with previous years. For more information, see <http://elmstreetcc.org>.



The Talk-N-Shop Thrift Shop on Main Street is a service of Bucksport Community Concerns.

5.E Public Works (Roads, Maintenance and Solid Waste Disposal)

(5.E.1) Roads and Maintenance

Staffing and Contractual Arrangements. The public works department oversees yearly road maintenance and snow removal. It also is responsible for maintaining all public facilities within the limits of its expertise. Pavement overlay, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and other specialized services are done through contracts.

There are eleven full-time employees year-round. There are three part-time employees in the summer and three in the winter. The only problem noted with the current level of staffing is assuring adequate summer maintenance and landscaping of town grounds, the waterfront, and town managed cemeteries. Specific road maintenance needs are discussed in the Transportation chapter. More is written on cemeteries in the History Chapter

Current and Needed Future Equipment. The current equipment replacement schedule on Table 5.13 In addition to regular replacement of vehicles, the department would like to acquire a 4,000-pound forklift.

Type	Year	Year of Replacement
Sterling 5-cy dump truck	2003	FY 2015
Sterling 12-cy dump truck	2003	FY 2016
John Deere 450 dozer	2003	FY 2017
GMC 1500 truck	2006	FY 2018
Case 310 wheeled loader	2006	FY 2018
Case 480 backhoe loader	2009	FY 2018
Ford F550 Truck	2013	FY 2019
SOURCE: Bucksport Public Works Department		

(5.E.2) Street Tree Program

The town has had an ongoing program of planting trees as part of its downtown and waterfront improvement strategy. The program is overseen by the Conservation Commission.



(5.E.3) Solid Waste Management

Solid waste and recycling operations are handled by the Bucksport transfer station. The facility is also used by residents of Orland. The facility meets all current DEP operating requirements. There are two full-time employees and no plans to hire additional staff.

Equipment includes a 40-cubic-yard hydraulic ram compaction hopper and two 40-cubic transport trailers. Waste is currently shipped to the PERC plant in Orrington where trash is incinerated and converted to electric power and ash. The transfer station also has five 30-cubic-yard roll-off containers. Two are used for Construction demolition debris. The others are for metals, metal cans, and refrigerators and similar white goods. There are also three 48-foot freight box trailers and a 300 square-foot Universal Waste storage building. The recycling staging area is adequate for the current level of recycling. The box trailers will need to be replaced shortly with a permanent storage building. There is also a leaf composting site. The town and staff are constantly looking at ways to make the solid waste & recycling programs more efficient and cost effective as markets change. Recent availability to the region of single-sort and no-sort recycling are being looked into as future possibilities. The capped municipal solid waste landfill to the rear of the transfer station has several test wells installed to monitor ground water quality in the vicinity.



5.F Utilities (Water, Wastewater, Stormwater and Other)

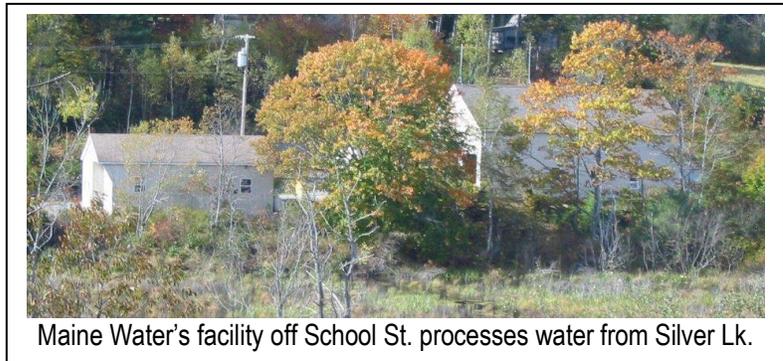
(5.F.1) Public Water System

Current Conditions. The Maine Water Company operates the water system that serves the compact area. As of December 31, 2012, there were 653 customer accounts (527 residential, 100 commercial and public authority, six industrial, and 20 fire service and other accounts). The water source is Silver Lake. A 2,500-foot 12-inch cast-iron line carries untreated water to the treatment plant on School Street. In its heyday, the Verso Mill also withdrew an average of 10 million gpd water from Silver Lake. For further discussion of Silver Lake, see the Water Resources chapter.

The treatment plant was completed 1996. It is capable of producing 750,000 gpd. The average production in 2012 was 256,000 gpd, with a maximum day of 436,000 gallons. There is a total of 950,000 gallons in storage capacity in two pre-stressed concrete storage tanks. The 350,000-gallon tank in Birch Heights was built in 1997. The 600,000-gallon Silver Lake Road tank was completed in 2013. The distribution system includes

approximately 13 miles of main ranging in size from 1 to 12 inches in diameter. The system has 77 hydrants. As discussed in the analysis of the fire department, water volumes are adequate for fire-fighting purposes. The treated water is tested and presently complies with all state drinking water standards.

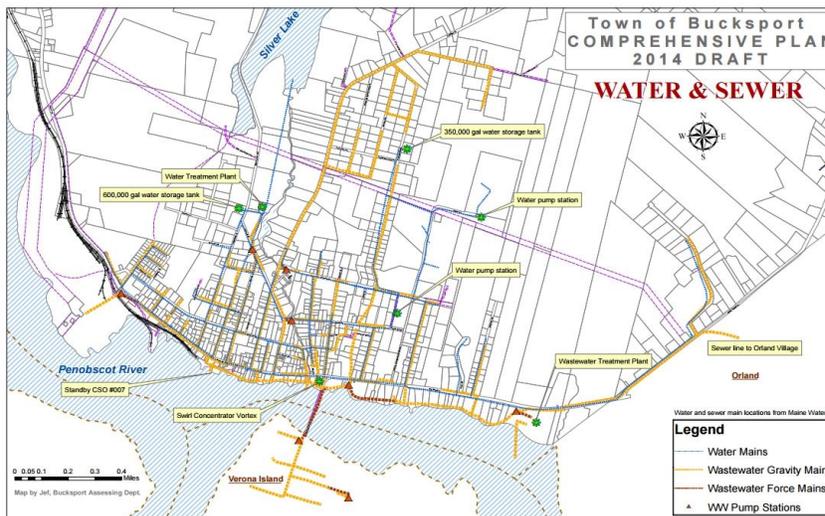
Booster pumps are required to provide adequate water pressure at higher elevations. Most business in the industrial park have booster pumps in order to meet insurance company water pressure requirements for fire suppression systems. The distribution system is summarized in Table 5.14 (see bucksportmaine.gov). About 39% of the system is over 50 years-old and about 11 percent is between 31 and 50 years-old. The company has been gradually replacing aging mains and has not reported any major problems.



Maine Water's facility off School St. processes water from Silver Lk.

Future Needs. It is important to monitor conditions in the Silver Lake watershed to assure that they pose no threats to water quality (see Water Resources chapter). The lake is connected by aqueduct with Alamoosook Lake. Since about 75 percent of the direct drainage area of Alamoosook lies within Orland and a smaller portion is within Penobscot, the town has little control over activities in that lake.

Maine Water Company has a five-year capital budget plan that identifies priority projects. It ranks the value of the project for the water system and also considers any planned street improvements. This helps coordinate street resurfacing with other activities that involve removing pavement. Emergencies (such as a water main break) may require unanticipated changes in the capital investment schedule.



A map of Bucksport's water and sewer system facilities along with system details on pipe sizes and lengths are available on the Comp Plan Web page at: www.bucksportmaine.gov.

(5.F.2) Public Sewer System

An Overview of Current conditions. The Bucksport public sewer system serves the built-up area of Bucksport as well as portions of Verona Island and Orland. The sewage is discharged through the wastewater treatment facility at 205 U.S. Route 1. The facility is presently licensed for primary wastewater treatment. It is scheduled for an upgrade to secondary treat by 2016. The facility is managed through a contract with Maine Water.

Wastewater flows are between 100 and 115 million gallons per year. Average daily flows range from 250,000 to 400,000 gallons per day (gpd). The treatment plant currently has a rated capacity of 460,000 gpd. There is no difference between average summer and winter flows. The record flow was 1.2 million gpd. This occurred before the CSO (combined stormwater overflow) improvements were made. About 5.5 to 6 percent of the flows are from the Orland portion of the system. Verona Island accounts for about 3.5 to 5 percent of flows.

Connections are shown on Table 5.15. These numbers are based on the total number of connections rather than the number of commercial or residential units in town. For example, there may be one service connection for a 10-unit apartment building. These data indicate that there are 59 discontinued connections. This may be due to the number of vacant buildings in town.

Type	Number	Percent
Residential	549	63.85
Commercial	249	28.9%
Industrial	3	0.003%
Discontinued	59	6.8%
Total	860	100%
SOURCE: Bucksport Wastewater Treatment Plant & Maine Water		

The system has about 79,204 feet (15 miles) of mains (see Table 5.16 at bucksportmaine.gov). About 71,541 feet are gravity lines and 2,110 feet are forced mains. About 90 percent of the lines are PVC/ductile and six percent are the older clay pipes, which are more vulnerable to infiltration and inflow. The remaining lines are transit, forced mains, and cross-country.

There have been numerous improvements made to the collection system and plant operations since 2003. The town used Community Development Block Grant funds to replace segments of sewer mains on Pine, Bridge, Elm, and Third Streets. This project also removed some roof drains on Main Street. The head works at the treatment facility were upgraded and a Combined Sewer Overflow vortex processor was installed. This processor eliminated all untreated wastewater discharges to the Penobscot River.

Various energy efficiency improvements were made. These included installing a pellet boiler and new lighting fixtures. New technology has resulted in more efficient use of energy in pump and other equipment operation. Plant managers have also reduced costs by restructuring the chemical feed systems.

Future Needs. The system needs to address its remaining infiltration/inflow problems. These occur primarily during storm events. Ongoing improvements to the collection system will also be needed. The ten-inch interceptor line between Hannaford's and the treatment plant may have to be replaced with a larger line if there is further land development in that area.

Sewer Extension. Section 9.5 of the Town Code addresses sewer extension policy. Extensions may be constructed under public contract if, in the opinion of the Town Council, the number of properties served by the extension warrant its cost. While there is no direct reference to the Future Land Use Plan, designated growth areas lie within areas that are potentially served by sewer.

(5.F.3) Septage Disposal

Commercial haulers dispose of septage (the residue pumped from septic tanks) to various licensed sites in the area. There is a commercial septage dewatering facility and a sludge compost area in Bucksport that process waste delivered by haulers. A Town subsidy program to help pay for pumping private septic tanks was discontinued.

(5.F.4) Stormwater management

According to DEP records, Bucksport has eliminated all but one of its CSO's (combined sewer overflows) for up to a 25-year storm event. The remaining CSO is at Perry's landing. It is deployed only during major storms. In recent years, it has been used an average of six times a year. The sewage treatment plant has developed a wet weather management plan to minimize threats to water quality from the CSO.

The current land use ordinances have detailed storm water management standards. These stipulate that to the “greatest extent possible” stormwater runoff from new development be retained on site using natural features.

Stormwater management techniques are evolving across the country. The town may want to explore implementing low impact development standards that provide more detailed guidelines to manage stormwater.

Also, the projected increase in severe storm events may mean that the current 25-year storm event will occur more frequently. This could require designing stormwater infrastructure to higher standards. This would involve reviewing the current and future adequacy of culvert and ditch standards to accommodate anticipated storm events.



2008 Swirl Concentrator CSO Building at 12 Main St.

(5.F.5) Telecommunications and Energy Infrastructure

Internet. As mentioned in the Economy chapter, broadband access is available almost anywhere near the power grid in Bucksport. The town has the opportunity to obtain faster internet service as through the State’s “three-ring binder” initiative to extend fiber optic service along Routes 1, 15 and 46. Fairpoint Communications and other private companies also own cable including a fiber optic loop in the downtown (Central St, Broadway, Miles Ln, and Nicholson Ave) serving schools, businesses and homes. Fairpoint is upgrading for a big boost in Internet speeds for 2016. Grants are available for better Web service through the federal government and Hancock County’s windfarm fund. The town is working with Fairpoint to improve Internet service in Heritage Park.

Electric Power. Both Central Maine Power and Emera serve the electric power needs of portions of Bucksport. Three-phase power is available in those areas zoned for industrial and commercial uses.

Bucksport Generation, LLC is the current owner of the “power island” on the River Road mill site. It has a 185+/- megawatt natural gas-fired combustion turbine along with smaller boilers potentially using biomass or other fuels adding another possible 115 +/- megawatts of capacity. The gas turbine is currently used as a stand-by generator for the electric power grid. Supplying direct power to some of the River Road Industrial Area is a possibility that could encourage redevelopment and full utilization of the power plant.

Natural Gas. While natural gas service is available in much of the downtown and River road industrial area, it does not presently serve the Heritage Park industrial area. The availability of natural gas there would enhance business attraction and retention.

Television. Bucksport has a long-term contract with Time-Warner Cable to serve the town with cable TV. In return for the right to use the town’s rights-of-way, TWC pays a fee and gives the town public access channels and equipment needed to run them. Satellite television providers can access homes without a town contract.



2013 Natural Gas Pressure Reduction Station at 3 River Road serving downtown Bucksport businesses & residences.

Mail Delivery. From time to time Bucksport residents have sought for a solution to the lack of delivery service for in-town residents. Paying for and using a postal delivery box has been the only option for many. This policy creates the need for daily trips to the USPS Office on Mechanic Street to collect each household’s mail. An organized approach toward getting the rules changed could make a difference.



Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

– Unofficial motto of the U.S. Postal Service