

# THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE



## PENOBSCOT VALLEY: *Community Greenprint*

The Penobscot Valley in south-central Maine is dotted with working lands and forests knit together with acres of verdant open space and clear water. Yet recent years have brought changes to the community, such as increasing traffic associated with more businesses built outside traditional downtown areas. The potential impact of recent growth on the region's ecosystems and communities inspired 12 Penobscot Valley towns to collaborate on a Greenprint.

### TPL's role

The Trust for Public Land partnered with the Penobscot Valley Council of Governments, the Bangor Land Trust, and the 12 towns to create the Penobscot Valley Community Greenprint. Each town contributed volunteers and funding to the Greenprint on a per capita basis. They worked together to identify and prioritize

shared resources in an unprecedented demonstration of cooperation. With help from a local team of technical experts, TPL developed maps that illustrate regional values and conservation opportunities for working with willing sellers.

### Project highlights

The towns of Bangor, Bradley, Brewer, Eddington, Hampden, Hermon, Holden, Milford, Old Town, Orono, Orrington, and Veazie collaborated for the first time to create an open space plan for their region. The project expanded to incorporate facilitated discussion around several related land use issues, such as community forests, conflicts between open space users, and incentives for local farming. Goals included:

- Protecting habitat, unfragmented natural areas, working landscapes, and water quality,

- Maintaining scenic values and protecting scenic vistas,
- Establishing areas for public access and recreation and creating multi-use trails.

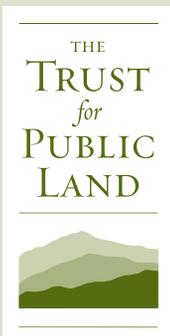
## Results

The maps and materials created for the Penobscot Valley Community Greenprint have been widely used since the project’s conclusion. TPL created a website with interactive tools for exploring the GIS maps and hosted two training sessions to educate local land trusts, planners, and government officials on their use. The 12 towns are currently implementing open space plans—the Greenprint has aided in coordinating and harmonizing these efforts.



*“The technology employed by TPL in this project was one of its major selling points. [The Greenprint] will be an integral element of our local and regional open space and conservation planning for years to come.”*

—Ed Barrett,  
former Bangor city manager



*The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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