

A topographic map of the Casco Bay region in Maine, showing terrain, roads, and water bodies. The map features a network of roads and a complex system of waterways and lakes. The terrain is depicted with brown and tan shading, indicating elevation. A prominent dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the bottom right portion of the map, containing the title text.

Casco in the Regional and State Context

Regional Context

In summary, Casco coordinates with regional entities as follows:

- The Casco Fire Rescue Department (CFRD) participates in a regional system of mutual aid, sharing fire and EMS services with the neighboring towns of Naples, Raymond, and Otisfield. For further details see Public Facilities and Services chapter.
- The School District is shared between the towns of Casco, Naples, and Bridgton with elementary, middle, and high schools spread across the Towns. For further details see Public Facilities and Services chapter.
- Waste Management is handled at a transfer station shared with Naples and located in Casco. For further details see Public Facilities and Services chapter.
- Water resource protection and land conservation efforts are shared with neighboring towns. Many local lakes and ponds are shared between towns and consequently share lake and pond conservation associations. Land Trusts and nonprofits that work in Casco such as the Loon Echo Land Trust and Sebago Clean Waters have regional scopes. For further details see Water and Natural Resources chapter.
- The town is enrolled in the Community Resilience Partnership, a state-wide program for community and climate resilience funding. The town will be among a cohort also including Hartford, Lovell, Oxford, and Sumner working with the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE) which acts as a service provider in the region.
- The Lakes Region Explorer provides regional bus transportation through Casco between Portland and Bridgton. For further details see Transportation chapter.
- Casco is part of the Lakes Area Collaboration to improve and expand regional broadband access together with the towns of Bridgton, Fryeburg, Harrison, Naples, Naples, Raymond, Sebago, Standish, and Windham. The collaboration is being facilitated by GPCOG. For further details see Public Facilities and Services chapter.

State Context

Casco has prepared this plan using an inquiry-based approach. The goals and action strategies identified in the Zoning Analysis and Recommendations, and Big Ideas sections reflect Casco's priorities as either communicated verbatim or transcribed by the planning team applying current planning best practices.

The list of policies and action strategies mandated by the State by Growth Management Act (GMA) have been reviewed for applicability and appropriateness, and are incorporated into the plan's Implementation Matrix, organized by topic as they appear in GMA. Where the Comprehensive Planning Committee and team have identified goals not to be incorporated, a brief note has been made why — most often because the Town has already implemented the policy or strategy or it's just not appropriate given the size or limited resources of Casco.

For a list of supplemental State policies and strategies, see the Implementation section of the plan.

