



**City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission**

May 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Teams

[First Monday Sustainability Committee | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

1. Declaration of Quorum
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 20, 2026
3. Beaches
 - 3.a Beach Management Plans & Biddeford's Beaches-SMPDC
4. Budget
 - 4.a Biddeford Public Market
 - 4.b Biddeford Community Gardens
 - 4.c Rec. Center EV Charger
5. Energy Audit Consultant Recommendation
6. Moratorium on Data Centers-brief discussion
7. Earth Day 2026 Event-Brief Discussion-what to do better next year
8. Adjourn

Draft of SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION 04/20/26

PRESENT: Brad Favreau, Will Kochtitzky, Jeff Goldsmith, Bev Thorpe, Nadia Crockett, Patrick Conlon, Max Zakian

Absent: Brad Crickard, Joie Grandbois, Mikaela Greenwood, Emily McCauley

Guests: Kate Brown & Samantha from Biddeford Public Market, Jenn Brousseau and 2 UNE students-Annika Doeppers and Edward Iannuzzi-Sucich, John Collins

1. Quorum yes
2. Bev made a motion to approve the minutes from the 4/06/26 Commission meeting. Seconded by Pat. Max abstained because he wasn't there, and the rest approved.
3. Kate Brown and Samantha updated the Biddeford Public Market's request for financial support presented 4/6/26. In the event that the Sustainability Commission has more money than approved two weeks ago [\$3000], the Biddeford Public Market would like support for their SNAP program: MFFM \$1500, administration \$500, Equipment \$360, visitor's booth \$450, and Bumper Crop Certificates \$1000 (total \$3810 for this SNAP project). The BPM has several more items if it is possible to support them, i.e., Power Produce Club, the Co-op Produce Table, and the Hunger Programs.
4. Professor Jenn Brousseau from UNE and two of her students, who are supporting their IRB approved research into the current progress of the Biddeford Climate Action Program goals, presented a draft of their outcomes to the SC. They wanted feedback about the way they organized their study (using the five major headings in the CAP) and the projects supported by the SC. They wanted to validate their assessment of "progress" for each of the projects they listed. Their outcome categories were: not started, in progress, and completed. There was much discussion about this draft of the research.
5. There was a brief discussion about the Earth Day events involving the SC. Two weeks ago the SC passed a motion to get a button making machine and materials, and this has happened. It will be at the Cannon Park [across Main St from City Hall] SC table on Saturday, April 25th. In addition, the SC passed a motion to get clover seeds and spider plants to hand out small packets at the Cannon Park table on Saturday, April 25th. The table has three posters that will be displayed from 10-2 on Saturday, with some commissioners present. The posters show "no lawns", composting, and transportation issues in Biddeford.
6. At 7:05 pm Max made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bev, passed unanimously



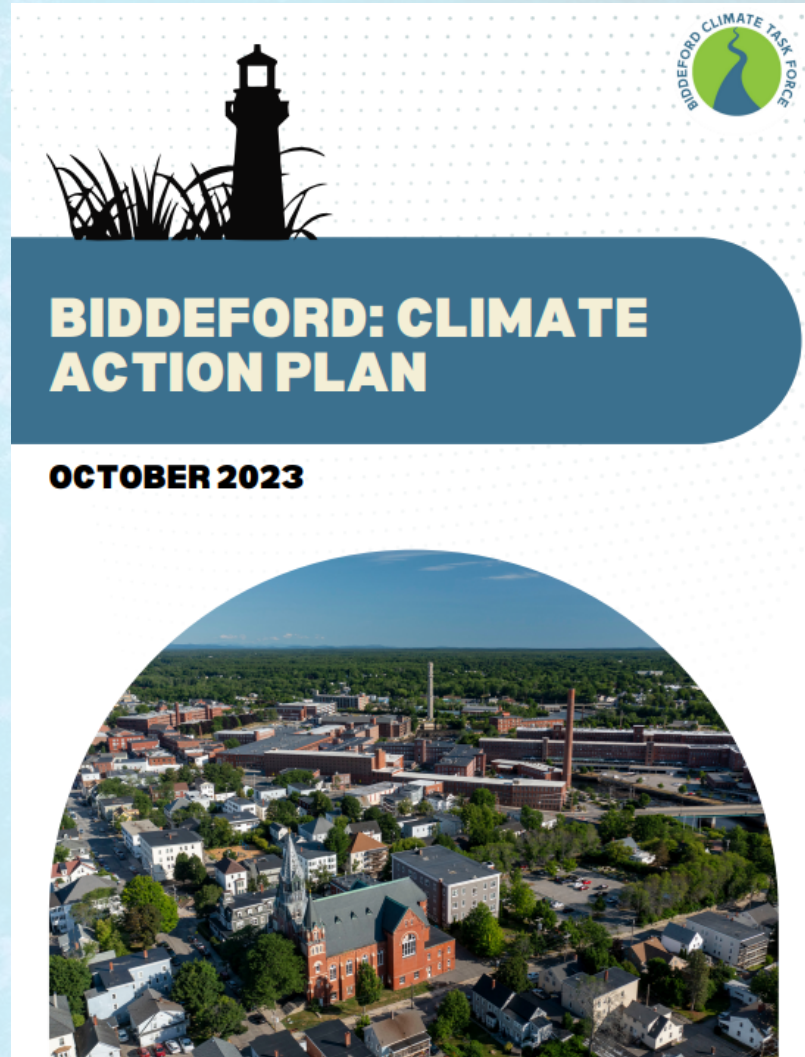
Beach Management Planning for Biddeford

Biddeford Sustainability Commission Meeting

May 4, 2026

Introductions and Agenda

1. Climate Ready Coast Context
2. Beach Management
3. Biddeford's Public Beaches
4. Beach Management Plan Examples
5. Discussion

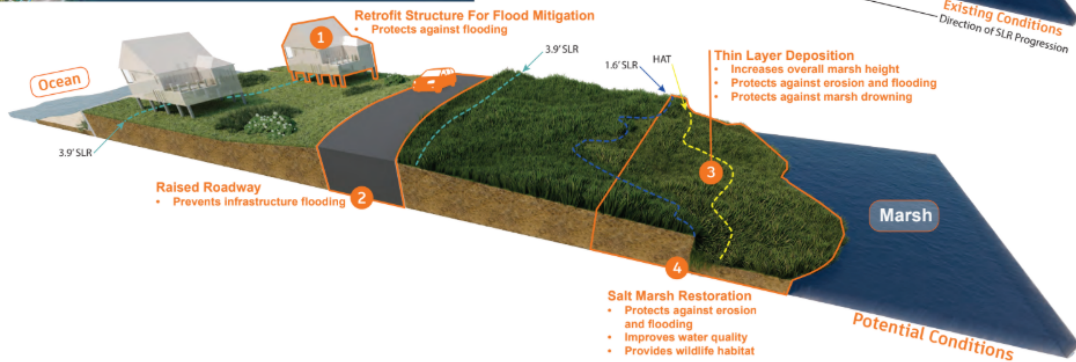
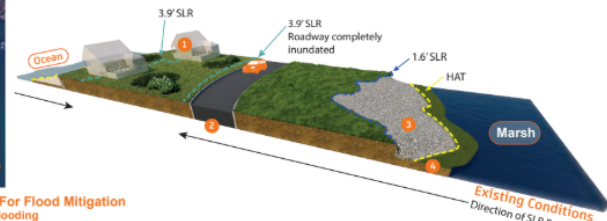


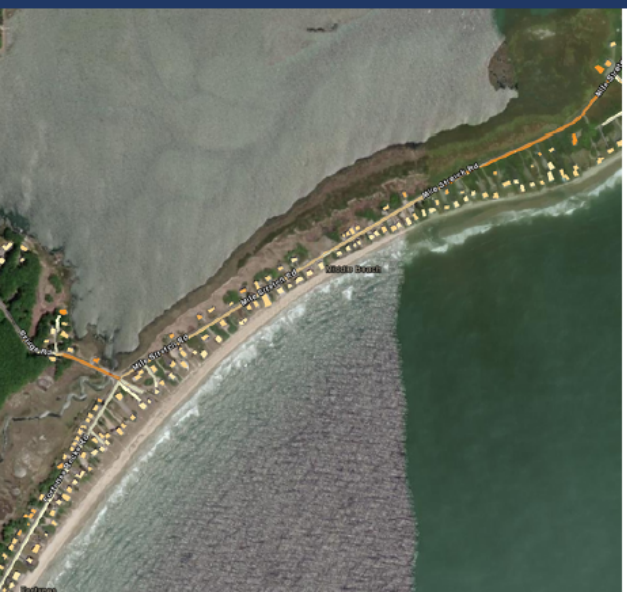
Climate Ready Coast Project



**Visualization: Potential Adaptation Strategies for a Climate Ready Coast
Fortunes Rock Beach – Biddeford Pool (Biddeford)**

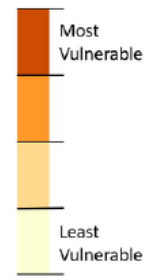
Note: These conceptual visualizations are illustrative examples of possible coastal adaptation strategies; they are not engineered designs and are not conveying strategies that should be used at the site. Strategies shown are only a potential set of possible adaptation measures, other strategies from the Coastal Adaptation Strategy Matrix could be applicable and may be included in visualizations of other priority sites. Please reference the Matrix and other priority site visualizations for further information. Please note that the sea level rise conditions depicted in these visualizations reflect changes that will happen over time.





CRITICAL BUILDINGS & ROADS

Route 208/Bridge Road, the primary access and evacuation route, is exposed to flooding from 3.9 ft of SLR and is within the FEMA floodplain. Mile Stretch Road is exposed to 1.6 ft and 3.9 ft of SLR, and the 1% chance annual event. All buildings (primarily residential) are within the floodplain and many buildings on the backside of the barrier beach are also exposed to 3.9 ft of SLR.



FUTURE COASTAL HABITAT

Potential future coastal habitat areas are delineated polygons. Saltmarshes migrate landward in response to sea level rise, so undeveloped lands adjacent to tidal areas have the potential to become coastal or marsh habitats in the future. MNAP mapped undeveloped lands within 300 ft of the highest annual tide after 3.3 ft of sea level rise to estimate potential future coastal habitat areas.

Data source: Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP)

Climate Ready Coast – Fortunes Rock Beach and Biddeford Pool

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This section highlights the vulnerability assessment scores of some key features that are exposed to coastal flood hazards in southern Maine. The relative vulnerability scores for these and other features were used to help identify vulnerability hot spots throughout the region. *For an explanation of the vulnerability assessment scores check out the: [Regional Vulnerability and Exposure Analysis Mapping Tool Reference Document](#)*

BUILT ENVIRONMENT	VULNERABILITY	SCORE	EXPLANATION
Coastal Hazards	Very High	4 out of 4	The entire neighborhood is within the FEMA floodplain and much of the area is exposed to flooding from 1.6 ft and 3.9 ft of sea level rise (SLR).
Infrastructure - Roads	Very High	24 out of 32	Bridge Rd, the primary access and evacuation route, is exposed to 3.9 ft of SLR and within the FEMA floodplain. Mile Stretch Rd is exposed to 1.6 ft and 3.9 ft of SLR.
Infrastructure - Crossings & Dams	High	6 out of 20	Route 208/Bridge Rd tidal crossing is exposed to 3.9 ft of SLR and the FEMA floodplain.
Infrastructure - Building Footprints	High	4 out of 8	All buildings (primarily residential) are within the FEMA floodplain and most buildings on the backside of the barrier beach are exposed to 1.6 ft or 3.9 ft of SLR.
Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	Medium	0.44	SVI ranking driven by an older population and older residents living alone.
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	ABUNDANCE	SCORE	EXPLANATION
Wildlife & Habitat	High	28 out of 32	Habitat types include beaches, dunes, and saltmarshes. Part of Rachel Carson NWR.

Beach Management

- Beach management includes any and all activities that protect, maintain, and restore coastal beach environments, meaning both the physical shoreline and ecosystems.
- Key components of beach management can include strategies like shoreline stabilization, dune restoration, sediment management, and coastal vegetation preservation.

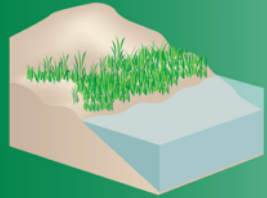


HOW GREEN OR GRAY SHOULD YOUR SHORELINE SOLUTION BE?

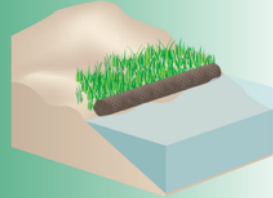
GREEN - SOFTER TECHNIQUES

GRAY - HARDER TECHNIQUES

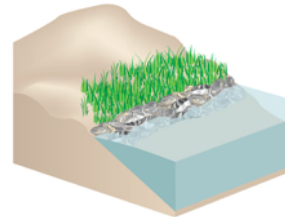
Living Shorelines



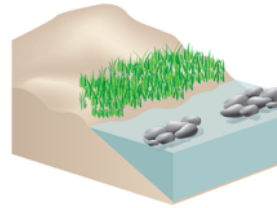
VEGETATION ONLY -
Provides a buffer to upland areas and breaks small waves. Suitable for low wave energy environments.



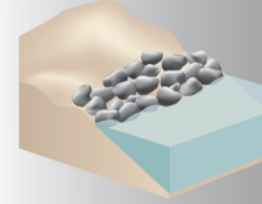
EDGING -
Added structure holds the toe of existing or vegetated slope in place. Suitable for most areas except high wave energy environments.



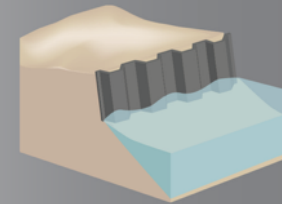
SILLS -
Parallel to vegetated shoreline, reduces wave energy, and prevents erosion. Suitable for most areas except high wave energy environments.



BREAKWATER -
(vegetation optional) - Offshore structures intended to break waves, reducing the force of wave action, and encourage sediment accretion. Suitable for most areas.

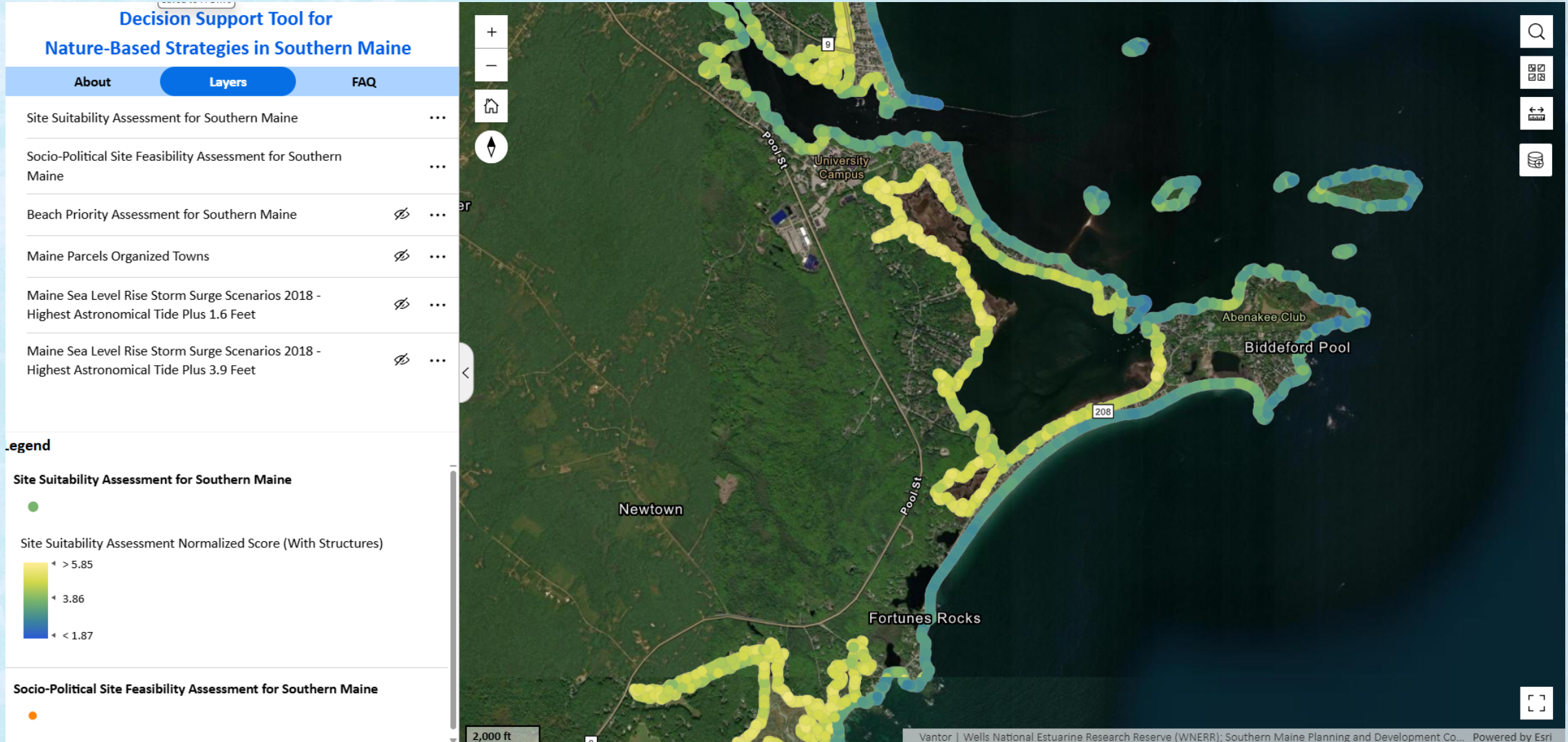


REVETMENT -
Lays over the slope of the shoreline and protects it from erosion and waves. Suitable for sites with existing hardened shoreline structures.

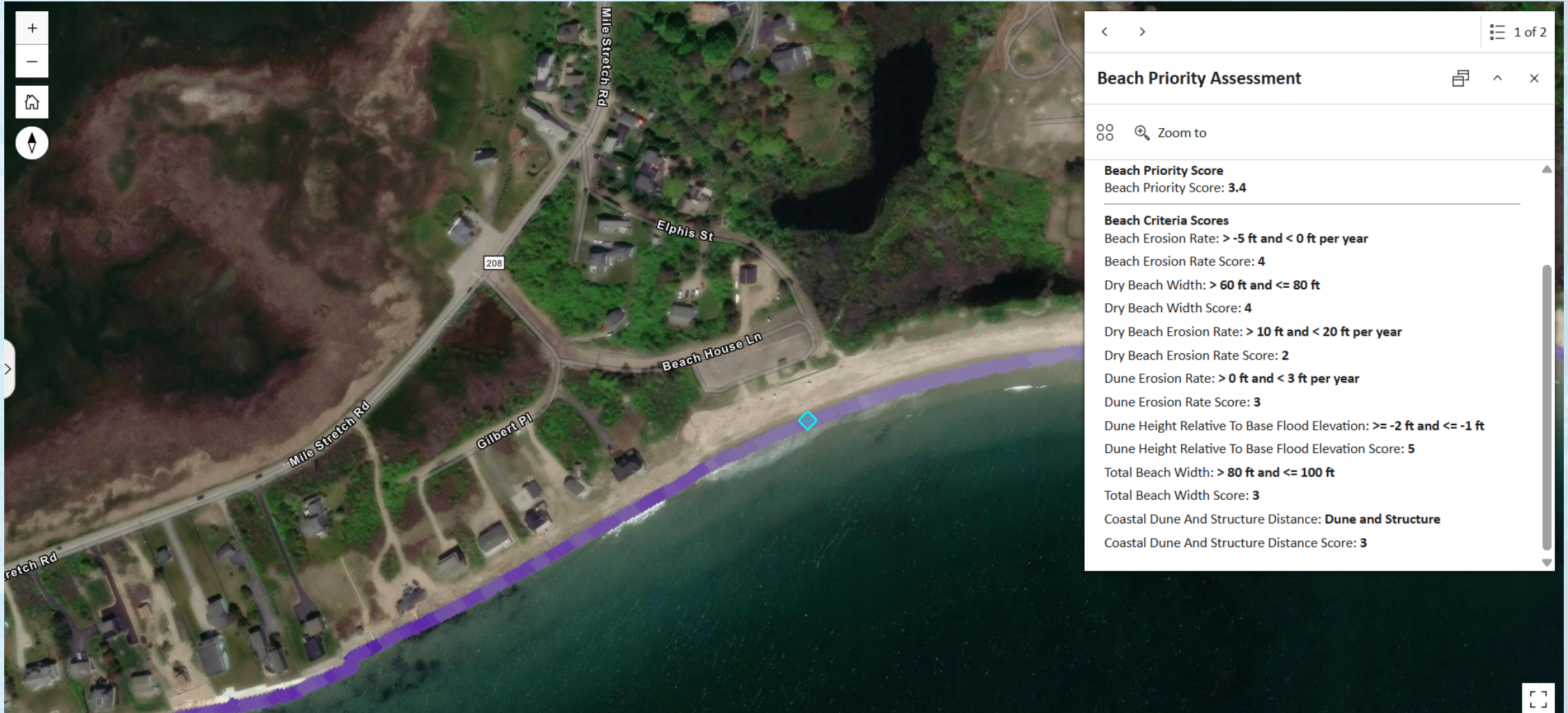


BULKHEAD -
Vertical wall parallel to the shoreline intended to hold soil in place. Suitable for high energy settings and sites with existing hard shoreline structures.

Planning Resource: Nature-Based Strategies Decision Support Tool



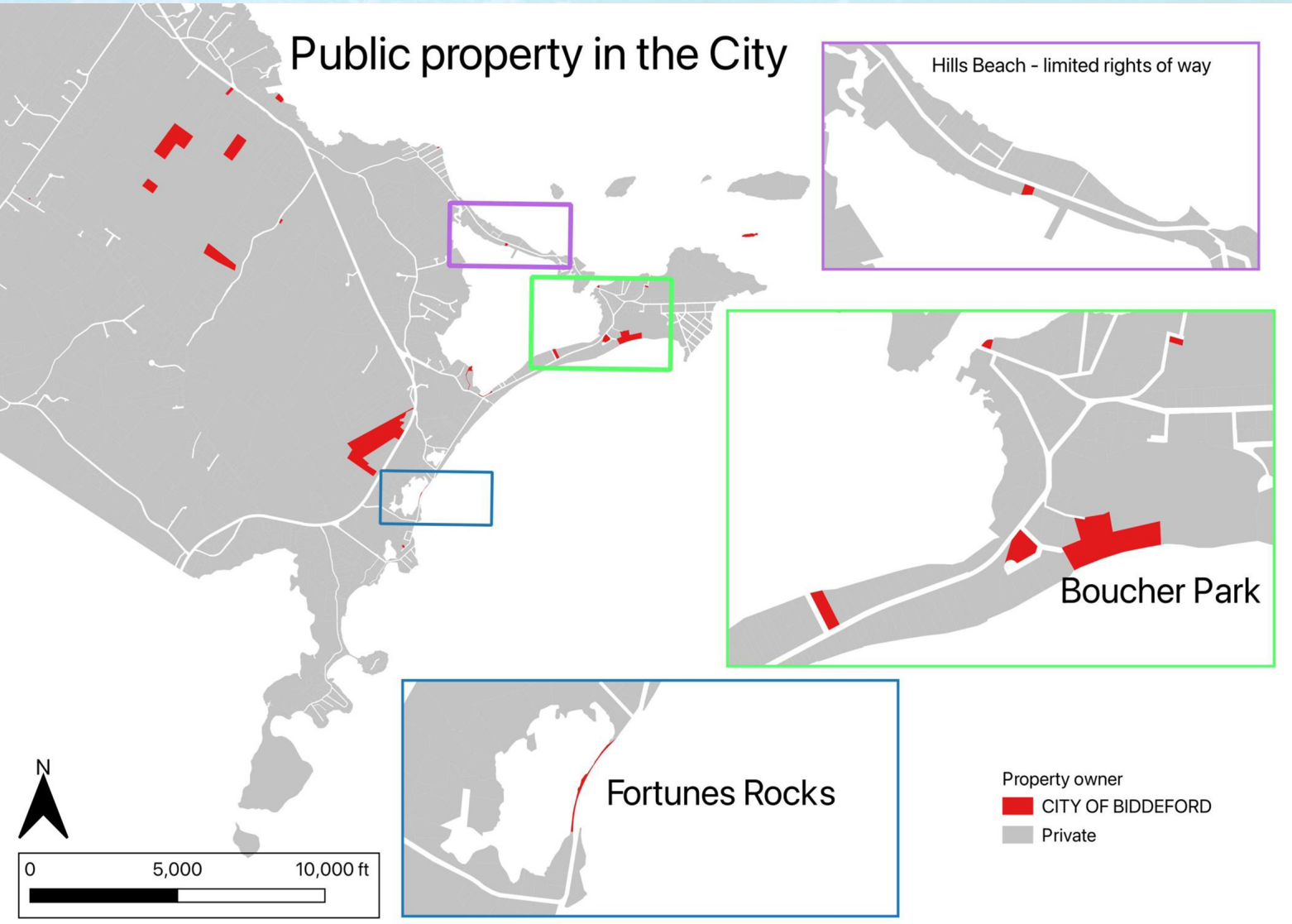
Planning Resource: Nature-Based Strategies Decision Support Tool



Public Beaches in Biddeford



Public property in the City



Beaches in Biddeford

Fortunes Rocks Beach

This beach is a local favorite for surfers. Permit parking is available in the striped spaces along Fortunes Rocks Road. Port-a-potties are available in season. Lifeguards are on duty in season when tides permit beach access.

Middle Beach

Middle Beach has limited permit parking available in the Beach Avenue Lot. Please be advised that there are no lifeguards on duty at Middle Beach.

Biddeford Pool (Gilbert R. Boucher Park)

Permit parking for Biddeford Pool is available at Gilbert R. Boucher Memorial Park.

Access to Biddeford Pool Beach is on a graded path with mobi mats lining the path from the parking area, providing accessibility for wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, and all visitors. The mats will be in place through early fall, weather dependent. A [beach wheelchair](#) can be reserved at no cost at this beach during the official summer permit season.

The Pool Beach bathhouse offers two personal restroom stalls, two family restroom stalls, and a patio with outdoor showers.

Lifeguards are on duty from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in season.

Beach Management Planning State Context

- The State Planning Office published “Improving Maine’s Beaches: Recommendations of the Southern Maine Beach Stakeholder Group” in 1998.
- Priority areas identified:
 - Restoring or maintaining existing beaches
 - Reducing risks to property
 - Protecting wildlife habitat
 - Enhancing the economic value of beaches
 - Reforming beach regulations
 - Regional coordination
- The stakeholder group recommends that a comprehensive beach management plan be developed for each distinct beach system in southern Maine.

D. Beach Management Planning

- ❖ *Municipalities and State agencies should work with stakeholders, including land owners, environmental groups and business interests, to develop regional beach management plans that establish goals, policies and recommend regulations that will guide how the beach resource will be managed. The **Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the State Planning Office** should participate in the development of the beach management plans to ensure that the proposed policies and regulations are consistent with the intent of state law, such as the Natural Resources Protection Act, and to monitor the results of the plans. The DEP could, if warranted, change the administrative rules, recommend changes to state law, or delegate some authority to municipal or quasi-municipal authority that has established capacity to administer this law.*
- ❖ *The **Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission** should provide technical and organizational assistance for developing regional beach management plans and serve as a liaison to State agencies.*



Beach Management Plan Example - Saco

- Saco is currently working on developing a Local Beach Management Plan.
- Their stated purpose is:
 - Consolidate strategies for shoreline management and conservation
 - Coordinate actions with regional, state, and federal partners
 - Assist in planning for major storm events and long-term coastal change
 - Provide clear, actionable steps the City and community can plan for moving forward
- City budget of \$46,000, plus seeking additional funds through grants.
- Saco's plan will align with York County Emergency Management Agency's broader goals of building engineered beaches capable of withstanding a major storm like that of January 2024.



Beach Management Plan Example – Hull, MA

- Hull is in the process of passing an updated beach management plan, which was done by the Woods Hole Group.
- BMP is used as a critical tool for **aligning with State law** (MA Wetlands Protection Act, Endangered Species Act etc.) and for **outlining responsibilities** among town departments and stakeholder groups.
- Included two public information sessions, public comment periods on draft materials, and consultation with relevant State agencies.
- Goals include:
 - Incorporate beach management **into town planning processes**.
 - Encourage businesses and non-profits to participate in the BMP.
 - **Incorporate climate change, resiliency, and emergency management** into planning decisions made about the beach area.



**TOWN OF HULL
BEACH MANAGEMENT PLAN
COMMUNITY MEETING**

The Town of Hull invites you to review the draft Beach Management Plan for North Nantasket Beach. This document provides a framework to balance recreation, habitat preservation, and coastal resilience for one of Hull's most valuable natural assets. Your feedback is essential to ensure it reflects the priorities of the Hull community. Review the draft plan here:
<https://www.town.hull.ma.us/conservation-department/pages/nantasket-beach>

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Presentation of the Draft Beach Management Plan
- Open discussion to gather your feedback

VIRTUAL MEETING

Date: April 23rd, 2025
Time: 6 - 7:30 PM
Zoom Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85472647818?pwd=OKosremxQq6Mjr6hEbJl9l3kudChD.1>

SCAN HERE TO JOIN THE MEETING



Open the camera on your smartphone and point it at the QR code.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Questions? Please contact Chris Krahfurst: ckrahforst@town.hull.ma.us

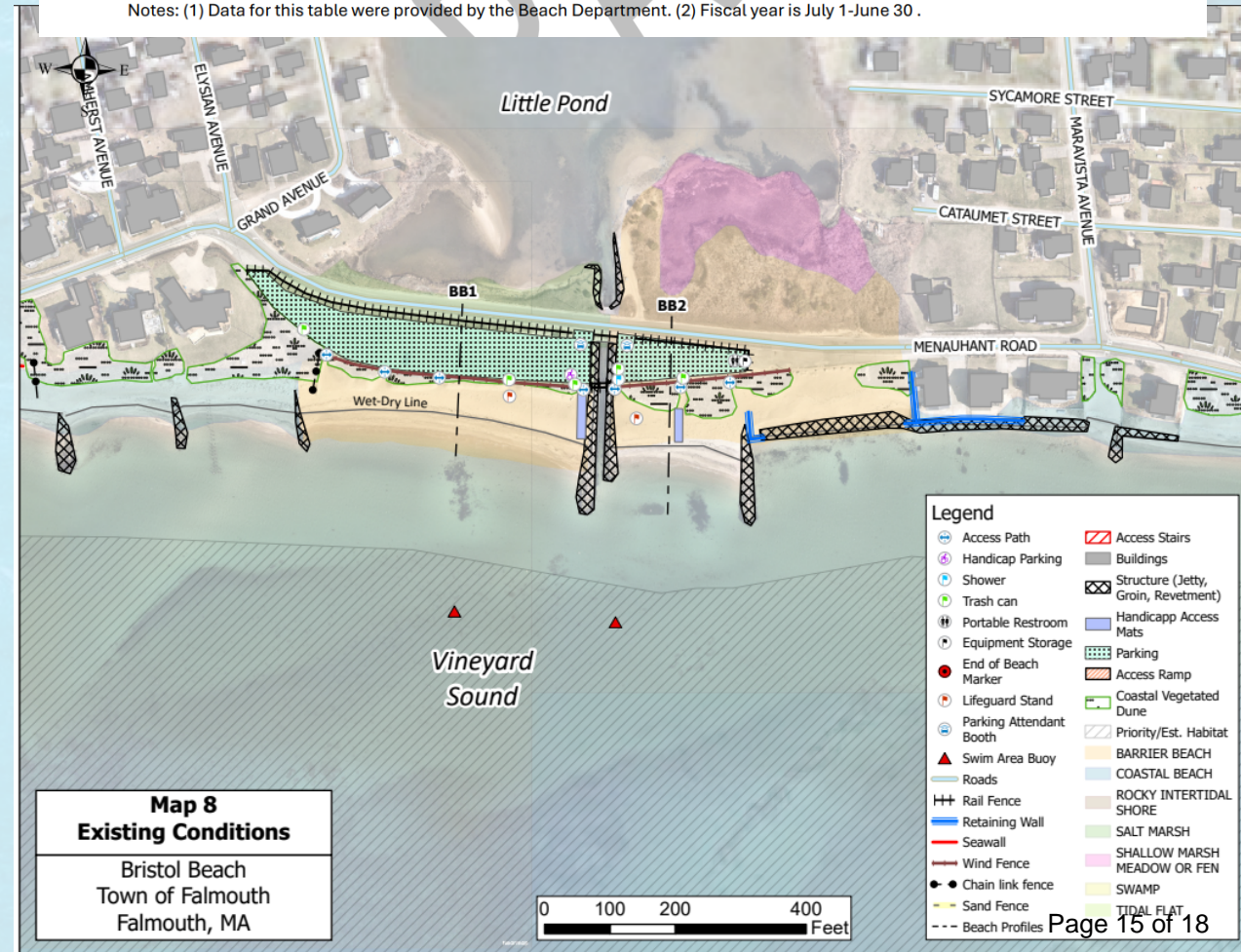
Beach Management Plan Example – Falmouth, MA

- Falmouth, MA is working with the Urban Harbors Institute at UMass Boston and Geosyntec Consultants to update their BMP for ten town beaches.
- Goals of the BMP update:
 - Inventory of natural and anthropogenic resources
 - Be consistent with State and Federal law
 - Define short- and long-term components of beach restoration and management, including post-storm recovery
 - Provide a document that serves as the basis for a Notice of Intent application to the town’s Conservation Commission for managing wetlands.
- Use interviews, engagement, aerial imagery and spatial data for analyses.
 - Digital elevation models (DEMs) including USGS LiDAR and 2018 USACE topo/bathy LiDAR, as well as FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

Table 2: Actual Revenue for Fiscal Years 2014-2025.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Beach Use Charges (Sticker)	530,486	438,781	502,075	542,278	558,465	587,552	577,035	567,706	610,192	686,172	778,481	818,140
Beach Use Charges (Gate)	367,006	388,103	443,445	447,526	398,807	413,487	433,722	438,045	425,002	670,100	590,640	593,540
Swim Lessons	12,030	9,805	11,300	10,580	10,840	12,380	4,680	0	8,270	5,230	1,315	1,535
Lifeguard Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,400	2,200	1,575
Rentals/Leases	71,480	71,050	80,544	77,656	80,737	74,267	58,284	40,349	60,792	52,073	54,573	56,573
Road Race Revenue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,545	0
Handicap Beach Access Mats	625	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnstable County Land Management	0	4,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access Mats	0	0	4,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bristol Beach Dune Wall	0	0	2,645	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-292
Donations - Beach Commission	8,524	3,467	2,799	1,900	1,850	2,400	5,564	1,723	3,133	9,048	3,290	6,508
Donations - Menauhant Beach	1,100	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1,475

Notes: (1) Data for this table were provided by the Beach Department. (2) Fiscal year is July 1-June 30 .



Discussion



- What goals or priorities feel the most critical to include in Biddeford's BMP?
- What strategies or priorities from other examples would work well for Biddeford?
- What are the next steps?
- Other thoughts and reactions?



Thank you!

Melanie Nash, mnash@smpdc.org

Biddeford Public Market Summer 2026 OPERATING BUDGET		PROGRAMS EXPANSION BUDGET	
		Expenses	
Expenses		Staffing	SubTotals
Manager/Coordinator	\$6,000.00	Manager/Coordinator	\$1,000.00
Marketing	\$250.00	Assistant Manager	\$2,000.00
Website/Domain	\$200.00	Admin Asst & Produce Coordinator	\$1,120.00
	\$6,450		\$4,120.00
		1 SNAP/EBT Payments Capacity	
		Fiscal Agency Services (MFFM)	\$1,500.00
		EBT processing equipment	\$500.00
		EBT equipment monthly fee (\$30/month)	\$360.00
		Visitor booth supplies (canopy, table...)	\$450.00
		Visitor booth staff (7 weeks)	\$560
			\$3,370.00
		2 BPM Co-operative Produce Table	
		Produce (\$250/week)	\$1,750.00
		Equipment (canopy, tables, banner)	\$600.00
			\$2,350.00
Funding		3 Bumper Crop Certificates	\$1,000.00
<i>Biddeford Sustainability Commission</i>	\$3,000.00 <i>pledged</i>		\$1,000.00
		4 Food Prep/Preservation Demos Stipend	\$500.00
			\$500.00
<i>Vendor Fees</i>	\$2,400.00 <i>pledged</i>	5 The Power of Produce (POP) Club	
Foundation Grants	\$500.00	Vouchers (100 kids/week)	\$3,500.00
Fundraising Events	\$1,000.00	Voucher printing/prizes	\$700.00
Business Sponsorships	\$550.00		\$4,200.00
	\$2,050	Marketing (SNAP/EBT, Demos, POP Club)	\$500.00
			\$500.00
			\$16,040.00
		Heart of Biddeford Fiscal Sponsor 3% Admin Fee	\$481.20
			\$481.20
			\$16,521.20
		Additional Request	
		6 Hunger Programs Produce and Dinners Distribution	\$1,200.00
			\$1,200.00
		Foods and Supplies Costs (for Youth Full Maine, Bon Appetit Meals Programs, Biddeford Community Gardens)	
		Funding	
		Biddeford Sustainability Commission	
			\$17,721.20
		https://farmersmarketcoalition.org/power-of-produce-pop/	