
CHAPTER 12. REGIONAL COORDINATION

Waterville is closely linked in a number of ways to other nearby communities, serving as a regional center for some activities (retail and service center, employment center, Communications Center, solid waste services) and as an equal partner in other activities (Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, Mid-State Economic Development Corporation). The following is a partial summary of Waterville's regional coordination/cooperation efforts. This Plan envisions that these efforts will continue to be supported, and that they will benefit not only Waterville but the other participating communities as well.

The City is actively involved in on-going efforts with other communities to explore options for additional regional delivery of services. One of the most active efforts has been working with Winslow to explore the possibilities of regional fire protection services.

Employment Center. Waterville is a net importer of workers because there are more jobs in Waterville than people to fill them and because some Waterville residents choose to work elsewhere. According to the 1990 Census, there were 13,505 jobs in Waterville, of which 5,013 were held by Waterville residents. Over 8,000 workers from other communities commute to jobs in Waterville. In 1990, if all 7,315 of Waterville's workers worked in Waterville, there would have been 6,190 jobs that would have been available for workers from other communities and/or unemployed members of Waterville's work force.

Cultural Center. Waterville serves as a cultural center for the region. Its many cultural resources include the Redington Museum, the Waterville Public Library, a number of performing arts resources (Waterville Opera House, Waterville Opera House Association, Waterville Regional Arts and Community Center, FP Productions, Last Laugh Theater Company), Academic Resources, many of which are open to the public (Colby College, Thomas College), at least 26 churches, various civic, fraternal and community organizations, and a number of social service agencies and organizations.

Economic Development Efforts. Waterville works with a number of regional organizations aimed at improving the economy of the greater Waterville area. These include Mid-State Economic Development Corporation, Mid-State Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments and R.E.M. Waterville is also working with Augusta on economic development issues of mutual interest.

Communications Center. The City's Communications Center, which falls under the jurisdiction of the City's Police Department, provides 24-hour coverage for a number of dispatch operations. Dispatch service for police, fire, emergency medical services and public works departments are provided to Waterville, Oakland and Winslow. Emergency medical dispatch services are provided to Fairfield, Sidney, Vassalboro, Belgrade and Benton.

Solid Waste/Recycling. Waterville operates a curbside recycling program with Winslow and provides recycling services to Fairfield. The City collects recyclables from Waterville, Augusta, Vassalboro and China.

Police. In addition to the operations of the Communications Center, Waterville has mutual aid agreements with Fairfield, Oakland and Winslow.

Schools. Waterville High School accepts a number of tuition students from communities that have no high school.

Kennebec Water District. The Kennebec Water District, headquartered in Waterville, provides water to Waterville, Benton, Fairfield, Vassalboro and Winslow.

Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District. The Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District provides sewage treatment services to Waterville, Winslow, Fairfield and Benton.

Waterville Sewerage District. In 1995, the Waterville Sewerage District conducted a feasibility study to explore options for managing the sewer systems of Winslow, Fairfield, Benton and Oakland.

Other. Waterville's other regional services and facilities include health care services, the Robert LaFleur Airport, and a number of parks and recreation facilities and programs which are open to residents of other communities.