

There has never been a dump in Palermo. The vulnerability of the open gravel pits over the Sheepscot River aquifer was discussed by the Committee; it was felt that no special precautions are necessary.

Critical Natural Resources

Palermo's residents have a strong affinity for natural resources and wildlife. The will to protect rare species would be likely to receive public support. The State has no information on any critical plants or other species in Palermo, and none have been identified locally.

Wetlands and Wildlife Habitat

Palermo has numerous wetlands scattered throughout the town. Those greater than 10 acres in size and not covered by forest have been identified by the Maine Geological Survey. These are listed in Table NR-3 and displayed on the Water Resources Map. A separate inventory has been supplied by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) and rated as to its wildlife (generally waterfowl) habitat value; those with high- and moderate-value ratings are identified on the Significant Wildlife Habitat Map.

Wetlands perform a number of critical functions in addition to providing wildlife habitat; these include the storage and filtering of both surface and ground water. They aid in flood protection and sediment control. Respondents to the 1989 public opinion survey felt that the protection of wildlife habitat was a very high priority. Wetlands over 10 acres in size as characterized by wetland vegetation are protected by the Natural Resource Protection Act. Beginning in late 1991, towns will be expected to regulate activity within 250 feet of these wetlands as well through shoreland zoning. Shoreland surrounding wetlands with a high- or moderate-value wildlife habitat rating will be zoned resource protection to minimize disturbing activity.

In addition to wetland areas, Palermo has some common soil types that support both open land and woodland wildlife. According to the Soil Conservation Service, the Marlow, Peru and Tunbridge soil types have good wildlife habitat value (see Table NR-4). The Marlow and Peru fine sandy loam soils with 3-8% slopes are also rated as prime farmland and of high development potential, so trade-offs must be considered.

A number of potential deer yards were initially identified by IF&W but these have not been substantiated by consecutive winter sightings and are omitted from this map. Committee members felt that deer were plentiful throughout town and that there was no reason to map particular areas. A full inventory of Palermo's extensive wildlife habitat, as determined by IF&W, is displayed on Table NR-5.

Table NR - 3

PALERMO WETLANDS

Wetland Number	Maine Inland Fisheries and Game Wetland Type(s)	IF&W Wildlife Value Rating	Soil Type(s)
57		Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
58		Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
59		Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
60	Inland Fresh Meadow Limerick and Rumney Soils	Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
61		Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
62	Wooded Swamp	Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
63		Medium	Borosaprists, Poned
64	Wooded Swamp	None	Water Borosaprists, Poned Limerick and Rumney Soils
65		None	Borosaprists, Poned Brayton VSTF Sandy Loam, 0 - 8% Slopes
79		None	Borosaprists, Poned Brayton VSTF Sandy Loam, 0 - 8% Slopes
80	Inland Fresh Meadow	None	Borosaprists, Poned
81	Inland Fresh Meadow	Medium	Borosaprists, Poned Limerick and Rumney Soils
82	Shrub Swamp	None	Borosaprists, Poned Podunk F Sandy Loam
83		None	Borosaprists, Poned
84		None	Borosaprists, Poned
85	Shrub Swamp	Medium	Limerick and Rumney Soils
157		None	Borosaprists, Poned
161		None	Borosaprists, Poned
162		None	Borosaprists, Poned
163		None	Borosaprists, Poned Peru VSTF Sandy Loam, 3 - 8% Slopes
164		None	Borosaprists, Poned
165		None	Borosaprists, Poned
166		None	Borosaprists, Poned