

Landfill expansion troubling

Maine is famous for its natural beauty. On the official city of Old Town website, the bulk of the description given of the community discusses Old Town's natural resources, highlighting its "pristine" waters and famous smallmouth bass. After reading such a description, one might find [the impending expansion](#) of the Juniper Ridge Landfill surprising.

The proposed expansion area sits atop four different watersheds, eight identified wetland areas and several vernal pools through which pollutants could potentially make their way into the Stillwater and Penobscot rivers.

Landfills leak, and things go wrong. Everyone in Old Town and the surrounding areas have a lot to lose from this expansion. Increased pollution of the wetlands would lead to environmental, social and economic ramifications. We could see a decrease in water quality in four watersheds and acres of wetlands; an increase in mosquitoes, which have been shown to breed more prolifically in degraded wetlands; a decrease in healthy fish populations; fewer waterfowl and migratory birds. The list could go on forever.

Is this really the best place for a massive landfill? Casella would have us believe that the location is ideal, and perhaps it is for them. They have already established themselves in the city, and they have the space at Juniper Ridge. Given the track record of projects like this, Casella's plan puts Old Town's most valuable resource at risk. If the plan goes forward, I hope the city of Old Town will hold Casella to the highest possible standards.

Casey Wilkins

Old Town

<http://bangordailynews.com/2017/01/23/opinion/letters/tuesday-jan-24-2017-aca-repeal-threatens-rural-hospitals-lepages-civil-rights-lesson-juniper-ridge-expansion-troubling/>