



CITY OF DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE MASTER PLAN

2009 Update to the Recreation Chapter



Maintain, Promote, Enhance

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RECREATION CHAPTER

Maintain, Promote, Enhance

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The City of Dover and Fracassa DesignWorks gratefully acknowledges the following volunteers who helped make this project a success. Their vision, input and commitment played a vital role in directing recreation in Dover for the next 10 years. Thank You.

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Rotary Arts Pavilion



Woodman Park Playground



Henry Law Park and Cochecho River

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Alden Woods Playground



Woodman Park Tennis Courts



Bellamy Park Disc Golf Course

Purpose

This document and its recommendations are intended to point the City in the right direction to achieve the greatest success in Recreation over the next ten years. The philosophy is not to simply provide Dover with a ‘to do list’ but to have the right people in place to make the quality decisions needed to achieve a high level of success and equally high quality of parks and recreation opportunities for its citizens in the years to come.

Parks and recreation areas along with conservation land and open spaces were among ten items listed by respondents as ‘aspects you value most about your neighborhood’ in the 2006 Speak Out Dover report. Recreation is an integral component of a healthy, sustainable community and should receive commensurate investment.

Recreation issues are complex and require high attention, wise decisions, sensible implementation, and collaboration among different city departments.

The goals established here are similar to those in the past (2000). The mission of Recreation in Dover may not change much with each Master Plan update, but the ways in which Dover accomplishes those goals may.

This document will guide Dover in:

- Providing a broad range of recreational opportunities and facilities for the citizens of Dover now and in the future.
 - Ensuring recreational opportunities and facilities are designed and provided for people of all ages and abilities regardless of their economic status.
 - Thinking creatively in its approach to each obstacle facing recreation, not only to meet public expectations but to exceed them.
 - Maintaining all existing parks, athletic fields, and facilities in an efficient manner.
 - Enhancing its parks and facilities in a way that both meets the needs of today and anticipates future needs.
 - Promoting its parks, programs, plans, and achievements through innovative methods
-



Dover Ice Arena



Cochecho River Walk



Beckwith Ballfields

Introduction

The American Heritage Dictionary (2006) and the Random House Unabridged Dictionary (2006) define recreation as:

- Refreshment of one's mind or body after work through activity that amuses or stimulates; play.
- A pastime, diversion, exercise, or other resource affording relaxation and enjoyment.
- Restoration, recovery.
- Activity that refreshes and recreates; activity that renews your health and spirits by enjoyment and relaxation.

Recreation in a city enhances the quality of life for its residents by playing a part in the physical well-being of those who take advantage of the community opportunities provided for them. Recreation should be available to all citizens in passive and active form regardless of economic/financial means.

Parks and recreational facilities play a huge part in creating healthy, safe neighborhoods; and neighborhoods play a crucial role in the identity of a city. Parks and recreational facilities attract people, families, and children giving them a place to relax, make friends, and enjoy their city. In addition to attracting its residents, they also attract people working in the city, tourists, and people considering relocation.

Published by the American Planning Association, *How Cities Use Parks to Create Safer Neighborhoods* (a part of the City Parks Forum Briefing Papers) expands on the concept of using city parks to create safer neighborhoods, closer relationships, and the role shade trees play in parks:

The University of Illinois researchers found that residents who live near outdoor greenery are more familiar with their nearby neighbors, socialized more with them, and expressed greater feelings of community and safety than did residents lacking nearby green spaces. Shade trees figured importantly in the

use of outdoor spaces. The more trees existed in a space, the more heavily the space was used by people of all ages.

Green spaces are settings for frequent, informal interaction among neighbors that nurtures the formation of neighborhood social ties. Research has shown that these ties are the glue that transforms a collection of unrelated individuals into a neighborhood. They are the heart of a neighborhood's strength. When ties are weak, people feel isolated and unsupported. When ties are strong, people feel empowered to help and protect each other.

Why do a majority of city web sites, promotions, chamber of commerce, tourism boards, etc... use photos of their parks and recreation areas, depicting green grass, mature trees, and people interacting with each other? These types of places and the photos of them portray a healthy place to live, a high quality of life, a safe place to raise a family, and a place for all age groups to enjoy themselves both passively and actively.

In some cities there is an inclination to think that parks and recreation are a nice thing to have but not a necessity. But a necessity they are. Compromise in the area of investing in parks and recreation can have negative consequences. Loss of quality public parks and recreation in a city is quickly followed by losses in downtown vibrancy, diversity of people experiencing the city, healthy people, interested developers, retailers, young people, young professionals etc.. and is supplanted with evidence of decay: trash, vacancy, and crime. Cities need to fight the tendency to be shortsighted and instead, make the choice to be visionaries and set the standard for emulation.

Parks are an essential piece of a well-developed community and an important component to growth and success of a community. When considering indispensable elements for a city to survive long-term, education, safety and transportation are the top three and recreation contributes to the efficacy of all of them.

The following is an excerpt from the American Planning Association's (APA) website (www.planning.org) and underscores our perspective on the impact parks and recreation has.

The City Parks Forum, a program of the APA, is dedicated to providing information on how healthy parks are fundamental to many aspects of community prosperity. These include improving economic health and vitality, reducing crime, improving public physical and mental health, creating a strong sense of community, supporting overall quality of life...the list is quite long. All these issues are important to communities across the country, and to those both in and outside the parks profession.

The City Parks Forum has produced a series of briefing papers on "How Cities Use Parks For...". Some of the many topics these papers address include:

Community Revitalization
Community Engagement
Economic Development

Create Safer Neighborhoods
Green Infrastructure
Help Children Learn
Improve Public Health
Arts and Cultural Programs
Promote Tourism
Smart Growth

While these are not things easily accomplished, when they are, they are the result of a commitment to a quality of life which impacts people of all age groups.

The City of Dover's Department of Planning and Community Development, Recreation Department, and Recreation Advisory Board would benefit greatly to read the Briefing Papers from the City Parks Forum and discuss the content with each other. This will most likely lead to a more unified perspective in this area and a better working relationship between the people involved. Another report that Dover may benefit from in the same way as the Briefing Papers is "Parks, People, and Places: Making Parks Accessible to the Community" by the Urban Land Institute (ULI). This excellent report can be obtained at their website: www.uli.org.

The approach taken in this update to the Recreation Master Plan is different from others in the past. This document provides not only insight and analysis from the consultant but from the volunteer sub-committee and the hundreds of citizens who also responded to the questionnaire. Input from the people who live in the community and use the spaces on a regular basis has been invaluable to this report.



Garrison Elementary School Playground



Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool



Willand Pond Trail

Public Participation

Recognizing the need to take the initiative with people, a questionnaire was developed to reach as many members of the Dover community and recreational resource users as possible. An intentional effort was made to engage all age groups in discussion, listening to their comments and ideas.

The consultant and volunteer committee elected to engage in a multi-format strategy including a web survey, door-to-door canvassing, collecting input at public events, and providing hardcopy questionnaires at public locations. The request for public input was advertised in multiple media outlets, and public and private organizations requested input from electronic distribution lists as well as paper copies that were distributed to membership. A copy of the questionnaire used in this project is found in Appendix C*. Much light was shed on situations and issues that otherwise could have been overlooked. Their perspective has helped shape the recommendations in this chapter.

*All appendices are available through the Dover Department of Planning and Community Development.

The questionnaire data was collected during the period of May 3rd to June 14th, 2008. Paper submissions via mail were accepted through July 3rd. The breakdown of input sources is as follows:

Source	Responses
Web	309
Door-to-door canvassing and public events	172
Public locations	41
Total	522

Marketing of the questionnaire was essential to the high response rate. The following organizations were sent the link to the web-based questionnaire (www.DoverRecPlan.com) and were asked to send it to their memberships and related distribution lists.

- Dover Arena Commission
- Dover Chamber of Commerce
- Dover City Council & City Manager

- Dover Housing Authority
- Dover Main Street
- Dover Planning Board
- Dover Recreation Advisory Board
- Dover Recreation – Baseball, Soccer, Softball
- Dover Rotary
- Good for Dover
- Personal contact databases of committee members
- Seacoast Moms group

Paper copies of the questionnaire were available for people to complete at the following locations:

- Dover City Hall - City Clerks office
- Dover Ice Arena
- Dover Indoor Pool
- Dover Library – main floor & children’s room
- McConnell Center front desk

The project and request for public input was publicized further through:

- Public Service Announcements on WOKQ, WSHK, and WSAK radio stations informing listeners about the project and encouraging them to visit the website (www.DoverRecPlan.com) to complete the questionnaire.
- Article in May 23rd Foster’s Daily Democrat informing readers of the project and how they can play a part in shaping recreation in Dover.
- Article in May 30th Dover City News briefly describing the project and asking readers to visit the website and complete the questionnaire.
- Cable Channel 22 slide asking viewers to visit the website and complete the questionnaire.
- Volunteers circulated, filled out, and collected questionnaires at Dover Pride Clean-Up Day on May 3rd.
- Physical copies of the questionnaire were placed at youth baseball game concessions for parents and children to fill out and submit.
- Discussions with residents in multiple neighborhoods, parks, and ball fields including: Applevale Park, Henry Law Park, Waldron

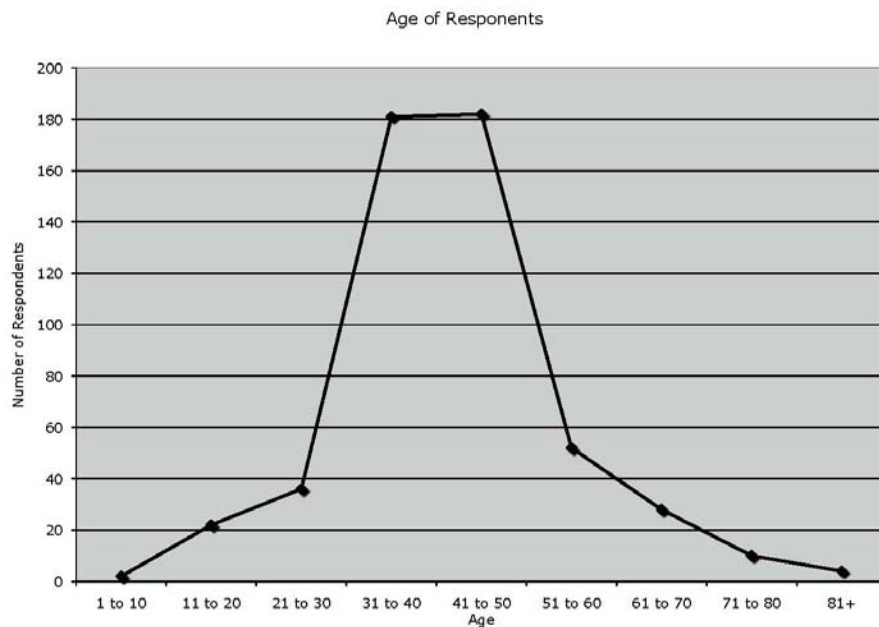
Courtyard, Amanda Howard Park, Hancock Park, Bellamy Park, Willand Pond Park, Garrison Elementary School, and Shaw's Lane Ballfields.

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

As outlined above, input was collected from 522 people. Based on the responses of 371 people (71% of all respondents), 757 children under the age of 18 were represented.

Dover residents made up 86.2% of the respondents to the questionnaire.

The age distribution of respondents is presented below. Excluding children, the age distribution of respondents shows some under-representation of residents over 51 years of age when compared to the Dover's current population. Based on personal canvassing, this may be due to the significantly lower use of parks and recreation services by those over the age of 51 and the higher interaction level with people ages 21-50 at recreation functions and through the online survey.



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WHAT PARKS AND FACILITIES DO PEOPLE USE?

Park Name	Percentage of Respondents That Use Park
Henry Law Park	59.2
Dover Ice Arena	43.1
Garrison Elementary School	41.4
McConnell Center	39.7
Woodman Park School	39.1
Shaws Lane Ballfields	38.1
Garrison Hill Park	34.5
Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool	33.7
Cochecho River Walk	32.8
Horne Street School	32.8
Dover Indoor Pool	31.0
Hilton State Park	27.6
Bellamy Park	24.7
Dover Middle School	23.6
Beckwith Ballfields	23.6
Rotary Gardens & Pavilion	22.4
Maglaras Park	17.2
Morningside Park	16.9
Guppy Park	16.1
Willand Pond Park	13.4
Willand Pond and Trail	12.6
Dover Skate Park	11.3
Long Hill Memorial Park	7.7
Canoe Launch at Henry Law Park	7.1
Fish Ladder Park at Mills	6.5
Cochecho Country Club	6.5
Southside Little League Ballfields	6.1
Other	5.2
Hancock Street Park	5.0
Park Street	3.6

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Tuttle Square Park	2.9
Applevale Park	2.7
Immigrant's Park	1.1
Amanda Howard Park	1.0

HOW OFTEN DO THEY USE IT?

In response to the question: "How often do you go to a park or facility?"

Frequency	Percentage of Respondents
More Frequently than once a week	40.2%
Once a week	34.1%
Once a month	16.9%
Once every six months	4.6%
Rarely	4.6%

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

In response to the question: "How important are parks and recreation to your quality of life?"

Importance	Percentage of Respondents
Very Important	76.1%
Somewhat Important	17.4%
Not Important	1.0%

HOW DO PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT IT?

In response to the question: “How do you get information on parks, facilities, and recreation programs?”

Source	Percentage of respondents who use source
Friends	54.4%
Community Notes Newsletter*	51.0%
Newspaper	37.9%
City Website	35.4%
No source	9.6%
Channel 22	8.2%
Other	7.5%
Dover Download Email*	6.7%

* These information sources have been discontinued

The 43 responses in “other” were in some cases redundant: names of specific newspapers, or references to Community Notes (for example: “Dover Recreation 2x/year mailing”). Eliminating redundant responses produced the 7.5% value. Of these responses, the vast majority reported communications from organized sports leagues as their source of information. A few reported school newsletters as a source of information.

The “no source” value was derived from the respondents who did not indicate any source of information, summed with responses such as “I never hear anything”.

WHAT DO THEY LIKE?

Aspect liked by public	Percentage of respondents who cited aspect
No response	31.4%
Maintenance	27.8%
Cleanliness	21.3%
Variety	10.3%
Citing a specific activity	10.2%
Availability/Proximity	8.0%
Programs	7.7%
Safe	5.2%

There were a total of 780 written comments in answer to “Name three things that are done well regarding Dover’s parks and facilities”. In many cases, people listed more than one thing; 164 people provided no response at all. All responses to this question are located in Appendix F*.

In all cases, all 522 questionnaires are included in calculation. For example, 111 of 522 people cited some aspect of cleanliness in their response. The methodology used for calculation was to sum the number of times a word or related words appeared in responses. For example, the words “clean”, “cleanliness”, “cleaned” any other instance of the root “clean” appeared 111 times. Since some responses may have contained unexpected synonyms, or the comment had qualifications (e.g. “Clean (other than graffiti)”), assume the responses are +/-1%.

Furthermore, just because a particular response indicates people’s thoughts on a question, it should not be assumed that the opposite is also their feelings. For example, while only 5% of respondents cited safety as something Dover does well, this does not mean that 95% of people feel that Dover’s parks are unsafe - it probably means a lot of residents take park safety for granted, and think of more specific likes or dislikes about the facilities they use regularly. This specific example was reinforced by the answers in the open-ended comment sections, where eleven people used the word “safe”, but in most cases it was a reference to equipment or traffic safety.

*All appendices are available through the Dover Department of Planning and Community Development.

WHAT WOULD THEY CHANGE?

In response to the question “What are the biggest needs regarding Dover’s parks & facilities?”

Needs Identified by Public	Percentage Identified
Improve what Dover has	53.1%
Maintenance	39.3%
Age appropriate equipment	24.5%
Promotion of facilities	19.9%
Signage	9.2%
More parks	4.0%
More ballfields	4.0%

Appendix E contains people’s responses to this question. Leading responses included improving and maintaining what already exists for recreation in Dover. Appropriate equipment and promotion of the parks and facilities were also popular responses. Reviewing the more detailed public suggestions for ‘other’ did not show a strong public interest in any specific addition. Of the 234 comments, trail-related requests (walking/hiking/biking/mixed use) made up about 15%, the largest common request. This was followed by interest in dog parks (10%), and more bicycle-related accommodation in the form of trails or street width (10%). Almost no other interests even garnered more than ten requests, or less than 5%.

It is worth noting that requests for ‘more’ of existing programs or facilities made up about 20% of the 234 requests; the types of additional resources were diverse and not dominated by any one activity.

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Woodman Park Basketball Courts



Tuttle Square Park



Willand Pond

Parks, Fields and Facilities

What follows is an inventory of the existing and planned parks, fields, and facilities in the City of Dover with descriptions of each.

TYPES OF PARKS

Pocket	Small parks commonly found at intersections or small spaces downtown. These parks are mostly limited to passive recreation.
Tot-lots	Small playgrounds constructed as part of a new development of homes. By and large a small piece of land with some playground equipment. Limited expansion opportunities.
Neighborhood	Recreational and social focused. Informal active and passive recreation.
Community	Broad public purpose, focusing on meeting community based recreation needs
School Park/Ballfields	Parks and ballfields utilized by both the school system and the public.
City Ballfields	Variety of ballfields owned by the city.
City Facilities	Buildings and structures utilized for recreation within the city.
Private Fields/Facilities	Ballfields and facilities privately owned.
State Parks	State of New Hampshire parks located in Dover.
Additional Sites	Conservation land utilized for recreation.

While some of the facilities listed are privately owned, they have been included in this inventory to provide a complete picture of the types of recreational amenities available to Dover residents.

POCKET PARKS

Fish Ladder Park

This small (only 1/10th of an acre), linear park, located in the center of downtown Dover, is adjacent to the Cochecho River near the dam. It has several benches and a walkway that provide a viewing area for the New Hampshire Fish and Game fish ladder and the dam.

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Immigrants Park

This small park is located downtown on Main Street and has benches and a grassy area to relax and enjoy the flowers while having lunch.

Tuttle Square Park

This 25'x50' pocket park is located at the intersection of Silver Street and Central Avenue at Tuttle Square. Created in 2004, this park celebrates the history of the site that dates back to 1734 when a tavern owner by the name of Christine Otis Baker occupied the site. The granite thresholds in the walk are recycled from the original structure's foundation. Situated at a busy intersection, this small park replaced the neglected lot of abandoned vehicles and debris. It is experienced by many people traveling into Dover, viewing the perennials, shade trees, and attractive fencing that surround the park.

Waldron Courtyard

This brick courtyard is situated between downtown retail buildings on Central Avenue. Shade from the tree canopy overhead provides a great place to relax or have lunch in the downtown area.

T O T L O T S

Alden Woods Children's Playground

This small playground is located on Cottonwood Drive in the north end of the City and was installed at the same time as the residential homes surrounding it. It includes a picnic table, swing set, and climbing apparatus with wood chips on the ground surface.

Overlook Drive Children's Playground

This small playground is located on the street of the same name in the south end of Dover. Installed at the same time as the group of residential homes, this playground has a climbing structure, swings, and a picnic table. A wood fence borders the playground along the front and wood chips surround the playground equipment.

N E I G H B O R H O O D P A R K S

Amanda Howard Park

Amanda Howard Park, located at Elmwood and Fairview Avenue, is a neighborhood park with a slide and a swing set. Dedicated in 1977 for neighborhood resident Amanda who had succumbed to cancer, this half-acre park is a pleasant place to sit in the shade of the tall Pine trees and relax.

Applevale Park

Tucked behind a series of homes in this neighborhood off Dover Point Road, the two-acre Applevale Park is home to a basketball court, playground equipment, shade trees, and open lawn area.

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Hancock Park

Hancock Park was renovated and re-dedicated in 2007. The park, located on Hancock Street and just over a half acre in size, has a half basketball court, a pavilion with picnic tables, open lawn area, and a variety of age appropriate playground equipment. A gravel walking path surrounds the park.

Morningside Park

This park, at just over one and a half acres, contains one multi-use field, playground equipment, a pavilion sitting area and open lawn areas. The open green space the park provides is a great place to enjoy many recreational sports such as ultimate frisbee, football, and whiffleball. Located on Riverdale Avenue this park is nestled in the center of the residential neighborhood.

Park Street Park

Bordered by Park Street and East Concord Street, this area contains a small multi-use field, a pavilion sitting area in addition to having a playground and a picnic area. A shelter with picnic tables and new playground equipment were added to this one-acre park following the 1988 Master Plan.

Spruce Lane

Located between 40 and 46 Spruce Lane, this city owned parcel is a large open, green space for people to throw a frisbee, play catch, whiffleball, and play other informal sports on a large open field. There is a small back-stop in the corner of the park for baseball/whiffleball etc.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Bellamy Park

This 33 acre park is one of Dover's "natural setting" parks located on Bellamy Road across from Dover High School. The Bellamy River meanders through the woodlands and grassy open spaces providing a very pleasant setting. This park experiences regular use by those enjoying the Disc Golf course set in the woods. Facilities on the property include an area for picnics, a walking/jogging area, and playground equipment. The building in the park is used during Camp Sun N Fun, taking place from the end of June through mid-August. The property also includes an area for fishing, as well as cross-country skiing.

City of Dover Community Trail

This 5,800 linear feet park will soon be the newest addition to Dover's park system and one that promises to be unique. This park will extend from the train station on Chestnut Street to the intersection of Rutland and Central Avenue. The 8-10' wide gravel path will be open from dawn to dusk similar to all other parks in Dover and will be lighted from the train station to Washington Street. The Community Trail will not be plowed in the winter months providing opportunity for snowshoeing, cross country skiing, and pulling children in sleds.

A park not only utilized for exercise and enjoyment, it is also promotes "green" transportation, providing another option for those traveling in the City. Like many other community trails found in cities across America, it will promote healthy living. Asked to share their vision as to the kind of community they would like to see Dover become and look like in the coming years, participants in the Speak Out Dover sessions in 2006 listed, among other things, the completion of the Community Trail.

Construction is planned for Spring of 2009 from the train station to the Silver Street underpass. There will be opportunity for community/service groups to play a role in completing the trail from the Silver Street underpass to Rutland Street and Central Avenue. Additionally, it is hoped that the Recreation Advisory Board would bring this facility under its wing, possibly naming a community trail sub-committee to see its completion and recommend improvements as well as possible extensions in the future.

Cochecho River Walk

The Cochecho River Walk is a cornerstone and central attraction in Dover's downtown area. The Cochecho River Walk crosses the river through a wooden covered bridge then winds through the riverside Henry Law Park and among the shops and restaurants of downtown Dover. The River Walk contains a footbridge, a canoe launch and picnic areas. The planned construction of a city park along the parcel to be developed in the next ten years provides a fantastic opportunity to extend the greenbelt created by the Cochecho River Walk to Maglaras Park.

Dover Skatepark

The Dover Skatepark is located on River Street at the east end of Henry Law Park. The facility includes ramps and obstacles utilized by people on skateboards, and in-line skates. Bikes are not allowed in the park. The construction of the skatepark was due in large part to contributions of time and funding by the Dover Rotary Club.

Garrison Hill Park

Located on Abbey Sawyer Memorial Highway near Wentworth Douglass Hospital, Garrison Hill's 300-foot summit provides some of the most scenic views in the City. The observation tower was replaced in 1993 with a replica of the original 1913 tower by the Garrison Hill Committee. The fifty-five acre park also contains playground equipment and a covered picnic pavilion which have been added since the 1988 Master Plan. An extensive sledding area and snowboard park are also located in the park (access is one street north on Old Rollinsford Road) and is well utilized by many in the City. The sledding slope and snowboard slope are separated by trail following a row of trees up the hill. Sledding also takes place at the base of the tower for those desiring a gentler slope.

Guppy Park

Located at the corner of Oak Street and Portland Avenue, this is one of Dover's primary recreational facilities. Guppy Park, gifted to the City of Dover by the Guppy family, contains the Dover Ice Arena, a year-round ice arena with two sheets of ice, home to youth hockey and other skating programs. The thirty-nine acre park also contains a 50-meter outdoor pool named for Jenny Thompson, a Dover resident, who won 8 Olympic gold medals and 12 overall in swimming. Guppy Park contains approximately 25 acres of woodland, a lighted adult softball field and family recreation/picnic area. The park also has a sand volleyball court and pavilion located near the outdoor pool.

Henry Law Park

Given to the City of Dover by Mr. Henry Law and maintained under a trust, the six acre Henry Law Park is located in the central business district. The park is one of Dover's oldest and most intensively used recreation facilities. With approximately 1,200 feet of frontage on the Cochecho River, the park also contains the Butterfield building, home to the Children's

Museum of New Hampshire, opened in July of 2008. The park also has a year-round indoor pool, a playground, an outdoor amphitheater for entertainment, an area for boat access and picnic areas.

Joe Parks Riverwalk and Gardens

Part of the Cochecho Riverwalk Park, this section was redesigned and dedicated in Joe Parks' honor in June 2008. Highlighted by a variety of rhododendrons, its path along the river is a tranquil spot for lunch or relaxation.

Long Hill Memorial Park

This twelve acre park is located in north Dover and has several facilities on its grounds surrounded by mature pine trees. It has one large multi-use field, two tennis courts and one basketball court. In addition, the area also provides playground equipment, a natural wooded area, and an area designated for picnics.

Maglaras Park

Located nearby Henry Law Park, Maglaras Park has frontage on Henry Law Avenue and the Cochecho River. The twenty-nine acre park presently contains two minor league baseball fields. The multi-use playing field no longer exists as a portion of the park is occupied by the dredge disposal cell built to contain the dredge material removed from the Cochecho River. The cell will be capped when dredging is completed and can be utilized in future park development. The privately owned Dover Little League Fields are directly adjacent to this park. Maglaras Park has the potential to be one of Dover's outstanding recreational facilities for organized sporting events. In January 2006, a Master Plan was completed detailing what may be possible for the park depending on Dover's future recreation needs.

Rotary Gardens and Pavilion at Henry Law Park

Located at the intersection of Washington Street and Henry Law Avenue, the Rotary Gardens and Pavilion is part of Henry Law Park and is a result of much time and funding by the Dover Rotary Club. A beautiful park with walkways and many shade trees, it is home to the Cochecho Arts Festival music series, entertaining large crowds each summer seated in the amphitheatre and on the surrounding lawn.

Waterfront Park at Dover Landing

This two-acre park along the Cochecho River is in the design process and part of the larger proposed mixed-use development at Dover Landing. The park plans consist of pedestrian walkways along the waters edge, access to the water, a piazza, an open-air community structure, opportunities for sculpture, and site amenities such as shade trees, seating areas and contextual lighting. When completed, Waterfront Park will connect Henry Law Park and Maglaras Park creating a necklace of green space for people to enjoy in a variety of ways.

Willand Pond Park

Located in the northern section of Dover on New Rochester Road, this park is on the municipal boundary with Somersworth. The park features an 84-acre spring-fed natural pond with a trail around the north side. Dover and Somersworth have worked closely with the NH Division of Parks and Recreation to design and develop a passive recreational facility that includes an improved boat launch, a dedicated parking area, signage depicting fish and trees found in the park, trails and a picnic area on an overlook bluff. The park represents an attractive open space in an area of residential and commercial development.

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In the early 20th century Willand Pond housed a Central Park. Previously it was called Burgett Park. None of the amenities of the grand park exist today, as they faded with the demise of the trolley cars that made Willand Pond quickly accessible to anyone in neighboring Dover and Somersworth. Sustained flooding at Willand Pond since the “Mother’s Day Storm” in May 2006 has created a situation where the access road located off New Rochester Road is inaccessible, as are portions of the trail along the pond. Furthermore, the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game public boat launch became, and remains, submerged.

On July 13, 2007, the Department of Environmental Services (DES) documented a cyanobacteria bloom in Willand Pond. This meant that the pond was closed to visitors and uses in the area have been restricted. A consultation engineer has been hired to review the impaired pond and assist in developing remediation options.

SCHOOL PARKS AND FIELDS

Dover High School

The campus currently possesses two varsity softball fields, four tennis courts, one multi-use field, soccer fields, a gymnasium and a running track. Dunaway Field (football) and the rubberized track are open to the public.

Dover Middle School

The High School and Middle School share a variety of recreational facilities which are also used by the City Recreation Department.

Garrison Elementary School

The Garrison Elementary School encompasses two basketball courts, two tennis courts, two multi-use fields, a gymnasium, playground equipment and an open lawn area on the twenty-two acre site.

Horne Street School

This thirteen acre area possesses one little league field, one abandoned basketball court, two tennis courts, a playground area, as well as having a multi-use field and a gymnasium. The playground is very large with two great climbing apparatus and swings surrounded by a surface of wood chips.

Woodman Park

The Woodman Park School on Towle Avenue contains numerous recreation amenities including one re-constructed baseball field (2007) for the 13 year old Babe Ruth Division, two basketball courts and four tennis courts (renovated in 2008) in the seventeen acre park. In addition, the school has a gymnasium, a gravel track around the ball field, updated playground equipment and a large open lawn area.

CITY ATHLETIC FIELDS

Shaw's Lane Ballfields

This popular athletic field complex has been constructed since the 2000 Recreation Master Plan. It consists of a multi-purpose field, two youth softball fields, soccer fields, and a gravel recreation path around the fields. Concession, storage, and bathroom facilities were

constructed in 2007. A well-liked spot for citizens to walk, jog, or walk their dogs, users enjoy the gravel surface compared to the asphalt alternative. Sledding during the winter months is widespread. With plenty of parking and safe from any nearby street this is a great place for families to relax and have a great time.

Softball Field at Guppey Park

This lighted softball field is utilized by an adult softball league. The only adult softball field in Dover, it has incredible potential for regular use though this section of Guppey Park currently needs improvements. There are many adults in Dover interested in softball recreation and many teams/leagues outside Dover that would be interested in playing games here also as fields are difficult to come by. This could be a nice source of revenue for Dover's recreation once it is enhanced. The softball field has a gravel parking area, bleachers, and announcers booth.

Sullivan Field and Playground

This park was constructed in part with funds by the developer of the residential neighborhood surrounding it and other contributions by community groups. Located at the end of the cul-de-sac, the park has a gravel entrance drive leading to a sizeable parking area. The park contains a youth baseball field with dugouts, full size batting cages, and a concession and storage facility. The park also includes a nature trail off the parking area, and a very attractive playground geared towards different age groups with picnic tables for parent to relax and socialize with each other.

CITY RECREATION FACILITIES

Dover Ice Arena

The Dover Ice Arena, located at the intersection of Oak Street and Portland Avenue is a two-sheet facility that operates under city management with the intention of maintaining financial and operational sustainability. At the present time, one sheet of ice is maintained year-round, while the other is only open from roughly September through April. While hockey is the most significant use of ice time, figure skating, learn-to-skate programs, and general public skating are also supported. In the off-season, the unused sheet is rented out for a variety of purposes: dog shows, home shows, large-scale sales events, and other sporting events that can reasonably use the space. The arena includes a concession stand and pro shop, though neither generates substantial revenue since quality alternatives exist across the street from the facility.

The Ice Arena is an economic stimulus for the City, drawing residents of Dover and many from surrounding communities. Attracting teams and individuals from outside Dover for league play and tournaments, the Arena contributes to money being spent in Dover through food establishments, hotels, and shopping.

In February 2008 a calculation was made of foot traffic through the Dover Arena for marketing purposes. Based on 2007 data, the Arena sees approximately 474,000 visits per year. Between 50-70% of the Arena users are Dover residents.

While the Arena is managed by the city, a citizen commission meets monthly to review operational details and provide guidance and recommendations to the Arena and City Council.

CITY OF DOVER, NH

Dover Indoor Pool

This widely used pool is located in Henry Law Park and adjacent to the Rotary Pavilion and the Children's Museum of New Hampshire. The indoor pool contains a multi-depth, 25 yard, 6 lane pool, and a diving pool. It is home to many of the swim programs provided by the recreation department. This pool is utilized by all age groups and provides a great healthy exercise option. Locker rooms with bathroom and shower facilities are also part of the pool building.

Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool

One of Dover's most used, liked, and marketable recreation facilities; the Jenny Thompson Pool is also an economic stimulus attracting people from Dover and surrounding areas. This pool is part of Guppey Park and located at the intersection of Oak Street and Portland Avenue. The 50-meter outdoor pool is named for Jenny Thompson, a Dover resident, winner of 8 Olympic gold medals and 12 overall in swimming. A family recreation/picnic area, sand volleyball court, and pavilion is also located near the outdoor pool.

Recreation Department Facilities at McConnell Center

Located in the newly renovated (2006) McConnell Center, the Recreation Department Facilities are accessible by Dover's residents looking for any information regarding recreation, desiring to register for programs, or needing to speak with recreation leaders. In addition to the main offices of the Recreation Department, there are fitness rooms with Cybex machines, cardio and free weight rooms, and shower facilities. The second floor is home to Butterfield Gym, accommodating various sports such as basketball and volleyball.

Senior Center at McConnell Center

Located in the McConnell Center, the senior center is for adults 50+ years of age. With an array of activities from line dancing to exercise programs, yoga, games, luncheons, special events, socials, there is plenty to experience. Members have access to the fitness rooms with Cybex machines, cardio and free weight rooms. The center also has a travel department offering day trips as well as overnight and extended stays at a variety of locations. This center has consistently grown in popularity since their relocation to this building.

STATE PARK

Hilton State Park

This ten acre park is located at the tip of Dover Point and is the location of the first settlement in Dover in 1623, three years following the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock. The park is not a City of Dover park although many associate it with Dover because of its location within the City and the historic significance to Dover. The park contains a boat access ramp, picnic areas, a playground, and significant green space. There are outstanding views of the Piscataqua River and Little Bay. There is also a historic monument that commemorates the site as the first settlement. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation is proposing to widen the Spaulding Turnpike Bridge between Newington and Dover. There is concern by the public that this proposed project will have a negative impact on the positive attributes of this park.

PRIVATE FIELDS AND FACILITIES

Beckwith Ballfields

A privately owned baseball field complex off Sixth Street operated by Dover Baseball, this facility consists of two Cal Ripken League competition fields in excellent condition, batting cages, bleachers, concession facilities, and plenty of parking.

Cochecho Country Club

Founded in 1920, the Cochecho Country Club is a private country club featuring an 18-hole golf course, swimming pool, year round dining and function facilities.

Dover Little League Ballfields

A privately owned Little League ballfield complex off Henry Law Avenue, and adjacent to Maglaras Park, it consists of two very nice Little League ballfields, bleachers, batting cages, and concession facilities.

Portsmouth Christian Academy

Portsmouth Christian Academy is the largest independent Christian day school in New England. PCA is a regional school bringing together approximately 800 students from three states in grades pre-school through grade 12. The private school has various athletic facilities and fields that include an athletic gym with a basketball court and volleyball court and a gym annex that is used for multiple sports. Outdoors there is a soccer field, four tennis courts, and a large field containing a baseball field in one corner and a softball field in the opposite corner.

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

Founded in 1960, St. Thomas Aquinas is a Catholic, coeducational secondary school located in the seacoast of New Hampshire. Students come from 64 Communities in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

The private school has athletic facilities and fields that include an athletic gym with basketball court, and a girls softball field, boys baseball field, a soccer field, and lacrosse field on the campus.

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF PUBLIC ACCESS

The following table lists Conservation Land that is utilized for recreation. Each location has areas established for public access.

Bellamy WMA East	L-51	Spur Road – parking area with sign
Bellamy WMA West	J-20-1/J-20	Old Garrison Road
Bellamy Wildlife Sanctuary	J-25	Bayview Road
Cassily and Dover Baseball	34-20B +21	Whittier Street, or Hillside Drive
County Farm	B-20	County Court House

Gabriel/ Bagdon-Kirkwood	B-11G	Between 107 and 121 County Farm Cross Road
Liberty Mutual/Measured Progress	E-24/E-27B	Across from 164 Watson Road
New Meadows	H-35D	Lilac Lane
Pacific Landing	E-50	Upper Factory Road – by Cochecho River
Waldron Falls	E-35	Across from 126 Watson Road
Smith Conservation Area	B-17	Winning Ways Farm – County Farm Cross Road

Each Dover park is also an ‘Adopt-a-Spot’ location - providing the opportunity for individuals and organizations to not only enjoy these spaces but also aid in maintaining their beauty to Dover. The Adopt-a-Spot program is managed by the Dover Main Street organization. In addition to the parks listed in this section, there are numerous pieces of city property consisting of monuments, cemeteries, and small green space in medians and street corners. A comprehensive list of Adopt-a-Spot locations is located in Appendix B.

Adopt-a-Spot, instituted by the City in 1995, enables the community – businesses, individuals, civic clubs, garden clubs, churches, and other organizations – to maintain various City squares, monuments/historical markers, small and large parks, guardrails and landscaped traffic islands. Volunteers perform routine maintenance such as mowing, weeding, litter removal, landscape plantings, painting, and in some cases minor repairs. Some may instead choose to donate funds to help pay for maintenance or make donations of materials or discounts on products or services that could be used in maintaining spots around the City.

Dover Main Street is currently working on restructuring the program sending out new contracts for sites and getting not-yet-adopted sites matched with interested parties.

Interested individuals or groups can call or email Dover Main Street at 603-740-6435 or dovermainst@ci.dover.nh.us to be matched with available sites.

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Home Street School Playground



Dover Little League Baseball Fields



Henry Law Park

Observations

There are many positives regarding the efforts made by Dover since the last master plan update in 2000. Many encouraging and constructive comments can be found in Appendix F* (Things done well by the City of Dover). Everyone who works to provide recreation opportunities as well as those who volunteer needs to read every comment in that appendix. Good work, while sometimes noticed, isn't always communicated. In hearing from the public through the questionnaire, it is clear Dover provides much and it is appreciated. These comments show that although Dover is not where it could be in terms of recreation, the services that are provided are much appreciated by the citizens of Dover. We believe the questionnaire provided Dover's residents an opportunity to voice not only their criticisms and concerns but also their appreciation.

Overall, due to existing land and sites, Dover has the makings of a city with great public spaces. Dover is at a point in time where it can become a city ahead of the curve, setting the standard and reaching its potential in this area. Dover can choose to become a city with a healthy, interactive, social, and active reputation, attractive to those who live here and visit. The alternate choice is to neglect the necessary steps and opportunities available, resulting in run-down facilities, parks lacking healthy or mature trees, and parks being vandalized and littered. Examples of this are Park Street Park, and until recently renovated, Hancock Street Park. These words paint extreme pictures, but it has been documented that this is exactly what happens everywhere there is neglect in the area of parks and recreation. Dover has some great parks and facilities, but lack of promotion and maintenance are leading to a lessening of the positive impact envisioned by those who invested in them in years past.

In observing the inventory of recreation parks, athletic fields, and facilities in Dover, it is clear to see that there are a variety of areas available for the residents to utilize. While steps have been taken to move forward in becoming the positive city mentioned in the paragraph above, a common theme emerged from our discussions and interaction with the public - Maintain, Promote, and Enhance recreation in Dover. Dover has work to do to maintain, promote, and enhance what it already has as the city has fallen behind in each of these areas. Park oversight by the city is an area in real need of improvement.

There is a definite consensus that Dover should maintain and improve what it has before expanding current or building new parks, fields, and facilities. While some parks are maintained throughout the summer season, others seem to have not been touched since the season's initial spring clean up. Safety hazards in some parks have also become a bigger issue with the potential to cause injury to the children and adults who use them. Experience has proven that deferrals of maintenance and repair always result in larger projects and greater costs. That

being said, preventive maintenance should be the focus and will require a definite commitment from Dover's leadership.

The comments in Appendix E* (What type of park or facility would you like to see Dover provide that it doesn't have now?) show that Dover has succeeded in providing many of the things that its residents desire. Unfortunately, much of the public does not know they exist. This is demonstrated in that Dover already has many of the parks and facilities they listed. This sheds light on the lack of promotion for these existing parks, facilities, and programs. Dover needs to re-examine its promotional strategy to make strides in reaching its audience in a more effective manner.

Decisions made today can make a difference tomorrow.

No one can do anything about what has been done or not done in the past but with detailed analysis and a strategic approach, Dover can make deliberate, specific decisions during the next ten years that will bring significant positive change.

*All appendices are available through the Dover Department of Planning and Community Development.

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Woodman Park Baseball Field



Long Hill Park Tennis Courts



Willand Pond Hiking Trail

Recommendations

The following recommendations are all important to the quality and lasting impact of Dover's parks, fields, and facilities to the people of Dover. They are not prioritized since budget numbers may change on a yearly basis and fall outside the scope of this document. There are also some aspects of particular parks or facilities that need more urgent attention than others. For example: safety issues will need to be addressed immediately in a park where the rest of the recommendations for that park or facility are planned for a later time. The establishment of priorities should take place between the Director and point person (see recommendation below) from the Recreation Department, the Director of Community Services, and the Recreation Advisory Board. A site walk of each park should take place to gain full understanding of the parks and facilities before meeting to discuss priorities. Though the recommendations are not prioritized, it is agreed by the consultant and sub-committee that immediate attention should be given to all safety issues. When establishing priorities, the City shall consider a balance between maintenance, promotion, and enhancement type projects in any given year. This will help ensure no area is neglected while positioning Dover to achieve the greatest possible success over the next ten years.

The recommendations are separated into categories. Some fall under the theme of Maintain, Promote, and Enhance. Others are more specific to actual parks while some are overall "broad stroke" recommendations encompassing the whole entity of Parks and Recreation.

OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations stated here are all-encompassing ideas and impact/apply to all of Dover's parks, fields, and facilities.

- As mentioned earlier in this document, a void exists in the oversight of Dover's parks. It is recommended Dover hire a qualified individual to focus primarily on this need (the person will likely have other responsibilities within this department as well) to effectively change the course that has been taken over the years. In the case where it is not possible to add a position to the Recreation staff, Dover needs to identify a point person in the Recreation Department and re-organize that person's position roles and responsibilities to include park management. Among other responsibilities, this person would be required to meet with the Directors of Community Services and Recreation departments to improve communication between those departments and to ensure that the parks will receive the attention they require. The person should also meet with personnel from the Department of Planning and Community Development to discuss park projects being proposed and designed in the City. Having the right person in the right position

will make meeting the challenge of responding to the recommendations made here, viable. Dover must be pro-active (not reactive) in its approach toward its parks, athletic fields and recreation facilities. In order to truly see change and progress, the existing Recreation Advisory Board should include (or expand to include) a sub-committee of members whose function would be to meet monthly with the City's point person to assist the City in prioritizing and implementing the recommendations made in this document. Before major renovation of any park takes place, the neighborhood should be notified and a few public meetings held. This will enable the city to present the design plans and listen to the public's input. This process will also communicate Dover's commitment to maintain and increase the quality of life for its residents. Other products of implementing this recommendation will be a stronger relationship between the City and those utilizing the spaces, and significant sense of ownership by the neighborhood which would result in increased use and less vandalism. In addition to this interaction with the public, the City should also celebrate its success following each project by celebrating with Dover's citizens with a ribbon cutting ceremony and promoting the accomplishment through their website and the local media.

- All efforts in implementing these recommendations and any work regarding maintenance and enhancement of Dover's parks, fields, and facilities should be done by maximizing efficiency in labor efforts and use of finances. For example, before purchasing and installing trees at a specific park, review the recommendations for trees at other parks in the City, and if appropriate, consider purchasing and installing the additional trees at the same time potentially saving money on total plant cost, travel and installation time.
- Signage is needed at every park. The prototype sign planned for Hancock Park should be reviewed by the Recreation and Community Services departments and the Recreation Advisory Board as a potential template for all other parks ensuring



that it contains the park name, hours accessible, and a number to call regarding questions and to report elements that need repair or any vandalism. The design should be easily recognizable, clear in message, and not prone to a style that may look dated in a few years.

Figure 1 The prototype sign currently installed at Hancock Park.

- Healthy trees are essential to the aesthetic quality of a neighborhood, cleaning our breathable air, and providing much needed shade for people to enjoy. Respondents to the Speak Out Dover sessions completed in 2006 expressed the

desire to see Dover do a better job in the preservation of existing trees and the planting of more trees. Significant tree pruning needs to take place at most every park location in the city. All pruning should be completed by trained personnel with the scope of work at each location outlined before any work begins. Dover should restore the position of arborist it once had or invest in training existing personnel in this area. Not only do the park trees need attention but all street trees in the city. Pruning, inventory taken, and a strategy to replace and plant new ones are needed.

- Implement the new policy regarding contributions toward recreation by developers. In October of 2008, the City formally adopted Recreation Impact Fees. The policy requires developers to pay an impact fee based on an “investment method”, based on Dover’s Capital Improvements Program, naming major capital projects planned for Dover’s recreational facilities in the coming years.
- The City of Dover and its Recreation Advisory Board need to come up with creative ways to pursue public/private partnerships related to both maintenance of existing parks and facilities, and establishing funds to enhance its parks and facilities. Networking with other communities that have done this in the past will assist Dover in knowing what has and has not worked for others.

Contacting professional organizations such as the American Planning Association (APA) will also be of great help and may be a means of discovering grants available to communities creating park and recreation opportunities. They can be contacted through their website at: www.planning.org. Another helpful organization is the New Hampshire Recreation & Parks Association (NHRPA). As current members of this organization, Dover should utilize their resources to the fullest extent. Their website is: www.nhrpa.com.

Examples of possible groups who might be interested in assisting the City reach its goals are: designers, engineers, Rotary, youth groups, sports organizations, local businesses, and schools. Corporate and private donations are great opportunities for people to invest in the future of Dover and should also be pursued.

- An effort to retain existing volunteers and gather new people with a similar mindset should be put forth by the City. Volunteers play a significant role in the success of recreation programs and maintenance of parks and facilities. Examples include volunteers who coach sports teams, provide flowers for key downtown areas, and work on Dover Pride – Clean Up Day in the spring. The City should consider some key projects they will be focusing on in the coming year and plan projects for the spring clean-up day to engage residents in the project while giving a boost to the project process. The City should work with the Main Street program as Main Street coordinates the clean-up day each year and notifies all its members/volunteers in planning for this event. In doing this, the City will continue to promote its efforts, share its vision with its residents, and be effective with its resources.

MAINTAIN

When asked to list areas they would most like to see the City of Dover do a better job in the 2006 Speak Out Dover report, respondents mentioned maintenance and enhancement of green spaces. Some parks are no doubt maintained very well as mentioned by the public and seen as we inventoried Dover's parks for this project. There are also some parks that are clearly an eyesore to the City. Focusing on the details, especially downtown, will make a more favorable impression on Dover's citizens and visitors alike.

- Commit to yearly maintenance money or the parks, athletic fields and facilities will disintegrate. Regular maintenance is crucial to maintain an acceptable standard for use and ensures past financial investments for recreation are respected.
- Focus on parks – A staff member from either Community Services or Recreation Department would have the added responsibility to inspect parks regularly for maintenance issues such as repairing park elements, graffiti, vandalism, storm damage, etc....
- Improve communication between Community Services and Recreation Department to better define and understand responsibilities for maintenance of particular parks and school athletic fields. Development of a comprehensive list of parks and their specific maintenance needs will help ensure the important details get taken care of. The list should also include who is responsible for the maintenance for each park and facility, dates maintenance was accomplished, and special events scheduled in the park and detailed maintenance to perform before the event.
- Annual pruning as necessary by trained city staff at all parks, athletic fields and facilities (see recommendation made earlier under Overall Recommendations)
- Take steps toward establishing public and private partnerships: such as with the public school system in maintaining the city's parks and athletic fields.
- Partner with the school system to balance the use of athletic fields, providing the opportunity to renovate a field each year without disrupting sports schedules.
- Review existing maintenance strategies and develop new ones if needed to increase efficiency. An example of this would be applying bark mulch to numerous parks in the same day or week versus multiple work orders over several weeks resulting in more travel time, added expense, and overall effort.

PROMOTE

Promotion of recreation programs and opportunities is essential in reaching your target audience and seeing your recreation efforts meet their potential. Many people we spoke with told us they were not aware of the various parks available or even the nearest park to their home. Dover has a great variety of both parks and recreation programs available to its citizens. The City really needs to work on promoting what it has available and where it is headed in the future. The many recreation programs offered by the City can be found in Appendix A. The following are key steps to take to see positive change in this important area.

- Develop and implement a comprehensive website for all recreation in Dover. Currently the Ice Arena is linked to the City of Dover website and all other recreation content is located on another completely different website – very disjointed. A new site modeled after the recommendations made later in this document will be an efficient use of funds, enabling staff to update information at any time, and laying the groundwork for users to register for programs in the future with possible online payment ability. The website should be a convenient one-stop site for residents and visitors alike to obtain information about Dover’s recreation opportunities. The site would also be a way for the Recreation Department to communicate achievements such as successful events, variety of programs offered, and newly renovated parks.
- Utilize cable channel 22 to publicize special events, programs, recreation activities, and opportunities for residents to help.
- Promote and publicize recreation programs and events through local newspapers and media. Another opportunity that may be very effective is having a booth at Apple Harvest Day to communicate its successes and what Dover has to offer through photos, and brochures. This could be a fun way to interact with the public and receive further input from them and may even lead to some key contacts to help the City with certain upcoming projects.
- Re-evaluate eliminating the Community Notes mailer. A majority of people responding to the questionnaire mentioned Community Notes being the primary way they receive information on recreation opportunities. Perhaps there could be a reformatting of the mailer to save on production and postage yet still get pertinent information to the public in a convenient way. Obtaining advertisers might also be a way to limit costs. There could be scaling down on the amount of information contained while directing people to the Recreation Center and City website. The development of a new website will quickly become the most used way people will get their recreation information.

ENHANCE

While Dover has a good variety of parks and facilities, some have deficiencies that need to be corrected. Once corrected by site-specific enhancements, the park or facility will become a high quality recreation spot for those who visit it now and in the years to come. Some enhancements are small in scale while others are larger renovations detailed in the individual park recommendations. Each type is important and need to be steadily accomplished.

- Signage is needed at every park containing key information regarding the park, field, or facility (see comments in the overall recommendations above). In addition, every park and public/private partner area should have a phone number posted that users may call to report safety or maintenance issues for immediate response. In most cases, this number should connect to a city employee, not a generic answering service.

- Increase the number of benches at most locations and tend to those in various stages of disrepair (see individual park needs). Consulting with key members of the Recreation Advisory Board, the City can determine the quantity of benches needed and placement locations within each park. It is recommended Dover investigate a type of bench other than the wood style currently existing in most parks. While benches are a glaring example, picnic tables and trash receptacles are in dire need of design review and updating. Reviewing reputable companies manufacturing streetscape and park amenities along with networking with other cities can provide durable and attractive options that will compliment the context of Dover's character.
- Ensure a balance of age appropriate playground equipment at playgrounds that have or need more than one piece of equipment/apparatus (see individual park recommendations for suggested pieces).
- New apparatus, landscaping (mostly trees), lighting, and fencing, should be accomplished in Dover's existing parks and facilities making them a top-notch destination for all visitors.
- The idea of an artificial turf athletic field has been discussed on and off for a few years. Research should be done on the feasibility of constructing an artificial turf athletic field in Dover. Pros and cons need to be identified and discussed. Questions to be answered are what type of field (specific type of artificial turf surface), what size (what sports it would accommodate), and where it should be located. A desire to maintain the city's current roster of fields to its highest level while wanting to find ways to save on maintenance and repair costs, investigating the viability of this type of field may be of interest to the city.
- An artificial turf field is appealing as it may: alleviate overuse of other natural grass fields, have higher up front construction costs but lower long term maintenance costs, be able to be used many more times each week than any natural grass field, save on maintenance costs related to the other fields.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION SECTION OF
THE CITY OF DOVER WEBSITE

Following a thorough review of the existing recreation site for Dover, it is clear this is an area of need and a great opportunity as a new site would more easily accomplish other existing efforts currently made to communicate with the public. For many, it is often quicker to use a website to find information than it is to locate a phone number and make a call. A new site is attainable and should be the goal of Dover's in the next twelve to twenty-four months.

Efforts related to this recommendation have begun and there are some excellent examples of effective city websites across America that Dover should learn from and even incorporate some useful elements into their site. Following analysis of over 25 various city websites, the consultant and sub-committee for this project have identified items commonly found on highly effective websites. A newly designed website is desperately needed for Dover.

Recommended elements include:

1. A clearly defined and clean layout
2. Use of complimentary colors
3. Photos of the parks, fields, and facilities during events and people using them
4. No information buried at end of pages (no long scrolls)
5. Clear Menu
6. Listing of all parks by type
7. Ability to search by park or by activity interest
8. Family/senior/toddler activity lists?
9. List of all recreation programs
10. Opportunity to register for recreation programs
11. Contact Us information (mail, phone, fax, email)
12. About Us (vision and mission)
13. One-stop site including everything related to recreation (no sub sites)
14. Balance on each page between photos and text/information
15. Link to “20 family friendly things to do in Dover” list and associated information
16. Links to pertinent organizations in Dover such as Chamber of Commerce
17. Upcoming events headlines happening in the recreation department
18. Calendar of events (date followed by event)
19. Reverse links from other organizations
20. A clear, easy to reach link from the City’s homepage
21. A section where individuals, organizations, or corporations can learn how they can invest in the City through donations of their funds or time toward recreation in Dover.

On the page listing all parks, have a general map of Dover with push pins locating each park within the city. Scrolling over a push pin could reveal the name of the park.

Each park name should be linked to its own page where the content has:

- Link for map to park
- Name and address of park
- Short description
- List of elements/amenities
- Hours open
- Contact number for questions
- Photos and captions
- List of planned events
- Where to park
- Things to do/see near park
- Notes regarding park (especially if a school park)

RECOMMENDATIONS ON PLAYGROUND QUALITY AND STANDARDS

All playground improvements should adhere to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standards – ASTM F 1487-07a e1, Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use. Copies of the standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM directly.

- ASTM International
100 Barr Harbor Drive
PO Box C700
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959 USA
P: 610.832.9585
F: 610.832.9555
E: service@astm.org
W: www.astm.org

Listed below are recommended companies with excellent standing in their industry, providing high quality, long lasting playground equipment and first-rate customer service. It should be noted that Dover has used each of these companies in the past. Each company offers design assistance with very knowledgeable employees who can help the City plan for each of its needs. Local representatives and distributors are available by contacting each company. Catalogs and literature on each company containing the services and products they offer are being submitted to the City with this report.

- PLAYWORLD SYSTEMS
Recreation for Life
1000 Buffalo Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837-9795 USA
P: 800.233.8404
P: 570.522.9800
www.playworldsystems.com
- GAMETIME
PO Box 680121
Fort Payne, AL 35968
P: 800.235.2440
www.gametime.com
- LANDSCAPE STRUCTURES
601 7th Street South
PO Box 198
Delano, MN 55328-0198
P: 888.438.6574
P: 763.972.3391
www.playlsi.com

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EACH PARK, ATHLETIC FIELD,
AND FACILITY

POCKET PARKS

Fish Ladder Park

An inspection of the brick wall and detailed fencing should take place as soon as possible and an appropriate course of action taken for needed repairs to the wall and/or fencing. In addition to the wall inspection, the brick walkway needs to be assessed and repaired as there are dips in grades and missing bricks in the walk. There is a sinkhole that reappears after every strong rain in the depressed area; three years ago the walk surface was relatively level, but the Mother's Day floods cause permanent damage that requires more than just additional dirt.

The turf areas between the trees should be removed and replanted with soil, and flowers filling the areas. Signage communicating the purpose of the ladder and describing what fish use the ladder would be very informative to the visitors of this small but interesting park.

Immigrants Park

Continue the current landscape and trash maintenance being accomplished.

Tuttle Square Park

Continue the current landscape and trash maintenance being accomplished. Consistent weed removal in the stonedust path is needed. Inspection of gravel parking area needs to take place adding gravel, grading and compacting as needed for water runoff control.

Waldron Courtyard

Benches or café style table and chairs should be installed to make this a more people friendly space located in the heart of the retail area of Dover.

TOT-LOTS

Alden Woods Children's Playground

This playground could benefit from three shade trees planted along the road to provide shade for parents and children alike. Additional wood chips may also be needed in select areas. Signage is also needed.

Overlook Drive Children's Playground

The City should determine level of use through meeting with residents in the neighborhood. If utilized by the people living in the area, only signage is needed. If not utilized, Dover should consider relocating the playground equipment to another park.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Amanda Howard Park

The existing conditions indicate no maintenance for at least a year. A small park, it should remain clean and simple. The slide and swings need to be replaced with updated versions and a few new benches installed for users to sit and relax. The park needs to be cleaned up of the broken branches and maintained on a regular basis. A dog waste bag system is needed as people walk their dogs in this park.

Applevale Park

Through direct interaction with the residents in the neighborhood surrounding Applevale Park, it appears that the park is currently utilized by its residents to walk and relax. The playground equipment is mostly used as a spot to congregate after dark. The playground equipment needs to be cleaned of graffiti. It should be determined whether the basketball courts are being or would be utilized. If so, the basketball court should be repaired or resurfaced as needed and the goalposts straightened. Residents of the neighborhood should be asked what would make this park more usable. Perhaps a gravel walking path meandering along the park perimeter with a couple benches would be beneficial for those looking to walk for exercise and also for younger families wanting to walk their children in strollers or toddlers alongside. As with other parks, signage is needed as most people we spoke to and responded to the questionnaire do not know that this park exists or where it is located. A more welcoming entrance to the park than the steel gate, railroad ties, and rusty signs is needed even if only for those who live in the neighborhood.

Hancock Park

Renovated in 2007, this park is a huge improvement from the condition it was in. The park only needs finishing touches to be considered complete. Wood chips are needed under the swings. Additional loam, seed, and watering is needed in certain bare areas to prevent erosion and establish a consistent turf area as the grassy area is currently quite sparse. The walkway around the park needs additional material applied and re-graded.

Morningside Park

This park is a vast open-space park and should remain that way, being available for multiple recreation activities. The face-in parking on the grass along the street works well but there should be a wood guardrail installed (similar to the one at Woodman Park) to prohibit cars from entering the park and as a safety measure for children in the park. A couple openings in the guardrail would enable access for all and a metal gate for maintenance vehicles installed as part of the project. The tether ball pole should be removed and the slide, swings, and playground equipment all need to be replaced with updated versions. When choosing new playground apparatus consideration to different age appropriate structures should be given. A larger picnic structure is needed to replace the older, inadequate shelter currently on site. The best location should also be reviewed by park personnel and the Recreation Advisory Board.

Park Street Park

A park in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood, it has tremendous potential. The areas of chain link fence along Park Street and East Concord Street should be removed and replaced with a 4' high black aluminum fence. Gated entrances should remain from both streets. This will remove the feeling of a penitentiary and present a welcoming appearance to

the park while still providing security. All benches in this park need to be replaced as all are either broken or placed in poor locations. The shelter needs a new coat of paint and the gravel trail around the perimeter needs to be renovated, removing weeds and grass beginning to invade the area and additional gravel installed, graded, and compacted. A basketball court can be strategically located in this park and more shade trees would make this a very attractive park and impact this neighborhood in a very positive way.

Spruce Lane

This park needs signage (as mentioned for all the parks) so people will know it's a public space that can be utilized. At the moment, it appears to be private land. City Council designation is needed and recommended to identify this as a city park. There are portions of the park that need additional soil and grading to fill low areas (mainly around the back perimeter of the park). Selective pruning around the perimeter is also considered necessary.

As curbing and sidewalks are discussed for Spruce Lane, consideration should also be given to providing a few parking spaces parallel to the park as there is currently no specific place for visitors to park. Signage should communicate parking is only for park visitors and no overnight parking is allowed.

Though this is considered a "neighborhood park" and not a "community park", this park may be considered a possible location for a dog-park. Located on a cross street between Back River Road and Route 108, it is accessible and not situated among a densely populated neighborhood like some other neighborhood parks. As mentioned earlier in Overall Recommendations, research should be done first including holding some neighborhood meetings to discuss the idea with area residents.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Bellamy Park

The park is in desperate need of basic maintenance. The trash containers were overflowing during our visit and trash was strewn throughout the park including bikes and tires in the river. Leaves and branches cover most of the grassy areas near the parking and approaching the pedestrian bridge leading to the disc golf course. The park needs to be cleaned of leaves and fallen limbs a minimum of twice a year. Analysis and selective pruning of dead tree limbs and removal of trees such as Choke Cherry, Locusts, and Barberry should be accomplished to encourage healthy native species to thrive. The granite around the edge of the parking area needs to be reset and a bike rack installed as many visit the park on bicycles. Some Tee Boxes on the disc golf course were missing or broken. A more durable product is needed. Recycled plastic materials (like those used in playgrounds) might be a good option. 3"x3" posts could be engraved with the Tee number and set in the ground 2-3' to prevent removal or vandalism. Some of the recommended playground equipment companies listed in this document might even be of assistance. The existing recreation building currently used for Camp Fun N Sun is underutilized. Using this building to its fullest potential is recommended and possibilities include using it for senior programs and partnering with the school system in providing outdoor education programs.

City of Dover Community Trail

It is hoped that the Recreation Advisory Board would bring this facility under their wing, possible naming a community trail sub-committee to see this project through to completion. The committee would also be able to pursue the possibility of additional walking paths from the train station to the riverfront and future extension of the trail within the city. City Council designation is needed and recommended to identify this trail as a city park.

Cochecho River Walk

Annual pruning along the river and maintenance of benches is needed in this park. Better signage along with a map visitors may follow as they follow the riverwalk length would be very useful and could also point out other city attractions along the route.

Dover Skatepark

A relocation of this park to Maglaras Park as suggested in the Maglaras Park master plan should be explored along with updating the equipment as there are many new, durable types produced by reputable playground equipment manufacturers. There were a few responses to the questionnaire identifying specific people interested in helping design a new skate park who have experience in this area. Their comments, names and contact numbers can be found in the appendix sections. If this current space falls under the trust of Henry Law Park it can be considered for a new extension of the park.

Garrison Hill Park

This park has the most appalling conditions considering the extent it is marketed to residents and visitors alike. This park needs new paint on the tower, an additional shelter nearer the parking area, and clearer signage for the sledding, snowboard, and nature trails. More frequent police patrols of the park in the evening may result in less graffiti on the tower. Serious consideration should be given to a permanent security camera mounted on the interior of the tower. Electrical power is available, and the video may be transmitted wirelessly. Regular maintenance is needed including trash removal. Signage affixed to trees should be removed and posted nearer the parking area in a more attractive manner. Like the Shaws Lane sledding area, many people don't know this facility is a great location for sledding in the winter. It should be promoted much more and have clearer signage indicating the specific areas to sled and snowboard.

Guppy Park

This park should be renamed as "Guppy Park Sports Complex" consisting of the three major elements already existing – Guppy Field (softball), Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool, and the Dover Ice Arena. There is confusion among people whether Guppy Park is just the softball field and not realizing the Jenny Thompson Pool and Dover Ice Arena are located at Guppy park because of the way they are referenced (ie. "Meet me at the Jenny Thompson Pool"). Renaming it will promote it for what it is – a sports complex meeting many recreation opportunities for residents as well as visitors from outside Dover who play softball, swim, or skate.

In addition to these recommendations for Guppy Park, please refer to specific recommendations made for the Jenny Thompson Pool, Dover Ice Arena, and Softball Field under "City Athletic Fields" and City Recreational Facilities".

Henry Law Park

We recommend a complete redesign of this park and construction alongside the completion of reconstructing Henry Law Avenue. The most used park in Dover and home to most special events, it is a true jewel in the city and really needs upgrading in the areas of shade trees, walkways, parking, lighting, bike racks, trash receptacles, dog waste systems, and benches. The opportunity for a water play feature should be researched and considered. If this park and its walkways are well lighted, it will see public use after dark by those shopping and eating downtown. Combined with what should be lighted walkways in Maglaras Park and Waterfront Park at Dover Landing, this will provide a great place for the many people desiring to exercise after work while enjoying the many views along the water Dover provides.

The playground in front of the indoor pool has seen vastly increased usage since the Cochecho Arts Festival moved its performances to the Rotary Gardens and Pavilion. The opening of the Children's Museum of New Hampshire in the Butterfield Building has attracted even more use of this playground. It should be upgraded with two more playground apparatus, shade trees and benches for adults, 4' high attractive fencing, simple landscaping, and removal of the non-functioning wading pool (usually filled with standing water) and rusted chain link fence. A possible collaboration between the City and the Museum can result in a unique playground tapping into the creativity represented by the Museum exhibits.

Joe Parks Riverwalk and Gardens

Dedicated in honor of Joe Parks in June 2008, this portion of the Cochecho Riverwalk is maintained by volunteers through the Adopt-a-spot program of Dover Main Street. Additional plantings as suggested in the concept plan will help stabilize the slope and provide a variety of Rhododendrons for visitors to view and smell while in bloom. Shorter lampposts (12-14' in height) would also enhance the experience for visitors to this space at night.

Long Hill Memorial Park

Park signage at the entrance on Long Hill Road is much needed. The substantial green space in the back of the park should be considered during any discussions for future additional athletic fields needed in the city as the space can accommodate multiple fields and additional parking with an extension to the entry road. With the increase in residential development over the past ten years in the north end of Dover, this park may have the potential to meet the needs of the people living in this area with its opportunity for expansion. Trees in this park need to be selectively pruned, removing dead limbs. Damaged sections of wood guardrail need to be replaced where needed.

One of the responses received from the public was a desire to see a designated dog park where owners can bring their pets to roam free and get exercise. While creating completely new parks in the city is not recommended at this time, this park can be enhanced with minimal investment (fence installation in the area beyond the basketball court) to include an element not currently existing among Dover's parks. A dog park should consist of adequate fencing around the perimeter to contain dogs and provide them a safe place to run free with owner supervision. A dog waste bag system should be installed and clear signage designating it Dover's dog park.

Maglaras Park

In 2004, the City of Dover began a process of creating a master plan for this park. Completed in 2006, the consulting company, Kaestle Boos Associates, developed an overall improvement plan to guide potential renovations, expansion, and new construction in the park. There is

limited use of the park by the public in its existing state. Kaestle Boos details their recommendations in the executive summary of their report.

The development of this park is not high on the priority list of this chapter update when compared to the maintenance, promotion, and enhancement needs of the other existing parks in the city. With the further dredging of the Cochecho River taking place and anticipated development along the Cochecho River, this park would benefit from a slower approach, taking time over the next 5-10 years to re-assess the needs of Dover recreation before moving forward. A review of the Kaestle Boos plan, both in regards to the specified elements and the scope, is needed as recreation needs and desires of the city may now differ from the plan. The fact remains that this property is an excellent resource Dover to be developed in the future, maybe with some of the elements only on a smaller scale.

We recommend further analysis of the recommendations, specifically related to the baseball field and the location of the primary entrance to the park. Concerns related to possible excessive programming taking place in relation to the newly planned waterfront multi-use development and the proximity to the neighborhoods located off Henry Law Avenue exist. A baseball team along the lines of the Cape Cod League where fans sit on large grass areas instead of larger grandstands may work better and maintain a rural/laid back style of ballpark and facility. Is there a demand for a Cape Cod competition level field? This question, and others, needs to be asked before moving ahead with substantial financial investments. Investigation into any interest from private athletic organizations should happen first instead of building something and then searching for a public/private partnership.

Access to the existing private little league ballfields is shared with the entrance to the park and perhaps a public/private partnership can be established to share some common facilities such as parking or restrooms.

Rotary Gardens and Pavilion at Henry Law Park

Maintained by Dover Rotary, this park is in very good shape. The City should eliminate the erosion issue along Henry Law Avenue with additional gravel, asphalt, and compacting with a plate compactor as this is a liability for people parking along this area especially children visiting the museum. Permanent erosion control should be accomplished during the planned redesign and construction of Henry Law Avenue consisting of granite curbing and proper water runoff control.

Waterfront Park at Dover Landing

There are no recommendations for this park at the time of this update. The planned two acre park, which will continue to be owned by the City, is in the design phase and will be constructed as part of phase one of the waterfront parcel development with construction projected to begin in fall of 2009.

Willand Pond Park

The glaring need for this unique park is to cure the serious water level issues plaguing it, then repairing the access road off New Rochester Road and damaged portions of the trail. A licensed arborist should be consulted along with the Department of Environmental Services regarding what to do or not to do to the many trees (more than a hundred) that have died all along the shoreline as a result of this neglected problem. Dead limbs and trees are now beginning to fall along the path and parking areas as a result of action not taken. Full access to

the trail is still not possible as large portions of the path are still under water. Trash and debris are becoming more and more visible throughout the once beautiful, nature site as it depicts a neglected park.

Improved signage along the trail such as how far hikers are from the other end and “no skidding” for bikers would really enhance the trail. Additional signage communicating “tread lightly”, “leave only footprints”, “please keep nature clean – remove all trash” should be posted on the trail. Annual maintenance of leaf litter on the trail in conjunction with additional compacted gravel, will ensure proper drainage and trail longevity. Regular mowing of the grassy overlook will result in more frequent picnic use of this park.

SCHOOL PARKS AND FIELDS

Dover High School

There are no recommendations for enhancement but a pro-active relationship between the City and the schools should be established/strengthened to share use of the athletic fields to help balance field usage and enabling maintenance to be accomplished on fields in need of repair on a regular basis.

Dover Middle School

There are no recommendations for enhancement but a pro-active relationship between the City and the schools should be established/strengthened to share use of the athletic fields to help balance field usage and enabling maintenance to be accomplished on fields in need of repair on a regular basis.

Garrison Elementary School

The tennis courts, baseball fields, and playground area are a nice compliment to the Shaws Lane athletic fields across the street; but there are some needed repairs to make it a safe place for all. Soil erosion in various locations threaten to do further damage, specifically around the tennis courts risking larger problems to the courts themselves. This should be repaired with compacted gravel and then soil added and hydroseeded. The benches also need repair or replacement.

Horne Street School

Horne Street Park has been upgraded since the 2000 update with an improved baseball field and playground area with updated apparatus. The park still has some items needing attention for it to be complete. Additional benches in the vicinity of the playground would be helpful for parents and children alike. A few benches around the tennis courts would definitely be utilized also. Some general tree pruning in the park will eliminate hazardous situations and promote health in the mature trees on the site. The tennis courts need some minor repair of cracks before it becomes a larger and more expensive issue to fix. The future of the basketball courts area needs to be determined as the existing courts are decrepit. It appears the courts were at one time designated for public in-line skating but looks as if it hasn't been maintained for some time now and is a liability.

Woodman Park School

This park is in great shape as major elements (baseball field, track, playground, and tennis courts) have been recently updated. It is recommended that this baseball field or Dunaway

Field at the high school be fitted for lights for night games. Additional gravel in the parking area at the tennis courts is needed. A wood guardrail, also mentioned at Morningside Park, should be installed in front of the tennis courts. Regular maintenance of the wood chips at the playground and quickly removing graffiti from the equipment are needed. Loam and hydroseed are needed to stabilize the slope and prevent further rapid erosion along the side of the tennis courts. Damage to the newly surfaced tennis courts is imminent without prompt attention. Benches and shade trees (strategically placed near the basketball and tennis courts) would really complete this attractive multi-use park.

CITY ATHLETIC FIELDS

Shaw's Lane Ballfields

Better signage is needed as many still don't realize this facility is a great location for sledding in the winter. It is well used by those who know. It should be promoted much more and have signage indicating the area. The gravel walking/jogging trail around the fields is used by many individuals and those walking pets. Pet-waste bags are located at the entrance – these need to be monitored on a frequent basis to avoid waste being left on the athletic fields. A sign should also communicate to users to bring their own plastic bags. Interviews with those who use the trail clearly indicated they prefer the trail to be gravel as an alternative for those who don't like to run on an asphalt surface. The trail needs basic maintenance of additional gravel to prevent weeds from taking over. Loam and hydroseed are needed to match the asphalt grade surrounding the concession facility. The grass in this area is rather sparse and needs to withstand heavy use.

Softball Field at Guppey Park

This softball field is the only adult softball field in the city. While one field is adequate for Dover's usage, the field needs to be renovated, new bleachers installed on concrete slabs (like Woodman Park), parking areas need to be defined using gravel or another permeable surface, and there needs to be selective clearing of the woodland at the entrance to more clearly define the entrance and provide safe sightlines for vehicular access and egress. In addition, a new playground should be constructed to provide opportunities for children as well as adults. A set of swings and one apparatus for children 5-12 years old surrounded by wood chips would be a welcome amenity to this site. The playground area should be designed to be placed in an area not interfering with the softball game – possibly located behind and off to the side of the backstop area. Clear signage is also needed to maintain safety at this park. To set a standard for positive conduct at the park, a "rules of conduct" notice should be visible at the ballfield and communicated to all participating teams and leagues. Riverside Park in Rochester is an example of a well utilized facility where teams, as part of the agreement for use of the field, help in the regular maintenance of the field and clean up trash each week.

Adult softball in Dover should be better promoted and expanded with the possible result being a league of different divisions based on level of ability.

Sullivan Field and Playground

Signage at the street is needed to give this nice ball field and playground proper opportunity for use. The attractive wood guardrail should be extended across the back of the concession stand and have a metal gate installed allowing maintenance vehicles access. Loam and seed are

needed on the sparse grass area next to the concession stand. The existing wood rail fence in the playground needs minor repair and should be extended another seven sections or roughly 56' along the woodland border and a shelter installed in the sand area of the playground for parents to be shielded from the sun and to socialize with other parents at the playground or ball field.

CITY RECREATION FACILITIES

Dover Ice Arena

There are no recommendations on the interior of the building at this time; however, an unsafe pedestrian area exists at the northeast corner of the facility. Eliminating the first parking space located between the building and the Birch tree and replacing with a raised walkway paved with asphalt and bordered by granite curbing is needed to provide a safe public access flow from the parking area and the satellite parking lot.

Dover Indoor Pool

This facility is in very good condition and well used by the public. Some interviewed during this project indicated it is a valued spot to exercise and swim indoors for those who cannot be exposed to the sun for an extended period of time. Recommendations include continuing regular inspections and maintenance schedules ensuring a long life of the facility. Parking availability needs to be reviewed as this area of the city has seen increased use in the last year.

Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool

Installation of a toddler focused playground apparatus near the existing shelter is recommended. This will serve the purpose of younger siblings being able to explore and play while their older siblings are swimming at a meet. It will also be utilized during open swim times throughout the summer by the many children and families who utilize the facility.

The 1988 and 2000 master plans recommended investigating the feasibility of enclosing Jenny Thompson Pool. Constructing a removable or supported structure to allow open-air swimming in the summer season was mentioned in past discussions. Research should again be done to determine the viability of this idea. Though enclosing this pool might be seen as enhancing an existing park/facility, the costs associated with the engineering, construction, and followed by the ongoing maintenance and additional staffing make this project seem excessive when many of the City's other parks have needs as mentioned in this section.

The potential closing of the indoor pool to help fund this is unwarranted since the indoor pool currently exists, is well utilized, and has had financial investments made toward significant renovations in the last ten years.

A study showing demand for this substantial renovation by the residents of Dover as well as from private athletic organizations should be well established along with estimated usage before expending recreation funds on a project this size. Demand needs to be established beyond just peak hours (as there may be many hours where the facility is sparsely used) to justify the maintenance and staffing costs. A public/private partnership may be needed for this project to be achievable. Interaction with the public in updating this chapter did not seem to indicate a strong desire to make this pool usable all year. Though an indoor pool of this size would be a

nice feature, if it came at the expense of the many other recreation needs that exist, it would not be a wise use of funds.

The current bathhouse at the pool will be replaced with a newer, much improved, changing facility. Thought should be given to its specific placement and possible renovations to the recreation facility in the future.

While volleyball may not be the most popular recreation or the one in highest demand, Dover has an existing sand volleyball court located on this site. The City should consider maintaining the existing court which may only need defined edges, additional sand, and a new net to make this usable once again.

Recreation Department Facilities at McConnell Center

Clearer signage is needed to direct visitors to the center on both the exterior and interior of the building as it can be confusing for Dover residents or visitors attending a class or meeting in the building. Landscaping needs to be completed around the building both for aesthetic quality and to eliminate soil erosion in key spots. The large lawn area in front needs overseeding in the fall to establish a durable lawn area and thus encourage viable use by the public. The planting of additional shade trees around the perimeter would enhance the area and define the space. This lawn area could be used for outdoor activities by all who use the McConnell Center and can be an attractive location for art shows/festivals like the village green is used in North Scituate, Rhode Island.

Senior Center at McConnell Center

There are no recommendations at this time aside from the clearer signage mentioned for the McConnell Center.

STATE PARK

Hilton State Park

Following the redesign of the Little Bay Bridge, a review of the park by the City of Dover and the State of New Hampshire should take place to maximize the potential of this park as many questionnaire respondents mentioned the positive qualities and desire to use this park.

PRIVATE FIELDS AND FACILITIES

Beckwith Ballfields

There are no current recommendations regarding these privately owned facilities.

Cochecho Country Club

There are no current recommendations regarding these privately owned facilities.

Dover Little League Ballfields

There are no current recommendations regarding these privately owned facilities.

Portsmouth Christian Academy

Explore possible opportunities to share use of the school's athletic fields.

Saint Thomas Aquinas High School

Explore possible opportunities to share use of the school's athletic fields.

SUMMARY

In summary, the recommendations listed here are intended as an action plan for the next ten years, prioritized and directed by the qualified persons in the appropriate positions.

Maintenance relating to safety is of most importance and requires immediate attention. Reviewing all maintenance strategies to make wise use of time and resources is to be done also.

Strategic promotion of Dover's parks, fields, and facilities should include an attractive re-design of the recreation website, exploring other opportunities to announce and celebrate recreation in Dover, and pursuit of public/private partnerships leading to better maintenance and enhancements overall.

Enhancements to Dover's existing parks, fields, and facilities should be accomplished before constructing a new park (beyond what is already designed and approved). Some enhancements are minor while some are major renovations resulting from lack of upkeep or changing needs in the community. Major renovations include:

- Henry Law Park – A very well visited park and used for many events. Very visible.
- Park Street Park – Has potential to make positive change in the quality of life for those in this neighborhood.
- Garrison Hill Park – A highly visible and promoted park by the City.
- Guppey Softball Field – Potential for revenue, and meeting desire for this sport in and outside the City.
- Maglaras Park – Long term plan of Dover, meeting changing needs, impacting amount of athletic field usage at other locations and relocation of the skatepark.



Hilton State Park



Dover Indoor Pool



Garrison Hill Park



Dover Recreation Programs

The following is a list of all programs currently offered directly through the Dover Recreation Department

Special Events

Fourth of July Fireworks and Entertainment
Easter Egg Hunt
Fishing Derby
Halloween Happenings
Christmas Tree Lighting

Enrichment/Challenge Programs

Line Dancing*
Indoor Youth Climbing*
Indoor Women's Climbing*
Indoor Adult Climbing*
Arts and Crafts
Adapted Aquatics
Senior Social Activities

Lessons

Swimming Lessons Preschool Year Round*
Swimming Lessons Infant/Toddler Year Round*
Swimming Lessons Fall Level 1 through 7 *
Swimming Lessons Winter Level 1 through 5*
Swimming Lessons Spring Levels 1 through 6*
Swimming Lessons Summer Level 1 through 7*
Swimming Lessons Adult Year Round*
Springboard Diving Lessons Summer*
Lifeguard Training*
Water Safety Instructor*
Ice Skating Lessons Preschool Fall/Winter/Spring**
Ice Skating Lessons Youth Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer**

Ice Skating Lessons Adult Fall/Winter/Spring**
Intro to Hockey Youth Fall/Winter/Spring**
Intro to Hockey Adult Fall/Winter/Spring**
Golf Lessons*
Tennis Lessons*
Music Lessons Band Instruments*
Boxing Lessons*

Camps

Summer Day Camp Sun N Fun (Bellamy Park)*
Summer Day Camp Kool (Dover Arena)**
Summer Playgrounds Program
Winter Vacation Camp*
Spring Vacation Camp*
Tennis Camp*
Music/Theater Camp*
Hockey Camp**
Basketball Camp*

Sports Programs

Lil Shots Basketball*
Midget Basketball*
5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball House League*
5th and 6th Grade Boys Basketball Travel Team*
5th and 6th Grade Girls Basketball *
Junior High Girls Basketball*
Junior High Boys Basketball*
High School coed Fall Basketball League*
High School Girls Basketball Winter League*
High School Boys Basketball Northeast League*
Coed Adult Hockey League Year Round**
Women's Hockey League (Chix with Stix) Year Round**
Adult Instructional Hockey League Fall/Winter/Spring**
3 on 3 Youth Spring Hockey League**
On Track Youth Track Program Spring/Summer
Indoor Soccer Spring*

Fitness Programs

Aerobics Adult Year Round*
Yoga, Adult, Senior*
Pilates, Beginner, Intermediate*
Senior Exercise Programs

* These programs are run through the Recreation Special Revenue Fund and are not subsidized by taxes in the General Fund.

** These programs are in the Arena Enterprise Fund and are not in the General Fund.

Adopt-A-Spot Locations

Location	Area	Work
Mast Road/Back River Road	Corner	Mowing/plantings
Oak and Portland Ave (corner)	Corner	Mow/litter/planting
Bellamy Road/Route 108	Corner	Mowing/trimming/planting
Bellamy Road/Rt 155/Route 9 Intersection	Corner	Mow/flower planting
Main Street/Washington Street - left side	Corner - Left Side	Planting/mowing
Library Monument	Around monument	Flowers
George Street	Monument/flagpole	Mow/trim
Austin-Tuttle Cemetery (Old Dover Point Road)	Cemetery	Mow/trim
Drew Cemetery (Garrison Rd/Back River Road)	Cemetery	Mow/trim
Roberts Cemetery (Dover Point Road)	Cemetery	Mowing/trimming
Pinkham Cemetery (Dover Point Road/Bellamy Lane)	Cemetery	Mow/trim
Sixth Street Cemetery (near Liberty Mutual)	Cemetery	Cleanup
Amanda Howard Park (Elmwood and Fairview Ave)	Park	Litter control/mow
Applevale Park (Applevale Drive)	Park	Litter control/mowing
Bellamy Park and Parking Lot (Bellamy Road)	Park	Litter control
Hancock Park	Park	Litter control/mowing
Horne Street Park	Park	Litter control/mowing
Long Hill Park	Park	
Maglaras Park (at playground)	Park	Litter control/mowing
Morningside Park	Park	Litter control/mowing
Woodman Park	Park	Litter control
Main Street Park	Park	Flowers
Park Street Park	Park	Litter control/mowing
Riverwalk - Henry Law Park	Park	Mow/flowers/weeding
Immigrants Park	Park	Mow/trim/flowers
Tuttle Square Park (Silver & Central)	Park	Weed, mulch
Garrison Hill Park	Park	Litter/weeding/brush cutting
Maglaras Park Ball Fields (not soccer fields)	Ball Field	Litter control/mowing

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Shaw's Lane Ballfields	Ball Field	Litter control
Riverwalk - Gardens and Henry Law Park	Gardens	Weeding/planting
Henry Law Park (Lower)	Riverwalk	Flower beds
Riverwalk (North) (Chestnut to Central)	Riverwalk (north)	Brush Cutting
Henry Law Park (Upper)	Rotary Garden	Flower bed
Glenwood & Whittier Streets	Sides of road	Mow/trim
Veterans Building (Community Club) Back River Road	Around building In front of	Mow/trim/litter control
Miracle Mile	businesses	Mowing
Silver Street Extension	Path under pike	Litter
Durham Road (near Back River Road)	Welcome Sign	Mow/trim/flowers
Stark/Central	Welcome sign	Flower bed
City Hall Flower Bed (Hale Street)	Flower bed	Flowers
Woodman Park Welcome to Dover Sign Planter	Flower bed	Plantings, etc
School Street Parking Lot (2nd half of island)	Perennial Flower Bed	Weeding/planting
Crosby Road	Sign	Mowing
Columbus Avenue/Route 9	Island	Mowing
Drew Road/Back River Road	Island	Mowing/flowers
Hartswood Road	Island	Mowing
Jeness Street Hill	Island	Mowing,etc
Locust and Central Avenue Intersection	Island	Mow/trim
Portland Avenue/Chapel Street	Island	Mow/trim
Spur Road & Gerrish Road	Island	Mowing
Washington/Arch Street	Island	Mow/trim
Walnut Street (island closest to St Thomas Street)	Island	Trim/weed/plantings
Broadway/St John/Winter	Island	Mowing/planting
George/Angle/Central	Island	Mow/trim
Back River Road (near Durham Road)	Island	Mow/trim/flowers
Dover Point Road int. of Middle Road	Island	Flowers
Main Street/Washington Street	Island	Mow/trim/plantings
Toftree Lane	Island	Mow/trim
Chestnut & Central	Island	Mowing
Spruce Lane/Back River Road	Island	Mowing/flowers
Third Street Parking Lot (Chestnut Street end)	Island	Mow/weed/mulch
LongHill/Sixth Street	Island with boulder	Mow/trim
Locust/St Thomas	Islands	Trim/weed/flowers
Third & Central	Island	Flower bed
Walnut Street (now Chestnut Street)	Island - Traffic	Trim/weed/plantings
Central and Stark	Island - Traffic	Flowers
Main Street/Portland Ave	Island - Traffic (2)	Flowers/weeding
Silver & Arch Street	Island - Intersection	Mow/trim
Pierce/Broadway	Island - Intersection	Mow/trim/flowers

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Locust/Chestnut Street island	Island - Parking Lot Mow/trim/flowers
School Street Parking Lot Island (1st half to bush)	Island Planting
School Street Parking Lot (1st teardrop section)	Island - Tear drop Mow/trim/plantings
Pondview Drive	Island - Cul-de-sac Mow/trim



Public Questionnaire

Dover Recreation Master Plan 2008 Public Questionnaire

Please return to:
Dover Recreation Questionnaire
Recreation Department
McConnell Center
61 Locust Street Dover NH 03820

**...or drop in box at concession stand
if you're filling this out at a ballgame.**

About you

Are you a Dover resident? Y / N

What is your age group: 1-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61-70, 71-80, 81+

Do you have children? Y / N

If Yes, what are their ages? _____

What parks and facilities do you and your family use? (check all that apply)

- Bellamy Park
- Guppey Park
- Henry Law Park (HLP)
- Canoe Launch at HLP
- Rotary Gardens and Pavilion at HLP
- Dover Skate Park
- Cochecho River Walk
- Maglaras Park
- Garrison Hill Park
- Willand Pond Park
- Morningside Park
- Hancock Street Park
- Park Street
- Long Hill Memorial Park
- Applevale Park
- Tuttle Square Park
- Other _____
- Fish Ladder Park at Mills
- Woodman Park School
- Horne Street School
- Garrison Elementary School
- Dover Middle School
- Beckwith Ballfields

- Southside Little League Ballfields
- Shaws Lane Ballfields
- Willand Pond and Trail
- McConnell Center
- Amanda Howard
- Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool
- Dover Indoor Pool
- Dover Ice Arena
- Cochecho Country Club
- Hilton State Park
- Immigrants Park

Top 3 reasons you go to these parks _____

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How often do you go to a park or facility? _____

- Rarely
- Once every 6 months
- Once a month
- Once a week
- More frequently

~~~ PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE TOO! ~~~

**What recreation or type of park / ballfield would you like to see Dover provide but doesn't vet?**

**How important are parks and recreation to your quality of life?** \_\_\_\_\_

- Not
- Somewhat
- Very

**Do you use the park or facility closest to your residence?** \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes
- No **If No, why not?** \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the biggest needs for parks and recreation facilities in Dover? (check all that apply)**

- More parks (what type? \_\_\_\_\_)
- More ballfields (what type? \_\_\_\_\_)
- Maintenance ie. mowing, trash pickup, etc..
- Improve what Dover has with more benches, lighting, trees, etc...
- Promotion
- Age appropriate apparatus/playground equipment
- Signage
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**How do you get information on parks, facilities, and recreation programs?** \_\_\_\_\_

- City website
- Channel 22
- Community Notes

- Dover Download email
- Newspaper
- Friends

How does Dover do in promoting/marketing its parks and recreation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

- Poor
- Fair
- Good
- Excellent

Name 3 things that are done well regarding Dover's parks and facilities \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Any additional comments and suggestions you'd like to share?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks for your participation!**  
**The 2008 Dover Recreation Master Plan Sub-Committee\**



## Top Three Reasons to Use Parks

**Public Input from Questionnaire:  
 “TOP THREE REASONS YOU GO TO THESE PARKS”  
 (alphabetized and spell corrected)**

- A lot of people
- A nice place to walk
- AAU and School Basketball
- Access
- accessibility
- Active outdoor areas
- Activities offered
- Activities, free and fun
- Activities being held there
- activities for my kids age
- activities with kids
- activities with our children
- activity
- activity we signed up for
- After school play with friends
- Afterschool programs/summer programs
- Allow our son to play with other children
- Allow the children to have fun on equipment not otherwise at our home.
- Always have since I was a kid
- ample, free parking with public family restrooms
- Appropriate equipment
- area for kids to run, climb, play on structures
- area to run
- Arts Festival
- arts festival at Henry Law Park
- As a former Dover resident, I bring my grandchildren to the parks
- athletic events (teeball, soccer)
- Attend an event
- attend events
- Attend events
- attend summer camps
- attend town celebrations
- Attending school and playing on playgrounds
- Availability
- availability
- Availability
- Baseball games
- Ball field for sports with kids
- ball games
- BALL GAMES

- Ball games and practices
- Ball field
- Ballgames
- Ballgames, concerts, festivals, exercise
- Baseball
- baseball
- baseball
- Baseball
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- Baseball
- baseball
- baseball
- Baseball
- baseball
- Baseball
- baseball games
- baseball games
- baseball games
- Baseball games
- baseball games/practices
- baseball league
- Baseball league
- Baseball Practice/Games
- Baseball/ softball events
- baseball/softball
- basketball
- basketball
- Basketball

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- Basketball
- Basketball
- basketball
- Basketball
- Basketball
- basketball
- Basketball at the McConnell Center
- basketball hoops
- Be able to participate in organized sports for the City and for the interaction with other children their age.
- be outdoors
- Beautifully kept
- beauty
- beauty of water
- because I can
- Because I love them
- Because of their location
- Because they are fun
- Because they're available
- Being near the water
- Bellamy Part - Recreation - Frisbee Golf
- Benches
- bike ride destination
- bike riding
- birthday parties
- Boat launch
- Boat launch
- Boat Ramp
- boating access
- bring kids to run around and play
- Bring visitors
- Brings step-kids
- Cal Ripken Baseball
- Celebrate the outdoors
- change of scenery for the kids
- child entertainment
- child plays softball
- child social interaction
- children play baseball
- Children swim and play base-ball for Dover Sports
- Children to play
- Children's activities
- Children's Games
- Children's Activities
- children's activities/games/practices
- choose parks based on quality of the park facilities and grounds
- City of Dover "public" events
- clean
- Clean
- clean
- Clean
- Clean
- clean
- Clean
- Clean environment
- cleanliness
- Cleanliness
- Cleanliness
- Close
- Close
- Close by
- Close by

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- close by
- close place to go for activity
- Close to home
- close to home
- Close to home
- Close to me
- Close to my home
- Close to my house
- Close to where I live
- Coach and watch my kids play hockey
- Coach baseball
- Cochecho Arts Festival
- Cochecho Festival
- Cocheco River Walk for exercise and fishing
- Community events
- Community events
- concert
- Concerts
- Concerts
- Concerts
- Concerts
- concerts at HLP
- condition of parks
- Convenience
- Convenience
- convenience
- Convenient
- Convenient location
- Convenient
- Cool off
- Cool off
- Cooling off at Hilton park
- cost
- courts
- daughters girl scouts
- daughters softball game
- Daughters swim practice
- Daycare
- DHS Sports games/practices
- DHS Volleyball and Tennis
- disc golf
- dog park where dogs could go off leash
- dog walking
- dog walking
- Dover Baseball
- Dover Baseball practice/games
- Dover fun day
- Dover night out
- Dover Vacation Camps - Camp Sun 'n Fun
- Dover youth softball
- DYHA hockey games/practices
- Dover youth soccer league
- DOVER YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE
- easily accessible to where I live
- eat
- economical
- Economics
- Education (class at McConnell Center)
- Employment (Daughter Shayna Duffy)
- energy release for my kids
- Enjoy open spaces
- enjoy open spaces

- Enjoy the beauty of the park
- enjoy the city parks
- enjoy the outdoors
- enjoy the outdoors
- enjoy the outdoors
- enjoy the outdoors
- enjoy the scenery
- enjoy the staff and like that you can do things during the day
- enjoy time with children
- enjoy view
- Enjoy watching ball games
- enjoy weather
- Enjoying friends and the outdoors
- Enjoyment
- Enjoyment
- enjoyment of outdoors
- Enjoyment of outdoors
- entertain grandchildren
- entertain grandchildren
- Entertaining/meet[?]
- entertaining facilities for the kids
- ENTERTAINMENT
- Entertainment
- Entertainment
- Entertainment
- entertainment
- Entertainment
- Entertainment - Cochecho Arts Festival
- Entertainment for my children/family.
- event
- event
- Events
- Events
- Events
- Excellent facility
- Excellent youth hockey program/fair pricing
- Exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise some more
- exercise
- Exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- Exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
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- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- exercise
- Exercise
- Exercise
- exercise - people and dogs
- Exercise - pools
- Exercise & Fun
- Exercise & relaxation.
- exercise for my child (and myself)
- Exercise/Play
- Experience new things
- Explore
- Extra curricular sports: Games and practices
- Family activities
- family activities
- family fun
- Family fun
- family fun
- Family gatherings.
- Family members play sports
- Family outing
- Family outing
- family outing
- Family outing
- Family Outing
- Family outings with friends
- Family outings/picnics
- Family recreation
- family recreation
- family time
- Family time

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- Family time
- family time
- FAMILY TIME
- family time
- family time
- Family time - walk/play with child/dog in area
- family time/get togethers
- family unity
- Family/friend time
- Fence
- fields
- Fish at Henry Law and Hilton, jog at Shaw's lane
- fishing
- Fishing
- fishing
- Fishing
- fishing
- fishing
- fishing
- fishing (when Willand is safe)
- Fitness
- Fitness concerns
- flag football
- Football
- football
- for baseball/softball games
- For class or practice (soccer)
- for entertainment
- for exercise
- For kids to play
- For my son to play
- for the kids to play on the equipment
- for the open space to be able to play football etc
- For the playgrounds
- for the surroundings/ view
- free
- Free fun
- free local fun
- fresh air
- fresh air
- Fresh air
- fresh air
- Fresh air
- Fresh air
- fresh air, exercise, fun
- Friendly people
- Friends
- Friends
- Frisbee
- Frisbee golf
- fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun
- fun
- fun
- fun
- Fun
- Fun

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- fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun
- fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun
- Fun atmosphere
- fun equipment
- fun for kids
- Fun for the kids
- Fun to walk
- fun w/ kids
- Fun, legal place to skateboard.
- Fun, Meeting friends and neighbors
- GAMES
- Games - soccer
- gathering
- gatherings
- Geocaching
- get kids outdoors
- Get out of the house
- get out of the house
- Get out with family
- get the 16 yr old away from computer games
- get together with friends
- Go swimming/ice skating
- Go to events - especially summer concerts
- going to playground when my niece visits
- Golf
- golf (CCC)
- Good exercise
- Good picnicking
- Good relaxing
- Good walking
- Grandchildren
- Granddaughter
- Great family parks
- great for kids
- Great for kids
- Great fun
- great places to meet friends and family
- Great staff
- Green space
- Green space
- group sports for children
- hang out
- hang out
- Hang out with family
- Hang out with family
- Hang with friends
- hanging out
- have fun
- have fun
- have fun
- Having fun with family
- health
- Henry Law park for Dover night out
- HEY - FINISH UP TENNIS COURTS
- hike and enjoy the outdoors

- Hikes/bike trails
- hiking
- hiking
- Hiking
- Hiking
- hiking trails
- hiking with family & dog
- Hiking/jogging
- hiking/walk
- Hockey
- Hockey
- Hockey
- Hockey
- hockey
- Hockey
- Hockey is part of our family and very important to us
- hockey/ice-skate
- Home Shows
- Husband plays Basketball @ McConnell
- I can put kayak in the Cocheco river
- I enjoy the activities at the park
- I got to pavilion concerts
- I like to swim
- I obviously don't go.
- I play a little tennis
- I play hockey
- I skate in summer
- I work at Garrison
- I work for Garrison School
- ice skating
- ice skate
- ice skating
- ICE SKATING LESSONS
- It has a play structure that is safe and clean
- it looks good
- It's free and close
- it's free!!!
- Just because
- just get out in nature for a short while, when there's not enough time for a long hike
- Just hang out
- just some quiet time
- just to be outside
- Just to play on the gym sets
- Just to walk around
- kayak
- Kayak launch
- kayaking
- Keep the kids busy, active & away from TV
- Kid programs
- kid's sporting events
- kids
- kids activities
- kids activities
- kids activities...i.e. baseball, soccer, etc
- Kids can have fun
- Kids can play
- kids can swing
- kids enjoy it
- Kids enjoyment
- kids events
- Kids have swimming lessons
- kids just to play

- Kids play ball there
- Kids play Dover Rec sports
- kids sports
- Kids Sports
- Kids sports
- Kids sports
- Kids team sports
- Kids to play
- kids to play
- Kids, games
- Kayaking
- lacrosse
- Launch kayak
- Launch kayak
- LAX
- Leisure
- leisure
- Let grandchildren play
- let kids play
- let the kids run around & explore
- Like to be outside
- little league
- little league baseball
- Little League Baseball
- little league games
- Live across the street from one
- Local Recreation (no transportation costs)
- Local sports
- Local support
- location
- Location
- Location
- Location
- location
- Location
- location - need to stay closer to home for entertainment/relaxation due to high price of gas
- look at things
- lots to do. Horne street school has two huge playgrounds, tennis courts. Keeps kids busy, not bored. Henry Law has playground and a trail around water.
- Love ice skating
- Love the kids concerts at the pavilion
- Low cost recreation
- McConnell center - work out at gym
- meet friends
- meet friends
- meet friends for activities
- Meet up with friends
- meet up with friends
- meet up with other parents and their children
- meeting people
- Meetings
- Members of Cochecho Country Club
- Men's Rec Basketball
- misc recreation activities
- Money stays in community (recreation fees)
- Music events
- music fest
- Music festivals
- My children play baseball, football
- My children swim for Seacoast swim association
- my kids participate in sports
- My kids play hockey and figure skate

- My uncle bikes
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- nature setting
- Nature walk, collect insects
- Near the water
- Near water-boating
- nearby
- Nearby
- New Gym
- Nice parks
- Nice parks
- nice places to play
- niceness
- Open space
- open space
- Opportunities to socialize with other parents outdoors
- organized games
- Organized soccer matches
- organized sport/lessons
- Organized Sporting Event
- ORGANIZED SPORTS
- Organized sports
- Organized Sports
- Organized Sports
- Organized sports
- organized sports, softball, soccer
- other events
- other sports organization games/practices
- our children's sporting events
- Outdoor activity
- outdoor activities
- outdoor activity for kids
- OUTDOOR ENJOYMENT
- outdoor environment
- outdoor events
- Outdoor music and entertainment
- Outdoor pool - summer heat
- outdoor sport
- outdoors
- Outing
- Outside family time together
- outside time/fresh air
- Parking
- participate in programs/functions at these facilities
- participate in team sports
- peace & quite
- Peace and quiet
- peace and quite
- peace/nature
- peacefulness
- Physical Activity
- Physical activity
- Pickup sports
- picnic
- picnic
- picnic
- Picnic
- picnic
- Picnic
- picnic

- Picnic
- picnic
- picnic
- picnic
- PICNIC
- picnic
- Picnic
- Picnic
- picnic
- Picnic
- picnic
- Picnic
- Picnic
- Picnic with friends
- picnic, ball playing, kite flying
- Picnic/play
- Picnicking
- Picnicking and hearing music
- Picnicking
- Picnics
- Picnics
- Picnics
- picnics
- picnics
- Picnics
- Picnics and walking
- Place to hold outdoor playgroups.
- place to walk and enjoy
- play
- play
- Play
- play
- Play
- Play
- play
- play
- play
- Play a sport
- play and be outside - DO NOT CLOSE OUR OUTDOOR POOL PLEASE!!
- play and coach soccer
- play area for kids
- play baseball
- Play baseball
- Play baseball
- play basketball
- play catch
- play catch
- Play Catch
- play dates without having to host
- play games
- Play hockey
- Play hockey
- play hockey
- play organized sports
- play sets
- play soccer
- play softball
- play sports
- Play sports
- play sports
- play sports
- Play sports





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- playing on playgrounds
- playtime
- Pleasant atmosphere
- pleasant atmosphere; to be outdoors
- pleasure
- pleasure
- Practice
- Practice soccer
- Practices with youth sports team
- pretty
- Price
- Proximity
- Proximity
- Proximity to home
- proximity to home
- Quality family time
- Quality of facilities
- quiet time
- range of equipment
- Re-creation
- Rec - soccer/basketball
- Rec & others
- Rec sports
- Rec youth sport programs
- Recreation and exercise
- Recreation
- Recreation
- Recreation
- recreation
- Recreation
- recreation
- recreation
- recreation
- Recreation
- Recreation
- Recreation / exercise
- recreation lessons/sports
- Recreation time with family members
- recreation with the kids
- Recreational
- recreational kayaking
- Relation
- relax
- Relax
- Relax
- relax
- Relax
- relax
- Relax
- relax and enjoy scenery
- Relax and see nature
- Relax and Sun tan
- relax/socialize
- relaxation
- relaxation
- relaxation
- Relaxation
- Relaxation
- relaxation
- relaxation
- relaxation

- relaxation
- relaxation
- Relaxation (view nature)
- relaxing
- Relaxing
- Relaxment
- relaxation
- Rivers
- Run on the tracks
- running on the tracks
- Safe
- Safe
- Safe place for the kids to play
- safe place to play
- Safety
- Safety
- safety for toddlers
- Saint Mary Summer Camp - Pool
- scenery
- scheduled activities for my children
- scheduled activity
- Scheduled event
- School functions
- school/activity events
- see fireworks
- see fireworks
- See grandson play ball
- Senior center at McConnell
- Share in community
- sit
- sitting
- Skate lessons
- skateboarding
- Skater
- Skating
- skating
- skating and ice hockey
- skating, hockey and figure skating
- Sledding
- Sledding
- sledding
- Sledding in winter
- Sledding in winter
- Slides and playground equipment
- So the kids can play
- Soccer
- Soccer
- Soccer
- Soccer
- soccer
- Soccer
- soccer
- soccer
- Soccer
- Soccer
- soccer
- Soccer
- Soccer
- soccer
- soccer
- Soccer
- Soccer

- Soccer
- Soccer coach
- soccer games
- soccer games
- Soccer games and practice
- soccer league
- Soccer practices and games
- Social
- Social
- Social
- social
- social opportunity for kids
- socialization
- Socialization
- socialize
- socialize
- Socialize with other people in the community.
- Socialize with others
- Socialize, picnic, hang out
- Socializing
- softball
- softball
- softball
- softball
- softball
- Softball
- Softball
- Softball
- softball
- softball
- Softball
- softball
- Softball
- softball
- Softball
- softball and soccer
- Softball at Shaw's Lane
- Softball Games
- SOFTBALL GAMES
- softball league
- Softball practice/games
- softball/baseball
- Something to do
- Something to do
- Son and friends play wiffleball @ Morningside
- Sons are in baseball/soccer
- Special events
- Special Events
- special events
- special events
- Special events - dog days, political candidate, etc.
- Special Olympics
- Spectate
- spectator
- spend time as a family outside
- spend time outdoors
- spend time outside close to home w/ kids
- spend time w/ children
- spend time with family
- Sport Leagues
- sport offered
- sporting event
- sporting events
- sporting events

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- Sports
- sports
- Sports
- Sports
- sports
- sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- sports
- SPORTS
- sports
- sports
- Sports
- Sports
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- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports
- Sports - baseball, hockey, lacrosse
- Sports - skating, snowboard, skateboard and basketball
- sports and fun
- Sports Functions
- Sports games there
- Sports league play
- sports- baseball & soccer
- sports-softball/baseball/football
- sports: baseball, tennis, etc
- Sports/exercise
- summer concerts
- Sunshine
- swim
- swim
- Swim
- Swim
- swim
- swim
- swim
- swim
- Swim meets
- Swim team practice
- Swim!
- swimming
- Swimming
- Swimming
- swimming
- SWIMMING
- Swimming
- swimming
- Swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming
- swimming

- Swimming
- swimming
- Swimming for fun
- Swimming for recreation in the summer/skating for recreation in the winter
- swimming lessons
- Swimming pools/ice skating
- swing sets
- swings
- swings
- swings & slides
- Swings and other kids activities
- swings etc.
- swings, slides, climbing structures, etc.
- swings/slides, etc
- T-ball
- take a class
- Take grandchildren to playground
- Take swim lessons at the Dover indoor pool
- taking the kids to a jungle gym area
- Teen center after school program and summer program
- Teen center Dover Rec
- tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- tennis
- tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis
- Tennis court
- Tennis courts
- The are well maintained
- The love of the sport
- The park is well cared for, clean , graffiti-free, free of litter, etc.
- The park is well lit and visible
- there is a wide variety of things to do in Dover
- They are a free way to enjoy the outdoors.
- They are close to where we live (walking distance)
- they are well kept and nice facilities for my family
- They have swings
- throw the ball around
- time away from buildings and traffic
- to be a part of the community
- to be outdoors
- To be outdoors, fresh air
- To be outside
- to be outside in nature
- To be part of the community.
- To commune with nature
- To do something outside
- to enjoy the outdoors
- To enjoy the outdoors and their related activities.
- To enjoy the scenery and view
- To enjoy time outside with the kids.
- To get exercise
- to get involved with the community
- to get outdoors
- to get outdoors
- to get outside and exercise
- to give the kids space

- To go walking
- To hang out
- To hang out with friends
- To launch kayak
- to let my kids play
- to let the kids play
- To participate in community events like Dover Night Out or the Cochecho Arts concerts
- To participate in organized sporting activities, e.g. soccer or baseball (my son plays) and working out at the McConnell center
- to play
- To play
- to play and have fun
- to play baseball
- To play baseball
- to play on playground equipment
- to play on the playground with my children
- To play or do sports
- To play soccer
- To play soccer and run
- TO PLAY SPORTS
- to play sports, football, baseball, soccer
- To play tennis or soccer
- to play with kids
- To practice soccer
- to recreate, play, and have fun
- To relax
- To see wildlife before the blue-green algae problem and flood I would bring my oldest son to Willand pond 2-3 times a week, we really miss Willand pond.
- To socialize with friends
- To spend time together outside
- To support local events.
- to swim
- to take my kids swimming
- to take my kids to a park
- to take walks
- To use playground
- to use the facilities/ball fields- tennis courts
- To use the playground
- to walk
- To walk my dog
- To walk my Dog.
- to walk or swim
- to watch a ball game
- to watch entertainment
- To watch my brother play baseball
- to watch sporting events
- To watch young athletes progress and enjoy what they are learning
- touring
- Tower at Garrison hill
- Town or School organized sport
- Track
- Trail
- trails
- Tranquility and beauty
- unscheduled play
- Use of the ball fields (soccer & baseball)
- Use of the playground
- use playground equipment
- use playgrounds
- Use the canoe launch in summer to go kayaking
- Use the fields
- use the gym at the McConnell Center

- Use the McConnell center to play basketball and work out
- Use the playground
- Use the schools for kids practices/basketball
- use the track at Woodman Park
- Value
- varied, Safe, appropriate activities for the kids
- Variety
- Very organized and clean
- View
- View
- volunteering (coaching, umpiring)
- Walk
- walk
- Walk
- Walk
- Walk
- walk dog
- Walk dog
- Walk dog
- Walk dogs
- Walk dogs
- walk dogs
- walk the dog
- Walk the dog
- walk the dog
- Walk the dog
- walk the dogs
- Walk with or without dog
- Walk/Exercise
- Walk/snowshoe
- walking
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking
- walking
- walking
- Walking
- walking
- walking
- walking
- walking
- Walking
- Walking
- walking
- Walking
- Walking
- Walking - exercise
- Walking downtown (around Henry Law park) and back up town.
- walking for exercise
- Walking for exercise
- walking my dog
- Walking my dog
- walking the dog on leash
- walking trails
- walking with my family
- Walking/canoeing
- Walks
- Walks
- walks
- Walks
- watch a youth sporting event
- watch Babe Ruth, Cal Ripken games

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- Watch ballgames
- Watch Dover baseball/little league
- Watch grandchildren play sports
- Watch sports
- Watch summer concerts
- Watch the Cochecho arts concerts in summer
- watch youth sports
- We enjoy going to the pavilion on Friday evening in the summer
- We go to these parks to play
- we ride our bike there
- We use the pool every day
- we use to live in Dover and we know other people who do the same activities
- Well I like to watch the bikers and skateboarders
- well kept
- Well kept
- Well-kept and family friendly
- Well-run
- Why not?
- Willand pond is close to my home
- Winter Basketball at McConnell
- Wonderful hockey program!
- Woodman park and Horne have beautiful playgrounds
- Work
- Work at DMS
- yoga
- youth camps (summer, after-school)
- youth recreation
- youth sports
- Youth sports
- youth sports
- Youth sports - baseball, football, soccer, basketball
- youth summer camp





## What Recreation or Type of Park/ Ballfield would you like to see provided in Dover?

### Public Input from Questionnaire: “WHAT RECREATION OR TYPE OF PARK / BALLFIELD WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE DOVER PROVIDE BUT DOESN'T YET?” (alphabetized and spell corrected)

- Public swimming area... \* indoor facility for training in the winter months for sports other than hockey \*turf field complex suitable for multi-sport use
- A better indoor soccer area
- A boat ramp/picnic area similar to "Dead Duck" in Elliot Me. with access to the ocean.
- A clean, well maintained park with safe equipment (i.e. old structures at Hilton retain the heat (slide) not very safe in the summer. Good parking. Good location.
- A complex of athletic fields like 'Roger Allen Park' in Rochester with many, many, fields in one location.
- **A contained, updated playground**
- a decent canoe/kayak boat launch. the existing one at HL Park is awful!!!
- A decent softball field - Shaw's Lane quality is poor
- A dog park
- A dog park like Rochester has
- **A dog park would be a terrific addition to the city. There are so many dog owners, and it would be great to be able to say that Dover is a 'dog friendly' city. Plus it would be a safe place eliminating the need for owners to let their dogs loose in areas that are potentially dangerous for the dogs and residents.**
- A Dog park would be excellent, and more fitness clinics (training for Triathlons, Bike clinics, masters swim program, step aerobics, YOGA!!)
- A Dog park!
- A facility that would be able to accommodate many different sport related activities. A perfect example is the Roger Allen facility. It would be nice if a facility would have areas that the parents could enjoy also as well as restroom facilities which would be monitored and closed every evening.
- a family-friendly aquatics center a well maintained off-road mixed use trail more cycling-friendly signage
- **A kiddie pool, a kiddie fountain- guaranteed success, hear this the most from parents. Old-town Maine, Steve Lang installed it.**
- A larger area with more fields. Something like Rochester's Roger Allen Park would be great.
- A longer river walk
- A modern, well-equipped community park on the north side of Dover (as Long Hill Road park clearly does NOT meet this criteria!)
- A nice bike path through woods. Frisbee golf course.
- a nice boat launch
- a nice, enclosed dog run
- A park with walking trails of various lengths near water of some sort (river, bay). With playground/field/picnic area. Biking trails as well (flat enough for kids bikes).
- a place for toddlers to play and ride tricycles. With benches set up in a circle so that they could play and moms could meet other mothers.
- **A roof needs to be put over the outdoor pool!**
- A safe hiking/walking trail. Playground built for older children ages 8 and up.
- A shade gazebo at the playgrounds
- A skateboard park & a roller hockey facility would be very nice.
- A walking/biking trail all around Dover
- **a well lit running/hiking/walking trail**
- Actually, I would much rather Dover spend \$ on curriculum at the school that for parks and recreation. Isn't that so sad???
- Additional track space for residents so as not to interfere with youth sports.
- Adult flag football/adult soccer/adult basketball (18-25, 25-30, 30-35, 35+, 18-35 is too big of an age group)
- Adult softball field
- All day summer camp would be a wonderful addition. This year I am forced to send my kids to Barrington because of lack of reliability in Dover. If it rains-no camp. Times for camp are inadequate. 8-3 is not a long enough time period to allow parents the ability to work 1st shift jobs as most do. And again, if it rains then parents are stuck with a last minute frenzy of where to send their children so they can still go to work. Is their a way to hold a camp at the McConnell center as Barrington does at their Rec dept?

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- All the parks are nice. Some could be better maintained and rid of garbage in a timely manner.
- Amusement park
- an adventure park with a low and high ropes course
- An improved skate park.
- Another full sized baseball diamond
- Another playground
- Artificial turf field - Dunaway fields at DHS
- **Attractive, proper skate park**
- Better boat ramp access at Hilton Park; water level at ramp is shallow and can be difficult for launching, particularly at low tide.
- Better cared for lighted tennis facility. And, ask (name removed), on City Council about this, a new park serving all the people south of town in the Middle and Back Road and Isaac Lucas area and south of there. We've seen hundreds of new homes over the years and NO recreation area like other parts of the city have to enjoy.
- better maintenance
- Better pool facilities and hours
- better soccer fields
- better tennis courts
- Better water access. We like to kayak. Willand Pond used to be nice. Haven't tried the canoe launch at HLP yet.
- Bike park
- bike path
- bike path
- Bike paths and more sidewalks (especially on busy roads - Dover Point Road) to encourage walking, running, safe bike riding for kids.
- Bike paths, additional hiking trails, additional playgrounds, community woodlands
- Bike paths/trails
- bike trail
- Bleachers at the ball fields!!!! public restrooms at the parks and water fountains.
- Boat launch
- Bocci ball!
- Can't think of anything
- can't wait for a river walk developed with flowers/trees
- Children's museum
- Children's water area, we have pools but I feel some type of kids water area, more then a pool, something interactive and not huge. A smaller scale of something like Water Country offers in the children's area. I'm not talking huge slides, recreation for people that can't afford such trips as water country.
- closer to home
- Combination of open space, benches, children's play area
- **completing the river trail, is would make for a great bike ride, website is not updated in 2 years**
- Croquet, more music facilities
- Cross country ski trails at Bellamy
- Cross-country and a dog park (paid for by owners of dogs)
- Dedicated dog park
- do not know
- Dog park
- Dog park
- Dog park but Willand pond was good
- Dog park, better playground structures
- Dog park, lacrosse field, playground for older "children"
- dog walk
- don't know
- Dover is in desperate need of bike routes for families
- exercise path, bike paths, trails, better sidewalks to increase non vehicular traffic to parks and facilities
- Fenced in pre-school (toddler) park with equipment and parking (similar to popular Shoe Town playground in South Berwick)
- Flooding Hancock Park again in the winter for ice skating outdoors
- Floor hockey and cricket
- Flower Gardens
- Flower trails
- For kids play and safe
- Frisbee golf
- Full size Lit baseball park
- girls softball fields
- hiking and cross country skiing trails
- hiking trails
- hiking trails water front parks-picnic, gardens
- Hilton park needs updating. It is a wonderful spot but the playground area is very dated. also, it would be nice to see some info. posted about the diverse animal life and bay. So much there to work with.
- How about a Frisbee golf course. We like nature trails/wilderness areas. I'm not sure if there are any parks like this on the list.
- I am glad to see restrooms and a concession stand being built at these two park areas. Maybe small bleachers?
- I can't think of anything
- I don't know, we can't wait for the museum to open!
- I don't think we need anything new
- I like what we have BUT the river sides of the Cocheco by Biddy Mulligans, Children's Museum has so much potential to be a walking destination
- I think the Rec dept does a nice job with an extremely limited budget - I would like to see the facilities maintained and would expect to see none of them close due to tax cap issues - we could use a couple more regulation baseball fields and gymnasiums - a sport turf field in the city is becoming a necessity.
- I think we are so fortunate to have all the facilities that we do in Dover. I grew up in Northern NH and all we had was our own backyard.
- I think we have them all
- I would like to see the river walk completed
- I would like to see a multisport complex that has baseball, softball, and field house
- I would like to see a park in the Dover Point, Stark Ave area
- I would like to see some swings at the Maglaras Park, as that's close to our home.
- **I would love to see a state of the art skateboard park provided in the city that is professionally built with the input of the resident skateboarders. The current skateboard park is not a safe place to skateboard.**
- I would love to see the Applevale park updated and improved, more like Hancock street.

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- I would really like to see more walking tracks, would love to see the track at garrison school fixed it is really hard on the legs and feet. would all so love to see better practice fields for youth baseball and football they really don't have a practice field,
- I'd like to see a facility similar to Jackson Landing in Durham, NH put into the Henry Law Park area. This would be an ideal location given the relocation of Children's Museum and its proximity to downtown.
- I'VE BEEN TOLD THE TEEN CENTER FUNDING IS AT RISK. THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO MY FAMILY AND WE USE IT REGULARLY. IF THE TEEN CENTER WERE NOT OFFERED IT WOULD BE A GREAT DISSERVICE TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF DOVER
- indoor basketball courts, more picnic areas
- Indoor facility like they have in Hampton, NH for indoor soccer/lacrosse fields for all season usage.
- Indoor soccer
- Indoor soccer
- Indoor soccer arena
- Indoor soccer, as many kids travel to Hampton from this area
- Indoor soccer/lacrosse facility
- indoor tumble facility for kids
- Indoor water park (cheap for Dover residents, open year round). **A better, cleaner looking skate park. Currently, the park is trashy looking.**
- Interpretive nature signs @ Cocheco River walk
- it's pretty well covered
- Keep the Dover arena and the outdoor pool open for the kids who go to summer camp. They need the pool and facility.
- Keep the teen center opened. Bicycle park with trails for children and adults. Safe away from cars. Playground structure at Shaw's lane. More public bathrooms. Enough fields in one area to host a tournament in sports.
- Keeping the ones available is most important at this time.
- Lacrosse
- lacrosse
- lacrosse fields
- Lakefront beach;
- less - do we really need an ultimate Frisbee park?
- lighted all purpose outdoor artificial turf field indoor all purpose floor/turf transient boat slips/docks/mooring on Cocheco public boat launch with docks (Hilton Park) community rowing facility on Cocheco
- Lighted football fields with turf vice grass
- Lighted Outdoor basketball hoops at Dover High School, I'd also like to see a better feeder program for girls basketball and volleyball. I think it's ridiculous that the School dept. charges \$30/35 per hour with a three hour minimum for Dover residents to rent gyms that would otherwise remain unused. I also think the extra ice rink could be used as a multifacility similar to the Derry Sportszone with soccer or basketball courts on a multi use surface.
- Lighted, full size baseball park
- Lights added to the Dover High Baseball field
- Longer trails - bike paths
- making the playgrounds more usable in hot weather: more trees; canopy or other shade structure; water feature such as sprinklers for kids to cool off.
- more aerobic activity for adults more activities for children (indoor soccer through spring and fall; karate)
- More athletic fields so scheduling is easier and gives us kids a chance to play more. This mostly relating to baseball and other sports as well. Also, lighting on fields would be great that way you could have many more games and much more people would most likely turn out!!
- More ball fields
- More baseball facilities for Dover Baseball
- more bicycle routes and trails
- more classes at pool, skating, McConnell that are friendly to working parents.
- more classes like aerobics, dance, etc.
- more frequent swim lessons
- More hours at the pool at a lower cost
- More indoor activities in the winter/cold months
- More kayak access
- More machines and extended hours at the fitness facility at McConnell center
- More nature trails. Biking paths
- more of a jungle gym, climbing, lower to the ground.
- more publicity for nature trails and more trails in pleasant places
- More recreation swim opportunities
- More river walks
- More soccer and baseball fields
- More toddler equipment
- More trails
- More walkers at the ice Arena, maybe helmet rentals at the arena, maybe kayak or canoe rentals, weekly crafts at the playgrounds in the summer, a public water park at the outdoor pool (entry pools, fountains, and slides, etc). Greater availability of swim lessons. a public ski program with discount tickets, buses, etc.
- More walking/bike/hike trails
- motorized vehicle (dirt bike, four wheeler) trails. similar to the ones behind Winchester Apt.
- mountain bike trails
- n/a
- N/A
- n/a - I hadn't realized Dover offered so many parks to choose from
- an
- none
- none
- none
- none
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None that I can think of
- **none, just maintain existing**
- None.
- Not sure
- Nothing else is needed, although trash barrels would be helpful (especially in the winter when they seem to disappear)
- Nothing specific

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- one large baseball/softball complex (i.e.. Roger Allen)
- Outdoor "winter only" skating rink.
- Outdoor ice rink, walking/running trails
- Outdoor ice skating rink hiking trails
- **Outdoor play area with sprinkler park.**
- Outdoor rock climbing wall
- Outdoor skating rink Park with more structures for 9-12 year olds
- Outdoor winter ice skating area
- Paintball
- Park with Walking trails
- Parks that offer bathroom facilities for my elderly parents. A place to walk my dog. Parking for handicap.
- Perhaps a park with a large picnic area.
- Picnic areas, a walking and cycling trail, family swim times on Saturdays especially in the winter, public skating on weekends, offer a snack bar at the outdoor pool in the summer.
- playground for bigger kids - rock wall, zip line, etc.
- Playground with basketball/tennis courts, etc.
- Pool
- Possibly expanding a current facility to include many sports, playground equipment, exercise/running/hiking trail around perimeter, indoor/outdoor pool, community center to rent for seminars or even parties, dog-friendly, and a view of the water/bay/lake/pond.
- public boat ramp
- re-instate Dover Night Out
- **re-open Garrison Hill as a ski and snowboard hill with a tow rope & Warming hut. Much like South Berwick's Powderhouse Hill. I'm happy to "drive" this project!!!!**
- river walks that are clean and provide "poop bags" to clean up after dogs, and trash receptors for them. Dog park where dogs can be let off leash to run.
- Ropes course
- Rowing facility
- running track, better maintained public basketball and tennis courts
- Running/walking track
- Skate park
- some volleyball nets
- something fenced in
- Something indoors (climbing areas) during rainy days
- somewhere the kids can have fun and play and parents can hang out and read or relax, yet keep an eye on the kids...bathroom facilities & water fountains
- swimming area for toddlers
- **swing sets with baby swings**
- Target shooting range
- **THE CITY HAS A GOOD MIX OF PARKS NOW.**
- There could be more basketball courts. It seems like they are very busy and there are usually games with teens and young adults, so they are not family friendly.
- Tire Swings
- Tire swings
- Until you pay off the debt of the rink / pool and other such debt, you shouldn't be thinking about expansion.
- walking and exercise
- Walking routes without car traffic, bike routes without car traffic
- walking trail
- walking trails more 'weather friendly' spaces for winter with kids.
- walking trails (Need Willand pond open), walking maps and sidewalks so I can get to the parks by walking and not driving. This is crazy! I have to drive to get to a park not even a mile from my house but I will be killed on old Rochester rd.
- We are new to the area and have not visited the majority of parks. We generally like areas that are well landscaped with trees for shade, fresh chips down on the play area, designated no smoking on or around grounds, grass for playing, picnic tables for eating/sitting if you have infants or want to have a meal.
- We have adequate facilities as of now.
- We need a park like Jackson's landing but at the Hilton park site. it could be awesome. totally underutilized spot.
- We need more regulation size baseball fields. A multi sport complex would be great like the one at Spaulding.
- We would very much like to see an off-road bike path, such as the one in Amesbury, MA.
- What we have meets my needs.
- **With 33 parks and or recreation facilities listed how could any rational person ask if we need more for a city the size of Dover.**
- Woodman park I like to play on the park and basketball court
- Would love to see an kid friendly aquatics facility. Zero-depth entry pool, pool toys, water slide, etc.
- Would love to see more nature trails around Dover.
- Youth Football Fie



## Name three things that are done well regarding Dover's Parks and Facilities

### Public Input from Questionnaire:

#### **“NAME THREE THINGS THAT ARE DONE WELL REGARDING DOVER’S PARKS AND FACILITIES” (alphabetized and spell corrected)**

- 3 on 3 hockey program
- A good number of parks
- A lot of quality programs
- A wide variety
- Accessibility
- access
- Access
- Accessibility
- Accessibility
- accessibility
- Accessible
- accessible
- accessible to everyone
- activities for kids to keep them out of trouble
- Addition/Improvement of McConnell Center, Garrison School and Shaw's Lane facilities
- Adequate number of parks/playgrounds
- Adequate parking
- Advertise
- Advertises it's programs in Newspaper and Newsletter
- Affordable
- Affordable
- affordable lessons/ swimming
- affordable programs
- age appropriate playground equipment
- all are fine
- all ball fields are very nice except for Maglaras
- Allowing community events & gatherings to use them
- Allows private organizations flexibility on public fields;
- a lot of opportunities
- a lot of parks
- always busy and being used
- Always clean compared to other rinks
- Always well maintained
- amount of parks
- amount of recreation facilities
- Ample Parks for various activities, more than other local towns
- apparently there are a few
- appeals to various age groups
- APPEARANCE
- Applevale is always mowed
- areas spread across city
- Arena is clean, well maintained. Friendly atmosphere
- around but they need to be
- Availability
- Availability



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- cleanup
- cleanup and mowing is handled regularly
- close range when living in Dover
- Closing in Woodman ballpark [enclose?]
- Commitment to youth programs
- committed to promoting physical activity
- communication through Dover Community News
- community news and listings in the newspaper
- Community Notes
- Concert Series
- concessions stands are great
- conserving high priority land for public recreation
- Considers the needs of its citizens
- continually addresses parks
- Control of usage for youth leagues
- cost for venues is low
- costs are reasonable/affordable
- Councilman (name removed) not at park
- Councilman (name removed) not at park
- Current, updated playground equipment at most sites.
- Decent amount of nearby parking
- decent promotion
- Dedicated volunteers
- Department support
- Different age groups are included
- Diverse
- Dover baseball
- Dover does a good job over the summer/program
- Dover does things well including having parks and summer camps
- Dover has a great community spirit
- Dover has a lot of nice facilities for young people
- Dover has done a good job by setting land aside as well as providing access and parking
- Dover is exceptional for recreational activities offered
- Dover Main Street Cleanup Day
- Dover youth hockey
- Downtown events
- downtown locations
- easily accessible
- easily accessible
- Encouraging multiple age groups, from tots to adults
- Enjoyable
- enough playground equipment
- enough space to toss ball, fly kites, play tennis, basketball
- equipment
- equipment in good condition
- equipment is in good shape
- equipment is in pretty good shape.
- equipment is in reasonable working order
- Established
- Evenly spread throughout the city
- events
- Events
- Events and Henry Law Park
- Excellent Customer Services
- excellent Frisbee golf
- EXCELLENT MIX OF PARKS
- Excellent pools and lifeguards/swim instructors
- excellent upkeep of ball fields
- existing facilities kept in good repair
- Fairly clean
- fairly well maintained
- family atmosphere
- Family environment
- Family oriented
- Family-friendly
- Feel that the community is consulted with regards to opinions.
- field scheduling is handled well
- Fix anything broken
- Fixing things
- flowers and historical signage
- flowers at downtown parks/areas
- For a town of this size, there is a good number of parks and facilities
- For the most part ,well-maintained
- for the most part keeping animals off the fields
- For the most part there kid friendly
- Friendliness + responsiveness to needs and questions when I call.
- friendly service
- Friendly staff
- Fun
- funding
- (name removed)
- (name removed) and his staff.
- general maintenance

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- General maintenance
- general maintenance - mowing, cleanup, lighting-safe
- general response to requests if something was amiss
- generally clean
- generally well kept
- Generally well maintained
- Generally, the mowing is always great.
- general maintenance, although parents volunteer annually to get the ball fields ready.
- geographic diversity
- good amount of parks/ball fields
- Good ball fields
- Good choice of sports camps and clinics
- Good classes
- good diversity
- Good equipment
- Good equipment
- Good hours of operation at the McConnell Center
- Good job organizing volunteers for flowers etc
- good maintenance
- good maintenance
- Good management
- good parking
- Good parking
- Good plants
- good playground equipment
- good playground equipment & variety
- Good programs for Seniors
- Good promotion of its offerings via the Rec/Arena.
- good signage
- good variety
- Good variety
- Good variety for children
- Good variety of equipment that targets different age groups
- good variety/mix
- grass
- Great deal of activities to choose from
- great facelift at Woodman
- Great fields
- great help from members of the community
- great improvements to the ball fields over the last few years.
- Great interaction with users of facilities.
- Great locations.
- GREAT OVERALL FACILITIES
- Great pools
- Great Rec sports programs
- Great service offered for kids
- Great sports programs for kids - soccer, basketball
- Great variety.
- Great volunteer boards
- great volunteerism
- great youth rec programs
- Grooming
- Grounds are mowed pretty well
- grounds upkeep
- groundskeeping
- Gym
- Hancock park is very good.
- Has different locations throughout city
- Has good activities
- has many
- has many to choose from
- has them
- Have fun
- having a variety
- having many throughout the city
- Henry Law is kept clean
- Henry Law is kept clean
- Henry Law Park is also clean and has lots of activities for all ages
- Henry law park upkeep appears to be good
- high number of parks
- high quality equipment
- Hilton Park is an attractive "Gateway Park" for Dover
- Hires reliable lifeguards (pool opens on time)
- HLP - wonderful outdoor theatre area! Encourage more use!!
- hold community events
- hold concerts
- Hours of operation
- I enjoy going to concerts at the Henry law pavilion
- I feel the workers do the best they can with what the city provides them with.
- I find the school parks are well lit with a variety of equipment for kids.
- I have to say they are clean
- I love that many of them have tennis courts as well.
- I think for a city of its size Dover has nice open spaces available



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- I think that the amount of park space that is not designated only for a specific activity (Baseball, etc.) is great. It is nice to just have open green space.
- I'm fairly new to the area, which is why I don't have much to say
- Ice arena has well-run programs
- Ice Arena is a friendly and fun place to bring kids
- Ice surface
- improved desperately.
- improved playground structures
- Improvements to surfaces made (I.e. tennis, basketball)
- Improvements in regards to benches, cages, parking, etc. have been done well.
- In comparison to other towns, good value
- Indoor pool
- indoor pool lessons
- information
- Information is made available in timely fashion
- involves all age groups
- **It's great that there are so many facilities in town (I didn't even realize how many until taking this survey).**
- Keep them pretty clean
- Keeping a lot of green areas in the city
- Keeping it clean for the most part
- keeping maintained
- keeping the cleaned and mowed well
- Keeping them clean
- keeping them clean and safe
- keeping them neat
- keeps fairly clean
- Keeps grass mowed
- keeps original trees
- Keeps the grounds maintained
- Keeps them clean
- keeps them clean
- keeps them clean
- keeps them clean
- Keeps them Maintained
- keeps them operating
- keeps them safe
- keeps up with the school grounds when school is in session
- kept in reasonably good condition
- Kids concerts at the pavilion are great fun.
- Kids love it!
- Kids use for various things
- Location, neighborhood parks
- Lacrosse program
- landscape
- large open spaces
- Lawn maintained
- Lawns are kept up (cut)
- lawns are mowed
- Lawns mowed
- lighting
- Location
- Location
- Location
- Locations
- Lots of events at Henry Law.
- Lots of great programs
- Lots of offerings close to residents
- LOTS of options!!!!
- Lots of parks throughout the city
- Lots of playgrounds
- Lots of programs for all ages
- lots of variety
- Lots to do on the playgrounds (for many ages)
- Love the indoor pool
- Love the McConnell Center - a community resource
- love the outdoor pool
- Love the rotary pavilion and concerts:)
- Love the skate park for teens & young adults.
- low cost or no cost
- Low cost to residents
- mages kids good
- Mailings about programs
- Maintain
- Maintain a cost associated with the sports which is reasonable and hopefully affordable for all individuals who wish to participate.
- Maintain the upkeep of facilities with help of volunteers.
- MAINTAINED
- Maintained well
- Maintenance
- Maintaining the Dover indoor pool
- maintains lawns and walkways
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- maintenance

CITY OF DOVER, NH

- maintenance
- maintenance
- maintenance
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- maintenance
- maintenance
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- maintenance
- Maintenance
- maintenance
- Maintenance
- Maintenance
- maintenance
- Maintenance (mostly)
- maintenance despite budget cuts
- maintenance is good/both upkeep of grounds and play equipment
- Maintenance, i.e. mowing, upkeep
- Maintenance
- Maintenance is done well except for the cleaning of the gym
- maintenance
- Maintenance
- Make share now giase [make sure no gays?]
- makes them great place for children to have fun
- Many choices available
- Many locations
- Many of the facilities are in very good condition
- many offerings for general athletes (not skilled)
- many options for play ground equipment
- Many park locations
- many parks
- many programs
- many sites available
- Many things are offered
- McConnell Center is an excellent value and well equipped facility for fitness
- McConnell Center was well kept - clean
- McConnell Center activities
- Met the expansion need by adding fields at Shaw's lane - thanks!
- Met the expansion need by adding fields at Shaw's lane - thanks!
- Met the expansion need by adding fields at Shaw's lane - thanks!
- (name removed) doesn't go to the park
- Modern equipment
- most are maintained nicely, not all !
- most are very clean and well maintained
- Most are well kept
- most have nice modern structures
- Most have no fees to use
- most have updated playground equipment
- Most of the parks I find to be very clean and neat.
- Most parks are kept clean and safe from broken glass.
- most usually accommodates most ages
- mostly is affordable
- mostly very clean except for Henry law
- mowing
- mowing
- mowing
- Mowing & Maintenance
- mowing is done in a timely manner
- mowing seems kept up
- Mowing, cleanliness
- Multiple playgrounds
- Music events
- Need more maintenance on ball fields
- New equipment at schools
- new facility at McConnell Center is nice
- Newly renovated McConnell Center is excellent
- Nice ball fields
- nice management and staff
- Nice new playground equipment
- Nice people
- nice playground equipment for kids
- Nice town feel
- nice upkeep, clean area
- NICELY LANDSCAPED
- No bad people
- no discrimination against dog owners
- Nothing
- Number of facilities

CITY OF DOVER, NH

- NUMBER OF PARKS AVAILABLE IN TOWN
- number of parks per capita
- Number of properties set aside for parks and public use
- Number of them
- number of parks available
- offering a variety
- offering swimming to the public at Jenny Thompson pool
- Offers a nice variety for all ages.
- offers a variety
- Offers a wide variety of programs
- offers many parks
- Offers options i.e.: skate park, Henry Law Park
- offers scholarship programs for the needy
- offers several locations, i.e.: tennis, Baseball
- offers various programs for different ages, etc.
- ok parking
- Ones used most frequently are well maintained
- organizational sports
- Organize season related sports and coordination of volunteers.
- Organized
- organized well
- Outdoor music festivals
- Outdoor pool is clean and well maintained
- Outstanding youth softball program
- Overall keep parks clean
- Park and Rec Programs
- Park disbursement around city
- parking
- parking
- parking
- parking available
- Parks are approachable and seem safe.
- Parks are clean
- Parks are clean and well-kept.
- Parks are dispersed geographically throughout city
- parks are usually well maintained (playground equipment)
- Parks are well maintained with regards to mowing and garbage
- Parks have a combination of open space and playground equipment.
- Partners well with other athletic organizations
- **People who coordinate these efforts especially in baseball and basketball are totally committed**
- Picked up
- Pilate's classes for adults
- Planting of trees
- Plants
- Playground equipment
- playground equipment seems very up to date
- Playground equipment is good!
- Playgrounds are good
- playgrounds are very nice
- playgrounds available
- Plentiful
- plenty of parks
- Plenty of them
- police surveillance / visibility / patrols
- Pool is clean
- Pool is well maintained
- port-o-potties aren't too horrible!
- Pretty clean / maintained well
- programming
- Programs
- Programs are for all ages
- Programs for children
- programs for kids 10 and under
- Programs offered
- promotes special programs such as camps
- Promotion
- Promotion efforts
- Promotion of the ice arena
- Provides camps for Dover youth;
- provides every household with/newsletter
- provides services for all ages
- provides them
- provides variety of facilities and locations
- provides woodchips for softer landings
- providing Baseball fields
- providing trash cans (although they need to be emptied more often)
- Proximity
- Quality
- Quality of playground apparatus
- quality playground equipment
- quantity
- quantity
- quantity, quality and variety of programming

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- reasonable costs
- Reasonable fees
- Rec center manager is flexible and wants to please residents
- Rec department very responsive
- Recent improvements
- relatively clean
- relatively clean-more trash bins needed @ some places
- relatively modern and safe play structures - and fun!
- Relatively nice equipment
- relatively safe
- Renovation of the McConnell center gym
- **Rink is best-run facility in New England**
- **Rinks are good and used often**
- River scenery
- Riverwalk is really nice to relax
- Safe
- Safe
- Safe
- Safe places to bring kids
- Safe playground equipment and upkeep
- Safe updated play equipment
- SAFETY
- safety
- safety
- Safety
- safety maintenance
- Safety, equipment is thought out with safety in mind
- satisfactory upkeep - better than other towns
- Scheduling
- **seem interested in making improvements, which means it likely will happen, good start**
- Seemingly full usage
- Serving different age groups
- Sheer number/locations
- Signage
- Signage
- Signage around town showing old photos of Dover
- Simplicity
- soccer
- soccer
- Soccer & ball fields - fairly well kept
- some are clean
- Some are kept up rather well, but not all
- **some have special needs swings**
- Some parks have good shade/sun ratio
- some upkeep is good, need more
- something for every age group
- something for many ages
- spatial distribution of parks
- Special Olympics
- sports complexes are fantastic
- sports fields for kids
- Sports fields
- sports programs for children
- spread across the city
- Spread out around town
- staff
- **Staff and organization at ice rink**
- **Staff at pool**
- **staff (always friendly)**
- **Staffed**
- **Staffing**
- Summer camp well run
- summer concert series
- Summer programming for kids
- Summer programs
- Summer programs
- summer programs
- summer programs
- Swim lessons are affordable, but should be greater availability. They fill up quickly and are not available on weekends. Others have commented that it would be better to have lessons for 2-3 days per week for more weeks rather than every day for two weeks.
- swim/tennis lessons
- Swings
- takes care of them
- takes poor care, see Park Street- all overgrown and old
- **Tennis court improvements**
- **Tennis nets are up early - thank you!**
- The are available to the public
- **The city workers are friendly and I feel my family is safe around them.**
- the equipment is in generally good working order
- The fields that are professionally maintained are good.
- the free family fun activities (concerts, etc) are excellent
- The inclusion of facilities such as a pool and ice arena are nice
- The McConnell center is fantastic - nice equipment

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- the McConnell center is great
- the mowing and grounds keeping - trash.
- The new structures are durable, safe, and attractive
- The parks and recreation department give kids a place to play. It keep them busy and out of trouble
- The parks are clean
- The parks are well-kept and beautiful
- the parks have been clean
- the parks in Dover are well maintained
- The parks seem to be fairly well spread out.
- The pool is great
- The Recreation website is excellent - but offer online registration for classes -not just fax
- the school playgrounds are nice
- the youth rec. sports programs are great
- there are a large number of parks, so most people living in Dover are close to one and often in walking distance.
- There are a lot of them
- there are a lot of them
- There are lots of quality parks to go to throughout the city
- There are lots of them
- There are many
- there are many available
- There are so many.
- There seems to be a good number of parks.
- there's a variety
- they (the parks) are generally clean
- They accommodate the population of the city
- They are available
- They are clean
- They are clean and well cared for
- they are fairly clean
- they are maintained pretty well
- They are nearby
- They are pretty well maintained.
- they are reasonably well maintained
- They are relatively clean and safe
- they are safe
- They are well maintained
- They are well used through a wide range of programs.
- **they do a lot with a little (money)**
- they each have different features
- They have continued to make improvements to the ball fields over the years
- they improve every year for the better (all around)
- They mow the parks on a regular basis
- they seem clean
- they seem to be safe
- **This survey (shows interest)**
- trash
- Trash bins provided
- trash cans
- trash pick-up
- Tries to accommodate everyone
- under funds them
- Update the equipment
- Updated playgrounds
- **Updates like this one**
- updating
- Upgraded play equipment
- Upkeep
- Upkeep
- Upkeep
- upkeep of these areas is pretty good
- upkeep seems good
- usage for activities
- usage of Henry law park for community events that promote community involvement
- Useful
- Usefulness of space
- user friendly
- uses budgeted dollars well
- Usually enough room for everyone
- usually fairly clean
- usually good equipment, not always
- usually safe
- varied appeal
- varied for many ages
- variety
- Variety
- Variety
- variety
- Variety
- Variety
- Variety
- Variety
- variety - arena, pools, playgrounds, skate parks
- variety - something for every age group

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- Variety in location/activities
- Variety of spaces/spaces
- variety of activities
- Variety of activities available is good!
- Variety of events
- Variety of locations
- variety of offerings
- Variety of opportunities/activities provided
- variety of options
- variety of park locations
- Variety of parks and locations
- variety of parks in many locations
- variety of programs
- Variety of recreational activities for children
- Variety of sports
- Variety of sports offered
- variety of sports offered
- Variety of sports, many locations
- variety of things at one place, playground/tennis/ball fields/picnic area can all be found together
- variety of uses
- Variety-swimming (2), ice & skate parks, ball fields, playgrounds
- Variety of offerings
- various locations
- Very clean.
- volume
- **Volunteers**
- **Volunteers that make them work!**
- Walking
- We appreciate the playground equipment for the younger ones
- We enjoy walking downtown, it is a nice area for a night out or with kids.
- we have a lot of them
- We have many located throughout the City
- **We like how you utilize the river areas with parks and walks**
- We love that Dover has lots of parks and ball fields
- **We were EXTREMELY please to hear that the outdoor pool will be available this summer**
- Well-maintained
- Well groomed outfield at Shaw's Lane
- well kept
- well kept grounds
- Well Kept inside and outside
- well laid out/planned
- well landscaped
- well maintained
- WELL MAINTAINED
- well maintained
- Well maintained
- Well maintained
- Well maintained
- Well maintained
- well maintained and relatively clean
- Well maintained ball fields
- well maintained fields and/or parks
- well maintained grounds
- Well maintained tennis courts
- Well organized
- well organized
- Well publicized via Schools
- Well-maintained
- Well-maintained
- Well-run youth sports program
- Well-tended cared for
- Well kept - (tennis nets etc.)
- Wide variety of choices and sports activities to choose from
- Wide variety of summer/fall special event options - outdoor concerts, dog walk for Humane society, other
- **With the exception of Park St., the parks we've used have been well-maintained.**
- Woodman playground
- **Work with neighborhood groups**
- **work with neighborhoods for park improvements**
- **work with youth leagues to mutually improve facility**
- **works well with local organizations to try to make them all work together**
- you have them.



## Any additional comments or suggestions you'd like to share

### Public Input from Questionnaire: "ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?"

#### (alphabetized and spell corrected)

- A bit more upkeep of grounds, new mulch, sand, stone, grass etc. - trail bike paths for motorized vehicles would be great.
- Add ball fields. Keep up the good work.
- Add Basketball courts
- Add dog park with dog owners responsible. Have kids who are in trouble work and maintain the parks.
- Add family parks and soccer fields
- Add flower parks
- Add practice fields - lights at Woodman
- Add soccer
- Add soccer fields
- Add soccer fields
- Add soccer fields
- Add: Adult/family exercise, walking, biking. Thanks!
- additional trash cans are needed at Horne Street during baseball season, may-July
- Again, the need to a more adequate summer camp with /longer hours.
- Amanda Howard park could use some extra oversight of cleanup, like large branches that fall, overgrowth, etc. Also a few more benches would be nice. Thanks for this opportunity for feedback.
- as a Dover resident, I appreciate all that the city and volunteer groups do for our city's parks.
- As a new resident, I found it difficult to find out what parks were available and what each had to offer, as well as where they were located, and whether there was a fee.
- At Shaw's Lane, the front field, there is a water spigot behind home plate that should be plugged or removed. It waters the dirt in the catchers area and batters box on a daily basis. This is a waste of water and a headache to have to rake out and cleanup before the games every night.
- Bathroom facilities are lacking at many parks. Most parks need more sitting areas, benches, etc
- Been involved in Dover Rec. programs for over 10 years and am very happy with what the towns has to offer by way of programs. However, think more effort can be put into up keep of areas once they are built
- Better coordination between school facilities and Recreation Dept. Need better maintenance of what is available. And maybe there could be a volunteer kid age group that could help maintain what we have. More lights for safety and to help prevent damage to facilities.
- Better upkeep of indoor pool outdoor parks are mostly well maintained.
- Better/nicer life guards. Customer service skills still very poor.
- Boat landing
- create a suggestion site, i.e. : if you want to walk/hike go here and here and here, if you want to boat, use here and here and here; etc etc.
- DO
- Do a better job of cutting and raking the grass at Morningside Park
- Don't close the rink
- Dover and its surrounding communities has a large skateboarding population that would like to see the facilities to progress in Dover.
- Dover doesn't need new parks or fields. It would be nice to get another bench at Henry Law. The city does a nice job with the upkeep and keeping the clean.
- Dover has a great base of volunteers that make these parks successful. I wish that they would eliminate some of the "red tape" involved in allowing organizations to make improvements.
- Dover High School softball fields are not in good condition, coaches from other towns have commented how dry and dusty the varsity field is.
- Dover is a beautiful town/city. Since it has close to 30,000 in population, it will always be a challenge to maintain every park 100%. I'd like to see more community volunteers and involvement from kids to adults. I also believe more companies that reside in Dover should take a proactive step in keeping Dover beautiful by participating in community projects and keeping the facilities clean and neat. Dover has the potential to be one of the most beautiful towns on the seacoast. It has the infrastructure, population, tax base...we just need to organize and execute.
- Dover is good but could be great. we like Dover because it's family oriented and the elementary schools are great. There is always room for improvement though.
- Dover needs to focus on bike and walking routes, that are safe for families. Driving is to expensive and doesn't provide exercise.

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- Dover needs to focus on maintenance and repair. Things are let go until they are in such disrepair that the cost is too much for the city to absorb. If things are continually maintained (i.e. cleaned) they are easier to keep. For instance, lifeguards at the pool instead of studying for tests, knitting, stitching, if they actually performed duties - it would help!
- Dover Parks and Rec have it hands down over Rochester!
- Dover pool is kept at temperatures too cold for young children to learn to swim. I would like to have my children learn to swim there and even had one enrolled in the infant program, but it was too cold for either of us to continue. I don't see a need to keep it that cold as there are other available programs that have their pools at a comfortable temperature for infants/young children.
- During rainy days you see so many children with parents climbing on the "Sea Life" in the Fox Run mall. Dover could use an indoor climbing area, tables for picnics (and crafts, etc.) that could be visited in much the same way as the outdoor facilities.
- Ensure a continuing maintenance program stays in place;
- fix up the Maglaras ball fields and make them playable. it will give the little kids (t-ball-7 year olds) another place to play.
- Garrison Hill can use bigger playground equipment. More signs about Dover History would be interesting and keeping current signs clean & legible is suggested.
- Geared a lot towards kids. Would like to see more Rec classes (fitness). Please consider a loading/unloading zone at the arena; parents drop the drive when dropping off and picking up kids. Very dangerous.
- Get info from radio for Dover night out. Like things because I live across from Hancock park and they just improved it last year
- Get rid of (name removed) and names removed). They hurt the city and make it a laughingstock of the region.
- Gets bored at the same parks all the time.
- Good luck and thanks!
- Grass at Sullivan Field. At least one really nice baseball field for playoffs like Southside has.
- Green space is absolutely essential for quality of life. It's no accident that NYC hired Olmstead to design Central Park and made provisions all around the city for parks, trails, playgrounds, ball fields, water features, etc., to provide aesthetic and healthy balance to life. Aaron Montgomery Ward made sure no buildings were directly on Lake Michigan in Chicago for similar reason. I hope that the waterfront project is able to combine some green space as part of a vibrant continuation of our downtown that also provides cultural and social as well as shopping opportunities. Our city employees are stretched thin in attempting to care for the parks we have now, so that is also a consideration. Keep up the good work involving volunteers along with our paid professionals.
- Had meeting at Amanda Howard park two years ago with Rec director. He had their catalog with play equipment but then told us only how much money was available. We go excited about equipment and picnic areas for our park, but we've been forgotten. Don't see much maintenance.
- Hancock street park could use a covered sandbox, maybe the other parks too. Recycle bins at all parks would be great as well
- Have heard rumors about upgrading parks for 'level of play' but believe this would be HUGE mistake as we would be trying to get blood from a stone for maintenance. We should keep the parks we have in good shape!
- Haven't seen much promotion, but not sure it's needed
- Henry law is a bit run down
- Henry law park needs updated playground equipment especially toddler swings one of them is broken and one is duct taped...my wife said she probably wouldn't go there again because it wasn't very nice.
- I am a Dover resident and I would like to my kids to go for summer camp, but they are way too expensive, any chance the City can offer a less cost program?
- I am more than willing to pay more in taxes to provide more recreational facilities
- I am wondering whether the park on Atkinson (at the former site of Dover adult ed) is going to be open to the public and have playground equipment? If so, why is it all fenced off? I think the playgrounds could use some more preschool aged equipment
- I believe that a more proactive parks and recreation Dpt. that promoted different seasonal activities for a range of ages would be very beneficial to Dover residents.
- I couldn't check off the answers no boxes or check mark places
- I didn't know Dover had as many parks as are listed on front of sheet. More signage + publicity would help awareness of this.
- I don't have kids, so they may not be as important to me personally, but I do think they are important to kids.
- I don't think that the parks are consistently maintained at a quality level. It is disappointing to see graffiti at many parks. In addition, it appears that parks are not inspected/maintained on a regular basis.
- I had no idea that any aspect of Cochecho Country club was public property until this survey. Please explain. In what way is the public allowed to use the Country Club property? I had no idea that Butterfield had a gym until the Children's Museum started publicizing that fact. I have lived here 15 years. I am always looking for nature trails for my children and their children to explore when they are here on vacation. I don't know where such trails are or that Willand Pond had one, until I saw this survey. I think the fence at Henry Law Park is obtrusive; it could be lower and still be a barrier to falling in.
- I have lived in Dover for 10 years and it is continuously improving its feel and looks. Thanks
- I have lived in Dover for 7 years and love this city however since having children, I am looking more at parks and rec. info and find it hard to locate. I don't know where all the parks are and for the most part have not even heard of some of them. It would be nice to see a list of parks and their amenities and their addresses so I could take my children to different places. I have noticed that Henry Law Park playground equipment is run down and needs to be replaced. I don't even visit Hilton State Park because the playground equipment there is also run down...I think it has been there since I was a child...30 years ago...I won't let my kids play on it. I think it is a great area but needs desperate attention.
- I hope to hear the survey results, including the number of those participating
- I like swings a lot
- I like that Dover has a # of great parks throughout the city that can be utilized by all citizens. Overall I feel that they are maintained pretty well, at least the ones that my family and I use. I would like to see more summer daytime programs for kids.
- I like to do things to share, like basketball is fun. And had to and every will practice a lots of basketball Olympics.
- I live by the fields on Shaw's Lane and amazed at the amount of activity that goes on there. More open areas like this would be a plus for the community
- I love living near downtown Dover and walking distance to Henry Law Park, the river
- I really like the new McConnell Center Rec facility. It is reasonably priced, offers what I need and kept me active this winter.
- I think Dover does a good job for the most part with the recreational areas and the fields. You need to keep the teen center open and share the teen center with all the teens that don't know about it. More public bathrooms and trashcans. I also think the Dover Fireworks should stay at Dover High school instead of going back and forth do to when you have it at Dover high you bring a lot of the community together with Music and vendors and you don't have it on the hill everyone is scattered everywhere. Thank you.
- I think Dover does a great job, with what it has to work with, providing recreation for all ages.
- I think focus should be to maintain all current parks at a better level before adding any new parks!
- I think Hilton Park could be a great park but lacks updated structures. Think New Castle. The park by Midway Lumber is horrible regarding glass, condoms, beer bottles. We use to clean up as a family activity but I didn't want my kids getting cut on all the glass.
- I think it is our job as citizens to be active in learning in what our city has to offer. I'm not sure promotion is a good use of tax dollars during this difficult time. (Tax Cap strikethrough)). Thanks for asking! A strong Rec department is needed to meet the needs of our community. The dedication of our community to fully fund and participate in our recreation programs is a measure of a vibrant healthy active community.
- I think the Dover indoor pool could be kept a lot cleaner. I use it 3xs a week and I am not sure at this point if I am going to continue with a membership...unless it is kept a lot cleaner
- I think there is a difference between facilities and parks and we need to promote our parks more than our facilities. I love passive recreation, and don't see the need for active.
- I was outraged that after a flood the fencing around the river walk was not replaced for months and months - a real danger!



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- I was unaware all of these parks exist in Dover!
- I went to the Park St. playground once and was pretty sure a drug deal was going on. There was a creepy guy there alone on his cell phone off + on. I left just about as soon as I got there. I didn't have a phone to report it at the time. But, I'll probably never go back there. A dog park would be nice.
- I will say again there aren't really any place for the little guys and girls to practice, it seem like its a fight every year for a spot, it seems at times that all that matters are the older kids,
- I wish we could do something about the vandalism on Garrison Hill Park/Tower
- **I would highly suggest evaluating the need for a new skateboard facility. The current Dover Skate Park needs attention for a number of reasons. This park is one of the most used recreation facilities in the city. I would be happy to assist in any way that I can. I have experience with skate park planning. My name is James and I may be reached at (info removed from document but has been forwarded to the Recreation Department). Thank you.**
- I would like to see better restroom facilities at the parks. Most parks are used by families with small children and port-a-potties are not acceptable - especially ones that are rarely in good shape.
- I would like to see more information and promotion of canoe launches and trails.
- I would like to see tennis courts maintained. They go too long with large cracks on the courts. We love that there are so many courts to play on in Dover :-)
- I would like to see the port-a-potties maintained more regularly or more permanent facilities built.
- I would like to see Willand park trails developed by both Dover and Somersworth. It is a beautiful area, and could be more developed with more walking trails, biking, cross country skiing. In the summer, paddleboats, canoes and kayaks. I've been to other cities where they utilize their ponds.
- I would love to see more lighting in the parking lot by the library - I get a little freaked out when I walk to my car after working out at the McConnell center when it is dark! Also, it would be great to have a more permanent snack/refreshment bar at the pavilion beyond the French fries truck and ice cream truck. One last thing...I have found it difficult to enroll in sports programs like baseball and soccer that are not through the Rec department - it is sometimes difficult to figure out how and where to register (at times it has felt like you need a secret handshake, or code word - "the eagle flies by night!")
- I would really appreciate it if you would recruit girls from Newmarket to play on the Babe Ruth Softball spring and summer league. As we do not have it in Newmarket. Thank you!
- I'd be more apt to visit these parks if I knew more about them, how to get to them and what each park offered along with their times of operation and possibly how to reserve an area if possible. (this may be on the city website but it surely isn't easy to find).
- I'd like to know the dollar value these facilities add to our quality of life.
- I'd love to see Garrison Hill re-open the ski area with lift service again. My family uses South Berwick's PowderHouse Hill all the time. I know Dover could run a successful "get out, get active" winter program. I'm happy to share my ideas for this project with the right person's). Regards, Steve (phone number removed but passed on to Recreation Department)
- I'm not interested in talking about parks until our street is fixed [Applevale]
- I'm sorry - It's not a very good questionnaire from me since I do not use the parks at all except to watch the summer concerts at Henry Law.
- I'm sorry...I am just so frustrated with the situation in Dover right now. My priorities are the schools, the library and the teen center.
- I've been to a lot of arena in the past few years with youth hockey. Dover Arena is among the better facilities. Please keep up the good work.
- If the ice rink can't make money, why doesn't the city sell it to someone who can? Do we need subsidized hockey in Dover?
- **I Have lived all over the united states and one of the biggest attractions for me to any community is their usage of outside space and their support of community activities. Dover has a good start in that direction but needs to put more of a priority in that regard. One of the biggest inhibitors to my usage of parks is the need to drive to one versus walking. We have beautiful neighborhoods but no sidewalks or sidewalks that are in poor repair which inhibit ones ability to safely travel from home to downtown or to the parks. I live within walking distance to downtown Dover and yet find I have to drive due to safety issues on my road. I have several parks within walking distance but have to load the kids into my car instead of pushing the stroller. The investment in good pedestrian walkways would pay great dividends later down the road as congestion in downtown decreases, people become more aware of their neighborhoods and how they look, and increase their interaction with their neighbors who they see on the road.**
- Include maps of where the parks are - I didn't know there were so many
- Instead of spending on new parks let's improve what we already have
- Invest in the kids! Keep kids busy and active socialize! Build community!
- It is high time that recreational facilities such as the pools and ice arena start charging user fees more appropriate to what is required to cover operational costs. The taxpayers of the city must subsidize schools whether they have children or children in them. The taxpayer should not be forced to subsidize recreational facilities on top of schools. Recreational facilities are "wants" vs. "needs". In the current economic climate we should consider reducing the scope and size of the recreation department.
- It would be fun to show outdoor movies on a big screen, maybe at Henry Law.
- It would be great the see a list off the Dover Web site (and make it easy to get to) of all the parks with a reference as to parking and amenities.
- It would be great to see more equipment at one centralized park, such as Henry Law. I tend to travel to Jackson's Landing for this purpose.
- It would be nice if an effort were made in modernizing the basic, community parks existing parks in residential areas before taking on projects such as concession stands at ball fields. Every child in Dover deserves a safe, well-equipped, age-appropriate place to play without having to drive miles to get there.
- it would be nice to have more bike/running/walking paths that connect the various recreational areas without having to always use the main roads downtown.
- It would be nice to have some shade area at the Shaw's lane fields. Also, if the trail around the fields could be continuous and marked for distance. Maybe some exercise stations around there.
- It's nice to have a place to go to play tennis, basketball, run, or swing. Hopefully my grandchildren will have these available for them. My older children still play basketball at Woodman park outside.
- I've noticed when I'm at my kids cheerleading games or softball there is usually cops looking to ticket people. I actually got a ticket in one of the high school parking lots because I did what lots of other cars did and parked off the pavement. if there is not enough parking and we are safely parked is this really a time or place for the cops to be ticketing people. we pay good money to sign our kids up for sports and now we are forced to not watch them if theres not enough parking in fear of a ticket. I think there are worse things that the officers should be taking care of . just my opinion.
- Jenny Thompson pool locker room is an embarrassment and health hazard. I would like more classes, really miss ballroom dancing
- Jenny Thompson pool needs to be updated, and maybe add more "water park" stuff like The Works, so we don't have to pay the ridiculous works prices, but can get it at the community pool and charge more of an entrance fee.
- Jenny Thompson Pool should be cheaper to use
- Just keep the parks available for the kids!!
- keep publishing the benefits and nature of each of the parks Dover has to offer more community events
- Keep up the good work!
- Keep up the good work!
- Like swing lot
- Live only 5 minutes from Dover and shop/dine there often. Can't wait for river development!

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- Maybe I missed it, but I see no plan for a public boat launch in the waterfront plan. That would be the place to incorporate a community small recreational boat launch facility.
- McConnell center is vital for many people who depend upon it and visit regularly
- More "skilled" events for kids rather than general public. We travel to other towns to get additional sports training for the kids.
- More adults softball and little league ball fields
- **More information on the web site**
- More maintenance, less emphasis on sports only as it restricts access as not all of the city benefits.
- More trash and recycling bins pretty much everywhere would be nice.
- more use of school facilities during vacations and summer for Rec programming
- Mostly the play ground equipment needs safety especially Woodman. the large slide has dangerous spot at bottom and benches not attached to picnic table
- need better drainage for football field on Bellamy
- Need locations for kids/adults to play pick up football and baseball.
- Need to offer more programs for young children. If there were organized playgroups (ex: Tuesday mornings at Henry Law Park playground half the year and a ball play time or other indoor activity for the colder months of the year.) This would promote early involvement among families. Young parents often do not feel connected to the community until their children enter school.
- Need to start a trash pickup program like the adopt a spot, and more Police monitoring at some of the remote parks like Long Hill
- Need to treat infields at Shaw's Lane with weed killer to stop grass/weeds from growing.
- no real need to change anything, well maintained no need for more signs, promotions, maintenance...people use what is already there
- none
- One sport should not have sole use of a field when it is not the sport's season. Example spring soccer should not have prescient over a spring sport because soccer is a fall sport and that is when the majority of kids play that sport.
- Our children ALWAYS enjoy going to the park....any park. We always have a good time. The availability of restrooms is also very convenient. Small children always need an available bathroom.
- Our neighborhood would love to see the Applevale park updated and improved. There are tons of kids in the area who will use the facility. We need mulch/fill under the play area. And the basketball court needs fixing. \*New toddler play area...
- Our parks are a great way to bring the community together. We enjoy all of the parks & facilities in Dover and almost always with friends, neighbors or the general community.
- **overall, a good job. A direct link on the city website home page would be helpful.** More activities during late fall, winter and early spring.
- Overall, I feel that Dover does a better job than surrounding communities - it is one of the major reasons we chose to move to the area. However, we would like to see more programs offered for children and families. Something beyond ice and swim lessons for young children. Closure of the only 50 meter pool in the state would be a major loss to the community!
- Park St. park is terribly out of date. Needs equipment maintenance. and/or a good power wash to rid the equip. of graffiti. Kids would love a basketball court, as there is not much to do there.
- parks are starting to get worn out- It would be great to put some boat docks at Hilton Park & perhaps in the new downtown project.
- Parks that can be played on that are separate from sports activities. More options for group activities such as tennis for school age children.
- Parks were bad already but with guys like (name removed) around and the tax cap bunch who hilariously are all suing each other now over their propaganda newspaper issue there is no way to improve the deteriorating parks we have let alone even care for them. Park Street has been an embarrassment to the city now for years! Sullivan Field should have a grass infield. There's just no money.
- **Perhaps the single most important item on this list are the volunteers who devote so much of their time to the youth of Dover.** If it wasn't for the volunteers we wouldn't have much in the way of programs. **Hats off to the volunteers!!**
- **Playgrounds need to be updated. More playgrounds with shaded areas need to be built.**
- Please consider cleaning up (graffiti), mulching, fixing basketball all hoops, at the Applevale park. We have many kids in our community who use the park and would love to more often. Thanks you! :-)
- Please enforce no dogs in the parks! Not only do some dog owners not pick up their dog's waste, there are many people, children and adults alike, who are afraid of dogs!
- **Please post the results of this survey and any post-survey action items on the city website for viewing.**
- **PLEASE update the Henry Law Park...so many people will be coming to Dover for the Children's Museum and it would be nice to have a great park** (with a gate around it would be superb) **to show off our great city!**
- Please... better trash pick up, thanks
- Public boat launch at sewer treatment plant. More soccer fields
- Question 7 was hard because in the winter we might visit a park once a month, but in spring and summer it is once a week, and in the fall probably closer to every other week.
- Rec programs are too expensive based on the amount of taxes that we pay, and it is often time challenging to sign up for certain activities, especially summer swimming lessons
- recreation in this city - and any city - provides for a strong quality of life - the school programs and the recreation programs work hand in hand well - please avoid cutting any programs being provided at this time
- Routine maintenance seems good. Long-term upkeep/maintenance/replacement plans seem marginal.
- Shaw's Lane main soccer fields are in terrible shape, and have been for awhile. Tennis courts at Long Hill needs lower fence repairs.
- Shaw's Lane soccer fields need a better lawn maintenance routine - too many ruts and bare spots
- Some of our favorite parks outside Dover are the Jackson's Landing park in Durham and the Moharimet School playground in Madbury.
- **Thank you for keeping the summer program this year. We depend on the low cost program to keep our kids safe and busy in the summer while we work. I also love having parks that promote community. Any loss to the program is a loss for the City.**
- **Thank you for resurfacing WPS tennis courts. Let's keep what we have high quality, no need to add more.**
- **Thank you for this review and your efforts! We have a great city and should all contribute to its cleanliness and welcoming appearance.**
- thank you!
- THANK YOU!
- Thanks for all you've done!
- Thanks for all your work! I would love to see more trail networks through town for walking, biking, skiing, etc.
- **The arena is a vital facility for our community. Thousands of adults and children skate. Not to mention the thousands of kids that come to Dover for travel Hockey which improves our local economy.** I don't know what I'd do without the arena.
- The baseball fields are in better shape than the softball fields, why? Also, why are the private schools allowed to use the softball fields and pay no participation fees? They leave the field in poor shape for the youth softball games.
- The city doesn't do much with Applevale. Teenagers hang out and graffiti
- **The city has a great park system; they simply need to take better care of the facilities.** The pools are often in poor condition, especially regarding cleanliness.
- The Dover Parks and Recreation programs (such as Small-Minor League Baseball, Youth Basketball, Swimming Lessons, Camp Sun & Fun) were invaluable parts of my children's growing up. Our entire family benefited from these programs and enjoyed our involvement in them immensely. **My sincere wish as a resident and taxpayer is that the city continues to offer the same wide range of quality programs now and on into the future so that all of Dover's youth and young families can enjoy the benefits that we did.**
- The McConnell Center recreation gym and the many senior activities listed are an attribute to our city
- the only thing that's ever been annoying are the port a potties....they are disgusting, because they aren't emptied enough

- The parks need to have toddler swings even if it has just one. We often go to the Horne St park after school and my 1 year old has nothing to do.
- The publication that comes out seasonally that tells about what is available is good.
- There are great events offered for the family during the week, but I would hope there could be more for working families, for example the McConnell Center. Can we get bubblers going and fix the grills at Henry Law Park? And Lastly, make things more family friendly.
- there is not enough mulch at the Henry law park AT ALL.
- there needs to be a better skate park. By this I'm saying professionally built and safe. Myself, (names removed but forwarded to Recreation Department) from (store name removed) and some others have been trying to make some improvements to what we have as money becomes available but a think in the long run we are spending more money on a park that isn't going to be a place for the kids to improve their skills. The better the park the more out of town traffic it will see therefore helping the local stores.
- **There should be a downloadable map of all the Dover Rec areas on the website.**
- **These are vital a quality city life these should be expanded,** tax cap be damned!
- **These parks are vital to the kids in this town, without the use of them I fear more kids would be looking for something to do, leading to potential trouble. It's great to have these parks for kids/families to utilize! Love the fields at Shaw's Lane**
- This town needs a skate park that is safe for all ages and ability. That area is not a safe place, its used mostly for loitering. **The idea of a well functioning skate park has tremendous potential.**
- **Towns with well-kept and maintained and used parks have a great quality of life that attracts more people - especially the urban centers.** Landscaping, good equipment is all that it takes!!
- Trash pick up at parks is essential, and keeping graffiti off is another plus.
- **Underfunding of maintenance of sites is a shame** (i.e. outdoor pool issue). Programs offered I usually cannot take advantage of because I work and things aren't offered outside of workday (for me and my children).
- Use park closest to home, but not as often as others because Woodman park school, for example, has nicer equipment (like teeter-totter and picnic tables) than the park closest to me (Horne St school). WRT promotion: **Community Notes bulletin is good, but I've never seen anything that outlines the features or differences among the different parks or playgrounds. Channel 22 could be way better utilized with calendar items, for example, or with more information** – that channel never has any new info on it, and in fact often has outdated info. Toddler Easter Egg Hunt in 2007 was fun, but it didn't happen in 2008 :-).
- **Very concerned that the already mediocre conditions of the City's facilities will deteriorate** as the spending cap takes hold. Since the economy is worsening, youth leagues will be able to provide less and less of the capital needed to improve/maintain the facilities.
- **Very much need to promote what is out there for public use - I've lived here for 10 years and I still don't know what I'm allowed to use and when.**
- **We absolutely love the Jenny Thompson Pool. As a non-resident we can't thank you enough for such a wonderful facility. Thank you so much for allowing us to (Rollinsford) to do first tee, OnTrack, and swim lessons. :-)**
- We are heavy users of the parks and would like to see more emphasis on trail systems, either biking or hiking.
- **We feel fortunate to be Dover residents and are able to take advantage of the recreation facilities provided to our family.** (names removed)
- **We feel that the recreational facilities in Dover (esp. the outdoor pool and ice rink) are invaluable to the city. Not only do they offer such great activities for the people of Dover, they directly impact the area as far as bringing people into the city to eat, shop, stay over - people that normally would not be coming to Dover if not for the events at these venues.**
- We have two cool playgrounds and Willand park in walking distance from our house, and it is very difficult to get to them without sidewalks. More and more people would use these parks if sidewalks were available.
- We love all Dover does in regards to upkeep of its parks. Thanks you!
- We love the available parks in Dover. Would love to see some equipment in the shade for hot days.
- We need an all purpose turf field, our teams would benefit especially in the spring when snow prevents outdoor practice. It would be low maintenance in comparison with grass and the city to rent time to other schools to defray the cost of the field
- **We need to maintain and promote what we currently have. I am totally opposed to adding any addition parks at this time and strongly feel that better use could be made of the current locations.**
- We sit cooped up inside from September to May waiting for the days that we can play outside again. Not all of us have yards big enough to hit a baseball or install a large swing set. Most young families could never entertain the thought of having our own pool. We love being able to walk down the street and have a picnic at the park or drive down the street to use the outdoor pool. It gives us a chance to visit with our neighbors and for our kids to reconnect with their classmates. It makes paying those large tax bills a little more bearable knowing that at least some of the money goes toward family fun. There is nothing like taking your toddler to see his big brother play baseball "under the lights" at Beckwith!!
- we use the pool, better adult swim time would be nice...and possibly a more convenient time.
- We're proud to be Dover residents. Thank you.
- We were very disappointed with the Longhill park. We went to play tennis there and finished off by playing on the climbing structures. You can see from my children's ages they can read. I was upset with the amount of profanity written on the play structures.
- Where are the tennis nets for Woodman park? It seems a waste of money to have repaired the courts and not finish the job. Kids are using it for skateboarding and bikes! \*The bleachers at Bellamy fields are a hazard!
- **While these projects seem to happen very slowly, we are very appreciative of the city's efforts. Improvement of our parks has been one of our greatest community builders since we moved to Dover. Thank you.**
- **Willand pond was a huge draw for people and now is contaminated. That really needs to be fixed.**
- **With regard to the arena and pool, Dover needs to recognize that these facilities attract a great deal of "outside" traffic which represents big \$\$ for local businesses. They should be at the forefront of the budget, not a line item to be used as political leverage each year. Every town will have ball fields and trails and such, but these facilities have a long and storied history of service not just to Dover but to the seacoast community. It is a responsibility for Dover to keep them open and running efficiently. Properly run, they will not cost the town money!**
- Woodman park used to have a water fountain available. It would be nice to have that turned back on for use near the tennis courts.
- would be great to get a little more playground equipment at the Park Street Park.
- Would like jazzercise/ zueuba [?] or other classes for the people in my age group or 20's-up! For fall ballroom dancing.
- Would love to hear about some of the nature trails in the Dover Independent newspaper. Locations of them and how long they are.
- **Would love to plant more trees in town, emphasize native species, and encourage some downtown merchant to take a chance on a "green roof" (rooftop gardens).**
- **you didn't include places like the F&G and Auduborn areas, Watson Rd and County Farm Road trails, which should be considered as recreation areas, and given publicity. They are valuable recreational resources within the city even though not "city" areas**

