

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.

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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.

Home 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

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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.

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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.

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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

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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