

Input to  
Goffstown Parks  
and Recreation  
Master Plan

2009



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# **Goffstown Parks and Recreation**

## **2009 Steering Committee**

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee has been meeting for a number of months to provide input to the Parks and Recreation Commission for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. After conducting a public survey and public forum, we have written and provided five Master Plan input sections.

These sections were generated by analyzing the survey results and the input from the workshop. Even though the sections cover a majority of the input, the Parks and Recreation Commission is encouraged to examine the survey and workshop results for any additional information that could help them write the Master Plan.

It is understood that the Town of Goffstown and the Parks and Recreation Department does not own and control every recreational facility and program within the town of Goffstown. This is acceptable in that it provides other entities to contribute to the recreational needs of the residents of Goffstown. However, with respect to the trails within the town of Goffstown, this steering committee recommends that one of more town entities be responsible for these trails. It is difficult to make plans for trails when there is no clear delineation of responsibilities for these trails. And it is evident from the survey that there is a strong response to trails usage and improvements.

The Steering Committee is not knowledgeable with the various aspects of handicap access. Because of this, we would like to pass along a comment from the survey that mentions a need for handicap access to the swimming pools. The Parks and Recreation Commission may want to determine the need and methods available for providing handicap access to the swimming pools.

In the input sections, the Steering Committee has provided target dates for some of the objectives. These are suggested target dates. The Commission should determine if these dates are reasonable and may or may not decide to include dates for the objectives that are put into the Master Plan.

We hope you find this input valuable when drafting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Steering Committee

**Goffstown Parks and Recreation  
Steering Committee Master Plan Input**

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

<b>DIRECTOR'S REPORT</b>
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**Background**

The Parks & Recreation Department was established in 1972. The Board of Selectmen merged the Barnard Park and Roy Park Trustees into one Parks & Recreation Commission. The Commission then hired the first Director in 1972.

The department oversees the following Park areas; Barnard Park, Roy Park, Town Common, Recreation Center, Church St. Park and Skateboard Park. In addition, Sarette Complex, which has 3 multi-purpose rectangular fields as well as a softball/baseball field on premises. The department manages two swimming pools at Barnard and Roy Parks, there are 7 tennis courts, one track and field, two playground areas, a skateboard park and an outdoor ice skating rink.

The department operates out of the Recreation Center. An addition was added in 1998. This includes the French Community Room/Gym as well as the Commissioner's Room for group meetings. This addition has greatly improved the ability of the department to serve the community.

The department is responsible for maintaining approximately 230 acres of grounds/fields. The staff consists of three full-time personnel in the positions of Director, Program Supervisor and Groundskeeper. There are also up to 18 seasonal staff.

Roy Park was renovated in both 1979 and 1998. The renovations included; the ball field, outdoor basketball court, parking, pavilion and playground area. Barnard Park was renovated in 1985 with the addition of the John Brown Track & Field. In 1997, additional playground equipment was added and in 2000 renovations to the pavilion and guard house at the pool were made. In 2005 the park had additional renovations starting with the park beautification project, renovations to the outdoor basketball court, and completion of the playground improvements in 2009.

The department has also been a conduit for several private youth sports groups in relation to scheduling of facilities at both public and private venues. Many of the school athletic teams utilize town facilities such as Roy Park for J.V. Girls Softball games, Barnard Park for both the tennis and track & field teams as well as the Sarette Complex for soccer and football teams. The Parks & Recreation Director has also served as the facility scheduling agent for the Goffstown Lions Club complex.

**Maintenance of Facilities:**

An area of concern has been the proper care and upkeep of outdoor recreation facilities. Although the data from the master plan survey did not show that the public recognized the possible need for more outdoor recreation fields, it is important to recognize the need for proper maintenance of existing

facilities. Overuse of facilities leads to facilities that are not in proper condition for use by groups. Use of fields for activities that they were not intended for in a non-use season also lead to facilities that are not ready for use in the season they were intended for.

All sports playing fields need to be cored, seeded, and fertilized under a proper park management plan. This plan may also include allowing a field to “rest”. The concern raised during this part of a proper management plan is; where do those groups go when that occurs?

The proper scheduling of town and school facilities for use by all groups has always been a collaborative effort between the Parks & Recreation Director and the School Athletic Director.

All Playground facilities need to be maintained under standard guidelines for safety. Aquatic facilities need to have continued upgrading as it relates to safety both to the physical plant as well as the proper water quality. The aquatic facilities at both Barnard and Roy Park were built in 1971. Although both facilities have had constant upgrading over the years as it relates to filtration systems and maintenance of the underground lines, it is important to note that these facilities had the most use per data collected by the master plan survey. It will be vital for the community at large to have these facilities well maintained and managed for the future.

RECREATION PROGRAMS: The department offers approximately 60 different types of programs for the community. A concerted effort needs to be made to reach out to the Senior Citizen population for inclusion in more activities. Also, emphasis on non-sport activities needs to be constantly monitored. Many of the department programs are offered in the public schools. The relationship between the schools and the town needs to be a strong one. The public at large needs to recognize and appreciate that the school facilities are community buildings. Gym space during the winter months is at a premium. The use of gym space needs to be inclusive for public agencies to use for public recreation programs.

In closing, The Parks & Recreation Department is here to try and serve the public good. Recreation programs should be positive in nature and are important to the wellbeing of a community. Positive recreation programs help develop an enhanced quality of life for its community. The success of those programs and the facilities of the department are the direct result of the involvement of the community to help make them successful.

## Purpose and Process

In early 2009, David French, Director, Parks & Recreation, having an interest in completing a Parks & Recreation Master Plan contacted Dan Reidy, Office Administrator and Community Development Educator for UNH Cooperative Extension in Hillsborough County seeking assistance in such a project. Following two or three meetings that included the Parks & Recreation Commission (the Commission) they drafted a budget and listed stakeholder organizations that might be interested in participating as a Steering Committee (The Committee) to plan and coordinate completion of a Master Plan. The Master Plan will be a guiding document providing a vision for the community that directs future efforts toward potentially new or upgraded facilities or programs. Representation was requested and received from the Screamin' Eagles Football and Cheer, Babe Ruth Baseball, Goffstown Rails to Trails, Goffstown Conservation Commission, Crispin's House, Goffstown Main Street Program, Tri-town Soccer, Goffstown Junior Baseball as well as the Commission and UNH Cooperative Extension.

The Committee was initially facilitated by Cooperative Extension, and later by co-chairs David Gagne and Al Baines. They met beginning in June, 2009 and developed a public opinion survey in order to better understand the town's recreational needs and desires. Results of the survey would help frame discussion for a workshop to be held on September 19. Through the survey development process it became clear that a primary benefit of the survey would be to educate the residents about programs, facilities and field ownership. While many fields are owned by the town or school district, others are privately owned including the Lions Club and Villa Augustina fields and Allard Park.

The survey was disseminated both by mail (on or about August 24) to every Goffstown household, and also was made available on Survey Monkey, and accessible through the town web site. It was requested that all surveys be completed on line or returned to drop-boxes at any of 11 sites throughout town by September 9. Paper survey results were entered on Survey Monkey for tabulation purposes and made available for the workshop. These tabulated results may be found in Exhibit C.

Marketing for the September 19 workshop held in the Mountain View Middle School Gym was through a press release to the Union Leader, Goffstown News, and Goffstown Today. It was also announced in the survey. David Gagne, Committee co-chair and Dan Reidy from Cooperative Extension led a small group of participants in a discussion focused on the following categories:

- Individual, dual and team sports
- Land and water based activities
- Parks and playgrounds, and
- Senior programs

The workshop included use of an Impact/Feasibility Grid that looks much like a tic-tac-toe game. First, on the vertical plane, participants were asked to consider the impact (low, moderate or high) of each solution. Then on the horizontal plan solutions were positioned (low, moderate or high) based on their impact. The workshop report can be found further on in this document.

# Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee

## Master Plan Input

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

Goal: Improved access to water based natural resources including rivers, lakes and ponds.

**Background:** The town of Goffstown is rich with natural resources that are attractive to people of all ages seeking recreation opportunities. The Uncanoonuc Mountains in the southwest quadrant of the community have been an attraction for the public, at least since the earliest days of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when city-folk traveled by train and trolley to the hotel and camps that dotted the top of South Uncanoonuc. At the foot of South Mountain, just beyond the remnants of the base station for the Uncanoonuc Mountain Trolley is Mountain Base Pond. This small water body, as well as Glen Lake, at the south side of Goffstown Village, Namaske Lake in Pinardville and the Piscataquog River which bisects the town from west to east, connecting the two lakes all provide opportunities for swimming, fishing, and boating. Of perhaps enormous benefit, is that the Rail Trail, parallels the river on its five mile route through town.

The Master Plan Survey prepared by the Master Plan Steering Committee asked a number of questions relative to sites and facilities under the ownership and care of the Town of Goffstown, the Goffstown School District as well as other sites under private ownership. Specifically, the survey inquired about Glen Lake & Beach, Mountain Base Pond, Namaske Lake and the Piscataquog River.

The following results can be reported:

- Question 3, asked about **frequency of use of other facilities** including Allard Field, Cemetery Field, Conservation Land, County Field, Golds Gym, Lions Club Complex, Namaske Lake, Piscataquog River, Stonebridge CC, Uncanoonuc Mountains, Villa Fields and the YMCA. Interestingly, Piscataquog River ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> behind the Uncanoonuc Mtns, and the YMCA.
- Of interest too, is that in question 4, **which of the following activities do you or members of your household participate**, row/canoe/kayak was 4<sup>th</sup>, and fishing was 6<sup>th</sup> behind the #1 choice, swimming pools, followed by hiking, biking in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> spots and playgrounds in 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 30 activities listed to choose from. Swimming pools was chosen by 60% of the respondents, hiking and biking was in the 40 – 50% range and row/canoe/kayak, playgrounds and fishing was the choice of 30 – 40% of survey participants.
- In question 5, when asked about **quality of town recreation facilities**, some interesting results reveal
  - While 80 respondents report Glen Lake Beach to be excellent to good, 77 report it to be fair to poor. Of the 11 facilities listed, Glen Lake Beach was 5<sup>th</sup> for those saying excellent to good, while the 77 reporting it as fair to poor placed it first. Certainly, a high dissatisfaction rate, against a middle of the road satisfaction rate.
  - Within the comments section of the question, responses here and in other survey questions report a desire to see Glen Lake Beach for residents only and “Glen Lake Beach needs some work”.
  - Additionally, a number of respondents in the comments suggested the need for restroom facilities at both Glen Lake Beach and Mountain Base Pond. At least one person suggested that not providing these facilities encourages visitors to resort to unsanitary choices that result in environmental degradation.

- Question 8, related to **potential new facilities/program upgrades**. From 13 possible choices, canoe and kayak launches was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Leading the ranking was lights at ball fields, picnic facilities, and running water at fields. Again there were more recommendations for restrooms at Mtn. Base Pond. Additionally, there was a suggestion of making the Glen Lake Boat Ramp for residents only, access is poor to the Piscataquog River at Bay Street, having a picnic area with kayak launches that are near the rail trail.
- The question of **prioritizing short term (1-4 years) and long term (5-20 years)** of 13 potential **new facilities options** in question 9 ranked river/lake access 4<sup>th</sup> overall, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the short term column.
- Finally, question 10, the last relevant question to this recommendation, asks about reasons for non-participation. Here, the comments were the most loud and clear regarding Glen Lake Beach. While this survey was not intended to be a referendum on the site, clearly many community members would prefer it be restricted to Goffstown residents only.

Based on survey results the following objectives are recommended:

**OBJECTIVE-Form a stakeholder committee by April 1, 2010, under the guidance of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Director to assess possible locations for increased boat access and shoreline fishing points to Glen Lake, the Piscataquog River and Namaske Lake. Issues of maintenance and management should be addressed. This committee should include representation from the non-motorized boating community, the motorized boating community, the conservation community, the skimobile community, and the recreation fishing community as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission. It is recommended that an invitation be extended to the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners seeking an appointee to represent their interests. A report should be prepared and presented to the Board of Selectmen by September 15, 2010 and should detail costs and prioritize recommendations.**

**OBJECTIVE-The Parks and Recreation Commission should dedicate sufficient time to the discussion of public bathing and swimming access at these water bodies including Mountain Base Pond. Such discussion should consider site suitability, parking and beach capacity for bathers, need for lifeguard services, liability, and the need for restroom or other pavilion/picnic type facilities. This assessment should consider annualized costs for each site analyzed with a comparison to public swimming pools currently available in the community. Following these considerations and analysis, a discussion would be appropriate in developing a recommendation about the issue of resident vs. non-resident uses of sites. A report with recommendations should be presented to the Board of Selectmen by September 15, 2010.**

Notes:

The Piscataquog River is a *designated river*, and as such falls under NH RSA 483. Glen and Namaske Lakes, are part of the river. NH Dept. of Environmental Services appoints a rivers coordinator to administer the NH rivers management and protection program.

- Uncanoonuc Lake (know locally as Mountain Base Pond) is a Great Pond of 24 acres, and as such the State of NH holds in trust for the public, the bed of the lake up to the Natural Mean High Water Mark (NH RSA 271:20).
- NH Fish & Game Department has responsibility of carrying out the state wide public boat access program under NH RSA 233-A:4.
- The NH Department of Environmental Services upon recommendation of the Board of Selectman appoint members to the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee. To contact the Goffstown member, see the office of the Board of Selectmen. To contact the Piscataquog River Local Advisory Committee contact their administrator, Southern New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, 438 Dubuque Street, Manchester NH 03102.

# Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Master Plan Input

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

GOAL: Provide additional trails for walking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing, and make better information available to residents on these and existing trails.

## Background

Trails provide recreation opportunities of a different nature than organized sports and programs. Trail users can enjoy their activities almost any time they wish, without depending on schedules or facility availability. Members of all age groups can enjoy trails. These are likely major factors in their popularity.

Goffstown has several established trails. These include various trails around the Uncanoonuc Mountains, the rail trail (which is currently under development), and nature trails near Mountain View Middle School. In addition, a number of informal trails exist on town land, county land, private land, and combinations of these.

In the recent Parks and Recreation survey, trails and trail related activities received some of the highest use and participation rates. Among town facilities, the third largest number of respondents said they used the rail trail, following only Barnard Park and the Common. Among other identified facilities, the largest number of respondents said they used the Uncanoonuc Mountains. Additionally, when asked to rate the need for a list of potential new facilities, the largest percentage of respondents (73%) stated either a short or long term need for new hiking and biking trails. Quite a few free comments also made reference to needed improvements on existing trails or additional new trails.

The town currently has some trails that are well established and formally recognized, and as a result are known to a fair number of people. The White Dot Trail on North Uncanoonuc Mountain is one example. A greater number of trails have come about by repeated informal use of an area over time, or in some instances, intentionally created by individuals. There are a number of these trails on undeveloped portions of the county land. Additionally, some Class VI roads provide important connections between trails, or serve as trails themselves.

Unlike other recreation facilities in Goffstown, ownership and maintenance responsibilities are not clear for even the established trails in town. As such, maintenance is sporadic at best. Even the locations of trails are unknown to many residents. (Several survey comments corroborate this.) Some past attempts at marking, mapping, and documenting various trails have been thwarted by doubts about the ownership of the underlying land and access rights. Information about existing trails needs to be more available to the public, as trails can't be used if they are unknown.

**Objective – Create an inventory of existing trails, including established trails, additional informal but well used trails, and relevant Class VI roads. The inventory should also include confirming the ownership of the underlying lands, and any easements or other access rights. Target date for completion is December 2010.**

**Objective – Publicly document existing established trails and their allowed uses, including relevant Class VI roads. Make information available in printed form and online. Sign or otherwise mark trailheads. Target date for completion is June 2011.**

**Objective – For portions of established trails or trailheads found to be on private land, the town should seek easements or other appropriate access rights.**

The survey has indicated significant demand for new trails. Even though some of this demand can be met by improving awareness of existing trails, new trails will still be needed. The appearance of an informal trail over time indicates a location where there is already desire and demand. This should be considered when examining locations for "new" trails. An evaluation should be conducted to determine where currently informal or completely new trails could be developed. The resulting information will be necessary to determine how additional trails will be funded and constructed.

There are a number of groups and organizations that are willing and able to design, build, and maintain trails, and would be good partners for the town. Even individuals can assist with basic trail maintenance, possibly through some form of an adopt-a-trail program. The existing trail inventory and new trail evaluation information should be made available to these groups.

**Objective – Identify existing informal trails in the above inventory that could be developed for general use as "new" trails, ranking their desirability and feasibility. Also identify needed trail types and locations that would not be satisfied by the development of informal trails, ranking them in a similar fashion. Target date for completion is December 2011.**

The town should endeavor to work with potential public and private partners to create new trails, based on inventory and ranking data previously described, and coordinated with the goals of the partners. The town Conservation Commission could be one good partner for trail development. The commission's Open Space Conservation Plan, which recognizes the importance of trails, has been adopted as part of the town's Master Plan. The town has an established volunteer organization as a partner for development and maintenance of the rail trail. Some aspects of this arrangement could possibly be used with other trails and organizations.

Funding for trail development would likely come from a combination of town and private sources. These could include fund raising by private groups and organizations. Potential grant funding should also be investigated.

**Objective – Establish a process to allow groups and organizations, in addition to the town, to create or maintain trails on town lands for public use. Make this process, the existing trail inventory, and new trail evaluation data, available to potential partner organizations and the general public. Target date for completion is December 2010.**

**Objective – Create a trail development plan. Seek out public and private partners to develop new trails, and provide for their maintenance, as well as that of existing trails. Make appropriate matches between partners and targeted trails projects. Identify likely funding sources for trail projects. Target date for completion is December 2011.**

The rail trail has a somewhat different nature than other trails in town. The largest factor in this is its dual purpose, being both a recreation facility and a transportation facility. (The mix of funding sources used to date has demonstrated this duality.) Some small portions of the rail trail have been constructed, but the work is proceeding slowly due to availability of funding. Additional grant and funding sources should be pursued. The current town rail trail standards call for a nitpack gravel surface. This could eventually serve as a base for paving the rail trail, if the town determines that it wants a paved surface. Once completed, the rail trail will be the most accessible of the town's trails.

**Objective – Complete the development of the rail trail to the town's current nitpack gravel standard. After this is done, evaluate whether the trail surface should be paved. This objective requires coordination with the Department of Public Works.**

# Goffstown Parks and Recreation

## Steering Committee

### Master Plan Input

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

GOAL: Improve recreation participation levels in Goffstown by improving communication.

#### Background

From the survey that was conducted, the top two reasons for non-participation in the various Goffstown programs and facilities were 1) Unaware of programs at 44.5% and 2) Unaware of facilities at 41.9%. The third most common reason was lack of time at 40.4%. After these three reasons, there is a significant drop to the fourth top reason "Inconvenient hours" at 22.1%.

Also of importance from the survey was the question on how people would like to receive information about the recreational programs and facilities. The top selected method was the "Parks and Recreation web site" with 186 votes. The next most popular preferences were "online newsletters" with 131 votes and "receive in mailbox at home" with 116.

From a budget perspective, it is obvious that providing information over the Internet is significantly more cost effective than any paper method. Also, the survey shows that the preferred method is the website.

Considering how Goffstown residents would use the Parks and Recreation website, the website should be easy to navigate and should not distinguish town-owned facilities and town-run programs from non-town-owned facilities and non-town-run programs.

However, this does not imply that non-town programs and facilities should appear as if the town owns the facilities or runs the programs. It is just a matter of listing facilities and programs that are available.

Note that this includes both private and public facilities and programs unless there is some issue that prevents listing these on the Goffstown Parks and Recreation website.

**Objective – Redesign the Parks and Recreation website to be able to describe programs that are not oriented by season and/or to describe all recreation**

activities, including, for example, biking, fishing, senior trips, etc. A target date for completion would be August 2010.

**Objective – Enhance the Parks and Recreation website to provide a list of all recreation facilities and programs in Goffstown with links to other websites that provide additional information on these facilities and programs. A target date for completion would be December 2010.**

Another possible method to communicate the recreation programs available is to send mail to each household in Goffstown. Even though this would be done through the Parks and Recreation Department, it should include all recreation offerings in Goffstown.

**Objective – Update the Parks and Recreation procedures and budget to include a quarterly mailing to all Goffstown households that provide a summary of the recreation programs with contact information. Once the Parks and recreation web site is available for one stop shopping, it would be the only contact information required. A target date for sending the first mailing would be June 2010.**

Further analysis of the survey shows that email lists may also improve participation. This capability had less preference than other choices; but this option is low-cost once it has been implemented because it is Internet based.

A possible problem with a general-purpose recreation email list is that there will be too much information being sent to the list since there are a significant number of programs and facilities in Goffstown. It would be more desirable to have a per-activity email list. A per-activity email list would, for example, allow email about senior trips to only go to those interested in these trips and email about swimming pool hours only go to those interested in this information.

**Objective – Enhance the Parks and Recreation website to provide a method for participants to register an email address where per-activity recreation information can be sent. A target date for completion would be December 2011.**

Signage at busy locations in Goffstown could be used to communicate key recreation information to Goffstown residents. Further investigation is required to determine what options are possible.

# Goffstown Parks and Recreation

## Steering Committee

### Master Plan Input

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

GOAL: Enhance the Parks and Recreation Programs to provide useful recreation programs and facilities for Senior Citizens in Goffstown.

#### Background

From the survey that was conducted this question was asked: “How important do you feel the following additions or upgrades would be to the existing Goffstown recreational facilities and programs”?

Of 395 responses to the question, 254 answered the portion of the question regarding the need for “More Senior Citizen programs. Of the total respondents 43 or 16.9% said there was a definite need, 116 or 46% said there was some need and 95 or 37.4% said there was no need. A total of 159 or 62.6% indicated there was definite or some need.

From the survey that was conducted this question was also asked: “In which of the following activities do you or members of your household participate”.

Of 390 responses 20 or 5.1% participate in senior citizen concerts and 30 or 7.7% participate in senior citizen trips.

Comments included in the survey that are potentially senior citizen related are:

“We enjoy going to the Beach! Hampton Beach, NH”.

“Senior Citizen trips and transportation.”

“I’d like to see a centrally located place where men and women over 55 could sign up to go mountain climbing, possibly at the Parks and Recreation parking lot.”

**Objective – Form a committee of interested citizens to identify senior citizen activities that would be of interest to a majority of our senior citizens and determine feasibility and make recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Commission for implementation.**

**Objective- Determine if there is a need for a senior citizen center. Explore utilization of school facilities as a community center.**

# Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee Master Plan Input

The Goffstown Parks and Recreation Steering Committee would like to provide the following to the Goffstown Parks and Recreation Commission as input to the Master Plan.

GOAL: Provide information on Passive Recreation Sites

## Background

Passive recreation sites include picnic areas, and park areas. Information from the survey found there was a demonstrated desire on behalf of people to have areas that could be used for passive recreation both individually and by families

Goffstown has several established areas for this type of activity. These include; Barnard Park, Roy Park, Glen Lake Beach area, Recreation Center grounds, The Common, and Church St. Park.

In the recent Parks and Recreation survey, passive recreation; picnic areas etc. received some of the highest use and participation rates.

The locations of some of these facilities are unknown to many residents. (Several survey comments corroborate this.) Information about existing facilities needs to be more available to the public, as the current facilities can't be used if they are unknown.

Objective – Create an inventory of existing passive recreation areas, including established parks, picnic areas etc. The inventory should also include directions, type of facility, what other recreation opportunities may exist within the site etc.

Objective – Establishment of new facilities in sections of the community that lack these types of areas. There should be target dates established within a park management plan for implementation

The survey has indicated significant demand for these types of recreation areas in all sections of town. This should be considered when examining locations for "new" park areas or recreation sites. An evaluation should be conducted to determine where new sites could be developed. The resulting information will be necessary to determine how additional sites will be funded and constructed.

The town should endeavor to work with potential public and private partners to create new recreation areas, based on inventory and ranking data previously described, and coordinated with the goals of the partners. The town Conservation Commission could be one good partner for this development.

Objective – Establish a process to allow groups and organizations, in addition to the town, to create or maintain parks for public use. "Adopt a Park" is a prime example of this.

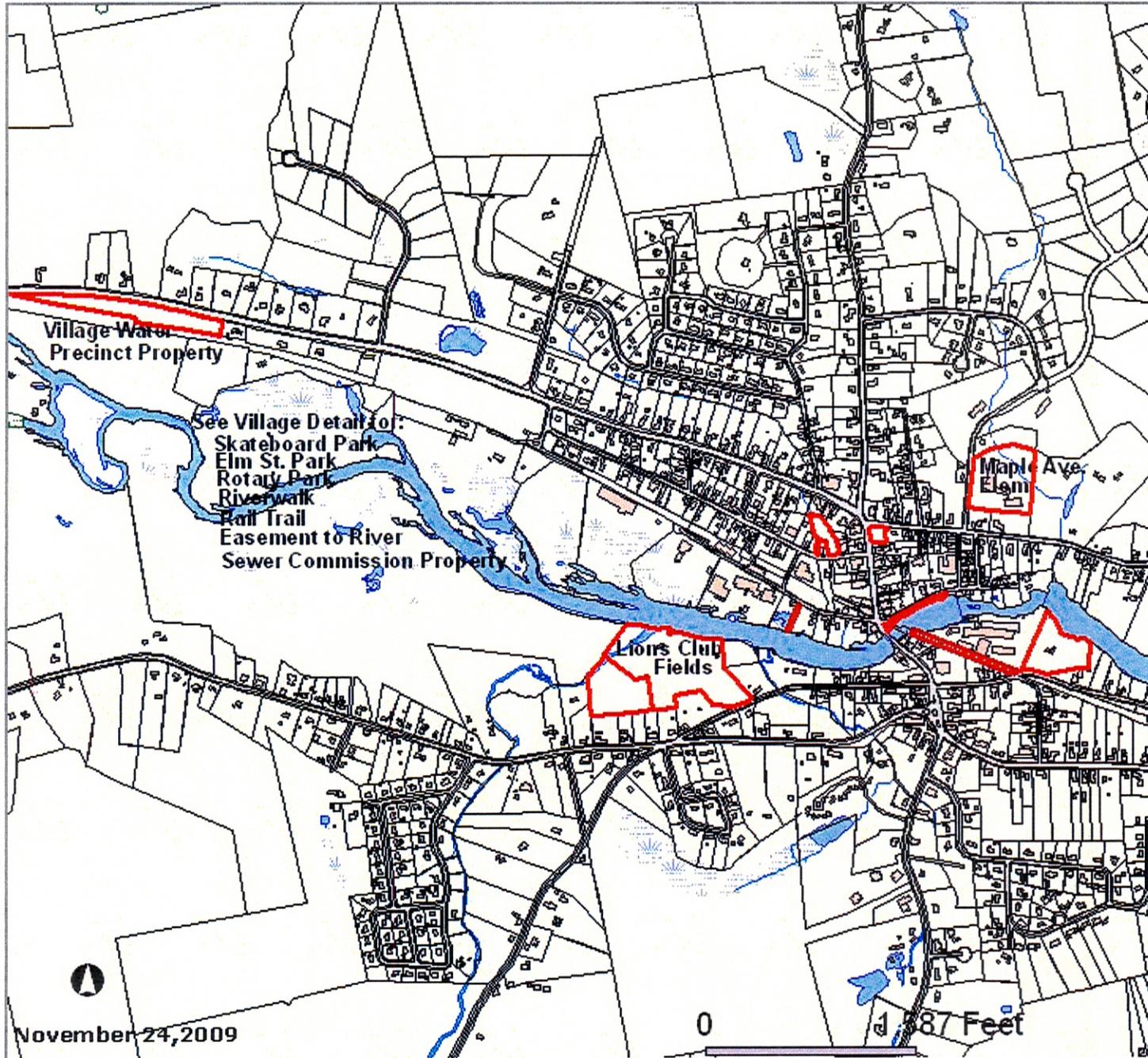
There are many non-profit organizations in the community that could be approached. Taking ownership in a recreation area would help in the overall cost of maintenance as well as the "pride" for the facility.

**Town of Goffstown, NH**  
Enterprise GIS



**Goffstown Village**

**Locus Map**



Village Water  
Precinct Property

See Village Detail for:  
Skateboard Park  
Elm St. Park  
Rotary Park  
Riverwalk  
Rail Trail  
Easement to River  
Sewer Commission Property

Lions Club  
Fields

Elm Ave

November 24, 2009

0 87 Feet

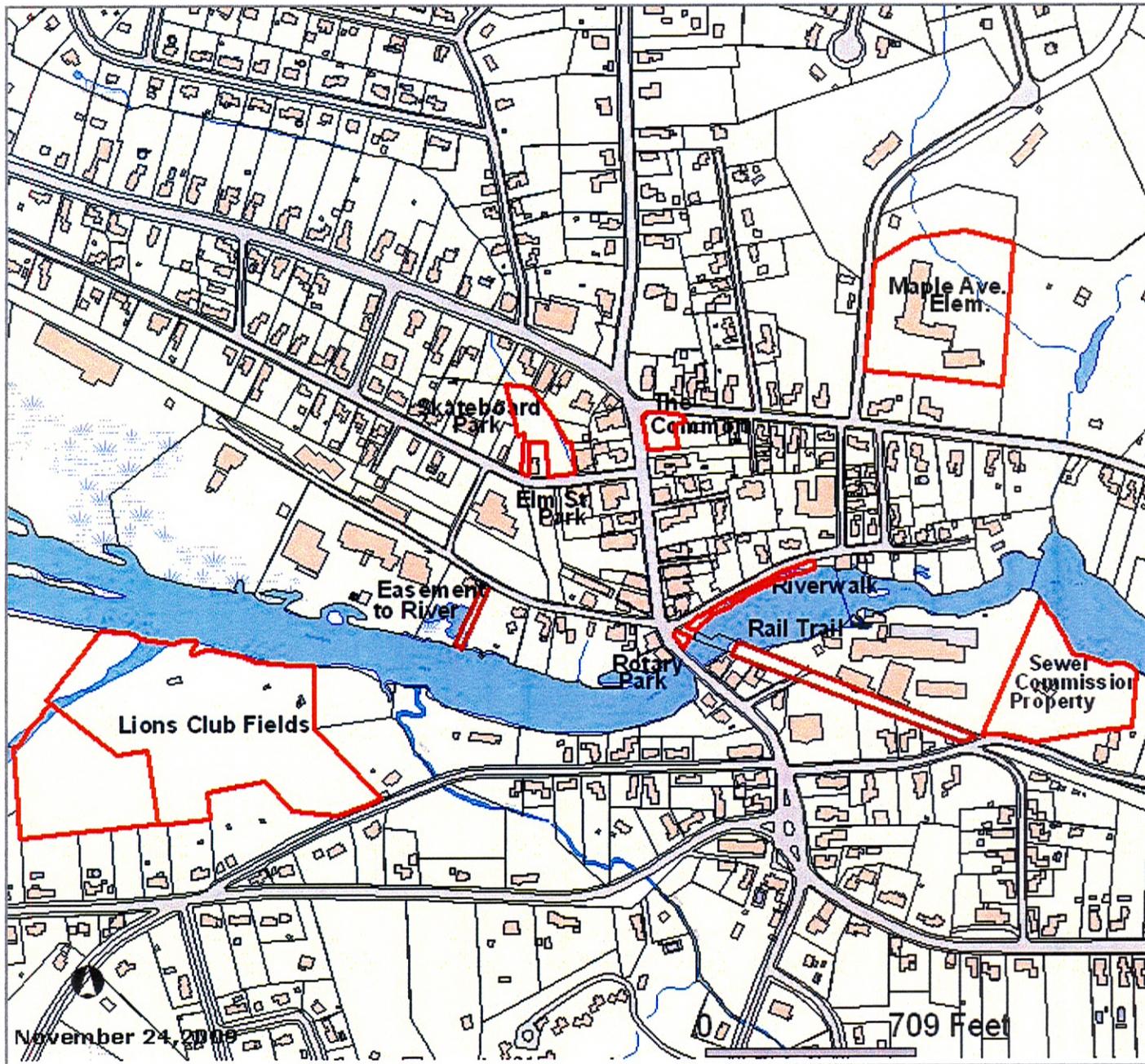
**Disclaimer**

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**Goffstown Village  
Detail**

Locus Map



November 24, 2009

709 Feet

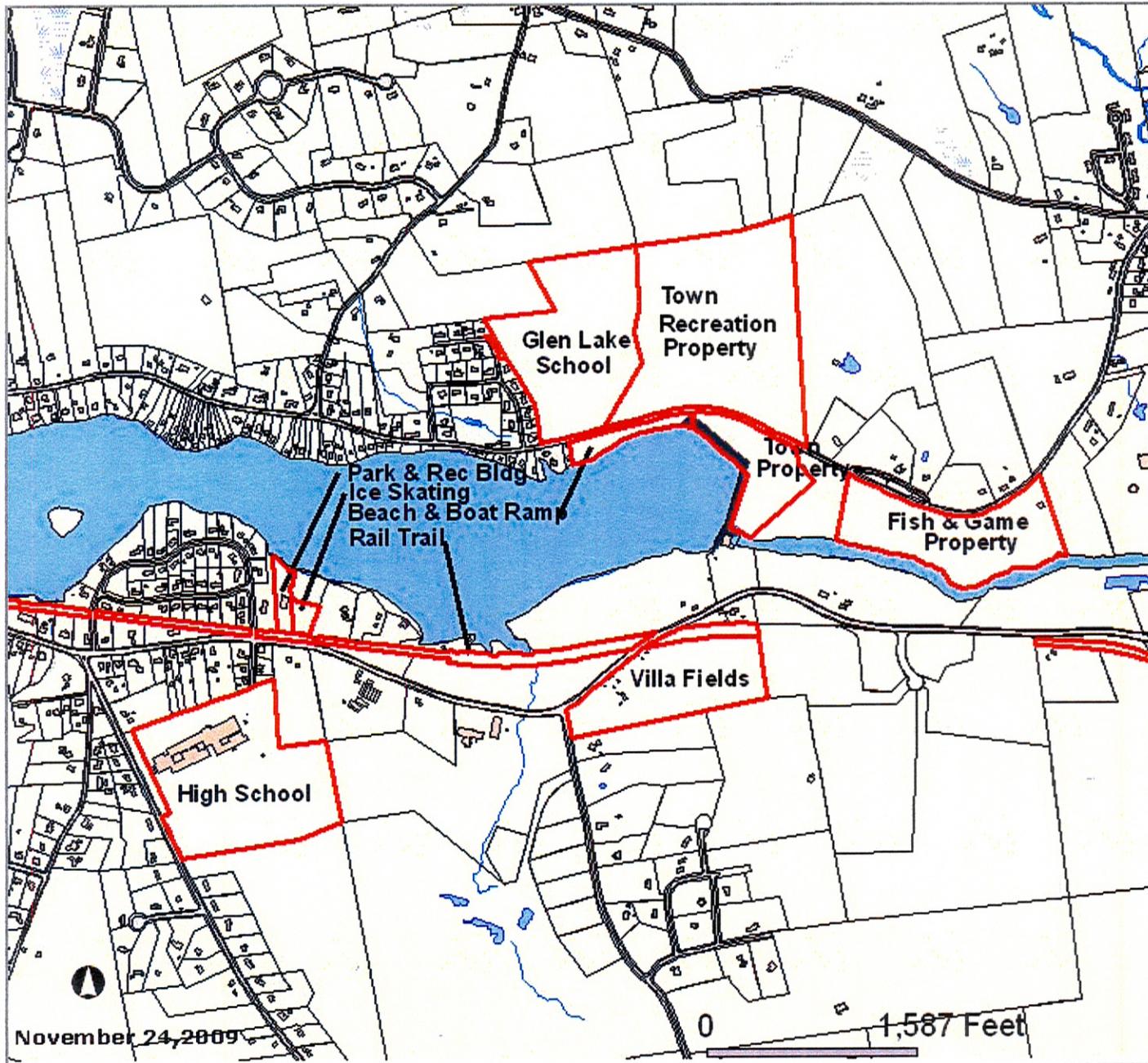
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**Glen Lake: North & South**

Locus Map



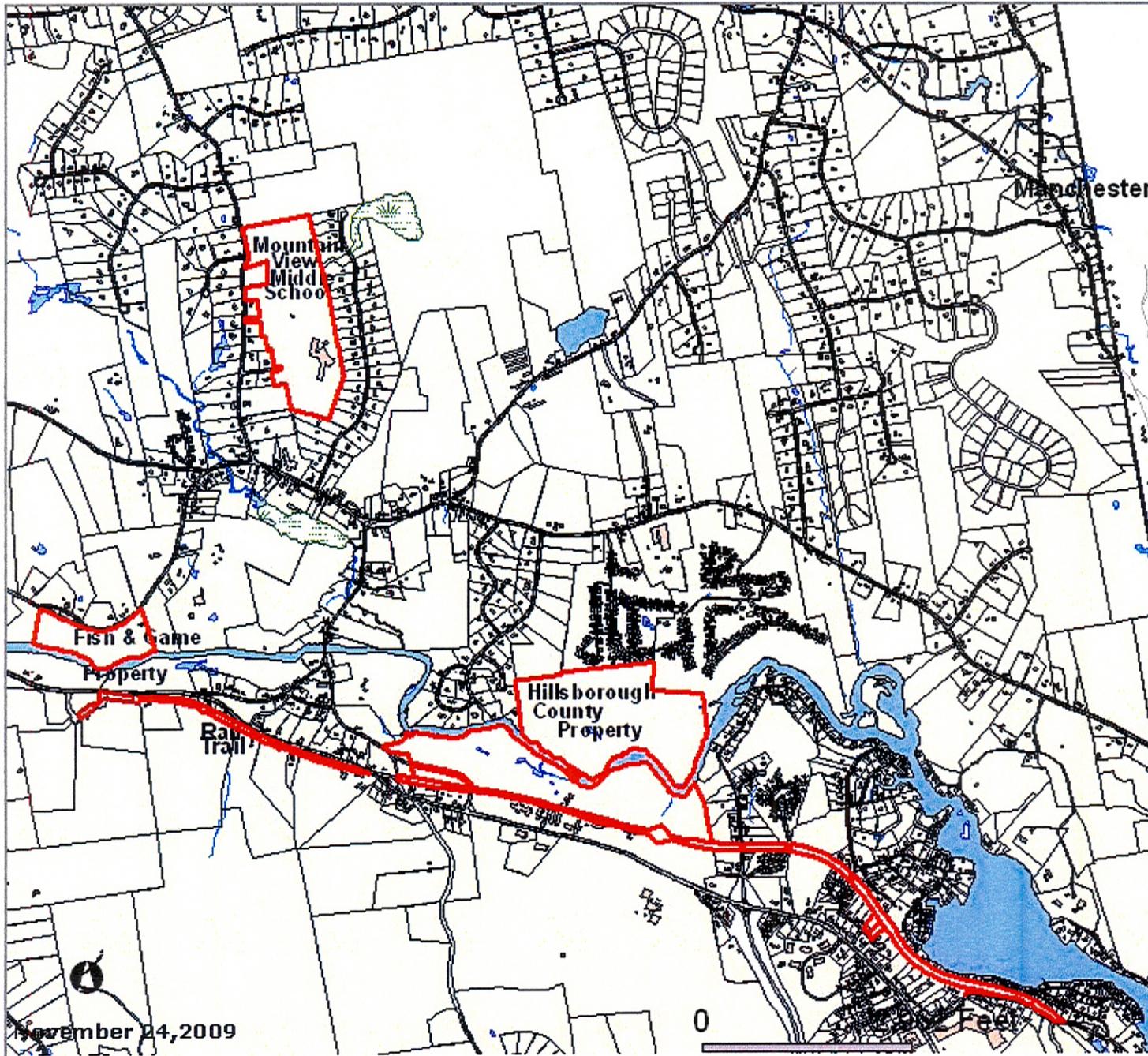
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**Town of Goffstown, NH**  
Enterprise GIS



**Grasmere**

**Locus Map**



November 24, 2009

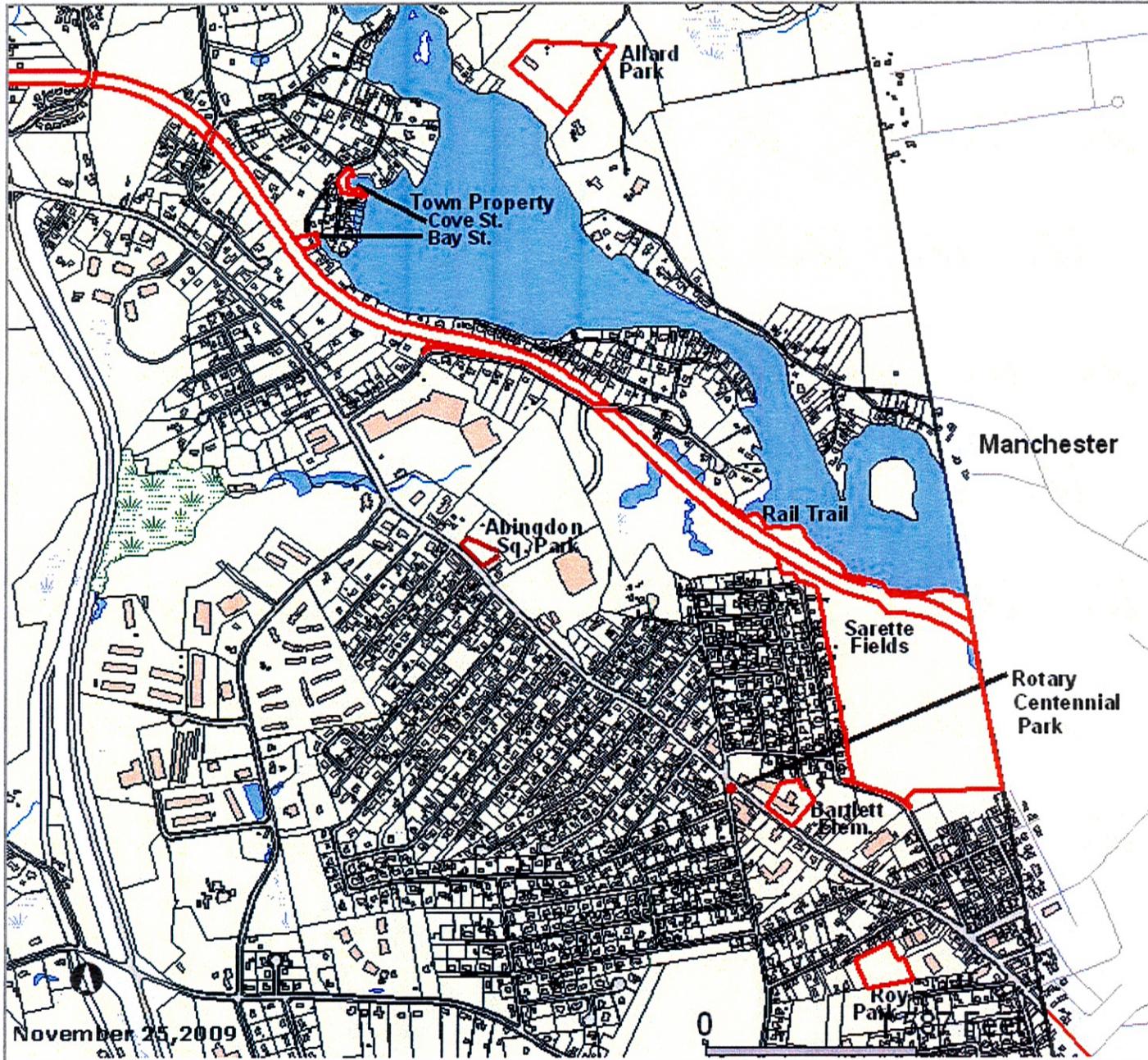
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**Town of Goffstown, NH**  
Enterprise GIS



**Pinardville and  
Namaske Lake**

Locus Map



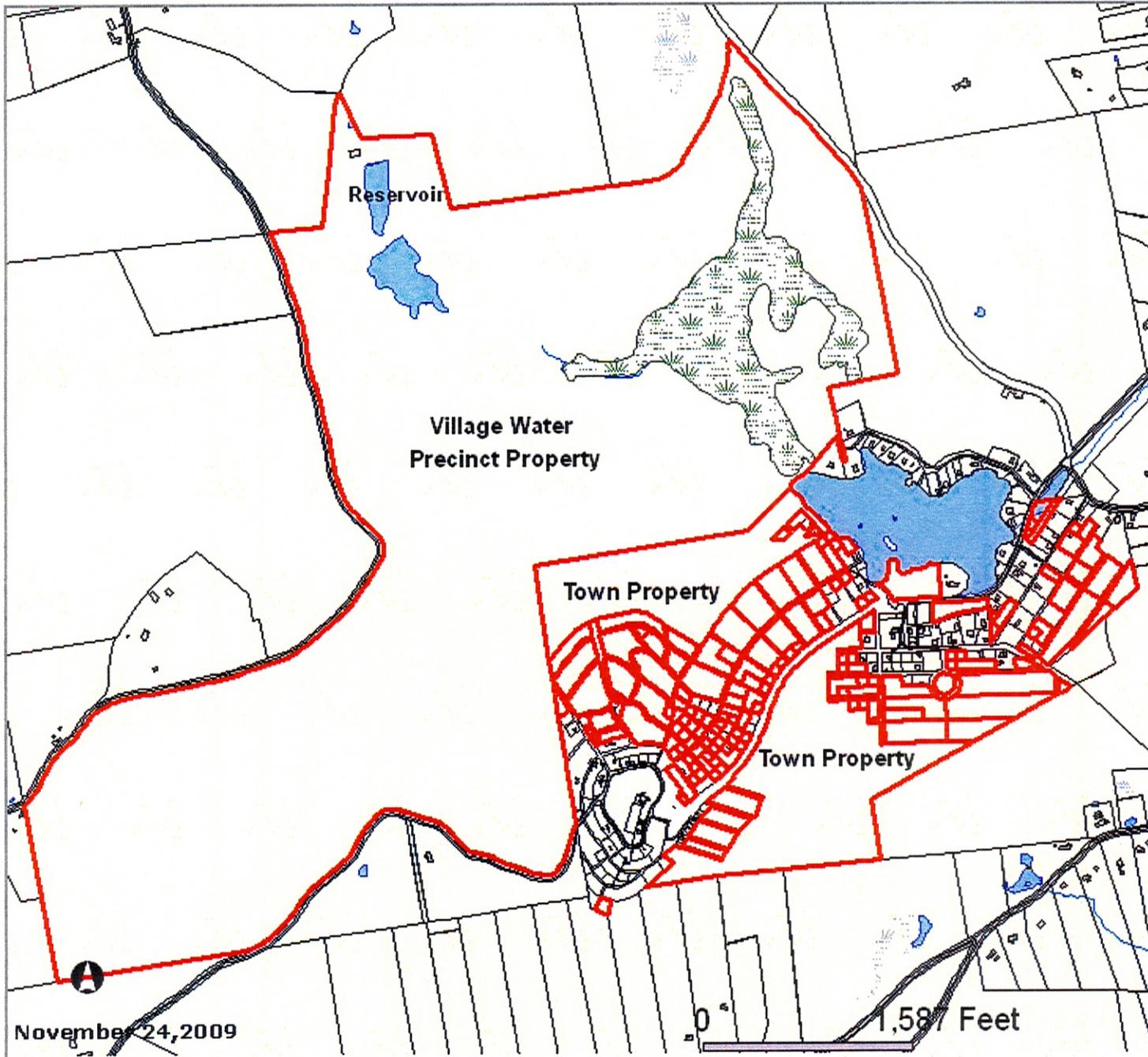
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**Town of Goffstown, NH**  
Enterprise GIS



**Uncanoonuc**

**Locus Map**



November 24, 2009

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## Goffstown Parks and Recreation Fields, Facilities, and Programs Survey

**FUNDING OPTIONS: If the Town of Goffstown were to make major improvements in the recreational facilities and services offered, do you think the following sources of funding should be considered (Select**

Answer Options	Yes	No	Unsure	Response Count
Fee for facility use	142	193	79	414
Fee for Parks & Recreation program	183	171	62	416
Increase in Parks & Recreation budget	204	137	75	416
Municipal Bond	120	133	131	384
Other sources, please list:				17
			<i>answered question</i>	<b>437</b>
			<i>skipped question</i>	<b>15</b>

### # Other sources, please list:

- 1 I think you should also set up a Grants committee, and more use should be made of the Melia Ctr at St A's- The Melia Center is a resource that could instruct the community on developing a permanent Fund Raising Committee. Bartlett School PTA formed a committee to provide the school with that wonderful playground. If you have a group of college students who can lead such a Committee, keep it on track and moving forward, then each year or two a new project can be selected.
- 2 "Donate a brick" program or some other donation program where donors are highlighted on a plaque at the park.
- 3 Some increase in budgets would be necessary to maintain and upgrade facilities like the pools, tennis courts, basketball courts, track, etc. but it needs to be done slowly and responsibly over a long period of time so taxpayers are not slammed.
- 4 Adjust Tax Rate Accordingly
- 5 Want to save money get rid of the over paid Parks and Rec director.
- 6 Other town's charge reasonable fees, so should we.  Offer waivers for those who cannot afford it  Use fee money to improve facilities.
- 7 The Parks and Rec dept building entrance is not handicapped accessible! Need at least a railing on the steps. I had a difficult time making it up the stairs.
- 8 Employees to referee games, pitch, schedule games etc which should be done by volunteers or by private groups. Parks and Rec should get out of most youth programs and turn them over to private groups. Let them administer them. Parks and Rec should focus on facilities and grounds improvements and maintenance and only those programs NOT serviced by volunteer groups.
- 9 It's about time that we start charging for programs the Parks and Rec department offers. I don't mind my tax dollars helping to supplement programs, but I'm tired of paying for the baby sitting program called the summer program for others to not have to pay at all to send their kids.
- 10 Fee for facility use seems obtrusive but fees to play an organized sport (soccer, basketball, etc.) should be considered.
- 11 People should have to pay a small sum of money to participate in the various programs. All the other towns do it and in today's economic struggles, maybe it's about time the taxpayers should get a break. This question is deceiving because it doesn't let people know the budget increase of municipal bond means an increase in taxes for everyone.
- 12 I think that the cost of town recreational facilities should be covered through the funding the town receives for such programs as well as community participation with minimal fees for usage to ensure that those who are financially strapped can still utilize the facilities without it being too expensive.
- 13 Many programs could be offered at the Rec Center by renting out the building and allowing individuals to offer scrapbooking/ballroom dancing/dog obedience. These do not cost the taxpayer, participants pay a fee. The rec center was built for community use but has not been allowed to be utilized by all.
- 14 I think a small fee for some activities would be reasonable.
- 15 This probably is in effect but those children who are brought to the parks in the AM for the day... should pay something.
- 16 Volunteerism...fund raising by interested parties...like the Rail Trail.
- 17 Grants. For example, Safe Routes to Schools should be a no-brainer (it doesn't even require a match), and can be used for things like the rail trail. There are a number of other possibilities for trails and bike facilities.
- 18 Town should do more to promote the rail trail, and work with Manchester to rebuild the Piscataquog trestle to finish the missing link between the two
- 19 I'd like to see a centrally located place where men and women over 55 could sign up to go mountain climbing, possibly at the Parks & Recreation parking lot.

**Goffstown Parks and Recreation Forum**  
 September 19, 2009  
 Mountain View Middle School  
*Project Identification and Evaluation*

The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

<b>IMPACT: How much will it matter?</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Low</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
		<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>

**FEASIBILITY: How possible is it in our community?**

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note on the appropriate box.

**INDIVIDUAL/TEAM/DUAL SPORTS**

- More for elder people (50+)
- Better communication of what's available
- Fields better/more
- Multipurpose indoor space
- Complex/venue
- Newer track (modern)
- Compare offerings with other town's programs and facilities
- Water/restroom at outdoor facilities
- Maintenance plan/funding
- Lights at fields/courts

Evaluating the Impact/Feasibility:

**High Impact/High Feasibility**

- Better communication for what is available

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Maintenance/plan/funding  
Fields/better/more  
Complex/venue  
Lights at fields and courts  
Restrooms and water facilities

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Multipurpose outdoor space

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Comparative analysis for similar towns

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

More things for 50 and up

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

Newer modern track

**LAND/WATER BASED ACTIVITIES**

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note on the appropriate box.

Evaluating the Impact/Feasibility:

Biking trails  
Hiking trails  
Public access trails  
Public access river/lake/pond  
Trail signage and maps  
Community/marketing trails  
Parking trails/river/lake  
Maintenance/staffing TR/L/R  
BMX/skateboard park  
Outing club/guided trips  
Shooting range/rifle/bow  
Permissible hunting areas

High Impact/High Feasibility

Signage/marketing maps  
Communication/marketing trails  
Outing club

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Maintenance/staffing/TR/L/R  
Public access to river, lakes, and ponds

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Nothing noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Permissible hunting areas

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Biking trails  
BMX/skateboard park  
Hiking trails

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Parking for trails river/lake

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

Shooting range/sports/rifle/bow

**PARKS/PLAYGROUNDS**

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note on the appropriate box.

Evaluating the Impact/Feasibility:

Park north end  
Pavilions  
Upgrade old playgrounds and facilities  
Better maintenance and cleaning  
Reduce vandalism at parks and playgrounds  
Upgrade bathrooms at Barnard and Roy  
Water park/aquatic facility

Expand pool hours  
Expand volunteering at park/playgrounds

High Impact/High Feasibility  
Nothing noted

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility  
Bathroom upgrades at Barnard/Roy  
Reduce vandalism at parks/playground  
Better maintenance, staffing, and cleaning it

High Impact/Low Feasibility  
Aquatic facility

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility  
Expanding volunteer (CIT) at parks/playground

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility  
Pavilions  
Upgrade playground facilities and equipment  
Expansion of pool hours

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility  
Parks on north side of town

Low Impact/High Feasibility  
Nothing noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility  
Nothing noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility  
Nothing noted

### **SENIOR PROGRAMS**

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note on the appropriate box.

Evaluating the Impact/Feasibility:

Gathering place  
Plan activities  
Coordinating other programs/offerings and expanding to include everyone  
More Parks and Rec senior trips  
Transportation to activities

High Impact/High Feasibility

Nothing noted

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Gathering place  
More senior trips by Parks and Rec

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Nothing noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Nothing noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Coordinating other program; programs/offerings expanding to include everyone

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Transportation to parks and activities

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Nothing noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

Nothing noted

10/29/09