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Recreation, Conservation and Preservation

The purpose of this chapter is to identify how Goffstown can preserve the town's historic character and enhance its existing recreational, natural, and cultural resources in order to meet the needs of present and future residents. Along with an inventory of existing facilities, information is also presented regarding where future recreational facilities may need to be located based on anticipated population growth in certain portions of the town.

For the purpose of this analysis, recreation is defined as engaging in activities which provide physical, mental, social, and community benefits, while meeting the leisure time needs of individuals. Participating in these activities with others can help to enhance and cultivate a sense of teamwork, fair play, and goodwill within the community. Conservation is defined as the preclusion of harm to the natural environment, as long as it can be accomplished without stifling human betterment. Preservation is intended to mean saving those achievements of past generations which are deemed worthy of the effort and expense.

1 Overview of Existing Conditions



Goffstown has many features and factors which make it a desirable place to live, raise a family, and enjoy the aspects of a rural community while having access to a much broader urban environment. For instance, for people who like to swim, Goffstown may be the only New Hampshire town which has access to two community pools, a town beach, a mountain pond, and a YMCA with two indoor pools. Available to hikers and climbers are two mountaintop trails, and for those who like outdoor winter activities, there is access to a long snowmobile/cross-country ski trail, which traverses the entire length of the town from north to south. There is also a branch trail of this mountain trail which provides a link to the Dunbarton Country Club, where additional cross-country skiing is available.



Other outdoors activities which are available to residents of Goffstown include the following.

- Fishing on the Piscataquog river, which has two manmade lakes and a number of fairly sizable ponds and streams.
- River access for canoers and small boat users.
- Arts and crafts fairs sponsored by the Lions Club at the High School and another at Stark Hall in the Village.
- Scenic vistas are available on both the North and South Uncanoonuc Mountains and Yacum Hill. South Uncanoonuc is accessible by either foot or car. A beautiful view is also available from atop Shirley Hill and on Ferson Road, while Route 114 provides a scenic entry way into the town from the west.

People interested in history can explore the town's past through the many structures and historic sites which have been preserved. Currently, a total of 60 historic buildings and structures have been identified in Goffstown. In addition, there are three historic districts with 13 structures and Cornerstones, which include three schools, three cemeteries, three watering troughs, four rocks, two parks, two recreational fields and five other significant features.

| Table 1 GOFFSTOWN CORNERSTONES | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Schools | Cemeteries |
| Maple Avenue Elementary School | Hillside Cemetery |
| Bartlett Elementary School | Westlawn Cemetery |
| Goffstown Area High School | Shirley Hill Cemetery |
| Goffstown Christian School | |
| Water Troughs | Rocks |
| Popcorn Stand Trough | Harriman Rock |
| Barker Station Trough | Indian Rock |
| Traffic Circle Trough | Tipping Rock |
| | Balance Rock |
| Parks | Other Cornerstones |
| Barnard Park | St. Anselm College |
| Roy Park | Uncanoonuc Mountains |
| | Piscataquog River |
| Recreational Fields | DA Taggart Handtub |
| Little League Field | McDougall Farm |
| Goffstown Lions Club Field | |

Table 2
GOFFSTOWN HISTORIC BUILDINGS

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Town Hall | 32. Shirley Mansion |
| 2. Poore & Colby Block | 33. House - Joppa Hill Road |
| 3. Marhsall's Garage Building | 34. Hillsborough County Complex Adm. Bldg. |
| 4. Depot | 35. Johnson House, Shirley Hill |
| 5. Paige - Commercial Block | 36. Villa Augustina, Mast Street |
| 6. Bridge & Bridge Abutments | 37. Grasmere School and Town Hall |
| 7. Goffstown High School | 38. Moses Kelley House, Mast St. |
| 8. Grist Mill | 39. St. Anselm Administration Bldg. |
| 9. White School | 40. Gov. Morrill House, Mast Street |
| 10. Livery Stable | 41. House - 5 S. Mast Street |
| 11. Martel Block | 42. Carr House, Center St., Grasmere |
| 12. Town Common & Monument | 43. Harriman House, Tibbetts Hill Rd. |
| 13. Harness Shop | 44. House - 211 Pattee Hill Rd. |
| 14. Blacksmith Shop | 45. House - 872 Back Mountain Road |
| 15. Library | 46. House - 340 Gorham Pond Road |
| 16. Parker Block | 47. House - 224 Mountain Road |
| 17. Parker-Colby House | 48. French & Rising Funeral Home, South Mast Rd. |
| 18. Ye Old Travers Tavern | 49. Baptist Church, Grasmere |
| 19. Popcorn Stand | 50. House - 1 South Main, Goffstown Village |
| 20. Watering Trough | 51. House - High Street |
| 21. St. Matthew's Church | 52. House - 8 High Street |
| 22. Second Methodist Church | 53. House - 43 High Street |
| 23. Round House | 54. House - 32 High Street |
| 24. Sargent Block | 55. Stone Entrance, Barnard Park |
| 25. Stark Hall | 56. Building - Depot Street |
| 26. Congregational Parish House | 57. House - 232 North Mast Street |
| 27. Congregational Church | 58. Ice House corner Mast St. & Daniel Plummer Road |
| 28. Lamson Town House Apartments | 59. Parker Store |
| 29. Mill north side of Piscataquog River | 60. Pattee Hill School, Rt. 13 |
| 30. Railroad Station | |
| 31. Hydroelectric Station at Gregg Falls | |

The Goffstown Historic District Commission (HDC) is the primary board responsible for the preservation of these buildings, structures and features. The HDC has identified the town's historic structures and features, promoted the adoption of historic districts and developed a walking tour brochure for the Village area, which is available at the Town Hall.

Table 3
GOFFSTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICTS

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>CARR COURT HISTORIC DISTRICT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Asa Pattee House 2. Butterfield-Allen House <p>GRASMERE HISTORIC DISTRICT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hillside Methodist Church & Methodist Parsonage 2. Hillside Cemetery 3. Grange Hall | <p>PARKER STATION HISTORIC DISTRICT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goffstown Historical Society Museum 2. Little Red School House Museum 3. Hoit Dow House 4. Merrill-Duhaime Hose 5. Parker-Anderson House, 238 N. Main 6. Parker-Henk House 7. Parker Tavern 8. Davidson Colby House |
|--|--|

Of particular concern in the area of conservation are the town's groundwater and surface water supplies, especially the Piscataquog River, both of which

contribute to existing drinking water supplies. Active in current conservation programs intended to protect water quality are the: Goffstown Conservation Commission; Piscataquog Watershed Association; Society for the Protection of NH Forests; Nature Conservancy; Uncanoonuc Mountaineers Snowmobile Club; NH Water Pollution Control Commission and the Goffstown Village Water Precinct Commission. Also, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) has developed two plans which address this issue. One is aimed at overall water resource management and protection and the other is intended to provide specific guidelines for wellhead protection issues. These planning documents are particularly useful to the Goffstown Village Water Precinct, which is responsible for maintaining its own source of water which supplies the precinct area. (The other precincts in town, Grasmere and Pinardville, obtain their water from the City of Manchester.) These two planning documents are too long and complex for inclusion in this chapter, but should be considered as both supplemental and complementary to this master plan.

The Uncanoonuc Mountains are also very important natural features within the town. The Conservation Commission has managed to obtain a considerable amount of land area on these mountains on behalf of the town and in so doing, has saved much of it from potential development.

2 Recreational Needs Assessment

A. *Existing Facilities and Programs*

The Parks and Recreation Department is the town department that is responsible for the administration of recreational activities in Goffstown. Between 1990 and 1995 the Department operated a reported 91 programs, according to data presented in the annual town reports. Fifty-nine of these programs are currently available and a detailed compilation of data regarding participation in these programs is located in the master plan appendix.

Attempting to analyze this data proved somewhat difficult due to the inconsistent format in which it was reported from year to year. It is recommended that these statistics be reported in a more consistent format in the future, and that multi-year comparisons also be completed, as opposed to the single year of information which is presently included in the town reports. In addition, this data should be computerized in order to facilitate a more detailed analysis of current demands versus existing staff and facilities, and to help identify the potential need for additional facilities in the future.

Map 8-1 illustrates the location of the town's existing recreation facilities. It also identifies other town owned land and facilities, as well as privately

owned recreation areas. The map also shows the proposed location of future recreation facilities which are discussed later in this chapter. An inventory of the town's recreation fields, courts, playgrounds, etc., is presented in Table 4.

1) Park Facilities

Goffstown has two parks, each with an intensively used swimming pool, as well as facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, and ball fields. Barnard Park, which is located just off South Mast Road in Goffstown Village, also has a fine running track. Furthermore, since only three of its 18 acres are unusable due to steep terrain or wetlands, there is room to provide activities not now available elsewhere in town, such as a skateboard park. Roy Park, located at the end of Rosemont Street in Pinardville, has slightly over 12 acres, most of which is usable and presently developed for some type of recreational use.

The parking area at Barnard Park is barely adequate to meet the needs of that facility, but does have the potential to be expanded somewhat. However, parking at Roy Park is definitely inadequate and cannot be sufficiently expanded without moving a berm and the basketball court. The latter could be moved to the extreme outfield of the baseball/softball field, but only after improving drainage in that area at a significant cost. Another option for improving the parking situation at Roy Park lies in negotiating with Saint Anselm College for a narrow strip of land along the western edge of the park. That strip is an odd extension from an otherwise rectangular lot (Assessor's Map 15, Lot 19). The 110 foot by 350 foot strip would add nearly 0.9 of an acre to the park and would permit more economical relocation of the basketball court. It would also provide the potential to add a new skateboard/rollerblade park. Increasing the on-site parking would help to eliminate the congestion and nuisance which now exists for Rosemont Street residents due to park patrons parking on this narrow side street. This parking situation has been so bad at times as to almost restrict the potential passage of emergency vehicles along this road.

Table 4
Parks & Recreation Facilities Inventory - 1996
Town of Goffstown

| Current Facilities | Barnard Park | Roy Park | Cemetery Field | Rec Center | Lions Club Field | High School | MVMS | Villa | Total |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|----------------|------------|------------------|-------------|------|-------|-------|
| Base/Softball | — | 1 | 1 | — | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 10 |
| Basketball Court | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Cross-Country | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Field Hockey | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Football | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Function Room | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Hiking Trails | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Picnic Area | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Playground Area | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Skating Rink | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Soccer Field | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | 7 |
| Swimming Pool | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Tennis Court | 4 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| Track Field Area | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Volleyball Court | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |

2) Hiking and Walking Facilities

As mentioned in the Overview portion of this chapter, Goffstown has a moderate sized trail network for use by its residents. Maintenance on the mountain trails is mainly done by the Boy Scouts, while maintenance of the major snowmobile trails, which mainly follow powerline rights-of-way through town, is undertaken by the Uncanoonuc Mountaineers Snowmobile Club.

Goffstown's walking and hiking trails are primarily located on the Uncanoonucs which are not convenient for people who cannot drive, or who dislike to drive on winding back roads. Therefore, the establishment of sidewalks and wide breakdown lanes suitable for walking, should be encouraged in residential areas. In addition, such facilities would also benefit rollerbladers and bicyclists, possibly allowing the latter to connect with the rails-to-trails system discussed later in this chapter.

Sidewalks throughout Goffstown are grossly inadequate, with most of the older roads having too few, or none at all. The lack of sidewalks may be one reason why so many people use automobiles for local errands. The construction of sidewalks in some areas could be prohibitively expensive even if the town were to acquire the additional rights-of-way by eminent domain. People who would derive the benefits of new sidewalks in their neighborhood should be encouraged to permit construction across their street frontage without cost to the town, thereby helping to offset some of the additional tax dollars that would be required to construct these sidewalks.

Sidewalks along South Mast Road in Pinardville, are not continuous on either side of the street. This requires people who walk any distance to cross the road several times, thereby inconveniencing and endangering them unnecessarily. Lack of sidewalks also necessitates the School District to bus students from as far away as two miles, while the state requires only one mile of walking by students. The cost for constructing new sidewalks for safer pedestrian access to the schools would in part, be offset by the savings from reduced bus operation. Also, more students would get beneficial exercise.

B. Future Recreation Facilities and Programs

In light of the high demand placed on the Roy Park facility due to the large population in that area, another park facility is needed. There is an eight acre parcel (Assessor's Map 23, Lot 11) located on Chatel Road off of Lynchville Park Road, of which at least four acres are usable. This parcel could readily be developed with baseball fields, tennis and basketball courts and a skateboarding facility, along with sufficient parking to support these activities. Other areas of this park could be used for walking/nature trails and picnic areas. Development of this parcel as a neighborhood park would take some pressure off Roy Park, which is currently over used.

Table 5 presents a summary of some of the additional recreational facilities which the town is expected to need in order to adequately service its residents by the year 2005. These figures assume that participation rates in the various activities will remain relatively constant until that time.

Table 5
Projected Recreation Needs - 2005
Town of Goffstown

| Type of Facility | Additional Needed |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Baseball/Softball Field | 2 |
| Basketball Court | 1 |
| Hiking Trail | 5 |
| Picnic Areas | some |
| Playground Areas | some |
| Skating Rink | some |
| Soccer Field | 2 |
| Tennis Court | 2 |
| Volleyball Court | 3 |

In order to address the town's existing and future recreation needs, a number of parcels currently owned by the town were examined to determine their potential for such use. Perhaps most notable of these is a 55 acre parcel (Assessor's Map 5, Lot 14) on the north side of Elm Street, opposite the beach at Glen Lake. This land was purchased from the NH Water Resources Board nearly 20 years ago "for recreational purposes", but has remained unused ever since. Based on this review, Lot 14 was found to be quite suitable for any and all activities now carried on at existing recreation facilities in town, such as Barnard Park, Roy Park, Lions Club Field, Villa Augustina Field, and Cemetery Field. Its location is well suited to serve the increasing population in the northcentral and northeast portions of Goffstown. Development of this parcel for recreational use should not be difficult or expensive, and parking could be created under the PSNH powerlines. The western portion of the property (as delineated by the power lines) is recommended for park use, and the eastern portion should be examined for possible use as an elementary school site.

One piece of property which has remained unused for many years is the abandoned railroad right-of-way, which runs east to west through the town. Although a few small pieces of it have been privately purchased, and some has been informally used by abutters, most still remains available for purchase. The town should acquire this property for recreational use, by means of a negotiated purchase process if possible, or through eminent domain if necessary.

The City of Manchester has acquired the connecting abandoned railroad line within the City limits and plans to develop it into a Rails-to-Trails artery for walkers, rollerbladers, and bicyclists. If Goffstown were to develop its rail line in the same way, it would provide additional recreational activities for town residents. It might also facilitate some non-motorized commuting of the workforce into the city, thus helping to alleviate traffic congestion, particularly along South Mast Road through Pinardville. The benefits of creating a Rails-to-Trails connection with Manchester appear to far outweigh the potential drawbacks, including the anticipated high purchase price of the property.

Consideration should also be given to creating additional neighborhood "pocket parks", which would be scattered throughout the town. This might be possible on town owned parcels such as the lot on Church Street near the fire station, or on land around the fire station at the Tirrell Hill/Black Brook Roads intersection. These two parcels and possibly others, could be developed by interested neighbors, by obtaining permission from the appropriate town body. In addition, individuals and/or groups could become involved in "Adopt-a-Park" programs which could serve to improve and maintain park areas.

Another parcel of land which might provide an additional recreation facility for the town, is the land between the old railroad bed and North Mast Street, which is owned by the Goffstown Village Water Precinct. The town should consider negotiating with the precinct for use of this property. However, its use may not be necessary until the nearby Cemetery Field can no longer be used for recreation due to cemetery expansion.

3 Summary and Recommendations

The demand for expanded recreational facilities offering a greater variety of activities is expected to continue into the foreseeable future in Goffstown. If these demands are not addressed in a timely manner they will exacerbate the existing stresses which already exist for the town's current parks and natural areas. This type of scenario will eventually have a noticeable negative impact on the community by detracting from the town's quality of life.

Through its regulatory zoning authority, the town has had some success in protecting areas of open space, forests, wetlands and water supplies, however, more can be done. The following section contains a number of recommendations as to how the town can achieve this goal. The information is divided into the four areas of general issues, parks and recreation, conservation, and historic preservation. Each of these four subsections provides background information in conjunction with a series of goals, objectives, and action plans. The prefixes G (General Issues), R (Recreation), C (Conservation) and H (Historic Resources), are used before those issues, goals, and objectives which refer specifically to their respective subsection.

A. General Issues

Goal G1 - Provide better coordination between all administrative resources involved in the management of Goffstown's recreation, conservation and historic preservation.

Background

There is currently an overlap of administrative responsibilities in Goffstown within the areas of recreation, conservation and preservation. Since decisions must be made regarding priorities and conflict resolution within all three areas, the various municipal entities involved should have a means by which to develop coordinated budgets and action plans.

Objective G1.1 - Establish a Coordinating Administrative Committee comprised of a representative from the Conservation Commission, the Historic District Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Public Works Department, and the Goffstown School District. The Selectmen may also choose to have a member of that board act as chairman, or to appoint a thoughtful, fair-minded citizen for that position.

Action Plan

1. Reach agreement among all entities as to what role each will play in the care, maintenance, repair, and improvement of recreational facilities, natural areas and historic resources.
2. Determine whether current activities and responsibilities are appropriate and acceptable. Adjust activities and responsibilities where needed.
3. Plan for future needs and allocation of responsibilities and activities.
4. Establish an Adopt-a-Park program along the lines of the Adopt-a-Highway program. This would be especially useful if a network of neighborhood parks is developed.

Objective G1.2 - Continue current level of cooperation between the town and the school district, particularly as it pertains to the intramunicipal use of each entity's facilities for recreation activities.

Action Plan

1. Work closely to determine if some "fine tuning" of the current mutual exchange program could enhance the benefits to all parties involved.
2. Provide a mutual exchange of information regarding any changes, improvements, and/or new construction that may affect, or provide more opportunities to the parties involved.

Objective G1.3 - Determine a specific realm of responsibility for the Conservation Commission in order to insure that its members are not required to deal with extraneous issues.

Action Plan

1. Determine which of the Commission's current "responsibilities" are outside their prescribed duties, and whether or not it is important that they continue to address these issues. Reassign those responsibilities that are determined to be inappropriate for the Commission.

Objective G1.4 - Establish a means by which the use of municipal facilities can be enhanced for the user, while also providing suitable protection for those facilities.

Action Plan

1. Identify clearly, with labels, signs, and guidebooks, all available facilities in town, including public access to lakes, ponds and rivers.
2. Adequately publicize the availability of all municipal recreation and conservation facilities.
3. Post rules and regulations at the entrances to all facilities which require special usage and care.
4. Restrict usage at times when it would harm the facility (e.g. newly seeded areas or seasonally wet areas).
5. Deny usage to those who have misused or vandalized facilities in the past.

Goal G2 - Promote responsible use of parks, trails, recreational facilities, historic landmarks, etc., and "open spaces".

Objective G2.1 - Provide opportunities for learning about the proper use of natural resources, especially in residential areas.

Action Plan

1. Organize regularly scheduled informational walks led by knowledgeable volunteers.
2. Encourage schools to include parks, trails, recreational facilities and historic landmarks in field trips related to the appropriate curriculum.

Objective G2.2 - Require that "open spaces" be equipped to serve recreational purposes.

Action Plan

1. Require that playground equipment be included in plans for open spaces that are accessible to residential areas with children.
2. Require that shuffleboard facilities, areas suitable for croquet, and walking paths, be included in open space developments designed exclusively for senior citizens.

Objective G2.3 - Survey and inventory all existing parks, potential parks, school properties, cultural facilities, as well as, associated programs and organizations.

Action Plan

1. Develop reference materials for all identified facilities, programs and organizations.
2. Build on the inventory of facilities developed as part of this chapter.
3. Publish and distribute this inventory as a tool for planning, as well as to make municipal employees and town residents aware of what is available.
4. Develop this inventory into a publication for residents, including rules and regulations, and a directory of responsible administrative or elected positions.

B. Parks And Recreation

Goal P1 - Provide equal access to recreation and natural areas for residents of all age groups within realistic economic parameters.

Background

There are inequities in the town's existing park system. This is evident by the fact that the highly populated area of Pinardville is serviced by only Roy Park, an insufficiently sized neighborhood park, while other less populated portions of the town are served by larger recreation facilities. Furthermore, much of the town's recreation facilities are centered around the Village area, including Barnard Park, the P&R Recreation Center, the high school fields, the Lions Club fields, the Villa Augustina fields, and the Cemetery fields. The smaller Pinardville facility however, has nothing nearby to complement its operation. Unfortunately, there is no way to adequately increase the size of this facility and no space available to supplement its services to the level needed.

It should be kept in mind that people who use a park area are far more likely to see that it is well cared for and maintained. Also, facilities which are easily reached and have adequate parking are much more likely to be used than those that are not. While the Pinardville Branch of The International Optimists Club has been instrumental in raising funds for the improvement of Roy Park, more can be done. Adopt-a-Park and Make-Your-Own-Park programs can be successful if they receive enough publicity and support.

Objective P1.1 - Continue to maintain Barnard Park and examine the unused space within this facility for new facilities geared towards youths and the elderly, including uses which may bring both groups together.

Action Plan

1. Address the issue of skateboarding in the Village, which is both a popular activity for youths and a nuisance for residents and businesses in the area.
2. Prepare a 60 foot by 100 foot area and construct a skateboard park for the youth of the Village Area.
3. Set up an area of about 100 feet in length and fasten old tires in place for "broken field running".

Objective P1.2 - Provide activities throughout town which are popular with the elderly.

Action Plan

1. Prepare several lanes for shuffleboard, each 6 feet x 52 feet and mark them appropriately.
2. Allocate an area that is designed and equipped for croquet.

Objective P1.3 - Expand existing recreation facilities in Pinardville and supplement them with the addition of another neighborhood park on town owned land.

Action Plan

1. Expand Roy Park 110 feet to the west by 350 feet in a north/south direction. The town should negotiate with St. Anselm College, the current owner, for acquisition of this property. Adding this 0.88 acres to Roy Park would permit relocating some existing facilities, expanding the parking area and adding new facilities to meet current demands. This land is a portion of Assessor's Map 15, Lot 19.

Objective P1.4 - Add a new park facility in the Pinardville area.

Action Plan

1. Improve the town owned parcel on Chatel Road (Assessor's Map 23, Lot 11) with ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, skateboarding, picnic tables, and nature/walking trails. This parcel is conveniently located for many of the people that reside in the Lynchville Park residential area.

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| <p>Goal P2 - Prepare to meet the recreational needs created by new development in the rapidly expanding northeast and northcentral portions of Goffstown.</p> |
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Objective P2.1 - Expand the capacity of recreation facilities located at the Mountain View Middle School.

Action Plan

1. Determine what facilities are most needed at Mountain View Middle School.
2. Develop and execute plans to satisfy those needs.

Objective P2.2 - Establish a Capital Improvement Program for the development of a full-size park on Lot 14, Assessor's Map 5, which is located on the north side of Elm Street, across from Glen Lake Beach.

Action Plan

1. Determine whether the eastern portion of this 55 acre lot is suitable for use as an elementary school. If so, it should be reserved for such use in the future. If this area is not suitable for an elementary school it should be sold for the development of high-end housing.
2. Allocate the proceeds from the sale of any portion of Lot 14, to improving the park portion of that parcel.
3. Develop the western portion of Lot 14, (as delineated by the PSNH powerlines) for recreational facilities which are most in demand.

Goal P3 - Serve all areas of Goffstown with a network of small neighborhood parks or provide landscaped islands within developed areas.

Objective P3.1 - Use land already owned by the town, where possible, to achieve this goal.

Action Plan

1. Improve the beach area at Uncanoonuc Pond.
2. Reconsider the Garden Club's 1976 plan to make a park on the Church Street parcel adjoining the Village Fire Station.
3. Evaluate the possibility of creating a pocket park on land adjoining the East Goffstown Fire Station, which is located near the intersection of Tirrell Hill and Black Brook Roads.
4. Examine the possibility of creating a park on land owned by the Goffstown Village Water Precinct, which is located between North Mast Street and the Piscataquog River, near Parker Station.
5. Explore the possibility of creating pocket parks throughout the town wherever such facilities are considered appropriate.

Objective P3.2 - Encourage individuals, service clubs, fraternal organizations, and other civic groups to "make their own" parks on the town owned properties located near their home or facility.

Action Plan

1. Identify potentially eligible town owned properties for creating these parks.
2. Publicize the program.
3. Require approval of any park developed under this program by the Coordinating Administrative Committee (see Objective G1.1) and all other appropriate bodies.
4. Allow the use of Public Works Department equipment (at the discretion of the Director) for work on approved park projects.

Objective P3.3 - Develop and Adopt-a-Park program, patterned after the Adopt-a-Highway program.

Action Plan

1. Enlist the support of businesses, schools, scouting groups, garden clubs, or individuals, to take part in maintenance and upkeep of nearby parks.
2. Encourage fundraising activities for parks. These fundraisers should be held in the park facilities which they are intended to benefit.

Goal P4 - Evaluate the town's growth trends in order to identify demographic changes and the demand for future recreation facilities.

Background

Indications from recent trends suggest that growth in Pinardville and the Village will be slight to moderate, and that growth in the Grasmere area will be heavy. A review of existing housing developments suggests that site constraints, dictated by a parcels terrain, are less of a deterrent to construction than they once were. At this time, some 525 homes lots have been approved in Goffstown.

Objective P4 - Examine the most recent statistical reports prepared by the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and the NH Office of State Planning, in order to identify Goffstown's historical and projected growth trends.

Action Plan

1. Review these reports in order to glean those facts which will be most helpful in planning for the town's development. Compare the data from both sources and use the most appropriate figures as a basis for the town's planning activities.

Goal P5 - Improve accessibility between areas of town for pedestrian and other non-motorized means of transportation.

Background

Due to the fact that the automobile is the dominant mode of travel in our society, most of Goffstown's roads provide little accommodation for other means of transport. With few exceptions, the local clusters of banks, stores, restaurants, etc., are not accessible by sidewalks and do not have wide enough roadways for safe use by pedestrians, bicyclists or rollerbladers.

Much of the traffic in Goffstown is local traffic. Anecdotal evidence regarding trips to the post office, local banks, grocery stores, and other stores indicates that many vehicles are traveling less than a mile to their destination.

In light of existing traffic problems, especially in thickly settled areas of Pinardville and Goffstown Village, it is time to reevaluate local transportation efforts. Sidewalks and wide breakdown lanes are ways to provide for non-motorized travel throughout the community. Besides reducing traffic, non-motorized travel provides additional recreation activities and their associated health benefits.

An additional value to sidewalks is that children may safely walk to school from up to two miles away, based on state guidelines, which is double the distance Goffstown children now walk due to unsafe conditions.

Objective P5.1 Provide a complete network of sidewalks connecting the densely populated residential neighborhoods with the commercial/business centers of town.

Action Plan

1. Provide Pinardville with sidewalk connections on the main thoroughfare.
 - a) Make continuous sidewalks on both sides of Mast Road from the Manchester city line to Danis Park Road.
 - b) Evaluate Pinardville streets and provide sidewalks where they are needed. A radius of two miles should be considered around the Bartlett School for pedestrian access by school children.
 - c) Mark crosswalks and protect them with signs.
2. Provide Goffstown Village with sidewalks connecting from the town center with the adjoining residential neighborhoods.
 - a) Identify the need for sidewalks within a two mile radius of schools and other heavily developed areas.
 - b) Mark crosswalks and install signage.
3. Provide Grasmere with sidewalk connections on the main thoroughfare, and on side streets within 2 miles of any school.
 - a) Provide sidewalks on both sides of Center Street along its entire length.

- b) Identify the need for sidewalks within a two mile radius of schools and other heavily developed areas.
- c) Ensure that sidewalks are included as part of all new developments within two miles of an existing or proposed school facility.

Goal P6 - Provide additional recreational opportunities in Goffstown for walking, bicycling and rollerblading, and other similar types of activities.

Objective P6.1 - Provide paths and trails on park properties and other town owned land, as well as, along existing roadways.

Action Plan

1. Provide paths for walking, bicycling and rollerblading at existing and proposed park areas.
2. Provide wide breakdown lanes on major roads to facilitate safer bicycling.
3. Continue the trail making and marking on the Uncanoonuc Mountains, and along the snowmobile trail.
 - a) Encourage continued cooperation between the town and Boy Scouts for maintenance of mountain trails. Solicit additional aid from Girl Scouts, GHS Science Club, and other youth groups.
 - b) Encourage the continued cooperation between the town and the Uncanoonuc Mountaineers Snowmobile Club with regard to maintenance of the north side snowmobile trail, which runs through town along the North Uncanoonuc loop.

Objective P6.2 - Develop a "Rails-to-Trails" system which would extend Manchester's existing rail trail, through Goffstown, to the Weare town line.

Action Plan

1. Acquire as much as possible of the abandoned rail corridor which was formerly operated by the Manchester and North Weare Railroad.
2. Develop plans for a rails-to-trails conversion of that abandoned right-of-way.
3. Publicize the idea of a rails-to-trails facility in order to generate public support for financial or volunteer assistance.

C. Conservation

Goal C1 - Use zoning as a means for protecting Goffstown's natural resources.

Background

Goffstown has recently enacted a wetlands overlay zoning district. Although it is too soon to evaluate the effectiveness of this ordinance its potential, is excellent. The town should take similar action to protect its groundwater resources before additional development occurs within sensitive aquifer areas. A case in point is the construction of the middle school, along with its associated septic system, in a location which is uphill from several private wells. It is essential that the town develop and institute a plan to monitor this septic system in order to protect these wells from contamination. At some point, consideration should be given to servicing the school's wastewater disposal needs with the Grasmere Village sewer system.

Objective C1.1 - Implement zoning regulations to assure protection of open spaces, forests, wetlands, water quality, and other natural resources.

Action Plan

1. Continue with the application and enforcement of the wetlands overlay zoning ordinance.

Objective C1.2 - Support the Conservation Commission's effort to establish a Ground Water Resource Conservation District.

Action Plan

1. Develop and adopt a groundwater resource conservation zoning ordinance.
2. Insure that this ordinance is adequately enforced once it is adopted.

Goal C2 - Make adequate use of all local, state, and private programs which are available to the town for protecting its natural resources.

Background

Goffstown has considerable resources at its disposal, many of which are serving the town well. The town should continue to evaluate any programs which may become available in the future, to determine whether or not they can be used to address the community's goals.

Objective C2.1 - Support the on-going efforts of the Goffstown Conservation Commission.

Action Plan

1. Have town owned land, which is located on and around the Uncanoonuc Mountains, surveyed in order to establish its boundaries.
2. Identify and delineate the town's "prime wetlands".

Objective C2.2 - Seek state assistance for local issues related to natural resource protection.

Action Plan

1. Protect the open space along Route 114 west of the Village due to its importance as a scenic gateway into the town.
2. Encourage the state to designate this road as a scenic byway.
3. Public access to the Piscataquog River for boating, canoeing and fishing should be given over to the NH Fish and Game Department for management purposes. The Department would be responsible for maintenance of these areas, as well as providing adequately marked entrance points and trails.

Goal C3 - Support and encourage the protection and maintenance of natural resources through private efforts.

Objective C3.1 - Support the organizations dedicated to the preservation and improvement of conservation areas.

Action Plan

1. Support the Piscataquog Watershed Association in its land acquisition program.
2. Encourage the purchase of land, or the securing of easements, by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests and the Nature Conservancy.
3. Encourage the continued cooperation between the town and such organizations as the Boy Scouts and the Uncanoonuc Mountaineer Snowmobile Club, in their development and maintenance of the town's trail system.

Goal C4 - Develop a Water Resource Management and Protection Plan, as specified in RSA 4-C:22.

Background

Goffstown is served by three municipal water systems which provide water to Goffstown Village, Grasmere, and Pinardville. The Village and Grasmere systems are operated by autonomous water precincts, while Pinardville receives its water from the City of Manchester's municipal system.

Goffstown Village Water Precinct

The sources of water for the Goffstown Village Precinct are provided by two reservoirs at the base of the Uncanoonuc Mountains. The upper reservoir has an estimated storage capacity of 13 million gallons, while the lower reservoir has an estimated capacity of 7 million gallons. The lower reservoir can be replenished by pumping from two gravel packed wells, each with a rated

capacity of 26,000 gallons per hour, providing a combined total of 1,248,000 gallons per day. Because of topographic conditions in the Village, water pressure within the district varied from 90 psi (pounds per square inch) to 25 psi in those areas which lie on the north side of the Village in the upper elevations. However, the construction of a 500,000 gallon water storage tank on High Street has helped to alleviate this problem.

Pinardville

Pinardville's water distribution system is a part of the Manchester Water Works. It should be noted that Manchester recently ended a six month moratorium on any water service extensions to new areas not served by the utility. Although the moratorium is no longer in effect, its enactment meant that no new services could have been provided outside the existing Pinardville franchise area. While the moratorium was quickly lifted, its enactment does point out the fact that a serious problem exists which will require future action.

Grasmere Village Water Precinct

The Grasmere Village Water Precinct is also provided with water from the Manchester Water Works. Customers purchasing water from the utility receive it through lines which extend from the Pinardville system. The precinct can purchase only a limited amount of water from the city.

Goal C5 - Manage and protect the Piscataquog River, its tributaries, and environs, within the Town of Goffstown.

Objective C5.1 - Determine the present status of the Piscataquog River and its tributaries, with regard to its suitability for fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its potential as a future water supply.

Action Plan

1. Maintain the current environmental conditions of the Piscataquog River and its tributaries.
2. Abide by the restrictions of "Rural Community" and "Community" in the regions of the River where applied by the State of New Hampshire.
3. Prohibit construction and the discharge of contaminants within areas that would have a negative impact on the river.
4. Prohibit any activity that would adversely affect the scenic, recreational, fishery, wildlife, or geologic resources of the Piscataquog River in Goffstown.
5. Discourage any activities which are incompatible with the river's role in providing fish and wildlife habitat.

6. Protect areas of the river environment which are uniquely suited for educational and scientific study.
7. Purchase environmentally sensitive property associated with the river, or the development rights for that property, in order to preclude development of those areas.
8. Control the removal of sand and gravel to prevent adverse impacts on the river's important habitat areas.

Objective C5.2 - Continue to work with the Goffstown Village Water Precinct in the management of its water supply, its watershed and its treatment and delivery system. Maintain the quality and quantity of water to residents of the Village and be prepared to address the future needs of that area.

Action Plan

1. Continue to use the latest filtration and treatment technology to insure the highest water quality possible.
2. Continue the replacement program of old cast iron water mains.
3. Continue to implement programs which will maintain water pressure for firefighting purposes, such as the construction of the 500,000 gallon water storage tank on High Street.
4. Examine the possibility of supplementing the water supply with water from additional wells and increased pumping capacity.
5. Explore locations for additional municipal wells, perhaps in the northcentral and northeast portions of town, in order to reduce future reliance on the City of Manchester's water system.

Objective C5.3 - Continue arrangements with Manchester to supply water to Pinardville and Grasmere, but be aware of the potential for the city to limit this supply, or even to terminate the agreement if the need arises.

Action Plan

1. Given the recent moratorium on expansion of Manchester's water system, Goffstown should attempt to negotiate a multi-year agreement which gives the town as much flexibility as possible.
2. Explore the possibilities of alternative water supplies.
 - a) Search the Conservation Commission's database for possible damsites to create new surface water supplies in Grasmere.
 - b) Explore also, the possibility of new well sites in the Grasmere area.

Goal C6 - Identify and monitor groundwater sources outside of existing water precinct areas for protection as future water supplies.

Objective C6.1 - Determine the locations and potential quantity of aquifers in various "outlying" regions of town, to help determine possible future well sites.

Action Plan

1. Develop a groundwater overlay protection zoning district, along with adequate supporting data, in order to encourage the establishment of additional public and private water supplies in the future.
2. Monitor water supplies for potential groundwater contamination in order to prevent the pollution of public and private water supplies.
3. Maintain a water resources database at Town Hall as an advisory service for individuals or businesses that may need to develop a new private water supply.

Objective C6.2 - Identify the potential locations of water supplies which are suitable for fire protection outside of existing precinct areas.

Action Plan

1. Continue to have the Fire Department review new subdivision plans for the establishment of water supplies which can be used for fire protection.
2. Consult the Conservation Commission's wetlands and groundwater data for possible locations of fire ponds, dry hydrants and wells.

Objective C6.3 - Adopt the Well-Head Protection Plan and the Water Resource Management and Protection Plan developed by the SNHPC, as supplemental and complementary to this master plan.

D. Historic Resources

Goal H1 - Maintain and protect Goffstown's historic landmarks and conduct a townwide survey to identify any unknown resources.

Background

The Historic District Commission and the Goffstown Historic Society have exerted considerable effort to identify and develop means for protecting historic landmarks and "Cornerstones" in Goffstown. As a result, residents are able to visit and learn about these resources and to be reasonably assured of their continued protection. However, there may be other resources that have not yet been discovered. Meanwhile, we have a trove of marginal treasures in our parks, school properties, and cultural areas, which should be inventoried and protected.

Objective H1 - Prominently identify and protect all known landmarks, cornerstones and cultural treasures in Goffstown.



Action Plan

1. Place permanent identification plaques or tablets on all known landmarks, cornerstones and cultural areas. These markers should be of an appropriate style and size and be readily visible and pleasing to the eye.
2. Through donations, fundraising and other means, obtain funds to provide these markers at all cultural and historic sites.
3. Produce publications, such as the existing Historic District's Walking Tour leaflet, which describes the background and location of each landmark, cornerstone, and cultural area.