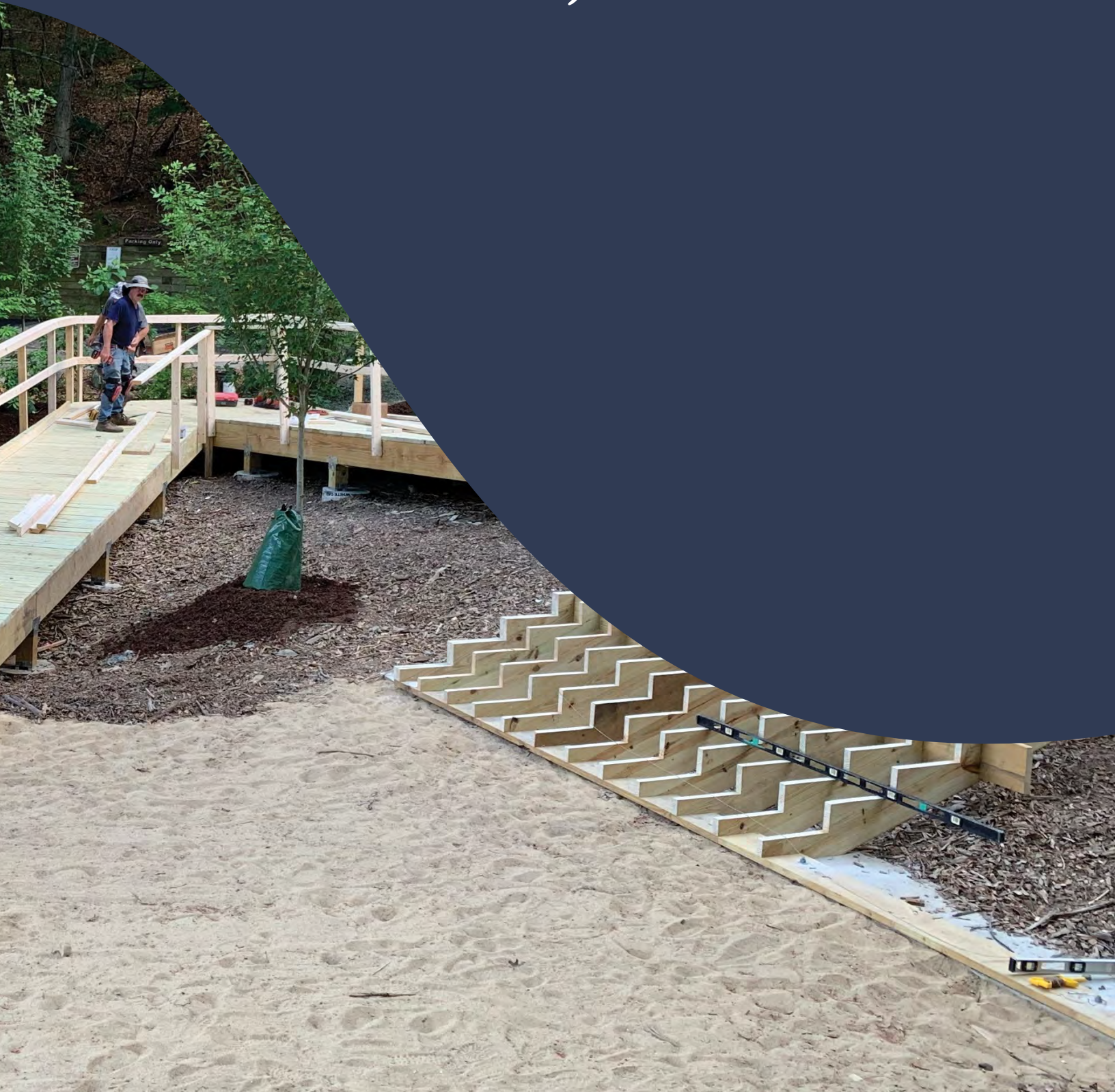


New accessible walkways
at White Pond Beach



Future Conditions

(Where do we want to be?)



Strategic Plan Themes

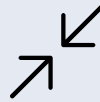
Grounded in community feedback and existing conditions analysis, these four strategic themes serve as the overarching guides that tie recommendations together to create a cohesive plan for the future of Concord recreation. Each of these themes is supported by several overlapping recommendations, as summarized below.



Acquire More Property for Dedicated Recreation Space, Especially Those That Can Support Many Types Of Recreational Amenities

Focus of this theme is on adding and improving the current stock of walking and biking trails, expanding opportunities that bring community together and build cultural connections, adding more programmatic uses across Town and making improvements at existing facilities to support current and ongoing use. Recommendations cover the following more specific topics:

- Developing Town-wide plans for water access and multi-modal transportation routes
- Expanding the quantity of outdoor basketball, pickleball and tennis courts
- Building more play value into recreation generally, from the most informal sensory play to constructing more formalized play experiences for people of all ages.
- Evaluating existing Town-owned indoor facilities for more efficient use of space and adding more indoor recreation programming to those spaces to address immediate demand, where appropriate.
- Acquiring property and build a larger indoor recreation center to address growing recreational needs of the Concord community.
- Creating more outdoor gathering spaces throughout the current park and recreation system in Concord.
- Developing specific new facilities for nature-based learning, winter recreation, and dog owners.



Increase Connectivity To and Accessibility within Recreational Facilities

Focus of this theme is on improving and adding more amenities within facilities, as well as adding curb cuts, ramps, etc. to improve connectivity between parking and amenities and between spaces. Connectivity under this theme also pertains to access to and awareness of water resources and the protected routes for non-motorized travel between recreation sites and town centers. Recommendations cover the following more specific topics:

- Developing Town-wide plans for water access and multi-modal transportation routes
- Installing consistent signage and site furnishings such as benches, drinking fountains, and waste receptacles helps build up a recognizable brand for Concord's recreation system. Signage that features amenity symbols communicates what's available in a given recreation facility in simple and clear manner regardless of the user's language or culture.
- Improving ADA accessibility throughout Concord's recreation system by installing paths and passive and active recreation resources that include all abilities.
- Offering diverse play experiences means adding play value and more opportunities for adults and children to connect socially and have fun together!



Clarify the Visitor Experience and Lean In to Inclusivity

The umbrella of an improved visitor experience is broad; however, tangible ideas around adding and diversifying new amenities are covered under this theme, along with improved signage that can create predictability for park goers. Concord's recreational facilities serve an evolving patronage, which is acknowledged and served under this theme. Recommendations cover the following more specific topics:

- Installing consistent, clear, and universally accessible signage.
- Adding a consistent palette of site furnishings helps build up a recognizable brand for Concord's recreation system.
- Additional and more diverse recreational programming equitably spread across the Town of Concord to meet the demand and enable all who desire, the ability to participate. Immediately, better interdepartmental coordination could maximize efficient use of existing indoor facilities as well as some creative renovation of spaces. In the long-term, acquiring land and constructing new assets to meet community needs.
- Understanding the growing demand for more rectangular multiuse fields for adult and youth soccer, lacrosse, and other sports with a focus on sports trends and gender equity in sports.



Expand Resources to Continue Regular Maintenance and Upkeep of Grounds and Buildings




It is imperative that operational considerations are linked directly with the three aspirational themes to the left. While those recommendations are lofty, they are not possible without dedicated staff resources, careful planning and regular, ongoing and annual maintenance regimes. Recommendations cover the following more specific topics:

- Conducting annual inspections across Concord's recreation system to ensure facilities are maintained to equal standards across Town.
- Conducting annual CPSI inspections of playgrounds to ensure the safety of these spaces as well as the continuation of regular maintenance checks each month.
- Adding a dedicated inspector staff position.
- Evaluating CPW and Facilities staff to perform repairs and manage vendor contracts for renovation projects






Overall Recommendations

Overarching recommendations are included on the following pages. These overall recommendations are divided into digestible categories and should be applied to all existing facilities, future improvements, and property acquisitions. The strategic themes discussed on the previous pages that are satisfied through these recommendations are identified by the corresponding colored circle.






1. Conduct Specialized Studies

- A. Town-wide Water Access Plan 
- B. Multi-modal Transportation Planning 
- C. Rectangular Field Use Study 

2. Improve or Expand Current Recreation Facilities

- A. Consistency of Facility Signage and Site Furnishings 
- B. Annual Inspection Program 
- C. Indoor Recreation Upgrades 
- D. More Outdoor Courts of all Types 
- E. More Diverse Play Opportunities 

3. Develop New Recreation Facilities

- A. Indoor Recreation Facility 
- B. Outdoor Civic Gathering Spaces 
- C. Trailhead Nature Education / Maker Space 
- D. Outdoor, Four-Season Multipurpose Pavilion 
- E. New Dedicated Dog Runs 

1

Conduct Specialized Studies

Several recommendations emerged that require further specialized investigation. These include:

- A. Town-wide Water Access Plan
- B. Multi-modal Transportation Planning
- C. Rectangular Field Use Study

A careful examination is needed of Concord's existing water resources, including Concord's three rivers, its many water bodies, and man-made forms of water-based amenities like swimming pools, spray decks and fountains. Careful review of current water access points and suggestions can be made for additional new locations (beyond those included in this plan) where water access would be most appropriate and in what form (e.g. kayak launches, fishing spots, swimming).

Similarly, a Town-wide strategy is necessary to continue the conversation on improved connectivity and accessibility throughout Concord between and within the Town's recreation spaces, and to commercial centers.

Finally, a specialized study of dedicated rectangular fields is needed because of the discrepancy between the number of fields and permitted use that was uncovered in this plan. Canvassing each sports league's actual use will tell the story of field wear patterns and provide a correlation between the historical, current and future trends of use across sports. Gender equity in sports should also be considered and incorporated. The results of such a study would provide more in-depth analysis, predictions, and recommendations on how the Town may want to reconfigure or renovate their fields to accommodate real field use.



Kayak rental kiosk at Ice House Landing in Maynard, MA is run through a phone app. The recreation site features an accessible boat launch, too. Photo credit: Town of Maynard, Conservation Division website.



This bridge along the Bruce Freedman Rail Trail (BFRT) connects cyclists in Concord to Acton over Route 2. Photo credit: BFRT website.



Concord-Carlisle field hockey team on Doug White Turf Complex. A field study could examine gender equity and sports provisions and resources in Concord. Photo credit: The Boston Globe



Town-wide Water Access Plan

Access to healthy rivers, ponds and other natural water bodies as well as pools and splash pads by residents can improve fitness and well-being, while connecting Concord to its past and ensuring climate resiliency in the future.

Key Opportunities

- Where appropriate, improve connectivity and accessibility by expanding waterfront walking paths and a system of public launches / landing points, including accessible boat launches. Provide boat rental kiosk(s) at water resources.
- Add a splash pad or expand indoor and outdoor swimming pool offerings.
- Offer more indoor and outdoor swim and exercise classes, such a water aerobics and paddle board yoga.
- Develop and expand water-based Town clubs, such as a kayaking, wild swimming, and rowing. Engage local partners such as The Sudbury, Assabet & Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council and The Appalachian Mountain Club to offer water-based trainings (e.g. Intro to Paddling) to prepare participants for adventure beyond the town line.
- Expand existing Concord River Boater's Trail guides, installing small interpretative signage at regular intervals to tell Concord's history and stories.
- Create opportunities for nature education such as a stream profile chamber for viewing aquatic life or platform for pond dipping .
- Install permanent or temporary art installations at water access points that build community identity.
- Consider boardwalks and overlooks where appropriate that provide protection for sensitive ecosystems, yet bring people closer to the water.

Community Thoughts

"Please add [an] accessible kayak launch, like the one at Ice House Landing in Maynard, to all water access points."

"The boating access is challenging. It would be amazing if there was a way to borrow simple watercraft (kayak or canoe) and take advantage of all of our water amenities."

"We frequent the playgrounds in town A LOT and would love a splash pad/summer water area for littles, we currently travel to Bedford for this."

"We have 3 beautiful rivers that run through town, but few riverside trails. I'd like to see boardwalks through the marshy floodplains and continuous riverside paths for being able to see the water and wildlife. I love water view walks, but find them hard to come by in Concord."

Key Challenges / Solutions

- The sensitive nature of aquatic ecosystems and the careful planning and permitting requirements, both locally and by the State, for protection of these resources. Seasonal closures of facilities may be needed to reduce wildlife migration disruption.
- Regular water quality monitoring if programming is developed around swimming in natural water bodies or for splash pads.
- The pairing of water access with parking availability, walking and bike trails, and other modes of travel to support water recreation activities.



Multi-modal Transportation Planning

Pedestrians, cyclists and paddlers be prioritized through a multi-modal transportation plan that seeks to improve connections for foot, paddle and bicycle traffic in particular between the town centers and recreational sites and facilities.

Key Opportunities

- Endorse cycling as an energy efficient, affordable mode of transportation in Concord with tremendous social, health, economic and environmental benefits by reducing interactions with vehicles to the greatest extent possible (i.e. create bike facilities that are "high comfort") and improving the existing network of cycle paths.
- Analyze the road network to identify which high traffic 'connector' roads between West Concord and Concord Center might support bicycle lanes. Identify recreation sites that can support separated bike lanes that are protected from vehicular travel.
- Identify slower road 'connectors' that support a bike travel in a marked lane.
- Identify the existing sidewalk network and locations where sidewalk connections may be desired and feasible. Identify ADA accessibility challenges and crosswalk connections.
- Consider adding and connecting existing multiuse trails. For bikes and pedestrians to comfortably use the trail simultaneously, trails must be designed to be at least 10 feet wide. Trails running through wooded areas must be mindful of existing trees and designers must work around the existing forest cover so as not to negatively impact existing trees and their root systems.
- Add pedestrian-scale lights to all new bike lanes and multi-modal trails for safety.
- Design and implement multi-modal programming for children and adults of all ages and abilities that can make the case for the installation of multiuse trails and bikeways, and advocate for future connections to be made.

Community Thoughts

"I'd like to see Concord dedicated to the safety and enjoyment of bikers and walkers in town."

"... let's have bikers, walkers, skateboarders, runners, etc. do a streettakeover once/[month] to draw attention to how much value our community would get from (safely) stepping out of motorized transport periodically."

"More inclusive trail systems that can accommodate users of all mobility levels. Drainage and tree roots can make walking running or biking treacherous especially when wet."

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Maintenance of walking paths' surfacing and planting around paths, including the quick repair of damaged paths from tree roots and regular pruning from overhanging trees
- Goal of making all walking paths at recreation spaces ADA accessible
- CPW maintenance capacity to remove snow at key recreation facilities for winter use

Rectangular Field Use Study

With significantly more rectangular fields than the NRPA average, there is a disconnect between the amount of fields available and permitted hours. With rectangular field use on the upward trend, a focused study can discern why this is happening and ways to better utilize existing field space.

Key Opportunities

- Study could identify how adult and youth leagues use specific existing rectangular multi-use fields in Concord. Deeper analysis of permitting and participation data will reveal how the various sports are trending in participation post-pandemic in Concord. This can be confirmed through interviews with representatives from each sport.
- Study could strengthen collaboration efforts between Concord Recreation and CCRS by examining current permitted adult soccer and youth soccer, lacrosse and football leagues and school sports use. Analysis of school enrollment projections will provide a better understanding of potential impact on sports and recreation needs in Concord.
- Study could examine the trending shift of traditional seasonal sports to full year participation and its potential effect on the demand and capacity of facilities.
- Study could further evaluate the distribution of field time allocated to various user groups to better understand gender and needs equity between various sports. Additional locations in Concord can be evaluated for refurbishment of Peabody Middle School and other Town- owned properties to expand the inventory of recreational assets for the community and provide equity if applicable.
- Study could help the community decide if an additional synthetic turf field is warranted and if it would be an appropriate addition to the current offering of sports fields in Concord.
- Investigation into the growing popularity of cricket in Metro West might also be included in this study.

Community Thoughts

"Cousins field is extremely in need of field maintenance. It's regularly unplayable for soccer games after rain."

"Field facilities are poor compared to other towns that often have bathroom access and often access to food. Fields with spectators in other towns often have covered seating to protect from sun or rain."

"Many of the soccer fields are not specifically designed as sports fields, rather mow[n], mostly level fields. The town needs more artificial turf facilities."

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Ability to expand or reorganize existing facilities or purchase additional appropriate real estate may be a limiting factor. Likewise the ability to light or develop synthetic turf fields to extend operable hours for play may be limited by the Town and/or Concord community.
- CPW/Facilities capacity and budget to establish a maintenance plan based on industry standards that addresses the needs of more rectangular multiuse fields may be limited.

2

Improve or Expand Current Recreation Facilities

Assessments of current recreation facilities, permitting data, national metric and community feedback led to five (5) recommendations that focus on improvements to existing Town properties. Outcomes from these recommendations will mean meeting personal fitness goals and pursuit of a diverse range of recreation opportunities within Concord. Recommendations include:

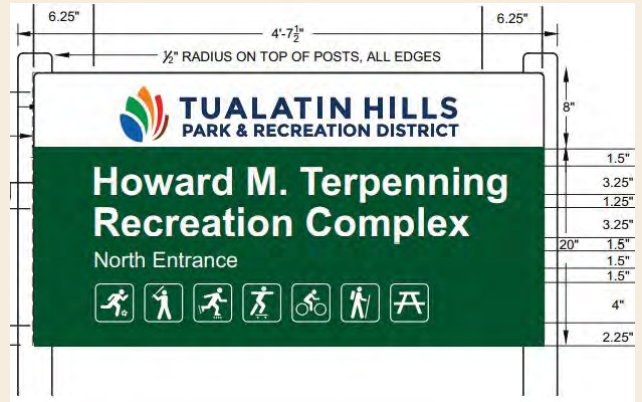
- A. Consistency of Facility Signage and Site Furnishings
- B. Annual Inspection Program
- C. Indoor Recreation Upgrades
- D. More Outdoor Courts of all Types
- E. More Diverse Play Opportunities

Many Town-owned and operated parks and recreation facilities are sparse on park signage, if at all. Many people made note and asked for more park signage during the community outreach process. While most conservation land contains some form of signage, the overall lack of entry signs, at minimum, is a missed opportunity. A sign does more than just indicate an entrance and assure visitors that they've arrived at their destination; it advertises a public resource and demonstrates a broad system of public amenities. Clearly marked recreation facilities would be a useful addition in Concord to both veterans and newcomers to Concord facilities.

Upgrading current indoor recreation spaces and coordinating across Town departments for better ways of utilizing Town-owned indoor spaces could mean an increase in programming for the community.

There is substantial demand for tennis, pickleball and basketball courts in Concord. Several existing courts in Town should be resurfaced soon and consideration should be given to the construction of new multiuse or dedicated courts for pickleball and basketball on current Town-owned land used for recreation.

Enhancing and formalizing an annual inspection program across Town-owned park and recreation facilities can help CPW and Facilities stay on top of maintenance, repairs, and changing standards, ensuring the Town's duty of care to users.



Standardized signage with amenity icons overcome language barriers and foster comprehension among diverse populations. Photo credit: Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Signage Maintenance Standards.



Seniors gather for a meal hosted by Concord Council on Aging at Harvey Wheeler Community Center. Photo credit: Concord Council on Aging.



Basketball courts at Rideout and Emerson Parks are popular but contain cracks in the field of play, which should be repaired.



Consistent Facility Signage

Well-placed park and wayfinding signage within Concord's parks and along Concord's many waterways and water bodies are needed to ensure users are able to move easily between and within sites.

Key Opportunities

- Use signs to indicate entrances and reassure visitors that they've arrived at their destination; use signs to advertise a public resource and demonstrate a broad system of public amenities.
- Develop a standardized, system-wide approach to park signage graphics which clearly communicates the Town's recreation brand and color palette. Signage that includes amenity symbols decreases the need for multi-lingual translated text to be added to signs, thereby simplifying them visually and providing universal access. Iconography used across all signage at all sites provides clear visual indicators of amenities at each recreation site and across Town without much barrier to entry.
- Before any signs are installed, a signage expert / graphic designer should design a family of signage templates that are in keeping with the Town's cultural and historic aesthetic. Through this process, standard dimensions, information to be included on each sign type, fonts, etc. should be decided. Such standardization of signage could extend to wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretative signage as well.

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Too many signs and complicated designs can lead to visual clutter in open spaces and outdoor areas for recreation. Attention to the thoughtful and consistent placement of signage, along with a simple design aesthetic, is critical to the success of signage.

Community Thoughts

"There should be better signage for river access points... There are so many incredible access points to our wonderful rivers in Concord. Why isn't the town tapping into this resource?"

At Emerson Park: "No signage at the main gate to the track near the Flag Pole and softball/baseball fields. All other entrances, which are seldom used, have signs stating rules and etiquette use to keep pets, bikes, carriages, etc. off the track."

"Signage, wayfinding, and communication in general can be improved. I recently moved to Concord and getting started with Concord Rec was difficult. It's as though things are made for people who already know where they're going. What about someone encountering things for the first time?"



Consistent Facility Site Furnishings

Implement standard site furnishings at all park sites for brand consistency, economy of scale, ease of maintenance and repair. Locate benches and picnic tables along accessible pathways.

Key Opportunities

- Consistent site furnishings help create a sense of place in individual parks and build a brand identity across Concord's recreation system, contributing to a memorable user experience.
- Site furnishings in public settings experience heavy usage and wear by the public and often need to be repaired annually or even replaced from time to time. Having a small stockpile of site furnishings in the Town's yard enables Town staff to make repairs swiftly. With consistency also comes confidence in the repair of a familiar benches, waste receptacle or water bottle refill station.
- There can be economic advantages to consistent site furnishings, too. Often site furnishings are less expensive when bought in greater quantities, placed in storage, and ready and available when replacement in the public environment is required.

Key Challenges / Solutions

- There may be deviations to these selections for site-specific reasons. Selections should stick closely to the recommendations provided in the following pages, but should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to fit the specific context where that site furnishing will be located. All deviations from the suggestions included herein must be approved by the Recreation Commission prior to their implementation or by the board/commission responsible for custody on sites not under purview of the Recreation Commission.

Community Thoughts

"Not enough benches and lounging areas at Emerson. I have to bring my own chair to watch birds. And I'm old."

"Limited picnic / seating options at parks and playgrounds."

"Not enough garbage dispensers, public seating ... would be nice to encourage outdoor picnicking and eating outdoors more."

- With the potential for a wider range of acceptable site furnishings, Concord Recreation shall manage a digital list of acceptable manufacturers and models per site furnishing that is regularly updated (annually). This list should include vendor contacts, website references, and product cut sheets to clarify the selections. It should be shared with all Town departments and interested stakeholders.

Category	Preferred Selection
Backed Bench	Victor Stanley, Inc. Model #CR-138 - 6-foot long, powdercoat black finish, surface-mounted, two end armrests and a center armrest
Picnic Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victor Stanley, Inc. Model #ST-5 - IPE Wood, ADA and non-ADA options, surface-mounted Online. Model #H-5870BR, Recycled Plastic Steel Frame, 6' Brown
Picnic Table (NRC sites)	Online. Model #H-2560 (46" Hex) and #H-6575 (46" ADA HEX), Recycled Plastic Picnic Table
Cafe Seating	Landscape Forms Carousel Table - perforated seats, number of seats determined by project need
Bike Racks	Victor Stanley, Inc. Model #BRHS-101, Cycle Sentry Series - surface-mounted
Drinking Fountain	Halsey Taylor Model #4420BFTUFRK with single ADA accessible bubbler and single bottle filler
Trash and Recycling Receptacle	Victor Stanley, Inc. Model #REN-36TD: 36-gallon Top-Load Top-Deposit Litter Receptacle with wide mouth convex lid
Trash Receptacle	Belson Outdoors, Model #KR-3032: 32-gallon Top-Load Top-Deposit Recycled Plastic and Aluminum Trash Receptacle



Victory Stanley Backed Bench



Online Recycled Plastic Steel Picnic Table



Online Recycled Plastic Picnic Table



Victory Stanley Bike Rack



Hasley Taylor Drinking Fountain and Bottler Filling Station



Belson Outdoors Trash Receptacle



Annual Inspection Program

Implement a systematic annual facility inspection process, with a particular focus on Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) playground inspections.

Key Opportunities

- Each year, all assets at Town facilities should be evaluated and documents into a Park Asset Inventory document (spreadsheet). This document, which would be updated as replacement projects occur, should be used to prioritize capital replacement projects during the budgeting process. It is recommended that this spreadsheet be a cloud-based asset tracking software for easier, transferable use between Town departments.
- Conducting an audit after new play equipment is installed, keeping careful maintenance and replacement records, and completing annual Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) inspections ensure that hazards on playground equipment and playgrounds themselves are identified, ranked, repaired or removed according to their injury potential.

Key Challenges/Solutions

- Learning and development among CPW and Facilities staff in Concord should be prioritized under this recommendation so these assessments and inspections can be carried out by Town staff. Up-to-date inspection certification and other related skills should be available 'in-house,' otherwise inspections will need to be conducted by contracted consultants. The CPSI certification process requires an in-person course and exam. It is offered nationally and costs several hundred dollars.
- A perceived barrier to fulfilling this recommendation is the time it may take to perform regular inspections. It may be worthwhile to hiring a dedicated part-time inspector as the champion to carry out this work. Dedicating a concerted resource to the evaluation of existing resources will speed up the evaluation process and create internal efficiency if this inspector becomes a trusted partner with CPW and Facilities staff.

Community Thoughts

"The Emerson pool is small and used for camp during the day. Last year at times it closed because of maintenance issues."

"Lack of maintenance to walking trails.."

"Better court maintenance."

"In particular, keep on doing a great job with the fantastic Beede Center - keep it clean and well-maintained each year and it will be a fantastic asset literally for decades."

"I'd just like bathrooms at [R]ideout that are clean, have soap, are working, and are open! Spectators and players should have access to bathrooms during practice and games."



Indoor Recreation Upgrades

Better utilization of existing Town-owned indoor recreation spaces through regular maintenance and capital investments upgrades such installing air conditioning at Hunt Recreation or re-surfacing at the Ripley School Gymnasium.

Key Opportunities

- Improve the experience of playing indoors at Hunt Recreation Center by installing air conditioning. Air conditioning would allow the facility to be better used in the hottest of summer days.
- Resurface the courts at Ripley School Gymnasium to improve sports play performance. Provide for more goals, nets, exercise equipment, toddler soft play pieces, etc. to expand play opportunities including indoor basketball, futsal, volleyball, tennis, and pickleball as well as group exercise classes or baby and toddler soft play mornings.
- Expand indoor amenities, particularly bathrooms, to support better and higher use of indoor spaces (i.e. upgrades to restrooms at Ripley School Gymnasium).
- Explore alternative adaptation of the Peabody Middler School, Ripley School gymnasium, Harvey Wheeler Community Center, and other existing spaces in Concord that can support new programming given some renovation. Examples increasing in popularity include futsal, a soccer-based game played on a hard court, and other gathering spaces such as book clubs, yoga groups, crafting clubs, or scout troops.
- There is community interest in starting a youth basketball league, which could be supported by an existing indoor space. Appropriate spectator seating, restrooms, etc. would need to be considered and incorporated.

Community Thoughts

"Would be neat if indoor courts could be multipurpose (e.g. squash or pickleball or tennis)."

"There is not enough space for exercise classes."

"Indoor track!!! There is no indoor space for walking in Concord-my #1 complaint."

"More indoor courts (basketball, volleyball, etc.)."

"Indoor playground for children!!!"

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Intra-departmental coordination would be required for adapting school gymnasiums and other spaces for community use.
- Capital investment will need to be requested to fund major upgrades such as a HVAC cooling system for Hunt Recreation and new surfacing at Ripley School. Timing will need to be considered for these projects.
- Additional staff may need to be hired to organize and run additional programming.



More Outdoor Courts of All Types

Add at least two (2) more basketball courts. Consider locations where amenities oriented toward basketball can also be included or currently exist. Add at least six (6) dedicated outdoor pickleball courts to the current stock, preferably separate from Rideout Park.

Key Opportunities

- Concord has less basketball courts than the NRPA's national average. Given community feedback, more courts should be added - more than the national average - to accommodate the increasing demand for adult and youth basketball programming and informal play. Add at least two (2) more basketball courts.
- Pickleball has become incredibly popular in Concord. Conflict between tennis and pickleball players is growing with multi-striped / multiuse courts often being dominated by pickleball players. At least six (6) dedicated pickleball courts should be constructed at existing Town-owned land such as the fields at Peabody School, where parking is available.
- Existing Town-owned tennis / pickleball and basketball courts all have surfacing in moderate-to-poor condition with cracking and pitting in the field of play and fading sealant. Renovation of these facilities is needed to keep them open and usable.
- Consideration for other types of courts should be made including volleyball, paddle ball, bocce, etc., which may be gaining ground in Concord and may provide opportunities to include more diverse users.

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Capital funding is needed for improvements to existing and new courts.
- An improved reservation system is needed that clarifies court offerings and available times to play. Physical regulatory signage at the courts, referencing the reservation system, will help provide clarity as well.

Community Thoughts

"More access to basketball courts for middle school and older. These kids have no where to go after school and end up hanging out at Dunkin Donuts!"

"More pickleball courts. Growing exponentially."

"While pickle ball is great for some residents - it makes the tennis courts unavailable for tennis players. A better system for reservations would be great so the facilities can be shared."

"Outdoor volleyball courts."
"Yes to bocce court! That would be amazing!"

- Striping for multiple sports makes playing each sport more challenging. Dedicated courts per sport is preferred over multiuse courts.

More basketball courts would fulfill a community need and provide a gathering space for tweens and teenagers. Photo Credit: From Internet, unknown..





More Diverse Play Opportunities

Add two (2) more playgrounds for ages up to twelve and one (1) more dedicated tot lot oriented toward the 0 to 5 year age group. Renovate the playground at Rideout Park and add a splash pad. Consider opportunities for indoor play, especially for babies and toddlers.

Key Opportunities

- Concord is under-served in playgrounds as per the NRPA national average for communities with similar populations. At least two (2) more playgrounds for 5-12 year old children and one (1) additional tot lot geared to the interest and abilities of babies, toddlers and children under the age of five years are needed to support the Town's growth.
- As existing playgrounds age, alternative playground equipment and more diverse play value should be considered, including more vestibular play motions that aid in child development and are found most often in children's play environments. These movement include swinging, sliding, rocking, bouncing, and spinning; play equipment that provides these types of motion should be included in future play spaces.
- Create more inclusive play opportunities by adding transition points, molded swings and other means of providing equitable play opportunities for all of Concord's children.
- Find simple, high-impact ways to add playful learning throughout Concord's park and recreation system. Painted four-square and other sidewalk games, adding measurements to a fireman's pole, including small traffic signs for a 'tricycle highway' along a park's perimeter walking loop, or including 3-D sculptures alongside text on interpretative panels are easy ways to integrate learning in play.
- Think beyond fixed play equipment and integrate 'play moments' throughout Concord's recreation facilities. Found stumps and large branches could make excellent balancing or building materials for 'manipulative play' on conservation land. Willow fairy huts could be constructed by artist/student volunteers and offer 'pretend

play' at a park in Concord temporarily for a season.

- Offer more water play through the addition of a water pump or water tray table in a sand box, splash pad, spray deck, or jumping fountains in a plaza setting that are operational seasonally.
- Develop indoor recreation opportunities, such as soft play for babies, toddlers, and young children, which was a frequent comment by online survey respondents.
- Build on the fitness obstacle course at Rideout Park by developing more alternative play and hangout areas for tweens and teenagers. These play experiences could include ziplines, group swings, or a tall climbing structure or alternative sports activities such as a BMX pump track, disc golf courses, or teen-focused hang-out shelters.

Challenges / Solutions

- Parents and caregivers have different tolerances toward risk in play and some play equipment or elements that may be favored as 'creative' by some will be determined 'too risky' by others.
- Tweens and teens need activity during this significant developmental phase of life. Play experiences and places that welcome and encourage their age group can keep bored, anti-social or even destructive behaviors at bay.
- New playgrounds take imagination, community buy-in, a Town champion, capital investment, and regular inspection and maintenance to ensure the safety of all Concord's children; however, the benefits are immeasurable through developmental growth and social opportunities for the community's youth.

Community Thoughts

"Better playground features for older children - for example, a very tall climbing structure, zipline, long slide, etc."

"Look at Belmont's spray pool/playground. We need that! We have 100 degree summers on the way."

"Not enough swingsets."

"Indoor playspace/ playground for children, especially very young children."

"Would love to see the town be more creative and ambitious with their playgrounds. Both Rideout and Emerson seem to have defaulted to somewhat boring/ lowest common denominator equipment."



Play equipment doubles as gathering spots for small groups of tweens. Photo credit: Kompan.



Children enjoy the jumping fountain jets on Boston's Rose Kennedy Greenway during a hot summer. Photo credit: Jesse Costa, WBUR radio website.



Painted games, like the four-square and hopscotch, add another layer of play and learning to sidewalk surfacing at Lincoln Park, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

3

Develop New Recreation Facilities

Some recreation needs that were identified through the RFSP planning process cannot be accomplished at existing Town-owned recreation facilities and will require property acquisition by Concord. These recommendations often surfaced because there was an existing conflict in the community between user groups, as in the case of dog owners and park and playground users at Emerson Park. NRPA national metrics revealed that similarly populated communities to Concord typically had two (2) dog parks. In this example, a recommendation for dog runs was made. Dog runs are open or enclosed areas where dogs are permitted off leash but accompanied by their owners. Dog runs could be located within existing recreation facilities but in the case of the recommendation might be a purpose-built, dedicated 'bark park.' This is just one example of how recommendations might be realized. The recommendations for new recreation facilities are:

- A. Indoor Recreation Facility
- B. Outdoor Civic Gathering Spaces
- C. Trailhead Nature Education / Maker Space
- D. New Centralized Skating Rink
- E. New Dedicated Dog Runs



Indoor Recreation Facility

Add an indoor recreation complex that focuses on indoor courts and multipurpose field spaces. Add a dedicated community center that serves all ages, particularly teens. Consider existing properties as potential locations for these facilities (e.g. Peabody Middle School and 2229 Main Street).

Key Opportunities

- Create an indoor recreation center with nearby multiuse field sports complex. Include an indoor track, fitness center with open studio space for classes, courts for pickleball, basketball, soccer, among other sports, to keep Concord fit and active during the long New England winters and hot summers. Create spaces for a variety of community gatherings, including spaces for rent for local groups.
- Consider the adaptation and rehabilitation of existing Town-owned properties for more indoor recreation such as Peabody School, Ripley School Gymnasium, Harvey Wheeler Community Center and the future Middle School.
- Improve access to programming by adding more at purpose-built facilities. Diversify the times, locations or offerings throughout town. Access to programming was a significant and frequent concern expressed by respondents to the online survey. Youth basketball, group exercise classes, and swim lessons were among the programming most cited by respondents.

Key Challenges / Solutions

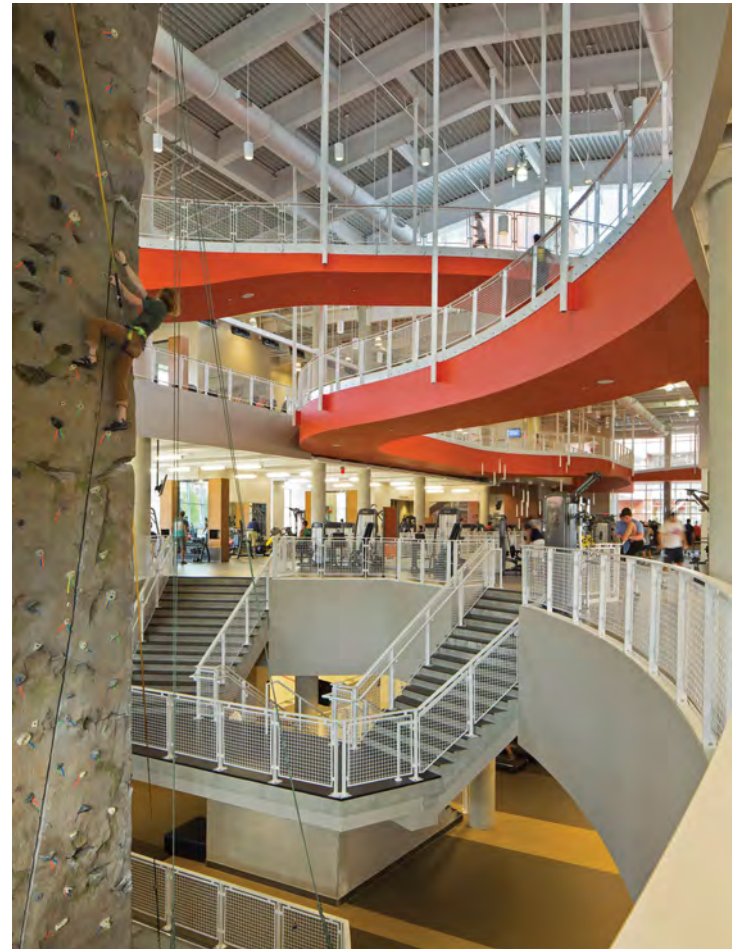
- A thorough review of existing Town-owned spaces that could be better managed or utilized immediately for emerging needs should be conducted across Town departments.
- Careful siting of a new indoor recreation center will need to be required to ensure equity and accessibility to all potential users in Concord.
- Substantial capital investment will be required to fund the construction, management, operation, and maintenance of such a sizable Town asset, so private-public partnerships may be considered for the project's funding future.

Community Thoughts

"Indoor winter recreation; indoor walking track; more gym space."

"More indoor basketball courts (only one in Hunt right now) and indoor soccer (we have to go to other towns to play indoor soccer in winter)."

A creative, accessible indoor track at Auburn University's Rec and Wellness Center. Photo credit: HOK Network



A short review of indoor recreation centers local to Concord was conducted to see both how the Town's current indoor recreation offerings compare and how a future indoor recreation center should be sized to accommodate the needs of the community.

Beede Swim & Fitness Center

498 Walden St, Concord, MA 01742



35,000 SF

- Lap Pool (8Lanes) 6,000 sf
- Deep Water Diving Pool 13 ft depth
- Children's Play Pool 30 ft x 30 ft
- Therapy Pool
- Fitness Room (2 Rooms) 1,600 sf (ea.)
- Locker Rooms
- Off-Street Parking Lot 154 spaces



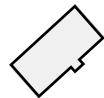
Building Exterior



Lap Pool (8 Lanes)

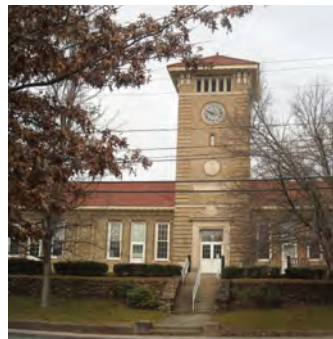
Harvey Wheeler Community Center

1276 Main Street, Concord, MA 01742



25,072 SF

- Auditorium
- Four Classrooms
- Teacher's Office
- Off-Street Parking Lot 114 spaces



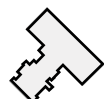
Building Exterior



Auditorium

Hunt Recreation Center

90 Stow St, Concord, MA 01742



10,000 SF

- Indoor Gymnasium
- Large Multi-purpose Room
- Staff Office Space
- Smaller Conference Room
- Locker Rooms
- Hunt Side Lawn 15,000 sf
- Off-Street Parking Lot 20 spaces



Building Exterior



Indoor Gymnasium

The Ripley School Gymnasium

120 Meriam Rd, Concord, MA 01742

- Indoor Gymnasium 1,850 sf
- Restroom
- Off-Street Parking Lot 108 spaces



Building Exterior



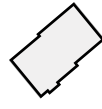
Indoor Gymnasium

Develop New Recreation Facilities

Arlington Boys & Girls Club

60 Pond Ln, Arlington, MA 02474

- Indoor Lap Pool
- Indoor Gymnasium
- Childcare Classrooms
- Off-Street Parking Lot 12 spaces



40,000 SF



Building Exterior



Indoor Lap Pool

J.W. Hayden Recreation Centre

24 Lincoln St, Lexington, MA 02421

- Full-Size Ice Surface
- Swimming Pool
- Weight Room
- Indoor Gymnasium
- Gymnastics / Dance Studio
- Art Studio
- Off-Street Parking Lot 115 spaces



38,000 SF

76,000 SF



Building Exterior

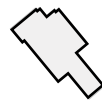


Full Size Ice Surface

Warren Recreation Center

90 Washington St, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

- Indoor Gymnasium
- Dance Studio
- Children's Room
- Off-Street Parking Lot 72 spaces



34,000 SF



Building Exterior

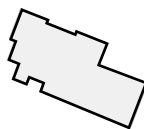


Indoor Gymnasium

West Suburban YMCA

276 Church St, Newton, MA 02458

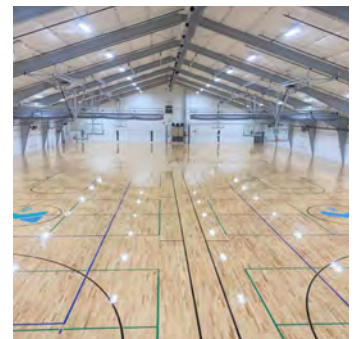
- (4) Multi-purpose courts 24,000 sf
- (2) Lap Pools (4 Lanes)
- Wellness Space + Upper Level Indoor Track 10,000 sf
- Multi-Purpose Auditorium
- Private Locker Rooms
- Off-Street Parking Lot 124 spaces



95,000 SF



Building Exterior



(4) Multi-purpose Indoor Courts



Outdoor Civic Gathering Spaces

Create more outdoor civic gathering spaces that vary in scale and purpose within Concord's parks and recreation system.

Key Opportunities

- Develop the existing entrance to Hunt Recreation Center and Emerson Park along Stow Street into a plaza, improving outdoor seating options, signage, paving and lighting.
- Create a central gathering space at Rideout Park that integrates a playful jumping fountain splash pad that can be used seasonally.
- Create welcoming tween and teenage hang-out spaces in Concord outdoor recreation facilities.
- Add a community space near the community gardens at Cousins Field for gardeners and others to gather and sharing seeds, gardening techniques, and harvests! Consider replicating this space at other community gardens in Concord.
- Create a professional quality performance arts lawn with stage for concerts, festivals and other community gatherings.

Community Thoughts

"I'd love to see the town hold more events that build community like outdoor concerts in the summer"

"Create more outdoor community gathering space for performances."

"An outdoor pavilion for rent for family picnics would be nice."

"Gathering for shared experiences like dance, music, plays, speakers, etc."

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Gathering spaces are places of encounter and can help with social cohesion and a sense of community. They can also become easily overwhelmed by demand or damaged by anti-social behavior. Place gathering points thoughtfully so that visual oversight by 'eyes on the street' helps to keep the space functional, clean, and safe. Include high quality site furnishings such as benches and trash receptacles to lend value and identity to gathering points.
- Work with key stakeholders to create gathering spaces that are meaningful and useful to users. A gathering area for a community garden might feature picnic tables for sharing a harvest, a tool shed, or an arbor entrance covered in flowering vines.

A simple yet artful structure provides a shady gathering place near this community garden at Farmers Park in Springfield, Missouri. Photo credit: Farmers Park webpage.





Trailhead Nature Education / Maker Space

Build at least one, but preferable two small nature-focused educational spaces that connect to and support Concord's extensive trail system and confluence of waterways.

Key Opportunities

- Create playful learning opportunities at trailheads for adults and children to interact and share discoveries from the natural world, such as chalkboards for writing bird and wildlife sightings and user-curated nature trays for placing found natural objects.
- Build all-weather Nature Education Shelter with flexible space for programming for classes, exercise groups, or meetings between expert researchers and volunteers.
- Construct Maker Space to encourage Concord youth to explore, design, experiment and build. Such a space could feature programming and workshops or labs focused on a wide range of skills from carpentry and weaving to art and 3-D printing!

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Trailhead nature trays allow visitors to share objects found within the space but may require regular maintenance adding to the current work load of Town departments like DNR and CPW.
- Nature Education Shelter is most exciting when it has regular programming which would require additional staffing.
- Maker spaces require staffing, stocking, managing, maintenance, and programming to be a successful space for youth.

Community Thoughts

"As much access to nature appreciated for all ages!"

"As the birthplace of transcendentalism, it would be super to open a nature center in Concord with activities for children."

"A gathering space for young people (community center) to work on projects or homework [with] access to wifi."

"For our current children age group, they are met, but as they grow it would be nice to see morespace suitable to middle school age children with spots to hang out in/use other than a playground."

Discovery Museum's Treehouse in nearby Acton is home to outdoor educational programming and open-ended STEAM-based play. Photo credit: Discoveryacton.org





Outdoor, Four-Season Multipurpose Pavilion Rink

Consider adding a town-run outdoor all-seasons pavilion for ice skating, pickleball, community events, and other uses.

Key Opportunities

- As a seasonal pilot to understand if a skating rink would be popular in Concord, consider flooding a field for temporary open air ice skating. Organize community event alongside this space with an evening bonfire, ice hockey games or ice skating competitions, and plenty of hot chocolate too!
- If the pilot proves successful over several years (i.e. more than three), build a multipurpose space that can house a centralized ice skating rink. An example of this was done at The Warehouse Center in Kennebunk, Maine, which is a open-sided pavilion that hosts events and festivals all four seasons including ice skating in winter. Similarly, the Harris Pavilion in Manassas, Virginia, is an all-weather, open sided shelter that hosts ice skating and lessons in winter, is available for private rentals such as weddings, and also hosts community concerts and dancing in summer.
- Very useful and cost effective to construct, a four seasons pavilion could play host to seasonal pickleball courts, a roller skate rink, concerts, and other community events. It could generate revenue for the Town through private rentals.

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Changes like the proposed dam removal at Warner's Pond could effect that water body's ability to freeze enough for safe wild skating, making this open air shelter a practical alternative. Climate change is also likely to effect efficiency of outdoor ice skating rinks.
- Installing a ice skating rink or field for a weekend or season, that is on a trial basis, might be a cost efficient method for the Town to gauge the popularity of ice skating in Concord.

Community Thoughts

"With no snow but still cold weather, I feel like [an outdoor ice skating rink] would give the kids a winter activity in town with fairly little costs."

"The old skating rink at Rideout was fun. We could also have a community bonfire at ride out inthe winter to create community and encourage people to get outside."

"Please bring back the outdoor skating rink (weather permitting) that we used to have at Emerson Field."

- Demand for pickleball may be mitigated in summer by striping the pavilion as courts. The space could be also be used as avenus for events.

The Waterhouse Center in Kennebunk, Maine is an open-sided pavilion that hosts ice-skating in winter and pickleball courts in summer. Photo credit: Waterhouse Center Facebook Page.





New Dedicated Dog Parks

Add at least two (2) dedicated dog parks, with at least one (1) located near town center (e.g. lean into the informal dog use at Emerson Park).

Key Opportunities

- Provide two (2) new dedicated dog parks, runs or other enclosed areas where dogs can be off leash in Concord, including one in the Town's center. Consider adding purpose built dog play elements and areas where dog owners can meet and socialize.
- Maintain some natural areas where dogs and owners can enjoy free, off-leash play and exercise.
- Consider implementing an off-leash dog program, similar to that in Brookline, which identifies permitted locations across town and allowable hours.

Key Challenges / Solutions

- Dogs Parks can be messy. Ensure adequate means to dispose of dog waste including dog waste stations regularly stocked with dog waste bags and maintained waste receptacles.
- The surfacing and equipment damage at dog parks can easily deteriorate with over-use so a clear maintenance plan to inspect and repair all surfacing, fencing, amenities, landscaping, and site furnishing such as dog waste stations and trash receptacles should be in place. Incorporate a hose bib and water service in any dog run for easy washing down of dog park amenities and surfacing.

Community Thoughts

"Would love a fenced in field for dogs to run around and play without risk of running off."

"Maintaining Emerson Field for off leash dog walking is very important to me. I am there at least twice a day and it is highly important to my quality of life in Concord."

"The dogs at Emerson Field off leash has made walking on the new accessible path difficult and dangerous. I have friends that won't go to Emerson Field anymore because they are worried they will be knocked down by a dog. ... Could off leash dogs be relegated to the far corner of the field near Thoreau and Everettstreets? Have a dog park at another site?"

"Please do not make Cousins Field a dog park!!"

"I love the off-leash dog friendly nature of Mattison Field. It is a wonderful place to walk and talk with neighbors. I would love more places like that."

for the future of recreation in Concord.

Prioritization Criteria

Understanding Concord's recreation needs is useful when it is accompanied by a transparent and equitable method for prioritizing those needs. How will repairs or upgrades to existing recreation sites fit into and alongside new facilities and or Town-wide improvements? What should get delivered first? What criteria will inform prioritization of the many competing demands? Finally, what are meaningful time scales that balance high quality improvements with the need to keep amenities operational?

Many considerations should be accounted for when prioritizing projects. A comprehensive capital planning task force should be assembled from across Town Departments to assist in prioritizing projects. The task force could use these considerations outlined below to determine which projects occur immediately to address urgent safety concerns and those that occur within a Short Term Capital Plan (FY24-28) and a Long Term Capital Plan (FY29-33):

Public Safety

- Ensuring that cracks in court surfaces or broken playground equipment is repaired immediately could prevent injury or even be life-saving.

Funding Availability

- Funds can come from many sources - earmarked within the Town's annual capital budget, private funding through a donation or youth sports league's fundraising effort, state as well as federal grants.
- A mix of funding sources can sometimes be applied to one project to push a project forward. Creative thinking is key.

Construction Costs

- Some project cost may be low, or may require equipment or material purchases if done with Town staff. Other projects may be more complex in constructability, material selections, specialized trades, etc. that increase the cost.
- Phasing a large-scale project may come into play if construction costs are exceedingly high, and / or funding is not readily available for the entire project.

Town Staffing

- Repairs or smaller projects could potentially be done "in-house" by Facilities staff. Efforts involving complicated design and engineering, and challenging construction techniques may need to be deferred to outside vendors. The latter will increase a project's timeline.

Permitting Challenges

- Federal, state and local permitting requirements may add complication to particular projects, particularly environmental permitting if impacts fall within wetlands. Other jurisdictions, Town boards and commissions may also need to weigh in on projects if, for example, the work is in a historic district, is providing ADA accessibility or is proposing climate mitigation strategies. At the state and federal level, projects may be extended if environmental contamination is present, as is the case with one of our study sites described later in this chapter.

Inclusion and Equity

- Location must be considered when distributing capital projects in a given year. It is critical that recreational resources are accessible to all people, regardless of means and abilities, and justly distributed throughout Concord.

Project Decision Filter

Assigning time scales to the delivery of recreation needs holds Town leadership accountable and ensures the community continues to trust that repairs and new recreation resources will be delivered when promised. It also demonstrates that the community's health and wellbeing is valued. The series of questions below will help in future decision-making. The first three questions that need to be 'yes' to continue exploring a project idea are:

1. Does the project build community cohesion, improve health and wellness, and provide increased access to physical activity and personal fitness?
2. Does the project create a more resilient / sustainable community and improve connectivity across town?
3. Does the project promote DEI values and improve access to parks, recreational facilities, and programming for underserved communities with Concord?

Yeses, or confirmation, in each of the column below should be used to determine the time frame for which this project should be undertaken.

SHORT-TERM TIME FRAME AND IMMEDIATE NEED *(0 to 1 years)*

1. This project idea addresses an immediate public safety concern?
2. Does this project idea enhance a current amenity already in place at a recreational facility?
3. Does the project already have a Town staff 'champion' in place?
4. There are no permits required for this work.. OR Can permits be secured within 3 months?
5. Can current staff resources maintain the project once it is completed (short)?

MID-RANGE TIME FRAME *(2 to 5 years)*

1. There is no immediate safety concern associated with this project idea.
2. Can current recreational facilities incorporate (make space for) this project, even if this new project idea reconfigured an existing recreational facility or amenity?
3. Will the project have a Town staff 'champion' within the next year?
4. Will the permit process take more than 3 months but under 1 year?
5. Does the Town need to hire one or two more staff or hire a vendor to maintain the project once its completed?

LONG-TERM TIME FRAME *(6 years or more)*

1. There is no immediate safety concern associated with this project idea.
2. Would new property need to be acquired to complete this project idea?
3. Will it take longer than a year for Town resources to be allocated to this project?
4. Will the permit process take more than 1 year?
5. Would the Town need to invest in new skillsets / trades to maintain the new project idea?

Short Term and Immediate Need Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Rideout Park & Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With recent renovations in some areas, the park would benefit from a short conceptual planning exercise to fit new proposals seamlessly into the park's existing fabric. Renovate the existing tennis courts; include pickleball striping. Include investigatory borings during design to understand subgrade issues. 	2D	CR	\$	CPC, GF
	2D	CR/CPW	\$	GF
<p>Baker Avenue Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add at least one accessible parking spot. Create an accessible pathway connection to a formalized boat launch/public landing along the Assabet River. 	1B	NRC	\$	GF, MOD-ADA
	1A	NRC	\$	GF, MOD-ADA
<p>Harvey Wheeler Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add more exercise programming for seniors. 		CR/CCA	\$	MIM
<p>Second Division Brook Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve pedestrian access via Main Street. 	1A, 1B	NRC	\$	USDOT
<p>Cousins Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add at least one designated ADA parking spot. 	1B	NRC	\$	GF, MOD-ADA
<p>White Pond Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of a rowing or paddling club and other water programming. 	1A	CR	\$	MIM
<p>Warner's Pond Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add an accessible boat launch. Incorporate at least one accessible paved parking space and van aisle, as well as an accessible pathway to a new accessible boat launch. 	1A	NRC	\$\$	GF, MOD-ADA
	1B	NRC	\$	GF, MOD-ADA

Legend

Beede Enterprise Fund - BEF
 Concord Council on Aging - CCA
 Concord Recreation - CR

Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools - CCRS
 Concord Public Works - CPW
 Facilities - FAC
 Natural Resource Commission - NRC

\$ - Under \$50k
 \$\$ - Between \$50k and \$100k
 \$\$\$ - Over \$100k

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<i>Rideout Park & Playground</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add padding to the basketball court goal posts. 	2D	CPW	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair basketball court cracking. 	2D	CPW	\$\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot repair worn poured-in-place rubber at the playground (e.g. at the slides). 	2B	CPW	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add fencing between the rail line and the park. 	2B	CPW	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install 20-foot height safety netting between the softball field and the playground as an interim solution before the playground is relocated / renovated. 	2B	CPW	\$	GF
<i>Baker Avenue Water Access Point</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain boat launch/public landing spot. 	2B	NRC	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add park signage to road and river entrances, canoe access signage to road entrance, and trail markers. 	2A	NRC	\$	Ch90
<i>Harvey Wheeler Center</i> - Not evaluated.				
<i>Second Division Brook Water Access Point</i> - None.				
<i>Cousins Field</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig test pits to understand field drainage conditions; light regrading recommended. 	1C	CR	\$	GF
<i>White Pond Beach</i> - None.				
<i>Warner's Pond Water Access Point</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add canoe access signage at road entrance. 	2A	NRC	\$	Ch90

Short Term and Immediate Need Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Lowell Road Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add historic information in support of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council guides. 	1A	NRC	\$	MHC
<p>Hunt Recreation Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 				
<p>Emerson Park & Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an overarching master plan. 		CR	\$\$	PARC
<p>Beede Swim & Fitness Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade mechanical equipment to reduce pool closures. 	2B, 2C	CR/BEF	\$\$\$	GF
<p>Skate Park at Concord-Carlisle High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate a disc golf course through woodland and open field spaces. 	2E	CR/CCRS	\$\$\$	PARC
<p>Doug White Turf Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 				
<p>South Meadow Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add at least one ADA accessible parking spot and an accessible route to amenities. Add a trailhead kiosk with trail mapping. 	1B	CR	\$	MOD-ADA
	2A, 3C	CR	\$\$	MT
<p>Ripley School Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with Concord Children’s Center (CCC) on a full renovation to the Play Scope. Add a shade structure. Remove the megaphone play element. Accommodate a seasonal ice skating rink in the multiuse field. Create an accessible pathway between the parking lot, bleachers, and concessions. 	2E	CR/CCC	\$\$\$	KB!
	2B	CPW/CCRS	\$	--
	1A	CR/CCRS	\$\$	MIM
	1B	CPW/CCRS	\$\$	MOD-ADA

Legend

Beede Enterprise Fund - BEF
 Concord Council on Aging - CCA
 Concord Recreation - CR

Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools - CCRS
 Concord Public Works - CPW
 Facilities - FAC
 Natural Resource Commission - NRC

\$ - Under \$50k
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MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
Lowell Road Water Access Point				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 				
Hunt Recreation Center				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restripe the pickleball lines to be more distinct from other striping. 	2D	CR/CPW	\$	GF
Emerson Park & Playground				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the basketball courts, repair cracking and re-seal coat the fading surface. 	2D	CPW	\$\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace Court #2's net. 	2D	CPW	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair tennis court #3's deep cracking. May need full replacement as a capital project. 	2D	CPW	\$\$\$	CPC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair team benches at Softball Field #1. 	2A	CPW	\$	GF
Beede Swim & Fitness Center - Not evaluated.				
Skate Park at Concord-Carlisle High School				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant trees. 		CCRS	\$\$	DCR-UCFC
Doug White Turf Complex				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair the exterior entry to the restrooms. 	2B	FAC	\$\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install ball safety netting along length of two synthetic turf fields. 	2B	FAC/CPW	\$	CPC
South Meadow Field				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add park signage. 	2A	NRC	\$	Ch90
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dig stormwater test pits to understand field drainage conditions. 	1C	NRC/CR	\$	GF
Ripley School Fields				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test flooring for hazardous materials prior to floor renovation. 	2C	FAC/CR /CCRS	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinstall the soap dispensers to an ADA compliant height. 	2C	FAC/CR /CCRS	\$	MOD-ADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rename the Little League field as a 60-foot baseball diamond on the Concord Rec permit application. 		CR	-	--

Mid-Range Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Rideout Park & Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create accessible connections to the multiuse fields and ballfields. • Install a covered shelter for each dugout to enhance players' comfort during baseball and softball games. • Add a splash pad. • Incorporate a fenced-in dog park. 	1B	CR/CPW	\$\$	MOD-ADA
	2A	CR/CPW	\$\$	REI, CPC
	1A	CR	\$\$\$	CPC
	3E	CR	\$\$\$	CPC
<p>Baker Avenue Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the pollinator garden already underway. Add educational signage. • Ensure accessible connections and surfacing at picnic tables. 	2A	NRC	\$\$	DCR-UCFC
	1B	NRC	\$\$	MOD-ADA
<p>Harvey Wheeler Center - None.</p>				
<p>Second Division Brook Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize public boat landing area. 	1A	NRC	\$\$\$	CPC
<p>Cousins Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the existing small seating area overlooking the Assabet River. • Enhance existing perimeter loop trail; add stopping points of interest for education, play or relaxation. 	2A	NRC	\$	CPC
	1B	NRC	\$\$\$	MT
<p>White Pond Beach - None.</p>				
<p>Warner's Pond Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure accessible pathway connections to the Gerow property. 	1B	NRC	\$\$	MOD-ADA, MT

Legend

Beede Enterprise Fund - BEF
 Concord Council on Aging - CCA
 Concord Recreation - CR

Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools - CCRS
 Concord Public Works - CPW
 Facilities - FAC
 Natural Resource Commission - NRC

\$ - Under \$50k
 \$\$ - Between \$50k and \$100k
 \$\$\$ - Over \$100k

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Rideout Park & Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the wooden edging around the surfacing of the Fitness Park. 	2B	CPW	\$	GF
<p>Baker Avenue Water Access Point - None.</p>				
<p>Harvey Wheeler Center - Not evaluated.</p>				
<p>Second Division Brook Water Access Point - None.</p>				
<p>Cousins Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add more bench seating. 	2A	CPW	\$	GF
<p>White Pond Beach - Not evaluated.</p>				
<p>Warner's Pond Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade bench seating for inclusivity and accessibility. 	1B, 2A	NRC	\$	MOD-ADA

Mid-Range Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Lowell Road Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add accessible paved parking space and aisle connected by a short, paved walkway to a concrete platform at water's edge. 	1B	NRC	\$\$	MOD-ADA
<p>Hunt Recreation Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a stronger connection between the Hunt Recreation Center building and Emerson Park in its outdoor entry space and gardens. Foster outdoor gathering for camps and adult programming. Increase fitness programming quantity and offerings. 	2A	CR	\$\$\$	MD-PLACES
	2C	CR	\$\$	MIM
<p>Emerson Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate nearby storage structures. Consider a formalized off-leash dog area. Renovate the entrance at Hunt. 		CR/FAC/CPW	\$	GF
	3E	CR	\$\$\$	PARC
	2A	CR	\$\$	MOD-ADA
<p>Beede Swim & Fitness Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade fitness equipment and spaces and diversify class offerings. 	2A	BEF/CR	\$\$\$	REI
<p>Skate Park at Concord-Carlisle High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a mid-sized event and performance venue / shade structure. Add tree and shrub planting and sidewalk connections to better integrate this space into the high school complex. 	3C	CCRS/CR /OTHER TOWN DEPTS	\$\$\$	PARC, MD-PLACES, SF
	1B	CCRS/CR	\$\$	DCR-UCFC
<p>Doug White Turf Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider complete enclosure of complex. 		CCRS/CR /CPW	\$	GF
<p>South Meadow Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate a simple rustic play moment near the multipurpose field 	2E	NRC/CR	\$\$	PARC
<p>Ripley School Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lightly regrade the baseball diamond and multiuse fields. 		NRC	\$\$\$	GF

Legend

Beede Enterprise Fund - BEF
 Concord Council on Aging - CCA
 Concord Recreation - CR

Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools - CCRS
 Concord Public Works - CPW
 Facilities - FAC
 Natural Resource Commission - NRC

\$ - Under \$50k
 \$\$ - Between \$50k and \$100k
 \$\$\$ - Over \$100k

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<i>Lowell Road Water Access Point</i> - None.				
Hunt Recreation Center				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the carpeting in the meeting rooms and office spaces. 	2C	FAC	\$\$\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint walls and trim throughout to refresh the spaces. 	2C	FAC	\$\$	GF
Emerson Park & Playground				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near the playground, plant more deciduous trees for shade. 	2E	CPW	\$	DCR-UCFC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the playground, add more seating and picnic tables. 	2E	CPW	\$	MOD-ADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot repair fencing throughout the site, particularly bowed backstops and fencing around ball fields. 	2E	CPW	\$	GF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correct the inadequate clear zone between the edge of track and vertical obstruction (fencing). 	2E	CR/CPW	\$\$	GF
<i>Beede Swim & Fitness Center</i> - Not evaluated.				
<i>Skate Park at Concord-Carlisle High School</i> - None.				
Doug White Turf Complex				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace several spalling concrete panels near synthetic turf fields and parking lot. 		CPW	\$	GF
South Meadow Field				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on soil tests, consider re-grading, re-seeding, and turf management to accommodate demand for multipurpose fields. 	1C	CR	\$\$	GF
Ripley School Fields				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remount lavatories to appropriate ADA compliant height or provide full replacements. Add pipe protection to the lavatories. 	2B, 2C	CCRS/ FAC	\$S	MOD-ADA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace the tile flooring in the restroom. Resinous flooring is recommended. 	2B, 2C	CCRS/ FAC	\$\$	GF

Long-Range Projects

CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Rideout Park & Playground</p> <p>Demolish and design/construct a new playground and sensory play area (i.e. sand) relocated away from conflict with the Little League Field. Increase play value and inspire creative play opportunities with this move.</p>	2E	CR	\$\$\$	KB!
<p>Baker Avenue Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate a simple rustic play moment en route to the new boat launch/public landing. 	2E	NRC	\$\$	PARC
<p>Harvey Wheeler Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a small outdoor performance space. 	3B	CR/CCA/ OTHER TOWN DEPTS	\$\$\$	SF, MD- PLACES
<p>Second Division Brook Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce temporary art installations referencing the historic Damon Mill upstream. 	3B, 3C	NRC	\$	NEA-OT
<p>Doug White Turf Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider synthetic turf replacement of two fields in 2029, depending on use levels. 	1C, 2B, 2D	CPW/CR	\$\$\$	PARC
<p>Cousins Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate a small gathering area at the entrance to the community garden. 	3B	NRC	\$\$\$	CPC
<p>White Pond Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer small watercraft rentals and additional water sport-related programming. Add a feet rinsing station. 	1A 1A, 2A	CR NRC/ CPW	\$ \$	REI REI
<p>Warner's Pond Water Access Point (or Gerow)</p> <p>Expand opportunities for use, such as a fishing spot, bird-hide, paddling lessons, summer camp programming, etc.</p>	1A	NRC/CR	\$	REI

Note: Long-range maintenance projects are somewhat of a misnomer, and constitute what is regular care and upkeep of facilities.

Legend

Beede Enterprise Fund - BEF
 Concord Council on Aging - CCA
 Concord Recreation - CR

Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools - CCRS
 Concord Public Works - CPW
 Facilities - FAC
 Natural Resource Commission - NRC

\$ - Under \$50k
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CAPITAL PROJECTS	OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS	CHAMPION	BUDGET	FUNDING
<p>Lowell Road Water Access Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully renovate the access drive. Consider the impacts of regular large-scale flooding. 	1B	NRC	\$\$\$	FEMA, MVP
<p>Hunt Recreation Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the gymnasium to support more basketball, pickleball and an elevated track. (Consider an alternative location for Recreation office space or gymnasium space as a result). Resurface the existing gymnasium and add air conditioning. 	2C	CR	\$\$\$	CPC, MIM
<p>Emerson Park & Playground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and enlarge the outdoor pool. 	2C	CR	\$\$\$	CPC, MIM
<p>Beede Swim & Fitness Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add at least one additional lap pool and a family-friendly swimming option. 	1A	CR	\$\$\$	GF
<p>Skate Park at Concord-Carlisle High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconfigure the skate park to incorporate a pump track. Add at least two basketball courts. 	1A, 2C	CR/BEF	\$\$\$	GF
<p>Doug White Turf Complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider repainting posts and replacing mesh in chain link fence. 	2E	CR/CCHS	\$\$\$	CPC, PARC
	2D	CR/CCHS	\$\$\$	CPC, PARC
<p>South Meadow Field - None.</p>	2B	CPW/CR	\$	GF
<p>Ripley School Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Renovate the gymnasium to expand multigenerational indoor programming (i.e. basketball, pickleball, group fitness, community events). Renovate the restroom to provide full accessibility. Add sports lighting so one (1) baseball field in Concord can have evening play. 	2C	CR/CCHS	\$\$\$	ULI-TAP
	2C	CR/CCHS	\$\$\$	MOD-ADA
	1C	CR/CCHS	\$\$\$	CPC

Funding Opportunities

FEDERAL	DESCRIPTION
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)	<p>The 2022 law includes federal funding opportunities available to local governments to make roadways safer, improve the resilience of transportation infrastructure, advance complete streets improvements, reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure, expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, and help communities build innovative projects.</p> <p>https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/fact-sheet-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-will-deliver-local</p>
U.S. Department of Transportation Grants (USDOT)	<p>The U.S. Department of Transportation provides grants to help build up and maintain a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system for the American people, today and into the future. Some grants that may be applicable to the Williamansett neighborhood include the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants, Hazardous Materials Grant Programs, and the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity.</p> <p>https://www.transportation.gov/grants</p>
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grant (NAWCA-SG)	<p>The Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.</p> <p>https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-grants-us-small</p>
FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grants (FEMA)	<p>Provides funding for eligible mitigation measures that reduce disaster losses. "Hazard mitigation" is defined any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.</p> <p>https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation</p>
National Endowment for the Arts: Our Town (NEA-OT)	<p>NEA's creative placemaking grant program. Through project-based funding, the program supports activities that integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities.</p> <p>https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town</p>
Department of Conservation & Recreation Urban and Community Forest Challenge Grants (DCR-UCFC)	<p>The Department of Conservation & Recreation Urban and Community Forest Challenge Grants offers 50-50 match grants for municipalities and nonprofits for projects related to urban and community forestry management. The program identifies six general project areas: Building and Strengthening Citizen Advocacy and Action Organizations, Community Wood Bank Special Grant Opportunity, Developing and Adopting Tree and Forest Ordinances and Policies, Securing or Training Professional Staff, Develop and Implement Urban Forestry Management Plan, and Completing Strategic Community Tree Plantings and "Heritage" Tree Care Projects.</p> <p>https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town</p>
Department of Treasury Construction and Real Property Acquisition Activities (CRPAA)	<p>Treasury is publishing multiple funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) for its RESTORE Act grant programs. This announcement applies only to the Direct Component and is only for applications for eligible construction and real property acquisition activities, including environmental restoration projects and including projects with or without a non-federal cost-share for another federally funded project or program.</p> <p>https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/216/Rnd-14-FOA-DC-Construction-Real-Property_GR-RDC-23-001.pdf</p>

STATE	DESCRIPTION
Chapter 90 Program (Ch90)	<p>The purpose of the Chapter 90 Program is to provide municipalities with an annual funding source for improvements to and investments in local transportation networks. Eligible improvements might include crosswalks, pedestrian signage, traffic signals, ADA accessible ramps, berms and curbs, bike lanes (on-road and separated). Chapter 90 funding only applies to accepted, public roadways.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program</p>
Mass in Motion (MIM)	<p>Promotes opportunities for healthy eating and active living in the places that people live, learn, work, and play. Mass in Motion works with local governments partnered with community-based organizations to make policy and practice changes that make it easier for people to eat better and move more.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/about-mass-in-motion</p>
MassDevelopment Commonwealth Places (MD-Places)	<p>A competitive opportunity to advance locally driven placemaking in downtown and neighborhood commercial districts in eligible communities throughout Massachusetts. The program makes awards through two (2) funding categories: Category 1 Seed Grants used to fund inclusive engagement, visioning, and local capacity-building that will support future placemaking efforts and Category 2 Implementation Grants for implementation of locally led placemaking projects (includes a local match requirement).</p> <p>https://www.massdevelopment.com/what-we-offer/real-estate-services/commonwealth-places/</p>
Massachusetts Historic Commission Preservation Projects Fund (MHC-PPF)	<p>A state-funded 50% reimbursable matching grant program to support the preservation of properties, landscapes, and sites (cultural resources) listed in the State Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcmppf/mppfidx.htm</p>
Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program	<p>The MVP provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. MVP provides both Planning Grants and Action Grants. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding and other opportunities.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program</p>
Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Grant Program (PARC)	<p>The PARC Program was established to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by municipalities to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/service-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program</p>
MassTrails (MT)	<p>MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities and non-profit organizations to plan, design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. Applications are accepted annually for a variety of well-planned trail projects benefiting communities across the state.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants</p>

STATE	DESCRIPTION
The Solomon Foundation (SF)	<p>The Solomon Foundation champions the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’s public green spaces and their unique contribution to the quality of urban life. Their mission is to provide a complete and connected network of beautiful parks and greenways connecting people to open spaces. Founded by David Solomon and Herb Nolan in 2005, the Solomon Foundation seeks to frame visionary yet practical projects and help get them built. Working alongside and supporting diverse partners across many governmental agencies and neighborhoods, they help drive greenway projects forward.</p> <p>https://www.solomonfoundation.org/</p>
Massachusetts Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program (LWCF)	<p>This program is federal funded and offered through the state. It provides p to 50% of costs associated with eligible projects. Project areas include parks, trails, and conservation areas. Eligible applicants include municipalities, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Fish and Game, and federally recognized tribed. In order for municipalities to be eligible, must have an updated open space and recreation plan (OSRP).</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program</p>
Massachusetts Office on Disability Municipal ADA Improvement Grant (MOD-ADA)	<p>This Program will support capital improvements specifically dedicated to improving programmatic access and/or removing barriers encountered by persons with disabilities in applicant facilities throughout the Commonwealth.</p> <p>https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-about-the-municipal-americans-with-disabilities-act-ada-improvement-grant-program</p>

LOCAL AND OTHER	DESCRIPTION
Town General Fund (GF)	<p>The Town's primary operating fund is the General Fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.</p>
Community Preservation Act Fund (CPC)	<p>The Community Preservation Act (CPA) helps communities preserve open space and historic resources, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities to benefit the public. Concord typically distributes grants for CPA-eligible projects from the Concord Community Preservation Fund once per year. The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) accepts applications for projects in September for distribution the following July.</p> <p>https://concordma.gov/906/Community-Preservation-Committee</p>
Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panels (ULI-TAP)	<p>This program is a low-cost consultation service of \$10,000 offered to community organizations and municipalities. As part of this program, an expert team from ULI provides professional recommendations for a wide range of project types, including but not limited to market analysis, land use design, and adaptive building reuse.</p> <p>https://boston.uli.org/get-involved/technical-assistance-panels/</p>
REI Outdoor Recreation Grants (REI)	<p>This program is a low-cost consultation service of \$10,000 offered to community organizations and municipalities. As part of this program, an expert team from ULI provides professional recommendations for a wide range of project types, including but not limited to market analysis, land use design, and adaptive building reuse.</p> <p>https://www.rei.com/newsroom/article/rei-cooperative-action-fund-celebrates-first-year-with-nearly-2-million-in-new-investments-in-nonprofits</p>
PeopleForBikes Community Grants (PFB)	<p>PeopleforBikes has an ongoing program called Bikes Belong that supports infrastructure for bicycle riding, from bike trails and mountain paths to BMX facilities. Funding is reserved for non-profit organizations that focus on bicycling, active transportation and community development, as well as local, state and government agencies. Grants are only for specific projects or programs and not for general operational costs.</p> <p>https://www.peopleforbikes.org/grant-guidelines</p>
KABOOM! Grants (KB!)	<p>Since 1996, KABOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve more than 16,700 playgrounds across the country. Projects seek to build trusting relationships, center community voices, and engage diverse stakeholders. They build playspaces in partnership with child-serving nonprofits and municipal agencies. Their projects are an incredible opportunity to build new and exciting places for kids and teens to play.</p> <p>https://kaboom.org/grants</p>