

Recreation

The following appendices are available to provide valuable background information that helped generate the conclusions and perspectives of this chapter.

Contents of this Appendix

I.	History of Durham Parks and Recreation and Findings from the 2007 Recreational Survey	2
II.	Accomplishments 2005-2012	7
III.	Facilities Inventory and Maintenance	16
IV.	Facility Needs and Priorities	25
V.	Town-wide Trail Maps and Brochures.....	25
VI.	Stewardship Plans	31
VII.	Recreation Programs.....	31
VIII.	Oyster River Youth Association and Needs Assessment	35
IX.	1995 Wagon Hill Master & Management Plan	35
X.	Caretaker for Wagon Hill Farm	36
XI.	Seacoast Regional Bicycle Plan	37

I. History of Durham Parks and Recreation and Findings from the 2007 Recreational Survey

The purpose of this section of the Chapter is to document the history of Durham Parks and Recreation including the evolution of its structure, significant events, and its relationships with other organizations and Town departments. A key goal of this section is also to provide a context for understanding the priorities of the 2014 Master Plan. This will be achieved by highlighting key issues that recur in previous Annual Reports and Master Plans and discussing main findings from the 2007 recreation survey. The section concludes with a brief summary of the current state of Durham Parks and Recreation and some broad directives for its future.

Historical Overview

The Town of Durham has long owned many facilities that provide opportunities for structured and unstructured recreation. These facilities exist to support personal recreational pursuits as well as generate a strong sense of community and Town identity among residents. Prior to hiring a Recreation Advocate or Director, a volunteer committee has overseen these facilities and offered diverse programs for residents. Examples of Durham's recreational facilities include an extensive trail network, Wagon Hill Farm, and the Churchill Rink at Jackson Landing. Longtime favorite programs include the spring Egg Hunt, Durham Day, and the Memorial Day Parade.

The first comprehensive analysis and plan for Durham recreation was drafted in 1994, at which time the committee recognized its accomplishments but also noted several significant challenges to maximizing facility use and program offerings. These challenges included poor maintenance of trails and lack of centralized and readily available information, as well as gaps in programming offered by our partners, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and the Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA). Reflecting on progress since 1994, authors of the 2000 Master Plan acknowledged the persistence of many of the same challenges and attributed these to two primary, ongoing conditions: insufficient funding and the absence of a Recreation Director.

These two conditions established the high-level priorities for much of the 2000 Master Plan, a central focus of which was the need to hire a Director. Notably, the 1994 plan made the same appeal, which resulted in the Town Council approving hiring of a *Recreation Advocate*. This position was filled in 1995, however, the position was soon vacated then eliminated due to "failure to agree on the components and goals of such a program, lack of performance review, poor management, and budgetary restrictions," according to the 2000 Master Plan. Hence, the 2000 Master Plan Chapter sought largely to establish clearer budgetary priorities, develop a more robust structure to meet Durham's recreational needs, and call again for the hiring of a Director.

A significant step forward came in 2001 when the Town Council supported the creation of a Parks and Recreation

Department, under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Director, as part of the Town Charter.¹ This new Department was formally charged with planning, organizing and directing parks and recreation programs and services for the Town. This decision was intended to help the Recreation Committee offer substantially more programs, manage the Town's numerous recreational assets, and forge more effective partnerships with UNH, ORYA, and other Town entities such as Public Works and the Conservation Commission. The 2001 charter thus created the current administrative structure for municipal recreation in Durham: A volunteer committee which directly supports programs, advocates for and makes decisions about the Town's recreational needs, liaises with other departments and organizations, and advises Town employees to act on priorities.

2009 was a landmark year for Durham Parks and Recreation, seeing three significant structural changes. First, the title of *Parks and Recreation Department* (Department) was officially adopted by the Town. Second, Michael Mengers was hired as the Department's first part-time Director. Third, the Department relocated to its current home facility, the historic brick Courthouse at the corner of Main Street and Newmarket Road. The increase in programs offered from 2009 to 2010 (and henceforth), and the enhanced management of facilities and other assets reported in subsequent Annual Reports, evidence the benefits realized by these improvements.

Between 2009 and 2013, the Director position has undergone several changes. Michael Mengers left the position in 2011 and was replaced by Sandy Devins. While Devins was Director the position went from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week. Devins left the position in 2012 and was replaced by Stefanie Frazee in September of 2012. Throughout this time, the Committee continued to advocate for a full-time position due to the limited ability to make significant progress on long-term goals as well as fill identified programming and management gaps on a year-to-year basis. The Town Council approved making the position a fulltime/benefited position in 2013. Again, one only needs to examine recent Annual Reports to recognize the benefits of these structural and staffing changes since 2009.

See the following section of the Appendix for other notable accomplishments between 2005 and 2012.

Findings from the 2007 Recreation Survey

In 2007, the Parks and Recreation Committee (Committee) conducted a community interest and satisfaction survey to gather community input on the need/desire for a full-time recreation Department. The survey was conducted and summarized by Dr. Robert Barcelona and students, from the UNH Department of Recreation, Management, and Policy. The findings revealed a high general level of satisfaction with the array of facilities and programs managed by Durham Parks and Recreation, but several themes also coincide with recurring issues found in Annual Reports, and deserve attention as the Department looks ahead to the next decade.

¹ Council Ordinance #2001-09.

Overview: Survey administrators attempted to send a survey to all residential property owners in Durham through the Town's property tax records. Surveys were sent to approximately 1,400 households in Durham asking for residents' perceptions on issues related to Town parks and recreation facilities and programs. Approximately 640 surveys were returned for a 46% response rate. Key demographics were as follows:

- Average age of respondents: $M=54$ years old
- Respondents' sex: Male = 49%, Female = 51%
- Respondent households with at least 1 child under 18 years of age living at home ($n=227$, 35%)
- Percent of respondent households with incomes > \$100,000 per year: 46.8%
- Percent of respondent households with incomes > \$75,000 per year: 68.7%
- Percent of respondent households with incomes > \$50,000 per year: 85.9%
- Percent of respondent households with incomes < \$50,000 per year: 14.1%

Based on the final analysis of the data, the following conclusions can be drawn, within the limits and scope of the survey:

- There was no overall dominant mandate to change what is currently being offered in terms of public recreation facilities and services in Durham.
- Respondents felt that they were generally unaware of the public recreation opportunities available to them. This lack of awareness constrained their utilization of public recreation facilities and services.
- Respondents felt that the Town should focus its efforts on maintaining existing public recreation properties and facilities.
- There was some interest in having the Town develop bicycle paths and multi-use trails and linkages. Overall support for new and additional recreation facility development or resource acquisition was weak.
- Respondents were generally in favor of funding efforts that focused on non-tax sources – grants, fundraising, non-resident fees, sponsorship, and partnerships. There was some support for resident use-fees for public recreation facilities and services.
- There was strong support for partnership efforts to enhance public recreation opportunities for Durham residents, specifically with UNH, ORYA, the Oyster River Cooperative School District (ORCSD), and surrounding communities (Lee, Madbury).
- Depending on a respondent's age, households with/without children, and household income, there were significant differences in the way respondents answered many of these questions. In general, younger residents, households with children, and households with incomes over \$100,000 per year were more supportive of public park and recreation priorities in Durham relative to older residents, households without children living at home, and households with incomes less than \$75,000 per year.

Recommendations, based on conclusions from the survey:

- There is a need to conduct focus groups of Durham residents to obtain deeper responses to public recreation needs and priorities. Mail surveys can provide broad insight into park and recreation priorities, but can only go so far in truly understanding the needs and issues that residents have. Focus groups and community forums devoted to public recreation issues would be useful in helping to explore residents' responses to this survey. For example, focus groups might explore what residents mean when they say they support partnership efforts, or they may explore attitudes toward public financing for parks and recreation more deeply.
- Increase marketing and communication efforts to create more awareness of available public recreation opportunities in Durham. This can be accomplished through creating a seasonal brochure of recreation opportunities, developing and maintaining a strong web presence for parks and recreation in Durham, partnering with academic courses at UNH to create marketing plans, etc.
- Begin to focus on articulating the public benefits of parks and recreation to the Durham community. There appeared to be a general reluctance to view parks and recreation provision as an essential community service. Focus on positioning public recreation as a necessary response to important community issues (environmental quality, youth development, economic development, juvenile crime prevention, public health, transportation improvement, etc.). This effort can be incorporated into new marketing strategies and directions, and a focus on creating and enhancing the Durham Parks and Recreation *brand*.
- Durham residents who may be most receptive to marketing and positioning messages can be reached by leveraging the popularity of the four most used public recreation facilities in Town: Wagon Hill Farm, Adams Point, Jackson's Landing, and College Woods. Consider using a variety of communication strategies at these facilities (signs, brochures, volunteers, etc.) to help articulate the benefits of public parks and recreation for the broadest range of residents. Focus on establishing the Durham Parks and Recreation *brand* at these locations.
- Similarly, the Town should focus on identifying the key issues that are important to the Durham community, and examine ways to position future recreation development around those issues. For example, if transportation is an issue, then developing bike paths and regional trail linkages can be seen as a potential solution. If youth crime is an issue, then developing youth facilities and programs such as teen centers, skate parks, after-school programs, or other youth-oriented activities can be a response. If economic development is an issue, then focusing on providing community festivals and events that attract out of Town visitors who spend money in Durham can be another solution. If environmental quality and overdevelopment is an issue, then making acquisition of public green space can be a priority. These are ideas, but they can be useful in helping to position parks and recreation services as a response to important community needs.

- Continue with efforts to work with Lee and Madbury to regionalize public recreation opportunities. Regional recreation provision is common in other parts of the United States, particularly in the Midwest, Mountain West, and South. While not as prevalent, there are similar regional delivery models in New England (including New Hampshire) as well.
- Continue with efforts to partner with UNH to provide access to recreation opportunities. However, both the Town and University should continue to clarify what this partnership means in terms of providing mutual benefits and a “win-win” scenario for both parties.
- If the Town eventually wants to have a broad based public parks and recreation department, then tax funding needs to be part of that equation. Diverse funding sources (fees, grants, sponsorships, donations) are important and necessary and must be a part of the funding mix. However, these alone will not support a broad based parks and recreation department. A recent study of municipal recreation departments in New Hampshire² found that some combination of appropriated funds (tax dollars) and user fees were the primary funding mechanisms for public recreation services. These funding sources need to be *on the table* if the Town wants to move in this direction.
- Future recreation assessments should focus on identifying priorities, developing cost projections, and gauging the public’s willingness to pay at various levels. Public recreation generally constitutes only a small fraction of the municipal budget, even for broad based, professionally run parks and recreation departments. For example, in Dover, parks and recreation expenditures represent less than 2% of the overall municipal budget.³ *Taxes* tend to be a loaded term, and there may be a general tendency to reject future tax supported projects out of hand. However, if residents are adequately informed about the benefits that they receive from public parks and recreation relative to the money that they spend on these services, opinions on tax funding may begin to shift.
- Focus on working with key demographic groups to begin building support for public park and recreation priorities in Durham. The most supportive subgroups in this study were younger residents, households with children living at home, and households with incomes over \$100,000 per year. However, it is important to recognize that public parks and recreation departments exist to serve the needs of the entire community. Working with other key subgroups who have the most at stake in terms of the benefits of public parks and recreation, including low-income residents and senior citizens, is critical in terms of gaining broad-based support for these services.

² Carroll, J., & Barcelona, R. (2007). *2007 New Hampshire Outdoor Recreation Leaders’ Survey*. NH Office of Energy and Planning.

³ From municipal budget data gathered spring 2004.

Future Directions

After nearly two decades working to establish a firmer foundation for recreation facility and program management, Durham Department is poised to launch an exciting and important decade in the Town's history. Below are several items the committee believes should be at the forefront of recreational planning. These form the high level priorities that direct specific goals and action items found in the remainder of this chapter.

- Improve communication by enhancing publicity and marketing to the community – use as a public relations and informational tool to enlist the broader community in recreational activities.
- Build partnerships with all recreation groups in the area to better utilize resources.
- Staff the Department more adequately to allow for progress to be made on key strategic goals while still delivering high-quality programs.
- Make the Department sustainable through varied funding sources.
- Continue to examine support for a community center.
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian transportation that connects neighborhoods, recreation facilities, and the community center.
- Stress multiple uses of Town owned land parcels for conservation and recreation.
- Develop Wagon Hill as recreation destination.

II. Accomplishments 2005-2012

Table 1. Recreation accomplishments between 2005 and 2012.

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
2005	Public Events	Durham Day at Wagon Hill	<p>Develop a more formal, sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve Town residents.</p> <p>Increase recreational and leisure activity opportunities for all Durham residents.</p> <p>Provide better access to, and more recreational opportunities for, Durham's water resources</p>
2005	Facility Development	<p>Grant Application for Trail Improvement. Funds are being sought to improve trails at the Longmarsh property to connect the existing trail systems</p> <p>Grant for Ski Trail Grooming Equipment. The Committee provided input and support to a</p>	<p>Define and prioritize recommendations for Town property improvements, and begin to implement them.</p> <p>Work with interested partners to identify a location and build a skateboard park and additional playing fields.</p>

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
		<p>UNH student who prepared an application for a grant to purchase cross-country skiing grooming equipment for trail system.</p> <p>Eagle Scout Projects. Tennis court backboard construction planned for Woodridge Park by John Gearheart, and Old Town Landing benches were installed by Sam Hochgraf.</p>	
2005	Policy	<p>Town Property Assessment. A joint subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Conservation Commission visited Town-owned properties to assess the recreational potential, and developed basic recommendations as to what actions could be taken.</p> <p>Policy for Town Recreation Properties. Policy recommendations were provided for the use of Wiswall Dam, Jackson's Landing, and the Cedar Point Boat ramp.</p> <p>Jackson's Landing Planning Committee. A joint committee has been initiated with the Conservation Committee to develop recommendations for improvements at Jackson's Landing Park.</p>	<p>Revise the Master Plan chapter on recreation and use it as a basis for a five-year strategic plan.</p> <p>Conduct a public survey of Durham residents to assess recreation needs.</p>
2005	Programming	<p>Newmarket Parks Department Meeting. Jim Hilton, Director of the Newmarket Recreation Department, presented Newmarket's program to the Committee. Newmarket offers a tremendous variety of opportunities, and would serve as a good model for Durham.</p>	<p>Research how recreation programs and facilities are developed in other communities as a basis for improving Durham's program. Explore the need for program staff.</p> <p>Pursue partnerships with other organizations and Towns, as a way to offer more recreation programs (adult and youth).</p> <p>Develop and promote a list of recreational & leisure opportunities (public and commercial) available in the Durham area.</p>
2005	Library	<p>Deliberated about permanent site for the library.</p>	
2006	Public Events	<p>Durham Day at Wagon Hill</p>	

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
2006	Policy	<p>The Committee worked with University of New Hampshire (UNH) faculty and staff to conduct a public survey on recreation needs in the Town of Durham. The results will provide the basis for a new parks and recreation strategic plan.</p> <p>Spent time studying and developing a proposals for the Town Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire a Town Parks and Recreation Director to develop programming for adults, and help coordinate and support efforts of other organizations. • Increase annual financial support for ORYA. • Assume management of the Churchill Ice Rink. • Purchase MPCA to serve as a Community Center for arts, recreation, and leisure activities. • Create a joint Parks and Recreation Task Group with Lee, Madbury, UNH, and the Oyster River School District to explore ways to share recreational resources and cooperate on programs. <p>A detailed Master Plan was developed by a joint committee of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Conservation Commission for making improvements at Jackson’s Landing. This would involve moving and redesigning parking areas, paving the current drive, reconstructing the boat ramp, creating stormwater detention areas, and establishing green space park buffers along the waterfront.</p>	<p>Begin development of a Standard Use Policy for Parks and Recreation properties, facilities, and trails.</p> <p>Develop a new Strategic Plan for the Parks and Recreation Committee.</p> <p>Developing a more formal, sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve residents.</p> <p>Increasing recreational and leisure activity opportunities for all Durham residents.</p> <p>Providing better access to, and more recreational opportunities for, Durham’s water resources.</p>
2006	Facility Development	<p>The Trails Subcommittee (a joint committee of P&R and the Conservation Commission) constructed several lengths of boardwalks on Longmarsh Trail to reconnect sections that had been flooded due to beaver dams. The work was supported by a grant received from the State of NH Trails Bureau.</p> <p>Developing an Adopt-A-Trail program in which volunteers would be recruited and trained to help maintain Durham’s trail system.</p> <p>Produced ten new property signs. The Trails</p>	<p>Established a task group to work with interested partners on building additional playing fields in Durham. After studying the issue and exploring sites the task group supported a proposal to develop two fields at the Durham gravel quarry on Packers Falls Road.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to implement parts of the Jackson’s Landing Master Plan.</p>

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
		Subcommittee installed these on Town properties to identify the properties, welcome visitors, and present a conservation message.	
2006	Programming	<p>Expand partnerships with and support for, other recreation entities in Durham. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing communication with Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA) and recruiting an ORYA board member to be on the Parks and Recreation Committee. • Increasing communication with Mill Pond Center for the Arts (MPCA). • Working with the UNH Program for Undergraduate Research to identify research opportunities of joint interest. • Working with The Inn at Spruce Wood which hosted the Town 2006 Easter Egg Hunt. <p>The Parks and Recreation Committee has developed trail maps for many of these properties. Printable trail maps and property listings can be found on the Town of Durham’s website under Parks and Recreation.</p>	<p>Continued an effort to research how other recreation programs in other Towns are developed, which included hosting a presentation by the superintendent for Dover Parks and Recreation on Dover’s successful program.</p> <p>Expand support to partner organizations as a way to increase recreational offerings to the public.</p> <p>Continued work on a web-based list of recreational/leisure opportunities (public and commercial) in the Durham area. When complete, this list will provide residents with a searchable directory of recreational activities.</p>
2007	Public Events	<p>Sponsored the Town Easter Egg Hunt in April</p> <p>Participated in Durham Day.</p> <p>Participated in Light Up Durham.</p>	<p>Develop a formal, sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve residents.</p> <p>Increase recreational and leisure activity programs and opportunities for all residents.</p> <p>Provide better access to, and more recreational opportunities on or beside Durham’s water resources.</p> <p>Provide one event each quarter for Durham residents.</p>
2007	Program Research	<p>The P & R Committee worked with UNH faculty and staff to conduct a public survey of recreation needs in the Town of Durham. The survey was mailed to Durham households, and over 600 were returned.</p>	<p>Provide background information for future projects and a parks and recreation strategic plan.</p>
2007	Facility Development	<p>A joint committee of P& R Committee and the Conservation Commission developed an Adopt-a-Trail program to be administered by the P&R</p>	<p>Continue to secure funding to improve parking, restore the waterfront area to a green space/park, and reduce storm</p>

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
		<p>Committee, in which volunteers will be recruited and trained to help maintain Durham’s trail system. The group also erected a kiosk and other signs and completed boardwalks on Longmarsh Trail. This work was supported by a grant from the State of New Hampshire.</p> <p>Three grant applications were submitted to fund work proposed in the Jackson’s Landing Master Plan, which was developed by a joint committee of the P & R Committee and the Conservation Commission. We received approval for a proposal to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which will provide \$20,000 to construct a universal access trail at the site. Applications to DES and NH Estuaries were not successful.</p>	<p>water erosion on the site.</p> <p>Explore establishment of playing fields at Town-owned gravel quarry in Lee, or identify other location.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to implement Jackson’s Landing Master Plan.</p> <p>Explore possible location for a skateboard park.</p> <p>Launch Adopt-a-Trail program to help maintain trails.</p> <p>Update the improvement plan for Wagon Hill.</p>
2007	Policy	<p>Began development of a standard use policy for parks and recreation properties, facilities, and trails.</p>	<p>Complete analysis of the Town survey and share the findings.</p> <p>Develop a strategic plan for P & R Committee</p>
2007	Programming	<p>Working on updating the P&R Committee webpage. Work continues on a web-based list of recreational/leisure opportunities (public and commercial) in the Durham area. This will provide residents with a directory of recreational activities.</p>	<p>Develop a recreational brochure describing things to do in Durham.</p> <p>Develop Blog for P & R Committee.</p> <p>Enhance communication/partnerships with other organizations (Lee, Madbury, ORYA, UNH, Mill Pond Center for the Arts and ORSD) as a way to offer/support recreation programs in Durham.</p>
2007	Property Improvements	<p>Working on installation of a shade structure at Woodridge.</p> <p>Park and a Community Message Board at Jackson’s Landing.</p> <p>Exploring potential improvements at Wagon Hill.</p> <p>Researching feasibility of a small skateboard park at Woodridge Park.</p>	<p>Develop a <i>Friends of Durham Parks</i> program to establish volunteer and donor support for the parks.</p>

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
2007	Library	Town considered opportunity for library as part of a Mill Plaza redevelopment effort.	
2008	Public Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egg Hunt at Old Town Landing 2. Mother's Day Stroll at Wagon Hill. 3. Durham Day at Wagon Hill was rained out. 4. Memorial Day Parade 5. Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wagon Hill. 6. Provided Crafts table at Light Up Durham. 7. Holiday Carol Skate Party at Churchill Rink. 	<p>Provide better public awareness of existing parks and resources.</p> <p>Develop a formal, sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve Town residents.</p> <p>Share ideas and recruit volunteers with other local groups to increase event popularity and reach a wider audience.</p>
2008	Develop Facilities	<p>Helped create trails at the Jackson's Landing.</p> <p>Contributed to the building of the Durham Skateboard Park</p>	Implement opportunities to make Town properties better used and appreciated for recreational benefits.
2008	Library	Decision to focus on developing a community center as part of the library including space for meetings, study, programmed activities as well as books, DVDs, and computers.	
2009	Staff	Advocated for Town Council approval to hire a Parks and Recreation Director and assisted in the hiring process.	
2009	Facility Development	<p>Advocated and supported placing the Parks and Recreation facility in the old Courthouse building.</p> <p>Completed trails at Jackson's Landing.</p> <p>Implemented Adopt-a-Trail Program and trained volunteers.</p>	<p>Explore possibilities for increased recreational opportunities at Wagon Hill Farm and the Mill Pond/Oyster River natural area.</p> <p>Continue expanding and improving existing trail networks currently in Durham</p>
2009	Public Events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cocoa on the Hill (sledding at Wagon Hill. 2. Egg Hunt at Old Town Landing 3. Back to School Ice Cream Bash at Woodridge Field. 4. 1st Annual Spookfest on Halloween at Jackson's Landing. 5. Doe Farm Centennial Celebration 6. Durham Day at Wagon Hill 7. Memorial Day Parade 8. Created Summer Series – Picnic in the Parks. 9. Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wagon Hill. 10. Provided Crafts table at Light Up Durham. 	<p>Provide a much better public awareness of Durham's existing parks, events, programs, and water resources.</p> <p>Develop a formal and sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve all Durham Town residents</p> <p>Collaborate with other local groups to increase event attendance and popularity.</p>

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
		11. Holiday Carol Skate Party at Churchill Rink.	Study and implement opportunities to encourage Durham residents to make Wagon Hill Park a more used and appreciated recreational venue.
2009	Programs	Adult Classes include: Get Walking in Durham, Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Tai Chi, Boot Camp, and Stability Ball classes. Youth Classes: Quickstart tennis program Promoted Parks and Recreation at BobCat Bolt.	Increase non-sport related programming for school aged children Increase recreation opportunities for active seniors
2010	Public Events	Organized 13 community special events with a combined attendance of over 2,000 residents. 1. Winter Festival /Chili Cook Off at Mill Pond. 2. Egg Hunt at Old Town Landing 3. Memorial Day Parade 4. Music by the Bay Summer Concert Series at Wagon Hill 5. Durham Day at Wagon Hill 6. Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wagon Hill. 7. Durham Bazaar at Churchill Rink	Provide a better public awareness of existing Town parks, events, programs, and water resources.
2010	Programs	Provided residents with 40 fitness, wellness, and enrichment programs with a total participation of over 1,000 Focused on providing residents with fitness, wellness, and enrichment activities. Youth programs included: Broadway Bound, Introduction to Art, the Coyote Club, Quest Karate, and Sound Beginnings. Some adult activities offered were Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Women’s Self Defense, and Pilates.	Develop a formal and sustainable Parks and Recreation program that will better serve the Town residents.
2010	Program Development	Collaborated with ORYA, ORPP, the Oyster River Cooperative School District (ORCSD), WomenAid, UNH Residential Life, and the UNH Recreation Management and Policy Department. Promoted Parks and Recreation at BobCat Bolt /Oyster River Festival Began a Sensory Garden at Jackson’s Landing.	Collaborate with other local groups to increase attendance and popularity.
2010	Staff	Sandra Devins was named the new Director of Parks & Recreation, replacing the departing Michael Mengers.	Support and assist the Parks and Recreation Director in achieving programming goals.

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
2010	Facility Development	<p>Recruited members for Adopt a Trail</p> <p>Coordinated extensive trail clearing after Wind Storm– in Doe Farm (40 trees), Longmarsh Trail, Stolworthy, and the Sweet Trail.</p> <p>Installed a potable/cold water sink for hand washing (camps/schools) and potential catering at Wagon Hill.</p> <p>Made improvements at Mill Pond Park.</p>	Study and implement opportunities to make Wagon Hill Farm a more used and appreciated recreational park.
2010	Library	Purchased 2.8 acre property on Madbury Road within walking distance of DownTown, the middle school, and several family neighborhoods. Prepared a strategic plan and began the design process by establishing a Library Building Review Advisory Committee.	
2011	Public Events	<p>Organized 10 community special events with a combined attendance of over 2,000 residents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter Festival /Chili Cook Off at Mill Pond. 2. Egg Hunt at Old Town Landing 3. Memorial Day Parade 4. Music by the Bay Summer Concert Series at Wagon Hill 5. Durham Day at Wagon Hill 6. Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wagon Hill. 	Provide a better public awareness of existing Town parks, events, programs, and water resources.
2011	Facility Maintenance	Supported Eagle Scouts by funding trail enhancements at Wagon Hill Farm.	
2011	Facility Maintenance	Provided playground mulch for Jackson’s Landing and Woodridge playgrounds through DPW.	
2011	Facility Development	Continue focusing on Wagon Hill Farm improvement, Stolworthy Trail clean up, assisted with trail clean ups at Merrick Trails and Doe Farm.	
2011	Programs	Organized 40 programs with over 1,000 participants including youth programs included Acting & Improvisation, Coyote Club, Kid’s Yoga, Speak Spanish, and Sound Beginnings. Some of the adult activities were Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Learn to Run, Pilates, Senior Wellness, and Stability Ball. Free programs include Pick-up; Volleyball, Basketball, and Ultimate Frisbee.	
2011	Library	Completed design for 10,500 sq. ft. library.	

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
		With \$1.2 million already raised for the \$4.2 million project, the Library began fundraising for the remaining \$2.7 million needed to complete the project.	
2012	Public Events	<p>On average, 40% increase in attendance at Department sponsored events.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Winter Carnival/Chili Festival, Mac & Cheese Bake Off at Churchill Rink. 2. Spring Festival/Egg Hunt at Old Town Landing. 3. Memorial Day Parade 4. Music by the Bay Summer Concert Series at Wagon Hill 5. Durham Day at Wagon Hill 6. A Spooktacular Day in Durham at Jackson's Landing 7. Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wagon Hill. 8. Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony 	<p>Continue to enhance public awareness of parks, programs, and events through all resources available including Town website and electronic newsletters. Recruit additional Durham residents to serve as special event volunteer coordinators for the Department annual events.</p> <p>Develop a policy and coordinate with Town administrator and other appropriate committees for vendors at Department sponsored events.</p> <p>Increase in attendance at Wagon Hill events has created difficulty with parking and bathroom facilities.</p>
2012	Programs	A 30% increase in program offerings.	Continue to evaluate program offerings seeking input to meet demand. Continue to promote programs through Town Website and electronic newsletters. Develop programming for kayaking, canoeing, and explore possible bird watching, fishing at Jackson's Landing.
2012	Staff	Recreation Directors hours increased to full time. Hired full time Director Stefanie Frazee.	Continue to evaluate programming staffing needs.
2012	Public Event Enhancements	Used compostable products at 2012 Durham Day to dovetail Town Council's goal to pursue environmental sustainability.	Continue to seek other opportunities to employ these decisions.
2012	Programs	Developed partnerships to support programming with UNH Outdoor Education Department, USDA Forest Service, Oyster River Cooperative School District, Great Bay Rowing Club, Coppal House Farms and Durham Business Association, Durham Public Works, Oyster River Youth Association, Oyster River Parents of Preschoolers, Durham Public Library, UNH Campus Recreation Department & Recreation & Management Policy Department, and Durham Conservation Commission.	Continue efforts to maintain and seek financial resources to sustain programs & facilities. Develop a policy for non-alcoholic, youth appropriate commercial/marketing partnerships (sponsorships) for recreation programs.

Year	Category	Accomplishments	Goals for Following Year
2012	Programs	Collaborated with the Agricultural Commission, Conservation Commission & Land Stewardship Committee to coordinate efforts at Wagon Hill and encourage residents to enjoy Town lands by providing guided nature walks during public events.	Schedule more walks in other scenic areas. Provide better public awareness of existing Town parks, events, programs and water resources by publishing brochures and making them available to the public, signage & kiosks.
2012	Facility Development & Programs	Partnered with the newly-formed Churchill Rink Improvement Group seeking to expand recreational opportunities at Jackson's Landing.	Investigate utilizing Churchill Rink as a multi-use facility during off-season.
2012	Facility Development	Started discussions regarding facility maintenance and improvements.	1. Bathroom construction and expanding parking at Wagon Hill. 2. Improvements at Woodridge Park 3. Investigate a possible dog park.
2012	Programs	Department organized 52 programs with over 1500 participants generating over \$36,000 for the Town. Fitness, wellness and enrichment activities included: Acting & Improv, Coyote Club, Kid's yoga, Speak Spanish. Some Adult programs included: Zumba, Yoga, Tai Chi, Learn to Run, Movement for Balance, Pilates, Senior Wellness and Stability Ball. Free programs included: Pick up Volleyball, Basketball, and Ultimate Frisbee.	
2012	Library	Framing up and anticipate enclosing buildings by end of the year.	
Source: Town of Durham Annual Reports, 2005-2012.			

III. Facilities Inventory and Maintenance

The Department has prepared the following inventory of outdoor recreation sites. Some facilities are owned by the Town. Others are owned by the Oyster River Cooperative School District (ORCSD) or the University of New Hampshire (UNH).

The Durham Department of Public Works (DPW) manages the maintenance of trails, parks, properties, and facilities, including the recreation building. This limits the ability of the DPR to respond directly to its immediate needs, goals, and issues. In addition, the DPW also assist with annual event set-up (road closures and transporting equipment and supplies).

The approximately 600 square foot recreation building is the only Town owned facility available to the Parks and Recreation Department on a regular basis. The Oyster River Middle School gym and multipurpose room are used to supplement the lack of available program space. Facility scheduling is a regular task of the Recreation Director, but the

quality and availability of space continues to be a challenge. Approval of facility usage is not guaranteed; thus, limiting the long-term viability of program growth. In 2013, the Middle School was used 141 times for fitness programs (approximately 3 times/week, 246 classes), and 12 times for special events or programs.

Table 2. Outdoor Recreation Sites in Durham

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
Adams Point Wildlife Area*	NH	field woodlands tidal marsh and bay	limited	80	perimeter	all types from Great Bay boat ramp (tide dependent)	benches no tables	X					X		X								NH Fish & Game Reserve. Monument in memory of Adams family. Site of UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab. Unique stone bench on southeast tip.
Cedar Point	Town NH	tidal river, bay		1.5		all types in Little Bay & Bellamy River from ramp at end of Cedar Point Rd																	Historical marker at intersection of Rt 4 & Cedar Point Rd indicating former site of bridge to Newington via Goat Island.
College Woods*	UNH	reservoir, freshwater river, woodlands natural area	park at Field House or other UNH parking areas	240	~3-4 miles of well maintained trails, other trails are intermittent	NA		X		X				X	X			X	X		X		On South side of Main St, 500' east of Mast Rd or behind field house from service road to Ocean Engineering Building on north side of Mill Rd 300' west of RR tracks.
Doe Farm*	Town	fresh water river woodlands wetlands	south side Bennett Rd just east of RR tracks	80	Class VI entrance road, 0.5 miles, 2 miles additional	limited to canoes & rowboats, no ramp, launching difficult: 0.5	tables	X	X	X	X		X		X							X	Sign at parking area. Follow RR ROW south to trails. Site includes Moat Island to southeast in Lamprey River.

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
					trails	mile portage required																	
East Foss Farm*	UNH	field, woodlands wetlands	good	165	1.7 mile loop including Class Vi entrance road. Side trails of varying quality diverge from road, including one to upper Mill Pond.			X		X				X	X							X	
Father Lawless Park	Town	playing fields playground d courts	good	5			tables	X								X	X				X	X	Father Lawless Baseball Field, baseball diamonds, basketball courts, soccer field, tennis courts, swing sets & slides.
Historic Association Museum & Parks &	Town		good								X												

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
Recreation building																							
Jackson Landing Recreation Area	Town	tidal river & marsh	good	4.5	nature trail	ramp access for all boats, tide dependent for motorized boats; boat shed & dock shared by Town & UNH	tables	X	X	X			X				X	X			X	Town operates a playground for small children & a covered ice skating rink.	
Jackson Landing Playground	Town		good		Nature trail		tables bench	X				X					X	X			X		
Churchill Ice Rink	Town	open sided ice rink	good										X				X	X			X		
Longmarsh Preserve Area*	Town & TNC	Class VI road, ~1 mile 2 beaver ponds (eastern one has inundated road)	limited	46	see notes			X		X				X	X						X	Eastern & western ends of road marked by locked gates. Number of interesting side trails begin on road, including those described in Colby Marsh & Horsehide Hair Creek. Additional trail beginning at eastern end of Horsehide Creek dam along old road which peters out but continues as rough trail to meet with Dame Rd. Trail much used by mountain	

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																						
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes
																						bikers. Number of other short trails connects to Longmarsh Rd, one leading to dam in Colby Marsh. Views of woodlands in both directions.
Colby Marsh*	Town	beaver pond, wildlife area, abuts Langmaid Farm	limited	15				X					X		X							Access via old woods road going off to right just after locked gate at eastern end of Longmarsh (Langmaid) Rd. Road peters out before reaching edge of pond.
Mill Pond Park	Town		limited			limited to canoe & rowboats, no ramps, launching difficult	tables	X					X					X			X	
Mill Pond Dam	Town	freshwater pond & marsh	limited				tables benches	X					X					X				
Mine Property	Town																					
Old Reservoir	UNH	managed woodlands / freshwater	UNH monitored	155	1 mile			X	X			X	X		X			X			X	

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
		pond & marsh																					
Oyster River Forest	Town		limited					X		X				X	X			X				X	
Spruce Hole Conservation Area	Town							X		X				X	X			X				X	
Packer's Falls	Town	freshwater river with falls	limited	3	0.4 miles along Lamprey River & through woods	limited to canoes, kayaks, & rowboats, no ramp, launching downstream of falls						X											
Smith Chapel	Town	historic church	limited								X												
Stolworthy Wildlife Sanctuary	Town	woodland behind Middle School playground	use school parking lot on east side of building	3.5	<1 mile																		
Sweet Trail*	Town	4 miles from	parking for easy		4 miles from Longmarsh																		

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
		Longmarsh Rd to Great Bay Estuary past remarkable array of upland forests, freshwater wetland & tidal salt marsh	portion of trail is ~2 miles down Dame Rd (off Rt 108) on right; parking at end of trail located at TNC's Lubberland Creek Preserve		Rd to Great Bay																		
Thompson Farm*	UNH	woodlands fields		219	1 mile trail connects with West Foss Farm																		
Town Landing	Town	waterfront access	good			limited to canoes & rowboats, launch upstream of dam																	
Traffic Island	Town						X	X	X		X					X		X				X	
UNH Outdoor	UNH		UNH																				

Durham Outdoor Recreation Sites, 2013																							
Site	Property Holding	Type	Parking	Acres	Trails	Boating	Picnicking	Bird watching	Fishing	Hiking	Historical Site	Horseback	Ice Skating	Mountain Biking	XC Skiing	Open Field	Playgrounds	Scenic Views	Sledding	Tennis/Basketball	Walking/Jogging	Notes	
Pool			monitored																				
Wagon Hill Farm*	Town		limited			X		X	X	X	X											X	
West Foss Farm*	UNH	woodlands pasture	good	93	2 mile loop with entrance off Mill Rd, 1.3 mile trail connects with Thompson Farm			X		X				X	X							X	
Wiswall Dam	Town	woodland freshwater		2.5		limited to canoes & rowboats, launch upstream of dam	tables	X	X	X	X			X	X							X	Posted information describes area when it was center of activity in 1800's.
* map of area available																							
Source: Durham Parks and Recreation Department, 2013.																							

IV. Facility Needs and Priorities

The Parks and Recreation Committee has identified the following needs and priorities for new or improved facilities based on longstanding goals that have been identified in surveys and forums, and by previous committees. In addition, the same needs have been recognized by two part-time directors, one full-time director, and the 2007 needs assessment.

In 2013, the Recreation Committee ranked the priority of the following facilities, based on the presumption that the need for any proposed facility improvement, replacement, or construction will have to be justified.

The Committee's order of priority:

- Wagon Hill improvements
- Comprehensive pedestrian/bicycle network to connect residential and DT
- Restroom facilities for Wagon Hill Farm, Woodridge, Jackson Landing, Town Landing
- Outdoor equipment rentals (snowshoes, skates, kayaks, sailing school)
- Cultural/community center
- Ice rink – enclose, locker/bathroom improvements, warm viewing room
- Increased music, art, theater in community
- Riverwalk
- Sports fields – additional rectangular field
- Town gym/recreation center with 2 full basketball courts, gym equipment, office space, and multipurpose room.

Other facilities that were identified, but not rated include Frisbee golf, Jackson Landing improvements, outdoor pool, performing arts center, pond hockey, sports fields (weed control and regular chemical treatments along with seasonal core aeration), sprinkler park, track done with OYRA or separately, Woodridge improvements (to drainage and irrigation of fields and playing surface), youth center.

V. Town-wide Trail Maps and Brochures

The Department is in the process of preparing an inventory of all Town owned properties as well as those which the Town holds conservation easements (approximately 75 properties). Over the next two years, the Department plans to assemble a three-ring binder and digital file of each property with the following information:

- Property name, Tax Map #, address, acreage, valuation
- Tax Map

- Aerial photo of property (showing boundary, access, parking, trails, key features)
- Property designations, uses, restrictions
- Warranty deed
- Conservation easement deed (if applicable)
- Property survey plan (if available)
- Forest or wildlife management plan (if applicable)
- Property stewardship plan (if applicable)
- Wildlife and plant inventory
- Historical information
- Completed work sheet
- Implementation and tracking sheet

The inventory will identify gaps in property information, such as a forest management or land stewardship plan. Thereafter, the Department will fill those gaps in information and prepare property specific management or stewardship plans, similar to the plans prepared for Doe Farm, Longmarsh Preserve, Wagon Hill Farm, and Weeks Lot. If the Department, in collaboration with other groups, can prepare four plans per year at an approximate cost of \$10,200 annually, it will take 15-20 years to complete them for all properties.

The Department is also in the process of preparing a brochure with a map and information about the following Town properties:

- Doe Farm
- Father Lawless Park
- Jackson's Landing
- Packers Falls
- Wagon Hill Farm
- Wiswall Dam

The brochure for each property will include a map, much like the following, and also photographs and text about key aspects of the site. Each brochure will be made available online, and will also include the Durham Parks and Recreation Mission Statement and contact information, a welcome to and description of the site, driving directions and information about parking, the type and length of trails, recreation opportunities, and options for boating and portage requirements.

Bringing Community Together

Durham Parks and Recreation, its Director and Committee, strive to offer a wide range of quality programs, parks, and facilities that encourage all community members to participate in healthy, fun, and enriching activities. Together, they celebrate the essential role public recreation plays in fostering a cohesive and vibrant community.

Town residents of all ages, abilities, and interests need not look beyond our borders to experience a broad range of outdoor and indoor recreational activities that enhance a healthy lifestyle and build a sense of community. Residents can count on seasonal celebrations that bring our community together and provide shared time in our useful parks we are all proud of. We also offer health and wellness classes that include Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Zumba, Bootcamp, Strength and Stretch and much more. The majority of these classes are provided for an eight week session, however, participants are welcome to join in at any time for a prorated fee.

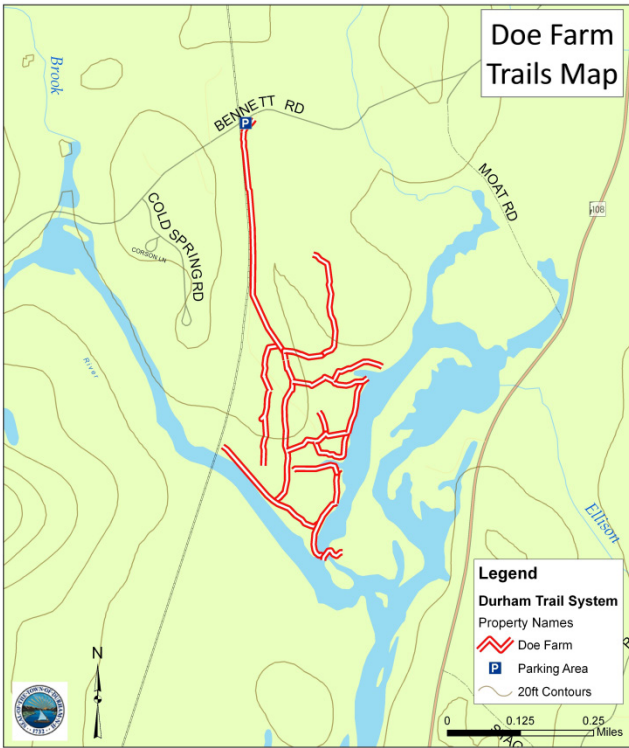


Figure 2. Doe Farm Trails Map



Figure 3. Father lawless Trail Map



Figure 4. Jackson's Landing Trail Map

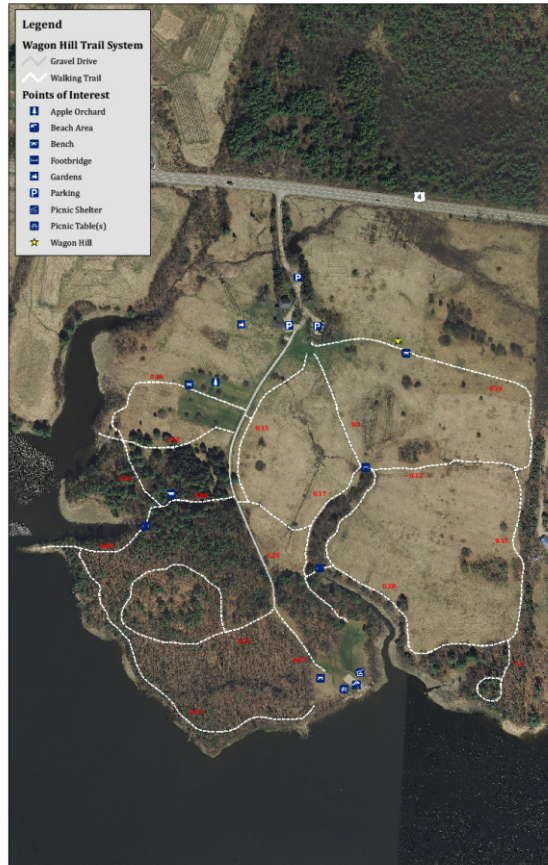


Figure 5. Wagon Hill Trail System

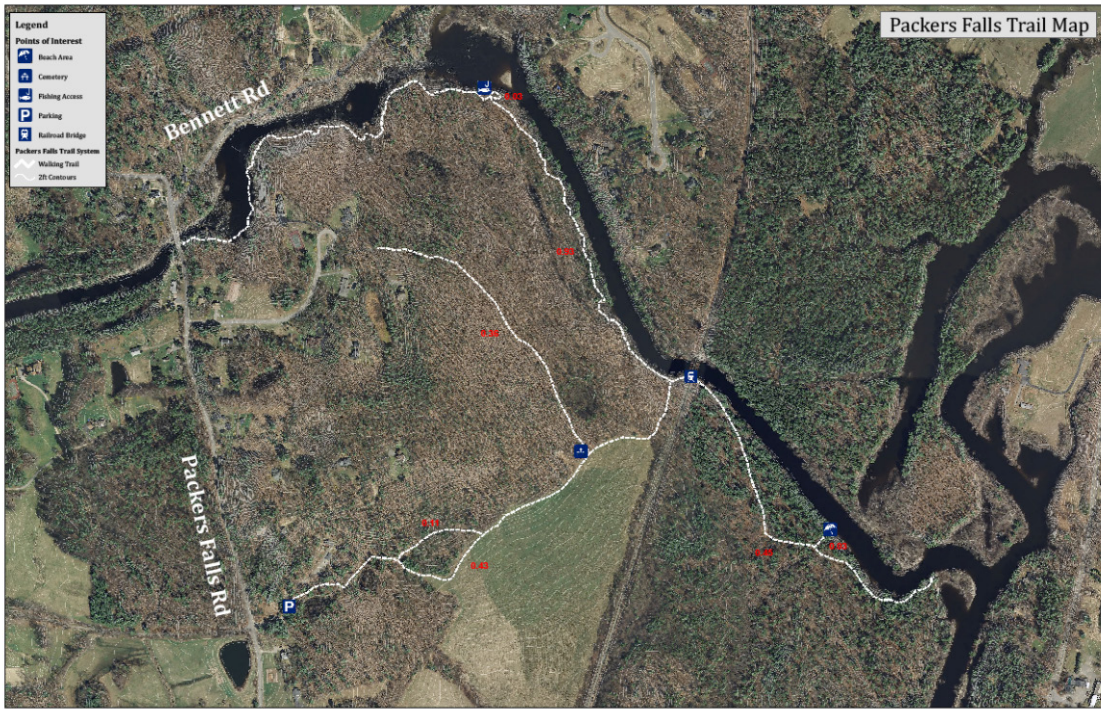


Figure 6. Packers Falls Trail Map

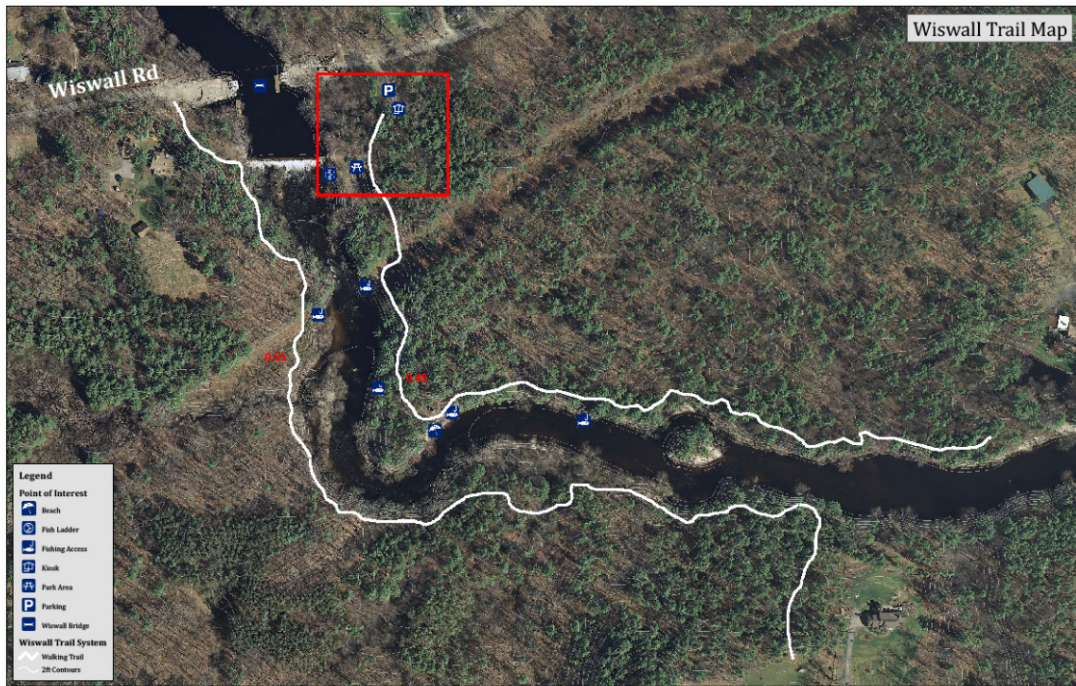


Figure 7. Wiswall Trail Map

VI. Stewardship Plans

With the help of Ibis Wildlife Consulting, Durham has prepared stewardship/management plans for the following four Town owned properties:

- Doe Farm: http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/wagon-hill-farm
- Longmarsh Preserve: http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/longmarsh-preserve
- Wagon Hill Farm: http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/wagon-hill-farm
- Week's Lot: http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/weeks-lot

In general, these stewardship plans are available on the Town's website. On the website for the various properties, there is a description of the site, available amenities/facilities, specific rules for the site, and a slideshow. Supporting documents are also posted; for example, the Wagon Hill Farm site includes links to the property deed, stewardship plan, maps of conservation lands and resources, Town vote on the plan, natural heritage report, prohibited plant species, resource contacts, and the 1995 master plan.

The stewardship plans include a property description that includes the location and general description, recent history, stewardship responsibilities, purpose of the plan, ecological features, and environmental health. The public access and uses and other resources section of the plan describes access and parking, trails and public uses, dogs, community garden, and historical resources. The stewardship recommendations range from general guidance about stewardship, as well as specific guidance on shoreline protection and restoration and erosion control, invasive species management, habitat management, and managing intensive public uses. The plan concludes with a detailed bibliography and maps of the resources and proposed improvement of the site.

Sources:

http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc_conservation/wagon-hill-farm

http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/boc_conservation/wagon_hill_farm_stewardship_plan.pdf

VII. Recreation Programs

The following table describes Durham's 2012-2013 recreation programs and events. Unfortunately data from past years was not recorded in detail. The Department is in the process of obtaining online registration and data management software, which should help with collecting data on program offerings and participation in the future.

Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA) provides athletic activities and team sports for youth in grades kindergarten through eight. The Durham Parks and Recreation Department provides additional extracurricular programming for this age group, provided it does not fall within the same category (Science Camp, Rock Climbing, Arts, Kayaking, Outdoor Education, etc.). It has been a longstanding goal of the Department and Director to provide additional, ongoing programs for seniors and adult males. Yoga for Seniors, Tai Chi – Moving for Better Balance, and Tai Chi – Advanced/Beginner are examples of programs offered in 2012-13 for the aforementioned group. The largest population served in the past 5 years is adult females, aged 25-70.

Typically, financial contributions from Durham, Lee, and Madbury to the ORYA operating budget reflect the percentage of youth registrations from each Town. Registration numbers and percentages from 2008 through 2010 are displayed in Table 3.

Table 3. Recreation Program Registration, 2008-2010

ORYA Registrations by Town, 2008 – 2010						
Town	2010		2009		2008	
	# registered	% total	# registered	% total	# registered	% total
Durham	235	56%	1,011	54%	965	52%
Lee	137	32%	578	54%	601	32%
Madbury	51	12%	279	31%	299	16%
Total	423	100%	1,868	15%	1,865	100%

Source: Oyster River Youth Association, 2013

Table 4. Durham ORYA Financial Participation, 2003-2013

Durham ORYA Financial Participation, 2003 - 2013		
Year	Amount	Increase
2013	\$38,420	3.00%
2012	\$37,300	2.95%
2011	\$36,230	3.00%
2010	\$35,175	5.00%
2009	\$33,500	0.00%
2008	\$33,500	9.84%
2007	\$30,500	3.07%
2006	\$29,592	14.53%
2005	\$25,838	3.00%
2004	\$25,086	1.17%
2003	\$24,796	

Source: Oyster River Youth Association, 2013

Table 5. Parks and Recreation Programs and Events, 2013-2013

Durham Parks & Recreation Programs/Events 2012-2013				
Program/Event Title	Description	Frequency/ Date(s)	Target Population	Director/ Instructor(s)
A Spooktacular Day in Durham	Pumpkin decorating, games, prizes, treats, ice skating, face painting . . .	Late October	Family	Department/Volunteers
Bootcamp	"A total body cardio and strength workout. We will do sprints, plyometrics, ladder drills, and strength training, using: medicine balls, weights, and the TRX Suspension Training System. This is an hour of power! All are welcome, go at your own pace."	W,F	Adults	Kathy Kerrigan
Couch to 5k	Learn to run, or work your way up to running a 5k. Program concludes with Bobcat Bolt.	April 29 th – June 22 nd Mon./Wed. @ 5:30PM	Adults	Sheila Harding & Nicole Spirito
Coyote's Inkwell	Michael Lang, storyteller and owner of The Coyote's Inkwell, at Jackson's Landing; sharing folktales, fables, and his own original stories around a bonfire from 6:00pm to 7:00pm on the first Friday of May, June, and July	1st Friday of the month	Youth	Michael Lang
Durham Climbing Club	Youth Rock Climbing Club. Participants will have personalized instruction, and learn: belaying; knots; commands; problem solving skills; gear knowledge; confidence!	Varies, after school and during summer.	MS/HS (12-18)	UNH Outdoor Education Students
Durham Day	A celebration of Durham. Live music, games, BBQ, Committees, Commissions, vendors, etc.	Late September	Community	Department/Volunteers
Egg Hunt	Kids hunt for "hidden" eggs. Games, music, treats.	Late March	Family	Department/Volunteers
Free Summer Yoga	Drop in for Free Summer Yoga at Wagon Hill Farm. No sign-up, just show up!	Summer, Th	Adults	Various
Healthy Habits	Town Employee incentive program. FT employees may take advantage of one P&R fitness program for free.	Annually	FT Town Employees	Department/Fitness instructors
Holiday Skate Party	Community Skate Event at Churchill Rink	December or January	Family	Department/Rink Manager
HoopFit	Hooping is a fun cardio activity that burns up to 600 calories per hour. Add in the music and the social aspect of hooping and you have a great workout that feels like a party.	Varies	Adults	Various
Kayak Tours	Both beginner and advanced paddlers welcome. All gear included. Tours are 3	May 4,11,18,25	9+	Seven Rivers Paddling

Durham Parks & Recreation Programs/Events 2012-2013				
Program/Event Title	Description	Frequency/ Date(s)	Target Population	Director/ Instructor(s)
	hours each.			
Mad Science Family Night	Hands-on, interactive Science demonstrations.	Varies, evenings	Youth	Mad Science
Mad Science Summer Camp	Rockin' Rockets and Fantastic Flight & Secret Agent Lab	July 29-Aug. 2nd Aug. 5th-Aug. 9th.	Youth, 7 to 12	Mad Science
Memorial Day Parade	Town Parade involving many community groups and committees.	Memorial Day		Department/Volunteers
Music by the Bay	Free Summer Concert Series at Wagon Hill Farm.	June - September	Community	Department/Bands
Outdoor Piano Project	Outdoor piano is placed downtown, in front of the Candy Bar. Concerts and impromptu music.	Spring, Summer, Fall	Community	Department/The Candy Bar
Pilates	"Core and flexibility training wrapped into one hour. You will improve your flexibility, gain core strength, and overall body tone. Recommended by physicians and physical therapists as an excellent class for individuals with lower back, neck, or hip issues."	M,W,S	Adults	Kathy Kerrigan
Serve with Liberty	Liberty Mutual Day of Service at various locations throughout Town.	June	Community	Department/Public Works/Liberty Mutual
Snowshoeing	Guided snowshoeing tours of local parks.	Winter	Family	Various
Speed Camp	Improve: speed; acceleration; core strength; coordination; reaction time; conditioning.		7th-12th grade student athletes.	Athletic Peak Performance
Strength & Stretch	"A total body strength training class that will hit all of the major muscle groups, followed by a 20 minute full-body stretch. I deal for those looking to improve bone density and balance."	W,F	Adults	Kathy Kerrigan
Student to Student	UNH student athletes help with homework, and lead a recreational activity.	Weekly, after school.	MS	Department/UNH
Tai Chi - Beginner/Advanced	This Tai Chi Class is suited for beginner, intermediate, and advanced. If you have taken Tai Chi in the past, be prepared to learn new methods. If this is your first time, Lin Lin is able to provide one-on-one instruction in this small class setting.	F	Adults	Lin Lin Choy

Durham Parks & Recreation Programs/Events 2012-2013				
Program/Event Title	Description	Frequency/ Date(s)	Target Population	Director/ Instructor(s)
Tai Chi - Moving for Better Balance	This dynamic class is focused on increasing strength and balance, for everyday movements. There are only a few places in NH you can find this type of Tai Chi!	T,Th	Seniors	Lin Lin Choy
The Cottages Tours	Tours and various events.	Summer, Fall	Community	Department/The Cottages Management
Tree Lighting	Tree lighting downtown with games, vendors, crafts, Santa, live music.	December	Family	Department/Volunteers
Turkey Trot	Story, walk, and treats.	November	Family	Department/Volunteers
Winter Carnival	Chili/Mac & Cheese cook off, music, games, awards.	December or January	Family	Department/Volunteers
Yoga	Yoga is a series of physical poses which promote good posture, alleviate health problems, reduce stress, and make the spine supple. Yoga is often used as both an exercise and a form of physical therapy.	M,T,Th	Adults	Ruth Abelman, Sarah Jones
Zumba	"A dynamic, easy to follow, cardio dance fitness class. We will do hip-hop, salsa, flamenco, bollywood, and so much more! You don't need experience, just jump in and join the party!"	M,W,S	Adults	Kathy Kerrigan

Source: Durham Parks and Recreation Department, 2013.

VIII. Oyster River Youth Association and Needs Assessment

Durham has historically relied heavily on the Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA) to provide organized active recreational sporting activities for kindergarten through eighth grade youth, as well as for Lee and Madbury. The ORYA Board of Directors consists of volunteer representatives from each Town. While ORYA supports a full-time executive director and part-time employee, it remains a largely volunteer operation. Each Town contributes funds to ORYA's budget based on its percent of total registrants. Durham also provides ORYA's office space. User fees are the primary source of funding for ORYA's programs, though other operating funds are raised through participation fees, contributions, and fundraisers (see Table 3).

IX. 1995 Wagon Hill Master & Management Plan

Durham created the Wagon Hill Farm Master and Management Plan in 1995 to guide the Town in ways to fund needed improvements through a variety of traditional and nontraditional sources. The Plan includes an inventory and analysis

of existing site conditions, environmental conditions (elevation, surface hydrology, slopes, soils, vegetation, wildlife and domesticated animals, shoreline conditions), and water-based recreation, history, and architectural conditions. The consultant prepared a series of conceptual plans (Conservation/Preservation, Wildflower Farm/Gift Shop, Wedding Pavilion/Boathouse) and held several interactive workshops involving citizens, the Recreation Committee, and public officials to review the plans and provide direction to develop a preferred plan and recommendations for next steps, including:

- The North 40 – the Plan recommends that this area be sold and funds from the sale should be used to improve the Farm. Existing maintenance budget is inadequate and site is beginning to show signs of overuse of environmentally sensitive areas.
- Buildings – the farm house is historically significant and worthy of restoration for adaptive reuse. Various parts of the house are deteriorating and require immediate attention. The plan recommends that the horse barn be reconstructed. Rental income from the lease and/or use of the facilities could be used to generate income to care for the Farm.
- Costs and Sources of Income – costs vary depending on the level of maintenance, construction, and manner of doing the improvements, but start at \$500,000 (not adjusted for inflation).
- Organization – recommends various structural and organizational approaches depending on how the work is undertaken.
- Marketing – create a message and program that is unique to the Seacoast area, directed to a target audience that seeks out heritage and environmental experiences.

Source:

Master & Management Plan Wagon Hill Farm Durham, New Hampshire. The Cavendish Partnership, Inc.; Barnwell, White, Arnold Hemberger & Partner Inc.; and Bourne Consulting Engineering. August 21, 1995. http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/boc_conservation/wagonhillfarm_masterandmanagementplan_1995.pdf

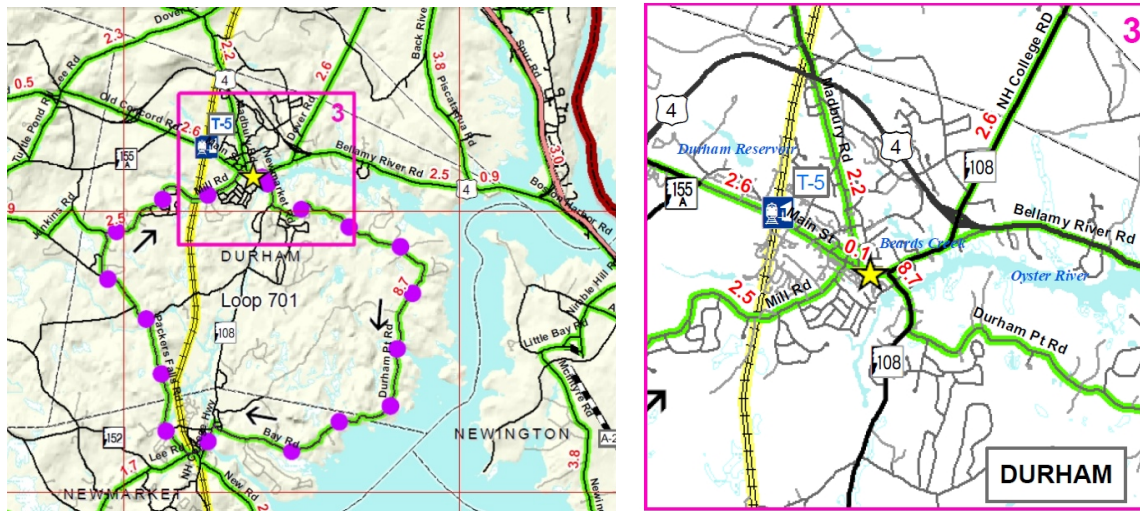
X. Caretaker for Wagon Hill Farm

Since the Town purchased the property in 1989, it has attracted an increasing number of visitors, such that there is increased concern for the wellbeing of the property. The Parks and Recreation Department has proposed to replace the current tenant of the farm house, who has a full time job and does not complete any maintenance or patrolling responsibilities on the property in exchange for the below-market rent he enjoys, with a caretaker who would live and work on site to ensure historical preservation and recreational growth. The caretaker will live in the farm house rent-

free in exchange for mowing fields, posting signs, disposing of trash, stabilizing the shoreline, maintaining trails, parking areas, the wagon, and gate, along with assisting with oversight of the community garden and special events. A good candidate for this position will be skilled, have a personal connection to the land and community, complete monthly maintenance logs, and ensure that visitors adhere to posted rules and ordinances during their visit.

XI. Seacoast Regional Bicycle Plan

Figure 8. Seacoast Region Bike Map



Source: New Hampshire Department of Transportation, 2010, <http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/bikeped/maps/seacoast.htm>.

Figure 8. Seacoast Region Bike Map