
CHAPTER 7. RECREATION FACILITIES

Public Recreation Facilities

The City of Waterville has many public recreation facilities, both active and passive. Most of these facilities are operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department, including a number of school facilities. A limited number of facilities are operated and maintained together with, or exclusively by, the School Department.

Prior to 1988 the Parks and Recreation Department was a subdivision of the Public Works Department operating essentially as a maintenance division. No recreation programming was offered. In 1988, the City hired its first Parks and Recreation Director, and established Parks and Recreation as an independent department. The new Department assumed responsibility for maintenance of the City's parks and recreation facilities and programming for recreational activities. The Department currently employs 5 full-time and approximately 30 seasonal employees. The 1996-97 budget for the Department is just under \$329,000 for administration and maintenance of facilities, including the Pine Ridge Golf Course, the Muskie Center Building, and the Gilman Street Gymnasium/Auditorium, and maintenance and operation of the swimming pool.

The Parks and Recreation Department offers over 70 programs including swimming lessons, water aerobics, aerobics, tennis lessons and tourneys, golf lessons, track and field activities, co-ed softball, girls youth softball, field hockey, boys and girls basketball festival, over-the-hill basketball, men's basketball tourney, tiny tots, arts and crafts, playground games, arts in the park, pony rides, volleyball, gymnastics, archery, shuffleboard, horseshoes, preschool open gym, preschool story hour, Bike Exchange, Senior Games Day, school vacation activities, ski trips, foliage trips, field trips and special events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Party, Father-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance, and Mother-Son Caribbean Dance.

Other related programs include participation in a free lunch program for youth, a National Youth Sports Coaching Association certification program, and several high level adult softball tournaments. The Department also serves as an information clearinghouse for leisure services offered within the community and as a point of contact for events requiring a permit such as assemblages, road races, parades, and the like.

The Department is also responsible for public trees within the City. In 1990, the City adopted a Tree Ordinance and designated the Parks Director as the City Arborist. Because of budget limitations, most of the Department's efforts have been focused on the removal of hazardous trees. However, the Department also addresses citizen concerns about trees and removes stumps,

and continues to work on developing a tree inventory and planting of trees. Recent planting efforts have been expanded through the resources of three small grants, a 1992 Small Business Administration (SBA) Grant for \$2,650, a 1993 SBA Grant for \$5,000, and a 1993 America the Beautiful Grant for \$7,500, which were used to plant trees at the entrances to the City (KMD, Upper Main Street, College Avenue, and the Waterville-Winslow Bridge area). The City has received three Tree City USA Awards for its efforts.

The quality and number of programs offered by the Department is dependent on the time, energy, and efforts of many volunteers. In addition, it has a cooperative relationship with a number of civic groups that have undertaken a variety of projects. Some of the cooperative ventures have included:

- a donation from the Waterville Women's Club which allowed the Department to install several park benches along North Street, purchase new aluminum bleachers, and add a playground module;
- working with the Discover Mid-Maine Committee to construct an information kiosk in Castonguay Square;
- working with the American Legion to erect a monument and install steps at the base of the statue in Coburn Park;
- coordinating with the youth football association on the construction of a concession building at the North End Multipurpose Field;
- coordinating with the Waterville Little League on the installation of new lighting at Purnell Field;
- working with the Waterville Intown Association to provide for plantings by local landscapers in the three islands in the concourse;
- coordinating work through the sheriffs OUI weekend program to provide for extensive work in parks and at the Gilman Street Gymnasium/Auditorium;
- coordinating cleanup efforts and tree plantings in City parks as part of Earth Day and Arbor Day;
- facilitating an enrichment program to spruce up park areas offered through the George Mitchell School enrichment program;
- working with High School students through Project CLASS and FOCUS Day on facility improvement projects; and
- working with CMP on the provision of a parking area and access trail to the Messalonskee Stream off West River Road.

The Parks and Recreation Department and Recreation Advisory Board have completed one element of a three-part effort to compile information about Waterville's recreation resources for the City's comprehensive planning effort. Most of the information on public recreational resources provided in this chapter is taken from the Department and Board's Facilities Inventory. A Program Analysis and Public Survey is currently in process.

Each of the City's recreation facilities is summarized below and located on Map 7-1. Preliminary findings of the Program Analysis are incorporated where appropriate.

1. North Street Recreation Area

This 30 acre complex is located on North Street near Messalonskee Stream. It includes a number of facilities, including a swimming pool, Averill Field, horse shoe pits, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, a playground, a basketball court, North Street Soccer Field, a picnic area, and a small park.

a. Swimming Pool

- (1) Uses - Summer swim program (lessons, free swims, etc.).
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- (3) Description - Large, approximately 290' X 130', asphalt base swimming pool, bowl shape ranging in depth from 0' to approximately 7'. Area enclosed by chainlink fencing. Adjacent wood frame bath house with facilities for male and female changing rooms, rest rooms, basket system for clothing storage, pool offices, and guard rooms. Second floor deck overlooks pool. Filtration equipment outside pool perimeter at deep end - not enclosed. Small shed for storage of chemicals.
- (4) Condition - Asphalt surface of pool generally in fair to poor condition, some cracks evident, frost heaving evident along outer rim of paved surface at fence line. End wall at deep end shows signs of deep cracks. Bath house generally in poor condition. Interior shows signs of age and use. Sanitary conditions are less than adequate. Not accessible to individuals with disabilities.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Proceed with development of plans and specifications for a new pool and bath house. Initial pool study, including concept design for a new pool with cost estimates, was done in 1994. Replacement cost is estimated at \$1.5 to \$1.8 million.

b. Averill Field

- (1) Use - Fall: High School boys and girls soccer games and practices, and volleyball. Spring and Summer: softball, sand volleyball (beach volleyball).
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department, School Department does maintenance during soccer season.
- (3) Description - The 5+ acre Field consists of a softball field in the northeast corner and a full size (350' X 225') soccer field in the outfield running roughly northwest to southeast. Two support buildings serve the field. Two sand volleyball courts are located at the southeast corner of the field,

out of reach of both soccer and softball play. The field is enclosed by an 8' fence with a pedestrian and vehicle gate on North Street.

- (4) Condition - Fence requires repair, severe erosion at post foundations in many locations. Field surface requires leveling and aeration to relieve compaction.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Repair or replace fencing as needed. Cost estimated at \$20,000. Continue regular field maintenance practices on yearly basis, initiate top dressing program.

c. Horse Shoe Pits

- (1) Use - Spring through Fall: informal play and occasional tournaments.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- (3) Description - There are four rudimentary horse shoe pits with no enclosures around pit areas located outside the fence at the east end of Averill Field. The area is grassed.
- (4) Condition - Fair.

d. Tennis Courts

- (1) Use - Summer through Fall: open tennis, High School Tennis Team.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- (3) Description - The four courts are constructed with an asphalt surface and include a 10' fence around the perimeter. A wooden practice board is at one end of the facility. The courts are not lighted for evening play.
- (4) Condition - 5-6-year old court surface is in good condition. Some fencing needs replacement or repair due to frost heaving and other problems. Anchors for nets need to be replaced.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Install new fence where needed, repair as necessary in other locations. Cost estimated at \$5,000 - \$10,000. Install net anchors. Install lighting system. Cost estimated at \$15,000.

e. Shuffleboard Courts

- (1) Use - Shuffleboard.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- (3) Description - The two shuffleboard courts are located between the tennis courts and picnic shelters.
- (4) Condition - The courts are in good shape, but require some painting.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Continue normal maintenance. Build a bench with a cover at each end of the courts to provide shade for users of the courts. Cost estimated at \$5,000.

f. Playground

- (1) Use - Children's free play.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - The "Our Kids Place" playscape is a wooden structure, not a manufactured product, which was built in-place from an original design in 1988. It is in several separate modules with a wooden walkway connecting some, but not all, of the units. It is enclosed by a pressure-treated lumber barrier which contains a base of pea-stone gravel meant to serve as a safety surface under the apparatus.
- (4) Condition - The playground is showing wear and some deterioration of pieces as well as damage to some apparatus, notably the Track-Rider. The pea-stone surface is not adequate in depth in many places. This material also tends to be thrown on the walkway, creating a hazard. The material is not as resilient as other surfaces. There are some exposed post foundations which have been covered with rubber matting.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Begin process of replacing selected sections of the playground with manufactured apparatus. Cost estimated at \$30,000 - \$40,000. Install a new safety surface under apparatus and replace pea-stone with more resilient materials, Fiber or similar type product. Cost estimated at \$3,000.

g. Basketball Court

- (1) Use - Informal outdoor basketball games.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - Full-size asphalt basketball court with steel uprights and backboards. Lighted for evening play, but lights not efficient.
- (4) Condition - Court is in poor condition. Surface has severe cracking but appears to drain well. Adjacent swale has been repaired and now drains the area next to court much better.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Resurface court, but attempt to do so in conjunction with construction of new pool to avoid any development conflicts. Consider an additional court at the time of construction. Cost estimated at \$16,000. Install efficient metal halide lighting. Cost estimated at \$3,000 - \$5,000.

h. North Street Soccer Field

- (1) Use - Fall and Spring: primarily Youth Soccer Program evenings and weekends; some afternoons. All seasons: free play.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - There are five less than full-size soccer fields.
- (4) Condition - The field is in poor condition. Soil is heavily compacted and holds water. Many low spots exist with rocks exposed. The smaller field

also is compacted and holds water. Grass on both fields is in reality weeds.

- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Excavate entire field and put in 12"-18" of gravel and underdrains if needed. Grade fields to allow for surface drainage, loam, seed, and fertilize. Cost estimated at \$40,000 - \$50,000.
- (6) Relevant Program Analysis - When the Waterville Youth Soccer Association was surveyed, they indicated that participation in the Association has doubled over the last five years and that they expect continued growth. They estimate that they could use two additional fields to address current demand and see an indoor facility as desirable for the future. The Association's major concerns are lack of space and overtaxed facilities.

i. Picnic Area

- (1) Use - Spring through Fall: family and group picnics and gatherings.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - There are two areas which can be used for picnics in the complex. One is by the swimming pool. The other is the two large shelters by the playground. The area by the pool has some tables, but fire grills, which had been there, have been removed. The shelters are approximately 25' X 20' with room for several tables under each. There is also a storage building behind the shelters which has been renovated and is used to store equipment and serve as a concession stand for activities at the park.
- (4) Condition - The tables are generally in good condition as are the shelters. The lawn area is kept in good condition.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Continue routine maintenance.

j. Thayer Park

- (1) Use - Passive recreation, walking, swinging.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - This approximately 5,000 square-foot area is located across from Thayer Hospital. It includes an open lawn area, a few trees, a glide-swing, and carry-in boat access to Messalonskee Stream.
- (4) Condition - Good.

2. Pine Ridge Recreation Area

This 144 acre complex is located on Louise Street off the West River Road. It includes a number of facilities, including Runnel Softball Field, a soccer field, tennis courts, the Pine Ridge Golf Course, and the Pine Ridge Trail System.

a. Runnel Softball Field

- (1) Use - Spring through Fall: softball
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - Approximately 275-foot playing field with skinned infield, perimeter fencing. Lights for night games, spectator bleachers.
- (4) Condition - Access road on third base side needs to be regraded and have a ditch to handle runoff. Grass surface is generally good; infield is a little rough.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Repair access road and ditch as needed. Continue routine maintenance; add material to infield and drag on regular basis. Should be able to accomplish improvements through normal maintenance costs.

b. Soccer Field

- (1) Use - Summer: adult soccer league. Fall: High School teams and Youth Soccer.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - This is a full-size (360' X 225') field laid out on a north-south orientation. It is on an area below the softball field and above the tennis courts. Parking is shared with tennis courts.
- (4) Condition - The field is in fair condition. Wear is evident in front of the goalmouths. There is evidence of vehicle damage to field.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Topdress and aerate field to level and encourage grass growth. Cost estimated at \$1,000. Fence field to prevent vehicle damage. Cost estimated at \$8,000 - \$10,000.
- (6) Relevant Program Analysis - When the Waterville Strikers Soccer Team was surveyed, it indicated that the Team has been growing and that it possible will split into two teams. It suggested that portable goals are a good idea and that major concerns are for field maintenance and poor turf conditions. The Maine Nova Youth Soccer Travel Team also foresees growth, is concerned about the condition of the fields, and sees the current need for more fields to meet the demand for Waterville Youth Soccer players.

c. Tennis Courts

- (1) Use - Spring through Fall: open public play. Spring: some school use.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - There are four asphalt tennis courts and a parking area. Lights for evening use.
- (4) Condition - The playing surface is in fair condition with evidence of cracking and depressions between posts. The fencing is in good condition except for one or two posts which have frost damage.
- (5) Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Fill depressed areas and reseal courts. Cost estimated at \$5,000 - \$8,000. Repair fence posts as needed. Cost estimated at \$500.

d. Pine Ridge Golf Course

- (1) Use - Public par 3 golf course for a fee.
- (2) Responsibility - Leased to outside operator
- (3) Description - Nine-hole golf course with small operations building, pro shop, restaurant, and one equipment storage building.
- (4) Condition - The course is in fair to good condition. Some wear is evident on tees and greens from heavy use.
- (5) Recommendation - The lease for the facility is for three years and is renewable. One problem is the lack of incentive for the lessee to improve the course due to the short length of the lease. Perhaps a longer lease period would provide more incentive for the lessee to upgrade facilities.

e. Pine Ridge Trails System

- (1) Use - School cross country running program and cross country skiing, walking, and mountain biking for the general public.
- (2) Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department
- (3) Description - There are several trails through the wooded area behind the golf course and softball field. These are generally natural material trails with varying grades. In the past Scouts worked on the trails in this area.
- (4) Condition - The trails are fairly rough with no improved surfaces. They are adequate for the uses intended.

3. Couture Field

This three acre facility is located off Water Street near the Kennebec River.

- a. Use - Spring through Fall: softball games and practices.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - The field is very old with short foul lines. The backstop and fencing was replaced in 1995. The field is very close to the Kennebec River. There is a parking lot and a small building for lighting controls. Wooden bleachers for spectators are on the first base side of the field. There is a gravel parking area adjacent to the field. Lights for night games.
- d. Condition - This facility is in average shape overall. Grass growth is average to good. The parking area is rutted and in need of repair.
- e. Recommendation - Aerate field and fertilize. Regrade parking area.

4. Head of Falls

This 7.73 acre open space area is located on the shore of the Kennebec River near the Waterville-Winslow Bridge.

- a. Use - Summer: Farmers' Market, special events, carnivals, skateboarding.
Winter: snow dump.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department; some work by Public Works Department.
- c. Description - The area consists of several distinct sections. One is the area immediately adjacent to the Two Cent Bridge which includes a paved parking area, park benches, and grassed areas. To the north of this area is an open, undeveloped space approximately 800' X 300' in size. This space is relatively level ground in two terraces. There is the remains of a building foundation at the water's edge with a sharp drop to the water. A fence has been installed at the water's edge. A row of telephone poles runs north to south. This area is bounded on the west by the MCRR tracks. Some grass has been planted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

On the north end of the area is a section known as Bicentennial Park. The Park consists of a pathway through a wooded area, known a portion of the Benedict Arnold Trail, leading to an open field south of the MCRR buildings. There are benches at several spots along the trail. The field is approximately 500' X 150' and is irregularly shaped.

- d. Condition - The open space north of the bridge is covered by a gravel of sorts with larger stones evident. Bicentennial Park is maintained with grass cut and little evidence of abuse. The area is not utilized to any great degree.
- e. Recommendation - None at this time.

5. **Green Street Field and Playground**

This 4.6 acre field and playground is located on Green Street in the South End.

- a. Use - Spring through Summer: open play. Fall: flag football. Winter: sliding.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - The area consists of an open playfield at the foot of a grassed slope which is used for sliding and sledding in winter. There are several pieces of playground equipment alongside the lower field.
- d. Condition - The turf area is in generally good condition. The playground equipment is in fair condition and needs some maintenance.
- e. Recommendation - Utilize field more.

6. **Coburn Park a.k.a. Monument Park**

This two acre park is located on Park Street.

- a. Use - Year-round: general park use and special events.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - This is an area of open space at Elm and Park Streets. It has paved pathways, park benches, landscaping, and a monument at the center of the Park.
- d. Condition - The Park is in good condition. Grass growth is good; plantings are in good shape; benches are older design but basically appear to be adequate for intended use.
- e. Recommendation - Continue regular maintenance.

7. **Castonguay Square**

This two acre Park is located off Common Street.

- a. Use - Year-round: general park use and special events.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - The Square has paved walks, several benches, grassed and landscaped areas, and several monuments.
- d. Condition - The Square has been redeveloped with new walkways, lighting, landscaping, etc.
- e. Recommendation - Continue routine maintenance.

8. **Peters Field**

This four acre Little League Field is located off Armory Road.

- a. Use - Spring through Summer: Little League games and practices; some school use at recess.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department; assistance from Little League Association.
- c. Description - This is a standard Little League field with a backstop and perimeter fencing. The infield is standard with cut base paths and grass. There is a gravel parking area and entrance from Armory Road. Aluminum spectator bleachers are placed outside fence along each base line.
- d. Condition - The field is in generally good condition with some evidence of compaction in the grassed area. Infield needs grooming and possible addition of additional base path material. Parking area needs minor grading.
- e. Recommendation - Grassed areas should be aerated and seeded where necessary. Infield material should be added and infield dragged. Work can probably be done through regular maintenance with no extra cost.

9. Purnell Field a.k.a. Matthews Field

This six acre Little League field is located off Matthews Avenue between Cool Street and First Rangeway.

- a. Use - Little League games and practices.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department; assistance from Little League Association.
- c. Description - This is a Little League field with backstop and perimeter fencing. There are dugouts and a support building built by Little League parents. The field is lighted for evening play. Parking area is along entrance road.
- d. Condition - Grass area is compacted; otherwise, the field is in good condition. Much maintenance is done by Little League parents.
- e. Recommendation - Continue routine maintenance.

10. Oxbow Nature Preserve

This six mile long trail area is located along the Messalonskee Stream off Cool Street.

- a. Use - Walking, nature trail.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - Natural surface nature trail along Messalonskee Stream.
- d. Condition - Good.

11. Neighborhood Tot Lots

All Tot Lots are in average to good condition. Each has one or two pieces of play apparatus and, if noted, a basketball play area.

- a. Chaplin Street - swings, fenced area, approximately ¼ acre.
- b. Grove Street play apparatus, 1+½ court basketball courts, approximately ¾ acre.
- c. Hillside Court - swings, slide, approximately ½ acre.
- d. Kelsey Street - swings, sandbox, ½ court basketball court, approximately 1 acre.
- e. Sterling Street - swings, ½ court basketball court, approximately 1½ acres.
- f. Ticonic Street - play apparatus, ½ court basketball court, approximately 2 acres.
- g. Western Avenue - swings, sandbox, approximately 1 acre.

12. Kennebec River Boat Landing

This 11-acre facility is located off Water Street and provides access to the Kennebec River.

- a. Use - Launching and retrieving small boats, picnicking.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - A hard surface launching ramp, 10' wide with access and turning area. Seven picnic sites are in the area, two sheltered.
- d. Condition - The ramp and other amenities are approximately three years old and in generally good condition. The site receives its share of minor vandalism because of the remote location, but so far, it has not been unusually high and can be repaired by routine maintenance.
- e. Recommendation - None.

13. Gilman Street Gymnasium/Auditorium

This facility is located on the 2.5 acre former Gilman School site (currently the Waterville Kindergarten Center).

- a. Use - Basketball, gymnastics, aerobics, dances, special events, community events.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - The gym is part of the former Gilman Street School used now for kindergarten classes and administration offices. It has had several touch-ups since it has been in use by the Parks and Recreation Department. The facility includes a stage and seating.
- d. Condition - Generally, it is in good condition, but the building is old and repairs are a constant concern.

14. Downie Park

This approximately two acre open space area abuts Messalonskee Stream from the Gilman Street Bridge to Highland Avenue.

- a. Use - Walking, nature trail.
- b. Responsibility - Parks and Recreation Department.
- c. Description - This rustic, narrow, vest pocket area is essentially a mowed unbuildable right-of-way along Messalonskee Stream. Periodically picnic tables have been placed here. Placement of a boat ramp in this area has been discussed. The area may provide opportunities for linkage with the High School recreation facilities.
- d. Condition - Good.
- e. Recommendation - Keep the brush along the Stream down to maintain good visibility of the water.

15. Harris Park

This approximately ½ acre open space area is located at the intersection of North and West Streets.

- a. Use - Walking, passive enjoyment of open green area.
- b. Description - This small vest-pocket area is left-over land created from a Maine Department of Transportation project at an overpass over a railroad track.
- c. Condition - The area is somewhat overgrown and requires cutting.
- d. Recommendation - Routine maintenance.

16. School Facilities

a. High School

(1) Drummond Field

Use - Fall: High School football. Spring: High School track and field. Summer: Youth track program, USA track and field competition.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Regulation size football field with 400 yard all weather track. Wooden bleachers on both sides of field. Entire field is fenced in with gate on three sides for entry.

Condition - Track has been resurfaced; playing surface is in good condition. Fencing is in good condition. Bleachers are in fair condition; needs some replacement planks. Frames need painting.

Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Continued maintenance of turf. Develop cost estimate for addressing remaining maintenance needs for the bleachers.

(2) Gaul Field

Use -Spring: High School baseball. Summer: American Legion and Babe Ruth baseball. Fall: outfield use for field hockey.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Regulation (90' base paths) baseball field, outfield fencing, support/storage building.

Condition - Infield in good condition. Outfield needs some seeding and fertilization work.

Recommendation and Cost Estimate - Three foot fence along Brooklyn Avenue. General maintenance. Irrigation. Cost estimated at \$5,000.

Relevant Program Analysis - When the American Legion Baseball was surveyed, it indicated that the program has been growing over the last two years. It noted that facilities definitely meet its needs, but that it would be nice to have more fields as other teams use the field.

(3) Softball Field

Use - Spring: High School girls softball. Summer: recreation league softball. Fall: High School field hockey.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Regulation softball field (60' base paths) overlaid with a hockey field.

Condition - Infield and outfield are in good condition. Some reseeding needed in front of goal areas.

Recommendation - Continue regular maintenance.

(4) Practice Football Field

Use - Fall: High School practice, Junior High football program practice. Spring: recreation programs.

Responsibility - School Department.

Description - Area is approximately 300' X 150' and is located behind the High School. Grass cover.

Condition - Generally in good condition.

Recommendation - Regular mowing needed. Overseeding and topdressing.

b. Junior High School

The 6.8 acre Junior High School recreational complex includes:

(1) Multipurpose Field

Use - Fall: Junior High football and soccer program.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Multipurpose field suitable for several sports, no bleachers.

Condition - Generally in good condition, slightly wet in spring and late fall.

(2) Baseball Field

Use - Spring: Junior High program. Summer: Babe Ruth program. Fall: Field Hockey.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Full size (90' bases) baseball field with backstop, outfield fencing.

Condition - Infield needs to be recut and seeded. Backstop needs repair.

Recommendation - Seed and topdress. Repair backstop.

(3) Softball Field

Use - Spring: Junior High and youth softball.

Responsibility - School Department; some assistance from Parks and Recreation Department.

Description - Not a regulation field. Relatively small field with backstop. Too small for use by older and adult teams.

Condition - Good.

(4) Merritt Nature Trails

Use - Year-round walking, interpretive nature study.

Responsibility - School and Parks and Recreation Departments.

Description - 0.6 mile trail with natural surface, some benches.

Condition - Fair. Suffers from erosion in places.

Recommendations - Routine maintenance.

c. George Mitchell (formerly Brookside) School

This approximately five acre facility adjoins the North End Multipurpose Field.

- (a) Use - Open play, walking, nature study.
- (a) Responsibility - School Department.
- (c) Description - This facility includes playground apparatus, swings, and a nature trail. Some of the equipment is new.
- (d) Condition - Fair to good.
- (e) Recommendation - Routine maintenance.

17. Muskie Center (attached to the former South Grammar School)

This facility is located on Gold Street.

- a. Use - Senior Citizens indoor recreation/activity center.
- b. Responsibility - Leased to an outside operator.
- c. Description - The facility supports a cafeteria and the Meals-on-Wheels program. Transportation is provided to and from the facility.
- d. Condition - Good.

In 1977, the Waterville Rotary Club proposed A Greenway System for Waterville, Maine which was held up as the “backbone of a network of trails and footpaths connecting present and future open spaces and recreational sites of Waterville...to traverse on foot, bicycle, snowshoes or skis the length and breadth of the Elm City while enjoying the natural beauty of its woods, fields, and streams. This greenway system has not yet been implemented.

In 1995, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments, on behalf of the City, prepared a T2000 Phase I Application for federal funds for a Waterville Pedestrian/Bicycle Network to provide a safe route for the 4,000+ employees of major employers along the Kennebec riverfront and businesses of the Waterville Downtown area. This application was not successful.

A portion of the historic Benedict Arnold Trail, the trail Arnold followed from Saratoga, New York through Maine to Quebec during the Revolutionary War, passes through Waterville along the Kennebec River. The Waterville Rotary brought a number of community groups together to open up the trail in the vicinity of Head of Falls to improve visibility and access. The Rotary hopes that this effort, in combination with its \$20,000 fundraising effort combined with funds from the Maine Department of Transportation will help support development of the Waterville Pedestrian/Bicycle Network along the River in and around Waterville.

One undeveloped 60' right-of-way, associated with a condominium development in the vicinity of Evergreen Drive, was designated for use as a “greenbelt easement area.”

Private Recreational Resources

1. Waterville Area Boys and Girls Club, Inc.

The Waterville Area Boys and Girls Club offers a wide range of recreational programs for children ages 6-17 each day after school and during school vacations including preschool and adult swimming programs. Facilities include two swimming pools, a gymnasium, an art room, and game rooms. Financial aid is available for children from low income families.

2. YMCA

The YMCA offers more than 100 programs a year geared for preschoolers to senior citizens with special emphasis on family programming. Facilities include a gymnasium, a universal and Olympic weight room, a nautilus center, racquetball courts, a game room, meeting rooms, and Camp Tracy. Programs are offered in gymnastics and basketball, among others. Eighth graders are also taken on a Heritage Tour of historic sites as far south as Washington, D.C. The YMCA is located at the corner of North and Pleasant Streets.

3. Bowling Centers

Waterville has two bowling alleys.

One is the Riverside Bowling Center, located on West River Road, constructed in the late 1980's. It is privately owned, open to the public, and hosts several recreational leagues. The facility includes a small restaurant/sports bar called "Sportsters."

The other is the Waterville Bowling Lanes which was constructed in the early 1980's. It is located on Airport Road. It is also privately owned, open to the public, and hosts recreational leagues. Its facilities include a game room.

4. Colby Outdoor Track

The Colby Outdoor Track is located at Seavrins Field on the Colby Campus. It is an oval, 6-lane track surrounding Colby's football field. Public use of the track is allowed when not in conflict with College activities.

5. Johnson Pond

Johnson Pond is a small pond on the outskirts of the Colby Campus, which is used for skating during the winter months. The Pond is lighted to accommodate evening skating. The College provides a warming hut building and limited maintenance of the Pond.

6. Colby Tennis Courts

Colby has eight regulation tennis courts on campus, across from the football/track complex. The courts are outdoors and fully enclosed with a fence. Restrooms are available. The College makes the courts available to the public when there are no conflicts with scheduled Colby activities.

7. Hockey Facilities

Since the City does not have any municipally owned hockey facilities, the Waterville Youth Hockey Association uses the Colby Hockey Rink and Sukee Indoor Arena in Winslow.

Colby's Harold Alfond Athletic Center includes a regulation size indoor hockey rink with limited seating. It is used by Waterville High School and the Hockey Association and is open for public skating on Sunday afternoons.

The Sukee Indoor Arena is used by youth and adult leagues, as well as Winslow High School. The Arena includes a full size rink and has limited seating. It is also used for indoor soccer leagues during the early spring and other events during the off-season. It is open for public skating on a limited basis.

In the past, the South End Arena, a privately owned ice arena off King Street, provided opportunities for skating, hockey, and a playground. The City formerly provided a subsidy for the operation of the arena, but it has not been in operation the past couple of years.

When the Waterville Youth Hockey Association was surveyed, it indicated that it provides a learn to skate program, house teams, and travel teams serving children from ages 3 through 16. Currently the Association is using the Colby's and Winslow's facilities. It sees a need for an outdoor rink for practice and notes that its major concern is the lack of a municipal facility.

8. Fitness Centers

There are a number of privately owned health clubs and fitness centers in the City, including The Fitness Club-Champions in the Elm Plaza on Upper Main Street, Gilly's Gym at 3½ Seavey Street, the Holiday Inn indoor pool and health club facilities on Upper Main Street, and Littlefield's Gym at 219 College Avenue .

9. Other Colby Recreational Resources

Colby grooms cross country trails in the winter and has some walking and bicycle trails on its campus. A State wildlife preservation area, open meadows, and woodlands also contribute to Waterville's open space resources.

Adequacy of Recreational Resources

The Maine Office of Community Parks and Recreation recently compared the number of Waterville's recreational facilities to national standards. The results of this analysis are summarized in Table 7-1, along with the unmet need as determined by the Parks and Recreation Department. According to the analysis, there are not enough publicly owned softball/Little League, baseball, and multipurpose fields, basketball courts, ice skating areas, recreation buildings and areas, and parks. However, the availability of private facilities, notably basketball, tennis courts, skating facilities, recreation buildings, and open space areas, are likely to reduce some of the City's facility needs.

TABLE 7-1**COMPARISON OF WATERVILLE PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES TO NATIONAL STANDARDS**

Facility	Need Based on National Standard	Available	Unmet Need - Based on National Standard	Unmet Need Based on City Analysis
Softball/Little League	13 fields	8	6	2
Baseball 90 Foot Bases	3 fields	2	1	1
Basketball Court	8 courts	2	5	1
Tennis Court	11 courts	8	3	0
Multipurpose Field	8 fields	7	1	1
Swimming Area	7,634 sq.ft.	37,700 sq.ft.	0	19,000 sq.ft.
Ice Skating	84,825 sq.ft.	0	84,825 sq.ft.	84,825 sq.ft.
Playgrounds	8 areas	8	0	0
Picnic Area	34 tables	40	0	0
Recreation Center	3 buildings	1	2	1
City Recreation Area (15-25 acres)	3 areas	1	2	1
City Park (passive-100+ acres)	3 areas	1	2	1
Nature Study	1 area	2	0	0
Walking/Jogging Paths	1 system	1	0	0
Cross Country Skiing	1 system	1	0	0

Source: Maine Office of Community Parks and Recreation, and Waterville Parks and Recreation Department, 1996.

Map 7-1 here