



# Recreation Facilities Workshop

June 9, 2020



# Tonight's Agenda



Overview/Timeline



Presentation on Recreation Needs Assessment by UNH



Resource Matrix



Hood Park Master Planning



Rail Trail Status



Recreation Facilities



Council Direction

# Overview & Timeline



## ***GOAL: To receive direction from the Council re: investments into Rec Facilities***

- Council supports recreation tourism and community development impacts of enhanced facilities.
- Council approved \$1.8M Bond in January 2019.
- Council expanded Rte. 28 North to Derry Commerce Corridor TIF District to include Hood Park in May 2019.
- UNH completed Recreation Needs Assessment Survey in March 2020.
- Council expanded Ash Street to Gateway TIF District to include northern segment of rail trail in May 2020.
- Council appropriated \$39K from Parks Facility Funds to augment field improvements during COVID-19 closure in May 2020.



# Presentation on UNH Rec Needs Assessment Study

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## Scope of Work

1. To examine the parks and recreation needs as identified by the residents and key stakeholders of the Derry (NH) Parks and Recreation Department
2. To determine which parks and recreation needs expressed were deemed to be priorities for the Derry (NH) Parks and Recreation Department.
3. To develop a set of recommendations that would allow the Derry (NH) Parks and Recreation Department to address the needs that were identified throughout the study.

*Our job is to hold up a mirror and reflect what we heard during the process*




# Process

- Background and information gathering (review of past studies and needs assessment reports, town information, department information, meetings with key parks and recreation staff)
- Benchmarking and Level of Service Analysis for park and recreation facilities, staffing, and budget
- Public Input
  - Six focus groups attended by representatives of various stakeholder groups (senior citizens, school staff, community organizations and groups, parks and recreation and town staff, youth sport organization leaders)
  - Open Community Forum attended by members of the community
  - Resident Household Survey (online and paper)
  - Focus groups and Community Forum = 50 participants
  - Survey = 479 responses (445 online, 34 paper)



## Background Information

- Derry's population growth is holding steady over the past 20 years with modest increases (1.7%) expected in the next 5 years
- Derry is a relatively young town compared to the state of NH as a whole (Mdn age of 39.5 years)
- Derry is projected to get older in the next 5 years (% of residents > 65 projected to increase by 2.7%)
- School enrollment is trending down by approximately 8.4% since 2010
- 37.9% of households have children under the age of 18 (NH average is 31.0%)
- Derry has grown more racially/ethnically diverse since 2000 and approximately 8.5% of Derry residents under age 65 have a disability
- Derry has a diverse economic and housing mix with both low and high household incomes represented within the town



## Level of Service – Indoor Space

- ▶ National level of service benchmark standards for indoor recreation space is approximately 2 square feet/resident
- ▶ Comparison towns (Concord, Dover, Hudson and Rochester) with indoor recreation facilities average approximately 1.4 square feet/resident
- ▶ Derry directly manages and controls 8,465 square feet (Veterans Hall and Lodge at AC Park) = 0.25 square feet per resident
- ▶ Derry Parks and Recreation partners with the Derry Cooperative School District to use elementary and middle school gymnasiums generally between 6:00-9:00pm daily
- ▶ Existing indoor recreation space at Veterans Hall is inadequate to meet the needs of the town
- ▶ Shared space in the schools helps but the demands for gym space particularly in the shoulder seasons limits programming options
- ▶ The Lodge at AC Park is showing signs of aging and deferred maintenance and indoor space is not adequate for large-scale recreation and community programming
- ▶ Derry does not have a dedicated Senior Center at this point in time, although it does have access to the Marion Gerrish Community Center



**Table 6: Indoor Facility Space Level of Service Options**

	Indoor Square Footage Needed		
Target Goal: Indoor Square Feet Per Resident	Option 1 (Dedicated Indoor Recreation Space Only)	Option 2 (Includes 50% of School SqFt)	Option 3 (Includes 100% of Schol SqFt )
2.0	61,287	38,209.5	15,132
1.5	43,849	21,236.5	0
1.0	26,411	3,333.5	0



## Level of Service – Outdoor Space


- ▶ Derry manages approximately 132 acres of parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, town beach, and other outdoor recreation amenities
- ▶ National and New England benchmarks for parks and recreation acreage is approximately 10 acres per 1,000 residents; Derry's average is approximately 3.88 per 1,000 residents (below the lower quartile in park acres per resident in New England)
- ▶ Derry's outdoor recreation facilities are well-maintained, well used, and in good condition
- ▶ Connectivity is a central feature of the town (trails, paths, Rail Trail)
- ▶ Shared athletic fields with the schools and high demand for multipurpose rectangular field space (football, lacrosse, soccer) point to the need for additional multipurpose field space and an additional 90' baseball diamond

# Revenue Benchmarks

**Table 7: Expenditure and Revenue Benchmarks**

Averages	Park and Recreation Operating Expenses Per Capita	Recreation Revenue as % of Operating Expenditures	Park Operating Expenses Per Park Acre	% of Overall Operating Expenses Dedicated to Parks
National	\$78.69	27.3%	\$6,750	44.3%
New England	\$60.61	29.2%	\$5,831	36.9%
<b>Derry</b>	<b>\$42.12</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>\$6,476</b>	<b>59.1%</b>

Retrieved from <https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/budget/>



# Key Data Points – Focus Groups

## **STRENGTHS OF DERRY PR**

- Strong positive relationship with DCSD
- Dedicated and high-quality PR staff
- Active, engaged senior population
- Well-maintained park and outdoor rec facilities
- Good connectivity and walk-bike infrastructure
- Strong developmental and community-focused rec programs
- Active youth sports culture that work in partnership with town

## **WOULD CHANGE ABOUT DERRY PR**

- Lack of dedicated indoor space for recreation and civic functions
- Indoor gym space is a challenge to schedule
- Derry lacks suitable senior-specific programming space
- Athletic fields are overused and overscheduled (esp. late fall/early spring)
- Desire for additional lighted multiuse rectangle athletic fields
- Desire for additional baseball diamond and softball fields
- Need to complete the Derry Rail-Trail
- Additional outdoor areas for passive and active recreation and unscheduled activities
- Desire for improvements to Hood Park, increasing trail systems, adding amenities



## Key Data Points – Household Survey

- ▶ 94.5% of survey participants were active users of Derry park and recreation facilities and 73.2% participated in a parks and recreation program, activity, or event
- ▶ 91.2% of participants were satisfied with the quality of park and rec staff
- ▶ 37.8% of respondents rated Derry park and recreation facilities as “Excellent” or “Above Average” (lowest ratings: Indoor Recreation Facilities; Indoor Community Facilities; Indoor School Facilities)
- ▶ High or Medium Facility Priorities (>60% of respondents): outdoor trails; playgrounds; outdoor walking/jogging track; teen/youth center space; conservation areas; outdoor space for drop-in recreation; indoor gyms; indoor swimming pool; indoor walking/jogging track; multipurpose athletic fields; indoor senior space
- ▶ 73.2% agreed or strongly agreed that a town-supported multigenerational community/recreation center is needed in Derry
- ▶ Funding mechanisms included fees for use (66.9%), tax support (62.7%), partnerships (79.3%)
- ▶ 62.9% agreed that they personally benefited from parks and recreation programs and facilities, 67.6% agreed that their household benefits, and 78.9% felt that the town as a whole benefits
- ▶ 69.5% agreed or strongly agreed that revitalizing Hood Park would contribute to economic development – (trails, dredging Hood Pond, upgrading basketball courts, adding additional signage)



# Recommendations

1. Revitalize Hood park, focusing on nature-based recreation with active recreation elements. Consider expanding programming and events to draw more participants to the park.
2. Revitalize AC Park, including upgrading and renovating the Lodge for community activities and functions, renovate the existing playgrounds, and renovate or repurpose the existing skate park
3. Increase lighted multipurpose rectangular field space, and add one additional 90' baseball diamond.
4. Finish the Derry Rail Trail, capitalize on Derry's shared notion of connectivity as a community value, and position Derry as a hub for trail networks in the state and region.
5. Investigate the feasibility of adding a 20-30,000 square foot community indoor recreation center with dedicated space for seniors and teens/youth.
6. Finance park and recreation improvements including a multigenerational community center from a diverse mix of funding sources.
7. Add additional FTEs to the parks and recreation department to better maintain and improve park and recreation facilities and amenities and to accommodate participant needs for recreation programming.

## Recreation Resource Matrix

Category	Source	Limitations	Authority	Amount Available			Notes
<i>Confirmed</i>	Rec Bond	None	Town Council	\$ 1,800,000.00			
<i>Discretionary</i>	DCC	Within TIF	Town Council		\$ 235,000.00		Annual to Development Funds for all uses
	Gateway	Within TIF	Town Council		\$ 225,000.00		
	Carr Park Trust Principal	Carr-Park	Superior Court		\$ 750,000.00		Approval from Court required to expend on capital or at other facilities
	Carr Park Trust Income	Carr-Park	Superior Court		\$ 300,000.00		
<i>Possible</i>	FY 20 Interest Payable	None	Town Council			\$122,813.00	In COVID -19 Trust Fund
	FY 20 Infrastructure	None	Town Council			\$356,031.00	
	FY 21 Infrastructure	None	Town Council			\$396,000.00	
<b>Subtotals:</b>				<b>\$ 1,800,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,510,000.00</b>	<b>\$874,844.00</b>	



# Hood Park Master Planning

*\*UNH Needs Assessment Recommendation*

- 1) Applied for AARP 2020 Community Challenge Grant to assist with Master Planning Hood Park.
- 2) Stakeholder Interviews in June.
- 3) Form Steering Committee in July.
- 4) Community outreach throughout July.
- 5) Hood community event in August – Clean-up Day?
- 6) Public Festival in August
- 7) Charette in September
- 8) Finalize/approve/implement plan in November



Rail Trail/  
Bike Path

*\*UNH Needs  
Assessment  
Recommendation*

Section A – Manning to North High Street

DPW rebidding work

\$250 Dam Rehab Bond

Supplemental Funding from Rec Bond or DCC TIF District

NHDOT TAP Grant?

Timeline FY 21



Section B – Madden to Londonderry Town Line

Negotiate acquisition with property owner

Gateway TIF Funding

Rec Bond Funding


NHDOT TAP Grant?

Timeline after Exit 4A design/construction



# Status of Recreation Facilities





Preliminary  
Recreation  
Projects List  
\$1.8M





# Alexander Carr Lodge

## *\*UNH Needs Assessment Recommendation*

- Two-level, 5,000 sf building;
- Conference & Meeting Space;
- Kitchen Facilities.
- Anticipate greatly expanded use by current users as well as new groups, including:
  - Winter Rec Programming – sledding, indoor activities; youth art & enrichment programs;
  - Seniors meeting space & luncheons;
  - Rentals for birthday parties, meetings, community events (at present, about 38/yr.);
  - Currently used by about 2,100 annually;
  - Pathfinders, Little League, Crossroads, Twirlers, Demons, Wolverines;
  - Frost Fest with attendance exceeding 600.