

# **Town of Pelham, New Hampshire**



## **Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2006**



Prepared by the



**Nashua Regional Planning Commission**

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**Town of Pelham, New Hampshire**  
**Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**2006**

**Prepared by the**



**Nashua Regional Planning Commission**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the 7-year Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan:

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- Mike Conrad, Chair, Pelham School Board
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## INTRODUCTION

### PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Recreation plays a major role for the residents of Pelham, NH. The mission of the Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Department is to “provide the public a standard of excellence in programs and services in a cooperative spirit that encourages participation in recreation, sport, and leisure activities, while carefully promoting and utilizing recreational resources and facilities available in the community.”

The need for this plan emerged from the development of the Capital Improvement Plan adopted in 2004 in which it was determined that a separate seven year Master Plan was needed to address Parks and Recreation in the Town. Additional research was needed to better understand the needs of the community regarding facilities and programs. Such in-depth research and planning is necessary to obtain adequate funding and to justify the use of alternative funding sources such as impact fees, which can be used to fund additional services to meet the demands of a rapidly growing population.

### PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan involved a multiple step process. The first step of the process was the formation of a Master Plan Task Force made up of members of various Town boards, departments, and organizations. Information was gathered to update an Inventory of Current Holdings which was originally completed in 1980. In addition, an Inventory of Current Programs was completed. The inventory was compared to the guidelines set forth in “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines” by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology was used to analyze demographic data and to identify populations not adequately served by current facilities. Population trends were also analyzed to predict future recreational needs for the Town’s rapidly growing population as it moves toward buildout status<sup>1</sup>.

An integral part of the development of the Master Plan was the public participation process to perform a needs assessment which is explained in detail in the *Needs Assessment* section of this Plan. The Task Force organized and planned a public input session which was held on August 29, 2005 and broadcasted on the Town’s public access television station. The purpose of the input session was to explain the process to the public and to obtain feedback from the community. The session gave residents of the Town the opportunity to express their opinions of the current state of the recreational facilities and programs and what they believed to be the needs of the community. In addition to the public meeting, two different surveys were utilized to obtain the feedback of the Town residents. Using the information obtained from public input and other planning processes, the Task Force was able to identify goals and priorities for the Master Plan. The next step is to develop implementation strategies which include developing funding strategies, the acquisition of land, determining maintenance and stewardship responsibilities, and the development of associated programming.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on March 6, 2006 and was then presented to and adopted by the Board of Selectman on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> Discussion on buildout is in *Population Trends* in the *Community Description* section (pg 5).

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### OVERVIEW

The Town of Pelham is located on the state border of New Hampshire and Massachusetts in the easternmost part of Hillsborough County. Chartered in 1746, the Town takes its name from Henry Pelham, Prime Minister of England, a relation of Governor Benning Wentworth, and younger brother of Thomas Pelham Holles. The Town was originally a part of Old Dunstable, which was split when the New Hampshire-Massachusetts boundary line was changed in 1741.<sup>2</sup> The Town contains just over 17,188 acres (26.3 square miles) of land area of which 4,058.30 acres (23.6%) is vacant or water.



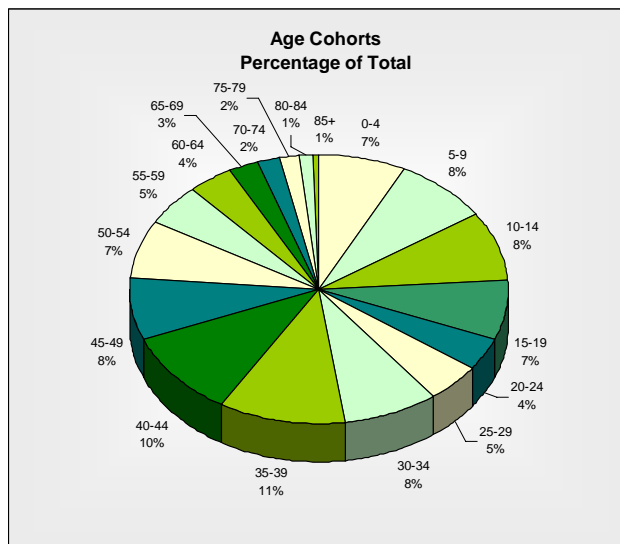
Figure 1: Location of the Town of Pelham

### SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The 2004 Census estimate for Pelham was 12,310 residents, which ranked 24th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns. The population density recorded in 2004 was 468.4 persons per square mile of land area.

In addition to examining the number of people in the Town of Pelham, it is important to understand the population characteristics of the community. Important factors, such as age, gender, and ethnicity, can suggest a need for certain types of recreational facilities and programs.

Figure 2: Age Cohorts

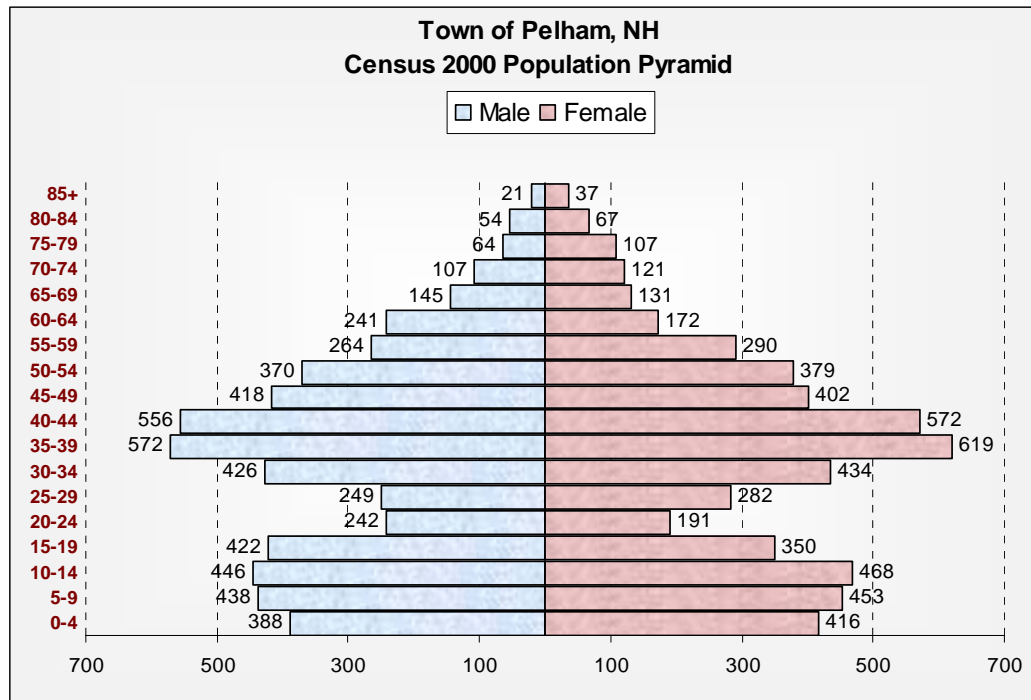


According to year 2000 census data, the majority of residents are middle-aged. Eleven percent of residents are within the ages of 35-39 years, while 10% of the population is within the 40-44 years age group. School-aged children are the next largest age group with 8% within the 10-14 years age, 8% within the 5-9 years age group, and 7% in the 15-19 years age group. There is a steep drop in the twenty-something age groups with only 5% of residents in the 25-29 years age group and 4% in the 20-24 years age group. This is most likely due to the majority of college-aged persons leaving the Town to attend institutions of higher education. Also possible factors include the lack of jobs for recent graduates and the lack of housing

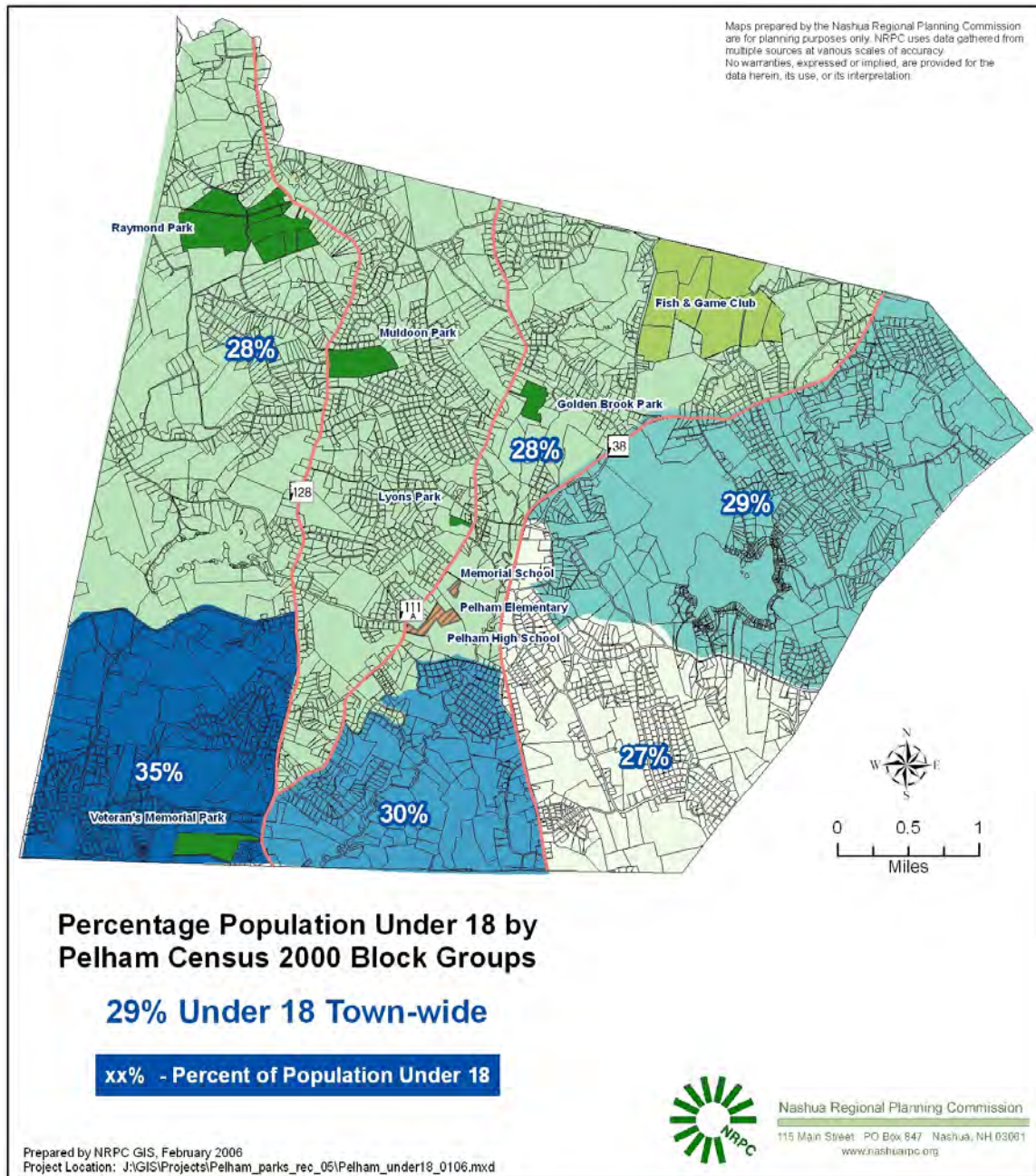
stock for single individuals. The Population Pyramid shown in Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrate the population distribution and percentage of the total population.

<sup>2</sup> Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau, NH Employment Security.

Figure 3: Census 2000 Population Pyramid



**Map 1: Distribution of Under 18 Population in the Town of Pelham**



## SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

As with social characteristics, socioeconomic characteristics of the population also play a role in what types of recreational facilities and programs are needed in a community. Educational achievement, income and poverty, occupation, and housing characteristics were also examined in the planning process.

According to year 2000 census data<sup>3</sup>, the educational attainment for the population aged 25 years and over, 87.2% were a high school graduate or higher, with 24.7% holding a bachelor's degree or higher. The annual income in 1999 (Census 2000) was \$25,158 per capita. The median 4-person family income was \$73,365, the median household income \$68,608, and the median earnings, full-time, year-round workers was \$47,685 for men and \$33,375 for women. The percentage of families below the poverty level was 1.6% of the population. In 2004, it was estimated that of the civilian labor force of just under 7,000 people, of which 5.6% were unemployed, down from 8% in 1994.

In 2003<sup>4</sup>, the majority of the housing stock in the Town of Pelham consists of single-family units. Of the 4,251 total housing units, 3,704 are single-family homes, 524 multi-family units, and 23 are manufactured housing units. In 2003, the only building permits issued were for single family units, for a total of 124 permits.

## POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

The Town of Pelham, along with the rest of the southern portion of the state of New Hampshire, has experienced rapid growth and population increases. The Town's close proximity to greater metropolitan Boston and the future widening of Interstate 93 makes the Town a desirable location to live which increases development pressure. The Town is also experiencing an increase in the diversity of its newer residents. The planning process must take into account the growing and diversifying populations in order to meet the demands of both the present and future populations

### *Population at Buildout*

In October, 2005, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission published its *Region-Wide Buildout Impact Analysis* for the twelve member communities.<sup>5</sup> "Buildout" is a theoretical condition that exists when all available land suitable for residential and nonresidential construction has been developed. Within the set parameters and particular adopted policies, buildout represents the carrying capacity of an area, community or region. Through an application of development requirements and past development patterns, combined with an inventory of developable space, a community can produce an estimate of the type and amount of future growth.

The population at buildout was derived for the Town of Pelham by multiplying the U.S. Census 2000 value of persons per household by the estimated number of housing units at buildout. The buildout study estimates that an additional 4,026 housing units are possible in Pelham, of which 3,783 will be single family houses and 243 will be multi family units. This represents a 101% increase from 3,967 current housing units to 7,993 housing units at buildout. Using the population multiplier of 3.03 persons per household, based on the 2000 census, population increases by 12,199 persons, from 11,986 to 24,185 at buildout. Commercial (retail/service) space is estimated to increase by 39% from 436,800 square feet to 605,280 square feet. Office space is estimated to increase by 233% from 46,914 square

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<sup>3</sup> For more detailed information please refer to <http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/pelham.pdf>

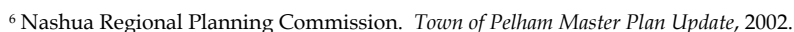
<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/pelham.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> NRPC's *Regionwide Buildout Impact Analysis* can be viewed online at: [http://www.nashuarpc.org/gis/pdf/Regionwide\\_buildout\\_final.pdf](http://www.nashuarpc.org/gis/pdf/Regionwide_buildout_final.pdf)

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Elevations in the Town of Pelham vary from around 120 feet above mean sea level (aMSL) near Beaver Brook in the south-central portion of Town, to 575 feet aMSL on top of Jeremy Hill, the Town's highest point. The western third of the Town is dominated by higher elevations and steep slopes, which sometimes abruptly, give way to relatively flat land of the Beaver Brook valley bisecting the center of the Town. The eastern third of the Town is relatively hilly, but with slopes and elevations that are more moderate than found to the west. The steepest slopes greater than 15 to 25% are generally found in the western part of the Town.

### Map 2: Topography of the Town of Pelham



#### *Surface Water Resources<sup>7</sup>*

Surface water resources provide storm drainage, storage, groundwater recharge, wildlife habitat, water supplies and active or passive recreation. The Town's major streams are Beaver Brook, Golden Brook, Island Pond Brook and Gumpas Pond Brook. Over 35 miles of perennial streams flow through Pelham. Although they may represent a small portion of the Town's land area, because of the extensive network they form, they are an important resource to consider relative to the Town's existing and future growth. Because of the interconnection between surface waters and groundwater, all of the Town's surface waters are important when you consider the need to protect local water supplies.

The Town's lakes and ponds are also a very important surface water resource, providing wildlife habitat, water supply, flood control, and outdoor recreational opportunities. An inventory of the lakes and ponds are shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Lakes and Ponds in the Town of Pelham<sup>8</sup>**

<b>Gumpas Pond</b>	<b>Area 89.9 acres Shoreline: 2.7 miles</b>	<b>Max. Depth Sounded: 24 ft Elevation: 201 ft</b>
<b>Harris Pond</b>	<b>Area: 45.7 acres Shoreline: 1.1 miles</b>	<b>Max. Depth Sounded: 22 ft Elevation: 152 ft</b>
<b>Little Island Pond</b>	<b>Area: 155 acres Shoreline: 4.8 miles</b>	<b>Max. Depth Sounded: 55 ft Elevation: 145 ft</b>
<b>Long Pond</b>	<b>Area: 120.5 acres Shoreline: 4.8 miles</b>	<b>Max. Depth Sounded: 25 ft Elevation: 151 ft</b>

#### *Groundwater Resources*

A substantial portion of water in the Town of Pelham is below the ground's surface. Groundwater is water that is stored in the pore or fracture spaces between the individual particles of soil, sand, gravel, bedrock, etc. These supplies are tapped by drilling or digging wells to obtain water for domestic consumption. The three different types of groundwater aquifers include: saturated stratified drift, saturated unconsolidated till, and bedrock. Each source varies as to the quantity of groundwater present and how it moves. Groundwater from stratified drift deposits, unconsolidated till deposits, and bedrock provides water for residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Town. Stratified drift deposits underlie approximately 11.5 square miles or thirty-six (36) percent of the total Town area.

#### *Fish and Wildlife*

The Town of Pelham's natural resource base provides a habitat for many plant and animal species. A variety of habitats such as wetlands, forests, fields, rivers, and streams are essential to support a diversity of species in quantities healthy enough to ensure continuation of the species. Maintaining quality habitats is crucial to the continuation of all plant and animal species.

Animal species commonly found in the Town include: raccoons, opossums, skunks, muskrats, beavers, porcupines, woodchucks, white-tailed deer, squirrels, mice, bats, foxes, rabbits and other

<sup>7</sup> Nashua Regional Planning Commission. *Town of Pelham Natural Resource Inventory*, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> NH Department of Environmental Services, *Survey Lake Data Summary*, November 2000.

indigenous species that are adapted to living near humans and urban activities. Sightings of coyote, otter, black bear, ermine, mink and fisher cats have increased in Pelham as they have in other municipalities. Moose have also been sighted in recent years. Larger animals that require extensive habitat areas or species that require solitude such as black bears are occasionally sighted in the Town.

Bird species vary according to the season; however, they are also dominated by those species commonly found in southern New Hampshire. Doves, woodpeckers, chickadees, and jays are found throughout the year while warblers, sparrows, hummingbirds, wrens, swallows, robins, and several species of raptors are generally seasonal residents. In addition there are owls, wild turkeys, woodcocks, spruce grouse, blue herons, pileated woodpeckers, cardinals, bluebirds, and red-tail hawks. Other species such as ducks and geese may nest in the wetlands and ponds and many pass through the Town during spring and fall migrations.

In addition to the highly visible species, habitats for other less visible species such as turtles, frogs, toads, salamanders, snakes and numerous insects are present in the Town. The New Hampshire Heritage Inventory (NHI), a program of the Department of Resources and Economic Development, tracks threatened and endangered species and exemplary natural communities in the States. The NHI lists the Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Box Turtle, Banded Sunfish, and two species of mollusks (invertebrates) as threatened or endangered in New Hampshire.



**Blanding's Turtle**

#### *Vegetation*

Plant species in the Town of Pelham are dominated by those commonly found in southern New Hampshire. The NHI records indicate the presence of forty-six threatened, endangered or species of concern plants in Town. Among the most noteworthy of the Town's important natural communities is the unique collection of plant species found in the vicinity of Jeremy Hill. The unusually high number of plant species listed in the Town is an indication and importance of the Town's natural areas.

#### *Transportation Systems*

The personal automobile is the dominant mode of transportation in the Town of Pelham. According to New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) 2000 data, there are 110 miles of roads in the Town. The majority of the road network is classified, Class V Rural Roads Local, encompassing 45 miles or 41% of the total roads. Class IV Compact Section comprises 40% of the Town's roads with 40 miles, followed by Class II Secondary State Highway, making up 17% of the total with 19 miles. The major north/south travel corridor is NH 128, NH 111A, and NH 38. NH 111A travels through the town center. East/west travel requires connections to two or more roads, such as Nashua, Keyes Hill, and Tallant roads.

Alternative transportation options are few. Though there are bicycle and pedestrian facilities, they are limited and not well connected. Improved access to public transportation has repeatedly been identified in regional needs assessments as a critical need for the Greater Derry-Salem area, but the region remains the only urbanized area in New Hampshire that lacks regular bus service. Public transportation provides access to health care and basic life needs for many of the state's seniors, and can be the difference between living independently and moving into a nursing home. Transit also provides access to employment for many in the working population, and can mean the difference between gainful employment and needing welfare assistance.

The 2006 Warrant Article # 29 proposes that the Town join the Greater Derry-Salem Regional Transit initiative. The Year 1 contribution of \$3,500 will allow Pelham to participate in the pilot initiative to provide additional service to senior citizens in the Town, people with disabilities, and the general public.

Ten towns in the region already support the van operated by the Greater Derry Greater Salem Regional Transportation Council (RTC) as a means of beginning to address this need. The Greater Derry-Salem Regional Transit Study, conducted in 2002 by three Regional Planning Commissions with participation from more than 30 health and human service agencies and municipal representatives, found that the approximately 20 human service agencies that operate vehicles in the region together still meet less than half of the need for elderly and disabled transportation.

The Regional Transit Plan called for a two part approach to improving transit service in the region, through a combination of coordination and expansion of existing demand response transportation services; and development of standard fixed route public transportation service in areas with adequate population to support it.<sup>9</sup>

#### *Climate and Weather*

The climate of the Town of Pelham is typical of southern New Hampshire, experiencing all four seasons. On average July is the warmest month averaging 70.2 degrees Fahrenheit, January is the coldest month averaging 21.4 degrees Fahrenheit for a 24 hour period. Average annual rainfall is 43 inches and the average annual snowfall is 63.2 inches.<sup>10</sup>

Along with the rest of the region, the Town is vulnerable to natural hazards which include ice and snow events, flooding, hurricanes, and lightening strikes. Most notably, in the summer of 2003 the Town experienced a lightening strike which injured several residents at Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park.

#### *Land Use Patterns*

The Town of Pelham contains very few permanently protected conservation lands. Of the Town's total 17,188 acres, 2,312 acres is protected either through public ownership, private conservation efforts or through the Town's Recreation-Conservation-Agricultural Zoning District. These parcels are widely distributed throughout Town. The parcels are illustrated on Map 3. The preservation of these parcels is of tremendous importance to the protection of the visual and water quality, farms and forests, wildlife habitats, greenways, trails and remaining rural character of the Town.

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) maintains a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for generalized land use in Pelham. This GIS database is a general representation of how land is being used and is broken down into various land use categories. The database is parcel specific, i.e. each property is assigned one use for the entire area of the property. Table 2 identifies the generalized land-use classes as currently found in this database. Map 3 illustrates the location of each land use.

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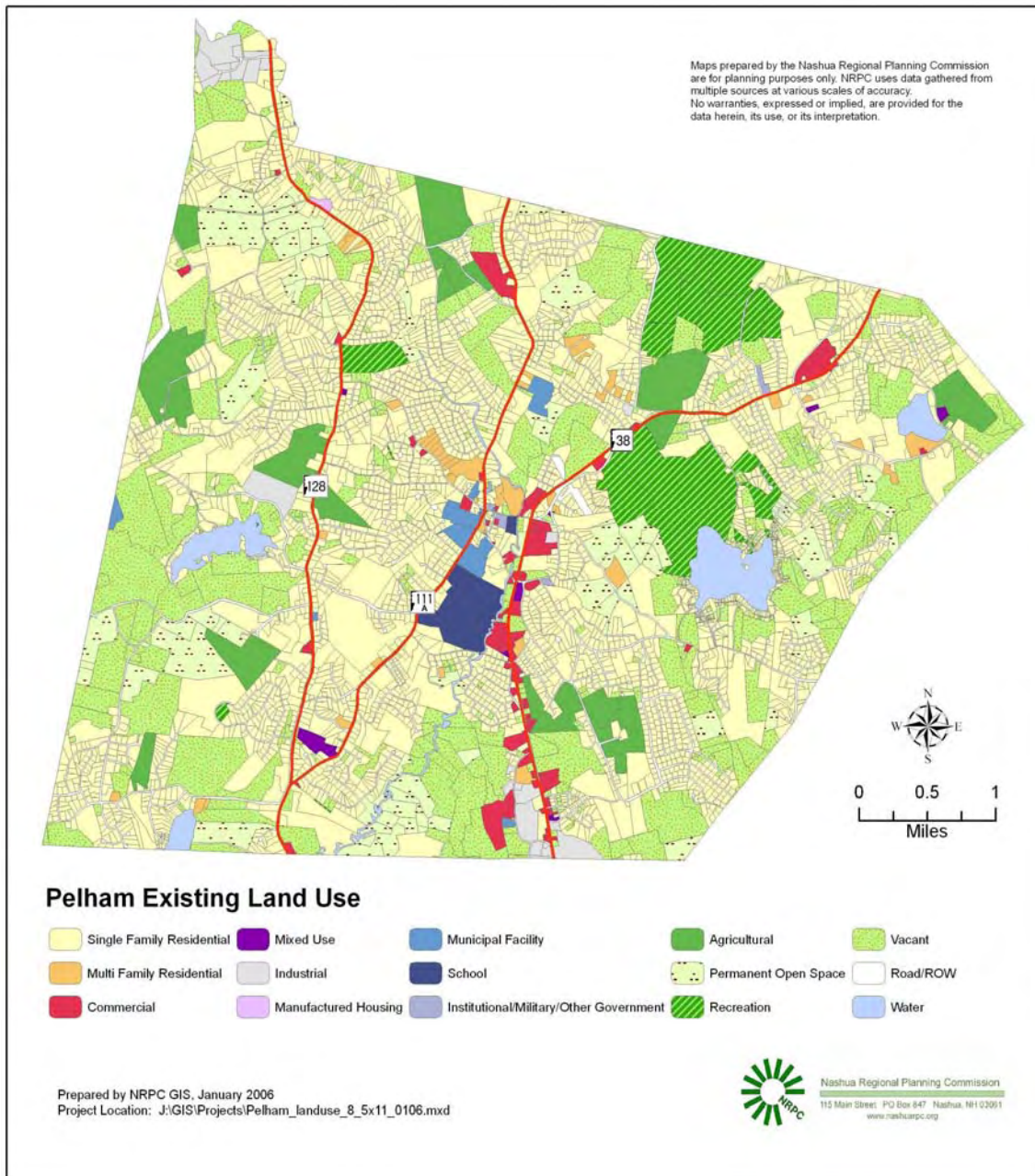
<sup>9</sup> [http://www.pelhamweb.com/2006warrant/town/article\\_29.htm](http://www.pelhamweb.com/2006warrant/town/article_29.htm)

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/climate/CONCORD\\_NH\\_.html](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/box/climate/CONCORD_NH_.html)

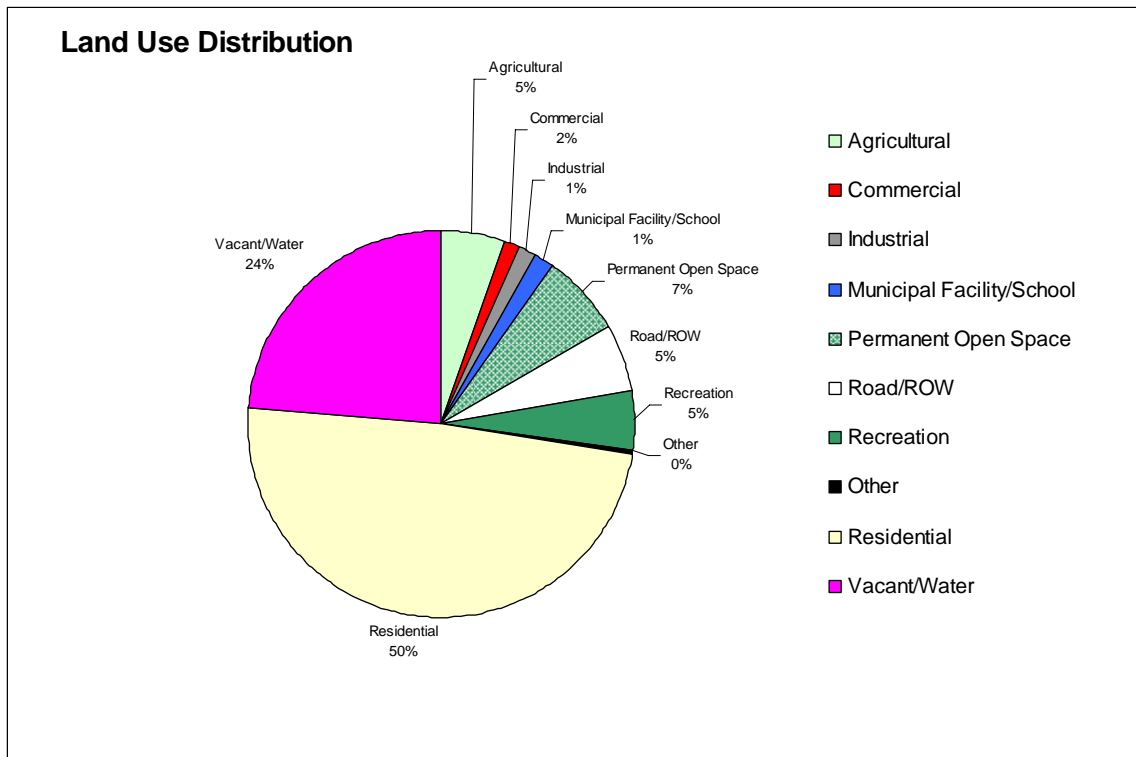
**Table 2: Land Use in the Town of Pelham**

Land Use	Total Acres	Percent of total
Agricultural	897.02	5.2%
Commercial	269.81	1.6%
Industrial	234.30	1.4%
Municipal Facility/School	255.46	1.5%
Permanent Open Space	1,226.98	7.1%
Road/ROW	928.06	5.4%
Recreation	874.28	5.1%
Other	57.30	0.3%
Residential	8,387.20	48.8%
Vacant/Water	4,058.30	23.6%
	17,188.72	100.0%

Map 3: Existing Land Use



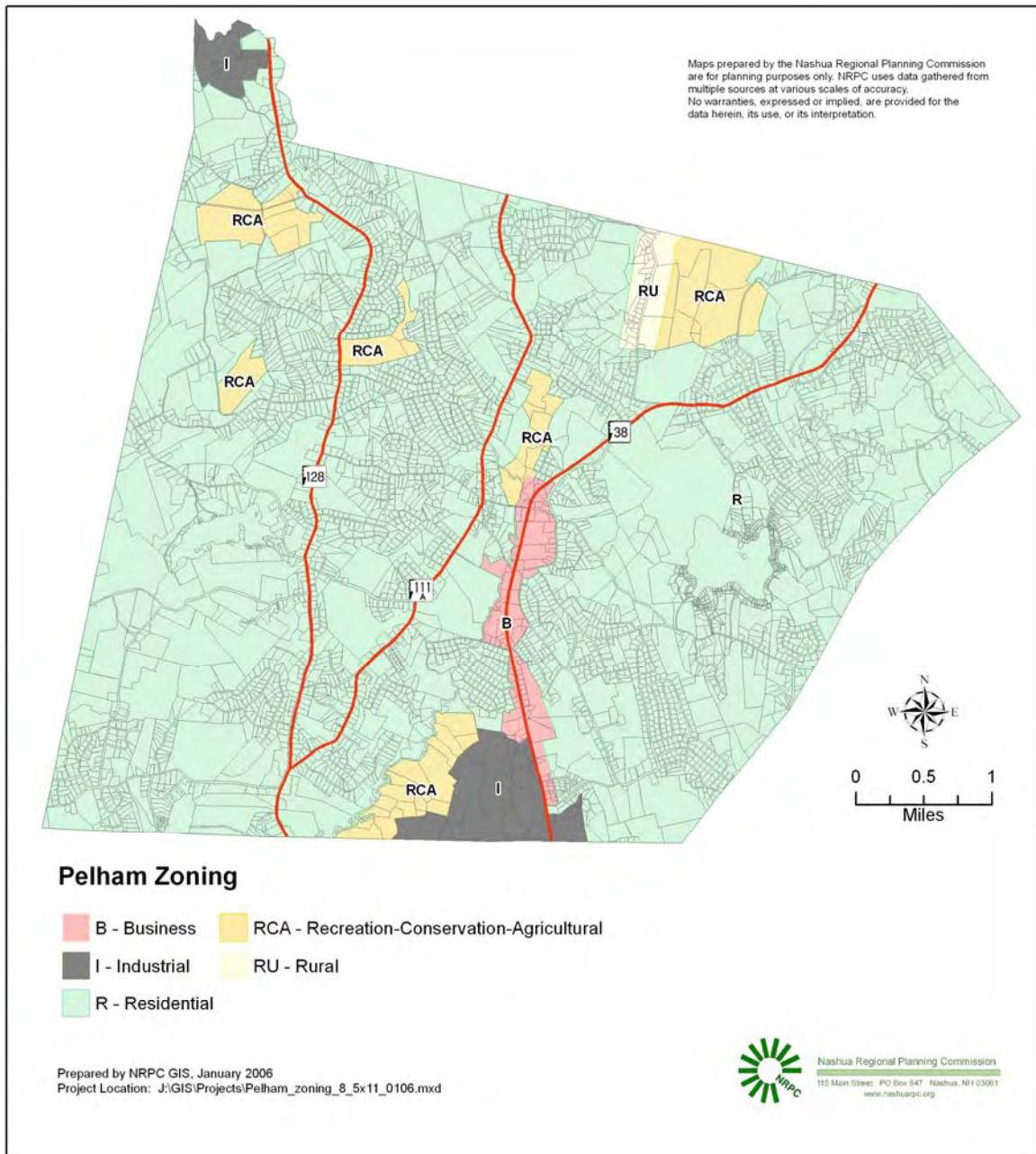
**Figure 4: Land Use Distribution**



### *Zoning*

For the most part, zoning districts in the Town of Pelham correspond with existing land use patterns. The Town of Pelham Zoning Ordinance is considered to be an example of "pyramid" zoning whereby, in general, uses permitted in more restrictive, or higher districts, are permitted in the less restrictive or lower districts. For example, residential uses are permitted in the Business Districts. This allows flexibility and the provision of mixed uses such as a retail or office building with apartments on the second floor. The Zoning Districts are: 1) Residential (R) District; 2) Business (B-1 through B-4) Districts; 3) Rural (Ru) District; 4) Industrial (I-1 through I-3) Districts; and 5) Recreation Conservation Agricultural (RCA) District. In addition, the Zoning Ordinance provides for various overlay districts: 1) Aquifer Conservation (ACD) District; 2) Wetlands Conservation (WCD) District; 3) Floodplain Conservation (FCD) District; and 4.) Senior and Elderly Housing District.

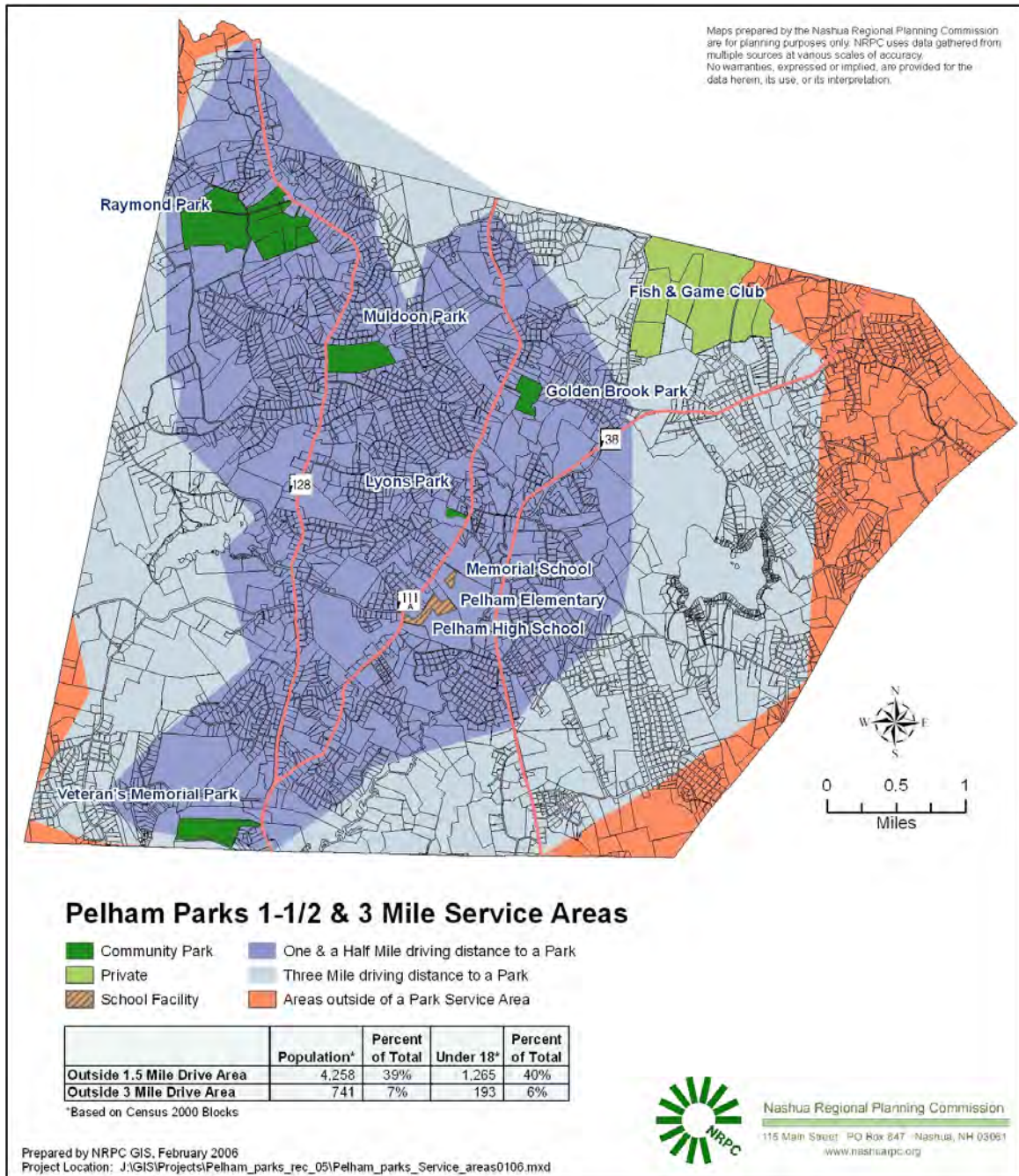
## Map 4: Zoning Districts



### Service Areas

Based on Census 2000 census blocks, 39% of Town residents live outside of a 1.5 miles drive to a public park, while 7% live outside of a 3 mile drive. Residents living in the eastern side, as well as the northwest and southwest corners of Town are outside of a Park Service Area.

**Map 5: Parks Service Areas in the Town of Pelham**



## **IMPLICATIONS FOR RECREATION**

In summary, an analysis of the preceding data with respect to recreation revealed the following:

- The majority of residents of the Town of Pelham are middle-aged adults. The Town should respond to this fact by offering more adult recreational programming.
- There is the potential for the population of the Town to more than double at buildout status. The planning process should take into consideration the demands of a growing future population.
- Significant areas of Town are not in service areas and the Town should respond by adding new facilities, such as mini-parks, in these underserved, outlying areas.
- The demographics of southern New Hampshire are changing as more immigrant and minority populations relocate in the region. The Town should respond by providing facilities and programs that meet the needs of these populations.
- Due to the Town's vulnerability to extreme weather conditions (including lightening strikes) the Town should consider the installation of lightning detection monitors or provide better training of employees and citizens of potential natural hazards and safety measures.



**Aerial Photograph of Town Center**

## RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

### TOWN OF PELHAM RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

As described in the Planning Process section of this Plan, an inventory of current holdings was updated to reflect the current recreational facilities in the Town of Pelham. For the purposes of this Plan, all parks and recreational facilities, including privately-owned and school facilities, were included in the inventory. Maps 3 and 4 illustrate the land under some form of protective ownership intended for open space and recreational uses.

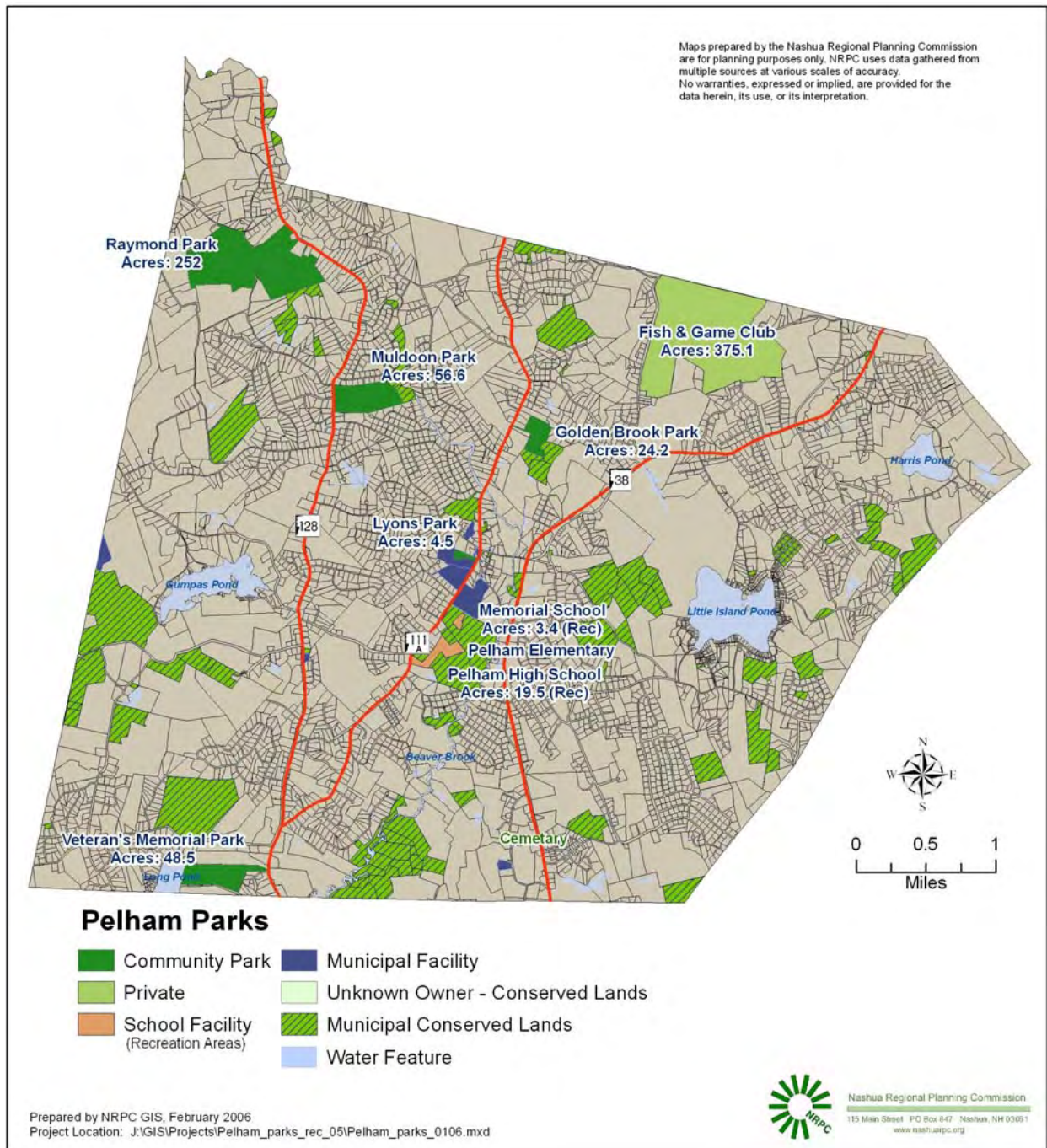
A main concern with the methodology of inventorying the Town's recreational facility holdings is that privately-held and school facilities carry many restrictions in terms of availability and costs. For example, school tennis courts and ballfields are frequently occupied by sports teams and other school-related activities and are not open to the public during convenient times. Use of private facilities, such as the Pelham Fish and Game Club and Pine Valley Golf Links, require the payment of fees which may be out of reach for some Town residents. Also of concern is the location of these facilities and the areas of Town that they service.

Another large concern is the condition and quality of the Town facilities. Many of the facilities require substantial maintenance and repair which includes the resurfacing of hard courts, replacement and addition of picnic tables, removal of litter and refuse from illegal dumping, and the reseeding and leveling of playing fields.



Entrance to Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park

Map 6: Park Facilities in the Town of Pelham



## TOWN PARKS

### *Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park*

The Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park consists of 48.5 acres and is located off Mammoth Road just before the state line and is the location of the Pelham Town Beach. The park consists of 200 feet of sandy beach on Long Pond, changing rooms, picnic area, basketball courts, two tennis courts, a camp lodge, trails, sand volleyball pit, low elements ropes course, storage building pump house, lifeguard/arts and crafts building, and a multi-purpose ball field. It is also the location for one of the Town's Summer Camp programs. During the summer of 2005, the beach was closed due to elevated levels cyanobacteria.



**Pelham Veterans Memorial Park**

### *Lyons Park*

Located behind the Municipal Center, this park covers 4.5 acres and consists of outdoor lighted basketball courts. This is also the location of the Town of Pelham's Skate Park which features a six-foot full half pipe, eight foot 1/4 pipe, and a seven-foot vertical wall, all at no cost to taxpayers. Funding for the Skate Park's construction was obtained from grants, donations, and fundraising activities carried out by the Pelham Skateboard Park Committee, an organized group of about 30-35 Pelham High School, Memorial and private school students. The main source of funding came from two grants from the Hillsborough County Commissioners for \$64,000. The Committee also worked with the selected contractors in the planning, design, and construction of the skate park.



**Skate Park**

### ***Elmer G. Raymond Park***

This park, part of a former property of an early Pelham family was informally known as the "Scout Lot." In 1946, the park was formally named after a Pelham Boy Scout and United States Army Air Force flight instructor who was killed during World War II.

Located on Keyes Hill Road in North Pelham, this park of 256 acres includes a clubhouse, three multi-purpose fields, nature trails, and open field. The park is frequently used as a campground by Boy Scouts.



**Elmer G. Raymond Memorial Park**

### ***Golden Brook Park***

Located off Windham Road by the Pelham Transfer Station and contain 24.2 acres of land. Golden Brook Park is home to Newcomb Field, a lighted field which is used for softball.

### ***George M. Muldoon Park***

This park consists of 56.6 acres and is located on Mammoth Road, just north of Nashua Road. The land was donated to the Town in the late 1970's by Theresa Muldoon for the Town's recreational use. This park is home to the Summer Sports Camp program; in addition, the Town of Pelham Little League, Razorbacks Youth Football and Cheerleading, and the Pelham Travel Soccer Club all use the fields in this park for their games. Within this park are three lighted baseball diamonds, one lighted football field, one soccer field, a skating pond, a tiny tot playground, a shelter with concession stand, storage, restrooms, nature trails, and a footpath. Muldoon Park has a nature trail mapped out by Joshua Fraize as an Eagle Scout Project. The entrance to the trail is beside the Playground at the rear of the improved section of the park. In 2006, through a \$20,000 Hillsborough County Incentive Fund grant, an 18-hole disc golf course will be installed within the nature trail system.



**George M. Muldoon Park**

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES**

There are three public schools in the Town of Pelham which provide recreational facilities. Table 3 illustrates which each school provides.

**Table 3: Public School Recreational Facilities**

Pelham Elementary School	Multi-purpose ballfield, gymnasium, and playground.
Pelham Middle School (Memorial)	Soccer field, softball field, and gymnasium.
Pelham High School	Four tennis courts, football field, softball field, outdoor running track, and two multi-purpose fields. Indoor basketball/gymnasium.



**Pelham High School**

## PRIVATE FACILITIES

Within the Town of Pelham, there are several private recreational facilities which provide opportunities for different recreational activities not offered by the Town's public holdings, such as golf and shooting ranges. They include the following:

- ***Pelham Fish and Game Club***  
This facility makes available shooting ranges.
- ***Camp Runnels Girl Scout Camp***  
This is the largest of the private facilities in the Town, encompassing 320 acres on Little Island Pond. The Camp provides campsites, a ballfield, beach and extensive trails.
- ***Pine Valley Golf Links, Inc.***  
Adjacent to Camp Runnels, this is a 95-acre, 9-hole course.
- ***St. Patrick's School***  
This private school provides a baseball diamond, a soccer field, playground equipment, and an outdoor basketball court.
- ***The Pentecostal Church***  
This church houses an indoor gym.
- ***American Legion Hall***  
The Hall includes indoor facilities which serve both general and specialized needs.



**St. Patrick's School**

## **FORESTS**

As of 2005, the Town of Pelham has two designated Town Forests and one State Forest. The Town has a Forest Management Plan prepared for each woodlot by a professional forester. Forestry is considered not strictly from a timber dollar point of view, but by a multiple approach that good forestry is good economic practice. The main goal of the plans is to promote forest health, protect sensitive area and improve wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Areas with numerous vernal pools and wetlands that do have outflows are left alone. Buffers of trees are left to maintain shade and to allow transient wetland species to be able to complete their life cycles during seasonal pooling of winter runoff.

### **Town Forests**

#### ***Peabody Town Forest*** – Old Lawrence Road

- 123 acres
- Eight different stands of trees are identified in the management plan. In 1996, a conventional harvest yielded 116 million (M) board-feet of pine and 16 M board-feet of oak. Two years later a conventional harvest yielded 108 M board-feet of pine and 9 M board-feet of oak. In 1999, a biomass harvest produced 169 M boardfeet of pine, 10 M board-feet of oak and 1,483 tons wood chips.
- The forest is rarely used except for hunting.
- The only trail is a Class VI access road and the powerline (20.4 acres) which cross through the middle of the forest. The powerline is cleared of tree species while allowing for low growing brush species to grow providing valuable food for wildlife.
- The forest contains 6 acres of wetlands and vernal pools.

#### ***Thomas Kirby Town Forest***– Woodlawn Circle

- 64 acres.
- Six tree stands identified in the management plan. The forest has not been harvested because the current access deeded by developer is on a 40% slope.
- Recreational activities include snowmobiling, mountain biking, and hiking.
- Scattered wetlands support a variety of wildlife.

### **State Forest**

#### ***Jeremy Hill State Forest***

- 66 acres.
- Former site of a Fire Tower.
- Recreation activities include hunting opportunities.

In addition to the officially designated forests, the 2006 Warrant Article 13 proposes to designate five Town owned parcels as “Town Forests.” The following parcels under consideration are:

- Hinds Lane Conservation Area
- Calitri Family Conservation Area
- Little Island Pond Conservation Area
- Costa Family Conservation Area
- Frederic Cutter Merriam Conservation Area

## REGIONAL FACILITIES

The larger neighboring communities of Salem, and Windham, NH and Dracut, Massachusetts are home to many recreational facilities listed below.

- *Salem Boys and Girls Club, Salem, NH*  
This recreation center houses an indoor heated pool, gymnasium, and a teen center.
- *Park Place Lanes, Windham, NH*  
This bowling center houses a candlepin bowling alley, restaurant, lounge, pro shop, and hosts company and birthday parties.
- *Mill City Rock Gym, Dracut, MA*  
This facility houses an indoor rock climbing gym.
- *Play Ball, Salem, NH*  
This facility houses an indoor baseball/softball training facility.
- *The ICENTER, Salem, NH*  
This multi-purpose facility features an Olympic sized ice surface, a regulation size National Hockey League ice rink, off-ice training center, pro-shop, and restaurant.
- *Ice Hut, Dracut, MA*  
This facility houses ice rinks.

## RECREATION PROGRAMS INVENTORY

### TOWN OF PELHAM

The Town of Pelham's Parks and Recreation Department offers many programs to Town residents and to nonresidents at the discretion of the Director and may include additional fees. Table 4 illustrates the programs offered by the Department.

In addition to the recreational activities and programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department, other recreational activities are administered by the schools, senior center, and through the efforts of volunteer recreation and athletic groups.

**Table 4: Recreational Programs offered by the Pelham Parks and Recreation Department<sup>11</sup>**

Program	Signups	Program Period	Description
After School Ski Program	October-November	5 Thursdays beginning 1st week of January at Pats Peak	Open to students grades 6-12
British Soccer	May 2	M-F late June at Muldoon Park	Open to boys/ girls ages 4 and up
Extended Care at Summer Camp	Information and forms available the first week in April, registration begins May 2	6 weeks from beginning of July through mid-August	Before and after camp at PVMP only
Fall Soccer Soccer Clinic	June & July	Outdoor - Late August	Open to boys/ girls ages 5 and up
Floor Hockey	Spring - after school	After school 2 days/week	Open to boys/ girls grades 3 -7
Golf - Adult and Youth	April 4	1 day a week for 4 weeks in May/June	Child and adult lessons at area golf course
Hershey Track	May 2	6 Mondays 5-7pm at PHS in June	Open to boys/ girls ages 9 and up
Indoor Soccer	February 21	5 Saturdays March 26-April 23 at school gyms	Open to boys/ girls ages 5 and up

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<sup>11</sup>Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Department website: <http://www.pelhamweb.com/recreation/>

Program	Signups	Program Period	Description
Jr. Leader Program	May 2	6 weeks from beginning of July through mid-August	Students entering 9th or 10th grade to assist with summer camp
Men's Pickup Basketball	August/September	Tuesday and Thursday evenings at PES gym through school year	Open to men ages 18 and over - Must be HS graduate and Pelham resident
Parent-Tot Playgroup	Early September	Tuesday and Wednesday Year Round	For parents with children ages 0-5 at St. Pat's Bingo Hall
Summer Camp	Information and forms available the first week in April, Registration begins May 2*	6 weeks from beginning of July through mid-August	Playground, swim lessons, arts and crafts, field trips. Open to children ages 6-13 at PVMP
Sports Camp	Information and forms available the first week in April, Registration begins May 3*	6 weeks from beginning of July through mid-August	Open to boys/girls ages 9-13 at Muldoon Park
Swim lessons	May 2	Two 2-week sessions Jun/ Aug	Open to children ages 4 and up at Town Beach (PVMP)
Teen Pickup basketball	October	Nov/Dec through March PMS Gym	Open to Teens 14-17
Tennis-Adult	May 2	6 Tues evenings in June/July at PHS	Open to adults 18 and over
Tennis-Teen	May 2	6 Tues evenings in June/July at PHS	Open to teens 13 - 17 years
Tennis-Youth	May 2	Mon-Wed mornings in June at PHS	Open to children ages 6-12
Tot Camp	May 2	6 weeks July-early Aug Tues and Thurs	Open to boys & girls ages 4-5
Tot Soccer	April/August	Spring and Fall at Lyons Park	Open to boys & girls ages 3-4

Program	Signups	Program Period	Description
Women's Volleyball	August/September	Monday nights at PES gym through school year	Open to women ages 18 and over
Youth Basketball	October/November	Nov./Dec. - March at school gyms	Open to boys/ girls ages 7 and up
Youth Soccer	August	Sept-October Saturday at Muldoon Park	Open to boys & girls ages 5-13

\* Limited enrollment- first come, first served.

### OTHER PROGRAMS IN TOWN

In addition to the programs administered by the Parks and Recreation Department, the following additional programs are run by local organizations.

- Pelham Little League
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Garden Club
- Moms Club
- Community Theatre
- Razorbacks Youth Football and Cheerleading
- Travel Soccer
- Travel Basketball
- Men's Over 30 Soccer
- Men's Over 30 Baseball



**Little League**

## REGIONAL PROGRAMS

As mentioned in the Regional Facilities section, the larger neighboring communities of Salem, and Windham, NH and Dracut, MA house facilities which offer many recreational programs. Some of the programs offered in the area are listed below.

- *The Salem Boys and Girls Club, Salem, NH*  
Pelham residents may become members for the yearly cost of \$25. A sampling of the wide variety of programs offered include photography classes, adult fitness programs, teen center activities, ski trips, cooking classes, swim team, and arts and crafts activities.
- *Learn to Skate, ICENTER, Salem, NH*  
This comprehensive program offered by ICENTER provides skating lessons for all beginner skaters.
- *Baseball/Softball Camps and Clinics, Play Ball, Salem, NH*  
Play Ball offers professional instruction in baseball and softball through private lessons, camps, and clinics for all ability levels.
- *Bowling Leagues, Park Place Lanes, Windham, NH*  
Opportunities to join local bowling leagues including senior and women's leagues.
- *All American Hockey School, Ice Huts, Dracut, MA*  
Ice Huts features clinics, individual and team skill lessons for the sport of hockey.

## BUDGET

Funding for the Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Department comes from the Town's General Fund. In 2005, the Department worked with a default budget and the fees assessed for various programs did not stay with the program, but went into this General Fund. Table 5 illustrates the proposed 2006 budget. In March 2006, there is a petition warrant article, which if passed, will provide for the opportunity to make all the park and recreation programs self-funding.

**Table 5: Parks and Recreation Department Proposed 2006 Budget**

Item Detail	2006 DEFAULT	2006 Departmental Increase/Decreases	2006 DEPARTMENT REQUEST Operating Budget
Salaries	\$152,625.00	\$37,333.00	\$186,329.00
Supplies	\$2,255.00	\$3,816.00	\$6,071.00
Telephone	\$3,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
Gas/Oil	\$545.00	\$245.00	\$790.00
Equipment Repairs	\$220.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,420.00
Equipment Rental	\$0.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,800.00
New Equipment	\$350.00	\$13,300.00	\$13,650.00
Expenses	\$7,463.00	\$23,938.00	\$31,833.00
Misc/Specials	\$113,090.00	\$3,123.00	\$116,213.00
TOTAL	\$280,048.00	\$88,755.00	\$365,606.00
<b>Total % Growth over 2005 Budget</b>	1.89%		24.85%
2006 Estimated revenues \$197,571			

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan. This can be performed in many ways, either through formal surveys, public workshops, or informal discussions. In addition, the current recreational facilities and programs present in the community can be compared to national recreational standards and recommendations to determine needs. A three-pronged approach was taken to gather public input for the needs assessment of the Town of Pelham. An Adult Program Survey was developed by the Parks and Recreation Department and posted on their website. An additional non-age specific survey, the Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey, was developed and conducted by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission at the Public Input Session and available to non-attendees at the Town Hall. Finally, a public input session was held to open up a discussion forum of the community members<sup>12</sup>.

## OVERALL RECREATIONAL STANDARDS

Standards are relative requirements that can serve as guidelines for the planning process. Traditionally, the standards are based on population to determine how much parkland, ballfields, and even picnic tables are needed to adequately serve the community. However, in recent times, other factors are being taken into account such as local preferences, the increasing multicultural influences, demand, demographics, climate, and location among others.

The idea of standards in the United States originated when the Playground Association of America was formed in 1906 by Joseph Lee. One of the first resolutions was to establish a minimum space requirement based on the London requirement of 30 square feet of playground for each child of the school which had been determined to be the minimum “with which the proper amount of light, air, and space for play and gymnastics can be secured.” When the Playground Association of America developed a plan for Washington, DC for the provision of playgrounds, recreation centers, and athletic fields, the standard was revised. It was recommended that every school district have at least one acre of land for each 2,000 children.

In the early-to-mid 1900s George Butler of the National Recreation Association established recommended space standards for playgrounds of neighborhoods of different populations. Although reluctant to suggest a definitive standard, he recommended a standard of 10 acres of park and open space per 1,000 population within each city, plus an equal area in parkways, large parks, and forests either within or adjacent to the city<sup>13</sup>.

### *How Are They Determined?*<sup>14</sup>

The current methods for the conventional standards are the *Population Ratio method*, *Area Percentage method*, and the *Demand Projection method*. The best known and most commonly applied recreation space standard is the *Population Ratio method* which applies mainly to public recreation areas in or near cities. An example of this standard is the requirement of eight picnic tables per 1,000 residents. This method is sometimes refined to take into account density, service area, climate, and the relationship between what is needed for park space and the neighboring facilities, such schools or office parks.

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<sup>12</sup> A copy of the press release for the public input session is included in Appendix C.

<sup>13</sup> National Recreation and Park Association. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*, 1995

<sup>14</sup> Gold, Seymour M. *Recreation, Planning, and Design*, 1980

The *Area Percentage method* recommends what percentage of the total area of a community should be devoted to public recreation and open space. This method applies to new development and most commonly used in subdivision ordinances. A flaw with this method is that it makes no recommendation of what to do with or where to locate the space. Good design practices are essential for meaningful and useful open space.

A more complicated method is the *Demand Projection Method* which projects the participation rates of user groups and translates them into space needs with facility standards. It uses a mathematical model to project demand on an activity or area basis.

#### *Flaws with the standards*

The use of standards in the planning process is a valuable tool. However, it had been long recognized that the application of the same arbitrary standards to different and unique communities carries many methodological flaws. Some of the problems with basing standards on population alone include the use of national standards which may not take into account factors such as local preferences or climate.

The inclusion of private and school facilities in the facility inventory can also lead to problems. The Town of Pelham has many school ballfields and courts, but public use of these are limited by availability and the costs to use these facilities. An example of where this is a problem is with the Town basketball leagues in which the only courts are at the school or at the Pentecostal Church. The school courts can only be used when the school teams are not using the facilities for their own practices or games. In addition to competition with the school leagues, Town basketball teams are frequently bumped from use of the courts by a number of other uses, such as cheerleading practice, chess matches, etc. The Town must also pay to use these courts when a janitor is not regularly scheduled. If school facilities are not available the Town teams may have the option to use the Pentecostal Church, but their usage fees are even higher.

Another flaw with the standards is that it may not take into account the conditions of the facilities. If a community has several tennis courts, but all are in need of repair, they may still be included in the inventory.

#### *Newer Approaches to Standards*

The current philosophy of the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NHOEP) is that there is no "one size fits all" formula because of the diversity of community character and needs. NHOEP's Outdoor Recreation Program refers park and recreation planning professionals to guidance developed by the National Recreation and Park Association, and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing park, recreation, and conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. NRPA works closely with local, state, and national recreation and park agencies; citizen groups; and corporations to carry out its objectives which include advocating favorable legislation and public policy, increasing public awareness of the importance of parks and recreation, and providing continuing education, professional certification, and technical assistance<sup>15</sup>.

Recognizing flaws with the standards, many communities and recreational planners are using new revised methods which take into account many factors using complicated formulas based on population, expected use, capacity, availability, cultural factors, local climate or local preferences.

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<sup>15</sup> National Recreation and Park Association website: [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org).

It is important to remember that no two communities need to have the same standard; there are no planning requirements that mandate similar standards for diverse conditions. According to "Recreation, Planning, and Design" by Seymour Gold, the standards for each community need to take the following into account<sup>16</sup>:

- *The People of the Community*
  - Local preferences, average age, diverse cultural differences.
- *Feasibility*
  - Attainable with existing or projected funds, politically, economically, and environmentally realistic.
- *Practicality*
  - Simple to apply and revise. Not arbitrary or conditional, but rather based on sound planning principles.
- *Relevance*
  - Relate to the people, the times, and reflect the ever-changing nature of cities, lifestyles, and economy.

It is important to remember that these standards are intended as "guidelines." They are not meant to be applied in a strict and absolute fashion. Every community is different and those involved in the planning process should consider the aforementioned circumstances and tailor the standards to reflect the unique qualities of their community.

For comparison purposes for the Plan, current holdings of the Town of Pelham have been compared to the conventional population ratio guidelines.

**Table 6: Recommended Recreational Facility Needs, 2000, 2020<sup>17</sup>**

Facility (quantity unless otherwise indicated)	Standard Per 1000 Population	Existing Facilities	Facilities Needed 2000	Facilities Needed 2020
Archery Range	.1	1 semi-public	0	2
Baseball Diamond	1.1	9	12	19
Basketball/Hard Courts	.8	3	9	14
Boat/Fishing Access	.1	1 (canoe/kayak)	1	2
Football Fields	.1	2	1	2
Golf Courses(18 hole)	.04	.5 semi-public	0	1
Gymnasiums	.25	2	1	2
Ice Hockey Rinks	.05	0	1	1
Ice Skating Area	.14	1	2	2
Picnic Tables	8	10	87	138
Playgrounds	.5	2	5	9

<sup>16</sup> Gold, Seymour M. *Recreation, Planning, and Design*, 1980

<sup>17</sup> Nashua Regional Planning Commission. *Town of Pelham Master Plan Update* m 2002.

Facility (quantity unless otherwise indicated)	Standard Per 1000 Population	Existing Facilities	Facilities Needed 2000	Facilities Needed 2020
Shooting Ranges	.08	1	1	1
Skiing (cross country)	.1	0	1	2
Soccer Fields	.16	3	2	3
Swimming (beach)	.5	1	5	9
Swimming (outdoor pools)	.14	0	2	2
Tennis Courts	.95	6	10	16
Track	.04	1	0	1
Hiking Trails (miles)	2.2	n/a	24	38

### NEEDS IDENTIFIED THROUGH PUBLIC INPUT

A public input session was held on August 29, 2005 in the Pelham Town Hall. The input session was advertised in local newspapers, flyers advertising the event were posted in public areas in the community, as well as on Pelham's public access channel (PTV) and website. The input session was televised on PTV and aired frequently to reach a broader audience and those that were unable to attend the event. The session opened with a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the purpose of the Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan, what a typical plan consists of, the process of developing the Plan, and the goals and objectives of the input session.

Following the presentation, the 16 residents in attendance were divided into two groups for breakout sessions divided by the topics of "Programs" and "Facilities." After the first facilitated session, the groups switched topic groups, this allowed for all participants to offer their opinions on both program and facility needs. These two facilitated discussions asked the participants to identify what they believed to be the strengths and weaknesses of the recreational facilities and programs within the community, program and facility needs of the community, and to set priorities to fulfill the identified needs.

During the sessions, it was apparent that there is a lot of overlap between program needs and facility needs. For example, lack of indoor winter programs can be attributed to the lack of a community center with indoor facilities. However, it is not possible to expand indoor programs without the associated facility to house them.

Following the breakout sessions, the facilitators summarized the outcomes of the discussions:



**Summer Camp**

## **BREAKOUT SESSION-PROGRAMS**

### **Strengths**

Community members easily listed the many strengths of programs in the Town of Pelham., which include:

- Summer Camp
- Little League Programs
- Razorbacks Youth Football and Cheerleading
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Golf
- Exercise Classes
- Wednesday Playgroup
- School Vacation Program
- Ski Program
- Volunteers (low turnover, good relationships, well-organized)
- Depth of programs
- High participation rates
- Reasonable Costs
- Administration is well run/efficient

### **Weaknesses**

As with the strengths, the community also was able to list several weaknesses of the programs offered by the Town of Pelham which include:

- Lack of adult programs with the over targeting of youth (leaves out majority of the population)
- Funding (public sentiment that it should be self-funding, should collaborate with private business)
- Lack of high school- age activities (intramurals, paint ball, teen drop-in programs)
- Lack of passive activities (cross country skiing, hiking, crafts)
- Poor maintenance
- Lack of “non-organized” activities (non-team sports)
- Programs limited by facilities
- Poor communication (between schools, Park and Rec, other community orgs., leagues)

### **Needs**

After identifying the strengths and weaknesses, the discussion turned to the needs of the community based on the gap between strengths and weaknesses. The following were identified:

- Adult Programs
- Teen Programs
- Better meet supply and demand (# teams, #volunteers, # participants)
- Non-sports/passive recreation activities (broader programs, ballroom dancing, races, sailing, kayaking, water sports, cooking, fishing, gardening, crafts, etc.)
- Family Programs
- Bike Groups
- Trail Maps

- Men's Volleyball
- Flexibility in Funding Mechanisms (self-funding, grant-writing workshops, grant-maker database)
- Impact Fees to fund park and recreational programs
- Organized Trips/Bus tours (NYC, Boston, Museums, Plays, Mohegan Sun, etc.)
- Special Events (battle of the bands, etc.)

## **Priorities**

The participants were then asked to prioritize the needs and come up with the top priorities regarding program needs in the Town.

### **1. Adult and Teen Programs**

- Target key demographics of the community (adults and teens).

### **2. Program Diversity**

- Additional non-team sports, passive recreational activities, and drop-in programs needed.

### **3. Improve Funding Mechanisms**

- Utilize other funding means such as Impact Fees, Collaboration with Private Business, Grants, and Volunteer Recruitment.

### **4. Regional Approach to Programming**

- Programming and planning should take into account what is offered in neighboring communities.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION-FACILITIES**

In general, it was agreed upon that additional facilities are needed for current programs such as a community recreation center with indoor facilities. Other facility needs identified in the session are summarized below.

- *Indoor facilities needed which were identified in the session include:*
  - Indoor Pool
  - Indoor Tennis Courts
  - Indoor Basketball Courts
  - Indoor Space for Senior Health Classes
- *Expand Service Areas*
  - Need for facilities in the east side of Town which currently is out of a recreational service area.<sup>18</sup>
- *Need for Better Communication*
  - Between various recreational organizations, schools, and the Parks and Recreation Department.
- *Field Maintenance*
  - Mow regularly
  - Improve and expand trail system
  - Building maintenance person needed

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<sup>18</sup> Map 5 illustrates the Park Service Areas measured in 1.5 to 3 miles driving distance.

- *Buildings need to be upgraded*
- *Improved Funding Mechanisms Needed*
  - Look at developers to contribute to maintenance
  - Pursue private sponsors/ corporate partnerships
  - Expand grant-writing activities
  - Enhance volunteer recruitment

**Park Specific:**

**Golden Brook**

*Strengths*

- Lighted Class A softball fields
- Many other uses
- Good location, center of Town.

*Weaknesses*

- Softball field surface

*Opportunities*

- 1970's study on expansion
- Dog Park
- Town Garage



**Golden Brook Park**

**Muldoon**

*Strengths*

- Heavily -used
- Maintained areas (walking trails, playground, good-quality fields)
- Potential Growth (fields)
- Lighted
- Good Location
- Second Building
- New Surfacing

*Weaknesses*

- Restroom facilities
- Parking, Traffic Flow
- Trash maintenance during sports seasons
- Access

*Opportunities*

- Skiing
- Link to Raymond Park through trails
- Beaver Brook canoe/boat launch



**Building at PVMP**

### **Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park (PVMP)**

#### *Strengths*

- Attentive life guards
- No trash on beach
- Bathrooms are available

#### *Weaknesses*

- Building is deteriorating
- Tennis court needs resurfacing
- Ballfields need leveling
- Access road needed
- Inadequate security and protection from vandalism
- Location (far from center)
- Not year-round
- Environmental health concerns regarding lake
- Dock system needs maintenance
- Poison Ivy needs to be cleared
- Walkway to beach needs maintenance
- No place for summer camp in rain
- No boat access

#### *Opportunities*

- "Untapped Jewel"
- Indoor gym facility
- Master plan completed in 1980s
- Boat ramp funded through fees
- Rain accommodations for summer camp
- Building heated for year round use
- Veterans' involvement
- Pavilion possibility



**ATV Damage at PVMP**

### **Lyons Park**

#### *Strengths*

- New
- Safe, police presence
- Location
- Great for High School kids
- Skate Park
- Lighted ball courts

#### *Weaknesses*

- Ballfield needs maintenance
- Limited parking

#### *Opportunities*

- Flooding for Ice Skate Park
- Night use of ballpark
- Toddler Playground

## **Raymond Park**

### *Strengths*

- Big- 280 acres, room for growth
- Nice trails
- Good scouting facility
- Camping
- Natural resources
- Other public uses (parties, summer camp, tot soccer)

### *Weaknesses*

- Topography
- Building needs improvement
- Weak enforcement of hunting prohibition
- Poor security
- Irrigation
- Field fencing needed
- Parking area small
- Tire dump
- Restrooms

### *Opportunities*

- Soccer fields (tournaments)
- Trail grant
- Pond (irrigation and fire)
- Increase usage through trail groups
- Building facility
- Snowmobile trails, winter sports



**Soccer Field at Raymond Park**

## **PUBLIC SURVEYS**

During the public input session, the public had the opportunity to complete the Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey developed by NRPC and the Adult Program Survey developed by the Parks and Recreation Department. Results of the two public surveys are summarized in the tables below.

**Table 7: Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey Results of Satisfaction with Existing Facilities/Program<sup>19</sup>**

Facility/Program	Not Satisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Total Satisfaction (Satisfied + Very Satisfied)	Don't Use/NA
Parks	17%	50%	33%	83%	0%
Youth Programs	0%	33%	44%	77%	22%
Playgrounds	13%	50%	25%	75%	13%
Multi-use fields	13%	63%	0%	63%	25%
Skate/Bike Park	10%	30%	30%	60%	30%
Multi-use Trails	38%	13%	38%	50%	13%
Sports Leagues	17%	40%	10%	50%	50%
Town Beach	11%	33%	11%	44%	44%
Summer Day Camp	0%	30%	10%	40%	60%
Baseball/Softball Diamonds	10%	40%	0%	40%	50%
Fishing Areas	25%	38%	0%	38%	38%
Adult Programs	44%	22%	0%	22%	33%
Picnic Areas	50%	13%	0%	13%	38%
Ice Skating Pond	67%	11%	0%	11%	22%
Recreation facility restrooms	60%	10%	0%	10%	30%
Tennis Courts	60%	0%	0%	0%	40%

Table 7 and Table 8 illustrate the results of the Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey. Table 7 is sorted from highest to lowest level of total satisfaction reported in the survey. The facility/program receiving the highest satisfaction rating is *Parks* with an 83% overall satisfaction rating with half the respondents reporting they were *satisfied* and a third of respondents reporting they were *very satisfied*. *Youth Programs* ranks second in total satisfaction of the respondents with a 77% satisfaction rating. Of this 77%, 44% reported they were *very satisfied* and 33% of respondents reporting that they were *satisfied*. Scoring the lowest in satisfaction ratings are the *tennis courts* and the *recreation facility restrooms* with 60% reporting they were *not satisfied* with either facilities.

Table 8 illustrates the level of use respondents reported for future facilities or programs. *Walking and Jogging Trails* received the highest future use rating with 100% of respondents reporting that they would indeed use these types of passive recreational trails. An *Indoor Recreation Center* also received high levels of future use from respondents with 90% saying they would use such a facility, 70% reporting that they would use it often. Scoring the lowest in reported future use is a dog park with 80% of respondents saying they would not use it.

However, it must be noted that these results provide only a partial indicator of overall satisfaction of Town facilities and programs due to the low participation rate (10 respondents) in the Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey. However, this survey is useful in that it serves as one of many tools to obtain public input.

<sup>19</sup> A copy of the Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey developed by NRPC can be found in Appendix A.

**Table 8: Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey Results of Level of Use of Future Facilities/Programs**

Facility/Program	Wouldn't Use	Would Use Sometimes	Would Use Often	Don't Know
Walking/Jogging Trails	0%	20%	80%	0%
Special Events (road races, etc)	14%	14%	71%	0%
Indoor Recreation Center	10%	20%	70%	0%
Neighborhood Mini-Parks	22%	22%	56%	0%
Picnic Areas	0%	56%	44%	0%
Cross-Country Skiing paths	10%	40%	40%	10%
Indoor Skating Rink	10%	50%	30%	10%
Public Golf Course	10%	50%	30%	10%
Dog Park	80%	0%	20%	0%

**Table 9: Adult Program Survey Results of Interest in Future Adult Programs<sup>20</sup>**

Adult Tennis League				35+ Softball League			
Interest?	no	some	yes	Interest?	no	some	yes
Total response	39	12	10	Total Response	28	19	15
%	64%	20%	16%	%	45%	31%	24%
Women's Softball League				Courses (Arts/Crafts)			
Interest?	no	some	yes	Interest?	no	some	yes
Total response	26	24	9	Total Response	8	28	26
%	44%	40%	15%	%	13%	45%	41%
Boat Safety				Adult Swim			
Interest?	no	some	yes	Interest?	No	some	yes
Total response	29	20	10	Total Response	47	10	3
%	49%	34%	17%	%	78%	17%	5%
Walking Club				Bus Trips			
Interest?	No	some	yes	Interest?	no	some	yes
Total response	22	24	17	Total Response	7	34	20
%	35%	38%	27%	%	11%	54%	35%
Women's Outdoor Basketball				Dog Park			
Interest?	no	some	yes	Interest?	No	some	yes
Total response	43	9	9	Total Response	26	16	20
%	71%	15%	15%	%	42%	26%	32%

Table 9 illustrates the results of the Adult Program Survey. This survey received 67 responses and was more successful in its response rate due to the longer length of time available to complete the survey as well as the option to complete the form on the Town's website. This survey was specifically targeted to adults living in Pelham to obtain information about what types of adult programming would be of interest.

<sup>20</sup> The Adult Program Survey was developed by Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Department. A copy of the survey is included in Appendix B.

The respondents primarily reported to have the most interest in programs that were not related to traditional organized sports. The top programs with the most interest expressed by respondents were *Arts and Crafts Courses* and *Bus Trips*<sup>21</sup> with close to 90% of respondents reported interest in participating in either program. The least popular adult programs were *Adult Swim* and *Women's Outdoor Basketball* with over 70% uninterested rates for both programs

## NEEDS IDENTIFIED THROUGH OTHER PLANNING PROCESSES

### State Trends<sup>22</sup>

The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) publishes *The New Hampshire Outdoors* which serves as the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which is updated every five years. The SCORP identifies major issues and challenges concerning the state's recreation and natural resources and offers a series of recommendations to address those issues. In some cases, the recommendations are guidelines; in others, they give direction for specific action, particularly for State agencies.

The SCORP includes a section outlining the current outdoor recreational trends in the state. The findings and trends listed below provide a general sense for recreation demand and need across New Hampshire:

- A majority of recreational land acreage is found in the northern part of New Hampshire. Greater numbers of smaller recreational sites are found in the southern part of the state.
- On average, slightly more than 52% of New Hampshire land acres were enrolled in Current Use as of 2001. Statewide, about 39% of Current Use Lands receive the recreational adjustment that same year<sup>23</sup>.
- State Parks have seen an increase in attendance. Current estimates indicate State Parks saw around 6.69 million visitors in 2001.
- According to the *Comprehensive Statewide Trails Study* (Office of State Planning, 1997) US Forest Service Data shows a 23% increase in trail use in the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) between 1974 and 1995.
- Wheeled off-highway vehicle registrations, both in-state and out-of-state, are increasing. Total registrations have more than doubled in the last seven years. Out-of-state registrations have more than tripled.
- Out-of-state snowmobile registrations are steadily increasing. Out-of-state registrations have more than doubled in the last seven years, while in-state registrations have remained steady.

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<sup>21</sup> The types of Bus Trips envisioned include trips to Boston for plays and to nearby casinos (Foxwoods, Mohegan Sun).

<sup>22</sup> New Hampshire Office of State Planning. *The New Hampshire Outdoors*, 2003-2007 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2003.

<sup>23</sup> Under New Hampshire's Current Use program landowners can also accept an additional 20 percent "recreation adjustment" to their taxes. This recreation adjustment lowers a landowner's tax burden by an additional 20 percent if the land is kept open to the public for traditional forms of recreation. As defined by RSA 79-A, the six traditional forms of recreation consist of skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, hiking, and nature observation. Access must be available year-round unless these activities are detrimental to crops on agricultural lands or active forestry operations

- Boating registrations doubled between 1980 and 1990 alone, and have increased over 19% between 1990 and 2000
- According to the 2000 Census, the average age in New Hampshire is increasing. The average age, as of 2000, in New Hampshire is 37.1 years. This compares to an average age of 30.1 in 1980 and 32.8 in 1990. An aging population will impact participation trends over time.
- According to US statistics, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New England as a region, all have higher income levels than the United States average. People with middle incomes tend to show higher participation rates in outdoor recreation than those with low incomes.
- Between 1990 and 2000, the state's population has increased by over 11%, meaning that demand for outdoor recreation opportunities (as measured by number of people participating) is also likely to increase.
- Many of the most popular activities in New Hampshire are similar to those identified in nationwide studies. Wildlife observation, driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and jogging/running/walking are extremely popular activities. Additionally, these activities show a high frequency of participation. Day hiking seems to be more popular in New Hampshire than the national average.
- Native New Hampshire residents have higher participation rates than non-natives for several different outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, motor sports, activities that require developed settings, and active pursuits (e.g. such as swimming, jogging, hiking, rock climbing, etc.)
- The most popular activities in the White Mountain National Forest include viewing wildlife and natural features, sightseeing, hiking and walking, general relaxation, driving for pleasure on forest roads, cross-country skiing, and developed camping.
- Available Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants the past two years have fell far below the demand for funding. In the last two years, there were 65 local proposals totaling almost \$4.5 million in requests. A total of 15 grants equaling \$1.35 million were awarded.
- Seventy six (76%) percent of recreational leaders surveyed in a 2001 University of New Hampshire survey feel that local recreational demand currently exceeds supply.

Almost all of these trends apply to the Town of Pelham and can be taken into consideration when planning for the future recreational needs of the community.

## **GIS TECHNOLOGY**

The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology was also used to determine the recreational facility needs of the community. All facilities in Town were mapped which provided a visual representation of location and size of facilities. From this, service areas were able to be mapped by distances from a recreation facility (Map 5.) The facilities were also overlaid on Map 1 which showed the areas of Town with children less than 18 years of age. From these maps, it is possible to locate areas of Town which are underserved and locate potential sites for new parks to be developed.

## **ACTION PLAN**

The action program identifies general plan goals and objectives that relate to the overall delivery of recreation services, describes steps to improve the community's parks and recreation system, the funding mechanisms, and identifies potential implementation strategies.

### **GOALS AND POLICIES**

The Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan Task Force has established the following goals and objectives for the 2006-2015 planning period. These priorities were derived after considering the needs of the community as well as the observed deficiencies of the recreational resources.

#### **Development of a Community Recreation Center**

Many of the recreation goals and needs of the community could be met with the development of a Community Recreation Center at Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park. Many of the most common complaints are the lack of indoor facilities which limits program offerings.

##### *Sports Teams*

The Town is running at capacity with many programs, especially the Youth Basketball program. There are simply not enough indoor courts for all the different sports teams to use for practices and games. Recreational teams are limited by time availabilities and the cost to rent the space.

##### *Eliminate Substandard Conditions*

The additional indoor facility space is needed to remove the threat to the health and safety of those involved with the popular Summer Camp. The current facilities at Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park will not hold the entire summer program (children and staff) safely. In the summer of 2003, twenty people involved with the Summer Camp were struck by lightening causing eight to need hospital treatment. The lodge replacement building is designed to hold between 500-600 people and allows room for future growth.

The existing buildings are in substandard conditions with deteriorating foundations, roof damage, and antiquated rest room facilities.

#### **Improve Park Safety, Accessibility, and Hazard Mitigation Strategies**

To protect the safety and welfare of Pelham residents, hazard mitigation strategies should be put in place at each of the recreation facilities. For example, to mitigate the effects of a lightening strike, all buildings should be properly grounded in addition to the adequate provision of indoor shelter space. The Town should consider the installation of lightning detection monitors or provide better training of employees and citizens of potential natural hazards and safety measures.

To ensure adequate accessibility for all residents, the current American Disability Act (ADA) standards should be incorporated for renovated and new park facilities. In addition, to reduce the incidents of vandalism and crime, more attention should be focused on security measures of park facilities in the form of improved lighting, fencing, and increased patrolling.

## **Development of Neighborhood & Mini-Parks**

To better serve the areas of the community which are not adequately served by the current facilities, the addition of neighborhood mini-parks could be installed. The mini park is characterized by having five acres or less of land developed for recreation. It is designed primarily to attract residents living within a quarter of a mile of the park.<sup>24</sup> These types of parks do not require large amounts of land, but fulfill the purposes of park space. Mini-parks are particularly ideal for areas of large concentrations of senior citizens and for additional multi-purpose fields. These parks could also be required to be developed as part of new subdivisions, which would decrease the cost to taxpayers.

## **More Adult Programs**

Recognizing that the largest demographic group is comprised of middle-aged adults, it is recommended that more adult activities be added to current programming. These activities should include a variety of programming such as passive recreation activities which may include arts and crafts courses and bus trips.

## **More Winter Activities**

Certain park areas have become targets of vandalism during the off-season months, such as Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park. If this park was better utilized during the winter months, the presence of people would be a natural deterrent to vandals. In addition, these sites would provide good opportunities for cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, etc. The addition of indoor winter activities would be contingent on the addition of indoor Community Recreation Center.

## **Improve and Add Additional Amenities in Existing Parks**

The following existing parks and facilities could be improved by implementing the following:

- Improvement of playing surfaces at all parks (fields and hard courts)
- Additional picnic tables
- Clean-up and prevent future illegal dumping
- Improve and update all existing restroom facilities at all parks
- Consider adding concession areas to Pelham Veterans Memorial Park Town Beach and Raymond Park soccer fields to create additional revenues and better serve the residents
- Better utilize the forest properties by:
  - Installing signage to let residents know this is public land and to warn about hunting safety
  - Improve access by upgrading the dirt road in the northern section and create a small parking area at the logging staging area for Peabody Forest
  - Improve opportunities for mountain biking, nature hiking, snowshoe hiking, and cross country skiing
  - Adding additional paved trails to accommodate residents with limited mobility and comply with ADA standards

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<sup>24</sup> Lose and Associates, Inc. *Fayetteville, Arkansas Parks and Recreation Ten Year Master Plan*, 2002.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULE

Table 10 presents the specific projects recommended and prioritized by the Parks and Recreation Department. Individual projects are listed along with cost estimates, potential financing mechanism, time frame for implementation, and priority.

**Table 10: Capital Improvement Projects<sup>25</sup>**

Priority	Project	Cost	Starting Year	Financing
A.	Gym at PVMP	\$985,000	2006	10-year bond
B.	Fields at Raymond	\$100,000	2006	Grants; gas line funds
C.	Buildings at PVMP	\$115,000	2006	10-year bond
D.	Dog Park at GBP	\$ 15,000	2007	1-year appropriation
E.	Playground at Lyons	\$ 25,000	2007	1-year appropriation
F.	Village Gazebo	\$ 25,000	2007	1-year appropriation
G.	Recreational Center	\$4,000,000?	?	Bond Anticipated
H.	Pool; Tennis; Skating	\$1,350,000	?	Impact Fees

## FINANCING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The default budget falls well short of the projected expenses involved in the proposed project implementation. Therefore the following financing strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned. The following describes current innovative financing methods that are either already being used which could be expanded upon as well as new financing methods.

### Self-Funded Mechanisms

One of the recently attained goals of the Parks and Recreation Task Force was to allow for the various programs to be self-funded. Prior to the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Town Elections, the Department worked with a default budget and a fee system (and under general accounting practices) which did not allow the fees assessed to stay with the programs. The allowance for self-funded programs now allows for the assessment of realistic fees to cover operating costs and will limit the turning away of interested participants due to funding caps.

### Grants<sup>26</sup>

Past grants that the Town of Pelham has received have led to the development of fields and trails at Muldoon and Raymond Park. There are several grants that have been recently awarded to the Town that cover a broad spectrum of Parks and Recreation related activities.

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<sup>25</sup>Presented 5/26/05, provided by Darren McCarthy, Parks and Recreation Department, Director.

<sup>26</sup> This information was provided by Darren McCarthy, Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation, Director.

In 2004 the Town received a \$20,000 Hillsborough County Incentive Fund Grant to purchase kayaks and mountain bikes for the Summer Playground Program. In 2005 the Town received another grant from Hillsborough County to purchase a low-elements ropes course for the Summer Playground Program. Also in 2005 a Hillsborough County grant matched raised funds to build the skate/bike park in Lyons Park.

In 2006 Pelham Parks and Recreation is working with five open grants. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) granted the Town \$1,300 in matching funds for a Small Watershed Assistance Grant to educate the public about the dangers of cyanobacteria. Implementation of this grant is scheduled for the early spring of 2006. Cyanobacteria led to the closing of the Town Beach in 2005.

The Town is working with \$37,000 in Hillsborough County Incentive Funds for two different projects for 2006. One of those projects is for the completion of a disc golf course that will be placed in Muldoon Park. The disc golf course is scheduled to be open in the summer of 2006. The other is for lights and a safety shelter at the bike/skate park which is scheduled to be completed in late spring 2006.

In 2004 the Town was awarded a \$19,000 trails grant from the New Hampshire Division of Trails. When completed in the fall of 2006 this grant will update and add trails to the Raymond Park trails system. Also in 2004 the Town was awarded a \$45,000 Land and Wildlife Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to construct soccer fields at Raymond Park. These fields are scheduled to be completed in 2006 and opened for play in 2007.

It is recommended that the Town continue to seek other grants to fund Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

### **Partnership with Private Entities<sup>27</sup>**

The Parks and Recreation Department has benefited from many partnerships with private entities. Pelham Little League and Razorbacks Youth Football and Cheerleading have donated significant man-hours as well as monetary contributions for Muldoon Park. Most notably the field lights and the field house have been added and improved upon with the help of these organizations.

Money donated from the Tennessee Gas Pipeline project was used to complete the current fields at Muldoon and Raymond Park. The playground at Muldoon Park was completed by collaboration between private entities and public donations.

The lights at Newcomb Field were donated to the Town from Pelham Men's Softball. The Pelham Police Relief Association raised funds to build the basketball courts and the lights at Lyons Park. Pelham Police Relief Association also sponsored Tot Soccer in the fall of 2005. Without their sponsorship, in a default budget, the program was scheduled to be cancelled.

Recently, other partnerships with private entities have helped to offset the costs of trash collection, arts and crafts supplies and costume and equipment rental. These opportunities will continue to have a positive impact on the department and community. It is recommended that the Town continue existing partnerships and solicit new relationships with outside organizations as it is an important revenue source for Parks and Recreation. The benefits of increased publicity for the private entities should be highlighted to spark interest.

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<sup>27</sup> This information was provided by Darren McCarthy, Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation, Director.

## Trust Funds<sup>28</sup>

There are six specific Parks and Recreation Trust Funds listed in the 2004 Town Annual Report. In 2005, the Robinson Tennis Court trust fund was used to resurface the tennis courts at the High School with no cost to the taxpayers of the Town of Pelham. The Parks and Recreation Trust Funds are property specific and may also be used to fund different projects throughout the park system.

## Impact Fees<sup>29</sup>

The use of Impact Fees is another way to fund the development of new infrastructure to take into account the growing population of the Town of Pelham. Impact fees are a way to shift the burden associated with the capital needs attributable to new growth from the taxpayers to those who seek building permits. Impact Fees are enabled through RSA 674:21, I (m) and 674:21, V, and can be collected for the following public needs: water treatment, wastewater treatment; sanitary sewers; storm water, drainage and flood control; public road systems and rights-of way; municipal office facilities; public school facilities; public safety facilities; solid waste collection; public libraries; and public recreation facilities excluding open space. The following outlines all aspects of the RSA as it relates to Impact Fees:

**674:21V(a).** *The amount of any such fee shall be a proportional share of municipal capital improvement costs which is reasonably related to the capital needs created by the development, and to the benefits accruing to the development from the capital improvements financed by the fee. Upgrading of existing facilities and infrastructure, the need for which is not created by new development, shall not be paid for by impact fees.*

The intent of impact fees is for new development to pay its fair share for capital needs. Therefore, impact fees alleviate the tax burden by requiring new development to pay its proportionate share of the costs. The alternative to this is that the project be funded through the general tax base, with existing taxpayers paying for impacts created by new development.

Any impact fee program must evaluate the impact associated with new development. In cases where the benefits of the infrastructure will be shared between existing and future residents, the proportionate impacts must be established.

The impact fee feasibility study must know how many dwelling units could be established prior to the build-out of the community. If the impact fee is dependent upon 1,000 new dwelling units over a twenty-year period, but current zoning indicates that there is room for only 750 new units, a shortfall will be experienced.

It is critical that space needs and cost estimates be as accurate as possible. If a new recreational facility will accommodate growth for the next fifteen years, the fee structure cannot extend beyond this time frame. Therefore, the impact fee must determine the number of permits to be issued prior to the full financing of the project. This means that a system of tracking the number of permits that have been issued needs to be established.

Impact fees cannot be used to fund deficiencies in place prior to the enactment of the fee. If the current recreational facilities are currently over capacity, the impact fee will need to determine how much of the new recreational infrastructure will go toward resolving existing deficiencies. The impact fee can be collected only for the difference between the project's total capacity and the required capacity when the first fee is collected.

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<sup>28</sup> This information was provided by Darren McCarthy, Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation, Director.

<sup>29</sup> Nashua Regional Planning Commission. *Town of Pelham Impact Fee Study*, 1999.

Credits are applied to impact fees to account for future taxes paid by projects assessed an impact fee. Since impact fees are considered a source of revenue, they can be used to offset the tax impact of a specific project. Since those who are assessed impact fees will be paying for these projects through their Town property tax, the fee must utilize a mechanism by which to deduct such payments from the fee. This mechanism is known as a credit. The credit is calculated by determining the total project cost (including financing) attributable from new development, divided by the overall residential property tax assessment, multiplied by the average assessment per residential unit. The credit is then deducted from the impact fee.

**674:21V(b).** *In order for a municipality to adopt an impact fee ordinance, it must have enacted a capital improvement program pursuant to RSA 674:5-7.*

Impact fees must be tied into the Community Improvement Plan. If a project is not listed on the CIP, then it should not be eligible for funding through impact fees. The best approach is for the community to first assess its capital needs, and then to go through that list to determine which projects are attributable (at least in part) to new development. It is very important to remember that, for example, if a recreational facility is currently overcrowded, and you intend to add space that will bring the current usage up to an adequate standard, an impact fee cannot be employed. If, however, the addition of an indoor facility is being proposed for the purpose of accommodating future demand, impact fees can be used. The CIP should identify impact fee revenue as a means by which to finance a portion of the specific project.

## CONCLUSION

There are many long-term benefits for a community that has a successful and growing Parks and Recreation Department. A community with parks and programs that meet the needs of residents offers a higher quality of life. The many benefits of a vibrant Parks and Recreation Department include social, economic, personal, and environmental benefits. Investing in facilities and programs shows residents that they are valued and helps to build self-esteem for youth and reduces the time available to find negative sources of recreation.

In addition, a healthy parks system contributes to the protection of the environment and wildlife habitat. If parks are established in areas of sensitive natural resources such as rivers and wetlands, they can provide a refuge for plants and wildlife and reduce the development of more intensive land uses. The addition of green space also increases air and water quality.

## RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

The following recommendations in this plan have been provided to assist the Town of Pelham to strengthen its Parks and Recreation Department.

- **Indoor Community Recreation Center**

The addition of an indoor recreation facility would enhance the indoor programs by allowing for more practice time and reduce the costs associated with renting the space from the schools or other private facilities. An indoor facility at Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park would also help to mitigate public health risks associated with inclement weather during Summer Camp operations.

- **More Winter Activities**

The addition of indoor winter activities would be contingent upon the addition of an indoor recreational facility. As vandalism during the winter months is a problem at Pelham Veteran's Memorial Park, if the Park was better utilized during the winter months, the presence of people would be a natural deterrent to vandals.

- **Adult Programming/Passive Recreation**

It is recommended that more programs for adults be offered by the Town as adults are the largest demographic group in the community. The Town should consider the results of the Adult Program survey and offer more passive activities and those programs associated with non-team sports such as courses in arts and crafts and bus trips.

In addition, picnic tables should be added to existing park facilities and improvements made to existing trails and parking areas to enhance opportunities and access for mountain biking and nature hiking.

- **Innovative Funding Mechanisms**

In order to meet the recreational needs of the community, different funding strategies need to be better utilized. In addition to allowing for the Parks and Recreation Department programs to be self-funded, it is recommended that the Town pursue more innovative funding strategies by implementing impact fees and by actively pursuing private partnerships and grants.

- **Addition of Mini-Parks**

To adequately serve residents in all areas of the Town of Pelham, especially those in the eastern part of the Town outside of the park service areas, the addition of mini-parks is recommended. These

types of parks do not require large amounts of land, but fulfill the purposes of park space. Mini-parks are particularly ideal for areas of large concentrations of senior citizens and for additional multi-purpose fields.

- **Improve Park Safety, Accessibility, and Hazard Mitigation Strategies**

To ensure the safety of park users, park facilities must be maintained and kept in good working order which includes the improvement of playing surfaces and the clean-up and prevention of illegal dumping.

When upgrading and building new facilities, it is important to incorporate good design to ensure those persons with disabilities can be accommodated. It is recommended that to protect park users from lightening strikes and other adverse weather conditions that safe and adequate indoor shelter be provided on the park premises.

- **Accommodate Changing Demographics**

The Town of Pelham should make every effort to provide the facilities and programs that reflect the needs of a diversifying population. These may include the addition of mini-parks and more passive recreational opportunities.

## **NEXT STEPS**

### *Implement the Plan*

The goal of this Plan was to have a document which could be used for planning the long term future of the Parks and Recreation Department. The next steps in the process will be to incorporate the recommendations made in this Plan into the Capital Improvements Plan.

### *Update the Plan and Continued Public Involvement*

As costs, needs, priorities, preferences, demographics, and other factors may change, it is important that the Plan be reviewed and updated annually. As public input was integral in the development of this Plan, it is equally important that the public be involved in the subsequent updates. It is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department that the public be given adequate opportunity to participate in shaping the future of their community's parks and recreational facilities and programs.

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## APPENDIX A

### Pelham Parks and Recreation Public Survey August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005

As part of the Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan, we are very interested in assessing the needs and demand of the community regarding Pelham's parks, recreational facilities and programs. Your input is important for the future of Pelham!

**Name (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address or Area of Town in which you reside:**

- 1.) What is your level of satisfaction with the current state of parks and recreational facilities/programs in Pelham? Please check the appropriate box to indicate your level of satisfaction. If not satisfied, please indicate your reason and/or suggestions for improvement (availability, condition, etc)

<b>Facility/Program</b>	<b>Not Satisfied</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>	<b>Don't Use/NA</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Parks					
Multi-use fields					
Baseball/Softball Diamonds					
Multi-use Trails					
Town Beach					
Tennis Courts					
Picnic Areas					
Recreation Facility Restrooms					
Youth Programs					
Adult Programs					
Ice Skating Pond					
Skate/Bike Park					
Playgrounds					
Fishing Areas					
Summer Day Camp					
Sports Leagues					
OTHER:					

2006

2.) In your opinion, what kinds of additional or expanded facilities and/or programs would you like to see in Pelham?

Facility/Program	Wouldn't Use	Would Use Sometimes	Would Use Often	Don't Know	Comments (specific locations, suggestions, etc)
Dog Park					
Indoor Skating Rink					
Public Golf Course					
Indoor Recreation Center					
Walking/Jogging Trails					
Cross-Country Skiing paths					
Picnic Areas					
Neighborhood Mini-Parks					
Special Events (road races, etc)					
Other:					

3.) Any other concerns or suggestions?

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

You can turn in your survey at the input session or drop off at the Parks and Recreation Department office located in the Municipal Center, 6 Village Green, Room 109

## APPENDIX B

### Adult Program Survey

Our department is very interested in your opinion, which helps us better serve the community. Please take the time to fill out this survey. You may leave it with us now, fax to 635-8274 or mail it in by March 18, 2005. Thank you very much for your participation!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to see an over 18 adult tennis league at PHS tennis courts?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

A coed over 35 Softball league in Pelham?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Women (only) softball league in Pelham?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Course offerings such as crafts, photography, computers, fishing?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

Boating Safety programs?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Adult Swim Lessons at Long Pond?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Walking club in Pelham?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Bus trips such as Flower Show, Dinner Theaters, Mohegan Sun, plays?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Ideas: \_\_\_\_\_

Women's outdoor basketball pick up league?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Would you like to see a dog park in Pelham?

☐ No interest    ☐ Some interest    ☐ Very interested

Other ideas:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!



## APPENDIX C

### Public Input Session Press Release

**Pelham Parks and Recreation Department to Hold Public Input Meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup> at Sherburne Hall, 6 Village Green.**

For Immediate Release  
August 8, 2005

Contact: Danielle Fillis, Regional Planner (603) 883-0366 x16

The Town of Pelham's Park and Recreation Department invites all residents and business owners of Pelham to attend a public input meeting on **August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 7pm at Sherburne Hall at 6 Village Green.**

Those present at the meeting will have the opportunity to express their opinions regarding the current state of Pelham's parks and recreational facilities and programs as well as provide input for future projects. The goal is to identify community need and demand for various park and recreational services as well as identify which of the town's communities are not adequately served

The public input meeting is being jointly coordinated by Darren McCarthy, Director of the Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Department and the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) for the purpose of completing the Town of Pelham Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The event will feature discussion forums, mapping exercises, and survey completion.

For further information please contact Danielle Fillis, Regional Planner at 603-883-0366 x16 or via email at: [daniellef@nashuarpc.org](mailto:daniellef@nashuarpc.org).

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