

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PORTSMOUTH, NH
DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2023 TIME: 6:00PM

Members of the public also have the option to join the meeting over Zoom, a unique meeting ID and password will be provided once you register. To register, click on the link below or copy and paste this into your web browser:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_olKeejbuQ_id3uvF72XqRw

6:00PM - ANTICIPATED NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS ARE BEING HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM A

1. CONSIDERATION OF LEGAL ADVICE – RSA 91-A:3, II (I)

AGENDA

**Regular portion of City Council meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m.*

- I. WORK SESSION – THERE IS NO WORK SESSION THIS EVENING
- II. PUBLIC DIALOGUE SESSION [when applicable – every other regularly scheduled meeting] – **N/A**
- III. CALL TO ORDER [7:00 p.m. or thereafter]
- IV. ROLL CALL
- V. INVOCATION
- VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION

1. Women's History Month

- VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2023 AND JANUARY 23, 2023
- VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION (*This session shall not exceed 45 minutes*) – (*participation may be in person or via Zoom*)
- X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

Continued Public Hearing – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) / Adoption of CIP: (*Continued Public Hearing that was held open per action of the City Council at the February 21, 2022 meeting*)

- A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY 2024-2029
 - PRESENTATION (*Presentation was held at the January 18, 2023 Work Session*)
 - CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS
 - PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS
 - ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS

(Sample motion – move to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as amended with four adjusted element sheets included in the packet)

XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION

A. CITY MANAGER CONARD

(There are no items under City Manager Conard Requiring Action this evening)

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

(Proper Motion for Adoption of Consent Agenda – move to adopt the Consent Agenda)

- A. Letter from Latrice Smith, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, requesting permission to hold the annual Walk MS event on Saturday, April 22, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***
- B. Letter from Crystal Cronin, Portsmouth Babe Ruth, requesting permission to locate temporary signage at Leary Field during the 2023 baseball season ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***
- C. Letter from Chris Maden, Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival, requesting permission to hold the Maritime Folk Festival on Saturday, September 23, 2023 and Sunday, September 24, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Recreational Needs Study Final Report
- B. Email Correspondence ***(Sample motion – move to accept and place on file)***
- C. Letter from Karin Barndollar, Portsmouth Climate Action, requesting permission to hold a gathering in Market Square for Earth Day and close off the section of Pleasant Street between State and Congress Streets to traffic on Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. ***(Sample motion – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN

- 1. Resignation of Lori Waltz from the COVID Response Task Force

XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY

- 1. *Retreat Update to City Council Goals

B. COUNCILOR DENTON

- 1. *Proposed Million Air Project

C. COUNCILOR MOREAU & COUNCILOR COOK

- 1. *Portsmouth NH 400 Sculpture Announced

D. COUNCILOR BAGLEY

1. Anti-Discrimination Policy for City Property Usage (***Sample motion – move to refer policy included in the packet to the Legal Department for review and report back***)

E. COUNCILOR COOK

1. *Making Music and Art Lessons an Allowed Use in Residential Zoning (***Sample motion – move to request that the Land Use Committee make a recommendation to the City Council on changes to the zoning ordinance that would incorporate music and art lessons as an allowed home occupational use, without special exception, in any residential zoning district***)

XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Approval of Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership - \$11,883 (***Sample motion – move to approve and accept the Grant for the Police Department as presented***)

XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. *McIntyre Update
2. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Petition for Residual Designation

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

XIX. ADJOURNMENT [at 10:30 p.m. or earlier]

**Indicates verbal report*

**KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK**

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

A Proclamation

- Whereas: In 2023 as we celebrate 400 years of history in our City we recognize that Portsmouth, as all cities, towns and villages everywhere, depends on the achievements and contributions of women, from the original Abenaki women of the Seacoast region to the economic, cultural, and social leaders of today; and
- Whereas: When David Thomson built a house at Odiome Point in 1623, or very soon after, he was accompanied by his wife of 10 years, Amais Cole Thomson; and we know that a woman named Patience Chadbourne Spencer was one of the first to arrive on board the ship *Pied Cow* that brought English colonists in 1635 to the settlement that would become Portsmouth; and
- Whereas: From those early days to now, women have made historic and everlasting contributions to Portsmouth, as citizens, leaders and champions of the philosophy that makes us the City of the Open Door, pushing the door open to the right to vote and other social justice equities, holding the door open to their sisters, mothers, daughters – and fathers, brothers and sons – and advocating efforts and institutions that keep the door open for all who follow; and
- Whereas: Portsmouth has a particularly proud and distinctive history of women in leadership positions. Mary Carey Dondero began this legacy when she was elected as Portsmouth's first female City Councilor in 1940 and then subsequently elected as our first female Mayor in 1945. Her daughter, Eileen Dondero Foley, followed her trail blaze when she was elected Mayor in 1968. Mayor Foley's tenure of character and competence is evidenced by her record of being the longest-serving Mayor in Portsmouth history, serving our community for eight distinguished terms between the years of 1968 and 1997. Mayor Foley was succeeded in this esteemed position by Mayor Mary McEachern Keenan and Mayor Evelyn Sirrell. This leadership surely influenced the many other women who have and continue to honorably serve Portsmouth as City Councilors and Board & Commission Chairs; and
- Whereas: Every year since 1987, the President of the United States recognizes the month of March as "Women's History Month" to celebrate the contributions women of every race, class, and ethnic background have made to the growth and strength of the United States, and to recognize the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history, including serving as leaders at the forefront of the suffrage, abolitionist, emancipation, labor, and civil rights movements; and
- Whereas: Today, Assistant Mayor JoAnna Kelley, with Councilors Cook and Moreau have been entrusted by the residents of Portsmouth to continue this storied tradition, and the City is being skillfully led by City Manager Karen Conard, the first female manager in its history; and
- Whereas: We are resolved to affirm the City's Mission "to foster a diverse, fiscally sound and harmonious community which offers a full range of housing, business, cultural and recreational opportunities for *all* of its residents, businesses and visitors."

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2023 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire as

Women's History Month

and urge all citizens to learn especially in our 400th year about the essential contributions of women to the past, present, and future of Portsmouth.

Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 6th day of March, 2023

Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2023

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, Councilor Blalock moved to close the Non-Public Sessions and seal the minutes. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

III. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor McEachern, Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor (via zoom), Denton, Moreau, Bagley, Lombardi, Blalock, and Cook

V. INVOCATION

Mayor McEachern asked for a moment of silent prayer in memory Jeff Clark and Duane Foster who recently passed away.

VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGINANCE

Mayor McEachern led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – *(There are no minutes on for acceptance this evening)*

VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Winners of 2022 Holiday Lights Contest

Mayor McEachern presented the winners of the contest with prizes and recognized Al Bailey for his years of contribution to the Holiday Lights Contest with a Mayor's Award and a City of Portsmouth Door Stop. Mayor McEachern also recognized all the Honorable Mentions and provided prizes to those present.

- Best Traditional – John Chavez
- Most Creative – Matt & Nicole Beyer
- Kid's Choice – Ray Clauson

2. Presentation by Rotary Past President, Ben Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler said only once will the City of Portsmouth turn 400 at the same time as the Rotary Club turns 100. He announced that the Rotary Club will be donating funds in honor of Portsmouth's 400th for the planting of 100 trees with a plaque in the area of where the trees will be planted recognizing the years of dedication and service to the Rotary Club and the greater Portsmouth community on behalf of Basil and Louise Richardson. Also, Rotary will partner with the City for making updates to make playgrounds more inclusive throughout the City. He stated the gift to the City will be \$30,000.00.

Mayor McEachern thanked Ben for his comments and for working with the City of Portsmouth.

City Manager Conard said that she and Councilor Tabor are Rotarians.

3. Recognition of Dave Lovely selected as the 2022 EPA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year Award

Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized Dave Lovely for being selected as the 2022 EPA Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator of the Year and thanked him for his service to the City of Portsmouth.

4. Recognition of Timothy Metivier selected as 2022 New Hampshire Code Official of the Year Award

Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized Timothy Metivier for being selected as 2022 New Hampshire Code Official of the Year and thanked him for his service to the City of Portsmouth.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Barry Heckler spoke opposed to a third license for 64 Vaughan Street project. He said none of the two previous requests mentioned the spaces in the alley way.

Francis Cormier says we are playing “Simon Says” in the political arena. He said we are a free society.

Paige Trace spoke regarding parking and how the Council needs to consider merchants as well. She said that Councilor Blalock has a conflict of interest when a vote is taken relative to restaurants.

Mark Brighton spoke regarding outdoor dining and asked Councilor Denton if he will recuse from the vote because a conflict exists with Mr. Fox.

Erik Anderson said that composting for outdoor dining is an administrative burden for staff. He said there should be appropriate recusal. He asked if a motion goes forward would there be a public hearing on the matter.

Kevin Dwyer, Dwyer’s Pub, spoke in support of outdoor dining and asked the City Council to consider pricing per square feet. He asked if the process was to generate revenue or outdoor dining space. He said an increase in rates will affect his ability to make improvements to his patio.

Petra Huda asked for clarification on the motion under Councilor Tabor’s name. She asked if he was requesting guidance on the guidelines for the budget.

Esther Kennedy spoke to dumping on property located on Banfield Road. She addressed the issue of outdoor dining and said the matter of cost should have gone to the Fee Committee.

Mark Brenner, Eliot, Maine said most residents don’t know about the transformation that will take place at Prescott Park. He said Phase I will start in the spring and there are no funds to fix up the Shaw building.

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to bring forward Item X. C. - Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the Design and Engineering of Alternate Plans for the Redevelopment of McIntyre Federal Building and Surrounding Property. The City Council has determined that the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars is to be appropriated from Unassigned Fund Balance to defray the expenditures for the design and engineering of alternate plans for the redevelopment of McIntyre Federal Building and surrounding property for the Fiscal Year ending in June 30, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Blalock.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, motion passed.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCE AND/OR RESOLUTIONS:

- C. Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Authorizing a Supplemental Appropriation from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the Design and Engineering of Alternate Plans for the Redevelopment of McIntyre Federal Building and Surrounding Property. The City Council has determined that the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars is to be appropriated from Unassigned Fund Balance to defray the expenditures for the design and engineering of alternate plans for the redevelopment of McIntyre Federal Building and surrounding property for the Fiscal Year ending in June 30, 2023

- **PRESENTATION**
- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**
- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**
- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

City Manager Conard reviewed the remarks contained in her memorandum regarding this matter. She advised the City Council that the preliminary cost estimates for construction of the Community Plan vary widely. She stated as discussed at the December 5th City Council meeting, the City requested and was granted an extension of the License with (GSA) for the McIntyre building, and for the submission of its application to the National Park Service (NPS) for an additional ninety days. She reported over the next three months, the City will engage in discussions and negotiations with SoBow regarding the design, the division of capital contributions for the project. She advised the Council that expected expenses are estimated to be up to \$50,000.00 per party per month. City Manager Conard said a copy of the supplemental appropriation for \$150,000.00 is attached in the packet and is recommended to pay for these costs.

City Attorney Morrell stated that operating under the Settlement Agreement is part of a litigation risk to the City, which is why the City Council can't speak to that.

Mayor McEachern read the legal notice, declared the public hearing open and called for speakers.

Gerald Duffy said he will speaking during second time for 5 minutes.

Christina Luskey said when considering appropriating \$150,000.00 she would not spend one penny. She said the City needs to make the residents aware of finances regarding this matter. She urged the Council not to negotiation out of desperation. She also said reducing the size of the project and simplifying it could lower the costs.

Sue Polidura said she feels that the McIntyre is a lemon. She stated the costs are going to double and asked when the expenses will stop. She said when the contract was terminated by the last City Council it was the right thing to do. Ms. Polidura said Michael Kane is not a good partner and the land should be used for a park.

Mitch Shuldman said the McIntyre is about a real estate developer looking to make money. He said this City Council has had good sense to settle the issue and you did the right thing. He stated the City Council couldn't have done any better and the Council needs to let the project go.

Erik Anderson said it is time for some transparency in regards to the McIntyre. He expressed concern hearing the City still has litigation issues on this matter. He asked what is under the table that the residents don't know about.

Jim Lee said the McIntyre project is a boondoggle.

Susan Denenberg said there is no such thing as a free lunch, there is no such thing of getting a building for \$1.00. She spoke to the litigation issues and costs surrounding the project. She said that this is not a good project for the City. She said we have irreconcilable differences and there is no benefit to the City.

Peter Somssich spoke opposed to approving the resolution. He said that financials and the design need to be known. He stated Michael Kane has said that the community plan is unbuildable. He urged the City to provide more details to the residents surrounding the project.

Roy Helse said we have already paid \$2 million and they continue to demand more as it relates to McIntyre. He said we should use Mr. Binnie for the development of the project.

Steve Barndollar said he has supported the McIntyre project. He stated that Michael Kane has been mean spirited and collected \$2 million by blackmailing the City. He urged the City Council to not approve the resolution.

Bill Hamilton, Eliot, Maine said the McIntyre project is a boondoggle and a waste of time and money.

Marie Bodi, via zoom, commended the previous speaker and she spoke to guaranteed revenues. She said we don't have a trusted partner.

Sheridan Lloyd, via zoom, said this has been difficult to understand. She spoke to the large figures discussed for this project and that the McIntyre is a legacy project. She stated Redgate Kane is not interested in benefits for the public.

Paige Trace asked to speak at 5 minutes not 3 minutes.

Bill Downey said many people are misinformed. He said this has been corrupted from day one. He said we have very little participation, and you say you can't share information because of litigation. Mr. Downey said Bill Binnie is still out there wanting to do the project. He spoke opposed the resolution.

Mark Brighton said the prior Council got flipped because of the McIntyre and spoke opposed to the resolution.

Patricia Bagley said she was expecting a presentation, and the City Council to ask questions. She asked the Council not to approve the resolution. She said the costs for this project will be passed down to the residents.

Peter Harris said the voices of residents have not been heard. He stated residents are not being updated on matters.

Nancy Brown said as residents we need to be listened to. She said it is time for everyone to work together.

Dick Bagley said we are in a legal situation that is unreasonable, and even though we paid \$2 million we have to conduct ourselves in private. He said we are right back where we started. He said the prior Council did make the right decision and we should start talking about the boondoggle 9.

Petra Huda said she would like to speak during the 5 minute period.

Esther Kennedy asked that we get the project done and have common sense. She said the citizen's plan is not the community plan any longer. She stated the bottom line is we asked for open space for citizens, a place to meet. She asked that a budget be created so residents can know what the project will be.

Zelita Morgan via zoom, would like to speak at the 5 minute period for comments.

Peter Whelan via zoom, said he made the motion to fire the developer and read the motion that was passed to terminate the agreement. He said this City Council decided to keep this developer. Mr. Whelan said this project belongs to the residents and urged the City Council to not vote for the resolution.

Second Time Speakers – 5 Minute Time Period

Paige Trace said the vote requires a public hearing and you have not shared information for anyone to make a decision. She said there is no Development Agreement, no Pro-forma and you have outsourced the project to the City Manager, but you should shoulder the responsibility. She asked how much the City will need to pay for improvements. Ms. Trace asked when the residents will realize the plan is in name only. She said that the plan has greater mass, less green space and lots of concrete.

Erik Anderson said the Council is at a defining junction for the future of the City.

Petra Huda said she wanted some kind of presentation this evening. She stated she found on the website the original picture had green space and the new one does not. In addition, she stated that the building has gone up another story and there is no post office. Ms. Huda said if you take this to the National Park Service, it is hard to see any significant public benefit.

Gerald Duffy said he has questions on the motion to appropriate another \$150,000.00 and feels we need more information before more funds are committed. He requested that a financial pro-forma be done and then he would support the resolution. He said having a financial pro-forma will put the money to good use. Mr. Duffy said it is important to respect the history of the project and get things right.

Esther Kennedy said if Mr. Duffy is accurate she would like City Management to reply. She said he makes a great point, the citizens don't know what is going on and there is no pro-forma. She asked what has changed and where is the information and budget that the residents are asking for.

Zelita Morgan via zoom, said she agrees with most residents to not approve the resolution. She said we need to protect the public benefit, which has never been done. She stated you have already spent \$2 million and you're asking for \$150,000.00 more. She said the developer continues to threaten the city and we need to let him go.

Paige Trace said she spent two years working with Mayor McEachern, Councilor Tabor and former Councilor Whelan on this project. She said that this is a bad project.

With no further speakers, Mayor McEachern closed the public hearing.

Mayor McEachern said this is a difficult process. He stated the settlement agreement was to settle the agreement of the prior City Council, and he stands by settling that agreement and spending the \$2 million. He said we settled the case to move on with a settlement agreement and we need to move forward to support a National Park Service Agreement. Mayor McEachern said we need to agree on a pro-forma. He stated the decision as a Council was made that our City Manager and City Attorney could negotiate and find a way to support an application to the National Park Service. Mayor McEachern said we do not have a guarantee that we are going to get an application but we will do our best effort to do so. He said we have a responsibility to submit an application and this gets us a little closer. He stated he is frustrated that we don't have an application before us this evening.

Councilor Bagley spoke to the long history of the project. He stated we are here because the former City Council, with only three weeks of service left, decided to take action without hearing legal advice by the City Attorney. He said he will support the resolution before the City Council this evening.

Councilor Tabor said he was a part of the process and difficult vote. He said there is no easy answer here but our goal is to get an application to the National Park Service. He addressed the community plan and how it has come in financially on the high side. He said the \$150,000.00 will help to come up with a financial pro-forma.

Councilor Bagley said when we make a mistake and cost the City money it comes from taxpayer's funds.

Mayor McEachern said there is only one City Council and it is this City Council. He stated we hope to make the best decisions for Portsmouth. He said that he is committed to put Portsmouth in the best position and would not support a project that does not have a public benefit. He stated we need the \$150,000.00 to do this and it is the next best option for the City of Portsmouth. Mayor McEachern said he is bound by what is in the best interest of the City of Portsmouth.

Councilor Lombardi moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

At 9:43 p.m., Mayor McEachern called for a brief recess. At 9:55 p.m., Mayor McEachern called the meeting back to order.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

First Reading of Ordinance:

- A. First reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article IVA, Section 7A.408 – Taxi Stands Designated

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to pass first reading and schedule a second reading and public hearing at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

Public Hearings of Ordinance and Adoption of Resolution:

- B. Public Hearing/Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 1.408 – Cable Television and Communications Commissions to be named Cable and Broadband Internet Commission
- **PRESENTATION**
 - **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**
 - **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**
 - **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

Mayor McEachern read the legal notice, declared the public hearing open and called for speakers.

Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney Woodland said if you prefer to hear from the Cable Commission she would table this matter until the next meeting because they have left due to the late hour.

Councilor Lombardi stated that having reviewed the ordinance and discussed it with the representatives from the Cable Commission and Governance Committee the changes are simple and straight forward.

Councilor Lombard moved to pass second reading and schedule a third and final reading at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Moreau said the first line of the ordinance needs to have the name changed to reflect the new ordinance.

With no speakers, Mayor McEachern declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor McEachern spoke in support of the ordinance.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION

A. CITY MANAGER CONARD

1. Amendment to Public Art Funds Ordinance

City Manager Conard said with the first project to take advantage of funds remaining in the trust it did not contemplate funds remaining. She said we are asking for an amendment to this ordinance that was recently passed in order to move funds to the Bohenko Sculpture Park. She said that we will bring back the ordinance for first reading at the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Cook moved to place the Funding of Public Art Ordinance, Chapter 1, Article XVII, Section 1.1705, on the City Council's January 23, 2023 Agenda for first reading. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. Temporary Construction License for 64 Vaughan Street

City Manager Conard said that this would be the third license request. She spoke to the request and said due to delays the applicant would like to encumber 6 parking spaces in the Worth Lot and 4 parking spaces along the alley that connects to Hanover Street for a safety buffer. She reported that total License Fee for the ten (10) parking spaces is \$28,700.00 (\$35.00 per space x 10 = \$350.00 a day x 82 days).

The contractor advised the Council that there will be no parking for a safety buffer.

Councilor Tabor asked how we will hold them accountable. City Manager Conard said Code Enforcement Officer Jason Page will enforce the agreement.

Councilor Cook asked the contractor if he envisions this as the last request for a license extension. The contractor said he feels they will not come back for another agreement.

Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the City Manager to execute and accept the temporary construction license to encumber the use of ten (10) parking spaces in the Worth Lot for a term of 82 days as requested. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

3. Easements for Hope for Tomorrow Foundation

City Manager Conard spoke to the easement for the former St. Patrick's School. She explained that there may be minor amendments or edits to these documents prior to recording them.

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to grant the City Manager the authority to both finalize and execute a sewer easement from the City to the Hope for Tomorrow Foundation, and to accept on behalf of the City the Access Easement for Water Service as presented. Seconded by Councilor Blalock.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Maria Stephanou, NH Walk Manager, requesting permission to hold the annual Seacoast Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday, October 1, 2023 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- B. Letter from Debra Smith, Friends of the South End, requesting permission to hold the annual Fairy House Tour on Saturday, September 23, 2023 and Sunday, September 24, 2023 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- C. Letter from Evan Dolecki, New England Ventures Endurance, requesting permission to hold the 2023 Margarita Half Marathon & 5k on Sunday, April 30, 2023 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- D. Request from Mark McNabb, Hearth Food Garden, LLC, to install a Projecting Sign at 60 Penhallow Street (***Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

Planning Director's Stipulations:

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
 - ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at to the City; and***
 - ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***
- E. Request from Mark McNabb, River Wharf Hospitality, to install a Projecting Sign at 60 Penhallow Street (***Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

Planning Director's Stipulations:

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
- ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at to the City; and***
- ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Bagley.

On a unanimous roll call 8-0, motion passed. Councilor Cook abstained from voting.

XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Email Correspondence

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules in order to bring forward Item XVI. D. – Approval and Acceptance of NH Department of Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management – Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) - \$5,000.00. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

B. Letter from Perry Silverstein requesting the City not favor one industry over others

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN

Mayor McEachern thanked the Police Department for keeping our community safe and announced that it is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

1. Appointments to be Voted:
 - Reappointment of Dana Levenson to the Trustee of the Trust Funds
 - Reappointment of Phyllis Eldridge to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
 - Appointment of Alan Cohen to the Task Force to Study Private/Public Historical Archives Committee
 - Appointment of Jeff Keefe to the Task Force to Study Private/Public Historical Archives Committee

Councilor Bagley moved the reappointment of Dana Levenson to the Trustee of the Trust Funds until January 1, 2026; reappointment of Phyllis Eldridge to the Zoning Board of Adjustment until December 1, 2027; and the appointment of Alan Cohen and Jeff Keefe to the Task Force to Study Private/Public Historical Archives Committee. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. January 25th Budget Kickoff

Councilor Tabor moved for a report back on preliminary FY24 trends, major budget drivers, potential tax impacts and city manager guidelines at January 25, 2023 council budget kickoff work session. Seconded by Councilor Cook.

Councilor Tabor spoke to the budget and his request. He said he would like to see the trends up front and direct where things are going and work together on challenging trends. He said he would like to revisit spending guidelines.

Councilor Bagley said this is a great idea. He asked if there is enough time to do this by January 25, 2023. City Manager Conard said she would provide as much information as we could and share trends with the Council.

Mayor McEachern said we would discuss City Council guidelines and set goals as guidelines for city departments.

Councilor Tabor said we would have a discussion regarding if there would be a guideline and direction for the City Council to go by.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

Councilor Bagley moved to suspend the rules in order to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m., Seconded by Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. Selection of an Auditor

Councilor Tabor moved to unseal that portion of the City Council's non-public session meeting minutes dated December 14, 2022 relative to the selection of an auditor only. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Tabor said that the Audit Committee will also be unsealing their non-public session minutes.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

Councilor Tabor moved to select CLA for a three year contract to perform audit services conditional upon satisfactory contract negotiations. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Cook said we want to give another firm the chance to work with us.

Councilor Denton said he is looking forward to CLA working with the city.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

B. COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Outdoor Dining

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules in order to bring forward Item XV. C.1. – 2023 Outdoor Dining Season. Seconded by Councilor Bagley.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

Councilor Cook moved to adopt an outdoor dining policy in Portsmouth with the following parameters:

- a) **Outdoor dining will commence for parking/loading zone encumbered dining starting on May 1 and ending on Indigenous Peoples' Day. The City of Portsmouth will do everything possible to place and remove barriers within 10 working days following the beginning and end of the parking/loading zone dining season. Sidewalk dining will be allowed as the weather permits, but sidewalk encumbrances should be removed so as not to interfere with sidewalk snow removal, with penalty of fine should removal not take place prior to a snowstorm. Yearly permitting for sidewalk dining will take place in March. Applications for all outdoor dining will be accepted starting February 15, with a deadline of April 1.**
- b) **Outdoor dining shall not encumber street flow of traffic in the high traffic zones of the downtown area. Exceptions shall only be permitted by appeal to the City Manager, with evidence of traffic flow below 1000 cars per day.**

- c) Outdoor dining in parking/loading zones shall follow a uniform appearance with City-placed concrete barriers and planter boxes as described in the December 22 City Report, and wooden platforms to allow for uniform accessibility. Restaurants with existing platforms and surrounds designed for prior seasons shall be grandfathered-in with permission of the City Manager. All outdoor dining spaces shall have tables and separate chairs to allow for uniform accessibility. When requiring a divider from sidewalk flow, sidewalk dining shall require either a metal or metal-looking barrier, or a rope-like barrier for separation.**
- d) Parking/Loading zone outdoor dining shall have a permit fee of \$1500/space or \$10/square foot, whichever is a lesser expense. Any restaurant taking up a parking space must pay for the full square footage of the parking space, or the standard space fee. Sidewalk encumbrance shall have a flat fee of \$500/season with sidewalk encumbrance (space) limitations determined by the City Manager.**
- e) Restaurants requesting a parking/loading zone encumbrance can receive up to a \$500 reduction in fees if they compost food waste. For sidewalk spaces, restaurants may receive up to a \$200 reduction in fees if they compost food waste.**
- f) The City Manager has the authority to act with notification of the Council if any unforeseen circumstances occur or unexpected adjustments are needed.**

Seconded by Councilor Bagley.

Councilor Bagley moved to correct letter d for the fee to be \$5.00/square foot, as it was provided incorrectly. Seconded Councilor Lombardi.

Councilor Bagley spoke to the revenue that would be received based on the fees.

Mayor McEachern said it may make sense to send this matter to the Fee Committee for review and on how the fee is applied. He said the Fee Committee would meet with staff and have a discussion at the next Council meeting.

City Manager Conard explained that this would be a policy, not an ordinance change.

Mayor McEachern cautioned the Council that it is late in the evening to be having this discussion and making any decision on this matter.

Councilor Moreau suggested sending abutter notices out now and in the future.

Councilor Cook said the recommendation from former Planning Director Zendt could eliminate outdoor dining in locations downtown.

City Manager Conard said the consideration is staff recommends notifying abutters and abutting residents. Councilor Cook said we need to be specific at each location what qualifies as an abutter.

Councilor Blalock suggested tabling this matter due to the late hour.

Assistant Mayor Kelley said that we need public input on this matter. She also expressed the importance of having the changes clearly written out for the Council's review.

Discussion followed regarding this matter.

Councilor Cook withdrew the main motion and Councilor Bagley the second to the motion.

Councilor Bagley withdrew his amendment and Councilor Lombardi the second to the motion.

Councilor Bagley moved to refer this matter to the Fee Committee with the invitation of Councilor Bagley and Councilor Cook to attend the meeting of the Fee Committee and a report back at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. E-mail Addresses

Councilor Denton moved for all members of the City Council to be given municipal e-mail addresses for official business. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

The City Council agreed to take up all three donations at this time.

- A. Acceptance of Donation to the Tree Fund from Judith A. Sabin - \$25.00
- B. Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department from Paul Gormley & Kimi Iguchi for the Discretion of the Fire Department - \$2,500.00
- C. Acceptance of Donation to the Senior Activity Center from Anne Aoki for Senior Luncheon Funds - \$5,000.00

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donations as presented. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

(There are no items under this Section of the Agenda this evening)

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Lombardi requested a status update on the water line crossing in Durham at the January 23, 2023 City Council meeting.

Councilor Tabor left the meeting.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:20 p.m., Councilor Denton moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli L. Barnaby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

PORTSMOUTH, NH

TIME: 7:00 PM

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

III. CALL TO ORDER [7:00 p.m. or thereafter]

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor McEachern, Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilor Tabor, Councilor Denton, Councilor Moreau, Councilor Bagley, Councilor Lombardi, Councilor Blalock and Councilor Cook.

V. INVOCATION

Mayor McEachern asked for a moment of silence for City Clerk Barnaby in remembrance of her brother who recently passed.

VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor McEachern led the Pledge of Allegiance.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

There are no minutes on for acceptance this evening.

VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Ross Loranza – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that it has been a critical experience of his time in Portsmouth and feels it is especially nice for residents with pets.

Kevin Dwyer – owner of Dwyer’s Pub and lifelong resident - asked that outdoor dining be continued and that the prices remain the same and capped. He stated that charging by square footage adds expense and understands that parking revenue is being lost, but it is being made up elsewhere.

Peter Masci – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that as a chef at Dwyer’s Pub, he feels it has helped the business and others during the summer months.

Sean O’Doherty – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating he feels it keeps Portsmouth vibrant and walkable.

David Hanson – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that as a general manager of a restaurant he feels that this has opened up a lot of opportunities for locals and tourists. He stated it needs to be kept affordable for the restaurants.

Paige Trace – spoke regarding outdoor dining stating that people aren’t against it but the policy and process needs to be transparent. She stated that businesses should not be making their business plans around property that isn’t theirs.

Liza Hewitt – stated that outdoor dining began because of COVID19 but feels that in 2023 it should be equitable, fair and impartial but this proposed policy is not. She stated that this benefits a select few restaurants and feels it should include other types of businesses as well. She further discussed the use of parking spaces and changing traffic flow and feels that spot zoning is occurring. She spoke regarding the raise in the fees and feels that Councilors Cook and Bagley are not listening to the staff and residents.

Esther Kennedy – stated she agrees with the previous speaker and is concerned that this went to the fees committee but no vote was taken. She stated that this proposal was also buried in the Council packet and abutters weren't aware that this was on the agenda. She stated that other small businesses that aren't restaurants are losing parking and feels there is no equity in this policy. She commended Councilor Moreau for wanting to notify abutters and feels that Councilor Bagley invited his friends to speak tonight but others weren't notified.

Petra Huda – stated she is in favor of outdoor dining but is concerned that the fees committee did not vote on a recommendation for the policy being brought forward. She cited an article in the Portsmouth Herald which stated that restaurants have recovered to pre-pandemic levels but we are still giving a discount which is not fair to all other restaurants and businesses. She stated that it is up to the individual businesses to decide if they want to participate and residents shouldn't be picking up the tab.

Mark Brighton – spoke regarding conflict of interest and that it used to be that if there was a perception of a conflict, then Councilors would recuse themselves but feels that is no longer the case.

Rob Capone, Chair of Cable and Broadband Internet Commission – spoke regarding the ordinance to update the scope of the Cable Commission and being able to advocate on behalf of Portsmouth residents as well as updating the cable licensing agreement.

Ian Troost (via zoom) – spoke in favor of outdoor dining stating that he has witnesses a lot of growth in the city over the last 10 years and feels that removing outdoor dining would be a bad idea. He stated that outdoor dining makes Portsmouth more walkable and the loss of the parking spaces will push people to the parking garages. He stated that he would like to see year-round outdoor dining and feels that increasing fees will affect the smaller restaurants and therefore affect its employees.

Mike O'Hara (via zoom) – spoke on a variety of issues of concern.

Al Fleury, owner of the Goat Restaurant – spoke regarding the positive affect that outdoor dining has had on his business and on the city as a whole. He presented letters from abutters of his business that support his continued outdoor dining and stated he is willing to pay for the space accordingly. He stated that this positively impacts his staff as well.

Peter Harris – stated he supports the outdoor dining but feels all businesses should be a part of the discussion and feels that if it was the other way around, it would be a different discussion. He stated that Pleasant Street is a frequently used roadway and shouldn't be closed.

Alex Choquette – stated he supports outdoor dining which he and his family and friends utilize frequently.

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to move up Agenda Items XV.B.1 Report Back on Fees Committee and Councilor Cook and Bagley Items XV.D.1 and D.2, seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

B. COUNCILOR TABOR AND COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Report Back on Fee Committee

Councilor Tabor stated that the committee reviewed the outdoor dining issues and agreed upon outdoor dining being a beneficial use of public sidewalks but there was not a consensus regarding lane closures or fees.

Councilor Denton clarified that there is not a recommendation from the Fees Committee as there was not a consensus.

Mayor McEachern suggested that it may be a good idea to add a third Councilor to the Fees Committee.

D. COUNCILOR COOK AND COUNCILOR BAGLEY

1. **Councilor Cook moved to include the downtown area bounded by Deer Street, the Piscataqua River, Prescott Park, Court Street, and Maplewood Avenue/Middle Street in the redesign of Market Square in 2023 with the goal of enhanced pedestrian access with expanded sidewalks, expanded sidewalk dining throughout downtown and reduce traffic congestion, including possible redesign of traffic flow (two-way traffic) on State Street, seconded by Councilor Bagley.**

Councilor Cook stated that part of the discussion regarding outdoor dining has included the walkability of the downtown area and now it is more of a destination than a through-way. She continued that the Market Square redesign was postponed due to COVID and now that it is coming forward again, it should be expanded to included surrounding streets.

Councilor Blalock stated that the study was also delayed to wait until after the 400th anniversary and agrees that it should be more pedestrian friendly. He stated he is concerned that this will be trying to do too many things and will cost the taxpayers.

Councilor Lombardi stated the he and Assistant Mayor Kelley have brought this to the Economic Development Commission to look at this from the small business point of view.

Councilor Bagley stated that the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee reviewed Fleet/State Street redevelopment which is a few years away but feels that it does make sense to include Congress Street in the design package.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked if we have already done a study of the 2-way conversion on State Street and when will it be available.

City Manager Conard stated that we have done a preliminary study and we are waiting for the results but clarified that this would be a larger scope than what is currently included in the CIP and is more of a downtown master plan.

Councilor Denton stated he supports exploring the possibilities and maybe closing traffic during certain times of days etc. He would like to know how much it would cost to expand the scope as he would be willing to spend the money on the study.

Councilor Moreau stated she originally requested the 2-way State Street study as a first step and once it is done we can look at Market, Congress etc. to have a more multi-use space.

Mayor McEachern stated he agrees that this seems more appropriate as a master plan and asked why this has grown.

Councilor Cook stated it made sense to encompass all streets travelled to reach Market Square because if we make a decision on one street it will affect another, etc.

Mayor McEachern stated we are talking about this because it affects the outdoor dining issue as well.

Councilor Tabor stated every time we expand pedestrian/sidewalk areas it is a win/win but feels that this is too much for one study and suggested separating pedestrian friendly areas and then see what space is available and discuss traffic flow.

Councilor Tabor added a friendly amendment to the aforementioned motion to expand the Market Square Study to include Congress, Pleasant, Market and Daniel Streets and to have a report back on the cost estimate of the impact of the additions to the study in the Capital Improvements Plan prior to the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Voted to adopt motion to include friendly amendment as presented.

2. Councilor Bagley moved to adopt the attached proposed policy on outdoor dining, seconded by Councilor Cook.

Councilor Bagley stated that the Council received over 200 e-mails in support of continuing outdoor dining with 140 being Portsmouth residents. He explained this started in response to COVID restrictions with Bob White conducting a study and has been successful for several seasons. He stated he feels the policy should be adopted this evening for the 2023 season and bring back an ordinance later this summer.

Councilor Cook stated that this is being brought forward to strike a balance and continue the current process and to include some, not all, of the recommendations from the Planning staff. She continued that this was a compromise to see what we want it to look like in the future. She stated it also keeps the fee at \$1,500 and \$5.00 a square foot to allow restaurants to afford the changes required to make it more accessible to everyone.

Assistant Mayor Kelley asked City Attorney Morrell if, as a coffee shop owner who utilizes the sidewalk obstruction policy to have tables and chairs, she is able to vote on this or not.

City Attorney Morrell stated if this affected her income directly, yes, but she doesn't feel it is a conflict.

Assistant Mayor Kelley stated she had requested that this program be opened up to retailers as well and read some letters from downtown retailers in support. She continued that it is important to remember that we have had the policy in place for many years, but this is expanding it to parking spaces and traffic lanes and expands walkability. She stated that we shouldn't place parking over what the residents want and believes that parking revenues are actually up.

Councilor Denton moved to delete the first sentence of paragraph 4 and re-establish the diagonal cross-walk at the Congress/Middle Street intersection, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Public Works Director Rice explained that this intersection is safer the way it is currently designed. He stated that there is a perception issue that the diagonal crosswalk was less dangerous, but it is not the case and it is just a change that people don't like.

Mayor McEachern recalled an instance he had requested a lighted crosswalk without going through the set process which he now regrets. He suggested that the arrow be moved closer so that cars are more aware.

Councilor Denton withdrew the request to change the crosswalk intersection, Assistant Mayor Kelley agreed as the seconder of the motion.

Mayor McEachern stated he feels the 1000 cars threshold is an arbitrary number.

Councilor Bagley addressed the intersection issue stating that this will be on the next Parking and Traffic Safety Committee agenda in regards to pedestrian interval/traffic intervals and what is more safe statistically.

Councilor Cook addressed the 1000 car limit stating that this was a recommendation of the Planning Director because of concerns of traffic flow, especially at Pleasant Street and Fleet Street. She stated there was not the same response to Congress Street because it did not change the direction of traffic.

City Manager Conard stated she is standing with the staff recommendation that the only use for travel lanes is for vehicular traffic. She stated that if any of these requests come to her for approval, she will say no.

Councilor Blalock stated he supports the staff recommendation on the travel lanes. He stated that most people support Hill and Congress but not Pleasant and Fleet.

Discussion ensued as to whether the City Manager should have the final approval or if it should come back to the City Council.

Councilor Denton stated that paragraph 4 could be eliminated altogether.

Mayor McEachern stated that the City Manager is not afraid to make the decision, she is saying it is a bad idea to use travel lanes.

City Manager Conard stated that it would be unwieldy to have to have a public hearing every time we get a request.

Councilor Bagley suggested rescinding Councilor Denton's motion to amend and allow on-street dining for all that have had it previously, and if not, then Congress Street only.

Councilor Denton rescinded his original motion to amend, Assistant Mayor Kelley as the seconder agrees.

Councilor Denton moved to amend Policy Item 4, Sentence 1, to replace the word "impedes" with "reverses", seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley. Motion passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.

Councilor Moreau discussed the fees portion of the policy stating she was opposed to keeping them the same but is fine with keeping them the same now with re-evaluation when the time comes.

Councilor Tabor asked about the Café' Policy that has been in place since 2012 and if this will replace that policy.

Deputy City Manager/Attorney Woodland explained that there is a potential conflict with other policies currently in place with the exception of the Sidewalk Obstruction policy.

Discussion ensued regarding the fee structure and policy discrepancies.

Councilor Bagley moved to adjust the outdoor dining season dates to May 1st through October 9th (Indigenous People's Day), seconded by Councilor Blalock.

Councilor Morrell suggested that due to there being so many conflicts in the fee structure, dates, etc. there could be a report back to clarify.

Councilor Bagley withdrew motion to amend, Councilor Blalock as seconder agreed.

Councilor Moreau to remove Policy Item 1 in its entirety and to bring it back to the Council as a separate item. **Voted on an 8-1 vote** Councilor Cook voted opposed.

Voted on a 9-0 roll call to adopt the proposed policy on outdoor dining as amended.

Mayor McEachern called a brief recess at 9:35 p.m.
Meeting reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to move up City Manager Agenda Item XI.A.2. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

2. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School District Para-educators and Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association

Councilor Denton moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.

X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

First Reading of Ordinance:

- A. First reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article XVII, Section 1.1705 – Public Arts Funds

Councilor Lombardi moved to pass first reading and schedule a second reading and Public Hearing at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.

Public Hearing/Second Reading of Ordinance:

- A. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article IVA, Section 7A.408 – Taxi Stands Designated

- **PRESENTATION**

Parking and Transportation Director Ben Fletcher (via Zoom) explained that there is now only one Taxi Company licensed within the City of Portsmouth so there is no need for multiple taxi-stands and are keeping just one.

- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS – NONE**

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Mayor McEachern opened the public hearing asking if anyone wished to speak. Seeing no one, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS - None**

Councilor Blalock moved to pass second reading and schedule a third and final reading at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to suspend the rules to hold third and final reading of ordinance. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to pass third and final reading of ordinance as presented. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

Third and Final Reading of Ordinance:

- A. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 1.406 – Cable Television and Communications Commissions to be named Cable and Broadband Internet Commission

Assistant Mayor moved to pass third and final reading of ordinance as presented, seconded by Councilor Moreau.

Assistant Mayor Kelley thanked the Commissioners for coming out tonight and for bringing this amendment forward.

Mayor McEachern stated it will be good to be able to advocate for better broadband and internet.

Motion passed on a 9-0 vote.

XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION

A. CITY MANAGER CONARD

1. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School Custodial Supervisors

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.

2. Approval of Proposed MOA for Portsmouth School District Para-educators and Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association - ***Previously acted upon***

3. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement with Portsmouth City Employees, Local #1386B

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve the proposed agreement as presented. Seconded by councilor Moreau and voted.

4. Drainage and Water Services Access Easement for Property Located at 1169/1171 Sagamore Avenue

Councilor Tabor moved to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a drainage easement and an access easement for water services from Sagamore Group, LLC and to grant a drainage easement to Sagamore Group LLC. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

5. Public Access Easement for 238 Deer Street

Councilor Moreau moved to grant authority for the City Manager to negotiate, execute, accept and record the Easement for Public Access in a form similar to the attached document as provided in the City Council packet of January 23, 2023. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.

6. Formal Acceptance of Longmeadow Road Property Located at Longmeadow Road

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept Longmeadow Road as a City street. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

7. Acceptance of Hodgdon Way as a City Street

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept Hodgdon Way as a City street. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

8. Easements for Property Located at 951 Peverly Hill Road and 1400 Lafayette Road

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to authorize the City Manager to finalize, accept and record community space easements, a sidewalk easement, and an access easement for water services from 4 Amigos LLC and Yokens Townhomes, LLC. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.

XII. CONSENT AGENDA

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.

- A. Request from Greg and Beth Danilowski, Richardson's Market, to install a Projecting Sign at 142 State Street (*Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request*)

Planning Director's Stipulations:

- *The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;*
- *Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at to the City; and*

- ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***

- B. Letter from Becky Kates, Krempels Center, requesting permission to hold the 26th Annual Cisco Brewers Portsmouth Memorial Day 5K on Sunday, May 28, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

- C. Letter from Rich Clyborne, Gundalow Company, requesting permission to hold the 2023 Riverfest Event on Saturday, June 3, 2023 ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

- D. Letter from Alex Cave and Wendy McCoolle, Strawberry Banke Museum, informational listing of events being held on Strawberry Banke grounds in 2023. ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

- E. Letter from Valerie Rochon, Portsmouth NH 400th Inc., informational listing of three upcoming signature events in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Portsmouth. ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Email Correspondence

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.

- B. Letter from Barbara McMillan, Chair, Conservation Commission, requesting City Council's support for review and proposed revisions to Article 10, Environmental Protections Standards of the Zoning Ordinance

Councilor Denton moved to accept and place on file, seconded by Councilor Blalock.

Councilor Denton stated the Zoning Ordinance was last reviewed in 2016.

Councilor Moreau stated that the Conservation Commission should work with the Planning Board and suggested a joint work session to discuss the Land Use Conditional Use Permit.

Mayor McEachern clarified that this letter is requesting the Council to support the review process and proposing revisions which will be brought back to the City Council.

Motion voted.

XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN

1. Appointments to be Considered:
 - Appointment of Anna Howard to the Economic Development Commission, alternate
 - Appointment of Anne Hayes to the COVID Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee

The appointments of Anna Howard as alternate to the Economic Development Commission and Anne Hayes to the COVID Response Task Force Blue Ribbon Committee were considered and will be voted at the February 6, 2023 City Council meeting.

2. Appointment of City Manager Karen Conard as the Portsmouth Representative to the Pease Development Authority Board of Directors

Councilor Tabor moved to appoint City Manager Karen Conard as the Portsmouth Representative to the Pease Development Authority Board of Directors, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Mayor McEachern thanked Erik Anderson for his diligent work as the representative or the past 3 years. He continued that he is excited to appoint City Manager Conard for her expertise and having the weight of the City and staff to empower the City Council with the PDA.

Councilor Denton stated this gives the City Council more opportunity to weigh-in on upcoming issues.

Motion voted.

3. Update on Sound Barriers

Mayor McEachern gave a brief update on the status of the installation of sound barriers in conjunction with upcoming work by the State DOT. He further stated there will be a page on the city website regarding sound barriers with links to the State of NH information.

4. Sherburne School Neighborhood Meeting – January 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McEachern announced the upcoming neighborhood meeting regarding Sherburne School disposition will be held on January 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. He explained that this will be a dialogue and not a work session and Craig Welch of the Portsmouth Housing Authority will be in attendance.

Councilor Blalock stated the neighborhood is excited to be a part of the process and there are flyers being made to provide information on the meeting. He asked if there could also be a lighted message board placed in the area.

Councilor Moreau asked if the meeting will be recorded.

City Manager Conard stated there is no recording capability at the Sherburne School location.

XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. COUNCILOR TABOR

1. Community Power update, motion to schedule work session

Councilor Tabor stated that this is becoming a reality in some communities including Exeter and Rye. He continued that we are trying to meet residents demand for renewable energy and there were surveys sent out to the residents and 100's of responses have been received. He explained that the next steps will be to conduct two public hearings on February 2nd and February 9th to receive more feedback. He stated we originally thought that this would launch in the Fall but now it looks like we can do it in June.

Councilor Tabor moved to schedule a work session February 13, 2023 to present The Energy Advisory Committee Electric Aggregation Plan (EAP) and Community Power launch plans prior to February 21 proposal to the council from PEAC to adopt the EAP, seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Councilor Moreau asked if this will be available to residents and businesses.

Councilor Tabor replied yes.

Councilor Cook stated she is always impressed with the level of skill and expertise of the committee members.

Mayor McEachern thanked Councilor Tabor and former Councilor Lazenby for their work on bringing this forward and hopefully will be ready for June.

Motion voted.

B. COUNCILOR TABOR AND COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Report Back on Fee Committee (*previously acted upon*)

C. COUNCILOR BAGLEY

1. Parking and Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the January 5, 21023 meeting

Councilor Bagley moved to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the January 5, 2023 Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting, seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Bagley spoke regarding the approval of a pilot of a mini roundabout on Bartlett Street.

Mayor McEachern stated he wants to ensure that there will be more than orange barrels to delineate the area and make it less ugly without spending lots of money. He stated he also doesn't want bollards.

Councilor Bagley stated that Department. of Public Works will do what it needs to do and then we can get feedback.

Mayor McEachern stated the goal is to make it harder for trucks to be in that area. Councilor Bagley stated there was a community meeting with 2 choices presented and the roundabout was chosen.

Councilor Lombardi asked how big of a center will there be.

City Manager Conard stated they are not sure yet but it will be something that will be monitored.

Councilor Denton asked what the other option was.

Councilor Bagley stated a raised sidewalk at the intersection.

Mayor McEachern stated the survey needs to be resident-based but people don't necessarily pay attention until it happens.

Councilor Bagley stated the 4 stop signs are not working and the trucks are still there.

Mayor McEachern agrees and the speed is high as well.

Motion voted.

D. COUNCILOR COOK AND COUNCILOR BAGLEY (Previously acted upon)

1. (Sample motion #1 - Move to include the downtown area bounded by Deer Street, the Piscataqua River, Prescott Park, Court Street, and Maplewood Avenue/Middle Street in the redesign of Market Square in 2023 with the goal of enhanced pedestrian access with expanded sidewalks, expanded sidewalk dining throughout downtown and reduced traffic congestion, including possible redesign of traffic flow (two-way traffic) on State Street.
2. (Sample motion #2 - Move to adopt the attached proposed policy on outdoor dining.)

XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Acceptance of Donation to Playground Update from the Portsmouth Rotary - \$15,000.00

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Councilor Bagley and voted.

- B. Acceptance of Donation to Portsmouth Tree Project from the Portsmouth Rotary - \$15,000.00

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.

Assistant Mayor Kelley explained that residents can go to the Trees and Greenery portal on the city website to request a tree as part of the Portsmouth400 400 trees program.

Councilor Lombardi stated that the Portsmouth Rotary also recently donated \$100,000.00 which was very generous.

Mayor McEachern agreed and stated they are celebrating their 100th anniversary.

C. Acceptance of Donation to the Skatepark from Michelle Dupras - \$50.00

Councilor Blalock moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.

XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. McIntyre Update

City Manager gave a brief update on the status of the McIntyre project stating that since the approval of the supplemental appropriation on January 9th, the city is under contract with two expert financial firms which are examining the developer's construction cost estimates presented to the city and the various ways to finance the project to identify the best possible financial arrangement for the city. The first check-in of three is set for January 31st. She concluded that the license agreement extension with the GSA and the milestones set in the agreement are available on the city website.

2. Report Back on Disc Golf – Informational only

XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

Councilor Lombardi stated he had previously requested a report back on the Bellamy Water Line issue. City Manager Conard stated this will be brought back at the February 6, 2023 Council meeting.

Councilor Cook stated she would like a report back on the proposed refueling facility at Pease once City Manager Conard begins attending the PPA meetings. City Manager Conard stated here first meeting will be in March as there will not be one held in February.

Councilor Lombardi stated that the Millionaire Company wants to come into Pease to install the refueling facility close to wetlands which is receiving pushback from Newington. He stated that the City of Portsmouth has wells out there so we should be concerned as well.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT [at 10:30 p.m. or earlier]

Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Valerie A. French
Deputy City Clerk

VE-21-FD-06: Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Replacement

Department	Fire Department
Project Location	All Fire Stations
Project Type	Equipment (non-vehicular)
Commence FY	2024
Priority	A (needed within 0 to 3 years)
Impact on Operating Budget	Negligible (<\$5,001)



Description: This project would provide for the replacement of our entire compliment of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). This project will include new SCBA, air bottles, masks, accountability and rescue systems. The replacement of this essential equipment is necessary based on the current age and wear of our existing units. Updated versions of these units provide for more air and breathing capacity and weigh less than our current SCBA in addition to utilizing the latest technology to improve the communication and accountability necessary to keep our members safe.

It is imperative to replace all of these units at one time to avoid the potential of substantial model year changes that would compromise firefighter safety by having differing emergency operation features or designs. I.E. Emergency Evacuation Activation, Rescue Breathing Attachments, etc.

- Studies Identified & Useful Website Links:
- [Fire Department Webpage](#)
 - [FY23-FY28 CIP \(Prior Year\) Project Sheet](#)

Notes of Changes in Funding Plan from FY23-28 CIP:
 Cost of the project has been updated with recent quote from vendor. The disbursement of funds would be for \$550,000 at the end of year 3.

Evaluation Criteria	Qualify?
Responds to Federal or State Requirement	
Addresses Public Health or Safety Need	Y
Alleviates Substandard Conditions or Deficiencies	Y
Eligible for Matching Funds with Limited Availability	
Timing or Location Coordinate with Synergistic Project	
Identified in Planning Document or Study	
Improves Quality of or Provides Added Capacity to Existing Services	
Reduces Long-Term Operating Costs	
Provides Incentive to Economic Development	
Responds to a Citywide Goal or Submitted Resident Request	

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Totals 24-29	6 PY's Funding	Totals
GF	34%	\$185,000						\$185,000	\$0	\$185,000
Fed/ State	6642%							\$0	\$366,000	\$366,000
Bond/ Lease	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
PPP	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
	Totals	\$185,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$185,000	\$366,000	\$551,000

TSM-12-PW-56 Parking Lot Paving

Department	Public Works: Parking and Transportation Division
Project Location	Citywide
Project Type	Rehabilitation of a Facility
Commence FY	Ongoing
Priority	O (ongoing or programmatic)
Impact on Operating Budget	Negligible (<\$5,001)



Evaluation Criteria	Qualify?
Responds to Federal or State Requirement	
Addresses Public Health or Safety Need	
Alleviates Substandard Conditions or Deficiencies	Y
Eligible for Matching Funds with Limited Availability	
Timing or Location Coordinate with Synergistic Project	
Identified in Planning Document or Study	
Improves Quality of or Provides Added Capacity to Existing Services	Y
Reduces Long-Term Operating Costs	
Provides Incentive to Economic Development	
Responds to a Citywide Goal or Submitted Resident Request	

Description: Parking lots require maintenance and periodic repaving. The City owns metered and unmetered parking lots. There are five (5) metered lots: Bridge, Hanover, Ladd, Memorial, and Worth. There are seven (7) unmetered lots: Parrott, Prescott, Water, Peirce Island, South Mill Pond, City Hall, and McIntyre.

Studies Identified & Useful Website Links:

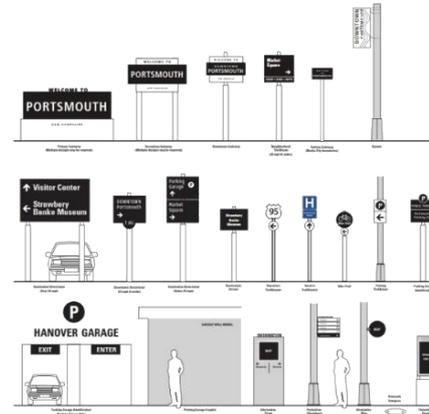
- [Park Portsmouth](#)
- [FY23-FY28 CIP \(Prior Year\) Project Sheet](#)

Notes of Changes in Funding Plan from FY23-28 CIP:

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Totals 24-29	6 PY's Funding	Totals
GF	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Fed/ State	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Bond/ Lease	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues (Parking)	100%		\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$750,000	\$700,000	\$1,450,000
PPP	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
	Totals	\$0	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$750,000	\$700,000	\$1,450,000

TSM-08-PW-65: Wayfinding System

Department	Public Works Department
Project Location	Citywide
Project Type	Construction or expansion of a public facility, street or utility
Commence FY	Ongoing
Priority	O (Ongoing)
Impact on Operating Budget	Minimal (\$5,001 to \$50,000)



Evaluation Criteria	Qualify?
Responds to Federal or State Requirement	
Addresses Public Health or Safety Need	
Alleviates Substandard Conditions or Deficiencies	
Eligible for Matching Funds with Limited Availability	
Timing or Location Coordinate with Synergistic Project	
Identified in Planning Document or Study	Y
Improves Quality of or Provides Added Capacity to Existing Services	Y
Reduces Long-Term Operating Costs	
Provides Incentive to Economic Development	Y
Responds to a Citywide Goal or Submitted Resident Request	

Description: The City's Wayfinding System is designed to help visitors navigate efficiently to major destinations within the Downtown and throughout the City, using a variety of tools (both physical and virtual). The system is designed to assist pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users, as well as motorists. The program includes a phased program for implementation over several years; and is designed to be easy to maintain.

- Studies Identified & Useful Website Links:
- [Master Plan 2005](#)
 - [Wayfinding Analysis 2014](#)
 - [Wayfinding Program](#)
 - [FY23-FY28 CIP \(Prior Year\) Project Sheet](#)

Notes of Changes in Funding Plan from FY23-28 CIP:
 Moved from a Planning to a Public Works project.

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Totals 24-29	6 PY's Funding	Totals
GF	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Fed/ State	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Bond/ Lease	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues (parking)	100%		\$350,000					\$350,000	\$275,000	\$625,000
PPP	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
	Totals	\$0	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350,000	\$275,000	\$625,000

EF-12-SD-93: Pease Wastewater Treatment Facility

Department	Public Works – Sewer Division
Project Location	Pease WWTF at Corporate Dr
Project Type	Upgrade of Existing Facilities
Commence FY	2022
Priority	A (needed within 0 to 3 years)
Impact on Operating Budget	High (\$100,000 or more)

Evaluation Criteria	Qualify?
Responds to Federal or State Requirement	
Addresses Public Health or Safety Need	
Alleviates Substandard Conditions or Deficiencies	Y
Eligible for Matching Funds with Limited Availability	
Timing or Location Coordinate with Synergistic Project	Y
Identified in Planning Document or Study	Y
Improves Quality of or Provides Added Capacity to Existing Services	
Reduces Long-Term Operating Costs	Y
Provides Incentive to Economic Development	
Responds to a Citywide Goal or Submitted Resident Request	Y

Description: The Pease treatment facility was original constructed in the 1950s and was upgraded in the 1990s. Selected upgrades have been completed since the 1990s with the Headworks and primary clarifier project completed in 2021, but much of the facility has exceeded its useful lifespan and needs replacement. The City received an updated NPDES permit allowing for an increase in design flow rate from 1.2 million gallons per day to 1.77 million gallons per day. This increase in flow was to accommodate a request from Lonza Biologics for potential expansion of their manufacturing capacity. In February 2023, the City was notified that the request for an increase in flow was no longer required due to water conservation upgrades and manufacturing process changes completed by Lonza Biologics. Since no additional flow is required to accommodate Lonza's expansion needs, the City is changing its project scope to only include critical refurbishment of existing equipment. Initial engineering design for the necessary upgrades is underway. Funding under the bond category represent the costs to design and construct replacement of aged equipment at the existing facility. Costs are preliminary and will be refined as the design moves forward. The City is working to fund this project using revolving loan funds (SRF) in order to take advantage of principal forgiveness, lower interest rates and favorable construction financing.

Studies Identified & Useful Website Links:

- [Pease Wastewater Facility NPDES Permit Renewal 2019](#)
 - [Pease Wastewater Treatment Facility](#)
 - [FY23-FY28 CIP \(Prior Year\) Project Sheet](#)

Notes of Changes in Funding Plan from FY23-28 CIP:

Project costs updated after 2/6/23 Public Hearing due to changes in need from Lonza as well as an updated costing and timeline. Updates presented at 2-21-23 CC Meeting.

		FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	Totals 24-29	6 PY's Funding	Totals
GF	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Fed/ State (ARPA)	1%							\$0	\$450,000	\$450,000
Bond/ Lease	96%		\$20,000,000					\$20,000,000	\$9,250,000	\$29,250,000
Other	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenues	3%							\$0	\$800,000	\$800,000
PPP	0%							\$0	\$0	\$0
	Totals	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000,000	\$10,500,000	\$30,500,000



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

City Hall, One Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
kconard@cityofportsmouth.com
(603) 610-7201

Karen S. Conard
City Manager

Date: March 3, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor McEachern and City Council Members

From: Karen S. Conard, City Manager *KSC*

Re: City Manager's Comments on City Council Agenda of March 6, 2023

X. Public Hearings and Votes on Ordinances and/or Resolutions:

A. Public Hearing Regarding Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY2024- 2029:

The City Council is continuing the public hearing at this evening's City Council meeting regarding the [proposed Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2024 – FY 2029](#). In addition to this evening's public hearing, the City Council held a work session on January 18, 2023. At the work session, a presentation of the proposed CIP was made by City staff. Copies of the plan were made and are still available to the public [via the City's website](#). As you are aware, the City Council is required, in accordance with Section 7.8 of the City Charter, to adopt the Capital Plan subsequent to the public hearing and before the City Manager submits the budget to the City Council.

I recommend that the City Council move to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as amended with the four adjusted element sheets.

XI. City Manager's Items Which Require Action:

There are no City Manager Action Items to consider at this evening's meeting.

XIII. Presentations and Written Communications:

A. Recreational Needs Study Final Report:

At this evening's meeting, [the final report](#) and presentation will be given regarding the Recreation Needs Study by Alice Carey of Placework Architecture and Planning and Craig Pereira of Horsley Witten Group.

XVI. Approval of Grants/Donations:

A. Approval of Grant for the Police Department - \$11,883:

At the January 17, 2023 Police Commission meeting, the Board of Police Commissioners approved and accepted a grant in the amount of \$11,883 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership. This helps to fund 50% of the cost associated with outfitting new officers and replacing old vests for current officers.

I recommend that the City Council move to approve and accept a grant for the Police Department as presented.

XVII. City Manager's Informational Items:

1. McIntyre Update:

City Attorney Susan Morrell and I will provide an update on the McIntyre Redevelopment Project at this evening's meeting.

2. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Petition for Residual Designation:

Attached please find a memorandum from Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney Woodland regarding a petition for a residual designation from the Conservation Law Foundation.



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

February 14, 2023

Attn: Karen Conard, Portsmouth City Manager

On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Market, I would like to extend our gratitude for the continuous support and cooperation the City of Portsmouth has shown for our annual Walk MS event. The funds raised from this event will continue to be used to advance our support of national research and to support local programming for the more than 27,000 people within Greater New England who are affected by multiple sclerosis.

The 2023 Walk MS: Portsmouth event is a 3-mile walk and is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 22. We anticipate that we will have around 335 participants for this event that will start and finish at Portsmouth High School. The event opens at 8:30 a.m. and the walk will start promptly at 10 a.m. I have included written walking directions for your review, and we will thoroughly mark the route and make arrangements to have police details where appropriate.

Our route features one water stop. All participants are instructed to stay on sidewalks and to follow the pedestrian rules of the road – we do not ask for road closures and this is not a race.

We respectfully request permission from the City of Portsmouth to conduct this 3-mile walk. If we can have your permission, please sign, and return the Approval Reply Form enclosed here to me. If there are any other additional steps, permits or permissions I must take to ensure approval for this event, please let me know.

I thank you in advance for your support and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Latrice Smith

Latrice Smith
Specialist, Event Production
215.715.2515
Latrice.smith@nmss.org



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

APPROVAL REPLY FORM
CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Attn: Karen Conard, Portsmouth City Manager

From: Latrice Smith, Event Production Specialist

Organization: National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Re: April 22, 2023 / Annual Walk MS: Portsmouth Event

I am aware that the annual Walk MS: Portsmouth event, a 3-mile walk, will be held in Portsmouth on **Saturday, April 22, 2023**. I have reviewed and approved the route. Should I have any questions and/or concerns regarding this year's event, I will be sure to contact Latrice Smith at the National MS Society at 215.715.2515 or latrice.smith@nmss.org.

By signing below, I am granting permission from the town to conduct this event.

Print Name

Title

Signature

Date

Please return this form to Latrice Smith at:
latrice.smith@nmss.org or 465 Waverly Oaks Road, Suite 202, Waltham, MA 02452

Walk MS: Portsmouth 2023



A. Rest Stop- Strawberry Banke Museum



Walk MS: Portsmouth 2022

Type	Dist	Note
	0.0	Start of route
	0.0	Start- Portsmouth High School
	0.1	Right onto South St
	0.6	Left onto Miller Ave
	0.8	Right onto Lincoln Ave
	1.1	Left onto Junkins Ave
	1.4	Left onto Pleasant St
	1.5	Right onto Court St
	1.7	Right onto Marcy St
	1.8	Rest Stop- Strawberry Banke Museum
	2.0	Left onto Marcy St
	2.1	Slight right onto South St
	3.2	Left onto Summit Ave
	3.3	Finish- Portsmouth High School
	3.3	End of route

3.3 miles. +107/-106 feet

Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Babe Ruth Baseball

February 20, 2023

Karen Conrad
City Manager
City of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2023

CITY MANAGER
PORTSMOUTH, NH

Dear Ms. Conrad

Portsmouth Babe Ruth is respectfully requesting approval for temporary signage to be located at Leary Field during the 2023 baseball season.

We are requesting permission to affix signage in the form of banners to be attached to fences surrounding the outfield and foul lines of Leary Field as well as the outside of the concession stands following the established color guidelines. The signage represents advertising for local business that have donated to and support the league. We are requesting permission to affix the banners to the fences from May 1st through the end of October and our registration banner March 1st through May 1st. Signage provides the league with a continued revenue stream that helps us meet our goals each year.

The success of our program is indicative of the support we receive from organizations in our City. We are grateful for all the support we have received in the past and plan to continue to offer a safe and quality program that meets the needs of the community we serve. We appreciate the opportunity to show our supporters they are valued in our community.

I can be reached at crystalcronin79@gmail.com or 603.828.8348 for any questions. I look forward to hearing from you for confirmation of this request.

Sincerely,



Crystal Cronin
Fundraising Coordinator
Portsmouth Babe Ruth

Portsmouth Babe Ruth

215 FW Hartford Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801

From: [Christopher R. Maden](#)
To: [Karen Conard](#)
Cc: [Jessica S. Griffin](#)
Subject: Re: 2023 Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival
Date: Monday, February 6, 2023 12:54:40 AM

Mr. Mayor, City Council, Ms. Conard:

The 2022 Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival was a great success, with guests from Portsmouth and around the country telling us how happy they were to see us back on the streets. Thanks to all of you and the multiple city departments for helping make that possible. The last-minute parking vouchers for the Foundry Place garage were a very welcome surprise, as well.

We intend to be back again this year, Saturday the 23rd and Sunday the 24th of September. Our requests from the City are the same as last year:

- 1) use of sidewalk in Market Square, outside of the North Church, not to obstruct pedestrian traffic, Saturday 11 to 3 and Sunday 1 to 6, plus some set-up and tear-down time;
- 2) use of the African Burying Ground space, Saturday and Sunday, same times;
- 3) use of the Vaughan Mall performance stage, *ibid.* (with the understanding that we may need to apply separately for that, as last year);
- 4) a motorcycle parking ban in Market Square Sunday afternoon;
- 5) parking passes for our performers and logistics volunteers at Hanover St. and Foundry Place, as available; and
- 6) use of the sidewalks around downtown on Saturday morning to promote the event; this “Roving Sailors” event should not obstruct pedestrian or motor traffic (i.e., not a parade).

Please note that we are aware of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Stiletto Sprint event on Saturday. We had a very pleasant and effective conversation with them last year (at their initiation) to coordinate use of the Market Square space, and intend to do so again this year.

Thank you,
Chris Maden
President, PMFF



FITNESS · ENRICHMENT · ARTS · ATHLETICS

PORTSMOUTH

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Recreational Needs Study

Final Report

FEBRUARY 2023



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Acknowledgements

The Recreational Needs Study is the culmination of a collaborative process, facilitated by frequent opportunities for engagement with a diverse set of stakeholders. Thanks to the support and assistance of these individuals, the Recreational Needs Study presents an informed view of the unique assets and aspirations of the Portsmouth community.

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Karen Conard
City Manager

Todd Henley
Recreation Director

Peter Rice
Public Works Director

Ken Linchey
School Department Facilities Director

Corin Hollowell
DPW Division of Parks and Forestry

Stephanie Seacord
Public Information Officer

Barry Foley
Assistant Recreation Director

Peter Stith
Principal Planner

RECREATION BOARD

Rich Blalock
Council Liaison

Brian French
School Board Liaison

Carl Diemer
Chairperson

Robert Bogardus

Jacqueline Cali-Pitts

Richard Duddy

Lauren Krans

Kathryn Lynch

Kory Sirmaian

CONSULTING TEAM

PLACEWORK
Architecture + Project Management

Alice Carey

Brian Murphy

Kenneth Ferrer

Alyssa Murphy

HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP
Recreation Planning + Engagement

Craig Periera

Ellie Baker

Jeff Davis

Foreword

In late 2021, the City of Portsmouth started the process of an updated Recreational Needs Study. Along with consultants Placework Architecture and Planning and Horsley-Witten Group, a year-long process to evaluate the City's recreational facilities and programs began. An essential component of the process was to collect input from residents and community partners.

After taking leadership of the Recreation Department in early 2021, I was thrilled to have a study like this conducted, as the last time it was completed was 2010, and I was ready to make some changes to our programming and planning. A lot can change in 13 years – especially the changing trends of recreation and the needs of the residents of Portsmouth, and I welcome that guidance.

We started 2022 with a skatepark in the works, new pickleball courts, and a newly opened turf field. We were already trending in a positive direction and then in March 2022, the City purchased the Community Campus and the Recreation Department took over the facility as its managing department. This was a huge opportunity for our department to grow and start to achieve the goals of what I saw for the future.

The outlook is bright for the City of Portsmouth and the recreational opportunities ahead. This report will help inform our decision making for the next 10 years and beyond. As the Recreation Department continues to grow and continues to provide high-quality programming and facilities, I look forward to better serving the needs of the Greater Portsmouth community.

Todd Henley
Director of Recreation

PROJECT + PURPOSE

Project + Purpose

Recreational spaces are a reflection of the values and aspirations of the community. The way that we plan for their evolution over time is an expression of the value placed on active, engaged residents, our neighborhoods, and our environment. Recreation spaces are important points of connection and interaction; they are the fields where our families come together, the trails where we connect with our natural environment, and the important places for all generations, cultures, and economic backgrounds to enjoy. These connections create bonds between us and to our city: fostering stewardship of land and community, strengthening our city and retaining residents, and supporting families to grow and remain in Portsmouth.

Defining Recreation for Portsmouth

What does it mean to prioritize community health and wellbeing? How can our spaces of recreation reflect that priority? This study seeks to determine the unique definition of recreation in Portsmouth, asking the important questions of residents: why, where, how and with whom do you recreate? The most successful and integrative spaces of recreation are not single-use facilities dedicated to playing and watching sports, but places where overlapping uses occur serving a diversity of visitors. Growing interest in passive recreation further emphasizes the need for recreational space to be multipurpose and contain strong connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods and nearby trails, parks and open space. Recommendations at the conclusion of this study are the product of analysis/comparative study, community input, and goals of City leadership, and are a response to the evolving definition of recreation for Portsmouth.

Building On the 2010 Recreational Needs Study

The Recreational Needs Study represents continued investment in long-range comprehensive planning for a diversity of activities and places benefiting the greater Portsmouth community. This update begins by building upon and updating the 2010 Recreational Needs Study, acknowledging the progress that has been accomplished as a result of that plan while recognizing that the community has changed in the intervening years, and its recreational needs and aspirations have changed along with it.

Two significant recommendations of the 2010 Recreational Needs Study have been accomplished: the construction of additional multi-use outdoor playing field and the establishment of a multigenerational public recreation center. Both are located at the recently-acquired Community Campus, positioning it to be the hub of recreation for Portsmouth in the future. Although the 2010 plan aspired to construct a multi-function complex including a replacement aquatics facility, the Indoor Pool has been stabilized sufficiently to maintain its operation, and the Community Campus presents many opportunities for recreational use. The 2010 plan suggested potential partnerships with local organizations and private partners to create a recreation center; the eventual build-out of the Community Campus buildings and land will consider such potential relationships, and partnership discussions continue to meet various recreational needs expressed by the community, to be detailed later in this document.

A Vision for Portsmouth Recreation

As Portsmouth's recreational needs evolve, this plan envisions a future for Portsmouth recreation that is:

- Community-building and supporting
- Accessible, Equitable, and Connected
- Multi-generational
- Diverse
- Focused on health and wellbeing of all Portsmouth residents

Guiding Principles

The Guiding Principles create a framework for examining current needs and prioritizing potential recreational projects and initiatives. The Study establishes this framework based on the stated goals of the City's Recreation Board, the Recreational Study Project Team and a diverse range of community input.

The following guiding principles describe a vision for the future of Recreation in Portsmouth and support a range of paths to success. Specific actions are outlined in the Goals, Strategies, and Actions section of the Recreational Needs Study.

Prioritize Equitable Access to Recreation for the Health and Wellbeing of All Portsmouth Residents

Examine scheduling, programming, funding structures, geography, and social/environmental factors

Increase Connectivity of Recreational Opportunities

Maximize Capacity of Existing Sites for Recreational Needs

Maintain, enhance, and develop existing sites before expanding to new locations

Increase Interdepartmental Collaboration and Other Partnerships to Benefit Recreation in Portsmouth

Consider collaborations related to use of facilities, funding, and operations amongst City Departments, local nonprofits, other communities, and public-private partnerships

Advance and Expand Passive Recreation

Promote Climate Action, Resilience, and a Healthy Environment

Position Community Campus as the Recreational Hub of Portsmouth

Reinforce and Expand recreational uses at Community Campus; future projects and programs should be considered for location at Community Campus before considering other sites



Areas of Focus

The following Areas of Focus emerged from community input and have become the organizing structure for future action. The Goals, Strategies and Actions that will guide the Recreation Departments's future planning align with these areas

Community
Engagement +
Communication

Preservation,
Growth +
Stewardship

Connectivity +
Mobility

Facilities

Maintenance +
Stewardship

Programming

Amenities

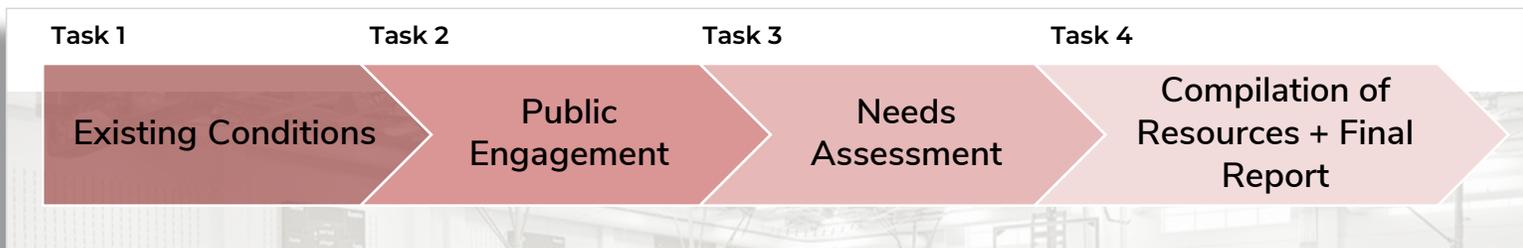


Process + Timeline

The City engaged the consulting team to document existing conditions and demographics, and to facilitate a multifaceted community engagement process. Through research, outreach, and close collaboration with the City’s Project Team, the team created an assessment of need reflective of the unique character and vision of Portsmouth.

The consulting team conducted Recreational Needs Study according to best practices in recreational planning, within the resources available to the project. To economize time and budget, some limitations were placed on research and analysis portions of the process, with priority placed on community input and engagement. Comprehensive site assessments were not performed as a part of this study. Recommendations for future documentation of existing conditions have been made in the Goals, Strategies, and Actions section of this report, and tools have been developed for the City to further assess its current and future facilities and amenities. Similarly, a streamlined community engagement process made every effort to reach the widest possible audience using the available resources.

Process and Task Highlights



1A: DATA COLLECTION

- Compile relevant documents
- LIMITED Site Inventory
 - Interview with DPW/Rec Departments
 - Update list of properties/sites
- Local Comparisons – 2 communities

1B: DEMOGRAPHICS/TRENDS

- GIS-based analysis
- Compare with national trends

1C: LEVEL OF SERVICE

- Categorization system for facilities (NRPA)
- Review equity and regional efficiency

(2) ONLINE SURVEYS

- Parks, Recreation, Recreational Open Space
- Athletic Facility Use

(2) PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

- **Workshop 1:** Visioning
- **Workshop 2:** Master Planning Input

STAFF/PROJECT TEAM INTERVIEWS

- Limited site visits
- Interview summaries + recommendations for further study

SUMMARY FINDINGS

Compiled from prior phases

DRAFT + FINAL REPORT

- Documentation of findings
- Limited mapping/visuals

Sites Included in This Study

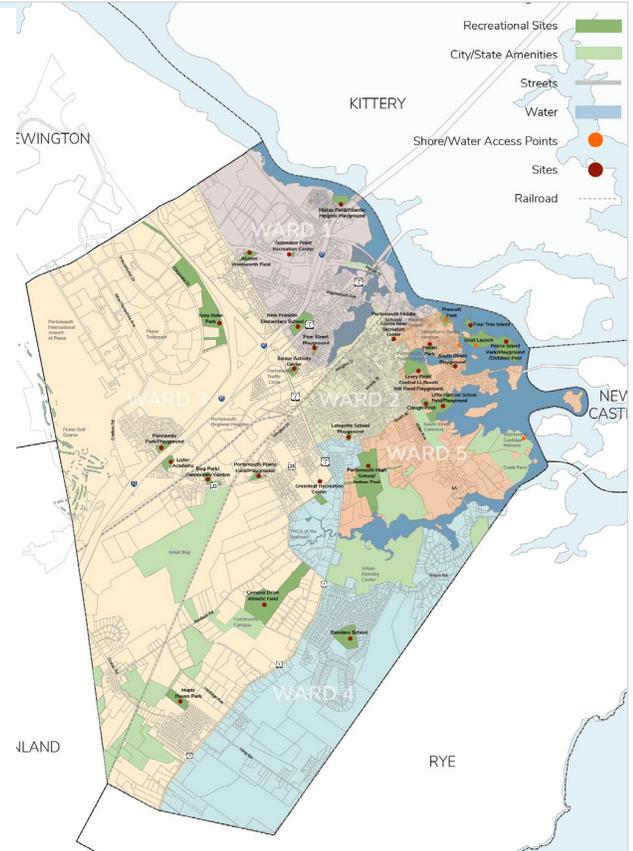
This Recreational Needs Study includes **City-owned and/or operated indoor and outdoor facilities in Portsmouth**, including parks, playgrounds, playing fields, passive recreation areas, and school facilities. Although private facilities and programs impact recreation in Portsmouth, these facilities were not included in the Study.

Athletic Fields/Recreation Areas

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Portsmouth High School:
Practice and Competition Fields
Track & Field Areas
Tennis Courts
Ropes Course
Cross-Country Trail Access</p> <p>Lister Academy School Field
Dondero School Field + Playground
Little Harbour School Field + Playground
New Franklin Elementary:
Fields
Tennis Courts
Playgrounds</p> <p>Lafayette School Field + Playground
Pannaway Field + Playground
Alumni Ball Field
Plains Ball Field + Playground
Maple Haven Field
Clough Field
Pease Ball Field
Hislop Park Ball Field</p> | <p>New Athletic Field
Peirce Island:
Playgrounds
Boat Launch
Four Tree Island
Pool + Bathhouse</p> <p>South Mill Pond Area:
South Mill Pond Playground
Tennis Courts/ Pickleball
Central Little League Ball Field
Leary Ball Field
Dog Park</p> <p>Rail Trail
Greenleaf Skate Park
Atlantic Heights Playground
South Street Playground
Pine Street Playground</p> |
|---|---|

Buildings/Indoor Facilities

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Portsmouth High School Gym
Portsmouth High School Field House
Lister Academy School Gym
Dondero School Gym
Little Harbour School Gym
New Franklin Elementary Gym</p> | <p>Connie Bean Recreation Center
Spinnaker Point Recreation Center
Portsmouth Middle School Gym
Portsmouth Indoor Pool
Greenleaf Recreation Center</p> |
|---|--|



Near-Term Projects

During the course of this Study, the City was in the process of finalizing two important developments in Portsmouth recreation: the purchase of the Community Campus property and building and the design of a new skate park. The Recreation Department relocated to the Community Campus in mid 2022, beginning a transition to make that site a central location for recreation in Portsmouth, as reflected in the Guiding Principles. Design phases for a skate park on the “Stump Dump” site on Route 33 was underway and funds allocated for construction.

Due to the early stages of development of these two projects, they were not considered to be part of the existing conditions. Every new endeavor for the Recreation Department is an opportunity to assess alignment with the Guiding Principles - these projects present that opportunity. A separate programming and outreach effort is recommended to determine specific planning for the Community Campus building and property. Additionally, the vision and principles of this Study can be incorporated into the design of the skate park site, particularly related to connectivity.

How To Read This Document

The following chapters summarize activities and research completed over the course of the Recreational Needs Study, concluding in the Needs Assessment section with a set of Goals, Strategies, and Actions for future projects, programming, and initiatives to be undertaken by the Recreation Department. The Appendix contains full detail of research, meetings and presentations, and community engagement survey responses and findings, to provide complete and unabridged documentation of the work done by the Recreation Department, Recreation Board, City of Portsmouth, and the consulting team.

INFORMATION + ANALYSIS

Data Collection

Existing Conditions Analysis: Types + Methods

Documentation and analysis of existing conditions was streamlined to focus on providing the City with effective planning tools to evaluate and project recreational need. This phase prioritized the creation/update of the recreational site inventory, and documented and categorized that inventory using national standards for benchmarking purposes.

Site assessments during this phase were limited; visits and detailed conditions assessments were not performed but interviews with City staff facilitated the completion of the site inventory database with information related to condition, maintenance needs, and other factors. The consulting team has provided a Site Assessment Template to the City for future detailed assessment of each recreational site, to be completed by City staff. Additionally, the City has been provided with the site inventory database initiated by the consulting team. As recommended in the Goals, Strategies and Actions section, continual updates to the inventory and site assessments will allow the Recreation Department to better understand, prioritize, and budget for improvements and maintenance to recreational amenities over time.

This section contains a summary of:

- Site Inventory and Parkland Classification
- Portsmouth Demographics and National Trends Analysis
- Comparative Analysis of Comparable Seacoast Communities

Site Inventory

As noted above, a current inventory of recreational sites has been created and provided to the City for future use and continual updating. The City provided information regarding size, activities at each site, amenities, and pertinent notes regarding condition, maintenance, etc. An important aspect of the inventory is classification of sites according to nationally-recognized standards; the following sections contain a description of this process and product.

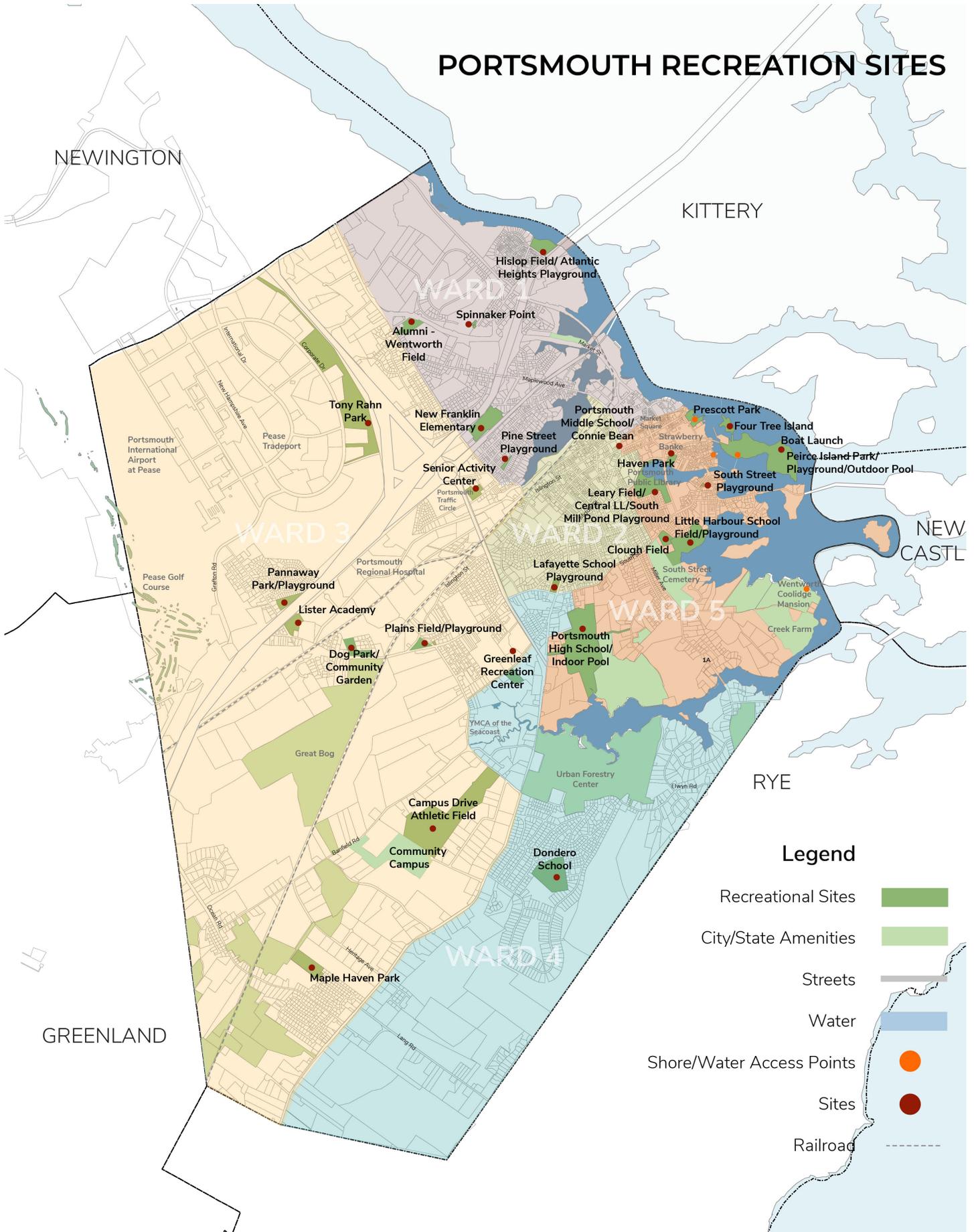
Parkland Classification

It is important to note that different types of parks have varying roles and purposes. Some parks attract visitors from throughout a region while others offer neighborhood users such as a toddler the experience of navigating a slide for the first time. Typically, parkland is classified to assist in planning for a community's recreational needs. At the beginning of this update to the Recreational Needs Study, a classification system of Portsmouth's park spaces did not exist. This Recreational Needs Study proposes a hierarchy of various park types in accordance with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidance, with each offering recreational opportunities. Individually, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system is intended to serve the full range of the community's needs. Classifying park space by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Classifications also help to define locations of amenities, type and level of maintenance. The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines to address the intended size and use of each park type. The following six classifications were used to define parks as part of this Recreational Needs Study and are defined as follows:

COMMUNITY PARKS
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
MINI PARKS

PLAYGROUNDS
HISTORIC PARKS
SPECIAL USE AREAS

PORTSMOUTH RECREATION SITES



COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are the largest park classification at the local level of planning between 12 and 50 acres in size. Community parks are typically developed for organized play and include a diverse range of facilities and amenities catering to a larger and more diverse group of users. Community parks are planned to provide both active and passive recreation opportunities as well as multi-generational activities. Community parks generally serve residents within a two-mile drive, walk, or bike ride from the site. Because of their size, community parks are designed and organized to support larger more intense recreation uses such as organized sports. Passive recreation and natural area components are also encouraged in community parks to complement and support active uses. They may also provide amenities such as playgrounds, splash pads, community gardens or indoor uses to support a wider range of recreational interests. Because community parks offer recreation and programming to a broad range of users, they should also include certain comfort amenities such as parking and restrooms.

COMMUNITY PARKS IN PORTSMOUTH

- Portsmouth High School
- South Mill Pond Area
- Peirce Island
- Campus Drive Athletic Field
- Prescott Park

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are the backbone of most park systems designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They typically range in size from 2-5 acres in size depending on spatial constraints and the needs of the neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close-proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and are typically geographically distributed throughout the community. Access to neighborhood parks is mostly pedestrian, and park sites should be located such that people living within the service area can get to the park safely and conveniently. Neighborhood parks typically include amenities such as pedestrian paths, picnic tables, benches, play equipment, an open field area for informal play, sport courts or multi-purpose paved areas and landscaping. When neighborhood parks are designed in conjunction with school sites, these sites typically include multi-use athletic fields.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS IN PORTSMOUTH

- Maple Haven Park/Playground
- New Franklin Elementary School
- Hislop Field/Atlantic Heights Playground
- Little Harbour School
- Portsmouth Middle School
- Lafayette School Field/Playground
- Pannaway Playground
- Spinnaker Point Recreation Center
- Dondero School

MINI PARKS

Mini parks are typically specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens and typically range in size from one acre or less. Mini parks are typically located within neighborhoods and in close proximity to apartment complexes, townhouse developments or housing for the elderly (less than ¼ mile walking or biking distance).

MINI PARKS IN PORTSMOUTH

- Lister Academy
- Cater Park
- Rock Street Park
- Portsmouth Plains Field/Playground
- Pease Baseball Fields/Tony Rahn Park

PLAYGROUNDS

Playgrounds are primarily for children aged 5 – 12 and include apparatus for older children and a field area for games and informal play. They also include a passive area for older children and an area for court games. Playgrounds are typically easily accessible from residential neighborhoods and are geographically located with safe walking and biking access (¼ mile to ½ mile walking or biking distance). They are smaller than a neighborhood park but contain similar facilities and may be developed as a school park facility.

PLAYGROUNDS IN PORTSMOUTH

- South Street Playground
- Pine Street Playground

HISTORIC PARKS

Historic parks are typically an officially designated location that includes pieces of political, military, cultural, or social history of local, regional, or national significance. They often include maintained gardens (as memorials) and passive areas for personal contemplation. Historic parks are typically found in a downtown location and other densely populated areas.

HISTORIC PARKS IN PORTSMOUTH

- Goodwin Park
- Haven Park*

SPECIAL USE AREAS

Special use areas are park spaces that generally serve a single recreation purpose. Special use areas are sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. These park settings may include sports complexes, aquatic facilities, dog parks, skate parks or any other facility intended for single use or specific demographic.

SPECIAL USE AREAS IN PORTSMOUTH

- Greenleaf Recreation Center
- Senior Activity Center

The development of the parkland classification for Portsmouth also contributed to the creation of a recreation inventory which catalogues information specific to each site evaluated through this Recreation Needs Analysis. This inventory begins with each site's acreage, then follows with the identification of recreational/sports offerings under various categories, including water-related recreation (boating, fishing, and swimming), sports activities (fields, courts, and playgrounds), and associated amenities (restrooms, parking, and ADA accessibility). Sites were also coded by parkland classifications in a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform to digitally display the physical locations of each site to advance the City's documentation, but also as part of the public education and engagement campaign. Subsequent GIS analyses were then completed to better understand the equitable distribution of parks by type (Level of Service Analysis) and potential future vulnerabilities (FEMA Flood Zone and Climate Change Analyses), and to inform future decision-making and investments by city officials. This recreation inventory can also be integrated into the GIS platform as the beginning of a comprehensive GIS database that can be further expanded and built-out and serve as a valuable tool for the City moving forward.

*Parks not included in Study analysis, but meet the definition of their listed classification.

Note: classifications are made according to NRPA definitions; sites are listed in only one classification. For example, school sites have playgrounds, but due to other features (size, amenities, etc.), they are more accurately classified as Neighborhood Parks.

Facility Use Data

Field Use Analysis

The consulting team evaluated annual field use through the Athletic Facility Users Survey. Sports league coaches/administrators were asked to provide their seasonal/annual use of City-owned facilities including number of teams, practices, games per week, as well as the hours for each and the number of weeks in the season. The consulting team then calculated the total hours in use per team/season to identify the total overall annual use. These numbers were then compared against 'expected field condition standards based on hours of use' developed by North Carolina State University – North Carolina Cooperative Extension:

- Sustained Good Field Conditions (0 – 200 hrs/year)
- Good Field Conditions with some thinning/localized wear areas (400 – 600 hrs/year)
- Fair Field Conditions: Significant thinning/wear (800 – 1,000/year)
- Poor Field Conditions with significant turf loss, surface damage, and increased potential for athlete injury (1,000+ hrs/year)

Generally, good quality turf can be achieved/sustained with appropriate maintenance between an average use of 200 – 600 hrs/year. The Field Use Analysis (although incomplete) shows a number of athletic fields that are currently overutilized, including:

- Portsmouth High School Fields
- Alumni/Wentworth
- Clough
- Central
- Hislop
- Tony Rahn Fields
- Sherburne

Athletic Users Survey – Draft Response Highlights

TEAMS SURVEYED

Seacoast Pirates Baseball
Portsmouth City Soccer Club
Portsmouth Little League
PHS Boys Tennis Program
PHS Girls Tennis Program
PHS Football Program
PHS Varsity Softball Program
Coastal New England Baseball League
Seacoast Ultimate
Portsmouth Youth Football
PHS Cheerleading
PHS Girls Varsity Lacrosse
Seacoast Lacrosse
American Legion/Babe Ruth
Portsmouth Youth Softball
Flag Football
Woman's Softball
Fusion Soccer
Co-ed Softball

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

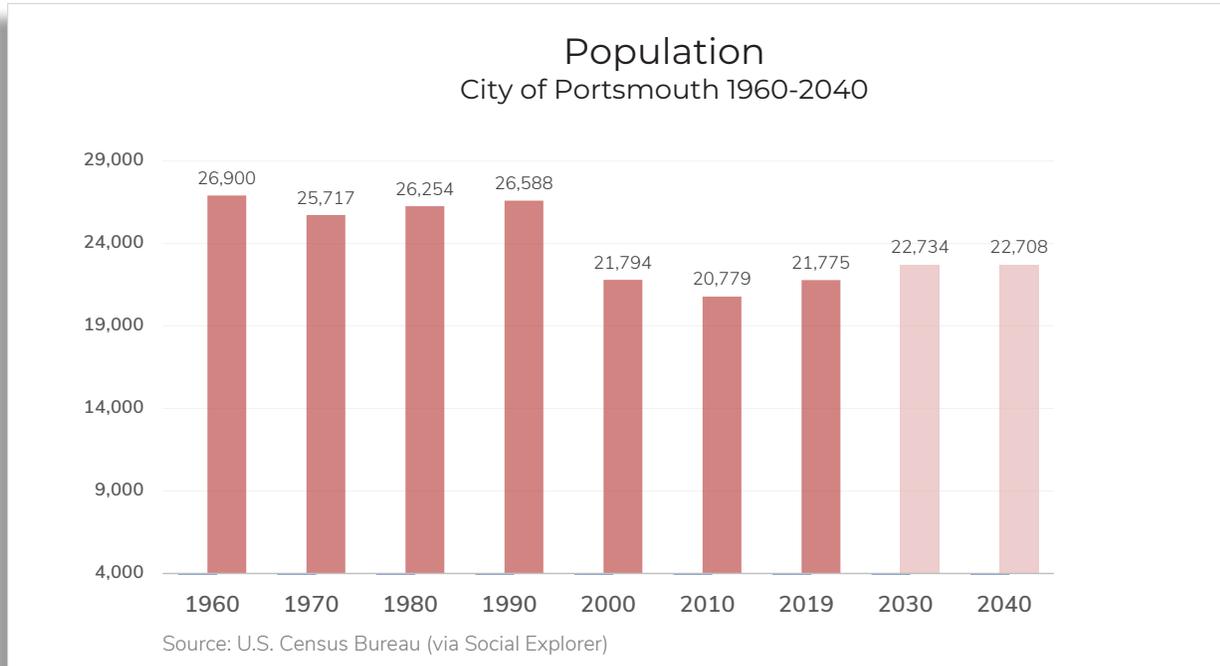
- Conflicts/Coordination with Schools, other sports, City Rec Programs
- Need for Warm Up Space and Practice Fields
- Field Condition: Drainage, Turf Wear
- Add Lighting for Increased Access
- Storage + Support: Space and Staff, especially in Mill Pond Area
- Need for Fields Built and Striped Appropriately for Sport (Softball, Football)
- Issues with Access to Leary Field (Baseball)

Gray text indicates respondents with incomplete/no response. Full survey responses can be found in the Appendix.

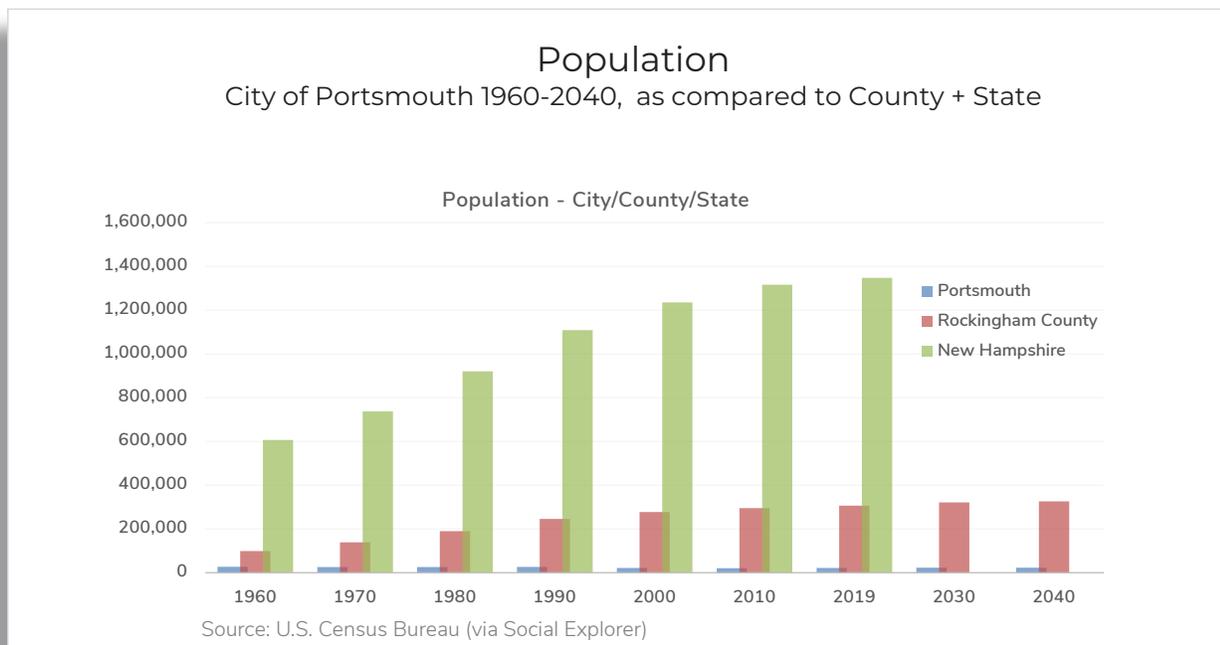
Demographics + Trends

Portsmouth Demographics

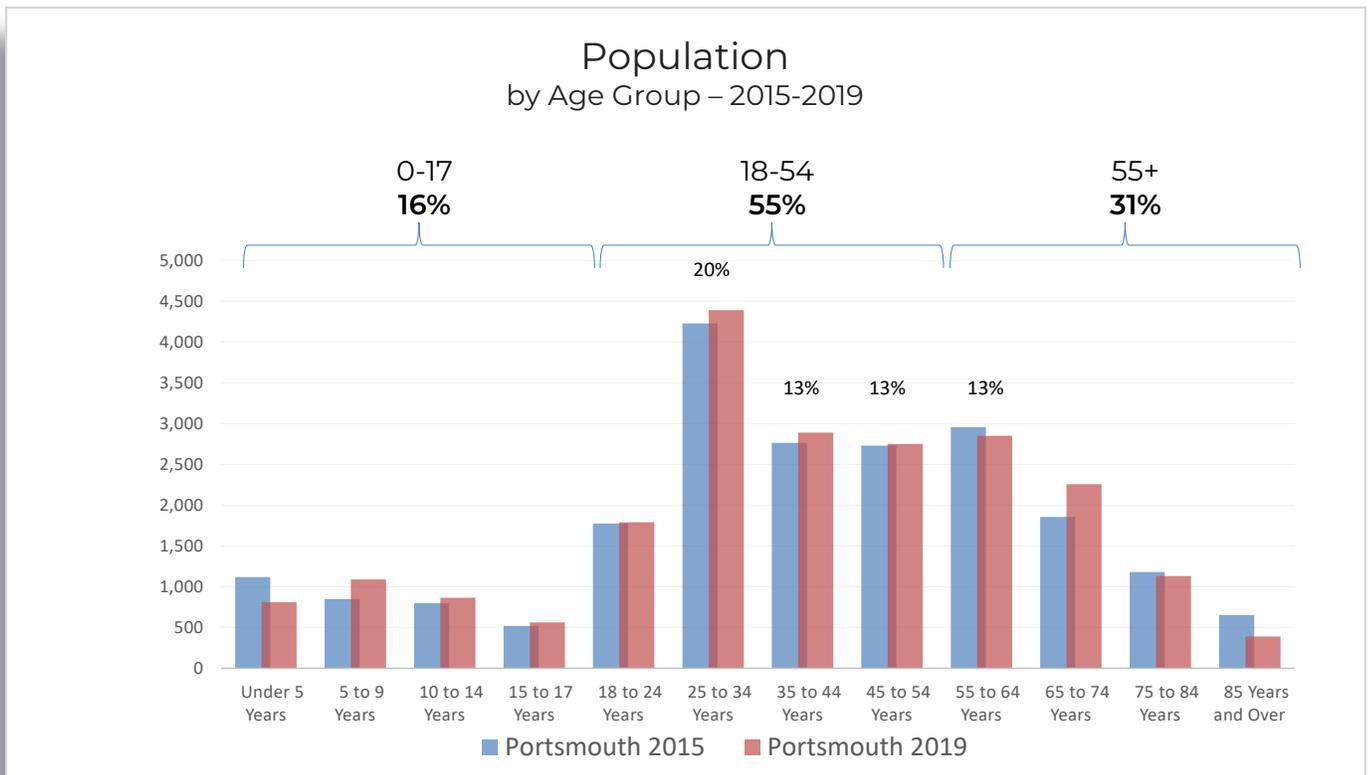
Tracking population and demographics is an important element of projecting future needs for Portsmouth. The following charts utilize United States Census Data to study trends and understand the makeup of the Portsmouth community.



After a marked decline in the 1990's, Portsmouth's total population has remained relatively stable, a trend that is projected to continue for the next 20+ years.



In contrast to the relatively flat population growth in Portsmouth, the state of New Hampshire has seen a more pronounced rate of growth.



This chart shows distribution of age groups in Portsmouth over a recent 5-year period. The age group with the highest population is 25-34 years. More than half of Portsmouth's population is aged 18-54, an interesting note when considering recreational offerings for this group compared to those targeting seniors and young children.

The following breakdown is used to separate the population into age-sensitive user groups.

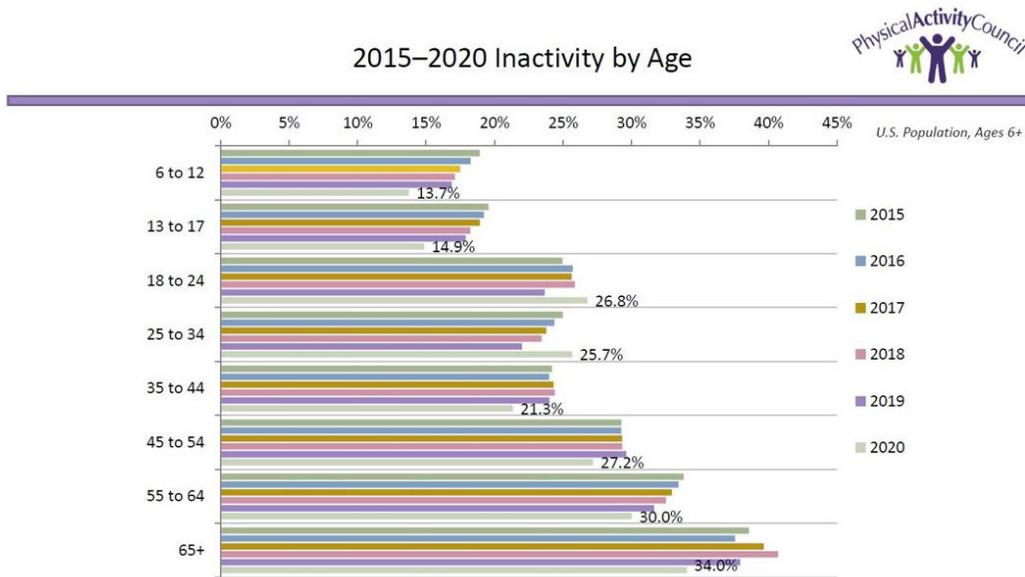
- Under 5 years: This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and playgrounds. These individuals often use walking paths with their parents and are the future participants in youth activities.
- 5 to 14 years: This group represents current youth program participants.
- 15 to 24 years: This group represents teen/young adult program participants that are transitioning from youth programs and into adult programs. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers.
- 25 to 34 years: This group represents users of adult programs. Members are often beginning long-term relationships and establishing families.
- 35 to 54 years: This group represents users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Member characteristics range from having children that use preschool and youth programs to empty nesters.
- 55 years and older: This group represents users of older adult programs. Member characteristics range from approaching retirement or already retired, and members typically have grandchildren. This group generally ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

National Trends

INACTIVITY TRENDS

Current national trends regarding active and inactivity lifestyles varies considerably dependent upon age in the United States according to the Physical Activity Council's 2021 Participation Report: The Physical Activity Council's annual study tracking sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the US. Children/youth (under 18) and adults (35 – 65+) have seen a steady decrease in inactivity with the largest decline between 2019 and 2020. Adults 18 – 34 have seen moderate increases in inactivity over the same time period (Figure 1).

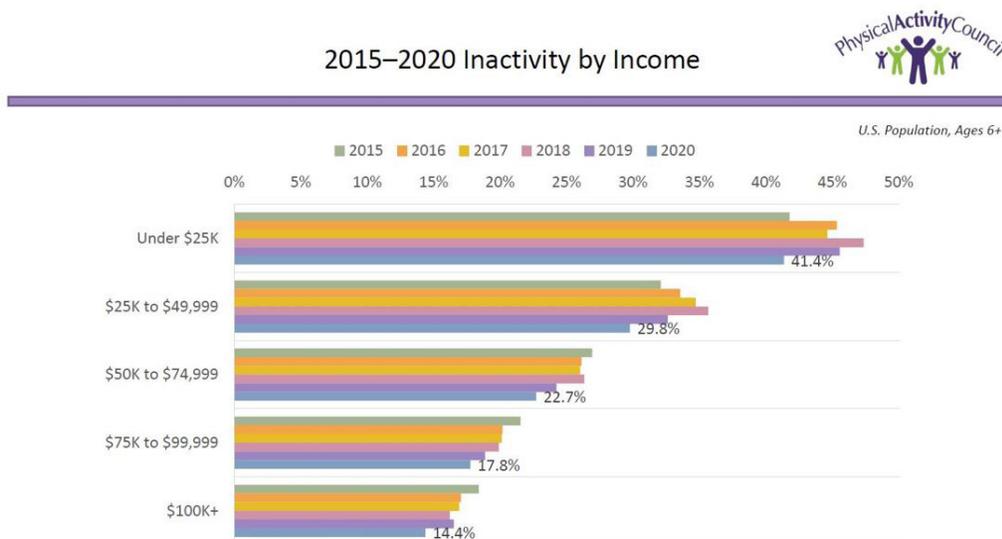
Figure 1. Inactivity Trends by Age



Source: Physical Activity Council

When inactivity was compared to income, inactivity remained higher in lower-income households although all income brackets saw a decline in inactivity in 2020. Those households earning \$75,000 to \$99,900 and \$100,000+ remained the most active and have been relatively steady over the last five years (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of Inactivity (Nationally) by Household Income



Source: Physical Activity Council

PARTICIPATION TRENDS

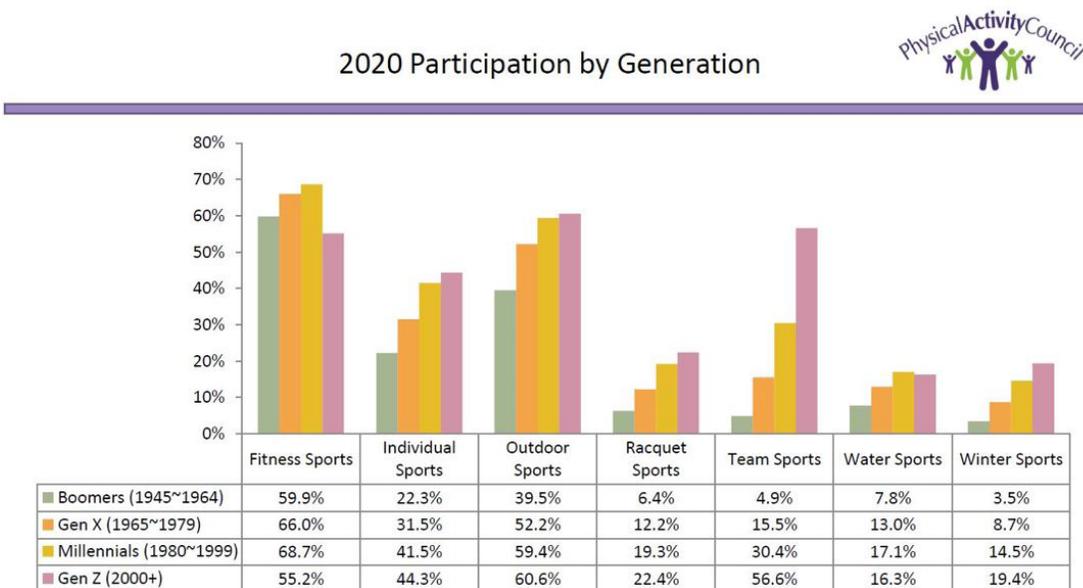
The largest increases in participation in organized sports were in outdoor and racquet sports categories while fitness, individual, and team sports declined slightly and water and winter sports were flat (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Participation Rates for Individuals 6+ Years of Age



That same report indicates that active participation in recreation is also influenced by generation. Boomers (1945 - 1964) preferred fitness sports, while Gen X (1965 - 1979) and Millennials (1980 - 1999) preferred fitness and outdoor sports, and Gen Z (2000+) preferred fitness sports, outdoor sports, and team sports (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Recreation Preference by Generation



Source: Physical Activity Council

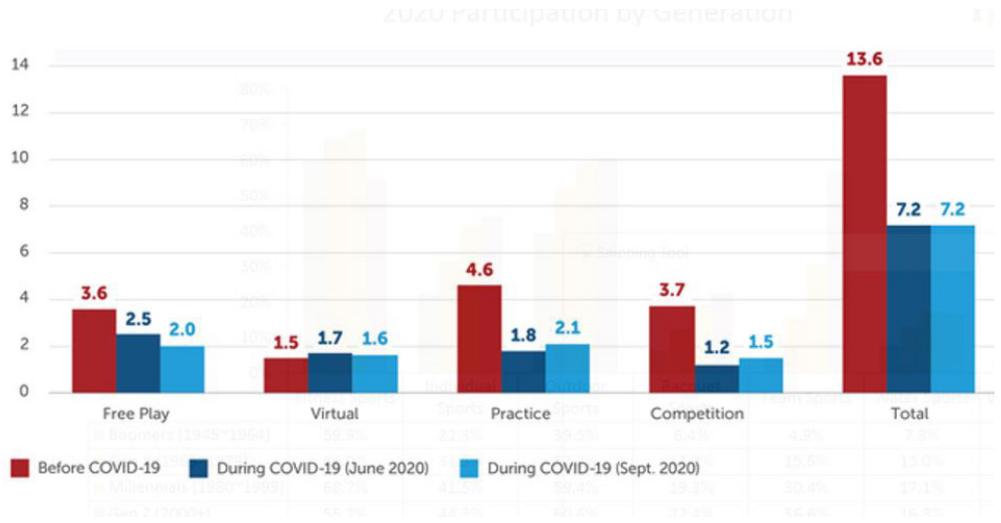
PANDEMIC IMPACTS

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, overall growth in sports participation in team and individual sports were experiencing considerable progress (2019). According to the Aspen Institute, this increase represents the highest growth in sports participation since 2012 for several sports including softball (12%), lacrosse (8%), field hockey (8%), and volleyball (8%).

During the pandemic, on average, children ages 6 – 18 spent approximately 6.5 hours less time playing sports, with significant declines in free play, practices and games observed (Figure 5). A range of circumstances played a part in this sharp decline in participation including transportation difficulties and scheduling conflicts (associated with federal shut-downs and commercial/business closures) and the potential of getting infected (children and parents).

Figure 5. Hours Spent Playing Sport Per Week by Youth Ages 6 - 18 (pre- and post-COVID)

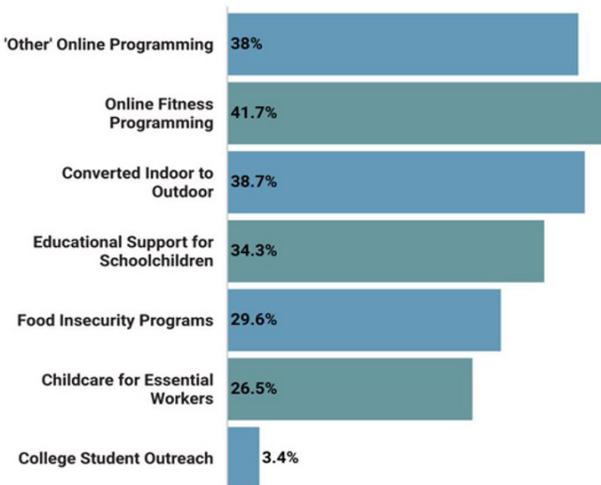
Source: Aspen Institute



Of note is the critical role that parks and recreation organizations assumed during the pandemic, and what it means for the future. At first, most were forced to close their doors during the mandatory shut-down. Then, as health officials learned more about the virus and the need for centralized 'COVID-19 resource centers', more and more communities began to convert some of their existing facility space for health care use. As time passed and social distancing mandates were implemented, many organizations began to transition some of their indoor programming to take place outdoors or online. Along with the advancement of testing and vaccines, many organizations shifted their activities and programming further to meet the social needs of the community by providing essential services, such as childcare for essential workers, food insecurity programs/distribution, educational support, and testing/vaccination locations (Figure 6). The COVID-19 pandemic will clearly have lasting implications for our future. Parks and recreation organizations should take note of this experience and proactively plan not solely for programs, fields and courts, but also for their capacity to serve as a vital community resource.

Figure 6. Activity and Program Adjustments Due to COVID 19

Source: Recreation Management Magazine



NATIONAL TRENDS IN RECREATION: STATE OF THE INDUSTRY

According to a national survey conducted by Recreation Management magazine (2022), the most common features found among park respondents' facilities include: playgrounds, park shelters such as gazebos and picnic shelters, park restroom structures, walking and hiking trails, open spaces such as gardens and natural areas, outdoor sports courts for sports like basketball or tennis, bleachers and seating, natural turf sports fields, classrooms and meeting rooms, and concession areas.

The survey also listed the top planned additions for improvements to facilities based on frequency for those organizations planning to add/improve facilities over the next three years including (frequency shown in parentheses):

- Splash play areas (31.6 %)
- Synthetic turf sports fields (24.2 %)
- Dog parks (22.1 %)
- Playgrounds (20 %)
- Outdoor fitness areas and fitness trails (16.8%)
- Walking and hiking trails (21.7%)
- Bike trails (16.8 %)
- Park shelters (15.8%)
- Park restroom structures (15.8 %)
- Community or multi-purpose center (14.7 %)
- Open spaces and natural areas (14.7%)

The same survey showed the top program options most commonly planned for addition in 2022 included:

- Fitness programs (up from No. 3)
- Environmental education programs (up from No. 7)
- Mind-body balance programs such as yoga (up from No. 4)
- Group exercise programs (down from No. 1)
- Teen programming (down from No. 2)
- Performing arts programs (did not appear in top additions in 2021)
- Adult sports teams (up from No. 9)
- Educational programs (down from No. 6)
- Special needs programs (up from No. 10)
- Day camps and summer camps (did not appear in top additions in 2021)



Peer Communities

Survey of Comparable Communities

Valuable lessons can be learned from the experiences of peer communities in the delivery of recreational programs. Two Seacoast communities were selected for a brief case study: Rochester and Dover. The recreation directors of these two communities completed a questionnaire and interview, with questions related to programming, operations, facilities, and partnerships. They indicated many of the same challenges faced by Portsmouth (staffing, facilities maintenance, league coordination, etc.), and provided some insights into how their departments have addressed these challenges, in particular in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Questionnaire responses/interview notes from these conversations can be found in the Appendix.

Comparative notes regarding facilities:

DOVER:

- Has municipal ice rink, available to outside teams/leagues, currently used by Portsmouth and other communities from as far as one hour drive from facility.
- Under consideration: public/private partnership multi-use indoor facility including aquatics and artificial turf fields, to replace existing aging indoor pool and fill gaps in current facilities

HAMPTON:

- Has an outdoor municipally-owned skate park and inline skate rink
- Under consideration: partnership with Hampton Library for the creation of a Collaborative Community Center with both library and recreation uses

Comparative Analysis - Dover and Rochester

TRENDS

- Kids: more structured programming is the expectation (less open play)
- Adults: generally the opposite but still managed with sign ups

COORDINATION OF FACILITIES USE

- Generally managed similar to Portsmouth
- Idea: fee per roster to City for sports-specific maintenance fund

STAFF + FACILITIES

- Staff/Facility Balance is an issue
- Both open to sharing regionally

TAKE-AWAYS

LOOK BEYOND ISSUES OF THE DAY;
THOROUGHLY RESEARCH NEED
AND MEET IT

EVALUATE AND LEVERAGE
CURRENT ASSETS

GOOD DATA AND SOLID
RECOMMENDATIONS ARE
INSTRUMENTAL

Level of Service Analysis

Level-of-service (LOS) standards are measures of the minimum quantities of public facilities which must be provided to meet a community's basic needs and expectations, typically based on existing and projected population. For this Recreational Needs Analysis, the consulting team utilized 10-year population projections to align with the planning horizon of this study. LOS measures are usually expressed as ratios of facility capacity to the number of users. For example, a community may set a standard for how many park acres are needed per 1000 population, the median number of a specific facility type/use that can serve as a benchmark (with associated prevalence percentages for comparison), or as a ratio of distance to a particular facility – based on a parkland classification system and national standards for communities of similar population.

The Level of Service analysis for Portsmouth consists of two expressions of data - mapping and metrics. Maps are created to discern if geographical distribution of recreational facilities and amenities (fields, courts, etc.) is equitable. Metrics have been created to measure if quantities and types of recreational facilities are comparable to similarly-sized communities nationally.

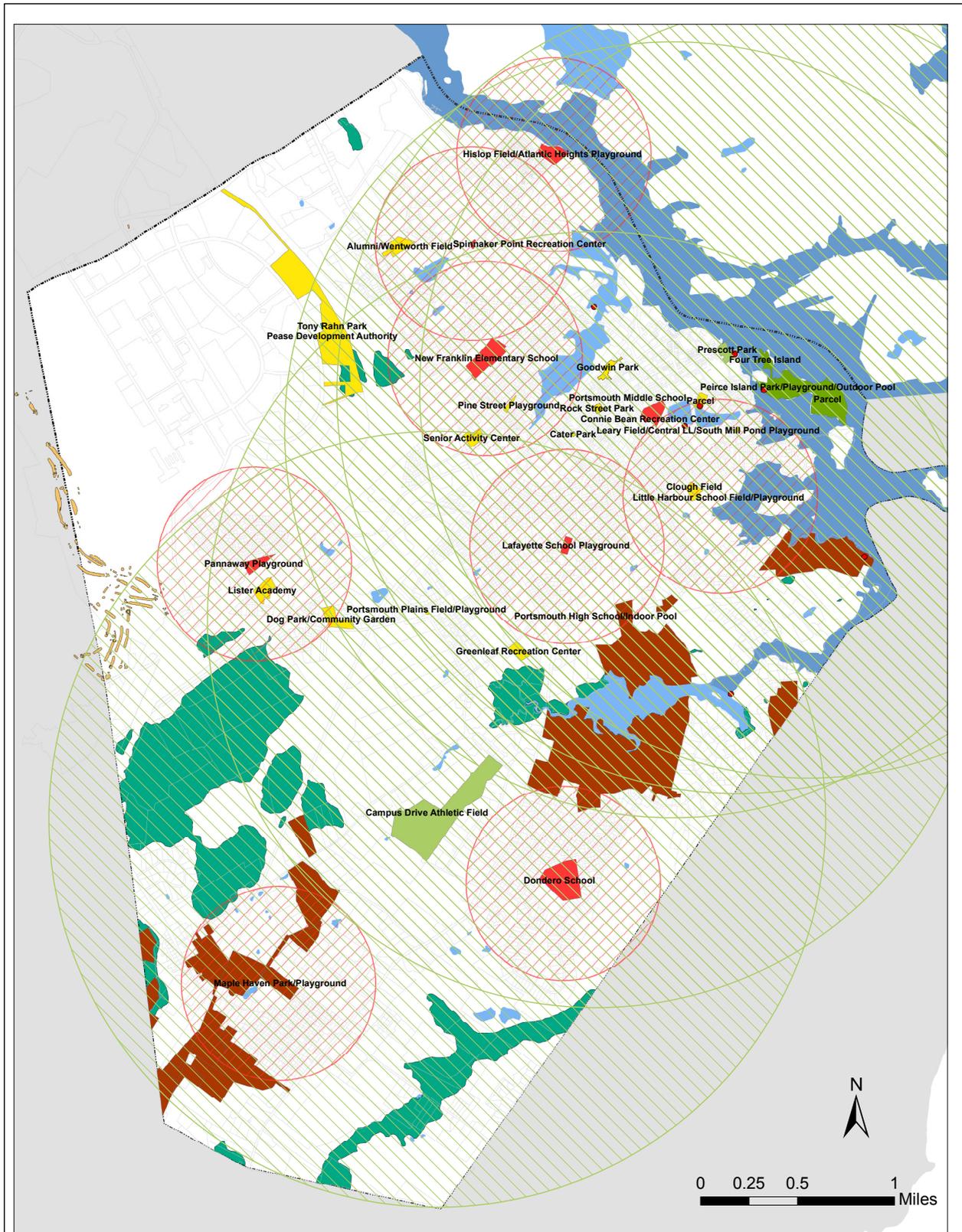
Level of Service analysis is a helpful tool to compare with national data and confirm needs expressed through community input; it is **not** intended to be used as the sole indicator of deficiency or need. Important factors including budget, community interest, site availability, etc. are key components to decision-making involving future projects; the Level of Service Analysis is one tool among many to create the full picture of how future resources should be deployed.

Level of Service - Findings Summary

- LOS analysis shows that overall, Portsmouth is adequately served by recreational amenities, although areas south of downtown are somewhat limited in diversity of uses.
- Portsmouth's diversity of facility types are in line with national trends; whether to add additional types of facilities will be largely determined by stakeholder input, rather than national benchmarks
- The quantity of outdoor facilities (fields, etc.) can be further evaluated using national benchmarks; in evaluating indoor facilities, it is more useful to look at whether communities of similar size have them nor not, rather than evaluating quantity

Comparing Portsmouth to National Trends

- How is Portsmouth doing compared to other communities? The following figures are for **benchmarking** purposes
- **This is only one part of the picture!** Final Recommendations for Portsmouth will come from a combination of sources including both benchmarking data and community input, City financial and planning vision, etc.
- **The Data**
 - NRPA: National Recreation And Park Association www.nrpa.org
 - 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
 - We compared with national data for communities under 20,000 residents
 - We looked at benchmarks for both **Indoor and Outdoor Facilities**



This document is for City of Portsmouth planning purposes only and is not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

Data Sources: City of Portsmouth, NH GRANIT

Legend	
City Sites	Other Sites/Features
 Neighborhood Park	 Local/State Conservation Areas
 Community Park	 Golf Courses
 All Other Sites	 Estuaries
Pedestrian/Bike Radius	 Swamp/Marsh
 1/2 Mile (Neighborhood Park)	 Lakes/Ponds
 2 Miles (Community Park)	 Shoreline Access Points


 Sustainable Environmental Solutions
95 Danvers Street • Suite 200 • Providence, RI 02903
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com

Placework
ARCHITECTURE - PLANNING

**Level of Service Analysis
 Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

Date: 11/9/2022

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

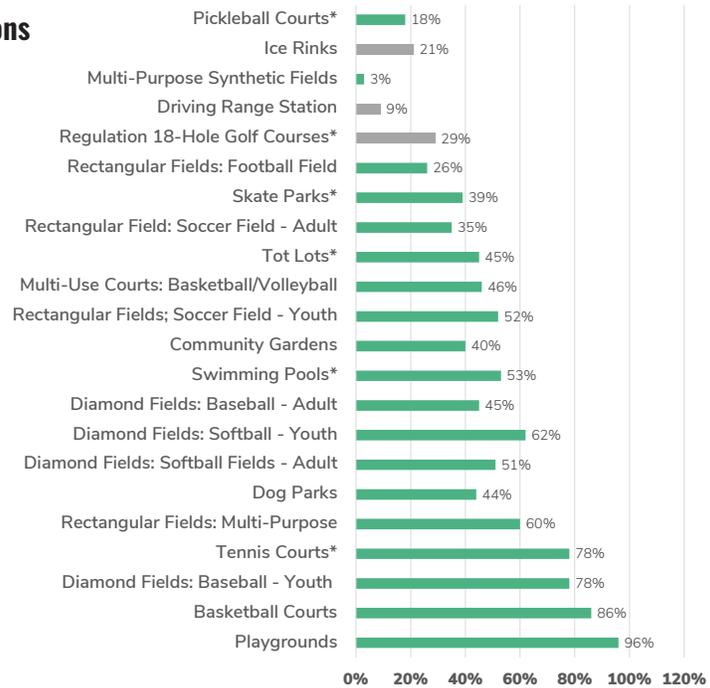
Outdoor Facilities by Type: National Prevalence

How many communities our size reported having these types of facilities?

■ = not offered in Portsmouth

Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- Portsmouth's diversity of outdoor facility types are in line with national trends
- The quantity of outdoor facilities (fields, etc.) can be further studied using national benchmarks



Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
* - Data for <20,000 unavailable; national data used

The above metrics show that Portsmouth has a good variety of facilities and amenities, including many that are not often found in communities of its size.

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

Potential Growth:

- Adult Softball Fields: 3
- Youth Softball Fields: 1
- Adult Baseball Fields: 2
- Youth Soccer Fields: 3
- Adult Soccer Fields: 1
- Football Fields: 1
- Skate Park
- Golf Course
- Driving Range
- Community Garden (add'l)
- Outdoor Ice Rink

Type of Facility - Outdoor	Median Number of Residents per Facility		Number of Facilities					Prevalence in Communities <20,000
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹		Baseline	2022 Inventory	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284		
	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	Less than 20,000 ²	Portsmouth 2022 Existing	Portsmouth 2022 Additional Needs	Portsmouth 2032 Needs ³	Portsmouth 2032 Additional Needs	
Playgrounds	1,986	3,111	11	14	0	12	0	96%
Basketball Courts	3,750	6,839	6	7	0	6	0	86%
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	3,107	4,858	7	8	0	7	0	78%
Tennis Courts*	2,723	5,000	8	10	0	9	0	78%
Rectangular Fields: Multi-Purpose	4,362	7,674	5	5	0	5	0	60%
Dog Parks	11,100	28,000	2	3	0	2	0	44%
Diamond Fields: Softball Fields - Adult	5,667	11,232	4	1	3	4	3	51%
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	5,339	8,509	4	3	1	4	1	62%
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	7,954	19,000	3	1	2	3	2	45%
Swimming Pools*	8,637	26,281						53%
Community Gardens	8,773	24,500						40%
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Youth	3,504	5,011	6	3	3	7	4	52%
Multi-Use Courts: Basketball/Volleyball	5,400	14,807	4	11	0	4	0	46%
Tot Lots*	6,642	10,756	3	0	0	4	0	45%
Rectangular Field: Soccer Field - Adult	8,017	10,547	3	2	1	3	1	35%
Skate Parks*	11,100	32,335						39%
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	8,004	19,351	3	2	1	3	1	26%
Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses*	9,183	33,800						29%
Driving Range Station	5,055	23,238						9%
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	12,962	24,665	2	2	0	2	0	3%
Ice Rinks	7,997	3,123						21%
Pickleball Courts*	3,446	8,143	6	9	0	7	0	18%

1: Showing both NRPA Population

2: Utilized NRPA < 20,000 standard for median number of residents per facility (closest to Portsmouth) and applied Portsmouth total population.

3: Additional indoor basketball/volleyball courts available at school sites (not fixed).

Portsmouth has fewer playing fields than many communities of its size; when extrapolating quantities of fields from population per field, the quantities above indicate the number of additional playing fields which would bring Portsmouth in line with comparable communities. Other indoor facility types listed at left have low prevalence in communities of Portsmouth's size, but could be considered based upon demand.

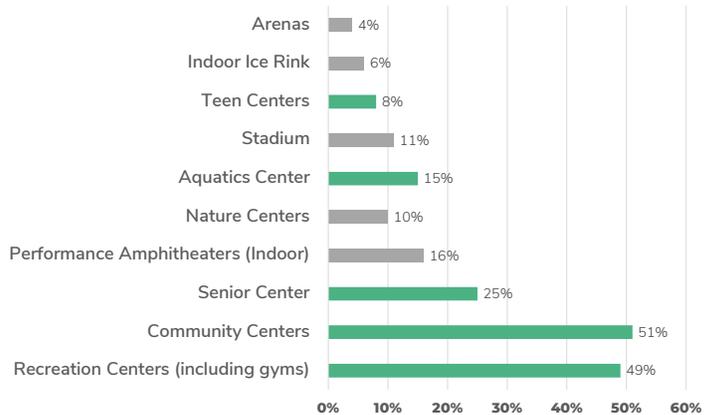
Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Indoor)

Indoor Facilities by Type: National Prevalence

How many communities of our size reported having these types of facilities?

■ = not offered in Portsmouth



Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
* - Data for <20,000 unavailable; national data used

Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- Portsmouth has many facilities that most other communities of our size do not have
- Comparing quantities of indoor facilities is less important than whether they exist in Portsmouth or not

The above metrics show that Portsmouth’s indoor amenities are in line with comparable communities nationally. A few clarifications: an Arena is a high-capacity enclosed area for sports, entertainment, and other events. Portsmouth’s Connie Bean Center meets the NRPA criteria for a Teen Center.

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Indoor)

Type of Facility	Prevalence in Communities <20,000	Median Number of Residents per Facility	
		Population of Jurisdiction ¹	
		Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999
Recreation Centers (including gyms)	49%	9,126	24,601
Community Centers	51%	8,504	26,668
Senior Center	25%	12,935	32,075
Performance Amphitheaters	16%	9,291	30,745
Nature Centers	10%	11,821	30,912
Aquatics Center	15%	11,375	31,230
Stadium	11%	9,126	27,891
Teen Centers	8%	14,426	29,406
Indoor Ice Rink	6%	8,002	24,904
Arenas	4%	6,137	24,413

■ = not offered in Portsmouth

Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- When facility types of low prevalence in small communities are being considered for Portsmouth, municipalities larger than Portsmouth (20,000-49,999) are more useful benchmarks.
- Because the indoor facilities that Portsmouth lacks have low prevalence in comparably-sized communities, the decision to add them will be largely determined by Stakeholder Input rather than national benchmarks

Public input during this Study has indicated demand for some indoor facility types that are uncommon (low in prevalence) in communities of Portsmouth’s size. In this case, national benchmarks are not as effective in demonstrating need as expression of need from the community.

How Will Level of Service Analysis be Used?

This Level of Service Analysis performed in this study can be used as a planning tool to inform future improvements/investments. As mentioned earlier in this section, LOS is one data-based element to be incorporated alongside community interest, budget, and other factors to facilitate informed decisionmaking in recreational planning for Portsmouth.

In addition to these findings being used to aid in decisionmaking, integration with the City's GIS data plays an important role in assessing current conditions and planning for the future. LOS Analysis will enable the City to expand on its current GIS data by adding additional existing (not part of this Needs Study) and new sites to better understand the equitable distribution of amenities/facilities for planning purposes. The consulting team has provided the City with its source data in the form of ArcGIS MXD files (and associated shapefiles), which can be further built out by the City to incorporate the developed inventory into the various sites.

What is GIS?

A geographic information system (GIS) is a system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data. GIS connects data to a map, integrating location data (where things are) with all types of descriptive information (what things are like there).

[USGS Definition of GIS](#)

Climate Change Analysis

Future investment in recreational sites -whether it be in the construction of new sites or renovations/improvements to existing ones - should take into account both existing and potential issues related to flooding, erosion, and other climate-related challenges. As a coastal city, many areas of Portsmouth already experience problematic flooding during high tides and major rain events, and these events are expected to increase in frequency and severity over time. Portsmouth's recreational sites are not immune from problems that arise during these circumstances; integrating climate response and resiliency as a part of recreational planning will maintain current sites and help to minimize unforeseen projects and expenses resulting from climate vulnerability.

The following map indicates 1' and 3' sea level rise, with existing recreational sites shown. According to this map, these sites are vulnerable to flooding due to sea level rise:

- Portsmouth High School
- Little Harbour School
- Peirce Island
- Prescott Park

It is important to note that many additional sites are vulnerable to flooding due to groundwater and surface water challenges, some of which will be exacerbated by rising sea levels and increased flood events as a result of climate change. While this study has not performed a comprehensive site assessment for recreational sites' flooding potential, the following additional sites are known to have frequent flooding severe enough to limit usability of fields:

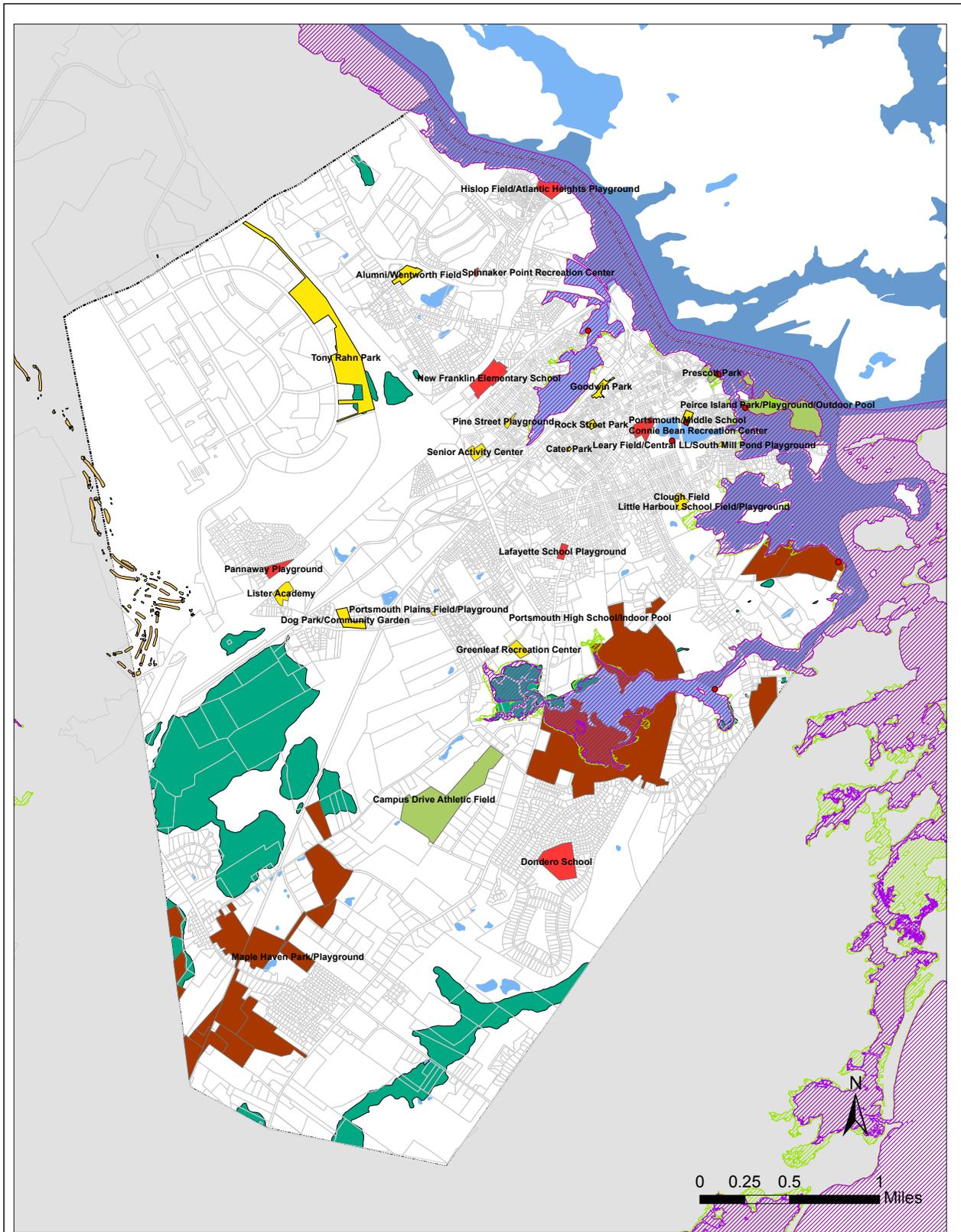
- Leary Field
- Elementary School fields
- Prescott Park
- Lafayette Field

This plan recommends close integration with City-wide resiliency and climate action planning, and a comprehensive site assessment of recreational sites that includes assessment of vulnerabilities due to flooding and climate change, with recommended actions to mitigate or control them.

Source data: NOAA
Projections: City of Portsmouth, NH Vulnerability
Assessment of Projected SLR and Coastal Storm Surge
Flooding

Lower Emissions Scenario:
2050: 1-foot rise
2100: 2.5-foot rise

Higher Emissions Scenario:
2050: 1.7-foot rise
2100: 6.3-foot rise



This document is for City of Portsmouth planning purposes only and is not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

Data Sources: City of Portsmouth, NH GRANIT

Legend	
City Sites	
■	Neighborhood Park
■	Community Park
■	All Other Sites
Projected Sea Level Rise Scenarios	
	1-Foot Sea Level Rise
	3-Foot Sea Level Rise
Other Sites/Features	
■	Local/State Conservation Areas
■	Golf Courses
■	Estuaries
■	Swamp/Marsh
■	Lakes/Ponds
●	Shoreline Access Points


 Sustainable Environmental Solutions
85 Danvers Street • Suite 200 • Providence, RI 02903
 401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com


 ARCHITECTURE - PLANNING

**Climate Change Analysis
 Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

Date: 11/9/2022

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community Engagement

Perhaps the most important aspect of data gathering for this Study has come in the form of community input. The future of recreation in Portsmouth will be most successfully integrated if it has come from expressed needs and aspirations of its residents for an active and healthy community. Data gathering and analysis presents only one piece of the recreational need assessment; community input provides important confirmation of that assessment and reveals needs that are unique to the specific recreational profile of Portsmouth.

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Early in the planning process, community members were asked to provide their feedback on current programming, facilities, and sites, and help in prioritizing a vision for the future. Following this initial call for feedback, a vision and initial recommendations for Portsmouth recreation was produced combining community input with analysis undertaken through existing conditions research. Again the community was asked to weigh in, to assist in prioritizing recommendations.

The City and the consulting team worked in collaboration to provide a diversity of opportunities for engagement, to reach the widest possible audience. Multiple formats and methods were employed to the extent possible, and the City website, eblasts, and social media were deployed to notify and provide information to community members.

Input was requested via:

SURVEYS

- Community Survey - May 2022
- Facility User Groups - limited distribution to league/team representatives (see Facility Use Data section in Existing Conditions)

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

- Community Workshop #1 - Vision May 26, 2022
- Community Workshop #2 - Recommendations November 16, 2022

Highlights from these engagement efforts are to follow; detailed summaries of survey and workshop findings can be found in the Appendix.



Community Survey

The Portsmouth, NH Recreational Needs Analysis Online Community Survey kicked off on May 11, 2022 following an eblast from the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Recreation Department, and was closed on July 11, 2022. The survey was also promoted at the first Community Workshop on May 26, 2022. The survey used an online format for response collection, but a paper copy was made available and any responses received via hard copy were entered into the survey response database by the Recreation Department.

There were 303 responses from community members. A full accounting of survey responses can be found in the Appendix; below is a summary of themes and highlights of response data.

SURVEY PERIOD: MAY – JULY 2022

303 RESPONSES

- 92% Portsmouth residents; good geographic representation
- High response rate from families with young children
- 62% walk to local parks; 73% within 0.5 miles of parks

SUBJECTS COVERED

- Facilities and Programs
- Level of Satisfaction
- Suggestions/Recommendations

COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- General support for direction of Recreation Department
- Remember Seniors
- Remember Working Families
- Equity: make sure all voices are heard
- Environment: material choices, thoughtful development
- Leverage assets that we have
- Lots of interest in Rail Trail
- A few specific requests for ice rink not to be at Community Campus

Community Survey – Response Highlights

FACILITIES + PROGRAMS

- Most-commented items on Level of Satisfaction:
 - Pickleball
 - Walk/bike paths
 - Pool hours/facilities upgrades
 - Gender Equity
 - Field Facility Improvements
 - Playground Improvements

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMMING

- Major Events, Swimming, Youth Soccer

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

- In general, room for improvement in 'very satisfied/satisfied' responses across all demographics

WHAT RESPONDENTS WANT

Facilities:

- 50+ Responses: Ice Hockey Rink
- 20+ Responses: Splash Pad, Indoor Multi-Sport Facility, Pickleball, Skate Park
- Others: many passive recreation (greenways, water access, biking)

Top 3 Program Suggestions:

- Ice-Related: Hockey, Lessons, Skating
- Tennis
- Organized Pickleball

Community Workshop #1 - May 26, 2022

The Portsmouth Recreation Department hosted a Community Workshop in May 2022 to fulfill a key goal of the Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study Update: the gathering of public input on existing recreational facilities and programs in the city.

Followed by an overview presentation of the project goals, vision, and work to date, the consulting team facilitated work group discussions around the following questions:

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

What is the City of Portsmouth doing well by way of providing recreational opportunities (programming and/or facilities) for residents? (not prioritized)

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

What existing recreation facilities/programs could benefit from improvements? How could they be improved?

WHAT'S MISSING?

What existing recreation facilities/programs could benefit from improvements? How could they be improved?

Groups discussed their responses and prioritized them as a group. A summary of responses with highlights and themes is below; a full summary of Workshop #2 can be found in the Appendix.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

Youth Programs + Sports
Senior Center
Variety of Programming
General Support of
Direction

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

Priority 1:

- Indoor Courts/Recreation Space
- Maintenance/Operation of Fields

Priority 2:

- Winter Sports Year-Round
- Communication
- Outdoor Pool Hours
- Bike Trails + Paths
- Boat Ramp Programming
- Youth Sports/PHA

Priority 3:

- More Turf Fields
- Senior Programs: access and equity

WHAT'S MISSING?

Priority 1:

- Multi-Sport Complex
- Ice Rink

Priority 2:

- Indoor Turf Training Facility
- Connectivity to Recreation Sites
- Funding for Recreation + Sports

Priority 3:

- Turf Fields



Community Workshop #2 - November 16, 2022

The second (and final) public workshop for the Portsmouth Recreational Needs Study was held on November 16, 2022 at the Community Campus. The focus of the community workshop centered on a presentation of findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analyses, then offered residents the opportunity to weigh in on preliminary recommendations and prioritize actions the City should focus on first, according to category/topic area. Residents were also asked to contribute a word, phrase or full statement towards the creation of a vision statement.

In a format similar to Workshop #1, following a presentation of initial findings attendees were asked to vote on their top priorities by placing stickers on a collection of themed boards, according to the following Focus Areas:



Below and right: photos of interactive “dot voting” boards. Votes were gathered during Workshop #2. To maximize participation, boards were made available at the Community Campus extending voting by one week following the workshop.



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Guiding Principles

Prioritize Equitable Access to Recreation for the Health and Wellbeing of All Portsmouth Residents

Examine scheduling, programming, funding structures, geography, and social/environmental factors

Increase Connectivity of Recreational Opportunities

Maximize Capacity of Existing Sites for Recreational Needs

Maintain, enhance, and develop existing sites before expanding to new locations

Increase Interdepartmental Collaboration and Other Partnerships to Benefit Recreation in Portsmouth

Consider collaborations related to use of facilities, funding, and operations amongst City Departments, local nonprofits, other communities, and public-private partnerships

Advance and Expand Passive Recreation

Promote Climate Action, Resilience, and a Healthy Environment

Position Community Campus as the Recreational Hub of Portsmouth

Reinforce and Expand recreational uses at Community Campus; future projects and programs should be considered for location at Community Campus before considering other sites

Needs Assessment

Using the seven Guiding Principles as a foundation, along with the combination of analysis and community input, the following set of actionable recommendations has been created to serve as a roadmap to guide the future of recreation in Portsmouth. These recommendations are sorted according to the seven Areas of Focus presented and evaluated during the Public Engagement phase. Recommendations are further organized by overarching Strategies, the Goals to attain them, and specific actions to achieve each goal.

AREAS OF FOCUS

Community
Engagement +
Communication

Preservation,
Growth +
Stewardship

Connectivity +
Mobility

Facilities

Maintenance +
Stewardship

Programming

Amenities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

GOAL 1

INCREASE COMMUNICATIONS, FORMALIZE COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING AND PROMOTE THE CITY'S GOAL OF EQUITY AND INCLUSION

STRATEGIES

A Establish and Maintain an Effective Communications Plan

B Formalize communications planning with other City departments

C Promote the City's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion

ACTIONS

- 1 Produce accurate, timely transparent and easy to understand internal and external communications.
- 2 Continue to use and evaluate new technologies that enhance community access to information, including social media platforms (field access app/program signup for mobile phones).
- 3 Develop and distribute a map and resource guide with all parks and open spaces available to the public and list the amenities of each space.
- 4 Establish quarterly or annual 'Meet and Greet' sessions for sports league/organization administrators, coaches and support staff with the Recreation Department, School District Facilities Director and Public Works Division of Parks and Forestry.
- 5 Formalize protocols for field use with athletic user groups and organizations (Memoranda of Agreement) and update regularly (minimum annually):
 - Maintenance responsibilities based on best practices
 - Field closure/reopening policy
 - Equipment, appurtenances replacement or upgrades
- 6 Establish a regular meeting schedule (minimum quarterly) between the Recreation Department, Public Works Division of Parks and Forestry, and School Department Facilities Director to coordinate facility use, program offerings and to identify efficiencies for equipment and personnel crossover.
- 7 Minimize duplication of programs and identify personnel and facility efficiencies (particularly with Health/Library/Senior Services Departments) by continuing to Coordinate with all City departments regularly well in advance of seasonal program offerings to understand new initiatives.
- 8 Consider a management structure to oversee all of the parks and playgrounds in the City (also recommended in Open Space Plan).
- 9 Ensure that programs are conveniently located and geographically accessible utilizing the Level of Service Analysis.
- 10 Periodically assess programs to identify potential barriers to participation and possible solutions (internally and through public engagement).
- 11 Establish scholarship opportunities to families with demonstrated need.
- 12 Update this Needs Analysis every ten years in order to respond to changing trends and demographics.

PRESERVATION, GROWTH AND STEWARDSHIP

GOAL 2

MAINTAIN/ENHANCE EXISTING FACILITIES, EXPAND PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND DEVELOP NEW INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES

STRATEGIES

A

FACILITIES (Indoor)

Provide adequate indoor facilities to support active living programs, services and lifestyles.

B

FACILITIES (Outdoor)

Provide adequate outdoor facilities to support active living programs, services and lifestyles.

ACTIONS

1

Seek creative solutions to meet the community's identified need for the following facilities:

- Indoor ice rink/arena
- Multi-purpose sports complex
- Teen center
- Indoor courts (basketball/pickleball)
- Performance theater/Amphitheater

2

Conduct economic feasibility and marketing studies to explore the development of new specialty facilities including:

- Indoor ice rink/arena
- Multi-purpose sports complex

3

Utilize the Level of Service, Climate Change and FEMA Flood Zone Analyses as planning tools to inform future improvements/investments.

4

Establish a phased Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan. Seek creative solutions to meet the additional need for the following field types in order to address overutilization and the City's limited capacity to rest fields:

- Multi-purpose/artificial turf field
- Softball field (s)
- Baseball field (s)

5

Conduct economic feasibility and marketing studies to explore the development of new specialty facilities including:

- Spray/Splash pads
- Outdoor ice rink

6

Complete a comprehensive site assessment of the City's parks and playgrounds to document existing conditions. Use this to inform and guide the scheduling, design and upgrade of facilities (also recommended by Open Space Plan).

7

Pursue opportunities for community gardens at the Senior Center and throughout the City (also recommended by Open Space Plan/Master Plan).

8

Develop a master plan for the South Mill Pond Area (also recommended by Open Space Plan).

9

Expand natural playground elements at all elementary schools (also recommended by Open Space Plan).

10

Support the city-owned properties such as Prescott Park, Peirce Island and Sagamore Creek (also recommended by Master Plan).

11

Utilize the Level of Service, Climate Change and FEMA Flood Zone Analyses as planning tools to inform future improvements/investments.

PRESERVATION, GROWTH AND STEWARDSHIP

GOAL 2

MAINTAIN/ENHANCE EXISTING FACILITIES, EXPAND PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND DEVELOP NEW INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES

STRATEGIES

C MAINTENANCE + STEWARDSHIP
Develop and implement a Maintenance Management Plan to ensure that maintenance funds are invested in tasks that benefit recreation activities.

D PROGRAMMING
Utilize best practices for the enhancement and implementation of recreation programs.

ACTIONS

- 12** Identify average per-unit maintenance budget costs for parks and facilities, and use as guidance for maintenance budgeting and forecasting when new parks and facilities are brought online. Maintenance unit costs should be established and periodically reviewed for the following:
 - Infrastructure
 - Landscaping
 - Playgrounds
 - Open space
 - Recreation elements
- 13** Establish a life cycle maintenance and replacement program for all athletic fields to extend the life of fields and have the ability to replace or renovate fields once they have reached their useful lives.
- 14** Update maintenance standards on all fields based on agreement with the Recreation Department, Public Works Division of Parks and Forestry and School Department.
- 15** Partner with local schools and community organizations to create a stewardship program (also recommended by Master Plan).
- 16** Define standards and criteria to ensure that the Recreation Department's instructors, educators, and sports coaches are trained and certified. Offer high quality, ongoing training to program providers.
- 17** Establish scholarship opportunities to families with demonstrated need.
- 18** Further evaluate the enhancement of the Recreation Department's program offerings to include/expand:
 - Free play options throughout the City
 - Winter sports offerings
 - Affordable swim lessons
 - Programming for preschoolers, adults and people with disabilities
 - Pickleball lessons/league
 - Tennis lessons
 - Martial arts programming for adults
 - Disc golf
 - Teen programming
- 19** Evaluate the feasibility of extending hours of operation at indoor facilities to meet the needs of working families.

PRESERVATION, GROWTH AND STEWARDSHIP

GOAL 2

MAINTAIN/ENHANCE EXISTING FACILITIES, EXPAND PROGRAM OFFERINGS AND DEVELOP NEW INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES

STRATEGIES

E PROGRAMMING

Establish an evaluative system for current programs and the addition of future programs.

F AMENITIES

Enhance, upgrade and/or develop new amenities at existing sites to improve user experience.

ACTIONS

20

Utilize a range of methods, such as surveys and questionnaires, to solicit public input for program evaluation and adjustment to align with the annual budget process.

21

Regularly evaluate trends in sports and recreation activities and compare to Portsmouth.

22

Implement a system to track partner and competitor service delivery to help set targets for the Recreation Department to work with partners. Explore long-term plans of private/non-profits for synergies (PMAC, YMCA, etc.).

23

Consider safety at sites as a top priority for improvements, including:

- Fencing at playgrounds and ballfields
- Lighting (also to expand length of use)
- Update playground equipment
- Noise abatement

24

Evaluate the feasibility of adding comfort-related amenities, including:

- Restrooms
- Seating/bleachers/benches
- Picnic areas
- Parking

25

Create an asset management plan to address the replacement of field equipment and appurtenances.

26

Evaluate existing field sites and configurations for the incorporation of warm-up areas.

CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY

GOAL 3

ENHANCE WALKABILITY, BIKEABILITY AND UNIVERSAL ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

STRATEGIES

A Provide universal access to parks and recreation facilities City-wide.

B Support efforts to expand multi-use trails throughout the City.

ACTIONS

- 1** Conduct site-level accessibility reviews and develop an implementation strategy to remove existing barriers at parks and recreation facilities for people with and without disabilities.
- 2** Provide internal pathways connecting park elements in all parks and recreation facilities.
- 3** Prioritize sidewalk improvements/development that connect residents from residential areas to parks and recreation facilities.
- 4** Work with state/regional partners to convert the former Hampton Branch to the off-road route of the NH Seacoast Greenway (also recommended by Master Plan) and utilize and expand upon it to connect to Community Campus and the future skate park, and other recreational sites.
- 5** Identify/implement off-road, multi-use paths along North Mill Pond and other transportation/utility corridors (Master Plan).
- 6** Create a passive recreation program focused on expansion/maintenance of recreational trails (Master Plan).
- 7** Support efforts to incorporate trail connections throughout the City in accordance with goals of the Open Space Plan.

Site Specific Recommendations

Community Parks

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

- Resolve limited parking issues
- Address drainage issues on multi-purpose grass field
 - Artificial turf field anticipated for replacement 2023
- Reconstruct Tennis Courts

PORTSMOUTH INDOOR POOL

- Consider increasing annual City funding of \$150,000 to the special revenue fund for the Indoor Pool, to reflect inflation levels since 2010
- Consider expanding hours of operation to meet the needs of working families and expand opportunities for additional swimming lessons
- Resolve limited parking issues

SOUTH MILL POND AREA

South Mill Pond Playground

- Replace split-rail wood fence at playground
- Replace and update playground
- Add restroom facilities

Central Little League Field

- Formalize MOA with Portsmouth Little League and update seasonally/annually for maintenance responsibilities, field closure/reopening policies, and equipment/appurtenances replacements or upgrades
- Address limited parking issues
- Address the overutilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)

LEARY BALL FIELD

- Address limited parking issues
- Upgrade batting cage areas
- Address the overutilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)
- Grandstand/bleachers to be replaced 2025 to meet code compliance (concessions).
- Evaluate options and feasibility of flood control measures and drainage improvements

ALUMNI FIELD

- Address the overutilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)

DOG PARK

- Add trees to provide additional shade
- Replace/reconfigure fencing for improved safety
- Evaluate feasibility of providing additional amenities for park users

PEIRCE ISLAND

Playground

- Replace playground (high priority) due to age and intensity of use

Boat Launch

- Construct permanent restrooms
- Update docks and launch area

Pool/Bath House

- Aquatics upgrade
- Schedule bath house improvements/upgrades

COMMUNITY CAMPUS

Community Campus – Building + Site

- Conduct feasibility study to prioritize improvements that meet current deficiencies identified in this Needs Analysis.

Campus Drive Athletic Fields

- Complete second field as planned
- Upgrades to grass field

PRESCOTT PARK

Prescott Park

- Continue to support implementation of Prescott Park Master Plan

Four Tree Island

- No recommendations

Neighborhood Parks

DONDERO SCHOOL

- Expand natural playground elements
- Evaluate options and feasibility of flood control measures and drainage improvements

HISLOP FIELD/ATLANTIC HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND

- Expand parking
- Evaluate feasibility of incorporating a dog park
- Address overutilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL FIELD/PLAYGROUND

- Address drainage issues on field to extend play
- Identify off-street parking solution
- Evaluate options and feasibility of flood control measures and drainage improvements

LITTLE HARBOUR SCHOOL

- Resolve limited parking issues
- Consider incorporating noise abatement
- Incorporate natural playground elements
- Upgrade multi-purpose field for recreational use
- Address field drainage issues

CLOUGH FIELD

- Add lighting to extend use
- Add irrigation
- Resolve limited parking issues
- Consider incorporating noise abatement
- Expand natural playground elements

MAPLE HAVEN PARK/PLAYGROUND

- No recommendations

NEW FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Schedule improvements to tennis courts
- Add lighting to extend use
- Expand natural playground elements

PANNAWAY PLAYGROUND

- Identify off-street parking solution
- Consider incorporating noise abatement

PORTSMOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL/CONNIE BEAN CENTER

- Re-evaluate use of Connie Bean Recreation Center as a teen center clarify...what is this trying to say? community campus is (will be) a teen center. Is this recommending not using Connie Bean as a teen center? Or is it saying it needs to be more exclusively a teen center and not be shared with other uses?
- Identify other potential programmable space to be associated with Connie Bean Center for recreational use (either adding to or expanding existing facility in-place)

SPINNAKER POINT RECREATION CENTER

- Resolve limited parking issues (adjust program schedule of high-participation programs)
- Address maintenance deficiencies in advance of 10-yr. lease expiration
- Explore future plans for Spinnaker Point site, including City purchase of facility or relocating programming and facilities to other City recreation sites.

Mini Parks

CATER PARK

- No recommendations

LISTER ACADEMY/SHERBURNE FIELD

- Address the overutilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)
- Schedule field improvements

TONY RAHN PARK

- Add lighting to extend use
- Address the over-utilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)

PORTSMOUTH PLAINS FIELD/PLAYGROUND

Plains Field

- Formalize MOA with Portsmouth Little League and update seasonally/annually for maintenance responsibilities, field closure/reopening policies, and equipment/appurtenances replacement/upgrade
- Add lighting to extend use
- Address the over-utilization and limited capacity to rest fields (Athletic Fields Capital Improvements Plan)

Playground

- No recommendations

ROCK STREET PARK

- No recommendations

Linear Parks

RAIL TRAIL

- Find opportunities for connections to recreational sites, including Community Campus and future skate park

Playgrounds

SOUTH STREET PLAYGROUND

- No recommendations

PINE STREET PLAYGROUND

- Replace split-rail wooden fence at playground

Historic Parks

GOODWIN PARK

- No recommendations

Special Use Parks

GREENLEAF RECREATION CENTER

- Schedule replacement of fencing
- Evaluate future plans for skatepark and building for recreational use

SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

- Evaluate feasibility of incorporating community garden space

City of Portsmouth
Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study
KICK OFF MEETING – 11/18/2021



AGENDA

OVERALL PROJECT GOALS + VISION

SCOPE + SCHEDULE

Key Milestones and Coordination Points
Integration of Community Campus Planning

REVIEW OF DATA REQUEST/COORDINATION

PROJECT TEAM + COMMUNICATIONS

Overall Project Goals + Vision

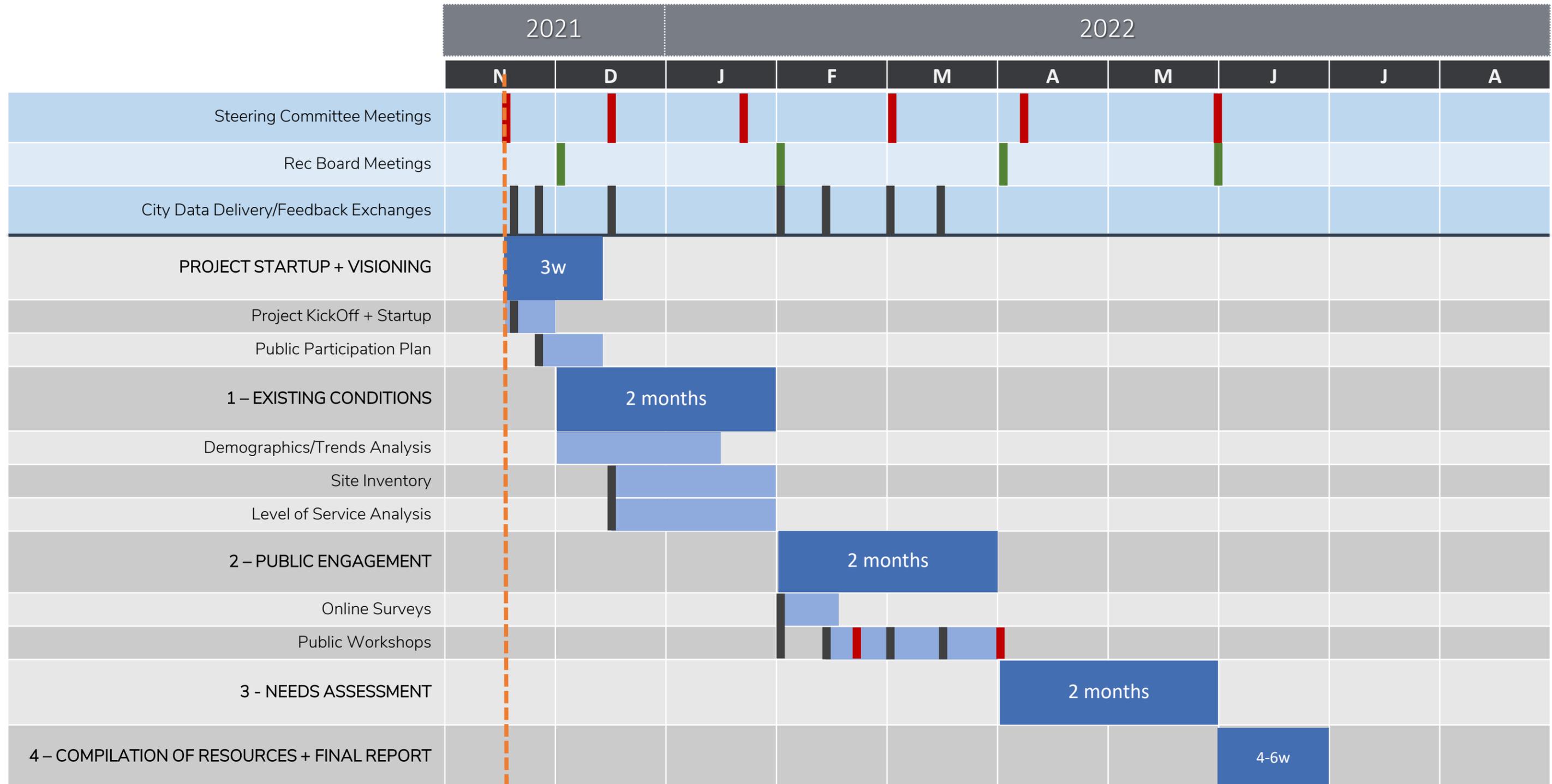
Focus on Community Engagement

Social and Environmental Factors

Future Planning

Estimated Project Schedule

Recreational Needs Study - Estimated Project Schedule

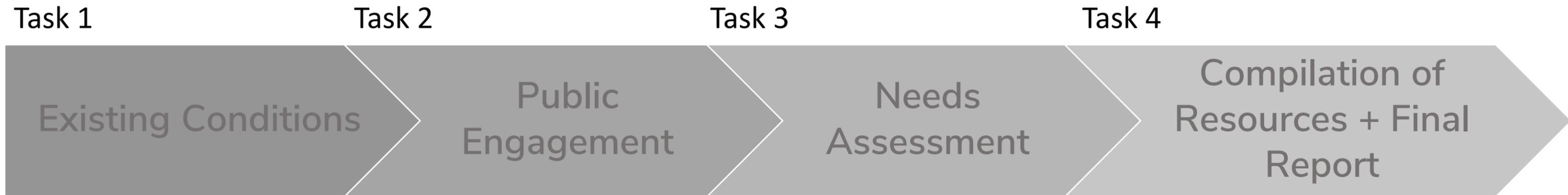


Updated 11/18/2021

█ = City data delivery point

█ = Meetings

Scope Review: Phase Highlights



Project Startup + Communications Planning

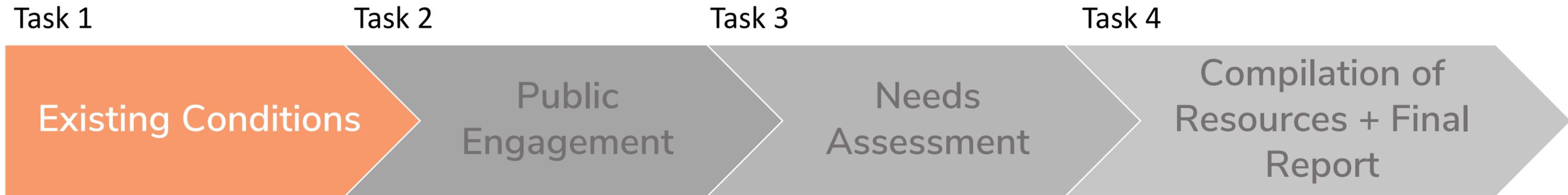
PROJECT STARTUP

- Kick Off Meeting
- Confirm communications + contacts
- Confirm Schedule + Municipal Coordination

COMMUNICATIONS

- PROJECT WEBSITE (Coordinated by CITY)
- **Public Participation Plan**

Scope Review: Phase Highlights



Task 1: Existing Conditions

1A: DATA COLLECTION

- Compile relevant documents
- LIMITED Site Inventory
 - Interview with DPW/Rec Departments
 - Update list of properties/sites
- Local Comparisons – 2 communities

1B: DEMOGRAPHICS/TRENDS

- GIS-based analysis
- Compare with national trends

1C: LEVEL OF SERVICE

- Categorization system for facilities (NRPA)
- Review equity and regional efficiency

Scope Review: Phase Highlights



Task 2: Public Engagement

- **(2) ONLINE SURVEYS**

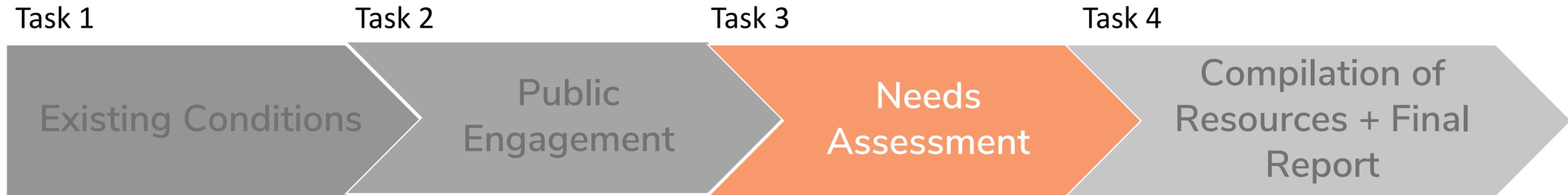
- Athletic Facility Use
- Parks, Recreation, Recreational Open Space

- **(2) PUBLIC WORKSHOPS**

- Workshop 1 (target mid/late Feb): Visioning
- Workshop 2 (target early April): Master Planning Input

- *Not included: Focus Groups, Additional Workshops for Community Campus or other issues-based feedback*

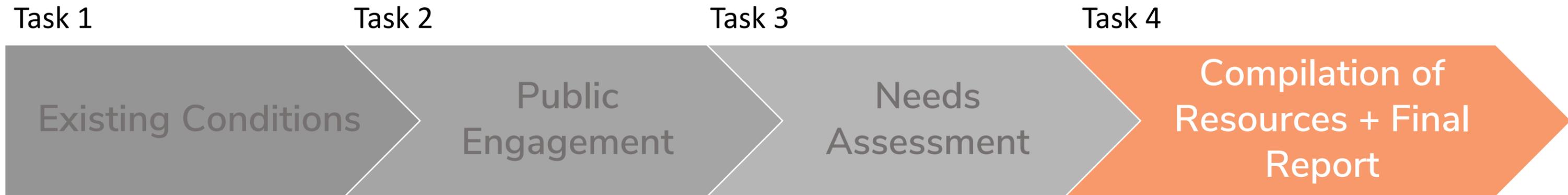
Scope Review: Phase Highlights



Task 3: Needs Assessment

- **STAFF/STEERING COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS**
 - Limited site visits
 - Interview summaries + recommendations for further study
- **SUMMARY FINDINGS**
 - Compiled from prior phases

Scope Review: Phase Highlights



Task 4: Final Report

- **DRAFT + FINAL REPORT**
 - Documentation of findings
 - Limited mapping/visuals

Community Campus Planning

Suggested Scope Integration/Extension:

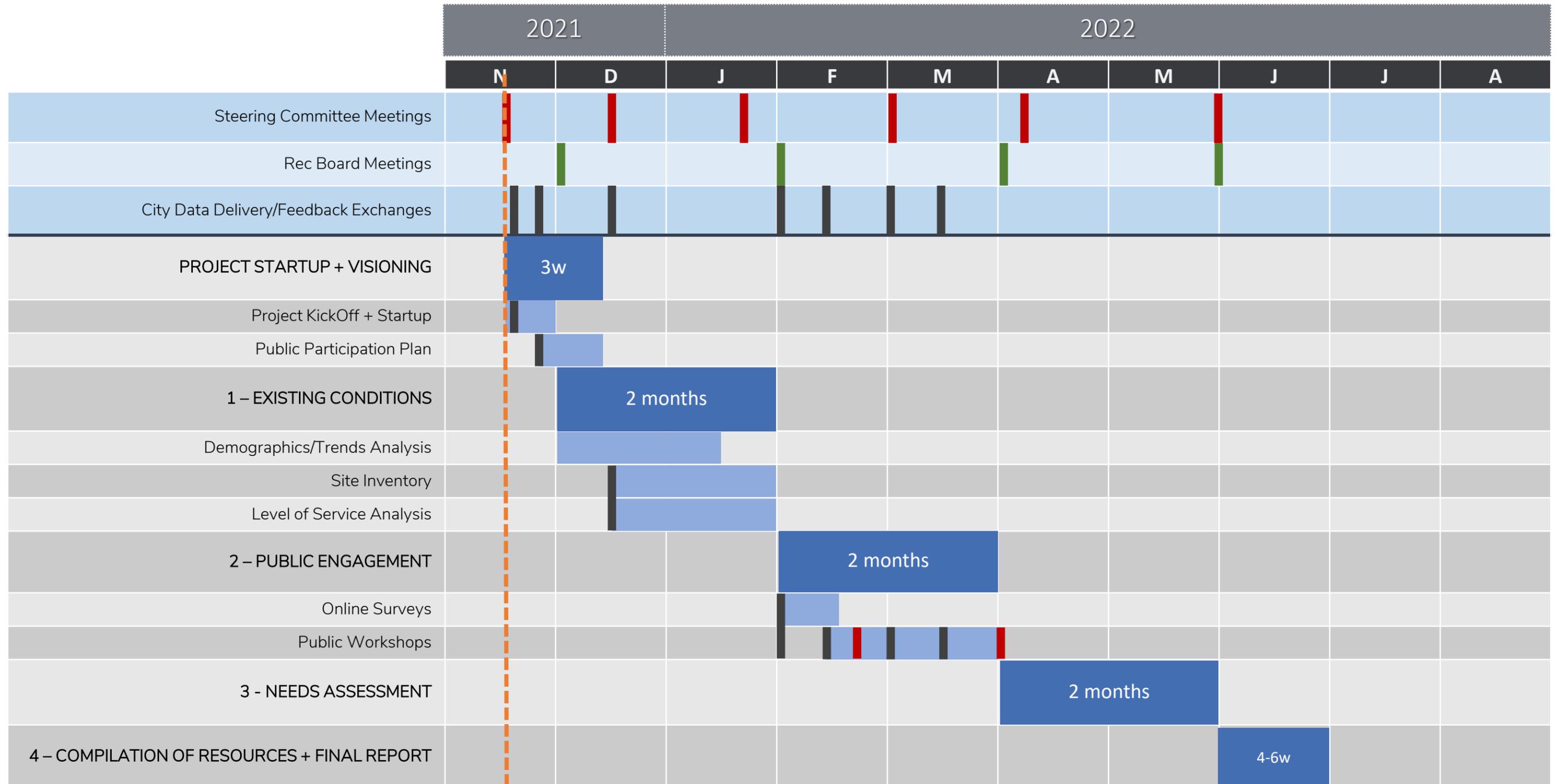
- **Overview-level site and building analysis**
 - Site visit, plan review
 - Interviews with key decisionmakers
- **Community Input**
 - Additional CC-related online survey
 - Focus Group(s) and/or Additional Workshop?
- **Considerations:**
 - How to integrate with this study's report?
 - Anticipating future studies, input

City Data + Outreach Coordination

Project Startup/Communications Planning		Task 1 Data Collection + Analysis		Task 2 Public Engagement	
Project Webpage		Site Inventory		Online Surveys	
CITY: create project webpage (template provided by HW)	ASAP	CITY: Cut Sheets of sites	12/16/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City to distribute eblast with link to Community Survey(aligned with Public Workshop #1) City to distribute eblast with link to Athletic Facility Users Survey 	Aligned with Public Workshop #1
CITY: Send project kickoff eblast	At website launch	CITY: List of recreation/sports offerings by season	12/16/2021		
Public Participation Plan		Demographics/Trends Analyses		Public Workshop #1 (mid/late February)	
City to provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steering Committee membership (names/contacts) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parks and Recreation Commission (names/contacts) Protocols for outreach/coordination (SOPs/COVID) Facilities/Programs Contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> League Admin. Coaches/Instructors Support Staff Maintenance Staff Neighborhood Groups/Orgs. Media/Social Media (names/contacts) 	11/24/2021	No city input expected	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City to confirm date/location/logistics 	Early February 2022
		Level of Service Analysis		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City to distribute eblast announcing public workshop 	2/1/2022 (two weeks prior to actual date of workshop)
		CITY: Provide GIS parcel data, sites data (with completed attribute table)	ASAP, by 12/16/2021	Public Workshop #2 (early April)	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City to confirm date/location/logistics 	March 1, 2022
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City to distribute eblast announcing public workshop 	3/15/2022 (two weeks prior to actual date of workshop)

Estimated Project Schedule

Recreational Needs Study - Estimated Project Schedule



Updated 11/18/2021

█ = City data delivery point

█ = Meetings

Project Team + Communications



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Sustainable Environmental Solutions





City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Community Workshop – May 26, 2022



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PORTSMOUTH
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
horsleywitten.com



PROJECT TEAM



City of Portsmouth

Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Barry Foley, Assistant Director/
Program Coordinator/ Supervisor
Recreation Department

Peter Rice, Director of Public Works

Stephanie Seacord, Public
Information Officer

Peter Stith, Principal Planner

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Alice Carey
Project Manager

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
horsleywitten.com



Craig Pereira
Senior Planner

Placework

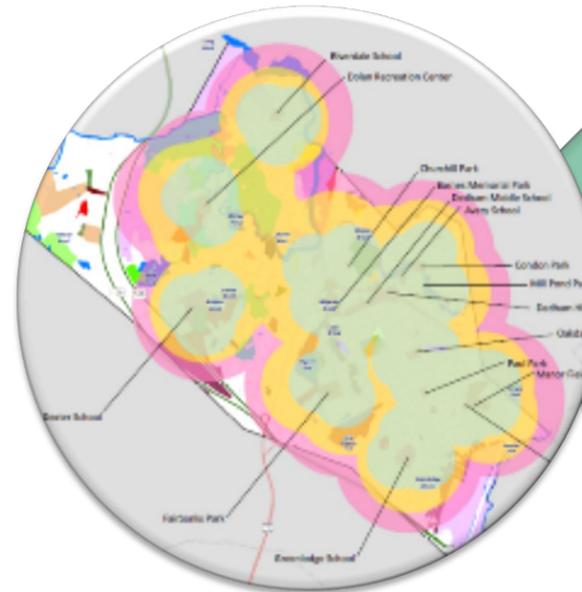
ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING





COMMUNICATIONS

- Project Webpage Coordination
- Public Participation Plan
- Eblasts
- Local Media



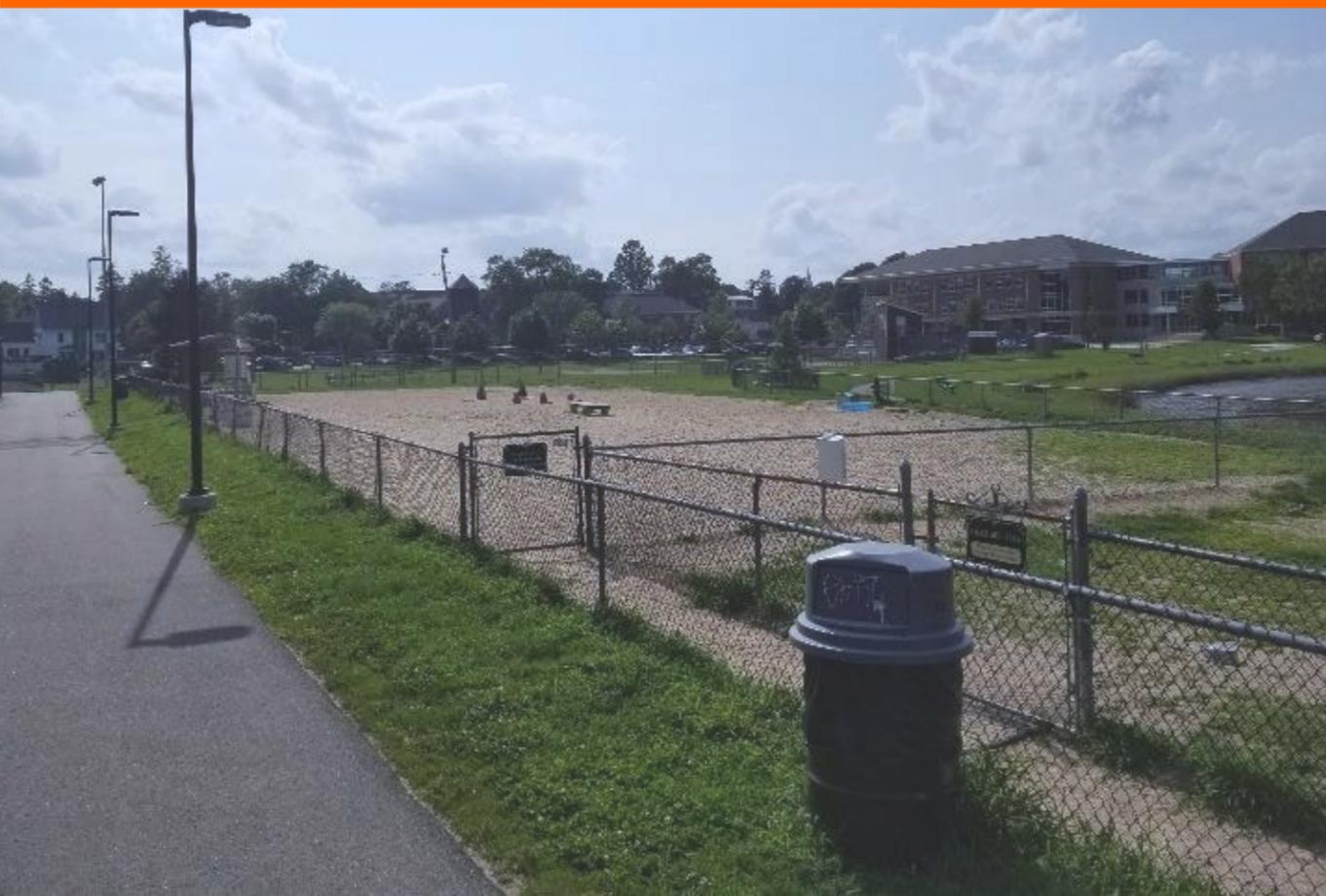
ANALYSIS/RESEARCH

- Demographics/Trends
- Comparative Analyses
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Connectivity
- Level of Service GIS Analysis



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Project Webpage
- Community Surveys
- Interviews/Focus Groups
- Onsite Pop-Ups
- Public Forums



AGENDA

RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY

What is a Recreational Needs Study?

Why Portsmouth needs a Recreational Needs Study

What's the process?

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Demographics, Trends + Assessments

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

What is a Recreational Needs Study?

An assessment of recreational programs and facilities that considers opportunities to improve or expand existing programs or facilities based on demand, capacity and projected future needs.

Why does Portsmouth need a Recreational Needs Study?

The original Recreational Needs Study was completed in 2010

The Recreational Needs Study will:

- Set forth a **vision** that reflects the needs and priorities of the community
- Establish a **roadmap** for how that vision can be implemented over the next ten years

Scope Review: Phase Highlights

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

Task 4

Existing Conditions

Public Engagement

Needs Assessment

Compilation of Resources + Final Report

- Data Collection + Analysis
- Supply / Demand + Demographics/ Trends Analyses

- Project Webpage
- Online Surveys
- Community Workshops

- Staff/Project Team Interviews
- Summary Findings

- Draft + Final Report

Overall Project Goals + Vision

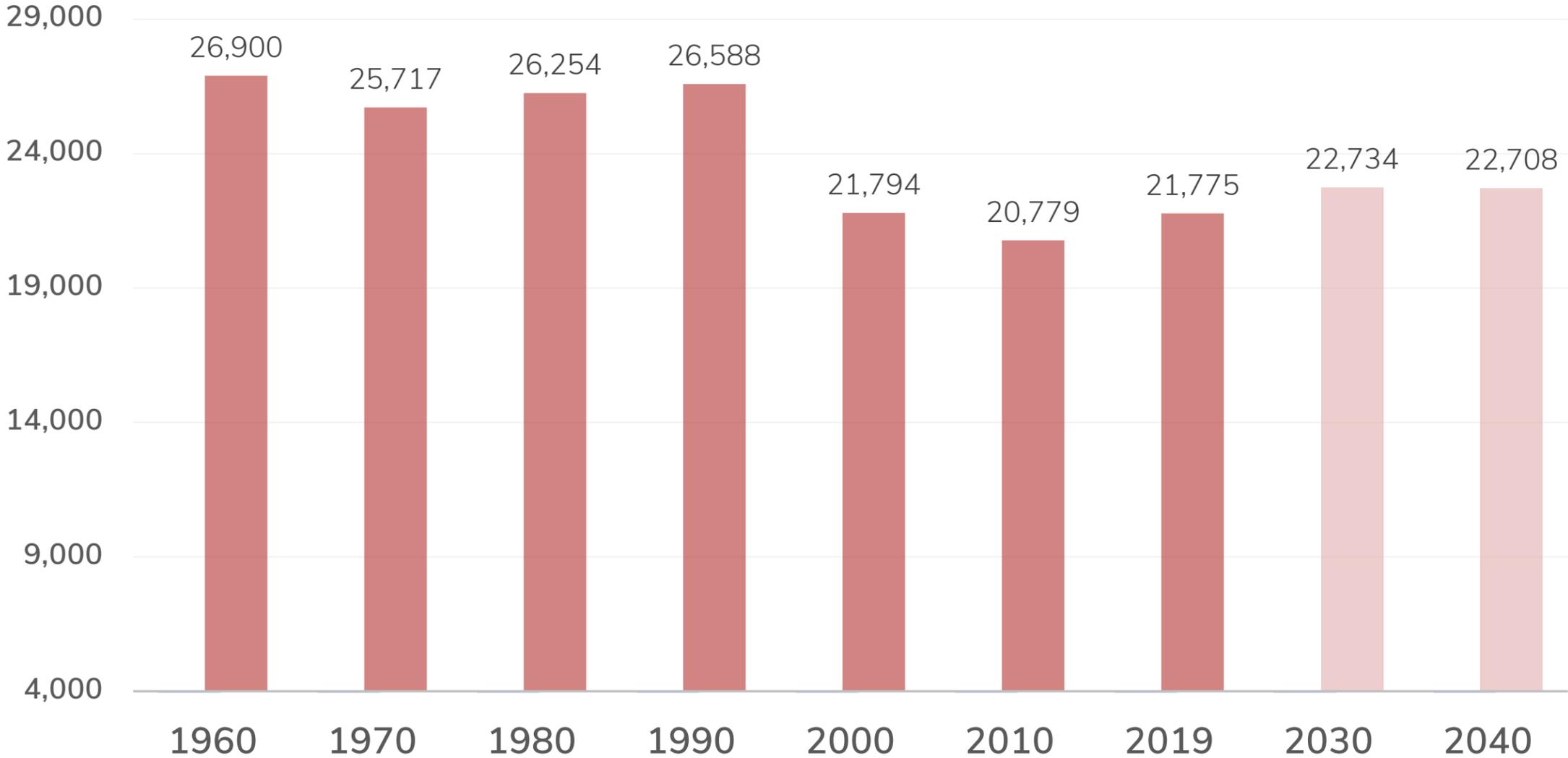


Focus on Community Engagement
Social and Environmental Factors
Future Planning

Placework

Demographics

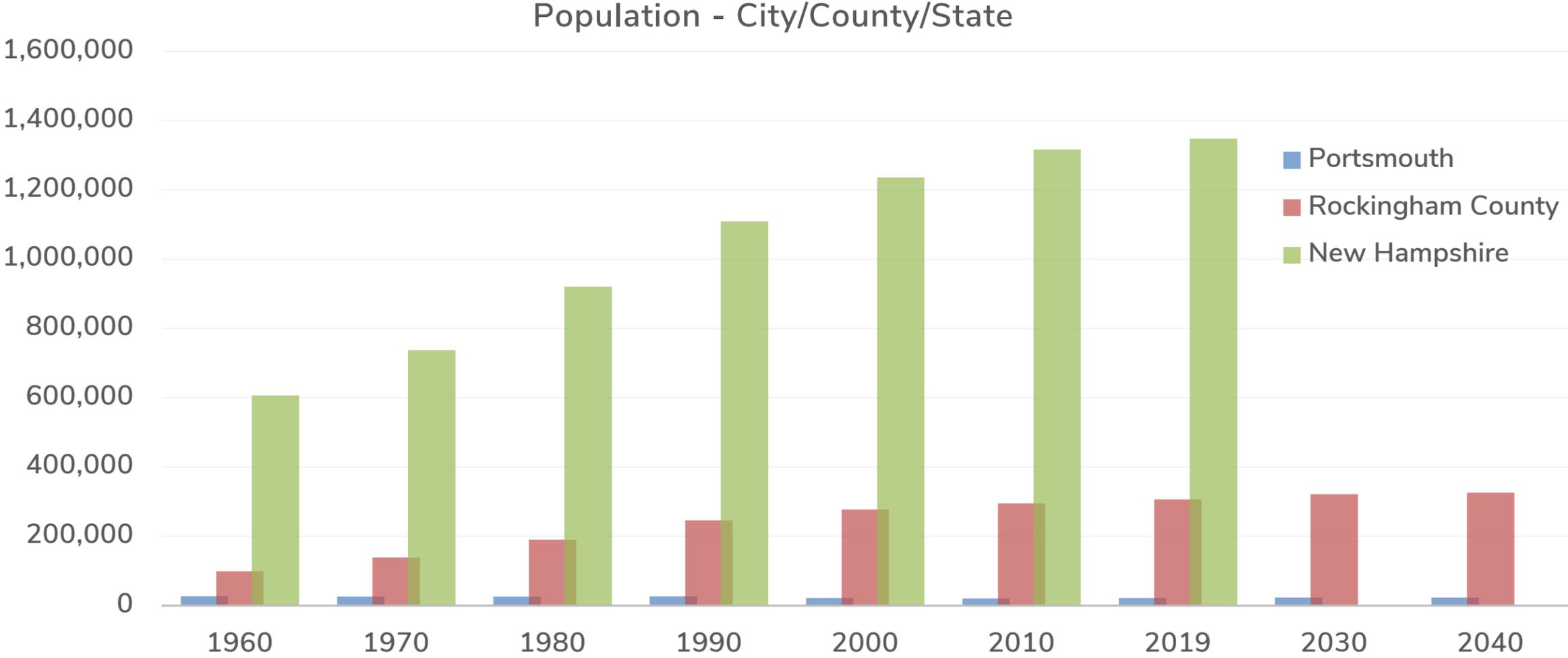
Population City of Portsmouth 1960-2040



Demographics

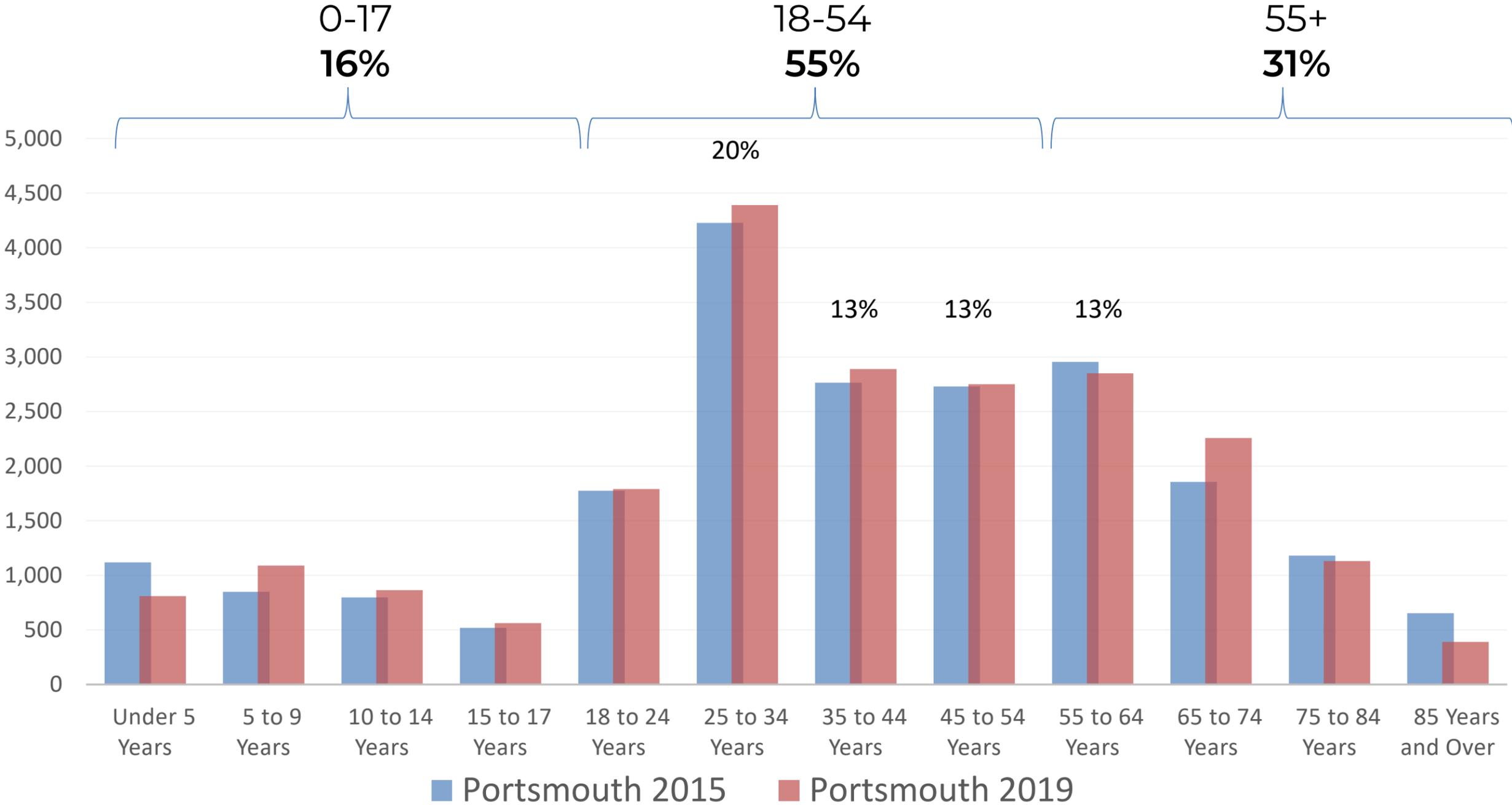
Population

City of Portsmouth 1960-2040, as compared to County + State



Demographics

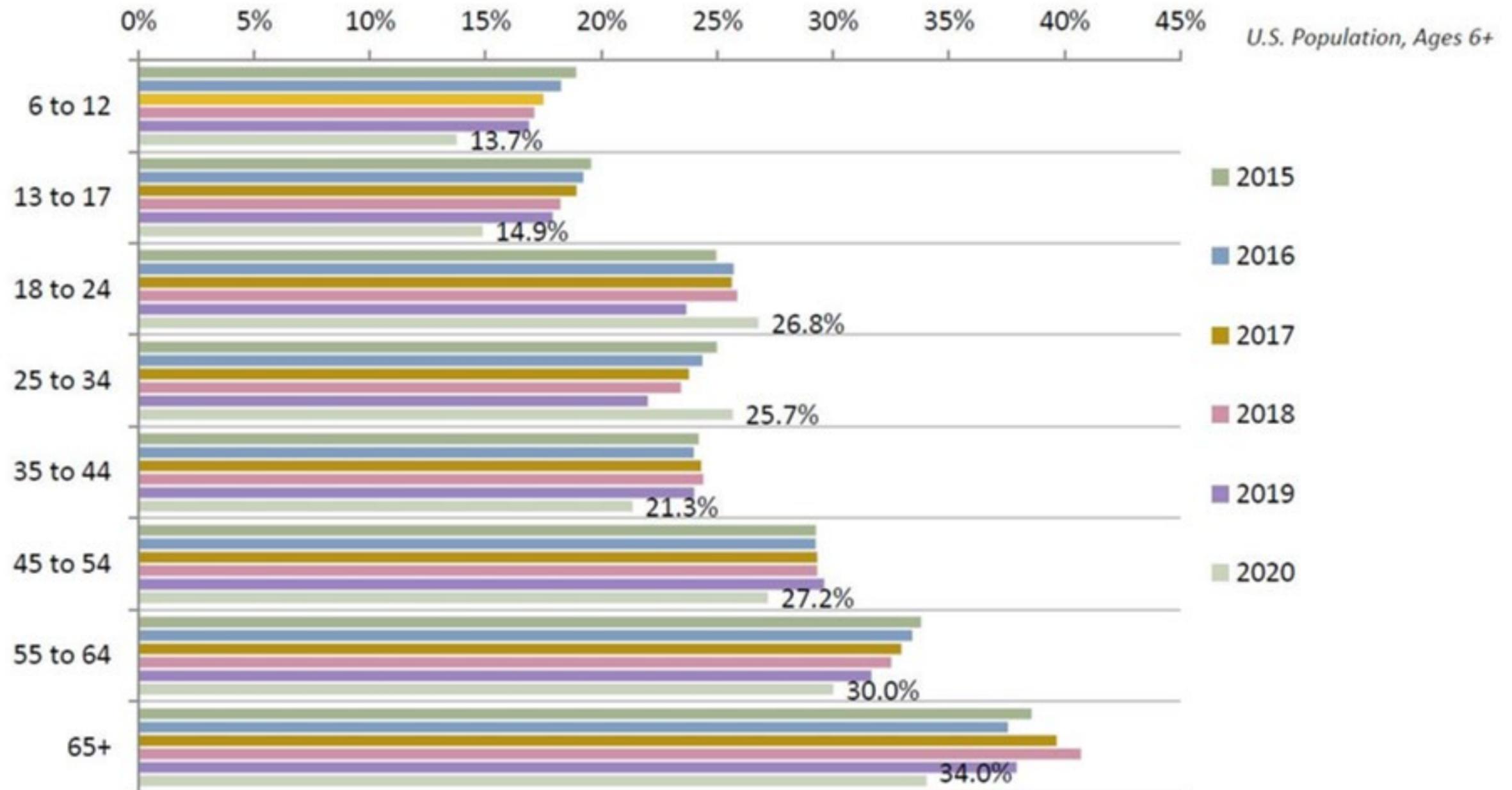
Population by Age Group – 2015-2019



National Trends

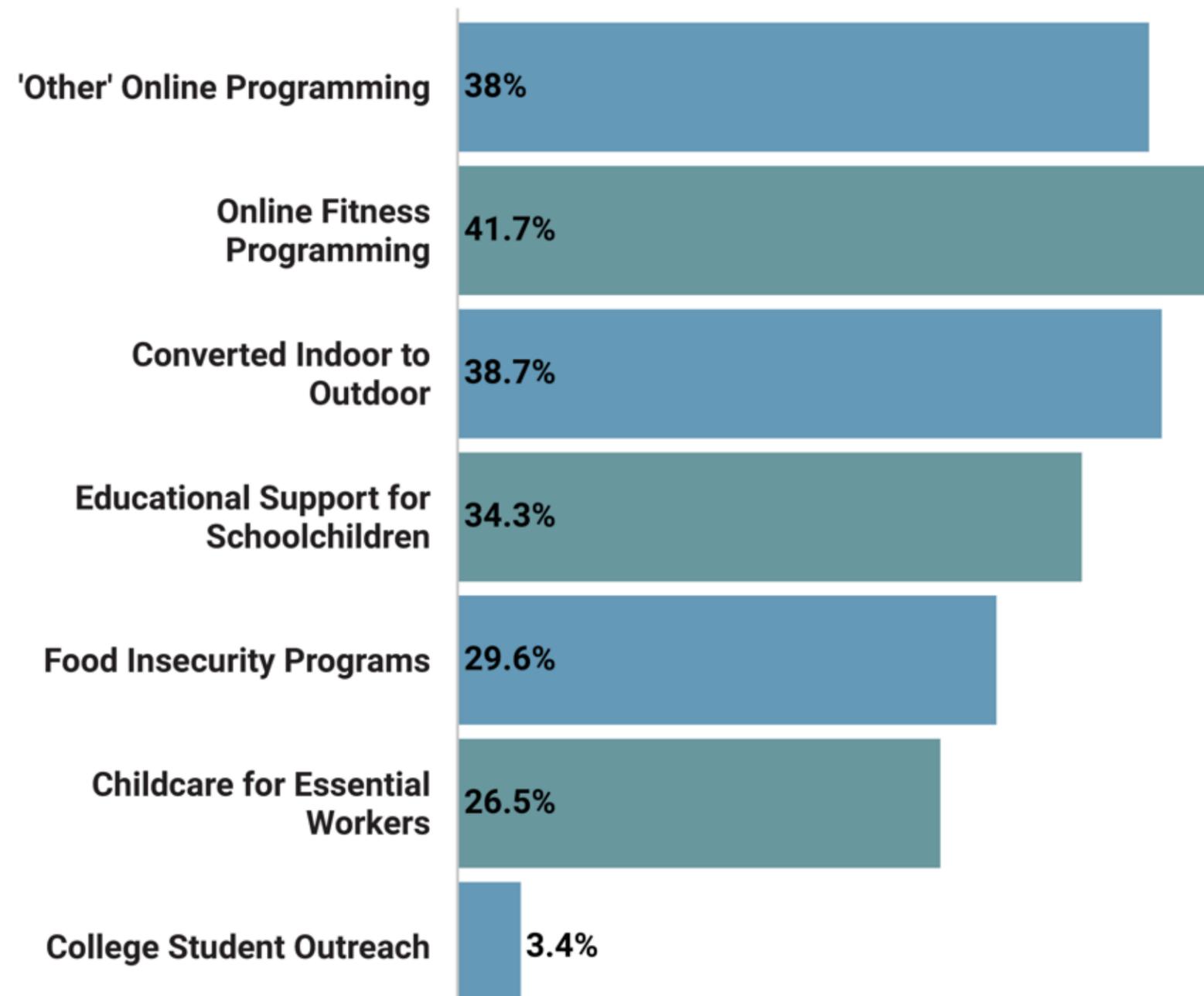
Inactivity Trends by Age 2015 – 2020

(Source: Physical Activity Council)



National Trends

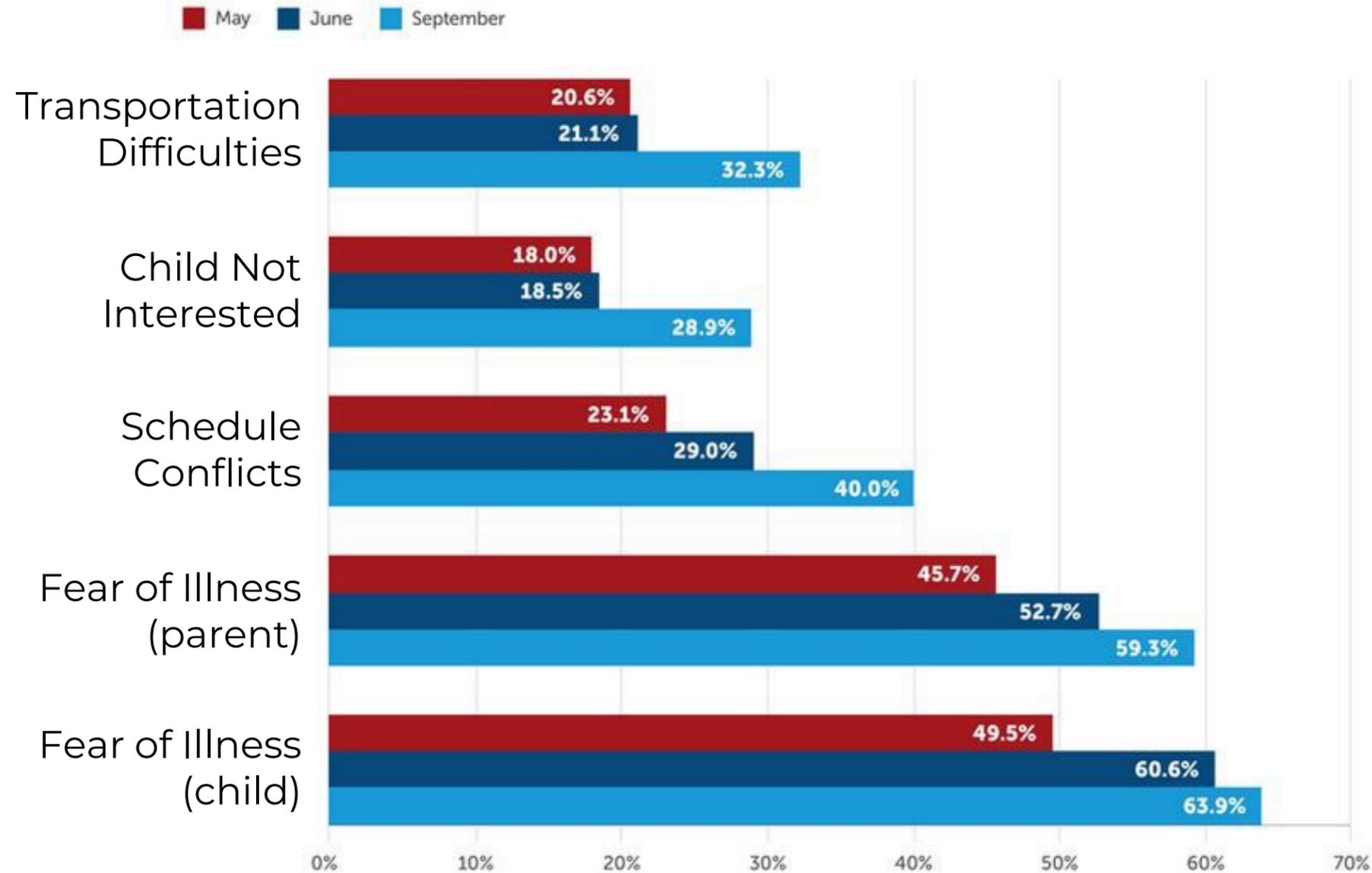
Pandemic Impacts: Activity and Program Adjustments Due to COVID-19 (Source: Recreation Management Magazine)



National Trends

Pandemic Impacts: Barriers to Participation 2021 (Source: Aspen Institute)

Potential Barriers to Resume Sports When Restrictions are Lifted (Strongly Agree or Agree)



National Trends

Most Commonly Planned Programs 2021

(Source: Recreation Management Magazine)

- Group exercise programs
 - Teen programming
 - Fitness programs
 - Mind/Body balance programs (yoga)
 - Programs for active, older adults
 - Educational programs
 - Environmental education programs
 - Holidays and other special events
 - Adult sports teams
 - Special needs programs
- 

Limited Site Assessments

Athletic Fields/Recreation Areas

Portsmouth High School:

- Practice and Competition Fields
- Track & Field Areas
- Tennis Courts
- Ropes Course
- Cross-Country Trail Access

Lister Academy School Field

Dondero School Field + Playground

Little Harbour School Field + Playground

New Franklin Elementary:

- Fields
- Tennis Courts
- Playgrounds

Lafayette School Field + Playground

Pannaway Field + Playground

Alumni Ball Field

Plains Ball Field + Playground

Maple Haven Field

Clough Field

Pease Ball Field

Hislop Park Ball Field

New Athletic Field

Peirce Island:

- Playgrounds
- Boat Launch
- Four Tree Island
- Pool + Bathhouse

South Mill Pond Area:

- South Mill Pond Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Central Little League Ball Field
- Leary Ball Field
- Dog Park

Rail Trail – access points, pump track

Greenleaf Skate Park

Atlantic Heights Playground

South Street Playground

Pine Street Playground

Buildings/Indoor Facilities

Portsmouth High School Gym

Portsmouth High School Field House

Lister Academy School Gym

Dondero School Gym

Little Harbour School Gym

New Franklin Elementary Gym

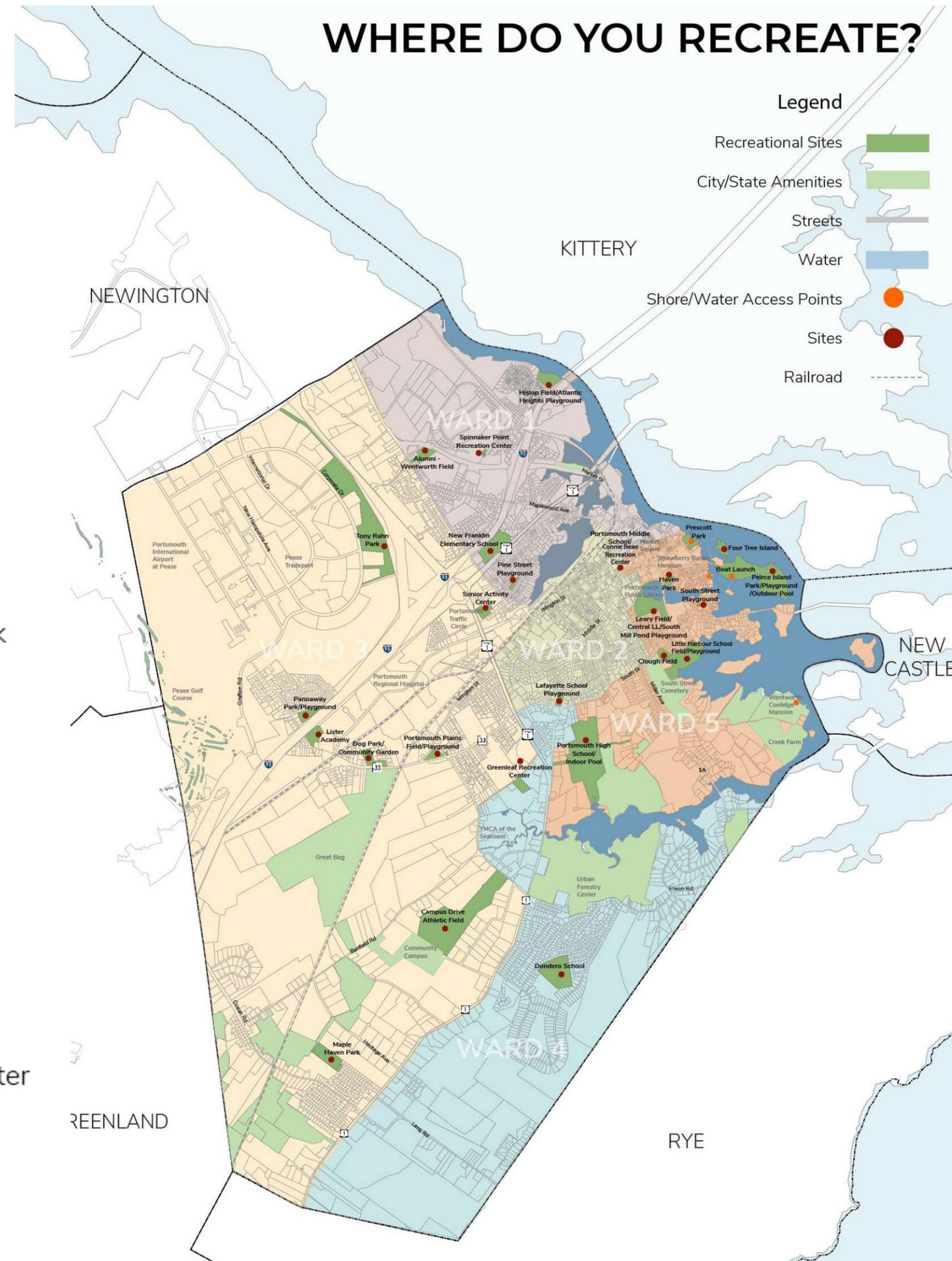
Connie Bean Recreation Center

Spinnaker Point Recreation Center

Portsmouth Middle School Gym

Portsmouth Indoor Pool

Greenleaf Recreation Center



Comparative Analysis of Other Communities

Portsmouth

- A range of sports programs and specialized classes offered year-round (for a range of demographics)
- Fitness programs offered for youth (Fall/Winter/Spring)
- Variety of camps for youth offered during summer and vacation weeks
- Trips/One-time events offered year-round (for a range of demographics)
- Year-round programs/classes offered for seniors and adults

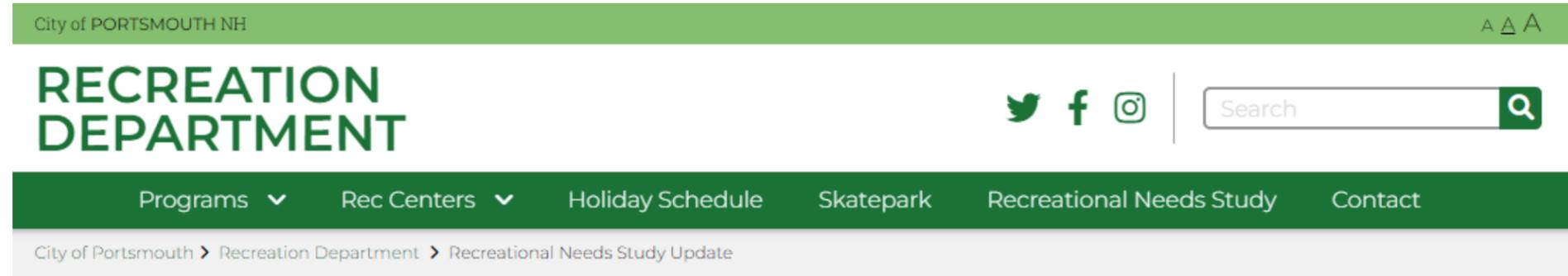
How does this stack up to offerings in OTHER COMMUNITIES?



Find Us Online!

Provide Your Input and Stay Updated

Project Webpage
Email List
Online Survey



RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY NOW ONLINE!

The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. **Complete the survey** and become part of the plan!

Background

The City of Portsmouth has launched a Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study project to update the City's **2010 Recreational Needs Study** (last revised in 2016). The project team includes the Recreation Director, DPW Director, Steering Committee, **Recreation Board** and consultants **Placework-Horsley Witten Group**.

To update the Recreational Needs Study, the team seeks to understand how residents utilize the City's recreational facilities and programs, assess whether existing recreational facilities and programs are meeting the needs of the community and project trends in future recreational amenities, in order to define a comprehensive plan for the future of recreation in Portsmouth.

The scope of the project includes:

- Data Collection and Analysis, including a review of the inventory of existing

RECREATION BOARD

City Manager Karen Conard, Ex-Officio

Rich Blalock, Council Liaison

Brian French, School Board Liaison

Carl Diemer, Chairperson

Lauren Krans

Robert Bogardus

Jacqueline Cali-Pitts

Richard Duddy

Kathryn Lynch

Kory Sirmaian

PROJECT TEAM

City of Portsmouth

Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Peter Rice, Director of Public

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/recreational-needs-study-update>

Questions?



FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

PURPOSE

To understand how residents gauge the City's progress in meeting needs for recreation programs and facilities.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

WHAT'S MISSING?





THANK YOU!

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City of Portsmouth
Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study
RECREATION BOARD MEETING – 08/17/22



AGENDA

REVIEW OF SCOPE + SCHEDULE

SUMMARIES OF PUBLIC INPUT

NEXT STEPS

Scope Review: Phase Highlights

Task 1

Task 2

Task 3

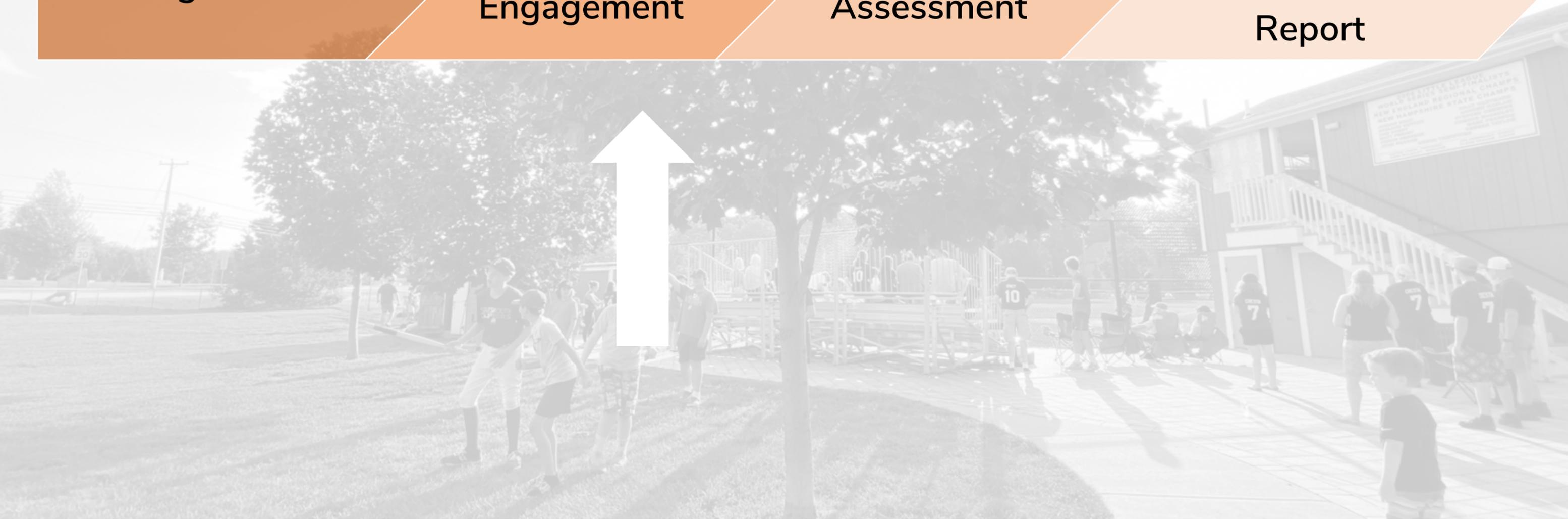
Task 4

Existing Conditions

Public
Engagement

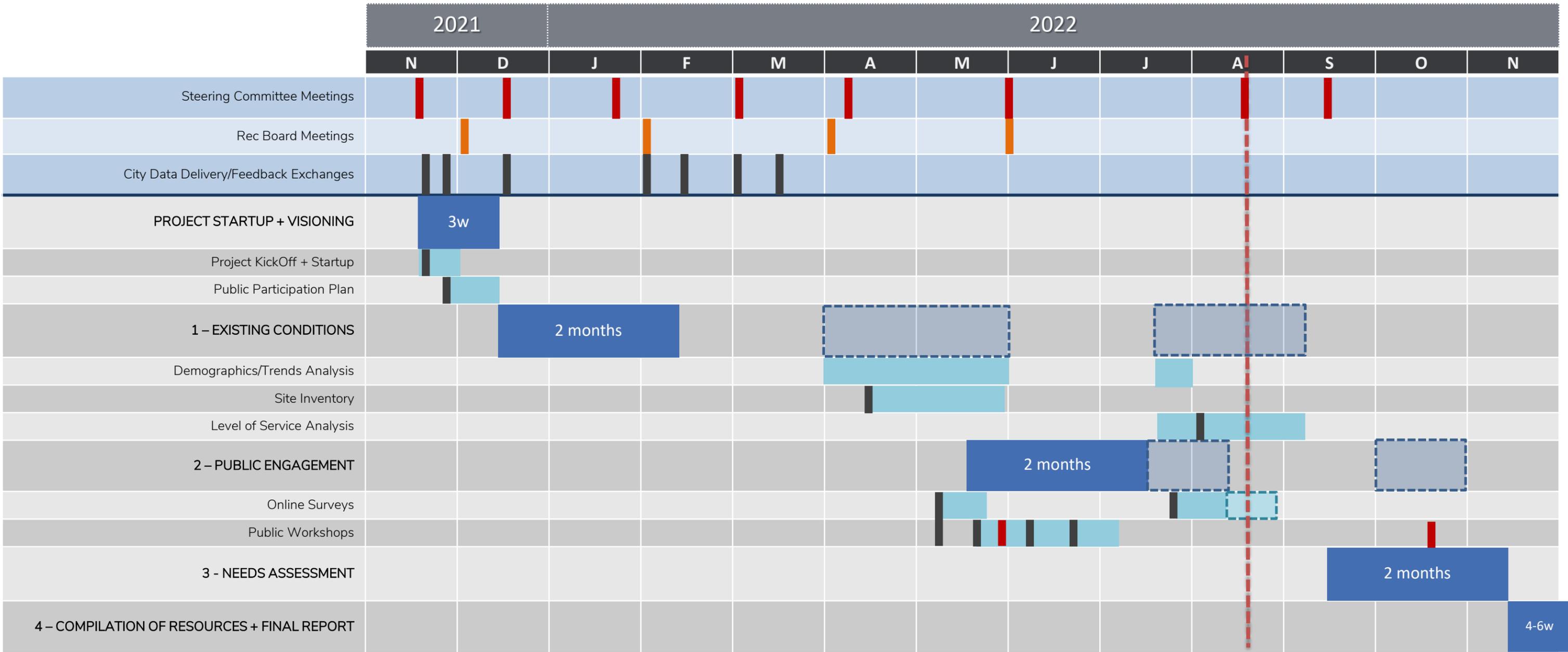
Needs
Assessment

Compilation of
Resources + Final
Report



Estimated Project Schedule

Recreational Needs Study



Updated 7/20/2021

█ = City data delivery point

█ = Meetings

Summary Responses

Public Workshop #1

Community Survey

Athletic Facility User Survey

Local Comparative Analysis

Public Workshop #1 – May 2022

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

WHAT'S MISSING?



Public Workshop #1 – May 2022

WHAT IS WORKING WELL?

Youth Programs + Sports
Senior Center
Variety of Programming
General Support of
Direction

WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?

Priority 1:

- Indoor Courts/Recreation Space
- Maintenance/Operation of Fields

Priority 2:

- Winter Sports Year-Round
- Communication
- Outdoor Pool Hours
- Bike Trails + Paths
- Boat Ramp Programming
- Youth Sports/PHA

Priority 3:

- More Turf Fields
- Senior Programs: access and equity

WHAT'S MISSING?

Priority 1:

- Multi-Sport Complex
- Ice Rink

Priority 2:

- Indoor Turf Training Facility
- Connectivity to Recreation Sites
- Funding for Recreation + Sports

Priority 3:

- Turf Fields

Community Survey – Response Highlights

SURVEY PERIOD: MAY – JULY 2022

303 RESPONSES

- 92% Portsmouth residents; good geographic representation
- High response rate from families with young children
- 62% walk to local parks; 73% within 0.5 miles of parks

SUBJECTS COVERED

- Facilities and Programs
- Level of Satisfaction
- Suggestions/Recommendations

COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS

General support for direction of Recreation Department

Remember Seniors

Remember Working Families

Equity: make sure all voices are heard

Environment: material choices, thoughtful development

Leverage assets that we have

Lots of interest in Rail Trail

A few specific requests for ice rink not to be at Community Campus

Community Survey – Response Highlights

FACILITIES + PROGRAMS

- Most-commented items on Level of Satisfaction:
 - Pickleball
 - Walk/bike paths
 - Pool hours/facilities upgrades
 - Gender Equity
 - Field Facility Improvements
 - Playground Improvements

MOST POPULAR PROGRAMMING

- Major Events, Swimming, Youth Soccer

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION

- Across all demographics, less than half responded ‘very satisfied/satisfied’ with programs and sports

WHAT RESPONDENTS WANT

Facilities:

- 50+ Responses: Ice Hockey Rink
- 20+ Responses: Splash Pad, Indoor Multi-Sport Facility, Pickleball, Skate Park
- Others: many passive recreation (greenways, water access, biking)

Top 3 Program Suggestions:

- Ice-Related: Hockey, Lessons, Skating
- Tennis
- Organized Pickleball

Athletic Users Survey – Draft Response Highlights

TEAMS SURVEYED

Seacoast Pirates Baseball
Portsmouth City Soccer Club
Portsmouth Little League
PHS Boys Tennis Program
PHS Girls Tennis Program
PHS Football Program
PHS Varsity Softball Program
Coastal New England Baseball League
Seacoast Ultimate
Portsmouth Youth Football
PHS Cheerleading
PHS Girls Varsity Lacrosse
Seacoast Lacrosse
American Legion/Babe Ruth
Portsmouth Youth Softball
Flag Football
Woman's Softball
Fusion Soccer
Co-ed Softball

RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Conflicts/Coordination with Schools,
other sports, City Rec Programs

Need for Warm Up Space and
Practice Fields

Field Condition: Drainage, Turf Wear
Add Lighting for Increased Access

Storage + Support: Space and Staff,
especially in Mill Pond Area

Fields Built and Striped Appropriately
for Sport (Softball, Football)

Access to Leary Field (Baseball)

Comparative Analysis - Dover and Rochester

TRENDS

- Kids: more structured programming is the expectation (less open play)
- Adults: generally the opposite but still managed with sign ups

COORDINATION OF FACILITIES USE

- Generally managed similar to Portsmouth
- Idea: fee per roster to City for sports-specific maintenance fund

STAFF + FACILITIES

- Staff/Facility Balance is an issue
- Both open to sharing regionally

TAKE-AWAYS

LOOK BEYOND ISSUES OF THE DAY;
THOROUGHLY RESEARCH NEED
AND MEET IT

EVALUATE AND LEVERAGE
CURRENT ASSETS

GOOD DATA AND SOLID
RECOMMENDATIONS ARE
INSTRUMENTAL

Next Steps

Complete and Compile all Responses and Analysis

Begin Draft Recommendations

**Next Public Workshop:
Response to Initial Recommendations
Discussion: Format, Dates, Preview**



THANK YOU



City of Portsmouth

Recreational Needs Study

Recreation Board – October 6, 2022



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AGENDA

**ANALYSIS FINDINGS +
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ALTERNATIVES



Summary of Data Collection and Analyses

Data Sources and Community Outreach

- Online Community Survey
 - Athletic Facility Users Survey
 - Public Workshop #1
 - Inventory Spreadsheet
 - Field Use Analysis (not complete)
 - Comparisons between National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Portsmouth
 - Existing/Future Municipal Plans
 - Coordination Interviews/Meetings
- 

Preliminary Recommendations

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Programming

Connectivity/
Mobility

Facilities

Policies

Amenities

Park-Specific
Recommendations

Preliminary Recommendations

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Increase Communications + Create Communications Plan

- Establish annual 'meet and greet' for sports league/organization administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
- Establish quarterly (by season) coordination meetings with sports league/organization administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
- Formalize protocols for field use, particularly after rain events.

Preliminary Recommendations

Programming

Expand Program Offerings + Expand Hours of Operation

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Free play options
 - Programming for preschoolers/adults/people with disabilities
 - Coordination with Portsmouth Housing Authority (scholarships)
 - Extend weekend hours for working families (indoor facilities)
 - Establish training opportunities for volunteer coaches
 - Martial arts programming for adults/empty-nesters
 - Winter sport offerings
 - Affordable swim lessons

Preliminary Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

- Deficiencies:
- Adult Softball Fields: 3
 - Youth Softball Fields: 1
 - Adult Baseball Fields: 2
 - Outdoor Pools: 2
 - Community Gardens: 2
 - Youth Soccer Fields: 3
 - Adult Soccer Fields: 1
 - Skate Parks: 1
 - Football Fields: 1

Type of Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility		Number of Facilities				
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹		Baseline	2022 Inventory	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284	
	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	Less than 20,000 ²	Portsmouth 2022 Existing	Portsmouth 2022 Additional Needs	Portsmouth 2032 Needs ²	Portsmouth 2032 Additional Needs
Playgrounds	1,986	3,111	11	14	0	12	0
Basketball Courts - Indoor ³	3,750	6,839	6	7	0	6	0
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	3,107	4,858	7	8	0	7	0
Tennis Courts	2,723	5,000	8	10	0	9	0
Rectangular Fields: Multi-Purpose	4,362	7,674	5	5	0	5	0
Dog Parks	11,100	28,000	2	3	0	2	0
Diamond Fields: Softball Fields - Adult	5,667	11,232	4	1	3	4	3
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	5,339	8,509	4	3	1	4	1
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	7,954	19,000	3	1	2	3	2
Swimming Pools	8,637	26,281	3	1	2	3	2
Community Gardens	8,773	24,500	3	1	2	3	2
Rectangular Fields; Soccer Field - Youth	3,504	5,011	6	3	3	7	4
Multi-Use Courts: Basketball/Volleyball	5,400	14,807	4	11	0	4	0
Tot Lots	6,642	10,756	3	0	0	4	0
Rectangular Field: Soccer Field - Adult	8,017	10,547	3	2	1	3	1
Skate Parks	11,100	32,335	2	1	1	2	1
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	8,004	19,351	3	2	1	3	1
Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses	9,183	33,800	2	0	2	3	3
Driving Range Station	5,055	23,238	4	0	4	5	5
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	12,962	24,665	2	2	0	2	0
Ice Rinks	7,997	3,123	3	0	3	3	3
Pickleball Courts	3,446	8,143	6	9	0	7	0

1: Showing both NRPA Population categories to show the wide range of median number of residents per facility.

2: Utilized NRPA < 20,000 standard for median number of residents per facility (closest to Portsmouth) and applied Portsmouth total population.

3: Additional indoor basketball/volleyball courts available at school sites (not fixed).

Preliminary Recommendations

Facilities
(Outdoor)

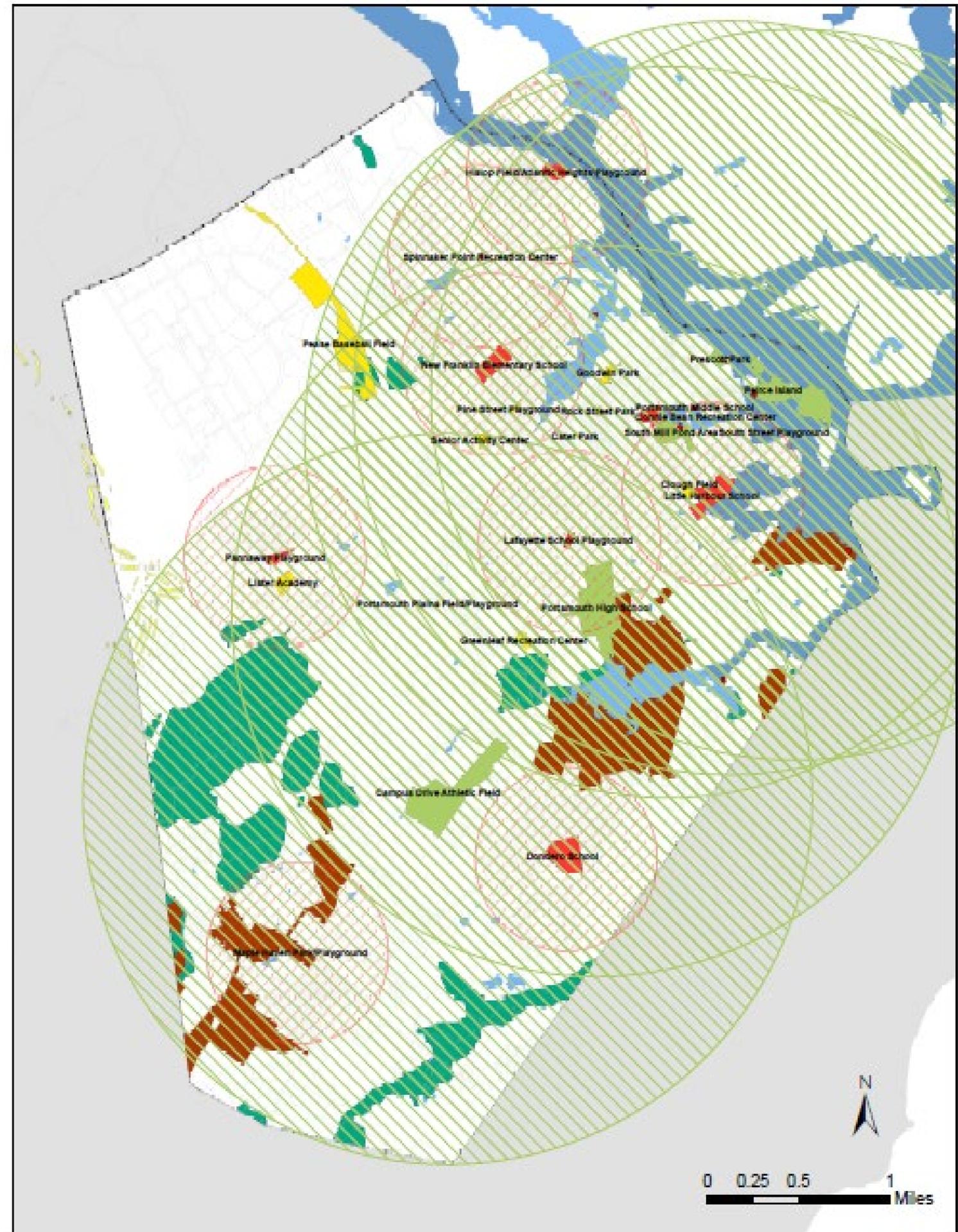
Demand/Needs:

- Athletic Facility Users Survey: **Demand for additional fields**
- Public outreach repetitive theme/ priority:
 - **Artificial turf fields needed**
- Support the City's **Open Space Plan/Master Plan recommendations.**
- Coordination Interviews/Meetings: **Additional fields/capacity to 'rest' fields**
 - Parks and Greenery Department
- Level of Service/Climate Change Analyses
 - **Utilize as planning tools for future sites/facilities**

Preliminary Recommendations

Level Of Service Analysis

Portsmouth is equitably served by recreational amenities/facilities



Preliminary Recommendations

Facilities
(Indoor)

Deficiencies:

- Community Centers: 2
- Senior Centers: 1
- Performance Amphitheater: 1
- Teen Centers: 1
- Community Gardens: 2
- Indoor Ice Rink: 3

Type of Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility		Number of Facilities				
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹		Baseline	2022 Inventory	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284	
	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	Less than 20,000 ²	Portsmouth 2022 Existing	Portsmouth 2022 Additional Needs	Portsmouth 2032 Needs ²	Portsmouth 2032 Additional Needs
Recreation Centers (including gyms)	9,126	24,601	2	6	0	3	0
Community Centers	8,504	26,668	3	1	2	3	2
Senior Center	12,935	32,075	2	1	1	2	1
Performance Amphitheaters	9,291	30,745	2	1	1	3	2
Nature Centers	11,821	30,912	2	0	2	2	2
Aquatics Center	11,375	31,230	2	2	0	2	0
Stadium	9,126	27,891	2	0	2	3	3
Teen Centers	14,426	29,406	2	1	1	2	1
Indoor Ice Rink	8,002	24,904	3	0	3	3	3
Arenas	6,137	24,413	4	0	4	4	4

1: Showing both NRPA Population categories to show the wide range of median number of residents per facility.

2: Utilized NRPA < 20,000 standard for median number of residents per facility (closest to Portsmouth) and applied Portsmouth total population.

Preliminary Recommendations

Facilities
(Indoor)

Demand/Needs:

- Athletic Facility Users Survey: **Demand for indoor facility access**
- Public outreach repetitive theme/ priority:
 - **Ice hockey/skating rink**
 - **Multi-purpose indoor sports complex**
 - **Indoor access for toddlers**
 - **Teen Center**
 - **Indoor courts/ recreation space**
- Level of Service/Climate Change Analyses
 - **Utilize as planning tools for future sites/facilities**

Preliminary Recommendations

Facilities

Climate Change Analysis – 1' Sea Level Rise

Vulnerable Recreation Sites:

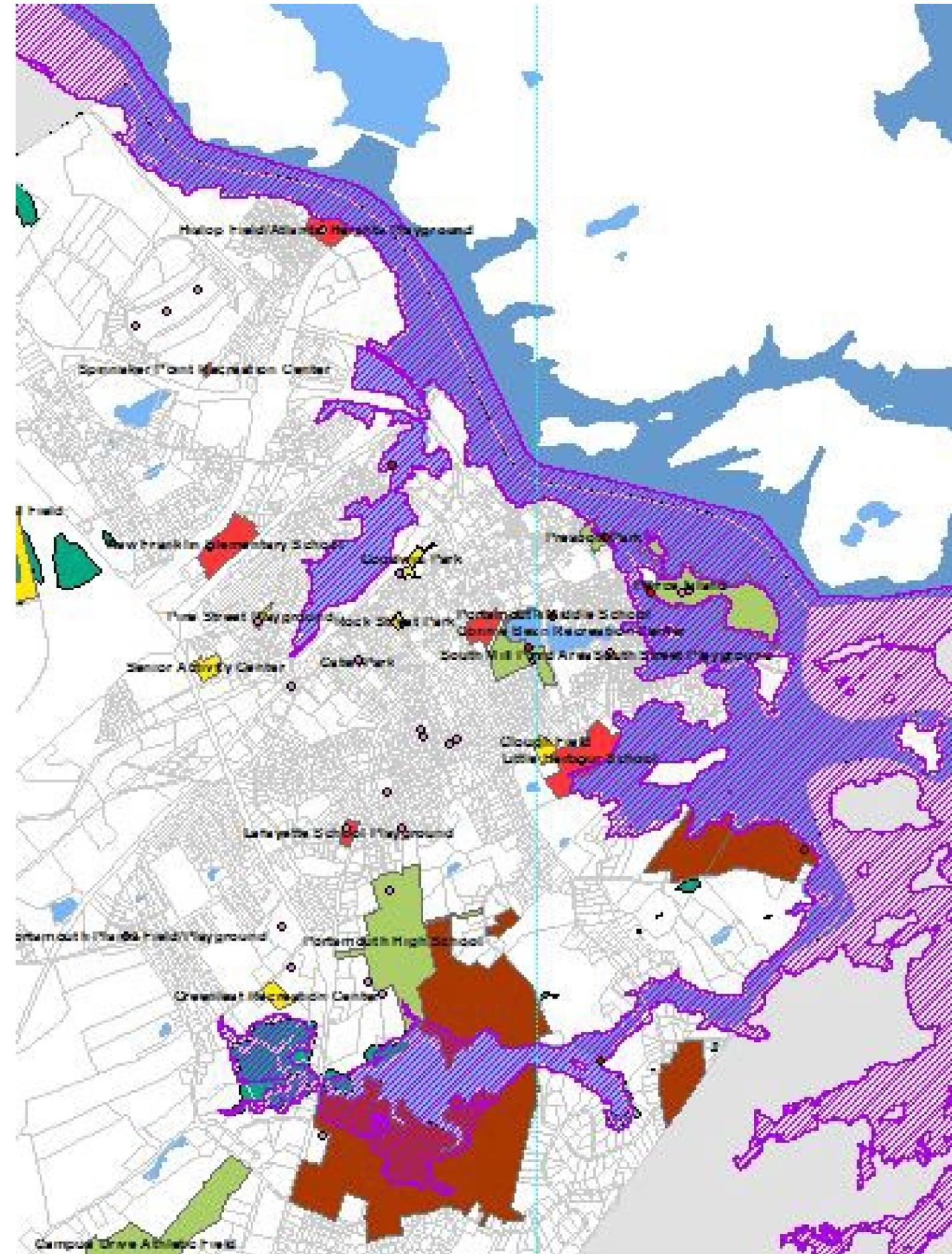
- PHS
- Little Harbour School
- Peirce Island
- Prescott Park
- Hislop Field/Atlantic Heights Playground

Lower Emissions Scenario:

- 2050: 1-foot rise
- 2100: 2.5-foot rise

Higher Emissions Scenario:

- 2050: 1.7-foot rise
- 2100: 6.3-foot rise



Preliminary Recommendations



Enhance/Upgrade Existing Sites

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Restrooms
 - Lighting to expand use
 - ADA-accessibility

- Coordination Interviews/Meetings: Fencing around fields/playground sites
 - Parks and Greenery Department

Preliminary Recommendations

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Maintenance Plan + Partnerships

- Public outreach repetitive theme/priority:
 - Maintenance/operations of fields could be improved
- Coordination Interviews/Meetings: Additional personnel needed
 - Parks and Greenery Department
 - School District Facilities Director
- Establish Memorandums of Agreement with sports leagues/organizations regarding what they are responsible for and based on best practices. Renew/update these MOAs seasonally/annually.
- Support the City's Master Plan recommendations.

Preliminary Recommendations

Connectivity/
Mobility

Biking/Walking Trails + Access

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Walking/biking trails (Walk Audit)
 - Improve rail/bike trail (Bike Audit)
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Revisit Middle Street bike lane removal
 - ADA-accessible improvements throughout City
 - Connectivity to sites (sidewalks)
- Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations (various trails).

Preliminary Recommendations



Social Equity

- Formalize the City's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Community Workshop 2

Workshop Delivery Options

<u>Option 1: In Person Workshop</u> (Current Scope)	<u>Option 2: Online Only</u>	<u>Option 3 (Recommended):</u> <u>Both Options 1 + 2</u>
In Person Workshop with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 minute presentation of findings • Gallery-style input session with “dot” voting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create online version of presentation, plus online survey to duplicate dot voting • Coordinate with City and Rec Department staff to drive traffic to survey, including social media, City newsletter. Rec Department newsletter, School Department emails, announcements at Rec Dept events 	In Person Workshop #2, followed by extended Online Survey period
IN SCOPE	Add +/- \$2500	Add +/- \$6,000

Community Workshop 2

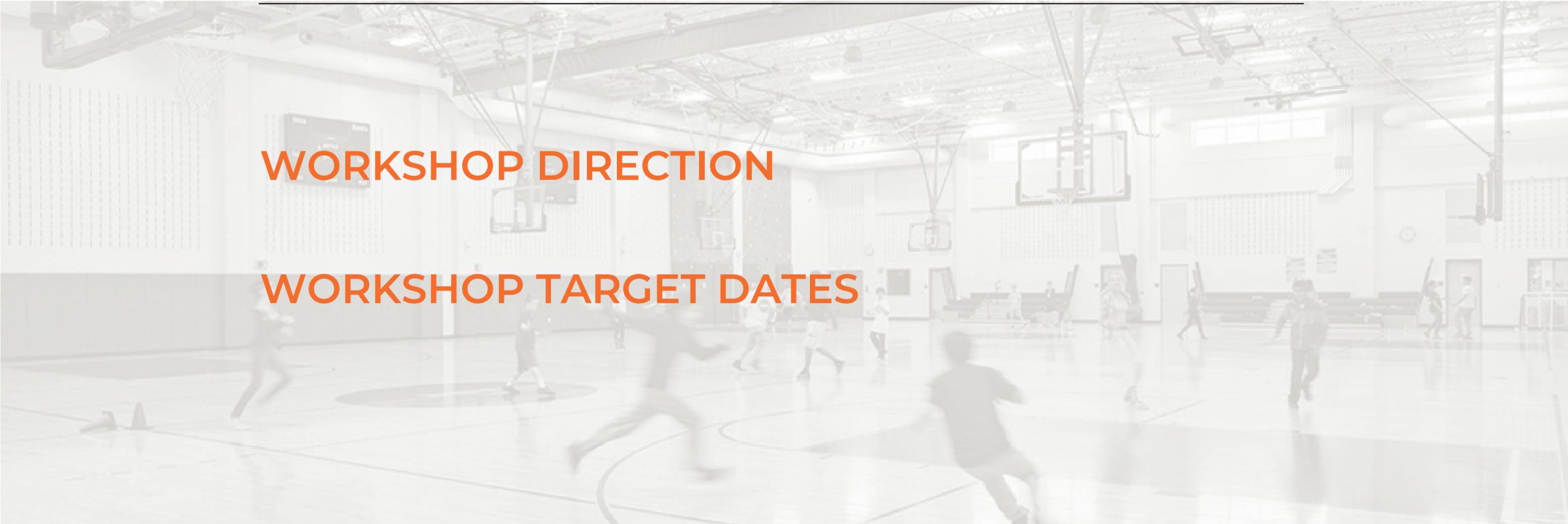
Optional Additions to Workshop #2 Delivery

- Print materials/postcard creation (PW team creates, City handles printing, cost and distribution)
- Incentives for participation (ex: coupon codes for Rec programming, local gift cards, etc. This item by Rec Department)
- Presence at Rec Department and/or Sporting Events
- Signs with QR Codes at all Rec Sites
- Q+A info sessions or meet ups at local sites
- Additional or duplicate In-Person workshops

WHAT'S NEXT?

WORKSHOP DIRECTION

WORKSHOP TARGET DATES





THANK YOU!

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FITNESS • ENRICHMENT • ARTS • ATHLETICS
PORTSMOUTH
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions





City of Portsmouth

Recreational Needs Study

Community Workshop #2 – November 16, 2022



WELCOME!

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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions



AGENDA

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS +
PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**GALLERY BOARDS/PRIORITIZATION +
VISION STATEMENT**



Summary of Data Collection, Community Engagement and Analyses

Data Sources and Community Outreach

- Online Community Survey
 - Athletic Facility Users Survey
 - Public Workshop #1
 - Inventory Spreadsheet
 - Age Friendly Portsmouth
 - Field Use Analysis (not complete)
 - Comparisons between National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Portsmouth
 - Existing/Future Municipal Plans
 - Coordination Interviews/Meetings
- 

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Programming

Connectivity/
Mobility

Facilities

Amenities

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Increase Communications + Create Communications Plan

- Establish annual 'meet and greet' for sports league/organization administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
- Establish quarterly (by season) coordination meetings with sports league/organization administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
- Formalize protocols for field use, particularly after rain/weather events.
- Ensure that information is made available both in print and online.
- Promote the City's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Programming

Expand Program Offerings + Expand Hours of Operation

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Free play options
 - Programming for preschoolers/adults/people with disabilities
 - Coordination with Portsmouth Housing Authority (scholarships)
 - Extend weekend hours for working families (indoor facilities)
 - Establish training opportunities for volunteer coaches
 - Martial arts programming for adults/empty-nesters
 - Winter sports offerings
 - Affordable swim lessons
 - Pickleball lessons/leagues

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations



Facilities

Comparing Portsmouth to National Trends

- How is Portsmouth doing compared to other communities? The following figures are for **benchmarking** purposes
- **This is only one part of the picture!** Final Recommendations for Portsmouth will come from a combination of sources including both benchmarking data and community input, City financial and planning vision, etc.
- **The Data**
 - NRPA: National Recreation And Park Association www.nrpa.org
 - 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
 - We compared with national data for communities under 20,000 residents
 - We looked at benchmarks for both **Indoor and Outdoor Facilities**

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities
(Outdoor)

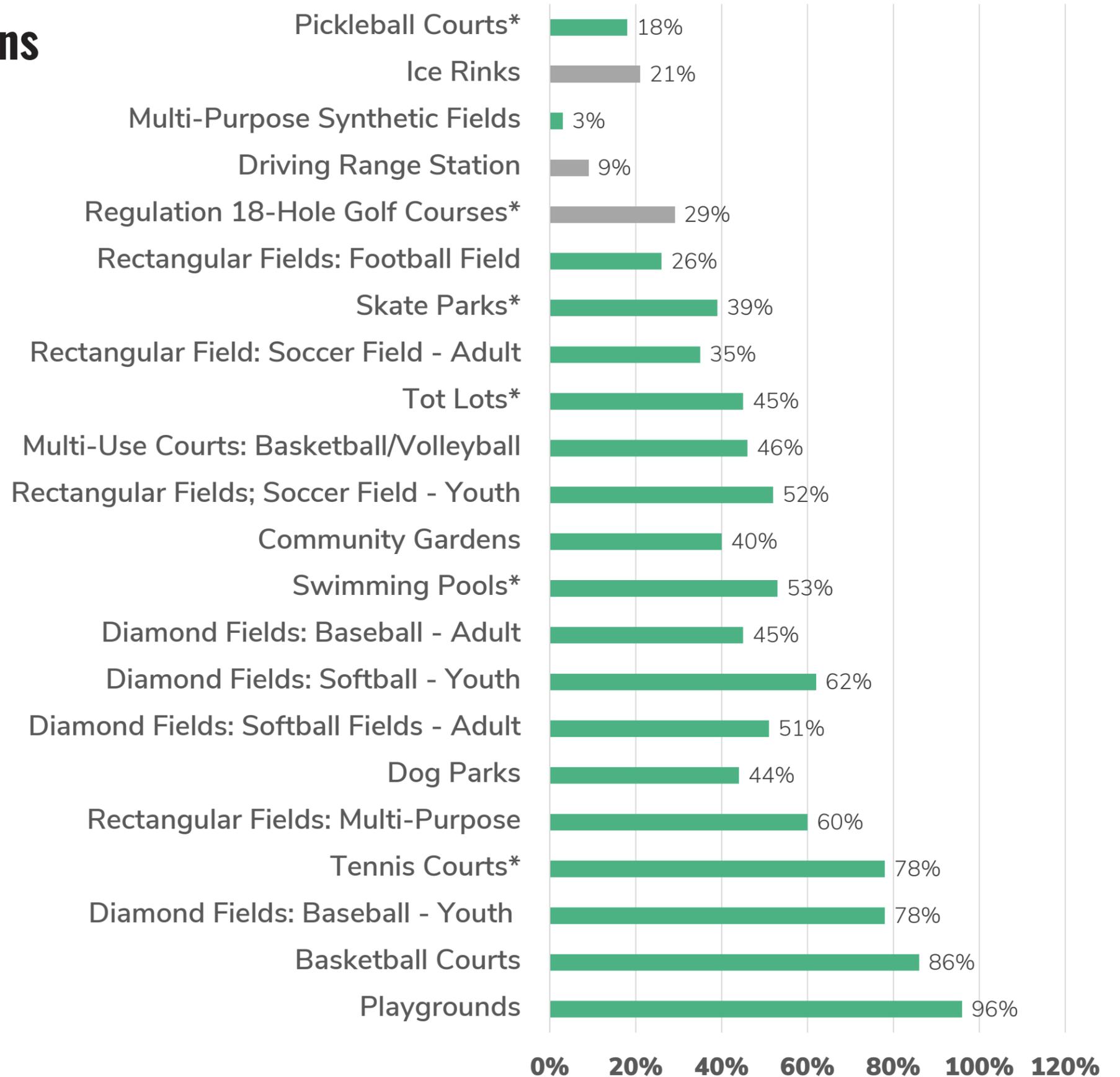
Outdoor Facilities by Type: National Prevalence

How many communities our size reported having these types of facilities?

■ = not offered in Portsmouth

Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- Portsmouth’s diversity of outdoor facility types are in line with national trends
- The quantity of outdoor facilities (fields, etc.) can be further studied using national benchmarks



Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
* - Data for <20,000 unavailable; national data used

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

Potential Growth:

- Adult Softball Fields: 3
- Youth Softball Fields: 1
- Adult Baseball Fields: 2
- Youth Soccer Fields: 3
- Adult Soccer Fields: 1
- Football Fields: 1
- Skate Park
- Golf Course
- Driving Range
- Community Garden
- Ice Rink

Type of Facility	Median Number of Residents per Facility		Number of Facilities					Prevalence in Communities <20,000
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹		Baseline	2022 Inventory	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284		
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Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	3,107	4,858	7	8	0	7	0	78%
Tennis Courts	2,723	5,000	8	10	0	9	0	78%
Rectangular Fields: Multi-Purpose	4,362	7,674	5	5	0	5	0	60%
Dog Parks	11,100	28,000	2	3	0	2	0	44%
Diamond Fields: Softball Fields - Adult	5,667	11,232	4	1	3	4	3	51%
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	5,339	8,509	4	3	1	4	1	62%
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	7,954	19,000	3	1	2	3	2	45%
Swimming Pools	8,637	26,281						53%
Community Gardens	8,773	24,500						40%
Rectangular Fields; Soccer Field - Youth	3,504	5,011	6	3	3	7	4	52%
Multi-Use Courts: Basketball/Volleyball	5,400	14,807	4	11	0	4	0	46%
Tot Lots	6,642	10,756	3	0	0	4	0	45%
Rectangular Field: Soccer Field - Adult	8,017	10,547	3	2	1	3	1	35%
Skate Parks	11,100	32,335						39%
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	8,004	19,351	3	2	1	3	1	26%
Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses	9,183	33,800						29%
Driving Range Station	5,055	23,238						9%
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	12,962	24,665	2	2	0	2	0	3%
Ice Rinks	7,997	3,123						21%
Pickleball Courts	3,446	8,143	6	9	0	7	0	18%

Number of Facilities calculations performed for fields, courts, parks /playgrounds only.

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

Stakeholder Feedback:

- Athletic Facility Users Survey:
 - Demand for additional fields
- Public outreach repetitive theme/ priority:
 - Artificial turf fields needed
- Support the City's Open Space Plan/Master Plan recommendations.
- Coordination Interviews/Meetings:
 - Additional fields/capacity to 'rest' fields
- Field Use Analysis
 - Many fields over-utilized

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities
(Indoor)

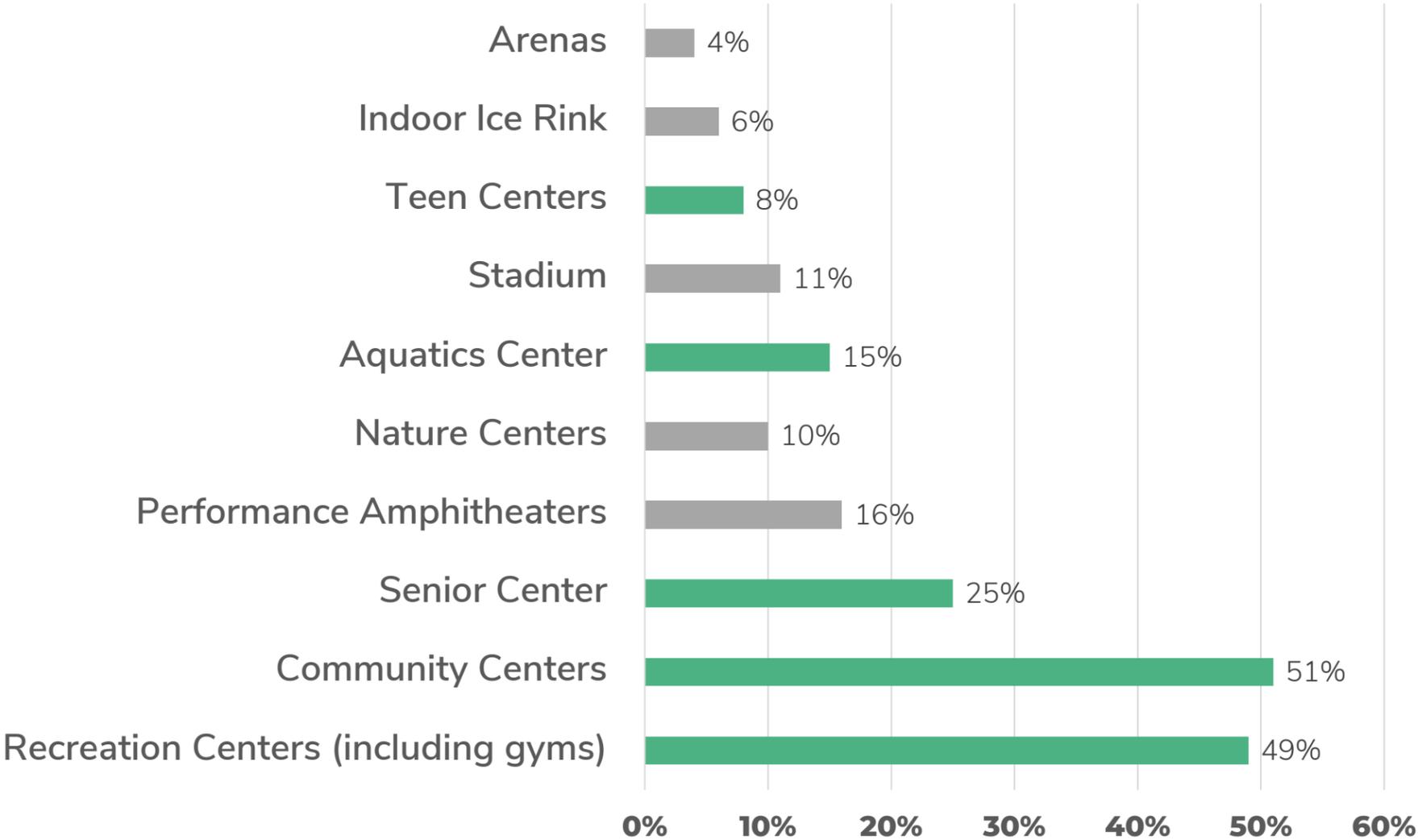
Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- Portsmouth has many facilities that most other communities of our size do not have
- Comparing quantities of indoor facilities is less important than whether they exist in Portsmouth or not

Indoor Facilities by Type: National Prevalence

How many communities of our size reported having these types of facilities?

■ = not offered in Portsmouth



Source: 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review
* - Data for <20,000 unavailable; national data used

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Indoor)

Portsmouth Take-Aways:

- Municipalities larger than Portsmouth (20,000-49,999) are a helpful benchmark to help determine need for new facilities
- Whether to add indoor facilities will be largely determined by Stakeholder Input rather than national benchmarks

Type of Facility	Prevalence in Communities <20,000	Median Number of Residents per Facility	
		Population of Jurisdiction ¹	
		Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999
Recreation Centers (including gyms)	49%	9,126	24,601
Community Centers	51%	8,504	26,668
Senior Center	25%	12,935	32,075
Performance Amphitheaters	16%	9,291	30,745
Nature Centers	10%	11,821	30,912
Aquatics Center	15%	11,375	31,230
Stadium	11%	9,126	27,891
Teen Centers	8%	14,426	29,406
Indoor Ice Rink	6%	8,002	24,904
Arenas	4%	6,137	24,413

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Indoor)

Stakeholder Feedback:

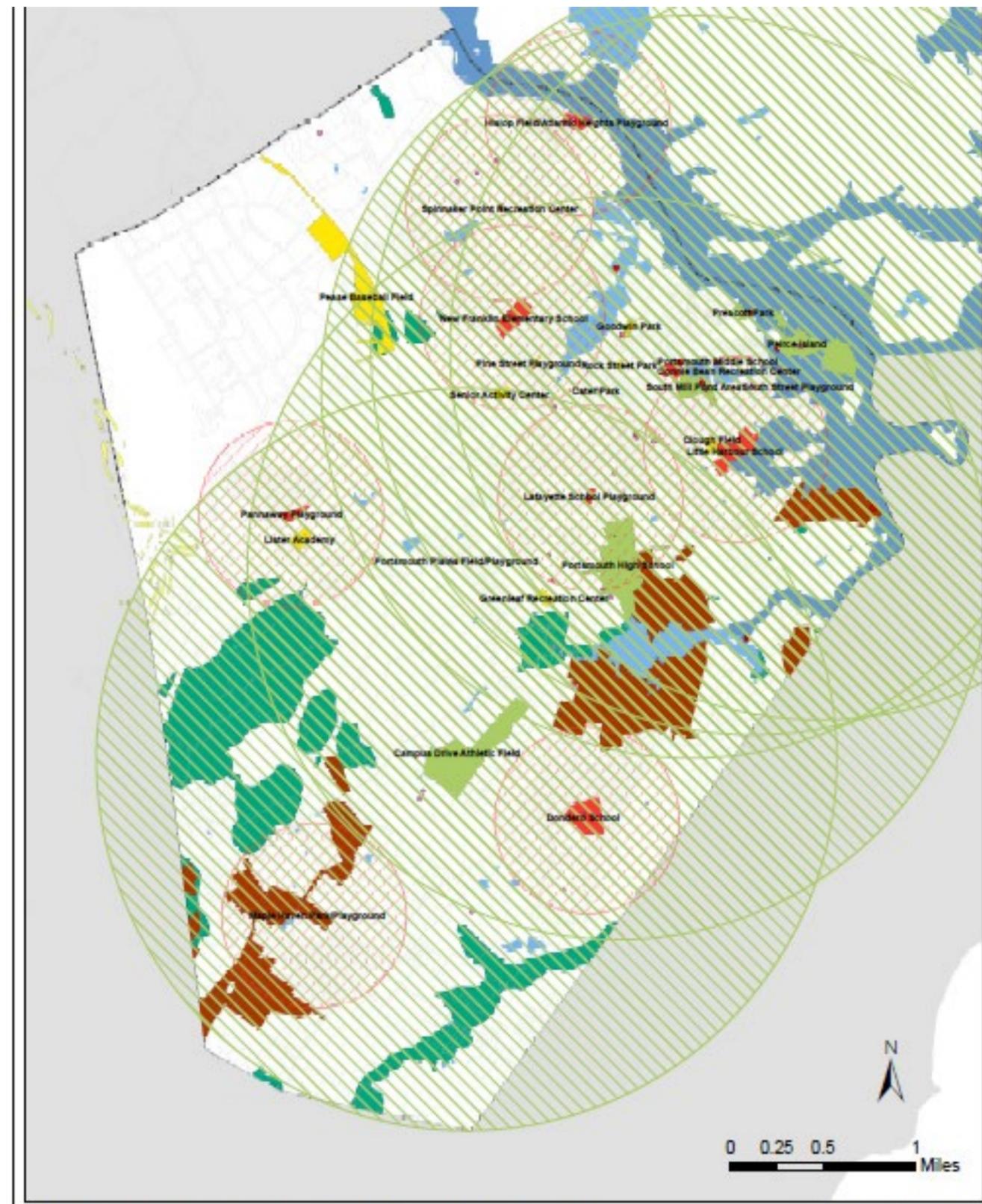
- Athletic Facility Users Survey: Demand for indoor facility access
- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Ice rink/arena
 - Multi-purpose indoor sports complex
 - Indoor access for toddlers
 - Teen Center
 - Indoor courts/ recreation space
- NRPA Standards:
 - Community Center
 - Senior Center
 - Performance/Amphitheater

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Level Of Service Analysis

Portsmouth is equitably served by recreational amenities/facilities

- Utilize Level of Service Analysis performed in this study as a planning tool to inform future improvements/investments.
 - Siting/Investments



This document is for City of Portsmouth planning purposes only and is not suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Data Source: City of Portsmouth, NH GRANIT

Legend	
City Sites	Other Sites/Features
Neighborhood Park	Local/State Conservation Areas
Community Park	Golf Courses
All Other Sites	Estuaries
Pedestrian/Bike Radius	Swamp/Marsh
1/2 Mile (Neighborhood Park)	Lakes/Ponds
2 Miles (Community Park)	Shoreline Access Points

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions
10000 River Road, Suite 200, Portsmouth, NH 03801
www.horsleywitten.com

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Level of Service Analysis
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Date: 11/8/2022

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

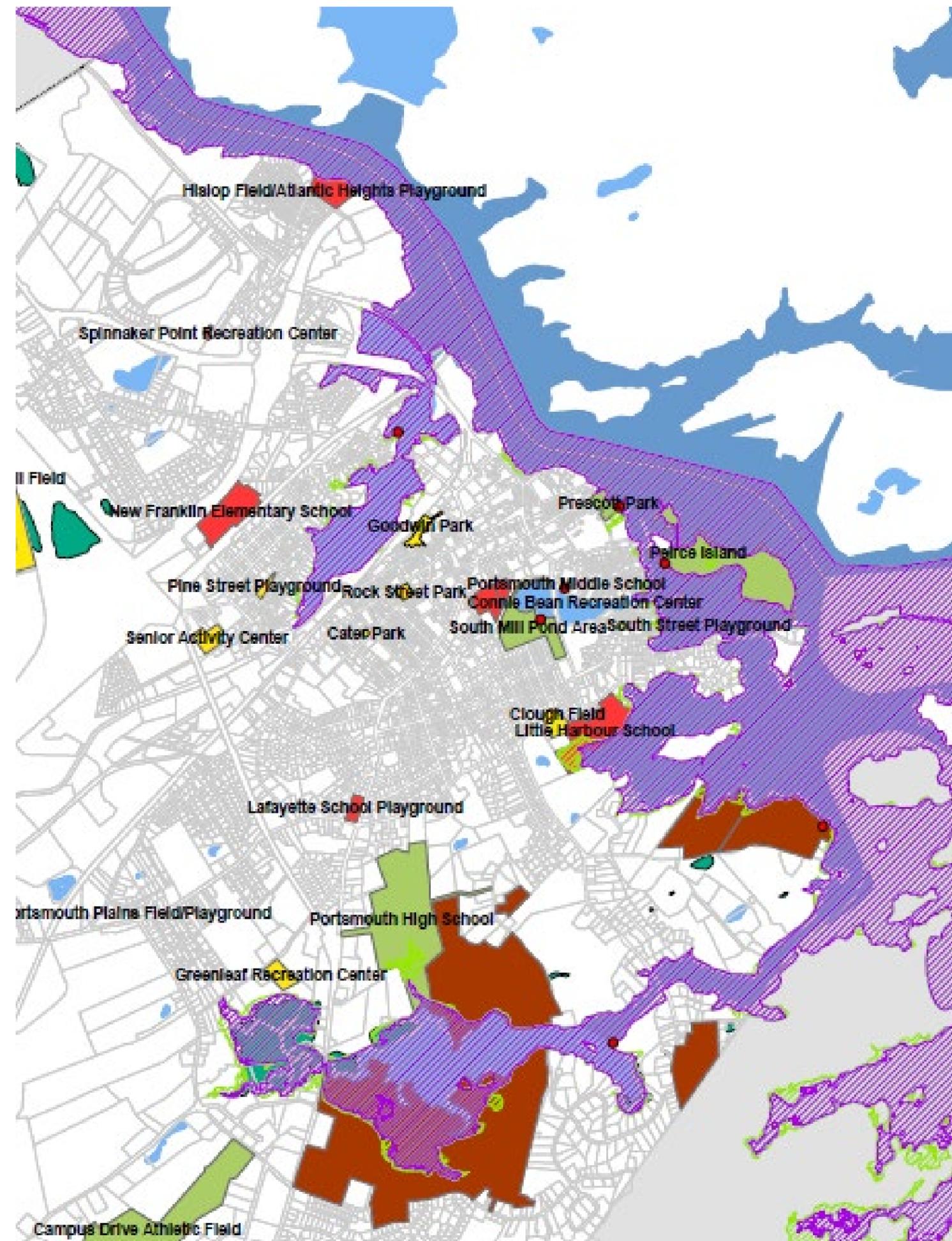
Climate Change Analysis

1' Sea Level Rise

Vulnerable Recreation Sites:

- PHS
- Little Harbour School
- Peirce Island
- Prescott Park
- Hislop Field/Atlantic Heights Playground

- Utilize Climate Change Analysis performed in this study as a planning tool to inform future improvements/investments.
 - Siting/Investments



Preliminary Findings/Recommendations



Amenities

Enhance/Upgrade Existing Sites

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Comfort Stations/Restrooms
 - Lighting to expand use
 - ADA-accessibility
 - Upgrade/Update playground equipment
 - Picnic Areas
 - Parking
 - Seating (bleachers/benches)
- Coordination Interviews/Meetings:
 - Fencing around fields/playground sites

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Maintenance Plan + Partnerships

- Public outreach repetitive theme/priority:
 - Maintenance/operations of fields could be improved
- Coordination Interviews/Meetings: Additional personnel needed
 - Additional personnel needed/welcomed
- Establish Memorandums of Agreement with sports leagues/organizations regarding their maintenance and stewardship responsibilities, based on best practices and mutual agreement. Renew/update these MOAs seasonally/annually.
- Support the City's Master Plan recommendation.
- Identify/Encourage efficiencies for 'equipment crossover' between the City and School District.

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Connectivity/
Mobility

Biking/Walking Trails + Access

- Public outreach repetitive themes/priorities:
 - Walking/biking trails (Walk Audit)
 - Improve rail/bike trail (Bike Audit)
 - Mountain bike trails
 - Revisit Middle Street bike lane removal
 - ADA-accessible improvements throughout City
 - Connectivity to sites (sidewalks)
- Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations (various trails/segments).
- Support the City's Master Plan recommendations.

WHAT'S NEXT

GALLERY+ VISION BOARDS



Gallery Boards

Amenities



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Enhance, upgrade and develop new amenities at existing sites to improve the user's experience.

What should the City focus on first?

Place a dot next to your top two priorities.

Comfort Stations/Restrooms
Fencing (playgrounds/ballfields)
Lighting to expand use
Upgrade/Update playground equipment
Picnic areas
Parking
Noise abatement
Warm-up areas/space
Seating (Bleachers/Benches)
Backstops/Dugouts/Scoreboards



Information/ Communication/ Protocols



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Increase communications, formalize communications planning and promote the City's goal of equity and inclusion.

Preliminary Recommendations:

1. Establish annual 'meet and greet' for sports league/organization administrators, coach and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
2. Establish quarterly (by Season) coordination meetings with sports league/organization Administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks And Greenery Dept. and Recreation Director.
3. Formalize protocols for field use, particularly after rain/weather events.
4. Ensure that information is made available both in print and online.

What could be improved? What's Missing?



Connectivity/ Mobility



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Enhance walkability, bikeability and universal access throughout the community.

What should the City focus on first? Place a dot next to your top two priorities.

Sidewalks
ADA-accessibility/Universal access
Walking trails/paths
Biking/Mountain biking trails/paths
Reconsider removal of Middle St. bike lane

Preliminary Recommendations:

1. Support the City's Master Plan recommendations.
 - Work with state/regional partners to convert the former Hampton Branch to the off-road route of the NH Seacoast Greenway.
 - Identify/implement off-road multi-use paths along North Mill Pond and other transportation/utility corridors.
 - Create a passive recreation program focused on expansion/maintenance of recreational trails.
2. Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations. for trail connections.
 - Land between Gosling Meadows neighborhood and Durgin Lane.
 - Along the river, through parcels to Porpoise Way/Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way.
 - Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way to the river.

What could be improved? What's Missing?



Vision Board



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Programming

Facilities

Amenities

Vision.....

Help us craft the vision for the 2023 Recreational Needs Analysis.

Give us suggestions on a full vision statement or just a word or two that is reflective of the core values that should be included in the vision statement.

Wellness

Communication

Community

The vision of the Portsmouth Recreational Needs Analysis is to foster a healthy, active and engaged community.

Multi-Generational

Inclusive

Active

Connectivity/
Mobility

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Policies



SCHEDULE

GALLERY + VISION BOARDS

- Available at Community Campus through November 23, 2022

DATA COLLECTION/ANALYSIS PHASE

- Complete by December 2022

Find Us Online!

Provide Your Input and Stay Updated

Project Webpage Email List

City of PORTSMOUTH NH

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Twitter Facebook Instagram Search

Programs Rec Centers Holiday Schedule Skatepark Recreational Needs Study Contact

City of Portsmouth > Recreation Department > Recreational Needs Study Update

RECREATIONAL NEEDS STUDY UPDATE



RECREATIONAL NEEDS SURVEY NOW ONLINE!

The City of Portsmouth and the Recreation Department/Board are currently working on a study to determine the types of community services, sports and facilities the City needs to meet the demands of residents today and into the future. **Complete the survey** and become part of the plan!

Background

The City of Portsmouth has launched a Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study project to update the City's **2010 Recreational Needs Study** (last revised in 2016). The project team includes the Recreation Director, DPW Director, Steering Committee, **Recreation Board** and consultants **Placework-Horsley Witten Group**.

To update the Recreational Needs Study, the team seeks to understand how residents utilize the City's recreational facilities and programs, assess whether existing recreational facilities and programs are meeting the needs of the community and project trends in future recreational amenities, in order to define a comprehensive plan for the future of recreation in Portsmouth.

The scope of the project includes:

- Data Collection and Analysis, including a review of the inventory of existing

RECREATION BOARD

City Manager Karen Conard, Ex-Officio

Rich Blalock, Council Liaison

Brian French, School Board Liaison

Carl Diemer, Chairperson

Lauren Krans

Robert Bogardus

Jacqueline Cali-Pitts

Richard Duddy

Kathryn Lynch

Kory Sirmaian

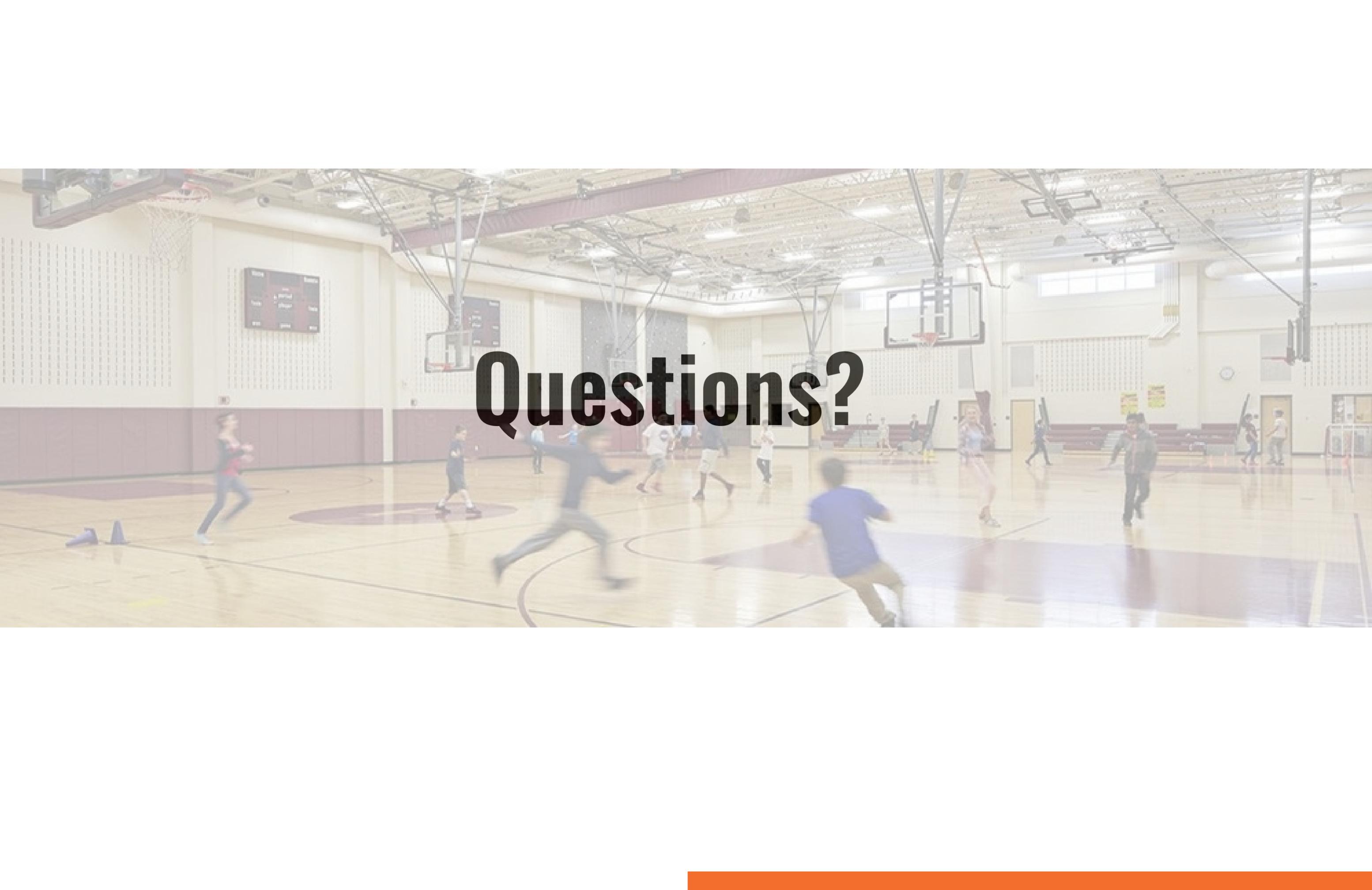
PROJECT TEAM

City of Portsmouth

Todd Henley, Recreation Director

Peter Rice, Director of Public

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/recreation/recreational-needs-study-update>



Questions?



THANK YOU!

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PORTSMOUTH
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions





City of Portsmouth

Recreational Needs Study

Needs Assessment Roundtable– January 4, 2023



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RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Horsley Witten Group
Sustainable Environmental Solutions



AGENDA

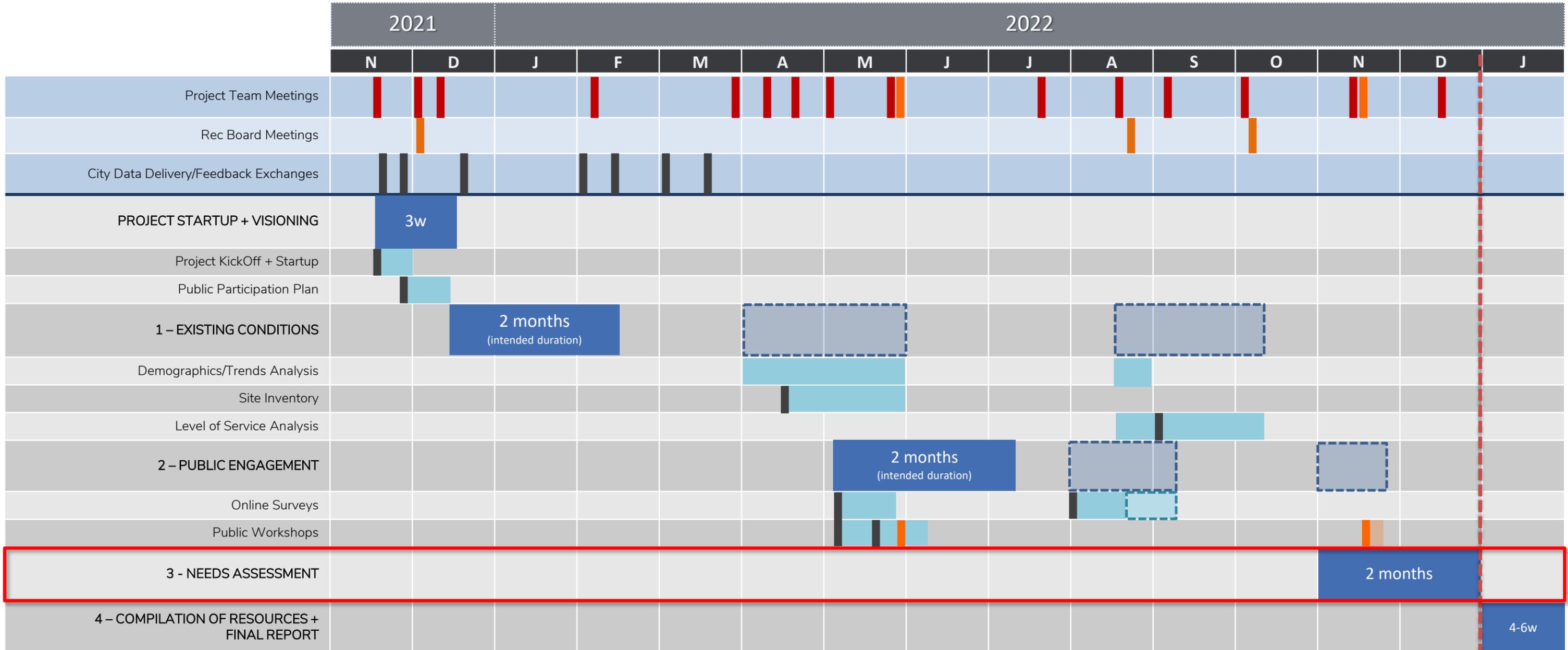
PROJECT STATUS + TIMELINE

PART ONE: Draft Goals, Strategies + Actions

PART TWO: Site Specific Recommendations

Project Schedule

Recreational Needs Study Schedule - Intended +.Actual



Updated 1/3/2021

█ = City data delivery point

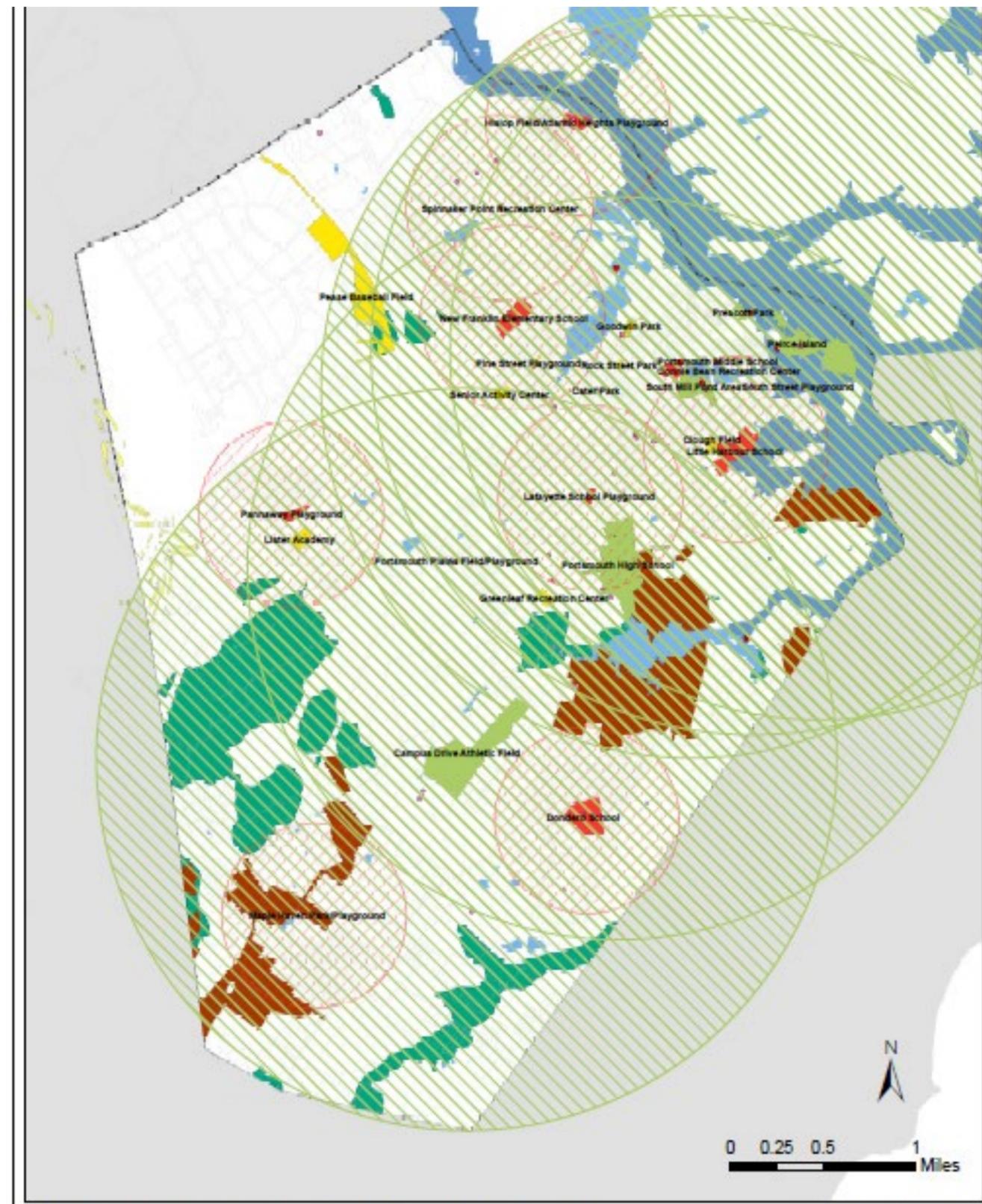
█ █ = Meetings

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Level Of Service Analysis

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Horsley Witten Group
 Sustainable Environmental Solutions
 10000 Elm Street, Suite 200, Portsmouth, NH 03801
 Placework
 Level of Service Analysis
 Portsmouth, New Hampshire
 Date: 11/8/2022

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

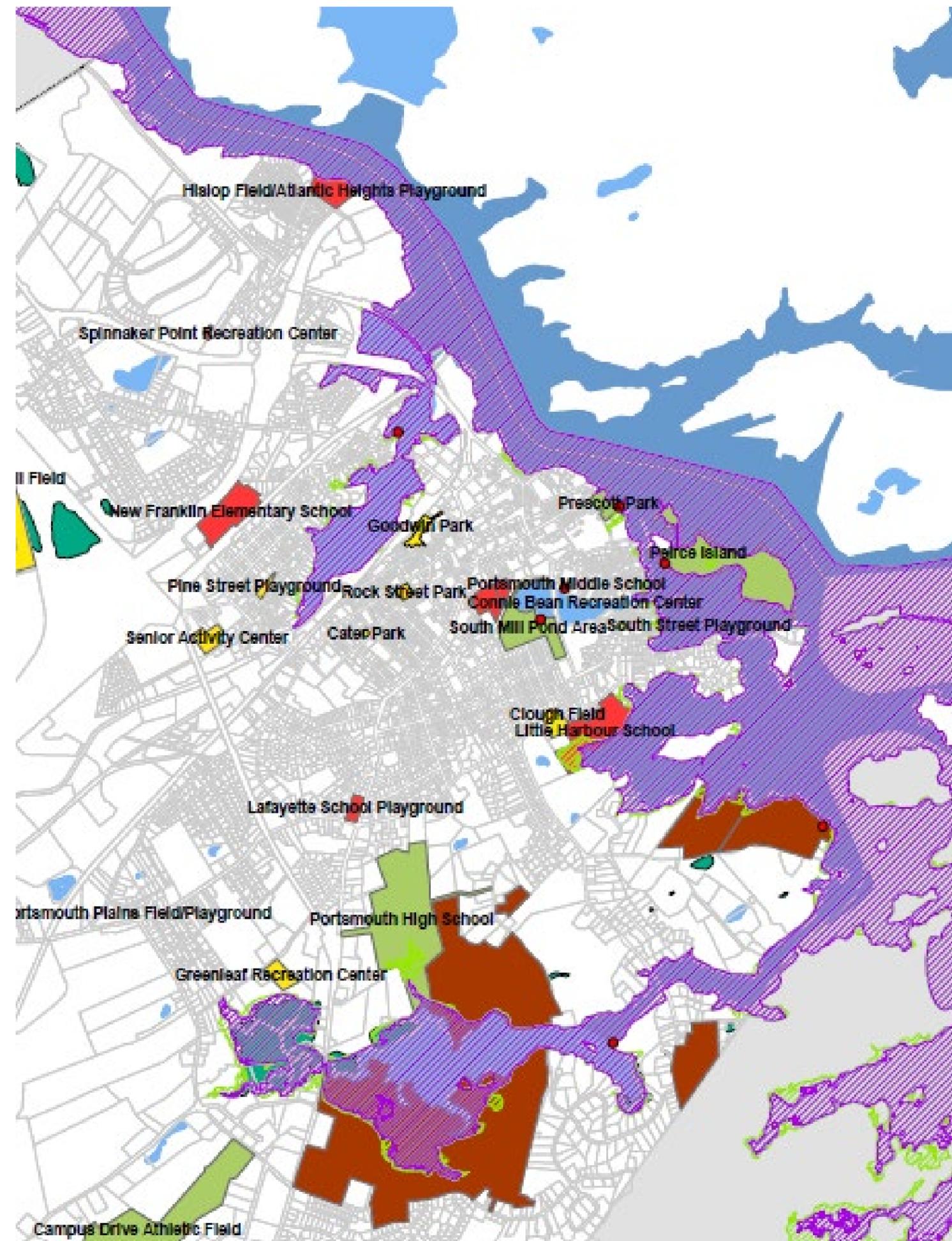
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Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Facilities (Outdoor)

Potential Growth:

- Adult Softball Fields: 3
- Youth Softball Fields: 1
- Adult Baseball Fields: 2
- Youth Soccer Fields: 3
- Adult Soccer Fields: 1
- Football Fields: 1
- Skate Park
- Golf Course
- Driving Range
- Community Garden
- Ice Rink

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Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	12,962	24,665	2	2	0	2	0	3%
Ice Rinks	7,997	3,123						21%
Pickleball Courts	3,446	8,143	6	9	0	7	0	18%

Number of Facilities calculations performed for fields, courts, parks /playgrounds only.

Public Input – Workshop #2 Gallery Boards

Amenities



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Enhance, upgrade and develop new amenities at existing sites to improve the user's experience.

What should the City focus on first?

Place a dot next to your top two priorities.

Comfort Stations/Restrooms
Fencing (playgrounds/ballfields)
Lighting to expand use
Upgrade/Update playground equipment
Picnic areas
Parking
Noise abatement
Warm-up areas/space
Seating (Bleachers/Benches)
Backstops/Dugouts/Scoreboards



Information/ Communication/ Protocols



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Increase communications, formalize communications planning and promote the City's goal of equity and inclusion.

Preliminary Recommendations:

1. Establish annual 'meet and greet' for sports league/organization administrators, coach and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Department and Recreation Director.
2. Establish quarterly (by Season) coordination meetings with sports league/organization Administrators, coaches and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks And Greenery Dept. and Recreation Director.
3. Formalize protocols for field use, particularly after rain/weather events.
4. Ensure that information is made available both in print and online.

What could be improved? What's Missing?



Connectivity/ Mobility



City of Portsmouth
Recreational Needs Study
Public Workshop #2

Overarching Goal:

Enhance walkability, bikeability and universal access throughout the community.

What should the City focus on first? Place a dot next to your top two priorities.

Sidewalks
ADA-accessibility/Universal access
Walking trails/paths
Biking/Mountain biking trails/paths
Reconsider removal of Middle St. bike lane

Preliminary Recommendations:

1. Support the City's Master Plan recommendations.
 - Work with state/regional partners to convert the former Hampton Branch to the off-road route of the NH Seacoast Greenway.
 - Identify/implement off-road multi-use paths along North Mill Pond and other transportation/utility corridors.
 - Create a passive recreation program focused on expansion/maintenance of recreational trails.
2. Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations. for trail connections.
 - Land between Gosling Meadows neighborhood and Durgin Lane.
 - Along the river, through parcels to Porpoise Way/Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way.
 - Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way to the river.

What could be improved? What's Missing?



Public Input – Workshop #2 Frequently Requested

INDOOR

- Indoor Ice Rink/Arena (44)
- Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Complex (31)
- Teen Center (14)
- Indoor Courts: Basketball/Pickleball (11)
- Performance Theater/Amphitheater (8)
- Community Center (7)
- Senior Center (5)

AMENITIES

- Restrooms – add/improve
- Playground Equipment improve/replace
- Lighting

OUTDOOR

- Splash Pads (25)
- Synthetic Turf Fields (13)
- Outdoor Pools (12)
- Skate Parks (11)
- Multi-Purpose Fields: Soccer/Football (11)
- Baseball Fields: Adult/Youth (7)
- Basketball Courts (5)
- Tennis Courts (5)

OTHER

- Improve existing first, then add
- Improve connectivity
- Nature/Sustainability focus

PART ONE

DRAFT GOALS, STRATEGIES + ACTIONS



Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Information/
Communication/
Protocols

Maintenance/
Stewardship

Programming

Connectivity/
Mobility

Facilities

Amenities

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Community
Engagement +
Communication

Preservation,
Growth +
Stewardship

Connectivity/
Mobility

Facilities

Maintenance +
Stewardship

Programming

Amenities

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Community Engagement + Communication

Goal 1: Increase communications, formalize communications planning and promote the City's goal of equity and inclusion.

Draft Actions Summary:

- Communication Plan
- Increased contact between leagues/organizations and City departments
- Increased intra-departmental contact
- Prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion

- Field usage protocols
- Print and online communications

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Preservation,
Growth +
Stewardship

Goal 2: Maintain/Enhance existing facilities, expand program offerings and develop new indoor and outdoor facilities.

Draft Actions Summary:

- Provide adequate facilities – indoor and outdoor
- Maintenance Management Plan
- Examine best practices for continual improvement of programs
- Evaluation systems - for current and future programming
- Enhance existing and provide new amenities to improve user experience

- Additional turf fields
- Increase access to indoor facilities
- Public demand for:
 - Ice rink/arena
 - Multi-purpose indoor sports complex
 - Indoor access for toddlers
 - Teen Center
 - Indoor courts/ recreation space
- Increase variety and accessibility of programs to a diversity of residents

Preliminary Findings/Recommendations

Connectivity/ Mobility

Goal 3: Enhance walkability, bikeability and universal access throughout the community.

- Increase universal access to parks and facilities
- Multi-use Trails
- Increase trail, bike and sidewalk connections

PART TWO

SITE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Maple Haven Park/Playground

New Franklin Elementary School

Hislop Field/Atlantic Heights Playground

Little Harbour School

Portsmouth Middle School

 Connie Bean Recreation Center

Lafayette School Field/Playground

Pannaway Playground

Spinnaker Point Recreation Center

Dondero School

MINI PARKS

Lister Academy

Cater Park

Rock Street Park

Clough Field

Portsmouth Plains Field/Playground

Pease Baseball Fields/Tony Rahn Park

COMMUNITY PARKS

Portsmouth High School

South Mill Pond Area:

 South Mill Pond Playground

 Tennis Courts/Pickleball

 Central Little League Field

 Leary Ball Field

 Alumni Field

 Dog Park

Peirce Island:

 Playground

 Boat Launch

 Pool/Bath House

Campus Drive Athletic Field

Prescott Park

 Four Tree Island

LINEAR PARKS

Rail Trail

PLAYGROUNDS

South Street Playground

Pine Street Playground

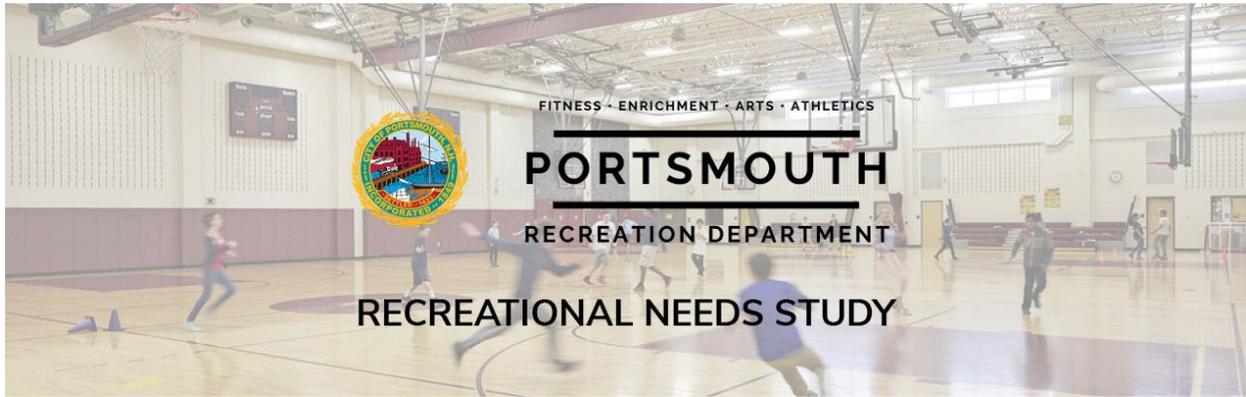
HISTORIC PARKS

Goodwin Park

SPECIAL USE

Greenleaf Recreation Center

Senior Activity Center



Community Workshop #1

May 26, 2022

Overview

The Portsmouth Recreation Department hosted a Community Workshop in May 2022 to fulfill a key goal of the Comprehensive Recreational Needs Study Update: the gathering of public input on existing recreational facilities and programs in the city.

Followed by an overview presentation of the project goals, vision, and work to date, the consultant team facilitated work group discussions around the following questions:

- WHAT IS WORKING WELL?
- WHAT'S WORKING, BUT COULD BE IMPROVED?
- WHAT'S MISSING?

Groups discussed their responses and prioritized them as a group. The following is a summary report of discussions and responses from those breakout group discussions.

What is working well?

What is the City of Portsmouth doing well by way of providing recreational opportunities (programming and/or facilities) for residents? (not prioritized)

Group #1 (Jeff)

- Indoor/Outdoor pools
- Senior Center
- Youth programs are a good feeder system for Portsmouth High School sports
- Young children summer activities
- Events for younger children are available (soccer, basketball, dances)
- Variety of programs
- Winter vision
- Many types of recreation options (organized sports, individual sports, outdoor activities, community events)
- Pickleball
- Many fields for sports
- General maintenance
- Availability/quality of leisure space
- Trails/Rails trails
- Tennis
- Support for Strawberry Banke
- Ice Skating

Group #2 (Alice/Craig)

- Early youth sports/recreation opportunities
- Multi-sports and summer camp programs (elementary school aged children)
- Organized youth sports at more advanced levels (PGSA softball, PCSC soccer)
- A lot is working – many good facilities and programs
- Mill Pond Area
- Rec. basketball
- Walking Trails
- New community garden
- Dull men's coffee group on Fridays
- Senior Center
- Indoor/Outdoor pools
- Spinnaker Point Recreation Center

What is working, but could be improved?

What existing recreation facilities/programs could benefit from improvements? How could they be improved?

Group #1 (Jeff)

- Need more indoor court/recreation space **(priority #1)**
- Need more turf fields **(priority #3)**
- Need picnic spaces
- More pickleball courts are needed
- Need connectivity with way-finding signage
- Need more access to winter sports, hockey/ice-skating (year-round) **(priority #2)**
- Activities for little guys
- Overall quality/upkeep of recreational facilities (Tony Rahn Park: no electricity, Sherburne Field: backstop needs help and infield is sand, not dirt, no indoor training facilities)

Group #2 (Alice/Craig)

- Youth sports to be integrated with Portsmouth Housing Authority youth **(priority #2 tie)**
- Senior Programs are good, but non-residents should be paying a fee
- Communication on programs/facilities **(priority #2 tie)**
- Outdoor pool is great, but the hours need to be adjusted **(priority #2 tie)**
- Senior should be 'Community Center' for all ages
- City needs more bike paths/trails **(priority #2 tie)**
- Boat ramp is great, but no boating programs (instructional) **(priority #2 tie)**
- Maintenance/Operations of fields could be better (lighting, electricity, maintenance) **(priority #1)**

What's Missing?

What is the City not doing? What are new recreational opportunities (programs/facilities) and community events that the City should consider?

Group #1 (Jeff)

- Turf field **(priority #3)**
- Make programs more affordable
- Indoor turf training facility **(priority #2)**
- Multi-sports complex to bring it all together **(priority #1)**
- More use of waterways
- More organized trips/travel opportunities
- Ice/Hockey rink **(priority #1)**
- Connectivity (bike share program)
- Adult programming/education (cooking, sailing, archery, languages)
- Regional cooperation
- Way-finding plan

Group #2 (Alice/Craig)

- Multi-sports complex/Ice rink (indoor training, turf, for hockey/soccer) **(priority #1)**
- Connectivity to sites **(priority #2 tie)**
- Funding for recreation programming/sports **(priority #2 tie)**
- Boating program

General Comments

- High School baseball field is not easily accessible for disabled residents. Need more handicap parking spaces closer to the field.
- Not enough restrooms in most of our parks, including the high school
- Smaller fields could use some help
- Indoor batting cages would be nice
- Not enough facilities for adult sports
- Need winter youth sports programming
- Portsmouth Recreation does a great job serving many different demographics and interests, organized sports offerings, individual sports
- Need an ice rink that supports all skating programs and not just hockey, that also converts to a professional performance space
- Youth programs are world class and facilities are maintained to a high standard
- City needs more turf fields/more usable hours for both passive and active recreation
- Need more winter sports/access to winter activities
- Need more pickleball courts
- There are an incredible range of recreational opportunities available to residents via the combined city owned/non-profit (YMCA) and private options (Planet Fitness/Atlantic Gymnastics/numerous exercise studios)...City doesn't have to provide everything
- We should get more use out of the outdoor pool during the brief season. Later hours for greater flexibility to capitalize of the good weather evenings, especially on weekends.
- City needs two ice rinks, as in Dover, Exeter. For more than 20 years we've lacked a private or public ice rink. High School hockey team has to travel 25-30 minutes each way and deal with low priority ice time for practices. Two rinks would be ideal for tournaments, which in turn would benefit the City economically: lodging, restaurants, shopping.

The following questions were presented on large city maps; attendees marked their responses using dots.

Where Do You Live?

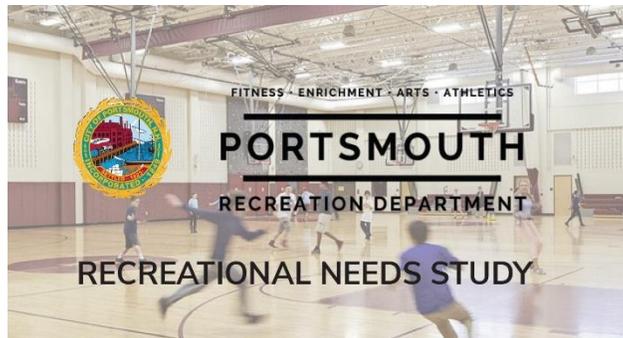
- Participants represented a number of neighborhoods including:
 - Voting Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4
- The West End Neighborhood vicinity showed the most attendance
- Underrepresented areas were in the vicinity of the South End/Downtown, Atlantic Heights, and the southern half of the city.
- One participant was from Kittery, ME

Where Do You Recreate?

WHERE DO YOU ACCESS COMMUNITY SERVICES, PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES?

Participants identified with recreating at the following sites:

- Tony Rahn Park
- Lister Academy (2)
- Campus Drive Athletic Fields
- Dondero School (2)
- Urban Forestry Center
- Portsmouth High School/Indoor Pool (6)
- Greenleaf Recreation Center
- Lafayette School Playground
- Clough Field
- Leary Field/Central LL/South Mill Pond Playground (3)
- Senior Activity Center
- Peirce Island Park/Playground/Outdoor Pool (2)
- Boat Launch
- Prescott Park (4)
- Portsmouth Middle School



Portsmouth, NH Recreational Needs Study Community Workshop #2 November 16, 2022

The second (and final) public workshop for the Portsmouth Recreational Needs Study was held on November 16, 2022 at the Community Campus. The focus of the community workshop centered on a presentation of findings from community engagement efforts, data collection and analyses, then offered residents the opportunity to weigh in on preliminary recommendations and prioritize actions the City should focus on first, according to category/topic area. Residents were also asked to contribute a word, phrase or full statement towards the creation of a vision statement. Results of public input are presented below.

FACILITIES (INDOOR)

Overarching Goal: *Enhance existing and develop new indoor facilities.*

Priorities...What should the City work on first?

- Indoor Ice Rink/Arena (44)
- Multi-Purpose Indoor Sports Complex (31)
- Teen Center (14)
- Indoor Courts: Basketball/Pickleball (11)
- Performance Theater/Amphitheater (8)
- Community Center (7)
- Senior Center (5)

Preliminary Recommendations (presented to the public)

- Utilize the Level of Service and Climate Change Analyses performed in this study as planning tools to inform future improvements/investments.

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Living on the coast having facilities to teach swimming is important for the safety of the community. One City-owned competition pool that is not open fully does not meet the needs of the community. Swim lessons fill within minutes of being posted showing the need for more availability.
- Bus from schools to pool at the end of the day, similar to the one that comes to the Community Campus could increase access for many kids.

- Existing facilities need some TLC. Specifically while it is understood that the Spinnaker Point lease will be up in a few years and we want to minimize expenditures there, it needs attention.
- Need an ice rink.
- Need an indoor sports complex with turf and courts.
- Need an ice rink/indoor facility rinks.
- Need an ice rink/arena.
- Need an ice rink.
- Need an ice arena.
- Indoor training facilities for youth athletic to properly train. Gyms don't work.
- Ice rinks...the City would benefit with the teams, but also with hotels/restaurants.
- Sherburne softball field is in horrible condition. Base paths are not properly distanced and aren't the same.
- Ice rinks.
- Indoor turf field.
- Indoor basketball court/gym that doesn't double as a school gym with very few open gym hours and complete closure in summer.
- A teen center is completely missing or any program dedicated to grades 9 – 12.
- More open gym hours available to existing gyms. Maybe utilize PHS gym in the summer or other schools. The Connie should be an option in the summer. There is nowhere indoors to play basketball in the summer.
- Indoor sports complex is missing. Need a large space that houses multiple sports options with better hours.
- Multi-sports complex with ice rink.
- Primarily places for youth sports that require large indoor spaces like ice hockey, soccer and baseball.
- Indoor track.
- Ice rink.
- Tween/Teen hangout space for video games, music, art, dance (non-sports oriented).
- Teen recreation center in the summer.
- Teen center...Connie Bean is not a teen center.
- Increasing annual funding of \$150,000 for the Jarvis Drive indoor pool to reflect the amount of inflation since 2010.
- Community center with focus for all age groups (teens, young adults, and seniors (big focus on youth/seniors) to close gap on age gaps.
- Indoor aquatics suitable to host meets
- A second indoor swimming pool...currently only option for swim team is for 8 yr. old to start at 6:30 pm and ends at 8 pm...too late
- Private swim lessons for kids with autism
- Pickleball
- Tennis courts
- Indoor facility that could host a variety of sports but also toddler time playtimes, fields to run and play during winter. Seacoast United did this prior to pandemic
- Indoor facility would be nice but the City should own it, not a private partnership
- Find it difficult to find a place open to play basketball
- More open gym activities for teens
- Indoor track

PROGRAMMING

Overarching Goal: *Expand program offerings and hours of operation.*

Priorities...What should the City work on first?

- More winter sports offerings (23)
- Disc Golf (14)
- Extend weekend hours for working families (13)
- Affordable swim lessons (13)
- Free Play options (10)
- Establish training opportunities for volunteer coaches (9)
- Programming for preschoolers/adults/people with disabilities (8)
- Pickleball lessons/leagues (6)
- Tennis Lessons (5)
- Coordination with Portsmouth Housing Authority: scholarships (4)
- Martial Arts programming for adults/empty-nesters (1)

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Free youth programming or scholarships for low-income in City programming.
- Teen programming.
- Tween/Teen programming, non-traditional sports, biking, yoga, climbing, roller skating, dance, surf, kayak (Durham seems to offer quite a bit of alternative programming).
- Teen programming/center accessible from PMS/PHS. Connie Bean is not a teen center.
- Adult programming (ages 18 – 40).
- Weekend swim lessons at the outdoor pool in summer
- Hiking trips/Ski club on weekends
- Gymnastics/Dance...private programs are expensive

FACILITIES (OUTDOOR)

Overarching Goal: *Enhance existing and develop new outdoor facilities.*

Priorities...What should the City work on first?

- Splash Pads (25)
- Synthetic Turf Fields (13)
- Outdoor Pools (12)
- Skate Parks (11)
- Multi-Purpose Fields: Soccer/Football (11)
- Baseball Fields: Adult/Youth (7)
- Basketball Courts (5)
- Tennis Courts (5)
- Softball Fields: Adult/Youth (4)
- Community Gardens (4)
- Pickleball Courts (3)

Preliminary Recommendations (presented to the public)

- Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations:
 - o Complete an evaluation of the City's parks/playgrounds so the existing condition are documented. Use this to inform and guide the scheduling/design/upgrade of facilities.

- Consider a management structure that can oversee all of the parks/playgrounds in the City.
- Develop a community garden at the Senior Center.
- Develop a master plan for South Mill Pond Area.
- Expand natural playground elements at all elementary schools.
- Support the Prescott Park master plan.
- Support the City's Master Plan recommendations:
 - Enhance neighborhood parks, recreational facilities and playgrounds, and add new ones where appropriate.
 - Create additional outdoor recreational fields where appropriate.
 - Enhance the city-owned properties such as Prescott Park, Peirce Island and Sagamore Creek.
 - Create new public spaces that can be used for both recreation and floodplain storage.
 - Pursue opportunities for community gardens.
- Utilize the Level of Service and Climate Change Analyses performed in this study as planning tools to inform future improvements/investments.

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- More adventure facilities and programming
- Rock climbing/climbing walls
- Elevated ropes courses
- Outdoor survival skills and workshops
- Teen facility/center
- Re-open/fix existing/former parks (under route 95 bridge)
- Pickleball courts
- Girls softball fields...girls are treated very much like 2nd class citizens compared to baseball
- Teen – adult (20 – 40-something options)
- Re-open closed courts/sites (Atlantic Heights)
- Adult outdoor fitness structures/elements
- Teen options (especially in colder months)
- Maintain/cover basketball courts
- Toddler options/splash pads
- Expanded hours at indoor pool
- Nature playgrounds
- Tweens/teen space
- Do not build on Community Campus...keep nature as is and maintain biking/walking dirt trails

CONNECTIVITY/MOBILITY

Overarching Goal: *Enhance walkability, bikeability and universal access throughout the community.*

Priorities...What should the City work on first?

- Walking trails/paths (33)
- Biking/Mountain biking trails/paths (26)
- Sidewalks (19)
- Reconsider removal of Middle St. bike lane (10)
- ADA accessibility/Universal access (3)

Preliminary Recommendations (presented to the public)

- Support the City's Master Plan recommendations:
 - o Work with state/regional partners to convert the former Hampton Branch to the off-road route of the NH Seacoast Greenway.
 - o Identify/Implement off-road, multi-use paths along North Mill Pond and other transportation/utility corridors.
 - o Create a passive recreation program focused on expansion/maintenance of recreational trails.
- Support the City's Open Space Plan recommendations for trail connections:
 - o Land between Gosling Meadows neighborhood and Durgin Lane
 - o Along the river, through parcels to Porpoise Way/Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way
 - o Portsmouth Blvd./Dunlin Way to the river

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Accessibility/transportation/funding.
- Inter-connectedness (other than by car) among facilities.
- Connectivity for bike/ped. Mobility from rail trail at skate park to Plains Ballfield and Community Campus, Dondero, etc.
- Complete/fill gaps in bike path connections
- Paved walking/roller blading/bike path away from traffic
- Safe bike route to Community Campus
- More bike racks (especially on Court St.)
- Childcare for participants in sports indoors
- Stroller-friendly paved walking paths

AMENITIES

Overarching Goal: *Enhance, upgrade and develop new amenities at existing sites to improve the user's experience.*

Priorities...What should the City work on first?

- Comfort stations/Restrooms (28)
- Upgrade/Update playground equipment (24)
- Lighting to expand use (17)
- Backstops/Dugouts/Scoreboards (5)
- Picnic Areas (3)
- Seating: bleachers/benches (3)
- Warm-up areas/space (2)
- Fencing: playgrounds/ballfields (1)
- Parking (1)
- Noise abatement (1)

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Adult amenities (outdoor fitness)
- We need an actual bathroom building somewhere near Leary Field.
- More bike racks downtown.
- Nature playground like Dondero...kids always play around those big plastic structures and they're a waste. Use logs, boulders, berms, etc. to build areas kids love to play in

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION/PROTOCOLS

Overarching Goal: Increase communications, formalize communications planning and promote the City's goal of equity and inclusion.

Preliminary Recommendations (presented to the public)

- Establish annual 'meet and greet' for sports league/organization administrators, coach and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Dept. and Recreation Director.
- Establish quarterly (by season) coordination meetings with sports league/organization administrators, coach and support staff with School District Facilities Director, Parks and Greenery Dept. and Recreation Director.
- Formalize protocols for field use, particularly after rain/weather events.
- Ensure that information is made available both in print and online.

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Announce programs earlier. We get information much later than private programs and it's too late
- Field access app for mobile phones and signing up for facilities
- Need to improve facilities and opportunities for seniors...enhance Spinnaker Point
- Promote all scholarship opportunities...this is secret currently and important for equity

MAINTENANCE/STEWARDSHIP

Overarching Goal: Maintain existing facilities in good working order and identify partnerships to facilitate stewardship.

Preliminary Recommendations (presented to the public)

- Support the City's Master Plan recommendations:
 - o Partner with locals schools and community organizations to create stewardship program.
- Establishing Memorandums of Agreement with sports leagues/organizations regarding maintenance and stewardship responsibilities, based on best practices and mutual agreement. Renew/Update these MOAs seasonally/annually.
- Identify/Encourage efficiencies for 'equipment crossover' between the City and School District.

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

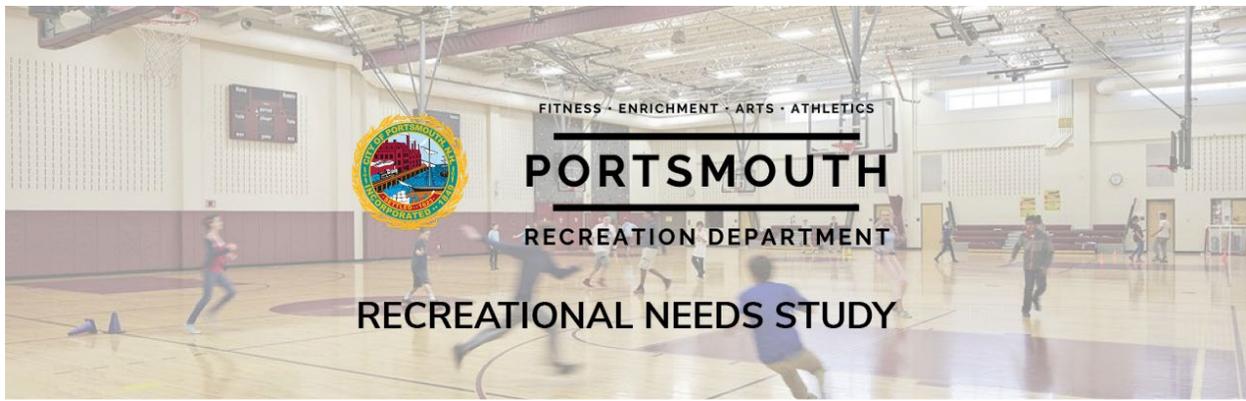
- Spinnaker Point facility needs to be better maintained perhaps even purchased
- Include other City program departments in existing resources assessment (e.g. Library)
- Looks fine as is
- Explore long-term plans of private/non-profit for synergy (PMAC/YMCA)
- Circulating staff monitoring fields

VISION STATEMENT

Participants were asked to contribute a word or two, or a full statement that is reflective of the core values that should be included in the vision statement.

Public Input (What could be improved/what is missing?)

- Nature
- Nature-based
- Long-term sustainability
- Sustainable + Ecological
- Centralized
- Environmentally sound



Community Survey

We want to know what you think!

The City of Portsmouth wants to know what you think about parks, recreational areas, and recreation programs/events in Portsmouth. The City is currently developing an update to the Recreational Needs study that will reflect the needs and priorities of the community and establish a roadmap for implementation over the next ten years. We look forward to your feedback and involvement in this process.

What do we mean by 'Recreation' resources?

Recreation Resources: *Indoor and outdoor facilities for recreation, such as playgrounds, basketball courts, ball fields, indoor gyms and community centers. Public, open, green space used for recreation.*

Facilities

1. Choose the 5 outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities you visit most often:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Lister Academy School Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Dondero School Field/Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> New Franklin Elementary Fields/Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Harbour School Field/Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Middle School | <input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Pannaway School Field/Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alumni Ball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Plains Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Haven Ball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Clough Field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pease Ball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Hislop Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Four Tree Island | <input type="checkbox"/> Peirce Island |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth High School Cross Country Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Drive Athletic Field | <input type="checkbox"/> South Mill Pond Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescott Park Marina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prescott Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Campus | <input type="checkbox"/> Aldrich Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Haven Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little League Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Leary Ball Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Rail Trail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenleaf Skate Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Heights Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> South Street Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Street Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ | | | |

2. Choose the 5 indoor recreation facilities you visit most often:

- Greenleaf Recreation Center
- Portsmouth High School Gym
- Portsmouth Senior Activity Center
- Dondero School Gym
- Lister Academy School Gym
- Little Harbour School Gym
- New Franklin Elem. School Gym
- Connie Bean Recreation Center
- Spinnaker Point Rec. Center
- Portsmouth Middle School Gym
- Portsmouth Indoor Pool
- Community Campus
- Other (specify) _____

3. How satisfied are you with existing parks and indoor recreation facilities owned/operated by the City of Portsmouth for the following age groups?

5	4	3	2	1
very satisfied	satisfied	neutral	dissatisfied	very dissatisfied

Under 5	5	4	3	2	1
6 – 12	5	4	3	2	1
13 – 17	5	4	3	2	1
18 – 29	5	4	3	2	1
30 – 54	5	4	3	2	1
55 – 70	5	4	3	2	1
71 – over	5	4	3	2	1

4. Comments on level of satisfaction?

5. List 3 parks and/or recreation facilities that you would like to see in Portsmouth:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

6. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in the area that are not owned/operated by the City of Portsmouth, in which communities are these programs or facilities located?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Within Portsmouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Rye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Castle | <input type="checkbox"/> Newington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stratham | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exeter | <input type="checkbox"/> Dover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rochester | <input type="checkbox"/> Kittery, Maine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eliot, Maine | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |

7. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in the nearby locations listed above, what facilities or programs are you travelling there to participate in or use? (YMCA, private studios or clubs, private leagues, nearby towns' recreational programs)

8. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in the nearby locations listed above, why do you choose to travel for those facilities and programs?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closer in proximity | <input type="checkbox"/> Condition of facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hours of operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Convenience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of programming | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs/Activities not offered in Portsmouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

Access/Connectivity/Mobility

9. How far is the closest park or recreation facility from your home?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Within ¼ mile (8 – 10 minute walk) | <input type="checkbox"/> ½ to ¾ mile (15 – 20 minute walk) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ¼ to ½ mile (10 – 15 minute walk) | <input type="checkbox"/> ¾ to 1 mile (20 – 25 minute walk) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than 1 mile | |

10. How do you usually get there?

- Walk Bike Drive

11. How often do you visit parks or recreational areas in Portsmouth?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Every day | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Several times a week | <input type="checkbox"/> Twice a month | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or 3 times a year |

Programs

12. Choose the 5 community events, programs or fitness-related activities offered by Portsmouth Recreation that you or your family have attended/participated in over the past several years in Portsmouth:

- | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Yoga | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K Music Together | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting Course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid/CPR Course | <input type="checkbox"/> Halloween Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Family Fun Fest | <input type="checkbox"/> NYC Annual Trip | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey Shoot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday Trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Holiday Parade | <input type="checkbox"/> Improv Class |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learn and Play | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapology (STEM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Enrichment Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Mad Science Afterschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Sox Trip |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Egg Hunt | <input type="checkbox"/> Camp FunStuff | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Science Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-sport Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> LEGO Robotics Camp | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Pool Swim Lessons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th of July Fireworks | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Fitness Classes (Spinnaker) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Fitness Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Enrichment Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Fitness Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim Lessons – Indoor | <input type="checkbox"/> Indoor Pool Lap Swim | <input type="checkbox"/> ForestKids |

13. How satisfied are you with recent community events, programs or fitness-related offerings provided by Portsmouth Recreation for the following age groups?

5 very satisfied	4 satisfied	3 neutral	2 dissatisfied	1 very dissatisfied
---------------------	----------------	--------------	-------------------	------------------------

Under 5	5	4	3	2	1
6 – 12	5	4	3	2	1
13 – 17	5	4	3	2	1
18 – 29	5	4	3	2	1
30 – 54	5	4	3	2	1
55 – 70	5	4	3	2	1
71 – over	5	4	3	2	1

14. How satisfied are you with costs to participate in community events, programs or fitness-related offerings provided by Portsmouth Recreation for the following age groups?

5	4	3	2	1		
very satisfied	satisfied	neutral	dissatisfied	very dissatisfied		
	Under 5	5	4	3	2	1
	6 – 12	5	4	3	2	1
	13 – 17	5	4	3	2	1
	18 – 29	5	4	3	2	1
	30 – 54	5	4	3	2	1
	55 – 70	5	4	3	2	1
	71 – over	5	4	3	2	1

15. Comments on level of satisfaction?

16. List 3 community events, programs and/or fitness-related offerings that you would like to see in Portsmouth:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

17. Choose the 5 most frequently attended sports-related programs/ leagues/ clubs that you or your family have participated in over the past several years in Portsmouth:

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> USTA Tennis Lessons | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Basketball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> T-Ball | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-K Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Intro to Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ed Softball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Legion Babe Ruth | <input type="checkbox"/> My Social Sports | <input type="checkbox"/> Ultimate Frisbee | <input type="checkbox"/> Flag Football | <input type="checkbox"/> Fusion Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seacoast Pirates Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Port City Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Seacoast Lacrosse | <input type="checkbox"/> PHS Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's Softball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Youth Football | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Little League | <input type="checkbox"/> Seacoast Ultimate | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Babe Ruth | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Bay Community College |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal New England Baseball League | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Olympics /Friends In Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Bay Masters | <input type="checkbox"/> Seacoast Rugby | <input type="checkbox"/> Swim Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth MS Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Elementary School Athletics | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)_____ | | |

18. How satisfied are you with recent sports-related programs/leagues/clubs offered by Portsmouth Recreation for the following age groups?

5	4	3	2	1		
very satisfied	satisfied	neutral	dissatisfied	very dissatisfied		
	Under 5	5	4	3	2	1
	6 – 12	5	4	3	2	1
	13 – 17	5	4	3	2	1
	18 – 29	5	4	3	2	1
	30 – 54	5	4	3	2	1
	55 – 70	5	4	3	2	1
	71 – over	5	4	3	2	1

19. How satisfied are you with costs to access/participate in sports-related programs/leagues/clubs offered by Portsmouth Recreation for the following age groups?

5	4	3	2	1		
very satisfied	satisfied	neutral	dissatisfied	very dissatisfied		
	Under 5	5	4	3	2	1
	6 – 12	5	4	3	2	1
	13 – 17	5	4	3	2	1
	18 – 29	5	4	3	2	1
	30 – 54	5	4	3	2	1
	55 – 70	5	4	3	2	1
	71 – over	5	4	3	2	1

20. Comments on level of satisfaction?

Information

21. How do you receive information about parks and recreational resources and programs in Portsmouth?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Portsmouth website | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper | <input type="checkbox"/> Channel 22 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter | <input type="checkbox"/> Instagram |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs/Outdoor advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Monthly Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Portsmouth e-Newsletter | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) | | |
-

Demographics

22. Do you live in Portsmouth? ___ Yes ___ No

23. In which part of the city do you live?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Heights/Bersum Gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> City Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pannaway Manor | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Plains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rt. 1 Corridor South of Downtown | <input type="checkbox"/> South End |
| <input type="checkbox"/> West End | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodlands/Elwyn Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little Harbour | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Haven |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Road/Buckminster/Banfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Portsmouth Plains/ Islington Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gosling Meadows | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey Landing/ Spinnaker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) | |
-

24. How long have you lived in Portsmouth?

___ less than 5 years ___ 5 – 20 years ___ over 20 years

25. Check all age groups that live in your household:

___ Under 5 ___ 5 – 14 ___ 15 – 19 ___ 19 – 24 ___ 75+
___ 25 – 34 ___ 35 – 44 ___ 45 – 59 ___ 60 – 74

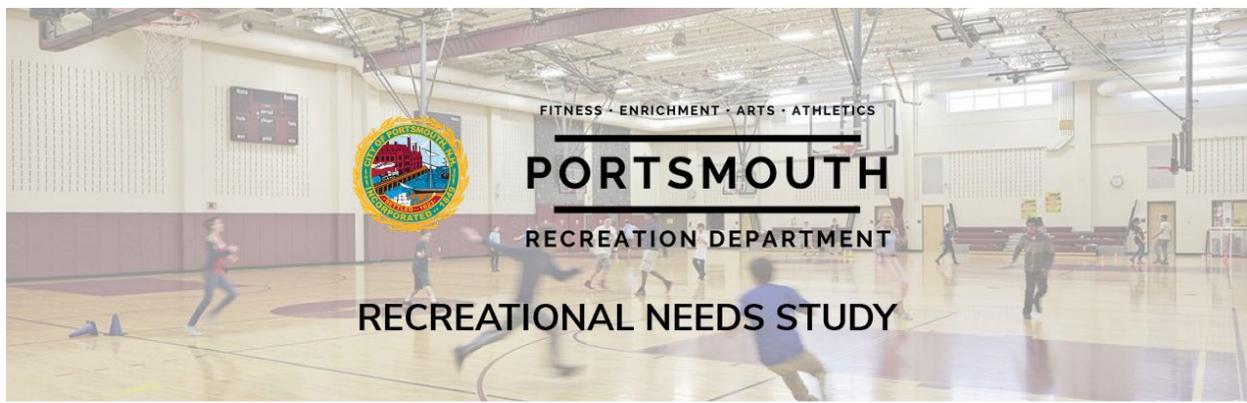
26. How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your participation in recreational facilities or programming?

- Increased outdoor activity Decreased participation in sports Chose new recreational activities
- Positive impact on recreational activity Negative impact on recreational activity

27. What are the most important actions the City should take in the next 5 years regarding recreation offering/facility opportunities?

For example, should the City acquire a specific property, save a particular resource, implement a specific program, concentrate on maintenance, etc.?

28. Are there any other comments you would like to add about Portsmouth's recreational offerings/facilities?



Athletic Facility Use Survey

Group Information

Organization:

Name & Title:

Phone & Email:

Playing Season/Practice

1. When does your playing season begin?
2. When does your practice season begin?
3. When does your playing season end?
4. When does your practice season end?

Program Information

5. Please list the divisions/ages and estimated participants in each division (please list each division and participants separately)
6. What is the Maximum Number of Teams?
7. Please indicate the level of play (i.e. Recreational, Competition, Elite)

8. If there are multiple levels of play within your organization, please indicate and explain here.

Field Information – Games

9. Please list fields used for games (list each location separately).
10. Provide typical day/time for games (i.e. Sun, Mon, Tues, etc. and time).
11. Please list fields used for practice (list each location separately).
12. Provide typical day/time for practice (i.e. Sun, Mon, Tues, etc. and time).

Field locations

13. In your opinion, are the fields you use located at appropriate spots throughout the city?
14. Are there any practice or game conflicts with adjacent park activities or functions?

Utilization of Fields

15. In your opinion, do the existing facilities adequately accommodate both game and practice demands? (if no please explain)

16. In your opinion, is there adequate space for warming up and concurrent ongoing game play?
17. Are there conflicts with other leagues or sport play concurrent with your demands for fields?
18. Please provided any additional comments regarding utilization of fields.

Field layout and Playability

19. Define the desirable and minimum acceptable dimension of field size for your sport. Include player bench area or safety run-off zone. (if there are multiple field sizes by age or division please list separately)
20. Please provide any fencing, netting or other improvements directly related to your user group.
21. Does existing field orientation have an impact on play? (yes/no)
22. Do grades or slopes on the game surface create any play advantage or disadvantages? (yes/no, please explain)
23. Are fields playable in varying weather conditions? (yes/no)

24. Does playability of the fields vary over the duration of your season? (yes/no) If yes please explain...

25. Does durability of the field turf negatively impact play? (yes/no)

Field Accessibility

26. Are fields reasonably accessible for required game equipment?

27. Are there equipment storage needs that require on-site facilities?

Existing and Future Needs

28. Do trends indicate that you will have demand for additional fields in the future?

29. In your opinion, do the athletic facilities or their locations limit you from providing opportunities for the entire community? (yes/no/unsure) please explain...

Maintenance of Fields/Facilities

30. Please describe the level of maintenance you/your organization provides?

31. Please describe your timeline for maintenance.

General Comments:



MEMORANDUM

To: Portsmouth, NH Recreation Board

From: Craig Pereira

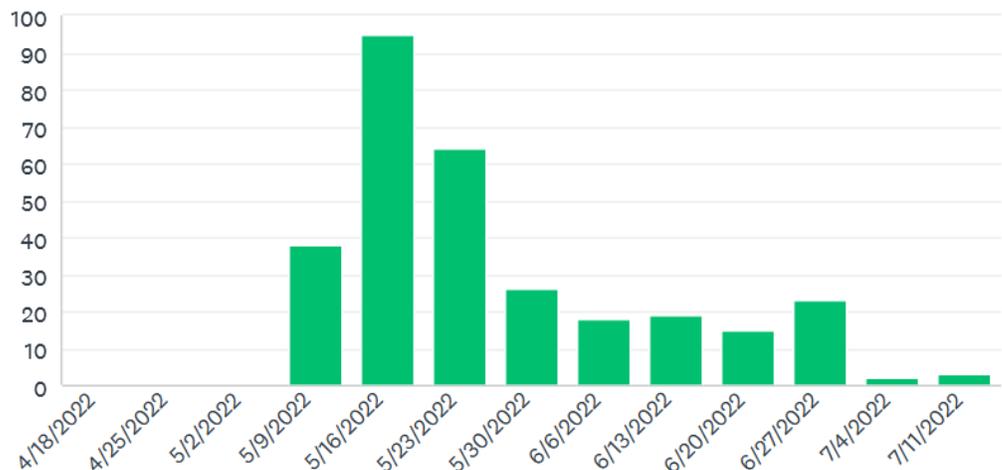
Date: July 20, 2022

Re: Recreational Needs Analysis Online Community Survey

cc: Alice Carey

The Portsmouth, NH recreational Needs Analysis Online Community Survey kicked off on May 11, 2022 when the eblast came out from the City and was closed on July 11, 2022. There were 303 responses from community members. The response volume chart below illustrates the range of participation since the survey collector was opened. Following is a brief overview of the highlights to date.

First: 5/11/2022 Zoom: 4/18/2022 to 7/11/2022



1. Choose the top 5 outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities you visit most often:

- Prescott Park: 57%
- Peirce Island: 51%
- South Mill Pond Area: 43%
- Four Tree Island: 28%
- Portsmouth High School: 25%
- Rail Trail: 18%
- Other: 15%
- Little League Fields: 14%
- Community Campus: 13%
- Campus Drive Athletic Field: 12%
- Dondero School Field/Playground: 12%
- Little Harbour School Field/Playground: 12%
- Portsmouth High School Cross Country Trails: 12%
- New Franklin Elementary Fields/Playground: 12%
- South Street Playground: 10%
- Leary Ball Field: 9%
- Prescott Park Marina: 9%
- Pine Street Playground: 9%
- Plains Playground: 9%
- Lafayette Park: 8%
- Portsmouth Middle School: 7%
- Dog Park: 7%
- Hislop Park: 7%
- Clough Field: 5%
- Pannaway School Field/Playground: 4%
- Lister Academy School Field: 4%
- Greenleaf Skate Park: 3%
- Alumni Ball Field: 3%
- Haven Park: 3%
- Atlantic Heights Playground: 2%
- Maple Haven Ball Field: 2%
- Pease ball Field: 2%
- Aldrich Park: 0%

Other:

- Outdoor pool
- Urban Forestry Center
- Cater Park on Columbia
- Pickleball courts (Spinnaker Point/South Mill Pond/Junkins Avenue/
Chestnut Street
- Goodwin Park
- Little Harbour loop trails/Chapel trails
- Bohenko Park

2. Choose the 5 indoor recreation facilities you visit most often:

- Portsmouth Indoor Pool: 41%
- Connie Bean Recreation Center: 34%
- Spinnaker Point Recreation Center: 33%
- Portsmouth Senior Activity Center: 20%
- Portsmouth High School Gym: 18%
- Community Campus: 17%
- Portsmouth Middle School Gym: 14%
- Other: 12%
- New Franklin Elementary School: 11%
- Dondero School Gym: 8%
- Little Harbour School Gym: 7%
- Greenleaf Recreation Center: 5%
- Lister Academy School Gym: 1%

Other:

- Dover Arena
- Planet Fitness
- Labrie outdoor skating

3. Satisfaction with City-owned parks/indoor recreation facilities (satisfied/very satisfied):.

< 5: 54%	6-12: 52%	13-17: 40%	18-29: 40%
30-54: 45%	55-70: 51%	71>: 40%	

4. Comments on level of satisfaction (repetitive themes):

- Pickleball Courts
 - o Need more courts
 - o Options for indoor play
 - o Issue with timing at outdoor courts by dog park
- Basketball Courts
 - o Pine Street Park courts need improvement
- Trails
 - o Need more walking trails
 - o Improve rail trail/bike trails
 - o Removing Middle Street bike lane was a disappointment
- Pools
 - o Need to be open more (limited days/hours)
 - o Allow out-of-town military families early resident registration
 - o Pierce Island outdoor pool locker rooms need improvement
 - o Portsmouth indoor pool (needs a lot of investment, schedule needs to be re-worked)
 - o High School pool should be open more
 - o Fix the hot tub!
- Programming

- Need more for preschoolers
 - Need more options (clubs/activities)
- Fields
 - Middle school boys v. girls facilities disparities
 - Girls softball is marginalized
 - Clough field is an embarrassment/rough
 - Little Harbour soccer field is not well maintained
 - Conditions/supply are horrific
 - Need more little league fields/multi-use fields
 - Lister Academy fields need improvement
 - Disappointed in turf field and chemical exposure to community/environment
 - Need more facilities for elementary age youth
 - Many drainage issues
- Dog parks
 - Limited opportunities
- Tennis Courts
 - Need more now that pickleball has replaced some
 - High School courts are a disgrace
- Playgrounds
 - Need lighting
 - Are outdated/need updated play structures
 - Fencing for safety
 - Splash pads
 - More 'natural' play areas (like Dondero Playground)
 - Need better maintenance
 - Little Harbour School playground needs improvement
 - New Franklin's playground needs improvement
 - South Mill Pond playground is heavily used and in need of repair
 - South School Street playground needs mulch and sand
- Comfort stations
 - Need better facilities at South Mill Pond/Leary Field
- Outdoor facilities
 - Need more free play options
 - Greenleaf skate park is too far for most
- Information
 - Need more accessible information
- Connie Bean
 - Should be open all summer
- Team sports
 - Public access to indoor facilities is limited
- Spinnaker Point
 - Needs to be open later for working residents
 - Walkway needs repair
- Access
 - ADA Accessibility

- Needs more ADA options
 - Need an ADA-accessible playground in the downtown area
 - Need free transportation for residents without cars
 - Indoor Facilities
 - Need ice rink
 - Need indoor turf fields for baseball/softball/soccer/flag football/lacrosse for year-round play
 - More options for seniors
 - No where to bring a toddler to run around on a rainy day
 - Picnic Areas
 - Need outdoor areas for adults
5. List 3 parks/recreation facilities you would like to see in Portsmouth (repetitive themes):
- Ice hockey rink (57)
 - Splash pads (30)
 - Indoor multi-sports complex (26)
 - Pickleball courts (24)
 - Skatepark (24)
 - Turf fields (19)
 - Protected bike lanes (15)
 - Rail trail (14)
 - Disc Golf (11)
 - Swimming facilities (10)
 - Green space (9)
 - Tennis courts (8)
 - Network of greenways that connect the City (7)
 - More waterfront access (7)
 - Multi-generational indoor community space (7)
 - Indoor rock climbing (7)
 - Mountain bike trails (6)
 - Action sports park (pump track) (6)
 - Fenced in dog park (6)
 - Outdoor Fitness stations (6)
 - More baseball fields (6)
 - Outdoor roller rink (5)
 - Re-open Atlantic Heights dog park/basketball court (5)
 - Waterfront walking trail (5)
 - More volleyball courts (5)
 - Indoor basketball courts (5)
 - Picnic areas (4)
 - Better facilities for girls (3)
 - Off-leash dog parks (3)
 - Public greenhouses/botanical gardens (3)
 - Indoor gym (3)
 - Soccer fields like Roger Allen Park (3)

- Field house for soccer/lacrosse (3)
 - Community track (3)
 - ADA-compliant trails (3)
 - Indoor plays pace for children (2)
 - Racquetball/Squash courts (2)
 - Shooting range (2)
 - Free play areas (2)
 - Gym at the Senior Center (2)
 - Theater (2)
 - Outdoor basketball courts (2)
 - Indoor track (2)
 - Adult education classes (2)
 - Comfort stations for seniors (2)
 - Boating lessons (2)
 - Ninja-warrior park (2)
 - Lighting at baseball fields
 - Running trails with emergency lights
 - Senior fitness trail
 - Softball fields
 - Kayak/canoe launch to access North Mill Pond
 - Makerspace
 - Indoor playground
 - Gymnastics programming
 - AAA Baseball
 - Archery program
 - Indoor/Outdoor space for cooking groups/industrial kitchen
 - Kayak/SUP rentals
 - Signage for City-owned land
 - Urban recreation in the built environment
 - Dance classes for children
 - Golf course
 - Yoga for kids
 - Yoga for seniors
 - Public beer garden
 - Pet education parks
 - Adult sports leagues
 - Beach at Mill Pond
 - Indoor facility for dodgeball
 - Covered outdoor space for kids during inclement weather
 - Carousel
6. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in the area that are not owned by the City, in which communities are these programs/facilities located:
- Within Portsmouth: 35%
 - Newcastle: 30%
 - Other: 29%

- Kittery, ME: 27%
- Dover: 26%
- Stratham: 26%
- Rye: 26%
- Exeter: 25%
- Greenland: 15%
- Newington: 11%
- Eliot, ME: 5%
- Portsmouth Middle School Gym: 2%

Other:

- Hampton (21)
- Epping (11)
- Durham (9)
- Newmarket (7)
- York, ME (6)
- North Hampton (4)
- Newburyport (3)
- Seabrook (3)
- Somersworth (2)
- Newfields (2)
- UNH (2)
- Fremont, NH
- Exeter
- Salisbury, MA
- Haverhill
- South Berwick
- Hookset
- Derry
- Newcastle
- Greenland

7. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in nearby locations, what programs/facilities are you traveling to participate in:
- Ice rink (Dover/Rochester/Durham/Exeter) (29)
 - YMCA (Seacoast/Exeter) (22)
 - Biking/Walking trails (14)
 - Nature trails (13)
 - Beaches (Rye) (12)
 - Parks (10)
 - Pickleball (9)
 - Splash pads (8)
 - Swimming (8)
 - Recreation programs (7)
 - Seacoast United (soccer) (5)
 - Planet Fitness (5)

- Private leagues (5)
- Great Island Common (5)
- Indoor facilities (soccer/baseball/lacrosse) (5)
- Hiking trails (4)
- Gymnastics (4)
- Golf (4)
- Sports Barn in Hampton (4)
- Kittery Recreation Center (4)
- Mountain biking (4)
- Tennis courts (3)
- Club Pilates (3)
- Private leagues (2)
- UNH outdoor pool (2)
- Volleyball League (2)
- Picnic areas (Newcastle) (2)
- Climbing wall (Dover/Newburyport) (2)
- Seabrook NEB Powerhouse (2)
- Cross Country skiing (2)
- Adult sports leagues (2)
- Houligans lacrosse (2)
- Flag football (2)
- Barre classes (2)
- Skateparks (2)
- Softball (2)
- Urban Forestry Center (2)
- Seacoast Science Center
- Greenland playground
- Great Bay Discovery Center
- Basketball League
- Fitness gym in Newington
- St. Patrick's Gym (basketball)
- Brazilian Jiu-jitsu
- Odiorne State Park
- Fort Foster
- MetroRock
- Squash courts
- Newmarket Recreation Camp
- Wentworth by the Sea (golf/pool/racquet sports)
- Roller derby/Roller-skating
- Dance program Newmarket
- Turf fields
- Seacoast Hoops Lab
- Disc golf
- Rowing program (Dover)
- Red program (Kittery)
- Little league (Rye)

- Cliff House Gym (York, ME)

8. If you or your family use other sports/recreation facilities in nearby locations, why do you choose to travel for those programs/facilities:

- Program/activity not offered in Portsmouth: 66%
- Quality of programs: 30%
- Condition of facility: 24%
- Other: 15%
- Hours of operation: 14%
- Convenience: 10%
- Affordability: 9%
- Proximity: 7%

Other:

- Demographics (3)
- Variety (2)
- Staff (2)
- Long wait lists
- Amenities
- Crowds
- Comfort Stations
- Parking

9. How far is the closest park/recreation facility from your home:

- Within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile: 55%
- $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile: 18%
- More than 1 mile: 15%
- $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 mile: 7%
- $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to $\frac{3}{4}$ mile: 5%

10. How do you usually get there:

- Walk: 62%
- Drive: 29%
- Bike: 9%

11. How often do you visit parks/recreational areas in Portsmouth:

- Several times a week: 58%
- Once a week: 15%
- Every day: 9%
- Twice a month: 8%
- Once a month: 7%
- 2 or 3 times a year: 3%

12. Choose the 5 community events/programs/fitness-related activities offered by the City that you or your family have attended/participated in over the past several years:

- Portsmouth Holiday Parade: 59%
- 4th of July fireworks: 55%
- Indoor pool: 31%
- Swim lessons indoor: 23%
- Swim lessons outdoor: 20%
- Indoor lap swim: 15%
- Soccer Skills: 14%
- Soccer camp: 10%
- Adult fitness classes: 10%
- Fall Family Fun Fest: 8%
- Multi-sport program: 7%
- Turkey Shoot: 6%
- Pre-K Music Together: 6%
- First Aid/CPR Course: 5%
- Senior Fitness classes: 5%
- Creative drama: 5%
- LEGO robotics: 5%
- ForestKids: 4%
- Art enrichment classes: 4%
- Senior Enrichment classes: 4%
- Babysitting Course: 4%
- Snapology (STEM): 4%
- Senior trips: 3%
- Kids yoga: 2%
- Mad Science afterschool: 2%
- Cooking classes: 2%
- Learn and Play: 2%
- Halloween classes: 2%
- Holiday trips: 2%
- Aquatic fitness classes: 1%
- NYC annual trip: 1%
- Marine Science camp: 1%
- Improve class: <1%

13. How satisfied are you with recent community events/programs/fitness-related offerings provided by the City for the following age groups (satisfied/very satisfied):

< 5: 46%	6-12: 46%	13-17: 34%	18-29: 30%
30-54: 36%	55-70: 41%	71>: 44%	

14. How satisfied are you with costs to participate in community events/programs/fitness-related offerings provided by the City for the following age groups (satisfied/very satisfied):

< 5: 55%	6-12: 57%	13-17: 48%	18-29: 39%
30-54: 46%	55-70: 42%	71>: 35%	

15. Comments on level of satisfaction:

- Prices are incredibly fair (11)
- Need more for adults (cooking classes/arts and crafts) (5)
- Costs for youth programming can be a little high (5)
- After school programs for elementary/Middle School youth (3)
- Indoor swim lessons to be more affordable/outdoor free lessons are not viable option for working families (2)
- Need more weekend hours for youth offerings (barrier for working families) (2)
- Scholarships should be available for families who can't afford costs (2)
- Charge more to improve quality of programming (2)
- City is not responding to growing demand for pickleball
- Need expanded senior fitness programs/trips
- Many are tailored to families and kids, some residents don't have kids
- Consider season pass for pool rather than pay each time
- Connie Bean needs more free gym time
- Need community center for teens
- More basketball/sports tournaments for all ages in summer
- Need ice rink and indoor facilities
- Low key baseball options in spring
- Prices are too low
- Swimming/Water safety classes should be free
- Wouldn't mind increase in taxes for more robust offerings
- Recreation programs have been disorganized
- Quality programming
- Field/court/rink availability is an issue
- Quality of recreation programming is dependent on the coaching staff
- More programming for kids under 3
- More female sport offerings
- Outdoor basketball courts are needed
- Access to PMS weight room in the summer
- Need mountain bike trails
- Spinnaker or similar should be free to all
- Better websites with more information
- Appreciate senior discount at Spinnaker
- Government should not be in the recreation business
- Quality of programming has declined since 2019
- Youth recreation programming is disappointing (lack of coaches/organization)
- Need dance/tumbling for young kids
- Timing of programs for families with multiple kids is a barrier
- Recreation Dept. should partner with Prescott Park, Black History Trail, Isle of Shoals boat trips, Urban Forestry Center

16. List 3 community events/programs/fitness-related offerings you would like to see in Portsmouth (repetitive themes):

- Need ice hockey/rink/figure skating/tournaments/ice dancing (25)
- Tennis/lessons (16)
- Pickleball/Lessons/Leagues/Tournaments (14)

- Promote biking/safety (10)
- Disc golf (8)
- Adult yoga outdoors (8)
- Indoor soccer complex is needed (5)
- Flag football (5)
- More outdoor concerts (4)
- Track and field in summer (4)
- Nature-based programs (ForestKids) (4)
- Outdoor fitness stations/classes (4)
- Tai Chi (4)
- More senior programming/trips (4)
- Mountain biking trails (3)
- Adult sports leagues (women's lacrosse) (3)
- Volleyball clinics (3)
- Rock climbing is needed (3)
- Football turf field for PYF is needed (3)
- Expand LEGO robotics offerings/affordability (3)
- Adult swim lessons (3)
- Swim team (3)
- Senior strength classes (3)
- Rail trail (3)
- Kids yoga (3)
- Sewing/cooking classes for kids (skills building) (3)
- Skate park (3)
- Social dances (2)
- Adult walking clubs (2)
- Art programs for teens/high school (2)
- Market Square day 10k (2)
- Splashpads (2)
- More openings for group swim lessons (2)
- Indoor/Outdoor movie nights are needed (2)
- Holiday parades (2)
- Outdoor exercise classes (2)
- Jazzercise (2)
- More hiking trails (2)
- Community arts festival is needed (2)
- Father/Daughter...Mother/Son dance (2)
- After school enrichment activities (2)
- Mom/Kids boot camp (2)
- Open water swimming (2)
- Senior yoga in the park (2)
- Boating lessons for kids/adults (2)
- Ultimate Frisbee (2)
- Outdoor stretching (2)
- Traffic-smart training /marketing for city cyclists/drivers/scooters/mopeds (2)
- Triathlon club/workouts (2)

- Young adult events (brewery) (2)
- Adult cooking/craft classes (2)
- Closer link to high school sports
- Community gardening resources
- Flag football
- After work hydro-burn
- Pickleball time slots for working residents
- Portsmouth Christmas parade
- Beerfest
- More STEM programs for kids
- Aquatic Square dancing
- Get that baseball league back here
- Learn to skate
- Technology instructions for seniors
- Ecology-themed events
- Need community-organized park clean-up/landscaping
- Dog parade
- Kids running (like Healthy Kids Series)
- Co-ed recreation soccer
- Squash league
- Forest Fairy Groups
- Outdoor toddler programs
- Pre-season Little League/Babe Ruth clinics
- Easter Bunny on the firetruck around town
- Kids push and pull parade
- Youth cheerleading
- Field hockey (elementary school age)
- Portsmouth Criterium
- Lacrosse
- More turf fields
- Pinnacle club
- Soccer for kindergarteners
- Chair yoga
- Adult education classes
- Latin social dances
- Roller rink
- Carnival
- Nature trails
- Aerobics
- Senior Olympic events
- Dog access to parks
- Family yoga
- Better access for lower-income families
- Weekly drum circle
- Outdoor Christmas Bazaar
- Community tween/teen space

- Weight training
- Group sight-seeing trips
- Skiing
- Football
- Winter golf fitness
- Improved recreation basketball for kids
- Softball/T-Ball
- Touch-a-Truck events
- Parenting support groups
- Ceramics classes
- Bowling
- Pilates
- After school sports programming
- Locally-focused vendor fair (Kittery Block Party)
- Weight training
- Community Service opportunities
- Recreation/Amenities information
- Gymnastics
- More winter options
- Music classes for kids
- Family camp outs

17. Choose the 5 most frequently attended sports-related programs/leagues/clubs that you or your family have participated in over the past several years:

- Youth soccer: 27%
- Other: 24%
- Portsmouth Little League: 22%
- Pickleball: 19%
- Portsmouth High School Athletics: 19%
- Portsmouth Middle School Athletics: 14%
- Port City Soccer: 12%
- Pre-K Soccer: 11%
- Youth Basketball: 11%
- Seacoast Lacrosse: 10%
- Portsmouth Youth Football: 9%
- USTA Tennis Lessons: 6%
- Swim Team: 5%
- Adult Basketball: 5%
- T-Ball: 5%
- My Social Sports: 5%
- Great Bay Masters: 5%
- Flag Football: 5%
- Fusion Soccer: 5%
- American Legion Babe Ruth: 4%
- Portsmouth Babe Ruth: 4%
- Special Olympics/Friends in Action: 2%

- Seacoast Pirates Baseball: 2%
- Coastal New England Baseball League: 2%
- Ultimate Frisbee: 2%
- Multi-Sports: 2%
- Co-ed Softball: 2%
- Great Bay Community College: 2%
- Women's Softball: 1%
- Seacoast Ultimate: 1%
- Intro to Baseball: 1%
- Seacoast Rugby: <1%

Other:

- Summer track for kids
- Tennis
- Biking
- PGSA (3)
- Men's ice hockey leagues (3)
- Labrie Family Skate
- Pickleball
- Mayor's bike ride
- Fencing
- Squash
- Girl's softball (3)
- Seacoast Mavericks
- Children have to travel outside of Portsmouth for sports (2)
- PCSC soccer
- Aquasize at indoor pool

18. How satisfied are you with recent sports-related programs/leagues/clubs offered by the City for the following age groups (satisfied/very satisfied):

< 5: 37%	6-12: 42%	13-17: 36%	18-29: 27%
30-54: 28%	55-70: 35%	71+: 30%	

19. How satisfied are you with the costs to access/participate in sports-related programs/leagues/clubs offered by the City for the following age groups (satisfied/very satisfied):

< 5: 49%	6-12: 54%	13-17: 45%	18-29: 35%
30-54: 38%	55-70: 41%	71+: 39%	

20. Comments on level of satisfaction (repetitive themes):

- Satisfied with programming (45)
- More diversity in programming (non-league play) (3)
- Would love more for adults...wouldn't mind paying extra (2)
- Youth programs could use some updates...been the same for the last 20 years. We went to Greenland for basketball because they practiced and had

- games...Portsmouth just has games. When learning a new sport it's important to have practices (2)
- Higher costs than being a non-resident in another town
 - Some sports offerings for young kids are way too early in the morning
 - Pre-K soccer and T-ball felt very haphazard...relied on parent volunteers to coach
 - Indoor swim lesson fees can be cost-prohibitive
 - More hours at Connie Bean
 - Spinnaker is a great price for over 60
 - Give PYF access to turf field at community campus
 - Offerings getter much better and costs are reasonable
 - Let people know scholarships are available
 - Need to fix the PHS tennis courts
 - Plan to switch to Port City Soccer due to our recreation soccer experience last year
 - I didn't know some of these options were available
 - Portsmouth Little League is costly
 - Martial arts for adults
 - Seems to be more common recreation programs don't have coaches
 - Kids little league baseball/softball programs is a bit confusing...is there a league run by recreation
 - Swim lessons for kids during workday limits participation
 - Transportation
 - Difficult to answer...haven't seen a recreation flyer in years

21. How do you receive information about parks/recreational resources/programs in Portsmouth:

- City of Portsmouth website: 58%
- City of Portsmouth E-Newsletter: 45%
- Word of Mouth: 43%
- Facebook: 38%
- Newspaper: 14%
- Recreation Monthly Newsletter: 14%
- Signs/Outdoor Advertising: 9%
- Other: 9%
- Instagram: 5%
- Twitter: 3%
- Channel 22: <1%

Other:

- Senior Center newsletter (3)
- Email (4)
- Internet searches (3)
- I don't receive any information (3)
- School (2)
- Friends

- Spinnaker Point
- PHS website
- ORYS

22. Do you live in Portsmouth:

- Yes: 92%
- No: 8%

23. In which part of the City do you live:

- Little Harbour: 21%
- Other: 21%
- West End: 14%
- Woodlands – Elwyn Park: 11%
- South End: 6%
- Atlantic Heights – Bersum Gardens: 6%
- Route 1 Corridor south of Downtown: 5%
- Pannaway Manor: 5%
- Portsmouth Plains – Islington Creek: 4%
- City Center: 3%
- Ocean Road – Buckminster – Banfield: 2%
- Maple Haven: 2%
- Portsmouth Plains: 2%
- Osprey Landing – Spinnaker: 2%
- Gosling Meadows: <1%

Other:

- Frank Jones (8)
- Greenland (7)
- Lafayette Park (4)
- Islington Creek (4)
- Maplewood Avenue (3)
- Woodbury Avenue (3)
- Newington (2)
- Hillside Drive (2)
- Wentworth Acres (2)
- Tidewater (2)
- Sagamore (2)
- Newfields, NH
- Richards Avenue
- Heritage Hill
- North Mill Pond
- Lincoln Avenue
- Eliot
- Kittery
- New Franklin
- White Cedar

- Christian Shores
- Woodland Avenue
- Hillcrest
- York

24. How long have you lived in Portsmouth:

- < 5 years: 17%
- 5 – 20 years: 48%
- > 20 years: 35%

25. Check all age groups that live in your household:

- Under 5 years: 17%
- 5-14 years: 40%
- 15 – 18 years: 14%
- 19 – 24 years: 12%
- 25 – 34 years: 12%
- 35 - 44 years: 35%
- 45 - 59 years: 41%
- 60 – 74 years: 30%
- 75+: 6%

26. How did the COVID pandemic affect your participation in recreational facilities/programming:

- Increased outdoor activity: 67%
- Negative impact on recreational activity: 37%
- Decreased participation in sports: 28%
- Chose new recreational activities: 24%
- Positive impacts on recreational activity: 22%

27. What are the most important actions the City should take in the next 5 years regarding recreation offerings/facilities opportunities:

- Ice/Hockey rink (30)
- Improve maintenance (21)
- Multi-sport complex (13)
- Pickleball (10)
- Turf fields (10)
- Finish the rail trail (10)
- Utilize community campus (10)
- Sidewalks/walkability (10)
- Indoor facilities (10)
- Improve marketing (7)
- Build the skatepark (6)
- Expand hours/maintain pools (6)
- Biking amenities (4)
- Public access to waterfront (4)
- Disc golf (4)

- Splash pad (3)
- Restore Atlantic Heights Park (3)
- Nature based programs (3)
- Picnic areas (2)
- Incorporate sustainability/resilience standards (2)
- More adult, outdoor programming after end of work day (2)
- Improved recreation programs (2)
- New aquatic center (2)
- South Mill Pond playground improvements (2)
- Consider working families when scheduling activities (2)
- Playground maintenance
- Pickleball...Portsmouth residents should have priority
- Clear out walking trails where homeless are so it is safe
- Adult gym at community campus
- Hardscaping at senior center for walking
- Concessions/Comfort stations at fields
- Allow military families who live outside the City same privileges as residents
- Reduce spending on recreation offerings/facilities
- Maintain excellent facilities at Spinnaker
- Better balance at Prescott Park
- More programs for girls
- Add playground near community campus for play during sports practice
- More STEM/sports/after school programming
- Purchase electronic timekeeping machines/picture ids so you know who is coming/going from your buildings
- Post pickleball rules
- Connect existing trails throughout the City
- Seating/resting areas
- Dedicate new recreation facility to Quarius Dunham
- Keep it affordable
- Fix New Franklin tennis courts
- Add handicap-accessible parking at sites
- Trolley system for transportation
- Give PYF the turf field to use
- Affordable gym classes/gym
- Community Campus should not be used for creation of a sports complex/ice rink...City needs to honor the Foundation's mission
- City should own facilities, not give land to private company to run
- Recreation Department is great
- Expand fitness offerings at Senior Center
- Update bath house at outdoor pool
- Keep Port City Makerspace in Portsmouth...help secure building location
- Indoor playground for toddlers
- No turf fields
- ADA accessibility
- Set up a suggestion box for ideas

- Public track
- Consider offering babysitting for parents night out
- Designate 'residents only' days at Peirce Island Pool
- Improve air quality inside buildings
- Better signage
- Add lighting to outdoor fields

28. Are there any other comments you would like to add about Portsmouth's recreational offerings/facilities:

- You do a very good job! (12)
- Information/Communication (4)
- Rail trail (2)
- Ice rink! (2)
- Quit trying to compete with Dover and the number of ball fields they have, utilize our beautiful nature lands for outdoor education that enhance the land, not destroy its natural features
- Rec Committee/Dept has not been responsive to proactively solving issues of usage at the South Mill Pond pickleball courts.
- Dedicated pickleball courts
- I am for supporting all generations of residents but 20% of residents are 65+. Continue to strengthen the senior programming and facilities for the ever-increasing aging population. Provide regular "beginner hours" for pickleball players. This might give some of the more experienced players a set time of when they must be welcoming to beginner players.
- Please keep in mind the climate crisis and think ahead to keeping areas in the shade, drainage, cost of supplies, etc. Although parks everywhere would be nice, I'd like to be able to pay my rent, utilities, and taxes and not have to move into a tent in one of these parks
- Train your volunteer coaches/provide guidance on how to run practices.
- Yes, allow me to reiterate...REDUCE SPENDING!
- The parades, events downtown such as Market Square Day, and areas to enjoy by just walking around are very enjoyable.
- Thank you for providing affordable recreation for non-residents.
- I appreciate the South Mill Pond upgrades
- I would love to see the Pierce Island Pool charge more for non-residents since our tax dollars pay for it.
- I am a Port Rec fan but I must say I do not understand the Community Campus. Why was it built? Why we now own it? Why we have/need another ball field (next to a dump with yet another parking lot). I raise this because Port Rec offers a ton and I love Port Rec. However it seems the City has to maintain a lot of space. Are we getting all we can out of these owned assets? Again I am a fan, but also a tax payer and I just see a huge amount of facilities that I would like to see utilized.
- The new administration has been great at offering new services and the ability to register online. It is REALLY appreciated.
- Growing up my town had a co-ed summer soccer league with games in the

- evenings and it was wildly popular and fun. It went up to about age 14 or 15 which let kids who weren't super competitive keep playing longer. More opportunities for middle-school/early high school kids would be good, even if it's just something like kickball.
- Appreciate the Rec Department completing this study. It helps us have a voice.
 - We are just getting to the age where kids will start to participate in more activities. We have done swim lessons previously but between the pandemic and having two very small children, we paused that. I am still learning about all the recreation department has to offer. My one hope moving forward would be you continue to have a wide variety of activities that we could expose our kids to, as well as a solid program. I hear from so many parents with older kids how a lot of the private programs are so over scheduled and excessively competitive. While we may end up there at some point, I really hope my kids have the chance to learn about being part of a team and/or learn new skills and still have fun and not be burnt out by the time they hit middle school! Thank you!
 - Thank you for making this such a lovely place to live with children! Most parks have great trees providing lovely shade in the summertime. We are very lucky.
 - The South Mill pond would be amazing for community use if it could be cleaned and dredged with a small Rocky beach. Right now it is kind of desolate and dirty. Also in Portsmouth in the winter unless your kid plays basketball there is no-where to run around inside. It would be great to have an indoor turf field for soccer or just general play on those cold wet weekends
 - I love everything and literally the only thing I would absolutely die over would be for Spinnaker Point to have ONE extra hour of operation!!!!!!
 - I know you have a new Rec Director who I have heard wonderful things about. I hope he deconstructs all of our programming and rebuilds it to a best-in-class rec dept and city
 - put a fan over hot tub to preserve roof, and more shower towel hooks in locker rooms at spinnaker
 - Lifeguards at indoor pool say management is bad, hours are awful. Water is WAY too cold. City pay structure is N/A. They need to be paid more to live in this overpriced area, they can't afford it!
 - Update indoor swimming pool (2)
 - Please help our Youth Football Program we need the tick lines on the field to properly teach the athletes.
 - There has been a thoughtful increase in programming for kids under 6, and the Senior Center is fantastic. Working with the schools to bring your programming to the forefront is important. Focusing a little more on older kids and adults in the community would be beneficial at this point, as well as repairing fields and buildings and expanding usable land.
 - Programs for seniors to include more brain challenge activities and healthy nutrition. - cooking programs

- I've heard the concept of Portsmouth as the Rec City. I love that! But only if we envision it with the broadest and most inclusive definition of recreation, and only if it includes a strong vision for community building and ecological regeneration.
- While youth are important, they are a small percentage of our population, and they get recreation opportunities at school. Adults ages 18-64 are the majority of the population and most do not play organized sports. We need more recreational opportunities for adults in Portsmouth — sailing lessons, kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking, biking, yoga in various parks, arts programming, etc.
- Would like to know where money raised years ago for an ice rink went - there was a group led by Kent LePage. Recreation is not only sport, but that's where everyone automatically goes, and that's why the loss of the actual Connie Bean Center was so profound. You had non-profits headquartered there, lots of us used the building for events, and it was sold, not refurbished. A real loss.
- Please don't put the ice rink at Community Campus!
- Ice Dance International is a local Seacoast nonprofit organization that brings wonderful opportunities for adults and children to learn to ice skate in a non-competitive environment. Other than the seasonal rink at Strawberry Banke, the program has to leave Portsmouth to use rinks in other towns. It would be wonderful to have a rink available year-round in Portsmouth!
- My only ask is that Community Campus NOT be used for public/private partnerships, recreational or otherwise. Please keep it exclusively for nonprofit organizations and do not set up any taxable land for for-profit businesses or land rental for for-profit businesses on Community Campus. An ice rink would be nice, but not at Community Campus unless it is 100% city owned and paid for, or a nonprofit effort where taxes are not charged to the nonprofit, but instead it is 100% mission-based.
- No more artificial turf
- Pool improvements
- The activities for kids should be at age-appropriate times. 3 - 4-year-old soccer should not be at 1pm. I don't know any 3-year-olds who aren't napping at that time. Also, rec activities for young kids should focus on skills, not "just play the game and figure it out"
- A community workshop like Port City Makerspace provides shared space and tools for many of our Portsmouth residents living in condominiums who do not have their own space or ability to work on their automobiles or have a woodshop or other work spaces. The City should also plan to PAVE its portion of the Hampton Branch Rail Trail so that all users can access it year-round. In-line skating and in-line skiing, two great low-impact forms of exercise for example, use small wheels that require a hard surface -- stone dust doesn't cut it. There are surely other forms of exercise that would be more possible by more participants year-round with a paved surface vs. stone dust.
- More activities for the 30 - 40-year-old age group.

- Pease was on the BRAC list... one reason lack of recreation. Good recreational facilities help attract business.
- We need more indoor sports options for our school age children
- I swam laps at the indoor pool for 20+ years until the pandemic. There was no communication with the public about the long-term closure of the indoor pool during the pandemic. Clearly many places are currently short staffed, but the indoor pool needs to expand its lap swim hours to lure back members who have switched to the YMCA, which re-opened in June 2020 and has managed to hire lifeguards to offer extensive hours of operation.
- As stated in my answer to #27, I believe the city needs to have a multi sports complex, which would help with the need for indoor turf and an ice rink because the city has talked about having one for years.
- I'm the Head Coach of the boys hockey team at Portsmouth High. My best friend was involved with Edge Sports Group and it was a resounding win for everyone. Portsmouth would make this venture even more profitable than the one in Middleton, Ma
- As I mentioned above, I travel out of town for a good rail trail, and I travel to Kittery or York for their robust Adult Education fun offerings. And I travel to Kittery for their indoor pickleball courts. I love that Portsmouth has new beautiful outdoor pickleball courts. Thank you!
- Would love to see more exercise classes offered for age groups younger than 60...it seems like most are targeted towards seniors.
- Wanted to sign up for pre-k soccer this spring (did it in the fall) but the middle of the afternoon on a Saturday kind of ties is down for the whole afternoon, so we did soccer shots instead. Any way the city can figure out how to offer any ice hockey? I know the facility needs for this are hard. Also my daughter had wanted to try soccer but was worried about being the only kid in a group of older kids that had been playing for years- this would be really tricky but maybe specifying if any sessions are for beginners. We would LOVE for the kids to be able to do tennis- please increase the sessions and the age groups! Thank you!!!
- Bring back adult Ed classes
- We need more turf fields and equal play time for all sports
- Make a disc golf course. There are people who love this and having to travel to other towns sucks. There is so many places to make a course and disc golfers keep the course clean and useable.
- I've heard from many people that they wish rec basketball a) had more practices/games per week. 1x doesn't give the kids much time to learn. Additionally, if Saturday remains the only day- many families ski then which makes it difficult to choose. Many families try to sign up in Greenland instead.
- I'm not sure if this falls under your umbrella...I would love more green space in town for picnics with some trees. Or even a green "walkway" through town like the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston. It would be great to have bike lanes connect to this Greenway - with an open-air

- market during warmer months. It would be great to have some modern public art in some of these recreational spaces too.
- Offerings have come a long way. Don't forget about working families and their schedules which require evening/weekend times.
 - Spinnaker facility is great. Limits should be put on the # of people in the pool especially folks coming from indoor pool when it is closed
 - Bicycling, both road and mtn biking needs to be more developed. There should be a mtn bike park. Riding on our roads is often a dangerous endeavor. We need more bike lanes and bike paths.
 - I am concerned that the rail trail is going to be paved, at least that is what I heard. I am concerned about the summer heat on the asphalt for dogs paws. A lot of people choose to run on the path because it is easier on the joints. If it is paved, they will have to find other options.
 - In the spring of 2022, over 30 middle school girls signed up to play Portsmouth Middle School softball. All those who wanted to play were allowed, (no cuts) and there are now two teams. About half of those players also play in the more competitive and multi-town Portsmouth Girls Softball Association. +THERE IS A POPULATION RIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL GIRLS SOFTBALL PROGRAM IN PORTSMOUTH++ More than anything, the softball fields (Clough + Sherbourne) need increased funding. Both fields lack a working scoreboard.
 - Adult education classes would be fun, on fun topics from knitting to cheese making to car maintenance.
 - This survey made me realize how much the city offers that I don't take advantage of
 - Having purchased a large facility and chunk of land, my hope is that the city will invest in youth programming and athletic space for skill development and inclusive participation. An ice rink has been needed in this city for 20+ years, as well as a true family recreation center- instead of families having to enroll in classes and memberships at multiple locations and businesses a "one stop" rec center (not just basketball at the Connie bean) would be a huge draw for families into and already in the community.
 - Flag football would be a nice addition. Many parents are paying hundreds for private leagues because there are no Portsmouth options.
 - Perhaps this calls for an event that surveys the public out and about, allowing those who cannot attend town meetings to be a part of the conversation. Community engagement is everything, and I think there is a large portion of Portsmouth residents that don't normally make themselves heard, but should, because they have ideas for their community that are beneficial!

Portsmouth, NH Athletic Facility Users Survey Summary

Still to hear from: as of 8/11/2022

- Seacoast Lacrosse
- American Legion/Babe Ruth
- Portsmouth Youth Softball
- Flag Football
- Woman's Softball
- Fusion Soccer
- Co-ed Softball

Seacoast Pirates Baseball (Rick Chamblee)

Practice Season: April – July

Playing Season: April – July

Divisions/Participants: 13U/14U/15U...no participants provided

Maximum Number of Teams: 8

Game Fields: Leary Field

Day/Time Games: Saturdays/Sundays 9 – 1 pm/2 – 6:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: Since COVID, City has not allowed play at Leary Field: hoping this will change for 2023.

Playability of field during season: Wet in April

Trends for additional fields: No

Portsmouth City Soccer Club (Anthony Blenkinsop)

Practice Season: August – mid-November

Playing Season: September – mid-November

Divisions/Participants: Non-competitive academy (K-1st grade)/competitive travel team (2nd – 8th grade) approx... 325 participants

Maximum Number of Teams: 25

Game Fields: PHS turf/grass, Turf Field, Leary Field, grass area behind Community Campus

Day/Time Games: Saturdays 10 – 6 pm

Practice Fields: Turf Field, Leary Field, Clough Field, Dondero School, Little Harbour School

Day/Time Practices: Monday – Friday 5 – 7:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: Sometimes conflicts with elementary/middle school practices. Game conflicts with PHS and Rec. soccer program. In the fall conflicts with Rec. soccer program and football for practice space. More multi-use fields (or a dedicated soccer field) would be fantastic.

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: No, it's a field use issue. There is room for warming up at Leary and Community Campus field behind tennis courts, but not at the turf fields.

Playability of field during season: Leary and Little Harbour School can flood easily and turf gets torn up over the season.

Trends for additional fields: Participation numbers are constant, but generally increasing.

Portsmouth Little League (Kathie Lynch)

Practice Season: April – mid-March

Playing Season: mid-April - July

Divisions/Participants: Challenger: 30/Coach Pitch: 90/Player Pitch: 85/Majors: 85/Intermediate: varies/Tournament: 39/Summer season: 200

Maximum Number of Teams: 25

Game Fields: Central Field/Plans Field/Hislop Field

Day/Time Games: Monday – Friday 5:30 pm/Saturday 9/11/1/3

Practice Fields: Central Field/Plains Fields/Hislop Field/Lafayette Field/New Franklin Field/Caswell Field (Greenland)/Greenland Central School Field/Newington School Field

Day/Time Practices: Monday – Friday 4 – 7:30 pm/Saturdays and Sundays 8/10/12/2/4/6

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: No warm up area other than batting cages at Hislop

Playability of field during season: Puddling after rain may lead to cancellation or significant work to remove standing water.

Trends for additional fields:

General Comments: Adding lighting to at least one field would significantly improve field use and scheduling. This would be best at Hislop field where the older players play and open the field to two games/weekday as well as later games on Saturdays. There is a LL game curfew.

PHS Boys Tennis Program (Anthony Sillitta)

Practice Season: mid-March - May

Playing Season: mid-April - May

Divisions/Participants: Challenger: JV 12-16 players/Varsity 10-12...program has limited capacity due to lack of courts.

Maximum Number of Teams: 2

Game Courts: South Mill Pond (4 courts) for two programs (boys/girls)

Day/Time Games: Monday – Friday 4:30 pm – 8:30

Practice Courts: South Mill Pond (4 courts) for two programs (boys/girls)/PHS 4 unsafe courts hard to use/unsafe in present condition. PHS courts not usable for match play.

Day/Time Practices: Monday – Friday 3:30 – 6:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: Community use/pickleballers use courts in addition to the already 8 pickleball courts. Two tennis courts were replaced with pickleball courts and those players bleed over to using tennis courts displacing tennis. There is no place to warm up when a match is going on. Tennis courts are lined for pickleball which invites conflict.

Trends for additional fields:

General Comments: I feel dedicated tennis only courts are needed. Now that we have dedicated pickleball courts they have a facility, we now need (6) or more courts at one location to allow all high school programs to prosper. This does not even include the usage by the middle school program and smaller kid play. Current high school court orientation has one side looking up into

the full sun. Courts should be orientated in the other direction and redone. A shed for tennis teaching and on court equipment near the courts themselves would be really nice to have. (6) new tennis courts with a 150-200 square foot storage for equipment would be outstanding. If a cement (not wood) hitting wall could be added outside the field of play that would be a bonus.

PHS Girls Tennis Program (Wendy Poutre)

Practice Season: mid-March - May

Playing Season: mid-April - May

Divisions/Participants: Challenger: JV 12-16 players/Varsity 10-12...program has limited capacity due to lack of courts.

Maximum Number of Teams: 2... High School Tennis is typically JV/Club and Varsity. There are also multiple Rec Sessions of 'Tennis in the Park' in conjunction with USTA which ranges in age from 5-Adults. Unsure of total number of participants with Tennis in the Parks, but there are multiple sessions in Spring, Summer & Fall.

Game Courts: South Mill Pond (4 courts) for two programs (boys/girls)

Day/Time Games: Monday – Friday 3:15 pm – 7:30

Practice Courts: South Mill Pond (4 courts) for two programs (boys/girls)/PHS 4 courts

Day/Time Practices: Monday – Friday 3:15 – 5:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: When we get our new courts at the high school, it will be much easier as the four remaining tennis courts at South Mill will be more available for the public. Yes-again the general public wants to play tennis while we are holding matches at South Mill. The sooner the high school courts are redone and playable, the better!

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands:

Trends for additional fields: Yes, tennis has grown a lot in the last few years and many kids & adult programs are full with waiting lists (check with Rec Dept for specifics).

General Comments: The PHS Courts are oriented the wrong way (East-West) but the new courts will be oriented correctly. It takes multiple trips from wherever I can park at South Mill to bring everything needed for our matches. Again, this will be a non-issue once the PHS courts are renovated. It would be helpful if there were a presence by someone from the Recreation Dept at South Mill Pond. Almost daily, I have to politely ask folks to not rollerblade, bike ride or skateboard on the courts (despite signage) and to please take their dogs off the courts. I have had to ask bball players to please turn down or change music from VERY objectionable lyrics while we were hosting a high school match (once they refused). Puts me in a very difficult position. If a Rec representative went down there-even just periodically walking through for ten minutes during busy times-it would be beneficial for all as folks would understand what is/not allowed and the courts would last longer without improper use (rollerblades, skateboards...).

PHS Football Program (Brian Pafford)

Practice Season: mid-June – mid-August

Playing Season: mid-August – mid-November

Divisions/Participants: Varsity/JV: 65/Freshman: 32

Maximum Number of Teams: 4

Game Fields: PHS game field

Day/Time Games: Varsity: Friday 7 pm/JV: Monday 6 pm/Sophomore: Wednesday 6 pm/Freshman: Thursday 6 pm

Practice Fields: Small practice field at PHS for 90+, game field several hours per week

Day/Time Practices: Monday – Wednesday 3:30 – 6 pm/Thursday 7 – 8:30 pm/Saturday 9 – 10:30 am

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: Again not enough space. When youth teams are at high school it is even more difficult. Practice field becomes mudhole after two weeks.

Grass gone. With the amount of use on our small practice field it is inadequate for the number of football participants in the city. Before the field at community campus there was only one full size football field in city to even play games on.

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: I have a 65-yard practice field for 3 teams and 90+ athletes...amount of space is inadequate. Rain on practice field causes field to be unable to be used at times

Trends for additional fields: Yes...40% increase in participation last three years

General Comments: General number of fields is not enough for community. More turf with lighting would allow for more use of facilities.

PHS Varsity Softball Program (Sandy Dewing)

Practice Season: January - May

Playing Season: mid-March – mid-June

Divisions/Participants: Varsity: 14/JV: 16

Maximum Number of Teams: 2

Game Fields: Alumni Field, Utility Field PHS

Day/Time Games: M/W/F 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Practice Fields: Alumni Field, Utility Field PHS

Day/Time Practices: T/TH 3:30 – 5:30 pm, Sunday 2 – 4pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: They work but need a legitimate softball field at High School for JV and practices. We share utility field with baseball. Alumni has no place to warm up for pitching if game is going on.

Trends for additional fields: Yes

General Comments:

PHS Girls Varsity Lacrosse Program (JoJo Curro) - incomplete

Practice Season: January – mid-June

Playing Season: mid-March – mid-June

Divisions/Participants:

Maximum Number of Teams:

Game Fields:

Day/Time Games:
Practice Fields:
Day/Time Practices:
Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:
Facilities accommodate game/practice demands:
Trends for additional fields:
General Comments:

PHS Athletics (Mike Lyford) - incomplete

Practice Season:
Playing Season:
Divisions/Participants:
Maximum Number of Teams:
Game Fields:
Day/Time Games:
Practice Fields:
Day/Time Practices:
Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:
Facilities accommodate game/practice demands:
Trends for additional fields:
General Comments:

Coastal New England Baseball League (Matt Curtin)

Practice Season: April - September
Playing Season:
Divisions/Participants: Men's League 90 players (recreational)
Maximum Number of Teams: 8
Game Fields: Leary Field/PHS
Day/Time Games: Sunday 8:30/11:30/2 pm
Practice Fields:
Day/Time Practices:
Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: We work our schedule around PHS baseball season, Babe Ruth baseball season and American Legion youth baseball. We play some of our schedule in other towns - we would love to be able to play 100% of our games in Portsmouth if possible. PHS baseball program, Babe Ruth and American Legion
Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: We struggle to get access to fields - this limits the number of games we can play and the number of teams we can form.
Trends for additional fields:
General Comments: Back stop netting to catch foul balls are desirable (PHS does not have an adequate back stop net. It would be nice if Leary Field's dugouts had barrier to prevent foul balls from striking players on the bench. Leary drains poorly - improved drainage would be nice. We really appreciate the access to PHS and Leary we have today - the city is very supportive and a

good partner - thank you! We would love to see another 90' field somewhere in town to ease scheduling conflicts and increase adult recreational baseball opportunities for the community.

Seacoast Ultimate (Jacob McQuaid)

Practice Season: April - December

Playing Season: June – mid-August

Divisions/Participants: Mixed Learning: 120/Advanced League: 140/Pickup: 150

Maximum Number of Teams: 8

Game Fields: Community Campus turf/grass fields

Day/Time Games: M/W 6 – 8 pm

Practice Fields: Community Campus grass/Granite St. softball field

Day/Time Practices: W 6-8 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: Sometimes our fall pickup runs into issues with people using the softball field.

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands: Our pickup goes from when we can get on the fields in April/May till it's too cold in December. There's a break in June to August for our leagues using those fields (marked as when we have games on the survey). We'd like to play indoor from October to March but are unaware of any indoor places in Portsmouth. Currently we go up to the York facility.

Trends for additional fields: Some of our leagues are near max size requiring us to cap. It's not super pressing yet but will be an issue in the future.

General Comments:

Portsmouth Youth Football (Ken Linchey)

Practice Season: mid-August – mid-November

Playing Season: mid-September – mid-November

Divisions/Participants: Senior Clippers 7/8 grade: 45-65 players, Junior Clippers 5/6 grade: 40 - 50 players, Youth Tackle 3/4 grade: 15 – 30 players... Our season is structure with a preseason jamboree, season schedule of 8 to 10 games, and ends with a playoff / championship game.

Maximum Number of Teams: 6

Game Fields: PHS Turf field

Day/Time Games: Saturdays 9 am/5 pm

Practice Fields: Community Campus turf field selected days/PHS grass fields selected days

Day/Time Practices: Tuesday – Friday 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields: The conflict that we continue to see is field availability. Meaning that there are only 2 fields in the city of Portsmouth striped as a football field. It makes it challenging to teach a game without line when practicing on a field without lines. The conflict that we continue to see is field availability. Meaning that there are only 2 fields in the city of Portsmouth striped as a football field. It makes it challenging to teach a game without line when practicing on a field without lines. Our constant battle is with soccer teams. Not saying that they don't deserve the right to use one of these fields like we are? But there are other 4 other fields striped for soccer in the Fall. Two are located at PHS, one at Clough field, and one at

Dondero school. This also doesn't count for the fields striped at St. Pat's School, The town of Rye, and the town of Greenland.

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands:

Trends for additional fields: Yes, our numbers are starting to climb as we are shifting out of Covid.

I also want to note that we are requiring that all three divisions practice at the same time due to parents having children in multiple grades. Which means that we could have over 100 kids during our 2-time frame.

General Comments: Portsmouth Rec department has graciously allowed us to place a storage container at the new community campus field to house our needs.

PHS Cheerleading (Sam Freni)

Practice Season: mid-August - October

Playing Season: mi-August - October

Divisions/Participants: Varsity: 20 participants

Maximum Number of Teams: 1... We will be starting middle school and youth programs as soon as we secure coaching staff. Depending on interest we could be adding 2-4 teams to Portsmouth's sport offerings.

Game Fields: PHS Football Field

Day/Time Games: Fridays 6-9 pm

Practice Fields: Indoor practices

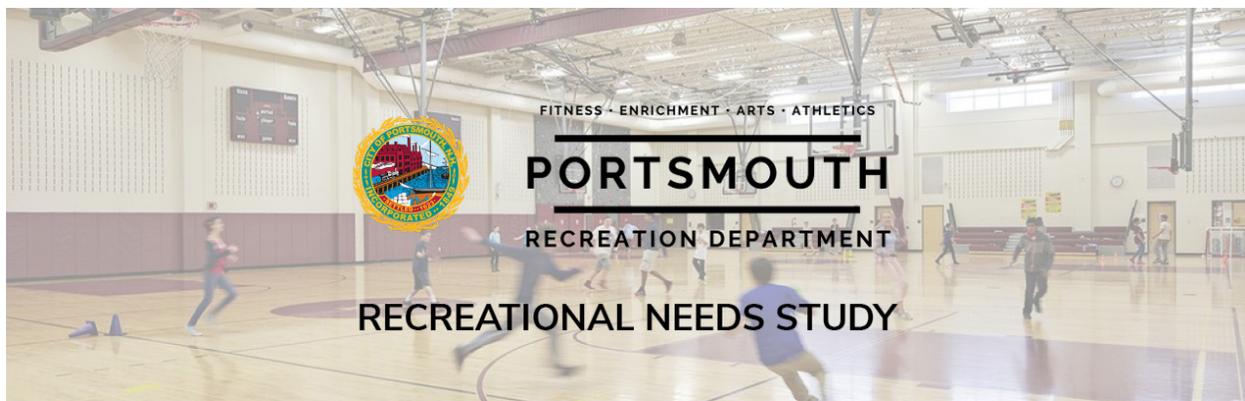
Day/Time Practices: Wednesdays 4 – 6:30 pm

Conflicts with league/play and demand for fields:

Facilities accommodate game/practice demands:

Trends for additional fields: No

General Comments: My main concern is dedicated practice space for our rapidly growing cheerleading program. Our sport requires practice space with high ceilings and use and storage of 42'x42' mat area. Making indoor practice space a priority for cheerleading would be amazing for our program!



Comparative Analysis – Local Recreation Departments

Community Information

Municipality: Dover, NH

Representative Name & Title: Gary Bannon, Recreation Director

Phone & Email: (603) 516-6401; g.bannon@dover.nh.gov

Recreational Programs and Sites: General Information

1. Is current programming meeting the needs of the community? Do you have any areas where programming falls short of expectations or demand?

In-house needs assessment recently has been done. Multi-sport facility interest came up with a list of needs: youth leagues with field space, capacity, no artificial turf. Currently converting HS field to increase usage. No additional property available for fields.

Gym space (courts). Shared with School Department. Dover has their own rec center with single court, but share with schools for other needs. Priority goes to schools. Space needs drives ability to offer programming
Indoor turf/outdoor turf is future planning

2. Comment on staffing: demand, retention, demographics, challenges, etc.

Direct affect on programming due to availability of staff and volunteers. Need volunteers for coaching/managing.
Need quality and quantity of staff but not able to pay competitively in some cases. Locked into municipal pay scale. Unable to match private rates

Even if facilities were available, staffing would be an issue.
100 staff on payroll, 13 of those FT.

3. What trends are you seeing in recreation? Are they consistent with national trends? (Example: moving away from group sports to more individual athletics)

30+ years in recreation, parks before this.

Programmed opportunities for kids is the expectation. Open gyms/drop ins are not as popular for kids. Need more structure today (clinics, lessons, leagues)

Adults: aging population, senior center clients want flexibility: don't need to sign up, more drop in/cafeteria style offerings. Want less commitment and more variety

4. What conditions have changed for you in reaction and response to Covid-19? (Example: trends towards recreation departments filling needs not traditionally met by recreation departments such as child care, community health, etc.)

One of few departments that came forward early in pandemic to reopen after only 2 months. Back in June 2020 providing options for most programs just at lower capacity. Online booking for things became necessary – converted process for this reason and were able to manage it. Maintained reservations as an option post-covid. (Reserving courts, swim lanes, etc.)

Programmatic: considering opportunities for socialization. Not much change in offerings. Now needing to support social connections, travel

Child care not offered by Rec – deferred to others for this, but maintained contact and coordinated with schools.

Facility Use Coordination

5. Do you have agreements in place with leagues for use of your facilities and fields? Describe any formalized rules, responsibilities, maintenance agreements, etc.

Ask for rosters for numbers and residence. \$5 per player per season into fund specific to that sport. Basically manages savings account for maintenance. Moves beyond board/management changes within the leagues.

Managed by Asst Dir for managing receipt and filing of fees from leagues. Can't begin until rosters and fees are received. Used not so much for maintenance but capital improvements.

Expectations: Rec owns fields but day to day grooming sometimes done by league, sometimes by Dover. City fertilizes, etc.; leagues take on other more minor things

Some leagues have agreements, some don't and operate on understanding. Keep in coordination and contact.

6. How do you handle conflicts in scheduling? How is scheduling of field/facility reservations handled?

Typically extend same amount of field space/time from previous years. Difficult to expand league rosters or # teams. Keep capacity relatively stable year over year.

Adding teams = field pressure and wear.

Usually find increases when registration occurs – City limits use and becomes “bad guy” for lack of capacity

Regional Partnerships + Coordination

7. Do you have people coming from Portsmouth for your programs or facilities?

Yes – formerly pickleball until Portsmouth built some.
Occasionally if there is something not offered in Portsmouth
Summer mens outdoor basketball – Dover residents go to Portsmouth
Hockey is most used by Portsmouth
Swimming – go back and forth between two towns
Non-resident rates discouraged Dover residents from going to Portsmouth
Dover: not discouraged but residents get priority and pay slightly less.

8. Are you open to partnerships for sharing facilities or programs with nearby communities?

Rink sees 4-5 school districts using rink. Helps economically; if Portsmouth opened would create competition from usage. Dover must bring in what it costs to run; not subsidized by City.

Pools are subsidized +/- 50% by City. Need outside people to come in to help raise funds to operate.

Market study for rink required people coming in from about an hours' distance to make it work; Portsmouth rink addition would hurt financial performance.

- Exeter will also see this impact. Dover is more community-based ice usage; Exeter is more team oriented

Need non-residents to be able to operate rink functions (teams, leagues)

Facilities + Projects

9. In general, are your facilities consolidated or dispersed?

Fairly centralized around downtown area. Community center, indoor pool, Jenny Thompson + arena less than a mile from downtown. As close to downtown population base as possible, also central north-south.

Closer to Maine; will get southern maine residents using facilities.

Downtown location mostly convenient and accessible; only indoor pool sees some parking issues but typically on-street parking is sufficient.

Arena sometimes maxes out parking. Sharing with library, city hall, etc is advantageous

Waterfront development will affect parking availability, but City is trying to add more parking downtown

10. Do you have a recent history of developing new facilities or large scale renovations for recreational use?

Recently approached by developer for downtown/waterfront facilities. Came up with a list at that time, generally to fill gaps of things not currently offered:

- Aquatics facility to replace current indoor pool
- Indoor turf facility
- Courts

In process of researching this. Would be long-term ground lease + access agreement for City. Park adjacent to it built out by City.

11. For larger-scale projects, what funding sources have you used successfully for implementation?

Potential: private developer build facility, City runs and staffs facility concurrently with other staffing to be provided privately. Current indoor pool has capacity issues, new facility would alleviate.

Other programs within facility would be new and staffed by others, City takes priority of usage. Costs are staffing only, not operating. Current pool operating budget could extend to new facility.

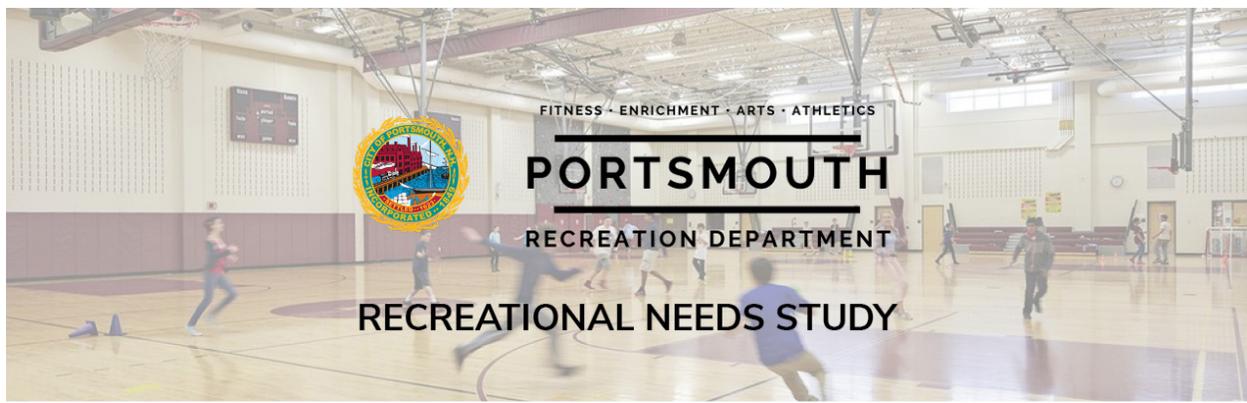
General comments:

Look beyond issues of the day and set up future growth properly.

Dover was given foundation of adequate facilities that worked well for many decades, allowing for improvements to be made while meeting demand.

Examine current "good bones" and evaluate what to add.

Don't do things based on expediency and affordability only; consider whether they are meeting needs based on all possible need-based information.



Comparative Analysis – Local Recreation Departments

Community Information

Municipality:	Hampton NH
Representative Name & Title:	Rene Boudreau, Recreation Director
Phone & Email:	603-929-5812; rlboudreau@hamptonnh.gov

Recreational Programs and Sites: General Information

1. Is current programming meeting the needs of the community? Do you have any areas where programming falls short of expectations or demand?

Active programs popular. Pre-Covid programs like bingo, bridge, etc (passive) not yet returned. All programs selling out, problems in running is ability to staff and run programs.

2. Comment on staffing: demand, retention, demographics, challenges, etc.
Programmer, operations person + director. Sometimes contract out for instructors of programs. Space-limited for offerings.
Programming coordinator running overtime hours during summer, but no ability to add staff currently
2019 needs assessment with UNH – currently building new facility to meet needs addressed in that study

3. What trends are you seeing in recreation? Are they consistent with national trends? (Example: moving away from group sports to more individual athletics)

No current drop in programs

Pickleball program based on membership program – 2 days/week, choose your day. Still have to sign up for a season of programming.

Trending towards active recreation: senior softball

Passive groups have hard time participating due to transportation, therefore not offered.

4. What conditions have changed for you in reaction and response to Covid-19? (Example: trends towards recreation departments filling needs not traditionally met by recreation departments such as child care, community health, etc.)

During COVID – changed time frame of after school programs to start earlier based on school schedule. Changed name and hours to program, filled quickly. Post-Covid, demand for this program is still high but problematic blending former program with Covid programming, higher numbers.

Shut down for 2-3 months. During that time: shopping for seniors, etc. Rearranged afterwards, limited attendance, social distancing, etc. More outdoor programs (tai chi, yoga, tennis, etc)

Facility Use Coordination

5. Do you have agreements in place with leagues for use of your facilities and fields? Describe any formalized rules, responsibilities, maintenance agreements, etc.

Youth Association – separate from town, request use of fields. Town non-profit, can use fields on request. Rec Dept priority, Youth Assoc next.

Facility use forms, insurance required + fee for others.

6. How do you handle conflicts in scheduling? How is scheduling of field/facility reservations handled?

Fields overlapping. When conflict occurs, usually with wanting same field.

Preference schools over youth association. All scheduling handled by Rec Dept.

Schools fields scheduled by schools facility manager

Communication between Rec and schools facility manager to offset demand on school fields

Regional Partnerships + Coordination

7. Do you have people coming from Portsmouth for your programs or facilities?

Not much, but sometimes. Charge non-resident rate.

8. Are you open to partnerships for sharing facilities or programs with nearby communities?

Depending on what program is, but yes. Town is limited by building space. Priority given to Hampton first.

Facilities + Projects

9. In general, are your facilities consolidated or dispersed?

Cave and Tuck buildings – small-ish facilities are the hub of Hampton programming. Currently constructing identical building to Tuck building to allow more programming to occur.

10. Do you have a recent history of developing new facilities or large scale renovations for recreational use?

Tried planning for Senior Center, other types of facilities. Gone to ballot and failed repeatedly. Currently looking at Hampton Hub project in partnership with library – rec needs came out of UNH study based on per population shortfalls identified.

Currently building structure to expand current programming. Feedback from community re: senior space and programming

11. For larger-scale projects, what funding sources have you used successfully for implementation?

Private non-profits in partnership, CIP (partial), looking into becoming non-profit for large project.

warrant article approved use of Unassigned fund balance, including no tax impact.

No PPPs so far

Other Comments

UNH study helped with organizing for the future.

Average national space requirements – convincing presentation of facts

City of Portsmouth Recreational Needs Study

Level of Service Analysis - Outdoor Sites

Type of Facility - Outdoor	Median Number of Residents per Facility		Prevalence in Communities <20,000	Number of Facilities				
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹			Baseline	2022 Inventory	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284	
	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999		Less than 20,000 ²	Portsmouth 2022 Existing	Portsmouth 2022 Additional Needs	Portsmouth 2032 Needs ²	Portsmouth 2032 Additional Needs
Playgrounds	1,986	3,111	96%	11	14	0	12	0
Basketball Courts	3,750	6,839	86%	6	7	0	6	0
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Youth	3,107	4,858	78%	7	8	0	7	0
Tennis Courts*	2,723	5,000	78%	8	10	0	9	0
Rectangular Fields: Multi-Purpose	4,362	7,674	60%	5	5	0	5	0
Dog Parks	11,100	28,000	44%	2	3	0	2	0
Diamond Fields: Softball Fields - Adult	5,667	11,232	51%	4	1	3	4	3
Diamond Fields: Softball - Youth	5,339	8,509	62%	4	3	1	4	1
Diamond Fields: Baseball - Adult	7,954	19,000	45%	3	1	2	3	2
Swimming Pools*	8,637	26,281	53%					
Community Gardens	8,773	24,500	40%					
Rectangular Fields: Soccer Field - Youth	3,504	5,011	52%	6	3	3	7	4
Multi-Use Courts: Basketball/Volleyball	5,400	14,807	46%	4	11	0	4	0
Tot Lots*	6,642	10,756	45%	3	0	0	4	0
Rectangular Field: Soccer Field - Adult	8,017	10,547	35%	3	2	1	3	1
Skate Parks*	11,100	32,335	39%					
Rectangular Fields: Football Field	8,004	19,351	26%	3	2	1	3	1
Regulation 18-Hole Golf Courses*	9,183	33,800	29%					
Driving Range Station	5,055	23,238	9%					
Multi-Purpose Synthetic Fields	12,962	24,665	3%	2	2	0	2	0
Ice Rinks	7,997	3,123	21%					
Pickleball Courts*	3,446	8,143	18%	6	9	0	7	0

1: Showing both NRPA Population categories to show the wide range of median number of residents per facility.

2: Utilized NRPA < 20,000 standard for median number of residents per facility (closest to Portsmouth) and applied Portsmouth total population.

3: Additional indoor basketball/volleyball courts available at school sites (not fixed).

Population data: <https://www.newhampshire-demographics.com>

City of Portsmouth Recreational Needs Study

Level of Service Analysis - Area of Parkland

Type of Facility	Acres of Parkland per Residents		Acres of Parkland per 1,000 Residents					
	Population of Jurisdiction ¹		Baseline	2022 Inventory ^{3,5}	2022 Inventory ^{4,5}	Population 2022: 22,192	Population 2032: 23,284	
	Less than 20,000	20,000 to 49,999	Less than 20,000 ² (acres)	Portsmouth 2022 Existing (acres)	Portsmouth 2022 Existing (acres)	Portsmouth 2022 Additional Needs (acres)	Portsmouth 2032 Needs ² (acres)	Portsmouth 2032 Additional Needs (acres)
Median	12.9	10.6	286.3	327.7	204.8	81.4	300.4	95.5
Lower Quartile	5.2	5.4	115.4	327.7	204.8	0.0	121.1	0.0
Upper Quartile	21.7	17.2	481.6	327.7	204.8	276.7	505.3	300.4

1: Showing both NRPA Population categories to show range of acres of parkland per residents.

2: Utilized NRPA < 20,000 standard for median number of acres per 1,000 residents (closest to Portsmouth) using Portsmouth population.

3: Includes all school sites/building sites (Total parcel acreage).

4: Does not include school sites/building sites to account for pavement/building footprints.

5: Total not inclusive of all parks in the City (Hanscom Park/Bohenko Gateway Park/North Mill Pond Park/Big Rock Park/Harbor Walk Park/Aldrich Park/Haven Park).

Total Acreage

Portsmouth (school/building sites included): 327.72

Portsmouth (school/building sites not included): 204.84

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: February 21, 2023 (after 5:00 p.m.) – March 3, 2023 (before 9:00 a.m.)

March 6, 2023 Council Meeting

Submitted on Wed, 02/22/2023 - 05:43

Full Name

Gail Wholey

Email

gailwholey567@gmail.com

Subject

Record of January 31 Sherburne neighborhood meeting

Address

933 Greenland Road

Message

Is there a place to find video record of the 1/31/23 meeting at Sherburne/Lister School? Leaflet for meeting that someone taped to my house didn't say it was going to be a presentation of a City/PHA plan, so many who would have had an interest in proposed super-high density development didn't attend. I think there was a plan to make video of the meeting publicly available, but the can't find it.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Fri, 02/24/2023 - 13:49

Full Name

Joan Jacobs

Email

jsjacobs@gmail.com

Subject

hate crimes in Portsmouth

Address

579 Sagamore Ave #20

Message

To Members of the Portsmouth City Council...

I was horrified to learn that Neo-Nazi vandals attacked Portsmouth businesses, private residences, and houses of worship earlier this week. It was appropriate and reassuring for city and state law enforcement to initiate immediate investigations and tell the public the perpetrator(s) will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. I appreciated the timely public statements of Mayor McEachern and other city officials. I would urge Portsmouth to commit to ongoing and comprehensive public education on the roots of racism, homophobia, antisemitism, misogyny (and other victims of hate-speech/action). I would support and participate in such efforts.

We need to learn about how we got here and how to fight hate crimes. This is especially needed now with the current attacks on academic freedom and inquiry as evidenced in NH passing a bill prohibiting instruction of "divisive concepts."

Joan Jacobs

Ward 5

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Sun, 02/26/2023 - 14:39

Full Name

Joan Hamblet

Email

jhamblet4@gmail.com

Subject

Workforce housing development at Sherburne School

Address

447 COLONIAL DR

Message

Dear Portsmouth City Counselors,

I am writing in support of a workforce housing development at the Sherburne School site. I am a resident of Pannaway Manor. Based on the chatter in our Pannaway Manor Neighborhood Facebook group, here is my understanding of what the residents are saying:

1. Residents acknowledge that the shortage of workforce housing is serious.
2. Residents want City Council and the Housing Authority to listen to us and consider our concerns.
3. Residents are concerned about the additional traffic from such a development.
4. Residents want the Sherburne School building to be preserved.
5. Residents are expecting the city to share information about all the other potential sites in the city for workforce housing. They do not want us to be “singled out” as the only site.

I believe the Sherburne School site is an ideal spot for some workforce housing. I suppose the original proposal for two 4-story apartment buildings was to supply the greatest number of housing units at the lowest cost to the city. I agree with my neighbors that 4-story buildings do not fit well into the character of our neighborhood. I am hoping the city will consider a mixture of a variety of types of housing, such as tiny houses, duplexes, townhouses and, if necessary, one or two 2-story garden-style apartment buildings. Thoughtful landscaping would also contribute to the appearance of the development.

If some combination of these housing types, plus landscaping and a workable traffic plan can be incorporated into a plan for an attractive workforce housing community at this site, I think more members of Pannaway Manor will be convinced that this could become an asset to our neighborhood, while also reducing the workforce housing shortage.

Thank you for considering my comments and suggestions.

Sincerely, Joan Hamblet

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 02/27/2023 - 10:46

Full Name

Joan Jacobs

Email

jsjsjacobssd@gmail.com

Subject

Antisemitism in Portsmouth

Address

579 Sagamore Ave #20

Message

jta.org/2023/02/24/opinion/beyond-the-day-of-hate-the-best-strategy-to-keep-american-jews-safe-over-the-long-term

I think this article is very useful in sorting out options to counter the hate crimes that are increasing in our area and nationally. I think we have to go beyond love and start focusing on accountability and justice. The perpetrators must be exposed and called to account. Among the options available to any jurisdiction are publicizing indictments, trials, and verdict/sentences meted out against Neo Nazis that refuse to abide by the rule of law.

Thanks for your consideration, Joan Jacobs

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

March 1, 2023

Dear Mayor McEachern and City Councilors,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Portsmouth Climate Action, SEACAN, WRAD and other local non-profits that are organizing events over Earth Day weekend. In collaboration with the Portsmouth Public Library, we are planning to “kick off” the weekend with a Sustainability Fair at the Connie Bean Center on Friday night from 4-7 pm. Our vision for this event is that we will come together as a community to talk about ways we can all get involved and take action to help care for our community and our planet. We hope to also provide an opportunity for the City and its consulting firm to seek feedback from residents about priorities around the new Climate Action Plan. Currently we expect 20-25 Seacoast area organizations to participate in this family-centered evening. We will have activities for all ages and hopefully music and food; details are still being worked out.

It is our hope that people will be inspired by Friday night’s event to take action the next day, April 22, the actual Earth Day. The Portsmouth High School Eco Club is organizing a number of cleanup activities around the city involving Portsmouth elementary and middle school students. Following that, the Eco Club and Seacoast Students for Sustainability are hoping to host a gathering in Market Square, as they did quite successfully last year. They hope to bring everyone together and have one or two DPW trucks present that we could fill with all the bags of trash that were collected during the morning’s clean-up. We feel that that would be very empowering to the students and their families, and we have spoken to DPW about this. In order to allow for this gathering to take place safely, we would ask the City of Portsmouth to close off the section of Pleasant Street between State and Congress Streets to traffic between 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding our request, and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Sincerely,
Karin Barndollar
Portsmouth WRAD, a division of SeaCAN (Seacoast Climate Action Now)

February 21, 2023

Hi all,

It is with regret that I feel the need to step away from this committee. My 88 year old mother is experiencing a difficult health event and I am finding it challenging to commit my time to anything other than my current full-time job with Leadership Seacoast and her care.

I trust that you all are incredibly informed and qualified to continue to drive the mission of this committee.

It has been a pleasure to work with each of you.

With Gratitude,
Lori Waltz

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2023-XX

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY FOR CITY PROPERTY USAGE

WHEREAS, the City of Portsmouth takes pride in being the “City of the Open Door” welcoming people of all Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Gender, Familial Status, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Age, and Marital Status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portsmouth rents, leases, and provides real property for organizations to use;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council adopts this Anti-Discrimination Policy for City Property Usage to discourage the City of Portsmouth from renting, leasing, or providing real property for organizations to use that appear to discriminate based on Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Gender, Familial Status, Disability, Sexual Orientation, Age, or Marital Status. This policy does not apply to the City of Portsmouth's designated public forum areas.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: _____.

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
City Clerk



New Hampshire Housing
Bringing You Home

Fair Housing for Regional and Municipal Planning

*A Guidebook for New
Hampshire Planners*

April 2014

FAIR HOUSING
for
REGIONAL and MUNICIPAL
PLANNING

A Guidebook for New Hampshire Planners

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April 2014

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Chapter 1

Introduction

...places are becoming more unequal. Economic classes are becoming more spatially separate from each other, with the rich increasingly living with other rich people and the poor with other poor.

- Peter Dreir, *et al.*, *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century* (2001)

Guidebook Purpose

This Guidebook has been produced as a resource for local and regional planners, as well as for planning and zoning board members and other municipal officials who want to understand how Federal housing law impacts local planning efforts, and how Federal and state law interact on these issues. This Guidebook will also be useful for Regional Planning Commissions creating Fair Housing and Equity Assessments that may be required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under a regional planning grant. The goal of the Guidebook is to provide insight into fair housing law and to highlight the importance of incorporating its principles into planning work.

Guidebook Overview

Chapter Two focuses on the federal Fair Housing Act, its purpose and key features and includes information about New Hampshire's housing discrimination laws, as well. The chapter includes a discussion of protected class categories and examples of zoning and land use cases by category. Chapter Three concentrates on one theory of fair housing law – disparate impact, or discriminatory effect – the area most relevant to planners and municipal officials since most disparate impact litigation involves challenges to zoning and land use laws. Chapter Four discusses the obligation of grantees of HUD funds to “affirmatively further fair housing,” a timely topic given recent litigation and HUD's issuance of proposed regulations in this area. Chapters Five and Six cover additional federal and state laws that are frequently implicated in zoning and land use litigation. Chapter 7 focuses on the Fair Housing and Equity Assessment, its purpose, requirements and approaches for creating the document. Chapter 8 contains a list of tools and resources, most of which are easily accessible over the Internet.

Guidebook Production

The Guidebook was produced by New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) under contract with New Hampshire Housing through a HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant.

Christine C. Wellington, is the author of the Guidebook. Chris was the principal author of 2010 Update to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in New Hampshire and one of the authors of the 2004 Update. She is a practicing attorney currently serving as the managing attorney of New Hampshire Catholic Charities' Victims of Violence Project. Prior to that she spent over a decade at NHLA as a managing attorney concentrating in the areas of housing discrimination and housing law. In addition to litigating fair housing cases in New Hampshire, she has also lectured throughout the state on this topic.

Elliott Berry served as editor of the Guidebook. He is the managing attorney of New Hampshire Legal Assistance's Manchester office. Elliott has worked for NHLA for over thirty years and has gained prominence for his legal and legislative work, particularly in the areas of housing law and policy. He has been lead counsel on many groundbreaking cases, including *Britton v. Chester*, a landmark affordable housing decision codified under the RSA 674:58 et seq., the new

Workforce Housing Law referenced in Part III of this document. He also participated in the litigation of *Ossipee* and *Gilsum* cases cited in the Guidebook. Elliott wrote about local land use controls in both the 2010 and 2004 Updates to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing in New Hampshire and also served as an editor.

Special acknowledgment goes to Ben Frost, Director of Public Affairs; and Bill Guinther, Program Policy Analyst; both of New Hampshire Housing, for their invaluable input and assistance in the production of the Guidebook.

Chapter 2

The Federal Fair Housing Act

It is the policy of the United States to provide, within constitutional limitations, for fair housing throughout the United States.

- Federal Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. §3601

History of the Fair Housing Act

Forty-five years ago, at the height of the civil rights movement and in the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Congress passed the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA). It was the final piece of modern civil rights laws begun with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which was promulgated to address and suppress racial discrimination against Americans of African descent. The FHA initially prohibited discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and religion. It was amended in 1974 to include gender or sex and again in 1988 to cover familial status and disability.

Purpose of the Fair Housing Act

The FHA has two major goals:

1. To stop discriminatory practices against protected class members in access to and receipt of housing and housing-related services; and
2. To promote integration and suppress segregation in housing.

“From its inception, the Fair Housing Act not only outlawed discrimination but also set out the steps that needed to be taken proactively to overcome the legacy of segregation.”¹ Today, fifty years after Martin Luther King’s March on Washington, his vision of a fully equal society remains an ideal, not a reality. Throughout the United States and even in New Hampshire, too many of our citizens remain in segregated communities with high concentrations of poverty.

Enforcement of the Fair Housing Act

Along with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is charged with enforcing and promoting the FHA. HUD also funds state and local governmental units and private non-profit organizations to engage in enforcement activities. In New Hampshire, New Hampshire Legal Assistance has received Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) funding for over eighteen years to enforce federal fair housing laws. Because the State of New Hampshire’s laws against housing discrimination have not yet met the

requirement of “substantial equivalency” with the FHA, it does not receive any enforcement funds.² Lastly, private individuals harmed by discrimination and organizations engaged in fair housing work may file administrative complaints with HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity or initiate lawsuits in state or federal court.³

Key Features of the Fair Housing Act

Protected Classes

Recognition of pervasive discrimination in the daily lives of African Americans in the United States led to the enactment of the Civil Rights Acts of 1866 and 1964 and resulted in the development of the legal notion of “protected class.” Recognition that other groups of people also suffered unequal access to opportunities has expanded the number of groups protected under state and federal anti-discrimination and civil rights laws. The federal Fair Housing Act now includes seven protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and disability. New Hampshire’s anti-discrimination laws expand protection to three additional groups based on age, marital status or sexual orientation.

Over the years, many housing discrimination lawsuits based on land use laws have been brought by and/or on behalf of protected class members against governmental entities on theories of both intentional and direct discrimination and on disparate impact theories. Examples are listed below within each protected class category. We have included New Hampshire’s additional protected classes in this section as well as in the discussion on exemptions in fair housing law.

Race

Although civil rights laws prohibiting racial discrimination were initially enacted to protect those of African American descent, the laws’ protections extend to persons of all races who have been harmed by discriminatory actions. Case law provides numerous examples of land use, municipal ordinances and zoning laws that have, intentionally or otherwise, promoted exclusion and segregation on the basis of race.

Kennedy v. City of Zanesville (2007): Coal Run, the only predominantly African American neighborhood in Zanesville and in all of Muskingum County in Ohio, did not receive government-provided public water infrastructure despite years of requests, even as water was piped past Coal Run to more distant white neighborhoods. Residents sued under the FHA and other civil rights laws and a jury returned a verdict of \$10.8 million to the residents.⁴

Dews v. The Town of Sunnyvale, Texas (2000): Twelve miles outside of Dallas, Texas, the Town of Sunnyvale had virtually no minority residents, a one acre residential zoning requirement, and an explicit ban on multifamily housing. After years of litigation, the federal court found that

“Sunnyvale’s ban on apartments and stubborn insistence on large lot, low density zoning also perpetuate racial segregation in Dallas County.”⁵

Huntington Branch NAACP v. Town of Huntington (1988): This is a disparate impact case in which the federal court found that the Town’s refusal to allow multifamily housing development outside of an “urban renewal area” where the majority of black residents lived constituted a violation of the FHA (75% of the black population was clustered in 6 census tracts: of the Town’s remaining 42 census tracts, 30 were at least 99% white).⁶

Color

This distinct protected class category is most often used in conjunction with allegations of racial or national origin discrimination. Several contemporary studies have documented discriminatory treatment of individuals based on the lightness or darkness of their skin both by members of the same racial/ethnic group and by members of different racial/ethnic groups.⁷ No examples of discrimination exclusively based on color involving land use, municipal ordinances or zoning cases could be found.

National Origin

The U.S. Supreme Court has said that the term national origin refers “to the country where a person was born, or, more broadly, the country from which his or her ancestors came.”⁸ The FHA and other civil rights laws have interpreted the notion of national origin to include ethnicity such as being of Latino or Arabic heritage.⁹

Hispanics United of DuPage County v. Village of Addison, Ill. (1997): After the Village of Addison began a program of demolition of affordable housing in its two largest Latino communities, Latino residents and a fair housing organization brought suit under the FHA which was joined by the U.S. Department of Justice. The parties entered into a consent decree which included money damages to the plaintiffs and implementation of a redevelopment plan that addressed both parties’ concerns and interests.¹⁰

Litton Intern. Development Corp. v. City of Simi Valley (1985): The city was found not to have discriminated against Saudi Arabian student trainees when it denied developer permits to construct living facilities (first proposed as condominiums and then as a hotel) when the only potentially discriminatory statements were made by members of the public at public hearings.¹¹

Religion

Although complaints of religious discrimination in housing cases are relatively small in number compared to other class categories, there have been several land use, municipal ordinance and zoning cases brought under the FHA and other legal theories.

The Lighthouse Institute for Evangelism, Inc. v. City of Long Branch (2005): This was a long-running battle between the City and a religious organization that sought to retain a particular site for services (including shelter) to the destitute in a particular location in the City. Lighthouse brought claims under the Establishment Clause and RLUIPA. The City changed its ordinance in a way which still prevented Lighthouse from carrying out its plans and the City prevailed against most claims. However, the Court ruled that more analysis was required in order to determine whether the City treated similarly situated secular institutions more favorably than Lighthouse.¹²

Tenafly Eruv Ass'n v. Borough of Tenafly (2002): Orthodox Jewish residents brought a lawsuit against the City when it selectively enforced its ordinance banning public attachments to utility poles. The Jewish residents were not permitted to affix “lechis” to the utility poles (postings which communicated zones where travel to Sabbath services would be religiously permitted) even though the city had not enforced its ordinance against other groups and individuals. Although the group’s Fair Housing and First Amendment speech claims failed, the Court, applying strict scrutiny, found that the City’s actions were unlawful under the Establishment Clause and remanded the case back to the trial court with instructions.¹³

Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim Radin, Inc. v. Village of New Hempstead by its Bd. of Trustees of Village of New Hempstead (2000): Legal action for intentional discrimination brought by orthodox Jewish residents alleging violations of FHA and other federal laws after the Village selectively enforced zoning ordinances allegedly for the purpose of preventing an orthodox Jewish community from occupying and developing a property. The Court denied the Village’s motion for summary judgment, ruling that there were issues of fact as to whether the Village’s actions involved discriminatory motivations.¹⁴

LeBlanc-Sternberg v. Fletcher (1995): The appeals court upheld the jury verdict which found that the Village of Airmont violated the FHA when it engaged in intentional discrimination by enacting zoning ordinances aimed at repressing home religious observances for the purpose of keeping orthodox and Hasidic Jews from moving into the community.¹⁵

Gender

Protections against housing discrimination based on gender or sex were added to the FHA in 1974 in recognition of the fact that women in American society had been disadvantaged in accessing housing opportunities as they have also been in employment and other arenas. Gender discrimination, stereotyping and sexual harassment have resulted in disparate treatment of women in home sales, rentals, lending and other aspects of the provision of housing and housing-related services.

Sisemore v. Master Financial, Inc. (2007): Lawsuit brought by a single mother and operator of a day care center against mortgage lender under California’s housing discrimination laws after she

was denied a mortgage. Lender had a policy not to lend to persons whose source of income was derived from childcare. The state appeals court found that this policy had a disparate impact on women and families with children.¹⁶

Doe v. City of Butler, Pa. (1989): Domestic violence victims brought class action to challenge constitutionality of the City's zoning regulation which limited transitional dwellings to six persons, including children. The appeals court held that the regulation did not violate due process, right to freedom of association, or the sex discrimination provision of Fair Housing Act but that remand to the trial court was necessary in order to determine the constitutionality of the regulation as applied to high density districts and residential office districts.¹⁷

Familial Status

In 1988, the FHA was amended to prohibit discrimination in housing based on familial status, which refers to the presence of children under 18 years in the home. Included in the class are families of many configurations including parents expecting the birth of a child, adoptive parents, foster parents, grandparents and other relatives caring for children, and parents awaiting custody of a child and may include residential facilities for children.

Gibson v. County of Riverside (2002): Plaintiffs challenged the County's use of its zoning powers to impose age restrictions in particular areas of the County with the result that families with children were not permitted to reside within those areas. The federal court determined that the County was not entitled to impose such restrictions and had therefore violated the FHA's prohibitions against familial status discrimination and the State's prohibitions against age and familial status discrimination.¹⁸

Fair Housing Ass'n v. City of Richmond Heights (1998): A fair housing organization brought fair housing claims based on familial status discrimination against three cities asserting that their occupancy limits unlawfully limited access to housing by families with children. The trial court found that there was no violation because the ordinances fell within the exemptions of the FHA that permitted governments to impose reasonable occupancy limits.¹⁹

Children's Alliance v. City of Bellevue (1997): A group home for youth, some of whom were disabled, brought a challenge under the FHA alleging that the City imposed greater restrictions on youth homes than on other group homes. The trial court found that the City's ordinances violated the FHA based on familial status and disability.²⁰

Disability

The FHA's 1988 amendments also expanded protected class coverage to include persons with disabilities. They "were clearly intended to curb land-use restrictions on communal housing opportunities for disabled persons (sometimes called 'group homes')." ²¹ The FHA's definition

of a person with a disability is consistent with the definitions set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. “Handicap” is defined as “a physical or mental impairment which limits one or more of [a] person’s major life activities, a record of having such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.”²² The FHA protections extend to those associated with a person with a disability such as family members and friends. The FHA provides enhanced protections to persons with disabilities in that they may request accommodations and/or modifications in order to be able to use and enjoy their dwelling and to access and use other housing related services.

ASMR v. Town of Gilsum, (complaints filed 2008 and 2011): These were New Hampshire cases involving a group home for persons with HIV and hepatitis C. ASMR initiated fair housing claims against the Town in superior court alleging that the Town’s use of zoning restrictions and other actions taken by the Town were intended to keep the program from operating, based on animus toward the program’s residents. ASMR introduced evidence that the Town treated ASMR differently than other nonprofit and religious institutions in similar situations. The cases were settled in ASMR’s favor.²³

Lakeside Enterprises, LP v. Bd. of Sup’s of Palmyra Tp. (2006): After plaintiffs attempted to obtain permission to use property for a residential substance abuse program, the Town changed the ordinance to prohibit substance abuse programs in that area. Plaintiffs sued under the FHA and the appeals court found that the program covered under the FHA and remanded the case to the trial court on the issue of disability discrimination.²⁴

Tsombanidis v. West Haven Fire Dept.(2003): Plaintiffs challenged City ordinances under the FHA and ADA claiming intentional discrimination against its substance abuse program. The appeals court found that the Town had engaged in intentional discrimination and failed to provide reasonable accommodations to a group home serving persons with disabilities.²⁵

Trovato v. City of Manchester (1997): New Hampshire homeowners brought a lawsuit against the City when their request for a zoning variance to accommodate their disabilities was denied. The City’s zoning board of adjustment did not believe that it had the power to grant the variance under state law. The federal court ruled that the variance must be granted as an accommodation under the FHA, and that the variance did not run with the land, but with occupancy of the premises by the disabled owners.²⁶ State law was subsequently changed to codify this ruling.²⁷

City of Cleburne, Texas v. Cleburne Living Center (1985): This is a U.S. Supreme Court equal protection case decided prior to inclusion of disability in the FHA, where the City sought to prevent the establishment of a group home for developmentally-delayed persons through the use of its zoning ordinances. The court ruled that the City’s basis for exclusion appeared to rest on “irrational prejudice” rather than in a legitimate governmental interest.²⁸

New Hampshire's Three Additional Protected Classes

State housing discrimination laws may offer more protections than federal law, including extension of protected class status to additional groups of people. New Hampshire has added three protected classes: age, marital status, and sexual orientation. Although the federal Fair Housing Act does not include these categories as protected classes, HUD does prohibit HUD-funded housing providers and FHA lenders from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and marital status.²⁹ In addition, the FHA carves out an exemption from familial status discrimination in allowing the provision of housing for older persons.³⁰ Cases from other states have been cited where no New Hampshire case law has been reported and where the circumstances may be relevant in New Hampshire.

Age

New Hampshire law prohibits age and familial status discrimination in housing except in cases where the housing provider has met the federal and state standards required to provide housing for persons 55 and older or 62 and older.³¹ The interplay between state and federal laws renders this area quite complex and easy to misconstrue. Many municipalities have ordinances governing housing for older persons in their communities. A brief survey of selected municipalities found that several ordinances appeared to run afoul of state law age protections.³²

Gibson by Gibson v. County of Riverside (2002): See case description under Familial Status, above.³³

Marital Status

Complaints of housing discrimination under New Hampshire law based upon marital status are rare but do arise occasionally. In the mid-2000s, in separate cases, New Hampshire Legal Assistance and a private attorney filed housing discrimination complaints against a town and a 55 and older condominium community based in part on the town's zoning ordinance that prohibited anyone under 55 years from residing in the community unless married to a person 55 years or older. As part of the resolution of the case, the town changed its ordinance.

Loving v. City of Black Jack (2006): An unmarried couple living with their three children, one of whom was the child of only one of the adults, was denied an occupancy permit based on the City's ordinance that prohibited more than three people from living together unless related by "blood, marriage or adoption." Although the planning and zoning commission recommended changing the ordinance to eliminate the adverse effects on such families, the City Council initially voted to maintain the ordinance, only relenting when a lawsuit was initiated against the City.³⁴

Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation is the newest protected class under New Hampshire law having been added in 1997.³⁵ New Hampshire law also prohibits eviction of a tenant solely because the person has or is perceived to have AIDS, a once lethal health condition that disproportionately affected gay men in the U.S.³⁶ Because of this link, gay rights advocacy groups have often intervened in discriminatory actions against individuals with HIV/AIDS or groups and organizations providing services to them (as happened in the *Gilsum* cases where GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) initiated the legal actions with New Hampshire Legal Assistance as local counsel).

ASMR v. Town of Gilsum, (2008 and 2011): See case description under Disability, above.³⁷

Prohibited Activities under the Fair Housing Act

The FHA's reach is very broad and it covers many activities and applies to many parties including individuals, corporations, sellers, landlords, insurance companies, appraisers, lenders, governmental entities and others. It prohibits entities from making a dwelling unavailable on the basis of protected class status including refusing to sell or rent a dwelling or to negotiate the sale or rental of a dwelling (42 U.S.C. §3604(a)). The FHA also bars discrimination in the terms and conditions of sale or rental of a dwelling or in the provision of connected services or facilities (42 U.S.C. §3604(b)). Statements, verbal or published, including advertising, that state a preference, limitation or that discriminate on the basis of protected class membership constitute unlawful conduct. In addition, the FHA requires the provision of reasonable accommodations and modifications in rules, policies, practices and services for persons with disabilities.

Examples of Prohibited Conduct

1. Making housing unavailable (refusal to sell or rent or negotiate a sale or rental; making false representations of unavailability).
2. Steering: this practice involves limiting housing choices and opportunities for protected class members by guiding them toward or away from housing opportunities based on the protected class of the party.
3. Exclusionary zoning and land use restrictions: includes situations where the zoning and land use ordinances are intended to exclude members of certain protected classes as well as those where the ordinances have a disparate impact on members of a protected class.
4. Mortgage and insurance redlining, reverse redlining and discriminatory appraisals:
 - a. Redlining involves the practice of insurance companies or lenders refusing to provide services or providing markedly unfavorable terms and conditions in their products to persons in certain neighborhoods generally based on the racial and/or ethnic composition of the area.

- b. Reverse redlining is a more recent practice in which lenders, insurers, appraisers and others targeted communities of colors and offered products and services at predatory rates.
5. Discriminatory terms, conditions, services, and facilities (charging different rates, providing different levels of services, limiting use of facilities based on protected class status).
6. Discriminatory advertising, notices, and statements.
7. Blockbusting (involves the practice of manipulating sales for financial gain in a neighborhood or residential area through fear tactics of warning current residents that members of certain protected classes are moving into the area).
8. Coercion, intimidation, threats, interference (including retaliation against a protected class member because he/she filed a complaint of discrimination).
9. Harassment based on protected class status.
10. Failure or refusal to allow reasonable accommodations or modifications for persons with disabilities.

Exemptions from the Fair Housing Act

1. Sale or rental of single family homes if owner does not own more than **three** such homes at any one time and if no broker or advertising is involved in the transaction (further restrictions apply if the home was not occupied by the owner at the time of sale) (42 U.S.C. §3603(b)(1)). **NOTE:** New Hampshire law only permits sale of **one** home in such circumstances with prohibitions against use of broker and advertising (RSA 354-A:13).
2. Owner-occupied dwellings with **four** or fewer units (42 U.S.C. §3603(b)(2)). **NOTE:** New Hampshire law only permits the exemption for owner-occupied dwellings of **three** or fewer units.
3. Religious organizations or private clubs with some restrictions.
4. Housing for older persons if compliant with federal and state laws.

Intent and the Fair Housing Act

There are two theories of discriminatory conduct:

1. Intentional Discrimination: there is no requirement of malicious intent or animus toward the protected class. Even practices with “benign” intent trigger liability. For example, if a real estate agent showed a Latino client homes for sale only in neighborhoods heavily populated by Latinos, even if she sincerely assumed that this would be what the buyer would prefer, this would be unlawful steering, a prohibited practice.
2. Disparate Impact: seemingly neutral laws, regulations, policies or practices that have a negative impact on members of a protected class. Examples include municipal land use regulations that severely limit or exclude multifamily housing from the municipality;

limiting affordable housing developments to areas of high concentrations of poverty; disparate provision of infrastructure, municipal improvements, and other municipal services in ways that disadvantage neighborhoods with higher concentrations of poverty.

Liability under the Fair Housing Act

Actions brought under the FHA may be initiated in either federal or state court or filed as an administrative complaint with HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. DOJ may decide to intervene and play a role in the litigation.

In a case where fair housing violations are found, the court may order injunctive relief, requiring that the respondent refrain from certain actions and/or requiring the respondent to take certain actions to cure the violations. Relief may also include monitoring in order to assure compliance. The court may also award money damages and attorneys fees.

Chapter 3

Disparate Impact and Planning

[A] practice has a discriminatory effect where it actually or predictably results in a disparate impact on a group or persons or creates increases, reinforces, or perpetuates segregated housing patterns because of race, color, religion, sex, [disability], familial status or national origin.

- HUD Regulations on Discriminatory Effects³⁸

Discriminatory Effects: Fair Housing Pitfalls for Planners

Disparate impact type fair housing violations are the most likely risk for planners. The vast majority of disparate impact cases have involved zoning and land use ordinances. Failure to incorporate fair housing analysis and failure to recognize structural barriers within the community that promote segregation and lack of access to opportunity are key pitfalls. Litigation in this area has had the effect of promoting inclusionary zoning and land use practices in communities throughout the nation. “Challenges to discriminatory zoning and land use practices of local jurisdictions pursuant to the Act have been one of the most important tools in seeking to promote residential integration.”³⁹

HUD’s Discriminatory Effects Regulation

On February 15, 2013, HUD issued regulations on the Discriminatory Effects Standard to be applied in HUD fair housing investigations.⁴⁰ The regulations clarify and formalize this theory of fair housing law commonly known as “disparate impact” liability. Although all of the federal appeals courts that have issued rulings in this area have acknowledged that a neutral policy or practice may be unlawful under the FHA because of its disparate impact, the courts have adopted different standards of analysis. The HUD regulations set a 3-pronged burden-shifting standard for analysis of a seemingly neutral law, policy or practice through the lens of disparate impact. Because the U.S. Supreme Court has never explicitly ruled on the viability of disparate impact and because courts generally tend to give HUD policies and regulations deference in fair housing jurisprudence, the regulations are expected to have significant impact going forward.

Three-Pronged Burden-Shifting Analysis*

1. *Prima Facie Case*: As always, the plaintiff or complainant has the burden of establishing a legally justifiable claim. The plaintiff must prove that the challenged “practice caused, causes or predictably will cause a discriminatory effect on a group of persons or a community on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or national origin.”⁴¹ The plaintiff must prove that the practice has a disparate impact on members of a protected class and that the harm is substantial or that the practice tends to reinforce patterns of segregation, or both. If the plaintiff is able to make this proof, the burden shifts to the defendant or respondent.
2. *Legally Sufficient Justification*: The defendant may then rebut the plaintiff’s assertion by proving that the practice is necessary to achieve one or more substantial, legitimate, and nondiscriminatory interests of the defendant.⁴² The justification must be supported by evidence and may not be hypothetical or speculative.⁴³ The burden then shifts back to the plaintiff to overcome the defendant’s rebuttal.
3. *Less Discriminatory Practice Available*: The plaintiff still may prevail if able to show that the defendant’s substantial, legitimate and nondiscriminatory interests could be met with a different practice “that has a less discriminatory effect.”⁴⁴

*Note that this burden-shifting approach is not available in cases where intentional discrimination is alleged.⁴⁵

U.S. Supreme Court Review of Disparate Impact Claims Under the Fair Housing Act

Although all of the federal courts that have been confronted with the issue have recognized disparate impact as a legitimate legal theory of discrimination under the FHA, the U.S. Supreme Court has never explicitly ruled on disparate impact theory. On two occasions, the Supreme Court has granted *certiorari* on this issue, clearly signaling its willingness to take this matter on. However in both cases, the parties settled the cases shortly before oral arguments were scheduled to take place.

In *Magner v. Gallagher*, property owners sued the City of St. Paul, Minnesota claiming that the City’s aggressive use of code enforcement tactics in its poorest neighborhoods had a disparate impact based on race because it reduced housing opportunities for African Americans.⁴⁶ The case was accepted by the Supreme Court on the sole issue of the viability of the disparate impact theory, but was dismissed in 2012 after the parties settled.⁴⁷

On June 17, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court granted a *writ of certiorari* to hear the appeal of *Mt. Holly, N.J. v. Mt. Holly Gardens Citizens*.⁴⁸ This disparate impact case involved the neighborhood of Mt. Holly Gardens in Mt. Holly, New Jersey which contains Mt. Holly's highest concentration of Black and Latino residents of mostly poor and working class income levels. Those residents, alleging various constitutional and civil rights violations, sued the Town after it entered into a redevelopment plan with a private developer which called for demolition of the neighborhood and replacement with mostly market rate housing with only a fraction of the housing set aside for low-income residents. After the federal appeals court ruled in the residents' favor, the Town appealed and the Supreme Court accepted the case on the sole issue of whether disparate impact claims are cognizable under the FHA. Oral arguments had been set for early December 2013, but the case was dismissed on November 15, 2013 after the parties reached a settlement.⁴⁹

Chapter 4

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

[S]egregation is due in part to a historical legacy of discrimination and continues to have adverse impacts, with the dual concentration of poverty and racial and ethnic populations still far too prevalent.

- HUD Proposed Rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing⁵⁰

The Duty to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing

The FHA directs the Secretary of HUD to “administer the programs and activities related to housing and urban development in a manner affirmatively to further the policies” of the Fair Housing Act.⁵¹ Recipients of HUD funds are required to certify that the funds will be used in a manner that will affirmatively further fair housing principles. HUD subgrantees are also obligated under this contractual requirement. In 1994, President Clinton signed an Executive Order requiring “that all executive departments and agencies shall administer their programs and activities relating to housing and urban development . . . in a manner affirmatively to further the purposes of the Act”⁵²

HUD’s Strategies for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Focus on Regional Planning

HUD’s 2010 – 2015 Strategic Plan sets out its goal to “create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable housing for all.”⁵³ HUD defines inclusive communities as those “in which all people – regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, disability, or sexual orientation – have access to the same housing, transportation, health, education, and employment opportunities.”⁵⁴

The Strategic Plan’s priorities include creating more inclusive communities through regional planning; increasing the effectiveness of and compliance with Analyses of Impediments; and utilizing other strategies to affirmatively further fair housing through HUD programs.

HUD’s Proposed Rule on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

On July 19, 2013, HUD issued its long-awaited proposed rule on affirmatively furthering fair housing.⁵⁵ HUD states its purpose as follows:

The proposed rule involves refining the fair housing elements of the existing planning process that states, local governments, insular areas, and public housing agencies [program participants] now undertake. The process proposed by this rule assists program participants to assess fair housing determinants, prioritize fair housing issues for response, and take meaningful actions to affirmatively further fair housing.⁵⁶

The proposed rule, if adopted, would allow accomplishment of several goals:

1. Provision of a more precise definition of the term “affirmatively furthering fair housing” (AFFH);
2. Clarification of the obligations of HUD recipients in their efforts to AFFH;
3. Creation of a new assessment and planning mechanism called an “Assessment of Fair Housing” (AFH) for state and local governments to utilize in place of the current Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI);
4. Provision by HUD of demographic data to HUD recipients in order to facilitate more effective and consistent analysis of their communities from a fair housing standpoint;
5. Elucidation of public housing authorities’ roles in the fair housing planning process; and
6. Creation of more vibrant and integrated communities and reduction of patterns of segregation.

Definition of Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

The proposed rule defines AFFH as follows:

Affirmatively furthering fair housing means taking steps beyond simply combating discrimination to foster more inclusive communities and access to community assets for all persons protected by the Fair Housing Act. More specifically, it means taking steps proactively to address significant disparities in access to community assets, to overcome segregated living patterns and support and promote integrated communities, to end racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty, and to foster and maintain compliance with civil rights and fair housing laws.⁵⁷

This definition makes it clear that communities, and therefore planners, must take into consideration patterns of integration and segregation with a priority of eliminating racially and ethnically concentrated areas of poverty.

Assessment of Fair Housing

HUD proposes to replace the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) currently required of states and entitlement communities⁵⁸ with an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH).

Provision of Data: In order to make the AFH more effective and consistent, HUD proposes to supply data to its program participants including the following:

- Patterns of segregation/integration including dissimilarity index and isolation index
- Disproportionate housing needs of protected classes
- Existence of racially concentrated areas of poverty within a jurisdiction
- Poverty indexes
- Neighborhood school proficiency index
- Labor market engagement index
- Job access index
- Health hazards exposure index
- Transit index

While program participants are encouraged to supplement the data with other locally relevant statistics and information, a preliminary review of the current HUD data suggests that much of the information will not be useful in predominantly rural states such as New Hampshire. Therefore, supplemental data will be necessary.

Requirements: The AFH must address, analyze and report on factors that affect equal access to housing choice within the jurisdiction including:

- Patterns of segregation
- Concentrations of poverty
- Disparities in access to community assets
- Disproportionate housing needs based on protected class status
- Incidence of “fair housing issues” within jurisdiction including any findings or judgments related to fair housing or other civil rights laws
- Assessment of jurisdiction’s fair housing enforcement and outreach capacity
- Identification of primary determinants influencing conditions of segregation, concentrations of poverty, and disparities in access to community assets
- Determination of fair housing priorities and justification
- Creation of one or more goals to mitigate or addressing determinants that influence segregation, poverty, and access to community assets

HUD is Encouraging Regional Assessments and Planning: HUD's goal is to continue to encourage regional assessments in order to achieve a greater and more systemic impact and even envisions efforts reaching across state boundaries. This approach continues the philosophy of the Sustainable Communities Initiative with its regional Fair Housing and Equity Assessments (FHEA) or regional AIs. The proposed rule also clearly requires public housing authorities to create plans to reduce concentrations of poverty in their developments and to work more closely with local and state governments to develop an FHA.

While New Hampshire's regional planning commissions (RPCs) have been required to develop FHEAs as a result of receiving HUD funding for planning, the implications for most municipalities in New Hampshire are simpler. The RPCs' regional plans are not binding on the municipalities, even if the municipality participates in the planning process. But as advisory documents, the FHEAs can provide very useful guidance to municipalities as they seek to understand and comply with their obligations under the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Although the proposed rules do not yet have the force of law, they provide the most comprehensive view of HUD's vision to fully incorporate fair housing analysis and planning into a state's consolidated plan, public housing authority plans and other required planning documents.

Chapter 5

Federal Law

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

- Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Structure of Federal Law

The U.S. Constitution is the bedrock of American law and all laws passed by both Congress and state legislatures must pass constitutional muster. The U.S. Congress legislates federal statutes (which become law with the President's signature or after Congress overrides the President's veto). Federal regulations, which are controlled by the federal statutes, are issued by federal agencies (such as HUD) in order to explain and carry out the intent of the federal statutes. They carry the force of law. Executive orders, which also carry the force of law, are issued by the President to executive federal agencies often with the intent to carry out the policies and agenda of the Presidential Administration. Federal courts evaluate the constitutionality of federal laws and decide cases based upon their interpretations of constitutional and statutory law. U.S. Supreme Court decisions are binding throughout the United States. Other court decisions are binding only within their own jurisdictions but may be used as guidance or persuasion in other jurisdictions.

Constitutional Protections

Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment: "No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law." Due Process violations may arise in situations in disparate impact cases involving redevelopment and razing of properties in neighborhoods disproportionately occupied by racial or ethnic minorities.

Thirteenth Amendment: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude . . . shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." The Thirteenth Amendment's purpose "was to eradicate not only the physical incidence of slavery but its 'badges and incidents' as well." *Jones v. Alfred H. Mayer Co.*⁵⁹ Disparate treatment based on race and promotion of racial segregation may trigger claims of Thirteenth Amendment violations.

Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteen Amendment: “No State shall . . . deny to any within its jurisdiction equal protection of the laws.” Equal Protection claims are often raised in civil rights cases including housing discrimination cases and are also used when the party may not be a member of a federally protected class.⁶⁰

Federal Statutes

There are several federal laws that also offer remedies for discriminatory acts and may be raised in the context of a housing discrimination case. We have included several of the more frequently used statutes.

Civil Rights Act of 1866:⁶¹ Congress’ first major legislation enacted specifically to ensure the rights of African Americans to “the full and equal benefit of all laws . . . as is enjoyed by white citizens.” Standing to bring suit under this Act has been permitted on the basis of national origin but does not extend to other protected classes. The exemptions of the Fair Housing Act do not apply.

Civil Rights Act of 1964:⁶² Enacted during the modern civil rights period, the law accords equal rights on the basis of race, color, religion, gender and national origin in most aspects of American life including voting, education, employment, and public accommodations.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:⁶³ prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities by federal agencies and entities receiving federal funds, including municipalities, public housing authorities and federally subsidized housing developments.

Americans with Disabilities Act:⁶⁴ prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities and requires, where necessary, reasonable accommodations and modifications to allow equal access and treatment.

False Claims Act:⁶⁵ Allows actions against entities that defraud government programs and allows private citizens to initiate claims. Has been utilized in fair housing litigation, most prominently in the *Westchester* case (discussed below).

Case Law

Since the enactment of the FHA, there have been a multitude of federal, state and administrative cases based on allegations of housing discrimination. Cases are mentioned in other sections of this Guidebook, including the section on protected classes.

Trafficante v. Metropolitan Life Insurance:⁶⁶ This is a U.S. Supreme Court case which permitted a white person to pursue a housing discrimination lawsuit against the landlord for racial discrimination against African Americans based on the harm of living in a community which did not permit integration (a “white ghetto”).

*Town of Huntington, New York v. Huntington Branch, NAACP:*⁶⁷ Through its zoning ordinance, the town restricted private multifamily development to the “urban renewal area” where most of the minority population was concentrated. The plaintiffs sought to overcome town’s refusal to allow development of a project in an area of single family homes where the population was 98% white. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals found that the town had violated the FHA on disparate impact theory. On appeal, the Supreme Court declined to rule on the adequacy of the “disparate impact test” but upheld the lower court’s decision declaring “[W]e are satisfied on this record that disparate impact was shown, and that the sole justification proffered to rebut the prima facie case was inadequate.”⁶⁸

*United States ex rel. Anti-Discrimination Ctr. v. Westchester County, New York:*⁶⁹ A fair housing organization initiated a lawsuit against the County asserting violations of the False Claims Act for the County’s acceptance of millions of dollars of HUD funds while falsely certifying that it had affirmatively furthered fair housing. Westchester County is an “entitlement community,” meaning that it gets HUD funding directly through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which is used partly for the purpose of developing affordable housing. As an entitlement community, the County was required to develop an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI), and to certify that it was “affirmatively furthering fair housing,” as required by the Fair Housing Act. While the AI requirement only applies to states and to entitlement communities, the AFFH requirement applies to all recipients of HUD funds, including indirect recipients of CDBG funding.

In *Westchester*, the court found that the county had not analyzed race as a factor when conducting its AI and further found that its development activities actually contributed to racial and ethnic segregation. The parties entered into a settlement agreement with multimillion dollar fines, the majority of which was to be credited to the county to develop housing in accordance with the settlement. A monitor was appointed by the court and the County agreed to engage in a number of activities to affirmatively further fair housing, including the development of model zoning codes for the municipalities in its area. The case remains active with many allegations that the County continues to thwart integration efforts.

State Law Case of National Significance

*Southern Burlington County NAACP v. Mount Laurel Tp.:*⁷⁰ The Mount Laurel litigation culminated in this landmark decision known as *Mount Laurel II* in which the New Jersey Supreme Court held that municipalities in New Jersey had an affirmative duty to provide their “fair share” of affordable housing and forbade the use of zoning ordinances to prevent such development in affluent communities.

Chapter 6

New Hampshire Law

And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire.

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963

State Law Structure and Interplay with Federal Law

The structure of New Hampshire law follows that of federal law as described in the previous chapter. New Hampshire has a constitution which is the supreme law of the state subject only to the strictures of the U.S. Constitution. New Hampshire statutes, legislated by the New Hampshire legislature, known as the General Court, and made effective by the Governor's signature or by legislative overriding of a gubernatorial veto, are subject to scrutiny in light of both the state and federal constitutions. State agencies also engage in rule-making in order to carry out their statutory mandates. The New Hampshire governor possesses the authority to issue executive orders. New Hampshire courts interpret both state constitutional and statutory law and sometimes federal law. The Fair Housing Act explicitly permits fair housing claims to be litigated in state as well as federal courts.

The United States' system of federalism, rooted in the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution, recognizes the supremacy of federal law as set forth in the U.S. Constitution but also the sovereignty of the states on matters not deemed to be controlled by federal law. Some matters, such as immigration law, are deemed to be within the exclusive control of the federal government. Other matters, such as family law, local government matters, and in-state commerce are within the powers reserved to the states (as long as they do not run afoul of constitutional protections or laws). In many cases, such as in civil rights jurisprudence, both the states and the federal government share the field. When a conflict arises, federal law controls. In the area of civil rights laws, states may provide more protections to their citizens than federal law does. Such is the case in New Hampshire's fair housing laws which provide more categories of protected classes and impose more limited exemptions from the law.

State Constitution Protections

New Hampshire’s constitutional protections may be raised in the context of a discrimination claim. Many of the substantive rights accorded by the New Hampshire Constitution have been difficult to parse out without further interpretation from the New Hampshire Supreme Court. The right to equal protection under the law derives from Part I, Articles 2 and 12. The New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled that the entitlement to substantive due process of law is found in Part I, Article 15.

Article 2 of the New Hampshire Bill of Rights: “All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness. Equality of rights shall not be abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.”

Article 12 of the New Hampshire Bill of Rights: “Every member of the community has a right to be protected by it, in the enjoyment of his life, liberty, and property...”

Article 15 of the New Hampshire Bill of Rights: “No subject shall be ... deprived of his life, liberty, or estate, but by the judgment of his peers, or the law of the land.” In *State v. Veale*, 158 N.H. 632 (2009) the court articulated that “law of the land” refers to due process of law.

State Statutes

Law Against Discrimination, RSA 354-A: Shortly after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New Hampshire General Court enacted its own Law Against Discrimination. The legislation created the Human Rights Commission and charged it with the authority to investigate and enforce its laws against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. The section on housing discrimination provides protections to a broader range of protected classes and is more restrictive in the scope of exemptions from liability.

Workforce Housing Law, RSA 674:58 – 61: Requires every New Hampshire community to provide “reasonable and realistic opportunities” for the development of workforce housing and is a codification of the principles established in *Britton v. Chester* cited below.

Inclusionary Zoning Statute, RSA 674:21,I(k): is one of the articulated “innovative land use controls” permitted under New Hampshire law.

Regional Housing Needs Assessments, RSA 36:47, II: Requires Regional Planning Commissions to update the needs assessment every five years.

State Case Law

*Britton v. Chester:*⁷¹ New Hampshire's landmark affordable housing case which challenged the constitutionality of the Town of Chester's exclusionary zoning ordinances. The Supreme Court held that when exercising its authority to regulate the use of land through zoning, a power delegated to municipalities by the Legislature, every municipality must provide a reasonable and realistic opportunity for the development of affordable housing. The Court also reiterated that the regional needs surrounding communities are relevant and required communities in New Hampshire to provide a proportionate or "fair share" of affordable housing.

*Great Bridge Properties, LLC v. Town of Ossipee:*⁷² This is a Superior Court case which found that the Town of Ossipee did not bear its "fair share" of affordable housing ruling that the Town's ordinances "operate to effectively preclude low- and moderate income households from residing in the Town." The case was initially brought under constitutional and fair housing law claims alleging disparate impact on based on familial status.

*Community Resources for Justice v. City of Manchester:*⁷³ Known as Community Resources for Justice II, a state equal protection case initiated by a non-profit organization that provides halfway houses for federal prisoners after the City of Manchester denied approval to operate based on the City's zoning ordinances. The Court found that the City was unable to meet its burden of proof that its denial was "substantially related to an important governmental objective" and affirmed the award of a builder's remedy.

New Hampshire Federal District Court Case Law

*Trovato v. City of Manchester:*⁷⁴ The City's zoning board, believing it did not have statutory authority, denied plaintiffs' request to obtain a variance to permit them to install a paved parking area in front of their house to accommodate their mobility impairments. The federal court enjoined the City "from enforcing its zoning code in a manner that in any way restricts or impedes plaintiffs' ability to pave and maintain a parking space in their front yard." The court also clarified that the injunction would terminate "if and when the plaintiffs move from their present residence" signifying that the privilege did not run with the land. State law was subsequently changed to codify this ruling.⁷⁵

Chapter 7

Creating a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment

Sustainability also means creating “geographies of opportunity,” places that effectively connect people to jobs, quality public schools, and other amenities.

- HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan
Written Testimony Submitted to House Appropriations Subcommittee,
February 23, 2010

Sustainable Communities Initiative

The Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) is a joint program among HUD and the U.S. Department of Transportation and the federal Environmental Protection Agency. The goal of the program is aimed at improving “regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions, and increase state, regional, and local capacity to incorporate livability, sustainability, and social equity values into land use planning and zoning” (emphasis added).⁷⁶ The focus on incorporating social equity values⁷⁷ into regional planning efforts brings challenges but offers possibilities that would increase the quality of life for many more people.

The goals of the SCI are to:

1. Foster the development of sustainable communities throughout the United States that are consistent with the following Livability Principles [citation omitted]:
 - a. Provision of more transportation choice;
 - b. Promotion of equitable, affordable housing;
 - c. Enhancement of economic competitiveness;
 - d. Support of existing communities;
 - e. Coordination of policies and leveraging of investment; and
 - f. Valuing communities and neighborhoods.
2. Support metropolitan areas and multijurisdictional partnerships that commit to adopt integrated plans, strategies, and management tools to become more sustainable.
3. Facilitate strong alliances of residents and regional interest groups that are able to maintain a long-term vision for a region over time and simultaneously support progress through incremental sustainable development practices.

4. Build greater transparency and accountability into planning and implementation efforts.
5. Expedite implementation of the Livability Principles through changes in local zoning and land use laws and regulations to remove barriers to sustainable development for housing, economic development, transportation, and related water, sewer, and other environmental quality issues.
6. Align local, state, and tribal capital improvement programs with Livability Principles.
7. Assist all regions to move toward sustainability and livability, and, for the regions that have shown a long-term commitment to sustainability and livability, prepare them for implementation and to demonstrate on-the-ground results.⁷⁸

Requirements of SCI Grantees

Grantees must undertake the following activities:

1. Adopt a housing plan that incorporates housing that is “affordable at all ranges of income;”
2. Incorporate fair housing analysis of housing choice into regional planning;
3. Address how the plan will further fair housing principles; and
4. Create a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) or Regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (Regional AI).

All RPCs in New Hampshire are required under state law to complete housing needs assessments every five years⁷⁹ and these should be reviewed in order to determine whether they may meet this requirement.

The second requirement of incorporating fair housing analysis into regional planning may be a newer concept for some RPCs. Undoubtedly, RPCs have engaged in analysis that incorporates equity and access principles but have not labeled it as fair housing analysis. Existing plans should be reviewed in order to determine whether some features of earlier evaluation actually translate into fair housing analysis.

What may be new, especially for RPCs in more rural regions of the state, is the requirement to evaluate patterns of integration, segregation and of areas of concentrated racial and ethnic poverty (RCAPs and ECAPs). All grantees are required to engage in this analysis and if there are areas of segregation or concentrated poverty, to conduct a review of factors, including zoning ordinances and other land use regulations that may contribute to those conditions.

Grantees must also address how their plans will further fair housing principles within their region. The recommendations must be realistic and designed to have an actual impact.

Finally, grantees are required to create an FHEA or Regional AI. This Guidebook focuses on the FHEA. More information about creating an AI can be found in HUD's Fair Housing Planning Guide.⁸⁰

Preparing a Fair Housing and Equity Assessment

HUD has produced several documents that describe in detail its expectations for creation of an FHEA (See Chapter 8, Tools and Resources). In addition, it has created assessment tools for grantees. Unfortunately, for jurisdictions in less populated, less urban and less ethnically and racially diverse areas like New Hampshire, the data that may be obtained is not as helpful as it may be for more populated and urban states. HUD has been working to refine its assessment tools to produce more meaningful data for all grantees. Grantees are encouraged to use other assessment tools and data to create a comprehensive assessment.

FHEA Analysis

The FHEA must include identification and assessment of the following factors:

1. Areas of racial/ethnic segregation;
2. Areas of increasing integration;
3. Areas of racially or ethnically concentrated poverty;
4. Areas of opportunity (access to jobs, high performing schools, quality health care, low crime neighborhoods).

Because grantees are required not only to identify such areas but also develop meaningful assessments of these factors, they will need to explore the roots of both positive and negative features within their communities and develop theories which should help inform plans to address how fair housing principles would be furthered in the region.

Recommendations for Creating an FHEA

Review relevant documents

1. New Hampshire Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI): One of the first places to begin is with a review of New Hampshire's AI, produced by New Hampshire Housing. The state AI is updated every five years and thus far, three have been created and can provide a framework from which to begin.
2. AIs from entitlement communities in grantee's region: New Hampshire has five entitlement communities, each of which is required to produce an AI: Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth, Dover and Rochester.
3. Local zoning, land use and other laws, ordinances and regulations: Of particular importance are those that when viewed through a fair housing lens, have the intended or unintended consequence of negatively impacting members of protected class groups.
4. Other FHEA documents: Some communities have already created FHEAs which can provide examples of the different approaches that have been taken. *See* Chapter 8 on resources.

Other potential sources of fair housing data

5. HUD's Boston Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO): the office can provide data on housing discrimination complaints filed by municipality and discrimination type.
6. New Hampshire Human Rights Commission (HRC): HRC maintains data on housing discrimination complaints filed under state law.
7. New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA): NHLA receives HUD funding to enforce federal fair housing law and maintains data on cases it has handled.
8. New Hampshire Housing: maintains extensive data on state housing matters.

FHEA Activities

In a Program Policy Guidance document on the FHEA, HUD enumerates the following required activities to be undertaken in the FHEA preparation:

Setting an approach to the FHEA: HUD encourages discussion with the HUD Government Technical Representative (GTR) in order to ensure the project is moving in the direction HUD has envisioned.

Data analysis: As discussed above, HUD has created tools for data analysis and encourages grantees to include other relevant data sources. The analysis of the data is crucial to forming the assessment.

FHEA Product: The FHEA may be produced as a “stand-alone” document or incorporated into other documents. The HUD GTR should be consulted for discussion and approval if the FHEA is to be incorporated into another document.

FHEA engagement: The results of the analysis should be discussed with stakeholders and requires engagement with the grantee’s consortium. HUD considers it “critical for regional leadership to understand the implications of the FHEA, particularly as it relates to decision-making on priorities and investment.”

The “Bridge”: This is the link from analysis and assessment to action. The results of the FHEA should be evident in decision-making and priority-setting. HUD recommends that grantees:

- Articulate guiding principles or commitments that “emerge from the FHEA findings and engagement.”
- Emphasize principles/commitments that are “clearly measurable.”⁸¹

FHEA Standard of Review

Because there should be an interactive process with the HUD GTR in designing the approach to creating the FHEA, grantees should have some clarity about the soundness of their approach in creating the documents. Further HUD evaluation of the FHEA may include the following analysis:

1. Did the grantee analyze the HUD provided data completely and seriously? Did the grantee supplement the HUD data with locally or regionally relevant data in order to gain a full appreciation of the context of regional equity and access to opportunity?

2. Does the FHEA product(s) reflect meaningful consideration of the data and its implications for the region?
3. Did the grantee provide proof of serious engagement by the consortium and/or regional stakeholders on the FHEA findings and content?
4. Does the bridge to decision-making, prioritization, and investment provide a clear pathway toward holding the region accountable for its FHEA deliberations? To what extent is it clear that the FHEA activities will be meaningful and consequential for the region?⁸²

Obtaining Stakeholder “Buy-in”

Creating an FHEA and using it to set planning priorities is not an easy undertaking and the results and recommendations may create some controversy. Shifting analysis to detection of “invisible” barriers and revelations that an ordinance may have unintended discriminatory effects on members of a protected class will be challenging and perhaps upsetting to some. Deliberately investing fair housing principles into the planning process merely incorporates the law of the land and our national commitment to equal opportunity and justice for all (as embodied in our state and federal Constitutions and recited in our Pledge of Allegiance). Laws, policies and practices that have had the effect of creating barriers for protected class members limit access to opportunity. The SCI undertaking is aimed at confronting those barriers and broadening housing choice and access.

Fair Housing Law and the First Amendment

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects, among other things, freedom of speech. This right allows members of the public to make and publish statements that others may find repugnant. This means that statements made by members of the public voicing their opinions cannot be held against them or a governmental body as evidence of discrimination against a certain class of people. However, if someone is acting in her or his official capacity, such as a member of a planning board or an elected official, his or her statements may be used as evidence of the municipality’s discriminatory intent. It should be noted that speech accompanied by threats or actual harm is not protected by the First Amendment. See also, HUD’s Guidance Memo “*Substantive and Procedural Limitations on Filing and Investigating Fair Housing Act Complaints That May Implicate the First Amendment.*”⁸³

Chapter 8

Tools and Resources

New Hampshire Housing Website

We have created links to numerous resources through the New Hampshire Housing website at www.nhhfa.org/housing-data-cpg.cfm. The following categories of information can be found at the site:

HUD Materials

Fair Housing Planning Guide

HUD Fair Housing and Equity Assessment Policy Guidance

HUD Fair Housing and Equity Assessment PowerPoint presentation

HUD Disparate Impact Regulation

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: Proposed Rule

New Hampshire Materials

New Hampshire Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing (AI) 2010 Update

Manchester Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

Nashua Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

Portsmouth Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

Workforce Housing Quick Reference Guide

New Hampshire Land Use Tools

State Certification to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing (from Consolidated Plan submission)

Fair Housing and Regional Planning PowerPoint presentation

Legal References

Selected federal and state statutes and cases

FHEA Examples

Examples of FHEAs from several regions

Other Materials

Fair Housing Toolkit – Fair Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania

Poverty & Race Research Action Council’s Report Cards on HUD’s efforts to AFFH

Other Resources

There are many resources available for access to additional information. Resources range from websites such as those operated by HUD, the National Fair Housing Alliance and those of other fair housing organizations. Many local and state governments post documents related to fair housing planning materials. There are scholarly articles and research studies on every aspect of fair housing law. The Poverty & Race Research Action Council not only maintains a website (www.prrac.org) but also sends out email alerts and a quarterly newsletter with information on many topics including housing and planning-related issues.

Robert Schwemm’s *Housing Discrimination: Law and Litigation* multivolume series is an authoritative resource on fair housing law and includes sections on land use laws.

End Notes

- ¹ HUD Statement of Regulatory Priorities for FY 13, http://www.reginfo.gov/public/jsp/eAgenda/StaticContent/201210/Statement_2500.html.
- ² See 42 U.S.C. § 3610(f) and 3616.
- ³ In New Hampshire, the Commission for Human Rights has primary jurisdiction over housing discrimination complaints brought pursuant to RSA 354-A although claims may be removed to state court with the Commission's assent.
- ⁴ *Kennedy v. City of Zanesville*, 505 F. Supp. 2d 456 (S.D. Ohio 2007).
- ⁵ *Dews v. The Town of Sunnyvale, Texas*, 109 F. Supp. 2d 526, 567 (N.D. Tex. 2000).
- ⁶ *Huntington Branch NAACP v. Town of Huntington*, 844 F.2d 926, 928 (2d Cir. 1988), *aff'd*, 488 U.S. 15, 109 S.Ct. 276 (1988), *reh'g denied*, 488 U.S. 1023, 109 S.Ct. 824 (1989) (U.S. Supreme Court upheld Second Circuit decision and although not adopting its disparate impact analysis, found its finding sustainable.).
- ⁷ See, e.g., Hersch, Joni, *Skin Color Discrimination and Immigrant Pay*, 58 Emory L.J. 358 (2009), *Shades of Difference: Why Skin Color Matters* (Evelyn Nakano Glenn ed., 2008).
- ⁸ *Espinoza v. Farah Mfg. Co., Inc.*, 414 U.S. 86, 88 (1973).
- ⁹ Robert G. Schwemm, *Housing Discrimination: Law and Litigation*, 11A-3 (2009).
- ¹⁰ *Hispanics United of DuPage County v. Village of Addison, Ill.*, 958 F. Supp. 1320 (N.D. Ill.1997).
- ¹¹ *Litton Intern. Development Corp. v. City of Simi Valley*, 616 F. Supp. 275 (C.D. Cal. 1985).
- ¹² *The Lighthouse Institute for Evangelism, Inc. v. City of Long Branch*, 510 F.3d 253 (3d Cir. 2007).
- ¹³ *Tenafly Eruv Ass'n, Inc. v. Borough of Tenafly*, 309 F.3d 144 (3d Cir. 2002).
- ¹⁴ *Yeshiva Chofetz Chaim Radin, Inc. v. Village of New Hempstead by its Bd. Of Trustees of Village of New Hempstead*, 98 F. Supp. 2d 347 (S.D.N.Y. 2000).
- ¹⁵ *LeBlanc-Sternberg v. Fletcher*, 67 F.3d 412 (2d Cir. 1995).
- ¹⁶ *Sisemore v. Master Financial, Inc.*, 151 Cal. App. 4th 1386 (6th Dist. 2007).
- ¹⁷ *Doe v. City of Butler, Pa.*, 892 F.2d 315 (3d Cir. 1989).
- ¹⁸ *Gibson v. County of Riverside*, 181 F. Supp. 2d 1057 (C.D. Cal. 2002).
- ¹⁹ *Fair Housing Ass'n v. City of Richmond Heights*, 998 F. Supp. 825 (N.D. Ohio 1998).
- ²⁰ *Children's Alliance v. City of Bellevue*, 950 F. Supp. 1491 (W.D. Wash. 1997).
- ²¹ Schwemm, *supra* at endnote ix, 11D:5, 11D-27 (2009).
- ²² 42 U.S.C.A. § 3602(h).
- ²³ *ASMR v. Town of Gilsum*, Cheshire County Superior Court (complaints filed 2008 and 2011).
- ²⁴ *Lakeside Enterprises, LP v. Bd. of Sup'rs of Palmyra Tp.*, 455 F.3d 154 (3d Cir. 2006).
- ²⁵ *Tsombanidis v. West Haven Fire Dept.*, 352 F.3d 565 (2d Cir. 2003).
- ²⁶ *Trovato v. City of Manchester, N.H.*, 992 F. Supp. 493 (D.N.H. 1997).
- ²⁷ See RSA 674:33, V.
- ²⁸ *City of Cleburne v. Cleburne Living Center*, 473 U.S. 432 (1985).
- ²⁹ 24 C.F.R. § 5.105(a)(2) Equal access to HUD-assisted or insured housing. (i) Eligibility for HUD-assisted or insured housing. A determination of eligibility for housing that is assisted by HUD or subject to a mortgage insured by the Federal Housing Administration shall be made in accordance with the eligibility requirements provided for such program by HUD, and such housing shall be made available without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.
- ³⁰ 42 U.S.C. § 3607 (b).
- ³¹ 42 U.S.C §.3607(b): RSA 354-A:15.
- ³² Examples include creation of elderly housing districts and imposition of age restrictions that exceed those permitted by state and federal law. None of the municipalities surveyed appeared to require a developer to

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provide “significant facilities and services specifically designed to meet the physical or social needs of older persons” as required under RSA 354-A:15, IV(a).

³³*Gibson, supra*, Endnote 18.

³⁴*Loving v. City of Black Jack*, No. 06CC-003157 (Mo. Cir. Ct. 2006).

³⁵RSA 354-A.

³⁶RSA 354-A:10, VI.

³⁷*ASMR, supra*, Endnote 23.

³⁸78 Fed. Reg. at 11482

³⁹*HUD’s New Discriminatory Effects Regulation Adding Strength and Clarity to Efforts to End Residential Segregation*, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law (2013) at 2.

⁴⁰*Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard*, 78 Fed. Reg. 11460 *et seq.* (Feb. 15, 2013).

⁴¹*Id.* at 11479-80.

⁴²*Id.* at 11480. The Federal Register comments are extensive as to the meaning of “legally sufficient justification.”

⁴³*HUD’s New Discriminatory Effects Regulation Adding Strength and Clarity to Efforts to End Residential Segregation* at 6.

⁴⁴*Implementation of the Fair Housing Act’s Discriminatory Effects Standard*, at 11480.

⁴⁵*Id.* at 11479.

⁴⁶*Gallagher v. Magner*, 619 F.3d 823 (8th Cir. 2010).

⁴⁷*Magner v. Gallagher*, 132 S.Ct. 1306 (2012)

⁴⁸11-507 U.S. Sup. Ct. 6/17/13.

⁴⁹11-507 U.S. Sup. Ct. 11/15/13.

⁵⁰78 Fed. Reg. 43710 *et seq.* (July 19, 2013)

⁵¹42 U.S.C. § 3608(e)(5)

⁵²Executive Order 12892, *Leadership and Coordination of Fair Housing in Federal Programs: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing* (January 17, 1994).

⁵³*Id.*

⁵⁴*HUD Management Plan*.

⁵⁵*Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing: Proposed Rule*, 78 Fed. Reg. 43710 *et seq.* (July 19, 2013).

⁵⁶*Id.* at 43710.

⁵⁷*Id.* at 43729.

⁵⁸New Hampshire’s entitlement communities are Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Dover.

⁵⁹392 U.S. 409, 440 (1968)

⁶⁰See *Cleburne, supra* p. 446 and *Community Resources for Justice v. City of Manchester*, 157 N.H. 152, 155 (2008) (“*CRJ II*”).

⁶¹42 U.S.C. §§ 1981, 1982

⁶²42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*

⁶³42 U.S.C. §794

⁶⁴42 U.S.C. §12117

⁶⁵31 U.S.C. §3729 *et seq.*

⁶⁶409 U.S. 206 (1972)

⁶⁷488 U.S. 15 (1988)

⁶⁸*Id.* at 18.

⁶⁹668 F. Supp.2d 548 (S.D.N.Y. 2009)

⁷⁰92 N.J. 158 (1983)

⁷¹134 N.H. 434 (1991)

⁷²*Strafford County Superior Court*, Docket No. 04-E-110 (2005)

⁷³154 N.H. 152 (2008)

⁷⁴992 F.Supp. 493 (D.N.H. 1997)

⁷⁵See RSA 674:33, V.

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⁷⁶ Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for HUD’s Fiscal year 2010 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (June 23, 2010) at 1.

⁷⁷“Social equity values” is defined as: fair and equal access to livelihood, education, and resources; full participation in the political and cultural life of the community; and self-determination in meeting fundamental needs. *Id.* at 13.

⁷⁸*Id.* at 7-8.

⁷⁹ RSA 36:47, II.

⁸⁰ Fair Housing Planning Guide, Vol. 1, ch. 2-5 (March 1996).

⁸¹ HUD Program Policy Guidance OSCH-2012-03, *Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA)*, (Feb. 17, 2012).

⁸²*Id.*

⁸³ Achtenberg Memo, HUD Notice FHEO 96-2 (April 2, 1996).

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 24, 2023
TO: KAREN CONARD, CITY MANAGER
FROM: STEFANY SHAHEEN, PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION CHAIR
MARK D. NEWPORT, CHIEF OF POLICE
RE: GRANT

On behalf of Chair Stefany Shaheen~

At the January 17th, 2023 Police Commission meeting, the Board of Police Commissioners approved and accepted the following grant:

- a. A grant in the amount of \$11,883 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership. This helps to fund 50% of the cost associated with outfitting new officers and replacing old vests for current officers.**

We submit the information to you pursuant to City Policy Memorandum #94-36, and respectfully request for this item to be added to the agenda for the City Council's consideration and approval at their March 6th, 2023 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacqueline D. Burnett
Office of the Chief

copies: Business Asst. Patti Smallwood
Business Ops. Mgr. Karen Senecal

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: MARCH 2, 2023

TO: KAREN S. CONARD, CITY MANAGER

FROM: SUZANNE M. WOODLAND, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

RE: PETITION FOR RESIDUAL DESIGNATION AUTHORITY

On February 15, 2023, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a formal petition requesting that the agency exercise its authority under the Clean Water Act to further regulate stormwater pollution, specifically nitrogen, beyond its current programs. CLF's petition requests that the EPA use what is known as its residual designation authority (RDA) to regulate stormwater runoff from commercial, industrial, and institutional properties throughout the Great Bay Watershed that are not currently subject to federal permitting.

Portsmouth is one of 42 New Hampshire communities in the Great Bay Watershed that are potentially impacted (in whole or in part) by this petition. Those communities extend as far north as Brookfield and Wakefield, west to Candia and Deerfield, and include most of Rockingham and Strafford Counties including the cities of Rochester and Dover.

The EPA has 90 days from the date of filing to preliminarily respond to the petition. Once the EPA responds there is a formal opportunity for public comment. CLF filed similar petitions with EPA Region 1 in 2019 and 2020 relative to the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers in Massachusetts. The impact of that additional regulation is still unfolding. RDA is an extraordinary remedy from staff's perspective and by-and-large not used outside EPA Region 1 which governs the New England region.

If the EPA exercises its residual designation authority, it will result in both existing and new commercial, industrial, and institutional properties having to engage in an additional level of permitting, reporting and compliance at the federal level. Existing commercial, industrial, and institutional properties may have to make additional investments in stormwater infrastructure to comply. In Portsmouth, new/redeveloped properties are already subject to reasonably strict stormwater control requirements.

The City has been on a steady path toward improving water quality not only in response to regulatory and consent decree requirements, but also through its own initiatives like creating a dedicated stormwater fund with dedicated staff and reaching out to the public through initiatives tied to the City's "Think Blue" outreach program. These efforts have proven results through reduced combined sewer overflows, reduced flooding impacts from storm events, increased public awareness campaigns around pet waste and leaf litter, and greatly reduced nitrogen discharge from our upgraded Peirce Island Wastewater Treatment Facility. The City is a very

active member of the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management (currently consisting of Dover, Exeter, Milton, Newington, Rollinsford, and Rochester) dedicated to nitrogen reduction under the Great Bay Total Nitrogen Permit, a permit issued by EPA in 2021.

City staff is evaluating the potential impacts of this CLF filing and potential EPA action. Among the questions to be resolved is how this additional level of permitting would interplay with local stormwater and permitting regulations? What impact might this have on economic growth or the type of growth? What impact would this have on affected institutional properties such as churches and non-profits? How would this impact the City's current intention to bring forward a stormwater utility? How would RDA complement or take away from the efforts of the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management? What does this mean for the ongoing scientific effort to study the stressors on the Great Bay Estuary?

Staff will provide additional updates as the evaluation of this action unfolds.

cc: Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works
Peter Britz, Planning and Sustainability Director