



Town of Hanover
Massachusetts
**PARKS & RECREATION
MASTER PLAN**

2007/2008

Hanover Parks & Recreation
the benefits are endless...



Aerial Images of Study Properties



Weston & Sampson
When it's essential... it's Weston & Sampson.

Town of Hanover Parks & Recreation Master Plan

2007/2008

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Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the many dedicated individuals from both the Parks and Recreation Committee and Master Plan Subcommittee for their participation in every aspect of this master planning process. Their ability to understand Hanover's most critical recreational needs, to design solutions that address those needs and to develop realistic strategies for implementing the actual improvements, will yield positive benefits to all seeking enjoyment as key aspects of the Master Plan are accomplished over the course of the next few years.

Thanks also to Ted Carroll, Parks and Recreation Administrator; and to Andrew Port, Town Planner; for their assistance in developing and launching the Park and Recreation User Survey and for compiling much of the plan information and related property data that was used to develop this document. Thanks to many other members of the Hanover community, who filled out the park user surveys in order to indicate their likes, dislikes and desires in regard to the past, present and future use of the various park properties. Thanks also to those community members who came out for the open forums to express their concerns in person and to the many representatives of other Town departments and entities who provided advice and insight. The recommendations contained in the Hanover Parks & Recreation Master Plan represent our best professional judgment and expertise tempered by the unique perspectives of each of the participants in the process.

Eugene R. Bolinger, RLA
Vice President

Michael S. Moonan, RLA
Project Manager

October 2007

Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee

Michael Tivnan, Chairperson
Arthur Ceurvels, Jr.
Linda DiNardo
Amy Perkins
Julianne McLaughlin
Catherine Harder-Bernier

Christopher Sullivan – HYAA Liaison

Hanover Parks & Recreation Master Plan Subcommittee

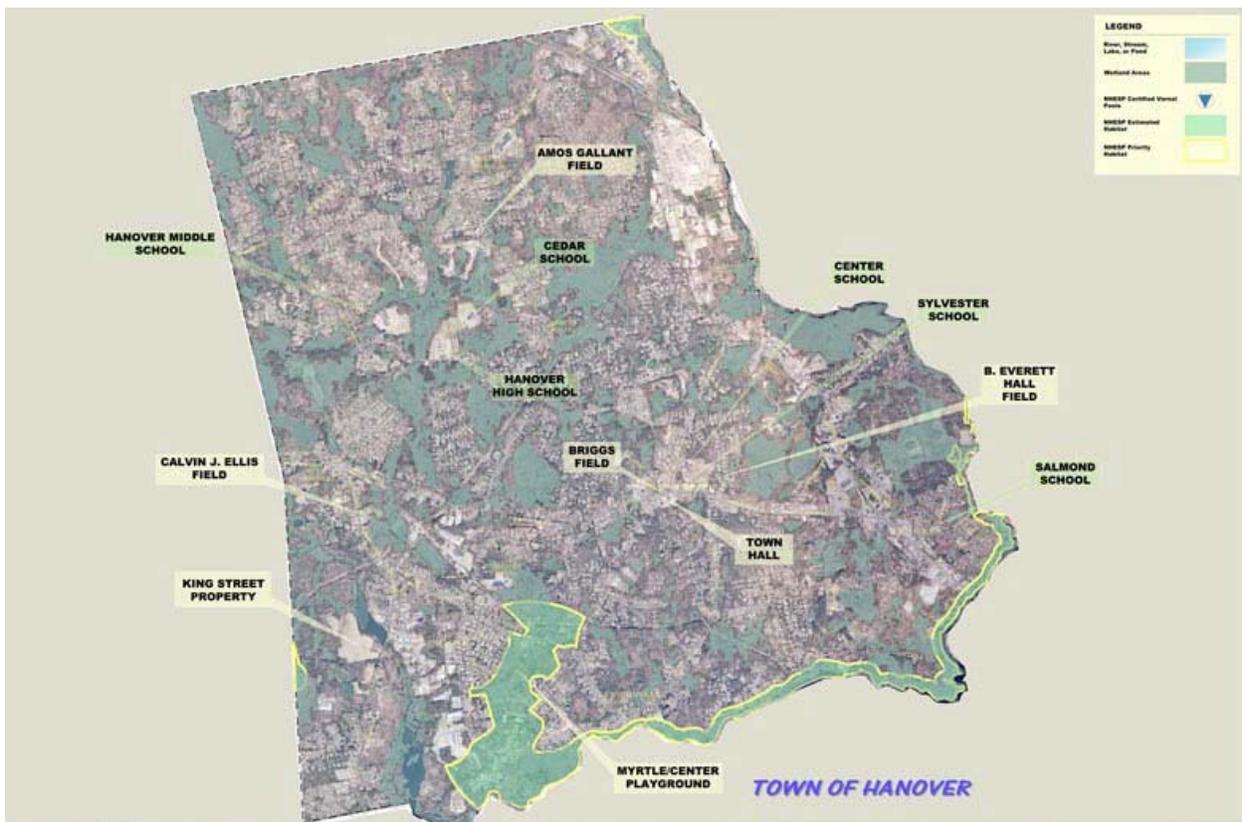
Janet Devine
Joseph Devine
Mark MacNeill
Maira Mcauley



Introduction

The Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee retained Weston & Sampson during the spring of 2007 to complete this comprehensive park and recreation master plan. The work has been financed through the Tedeschi Trust, a fund administered by the Parks and Recreation Committee, and an award from the Hanover Community Preservation Committee. The purpose of the master plan was to assess current Parks and Recreation Committee properties and other Town properties that provide recreational resources to residents of the community.

It is important to note that recreation needs relate not just to court and field facilities and the corresponding sports/athletic programs that make use of them, but also to more passive or informal recreational pursuits that might include such activities as walking, sitting on a park bench, reading, flying a kite or interpreting the unique cultural, historical or environmental assets of a particular property. In addition, recreation is multi-generational and the final master plan will identify strategies for improving opportunities for those of all ages.



The image above identifies an aerial view of the Town of Hanover. The locations of the six parks and recreation properties and other school properties are indicated. Note that many of the facilities are clustered toward the central section of Town, with few facilities located toward the southeastern or northern parts. The green highlighting depicts School Department properties.

This master plan will serve as a guide for the future development of park and recreation properties, as well as a tool to secure funding from various private, Municipal, State and Federal sources.

The specific scope of work undertaken by Weston & Sampson included:

- Compilation of base maps and plans suitable for the development of all conceptual design plans for each of the properties being considered
- Record and report on all existing conditions at each property
- Identify safety issues and site limitations, constraints and opportunities for each property
- Formulate a town-wide parks and recreation user survey to be made available on-line and on paper
- Compile survey results and identify the most critical recreational needs
- Engage the community in a public dialogue to further establish and confirm needs, preferences and priorities in relation to the future renovation and restoration of each property
- Develop concept plans for each property prepared specifically in response to community needs and preferences, and ultimately to be endorsed by both community participants and the Parks and Recreation Committee in the form of a “preferred” plan for each property
- Establish budgets and phasing, funding and implementation strategies for all desired property enhancements
- Develop and reproduce the final, finished preferred master plan

During the past several months, representatives of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee and Weston & Sampson have developed conceptual and final “preferred” master plans for the properties that fall under their jurisdiction (see list of properties on the following page). The master plans were generated in response to the needs of the Town as expressed by various community representatives at a series of public hearings and through the issuance of a comprehensive Park User Survey. At the outset of the process and in conjunction with the master planning work, Weston & Sampson representatives frequently toured the properties in order to assess the existing conditions of all active and passive recreational facilities, current limitations, safety and maintenance issues and identify potential opportunities for providing improved facilities and improved user experience. Existing conditions assessments are included in the form of a series of photographs, plans and narrative descriptions contained later in this document.

The major points of the concept master plans for each property were presented in a preliminary manner to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee and to the general public at a series of open meetings held during the late spring of 2007. Final presentations in for confirmation and acceptance of a “preferred” plan for each property were held during August and September 2007 for the Parks and Recreation Committee to vote for preferred plan approval. Information will also be presented to the Board of Selectmen, in anticipation of formal acceptance and approval.



It was clear that the desire of nearly all Parks and Recreation Committee members and others in the community is to enhance each property, for both active and passive recreational opportunities and to provide new facilities that meet the continuing needs of a growing town and of various recreational programs and community leagues. This written report represents the culmination of the master planning process.

This report contains narrative and graphic depictions of the preferred master plans with descriptions of potential improvements, potential phasing scenarios and implementation strategies. In addition to identifying new and refurbished facilities that meet the needs of various programs and activities, there was an attempt to identify other important initiatives that promote environmental stewardship and that create new pedestrian linkages to other open space resources, improved parking, address site access and circulation, and improved landscape qualities that establish the characteristics inherent to first-class park and recreation facility properties. Implementation of the improvements outlined in this master plan will require significant effort. The Funding Opportunities section of the report identifies potential granting agencies, non-profit entities and other sources of capital dollars or in-kind services that might help with refurbishment of one or more of the properties.

It is important to note that a “master plan” is typically general and that the recommendations are not “cast in stone”. It is fully intended that, as particular projects are implemented, the actual scope of improvements contained in this report will again be validated or refined to meet actual field conditions through a continuing public participation process.

Background

The master plan focuses primarily on six properties that fall under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The properties are located geographically toward the center of Hanover, with Briggs Field, B. Everett Hall and Myrtle/Center Playground being particularly close to the traditional town center (near Town Hall, the library, historic churches). The properties vary greatly in size, configuration and recreation offerings. For instance, Gallant and Briggs are small properties that host a single open field area. B. Everett Hall is the Town’s most long-standing park and open space property, with extensive active recreational facilities, a community bandstand and opportunities for passive use and enjoyment. B. Everett Hall also hosts major town-wide events annually. Ellis and Myrtle/Center are community-wide recreation complexes that offer multiple sports fields, extensive undeveloped and environmentally sensitive lands, great opportunities for enhanced passive recreation, and potential linkages to other important open space properties. King Street, a former cornfield, has been recently acquired, with unlimited opportunities for passive and active recreational enhancements.



The new King Street Property

The list of properties and summary of basic assets is included below.

List of Parks and Recreation Committee Properties

Property	Address	Acres	Description of Facilities
Briggs Field <i>Map 46 - Lot 014</i> Owned by: Selectmen Responsible party: Selectmen and Parks & Recreation*	Hanover / Center Streets	1.17	Small-scale facility located within the historic district near town center with a single field for T-ball and softball use.
B. Everett Hall Field <i>(Sylvester Field)</i> <i>Map 47 - Lot 015</i> Owned by: Selectmen Responsible party: Selectmen and Parks & Recreation*	495 Hanover Street	20.33	Town's premier recreation facility, located within the historic district near town center, with extensive fields, courts (tennis, basketball and street hockey), children's playground, beach volleyball, bandstand and other related amenities.
Calvin J. Ellis Field <i>Map 51 - Lot 004</i> Owned by and Responsible party: Parks & Recreation	750 Circuit Street (Approx.)	12.50	Major baseball field complex with facilities for most levels of competition.
Myrtle / Center Playground <i>Map 69 - Lot 014</i> Owned by and Responsible party: Parks & Recreation	215 Myrtle Street (Approx.)	75.00	The Town's largest park facility in total area with basketball courts, a large and open multi-use field complex used for baseball, softball and soccer. Trails meander through large undeveloped woodland and wetland sections of the property.
Amos Gallant Field <i>Map 21 - Lot 007</i> Owned by: Selectmen Responsible party: Selectmen and Parks & Recreation*	848 Main Street	2.74	Small-scale facility used for baseball and softball. Located behind the unused Curtis School on Main Street.
King Street Property <i>Map 67 - Lot 001</i> Owned by and Responsible party: Open Space and Parks & Recreation	245 King Street (Approx.)	74.47	Recent acquisition, open fields that have been historically farmed. Recreation uses to be determined. This property falls under the jurisdiction of both the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Open Space Committee. The portion of the site under P&R Committee jurisdiction corresponds generally to the area that has been historically farmed near King Street (approximately 40 acres).

* Joint Care & Custody with Board of Selectmen. Board of Selectmen have shared (or overriding) control over the corresponding parcels shown on the table.

In order to fully understand the recreational needs of the community, it was important to identify other major properties that provide important public outlets for passive and active recreation. School properties clearly provide multiple active recreational facilities that help support their own sports programming, but also support other town sports programs. While not specifically under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee, several of the properties are in close proximity to park properties (Sylvester and Center Schools are located immediately adjacent to B. Everett Hall) and the School Department and Recreation Committee work closely

to program the sites in a way that helps support both school and town programming (through Parks and Recreation or Hanover Youth Athletic Association) needs. The school properties are identified below.

List of School Department Properties

Property	Address	Acres	Description of Facilities (*)
<i>Sylvester School</i>	495 Hanover Street	20.33	Fields used for softball, soccer and playground
<i>Center School</i>	65 Silver Street	12.91	Baseball field, multi-purpose field and playground
<i>Salmond School</i>	188 Broadway	6.66	Softball field and playground
<i>Hanover High School</i>	287 Cedar Street	23.41	Track, football, baseball, multi-purpose field and tennis courts
<i>Hanover Middle School</i>	45 Whiting Street	29.62	Multi-purpose field, playground
<i>Cedar School</i>	265 Cedar Street	48.80	Multi-purpose field, playground
		23.90	

(*) Schools also provide indoor facilities to support recreation programming activities offered during summer months and other seasons of the year.



The image above identifies a “birds-eye” view of Sylvester School (left) and Center School (right). In the foreground is Parks and Recreation’s B. Everett Hall site.



The image above identifies an aerial view of Hanover Middle School located on Whiting Street and Hanover High School located on Cedar Street; all recreational facilities shown in the image are under the custody and control of the School Department.

Basic Goals and Objectives

The basic goals of the master planning process in relation to the properties referenced above include the following:

- Engage community representatives in an organized and thought provoking dialogue in order to develop a series of concepts for the appropriate enhancement and future development of all designated properties.
- Analyze current recreation programming offerings and participation, identify shortages and limitations, and develop a strategy for providing new and refurbished facilities in order to specifically meet the burgeoning needs of various user groups, leagues and activities.
- Provide universal, barrier-free access to all important facilities and features located within a given property. Improvements will provide new opportunities for all park patrons, especially for the disabled and elderly within the community.
- Propose new amenities and facilities that are well-designed and that are durable, long lasting, easily maintained with limited resources, and economically feasible and that may be undertaken by using a combination of capital improvement funds and in-kind/volunteer services and donations.
- Develop plans that provide upgraded ancillary facilities such as drives, parking areas, pedestrian connections to facilities within the property and appropriate linkages to adjacent public/private non-profit open space properties. Eliminate vehicular/pedestrian conflicts and improve safety for all park users.
- In an era when our natural resources are becoming increasingly stretched and stressed, provide opportunities for implementing low impact development techniques, preservation and restoration of unique or important environmental features and enhanced stormwater management techniques that deliver rainfall runoff back to the earth beneath the various sites.

Public Participation and the Community Process

The master planning process included a comprehensive community participation process, with primary meetings identified in the chart located below. (Refer to Appendix for all meeting Agendas)

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Project kick-off meeting, outline scope of work, review project schedule requirements	02/13/07
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Further outline of project schedule, review initial requirements for recreation user survey, discuss project site visits	03/06/07
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Review of final draft recreation user survey, review of project schedule, review of Senior Center project, review of existing conditions at parks and recreation sites	03/20/07
<i>Hanover Youth Athletic Assoc.</i>	Review of HYAA programs and facility needs	03/27/07
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Continued reviews of existing conditions, safety issues, limitations and constraints at various parks and recreation sites	04/03/07
<i>Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee</i>	Review of Parks and Recreation Master Plan goals and objectives, confirmation of requirements for collaboration with Open Space Plan Development	04/04/07
<i>School Committee</i>	Review of Parks and Recreation Master Plan goals and objectives, review of School Department programs and facility needs, review of sports relocation plans (if High School is refurbished)	04/25/07
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Review of preliminary concept plans for King Street, B. Everett Hall, Ellis Field and Myrtle	05/01/07
Hanover Annual Town Meeting	Informational meeting to update town residents on the master planning process, initial work completed to date and initial findings	05/08/07
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Final review of existing conditions, concept plans, preliminary field matrix, and outline of DRAFT master plan document	06/05/2007

<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Survey analysis, concept plans, preliminary field matrix, and outline of DRAFT master plan document	07/24/2007
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Review and accept preferred concept plans, submit DRAFT master plan, preparation for fall town meeting	09/11/2007
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Review DRAFT master plan report, cost considerations and phasing plans, discuss Hanover planning day	10/23/2007
<i>Hanover Community</i>	Hanover Planning Day-present and discuss master plan process with attendees	11/08/2007
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Discuss December meeting w/ Open Space, deliver copy of draft master plan for submission with Draft OSRP, discuss King Street phase 1 final design & construction	01/31/2008
<i>Parks and Recreation Committee</i>	Submit Final DRAFT master plan, discuss King Street Phase 1 testing and exploration, discuss annual Town Meeting	04/08/2008

These meetings were held at the Town Hall, Salmond School, and Hanover High School and were attended by members of the community including park abutters and neighborhood residents, youth recreation league representatives, Selectmen, and Parks Committee Members. A series of presentation boards were displayed and discussed based on the specific subject of the particular meeting, as outlined above. Once the presentation concluded, comments were welcomed. At each meeting the feedback was positive and the community concluded the process with clear preferences for a plan that best met both passive and active recreational needs.

Hanover Parks and Recreation History

Upon his death in 1926, B. Everett Hall gave to the Town a bequest of his property “for the purpose of establishing and maintaining playgrounds for the children and public parks. Also for providing a game preserve in order that we may bring the birds back as of yore”. On March 24, 1930, Town Meeting voted to appoint a committee of three to develop a playground. The original committee consisted of Edmund Q. Sylvester, Stanley A. Briggs, and William A. Flynn.

Town Meeting in 1946 voted to raise and appropriate money for repairs to B. Everett Hall playground to be spent under the direction of the Playground Committee, said Committee to be appointed by the Moderator with the approval of the Selectmen. The first official Playground Committee consisted of Alfred G. Lovell, George L. Legg, and William Lloyd. This committee worked hard to keep B. Everett Hall field in playing condition, juggling the very popular baseball and football programs.

In 1951, the Town accepted the deed of 12 ½ acres on Circuit Street from Calvin and Mildred Ellis as a playground in memory of their son, Calvin Ellis, Jr., who was killed in action in Germany in 1945. Calvin Ellis served on the playground committee in 1951 but passed away that same year before the field was completed. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1953, the Calvin J. Ellis Jr. Playground and Park was dedicated and the deed was turned over to the Playground Committee Chairman Alfred Lovell. Chairman Lovell announced, “it was the burning desire of Calvin J. Ellis, father of this hero, to build this beautiful playground in the memory of his son and to present it to the youth of today and tomorrow so that they might enjoy the freedom his son loved so much.

In 1961, the Town purchased the tract of land containing 60 acres or so on Myrtle and Center Streets for the purpose of a public playground under the direction of the Playground Committee. In 1995 the Parks and Recreation Committee commenced the process of developing an extensive field construction project consisting of a full size baseball diamond, a little league baseball/softball diamond, multi-purpose field and basketball courts at the Myrtle/Center Playground. The permitting and construction took place in 1996 and 1997.

Town Meeting in 1967 voted to enlarge the Playground Committee from 3 members to 6 and charged them with the duties and obligations as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws as amended, Chapter 45, Section 14. Town Meeting in 1971 voted to change the name of the Playground Committee to the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee.



Parks and Recreation User Survey

A Park User Survey was sent out in the mail to all town residents. The survey was also available on the Parks and Recreation Committee's website. A total of 158 people responded and provided input on a variety of subjects that relate to overall park experience and perceptions of need.

The following is an overview of the people that responded and how they currently use the park:

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT USER SURVEY

Related to the master planning effort is the development of a Community-wide Recreation Needs Assessment. To this end, the Parks & Recreation Committee has developed the following Park and Recreation User Survey. We hope you will participate in this survey so that the most important recreational needs of the community can be addressed through the development of new active and passive park facilities and amenities as funding becomes available. It is important to note that recreation needs relate not just to courts and fields and other active recreational facilities, but also to more passive or informal pursuits that might include such activities as walking, reading, flying a kite or interpreting the unique cultural, historical, or environmental assets of a particular property. **Your feedback will help us to plan the future of Hanover's valuable and diverse park properties. Please return your survey by April 20, 2007 to Ted Carroll (see other side).**

A. Personal Information

- Name (Optional): _____
- On which street do you live? _____
- How long have you lived at this location? _____
- How long have you lived in Hanover? _____
- Are there people under age 18 in your household? _____
If yes, please indicate the age brackets:
 0 - 4 5 - 9 10 - 14 15 - 18
- How many people over age 65 live in your household? _____
- How important is recreation to you and your family?
 Very Important Important Somewhat Important Not Important

B. Park and Recreation Usage

- Using the chart below, please:
 - Check the names of the park and recreation sites that you visit
 - Indicate the frequency in which you visit the particular property
 - Rate each facility in regard to overall user experience

Property & Address	2+ times/week	1-2 times/week	1-2 times/month	1-2 times/year	Every year	Never	Fair	Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Briggs Field Hanover Center Streets								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sylvester Field 495 Hanover Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Calvin J. Ellis Field 750 Circuit Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Myrtle Center Playgrnd. 215 Myrtle Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Amos Gallant Field 848 Main Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Cervelli / King Street 245 King Street								

- Check the names of school department recreation sites that you visit and indicate the frequency in which you visit the particular property:

School & Address	2+ times/week	1-2 times/week	1-2 times/month	1-2 times/year	Every year	Never	Fair	Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Sylvester School 495 Hanover Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Center School 65 Cedar Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Salmond School 188 Broadway								
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanover High School 287 Cedar Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanover Middle School 45 Whiting Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar School 265 Cedar Street								

- List facilities used and/or activities pursued (check ALL that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball	<input type="checkbox"/> Football
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis	<input type="checkbox"/> Playground/Swings
<input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball	<input type="checkbox"/> Passive Recreation (reading, relaxing)
<input type="checkbox"/> Street Hockey	<input type="checkbox"/> Picnics
<input type="checkbox"/> Baseball	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking/jogging
<input type="checkbox"/> Softball	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Soccer	<input type="checkbox"/> Biking
<input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Uses	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Bandstand (at Sylvester)	
- Describe/comment on the adequacy of facilities:
Briggs Field: _____
B. Everett Hall Field: _____
Ellis Field: _____
Myrtle/Center Playground: _____
Amos Gallant Field: _____
(Note: conditions, facility design, facility availability, specific limitations or problems).
- Is parking adequate at the facility that you frequent (safe, convenient, sufficient quantity)? _____
(Note park/facility name)
- Is your neighborhood well served by current park and recreation programming and related facilities? Yes No
- Are facilities for seniors adequate? Yes No
If no, how could opportunities for seniors be improved? _____

An excerpt from the Parks and Recreation User Survey appears above

User Survey Summary

- 65.6 % have children under the age of 9 living at home
- 81% have children under the age of 18 living at home
- 12% had people over the age of 65 living in the home
- 70.3% indicated that recreation is **very important** to their families
- 56% indicated that conditions were fair or poor at Myrtle
- 1/3 of respondents indicated that conditions are typically fair or poor at B. Everett Hall and Ellis
- 50% indicated that they use B. Everett Hall either 1-2 times per week or 2-4 times per week.
- Top three uses/facilities include children's playground, walking or jogging, basketball and baseball (tied)
- Top three facilities desired include woodland/nature trails, walking and jogging, biking and picnic amenities

Existing Conditions

In order to present and describe the existing conditions of each site, at the initiation of the project, representatives of Weston & Sampson gathered available mapping and reports to support the master planning efforts. A variety of mapping sources were compiled for use in establishing a suitable base plan including the following:

- Aerial photography (numerous dates)
- Topographic and property line mapping related to certain sites
- Massachusetts (Mass) GIS mapping
- Town of Hanover GIS mapping



For the most part, the Hanover GIS topographic mapping and corresponding aerial photography proved most useful and appropriate for the development of existing conditions and proposed improvement plans. The mapping and photography were considered adequate for the purposes of this master planning effort. It should be noted however, that new and more precise topographic and detail mapping will ultimately be required in order to develop final design and construction bid documents for the implementation of actual improvements at any of the properties. In certain cases, additional property line information should also be compiled in order to ensure that all improvements are undertaken safely within the confines of town-owned properties.

Weston & Sampson staff members undertook extensive field reconnaissance work and met on site with representatives of the Parks and Recreation Committee in order to observe how properties are used, to better understand the physical characteristics of the land and to document the existing conditions of the natural and man-made features of each property. For each of the designated sites, we assessed the type of facilities and amenities provided, their conditions, relevant dimensions and orientation, type and condition of surfaces and/or pavement. W&S also examined issues related to access and circulation, topography, drainage, utility infrastructure, lighting and irrigation and outlined other environmental resources and conditions. Following is an outline of the approach used to evaluate existing conditions at each site and a general summary of our findings.



General Summary – All Properties

Facilities and Amenities Provided

Under this heading, we describe the types of facilities and amenities at each site, their conditions and orientations, the surface conditions (turf, skinned infield, etc....) and their various programmed uses. The facilities and related amenities provide both active and passive recreational opportunities. At fields, orientation is analyzed for safety concerns and potential improvement. For example, baseball and softball fields are preferably situated with an imaginary line through home plate, the pitcher's mound and second base running generally in a northeasterly direction. Play fields (soccer, football, lacrosse etc.) are recommended to be oriented with the long axis in a north-south direction. Both of these orientations are due to sun angles and are recommended for safety and optimal play.

The uses at the sites vary. The overall inventory includes a community bandstand, facilities for baseball, softball, lacrosse, football, soccer, field hockey, street hockey, basketball, tennis and volleyball, children's playgrounds, and meandering walking and nature trails. Many different age groups make use of the facilities. The orientation of the fields and courts vary from site to site. In many cases, fields are situated within the recommended guidelines, although some are not. The condition of the finished surfaces (turf, skinned infield areas) also varies from site to site. The facilities currently in use generally had surfaces in fair to excellent condition. Fields and surfaces that are in disrepair are generally not in use or are programmed for less intensive, less formal and less frequent use.

As with the surface conditions, the condition of ancillary facilities (fencing, seating, player's benches, drinking fountains, lighting etc.,) and other recreational amenities varied from site to site. The condition of all of these elements has been analyzed and summarized.

Access and Circulation



This section addresses both vehicular and pedestrian access to, from and within the site. In general, most people drive to the individual properties, while far fewer arrive by walking. This is important for the safe use of a facility. Unsafe or non-compliant circulation can lead to negative impressions of a facility and cause decision makers to limit or propose to cease the use of a particular facility or activity.

Access, parking and pedestrian circulation within the sites can be improved. Parking areas at most of the sites are informal and chaotic with no striping or defined travel lanes. Improvements would allow for safer vehicular and pedestrian circulation. There are no formal pedestrian pathways located within the confines of the parks to access the individual facilities. Pedestrian

circulation, in general, does not conform to standards of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and pedestrian and vehicular circulation conflict often. Weston & Sampson staff members have identified the problem areas and have also identified potential recommendations for improving these conditions (later in the master plan).

Topography

Analyzing the topography of a site is key to the master planning process. While a particular site may appear to “fit” a particular facility or field, the topographic features of the site may limit the viability of creating the desired amenity. The topography (terrain) varies significantly from one property to the next and even within the confines of a single property. Significant changes in elevation within a given property can create obstacles to development. For instance, if a field is desired on a property that contains steep slopes, a great deal of grading would be required in order to create the level areas that are suitable for field development. In this case, costs might be prohibitive. In a similar way, land that is excessively flat may require fill materials and grading in order to create suitable pitch and positive flow of drainage away from field areas.

Drainage, Utilities and Irrigation



Proper drainage allows for fields to be “playable” shortly after a rainfall. Proper drainage also reduces the amount of turf related problems associated with soil and root compaction and the development of turf fungi and other turf diseases. Utility connections are essential to recreation facility development both for comfort of the participants and maintenance. A few of the sites possess areas that are poorly draining due either to their proximity to wetlands or due to the fact that the fields are too flat, with not enough positive pitch to allow water to properly drain away from the facility.

The Town of Hanover operates on well water and has no sewer system, therefore all the sites would require a well for irrigation if desired, and septic systems for any proposed restroom facilities.

Environmental Conditions



Nearly all of the sites are previously developed recreational facilities and the surrounding environmental conditions and physical features include wetlands, streams, woodlands and residential lots. Most of the sites allow for reconfiguration and/or improvements within the existing developed areas. There are few environmental constraints to recreational development of these particular sites.

The narratives that follow describe the existing conditions for each individual parks and recreation property, as observed and recorded during our site visits and as described to Weston & Sampson by other town representatives.

Briggs Field



The images above show views of Briggs Field, located at the intersections of Hanover Street, Center Street and Main Street. Town Hall is across Hanover Street to the South.

Briggs Field is a 1.17-acre site within the historic district near town center and is located directly across the street from Town Hall and next to the First Congregational Church on Hanover Street. The Selectmen and Parks and Recreation currently own the site. It contains the beloved one hundred year old ball field mainly used today for T-ball. The field is located at the busy intersection between Main Street, Hanover Street, and Center Street, with the Briggs horse farm to the west.



This panoramic image depicts Briggs field from Town Hall parking lot during a summer evening T-ball game, the First Congregational Church is to the right.

Facilities and Amenities Provided

The only facility provided at the site is the T-ball field with Little League dimension of 60' base paths. Young children, from age 4 to 6 mainly use the ball field. The field orientation may be considered sub-optimal by certain standards. Situated in a northwest orientation, the glare from the setting sun causes problems for batters and spectators during sunset. The ball field has a short right field due to the small site, limiting its use to T-ball and an occasional softball game. There is a backstop provided for the field in fairly new condition. There is a single five-row bleacher system behind the backstop for spectators. This site offers an ideal setting for early evening games. Parents gather and talk about events, while the children enjoy their first experiences with the game.

Access and Circulation



The images above show pedestrian access to Briggs Field, Note the lack of pedestrian crossing opportunities from the Town Hall parking lot, to the right in both photos.

Vehicular access is accommodated via approximately 25 parking spaces along Center Street. The parking is owned by the church. This however does not create a conflict, as games are not played when the church is occupied. The site is easily accessed by pedestrians approaching from the North side of Hanover Street. However, approaching from the South side of the Street and from the Town Hall parking lot is difficult due to a sole crosswalk located in front of the church. There is no formal barrier between the field and Hanover Street. This causes concern for the safety of small children running around near Hanover Street. During horse shows, the field is used for parking, which leads to damage to the field and infield.

Topography

There is a slight topographic change from the adjacent streets to the field of approximately 5' to 6'. After this slight slope the field is flat pitching gradually to the Northwest. This topography change also allows for spectators to sit on the hill to watch games and allows for the viewing of games from vehicles in the parking spaces along the street.

Drainage, Utilities and Irrigation

There is no irrigation for the fields and there are no sanitary facilities or utilities at the site. Sheet flow surface “country” drainage sends stormwater runoff to the Northwest.

Environmental Conditions

There are no environmental resources (such as wetlands or protected habitats) within the boundaries of the site. Environmental conditions are not a concern at this site. However, environmentally sound maintenance practices should be observed.

B. Everett Hall Field

B. Everett Hall Field is the Town’s premier recreational facility and is located immediately adjacent to the historic district near the Town center. It is an approximately 20.33-acre site owned by the Selectmen and Parks & Recreation. B. Everett Hall is the current focal point of parks and recreation in the Town of Hanover. Mostly referred to as Sylvester, it is a classic “old town” concept of a center-of-town multi-purpose facility used for many different events and activities including the frequently used bandstand. Located on Hanover Street just east of Town Hall, it is adjacent to two schools, Sylvester School to the west and Center School to the northwest. To the east there is a wooded area and a residential neighborhood. The School and park fields mesh together appearing as one large facility and making delineation between the properties difficult if even necessary. Using funds donated to the Town by the estate of the Hall family, a small trust is currently in place, which allows for minor maintenance and for modest future improvements at the site. The bulk of the maintenance costs are borne by the Department of Public Works.



Facilities and Amenities Provided

There are both historic and new facilities and amenities at B. Everett Hall. The facilities include a performance bandstand, full size baseball field, football field, Little League field, street hockey rink, tennis courts, basketball, beach volleyball, playgrounds, picnic area and support buildings. The Town's six-week summer program also takes place on site. All of the facilities listed above are in fairly new condition, with the exception of the support buildings.



Currently, a hodgepodge of support buildings are located on the property. From the outset of the master planning process, there appears to be a desire to merge as many uses as possible into a single community building and to eliminate the myriad of storage containers, trailers, restroom facilities and related structures in order to improve site aesthetics, ease upkeep and maintenance requirements, update to current ADA standards and requirements, and provide more useful and conveniently situated facilities to park users. Further, a concession stand would help to generate revenue for upkeep and maintenance.



The bandstand orientation is a problem, with glare from the setting sun directly affecting the performers. There is also a conflict between the bandstand and baseball use. Currently, a baseball game and a small concert cannot go on at the same time due to the close proximity to each other. The baseball field is in a non-optimal, though adequate northern orientation. The backstop is in close proximity to the parking lot, which does not allow for circulation behind the backstop when vehicles are parked behind the field. A stray foul ball also could wreak havoc on a parked car's windshield. Youth football practices within the outfield of the baseball field. Space is limited and inadequate for practice. The use also diminishes the quality of the turf for baseball use. This facility is not used for football games. Old light poles are currently used to light the field for practice. The Town bonfire also takes place on the adjacent Center School field.



Access and Circulation

A single paved parking area is provided off of Hanover Street. The parking area in the center as well as the Eastern portion of the lot has well defined travel lanes and delineated painted parking spaces. The parking area to the western portion of the parking lot is chaotic with no formal striping for parking or safe vehicular circulation. The street hockey rink adjacent to the parking lot was planned to provide overflow parking, however, the layout and frequent use of the hockey rink does not allow for overflow parking. There is a single access driveway to the parking lot off of Hanover Street. This single access point causes difficult situations during busy high use times such as summer concerts and drop off and pick up for the summer program. Some park patrons make use of the now abandoned drive located between the parking area and Sylvester School as an egress.



The above image shows the existing parking and access configuration at the site. The current vehicular access and circulation configuration does not allow for efficient circulation during larger events such as concerts and the summer program.

Although there are sidewalks on Hanover Street that would facilitate pedestrian access to the site, there are no walkways from the sidewalks into the park proper. A pedestrian currently has to follow the travel lane of the entrance drive or walk on the lawn area that leads into the park. There are no formal pathways located within the confines of the site. This greatly limits accessibility for seniors and disabled persons and limits opportunities for passive recreation uses within the park property. The addition of formal pathways would provide vastly improved and safe pedestrian access for all park users and would help to create a true multi-generational park experience.



Topography

The site reads relatively flat, however the site slopes gradually from west to east. The only visual topographic change is a drastic difference in elevation between the Center School fields and the Hall site. The Center School Property is approximately eight to ten feet higher than the park proper.



Drainage, Utilities and Irrigation

There is no formal drainage system on the site; sheet flow surface drainage sends stormwater runoff to the southeast. There is no irrigation for the fields, nor has there been water available for a well despite a previous attempt to drill for a potential well location. There is a restroom at the site that is considered to be in “pathetic” condition.

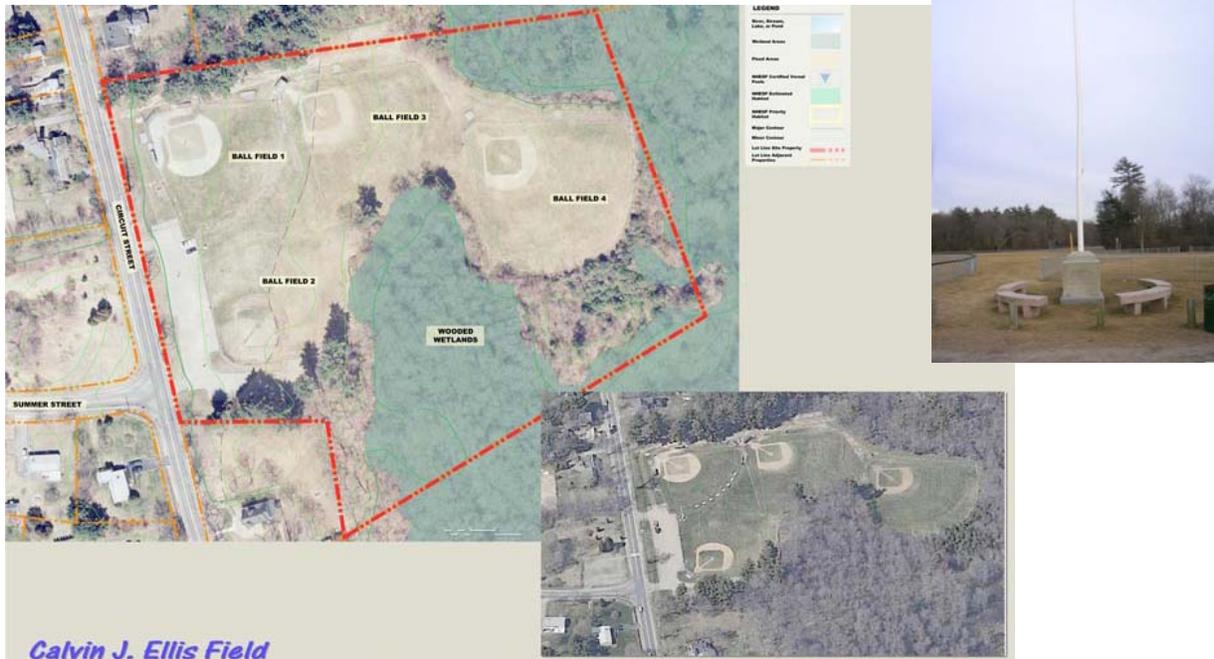
Environmental Conditions

Environmental conditions are not a concern at this site. However, environmentally sound maintenance practices should be observed.



Calvin J. Ellis Field

Calvin J. Ellis Field is the Town's premier site of HYAA baseball. At approximately 12.5-acres located on Circuit Street, the facility is owned by Parks & Recreation. Primarily used for Little League Baseball with an occasional youth soccer practice or game in the outfields. The fields are primarily surrounded by wetlands to the east and south. Circuit Street is to the west and a residence to the north. Not too far to the east is the old rail bed that the Town is one day hoping to turn into a bike/walking trail.



Facilities and Amenities Provided

The site consists of four Little League baseball fields. Each field has outfield fencing, a backstop, and bleachers; fenced in dugouts are provided at fields 1 and 3. A concession stand is tucked behind field 3. The fields and fencing are in fair to good condition. Field 4, located in the rear of the site has undulations in the outfield lawn area due to settling, reducing its use for optimal play. This field can also be wet at times. Even though it is the largest field on the site, it is used for the youngest players due to this undulating outfield lawn area. There are old and new bleachers on the site available for spectator seating, however, all do not meet today's bleacher regulations and standards.

All the fields are located tightly together and lack adequate viewing areas, warm up areas and places for children to play. The closest together of the ball fields, 1 and 3, are the fields primarily used by the Little League. These regulation Little League fields possess 200' outfield fence dimensions and are maintained in very good condition by league representatives and Town forces. The close proximity of the fields will further become a problem as Little League nationally is starting to move towards suggesting 210' outfield fences. Ball fields 1, 3 and 4 are not at ideal orientations, this may not be a problem unless morning games are desired. While situated at the ideal north/northeast orientation Ball field 2, is the smallest of the four fields.

Pitcher's mounds provided on the fields are higher than regulation. Batting cages are provided along the third base side of ball field 3 and are about 3 years old; players make frequent use of these for warm up. Of notable interest is the fact that the facility lacks a playground for use by younger siblings during games.



Access and Circulation

This facility lacks adequate parking. The current parking area is a gravel lot with no defined spaces or vehicular travel lanes. This causes park patrons to park in a haphazard manner, sometimes parking too far apart resulting in fewer vehicles fitting in the available area. Patrons also park in areas that may block pedestrian and emergency vehicle access to the site. Patrons are also currently parking in a vacant lot across Circuit Street and crossing this busy street to use the fields creating an unsafe situation. When the facility is at its maximum use, vehicles also line both sides of Circuit Street, further adding to unsafe access and egress.



There are also no formal pathways located within the confines of the site. This greatly limits accessibility for seniors and disabled persons and limits opportunities for passive recreation use within the park. The addition of formal pathways would vastly improve pedestrian access for all park users and would help to create a true multi-generational park experience. The presence of pedestrian circulation throughout the site would allow for easier access to what now seems a remote field 4, and allow for maintenance and emergency vehicle access.





Topography

The site is relatively flat, sloping gradually from west to east. There is no significant topographic change throughout the site, with the exception of the eastern edges, where the fill area provided to establish field 4 tapers off by about 3'-5'.

Drainage, Utilities and Irrigation

There is no formal drainage system on the site; sheet flow surface drainage sends stormwater runoff to the southeast. There is no irrigation for the fields. This facility has water and electric at the concession area. There are no sanitary facilities at the site.

Environmental Conditions

The facility is almost completely surrounded by wooded wetlands to the east and south with the park proper and built assets taking up a majority of the upland area. Any renovations to the site will require a wetlands permit from the Town's Conservation Commission. There appear to be no NHESP Priority Habitats in this area, as indicated by the available resource material.



Myrtle/Center Playground

The town's largest park facility in total area, Myrtle/ Center Playground is a 75-acre site located in the southwestern area of the town between Winslow's Crossing and South Hanover. The site is situated on the south side of Myrtle Street and the west side of Center Street. Heavily wooded property and the Stockbridge Road residential neighborhood lie to the southwest. The Fireworks neighborhood lies to the west. Myrtle/Center playground is owned by Parks and Recreation.

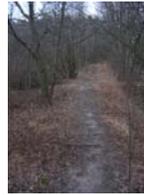


Facilities and Amenities Provided



The flat upland portion of the site along Myrtle Street is already developed for athletic use. The rest of the site is natural rugged terrain. This portion of the site is used for nature trails. The developed facility is primarily used for basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse and passive recreation. The built fields are wet in early spring when lacrosse and soccer is primarily played. The baseball and Little League fields are mainly used for Little League practice, women's softball, and men's baseball. Boys and girls lacrosse and soccer mainly make use of the open field area. In order to provide for use of the multi-purpose field area, the ball fields are not enclosed by fencing. The player's bench area is screened off from the field of play by just a chain link fence. There are no fenced in dugouts provided to separate players from spectators.

Access and Circulation



The current parking area is a gravel lot near Myrtle Street with no defined spaces or vehicular travel lanes similar to Ellis Field. This causes park patrons to park in a haphazard manner and sometimes park too far apart resulting in fewer vehicles fitting in the available area. Patrons also park in areas that may block pedestrian and emergency vehicle access to the site. There is no parking of Center Street to accommodate trail access from the southeastern end of the property. The site also has no formal pedestrian pathway system to allow access to the facilities or connecting nature trails. This, along with the informal parking area, does not allow for accessibility for the handicapped and elderly.

Topography

The portion of the site that is renovated for athletic use is relatively flat, sloping gradually from north to south away from Myrtle Street. On the remainder of the site, there is very significant topographic change. In certain areas, the meandering trails throughout the site traverse very rugged terrain. This undeveloped portion of the site to the south provides excellent opportunities to enhance the existing nature trails and provide new ones.



Drainage, Utilities and Irrigation

There is no formal drainage system on the site; sheet flow surface drainage sends stormwater runoff to the southeast and southwest. There is no irrigation for the fields. The facility has water and electric near the Little League field and there are no sanitary facilities at the site.



Environmental Conditions

The facility is almost completely surrounded by wooded areas and wetlands to the east and south. Any renovations to the site will require a wetlands permit from the Town's Conservation Commission. The entire site lies within designated NHESP Priority Habitats.

Amos Gallant Field



Amos Gallant Field is a small property located towards the northern part of Town. Located on Main Street, it is a 2.74-acre site owned by the Selectmen and Parks and Recreation. There is a single, vacant building on the site that housed the former Curtis School. The building is not currently viable for any Town use. For recreation purposes, the site has a single Little League field located towards the back of the property. Vehicular access to the site is via the driveways and parking area for the old school building. The site is generally flat, slightly sloping from east to west.



As at most of the sites, there is no formal drainage collection system at the site. Sheet flow “country drainage” discharges stormwater toward Main Street and to the wooded area to the back (western) end of the site.



King Street Property

A recent acquisition by the Town, the King Street property is a 74.47-acre site, with 34.38-acres under the jurisdiction of the Open Space Committee and 40.17-acres under the jurisdiction of the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee. The area of the site under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Committee is mainly comprised of open fields that have been historically farmed. Located on King Street in the southwestern portion of town, the site contains attractive natural features (woodlands, wetlands, wildlife and gently rolling terrain). Forge Pond abuts the property to the east and a cranberry bog is located nearby to the northwest.

Facilities and Amenities Provided

At present, no formal recreation programs are offered at the property and there are no facilities. Informal nature trails and connections to other open space resources are provided at various places at the perimeter of the site with linkages to part of the Hanover Greenway and to the nearby cranberry bog.

Topography

The previously farmed section of the site is gently sloping with about a 10' topographic change from the southwest to the northeast at Forge Pond. There are significant topographic changes along the banks of Forge Pond. Undeveloped woodland areas located to the western side of the site contains more dramatic topographic changes, with several small knolls apparent toward interior areas.



Environmental Conditions

The property contains woodlands and wetlands to the west on land that falls mainly under the control of the Open Space Committee. There are also several lower lying, chronically wet areas on the Parks and Recreation Committee portion of the property, however these have not been officially delineated as wetlands as of the date of this report. Development of certain sections of the property will require a wetlands permit from the town's Conservation Commission. Based on initial reviews of available resource material, it appears that no NHESP Priority Habitats are designated within the property.



Needs Assessment

In order to assess the best use of each property, it was important to consider the most pressing needs of the entire Hanover community. This Needs Assessment represents a synthesis of the information obtained during the hosting of nearly a dozen public meetings and of the data generated during the master planning process. In order to compile the array of needs, a variety of methods and tools were used including those summarized below:

- Parks and Recreation User Surveys
- Information obtained at general public forums
- Information obtained at meetings with specific user groups
- Meetings with the Hanover Youth Athletic Association (HYAA) and additional information furnished by HYAA
- Information and advice from the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee and Staff
- Data furnished by the School Department
- Other anecdotal data
- Analysis and inventory of existing facilities and conditions throughout the Hanover Parks and Recreation system
- Recognized parks and recreation related standards and requirements

In regard to the last two items, comprehensive inspections were conducted at each of the six primary park and recreation properties in order to inventory the quantity of various facilities and assess their conditions. The physical condition of a facility can often be a strong indicator of the degree of use or overuse, especially in a community like Hanover where significant efforts are expended in regard to upkeep and the maintenance of fields and other facilities. Extensive wear and tear exhibited within a field or court or related recreational amenity always identifies a need, whether it be a need for additional fields to accommodate the extent of users, or the need for fields that are properly constructed and properly maintained.



In the end, the User Survey, information compiled during the master planning meeting process, the inventory of current facilities and the analysis of existing conditions were most critical in determining the needs of the community. The resulting Needs Assessment also takes into account the availability of numerous School Department properties. However, the ability for

significant Town recreation needs to be accommodated at these locations is limited due to the scheduling of school related activities.

It is also important to note that there was disparity between the information obtained in the Recreation User Survey and information gleaned through the various public meetings and meetings with key user groups. For instance, accommodations for walking, jogging and biking, improved children's playgrounds and improved restroom facilities were high on the list of many respondents to the User Survey, but at public meeting after public meeting, the need for additional fields quickly rose to the top of the list of pressing needs as expressed by attendees.

Also of note, recreation does not occur simply on tracks and fields, courts and playgrounds. Less obvious and less formal recreation pursuits might often include the reading of a book under the canopy of a shade tree, fishing in a pond or stream off the shoreline or a deck, flying a kite, tossing a Frisbee, taking a picnic lunch within a woodland or observing wildlife adjacent to a wetlands resource area.



While elaborate and costly facilities are not often required to accommodate these activities, it is important to identify the need for these pursuits within a recreation needs assessment and to make provisions for them, as capital improvements are considered for each of the properties. For additional information related to Hanover's expansive open space system refer to the Open Space Committee's new Open Space Plan, which was completed during the same 2007/2008 time frame as this report.

Other factors playing into the development of an appropriate recreation needs assessment for Hanover include the following:

Current Trends- the popularity of certain recreational activities decreases and increases over time. For instance, lacrosse is experiencing incredible growth in many New England communities, including Hanover. Soccer continues to maintain great popularity. In some communities, tennis is gaining popularity after many years of decline.

American colleges, through their admissions policies, increasingly promote the need for well-rounded students that are immersed in both academics and extra curricular activities. This, in addition to a national movement toward improving "wellness" through better diets and activity has been cited as a possible contributor to the increase in athletic participation rates in many suburban towns, including Hanover.

Unique Hanover Characteristics- Hanover's population is growing, albeit at a modest rate of increase. But many towns experience transitions in their populations. In Hanover's case, the pressure on schools caused by the increased numbers of children might be an indication that long time residents may be moving on and that younger individuals with school age children may be replacing them. New, large housing developments, the increased participation in the various

youth sports programs and a corresponding lack of venues to accommodate these activities seems to reinforce this phenomenon.

Increasing Athletic Field Usage – Be it due to the increase in popularity of athletics, Title 9 for women’s sports, or the increase in Hanover’s population, or a combination of the three, the number of the users of the active recreation (mainly athletic fields) facilities is increasing. From 700 students participating in spring soccer to and 270 girls playing softball, Hanover just does not have the facilities to support the usage. Lacrosse participation has increased from 75 boys in 1998 to 240 boys and girls in 2007, this amounts to 455 scheduled events a year, 33 per week during the season, with no new field construction over this period of time.

Aging America- we are simply living longer. Americans are living well into their retirement in unprecedented numbers. This creates increasing needs for recreational facilities that are multi-generational or that are specifically geared toward seniors. A park setting that is truly multi-generational can be the most rewarding of environments with great benefits provided through the interaction of park users ages 1 to 100.

Given all of these factors, and as a result of the survey and master planning process, many basic recreational needs have been identified, as summarized below:

HANOVER’S RECREATION NEEDS AND PREFERENCES
Walking, jogging, biking trails
Improved parking and access at all facilities
Children’s playgrounds
Skateboard Park
Restrooms
Softball fields
Multi-use rectangular athletic fields – football, lacrosse, field hockey
Four basketball courts in one location
Additional Little League baseball fields
One additional or relocated full size (90 foot diamond) baseball field
Regulation street/roller hockey rink
Potential ice hockey rink
Multiple tennis courts in one location

It is anticipated that the Town will require additional facilities in the future to meet the continued town-wide increase in recreational activity and an anticipated future population increase. The “preferred” plans developed for each of the Hanover park and recreation sites attempt to address those needs that are most pressing, most widely supported and most realistic given the nature of the properties that are available and given the fiscal realities of the community and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Three of the expressed needs are worthy of separate discussion due to the potential complexity of achieving their implementation as summarized below:

Ice Hockey Rink- Ice hockey is a very popular youth sport within the Hanover community. Players must travel to rinks in surrounding towns in order to participate in the sport. Many of the hockey rinks in Massachusetts tend to be owned by either the State (DCR), colleges/private schools or other private entities. While some municipalities own and operate hockey rinks, the size of the community tends to be significantly larger than Hanover. The financial viability of a hockey rink is always in question. Can the fees generated through the sale of ice time offset the original capital cost associated with construction of such a facility and with the continued maintenance, upkeep and operation of such a facility? The goal in most situations is for the facility to be financially independent and self-sustaining. In many situations this is not the case, and the hockey facility ends up being subsidized by the owner/operator.

A hockey rink is a large facility, requiring a significant area of land. A typical DCR rink encompasses an area that is approximately the size of a football field and often contains a lobby, locker rooms, a concession, storage and equipment spaces, restrooms and other spaces or areas. Add in exterior parking, access drives, setbacks and landscaping requirements. The need for a property that encompasses at least 3 or 4 acres becomes apparent.

The recreation master plan makes no specific recommendation in regard to the development of a hockey rink in Hanover, beyond recording that the need for one has been identified within the User Survey and at public meetings. The properties that have been considered under this effort do not necessarily lend themselves to the development of a hockey venue. Most of the sites are either too small or nearly fully developed with no additional room for such a large facility. Other sites, like Myrtle and Center and the new King Street property possess sufficient acreage, but the nature of that land may not be suitable (wetlands, steeply sloping uplands...) or the surrounding land use context (widely dispersed residential properties) may not be completely compatible with the development of a large structure of this sort. The Parks and Recreation Committee would support a private venture if one were to arise.

Proposals are also based on current property available to the Parks and Recreation Committee. It is recommended that the Town seek out additional property that can be designated for future Parks and Recreation use, particularly in the northern and southeastern portion of town.

Skateboard Parks- Skateboard park developments have been successful in some communities and unsuccessful in others. Communities that constructed facilities 8-12 years ago are considering reworking or refurbishing their facilities. Many communities have closed their facilities due to issues related to security, misuse, liability for injuries, deteriorated conditions and other unanticipated problems that have developed.

Skateboard parks are not land intensive and typically fit within an area that is roughly the size



of a single tennis court. Important considerations in regard to the siting and construction of a skateboard park facility include the following:

- Available Budget
- Type of construction preferred (concrete, wood, composite materials)
- Long term maintenance and upkeep
- User Safety / Emergency Phones
- Municipal Liability
- Staffing requirements
- Security and fencing
- Noise generation
- Surrounding land use
- Trash and debris generated by users

Of particular note, 210 middle school students signed a petition urging that a skateboard park be constructed in Hanover. The location for such a facility has not been identified in this study, although a location that is highly visible, centrally located, in close proximity to emergency personnel, ideally with 24-hour observation, and comfortably away from residential properties and other incompatible uses is preferred. Communities continue to pursue the development of skateboard park facilities, with a better understanding due to the lessons learned from earlier projects in other communities, some of which have failed in the end. Facilities that have been carefully planned, designed and constructed continue to provide enjoyment to the myriad of users that seek out these venues.

Park Support Buildings-

Residents responding to surveys and attending meetings expressed a desire to provide park support buildings at various locations. In general, a park support building would provide space for restrooms and storage and some might contain a concession facility to support various leagues and programs. Concession facilities can generate revenue that is important in keeping user costs affordable and in aiding in the upkeep and maintenance of park and recreation facilities. The preferred plans developed for the individual sites identify potential locations for park support buildings.



Repeatedly mentioned in this regard was the lack of bathroom facilities at such venues as Ellis Field and the deteriorated and substandard conditions of the park support structure at Everett B. Hall Field. The construction of a park support building brings along unique and important considerations as follows:

Method of Construction- buildings constructed through a municipal building process can be extremely expensive (\$250/foot of area is not uncommon). Buildings constructed through alternate means by donors and volunteers can cost half as much, but this method is not achievable in all communities.

Hours of Availability- Due to issues surrounding security and vandalism, most park support structures are open only when activities are occurring at a given site. Keys are often made

available to community representatives that are involved in a sports event or special event for the purposes of opening the facility at the outset of the event and closing the facility at the conclusion of the event.

Maintenance and Upkeep- Municipalities frequently do not have the staff to maintain and operate park support buildings. As a result the cleaning and upkeep responsibilities often fall to volunteers. If these efforts are not performed, unsanitary and undesirable conditions can quickly occur.

For the review of other expressed needs and preferences (which tend to be much more easily attainable), refer to the preferred master plan section of this report.

The Master Plan Narrative Descriptions of Potential Improvements



General Themes for Improvement

The master planning effort provided a unique opportunity to assess the Town of Hanover's major park, recreation, open space and athletic facility properties for the purposes of developing a series of thoughtful and achievable enhancements that will provide benefits to all members of the community.

In undertaking the planning process and in developing the concept plans, a number of basic, recurring (from site to site) improvement themes became apparent. Included below is a summary of these basic improvement themes, to be implemented potentially at all or most properties as capital improvements are planned and constructed.

Pathways, Trails & Picnic Areas - The preferred master plans call for incorporating new (and upgrading where applicable) pathways, trails and picnic areas at all park locations. These types of passive recreational amenities provide opportunities for enjoyment by residents of all ages, backgrounds and abilities and they compliment the traditional active recreational facilities at a given property. At most sites, pathways could be constructed in a manner that is ADA compliant due to the typically gentle terrains that prevail. Pathways (especially pathways that form a loop around the perimeter of a property) often become one of the most appreciated park amenities and become attractive for walking, jogging, roller blading and biking. The distances of potential new paths around the particular sites vary, however measured markers could be installed to facilitate an individual exercise regimen. The following recommendations are set forth in order to provide user benefits and convenience, and environmental stewardship in conjunction with the installation of new paths and trails.

- Place benches for rest, for interaction at logical social gathering points along pathways and trails, and within other peaceful and attractive settings.
- Install interpretive signage to describe a site's unique environmental, cultural and/or historical characteristics.
- Provide tree plantings to lend greater shade to the pedestrian corridors, to provide enhanced wildlife habitat and to improve overall site aesthetics.
- Provide picnic areas where desired and applicable





New play structures at Park Hill Park, Fitchburg, MA and new swings at Roosevelt Playground - Framingham, MA (right) (Weston & Sampson)

Children's Playgrounds - The user survey process identified the need for Children's playgrounds at each of the properties and correspondingly the preferred master plans call for new or relocated playgrounds. Playgrounds provide a destination for neighborhood children and their parents and as such often become hubs of community life. Playgrounds also provide outlets for the siblings of children involved in other recreational activities (like a baseball, soccer or lacrosse game) at the same property. General recommendations for the proposed play areas at each of the park locations include:

- Installation of new, attractive and exciting play equipment and swing sets for use by various children's age groups
- Installation of new and/or expanded playground infrastructure including edging, surfacing and utilities
- Installation of seating, signage and other furnishings
- Installation of tree planting, landscaping and shade shelters/picnic areas



Photo courtesy of Landscape Structures -Evos™ system which is both physically and mentally more challenging than traditional play structures.

The play areas that are geared for younger children should be enclosed with attractive fence treatments. Safety surfacing must be a combination of poured-in-place rubberized surfacing, in critical fall and landing zones, and an engineered wood fiber for the rest of the playground areas. The new play areas must be compliant with all ADA requirements and with all current safety regulations. In addition to new play equipment, all required utility infrastructure (drainage, sub drainage, water service etc.) must be in place and new site furnishings that include park benches, drinking fountains, signage, trash receptacles, tree planting and related landscaping should be included.

Access and Linkages - Provide new and improved opportunities to access the public properties (by foot or by car), provide convenient and appropriately scaled parking amenities and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and drivers. Provide logical, ADA compliant linkages between various site features and facilities within a given park/school/open space property.

The preferred master plans identify a series of improvements that focus on the primary park entrances and the parking areas near the core of each property. Primary recommendations include the following:

- Potential development of new park entrances. Reconfiguring of drives and parking areas to allow for clearer travel patterns, more clearly defined parking spaces, more efficient use of the space overall and an increase in the quantity of parking spaces.
- Complete reconstruction of the parking areas to include new pavements or porous surfaces, low impact approach to storm drainage, curbing and edges and striping in order to provide ADA compliance and eliminate any badly deteriorated and difficult to maintain existing conditions.
- Installation of traffic calming measures to slow vehicular traffic and to provide for safe movement throughout the area by pedestrians. Measures might include speed bumps, “tabled” (raised) crossings, special surface textures and colors to delineate areas of pedestrian use and traffic related signage.
- Establishment of pedestrian connections from all reconstructed parking areas to provide safe, convenient and ADA compliant access to all major park facilities and park areas.



Pedestrian and maintenance circulation at Princeton Soccer Fields - Princeton, MA (Weston & Sampson)

Support Buildings – Potential locations of park support buildings are indicated on most of the preferred master plans. Support buildings would contain at least restroom and storage accommodations. Where appropriate, slightly larger structures might contain a concession room or office/meeting space. Refer to additional discussion pertaining to the issues surrounding the development of park support buildings that is contained in the Needs Assessment section of this document.



Leary Field, new full size baseball field - Waltham, MA (Weston & Sampson)

Athletic Fields and Courts - The master planning process identified the need for providing new and refurbished athletic facilities (fields, diamonds, courts...) in order to better support the myriad of sports programs that operate within the community. At present, based on participation rates for various activities, there are simply too few fields to accommodate the sheer number of users. The resulting problem is two fold in that certain programs cannot be adequately served and the desired field conditions cannot be maintained due to heavy programming and use. ***This situation is expected to worsen when field facilities go off line in conjunction with a major reconstruction project at Hanover High School.*** To this end, the preferred master plans:

- Recognizes the desire of community members to provide sports facilities that are first-class, that are attractive and that can be maintained with reasonable ease in a manner that fits the Town's (and league's) abilities to operate and maintain such facilities.
- Identifies the need to develop facilities that are properly oriented, properly designed and that contain appropriate setbacks and buffers to ensure user safety.
- Recognizes surrounding land use context and recognizes the need to be a good neighbor by developing safe, attractive park and recreation amenities that respect the needs of abutter property owners.
- Provides perimeter fencing and appropriate gates to enclose the facilities, limit access, control use and to help maintain high quality court, turf and infield surfaces.



New basketball facilities at Sandy Pond Beach, Ayer, MA (left), Bartley-Nolan Playground, Fitchburg, MA (center), Park Hill Park – Fitchburg, MA (left) (Weston & Sampson)

Informal Playing Fields – Within all communities there is always a need for informal play fields for pick up games, less formal practices, kite flying, Frisbee tossing etc. The proposed master plans address these needs as space allows. Also, when not programmed, some fields can be used for open play. The Parks and Recreation Committee may want to limit this use, however, due to the need to occasionally rest the fields.



Basic Park Aesthetics and Inherent Natural Qualities - The preferred master plans identify improvements that help to protect, preserve and enhance the aesthetics and inherent natural qualities and features of a given property and that improve sustainability. Recommendations that focus on improving the overall aesthetics of the park properties include the basic elements listed below. Note that these types of improvements can be implemented as funds become available within certain geographic sections of the parks. It is important to establish a standard that becomes easily recognizable as the Hanover Parks and Recreation “look” or theme for improved overall park aesthetics and for making potential repair, replacement or expansion of a particular facility or feature easier.

- Enhance all park and recreation property edges through the installation of new fencing, tree plantings and associated landscaping.
- Remove, replace and/or otherwise upgrade all interior park fence lines and systems to replace deteriorated systems and to make use of more visually appealing alternatives.

- Enhance and upgrade the settings surrounding buildings and play areas.
- Undertake park-wide planting and vegetation management programs to include the removal of invasive or diseased tree and shrub species, pruning of desirable species and installation of new plantings to lend shade, better define spaces within a park, improve park aesthetics and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Install information and interpretive signage park-wide. Establish a consistent theme that becomes easily recognizable as the Hanover Parks and Recreation motif.
- Install additional site furnishings (benches, picnic tables, shade shelters, trash receptacles, bike racks and the like) park-wide to offer new conveniences to park patrons and to improve park aesthetics.



Utility Upgrades - As capital projects are planned and implemented, it will be important to confirm requirements for utility infrastructure upgrades to ensure that existing systems are replaced in a timely fashion and in a manner that does not disturb recent park improvements, or will not disturb future improvements. Several primary considerations in this regard include:

- Provide wells (where feasible) for new or refurbished bathrooms, concessions and potential field irrigation systems.
- Improve stormwater management systems in order to replace deteriorated facilities and in order to develop stormwater management techniques that are environmentally friendly and appropriate within the context of the particular park setting. In general, new systems should be designed to disperse stormwater within a site and to return stormwater to the soils located below, in lieu of directing untreated runoff to nearby wetlands, roadways or parking areas.
- Provide septic/leach field systems at each property for wastewater disposal.
- Remove overhead electric services to below ground in order to improve site aesthetics and to comply with the requirements of various granting agencies.

The preferred master plans that are contained on the following pages identify the proposed configuration of all site features at each property. It is important to note that the vast majority of recommendations suggest the refinement, enhancement or refurbishment of existing facilities within the properties. However, the plans also recommend the development of a modest level of new facilities and amenities that would provide new or expanded opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Importantly, the potential development of extensive new recreational amenities at the new King Street property creates new opportunities to eliminate problems and conflicts at the other parks and recreation properties.

It is also important to note that the Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee endorsed the preferred master plans and associated scope of improvements through a comprehensive and collaborative design and review meeting process. In addition, the public at large contributed to the development of the plans by offering their advice at several well-attended hearings. The narratives are intended to support the preferred master plans, which graphically depict the basic scope of improvements and which have been included immediately following the respective narratives. The preferred master plans and related descriptions are organized by site, beginning with Briggs Field.

Briggs Field

Introduction- Containing the beloved one hundred year old ball field mainly used today for T-ball Briggs field is located at the busy intersection between Main Street, Hanover Street, and Center Street, with the Briggs horse farm to the west. The field is the perfect venue for its intended use. It is a small field in the center of town that provides the nostalgic feeling of old time little league baseball.



Access, Circulation and Parking

Vehicular Access to the Property and Parking

Parking at Briggs is limited to the perpendicular parking spaces along Center Street that is shared with the First Congregational Church (this works well as the church is not typically in service during ballgames and ballgames are not played during services). Overflow parking is across Hanover Street at Town Hall. We recommend installing a simple wood guardrail to separate the Center Street parking from the field itself. This would eliminate any possibility of a wayward vehicle entering the park premises accidentally.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Pedestrian access to the property from the shared church parking along Center Street is safe and straightforward. However, crossing Hanover Street is difficult and unsafe when patrons park in the Town Hall parking area. It is recommended that the Town place a crosswalk on Hanover Street near the corner of Center and Hanover Street, to provide a more obvious, pronounced connection between Town Hall parking area and field. It is also recommended to install ADA accessible pathways down to the field from the parking at Center Street as well as from the sidewalk at Hanover Street.

Park Facilities

This quaint town center field is much loved by the Hanover community. The overwhelming preference expressed by participants in the master planning process indicated a desire to leave the property as it is, with minimal improvements. For this reason, this master plan contains no major improvements to the field or its facilities. A minor recommendation for the field is to provide new low fencing in front of the player's benches for the protection of players from stray-batted balls. An un-observant player or coach in the bench area is often an easy target.

Overall Park Aesthetics and Landscape/Environmental Enhancements

There are no formal recommendations for reconfiguration or aesthetic improvements to this field property. Safety improvement recommendations include; installing a rail or fence system along Hanover Street similar to the fence recently installed at the cemetery. This fence would help to contain younger siblings from running out into the street.

B. Everett Hall Field

Introduction- B. Everett Hall Field is in many ways the Town's signature park and recreation facility due to the sheer size of the property, age of the property (the bequest of the land to the Town dates to 1926) and the wide range of passive and active recreational offerings contained within its grounds. It's highly visible location within the traditional center of the community, with the library, Town Hall, fire station, major schools and historic church structures all within close proximity adds further importance. The preferred master plan (located below) seeks to strike a balance between active and passive recreational offerings within a setting that respects the unique historical, cultural, social and recreational values of the property that are inherent.



B. Everett Hall Field, along with the adjacent Sylvester and Center School properties combine to form a large open space venue with both passive and active recreational opportunities. The internal property lines (represented by the red dashed lines) are approximate only. Future plans might include expansion of the Center School and conversion of the Sylvester School to another use. Both school and town recreational programs must continue to be accommodated at the site.

Access, Circulation and Parking

Vehicular Access to the Property and Parking

The preferred master plan identifies the potential for establishing two new access points from Route 139/Hanover Street into the park property. The circulation and parking is designed to work as a 2-way system typically. However, certain events could be organized such that vehicles enter through the eastern most entrance (near the proposed basketball court footprint) and exits at the western end of the parking area near the Sylvester School. The development of a second egress point would require cooperation and collaboration with the school department, as the entrance would provide a link to the Sylvester School and might traverse a small wedge of the Sylvester School parcel.

The design of the parking area, within the same basic park location, allows for a significant amount of on-premises queuing of vehicles during summer camp drop-off periods and for other special events. The parking area design also increases total vehicular capacity to 98 vehicles with overflow parking for an additional 24 vehicles possible within the open lawn area at the park edge along Hanover Street.



In order to calm traffic and slow circulation within the parking area, a central pedestrian corridor is established through the center of the parking area (in a south to north direction), which would include specially colored and textured pavement treatments that serve to alert drivers of the pedestrian nature of the property. This corridor would connect to the relocated Bandstand and all other park facilities. Landscaping and tree planting would help to reduce the scale of the parking area.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Pedestrian pathways are indicated on the preferred master plan throughout the park. Pathways would provide direct connections to all major park facilities, thus making the site friendlier to seniors and in compliance with ADA. An outer loop path would allow users to encompass a distance of approximately ½ mile within the confines of the park property.

Pathways would also be available for service vehicle use and for use by emergency vehicles. A hierarchy of pathway widths would be established, with the narrowest of paths to be minor pedestrian links and the widest of paths to be intended for pedestrians and service vehicular use only.

Park Facilities

Courts

Proposed or renovated facilities include two basketball courts; one volleyball court with sand surfacing and one full sized street hockey court. The court facilities are located within the same general geographic section of the park, although the street hockey court in particular would take over the area now dedicated to the children's playground. The street hockey court layout represents a significant upgrade from the much smaller existing facility that is located immediately adjacent to the parking area near Hanover Street.



Playground

A multi-use, multi-event children's playground is indicated in an area that is just to the north of the proposed parking area and park support building. The play area would be nestled within a stand of mature deciduous and evergreen tree plantings that would lend important shade to users. Structures might include relocated equipment as well as new equipment and amenities that support age appropriate activities by children up to 12 years of age. The new playground would include safety surfacing, drainage, edging, perimeter pathways and seating areas, park benches, fencing at the perimeter of the tot's area and landscaping.

Fields

Within the park proper, it is suggested that renovation efforts include the following:

- Relocation and reconstruction of the full-sized baseball field within the approximate geographic center of the property. The alignment of the field would be altered slightly to achieve the near perfect orientation of north/northeast. Improvements would include the construction of all ancillary facilities such as player's benches and dugouts, bleachers, backstops, foul poles and the like.
- Relocation and reconstruction of the Little League field to achieve a more preferable north/northwest orientation and construction of all ancillary facilities.
- Development of a rectangular shaped multi-use field, a portion of which would overlap the Little League field.

In order to support town and school use, it is also recommended that two softball fields be reconstructed within the Sylvester School and Center School properties that are immediately adjacent to the B. Everett Hall property. As the demarcation between the three properties is not obvious to users, the area appears and functions as a single large scale recreational complex and for this reason, fully improved and reconstructed facilities would provide the greatest value to Town residents.

In order to protect and preserve the baseball, multi-use and softball venues once they are refurbished, it is recommended that the area presently dedicated to youth football practice be eliminated and that a new venue be established at the King Street property.

Similarly, it is recommended that a more formalized bonfire “pit” be established beyond the limits of the Center School softball field. Stonedust surfacing could be installed and maintained in place from year to year in order to accommodate this activity.

New Park Support Building

A single, park support building is shown in an area that is just to the north of the parking area, (approximately at the current bandstand site). The children’s playground, community bandstand and court facilities are all located in close proximity to the proposed building footprint. The support building would potentially contain the following spaces:

- Concession facility for leagues and for special events
- Storage for use by leagues, Recreation Department and Public Works Department
- Restrooms
- Office space and meeting room for Parks & Recreation
- Utility Room

The building would eliminate the badly outdated restroom building located near the current children’s playground, the temporary trailer and the storage facility, currently located toward the northern end of the property. From an operations standpoint, the new location would provide convenient and direct access from Hanover Street. This location will eliminate the need for the service vehicular movements that penetrate deep into the property, thus reducing potential conflicts with pedestrians.

Overall Park Aesthetics and the Bandstand

B. Everett Hall Field is the original town park, and a source of great pride and tradition within the Hanover community. It is envisioned that any capital improvement opportunity would include an effort to upgrade the overall landscape qualities of this premier public park. Additional tree plantings and landscaping, attractive park benches, fencing, signage and other typical park amenities would help to enhance the overall setting, particularly in those high visibility locations along Hanover Street.

The signature feature within the property has long been the bandstand. The preferred plan identifies a new, prominent location for this focal element, with abundant open lawn for use by spectators at concerts, plays and other cultural events. As the structural condition of the bandstand has come into question, further analysis is required to determine the feasibility of successfully relocating and restoring it, or whether construction of a new structure is warranted.

Ellis Field

The second oldest park and recreation property in Hanover, Ellis Field was donated to the Town in 1951. The field is enormously busy and popular during spring and early summer months as the primary venue for Hanover Little League baseball. In fact, because the park is so popular there are conflicts between drivers and pedestrians. Critical parking shortages have created safety issues for those crossing Circuit Street to get to the park. The current layout of four fields within a limited area has negated the opportunity to achieve better field alignments and configurations and allow for sufficient parking.

The preferred master plan sets forth a strategy to improve overall field conditions, reduce safety concerns for pedestrians and drivers alike and to provide new passive and active recreational opportunities that would allow Ellis Field to emerge from being just a Little League venue. The potential to develop new fields at King Street, would allow the Town to eliminate one baseball playing field and help to solve the critical parking and vehicular/pedestrian circulation issues at the site.



The elimination of one of the baseball fields at the Ellis Field complex creates new opportunities to solve chronic traffic, parking and pedestrian circulation conflicts and to provide new passive and recreational amenities. This eliminated field is proposed to be replaced by a newly constructed field at the King Street property as part of the Town wide parks and recreation master plan.

Access, Circulation and Parking

The preferred master plan identifies the potential for establishing one primary entrance from Circuit Street (opposite Summer Street) and a separate drop-off area located between Circuit Street and the northwestern Little League field. The elimination of the southern Little League field allows for the development of a new, clearly articulated, two-way parking area. The development of the drop-off loop pulling off of Circuit Street would eliminate some of the conflicts that presently occur within the narrow, tight confines of the existing parking area, and eliminate the present drop-off tendency that occurs along the edge of busy Circuit Street.

The design of the parking area, within the same basic park location, allows for drop-off to also occur in a safe and efficient manner along the northern side of the parking area. The parking area design also increases total vehicular capacity to 62 vehicles with the potential for additional parking within a town-owned parcel at the corner of Circuit Street and Summer Street.



In order to clearly articulate traffic flow within the parking area, a series of median planting areas are established (running in a south to north direction), which would include native tree plantings and opportunities for the treatment of stormwater runoff in a low impact development manner. The median areas and associated landscaping and tree planting would also help to reduce the scale of the parking area. Since the facility is used primarily during warm weather months, snow plowing would not be a major concern. If desired, the plowing of one parking bay would provide easy access to the property for winter activities that might include snowshoeing or cross country skiing.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Pedestrian pathways are indicated on the preferred master plan throughout the park. Pathways would provide direct connections to all major park facilities, thus making the site friendlier to seniors and in compliance with ADA. An outer loop path would allow users to encompass a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile within the confines of the park property and would introduce a new type of recreational use to the park. In order to traverse a large primarily wooded wetland area, the plan identifies an extensive boardwalk system that would link the western and eastern sides of the property and form a key link within the perimeter loop path system. The boardwalk would provide a unique experience to users and an opportunity to observe and appreciate interesting wetlands plant species and associated wildlife species. It has also been noted that plans are in the making for a new bike trail that will pass by the northeastern section of Ellis Field. At that time, there will be an opportunity to consider linking Ellis Field to the bike trail, if this occurs, the parking area would serve as a trailhead with appropriate user information to be included on a suitable kiosk.

Pathways would also be available for service vehicle use and use by emergency vehicles. A hierarchy of pathway widths would be established, with the narrowest of paths to be minor pedestrian links and the widest of paths to be intended for pedestrians and service vehicular use.

Park Facilities

Fields

Little League fields represent the long established and primary athletic and recreational offering within the Ellis Field property. It is suggested that the renovation efforts include the following:

- Relocation and reconstruction of three Little League baseball field playing venues. The two fields located toward the eastern side of the property would be enclosed by fencing to allow that great sensation that a player experiences by hitting a home run. The eastern most field would be slightly less formal, and would not contain outfield fencing. This eastern field will require complete regrading, sub drainage system installations (the ground has been chronically wet during certain times of the year) and a new irrigation system. The alignment of all three fields would provide for the preferred orientation of north/northeast to be achieved. Improvements at all fields would include the construction of all ancillary facilities such as player's benches and dugouts, bleachers, backstops, batting cages, bullpens, foul poles and the like.
- Within the eastern side of the property, the preferred plan delineates a small rectangular shaped multi-use field, a portion of which would overlap the Little League field. The elimination of outfield fencing allows for the establishment of this field that could accommodate a series of both informal and formal recreational activities.
- As new fields are designed and implemented, the on-site well or wells should be analyzed for their capacity to support new irrigation systems and the new park support building.

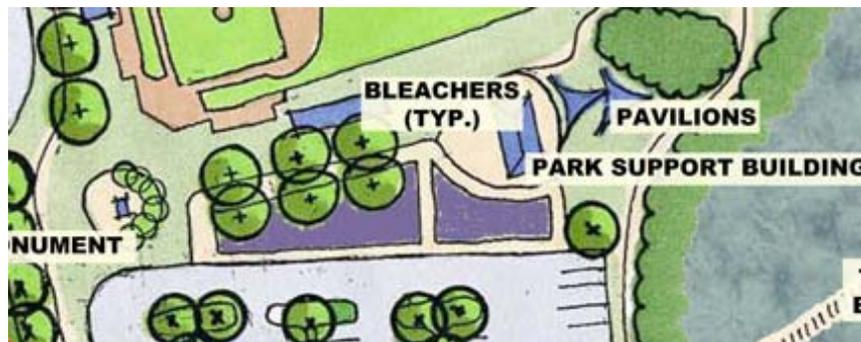


New Park Support Building

A single park support building is shown in an area that is just to the north of the parking area, centrally located between two Little League fields. Access from the third, eastern most field is accomplished by traversing the unique boardwalk system. This park support structure would potentially contain the following spaces:

- Concession facility for leagues and for special events
- Storage for use by leagues, recreation department and public works department
- Restrooms
- Utility Room

The building would eliminate the small concession structure that is located along the northern edge of the property. From an operations standpoint, the new location would provide convenient and direct access from Circuit Street and the new parking area and eliminate the need for the service vehicular movements that penetrate deep into the property, thus reducing potential conflicts with pedestrians.



Playgrounds

In order to occupy the attentions of siblings of players making use of the fields, and in order to provide new recreational opportunities within this park setting (particularly for neighboring residents) the preferred master plan introduces a new children's playground amenity to be located in close proximity to the parking area at a location that is highly visible from Circuit Street. The playground would include age appropriate play equipment (swings and multi-event play structures) and other typical related amenities and infrastructure.

Overall Park Aesthetics and Landscape/Environmental Enhancements

At present, the most visible and prominent feature within the property (especially to passersby on Circuit Street) is the myriad of chain link fencing that forms the perimeter of the Little League fields. There is a great opportunity to improve overall site aesthetics by considering the use of black vinyl clad chain link fencing (heavy gage), especially in areas that are easily viewed from Circuit Street and surrounding residential properties. In addition, the preferred master plan suggests the "greening" of the entire Circuit Street edge through the installation of native, deciduous shade trees. Attractive signage, park style benches and enhancement to the Ellis Memorial would also help to improve the park appearance.

Gallant

Gallant playground is located in the underserved northern side of Hanover. With the removal of the former school building being seriously discussed, the Recreation Committee felt it was important to plan for an expanded facility that made use of the land previously occupied by the school. The plan below identifies a modest range of improvements that would establish a small-scale neighborhood playground.



The Gallant property is a long, rectangular-shaped parcel that extends into a residential area characterized by single-family homes with large lots. Existing vegetative buffers would be retained as new recreational offerings are developed within an area previously occupied by the school building.

Access, Circulation and Parking

Vehicular Access to the Property and Parking

Under the plan, access to the property is provided at two locations from Main Street. In essence, the parking area works as a loop, making dropping off a relatively simple and safe operation. Parking is provided for 28 vehicles, although the open lawn area to the front could accommodate an equal amount of overflow parking.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Pedestrian access is simple and straightforward as one connected pathway provides connections to the tennis courts, playground and baseball field. All pathways would be ADA compliant.

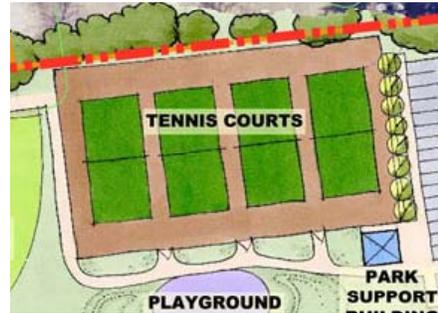
Park Facilities

Courts

The removal of the old school building provides the opportunity to establish a new 4-court tennis complex along the northern side of the property. Tennis activities tend to be somewhat low key,

with limited noise and a small number of players per court (16 players maximum playing doubles tennis on 4 courts) and as such are compatible with a small-scale neighborhood playground. The concept of grouping tennis courts in threes, fours, or sixes is an important one, as users will tend to drive to a multiple court facility and not to a facility with just one or two courts for fear of not finding a court vacant and for the slower turn-over rates associated with fewer courts.

An existing vegetation buffer that separates the tennis courts from the residential properties to the north would be retained and reinforced with new plantings.



Playground

The preferred master plan identifies a small children’s playground along the southern edge of the property. The playground would provide opportunities to occupy the attentions of siblings of players making use of the adjacent Little League field, or of parents or older siblings making use of the adjacent tennis courts. The playground also establishes a pleasant, new gathering place for



neighborhood residents, and like all playgrounds it would foster community participation and interaction. The playground would include age appropriate play equipment (swings and multi-event play structures) and other typical related amenities and infrastructure.

Little League / Multi Purpose Field

Several years ago the baseball field was shifted to its current location. Under the preferred plan, the field is maintained in its current location and expanded to include an upgraded infield with enhanced ancillary facilities (players’ benches, bleachers...).



Without outfield fencing, the field becomes multi-purpose with opportunities for less structured and more informal play for activities that might include tossing a Frisbee, playing flag football or flying a kite.

New Park Support Structure



The preferred plan identifies the potential location of a park support building. It is important to note that the development of all other site amenities (parking, field, courts and playground) works well with or without the structure. The park support structure, if constructed, might include bathrooms and storage. A small concession might be optional and based ultimately on how the baseball field is programmed.

In lieu of a traditional building, an open-air rain or picnic shelter could also be provided at the same location. This would provide relief from rain and from the hot summer sun and a convenient location near to the tennis courts and children's playground.

Overall Park Aesthetics and Landscape/Environmental Enhancements

There is an opportunity to establish Gallant as that quaint, small-scale and traditional neighborhood playground which serves as a recreational and social gathering place for surrounding residents. The park, with limited formal facilities would be landscaped attractively and include groupings of shade trees, additional vegetative screening at property edges and open lawns. At Main Street, the park would read as a green oasis to passersby with a large open "front lawn" to the property. Whereas the school presently blocks views into the property (many town residents probably do not know that the baseball field exists), the new plan would allow for unrestricted views to all recreational amenities. There are no large scale wetland resources adjacent on or adjacent to the site and appear to be no protected habitats.

Myrtle and Center Street

The Town's largest park facility in terms of total area, approximately 75-acres, Myrtle Center Playground currently consists of a large and open multi-use field complex used for baseball, softball, lacrosse and soccer. The field is also used for Little League practice. Basketball courts sit in the upper northeast corner of the site, close to parking and to Myrtle Street. Trails meander through the large undeveloped woodland and wetland portions of the property. The fields are very wet in the spring and into the summer months. The full size baseball field is currently underused due to the wet conditions and the field's condensed and substandard configuration. Boys and girls lacrosse has increased sharply in popularity within the Town and the Myrtle property has become the main venue for this activity in Hanover. This site is also ideal for hiking and nature trails. The preferred master plan for Myrtle/Center Playground identifies a series of fields and other recreational amenities that would replace the underused fields with lacrosse, tennis, basketball courts and nature trail complex. The plan includes updating each facility to provide the required design elements and space for each.



The property is referred to as Myrtle/Center Playground. What is obvious is that the park extends to the edge of Myrtle Street, with access to parking and all facilities provided at this location. What is not so obvious is that the large, undeveloped woodland and wetland sections of the property extend all of the way to Center Street (located down and to the right in the image above).



Above is the enlarged preferred plan for the area of the playground that is already developed for active recreational use.

Access, Circulation and Parking

Vehicular Access to the Property and Parking

The proposed plan identifies a fully reconstructed parking area within the same geographic area of the park. This location remains central to the active recreation facilities, and would allow for convenient access to the existing and proposed nature trails and pathways. The parking area would be reconfigured and expanded in order to meet all current standards (widths and depths of parking spaces and travel ways) and ADA requirements. The parking area would have the capacity to accommodate up to 57 vehicles, which represents a 25% estimated increase. A single, 2-way, entrance from Myrtle Street would be retained and the parking area would be set back from the street to allow for more meaningful park edge improvements that would include signage and tree and shrub planting.

Circulation would be 2-way and circular, with no dead ends, this would allow for a vehicle to enter and exit easily, particularly if no parking space was found. This configuration also allows for easy drop-off and pick up. ADA parking spaces would be provided. Pathway linkages would provide safe



and convenient pedestrian access to all adjacent facilities.

For maintenance and emergency vehicles, a curb opening and service drive connection are provided near the proposed park support building at the western end of the parking area. This service entrance would supplement or replace the current gated entrance at the northwestern corner of the property.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

At present, the park suffers from a lack of safe, clearly articulated and attractive pedestrian entrances and pathways. The preferred plan identifies the development of a pathway system to include a major loop path that encircles much of the built facilities at the perimeter. This system will provide direct connections to all major park facilities and nature trails. The loop path will provide opportunities for walking, jogging, hiking and possibly biking. The path would also provide convenient access for maintenance vehicles and equipment.

There is also an opportunity to incorporate interpretive signage within this park area in order to describe in both words and images the unique historical, environmental and recreational assets of this park property and the surrounding area. A more formalized, secondary entrance would also be provided at Center Street with direct connections to all of the nature trails.

The pathway system and nature trails would provide much needed multi-generational recreational opportunities and dramatically improve access to the site and to all associated facilities and amenities from both Myrtle Street and Center Street.

Park Facilities

Courts

The preferred plan calls for the two basketball courts to be fully reconstructed within the same approximate location. The courts would be reoriented with the longer axis in a north-south direction. The plan also calls for new construction of two basketball courts to the south of the existing courts. This would provide the Town with new programming opportunities and a much-needed facility that consists of four courts and that was clearly identified in the needs analysis. Three tennis courts are identified in the preferred plan to be constructed within the same approximate location of the current Little League infield. Work at this and all courts would include asphalt pavement, color seal-coating, black vinyl chain link fence, seating for users, and enhanced landscaping to partially screen the spaces from adjacent residential abutters and Myrtle Street to the north.



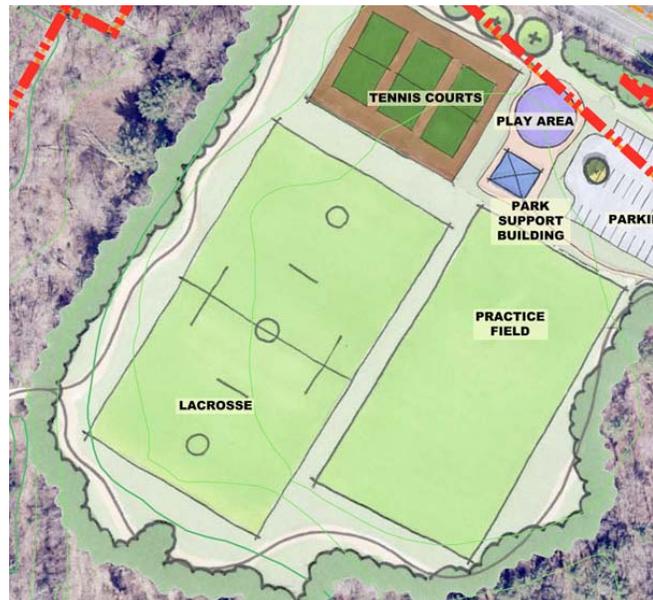
Playground

In an area that is just to the north of the park support building nestled between the parking area and the tennis courts is a multi-use children's playground. Structures would include new equipment and amenities that support age appropriate activities for children up to 12 years of age. The new playground would include safety surfacing, drainage, edging, perimeter pathways and seating areas, park benches, fencing at the perimeter of the tot's area and landscaping.

The playground provides important activity for the children or siblings of players making use of the active recreational facilities located throughout this park area.

Fields

The relocation of the existing baseball field and Little League field to other properties in Town would allow for the reconstruction and reconfiguration of the current multi-use field. In its existing configuration, in order to allow for the baseball and Little League fields, the multi-use field is situated in a non-optimal east-west orientation. Also, this configuration allows for only one field. Lacrosse and soccer fields also require a fence at each end of the field to prevent balls from getting lost and to help protect other park users.



The preferred plan identifies the re-configuration of the game field to an ideal northeast orientation. This orientation would also allow for a smaller practice/open-play field to the east of the game field. This renovation could occur without much reconstruction and could be accomplished largely by the conversion of the baseball and Little League infield-mix areas to grass. However, to provide maximum long-term use and opportunities for quality of play, the current poor drainage conditions must be addressed. Addressing this issue may involve a more elaborate reconstruction effort to include a sub-drainage system. The plan also identifies new fencing in key locations to prevent stray balls from leaving the play field proper. On the north end of the game field, the new tennis court fencing would serve this purpose.

New Park Support Buildings

A proposed new field support building, approximately 36' by 36' has been sited in a central location and in fairly close proximity to the all existing or proposed facilities. The building will house concessions and restrooms and include children's playground and picnic facilities immediately adjacent to the structure.

Overall Park Aesthetics and Landscape/Environmental Enhancements

Myrtle/Center Playground offers one of the best opportunities in the Town to upgrade and enhance walking and nature trails. Another priority related to improving both recreational and educational opportunities at the site relates to the establishment of narrative and graphic depictions that present the site's unique environmental resources. The entire site is an NHESP designated Priority Habitat. Opportunities exist to educate the public in regards to rare and endangered species. The existing nature trails can be enhanced and new trails carved out if desired. Boardwalk construction would allow for negotiating wetlands and other sensitive environmental areas. Way finding signage can be incorporated throughout the site to allow trail users to navigate the site easier. Signage can also be used to keep patrons within the site to avoid trespassing onto abutters' property. Select trails can be made ADA compliant to allow for use by all. Seating areas could be placed in strategic locations to allow for rest, wild life viewing and/or contemplation. If desired, barriers could be placed at the trailheads to prevent access by motorized vehicles.

King Street Property

The recently acquired King Street property, formerly known as the Cervelli property, provides the Town with its second largest overall open space and recreational property. The site currently consists of wooded wetland areas with trails and open fields that have historically been farmed. The site provides the Town with a large, already cleared and relatively flat open area, ideal for the development of recreational fields. The preferred plan identifies the opportunity for development of the site into Hanover's premier park and recreation destination. Although at a quick glance the plan reads as if it is primarily an athletic complex, the large rectangular fields will ultimately read and appear to passersby as open green grassland. Baseball and softball fields, requiring significant runs of fencing, are kept to the perimeter of the property and buffered by the drive and plantings. This is recommended to maximize the extent of contiguous green space. The entrance drive is also strategically located so that one's first impression of the park is that of open green space with trees interspersed. The park entry experience is greatly enhanced by a "great lawn". The great lawn will allow for open play, small concerts and other less formal activities and also help to reinforce and establish the park-like atmosphere. This element also gives the park a significant identification from King Street. The major elements of the preferred master plan are further described in the sections below.



The preferred plan identifies a balance of passive and active recreational amenities that would complement the unique environmental qualities of the site (cranberry bogs, Forge Pond, woodlands, wetlands...). A meandering, loop drive provides for a progression of views to those traveling to various destinations within the property.

Access, Circulation and Parking

Vehicular Access to the Property and Parking

It became apparent during the master planning process that a destination facility of this nature would require an access drive that provides safe, convenient and aesthetically pleasing connections to all major facilities. It is simply not practical to walk long distances to active recreation venues where there is a need to transport a significant amount of equipment. Accommodations in the form of park drives and parking areas are also necessary for park maintenance vehicles and buses delivering children to the various athletic venues and activities. Parking areas must also serve as trailheads for those traveling to the site to enjoy the sites' extensive system of nature trails. As the plan indicates, vehicular drives and parking areas are kept to the edge of the property in order to minimize conflicts between pedestrians and drivers and to maximize the extent of contiguous green space within the park. The preferred master plan recommends a minimal, meandering park-like access drive in the tradition of Frederick Law Olmstead, the famed landscape architect and designer of such notable properties as Central Park in New York and Franklin Park in Boston. To this end, drives are shown weaving through the site. Pedestrian walks and tree-lined edges along the park drives will reinforce the park qualities and atmosphere. With the exception of the large parking area near the softball and multi-use field complex, small-scale, destination specific parking areas are interspersed throughout the site providing access to all park amenities. This will allow ADA access to the facilities as well as provide reasonably convenient parking for park patrons.

In each of the parking areas the vehicular movement would be 2-way and circular. This would allow for a vehicle to enter and exit easily and safely, particularly if no parking space were found. This configuration also allows for easy drop-off and pick up. ADA compliant handicap parking spaces would be provided. Pathway linkages would provide safe and convenient pedestrian access to all adjacent facilities.



For maintenance and emergency vehicles, curb openings and service drive connections are provided near the proposed park support buildings at the field complexes.

Amenities are desired to be park-like with appropriate styles of lighting, signage, fencing and gates, pedestrian connections and landscaping. Utility systems will be installed including storm drainage, electrical and telephone/cable systems. Electrical and telephone systems, in particular, must be placed below ground throughout the park limits in order to be eligible for Division of Conservation Services funding.

If extensive lighting systems cannot be afforded at the time of park drive and parking area installations, empty conduit systems should be placed, with the wiring systems to be pulled through, and above ground features (light fixtures, posts and bases) installed at a later date as funding becomes available. If nighttime use is not planned for either the short or long-term, then

the installation of the underground components for a park road lighting system should be forgone.

Pedestrian Access and Circulation

Incorporating pedestrian pathways and trails throughout the park is an important and intrinsic part of the preferred master plan. Connections to the existing adjacent Hanover Greenway will enhance the character of the park and its connection to the Hanover community. The system of pedestrian ways throughout the park will double as access to the facilities and exercise and jogging trails. It is recommended that trailheads be established and well designated; connecting the developed portion of the park with the abutting assigned open space, and integrating the two and creating a well articulated sense of place.

Park Facilities

Courts

In order to meet Hanover's very significant field needs, opportunities for the development or renovation of tennis, basketball and street hockey courts have been pursued at other park and open space properties in order to focus on the development of fields at the King Street property. In addition, court facilities provide opportunities for both informal neighborhood use and more formal use by youth organizations. Other park and open space properties are more centrally located within the community and therefore more conducive to functioning as neighborhood playgrounds. The King Street property is more remote and therefore more difficult to access by neighborhood residents and the youth of the community either on foot or by bike. In addition, a balance needed to be achieved at the King Street property, where surplus areas (beyond the limits of fields) are preserved generally as open space and not paved for the purposes of providing courts. This allows the park development to better complement the character and quality of other significant wetlands and woodlands.

Playgrounds



The preferred plan recommends the placement of at least two multi-use, multi-event children's playgrounds at locations central to the core activities of the facility. As described in the General Themes for Improvement section, the play areas would provide activity for siblings and children of park patrons participating in other activities. As proposed at the other parks, structures would include new equipment and amenities that support age appropriate activities for children up to 12 years of age. The new playground would include safety surfacing, drainage, edging, perimeter pathways and seating areas, park benches, fencing at the perimeter of the tot's area and landscaping. If funding allows, it is recommended that smaller mini, play areas be located near each facility such that a parent can allow one sibling to play while the other is participating in an athletic event.

Fields

The new King Street facility provides the Town with the opportunity for a major multi-field athletic complex in a rural area that has very few residential abutters. The preferred master plan identifies the recommendation to provide one contiguous open field in the center of the property. Within this area, several rectangular fields can be laid out. For example, the preceding image of the plan shows three lacrosse/football fields and one large soccer field. Various configurations can be laid out to accommodate different sports or activities depending on the season. This area could also be used as a large fair ground or event tent area.



The preferred master plan identifies a full size (90-foot base paths) baseball field at the property. This field would replace the current field at Myrtle Street and accommodate the need for another full size field in Town. This type of facility can also be rented to local leagues and regional teams for practice.

A complete three-field softball facility is proposed in the northwest corner of the site providing the Town with the much-needed parks and recreation softball facility. Three new Little League fields are proposed to be located along the western wooded border to complement the three fields at Calvin J. Ellis Field. These facilities would include all ancillary facilities including bleachers, player's dugouts, batting cages, backstops, foul poles and the like.



New Park Support Buildings

A proposed new community building would meet the much-needed requirements expressed in the survey. This would support various community activities and programs and would include a pavilion as part of the building structure. The building would support concessions, storage, restrooms, and other uses for park patrons and the public. Two separate park support buildings, in fairly close proximity to the fields would facilitate regular sports activities and programs.



Overall Park Aesthetics and Landscape/Environmental Enhancements

The preferred master plan addresses the need for locating the various park program elements in a configuration that preserves the aesthetic character of this large area. The proposed configuration encourages an open layout with fenced elements and fields located toward the periphery that frees up the central area creating an open expansive green space. This also provides for locating circulation and walking trails along the periphery. This approach of locating the divergent program spaces on the landscape succeeds in delineating active and passive recreational uses and minimizes use conflicts. The logistics of overall drainage and stormwater management within the site would be studied and tailored to best fit the site's environment while accommodating optimum drainage patterns for the fields and ancillary spaces.

Introduction

The following cost considerations and budget outlines relate to the basic scope of potential improvements that have been identified for each of the individual properties. It is important to note that costs could vary considerably based on the manner in which the improvements are grouped, the time that it takes to implement the full extent of improvements and the methodology selected for implementing the actual improvements. As with the plans themselves, the estimates are conceptual in nature and will require confirmation and refinement as actual improvements are contemplated. For projects that might not occur for many years, it will be critical to assign an escalation factor for each year after 2008.

B. Everett Hall Field (Sylvester Field)

Total Estimated Park Refurbishment Budget Breakdown

The following table depicts cost considerations for the B. Everett Hall Field property. Some of these considerations may be applied to the other sites as needed. The table represents potential implementation of the Recreation Master Plan preferred option.

Recommended Master Plan Improvements:

Improvements	Budget	Materials/ Notes
1. Parking Area Improvements Refurbished approximately 42,500 SF area	\$190,000	(Including drainage, pavement, curbing, striping and tree planting)
2. Fields Relocated Baseball Field Refurbished Little League Field Refurbished Softball Fields (2) New Multi-Purpose Practice Field Beach Volleyball	\$200,000 \$ 50,000 \$100,000 \$ 80,000 \$ 10,000	(Including drainage, irrigation, surfacing materials and layout, fencing and bleachers)
3. Courts Refurbished Basketball Courts (2) New Street Hockey Rink (1)	\$ 40,000 \$160,000	
4. Perimeter Path New Pathway System	\$ 80,000	
5. Street Improvements & Amenities Landscaping at Park Edge Refurbished Bonfire Area Relocate Existing Bandstand	\$ 30,000 \$ 4,000 \$ 10,000 \$ 4,000	(Including drainage, grading, tree and shrub planting)
6. Play Area New/ Refurbished 15,000 SF Multi-use Play Areas (2)	\$ 70,000	(Std. play equipment and wood chip surfacing)
7. Building New 3,200 SF Park Support Building	\$560,000	(Office/Concessions/Storage/Restroom)
8. Estimated Design Fee*	10%	Approximate 10% of total projected Project cost

Calvin J. Ellis Field

The following table depicts cost considerations for the Calvin J. Ellis Field property. Some of these considerations may be applied to the other sites as needed. The table represents potential implementation of the Recreation Facilities Master Plan preferred option.

Recommended Master Plan improvements:

Improvements	Budget	Materials/ Notes
1. Parking Area Improvements New approximately 32,000 SF area	\$140,000	(Including drainage, pavement, curbing, striping and tree planting)
2. Fields New Baseball Field (3) New Multi-Purpose Practice Field New Batting cage	\$900,000 \$ 30,000 \$ 20,000	(Including drainage, irrigation, surfacing materials and layout, fencing and bleachers)
3. Perimeter Path New Pathway System	\$ 20,000	
4. Street Improvements & Amenities Landscaping at Park Edge Relocate Existing Monument	\$ 20,000 \$ 5,000	(Including drainage, grading, tree and shrub planting)
5. Play Area New 5000 SF Multi-Use Play Areas	\$ 70,000	(Std. play equipment and wood chip surfacing)
6. Building New 800 SF Park Support Building Pavilions (2)	\$140,000 \$ 6,000	(Concessions/Storage/Restroom) (Fabric Shade Structures)
7. Estimated Design Fee*	10%	Approximate 10% of total projected Project cost

Myrtle/Center Playground

The following table depicts cost considerations for the Myrtle /Center Playground property. Some of these considerations may be applied to the other sites as needed. The table represents the potential implementation of the Recreation Master Plan preferred option.

Recommended Master Plan improvements:

Improvements	Budget	Materials/ Notes
1. Parking Area Improvements New approximately 24,000 SF area	\$100,000	(Including drainage, pavement, curbing, striping and tree planting, etc)
2. Fields Refurbished Lacrosse Field & Misc. Refurbished Practice Field	\$ 20,000 \$ 10,000	
3. Pathways and Natural Trails New Athletic Field Pathways New Nature Trail improvements	\$ 10,000 \$ 30,000	
4. Courts Refurbished Basketball Courts (2) New Basketball Courts (2) New Tennis Courts (3)	\$ 40,000 \$100,000 \$120,000	(Including clearing, grading, etc.)
5. Play Area New 2000 SF Multi-use Play Area	\$ 20,000	(Std. play equipment and wood chip surfacing)
6. Building New 800 SF Park Support Building	\$140,000	(Concessions/Storage/Restroom)
7. Estimated Design Fee*	10%	Approximate 10% of total projected Project cost

Amos Gallant Field

The following table depicts cost considerations for the Amos Gallant Field property. Some of these considerations may be applied to the other sites as needed. The table represents the potential implementation of the Recreation Master Plan preferred option.

Recommended Master Plan improvements:

Improvements	Budget	Materials/ Notes
1. Parking Area Improvements New approximately 7800 SF area	\$ 35,000	(Including drainage, pavement, curbing, striping and tree planting, etc)
2. Fields Refurbished Baseball Field in Existing Location	\$ 30,000	
3. Pedestrian Pathways New Pedestrian Pathways	\$ 10,000	
4. Courts New Tennis Courts (4)	\$160,000	(Including clearing, grading, etc.)
5. Play Area New 2800 SF Multi-use Play Area	\$ 40,000	(Std. play equipment and wood chip surfacing)
6. Building New 800 SF Park Support Building	\$140,000	(Concessions/Storage/Restroom)
7. Improvements and Amenities Landscape within Park Limits	\$ 20,000	
8. Estimated Design Fee*	10%	Approximate 10% of total projected Project cost

King Street Property

The following table depicts cost considerations for the King Street property. Some of these considerations may be applied to the other sites as needed. The table represents the potential implementation of the Recreation Master Plan preferred option.

Recommended Master Plan improvements:

Improvements	Budget	Materials/ Notes
1. Parking Area Improvements New Parking Areas (5) approx. 90,000 SF and Loop Driveway	\$1,230,000	(Including Grading, drainage, pavement, driveway, curbing, striping, tree planting, etc)
2. Fields New Multi-purpose Field (3) New Multi-purpose Practice Fields (1.5) New Little League Fields (3) New Softball Fields (3) New Baseball Field	\$600,000 \$250,000 \$600,000 \$750,000 \$800,000	(Lacrosse/Football/Field Hockey) (Soccer and Practice Field) (Including clearing, grading, drainage, irrigation, surfacing, bleachers, etc.)
3. Pathways and Natural Trails New Athletic Field Pathways New Nature Trail Improvements	\$100,000 \$200,000	(Including Boat ramp, picnic areas)
4. Landscape Improvements Entrance and Park Edge Areas	\$40,000	(Including trees, plantings etc.)
5. Play Areas New (2) approx. 8000 SF Multi-use Play Areas	\$200,000	(Std. play equipment and wood chip surfacing)
6. Building 1 Pavilion/Park Support Building 2 Park Support Buildings	\$560,000 \$280,000	(Community Building and Support buildings to include: Pavilion Concessions /Storage /Restroom)
7. Estimated Design Fee*	10%	Approximate 10% of total projected Project cost

* The estimated design fee of 10% projected Project cost for each property would roughly cover design services for site survey, wetlands delineation, testing, permitting, site plan design refinement with public participation, final layout and drainage design, specifications and site design details.

Funding Opportunities and Implementation Strategies

Funding Opportunities

There are many potential sources of funding from both public and private entities that could help to pay for potential improvements to all the recreation and open space sites in Hanover. Donations, both large and small, can be lumped together to create the financing needed to undertake meaningful improvements. The Town of Hanover Parks and Recreation Committee will aggressively pursue a variety of funding and implementation strategies that could include:

- **Traditional Public Bidding-** Develop plans, specifications and estimates for the desired improvements, publicly advertise, receive bids and award a construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder. Projects typically range from small (say \$50,000 or so) to very large (many hundreds of thousands of dollars).
- **In-house Services-** Implement improvements making use of Town labor forces, materials and equipment. This method is typically appropriate for projects that are limited in scope, such as the construction of a parking area or driveway, or refurbishment of adjacent Town sidewalks. As funding, materials, equipment and human resources permit, other minor improvement efforts can be planned and undertaken. The removal of dead or diseased trees, pruning of healthy trees, and the installation of benches, trash receptacles, fencing, signage, or a small run of masonry wall are examples of the types of minor enhancements that can be provided using Town forces and materials.
- **Donations/Corporate Sponsorships/Community Build-** Implement improvements for projects through a variety of means that might include, construction of a children's playground by a corporation or community group or construction of a park feature or facility with funding generated through linkage or mitigation arrangements (often originating from the approval of a large area development). In certain cases, improvements can also be undertaken by contractors looking to donate their services.

For consideration, a number of potential funding sources and mechanisms have been identified. Many of the governmental sources identified allocate millions of dollars per year for parks, open space and athletic facility improvement programs, but competition is intense. The actual improvements are then implemented through a public design, bid and construction process.

Partnerships

Partnerships can also play an important role in the overall plan to improve, manage and maintain park properties. As an example, there are many privately managed sports leagues in Hanover with impressive track records for supporting certain maintenance and capital improvement initiatives for numerous facilities. Towns are increasingly relying on public/private partnerships to create facilities and related playing conditions needed to support sports programming.

The Town might also consider partnerships with such entities as the Massachusetts Audubon Society, or Massachusetts Urban and Community Forestry Program in order to preserve, protect and enhance the unique environmental qualities, like existing mature woodland, to provide new passive recreational opportunities in the form of environmental education and awareness. The latter also offers matching grant opportunities to help fund urban forest management projects.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Division of Conservation Services (DCS)

This state agency has funded hundreds of park, open space and recreation projects throughout Massachusetts over the past several decades. Each June, the agency receives applications from municipalities for improvements to parks, playgrounds, athletic facilities or assistance in the acquisition of open space properties. DCS administers several programs including the “*Self-help*” program, which generally funds acquisitions and limited enhancements to open space properties. The funds for acquisitions are designed to protect natural resources by eliminating threatened development. The “*Urban Self-help*” program typically funds the renovation of parks, playgrounds and athletic facilities in larger communities that have fewer outlets for recreation. Demographics play a role in the grant award process. Communities that are more urban in nature with high percentages of low-income residents tend to fare better in the decision-making process as compared to smaller communities with fewer low-income residents. For projects in smaller communities such as Hanover, a case must be made that the improvements for which funding are being sought are of a regional significance. The case could probably be made for improvements to a property like B. Everett Hall or King Street, while other smaller facilities would likely not be eligible.

DCS also receives Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds for distribution to communities that are considering park improvements or land acquisitions as described above. The allocation for Massachusetts for the upcoming year has not been determined, although the funds, when available, may be used to supplement both the Self-help and Urban Self-help programs.

Community Preservation Act Funding

Hanover has passed the Community Preservation Act, which allows the Town to generate funds through an added property assessment for improvements related to affordable housing, historic preservation and certain types of park/open space acquisitions and enhancements. Funding generated locally is matched by an equal amount of state dollars. This program could become the primary source of local capital funding for the implementation of recommended improvements established by the master plan.

Stormwater Management Grants

Funding is made available by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs for stormwater management, water quality protection and enhancement efforts. This funding could be a source for environmental improvements to the park, like the stormwater improvements that would be necessary to construct more paved and more defined parking areas.

Other Alternative Methodologies for Implementing Improvements

The Town of Hanover, through the DPW, receives annual quotations for a variety of public improvements that can be ordered on an as-needed basis. The installation of fencing, bituminous concrete pavements for roadways/parking areas, and curbing are examples. As deemed appropriate, ordering work through this method could be used to complement or support improvements that are accomplished through other means.

Implementation Strategies

➤ **King Street Property:**

- Construct the access road, parking areas and other infrastructure using Town forces and sub-contractors, possibly including only the gravel base course in the short-term.
- Construct the full size baseball field, one or two little league fields and potentially the softball complex or a portion of it including access paths and amenities
- Construct nature trails and passive recreation elements

➤ **Myrtle/Center Playground:**

- Construction of the ball fields at King Street will allow for the relocation of the existing full size baseball field and little league field
- Renovate the fields for lacrosse and construct the tennis courts and potentially the renovate the parking area
- Basketball courts could be constructed at a later date when the need arises and funding is available
- Construct nature trails and passive recreation elements

➤ **Ellis Field:**

- The construction of the Little League fields at King Street will allow for the elimination of one little league field at Ellis
- Construction of a permanent or temporary parking area at the Field Number 2 location
- Construction of the remaining fields may be phased in as funding becomes available

➤ **B. Everett Hall:**

- The construction of the Tennis courts at Myrtle/Center Playground will allow for the commencement of construction at Everett Hall

APPENDIX A

HANOVER'S EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FIELDS AND FACILITIES

----- Under Custody of Parks & Recreation -----

No. <i>(Map ID)</i>	Field/Facility Name	Map-Lot(s)	Total Acres	Street Address and/or Cross Streets	Ownership/Management	Available Fields
1	Briggs Field	46-014	1.17	Hanover/Center Street	Selectmen / Parks & Recreation	T-Ball / Softball
2 (*)	B. Everett Hall Field	47-015	20.33	495 Hanover Street	Selectmen / Parks & Recreation	Tennis/Basketball/Playground/ Football/Bandstand/Volleyball/ Baseball Field
3	Calvin J. Ellis Field	51-004	12.50	Approx. 750 Circuit Street	Parks & Recreation	Baseball
4	Myrtle/Center Playground	69-014	75.00	Approx. 215 Myrtle Street	Parks & Recreation	Basketball/Baseball/ Soccer/Softball
5	Amos Gallant Field	21-007	2.74	848 Main Street	Selectmen / Parks & Recreation	Baseball/Softball
6	Cervelli (Lot A) (Lot 1B, subparcel a) (Lot 1B, subparcel b) (Lot 1B, subparcel c)	67-001	74.47 <i>(20.67)</i> <i>(27.30)</i> <i>(19.50)</i> <i>(7.00)</i>	Approx. 245 King Street	Total / Entire Parcel <i>(Parks & Recreation)</i> <i>(Conservation Commission)</i> <i>(Parks & Recreation)</i> <i>(Conservation Commission)</i>	Recent Acquisition (To be Determined) (See Parks & Recreation Committee Draft Recreation Facilities Master Plan)
Total Acres (Approximate):			186.21			

----- Under Custody of School Department -----

No. <i>(Map ID)</i>	Field/Facility Name	Map-Lot(s)	Total Acres	Street Address and/or Cross Streets	Ownership/Management	Available Fields
7 (*)	Sylvester School	47-015	20.33	495 Hanover Street	School Department	Softball/ Playground/Soccer
8	Center School	47-003	12.91	65 Silver Street	School Department	Playground/Baseball/Multi- Purpose
9	Salmond School	57-076	6.66	188 Broadway	School Department	Playground/Softball
10	Hanover High School	27-005 + 27-002	23.41 23.90	287 Cedar Street	School Department	Track/ Tennis/ Baseball/ Football/Multi-Purpose
11	Hanover Middle School	26-007	29.62	45 Whiting Street	School Department	Playground/Multi-Purpose
12	Cedar School	27-001 + 27-002	48.80 23.90	265 Cedar Street	School Department	Playground/Multi-Purpose
Total Acres (Approximate):			189.53			

(*) *These parcels have a split control over total land area which does not coincide with parcel boundaries. See Annual Town Meeting Vote, May 14, 2007, Article 47.*

Field Usage

APPENDIX D

Estimated Field / Facility Usage

Sport	# of Participants	# of Teams	# of Practices Per Team Per week	# of Games Per Team Per Week	Total # of Games Per Week	Total # of Practices Per Week	Total Events (Games & Practices) Per Week Scheduled Use	# of Weeks in Season	Total Seasonal Use Events times number of weeks in a Season	Number of dedicated Fields Available
<i>Spring Soccer</i>	700	70	1	1	35	70	105	8	840	1 ¹
<i>Spring Softball</i>	150	14	1	2	14	14	28	8	224	0 ²
<i>Spring Baseball</i>	600	46	1	2	46	46	92	10	920	7 ³
<i>Boys & Girls Lacrosse</i>	240	13	2	1	7	26	33	14	455	1 ¹
<i>Girls Softball</i>	270	20	1	2	20	20	40	11	440	0
<i>Summer Baseball</i>	200	14	2	2	14	28	42	8	336	7
<i>Summer Softball</i>	75	5	2	2	5	10	15	7	105	0 ²
<i>Summer Basketball</i>	150	15	0	2	15	0	15	5	75	4
<i>Fall Soccer</i>	625	64	1	1	32	64	96	8	768	1 ¹
<i>Football</i>	180	6	3	1	3	18	21	11	231	1 ⁴
<i>Cheerleading</i>	80	3	2	1	2	6	8	11	83	various fields
<i>Winter Basketball</i>	600	44	2	1	22	88	110	10	1100	indoor

1. This field is shared by Soccer and Lacrosse
2. Hanover Recreation has no Dedicated softball fields, the softball program makes use of the School fields
3. Two of these fields are substandard for little league play and are used for T-ball only. 2 are substandard and only used for practice.
4. This field is shared with the full size baseball field at B. Everette Hall



DRAFT



B. Everett Hall Field
Conceptual Design D





DRAFT

Calvin J. Ellis Field
Conceptual Design A





Myrtle/Center Playground

Preferred Concept





Myrtle/Center Playground

Preferred Concept

Hanover Recreation Facilities Master Plan

North September 2007



Weston & Sampson
When it's essential, it's Weston & Sampson



EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED CONCEPT



D
R
E
A
M

LEGEND	
River, Stream, Lake, or Pond	
Wetland Areas	
Flood Areas	
NHESP Certified Vernal Pools	
NHESP Estimated Habitat	
NHESP Priority Habitat	
Major Contour	
Minor Contour	
Lot Line Site Property	
Lot Line Adjacent Properties	

Amos Gallant Field

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND PROPOSED CONCEPT





DRRAFT

KING STREET
PREFERRED MASTER PLAN

North November 2007

Hanover Recreation Facilities Master Plan





Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Hanover, MA

February 13, 2007 Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
 - Project Sites
 - Initial Meetings / Project Startup
 - Background Research and Facility Inventory
 - Base Plan Development
 - Community Needs Assessment
 - Initial Recommendations and Concept Plans
 - Prioritized Recommendations and Cost Estimates
 - Present Initial Master Planning Documents
 - Receive Comment
 - Present Revised Master Planning Documents
 - Present and Publish Final Master Plan
3. Project Schedule
4. Other Issues / Discussions





Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Hanover, MA

March 20, 2007 Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Final Draft Survey
 - Bulk Mailing Version
 - Electronic Version
 - Hand-out Version

2. Meeting Schedule
 - Confirm Site Visits w/ Committee
 - 3/20/07 P&R Committee Meeting
 - 3/27/07 HYAA Meeting
 - 4/03/07 P&R Committee Meeting
 - 4/04/07 Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee
 - 4/25/07 School Committee (Includes Athletic Director)
 - Confirm Other

3. Review Warrant Article for B. Everett Hall

4. Senior Center Project
 - Priority Habitat
 - Habitat of Rare Wildlife
 - Habitat of Rare Species

5. Mapping Effort

6. Existing Site Analysis Discussions
 - Vehicular Access + Circulation
 - Pedestrian Access + Circulation
 - Parking
 - Facilities (Active, Passive)
 Building(s) / Structure(s)
 - Furnishings (Benches, Picnic Tables, Fencing, Drinking Fountains)
 - Landscape Qualities (Environmental, Historical, Cultural)



Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Hanover, MA

April 3, 2007 Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Survey Update

- Bulk Mailing Version
- Electronic Version

2. Project Schedule

- 4/03/07 P&R Committee Meeting
- 4/04/07 Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee
- 4/10/07 Town-wide Public Meeting
- 4/20/07 User Surveys Due
- 4/25/07 School Committee (Includes Athletic Director)
- 5/07/07 Town Meeting
- Confirm Other

3. Base Plan / Mapping Effort

4. Existing Site Analysis Discussions

Summarize Site Walks and HYAA Meeting

- Vehicular Access + Circulation
- Pedestrian Access + Circulation
- Parking
- Facilities (Active, Passive)
Building(s) / Structure(s)
- Furnishings (Benches, Picnic Tables, Fencing, Drinking Fountains)
- Landscape Qualities (Environmental, Historical, Cultural)

5. Next Meeting - Concept Sketches



Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Hanover, MA

April 25, 2007 School Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Scope of Work / Properties Under Consideration / Passive and Active Recreational Uses
 - Base Plans and Mapping
 - Existing Conditions Analysis
 - User Survey
 - Needs Assessment
 - Facility and User Matrix
 - Concept Improvement Plans
 - Budget Costs
 - Prioritizes
 - Implementation Strategies
2. Coordination w/ Various Town Entities
 - Parks and Recreation Committee
 - Conservation Committee
 - Open Space Committee
 - Hanover Youth Athletic Association
 - School Committee / School Department
 - Town Meeting
 - Continued Open Public Hearings and Community Dialogue
3. School Facilities
 - Athletic Facility Needs
 - Opportunities to Enhance Recreational Offerings at School Property
 - Everett B. Hall Potential Improvements
4. Open Discussion





Recreation Facilities Master Plan Hanover, MA

May 1, 2007 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Review Preliminary Plans
 - King Street Property
 - B. Everett Hall
 - Ellis Field
 - Myrtle and Center
2. School Committee De-brief
 - Sports Relocation Strategy
 - Sports Program Matrix
 - Other Issues
3. Other Items
 - Skate Park Opportunities
 - Skating Facility Opportunities
4. Town Meeting Appearance
5. Open Discussion



Hanover Parks & Recreation Committee Recreation Master Plan Update

May 7, 2007 Town Meeting

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Recreation Master Plan Goals
 - Develop Base Plans and Mapping for P&R Properties
 - Identify and Analyze Existing Conditions at P&R Properties
 - Complete Recreation User Survey and Needs Assessment
 - Establish Master Facility and User Matrix
 - Develop Improvement Plans for P&R Properties
 - Establish Budget Costs for Improvements
 - Establish Priorities and Potential Phases
 - Develop an Implementation Strategy
2. Work Completed To Date
 - Base Plans Developed
 - Field Reconnaissance Work Completed
 - Hanover Park & Recreation User Survey (Review Initial Results)
 - Public Meetings and Coordination with Other Interested Parties
 - Concept Plans Evolving
 - Upcoming Meetings and Work
3. Remaining Project Timeline
4. Questions / Answers

Attachments:

- Recreation Master Plan Narrative (1 Page)
- List of Hanover's Existing Parks & Recreation Properties (1 Page)
- Town Map Identifying Parks & Recreation Committee Properties (primary focus of the Master Planning effort) and School Properties (that also contain recreation facilities) (1 Page)
- DRAFT Concept Plans Identifying Potential Property Improvements (4 Pages)



Hanover Parks & Recreation – The Benefits are Endless...



Recreation Master Plan Narrative

Purpose

The Town of Hanover Parks & Recreation Committee is completing a **Recreation Master Plan** in order to assess current Parks & Recreation Committee properties and other Town properties that provide recreational resources to residents of the community. Included under the master planning effort is the development of accurate base mapping for all Parks & Recreation Committee properties, examination of existing conditions at each property, identification of safety issues and concerns, and formulation of a town-wide recreation needs assessment that provides a strategy for implementing significant, long-term recreation related improvements that provide the greatest benefit to all Town Residents. Based on the confirmed recreation needs of the Town, concept plans and budgets and phasing, funding and implementation strategies are also being developed.

It is important to note that recreation needs relate not just to court and field facilities and the corresponding sports/athletic programs that make use of them, but also to more passive or informal recreational pursuits that might include such activities as walking, sitting on a park bench, reading, flying a kite or interpreting the unique cultural, historical or environmental assets of a particular property. In addition, recreation is multi-generational and the final master plan will identify strategies for improving opportunities for those of all ages.

Work Accomplished to Date

During the past several months considerable progress has been made in regard to the development of accurate survey base plans for all Parks & Recreation Committee properties including the identification of significant wetlands, woodlands and other unique environmental features that might effect future development at a particular site. In addition, our staff has completed assessments of each property in order to summarize existing conditions and to identify circulation and parking issues, safety concerns, design deficiencies (if any) and basic opportunities/constraints related to potential improvements. A Recreation User Survey has also been developed in order to garner the input of Hanover Residents and conceptual plans are being developed that begin to layout a series of thoughtful, pragmatic improvements that help to meet the growing recreational needs of the Community.

Park & Recreation User Survey Initial Results

More than 160 residents have completed the Park & Recreation User Survey. The survey results will be used to determine the primary recreational needs and preferences of the Community. If you have not completed the survey, please do so by taking the time to visit www.hanover-ma.gov/ and look for the survey link contained on the upper right corner of the page. Based on survey responses and our work to date, we have already learned that there are not nearly enough fields available to accommodate the large number of organizations and players and have also learned that many residents have expressed preferences for improved walking, jogging, hiking and biking amenities, new children's playgrounds and for simple park furnishings like benches and picnic tables.

Work Going Forward

Nearly ten meetings have already been held with the Parks & Recreation Committee, School Committee, General Public, Hanover Youth Athletic Association and others, but additional meetings are planned to present great new ideas and concept plans for improving Hanover's Park & Recreation properties. Ultimately, it is hoped that a series of thoughtful and pragmatic improvements can be implemented in a manner that is economical feasible and responsible. **Please be on the look out for future meeting advertisements and plan to participate as your help is needed and greatly appreciated!**



List of Hanover's Existing Parks & Recreation Properties

-----Under Custody of Parks & Recreation-----

Property	Address	Acres	Description of Facilities
Briggs Field	Hanover / Center Streets	1.17	Small-scale facility located within the historic district near town center with a single field for T-ball and softball use.
Sylvester Field (B. Everett Hall Field)	495 Hanover Street	20.33	Town's premier recreation facility, also located within the historic district near town center, with extensive fields, courts (tennis, basketball and street hockey), children's playground, beach volleyball, bandstand and other related amenities.
Calvin J. Ellis Field	750 Circuit Street (Approx.)	12.50	Major baseball field complex with facilities for most levels of competition.
Myrtle / Center Playground	215 Myrtle Street (Approx.)	75.00	The Town's largest park facility in total area with basketball courts, a large and open multi-use field complex used for baseball, softball and soccer. Trails meander through large undeveloped woodland and wetland sections of the property.
Amos Gallant Field	848 Main Street	2.74	Small-scale facility used for baseball and softball. Located behind the unused Curtis School on Main Street.
King Street Property	245 King Street (Approx.)	66.66	Recent acquisition, open fields that have been historically farmed. Recreation uses to be determined. This property falls under the jurisdiction of both the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Open Space Committee. The portion of the site under P&R Committee jurisdiction corresponds generally to the area that has been historically farmed near King Street.

-----Under Custody of School Department-----

Property	Address	Acres	Description of Facilities (*)
Sylvester School	495 Hanover Street	20.33	Fields used for softball, soccer and playground
Center School	65 Silver Street	12.91	Baseball field, multi-purpose field and playground
Salmond School	188 Broadway	6.66	Softball field and playground
Hanover High School	287 Cedar Street	23.41 23.90	Track, football, baseball, multi-purpose field and tennis courts
Hanover Middle School	45 Whiting Street	29.62	Multi-purpose field, playground
Cedar School	265 Cedar Street	48.80 23.90	Multi-purpose field, playground

(*) Schools provide indoor facilities to support recreation programming activities offered during summer months and other seasons of the year.



Recreation Facilities Master Plan Hanover, MA

June 5, 2007 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Review Existing Conditions and Field use Matrix
2. Survey analysis for next meeting
3. Review Preliminary Plans
 - King Street Property
 - B. Everett Hall
 - Ellis Field
 - Myrtle and Center
 - Going forward – Preferred Plans
4. School Committee
 - Sports Program Matrix
 - Other Issues
5. Begin writing Master Plan – Draft Submittal
6. Prepare for Fall Town Meeting Appearance
7. Open Discussion



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Hanover, MA

July 24, 2007 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Survey analysis
2. Draft Master Plan
3. Review Preliminary Plans
 - B. Everett Hall – Refined options
 - Myrtle and Center – addition of tennis courts, potential for street hockey
 - Gallant – potential for tennis
 - King Street Property
 - Going forward – Preferred Plans
4. School Committee
 - Sports Program Matrix
 - Other Issues
5. Continue writing Master Plan – Draft Submittal
6. Prepare for Fall Town Meeting Appearance
7. Open Discussion



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Hanover, MA

September 11, 2007
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Discuss Preferred Master Plans
 - B. Everett Hall
 - Gallant
 - Myrtle and Center
2. Cost Considerations and Phasing Options
3. School Committee
 - Sports Program Matrix from School Committee
 - Other Issues
4. Next Steps
 - Submit DRAFT Master Plan Report (Week of September 24th)
 - Meet to Review Committee Comments
 - Finalize + Publish Master Plan Report
 - Fall Town Meeting Appearance (??)
5. Other Items
 - Meeting with Andy Port
 - Coordination with Open Space Plan
6. Open Discussion

Hanover Master Plan & Community Preservation Plans

Public Forum Agenda

November 8th, 2007

Time	Topic Summary	Max
7:00 PM	Welcome & Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew R. Port, AICP, Town Planner • Richard V. Deluca, Chairman, Planning Board 	(5 mins)
7:05 PM	Planning History & Background: <i>(Andrew R. Port, AICP, Town Planner)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History, Rationale & Progress Since 1997 Master Plan • Major Components of Master Plan • Existing Conditions & Trends / Projections / Buildout • Process & Public Participation • Progress Report: Major Issues & Recommendations • Relationship between Community Preservation Plans and Master Plan: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Open Space & Recreation 2) Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan 3) "Planned Production" Affordable Housing Plan 4) Historical Preservation Plan 	(15 mins)
7:20 PM	Community Preservation Plans Progress Report: <i>(Major Issues & Recommendations)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Open Space & Recreation (15 mins) <i>Mary C. McCrann, Senior Environmental Planner, Beals and Thomas, Inc.</i> <i>Kristen Wilson, Beals and Thomas, Inc.</i> 2) Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan (15 mins) <i>Eugene R. Bolinger, RLA, Vice President, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.</i> <i>Michael S. Moonan, RLA, Project Manager, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.</i> 3) "Planned Production" Affordable Housing Plan (15 mins) <i>Karen A. Sunnarborg, Housing, Planning & Community Development Consultant</i> <i>David Eisen, AIA, Principal, Abacus Architects & Planners</i> 4) Historical Preservation Plan (15 mins) <i>Angus G. Jennings, AICP, Principal Planner</i> <i>Concord Square Development Company, Inc.</i> 	
8:20 PM	Questions & Answers: <i>The Audience will be free to ask questions of the Town Planner, Consultants or Boards about any of the plans.</i>	(30 mins)
8:50 PM	Conclusions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Steps <i>(Final Public Forums, Surveys, Draft & Final Community Preservation Plans Online, Master Plan Completion May 2008)</i> • How to Stay Involved: www.hanover-ma.gov/masterplan.shtml www.hanover-ma.gov/preservation-plans.shtml 	(10 mins)
9:00 PM	Thank you & Adjournment!	

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Public Forum - November 8, 2007






"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Basic Project Goals:

- Assess Existing Conditions at Properties
- Identify Programs and Users
- Complete Recreation Needs Assessment
- Develop Improvement Plans
- Establish Priorities and Potential Phases
- Develop an Implementation Strategy

"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Hanover Park & Recreation Properties:

- Briggs Field
- B. Everett Hall Field (Sylvester Field)
- Calvin J. Ellis Field
- Myrtle / Center Playground
- Amos Gallant Field
- King Street Property

"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Hanover's Parks & Recreation/School Properties



"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Recreation Needs Assessment

- Hanover Parks & Recreation Committee / Staff
- Parks and Recreation Users Survey
- General Public Forums
- Specific User Group Meetings
- Hanover Youth Athletic Association (HYA) Meetings

"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Needs Assessments (Continued)

- School Department Meetings
- Existing Facility Analysis and Inventory
- Parks and Recreation Standards and Requirements
- Athletic Facility Standards
- Increase in User Participation Rates

"Planning for the Future"

 Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

User Survey Summary

- 65.6 % have children under the age of 9 living at home
- 81% have children under the age of 18 living at home
- 12% had people over the age of 65 living in the home
- 70.3% indicated that recreation is very important to their families
- 56% indicated that conditions were fair or poor at Myrtle
- 33% of respondents indicated that conditions are fair or poor at B. Everett Hall and Ellis

"Planning for the Future"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

User Survey Summary (Continued)

- 50% indicated that they use B. Everett Hall either 1-2 times per week or 2-4 times per week.
- Top three uses/facilities include children's playground, walking or jogging, basketball and baseball (tied)
- Top three facilities desired include woodland/nature trails, walking and jogging, biking and picnic amenities

"Planning for the Future"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Example Number of Participants

• Spring Soccer	700
• Spring Baseball	600
• Football	180
• Lacrosse	240
• Girls Softball	270
• Summer Basketball	150

"Planning for the Future"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Trails/Open Play Fields






"Not just Athletic Fields"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Hanover's Recreation Needs and Preferences

- Walking, jogging, biking trails
- Improved parking and access at all facilities
- Children's playgrounds
- Skateboard Park
- Restrooms
- Softball Fields
- Multi-use fields – football, lacrosse, field hockey

"Planning for the Future"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Hanover's Recreation Needs and Preferences

- Four basketball courts in one location
- Additional Little League baseball fields
- One additional or relocated full size (90 foot diamond) baseball field
- Regulation street/roller hockey rink
- Potential ice hockey rink
- Multiple tennis courts in one location

"Planning for the Future"




Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Why New / Refurbished Facilities

- Lack of walking, jogging, biking trails in Town
- Parking and access at all facilities needs improvement
- Lack of children's playgrounds
- Lack of / or poor condition restrooms
- "Tired" fields or fields with poor orientations
- Increase in the number of participants
- Increase in population

"Planning for the Future"

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

B. Everett Hall







"Existing Site Photos"

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan



B. Everett Hall

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Calvin J. Ellis Field







"Existing Site Photos"

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan



Calvin J. Ellis Field

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Myrtle / Center Playground







"Existing Site Photos"

 *Weston & Sampson*

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Myrtle / Center Playground

Town of Hanover Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Myrtle / Center Playground

Town of Hanover Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

King Street

"Existing Site Photos"

Town of Hanover Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

King Street

King Street

Town of Hanover Weston & Sampson

Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Moving Forward:

- Prepare Final Draft Master Plan
- Complete Master Plan
- Address Most Critical Needs
- Implement Improvements

"Planning for the Future"

Town of Hanover Weston & Sampson



Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Hanover, MA

October 23, 2007
Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Discuss revised King Street Plan
2. Review DRAFT Master Plan Report
3. Cost Considerations and Phasing Options
4. School Committee
 - Sports Program Matrix from School Committee
 - Other Issues
5. Next Steps
 - Hanover Planning Day – November 8
 - Finalize + Publish Master Plan Report
6. Other Items
 - Meeting with Andy Port & Beals & Thomas
 - Coordination with Open Space Plan
7. Open Discussion



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Hanover, MA

January 31, 2008 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting

MEETING AGENDA

1. Report on December meeting with Open Space
2. Review DRAFT Master Plan Report
 - Update and clarify the ownership information on each site (Andy Port to give us terminology to use)
 - Revise the Existing Conditions narrative on each site to include more history of the development of the site
 - Revise the needs assessment section to include more data, including number of participants and expected future participants
 - Finish off the Usage and Analysis Charts
 - Complete the Existing Conditions Narrative for King Street
 - Prepare a Recommendations section for Briggs
 - Add verbiage to B. Everett Hall to include office space for Parks and Rec in the proposed building
 - Revise the acreage at King Street
 - Expand on priorities and implementation scenarios
 - Comments from the committee on previous furnished Draft Master Plan (October)
3. Next Steps
 - Deliver copy of Draft Master Plan to Beales and Thomas for submission with Draft Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - Finalize Master Plan
 - Prepare for Town Meeting – Informational Package
 - Potential King Street Phase 1 Final Design & Construction
4. Open Discussion

Identify other **new park facilities** and/or amenities that you would like to see at a particular park and recreation property (check ALL that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Court(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Football Field(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Court(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground/Swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball Court(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Recreation (reading, relaxing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Hockey Court(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Tables and Parking Benches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Jogging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little League Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland-Nature Trails/Boardwalks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Uses | <input type="checkbox"/> Informational/Interpretive Signage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandstand | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bocce | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Please note the location of the desired amenities:

24. Presently, Myrtle / Center Playground and the new Cervelli property contain many acres of undeveloped land. Assuming that development can be completed in an aesthetically and environmentally acceptable manner, how might the undeveloped lands best be used for passive or active recreation purposes? (No idea is too silly):

25. Are there other properties (public or private) that would be suitable for development of passive or active recreation amenities or facilities? If yes, please list:

26. Other comments or notes related to improving the quality of Hanover's Park & Recreation programming offerings and opportunities and park facilities/amenities: (Attach additional pages if necessary):

Please return by April 20 to:

Mr. Ted Carroll, CPRA
Recreation Administrator
Town Hall - 2nd Floor
550 Hanover Street
Hanover, MA 02339

Want to complete this survey on-line? Go to:
www.hanover-ma.gov
Thank You!

For information about this questionnaire, please contact Mr. Ted Carroll, Parks & Recreation Administrator at 781-826-7529 or e-mail hanoverparkandrec@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO IMPROVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN HANOVER!!

TOWN OF HANOVER
PARK and RECREATION
USER SURVEY

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The Town of Hanover Parks & Recreation Committee is completing a Park and Recreation Master Plan. As part of this effort, the town's consultant, Weston & Sampson, is analyzing current active and passive park and recreation facilities, assets, and corresponding conditions at a number of properties **to identify opportunities for significant, long-term improvements that provide the greatest benefit to town residents.** The park properties being analyzed are listed below:

Property & Address	Acres	Description
Briggs Field Hanover/Center Streets	1.17	Small-scale facility located within the historic district near town center with a single field for T-ball and softball use.
Sylvester Field (B. Everett Hall Field) 495 Hanover Street	20.33	The town's premier recreation facility, also located within the historic district near town center, with extensive fields, courts (tennis, basketball and street hockey), children's playground, beach volleyball, bandstand, and other related amenities.
Calvin J. Ellis Field 750 Circuit Street (Approx.)	12.50	Major baseball field complex with facilities for most levels of competition.
Myrtle / Center Playground 215 Myrtle Street (Approx.)	75.00	The town's largest park facility in total area with basketball courts, a large and open multi-use field complex used for baseball, softball, and soccer. Trails meander through large undeveloped woodland and wetland sections of the property.
Amos Gallant Field 848 Main Street	2.74	Small-scale facility used for baseball and softball. Located behind the unused Curtis School on Main Street.
Cervelli / King Street 245 King Street (Approx.)	66.66	Recent acquisition, open fields previously farmed and hayed. Recreation uses to be determined.

In addition, **school properties being analyzed** in conjunction with the completion of a town-wide recreation needs assessment are listed below:

School & Address	Acres	Description
Sylvester School 495 Hanover Street	20.33	Fields used for softball, soccer and playground
Center School 65 Silver Street	12.91	Baseball field, multi-purpose field, and playground
Salmond School 188 Broadway	6.66	Softball field and playground
Hanover High School 287 Cedar Street	23.41 23.90	Track, football, baseball, multi-purpose, and tennis courts
Hanover Middle School 45 Whiting Street	29.62	Multi-purpose, playground
Cedar School 265 Cedar Street	48.80 23.90	Multi-purpose, playground

* All schools provide indoor facilities to support summer recreation programming activities and various programs.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT USER SURVEY

Related to the master planning effort is the development of a Community-wide Recreation Needs Assessment. To this end, the Parks & Recreation Committee has developed the following Park and Recreation User Survey. **We hope you will participate in this survey so that the most important recreational needs of the community can be addressed through the development of new active and passive park facilities and amenities as funding becomes available.** It is important to note that recreation needs relate not just to courts and fields and other active recreational facilities, but also to more passive or informal pursuits that might include such activities as walking, reading, flying a kite or interpreting the unique cultural, historical, or environmental assets of a particular property.

Your feedback will help us to plan the future of Hanover's valuable and diverse park properties. Please return your survey by April 20, 2007 to Ted Carroll (see other side).

A. Personal Information

- Name (Optional): _____
- On which street do you live? _____
- How long have you lived at this location? _____
- How long have you lived in Hanover? _____
- Are there people under age 18 in your household? _____
If yes, please indicate the age brackets:
 0 - 4 5 - 9 10 - 14 15 - 18
- How many people over age 65 live in your household? _____
- How important is recreation to you and your family?
 Very Important Important Somewhat Important Not Important

B. Park and Recreation Usage

- Using the chart below, please:
 - Check the names of the park and recreation sites that you visit
 - Indicate the frequency in which you visit the particular property
 - Rate each facility in regard to overall user experience

Property & Address	3+ times/Week	1-2 times/Week	1-2 times/Month	1-3 times/Year	Excel-lent	Good	Fair	Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Briggs Field Hanover/Center Streets								
<input type="checkbox"/> Sylvester Field 495 Hanover Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Calvin J. Ellis Field 750 Circuit Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Myrtle/Center Playgrd. 215 Myrtle Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Amos Gallant Field 848 Main Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Cervelli / King Street 245 King Street								

- Check the names of school department recreation sites that you visit and indicate the frequency in which you visit the particular property:

School & Address	3+ times/Week	1-2 times/Week	1-2 times/Month	1-3 times/Year	Excel-lent	Good	Fair	Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Sylvester School 495 Hanover Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Center School 65 Cedar Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Salmond School 188 Broadway								
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanover High School 287 Cedar Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Hanover Middle School 45 Whiting Street								
<input type="checkbox"/> Cedar School 265 Cedar Street								

- List facilities used and/or activities pursued (check ALL that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Football |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground/Swings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball | <input type="checkbox"/> Passive Recreation (reading, relaxing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Street Hockey | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Jogging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball | <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Walking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Uses | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bandstand (at Sylvester) | |

- Describe/comment on the adequacy of facilities:

Briggs Field: _____

B. Everett Hall Field: _____

Ellis Field: _____

Myrtle/Center Playground: _____

Amos Gallant Field: _____

(Note conditions, facility design, facility availability, specific limitations or problems).

- Is parking adequate at the facility that you frequent (safe, convenient, sufficient quantity)?

(Note park/facility name)

- Is your neighborhood well served by current park and recreation programming and related facilities? Yes No

- Are facilities for seniors adequate? Yes No
If no, how could opportunities for seniors be improved? _____

- How would you describe the overall quality of recreational services in Hanover?

Outstanding Adequate Needs Improvement Unsure/Don't Know

- What is your favorite park, park amenity, or recreation program? (Please name park, park amenity, and/or program.)

- Are facilities for individuals with disabilities or special needs adequate?

Yes No If no, how could opportunities be improved?

- Do you or other family members make use of other public types of park and recreation related amenities in Hanover (such as woodland trails, ponds, streams, open fields for non-structured pursuits)? If so, please list:

- If you rarely make use of recreational amenities in Hanover, what are the reasons? (check ALL that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know locations | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not have transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not conveniently located | <input type="checkbox"/> Feel unsafe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too crowded | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditions are poor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not interesting or enjoyable | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of adequate parking |

- Do you or other family members make use of other private recreational properties or facilities (such as a YMCA, private health club, tennis club)? If so, please list:

- Are your recreational needs met in Hanover, or are you compelled to travel to adjacent communities for recreational activities? If so, for what type of activities?

C. Ideas for Improvement

- List the three most important or critical recreational needs in Hanover:

- Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of **existing parks and recreation related facilities and/or amenities**:

Briggs Field: _____

B. Everett Hall Field: _____

Ellis Field: _____

Myrtle/Center Playground: _____

Amos Gallant Field: _____

Cervelli/King Street: _____

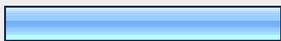
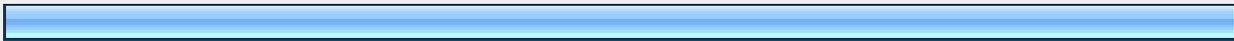
Hanover Park and Recreation User Survey

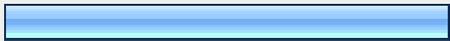
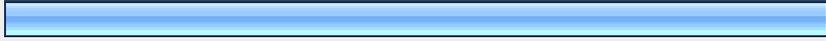
Name (optional)		Response Count
		93
	<i>answered question</i>	93
	<i>skipped question</i>	76

On which street do you live?		Response Count
		157
	<i>answered question</i>	157
	<i>skipped question</i>	12

How long have you lived at this location?		Response Count
		163
	<i>answered question</i>	163
	<i>skipped question</i>	6

How long have you lived in Hanover?		
		Response Count
		164
		answered question 164
		skipped question 5

Are there people under age 18 in your household?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No		18.9%	32
Yes		81.1%	137
		answered question	169
		skipped question	0

If yes, please indicate the age brackets:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0-4		29.9%	41
5-9		67.2%	92
10-14		54.0%	74
15-18		16.8%	23
		answered question	137
		skipped question	32

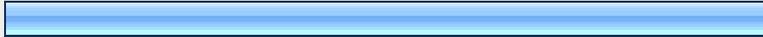
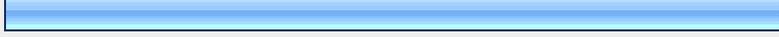
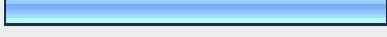
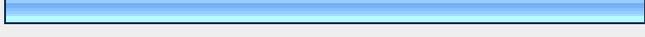
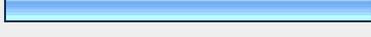
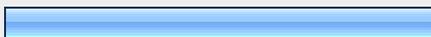
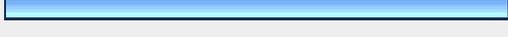
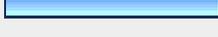
How many people over age 65 live in your household?			Response Percent	Response Count
0			89.3%	142
1			6.9%	11
2			3.8%	6
3+			0.0%	0
answered question				159
skipped question				10

How important is recreation to you and your family?			Response Percent	Response Count
Very Important			71.1%	118
Important			23.5%	39
Somewhat Important			4.2%	7
Not Important			1.2%	2
answered question				166
skipped question				3

Hanover Park and Recreation User Survey

Please indicate the frequency and experience of your visits to the parks and recreation sites below.									
	3+ times/week	1-2 times/week	1-2 times/month	1-3 times/year	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count
Briggs Field	2.5% (3)	2.5% (3)	9.1% (11)	34.7% (42)	3.3% (4)	30.6% (37)	15.7% (19)	1.7% (2)	121
B. Everett Hall Field/Sylvester Field	9.5% (25)	17.4% (46)	13.6% (36)	10.2% (27)	6.1% (16)	25.0% (66)	14.0% (37)	4.2% (11)	264
Calvin J. Ellis Field	9.0% (12)	13.5% (18)	9.8% (13)	18.8% (25)	3.8% (5)	28.6% (38)	12.8% (17)	3.8% (5)	133
Myrtle/Center Playground	2.3% (4)	14.0% (24)	12.2% (21)	22.7% (39)	2.9% (5)	17.4% (30)	20.3% (35)	8.1% (14)	172
Amos Gallant Field	1.1% (1)	6.4% (6)	11.7% (11)	30.9% (29)	2.1% (2)	9.6% (9)	29.8% (28)	8.5% (8)	94
Cervelli/King Street	5.9% (2)	0.0% (0)	20.6% (7)	23.5% (8)	14.7% (5)	14.7% (5)	11.8% (4)	8.8% (3)	34
	answered question								151
	skipped question								18

Please indicate the frequency and experience of your visits to the school department recreation sites below.									
	3+ times/week	1-2 times/week	1-2 times/month	1-3 times/year	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count
Sylvester School	6.1% (11)	17.7% (32)	13.3% (24)	16.0% (29)	3.9% (7)	12.2% (22)	21.5% (39)	9.4% (17)	181
Center School	8.0% (15)	17.0% (32)	12.8% (24)	14.4% (27)	5.3% (10)	20.2% (38)	20.2% (38)	2.1% (4)	188
Salmond School	1.4% (1)	4.2% (3)	5.6% (4)	40.8% (29)	1.4% (1)	7.0% (5)	21.1% (15)	18.3% (13)	71
Hanover High School	8.9% (17)	8.9% (17)	14.6% (28)	18.2% (35)	3.6% (7)	16.7% (32)	13.5% (26)	15.6% (30)	192
Hanover Middle School	7.8% (14)	22.2% (40)	9.4% (17)	12.2% (22)	2.8% (5)	27.2% (49)	15.0% (27)	3.3% (6)	180
Cedar School	6.1% (10)	11.7% (19)	12.9% (21)	20.2% (33)	3.7% (6)	22.1% (36)	15.3% (25)	8.0% (13)	163
	answered question								146
	skipped question								23

Check facilities used and/or activities pursued (check ALL that apply):			Response Percent	Response Count
Basketball		50.6%	84	
Tennis		34.3%	57	
Volleyball		3.6%	6	
Street Hockey		26.5%	44	
Baseball		51.2%	85	
Softball		24.7%	41	
Soccer		46.4%	77	
Lacrosse		21.7%	36	
Winter Uses		25.3%	42	
Bandstand (at Sylvester)		42.2%	70	
Football		24.1%	40	
Playground/Swings		64.5%	107	
Passive Recreation (reading, relaxing)		28.3%	47	
Picnics		24.1%	40	
Walking/Jogging		62.1%	103	
Dog Walking		24.7%	41	
Biking		33.7%	56	
Other (please specify)		14.5%	24	
			answered question	166

	<i>skipped question</i>	3
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Describe/Comment of the adequacy of Briggs Field (note conditions, availability, etc.):		
		Response Count
		46
	<i>answered question</i>	46
	<i>skipped question</i>	123

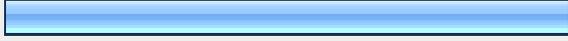
Describe/Comment of the adequacy of B. Everett Hall Field/Sylvester Field (note conditions, availability, etc.):		
		Response Count
		64
	<i>answered question</i>	64
	<i>skipped question</i>	105

Describe/Comment of the adequacy of Ellis Field (note conditions, availability, etc.):		
		Response Count
		57
	<i>answered question</i>	57
	<i>skipped question</i>	112

Describe/Comment of the adequacy of Myrtle/Center Playground (note conditions, availability, etc.):		Response Count
		48
	<i>answered question</i>	48
	<i>skipped question</i>	121

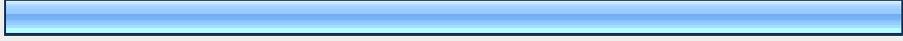
Describe/Comment of the adequacy of Amos Gallant Field (note conditions, availability, etc.):		Response Count
		48
	<i>answered question</i>	48
	<i>skipped question</i>	121

Is parking adequate at the facility that you frequent (safe, convenient, sufficient quantity)? Note park/facility name.		Response Count
		120
	<i>answered question</i>	120
	<i>skipped question</i>	49

Is your neighborhood well served by current park and recreation programming and related facilities?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			62.2%	84
No			37.8%	51
<i>answered question</i>				135
<i>skipped question</i>				34

Are facilities for seniors adequate?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			48.7%	36
No			51.4%	38
<i>answered question</i>				74
<i>skipped question</i>				95

If no, how could opportunities for seniors be improved?		Response Count
		38
<i>answered question</i>		38
<i>skipped question</i>		131

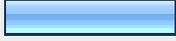
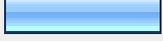
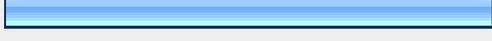
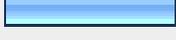
How would you describe the overall quality of recreational services in Hanover?			Response Percent	Response Count
Outstanding			18.2%	29
Adequate			59.8%	95
Needs Improvement			18.9%	30
Unsure/Don't Know			3.1%	5
			<i>answered question</i>	159
			<i>skipped question</i>	10

What is your favorite park, park amenity, or recreation program? Please name park, amenity, and/or program.		Response Count
		118
		<i>answered question</i>
		118
		<i>skipped question</i>
		51

Are facilities for individuals with disabilities or special needs adequate?			Response Percent	Response Count
Yes			55.4%	31
No			44.6%	25
			<i>answered question</i>	56
			<i>skipped question</i>	113

If no, how could opportunities for those with special needs be improved?		
		Response Count
		29
	<i>answered question</i>	29
	<i>skipped question</i>	140

Do you or other family members make use of other public types of park and recreation related amenities in Hanover (such as woodland trails, ponds, streams, open fields for non-structured pursuits)? If so, please list:		
		Response Count
		109
	<i>answered question</i>	109
	<i>skipped question</i>	60

If you rarely make use of recreational amenities in Hanover, what are the reasons? (Check ALL that apply):			Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know locations			62.7%	37
Not conveniently located			11.9%	7
Too crowded			10.2%	6
Not interesting or enjoyable			11.9%	7
Do not have transportation			0.0%	0
Feel unsafe			10.2%	6
Conditions are poor			32.2%	19
Lack of adequate parking			11.9%	7
			answered question	59
			skipped question	110

Do you or other family members make use of other private recreational properties or facilities (such as a YMCA, private health club, tennis club)? If so, please list:			Response Count
			137
			answered question
			137
			skipped question
			32

Are your recreational needs met in Hanover, or are you compelled to travel to adjacent communities for recreational activities? If so, for what type of activities?		Response Count
		130
	<i>answered question</i>	130
	<i>skipped question</i>	39

List the three most important or critical recreational needs in Hanover:		Response Count
		134
	<i>answered question</i>	134
	<i>skipped question</i>	35

Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of Briggs Field:		Response Count
		30
	<i>answered question</i>	30
	<i>skipped question</i>	139

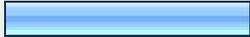
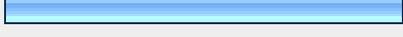
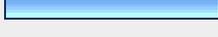
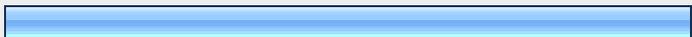
Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of B. Everett Hall Field/Sylvester Field:		Response Count
		44
	<i>answered question</i>	44
	<i>skipped question</i>	125

Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of Ellis Field:		Response Count
		43
	<i>answered question</i>	43
	<i>skipped question</i>	126

Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of Myrtle/Center Playground:		Response Count
		37
	<i>answered question</i>	37
	<i>skipped question</i>	132

Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of Amos Gallant Field:		
		Response Count
		29
	<i>answered question</i>	29
	<i>skipped question</i>	140

Identify specific improvements that would improve your experience when making use of Cervelli/King Street:		
		Response Count
		36
	<i>answered question</i>	36
	<i>skipped question</i>	133

Identify other new park facilities and/or amenities that you would like to see at a particular park and recreation property (check ALL that apply):			Response Percent	Response Count
Basketball Court(s)			16.9%	24
Tennis Court(s)			19.0%	27
Volleyball Court(s)			9.9%	14
Street Hockey Court(s)			22.5%	32
Baseball Field(s)			19.7%	28
Softball Field(s)			17.6%	25
Soccer Field(s)			20.4%	29
Little League Field(s)			23.2%	33
Lacrosse Field(s)			19.7%	28
Winter Uses			26.1%	37
Bandstand			7.0%	10
Bocce			7.8%	11
Football Field(s)			14.1%	20
Playground/Swings			29.6%	42
Passive Recreation (reading, relaxing)			21.8%	31
Picnic Tables and Parking Benches			45.1%	64
Walking/Jogging			50.0%	71
Dog Walking			20.4%	29
Biking			45.8%	65

Hanover Park and Recreation User Survey

Environmental Education		21.1%	30
Woodland-Nature Trails/Boardwalks		51.4%	73
Informational/Interpretive Signage		17.6%	25
Horseshoes		11.3%	16
Other (please specify)		23.2%	33
answered question			142
skipped question			27

Please note the location of the desired amenities:		
		Response Count
		68
answered question		68
skipped question		101

Presently, Myrtle/Center Playground and the new Cervelli Property contain many acres of undeveloped land. Assuming that development can be completed in an aesthetically and environmentally acceptable manner, how might the undeveloped lands best be used for passive or active recreation purposes? (No idea is too silly)		
		Response Count
		119
answered question		119
skipped question		50

Are there other properties (public or private) that would be suitable for development of passive or active recreation amenities or facilities? If yes, please list:		
		Response Count
		34
	<i>answered question</i>	34
	<i>skipped question</i>	135

Other comments or notes related to improving the quality of Hanover's Park and Recreation programming offerings and opportunities, and park facilities/amenities:		
		Response Count
		60
	<i>answered question</i>	60
	<i>skipped question</i>	109



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