



# CHAPTER X

## RECREATION USE

### I. DEFINING RECREATIONAL USES

#### A. Recreation Use Types

There are three widely accepted categories of recreation use related to intensity of activity. These are: preservation/education, passive use, and active use.

1. Preservation/Education means the location of fragile and important cultural and natural settings and features of Waterboro and identifying those special places for preservation and interpretive/educational use.

Although all places are viewed from a perspective of conservation, preservation means a protected unchanged nature of the particular setting type. The importance of these places are in somewhat subjective terms; the important criteria being the maintenance of the essence of the place to preserve the integrity of the landscape. The knowledge of its existence, of perception of cultural heritage, a sanctuary for wildlife, or ecologic observation are all important criteria for preservation. They require restricted use and dominate site constraints for development.

2. Passive recreation indicates a suitability for minimum disruption of sites which can absorb development impact and change. These forms of recreation use generally require little site disruption and encroachment of the resources.

Passive recreation directly involves an individual relationship with the site. Its use is directly related to the cultural or natural resource of the site, instead of the imposition of use on a site. This difference is essential in that the site dominates the type of use. In addition, passive recreation implies the one-on-one relationship with the natural or cultural resource, that the involvement is personal and individual. Access is generally restricted and localized in order to maintain minimum disruption of the resource and maximize the recreation experience.

Examples of passive recreation types are indicated in the following list:

- rock climbing
- hunting
- fishing
- horseback riding
- backpacking
- nature studies
- day hiking
- picnicking
- wading
- swimming
- tubing

3. Active recreation are those uses which have high impact on the site and characteristics which are normally disruptive to natural sites. Therefore, these uses need careful siting to avoid or minimize disruption. Active recreation also relates to the use of equipment and facilities to supplement the experience. It implies concentrated use of a limited area and not necessarily using the natural values of the setting as much as the durability of the site for a particular use, seeking the greatest fitness and least disruption of the context of the site. These recreation types need to be readily accessible and easily identified; therefore, adjacency to urbanized settings and road landscapes are very important.

Examples of active recreation types are indicated in the following list:

- outdoor games and sports (organized)
- urban parks
- concentrated swimming
- auto camping
- group camping
- organized group picnicking
- trail heads
- facility parking
- organized stable horseback events
- driving for pleasure
- motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, or snowmobiles

The general framework for recreation based upon the existing natural and cultural resources only hints at the potential for recreation to occur, and only within the framework of need and environmental fitness can final recreation determination be made. Thus, the above examples of recreation use are not intended to be wholly comprehensive for Waterboro, but rather only indications of typical recreation types.

## B. Scale

The scale of a recreational use relates to its position and degree of use within the context of population and people. In order to understand recreational use facilities in Waterboro, the scale of use is an important criteria. The scale of recreational uses are as follows:

1. Regional Recreation Uses are those uses, present or future, which are recognized and utilized by Town residents and by residents of adjacent municipalities. These uses are characterized by locations which overlap municipal boundaries or by an overall regional uniqueness and resultant awareness and attraction.
2. Local Recreation Uses are utilized by a majority of Town residents and possess a Town-wide awareness and recognition. These uses, which encompass facilities as well as organized recreation programs, are concentrated in facilities of municipal ownership, as well as commercially and privately owned areas.
3. Neighborhood Recreational Uses are concentrated within segments of the population or "neighborhoods." These uses are often associated with the recreational needs of a specific locale and are normally the most frequently used recreation type.

## C. Landscape Settings and Recreation Use

There are two important scales of information regarding the general fitness of recreation use to a particular landscape setting. First, is a general relationship between appropriate recreation use and landscape setting which match the fragile and durable qualities of the existing environment to minimum and high impact recreation uses. The relationships between use and place are based upon the previously defined recreation use types.

Secondly, are those special and unique settings and features in the landscape which have cultural or physical qualities that possess recreation potential.

Categories of landscape settings include the following:

- Urban Areas
- Suburban Areas
- Natural Areas

## D. Accessibility and Ownership

Accessibility is one of the most important considerations in determining recreation use. The overall fitness of the circulation system to the environment, and its appropriateness to proposed use, is essential in the generation of fitness within the landscape. In addition, the level of quality of roads and their maintenance are crucial to enhance the potential for experience.

Ownership of both access routes, as well as recreation areas, is a key consideration of recreation potential in Waterboro. With the unusually high incidence of private land ownership in Waterboro (and the State of Maine as a whole), the provision of adequate recreational use is challenging. It is, therefore, important to establish ownership status of existing and future recreation use areas:

1. State - owned by the State.
2. Municipal - owned by the Town.
3. Private - owned and operated by private landowners.

## II. INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES

The following inventory of existing recreational uses is based on information provided by the State of Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Recreation and by the Waterboro Comprehensive Planning Committee on Recreation.

## III. IDENTIFICATION OF FUTURE NEEDS

### A. Comparison with Recreation Standards

The following data represents an assessment of Waterboro's recreation facilities in comparison with National Standards for Recreation Facilities. The comparison looks at present and future needs based on data obtained from the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Table X-1

Facility	National Standard	1989 Status (pop. 4,798)			2000 Status (pop. 8,329)		
		Fac. Exist.	Applied Stand.	Net Need	Fac. Exist.	Applied Stand.	Fac. Need
Baseball/ Little League Fields	.17 fields/1000 pop.	4	.82	-3	4	1.42	0
Softball Fields	.33 fields/1000	2	1.58	0	2	2.74	1
Soccer Fields	.43 fields/1000	3	2.06	0	3	3.58	1
Outdoor Basketball Courts	.50 courts/1000	3	2.4	0	3	4.17	1
Outdoor Tennis Courts	.50 courts/1000	4	2.4	0	4	4.17	0
Recreation Halls	.10 halls/1000	1	.47	0	1	.83	0
Playgrounds	.50/1000	4	2.4	0	4	4.17	0
Picnic Table Sites	2.0/1000	13	9.6	0	13	16.65	4
Swimming Facility	1/15,000	1	1	0	1	1	0
Boating Facilities	4.85 parking spaces/1000	10	23	13	10	40.4	30
Nature Trails	.32 miles/1000	1	1.5	.5	1	2.66	2

## B. Identified Needs

1. Information provided in this section is based on direct response from the Citizens Attitude Survey undertaken in 1989 by the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

### a) Recreation Facilities (listed by priority)

- 1) Expanded beach/picnic areas
- 2) No facilities needed
- 3) Indoor/outdoor pool
- 4) Improved/expanded park facilities

- 5) Skating rink
- 6) YMCA
- 7) Hiking/cross-country ski trails
- 8) Tennis courts
- 9) Gym
- 10) Bowling alley
- 11) Football fields
- 12) Movie theater
- 13) Improved baseball facilities
- 14) Basketball courts
- 15) Play equipment
- 16) Golf course
- 17) Parking at boat launches
- 18) New library
- 19) Bingo hall
- 20) Wildlife preserves
- 21) Bike trails
- 22) Town take over LAC facilities
- 23) Ski hill
- 24) Picnic areas
- 25) Ossipee Hill as a park

b) Recreation Programs (listed by priority)

- 1) Youth programs
- 2) Teen-Age programs
- 3) Adult programs
- 4) No programs needed
- 5) Watersports instruction
- 6) Football
- 7) Wintersports instruction
- 8) Soccer
- 9) Hire recreation director
- 10) Non-team youth activities
- 11) Elderly programs
- 12) Youth tennis
- 13) Parades/carnivals
- 14) Fund raising for youth volunteers
- 15) Bingo
- 16) Annual road race
- 17) Golf
- 18) Boy Scouts

#### IV. EVALUATION OF RECREATION NEEDS

##### EXISTING FACILITIES

In accordance with the Inventory of Existing Facilities, the evaluation of existing facilities is based on the following:

- Type of Facility (Active, Passive, Preservation/Education)
- Scale of Facility (Regional, Local Neighborhood)
- Landscape Setting (Urban, Suburban, Natural)
- Ownership (State, Municipal, Private)

**Types of Facilities** in Waterboro are predominately used for active recreation purposes, including boating, concentrated swimming, organized sports, and motorized vehicle use. Very few passive recreation opportunities exist on municipally owned lands within the Town. No preservation/education types of facilities are available for public use. Citizen attitudes toward desired new facilities clearly demonstrate a preference for additional active recreation facilities.

**The Scale of Facilities** in Waterboro are regional or local, with the exception of the Lake Arrowhead Community, containing neighborhood scale facilities. Certain facilities support regional recreation uses as well as local recreation uses, such as the Little Ossipee Boat Landing. As a result of regional use (boat launch) and local use (swimming beach), Waterboro residents have stated the need for additional and separate facilities for resident use only. It is important to note the absence of neighborhood recreation facilities, as Waterboro is essentially comprised of a series of isolated population centers. Citizen's attitudes are unknown as to whether or not local facilities are perceived as neighborhood facilities according to their location in the Town.

**Landscape Settings** for recreation facilities in Waterboro are primarily urban or suburban in character. This is an appropriate condition where most recreation facilities support active uses; however, it identifies the lack of recreation experience available in natural areas. The Ossipee Hill hiking trail and Flowage Loop equestrian trail are two examples of recreation uses in natural settings; however, both occur on privately owned lands.

**Ownership of Recreation Lands** are evenly mixed between municipally and privately owned lands. With the uncertainty of future use of private lands for recreation, it is clear that municipal acquisition of land will be necessary to secure these future recreation needs.

**NOTE:** Refer to Table X-2 for a comprehensive assessment of existing recreation facilities based on the above criteria.

#### COMMUNITY ATTITUDES

The opinion of Waterboro residents is derived from the Citizens Attitude Survey and Focus Group Discussions (see Chapter XI). Evaluation of this information identifies the primary aspects of future recreation needs as follows:

TABLE X-1  
INVENTORY OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES  
TOWN OF WATERBORO

FACILITY NAME	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	USE TYPE			SCALE			LANDSCAPE SETTING					OWNERSHIP			AREA ACRES	
		PRES.	PASS.	ACTIVE	REG.	LOC.	NEIB.	OW	URB	SUBR.	MW	WL	OL	STATE	MUN.		PRIV.
Friendship Park	Municipal Park			X		X				X					X		15.0
Ossipee Pines Park	Waterfront Park			X		X		X							X		5.0
Little Ossipee Boat Launch	Municipal Boat Site			X	X			X					X				1.0
Ossipee Hill	Hiking Trail		X		X					X						X	1.0
North Waterboro Scramble	Motorized Trail			X	X					X	X					X	2.0
Flowage Loop Trail	Horse Riding Trail		X			X					X	X				X	1.0
Blackburns Campground	Private Campground			X	X			X	X							X	60.0
Massabesic School	Education Complex			X		X				X			X	X			106.0
East Waterboro Elementary School	Education Complex			X		X				X			X	X			10.0
Lions Mass. Medical Center	Former School			X		X				X					X		9.5
Waterboro Town Hall	Municipal Land			X		X		X							X		1.35
Lake Arrowhead Community	Private Facil. (12)			X		X		X		X						X	9.5
YWCA Camp Laughing Loon	Private Camp			X	X			X	X							X	5.0

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

PRES - Preservation  
PASS - Passive  
ACTIVE - Active  
REG - Regional  
LOC - Local  
NEIB - Neighborhood  
OW - Open Water  
URB - Urban

SUBR - Suburban  
MW - Mountain Wilderness  
WL - Wooded Lowland  
OL - Open Lowland  
STATE - State  
MUN - Municipal  
PRIV - Private

- Town purchase of waterfront access lands and conservation lands received the highest support for spending derived from slight or substantial tax increases. Responding to the question of which Town services would be most supported by substantial tax increases, purchase of conservation lands received the highest support (13% of all respondents). Purchase of lands for waterfront access received just under 13% support, with the next highest priority given to improved education programs, receiving 12%.
- Regarding new recreation facilities, Waterboro residents clearly favor active recreation uses over other use types. Most important future facilities needed are expanded beach areas, a Town swimming pool, ice skating rink and expansion of Town parks. While residents desire these facilities, only 5% would favor substantial tax increases for implementation.
- Interesting to note is the desire for active recreation facilities; however, there is a preference for acquisition of conservation lands when tax increases are considered. Waterboro residents are concerned with conservation of the unique natural areas of the Town, as well as the acquisition of land for waterfront access.
- Waterboro residents strongly desire the development of Recreation Programs for youth, teen-age and adult activities; however, did not strongly support tax increases to implement these programs.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for Waterboro's future recreation needs are based on the inventory of existing facilities, comparison of the capacity of these facilities with State standards, attitudes toward recreation needs stated by Waterboro residents, and evaluation of this information by the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Recommendations are presented as follows:

#### **RECREATION FACILITIES**

- Implement site selection, property acquisition and funding for public access to Little Ossipee Pond. Direct the site selection and property acquisition effort to provide for new swimming beach and picnic area facilities for Town residents only. The YMCA Camp Laughing Loon, although not available for purchase at this time, should be considered as an interim site under an extended lease agreement.

- Implement site selection, property acquisition and funding for a "Town Recreation Center." This facility should serve as the central core of recreation activity within the Town. This facility should provide indoor space for Town-wide information pertaining to recreation, recreation programs, and eventually for a Recreation Director or municipal department of recreation. Expansion to the existing Town Hall or proximity to the Town Hall is recommended for the location of this facility. The property utilized for the "Town Recreation Center" should be of sufficient size to accommodate certain facilities for Town-wide use, such as a swimming pool or ice skating rink.
  
- Maintain and improve the condition of existing recreation facilities within Waterboro. Where appropriate and responsive to population growth areas, expand existing facilities to accommodate the need for increased facilities by the year 2000.
  
- Construct the following listed recreation facilities by the year 2000. Location and site selection for these facilities should be determined in accordance with projected population growth areas in Waterboro.

Facilities to be constructed by the year 2000

- ( 1) Softball Field
- ( 1) Soccer Field
- ( 1) Outdoor Basketball Court
- ( 4) Picnic Table Sites
- (30) Boat Launch Parking Spaces
- ( 2 miles) Nature Trails

- Develop preservation/education types of recreation facilities within Waterboro which provide residents with the opportunity to learn about unique natural areas within the Town. Target and coordinate this effort with unique areas recently acquired for conservation containing the Waterboro Barrens and Little Ossipee River frontage. Coordinate public access and nature interpretation uses with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the management agency for these areas.
  
- Improve and expand boat launching facilities to improve public access to waterbodies. Specifically, improve the Lake Arrowhead facility and the Little Ossipee facility in coordination with State authorities. Consider a new facility located at the New Dam Road crossing of the Little Ossipee River.

- Maintain and improve existing snowmobiling and ATC opportunities within the Town of Waterboro. Continue coordination of the improvements with the Ossipee Mountaineers Snowmobiling Club. Apply for State funds to develop these opportunities.

## **RECREATION PROGRAMS**

- Implement Town-supported and coordinated recreational programs serving the entire municipality. Youth programs should be given the highest priority for implementation, followed by teen-age programs and adult programs. Implementation of recreation programs should be established utilizing volunteer effort, with support from the Town respective to citizen awareness and provision of meeting space required for indoor programs. Long-term support and coordination of recreation programs should be undertaken by a Recreation Director or municipal department of recreation.

## **COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN**

- Develop an overall plan to guide the improvement of existing recreation facilities and implementation of new facilities and recreation programs. The Plan should also evaluate the need for "neighborhood" scale recreation facilities. As Waterboro solidifies its growth pattern as a "series of village centers", new recreation facilities should be planned to support each of these areas accordingly.