



TOWN OF WATERBORO
20/20 Master Planning Committee

Recreation
Facilities Chapter

JULY 2013

During the spring of 2013, the 20/20 Master Planning Committee, in cooperation with Michael DeAngelis, Waterboro’s Parks and Recreation Director, conducted a town-wide assessment of recreational facilities in Waterboro. The assessment utilized the Rural Active Living Assessment (RALA) Town-Wide Assessment Tool which was developed by Dr. David Hartley of the University of Southern Maine’s Rural Health Research Center. The assessment instrument was provided to the 20/20 Master Planning Committee by Partners for Healthier Communities of Goodall Hospital’s Healthy Maine Partnership. The 20/20 Master Planning Committee is grateful to Goodall Hospital’s Betsy Kelly and Rick Matthews for making the assessment instrument available to us and for their encouragement, support and expertise in utilizing it.

The recreation facilities data within the RALA Town-Wide Assessment Tool is detailed in Appendix “A,” copies of which are available at the Waterboro Public Library, the Town Planner’s office and the Parks and Recreation office at the town hall and at Goodall Hospital (office of the Healthy Maine Partnership), as well as in digital format on the town’s website. Some of the details in Appendix “A” are summarized as follows:

1. Waterboro has three public access parks:
 - Friendship Park, Old Alfred Road
 - Bob Fay Memorial Park, Turtle Cove Road
 - Mill Pond Park, Mill Pond Drive



FRIENDSHIP PARK PAVILION PICNIC AREA



BOB FAY MEMORIAL PARK PICNIC AREA

2. Waterboro has two public beach areas:

- Gobeil Park (for Waterboro residents only), Rt. 5 at Little Ossipee Lake
- Bob Fay Memorial Park, Turtle Cove Road

The town also owns Love Island on Lake Arrowhead.



GOBEIL PARK BEACH AREA



BOB FAY MEMORIAL PARK BEACH AREA

3. Waterboro does not have any public use swimming pools although there are two pools (one indoor, one outdoor) on the Waterboro side of Lake Arrowhead Community (a private home-owner's association) and LAC has private playgrounds.

4. There is one Waterboro owned and operated playground in town at Friendship Park. There is also a playground at RSU 57's Waterboro Elementary School.



FRIENDSHIP PARK PLAYGROUND

5. Waterboro has playing fields and/or courts at Friendship Park.

- Soccer Field
- Beach Volleyball Court
- Little League Baseball Field
- Basketball Court
- Horseshoe Pits

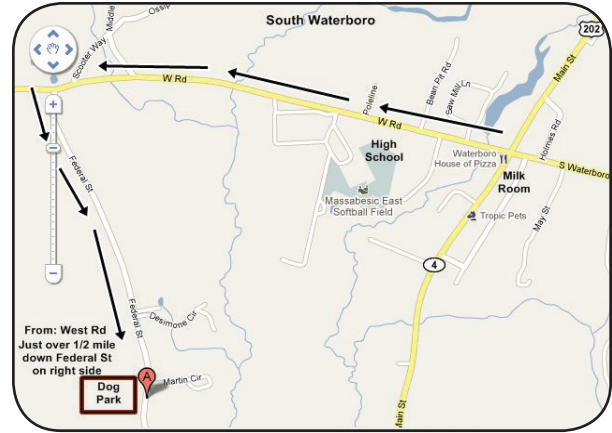
There is also a softball field at Lions Field and a basketball court/multi-purpose area at town hall.



FRIENDSHIP PARK LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD

6. The Waterboro Land Trust owns and operates a dog park on Federal Street.

7. There are approximately 40 miles of snowmobile/ATV trails in Waterboro. These trails are maintained by the Ossipee Mountaineers Snowmobile Club and the Ossipee Mountain ATVers. These trails are all seasonal multi-use trails which are utilized by snowmobilers, ATVs, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, hikers, horseback riders, etc.



WATERBORO DOG PARK ON FEDERAL STREET

8. Except for heavily traveled Rts. 202/4/5, there are no biking paths in Waterboro that are close to or part of existing streets or roads.

9. The Waterboro Land Trust maintains a walking/hiking trail on Ossipee Mountain. The trail to the fire tower also provides another walking/hiking opportunity that has been very popular with residents and visitors for years.

10. Except for RSU #57's school gymnasiums and the town hall recreation room, there are no public indoor facilities that are suitable for physical activities in Waterboro. Massabesic Health Resources, P.A. includes private fitness services to its patrons in its facility. Kraze Fitness, Paradox Fitness and Brooks Dance Center provide private activity space for their patrons.



LITTLE OSSIPEE RIVER

11. The Little Ossipee River in the northern part of Waterboro is a popular river with canoe/kayak/boat/watersport access. Waterboro also has several lakes and ponds that provide excellent opportunities for water based year-round activities. Little Ossipee Lake is Waterboro's most important natural resource.

12. The Waterboro Pine Barrens, owned, maintained, and managed by the Nature Conservancy, in the northwestern section of town is a serene woodland preserve of over 2,000 acres and is home to Maine's best example of a boreal pine barrens.



WATERBORO PINE BARRENS

Conclusions – Recommendations

After reflecting on the RALA Town-Wide Assessment results, the 20/20 Master Planning Committee concludes that there are a few indoor facilities in Waterboro that are available for organized youth sports teams but most of these facilities are school facilities and Waterboro access to them is very difficult to schedule because they are so heavily utilized by the schools.

The committee also concludes that there are quite a few outdoor recreational facilities in Waterboro, most notably snowmobile/ATV trails and facilities associated with the town's many lakes, ponds and streams. The committee unfortunately concludes that there are no indoor public recreational facilities available to Waterboro adults, especially senior citizens.

The 20/20 Master Planning Committee, based on data generated from the RALA Town-Wide Assessment Tool, input from citizens generated from the committee's visioning sessions, and input gained from the villages listening sessions, offers a few short range, relatively inexpensive, easy to implement, action planning strategies. The committee further offers a few longer range, moderately expensive or difficult to implement, action planning strategies. Finally, the committee offers a greatly needed, long range, far reaching, comprehensive, innovative, major capital action planning strategy.

Short-range, relatively inexpensive or easy to implement action planning strategies

- 1.** Under the guidance of the Public Works Director, provide a walking/hiking trail by painting a line on the streets and by providing signs identifying the area as a walking/hiking trail. The suggested route would be off Old Alfred Road near Friendship Park along Oak Lane and Hemlock Avenue back to Old Alfred Road. The "loop" could be completed back to Friendship Park after the sidewalk project on Old Alfred Road is constructed.
- 2.** Authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to attempt to work out a rental agreement with Lake Arrowhead for swimming pool time for Waterboro residents. User fees to swimmers could be structured so that they would cover pool rental costs.
- 3.** Have the Planning Board require that some future sub-division developments provide playground areas.
- 4.** Authorize a committee of interested citizens to develop a conveniently located and safe cross country ski trail.
- 5.** Encourage landowners to grant access permissions for multi-purpose trails/walkways.
- 6.** Establish a strong working relationship with the staff of the Nature Conservatory and expand recreational learning experiences on Waterboro Pine Barrens Reserve.

Longer-range, moderately expensive or difficult to implement action planning strategies

- 1.** Provide a walking/hiking trail near the perimeter area of Friendship Park. It is suggested that the trail be constructed of gravel or wood chips. Perhaps the trail could be utilized for cross-country skiing in the winter.
- 2.** Develop playground areas near the four village hubs.
- 3.** Organize a group of high school and middle school age students and encourage the group to plan, fund raise and be involved in the construction and operating of a skate board park at a location to be determined by the group.
- 4.** Examine the likelihood of constructing a sidewalk on Old Alfred Road connecting the school system to the Friendship Park area, as specifically designed in the town's 2012 Safe Routes to Schools plan. (Estimates and construction plans were prepared in 2012.)

Long-range, far reaching, comprehensive, innovative, major capital action planning strategy

- 1.** Build a new Community Center facility. The Community Center complex should contain a large group meeting room/performing arts area, small group meeting rooms, a gymnasium, a fitness center and an indoor walking area. Several outdoor sports fields, courts and walking/hiking trails should be part of the complex.

Funding such a capital project would require great community creativity, participation, commitment, and effort. It is suggested that organizations like the Harold Alfond Foundation be explored along with other grant sources, as well as public/private partnerships.



VIEW OF OSSIPEE MOUNTAIN FIRE TOWER FROM ROUTE 5