

# Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

Town of Vernon, Vermont  
August 2023



**VERNON**  
VERMONT

Weston & Sampson<sup>SM</sup>

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.  
1 Winners Circle, Suite 130  
Albany, New York 12205  
tel: 518-463-4400 fax: 978-977-0100



## Acknowledgements

### Vernon Select Board

Sandra Harris, Chair  
Thomas Guerino, Vice Chair  
Jean Car, Clerk  
Brandon Bucossi, Select Board  
Michael Root, Select Board

### Town of Vernon

Shelly Banford, Town Administrator  
Seth Deyo, Recreation Department Director  
Ian Deyo, Assistant Recreation Department Director

### Committee Members

Seth Deyo  
Ian Deyo  
Eleanor Thomas  
Bob Spencer  
Don Rosinski

### Consultant Team

Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.  
Daniel P. Biggs, RLA, ISA, CERP – Associate | Regional Manager  
Douglas F. Gerber, RLA – Senior Project Manager  
Elijah J. Pulver – Landscape Architecture I  
Alyla L. Phomphakdy – Landscape Architecture I

For more information about this document, contact:  
Douglas F. Gerber, RLA at 518.463.4400  
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.  
One Winners Circle, Suite 130  
Albany, NY 12205

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VT Department of Environmental Conservation  
Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

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# Background and Vision

## Vision and Purpose

The Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan is intended to help meet the needs of current and future residents by positioning Vernon to build on the community's unique recreational assets and in the case of the Vernon Recreation Area, trails. This collaborative plan establishes direction to guide town staff, elected officials, and stakeholders in their efforts to enhance the community's recreational facilities and park space. This document is meant to create a roadmap of strategic planning processes for the Town of Vernon over the next five and ten years.

## Objectives of the Plan

1. Develop a Vision: Preparing for the future, while retaining the values of the community.
2. Develop implementable goals and priorities: Focusing efforts on transforming conceptual goals into achievable priorities.
3. Continue to provide and enhance recreational opportunities for residents by providing outdoor uses.
4. Develop an implementation strategy for park and trail improvements, with a focus on accessibility.

The master planning process can be understood as the weaving of many different threads: What do people want? What already exists in one form or another? What might be possible that townspeople may not currently be aware of? And finally, how do we weave all this together in a way that fulfills the expectations of as many residents, and special interest groups, as possible?

## Background

Located in the southeastern corner of Vermont, the Town of Vernon has a population of approximately 2,600 and a total area of 20.0 square miles, of which 19.4 square miles is land and 0.6 square miles (3.15%) is water. Vernon sits within Windham County, alongside Vermont's borders, while adjacent to Franklin County in Massachusetts to the south, and Cheshire County in New Hampshire to the east.

### How Vernon Received its Name

The Town of Vernon is the smallest town in Windham County. New Hampshire's first royal governor, Benning Wentworth, determined Vernon's size through his strategy of granting "cookie cutter" six-mile square towns from the New York border to the Atlantic shore. At this time, the square town that included present-day Vermont was named Hinsdale and was split diagonally by the Connecticut River.

Wentworth's approach created problems for others who had previously claimed land within the area, including the Provincial Governor Tryon of New York and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Eventually, this was settled by Ethan Allen and his "Green Mountain Boys". The land west of the



Connecticut River was established as the Republic of Vermont until 1791 when it officially became the 14<sup>th</sup> State.

Even after receiving Statehood, the lands were still named Hinsdale (like it's remaining half located east of the Connecticut River). At the Town Meeting of 1802, after several discussions of what to rename the town, Lieutenant Governor Jonathan Hunt's wife Lavinia suggested it be named Vernon after a friend of George Washington's family, British Admiral Edward Vernon. This made Vernon the only Town in Vermont to be named by a woman.<sup>1</sup>

## Demographics

As of 2021, the population of the Town of Vernon is estimated to be 2,587 people. The town has a somewhat diverse age distribution with those aged under 20, 20 to 34, and 65 and over each accounting for 20% of the total population. Those aged 35 to 54 account for 30% of the population and those aged 55 to 64 accounts for 10%. The median age is reported to be 37.6 years. The distribution of population by sex is quite evenly distributed with males accounting for 53% of the population and females accounting for 47%. Majority of the Town of Vernon is reported to be white (88%) with 6% of the population being Hispanic, 1% Asian, and 5% identifying as two or more races.<sup>2</sup>

For the Town of Vernon, the median household income is \$78,393, about 1.3 times the amount in Windham County (\$59,195) and about 20% higher than the amount in Vermont (\$67,674).

## Existing Conditions

The purpose of this section is to identify existing conditions which may influence the development of recreational facilities and trails in the project area. The project team conducted a desktop review and a field reconnaissance of the potential project areas verify existing resources. The existing conditions review further informed opportunities and constraints within the project area. Existing resources include existing recreational facilities, wetlands, property ownership, utility easements, and maintenance of recreational facilities.

Ultimately, improvements to town recreational areas will need to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts of existing natural resources. An environmental analysis should be completed prior to implementation design to review project sites and proposed improvements adjacent to existing environmental resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Moseley, B. (n.d.) *How Vernon Got its Name*. Vernon, Vermont: History. Retrieved from: <https://vernonvt.org/history/>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2017-2021). Sex by Age American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved from: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/06000US5002574800-vernon-town-windham-county-vt/>

## Recreational Facilities

Vernon is rich with natural areas where you can enjoy hiking, nature study, swimming, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and many more possible and existing opportunities. Few existing publicly managed recreational venues exist in Vernon. Outdoor activities and riding snowmobiles are popular in the winter as well as year-round hiking. The Town of Vernon currently operates two facilities – the Town of Vernon Recreational Area and the Vernon Elementary School and Gym. These venues provide a range of passive and active recreation for residents and visitors. Currently, the Town Recreation Department has two dedicated employees who maintain Vernon's facilities and recreational programs.

Weston & Sampson performed a field investigation in November 2022 of the existing outdoor playground located at 607 Pond Road (East Vernon Recreation Area) as part of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan project. As part of this investigation, Weston & Sampson took photographs, field measurements, and spoke with town staff about existing structures, equipment, and facilities.

### Vernon Recreation Area (Western & Eastern Portions at Pond Road)

Vernon Recreation Area, a 35.4-acre park that has multiple recreation types and is the primary, and one of the only traditional park areas in Vernon. The park is equipped with amenities like bathrooms, a gazebo, picnic areas, playgrounds, a disc golf course, a softball field, a tee ball field, tennis courts, basketball courts, a pool, pool house, an expansive asphalt parking lot, and informal non-paved parking over lawn. At the eastern limits of the parks traditional manicured section stems into a forest that has existing trails and snowmobiling paths meandering through the remainder of the park's extents. These trails stem into other regions of the town through the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T.) snowmobiling trail organization. This recreation area is divided by Pond Road, a heavily traveled road used by commuters from Massachusetts and local residents. On the western side of the park sits the softball field and tee ball fields adjacent to the Huckle Hill Senior Housing facility. For the purposes of this report, the Vernon Recreation Area is divided into four areas: the portions on the west side of the road, the crosswalk area, the portion on the east side of the road, and finally the wooded area east of the exiting Pavilion.

### Vernon Recreation Area (West Side of Pond Road)

The Vernon Recreation Area (West of Pond Road) consists of an informal stone parking area, softball field, tee-ball field, disc golf course, and access to a crosswalk at Pond Road. The softball field is used for baseball and youth softball programs. Formal league games are generally played in Brattleboro so improvements for league play are not necessary at this time. Occasionally, the field turf does become compacted, and eventually dries out later in the season. The Town regularly top dresses and seeds the play surface to maintain healthy turf growth. This level of maintenance is adequate for the field's current use and there is no immediately available access to water for irrigation. The tee-ball field is primarily available for use by a league for five- to six-year-olds. The disc golf course and disc golf baskets are new, in good condition, are well used, and have been installed within the past few years. Currently, vehicles park in the gravel area at the northwest corner of Pond Road and Huckle Hill Road. As many as 50 to 60 cars park in the area during



events. The parking area is frequently used throughout the week and during Saturday mornings, but ADA parking spaces are not currently available. When not use for parking, the lawn area is also used for warm-ups before practices and games.

### Pedestrian Crosswalk on Pond Road (Connecting West & East Sections of The Vernon Recreation Area)

Pond Road is a Town owned and traffic tends to speed along the roadway. To enforce speed limits, the Local Sheriff's Department has acquired speed and safety devices that may be effective while notifying drivers of their current speed or exceeding posted speed limits. Two crosswalk signs exist at the crosswalk to warn oncoming traffic. The crosswalk spans over a culvert on the west side of which has shifted over time. Re-aligning and lowering the plastic culvert will improve drainage and accessibility to the crosswalk.

### Vernon Recreation Area (East Side of Pond Road)

The Vernon Recreational Area (east of Pond Road) is home to the Vernon REC pool, wading pool, pool house, pavilion, athletic fields, playgrounds, sections of trails and parking. The recreational area was opened in 1972 and funded by the former Vermont Yankee Power Plant. Today, a large siren commemorates what was once the power plant's monthly emergency practice alarm, used in preparation for protection of the residents in case of a potential plant failure, and the alarm is located near the eastern side of the pool house.

An existing entry sign welcomes visitors near the parks vehicular entrance and leads to the Vernon REC Pool House entrance. Bicycle racks are located across the drive lane from the pool building and exterior gated entrance. The pool building entrance currently lacks an ADA accessible building access and drop-off. The large brick pool house is in good condition with a roof that is less than 10-years-old. Within the building are locker rooms, a small concession area serving pre-packaged snacks, office space, and a community room available for community use.

The pool is maintained by the Recreation Department and is patched and painted yearly. A pool access stair to accommodate American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant access to the pool and was installed in 2023. The fenced in wading pool adjacent to the REC pool is actively used. Contemporary picnic tables and fabric awnings erected to provide a shaded and enjoyable environment within the wading pool area.

The parking lot located to the east side of the pool house and is in good condition, with recently sealed and painted parking lines. The lot is generally left unplowed during the snow season. Though there are ADA parking spaces available near the pavilion, these parking spaces are non-ADA compliant. In the summer, food trucks use this parking lot five to six times per year to serve food to visitors of the Vernon Recreation Area.

The existing basketball court located on the west side of the recreational area is regularly maintained and received re-sealing as needed. There is a crack in the asphalt pavement surface that runs the length along mid-court. The tennis facility is located east of the basketball court. The

tennis court's original lighting, assumed to have been installed in the 1970's or 1980's, is worn, inefficient, and outdated. The chain linked enclosed tennis courts are well used and are in good condition.

The existing playground on the east side of the recreation area is well maintained and looks to be up to date, though the town assumes portions of the playground exceed 40 years old. The park's playground is open to the public and maintained and operated by Town Recreation Department Staff and is composed of multiple individual pieces of equipment generally clustered along the eastern side of the property within the open lawn areas. Equipment has been installed over an extended period, with some components appearing newer than others, and the wear of equipment varies. The wood fiber safety surfacing beneath play equipment does not appear to be an adequate depth based on estimated fall height of equipment and does not appear to extend to the full use zone of some equipment. A desktop review of the play equipment observed at the site can be found in the appendices of this report.

The Pavilion on the west side of the area is well used, with a grill area, picnic tables, bathrooms, storage area, drinking fountain, Summer Camp coordination space, and interior lighting. The grill and picnic tables appear to be in good operable condition while the bathrooms require interior updates, accessible entrances, and exterior privacy fences that will meet accessibility and building codes. The storage area is operable and functional.

The Pavilion roof and concrete walk surface appear to be in good condition and the Committee confirmed that the roof does not leak. The Pavilion bathrooms and hooded large grill east of the main building is well used by the community during Summer Camp. The open-air portion of the pavilion needs seasonal weather improvements to minimize wind and rain during activities. There is one drinking fountain remaining at the Pavilion. Since other formerly removed and the remaining drinking fountain in the park are difficult to maintain and are subject to vandalism, new drinking fountains will not be installed after the remaining one is removed.

Finally, the horseshoe pits located along the tree line, to the east of the pavilion are well used with operable lighting. The stakes are difficult to see and should be painted to improve visibility.

#### Vernon Recreation Area (Wooded Area east of the Pavilion)

The Town owns a portion of wooded area and trails east of the main building and pavilion which contains wetlands and some existing snowmobile and ancillary walking trails. A camping area within the woods was previously planned but the area tends to be buggy and inhibits use of the space.

#### Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T.) Snowmobile Network

The current trail network in Vernon evolved over time, with its development driven by Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T.) snowmobile trail users. Many trails were constructed along old logging roads and footpaths through forests, and developed by enthusiastic, energetic special



interest groups. The Town of Vernon currently relies on volunteers and charitable donations to maintain most of these trails around the Town and within the property limits of the Vernon Recreational Park.

Town trails are heavily used by ATVs, bicycles, snowmobiles, and cross-country skiing in the winter. Development of a multi-use trail is strongly emphasized. Many trails, including the loop trail surrounding Vernon, continue to be certified and maintained by V.A.S.T and the Vernon Trailbreakers Club.

### J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest (Town Forrest)

The J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest, commonly referred to as the “Town Forest”, is one of Vernon’s most unique places. It is home to black gum trees (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and some of the specimens are over 400 years old. The Town Forest is one of the few places in Vernon to see these trees up close since they are typically found south of the Mason-Dixon line. They are also known as the tupelo or black tupelo. In a warm spell since the ice age 12,000 years ago, these trees moved north into protect pockets like what is now the Municipal Forest. A black gum tree here was found to be 435 years old. These trees are some of the oldest trees in New England and may be the oldest broadleaf deciduous trees in North America.<sup>3</sup> The Town Forest is well-utilized, but the Town does not foresee this park being an area of study for this Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.

During COVID, the increased use of the Town Forest brought a rise in attention and subsequent improvements to the park. Recently developed brochures, mapping, and construction of a kiosk and signs provide fresh amenities for users of the park. A trail head area provides parking, kiosks, and sitting areas.

The trails at Town Forest serve an eclectic mix of users, ranging from hunters to snowmobilers. It is a popular destination for hikers, snowshoers, backcountry skiers, and people looking to enjoy the quietude of nature. The trails are a mix of single-track footpaths and old logging roads.

### Lily Pond

Though the Lily Pond was determined to not be included in this report, it is worth mentioning its importance as the only natural habitat of its kind in Vermont – an outwash plain pond shore. It is a 40-acre body of shallow water and has no natural outflow unless in extreme flooding conditions. Its location is off of Pond Road and allows public access through the south intersection of Newtown Road and Pond Road. It sits in an area of glacial outwash with gravel deposits and deep sand. The fluctuation in its water level allows for a unique community of vegetation that include plants like olive spikerush, brownfruit rush, and autumn fibristylis. The pond also habitats many different species of birds such are the great blue herons.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Town of Vernon, Vermont. (n.d.) *J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest*. Vernon, Vermont: Nature and Recreation. Retrieved from: [Nature & Recreation - Town of Vernon \(vernonvt.org\)](https://www.vernonvt.org/nature-recreation/)

<sup>4</sup> Town of Vernon, Vermont. (n.d.) *Lily Pond*. Vernon, Vermont: Nature and Recreation. Retrieved from: <https://www.vernonvt.org/nature-recreation/>

### Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch (Portage Trail/Vernon Station Dam)

The Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch (Portage Trail/ Vernon Station Dam) was also determined to not be included within this report. No publicly owned land is available along the riverfront. The Vernon Dam maintains and provides small water-craft access and recreation facilities on the lower side of the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (also known as the Vernon Station Dam, or the Vernon Dam) on the Connecticut River Reservoir. However, the Vernon Dam provides assets and has agreements in place with the Town to allow public access to this property.<sup>5</sup> The Town is currently working through a new agreement with a new owner of the dam.

Since the dam frequently discharges water, the water level below the dam can increase dramatically over a short period of time. For safety, large signs are in place along the beach to notify users of potential hazards related to ongoing dam operation. At the lower side of the dam, there is an existing fish ladder with a viewing area that is used by the community and the school to teach principles of fish migration along the Connecticut River. The ladder provides a route for migrating fish from the lower to upper waters of the dam.

The sandy beach South of the Vernon Hydroelectric Dam on Governor Hunt Road is a recreational area that features picnic tables and a boat launching area along the Connecticut River. This area is owned and operated by the Vernon Dam and is expected to remain as the dam goes through new ownership. For people traveling on the river by kayak or canoe, there is a portage trail to move from the waters above the dam to those below.<sup>6</sup>

The Portage Trail is a steep section of a stone trail connecting Governor Hunt Road to a section of sandy beach below the dam. This beach is also accessible, from the south, through the Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch on Vernon Dam property.

Along the eastern side of Governor Hunt Road, the snowmobile club has created a new segment of seasonal snowmobile trails and modified a section of the roadway guiderail to allow snowmobiles to access and relink to the trail after public access to a section was removed on National Grid property.

Within the Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch (Portage Trail/ Vernon Station Dam), overgrown vegetation surrounding a wooden gazebo had been recently cleared but tree removal and limb maintenance is still required.

Regarding similar future projects within the area's vicinity, Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge is planning a new boat launch area as part of the ongoing design and construction of the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Greenway Project.

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<sup>5</sup> Town of Vernon, Vermont. (n.d.) *Beach at the Vernon Dam*. Vernon, Vermont: Nature and Recreation. Retrieved from: <https://vernonvt.org/nature-recreation/>

<sup>6</sup> Town of Vernon, Vermont. (n.d.) *Beach at the Vernon Dam*. Vernon, Vermont: Nature and Recreation. Retrieved from: <https://vernonvt.org/nature-recreation/> <https://vernonvt.org/nature-recreation/>



### Town Hall and Library

The Town Hall and Library are both in the vicinity of the project study area. The Town Hall shares space with the Vernon Free Library while the Town Recreation Department offices also shares a space with the Vernon Elementary School. These are notable examples of how large role collective programs and uses interplay within the Town government.

### Vernon Elementary School and Gym

As previously mentioned, the School and Gym are home to the Recreation Department. Determined not to be included in this report, the school is situated amid a large expanse of flat grassy terrain and a cluster of residential areas. To the west of the school, two playgrounds were built primarily for children 3-5 years and 5-12 years. A multi-use grassed athletic field is located just north of the playgrounds. Additionally, the school has a baseball field (located behind the school) with striping for additional multi-use sports. Accessibility is a current challenge at the site and potential conflicts include overuse of recreational facilities during school hours, and members of the public are often unaware that these resources were available for public use.

The school gym, the adjacent stage, and assembly area within the cafeteria, is open to public recreation from September to mid-June in the afternoons, evenings, and weekends. The gym is impressive in size, in well maintained condition, and capable of hosting activities and events that benefit a wide range of ages. Activities include craft fairs, night games, leagues, clubs, fitness classes, and other community uses. Events are not generally held at the gym in summer during the maintenance period. During the summer, the Recreation Department moves to offices within the Vernon Recreation Area Park building.

### Governor Hunt House

The Governor Hunt House is a significant historic site within the Town. It is one of the oldest buildings and representative of the Vernon's heritage. Although not part of this project, this site is notable since the Town is in the process of redeveloping the Governor Hunt House into a community center.

Martin Langeveld, of the Vernon Community News, provided this by email on February 24, 2023. "This outdoor performance space at the GHH could be added to the rec plan as a long-term wish list item, but for the time being we have taken it off the list of projects that Friends of Vernon Center is pursuing, based (a) on the Selectboard vote which removed it from the items that the town ARPA funding could stretch to cover, and (b) because an archeological site assessment, required by the state as part of an environmental review they are conducting (which is needed to qualify for our HUD funding), flagged the outdoor performance space as a concern. It would have entailed a certain amount of ground disturbance, so if we left it on our projects list the state would have required a more expensive second stage archeological study.

The idea was, in the northeast corner of our property, to build a small stage (10x15 or so) with a canopy; some semi-circular seating in an area that has a slight gradual upward slope, some

lighting for the stage plus electricity for amplifiers and such, and a lighted pathway to get there from the parking area.

Again, it would be fine to put this on a wish list of items to tackle 5 years from now, but it's not going to happen in the immediate future. "

### Former Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant

The Former Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant was determined to not be included within this report. The Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant is located to the east of the Vernon Town Hall along the shoreline of the Connecticut River and is scheduled to complete decommissioning between 2025 through 2028. This land may be a good candidate for future boat access through public land. Currently, no unauthorized access is allowed at the Plant. The 2021 Vermont Yankee Site Restoration and Redevelopment Plan provides useful content on the future of this facility and location.

### Wetlands

The study area consists of potential Federal and State wetlands to the east of the Vernon Recreation Area. Since wetlands exist within the project area, proper permitting through the Army Corps of Engineers and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is required. Recreational venues and trails should be designed to avoid wetlands and adjacent buffers, to protect water quality and to ensure improvements meet longevity standards.

### Property Ownership

Understanding land ownership is important to developing park and trail spaces. Within the study area, land ownership is distributed between the Vernon Recreation Area, opportunities on the Huckle Hill Senior Housing facility land, public rights-of-way, and possible utility easements. Further investigation of exact property limits is recommended as a part of further design phases to properly identify potential property impacts, if any. Private ownership of lands, particularly where trail connections are desired between town-owned properties, poses a challenge for the development of extensive trail networks and pathways. Landowners are at liberty to decide whether they are interested in transferring land or granting rights-of-way for trail construction. It is critical to approach potential landowners with agreements that will benefit both parties in the long term.

Portions of the land in Vernon are owned privately or through the State. These tracts are primarily located around or near the center of the town and around recreational areas like the Vernon Dam.

## Utility Easements

Throughout the project area, utilities are typically located within rights-of-way or easements, including sanitary sewers, storm sewers, water, gas, electric and communications. During the site analysis phase, no utilities were identified as significant considerations for the project; however, careful site analysis and coordination with local utility agencies is recommended to avoid any potential conflicts.

## Public Engagement

### Schedule

Public input occurred multiple times from Fall 2022 to Summer 2023 with the Town. Strategies for input included committee meetings, a community survey, and public engagement meetings.

#### Schedule

- a. Kick-off Meeting – November 29, 2022
- b. Public Meeting #1 – February 16, 2023
- c. Public Meeting #2 - May 30, 2022
- d. Online Survey - June 26 to July 10, 2023

Questions were asked of the focus group participants, ranging from strengths and weaknesses; needed improvements to recreation facilities, trails, and amenities; and what the participants saw as the priorities for the future of the plan. Kick-off and public meeting minutes, as well as a copy of the final online survey can be found within the appendices.

### Kick-off Meeting – November 29, 2022

Weston & Sampson performed a field investigation of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the Town of Vernon as part of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan project. As part of this investigation, Weston & Sampson took photographs, field measurements, and spoke with Town staff about existing structures, equipment, and facilities. The site visit kicked off with a meeting, in attendance where members of the Town Select Board and Town staff. The group discussed ideas, community culture and surface level needs.

Town staff identified and introduced the Weston & Sampson team to several key project areas site visits. From there, existing conditions plans were developed bringing together publicly available mapping resources. Existing resources reviewed include property ownership, topography, wetlands, streams, and ponds. The existing conditions review further informed potential opportunities and constraints within the project area.

## Online Survey

To understand the needs, opportunities, and constraints of Vernon's recreation facilities and amenities, a brief online survey was developed with questions ranging from current usage of park spaces to desired programs and activities.

The survey was conducted from June 26 to July 10, 2023. Paper and online surveys were made available by the Town. A summary of the findings from the online survey is discussed in the "Key Findings" chapter (next chapter) and the entire survey along with its responses may be viewed in the appendices at the end of this report.

## Key Findings of Public Meetings and Committee Input

Alongside the Kick-off Meeting and the online survey, and in discussions with Committee Meeting Members, the following is a summary of community wants and needs for the Town of Vernon. We found the community desired more accessibility, improved circulation and safety, as well as an interest in access to the Connecticut River through public land. Note, no public land access is currently available.

### Public Meeting Findings

#### Accessibility, Circulation, and Safety

The Town expressed the value of an accessible trail throughout public engagement activities and thought that parts within the wooded area behind the Vernon Recreational Area and older west river dirt trails could be reclaimed and serve well for this use. This can provide community members and visitors alike to have a natural setting to enjoy outdoor experiences that is more readily accessible and inclusive than more primitive trails found in say, the Town Forest. It would also improve inclusive circulation within the park.

Crossing Pond Road, the Committee suggested that the crosswalk is generally adequate but could use the inclusion of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) as it could improve the crossing near the basketball court (located in the east side of the recreational area). RRFBs are a common approach for warning drivers of pedestrians using the upcoming crosswalk by the pedestrian's activation of bright flashing yellow lights. The Town communicated their preference for an RRFB over a speed table, though some community members felt RRFBs were often ignored in other locations throughout the Town. Investigation for whether a speed table or a RRFB or both would best suit the Town's needs for this area should take place to best improve accessibility and circulation.

Community members also expressed interest in a boardwalk within the Town Forest, one of the most visited and popular places in town. The boardwalk could provide accessibility and circulation improvements while simultaneously protecting the surrounding habitat. The Town expressed that if a boardwalk couldn't be placed in the Town Forest, then other suitable locations might include the Lily Pond and/or the trails east of the pavilion within the Vernon Recreational Area. Local and senior



residents spoke of and strongly desired accessibility improvements where they commonly walk along Huckle Hill Road to the entrance of the Senior Housing, as well as added ADA spaces and accessible routes to the Recreation Area building since it currently does not meet ADA standards.

Regarding safety, residents communicated safety concerns about the open lawn area between the softball field and Pond Road that is used as an informal parking lot while also being a warm-up area for games. Parents expressed that currently, the east side of Pond Road offers limited visibility of children playing at the western side of Pond Road. They felt that having a formal parking lot, a convenient warm-up space, and a dedicated place on the west side of Pond Road for parents to see their children would improve their concerns.

### [Access to the Connecticut River](#)

While the community has expressed interest in having nearby boating access to the Connecticut River, there is no publicly owned land capable of providing this opportunity. However, at the Govern Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch, the Vernon Dam owns, maintains, and provides small water-craft access and recreation in this area through set agreements with the Town.

### [Pavilion Improvements](#)

Since Summer Camp is scheduled “rain or shine,” the Town expressed a desire to make improvements to the pavilion and provide additional protection from the weather since it currently does not have walls. Creating additional weather protection would also address the community’s desire to extend the pavilion’s seasonal use.

The Town has also expressed a desire to replace the interior lighting with updated, timer-controlled, and efficient LED light strips as well as rehabilitate the bathrooms inside. Outside of the pavilion, community members spoke of wanting better accessibility since there is no accessible walkway from ADA parking spots up to the pavilion. Currently, visitors are allowed to drive on the lawn for more convenient access.

### [Water Improvements](#)

Some community residents expressed an interest in converting the wading pool (located near the Vernon REC Pool) into a splash pad/ spray deck while others were interested in keeping the wading pool while including a small splash pad expansion.

The Town also expressed that the existing stair handrails from the wading pool to the main pool need to be improved to be ADA compliant as well as an interest in adding a new diving board to the REC Pool. An accessible route alongside the lawn area to the south of the wading pool was also discussed and looks to be an appropriate solution worth investigating.

## Exercise

Community members have expressed a strong desire for temporary (likely collapsible) pickle ball courts installed at the existing tennis courts. They agreed that the sport is popular due to its ease of access and availability to a broad age range. The Town also had expressed an interest in a pump track for its cyclists and other wheeled sports.

## Public Engagement Summary

The following is a summary of public meetings, community surveys and other public engagement activities.

### Strengths of the existing trail system and recreational facilities

- Hiking
- Swimming pool
- Public grills
- Playground
- Outdoor sports
- Disc golf
- Dense forested areas
- Invested community
- Events
- Tennis
- Immense potential for varied recreation
- Immense potential for venues and economic opportunities

### Areas for improvement

- Maintenance of existing trails
- Wayfinding
- Connectivity to/within:
  - Recreational facilities
  - Commercial facilities
  - Residential areas
- Partnerships with private landowners
- Economic diversity
- Four season use
- Identity
- Marketing strategy
- Food/drink/fuel
- Accessibility of trails for all users (Ages, Abilities, Interests)

### Improvements to existing facilities

- ADA amenities
- Area improvements to accessibility and stability of trails
- Surface durability
- Wayfinding
- Informational/Educational signage
- Expansion of sidewalk facilities
- Apply skill levels to existing trail systems

### New facilities and trail amenities

- Facilities for four seasons
- Accessible trails
- Loop trails designed to accommodate different user types
- Connected trails
- Activities for families/ small children
- Older generations

### Challenges within Park Spaces

- ADA accessibility
- Limited public access to the Connecticut River
- Speed of traffic along Pond Road at the Vernon Recreation Area
- Maintenance issues with the turf field at the Vernon Recreation Area
- Lack of activities for high school age students
- Not a lot of activities for different age groups/skill levels
- Not much diversity of recreational offerings
- Disc golf
- Basketball court
- 4-Season Use – extending season uses
- No indoor rec center or amphitheater
- Pond road creates an unsafe environment for crossing to western side of VRA
- Communication lacking
- Little access to water
- Restrooms
- Snowmobiling vs. walking pedestrians

### Opportunities

- Strong bones/civic core with Town office offices, library, elementary school, Governor Hunt House, and gazebo – opportunities to expand visibility/connectivity
- Enhance seasonal use of pavilion at the Vernon Recreation Area
- Interest in pump tracks, splash pad and pickleball
- Other recreational activities – walking, hiking, cycling, cross country skiing, snowmobiling
- Town offices
- Library
- Government hunt house
- Gazebo
- V.A.S.T Snowmobile trails
- Opportunities to expand visibility and connectivity
- Clean/well-maintained
- Continue trail efforts

### Community Support and Concurrent Initiatives

- Initiative-taking groups within the region are:
  - Vernon History Museum
  - Governor Hunt House
- Supportive/collaborative partnership between the elementary school and parks and recreation department

### A sampling of interested volunteer, business, and government groups follows:

- 2016 Vernon Community Visit Report and Action Plan
- 2017 Village Center Master Plan
- 2018 Town Plan

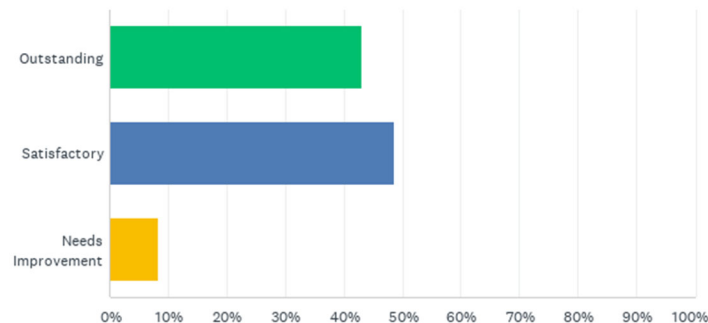
- 2021 Vermont Yankee Site Restoration and Redevelopment Plan
- Conservation Commission
- Capital Plan Committee
- Vernon History Museum
- Governor Hunt House
- Friends of Schell Bridge
- SWRPC Southwest Region Planning Commission (Hinsdale-Brattleboro Greenway Project)
- SOVTA – Southern Vermont Trails Association
- V.A.S.T – Vermont Association of Snow Travelers

### Community Survey Summary

To understand the needs, opportunities, and constraints of Vernon’s Recreational Area, an online survey was developed with questions ranging from current usage of the recreational area to desired improvements and programs.

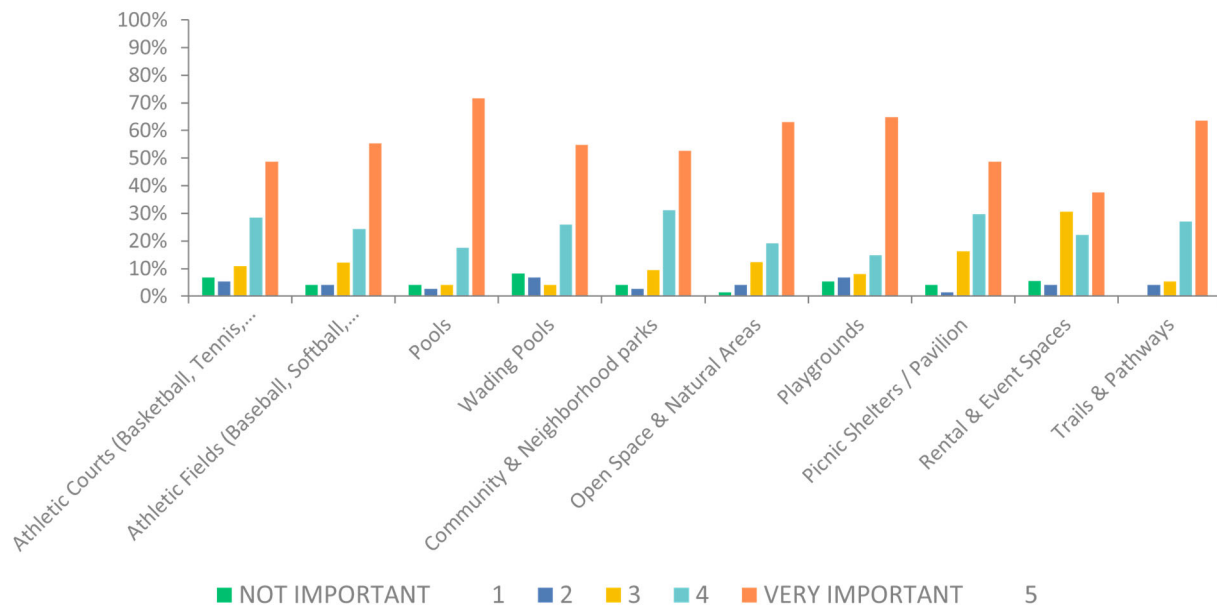
The survey was conducted from June 26 to July 10, 2023, for online responses while hard copy responses were collected until July 17, 2023. Over the three-week period, a total of 83 response were recorded. Highlighted questions are summarized below. The entire survey questions and responses can be found in the appendices at the end of this report.

*Q: “How would you describe the overall quality of the parks and recreation facilities in the Town of Vernon?”*

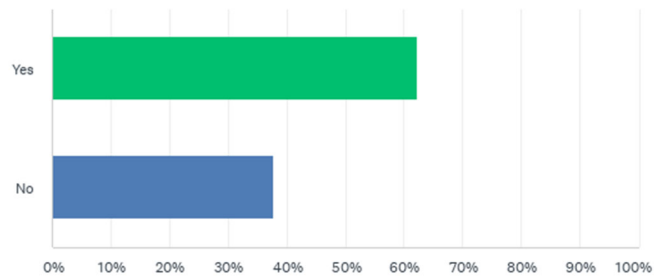




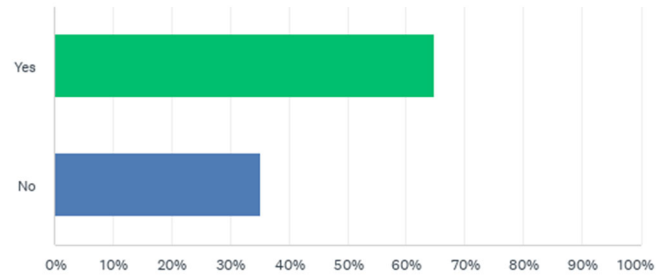
Q: "Please rate how important the following existing recreation facilities are in meeting the needs of the Town of Vernon."



Q: "Do you believe there are enough parks & recreation facilities in the Town of Vernon?"



Q: “Do you believe there are enough recreation program offerings in the Town of Vernon?”



## Recommendations

The Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan has been a process of weaving together the recreational needs of the community. The Town is home to a large group of outdoor recreational enthusiasts. Broadly speaking, the recommendations below seek to enhance and expand existing recreational resources and recreational opportunities at the Vernon Recreation Area.

### Accessibility

The Town of Vernon residents have stressed the importance of incorporating more accessibility practices for the benefit of everyone. Improved sidewalks, crosswalks, ramps, and access to buildings and other recreational facilities that are ADA compliant will provide community members and visitors of all ages to enjoy the community together.

### Trails

In the context of this master plan, trail improvement recommendations are focused on designs that can accommodate the greatest variety of uses to the widest possible demographic. Well-designed trails can be made suitable for a number of activities (snow shoeing, hiking, trail running, cross country skiing, mountain biking, fat-tire biking, nature walks, etc.), however trail users tend to have particular preferences. A perfectly enjoyable hiking trail may be too narrow and abrupt for any other activity. While hikers often use an out-and-back route to reach a summit or a scenic vista, cross-country skiers, trail runners, and mountain bikers typically prefer a loop or a series of stacked loops. In trail-based activities where significant speed can be involved (cross-country skiing, mountain biking, fat-tire biking) one-way traffic on the loop is recommended.

The Town does not plan to maintain trails within the Vernon Recreation Area during winter use. While snowshoers, mountain bikers and fat tire bikers enjoy the flow and varied terrain of ski trails, many of them prefer the intimacy and technical challenge of narrow, single-track trails. Another suitable compromise is to create a “core loop” wide enough for cross-country skiing and walking side-by-side in the summer, with a number of single-track loops of various lengths and technical challenges off the core loop for mountain bikers and snowshoers. Trails designed for multiple uses are often built with small excavators.

Although there are exceptions, in general, if possible, it is preferable to separate motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation. Non-motorized recreational trails vary significantly depending upon their intended use, although many trail-based activities are compatible. Due to limited level terrain in Vernon, it may be necessary to combine these uses in some instances to accommodate the widest variety of users.

## Signage

Proposed trail improvements are expected to include wayfinding signage, educational signage, and sitting/rest areas with benches. Wayfinding can include trail destinations and snowmobile routes, and identification of trail difficulty and distances.

Southern Vermont Trails Association (SoVTA) developed a signage system in their 2019 report that utilizes USFS/USDA guidelines. This is a practical solution to create a cohesive trail post, kiosk, and reassurance marker network that works seamlessly between town-owned lands and USFS property found within the project area.

Directional wayfinding signs help users navigate along the trail and provide additional information of the corridor. Reference location signs, GPS coordinates, and mile markers allow trail users to estimate their progress and are beneficial during maintenance activities. Location signs should be provided at all trailheads, intersections, and amenity areas. Location signage also provides a means for emergency personnel to find users in the event of an accident. Trail intersection numbering systems should work in tandem with the U.S. National Grid Emergency Location Marking System.

Standard trail posts are wood 4"x4"'s placards are constructed from weather-resistant material and measure 3"x3". Information on posts must include the trail name, and may also include information like distance, difficulty, and designated activities. These posts should be placed at intersections, trail heads, and termini. Between these posts, a consistent blazing system should be applied to trees at regular intervals with adequate sightlines to reassure users they are on the right track.

A cohesive cultural, historical, and environmental interpretive signage system provides learning opportunities for locals and visitors alike. Interpretive, educational, and information signage should be placed along the trail at key decision-making points, scenic views, and at site-specific locations for information or interpretation.

A low maintenance native plant walking garden is an opportunity for discussion for trails east of the pavilion. The creation of an educational experience and passive natural environment could be maintained by the UVM Master Gardener Program.

Trailheads and waysides offer an opportunity to define spaces that draw potential trail users to the trail and create additional interests along the trail. Trail heads are amenity areas at the beginning or end points of a trail, while waysides are amenity areas along the trail corridor. These may be locations where scenic views, environmental features or historical sites can be highlighted or interpreted. Utilizing the same materials and basic design character of the trailhead, trail amenities may include seating, interpretation, information, and bicycle parking. It is recommended that the themes of cultural history and art be included in the design of trailhead and wayside treatments.

### Potential site-specific public history interpretation themes could include:

- Local Native American presence and activity
- Former landowners and estates/institutions
- Agricultural History



- Important landmarks and historical structures
- Other topics that may emerge through additional research and/or public process input

### Summary of General Facility Recommendations

As a result of meeting with staff, program data review and analysis, the following general facility recommendations were developed for the Town:

#### *Near-Term*

For the near-term, the Town of Vernon aims to:

- Make corrections to minor improvements to Vernon Recreation Area's crosswalk culvert, basketball court repair, playground surfacing, and horseshoe pits.
- Install ADA compliant routes to the parks & recreation facilities where necessary
- Develop maintenance standards of level of service throughout the Vernon Recreational Area
- Accommodate special event programming through upgrades of facilities throughout the recreational areas

#### *Mid-Term*

For mid-term goals, the Town of hopes to:

- Improve and upgrade signage (such as wayfinding, main park signs, parking, etc.) (Upgrades)

#### *Long-Term*

The Town of Vernon has long-term goals to:

- Improve and upgrade existing facilities and outdated amenities that do not function well (Upgrades / Comprehensive)
- Expand walking pathways and trail connectivity to and within parks and along Huckle Hill Road (Upgrades / Comprehensive)
- Consider access to athletic fields for existing and new/ growing user groups (Upgrades / Comprehensive)

#### *On-Going*

Community members of the Town of Vernon hope to continue on-going efforts of:

- Improving communication and event/facility marketing (Maintenance)
- Increasing funds for parks and facility maintenance (Maintenance)
- Updating parks/trail maps (Maintenance)
- Preserving and expanding open space (Maintenance)
- Reviewing recreational program offering and adjust annually (Maintenance)

## Vernon Recreational Area Specific Recommendations

### *Parking*

Parking lots are important in many ways. Two primary goals of effective parking are to allow safe and easily navigable circulation throughout the seasons, and a recognizable and accessible route from the parking stalls to the front door. Parking can be formal and paved or informal over lawn, depending on use and need. The Vernon Recreation Area has adequate circulation within its parking areas but can see improvements to provide accessibility from the car door to the front door. In one case, the accessible parking can be improved to provide better access from parking spaces to the pool house and the pavilion. In the case of the informal parking near the softball field, an opportunity for formal parking can improve overall access and use.

### *Splash Pad*

Splash pads (also known as spray pools) are interactive venues or recreational areas that spray or jet water and have little to no standing water. This is to help reduce the risk of drowning and the need for a lifeguard or other supervision. It is usually fitted with a safety or non-slip surface and has a variety of water nozzles that can shower, spray, mist, rain, and shoot water on the splash pad surfaces for recreational water play.<sup>7</sup> Splash pads can be a great replacement or addition to a pool for a wide range of ages. A splash pad alongside the wading pool will offer expanded opportunities for more use of the aquatic facilities within the Vernon Recreational Area.

### *Pump Track*

Pump tracks provide a closed course for a plentitude of wheeled sport enthusiasts. They can be used by skateboarders, mountain bikers, scooters, and BMX bikers. A good pump track is designed to teach the basics of momentum and balance to beginners while providing a challenging course of jumps and turns to more experienced riders. The track is constructed for continuous riding without pedaling. Users pump at the right terrain transitions on the course – propelling themselves forward and around the loop. Tarmac surfacing (rather than concrete) opens the track to a wider user group. Recreators of all ages and abilities are welcome at pump tracks, making them highly attractive for communities looking to expand their recreational offerings and increase tourism potential.

Pump tracks can be built on relatively small parcels of land (approximately 50'x50'), with terrain that is relatively flat.

### *Exercise Stations*

Exercise stations provides communities with outdoor exercise equipment and is a great way to encourage people of all ages to socialize, spent time outdoors, and stay fit. An exercise park can feature accessible machines that can offer a wide spectrum of mobility and fitness. With the appropriate funding and support, exercise parks can be a placemaking component of Vernon that enhances the Town's physical fitness and quality of life. For example, AARP (the American

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<sup>7</sup> My Splash Pad. (n.d.) *What is a Splash Pad*. My Splash Pad. Retrieved from: <https://mysplashpad.net/what-is-a-splash-pad/>

Association of Retired Persons) partnered with the nonprofit organization FitLot in 2019 to sponsor and build an outdoor fitness park in every state.<sup>8</sup>

### *Pickleball*

Pickleball is a highly inclusive sport that is open to players of any skill level and age group. It's a great introductory paddle sport that combines elements of other paddle sports such as badminton, tennis, and ping-pong, though it could also be suited for those that wish to make it more challenging, competitive, and fast-paced.<sup>9</sup> It's accessibility and malleability are the primary reasons it is so popular. It could be a great addition to involve more people of all age groups throughout the community to engage in more physical activity and social interaction.

### *Disc golf*

The existing disc golf course is a popular venue for the Town of Vernon. The benefits of disc golf are plentiful: the sport provides outdoor recreation for a spectrum of ages and abilities, the courses can be designed in tandem with other trail and recreation projects, and the courses are relatively low impact and inexpensive to construct. Disc golf is rapidly gaining in popularity across the United States and membership in the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) has tripled since 2009. Construction of courses in the US has also doubled since 2012.<sup>10</sup> The sport is inexpensive and encourages people to cooperate so teams can enjoy games without conflict on the course.

When developing a disc golf course, site selection is important. Beyond selecting a site with the appropriate topography and density of vegetation, access and parking for users is an important consideration. It is recommended that a disc golf consultant be hired to assess potential sites. Finally, ski resorts across Vermont are beginning to install disc golf courses to attract year-round visitors, and a public-private partnership with Mount Snow may be a viable option for the community. These courses are relatively inexpensive and can be designed in tandem with other recreational uses. The design could expand on the existing disc golf course in the Vernon Recreational Area or explore other suitable options.

### Environmental Considerations

Several existing and proposed trails abut, cross, or otherwise impact aquatic resources. In some cases, these trails require compaction, paving, or stone dust applications to create surfaces conducive to desired recreational uses throughout Vernon's recreational area.

While it is paramount to keep the trail surface as dry as possible for safety reasons and for recreational enjoyment, runoff can negatively affect drainage and resources adjacent to the trail. Proper cross slopes enable surface runoff to exit the trail surface, after which, it must be conveyed

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<sup>8</sup> Jenkins, J. (n.d.) "AARP Wants to Help Your Community: Grant and Fitness parks are improving life across America" AARP. Retrieved from: [http://resources.mazdigital.com/feeds/production/comboapp/2736/channels/list\\_hpub\\_1685712295\\_8717883/207851/207851.html](http://resources.mazdigital.com/feeds/production/comboapp/2736/channels/list_hpub_1685712295_8717883/207851/207851.html)

<sup>9</sup> Sports Imports. (n.d.) *Why is Pickleball so Popular?* Sports Imports. Retrieved from: <https://www.sportsimports.com/blog/why-is-pickleball-so-popular/>

<sup>10</sup> Spring, J. (2019, March). *Disc Golf Done Right*. Ski Area Management Magazine. Retrieved from: <https://www.saminfo.com/archives/2010-2017/2019/march-2019/item/164992-disc-golf-done-right>

to existing drainage features or allowed to infiltrate into the granular subgrade to avoid damage to the surrounding terrain. Low Impact Development (LID) measures should be utilized to allow the runoff to be collected and detained until it can percolate into the existing groundwater or overflow into an existing storm sewer system after the peak of the storm. These measures can also be utilized to ameliorate alterations to drainage as a result of construction of facilities and venues recommended in this master plan.

Low Impact Development (LID) is the treatment of stormwater using bio-infiltration techniques such as bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable surfaces. These systems increase infiltration, improve water quality, reduce stormwater runoff, and in turn reduce pressures on existing stormwater infrastructure systems. Each LID technique should be considered on a specific location basis. Below is a list of possible techniques to be considered:

- Bioswales - Bioswales are vegetated drainage channels that convey, infiltrate, and treat stormwater runoff water with vegetation and natural biological processes. These systems can be installed in areas that receive runoff laden with oil and other waste washed from roadways. Bioswales may also serve as overflow conveyance systems for other bioretention facilities.
- Rain Gardens - Rain gardens are shallow depressions that infiltrate and treat stormwater with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. These systems can be located near a runoff source with drainage areas up to 5 acres in size. These features provide aesthetically pleasing areas while treating stormwater and are compatible within park settings and educational interpretative area.
- Permeable Surfaces - Permeable surfaces would be used to provide additional areas for water infiltration into the underlying soil, to reduce stormwater runoff. These measures are recommended at trailhead and wayside areas, where feasible.



## Master Plan Goals

The following goals, objectives, and action items for the Master Plan recommendations are drawn from the public input, inventory, facility analysis, and information gathered during the master planning process, with a primary focus on accessibility, circulation, offerings and amenities, programs and services, and operating efficiency.

### Goal 1: Improve Accessibility and Circulation

Vernon does not have an ADA Transition Plan that identifies needed changes during a self-evaluation process. Using the inventory from the Master Plan, the Town needs to develop a comprehensive transition plan. Once the ADA Transition Plan is developed and adopted, it should be updated as recommendations from the master plan are implemented. The goal of an ADA Transition Plan is to meet the expectations according to the ADA.gov website, "Access to civic life by people with disabilities is a fundamental goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To ensure that this goal is met, Title II of the ADA requires State and local governments to make their programs and services accessible to persons with disabilities. One important way to ensure that Title II's requirements are being met in cities of all sizes is through self-evaluation, which is required by the ADA regulations. Self-evaluation enables local governments to pinpoint the facilities, programs, and services that must be modified or relocated to ensure that local governments are complying with the ADA."

#### Objective 1.1 – Develop ADA Complaint Entrances, Walkways, and Trails

The Town of Vernon has private and public properties with trails. Ample opportunities exist to improve these trails to meet ADA accessibility requirements, reach recreational objectives, and enhance economic development. Trails provide important non-motorized transportation connections within the networks of roads, sidewalks, and transit facilities. These connections can provide people looking for transportation alternatives with a healthy, energizing option to get to work, run errands, and experience the natural landscape. As opportunities arise and funding is available, Vernon should look to create viable trail-based connections integral with the Vernon Recreation Area.

Working with regional and state agencies, Vernon should look for additional opportunities to develop shared-use paths and/ or sidewalks/ trails to connect the Vernon Recreational Area and the Huckle Hill Senior Housing facility.

- 1.1.1 Develop Pool House entrance vehicular drop-off area for visitors
- 1.1.2 Provide ADA Accessible route from the pool house building entrance to the formal asphalt parking lot
- 1.1.3 Create ADA Accessible route from the formal asphalt parking lot to the Pavilion
- 1.1.4 Implement an ADA Accessible route from the pool deck to the wading pool area by removing the existing non-building code compliant stairs and installing sloped walkway generally along the southern edge of the chain link fence.

- 1.1.5 Investigate Huckle Hill Road sidewalks. Local and senior residents desire accessibility improvements where they commonly walk along Huckle Hill Road
- 1.1.6 Consider boardwalks for the walkways proposed east of the Vernon Recreation Area Pavilion, and in addition, the J. Maynard Miller Town Forest and Lily Pond to provide accessibility and protection of the habitat
- 1.1.7 Repaint the Pond Road crosswalk and do minor repairs to reset the culvert to improve drainage along the west side of the road
- 1.1.8 Pursue a Rapid Flashing Beacon as a traffic calming device at the existing crosswalk
- 1.1.9 Upgrade the existing informal gravel and lawn parking lot to a formal paved surface with ADA accessible parking, walk and trail access, and with considerations for the relocation of the warm-up area used for practice and games. The community agrees that having a formal parking lot, a convenient warm-up space, and a dedicated place on the west side of Pond Road for parents to see their children would improve their concerns for a lack of visibility across Pond Road.

### Objective 1.2 – Implement Pavilion Accessibility Improvements

The following items will dramatically improve the accessibility and circulation immediately adjacent to the existing Pavilion.

- 1.2.1 Remove the interiors of and fully upgrade both bathroom interiors to meet building code and accessibility. This will include the installation of accessible landings at the bathroom exterior and privacy fencing to block views through open bathroom doors.
- 1.2.2 Raise the grade around the open portion of the Pavilion to provide flush and accessible access on the west, south, and east sides of the structure.

## Goal 2: Improve Existing Amenities

The Town should continue to improve and upgrade existing facilities and amenities while considering the priority of investment in existing resources over new facilities. The Town should develop a program to ensure consistent application of maintenance standards and cost efficiencies and recognize public input and outreach.

### Objective 2.1 - Develop Recreational Area Amenities

Improve/replace park amenities to current standards to minimize maintenance demands. Prioritize improvements based upon user demand, conditions, location. For example, facilities at sites where the Town anticipates increased usership should be prioritized over those designated for enhancements at later phases. Note, the Town does not want trash receptacles.

- Picnic Tables, Grills, Benches & Bike Racks
- Shade Plantings
- General site lighting
- Replacement of tennis court lighting

- Wi-Fi Amplification and Parking Area Surveillance.

### Objective 2.2 – Make Minor Repairs and Improvements

- 2.2.1 Continue to top-dress and seed play softball field to maintain turf
- 2.2.2 Provide adequate depth of playground surfacing and install edging to clearly delineate the play zones around equipment.
- 2.2.3 Repair the crack in the basketball court pavement surface that runs the length along mid-court.
- 2.2.4 Paint to improve the visibility of the horseshoe pit stakes.

### Objective 2.3 – Pavilion Improvements

- 2.3.1 Make improvements to the existing Pavilion to accommodate for multi-season use. A temporary and removable screen along the exterior of shelter will improve recreational program during inclement weather.
- 2.3.2 Replace the interior lighting with updated, timer-controlled, and efficient LED light strips

## Goal 3: Add Amenities and Recreational Opportunities

Implementing new amenities and recreation opportunities will provide lasting opportunities for town residents and visitors.

### Objective 3.1- Provide Opportunities for Engagement, Education, & Exercise

Splash Pads, pickle ball, pump tracks, and wayfinding systems are amenities that create opportunities for engagement, education, and exercise.

- 3.1.1 Develop a splash pad as an extension or adjacent to the existing wading pool. An investigation should be conducted to possible re-use or take advantage of the existing wading pool water recirculation system.
- 3.1.2 Implement a temporary pickle ball court within the existing tennis court
- 3.1.3 Create a pump track within the Vernon Recreation Area
- 3.1.4 Develop signage & wayfinding for the trails and walkways throughout the park. This signage system can provide educational opportunities.

### Objective 3.2 - Improve access to the Connecticut River

Community residents and the Committee expressed an interest to provide access to the Connecticut River. Though it is not within the project study, access to the Connecticut River can be further investigated through talking to property owners or opportunities stemming from development of the decommissioned nuclear power plant.

- 3.2.1 Plan and vision for potential opportunities for future re-use of the former Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant to provide public access to the Connecticut River.

- 3.2.2 Continue maintaining River access at the Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch. Refer to the 2021 Vermont Yankee Site Restoration and Redevelopment Plan for riverfront hiking and canoe launch facility recommendations.

### Objective 3.3 – Pursue a Future Governor Hunt House Community Center

Continue investigations for the development of a Community Center at the Governor Hunt House.

## Goal 4: Improve Programs and Services

Weston & Sampson has often found that towns which value civic gathering and recreation have higher population retention, increased community engagement, and better overall public health. Vernon is fortunate to attract a wide range of age groups and should develop programs and services that promote greater cultural and environmental connection that is inclusive. It is important to stay informed and aware of changing recreation trends to ensure the Town stays relevant to an evolving demographic. Continued communication and opportunities for feedback is recommended.

### Objective 4.1 - Develop recreational program offerings and adjust annually

The community would like to see additional programs for families, teens, and seniors. Group sports, cultural attractions, and intensive outdoor recreational sports are in high demand. To ensure service delivery reflects the diversity of the community, the Town should engage the community in program development. To effectively achieve this objective, the Town should look to partner with other service providers in the community.

- 4.1.1 Diversify program offerings. Varied offerings are more likely to attract participants from a wider demographic, fortifying the town's continued support. Based on demand and current trends in the industry, the town should explore opportunities to develop and expand programs with public-private partnerships within the town. There are also opportunities to develop or expand on non-traditional sports programs such as disc golf and pickle ball. Active recreational activities are already prevalent in Vernon and are increasingly popular nation-wide. Biking, hiking, cross country skiing snowshoeing, disc golf, skateboarding, and trail running are all great examples of active sports and outdoor activities.
- 4.1.2 Expand special event offerings. Vernon already attracts locals and visitors to engage in activity within the town with its gorgeous landscape and proximity to the Connecticut River. The town should work continuously with the community to obtain ideas for special events that delight and unite participants. Possible events include:
- Athletic events – running, cross country skiing, and biking competitions
  - Pop up concerts – provide local musicians with temporary venues in which to showcase their talents.
  - Movies in the park – show a spectrum of movies for a wide assortment of ages and interests. Consider documentaries and international screenings.

- Agricultural heritage themed festivals are a great way to celebrate delicious locally available produce, craft beverages, and artisanal culinary products. These festivals unite people around common, quintessentially Vermont traditions.

4.1.3 In the summer of 2023, the Town Recreation Area held the Vernon Market on the east side of Pond Road on Wednesdays of every other week. The event included food, vendors, kids activities, and music. In addition, a movie night was held outside within the same summer timeframe. These events were very successful with turnout, bringing the community together, and continuation is strongly encouraged.

#### Objective 4.2 - Collaborate with local alternative service providers for programming

The Town of Vernon currently partners with several agencies to provide programs and activities to the community. The town should continue to explore additional opportunities as well as build on its existing partnerships. The town should ensure that all existing and future partnerships are accurately portrayed in a signed partnership agreement.

- 4.2.1 Partner with local alternative service providers to provide programming from entry level to advanced course offerings. The Town of Vernon should work collaboratively with other town departments and recreation service providers to enhance and expand offerings.
- 4.2.2 Investigate a partnership with V.A.S.T. Town trails are heavily used by ATVs, bicycles, snowmobiles, and cross-country skiing in the winter. Many trails, including the loop trail surrounding Vernon, are Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T) certified and maintained by the Vernon Trailbreakers Club.
- 4.2.3 A low maintenance native plant walking garden is an opportunity for discussion for trails east of the pavilion. The creation of an educational experience and passive natural environment could be maintained by the UVM Master Gardener Program.

### Goal 5: Improve Operational Efficiencies and Communication Tools

Vernon is in a unique position to be able to develop an operational system based on careful, phased planning for future recreational endeavors. Decisions made now have the potential to impact budgets and staffing levels in the future; therefore, it is critical to determine an approach to install facilities and make improvements gradually so maintenance and programming staff can be brought on to care for the facilities and provide users with a high standard of service.

The town should also develop a Marketing and Communications Plan that will guide its efforts in communicating and promoting its activities and facilities. This should include all the recommendations in the Master Plan for programs, services, and facility upgrades to promote awareness. The Marketing Plan should be reviewed periodically, updated as needed and include marketing strategies that incorporate the efforts of partner departments and projects.



### Objective 5.1 - Engage volunteer groups for specific projects

It may be possible to enlist volunteer groups for certain projects, especially if the project has an educational component. Volunteering enables a sense of pride and ownership of shared resources and can guarantee long-term support. Internships are another great way to teach valuable skills in return for needed services.

Examples of volunteer organizations include:

Adopt a Park (State)

Ameri Corps/Student Conservation Association (Federal)

Audubon Society (National)

Boy Scouts of America (National)

Boys and Girls Club (National)

Kiwanis (International)

National Recreation and Parks Association (National)

Senior Corps (Federal)

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (State)

### Objective 5.2 - Improve Overall external communications

Develop a Marketing & Communications Plan to improve overall external awareness of current and future facilities. People are increasingly overwhelmed by pervasive media and marketing campaigns, resulting in burnout and subsequent inattention to communication efforts. Provide more continuity town-wide and consolidation of messages including maintenance practices, events, and community engagement opportunities.

### Objective 5.3 - Increase funding for parks, trails, venues and facility maintenance and acquisition

Revenue enhancement is a key theme for any financially sustainable plan. The town should pursue creative funding strategies to diversify capital available for improvements to the system.

5.3.1 Explore alternate funding sources (grants) and public-private partnerships. The town currently takes advantage of grant opportunities available for programming and facility improvements. The town should continue to pursue any grant opportunities at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. Potential grant sources include:

- The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) offers grants to improve local parks and outdoor recreation areas. The program is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

- Public-Private Fundraising: The towns could work with non-public entities or the public to raise funds through private fundraising or grant sources available only to the non-public entities to match public funds for the trail. It could be possible to provide some memorial that acknowledges the contribution.
- Donations: The towns could work to acquire donated funds, materials or services from local companies or residents to support the trail development. Acknowledgement of supporting companies or individuals could be included along the trail as desired.
- A new online tool developed by a partnership between the Alliance for Biking and Walking and the League of American Bicyclists helps find potential federal funding sources for alternative transportation projects. The site can be reached at <http://bit.ly/11xhEtr>.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation offers grants for community-based programs and interventions that positively affect the health.

5.3.2 Explore funding options to provide dedicated revenue for trails & venues. A campaign for an increased community investment may be a successful way of implementing the long-term recommendations in the plan. These funding opportunities may also include a bond referendum to support renovations and redesign of existing venues, construction on new facilities, and/or acquisition of new land for conservation or recreation.

## Action Plan

### Goal 1: Improve Accessibility and Circulation

Objective 1.1 – Develop ADA Complaint Entrances, Walkways, and Trails			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
1.1.1 Develop Pool House entrance vehicular drop-off area for visitors	\$100K - \$200K	High	Year 3
1.1.2 Provide ADA Accessible route from the pool house building entrance to the formal asphalt parking lot	\$40K - \$80K	High	Year 3
1.1.3 Create ADA Accessible route from the formal asphalt parking lot to the Pavilion	\$40K - \$80K	High	Year 3
1.1.4 Implement an ADA Accessible route from the pool deck to the wading pool area by removing the existing non-building code compliant stairs and installing sloped walkway generally along the southern edge of the chain link fence.	\$40K - \$60K	High	Year 3
1.1.5 Investigate Huckle Hill Road sidewalks.	\$200K - \$400K	Low	Year 10
1.1.6 Consider boardwalks for the walkways proposed east of the Vernon Recreation Area Pavilion, and in addition, the J. Maynard Miller Town Forest and & Lily Pond to provide accessibility and protection of the habitat	TBD/ Depends on size/ complexity	Low	Year 10
1.1.7 Repaint the Pond Road crosswalk and do minor repairs to reset the culvert to improve drainage along the west side of the road	\$4K - \$6K	High	Year 1
1.1.8 Pursue a Rapid Flashing Beacon as a traffic calming device at the existing crosswalk	\$15K - \$35K	High	Year 3
1.1.9 Upgrade the existing informal gravel and lawn parking lot to a formal paved surface with ADA accessible parking, walk and trail access, and with considerations for the relocation of the warm-up area used for practice and games. Road.	\$250K - \$400K	Moderate	Year 7

Objective 1.2 – Implement Pavilion Accessibility Improvements			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
1.2.1 Remove the interiors of and fully upgrade both bathroom interiors to meet building code and accessibility. This will include the installation of accessible landings at the bathroom exterior and privacy fencing to block views through open bathroom doors.	\$25K - \$40K	High	Year 1
1.2.2 Raise the grade around the open portion of the Pavilion to provide flush and accessible access on the west, south, and east sides of the structure.	\$2K - \$8K	High	Year 3

## Goal 2: Improve Existing Amenities

Objective 2.1 - Develop Recreational Area Amenities			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
<p>Improve/replace park amenities to current standards to minimize maintenance demands. Prioritize improvements based upon user demand, conditions, location. For example, facilities at sites where the Town anticipates increased usership should be prioritized over those designated for enhancements at later phases. Note, the Town does not want trash receptacles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picnic Tables, Benches &amp; Bike Racks</li> <li>• Shade Plantings</li> <li>• General site lighting</li> <li>• Replacement of tennis court lighting</li> <li>• Wi-Fi Amplification and parking lot surveillance cameras</li> </ul>	\$40K - \$300K	Moderate	Year 5
Objective 2.2 – Make Minor Repairs and Improvements			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
2.2.1 Continue to top-dress and seed play softball field to maintain turf		High	Yearly
2.2.2 Provide adequate depth of playground	\$2K - \$3K	High	Year 1

surfacing and install edging to clearly delineate the play zones around equipment.			
2.2.3 Repair the crack in the basketball court pavement surface that runs the length along mid-court.	\$1,000 - \$1,500	High	Year 1
2.2.4 Paint to improve the visibility of the horseshoe pit stakes.	\$80 - \$100	High	Year 1

### Objective 2.3 – Pavilion Improvements

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
2.3.1 Make improvements to the existing Pavilion to accommodate for multi-season use. A temporary and removable screen along the exterior of shelter will improve recreational program during inclement weather.	\$60K - \$100K	Moderate	Year 5
2.3.2 Replace the interior lighting with updated, timer-controlled, and efficient LED light strips	\$25K - \$40K	Moderate	Year 5

## Goal 3: Add Amenities and Recreational Opportunities

### Objective 3.1- Provide Opportunities for Engagement, Education, & Exercise

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
3.1.1 Develop a splash pad as an extension or adjacent to the existing wading pool. An investigation should be conducted to possible re-use or take advantage of the existing wading pool water recirculation system.	\$200K - \$600K	Moderate	Year 5
3.1.2 Implement a temporary pickle ball court within the existing tennis court	\$2K - \$4K	High	Year 1
3.1.3 Create a pump track within the Vernon Recreation Area	\$80K - \$100K	Moderate	Year 5
3.1.4 Develop signage & wayfinding for the trails and walkways throughout the park. This signage system can provide educational opportunities.	\$15K - \$60K	Low	Year 5

### Objective 3.2 - Improve access to the Connecticut River

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
3.2.1 Plan and vision for potential opportunities for future re-use of the former Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant to provide public access to	TBD/ Depends on size/ complexity	High	Year 10

the Connecticut River.			
3.2.2 Continue maintaining River access at the Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch. Refer to the 2021 Vermont Yankee Site Restoration and Redevelopment Plan for riverfront hiking and canoe launch facility recommendations.	TBD/ Depends on size/ complexity	High	Year 1
<b>Objective 3.3 – Pursue a Future Governor Hunt House Community Center</b>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
Continue investigations for the development of a Community Center at the Governor Hunt House.	TBD/ Depends on size/ complexity	Moderate	Year 5

#### Goal 4: Improve Programs and Services Action Table

<b>Objective 4.1 - Develop recreational program offerings and adjust annually</b>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
4.1.1 Diversify program offerings to attract more participants from a wider demographic	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	Low	Year 5
4.1.2 Expand special event offerings (athletic events, pop up concerts, movies in the park, etc.)	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	Low	Year 10
4.1.3 Continue the Vernon Market at the Town Recreation Area. The Town initiated this open event every other week in the summer of 2023 with great success. The event included food, vendors, kids activities, and music. In addition, a movie night was held outside within the same summer timeframe. These events were very successful with turnout, bringing the community together, and continuation is strongly encouraged.	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	High	Yearly

<b>Objective 4.2 - Collaborate with local alternative service providers for programming</b>			
Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete



4.2.1 Partner with local alternative service providers to provide programming from entry level to advanced course offerings.	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	Low	As opportunity arises
4.2.2 Investigate a partnership with V.A.S.T for expansion of trail network and recreational programming.	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	High	As opportunity arises

## Goal 5: Improve Operational Efficiencies and Communication Tools

### Objective 5.1 - Engage volunteer groups for specific projects

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
Engage volunteer groups (federal/state/local) for specific projects. (amenity improvements, trail improvements, plantings/enhancements).	Additional staff time	Moderate	As opportunity arises

### Objective 5.2 - Improve Overall external communications

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
Develop a Marketing & Communications Plan to improve overall external awareness of current and future facilities.	Additional staff time/ (Potential Increased Revenue)	Low	As opportunity arises

### Objective 5.3 - Increase funding for parks, trails, venues and facility maintenance and acquisition

Actions	Capital Cost Estimate	Priority	Timeframe to Complete
5.3.1 Explore alternate funding sources (grants) and public-private partnerships.	Potential matching funds/ % of Successful Grants/ TBD	High	Year 1
5.3.2 Explore funding options to provide dedicated revenue for trails & venues	\$0	High	Year 1

## Next Steps

As first step towards implementing the recommendations of this study, the Town should accept and approve the master plan. Once the plan is approved, with the assistance of residents, businesses, Town Staff and State, the Town can undertake the following steps. The steps do not necessarily need to be in the order listed here, but this order is recommended to ensure adequate funding and permitting is established to help the projects progress smoothly:

- Begin looking for and applying for funding opportunities through grants, bonding or other sources considered appropriate.
- Contact landowners from whom easements might be needed to understand their willingness to consider granting easement, making sure to stay within guidelines for securing easements and rights-of-way.
- Finalize additional sources of donated funding to support the matching funds that might be needed for grants that require them.
- Hire a consultant to assist with the design of the first phase to be implemented when funding is secured through either fundraising or grants.
- Work to secure required permits and appeals. In all cases, careful site analysis, habitat assessment, sensitive species, and wetland delineation is recommended before proceeding through extensive design development and construction of trails and other amenities. Effective coordination with the USFS, VTDEC, and invested stakeholder groups is critical in the preliminary design process to ensure resources are not expended on projects that are not feasible.
- Once the construction documents are approved and permits have been secured, the actual trail and venue construction can begin.

## Financial Sustainability

It is important for the Town to develop a Resource Allocation and Pricing Philosophy that reflects the values of the community and the responsibility it has to the community. This philosophy will be especially important if the town moves forward in the development of new programs and additional and/or expanded facilities, and as it strives for sustainability and determines how much operations can be subsidized with tax dollars.

One means of accomplishing this goal is applying a process using an industry tool called the “Pyramid Methodology.” This methodology develops and implements a refined cost recovery philosophy and pricing policy based on current “best practices” as determined by the mission of the Department and the program’s benefit to the community and/ or individual.

Critical to this philosophical undertaking is the support and understanding of elected officials, and ultimately, citizens. Whether or not significant changes are called for, the Department wants to be certain that it is philosophically aligned with its residents. The development of the core services and cost recovery philosophy and policy is built on a very logical foundation, using the

understanding of who is benefiting from recreation services to determine how the costs for that service should be offset.

Recreation programs and services are sorted along a continuum of what delivers the greatest individual benefit to what delivers the greatest community benefit. The amount of subsidy for each level (not necessarily each individual program) is then determined to create an overall cost recovery philosophy.

Developing effective ongoing systems that help measure success in reaching cost recovery goals and anticipate potential pitfalls are dependent on the following:

- Understanding of current revenue streams and their sustainability.
- Tracking all expenses and revenues for programs, facilities, and services to understand their contributions to overall cost recovery.
- Analyzing who is benefiting from programs, facilities, and services and to what degree they should be subsidized.
- Acknowledging the full cost of each program (those direct and indirect costs associated with program delivery) and where the program fits on the continuum of who benefits from the program or service to determine appropriate cost recovery targets.
- Defining direct costs as those that typically exist purely because of the program and the change with the program.
- Defining indirect costs as those that would typically exist anyway (like full-time staff, utilities, administration, debt service, etc.).
- Program fees should not be based on ability to pay, but an objective program should be in place that allows for easy access for lower income participants, through availability of scholarships and/or discounts. In many instances qualifications for scholarships and/or discounts can mirror requirements for free or reduced cost lunch in schools.

Revenue Enhancement is one Key Theme in a Financially Sustainable Plan. The Town should continue to pursue funding strategies that include:

- Explore alternative funding sources that strategically align with targeted
- Expand alternative funding for strategic initiatives through grants.
- Explore additional Community Partnerships.
- Explore additional opportunities for (and use of) sponsorships.

Below is a list of potential funding sources that may assist with the implementation of the recommendations:

- One percent local options tax – this funding strategy utilizes public funds raised via tax to pay for events and improvements developed by private organizations. This may be a viable method for raising money to pay for public-private partnerships to develop venues such as an amphitheater, a skate park, or a disc golf course.
- Transportation Alternatives Programs (TA Funds): TA funds can be used to increase bicycle and pedestrian mobility. These funds will cover a maximum of 80 percent of the project with the remaining portions most likely coming from the project sponsoring organization. TA funds are distributed in Vermont through a competitive grant program.

- The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP) offers grants to improve local parks and outdoor recreation areas. The program is funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Program: These State funds cover specific bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects and are provided via a competitive grant program.
- Public-Private Fundraising: The towns could work with non-public entities or the general public to raise funds through private fundraising or grant sources available only to the non-public entities to match public funds for the trail. It could be possible to provide some memorial that acknowledges the contribution.
- Donations: The towns could work to acquire donated funds, materials or services from local companies or residents to support the trail development. Acknowledgement of supporting companies or individuals could be included along the trail as desired.
- A new online tool developed by a partnership between the Alliance for Biking and Walking and the League of American Bicyclists helps find potential federal funding sources for alternative transportation projects. The site can be reached at <https://bikeleague.org/updated-tools-for-increasing-bicycle-and-pedestrian-safety-funding/>

Other funding sources may be available for the construction of health -based recreation and cultural amenities:

1. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/blog/2019/08/walk-with-us--building-community-power-and-connection-for-health-equity.html>

2. The Vermont Community Foundation

<https://www.vermontcf.org/NonprofitsGrants/AvailableGrants/HillsandHollowsFund.aspx>

## Funding Sources

Below is a list of various funding sources that could be used to help with the implementation of the recommendations.

A new online tool developed by a partnership between the Alliance for Biking and Walking and the League of American Bicyclists helps find potential federal funding sources for alternative transportation projects. The site can be reached at [www.advocacyadvance.org](http://www.advocacyadvance.org)

### General

#### *Cooperating Collections*

<http://grantspace.org>

- Free funding information centers in libraries, community foundations, and other nonprofit resource centers that provide a variety of supplementary materials and services in areas useful to grant seekers. Information includes grant searches, blanket applications, and a

wealth of other valuable information to help you find the right grant, then target your proposal to it.

#### *Building Communities Grants Program*

State Representative Sara Coffey provided a link to the AARP the Building Communities Grants through Vermont Buildings and General Services.

- The deadline to submit grant applications is September 10th each year.
- All the grant forms will now be required to be submitted all together once the proposed grant project has been completed.
- It is the responsibility of the grant recipient to ensure that all requested documentation has been received by the Grant Administrator at the Department of Buildings and General Services.
- Check out all the new information on the grant instructions for the new updates and requirements.
- <https://bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants>

#### *Community Development Block Grant Program – CDBG*

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/cdbg](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg)

The Community Development Block Grant program provides resources to assist with developing communities. The program provides annual grants using a formula based on a variety of measures to 1209 general units of local government and States.

Grant amounts vary.

Deadline: Rolling

#### *Federal Funding:*

- Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grants: US Department of Transportation (US DOT) - Office of the Secretary (OST) program available for capital improvement and planning projects.
- Infrastructure for Rebuilding American Discretionary Grant Program (INFRA): OST program for projects that improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and improve critical freight movements.
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program (RCP): OST program related to a transportation facility that improves community connectivity.
- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A): OST discretionary program that funds regional, local, and tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadways deaths and serious injuries.
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA): TA funds can be used to increase bicycle and pedestrian mobility. These funds will cover a maximum of 80 percent of the project with the remaining portions most likely coming from the project sponsoring organization.

A full list of funding opportunities is listed below from various sources, as well as from the US Department of Transportation Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds is included in Appendix E.

### [ACHIEVE Healthy Communities](#)

- <http://www.achievecommunities.org/>
- ACHIEVE (Action Communities for Health, Innovation, and Environmental change) is sponsored by the (CDC). Selected national organizations collaborate with CDC to enhance local communities' abilities to help prevent or manage health-risk factors for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, obesity, and arthritis. Specific activities are directed toward promoting physical activity and healthy eating, improving access to quality preventive healthcare services, and eliminating health disparities. Some examples of community-based improvements include, but are not limited to, increased access to and use of attractive and safe locations for engaging in physical activity.

### [American Rescue Plan Funds](#)

- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>
- The American Rescue Plan will deliver \$350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and
- Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring back jobs.

### [CDC Grants](#)

- <https://www.cdc.gov/grants/index.html>
- The Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention (CDC) uses grants and cooperative agreements to fund research and non-research public health programs that advance the agency's public health mission domestically and abroad to keep Americans safe and healthy where they work, live and play.

### [Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grants](#)

- <https://www.epa.gov/education/environmental-education-ee-grants>
- The Grants Program sponsored by EPA's Environmental Education Division (EED), Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education, supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. EPA awards grants each year based on funding appropriated by Congress.

### [Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Program](#)

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

This program was created to fund construction and rehabilitation of trails for both motor and non-motorized usage. There is a matching fund component to the grant, which can vary by state.

Amount: \$84M Nationwide

### [Federal-aid Highway Program](#)

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/funding/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/)



National Highway System funds may be used to construct bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways on land adjacent to any highway on the National Highway System, including Interstate highways.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use and walking. Ten percent of each State's annual STP funds are set aside for Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEAs). The law provides a specific list of activities that are eligible TEAs, and this includes "provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists". Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds may be used for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or non-construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use.

#### [Great American Outdoors Act](#)

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/doi-fy21-gaoa-dm-projects.pdf>

#### [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)

<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf>

The LWCF program gives matching grants to States and local governments to acquire and develop public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program's intent is to create and maintain a legacy of high-quality recreational areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments to protect and maintain recreational resources across the United States.

#### [Transportation Alternatives Program \(TAP\)](#)

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/)

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act authorized the Transportation Alternatives Program to fund programs and projects defined as transportation alternatives. This would include on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, community improvement activities, and recreational trails programs.

Amount: \$835M

#### [Funding through Non-Profit Organization:](#)

##### [Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>

This Foundation awards the majority of its grants to U.S. 501 (c) (3) organizations and other tax-exempt organizations. In deciding how to invest their resources, they look for projects that help reduce inequities in neglected areas, produce measurable results, catalyze increased momentum,

collaborate with government, philanthropic, private-sector, and not-for-profit partners, favor preventative approaches, leverage support from other sources, advance their current strategies, accelerating the work they are already supporting.

[The Henry E. Niles Foundation](#)

<http://www.heniles.org/application-process.html>

The Foundation is interested in organizations that promote partnerships and collaborative efforts among multiple groups and organizations. The organization must be tax-exempt. The Foundation mainly focuses on the northeastern United States.

Applications are accepted year-round.

Amount: \$3,000-\$100,000

[Cliff Family Foundation](#)

<https://clifffamilyfoundation.org/grantees>

Cliff Family Foundation (Cliff Bar) supports hundreds of organizations that are working tirelessly to strengthen our food system, advance equitable community health outcomes, and protect the places we play by being stewards of our environment and natural resources.

[Dog Park Fund – My Darling Theo](#)

<http://www.mydarlingtheo.org/dpfhowitworks>

Grants will be awarded to US-based, organized non-profit dog park groups. Funds are generously supported by monetary donations from the general public. Twice a year there is a call for submissions. The grant is awarded and distributed to the winning organized non-profit dog park community group.

[Doris Day Animal Foundation](#)

<http://www.dorisdayanimalfoundation.org/grants>

The Doris Day Animal Foundation funds nonprofit 501c3 organizations that need assistance in their work of caring for and protecting animals. DDAF evaluates prospective grantees and makes grants throughout the year, considering applications quarterly. Submissions are accepted during January, April, July, and October.

[Home Depot – Building Healthy Communities Grant Program](#)

<https://corporate.homedepot.com/grants/community-impact-grants>

The Home Depot Foundation offers grants available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services.

Deadline: Varies

Amount: Up to \$5,000

[Hydroflask Parks for All](#)

<https://www.hydroflask.com/parks-for-all>

Parks For All program supports non-profit organizations focused on building, maintaining, restoring, and providing better access to parks.

Amount: \$1,500,000

[LL Bean Charitable Giving Fund](#)

[http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable\\_giving.html](http://www.llbean.com/customerService/aboutLLBean/charitable_giving.html)

LL Bean supports non-profits in the areas of outdoor recreation and health & human services through their program. Grants are made only to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations.

Amount: Varies

Deadline: Rolling

[Lockheed Martin](#)

<http://www.lockheedmartin.com/us/who-we-are/community/philanthropy.html>

Lockheed Martin is committed to a program of philanthropy that supports the Corporation's strategic business goals and invests in the quality of life in the community.

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round, and evaluations are performed quarterly.

[People for Bikes](#)

<http://www.peopleforbikes.org/pages/grant-guidelines>

The People For Bikes Community Grant Program assists in supporting bicycle infrastructure projects and advocacy initiatives that will make it easier and safer for people to ride. Grant applications for People For Bikes are accepted from non-profit organizations with a focus on bicycling, active transportation, or community development. People For Bikes only funds US projects. People For Bikes focuses most grant funds on projects such as: Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges, Mountain bike facilities, Bike parks and pump tracks, BMX facilities, End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, and bike storage, We also fund some advocacy projects, such as: Programs that transform city streets, such as Ciclovías or Open Streets Days, Initiatives designed to increase ridership or the investment in bicycle infrastructure.

Amount: Up to \$10,000.

Deadline: Spring

*The Nutro Company ROOM TO RUN Dog Park Appreciation Project*

<http://www.nutro.com/about-us/nutro-community-initiatives.aspx>

Supporting public, non-profit dog parks and off-leash areas.

**Organizations/Foundations:**

*John and Catherine MacArthur Foundation*

[http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.913959/k.E1BE/Applying\\_for\\_Grants.htm](http://www.macfound.org/site/c.lkLXJ8MQKrH/b.913959/k.E1BE/Applying_for_Grants.htm)

Intent: To help develop successful individuals and strong communities, the Program on Human and Community Development focuses on the relationships among people, places, and systems.

Amount: Award amounts vary

Deadline: Rolling

*AARP FitLot*

<https://fitlot.org/>

FitLot is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization committed to helping communities find the resources they need to plan, build and program outdoor fitness parks.

Amount: \$150,000

*AARP Community Challenge Grants*

<https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2021/2021-grantees.html>

Grants will help improve public spaces, transportation, housing, and civic engagement with an emphasis on the needs of people 50 or older.

Amount: \$3,200,000

*AETNA Foundation*

<https://www.aetna-foundation.org/grants-partnerships/grants.html>

The philanthropic arm of AETNA which provides grants to communities improving overall health and factors.

*Aetna Foundation Obesity Prevention Grant Program*

<http://www.aetna-foundation.org/foundation/index.html>

The Aetna Foundation wants to learn more about the underlying causes of obesity so they can inform and shape effective health and wellness programs. They want to understand the causes that contribute to obesity, particularly among minority populations, and how to support and sustain better choices in order to prevent overeating and reduce inactivity.

Amount: Regional: \$25,000 - \$40,000 / National: \$50,000 - \$150,000

Deadline: Rolling on a quarterly basis: February 15, March 15, August 15, November 15

[American Dermatology Shade Structure Grants](#)

<https://assets.ctfassets.net/1ny4yoiyrqia/7fj8fA7fcU1KT6lyWyt7aJ/a2d9fc6ea2423d96a253697378b62465/shade-structure-program-guideline-booklet.pdf#page=5>

Grants to USA daycares, schools, parks, and nonprofit organizations serving children and youth for projects that increase the safety of outdoor play spaces. Funding may be used for the cost of materials and installation of shade structures.

Amount: \$8,000

[American Express](#)

[http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/comm\\_serv.aspx](http://about.americanexpress.com/csr/comm_serv.aspx)

American Express grant program includes community service which could be a good fit for playground installations. Check out their website to learn more about projects that have been funded, initiatives and how to apply.

Amount: Varies

Deadline: Rolling

[American Trails](#)

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/fedfund/index.html>

American Trails is the only national, nonprofit organization working on behalf of all trail interests. American Trails support local, regional, and long-distance trails and greenways.

[Bank of America](#)

<http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation>

Working in partnership with community leaders, Bank of America's local market leadership directs the majority of our giving through local grants that address pressing social, economic, and cultural needs of communities across their global footprint. In addition, they partner with national organizations such as the United Way of America and Habitat for Humanity International to direct resources to local communities.

Amount: Award amounts vary

Deadline: Varies

[Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation - Quality of Life Grants](#)

[http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJFKRNoFiG/b.4435149/k.A6F7/Program\\_Overview.htm](http://www.christopherreeve.org/site/c.ddJFKRNoFiG/b.4435149/k.A6F7/Program_Overview.htm)

The Reeve Foundation awards Quality of Life grants up to \$25,000 to organizations that provide services to individuals with paralysis. Applications are welcome from non-profit organizations with IRS 501(c)(3) status, municipal and state governments, school districts, recognized tribal entities and other institutions such as community or veteran's hospitals. Grants are awarded to organizations that address the needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases, or birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Twice a year, funding is awarded to nonprofit organizations that provide critical life-enhancing and life-changing programs and services that improve physical and emotional health. Quality of Life grants is funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Award #1U59DD000383). These grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that address that needs of people living with paralysis caused by spinal cord and other injuries, diseases, and birth conditions, including (but not limited to) stroke, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

Amount: Varies Deadline: TBD

#### [Finish Line Foundation](#)

<https://www.finishline.com/store/corporate/gadgets/about.jsp>

The Youth Foundation is a philanthropic outlet for Finish Line to make a difference in the lives of youth in the communities it serves.

Amount: \$19,000,000

#### [Kaiser Permanente](#)

<http://share.kaiserpermanente.org/group/grants/>

We support innovative efforts to bring safe, physical activity to local schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. A healthy community is an environment that supports the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of those who live, work, and play there. It could be a safe route for kids to walk or bicycle to school, a neighborhood grocery store stocked with fresh produce, or parks and playgrounds that welcome families.

#### [Partners for Places](#)

<https://www.fundersnetwork.org/partners-for-places/>

The Funders' Network is a membership organization that helps grant makers across North America advance strategies to create fair, prosperous, and sustainable regions and communities that offer everyone the chance for a good life. We believe that the suite of tools available to funders—investing, grantmaking, collaborating, convening, facilitating, and more—uniquely position them to lead the movement for smarter growth policies and practices that benefit both places and people.



### [PetSafe Bark for your Pet](#)

<https://barkforyourpark.petsafe.com/>

The PetSafe® Bark for Your Park™ grant program is committed to creating safe, off-leash areas for pets and their owners to enjoy for years to come. Bark for Your Park awards communities each year with funding to not only break ground on new parks, but to also help maintain and upgrade existing parks.

Amount: \$150,000 to 200,000

### [PNC Trust](#)

<https://www.pnc.com/en/about-pnc/corporate-responsibility/philanthropy/charitable-trusts.html>

PNC's Charitable Trust Grant Review Committee funds grant requests that demonstrate a capacity and commitment to charitable service and enhance the quality of life for the people and their communities.

Amount: \$65,000,000

### [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

<http://www.rwjf.org/en/grants/what-we-fund.html>

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation provides grants for US projects that advance their mission to improve the health and health care of all Americans. In order for a project to be considered for funding, they must address one of their areas of focus. RWJF awards most grants through calls for proposals (CFPs). They also accept unsolicited proposals for projects that suggest new and creative approaches to solving health and health care problems.

Amount: Varies

### [State Farm Neighborhood Assist](#)

<https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/>

\$25,000 grants to 40 projects enhancing communities across the country.

Amount: \$1,000,000

### [Surdna Foundation](#)

- <http://www.surdna.org/grants/how-to-apply.html>
- The Surdna Foundation makes grants to nonprofit organizations in the areas of sustainable environments, strong local economies, and thriving cultures.
- Amount: Varies
- Deadline: April, July, and December

#### *T-Mobile Hometown Grants*

- <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>
- We've partnered with Smart Growth America and Main Street America, two consulting partners with a combined experience of over 60 years working to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities. With our Hometown Grant program, we're investing big in small towns by awarding up to 100 towns a year with project funding—up to \$50,000 each.
- Amount: \$50k

#### *The Coca-Cola Foundation*

- <http://www.coca-colacompany.com/stories/community-requests-guidelines-application>
- The Coca-Cola Company seeks to give grants to communities where they conduct business that can make a difference in water stewardship, active healthy living, community recycling, and education. Coca-Cola does not support individual school systems.
- Amount: Varies
- Deadline: Rolling

#### *The Finish Line Youth Foundation*

- <http://www.finishline.com/store/youthfoundation/guidelines.jsp>
- This Foundation strives to positively affect the lives of youth in the communities where employees and customers live, work, and play. They accomplish this by being good stewards of the funds they receive and by supporting youth programs that are effective and inclusive. The Finish Line Youth Foundation financially supports opportunities for participation in youth programs that place an importance on youth development and an active lifestyle.
- Amount: Up to \$75,000
- Deadline: Rolling on a quarterly basis

#### *The McCormick Communities Program*

- <https://donate.mccormickfoundation.org/communities>
- The McCormick Foundation works to strengthen the components of civic health that make our communities strong. Their investments are focused on programs that improve basic human needs, provide disaster relief, inspire civic responsibility, and stimulate local philanthropy.

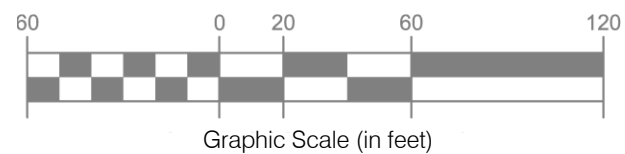
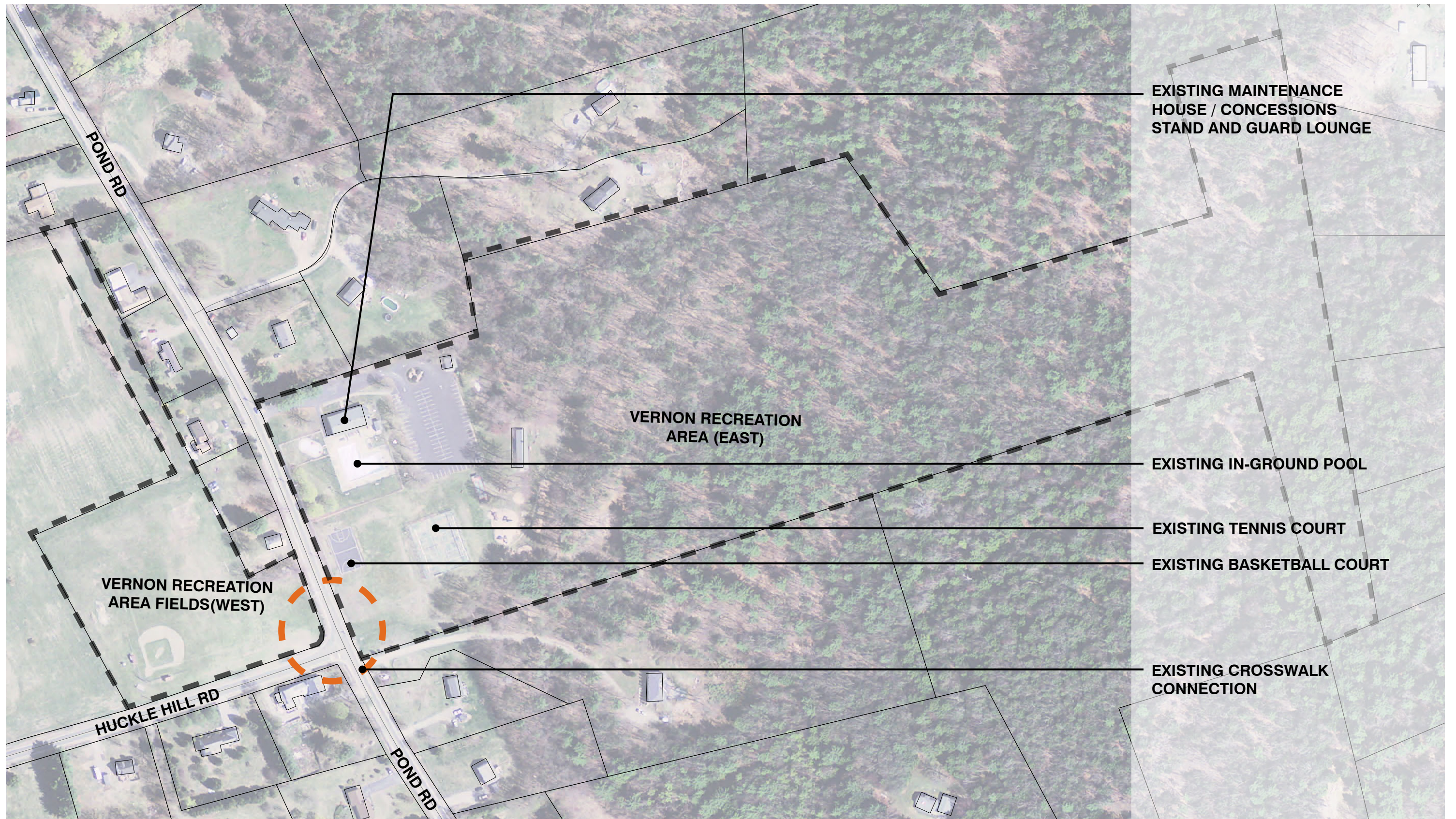
#### *The Rite Aid Foundation*

- <https://www.riteaid.com/about-us/rite-aid-foundation>
- The Rite Aid Foundation focuses on three areas for charitable giving: - Children's health and well-being - Special community health and wellness needs, including during times of emergency or natural disasters - Rite Aid's own community of associates during times of special need.

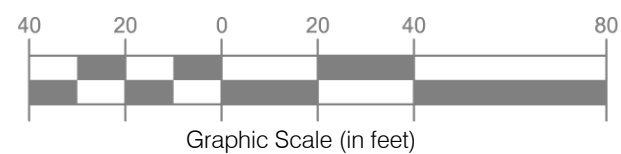
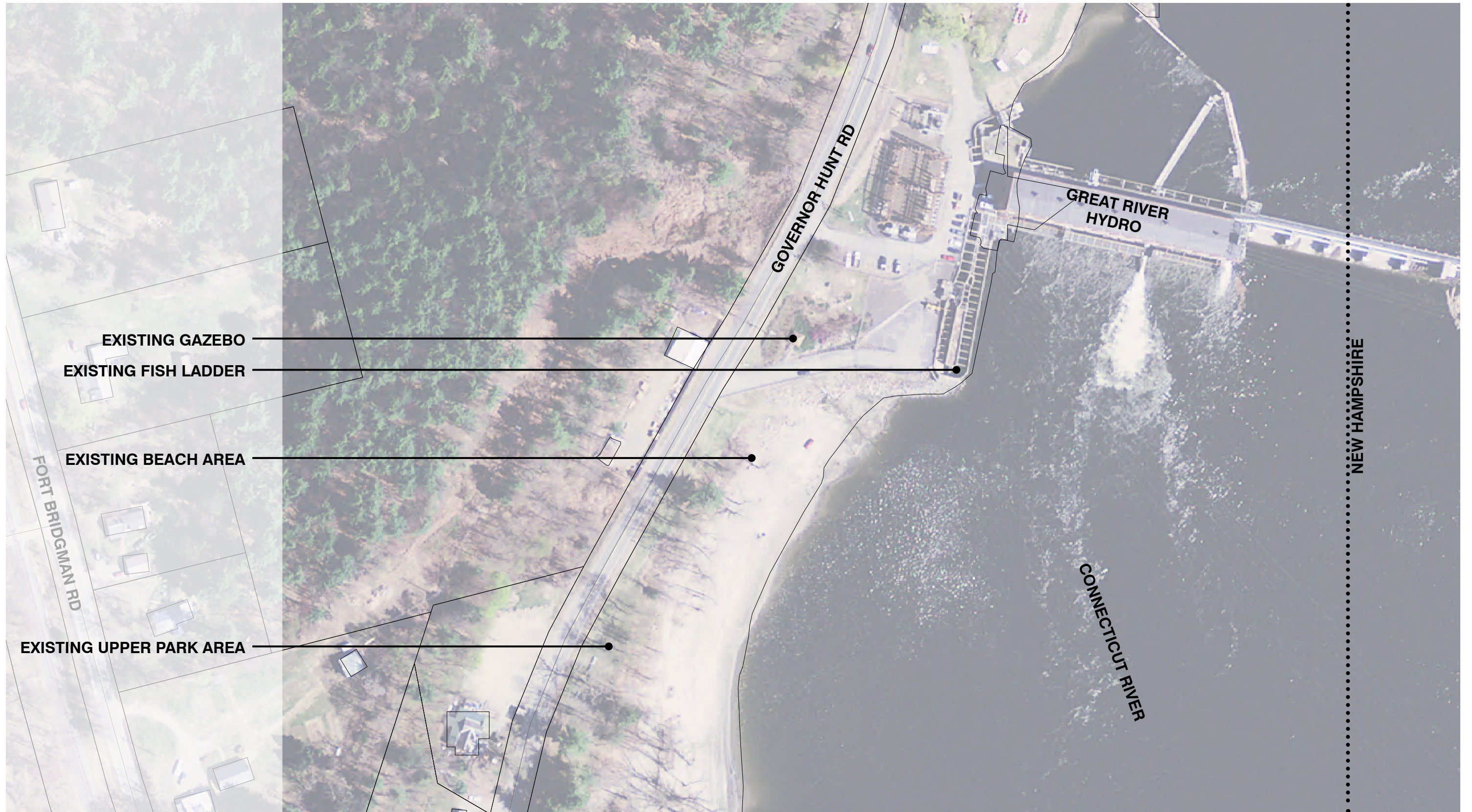
## Appendices

## Appendix A – Existing Conditions and Conceptual Plans











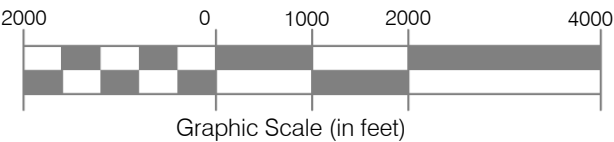
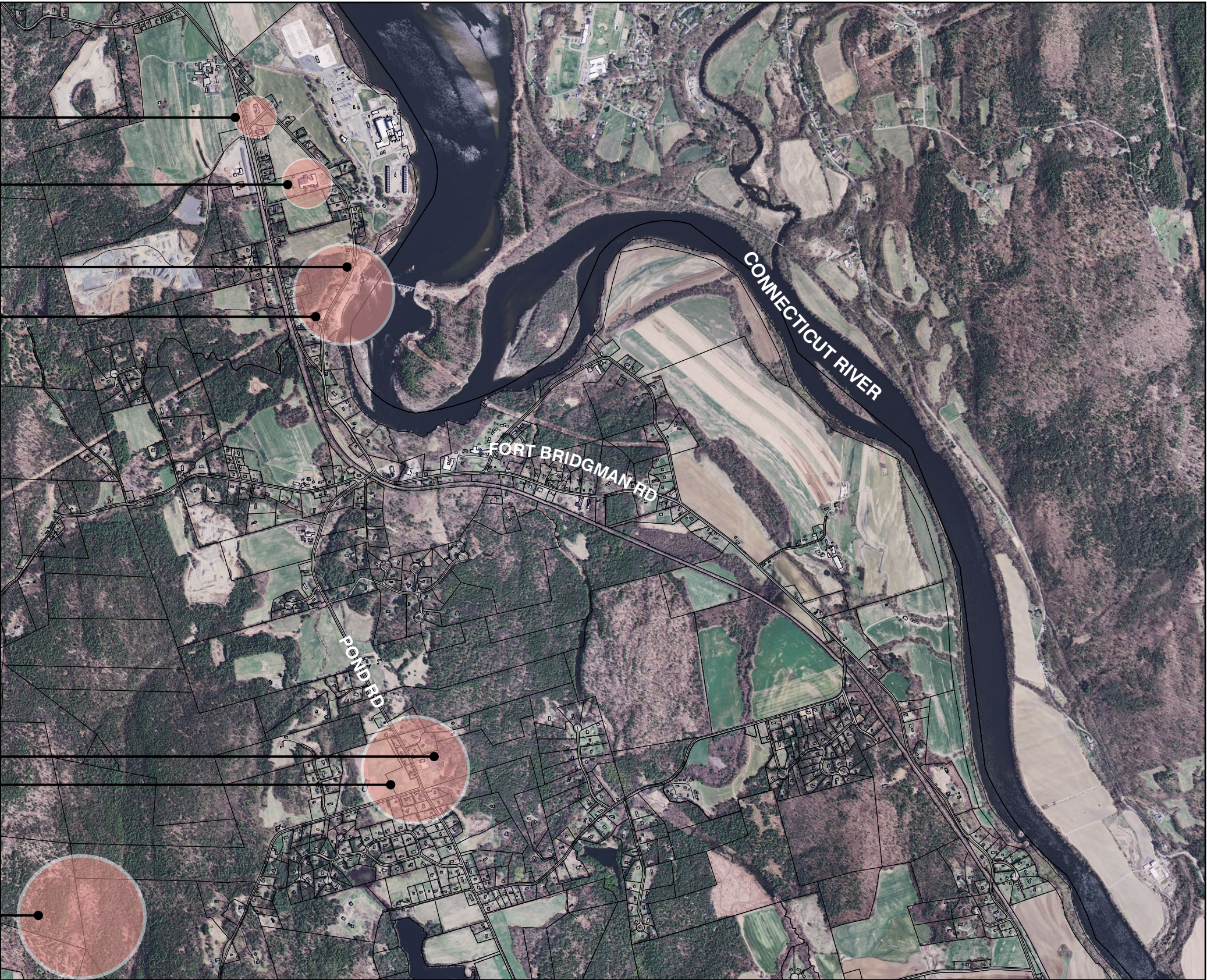
TOWN OF VERNON OFFICES AND LIBRARY

VERNON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND  
TOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PROVIDE RIVERFRONT ACCESS ABOVE  
GREAT RIVER HYDRO DAM  
CONTINUATION OF EXISTING  
SIDEWALK TOWARDS DAM

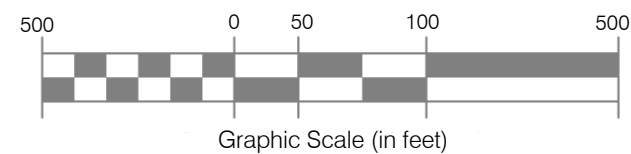
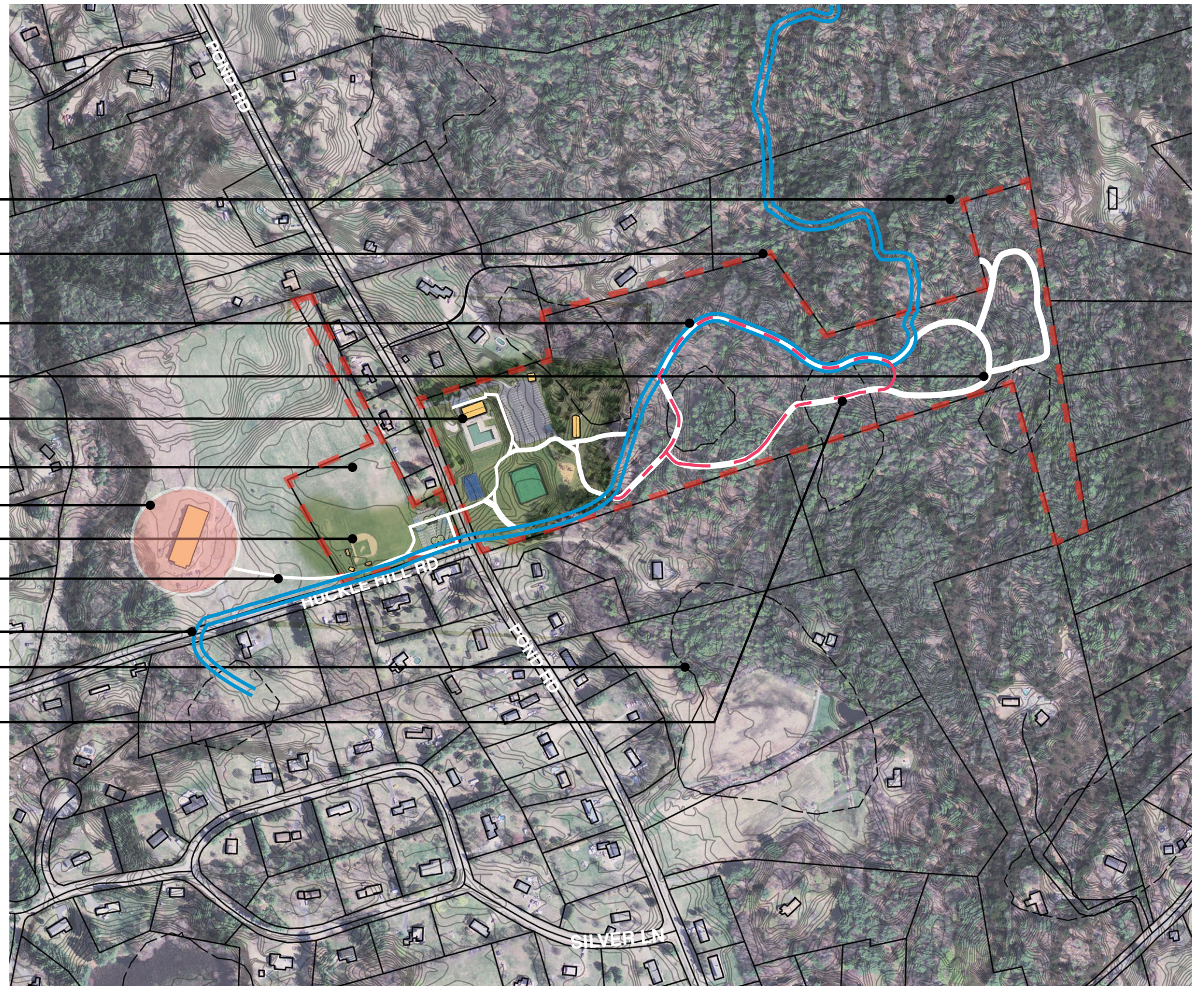
VERNON RECREATION AREA (EAST)  
VERNON RECREATION AREA (WEST)

J. MAYNARD MILLER MUNICIPAL  
FOREST (VERNON TOWN FOREST)

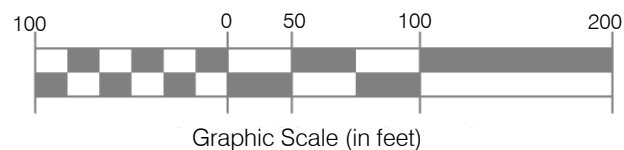
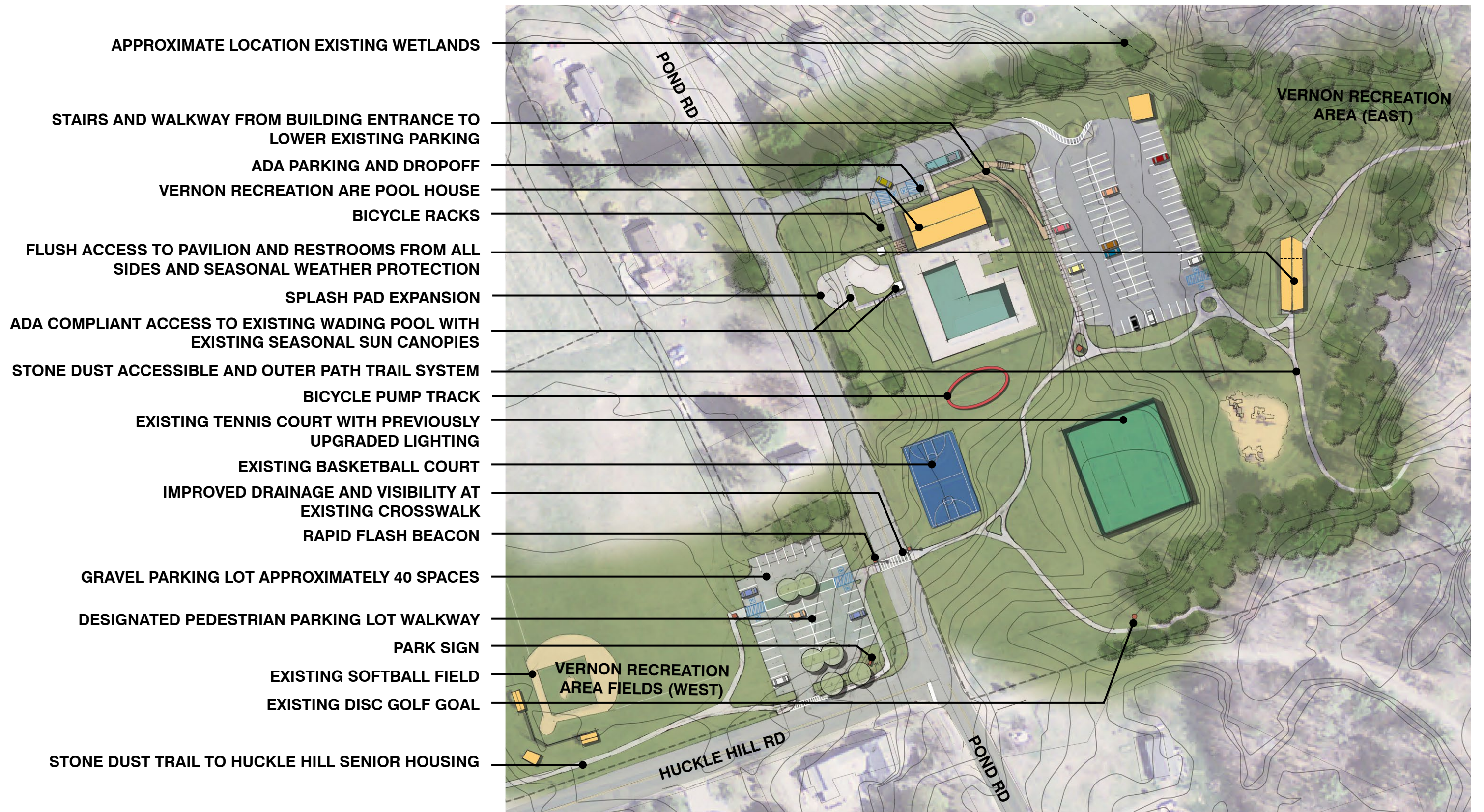




- OUTER PATH SYSTEM
- PROPERTY LIMITS
- OUTER PATH TRAIL SYSTEM OVER  
EXISTING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
- ACCESSIBLE TRAIL SYSTEM
- VERNON RECREATION AREA (EAST)
- VERNON RECREATION AREA (WEST)
- HUCKLE HILL SENIOR HOUSING
- EXISTING SOFTBALL FIELD
- PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION TO  
HUCKLE HILL SENIOR HOUSING
- EXISTING SNOWMOBILE TRAIL
- APPROXIMATE LOCATION  
EXISTING WETLANDS
- CONTINUATION OF EXISTING  
DISC GOLF COURSE









## Appendix B – Meeting Minutes

# MEETING MINUTES

PROJECT: Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan	
W&S Project No.: ENG22-1344	
MEETING DATE: November 29, 2022	TIME: 10:00 am
SUBJECT: Project Kick-off Meeting & Review of Existing Needs Assessment	

## 1. Meeting Attendees:

- Shelly Banford, Town Administrator
- Seth Deyo, Recreation Department Director
- Ian Deyo, Assistant Recreation Department Director
- Don Rosinski, Conservation Commission and Snowmobile Club
- Doug Gerber, Weston & Sampson
- Elijah Pulver, Weston & Sampson

## 2. The Following Items Were Discussed or Visited by Attendees:

- The Town population is approximately 2,200 people.
- The Town would like to pursue shovel-ready funding grants for improvements that will meet community expectations and attract visitors.
- The Town is interested in investigating larger/motorized boat access to the Connecticut River through public land. Pleasure and pontoon boats, with an average length of 20 to 24-ft, are preferred. There are several kayak groups along the Connecticut River. An ideal scenario is a launch area with adjacent park space to increase recreational use of the river.
- Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant is scheduled to be decommissioned between 2025 through 2028. The land is located to the east of the Vernon Town Hall along the shoreline of the Connecticut River. This area may be a good candidate for future boat access through public land. Currently, no unauthorized access is allowed at the Plant.
- The Town Hall shares space with the Vernon Free Library. The Town Recreation Department office is within Vernon Elementary School. These are notable examples of the large role collective programs and uses interplay within the Town.
- Multi-use and inclusivity are strongly encouraged, and accessibility is a “must,” in visioning for the future of public spaces within Vernon.

- Town trails are heavily used by ATVs, bicycles, snowmobiles, and cross-country skiing in the winter. Multi-use trail development is emphasized. Many trails, including the loop trail surrounding Vernon, are Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) certified and maintained by the Vernon Trailbreakers Club. Utility Terrain Vehicles, or UTVs, are gaining popularity for use on trails. Sections of the trails have been closed to public use by National Grid.
- No publicly owned land is available along the riverfront. Great River Hydro owns, maintains, and provides small water-craft access and recreation facilities to the Vernon Hydroelectric Project (Vernon Station Dam) at the Connecticut River Reservoir.
- Hinsdale-Brattleboro Bridge will have a new boat launch installed as part of the ongoing design and construction of the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Greenway Project.

### 3. The locations below are presented in the order of the site visits:

- **Vernon Elementary School and Gym**
  - Attendees visited the Town Recreation Office within Vernon Elementary School. The school gym, the adjacent stage, and assembly area within the cafeteria, is open to public recreation from September to mid-June in the afternoons, evenings, and weekends. The gym is impressive in size and condition and capable of hosting activities and events that benefit a wide range of ages. Activities include craft fairs, night games, leagues, clubs, fitness classes, and other community uses. Events are not generally held at the gym in summer during the maintenance period. During the summer, the Recreation Department moves to offices within the Vernon Recreation Area Park building.
- **Governor Hunt House**
  - The Governor Hunt House is one of the oldest buildings in Vermont and representative of town heritage.
  - Current rehabilitation efforts will include a community center.
- **Portage Trail / Vernon Station Dam**
  - A wooden gazebo has been recently cleared of overgrown vegetation.
  - The Portage Trail is a steep section of stone trail connecting Governor Hunt Road to a section of sandy beach below the dam. The beach is also accessible, from the south, through the Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch on Great Hydro property.
  - The dam frequently discharges water. The water level below the dam can increase dramatically over a short period of time. Large signs along the beach notify users of potential hazards related to ongoing dam operation.
  - At the lower side of the dam, there is an existing fish ladder with a viewing area. The community and the school use this opportunity to teach principles of fish migration along the Connecticut River. The ladder provides a route for migrating fish from the lower to upper waters of the dam.
  - The snowmobile club has created a new segment of seasonal snowmobile trail that follows the eastern side of Governor Hunt Road. A section of roadway guiderail has been modified to allow snowmobiles access to relink the trail after public access to a section of trail on National Grid property was removed.
- **Vernon Recreation Area at 607 Pond Road**
  - The Recreation Area was opened in 1972 and funded by the Vermont Yankee Power Plant.
  - A large siren, from earlier days of the Vermont Yankee Power Plant operation, remains on-site.

- The group visited a portion of park on the east side of Pond Road.
  - The large brick building adjacent to the pool is in good condition and the roof is less than 10-years-old. Locker rooms, a small concession area serving pre-packaged snacks, office space, and community room are available within the building. Food trucks use the parking lot to the east five to six times per year in the summer.
  - The parking lot is in good condition and generally left unplowed during the winter.
  - The pool is maintained by the Recreation Department and is patched and painted yearly. The pool needs a new diving board. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant pool access improvements are under contract and expected to be installed in 2023.
  - The adjacent fenced in wading pool is actively used. Contemporary picnic tables are available and fabric awnings are erected to provide shade. There may be interest in converting the wading pool into a splash pad/spray deck. The group agreed that an accessible route from the main pool to the wading pool is recommended. The existing stair handrails from the main pool to the wading pool do not appear to currently meet code requirements.
  - The tennis facility lighting will be updated with recently acquired American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funding.
  - The Pavilion east of the main building is well used by the community and during Summer Camp. The bathrooms need complete rehabilitation and ADA access. The open-air portion of the pavilion is subject to wind and rain during activities. Summer Camp is scheduled rain or shine, and the Town would like to provide additional protection from the weather. Weather protection will provide extended seasonal use of the shelter from one season to three (say, mid-March through mid-October).
  - The Town owns a portion of wooded area and trails east of the main building and pavilion. A camping area within the woods was previously planned but the area tends to be buggy. This inhibits interest in using the space. Snowmobiles use the trail.
  - Community members have expressed interest in a pump track for cyclists, or as Wikipedia explains, a “track is a circuit of rollers, banked turns and features designed to be ridden completely by riders ‘pumping’—generating momentum by up and down body movements, instead of pedaling or pushing. It was originally designed for the mountain bike and BMX scene, and now, due to concrete constructions, is also used by skateboard, and accessible to wheelchairs. Pump tracks are relatively simple to use and cheap to construct and cater to a wide variety of rider skill levels.”
  - Pond Road traffic tends to speed between the eastern and western portions of the Park. The local police department has acquired speed and safety devices that may be effective in notifying drivers of their speed, or when they are exceeding posted speed limits, within the area. The crosswalk is generally adequate, and the inclusion of a rapid flashing beacon (RFB) may be well suited for improving the crossing near the basketball court.
- **J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest (Town Forest)**
    - During COVID, the increased use of the Town Forest brought increased attention and subsequent improvements to the park. Recently developed brochures, mapping, and construction of a kiosk and signs, provide an improved experience for users of the park.
    - Environmental studies have investigated the Black Gum tree.
    - There are snowmobile trails throughout the Town Forest.
    - The Town Forest is well-utilized. The Town does not foresee this park being an area of study for this Outdoor Recreation Master Plan.



# MEETING MINUTES

<b>PROJECT:</b> Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan	
<b>W&amp;S Project No.:</b> ENG22-1344	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b> November 30, 2022 (Virtual)	<b>TIME:</b> 6:00 pm
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Project Kick-off Meeting & Review of Existing Needs Assessment Follow-up with the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Committee	

## 1. Meeting Attendees:

- Shelly Banford, Town Administrator
- Seth Deyo, Recreation Department Director
- Ian Deyo, Assistant Recreation Department Director
- Don Rosinski, Conservation Commission and Snowmobile Club
- Bob Spencer, Planning Commission Vice Chairman
- Elenore, ORMP Committee Member
- Doug Gerber, Weston & Sampson

## 2. The Following Items Were Discussed:

- The intent of this meeting was to discuss the outcome of the Kick-off Meeting & Review of the Existing Needs Assessment conducted on the prior day, November 29, 2022, with members of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan (ORMP) Committee.
- Doug verbally described the fieldwork completed the prior day and asked questions. The Committee provided responses and expanded Weston & Sampson's understanding of the parks, public space, and their understanding of the community.
- Formal fieldwork notes, with greater detail, are being prepared for distribution to the Town.
- Doug expressed his appreciation for the dedication of the Town and Recreation Staff for their ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the facilities. The Town of Vernon is very fortunate to have a variety of well-used and well-maintained park spaces and amenities available to their community and visitors. Throughout the fieldwork, Doug and Elijah Pulver, from Weston & Sampson, commented to one another on the upkeep of painted surfaces, maintained door & gate hardware, and other often unnoticed efforts demonstrating an overall sense of great pride for their facilities.
- The Committee expressed the value of an accessible trail within the Town. The trail within the wooded area behind the Vernon Recreation Park pavilion is a good candidate. There are older "west river dirt trails," that could potentially be reclaimed.
- The locations below are presented in the order in which Weston & Sampson conducted their fieldwork.

- **J. Maynard Miller Municipal Forest (Town Forest)**
  - Although not an area of study for this master plan effort due to the benefit of recent improvements, Doug and Elijah took the vehicular route and drove to the top of the park from the Basin Road trailhead and turn-a-round. The two clearings, one at the top and another clearing with views to the north, were walked to obtain an understanding of the park character and use.
- **Vernon Recreation Area at 607 Pond Road (West Side of the Road)**
  - The site consists of an informal stone parking area, softball field, tee-ball field, frisbee golf, and access to a crosswalk at Pond Road.
  - The informal stone parking area is an opportunity for improvement. Currently, vehicles park in the gravel area at the corner of Pond Road and Huckle Hill Road. As many as 50 to 60 cars parking in the area during events. The parking area is frequently used throughout the week and during Saturday mornings. ADA parking spaces are not available.
  - The softball field is used for baseball and youth softball programs. The pitchers mound has been intentionally removed for softball. Formal league games are generally played in Brattleboro so improvements for league play are not necessary at this time. The field turf does become compacted, and the turf dries out later in the season. The Town regularly incorporates compost to address compaction and encourage healthy turf growth. There is no immediately available access to water for irrigation.
  - The tee-ball field is regularly used by for five- to six-year-olds.
  - The soccer net belongs to a neighbor and is typically stored on park land during the winter months.
  - Frisbee golf baskets (or holes) are generally new and have been installed within the past few years throughout the course.
- **Pedestrian Crosswalk on Pond Road**
  - Two crosswalk signs warn oncoming traffic of the crosswalk.
  - The crosswalk appears well located.
  - The culvert on the west side of the crosswalk appears to have shifted over time. Re-aligning and lowering the plastic culvert will improve drainage and accessibility to the crosswalk.
  - A speed table, similar to the one found in Keene, or a Rapid Flashing Beacon (RFB) are considerations for traffic speed calming and improving visibility of the crosswalk.
  - Pond Road is a Town owned road.
  - Jeff Nugent, a Regional Planner, has collected bike traffic count data on Pond Road. Seth will share a link to the data available online. Town Forest hiking and foot traffic data is also available.
- **Vernon Recreation Area at 607 Pond Road (East Side of Road)**
  - The basketball court receives regular maintenance and re-painting. A crack in the pavement was documented. The group agrees this can be easily corrected by filling the gap to prolong longevity of the surface.
  - The tennis courts are well used, lighted, and are enclosed by chain link fence. The play surface, fence, and gates are in good condition. The original lighting, assumed to have been installed in the 1970's or 1980's, is worn, inefficient, and outdated. The Town is pursuing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to replace the lights. The Town is considering the installation of pickle ball courts.
  - The playground is well maintained and appears to be up to date. Weston & Sampson will confirm if the seesaw is still compliant. Additional items will be documented in the field work report. The Town assumes portions of the playground exceed 40 years old.

- The pavilion is well used, with a grill area, picnic tables, bathrooms, storage area, drinking fountain, Summer Camp coordination space, and interior lighting. The grill and picnic tables appear to be in good operable condition. The bathrooms require interior updates, accessible entrances, and exterior privacy fences. The storage area is operable and functional. The drinking fountains are difficult to maintain due to vandalism. New drinking fountains will not be installed after the current one is removed. The roof and concrete walk surface appear to be in good condition and the committee confirmed that there are no leaks. The Town would like to replace the interior lighting with updated, timer controlled, and efficient LED light strips. The pavilion does not have walls and lacks protection from the weather. The Town would like to consider approaches to protecting the interior of the pavilion from the weather, extending its seasonal use, and discouraging rain and wind from impacting activities (such as arts & crafts during summer camp). Additional accessibility can be improved in two ways. The first is provide a walkway from nearby accessible parking spaces to the pavilion. Currently, visitors are allowed to drive on the lawn up to the pavilion for more convenient access. The second is remove the say 4-inch lip, or step, where lawn meets the pavilion's interior walk surface. These accessibility approaches will be investigated.
- Frisbee golf is in good condition and well used.
- The group will investigate opportunities to reclaim former snowmobile "west river dirt trails," in the wooded area behind the pavilion to provide a segment accessible trail through natural wooded areas for community members and visitors. The intent is to provide a natural setting for people to enjoy outdoor experiences found in say, the Town Forest, who may have limited mobility.
- The horseshoe pits are well used. The pit stakes are difficult to see. The lighting above the horseshoe pits is operable.
- **Parking Lot, ADA Parking Spaces, and Building Access**
  - The parking lot is in good condition, sealed and with painted parking lines. The ADA parking spaces nearest to the pavilion will be reviewed for ADA compliance.
  - The ADA parking spaces and accessible route to the building and pool will also be investigated. The walkway appears to exceed allowable slopes. The drop-off can be improved to meet current standards.
- **Portage Trail / Vernon Station Dam**
  - A boat launch above dam is needed to provide access to the river.
- **Governor Hunt Picnic Area and Boat Launch**
  - Great River Hydro provides assets and has agreements in place with the Town to allow public access to this property.
  - Tree removal and limb maintenance is required.
  - Green wooden stands are for seasonal portable restrooms.

## **Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Committee Public Meeting Minutes- February 16, 2023**

The meeting started at 6:47 PM

Committee members present: Bob Spencer.

Shelly Banford was present to facilitate the meeting and take minutes.

Others present: Doug Gerber with Weston & Sampson, Jason O'Brien-Recreation Board, Norma Manning- Conservation Commission, Jean Carr-Selectboard and Jeff Nugent-Windham Regional, Senior Planner

D. Gerber stated he accompanied the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Committee on a tour of recreation assets located in Vernon. D. Gerber stated an assessment report has been completed on all the areas visited. D. Gerber gave a power point presentation on the locations visited and his assessments on these locations:

The School Gymnasium was the first stop as it is used a lot for many programs. D. Gerber noted it is a great space and didn't need any upgrade or changes.

The second stop was at the boat launch on Governor Hunt Road by great River hydro. D. Gerber stated there is a picnic area. D. Gerber stated the beach area looked good. It looks like some trees may need to be cut and the boat access is steep. N. Manning noted the sidewalk stops before the dam and is a safety concern when walking there with students. J. Nugent stated the sidewalk is more of a Town Village improvement. D. Gerber stated this is part of a civic, educational and recreation triangle where work can be done to improve the connection. B. Spencer noted there is a mapped trail just above the dam as well.

The Recreation Department grounds was the next location visited. D. Gerber noted he viewed the pool area, pavilion, tennis courts, basket ball courts, disc golf, the pavilion and pool house areas. D. Gerber noted the ball field soil is challenging to grow grass, there is some concerns with ample parking at the ballfield, lighting at the tennis court, add lighting and dressing up the horseshoe area, the ADA configuration in the parking lot, accessibility to the pool for folks with mobility issues and the safety of children on bikes crossing in the crosswalk. There was discussion on adding a pump track, splash pad and additional trails that are ADA accessible. N. Manning noted her concerns with drainage behind the parking lot. B. Spencer stated there needs to be a clear path to the bath house from the pool area. N. Manning voiced her concern with adding trails and the potential impact on wetlands. N. Manning noted Stebbins Road is a very walkable road as well for folks with mobility issues. It was noted the current trails have been used for workout stations and mountain biking. B. Spencer noted the trails are not currently mapped and would like to see a dedicated bike loop for kids. There was some discussion on adjacent VAST trails and the potential to connect to portions of this trail. There was a brief discussion on the VAST trails being used by ATVs when it was designated for winter use only. B. Spencer stated there is potential to connect a walking path from the Senior Living to the Recreation Dept. grounds. J. Nugent stated the Town of Vernon owns the land between the

Senior Housing and the ballfield. J. Nugent also noted the Town owns the roads in the area and could create a bike lane on Pond Road where it is flat and wide enough. J. Nugent stated the State can do a high-risk assessment for the intersection at the corner of the ballfield.

The last destination was the Town Forest. D. Gerber stated there is plenty of signage and amenities like picnic areas etc. D. Gerber noted he didn't feel there was any changes needed here.

The meeting wrapped up with a discussion on another Public meeting to be held at the school gymnasium or cafeteria.

#### **Next Meeting**

TBD

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Shelly Banford

# MEETING MINUTES

<b>PROJECT:</b> Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan	
<b>W&amp;S Project No.:</b> ENG22-1344	
<b>MEETING DATE:</b> May 30, 2023, In-person Public Meeting at the Vernon Elementary School	<b>TIME:</b> 6:00 pm
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Public Meeting #2	

## 1. Meeting Attendees:

- Bob Spencer, Planning Commission Vice Chairman
- Seth Deyo, Recreation Department Director
- Ian Deyo, Assistant Recreation Department Director
- Elenore Thomas, ORMP Committee Member
- Don Rosinski, Conservation Commission and Snowmobile Club
- Members of the Community
- Doug Gerber, Weston & Sampson
- Elijah Pulver, Weston & Sampson

## 2. The Following Items Were Discussed:

- The intent of this public meeting was to obtain community input for Vernon's Outdoor Recreation Master Plan and obtain feedback, answer questions, and provide recommendations.
- Existing conditions photos, site plan concepts, and precedent images presented for the purposes of leading the discussion and eliciting feedback from the community. Accessibility was a highlighted theme throughout the meeting. Generally, the options provide an accessible trail and improvements to existing and proposed amenities, which would link Huckle Hill Senior Housing, to the Vernon Town Park, and into a trail system situated east of the existing pavilion and playground.
- An online survey has been prepared and is expected to be available soon.

## 3. Community Input:

- The community appreciates the strategy of focusing on ADA accessibility within the Vernon Recreation Area.
- The committee will discuss the approach for addressing Lily Pond within the Outdoor Park Recreation Master Plan. Concerns include protecting the resource while allowing responsible use within this unique ecological habitat.
- Local and Senior Housing residents commonly walk Huckle Hill Road. Sidewalks on both sides of the road, from the Senior Housing entrance to Pond Street, are strongly desired.

- Refer to the Great River Hydro Dam, as the Dam. Ownership rights are currently being transferred and Great River Hydro is no longer an owner or stakeholder.
- The online survey outreach will be advertised through flyers and web blasts. The intent is to provide “market saturation” to maximize availability and interest in taking the survey. A disclaimer will explain how some activities and improvements may not ultimately be within the ability of the Town to build or implement.
- The open lawn area between the softball field and Pond Road is used for informal parking and a warm-up area for games. If formal parking is provided, an alternative and convenient space for warming up is needed. Parents expressed the section of park on the west side of Pond Road offers open views and the ability to see children easily. The sunken nature of the east side of Pond Road offers limited visibility of children playing when at the western side of Pond Road.
- There is a strong desire to remove the existing wading pool stairs and focus on a grander accessible entrance to the south as indicated on the concept plans. The design will accommodate utility and lighting conflicts, if they arise, during future design phases. There do not appear to be any immediate utility conflicts which could inhibit the improvements at this time.
- Attendees expressed interest in a boardwalk in an area of the Town Forest, which is one of the most visited locations in Town. Boardwalks provide accessibility and protect habitat. If not the Town Forest, boardwalks may be a feature for use at Lily Pond and the trails east of the pavilion at the Town Park. The Committee will discuss this further.
- Attendees expressed interest in keeping the wading pool and including a small splash pad expansion. A recirculation system is likely since the facility already has swimming pool facilities.
- New improvements may be targets for vandalism. There was a discussion about security cameras. The Committee will discuss this further.
- Proposed trail improvements are expected to include wayfinding signage, educational signage, and sitting/rest areas with benches. Wayfinding can include trail destinations and snowmobile routes, and identification of trail difficulty and distances.
- Winter maintenance of trails is not anticipated. Ongoing trail maintenance, such as seasonal trail upkeep and clearing, will be discussed with the Committee.
- Grants can provide funding streams. This public outreach component of this master plan will help distinguish Vernon among other competitive applications. State Representative Sara Coffey offered to provide web links to potential grants. AARP the Building Communities Grants through Vermont Buildings and General Services are examples that will be included in the final report.
- Pickle Ball is strongly desired, will likely be collapsible, and installed at the existing tennis courts. The popularity of the sport is driven by its ease of access and broad age ranges.
- Rapid Flashing Beacons (RFB) are a common approach for warning drivers of the intention for a pedestrian to use a sidewalk. The warning is indicated by bright flashing yellow lights. Red lights, and alternative colors cannot be used. Due to the nature of the project, and this is not a roadway improvement project, the RFB is likely the best approach. Attendees noted that RFB’s are often ignored in other locations, although this is difficult to assess on a case-by-case basis.
- A low maintenance native plant walking garden is an opportunity for discussion for trails east of the pavilion. The creation of an educational experience and passive natural environment could be maintained by the UVM Master Gardener Program.



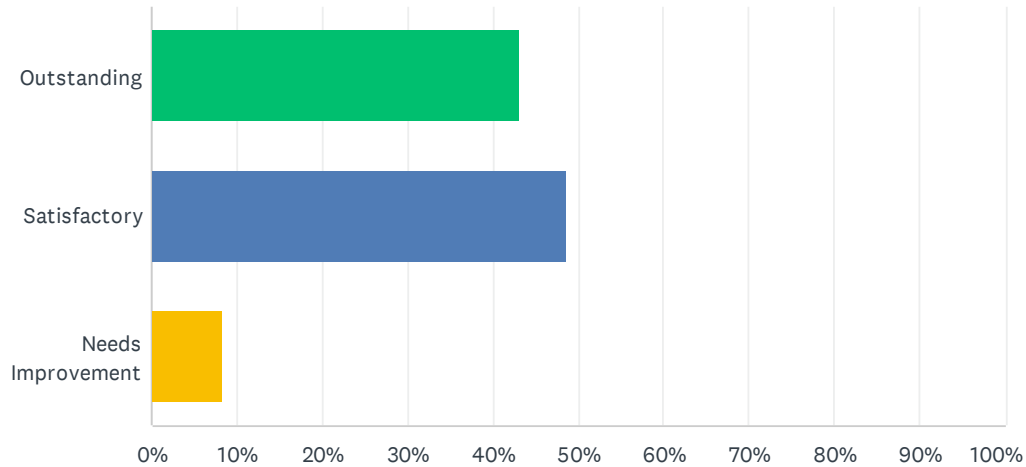
## Appendix C – Online Survey Results

**Q1 What activities or programs do you and your household typically engage in when visiting Town of Vernon parks or recreation facilities?**

Answered: 61   Skipped: 14

## Q2 How would you describe the overall quality of the parks and recreation facilities in the Town of Vernon?

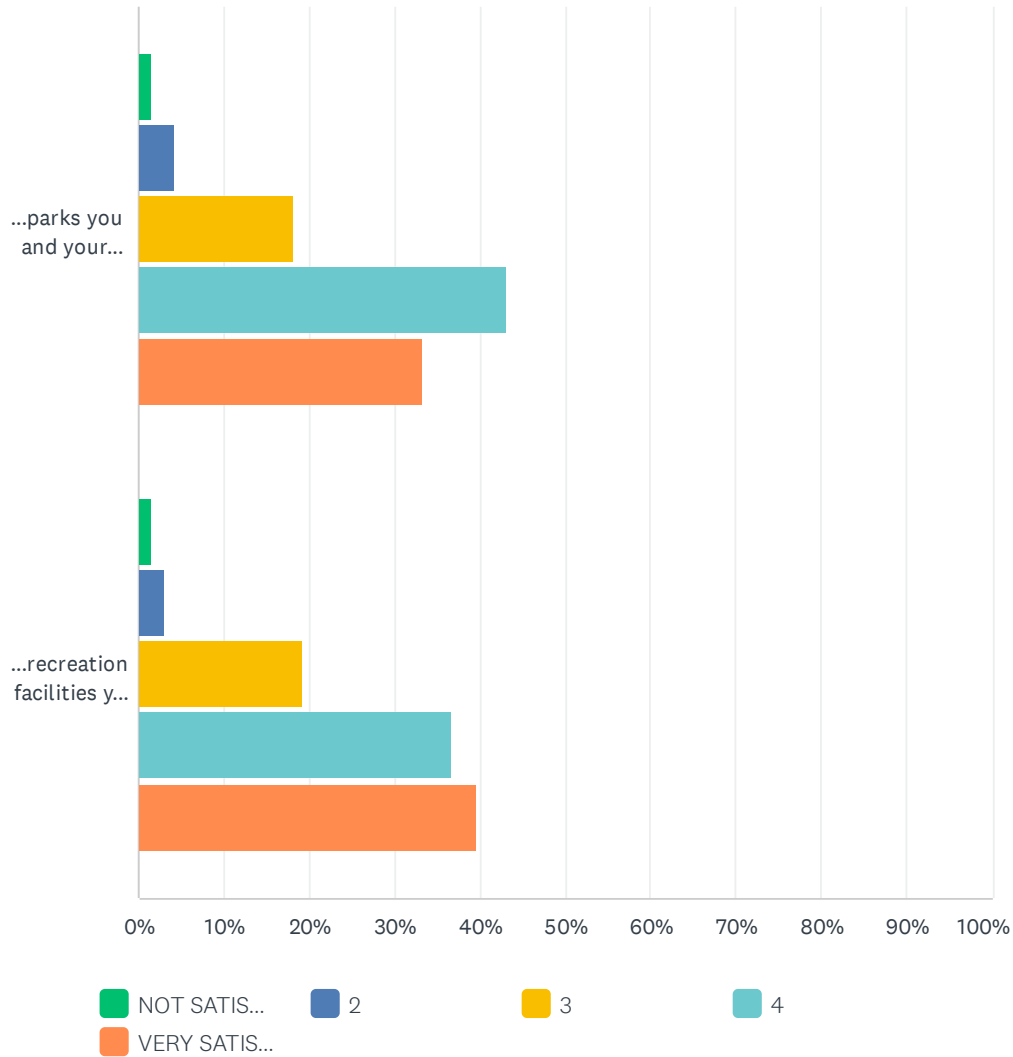
Answered: 72 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outstanding	43.06%	31
Satisfactory	48.61%	35
Needs Improvement	8.33%	6
TOTAL		72

## Q3 How satisfied have you and your household been with the quality of Town of Vernon...

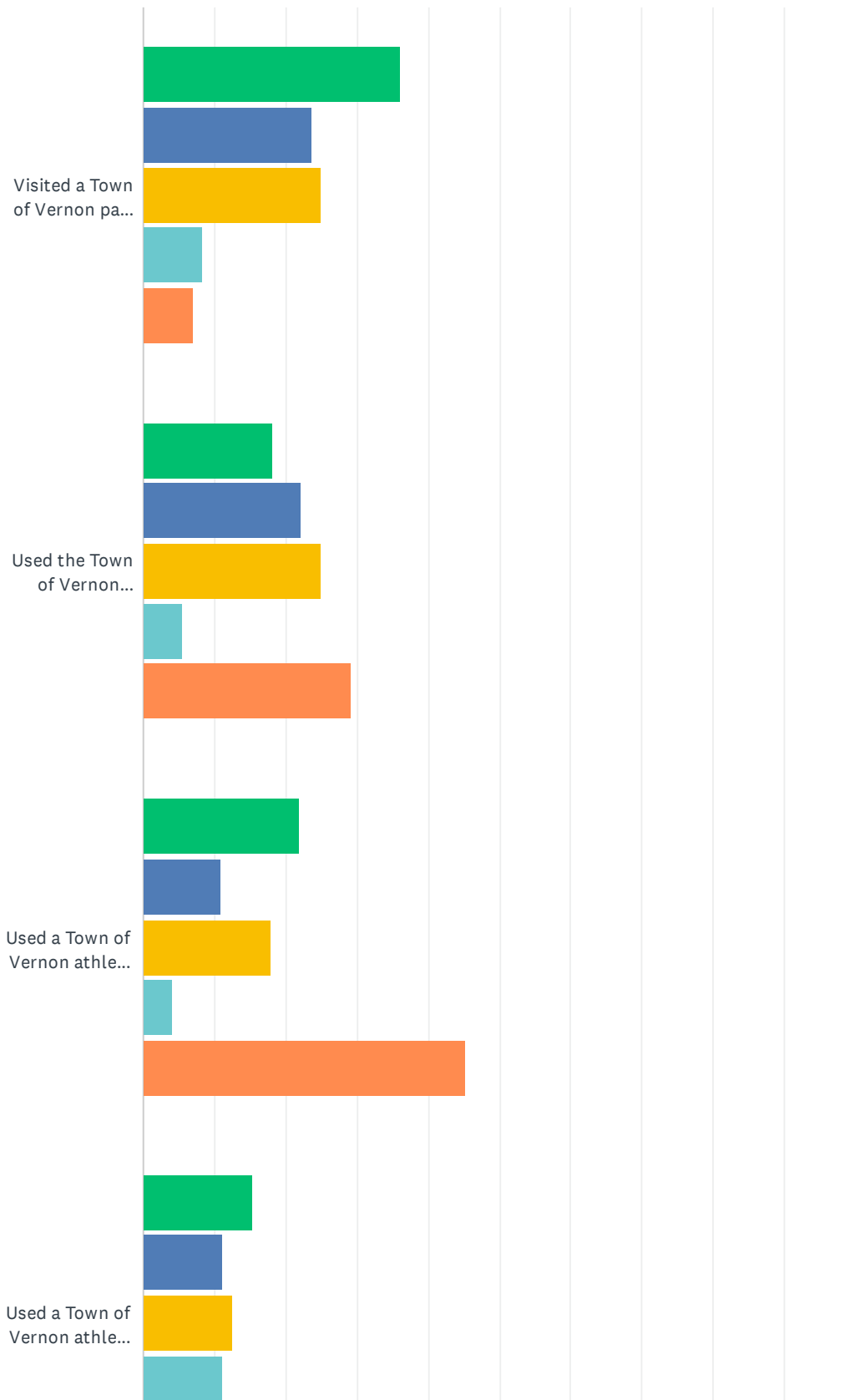
Answered: 72 Skipped: 3



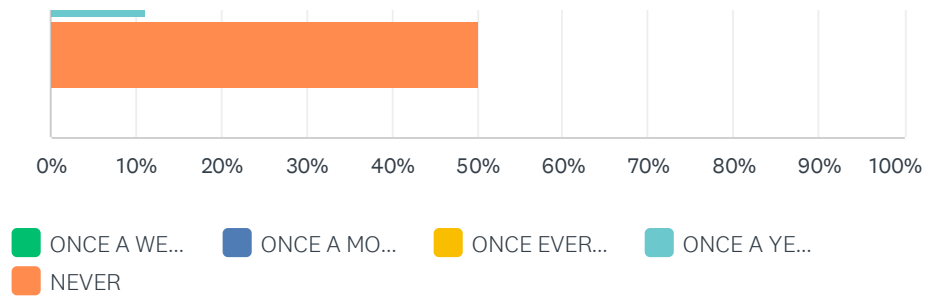
	NOT SATISFIED 1	2	3	4	VERY SATISFIED 5	TOTAL
...parks you and your household have used over the past two (2) years?	1.39% 1	4.17% 3	18.06% 13	43.06% 31	33.33% 24	72
...recreation facilities you and your household have used over the past two (2) years?	1.47% 1	2.94% 2	19.12% 13	36.76% 25	39.71% 27	68

## Q4 In the past 12 months, how frequently have you and your household...

Answered: 75 Skipped: 0



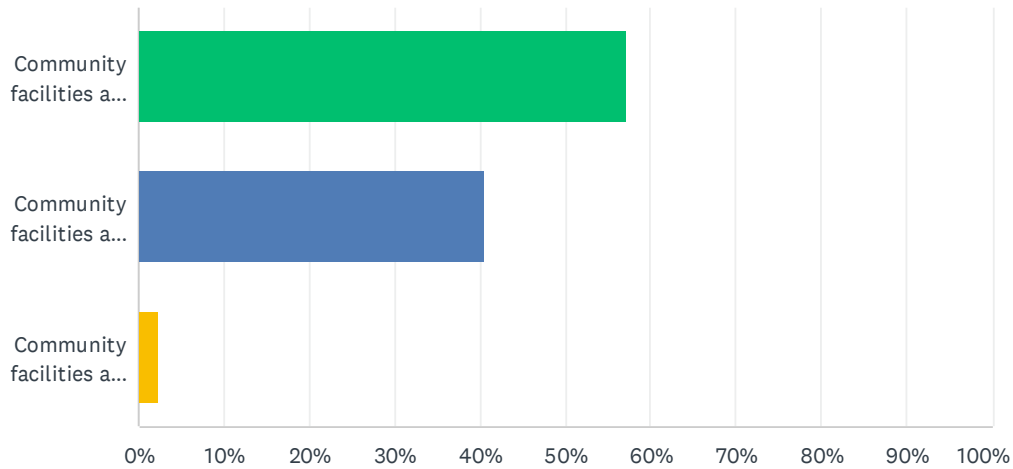
## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan



	ONCE A WEEK OR MORE	ONCE A MONTH	ONCE EVERY FEW MONTHS	ONCE A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL
Visited a Town of Vernon park or recreation facility?	36.11% 26	23.61% 17	25.00% 18	8.33% 6	6.94% 5	72
Used the Town of Vernon playground?	18.06% 13	22.22% 16	25.00% 18	5.56% 4	29.17% 21	72
Used a Town of Vernon athletic field?	21.92% 16	10.96% 8	17.81% 13	4.11% 3	45.21% 33	73
Used a Town of Vernon athletic court?	15.28% 11	11.11% 8	12.50% 9	11.11% 8	50.00% 36	72

**Q5 In your experience, are existing parks & recreation facilities within the Town of Vernon available when requested? For example, if you try to reserve a court or field, are any available?**

Answered: 42 Skipped: 33

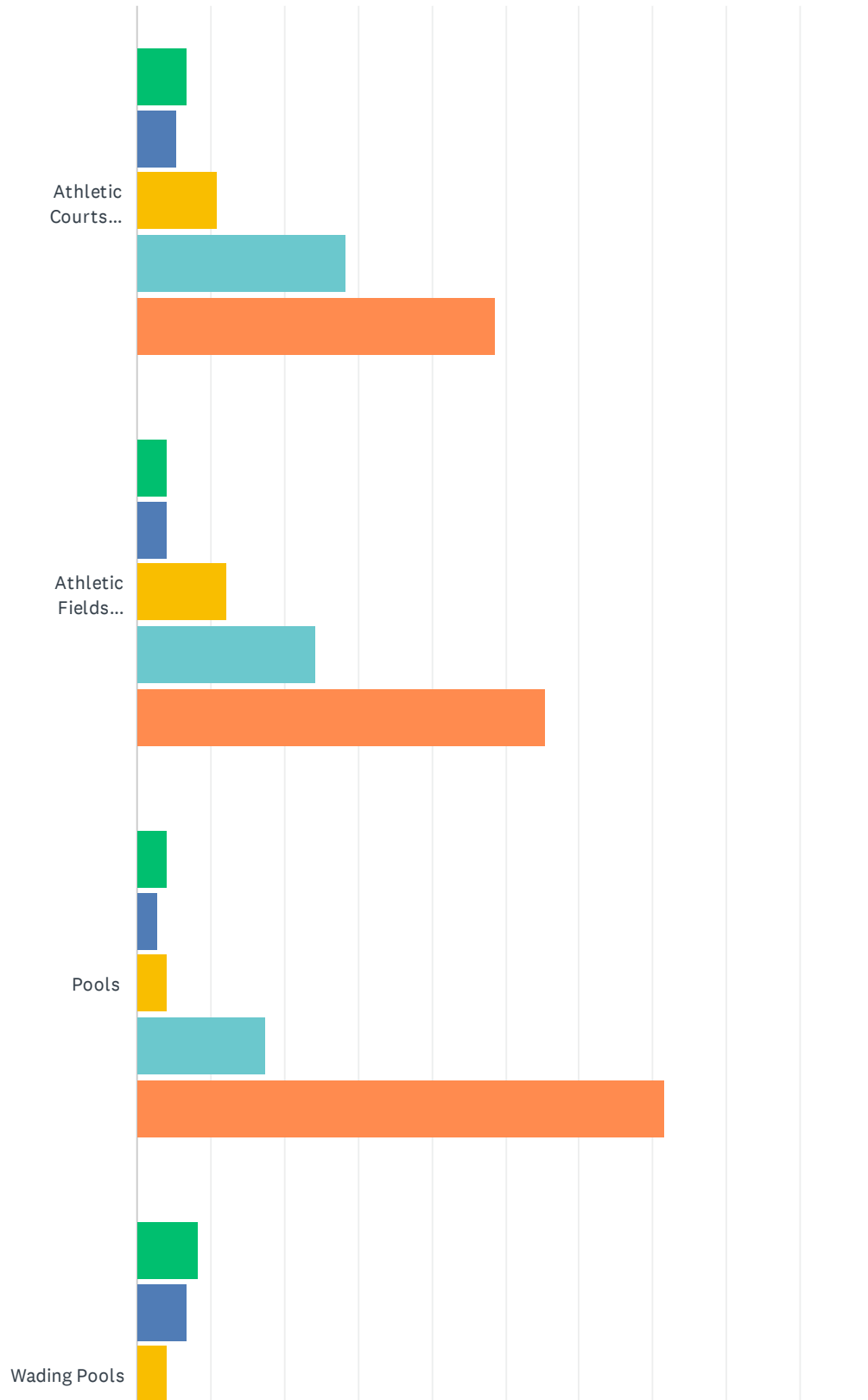


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community facilities are always available	57.14%	24
Community facilities are sometimes available	40.48%	17
Community facilities are never available / always booked	2.38%	1
TOTAL		42

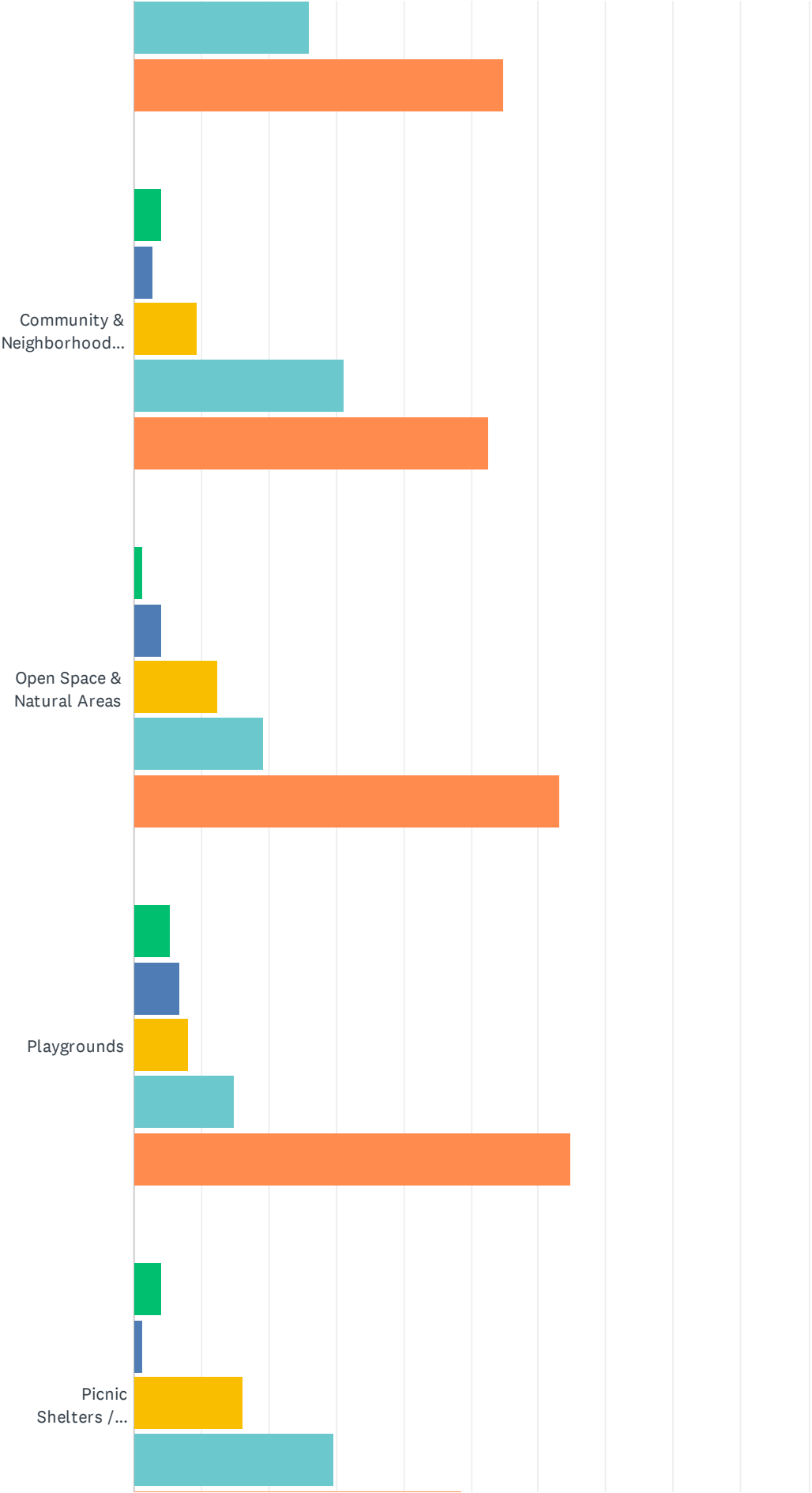


## Q6 Please rate how important the following existing recreation facilities are in meeting the needs of the Town of Vernon.

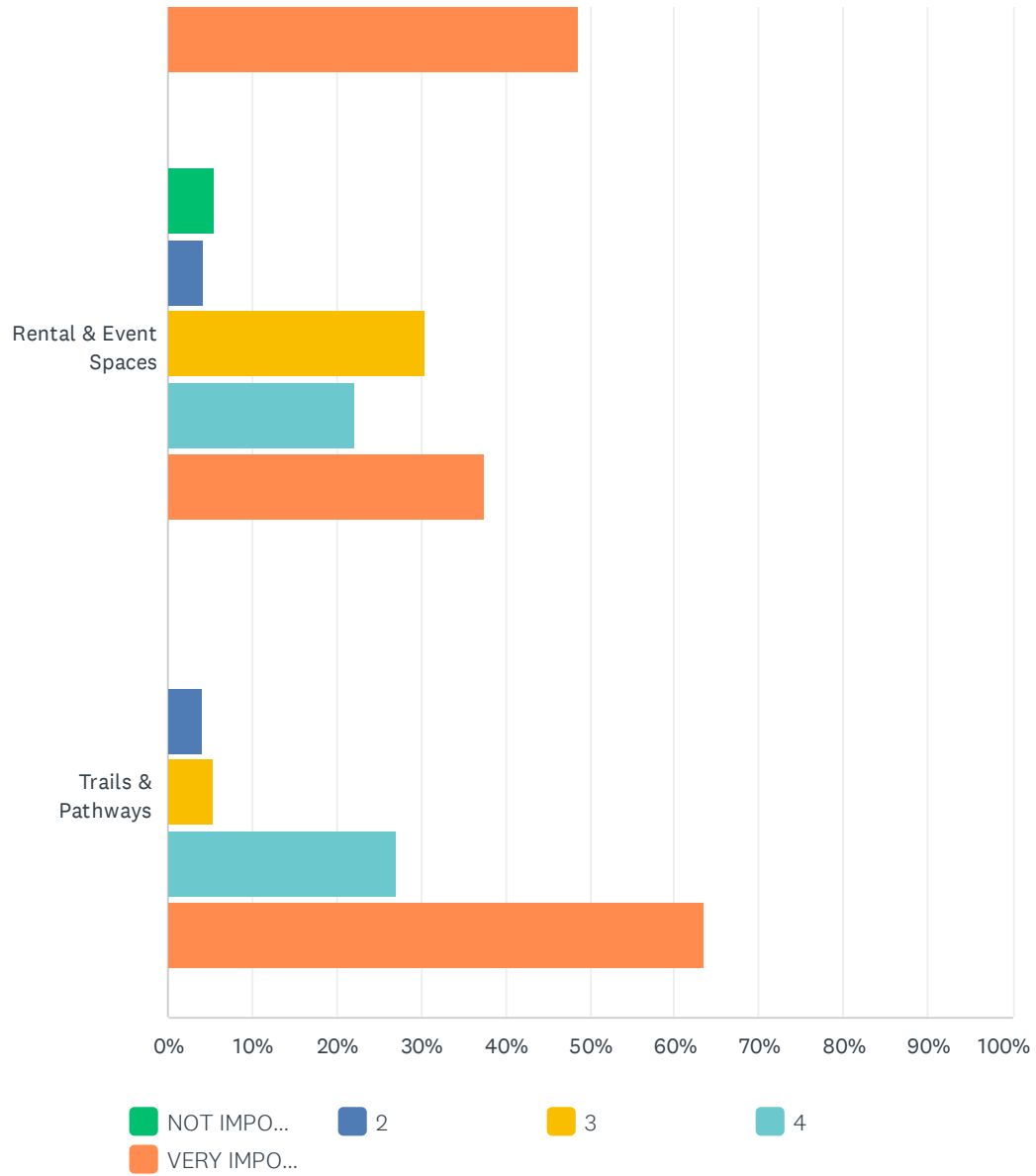
Answered: 75 Skipped: 0



Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan



## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

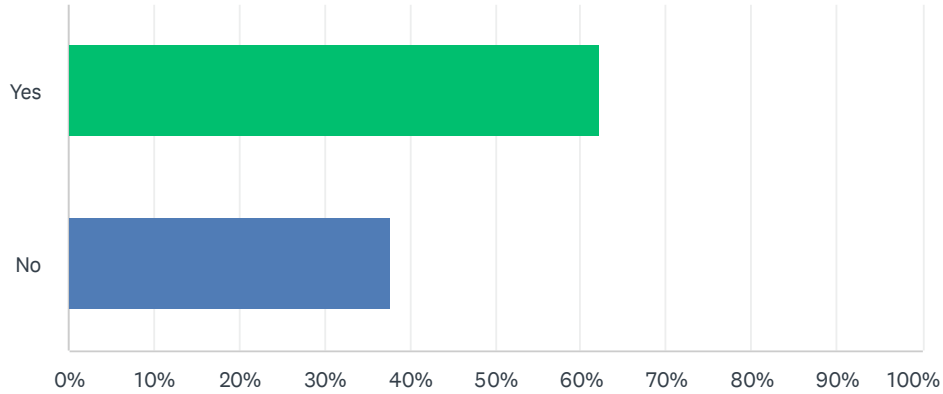


# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

	NOT IMPORTANT 1	2	3	4	VERY IMPORTANT 5	TOTAL
Athletic Courts (Basketball, Tennis, Etc.)	6.76% 5	5.41% 4	10.81% 8	28.38% 21	48.65% 36	74
Athletic Fields (Baseball, Softball, Frisbee Golf, Etc.)	4.05% 3	4.05% 3	12.16% 9	24.32% 18	55.41% 41	74
Pools	4.05% 3	2.70% 2	4.05% 3	17.57% 13	71.62% 53	74
Wading Pools	8.22% 6	6.85% 5	4.11% 3	26.03% 19	54.79% 40	73
Community & Neighborhood parks	4.05% 3	2.70% 2	9.46% 7	31.08% 23	52.70% 39	74
Open Space & Natural Areas	1.37% 1	4.11% 3	12.33% 9	19.18% 14	63.01% 46	73
Playgrounds	5.41% 4	6.76% 5	8.11% 6	14.86% 11	64.86% 48	74
Picnic Shelters / Pavilion	4.05% 3	1.35% 1	16.22% 12	29.73% 22	48.65% 36	74
Rental & Event Spaces	5.56% 4	4.17% 3	30.56% 22	22.22% 16	37.50% 27	72
Trails & Pathways	0.00% 0	4.05% 3	5.41% 4	27.03% 20	63.51% 47	74

## Q7 Do you believe there are enough parks & recreation facilities in the Town of Vernon?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.16%	46
No	37.84%	28
TOTAL		74

Q8 If you have signed up for and/or attended any recreation programs, please list which ones.

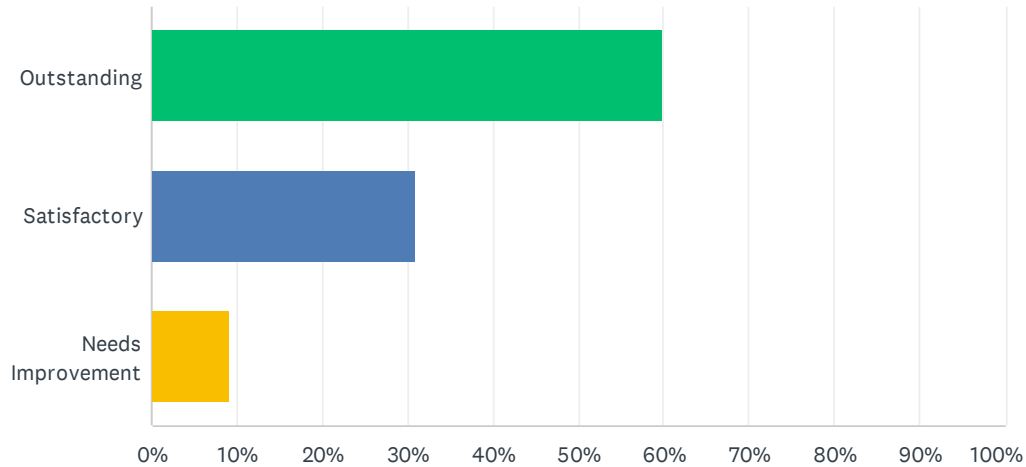
Answered: 27   Skipped: 48

**Q9 What Town of Vernon facilities do you and your household typically go to when attending recreation programs, events, or activities?**

Answered: 33   Skipped: 42

## Q10 How would you describe the overall quality of the recreation programs in the Town of Vernon?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 20

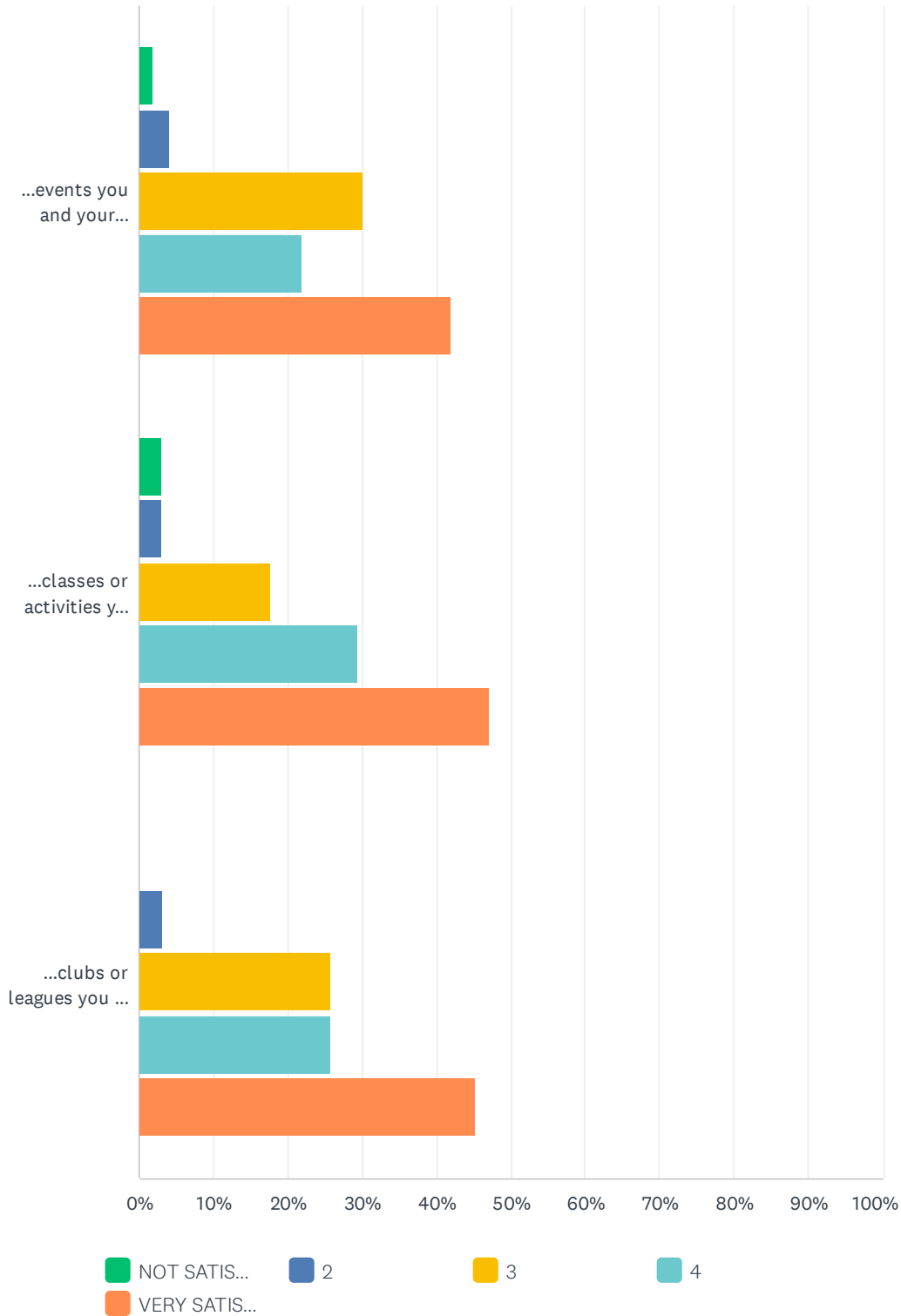


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Outstanding	60.00%	33
Satisfactory	30.91%	17
Needs Improvement	9.09%	5
TOTAL		55



## Q11 How satisfactory have you and your household been with the quality of Town of Vernon...

Answered: 50 Skipped: 25

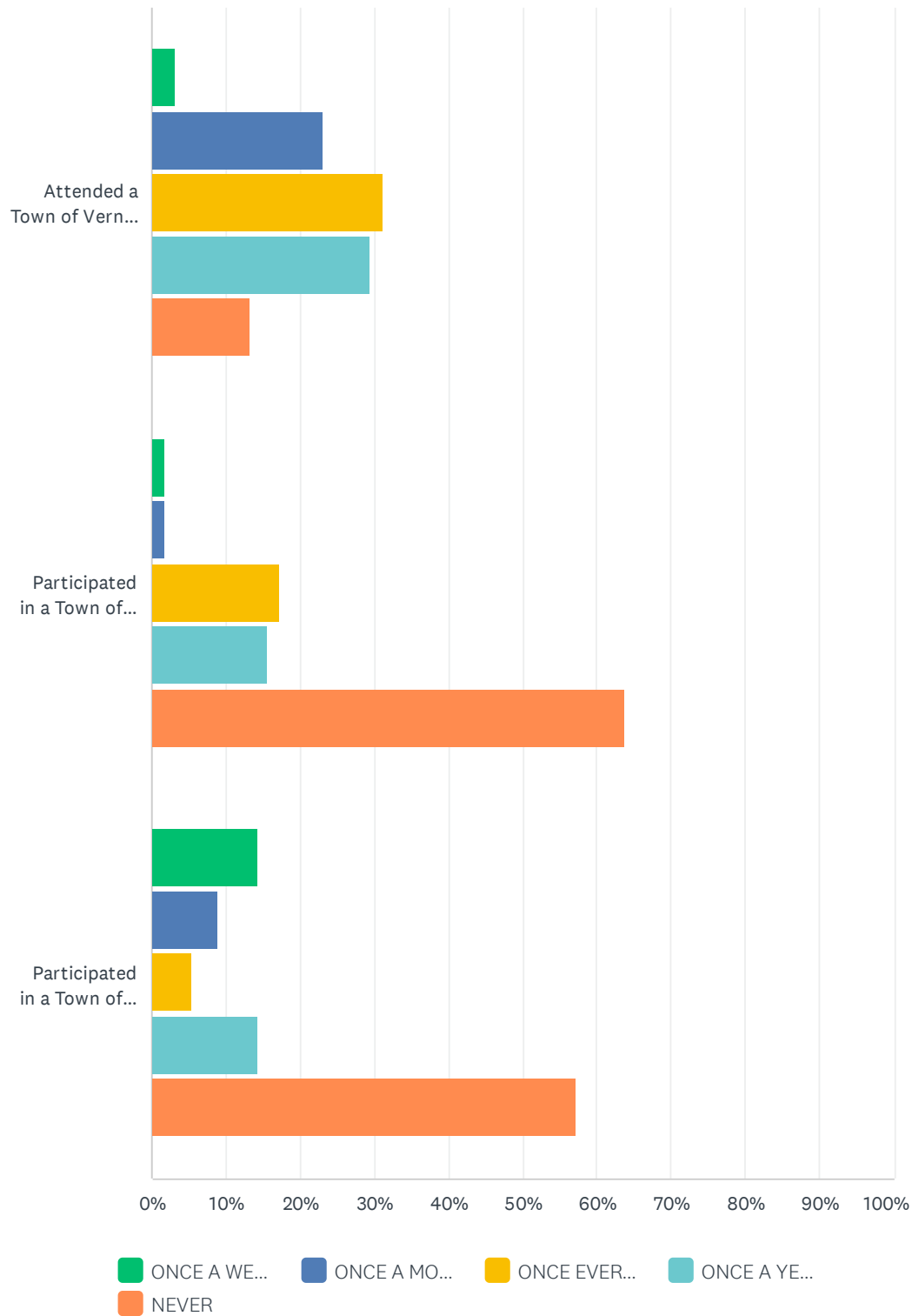


# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

	NOT SATISFIED 1	2	3	4	VERY SATISFIED 5	TOTAL
...events you and your household have attended or participated in over the past two (2) years?	2.00% 1	4.00% 2	30.00% 15	22.00% 11	42.00% 21	50
...classes or activities you and your household have attended or participated in over the past two (2) years?	2.94% 1	2.94% 1	17.65% 6	29.41% 10	47.06% 16	34
...clubs or leagues you and your household have attended or participated in over the past two (2) years?	0.00% 0	3.23% 1	25.81% 8	25.81% 8	45.16% 14	31

## Q12 In the past 12 months, how frequently have you and your household...

Answered: 61 Skipped: 14

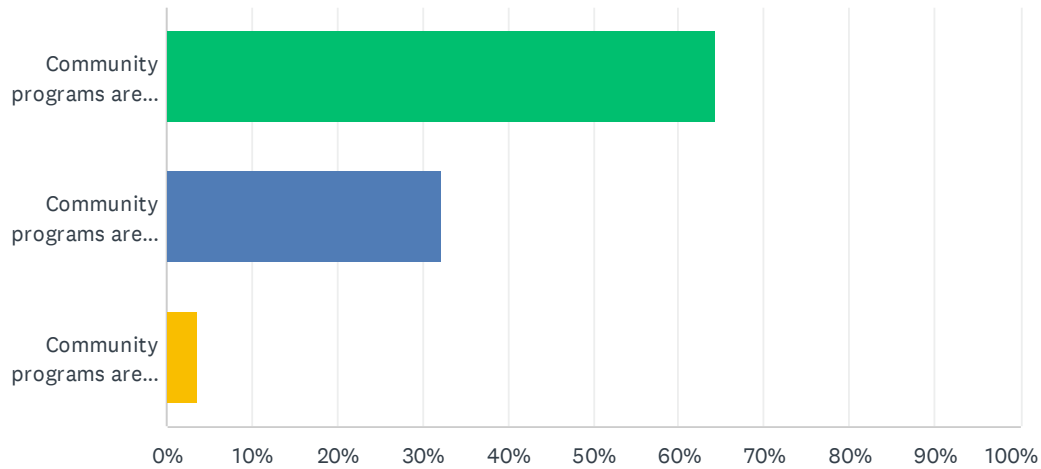


# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

	ONCE A WEEK OR MORE	ONCE A MONTH	ONCE EVERY FEW MONTHS	ONCE A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL
Attended a Town of Vernon event?	3.28% 2	22.95% 14	31.15% 19	29.51% 18	13.11% 8	61
Participated in a Town of Vernon community program (such as a class)?	1.72% 1	1.72% 1	17.24% 10	15.52% 9	63.79% 37	58
Participated in a Town of Vernon recreational program (such as a sports league)?	14.29% 8	8.93% 5	5.36% 3	14.29% 8	57.14% 32	56

# Q13 In your experience, are existing community programs offered within the Town of Vernon available when requested? For example, if you sign up for a class, is there an opening?

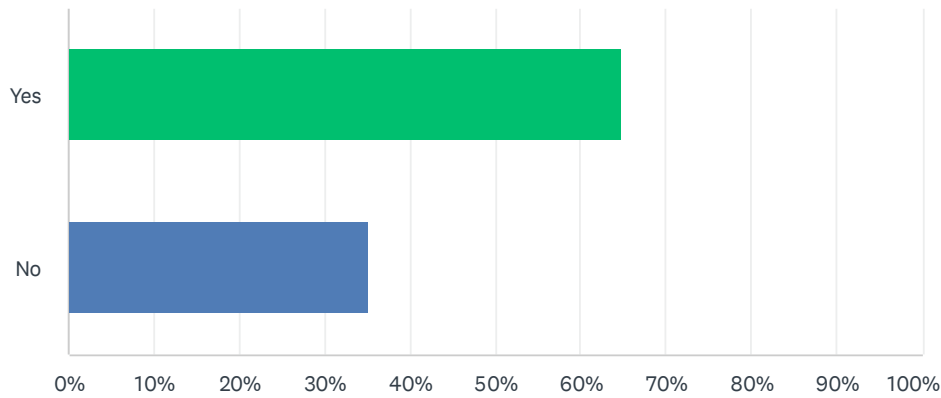
Answered: 28 Skipped: 47



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Community programs are always available	64.29%	18
Community programs are sometimes available	32.14%	9
Community programs are never available / always booked	3.57%	1
TOTAL		28

Q14 Do you believe there are enough recreation program offerings in the Town of Vernon?

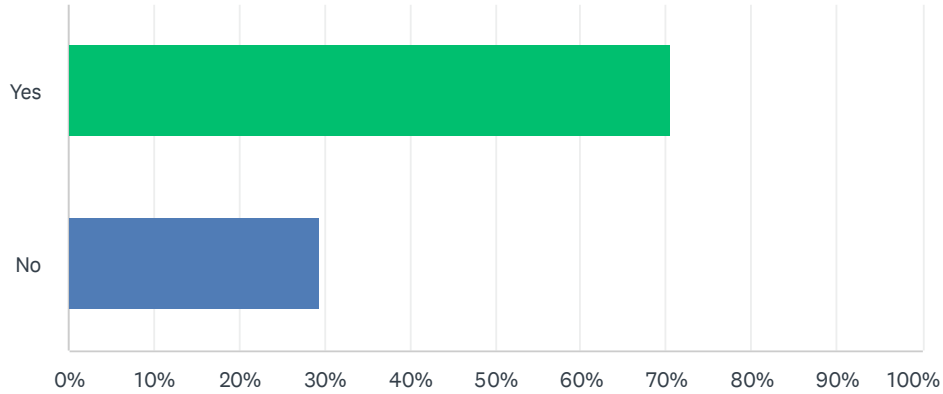
Answered: 54 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	64.81%	35
No	35.19%	19
TOTAL		54

## Q15 Do you believe there is enough variety of recreation program offerings in the Town of Vernon?

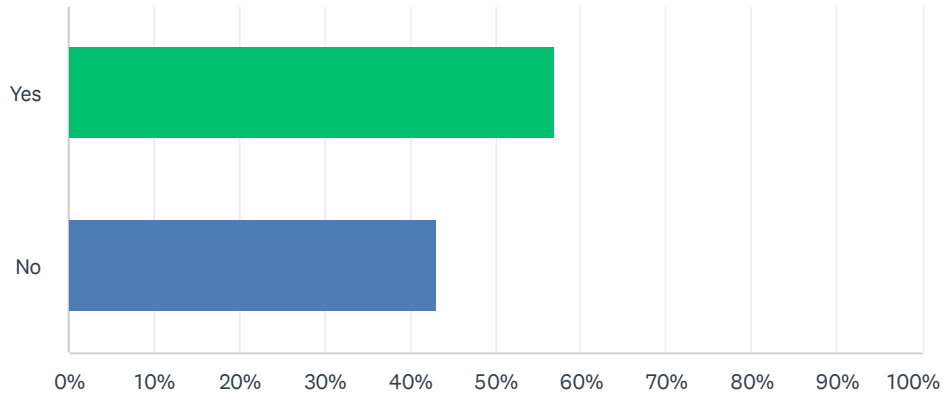
Answered: 51 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.59%	36
No	29.41%	15
TOTAL		51

## Q16 Do you believe there is sufficient recreation programming for all ages in the Town of Vernon?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 24

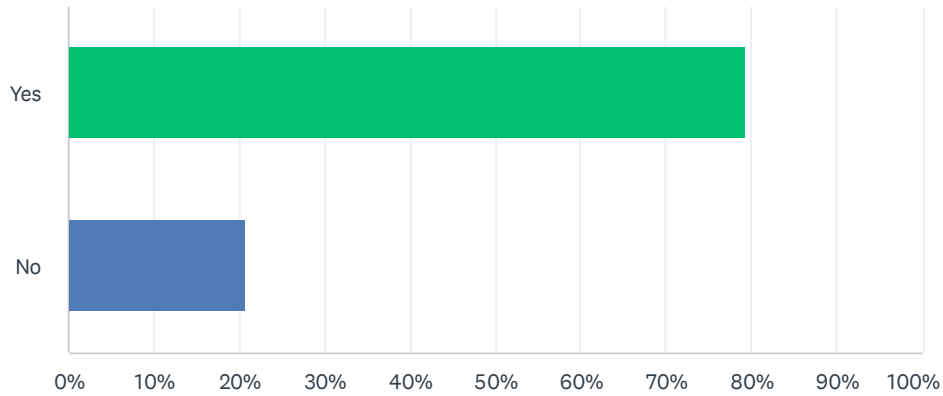


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.86%	29
No	43.14%	22
TOTAL		51



## Q17 Do you believe there are enough recreation / community facilities in the Town of Vernon for events, gatherings, or services?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	79.25%	42
No	20.75%	11
TOTAL		53

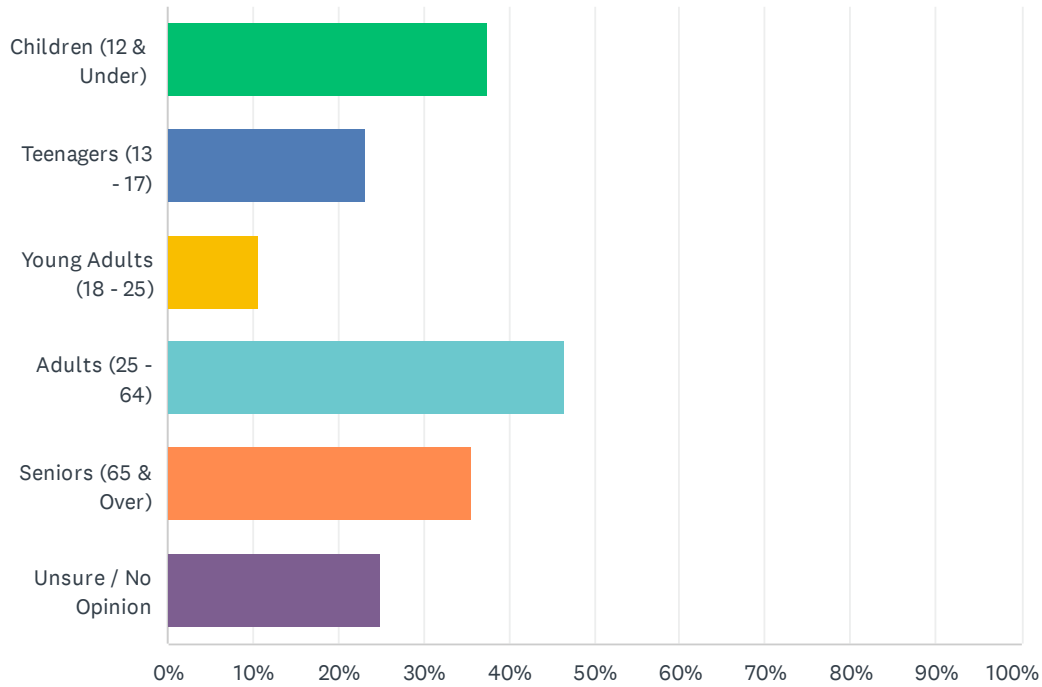
# Q18 Please list the three (3) MOST important or critical RECREATION / COMMUNITY FACILITY or COMMUNITY PROGRAM needs in the Town of Vernon

Answered: 35 Skipped: 40

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	100.00%	35
2	88.57%	31
3	65.71%	23

## Q19 What age groups would best be served by the Town Park Pavilion? PICK TWO (2)

Answered: 56 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Children (12 & Under)	37.50%	21
Teenagers (13 - 17)	23.21%	13
Young Adults (18 - 25)	10.71%	6
Adults (25 - 64)	46.43%	26
Seniors (65 & Over)	35.71%	20
Unsure / No Opinion	25.00%	14
Total Respondents: 56		

## Q20 What activities and programs would you like to see offered at the community center?

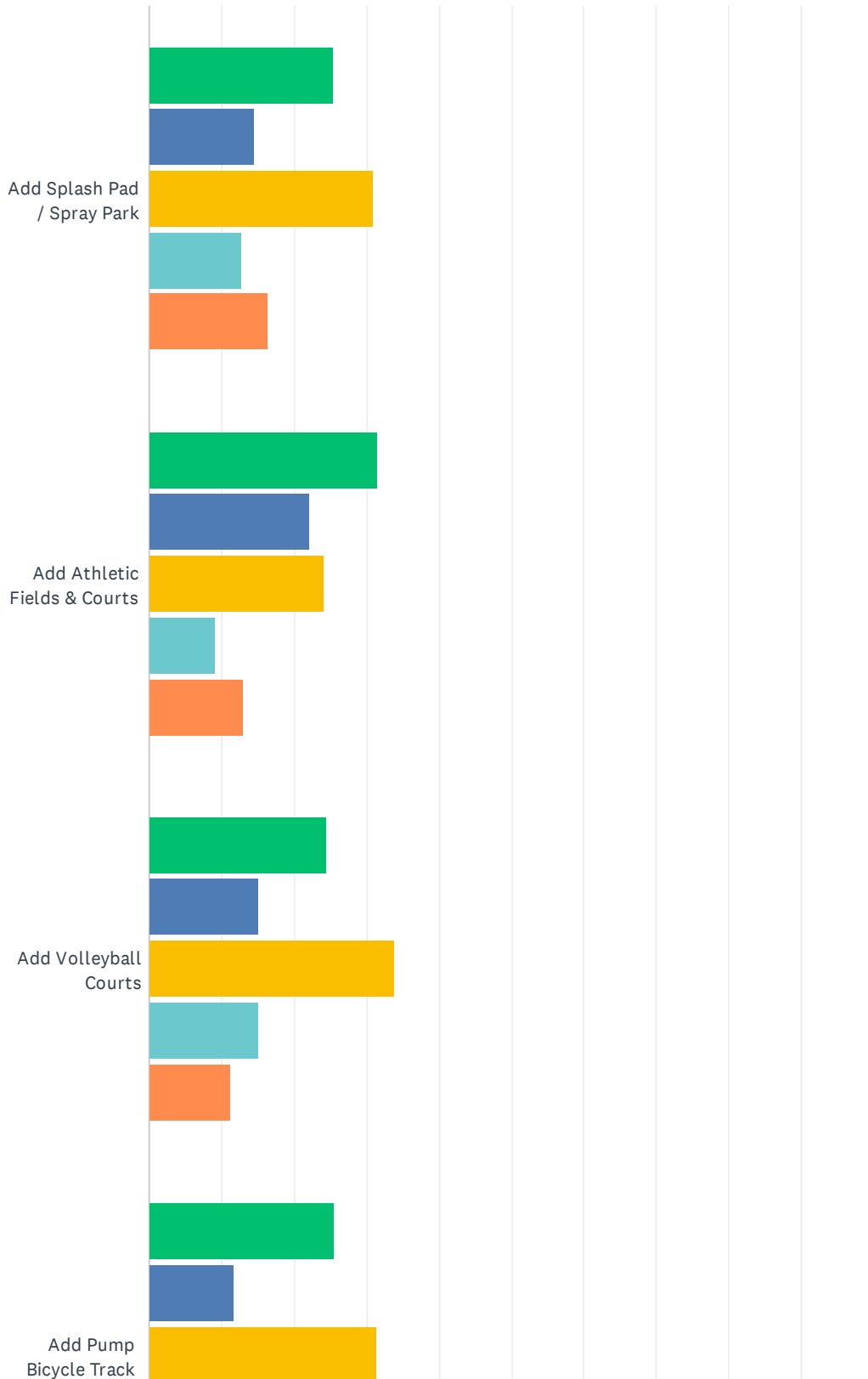
Answered: 28   Skipped: 47

Q21 What amenities would you like to see in or at a community center?  
For example, classroom spaces, e-sports room, meeting space, etc.

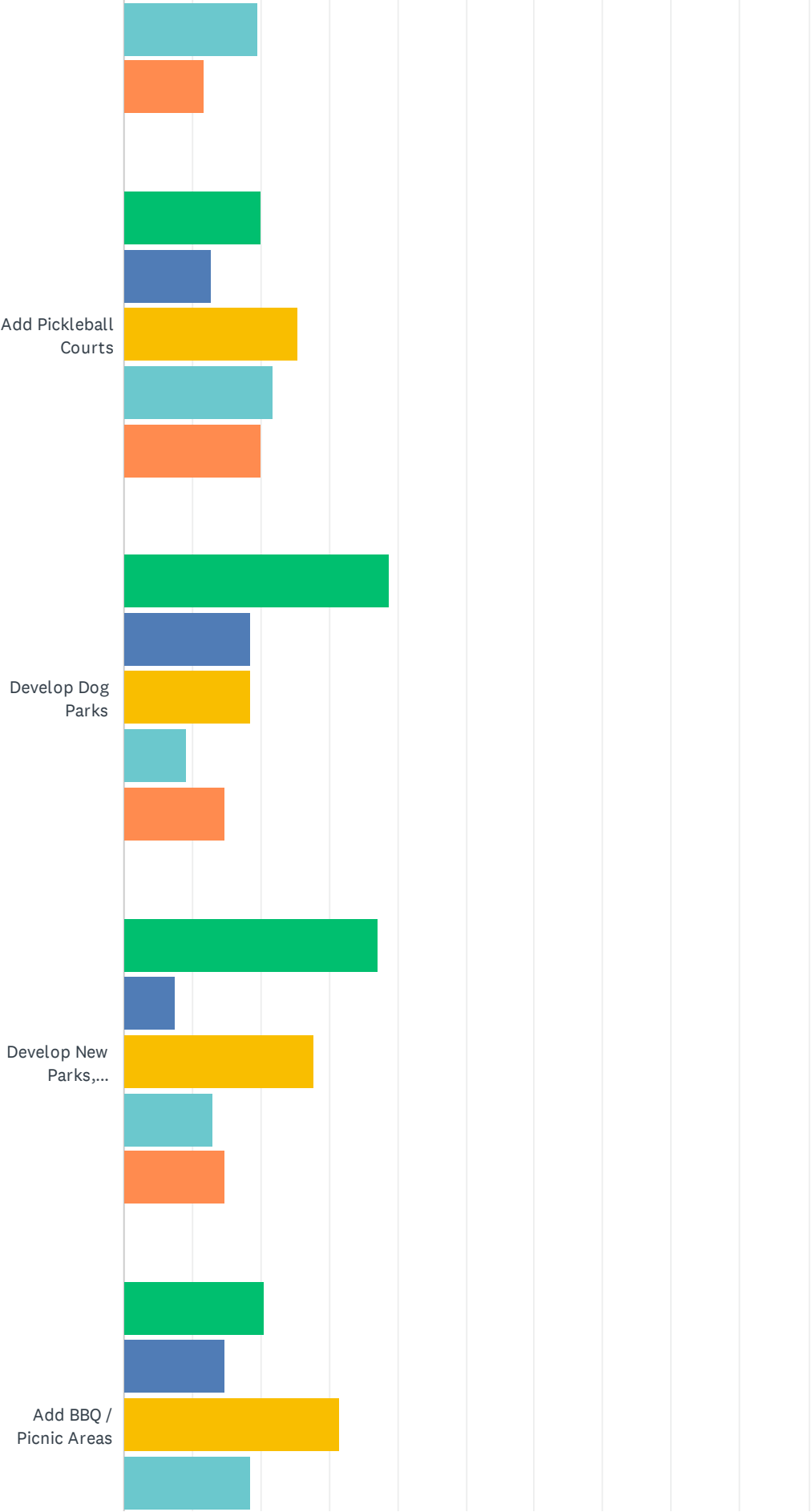
Answered: 20   Skipped: 55

## Q22 In your opinion, how important are the following items for the Town of Vernon to address over the next 5 to 10 years?

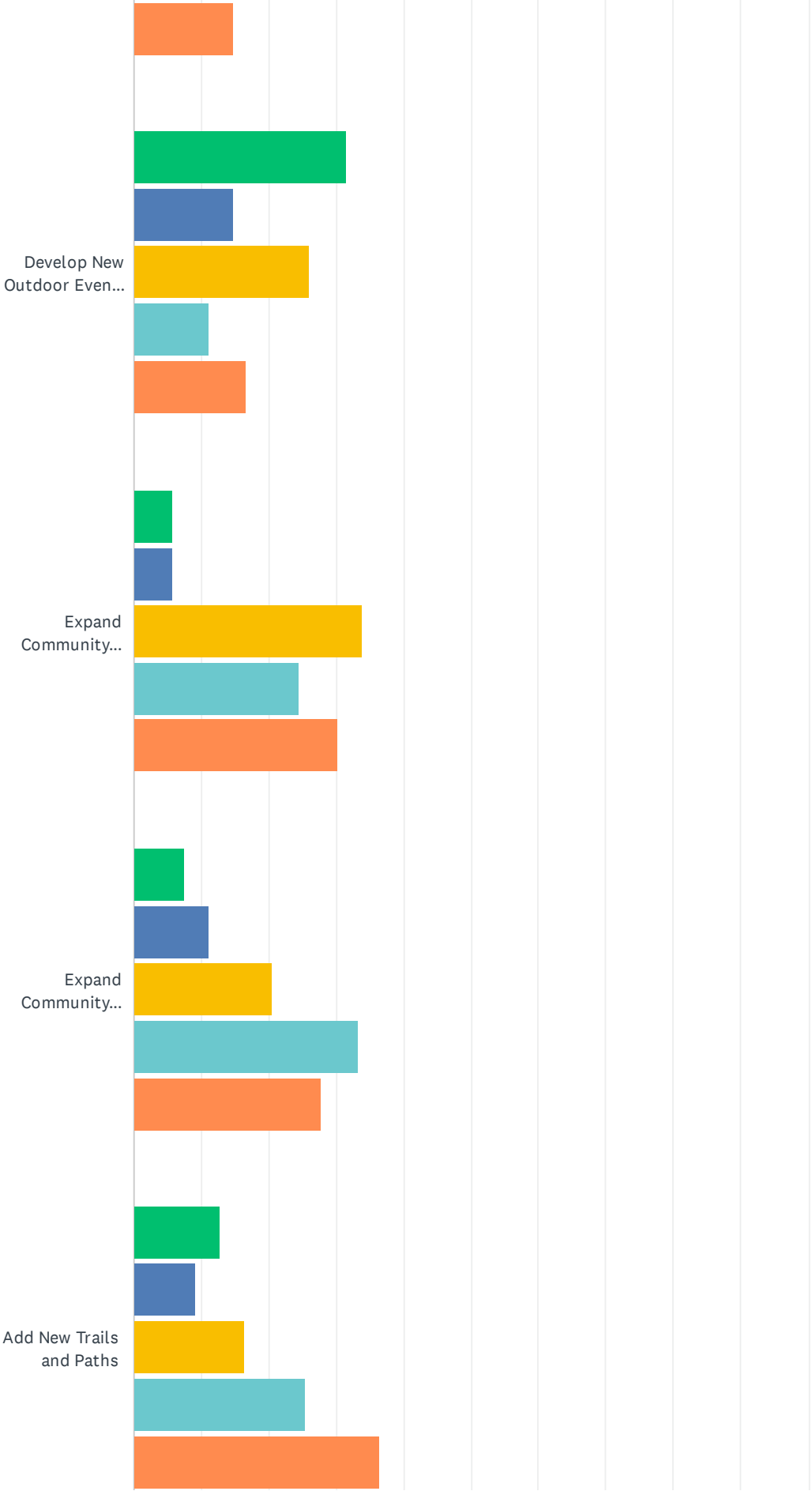
Answered: 58   Skipped: 17



Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

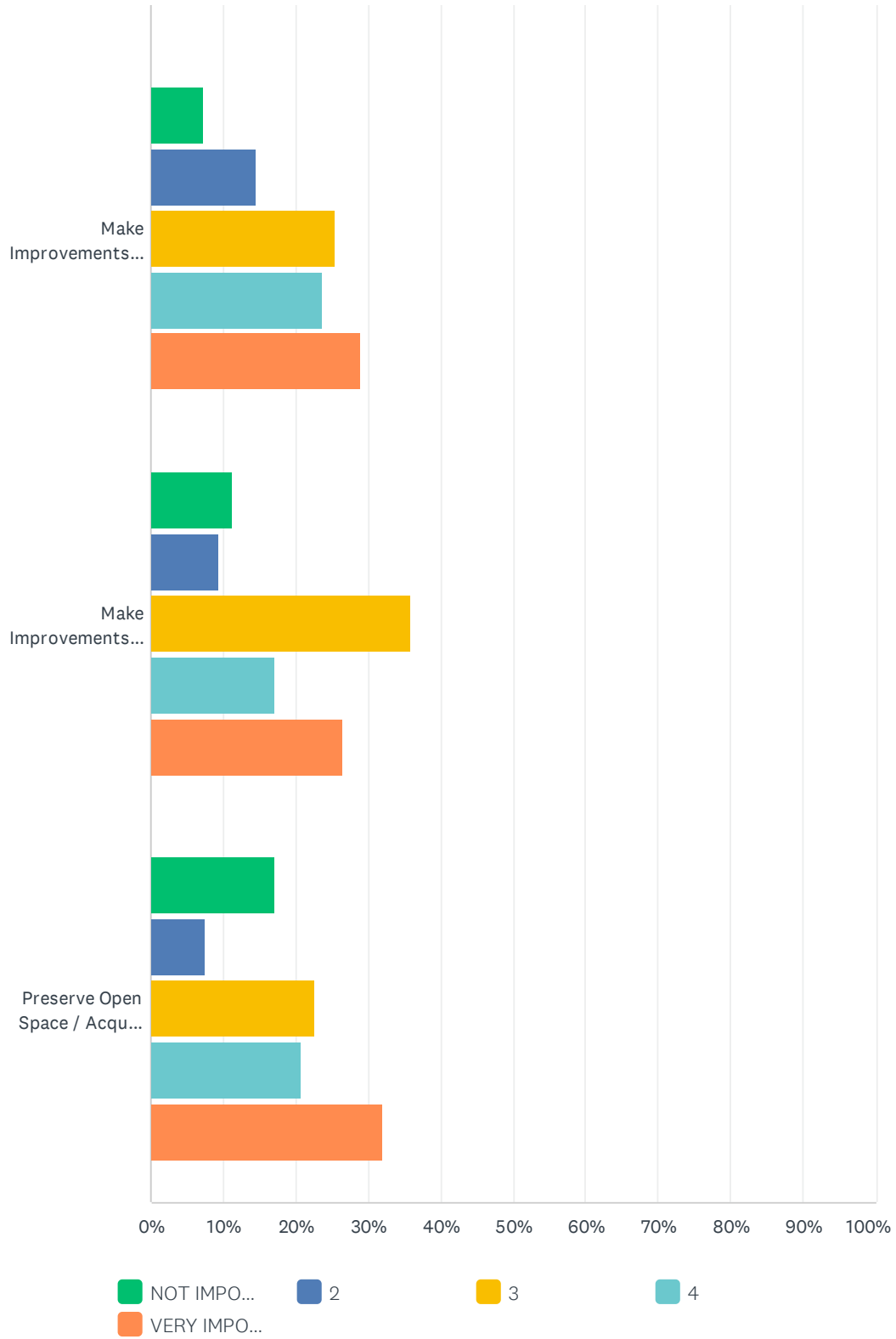


Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan





# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan



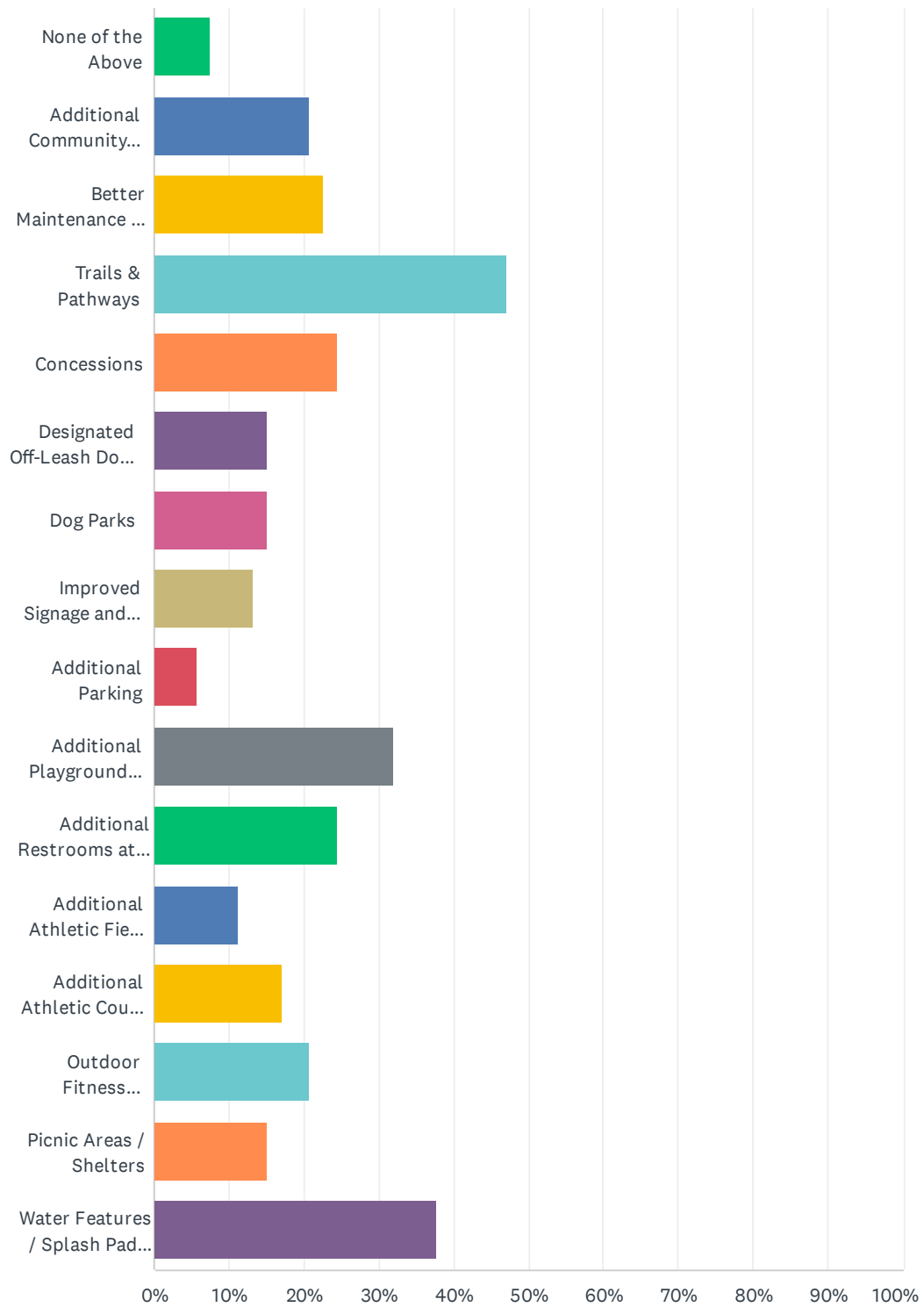
# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

	NOT IMPORTANT 1	2	3	4	VERY IMPORTANT 5	TOTAL
Add Splash Pad / Spray Park	25.45% 14	14.55% 8	30.91% 17	12.73% 7	16.36% 9	55
Add Athletic Fields & Courts	31.48% 17	22.22% 12	24.07% 13	9.26% 5	12.96% 7	54
Add Volleyball Courts	24.53% 13	15.09% 8	33.96% 18	15.09% 8	11.32% 6	53
Add Pump Bicycle Track	25.49% 13	11.76% 6	31.37% 16	19.61% 10	11.76% 6	51
Add Pickleball Courts	20.00% 11	12.73% 7	25.45% 14	21.82% 12	20.00% 11	55
Develop Dog Parks	38.89% 21	18.52% 10	18.52% 10	9.26% 5	14.81% 8	54
Develop New Parks, Mini-Parks, Parklets	37.04% 20	7.41% 4	27.78% 15	12.96% 7	14.81% 8	54
Add BBQ / Picnic Areas	20.37% 11	14.81% 8	31.48% 17	18.52% 10	14.81% 8	54
Develop New Outdoor Event Spaces / Pavilions	31.48% 17	14.81% 8	25.93% 14	11.11% 6	16.67% 9	54
Expand Community Events	5.66% 3	5.66% 3	33.96% 18	24.53% 13	30.19% 16	53
Expand Community Programs & Activities	7.41% 4	11.11% 6	20.37% 11	33.33% 18	27.78% 15	54
Add New Trails and Paths	12.73% 7	9.09% 5	16.36% 9	25.45% 14	36.36% 20	55
Make Improvements to and/or Renovate Existing Playground Equipment	7.27% 4	14.55% 8	25.45% 14	23.64% 13	29.09% 16	55
Make Improvements to and/or Renovate Other Existing Park Amenities	11.32% 6	9.43% 5	35.85% 19	16.98% 9	26.42% 14	53
Preserve Open Space / Acquire Land	16.98% 9	7.55% 4	22.64% 12	20.75% 11	32.08% 17	53

**Q23 Please indicate the additions or expansion of the following RECREATION / COMMUNITY FACILITIES that you and your household would most like to see by checking the boxes. SELECT UP TO THREE (3)**

Answered: 53   Skipped: 22

# Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

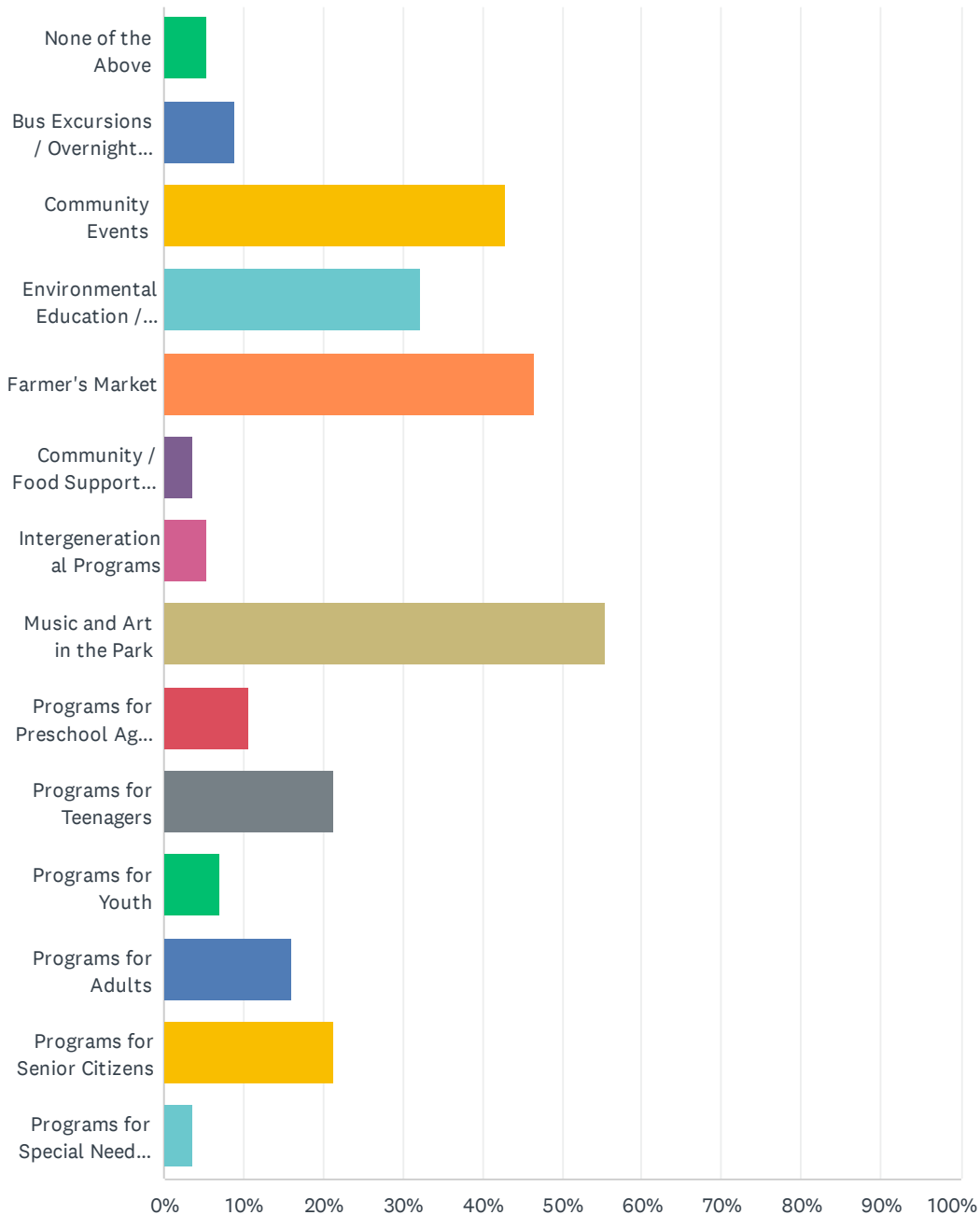


## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the Above	7.55%	4
Additional Community Gardens	20.75%	11
Better Maintenance of Existing Facilities	22.64%	12
Trails & Pathways	47.17%	25
Concessions	24.53%	13
Designated Off-Leash Dog Areas & Parks	15.09%	8
Dog Parks	15.09%	8
Improved Signage and Wayfinding	13.21%	7
Additional Parking	5.66%	3
Additional Playground Equipment / Improvements to Existing Equipment	32.08%	17
Additional Restrooms at Some Parks / Improvements to Existing Restrooms	24.53%	13
Additional Athletic Fields / Improvements to Existing Athletic Fields	11.32%	6
Additional Athletic Courts / Improvements to Existing Athletic Courts	16.98%	9
Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Some Parks	20.75%	11
Picnic Areas / Shelters	15.09%	8
Water Features / Splash Pads / Spray Parks	37.74%	20
Total Respondents: 53		

**Q24 Please indicate the additions or expansion of the following RECREATION / COMMUNITY PROGRAMS that you and your household would most like to see by checking the boxes. SELECT UP TO THREE (3)**

Answered: 56 Skipped: 19



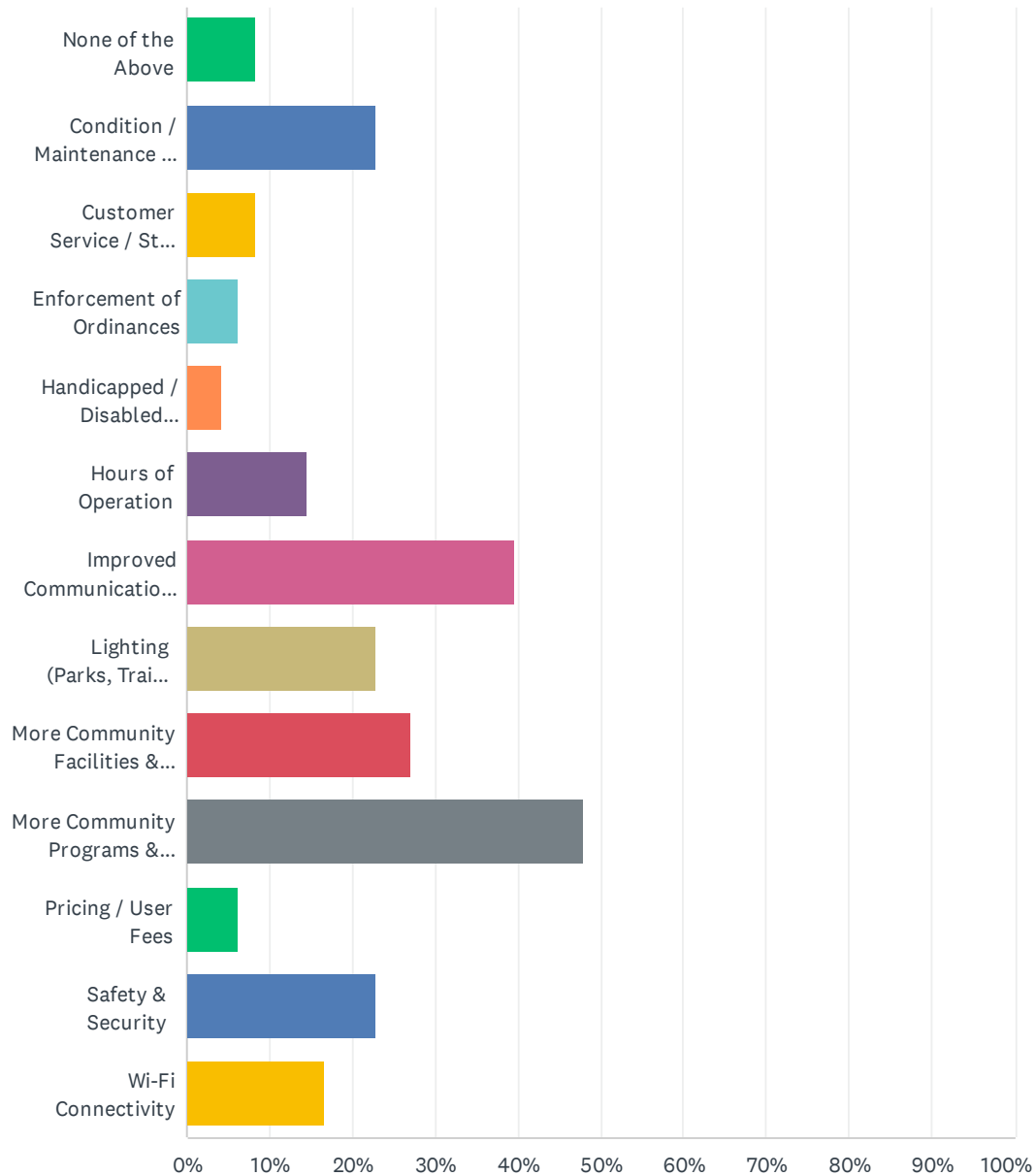
## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the Above	5.36%	3
Bus Excursions / Overnight Trips	8.93%	5
Community Events	42.86%	24
Environmental Education / Nature Programs	32.14%	18
Farmer's Market	46.43%	26
Community / Food Support Services	3.57%	2
Intergenerational Programs	5.36%	3
Music and Art in the Park	55.36%	31
Programs for Preschool Aged Children	10.71%	6
Programs for Teenagers	21.43%	12
Programs for Youth	7.14%	4
Programs for Adults	16.07%	9
Programs for Senior Citizens	21.43%	12
Programs for Special Needs Individuals	3.57%	2
Total Respondents: 56		



## Q25 What are the areas that, if addressed by the Town of Vernon, would increase your or your household's utilization of Town of Vernon parks & recreation facilities? SELECT UP TO THREE (3)

Answered: 48 Skipped: 27

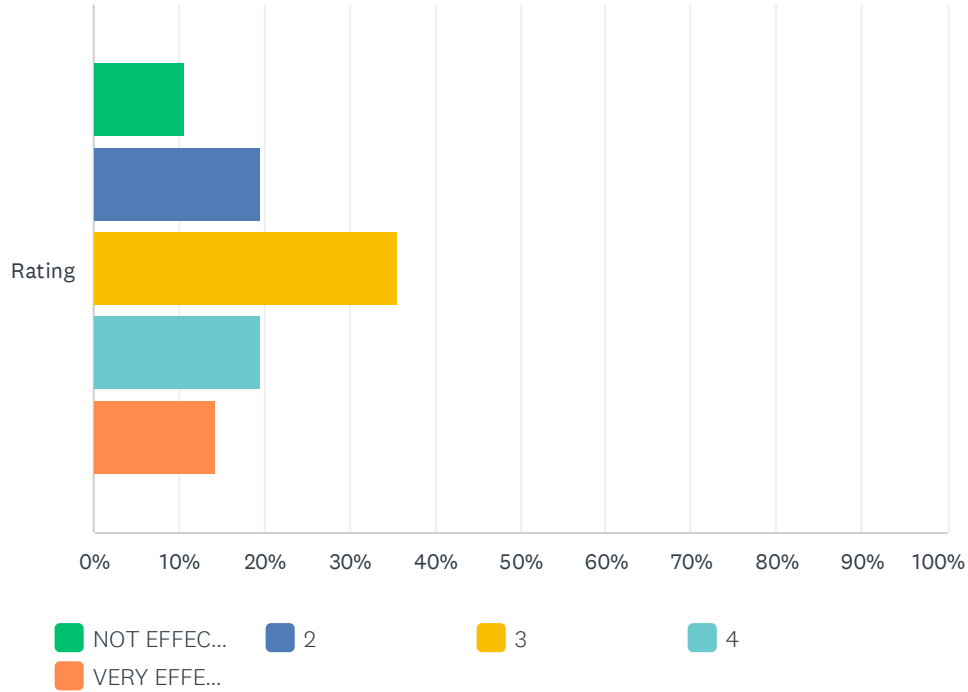


## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the Above	8.33%	4
Condition / Maintenance of Parks & Community Facilities	22.92%	11
Customer Service / Staff Knowledge	8.33%	4
Enforcement of Ordinances	6.25%	3
Handicapped / Disabled Accessibility	4.17%	2
Hours of Operation	14.58%	7
Improved Communication about Offerings	39.58%	19
Lighting (Parks, Trails, Facilities)	22.92%	11
More Community Facilities & Amenities	27.08%	13
More Community Programs & Events	47.92%	23
Pricing / User Fees	6.25%	3
Safety & Security	22.92%	11
Wi-Fi Connectivity	16.67%	8
Total Respondents: 48		

## Q26 How effective is the Town of Vernon at reaching you with information on community facilities and programs?

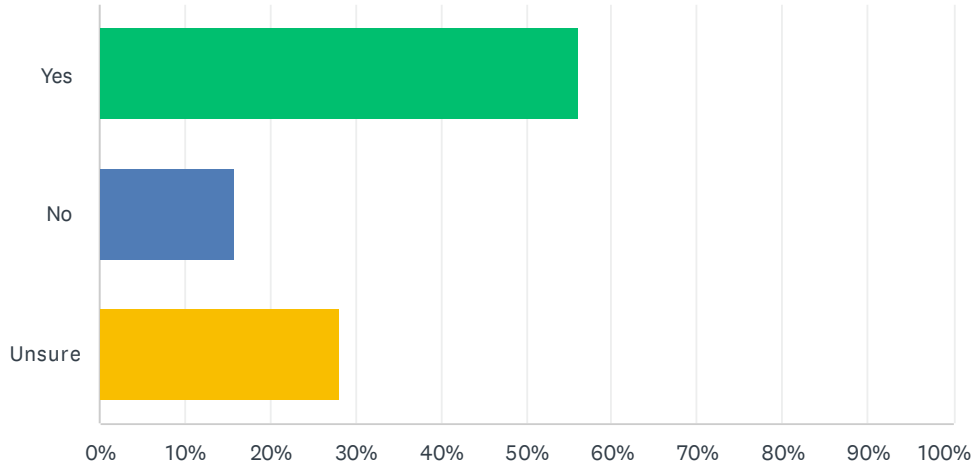
Answered: 56 Skipped: 19



	NOT EFFECTIVE	1	2	3	4	VERY EFFECTIVE	5	TOTAL
Rating		10.71% 6	19.64% 11	35.71% 20	19.64% 11		14.29% 8	56

## Q27 Do you know where to go to find information about Town Parks & Recreation programs, events and facilities?

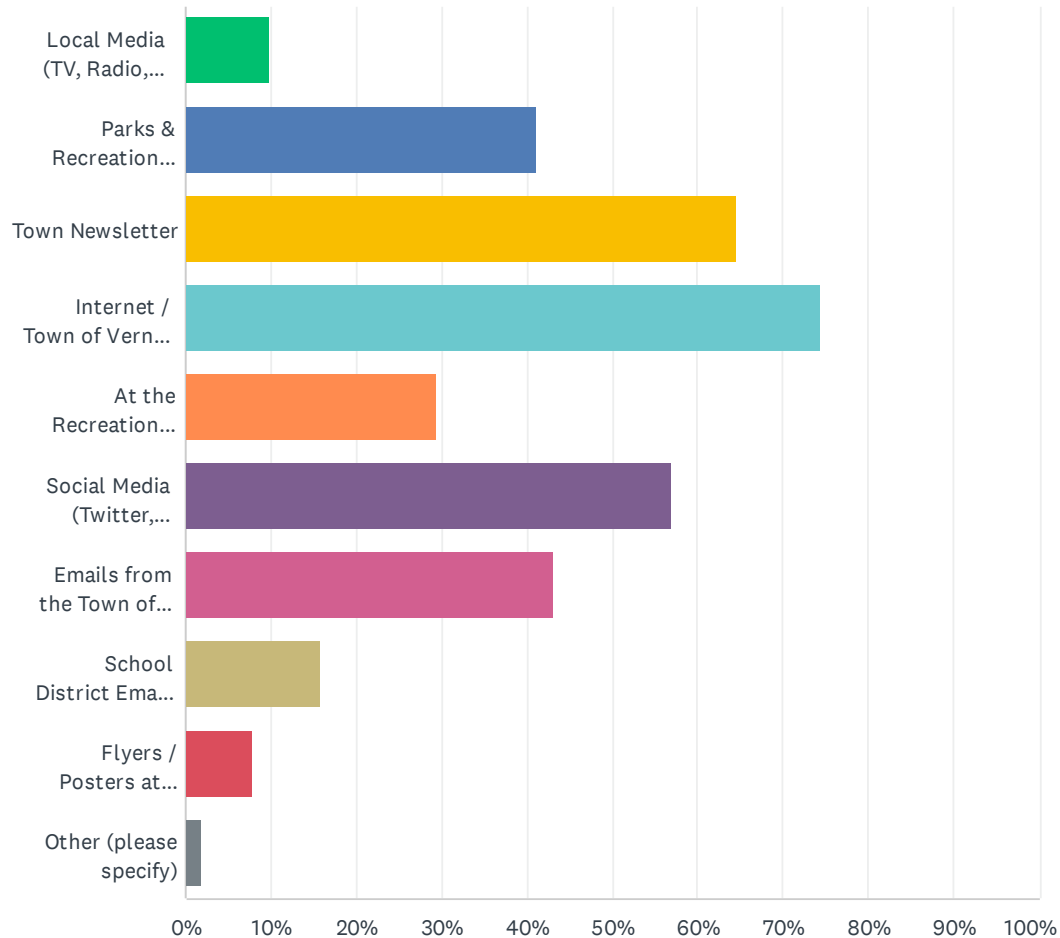
Answered: 57 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.14%	32
No	15.79%	9
Unsure	28.07%	16
TOTAL		57

## Q28 In your opinion, what is the best way to get information about parks & recreation facilities and programs? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Answered: 51 Skipped: 24

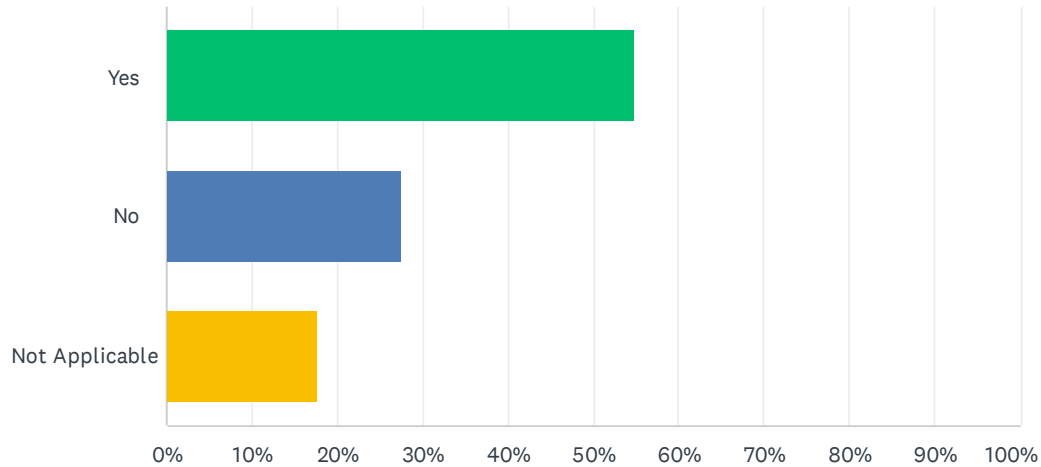


## Town of Vernon Outdoor Recreation Master Plan

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local Media (TV, Radio, Newspaper, Etc.)	9.80%	5
Parks & Recreation Activity Guide / Brochure	41.18%	21
Town Newsletter	64.71%	33
Internet / Town of Vernon Website	74.51%	38
At the Recreation Facility / Program Location	29.41%	15
Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Etc.)	56.86%	29
Emails from the Town of Vernon	43.14%	22
School District Emails / Newsletter	15.69%	8
Flyers / Posters at Businesses	7.84%	4
Other (please specify)	1.96%	1
Total Respondents: 51		

## Q29 Do you believe you are receiving information regarding events & programming in a timely and clear fashion?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 24

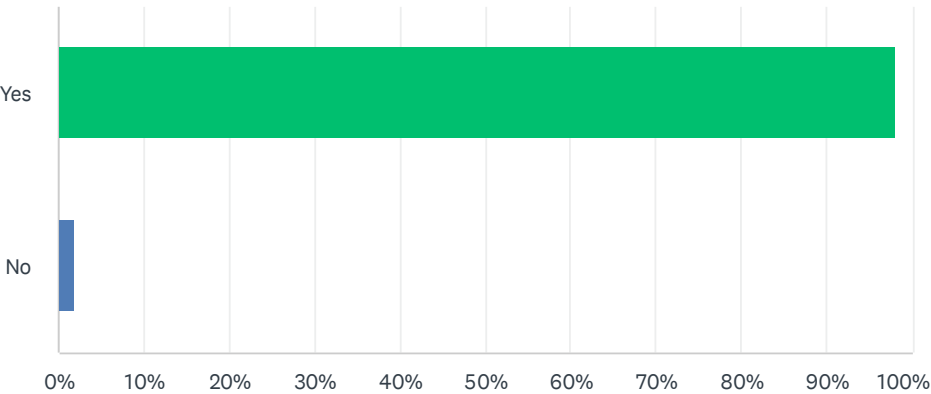


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.90%	28
No	27.45%	14
Not Applicable	17.65%	9
TOTAL		51



Q30 Are you a resident of the Town of Vernon?

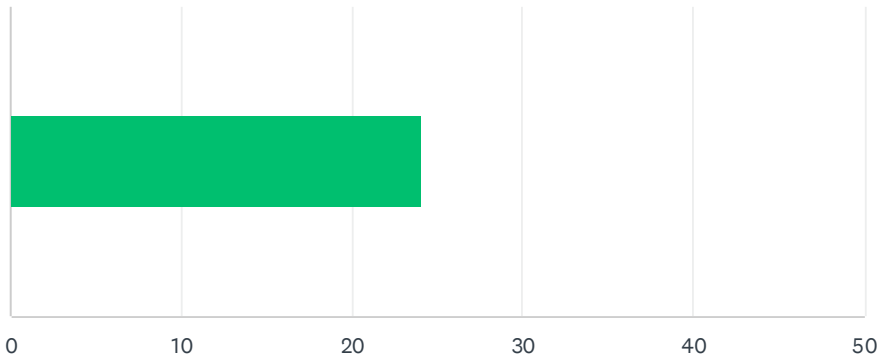
Answered: 55    Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	98.18%	54
No	1.82%	1
TOTAL		55

Q31 How long have you lived in the Town of Vernon?

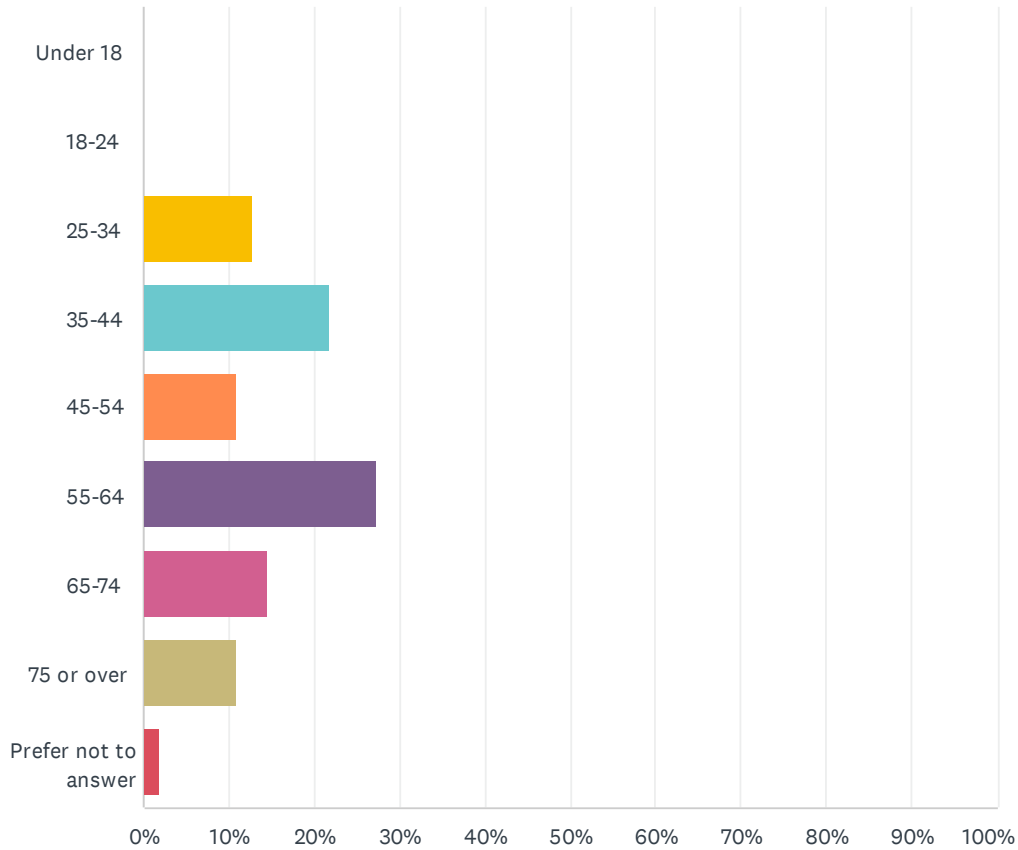
Answered: 55    Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	24	1,327	55
Total Respondents: 55			

## Q32 What is your age?

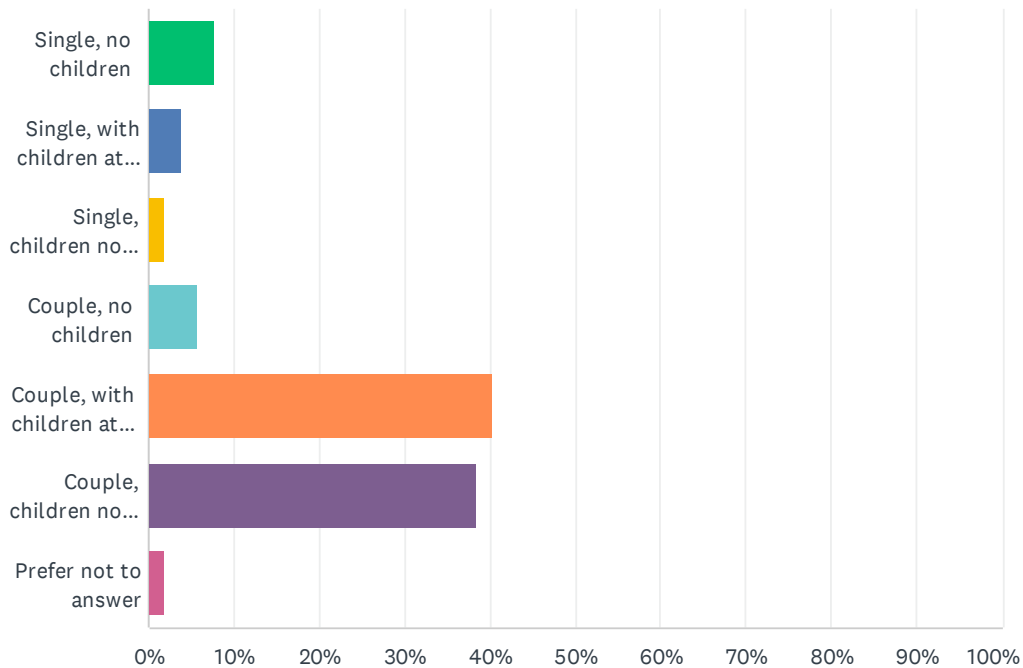
Answered: 55   Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	0.00%	0
25-34	12.73%	7
35-44	21.82%	12
45-54	10.91%	6
55-64	27.27%	15
65-74	14.55%	8
75 or over	10.91%	6
Prefer not to answer	1.82%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>

## Q33 Which of these categories best applies to your household?

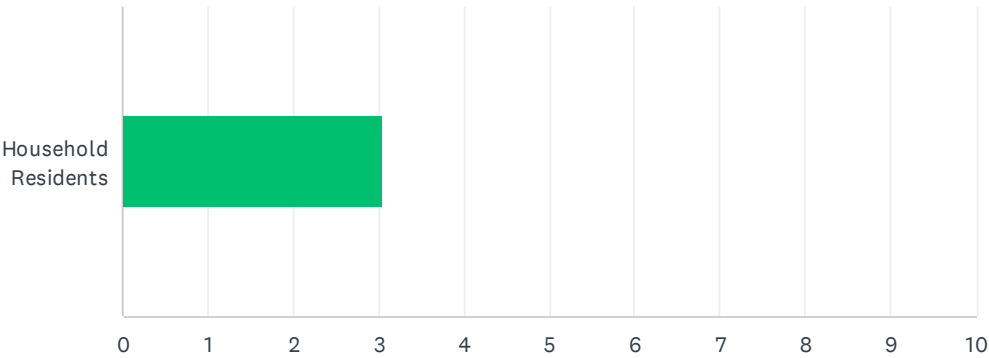
Answered: 52   Skipped: 23



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Single, no children	7.69%	4
Single, with children at home	3.85%	2
Single, children no longer at home (empty nester)	1.92%	1
Couple, no children	5.77%	3
Couple, with children at home	40.38%	21
Couple, children no longer at home (empty nester)	38.46%	20
Prefer not to answer	1.92%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>52</b>

Q34 Including yourself, how many people total typically reside in your household? Please enter a number.

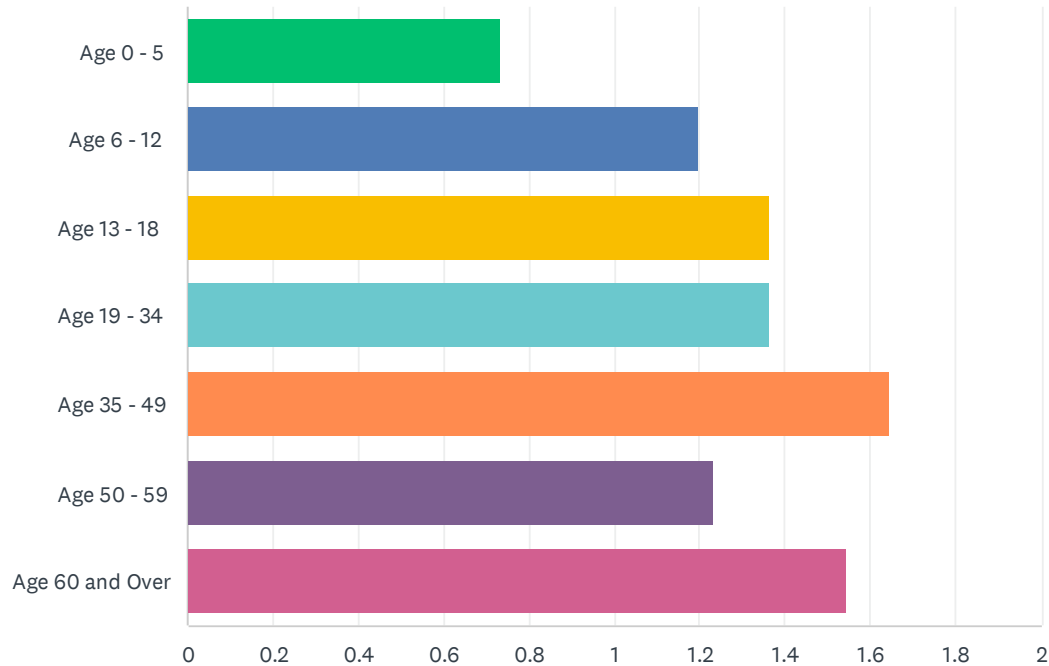
Answered: 51    Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Household Residents	3	156	51
Total Respondents: 51			

## Q35 How many people in your household are in the following age ranges? Please enter a number.

Answered: 45   Skipped: 30

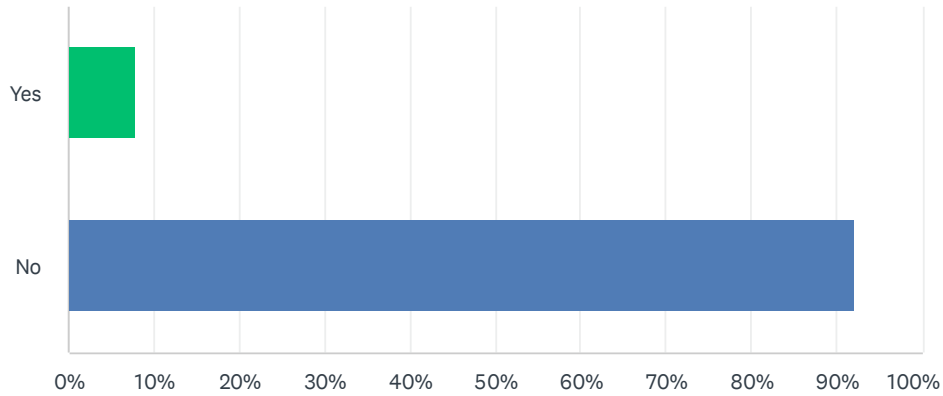


ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Age 0 - 5	1	11	15
Age 6 - 12	1	18	15
Age 13 - 18	1	15	11
Age 19 - 34	1	15	11
Age 35 - 49	2	28	17
Age 50 - 59	1	16	13
Age 60 and Over	2	34	22
Total Respondents: 45			



## Q36 Does your household have a need for ADA-accessible (Americans with Disabilities) facilities and services?

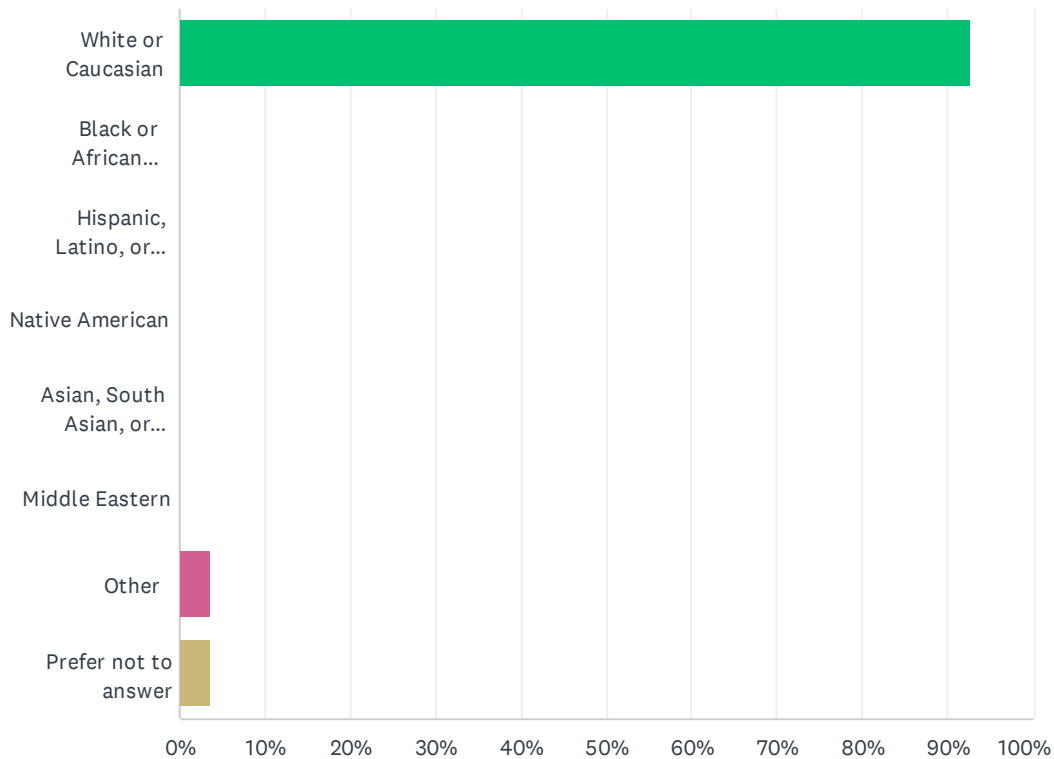
Answered: 51 Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	7.84%	4
No	92.16%	47
TOTAL		51

## Q37 What race / ethnicity do you consider yourself to be?

Answered: 55   Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
White or Caucasian	92.73%	51
Black or African American	0.00%	0
Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin	0.00%	0
Native American	0.00%	0
Asian, South Asian, or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Middle Eastern	0.00%	0
Other	3.64%	2
Prefer not to answer	3.64%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>55</b>

Q38 Please provide the zip code in which you reside.

Answered: 55   Skipped: 20

### Q39 If you are interested in learning about future meetings and progress of the Master Plan, please provide your contact information below:

Answered: 14   Skipped: 61

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	92.86%	13
Company	0.00%	0
Address	0.00%	0
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	0.00%	0
State/Province	0.00%	0
ZIP/Postal Code	0.00%	0
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	100.00%	14
Phone Number	0.00%	0

## Appendix D - Playground Assessment Memorandum

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Project File

**FROM:** Jack Grieshober, RLA, CPSI

**DATE:** January 16, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Vernon Vermont Outdoor Recreation Master Plan – Playground Assessment

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Weston & Sampson performed a field investigation on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022 of existing outdoor recreation facilities within the Town of Vernon, Vermont as part of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan project. As part of this investigation, Weston & Sampson took photographs, field measurements, and spoke with Town staff about existing structures, equipment, and facilities.

A playground is located adjacent to the Vernon Recreation Area at 607 Pond Road. This playground is open to the public and maintained and operated by Town Staff. The playground is composed of multiple individual pieces of equipment generally clustered along the eastern side of the property. The following is an assessment of specific play components observed at the site and associated recommendations for improvements, repair, or replacement.

Playground safety standards are updated regularly, and there is no “grandfathered” approval for equipment that does not or cannot meet updated or new standards; any equipment that cannot comply with the latest standards becomes non-compliant and a potential safety liability if not removed. This assessment is based upon field observations and visual inspection of site photographs does not purport to be a Playground Audit, nor a Playground Safety Inspection. While outside the scope of this project, it is recommended that a Playground Audit be performed by a qualified individual such as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Playground Inspections should occur regularly by trained staff familiar with the playground and the installed equipment to ensure equipment is compliant with the latest ASTM and CPSC standards.

## General

### *Observations*

- Play equipment is dispersed over the area and not contained within a single bordered area with safety surfacing.



- Play equipment appears to have been installed over an extended period of time, with some components appearing newer than others; the wear of equipment varies.
- Wood fiber safety surfacing beneath play equipment does not appear to be an adequate depth based on estimated fall height of equipment and does not appear to extend to the full use zone of some equipment.

### *Recommendations*

- Confirm fall height of all pieces of equipment and install safety surfacing with an adequate critical height rating beneath all equipment and to the full extent of equipment use zones.
- If engineered wood fiber (EWF) safety surfacing is desired for use, consider a border around either the entire play area or each individual component to contain loose surface material.
- Perform a full Playground Safety Audit to determine if equipment complies with the latest safety standards and identify equipment that should be removed and/or replaced. Note that any issues identified in the Audit that recommend the removal of equipment should supersede recommendations for that equipment identified in the following sections.
- Provide training for Town Staff to perform Playground Safety Inspections at regular intervals to maintain safety compliance and identify potential problems and corrective actions.
- Designate one staff member to complete the Certified Playground Safety Inspector course.
- Install signage identifying the intended user age range of the playground equipment, supervision recommendations, warning messages about removing helmets, strings, etc., warning message about potential for hot place surfaces, manufacturer information, etc.

### Composite Structure (1)

#### *Observations*

- Tube slide contains textured surfaces and barriers to deter climbing on outside of tube.
- Guard railings appear to be installed.
- Access / transition platform potentially too high above finished grade of safety surfacing.
- Overhead climbing bars do not contain a transition / exit platform at far end.

#### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Install transition platform at far end of overhead climbing bars.



## Composite Structure (2)

### *Observations*

- Paint on exterior of track slide is chipping.
- Graffiti observed on outside of spiral slide, play panels, etc.
- Unfinished posts/footings observed throughout structure (safety surfacing not deep enough).
- Climbers appear to be in good condition.
- Play panels appear to be in fair condition.
- Flexible bridge appears to be in good condition.
- Spiral and double slide appear to be in good condition.
- Transition platforms appear to be in good condition.



### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Remove graffiti from structure.
- Install safety surfacing to adequate depth to cover exposed post footings.

## Free Standing Slide

### *Observations*

- Slide appears to contain appropriate guardrails & hand rails.
- Graffiti observed on outside of slide.

### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Remove graffiti from structure.





## Standard Swing Set

### *Observations*

- Unfinished posts/footings observed throughout structure (safety surfacing not deep enough).
- Slide seats and chain appeared to be in good condition.
- Paint on support posts appeared to be chipping in some places.
- Depressions in safety surfacing observed beneath swings (kick-out area)

### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of swings.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth and replenish surfacing beneath swing seats.



## Free Standing Log Roll

### *Observations*

- Surfacing beneath the structure appears to vary in height.
- Posts and handles appear to be in good condition.
- Plastic on log roll appear to be faded, potentially brittle.
- Safety surfacing did not appear to extend to full limit of use zone, grass evident beneath surfacing – not deep enough.

### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of equipment.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth.



### Free Standing Truck

#### *Observations*

- Surfacing beneath structure does not appear to be deep enough.
- Paint on posts appears to be chipping .
- Wood in rear and on seat – potential for splinters if not properly maintained.

#### *Recommendations*

- Ensure wood seating/backer is sanded smooth and is stable / free from rot.
- Repaint posts as needed
- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of equipment.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth.



### Bucket /Standard Swing Set (1)

#### *Observations*

- Slide seats and chain appeared to be rusted in some areas, seats are warped.
- Paint on support posts appeared to be chipping in some places.
- Depressions in safety surfacing observed beneath swings (kick-out area)

#### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of swings.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth and replenish surfacing beneath swing seats.





## Dinosaur & Rocket Ship Spring Rockers

### *Observations*

- Plastic on rockers appeared to be in good condition.
- Handles/peddles have potential for protrusion hazard.
- Spring equipment at bottom of equipment has potential for crush / shear hazard.

### *Recommendations*

- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of equipment.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth and replenish surfacing beneath equipment.



## Bucket /Standard Swing Set (2)

### *Observations*

- Slide seats and chain appeared to be rusted in some areas, seats are warped.
- Paint on support posts appeared to be chipping in some places.
- Depressions in safety surfacing observed beneath swings (kick-out area).
- Swing Bays contain mix of standard and bucket seats.
- Unfinished posts/footings observed throughout structure (safety surfacing not deep enough).



### *Recommendations*

- Remove miss-matched seat types from bays – ASTM / CPSC standards require that each swing bay should contain the same type of seat.
- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zone of swings.

- Install safety surfacing to required depth and replenish surfacing beneath swing seats.

### Fulcrum Seesaws

#### *Observations*

- Slide seats and chain appeared to be rusted in some areas, seats are warped.
- Paint on support posts appeared to be chipping in some places.
- High potential for crush/shear hazard at fulcrum point.
- Handles appear to be in good condition.
- Unfinished posts/footings observed throughout structure (safety surfacing not deep enough).



#### *Recommendations*

- Signage should be installed indicating this equipment is not recommended for preschool aged children.
- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Install shock-absorbing material beneath safety surfacing at each end of the see saws.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zones.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth.

### Free Standing Arch Climber

#### *Observations*

- Posts and paint appeared to be in fair condition.
- Climbers attached at top end to vertical “firefighter” pole – not recommended for ages 2-5 years old.
- Safety surfacing does not appear to extend to full limits of use zone.
- Safety surfacing does not appear to be deep enough to provide adequate critical height rating.



#### *Recommendations*

- Signage should be installed indicating this equipment is not recommended for children aged 2-5 years old
- Confirm structure complies with latest ASTM / CPSC requirements by completing a Playground Safety Audit.
- Confirm safety surfacing extents to use zones.
- Install safety surfacing to required depth.

## Appendix E – Site Inventory



Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Inventory

Facility Name

Vernon Recreation Area - West side of Pond Road

Inventory Date:

NOV 29th 2022

GIS point

Area

1 OF 1

Address

Ownership (circle one):

Client

Other:

Ambiance Score

Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation

2=Meets Expectations

1=Below Expectations

Action Plan:

Action Plan Completed?

Facility Component

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (include uses)
	Open Field			
1	Disc Golf Basket	3	4	Goals are in great condition, maintain as needed
2	Baseball Field	2	1	The field is in good condition. Some areas around the diamond need edging and some weeds were present
3	Turf	1 to 2		Some patches of dead turf and some exposed earth in isolated areas do not
4	Dugout	2	2	Dugouts do not have steps and are not ADA accessible
5	Backstop	2	1	Fence is in solid condition overall, some chain link heaving at the bottom, maintain as needed
6	Bench	2	2	Benches are in ok condition some could benefit from a fresh coat of paint, benches differ from each other in style
7	Picnic Table	3	1	Picnic are in good condition
	Open field (East corner)			
8	Tee-Ball Field	2	1	30-ft from home to 3rd, no pitchers mound, and assumed for Softball use
9	Soccer Goal	1	1	Goal post is not sturdy and net is in poor condition
10	Fencing	2		Good condition some dents and heaving in chain-link, rust in spots but functions
11	Benches	2	2	Chipped paint and deteriorating wood observed
	Parking			
	Gravel Strip			No observable parking markings, and gravel was patchy throughout area

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Inventory

Facility Name

Vernon Recreational Area 1 - East of Pond Road

Inventory Date:

NOV 29th 2022

GIS point

Area

Address

Ownership (circle one):

Client

Other:

Ambiance Score

Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation

2=Meets Expectations

1=Below Expectations

Action Plan:

Action Plan Completed?

Facility Component

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
	Basketball Area			
1	Basketball court	2	1	Courts are in good condition. Water stains and sneaker stains are present.
2	Benches	2	5	Well-maintained and clean
3	Tennis Court	2 to 3	2	Courts are in good condition Water stains are present, Lighting fixtures are weathered and should be updated,
				lippage observed at north end gate, light switch config needs review by an electrician
4	Discuss Goal	3	1	Great condition little to no rust
	Playground Area			Play area surface does not have a safety border that delineates spaces
5	Swing set	2	2	Swings are in good condition, some need to be lower to ground, woodchips below swings need to be reapplied or raked
6	Play structures	2	2	Well-maintained and clean
7	Seesaws	3	2	Swings are well maintained one set observed seesaw no longer complies with playground safety measures
8	Sand Pit	1	3	Pit had some leaves and weeds, wood edge is showing of determination
9	Rolling Log	1	1	Well-maintained and clean
10	Slides	3	1	Well-maintained and clean
11	Monkey Bars	3	3	Well-maintained and clean
12	Monument Bench	3	1	Well-maintained and clean
		3	1	

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Inventory

Facility Name  
Address

Vernon Recreation Area - Crosswalk

Inventory Date: GIS point  
NOV 29th 2022  
Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score

Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan:

Action Plan Completed?

Facility Component

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (include uses)
1	Crosswalk	2	1	Crosswalk paint is worn and faded
2	Culvert	1	4	The Culvert has shifted and misaligned from swale. The culvert also creates an uneven walking surface
3	Pedestrian Crossing Sign	2	2	Signs are visible and clean
4	General Information signage	2	2	Signs are in visible locations and are clean, some sun bleaching observed on signs
6	Drainage	2	1	Area around crosswalk may need a culvert on the east side and regrading on both sides

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Inventory

2 OF 2

Facility Name  Inventory Date:  GIS point   
 Address  Ownership (circle one): Client  Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan:  
 Action Plan Completed?

Facility Component

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
	Gathering space			
1	Pavilion	2	1	Structure is well maintained a step up is required to enter sides of pavilion
2	Water fountain	1	1	Not in operation during site visit
3	Benches	3	8	Well-maintained and clean
4	Picnic tables	3	15	All picnic tables appear to be well maintained with minimal root
5	Bathrooms	1	2	Bathrooms are not ADA accessible, one concrete pad under bathroom door is broken, swing radius of doors is to large,
				flat landing does not provide an adequate sized pad
	Lawn Space			
6	Horseshoe pit	1	2	Visual contrast for the horse shoe stakes is recommended
7	Lights	2		Light lenses are fogged and need to be cleaned and bulbs updated
8	Grill Pit	2	2	Rusty but in working condition
	Maintenance			
9	Sheds	3	3	Both sheds are working and in good condition maintain as needed
	Parking / Walks			
10	Parking	2		No signage, no accessible isle, not enough ADA stalls for amount of regular stalls, not enough pavement markings
11	Walks / Entrance	2		Not ADA from both ends, drop curb needed at top of hill/walk near entrance
12	Misc.			
	Frisbee Golf goal	3	1	Well-maintained and clean

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

Town of Vernon, VT - Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Inventory

Facility Name   
Address

Inventory Date:    
Area   
Ownership (circle one): Client Other:

Ambiance Score  Rating Key: 3= Exceeds Expectation 2=Meets Expectations 1=Below Expectations

Action Plan:  
Action Plan Completed?

Facility Component

ID	Feature	Rating	Qty	Comments (inc. uses)
	Lawn Area/ Overlook			
	Walk	2	1	Does not meet ADA compliance
	Signage	2	3	One sign obstructs view of oncoming traffic
	Grill Pits	1 to 2	6	Need to be cleaned and have some rust
	Picnic tables	2	6	Good condition with some paint chipping
	Trash Receptacles	1	2	Good condition with some paint chipping
	Vegetation			
	Trees	2		Some trees are damaged and require trimming
	Wood Fence	2 to 3	1	One section of wooden fence has a broken horizontal board
	Gazebo	2	1	Ok condition does not provide ADA access

Additional Comments/Explanation of high or low rating:

