Town of Milton, VT
20-Year Recreation Master Plan
2007-2027

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY....1
CHAPTER 2: THE PROJECT....4
CHAPTER 3: THE PLANNING CONTEXT – THE SETTING....5
The Community....5
Population Growth....6
Demographics....7
The Milton Recreation Department in 2007....8
CHAPTER 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION....9
Focus Groups....9
Joint Meeting of the Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission....10
Stakeholder Interviews....11
Public Meeting on the Bove and Town Forest....11
Public Meeting to Prioritize Recreation Facility Needs....11
Citizen Survey....13
Survey Methodology....13
Major Findings of the Survey....14
CHAPTER 5: RECREATION ADMINISTRATION....16
The Inventory....17
The Office....17
The Staff....17
The Recreation Commission....17
The Budget....17
Needs Assessment and Recommendations....19
The Office....20
The Staff....21
Recreation Commission....23
The Budget....24
General Department....25
CHAPTER 6: PROGRAMS....26
Introduction....26
Inventory....26
Needs Assessment....28
Recommendations....31
CHAPTER 7: RECREATION LANDS AND FACILITIES....34
Introduction....34
Recreation Land Classifications and Definitions....35
Inventory....36
Needs Assessment....52
Recommendations....55
CHAPTER 8: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATES....644

Appendices:
A - Focus Group Meetings Minutes
B - Joint Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
C – Stakeholder Interview Questions
D – Town Forest/Bove Property Meting Minutes
E – Public Meeting to Review Recreation Facility Priorities Minutes
F – Survey Questionnaire
G – Survey Results
H – Survey Benchmark Data
I – Fees and Charges Policy, Hartford, VT Parks and Recreation Department
J – Recreation Facility Need Indicators
K – Guidelines for a Goof Turf Management Program

CHAPTER 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In April 2006, the Town of Milton set a plan in motion to develop a Recreation Master Plan to provide a framework for the development of Town lands, recreational facilities and programs in a coordinated and logical manner for the next twenty years. The Recreation Master Plan is intended to serve as a companion document to a town's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan discusses the Town's present recreation services in a general way, in the context of all public facilities and services. The Recreation Master Plan is a planning guide that describes in very specific terms, existing community resources, the community's recreation program and facility needs, and strategies and action steps for prioritizing Milton's investments in recreation and park facilities and programs for the next twenty years.

The following objectives shaped the development of the *Milton Recreation Master Plan 2007-2027*: gather meaningful community input through various outreach methods, assess the current and future needs of the citizens of Milton, inventory the physical and programmatic recreation resources, identify existing levels of service in Milton, compare Milton's service levels with neighbors and national guidelines, identify service gaps, develop a feasible twenty-year action plan, and ensure consistency with other local, regional, and state-wide planning documents.

Public participation played a major role in the planning and development of the *Milton Recreation Master Plan 2007-2027*. Several different methods were used to gather citizen input and help identify citizen needs. A statistically valid survey was administered to a random sample of 1,000 registered voters; 429 surveys were returned for a 51% response rate and a 95% +/- 4.5% level of confidence. Five different Focus Group meetings were held with a total of 72 community members participating in them. A special joint meeting of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions was held to discuss the same list of questions that had been used in the Focus Group meetings. Nine stakeholder interviews were held with staff from the Milton Town Office and the Milton School District. A community-wide public meeting was held to discuss the future of the Bove Property and Town Forest and 26 people attended. Lastly, a community-wide public meeting was held to review the consultant's recreation facility priorities and 8 people attended.

A copy of the survey questionnaire and a complete summary of the survey results, including result tables for each survey question, are included in the appendix of the report. The major findings of the survey include:

- 67% of respondents said the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton is important to them.
- 24% of respondent households contacted the Milton Recreation Department (MRD) in the last year and 74% of respondents who had contacted the MRD found the service to be good.
- 42% of respondents said the Milton Recreation Department is doing a good job.
- 25% of respondent households had participated in at least one MRD program in the last year.
- Respondents felt that teens and adults are most in need of more recreation programs.
- The five program areas that respondents would most like to see added are fitness and wellness, nature and outdoor, family, after-school, and computer and technology.
- New recreation facilities that respondents would most like to see are more bicycle and pedestrian paths, an indoor swimming pool, an indoor ice rink, and more walking trails.
- 66% of respondents said they would be willing to pay more taxes to increase recreational opportunities in Milton.

The recommendations made in the *Milton Recreation Master Plan 2007-2027* report are organized into separate chapters for recreation administration, recreation programs, and recreation facilities. Each chapter includes an inventory of existing conditions, a needs assessment, and a list of specific recommendations.

The needs assessment is based on quantitative information provided by the survey results, qualitative information from the focus group meetings and stakeholder interviews, comparison to service levels in other Vermont communities, and the professional experience of the consultants. Information on service levels from four Vermont communities, 2 within Chittenden County and 2 elsewhere in the state, all with populations similar to Milton's, is included for comparison purposes. The communities selected for comparison were Essex Town and Williston from Chittenden County and Hartford and Springfield from around the state. Throughout the report they are identified as the "comparable communities."

Every effort was given to making recommendations that would (1) address the Town's recreation needs, (2) place a high priority on adequately maintaining the existing facilities before adding new ones, and (3) be realistic and achievable. The implementation table and preliminary cost estimates for each recommendation are included in the last chapter of the report.

In the Recreation Administration chapter, a detailed inventory of the existing conditions with the office, staff, citizen commission, and budget is provided. The need for a full-time recreation department was voiced repeatedly in focus group meetings and interviews. Of the nine Chittenden County communities with populations greater than 6,500 people, Milton is the only community without a full-time recreation director. In comparison to the comparable communities, the office hours of the MRD fall drastically short of the norm. The administration recommendations include:

- Increase office hours
- Purchase program registration and facility scheduling software
- Expand the Recreation Coordinator position to full-time
- Expand the Assistant Recreation Coordinator position to full-time
- Increase Buildings and Grounds staff
- Evaluate the benefits of combining the Recreation Department and Buildings and Grounds Department into a Parks and Recreation Department
- Fill all five positions on the Recreation Commission
- Increase the Recreation and Buildings & Grounds Department budgets
- Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee
- Work with the Milton Town School District to develop a Joint Facility Use Agreement

In the Recreation Program chapter, a summary of the programs offered by the Milton Recreation Department during the twelve month period from Summer 2006–Spring 2007 is included. In comparison to the comparable communities, the number of programs offered by the Milton Recreation Department falls dramatically short. The program recommendations include:

- Offer more programs
- Collaborate with existing organizations to increase recreation program opportunities
- Direct mail seasonal recreation brochures to every postal address
- Offer online program registration
- Ensure that every resident has an equal opportunity to participate in recreation programs.
- Establish an Enterprise Fund to account for all recreation program revenues and expenditures.

Detailed descriptions of the recreation lands and facilities located within the town of Milton, including all town, school, state, and private, are included. A map of the parks and recreation areas in Milton was developed by the Planning Director specifically for this project and is included in the report. A comparison of the town's recreation lands to the inventories of the four comparable communities and three other neighboring communities and national guidelines, suggests that Milton is rich in community park land and natural areas, but lacking in neighborhood parks. Better maintenance of existing park facilities in Milton was cited as a high priority in nearly every public forum. In comparison to survey results conducted by the consultant in six other Vermont communities, the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of the Town's recreation facilities is significantly lower than every other community. Survey benchmark data is included in the appendix. Eighty-three facility recommendations are outlined in the report. The major facility recommendations include:

- Develop a Signage Plan for the park system
- Develop a Master Plan for the Bombardier Park parcel
- Develop an irrigation and turf maintenance plan for the athletic fields at Bombardier Park
- Renovate the existing restroom/concession building at Bombardier Park
- Improve the parking at Bombardier Park
- Develop a regular maintenance program for the tennis courts at Bombardier Park
- Develop a plan to regularly maintain and improve playgrounds
- Add new multi-use elements to the Skate Park
- Develop the east side of Bombardier Park into a family-oriented destination park
- Survey & clearly mark all park boundaries
- Improve trails and trail signage on all town parks
- Acquire adjacent lands for future recreation use
- Establish a Bikepath Committee
- Identify and build key corridors for bicycle and pedestrian paths
- Design and Build an Indoor Recreation Center
- Adopt and implement a Management Plan for the Bove Property
- Adopt and implement a Management Plan for Eagle Mountain
- Adopt and implement a Management Plan for the Town Forest
- Make enhancements to the Lamoille River Walk
- Develop a town-wide park and trail map
- Evaluate the feasibility of using the former landfill for a dog park
- Begin to develop neighborhood parks in Milton
- Develop a Teen Center, in collaboration with the Milton Family Center
- Evaluate all recreation facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act

The last chapter of the plan includes a timetable for completing each of the recommendations, along with preliminary cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation. The recommendations are summarized in chart form, first by the type of project (administration, program, or facility) and secondly by timetable.

It is advisable that the Town of Milton incorporate the recommendations of the *Milton Recreation Master Plan 2007-2027* plan into all its planning efforts.

CHAPTER 2

THE PROJECT

Parks and recreation programs and facilities are key elements of a community's assets, and they enhance the health and livability of a community. The availability of a varied and relevant recreation and park program contributes significantly to the quality of life in the community.

In April 2006, the Town of Milton set a plan in motion to develop a Recreation Master Plan to provide a framework for the development of Town lands, recreational facilities and programs in a coordinated and logical manner for the next twenty years.

The Milton Recreation Master Plan (RMP) is intended to serve as a companion document to the Milton Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan discusses the Town's present recreation services in a general way, in the context of all public facilities and services. The Milton RMP is a planning guide that describes in very specific terms, existing community resources, the community's recreation program and facility needs, and strategies and action steps for prioritizing Milton's investments in recreation and park facilities and programs for the next twenty years. This Milton RMP utilizes information from previous studies and planning efforts, and involved conducting an in-depth analysis of existing and changing conditions.

The following objectives shaped the development of the Milton RMP:

- Gather meaningful community input through various outreach methods
- Assess the current and future needs of the citizens of Milton
- Inventory the physical as well as programmatic recreation resources
- Identify existing levels of service in Milton
- Compare Milton's service levels with neighbors, as well as national guidelines
- Identify service gaps
- Develop a feasible, twenty-year action plan
- Ensure consistency with other local, regional, and state-wide planning documents

There are several plans, maps, studies and reports referenced and utilized to develop this document including Milton in the New Millennium Community Vision Workshop (May 1999), Town Core Master Plan (December 2000), Assessment, Recommendations, & Management Plan for the Eagle Mountain Natural Area (December 2000), Long Range Access and Mobility Committee Final Report (January 2001), Growth Management Study (March 2002), Milton Alternative Transportation Master Plan (May 2002), Town of Milton Recreation Long-Range Plan (August 2002), Milton Comprehensive Plan (March 2003), Milton Town Forest Inventory, Assessment, and Recommendations (July 2003), VT State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (July 2005), and Chittenden County Regional Plan (August 2006).

The Milton RMP should be reviewed annually and updated based on implementation accomplishments, and additional information gathered through surveys, community meetings, planning studies and data analysis. Furthermore, the Milton RMP is intended to serve as a guide for the provision of recreation and park services rather than as a set of inflexible recommendations.

CHAPTER 3

THE PLANNING CONTEXT…THE SETTING

The Community

The Town of Milton is situated on the eastern shores of Lake Champlain in the northwestern corner of Chittenden County. Milton is surrounded by seven municipalities: Colchester to the south, Westford to the east, Georgia to the north, shares a point with Fairfax and Essex, and a border with the towns of Grand Isle and South Hero across Lake Champlain. The Lamoille River runs through the middle of town from the Georgia to Colchester borders.

Milton covers approximately 38,336 acres, 60 square miles, and sits at an altitude of 320 feet. The Town was Chartered on June 8, 1763 and currently functions under a Selectboard -Town Manager form of government.

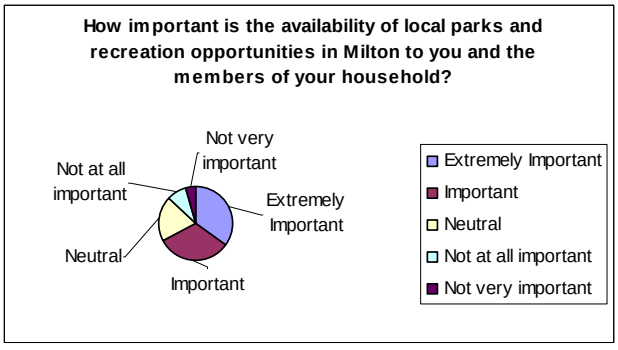
Historically, the land to the west of the Lamoille River known as West Milton, was the first part of town to be settled in the early 1800's, due to the abundance of old growth pine and timber. There were seven waterfalls on the Lamoille River within Milton, and the falls supplied the needed power for the saw, grist and other mills that grew up along the river. The part of Town known as Milton Falls grew up around Clarks' Falls and Great Falls, and today is known as Milton Village. At about the same time, a thickly settled neighborhood developed in the Checkerberry section of town.

By 1935, most of the available land in Milton was used for farming. The Milton Cooperative Dairy Corporation had been organized in 1919 by farmers of Milton and the vicinity. The creamery closed in 1974, and since then the dairy industry in Milton has suffered a gradual decline. In spite of the loss of farms, Milton has continued to grow in population due to the Town's close proximity to the IBM facility in Essex Junction and other industries in Milton and the Chittenden County Area. As the population increased, new residential neighborhoods were built in Milton Village and along the Route 7 corridor in the area of Town now referred to as the Town Core. See the map on page 37.

Over the years, a variety of organized youth and adult athletic leagues and clubs were organized to provide recreational opportunities for the residents of Milton. In 2007, more than twenty such organizations exist including Youth Baseball, Youth Football, Youth Soccer, Youth Lacrosse, Youth Basketball, Youth Hockey, Youth Wrestling, Women's Soccer, Horseshoe Club, Ski & Ride Club, Community Band, Artist's Guild, Garden Club, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Recently some sports have expanded from one to two seasons a year and new sports continue to be added as trends change and volunteers step forward to organize them. In 1995 the Town hired an Assistant to the Recreation Commission and in 1998 the first Recreation Director was hired.

Figure 1
Survey Results – Importance of Recreation

Recreation is important to the people who live in Milton. In the 2006 recreation survey, respondents in two out of three households said that the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton is important to them.



Population Growth

In the 1950's, Milton's population was approximately 2,000 and it remained fairly stable. The Town experienced rapid growth in the 1960's with the addition of three mobile home parks and several new housing developments. By 1976, the population had grown to over 6,000 residents. Since then, the population has continued to grow steadily along with several more new housing developments, but at a lower rate than in the previous three decades. In 2005, the U. S. Census Bureau estimates the population of Milton to be 10,169 people.

Table 1
Population Growth in Milton, VT 1950-2005

Year	Population	Population Growth (People)	Average Annual Rate of Growth
1950	1,874		
1960	2,022	148	.7%
1970	4,495	2,473	12.2%
1980	6,829	2,334	5.1%
1990	8,404	1,575	2.3%
2000	9,479	1,075	1.2%
2005	**10,169**	**690**	**1.4%**

Population projections provide an estimate of future population. A variety of methodologies may be employed to develop the projections and each may provide different results. Population projections become increasingly uncertain the further they are carried forward, none the less, they do provide a common framework for planning. So while Table 2 shows that it is unclear whether the population of Milton will increase by 30%, 80%, or somewhere in between over the next twenty years, there is agreement that the population will continue to grow.

Table 2
Projected Population Estimates for Milton, VT

Source	2010	2015	2020	2025
Economic and Demographic Forecast - Update for Chittenden County - June 2001 (Economic & Policy Resources, Inc.)	12,378	14,012	15,991	18,268
Milton's 2002 Growth Study - "Mean Projection"	10,839	11,562	12,273	*13,027*
Milton's 2002 Growth Study - "High Projection"	12,372	14,066	15,837	*17,831*
Note: *Italic 2025 estimates from Riverstreet Consultants, using Growth Study data to continue projection until 2025.*				

The number of residential building permits issued in a community has an impact on the population growth. Table 3 shows the recent history of building permits issued by the Town of Milton. The number projected for 2008 is less than the five year average but consistent with three of the last five years, suggesting an anticipated population growth similar to recent history.

Table 3
Residential Building Permits Issued by the Town of Milton

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Residential Units	63*	67	102	99	62	104	*65***

NOTE: The annual totals are shown for the fiscal year, not calendar year.
* Includes 2 multi-family zoning permits ** Amount projected for FY08 - FY12 Capital Improvement Plan

For the purposes of planning for Milton's future recreation needs, let's assume that the Milton population is going to increase at about the same rate as the last five years, at 1.4% a year. Twenty years from now, in 2017, the population will be about 30% larger than it is today. This estimate is in line with Milton's 2002 Growth Study "Mean Projection."

Demographics

Demographic data that describes specific population characteristics provides important background information and insight for the future. Without this data, a plan would be based on guesswork and arbitrary assumptions. Selected demographic highlights from the 2000 U.S. Census for Milton, Chittenden County, and Vermont, are provided in Table 4 .

Table 4
Demographic Highlights of the Milton Community

	Milton		Chittenden County	Vermont
	Number	Percent		
Total population	9,479	-	146,571	623,050
Median age (yrs)	34.5	-	34.2	37.7
Under 5 years	703	7.4%	5.8%	5.6%
5 to 14 years	1563	16.5%	13.8%	14.3%
15 to 19 years	677	7.1%	8.1%	7.5%
20 to 24 years	452	4.8%	9.0%	6.2%
25 to 54 years	4813	50.8%	46.2%	44.3%
55 to 64 years	720	7.6%	7.7%	9.4%
65 years and older	551	5.8%	9.4%	12.7%
Average household size	2.84	-	2.47	2.44
Households w/children <18 yrs.	1498	44.9%	33.7%	33.6%
Total Occupied Housing Units	3333			
Owner-occupied housing units	2897	86.9%	66.1%	70.6%
Renter-occupied housing units	436	13.1%	33.9%	29.4%
Median Household Income	$49,379	-	$47,673	$40,856

SOURCE: US Census Date (2000)

In comparison to the county and state data:

- Milton has more children under the age of 15 and more adults ages 25-54
- Milton has fewer young adults ages 20-24 and less older adults ages 65 and over.
- Significantly more Milton households have children under the age of 18 living in them.
- The ratio of homeowners to renters is significantly higher in Milton.
- The median household income in Milton is higher than the County or State average

This data suggests that recreation programs and facilities that meet the needs of young families are especially important in Milton. It also seems reasonable to conclude that Milton residents have as much or more ability to pay for recreation as their Chittenden County neighbors. Their willingness to pay is likely to depend upon how important a proposed project is to them personally.

The 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan cites the following recent trends and current characteristics of Chittenden County residents, suggesting that (1) recreation programs for older adults will become increasingly more important, (2) that universal access to recreation programs and facilities is essential, and (3) that demand for recreation resources may increase with time.

- Aging Population– The number of elderly and their proportion of the County's total population is increasing, while the proportion of the County's total population who are 18 years old or younger is declining.
- People with Disabilities – More than one in 10 people in the County have one or more disabilities. Although their proportion of the County's total population is smaller than in Vermont or the U.S. as a whole, people with disabilities benefit from special services, and accessibility features in buildings and recreation facilities that provide for public access.
- Increase in Non-Native Vermonters – The number of people who were not born in Vermont and their proportion of the County's total population is increasing. Many of these new residents have come from communities with more plentiful recreation resources, which will affect their expectations for recreation facilities and services in their new communities.

The U.S. Census Bureau produces population projections every two years. Projected numbers are based on an estimated population consistent with the most recent decennial census. Population projections for age groups are important when planning for future recreation programs and facilities. The statewide projections shown in Table 5 confirm that the Town of Milton is likely to experience a significant decline in school age children and a sharp increase in older adults, and this pattern will probably continue for the next twenty years.

Table 5
Age Group Population Projections for Vermont

Age	Census 2000	Projections 2010	Projections 2020	Projections 2030	%Change 2000-2010	%Change 2000-2020	%Change 2000-2030
< 5 yrs	33989	34303	36982	34667	+0.9%	+8.8%	+2.0%
5-13 yrs	77428	63339	68904	69659	-18.2%	-11.0%	-10.0%
14-17 yrs	36106	34730	29953	34633	-3.8%	-17.0%	-4.1%
18-24 yrs	56586	65961	53495	54981	+16.6%	-5.5%	-2.8%
25-44 yrs	176456	165793	184482	172734	-6.0%	+4.5%	-2.1%
45-64 yrs	150752	194944	180421	171253	+29.3%	+19.7%	+13.6%
65+ yrs	77510	93442	136449	173940	+20.6%	+76%	+124.4%
Total	608827	652512	690686	711867	+7.2%	+13.4%	+16.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2005)

The Milton Recreation Department in 2007

The recreation and leisure programs in Milton are coordinated by the Recreation Department and the Town's parks and recreation facilities are maintained by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Both departments are part of the town government that operates under the leadership of the Selectboard and Town Manager.

The mission of the Milton Recreation Department is:

To advance parks and recreation efforts that enhance the quality of life for the community of Milton.

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation played a major role in the planning and development of this Milton RMP. Several different methods were used to gather citizen input and help identify citizen needs, including the following:

- A statistically valid citizen survey
- Five (5) Focus Group Meetings
- Joint meeting of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions in January 2007
- Stakeholder interviews with the Town Manager, Recreation Commission Chair, Recreation Coordinator, Buildings and Grounds Director, Planning Director, Town Engineer, as well as representatives from the Milton School District.
- A community-wide public meeting to discuss the Bove Property & Town Forest in March 2007
- A community-wide Public Meeting to discuss recreation facility priorities in May 2007

Focus Groups

A series of five focus group meetings were held during the months of November and December 2006 and January 2007. The groups included an outdoor recreation group, an organized sports group, two student groups, and a senior group. The Recreation Department staff invited approximately fifteen people affiliated with relevant community organizations to the outdoor recreation and organized sports focus group meetings. One of the High School guidance counselors selected the students for the two student focus groups. The fifth focus group was held following a regular evening dinner meeting of the Arrowhead Senior Center. A total of 72 people participated in the focus groups, including approximately 40 at the senior focus group meeting.

During the focus group meetings, participants were asked a series of questions about recreation and park needs in Milton including improvements and changes to programs, indoor and outdoor facilities, and administration; desirable service levels; and willingness to pay for additional services. During each meeting, participants were given two sticky notes and asked to write down their personal top two priorities. The minutes of each focus group meeting are included in Appendix A and a summary of the key findings is listed below. The findings have been separated into three categories of administration, programs and facilities, and listed in no particular order.

Recreation Administration

- Need a full-time Recreation Director
- Need better coordination between the School District and Recreation Department
- Need more communication between volunteer organizations and Recreation Department

Recreation Programs

- Need more programs for teens
- Need more programs to be scheduled onsite in the natural areas
- Need more adult programs
- Need more programs for seniors
- Collaborate with local groups to expand program offerings

Recreation Facilities

- Existing parks and trails need improvements and better regular maintenance
- Need maps and better information about public park properties
- Need more outdoor athletic fields

- Need to establish, advertise, and enforce park policies
- Need a management plan for each park and natural area
- Need more indoor recreation space, including a gymnasium, ice rink, swimming pool, and an indoor track
- Need a Teen Center
- Need better sidewalk/bikepath system
- Need multi-use recreation trail plan, including ATV use
- Need to preserve additional open space as the population increases
- Need a better Skate Park
- Need more public waterfront access
- All indoor and outdoor recreation facilities need to be handicap accessible
- It should be a priority to secure permanent access to the Town Forest property
- Need a dog park in close proximity to homes
- Strive to increase public recreation opportunities through public/private partnerships
- Being "mid-point" in the 1983 NRPA guidelines for total park acreage is acceptable

Joint Meeting of the Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission

On January 11, 2007, a joint meeting of the Recreation and Conservation Commissions was held to address the same set of questions asked of the participants in the focus group meetings. The minutes of this meeting are included in Appendix B and a summary of the highlights is listed below. This group would like to see Milton strive to maintain a park system at the "high end" of the 1983 NRPA guidelines for total park acreage.

The key issues and priorities for the Recreation Department are:

- Lack of funding for adequate administrative staff
- Need better coordination and maintenance of park facilities
- Would like to see "one stop shopping" for recreation and park issues
- Need more indoor space for recreation programs
- Need funding strategy, other than general fund budget, for capital recreation needs
- Need an overall plan for the Town's open spaces, including clear policies and procedures
- Need to buy more land to provide recreation facilities in other parts of town, as the population increases

The following changes and improvements are needed:

- Need more satellite neighborhood parks
- Existing facilities need upgrading
- Parking at Bombardier Park needs to be redesigned and improvements made to surface
- Need clear policies and procedures for a town-wide multi-use trail system
- Need more adult programs
- Would like to see more seasonal activities and programs in the natural areas
- Need a bicycle/pedestrian path and Bikepath Committee
- Need more shoreline access
- Need a map depicting all public recreation areas in town
- Need the following indoor spaces: swimming pool, hockey rink, and gymnasium

Stakeholder Interviews

During the month of March 2007, stakeholder interviews were conducted with the Town Manager, Recreation Coordinator, Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, Planning Director, Town Engineer, Recreation Commission Chair, High School Athletic Director, Physical Education staff at the Milton Elementary School, and the School District Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds. During these meetings, stakeholders were asked a specific set of questions about things that could be improved upon in the delivery of recreation services in Milton, and asked to give feedback on some of the findings from the survey results and the focus group meetings. A summary of the meeting outcomes are listed below and the actual questions are included in Appendix C.

- Milton needs a full-time Recreation Director
- Corroborated the need for more indoor recreation space
- Reiterated the need for better communication with School District, seems to be a genuine desire from both organizations to work more closely together
- Need to develop a Joint Facility Use Agreement with the School District
- Recreation Department sacrifices efficiencies because they do not have specialized software such as RecTrac for program registration and facility scheduling, the School District is interested in sharing cost and use of the facility scheduling module
- Confirmed need for additional playing fields, or irrigation on existing fields
- Milton has historically failed to make an adequate investment in its recreation facilities, both capital and maintenance

Public Meeting on the Bove and Town Forest

A special public meeting was held on March 15, 2006 to gather citizen input on desirable improvements for the Milton Town Forest and adjacent and newly acquired Bove Property. Twenty-four citizens attended the meeting, as well as the Town Manager, Planning Director, Recreation Coordinator, and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent. The agenda began with a brief history of the two Town-owned properties, and the majority of the meeting was dedicated to public comment. The minutes from this meeting are included in Appendix D and some of the highlights are included here:

- Protect the perimeter of Milton Pond and any sensitive flora and fauna habitats
- Improve parking and access, but only after park policies and procedures can be established and resources made available to manage the property and enforce the rules
- Adopt management plans for both properties
- Designate a trail system; make it multi-use and include a corridor from one side of the property to the other for ATVs. There was general agreement that the Bove property may be a better option than the Town Forest for locating the ATV corridor.
- Make accommodations for handicap access in all development plans
- Concentrate the more-developed use areas together in a way that will preserve large areas of wilderness

Public Meeting to Prioritize Recreation Facility Needs

A special public meeting was held on May 3, 2007 to gather citizen input on the list of recreation facility needs and priorities outlined by the consultant team of Mark Berry, Ton Hubbard, Bob Whalen and Betsy Orselet. Five citizens attended the meeting, as well as the Planning Director, Recreation Coordinator, and Buildings and Grounds Superintendent. The agenda began with review of a Need Indicator grid that

summarized where the need for specific park and recreation improvements had been indicated, and discussion about a list of recreation needs for the next 20 years and the priorities assigned to each by the consultant team. Next, a proposed implementation schedule was presented. The focus of this meeting was to gather public input on the list of proposed improvements and work schedule. Each person was given 10 small sticky dots and instructed to place them next to the items they considered top priority, with the following stipulation, they could not place more than 2 dots next to any one item. The top priorities of the group are shown below, listed in order of the number of dots placed on them. The minutes from this meeting are included in Appendix E.

Years 1-10 (Enhancing and protecting existing facilities)

- Build Indoor Recreation Center
- Conduct a Feasibility Study for an Indoor Recreation Center
- Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee
- Increase resources for better regular maintenance of existing recreation facilities
- Add more equipment and benches in the playground area in the East Side of Bombardier
- Adopt a Management Plan for Eagle Mountain Natural Area
- Adopt a Management Plan for the Bove Property
- Adopt a Management Plan for the Town Forest/Milton Pond
- Bombardier Park Tennis Court Improvements - Surface improvements
- Develop a map of sidewalk and Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths; include on "Official Town Map"
- Improve parking and access at Bove Property
- Improve parking and access at Eagle Mountain Natural Area
- Organize a Bikepath Committee and identify key corridors of connectivity
- Renovate existing restrooms and meeting space on West Side of Bombardier Park
- Build restrooms on East Side of Bombardier Park
- Develop an irrigation plan for the athletic fields at Bombardier Park
- Implement the irrigation plan in phases
- Survey all park boundaries, where necessary

Years 10-15 (Continue improvement of existing facilities and begin building new)

- Develop a Town-wide Trail Map
- Continue phased development of irrigation plan in Bombardier Park
- Improve picnic facilities (more tables, BBQ grills, etc) in East Side of Bombardier Park
- Develop Neighborhood Park on Oglewood Drive
- Improve trails and signage at Eagle Mountain Natural Area
- Improve trails and signage at Town Forest/Milton Pond
- Improve trails and signage at the Bove Property
- Develop a Dog Park on the old Landfill site
- Continue development of Eagle Mountain Natural Area, in accordance with the Management Plan
- Build neighborhood parks in new developments

Years 15-20 (Land acquisition for future expansion)

- If the opportunity arises, purchase parcels of land adjacent to Bombardier Park for future recreation
- Develop a Teen Center, in collaboration with the Milton Family Center

Citizen Survey

Survey Methodology

A random sample citizen recreation survey was conducted during the months of October and November 2006. The Milton Recreation and Conservation Commissions and municipal staff assisted in the development of the survey questionnaire, and the survey was conducted by Recreation and Leisure Services Consultants.

The survey population selected was the registered voters of Milton. While the List of Registered Voters is typically less accurate than the Grand List, it provides a more representative picture of the total resident population because it includes both homeowners and renters. The current Voter Registration List was provided by the Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer. A simple random sample was computer generated using the SPSS software program.

A sample size of 1,000 was selected, based on the assumptions that approximately 10% of the sample would be undeliverable due to invalid mailing addresses, and that 35-40% of the delivered questionnaires would be completed and returned.

The survey was administered by mail to the random sample of 1,000 households. The survey questionnaires, along with a cover letter, were mailed using first-class postage. Approximately two weeks later, a postcard was sent to remind people to return their survey. Two weeks after the postcard, a second questionnaire and cover letter were sent to everyone who had not yet responded.

One hundred and sixty one (161) surveys were returned undeliverable, leaving a total delivered sample of 839. Four hundred and twenty nine (429) surveys were returned for a 51% response rate. The overall results of the survey have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of +/- 4.5%. Response to the survey was even better than anticipated, providing a very good measure of general community opinion.

The voter registration list does not include individuals under the age of 18 years, and therefore, the opinions of residents under the age of 18 years are not represented in the survey results. As an alternative method of capturing the opinions of teens, two Student Focus Groups were held at Milton High School. The student participants were selected by the High School Guidance Department staff.

For the purposes of comparing the characteristics of the survey respondents to the actual demographics of the entire population of the Town of Milton, the 2000 US Census Date was used. The survey respondent group with children under the age of 18 living in the household closely represents the actual population in Milton. As is often the case, the survey results indicate that (1) residents living in homes they own were over-represented and those living in rental units were under-represented, (2) residents 18-34 years old were under-represented and those 45 years and older were over-represented, and (3) residents with smaller household incomes may be under-represented and residents in the highest household income brackets may be over-represented, but it is difficult to know for sure since the Census data is now six years old and household incomes generally increase annually as the cost-of-living indexes rise.

A copy of the survey questionnaire and a complete summary of the survey results, including result tables for each survey question, are included in Appendices F and G. Charts and graphs of the survey results are scattered throughout this report in appropriate places.

Major Findings of the Survey

- Two out of three respondents indicated that the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton is important to them.
- One out of four respondents had contacted the Milton Recreation Department (MRD) in the last twelve months.
- Three out of four respondents who had contacted the department, found the level of service to be good.
- 42% of respondents feel that the MRD is doing a good job for residents.
- Respondents most often hear about programs sponsored by the MRD by reading the *Milton Independent*.
- One out of four respondents, and/or a household member, had participated in at least one program or class offered by the MRD in the last year.
- 70% of those who had participated in a program or class rated the quality of the program as good.
- Three out of ten respondents said they did not participate in more recreation programs because they don't have time. Other reasons included no interest (24.5%) and scheduling problems (22.8%).
- Respondents felt that the following age groups are most in need of more recreation programs in Milton: 11-14 years, 15-19 years, 31-50 years, 7-10 years, and 51-65 years.
- The five program areas that respondents would most like to see added are fitness and wellness, nature and outdoor, family, after-school, and computer and technology.
- 65% of respondent households had used the Milton Public Library in the last year, more than half (53%) had used Sand Bar State Park, half (49%) had used the Bombardier Park athletic fields and facilities, 42% had used a public park in a nearby community, and 41% had used a bicycle/pedestrian path, at least once in the last year.
- The facilities used most frequently (11 or more times in the last year) were the Milton Public Library, Bombardier Park, and a private health club facility.
- 40% of the respondents feel that the overall maintenance of the facilities under the care of the MRD is good.
- New recreation facilities that respondents would most like to see are more bicycle/pedestrian paths, an indoor swimming pool, an indoor skating arena, and more walking/hiking/x-c ski trails.
- Activities respondents would most like to see permitted on the Town Forest and Bove Property are hiking, cross-country skiing, camping, horseback riding, and mountain biking.
- Respondents said that Milton should pay for the construction of new recreation facilities with user fees and fundraising.

- Three out of ten respondents said they would not be willing to pay any new taxes to increase recreational opportunities in Milton. 45% are willing to pay $25 or more annually.

- Seven out of ten respondents are not willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for public recreation.

- Slightly more than seven out of ten respondents are not willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for open space preservation.

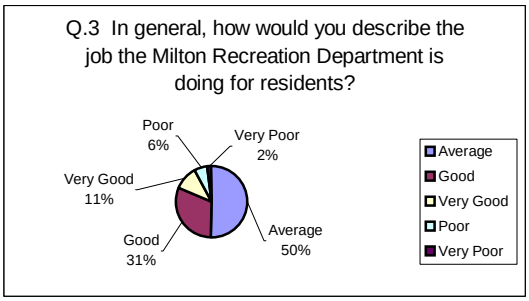
- Respondents would choose to allocate their recreation monies in the following way: 26.5% on construction of new facilities, 26% on improvements to existing facilities, 22.5% on land acquisition, 20% on better maintenance of existing facilities, 5% in miscellaneous other ways.

CHAPTER 5

RECREATION ADMINISTRATION

The municipal recreation programs in Milton are coordinated by the Recreation Department and the Town's parks and recreation facilities are maintained by the Buildings and Grounds Department. Both departments are part of the town government that operates under the direct supervision of the Town Manager.

Figure 2
Survey Results – General Satisfaction



Half of all survey respondents feel that the Milton Recreation Department (MRD) is doing an average job; 42% think that the MRD is doing a good or very good job. These results suggest less satisfaction than five other Vermont communities surveyed by the consultant, where an average of 69% (range of 59%-82%) rated the job their recreation department was doing as good or very good. See the benchmark data in Appendix H.

One of every four (24%) Milton households had contacted their recreation department in the last year. This is significantly fewer than in Colchester, Essex and Essex Junction where an average of 42% (range 30%-50%) of residents had contacted theirs. Of those residents who had contacted the MRD, 74% rated the service they received as good or very good. In comparison to the same three communities where 87% (range of 83%-89%) of respondents rated the service as good or very good, this falls short again.

Figure 3
Survey Results – Contacted Office

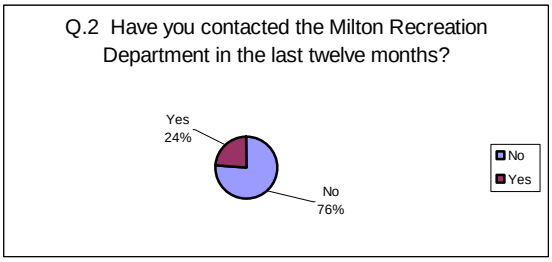
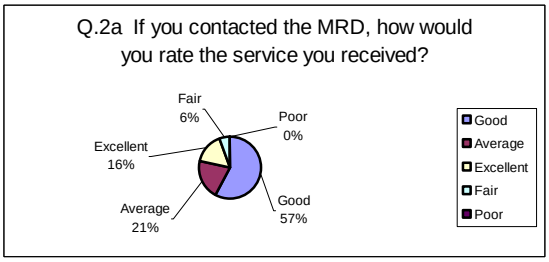


Figure 4
Survey Results – Quality of Service



It is the opinion of the consultant, that these and other shortfalls mentioned throughout this report are the result of a shortage of resources rather than a reflection of the quality of work being performed by the current staff.

This chapter includes an inventory, needs assessment and recommendations in four areas of the Town's recreation and park administration: the office, staff, citizen commission, and budget.

The Inventory

The Office

The administrative office of the Milton Recreation Department is housed in the Town Office. The posted office hours vary from day to day depending upon the availability of the Recreation Coordinator who is balancing her work with a master's degree program. When possible, the office staff in the Town Manager's office provides back-up when the Recreation office is closed. During the fall 2006 and winter 2007 seasons, the department maintained morning or afternoon hours Monday through Friday. In the spring of 2007, the office is closed on Tuesday and Thursday and the weekly office hours have been reduced to 14.5 hours per week.

The Staff

The Town of Milton hired its first Recreation Director in 1998. The position was downgraded to Recreation Coordinator in 2005. In 2007, the Recreation Coordinator works 20 hours per week and is responsible for the development and leadership of the Town's leisure-time program opportunities, management of certain recreation facilities, being the staff liaison with the citizen Recreation Commission, and extensive outreach to the community at-large. Instructors are contracted throughout the school year to teach programs, and program fees are based on a per-student fee established by the instructor and a small fee to be retained by the Recreation Department. Two or three seasonal staff are hired during the summer to run a variety of camp/recreation activities and again some programs are contracted to outside organizations. An example of this is the one-week Soccer Camp offered by Voltage Soccer at Bombardier Park. In some cases, the MRD handles the registration and in others, including the Voltage Camp, people actually register directly with the contractor. The Town has approved funding for a second 20 hour per week position, an Assistant Recreation Coordinator, beginning July 1, 2007.

The parks and recreation facilities in Milton are maintained by the Buildings and Grounds Department. This department is staffed with a full-time Superintendent and from April 1-October 1, a full-time Truck Driver/Laborer, who spends the other six months of the year working for the Public Works Department. In addition to the parks and recreation facilities, the Buildings and Grounds Department is responsible for the care and maintenance of five cemeteries, and the lawns and buildings of all town properties. The Town has approved funding for a new part-time temporary seasonal Laborer position, and anticipates hiring someone for 20 hours per week for the summer mowing season, beginning July 1, 2007.

The Recreation Commission

The Milton Recreation Commission is a five-member volunteer citizen board appointed by the Selectboard. The Commission is an advisory board and meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month. In recent years the Town has had a problem finding people to fill these positions and for at least three years, two of the five positions have remained vacant.

The Budget

Recreation programs and facilities are funded through two different parts of the town budget, the Recreation Budget and the Buildings and Grounds Budget. As shown in Tables 6 and 7, these budgets have fluctuated from one year to the next, with about the same money being committed to recreation in 2007 as there was in 2004. The FY2006-07 and FY2007-07 budget numbers are shown in italics because

they are the approved budgets and not actual. A greatly improved commitment to parks and recreation funding was recently approved for the year ahead. The recreation budget was increased to fund a new half-time Recreation Coordinator position. The Buildings and Grounds budget was increased to fund a new half-time seasonal park maintenance worker. It should be noted that the Buildings and Grounds budget includes expenses related to the Town cemeteries, municipal buildings, street lights, etc. as well as park and recreation facilities. The Buildings and Grounds Superintendent estimates that 20-25% of this budget is designated for park and recreation expenses.

Table 6
5-Year Budget History: Milton Recreation Department

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Current	FY 2008 Approved
Expenditures	$67,828	$60,536	$55,128	*$68,931*	*$85,121*
Non-tax Revenue	$2,515	$5,120	$1,937	*$1,642*	
Actual Taxes	$65,313	$55,416	$53,191	$67,289	
% Change		-15%	-4%	*+26.5%*	*+26.5%*

Table 7
5-Year Budget History: Milton Buildings and Grounds Department

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Current	FY 2008 Approved
Expenditures	$227,141	$234,655	$237,028	$275,342	$290,295
Non-tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
% Change		+3%	+1%	+16%	+5%

In addition to the operating budgets, capital recreation projects are funded from the Town's Capital Fund. As shown in Table 8, commitment of funds for capital recreation projects varies from year to year. The Buildings and Grounds capital budget may include projects other than recreation related work.

Table 8
5-Year Budget History: Capital Recreation Expenditures

	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Current	FY 2008 Approved
Recreation	0	0	$25,485.	*0*	*$5,607.*
Buildings & Grounds	$5,620.	$30,454.	$3,473.	*0*	*$15,810.*
Total	$5,620	$30,454	$28,958	0	*$21,417*

The Town's Capital Budget includes several capital recreation projects during the next five years, as shown in Table 9. Some Public Works-Highway projects, such as sidewalks and paving the road into Bombardier Park, have been included because they are recreation related projects.

Table 9
Recreation Projects in Town Capital Improvement Plan (2008-2013)

Project	Dept	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sidewalk Improvements	DPW-H	~~$20,000~~	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000
Railroad Crossing-Railroad Street	DPW-H	~~$43,000~~					
Railroad Crossing-Cherry Street	DPW-H		$55,000				
Pave Bombardier Park Road	DPW-H		$33,800				
Eagle Mtn Parking Improvements	DPW-BG		$15,000				
Build Restrooms–Bombardier Park	DPW-BG		$75,000				
Topsoil-Bombardier Field Expansion	DPW-BG	$10,000					
Improve parking-Bombardier Park	DPW-BG		$10,000				
Renovate existing restroom building	DPW-BG		$17,500				
Bombardier Park-electrical additions	DPW-BG	$5,810					
Tennis Court Improvements	REC			$24,500			
Rec Trac Registration Software	REC	$5,607					
Bombardier-Playground Upgrade	REC		$38,000				
TOTAL		$21,417	$264,300	$44,500	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000

Needs Assessment and Recommendations

This needs assessment is based on quantitative information provided by the survey results, qualitative information gathered in the focus group meetings and stakeholder interviews, comparison to service levels in other Vermont communities, and the professional experience of the consultants.

The Town of Milton is located in Chittenden County. There are 23 cities, towns and villages located within Chittenden County, with populations ranging from 12 in Buels Gore to 38,531 in Burlington. Of these 23 communities, 8 have full-time municipal recreation departments, 5 have part-time departments, and 10 rely on volunteers for their municipal recreation services.

Throughout this report, information on service levels from four Vermont communities, 2 within Chittenden County and 2 elsewhere in the state, all with populations similar to Milton's, is included for comparison purposes. The population data was taken from the 2005 population estimate provided by the U.S. Census Bureau and the information was provided by the Parks and Recreation Director in each of the communities. As shown in Table 10, the communities selected for comparison were Essex Town and Williston from Chittenden County and Hartford and Springfield from around the state. Throughout this report they will be identified as the "comparable communities."

Table 10
Comparable Communities - Population

Community	County	Population
Essex	Chittenden	10,305
Williston	Chittenden	8,243
Milton	**Chittenden**	**10,169**
Hartford	Windsor	10,822
Springfield	Windsor	8,891

The Office

Customer service is a critical component of any successful business. Operation of a municipal parks and recreation department is no exception. The need for a full-time recreation department was voiced repeatedly in the focus group meetings and interviews and this need was explored further by the consultant.

Of the nine Chittenden County communities with populations greater than 6,500 people, Milton is the only community without a full-time director. In comparison to the comparable communities as shown in Table 11, the office hours of the MRD fall drastically short of the norm. The lack of regular office hours from day to day and season to season is uncharacteristic of recreation departments in Vermont communities the size of Milton.

Table 11
Comparable Communities - Office Hours

Department	Office Hours	Total Hours/Week
Essex Parks and Recreation	7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Mon - Friday	45 hours
Williston Parks & Recreation	8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Mon - Friday	42.5 hours
Milton Recreation	**Varies, in winter '07:** **M,W,F – 9am - 1pm** **Tu–9am - 1:30pm & Th -12:30 - 4:40pm**	**18.5 hours**
Hartford Parks & Recreation	8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon - Friday	45 hours
Springfield Parks & Recreation	7:00 am – 5:00 pm, Mon - Friday	50 hours

Administration Recommendation #1 – Establish consistent office hours
The Milton Recreation Department needs to establish specific hours when the Recreation Department office will be open and maintain the same hours throughout the year. The possibility of posting regular hours and having the Town Manager's administrative staff cover some hours on a regular basis, would improve customer service to residents, and should be considered.

In Williston where the Parks and Recreation Director is the only staff member, the Public Works Administrative Assistant provides back-up when the Recreation Director is away from the office, allowing the office to be open throughout the normal business day. If the new Public Works Building proposed in Milton includes offices for the Recreation Department, this arrangement should be explored with the Administrative Assistant to Public Works.

Administration Recommendation #2 – Increase office hours
With an Assistant Recreation Coordinator position coming online in July 2007, it is anticipated that the office hours in the Recreation Department will be expanded. Creative solutions should be considered to work towards having the Recreation Department maintain the same office hours as the majority of the other town offices, from 8am-5pm on Monday - Friday.

Administration Recommendation #3 – Purchase RecTrac Program Registration and Facility Scheduling software modules
The Town's Capital Budget includes money for the purchase of the RecTrac Program Registration Module software in FY2008. This will improve the efficiency of the office.

The Town should plan to buy the RecTrac Facility Scheduling Module in FY2009 to allow the department to begin scheduling field space for practices and games. The Milton Town School District has indicated an interest in sharing the expense of purchasing this module, and work with the Recreation Department to

access each other's field schedules. The volunteer league administrators should be called upon to assist with determining the field schedules. The Recreation Department should keep the master schedule.

The Staff

Of the nine Chittenden County communities with population greater than 6,500 people, Milton is the only community without a full-time director. The need for a full-time recreation department was cited in several focus group meetings and interviews.

The comparable communities all have a minimum of one full-time position in their Recreation Department. Two of the four communities have three full-time staff. Each community has different facilities and provides different services. A more in-depth analysis would be necessary to make an assessment of the level of service provided in relation to the number of staff; however Table 12 shows that Milton falls significantly behind the comparable communities in the number of staff in the Recreation Department.

Table 12
Comparable Communities – Staff

	Parks & Recreation Staff	
Community	**Recreation**	**Parks**
Essex	3	1 + 4 (.3)
Williston	1	.5
Milton**	(2) .5	1.5 + .25
Hartford	3	3
Springfield	2	1.3

* Full-time position calculated at 2080 hours/year
** Positions in the FY2007-08 budget included

Administration Recommendation #4 – Expand the Recreation Coordinator position to full-time and consider changing title to Recreation Director
Expand the Recreation Coordinator position from half-time to full-time. The FY2007-08 budget includes $6,500 in subsidies to eight different youth sports leagues and community groups. The Town should consider ending these subsidies and re-allocate these funds towards the salary for a full-time director.

The title of Recreation Coordinator is unusual for the lead position in a Vermont municipal recreation department. Typically, the Recreation Coordinator is responsible for the recreation programming and reports directly to a Recreation Director. Regardless of what the position is called, a salary survey should be conducted to ensure that the salary is comparable to the salaries offered by communities of similar size within Chittenden County.

Administration Recommendation #5 – Expand the Assistant Recreation Coordinator position to full-time and consider changing title to Program Coordinator
With the exception of Williston, the comparable communities have at least two full-time staff in the Recreation Department. This is typical for other communities within Chittenden County as well. As the Town of Milton looks to implement this 20-year recreation master plan and expand its recreation program offerings, it will be necessary to expand the Assistant Recreation Coordinator position to full-time. A salary survey should be conducted for this position to ensure that the salary being offered is competitive.

Administration Recommendation #6 – Increase Buildings and Grounds staff
Table 13 summarizes the number of park maintenance staff hours for every acre of neighborhood and community park land managed by the departments in the comparable communities. These communities maintain a variety of recreation parks and facilities and a more thorough analysis would be necessary to validate the need for additional park staff, on the basis of a comparison to the comparable communities alone. However, this does suggest that Milton should take a serious look at adding staff resources in this area.

Table 13
Comparable Communities – Park Staff

Community	Total Acres of Neighborhood & Community Parks	Park Staff	Total Staff Hours *FT=2080 hrs*	Park Staff Hours/acre of park
Essex	88.6	1 + 4 (.3)	4,576 hrs	51.6 hrs/acre
Williston	58.4	.5	1,040 hrs	17.8 hrs/acre
Milton*	174.5	1.5 + .25	3,640 hrs	20.9 hrs/acre
Hartford	70.8	3	6,240 hrs	88.1 hrs/acre
Springfield	25	1.3	2,704 hrs	108.2 hrs/acre

* Positions in the FY2007-08 budget included

Five years ago, the Milton Buildings and Grounds Department had two seasonal workers from April 1-November 1, working 20-30 hours a week each for a total of 50-60 hours of work time per week. In recent years, they have had one 40 hr/week employee for six months of the year that they share with the Public Works Department. The benefit of this arrangement is that you are able to maintain the same staff from one year to the next because they have a full-time job. The drawback is that the Public Works staff typically takes their vacation and accrued comp time during the summer months when the Buildings and Grounds Department needs them most. This has been a problem in Milton, just as it typically is in most communities who share a position with the Public Works Department.

The addition of a new part-time, seasonal position in the FY2007-08 budget will be a help but it is probably not enough. In every public forum and in the survey results, it was clear that the community would like to see better maintenance of the park facilities. As stated previously in this report, it is the opinion of the consultant, that the need for better maintenance is the result of a lack of resources rather than a reflection on the quality of work being performed by the current staff.

The National Recreation and Park Association published a book titled *Operational Guidelines for Grounds Maintenance*. Chapter 3 provides guidelines for calculating grounds staff requirements on the basis of two factors: (1) the type of area being maintained and the tasks associated with the maintenance, and (2) the amount of care and level of attention desired. An analysis of the required staffing levels required in the Buildings and Grounds Department should be made using these NRPA guidelines.

Administration Recommendation #7 – Evaluate the benefits of combining the Recreation Department and Buildings and Grounds Department into a Parks and Recreation Department
The desire for "one stop shopping" for your municipal parks and recreation needs in Milton was mentioned in some of the public meetings. It could be argued that a community's parks and recreation services are most efficiently delivered by a parks and recreation team, where both the facilities and programs are managed under one chief administrator. Generally speaking, the recreation division typically programs and schedules the facilities and the parks division maintains them; the work of one group is very directly impacted by the work of the other. It is critical that the two groups work closely together and towards common goals. This combined parks and recreation model provides a structure where one person is ultimately responsible for directing the delivery of the community's parks and

recreation services, and ensuring that the goals of the two functions are compatible and coordinated. It also provides one director who is responsible to establish the work plan, and make decisions during times when the priorities of the recreation division and the parks division may be in conflict. The NRPA publication *Management of Park and Recreation Agencies* (NRPA, 1999), suggests that it is key that one person be designated as top manager in charge of the organization and have overall responsibility for the management of all employees, direction and control of the operations, and administration of the organization (pp. 535).

Many communities choose this model, but for a variety of reasons, other communities choose to organize things differently. The Town of Milton has chosen to separate the two functions and assign the recreation program responsibilities to the Recreation Department and the recreation facility responsibilities to the Buildings, and Grounds Department. As the Town looks to implement this plan, it should evaluate the pros and cons of combining these two departments into one Parks and Recreation Department. The organizations in all four comparable communities include parks and recreation services under one umbrella.

Recreation Commission

In recent years the Milton Selectboard has not been able to fill the positions on the Recreation Commission. One former commissioner described his experience like this…*We'd sit around and chat, and then go home, with no work assignments between meetings, no contact with the Selectboard, and no sense that you were making any difference.*

Administration Recommendation #8 – Fill all five positions on the Recreation Commission The regular communication and systematic feedback from the community that is provided through the Recreation Commission is critically important to the successful operation of the Milton Recreation Department. This valuable resource needs to be more effectively utilized. The momentum created during the process of this master plan project should be capitalized upon to fill the two vacant seats with citizens who have a sincere interest in the implementation phase of this *20-Year Recreation Master Plan*.

Utilize the Recreation Commission to start implementing the recommendations in this plan. Assign the commission the task of holding a contest to name the park on the Bove property. Use the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission to develop a Management Plans for the Town's natural areas, beginning with Eagle Mountain. The Recreation Commission should present a Management Plan for Eagle Mountain to the Selectboard for adoption before the end of June 2008.

Take advantage of the momentum created with this project. There appears to be significant energy and community resources available to draw upon, but it will be lost if people don't see specific things being accomplished. The Recreation Commission can play an important role in gathering the community support needed to accomplish the recommendations outlined in this plan.

Administration Recommendation #9 - Improve communication between the Recreation Commission and other Milton Boards and Commissions
Communication is important to any successful operation. It is impossible for staff and board volunteers to participate on every committee/organization that is doing something relevant to recreation and leisure services in Milton. One fairly easy way to keep better informed about municipal issues and projects relevant to recreation in the community, is to assign members of the Recreation Commission to serve as "liaisons" to other municipal boards and committees doing work that may impact the Recreation Department. This assignment can be as simple as receiving the minutes of a specific committee and reporting any relevant information at the Recreation Commission meetings. Ideally, someone from the selected committees will agree to reciprocate and read the minutes of the Recreation Commission and

report any relevant information back to their respective committee. It would be helpful, particularly at the start, for Commission members to attend a meeting of their "assigned" (or preferably, "voluntarily chosen") committee to introduce themselves and the intent of the initiative. Acting on this recommendation would be a good way to begin sharing this Recreation Master Plan with the Milton community.

Board liaison assignments can be made for one year, and could be easily incorporated into the annual organizational meeting where the Recreation Commission officers are elected. Relevant committees to be considered for board liaisons include, but are not limited to, the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Development Review Board, Economic Development Commission, Library Trustees, and the Planning Commission.

The Budget

In comparison to the comparable communities, the resources available to the Milton Recreation Department are dramatically less than every other community.

Table 14
Comparable Communities – FY2006-07 Operating Budgets

Community	Parks and Recreation Budget			Total Town Budget*	Recreation % of Town Budget
	Total Budget	Non-Tax Revenue	Total Budget Minus Revenue		
Essex	$634,142	$244,474	$389,668	$7,079,000	5.5%
Williston	$262,610	$153,250	$109,360	$4,248,150	2.6%
Milton	$130,883	$1,642	$129,241	$3,519,407	3.7%
Hartford	$600,454	$160,500	$439,954	$8,775,978	5.0%
Springfield	$307,955	$5,000	$302,955	$6,581,705	4.6%

*Total town budget stated as total budget minus non-tax revenue.

Administration Recommendation #10 –
Increase the Recreation and Buildings and Grounds Department budgets
If the Town is serious about implementing the recommendations in this 20-year master plan and improving the level of service it provides in recreation programming and park facilities, it has no choice but to significantly increase the budgets of the Recreation and Buildings and Grounds Departments.

Administration Recommendation #11 – Develop a Ten-Year Capital Recreation Plan
The amount of money committed in recent years to capital recreation projects in Milton varies considerably from year to year. A long-range Capital Recreation Plan should be developed to produce a capital budget that is consistent from one year to next.

Administration Recommendation #12 – Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee
Many of the recommendations set forth in this plan have been made to meet the needs of the future population of Milton. It would be appropriate to help pay the cost of these improvements with monies collected through a recreation impact fee. The Town of Milton currently collects a combined impact fee and the departments request allocation of these funds for specific projects during the annual budget process. The option of an impact fee dedicated specifically to recreation should be explored to help implement this 20-Year Recreation Master Plan.

General Department

Administration Recommendation #13 - Work with the Milton Town School District to develop a Joint Facility Use Agreement

The MRD and the Milton Town School District currently share the use of facilities under their jurisdictions. It appears that this is working reasonably well but a formal agreement on the shared use of facilities might result in these public facilities being even more fully utilized by the community. It is recommended that the MRD and the School District work together to develop a formal Joint Facility Use Agreement that would establish written policies for the use of school facilities for park and recreational purposes after school hours, and use of the park facilities for school activities. This will help maximize the public benefit from existing resources.

Administration Recommendation #14 – Develop written goals and objectives annually

Establishing and routinely updating goals and objectives helps to ensure direction and unity of purpose and serves as a basis for measuring progress. Soliciting input from all staff in the development of the goals and objectives improves their relevancy and comprehensiveness, and it encourages the sense that all employees are important to the management and operation of the department. The wording of the goals should be clearly stated and specific, with a timetable set when each one is to be completed. The list should be visited regularly throughout the year to ensure that the work is accomplished as scheduled or the timetable is modified.

It is recommended that the staff of the Recreation Department and the Buildings and Grounds Department and Recreation Commission meet annually to establish specific goals for the next 1, 3 and 5 years. All staff members of the administrative team should be invited to attend. The recommendations outlined in this Master Plan should be considered as the framework for the department's goals and objectives.

Administration Recommendation #15 – Compile an Administrative Handbook

It is recommended that an Administrative Manual be compiled that includes all policies, rules and regulations, and operational procedures relative to recreation programming and park maintenance and operations. It should include fiscal forms, permits, charges and fees procedures, rentals, requisition procedures, inventories, and safety considerations. This manual should be kept up-to-date, reviewed systematically and be included as part of all staff training. No additional money is necessary to implement this recommendation; however staff time would need to be re-allocated.

Administration Recommendation #16 – On-going evaluation of community needs

Systematic feedback is important to any organization. Citizen input should be solicited regularly in all department publications and communications. It is recommended that a resident recreation survey continue to be conducted every 5 years. A statistically valid survey provides the most accurate information and should be conducted every 10 years. Something less formal and less expensive could be conducted at five year intervals. A variety of sampling options are available and costs can be reduced by being creative about how and what you choose to conduct. It is recommended that a survey of some sort be conducted again in 2011 and a statistically valid survey be conducted again in 2016.

A timetable for completing each of these recommendations, along with preliminary cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation is included in Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 6

PROGRAMS

Introduction

Programs are among the most direct way for park and recreation agencies to connect with people and to deliver information, activities, and other services. They are the life blood of community activity and engagement, and quality recreation programs contribute significantly to the overall quality of life in a community.

A well-rounded line-up of recreation programs should meet the following criteria:

- Include programs for all ages and abilities, and for all skill levels.
- Include programs for physical, intellectual, social, and creative growth.
- Include active and passive, indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Give consideration to activities that emphasize appreciation and understanding, as well as skill development.
- Provide opportunity for non-resident participation on a space-available basis.
- Provide for the leisure needs of special populations including senior citizens, single parents, physically and mentally handicapped, financially challenged, etc.
- Provide for varying degrees of personal involvement including opportunities for spectating, participating, and teaching/coaching.
- Capitalize upon local resources and cultural characteristics.
- Be as inclusive as possible. Involve participants in planning, administration (volunteers, judges, paid staff, etc.), and sponsorships.
- Be complementary to other recreational opportunities available in the community.
- Be in compliance with state and federal legislation relevant to participation in programs and services.
- Be flexible enough to adjust to ever-changing constituent needs.

Inventory

The Milton Recreation Department currently offers a limited, year-round program of recreation classes, activities and special events, for youth, families and adults. The programs are advertised in seasonal program brochures distributed in the *Milton Independent* and made available in a variety of locations throughout town. Seventy-eight percent of survey respondents said they hear about programs sponsored by the MRD in the *Milton Independent* and 38% said they learn about programs in the seasonal program brochures.

A complete listing of programs offered by the Milton Recreation Department during the twelve-month period from Summer 2006 – Spring 2007 is summarized in Figure 5 on the next page. The programs are listed by program type: youth, teen, family, adult and senior programs and special events. Details about the enrollment and program fees are provided. In most cases, program fees are established by adding a small fee, which is retained by the MRD, to the per student fee charged by the instructor. Generally speaking, a class is cancelled if there are not enough people enrolled to meet the minimum set by the instructor. During the fall of 2006, an unusually large percentage of the programs were cancelled when the school facilities became unavailable due to a serious mold problem.

Figure 5
Milton Recreation Department
Program Offerings – Summer 2006 through Spring 2007

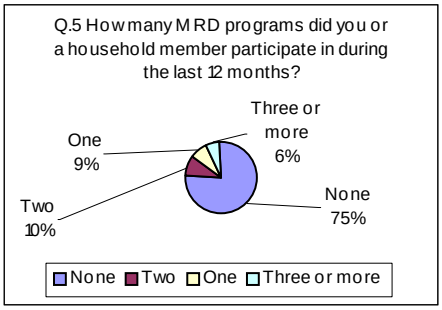
Program	Season	Fee	Max. Enroll	Enrollment, A=Average	Location
Youth Programs					
Youth Garden (drop in)	Summer 06	$3/day	none	13	Milton Family Practice
Summer Travelers -half day, 5wks	Summer 06	$15-$60/trip	25	A=13	Different each week
Explorer Camp (half day)	Summer 06	$85/wk	20	12	Bombardier Park
Make It Science Camp (full day)	Summer 06	$120/2 days	20	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
Extreme Sports Camp (half day)	Summer 06	$75/wk	20	Cancelled	Different each day
Gymnastic/Cheer Camp (half day)	Summer 06	$82/wk	30	9	Milton Elem. School
Art Camp (half day)	Summer 06	$65/wk	20	9	Milton Elem. School
Young Rembrandt's – 1 hour	Fall 06	$35/4 wks	15	15	Milton Elem. School
Cartooning – 1 hour	Fall 06	$35/4 wks	15	12	Milton Elem. School
After-School GymKids – 1.5 hrs	Fall 06	$43/6 wks	30	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
After School Bowling – 2 hrs	Fall 06	$67/6 wks	32	Cancelled	Yankee Lanes
Cake Decorating-Haunted House	Fall 06	$20	10	7	Milton Elem. School
The Weasel-Science (full day)	Fall 06	$130/2 days	20	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
Tot Gymnastics- ½ & 3/4 hrs	Fall 06	$52/8 wks	20	8	Community Room
Horseback Riding- 2 hrs	Fall 06	$82/ 4 wks	15	9	Westview Stables
Babysitting Safety Course	Fall 06	???	20	11	Community Room
Young Rembrandt's (1 hour)	Winter 07	$35/4 wks	15	15	Milton Elem. School
Cartooning (1 hour)	Winter 07	$35/4 wks	15	16	Milton Elem. School
After School GymKids – 1.5 hrs	Winter 07	$43/6 wks	30	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
After School Bowling – 2 hrs	Winter 07	$67/6 wks	32	Cancelled	Yankee Lanes
Flip & Cheer – 1.5 hrs	Winter 07	$65/4 wks	30	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
Flip 'n Fun (half day)	Feb vaca.	$82/wk	30	Cancelled	Milton Elem. School
Horseback Camp (full day)	Feb vaca.	$260/wk	15	Cancelled	Westview Stables
Tiny Tennis Camp – 3/4 hours	Spring 07	$35/3 wks	12	Cancelled	Bombardier Park
Tot Gymnastics	Spring 07	$29-41/4wks	20	Cancelled	Community Room
Pitch, Hit and Run – 3 hrs	Spring 07	Free	none	12	Bombardier Park
Teen Programs					
Intro to Guitar – 1 hr	Winter 07	$45/4 wks	10	9	Community Room
Guitar	Winter 07	$65/6 wks	10	8	Community Room
Family Programs					
Gingerbread Houses	Fall 06	$30	10	5	Community Room
Hunter Safety Class	Fall 06	Free	40	30	Milton Fire Station
Snowmobile Safety Class	Fall 06	Free	40	7	Milton Elem. School
Hunter Education – 3 hrs/6 wks	Winter 07	Free	40	40	Milton Fire Station
Boater Safety -2.5 hrs/3wks	Winter 07	Free	40	29	Milton Elem. School
Panoramic Sugar Eggs – 2 hrs	Winter07	$20	10	Cancelled	Community Room
Pet First Aid – 4hrs	Spring 07	$50	15	Cancelled	Community Room
Sports Safety Training – 4 hrs	Spring 07	$45	15	Cancelled	Community Room
Adult Programs					
Walks in the Park	Summer 06	$5	none	Cancelled	Bombardier Park
Hatha Yoga – 1.25 hrs	Winter 07	$60/6 wks	15	14	Community Room
Wildflower Walk – 2 hrs	Spring 07	$6	12	9	Eagle Mountain
Fondant Cakes – 2 hrs	Spring 07	$20	10	7	Community Room
Hatha Yoga – 1.25 hrs	Spring 07	$60/6 wks	15	8	Community Room
Senior Programs					
Casino Trip (full day)	Spring 07	$20-$27	52	Cancelled	Mohawk Casino, NY
Special Events					
Music in the Park	Summer 06	Free	unlim	100	Bombardier Park
Concerts in the Park	Summer 06	Free	unlim	A~50	Bombardier Park
Milton Day - Lake Monsters	Summer 06	$8	unlim	Cancelled	Burlington
Touch a Truck	Fall 06	Free	unlim	25	Town Garage
Easter Egg Hunt	Spring 07	Free	unlim	225	Bombardier Park
Kids Fishing Derby	Spring 07	$5	unlim	14	Arrowhead Lake
Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt	Spring 07	Free	unlim	75	Bombardier Park

Figure 6
Survey Results – Program Marketing

Q.4 How do you learn about programs offered by the MRD?	
The *Milton Independent*	78%
Seasonal program brochures	38%
Word of mouth	24%
Special flyers from school	19%
Other	5%
Department web page	3%

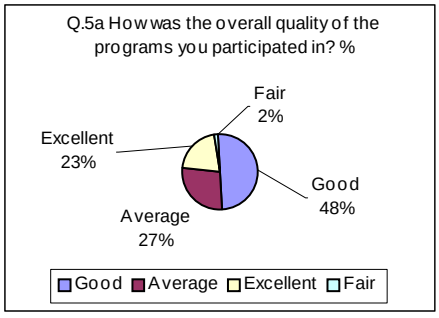
The MRD advertises its program offerings in a variety of ways. The survey results suggest that the *Milton Independent* is the most effective marketing tool. One out of four residents learns about programs through word of mouth. 38% learn about programs through the seasonal program brochures that are distributed in the *Milton Independent*. In recent surveys in Essex Town and Essex Junction, 73-77% of survey respondents learned about their recreation programs through the seasonal program brochures that are direct mailed to every home. It is reasonable to assume that the MRD could double the effectiveness of the seasonal program brochures if they mailed them directly to all Milton residents.

Figure 7
Survey Results-Program Participation



The survey results suggest that 25% of Milton residents have participated in at least one program offered by the MRD in the last twelve months. This is significantly lower than survey results in other Vermont communities where an average of 47% (range of 37%-58%) had participated in a program. This is not surprising given the limited number of programs that are currently offered.

Figure 8
Survey Results - Program Quality



71% of the survey respondents who had participated in a program found the quality to be good or very good. This finding is consistent with feedback provided in public meetings where people had generally positive comments about the recreation programs offered. In survey results from two other Vermont communities, 84% of respondents rated the program quality as good or very good.

Figure 9
Survey Results-Barriers to Participation

What prevents you and/or household members from using more programs?	
Don't have time	32%
No interest	25%
Scheduling problems	23%
Other	18%
I recreate elsewhere	15%
Hard to learn what is offered	14%
Too expensive	7%
Program was filled	3%
Transportation problems	2%

The number one reason survey respondents cited for not participating in more recreation programs was not having the time. In similar surveys conducted by the consultant, this is consistently the top answer. 25% of respondents had no interest in what was offered. The survey results suggest that program fees and transportation problems are not barriers to participation for Milton residents.

The 2006 Chittenden County Regional Plan cites the following recent trends and current characteristics of Chittenden County residents that may affect the demand for various types of recreation services and facilities:

- **Aging Population**– The number of elderly and their proportion of the County's total population is increasing, while the proportion of the County's total population who are 18 years old or younger is declining.
- **Increase in Non-Native Vermonters** – The number of people who were not born in Vermont and their proportion of the County's total population is increasing. Many of these new residents may have come from communities with more plentiful recreation resources, which may affect their expectations for recreation facilities and services in their new communities.
- **Increased Racial and Ethnic Diversity** – The proportion of the County's population that is White, Non-Hispanic has decreased in recent decades but remains greater than that in the U.S. This may affect the demand for different types of recreation programs and facilities.
- **People with Disabilities** – More than one in 10 people in the County have one or more disabilities. Although their proportion of the County's total population is smaller than in Vermont or the U.S. as a whole, people with disabilities benefit from special services, and accessibility features in buildings and recreation facilities that provide for public access.

Table 15
Comparable Communities
Summer 2007 Program Offerings

Program	Total # of Sessions				
	Essex	Williston	Milton	Hartford	Springfield
Day Camps	12	25	1	8	
Specialty Camps	28	25	6	12	18
Swim Lessons	38+		subsidy	43+	24+
Tennis	14	15	2	7	4
Track	7 wks	5 wks		7 wks	8 wks
Adult Programs	11	8		6	
Other Programs	8	1	2	5	
Concerts			5	16	

In comparison to the comparable communities, the Milton Recreation Department offerings fall dramatically short. It should be noted that this analysis includes a simple count of the programs offered and no attempt to make any comparisons between programs other than the number of sessions being offered, which served the purpose for which they were needed here.

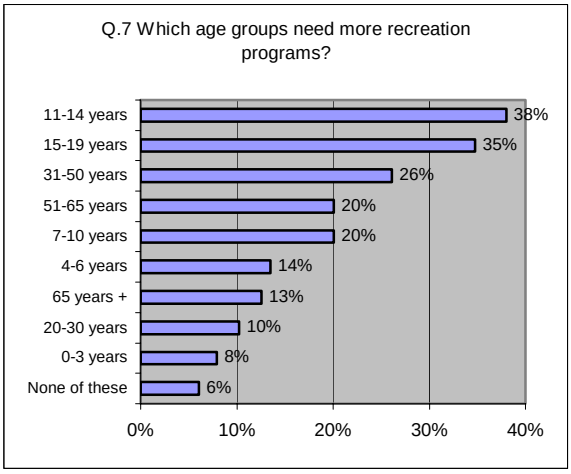
National trends, such as the following, have an impact on recreation program participation. Recreation program providers, such as the MRD, need to stay tuned into these ever-changing trends and plan their programs accordingly.

- Because of improved health and fitness, as well as lifestyle changes, people are participating in recreation activities to older ages. People are also retiring at younger ages with relatively high disposable incomes. There is an increased demand for less active outdoor recreation pursuits and facilities (golf, walking, gardening, etc.). As the number of retirees increases, there will be more marginally fit recreation users, and more demand for mid-day recreation programs.
- Interest in the environment is increasing and people are seeking a more active role for themselves in environmental protection and conservation, which manifests itself as a community-wide interest in environmental preservation and open space. Consequently, trends indicate that the participation rate for outdoor recreation will continue to grow.
- At the same time, global warming is impacting outdoor recreation. Warm weather activities will last longer; cold weather activities will be shorter.
- Electronic communication innovations have created interactive opportunities for recreation, through the Internet, World Wide Web, etc. Effectively, this has meant that new technology increases and diversifies recreational activities. With this increased opportunity comes a

concurrent need for quality service in all recreational programming and facilities in order to maintain competitiveness.

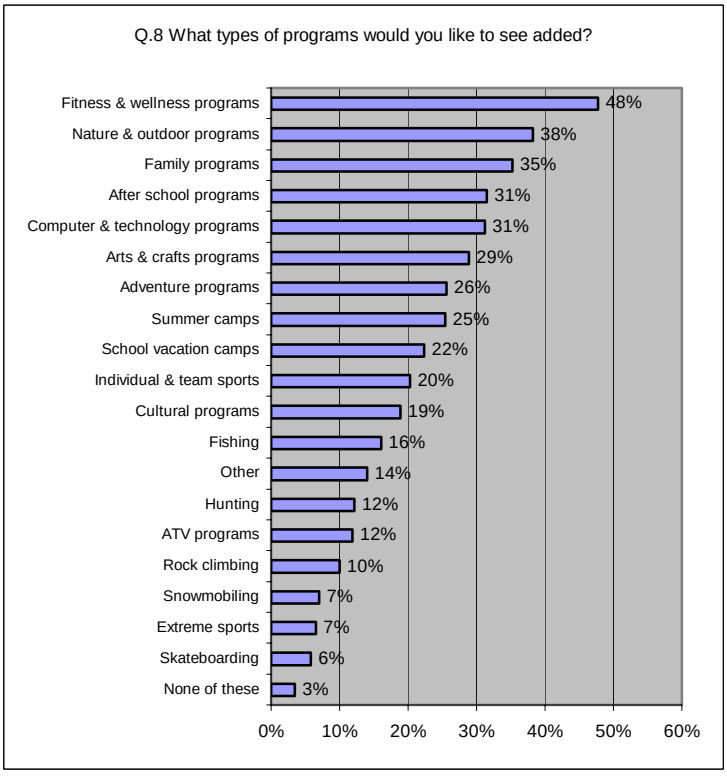
- According to a 1997 Gallup Leisure Track Survey, many Americans consider time to be their scarcest resource, due to the increase in dual-income households and demanding work schedules. Dual-income households and flexible work schedules create more flexible recreation and travel patterns. Due to increased demands on limited spare time and the fact that households are generally busier with work and home life responsibilities, trends point to more discretionary activities which do not require scheduling.

Figure 10
Survey results – Age Groups Needing Programs



Survey respondents said that teens and adults are most in need of more recreation programs.

Figure 11
Survey Results – Types of Programs Needed



The five program areas that respondents would most like to see added are fitness and wellness (48%), nature and outdoor (38%), family (35%), after-school (31%), and computer and technology (31%). As new programs are added, these types of programs should be considered a high priority.

Recommendations

Program Recommendation #1 – Offer more programs
The survey results show that three out of four Milton residents had not participated in any programs offered by the MRD in the last year. A comparison to the comparable communities shows that Milton is seriously behind in the number of recreation program opportunities that it offers residents. Adding more programs should be a high priority for the MRD. The survey results suggest that teen and adult programs should be added first. As the Milton population ages, more programs for older adults and seniors should be added too. As new programs are planned, residents would like to see the following types of programs added: fitness and wellness, nature and outdoor, family, after-school, and computer and technology.

The MRD should establish goals for increasing the (1) number of programs and (2) total number of participants on a seasonal and annual basis.

Program Recommendation #2 – Collaborate with existing organizations and business in Milton to increase recreation program opportunities
As the MRD works to increase the number of programs it offers, it should be creative and look to collaborate with local organizations and businesses, much like the arrangement they currently have with the Westview Stables. Possibilities such as offering swim lessons at Sand Bar State Park, youth and adult golf lessons and camps at Arrowhead Golf Course, and punch cards to Ultimate Fitness should be explored. These types of partnerships are mutually beneficial relationships and typically offer opportunities to residents that might not otherwise be available.

Program Recommendation #3 - Direct mail seasonal recreation brochures to every postal address
The survey results suggest that the MRD could significantly increase the effectiveness of its seasonal program brochures by direct mailing them to every postal address in town. The department should works towards this goal as the number of recreation programs increase. The added cost to do this could be subsidized by adding a small fee to every registration fee and/or selling commercial advertising for the brochure.

The current brochure looks to be a great community resource. Including the contact list for all the recreation and leisure service organizations is a very good idea. Including programs offered by the Milton Public Library and other Milton groups makes it convenient for residents to get a good picture of the variety of recreational opportunities available in town. The consultant found it difficult at times to know which programs the MRD was sponsoring and which were sponsored by outside groups; this could easily be presented in a way that would make it clearer. It is recommended that more attention to this be paid in the future.

Recommendation #4 – Offer online program registration
The MRD needs to be working towards offering online registration for recreation programs. Several municipal recreation departments in Vermont have added this service in recent years. Departments that offer the convenience of online registration, find that up to 50% of registrations are made online. In addition to the added convenience to residents, this significantly decreases the amount of traffic flow in and out of the office. A web registration module is available for the RecTrac registration software that the MRD plans to begin using in 2008.

Program Recommendation #5 - Ensure that every resident has an equal opportunity to participate in recreation programs.
Despite the fact that the community of Milton enjoys a higher median household income than the state average, like any community it is not immune from having households living below the poverty level. Every resident, child and adult, should have an equal opportunity to participate in the recreation programs offered by the community recreation department. The MRD currently provides a confidential

scholarship program where reduced program fees are approved for Milton residents upon request, on an individual basis. The $2,000 available for this seems to be adequate for the number of scholarships currently being requested. At some point, it may become desirable to identify an alternative funding source, such as special fundraising event or sponsorship by a local service group, rather than subsidizing this with tax dollars.

The seasonal program brochures published by the MRD clearly state that the Town is committed to accommodating residents with special needs and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The current language does a nice job reminding residents that extra effort will be made to adapt programs to meet the needs of all participants, and invites people to contact the department if they have questions about needing special services. Coordination with the School District, particularly with the guidance department and special education staff, can help to attain a greater level of service in this area.

Program Recommendation #6 – Develop a written Pricing Policy for recreation programs.
The MRD has an unwritten policy that program fees are set to cover 100% of the direct costs related to each program. This is standard practice for municipal parks and recreation departments in 2007. The Recreation Commission and staff should work together to develop a written Pricing Policy. After drafting a policy, the Recreation Committee should take it to the Selectboard for adoption. During this process, decisions should be made about a variety of different issues including but not limited to:

- Are there any kinds of programs where you want to recover less than 100% of the direct costs, for example, senior programs, safety programs such as hunter/boating safety, CPR and first aid, swimming lessons, etc?
- Do you want to recover any of the indirect costs related to the program, such as printing and mailing the seasonal program brochures, the administrative office supplies, part of the program supervisor's salary and benefits, or facility maintenance costs, etc?
- How do you provide financial assistance to families and individuals with financial need? Is this available to adults and families or only children? How do you fund this assistance?

A sample of a Pricing Policy from the Hartford, VT Parks and Recreation Department is included in Appendix I.

Program Recommendation #7 - Establish a Program Fund to account for all recreation program revenues and expenditures.
It is difficult, if not impossible, to anticipate the number and types of recreation programs that you will want to offer a year and a half down the road. Trends change and public interest in particular activities may grow or diminish tremendously from one year to the next. A private business may close down and the MRD may decide to offer new programs to fill the void left by the closing. The summer recreation program staff may be extraordinary one year and twice as many people may want to register next summer. Knowing exactly what programs you will want and/or need to offer a year ahead and consequently staying within the program expenditures approved in the general fund budget, often limits the number of recreation programs that can be offered, even when more programs might be needed and 100% of the program expenses could be covered by program user fees.

It is recommended that a Recreation Program Fund be established to handle all funds received and paid out for recreation programs administered by the MRD. With this program fund, you may offer unlimited programs as long as the program revenues cover 100% of the program expenses. In other words, if you have enough people interested in a program to offer additional sections, you can handle the increased expense because you will have increased revenues. Fund balances carry over from one fiscal year to the next, offering additional benefits when summer program revenues are received prior to July 1st in one fiscal year, but the program expenses are incurred after July 1st in the next fiscal year. Communities who use this approach, often present the Program Fund summaries during the budget process and in

municipal reports, even though they have no impact on the town budget or taxes. This option should be explored by the MRD.

A timetable for completing each of these recommendations, along with preliminary cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation is included in Chapter 8.

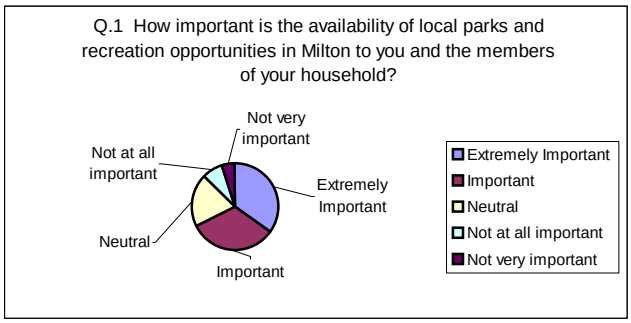
CHAPTER 7

RECREATION LANDS AND FACILITIES

Introduction

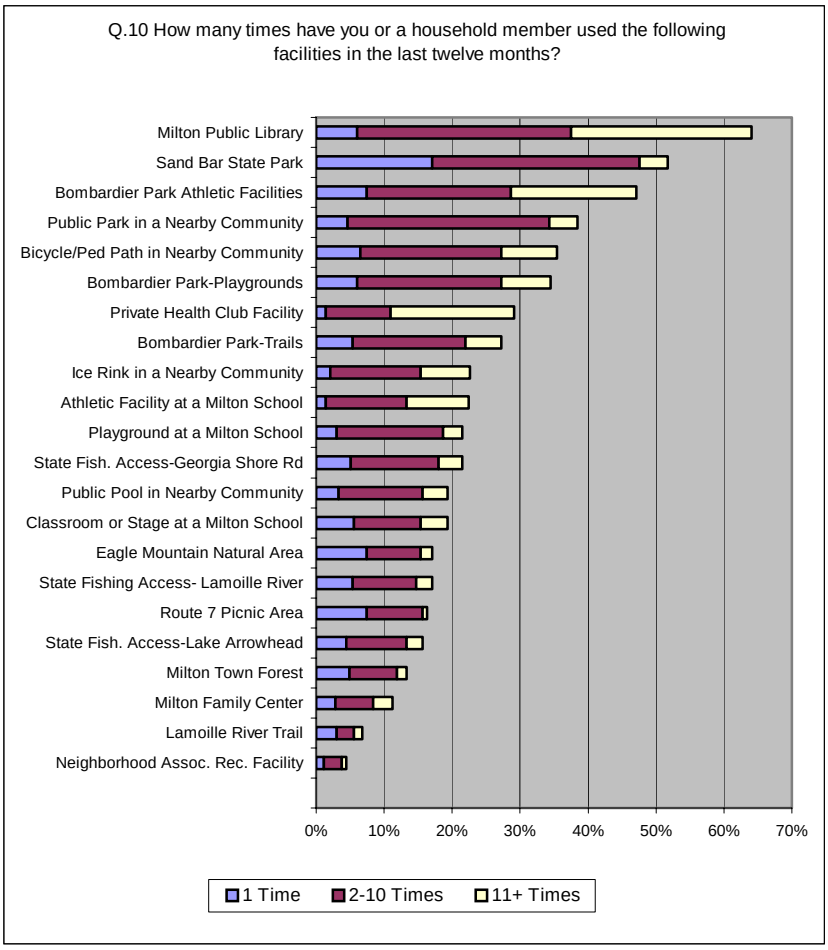
The availability of close-to-home recreation facilities is important to the people who choose to live in Milton. In the 2006 recreation survey, respondents in two out of three households said that the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton is important to them.

Figure 12
Survey Results – Importance of Recreation



Through good fortune and thoughtful planning, the Town of Milton has continued to expand its inventory of recreation facilities as its population has grown. The Town acquired Milton Pond in 1969 and Bombardier Park in 1981, and in 1998 the 226-acre Eagle Mountain Natural Area adjacent to Lake Champlain was donated to the Town by the Lake Champlain Land Trust. Most recently, the Town purchased a 135 acre parcel adjacent to the Town Forest known as the Bove Property.

Figure 13
Survey Results-Facility Use in Last 12 Months



As shown in Figure 13, the Milton Public Library was the most visited leisure facility in the last twelve months. Slightly more than half of Milton residents had used Sand Bar State Park and almost half had used Bombardier Park for its athletic fields, nearly 20% had used the fields eleven or more times. Four out of ten residents had used a park in a nearby community and 35% had used a bicycle/pedestrian path in a nearby community. One out of every three Milton households had used Bombardier Park for its playgrounds in the last year and slightly less than one-third of residents had used the trails at Bombardier Park. Three out of ten Milton residents used a private health club in the last year, and nearly one out of five used it on a regular basis.

Recreation Land Classifications and Definitions

Parks and recreation classifications/definitions are often used as a guideline depicting how various types of facilities are used and the common amenities included within. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) classifications/definitions described in *Park, Recreation, and Open Space Guidelines (1983)* and *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines* (1996) were used as a reference for some of the following definitions. While at one time these guidelines were thought to be almost standards, there has been a shift away from these quantitative guidelines over the last 20+ years, to a more qualitative approach where the unique resources of the community and the desires of the citizens guide the strategic planning process. Perhaps for lack of any other acceptable quantitative guidelines, they are often still referred to as part of the process of assessing a community's recreation needs. These classifications are not meant to be used rigidly, but rather to give guidance and insight in inventorying the Town's recreation lands and facilities, and in assessing the recreation needs of the Milton community.

Neighborhood Park
A neighborhood park serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood and ideally there is a neighborhood park located within a ¼ to ½ mile radius of every residence. The overall space is designed for impromptu, informal, unsupervised active and passive recreation as well as intense recreational activities. These parks are generally small, approximately one to ten acres in size. Since these parks are located within walking and bicycling distance of most users, they may or may not have parking facilities available. Typical amenities found in a neighborhood park might include playground equipment, picnic tables, trails, open grass areas for active and passive uses, tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, and multi-use sport fields for soccer, baseball, etc. *The Town of Milton does not currently have any developed neighborhood parks.*

Community Park
A community park serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park, while also serving a neighborhood park function to residents who live close-by. The purpose of community parks is on meeting community-based active, structured recreation needs as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The design is for organized activities and sports, although individual and family activities are also encouraged. Generally, the size of a community park ranges between ten to fifty acres. Community parks serve a much larger area, and are more often accessed by vehicle, bicycle, or public transit, than by walking, and therefore require more support facilities such as parking and restrooms. Typical amenities might include sports fields for competition, picnic facilities for larger groups, skate parks and inline rinks, large destination-style playgrounds, swimming facilities, space for special events, recreational trails, and outdoor education areas. The NRPA guidelines suggest that the service area of a community park is a 1-2 mile radius. *Bombardier Park is a community park.*

Regional Park/Recreation Area
Regional parks serve the entire community and beyond. They are usually large and often include a specific use or feature that makes them unique. Typically, their use focuses on a mixture of active and passive activities, and sometimes offers a wider range of amenities and activities. The NRPA guidelines suggest that the service radius for a regional park is one hour driving distance. *Examples of regional parks in Milton include Sand Bar State Park and the State Fishing Access Sites.*

School Recreation Areas
The recreational lands and amenities available at school sites often serve neighborhood and community park functions in addition to meeting the needs of the students. Amenities typically available include playground equipment, sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, and open space for non-structured play. Public access varies depending on whether or not school is in session, and school amenities may be unavailable for general public use during school hours. The School Recreation Area category is not included in the NRPA classifications but is included here to describe the recreation assets available at the

Milton schools and included in the inventory of public recreation facilities available in the Town of Milton. *The indoor and outdoor facilities at Milton Elementary School and Milton Jr/Sr High School are used widely by the community for recreational purposes.*

Natural Area/Regional Park Reserve
This category includes areas developed to provide aesthetic relief and physical buffers from the impacts of development, and to offer access to unique natural resources and landscapes. A natural area may serve one or several specific purposes, and generally offers more passive recreation opportunities. Typical amenities include trails, picnic facilities, community gardens, waterfront access, and occasionally even sports fields. NRPA used the term "Regional Park Reserve" for natural areas and suggested a service area of one hour driving distance. *Examples of natural areas in Milton include Eagle Mountain Natural Area and the Town Forest.*

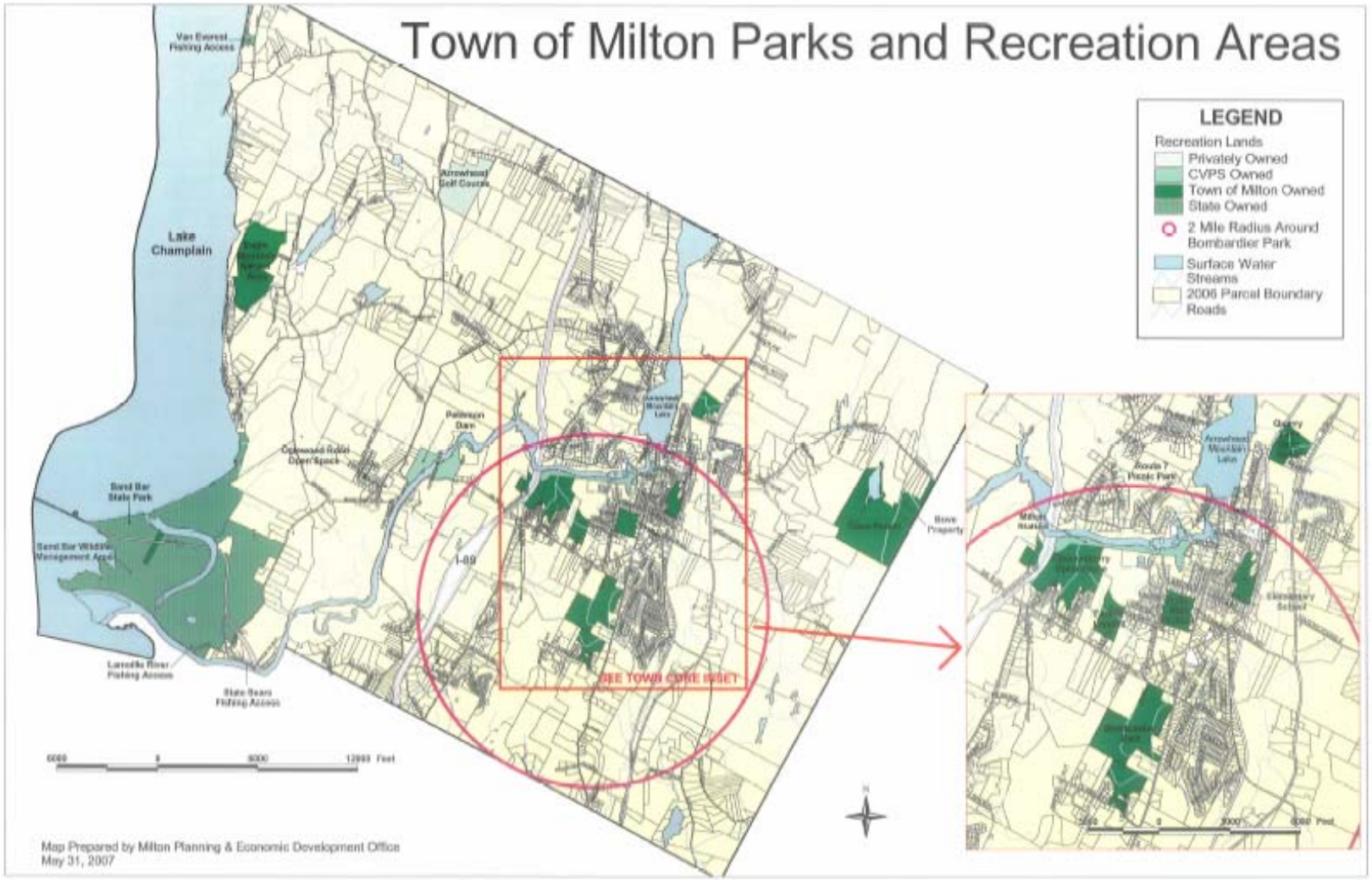
Undeveloped Open Space
Communities often own parcels of undeveloped lands that serve as valuable passive recreational resources, while remaining available for more intentional future recreational use. Undeveloped open spaces may be forested or agricultural lands, and are sometimes located in wetlands or floodplains. As is often the case, some of the Town's undeveloped open space lands are located within developed neighborhoods. *Examples include town-owned parcels within the Oglewood and Quarry Lane neighborhoods.*

Inventory

The facilities managed by a community's recreation and parks department are just a portion of the recreation and leisure facilities available to its residents. The recreation lands and facilities associated with the Milton schools are included in the inventory of indoor and outdoor recreation because resident children and adults enjoy use of them during and after school hours, making them valuable community recreation assets. Other public and privately owned recreation facilities have also been included to provide a full picture of the recreational amenities readily accessible to Milton residents; these facilities often have a user fee connected with their use and may require a reservation or membership.

A map of the recreation lands available in Milton was prepared by Regina Mahony, Milton Planning Director, and is included on the following page. The parcels are color-coded to identify lands that are Town-owned, State-owned, owned by Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS), and privately owned. A two-mile service circle has been drawn around Bombardier Park; in accordance with the 1983 NRPA guideline suggesting the service area of a community park is a 1-2 mile radius.

Three inventories of recreation facilities located in Milton follow. They are an inventory of outdoor recreation sites, an inventory of the various recreation facilities and amenities available at each of these outdoor recreation sites, and an inventory of indoor recreation sites available in Milton. A detailed description of each outdoor and indoor recreation site, listed in alphabetical order, follows the inventories.


Town of Milton Parks and Recreation Areas
LEGEND
Recreation Lands
Privately Owned
CVPS Owned
Town of Milton Owned
State Owned
2 Mile Radius Around Bombardier Park
Surface Water
Streams
2006 Parcel Boundary
Roads
Lake Champlain
Van Everest Fishing Access
Arrowhead Golf Course
Patterson Dam
Oakwood Road Open Space
Sand Bar State Park
Sand Bar Wildlife Management Area
Lamoille River Fishing Access
State Bears Fishing Access
I-89
SEE TOWN CORE INSET
Route 7 Picnic Park
Quarry
Elementary School
Map Prepared by Milton Planning & Economic Development Office
May 31, 2007

Town of Milton - Inventory of Outdoor Recreation Sites

Classification	Site Name	Acreage	Total Acres
Note: Refer to the classification definitions on the preceeding pages.			
Neighborhood Parks:			
	None at this time		0
Community Parks:			
	Bombardier Park *	174.05	174.05
School Recreation Areas			
	Milton Elementary School **	12.50	
	Milton Junior/Senior High School **	22.50	
	TOTAL		35.00
Natural Areas:			
Town Owned:	Bove Property	134.80	(inc. 83.1A in Westford)
	Checkerberry Parcels/Lamoille River Walk	107.67	
	Eagle Mountain Natural Area	226.00	
	Milton Town Forest	350.00	
	Beeman Preserve (w/in SandBar WMA)	15.00	
	Total		833.47
State owned:	Sand Bar Wildlife Management Area (WMA)	1560.00	
	TOTAL		2393.47
Regional Parks:			
CVPS Owned:	Milton Station/Lamoille River Walk **	4.00	
	Route 7 Picnic Park	1.70	
	Peterson Dam **	0.50	
State Owned:	Sand Bar State Park	15.00	
	Fishing Access: SandBar (within SandBar WMA)	inc. above	
	Fishing Access: SandBar W.M.A. (w/in SandBar WMA)	inc. above	
	Fishing Access: Lamoille River (off Cub/Gravelle Road)	5.00	
	Fishing Access: Lamoille River-Sears (off Cub/Gravelle Road)	1.38	
	Fishing Access: Van Everest (Georgia Shore Rd)	9.55	
	TOTAL		37.13
Undeveloped Town-owned Open Space:			
	Oglewood Drive Parcel	0.80	
	Quarry Lane Parcel	39.78	
	Former Landfill	16.70	
	TOTAL		57.28
Private (open to public)			
	Arrowhead Golf Course**	~35.00	
	Arrowhead Senior Center	0.94	
	Milton Family Community Center	3.35	39.29

* Total acreage includes 131A of recreation land in main parcel and 43.05A in adjacent parcel to the south.

** Acreage information includes only the acres estimated to be in recreation use.

Town of Milton - Inventory of Outdoor Recreation Facilities

	Regulation Baseball Field	Regulation Softball Field	Youth baseball/softball Fields	Running Track	Trails (Formal / Informal)	Horseback Riding	Soccer/Field Hockey/Football/Lacrosse/Multi-Use Fields	Tennis Courts	Basketball Courts	Skate/Scooter/Bike Park	Horseshoe Pits	Sand Volleyball	Playgrounds	Swimming Pool(P) / Beach(B)	Ice Rink - Outdoor	Outdoor Performance Stage	Picnic shelter / Gazebo	Restrooms / Portalets(P)	Snack bar / Concession	Picnic Tables	Boating/Fishing Access	Camping	Golf	Parking (# of spaces)	Future Recreation Site
Municipal Recreation Sites in Milton																									
Town Owned																									
Bombardier Park	2	3	1		F		8	4	1	1	17	1	2		1	1 *	1	1	1	11				~200	
Bove Property					I																			No	
Checkerberry Parcels (2 adjacent parcels)					F																				
Eagle Mountain Natural Area					F																			~4-6	
Milton Town Forest					F																Yes			No	
School District Owned and Operated																									
Milton Elementary School			3				2						2					1							
Milton Junior/Senior High School	2	1		1			7											1							
Undeveloped Town-Owned Open Space																									
Landfill																									1
Oglewood Drive Parcel																									1
Quarry Lane Parcel																									1
TOTAL	4	4	4	1	5	0	17	4	1	1	17	1	4	0	1	1	1	3	1	11	1	0			3
Regional Public Recreation Sites																									
Sandbar State Park													1	B			1	1	1	lots	Yes			400	
State Fishing Access - Georgia Shore Road																		1 (P)			Yes			25	
State Fishing Access - Lamoille River																		1 (P)			Yes			40	
State Fishing Access - Lamoille River (Sears)																		1 (P)			Yes			15	
State Fishing Access-SandBar																					Yes			35	
State Fishing Access - SandBar W.M.A.																		1 (P)			Yes			10	
CVPS Property: Milton Station																				1	Yes			10	
CVPS Property: Route 7 Picnic Park																				4	Yes			10	
CVPS Property: Peterson Dam																					Yes			3	
Private Recreation Sites (available to public)																									
Arrowhead Golf Course																						Yes			

NOTES:

In addition to the 8 existing fields at Bombardier Park, there are an additional 5-6 new fields anticipated to be ready in Fall 2007. These have been developed to allow for field rotation and should not be considered as 5-6 extra fields.

* Planned for completion in 2007

Town of Milton - Inventory of Indoor Recreation Facilities

	Basketball Courts	Gymnasium	Dance/Fitness Studio	Fitness Equipment	Auditorium	Performance Stage	Indoor Meeting Space	Library	Cafeteria/Dining Area	Kitchen		
Municipal Recreation Sites in Milton												
Town Owned												
Bombardier Park							1					
Milton Public Library							1	1				
Milton Town Office Building							2					
School District Owned												
Milton Elementary School	2	2				1	Lots	1	2	1		
Milton Junior/Senior High School	1	1.5		yes	1		Lots	1	2	1		
Private (available to public)												
Arrowhead Senior Center							1		1	1		
Milton Family Community Center							?			?		
Ultimate Fitness			1	yes								

Facilities Owned by the Town of Milton

Bombardier Park

Location: 43 Bombardier Road, within the Town Core
Size: 185 acres, approximately 175 acres in recreation use
Classification: Community Park
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: Bombardier Park is the centerpiece of organized and leisure recreation activities in Milton. The park has both large open fields with developed athletic fields and recreation facilities, as well as wooded areas with a 3+ mile trail system. A portion of the VAST (VT Association of Snow Travelers) cuts through Bombardier Park. The area surrounding the park includes single-family homes along portions of the eastern and southern boundaries; undeveloped, forested lands to the west; and the Town Office, Police, Fire, and Rescue Buildings along the northern part of the park. This community park is often described as having three distinct sections, with each having its own access point; the east side of the park with the tennis courts, picnic pavilion, etc. off Middle Road, the main part of the park behind the Town Office Building where the majority of the ballfields, soccer fields and skatepark are located, and the most recently acquired portion of the park which is mostly wooded and wetland and accessible from the Lela Mae Place neighborhood off Cobble Hill Road. All three parcels are contiguous and throughout this report will simply be described as the east or west side of the park. Federal funding through the LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) was granted in 1984 and 1991 to help develop some of the existing facilities. In accepting these LWCF funds, the town committed to maintain the eastern "Middle Road" portion of Bombardier park as public recreation land in perpetuity, and the land is encumbered with a designated federal 6(f) boundary.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- 2 baseball fields
- 3 softball fields
- 1 youth ballfield
- 3+ mi. trail system
- 8 multi-use fields
- 4 tennis courts
- 1 basketball court
- 1 skatepark
- 1 sand volleyball court
- 17 horseshoe pits
- 2 playgrounds
- 1 outdoor ice rink
- 1 picnic shelter
- 1 restroom
- 1 indoor meeting space

Recommendations:

- Repair structural cracks on the tennis courts
- Upgrade safety surface on the playgrounds
- Improve maintenance of existing fields and facilities
- Repair and paint existing restrooms/meeting room on the west side of the park
- Re-do the park signage, designating this park as Bombardier Park
- Develop a Master Plan for Bombardier Park
- Reconfigure and pave the parking lot on west side of park
- Develop an irrigation plan for all 20 athletic fields
- Implement a turf maintenance program on all athletic fields
- Add more equipment and benches to the playgrounds in the east side of the park
- Add windscreens and new backboards to the tennis courts

- Add new elements to the Skate Park and make it a multi-use (skate, scooter, and bike) facility
- Add more picnic tables and BBQ grills to the picnic facilities on the east side of the park
- Build restrooms on the east side of the park
- Consider building a small "Spray-ground" in the east side of Bombardier Park, to provide a close-to-home opportunity for water play within the Town Core
- Improve parking lot on west side of park
- Clearly mark the boundaries of this property
- Improve trails and trail signage
- Explore the possibility of developing a BMX course at Bombardier Park
- Construct a roof over the horseshoe pits and add lights
- Purchase land adjacent to Bombardier Park, if the opportunity arises

Bove Property

Location: Westford Road, in the eastern portion of Town
Size: 134 acres, including 83.1 in the Town of Westford
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Reserve
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: This site was acquired by the Town in 2006 and is currently undeveloped. The land is heavily forested with stands of both evergreen and deciduous trees, and contains significant areas of wetland. An informal trail system exists on this site and it is apparent that this land is currently being used by all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). Access is available off Westford Road via an unmarked, rustic, overgrown road. No formal parking is currently available. The area around this property is largely wooded and undeveloped with the exception of a few homes along the frontage of Westford Road. Foot access to the adjacent Town Forest is available from the Bove Property, although no formal trail system exists.

Recreation Features and Amenities:
- An informal trail system.

Recommendations:
- Choose a name for the park
- Complete a natural resource inventory and assessment
- Develop and adopt a Management Plan, balancing use and protection to ensure the long-term ecological health of this unique natural area.
- Clearly mark the boundaries of this property
- Construct a parking area
- Improve the trails and trail signage
- Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head
- Promote use of this site for interpretive programs and educational experiences

Eagle Mountain Natural Area

Location: Cold Spring Road, in the northwest portion of Town
Size: 226 acres
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Preserve
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: The Eagle Mountain property was donated to the Lake Champlain Land Trust by the Hoyt Family (115 acres) and the

Vermont Electric Cooperative (111 acres.) In 1998 the Lake Champlain Land Trust donated the 226 acre parcel to the Town of Milton with a conservation easement held by the Land Trust. This natural area contains a network of marked trails. Its 500-foot high cliffs are the highest elevation on Lake Champlain. In addition to stunning views, the property supports diverse plant and animal life. The land contains an extensive sugar maple and ironwood community and upland white cedars in the higher elevations. A rare plant, golden corydalis, is found on the enriched rocky ledges of the property. Uncommon animal species such as coyotes, barred owls, silver-haired bats, purple finch and red fox make this land home. For more than forty years, residents have enjoyed hiking, skiing, and snowshoeing on this property. There is evidence of existing horseback riding also, although this is not an allowed use at this time. Access is available for 4-6 cars in a small pull-off area along the side of Cold Spring Road.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- A series of short connecting, loop trails
- Views of Lake Champlain, Mount Mansfield and the Green Mountains

Recommendations:

- Implement a Management Plan based on the recommendations in the *Assessment, Recommendations, and Management Plan for the Eagle Mountain Natural Area* (LIA Consultants, December 2000), balancing use and protection to ensure the long-term ecological health of this unique natural area.
- Clearly mark the boundaries of this property
- Construct a parking area
- Improve the trails and trail signage
- Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head
- Promote use this site for interpretive programs and educational experiences
- Investigate obtaining conservation easements on adjacent properties, if opportunities arise

Milton Town Forest

Location: Westford Road, in the eastern portion of town
Size: 350 acres
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Preserve
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: In the heart of the Milton Town Forest is the 24-acre Milton Pond, formerly the town's source of drinking water from 1923 to 1993. The Town purchased this area from the Milton Water Corporation in 1969. A timber sale of hardwood trees greater than 12 inches in diameter in 1986 netted the Town $40,000, and the logging roads left after the two-year logging operation provided the framework for the present trail system. The Selectboard designated the area a municipal forest in 1991, at the recommendation of a Milton Pond Study Committee, and in 1993 the Town Charter was revised to include a mandate that the Town Forest be maintained "by using proper forest and wildlife practices". In 1997, Milton was awarded a $5,000 Recreational Trails Grant to provide access and upgrade trails at this site. In 1998 a Vermont Youth Conservation Corp (VYCC) crew made trail and drainage improvements and a community volunteer group created a trail around the Pond.

The topography of the forest is hilly, with elevations ranging from 840 feet above sea level at Milton Pond to 1,200 feet at the forest's southern boundary. A steep north-south ridge bisects the property, separating the pond to the west from a large beaver wetland to the east. The pond, forests, and beaver wetland may support up to 25 species of amphibians and reptiles, 87 species of birds, and 39 species of mammals.

Current uses of the forest include hiking, dog walking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, ATV-ing, camping, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- Informal, unmarked trail system, including a trail around the pond
- Views of Mount Mansfield and the Green Mountains
- A "low hazard" earth dam approximately 300' long and 10' wide with a concrete spillway.
- Signed pedestrian access to the Town Forest and Milton Pond, across a Vermont Land Trust conservation easement on the adjacent Plunkett property

Recommendations:

- Work with adjacent property owners to secure permanent easements for a parking lot and foot trail access to Milton Pond.
- Survey the park, during the growing season, for rare plant species.
- Develop and adopt a Management Plan for this property based on the recommendations in the *Assessment, Recommendations, and Management Plan for the Milton Municipal Forest* (LIA Consultants, July 2003), balancing use and protection to ensure the long-term ecological health of this unique natural area.
- Clearly mark the boundaries of this property.
- Construct a parking area if an agreement can be reached with an adjacent property owner.
- Improve the trails and trail signage, as recommended in the LIA report.
- Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head.
- Hire a professional engineer to evaluate the condition of the dam and recommend improvements.
- Promote use of this site for interpretive programs and educational experiences.

Checkerberry Parcels

Location: Ridgefield Drive, within the Town Core
Size: 107.67 acres in two contiguous parcels; a third parcel to the west is owned by the town but separated by Interstate 89.
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Preserve
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: In 2002-03, the Town began the development of a scenic and quiet 1.5-mile-long foot trail, linking this town-owned property in the Checkerberry neighborhood with CVPS's Milton Station hydroelectric facility at the end of Ritchie Avenue. The trail is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2007. This semi-rugged trail across varied topography runs through woods and fields and includes several overlooks above the Lamoille River. The Milton Conservation Commission flagged the original path. The Vermont Youth Conservation Corp and CV "Green Team" provided much of the labor to clear trees and underbrush, build bridges, and install step stones and trail markers. The trail work by the VYCC was funded through a grant from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The Town of Milton maintains this recreation path known as the Lamoille River Walk. Parking is available at CVPS Park on River Street and in an unmarked pull-off at the end of Checkerberry Square. This little natural area is a unique, peaceful place right in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- Marked trail system.

Recommendations:

- Construct a wooden kiosk and trailhead sign at both ends of the trail.
- Construct a small parking area at the Checkerberry end of the trail.
- Continue to maintain these trails and trail signage on a regular basis.
- Sustain a good relationship with CVPS to ensure long-term access to this property.

Former Landfill

Location: Landfill Road, just off Route 7, within the Town Core
Size: 16.7 acres
Classification: Undeveloped Open Space
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: The Milton Town Landfill was closed and capped on December 30, 1992. The site is currently being used as a Chittenden Solid Waste District drop-off center for household trash, and is open on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays.
Recreation Features and Amenities: None at this time.

Recommendations:
The Trust for Public Lands published a Forum Paper in 2006 suggesting that former landfills are so appropriate for conversion to parks that recreation planners should not wait until they are closed to get involved. Converting an old landfill almost always requires more time and planning and may include some complex issues, but these challenges are not insurmountable. Several hundred communities across the United States have developed recreation facilities on old landfills.

- Evaluate the use of the former Milton Landfill for a dog park.

13% of survey respondents listed a dog park as one of their top three choices for new recreation facilities they would like to see in Milton. The results are consistent with survey results in other Vermont communities, and will likely increase as the population rises and new housing development consumes available open lands. People want places where their dogs can run freely, and communities across the country now provide public areas where this opportunity can be provided safely. The City of Burlington, VT has two dog parks.

Oglewood Drive Parcel

Location: Oglewood Road, in the western portion of town
Size: 0.80 acres
Classification: Undeveloped Open Space
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: This is a classic neighborhood park parcel, located in the midst of a developed neighborhood, and bordered by homes on three sides. The land is relatively flat and wooded.

Recreation Features and Amenities: None at this time.

Recommendations:

- Work with the neighbors to develop a neighborhood park on this parcel of land.

Quarry Lane Parcel

Location: Quarry Lane neighborhood, in the northeastern corner of the Town Core
Size: 39.78 acres
Classification: Undeveloped Open Space
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: This relatively large parcel of town-owned land is wedged between the backyards of ten homes located in the Quarry Lane neighborhood and along North Road, and the railroad tracks. Existing access is along an informal grassy road located between two homes on Quarry Lane. The land is relatively flat with a stream running through it; it sits on the top of a hill overlooking the neighborhood. There is evidence of existing trail use. The land is partly open and partly wooded, with a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees.

Recreation Features and Amenities: None at this time.

Recommendations: None at this time. This land has the potential to be developed into a neighborhood park however it is located up a hill behind several homes, with limited access off Quarry Lane, making it less than an ideal site for public park land. It is unlikely that the neighbors would be supportive of building a public park here, but this option could be explored in the future if the desire grows for additional neighborhood parks.

Milton Public Library

Location: 43 Bombardier Road, in the Town Office Building
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: The Milton Public Library was established in 1898. In July of 1995, the Library moved into the new municipal complex on Bombardier Rd. The Library is operated as a public lending facility with a book collection oriented to all ages and interests. In addition to classics and popular reading, the Library provides periodicals and newspapers, videocassettes, DVD's, audiocassettes, audio compact discs, large print books, municipal information, tax forms, word processing and internet computers. It also offers interlibrary loan service and sponsors informational and cultural programs, basic computer classes, and reading incentive activities for both children and adults.

Recreation Features and Amenities: Quiet space for reading, relaxation, and participation in library programs. The citizen survey results suggest that the Milton Public Library is visited by more Milton residents than any other leisure facility in town.

Recommendations:

- Continue to include listings of the youth and adult programs offered by the public library in the MRD seasonal program brochures.

Milton Town Office Building

Location: 43 Bombardier Road, within the Town Core
Ownership: Town of Milton
Description: In 1995, a new Town Office Building was built at the front of Bombardier Park. This building houses the offices of the Town Manager, the Recreation Department, and most other municipal

departments. The Community Room and the Public Works Dept. Conference Room are available for community meetings, by reservation, through the Town Manager's Office.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- Recreation Department
- Milton Public Library
- community meeting room, 100+ chairs
- Small conference room, 10 chairs

Recommendations:

- None at this time.

Facilities Owned by the Milton Town School District

Milton Elementary School

Location: 42 Herrick Avenue, within the Town Core
Size: Approximately 12.5 acres in outdoor recreation use
Classification: School Park
Ownership: Milton Town School District
Description: Milton Elementary School houses grades Pre-K through 6. Approximately eleven hundred students are enrolled at the school. The original building was constructed in 1957. In 1979 another two wings and a gymnasium were added to the school. In 1998 another large addition was added to house the 5th and 6th grades, and a second gymnasium and new cafeteria were added. In addition to a wide variety of physical education and recreational activities being offered to students during and after school, many community activities are also held at the school's indoor and outdoor facilities. The School District and Recreation Department staffs work closely together to coordinate scheduling of meeting spaces, gymnasiums, and outdoor fields.

Recreation Features and Amenities

- 2 gymnasiums
- 3 youth ballfields
- 2 multi-purpose fields
- 2 indoor basketball courts
- 2 playgrounds
- Multiple classrooms/ meeting spaces
- 2 cafeterias
- 1 performance stage
- 1 library

Recommendations:

- Work with the School District to develop a Joint Use Agreement that outlines formal policies and procedures for the shared use of school and recreation facilities.
- If lands adjacent to the school become available, work together with the School District to do a cost/benefit analysis for shared used of the land.

Milton Junior/Senior High School

Location: 17 Rebecca Lander Drive, within the Town Core
Size: Approximately 22.5 acres in recreation use
Classification: School Park
Ownership: Milton Town School District

Description: Approximately 800 students attend Milton Junior/Senior High School. Junior high students (grades 7 and 8) and high school students (grades 9-12) are housed in two different parts of the building. Similar to the Elementary school, this public school site is frequently used by various community groups for meetings, plays, fund-raisers, and social gatherings. The athletic facilities are used predominantly for school related activities but are occasionally used for non-school recreational purposes.

Recreation Features and Amenities

- 2 baseball fields
- 1 softball field
- 1 running track
- 7 multi-use fields
- 1 basketball court
- 1 library
- 1 ½ gymnasiums
- Fitness equipment
- Multiple classrooms/ meeting spaces
- 2 cafeterias
- 1 auditorium

Recommendations:

- Work with the School District to develop a Joint Use Agreement that outlines formal policies and procedures for the shared use of school and recreation facilities.
- If lands adjacent to the school become available, work together with the School District to do a cost/benefit analysis for shared used of the land.

Other Publicly-Owned Recreation Lands

Sand Bar State Park

Location: Route 2 just before crossing the Sand Bar, in the southwestern portion of town
Size: 15 acres
Classification: Regional Park
Ownership: State of Vermont
Description: Sand Bar State Park opened in 1933 and was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, a nationwide public works program created during the great economic depression of the 1930s. The original 10-acre park included a small campground on the south side of the highway. As U.S. 2 became a busier and faster road, camping that close to it, and crossing back and forth, was neither desirable nor particularly safe. In 1970, a land swap gave the former campground, now a fishing access area, to the Fish and Wildlife Department and brought the park to its present 15-acre size. The useable length of the beach was doubled and the picnic area, newer bathhouse, and long parking lot were built as the park expanded east onto land acquired from the refuge. Today at Sand Bar, the smooth, sandy lake bottom remains shallow well out from shore, making this an ideal swimming spot for children. The uninterrupted length of sandy beach, good water quality in this section of Lake Champlain, and well-kept facilities in an attractive setting combine to make Sand Bar the most visited day park in the state.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- 2,000' sandy beach
- 1 playground area
- 1 group picnic shelter
- 40+ picnic tables and BBQ grills
- food concession
- small boat rentals and access

Recommendations:

- Investigate the possibility of offering summer swimming lessons to Milton residents at Sand Bar State Park.

Sand Bar Wildlife Management Area

Location: Route 2 just before crossing the Sand Bar, in the southwestern portion of town
Size: 1,560 acres
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Preserve
Ownership: State of Vermont
Description: Sandbar Wildlife Management Area (WMA) borders Lake Champlain on either side of Route 2. Most of its 1,560 acres are a refuge with no public access. However, the upland portion of the WMA northeast of Route 2 is open for public use, as is Delta Island. One may also boat along the Lamoille River and in nearby Lake Champlain, or drive along Route 2 and stop at pull-offs there. Sandbar State Park and the Sandbar Causeway to South Hero are other areas from which one may observe wildlife in the refuge. The WMA is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. The Town of Milton owns a 15-acre parcel of land, called the Beeman Preserve, in the middle of the Sand Bar WMA.

Recommendations: None at this time.

State Fishing Accesses (5)

Location: The State of Vermont owns and operates three public fishing access areas in the Town of Milton: the Van Everest site on the Georgia Shore Road, the Lamoille River site and the Sears (Lamoille River) sites about a mile from the mouth of the river, and two sites in the Sand Bar Wildlife management Area.
Classification: Regional Park
Ownership: State of Vermont
Description: The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains over 180 developed access areas throughout Vermont. These sites provide public access to waters for shore fishing and launching of water craft, and some are equipped with universal shore fishing platforms that provide improved access for anglers with disabilities and of all ages.

Recreation Features and Amenities: These facilities are available at the Milton sites:

Lamoille River – concrete ramp and parking for 40 cars.
Sears (Lamoille River) – universal access fishing platform and parking for 15 cars.
Van Everest – gravel/concrete ramp and parking for 25 cars.
Sand Bar – parking for 35 cars at the site across from Sand Bar State Park and parking for 10 cars at the small site just east.

Recommendations: None at this time.

Central Vermont Public Service (CVPS) Recreation Sites (3)

Location: CVPS owns three different properties with public recreation amenities in Milton. They are located at the Peterson Dam, Milton Station, and on Rte 7 between Arrowhead Dam and Milton Station.
Classification: Natural Area/Regional Park Reserve

Ownership: Central Vermont Public Service, an independent and investor-owned energy company
Description: As part of the dam licensing process, CVPS has developed and maintained several recreation sites along the Lamoille River, three of these sites are located in Milton. These sites provide for public access to the river and include parking, picnic tables, and shoreline access.

Recreation Features and Amenities: Amenities at the Milton sites include:

- Route 7 Picnic Park (owned by CVPS and maintained by the Town of Milton)
  4 picnic tables and 10 parking spaces.
- Milton Station – trailhead for Lamoille River Walk, 1 picnic table, boat ramp, 10 parking spaces.
- Peterson Dam – walkway to shoreline fishing and canoe access, 3 parking spots.

Recreation enhancements are scheduled for all three sites during the summer of 2007.

Recommendations

- Continue to work with CVPS to ensure the long-term availability of these recreation facilities.

Privately Owned Facilities

Arrowhead Golf Course

Location: 350 Murray Avenue, in the northern portion of town
Size: 160 acres, approximately 35 acres in the golf course
Classification: Private Recreation Site with Public Access
Ownership: Private, Tom and Janet Goodwin
Description: The 9-hole golf course at the Arrowhead Golf Course is a public course. The course features nine par-3 holes and a driving range. Golfers can join for the season or pay per game, with rates available for 9 and 18 holes of play, weekday and weekend/holiday rates. The Arrowhead Golf Course opened in 1997 and is available for sale in May 2007.

Recreation Features and Amenities:

- 9-hole golf course
- driving range
- practice green
- food concession

Recommendations:

- Collaborate with Arrowhead Golf Course to offer youth and adult golf lessons to Milton residents.

Arrowhead Senior Center

Location: 50 Middle Road, in the Town Core
Ownership: Private, 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation
Description: The Arrowhead Senior Center is a well-used community meeting place. The Arrowhead Senior Club meets regularly on the 3rd Thursday of each month for a

maintenance program on the existing fields. In addition to maximizing use of the fields throughout the year, this will result in consistently better playing surfaces.

Table 16
Milton Youth Sport League Participation

Sport	Number of Participants				Comments
	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Babe Ruth Baseball		23	15	15	Numbers down, difficult to compete with lacrosse & summer vacations.
Little League Baseball	372	370	372	348	Need better field maintenance, cleaner restrooms & regularly available snack bar.
Youth Football	100 +/-10	100 +/-10	100 +/-10		Biggest challenge is dedicated practice space. Need to formalize field schedule for practice and games.
Youth Hockey	68	68	48		The big reason for drop in numbers is the traveling involved with the practices. Town needs an ice rink.
Youth Lacrosse	40	40	45	50	Need 2 youth fields w/fences behind end lines.
Youth Soccer - Fall	369	325	329		Numbers relatively stable despite addition of rec. football and lacrosse, in 2006 didn't have girls U-14 team. Need more field space for more practice time and more space between fields. Expect to follow national trend of increasing participation.
Youth Soccer - Spring	156	149	115	150	
Youth Wrestling	12	18	26		Expect growth to continue, need space.

A comparison of the town's recreation lands to national guidelines and the inventories of the four comparable communities and three other neighboring communities, suggests that Milton is rich in community park land and natural areas, but lacking in neighborhood parks.

Table 17

Town of Milton - Inventory of Outdoor Recreation Lands
In Comparison to Other Vermont Communities and NRPA Guidelines

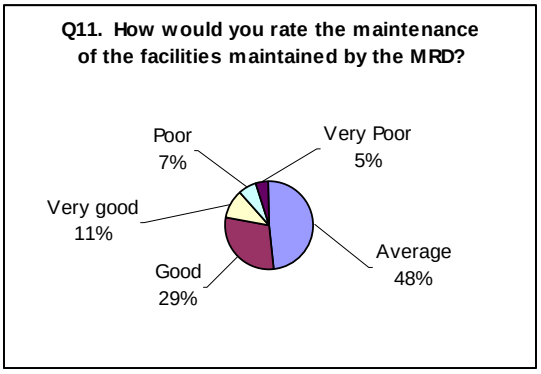
		Neighborhood Parks			Community Parks			Natural Areas		
Community	pop. [1]	#	Acres	A/1,000	#	Acres	A/1,000	#	Acres	A/1,000
Colchester	17,165	3	2.25	0.13	4	117.5	6.9	4	187	10.9
Essex Junction	8,841	2	18.2	2.1	1	38	4.3	0		0
Essex Town	10,305	4	9.89	0.96	4	59.9	5.8	8	627.76	60.9
Hartford	10,822	0		0	7	70.8	6.5	5	177	16.4
Milton	**10,169**	**0**		**0**	**1**	**174.05**	**17.1**	**3**	**818.5**	**80.5**
South Burlington	16,993	4	7.96	0.47	5	254.59	15.0	6	267.95	15.8
Springfield	8,891	1	3	0.34	2	22	2.5	3	377	42.4
Williston	8,243	0		0	3	58.4	7.1	3	172.26	20.9
NRPA suggested standard [2]				1-2 Acres per 1,000			5-8 Acres per 1,000			Variable, no guideline

[1] 2005 population estimates prepared by US Census Bureau

[2] *Recreation, Park and Open Space Guidelines* , National Recreation and Park Association, 1983

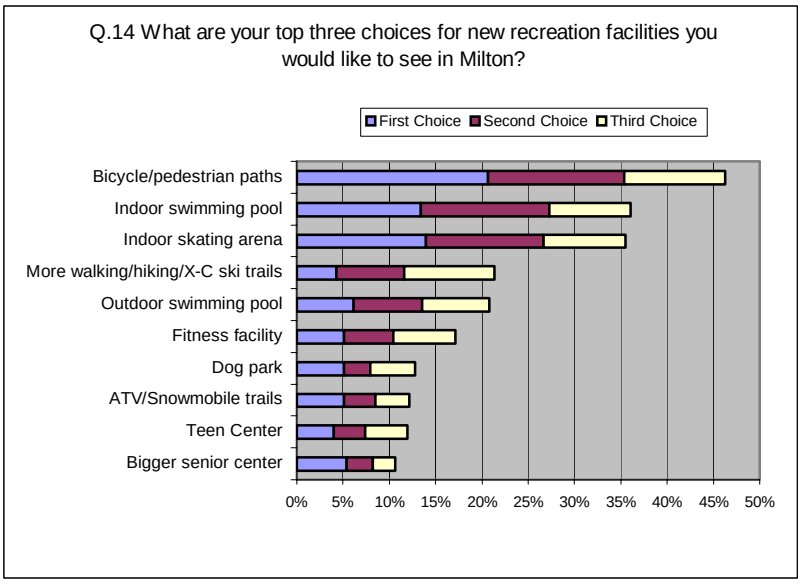
NOTE: These calculations do NOT include any recreation areas on school grounds.

Figure 14
Survey Results – Quality of Maintenance



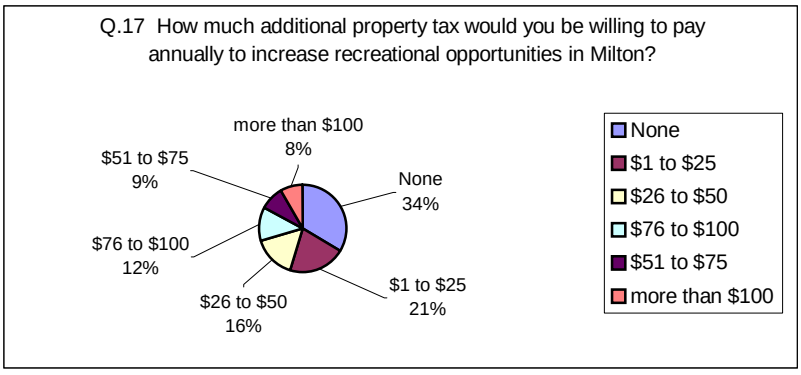
Better maintenance of existing park facilities in Milton was cited as a high priority in nearly every public forum. The quality of the maintenance of the recreation facilities maintained by the Town was rated as good or very good by 40% of survey respondents; 48% rated it as "average" and 12% found the maintenance to be "poor" or "very poor". In comparison to survey results conducted by the consultant in six other Vermont communities, the level of satisfaction with the maintenance of the Town's recreation facilities is significantly lower than every other community. For more detail, see the survey benchmark data in Appendix H.

Figure 15
Survey Results–Top Choice New Recreation Facilities



New recreation facilities that residents would most like to see in Milton are bicycle/pedestrian paths, an indoor swimming pool, and an indoor ice arena. These survey results are shown in Table 15. The need for these facilities was also mentioned repeatedly in meetings. The 40+ seniors who participated in the Senior Focus group were clear that they very much need an indoor swimming pool and an indoor, easily accessible place to walk throughout the year.

Figure 16
Survey Results – Willingness to Pay



The survey results suggest that 2 out of 3 Milton residents would be willing to pay more taxes to increase recreational opportunities and 1 out of 5 would be willing to spend more than $75 annually.

Buying additional public land is not a priority for the residents of Milton at this time. The survey results show that 3 out of 4 people would not be willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for public recreation or open space preservation. And yet, residents recently approved the purchase of the Bove property with funds other than new property taxes. One might reasonably conclude that people like preserving lands for future generations but don't want to pay additional taxes to do it. Once these open lands become developed, they are lost forever. Creative approaches should be pursued to acquire additional recreation and open space lands, as well as shoreline access, at the least expense to Milton residents. As parcels of land become available that are suitable for future recreation facilities, particularly lands adjacent to existing facilities, they should be seriously considered for acquisition.

Figure 17
Survey Results- Rec. Land

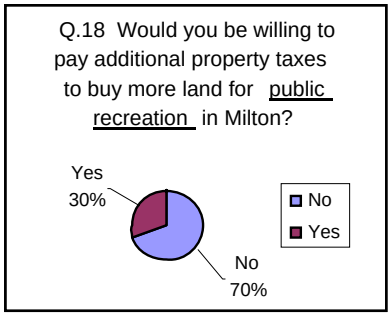
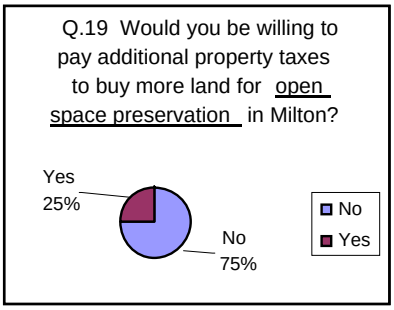


Figure 18
Survey Results- Open Space



It is concluded that Milton needs to:

- Commit additional resources to better maintain its recreation facilities.
- Enhance existing facilities.
- Adopt and implement Management Plans for its natural areas.
- Plan and build an inter-connecting system of bicycle/pedestrian paths and sidewalks.
- Study the feasibility of building an indoor community recreation center in Milton.
- Build neighborhood parks.

Recommendations

The Town of Milton is fortunate to own five large parcels of recreation and open space lands. In comparison to the comparable communities, Milton has more acres of park land and natural area per 1,000 people than any other community. But when it comes to resources to maintain and improve these lands, Milton falls seriously behind.

Throughout this process, Milton residents were clear that they want to better maintain and improve the existing public recreation lands before building new facilities. Survey respondents would choose to allocate their recreation monies in the following way: 46% on better maintenance and improvements to existing facilities, 22.5% on land acquisition, 26.5% on construction of new facilities, and 5% in miscellaneous other ways. Placing a priority on improving the existing facilities before starting anything new was repeated over and over in the public forums. The facility recommendations reflect this desire.

At least in recent years, the Town of Milton has committed fewer resources to municipal park and recreation services than neighboring communities and communities of similar size in other parts of the

state. The survey results suggest that 2 out of 3 Milton residents would be willing to pay more taxes to increase recreational opportunities and 21% would be willing to spend more than $75 annually. These results, and several comments made during the public meetings, suggest that residents would approve money for recreation improvements if they like the proposed project.

The consultant attempted to balance the extensive recreation wish-list of residents with the community's spending history, in an effort to develop a list of recommendations that would be realistic and achievable. First priority was given to protecting existing facilities, then enhancing existing facilities and lastly adding new ones.

In this section of the report, the facility recommendations are listed by site. For example, all the recommendations for Bombardier Park are listed together regardless of the timetable for completing the work. The timetable for completing the recommendations, along with cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and the people who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation, are included in Chapter 8. The recommendation number listed with the facility recommendations in this chapter match the list in Chapter 8.

Facility Recommendations #1-3
Choose a color scheme for the park system
The fashion in which your facilities are presented does much to affect your customers overall impression. A color scheme for the Milton Park system should be selected. This color scheme should be used consistently in all the parks, for the park signs, buildings, amenities, and even the trash cans. The restroom/concession building at Bombardier is currently an eyesore. It is scheduled for renovations in 2009 but it should be painted, using the new color scheme, as soon as possible. The picnic pavilions at Bombardier Park should also be painted using the new color scheme.

Facility Recommendation #4
Develop Signage Plan for the Park System
Park signage is important to the overall appearance of a park. The existing park signage is outdated and inconsistent. As the MRD sets a course to make improvements to existing park facilities, a plan for new park signs should be developed and new signs installed. Signs describing general park rules should be posted at all major park entrance points; ideally one regulatory sign can be developed that would be appropriate for all parks to provide a consistent message from park to park.

Facility Recommendation #5
Develop a Master Plan for the Bombardier Park parcel
In addition to the community park, the Town Offices, Fire, Rescue, Police and Library are located on the Town land on Bombardier Road. The Town has plans to add a new Public Works Building, perhaps with a recreation component. The community has been clear that they want an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, an indoor track, and an ice rink in Milton, and that an indoor community recreation center is a top priority. Clearly this is much more than the offices/community meeting space/craft room/kitchen that has been contemplated as part of a new public works building. While a new craft room/classroom would meet existing needs of both the Recreation Department and the Library, it seems unrealistic to propose a new Public Works/Recreation facility when the community is asking for much more than just meeting space. Options to use meeting spaces in the Arrowhead Senior Center, schools, churches, etc. should be explored to meet the immediate needs for additional meeting spaces.

The Town should develop a master plan for the Bombardier parcel that includes the new Public Works Building and reserves space for a future indoor community recreation center. If a conference room/classroom were incorporated into the plans for the Public Works building, it would relieve existing scheduling pressures and incompatible uses in the Town Office community room, and would definitely

be a great resource for Recreation Department programs. The Master Plan should include space for a 65,000-90,000 square foot indoor recreation center and the related parking space. These numbers are derived from two recent Vermont indoor recreation projects. The original plans for an indoor recreation facility in South Burlington called for a 64,547 sq. ft. building and the plan recently completed for a regional recreation center in Rutland specifies a 105,000 sq. ft. building. If the Master Plan calls for relocating any athletic fields, courts, etc., it would be advisable to include the cost of completing this work in the total project cost for the Public Works Building, and if at all possible, complete this work on a timetable that will provide the relocated field before the existing field is out of commission.

The safety and efficiency of the existing parking spaces on the west side of Bombardier Park need to be evaluated and re-worked if necessary, with the recommendations of this report in mind. It would seem cost effective to complete this work as part of developing the Master Plan for Bombardier Park.

Facility Recommendation #6
Install new Bombardier Park signage
Begin installing the new park signs at Bombardier Park. Install signs at the entrances to both sections of the park identifying it as Bombardier Park.

Facility Recommendations #7-12
Develop an irrigation and turf maintenance plan for the athletic fields at Bombardier Park
A regular maintenance program is necessary to maintain safe, high quality recreation facilities. A turf maintenance program should include a four-step fertilization program and aeration one to two times a year. Guidelines for a quality turf management program are included in Appendix J. It is impossible to maintain quality turf without the ability to water it during the hot summer months. It is recommended that irrigation systems be installed on all the athletic fields at Bombardier Park, with two fields being irrigated at a time, beginning in 2008. Note that it will not be possible to implement these important recommendations without additional Buildings and Grounds staff.

Ideally, the Milton School District will choose to embark on a similar plan for their athletic fields. If all these fields are irrigated and well maintained, and the Recreation Department and School District continue to work together to coordinate the use of fields, given the population projections for school-age children in Milton, it seems reasonable to assume that there will not be a need for more athletic fields during the next twenty years. But this decision is based on the assumption that the community will commit the resources necessary to develop and maintain the recommended improvements on the existing facilities.

It is unique to have so many fields in one location, and because of this Milton is fortunate to be asked to host large jamborees and tournaments, drawing as many as 5,000 people. Sometime in the next twenty years, the Town should consider upgrading one of the fields at Bombardier into a multi-use premier field with lighting and seating. It would appear that the athletic fields at Bombardier Park are located far enough away from any nearby homes to make this a good site for a lighted field without over-burdening the neighbors.

Facility Recommendation #13
Renovate restroom/concession building at Bombardier Park
The Town's 2008-2013 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) calls for a renovation to the existing bathroom/concession building at Bombardier Park in 2009. This facility is definitely in need of refurbishment.

Facility Recommendations #14-15
Improve parking area at Bombardier Park

The Town's 2008-2013 CIP calls for paving the road into Bombardier Park in 2009, to eliminate the need to grade this road 8-12 times each year. The CIP calls for parking lot improvements in 2009 also. As mentioned above, the existing parking configuration should be evaluated prior to any paving improvements.

The Town has considered the possibility of establishing a park-and-ride facility as part of the parking area for Bombardier Park. At first glance this seems like a good idea, particularly given that parking for the recreation facilities is most needed during the evenings and weekends and most commuter parking would be needed during the week day hours. However, issues such as possible weekend and early evening conflicts, overnight parking, etc. should be explored further before making this decision. Sharing this site with a park-and-ride facility might be a good way to obtain outside funding for the parking improvements needed for the recreation facilities.

Facility Recommendations #16-17
Make electrical enhancements at Bombardier Park
The 2008-2013 CIP calls for adding electricity to the existing picnic pavilion on the east side of Bombardier Park and also in the outdoor performance structure that is under construction. These improvements will help to maximize use of these important community resources.

Facility Recommendations #18-22
Develop a regular maintenance program for the tennis courts at Bombardier Park
It is important to have a program of regular maintenance on court facilities, to maintain a high quality playing surface and to maximize the longevity of these important recreation assets. The tennis courts at Bombardier Park have serious structural cracking problems around every net post. Some of these cracks are open as much as one-half inch. These cracks need to be taken care of immediately to minimize further damage. Given the fact that the best solution would cost in excess of $10,000 and it does not appear that this is currently available, the cracks should be filled with sealer until the membrane material can be installed at a later date. Each fall, the courts should be thoroughly inspected and all hairline cracks should be filled with sealer. This annual maintenance is critical to the long-term condition of the courts.

The CIP allocates $24,500 in 2009 for windscreens, new backboards and lighting at the existing tennis courts. The consultant has concerns about the impact of the lighting on the adjacent homeowners. Because of this and a lack of evidence that there is a pressing need for additional court time, it is recommended that the Town add the new backboards and windscreens; but use the money allocated for the lights to make a more permanent repair on the structural cracks and re-coat the courts which will be needed by then. Adding lights at this facility should be planned at a future time, after additional tennis programs are offered and use of the courts increases.

The life expectancy of a tennis court is 25-30 years. It is reasonable to expect that sometime in the next twenty years, these courts will need to be replaced or at a minimum, repaved. Because the courts appear to be well built, well-drained, and in relatively good shape other than the cracking problems around the posts, in is likely that the Town may be able to add a new lift of pavement rather than completely rebuild the courts. The US Tennis Association currently has money available to assist communities with these types of projects; hopefully it will continue to be available into the future.

Facility Recommendation #23-25
Develop a plan to regularly maintain and improve playgrounds
The existing playground safety surface material does not meet accepted safety surface guidelines. Twelve inches of manufactured wood chips is an acceptable safety surface, bark mulch is not. Adding the proper material over the existing mulch would cause the new material to deteriorate faster than normal so the

existing material should be removed before the new material is added. This should be done as soon as possible.

The 2008-2013 CIP includes $38,000 for playground improvements/upgrade to the playground on the east side of Bombardier Park. During this process, residents suggested further improving that side of the park into more of a "family-centered" destination with a better playground, benches around the playground, more picnic tables, BBQ grills, etc. The existing playground has some nice features but it looks as though it was never finished. There is plenty of room within the existing wooden curbs to add more playground equipment.

The CIP includes $8,000 to install fencing between the new playground by the restroom/concession building and the adjacent ballfield. It is recommended that different landscape options be explored before installing a metal fence. At Airport Park in Colchester, an earth berm planted with scotch pines, provides a good barrier between the ballfields and the playground.

Facility Recommendation #26
Add new multi-use elements to the Skate Park
The need for more elements in the skatepark, appropriate for a wider variety of users was cited as a need in several meetings. The Town should commit to making the skatepark a more inviting multi-use board/BMS/scooter/in-line skate park and add several pieces of new equipment. The equipment should be portable so that it can be removed and stored elsewhere during the winter months when the court is used for an outdoor skating rink. A park with more "streetscape" features would work well here. Keeping youth physically active takes some creative out-of-the-box thinking these days but it is more important than ever. With rising childhood obesity rates, communities can't afford not to invest in projects like this. Each year the National Sporting Goods Association conducts a survey on sports participation. The 2005 youth survey showed skate boarding increased by 177% between 1995 and 2005, nearly ten times more than any other sport, lending additional support to building a fun place to skateboard in Milton.

Facility Recommendations #27-31
Further develop the east side of Bombardier Park
The need for restrooms on the east side of Bombardier Park was stated over and over. The CIP includes $75,000 to do this in 2009. The availability of restrooms and upgrades to the playground will be a good start to developing this side of the park into a family-friendly destination park. It is recommended that more picnic tables and BBQ grills be added along with a spray-ground or similarly fun water feature. At some point during the next twenty years, a wood plank fence should be installed around the parking lot, as it is on the other side of the park. The 2002 Recreation Long-Range Plan calls for a roof over the horseshoe pits and lights. These improvements would primarily benefit the local Horseshoe Club and it appears that this is not a priority for them at this time. If that changes, the Town should collaborate with them to obtain funding for this project.

Facility Recommendation #32
Survey & clearly mark the park boundaries of Bombardier Park
Before making any trail improvements, the boundaries of the park should be clearly marked, some surveying may be needed to accomplish this. The blaze marks should be maintained on a regular basis so that they are not lost and trail users can easily see whether the park land ends.

Facility Recommendations #33-34
Improve trails and trail signage on the Bombardier Park Trails
Approximately three miles of trails currently exist throughout the wooded areas on the west side of Bombardier Park. They need to be maintained on a regular basis and signs need to be installed.
The 2002 Recreation Long-Range Plan calls for exploring the feasibility of building a BMX course in Bombardier Park. As with trails on all the Town parcels, trail work can be completed by volunteers, staff,

VYCC crews, or a combination. The Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission should develop and/or review any plans for trail improvements. A plan should be put in place to maintain these trails regularly.

Facility Recommendation #35
Purchase adjacent land for future recreation use
There are parcels of land on either side of Bombardier Park that are relatively flat and open and ideal land for future recreation facilities. The Town should actively pursue acquisition of these lands for future generations.

Facility Recommendation #36
Establish a Bikepath Committee
The survey results indicate that the #1 priority for new recreation facilities in Milton is building bicycle and pedestrian paths. This is the top priority for Milton residents, just as it is for residents in most communities across Vermont and nationally. Perhaps these facilities rank so high because in addition to the leisure benefits provided by paths, these facilities offer much needed alternative transportation opportunities, exercise and fitness benefits, and an improved quality of life for people of all ages.

It is recommended that the MRD take the lead in establishing a Bicycle/Recreation Path Committee, recruit members, and participate in developing a plan for the future of these services. The Planning Department and Public Works Department need to participate in this process, if it is to be successful. The survey results suggest that this should be considered the top priority for facility improvements. It is unclear whether it is realistic to expect the Recreation Coordinator to take the lead in getting this project started given the fact that her position is a part-time position, but this is a role that a Recreation Director would typically assume.

Facility Recommendations #36-41
Identify and build key corridors for bicycle and pedestrian paths
A plan should be developed to provide bicycle and pedestrian corridors between neighborhoods, schools, churches, shopping, and other key destination points within the community, as well as from points in Milton to neighboring communities. As corridors are identified, a map of sidewalk, bicycle & pedestrian paths should be developed.

Milton has a Sidewalk Plan and has committed $20,000 a year in the Capital Improvement Plan to build new and replace old sidewalks every year. Milton's current Capital Improvement Plan also includes monies to improve the bike/ped crossing at the Cherry Street Railroad Crossing. This plan, along with other plans such as the recent study to identify a corridor along Route 7 through the Town Core, should be used as the starting point and incorporated into the Bikepath Map.

A variety of competitive state and federal grant programs are available to help communities fund bicycle/pedestrian and alternative transportation paths. Most, if not all, require a local match, but can seriously reduce the cost to a community to build these facilities.

Facility Recommendations #42-44
Design and Build an Indoor Recreation Center
The #2 and #3 recreation facilities that residents most want to see built in Milton are an indoor swimming pool and an indoor ice arena. The seniors were adamant that what they need most are an indoor swimming pool and a safe, accessible place to walk year round. Attendance was small at the public meeting held to prioritize the facility recommendations but those in attendance were clear that building an indoor recreation center was at the top of their list. The list of recommendations drafted by the consultant team showed the feasibility study and capital campaign being done in the first ten years and the facility being built in the next ten years. There was unanimous agreement at the facility meeting that

they wanted the plan to show the indoor recreation center being built much sooner and the money to be allocated for the feasibility study as soon as possible.

It is recommended that the Town budget $70,000 to study the feasibility of building a public indoor recreation center in Milton. This estimate is based on two similar Vermont projects: South Burlington spent $65,000 for a similar study several years ago and Rutland spent $77,500 just last year. This will cover a resident survey, feasibility/pro-forma, and the program/conceptual design/cost analysis.

Facility Recommendation #45
Choose a park name for the Bove property
The Recreation Commission should hold a contest to give residents the opportunity to recommend names for the newest park on the former Bove property.

Facility Recommendations #46-52
Adopt and implement a Management Plan for the Bove Property
The activities that survey respondents would most like to see permitted on the Town Forest and Bove Property are hiking (61.5%), cross-country skiing (50.3%), camping (38.2%), horseback riding (34.3%), and mountain biking (31.5%). The Town needs to conduct a natural resource inventory & assessment similar to the ones done by LIA Consultants for Eagle Mountain and the Town Forest, to see if this land can accommodate these activities.

During the public meetings, the leadership of the local ATV group, the North Country ATV Association (NCAA), stated that their main concern was having an approved corridor for motorized vehicles from one side of this property to the other. There was general recognition that many Milton residents ride ATVs and that the town should make every effort to accommodate this use on some, but not all, of its trails. It is recommended that the Town strive to accommodate this request for one ATV corridor through the Bove property, in a way that will have the least impact on the flora, fauna, and landscape.

The Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission should work together, with assistance from the NCAA, to develop a Management Plan for this property. The implementation schedule proposed in Chapter 8 suggests developing a Management Plan for the Bove property prior to adopting one for the Town Forest/Milton Pond property, in hopes that this ATV corridor can be provided on the Bove property and the Town Forest/Milton Pond property can be preserved for non-vehicular travel only.

The development of this property will include clearly marking the boundaries, developing trails, installing trail signage and an information kiosk at the trailhead, and constructing a parking area. The NCAA expressed a willingness to actively participate in the enforcement of the park policies established for ATV use on this property and the Town should make use of this volunteer labor to the greatest possible extent.

Facility Recommendations #53-59
Adopt and implement a Management Plan for Eagle Mountain
The LIA *Inventory and Assessment (December 2000)* includes many specific recommendations for recreational activities that should be permitted on this property, including horseback riding, mountain biking and overnight camping at limited areas and times. This report should serve as the framework for the Eagle Mountain Management Plan. The Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission should work together to develop a Management Plan that is realistic and achievable, and they should jointly recommend it to the Selectboard for adoption, along with requesting a commitment to funding the resources necessary to implement it.

The implementation phase should clearly marking the boundaries, improving the trails, and installing trail signage and an information kiosk at the trailhead. Throughout this process, it was clear that there are

Milton residents ready and willing to help make and maintain trail improvements on the Town's natural areas. Volunteers should be used to the greatest extent possible to accomplish this work.

The 2008-2013 CIP, includes $15,000 for parking improvements at Eagle Mountain in 2009. This work should be completed as planned.

The Town should seek to obtain conservation easements on adjacent properties whenever the opportunity arises. This land offers magnificent views of Lake Champlain and a great place to get away for a little peace and quiet, and every opportunity to increase the acreage should be pursued.

Facility Recommendations #60-61
Evaluate the condition of the dam at Milton Pond
In August 2004, a state dam safety engineer inspected the Milton Pond dam and found it to be in poor condition. He made recommendations for regular surveillance and maintenance, and recommended that the Town hire a professional engineer experienced in dam design to evaluate the overall condition of the dam and recommend improvements. To date, the Buildings and Grounds staff has been performing regular maintenance on the dam but the recommended evaluation has not been done. The Town should hire a qualified engineer to complete this evaluation and appropriate the necessary funds to make any necessary improvements.

Facility Recommendation #62
Work with adjacent property owners to acquire permanent public access to Milton Pond
The recently acquired Bove Property provides the much needed public access to the Town Forest property; however the distance from the Bove property to Milton Pond, which is arguably the most attractive feature on this property, is longer than many people will want to walk. At one time the Town had a parking area close to the pond but ownership of the private land changed hands and this easement was lost. Another land owner has expressed interest in providing a permanent easement for foot traffic and a small parking area on his property. The Town should make it a top priority to work with this and any other willing landowner to provide the best possible access to Milton Pond, one of the Town's finest recreation assets.

Facility Recommendation #63
Further develop the natural resource inventory at the Town Forest
Every effort should be made to maintain the uniqueness of the Town Forest and Milton Pond property and protect the flora and fauna that make their home there. The park should be surveyed for rare plant species and a wildlife monitoring system should be established to provide some baseline data before increasing use in this natural area. To the greatest extent possible, volunteers should be utilized for this work.

Facility Recommendations #65-70
Adopt and implement a Management Plan for the Town Forest
Significant work has already been done towards developing a management plan for this property. The 2003 LIA *Inventory and Assessment* includes many specific recommendations and it should serve as the framework for the management plan. Management plans have been drafted but none have been adopted. The Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission should work together to develop a Management Plan that is realistic and achievable, and they should jointly recommend it to the Selectboard for adoption and a commitment to funding the resources necessary to implement it.

The implementation phase should include clearly marking the boundaries, improving the trails, and installing trail signage and an information kiosk at the trailhead. Throughout this process, it was clear that there are Milton residents ready and willing to help make and maintain trail improvements on the Town's natural areas. Volunteers should be used to the greatest extent possible to accomplish this work.

If permission is granted from an adjacent property owner, a parking area should be developed to provide easier access to Milton Pond.

Facility Recommendation #71-75
Make improvements to the Lamoille River Walk
This scenic 1.5-mile-long foot trail between the Checkerberry neighborhood and the CVPS Milton Station hydroelectric facility is a wonderfully peaceful place right in the middle of a densely populated neighborhood. The Town of Milton is responsible for the maintenance of this recreation path and the trails were found free of debris and relatively well maintained. Some trail signage was in place; this should be maintained on a regular basis and replaced as needed. Information kiosks should be built at both trailheads, along with a designated parking area at the Checkerberry end of the trail. The Town staff and volunteers should make special effort to sustain a good relationship with CVPS to ensure the long-term availability of this and the other public recreation sites on CVPS properties along the Lamoille River.

Facility Recommendation #76
Develop a town-wide park and trail map
Once policies have been established and management plans are in place for the Town's natural areas, a town-wide interpretive map that includes all the town trails and recreation amenities should be developed and made available to the public. This map will increase public awareness and educate residents about all the Town's public recreation lands. The Essex Parks and Recreation Department has recently published an excellent trail map that could serve as a model.

Facility Recommendation #77-78
Evaluate feasibility of using former landfill for a park
The survey results suggest that one out of five Milton residents would like to see a dog park developed in town. In recent years, communities have added dog parks to their inventory of recreation facilities and public dog parks have become quite common throughout the country. In 2007, the City of Burlington has two dog parks and other Vermont communities have plans to build them in the future.

The Milton landfill was close and capped in 1992, and is now five years away from the 20-year mark when former landfills are often considered for alternate uses, including public parks. The former Milton landfill is located within the Town Core in close proximity to the majority of Milton's residents. This land should be evaluated as a potential site for future recreation amenities, including a dog park.

Facility Recommendation #79-81
Begin to develop neighborhood parks in Milton
The *1983 NRPA Open Space Guidelines* explain that a neighborhood park serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood, and suggests that ideally there is a neighborhood park located within a ¼ to ½ mile radius of every residence. Neighborhood parks are designed for impromptu, informal, unsupervised active and passive recreation, are generally small, and are located within walking and bicycling distance of most users.

The Town of Milton does not currently have any developed neighborhood parks. The Town should strive to develop neighborhood parks within new neighborhoods, particularly new neighborhoods that are located further than 2 miles from Bombardier Park. As the Town's subdivision regulations are updated, they should be revised to include land dedication requirements for neighborhood parks. A dedicated recreation impact fee would provide funding to develop neighborhood parks on the dedicated lands.

The Town owns a small parcel of land in the middle of the Oglewood neighborhood that would make a great neighborhood park. It is recommended that the Town work with the neighbors to develop a neighborhood park on this site.

Facility Recommendation #82
Develop a Teen Center, in collaboration with the Milton Family Center
Milton teens have many options for organized activities through their schools, churches, and other faith based organizations. Some students choose to take advantage of these opportunities and some don't. Between school work and homework, extra curricular activities and part-time jobs, leisure time for most youth is limited. What many teens need most is the opportunity to engage in meaningful less-structured leisure activities in safe and healthy environments. The community is lucky to have the Milton Family Community Center coordinating relevant teen programs. 22% of survey respondents would like to see a Teen Center in Milton. The MRD should collaborate with the Family Center to address this community need.

Facility Recommendation #83
Evaluate all recreation facilities for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
It is recommended that the Town conduct a thorough evaluation of its recreation facilities to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and develop a plan for any modifications needed. This work can be accomplished with in-house resources as a cost-savings measure.

A timetable for completing each of these recommendations, along with preliminary cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation is included in Chapter 8.

CHAPTER 8

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND COST ESTIMATES

The tables on the following pages includes a proposed schedule for completing each of the administration, program and facility recommendations, along with preliminary cost estimates, and a description of the project type, the beneficiaries, and who will be responsible for implementing the recommendation. The recommendation number listed in the first column corresponds with the number in the chapter where each recommendation is described, "A" in the Administration chapter, "P" in the Program chapter and "F" in the Facilities chapter. The recommendations are listed in two separate tables, the first by the type of project and the second chronologically, in the order of the proposed implementation schedule.

Town of Milton - Twenty Year Recreation Master Plan

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		A	S	M	P	D	L			PK	K6	T	YA	OA	S		Estimate
								ADMINISTRATION									
A-1	Administrative	x						Establish consistent office hours	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-2	Administrative	x						Increase office hours	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
A-3	Administrative	x						Purchase RecTrac software - Registration Module	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	**$5,607**
A-3	Administrative	x						Purchase RecTrac software - Facility Scheduling Module	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$4,000
A-4	Administrative	x						Expand Recreation Coordinator position to full-time	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-5	Administrative	x						Expand Asst. Rec. Coordinator position to full-time	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-6	Administrative	x						Increase Buildings and Grounds staff	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-7	Administrative	x						Evaluate benefits of a Parks & Recreation Department	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/S'Bd	0
A-8	Administrative	x						Fill all five positions on the Recreation Commission	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-9	Administration	x						Foster communication - Commission and other boards	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-10	Administrative	x						Increase the Recreation and Buildings/Grounds budgets	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-11	Administrative	x						Develop a Ten-Year Capital Recreation Plan	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC	0
A-12	Administrative	x						Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	$6,000
A-13	Administrative	x						Develop Joint Facility Use Agreement w/School District	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-14	Administration	x			x			Develop written goals and objectives annually	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-15	Administrative	x						Compile an Administrative Handbook	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-16	Administrative	x						Conduct a citizen survey every ten years	2016	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$10,000

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		A	S	M	P	D	L			PK	K6	T	YA	OA	S		Estimate
PROGRAMS																	
P-1	Administrative	x						Offer more programs	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-2	Administration	x						Collaborate with others to increase program opportunities	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-3	Administrative	x						Direct mail seasonal recreation brochures to every home	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
P-4	Administrative							Purchase RecTrac software - Web Registration Module	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$10,250
P-4	Administrative	x						Offer online program registration	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	$10,000
P-5	Administration	x						Ensure equal opportunity to participate in programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
P-6	Administrative	x						Develop a Pricing Policy for recreation programs	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC/S'Bd	0
P-7	Administrative	x						Establish a Program Fund	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	0
FACILITIES																	
F-1	Multiple	x						Choose a color scheme for the park system	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0
F-2	Bombardier Park			x				Paint restroom/concession bldg. using new color scheme	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$500
F-3	Bombardier Park			x				Paint picnic pavilions using new color scheme	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$200
F-4	Multiple				x			Develop Signage Plan for the Park System	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$1,000
F-5	Bombardier Park				x			Develop a Master Plan for entire Bombardier Park parcel	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-6	Bombardier Park					x		Install new Bombardier Park signage	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$2,500
F-7	Bombardier Park	x						Develop an irrigation plan for all 20 athletic fields	2008		x	x	x			BG	0
F-8	Bombardier Park					x		Begin irrigating two (2) fields each year	2008		x	x	x			BG/C	$17,000/yr
F-9	Bombardier Park			x				Buy an aerator	2008		x	x	x			BG/S'Bd	$2,000
F-10	Bombardier Park			x				Begin turf maintenance program on 2 fields each year	2008		x	x	x			BG	$3,500/yr
F-11	Bombardier Park					x		Topsoil to complete recreation field expansion project	**2008**		x	x	x			BG	**$10,000**
F-12	Bombardier Park					x		Develop one multi-use "premier" field	2012		x	x				BG	TBD
F-13	Bombardier Park					x		Renovate restroom/concession building	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$17,500**
F-14	Bombardier Park					x		Pave Bombardier Park road	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$33,800**

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		A	S	M	P	D	L			PK	K6	T	YA	OA	S		Estimate
F-15	Bombardier Park					x		Parking Lot Improvements	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	**$10,000**
F-16	Bombardier Park					x		Add electricity to existing picnic pavilion	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	**$3,590**
F-17	Bombardier Park					x		Add electricity to proposed outdoor performance structure	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	**$2,220**
F-18	Bombardier Park			x				Repair structural cracks on tennis courts	2007		x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$1,700
F-19	Bombardier Park					x		Add windscreens to the tennis courts	**2010**		x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	**$3,050**
F-20	Bombardier Park			x				Repair cracks with membrane and coat tennis courts	2010		x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	$11,600
F-21	Bombardier Park					x		Replace backboards on the tennis courts	**2010**		x	x	x			BG-C	**$6,000**
F-22	Bombardier Park					x		Overlay tennis courts with 1 1/2" ashalt overlay, re-coat	2017-2027		x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$60,000
F-23	Bombardier Park		x					Upgrade all playground safety surfaces	2008	x	x					BG	$5,000
F-24	Bombardier Park					x		Add more equipment & benches to playgrounds	**2009**				x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$38,000**
F-25	Bombardier Park					x		Install barrier between playground and ballfield	**2009**	x	x					BG-C	**$8,000**
F-26	Bombardier Park					x		Add new multi-use elements to the Skate Park	2009		x	x				Rec/C	$40,000
F-27	Bombardier Park					x		Construct restrooms on the east side of the park	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$75,000**
F-28	Bombardier Park					x		More picnic tables & BBQ grills near picnic pavilion	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	$3,500
F-29	Bombardier Park					x		Build a small "Spray-ground"	2017-2027	x	x					Rec/BG/C	$55,000
F-30	Bombardier Park					x		Install wood plank fence around parking lot-east side	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$23,000
F-31	Bombardier Park					x		Cover the horseshoe pits and add lights	2017-2027					x	x	Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-32	Bombardier Park					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,500
F-33	Bombardier Park					x		Improve trails and trail signage	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000
F-34	Bombardier Park				x			Explore feasibility of building a BMX course	2017-2027		x	x	x			Rec/BG/Com	TBD
F-35	Bombardier Park						x	Purchase adjacent land for future recreation use	As available	x	x	x	x	x	x	Com/S'Bd	TBD
F-36	Bike/Ped Paths	x			x			Establish a Bikepath Committee	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	0
F-37	Bike/Ped Paths				x			Identify key corridors for bicycle and pedestrian paths	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	0

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		A	S	M	P	D	L			PK	K6	T	YA	OA	S		Estimate
F-38	Bike/Ped Paths				x			Develop map of Sidewalk, Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Planner	0
F-39	Bike/Ped Paths		x					Safer bike/ped crossing at Railroad St Railroad Crossing	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	$43,000
F-40	Bike/Ped Paths		x					Safer bike/ped crossing at Cherry St Railroad Crossing	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$55,000**
F-41	Bike/Ped Paths			x		x		Expand Sidewalk System	**2009-2013**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$20,000/yr**
F-42	Indoor Rec Ctr				x			Feasibility, Pro-forma, Design - Indoor Recreation Center	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$80,000
F-43	Indoor Rec Ctr	x						Capital Campaign for Indoor Recreation Center	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
F-44	Indoor Rec Ctr					x		Construct Indoor Recreation Center	2012-2017	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	TBD
F-45	Bove Property	x						Choose a name for the park	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC	0
F-46	Bove Property				x			Complete a natural resource inventory & assessment	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/C	$3,000
F-47	Bove Property	x						Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0
F-48	Bove Property					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,000
F-49	Bove Property					x		Construct a parking area	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	$20,000
F-50	Bove Property					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000
F-51	Bove Property					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-52	Bove Property	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-53	Eagle Mountain				x			Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0
F-54	Eagle Mountain					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,500
F-55	Eagle Mountain					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$5,000
F-56	Eagle Mountain					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-57	Eagle Mountain					x		Parking Improvements	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	**$15,000**
F-58	Eagle Mountain	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-59	Eagle Mountain	x						Seek conservation easements on adjacent properties	As available	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Comm	0
F-60	Town Forest	x	x					Evaluate the condition of the dam	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Town Eng.	$10,000
F-61	Town Forest		x			x		Make recommended improvements to the dam.	As needed	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	TBD

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F-62	Town Forest	x						Seek easement for parking lot on adjacent private property	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	0
F-63	Town Forest	x			x			Establish a wildlife monitoring system	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	CC	0
F-64	Town Forest				x			Survey the park for rare plant species	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	CC	$1,000
F-65	Town Forest	x			x			Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0
F-66	Town Forest					x		Clearly mark the boundaries of this property	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$7,000
F-67	Town Forest					x		Construct a parking area if an easement is obtained	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$20,000
F-68	Town Forest					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2012	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000
F-69	Town Forest					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2012	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-70	Town Forest	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-71	Checkerberry					x		Construct parking area at Checkerberry end of the trail	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$10,000
F-72	Checkerberry					x		Construct wooden kiosk & sign at both ends of the trail	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-73	Checkerberry			x				Maintain these trails and trails signage on a regular basis	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	0
F-74	Checkerberry	x						Sustain a good relationship with CVPS	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0
F-75	CVPS Sites	x			x			Work with CVPS to ensure the long-term availability	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	Staff time
F-76	Multiple	x			x			Develop a town-wide park and trail map	2013		x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$3,000
F-77	Former Landfill				x			Evaluate feasibility of using former landfill for a park	2013	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/C	$15,000
F-78	Former Landfill					x		Build a dog park	2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$8,000
F-79	Oglewood				x	x		Work with neighbors to build a neighborhood park	2015	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$75,000
F-80	Neighb'hood Pks	x			x			Revise subdivision regulations to include land dedication for neighborhood parks.	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Planning	0
F-81	Neighb'hood Pks					x		Build neighborhood parks in new neighborhoods	As available	x	x	x				Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-82	Teen Center	x						Develop Teen Ctr, in collaboration w/Milton Family Ctr	TBD			x				Rec	TBD
F-83	Multiple	x	x	x				Evaluate all recreation facilities for ADA compliance	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0

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F-59	Eagle Mountain	x						Seek conservation easements on adjacent properties	As available	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Comm	0
F-81	Neighb'hood Pks					x		Build neighborhood parks in new neighborhoods	As available	x	x	x				Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-61	Town Forest		x			x		Make recommended improvements to the dam.	As needed	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	TBD
A-14	Administration	x			x			Develop written goals and objectives annually	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-9	Administration	x						Foster communication - Commission and other boards	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-2	Administration	x						Collaborate with others to increase program opportunities	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-5	Administration	x						Ensure equal opportunity to participate in programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
F-37	Bike/Ped Paths				x			Identify key corridors for bicycle and pedestrian paths	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	0
F-52	Bove Property	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-74	Checkerberry	x						Sustain a good relationship with CVPS	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0
F-73	Checkerberry			x				Maintain these trails and trails signage on a regular basis	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	0
F-75	CVPS Sites	x			x			Work with CVPS to ensure the long-term availability	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	Staff time
F-58	Eagle Mountain	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-70	Town Forest	x						Promote use of site for interpretive & education programs	Ongoing	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
F-82	Teen Center	x						Develop Teen Ctr, in collaboration w/Milton Family Ctr	TBD			x				Rec	TBD
A-1	Administrative	x						Establish consistent office hours	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-13	Administrative	x						Develop Joint Facility Use Agreement w/School District	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-8	Administrative	x						Fill all five positions on the Recreation Commission	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-6	Administrative	x						Develop a Pricing Policy for recreation programs	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC/S'Bd	0
F-18	Bombardier Park			x				Repair structural cracks on tennis courts	2007		x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$1,700
F-1	Multiple	x						Choose a color scheme for the park system	2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0

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A-2	Administrative	x						Increase office hours	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
A-3	Administrative	x						Purchase RecTrac software - Registration Module	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	**$5,607**
P-1	Administrative	x						Offer more programs	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
A-10	Administrative	x						Increase the Recreation and Buildings/Grounds budgets	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-4	Administrative	x						Expand Recreation Coordinator position to full-time	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
A-6	Administrative	x						Increase Buildings and Grounds staff	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
F-36	Bike/Ped Paths	x			x			Establish a Bikepath Committee	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	0
F-10	Bombardier Park			x				Begin turf maintenance program on 2 fields each year	2008		x	x	x			BG	$3,500/yr
F-11	Bombardier Park					x		Topsoil to complete recreation field expansion project	**2008**		x	x	x			BG	**$10,000**
F-2	Bombardier Park			x				Paint restroom/concession bldg. using new color scheme	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$500
F-23	Bombardier Park		x					Upgrade all playground safety surfaces	2008	x	x					BG	$5,000
F-3	Bombardier Park			x				Paint picnic pavilions using new color scheme	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$200
F-7	Bombardier Park	x						Develop an irrigation plan for all 20 athletic fields	2008		x	x	x			BG	0
F-8	Bombardier Park					x		Begin irrigating two (2) fields each year	2008		x	x	x			BG/C	$17,000/yr
F-16	Bombardier Park					x		Add electricity to existing picnic pavilion	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	**$3,590**
F-17	Bombardier Park					x		Add electricity to proposed outdoor performance structure	**2008**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	**$2,220**
F-9	Bombardier Park			x				Buy an aerator	2008		x	x	x			BG/S'Bd	$2,000
F-5	Bombardier Park				x			Develop a Master Plan for entire Bombardier Park parcel	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-46	Bove Property				x			Complete a natural resource inventory & assessment	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/C	$3,000
F-45	Bove Property	x						Choose a name for the park	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC	0
F-54	Eagle Mountain					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,500
F-53	Eagle Mountain				x			Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0
F-83	Multiple	x	x	x				Evaluate all recreation facilities for ADA compliance	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	0
F-4	Multiple				x			Develop Signage Plan for the Park System	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$1,000

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F-80	Neighb'hood Pks	x			x			Revise subdivision regulations to include land dedication for neighborhood parks.	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Planning	0
F-64	Town Forest				x			Survey the park for rare plant species	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	CC	$1,000
F-62	Town Forest	x						Seek easement for parking lot on adjacent private property	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	0
F-60	Town Forest	x	x					Evaluate the condition of the dam	2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	Town Eng.	$10,000
P-3	Administrative	x						Direct mail seasonal recreation brochures to every home	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
A-11	Administrative	x						Develop a Ten-Year Capital Recreation Plan	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/RC	0
A-12	Administrative	x						Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	$6,000
P-7	Administrative	x						Establish a Program Fund	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	0
F-39	Bike/Ped Paths		x					Safer bike/ped crossing at Railroad St Railroad Crossing	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	$43,000
F-40	Bike/Ped Paths		x					Safer bike/ped crossing at Cherry St Railroad Crossing	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$55,000**
F-38	Bike/Ped Paths				x			Develop map of Sidewalk, Bicycle & Pedestrian Paths	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Planner	0
F-41	Bike/Ped Paths			x		x		Expand Sidewalk System	**2009-2013**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$20,000/yr**
F-6	Bombardier Park					x		Install new Bombardier Park signage	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	$2,500
F-15	Bombardier Park					x		Parking Lot Improvements	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	**$10,000**
F-25	Bombardier Park					x		Install barrier between playground and ballfield	**2009**	x	x					BG-C	**$8,000**
F-14	Bombardier Park					x		Pave Bombardier Park road	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	DPW-H	**$33,800**
F-13	Bombardier Park					x		Renovate restroom/concession building	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$17,500**
F-24	Bombardier Park					x		Add more equipment & benches to playgrounds	**2009**				x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$38,000**
F-27	Bombardier Park					x		Construct restrooms on the east side of the park	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG-C	**$75,000**
F-26	Bombardier Park					x		Add new multi-use elements to the Skate Park	2009		x	x				Rec/C	$40,000
F-48	Bove Property					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,000
F-47	Bove Property	x						Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0

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F-57	Eagle Mountain					x		Parking Improvements	**2009**	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG	**$15,000**
F-55	Eagle Mountain					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$5,000
F-56	Eagle Mountain					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-42	Indoor Rec Ctr				x			Feasibility, Pro-forma, Design - Indoor Recreation Center	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$80,000
F-63	Town Forest	x			x			Establish a wildlife monitoring system	2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	CC	0
A-3	Administrative	x						Purchase RecTrac software - Facility Scheduling Module	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$4,000
A-15	Administrative	x						Compile an Administrative Handbook	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	0
P-4	Administrative							Purchase RecTrac software - Web Registration Module	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$10,250
A-7	Administrative	x						Evaluate benefits of a Parks & Recreation Department	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/S'Bd	0
P-4	Administrative	x						Offer online program registration	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/S'Bd	$10,000
A-5	Administrative	x						Expand Asst. Rec. Coordinator position to full-time	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	S'Board	TBD
F-20	Bombardier Park			x				Repair cracks with membrane and coat tennis courts	2010		x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	$11,600
F-21	Bombardier Park					x		Replace backboards on the tennis courts	**2010**		x	x	x			BG-C	**$6,000**
F-19	Bombardier Park					x		Add windscreens to the tennis courts	**2010**		x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	**$3,050**
F-51	Bove Property					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-49	Bove Property					x		Construct a parking area	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG-C	$20,000
F-50	Bove Property					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000
F-43	Indoor Rec Ctr	x						Capital Campaign for Indoor Recreation Center	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	TBD
F-66	Town Forest					x		Clearly mark the boundaries of this property	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$7,000
F-65	Town Forest	x			x			Adopt and implement a Management Plan	2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	RC/CC/S'Bd	0
F-28	Bombardier Park					x		More picnic tables & BBQ grills near picnic pavilion	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG	$3,500
F-71	Checkerberry					x		Construct parking area at Checkerberry end of the trail	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$10,000
F-72	Checkerberry					x		Construct wooden kiosk & sign at both ends of the trail	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500

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F-67	Town Forest					x		Construct a parking area if an easement is obtained	2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$20,000
F-12	Bombardier Park					x		Develop one multi-use "premier" field	2012		x	x				BG	TBD
F-69	Town Forest					x		Construct a wooden kiosk at the trail head	2012	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/Vol	$500
F-68	Town Forest					x		Improve the trails and trail signage	2012	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000
F-44	Indoor Rec Ctr					x		Construct Indoor Recreation Center	2012-2017	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	TBD
F-77	Former Landfill				x			Evaluate feasibility of using former landfill for a park	2013	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/C	$15,000
F-76	Multiple	x			x			Develop a town-wide park and trail map	2013		x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$3,000
F-78	Former Landfill					x		Build a dog park	2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/BG/C	$8,000
F-79	Oglewood				x	x		Work with neighbors to build a neighborhood park	2015	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$75,000
A-16	Administrative	x						Conduct a citizen survey every ten years	2016	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec	$10,000
F-22	Bombardier Park					x		Overlay tennis courts with 1 1/2" ashalt overlay, re-coat	2017-2027		x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$60,000
F-30	Bombardier Park					x		Install wood plank fence around parking lot-east side	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$23,000
F-32	Bombardier Park					x		Clearly mark the park boundaries	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	BG/C	$4,500
F-29	Bombardier Park					x		Build a small "Spray-ground"	2017-2027	x	x					Rec/BG/C	$55,000
F-31	Bombardier Park					x		Cover the horseshoe pits and add lights	2017-2027					x	x	Rec/BG/C	TBD
F-34	Bombardier Park				x			Explore feasibility of building a BMX course	2017-2027		x	x	x			Rec/BG/Com	TBD
F-33	Bombardier Park					x		Improve trails and trail signage	2017-2027	x	x	x	x	x	x	Rec/Vol	$5,000

APPENDIX A

MINUTES - Milton Focus group Meeting – Athletics November 30, 2006

In attendance: James O'Grady (Youth Basketball), Catherine Rodgers (Women's Soccer), David Trayah (Horseshoe Club), David Danforth (Youth Lacrosse), Randy Leggett (Jr. High Baseball), John Ferguson (Babe Ruth), Tim Agan (Men's Baseball), Jeff Morse (Jr. High Softball), Cheryl Persitz (Little League).

1. What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Dept?

- Space – both indoor and outdoor, depending upon the season.
- Need a full-time Recreation Director.
- More communication and cooperation between the municipal staff and volunteer athletic organizations.
- Bathroom facilities at Bombardier Park.
- Water throughout Bombardier Park.
- Better coordination between the schools and Recreation Department.
- The schools are currently assuming responsibility for the many costs related to the recreation programs held in the school facilities.

2. What changes/improvements would you recommend in the following areas…

Parks?

- Better, safer traffic flow at Bombardier Park.
- Need to pave the parking lots.
- Need water for the athletic fields and over by the horseshoe pits.
- The park across from Rosario's is badly in need of maintenance.
- The trails at Eagle Mountain need to be regularly maintained and better marked.
- Need maps and better info about the public park properties.
- Need better access and parking at the Eagle Mountain and Bove/Town Forest properties.

Programs?

- Lack of consistency in program offerings as the Directors come and go.
- Program instructors are not always reliable; do not always arrive on time which leaves children unattended at schools.
- Need more programs for teenagers.

Trails?

- Need to be better marked and maintained.

Natural Areas?

- Need more information about what lands and trails are available to the public.
- Need to better mark trails on the "Town Forest" property behind the landfill.
- Need to establish and advertise clear policies about what uses are allowed on public recreation and open space lands.
- Accessibility is a big issue; there is a need to tell people how they can use the lands.
- Need thoughtful land management plans for public lands.

Indoor Recreation Facilities?

- Need another gym and/or indoor soccer center like the one at the fairgrounds in Essex Junction.
- Think BIG and not be limited by the money.
- Need better maintenance of the school facilities.
- Build a year-round swimming pool.

Waterfront Access?

- Need more access to Arrowhead Lake, not sure if there is any public access from Milton.

Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facilities?

- The ballfields at Bombardier Park are considered some of the best in the area; they need to be well maintained.
- The Little League is still growing; had 372 kids in 2006.
- Need a regulation baseball (with 90' base paths).
- There is a shortage of ballfields.
- It's more fun for players of all ages to play on quality facilities.
- There is a shortfall of opportunities and support for middle school sports.
- The backstop at the grade 7/8 ballfield at the school needs repairing.
- Need irrigation on the ballfields.
- The field near the tennis courts needs work, what is the status of this field?

Open Space?

- Improve access to current public open space lands.
- Complete an inventory of what is available.
- Want to maintain the tradition of having a large amount of public open space, as the population increases.
- Need a plan to preserve the VAST trails in Milton as housing increases.

Accessibility?

- Already discussed above.
- Need more indoor meeting space, not just indoor recreation space.

Administration?

- Need a fulltime Recreation Director and additional maintenance staff.

3. How would you prioritize these changes/improvements (without attachment to funding)?

- Make new fields.
- Maintain what we have…everything that we have (parks, trails, indoor facilities).
- Take care of what we have and then ask for new.
- If had $100 to spend, use 80% on maintenance and 20% on new things.

4. What level of service and accessibility for PARKS should we strive for in the future… smaller neighborhood vs. larger community parks?

- Want to be on the high end for preservation of open space but comfortable being on the low end of the guidelines for neighborhood and community parks.
- Prefer larger community parks to smaller, neighborhood parks.
- They like the central gathering at Bombardier Park and the mixture of opportunities available there for all ages. Capitalize on what is there, increase access via trails and paths. Be sure to expand parking as build new facilities.

5. Would you be willing to increase taxes to pay for additional park and recreation services?

- People will pay more taxes if they know it is going towards something worthwhile.
- Need to be thinking/planning beyond just athletics.

6. Which two changes/improvements would be your top priorities for funding?

(everyone wrote their top two on a sticky note)

- Improved and more fields for soccer, baseball and football
- Large indoor recreation building with ice skating, swimming pool, and indoor soccer
- Maintain trails/ create bikepath
- Indoor recreation facility
- Indoor multi-purpose recreation facility
- Quality athletic facilities
- Full-time Recreation Director
- Water and parking in the parks
- A regulation baseball field (90’ basepaths)
- Intelligent development and use of Town natural areas
- Maintain the Bombardier Recreation Area much better, make it more inviting
- Indoor recreation building with a pool, gym, and other community space
- Outdoor recreation fields
- Indoor recreation facilities
- Indoor facility with a pool and rink
- More open playing fields

7. Since funds are limited for building new parks and sports facilities, and improving existing ones, what should the priorities be for developing and maintaining parks? Already discussed previously.

8. What do you see as the best funding options?

- Bake sales and bottle drives
- Grants
- BIG donations
- User fees for outside groups, OK charging resident adult leagues but not youth leagues.
- Public/private partnerships (Ex: any land available at Catamount Park?)
- Sponsorships (banners, signs, etc)
- Are there any plans for the Milton Bowling Center?

9. What would you like to see happen at the Town Forest/Bove property?

- Improve access/parking
- Host an open house there

- Is there boating access?
- Maintain as open space/natural area – it is too far out for ballfields and athletic fields

10. Are there any things that you would especially like NOT to see at the Bove site?

- See above.

11. What do you see as the challenges facing the Milton Recreation Dept?

- Money
- Need a vision
- Cooperation between the schools and the Recreation Department
- Comment…who decided that the new outdoor performing arts area should be where it is located? Is there a masterplan for the park?

Student Focus Group #1
December 4, 2006

Participants: Ian Flynn, Sean Ross, Wade Besaw, Aziza Jadallah, Hayley Green, Meghann Palermo

1. What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Department?
- Need an indoor hockey rink (high school won't have access to Highgate rink next year?
- The outdoor ice rink needs better maintenance, not safe.
- Boys high school locker room needs improvements.
- Need better maintenance at the Rec Park – both sides
- Bathrooms at the Rec Park need to be better maintained!
- Make a graffiti wall
- Make an outdoor theater
- Need a tennis backboard
- Need scheduled activities at the parks for all ages to draw people to the park. Ex: tennis, volleyball, snowshoeing.
- Need trail signage at Bombardier Park.
- The trails at the park need improving-better drainage, foot bridges, better surface
- Would be nice to have fire pits and BBQ grills at the Rec Park.
- Would be good to have sports equipment available at the Recreation Department for borrow or rent; ie, badminton, basketballs, volleyballs, tennis racquets.

2. What changes/improvements would you recommend with…

<u>Parks</u>
- Better maintain what we have
- Mini-golf course
- Need more programs
- Could add all kinds of programs with an outdoor theater
- Outdoor movies in the summer
- Hot chocolate at the outdoor rink in the winter
- Add a concession stand at the park during busy times
- More signage and promotion about town parklands.

<u>Programs</u>
- Plan a Winter Fest for the community (Students talked about taking the idea to the National Honor Society about maybe planning one this year)
- Plan a community Field Day like the ones held at the elementary school
- Plan an Arts Festival
- Offer programs to get people into the parks.
- Offer a regular open mike night
- Bring some of the library programs to the parks in the summer.

<u>Indoor Recreation Facilities</u>
- Arcade
- Ping-pong
- DDR (Dance, Dance Revolution)
- Air Hockey
- Build a Roller Rink in the old Bowling Center
- The Bowling Center is located close to the parks and it is for sale…it's close to the Rec Park, we should buy it for an indoor community center.
- Need to make better use of the lands we have.
- Need to improve the parking at the Rec Park.
- Would be cool to build a massive Slip 'n Slide

3. Which TWO would be your top priorities for funding?
- Arcade, an arcade would be really good for the community and it would be fun.
- Movie theater, I really want to have this.
- Winter Fest
- Re-do the Bowling Alley.

- Outdoor Stage
- Hockey Rink
- Outdoor Stage
- Arcade/Roller Blade Arena
- Hockey Rink
- Mini golf
- Winterfest
- Parking Lot and restroom building maintenance
- Rec Park vamped up, ie. parking lot, outdoor theater, etc.
- Winterfest!!
- Better maintenance (cleanliness and parking lot)
- Outdoor theater
- Outdoor movies
- Arcade
- Winter Fest
- Hockey Rink

Milton Student Focus Group #2
December 4, 2006

Participants: Nichola Watson, Jay Atherton, Tyler Baumann, Alex Hayden, and Taylor Cushing.

1. What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Department?
   - Year round things.
   - Need an indoor place to play sports year-round; a big place with turf (like the soccer complex at the Essex Fairgrounds) and a gym (like Collins-Perley in St. Albans.)
   - Need more things to do for teens.
   - There used to be a skate park, when Street Toys was in business, but since they closed, no one skates there anymore. It needs more stuff. Now people skate at Talent in South Burlington and around town (where they get into trouble.)
     Note: Street Toys used to donate equipment for the skatepark and organize one or two competitions each year. No one has filled the hole left when they closed.
   - What will be in the proposed Ice Barn…will there be more than just a rink?

2. What changes/improvements would you recommend with…

Parks
   - We have enough parks
   - We need a place for kids (teens) to gather. My ideal space would be indoors with couches and video games.
   - We need a zoo.
   - Would be nice to turn the Bowling Center into a gathering place; would like it to have Lazer Tag and an arcade.

Trails
   - I think we have a lot of trails (for four-wheelers and dirt bikes.)
   - Need better signage on trails.
   - Need to better mark the trail at the Rec Park.
   - The sidewalk system works well where it exists, but it seems very disjointed with many areas having no sidewalks at all.

Programs
   - We have lots of programs for teens in the schools.
   - *Note: there was discussion about whether there are more activities for boys than for girls.*
   - There are not many recreation programs offered in town for adults.

Open Space
   - We need to maintain open space areas as the town population grows.
   - Would like to have a good sledding hill.

Indoor Recreation Facilities
   - Need more things for people to go to, at all times of years.

3. Which TWO would be your top priorities for funding?
   - Open space
   - Indoor recreation
   - Indoor activities
   - Skate parks
   - Programs
   - Indoor recreation and sport facilities
   - Parks
   - A place to hang out (game place)
   - Outdoor recreation
   - Indoor recreation

MINUTES
Milton Focus Group Meeting – Outdoor Recreation
December 5, 2006

In attendance: Ron Morgan (Hunting), Mike McCormick (Private Recreation), Chapin Spencer (Local Motion), Karen Conte (Girl Scouts), Steve Carlin (North Country ATV), Dave Landry (Arrowhead Snowmobile Club), Chris Landry, Rick Sharp (Bike Paths), Wendy Kilburn, Geoff Plunkett (Town Forest), Bob Linck (Vermont Land Trust), Laurie DiCesare (Conservation Commission)

1. What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Dept?

- Accessibility to new Town Center for bicycles, pedestrians, and non-vehicular transportation. Encourage non-vehicular transportation for environmental and exercise benefits, and provide safe access for them.
- Additional athletic fields as the town grows, there are not enough now.
- Need more public waterfront access along lake Champlain and Arrowhead; access for dogs, pedestrians, walking, kayaks and canoes.
- Need more information about the public recreation resources currently available.
- Plan parts of public lands to include spaces for passive recreation and plant/animal protection.
- Be creative about providing special tax consideration to land-owners willing to participate in various public recreation uses on their lands.
- Need an outdoor family facility with a variety of uses in one location, including athletic fields, BBQ grills and picnic tables. Improve access between the Rec Park and Playground/Tennis/Horseshoe Area.

2. What changes/improvements would you recommend in the following areas…

Parks?

- Mark the trails (will need regular maintenance)
- Town needs to think ahead about what parcels it wants to see used for recreation purposes in the future (ex: 53 acres behind Andrea Lane)
- Need to decide what parcels we want to save in the southern section of the community.
- The two existing natural areas at Eagle Mountain and Town Forest need management plans to be implemented.
- Need public access to Milton Pond; ideally the Plunketts, Land Trust, and the Town can collaborate for a permanent public access.
- The playground (near the horseshoe pits) is in need of repair; needs benches for parents.
- Need to better maintain existing facilities.

Programs?

- Need more programs for seniors.
- Need to collaborate with local groups to provide a wide variety of programs; ex. The ATV Club developed a curriculum for an informational workshop and would like to partner with the Recreation Department to offer it to the public.

Trails?

- Trails that are clearly marked keep trail users where they should be. Trails need to be better marked.
- Need a comprehensive map of existing trails and what uses are allowed on each (an overlay map would be great). Need to clearly designate motorized and non-motorized.
- Need enforcement of trail use rules and regulations.
- There is a time and place for everything (motorized and non-motorized), plan accordingly.
- Need paved (or surepak) trails for biking and other activities that require a packed surface.
- Need handicap access.
- Need signs posting when and where hunting is allowed.
- Important to provide connectivity to other existing trails, and to protect this connectivity with permanent easements.
- Need to invest in a transportation infrastructure to provide non-vehicular access in and out of “downtown” area.
- Need a system of non-motorized trails that provide access between people’s homes and places they want to go (parks, athletic fields, schools, churches, etc.)

Natural Areas?

- The trail systems should be developed to provide protection to sensitive areas.
- Is it feasible to provide horse use on public trails?
- Designation of a parcel as a “natural area” should protect the natural features of the land.

- Wherever possible/realistic, provide opportunity for handicapped access; consider this as part of all development plans.
- Provide information about access on all town recreation maps.
- Eagle Mountain has permanent protection through the VT Land Trust, but Milton Pond and the Town Forest property do not currently have that same permanent protection.
- The Town should be proactive in developing planning and zoning regulations that encourage preservation of open space, and perhaps even provide landowner incentives.
- The Town should pursue the opportunity to provide public facilities to complement private recreation facilities in town.
- Need more natural areas and buffer zones.
- Important to acquire permanent protection so that access is maintained as owners change.
- Make it a Town priority to secure permanent access to the Town Forest.
- Need a dog walk/dog park, in close proximity to homes.

Indoor Recreation Facilities?

- Need an indoor ice rink.
- Ned more indoor community meeting space.
- Need an indoor space for a Teen Center
- How about an indoor community center; work with neighboring towns to consider a regional facility.
- There exists a big need for indoor recreation space, with the cold and rainy weather that we have during a lot of the year.
- Be creative about zoning regulations that encourage private recreation opportunities in Town.
- Need to provide access to indoor facilities.

Accessibility?

- Work with CCTA to provide public transportation beyond the Park 'n Ride, where feasible.
- Ideally the public transportation system will use environmentally friendly vehicles.

Administration?

- Need a fulltime Recreation Department.

3. What level of service and accessibility for PARKS should we strive for in the future… smaller neighborhood vs. larger community parks?

- One person would like to be at the top of the standards in both recreation lands and open space.
- Think the Town can make better use of the lands currently available.
- Would like to see a blend of public and private recreational opportunities.
- Would like to maintain current level of active recreation lands as the community grows.
- Would like to maintain the existing level of natural area lands as the community grows.
- Want to see a mix of all kinds of public recreation access.
- Don't forget about smaller neighborhood parks, near to a concentration of homes.
- Maximize use of lands such as the 53 acres of open space in the Andrea Lane neighborhood, which is association owned with a public easement.
- Make provisions for providing bicycle/pedestrian paths in new subdivisions.

4. Which two changes/improvements would be your top priorities for funding?

(everyone wrote their top two on a sticky note)

- More hands on activities (wood shop, welding, painting, etc.)
- More local walking paths, wooded trails, bike path, etc.
- Upgrade the parks we already have and make them more accessible to children.
- Keep public lands public for ALL to use without limiting to certain groups.
- More accessibility, trail access throughout town
- More recreation space outdoor and indoor
- Preserve/buffer perimeter of Milton Pond for pedestrian use.
- Public waterfront access for walking and small boats
- Expanding recreation are4as and programs
- Planning and investing in multi-use recreation trails, including motorized recreation
- Invest in recreation trails
- Promote indoor and outdoor recreation in Milton
- Open space
- Natural areas

- Bike trails
- Parks/Playgrounds/Use of new Bove/Forest
- Outdoor rec and sports
- Parks
- Open space acquisition
- Natural areas access restrictions

5. Would you be willing to increase taxes to pay for additional park and recreation services?

- One person would be and the rest would not.

6. What do you see as the best funding options?

- Non-resident fees
- Need more community volunteers
- Creative funding packages such as the Route 7 sidewalk funding which is a combination of grants and adjacent landowner special assessments.
- Development incentives to provide public improvements/access on private property, for example, sidewalks and bikepaths.
- Grants such as the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grants for outdoor recreation, federal Transportation Grants, State Recreation Trail Grants, and VHCG grants, etc.
- Users Fees for some special use of public facilities, such as renting the picnic shelter for a family/company outing.
- Land Donations
- Fundraising
- Gift Catalogs
- User group donations and user fees.
- Don't feel there should be a user fee distinction between youth and adult programs.

9. What would you like to see happen at the Town Forest/Bove property?

(Ran out of time)

11. What do you see as the challenges facing the Milton Recreation Dept?

- Meeting the many diverse needs of residents.
- Milton has an image problem, often seen as being "second class"; recreation may be a way to rise above that.
- There is going to continue to be a NIMBY (not in my back yard) obstacle with mixed use paths and trailways. It will be very important to propose projects with the least amount of perceived negative impact on adjacent property owners.

MINUTES - Milton Focus Group Meeting – Seniors January 18, 2007

In attendance: Sandy Gilbert, Lloyd Gilbert, Marcia Gary, Howard Hurst, Mary Hurst, Larry Cherrier, Bev Cherrier, Delores Salter, Beverly Quebec, Wyness Knapp, Joyce Rushlow, Joan Rubino, Ernie Turner, Margaret Turner, Raymond Turner, Lorraine Turner, Rosalie Larose, Ed Mayville, Elaine Mayville, Rose Elwood, Jeanette Adams, and many more who did not sign in. There were approximately 45 people in attendance.

1. What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Dept?

- Space – Need our bowling alley back.
- Need an indoor, heated swimming pool.
- Need all indoor and outdoor recreation spaces to be handicap accessible.

2. What changes/improvements would you recommend in the following areas…

Parks?

- Need better playgrounds with better safety surfaces.
- Need benches around the playgrounds.
- It would be nice to have a bike path.
- Need indoor and outdoor year-round walking sites.
- Would like to have easily accessible natural areas/bird sanctuary/wildlife observation area.
- Sledding hill.

Programs?

- Physical fitness programs for seniors.
- Craft activity instruction in accessible locations (The Arrowhead Senior Center would be a good place.)
- Community gardening.

Trails?

- Where are the existing ones?
- They need to be easily accessible, with easy grade changes.
- Need easy walking access from the road/parking areas.

Indoor Recreation Facilities?

- Places for card games, getting people together is often a problem.
- Self-defense programs for the elderly.
- Would like to have a municipally funded Senior Center Director position.
- Need a movie theater.
- Need a teen center.
- Would like a gambling casino.
- Need a skateboard park for the kids.

Waterfront Access?

- We have Sand Bar.
- What access do we have to Lake Arrowhead? Confirm access by store near Lake Road…is it private or public?
- The access area to L. Arrowhead in Georgia is very steep grade, needs improving.

Outdoor Recreation and Sport Facilities?

- Want to be sure that the subdivision regulations provide for maintaining open space as new developments are built.

Administration?

- Need more summer programs for kids.
- We need more than a half-time director, especially if the population is going to increase as much as predicted.

4. What level of service and accessibility for PARKS should we strive for in the future… smaller neighborhood vs. larger community parks?

- Want to <u>at least</u> be in the middle of the standards.

5. Would you be willing to increase taxes to pay for additional park and recreation services?

- Not really but maybe if we really want it.
- We would be more willing to pay extra money for a <u>multi-use</u> facility, especially if it had safety components (ex: swimming pool where we can teach children to swim) and health components.

APPENDIX B

MINUTES
Joint Recreation Commission and Conservation Commission Meeting
January 11, 2007

In attendance: Pat Duffy, Brian Willette, Steve Carlin, Gary Walz, John Lindsay, Kym Duchesneau, Bonnie Pease, Brian Pease, Deborah Doley, Lee Conrad Kemsley, Judy Kinner, Geoff Plunkett, Sue Schlack, and Regina Mahony.

1. **What are the key issues/priorities for the Milton Recreation Dept?**
   - Funding for administration of the department.
   - More consolidation/autonomy/ability to make decisions for the department.
   - One stop "shopping" for recreation questions, concerns, answers.
   - Recreation Department being more involved in maintenance decisions.
   - Better coordination and care of all public recreation facilities in Milton.
   - Different funding strategies, other than municipal taxes, for example: one penny on the tax rate specifically for recreation.
   - Need more indoor space for recreation programs.

2. **What changes/improvements would you recommend in the following areas…**

Parks?
- Need more parks
- Need more diversity (multi-purpose use) in existing parks, ex:
  - Expand use in existing facilities
  - Picnic area at state fishing access
  - Public access on Lake Arrowhead
  - Open recreation lands near Eagle Mountain
  - Neighborhood playgrounds
- Need some satellite parks
- Lamoille River geographically splits the community and there should be recreation lands on both sides.
- Is there more land available adjacent to the fishing access near the Georgia border?
- Maintenance of existing trails needs to be better.
- The block building in Bombardier Park needs improvement, needs a concession area.
- Need a restroom building and water on the side of the park with horseshoe pits and tennis courts.
- Improve playground near the horseshoe pits.
- Need shade trees near the playgrounds.

Programs?
- Need more.
- Need more programs for the 19-25 and 25-50 age groups; more adult programs (physical activity, crafts, etc.)
- More technology/computer
- Seasonal activities in open space/natural areas like bird-watching, foliage walks, snow-shoeing, connected with a related educational component of resource conservation, astronomy.
- More "non-sport" and less organized activities

Trails?

- Need multi-use trails.
- Need clear user policies/plan about how the Town wants the trails used and how they will be maintained.
- Establish two new kinds of trails…
  - Geo-caching trail
  - Historical trail connecting the various interesting historical sites around town (this could be all walking or combination walking/driving)
- Would be nice to have a trail with exercise stations along it.
- Need a bicycle/pedestrian multi-use path.

    - Need an active Bikepath Committee.
    - Check out the MPO Regional Plan for Milton
    - Talk with Local Motion about regional plans for a path going through Milton.
- Need opportunities for multi-use travel including motorized vehicles.

Water Access?
- Recently lost a canoe access on the Upper Lamoille River
- Need better access to Lake Champlain and Lake Arrowhead
- More access on the Lamoille River.
- Are there still two public access points to Lake Arrowhead? (one on Route 104 in Georgia and one by the Dam Store opposite Lake Road)
- Need access on Lower Lamoille below the Peterson Dam.
- Need a map depicting all public recreation lands, trails, water access, etc.
- Would be nice to have a public trail from the Husky property down to the lake.
- Would be nice to have a public bathing area.
- Look at the Canoe Guide to the Lamoille River to see what public access areas are available.

Natural Areas?
- Need more lands in different areas of Milton.
- Better publicize what we have
- Offer outdoor recreation programs at existing sites.
- The Town Forest is designated as a "Natural Area" with guidelines about what that means (several plans have been done for this property but none has been implemented.)
- Need better law enforcement to protect the natural areas and enforcement of the rules on them
- Need to develop ordinances relative to use of natural areas, for example: camping, horse use, ATV use, etc.
- Need a citizen Oversight Board to help manage the ordinance, would this be the Conservation Commission, combination Rec/Cons Commission, a new Board?
- But then, we need additional capital and authority to do this.
- The trails disappear quickly if they are not maintained.

Indoor Recreation Space?
- Want a swimming pool.
- Want a hockey rink.
- Want an indoor gymnasium/soccer field/track/field house.
- Need space for recreation programs and meetings.
- Would like to have a computer network set-up for classes, computer-gaming tournaments, film, art space, photo lab, gallery.

Sports and Athletic Facilities?
- Outdoor pool.
- Already need more athletic fields.
- Need more parking at Bombardier Park, especially during mud season. (note: someone did a traffic count in and out of the park, try to get a copy of it.)
- Need to look at the traffic patterns in and out of the park.
- Need opportunity for off-road, off-track bicycle, motorbike, and ATVs, BMX park, extreme sports.
- Get the skatepark back on the table, it needs improving.
- Improve the tennis facilities, add lights?
- Add lights at the horseshoe pits.
- Need additional ballfields and multi-use fields with open space in other parts of town.

Accessibility?
- Want everything being developed and/or improved needs to be evaluated for compliance with federal accessibility standards.

Open Space?

- Would like to see a vote for one cent or one-half cent on the tax rate to buy more open space lands, as they become available. Small parcels would be OK too.

Administration?

- Need more resources (money, people, and hours).
- Need (1) a clear definition/mandate of the purpose of the Administration/Department, (2) to have the personnel to meet that mandate, and (3) need the money to meet that mandate.
- Currently it feels like the picture is "out of focus" with a lack of "concentration of purpose."

3. How would you prioritize these changes/improvements (without attachment to funding)?

- The two areas most deficit are 1) indoor recreation facilities and 2) waterfront access.
- Indoor facilities
- Overall plan for open spaces.
- Getting the Recreation department "squared away" with adequate resources.
- Buying more land to spread out recreation opportunities as the population grows.
- There is a large concentration of people living in the Poor Farm/ Lake Road/ Manley Road area of Town.
- Look at town plans to see where the future residential growth is projected.
- Trails.

4. What level of service and accessibility for PARKS should we strive for in the future… smaller neighborhood vs. larger community parks?

- Want to be at the high end of guidelines for neighborhood parks, community parks, and open areas/open lands.

5. Would you be willing to increase taxes to pay for additional park and recreation services?

- We think people will pay for things they want.

6. Which two changes/improvements would be your top priorities for funding?

(Everyone wrote their top two on a sticky note)

- Indoor recreation facilities (pool, rink, field house, program space)
- Recreation department mandate (personnel, funding, master plan, and responsibilities)
- Preserve natural areas already own and increase their use by teaching residents about them and creating access and parking.
- Provide more small neighborhood parks.
- Better programs developed for natural areas such as educational, program, trails, etc.
- Purchase of more land by town for recreational parks and various use facilities.
- Land acquisition/easements, etc. for future uses, while it is still available.
- Water access on Lake Champlain, Arrowhead and the Lamoille River.
- Multi-purpose indoor recreation facility.
- Waterfront access.
- Indoor facilities: swimming pool, skating, meeting rooms, gym, etc.
- Increase funding and staff for the recreation department.
- Trails developed and maintained.
- Recreational management plans that are actually implemented and not filed away.
- Maintenance of trail systems and natural areas.
- Administration.
- Multi-purpose trails.
- Administration of the recreation Department along with funding.
- Multi-use recreation trails including motorized recreation.
- Neighborhood parks/open space.
- Waterfront access on Lake Champlain.
- Indoor facilities.
- Trails-bike and natural to be maintained.

7. Since funds are limited for building new parks and sports facilities, and improving existing ones, what should the priorities be for developing and maintaining parks?

- The first priority should be to maintain and improve existing facilities and lands, but…want to have some new too.
- Need a comprehensive maintenance plan.

8. What do you see as the best funding options?

- Fundraisers can be community builders
  - Walks
  - Dinner dance
  - Bake sales
- Bond
- Facility User Fees
- Corporate sponsors
- Grants
- Taxes
- Endowments/Planned Giving
- Program Fees
- Investments
- Special Events (concerts, marathons, triathlons, festivals)
- Volunteers

9. What would you like to see happen at the Town Forest/Bove property?

- Want to see ATVs allowed on the Bove property.
- Do not want to see ATVs on the Town Forest.
- The ATV Club would like to see one trail on the Bove property to provide access from one side of the land to the other. Could become part of a statewide trail.
- Look at the Town Charter reference to the Town Forest being set aside to protect the wildlife and plant communities; the recreation activities for this parcel should focus around this mission.
- This parcel seems too far away from the Town Center to be used for athletic fields.
- One of the ATV Club members was asked what he would expect for behavior if there was one legal trail through this parcel, would riders travel off-trail and create a bunch of spur trails? His response was that where there is legal access, it often solves existing problems caused by having no legal access in the area, and said that ATV club members serve as trail patrol volunteers which also alleviates problems.
- Would like to see mountain bike trails on the Bove property, but they must be carefully planned out.
- There have been times that organizes winter X-C ski trips have been planned between Westford Pond and Milton Pond.
- There is no existing VAST trail in this area, and doesn't seem to be any interest to add one (check with VAST)

APPENDIX C

Stakeholder Interviews on 3/22/07 _____

1. What is working well with the current administrative structure?

2. Are there things that could be improved with the administration structure?

3. Are there things that aren't working as well as they could in the delivery of parks and recreation services in Milton?

4. Get feedback on survey results…

Q7.	Age groups
Q8.	Types of programs
Q10.	Park visitation
Q13.	New/improved facilities
Q16&17	Paying for new facilities
Q18&19.	Buying more land
Q20.	Spending priorities

5. Feedback on some of the ideas generated by the focus groups…

- Need a full-time Recreation Director.
- Need more resources for recreation in Milton.
- Maintenance of recreation facilities needs improvement.
- Need more indoor space for recreation.
- Need some smaller neighborhood parks.
- Need a bicycle/pedestrian path.
- Need a Bikepath Committee.
- Need better access to Lake Champlain and Arrowhead Lake.
- Would be nice to have a public beach.
- Need a swimming pool.
- Need a fitness/indoor recreation facility.
- Need additional ballfields and multi-use fields in other parts of town.
- The skatepark needs improving.
- Need opportunity for off-road, off-track bicycle, motorbike, and ATVs, BMX park, extreme sports.
- Want to provide some ATV access on the Bove Property.

6. Is there anything else you would like to suggest for the future of recreation and parks in Milton?

APPENDIX D

MINUTES
Milton Town Forest/Bove Property Meeting – March 15, 2007

In attendance: Chris Racicot, Connie Plunkett, Geof Plunkett, Steve Leedy (?), Chris Lake, Greg Cadieux, Alan Hatch, Marta Merrick, Joe Larose, Jack Lindsay, Brian and Claire Wilette, Jerry Wolfenbarger, Judy Kinner, Gary Walz (?), Ron Plouffe, Pat Duffy, Steve Carlin, Kym Dushesneau, Laurie DiCesare, Mark and Shelley Hitchcox, Regina Mahoney, Dustin Keelty, Susan Schlack, Sandy Miller.

Town Manager, Sandy Miller, started off the meeting by welcoming those in attendance, introducing key staff and Betsy Orselet, the consultant hired by the Town to complete a 20-year recreation plan and the facilitator for this meeting.

Sandy Miller, gave a brief description of the two municipal properties being discussed at the meeting, the 350 acre Milton Town Forest and the 120+ acres Bove property recently acquired by the town. At this time, it is the intent of the Town to maintain these parcels as two separate properties.

Betsy Orselet described the ground rules and the audience was invited to provide input on 1) what they would like to see happen on these properties and 2) what they would NOT like to see. Following is a complete list of all comments.

Would LIKE to see…

- Want multi-use trails including motorized vehicles; most importantly to include a trail that provides a corridor through the property.
- Would like to know where existing or possible new trails are located.
- Would like the immediate perimeter of Milton Pond to be left for pedestrians only to save the wildflowers.
- Would like designated areas for each use.
- VASA (VT All Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association) is looking for something similar to the VAST (VT Association of Snow Travelers) Trail.
- Need to have a plan for how to maintain areas designated for vehicular use to minimize erosion problems on trails.
- Allow hunting, on both parcels if possible.
- Need good parking and better access.
- Need a master plan for these properties, the resources to adequately maintain the properties, and patrol capabilities.
- Need an operations and management budget!
- We can minimize conflict with proper management.
- Need a forest management plan for both parcels.
- Allow non-motorized boats.
- Opportunity for swimming is limited because of the heavy beaver population and risk of giardia.
- Consider allowing boats with electric motors to provide better access to the physically challenged.
- Include handicap access in the master plan.
- Be sure to reference existing planning documents, including the 1993 Forestry Plan for the Town Forest, in the master plan for these parcels.
- Consider the 2003 field naturalist report on the Town Forest property.
- Identify sensitive areas and steeper sloped areas with potential for erosion problems.

- We must protect this important watershed.
- Would like to allow the continued use of motorized vehicles needed to perform maintenance work.
- NCAA (ATV Club) is more than willing to participate in the design, development, and policy enforcement of any proposed motorized trail access.
- There is evidence of motor vehicle use on this property now but no permission has been granted.
- Would like to see overnight camping allowed on both properties.
- Milton owns a large numbers of acres of natural areas; until the community is ready for "developed" recreation areas, it would be better to leave them in their current state.
- The Town must be prepared to fund ALL costs/expenses related to development, operation and maintenance of these recommended multi-use facilities.
- If we allow camping, would like to see a limited number of low-impact sites. Don't forget all the related considerations such as sanitation and restroom facilities when considering camping policies.
- Develop designated day use picnic areas.
- Provide designated access point(s) for boats.
- Provide access for a variety of user groups, including students traveling in buses and adult learners. The Town Forest and Milton Pond are used regularly for student field trips.
- Provide some interpretive opportunities (for example: signage and programs) on these sites.
- Need to identify all natural features, trees, plants, etc. that need protecting on this site. Refer to the 1991 Nature Heritage for Chittenden County.
- Is there any opportunity for income from this property, i.e. timber harvest?
- Need a trail management plan for the existing trails, which hopefully will include the use of staff and volunteers.
- Designate some trails as mixed use and some for pedestrians only.
- Preserve large areas of wilderness to be left as is; try to concentrate the "developed" use in specific areas and limit the trail system.
- "I like being able to walk through the woods without being on designated trails."
- Strong recommendation that a natural resource inventory be completed for both properties; expand upon what has already been done in the LIA study.
- Be sure that all existing studies/documents are referenced in the Recreation Plan, along with the status of each.
- In the cost estimates for any proposed improvements, include a description of who would perform the proposed work, i.e. volunteers, staff, contractors, etc.
- Need plan for enforcement and policing in the management plan.
- Would like to see an enforcement plan that does not depend on Milton Police Department resources but rather, uses volunteers.
- Would like to see the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission host more community field trips at these two sites.

Do NOT want to see…

- Do not want to see any user groups left out; plan should be inclusive.
- No negative agenda; do not group responsible and "renegade" ATV riders together.
- Do not want to see any motorized vehicles/boats allowed on Milton Pond. (three people agreed)
- Do not want to see motorized vehicles allowed in the Town Forest.

- Do not want to see any building structures along the shoreline of Milton Pond; remove the existing "shack"…confirm that there is no historic value first.

Before adjourning, everyone was given two sticky notes and asked to record their top two priorities for these two parcels of town land. Here is the list of top priorities of the people in attendance at the meeting:

- Permanent deeded access directly to Milton Pond.
- Establishment of public use policies for these properties.
- Preserve the solitude and ecological sanctity of the area immediately surrounding the pond.
- Prohibit motorized vehicles in the Town Forest except for possible corridor through back.
- Limit designed additional trails.
- Multi-use trails are needed.
- Provide handicap access to as much of the property as possible.
- Keep everybody informed of progress.
- A plan that does its best to include all.
- Consideration for controlled ATV use on discussed Town property.
- Multi-use trails including motorized recreation.
- Forest management plan.
- Natural resource inventory.
- Management plan including cost estimates.
- Preservation of natural areas.
- Multi-use trails including horses.
- Be inclusive.
- No motorized boats, jet skis, etc. on the pond.
- Want multi-use trails including motorized vehicles.
- Revised forest plan.
- ATV access.
- #1 priority – no motorized vehicles around perimeter of Milton Pond, except for maintenance vehicles.
- #2 priority – no overnight camping.
- No negative lumping of groups.
- Equitable use for all groups.
- #1 – management plan adopted.
- #2 – attempt to preserve the wilderness area of the Town Forest to the greatest extent possible.
- Multi-use including motorized vehicles.
- No motor boats on pond.
- Four season public access.
- Designated ATV use on properties.
- Large area of low impact, minimum trails. Primitive forest access!
- Proper enforcement so all users are happy.
- Not banning motorized vehicles from Town Forest.
- Good parking off Westford Road.
- Respectful multi-use trails.

APPENDIX E

MINUTES
Public Meeting – Facility Priorities
May 3, 2007

In attendance: Gary Walz, Marta Merrick, Pat Duffy, John Lindsay, Jack Lindsay, Regina Mahoney, Dustin Keelty, and Susan Schlack.

Betsy Orselet, the consultant hired by the Town to complete the 20-year recreation master plan facilitated the meeting. The introduction included a review of the Need Indicator grid that was developed to summarize where the need for specific park and recreation improvements had been indicated. She went on to present a list of recreation needs in Milton for the next 20 years and the priorities assigned to each by the four-person consultant team that included herself, Mark Berry, Tom Hubbard, and Bob Whalen.

Public comments included:

- The preservation of open space should be considered long-range; there was a concern that there was not enough emphasis placed on this in the draft list.
- There is a need that has not been specified, for a natural resource inventory on each site to ensure the preservation of special features that we want to preserve, such as wildlife corridors, water, etc.
- The Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and Land Trust all need to work in close communication in the implementation of this plan.
- The maintenance of the tennis courts should be rated as a #1 priority.
- Leave the natural areas "as is" until we have the staff resources to be able to manage them. Enforcement of new policies established for the natural resource based parks will present new needs.
- Will there be cost estimates attached to the proposed improvements?
- It would be good to identify the user groups who will benefit from each improvement.
- It would be good to describe what work could be performed by volunteers.
- How much money would an additional one cent on the tax rate generate?
- The subdivision regulations should include provisions for land dedication, density bonuses, and criteria for acceptable land.

Next, an implementation schedule developed by the consultant team was presented. The list of proposed facility improvements were broken into three categories: Years 1-10 (enhancing and protecting the existing facilities), years 10-15 (continue improvement of existing facilities and begin building new), and years 15-20 (buy additional land and build an indoor recreation center.) The focus of this meeting was to gather public input on this list of proposed improvements and work schedule.

There was consensus that an indoor recreation center is a top priority in Milton and that a feasibility study and planning for an indoor recreation center should be completed within three years, the fundraising of this facility should be completed within the next three years, and the facility should be built within the next 10 years. The consultant team had recommended the development of an indoor recreation center, but on a slower schedule.

Lastly, each person was given 10 small sticky dots and instructed to place them next to the items they considered top priority on the list of recreation facility improvements for the next 20 years, with the following stipulation, they could not place more than 2 dots next to any one item. Below is the result of this exercise.

Years 1-10

Project	**# of Dots Placed**
Build Indoor Recreation Center	6
Conduct a Feasibility Study for an Indoor Recreation Center	3
Establish a Dedicated Recreation Impact Fee	3
Increase resources for better regular maintenance of existing recreation facilities	3
Add more equipment and benches in the playground area in the East Side of Bombardier	2
Adopt a Management Plan for Eagle Mountain Natural Area	2

Adopt a Management Plan for the Bove Property	2
Adopt a Management Plan for the Town Forest/Milton Pond	2
Bombardier Park Tennis Court Improvements - Surface improvements	2
Develop a map of sidewalk and Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths; include on "Official Town Map"	2
Improve parking and access at Bove Property	2
Improve parking and access at Eagle Mountain Natural Area	2
Organize a Bikepath Committee and identify key corridors of connectivity	2
Renovate existing restrooms and meeting space on West Side of Bombardier Park	2
Build restrooms on East Side of Bombardier Park	1
Develop an irrigation plan for the athletic fields at Bombardier Park	1
Implement the irrigation plan in phases	1
Survey all park boundaries, where necessary	1
Add new elements to the Skate/Scooter/Bike Park at Bombardier Park	0
Bombardier Park Tennis Court Improvements - Windscreens and backboards	0
Develop a Master Plan for Bombardier Park	0
Develop and implement a Signage Plan for the Municipal Park System	0
Improve maintenance of Bombardier Park ballfields and multi-purpose athletic fields	0
Reconfigure and improve the parking in the West Side of Bombardier Park	0
Revise subdivision regulations to include land dedication for neighborhood parks	0
Secure access and parking at Town Forest/Milton Pond	0
Upgrade safety surface on playgrounds at Bombardier Park	0
Work with the neighbors to plan a neighborhood park on the Town-owned Oglewood Drive parcel	0

Years 10-15	
Develop a Town-wide Trail Map	3
Continue phased development of irrigation plan in Bombardier Park	3
Indoor Community Recreation Center - Funding Development	2
Improve picnic facilities (more tables, BBQ grills, etc) in East Side of Bombardier Park	2
Develop Neighborhood Park on Oglewood Drive	1
Improve trails and signage at Eagle Mountain Natural Area	1
Improve trails and signage at Town Forest/Milton Pond	1
Improve trails and signage at Bove Property	1
Develop a Dog Park on the old Landfill site	1
Continue development of Eagle Mountain Natural Area, in accordance with the Management Plan	1
Build neighborhood parks in new developments	1
Improve trails and signage at Bombardier Park	0
Improve trails and signage at Checkerberry River Walk	0
Continue development of Town Forest/Milton Pond, in accordance with the Management Plan	0
Continue development of Bove Property, in accordance with the Management Plan	0

Years 15-20	
If the opportunity arises, purchase parcels of land adjacent to Bombardier Park for future recreation use.	5
Develop a Teen Center, in collaboration with the Milton Family Center	4
Explore possibility of developing BMX trails at Bombardier Park	0
Continue implementation of irrigation plan at Bombardier Park, as more fields are needed.	0
Improve horseshoe pits in Bombardier Park - lights and roof	0

APPENDIX F

The Milton Recreation Department wants YOUR opinions about several park and recreation issues. You can help us be more responsive to the needs of our community and plan for the next twenty years. <u>Even if you do not use our programs, your opinions are important to us</u>. Your responses are strictly confidential.

1. On a scale of 1 to 5, how important is the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton to you and your family? (circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5
not at all important		neutral		extremely important

2. Have you contacted the Milton Recreation Department office in the last twelve months? (circle one number)

1 yes 2 no (If you answered "no", SKIP TO QUESTION NUMBER 3)

2a. How would you rate the service you received? (circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5
poor	fair	average	good	excellent

Please describe any things you noticed in the office that you especially liked or disliked.

3. In general, how would you describe the job the Milton Recreation Department is doing for residents? (circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5
very poor		average		very good

The next seven questions refer specifically to recreation <u>programs</u>.

4. How do you hear about programs sponsored by the Milton Recreation Department? (circle all numbers that apply)

1	department web page	4	the *Milton Independent*	6	other (specify)
2	seasonal program brochures	5	word of mouth		_____
3	special flyers from school				

5. How many Milton Recreation Department programs or classes (a*s examples: gymnastics, drawing, hunter safety classes, etc.),* did you and/or another member of your household participate in during the last twelve months?. (circle one number)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7+ (If you answered "0", SKIP TO QUESTION #6)

5a. How was the overall quality of the programs that you participated in? (circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5
very poor		average		very good

6. What prevents you or other household members from using more recreation programs? (circle all numbers that apply)

1	don't have time	5	program was filled	9	other (specify)
2	hard to learn what is offered	6	scheduling problems		_____
3	I recreate elsewhere	7	too expensive		
4	no interest	8	transportation problems		

7. Which age groups need more recreation programs in Milton? (circle all numbers that apply)

1	0 – 3 years	5	15 – 19 years	9	66 years & older
2	4 – 6 years	6	20 – 30 years	10	none of these
3	7 – 10 years	7	31 – 50 years		
4	11 – 14 years	8	51 – 65 years		

8. What types of programs should be added? (circle all numbers that apply)

1	adventure programs	8	family programs	15	school vacation camps
2	after school programs	9	fishing	16	skateboarding
3	arts & craft programs	10	fitness & wellness programs	17	snowmobiling
4	ATV programs	11	hunting	18	summer camps
5	computer/tech programs	12	individual & team sports	19	none of these
6	cultural programs	13	nature & outdoor programs	20	other (specify)
7	extreme sports	14	rock climbing		_____

9. Of the programs you selected in question #8, which three are your top choices? (Write the number of the program. For example, write "9" if fishing is your #1 choice.)

#1 choice _____ #2 choice _____ #3 choice _____

The next eleven questions refer specifically to recreation <u>facilities</u>.

10. How many times did you or a member of your household use the following facilities in the last twelve months for recreation purposes? (circle one for each facility)

Bombardier Park - Athletic Fields & Facilities	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Bombardier Park - Playgrounds	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Bombardier Park - Trails	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Eagle Mountain Natural Area	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Lamoille River Trail	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Milton Town Forest	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Route 7 Picnic Area	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Bicycle/Pedestrian Path in a Nearby Community	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Ice Skating Facility in a Nearby Community	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Milton Family Center	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Milton Public Library	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Neighborhood Association Recreation Facility	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Private Health Club Facility	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Public Park in a Nearby Community	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Public Swimming Pool in a Nearby Community	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Sand Bar State Park	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
State Fishing Access on Georgia Shore Road	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
State Fishing Access on Lake Arrowhead	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
State Fishing Access on Lower Lamoille River	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
<u>Please indicate use outside of normal school hours</u>:					
Athletic Facility at a Milton School	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Classroom or Performance Stage at a Milton School	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility
Playground at a Milton School	None	1 Time	2-10 Times	11+ Times	Don't know this facility

11. The first seven facilities shown in bold-face type in Question #10 are maintained by the Milton Recreation Department. How would you rate the overall maintenance of these facilities? (circle one number)

1 (very poor) 2 3 (average) 4 5 (very good)

Please tell us about any specific maintenance problems you have noticed in these facilities.

12. In addition to the facilities listed in Question #10, what other recreation facilities have you or a household member used at least ten times in the last twelve months? (please list them)

13. What new or improved public recreation facilities would you like to see in Milton? (circle all numbers that apply)

1 ATV/Snowmobile trails
2 bicycle/pedestrian paths
3 bigger senior center
4 bigger skate park
5 dog park
6 fitness facility
7 golf driving range
8 indoor performing arts space
9 indoor skating arena
10 indoor swimming pool
11 more all-purpose field space
12 more baseball/softball fields
13 more group picnic shelters
14 more indoor gym space
15 more open space/ conservation land
16 more outdoor basketball courts
17 more picnic tables
18 more playgrounds
19 tennis court upgrades
20 more tennis courts
21 more walking/X-C ski trails
22 mountain biking trails
23 multi-generation community center
24 sand volleyball courts
25 teen center
26 outdoor swimming pool
27 other (specify) _____ _____
28 no new facilities

14. Of the facilities you selected in question # 13, which three are your top choices? (Write the number of the facility. For example, write "5" if a dog park is your #1 choice.)

#1 choice _____ #2 choice _____ #3 choice _____

15. The Town of Milton has recently acquired 134 acres of land, known as the Bove property, adjacent to the 353-acre Town Forest property. What types of activities would you like to see permitted on this combined 487-acre parcel? (circle all that apply)

1	ATV-ing	7	hiking	13	tennis
2	baseball/softball	8	horseback riding	14	none of these
3	basketball	9	hunting	15	other (specify)
4	camping	10	mountain biking		_____
5	cross country skiing	11	snowmobiling		_____
6	football	12	soccer		

16. How should Milton pay for the construction of new recreation facilities? (circle all that apply)

1	impact fees on new development	3	new property taxes
2	fundraising	4	pay-per-use fees
		5	other (specify) _____

17. Quality recreation facilities and activities cost money to provide and maintain. How much additional property tax would you be willing to pay annually to increase recreational opportunities in Milton? (circle one number)

1	None	3	$26 to $50	5	$76 to $100
2	$1 to $25	4	$51 to $75	6	more than $100

18. Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for <u>public recreation</u> in Milton? (circle one number)

1 yes 2 no

19. Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for <u>open space preservation</u> in Milton? (circle one number)

1 yes 2 no

20. If you had $100 to allocate among various park and recreation categories, how would you spend it? (Write a $ amount for each. For example, write $25 if you would allocate $25 out of the $100 to better maintain existing parks and facilities.)

_____	acquisition of land for conservation/open space	_____	construction of new recreation facilities
_____	acquisition of land for recreation	_____	improvements to existing parks and facilities
_____	better maintenance of existing parks & facilities	_____	other (please specify) _____

Last we would like to ask some questions about yourself. These questions help us see how well the group of people who respond to this survey, represent the entire Milton population. No names are requested, and responses are strictly confidential.

21. How long have you lived in the Town of Milton? (fill in the total number of years or months)

_____ years _____ months

22. How many people live in your household? _____ (fill in the total number)

23. How many children <u>under the age of 18</u> live in your household? _____ children (fill in the total number)

24. Do you own or rent the apartment or house in which you are currently living? (circle one number)

1 own 2 rent

25. What is your age? (circle one number)

1	18 - 24 years	3	35 – 44 years	5	55 – 64 years
2	25 – 34 years	4	45 – 54 years	6	65 years and older

26. Which of the following best describes your total annual household income? (circle one number)

1	under $25,000	3	$35,000 to $49,999	5	$75,000 to $99,999
2	$25,000 to $34,999	4	$50,000 to $74,999	6	more than $100,000

This concludes the survey. Please feel free to make additional comments in the space below or on the next page. We greatly appreciate your help. <u>Please fold your completed survey so that the return address shows on the outside and tape it shut.</u> Thank you very much!

APPENDIX G

Survey Results – Tables

Q.1 **How important is the availability of local parks and recreation opportunities in Milton to you and the members of your household?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
Extremely Important	34.9%	147
Important	32.3%	136
Neutral	20.0%	84
Not at all important	8.1%	34
Not very important	4.8%	20
Total	100.0%	421
Missing		8

Q.2 **Have you contacted the Milton Recreation Department (MRD) offices in the last twelve months?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
No	76.0%	308
Yes	24.0%	97
Total	100.0%	405
Missing		24

Q.2a **If you contacted the department, how would you rate the service you received?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
Good	57.5%	61
Average	20.8%	22
Excellent	16.0%	17
Fair	5.7%	6
Poor	0.0%	0
Total	100.0%	106

Q.3 **In general, how would you describe the job the MRD is doing for residents?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
Average	50.0%	186
Good	31.5%	117
Very Good	10.8%	40
Poor	6.2%	23
Very Poor	1.6%	6
Total	100.0%	372
Missing		57

Q.4 **How do you hear about programs sponsored by the MRD?**

Response	**%***	**No.**
The *Milton Independent*	77.9%	334
Seasonal program brochures	38.0%	163
Word of mouth	24.2%	104
Special flyers from school	19.1%	82
Other	4.7%	20
Department web page	3.0%	13
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.5 **How many MRD programs or classes, did you and/or other members of your household participate in during the last twelve months?**

Response	**%**	**No.**
0	74.6%	309
2	9.9%	41
1	9.2%	38
3	2.9%	12
4	1.7%	7
5	0.7%	3
6	0.5%	2
7+	0.5%	2
Total	100.0%	414
Missing		15

Q.5a **How was the overall quality of the programs you participated in?**

Response	**%**	**No.**
Good	48.0%	49
Average	27.5%	28
Excellent	22.5%	23
Fair	2.0%	2
Poor	0.0%	0
Total	100.0%	102
Missing		326

Q.6 **What prevents you or other household members from using more recreation programs?**		
Response	**%***	**No.**
Don't have time	31.7%	136
No interest	24.5%	105
Scheduling problem	22.8%	98
Other	17.5%	75
I recreate elsewhere	14.5%	62
Hard to learn what is offered	14.0%	60
Too expensive	7.0%	30
Program was filled	2.8%	12
Transportation problems	2.3%	10
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.7 **Which age groups need more recreation programs in Milton?**		
Response	**%***	**No.**
11-14 years	38.0%	163
15-19 years	34.7%	149
31-50 years	26.1%	112
7-10 years	20.0%	86
51-65 years	20.0%	86
4-6 years	13.5%	58
65 years +	12.6%	54
20-30 years	10.3%	44
0-3 years	7.9%	34
None of these	6.1%	26
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.8 **What types of programs should be added?**		
Response	**%***	**No.**
Fitness & wellness programs	47.8%	205
Nature & outdoor programs	38.2%	164
Family programs	35.2%	151
After school programs	31.5%	135
Computer & technology programs	31.2%	134
Arts & crafts programs	28.9%	124
Adventure programs	25.6%	110
Summer camps	25.4%	109
School vacation camps	22.4%	96
Individual & team sports	20.3%	87
Cultural programs	18.9%	81
Fishing	16.1%	69
Other	14.0%	60
Hunting	12.1%	52
ATV programs	11.9%	51
Rock climbing	10.0%	43
Snowmobiling	7.0%	30
Extreme sports	6.5%	28
Skateboarding	5.8%	25
None of these	3.5%	15
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.9 **Of the programs you selected in Question #8, which three are your top choices?**						
(Sorted by first choice)						
	First Choice		**Second Choice**		**Third Choice**	
Response	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**
Fitness & wellness programs	18.0%	65	12.1%	41	14.9%	46
After school programs	12.4%	45	7.7%	26	4.2%	13
Family programs	10.2%	37	10.9%	37	7.5%	23
Other	8.0%	29	3.2%	11	2.3%	7
Nature & outdoor programs	7.7%	28	10.6%	36	10.1%	31
Computer & technology programs	6.9%	25	9.1%	31	7.5%	23
Arts & crafts programs	5.8%	21	11.2%	38	7.5%	23
Summer camps	5.2%	19	2.9%	10	9.1%	28
Adventure programs	4.4%	16	3.8%	13	6.8%	21
Individual & team sports	4.1%	15	4.7%	16	4.2%	13
Fishing	3.3%	12	2.9%	10	2.6%	8
Cultural programs	2.8%	10	4.7%	16	6.8%	21
ATV programs	2.2%	8	2.9%	10	3.6%	11
Hunting	1.9%	7	2.9%	10	1.6%	5
School vacation camps	1.9%	7	6.8%	23	5.5%	17
Rock climbing	1.4%	5	0.9%	3	1.3%	4
Skateboarding	1.4%	5	0.3%	1	0.6%	2
Snowmobiling	1.4%	5	1.2%	4	1.0%	3
Extreme sports	0.6%	2	0.9%	3	2.9%	9
None of these	0.3%	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Total	100.0%	362	100.0%	339	100.0%	308
Missing		67		90		121

Q.10 **How many times did you or a member of your household use the following facilities in the last twelve months?** (Sorted by most often used)										
	Zero		**1 Time**		**2-10 Times**		**11+ Times**		**Don't Know Facility**	
Response	**%***	**No.**	**%***	**No.**	**%***	**No.**	**%***	**No.**	**%***	**No.**
Milton Public Library	34.7%	149	6.1%	26	31.5%	135	26.6%	114	0.2%	1
Bombardier Park-Athletic Fields & Facilities	51.0%	219	7.5%	32	21.2%	91	18.4%	79	0.9%	4
Private Health Club Facility	66.2%	284	1.4%	6	9.6%	41	18.2%	78	3.5%	15
Athletic Facility at a Milton School	74.4%	319	1.4%	6	11.9%	51	9.1%	39	2.3%	10
Bicycle/Pedestrian Path in a Nearby Community	59.2%	254	6.5%	28	20.7%	89	8.2%	35	4.2%	18
Bombardier Park-Playgrounds	63.9%	274	6.1%	26	21.2%	91	7.2%	31	0.7%	3
Ice Skating Facility in a Nearby Community	72.5%	311	2.1%	9	13.3%	57	7.2%	31	3.7%	16
Bombardier Park-Trails	66.9%	287	5.4%	23	16.6%	71	5.4%	23	4.7%	20
Public Park in a Nearby Community	58.3%	250	4.7%	20	29.6%	127	4.2%	18	2.1%	9
Sand Bar State Park	46.9%	201	17.0%	73	30.5%	131	4.2%	18	0.2%	1
Classroom or Performance Stage at a Milton School	77.2%	331	5.6%	24	9.8%	42	4.0%	17	2.3%	10
Public Swimming Pool in Nearby Community	76.7%	329	3.3%	14	12.4%	53	3.7%	16	2.8%	12
State Fishing Access on Georgia Shore Road	75.1%	322	5.1%	22	12.8%	55	3.5%	15	2.3%	10
Milton Family Center	85.1%	365	2.8%	12	5.6%	24	2.8%	12	2.6%	11
Playground at a Milton School	76.2%	327	3.0%	13	15.6%	67	2.8%	12	1.4%	6
State Fishing Access on Lake Arrowhead	80.2%	344	4.4%	19	8.9%	38	2.3%	10	3.0%	13
State Fishing Access on Lower Lamoille River	78.1%	335	5.4%	23	9.3%	40	2.3%	10	3.7%	16
Eagle Mountain Natural Area	70.2%	301	7.5%	32	7.9%	34	1.6%	7	11.7%	50
Milton Town Forest	73.4%	315	4.9%	21	7.0%	30	1.4%	6	12.1%	52
Lamoille River Trail	76.0%	326	3.0%	13	2.6%	11	1.2%	5	16.3%	70
Route 7 Picnic Area	76.2%	327	7.5%	32	8.2%	35	0.7%	3	6.3%	27
Neighborhood Association Recreation Facility	83.7%	359	1.2%	5	2.6%	11	0.7%	3	10.7%	46
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents										

Q11. **How would you rate the overall maintenance of the facilities maintained by the MRD?**

Response	**%**	**No.**
Average	48.4%	163
Good	29.1%	98
Very good	11.0%	37
Poor	6.8%	23
Very Poor	4.7%	16
Total	100.0%	337
Missing		92

Q.12 **What other recreation facilities have you or a household member used at least ten times in the last twelve months?** Most common responses reported (frequency of response).

Bike/ped path in another community (13)		Downhill Ski Area (7)
Another water access (9)		Racquet's Edge (6)
Hiking Trails (7)		Park in another community (6)
Indoor Hockey Rink (7)		State Park (5)

Q.13 **What new or improved recreation facilities would you like to see in Milton?**		
Response	**%***	**No.**
Bicycle/pedestrian paths	55.0%	236
Indoor swimming pool	46.2%	198
Indoor skating arena	39.9%	171
More walking/hiking/X-C ski trails	38.2%	164
Outdoor swimming pool	35.7%	153
Fitness facility	31.0%	133
Teen Center	22.1%	95
Mountain biking trails	19.3%	83
Dog park	18.9%	81
More open space/conservation land	17.9%	77
ATV/Snowmobile trails	17.5%	75
Golf driving range	16.8%	72
Multi-generational community center	16.3%	70
More indoor gym space	15.2%	65
More picnic tables	14.5%	62
Bigger senior center	13.8%	59
Indoor perrforming arts space	13.8%	59
More group picnic shelters	13.8%	59
More playgrounds	10.5%	45
More all-purpose filed space	10.0%	43
Bigger skate park	8.2%	35
Tennis court upgrades	7.0%	30
Sand volleyball courts	7.0%	30
Other	7.0%	30
More outdoor basketball courts	6.8%	29
More baseball/softball fields	6.1%	26
No new facilities	4.9%	21
More tennis courts	4.4%	19
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.14 **Of the facilities you selected in Question #13, which three are your top choices?**						
(Sorted by first choice)						
	First Choice		**Second Choice**		**Third Choice**	
Response	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**	**No.**
Bicycle/pedestrian paths	20.6%	77	14.7%	52	10.9%	36
Indoor skating arena	13.9%	52	12.7%	45	8.8%	29
Indoor swimming pool	13.4%	50	13.8%	49	8.8%	29
Outdoor swimming pool	6.2%	23	7.3%	26	7.3%	24
Bigger senior center	5.4%	20	2.8%	10	2.4%	8
ATV/Snowmobile trails	5.1%	19	3.4%	12	3.6%	12
Dog park	5.1%	19	2.8%	10	4.9%	16
Fitness facility	5.1%	19	5.4%	19	6.7%	22
More walking/hiking/X-C ski trails	4.3%	16	7.3%	26	9.7%	32
Teen Center	4.0%	15	3.4%	12	4.6%	15
Other	2.9%	11	0.6%	2	0.9%	3
More open space/conservation land	2.4%	9	3.4%	12	4.0%	13
Indoor perrforming arts space	1.9%	7	1.4%	5	4.3%	14
Golf driving range	1.6%	6	4.5%	16	3.0%	10
More indoor gym space	1.3%	5	1.1%	4	2.1%	7
Bigger skate park	1.1%	4	0.3%	1	0.9%	3
More playgrounds	1.1%	4	0.8%	3	2.7%	9
No new facilities	1.1%	4	0.3%	1	0.3%	1
More baseball/softball fields	0.8%	3	1.4%	5	0.9%	3
Mountain biking trails	0.8%	3	1.4%	5	3.3%	11
More all-purpose filed space	0.5%	2	2.0%	7	1.2%	4
More group picnic shelters	0.3%	1	1.7%	6	1.5%	5
More outdoor basketball courts	0.3%	1	0.8%	3	0.3%	1
More picnic tables	0.3%	1	1.1%	4	2.4%	8
Tennis court upgrades	0.3%	1	0.8%	3	0.9%	3
Multi-generational community center	0.3%	1	2.5%	9	1.8%	6
More tennis courts	0.0%	0	0.6%	2	0.3%	1
Sand volleyball courts	0.0%	0	1.4%	5	1.2%	4
Total	100.0%	373	100.0%	354	100.0%	329
Missing		56		75		100

Q.15 **What types of activities would you like to see permitted on the Town Forest/Bove properties?**

Response	**%***	**No.**
Hiking	61.5%	264
Cross country skiing	50.3%	216
Camping	38.2%	164
Horseback Riding	34.3%	147
Mountain Biking	31.5%	135
ATV-ing	17.2%	74
Snowmobiling	17.2%	74
Hunting	16.1%	69
Other	11.0%	47
Baseball/softball	8.2%	35
Soccer	5.8%	25
Football	4.4%	19
Basketball	4.0%	17
Tennis	3.3%	14
None of these	3.0%	13
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.16 **How should Milton pay for the construction of new recreation facilities?**

Response	**%***	**No.**
Pay-per-use fees	62.0%	266
Fundraising	59.0%	253
Impact fees on new development	44.3%	190
New proprty taxes	10.3%	44
Other	8.2%	35
*Percent of Total Survey Respondents		

Q.17 **How much additional property tax would you be willing to pay annually to increase recreational opportunities in Milton?**

Response	**%**	**No.**
None	33.7%	138
$1 to $25	20.8%	85
$26 to $50	15.9%	65
$76 to $100	12.5%	51
$51 to $75	8.8%	36
more than $100	8.3%	34
Total	100.0%	409
Missing		20

Q.18 **Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for public recreation in Milton?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
No	69.7%	280
Yes	30.3%	122
Total	100.0%	402
Missing		27

Q.19 **Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to buy more land for open space preservation in Milton?**		
Response	**%**	**No.**
No	75.1%	304
Yes	24.9%	101
Total	100.0%	405
Missing		24

Q.20 **If you had $100 to allocate among various park and recreation categories, how would you spend it?**		
Response	**Average**	**Range**
Acquisition of land for conservation/open space	$11.00	$0-$100
Acquisition of land for recreation	$11.50	$0-$100
Better maintenance of existing parks & facilities	$20.00	$0-$100
Construction of new recreation facilities	$26.50	$0-$100
Improvements to existing parks & facilities	$26.00	$0-$100
Other	$5.00	$0-$100
Total	$100.00	
Missing		20

Q.21 **How long have you lived in Milton?**
Average response = 20.2 years
Range of responses = 1 - 86 years

Q.22 **How many people live in your household?**			
			2000 US
Response	**%**	**No.**	**Census**
One	8.1%	34	
Two	40.0%	167	
Three	18.7%	78	
Four	22.5%	94	
Five	7.9%	33	
Six or more	2.9%	12	
Total	100.0%	418	
Missing		11	
Average		2.9	2.84

Q.23 **How many <u>children under the age of 18</u> live in your household?**			
			2000 US
Response	**%**	**No.**	**Census**
None	57.0%	231	55.1%
One	17.8%	72	
Two	19.8%	80	
Three	4.2%	17	
Four or more	1.2%	5	
Total	100.0%	405	
Missing		24	

Q.24 **Do you own or rent the apartment or house in which you are currently living?**			
			2000 US
Response	**%**	**No.**	**Census**
Own	94.5%	393	87%
Rent	5.5%	23	13%
Total	100.0%	416	
Missing		13	

Q.25 **What is your age?**			
			2000 US
Response	**%**	**No.**	**Census**
18-24 years	2.7%	11	10.6%
25-34 years	8.7%	36	21.1%
35-44 years	25.3%	105	28.8%
45-54 years	29.4%	122	20.8%
55-64 years	22.4%	93	10.6%
65+ years	11.6%	48	8.1%
Total	100.0%	415	
Missing		14	

Q.26 **Which of the following best describes your total annual household income?**			
			2000 US Census
Response	**%**	**No.**	
under $25,000	7.1%	26	17.2%
$25,000-$34,999	12.3%	45	11.5%
$35,000-$49,999	14.2%	52	22.4%
$50,000-$74,999	29.2%	107	28.3%
$75,000-$99,999	21.3%	78	12.6%
$100,000+	16.1%	59	8.0%
Total	100.0%	367	
Missing		62	

APPENDIX H

Milton, VT Resident Recreation Survey (2006)

Benchmark Data

Question	*Colchester (2001)*	*Essex Junction (2006)*	*Essex Town (2003)*	*Middlebury (1999)*	***Milton (2007)***	*St. Albans City (1998)*	*St. Albans Town (1998)*
Availability of recreation important or very important	66.7%	74.7%	71.5%	67.1%	**67.2%**	80.0%	62.3%
Had contacted department in last twelve months	29.6%	50.2%	45.3%	n/a	**24.0%**	n/a	n/a
If contacted, received good or very good service	83.3%	88.8%	88.8%	n/a	**73.5%**	n/a	n/a
In general, dept. doing good or very good job	n/a	81.6%	80.8%	62.4%	**42.3%**	61.9%	58.7%
Had participated in at least one program	36.9%	43.0%	42.9%	45.6%	**25.4%**	57.7%	57.0%
Overall quality of programs good or very good	n/a	82.3%	86.0%	n/a	**70.5%**	n/a	n/a
Overall maintenance of facilities good or very good	69.2%	78.1%	82.0%	59.0%	**40.1%**	69.2%	72.5%
Willing to pay additional tax for more recreation	72.4%	68.8%	66.7%	71.9%	**66.3%**	73.3%	67.5%

Note: Results from comparable citizen surveys conducted by Recreation and Leisure Services Consultants (prepared April 2007)

APPENDIX I

Hartford, VT Parks and Recreation Department - Fees and Charges Policies

A. Financial aid will be given to participants who may not have the financial resources to pay for a registration fee. No one should be denied the opportunity to participate because of his or her inability to pay a fee (see Scholarship Policy in Recreation Office central file).

B. Discounted fees may be applied when more than one member of the same family is registering for the same program being offered.

C. Students, who are not residents, but attend Hartford Schools by choice, are charged non-resident fees.

D. Non-resident fees are an additional $10.00 for all programs; with the exception of Sport Programs which non-resident fees are double.

E. Payment of programs is required at the time of registration.

F. There will be a fee established for all programs. This fee will help to defray expenses and/or to allow the start of new programs. It is not the intent of the Recreation Committee to make a profit on any activity.

G. Adult programs (including sport leagues) fees are intended to be self-supporting.

H. Youth program fees are not always intended to break even, but to allow the opportunity for youths to participate in a program that would otherwise be canceled do to lack of enrollment.

I. When programs require specialists and/or special equipment, the fee structure will be set at a higher rate.

J. Programs, which would be considered essential for all citizens, will have an adjusted fee; an example would be swimming and playground programs

K. Refund Policy
If you are dissatisfied with a program after the first session (class), you must submit a written explanation to the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department prior to the second session (class) to be eligible to receive a refund. In the event of an extended illness or injury, we must be notified immediately and we will issue a prorated refund. A medical and/or doctor explanation will be required. We cannot issue refunds for trips, special events, ticketed events, Venture programs and Kid Zone unless the person requesting the refund has found a replacement. No refunds are given for a single session course unless we are notified in writing immediately after the single session. Refunds will be issued for programs canceled or altered by the Hartford Parks and Recreation Department. An administration fee of $5.00 will be charged for all processed refunds.

L. The Parks and Recreation Department will follow through and implement the Town Finance Policies as outlined in the Town Finance Policy Manual (on-file).

APPENDIX J

Town of Milton - 20-Year Recreation Master Plan

FACILITY NEED INDICATORS

"x" denotes that need for this item was indicated.

	2002 Recreation Long Range Plan	Town Plan	Survey Results	Focus Group Meetings	Recreation/Conservation Comm. Meeting	Bove/Town Forest Meeting	Stakeholder Meetings	Compariсon to Nearby Towns	Comparison to NRPA Guidelines		
Bicycle/Ped Paths		x	x	x	x		x				
Indoor Swimming Pool	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Indoor Ice Skating Arena	x	x	x	x	x		x				
Walking/Hiking Trails:											
More Trails			x		x						
Better Maintenance				x	x						
Better signage				x							
Need a trail map				x	x						
Mountain Bike Trails											
More Trails for Motorized Vehicles					x		x				
Fitness Facility			x								
Teen Center				x							
Dog Park				x							
Golf Driving Range											
Indoor Community Rec Center	x	x		x	x		x				
More indoor Gym Space	x			x	x		x				
More picnic Areas/tables and grills	x			x							
Performing Arts Space:											
Indoor							x				
Outdoor				x							
Playgrounds:											
More playgrounds								x			
More equipment on Playgrs.	x				x						
Better maintenance				x	x						
Better amenities (ie. benches)	x			x	x						
More group picnic shelters											
Multi-purpose field space:											
More fields	x			x	x		x				
Better maintenance				x			x				
Irrigation											
More Outdoor Basketball Courts								x	x		
Baseball/softball fields:											
More fields	x			x	x		x				
Better maintenance				x			x				
Irrigation				x							

Neighborhood/Satellite Parks	x	x			x		x	x	x		
More open space land				x							
More recreation land					x						
More shoreline access		x		x	x		x				
Need a map of town rec areas				x	x						
Bombardier Park											
Overall Maintenance			x	x	x		x				
More parking				x	x						
Restrooms on NE Side	x			x	x		x				
Horseshoe Pits:											
Lights	x				x						
Roof	x										
Tennis Courts:											
More courts								x	x		
Better maintenance											
Upgrades (Backboards,windscreens, etc)	x			x	x						
Lights	x				x						
Another Sand Volleyball Court											
Skatepark:											
Better maintenance					x						
Bigger				x	x		x				
More diversity				x			x				
BMX Track	x						x				
Bove/Town Forest											
Hiking			x			x					
Cross-country Skiing			x			x					
Camping			x			x					
Horseback Riding			x			x					
Mountain Biking			x			x					
Non-motorized boats						x					
ATV's					x	x					
Snowmobiles											
Hunting						x					
Better access	x			x		x					
note: survey support indicated if 30% or more responded yes											

APPENDIX K

Guidelines for a Good Turf Management Program

The maintenance of a quality stand of turf requires a good turf management program. The following are the main components of such a program in Chittenden County, Vermont.

Maintain Proper Soil Ph.

Test the soil every two years for Ph and nutrients. Soil test should be an aggregate, taken from 3-4 locations in the area being tested. Samples should be taken from just below the sod, about 2-3" in depth.

Turfgrass grows best at a Ph of 6.5. Ground limestone should be applied as directed in the test results. On existing turf, no more than 50-80 lbs. per 1,000 sq.ft, should be applied in one application. Multiple applications may be required, over several seasons or years. On new establishments, the required amount should be applied and tilled into the top 6" of soil.

Maintain proper fertility N-P-K

Turf requires 4 lbs. of nitrogen per year; and should be split between four applications. Use a high nitrogen analysis lawn fertilizer and follow manufacturer's recommendations.

May 1-May 15	½ lb. nitrogen
June 1-June 15	½ lb. nitrogen
Sept 1-Sept 15	1 ½ lb. nitrogen
Oct 15-Nov 15	1 ½ lb. nitrogen

Grass Selection

Sunny areas – Kentucky blue grass should comprise 70% of the mix, with the remainder of the mix being perennial rye grass.
Shaded areas – Combination of Kentucky blue grass, perennial rye grass, and fine leaved fescues.
These mixtures should be seeded at 3-5 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Always use quality seed from a quality distributor!

Irrigation

Less frequent but heavy irrigation promotes deep rooting. Frequent shallow irrigation promotes shallow roots and the development of thatch. When the upper 2" of soil becomes dry, irrigate enough to wet the upper 6-9" of soil. Irrigation time will vary depending upon the soil type. Soils should be checked to determine penetration.

Control Thatch

Thatch is a layer of dead and decaying leaves, stems and roots of turf plants. A thin layer of thatch is beneficial, but when the layer of thatch becomes greater than ½' deep it prevents air, light, water, and nutrients from reaching the roots. Thatch also leads to an increase in disease and insect problems. Thatch can be prevented by using proper watering and mowing practices. The best way to get rid of thatch is by aerating or topdressing. Do not remove cores from turf, as these contain microorganisms that decompose thatch. A regular aeration program should be established.

Proper Mowing Techniques

The height of the cut should be 2 ½ - 3" after mowing. No more than one third of the grass blades should be removed at one time. Prior to mowing, the grass should be 3 ½ - 4" in height.

Frequency of cut
Cut as needed! If the grass is about 4" tall, it is time to cut. When turf is growing quickly this may mean mowing 2-3 times per week.

Clippings

Clippings should be left on the turf. Clippings can return as much as 1 lb. of nitrogen to the turf over the season. Clippings do not contribute to thatch build-up. Clippings should be removed when their excessive amount may smother the lawn.

Mower maintenance

Turf should be mowed with sharp blades. Sharp blades make a clean cut. Dull blades shred the leaves, leaving plants more susceptible to drought stress and disease infection.

Weed Control

Broad Leaf Weeds

Maintaining a strong stand of grass is the best way to prevent weed invasion. Broad leaf weed control can be best accomplished during cool seasons (spring or fall) using either a combination fertilizer weed control product, or by applying weed control alone, either granular or liquid.

Crabgrass

Crabgrass is an annual weedy grass that germinates from spring into summer. Maintaining a dense turf is the best prevention for crabgrass seedlings. Crabgrass control can be applied in early spring. Crabgrass control consists of pre-emergent controls; these prevent crabgrass seeds from germinating, and can be applied alone or in fertilizer combinations.

Aeration

A regular aeration program should be followed. Turf benefits from aeration 2-3 times or more per season. Aeration will reduce thatch and reduce compaction in heavy soils. Aeration also improves water uptake, improves fertilizer uptake, and improves rooting.

The following is an example of a high level turf management program for Vermont:

April	Soil test.
May 1-15	Apply 24-5-11 fertilizer with pre-emergent crabgrass control, 50% slow release; provides ½ lb. of nitrogen.
June 1-15	Apply 24-5-11 with Merit (or equivalent), 50% slow release; provides ½ lb. of nitrogen and grub control.
Sept. 1-15	Apply 24-5-11 with Telstar (or equivalent), 50% slow release; provides 1 ½ lb. nitrogen and insect control.
Oct15-Nov 1	Apply late season straight fertilizer; provides 1 ½ lb. nitrogen.