

APPENDIX A9 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

(September 10, 2002)

The Town of Sanford has a number of recreational resources, most of which are municipally owned and operated and are located in the downtown areas of Sanford and Springvale. The Town does not have any State parks.

A. Municipal Recreational Resources

Sanford and Springvale have approximately 150 acres of municipal parks, mostly located in built-up areas of Sanford and Springvale.

1. Springvale Recreation Area and Holdsworth Park

This five-acre park abuts the south side of the Mousam River in Springvale. The facility has 100 feet of beachfront swimming area (including handicapped access), playground equipment, a 30 x 60 foot picnic shelter with 18 tables, rest rooms, and parking capacity for approximately 50 cars. A locally visited scenic overlook known as "Indian's Last Leap" abuts the south end of the recreation area. This area receives heavy use from mid-June through Labor Day, when the facilities are open and the swimming area is staffed with lifeguards. During the remainder of the year, it receives moderate use.

Holdsworth Park is adjacent to the Springvale Recreation Area and has recently been gifted to the Town. It is located along Route 109 with frontage on the Mousam River. The park previously was part of Nason College but reverted to its original owner when the liberal arts college closed. The area is used principally for passive recreation. It has a parking area.

2. Springvale Playground

This playground is located off Route 11A in Springvale. It has one tennis court, one basketball court, and playground equipment. There is no on-site parking. Use is heavy from May through October and light during the rest of the year when some of the playground equipment is removed and the tennis nets are down.

3. Gowen Park/ Number 1 Pond/ William Oscar Emery Drive

Gowen Park is the Town's largest passive recreation area. Located between Main Street and the Mousam River and adjacent to the Junior High School/High School Complex, it provides open space in addition to four tennis courts, picnic tables and shelter as well as benches next to the Mousam River, and a band stand. It is used for walking, cross-country skiing and sliding in the winter, Water Ski Tournaments,

Winter fest, and other gatherings. No. 1 Pond is used for ice-skating. This park serves as the beginning of the Mousam Way trail that extends from Gowen Park along the river to the Springvale Recreation Area. Gowen Park receives continuous use throughout the year, which ranges from moderate to heavy.

4. Blouin Field

These playing fields (two softball fields, one baseball field, one soccer field) connect with Gowen Park as well as the Junior High/High School complex. Parking is available. These fields receive heavy use from April through November from all populations in the community. It is a primary practice site for all levels of sports in the community especially football, soccer, and baseball.

5. Carpentier Park

This park is located off High Street and has two tennis courts, a playground area, a small passive recreation area, rest rooms, and a small community building used only during the summer. Some off-street parking is available. Carpentier Park is largely a neighborhood park and is often used for Little League games. Vandalism has been a recurring problem. The Town removed the park benches that were in the park in the 80s. Carpentier Park is heavily used during the summer months and moderately used during the rest of the year.

6. Benton Playground

The Benton Playground is a neighborhood park located between Kimball Street and Roberts Street. It has two tennis courts, one basketball court, a playground area, a lighted Little League baseball field, rest rooms, and some off-street parking. This playground is heavily used from April through October, particularly by the Little League teams. The Recreation Bureau operates one of many summer day camp programs at this facility.

7. Willard Park

Willard Park is a green space with benches located in the center of town, across from the Town Hall. The park is well used for passive recreation. The park was recently improved with the addition of pedestrian height lighting. It is also the site of the Thomas Goodall Statue, founder of the Town's textile mills and with his family, the Town's major benefactor.

8. Goodall Park

The newly renovated Goodall Park stadium (800 person capacity) is located on Roberts Street, behind the Town Hall. It is heavily used for baseball games during the summer months, and moderately used for field hockey in the fall. It is the home

of the Sanford franchise of the New England Collegiate Baseball League. This team made up of players from colleges across the country brings a level of baseball to Sanford for everyone to enjoy.

9. Airport Softball Fields

Two temporary softball fields used by local softball teams are located adjacent to the airport on industrial land. The fields are therefore marginally maintained. These fields are moderately used during the spring and summer months and not used during the rest of the year.

10. Bridge Street Park/ Rotary Club Park/ Mousam Way Park/ Springvale Spring

This series of passive recreation area is located along both sides of the Mousam River in Springvale, downstream of Mill Pond. It is mostly used as a walk-through area. This area also has a fresh water spring, tested monthly by the Town. There is also parking at two of these locations and it serves as a trailhead for the Mousam Way.

11. Storer Street Park

This small (about 100' x 100') lawn area was donated to the Town and has no recreation facilities. It receives little use and attention. It is located in a residential neighborhood.

12. Veteran's Memorial Park (Witham Street)

This park is located on Witham Street in Springvale and has two Little League sized baseball fields, rest rooms, and a concession stand. The Sanford/Springvale Youth Athletic Association (SSYAA) uses the fields heavily during the fall for football and field hockey. During the months of May and June, the Little League has use of the fields for baseball and softball. In April and May, the Junior High School used the fields for softball. Junior High School field hockey is also played on these facilities in September and October.

13. Old Railroad Bed

The Town owns a portion of the former Boston and Maine Railroad bed, which traverses the Town in an east-west direction. The Town owns the segment that extends from Main Street west to the Sanford/Lebanon town line. Townspeople use it for walking, biking and cross-country skiing. The Town, through the Trails committee, has acquired a grant from the Rails to Trails program and is working on improving this section of the trail. It is approximately 3 miles in length and 99ft wide and has some very picturesque areas.

14. Soldiers and Sailors Park

This undeveloped, wooded land is located between Oxford, Berwick, and Kimball Streets. It receives light use. The Town may be obligated by deed restrictions on the property to maintain the area as undeveloped open space.

15. S-Curve Park Land

The Town acquired this small-undeveloped parcel when the Maine Department of Transportation straightened a curve in Route 109 near the Shapleigh town line. The parcel abuts the Mousam River and was maintained for passive recreation in the past.

16. Indoor Public Recreation Facilities

Indoor facilities in the Town include the Memorial Gym, gyms at the Junior High School and Senior High School and the Carl Lamb School gym. The SSYAA building is located in the old Town Hall in Springvale. This privately funded, nonprofit organization sponsors a variety of recreational programs including basketball and cheerleading. The facility has reached capacity and attempts should be made to replace this facility.

17. Recreation Programs

The Bureau's emphasis has been on the summer eight-week program. This time period sees three all day, day camps for five days per week. In addition there are two morning only programs. All programs are well received and are full before starting. The numbers run approximately 220 children in the all day programs and 120 in the morning only program. In addition the bureau has sports specific programs in basketball, field hockey, tennis and soccer. It also operates a Junior Day camp for 2-6 year olds, which is a half-day program 2-3 times per week, with 40 participants in each section.

18. Skate Park

The Town received a grant from the State of Maine to assist with the construction of a new skate park that would be more of a challenge for the skaters and bikers. This skate park is located off River Street and adjacent to the YMCA. This park (120' x 60') has a series of concreted ramps and wooden ramps. There is parking for approximately 20 cars adjacent to the park itself. Plans are to expand this area over time and add additional obstacles. There are also plans to provide a dirt area that would have dirt mound obstacles that would be primarily for BMX bicycles.

B. State-Owned Recreation Resources and Open Space

State-Owned recreation facilities consist of one public boat launch facility on the Mousam River, just above its confluence with Estes Lake.

C. Private Recreation Resources

Private recreation facilities include the Sanford Golf Course on Route 4 across from Bauneg Beg Pond and three seasonal private campgrounds; Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park on Route 109 at the Sanford/Wells town line, the Apache Campground located between Bernier Road and Estes Lake, and the Sand Pond Camping Park near Sand Pond.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) owns and operates two facilities in Sanford; the main YMCA building located off River Street, and the Trafton Senior Center on Elm Street. Southern York County residents use the YMCA. Membership is over 3,000 and all programs are well attended.

The main YMCA building includes an indoor swimming pool, exercise rooms, and meeting rooms. Recreational activities offered include all types of swimming programs, volleyball, gymnastics, youth sports program, aerobics classes, weight and fitness training. The YMCA also offers a licensed day care and nursery school program. The Senior Citizens Center offers a variety of exercise programs, in addition to numerous other health maintenance clinics and activities. It is also a site of a subsidized daily meals program.

The Sanford/Springvale Youth Soccer Association is an independent group of soccer enthusiasts who have a lease agreement with Goodall Hospital for approximate 10 acres of field used for soccer. Programs run spring, summer and fall. The Town assists the SSYSA with the general maintenance of the facility.

McDougal's Orchards on Hanson's Ridge operates cross country ski trails and a pick your own apple orchard.

D. State Recreation Facility Standards

The 1988 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), prepared by the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation, identifies 136 acres of municipal parks in Sanford and Springvale. This amount of parkland equals 6.97 acres per 1,000 population (based on a 1988 estimated population of 19,500), which is less than the median acreage of 13.84 per 1,000 for Maine municipalities with populations greater than 10,000 persons.

The SCORP identifies the following outdoor recreation deficiencies in Sanford/Springvale based upon comparison of existing facilities with national standards.

- § The Town's one soccer field and one multipurpose field (0.10 fields per 1,000 population) are below the estimated standard of 0.33 fields per 1,000 population. However, there are additional soccer fields operated by the Sanford/Springvale Youth Soccer Association. Counting these fields, the Town is just below State standards.
- § The Town maintains nine public tennis courts (0.43 courts per 1,000 population) which is slightly less than the recommended standard of 0.50 courts per 1,000 population.
- § The Town has two outdoor basketball courts (0.10 courts per 1,000 population) the accepted standard for basketball courts is one court per 2,000 people.
- § Sanford has one 20,000 square foot natural skating area on No. 1 Pond (1,026 square feet per 1,000 population). The number of skateable days varies from year to year and is weather dependent. The accepted standard is one rink per 5,000 population. The closest indoor ice rink facility is 15 miles away.
- § Sanford has one small indoor recreation facility owned by the Town, that is leased and run by the Sanford/Springvale Youth Athletic Association. This facility is not open to the public but does provide a significant recreational offering to young children.

The SCORP also identifies the following areas in which Sanford's facilities meet or exceed the recommended standards:

- § The Town has an adequate number of Little League fields (3) and baseball fields (2), or 0.25 fields per 1,000 population. The national standards indicate that there should be one baseball field per 6,000 residents (0.17 fields per 1,000).
- § Sanford/Springvale has one outdoor swimming area (7,360 square feet, or 377 square feet per 1,000 population) the recommended standard is one pool or beach per 15,000 population. (It should be noted that the YMCA provides indoor swimming).
- § There are 8 playgrounds in the Town, including school playgrounds (0.50 playgrounds per 1,000 population), which meets the State standard of 0.50 playgrounds per 1,000 population.

E. Issues and Implications

While Sanford/Springvale has a variety of recreational resources and recreational programs, some needs exist. The Recreation Director or the Town's Capital Improvement Plan has identified the following deficiencies or issues. Some of these deficiencies have also been identified by the SCORP.

- § Demand for playing on Town fields has increased. Fields are booked heavily during the spring, summer and fall months to meet the needs of Little League, Babe Ruth baseball, school programs, youth soccer and others. Goodall Park and the Little League fields are the only areas currently lighted for night use, providing off-hours for baseball and youth softball. Lighting existing fields is a solution to make existing facilities available to meet the growing demands. Lighting Blouin Fields would increase available playing time. This cost to provide outdoor lighting has not been accurately estimated but could be approximately \$120,000.00.
- § Demand for tennis court time has increased, and the Town does not have any lighted tennis courts. Instead of constructing new tennis courts, the Town could install lights at the Gowen Park courts to extend court time in an economic manner.
- § A community center is badly needed to provide adequate meeting space for Recreation Department activities as well as meeting places for other community groups. The department uses school space for after-school programs but frequently cannot get adequate space until late in the afternoon or early evening, which limits the Department's activities. Funding for such a building has not yet been included in the Capital Improvements Plan.
- § Vehicle traffic in Gowen Park has caused damage to lawns and detracts from its aesthetic value. Care should be taken to continue to make this area friendly and inviting.
- § Siltation and accumulation of sawdust and decaying vegetation on the bottom of No. 1 Pond has resulted in weed growth. Which interferes with the boating, fishing and other recreational pursuits as well as detracting from the aesthetic qualities of the pond. The Capital Improvements Plan recognizes that this is a controversial issue because some agencies and residents prefer that the pond not be touched. The No. 1 Pond Committee has held two clean-up days at the pond. These have attempted to clear the edges of the pond of debris and litter. In addition, handwork of removing weeds from the pond has been done with results yet to be determined.