

BEDFORD PARKS & RECREATION

Master Plan Update - 2010



November 9, 2010

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I. Introduction

This update to the Bedford Parks & Recreation Master Plan represents an effort to identify the current recreational needs of the Town of Bedford and recommend strategies and actions for meeting those needs. The Parks & Recreation Commission working with M.O.L.D. which includes sports league/club representatives has prepared this Master Plan Update to serve as a strategic planning tool to assist with making recreational facility and recreational program decisions over the next five years.

The process used to gather input to prepare this update included:

- Review of previous master plan studies in 2000 and 2005;
- Input received at three (3) meetings with the Members of Outdoor Leagues Discussion (MOLD) Group

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Master Plan Update is to:

- Establish a five-year active and passive recreation plan
- Establish appropriate use of athletic field space

III. Demographics

Bedford continues to be one of the fastest growing communities in the State of New Hampshire. According to the NH Office of Energy and Planning, Bedford's population has grown and in 2010 population projection is 22,520, a difference of approximately 1,700 residents or 7% from that projected in 2006. Currently, there are more than 4,000 participants in over 20 organized youth and adult athletic programs, close to 800 households participating in a variety recreational programs, and countless other users of Town and School recreation facilities. The demand for quality recreation facilities continues to expand with the growing population.

IV. Existing Park & Recreation Facilities

The Town of Bedford's current recreation facilities – both Town and School District - are summarized in Appendix 1.

V. Needs Assessment

The active and passive recreational needs identified below are based on the input of several meetings with M.O.L.D.

Active:

- Swenson Field Complex – 2 baseball / 1 rectangular field

The DAC Investment Corp. (LaMontange Builders) was under agreement with the Town to construct two (2) diamond fields (one skinned for softball use and a baseball field), one (1) rectangular field and parking lot in exchange for Town property. This project was slated to start in 2006 and underwent construction in 2009. This proposal did not include bleachers, dugouts, or fencing. In order to get the fields opened and on line in spring '10 the leagues purchased sod for the (2) diamond fields and the (1) rectangular field was seeded with proposed opening spring '11. The Town and leagues allocated funds for back stops and fencing. The addition of lights to these fields will increase the field capacity of this field for youth activities

- Selvoski Field

Repairs were completed in spring '10 to address on-going drainage problems at Selvoski Field. The Town's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) included a proposal to repair the field and replace the irrigation system. The backstop and fence were also repaired or replaced. The addition of lights to this ball field will increase the field capacity of this field for youth softball activities and establish a more appropriate field for the adult women's softball program.

- Tennis Court Improvements – Legacy Park

In 2008 Bedford Basketball League allocated money to run the conduit for the tennis courts and at some point lighting these courts would increase capacity of playing hours at the other end of Town.

- Tennis Court Improvements – County Road

The Bedford School District allocated money to build two tennis courts at this location for a total of six courts at this site, which is the standard number of courts needed to hold scholastic matches for BHS. Consideration needs to be made to light these courts and complete this area. Another issue of concern is a better lighting timer to reduce the electrical cost.

Approved by Town Council 1-26-11

▪ Develop SAU Property Site

Preston Field and the Higgins track will also likely require repairs and upgrades. No funding is allocated for this project as this would have to be developed by School District, but identified by Town users.

Passive:

▪ Legacy Park Night Skiing

The Bedford Cross Country Ski Club has developed a comprehensive trail system at Legacy Park, some of these areas have lights, but other sections of the trails are without lighting. The Ski Club would like to expand lighting these areas and are currently in the process of raising funds for this project.

▪ Bedford Center Park

Work with the Bedford Village Common Development Committee to finalize plans and development of the Bedford Center Park to include walking trails and outdoor skating area.

Field Items also needing to be addressed and assigned to:

- ❖ Legacy Water issues: *currently being investigated by M.O.L.D. representative Steve Beals*
- ❖ Riley Field Concession Stand water & disposal of gray water: *currently being investigated by Babe Ruth League*
- ❖ County Road Tennis Courts: *change light timer unit for more efficient electric usage M.O.L.D. representative Ken Grassett*
- ❖ West Field @ Little League Complex – *new backstop needed BGSL responsible*

VI. Recommendations

The recommendations listed in this section are those of the Parks & Recreation Commission after considering the input from M.O.L.D.

The objective of these recommendations is to:

- Enhance active and passive recreational opportunities;
- develop or expand facilities existing Town and/or School property; and
- Create sufficient athletic field space to allow better utilization of fields to accommodate all youth and/or adult programs.

Recommended 5-Year Plan:

- ❖ Lighting Swenson Field: *will increase capacity on 3 fields to fulfill the need for the Town's Youth leagues (ex: soccer, lacrosse, football and baseball)*
- ❖ Light Selvoski Field: *will increase capacity for youth softball and adult women's softball*
- ❖ Legacy Tennis Courts: *lighting the 3-courts*
- ❖ County Rd Tennis Courts: *with the construction of the two additional tennis courts upgrading existing lights to cover these courts.*
- ❖ Legacy Cross-Country Ski Trail Lighting: *assist Ski Club complete restroom project and create additional trail lighting with Legacy Field lights (projected 2010).*
- ❖ Project in the works Bedford Center Park: *developing park to include pathways, walking bridges & skating area.*

VII. Action Plan & Funding Sources

The proposed five-year action plan with cost estimates is summarized in Appendix 2.

To meet the objectives of this plan, many of these projects will require collaboration by the Town, School District and private organizations.

BEDFORD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

ATHLETIC FIELDS:

	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Use</u>
<u>Rectangular</u>			
Sportsman	Town	1990	Soccer, Football & Lacrosse
Legacy	Town	1998	Soccer & Football
Greenfield	Town	2003	Soccer & Lacrosse
McAfee (Practice Only)	Town	1997	Soccer, Football & Little League
Joppa Practice Only Area	Town	2004	Soccer, Football & Lacrosse
Joppa Game Only Area	Town	2004	Soccer, Football & Lacrosse
Preston (Games Only)	School		Soccer, Football & Lacrosse
McKelvie-County Rd	School		Soccer
<i>Proposed:</i>			
Swenson's Rectangular	Town		Soccer, Football & Lacrosse
High School Rectangular	School		Soccer, Football & Lacrosse

Ballfields

Chubbuck	Town	1999	Softball & Baseball
Riley	Town	Late '70's	Baseball, Soccer & Football
Selvoski	Town	1989	Softball
Little League South	Town	1970's	Baseball & Soccer
Little League West	Town	1970's	Softball & Soccer
Little League North	Town	1970's	Baseball & Soccer
Legacy Softball	Town	1998	Baseball, Softball & Soccer
Upper McKelvie	School		Baseball & Soccer
Lower McKelvie	School		Baseball & Soccer
Peter Woodbury	School		Baseball & Soccer
Memorial	School		Baseball & Soccer
<i>Proposed:</i>			
Swenson's - Ballfield 1	Town		Baseball
Swenson's - Ballfield 2	Town		Baseball

OTHER FACILITIES:

	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Year Built</u>	<u>Use</u>
<u>Parks & Trails</u>			
Benedictine Park	Town	1999	Open space, sledding hill, walking trails
Legacy - Cross Country Trails	Town	1996	Cross country ski & walking trails
Bedford Center Park	Town		12 acres of open space
Goad's Trail	Town		1/2 mile walking trail of Hardy Rd
Muller Park	Town		3.6 acres for hiking, picnic & camping
Pulpit Rock Conservation Area	Town		200 acres w/ 3 miles of walking trails
Waterfowl Park	Town		7.6 acre scenic area w/ 1/4 mile trail
Heritage Trail / Riverfront Park	Town	1993	Heritage Trail (4 mi.), boat launch, picnic & bird watching areas
<u>Play Areas</u>			
TimberTown Playground	Town	2007	Play structures and sledding hill.
Memorial School	School		
Riddlebrook School	School		
Peter Woodbury School	School		

BEDFORD RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Outdoor Courts

County Tennis Courts	Town	1970's	Four tennis courts
Legacy Courts	Town	2000	3 tennis; 1 basketball court
Peter Woodbury School	School		Basketball
Riddlebrook School	School		Basketball
Memorial School	School		Basketball
McKelvie School	School		Basketball

Indoor Courts

McKelvie School	School		Multi-Purpose Gymnasium
Peter Woodbury	School		Multi-Purpose Gymnasium
Riddlebrook School	School		Multi-Purpose Gymnasium
Memorial School	School		Multi-Purpose Gymnasium

Proposed:

High School	School		Multi-Purpose Gymnasium
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Track & Field

McKelvie - Higgins Track	School		Track & Field
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Proposed:

High School	School		Track & Field
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Other Facilities

Town Pool	Town	2004	Main Pool, Diving Well & Splash Pool
Legacy Skate Park	Town	1999	Skateboard park

BEDFORD PARKS AND RECREATION
 5-Yr Master Plan - Action Plan
 (Preliminary Estimates)

Project	Year	Description	Funding Responsibility			Total Cost
			Town	School	Private	
Swenson's Field North		Lights conduit in	125,000		125,000	250,000
Swenson's Field South		Lights conduit in				
Swenson's Rec Field		Lights (no conduit)				
Selvoski Field		Lights	40,000		40,000	80,000
Legacy Tennis courts		Lights				??
County Rd Tennis Courts		Built two new courts (Need lights)		**		??
		<i>Subtotal:</i>	165,000		165,000	330,000
		<i>Minus Budgeted:</i>				
		TOTAL:	\$165,000		\$165,000	\$330,000

Field Items to be Addressed:

Legacy Water issue	20,000	40,000
Riley Field Concession Stand water & disposable gray water		??
County Road Courts - change light timer unit		??
West Field - new backstop MOLD league responsible		BGSL