

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES ANALYSIS

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## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

This Section of the Master Plan identifies public and semi-public facilities that serve the residents and property owners of Greenfield. An important function of town government is to provide residents and property owners with a level of service commensurate with taxes and fees paid that meet the current needs of the populace. In Greenfield's case, these include public safety (police, fire, and ambulance), public works (water, sewer, roads, solid waste disposal, and cemetery maintenance), schools, recreation, cultural facilities, health and welfare services, and the town government operations (selectmen, property maintenance, and assessment).

The degree to which these facilities are developed has a significant impact on the quality of life and general character of a community. This chapter of the Master Plan presents an inventory of such facilities and services, an assessment of the adequacy of the current level of service, and any plans or recommendations to expand, improve, or add to an existing facility or service.

### **II. TOWN HALL/TOWN GOVERNMENT**

The administrative services for Greenfield are located in the former elementary school on Sawmill Road in the Village. This is a two-story wood frame building constructed in 1885, with a lower level that is also in use. The entire building was renovated in 2001 for use as town offices. The major renovations are complete, but the second floor still needs carpeting and painting.

The lower level has space for the Police Department, Voter Registration, Supervisors on the Checklist, Trustees of the Trust Funds, and the Town Archives. The first floor has a large meeting room, and offices for the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Building Inspector, and Welfare Director. The second floor provides meeting and filing/storage space for the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission, Recreation Director, and Oak Park Committee, and the Greenfield Trails Association.

### **III. POLICE PROTECTION**

Police protection in Greenfield is provided by a full-time Chief, one full-time officer and three part-time officers. Coverage is provided 24 hours a day by shifts in the Department's one cruiser. The Department is located in the lower level of the Town Hall.

### **IV. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES**

Fire protection is provided by a volunteer Fire Department with 40 members, 10 of which are exclusively trained rescue personnel. The Department is located on Forest Road just west of the Village. The Fire House was constructed in 1974, and contains two bays, two deep, a fully equipped kitchen, and two small offices. Funds were appropriated at Town Meeting 2001 to construct an addition onto the Fire House which will add one bay, two deep, a meeting room, and an Emergency Communication Room.

Equipment owned and maintained by the Department consists of three fire apparatus, two engines, one tanker, a Rescue unit, and a state-owned Forestry Truck on loan to the Department.

Greenfield participates in the Southwestern Mutual Aid System, based in Keene, which is a dispatch center for member towns that receives all emergency calls for police, fire, and ambulance service. The Department is considering also becoming a member of the Souhegan Valley Mutual Aid System, since neighboring towns to the east of Greenfield are members of that organization.

## **V. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

The Highway Department is located on DPW Drive, off of Sawmill Road, in a building constructed in 1974. The 40' x 80' building contains four equipment bays, an office, and a parts room. Also on the property are a salt shed and a sander hanger, both of a pole barn-type construction.

The Department employs a full-time Road Agent, one other full-time employee, and a full-time town employee who works part time for the Department in the summer, and part time on other town jobs.

Equipment owned and maintained by the Department consists of the following:

- ♦ 1999 426C Loader/Backhoe
- ♦ 1996 350 one-ton Dump Truck
- ♦ 1991 4900 International
- ♦ 1988 670B John Deere Grader
- ♦ 1978 920 Caterpillar (shared with the Recycling Center)
- ♦ 1963 B81 Mack Dump Truck

## **VI. SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

The Town of Greenfield operates a transfer station/recycling center on DPW Drive, off of Sawmill Road. The facility is located on about 2 ½ acres of land behind the Highway Department. Structures on site consist of an 80' x 16' open recycling building, 10' x 10' oil shed for used oil, and an 8' x 10' office. Equipment used on site is a one-ton rack truck compactor (recently purchased) and a pay loader, which is shared with the Highway Department. The center is staffed by one employee, and is open to residents 24 hours per week.

Materials recycled are #1 & #2 plastic, cardboard, aluminum cans, mixed paper, tin, glass, metal, white goods, and old clothing. The center also provides space for discarded items offered to the public for reuse.

The Town contracts with Waste Management, Inc., a disposal company, to haul all materials away, the recyclables as well as the trash. The company charges \$78 per ton and \$105 a truck load. In the year 2000 the center processed 81 tons of recyclables and approximately 180 tons of solid waste.

There is no charge to residents to use the center, with the exception of the disposal of tires, refrigerators and air conditioners. The money brought in from these items is almost completely

offset by what it costs to dispose of them, and to have Freon pumped. Some revenue comes from the metal pile and aluminum cans.

A Recycling Committee has been formed to examine whether there is any possibility of generating more revenue for the center. A proposal is being examined that involves the purchase of a baler; with this piece of equipment, the center could bale its materials, which would enable the Town to sell them; currently, all materials are hauled out loose, meaning not only does the Town not realize any revenue from recyclables, but it also must pay to have them removed. Having the ability to bale also means adding onto the existing building and having a forklift to move the materials. An estimate has \$40,000 to accomplish this has been suggested, with a revenue offset of \$10,000 a year on the sale of recyclables.

## VII. MUNICIPAL WATER/SEWER

Greenfield currently has no municipal water or sewer systems; However, as a result of the PlanNH Charrette in 1997 (referenced also in the Transportation chapter), the Selectmen are pursuing a recommendation of the Charrette to acquire the East Coast Steel property and use it for the development of a municipal sewage disposal system. The conclusion of the Charrette team – which was originally brought in to explore the feasibility of redeveloping the site into elderly housing. The team determined that the site was completely inappropriate for elderly housing, and instead put forth the following recommendation, for which a bond was approved by the voters at the March 2000 Town Meeting:

*To demolish the building and create a community leach field that would be used by all the abutting properties. Lots in the Village abutting this site are small, and some are already exhibiting signs of septic system failure; furthermore, given the size of the lots, replacement opportunities for systems would be difficult. Providing this municipal system to which the abutting properties could be connected would serve as an incentive for attracting new investment in the Village – both the repair and replacement of existing uses, as well as new development.*

## VIII. LIBRARY

The Stephenson Memorial Library is located in the center of the Village in a stone building constructed in 1909 for this purpose, and has been used continuously as a library ever since. Staff consists of one part-time Librarian (22 hours per week) and one Assistant Librarian (11 hours per week).

The Library currently has about 15,000 volumes; more than 4,000 volumes circulated in the year 2000. Students from the Elementary School visit the Library regularly for Story Hour, and the Library hosts a Summer Reading Program.

A substantial addition is planned for the Library that will double useable space, add handicapped bathrooms, computers, an expanded Children's Room, staff workspace, and more shelving and stack space.

## IX. RECREATION

Greenfield is fortunate to have three entities in town that are involved with providing recreational opportunities to the residents; they are:

- 1) Town Recreation Department: This is managed by a part-time Director, who works 15 hours a week, with an office in the Town Hall. The Director is responsible for managing a variety of programs for both youth and adults at various sites around town, listed below:
  - ♦ Annual Holiday Events (Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween, and Christmas celebrations).
  - ♦ Supervised swimming at Sunset Lake
  - ♦ Tennis at Oak Park
  - ♦ Ice Skating at Sunset Lake
  - ♦ Arts & Crafts
  - ♦ Little League Baseball at Oak Park
  - ♦ Karate at the Elementary School
  - ♦ Teen Dances in the gymnasium at the Town Hall
- 2) Oak Park Committee: Oak Park is a town-owned 20 acre park on Forest Road, west of the Village. General maintenance of the Park is provided by the Town, and the Committee, comprised of volunteers, raise money to construct or provide various recreational structures at the Park, as listed below:

♦ Soccer	♦ Pavilion
♦ Field	♦ Gazebo
♦ Running Track	♦ Basketball Court
♦ Baseball Field	♦ Playground
♦ Dugouts	♦ Horseshoe Pits
♦ Tennis Courts	

In addition to the above, construction of a volleyball court is in progress, and there are plans to install an irrigation system for the playing fields.

- 3) Greenfield Trails Association:
- 4) In addition to the above, the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center makes certain facilities available to residents of Greenfield, such as use of the swimming pool, including discounts on lessons, use of the gymnasium, the volleyball court, as well as the Media Center, Library, and movies.

Table #1 lists the recreation facilities and opportunities in Greenfield. Some highlights of these facilities are as follows:

- ♦ Four bodies of water, totaling 133 acres.
- ♦ Trails:
  - 1) The Wapack Trail runs 22 miles from Mt. Watatic in Ashburnham, Massachusetts and passes through the Southwest Region in New Ipswich, Temple and Greenfield, ending at

North Pack Monadnock. Developed in the 1920s and served as the model for the Appalachian Trail. Rated “Moderate” to “Difficult.”

- 2) Hiking/Nature Trail on Crotched Mountain – 3 ½ miles, rated “Easy”, leads to a beaver pond.

♦ Open Space:

- 1) Municipally-protected - 143 acres.
- 2) Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests – 17 acres

- ♦ State Bicycle Routes: Route 31 from the Village south; Forest Road from the Village west.

**TABLE 1:  
RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN GREENFIELD**

FACILITY/LOCATION	PRIMARY USE	ACTIVITIES	OWNERSHIP	ACREAGE
Playground & Gymnasium/ School	In development		School	1
½ Gymnasium/Town Hall			Town	
Town Beach – Zephyr Lake	Water Sports	Beach Swimming	Town	1
Town Beach – Sunset Lake	Water Sports	♦ Picnicking ♦ Beach Swimming	Town	1
Hog Back Pond	Natural Pond	♦		
Oak Park	Active Recreation	♦	Town	20
Greenfield State Park (Otter Lake)	Campground	♦ Beach Swimming ♦ Camping ♦ Fishing ♦ Snowmobiling ♦ Cross-Country Skiing	State of New Hampshire	351
Brantwood Camp	Resident/Youth Camp	♦ Basketball ♦ Soccer ♦ Baseball ♦ Canoeing ♦ Beach Swimming ♦ Outdoor Pool Swimming	Private Nonprofit	300
Crotched Mountain	Natural Area	Hiking		
Wapack Trail	Trail	Hiking Nature Trail	Private Nonprofit	
Emma Gibson Lot	Natural Area		Private Nonprofit	17
Sportsmen’s Club	Field Sports		Private Nonprofit	16

Barbara Harris Camp and Conference Center	♦ Camp ♦ Conference Center		Private Nonprofit	400
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## X. EDUCATION

Greenfield is a member of the nine-town Contoocook Valley School District (ConVal). The District owns and operates an elementary school in each of its eight towns, and provides both a middle and a high school in Peterborough and a middle school in Antrim.

The elementary school in Greenfield was newly constructed in 1999 on Forest Road, just west of the Village. The building is a one-story wood frame structure, with eight classrooms, a Title 1 room, library, guidance room, staff kitchen, principal's office, secretary's office, and cafeteria. The cafeteria is not equipped, however, for cooking; the food is brought in each day by van.

The school teaches Kindergarten through Grade 4; from Grade 5 on, the students go to Peterborough. The Kindergarten program is only for a half day. Personnel at the school consist of five teachers (including the Principal), one Extra Study Teacher, three aides, an Administrative Assistant, and custodian. There is also a music teacher, an art teacher, a physical education teacher, and a guidance counselor who are not permanently located at the school, but travel to all the schools in the district on a regular schedule; in addition, a nurse visits the school on an eight-day rotating basis.

As of October 1, 2001 the Greenfield Elementary School had 280 pupils enrolled, including Kindergarten; this represents 9% of the total ConVal student population. Information on school enrollments and costs per pupil for ConVal and its neighboring school districts is presented below:

**TABLE 2:  
SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENTS, 1999 – 2000**

GRADE LEVEL:	SCHOOL DISTRICTS			
	CONVAL	JAFFREY- RINDGE	WILTON- LYNDEB.	MONAD- NOCK
Pre-Kindergarten	17	18	0	29
Kindergarten	177	103	0	140
Elementary	941	673	0	1,224
Middle School	1,085	411	129	461
High School	934	467	198	817
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>1,672</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>2,671</b>

SOURCE: NH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Within its immediate region, ConVal is the largest school district, with more than 3,000 students. On the western side of the region, Monadnock Regional is the second largest with more than 2,600 students. In the ConVal District, by far the largest group of students is in the middle school,



followed by elementary school. This is not the case in the other three districts examined here, but one characteristic shared by all is that pre-kindergarten and kindergarten have much lower enrollments than either the middle or the high schools.

**TABLE 3:  
COST PER PUPIL, 1989 – 1999**

<b>School districts</b>					
<b>GRADE LEVEL</b>	<b>ConVal</b>	<b>Jaffrey- Rindge</b>	<b>Wilton- Lyndeb.</b>	<b>Monadnock Regional</b>	<b>State</b>
Elementary	\$6,934	\$6,530	0	\$5,945	\$5,793
Middle School	\$6,477	\$6,131	\$6,158	\$5,754	\$5,726
High School	\$6,903	\$6,928	\$7,887	\$6,001	\$6,629
Total	\$6,765	\$6,544	\$7,193	\$5,929	\$6,009
Total Expenditures	\$26,373,448	\$11,286,279	\$2,894,196	\$18,251,612	\$1,395,227,815

SOURCE: NH DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Per pupil costs for education within this selected subregion range from the high \$5,000s to nearly \$8,000. ConVal's costs are higher than all other districts except for Wilton-Lyndeborough's, and higher even than the state average.

Money to fund education in New Hampshire comes primarily from local property taxes. Costs for education are currently at the center of a major state-wide debate, in the Court as well as in the Legislature. The Legislature has authorized a state education tax that collects money in the form of a surcharge on property tax and disburses it to towns that meet the criteria for need. This tax has been in place for two years, but is the subject of challenge, and it is unclear at this time what the result will be.

In addition to the Greenfield Elementary School and the middle and high school in Peterborough, residents of Greenfield have access to dozens of childcare/learning centers in the area; private schools in Dublin, Jaffrey, Peterborough, and Wilton; and post-secondary education offered by two colleges in Keene (Antioch New England and Keene State College), one in Rindge (Franklin Pierce College), and branches of the New Hampshire Technical College at ConVal, Conant High School in Jaffrey, and Mascenic High School in New Ipswich.

## **XI. MEETING HOUSE**

The Greenfield Meeting House is located in the heart of the Village, sited on a knoll surrounded by the Town Common. This is the oldest original meeting house in New Hampshire that is still used for civic and religious functions. It is owned by the Town and jointly used and maintained by the Town and the Community Church. First constructed in 1775, it has been altered, repaired and redecorated many times since, including the rebuilding of the steeple in 1985 and the installation of a fire alarm system. In 1983, the Meeting House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Many civic, church, youth and private groups use the Meeting House. The building has a complete kitchen in the basement that serves a dining area with seating for 100 people; in addition, there is a partial kitchen on the main floor to accommodate smaller gatherings.

## XII. CEMETERIES

Greenfield has one active cemetery and three inactive cemeteries. The cost of maintaining these cemeteries is shared by the Town and income derived from Trust Funds. Details of these cemeteries are listed below:

**TABLE 4:  
CEMETERIES IN GREENFIELD**

	NAME OF CEMETERY			
	Greenvale	Old Cemetery	Whittemore	Shea
YEAR ESTABLISHED	Early 1800s	1791	?	?
LOCATION	Route 31 south of the Village	Meetinghouse	End of New Boston Road	Slip Road, across from Post Office
SIZE OF LOT	15 acres	Less than 2 acres	50' x 50'	6' x 6'
# OF BURIAL SITES	800	450	Fewer than 30	8
CHARACTERISTICS	The only active cemetery in Town. The stone wall is in the process of being repaired.	This cemetery has the oldest stone of all the cemeteries	A Revolutionary War Veteran is buried here. The Boy Scouts clean the area each year. There is no fence around this cemetery, and the gate needs repair.	This was never a Town cemetery, but a burial plot for one family that died of a plague.

Old Coach Lane/Fletcher Cemetery consisted of three graves and was the first cemetery in town. When Greenvale Cemetery opened, interred were moved from Fletcher to Greenvale.

## XIII. POSTAL SERVICE

The Post Office is located on Slip Road, in a brick frame building that was constructed for this use in 1967. Employees consist of one full-time Postmaster, and one full-time rural route carrier. There are a total of 360 boxes available, with 260 currently rented; the rural route delivers to 370 households.

The current location of the Post Office is not the most desirable for Greenfield residents. Prior to 1967 the Post Office was located in the Village, which made it not only convenient for most

people to use, but the Post Office also served as an informal gathering place – not unusual in small towns. Post Offices in village areas play an important role as an anchor in the Village, along with stores, libraries, municipal functions, and residential uses.

#### **XIV. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

The Town of Greenfield supports a number of regional human service organizations, in addition to providing a certain amount of direct assistance to families in town. In the year 2000, support was given to eight families, which reflects a steady decrease since 1990, when 18 families applied for assistance.

The regional associations to which the Town contributes are: Green Thumb, Home Health Care & Community Services, Keene Community Kitchen, Milford Mediation, Monadnock Family Services, Project Lift, Samaritans, and St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua.

The Town is now also home to Greenfield Commons, a 24-unit Elderly Housing complex that gives priority to residents of Greenfield.

#### **XV. EXPENDITURES**

The amount of money spent by Greenfield taxpayers for these various community facilities and services is outlined below in Table 5. Note that this table does not include the cost of education, as this amount is so much larger than any other line item that it skews the other data. As is typical for most New Hampshire towns, the largest part of the town budget is devoted to the Highway Department. Even though this represents the greatest single expenditure, this has not increased as much over the 10-year period as some other items have – for example, General Administration, which increased by over 150%, and the Library, whose expenditures increased by over 95%. Expenditures for all community facilities and services have increased by 89% between 1990 and 2000.

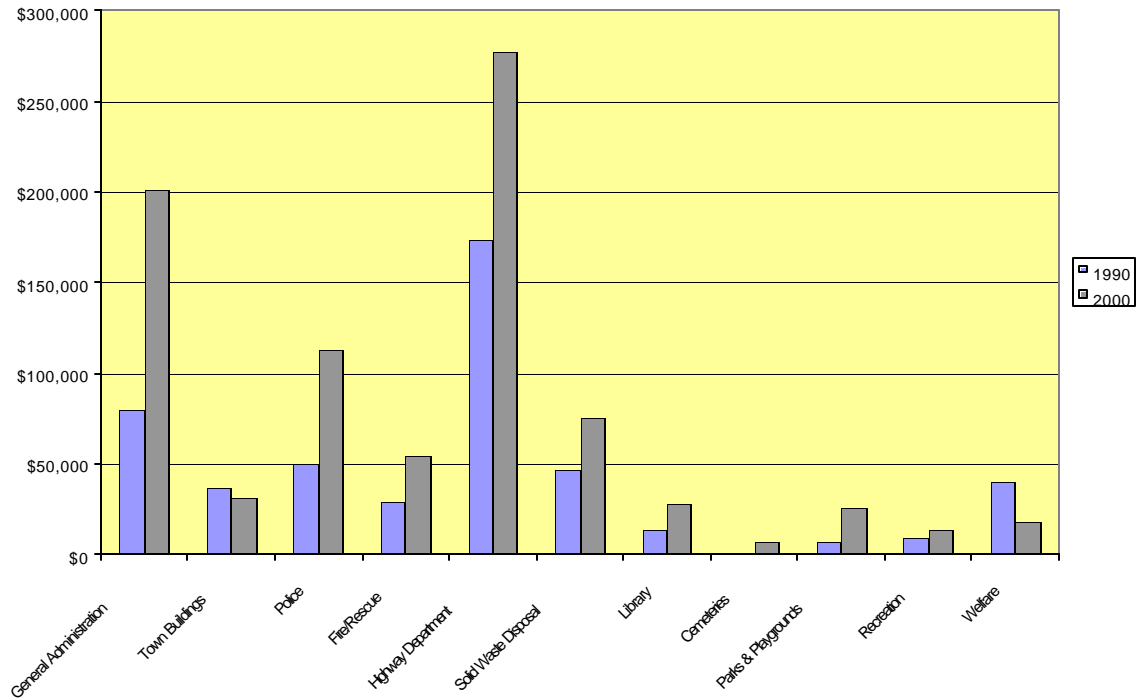
**TABLE 5:  
EXPENDITURES FOR COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES, 1990 - 2000**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Town Government			
<i>General</i>	\$79,763	\$200,817	151.8%
<i>Administration</i>			
<i>Town Buildings</i>	\$36,367	\$31,600	-13.1%
Police	\$49,628	\$112,384	126.5%
Fire/Rescue	\$29,087	\$54,491	87.3%
Highway Department	\$173,121	\$276,448	59.7%
Solid Waste Disposal	\$46,667	\$75,497	61.8%
Library	\$14,259	\$27,903	95.7%
Cemeteries	\$602	\$7,415	1131.7%
Recreation			
<i>Parks &amp; Playgrounds</i>	\$7,575	\$26,149	245.2%

Recreation	\$9,095	\$13,945	53.3%
Welfare	\$39,940	\$18,516	-53.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$446,164</b>	<b>\$845,165</b>	<b>89.4%</b>

SOURCE: GREENFIELD ANNUAL REPORTS

**GRAPH 1:  
EXPENDITURES FOR COMMUNITY EXPENDITURES, 1990 - 2000**



See accompanying map for the location of community facilities in Greenfield.