



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee|
David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: March 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee recommendation for the FY27 Capital Improvement Program.

Recommendation

Approve this report and recommendation from the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee.

Background

Each year, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee works with City staff to review and recommend projects for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The Committee prioritizes projects that address safety needs as well as initiatives that have been in development for several years and are ready to move forward with funding.

At its November 2025 meeting, the Committee unanimously approved recommending the following projects for consideration in the FY27 Capital Improvement Plan.

CIP 51: White Park: Hydro rake pond to removal sediment and lotus plants \$200,000 (if hydro raking is preferred option by City Council) Safety issue for winter skating operations and health of the pond.

CIP 51 White Park: Full reconstruction of hockey rink and pavement. Safety issue: \$275,000

CIP 59 Terrill Park: remove stumps, grade, add loam and seed for event/field space: \$300,000

CIP 60 Kiwanis Park: Recommend showing two phases for the skate park.

FY27 Phase 1: Skate Board Park and related site improvements. \$1 million (donations and grants). We have already been awarded \$500,000 LWCF grant to help with construction. Update CIP to include Phase 2 of skate park either FY28 or FY29: another \$800,000.

CIP 587 Cemetery Improvements: Replace tin equipment storage shed \$275,000 and \$150,000 to repave sections of roads in Blossom Hill

CIP 569 Equipment – mowers/other equipment parks and cemeteries. Cemetery equipment: replace 2015 tractor in cemeteries with over 4,000 hours. \$40,000

Also, at their November 2025 meeting the Parks and Recreation Director gave an update on larger ongoing initiatives that will require ongoing conversations regarding their priority and future funding.

CIP 59 Terrill Park: full build out per master plan, permitted and fully designed since 2016, permits start to expire 2027. (currently show funding as combination of city, donations and grants) \$5.5 - \$6.5 million

CIP 60 Kiwanis Park: need to update CIP to show phased approach to build park improvements, including the two phases for new skate park. New Park Master plan has been approved however no funding for construction.

CIP 557 Memorial Field Complex – New Master Plan being reviewed by City Council and School Board. The complex is beginning to have more and more safety issues that will result in closing sections of the park. City has final design and permitting listed in the FY26 budget as \$1.5 million (\$750K City, \$750K CSD).

- Depending on what phases are approved the total project cost will be in the range \$30 million dollars. However can be build in phases over many years.
- Track will not be used in 2026 by CSD due to safety concerns, possible closing to public if track gets worse.
- Bleachers on Football field and baseball field – will be inspected by an engineer. Wooden planks old and breaking, metal bases at baseball field showing signs of bending and stress. May need to close depending on findings.

CIP515 Winter Operations Golf Course: snow making operations. All paid by private donations.

CIP 443 City Wide Community Center: Design of new expanded parking lot to support users of the City-Wide Community Center and users of Keach Park is funded in the FY26 budget. Funds for construction will need to be included in future years.

CIP543: Merrimack River Greenway Trail (Community Development). Many conversations ongoing to buy rail corridor, how trail will work with possible I93 expansion and grants to help build the evaluated walkway connecting Terrill Park and Sunflower section of the trail.

New Park Land The community requires additional parkland to meet both current and anticipated population growth. The City's 2030 Master Plan establishes a standard of 15 acres of parkland for neighborhood and citywide parks. Based on current population levels (43,000 residents), the city should have approximately 645 acres of parkland in 2025 to meet this standard. Currently, the city maintains 246 acres of parkland, resulting in a significant shortfall.

Future park acquisition should prioritize areas experiencing growth or lacking existing park facilities. Ward 2 is a key priority because it currently does not contain a city park and is experiencing significant residential growth. Additional parkland should also be considered for the eastern portion of Ward 10, where future development is anticipated. While Ward 8 contains Terrill Park and Kiwanis Park, both parks remain relatively undeveloped and lack basic recreational amenities such as community playgrounds and sports courts. Enhancing these parks would help improve recreational access for residents in that area. Ward 8 also includes the two built sections of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail that are maintained by the parks and recreation department.

New Cemetery Land: Additional cemetery land will be needed in the future as existing cemeteries approach capacity. Several of the city's current cemeteries are already full, and based on the current burial rate, the remaining available space is expected to be exhausted within approximately 20 years. To address this anticipated need, the city should begin planning for the acquisition of a parcel that is 15–25 acres for future cemetery development.

A key challenge will be identifying suitable parcels for new parkland and cemetery land, as properties with similar characteristics are currently in high demand for residential development by builders and developers. Early planning and land acquisition strategies will be important to ensure adequate space is available for long-term park and cemetery needs.