



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: March 24, 2025

SUBJECT: Review of a Referral from City Council to consider adding an AED unit at Beaver Meadow Park Tennis/Pickleball Courts.

Recommendation

Accept this report and recommendation.

Discussion

On July 14, 2025, the City Council referred a request to install an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at Beaver Meadow Park (tennis and pickleball courts) to the Fire Department and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC). The Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee discussed this request during its meetings on October 16, 2025; January 15, 2026; and March 19, 2026.

The committee and City staff recognize the critical importance of accessible AEDs during medical emergencies, as these devices can save lives. However, AED units require routine inspection and maintenance and are not well-suited for exposure to extreme heat, cold, or wet conditions without appropriate protective enclosures. Each unit costs approximately \$850, and installation of power and secure, weather-resistant cabinets at park locations could cost several thousand dollars per site.

While the committee considered installing AEDs in parks using secure, weather-rated cabinets, concerns regarding the high cost of electrical installation, cabinet infrastructure, ongoing maintenance, and general security led to a recommendation against approval at this time.

The committee also explored offering free CPR and First Aid classes to residents. However, implementing such a program would require significant coordination to ensure the availability of qualified instructors and to determine how program costs—such as training materials and certification fees—would be funded, whether by the City, volunteers, or other means. The committee does recommend staff consider requesting funding for such an initiative in the future.

Additionally, the committee considered purchasing an AED to be stored at the City-Wide Community Center for sign-in/sign-out use by individuals utilizing the Beaver Meadow Park tennis and pickleball courts. After consultation with the City's legal team, this option was not recommended. Under RSA 153-A:30, the City would be required to ensure that anticipated responders are trained in CPR and AED usage. A failure to ensure that anticipated users of the AED had the required training could result in potential liability to the City regardless of the protections set forth in RSA 153-A:30. The Parks and Recreation Department does not have sufficient staff resources to provide training to all potential users.

Given these cost, maintenance, security, and legal constraints, the committee does not support the installation of unsupervised AEDs in city parks at this time.