



# Concord Parks & Rec

## Concord Parks & Recreation Department 2021 Year in Review

*Jan. 1, 2021 - Dec. 31, 2021*





## VISION STATEMENT

Concord Parks and Recreation's vision is to create cutting edge and sustainable recreational resources to connect our community through education, programs and innovative partnerships to ensure an active city to live, work and play.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Concord Parks and Recreation is committed to engaging our community with safe, fun, inclusive opportunities to enhance health and wellness by providing programming, parks and recreation facilities.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Last year the pandemic brought us new challenges to overcome and the department did not simply survive, it **THRIVED**. We did not shut down and we never stopped serving the community. Our team quickly reimagined how to deliver exceptional programs and services to our residents – some programs moved to zoom while many others remained in person. Our parks remained open and people turned to these spaces like never before. We maintained cemetery and maintenance operations. We continued with our numerous partnerships and collaborations with community organizations and leveraged grant funding and private donations for several important initiatives.

Despite ongoing staff shortages, we were able to open five pools and run many successful programs, including our summer camps.

While 2021 provided many challenges, we wanted to take the time to highlight our successes during the past year.

The department would not have been successful without the continued support of City Council, City Administration, Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee, department staff and the residents of Concord and Penacook. Thank you all!



## RECREATION & PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Althea Barton, Ward 1
- Robert Avery, Ward 2
- Chiara Dolcino, Ward 3
- Jennifer Roff, Ward 4
- Stacey Brown, Ward 5
- Andrew Doyle, Ward 6
- Nick Rotkowski, Ward 7
- Marilyn Fraser, Ward 8
- Nora Ismael, Ward 9
- Mary Miller (Chair), Ward 10
- City Councilor Candace White Bouchard
- City Councilor Nathan Fennessy



# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



115 employees



492 kids in swim lessons  
10,308 pool users



3 new pollinating  
gardens created



1,479 youth in classes  
or sports leagues



537 adults in  
enrichment &  
fitness classes



691 kids in  
summer camps



15 free outdoor  
summer concerts



\$89,113 in private  
donations



1,461 meals provided  
to senior citizens



208 kids received  
scholarships

# 1,500

weekly avg. of people  
using the new center  
(Jan. - April)



1,400+ adult visits for  
indoor pickleball &  
basketball



128 volunteer  
coaches



175 senior  
passport members



6,000+ Facebook  
followers



1,255 Instagram  
followers



# PARKS

Over the past year, Concord's parks have provided a reprieve for local residents, which has proven essential during this historic pandemic. The parks were able to provide a sense of normalcy during a period in time when the status quo has been anything but. The City parks were where families could visit loved ones at a safe distance, take the children to visit classmates when classes were virtual, hold birthday parties, weddings, graduations and so such much more.

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of city parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor ice skating areas, cross-country skiing at Beaver Meadow Golf Course, and many non-park areas around the city.

“Thanks for everything..... all the field guys do a great job. We appreciate it. This has been a terrible summer weather wise and their help has been awesome.”  
-Bryan, Concord Sports Center”

## TRADITIONAL PARKS:

- White Park
- Merrill Park
- Rolfe Park
- Garrison Park
- Memorial Field
- Reed Park
- Thompson Play Lot
- Fletcher/Murphy Play Lot
- West Street Play Lot
- Martin Park
- Terrill Park
- Kiwanis Riverfront Park
- Beaver Meadow Park
- Contoocook Park
- Kimball Park
- Rollins Park
- Penacook Riverfront Park
- Keach Park

## NON-TRADITIONAL PARKS/GREEN SPACES:

- Deer Park
- Corriveau Park Green Space
- Bradley Park
- Pecker Park
- McKee Square
- Under the bridge/entrance to Healy Park



# PARKS



In addition, parks staff are responsible for the mowing and trimming of the following non-park areas:

- Airport (outside of fence, entrance area)
- City wells
- City water towers
- Maintenance area of five rotaries: Exit 16, two on Checkerberry Lane, Manor Road, Franklin/N. State Street
- Green space at UNO's Pizzeria & Grill (Loudon Road)
- Supplemental mowing of Langley Parkway



# PARKS

During 2021, Concord's parks saw many users for a variety of events. Below is a snapshot of just some of the organized groups that enjoyed the many fields that Concord has to offer.

- City of Concord Parks & Recreation Department programs & leagues
- Concord School District
- Merrimack Valley School District
- Bishop Brady High School
- Merrimack Valley Youth Baseball and Softball
- Penacook Youth Soccer League
- NH Comets Softball
- NH Plex Softball
- Post 21 Legion Baseball
- Concord Northeast Baseball/Softball League
- Concord Capitals Football
- Concord Crush Lacrosse League
- NH Wild Baseball
- Adult Co-ed Softball League
- Sunset Baseball League
- New England Legends 50+ baseball
- Granite State Baseball League
- NH 38+ Baseball League
- Cannons Baseball
- Granite State Racing (use of track)

*“Thank you all for working things out to allow the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness to have access to power so that we could host our Souperfest event. From our end the event went well. Most importantly we raised \$55,000 of very needed funds for CCEH.”*

*-Greg, Concord Coalition to End Homelessness*



# PARKS



## 2021 COMMUNITY EVENTS HELD IN CONCORD'S PARKS:

- Parks & Recreation Summer Concerts
- Parks & Recreation Summer Movies in the Park
- Parks & Recreation Easter Bunny in Rollins Park
- Parks & Recreation Halloween Hike
- City of Concord July 4 Celebration
- National Night Out
- Concord Arts Market
- Darbster's Pant 4 Paws 5k fundraiser
- Healthy Kids Running series
- Library story time held in several parks
- SuperFest – Concord Coalition to End Homelessness
- UNH Law School graduation
- Bluegrass BBQ – Concord Coalition to End Homelessness
- Fundraiser- International OCD Foundation
- Multicultural Festival
- Hoops on Wheels (a basketball tournament where folks of all abilities compete – using wheelchairs!)
- Concord Cannons baseball tournaments
- NHIAA Playoff Games
- NH Comets & Lightning softball tournaments
- New England Patriots Alumni Football Clinic
- Concord High School graduation
- Bill Luti Race
- Fit4acause
- Making Strides Breast Cancer walk
- Arbor Day with tree planting at Merrill Park
- Rollins Park gazebo rented most Saturdays & Sundays for private events

“The park has been really great for the arts market. We’re getting positive feedback from both vendors and customers, and it’s always nice to spend the day in the park!”

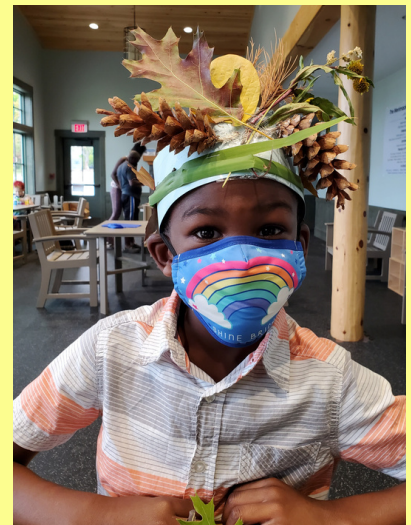
-Christa, Concord Arts Market



# RECREATION

Concord Parks and Recreation offers a large range of programming for participants 0 to 100! We have early childhood programs such as Zumbini, super Spanish and dance classes. For school age children, we offer soccer, basketball, cross-country skiing, cooking, art, flag football, summer camps and more. We have adults and seniors covered with French classes, yoga, Tai Chi and Zumba. In addition to these programs, we also offer a drop in senior program, free to Concord and Penacook residents ages 55+. Senior program activities include; book club, cribbage, knitting and walking.

Recreation programs are offered all over the city at many of our parks, community centers, and elementary schools.



- City Wide Community Center
- Green Street Community Center
- West Street Ward House
- Merrimack Lodge
- Merrill Park
- Reed Park
- White Park
- Reach Park

“I just wanted to reiterate what a fantastic time both kids are having at camp so far. We really appreciate all the hard work your team has put into making these opportunities possible and as safe as they can be right now.” -Kelly W.

# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The City Wide Community Center and the Green Street Community Center gym remained open throughout the year for in person programming and rentals. Though the West Street Ward House and the City Auditorium (Audi) were closed in the early part of 2021, we were able to open all locations including the Merrimack Lodge at White Park for limited use. All our regular programs and classes were offered with reduced capacity, and extra time built into the schedule for extra cleaning and separation of participants.



*NH Parks & Recreation State Conference*

## GYM USERS AT THE NEW CENTER:

- Parks and Recreation Programs (senior walking, pickleball, drop in programs, camps, basketball leagues etc.)
- New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association Exhibit Hall as part of their state conference
- Seacoast United – indoor field hockey clinics
- Trinity High School – home court for their girls’ volleyball teams, girls’ and boys’ basketball teams
- Peak FC – Indoor Soccer
- No Wasted Reps Basketball League
- Cap City Basketball League
- Roller Sports of New England – indoor roller skating
- Riverbend Community Mentor Program

## OTHER ROOM USERS AT THE NEW CENTER:

- City of Concord Parks & Recreation Youth, Adult & Senior Citizen Programs & summer camps
- City of Concord City Clerk/Elections
- City of Concord Fire Department
- City of Concord Engineering Division
- City of Concord Human Resources Department
- City of Concord Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee
- City of Concord Employee BBQ
- Heights Branch of the Concord Public Library (reopened in summer 2021)
- NH Parks & Recreation State Conference
- Heights Family Resource Center (started back inside in Nov. 2021)
- Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
- NH Bar Association
- VNA Health Clinics
- Overcomers Support Services
- Riverbend
- Primex
- Change for Concord
- CATCH Neighborhood Housing
- Concord Multicultural Festival



# PARKS & REC FACILITIES IN ACTION

Here are some photos of the many activities that happen at our fields, parks, and in our community centers.





# CEMETERIES



The Cemetery Division is responsible for the operational needs of Concord's 13 cemeteries.

We started the year with the cemetery office open by appointment only, while all maintenance staff continued to work outside. During the month of May we had, at times, the entire Parks Division help with mowing and trimming. The week leading up to Memorial Day we also had some of our office admin staff help with planting flowers and trimming needs.

During the summer and fall of 2021, the cemetery office returned to normal hours.

The division also experienced an increase in the number of burials, with some months averaging more than 30 interments. In total, we had 243 interments during the year.

## CITY OF CONCORD CEMETERIES:

Cemetery	Established	Estimated Interments
Old North	1750	2,850
Blossom Hill	1859	22,800
Beth Jacob	1859	120
Concord Calvary	1859	8,750
Maple Grove	1824	1,950
Pine Grove	1825	1,550
Old Fort	1775	230
Soucook	1848	450
Millville	1798	660
Stickney Hill	1833	34
Horse Hill	1811	220
Woodlawn	1816	4,600
Penacook Calvary	1816	1,150
		<b>TOTAL: 43,364</b>





# CEMETERIES



The Cemetery Division relies on several community organizations and individuals to help get ready for Memorial Day, Veterans Day and the Wreaths Across America event held in December.

Special thanks to the following groups who continued to work with cemetery staff despite the pandemic:

- Daughters of American Revolution
- The Pierre Brigade
- NH Civil Air patrol
- Sunset Rotary Club
- Wreaths Across America
- St. Paul's School
- The Goodlife Active Living Center
- NH Cemetery Association
- Concord Public Library
- NH Veterans Association
- Cobblestone Point Senior Village





## CAPITAL PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING

With funding in the FY22 capital budget, the department started several capital projects in the fall that will continue to improve the parks and cemeteries in the city.

The reconstruction of the basketball and tennis courts at Rollins Park has begun and will be completed June of 2022. When finished, there will be a new basketball court and tennis court (with lines for two pickleball courts) and new fencing around the courts. At Rolfe Park, work started on Concord's first pickleball only courts. In total, there will be six stand alone pickleball courts at the park.

We have also started the process for repointing the Historic Trolley Stop at White Park. The work is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022.

Other approved capital projects department staff are currently working on are:

- Next phase of road paving at Blossom Hill Cemetery
- Improvements at Thompson Playlot
- Restoration of the Pond at White Park
- Expanding irrigation at Reach Park & the City Wide Community Center
- Design and permitting of Phase 2 of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail





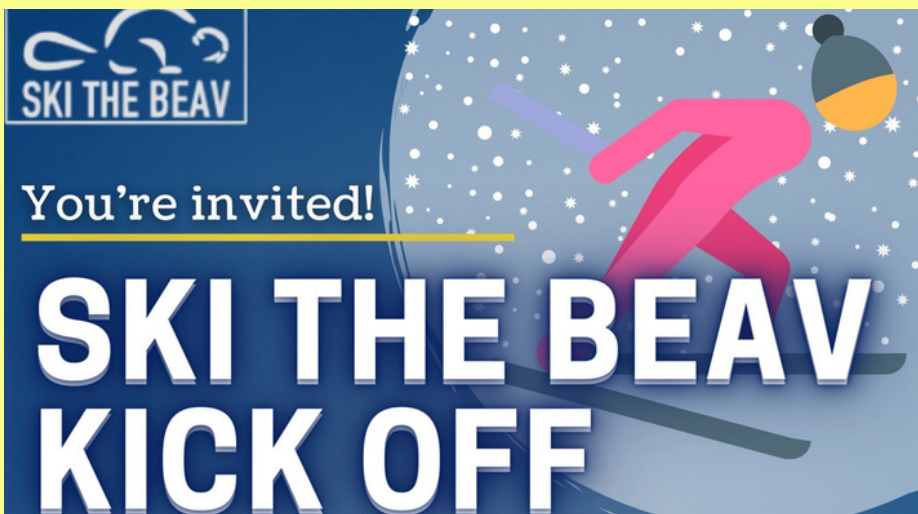
## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES



Working with the community and our numerous partners we have been able to raise over \$89,000 this past year. With these private donations, the department and the City continue to offer low cost and free events to our residents as well as help offset cost of projects and initiatives.



These donations supported programs like: Bill Koch Youth Ski League, free swim lessons, our summer music series, the Adopt-a-Grave program, youth scholarships, and fundraising for a cross-country trail groomer at Beaver Meadow Golf Course.



Additionally, in 2021 the department and the City were notified of a grant award of \$275,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to build the next section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail. We are working with the Friends of Merrimack River Greenway Trail to collect the matching funds (\$275,000).