

HISTORY of PARKS and RECREATION

Created D. Gill September 2025, updated June 2026

Department names over the years:

Parks and Commons Commission (mid 1800s)

Playground and Bath Department (1920s -)

Recreation, Parks and Cemeteries (1950s - early 1990's)

General Service Department: Grounds + Cemetery Divisions moved to
GSD (early 1990s - 2011)

Recreation Department (early 1990s - 2011)

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department (since 2011)

The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department

www.concordparksandrec.com

Today the Parks and Recreation Department has four main areas of responsibility: cemeteries, parks, recreation and administration.

- The Cemetery Division is responsible for the maintenance of Concord's 13 cemeteries, including all burials
- 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.
- The Recreation Division is responsible for coordinating all programs and events offered by the department, scheduling of all parks, indoor recreation centers, City Auditorium and all city outdoor aquatic facilities. In addition the Division is responsible for all the daily and yearly maintenance of the City Wide Community Center and Merrimack Lodge at White Park.
- Administration is responsible for creating and managing the annual operating budget and the Capital Improvement Program for all parks, cemeteries, indoor centers and buildings under the department.

In 1854 Concord appointed their very first committee to investigate the possibility of a common or park that could be enjoyed by all residents. There was a parcel available just south of Thorndike Street, including a good amount of frontage on the street. The new committee visited the site and discussed the possibilities for a Thorndike Street Park.

Another location was identified as a prospect for a park in Fisherville, the current Penacook area. It was with mixed emotions and some disappointment that the Park Commission decided to not approve either location.

The time of parks and commons was not to be.

Slide 4

GD1

First Public Park in USA, Boston Common 1634

Gill, David, 9/10/2025

Current Parks and Cemeteries in Concord/Penacook

Established	Cemetery Name	Est. Interments
1750	Old North	3,200
1775	Soucook	459
1798	Stickney Hill	34
1811	Woodlawn	4,629
1816	Penacook Calvary	1,200
1824	Pine Grove	1,578
1825	Old Fort	230
1833	Horse Hill	221
1848	Millville	663
1859	Blossom Hill	25,000
1859	Beth Jacob	123
1859	Concord Calvary	6,500
1859	Maple Grove	1,990
		45,827



Established	Park Name	Acres
1881	Penacook Lake/Garrison Park	6.50
1884	White Park	23.00
1892	Rollins Park	23.00
1893	Contoocook River Park	51.00
1896	Bradley Park	0.50
1898	Ridge Avenue Park	0.19
1901	Fisk Park	0.29
1903	Deer Park	2.30
1905	Pecker Park	0.15
1910	Kimball Park	6.25
1920	Rolfe Park	37.50
1926	Memorial Field	34.60
1933	Keach Park	10.78
1930	McKee Square	0.55
1931	West Street Playlot	0.59
1937	Fletcher/Murphy Playlot	0.48
1937	Corriveau Square	0.10
1938	Merrill Park	16.35
1946	Reed Park	2.80
1953	Maccoy Street Park	0.38
1960	Thompson Playlot	0.69
1964	Healy Park	48.00
1965	Kiwanis Park	17.00
1973	Beaver Meadow Park	9.64
1980	Terrill Park	17.00
1982	Penacook Riverfront Park	1.00
1988	Russell Martin Park	29.00
2025	Canal Street Penacook	2.50
		342.14

Penacook Lake Park: 1881 to 1951

Concord's First Public Park

In 1873, the Concord Water Commissioners recommended a location containing a few acres on the city farm near the water works area as a possible park location. It was a very practical suggestion that contained merit and plans continued to evolve. The wooded parcel of land pleasantly situated near the dam at Fisherville was confirmed as a park and officially named Penacook Park in the year 1881.

A fence was installed, private donations for improvement were solicited from the community, a pavilion was constructed for musicals and entertainment. The Park had a swimming area, swings, a pavilion and even park lights.

A small steamer would pick up passengers at Penacook Lake Park during the summer months and provide refreshing voyages across Penacook Lake. Penacook Park in West Concord was very successful and enjoyed by the citizens.





Belle of the Lake

White Park: Est 1884

1 White Street, Concord

White Park was conveyed to the city by Armenia White in 1884, in memory of her husband Nathaniel. Mr. White, a founder of The American Express Company, was a prominent businessman, legislator, and philanthropist.

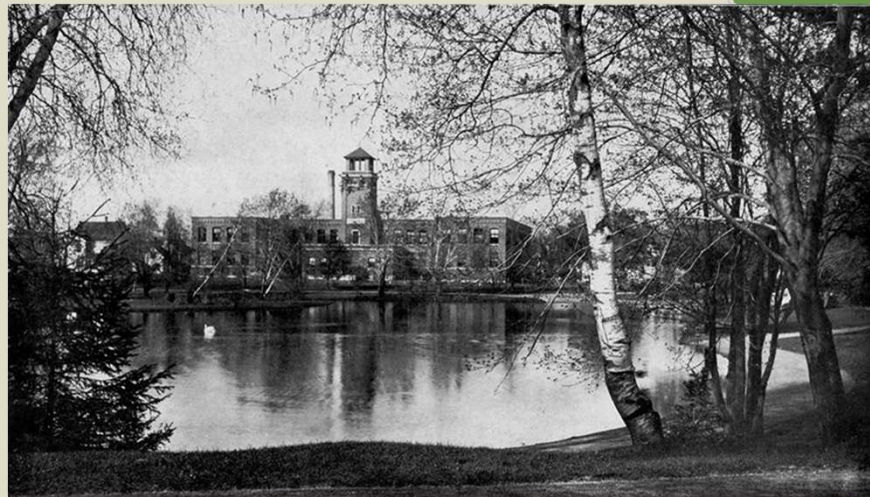
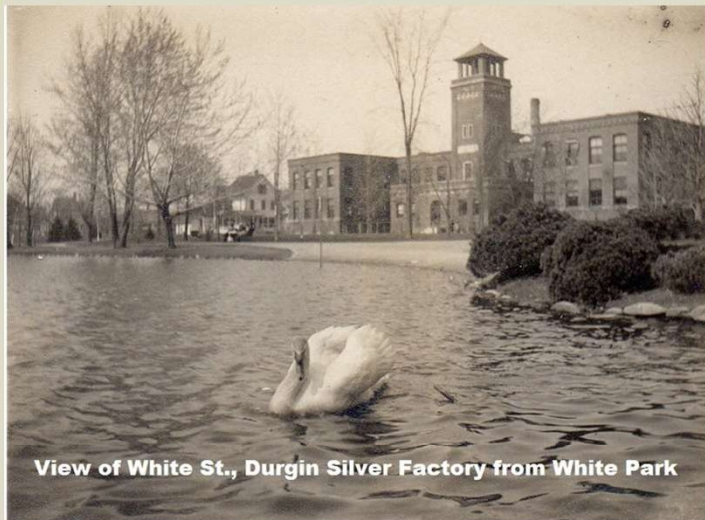
The Park was conveyed to the city on December 27, 1884 to establish a public park to be named "White Park"



Concord, N.H., Bridge in White's Park.



Concord, N. H. White's Park. The Pond.



1897



Important early milestones:

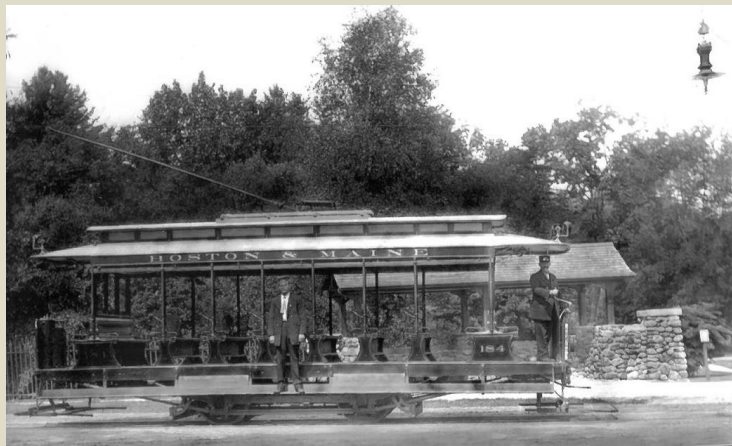
- 1888 Park was designed by renowned architect Charles Elliott
- 1895 First mention of city maintaining the lower pond during winter months for ice skating
- 1897 Bridge in park was completed
- 1899 Playground was started
- 1909 The nation's oldest after supper baseball league that started - Sunset League
- 1910 Analysis of water heretofore so popular at White Park was made by the state chemist and proved to be unfit for drinking, so its use as a drinking source has been discontinued.
- 1916 Two ice skating rinks were added for the use of the school children
- 1919 The Park Commissioner checked on feasibility and cost of concreting the bed of the upper pond at White Park, so that said pond may be used as a wading pool for small children
- 1923 A playground was improved
- 1925 The chemical toilets in both White Park and Rollins Park have become an actuality, and the extent of their use shows that they are filling a much-needed want
- 1930 Iron fence has been carried along Beacon Street 268 feet.
- 1930 Four new swings have been added to playground equipment at the Park
- 1936 A pool was added at the park
- 1937 New administration building completed as part of the WPA Program
- 1939 Baseball field was renovated



Consolidated K, 1912



July 4, 1942



Aux Fire Demonstration 1943

White Park: Recent Master Planning and Investments

In 1958, a skate house at White Park was built. It was immediately used by hundreds of skaters and a generation of Concord youth grew up around the facility. By the middle 90's, the building began to decline and shortly thereafter, the bathroom, heating systems and electrical systems began to fail and by the late 2000's the building was closed due to numerous safety violations.

- 1982 The park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 1994 A wooden playground was built to replace a existing small playground. The new Monkey Around Playground was a community-built playground made possible by private donations and manpower. Hundreds of people worked on the project.
- 2001 The City of Concord began a Master Plan Process for several of the neighborhood Parks. In the approved White Park Master Plan it called for a new building to replace the old skate house building as well as a new parking lot and new athletic fields.
- 2008 Park renovations started and new playing field with irrigation, improved drainage, new paved hockey rink (with donated boards) and a new parking lot was added.
- 2019 New Skate House opened
- 2022 The 1908 Trolley Stop at White Park was restored
- 2026 New all inclusive playground was opened
- 2026 Full restoration of the basketball court was completed



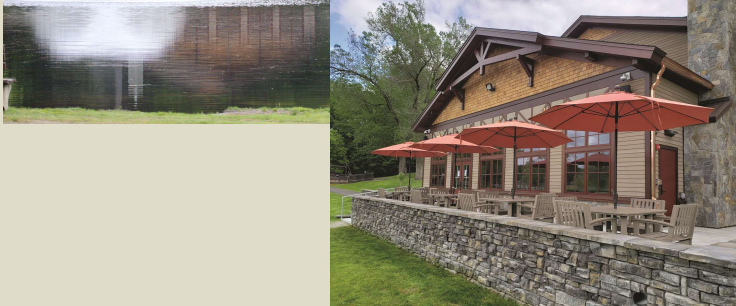
Skate House 1960s



Playground prior to 1990s and
Monkey Around Playground

At the July 2012 City Council meeting, Parks and Recreation Director presented a report outlining how the City could use private donations to design new facility. At the City Council Meeting on August 13, 2012 City Council approved a donation by the H.L. Turner Group Inc. for the design of the new building.

In May 2015, the Parks and Recreation Department working with the Friends of White Park hired Playground By Leathers to come back to Concord to conduct an assessment of the playground. Planning for a new playground began.



Construction on new Skate House started in September 2018 and the new facility opened to the public June 2019. Funded by City of Concord and private donations.



The new all inclusive playground opened on Oct 17, 2025. Funded by City of Concord, LWCF Grant and private donations

West Street Ward House: est 1884

41 West Street, Concord

This Ward House was built in the year 1884.

The minutes of the Concord City Council meeting of 12 July 2010 reports that this ward house "is the oldest remaining building in the state that was built for the original purpose of voting" however is no longer used for voting.



Rollins Park: est 1892

116 Broadway Street, Concord

- 1891 Mayor Clapp (in a speech) spoke of property in South End (a desirable woodland park) offered to the city by the late Governor Frank West Rollins, in memory of a distinguished townsman, the Honorable Edward. H. Rollins.
- 1892 Land accepted as a donation and named Rollins Park. Was a gift of the late Governor Frank West Rollins, in memory of a distinguished townsman and senator, the Honorable Edward. H. Rollins.



1908

Important early milestones:

- 1896 Rollins Park Bridge completed
- 1897 Shelter was built
- 1905 Playground was added, 4.5 acres of land added to the park
- 1908 A merry-go-round has been placed to the great delight of the children, also the improvement of the shelters and planting new beds of rhododendrons.
- 1913 Purchase of the Emerson lot "between Bow Street and Broadway added to Rollins Park
- 1914 Tennis court added
- 1915 For Concord's 150th Anniversary the Memorial Committee donated a granite drinking fountain
- 1920 Baseball field added
- 1924 New baseball backstop and bleachers seated installed
- 1925 The chemical toilets in both White Park and Rollins Park have become an actuality, and the extent of their use shows that they are filling a much-needed want
- 1927 A new shelter of rustic design was constructed. The old shelter, erected in 1897 was demolished by hoodlums on July 4, 1926. About 60 dead pines were removed
- 1930 Northern end of Rollins Park has been turned into a wading pool by the work for pool was donated by Veterans of Foreign Wars and Concord Post #1031
- 1935 The stone wall along Broadway street is continued
- 1936 Pool was renovated (made of cement, WPA Project)
- 1938 Lily Pond built
- 1938 The park was heavily damaged by the 1938 hurricane and trees/park was not fully cleaned up until 1940 when over 400 red and white pines were planted
- 1941 75 feet was added to the pool to accommodate more swimmers



After 1938 Hurricane



Basketball and Tennis courts fully renovated in 2023



Contoocook River Park: est 1893

Electric Ave, Penacook

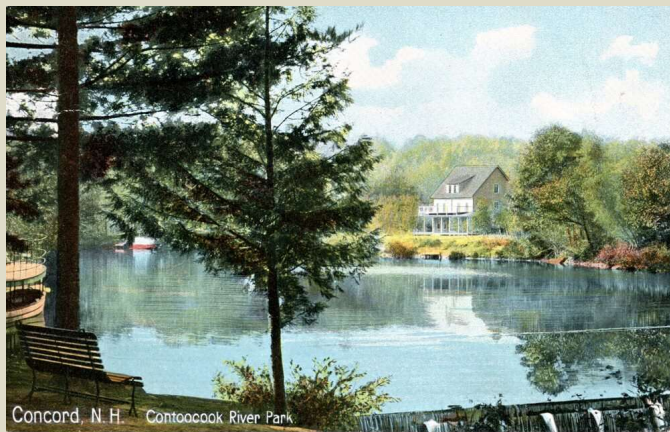
The park was developed along the south bank of the Contoocook River. The first privately funded park, built by the Concord Street Railroad. For twenty cents in 1893, and up until 1925, one could ride 7 miles (11 km) on the trolley from downtown Concord to Penacook to enjoy free entertainment, fireworks, swimming, dancing at a large pavilion, boating, roller-skating, bowling, and even a steamboat ride up the Contoocook River.

It was a marvelous success with people visiting from many states and arriving by train in Concord, then boarding the trolley to Penacook for a day at the park. At the peak, this park was visited by over a thousand people each day. The railroad and trolley enjoyed much success and much profit as the people embraced this very first large-scale attraction and summer resort. The park closed in 1925, currently has hiking and walking trails.





AT CONTOOCCOOK RIVER PARK, CONCORD, N. H.



Concord, N. H. Contoocook River Park



AT CONTOOCCOOK RIVER PARK, CONCORD, N. H.



AT CONTOOCCOOK RIVER PARK, CONCORD, N. H.

Bradley Park: established 1896

1896 Purchase of triangle of land at N. State St. south of pumping station - small green space area

Ridge Avenue Park: established 1898

1898 A triangular tract of land situated in said city and bounded by Center Street, Ridge Road, and Park Ridge Street be accepted for park purposes from William Thayer, Albert Woodworth, Edward Woodworth, and Austin Ranney, subject to the condition that said tract shall within two years from the passage of this resolution be properly graded and seeded to grass, and thereafter be suitably maintained for park purposes and be known as Ridge Road Park

Fisk Park: established 1901

Small green space in front of Kimball Jenkins (Bouton Street/North Main Street)

Deer Park: est 1903

- 1903 Landed purchase through which Bow Brook runs converted into a deer park
- 1905 The Deer Park has been an attraction for many. The Angora goats that were sharing the Deer enclosure were sold at the time of the state fair because there was not enough room for both goats and deer.
- 1906 The herd of deer which has increased by two, still continues to be of much interest
- 1933 The fence around the deer park has been removed and the area cleaned up.



Pecker Park: est 1905

- 1905 A small parcel of land in East Concord developed and paid for by gift of \$200 by J. Eastman Pecker - named Pecker Park.

The City Auditorium - established 1904

2 Prince Street

The Concord City Auditorium is a beautiful historic theater owned and held in trust by the City of Concord. The auditorium was built on the western side of City Hall.

Concord City Auditorium, the home of community-based arts and entertainment since 1904, was threatened with conversion to city office space in 1991. The community rallied to save their theatrical home, forming The Friends of The Concord City Auditorium as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since 1991 the Friends have raised and invested over \$2,000,000 (two million dollars!) in the city-owned building, thanks to the all-volunteer efforts supported by a generous and grateful community.

The theater house seats between 835 and 841, depending on the configuration of the orchestra seats. The orchestra has seating for 524 to 535 guests, including 9 wheelchair locations. There are 247 seats in the front balcony and 64 second balcony seats. The space is ADA accessible, including the restrooms. The gilded proscenium arch surrounds the 25-foot by 25-foot stage performance area. There is a small orchestra pit. Backstage facilities include nine dressing rooms and three restrooms.



Kimball Park: est 1910

57 Bradley Street, Concord

- 1910 Land for the park was a gift of a former Mayor John Kimball
- 1910 Appropriated to purchase two parcels of land from heirs of Richard Bradley to add to the John Kimball gift
- 1912 Playground was started
- 1915 The Concord Women's Club contributed a drinking fountain made of granite, the shelter was finished.
- 1916 Tennis courts were built with private donations
- 1937 Pool was built (45ft by 100ft, was a WPA project)
- 1996 Pool was renovated
- 2017 Major pool renovations to increase accessibility and new filtration.



1948

Doyen Park/City Hall Park (location of old city hall)

Mentioned in 1918 reports of changing the name of City Hall Park to Doyen Park: "That as an honor to one of Concord's distinguished sons, Brig. Gen. Charles Doyen, who led the American marines to the first fruits of victory at Chateau Thierry in France..."

This is no longer a park, current site of the Merrimack County Court Buildings.

Keach Park: est 1933

2 Newton Ave, Concord

- 1928 A tract of land in the Plains district was taken over by the city for playground purposes
- 1933 Land became a park and set aside for the development of a community Park and Public Playground.
- 1939 New Wading Pool at Plains (Heights) added (WPA Project)
- 1960 \$3,000 approved for playground equipment
- 1988 LWCF Grant to improve playing fields
- 1996 Pool was renovated
- 2004 Park was fully renovated and reopened to include Concord's first inground irrigated athletic fields, new parking lot with lights, picnic shelter, lighted basketball and a lighted tennis court. New fencing along Loudon Road and entrance gate was added. The park was renamed Keach Park in honor of the former long time resident and Parks and Recreation Director John Keach.
- 2005 Pool repairs
- 2018 Basketball and tennis court repainted
- 2018 Pool fully renovated to improve accessibility and filtration
- 2019 ½ mile walking path around the perimeter of the park was added.
- 2023 The tennis court was replaced with mini soccer pitch and court lighted converted to LED
- 2025 Athletic Field lights added to youth soccer field at the park, along with water bubbler, new entrance gate and new picnic tables (one being wheel chair accessible)

Today the park also has new renovated outdoor pool, a ½ mile walking trail, softball field, little league field, a lighted soccer mini pitch, lighted basketball court and lighted youth soccer field

Keach Park: est 1933

2 Newton Ave, Concord



Rolfe Park: est 1920

79 Community Drive, Penacook

1920

Abial Walker Rolfe donated land to City on March 11, 1920 “to be used for a Park, Playground and Athletic Field” The beautiful lot of land of about 20 acres in Penacook which was presented to the city in by Mr. Abial Rolfe is a valuable addition to our city. This is named Rolfe Park to perpetuate the name of an earlier settler in that part of the city....” “The matter of a suitable memorial to the World War veterans has been discussed considerably and it seems to be the desire of the Legion and the citizens in general that the memorial be in the form of an athletic field. There is a possibility that the swimming pool proposition which was brought up last year might be considered in connection with the athletic field.’ This is named Rolfe Park to perpetuate the name of an earlier settler in that part of the city

1923

Playground was opened

1924

Tennis court was added

1937

Pool was built (WPA Project)

1939

The Joseph Guyette Swimming Pool - was dedicated to Private Joseph Guyette, Company E, 103rd infantry - died June 16, 1918 - first son of Penacook to lose his life in WW1.



1960s aerial of Rolfe Park area





1921 funeral procession for Joseph Guyette, buried at Calvary Cemetery



1963
picture

Rolfe Park: est 1920

79 Community Drive, Penacook

Recent Investments at Rolfe Park

- 1996 The original 1930s pool was renovated using a "pool inside a pool" method, where a new reinforced concrete liner was sprayed inside the old shell. This method allowed the city to bypass the higher costs of a full excavation.
- 2016 The city completed a major renovation to modernize the facility. The upgraded pool now features: ADA Accessibility: A beach-style zero-entry ramp. Enhanced Safety, A new deck with increased floor traction and drainage, fresh paint, and gusher jets. Efficiency: Improved lighting and new filtration media and bathrooms were updated.
- 2023 Six stand along pickleball courts where added, replacement of court lights to LED



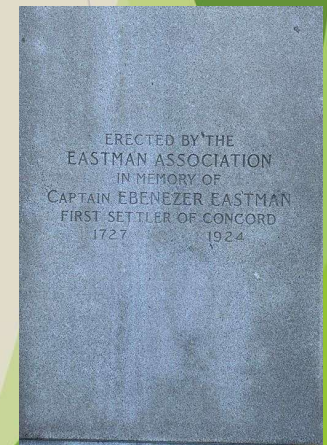
Eastman Clock Tower: Est 1924

55 Eastman Street, Concord

The Eastman monument was built in 1924 however was not officially dedicated until June 17, 1925, providing an outdoor art installation, combined with a testimonial to New Hampshire history along with the practicality of four-sided public clock. At the time, the location of the monument clock tower, at the intersection of Portsmouth Street and Eastman Street, was central to the transportation corridors into Concord, from the seacoast and northern New Hampshire. All traffic into and out of Concord in those directions would have processed by the Eastman monument and set their time by the tower clocks.

The small park also contains a State Historical Highway Marker noting the site to be the terminus of the original New Hampshire Turnpike. Another historical marker within the park also notes the location as the site of the original Merrimack River crossings (Eastman Ferry 1727, Tucker Ferry 1785, Federal Bridge 1799).

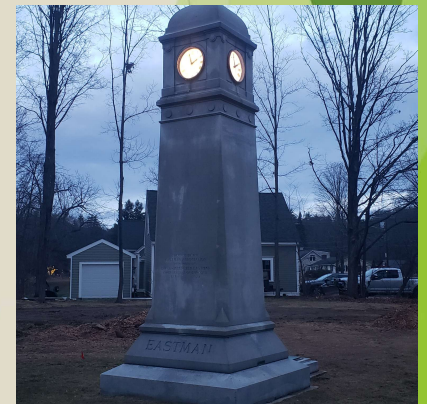
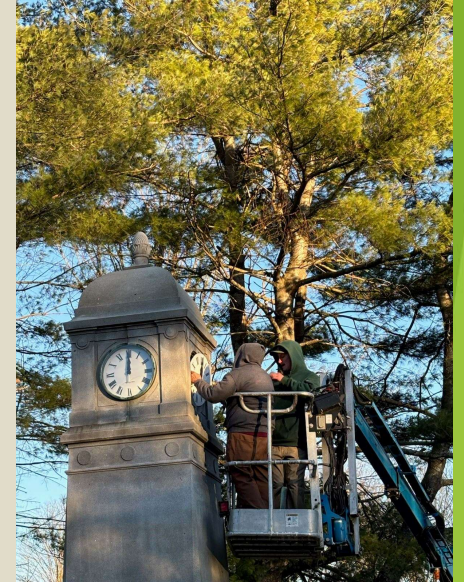
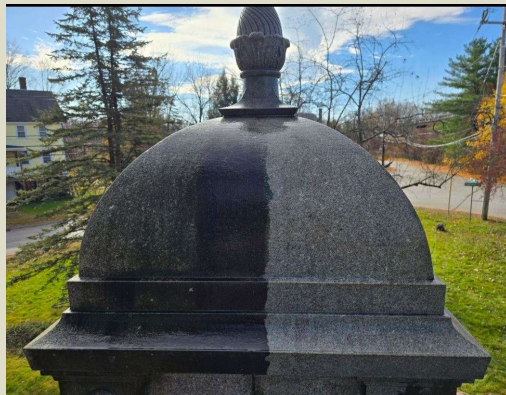
The granite for the Eastman monument was quarried locally at the Granite State Quarry, operating at Concord's Rattlesnake Hill quarries. The monument was sculpted by the New England Granite Works in Westerly, Rhode Island.



Eastman Clock Tower: Est 1924

In early 2024, the City received an \$18,000 grant from the New Hampshire Council on the Arts, Arts Conservation Grant Program to restore the 4 clocks and to help with cleaning the monument. The City of Concord will also handle any related tree work and extra cleaning that may be required.

In anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the monument's 1925 dedication, The City of Concord, in cooperation with current and former residents of East Concord, the monument's clocks were restored to working order in time and new shrubs and trees planted for a rededication event in 2025. In addition to restoration of the clocks, the project will include cleaning of the monument faces, the formalization of the short trail bisecting the park, and some maintenance to park landscaping.

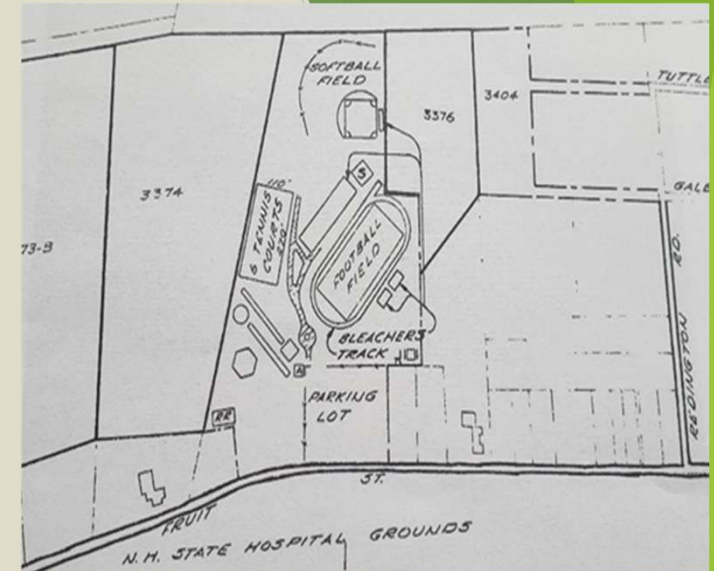


Memorial Field: est 1926

70 South Fruit Street, Concord

Important early milestones:

- 1926 Two tracts of land were conveyed to the City by Allen Hollis for the use of amateur athletic fields. As part of the donation, a bronze tablet was to be placed dedicating these two tracts as a memorial to the Concord boys who lives were sacrificed in World War 1. City Park created when two tracts of land were conveyed to the City by Allen Hollis. Original facilities included six clay tennis courts, a cinder track, football field and softball field
- 1930 \$36,000 was appropriated towards the completion of Memorial Field
- 1933 Bleachers added at Memorial Field
- 1936 Hockey Rink was added at Memorial field
- 1936 Baseball field opened
- 1940 First night football game was played using portable lights
- 1947 Permanent athletic field lights install on football field



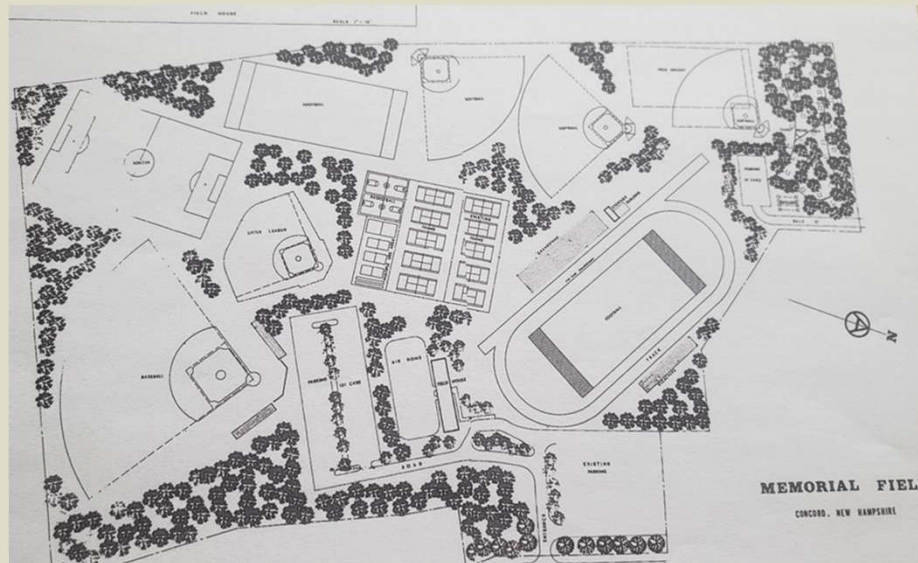
Memorial Field: est 1926

70 South Fruit Street, Concord

1971 City Council funded a Master Plan to look at the expanding needs of outdoor recreation in the community

Additional land was acquired around this same time to meet the expanding needs. The State of NH deeded 9.5 acres for the expressed purpose of expansion of the city's athletic facilities and another 12.3 acres was purchased with the help of Land and Water Conservation Grant and City funds.

The Memorial Field complex is now made up of approximately 14 separate tracks of land over the 36-acre park.



1971 Master Plan

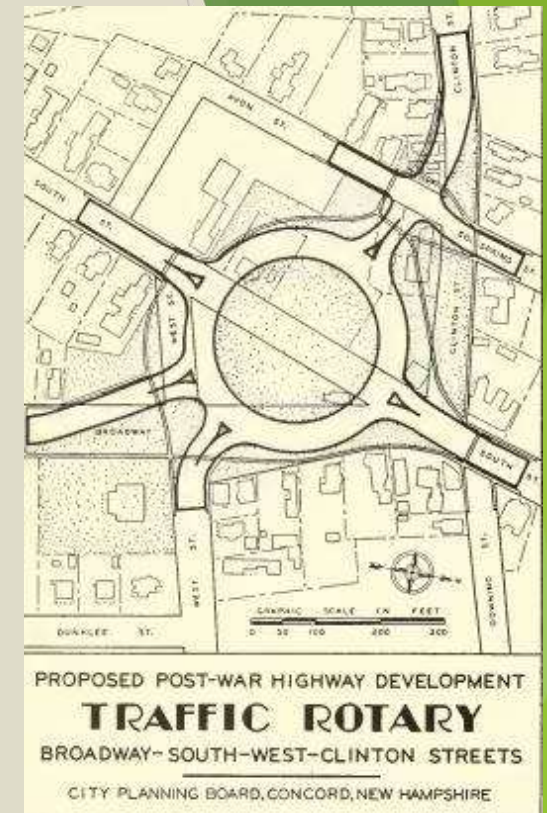
Memorial Field: est 1926

70 South Fruit Street, Concord

- 1994 Concord Baseball Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit that was originally formed to organize and run the 1994 13-year-old Babe Ruth Baseball World Series. That was followed by several northeast US regional Babe Ruth League tournaments and the 2000 18-year-old Babe Ruth Baseball World Series. Leading up to the 2000 World Series, in an arrangement with the City of Concord they engaged in the seating project at the Memorial Field baseball diamond, now known as the Doane Diamond.
- In June 2023, the City of Concord and Concord School District leadership agreed to explore opportunities to work together on needed improvements at the Memorial Field Complex. The cost of this phase of the project is being equally shared
- First Public meeting was held September 19, 2023, second meeting held February 22, 2024
- Student Focus Groups with Rundlett Middle School and Concord High School Students were held in November 2023
- June 2025 the City of Concord and Concord School Board created a joint planning committee to review and recommend a Master Plan
- As of June 2026 the Joint memorial Field Planning Committee are continue to fine tune options.

McKee Square and Noyes Park: est 1930

- 1949 At a meeting of the City Planning Board held on November 1, the board unanimous approved establishing the triangular plot of land at the junction of Broadway, South and West Street as a public park. The board further recommends that the area be named Noyes Park in honor of an early Concord Family that settled a farm in the south end section which included the area of the new park.
- 1961 Board of Aldermen approved naming the square in honor the late Mayor of Charles L. McKee Square



1943 Concept

West Street Playlot: est 1931

92 ½ South State Street, Concord

Records of the Mayor and Board of Alderman, and the information as found in the Annual City Reports, specifically, years 1929, 1930, and 1931, indicate that the City intended to purchase the parcel in 1929, that the City expended money for the purchase of the parcel, and specific statements in various documents indicated the City purchased the parcel from the school.

- 1931 The old school building on the corner of West and South State Street was demolished and is soon as the weather permits the remaining concrete will be removed and the entire playground reconditioned.
- 1940 Entire area of the West Street Park was reconstructed and landscaped

This small park currently has a playground and basketball court.

Fletcher/Murphy Playlot: est 1937

29 Fayette Street, Concord

1937, March 8

That it be the sense of this board that the Chandler School lot be deeded to the city by the Board of Education for playground purposes. Chandler School at the corner of Fayette and South Streets was built in 1877-78. It was closed because of enrollment issues and because it was falling apart.

1937, Oct 11

That the lot of land at the corner of Fayette and South Streets formerly known as the Chandler School Lot and recently established as a park be named Fletcher-Murphy Park in memory of Lucy N. Fletcher (1886-1918) and Teresa M. Murphy (1891-1918), nurses who served in the World War

1937, Nov 8

That the care and upkeep of the Fletcher-Murphy Park be and hereby is placed under the supervision of the Park Department

The park has small playground, basketball court and connection to the Concord Music School outdoor stage.



Garrison Park: est 1937

31 Hutchins Street, Concord

- 1938 Garrison bridge built over brook.
- 1938 Work was done on the old brook river bed and pool built
- 1997 Pool was renovated

Park has two basketball courts, pool, playground and hiking trails

Corriveau Square: est 1937

- 1937 Dedicated Corriveau Park at South St and Bow St. (next to Deer Park). Corriveau Square is named in memory of Lieutenant Paul Edward Corriveau (1893- 1918) who was killed in action at Meuse-Argonne October 6, 1918. Paul grew up in Concord and attended Concord High School.

During WWI he served as a Lieutenant in the 55th company, 5th Regiment, USMC. He was killed in action October 6, 1918 in the Meuse Argonne. When the war ended, his remains were returned to the United States, and reburied on September 10, 1921 in Calvary Cemetery, Concord NH.

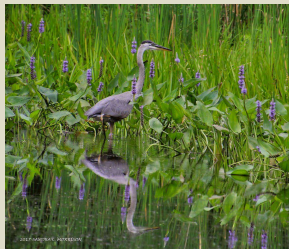


Merrill Park: est 1938

27 Eastman Street, Concord

- 1938 Gratitude and Appreciation are given to the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Hampshire for their generous gift to the city by deed of the land in east Concord heretofore used by the city for playground and recreational purposes and increased size of the park
- 1939 East Concord was equipped with a swimming pool and bath house
- 1960 The park was named Merrill Park after Harold D. Merrill, a resident of East Concord, and a member of the Board of Aldermen from 1932 to 1942. A pioneer in outdoor recreation, Merrill devoted 25 years to promoting public recreation and guiding youth to use leisure hours to build healthy bodies and good habits.
- 1996 Pool was renovated
- 2021 Pool was renovated to improve accessibility and filtration

In 2006 the small pond dam was washed out during mothers day floods. Park today has walking trails, renovated outdoor pool, tennis, basketball, playground, picnic shelter, playing fields and pollinating garden.



Reed Playlot: est 1946

105 Hall Street, Concord

1947 The Hall Street Playground (acquired by city in 1946) was renamed the Robert Reed Playground in memory of Corporal Robert W. Reed, United States Army, who died on Guam, August 23, 1945.



Born - 1 July 1923, Concord, NH

Parents: William H Reed, Jr + Beulah Bixby

Died - 23 August 1945, Harmon Field, Agat, Guam

1960 \$3,000 approved for playground work

The park today has a softball field, multi use field and a playground.

MacCoy/Walnut Street, Penacook: Est 1953

1953 Board of Alderman purchased two sections of land from Penacook Electric Light Company for \$2,160. One area along Walnut Street was $\frac{1}{4}$ acres, while another along MacCoy Street was .38 acres.

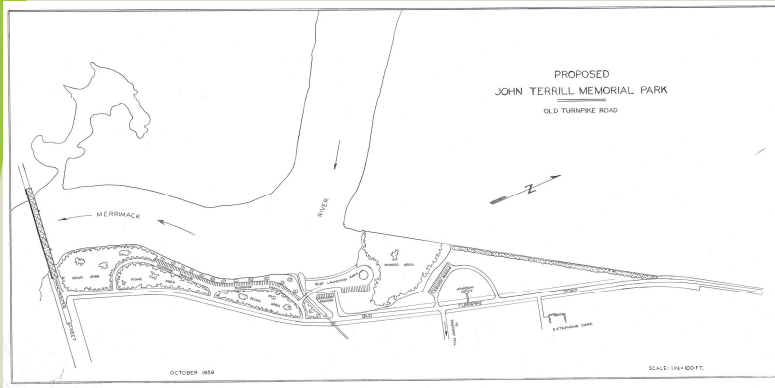
The land on MacCoy Street has small picnic area overlooking the dam (Twin Bridges area), while the other area is currently undeveloped.



John Terrill Park: est 1950s

35 Old Turnpike Road, Concord

The Park dates back to the 1950s with the 1959 Park Master showing: picnic areas, increased parking and a boat ramp. These park improvements were never funded and built.



The park was expanded by 6 acres in the early 1980s when the City worked with the State of NH to realign the Old Turn Pike Road for the upcoming new Manchester Street Bridge. The City received a LWCF grant to help fund the additional land purchase.

In 1982 a new Park Master Plan was created, a new Riverfront Park to serve the residents of this section of the city. The 1982 Plan called for tennis courts, softball field, new parking, boat ramp and picnic/open play areas. However, these park improvements were never funded and built.



Terrill Park

35 Old Turnpike Road, Concord

Terrill Park is now a 21 acre park set on the banks of the Merrimack River. Overall the park remains undeveloped since the 1950s, there is a paved multi use trail along the river bank (part of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail) and is home of Concord's only Dog Park. The Dog Park is maintained by the Pope Memorial SPCA.

In the FY18 City Budget money was approved for the full design of a new riverfront park.

- 2019: The new Park Master Plan is now fully permitted for construction (AOT, Army Corp, NHDES etc.)
- 2020: Phase 1 is complete and new dog park, parking lot and section of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail is open. Cost of construction included a LWCF Grant, City Funds and private donations



Then-Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Mayor of Concord Jim Bouley and Senator Jeanne Shaheen visited Terrill Park in Concord, NH, on July 16, 2016 to highlight the LWCF program

Once built Terrill Riverfront Park would serve as a neighborhood park as well for the residents along Manchester Street and along the southern end of Airport Road. Although Ward 8 has two "parks" (Kiwanis Riverfront Park and Terrill Park) there is no public playground, courts (basketball, tennis etc.) or playing fields for residents in Ward 8.



2018 Approved John Terrill Park Master Plan

Green Street Community Center

39 Green Street

The historic building was originally constructed in 1908 as the New Hampshire State Armory, designed by renowned architect William Butterfield. The armory provided a training and gathering space for the state militia until 1959, when the state officially gifted the fortress-style brick building to the City of Concord for civic use.

From 1959 until today the space has been used as a recreation hub for the community.

In 2015 after several months of renovations the facility reopened after \$600,000 worth of investments. Upgrades included new floors, ceiling tiles, bathroom partitions, carpet, a handicap accessible ramp, repaired brick exterior, rain gutters, exterior and interior lighting, an upgraded sprinkler system, fresh paint, refurbished locker room fixtures, and an upgraded security system. The City of Concord's IT Department was relocated from City Hall to the Green Street Community Center as part of this rehabilitation.

Its primarily serves the city by hosting drop-in adult basketball, pickleball, and family open gym sessions, and functions as a popular and accessible rental space for the local community. Is also a voting location for local and national elections.



Thompson Park: est 1960

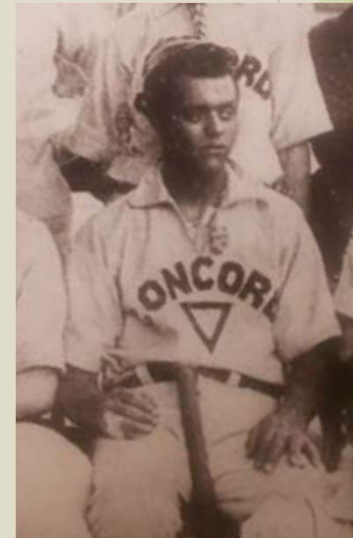
37 North Spring Street, Concord

- 1960 \$2,000 was approved for a playground for North Spring Park
- 1961 The board of Alderman voted to have the playground on North State Street, the former site of the Kimball School be named William P. Thompson Playground.

The park currently has a playground, basketball court and a small lawn area

In 1960 New Hampshire's population of roughly 600,000 was, according to state records, 99.6 percent white. It was a time of civil rights marches and lunch counter sit-ins. Lynchings in the South hadn't ended. Schools in much of the country were still segregated. In 16 states interracial marriage was a crime.

Yet that year, the City of Concord did something that today seems remarkable. It named a city park in honor of a Black man, a man who decades earlier, had made the city his adopted home; a Black man whose wife was white.



Thompson Park - 1960

A native of Louisa County, Virginia, William Penn Thompson began his baseball career playing for the Concord, New Hampshire YMCA team in 1891 and went on to play for the Cuban Giants in 1900 and later the Philadelphia Giants. He remained in Concord most of his life, and in 1960 the city named a local park in his honor. Thompson died in Boston, Massachusetts in 1960 at age 86 and is buried in Blossom Hill Cemetery.

Thompson in 1911 played on a “white” professional baseball team before Jackie Robinson broke the color barriers playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

Seamus Kearney, a writer, baseball historian and member of the Society for American Baseball Research, believes that Thompson was “the first African-American to play in what is termed ‘organized baseball’ in the 20th century.

Despite facing discrimination that prevented him from playing in the major leagues, Thompson’s talent, spirit, and dedication left a lasting impact. In 1961, Concord’s Board of Aldermen honored his legacy by naming William Thompson Playground in his memory.



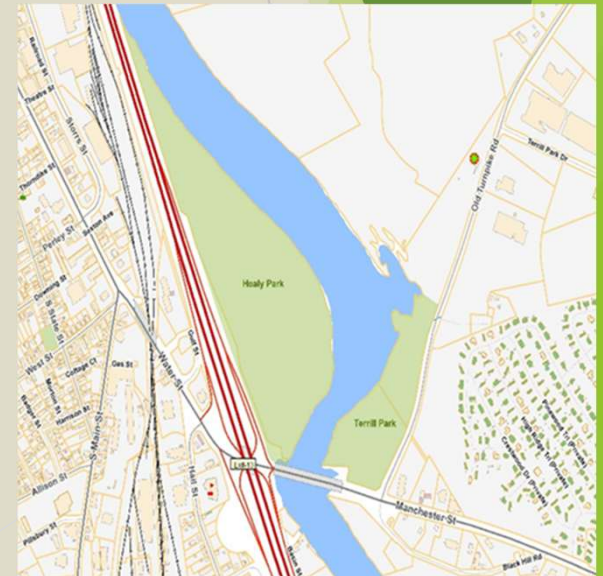
Healy Park: est 1964

Basin Street, Concord

The State of NH as part of the I93 project sold the land to the City on Oct 26, 1964 for \$1 with understanding it was to be used for parks and recreation. Healy Park was once a dumping ground for coal byproduct next to the Merrimack River.

In 2003, the city named the park in memory of William A. Healy. A city resident for decades, Healy was also a state employee for 50 years, spending 40 of them guiding the state's water pollution abatement efforts.

The establishment of the park in the early 2000s marked the clean up of the land and Merrimack River itself, a testament to the importance of natural resources and future stewardship. In late fall 2025 and into 2026 the city cleaned up the park, reestablish hiking trails and informational signs



Everett Arena and Kiwanis Park

15 + 19 Loudon Road

In the 1930's, Concord citizens formed a not-for-profit corporation, The Concord Ice Skating Arena, Inc., to build and operate an indoor ice skating arena. The arena was built at 15 Loudon Road in 1965 and named after Doug Everett, a 1932 Olympic Silver Medalist, for his skill in skating and hockey as well as his civic and business leadership.

19 Loudon Road was acquired by the City in 1965 and for many years was home of the Concord Fire Departments training facility. This area is also home of Concord's only Skate Park built in the early 1990s and in early 2000's a section of the site was leased out to Concord Crew.

In 1981, the City of Concord acquired the Everett Arena and in 1984 received LWCF Grant to help cover the cost of buying the 7 acre site. LWCF grant was for \$181,632.

19 Loudon Road was acquired by the City in 1965 and for many years was home of the Concord Fire Departments training facility. This area is also home of Concord's only Skate Park and in early 2000's a section of the site was leased out to Concord Crew.



Everett Arena and Kiwanis Riverfront Park

Community Visioning Charrette for Merrimack River Recreation and Open Space Corridor

FY21 CIP 60 reads: “Community Visioning Charrette to establish a master plan for Kiwanis Park, the Everett Arena, and City owned agricultural land between Terrill Park and Loudon Road (collectively referred to herein as the Merrimack River Recreation and Open Space Corridor). The goal of the process is to develop a comprehensive vision and strategy for these assets.

Several public meetings were held with over hundred people at each of the meetings. A new Park Master Plan was created and approved showing location for new skate park, park improvements and connection to the Merrimack River Greenway Trail.





Kiwanis Waterfront Park
Conceptual Master Plan | June 2024



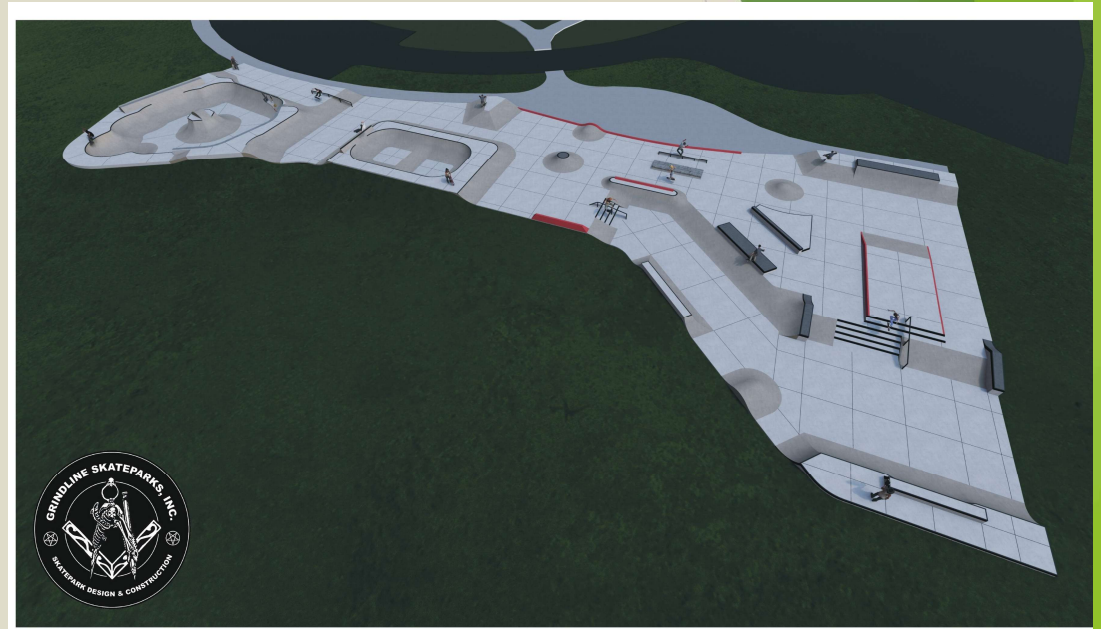
2024 Approved Kiwanis Park Master Plan Concept

Everett Arena and Kiwanis Riverfront Park

In FY25 the City was awarded a Land and Water Conservation Grant of \$500,000 to help with construction of new skate park. This grant requires a dollar for dollar match and the Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Skate Park Association on fundraising the required match.

The new skate park will be built in two phases with the first phase at a cost of approximately one million dollars.

In the FY26 CIP#60 City Council approved the 1 million dollar project however is contingent on the city receiving the \$500,000 in donations prior to final funding approval and construction.



2025 Approved new Skate Park Plan

Beaver Meadow Park: est 1973

42 Sewalls Falls Road, Concord

This 9.64 acre park was created in 1973. Features include a Little League/softball field, multi use tennis/pickleball courts and picnic tables.

Part of this park used to be part of Beaver Meadow Golf Course when the course was 9 holes.



Penacook Riverfront Park: Est 1982

1984 City received LWCF grant to develop a passive park

The Tanner Street Park also has a small parking lot that serves a municipal parking lot for downtown Penacook. Park has short trail and river views.



Russell Martin Park: Est 1988

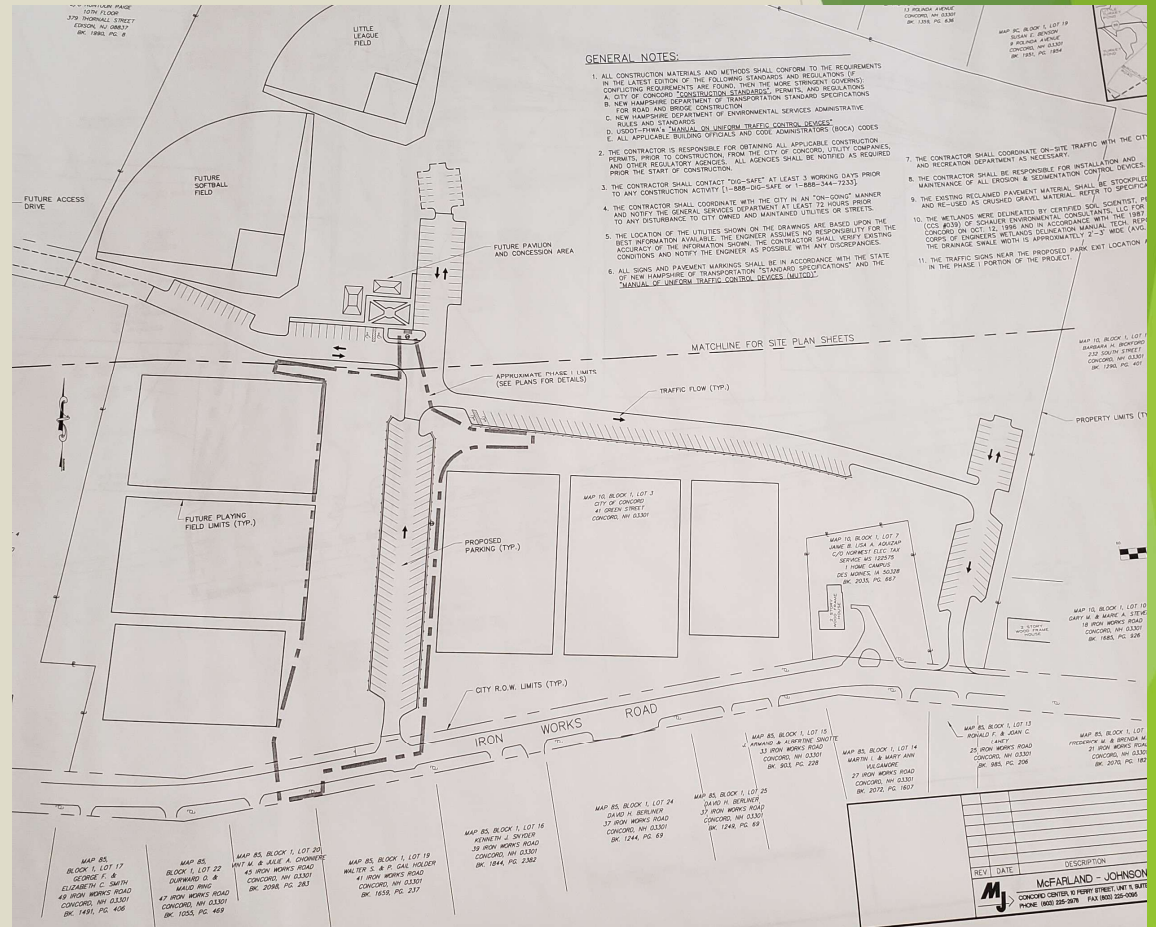
Russell Martin Park (originally “Iron Works Park”) was established by the City on a 29-acre parcel of land received in a trade with the Concord School District which had originally acquired the parcel in 1966 for an elementary school site. The School District proposed the land swap so that the Beaver Meadow Elementary School could be constructed on what then was City recreation land off Sewalls Falls Road, a site which the City acquired through federal assistance [Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)]. The federal government approved of the swap, and the LWCF encumbrances were placed on the Russell Martin Park site.

Russell Martin served 25 years on the Community Recreation Advisory Committee, and was a leading force in the construction of the Douglas N. Everett Arena. He was resident of the South End and served as a coach and Director of Little League Baseball. Mr. Martin volunteered countless hours coaching children in youth sports. Iron Works Park was re-named in his honor upon his passing in 1991.



Russell Martin Park: Est 1988

- Has multi purpose lacrosse/football fields
- Two softball fields leased to league
- Hiking trails
- The 2002 Park Master Plan pictured to right. As part of the plan is an additional field not shown is north of the far right parking area.



Merrimack River Greenway Trail

In March 2011, a feasibility study for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail was prepared, and the City created CIP #543 “Merrimack River Greenway Trail” (MRGT) within the City’s Capital Improvement Program for the purposes of facilitating the extension of a 12.7-mile multi-use trail through Concord. For many years, the community has expressed support for a trail through Concord connecting to the Northern Rail Trail at the Boscawen town line to the north, and the future Pembroke Rail Trail at the southerly City line. These connections would facilitate a continuous regional trail (the Granite State Rail Trail) from Salem to Lebanon. To date, the City, working with the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (FMRGT), has secured several grants to design and construct portions of the trail.

Completed Sections:

Phase 1 Terrill Park (Old Turnpike Road) - 0.5 miles, completed in 2020

Phase 2 Gully Hill Fields (4 Loudon Road) - 1 mile, completed in fall 2024

The Phase 2 one mile section of trail adjacent to the sunflower fields and the Merrimack River was completed in the fall of 2024 and was made possible by a Land and Water Conservation Grant, City of Concord, Merrimack County and private donations by the Friends of Merrimack River Greenway Trail.

Merrimack River Greenway Trail - Gully Hill Field Section

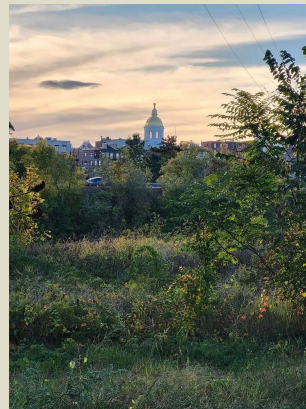
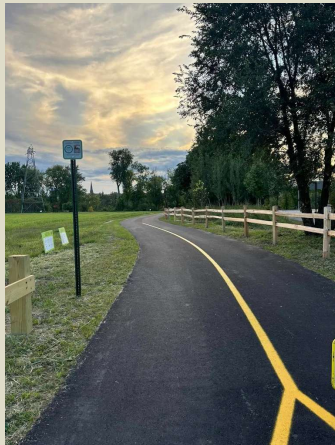


There is a small parking area at 4 Loudon Road.

The 1 mile paved trail runs south along the western side of the Merrimack River.

There are several benches along the path and a couple of access paths to have a closer look at the Merrimack River.

The multi use trail and the surrounding 5 acres is maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.



City Wide Community Center - 2018

The Concord City-Wide Community Center, located at 14 Canterbury Road, opened in June 2018. After the city transformed the former Dame School, which closed in 2012, into a hub featuring a high school-sized gymnasium, a senior lounge, the Heights Branch Library, and community rooms. From June 2013 until construction started for the new community center the parks and recreation department ran the old school as a recreation center.

The concept of a city-wide multi-generational community center at Keach Park dates to 2004. Working with Groundwork Concord, Inc., the City completed an initial feasibility study which recommended that the City pursue construction of a \$7.7 million, 30,350SF facility. The proposed facility would have replaced the existing Heights Gym, which was constructed in 1977. Following the completion of the 2004 study, the City acquired the former Gable properties located at 28 Canterbury Road and 63 Pembroke Road.

Shortly after completion of the 2004 study, the Concord School District announced its intentions to move forward with plan to consolidate its elementary schools. That plan included the closure of Dame School, which was to be replaced with a new facility in East Concord. Following the announcement of the District's intentions to abandon Dame School, the City reexamined its plans for a new city-wide community center at Keach Park and elected to pursue a new strategy to acquire the Dame School for this purpose. As a result, the project recommended by the 2004 feasibility study did not move forward.

By 2010, the Concord School District had made enough progress on its consolidation plan to give the City sufficient confidence to resume studying the possibility of converting Dame School into a city-wide community center. As a result, in January 2011 the City completed a second feasibility study which specifically examined such options.

City Wide Community Center - 2018

After the school district closed the school in 2012 they sold it to the City of Concord. From June 2013 until construction started for the new community center in 2017 the City of Concord's Parks and Recreation Department ran the old school as a recreation center.

After several years of planning and community input the city made plans to develop a new city-wide community center at the site of the former Dame School located at 14 Canterbury Road. In June 2017 construction began on the \$7.5 million facility. The new facility will be 31,000SF and will feature the following amenities: a high school size gymnasium, a large multipurpose room with stage, several group exercise and program rooms, a senior center, and part-time public library services. The City's Parks and Recreation Department offices will also be located at the new facility.

The new facility opened on time and within budget in June 18, 2018.



Canal Street Park, Penacook: Est 2025

This 2.5 acre park is the first new park within the City of Concord since 1988. A grand opening celebration was held in August 2025. The park overlooks the Contoocook River and has ADA accessible pathways, a pavilion and amphitheater for concerts and outdoor markets, lighting, and improved parking.

The Canal Street Riverfront Park project was the final part of the revitalization of Penacook Village and is transforming the land that once housed the Allied Leather Tannery Complex into a walking park with benches, a small amphitheater, public art overlooking the Contoocook River.



To be continued....