

8. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Providing and maintaining the various community services and facilities is critical to providing a high quality of life for residents. As the population and demographics of the community grow and change over time, it is important that the community make adjustments in its delivery of services to meet the needs of the changing community.

Historically, rural communities in New Hampshire have provided very limited community facilities and services. In many cases, community facilities were limited to only a Town Hall and later, public school. However, as the population of the state increased, more services have been required to meet the needs of residents. Today, modern communities are expected to provide police protection, fire protection, as well as highway crews, recreational facilities, and professional administrators to manage daily operations of Town government.

For community facilities, this Chapter will inventory and assess current Town facilities, identify and assess the adequacy of existing equipment, and also identify current and long-term staffing needs. In addition, recommendations on how to meet some of these needs are provided throughout the Chapter by department and summarized at the end. Input was asked of Town Department heads for a report on the status of their department's facilities, staffing, and equipment. They were also asked to provide an assessment of their current and anticipated future needs.

VISION STATEMENT

Chichester continues to provide residents of all ages a high quality of life through its community services, amenities, and recreation opportunities. Improvement or expansion of services are supported as necessary so to continue to meet the needs of residents now and for the years to come.

An important component to a high quality of life, recreation provides a much-needed means of stress reduction and physical well-being. Recreational facilities also provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to residents of all ages.

Utilities inventoried within the Town of Chichester include broadband, telephone, television, electrical distribution, and water supply; currently, Chichester does not have municipal water or public sewer. Utilities are the backbone of everyday life in small and large towns alike, and recommendations are proposed in order to enhance or expand their delivery.

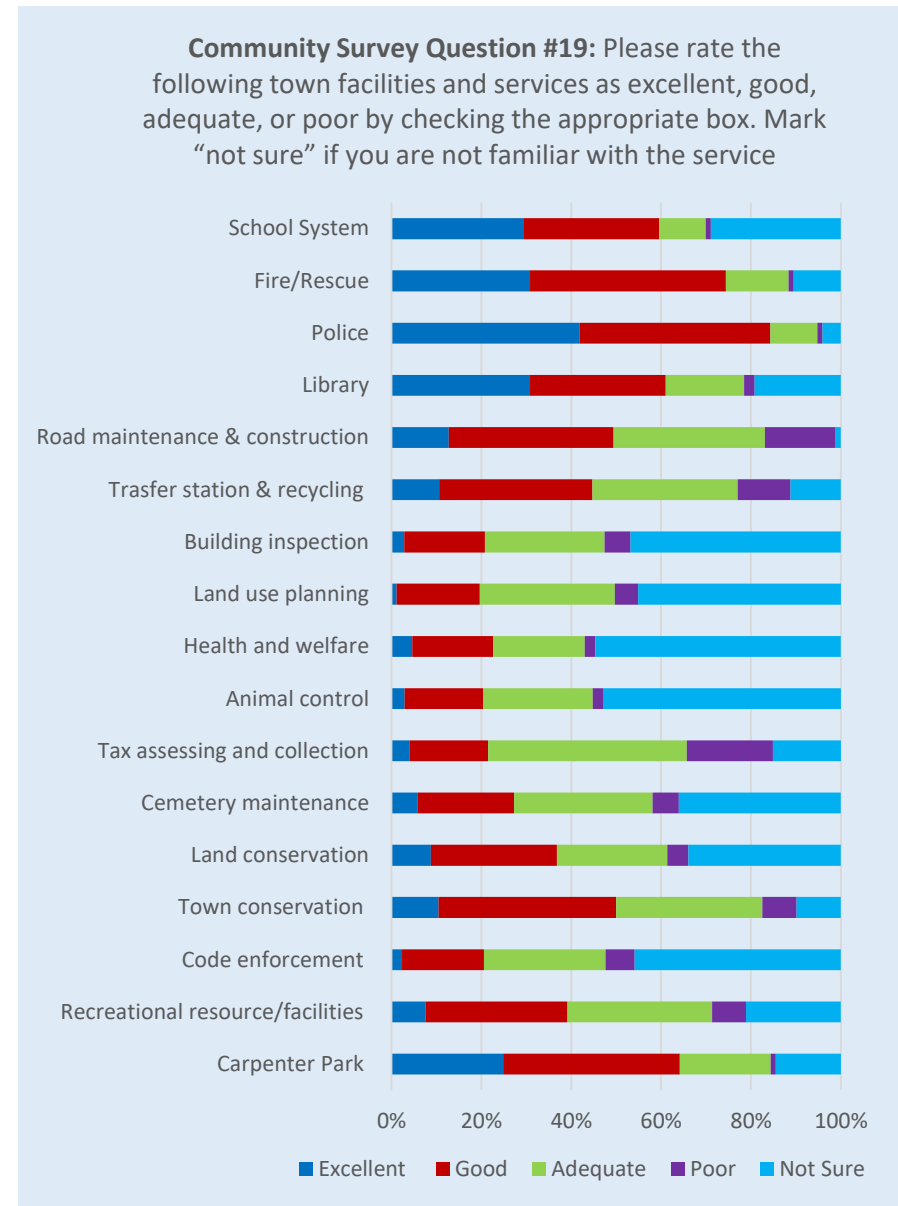
COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Input gathered from the Community Survey demonstrate resident’s strong appreciation of the Town’s rural character and high quality of life. Residents who participated in the survey were given the opportunity to rate Town facilities and services, as shown in Community Survey Question #19. Police, Fire/Rescue, and School System were rated the highest, with the highest percentage of “Excellent” and “Good” ratings. Though not a facility or service, Carpenter Park was also highly rated by respondents. Quite a few services received a higher percentage of “Not Sure” ratings, indicating a lack of awareness by residents for those services. Some of these services included building inspection, land use planning, health and welfare, animal control, and code enforcement.

The survey also included questions regarding the transfer station and solid waste. The majority of respondents (76.9%) indicated that they utilize the B.C.E.P. Solid Waste Transfer Station, citing its use for the removal of trash and large items. A small percentage (21.8%) indicated that they also use the station for hazardous waste disposal. For respondents that indicated they use private trash pick-up, reasons included convenience (89.6%), transfer station hours (23.9%), and other (22.4%).

Input was also gathered via in-person discussions at a Community Visioning Session. Input received included:

- Satisfaction with Police and Fire Departments;
- Limited knowledge/use and maintenance of boat launches;
- Need for Town Hall and a place for meetings and events;
- Desire to use the school facilities when available; and
- Need for more recreational areas, including areas for adult leagues, hiking/biking trails, and usage of “Shaw Pasture” conservation easement for passive and low active activities.



DISCUSSION OF POPULATION TRENDS

Examining past and projected population growth and characteristics can be highly valuable to a community when determining if the community is adequately served. Evaluating community facilities, recreational facilities, and municipal utilities in comparison with past trends and projected populations can allow communities to be adequately served now and in future years.

HISTORIC TRENDS

As a population, Chichester has grown significantly since 1970. In Table 8.1, from 1970 to 1980, the Town grew by 37.8%, adding almost 410 residents during that decade. Between 1980 and 1990, the population continued to grow with a 450 additional residents, a percent increase of 30.2%. From 1990 on, the population continued to grow but at a slightly slower rate, with a percent increase of 15.1% and 12.8% in 2000 and 2010, respectively. 2019 population estimates from the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives reported a population estimate for Chichester of 2,630, a 4.2% increase since 2010.

CURRENT TRENDS

Table 8.2 shows growth experienced by Chichester and its abutting communities between the 2010 Census and 2019 estimates released by the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives. Most of the communities experienced growth over the 8 years, with Chichester falling in the middle when compared to abutting communities, at 4.2%. Epsom had the closest growth to Chichester with 4.8%. Both Pembroke and Pittsfield experienced a decrease in population between 2010 and 2019. Contributions to this trend include a higher mortality rate and slowed net migration into New Hampshire.

Table 8.1: Overall Population and Housing Growth Trends, 1970-2018

Growth	Population	Net Change	
		#	%
1970 Census	1,083	N/A	N/A%
1980 Census	1,492	409	37.8%
1990 Census	1,942	450	30.2%
2000 Census	2,236	294	15.1%
2010 Census	2,523	287	12.8%
2019 Estimate	2,630	107	4.2%
Total Change 1970 – 2019		1,547	142.8%

Sources: 1970-2010 US Census Population and Housing Unit Counts; 2019 Population Estimates from NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

Table 8.2: Recent population Increase, Chichester and Abutting Communities

Community	2010 Population	2019 Estimate	% Increase, 2010-2019
Chichester	2,523	2,630	4.2%
Epsom	4,566	4,787	4.8%
Loudon	5,317	5,684	6.9%
Pembroke	7,115	7,093	-0.3%
Pittsfield	4,106	4,096	-0.2%

Source: 2010 US Census; 2019 Population Estimates from NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

Figure 8.1 illustrates the Census population figures, by age groups, as shown in the Chichester Today Chapter. This reference is useful for determining the immediate needs of certain age groups, such as children and the elderly.

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Table 8.3 projects future population growth for Chichester and abutting communities based upon the community’s historical share of the County’s population. These projections are of resident population and do not include seasonal or transient persons.

In 2019, the population of Chichester was estimated at 2,630 people by the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives, an increase of approximately 107 residents from 2010. Population projections published by the NH Office Strategic Initiatives in 2016 estimated a population of 2,663 in 2020, only three residents more than that estimated in 2019. This demonstrates that Chichester has grown faster than originally expected. Projections for years past 2020 demonstrate a slower rate of growth into 2040, with only approximately 370 new residents in 2040 from the 2019 estimates.

All projections should be considered subject to modification as no methodology is perfect enough to predict what an actual future count would be. Projections are based on existing trends that can modify or change suddenly. The further out the projections go, the less reliable they may be. The 2020 Census is currently underway and the general population count is expected in the next calendar year. This will then give the projections a new base year and they will be updated in a few years after the 2020 Census.

Figure 8.1: Chichester’s Population by Age, 1990, 2000, and 2010

Source: 1990, 2000, and 2010 US Census

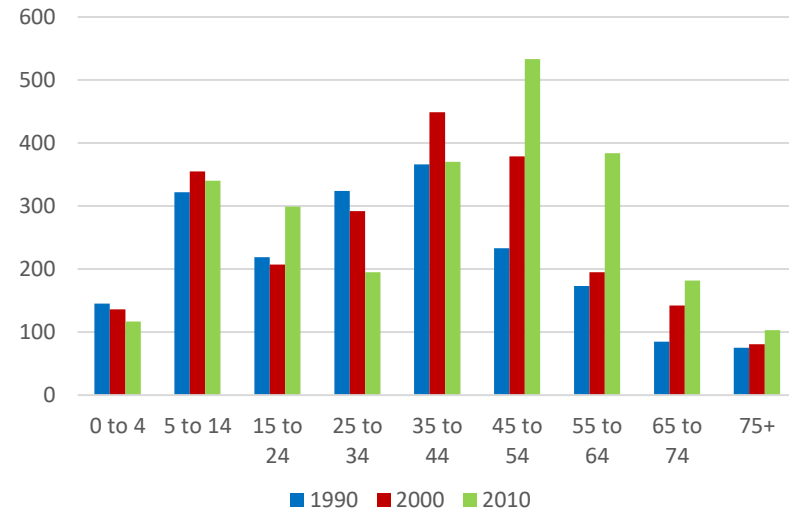


Table 8.3: Population Projections for Chichester and Abutting Communities

Chichester and Abutting Communities						
Towns	2019	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Chichester	2,630	2,663	2,779	2,877	2,951	3,000
Epsom	4,787	4,861	5,093	5,272	5,409	5,499
Loudon	5,684	5,671	5,982	6,193	6,354	6,459
Pembroke	7,093	7,089	7,150	7,402	7,594	7,720
Pittsfield	4,096	4,084	4,126	4,272	4,382	4,455

Source: NH Office of Strategic Initiatives 2019 Population Estimates and 2016 Population Projections

CHICHESTER’S COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

This section includes a summary of Chichester’s essential services and facilities, including statistical trends as well as current and anticipated future needs. Recommendations are made based upon the information compiled. Locations of the community facilities mentioned are displayed on Figure 8.5 Community Facilities.

CHICHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Chichester School District is part of School Administrative Unit #53, which includes Chichester, Epsom, Allenstown, Pembroke, and Deerfield. Chichester students attend Chichester Central School while in grades kindergarten through eight and attend Pembroke Academy while in grades nine through twelve. Bus service is provided for all grades.

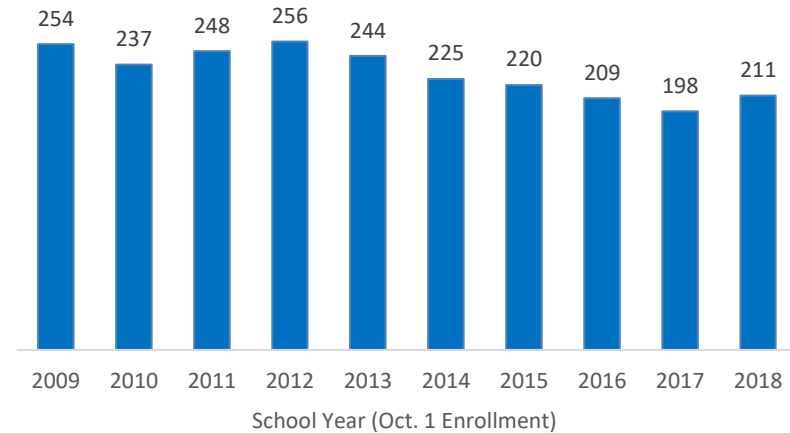
Chichester is party to a contract with Pembroke Academy for high school enrollment of residents. The current contract has no expiration date and Chichester can discontinue its participation at any time.

Recent improvements to Chichester Central School include a new electronic key-card system, exterior security cameras, and improvements to the public address system and silent alert alarm. Restoration work was applied to areas of the parking lot and driveway that were eroding and disintegrating. A new playground slide and basketball hoop was also installed.

As shown in Figure 8.2, school enrollment at Chichester Central School has decreased over the past ten years, and that the current student population is 17% less than that ten years ago. Not isolated to just Chichester, the trend of a decreasing school-aged population has been experienced in neighboring communities as well as on a state-wide level. This will be a continuing challenge for Chichester

Figure 8.2: Past School Enrollment of Chichester Central School

Source: NH Department of Education



as reductions in school aged children will impact budgets, physical buildings and space, staffing, and more.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located in the Town Safety Building at 22 Main Street. The Department’s lobby includes a drug take back container for drop-off of unused pharmaceuticals. While no immediate needs were identified regarding the facility, future needs related to the facility should be continuously discussed so that the Department can continue to serve the community adequately.

The Police Department currently consist of a full time chief, four full time officers and several part time officers covering 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While utilizing part time officers can have many benefits, it has recently been more challenging to cover open shifts. In the near future, it may be beneficial to hire an additional full time officers to ensure all shifts are filled.

Department equipment is shown in Table 8.4. Recent equipment purchased includes an unmarked F-150 pick-up. The Department currently have four Police Cruisers which the oldest being replaced every year. In 2019, a drone was donated to the Department by Bob Cat of New Hampshire. Annually at Town Meeting, allocations are made to several Police Department capital reserve funds and expendable trust funds that can assist with the purchasing of Department vehicles and equipment in the future.

Additionally, the Departments offers a security check of vacant premises and participates in the Concord Regional Crimeline.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Chichester Fire Department provides fire protection and ambulance service on a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week schedule. The Department is responsible for fire suppression and emergency medical service for an area covering approximately 21.2 square miles, with 2,500 residents. The Department is charged with the protection of over \$3,000,000.00 of property value, with a 2020 operating budget of \$348,181 to provide the primary funding for daily operations.

In 2019, the Fire Department answered 549 calls for service, approximately 362 of which included rescue and EMS services. Calls for assistance included not only fire and emergency medical emergencies, but also assisting police and other municipal services, gas leaks, fuel spills and mutual aid calls.

Administration of the Fire Department is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and two Deputy Fire Chiefs; the Fire Chief reports to the Board of Selectmen. The Department currently has a roster of 20 active firefighters and emergency medical technicians. These members’ staff one station shared with the Police Department. All Department firefighter and EMT personnel are trained on a

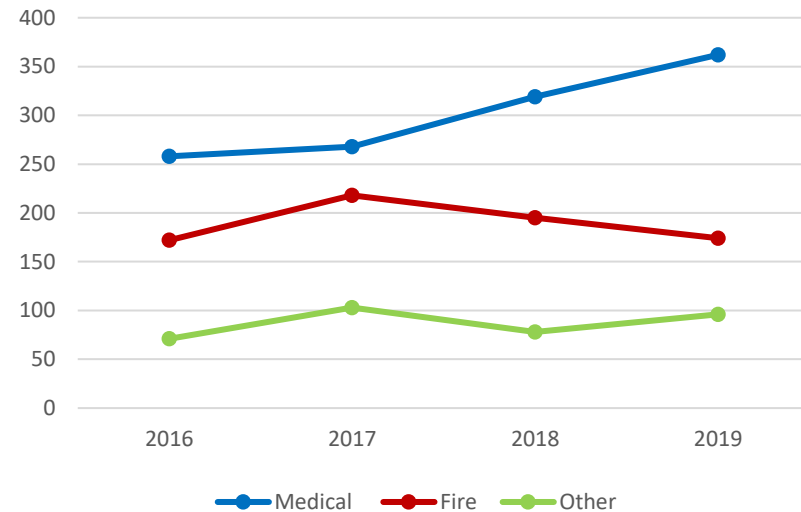
Table 8.4: Police Department Equipment

Description	Purchase Date	Life Expectancy	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)
2017 Ford MPV	July 2017	5 years	Good
2018 Ford MPV	July 2018	5 years	Good
2019 Ford F150	July 2019	5 years	Good
2021 Ford MPV	2020 ordered/ receive May 2021	5 years	Excellent

Source: Police Department

Figure 8.3: Fire Dept. Call Responses by Type

Source: Chichester Fire Department Staff



continuing basis in fire suppression and emergency medical operations. In the future, the Department feels it may be important to consider full-time staffing for daytime coverage of fire and ems calls. Most members work out of Town during the day and are not available to respond to the growing number of daytime calls. This will enable an “immediate response” system for the community.

Department equipment is listed in the table below with its current condition. Annually at Town Meeting, allocations are made to several Fire Department capital reserve funds and expendable trust funds that can assist with the purchasing of department vehicles and equipment. The Department currently has a 20-year fire apparatus replacement program, with the focus on the purchase of multi-use apparatus for the Town. These vehicles offer more versatile services and will eventually permit a reduction in the overall number of vehicles maintained by the Department.

Table 8.5: Fire Department Equipment

Description	Purchase Date	Life Expectancy	Condition (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)
1998 Cyclone II Pumper, Engine 3	Jun 1998	20 Years	Fair
1986 GMC Grumman, Forestry 1	Apr 2010	20 Years	Poor
2012 HME Pumper, Engine 1	Dec 2012	20 Years	Good
2014 Ford F350, Forestry 2	Jul 2014	20 Years	Good
2008 Ford Ambulance, Ambulance 2	Jul 2008	20 years	Fair
2007 Life Pac 12	Jul 2007	8 years	Good
2012 Life Pac 12	Apr 2012	8 Years	Good
Lucas 2 CPR Device	Apr 2012	8 years	Fair
Lucas 2 CPR Device	Apr 2012	8 Years	Fair
Thermal Imaging Cameras	Apr 2013	8 Years	Fair
2020 Amkrus Spreader	July 2020	8 Years	Excellent
2020 Amkrus Cutters	Nov 2019	8 years	Excellent
2016 Ambulance, Ambulance 1	Dec 2016	15 years	Good
Heavy Rescue, Rescue 2	Oct 2019	15 years	Good
2015 Ford, Car 1	Apr 2020	5 years	Fair

Source: Chichester Fire Department Fire Chief

The Fire Department provides fire protection services from the Town Safety Building. It was built in 1996 and houses the Departments administrative and training divisions with a public meeting room located in the lower level which was converted to the Police Station several years ago. The current space is cramped and either an addition to the building or a sub-station will need to be considered in the next few years.

The Department also operates a series of programs and services to the community on top of fire suppression and emergency medical services. This includes a Fire Prevention and Inspection Program and a series of Public Education Programs, which include teaching fire safety classes to school children; teaching CPR classes; providing workshops for public groups and inspecting day care facilities, group homes, foster homes and kindergartens. The Department is also responsible to conduct fire investigations.

The Department provides a wide range of EMS services to the Town. The Department is licensed as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) service, and provides Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paramedic Level service on most calls for assistance. Currently, the Fire Department operates two ambulances. Most department members are trained and certified as EMT's.

EMS services are provided from 6am – 6pm by fire department per-diem staff, night time EMS services are provided by members of Chichester Fire Rescue who provide standby coverage from the station or their homes. All per-diem and stand-by coverage members are compensated for their time.

Requests for services are reported to the Fire Department by a variety of means. The Statewide E911 System began operation in the mid-1990s and this system permits anyone in need of emergency services to receive them by dialing 911. 911 calls are

routed to the Capital Area Dispatch Center via an E911 operator in Concord.

TOWN OFFICES

The Chichester Grange Hall was deeded to the Town of Chichester in 1980. After a new foundation was installed, the Hall began being used for meetings, with the first Town Meeting held in the building was in 1986, and the Town Offices were moved to the building shortly after in 1989. By agreement, the Grange continues to meet regularly in the upstairs Lodge Room, for which it is responsible. The downstairs contains a stage and is for Town meetings and as a voting area in Town, State, and Federal elections. It is also used by community organizations and ca be rented for private functions.

In the coming years, it is anticipated that additional staff will be needed at the Town Offices. In addition, additional space may be needed to be considered for personnel and storage. Alternatives for a larger space should be evaluated, including new construction, construction of an addition to an existing facility, or some type of shared building with other Town departments.

The Town webpage, www.chichesternh.org, contains valuable information about Chichester, including department head contact information, Chichester’s history, calendars for public meetings, grange hall use and community building use, public notices, and Town Boards and Commissions meeting minutes.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department facilities are located on Bear Hill Road and include a salt/sand building and an equipment garage. In addition, environmentally safe storage of de-icing materials and road salt should be continued to be followed.

In addition to existing responsibilities, the Highway Department also is responsible for road reconstruction. The Highway Department, in conjunction with the Road Advisory Committee, is working hard to keep all paved roads in good condition for an average 20 year life span. In order to keep paved roads within this timeframe, an average of 1.2 miles of paved roadways are reconstructed each year. In addition, the Department annuals grades gravel roads and utilizes a roller to keep dust at a minimum. As traffic continues to increase on these unpaved roads, discussions should occur of if and when paving these roadways would be deemed beneficial.

The Department has also been overseeing a widening project of which narrow, one lane gravel segments are widened as they are being graded so to better allow Highway and Fire Department equipment access.

Table 8.6 shows existing equipment of the Highway Department. In the coming years, department vehicles and equipment should be updated as needed.

Table 8.6: Highway Department Equipment

Description	Purchase Date	Life Expectancy
2005 Int’l Dump Truck	Jun 2005	8 Years
2007 Hyundai Loader	Jun 2007	8 Years
2013 Int’l 7400 Dump	Jul 2012	8 Years
2014 Caterpillar Back	Mar 2014	15 Years
1997 Ford L8000 Du	Jan 2009	5 Years
Morbark Chipper	Jul 2000	15 Years
2016 Ford Puck Up Truck	Jul 2016	5 Years
2018 Plow Truck (FR)	Feb 2018	8 Years
Spreader Hanger	Sept 2017	40 Years
Grader	Jul 2017	8 Years

Source: 2019 Annual Town Report

CHICHESTER TOWN LIBRARY

The Chichester Town Library is located at 161 Main Street and houses over 12,000 volumes. This collection is continually managed to keep current and to maintain its present level. The Library also offers various programs, an interlibrary loan system, a large collection of magazines, electronic access to several electronic databases, and family passes to local attractions including the Shaker Village, Woods at Beauty Hill, USS Constitution Museum, Wright Museum and the Currier Gallery of Art.

Renovations to the Children’s Area were completed in 2019, and includes new shelving, new table and chairs, and a new rug. Currently, there is a need for additional space in the Library, including a Teen Area and additional space for computers.

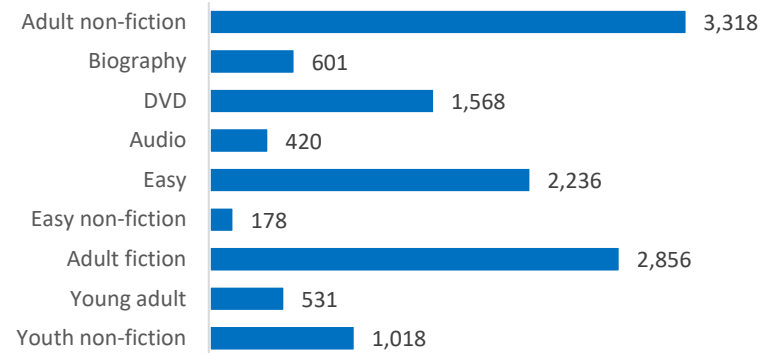
Library staff are currently writing a Technology Plan, which includes much of the information listed here. The Library currently offers the public the use of two computers, which are currently set up near the circulation desk and are crowded together, compromising privacy. Faxing and copying (black and white) capabilities are available for a reasonable price. There is a laptop for patrons to use in the Library, but it would be valuable to offer more laptops to the public. While two new computers were recently purchased, most of the computers are still outdated. That being said, faster internet is also needed to accommodate patron’s needs.

In the future, the Library should be updated so to be ADA compliant, particularly with an ADA compliant exit on the first floor. Other desired improvements include air conditioning on the first floor including the meeting room, a new outdoor sign and flagpole, and professional window washing of all exterior windows.

Recently in 2019, the Library offered a total of 39 programs, with programs for all ages including children and seniors, and also

Figure 8.4: Chichester Town Library Collection, 2019

Source: Chichester Annual Report 2019



participates in other community events, such as Old Home Day, and Trunk or Treat. The Library also supports two “Little Free Libraries” located at Carpenter Park and the Town Hall parking lot. In addition, the Library gives free books away at local businesses, including The Weathervane, Chichester Country Store, Circle Restaurant and Jitters Cafe.

The Library continues to be managed by a three member Board of Trustees with two alternates, and has one librarian, four library aides, numerous volunteers, and a custodian. Overall, there is a need for staff, either in part time employees or additional volunteers. There is also a need for administrative position to help with bookkeeping and assistance to the Board of Trustees. There is a continued desire for additional trainings by staff and volunteers.

In the future, the Library would like to develop a blog to enhance communication with the public. Information about the Library’s programs, activities, and other related news would be shared on this platform. Statistics for the library are included below, which illustrate the Library’s collection of books, video, and other media.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Chichester Historical Society was formed in 1970 and has been able to preserve Chichester's history over the past 40 years. In 1977, the Historical Society compiled a book on Chichester's history, and printed 500 copies, many of which were sold at the Town's 250th anniversary celebration.

In 1996, the Town voted to allow the Historical Society to exhibit accumulated artifacts in the first floor of the old fire station on Main Street. The Historical Society currently holds its meetings in the building and continues to maintain and expand its collection of historical artifacts. The Society presents four programs throughout the year and the glass exhibit case is changed periodically to correspond with the current program. The Society acts as steward for Thunder Bridge and oversees maintenance and repairs.

The Historical Society is completely comprised of volunteers and meet regularly on a weekly basis at the Community Building. Due to the lack of new volunteers, it may become necessary to hire a curator to oversee the collection in the years to come.

HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Heritage Commission was established by a majority vote at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting in accordance with the provisions of RSA 673. The establishment of a non-lapsing Heritage Fund was accepted by a majority vote at the 2010 Town Meeting.

The Heritage Commission works to preserve community character by recognizing, acknowledging, and protecting the historical, cultural and scenic resources. These resources define the rural atmosphere, character and scenic beauty of Chichester's heritage.

The Commission works to facilitate barn easements (79-D) and assessment, nominates structures to the NH State Register of

Historic Places, writes grants for buildings on the register, provides signage for historic structures and sites, provides for and maintains the plantings for the stewardship of the Main Street Gazebo and Greenspace Project with the Historical Society. The Commission presents programs on preservation and other related topics to raise community awareness of the public benefit of preservation efforts.

The Commission meets monthly at the Town Library and are open to the public. Currently, the Commission is comprised of four members and no alternatives, with ongoing challenges of finding new and additional members. All of the Commission's files, display boards, binders, and reference materials are kept in a small area in the Town Library, which has been outgrown.

The Heritage Commission should continue to be included in discussions regarding future new development and development changes within Town, especially in regards to existing historic buildings and structures.

CEMETERIES & THE CEMETERY TRUSTEES

There are 21 cemeteries in Chichester, of which most are maintained by the Town. There are three private cemeteries and at some time in the future they may become owned by the Town. Currently, two cemeteries are considered active as they contain sellable lots. If additional lots are needed in the future, land adjacent to the Leavitt Cemetery is available.

The Cemetery Trustees is comprised of three members and oversee the maintenance, policies, and budgets of the Town's cemeteries. Annually, interest from funds set up by individuals through the Trustee of the Trust Funds are transferred to the Town to offset maintenance costs.

Table 8.7: Cemeteries Maintained by the Town of Chichester

Cemetery	Location / Notes
Batchelder	Bear Hill Road. Pastoral location surrounded by cut granite wall with attractive gate. Contains 10 stones.
Brown	Ring Road. Burial location of the first Chichester doctor, Amasa Kelley.
Burying Yard	Main Street. One of the oldest cemeteries in Town. In 2014, a new gate was made and donated by Steve Piaseczny.
Edmunds/Stanyan	Main Street. This cemetery abuts the Burying Yard. This is the burial plot of Chichester's first minister, Josiah Carpenter.
Fellows/Webster	Swiggey Brook Road. Only 2 stones remain, many removed by previous abutter.
Foster	Pleasant Street. Uniquely laid out with granite stones in squares separated by stone walkways. Outside walls are granite with decorative metal detail on top of the front wall. There is only one monument with description "John L Foster" and "Georgianna 7 yrs 1856".
Griffin	King Road. Griffin family cemetery containing 8 burials. Difficult to see since it is located on steep land beside the road.
Kaime	Kaime Road. Family cemetery, 13 burials dating from 1850 to 1908.
Knowlton/Edgerly	Corner of Horse Corner and Lane roads. Originally the Chichester Union Cemetery Association. Additional land was purchased from Henry Edgerly.
Leavitt	Canterbury Road. One of the two cemeteries currently being used for burials.
Locke	Off Dover Road east of Trap Road. Small cemetery surrounded by six granite posts. This burial spot of Revolutionary War soldier, Elijah Locke.
Morrill	Staniels Road. Burial site of Chichester's first settlers.
Page	Bear Hill Road. Small cemetery containing three stones.
Perkins/Maxfield	Pleasant Street. Named for the two abutters.
Pineground	Suncook Valley Highway. One of two cemeteries currently being used for burials. This a part of the original Parsonage Lot.
Plausawa Hill	West Road. Located on private land.
Sanborn/Smith	Located off Swiggey Brook Road surrounded by stone walls on private property. Burial spot of Revolutionary soldier, Jeremiah Sanborn.
True	Bear Hill Road. Burial spot of Revolutionary soldier, Abraham True.

Source: 2004 Chichester Master Plan & Input from the Cemetery Trustees

UTILITIES

Utilities are also essential services that are delivered to residents through private companies. Population, density, and usage are driving forces which determine the level of services a municipality requires. This section will examine the current conditions of the utilities in Chichester and propose measures to enhance or expand services if necessary.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Chichester is part of the BCEP Solid Waste District (“Waste Facility”), which serves the Towns of Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom, and Pittsfield. Located on Rt. 107 in Pittsfield, residents are able to utilize unlimited use of the waste facility on a no-cost basis for recyclable and other household waste and on a cost basis for other permitted items. Hazardous waste items, including motor oil, antifreeze, refrigerant units, mercury items, needles, TV/monitors, and paints may be disposed of at the waste Facility during normal operating hours. Additional information on what items are accepted and current operating hours is available on bcepsolidwaste.com.

Chichester’s current zoning prohibits hazardous waste dumps and facilities without a Town referendum vote.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWER

Chichester’s water is supplied through private water supply systems (commonly referred to as wells) directly to households, businesses, and Town buildings. According to data gathered through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services OneStop, there are over 600 wells registered in Chichester. Additionally, water can be acquired through public water supply systems, which are typically found in densely populated communities, and provide water via piping for a large area with a high number of homes and

businesses. Given Chichester’s dispersed development patterns and absence of centrally located aquifers, it is unlikely public water supplies will be developed to serve residential properties in the near future. The Town’s dependence on wells reinforces the importance of good homeowner and municipal practices, particularly those relating to water and waste management and transportation corridors, including road salt use and storage, in order to protect groundwater. Information is available from the NHDES.

As Chichester has no municipal water supply, private water supplied are critical for fire protection so that water can be shuttled by tank trucks in the event of a fire. Although Chichester is inundated with both large and small water sources, there is only one operable dry hydrant in Town, guaranteeing year-round accessibility.

The NHDES recommends testing well water every three to five years. High levels of both arsenic and radon have been documented in Chichester wells, and homeowners should include both contaminants in well water quality test runs. Treatment systems are available for both contaminants. Additional information on water supply and threats to water quality can be found in the Natural Resources Chapter.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND SERVICES

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband in Chichester includes several transmission technologies including cable, satellite, fiber, and DSL.

There are various options for broadband service, however, all with different availability, speed, price, and type of service. The primary providers in Chichester are Xfinity by Comcast, TDS Telecom, and Consolidated Communications, though other options are available.

There is currently one cell phone tower in Chichester located on Route 4. Landline telephone service is also available from various providers, though it is often bundled with internet and television service for a discounted price.

ELECTRICITY

The majority of electricity in Chichester is provided by Eversource and Unitil. Currently, there are no concerns related to electricity at this time.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

An important component to a high quality of life, recreation provides a much-needed means of stress reduction and physical well-being. Recreation facilities also provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to residents of all ages. Locations of select recreational facilities are displayed on the Figure 8.6 Recreational Facilities.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Chichester offers many opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird-watching, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing to name a few. Pond fishing is possible in Lynxfield, Deer Meadow and Marsh/Great Meadow Ponds, although at present only Deer Meadow has a public access and boat launching area. Marsh Pond is accessible through the Safety Building parking lot on Main Street. The Suncook River and its tributaries offer good stream fishing as well as interesting canoeing areas. Access to the Suncook River, including limited parking, is currently available at the Depot Road Bridge and the Town right-of-way across Route 28 from Carpenter Memorial Park.

Carpenter Memorial Park at the junction of Route 28 and Bear Hill Road has become the primary recreation facility for Town sports

and for group activities such as Old Home Day. The Chichester Youth Association uses the Town-maintained soccer and baseball fields and provide volunteers to man the snack bar maintain the park. An outdoor pavilion, with electricity, provides a location for groups to meet. Portable toilets are also available year round. At the 2019 Town Meeting, residents approved the purchase and installation of new playground equipment. Maps of the two Carpenter Park trails are available for view on the Town's website.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Parks & Recreation Commission was established in 2001 to provide guidance and administrative assistance to the Town's Board of Selectmen for overseeing and supervising the management of the Town's existing parks and recreational facilities and programs. The Commission is also charged with determining and submitting future planning considerations in regards to new Town facilities and programs that accommodate the outdoor activities and recreational needs of the community as a whole, exclusive of facilities and programs at Chichester Central School, SAU #53.

Recently, the Parks & Recreation Commission completed a new park playground at Carpenter Park, funded by local donations, capital reserve funds, and through a Warrant Article at Town meeting. In addition to the playground, the park's basketball court was rehabilitated with replacement of the backboards, rims, and nets, sealant applied to the court surface, installation of a taller donated fence, and effort to reduce the encroachment of poison ivy. The court has been stripped for both Basketball and Pickleball.

The Town-owned 122-acre Spaulding Town Forest is located between Garvin Hill and Hutchinson Road along the Pembroke Town line. The forest offers challenging hiking and undeveloped areas with plenty of solitude. In addition, most large tracts of land in Chichester are open to hunting, with species of game birds, deer, moose, wild turkey, black bear, fox, and coyotes.

The Shaw Pasture and adjacent Madeline Sanborn Conservation Area with parking off Main Street provide trails through the pasture, mature forests, and to Marsh Pond. The property is crossed by one of the main snowmobile trails in Chichester. Numerous snowmobile and cross-country trails traverse Chichester, and are either privately maintained or maintained by local clubs.

Coordination and cooperation with the school system of Chichester provides additional opportunities for recreational activities for residents of Town. Chichester Central School and Pembroke Academy have various sports fields and playground equipment.

Table 8.8: Summary of Recreational Resources in Chichester

Type of Resource	Name
Fields, Playgrounds, Courts	Carpenter Memorial park Pembroke Academy
Water	Lynxfield Pond Deer Meadow Pond Marsh/Great Meadow Pond Suncook River
Trails	Spaulding Town Forest Carpenter Memorial Park Shaw Pasture/Madeline Sanborn Conservation Area Network of snowmobile trails
Indoor gymnasium	Chichester Central School Pembroke Academy

Source: 2004 Chichester Master Plan

Indoor recreational facilities at the schools include gymnasiums. Chichester central school lies on 40 acres with a cross country running trail, outdoor classroom, and hiking trail along Sanders Brook Marsh.

Other commercial recreation facilities are available in Chichester, such as Chucksters Family Fun Park.

CONSERVATION LANDS

Chichester is a community filled with forests, farms, hills, abundant water resources, and open space that encourage natural resource stewardship. In addition to providing opportunities for recreation, conservation lands help provide wildlife habitat, water supply protection, and protection from development.

Over 350 acres of land in Chichester is permanently protected and consists of both fee-owned and privately owned conservation easement parcels. Both fee-owned and conservation easements allow public access, though conservation easements that are privately owned can have limitations as desired by the landowner. Fee-owned conservation land owned by the Town can also have restrictions written in the property deed that must be followed. Use of public lands for recreational purposes is described in Table 8.9.

The Town should work to advertise appropriate public access to parcels owned by Town and privately owned conservation parcels with identified public access as well as other the outdoor recreational opportunities and programs for residents.

More information on the numerous conservation lands in Chichester can be found in the Natural Resources Chapter.

Table 8.9: Public Use Matrix of Conservation Lands in Chichester

Property Name	Allowable Use	Allowed with Verbal Approval of Owner	Allowed with Written Approval of Owner	Prohibited Use
Blackman Properties	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Wildlife Viewing, Fishing	Picking Berries, Fiddleheads etc., Hunting, Swimming, Mountain Biking	Trapping, Snowmobiling	Camping, Dirt Biking, ATV's
Drinon	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Wildlife Viewing	Picking Berries, Fiddleheads etc., Hunting, Mountain Biking	Trapping, Snowmobiling	Camping, Dirt Biking, ATV's
5 Hill Estates	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Wildlife Viewing	Picking Berries, Fiddleheads etc., hunting, Mountain Biking	Trapping, Snowmobiling	Camping, Dirt Biking, ATV's
Madeline Sanborn Conservation Area (MSCA): Sanborn, Cray and Plummer Properties	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Wildlife Viewing, Snowmobiling (Trail Dawgs trail only)	Fishing, Swimming	Snowmobiling	Picking Berrier, Fiddleheads etc., Camping, Hunting, Trapping, Mountain Biking, Dirt Biking, ATV's
Whittemore Caution: overlook has steep slopes and potential cave-ins	Hiking, Cross Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Wildlife Viewing, Fishing, Swimming	Picking Berries, Fiddleheads, etc., Hunting	Trapping, Snowmobiling	Camping, Mountain Biking, Dirt Biking, ATV's

Source: Chichester Conservation Commission Webpage

SOURCES FOR FINANCING FACILITY NEEDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The following is an inventory of alternative financing sources and strategies Chichester could employ to help pay for needed staff, equipment, and facilities in various Departments. These suggestions should be reviewed by Department Heads and the Board of Selectmen as ways to meet the goals and recommendations outlined in this Chapter.

USER FEES

During the 1980s, the concept of user fees for the funding of numerous public facilities and services was widely adopted throughout the nation. Several communities in New Hampshire help finance community facilities and programs through the adoption of user fees. Examples of user fees in New Hampshire include water district charges and transfer station fees.

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

Fees, such as building permit, zoning application, and planning board subdivision and site plan fees, are all examples of permit fees. Such fees are highly equitable and are successful for minimizing the burden on taxpayers for specific programs such as building code enforcement.

GRANTS-IN-AID

New Hampshire communities are eligible for various grants-in-aid for financing school construction and improvements. Examples include:

- Foundation Aid to help schools provide minimum education
- Building Aid
- Handicap Education Aid

- Area Vocational School Tuition and Transportation Aid
- Sweepstakes Aid
- Nutrition Grants
- Driver Education

SALE OF SURPLUS TOWN PROPERTY AND LAND

Sale of Town-owned property is another viable option for raising funds to pay for new community facilities. Parcels that should be liquidated include those that have no significant conservation or cultural value, or limited potential for future facilities.

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Capital reserve funds are similar to savings accounts, as they allow the Town to contribute money to a specific account for the purpose of purchasing or defraying the cost of significant items such as school additions, highway equipment, fire trucks, and municipal facilities.

BONDS

Bonding is a popular method of raising revenue to construct or purchase Town equipment and facilities. Though viable, the Town should avoid encumbering too much debt, as it can limit the ability of the Town to fund future, unidentified needs.

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

The purpose of this type of ordinance is to regulate and control the timing of development in accordance with the objectives of both the Master Plan and the Capital Improvements Program. Growth Management Ordinances are useful when growth is occurring as they allow Town Departments to manage growth in a more orderly and manageable way. This allows future capital needs planning and budgeting to happen in a proactive way, as opposed to reacting to large, unanticipated growth in any certain year

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS / TRUSTS

For years, communities have been the beneficiaries of trusts and donations created by private citizens and foundations. The Town should actively solicit such resources for assistance regarding the development or expansion of recreational facilities and programs.

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS

In addition to grants, community groups can also seek appropriations through the annual budget process to pay for the expansion of recreational or community facilities.

VOLUNTEERS

Chichester should continue to seek the help of volunteers and publicly recognize their efforts.

SUMMARY

The recommendations made in this Chapter address some of the changes that could potentially be made to community facilities to help maintain a high level of service over the upcoming years. It is evident that projected needs for many departments include additional staff, new or expanded facilities, or equipment upgrades. Although many of these requests have already been planned for, Chichester can take steps to be proactive in its financing and planning to ensure that community services remain at their current level of quality and that the residents are not burdened with large tax increases to pay for such services all at once.

As the population and demographics of Chichester grow and change over time, it is important that the community make adjustments in its delivery of services to meet those changes. Efficient community facilities and services that meet the needs of the public are important for maintaining and improving quality of life for residents. In the future, community facilities will continue to play a

crucial role in Chichester's ability to attract potential newcomers as well as retain current residents.

CHAPTER OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBJECTIVE 1:

To ensure that the Town of Chichester has the capability to maintain a high level of quality services for residents, with adequate facilities, equipment, and services.

- Work with Department representatives annually to develop and update a Capital Improvement Program.
- Continue to provide training and continuing education opportunities to current employees and volunteers.
- Evaluate staffing levels of all the Town Departments annually so to ensure that department needs are being met.
- Continue to develop and follow the annual report from Road Advisory Committee, including planned road reconstruction projects.
- Continue the maintenance of the Town's existing fire protection water supply system. Modernize and expand the Town's existing fire protection water supply to ensure adequate fire protection water in case of emergency. This would include adding additional cisterns and dry hydrants.
- Evaluate the need for additional office space for the Town Office, considering various options including new construction, construction of an addition to an existing Town facility, or sharing space with another Town department.
- Evaluate the need to build a second Fire/EMS station or consider an addition to the current facility.

OBJECTIVE 2:

To provide recreational opportunities that will meet the needs of all Town residents.

- Continue to maintain and improve Carpenter Memorial Park expanding recreational opportunities and activities.
- Provide additional and improved access to water based recreational activities.
- Provide additional and improved open space and trails for passive recreation.
- Provide improved information and awareness about recreational opportunities and facilitate communication between various user and interest groups.
- Develop a plan for Community Based Programs including a needs assessment and identified opportunities to meet those needs. This assessment should be developed jointly with other recreational partners, the public, and, if possible, similar groups from surrounding communities.




OBJECTIVE 3:

To provide utilities that will meet the needs of all Town residents.




- Continue to participate as a member of the BCEP Solid Waste District.
- As part of the site plan review process, ensure that new developments consider or provide adequate water supply for fire protection.
- Evaluate opportunities to install water supply lines for commercial development and fire protection underneath Routes 4 and 28.

Figure 8.5 Community Facilities Chichester Master Plan 2021


Legend

-  Community Facilities
-  Cemeteries
-  Conservation Land



Public Land

-  Town of Chichester
-  Chichester School District
-  State of NH



Base Legend

-  Town Boundary

Roads

-  Class I/II State Highway
-  Class V Local Roads
-  Class VI Unmaintained Roads

Water Features

-  Waterbodies
-  Rivers and Streams


Data Sources for the Chichester Master Plan Map series includes:


Digital Tax Maps by CAI Technologies, NH Department of Environmental Services, Federal Emergency Management Agency, NH Department of Transportation, US Geological Survey, Town of Chichester, NH GRANIT, and CNHRPC.

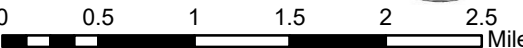
Disclaimer:

This map is intended for use with the Chichester Master Plan. The information presented is to be used for planning purposes and may not fully represent actual geographic conditions. Inaccuracies should be directed to the Town of Chichester or to CNHRPC.

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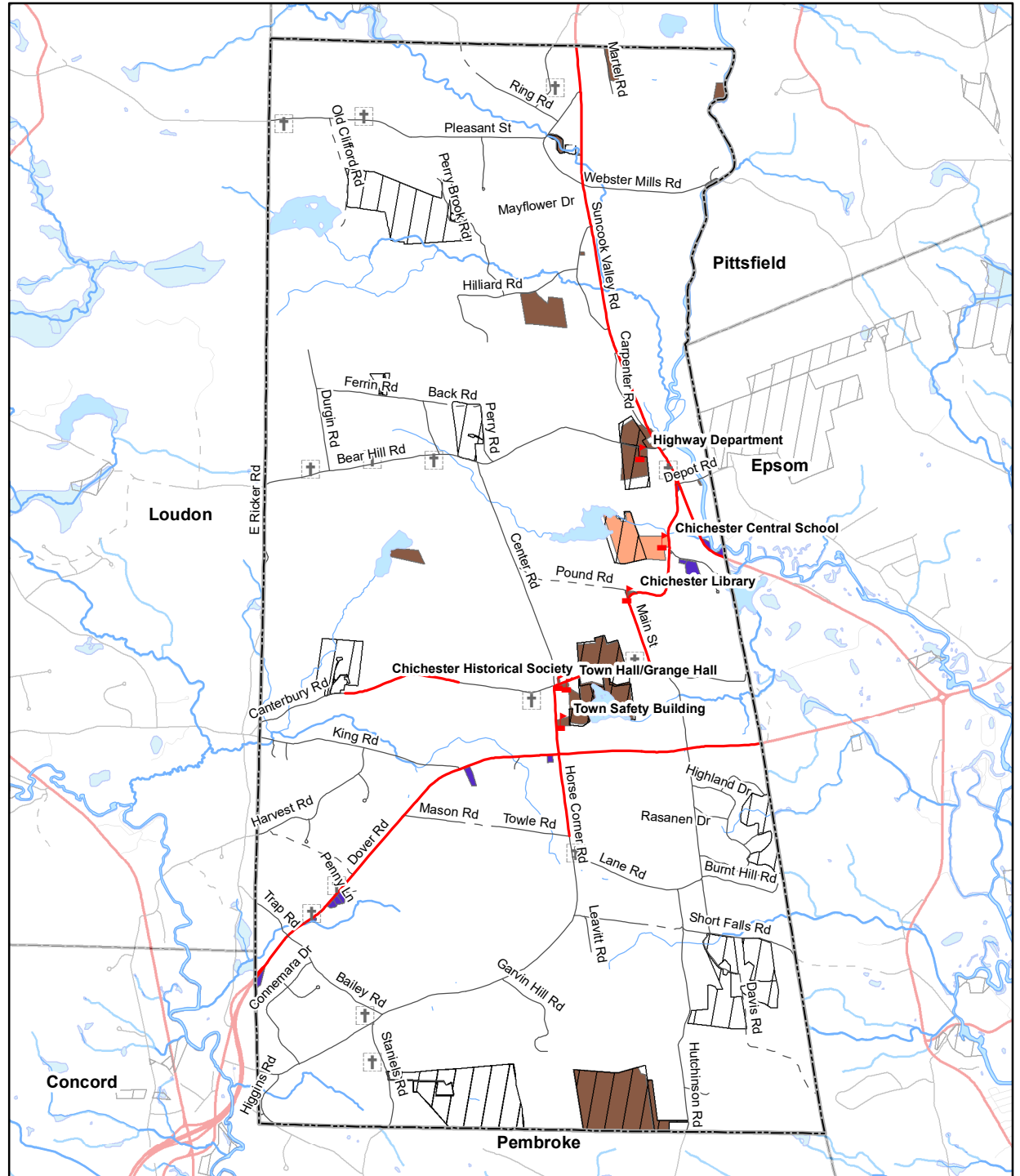


Figure 8.6 Recreational Facilities Chichester Master Plan 2021


Legend

 Conservation Land


Base Legend


 Town Boundary


Roads

 Class I/II State Highway

 Class V Local Roads

 Class VI Unmaintained Roads

 Waterbodies

 Rivers and Streams

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