

## **CHAPTER V**

### **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this chapter is to evaluate Bradford's community facilities, including recreational facilities and utilities. Providing and maintaining community facilities are primary functions of government. As the population and demographics of the community grow and change over time, it is important that the Town make adjustments in its delivery of services to meet the needs of the changing community.

Historically, rural communities in New Hampshire have provided 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 the citizenry. Today, modern communities are expected to provide full-time 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 current Town facilities, identify publicly sponsored programs, and assess current and future staffing, equipment, and facilities needs. These findings are based on information received from Town representatives and board chairs who were asked to provide an assessment of their current and anticipated future needs.

Recreation facilities will be reviewed because recreation is an important component to a high quality of life. Recreational facilities provide opportunities for health promotion, stress relief, and a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to people of all ages. Many residents of Bradford enjoy recreational facilities offered on their own land, but Bradford also has several good state and local recreational facilities.

Utilities provided in Bradford include electricity, telephone, and cable. Bradford does not have municipal water and sewer. Utilities are the backbone of everyday life in small and large towns alike, and ensuring that adequate utilities are provided can influence the Town's economic future.

**OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1. To continue with plans to build or renovate a Town Hall and Police Department complex.**
  - a. Conduct a full evaluation of space needs, identify a town owned site for the construction of a new facility.
  - b. Add a renovation or new construction to the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).
- 2. To build or renovate a new Highway Department Garage**
  - a. Analyze needs and an appropriate site (project is currently in the CIP)
- 3. To pursue use of Town owned properties in the downtown area**
  - a. Pursue current proposal that includes the renovated Marshall Barn, a new Historical Society building, and a bandstand.
  - b. Explore other future options for the remainder of the properties, including Brown Shattuck Park, the old Marshall Property, and the 40 acre tract of land where the solid waste transfer station is located.
- 4. To educate people about existing community facilities**
  - a. Make announcements about community facilities at public meetings.
  - b. Explore obtaining more Parks and Recreation funds to promote facilities.
- 5. To increase the number of Fire Department and EMT volunteers**
  - a. Continue to support awareness campaign about Fire Department and EMT needs
  - b. Solicit people who have home businesses to fill the gap created by Fire Department volunteers who work out of town.
  - c. Plan for the eventual need to pay one or two firemen and/or EMTs.
- 6. To pursue development of walking trails and bike paths**
  - a. Identify level of existing trail usage and areas for future trail development.

## **COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS**

In February 2004, a survey was distributed to all postal patrons, households and out-of-town property owners in Bradford. The Community Survey was designed by a subcommittee of the Planning Board to facilitate a better understanding of the desires and feelings of the residents of Bradford. The following are survey questions and responses specific to community facilities issues in Bradford.

**Table V-1**  
**Please indicate which of the following recreational opportunities you would like the Town to develop and/or improve.**

	Total	Percent*
Walking trails on Town property	216	65.5%
Bike Paths	159	48.2%
Expanded lake access	93	28.2%
Athletic fields (baseball, soccer, etc.)	88	26.7%
Town recreation center	81	24.5%
Town recreational programs	80	24.2%
Ice rink	68	20.6%
Expanded river access	63	19.1%
Tennis courts	56	17.0%
Basketball courts	50	15.2%
Outdoor shooting range	41	12.4%
Skateboard park	34	10.3%
No new recreation facilities	30	9.1%
Archery range	28	8.5%
Other	24	7.3%
Volleyball courts	22	6.7%
Swimming pool	21	6.4%
*based on 330 returned surveys		

As shown above in Table V-1, the majority of respondents were most interested in bike paths and walking trails on Town property (48.2% and 65.5% respectively). The least favored facilities were volleyball courts, an archery range, and a swimming pool. Approximately 9% of respondents said they were not interested in any new recreation opportunities.

In addition to being asked about recreational opportunities, residents were also questioned regarding their interest in the Town developing public sewer and water. As shown in Table V-2, approximately 50% of respondents did not support the development of either public sewer or public water. Approximately 25% supported the idea, and approximately another 25% had no opinion. When asked if they would support a tax increase to maintain or expand town services, 53.7% said they would not support an increase. Approximately 36% said they would support a tax increase of 1 to 5% (Table V-3).

**Table V-2**  
**Should the following services be developed?**

	Town Sewer		Town Water	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
No	163	50.2%	162	50.9%
Yes	87	26.8%	78	24.5%
No Opinion	75	23.1%	78	24.5%
Grand total	325	100.0%	318	100.0%

**Table V-3**  
**In order to maintain, improve, and/or develop the services mentioned above, would you support annual tax increases of:**

	Total	Percent
No Increase	158	53.7%
1% to 5%	107	36.4%
6% to 10%	24	8.2%
11% to 15%	3	1.0%
15% plus	2	0.7%
Grand total	294	100.0%

Residents were also asked whether the Town should do more to encourage recycling. The majority of respondents, 47.9%, thought the Town should enhance their recycling efforts (Table V-4).

**Table V-4**  
**Should the Town do more to encourage recycling?**

	Total	Percent
Yes	151	47.9%
No	103	32.7%
No Opinion	61	19.4%
Grand total	315	100.0%

### **VISIONING SESSION RESULTS**

On May 15, 2004, the Bradford Planning Board sponsored a community visioning session. The break-out session devoted to community facilities discussed the strengths, weaknesses and hopes for the future of Bradford's community facilities. Strengths included Bradford's existing resources such as the community center, library, town hall, and various parks. Weaknesses included the need for an elevator in town hall, the need for school expansion, the absence of a Police Chief, and low salaries for municipal employees.

## **DISCUSSION OF POPULATION TRENDS**

When examining the community facilities, recreational facilities, and utilities of a municipality, it is essential to know if the population is being adequately served. This can be gauged by a number of measures, including the tracking of population trends and projections. Communities need to be able to adequately service the needs of their residents and estimate what changes will be needed for future years.

### **Historic Trends**

Bradford has grown significantly since 1970. The population has increased by 775 people, and the number of housing units has increased by 485 units, which means that both the number of people and the number of housing units more than doubled. The vast majority of this growth took place between 1970 and 1990, as shown in table V-5.

**Table V-5**  
**Overall Population and Housing Growth Trends, 1960-2000**

Growth	Population	<u>Net Change</u>		Housing Units	<u>Net Change</u>	
		#	%		#	%
1970	679	NA	NA	277	NA	NA
1980	1,115	436	64.2%	520	243	87.7%
1990	1,405	290	26.0%	757	237	45.6%
2000	1,454	49	3.5%	762	5	.01%
Total Change 1970 – 2000	---	775	93.7%	---	485	133.3%

*Sources: 1970 - 2000 US Census*

*\*Includes seasonal and vacant housing units.*

### **Current Trends**

Table V-6 shows growth experienced by Bradford and the communities that border it during the past decade. All areas have experienced growth within the last decade, but Bradford has the lowest increase.

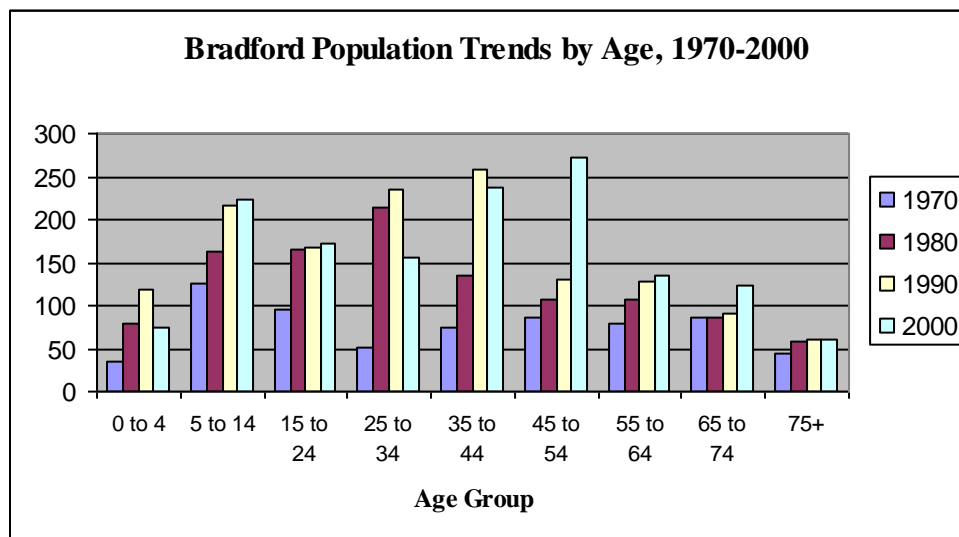
**Table V-6**  
**Population Increase, 1990-2000**  
**Bradford and Abutting Communities**

	% Increase, 1990-2000
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Henniker	6.8%
Hillsborough	9.6%
Newbury	26.4%
Sutton	6.0%
Warner	22.7%
Washington	42.5%

*Source: 1990 & 2000 US Census*

Figure V-1 shows the Census population figures broken down into age groups. This reference is useful for determining the immediate needs of certain age groups, such as children and the elderly. The number of children 0-4 years of age in Bradford has dropped in the last ten years, but the number of adults 45 to 54 has grown substantially. The number of people 55 to 64 and 65 to 74 has also grown over the last decade, so services for older adults will need to be considered.

**Figure V-1**



Source: OSP Comparison Binder of 70-80; 1990 (STF 1A) & 2000 Census

### Future Projections

It is important for a community to plan ahead for an anticipated increase in population, which in turn increases pressure on community services and facilities. Excerpted from the POPULATION AND ECONOMICS CHAPTER, Table V-7 depicts the projected population for Bradford and abutting communities. It shows population projections which were calculated based on Bradford's historical share of the county's population. These projections predict an **annual** population growth averaging 1.3% (6.4% average 5-year growth). This corresponds to an average of 23 new residents per year in the Town of Bradford. This seems to be in keeping with the number of new subdivisions that are documented in the CURRENT LAND USE CHAPTER. However, it should be noted that projections are estimates which can change.

**Table V-7**  
**Population Projections, 2005-2020**  
**Bradford and Abutting Communities**

Town	2005	2010	2015	2020
<b>Bradford</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>1,990</b>
Henniker	4,750	5,040	5,340	5,630
Hillsborough	5,280	5,620	5,910	6,200
Newbury	1,820	1,950	2,090	2,230
Sutton	1,680	1,810	1,940	2,070
Warner	2,960	3,210	3,450	3,700
Washington	1,010	1,120	1,240	1,330

Source: NH Office of State Planning Municipal Population Projections 2005-2020

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

An examination of each of the town functions, and the resources needed to support those functions, will be undertaken in this section. The following information was collected by questioning each department or board concerning its staffing, equipment, and facilities needs. Bradford's 2003-2012 Capital Improvements Program was also reviewed and relevant projects are mentioned under each town function.

### **Vital Services**

#### **Town Offices/Town Hall**

The Town Offices are located in the Town Hall at 75 Main Street. The Selectmen's office, Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office, and the Police Department are located in Town Hall. In addition, there is meeting space; an office used by the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA), and Building Inspector; and an auditorium upstairs. The Town Administrator, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, ZBA Chair, and a Planning Board member provided the information below about Town Hall operations and facilities. The Police Department is examined in more detail in a later section of this chapter.

Many important documents and files are kept in Town Hall including, but not limited to those dealing with assessing, licenses, elections registration, accounting, human resources, Selectman's correspondence, budgets, contracts, and welfare administration. Safe storage space is limited, and in the future more will be needed.

Several regular board meetings take place in Town Hall including the Selectmen, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Adjustment. Other meetings such as master plan subcommittee meetings are held there occasionally. Individuals drop in to gather information on a regular basis, and this type of demand on Town Hall is expected to increase as the population grows.

Election supplies are kept at Town Hall, but the elections must be held elsewhere due to lack of sufficient space for handicap accessibility.

#### **Staffing Needs**

Currently the people working in Town Hall include:

- An Administrator (Full time)
- An Assessing Clerk/Accounting Clerk (part time)
- A Receptionist (Part time position)
- A Town Clerk/Tax Collector (part-time)
- A Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector (part-time)
- A Circuit Rider Planner (one day a week)
- A Planning Board Secretary (approximately 20 hours a month)

As mentioned, it is generally expected that, as the Town's population grows, there will be more demands on all the Town Hall staff. A decision is already pending related to expanding the receptionist position to a permanent, part time job. It is also expected that more hours dedicated to assessing will be needed in the next five years (2005-2009). The Town Clerk/Tax Collector is currently part time, but the work demands a full-time schedule. Eventually the Town Clerk/Tax Collector expects that the Deputy Clerk/Collector will also need to be full time and that a part-time file clerk will be needed as well.

More hours for the planning circuit rider and secretary may also be necessary to meet demands. Eventually (perhaps between 2008-2013) the Zoning Board of Adjustment may need a paid secretary.

#### Equipment Needs

Town Hall is currently outfitted with typical office equipment: computers, desks, filing cabinets, etc. Parks and Recreation equipment is stored on the second floor. Future equipment needs identified by Town Hall staff and Boards that use Town Hall include:

- A new tape recorder for recording ZBA meetings
- Fire/water proof storage for all old town records

No equipment for Town Hall is included in the current Capital Improvements Program.

#### Facility Needs

Staff members report the need for more file storage space and additional office space. Currently, a majority of the space is open to the public. Thus, there is little area for private conversations dealing with things such as legal or personnel issues. As the demand for service grows, more space will be required for additional staff and their meeting/equipment needs.

Additionally, the Town Hall is not fully handicap accessible. While someone using a wheelchair can enter through the Police Department, that person would not have access to the upper floor and may find other barriers within the building. Elections can not be held at Town Hall because of accessibility issues. The Town Hall also may need upgrades such as electrical improvements and additional insulation.

At the Community Visioning Session held in May 2004, residents expressed interest in preserving Town Hall as a historic and cultural resource but also expressed the need for upgrades. The Town has identified improved Town Offices as being a top priority. In 2005 and 2006, the Town will examine options for the renovation of existing facilities, or construction of a new Town Hall and Police Department facility on town-owned property.

#### Town Offices/Town Hall Summary

##### Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Increase staff hours as needed to meet increasing demand
- Purchase an additional workstation (computer/desk) for the Planning Board and Board of Zoning Adjustment to share.
- Thoroughly evaluate office space needs, and identify potential locations for the construction of a new Town Office facility.

##### Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Build a new Town Office facility with adequate office and storage space to meet the existing and future demand the Town is experiencing.



### Highway Department

The Highway Department duties include, but are not limited to, road maintenance, tree cutting, plowing, and some paving. The Highway Garage is located on Cilley Lane, between Brown-Shattuck Park and Route 103. The facility is made up of several garages and sheds and is accessed by a residential street. The Road Agent provided information for this Department.

### Staffing Needs

Currently the people working in the Highway Department include:

- A Road Agent (Full time)
- A Foreman (Full time)
- Three Equipment Operators/Truck Drivers (Full time)

The department can function with the existing staff level for the near future, but a fourth truck driver may be needed between 2008 and 2013.

### Equipment Needs

The Highway Department has several large pieces of equipment, most of which are in good condition. However, as with all major equipment, these items will ultimately be worn out and need to be replaced. See Table V-8 below for details. All items have a high priority for replacement because they will be needed for basic departmental operations. In addition to replacing current equipment, future equipment needs identified include:

- A sweeper
- A new Town Barn (discussed in more detail under “facilities” below)

**Table V-8**  
**Existing Highway Department Equipment**

Name of Equipment	Type of Equipment	Condition	Anticipated Replacement Year	Priority (When needed)
1995 Ford L800	Truck	Good	2006	High
1996 Ford L800	Truck	Good	2007	High
1988 Dresser	Machine	Good	2007	High
2001 Case 590L	Machine	Good	2011	High
2003 International	Truck	Excellent	2013	High
2003 Ford F550	Truck	Excellent	2013	High
2005 Ford F350	Truck	Excellent	2015	High
2002 CAT Loader	Machine	Excellent	2016	High
1985 Chevy	Truck	Fair	None	Unknown
1996 Chipper	Machine	Good	Unknown	Unknown

*Source: Bradford Road Agent*

Some replacement equipment for the Highway Department is already in the Capital Improvements Program. The CIP suggests the following replacements/upgrades:

- Replace Front-end loader in 2012
- Replace Dresser grader in 2005
- Replace Ford L800 truck in 2006
- Replace Ford dump truck in 2007
- Replace Ford dump truck in 2008

- Build a new highway building in 2007/2008
- Set aside fund for road and bridge repairs each year

#### Facility Needs

The need for a new highway barn is discussed in the Capital Improvement Program and was mentioned by the Road Agent. The current facility is tucked in behind a municipal park and is accessed by a residential street. A facility with more room for storage and expansion, away from the village would be more appropriate. A new facility is expected to cost approximately \$400,000.

The CIP suggests investigating the possibility of constructing a shared facility with adjacent communities. In June, 2005, the construction of new Town Sheds was identified as a top priority for the Town which will be pursued in the near future.

#### Highway Department Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Continue to replace vehicles and machines as needed
- Plan for new Highway Department facility - determine opportunities for sharing new space with other towns or other Town departments

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Construct a new Highway Department facility
- Hire fourth truck driver

#### **Solid Waste/Transfer Station**

The Solid Waste/Transfer Station is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Routes 103 and 114. The hours of operation of the Transfer Station are Wednesdays, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Transfer Station collects household waste, hazardous waste, construction debris, yard waste, and recyclable materials (glass, paper, metal). The Town of Bradford does not offer curbside pick-up and recycling is mandatory. The Transfer Station Manager provided information for this section.

#### Staffing Needs

Currently, the department has one full-time manager and a part-time attendant. The manager did not indicate that additional staffing will be needed in the future.

#### Equipment Needs

The Manager indicated that the major equipment that the transfer station has, a compactor and a paper bailer, can be rebuilt on site and will not need to be replaced in the near future. The Manager also indicated a need to provide better dumping stations between 2008 and 2013. The current Capital Improvements Program suggests replacing the 1987 tractor-loader used at the transfer station. This replacement is planned for 2006.

#### Facility Needs

The CIP includes the development of a new transfer station facility. However, this must be balanced with the need to renovate Town Hall, develop a new Police Station, and construct a new highway barn. The transfer station staff did not indicate a need for a new facility, just improved dumping stations.

### Transfer Facility Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Purchase a new tractor-loader

Long-term needs (2008-2013)

- Provide better dumping stations

### **Fire Department**

The Fire Station is located at 91 West Main Street. The Bradford Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, prevention education, and code review for the Town of Bradford. There is a separate Rescue Squad which will be discussed in the next section. The Fire Chief provided information for this section. Information was also gathered from the Capital Improvements Program and the 2004 Town Report.

### Staffing Needs

The Fire Department is made up of volunteers, so the main staffing concern is keeping up the number of trained volunteers. Currently 20 out of 25 positions are filled. Most of the volunteers work out of town, which is problematic if there is a fire emergency during the day. The only two ways to deal with this problem are to find more volunteers who work in Bradford (this would be easier if the number of jobs in town increased) or to create some paid firefighter positions. In June 2005, hiring full-time Fire Department staff was identified as a priority.

### Equipment Needs

Two Fire Department items are in the current Capital Improvements Program. There are:

- A new Tanker/Pump Truck to replace the 1986 model. This purchase is scheduled for 2010.
- The establishment of a building and maintenance fund. This would cover repairs and updates, many of which are required by regulation.

### Facility Needs

The fire house was expanded in 1982. It is used by both the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad. In the future, if full time, paid fire fighters are hired, there will be additional space needed. For example, living and recreation space will need to be added. More space is also needed for washers and dryers and a decontamination area. A proposal for creating the additional space that will be needed with the hiring of full-time staff is the addition of a second floor to the existing fire house.

### Fire Department Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- There are no short-term needs at this time.

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Pursue the creation of a few paid positions
- Pursue space upgrades to accommodate full-time staff
- Purchase a new Tanker/Pump Truck

**Rescue Squad**

The Bradford Rescue Squad is made up of 15 volunteers. In 2004 the squad responded to 155 calls. The Rescue Squad Captain did not provide information for this section. Information was gathered from the Capital Improvements Program and the 2004 Town Report.

Staffing Needs

More volunteers who have EMT training are desperately needed. Since the work can be very demanding and is voluntary, it can be difficult to recruit and keep people.

Equipment Needs

A new ambulance was delivered to the Town in 2006. The average life-span of such equipment is approximately 10 years, so that, in the future, the Town should again look at including this item in the CIP.

Facility Needs

The Rescue Squad equipment is kept at the fire house.

Rescue Squad Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Need more volunteers

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- May need paid EMTs which would require a new facility for the squad

**Police Department**

The Police Department is located in Town Hall. The Police Chief did not provide information for this section. Information was gathered from the Capital Improvements Program and the 2004 Town Report. In 2004, the department responded to 3,724 calls for service.

Staffing Needs (need to double check this)

The Police Department currently has:

- Three full time Officers
- Five part-time Patrolmen
- A Secretary
- A Park Attendant
- An Animal Control Officer
- A Crossing Guard

Facility Needs

The Capital Improvements Program includes the setting aside of funds for a new police department facility. The existing facility does not have proper space for interrogation or keeping suspects in custody. A new facility is expected to cost \$325,000. The CIP suggests that the town develop a comprehensive facilities and vehicle plan based on expected population growth. In June 2005, construction of a new Police Department was identified as a top priority for Bradford. The town is examining the option of building a new Town Hall/Police Department municipal building in the near future.

### Police Department Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Need more full time police officers
- Stagger purchase of new cruisers

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Need new police facility

## **Educational and Cultural Facilities**

### **Public Library**

The library is located at 78 Main Street. The library loans books, audio-books, videos, and music compact disks to Bradford residents. It also provides public Internet access and reference services. Regular programs at the library include children's story time, book discussion groups, and a children's summer reading program. There is also a regular rotating art display. The Bradford Librarian provided information for this section.

### Staffing Needs

The library is currently staffed by:

- A Librarian (part-time)
- Four Library Assistants
- A Custodian

In the coming years, the library would like to expand its hours and will need to add staff to cover the new hours. The library is currently open Monday 10AM to 8PM, Wednesday 10AM to 7PM, and Saturday 10AM to 3PM.

### Equipment Needs

The library is not in need of equipment at this time. The building and the collection make up the bulk of the library's resources; equipment is not a major issue for the library. However, the automation of the cataloging system is included in the Capital Improvements Program.

The CIP suggest that this expenditure be funded with donations rather than tax dollars.

### Facility Needs

The library currently consists of approximately 120 square feet of office space, 2,000 square feet of storage space, and 2,880 square feet of space for the collection. In several years, the library may finish the existing basement space to make room for more storage and collections. This improvement is included in the CIP and slated for 2011. Usual building maintenance is the only other facility related need.

### Public Library Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Possibly expand hours and add staff to accommodate new hours

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Finish basement to add more space
- Continue to expand hours and staff

### **Kearsarge Regional School District**

Bradford is one of seven communities making up the Kearsarge Regional School District (KRSD). The others are Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sutton, Warner, and Wilmont. Bradford children attend elementary school in town, middle school in New London, and high

school in Sutton. Because the staffing, equipment, and facilities needs are decided by a regional school board and not the Town of Bradford, the elementary school facilities are simply described here.

The elementary school in Bradford was built in 1987 on Old Warner Road to accommodate 330 students from Bradford and Newbury. It is occasionally used for public events. The school property contains basic fitness equipment, a playground, and a soft ball field.

### **Historical Society**

The Bradford Historical Society uses the Old Post Office Building at the corner of Routes 114 and 103 across from the transfer station. In warm weather this office is open from 1:30 to 3:00 on Saturday afternoons. The historical society volunteers conduct research, respond to requests for information, and put on free programs about history. A Historical Society member provided information for this section.

#### Staffing Needs

The Historical Society does not have staffing needs because it is a volunteer group.

#### Equipment Needs

The Historical Society currently has a computer and a copy machine, but they are in need of a newer computer with historic resources related software.

#### Facilities Needs

The Historical Society is in need of a better quality space where artifacts can be stored and displayed. Unfortunately, not having proper space results in the loss of potential collection items because people are hesitant to donate them if there is not proper storage space. Ideally space for the historical society should be climate controlled, have restrooms and include meeting space.

#### Historical Society Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- Purchase a better computer and software

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Arrange for better storage, display, and meeting space

### **Cemeteries**

Bradford has 19 cemeteries as shown in Table V-9. These cemeteries are important community facilities since many are still active. Funding cemetery upkeep is an important Town function because the cemeteries are both active burial facilities and historical resources. A Cemetery Commission manages the upkeep of the cemeteries; records burials, lot purchases, and perpetual care; and maps interments. There is one part-time cemetery superintendent. The Cemetery Commission does not have equipment or facilities needs at this time, but funds are always needed for cemetery upkeep.

**Table V-9**  
**Public and Private Cemeteries**

Cemetery	Location
Ames Family	Route 103
Bagley/Hadley	Sunset Hill Road
Baptist	Route 103
Burial Hill	Center Road
Center Burial Ground	Rowe Mountain Road
Cheney	Cheney Hill Road
Colby	Rowe Mountain Road
Durrell Family	East Washington Road
Eaton	West Road
French	Jewett Road
Howlett	Howlett Road
Marshall/Collins	Pleasant Valley Road
New Pond	Massasecum Lake Road
Old Pond	Route 114
Pierce	Pierce Road
Pleasant Hill	West Main Street
Presbury	Center Road
Sunny Plain	Old Warner Road
Union	Route 103

*Source: Subcommittee Input*

## **Recreational Facilities**

The Parks and Recreation Committee and the Bradford Area Community Center provide many recreation opportunities in Bradford. Examples of activities sponsored by the Town include: swim lessons, summer camp events, Bradford Fun Day, a Halloween Party, mountain bike trips, and baton twirling lessons. In addition to these events, the Town of Bradford has several recreational sites that are described below. The Parks and Recreation Director provided information for this section.

### **Staffing Needs**

There is one part-time Parks and Recreation Director and a part-time attendant for French's Park. This staffing level meets current needs, but if the Town intends to add events or facilities, the staff time will have to be increased. Approximately 10 volunteers assist with parks and recreation activities.

### **Equipment Needs**

The Parks and Recreation function of the town has no office space. Equipment is stored on the second floor of Town Hall, and files are kept at the director's house.

### **Indoor Recreational Facilities Needs**

Indoor recreational facilities are important to communities as they afford sheltered recreational opportunities to residents all year. Such facilities provide important places for year-round social interaction that helps to foster a sense of community. Bradford's primary indoor recreation facility is the Bradford Area Community Center at 134 East Main Street. The building is an old school that was renovated approximately five years ago. The building is made up of several meeting spaces and also has a small kitchen. A new playground has been recently installed behind the building.

The Center offers both recreational and social programs. Recreational activities include: yoga classes, dance instruction, and bridge and writing groups. The Community Action Center and Kearsarge Pre-School use the facility, and the building is available for public meetings and events. The building is owned by the Town of Bradford but managed by the Bradford Area Community Center Board. The Center has a paid part-time director. Several volunteers assist with programs at the center.

One common indoor recreational facility that Bradford lacks is a large gym-like space. There is currently no space for activities such as basketball, line dancing, or other indoor sports.

### **Outdoor Recreational Facilities Needs**

Like indoor recreational facilities, outdoor recreational facilities are very important to communities as they also provide a place to exercise and interact. Bradford has many quality outdoor recreation facilities providing locations for water sports, hunting, hiking, and skiing. Lake Massasecum and Lake Todd provide great opportunities for water recreation. For winter sports, three ski areas are within a 30 minute drive. There are also several Town-owned parks and recreation sites. Town-owned outdoor recreation facilities include:



- **Brown Shattuck Park** - Located just off the south end of East Main Street, this four acre park contains a softball field and concession stand.
- **French's Park** - Located on the western shore of Lake Massasecum off State Route 114, this park contains a public picnic area, a swing set, and public beach for town residents.
- **Lake Massasecum Boat Ramp** - Located off Route 114 on Massasecum Lake Road, this ramp provides public boat access to the lake.
- **Bradford Bog** - Located near the Washington town line on Washington Road, this 60-acre tract is preserved and maintained by the Bradford Conservation Commission. The Commission has built walkways, printed guides, and encouraged public enjoyment of the site.
- **Bradford Springs** - Located on East Washington Road, this old hotel and spa site is maintained by the Bradford Conservation Commission and the Bradford Historical Society. Remnants of the old hotel and spring can be seen on the site.
- **Other conservation lands** - the Bradford Conservation Commission has actively pursued purchasing land and arranging conservation easements for public enjoyment and resource preservation. Conserved land that can be enjoyed by the public includes Pearl Town Forest, the Blitzer Easement, and Aiken Pasture/Town Forest.
- **The Marshall Property** - The Marshall Property is a 20 + acre lot on East Main Street adjacent to the Community Center. The Town owns the parcel and for several years residents have worked to determine the best use for the land. Part of the parcel was an informal dump at one time, so not all uses are feasible today because of potential contamination issues. Currently the Rural Heritage Commission is leading an effort to return an old barn to the site, build a new facility for the Historical Society nearby, and add a Parks and Recreation sponsored bandstand.

Bradford also has two state recreation areas: Low State Forest and the Bradford Pines Natural Area. Low State Forest consists of approximately 1,043 acres of natural area in the southern part of town. The Bradford Pines Natural Area is approximately 5 acres and contains some of the state's oldest and largest pines.

Another non-town sponsored recreational facility is the Bradford/Newbury Youth Sports field, located across Old Warner Road from the elementary school. Softball and soccer fields are located at the site.

As mentioned earlier, Bradford residents were asked in the Community Survey about what kind of recreational facilities they would like to see developed or expanded. The majority of survey respondents were most interested in bike paths and walking trails on Town property (48.2% and 65.5% respectively). The least favored facilities were volleyball courts, an archery range, and a swimming pool. Approximately 9% of respondents said they were not interested in any new recreation opportunities.

It should also be remembered that the number of children in Bradford 0-4 years of age dropped between 1990 and 2000, while the number of people 55 to 74 years of age grew. Thus, when considering future recreation needs, the Town may want to consider activities and resources for this older population.

### Review of Recreational Fiscal Resources

Bradford spent, in 2000, a total of \$7.24 per capita on recreation, as presented in Table V-10. This is a dramatic increase over the amount spent per capita in 1990, which was \$2.22. However, this figure represents only 1.4% of the Town's overall budget in 2000 (\$747,659).

**Table V-10**

Recreation Expenditures per Capita, 1990 vs 2000

Year	Parks & Recreation Expenditures	Population (Census)	Expenditure per Capita
1990	\$3,127	1,405	\$2.22
2000	\$10,525	1,454	\$7.24

Sources: 1990 US Census STFIA (P1); 2000 US Census; Town Reports

It should be noted that Bradford residents also gain recreational benefits from Conservation Commission expenditures since that Commission reserves land for public use and funds maintenance of some public parcels. The town's residents also have access to many quality recreation programs through the community center, which is privately funded.

### Recreation Facilities Needs Summary

Short-term needs (2005 to 2008)

- No immediate needs were identified.

Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Develop a gym facility where indoor sports can be played.
- Find or develop more office/file space.

## SOURCES FOR FINANCING FACILITY NEEDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

### **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, municipal facilities. Capital Reserve Funds are the most appropriate mechanism for funding future Town needs.

### **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 purchase future, unidentified needs.

### **Town Appropriations**

Most of the upkeep of Bradford's community facilities comes through annual town appropriations. The Town will need to continually evaluate operating needs and costs and budget appropriately.

**State Funding**

The State provides some funding for local improvements through the Department of Resources and Economics and the Department of Transportation. These funds are usually federal transportation funds that are spent by the State on alternative transportation facilities such as trails, sidewalks, and other enhancements for non-motorized transportation.

**Regional Co-ops and Shared Facilities**

Another option for defraying the cost of developing facilities is co-ops among local communities in the region. The Kearsarge Regional School System is in essence a co-op. The Capital Improvements Program suggests exploring the potential for shared highway and police facilities with neighboring towns.

**Impact Fees**

The purpose of an impact fee ordinance is to collect funds from new development to help offset extra infrastructure needs associated with new development. Typically, impact fees are used to finance new school additions and roadway projects; however, impact fees can also be collected to help pay for new recreational facilities. The Planning Board would need to create an impact fee schedule for recreational needs created by new development. Impact fees should only be implemented if a town has an annually updated Capital Improvements Program that supports needed improvements. An impact fee ordinance would also need to be adopted via Town Meeting ballot.

**User Fees**

During the 1980s, the concept of user fees for the funding of numerous public facilities and services were widely adopted throughout the nation. Several communities in New Hampshire help finance community facilities and programs through the adoption of user fees.

**Grants**

Occasionally towns are able to fund community facilities improvements with grants. Unfortunately the availability of grant funds fluctuates with the economic forces. To insure that grants represent the Towns needs and desires and can be managed, it is often best to have a town staff person apply for grants. Grants usually require a 20% match from a town either in cash or in-kind support. Many grants also require certain budget tracking, reporting, and adherence to other standards.

Depending on the location, social value, and functional use of a community facility, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can sometimes be a good source of financing. CDBG funds are allocated from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and, in New Hampshire, are administered by the Office of Energy and Planning. Each year, communities are invited to submit grant applications for funding of projects. The Bradford Community Center was funded with CDBG funds. In 1999, New Hampshire received over 10 million dollars in CDBG funds that, through the grant process, were allocated to communities across the State.

**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.

**Volunteers**

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

## **UTILITIES**

Utilities are 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 Bradford and propose measures to enhance or expand services if necessary.

### **Telephone Service**

Basic landline telephone service is an important part of everyday life. It has evolved over the past 60 years from mechanical switching centers and a fragmented network with party lines to digital switching systems and fiber optic networks. Telephone companies now offer wireless services, internet access, satellite television, and digital subscriber services (DSL) to many of their customers.

TDS Telecom provides telephone service in Bradford. TDS is a subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. For over 31 years, TDS has been a provider of high quality communication services to more than 3 million local and cellular telephone customers across the country. Local services that TDS telecom provides to its 938 customers are: local phone service, ISDN phone line (fast service for internet connection and data transfer), dial-up internet access, web hosting, and DISH Network Satellite TV.

Cellular telephone service is provided by a number of carriers depending on location. The key issue related to cellular phone service is proximity to cellular towers. Bradford does not currently have any towers, but cellular phone service can be accessed through towers in neighboring towns. Service is scattered depending on one's location in Bradford.

### **Internet**

Local internet capabilities are provided by TDS Telecom (TDSNET) and IAMNOW.NET. Both dial-up and DSL access are available to customers. Other choices for Bradford residents include local internet connections through national dial-up companies.

### **Cable and Satellite Television**

Cable television is provided through TDS Telecom. Housing density along a roadway needs to be at least 20 homes within a mile stretch which desire cable television in order for the hook-up cost to be reduced and for service to be provided.

A more viable option for residents is to subscribe to a satellite television network, such as the DISH Network provided by TDS Telecom or through a national provider of satellite services. Residents over the geographic area of Bradford have the ability to inexpensively acquire satellite television.

### **Electricity**

Electrical service in Bradford is provided by Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), which covers the entire geographic area of Town. PSNH is the State's largest electric utility, serving more than 460,000 homes and businesses throughout the state. The PSNH service area covers 5,445 square miles in 211 New Hampshire communities. Formed in 1926, PSNH has grown to comprise three fossil fuel-fired generating plants and nine hydroelectric facilities, jointly capable of generating more than 1,110 megawatts of electricity. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northeast Utilities - a utility holding company based in Connecticut - PSNH is an integral part of New England's largest electric system.

## **Public Water and Sewer**

There is no public water or sewer service in Bradford. All development uses wells and septic systems. Eventually, the Town may find public water and sewer to be a necessary mechanism for focusing growth and encouraging economic development. However, at this time, according to the community survey findings, there is only modest public support for the expenditure of funds on public water and sewer.

### Utilities Needs Summary

#### Short-term needs (2003 to 2008)

- Ensure that cable television is provided wherever it is financially feasible for the cable company.

#### Long-term needs (2008 to 2013)

- Explore the feasibility of adding public water and sewer along Main Street.

## **SUMMARY**

Bradford will have several challenges related to its community facilities in the coming years. The town's population is likely to grow; and as it does new demands will be put on town facilities and staff. The Town Hall is already in need of renovation and storage of public documents is a real concern. Moreover, Town staff will see an increasing demand on their time as new people move to Bradford. Inquiries at Town Hall are likely to increase, as are demands for emergency services such as police protection and rescue squad calls. In addition to improvements to the Town Hall, Bradford is in need of several other major construction projects. A new police station and highway barn are both needed, which will greatly impact the town's capital budget.

The 2000 Census indicates that the population group that is increasing the fastest in Bradford is adults age 45 to 54. The Town should make efforts to accommodate this group of people as public facilities are planned. For example, an aging population could indicate a need for additional investment in ambulance service or passive recreation facilities.

Bradford is fortunate to have several nice public recreation areas, but new demands still exist. Currently, the Marshall Property provides great opportunity for new community facilities in the village area, but this will require new financial resources. The Community Center is also a great asset to Bradford, but it will continue to need funding to serve its role in the community.

Lastly, the Town will have to examine where growth is likely and ultimately consider the need for investment in public water and sewer. While this may be a long range project because of the scale of the potential investment, planning and analysis should begin soon.

- Respectfully Submitted, Barbara Vannata, Community Facilities Subcommittee Chair

## **MAPS**

One map accompanies this chapter, the Community Facilities Map.