



# Concord Parks & Rec

## YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

**January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022**

**[WWW.CONCORDPARKSANDREC.COM](http://WWW.CONCORDPARKSANDREC.COM)**

**(603) 225-8690**



# Vision Statement

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



# Mission Statement

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

# Thank You

Pictured (right) is our Concord Parks and Recreation Department full-time staff. We also employ several part-time and seasonal employees. On behalf of all of us, thank you for a great year in 2022!



# Year in Review

The Concord Parks and Recreation Department has four main areas of responsibility: cemeteries, parks, programming, and admin./capital improvements. Included here are highlights from each.

After challenging years in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department returned to pre-COVID operations in the 2022 calendar year. All of our facilities experienced use like we have not seen in years. Community centers had increased programming and rental use. The number of residents and visitors accessing our parks and open spaces increased. Cemetery and maintenance operations also continued.

We created new partnerships and collaborations with local organizations to better serve our community, and with private donations we continued several important initiatives that help offset costs to taxpayers.

The department would not have been successful without the support of City Council, City Administration, the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC), department staff, and the residents of Concord and Penacook.

We are extremely fortunate to have a Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee that has a representative from each Ward in the city. Without these volunteers, we would not have been as successful. *(Pictured, right).*



## 2022 RPAC Members

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

# 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



**127 EMPLOYEES**



**464 KIDS IN SWIM LESSONS  
16,624 POOL USERS**



**2,600+ ADULT VISITS  
FOR INDOOR PICKLEBALL  
& BASKETBALL**



**1,654 YOUTH  
PARTICIPANTS**



**1,046 KIDS IN  
SUMMER CAMPS**



**11 PLAYGROUNDS**



**611 ADULTS IN  
ENRICHMENT &  
FITNESS CLASSES**



**19 TENNIS COURTS  
(WITH 8 MULTI-USE  
PICKLEBALL COURTS)**



**6 STANDALONE  
PICKLEBALL COURTS**



**1,031 SENIOR  
CITIZEN MEALS**



**13 CEMETERIES**



**193 SENIOR  
PASSPORT MEMBERS**



**24 PARKS & OPEN SPACES**



**139 VOLUNTEER  
COACHES**



**21 FREE OUTDOOR  
SUMMER CONCERTS**



**\$55,000+ IN  
PRIVATE DONATIONS**



**1 NEW POLLINATING  
GARDEN CREATED**



**7,000+ FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS**



**1,400 INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS**

# Cemeteries

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

We are happy to report cemetery operations are back to normal after being open by appointment only during COVID. Maintenance staff continued regular operations during the COVID pandemic. The cemetery staff is very dedicated to the operations and care of all those who come to the cemetery. The staff often worked seven days a week in order to keep up with weekend burials, plowing, and special events such as Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Wreaths Across America.

The division has worked 260 burials this year. That is an average of 20 burials per month.

The Cemetery Division relies on several community organizations and individuals to help prepare for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, and with the deployment of Wreaths Across America. More than 4,800 Veterans are buried in Concord's cemeteries.

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

- Daughters of American Revolution
- The Pierce Brigade
- NH Civil Air patrol
- Sunset Rotary Club
- Wreaths Across America
- The Goodlife Active Living Center
- NH Cemetery Association
- Concord Public Library



## CITY OF CONCORD CEMETERIES

Cemetery	Established	Estimated Interments
Old North 	1750	2,850
Blossom Hill 	1859	22,942
Beth Jacob	1859	122
Concord Calvary	1859	8,795
Maple Grove 	1824	1,970
Pine Grove	1825	1,554
Old Fort 	1775	230
Soucook	1848	454
Millville	1798	662
Stickney Hill	1833	34
Horse Hill 	1811	221
Woodlawn 	1816	4,617
Penacook Calvary	1816	1,200

**TOTAL: 45,651**

 =denotes Wreath Across America participating cemetery

# Cemeteries



## JILL FEATURED ON WMUR

Our very own Jill Huckins, Cemetery Administrator and President of the NH Cemetery Association, was featured on NH Chronicle. The NH Chronicle episode, inspired by the 50th Anniversary of the NH Cemetery Association, highlighted the great work done by cemetery administrators and boards across New Hampshire.

## TAPS VISIT AT PRESIDENT PIERCE GRAVESITE

In July 2022, Art Carlson of suburban Chicago, IL visited Concord to play "Taps" at Franklin Pierce's gravesite. Art is traveling the country in hopes of playing "Taps" at the gravesites of all 39 U.S. Presidents buried in 19 states.



## ADOPT A GRAVE PROGRAM

The Adopt a Grave program at the cemetery is a labor of love for Jill. In the common ground section of the cemetery there are 686 people buried. Prior to the program, only 83 of those were marked. Since the program's inception, 401 graves have been adopted out so now only 201 remain unmarked. For more information about Adopt a Grave, please visit the office at Blossom Hill Cemetery or our website: [concordparksandrec.com](http://concordparksandrec.com).



# Cemeteries

The Cemetery Office received hundreds of funeral records from a local funeral home that went out of business last year. We have four volunteers (Nancy Greenwood, Barbara Coapland, Ginny Babczak and Deborah Carley) who have taken on the tedious task of going through these records dating back to 1880.

This project is a tremendous help as we work to update the many interment records we have for our 13 cemeteries containing very limited information on our deceased. A big thank you to these volunteers for all of their help!



*Pictured are volunteers Barbara Coapland (bottom left), Deborah Carley (top left), Nancy Greenwood (top right) and Ginny Babczak (above, right).*

# Parks

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



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

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

## TRADITIONAL PARKS

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

## NON-TRADITIONAL PARKS/GREEN SPACES

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

# Parks

The City has always been a “city of parks” as each neighborhood has a local park. Many of our parks date back to the late 1800s. The majority of residents have access to a park within a 10-minute walk from home. Our parks and open spaces continued to provide a sense of normalcy during a period in time when the status quo was anything but average. The City parks are where families could visit loved ones at safe distances, hold birthday parties, weddings, graduations and much more. Our parks draw visitors from near and far, bringing revenue to local restaurants, hotels and local stores.



In 2022, we hosted athletic events, festivals, concerts and numerous fundraising events sponsored by local organizations.

Although it is impossible to track every individual park user over the past year, the organized groups using the parks in 2022 raised **more than a million dollars** combined at their events.

A 2022 report from the National and Parks and Recreation Association reported nearly “nine in 10 people agree that it is important to fund local park and recreation agencies to ensure every member of the community has equitable access to amenities, infrastructure and programming.”

## GROUPS USING OUR PARKS

- City of Concord Parks and Recreation Department programs and leagues
- Concord School District
- Merrimack Valley School District
- Bishop Brady High School
- Merrimack Valley Youth Baseball and Softball
- Penacook Youth Soccer League
- NH Comets Softball
- Post 21 Legion Baseball
- Concord Northeast Baseball/Softball League
- Concord Capitals Football
- Concord Crush Lacrosse League
- Adult Co-ed Softball League
- Sunset baseball League
- New England Legends 50+ baseball
- Granite State Baseball League
- NH 38+ Baseball League
- 3Step Sports Baseball
- Granite state Racing (use of track)
- UNH School of Law



## EVENTS HELD IN OUR PARKS

- Concord Arts Market
- Concord Parks and Recreation Department's annual summer concerts
- City of Concord July 4 Celebration
- National Night Out
- Healthy Kids running series
- Summer weekday Rollins Park private event rentals
- Library story time held in several parks
- Souperfest – Concord Coalition to End Homelessness fundraiser
- UNH Law School graduation
- Bluegrass BBQ – Concord Coalition to End Homelessness fundraiser
- International OCD Foundation fundraiser
- Multicultural Festival
- Hoops on Wheels basketball tournament
- NHIAA Playoff Games
- NH Highland Games Kilt Skate
- NH Comets and Lightning softball tournaments
- New England Patriots Alumni Football Clinic
- Concord School District graduation
- Bill Luti Race
- Fit4acause
- Making Strides Breast Cancer walk
- Parkinson's Foundation spring walk
- Girls on the Run spring & fall races
- 3Step Sports Baseball tournaments
- Black Ice Hockey Tournament
- Winter Carnival at White Park
- Bags and Bites food truck/cornhole tournament
- Criterium bike race
- Cyclocross bike race
- Out of the Darkness Concord walk
- Fellowship Housing 5k HOME run
- Smykil Family Foundation 5k
- Seacoast Express Soccer Tournament

# 5,625

## Outdoor Reservation Permits

### Issued in 2022

(Over 40% more than 2021)

## SPOTLIGHT ON GIRLS ON THE RUN

In 2022, Girls on the Run New Hampshire hosted its two end of season 5K Celebrations on June 11 and November 19 at Memorial Field. The location and venue provide a winning combination for all of the teams from across NH to come together to run a 3.1-mile course on South Fruit Street and through the State Complex. Both events were incredibly successful, safe, and full of joy with a total of 4,300 runners and 3,450 spectators. What makes these non-competitive “races” very different than any other is the fact that the majority of the runners are between the ages of 8-13. All program participants wear a #1 race bib as well as a confident smile of accomplishment when they cross the finish-line! The efforts of the Memorial Field staff members, Craig and Justin, always add to the well-run timeline of the GOTR events. They have become an integral part of the GOTR team and we are grateful.



*Jennifer Hubbell*  
Executive Director

## OTHER PARKS & REC HAPPENINGS



# Indoor Recreation Facilities

All indoor facilities had normal operations in 2022. Indoor community centers that fall under the department include: City Wide Community Center, Green Street Community Center Gym, the Merrimack Lodge at White Park, West Street Ward House and the City Auditorium located next to City Hall. The City Wide Community Center (opened in June 2018) continues to see increased usage – both for the department's in person programming and for rentals.



## ROOM USERS AT THE CWCC

- City of Concord Parks and Recreation Youth, Adult & Senior Citizen Programs & summer camps
- City of Concord Fire Department
- City of Concord Elections
- City of Concord Engineering Division
- City of Concord Human Resources Department
- City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee
- City of Concord employee BBQ
- City of Concord Heights Branch of the Concord Public Library (reopened in fall 2021)
- New Hampshire Parks and Recreation State Conference
- Height Family Resource Center
- Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
- NH Bar Association
- VNA Health Clinics
- Overcomers Support Services
- Primex
- Change for Concord
- CATCH Inc. Housing
- Concord Multi Cultural Festival
- NH Soccer Association
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Capital Quilters' Guild
- Vaccine clinics
- Friends of Concord Crew
- Capital Toastmasters
- Concord Greenspace Coalition
- Project Story
- TD Bank
- The Friends Program
- Multiple Condominium Associations
- Multiple political candidates
- Multicultural Festival

# Indoor Recreation Facilities

## GYM USERS AT THE CWCC

- Parks and Recreation Programs (senior walking, pickleball, drop in programs, camps, basketball leagues etc)
- New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association Exhibit Hall as part of their state conference
- Seacoast United – indoor field hockey clinics
- Trinity High School – home court for their girls' volleyball teams, girls' and boys' basketball teams.
- Peak FC – Indoor Soccer
- UNH School of Law
- No Wasted Reps Basketball League



**4,507**  
Indoor Reservation  
Permits Issued in 2022  
(Over 10% more than 2021)



# City Auditorium

The Concord City Auditorium is a beautiful historic theater owned and held in trust by the City of Concord. The auditorium was built on the western side of City Hall in 1904. The theater house seats between 835 and 841, depending upon the configuration of the orchestra seats. The orchestra has seating for 524 to 535 guests, including nine wheelchair locations.

There are 247 seats in the front balcony and 64 second balcony seats. The space is ADA accessible, including the restrooms. The gilded proscenium arch surrounds the 25-foot by 25-foot stage performance area. There is a small orchestra pit. Backstage facilities include nine dressing rooms and three restrooms.

The Audi operation is managed in partnership with the Friends of the Audi and the City of Concord. The Friends of the Audi coordinates marketing for events, fundraises for needed capital improvement projects, and assists with trainings. There are two departments in the city who are involved: the Public Properties Division of General Services Department handles the regular maintenance of the facility and the coordination of any capital repairs, while the Parks and Recreation Department handles the coordination of all facility rentals.

In 2022, we returned to normal operations with most of our regular rentals returning to in person performances. The facility hosted dance recitals, lectures, plays, pageants, symphonies, and concerts.

In addition to our shows, we were able to offer our house manager training in September and soundboard and lightboard training in October.



We have enjoyed seeing our long-time renters and a few new ones this past year. Here is a list of the organizations who used the City Audi during the 2022 calendar year:

- Walker Lecture Series
- Community Players of Concord
- Concord Community Concerts
- Dance Steps
- Ballet Misha
- Concord Dance Academy
- Concord School District
- Shaker Road School
- NV Dance Academy
- McKenna Creative Dance Workshop
- Turning Pointe Center of Dance
- Dance Inspirations
- Miss Capital Area Pageant
- Symphony NH
- NH School of Ballet

We will hold our annual booking meeting in January 2023 for groups to book September 2023 – August 2024.

# FY23 FUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

In the FY23 budget several CIP (capital improvement projects) were funded:

- LED court light conversion at Rollins Park and Rolfe Park
- Mini pitch soccer court at Keach Park
- Visioning charette for Merrimack River Recreation Corridor and Kiwanis Park
- Life safety improvements for maintenance building at White Park
- Condition report for cemetery buildings at Blossom Hill Cemetery
- Additional funding for road repairs at Blossom Hill Cemetery
- Design and construction of new Canal Street riverfront park in Penacook
- Makeover of the Tannery Street riverfront park in Penacook
- Splash pad at White Park
- Parking lot improvements at White Park





## Fundraising Activities

Working with the community and our numerous partners, we have been able to raise over \$55,000 this past year. With these private donations, the department and the city continued to offer low-cost and free events to our residents as well as help offset cost of projects and initiatives.

These donations supported programs like: Bill Koch Youth Ski League, free swim lessons, summer music series, adopt a grave, youth scholarships and fundraising for the “new to us” cross-country trail groomer that we purchased in the fall of 2022.

The trail groomer purchase is just one example of a private public partnership. The Ski the Beav fundraising group contributed half the cost of the groomer with the City funding the remaining amount.

In addition to the funds raised this past year, the Department is working with Friends of White Park on the Monkey Around Playground and the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail on the construction of the next phase of the project.