



# 2023

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

**[www.concordparksandrec.com](http://www.concordparksandrec.com)**

**(603) 225-8690**





## THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR!

The Concord Parks and Recreation Department has four main areas of responsibility: cemeteries, parks, programming and administration. Our 2023 report highlights another very successful year and we encourage all residents to take the time to review the information included.

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 with a representative from each Ward in the city. Without these volunteers, we would not have been as successful.

## RPAC

### 2023 Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC)

Ward 1: Althea Barton

Ward 2: Robert Kleiner

Ward 3: Chiara Dolcino

Ward 4: Jennifer Roff

Ward 5: Zoey Murphy

Ward 6: Andrew Doyle

Ward 7: Nick Kotkowski

Ward 8: Marilyn Fraser

Ward 9: Cuong Ngo

Ward 10: Mary Miller (chair)

City Councilor Candance White Bouchard

City Councilor Nathan Fennessy



## 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.

# 2023 AT A GLANCE

**5,405**

**OUTDOOR RESERVATION  
PERMITS ISSUED IN 2023**

**4,663**

**INDOOR RESERVATION  
PERMITS ISSUED IN 2023**

**4,196**

**TOTAL YOUTH  
PARTICIPANTS**

## PROGRAMS



**485 KIDS IN SWIM  
LESSONS**  
**34,048 POOL USERS**



**3,800+ ADULT VISITS  
FOR INDOOR PICKLEBALL,  
FUTSAL & BASKETBALL**



**180 SENIOR  
PASSPORT  
MEMBERS**



**178 ADULT  
VOLUNTEERS**



**652 SENIOR  
CITIZEN MEALS**



**1,060 KIDS IN  
SUMMER CAMPS**



**735 ADULTS IN  
ENRICHMENT &  
FITNESS CLASSES**



**8,204 FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS**



**1,523 INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS**

## FACILITIES & EVENTS



**142 EMPLOYEES**



**13 CEMETERIES**



**11 PLAYGROUNDS**



**6 POOLS &  
1 SPLASH PAD**



**13 BASKETBALL  
COURTS**



**6 STANDALONE  
PICKLEBALL  
COURTS**



**27 PARKS & OPEN  
SPACES MAINTAINED**



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



**4 COMMUNITY  
CENTERS**



**\$1.5M IN GRANTS  
& DONATIONS**

# CEMETERIES

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

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 241 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. There are more than 4,800 Veterans are buried in Concord's cemeteries.

## Special thanks to the following groups who continue to work with cemetery staff:

- 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



**Wreaths Across America 2023**

## CITY OF CONCORD CEMETERIES

| Cemetery  | Established | Estimated Interments |
|---|-------------|----------------------|
| Old North          | 1750        | 2,850                |
| Blossom Hill       | 1859        | 23,065               |
| Beth Jacob  | 1859        | 123                  |
| Concord Calvary  | 1859        | 8,838                |
| Maple Grove        | 1824        | 1,990                |
| Pine Grove  | 1825        | 1,578                |
| Old Fort           | 1775        | 230                  |
| Soucook   | 1848        | 459                  |
| Millville   | 1798        | 663                  |
| Stickney Hill   | 1833        | 34                   |
| Horse Hill         | 1811        | 221                  |
| Woodlawn           | 1816        | 4,629                |
| Penacook Calvary  | 1816        | 1,200                |

**TOTAL: 45,880**

 =denotes Wreath Across America participating cemetery

# CEMETERIES

## NEW CEMETERY ADMIN

The Cemetery Division of Parks & Recreation was excited to add a NEW full-time position to the cemetery office, Michelle Foss, our NEW Admin Tech III for the cemetery division. Michelle is a Navy Veteran who brings 25+ years experience working in Funeral and Cemetery services. She is a resident of Derry, NH and when she's not working she enjoys spending time with her daughter, granddaughter and pup, Toby!



## EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

This past year brought some long-term retirements to the cemetery division. While we were sad to lose the knowledge of employees having worked 35+ years, it was with great pleasure we were able to promote three very deserving staff: Jeff Abbott, Mike Andosca and David Dufield. These promotions also gave us the opportunity to bring on a shared employee full-time, Dale Morse.

# CEMETERIES



**Pine Grove Cemetery  
Wall Restoration**



**Cemetery Walk**

# PARKS

The City has always been a "city of parks" with many neighborhoods having 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 have many uses in our community. They are gathering places for families and friends, locations for exercise and sports, spaces for a variety of events including birthday parties, weddings, and graduations, and much more. Our parks draw visitors from near and far, bringing revenue to local restaurants, hotels and local stores.

Our parks are equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Our parks and open spaces including the maintenance, safety, and accessibility, are provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of Concord/Penacook. Neighborhood parks across the city are all maintained to the same high standard. We believe it's a right, not just a privilege, for our residents to have safe access to parks and open spaces.

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of city parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor ice-skating areas, skating pond and 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 (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

DID YOU KNOW?

## NRPA PARK PULSE

### People Want Parks and Recreation Close to Home

**84%** of U.S. adults seek high-quality parks and recreation when choosing a place to live.



Parents, millennials and very active adults (93%) are most likely to prioritize parks and recreation when choosing where to live.

Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions span from the serious to the more lighthearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research ([www.wakefieldresearch.com](http://www.wakefieldresearch.com)).

Visit [nrpa.org/ParkPulse](http://nrpa.org/ParkPulse) for more information.



NATIONAL RECREATION  
AND PARK ASSOCIATION

# PARKS



## REGULAR GROUPS USING OUR CITY PARKS

In 2023, 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 2023 raised more than a million dollars combined at their events.**



- 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



# PARKS

## 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
- UNH Law School graduation
- International OCD Foundation fundraiser
- Multicultural Festival
- NHIAA Playoff Games
- NH Highland Games Kilt Skate
- NH Comets and Lightning softball tournaments
- Special Olympics of NH
- Concord School District graduation
- Bill Luti Race
- Fit4acause Triple Challenge
- Making Strides Breast Cancer walk
- Parkinson's Foundation spring walk
- Girls on the Run spring & fall races
- 3Step Sports Baseball tournaments
- NH Army National Guard
- 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



# PARKS

| PARK                        | YEAR ESTABLISHED | ACRES |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Penacook Lake Park/Garrison | 1881             | 6.5   |
| White Park                  | 1884             | 23    |
| Rollins Park                | 1892             | 23    |
| Contoocook River Park       | 1893             | 51    |
| Bradley Park                | 1896             | 0.5   |
| Ridge Avenue Park           | 1898             | 0.19  |
| Fisk Park                   | 1901             | 0.29  |
| Deer Park                   | 1903             | 2.3   |
| Pecker Park                 | 1905             | 0.15  |
| Kimball Park                | 1910             | 6.25  |
| Rolfe Park                  | 1920             | 37.5  |
| Merrill Park                | 1925             | 16.35 |
| Memorial Field              | 1926             | 34.6  |
| Keach Park                  | 1933             | 10.78 |
| McKee Square                | 1930             | 0.55  |
| West Street Playlot         | 1931             | 0.59  |
| Fletcher/Murphy Playlot     | 1937             | 0.48  |
| Corriveau Square            | 1937             | 0.1   |
| Reed Park                   | 1946             | 2.8   |
| Maccoy Street Park          | 1953             | 0.38  |
| Thompson Playlot            | 1961             | 0.69  |
| Healy Park                  | 1964             | 48    |
| Kiwanis Park                | 1965             | 17    |
| Beaver Meadow Park          | 1973             | 9.64  |
| Terrill Park                | 1980             | 17    |
| Penacook Riverfront Park    | 1982             | 1     |
| Russell Martin Park         | 1988             | 29    |

**TOTAL ACRES 339.64**



# PARKS

## 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



# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



Indoor community centers that fall under the department include: City Wide Community Center (opened in June 2018), Green Street Community Center Gym, the Merrimack Lodge at White Park (opened June 2019), West Street Ward House and the City Auditorium located next to City Hall. The City Wide Community Center continues to see increased usage – both for the department’s programming and for rentals.



Special thanks to Concord General Services' Public Properties Division for handling the maintenance and capital improvements needs of the West Street Ward House, Green Street Community Center Gym, City Audi and the outdoor pools and splash pad.

More than 130 different individuals, city departments and organizations used space at the City Wide Community Center in 2023.



# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

## CITY WIDE COMMUNITY CENTER USERS

- City of Concord Parks and Recreation Youth, Adult & Senior Citizen Programs & summer camps
- 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 Beaver Meadow Golf Course Advisory Committee
- City of Concord employee BBQ
- City of Concord Heights Branch of the Concord Public Library
- City of Concord Energy and Environmental Committee
- New Hampshire Parks and Recreation State Conference
- Concord School Districts Height Family Resource Center
- Concord Community TV
- Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce
- NH Bar Association
- VNA Health Clinics
- Overcomers Support Services
- Primex
- OLLI
- Capital Center of the Arts
- Concord Hospital
- Second Start
- Dartmouth Family Medicine
- TD Bank
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Health Trust
- SMRS Financial Advisors
- Community Action Program
- Change for Concord
- Senior Companion Program
- CAP City Basketball
- Parkview Place



- CATCH Inc. Housing
- Concord Multi Cultural Festival
- NH Soccer Association
- NH Association of the Deaf
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Capital Quilters' Guild
- Concord YMCA
- Peak F.C.
- American Red Cross
- Granite State Independent Living
- Vaccine clinics
- Friends of Concord Crew
- Friends Program
- Five Rivers Conservation
- Capital Toastmasters
- Concord Greenspace Coalition
- Project Story
- Trinity High School
- UNH School of Law
- TD Bank
- The Friends Program
- Beekeeping Association
- Multiple political candidates
- Multicultural Festival
- Kiwanis Club
- Upper Merrimack River Advisory Committee
- and more

# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



**Pictured clockwise from above: senior luncheon, yoga, local artist display at the CWCC, and toddler gym.**

**FUN FACT**

## NRPA PARK PULSE Parks and Recreation Fosters Healthy Living

**83%** of U.S. adults believe it is important to have access to indoor and outdoor recreation areas, classes and activities in order to lead a healthy lifestyle.



Parents and millennials (69%) most strongly agree that access to these spaces and programs is *very or extremely* important.



Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions span from the serious to the more lighthearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research ([www.wakefieldresearch.com](http://www.wakefieldresearch.com)).

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NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION

# INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES



# OTHER PARKS & REC MOMENTS



# 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 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 2023 calendar year (right).



## AUDI USERS

- 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 Productions
- McKenna Creative Dance
- Turning Pointe Center of Dance
- Dance Inspirations
- Miss Capital Area Scholars
- Symphony NH
- NH School of Ballet
- Gen's Dance Studio
- NH Symphony
- Hispanic Flamenco Ballet
- UNH School of Law
- City of Concord
- Taconhy Entertainment
- Abbott Downing Historical Society
- Friends of the Audi

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Paving Roads at Blossom Hill Cemetery
- Final Design and Permitting of Park Master Plan for Kiwanis Park
- Construction of the Penacook Canal Street Riverfront Park
- Master Plan for Memorial Field Complex
- Athletic Field Lights on youth soccer field at Keach Park
- Opened the new Splash Pad at White Park in June 2023
- Opened the city's first soccer mini pitch at Keach Park in June 2023



Thank you to everyone who participated in our public meetings on the Master Planning for Kiwanis Riverfront Park, Memorial Field Master Planning and the White Park Pond Restoration project. More than 300 people took part in these meetings.

# GRANTS & DONATIONS

Working with the community and our numerous partners, we raised **more than \$1.5 million dollars in 2023**. With these private donations and grants, the department and the city continued to offer low-cost and free events to our residents, as well as help offset cost of our capital projects and department initiatives.

- \$275K Land and Water Conservation Grant for Phase 2 of Merrimack River Greenway Trail
- \$400K Land and Water Conservation Grant for the new playground at White Park
- \$500K Land and Water Conservation Grant for the new Canal Street Riverfront Park in Penacook
- \$18K Grant from New Hampshire Council of the Arts for Eastman Clock restoration
- \$50K in cash donations to help support the construction of the new playground at White Park
- \$300K donation from Friends of Merrimack River Greenway Trail to help with construction costs of Phase 2 of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail
- Just over \$41K in donations to help provide scholarships to youth in our camps and programs, Learn to Swim Program and our Summer Concert Series

Thank you to the Payson Center for Cancer Care and Impact Melanoma (donation of sunscreen at pools and splash pad and umbrellas for lifeguards), Concord Housing + Redevelopment (support of swim lessons) and Walker Lecture Series (support of summer concerts).

