

**PARKS, RECREATION & CEMETERY DEPARTMENT
CITY OF CONCORD, NH**

2024

**YEAR IN
REVIEW**

JANUARY 1, 2024 - DECEMBER 31, 2024

**WWW.CONCORDPARKSANDREC.COM
(603) 225-8690**





NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Community Members,

On behalf of the City of Concord Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, I am thrilled to share our 2024 Annual Year in Review Report with you. This report highlights our initiatives, accomplishments, and the meaningful impact of our department within the community. I take immense pride in the hard work and dedication of our staff, whose commitment has been instrumental in achieving these milestones.

Our parks and facilities are vital to enhancing the vibrancy of our city. They serve as essential spaces for community building, helping to combat social isolation among individuals of all ages and backgrounds.

In our four seasonal brochures and summer camp guide, we offer hundreds of activities, programs, special events, trips, and sports leagues. I am delighted to report that, for the first time since 2019, all seven of our outdoor pools remained open for the entire season. Additionally, our youth sports program enrollment has surpassed pre-pandemic levels from 2019, and the majority of our vacation week camps reached full capacity. We continue to witness significant growth in our adult and senior citizen programs as well.

Our success would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the City Council, City Administration, and the Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC).

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated RPAC with representatives from each Ward in the city. Their contributions as volunteers have been vital to our achievements.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and look forward to another fantastic year in 2025!

David Gill
Director

2024 Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee (RPAC)

- Ward 1: Althea Barton
 - Ward 2: Robert Kleiner
 - Ward 3: Jim Figueira
 - Ward 4: Sarah Beauregard
 - Ward 5: Zoey Murphy
 - Ward 6: Brian Sartorelli
 - Ward 7: Nick Kotkowski
 - Ward 8: Paula Bowers
 - Ward 9: Vacant
 - Ward 10: Mary Miller (Chair)
 - City Councilor Michele Horne
 - City Councilor Nathan Fennessy
 - Concord School District: Barb Higgins
 - Merrimack Valley School District: Kenny Edwards
- (As of November 2024)*

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.

2024 AT A GLANCE

6,901

OUTDOOR RESERVATION
PERMITS ISSUED

5,490

INDOOR RESERVATION
PERMITS ISSUED

5,440

ENROLLED
PARTICIPANTS

PROGRAMS



515 KIDS IN SWIM
LESSONS
40,497 POOL USERS



5,500+ ADULT VISITS
FOR INDOOR PICKLEBALL,
FUTSAL & BASKETBALL



291 SENIOR
PASSPORT
MEMBERS



500+ ADULT
VOLUNTEERS



387 SENIOR
CITIZEN MEALS



1,068 KIDS IN
SUMMER CAMPS
1,600 YOUTH IN
SPORTS



1,110 ADULTS IN
ENRICHMENT &
FITNESS CLASSES



28 FREE OUTDOOR
& INDOOR
CONCERTS/SHOWS



9,365 FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS



1,625 INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

FACILITIES & EVENTS



171
EMPLOYEES



13
CEMETERIES



11
PLAYGROUNDS



SIX POOLS
& ONE SPLASH
PAD



13
BASKETBALL
COURTS



SIX
STANDALONE
PICKLEBALL
COURTS



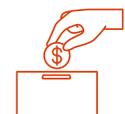
28 PARKS & OPEN
SPACES
MAINTAINED



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



FIVE
COMMUNITY
CENTERS



\$31K AWARDED
FOR YOUTH
SCHOLARSHIPS

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.

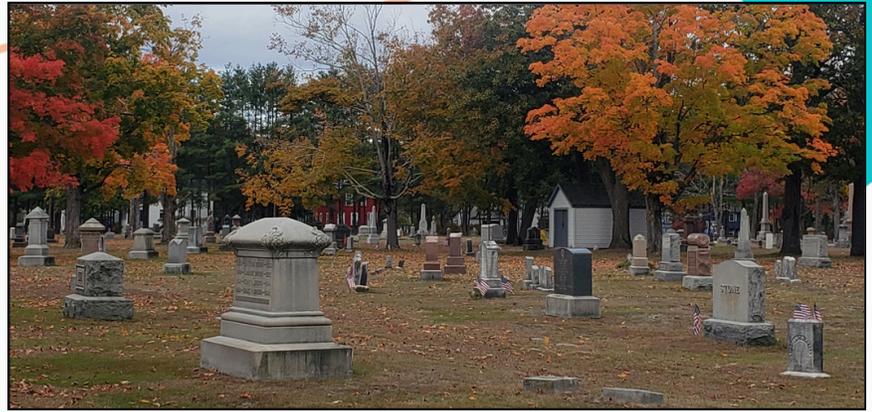
This year, the Division completed the Adopt a Grave program, with a total of 686 markers placed on unmarked graves of adults and children in the "poor lot" or Common Ground in Blossom Hill Cemetery.

The division has worked 267 burials this year. That is an average of 21 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 5,100 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
- Sunset Rotary Club
- Wreaths Across America
- GoodLife Programs & Activities
- NH Cemetery Association



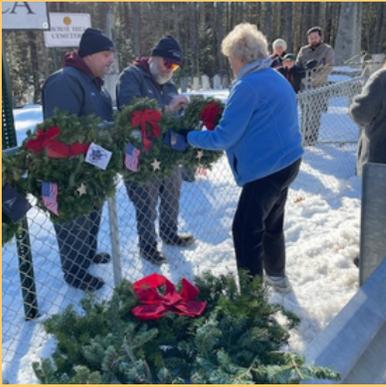
CITY OF CONCORD CEMETERIES

Cemetery	Established	Estimated Interments
Old North 	1750	3,200
Blossom Hill 	1859	25,000
Beth Jacob	1859	123
Concord Calvary	1859	9,500
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: 48,827

 =denotes Wreath Across America participating cemetery

CEMETERIES



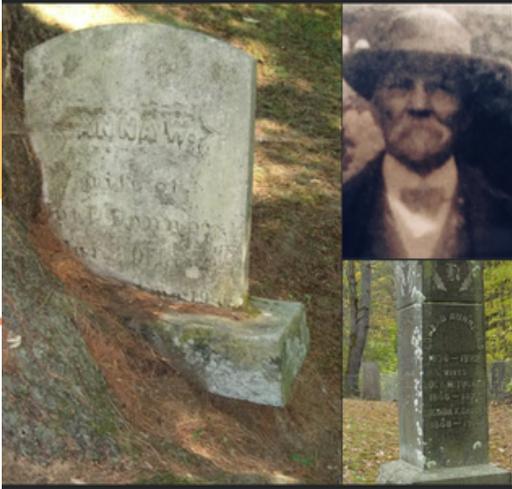
2024 WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



City of Concord, New Hampshire
 Favorites · August 8 · 📍

The Horse Hill Cemetery, also known as the River Hill Cemetery, is located at the intersection of Elm Street and Pensacook. The cemetery, established in 1811, sits on just about a half-acre of land and has roughly 220 burials. Horse Hill is one of the thirteen cemeteries currently maintained by the City of Concord.

One notable resident of Horse Hill Cemetery is Mr. Edward Runnells. Born on May 5, 1836 in Concord, NH. He was a very successful farmer. It is said that Edward slept every night at his home except for one week, when he attended the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, held in Philadelphia, PA. This was an Arts and Agriculture exhibit that is known to be the first World's Fair held in the United States. Mr. Runnells passed away on October 18, 1922 at his home.
 Concord Parks and Rec Department



**‘People deserve to be remembered’:
 Finding and honoring Concord’s
 unmarked graves**



Jill Huckins, Cemetery Administrator for Concord, who created the Adopt-a-Grave program at the main marker for the Common Ground, where place markers on long-forgotten graves of 686 infants and adults in the former ‘poor lot’ of Concord’s huge Blossom Hill Cemetery, GEOFF FORESTER—Monitor staff

By **DAVID BROOKS**

Published: 12-06-2024 2:10 PM
 Modified: 12-07-2024 8:31 PM



City of Concord, New Hampshire
 Favorites · August 26 · 📍

Many Concord residents and visitors are familiar with the quaint chapel that sits upon the hill at Blossom Hill Cemetery on North Street.

Susan George Perkins, a long-time resident of Concord, donated the generous gift as a memorial to her Mother, Clara Bartlett Perkins. Clara and her husband, Hamilton Eliot Perkins, were the parents of Commodore George Hamilton Perkins, whose statue stands behind the New Hampshire State House. The chapel was designed and built by New York State Architect Marshall Francis Oliver and completed in 1904.

Immediately following the construction, the chapel was used for burial services. The use of the chapel subsided over time and it fell into disrepair. Renovations took place in 1924, 1976, 1997 and 2020. The repair in 2020 consisted of roof repairs as well as a gas heating system to replace the wood burning stove heating process. The renovation also included repairing and painting the inside of the chapel. A walkway and outside lights were added.

Many may not realize that in addition to funeral services, the chapel can be rented for a very small fee as an event space. Wedding ceremonies, celebrations of life ceremonies, christenings, Christmas events, birthday parties, etc. have all been held there. The chapel can hold 75 people with room to set up a traditional event with an altar and an organ. It has plenty of room for a non-traditional events as well.

All are welcome. For more information, please call the Cemetery Office at (603) 225-3911.
 Concord Parks and Rec Department



PARKS

The story of community parks in Concord and Penacook is one of unity and heritage. The parks, many dating back to the late 1800s, hold years of memories and connections for residents. They are more than just patches of greenery or playgrounds – they represent the heartbeat of the community.

Each park is a symbol of the city's dedication to providing a high standard of living for the residents. For over a century, these green spaces have served as equalizers, accessible to all, regardless of background or status. The parks offer a safe haven for families, friends, and individuals alike. These parks are not just physical spaces; they are woven into the very essence of Concord and Penacook, nurturing a sense of belonging and togetherness among residents.

The Parks Division is responsible for the maintenance of city parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor ice skating areas, Merrimack River Greenway Trail and cross-country skiing at Beaver Meadow Golf Course.

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

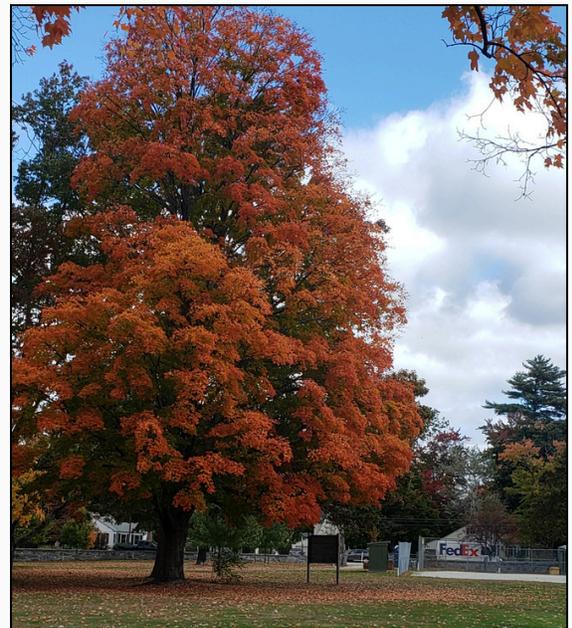
- Concord Municipal Airport (entrance areas & across the street)
- City wells
- City water towers
- Maintenance area of five rotaries: Exit 16, two on Checkerberry Lane, Manor Road, Franklin/N. State Street
- Green space at UNO's Pizzeria & Grill (Loudon Road)
- Boudreau Square in Penacook
- Supplemental mowing of Langley Parkway
- Merrimack River Greenway Trail - phase 2 (opened in 2024)



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
Merrimack River Greenway Trail-phase 2	2024	5

TOTAL ACRES 344.64



PARKS

SOME OF THE EVENTS HELD IN OUR PARKS

- Arbor Day Celebration
- 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
- Concord Multicultural Festival
- NHIAA Playoff Games
- 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
- Black Lives Matter Celebration
- Out of the Darkness Concord walk
- Fellowship Housing 5K HOME run
- Smykil Family Foundation 5K
- Seacoast Express Soccer Tournament
- Eclipse party
- Fishing derby
- NH Brewing Festival
- Movies in the Park
- Granite United Way Day of Caring
- Numerous youth & adult baseball, softball, lacrosse & soccer leagues



PARKS



EASTMAN CLOCK TOWER RESTORATION



ROLFE PARK TENNIS/PICKLEBALL IMPROVEMENTS (BEFORE & AFTER)

RECREATION

CONCORD PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Concord Parks & Recreation offers a variety of programming throughout the year. We offer programs for children 18-months old through adulthood. Each season (roughly every six weeks) brings new program offerings.

Concord Parks & Recreation programs include, but are not limited to, youth team sports (soccer, basketball and flag football), arts & crafts, swimming lessons, summer camps, cooking classes, senior programs, nature classes, cross-country skiing, yoga, Zumba, language classes and much more.

Programs are held at multiple facilities around the city such as the City Wide Community Center, Green Street Community Center, the Penacook Library & Activity Center, the Merrimack Lodge, parks, and pools.

All programs are advertised in our quarterly brochure. Viewing our brochure is a great way to see all that we offer. The brochures are published in October, January, March and May. Each brochure looks ahead roughly three months.



SENIOR PROGRAMMING



RECREATION

Indoor community centers that fall under the department include: the 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. We also run senior programming out of the Penacook Library & Activity Center (opened in December 2024).

Special thanks to the Public Properties Division of General Services as they handle the maintenance and capital improvements needs of the West Street Ward House, Green Street Community Center Gym, City Audi and the outdoor pools.

More than 160 different individuals, city departments and organizations used space at the City Wide Community Center in 2024.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, Concord Parks & Recreation coordinated a variety of FREE special events and programming including:

- Drop in Futsal at the Mini Pitch in Keach Park
- Eclipse Viewing Party
- Summer Concert Series
- July 4 Celebration
- Animal Encounters presentation
- Storytelling with Simon Brooks
- Noon Year's Eve celebration
- Summer and Winter Solstice at White Park
- Assisted with the CommUNITY Program



CITY AUDITORIUM (THE AUDI)

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 accessible locations. The facility hosted dance recitals, lectures, plays, pageants, symphonies, and concerts.

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 that are involved: the Public Properties Division of the 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 shows, house manager training was offered in September 2024 and soundboard and lightboard training was held in October 2024.



**AUDI CHANDELIER
POLISHING - 2024
DAY OF CARING
WITH GRANITE
UNITED WAY**



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)



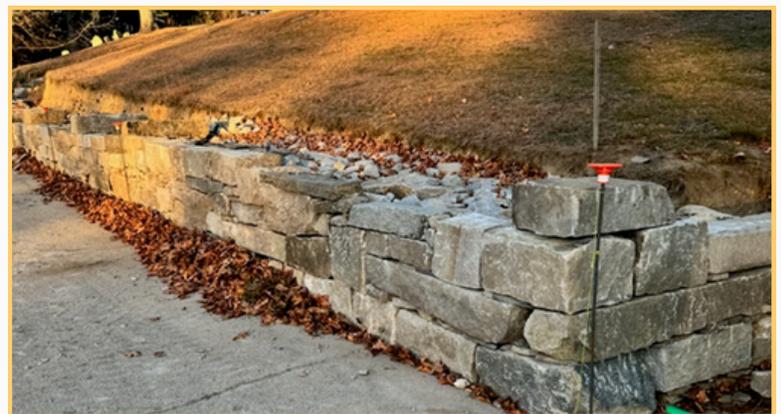
CANAL STREET RIVERFRONT PARK, PENACOOK

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in April and a park walk was held in December. An official ribbon cutting ceremony will be held in spring 2025.



MERRIMACK RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL - PHASE 2 OPENING

A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June and a ribbon cutting ceremony was held in September. The 3,500 foot (or 0.7-mi) paved, multi-use pathway was opened to the public. Phase 2 includes a small parking lot, benches, shade trees, and small spur trails that will allow for access to the river's edge.



BLOSSOM HILL CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS - WALL & VAULT (BEFORE & IN PROGRESS)

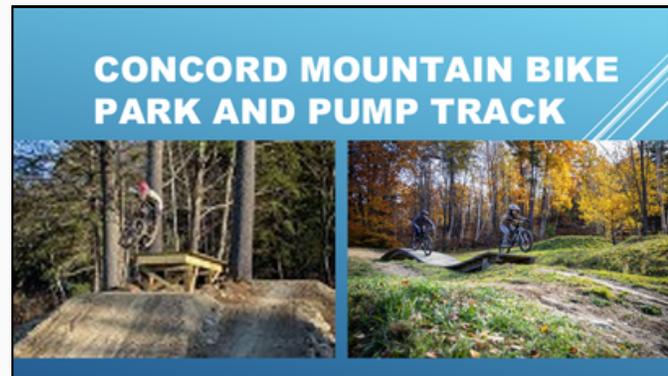
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)

In 2024, we actively engaged the community through a series of public meetings. These gatherings were designed with several core objectives in mind: to increase awareness and understanding of a project, to gather a wide range of diverse perspectives, to foster transparency in our processes, and ultimately, to build consensus around shared goals. The meetings provided a valuable platform for open dialogue, allowing community members to voice their opinions, ask questions, and contribute to the decision-making process.

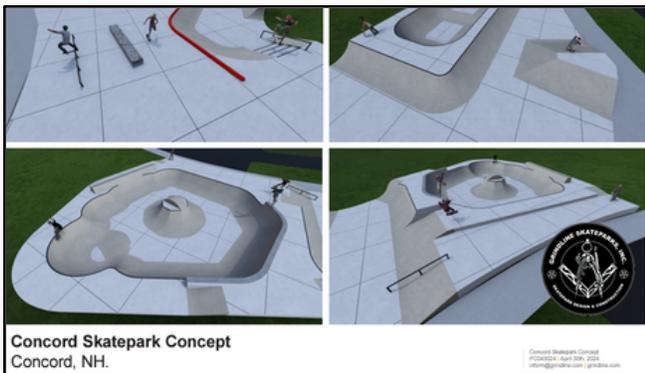
We are deeply grateful for the incredible turnout and would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who dedicated their time and energy to attend these meetings, making them a resounding success. Your participation is invaluable as we work together to shape a brighter future for all.



GARRISON POOL PUBLIC MEETING (MARCH)



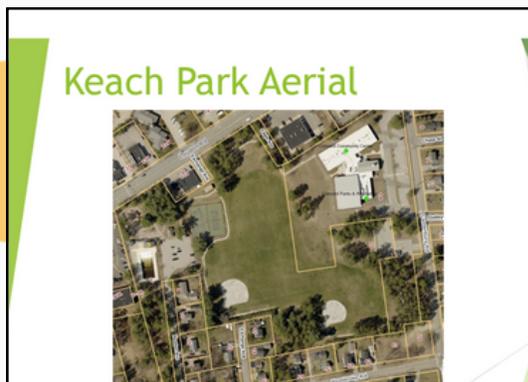
BIKE PARK MEETING (JULY)



SKATEBOARD PARK PUBLIC MEETING (JUNE) & CONCEPT PLAN (JULY)



MEMORIAL FIELD COMPLEX MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING (FEBRUARY); PRESENTATION TO CONCORD SCHOOL BOARD (OCTOBER); PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL (NOVEMBER)



KEACH PARK ATHLETIC FIELD LIGHTS PUBLIC MEETINGS (JANUARY & DECEMBER)

GRANTS & DONATIONS

Working with the community and our numerous partners, we have been able to raise more than half a million dollars this past year. 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.

- \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Grant for a new skateboard park at Kiwanis Riverfront Park.
- Just over \$41,000 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 Walker Lecture Fund, Capital City Subaru and Concord Housing + Redevelopment and all of our other donors.
- This year we were a proud recipient of the 2024 Life Jacket Program. Through a grant provided by Dartmouth Health Children's Population and Injury Prevention Department, Coast Guard approved loaner life jackets were available at all six of our public pools.
- \$18,000 grant from the New Hampshire Council for the Arts for the restoration of the Eastman Clock Tower.

We are also grateful for the more than 500+ volunteers who assisted our department with numerous contributions in 2024.

SUMMER IN THE CITY Concert Series

WHITE PARK ACOUSTIC CONCERTS
SUNDAY MORNINGS • 10 AM

DUSTY GRAY JUNE 16	BOB FRENCH JUNE 23	HANK OSBORNE JULY 7	SCOTT SOLSKY JULY 14	RYAN DEACHMAN JULY 21	KATIE DOBBINS AUGUST 11
WILL HATCH AUGUST 18	TAYLOR HUGHES AUGUST 25	LUCAS GALLO SEPTEMBER 8	MR. AARON SEPTEMBER 15	The Memnock Lodge at White Park will be open 9 a.m. to noon during the concerts & light refreshments will be available, in the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held inside the Lodge.	

NEVERS BAND CONCERTS • TUESDAY NIGHTS • 7 PM

June 18: Keach Park	July 16: Rolfe Park
June 25: Rollins Park	July 23: NH State House Lawn
July 4: Memorial Field	August 6: Kiwanis Riverfront Park (behind the Everett Arena)
July 7: 7:45 PM Start (Rain date July 5)	July 9: Eagle Square

EAGLE SQUARE CONCERTS • THURSDAY NIGHTS • 7 PM

3 OF 6 BAND JUNE 27	SHANA STACK BAND JULY 11	REBEL COLLECTIVE JULY 25	CAT-FISH HOWL AUGUST 1	CLUB SODA AUGUST 8
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EVEN MORE MUSIC! LIVE MUSIC WITH THE CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

NICK'S OTHER BAND: June 26, Eagle Square, 6 PM
HIGH RANGE BAND: July 17, Bicentennial Square, 6 PM

CONCERT SERIES SPONSORED BY:

Concord Parks & Rec, WALKER LECTURE FUND, www.concordparksandrec.com



PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

A group of East Concord residents banded together to clean up the roundabout near Exit 16



Matt Finney (left) and Cindy Shea clear out the underbrush at the roundabout off of exit 16 of I-93 in East Concord as a truck enters the road on Wednesday morning, July 10, 2024. GEOFF FORESTER—Monitor staff

By [GEOFF FORESTER](#) and [ARIANNA MacNEILL](#)
Monitor staff

Published: 07-11-2024 4:47 PM
Modified: 07-11-2024 5:14 PM

[Concord NH](#) [facebook](#) [exit 16](#)
[local residents](#) [cleanup roundabout](#)
[Adopt-a-Spot](#)



"Thank you to all the lifeguards so we could enjoy the pools this summer!" ~Sara

I have a feeling ALL the kids enjoyed the trip. Thank goodness for Concord's Parks and Recreation. Unlike other cities, ours finds ways to bring culture and a sense of belonging to our community.

3h Love Reply Message 2

"Coaches were amazing!" ~Parent feedback

A historic tower clock in Concord will soon live again



Justin Abbott from the Concord Parks and Recreation Department helps Philip D'Avanza put up the first clock face onto the Eastman clock tower at the intersection of Eastman and Portsmouth Streets in East Concord on Monday, November 25, 2024. D'Avanza of Gofftown, a specialist in repairing large tower clocks including the one on Main Street in Concord. GEOFF FORESTER—Monitor staff

By [DAVID BROOKS](#) and [GEOFF FORESTER](#)
Monitor staff

Published: 11-25-2024 4:34 PM

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"My children play flag football, basketball and soccer, my daughter does ballet and they all love it!" ~Kaitlyn

Community treasures

Last week, my dog and I strolled through Rollins Park enjoying the brassy notes of the Never's 2nd Regiment Band, as families listened from blankets on the grass. Softly punctuating the melodies were the happy squeals of children in the playground, the steady thud of a basketball dribbling on the newly surfaced court, and the occasional crack of a bat from the distant softball field. Sunlight slanted through the branches of an enormous willow that was already big 30 years ago when my own kids played ball.

Honestly, I felt like I had just walked into a Norman Rockwell painting. Thank you so much to Concord Parks and Recreation, for taking such good care of our city parks. What beautiful music a community can make when we join together to create shared enterprises that benefit us all, like our parks, our libraries and our schools.

MARY WILKE
Concord

Cannonball Countdown: All 7 Concord city pools open Friday



A splash pad opened last year at White Park. Monitor file

By [CATHERINE McLAUGHLIN](#)
Monitor staff

Published: 06-17-2024 10:45 AM
[Concord NH](#) [facebook](#)
[Concord City Council](#)

"Hello Park Employees, I wanted to express my gratitude for the job you did. I have been enjoying walking through Rollins Park & can't believe how well you all cleared it this fall. You truly made it a beautiful place through your hard work & dedication to the people of Concord. Thank you for your efforts!" ~Kim