

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For the Town of Salisbury

The purpose of this Chapter is to evaluate Salisbury's community facilities, recreational facilities, and utilities. Providing and maintaining the essential services of community and recreational facilities and utilities are jointly one of the primary functions of government. As the population and demographics of the community grow and change over time as portrayed in the **Salisbury Today** Chapter, it is important for the community to adjust its delivery of services to meet the needs of the changing populace.

Historically, rural communities in New Hampshire have provided very limited community facilities and services. In many cases, community facilities were limited to only a Town Hall and later, a public school. However, as the population of the state increased, more services were required to meet the needs of the citizenry. Today, modern communities are expected to provide a full range of services even though not all are necessary in smaller communities like Salisbury.

This Chapter will inventory and assess current Town facilities, identify and assess the adequacy of existing equipment, and also identify current and long-term staffing needs. Recreational facilities are equally important and provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community beneficial to people of all ages. In addition, recommendations on how to meet some of these needs are provided.

CHAPTER VISION

To provide reliable, efficient, cost-effective Town services to the residents of Salisbury while honoring community spirit and history.

This **Community Facilities Chapter** is organized into evaluations of Community Facilities, Public Utilities and Recreational Facilities. The strength and efficiency of each service is paramount to the community's well-being. Community Survey results help obtain residents' perspectives into these critical components of the Town's infrastructure. Some of the facilities were provided with their individual Short-Term (2018-2022) and Long-Term (2023-2027) recommendations.

Recommendations for these Community Facilities, Recreational Facilities and Utilities sections are provided at the end of this Chapter.

The location of the Town's community facilities are provided at the end of this Chapter in Figure 8.7, the Community Facilities Map. A full-sized map accompanies this document and provides enhanced detail.

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COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

The Community Survey results provide important insights to the residents’ opinions of how well Salisbury’s community facilities serve the townspeople.

Community Survey Question 9:

Please rate the following Town services.

Town Service Rating	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion/ No Answer	Total Responses
Animal Control	15.1%	20.8%	22.6%	41.5%	53
Cemetery Care	37.5%	37.5%	0.0%	25.0%	48
Fire Protection	66.7%	18.8%	4.2%	10.4%	48
Library	74.5%	13.7%	0.0%	11.8%	51
Natural Resource Conservation	32.0%	30.0%	14.0%	24.0%	50
Recreation	28.6%	36.7%	10.2%	24.5%	49
Police Protection	36.7%	22.4%	28.6%	12.2%	49
Rescue / Ambulance Service	56.0%	20.0%	6.0%	18.0%	50
Road Maintenance	51.0%	36.7%	10.2%	2.0%	49
School System	42.0%	28.0%	6.0%	24.0%	50
Snow Removal	74.0%	24.0%	0.0%	2.0%	50
Garbage Disposal & Recycling	50.0%	30.0%	14.0%	6.0%	50
Planning Regulation Admin & Enforcement	30.0%	26.0%	12.0%	32.0%	50
Zoning Administration & Enforcement	24.0%	28.0%	14.0%	34.0%	50
Health Regulations & Enforcement	16.7%	31.3%	12.5%	39.6%	48
Ambulance Service	51.0%	13.7%	5.9%	29.4%	51

The following tables indicate the preference of survey respondents regarding the Town’s ability to perform the listed services. These results indicate that the residents of Salisbury are generally satisfied with the quality of services the Town provides. This is portrayed by the high number of “Good” ratings in most categories. Although, often a majority had no opinion on the services offered or declined to answer the question.

Salisbury residents are most satisfied with the Library (75%), Snow Removal (74%), Fire Protection (67%) and Rescue/ Ambulance Services (56%) which all received “Good” ratings. When adding the “Good” plus “Fair” ratings, these same Departments came out ahead of the others, plus Road Maintenance (88%) and Garbage Disposal and Recycling (80%).

The lowest rated services, based on “Good” plus “Fair” ratings, are Animal Control (36%), Health Regulations and Enforcement (48%), and Zoning Administration and Enforcement (52%). The most unsatisfied service was Police Protection (29%), which received the highest “Poor” rating, although its “Good” plus “Fair” rating was (60%).

Community Survey Question 10:

Do you have any suggestions for improvements to the Transfer Station?

- Open additional day
- Open one evening
- Better monitoring or dumping
- No improvements needed

DISCUSSION OF POPULATION TRENDS

HISTORIC TRENDS

Table 8.1 shows the population of Salisbury increased about 22% between 2000-2010 to 1,382 people while housing growth increased 16% to 598 units. Salisbury’s overall growth since 1970 has increased by 135% in population and 99% in housing units, about doubling both population and housing units over the last four decades.

Table 8.1: Growth Trends, 1970-2010

Growth	Population	Net Change		Housing Units	Net Change	
		#	%		#	%
1970	589	N/A	0	301	N/A	0
1980	781	192	32.6%	355	54	17.9%
1990	1,063	282	36.1%	421	66	18.6%
2000	1,137	74	7.0%	514	93	22.1%
2010	1,382	245	21.5%	598	84	16.3%
Change 1970-2010	---	793	134.6%	---	297	98.7%

Sources: US Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010

CURRENT TRENDS

Population trends over the past 15 years are presented in Table 8.2. Much of the region’s growth occurred between 2000 and 2010 and the newest 2015 population estimates are conservative. Of the area communities, Salisbury had the highest overall percentage increase in population at 257 people, a 23% increase over 15 years. When examining the increase in people, Webster gained the most residents (293 or +19%) followed by Boscawen (278 or +8%). Franklin grew the least at <1% (49 people) from 2000-2015. Overall, Merrimack County grew by 9% or 11,595 people. The 2015 figures are population

estimates and subject to change but are adequate for planning purposes.

Table 8.2: Population Trends for Salisbury and Abutting Communities, 2000-2015

	2000	2010	2015	% Increase	# Increase
Andover	2,109	2,371	2,364	12.1%	255
Boscawen	3,672	3,965	3,950	7.6%	278
Franklin	8,405	8,477	8,454	0.6%	49
Salisbury	1,137	1,382	1,394	22.6%	257
Warner	2,760	2,833	2,870	4.0%	110
Webster	1,579	1,872	1,872	18.6%	293
Merrimack Co.	136,225	146,445	147,820	8.5%	11,595

Source: 2015 Population Estimates of NH Cities and Towns, 2000 & 2010 US Census

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

Table 8.3 displays population projections for Salisbury through 2040. Salisbury’s population is projected to increase slowly through 2040, with an overall expected increase of 526 residents since the 2010 Census, an average of 60 people per year beginning with 2020. Overall, statewide population projections show New Hampshire will continue to grow, but at a slower pace than experienced in the past.

Table 8.3: Population Projections 2015-2040

2010 Census Population	2015 Estimate	Population Projections				
		2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
1,137	1,394	1,459	1,540	1,594	1,635	1,663

Source: NH OEP Municipal Population Projections, September 2016

DEPARTMENT INVENTORY

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department is comprised of a privately contracted Road Agent and their crew. The contractor provides the necessary equipment and labor to maintain the Town’s Class V roadways. There is no Town facility housing Highway Department equipment, although there is an existing Town sand/salt shed at the Transfer Station on Warner Road to be refurbished to enclose the Station’s loader/backhoe.

Salisbury is to be commended for developing a Capital Improvement Program that identifies future highway projects. In the Salisbury 2015 Town Report, six roadway improvements projects were allocated between 2016 and 2021. Maintenance projects for 2016 included West Salisbury Road and Bay Road.

In Table 8.4, Salisbury spends less on its highway budget than neighboring Towns, at \$5,383 per mile in 2016. The second lowest area comparison in Webster at \$5,537 per mile. Not including Franklin (a city), the highest area community was Boscawen at \$13,530 per mile.

STAFFING

The Road Agent provides their own small roads crew as necessary to perform the grading, paving, repairs, drainage, plowing and maintenance of Class V roads in Town. Although all activities are coordinated through the Road Agent, larger operations such as reconstruction and rehabilitation are sometimes contracted to larger firms.

EQUIPMENT

The Road Agent provides their own equipment when servicing the roads. The Town has not needed to contribute funding for highway equipment.

Table 8.4: Highway Department Comparisons with Area Communities, 2016

Town	2015 Estimated Population	Miles of Town Owned Road (Class V & VI)	Total Highway Expenditure, 2016	Highway Expenditure per Mile	Highway Expenditure Per Capita
Andover	2,364	60.5	\$529,970	\$8,760	\$224
Boscawen	3,950	31.3	\$423,498	\$13,530	\$107
Franklin	8,454	61.6	\$1,438,340*	\$23,350	\$170
Salisbury	1,394	47.3	\$254,616	\$5,383	\$182
Warner	2,870	88.0	\$921,859	\$10,476	\$321
Webster	1,579	37.4	\$207,073	\$5,537	\$131

Source: Town Reports, 2016, NH OEP Population Estimates, 2015

As shown in Table 8.4, the Town is responsible for over 39 miles of Class V roadway. Although the Town owns about 14 miles of Class VI roads, these roads are unmaintained by law. The NH Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining and plowing over 11 miles of highway on US 4 and NH 127.

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The following roads appear in the 2016 Town Report and are a priority for improvements. The projects were identified through the Capital Improvements Program and funding is appropriated on an annual basis:

- 2017 North Road Phase 1
- 2018 North Road Phase 2
- 2019 North Road Phase 3
- 2020 North Road Phase 4
- 2021 Raccoon Hill Road Phase 1
- 2022 Raccoon Hill Road Phase 2

The Transportation Chapter has more information on Salisbury's road network. Another way of prioritizing road projects is through the Road Surface Management System (RSMS).

[HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUMMARY](#)

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Maintain highest priority roads and drainage locations.
- Work with the Currier & Ives Scenic Byway Committee to assist in their efforts to preserve and enhance NH 127.
- Establish a regular cycle of repairing these paved roads built into the Town budget through CIP allocation.

Long Term Needs (2023 to 2027)

- Purchase a brush chipper (CIP).

VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Salisbury Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department is housed in the Municipal Safety Complex at 273 Old Turnpike Road (US 4). Known to all as the Safety Building, the facility is not open to the public unless staffed.

Salisbury is a member of the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact which covers twenty-two communities. Calls are dispatched by Concord Fire Alarm of the Compact.



Salisbury Safety Complex on Old Turnpike Road

[STAFFING](#)

There are approximately 20 volunteers in the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS); many members serve on both teams. Recent training exercises included cold water winter ice rescue training. Firefighters and EMS must complete two in-house training sessions per month on Tuesdays.

An Explorer Post for 12 young adults aged 14-21 continues to thrive. These individuals learn about becoming fire fighters and often assist with local events. Many are retained to become full fire fighters when they become of age.

EQUIPMENT

The Department's needs for capital equipment are placed into the Capital Improvements Program. Radios and pagers are upgraded on a regular basis. At the 2016 Town Meeting, approval for a new tanker truck was granted. As of February 2017, the truck was being assembled to specifications by a local fire equipment assembly business. New protective clothing for members will be purchased in 2017. In 2018, a replacement ambulance is anticipated. Existing equipment is displayed in Table 8.5.

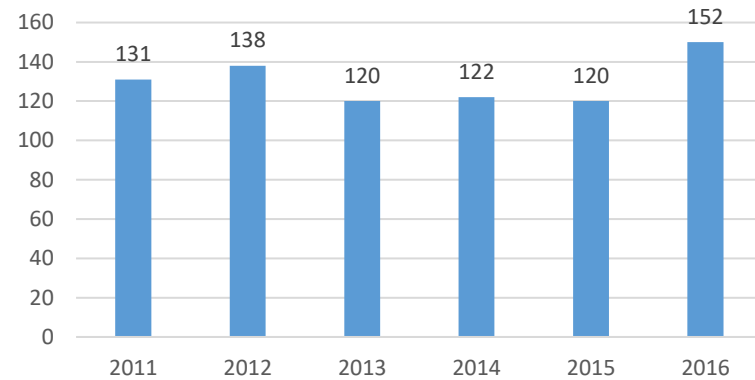
Table 8.5: Existing Fire and Rescue Department Equipment

Unit ID	Year & Equipment
Engine 1	1997 Freightliner FL80
Car 1	1984 Chevy
Rescue 1	2006 International 7400
Tanker 1	2017 Tanker International
Ambulance 1	2001 Ford E-350/Road Master
Forest 1	1989 Ford F-350
UTV 1	2016 Kawasaki KAF820 Utility Task Vehicle

Source: www.firenews.org; Town of Salisbury

In Figure 8.1, from 2011-2016, the Fire and Rescue Department experienced a 14.5% increase in the number of calls for service. Between 2015-2016 alone, the Town experienced a 27% increase in calls, from 120 calls to 152. As a member of the Capital Area Fire Mutual Aid Compact, neighboring communities also came to Salisbury's aid. Increases in call volume levy additional strain on local Department resources.

Figure 8.1: Fire Department Calls, 2011-2016



Source: Town of Salisbury Annual Reports

Response time is a critical component of providing effective emergency services. Most of the 20 volunteer firefighters work outside of Salisbury during daytime hours. As response time to emergency calls increases, the likelihood of increased property damage or loss of life increases.

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Fire Department Engine 1, Safety Building on Old Turnpike Road

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2018 to 2022)

- Consider the placement of dry hydrants in strategic locations in Town where development density is highest.
- Replace the Ambulance (in CIP).
- Continue training of its members at appropriate seminars.

Long-term needs (2023 to 2027)

- Maintain, repair and/or replace cisterns at North and Center Road (in CIP) and the various dry hydrants in Town.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located in the Safety Building on Old Turnpike Road with the Fire Department. There are currently no business hours open to the public.

STAFFING

Police coverage is provided by the NH State Police and the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office. In 2010, voters rejected a motion to re-staff its Police Department after the two part-time police officers tendered their resignations. The Community Survey suggested support for local police services.

EQUIPMENT

The Town sold its cruisers and turned over its equipment to the County Sheriff's Office in 2010.

Without a Police Department, Salisbury saves over \$60,000 per year in personnel costs alone. There is no maintenance or replacement of vehicles and safety equipment, no training costs, computers and software, or overhead costs when policing services are provided by the NH State Police and Merrimack County.

State troopers have made appearances at the Elementary School and at senior citizen luncheons to help maintain a connection with the community. Individuals seeking pistol permits must apply to the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office in Boscawen.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEEDS SUMMARY

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Re-examine the need of the community for a locally staffed Police Department.

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TOWN OFFICES AT ACADEMY HALL

The Town Offices are located in Academy Hall at 9 Old Coach Road. The offices of the Selectmen which house the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector and the Building Inspector/Health Officer are located here. Meeting space is available for the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Budget Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The office is routinely staffed by the Town Administrator, Administrative Assistant, a Municipal Secretary, and the Town Bookkeeper as well as Deputy positions.

Vital documents are kept at Academy Hall including licenses, taxation assessments and records, election registrations, accounting records, budgets, human resource information and meetings minutes for all Boards. Fireproof cabinets help safeguard these records.



Academy Hall on Old Coach Road

STAFFING

Due to the increase in the Town's population and increased activity in Salisbury, it is anticipated that an additional administrative assistant will be needed. Existing staffing:

- Town Administrator (Full-Time)
- Administrative Assistant (Part-Time)
- Municipal Secretary (Part-Time)
- Town Bookkeeper (Part-Time)
- Town Clerk (Part-Time)
- Tax Collector (Part-Time)
- Planning/Zoning Board Secretary (Part-Time)

At the 2017 Town Meeting, attendees voted affirmatively to increase the Town Clerk's hours from 8 hours per week to 8-12 hours per week to better serve the public and maintain records. Hours are Monday 9am to 1pm and Tuesday 4:30pm to 8:30pm, with the recently added 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 10am to 2pm.

The Selectmen's Office in Academy Hall is staffed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm and during the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The Planning and Zoning Assistant holds office hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.

The Building Inspector holds office hours on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. In 2015, 4 new home construction permits were issued as well as 1 accessory dwelling unit (ADU).

EQUIPMENT

Recent equipment upgrades include fireproof cabinets and new a computer plus a multifunction printer/fax machine. Emergency lights and an automatic defibrillator were installed at Academy Hall. The

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defibrillator is portable and will allow it to be used in other buildings such as Town Hall during Town functions.

USERS OF THE TOWN OFFICES/ACADEMY HALL

Membership to the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission and Recreation Commission is voluntary by appointment and Boards/Committees are currently fully staffed. There has been a desire expressed to make the ZBA members elected instead of appointed, but no formal application to change this has been made. There are no anticipated equipment or staffing needs for these Boards. Most Boards and Committees generally meet monthly except for the Board of Selectmen which meets twice per month on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm.

SALISBURY TOWN HALL AND SALISBURY HEIGHTS

The historic Town Hall at 645 Old Turnpike Road is situated in the Town's "Salisbury Heights" and includes the Town Green. Both the Town Hall and Town Green continue to host meetings and events for the community. The other buildings in Salisbury Heights are the Salisbury Free Library, the Historical Museum and the Salisbury Historical Society. For instance, the Town Hall hosts Cribbage Night every Thursday and the Town Green supports a seasonal Farmer's Market on Mondays from May to September. The Salisbury Heights area should be promoted as a destination for residents and visitors to participate in community activities.

TOWN WEBSITE

In 2017, voters funded the development of a new Town website to better serve residents. The existing website at www.salisburynh.org will not be updated until the new website is posted. A modern website will enable the Town to better communicate Department activities, public notices, the Town calendar and more with the public.



Salisbury Heights: Town Hall, Library and Historical Society Museum on Old Turnpike Road

TOWN OFFICES/ACADEMY HALL NEEDS SUMMARY

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Upgrade staff computers and software to enable the most compatible recordkeeping systems.

Long Term Needs (2023 to 2027)

- Maintain the Town buildings on "Salisbury Heights" and preserve the historic campus and Town Green.
- Increase the number of events to promote the Town Hall and other facilities as a community destination for residents of all ages.

SALISBURY FREE LIBRARY

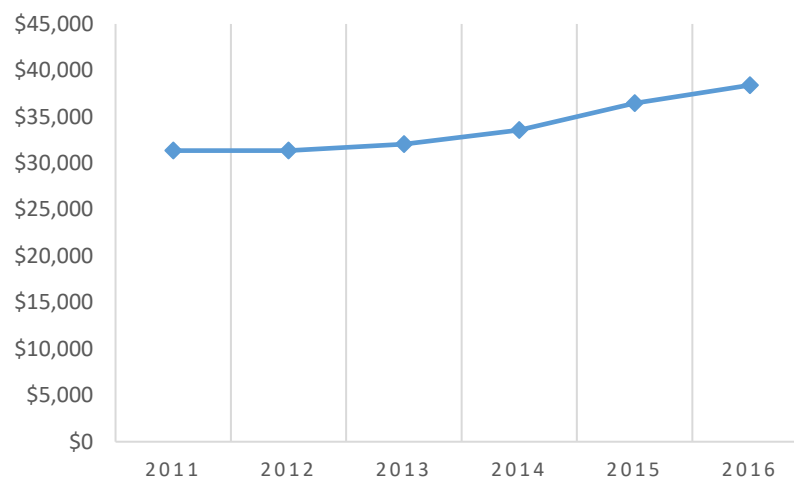
As of 1960, the Salisbury Free Library resides at 641 Old Turnpike Road, repurposing the former Town schoolhouse, adjacent to Town Hall. Open Monday 10am to 3pm, Tuesday 1pm to 7pm, Thursday 1pm to 7pm, and Saturday 10am to 3pm, the Library offers a number of programs and equipment for loan. Two public access computers and free wi-fi are available for use. A 3-D printer was recently purchased and workshops are offered to learn to use this innovative piece of equipment. A telescope is available for loan. Membership in the NH Downloadable Books consortium allowed residents to check out e-books and audiobooks, comprising 16% of the Library’s circulation in 2015.

In 2008, the building was completely restored and an addition was constructed to better serve patrons. Today, programs offered by the Salisbury Free Library include yoga, bi-weekly storytime, a monthly Book Group, Town-wide Yard Sale, Summer Reading Program, Old Home Day Events, Holiday Craft Fair. Meeting rooms that serve the greater community are available for reservation.



Salisbury Free Library on Old Turnpike Road

Figure 8.2: Library Budget 2011-2016



Source: Salisbury Free Library and Annual Reports

From Figure 8.2, the amount of funding spent on Library operations, salaries, and on library materials (books, magazines, e-books, audio books, etc), increased between 2011 to 2016, from about \$31,000 to \$38,000 per year. The budget funds a Director and Children’s Aides. Library Trustees are involved in running the facility on a volunteer basis.

SALISBURY FREE LIBRARY NEEDS SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2018 to 2022)

- Continue technology upgrades for public use computers and electronic library circulation.

Long-term Needs (2023 to 2027)

- Continue fulfilling the Library’s circulation needs and meeting the interests of the community, adding programs to support user activities.

TRANSFER STATION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Transfer Station is located at 334 Warner Road, two miles from NH 127. The hours of operation of the Transfer Station are Saturdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Additional hours on Wednesdays will be held from May 3 - October 25, 2017 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Transfer Station recently was upgraded to improve traffic flow and to encourage recycling which is a voluntary activity in Salisbury.

The Station charges disposal fees ranging from \$5 - \$20 for certain large appliances, televisions and computer monitors, furniture, and demolition debris. Salisbury is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA) that helps find markets for the recyclables. The Town actively recycles paper, aluminum cans, glass, and fluorescent bulbs. Yet, there are no household hazardous waste collection days so residents cannot properly dispose of environmentally damaging materials such as used oil, oil-based paint, household cleaners, and more.

STAFFING

Staffing of the Transfer Station consists of three paid employees, one certified Operator and two Attendants. Volunteers are used for the recycling program.

EQUIPMENT

Many buildings at the Transfer Station have been upgraded in past years. However, building repairs need to be undertaken in 2017. The purchase of a compactor in 2020 will enable better recycling capacity and an upgrade of electricity to the Transfer Station will be necessary.

An on-site building, the “Ed Sawyer Salisbury Free Mall” is utilized for leaving good used items, such as kitchen utensils, toys, furniture, books and more for others to take home.

Table 8.6: Tonnage Delivered to Incinerator 2011-2016

Recycled Material	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Aluminum Cans lbs.	2,780	2,270	2,040	2,550	1,880	2,515
Paper tons	51.7	48.3	56.8	52.5	45	47
Scrap Metal tons	15	-	11.8	35.8	10	34.3
Electronics lbs.	-	-	6,990	7,374	10,121	15,679

Source: Town of Salisbury Annual Reports, Town Office

From Table 8.6, the amount of scrap metal and electronic waste has increased steadily between 2011-2016 while aluminum and paper tonnage have decreased.

TRANSFER STATION NEEDS SUMMARY

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Undertake Transfer Station building repairs (CIP).
- Purchase a compactor to facilitate recycling capacity (CIP).
- Host an annual household hazardous waste collection.



Aerial View of Transfer Station on Warner Road

Long Term Needs (2023 to 2027)

- Undertake electrical improvements at the Transfer Station (CIP).
- Use the recycling revenue to make staffing and infrastructure improvements to the Transfer Station.

SALISBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A member of the Merrimack Valley School District (MVSD) SAU #46, the Salisbury School District is comprised of the Salisbury Elementary School (SES) on 6 Whittemore Road which resides on 16 acres. MVSD provides public education to area communities and encompasses the five elementary schools in Salisbury, Loudon, Webster, Boscawen, Penacook and the shared MVSD Middle School and MVSD High School in Penacook. MVSD provides services to Andover which occupies a Grades K-8 Elementary School. The District holds a tuition agreement with Andover to accept students in grades 9-12 into the MV High School. In 2017, the Andover School Board agreed to study the feasibility of entering into a tuition agreement for Grades 6-8 as well.

Salisbury Elementary School was originally built in 1959 with additions in 1988 to classrooms, bathrooms, gym, and upgrades to the HVAC system. In 2001 kindergarten classrooms, bathrooms and upgrades to the HVAC system were done. In 2013, the office area was moved into a new addition at the front of the school along with landscaping and a new security entrance. A new playground was installed in 2015. The current size of SES is 18,000 square feet.

From the MVSD SES Capital Improvements Plan, security improvements to the school are a high priority between 2016-2019, including classroom intruder locks, panic button and key fobs. In 2017-2018, kitchen terminal will be replaced and building renovations to old restrooms and the nurse’s office will occur. Bathroom upgrades and renovations are planned for 2018-2019 and electrical upgrades including a potential generator are scheduled for 2019-2020.

Table 8.7 compares the relationship of SES students to the other schools in the district. Salisbury students represented the smallest student body in the MVSD with 75 students in the SES and 205 overall students (8%) in the District in 2016.

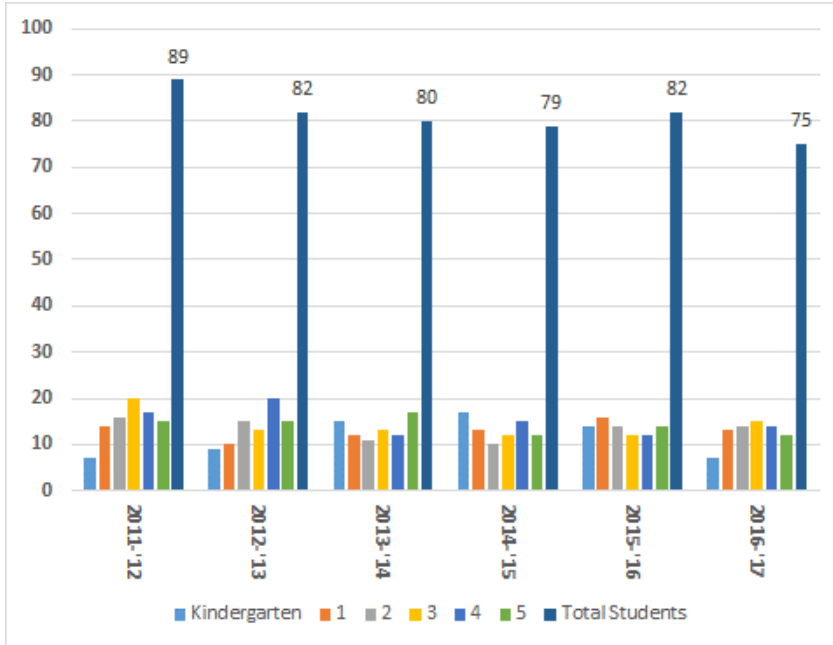
Table 8.7: Merrimack Valley School Enrollment, 2016-2017

Grade	SES	BES	LES	PES	WES	MVMS	MVHS	MVSD Total
Pre-School		23		33				56
Kindergarten	7	27	40	53	19			146
1	13	43	43	50	13			162
2	14	32	44	55	14			159
3	15	44	42	64	16			181
4	14	37	61	65	17			194
5	12	32	52	60	16			172
6						181		181
7						190		190
8						202		202
9							205	205
10							226	226
11							196	196
12							212	212
Total	75	238	282	380	95	573	839	2,482

Source: MVSD October 2016-2017 Enrollment

In Figure 8.3, the number of Salisbury Elementary School (SES) students has declined steadily since 2011, when the students numbered 89. As of the October 2016 enrollment, 75 students were enrolled, depicting an overall decline of 16%. The lowest enrollment year during this 2011-2017 period is the current school year, 2016-2017.

Figure 8.3: Salisbury Elementary School Student Trends, 2011-2017



Source: NH Department of Education Enrollments, 2011-2017



Salisbury Elementary School on Whittemore Road

SALISBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEEDS SUMMARY

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Undertake security upgrades per the MVSD Capital Improvements Plan.
- Undertake the bathroom renovations, generator installation, and other planned improvements.

Long Term Needs (2023 to 2027)

- Continue to monitor enrollment trends and develop a plan to handle future decline of students.

TOWN CEMETERIES

There are several cemeteries throughout Town as displayed below in Table 8.8. A regular maintenance program which has been instituted is expected to continue indefinitely and this has seemed to put the cemeteries in their best state of repair in years.

STAFFING

Administration of the cemeteries is handled by the Town Cemetery Trustees. The Trustees have had difficulty filling their positions until this year, but now are fully staffed. Trustees monitor projects such as the recent Maplewood stone wall rebuilding.

EQUIPMENT

The private contractor provides its own equipment when servicing the cemeteries.

The Town of Salisbury is dotted with cemeteries. Most are owned by the Town but a few are on private land. The Historical Society inventoried the stones and has a record of interment in each cemetery. These historic resources are located on private property and enrich the history of the community.

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Vandalism of both public and private headstones is a prevalent concern in Town. Watson Cemetery has had its headstones desecrated and are unrestorable. This is a permanent loss to the culture and history of the community.

Because of the low Town population and open cemeteries, there seems to be no need for future cemetery expansion at this time. Perpetual care trust funds are invested and used to help maintain the cemeteries.



Maplewood Cemetery on Old Turnpike Road

Table 8.8 Salisbury Cemeteries

Cemetery Name	Location	Map & Lot
Baptist Cemetery	Old Turnpike Road (Salisbury Heights)	Map 238, Lot 44
Bog Road/ Calef Yard Cemetery	Bog Road	Map 245, Lot 37
Bean/Smith's Corner	Adjacent to Maplewood Cemetery	Map 244, Lot 39
Fellows Cemetery	South Road (NH 127)	Map 244, Lot 27
Maplewood Cemetery	Old Turnpike Road (US 4)	Map 257, Lot 2
Mary Baker Gravesite	US 4 NB, after NH 127	Private land
Mills/ Pingry Cemetery	West Salisbury on Mill Road	Map 219, Lot 16
Oak Hill/Shaw Cemetery	Oak Hill Road (Salisbury Heights)	Map 237, Lot 22
Severens Family Cemetery	North Salisbury	Private land
South Road/ Congregational Cemetery	NH 127 (private land)	Map 244, Lot 53
Watson Yard & Quimby Cemetery	Quimby Road	Private land
Whitaker Cemetery	Dunlap Road	Private land

*Source: Salisbury Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014, Salisbury Historical Society
www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org*

CEMETERY FACILITIES NEEDS SUMMARY

Short Term Needs (2018 to 2022)

- Continue cemetery maintenance and repair.
- Deter vandalism of graves and headstones in Town.

Long Term Needs (2023 to 2027)

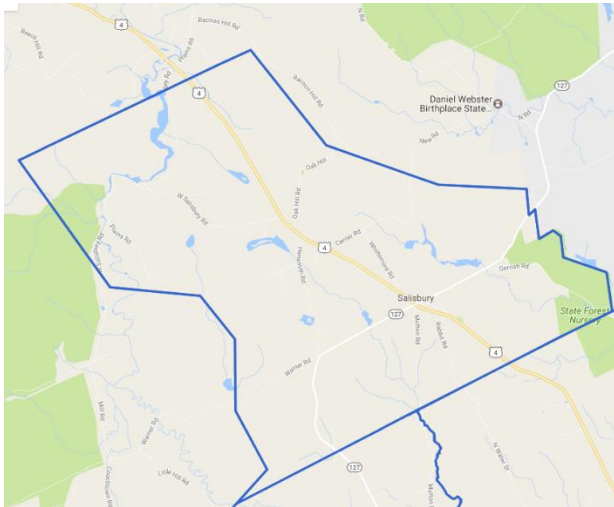
- Continue researching the Searles Hill Cemetery for historical preservation.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

As part of the infrastructure of daily lives, public utilities are an important component of any community and its future growth. As New Hampshire's economy strengthens, a robust collection of public utilities is needed to serve the present and future needs of Salisbury's residents and businesses.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Eversource Energy currently provides regulated electric service in Salisbury along with Unitil and NH Electric Co-op (NHEC). All three providers support areas of the community. The NHEC has 90 customers in Salisbury, Eversource serves 125 and Unitil serves the remainder, 456 customers as of May 2017. Unitil's coverage area includes the most populated areas of Town, Salisbury Heights, the intersection of NH 127 and US 4 and continuation along these and nearby roadways from the Boscawen/Webster Town line to Bay Road.



Unitil Electrical Coverage of Salisbury

In such a forested community, severe winter events or wind storms can easily blow down powerlines or trees and limbs that fall onto the powerlines and disrupt electrical service to residents. Many households have generators and woodstoves to use until service is restored. The Town and Salisbury School District are working to obtain a grant to install a generator at the Elementary School within the next few years that will enable the school to serve as an emergency shelter.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Basic landline telephone service once played a critical role in everyday life but as cellphone usage increased, there became less of a reliance on landlines. The technology 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. Universal service, once a distant vision, is now a reality. Telephone companies now offer wireless services, internet access, satellite television, and digital subscriber services (DSL) to many of their customers. While many still use their landline phone for a DSL or dial-up connection, there is less of a reliance on landlines with the use of cellphones.

Landline residential telephone service in Salisbury is provided mostly by TDS Telecom. The section of the Town abutting Franklin has access to Verizon which includes cable TV service. TDS Telecom does not provide cable TV but numerous homes access satellite TV through either DISH Network or Direct TV.

BROADBAND INTERNET

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed Internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as: Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber, Wireless, or Satellite. Salisbury's primary broadband providers are TDS,

Fairpoint and Comcast Xfinity. TDS fiber availability has increased over the last several years.

All told, there are eleven different internet providers across a variety of platforms and delivery systems. The data can be found at <http://broadbandnow.com/New-Hampshire/Salisbury>.

Several areas of Salisbury still do not have access to high-speed broadband internet as shown in Figure 8.4 on the following page. Two large areas, the southwest and north east corners of Town are served by mobile wireless as the fastest available interest service. DSL service is available across most of the Town, but the fiber service is the fastest and is widely available.

Areas of Salisbury that report being underserved by broadband include the southwestern corner from the Blackwater River Reservoir to the Town of Warner and the topmost northeastern corner abutting the City of Franklin. The majority of Salisbury reports as being served by broadband or fiber. The areas reported as served have high-speed service defined as an average download speed greater than 10 Mbps and an advertised upload speed greater than 6 Mbps.

Tables 8.9 to 8.13 display the providers of different types of broadband internet and communications services available in Salisbury. Residential and commercial broadband are available, as is mobile internet service (cellular providers), satellite internet and television, including cable and satellite. Salisbury residents have choices for these services; once, they were luxury amenities, but now and moving into the future, communications have become essential services for our daily lives.

Table 8.9: Residential Broadband Service

Provider	Type of Service	Fastest Speed	Price/Month	Availability
Xfinity	Cable	150 Mbps	\$49.95/10 Mbps	16.0%
FairPoint	DSL	25 Mbps	\$50.95/10 Mbps	6.5%
TDS DSL	DSL	50 Mbps	\$34.95/15 Mbps	60.1%
TDS Fiber	Fiber	1,000 Mbps	\$44.95/25 Mbps	98.9%

Mbps = Megabits per second; GB = Gigabyte

Table 8.10: Business Broadband Service

Provider	Type of Service	Fastest Speed	Price/Month	Availability
Comcast Business	Cable	150 Mbps	\$69.95/16 Mbps	9.2%
FairPoint	DSL	1.5 Mbps	\$55.99/10 Mbps	8.3%
Comcast Business	Cable – Enterprise	150 Mbps	Call for quote	9.2%

Table 8.11: Mobile Internet Service

Provider	Fastest Speed	Price/Month	Availability
AT&T	10 Mbps	\$50.00/5 GB	98.1%
Verizon	10 Mbps	\$60.00/12 Mbps	99.7%
Sprint	6 Mbps	\$50.00/6 GB	15.0%
U.S. Cellular	3 Mbps	\$40.00/10 GB	100%

Table 8.12: Satellite Internet Service

Provider	Type of Service	Fastest Speed	Price/Month	Availability
HughesNet	Satellite	15 Mbps	\$49.99/25 Mbps	100%
Dish	Satellite	10 Mbps	Unavailable	18.4%

Table 8.13: Television Service

Provider	Type of Service	Number of Channels	Price/Month	Availability
Xfinity	Cable	Up to 260	\$30 - \$110	10.6%
TDS	IPTV	Up to 190	\$60 - \$75	91.5%
DirectTV	Satellite	Up to 315	\$50 - \$125	100%
Satellite Television	Satellite	Up to 315	\$50	100%

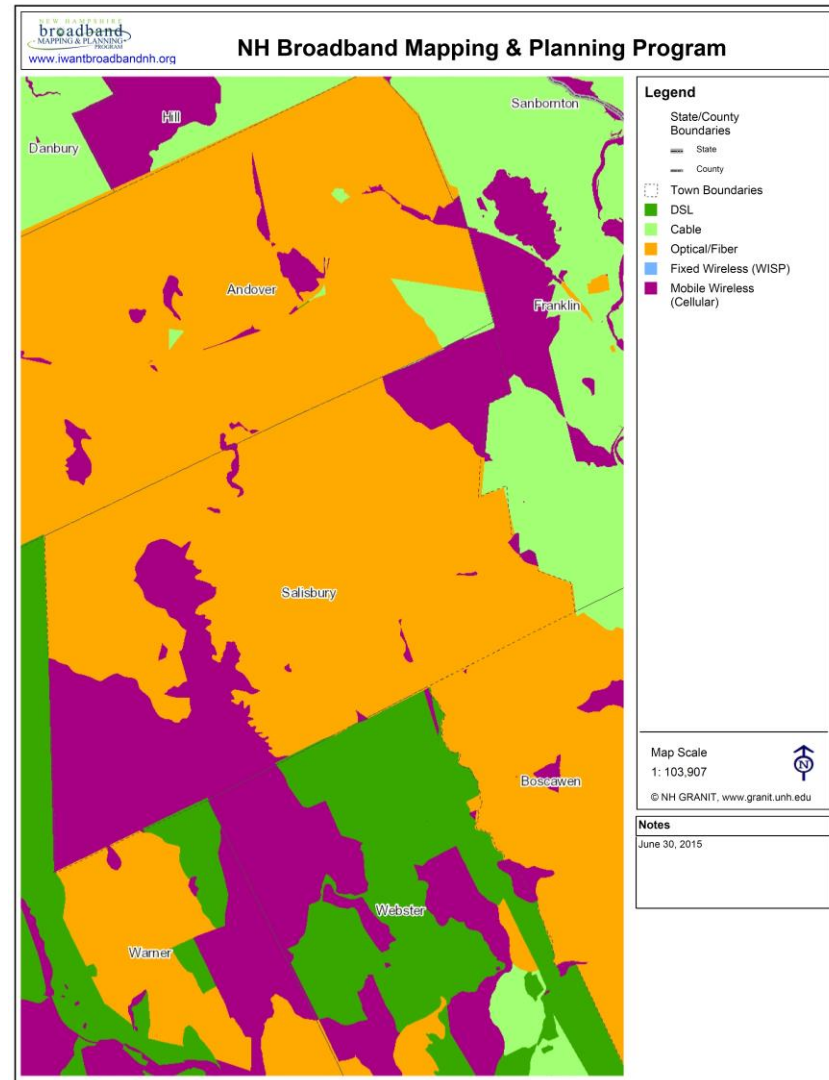
Source Tables 8.9 to 8.12: www.broadbandnow.com; Table 8.13: www.inmyarea.com

The NH Broadband Mapping and Planning Program (NHBMPP) cataloged in 2015 displays the availability of broadband internet service in Salisbury by Census tract. The number of broadband providers available in Salisbury per tract ranged from four to nine different providers, offering most residents a choice of service. The NHBMPP tested broadband speeds ranging from 1 to >18 Mbps while those participating in the survey reported maximum advertised download speeds ranging from 3 Mbps to > 1 Gbps. The Town is covered at moderate speed but does not have full coverage over its entire geographic area as depicted in Figure 8.4.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications law in general is shaped by a mix of federal, state and local laws and regulations, and a developing body of case law. The federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 (TCA) was the first major overhaul of communications law in over 60 years, amending the Communications Act of 1934. The goal of the law was to ensure that all communication businesses are allowed to compete with each other in any market and to promote such competition. Broadly, the Act preempts all state and local laws that would prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting an entity from providing telecommunications services. The TCA sets boundaries for local land use decisions on wireless tower applications and for management of public rights-of-way. The Act also creates separate regulatory tracks for cable and telecommunications – the telephone industry, not broadband per se, but there are implications for broadband since much of the

Figure 8.4: Broadband Availability in Salisbury, 2015



Source: www.iwantbroadbandnh.org

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infrastructure necessary for the provision of broadband overlaps with telecommunications, cable, and increasingly, wireless facilities.

Salisbury voters originally approved a Wireless Telecommunications Towers and Antennas (cellular tower) ordinance in 2000. The 2015 Central NH Regional Broadband Plan identified several recommendations for municipal governments to consider adopting as part of a comprehensive approach to telecommunication in local communities, including Salisbury. Possible measures include:

- Inventory municipal buildings that may be suitable for siting of personal wireless service facilities under the provisions of RSA 12-K:10 which allows the siting of such facilities on any structure which is capable of structurally supporting the siting. This could allow for potential complementary additions to the Town's broadband infrastructure through introduction of wireless broadband services, and add rental and tax revenue.
- Adopt, outside of any cable franchise negotiations, a policy stating the basic municipal objectives sought through cable franchising (i.e. cable and broadband coverage areas, access programming service to public library and other public buildings).
- Consider drafting and adopting a comprehensive telecommunications ordinance stating the Town's policies governing the public rights-of-way, stating cable franchise policies, incorporating by reference the wireless telecommunications facilities ordinance adopted by the legislative body and stating the municipal policy promoting the siting of such facilities on municipal law, including a funding mechanism by which right-of-way fees, rental fees from wireless siting, and franchise fees from cable franchises could be reserved to promote broadband infrastructure.

The current Town ordinance allows for the new construction of a telecommunication tower as permitted uses in the Residential and Agricultural/Conservation districts or via a conditional use permit in the Retail Village District. Currently, there is one tower in Salisbury, located on Humphrey Road, very close to the Andover Town line.

There are several towers nearby which also serve Salisbury including several in Franklin and two each in Webster, Boscawen, Warner, and Sutton.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

As an important part of a healthy community, recreational facilities offer the chance for socialization, exercise and community spirit. Cultural bonds are forged during events that take place annually such as Old Home Day or during summer baseball games. Residents can canoe the Blackwater River or hike along trails. The Town and Elementary School together own several recreational facilities that further bring townspeople together, enriching the lifestyle and fabric of Salisbury. Using these facilities, an active Recreation Committee works to ensure recreational programs are available to people of all ages.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS FOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Community Survey Question 17:

In what ways do you enjoy Salisbury’s recreational opportunities?
Please check all that apply:

Q. 17	Total	Percent
Hiking	53	79.1%
Nature Observation	49	73.1%
Snow Shoeing	37	55.2%
Fishing	31	46.3%
Canoeing/Boating	26	38.8%
Mountain Biking	20	29.9%
Snowmobiling	20	29.9%
Cross-country Skiing	20	29.9%
Hunting	19	28.4%
Swimming	13	19.4%
Maplewood Recreational Area	13	19.4%
Horseback Riding	9	13.4%
Personal Watercraft	3	4.5%

In the summer, Old Home Day is one of the very popular events organized by the Recreation Committee. The annual event is held at the Maplewood Ballfield and on the Town Green and includes fireworks. A winter ice rink continues at the Maplewood Ballfield to be a huge success. The Winter Carnival held hockey tournaments, human sled dog events, and artistic snow coloring for children.

Community Survey Question 18:

Would you support the creation of a trail system in Salisbury for recreational uses such as snowmobiling, horseback riding, mountain biking, walking, etc.?

Q. 18	Total	Percent
Yes	58	85.3%
No	9	13.2%
No Opinion	1	1.5%
Total	68	100.0%

Community survey results indicate hiking (79%), nature observation (73%), snowshoeing (55%), fishing (47%) and canoeing/boating (39%) are the primary ways Salisbury residents recreate in Town. Many use their own land for these activities. Respondents highly support a trail system in Town (85%) which would further encourage hiking, the number one recreational activity per the Survey.

MAPLEWOOD BALLFIELD

The Maplewood Ballfield on Old Turnpike Road is a popular recreational venue for children and adults alike. Adjacent to the Maplewood Cemetery, the 3.5 acre facilities include dugouts and a concession stand. Recent renovations were completed, including installing batting cages for both dugouts, repairing frost-heaved poles, and maintaining field markings for summer ball games. An Annual Turnpike Softball Tournament was a success for fans and players alike.



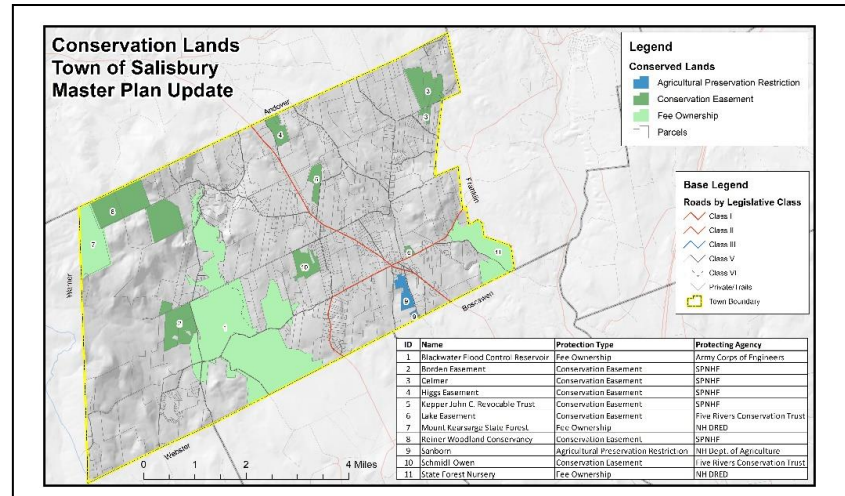
Maplewood Ball Field on Old Turnpike Road

With the ballfield’s growing popularity and program diversity, many now refer to it as the “Maplewood Recreational Area”. In the fall, the Fire Department hosts a Halloween hay ride in the field. In 2016, an Eagle Scout completed a project that included building and installing picnic tables for the field. Maplewood continues to grow in terms of both facilities and activities.

CONSERVATION AREAS

Eleven (11) conservation land areas cover over 5,100 acres (20% of total land area) in Town. Various agencies such as the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF), Five Rivers Conservation Trust and NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (NHDRED) oversee conservation easements and protected property in Town as shown in Figure 8.5. Some of the lands are deeded to the Town and others are owned by private property owners who have conservation easements on their land managed by one of these agencies. Private trails on conservation land have the potential for public usage with landowner agreement. The Blackwater Flood Control Reservoir Land which encompasses Town roads could be a location where recreation is possible during low-flow times.

Figure 8.5: Conservation Land in Salisbury



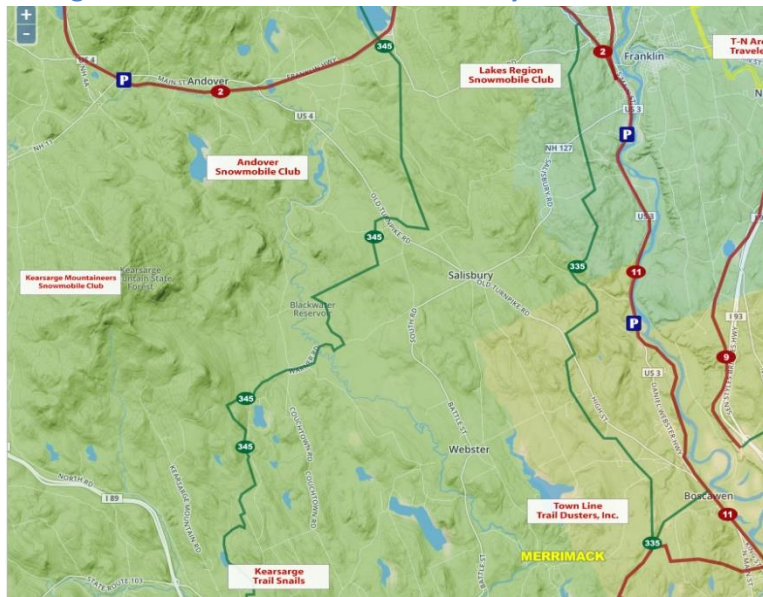
Source: Conservation Map from Natural Features Chapter, May 2017

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The Blackwater River Flood Control Reservoir land owned and operated by the Army Corps of Engineers Land was separated from this list.

Some of the public and conservation properties contain non-motorized trails. Winter snowmobile trails are managed by the Kearsarge Trail Snails who maintain trail #345 running from Franklin to Warner. The trail crosses US 4 to follow much of Warner Road from the Blackwater Reservoir into Warner as depicted in Figure 8.6:

Figure 8.6: Winter Snowmobile Trail System in the Area



Source: NH Snowmobile Association Interactive Mapper, May 2017

The Conservation Commission is currently developing a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) which will identify, examine, and prioritize natural features. These include wetlands, vernal pools, soils, wildlife, endangered plants and natural communities, water bodies, and more. The NRI will also help identify future conservation lands, some of which should be suitable for public recreational trails.

RECREATION COMMISSION

As described earlier, the Recreation Commission has many responsibilities for a variety of annual programs and the maintenance of Maplewood Ballfield.

Table 8.14: Recreation Budget Expenditures, 2011-2016

Year	Recreation Department Spending	Total Town Budget (Expended)	% of Town Budget (Expended)	Per Capita - 1,394 (2015 estimate)
2011	\$1,492	\$1,082,505	0.13%	\$1.07
2012	\$1,345	\$1,004,307	0.13%	\$0.96
2013	\$1,049	\$1,074,507	0.10%	\$0.75
2014	\$1,460	\$1,058,429	0.14%	\$1.05
2015	\$3,113	\$1,149,895	0.27%	\$2.23
2016	\$2,543	\$1,248,633	0.20%	\$1.82

Source: Town Reports 2011-2016

From Table 8.14, the Recreation Commission is provided with a very small operating budget which has grown by nearly \$1,000 since 2011 to reach about \$2,500 in 2016. The equivalent spent for recreation was \$1.82 per capita last year. The Commission, with lots of volunteers and fundraisers, successfully produces fun recreational programs for residents.

In addition to an annual budget for the Recreation Commission, The Town has had a Recreation Capital Reserve fund since 1987 to which voters usually allocate \$4,000 - \$5,000 per year. Most of the operating budget is allocated toward maintaining Maplewood Ballfield. The Capital Reserve Fund (balance \$12,700 in 2016) can be used for

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designated capital expenditures in the CIP such as installing a new playground and replacing the bleachers which are planned within the next year or two.

The Town Green on the Salisbury Heights campus is used for many of the events organized by the Recreation Committee.

Salisbury does not have a senior center or teen center and associated programs for each. Indoor recreation facilities available are the Elementary School gymnasium at 6 Whittemore Road, Salisbury Free Library at 651 Old Turnpike Road (US 4), Salisbury Community Church at 13 Franklin Road (NH 127) and the Salisbury Historical Society's History Museum at 651 Old Turnpike Road (US 4) (see www.salisburyhistoricalsociety.org).



Salisbury Historical Society on Old Turnpike Road

The Currier and Ives Byway Committee is both a resource and a possible partner to additional recreational sites in Salisbury.

CHAPTER RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Efficient community facilities and services that meet the needs of the public are important for maintaining and improving the quality of life in Salisbury. Each Department in Salisbury has specific needs that could include additional staff, new or expanded facilities, or equipment upgrades. It is anticipated that once each municipal Department is upgraded to meet its current needs, it is unlikely that any significant expansions thereafter will be needed for the foreseeable future. An increase in development would likely have a heavy impact on the existing Town services and infrastructure, which may not be able to accommodate much future growth without facilities expansion and staffing increases. The following are a list of recommendations that the Town should implement to improve Town and School services and facilities.

- Maintain highest priority roads and drainage locations.
- Work with the Currier & Ives Scenic Byway Committee to assist in their efforts to preserve and enhance NH 127.
- Establish a regular cycle of repairing these paved roads built into the Town budget through CIP allocation.
- Purchase a brush chipper (CIP) for the Highway Department.
- Consider the placement of dry hydrants in strategic locations in Town where development density is highest.
- Replace the Ambulance (in CIP).
- Continue training of Fire and Rescue members at appropriate seminars.

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- Maintain, repair and/or replace cisterns at North and Center Road (in CIP) and the various dry hydrants in Town.
- Re-examine the need of the community for a locally staffed Police Department.
- Upgrade Academy Hall staff computers and software to enable the most compatible recordkeeping systems at Academy Hall.
- Maintain the Town buildings on “Salisbury Heights” and preserve the historic campus and Town Green.
- Increase the number of events to promote the Town Hall and other facilities as a community destination for residents of all ages.
- Continue technology upgrades for public use computers and electronic library circulation.
- Continue fulfilling the Library’s circulation needs and meeting the interests of the community, adding programs to support user activities.
- Undertake Transfer Station building repairs (CIP).
- Purchase a compactor to facilitate recycling capacity (CIP).
- Host an annual household hazardous waste collection.
- Undertake electrical improvements at the Transfer Station (CIP).
- Use the recycling revenue to make staffing and infrastructure improvements to the Transfer Station.
- Undertake security upgrades at the Salisbury Elementary School per the MVSD Capital Improvements Plan.
- Undertake Salisbury Elementary School bathroom renovations, generator installation, and other planned improvements.
- Continue to monitor school enrollment trends and develop a plan to handle future decline of students
- Continue cemetery maintenance and repair.
- Deter vandalism of graves and headstones at the cemeteries in Town.
- Continue researching the Searles Hill Cemetery for historical preservation.
- Review the potential of the Crossroads and Salisbury Heights to become the Town Center and a destination for residents. Town services and events regularly convene at the Town Green, Salisbury Free Library and Town Hall. This could become a cultural Village Center for the community.
- Continue the plan to utilize the Salisbury Elementary School as an emergency shelter with the forthcoming generator grant and installation. This can generate future opportunities for partnerships with the Salisbury Elementary School and possible use of additional space.

UTILITIES

Continual upgrade of utilities will provide the necessary infrastructure and technology Salisbury residents require to live, work and recreate. Many public utilities are a choice to consumers such as cellular, telephone and internet providers while other services are territory-based such as electrical and cable internet. The Town government should strive to ensure its citizens and businesses are provided with the best available utilities to enable prosperity and future development opportunities. The following are a list of

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recommendations that the Town should implement to improve Salisbury's public utilities.

- Work to ensure high-speed internet (broadband, DSL, fiber optic, etc.) coverage is available to the entire community.
- Inventory municipal buildings that may be suitable for siting of personal wireless service facilities under the provisions of RSA 12-K:10 which allows the siting of such facilities on any structure which is capable of structurally supporting the siting.
- Consider adopting policies governing the public rights-of-way for the installation of telecommunications facilities within those rights-of-way.

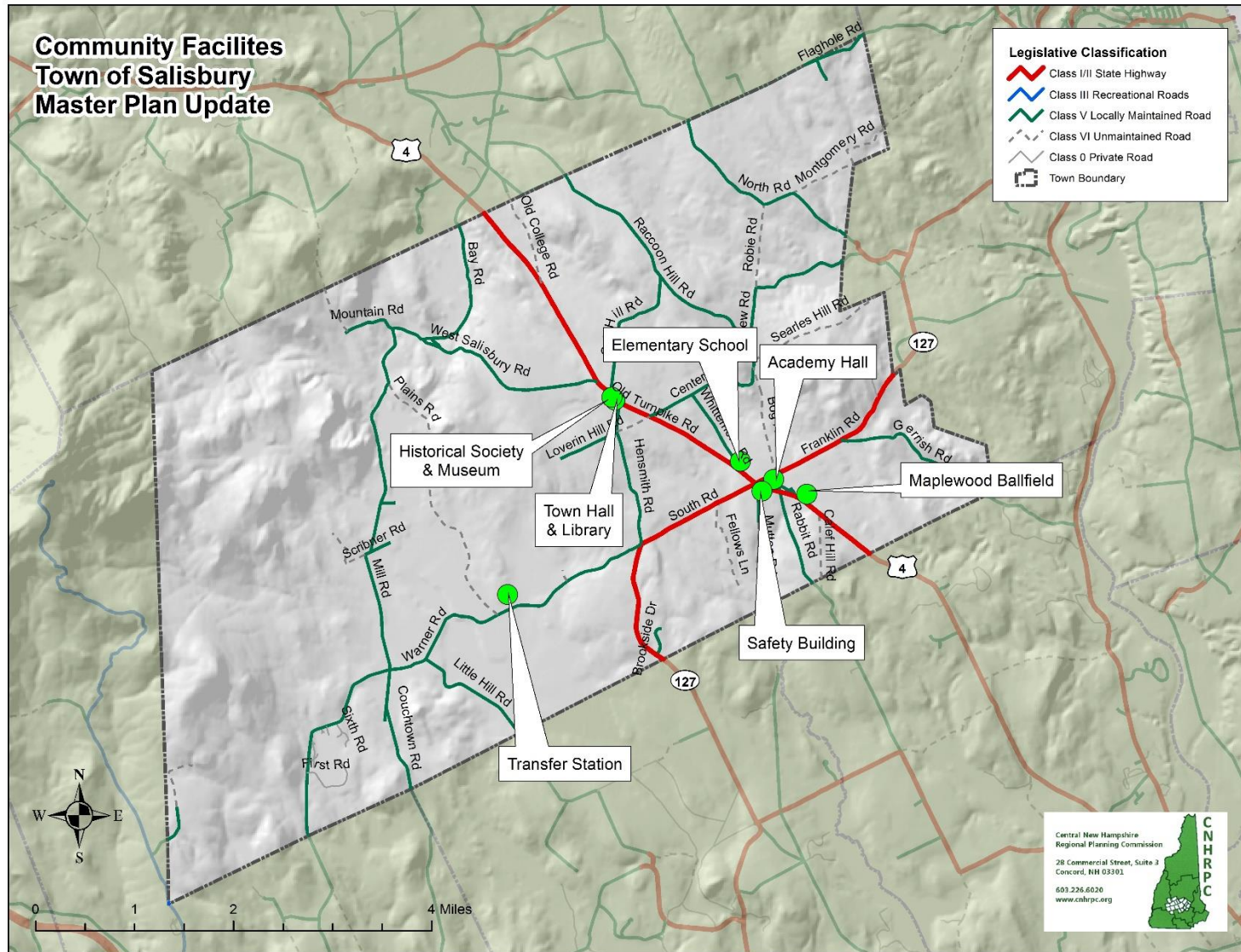
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following are a list of recommendations that the Town could implement to improve Salisbury's recreational facilities and programs.

- Research the need for and identify recreational programs of interest to teens and seniors.
- Obtain public access to the Blackwater River and other waterbodies for canoeing, swimming, fishing and related activities.
- Coordinate a meeting of the owners of conservation easements to develop a plan for appropriate public use of conservation lands.
- Promote knowledge of local trails through the development of brochures, maps and the new Town website to encourage responsible use of the Class VI road hiking trails and other public trails in Town.
- Continue improvements to the Maplewood Ballfield to create a year-round variety of recreational opportunities for all ages.

- Encourage the Recreation Committee, with assistance of the Conservation Commission to promote development of public conservation land trailhead signage, interpretive trails at natural areas, off street parking areas, etc. through fund raising drives and volunteer initiatives that further enhance the recreational experience in Salisbury.

Figure 8.7: Community Facilities Map



Source: NH DOT, NH GRANIT, Locations from Salisbury Tax Composite Map, CNHRPC