

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

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

Historically, rural communities in New Hampshire have provided limited community facilities and services. In many cases, community facilities were limited to only a Town Hall and later, public school. However, as the population of the state increased, more services have been required to meet the needs of the citizenry. Today, modern communities are expected to provide full-time police protection, fire protection, as well as highway crews, recreational facilities, and professional administrators to manage daily operations of town government.

Bradford supports the delivery of quality services that meet the needs of residents and continues to contribute to their high quality of life.

For community facilities, this chapter will inventory current town facilities, identify publicly sponsored programs, and assess current and future staffing, equipment, and facilities needs. These findings are based on information received from town representatives and board chairs who were asked to provide an assessment of their current and anticipated future needs.

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

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

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY INPUT

Community input indicates that residents of Bradford value the town’s rural character and natural resources, and many utilize the recreational opportunities these resources provide. In the Community Survey, many stated they most often visited and utilize French’s Park, the Tall Pines, Bradford Bog, Lake Todd, and Lake Massasecum. It was indicated that the majority of survey participants, approximately 64.8%, often utilize public lands for recreation between 1-25 times per year.

In both the Community Survey (see Figure 5.1) and the Visioning Session, residents were in strong support of additional walking and biking trails in town. The rail trail was strongly supported for use by residents and to draw visitors into Bradford.

In addition to recreation opportunities, both the Community Survey and Visioning Session discussed utilities within town. There was strong support for improved internet and cell phone availability. Concern was expressed for the lack of availability of these utilities, as it can affect safety, economic development and home businesses, and prevent people from moving to town.

Community Survey results indicate that the majority of residents are not supportive of the addition of town water or sewer.

Approximately 64.5% said they were not supportive of town sewer being developed, and similarly 66.7% were not supportive of town drinking water supply being developed. This point of view was echoed in the visioning session, with the exception of in the village area, where it was discussed as a draw for future economic development.

DISCUSSION OF POPULATION TRENDS

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

HISTORIC TRENDS

Bradford has grown significantly since 1970. According to the 2010 census, the population has increased by 971 people, and the number of housing units has increased by 640 units, which means that the number of people has more than doubled and the number of housing units has more than tripled. The majority of this growth took place between 1970 and 1990, as shown in table 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Community Survey Question #19

"Please indicate which of the following recreational opportunities you would like the Town to develop and/or improve."

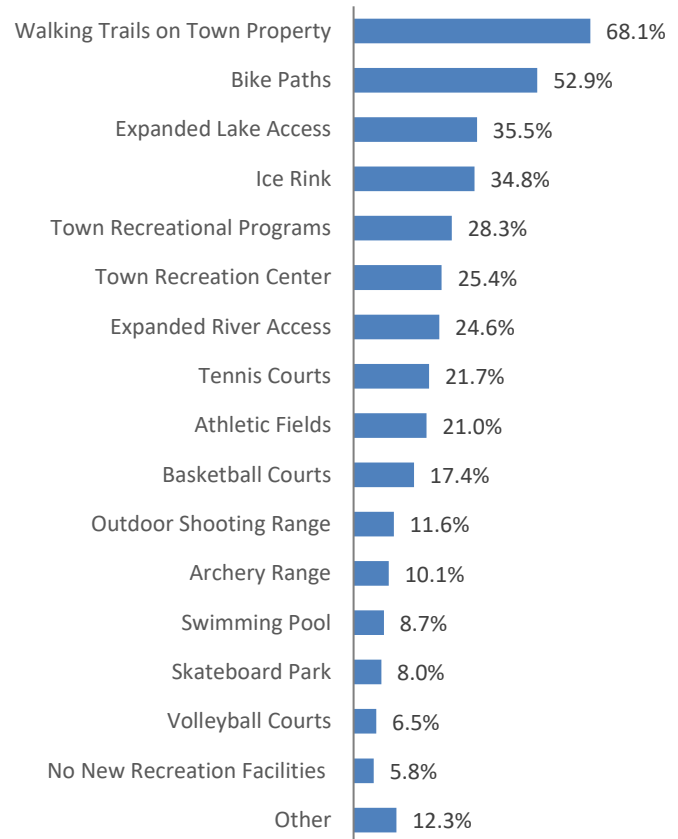


Table 5.1: Overall Population and Housing Growth Trends, 1970-2010

Year	Population	Net Change		Housing Units	Net Change	
		#	%		#	%
1970	679	NA	NA	277	NA	NA
1980	1,115	436	64.2%	520	243	87.7%
1990	1,405	290	26.0%	757	237	45.6%
2000	1,454	49	3.5%	762	5	0.7%
2010	1,650	196	13.5%	917	155	20.3%
Total Change 1970 – 2010	---	971	143.0%	---	640	231.0%

Sources: 1970 - 2010 U.S. Census

CURRENT TRENDS

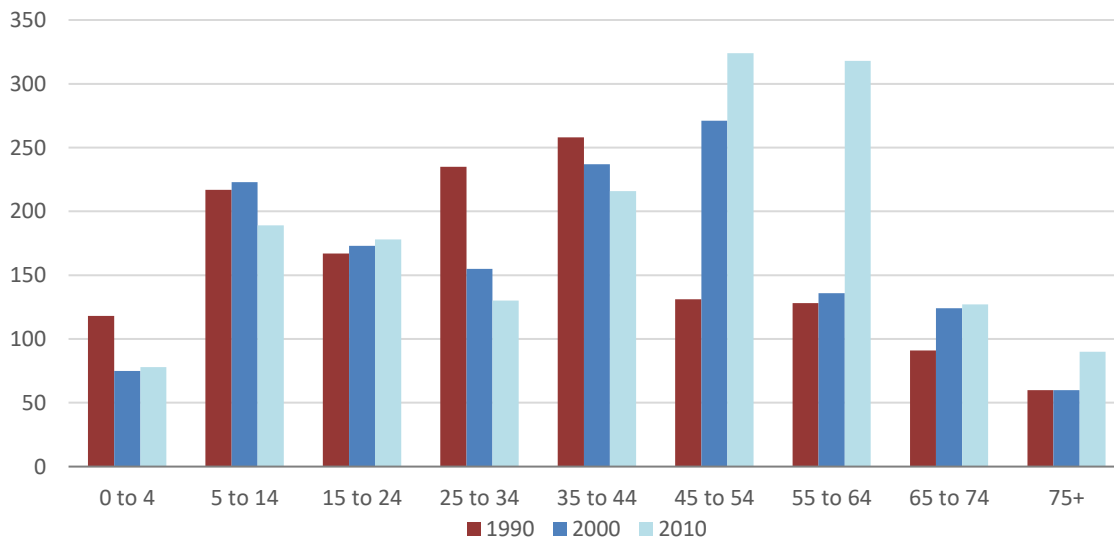
Table 5.2 shows growth experienced by Bradford and abutting communities between 2000 and 2010 and 2010 and 2018. All communities experienced growth since 2000, with the exception of Hillsborough, which experienced a decrease in population between 2010 and 2018.

Table 5.2: Population Increase of Bradford and Abutting Communities

Community	% Increase, 2000-2010	% Increase, 2010-2018
Bradford	13.5%	2.1%
Henniker	9.1%	2.8%
Hillsborough	22.0%	-0.1%
Newbury	21.7%	5.2%
Sutton	19.0%	2.3%
Warner	2.6%	2.6%
Washington	25.5%	1.6%

Source: 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census; 2018 Population Estimates by the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

Figure 5.2: Bradford’s Population by Age, 1990-2010



Source: 1990, 2000, and 2010 U.S. Census

Figure 5.2 shows Bradford’s population broken down into age groups, as shown in the Bradford Today Chapter. This reference is useful for determining the immediate needs of certain age groups, such as children and the elderly. As shown, the number of children 0-4 years of age in Bradford has dropped in the last ten years, but the number of adults 45 to 54 and 55 to 64 has grown substantially.

FUTURE PROJECTIONS

In 2018, the population of Bradford was estimated at 1,685 people by the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (NH OSI), an increase of approximately 35 residents from the 2010 Census. Population projections by NH OSI expect Bradford to experience a slightly higher increase in 2020, with a projected population of 1,707 residents. This rate of growth is expected to continue into 2040, with a projected population of 1,914 residents.

All projections should be considered subject to modification as no methodology is perfect enough to predict what an actual future count would be. Projections are based on existing trends that can modify or change suddenly. Bradford Today also notes these projections have assumptions built in that may change or modify over time, particularly as the numbers reach out to 2040.

Table 5.3: Population Projections of Bradford and Abutting Communities

Community	2010 Census	2018 Estimate	Projected Population				
			2020	2025	2030	2035	2040
Bradford	1,650	1,685	1,707	1,773	1,835	1,883	1,914
Henniker	4,836	4,970	4,976	5,124	5,305	5,442	5,533
Hillsborough	6,011	6,005	6,186	6,449	6,574	6,652	6,679
Newbury	2,072	2,179	2,272	2,425	2,510	2,576	2,618
Sutton	1,837	1,879	1,923	2,018	2,089	2,143	2,179
Warner	2,833	2,907	2,892	2,939	3,043	3,121	3,173
Washington	1,123	1,141	1,159	1,205	1,221	1,229	1,230

Source: NH Office of Strategic Initiatives: 2018 Population Estimates and Projected Populations from Sept. 2016

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

An examination of each of the town functions, and the resources needed to support those functions, will be undertaken in this section. The following information was collected by questioning each department or board concerning its staffing, equipment, and facility’s needs. Bradford’s 2017 Annual Report as well as the 2019-2029 Capital Improvements Program was also reviewed and relevant projects are mentioned under each town function.

TOWN OFFICES/TOWN HALL

The town offices, located in the Town Hall at 75 Main Street, are currently under renovation. The Selectmen’s Office and Town Clerk/Tax Collector’s Office are temporarily located at the Bradford Area Community Center (BACC). In addition, the BACC has a meeting space used by the Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA), and Building Inspector. The Town Administrator, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, ZBA Chair, and a Planning Board member provided the information below about Town Hall operations and facilities.

Many important documents and files are kept in Town Hall (and some are being kept temporarily at the

BACC), including but not limited to those dealing with assessing, licenses, elections registration, accounting, human resources, Selectman’s correspondence, budgets, contracts, and welfare administration. Some of these documents are historic in nature and are required to be kept indefinitely. Safe, climate-controlled storage space is necessary, and in the future more will be needed.

Several regular board meetings which usually take place in Town Hall including the Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and several other committees, are currently being held elsewhere (such as the BACC and the Kearsarge Elementary School). Individuals drop in to gather information on a regular basis, and this type of demand on Town Hall is expected to increase as the population grows.

Election supplies are traditionally kept at Town Hall, but currently must be stored in the BACC. The elections are temporarily held at the BACC while Town Hall is undergoing renovation. A larger space is needed, particularly for high turnout elections. Town Meeting is held at the Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in Bradford as the town does not have adequate space for such a meeting at this time.

STAFFING NEEDS

Currently the people working in Town Administration include:

- An Administrator (full-time)
- An Assessing Clerk/Accounting Clerk (full-time)
- A Town Clerk/Tax Collector (part-time)
- A Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector (part-time)
- A Planning & Zoning Secretary (approximately 20 hours a month)
- Building Inspector (part-time)

As mentioned, it is generally expected that, as the town’s population grows, there will be greater demands on all the town staff. It is also expected that more hours dedicated to assessing will be needed in the next few years. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Deputy Tax Clerk/Tax Collectors are currently part time and this meets the town’s current needs. Recent efforts to move services online and via mail, such as registration of vehicles and tax bills, has eliminated the need to adjust these positions to full time status.

The planning circuit rider and Recording Secretaries will continue to be used as needed. The Recording Secretaries who support the Selectmen, Planning, Budget and Zoning Boards/Committees are currently part time.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Town Offices are currently outfitted with typical office equipment: computers, desks, filing cabinets, etc. Parks and recreation equipment is being temporarily stored at the BACC. Future equipment needs identified by Town Hall staff and boards that use Town Hall include:

- Fire/water proof, environmentally controlled storage for all old town records
- Replacement of server and computer within the next 5 years.

A new heating system for the BACC is included in the current Capital Improvements Program.

FACILITY NEEDS

Once the Town Hall renovation is complete, staff members will have adequate file storage space and additional office space. There is little area for private conversations dealing with things such as legal, personnel or welfare issues in the current temporary facility being used. As the demand for service grows, more space will be required for additional staff and their meeting/equipment needs.

The temporary space at the BACC is fully handicap accessible. With the completion of Town Hall renovations, the facility will be handicap accessible and have expanded space for elections. Restoration of the Town Hall in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties should be a priority, as the temporary facility is not an adequate long-term solution.

At the Community Visioning Session held in June 2018, residents expressed interest in preserving Town Hall as a historic and cultural resource but also expressed the need for upgrades. The town has identified improved town offices as being a top priority.

TOWN OFFICES/TOWN HALL SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Monitor staff hours as needed to meet increasing demand.
- Implement an equipment replacement program.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

- Complete the Town Hall renovation with adequate office and storage space to meet the existing and future demand of the town, in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for the treatment of historic properties.
- Expand second floor of the Town Hall for arts, cultural, and other uses.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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

STAFFING NEEDS

Currently the people working in the Highway Department include a Road Agent (full time), a foreman/equipment operator (full time), an equipment operator/mechanic (full time), and an equipment operator (full time). The department is functioning with the existing staff level of four people. Part time staff are hired as necessary to assist with seasonal work.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Highway Department has several large pieces of equipment, most of which are in good condition. However, as with all major equipment, these items will ultimately be worn out and need to be repaired or replaced. See Table 5.4 below for details.

Table 5.4: Existing Highway Department Equipment

Name of Equipment	Type of Equipment	Condition	Anticipated Replacement Year	Priority (When needed)
2019 Ford F250	Pick-up Truck with plow	Excellent	Unknown	Low
1988 Dresser & 1986 CAT	Graders	Fair	2022	High
1983 Chipper	Machine	Fair	2023	Medium
2003 International	Dump Truck (Ten Wheel)	Fair	2026	Medium
2008 International	Dump Truck (Six Wheel)	Good	2027/2028	Medium

Source: Bradford Road Agent

Some replacement equipment for the Highway Department is already in the Capital Improvements Program. The 2019 CIP suggests the following replacements/upgrades or repairs:

- 1988 Dresses and 1986 CAT in 2022;
- 1983 Chipper in 2023;
- 2003 International and 2008 International in 2026-2028;
- Set aside funds for a new sand shed building in 2023; and
- Set aside funds for road and bridge repairs each year, including new sidewalks and paving for West Main Street.

FACILITY NEEDS

A new sand shed is needed and was accounted for in the 2019 edition of the CIP. The current shed was built over a decade ago and is in poor repair. There is a need to install a generator and LED lighting in the new highway shed.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Continue to repair or replace vehicles and machines as needed.
- Build a new sand shed.
- Install generator.
- Install LED lighting in the highway shed.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

- Work with CNHRPC to develop a Road Surface Management System Program.

SOLID WASTE/TRANSFER STATION

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

STAFFING NEEDS

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

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Manager indicated that one of the major pieces of equipment that the transfer station has, a compactor, may need to be replaced in the near future. This equipment would be paid for through funds already saved in the Revolving Recycling fund account and the manager indicated that the replacement compactor could be bought used. Since 2006, the department has purchased a bailer for paper and #1 & #2 plastics (a total of three bailers). A past Capital Improvements Program suggested replacing the 1987 tractor-loader used at the transfer station. This equipment was replaced in 2007 with a new Kubota.

FACILITY NEEDS

The transfer station staff did not indicate a need for a new facility, but will continue to maintain the present facility as needed.

TRANSFER FACILITY SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Purchase a used compactor when needed.

Long-term needs (2025-2029)

- Continue maintenance and upkeep of current transfer station buildings and equipment.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Station is located at 91 West Main Street. The Bradford Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, prevention, education, emergency medical services, and code review for the Town of Bradford.

STAFFING NEEDS

With the recent retirement of the fire chief, the Fire Department has voted to install a new part time chief. That being said, volunteers are becoming scarce and the department is far from being fully staffed. Pay on a per-call basis has been approved for future recruitment and retention, as financial incentives are necessary to entice staff to get the training required up through Firefighter Level 2 and EMS health care provider licensing.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The department is scheduled for a pumper replacement in 2020. A good portion of the funding has been secured. Replacement may be necessary for the current rescue truck within the next 10 years. Per the 2019-2029 CIP, future equipment needs over the next 10 yrs. (aside from the pumper) are forecasted as follows:

- SCBA Bottle Replacement (#1) in 2020;
- SCBA Bottle Replacement (#2) in 2021;
- SCBA Apparatus in 2025;
- Medium Rescue Fire Truck (currently 17 yrs. old) in 2028; and
- Forestry Truck (currently 17 yrs. Old) in 2026.

FACILITY NEEDS

The Fire Station building is currently 36 yrs. old, is in good repair and has had upgrades including a recently upgraded alarm system. The furnace will likely need to be replaced within the next 10 years and the driveway is in need of immediate replacement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Replacement of Fire Department driveway.
- Replace pumper.
- Replace SCBA Bottles.
- Recruitment and training of staff.

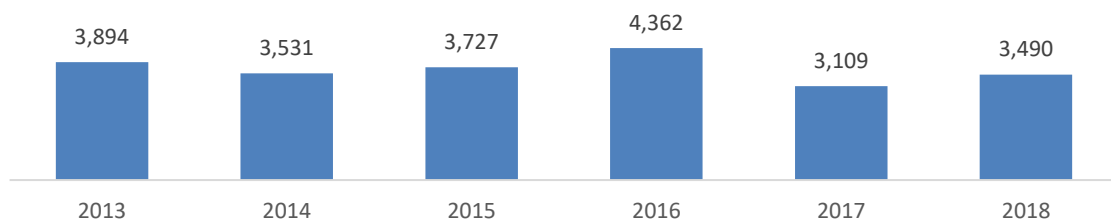
Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

- SCBA apparatus replacement.
- Medium rescue fire truck replacement.
- Forestry truck replacement.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located on Route 114 in the Bradford Corners Complex. Figure 5.3 shows the number of incidents handled by the Police Department over the past five years. In 2018, the Department handled 3,490 calls.

Figure 5.3: Number of Police Department Incidents, 2013-2018



Source: Bradford Annual Reports

STAFFING NEEDS

Currently, the department has one part time police chief, three full time officers, four part time officers, and one secretary. This is currently adequate for the department's needs.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

It was identified that the department's radios will be replaced over the next 3-5 years. The department should continue to replace equipment and vehicles on a staggered schedule so to reduce the annual cost impact to taxpayers. The town should continue to utilize the department's Capital Reserve Funds with annual deposits so as to help offset the amount funded through taxes.

FACILITY NEEDS

The Police Department currently rents their existing facility, though it does not meet the needs of the

department. The station does not have proper space for interrogation, interviews, private meetings, or keeping suspects in custody. It also lacks needed technology and equipment, such as security cameras. A new facility is expected to cost \$310,000. This is a high priority for the department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Need new police facility.
- Stagger purchase of new cruisers and other equipment.
- Radio/communications update.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

- Replace department radios.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

STAFFING NEEDS

The library is currently staffed by a librarian (part-time), four library assistants, and a custodian. Since the last Master Plan update in 2006, the library has expanded its hours to include being open on Monday from 10AM-6PM, Wednesday 11AM-7PM, Friday 10AM-6PM, and Saturday 9AM-1PM.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The library is not in need of equipment at this time. The building and the collection make up the bulk of the library’s resources; equipment is not a major issue for the library. However, the automation of the cataloging system is a future priority.

FACILITY NEEDS

The library currently consists of approximately 120 square feet of office space, 2,000 square feet of storage space and 2,880 square feet of space for the collection. Since the last Master Plan update, the library finished the existing basement space to make room for more storage and collections. Future needs include digitizing/automating the library’s catalogue system as well as usual building maintenance and upkeep.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Implement an automated cataloguing system.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029) - None at this time.

KEARSARGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1978, the Bradford Historical Society seeks to collect, preserve, and display information and artifacts from the town’s past and present. The society intends to promote a better understanding of Bradford’s history through research preservation, and education.

STAFFING NEEDS

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

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

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

FACILITIES NEEDS

The Bradford Historical Society owns and maintains four buildings in Bradford, including the Tin Shop, Smithy, and Old Post Office on East Main Street, as well as the 1793 Center Schoolhouse at Bradford Center. The Society uses the “Tin Shop” as their headquarters and meeting space. They group continues to work towards converting the Old Post Office into a new meeting facility, which has been retrofitted with a new foundation and roof. Additional work is planned to bring the building into ADA compliance, including a handicapped rest room, entrance ramp, and parking.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Purchase a better computer and software.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

- Arrange for better storage, display, and meeting space.

CEMETERIES

Bradford has 18 cemeteries as shown in Table 5.5. These cemeteries are important community facilities since many are still active. Funding cemetery upkeep is an important town function because the cemeteries are both active burial facilities and historical resources. A Cemetery Commission manages the upkeep of the cemeteries; records burials, lot purchases, and perpetual care; and maps interments. The Cemetery Commission does not have equipment or facilities needs at this time, but funds are always needed for cemetery upkeep.

Table 5.5: Public and Private Cemeteries

Cemetery Name	Earliest Burial	Number of Graves	Location
Sunny Plain	1922	663 burials – 308 lots	Old Warner Road
Union	1848	232 burials – 82 lots	Route 103 & Blaisdell Lake Road

Table 5.5: Public and Private Cemeteried (Continued)

Cemetery Name	Earliest Burial	Number of Graves	Location
New Pond	1854	382 burials -82 lots	Massasecum Lake Road
Old Pond	1816	39 burials – 39 lots	Route 114
Pleasant Hills	1871	804 burials – 189 lots	West Main Street
Baptist Church	1812	293 burials – 98 lots	West Main Street
Old Burial Ground	1801	166 burials – 97 lots	Beside Bradford Center Meeting House
Presbury	1823	283 burials – 94 lots	Center Road
Durrell	1836	6 burials – 6 lots	East Washington Road
Eaton	1833	11 burials – 11 lots	West Road
Bagley/Hadley	1841	8 burials – 6 lots	Sunset Hill
Dr. Ames	1834	6 burials – 1 lot	Bradford Pines
Burial Hill	1797	57 burials – 52 lots	Center Road
Marshall	1821	17 burials – 15 lots	Pleasant Valley Road
Howlett	1846	19 burials – 19 lots	Howlett Road
Cummings Pierce	1843	11 burials – 11 lots	Pierce Road
Colby	1848	8 burials – 8 lots	Day Pond Road
Offin French	1827	1 burial – 1 lot	Jewett Road
Smith	1854	Unknown	West Road

Source: Bradford Planning Board

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Parks and Recreation Committee and the Bradford Area Community Center provide many recreation opportunities in Bradford. Examples of activities sponsored by the town include: swim lessons, a 5K road race, and an adult softball league. In addition to these events, the Town of Bradford has several recreational sites that are described below.

STAFFING NEEDS

Currently, there are approximately 10 regular volunteers who assist with parks and recreation activities. Since the last Master Plan, the town no longer has a part time Parks and Recreation Director or a part-time attendant at French’s Park. There are no plans to add additional staff at this time.

EQUIPMENT NEEDS

The Parks and Recreation function of the town has limited office space that is shared with other committees and departments in the Bradford Area Community Center. Equipment is stored in two closets at the Bradford Area Community Center, at the Police Department, and at volunteers’ houses. If the Parks and Recreation Director position was reestablished, additional office space would be needed. It is anticipated that additional space will become available in the Bradford Area Community Center once the Town Hall Restoration is completed, and offices currently located in the Bradford Area Community Center relocate to the Town Hall.

INDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDS

Indoor recreational facilities are important to communities as they afford sheltered recreational opportunities to residents all year. Such facilities provide important places for year-round social interaction, which helps to foster a sense of community. Bradford’s primary indoor recreation facility is the Bradford Area Community Center at 134 East Main Street. The building is an old school that was

renovated approximately fifteen years ago. The building is made up of several meeting spaces and also has a small kitchen. Current improvements and maintenance have been done on an as-needed basis by volunteers.

The Center offers both recreational and social programs. Recreational activities include: yoga classes, bridge, painting, driving lessons and children’s play group programs. The Community Action Program use the facility and the building is available for public meetings and events with permission. The building is owned by the Town of Bradford but managed by the Bradford Area Community Center Board. Several volunteers assist with programs at the center.

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

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDS

Like indoor recreational facilities, outdoor recreational facilities are very important to communities as they also provide a place to exercise and interact. Bradford has many quality outdoor recreation facilities providing locations for water sports, hunting, hiking, and skiing. Lake Massasecum and Lake Todd provide great opportunities for water recreation. For winter sports, two ski areas are within a 15 minute drive. There are also several town-owned parks and recreation sites. Town-owned outdoor recreation facilities include:

- **Brown Shattuck Park** - Located just off the south end of East Main Street, this four acre park contains a softball field, basketball courts, and concession stand.
- **French’s Park** - Located on the western shore of Lake Massasecum off State Route 114, this park contains a public picnic area, a swing set, and public beach for town residents.
- **Lake Massasecum Boat Ramp** – Located off Route 114 on Massasecum Lake Road, this ramp provides free public boat access to the lake.
- **Bradford Bog** - Located near the Washington town line on Washington Road, this 60-acre tract is preserved and maintained by the Bradford Conservation Commission. The Commission has built walkways and encouraged public enjoyment of the site. Printed guides are available at the Town Offices.
- **Bradford Springs** - Located on East Washington Road, this old hotel and spa site is maintained by the Bradford Conservation Commission and the Bradford Historical Society. Remnants of the old hotel and spring can be seen on the site.
- **Other conservation lands** - the Bradford Conservation Commission has actively pursued purchasing land and arranging conservation easements for public enjoyment and resource preservation. Conserved land that can be enjoyed by the public includes Pearl Town Forest, the Blitzer Easement, and Aiken Pasture/Town Forest. A full list of conservation lands is included in the Natural Resources Chapter.
- **The Marshall Property** - The Marshall Property is a 20 + acre lot on East Main Street adjacent to the Community Center. The town owns the parcel and for several years residents have worked to determine the best use for the land. Part of the land is currently under monitoring for

groundwater testing and improvements. Currently the Bradford Historical Society owns and maintains three buildings on the property, the 2008 “Smithy”, the “Tin Shop” and the Old Post Office. An additional 3.6 acre portion of this property is overseen by the Historical Society as a historic village area. As of 2019, the property now offers a network of trails, developed and maintained by the Kearsarge Area Trail Association, for recreational use.

Bradford also has two state recreation areas: Low State Forest and the Bradford Pines Natural Area. Low State Forest consists of approximately 975 acres of natural area in the southern part of town. The Bradford Pines Natural Area is approximately 5 acres and contains some of the state’s oldest and largest pines. Another non-town sponsored recreational facility is the Bradford/Newbury Youth Sports field, located across Old Warner Road from the elementary school. Softball and soccer fields are located at the site.

A storage building is needed to house materials and equipment for park maintenance. This includes a lawnmower, snow blower, and other equipment. Currently, these materials are stored at the Highway Department’s garage and are taking up space that is need by the Highway Department. The addition of a water source could be beneficial at Brown Shattuck Park. The addition of water would provide the opportunity to create a restroom facility at this location.

It should also be remembered that the number of children in Bradford 0-4 years of age dropped between 1990 and 2010, while the number of people 55 to 74 years of age grew. Thus, when considering future recreation needs, the town may want to consider activities and resources for this older population.

REVIEW OF RECREATIONAL FISCAL RESOURCES

In 2018, Bradford spent a total of \$0.53 per capita on recreation, as presented in Table 5.6. This is a dramatic decrease over the amount spent per capita in 1990, which was \$2.22, and in 2010, which was \$7.24.

Table 5.6: Recreation Expenditures per Capita Comparison

Year	Parks & Recreation Expenditures	Population	Expenditure per Capita
1990	\$3,127	1,405	\$2.22
2000	\$10,525	1,454	\$7.24
2010	\$490	1,650	\$0.30
2018	\$885	1,685	\$0.53

Sources: 1990 US Census; 2000 US Census; Town Reports; 2018 Population estimate from the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

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

RECREATION FACILITIES NEEDS SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024)

- Create a storage building to house materials and equipment for park maintenance.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

→ Staff the Parks and Recreation Department as needed to fit the needs of the town.

SOURCES FOR FINANCING FACILITY NEEDS AND IMPROVEMENTS

CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS

Capital reserve funds are similar to savings accounts, as they allow the town to contribute money to a specific account for the purpose of purchasing or defraying the cost of significant items such as school additions, highway equipment, fire trucks, and municipal facilities. Capital Reserve Funds are the most appropriate mechanism for funding future town needs.

BONDS

Bonding is a popular method of raising revenue to construct or purchase town equipment and facilities. Though viable, the town should avoid encumbering too much debt, as it can limit the ability of the town to purchase future, unidentified needs.

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS

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

REGIONAL CO-OPS AND SHARED FACILITIES

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

LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

Fees, such as building permits, zoning applications, and planning board subdivision and site plan fees are all examples of permit fees. Such fees are highly equitable and are successful for minimizing the burden on taxpayers for specific programs.

USER FEES

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

GRANTS-IN-AID

New Hampshire communities are eligible for various grants in aid for financing school construction and improvements. Examples include:

- Foundation Aid to help schools provide minimum education
- Building Aid
- Area Vocational School Tuition and Transportation Aid
- Handicap Education Aid
- Sweepstakes Aid
- Nutrition Grants
- Driver Education

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS / TRUSTS

For years, communities have been the beneficiaries of trusts and donations created by private citizens and foundations. The town should actively solicit such resources for assistance regarding the development or expansion of recreational facilities and programs.

SALE OF SURPLUS TOWN PROPERTY AND LAND

Sale of town-owned property is another viable option for raising funds to pay for new community facilities. Parcels that should be liquidated include those that have no significant conservation or cultural value, or limited potential for future community facilities.

VOLUNTEERS

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

UTILITIES

Utilities are essential services that are delivered to residents through private companies. Population, density, and usage are driving forces which determine the level of services a municipality requires. This section will examine the current conditions of the utilities in Bradford and propose measures to enhance or expand services if necessary.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

TDS Telecom provides telephone service in Bradford. TDS is a subsidiary of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. Since 1969, TDS has been providing high-speed internet, TV packages and phone service to customers in hundreds of rural and suburban communities nationwide. Local services that TDS telecom provides to Bradford residents are: local and long-distance phone service, TV service, and high-speed internet.

Cellular telephone service is provided by a number of carriers depending on location. The key issue related to cellular phone service is proximity to cellular towers. Bradford currently

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWN FACILITIES IN BRADFORD

During the late 2000's, Bradford received funding from the NH Office of Energy and Planning, now known as the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives, to conduct an energy audit and assess energy efficiency and renewable energy investments that Bradford could undertake as part of a cost effective, energy management plan for municipal buildings and infrastructure. The report, completed in 2011 by Peregrine Energy Group, summarized the following items:

- Air sealing, targeted insulation, and storm windows would reduce energy consumption for heating in the Town Hall.
- New heating systems would reduce energy consumption for heating in the Town Hall and the Community Center.
- New seven-day thermostats and a revised ventilation system schedule would reduce energy consumption for heating in the Community Center.

Recommended next steps as outlined in the report included to select which measures the Town would like to process with and establish an implementation schedule.

- Authorize further engineering activity, if necessary, to develop detailed specifications and/or generate more accurate savings projections.
- Develop request for proposal documents and/or select preferred air sealing, insulation, and mechanical and controls vendors.
- Secure quotes for projects and select controls, insulation, air sealing, mechanical, and lighting contractors.

has one tower located in town for the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office, and as of 2019, also provides cellular phone service. Cellular phone service can also be accessed through towers in neighboring towns though service remains scattered depending on one's location in Bradford.

BROADBAND

Broadband capabilities are provided by TDS Telecom. Both fiber and DSL access are available to customers (availability varies by location). Other choices for Bradford residents include satellite internet, such as HughesNet and Viasat, and mobile internet, such as U.S. Cellular, Verizon, AT&T, and Sprint.

CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION

IDTV television is provided through TDS Telecom. Unlike receiving television programming through satellite or cable, IDTV (internet protocol television) streams television through an internet connection. Another option is for residents to subscribe to a satellite television network, such as DirectTV.

ELECTRICITY

Electrical service in Bradford is provided by Eversource, which covers the entire geographic area of town. Most recently in 2017, Eversource provided electric service to approximately 515,000 retail customers in 211 cities and towns in New Hampshire.

PUBLIC WATER AND SEWER

There is no public water or sewer service in Bradford. All development uses wells and septic systems. Eventually, the town may find public water and sewer to be a necessary mechanism for focusing growth and encouraging economic development.

UTILITIES NEEDS SUMMARY

Short-term needs (2020 to 2024) –None at this time.

Long-term needs (2025 to 2029)

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

SUMMARY

The recommendations made in this chapter address some of the changes that could potentially be made to community facilities to help maintain a high level of service over the upcoming years. Many of the recommendations include additional staff, new or expanded facilities, or equipment upgrades. Although many of these requests have already been planned for, Bradford should be proactive in its financing and planning to ensure that community services remain at their current level of quality and that the residents are not burdened with large tax increases to pay for such services all at once. In the future, community facilities will continue to play a crucial role in Bradford's ability to attract potential newcomers as well as retain current residents.