

# COMMUNITY AND 5 RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITH UTILITIES



## TOPICS INCLUDE:

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Understanding Pembroke's population trends

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Challenges & opportunities going forward

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Summary of community facilities

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Inventory of recreational facilities & utilities

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*This section focuses on Pembroke's community facilities, town services, recreational facilities, and utilities. This section also identifies several challenges and opportunities and discusses recent population trends.*

*As the population and demographics of the community grow and change over time, understanding these changes are important so adjustments can be made to meet the needs of the community. In order to provide community services in an efficient and effective manner, the town must assess its current and future needs in order to anticipate future demands and services for the various departments and recreational resources. Keeping the shared vision of preserving the town's highly valued rural character while providing modern services to residents and businesses is what creates Pembroke's unique sense of place and makes Pembroke a desirable place to live.*

*This section's brief overview of the town's current community facilities, recreational resources, and utilities is not considered an all-inclusive inventory. Readers should refer to town officials for additional information or with specific questions.*

## Pembroke is...

a community that strives to sustain its high level of community services that adequately serves residents of all ages. We take pride in our town owned and operated services, facilities, and departments and support the improvement or expansion of services as necessary to continue to enhance Pembroke's quality of life. Residents continue to serve and volunteer on town boards and committees while working closely with town staff to provide fiscally responsible planning for future facilities and services for the years to come.

## WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID...

Participants in the Pembroke public outreach process demonstrated their appreciation of the town's rural character, community services, and current and potential recreation opportunities. Throughout the community survey and in the visioning session, residents indicated many strengths in the community, including Memorial Field, White Sands Beach, the Library, recreation department, police, and ambulance service. They also indicated several opportunities in the community, with several identifying additional recreational opportunities, specifically mentioning the development of a rail trail and additional parks/park-related amenities (better signage, welcome gate, etc.).

The following tables briefly summarize comments and input received throughout the public outreach process. Results of these engagement opportunities provide a direction for the objectives and recommendations identified in this chapter.

**Table 9.1: Residents Ranked the Following Features for their Importance:**

Identified Feature	Important	Somewhat Important
Small Town/Rural Atmosphere	76%	19%
Location	72%	24%
Natural Resources & Open Space	70%	24%
Town Services	62%	33%
Public Parks & Town Forests	59%	32%
Rivers	57%	32%
Community & Recreational Facilities	53%	38%

*Source: Pembroke Master Plan Community Survey, 2017*

**Table 9.2: Residents Ranked the Following Features for their Importance to Provide, Expand, Improve, or Invest:**

Identified Feature	Important	Somewhat Important
Road Maintenance Services	69%	27%
Paramedic Services	69%	25%
Fire Department	68%	25%
Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling	68%	25%
Police Department	66%	26%
Athletic Fields (Memorial Field)	52%	36%
Public Green Spaces & Parks	56%	30%
Recreational Trails- Non-motorized	51%	36%
Beautification of Public Spaces	50%	37%
Hazardous Waste Disposal	50%	36%

*Source: Pembroke Master Plan Community Survey, 2017*

Themes that can be identified from the visioning session and community survey include:

- Importance of maintaining the high level of current community services, including the library, first responders and public works;
- Value of current recreational facilities, including Memorial Field and White Sands Beach;
- Support for acquisition of conservation lands for recreation purposes (i.e. trails, public parks, and recreational fields) throughout town and including the Merrimack River rail bed;
- Interest in the encouragement of renewable energy including the installation of solar, natural gas, and wind facilities; and
- Desire for increased communication regarding community events and happenings (including on the town's website).

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### MEETING THE NEED: BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Meeting building and facility needs is often a challenge for municipalities, as facility needs often change over time as a department’s needs change or as the use of the facility changes. Budgets for regular maintenance, building additions, or new construction are not always immediately available and funding can be difficult to secure or may require a bond. As the service population and number of services provided continues to grow, additional office, meeting, training, and storage space may soon be needed in various community owned buildings.

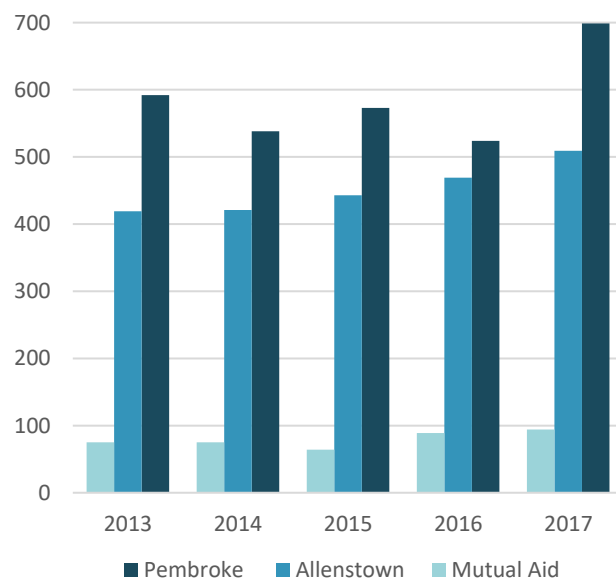
In 2005, the town finished construction of the Public Safety Center, a modern, safe, efficient, and effective facility that services both the police and fire departments and Tri-Town EMS. It is anticipated that additional training space will be needed in the future, where EMS and CPR courses can be held and training aids can be set up for staff to practice their skills. Additionally, a new building will be needed to replace the storage building used by the public works department.

To ensure building and facility needs are met, future and anticipated needs should be included in the town’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and updated on an annual basis. This planning tool can assist in the town’s process of financially preparing for large purchases so to lessen the impact on the tax rate. Capital Reserve Funds can also be used in planning of future and anticipated facility needs. Currently Pembroke has a Municipal Facilities Capital Reserve Fund and an Energy Efficiency Capital Reserve Fund that is contributed to yearly by residents at town meeting and can be used for various building and facility needs. For repairs at Memorial Field, a Recreation Capital Reserve Fund is utilized.

### MEETING THE NEED: STAFFING AND PERSONNEL

In addition to building and facility needs, staffing and personnel needs are also often a challenge for municipalities. Responsibilities and positions can vary, often relying on funding and the need for the position. However, as the population continues to grow and needs of the population change, additional staff may be needed. Future call volume and availability of on-call personnel may require additional staff for police, fire, and EMS response. The public works department also anticipates needing an additional two full time employees in the next ten years. Also anticipated, two additional employees may be needed to cover the duties currently held by the Town Administrator and two full time seasonal employees in the sewer department.

Figure 5.1: Annual Call Volume for Tri-Town EMS



Source: Pembroke Annual Reports

Staff should continue to participate in regular and annual trainings to stay up to date on procedures and materials. Many of the departments are responsible for various highly technical procedures which require very regular training. Tri-Town EMS has extended the services they provide to not only traditional 911 calls, but also other services which were historically performed by visiting nurses and nursing homes. Department of public works employees regularly participate in trainings related to workplace hazards and safety measures, equipment operation and product application procedures, and environmental concerns.

### MEETING THE NEED: EQUIPMENT & VEHICLES

Maintaining equipment and vehicles that are adequate for a department's needs can be a challenge. Funding for the purchase of new or replacement equipment is not always immediately available and funding can be difficult to secure, especially for higher price items that are not included in annual operating budgets. In many cases, equipment can become outdated and perform below expectations, caused by both wear and tear and technology advances over time. It is also important to consider the purchase of new equipment and vehicles (not just replacement items) as needed by departments. New items contribute to providing a high level of service to the community, but can require additional costs above and beyond the costs associated with existing vehicle and equipment maintenance and replacement.

To be prepared for expected and unexpected purchases, the town should continue to utilize deposits in Capital Reserve Funds annually at town meeting. Currently, Pembroke has Capital Reserve Funds directly related to equipment for the fire, public works, sewer, water, and police departments.

Departments should also continue to participate in annual updates of Pembroke's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to lessen the annual impact on taxpayers. The most current CIP has equipment and vehicle expenditures for the fire, ambulance (Tri-Town EMS), police, and public works departments. That being said, a municipal improvement as defined in the CIP is an expenditure of \$10,000 or more, thus not including expenditures under \$10,000. These items should also be considered, in addition to items included in the CIP, in planning for future equipment and vehicle needs.

### AGING POPULATION

While an aging population is certainly a national and statewide trend, US Census data clearly shows that the trend of an aging population is also present in Pembroke. In the past decade there has been a dramatic shift in the makeup of the population, with the number of residents forty-five and over experiencing a steady increase compared to the modest changes in the younger population. The shift towards an older population with fewer younger adults in the region has many potential impacts, including challenges with transportation, fewer school age children attending schools, and fewer younger adults available to volunteer positions in town.

Recreational needs of the older population should continue to be considered as the population ages. Providing accessible year-round outdoor and indoor recreation opportunities for older residents as they age in place is important, as more and more residents continue to stay in New Hampshire year round. Recreation opportunities include (but are not limited to) trail systems, town parks and fields,

conservation lands and forested areas, and waterbodies. Recreational resources are described in more detail later in this chapter.

### DEVELOPMENT OF A RAIL TRAIL

Pembroke has an opportunity for a rail trail along an abandoned railroad bed that once connected Suncook Village to Concord and Manchester. The route parallels the Merrimack River and Pembroke Street from the Suncook River, Suncook Village and Memorial Field north to White Sands Recreation area and the Soucook River at the Concord line. In between are scenic fields and woodlands, with an access point at Bow Lane.

Rail Trails have become increasingly popular over the last decade or more as they provide a relatively flat, wide, and accessible surface for non-motorized transportation and recreation. They are increasingly seen as an economic development opportunity, making towns more desirable places to live and work and drawing in visitors from near and far. This trail also has the opportunity to become part of a larger network of connected multi-use trails spanning much of the state. The proposed Granite State Rail Trail would link up local rail trails along abandoned railroad corridors to form a 115 mile long trail from Salem to Lebanon, plus additional connecting trails. The Granite State Rail Trail is largely completed north of Concord, as well as several miles of trail from Manchester south. Pembroke's trail would energize efforts to complete the Manchester to Concord connection.

Support for the trail was apparent at the Community Visioning Session and in the Community Survey. There appears to be relatively little support for wintertime snowmobile use on the corridor, however additional discussions and potential strategic partnerships should be considered before making a determination. Outreach has indicated little to no support for ATV or OHRV use on the corridor due to various neighborhood and environmental concerns and the impact they may have on the trail surface and other trail users.

Additional information on the development of a rail trail is described in the Transportation Chapter.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTER

Public input gathered in the development of this master plan demonstrated support for a community center that would provide a place for social and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. A community center could provide a place for after-school programs, various adult/senior programs, and indoor recreational opportunities. Gatherings could include exercise and yoga classes, art lessons, bridge and bingo groups, guest speaker series, as well as an additional meeting space for town boards and committees. A community center would also be a valuable asset to the town as an amenity that might attract economic development. Existing town-owned buildings could be looked at for potential sites.

### PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

The availability of parking in Suncook Village has been identified as a key issue. An analysis of parking utilization was undertaken by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) in Summer/Fall 2018, including the use of both on-street and municipal lot spaces. A total of 127 spaces were identified within the Suncook Village area, with 59 on-street spaces and the remainder in off-street lots. The survey noted that overall use ranged from 35% to 55% at any given time during the day.

In addition to reviewing the use of public parking spaces, CNHRPC also reviewed the hours that parking is enforced throughout the Village. Parking restrictions along Main Street and in the Village Center are currently in place between 6am and 10pm, Monday through Saturday. The future review and possible reduction of the hours of parking enforcement may be one method to ease parking concerns in the area. Please see the Economic Development chapter for more information on Suncook Village parking.

## A COMMUNITY FACILITIES CONNECTION TO TRANSPORTATION

A number of New Hampshire communities have proposed Complete Streets projects that incorporate safety improvements, bike/pedestrian amenities such as bike lanes, safer crosswalks and pathways, and other enhancements that together can dramatically improve a specific corridor. If a complete streets approach was applied to Pembroke Road (US 3) in the future, Pembroke's main transportation corridor could be transformed to enhance both the operation and overall impression of the highway. Possible improvements could also include intersection improvements and options for traffic calming that would serve to meet the needs of all residents. For more information on complete streets please see the Transportation Chapter.



PEMBROKE STREET INTERSECTION WITH KLINE WAY

## CHAPTER OBJECTIVES & RECOMMENDATIONS

<p><b>OBJECTIVE 1</b>  <b>To inventory the present condition of the Town’s community facilities, equipment, and services.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Review this chapter annually with representatives from appropriate boards and committees to track progress and identify additional needs.</li> <li>→ Continue to have departments participate in the annual update of the Capital Improvements Program (CIP).</li> </ul>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 2</b>  <b>To maintain a high level of quality services and continue to update services.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Continue to provide timely road maintenance.</li> <li>→ Extend the town hall’s hours.</li> <li>→ Develop an after school program for teens.</li> <li>→ Offer activities, programs, and events for adults and seniors.</li> <li>→ Provide overflow parking for the town hall/library area.</li> <li>→ Evaluate sites for the location of a transfer station.</li> <li>→ Make needed improvements to Memorial Field.</li> <li>→ Continue to develop the rail trail along the abandoned railroad bed following the Merrimack River.</li> <li>→ Assess the need for replacement, repair of existing sewer lines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>OBJECTIVE 3</b>  <b>To ensure that community services, recreational resources, and utilities continue to meet the needs of the community into the future.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Identify town-owned land and land for potential acquisition by the town to locate future community facilities, including more recreation areas.</li> <li>→ Purchase land for the potential location of future community facilities.</li> <li>→ Develop new parks, recreation areas, and facilities, including an area in North Pembroke and a community center.</li> <li>→ Maintain services to sustain the current quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Pembroke as the community grows.</li> <li>→ Seek grants for community development and improvements.</li> <li>→ Expand the list of providers to provide utility options for Pembroke residents.</li> <li>→ Extend the existing sewer and water lines as needed.</li> </ul>



## POPULATION TRENDS

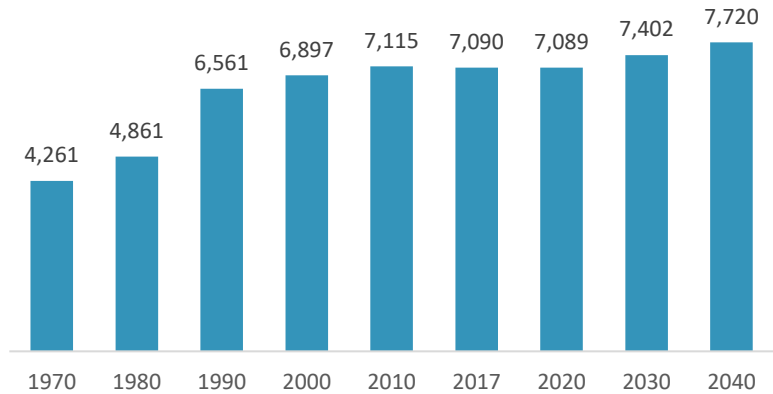
Similar to trends experienced by New Hampshire and Merrimack County, Pembroke saw a consistent, steady growth in population through the 1990s, increasing the number of residents by 50% from 1970 to 1990. However, this trend changed by the year 2000, as Pembroke was still growing but at an increasingly slower rate.

In the fall of 2016, the NH Office of Strategic Initiatives (NH OSI) released population projections through 2040 for NH communities. The projections utilized past trends and 2015 population estimates. Projections for Pembroke (shown in Figure 5.2) show a minor decrease in population in 2020, but then a continued slow rate of growth through 2030 and 2040 with a 2040 population of 7,720 residents.

More recently in August of 2018, NH OSI released 2017 population estimates for NH communities. Pembroke’s 2017 estimated population of 7,090 (shown in Figure 5.2) indicates a slight decrease in population since 2010, comparable to that predicted for 2020. However, 2017 population estimates for many other communities in NH show an increasing trend statewide, which may be more apparent in Pembroke over the next few years.

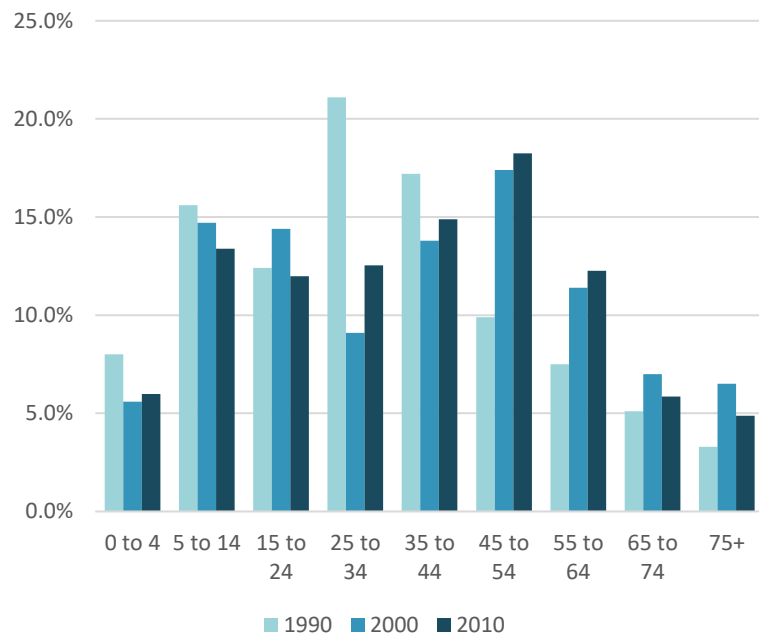
New Hampshire’s population is growing older, and Pembroke is no exception. New Hampshire experienced a large increase in births due to the baby boom post- World War II. Baby boomers now contribute to a larger adult population as they start to reach their 50’s and 60’s, causing a dramatic shift in the makeup of the population. The shift towards an older population with fewer younger adults has many potential impacts, including a decrease in the available workforce for early to mid-career

**Figure 5.2: Past and Projected Population**



Source: 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010 US Census; NH Office of Strategic Initiatives Population Projections (Sept. 2016) and 2017 Estimates

**Figure 5.3: Population by Age**



Source: 1990, 2000, 2010 US Census

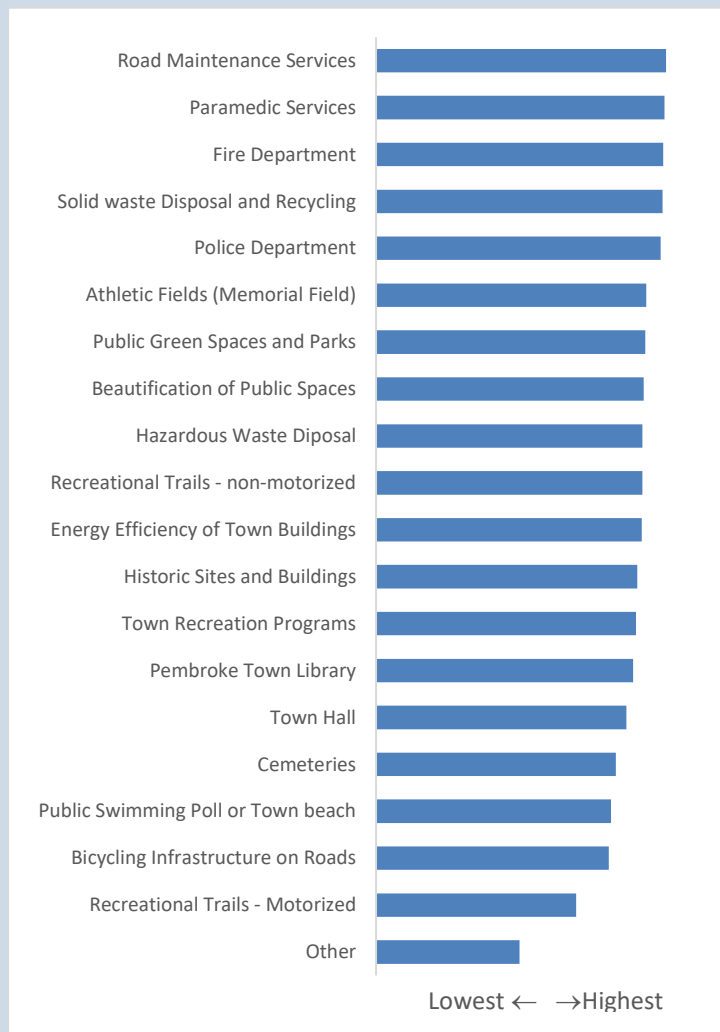
positions, fewer children attending schools, and fewer young adults available for positions on many volunteer departments and committees in town.

While it is certainly true that some older residents leave the state for retirement in the Sunbelt states, more and more of the aging population is choosing to age in place. Additionally, there is a trend of the state gaining older migrants as New Hampshire is an attractive state to retire to with a high quality of life.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID...

*“How important to you is it for the Town to provide, expand/improve or invest in these facilities and services?”*



In preparation of this chapter, each department in Pembroke which serves the population was contacted for their current equipment, staffing and facility needs. These responses are summarized below. Select community facilitates are also identified on the **Community and Recreational Facilities with Utilities Map**.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Town administration is located in the town hall at 311 Pembroke Street. The town hall was built in 1988, on the site of the old town hall that was destroyed by fire in 1964. Presently the building houses five municipal departments: Town Administration, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Planning and Land Use, and Welfare. Most town boards, committees and commissions hold their meetings in either of the two meeting rooms in the town hall.

The town hall is in excellent condition and is adequate for the needs of the department. Some upgrades are needed, like new entryway doors with weather stripping for security and energy efficiency, and an ADA accessible electronic door opener. There is a

need to increase storage capabilities for the required retention of certain documents that cannot be saved electronically. Additional technology is also needed to help with the storage and filing of documents.

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/SOLID WASTE FACILITY**

The public works department (DPW) is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 82 miles of town roads, highways and sidewalks, including snow removal, tree trimming, street sweeping, and constructing and maintaining catch basins and other town drainage infrastructure. In addition, the department is responsible for maintaining all town buildings, which includes cleaning, repairing, snow removal, and general upkeep. These duties extend to parking areas and town cemeteries. DPW also performs maintenance on vehicles and equipment for all town departments (cars, trucks, cruisers, fire apparatus, tractors, mowers, etc.). The department is located on 8 Exchange Street.

The department is responsible for solid waste and single stream recycling collection and provides curbside residential waste pick-up as well as the operation and maintenance of the Transfer Station. All solid waste and recycling generated in the town is transported to Casella Waste in Allenstown. Curbside pickup of leaves is also provided to residents during the spring. The Transfer Station is located adjacent to the highway department garage at 8 Exchange Street. The facility is open to residential users on Tuesdays and Saturdays, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The department conducts a Household Hazardous Collection Day every other year as funds are available. Provided funds are approved, the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be in the fall of 2019 at the Transfer Station.

Additionally, the department is responsible for the operation, maintenance and record keeping of the nine town owned cemeteries. Working closely with the cemetery commission, the lawns are maintained by a private landscaper and all burials are performed by a private contractor under the town's supervision.

Looking forward, it is anticipated that the department will need an additional two full time employees in addition to a new building to replace their storage Building. The department currently participates in the annual update process of the CIP where equipment needs and capital reserve fund deposits are identified.

### **CEMETERIES**

The Pembroke cemetery commission was re-formed in 1982 and serves as an advisory board to the board of selectmen. The commission devotes much of its time to assessing the needs for repairs, mainly to monuments and headstones, in the cemeteries as well as planning for cemetery improvements. Currently, the town has nine cemeteries comprising a total 16.25 acres. There is also one known private cemetery in town, although anecdotal information would suggest that more would be found upon inspection.

In addition to yearly upkeep and maintenance, the commission oversaw the survey of Evergreen Cemetery and Old North Pembroke Cemetery. This process clearly marked cemetery boundaries,

allowing space for over 200 new burial plots to be laid out. Looking forward, the commission will continue their ongoing program of monument repairs.

Funding for the cemetery commission is from the Cemetery Improvement Fund, administered by the Trustees of Trust Funds. The commission solicits contributions and bequests to the Cemetery Improvement Fund for cemetery upkeep and improvements. In addition, the commission participates in the annual update process of the CIP where projects and capital reserve fund deposits are identified.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Pembroke Fire Department is an on-call department run by a combination of thirty-six part time employees and one full time member. In addition to serving Pembroke, the department also provides assistance to other communities through Mutual Aid agreements. Included in the department's fleet are several apparatus including three engines, tower, rescue, utility, two forestry vehicles, boat, and lighting trailer. The department is located within the Pembroke Public Safety Complex at 247 Pembroke Street.

Future staffing needs of the department are dependent on future call volumes and availability of on-call personnel. Additional EMS training may be needed if EMS response ever became the responsibility of the Fire Department (currently it is the responsibility of Tri-Town EMS). The department participated in the annual update process of the CIP where equipment, vehicle, and capital reserve fund deposits are identified.

### **TRI-TOWN AMBULANCE**

Tri-Town Emergency Medical Service is a service of the Towns of Allenstown and Pembroke that was created through an Inter-Municipal Agreement. The service provides a fully staffed, paramedic ambulance service to the two communities and through mutual aid to nearby communities 24/7. Tri-Town currently has a combination of over twenty full time, part time, and per diem employees with an average response time of 5 minutes and 44 seconds. They are located in the Pembroke Public Safety Center at 247 Pembroke Street.

It is anticipated that an additional ambulance will be needed to handle the growing volume of calls. In addition, more offices and a small meeting room will be needed. A training space is also desired where the Service can host EMS courses, CPC courses, and have training aids set up for staff to practice their skills. Additional training, staffing, and equipment needs may be needed depending on program demands and variety of services provided.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The police department is responsible for enforcing all laws and ordinances and is committed to preserving peace, order and safety. The department consists of fourteen employees, including ten officers in the patrol division and four in administration. In 2017, the department was awarded the opportunity to obtain a canine and training for a canine officer. The department is located at the Pembroke Public Safety Center at 247 Pembroke Street.

The police department participates in the annual update of the CIP where vehicles, equipment, and capital reserve funds deposits are identified.

## LIBRARY

The library relocated in the spring of 2003 to a new building at 313 Pembroke Street next to the Pembroke Town Hall. The new building has a community room and children's room. In addition, the New Hampshire room provides a place for historic town records and artifacts to be preserved and safeguarded. Lastly, the Pinegrove Farm Room, which can accommodate 60 people, is available for educational and community events.

The library has an extensive collection. The current estimate is a total of 19,500 books. In addition, magazines, videos, and audios are available to residents. The library also offers various programs to adults and children throughout the year including a book discussion group, story time, and a summer reading program. Other events held at the library are yoga, Zumba and knitting and crochet. With a current staff of six, the library's future needs include another part-time position as well as coverage for increased children's librarian hours. Over the next decade, the building will require maintenance and upgrades to the roof, flooring, carpeting, HVAC system, and siding. New computers, copier, and furniture, as well as a larger server have also been identified as future needs.

Input gathered through the community outreach process stated that the library was one of the town's strengths; however, many felt that is underutilized and could offer additional programs and increased hours.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

### RECREATION COMMISSION

The Recreation Commission oversees the operation of the Recreation Department, which provides recreation opportunities to residents. In addition, the commission is responsible for making and enforcing rules and regulations governing the use of town recreation facilities; establishing reasonable fees and charges for the uses of town recreation facilities; and entering into contracts with organizations for the purpose of conducting leisure-time programs.

The department offers its own recreation programs such as the summer recreation program, swimming lessons, and tennis lessons. The department also supports programs conducted by other volunteers, including the Suncook Youth Soccer League, Suncook Athletics, Suncook Little League, Suncook Babe Ruth Softball, Suncook Rod and Gun Club fishing derby, Old Home Day, and other similar programs.

An important component to a high quality of life, recreation provides a much-needed means of stress reduction and physical well-being. Recreation facilities also provide residents with a place to interact and create a sense of community that is beneficial to residents of all ages. The town has a recreation facilities capital reserve fund that is used for the construction and major maintenance and repair of various recreational facilities as proposed by the Recreation Committee. Selected recreational facilities are identified on the **Community and Recreational Facilities with Utilities Map**.

### TOWN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Pembroke's major recreational area is Memorial Field, located on the plain at the junction of the Suncook and

Merrimack Rivers. Memorial Field contains a basketball court, soccer field, two softball fields, two Little League diamonds, dugouts and bleachers, a covered pavilion, and four buildings that are used by Little League, men's softball, soccer leagues, summer recreation, and the Recreation Commission for storage of maintenance equipment. Bathroom facilities, a storage room, an uncovered barbeque area, and a covered picnic and recreational activity area are located at one of the buildings. Memorial Field also provides river access by means of a boat ramp and a recreation trail along the Merrimack River. Other activities such as horseshoes, boating, basketball and volleyball are also available at Memorial Field. Playground areas are equipped with swings, jungle gym and slides.

The White Sands beach area is a town owned conservation land that is used by residents for recreational activities, like swimming and picnicking. The area is not maintained or operated by the Recreation Commission; the Conservation Commission manages the area because it falls under conservation land. There are minimal amenities onsite, including a few garbage cans, which are picked up by the Public Works Department. Also, there are no lifeguards at the beach area.

Another conservation area in town is the Whittemore Conservation area, which is town owned and includes several walking/biking trails. This is the largest conservation area in town, totaling 133.1 acres.

Coordination and cooperation with the school system of Pembroke provides additional opportunities for recreational activities for residents of the town. Pembroke Academy, Three Rivers School, and Pembroke Hill School have various fields for soccer, softball, football, field hockey, tennis, track, and playground equipment for children. Indoor recreational facilities at the schools include basketball courts at the Pembroke Academy, Hill School, and Three Rivers School.

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID...

Memorial Field and White Sands Beach were highly valued by residents in both the Community Survey and Community Visioning Session. Many stated they often utilize the boat launch and river access but wish for improved facilities. Many also stated that they would like a kid's splash pad, gazebo, benches, and landscaping with trees and flowers available in one of both of these locations.

The Community Survey asked participants if they would support regulations to develop public recreational trails and parks through new developments. The majority of responses, 76%, said yes, 13% said no and 11% had no opinion. Additionally, when asked how important it is for the development of a public, walking and bicycling rail trail along the Merrimack River railroad bed, approximately 83% said it was important or somewhat important to them. The rail trail was also highly desired in the visioning session, as it would provide a resource not only for residents but also act as a draw from other communities.

## FUTURE TOWN FACILITIES AND NEEDS

Pembroke should look into adding additional recreational sites. Walking, hiking, swimming, boating, snowmobiling, fishing and camping have been increasing over the past decade and are expected to continue to increase. Planning is already occurring for development of a rail trail on the abandoned railroad bed that follows the Merrimack River (see previous discussion in the Challenges and Opportunities section of this Chapter). A community center was desired by residents at both the Community Visioning Session and in the Community Survey.

Although no specific potential sites have been indicated, the Recreation Commission is aware of recreational needs in other areas of Pembroke. For instance, developing an area in North Pembroke as an outdoor facility would provide additional opportunities for residents, particularly in that area of town. A study to evaluate existing and potential recreation sites in town would assist in planning for future recreational facilities and would preclude developing a Recreation Plan.

Some specific improvements to the Memorial Field facility include installing a fence around the basketball courts and re-installing the fabric on the softball field, according to the most recent CIP. Also included are renovations of the bathrooms to include a handicapped accessible toilet and an annual deposit into the recreation facilities capital reserve fund. The fields at Memorial Field are watered using the municipal water system; however, it would be more cost effective if an irrigation system were installed.

Underutilized or vacant municipally-owned property can sometimes be used to expand recreational opportunities for residents of the community. As land parcels become available that would be suitable for recreational uses, the town should consider “land-banking” or purchasing these parcels for future use.

## OTHER RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The Green-Gold soccer fields on Buck Street, which are privately owned, are an additional recreational resource to the town. Also, the Pembroke Pines Golf Course is a recreational resource open to the public. In addition, there is access to the Merrimack River in town at a canoe launching area on Route 106 and also on Route 3.

There is an extensive snowmobile trail network throughout town that is maintained by the NH Trail Dawgs, a local snowmobile club. These trails cross private land where landowner permission has been obtained for snowmobile use. In addition, some of these trails allow horseback riding and biking during the summer months; however, allowed uses depend on the wishes of each individual landowner. Preservation of these trails from future development should be considered in the years to come.

A summary of recreational resources are displayed in Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5: Summary of Recreational Resources in Pembroke**

Type of Resource	Name
Fields, Playgrounds, Courts	Memorial Field
	Three Rivers baseball diamonds, playground, and basketball courts
	Hill School baseball diamond and playground, small basketball court

**Table 5.5: Summary of Recreational Resources in Pembroke Continued**

Type of Resource	Name
Fields, Playgrounds, Courts	Pembroke Academy track, baseball and softball fields, soccer/football field, and tennis courts
	Green-Gold Soccer fields (private) on Buck Street
Water	White Sands area, River access on Route 106 and Route 3
Trails	Whittemore Conservation Area walking/biking trails Network of snowmobile trails
Golf Course	Pembroke Pines Golf Course
Indoor basketball courts	Pembroke Academy, Hill School, Three Rivers School

Source: Subcommittee Input

## UTILITIES

Utilities are also 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. The Town of Pembroke has four capital reserve funds for the Sewer Department and two capital reserve funds for the Water Department. Selected utilities are identified on the **Community and Recreational Facilities with Utilities Map**.

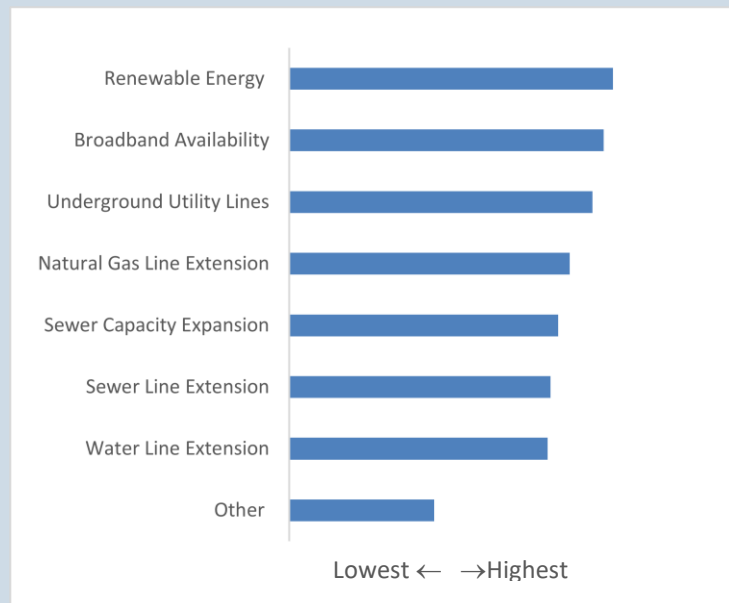
### TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND SERVICES

The term broadband commonly refers to high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access. Broadband in Pembroke includes several high-speed transmission technologies including cable, DSL, satellite, and mobile.

Xfinity by Comcast is the primary local internet provider in Pembroke, though other options are available. Public announcements and current activities are posted on the town’s website. Downloads can be made available of the master plan, site plan review regulations, subdivision regulations, the zoning ordinance, town reports, and minutes from meetings.

### WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAID...

*“How important to you is it for the Town to expand/extend, encourage, provide or invest in these utilities?”*





There are currently seven cell towers and one radio tower in town. The cell towers are located on Plausawa Hill Road and Buck Street. Landline telephone service is also available from various providers, though it is often bundled with internet and television service for a discounted price.

### PEMBROKE WATER WORKS

The Pembroke Water Works is a public water provider serving the communities of Pembroke, Allenstown and a few homes in Hooksett to the southeast. The municipal water system has a capacity of over one million gallons per day that is drawn from a coarse grain stratified aquifer and consists of three well sites that are operated on a daily rotation and produce approximately 60% of Pembroke's daily demand. The system also contains two storage tanks.



WATER STORAGE TANK ON BRICKETT HILL ROAD

The Water Works services 2,205 water connections or units or about 6,260 users.

The Water Works services residential, public, agriculture, business, and commercial users. Cost per residential unit has a base rate of \$25.00 per quarter and \$1.90 per thousand gallons thereafter. The rate for commercial users can vary depending on the type of service lines they have.

There are over 50 miles of water lines in the Water Works franchise area. Water service extends the length of Pembroke Street, all of Buck Street, State Route 106 (Sheep Davis Road) and there are also branch lines serving subdivisions along these major roadways. All of Academy Road, Dearborn Road and the village area are also served. More than 300 fire hydrants are serviced in Pembroke. Some are in private developments but the majority are on public roadways.

Generally, new water main extensions are considered upon request by developers and subdividers if the project can be served by community water. However, the height of the tanks restricts water service to sites whose elevation would prevent water from attaining a pressure of 20 psi at every tap. This arrangement restricts the future shape of denser development to the present area of service unless a developer is willing to install pumps and water tanks at higher elevations.

### PEMBROKE SEWER COMMISSION

Sewer service is an inter-municipal operation with the Town of Allenstown. Approximately two-thirds of the town's residents are served by municipal sanitary sewer. The two towns share in the costs of operation and maintenance of the Suncook Wastewater Treatment Plant located on Ferry Street in Allenstown. The sewer lines and pumping stations in Pembroke are managed by the Pembroke Sewer Commission, which is comprised of one full time and one part-time employee. The areas in Pembroke which presently have sewer service are: Pembroke Street, the adjacent areas to Pembroke Street, Route

106 (Sheep Davis Road), residential areas up to Third Range Road, and the Village area. Generally, new sewer line extensions are considered upon request by developers and subdividers if the lines can have gravity flow.

The treatment facility was designed in 1972 with a 1,050,000 gallons per day (gpd) capacity. The plant came on line in 1977 and had a 20-year life expectancy. The five year average of gallons per day for the plant is 631,000. The five year average of gallons per day for Pembroke is 313,000. The Town of Pembroke Sewer Commissioners no longer have a say in the management of the treatment plant.

In 2019, the town voted to sell 4 & 6 Union Street, where the Sewer Department's administrative office is located. The future of the Sewer Commission's office is unclear as of this date.

## ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Pembroke is primarily provided by Eversource. While the electrical system in Pembroke is largely adequate and able to accommodate future growth along the major thoroughfares downtown, such as along Route 106 and Route 3, the electrical infrastructure in several fairly remote locations will need to be upgraded to accommodate residential growth. In several locations the system has reached capacity and must be upgraded to carry increased load. The high growth areas include:

- Academy Road – Currently served by a 12.47 KV (12,470 volts) line. PSNH plans to increase the line voltage to 34.5 KV (34,500 volts) for approximately 2.5 miles to the intersection of Buck Street and Route 28 within the next five (5) years if current pace of growth continues. Route 28 toward Epsom may need to be expanded from 12.47 KV to 34.5 KV within 10 or more years.
- Rebecca's Way – The line serving this area was recently converted from 7.2 KV (7,200 volts) to 19.9 KV (19,900 volts) to better serve this road and new load in the area.
- Borough Road – Step transformers currently serving this area will be changed doubling the current capacity. The line voltage will need to be converted to 19.9 KV within five to 10 years.

Eversource will continue to upgrade its distribution system in the more remote areas and side streets of Pembroke to accommodate residential load growth. Although there are no plans at this time to build a substation in town, the line upgrades along Academy Road and Buck Street will be a significant project.

## NATURAL GAS

Currently, Liberty Utilities Energy Delivery serves approximately 1,060 residential and commercial customers in the Town of Pembroke. Liberty Utilities Energy delivery has existing mains in Pembroke Street that extend to the intersection of Peaslee Drive on the southern end and to the intersection of Sheep Davis Road on the northern end.

Future plans for expansion would be to connect the two extensions (approximately two miles) in Pembroke Street to improve the reliability of the distribution system in this area as well as add more customers along the route. During the past two years, Liberty Utilities Delivery has investigated extending gas mains to two major residential developments off of Pembroke Street (Route 3). The developments include Donna Drive and the adjacent streets as well as Pembroke Hill Road and the adjacent streets, which would be fed by the new main in Pembroke Street.