

# Community Facilities

## Introduction

Antrim's first master plan, adopted in 1985, praised the town's leadership for creating a community that "on the whole ... appears to be in good shape as far as the town's facilities go". That statement is still true twenty-two years later, thanks to the careful stewardship of town officials, taxpayers and local nonprofits. Much has been done in recent years to improve upon the network of buildings, roads, parks, and other infrastructure owned and maintained by the town. In addition, a number of key organizations have continued to grow or maintain their nonprofit services to this community.

When it comes to the town owned buildings or services, Antrim voters are frugal but they know the value of maintaining and upgrading public holdings. In the past nine years they have dug deep into their pockets to renovate the Antrim Town Hall and again for a much-needed addition to the James A. Tuttle Library.

Juggling the needs of town government with the needs of the taxpayer, especially in light of the long-unsettled court battle over public education funding, has called for new management measures. Since the Antrim master plan was updated in 2001, Antrim's town government has added two important tools to its fiscal methodology.

In 2005, the Antrim Planning Board created a subcommittee to handle its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). This group meets annually with department heads to map out plans for capital improvements for the ensuing six years. The resulting plans spread anticipated costs across the six year period, and provide a strategy for buying higher ticket items at a point when the town's indebtedness allows those purchases without a jolt to the tax bill. As this group continues its work, this long range planning will help the town monitor and anticipate its capital needs more efficiently, while reducing wide swings in the tax burden.

As a result of the initial CIP discussions, the town administrator explored, and the selectmen approved, a vehicle lease-purchase schedule for the fire, rescue, highway and recreation departments. This leasing plan will allow an orderly replacement of vehicles without the need for special warrant articles. In 2008, police vehicles were also put on a leasing schedule. Town meeting voters will continue to be asked to support a capital reserve fund for other vehicles and purchases not covered in the lease-purchase agreements.

Antrim, like most towns in New Hampshire, has been very self-sufficient in its first two centuries. While its community facilities appear satisfactory for the town with a population of 2,626 as of 2007, as estimated by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, the future could bring new stresses and rapid changes. Just as the town has adopted some new techniques for dealing with capital purchases, there may be new opportunities to join cooperative ventures with surrounding towns or nonprofit groups.

This could help improve services, equipment, and facilities with less cost to the taxpayers.

And finally, although the recent improvements to town buildings and other upgrades ought to serve this community well for many years, the future is never as clear as it appears. Unforeseen growth or other stresses could tax the community resources in ways Antrim's town government has not yet anticipated.

This purpose of this chapter of the master plan is to present:

- An inventory of town owned facilities and services, including assessments of the adequacy of the current level of service and comments gleaned from the 2005 and 2006 town surveys and the visioning sessions.
- An inventory of non-town facilities and services that contribute to the welfare of the town and the quality of life.
- Planning strategies and recommendations to improve town owned facilities.

## **Inventory of Town Owned Facilities & Needs Assessment**

### **Town Hall**

The Antrim Town Hall is one of the key historic buildings on Antrim's Main Street and the hub of the town's government operations. The two-story, brick building, built in 1894, was completely renovated in 2001-2002 without erasing its historic architectural features. Voters at the 2000 Town Meeting supported plans to spend \$937,141 on the project, which included installing a handicapped-accessible elevator to the second floor, electrical upgrades, new bathrooms, new office space for the town selectmen and town administrator, and new offices for the town clerk and tax collector, planning and zoning office, building inspector and other town personnel. The north end of the first floor was renovated for the Antrim Police Department.



**Antrim Town Hall**

The second floor, which is now fully handicapped accessible, including the stage area, is used by local groups. The space is home to the local community theater group, and is used on a rental basis by local recreation groups (e.g. marital arts, dancing, indoor gymnastics for preschoolers, etc.) and by private citizens.

In addition to the original bond, the town has spent about \$75,000 more on improvements to windows, and heating and air conditioning systems. Those upgrades have considerably reduced the fuel costs for the building.

After the creation of the Homeland Security Act, the town was required to establish an emergency command center. The Town Hall is the primary command post for Antrim and is served by a generator and phone systems that can operate independently from the power grid. Backup centers are maintained at the Antrim Fire Station on Route 31 and at the water and sewer department just off Depot Street. The emergency system meets all current federal emergency guidelines.

The town has also established an official website ([www.antrimnh.org](http://www.antrimnh.org)) to assist local residents and help newcomers find services. Please see the Cultural Resources chapter for a more complete description of the website.

## **Police Department**

The Town of Antrim has a full-time police department, with staffing provided for five full-time officers, including its chief. As of 2008, there is also provision for two part-time officers to fill in when the full-time officers are on vacation or other leave, and 20 to 24 hours of administrative help per week to assist with the ever-increasing amount of paperwork.

The department's offices are located on the first floor of the Antrim Town Hall. All calls are dispatched from the Hillsborough Police Dispatch Center located in the Town of Hillsborough. Antrim officers responded to an average of 288 calls a month in 2007.

Equipment consists of three police vehicles, a 2003 Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser, a 2004 Ford Expedition, a 2007 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2004 Arctic Cat 4-wheeler and trailer. The police cars are on a leasing schedule, with a three year rotation. In addition, the department has a speed detector/traffic count trailer, purchased with the help of a federal grant in 2006.

The department has recently invested in new computer software to keep up with new technology and regulatory requirements for policing and safety.

In 2001, the Uniform Crime Report guideline for uniformed and civilian police forces in the Southwest Regional Planning Region was 1.54 officers per population of 1,000, which was on par with Antrim's staffing of four full-time officers at that time. However, this guideline no longer exists within the region. The FBI standard for staffing is one police officer for every 500 residents. With a 2007 population estimate of 2,626, that would mean 5.25 officers for Antrim.

The police station in the Antrim Town Hall, although much more secure now than prior to 2001, needs additional safety upgrades to comply with current regulations, as well as additional office space, a secure and accessible area for the storage of evidence and a segregated holding area for arrestees. One potential plan is to move the police station to the Main Street property that houses the now defunct gas station. The advantage of such a move would be additional room and security for the officers, while keeping the station in the downtown area where a police presence is most needed.

## **Fire Safety**

Fire protection is provided by approximately 33 paid volunteer firefighters, a department that includes the fire chief and two deputy chiefs. Members of the department are paid \$10 an hour for the time they are on a call with additional stipends for the chief and other officers.

Antrim firefighters receive training through in-house programs, courses from the Meadowood fire service in Fitzwilliam, and training from a professional firefighting service. Most members of the Antrim department are certified Firefighter Level I, and several have received Career Level training.

The department maintains two fire stations. Company No. 1, housed in the main fire station on Clinton Road, north of the downtown area, has three equipment bays, a meeting room, kitchen, and a training area on the second floor. A free-standing garage next to the station also houses firefighting equipment. The main station has a generator, and can be used as a back-up command post in emergencies (the main command post is the Antrim Town Hall). Company No. 2, housed at the North Branch station on Route 9 near the intersection of Elm Avenue, has two equipment bays.

Equipment maintained by the fire companies includes:

- 1974 International Brush Truck
- 1979 GMC Pumper
- 1986 Chevy Tank Truck
- 1989 GMC Fire Truck
- 1994 1250 GPM Pumper
- 2003 Freightliner Hose Reel Truck
- 2005 Ferrara 6-man Cab Pumper
- Dunbar Utility Trailer
- 2002 Box-style Wheelcoach Ambulance
- 2006 Ford Box-style Ambulance

The fire companies recently were awarded a \$59,000 grant from Homeland Security for Scott Air Packs, which will be purchased with an additional \$4,000 contribution from the Fire Department. They have also been the recipient of a \$60,000 grant from FEMA-Homeland Security to update radios for the fire trucks, and to buy new turnout gear for all fire department volunteers. Company No. 1 recently added an equipment shed to its facility on Clinton Road.

Dispatching for fire service is handled by Southwestern New Hampshire Mutual Aid in Keene. Antrim firefighters are assisted and provide assistance to the other towns in the local Mutual Aid area.

Water used for firefighting has been recently mapped and cataloged by the New Hampshire Rural Fire Protection Initiative based in Laconia. Water is supplied by several pressurized hydrants in the downtown area, two pressurized hydrants in the North Branch area, dry hydrants at Lovern Mill Road and the junction of Elm Avenue and Bridle Road, public water sources (Steele Pond, Gregg Lake, the Contoocook River, Franklin Pierce Lake, and the downtown mill pond), and various private fire ponds and smaller streams.

The Antrim Fire Department responded to 108 calls in 2007, compared to 72 calls in 2000. In general, the department has equipment and staffing sufficient for current needs, but an off-and-on again worry is how to maintain the daytime staffing of volunteers who work in Antrim or nearby and who are available to answer emergency calls.

## **Ambulance Services**

Rescue and ambulance service is provided by the Antrim Fire Department's ambulance squad, which also provides municipal service for the towns of Bennington and Stoddard. Antrim's ambulances also respond to Mutual Aid calls outside the three-town area. Members of the rescue and ambulance service are paid \$10 an hour for the time they are on a call with additional stipends for the chief and other officers.

The Antrim squad maintains two ambulances – a 2002 box-style Wheelcoach ambulance, and a 2006 Ford box-style ambulance. Both are housed at the Antrim Fire Department's Company No.1 station on Rte 31.

The ambulance service has recently become self-supporting. Although Antrim residents are not charged any out-of-pocket costs for ambulance calls, those calls for residents who have insurance coverage are billed to the resident's insurance company. Bennington and Stoddard residents also are billed for ambulance service. Residents in those towns are expected to pay for service not covered by insurance.

The ambulance squad is currently staffed by approximately 18 volunteers who are paid for the time they are on a call. Squad members are certified as Emergency Medical Technicians, EMT intermediates, or First Responders.

The squad responded to 382 calls from the three towns and Mutual Aid in 2007. Of these, 159 were for the town of Antrim, 102 for Bennington, 34 for Crotched Mountain Ski Area, 63 for Stoddard and 24 for Mutual Aid.

## **Highways and Roads**

The Highway Department operates out of the Town Barn facility on Goodell Road. Equipment is housed in a 40-foot by 60-foot building constructed in 1978. The department has five full-time employees and the Road Agent who is part-time. The town

hires outside contractors for some services including supplemental snowplowing and paving. The Road Agent's pending retirement in 2009 has lead the town to begin an examination of the feasibility of establishing the position of Public Works Director, to oversee the Highway Department, waste disposal, water and sewer services, and the maintenance of town buildings, cemeteries, and other facilities.

There are approximately 66 miles of road in Antrim. About 48 miles are town-owned and about 16 miles are state highways. Of the 48 miles under the town's supervision, approximately half are paved and half are gravel.

Equipment maintained by the highway department includes:

- 2002 Ford F550 One-Ton Dump Truck
- 2004 Caterpillar Backhoe
- 2002 Hudson Trailer
- 2003 Snopr Trailer
- 2005 Bobcat Sidewalk Side Plow/Blower
- 2006 Caterpillar 930 Front Loader (lease-purchase agreement)
- 2006 Caterpillar 120H Grader (lease-purchase)
- Three (3) 2007 International 7400 dump trucks with live bodies,  
one with all-wheel drive (lease-purchase)
- Two (2) 1997 York rakes
- 2001 Salt and Sand Spreader (for one-ton dump truck)
- Two (2) 1997 York Rakes
- 2008 Ford F550 Dump Truck
- Two (2) 2003 Scag Mowers
- 2003 Landscape Trailer
- 1996 GMC Pickup Truck

In 2006 the town spent \$5,000 on upgrading the town barn's electrical service. The labor for the project was supplied by town employees.

Finding a good source for sand and gravel was one of the goals stated for the highway department in the 2001 master plan. That problem and possible expansion plans for the highway department were addressed recently when the town entered into a 6-year lease for a 14.1-acre sand pit off Old North Branch Road. The pit is estimated to have roughly 200,000 yards of road-grade sand that could supply the needs of the town for 30-plus years. After the mineral-rights lease ends in 2013, the town will buy the property for \$1.

The lease-purchase of this sand pit also could ease the overcrowded conditions at the Town Barn on Goodell Road. Although planned upgrades will provide an adequate working situation for the foreseeable future, the Old North Branch Road property could be used for a garage or equipment storage in future years.

## **Solid Waste**

The Antrim Recycling and Transfer Station (ARTS) was built on Goodell Road in 1992 after the State of New Hampshire mandated the closure of the open landfill that Antrim

shared with Bennington and Frankestown. Closing the old landfill in Bennington ended one of the few regional efforts in which Antrim has been involved.

ARTS is solely run and maintained by the Town of Antrim. The recycling-transfer center, which is located just behind the Town Barn, is open 18 hours a week (Saturday and two half-days). It is staffed by three part-time employees who sort recyclables, run the compactor and baler, and manage the shipment of recyclable materials to market.

In addition to the recycling building, a baler and other equipment, the ARTS center has the use of a 2000 Ford F750 one-ton dump truck

The market for recyclables is unpredictable, making it hard to anticipate revenues. Meanwhile the cost of disposing of non-recyclable waste has increased steadily. In the spring of 2006, in an effort to put some teeth into Antrim's mandatory recycling policy, the use of clear bags for non-recyclables became mandatory. Since clear bags became mandatory, the decrease in the non-recyclable waste stream has been significant.

In 2007 ARTS started accepting construction and demolition waste and moved metals collection to a new area. Plans are underway to move to "single stream" recycling in the near future. The current facility, which has recently undergone some needed upgrades, is considered adequate to serve the needs of Antrim residents for the next five years.



**Recycling at ARTS**

## **Water and Sewer**

Outside the immediate downtown area, water supply and sewage disposal are provided by onsite dug or drilled wells and individual septic systems.

That is not the case in the downtown area, where rapid commercial development in the 1880s brought residential and business growth along Great Brook. To handle that development, the town established a public water supply system and created a water

precinct for the village area that was overseen by the precinct commissioners. The source for the town's water supply was Campbell Pond.

Times changed and so did pollution and drinking water regulations. In 1981, after the town built a sewage treatment plant off Depot Street, the old water precinct was dissolved and the Antrim Water and Sewer District was created to oversee both water supply and sewage treatment.

The Town of Bennington currently shares the sewage treatment facility with Antrim. Both towns have separate Water and Sewer Commissions that administer and manage each town's respective operations.

The Antrim Water and Sewer District has one full-time employee and some part-time help. The department has a 2001 Ford pickup truck and a 1994 trailer.

## **Public water system**

The town's water system is supplied by a gravel-pack well located in the town of Bennington. The well pumps at a rate of 920,000 gallons a day and water is stored in a stand-pipe located on Nahor Hill off Pleasant Street. Currently, water use in Antrim is about 120,000 gallons per day, provided to 335 hook-ups.

The back-up water source is the Bennington town well, which is located adjacent to the Antrim well. That system was put into use in 2006 when water tests on the Antrim well turned up temporary problems.

The watershed around Campbell Pond, located off Elm Avenue and Pierce Lake Road, has been protected from development as a town-owned conservation management area. Although it is hard to imagine a circumstance where this open source of water would be used for drinking water again, it's still comforting to know that the town has an additional source of reservoir quality water available.

In addition to the town's water system, the campus of the now-defunct Hawthorne College has a private asset that should be noted. The former college, located in the North Branch section of town, had its own water tower, which once served the college buildings, including dorms and dining room. The property is now owned by the Maharishi Vedic Foundation.

## **Sewage treatment**

The town's sewage treatment plant is located between the Contoocook River and Depot and Main streets. The facility includes the main pumping station and three lagoons. Currently, only two of the lagoons are in use. The plant serves 256 hook-ups in Antrim and 88 hook-ups in Bennington, and is operating at about 50 percent capacity.

Lagoon No. 1 was dredged in 1996 and the sludge from the lagoon was spread on several parcels in Antrim and Bennington. There are plans to dredge a section of that lagoon again soon. When Lagoon No. 1 was dredged in 1996, a new aeration system was



installed, making the system more efficient. For this reason, the third lagoon is not needed at this time.

## **James A. Tuttle Library**

The James A. Tuttle Library is located on Main Street in the downtown area of town. The library is open 29 hours per week, and is staffed by one full-time librarian, one part-time assistant librarian and four part-time staff members. In 2007, the Tuttle Library circulated 20,988 items to library patrons or about 8 items per capita.

In addition to the collection of books, reference materials, videos and electronic information available, the library also offers computer and Internet access to the public free of charge. Programs include the children's Story-time program, slide shows, art exhibits, and live readings. Various town committees and groups also use the library for meeting space. The upstairs of the Library contains the collection of the Antrim Historical Society.

In 1998, the library received a grant that allowed it to automate circulation. The conversion took several years to complete and the system went into effect in 2007.

Plans to expand and renovate the library were approved by voters in March 2006. The \$946,000 project, which includes a 4,000-square-foot addition, was completed in 2008 and added a children's room, provided more stack space and additional public computer access areas, and improved the building's heating and air conditioning. The project also makes the building fully handicapped accessible. Parking was also upgraded for library patrons.



**The new addition to Tuttle Library**

## **Aiken Barn**

The Aiken House and its free-standing barn, both located just south of the Tuttle Library, became town properties in the 1990s. After much debate, Antrim voters decided against repairing the dilapidated Aiken House and agreed to demolish the building and to use the lot for a library addition. The barn, which was already being used by The Grapevine resource center, was in better shape but needed a number of improvements.

The \$350,000 Aiken Barn project was supported by \$300,000 in Community Block Grant funds, and \$50,000 from Antrim taxpayers. The renovated building now has space for The Grapevine programs, additional meeting space for local groups (including the Scouts), and office space for local health agencies.

## **Parks and Recreation Department**

Antrim has a recreation program, a five member Recreation Commission, a part-time recreation director and a part-time assistant. The department has an office next to the Antrim Memorial Gym, which is attached to the Antrim Elementary School.

The commissioners and the director are appointed by the selectmen. Compensation for the director and the assistant are covered under the town budget. Other non-payroll personnel, including soccer and basketball referees and trainers, are compensated by a revolving fund generated from program fees.

The Recreation Department oversees a number of programs, including archery, indoor walking, Pilates, toddler play time, youth chorus, dance classes, adult basketball and volleyball, tennis and swimming lessons, sporting programs and special events.

Indoor recreation programs are held at the Antrim Memorial Gym and the Antrim Town Hall. Outdoors programs are held at Shea Field, which the town has upgraded with new fencing and irrigation, and the Antrim town beach at Gregg Lake or other locations. Table X-1 in the Master Plan Appendix lists the recreation areas in town, the type of recreation offered and what group or organization oversees the facility.

The new community bus was added to the recreation department's offerings in 2006. The bus, a Ford Aerostar 14-passenger box van, was acquired under the town's new lease-purchase program. A schedule of trips to shopping centers, recreational events, and other outings is posted on the town's official website and on a display board at town hall. The Community Bus is also used for the Recreation Department's Summer Camp Program.

In town wide surveys, including the 2006 master plan survey and visioning sessions and the 1998 AntrimNext project, Antrim residents noted a need for more recreational offerings and facilities. Some of those suggestions included a skating rink, additional ball fields, more hiking and biking trails, a teen center and added programs for an aging population.

Discussions with Conval School District officials about better access and use of the Antrim Memorial Gym are ongoing and solutions may require additional expenditures from the town.

The department also oversees several parks in town, including the town beach and boat ramp at Gregg Lake. The beach has a bathhouse, rest rooms, volleyball area, picnic tables, lifeguard stand, floating raft, and a roped off swimming area. Because the bathhouse was constructed with federal funding, the town beach is open to all, not just Antrim residents.

## **Memorial Park and Bandstand**

Antrim's centennial celebration of its Main Street in 1994 brought new emphasis to an overlooked asset, the historic mill pond behind the town hall. Dams along Great Brook helped fuel the village district's commercial development in the late 1800s, and the town owned dam and mill pond were a part of that drive.

But the years took a toll on the mill pond, dam, and adjacent tennis and basketball courts on Jameson Avenue. The mill pond had potential as a downtown park, but not without some serious restoration efforts.

Using a matching grant from the state's Department of Resources and Economic Development, the mill pond was dredged to remove a century's worth of accumulated silt and debris. Brush was removed using volunteer labor and the help of the inmates from state and county correctional facilities and the crumbling concrete footbridge connecting the east and west shores was replaced with an arched wooden bridge topped with light poles.

The crowning achievement was the erection of a bandstand, a larger version of the one that stood in the late 1800s near the junction of Routes 202 and 31. Volunteer labor built the bandstand in 1994 and soon a committee started hosting summer band concerts, which the Parks and Recreation Department currently oversees as "Antrim in the Evening". A few years later, a flagpole and memorial tablets commemorating military veterans were added.

The attractiveness and safety of the area was enhanced by the completion of the Summer Street dam and bridge project in 2006. In addition, a parking area was added near the basketball court. Recent improvements and additions have been made to the skateboard park and playground equipment has been added to the park. Security cameras have also been installed.

Future plans could include more landscaping, trails, playground equipment, and other amenities.



**The Bandstand at Memorial Park**

## **Cemeteries**

There are six cemeteries in Antrim, and at least one small private burial site.

One of the largest cemeteries, Maplewood Cemetery on Concord Street is private and controlled by a separate board of trustees. This cemetery has additional room for burials, with an additional parcel of land adjacent to its north end for expansion. No public funds are used in the upkeep of this cemetery.

Five cemeteries in Antrim are considered abandoned. Under state law, an abandoned cemetery becomes the responsibility of the relatives of the deceased or the town that the cemetery is located in if none of the relatives are willing to step into the supervisory role. The latter is the case with the five cemeteries now under town supervision: Over East Cemetery on Elm Avenue; Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery on Meetinghouse Hill (an historic burial ground that was next to Antrim's first meeting house and that contains graves that date back to the 1700s); the Center Cemetery on Clinton Road; North Branch Cemetery on Cemetery Road and the small Whiting family cemetery on Route 202.

Town voters elect three cemetery trustees to oversee the five cemeteries. While there is additional space for burials in North Branch Cemetery, additional burials in the other five cemeteries are likely to be limited only to cremated remains. Access by heavy equipment is difficult in these locations.

Recently the 1827 burial site of two children in the Parker family came to the town's attention. Their gravestone is located on private property about 300 feet west of Route

202 near the state rest area. This small burial site and any others that may be found in town require a 25-foot buffer zone from any construction.

## **Inventory of Non-Town Facilities**

### **U.S. Post Office**

Antrim was lucky in the 1980s and 1990s when the U.S. Postal Service made strides to improve its facilities for handicapped access and loading docks. Many rural communities lost their centralized post offices, forcing residents to drive to the outskirts of town when a suitable site could not be found in the central core. In Antrim, a site was found just across Main Street from the former post office, which had been housed for decades in a first floor office space in the Antrim Town Hall.

The current post office is the only building thus far in Touchwood Square, and provides a centralized facility that's accessible to pedestrians and motorists. The Post Office leases the land and building.

### **Antrim Girls Shelter**

Lutheran Social Services of Northern New England established the Antrim Girls Shelter in 1988 with the purchase of the historic George C. Duncan House, one of the graceful and intact Victorian-era homes on Antrim's Main Street.

The shelter provides a caring, but temporary, "safe haven" to girls between the ages of 11 and 17. The professional staff helps provide safety, structure and respite from abusive or fractured family relationships, chemical dependency, eating disorders and petty crime. During their stay, girls work to regain control of their behavior, catch up with school work and begin to heal.

The Antrim shelter is the only residence of its kind in New Hampshire for adolescent girls. In 1995, the shelter was certified as a special education school by the State of New Hampshire.

In 1990, the social service agency converted the attached barn into a schoolroom. In May 2005, Phase I of a major renovation project was launched to provide a better facility for the residents and staff while paying close attention to the architectural features of the historic building. The work was completed in 2006.





**The Antrim Girls Shelter**

## **Camp Chenoa, Swift Water Girl Scouts**

The Swift Water Girl Scout Council owns and operates a resident camp on 300 acres on the western shore of Gregg Lake. The campus includes cabins, staff buildings, and all-season dining hall. Although the property is not open to the public on a regular basis, the facilities can be rented by local groups. The Girl Scout Council also provides some scholarship assistance to local campers.

## **Cable television and communication services**

Antrim's current cable television provider is Comcast. The village section of town has cable television service, but most outlying areas are too sparsely settled to make it economically feasible to provide cable. Many residents in the more rural areas of Antrim have satellite television service.

Telephone service is provided by TDS Telecom which also offers Internet hook-ups.

Town officials are looking at ways to improve cable television and Internet access, especially high-speed Internet services and broadband. One of the goals is to provide wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) service in the downtown village area.

## **Health, Welfare and Housing**

### **Medical office**

Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough operates one of its three satellite medical offices in Antrim (the other two are in Jaffrey and New Ipswich). The Antrim Medical Group, which is located on Elm Street, is staffed by a doctor and a nurse practitioner affiliated with the hospital.

### **Dental office**

Perry, Weigand, and Gurwell Family Dental Care has an office on Elm Street, in a building next to the Antrim Medical Group. Established in 1973, the practice now has 3 dentists and 17 staff members.

### **Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services**

This agency is headquartered in Keene and serves both Cheshire and Hillsborough counties. It provides services ranging from nursing and physical therapy to medical social work and child-health clinics. In 2007, Home Healthcare served 46 persons in Antrim, compared to 97 persons in 2000. Much of the agency's costs are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, grants, and patient insurance and fees. The remainder is provided through contributions from participating towns. Antrim voters have pledged \$8,000 to support this agency for 2008.

### **Monadnock Family Services**

Monadnock Family Services, which is based in Keene, provided mental health services to 89 Antrim residents in 2007. This agency relies on a number of funding sources, including insurance, and for local funding from towns served. Voters pledged \$3,280 to the agency for 2008.

### **St. Joseph Community Services**

St. Joseph's provides congregate and home-delivered meals to senior citizens, and serves all of Hillsborough County. In 2007, this agency served 55 persons; in 2000 it served 50. Voters approved support in the amount of \$2,990 for 2008. In January 2009, St. Joseph's began serving hot mid-day meals Monday through Friday at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street as part of its Community Dining Program.

### **Antrim Area Senior Center**

In January 2009, a group of concerned citizens opened the Antrim Area Center at the First Presbyterian Church. Open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 3 pm, the Center offers seniors 60 and older a place to get warm, have coffee and morning snacks, play card and board games, help in community service projects and take occasional trips to

places of interest. The steering committee for the Center plans to add computer and exercise classes, speakers and other programs of interest to its offerings. Currently, the Center is run and funded completely by volunteers.

### **Avenue A Teen Center**

Antrim's teen center is designed to provide teens, mainly in grades 8-12 from the Great Brook School towns, a place to meet, hang out, have fun, have access to resources, and find opportunities to engage in the community in positive ways. Staffed by a part-time coordinator, it is open four days a week on a "drop-in" basis. The center has a regulation pool table, foos ball, ping pong, and air hockey, as well as a graffiti wall, board games, and a stereo. There is space to do home work or just hang out and there is a computer for teen use. Drinks and snacks are on sale at very reasonable prices, the proceeds of which benefit the center. Funding comes from grants, fundraising and support from the Town of Antrim.

### **Antrim Village**

Antrim Village is a 40-unit housing complex for seniors and disabled persons, located at 6 Aiken Street. The apartment complex, which includes a centralized community room and office, was built in 1982 and is managed by Boston Land Company Management Services Inc. The HUD Section 8 housing is available for senior citizens, ages 62 and older and disabled persons age 18 and older.

### **Great Brook Homes**

Welcoming Light Inc., a nonprofit affiliate of Harbor Homes in Nashua, operates two sharing, independent living residences in Antrim. Both houses, located in the village area on Grove Street and North Main Street, are run as HUD Section 8 housing. Unlike Antrim Village, which is an apartment complex, the five adults in each Great Brook facility have private bedrooms and share the kitchen, bathrooms, living room, and other communal areas of the home.

Great Brook Homes' facility on Grove Street is a single-story structure and fully handicapped-accessible. The house on North Main Street has handicapped-accessible rooms on the ground floor only.

Welcoming Light employs a part-time manager for the homes but does not provide social services for the residents.

### **The Contoocook Housing Trust**

The Contoocook Housing Trust is a nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families in the region. The trust owns and manages 13 multifamily dwellings in the towns of Hillsborough, Bennington, Antrim and Peterborough. Four of these buildings are in Antrim: 30 Main Street, 20 West



Street, 96 Main Street and 102 Main Street. Together they provide 12 housing units for local residents.

The housing trust is governed by a volunteer board of directors, which historically has included one or more Antrim residents. The trust employs a full-time executive director and two part-time maintenance people. Funding for the organization comes from the rental income and from support provided by local towns. Antrim contributed \$500 to the trust in 2007.

# Recommendations

The Town of Antrim has been a good steward of its properties and town services, but several projects have been identified as priorities for the town's future well-being. This list is generated by both an assessment of the needs of individual town departments and the desires of Antrim residents, as expressed in surveys and visioning sessions. These include:

- **Establish a Community Center. Continue supporting the Avenue A, Antrim's teen center. Support the Antrim Area Senior Center.** Now that a teen center has been established, there are two more distinct groups whose needs could be served through a community center. Two-income family life means more before-school and after-school care is needed for younger children; an aging population requires a place to socialize and recreate. Currently, the town provides no support to the newly established Antrim Area Senior Center. The potential for a community center should be explored; the natural partner for this venture would be The Grapevine. Consideration should be given to supporting the Antrim Area Senior Center.
- **Increase Communications Infrastructure.** Establish a Wi-Fi district in the downtown area to support current businesses, and attract new ones.
- **Address Police Safety, Space Needs.** Explore and finalize plans for new office space for the Antrim Police Department. Keeping the police station in the heart of town, where officers can respond more quickly to problems at the schools and local businesses would be an asset.
- **Continue to consider the feasibility of having a Public Works Director.** As Antrim grows, the town should continue to explore the possibility of coordinating all its highway, waste disposal, water and sewer services, and building, cemetery and facility maintenance under a Public Works Director. Such a position would provide better coordination and efficiency among many of the services the Town offers its residents.
- **Increase the Number of Recreational Fields.** Town and school teams are having a tough time sharing the limited space on town-owned Shea Field on School Street. The Parks and Recreation Commission is continuing to study possible purchase of available land. Opportunities for adding recreational fields in town or the use of fields in other towns should also be explored, as well as the possibility of the use of any recreational facilities the Maharishi Academy may develop.
- **Increase Safety, Accessibility at Antrim Memorial Gym.** Town and school officials are addressing the need for more storage space and a better entrance to the gymnasium. The gym was recently refurbished by the school district, but the locker rooms, bathrooms, and storage space used by the town recreation

department was lost. One possible solution is a new entrance from the parking lot directly into the gym, plus a new storage closet and space for backpacks. Other issues, including access to bathrooms and locker space, will have to be addressed as well.

- **Study and address the recreation needs of all of Antrim residents.** In early, 2008, the town's Capital Improvements Committee (CIP) recommended that, in light of the multiple and sometimes costly requests of the Parks & Recreation Commission, a study be performed on Antrim's parks and recreation needs in light of the declining school enrollment and increasing senior population. The Committee thought commissioning a study of Antrim's needs would be very helpful in determining where work needed to be concentrated and where funding would do the most good.
- **Increase River Access for Recreation.** With the lease of the sand pit on Old North Branch Road, the town will have its first easy access to Steele Pond, a desirable area for fishing and boating. A modest project would be to establish a boat ramp and parking on the leased land. This access might be limited to kayaks and canoes at first, but can be expanded as the town's plans for that property take shape.
- **Enact Hazard Mitigation Recommendations.** The town's comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan has several capital improvement projects listed, including needed upgrades or replacement of town-owned bridges (please see plan on file at town offices for the full list). Resources and planning for these projects should be a priority for the town in the coming years, and matching federal and state grant money should be sought wherever possible.
- **Assess Feasibility of Water and Sewer Expansion.** Opportunities for business development outside the village district could hinge on the availability of water and sewer connections. At present, both systems are limited to the village area, so any expansion would have to be outside of the existing distribution system. A study would reveal the engineering hurdles and the price tag for expanding the systems and would be desirable in assessing the potential for additional growth of the system. This should be done in coordination with the Future Land Use Plan to encourage development, where desirable, but not sprawl.

# **Addendum**

## **Education**

The Town of Antrim is a member of the nine-town Contoocook Valley School District, created in 1968-1969. Joining Antrim in the district are the towns of Bennington, Dublin, Francestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple. Administration is provided by School Administrative Unit 1 with offices at 106 Hancock Road (Route 202) in Peterborough. Local funding for education is based on assessments to the nine member towns based on average daily membership (50 percent), and equalized valuation of the town (50 percent).

The district maintains eight elementary school (all towns except for Sharon have an elementary school), two regional middle schools (Great Brook School in Antrim, serving Antrim, Bennington, Francestown and Hancock; South Meadow School in Peterborough, serving Dublin, Greenfield, Peterborough, Sharon and Temple); and Contoocook Valley Regional High School, serving all nine district towns and housing the Applied Technology Center for Region 14 (which it shares with the Jaffrey-Rindge and Mascenic school districts).

All the school buildings, including the local elementary schools, are owned and maintained by the school district. The district also provides pupil transportation.

The official school enrollments for each year are calculated by the state on October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Antrim school children are included in the following enrollment data for 2008:

Antrim Elementary School:	169 students (all from Antrim households)
Great Brook School:	333 students (four towns, including Antrim)
Conval High School:	1,084 (nine towns, including Antrim)

Both school facilities in Antrim, Antrim Elementary School and Great Brook School, have been renovated in recent years. Work on Antrim Elementary School and the elementary school in Peterborough were the latest to be approved by district voters in 2001. The local cost of the building projects is shared by taxpayers in the nine towns and the state government which picks up 55% of the construction costs.

Education funding has long been of serious concern in New Hampshire, given that the lion's share of a homeowner's tax bill goes to support schools. Two areas of concern for Antrim taxpayers are the local school funding formula for the Conval Regional School District and the state's obligation to school funding.

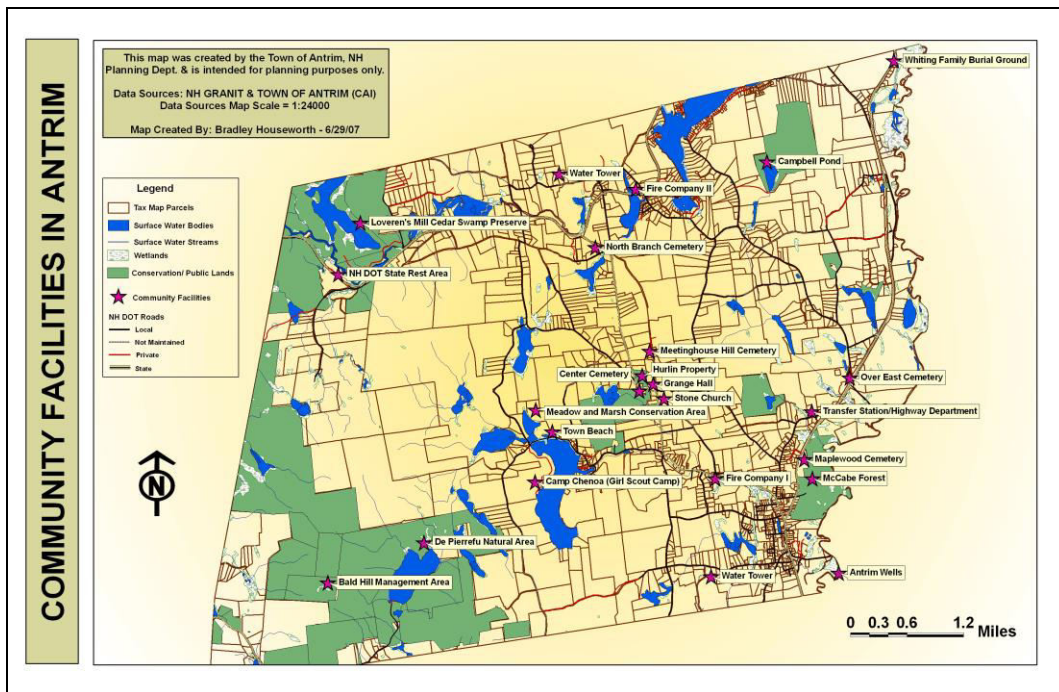
## **Master Plan Appendix Reference**

The following items are included in the Master Plan Appendix:

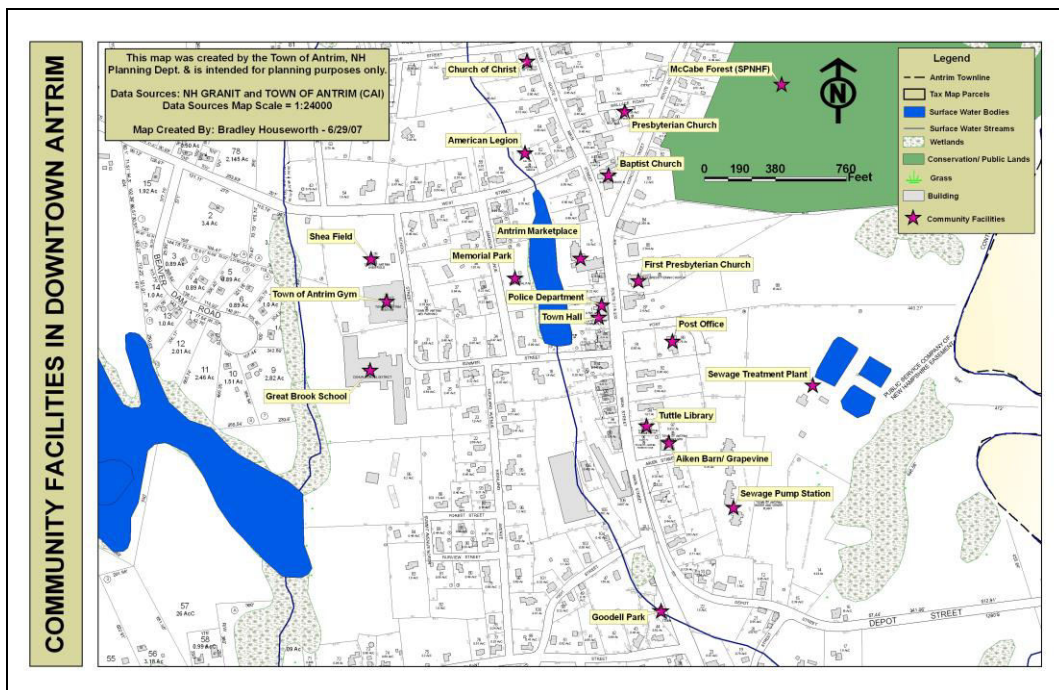
Map of Community Facilities in Antrim

Map of Community Facilities in Downtown Antrim

Table of Recreation Sites in Antrim



**Map X-1: Community Facilities in Antrim**



**Map X-2: Community Facilities in Downtown Antrim**

**Table 10-1: Recreation Sites in Antrim**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Map &amp; Lot #</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Willard Pond	Off Route 123, between Hancock & Stoddard	Map 248	Boating	State	100
Wetland Walkway	School Street	Map 103	Natural Area	School District	
Town Beach at Gregg Lake	Gregg Lake Road, Clinton Village	101-036	Boating, Swimming, Picnicking	Town of Antrim	1
Memorial Park	Jameson Avenue	103-013	Field Sports, Tennis, Basketball, Skating	Town of Antrim	7
Bald Mountain Management Area	Bald Mountain	248-001	Hunting	NH Fish & Game	74
DePierrefeu	Willard Pond	248-002,-003, -004, -005, -006, -007, -009; 249-007; 252-017; 253-007, -008, 254-002	Natural Area	Audubon Society	600
	Willard Pond - pending purchase, as of 9/30/08		Natural Area	Audubon Society	45
Hurlin Property	Antrim Center	227-007-001, 227-040	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Town of Antrim	26
Meadow Marsh Conservation Area	Gregg Lake	235-013, -015, -017, -018	Conservation, Passive Recreation	Town of Antrim	26
Hurlin-Willard Trail	Antrim Center		Hiking Trail	Town of Antrim	
Shea Field	School Street	103-029	Playgrounds	Town of Antrim	1
Goodell Park	Lower Village	104-045	Public Park	Town of Antrim	1/4
Town Gym	School Street	103-028	Basketball, Volleyball	Town of Antrim	
Teen Center	Antrim Center	104-106-01			
McCabe Forest	Downtown	243-001	Conservation, Recreation	Society of Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF)	
Hosmer Wildlife Management Area	West of Willard Pond	237-004	Conservation, Passive Recreation	NH Fish & Game	75
Middle School Gym	School Street			School District	
Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp Preserve	Route 9 North Branch	210-003	Conservation, Hiking	Nature Conservancy	600+, including Windsor acreage
Contoocook River					
Great Brook					