



Wakefield, NH: Parks & Recreation

2019 Needs Assessment & Planning Report

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Table of Contents

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| I. | Introduction and Background | 4 |
| II. | Project Scope of Work | 7 |
| III. | Findings/Recommendations | 10 |
| IV. | Appendix A: Comparison Facilities | 18 |
| V. | Appendix B: Focus Group Themes | 21 |
| VI. | Appendix C: Survey Data Tables | 22 |
| VII. | Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments..... | 33 |
| VIII. | Appendix E: Household Survey | 43 |



Introduction and Background

The town of Wakefield, including the villages of Union, Sanbornville, Wakefield Corner, South Wakefield, East Wakefield (including Woodman and Burleyville), and North Wakefield is a vibrant and active community with strong citizen involvement and interest in public recreation opportunities. Wakefield has ample outdoor natural resources including lakes, forests, and trail systems, primarily due to its location near the Ossipee and White Mountains. The town is home to 10 lakes, seven (7) of which have public access - Balch Pond, Great East Lake, Horn Pond, Lake Ivanhoe, Lovell Lake, Pine River Pond, and Union Meadows (NH Fish and Game, 2019). Wakefield has a fulltime police and fire department, and provides municipal emergency medical services.

The most recent Census data estimates show that Wakefield has a population of 5,033 residents and 3,753 households. Since 2000, the population of Wakefield has increased by 15.52%. Approximately 15.1% of the population is under the age of 18, while 21.6% is over the age of 65. The median age for Wakefield residents is 52.2 years. Approximately 4.3% of Wakefield residents are foreign-born and more than 96% of the population are United States citizens. Median income for Wakefield residents is \$56,291. Most Wakefield residents who work commute, either to another New Hampshire community (62.9%) or out-of-state (14.1%). Approximately 23.0% of Wakefield residents work in the town (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018; NHES, 2018).

The Paul School is the one public pre-K through eighth grade school operating in the town of Wakefield. Students attend high school approximately 15 miles away in Rochester. School enrollment trends (Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, Elementary) appear to be rising slightly over the past 5 years, and have remained steady over the past decade. This suggests that youth programs will continue to be in demand, and the need for indoor and outdoor recreation space for youth activities will remain steady.

Wakefield School Enrollment Trends, 2009-2019

| Year | Enrollment |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 2018-19 | 470 |
| 2017-18 | 437 |
| 2016-17 | 424 |
| 2015-16: | 423 |
| 2014-15 | 413 |
| 2013-14 | 417 |
| 2012-13 | 418 |
| 2011-12 | 427 |
| 2010-11: | 444 |
| 2009-10: | 465 |

Retrieved from <https://www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm>

The town owns the Greater Wakefield Resource Center, a historic building located in Union where senior meals are offered three times per week, and other social, recreational, and cultural programs take place, such as senior bingo and chair yoga. The Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department also offers senior-specific programming, including trips and recreational sports such as pickleball. Wakefield’s over-65 population (21.6%) is higher than the New Hampshire state average (18.1%). The town's location and geography, including its easy access to lakes, mountains, and the seacoast, have made it a popular retirement destination. This suggests that the demand for senior programs and activities will continue to be in high demand as existing community members age and as the town attracts new retirees.

Wakefield Parks and Recreation

The Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide-array of indoor and outdoor recreation programs and community activities for the residents of Wakefield and its surrounding service area. The department is staffed by a full-time director and program coordinator, and employs a part-time office position. In addition, the parks and recreation department employs approximately 7 part-time seasonal camp staff and 3 afterschool program counselors, and relies on the services of over 100 citizen volunteers. The department offers a wide variety of programs for children, youth, and adults including sports, before and afterschool programs, summer camps, special events, and trips. Organized recreation programs and activities served more than 5,800 persons over the last year.

Top Park and Recreation Programs By Participation

| Top 5 Outdoor Recreation Programs | Top 5 Indoor Recreation Programs |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Fourth of July Fireworks (1,500) | 1. Breakfast with Santa (500+) |
| 2. Easter Egg Hunt (350) | 2. Basketball Tournament (250+) |
| 3. Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt (250) | 3. Dancing with the Stars (250+) |
| 4. Christmas Tree Lighting (200+) | 4. Father-Daughter Dance (150) |
| 5. Ice Fishing Derby (185) | 5. Basketball (Grades K-8) (125) |

Program participation data provided by the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department

The parks and recreation department manages and schedules indoor and outdoor facilities used for recreation and community activities. Outdoor recreation and park amenities include beaches, playgrounds, parks, a skateboard park, basketball and tennis courts, and trail systems. The main facilities used by the parks and recreation department include the Ballpark Complex, Lovell Lake Beach, Paul School, Town Hall Opera House, Town Skate Park, Turntable Park, Ames Park, Lake Ivanhoe Beachfront, Garvin Park Playground, Weeks Beach & Park, and the Parks and Recreation Building. Senior programming occurs at the Greater Wakefield Resource Center located in Union.

The parks and recreation office is located in Sanbornville. Indoor recreation space is at a premium in Wakefield, and the parks and recreation department lacks programmable

indoor recreation space – particularly space that it schedules and controls. The parks and recreation department uses indoor activity space at their main office for afterschool and other specialty programming. In addition, the department partners with the Paul School and Town Hall to obtain needed indoor recreation space. The parks and recreation department and the school have a good relationship and generally work well together. However, the Paul School gym is a small facility (one elementary school sized basketball court) that is used for multiple activities by both the school and community throughout the year. The gym is particularly stressed during the winter months. The school uses the gym to host its afterschool program three days per week until 4:15 p.m. Other school uses include band concerts, meetings, fundraisers, and pre-season baseball and softball practices. The gym is limited for use during the summer and school breaks, as it is used as a storage site for equipment during construction and renovation projects, and resurfacing of the gym floor.

The parks and recreation program uses the Paul School gym when it is available primarily for youth basketball practices and games for its 12-team recreational basketball program. The parks and recreation department generally has access to the gym for approximately 20 hours per week for practices and games. This limits most teams to just one practice each week. Comparable recreational basketball programs in the area (e.g. Rochester, Wolfeboro) practice 2-3 times with games scheduled each week throughout the season. The lack of practice time limits player development, and puts Wakefield youth basketball at a disadvantage compared to local programs. The lack of indoor gym space in town places limits on program growth in other areas, including summer camp programming, adult recreational sports (basketball, volleyball, pickleball), and shoulder-season indoor practice times for recreational baseball and softball.



Project Scope of Work

Wakefield has ample outdoor recreation opportunities, built outdoor recreation amenities, and has a full-time parks and recreation department that provides full-service recreation programming to the town and surrounding areas. The demand for indoor activity space and the demand for year-round indoor recreation activities prompted the town to conduct a needs assessment study in partnership with the University of New Hampshire's Community Planning and Research Collaborative (CPARC) to better understand the needs for community recreation and activity space in town. This is in alignment with the town's Master Plan, which states that "*The Recreation Department is growing out of its current facility. The current space is becoming too small to handle the staffing and program needs of the department*" (Town of Wakefield Master Plan, 2011, p. 12).

The scope of this report focuses on the work of the planning and evaluation team from the University of New Hampshire in conducting a parks and recreation needs assessment for the Wakefield (NH) Parks and Recreation Department during the Winter and Spring of 2019. The UNH project team consists of faculty and graduate students in the Department of Recreation Management and Policy's Community Research and Planning Collaborative (CPARC). Specifically, the purpose of this study was to address the following:

1. To examine the parks and recreation needs as identified by the residents and key stakeholders of the Wakefield (NH) Parks and Recreation Department;
2. To determine which parks and recreation needs expressed were deemed to be priorities for the Wakefield (NH) Parks and Recreation Department;
3. To develop a set of recommendations that would allow the Wakefield (NH) Parks and Recreation Department to meet the priorities that were identified throughout the study.

The team from UNH has expertise in community planning and parks and recreation administration, and team members have conducted similar community planning studies in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts and throughout the country. The team's philosophy and approach in undertaking the study was one of "holding up a mirror" and reflecting back to the community what was heard during the data collection process. The results and recommendations presented in this report are a direct reflection of the public input received. While the team's expertise in parks and recreation planning played a role in the final recommendations and discussion, all recommendations were informed by the data gathered during an extensive research and public input process.

Project Activities

All project activities were designed to generate information to inform the recommendations contained in this report. In addition to background research and

meetings with staff, this process included opportunities for public engagement. Public input activities were especially important to include broad citizen participation and input into the process. A description of project and public input activities follows. Data summaries are included in Appendix C of this report (see page 22), along with a copy of the household survey in Appendix E (see page 43).

Background and information gathering. The project team toured and observed park and recreation facilities, programs, and services to understand current department operations and offerings. The project team also reviewed and analyzed department program registrations and facility usage patterns to understand key areas of need, as well as to understand where facilities were over- or under-utilized, or where programs were under- or over-enrolled. The team also conducted a comparison study of three (3) indoor community centers located in New Hampshire to better understand possibilities for indoor activity space provision in Wakefield. Comparison studies included site visits and collecting information related to facility size, activity spaces, staffing levels, capital construction costs, and cost-recovery potential. This information is presented in Appendix A (see page 18). Finally, the team conducted a review of the literature relating to trends in indoor recreation facility space design and utilization, as well as trends in recreation and community programming.

Meetings with key staff. The project team met with parks and recreation staff to discuss the project process, obtain needed documents and information, tour existing facilities, verify the accuracy of information collected, and clarify project questions. The team also met and with briefed designated members of the Wakefield Recreation Advisory Board at the beginning and end of the project.

Focus group meetings with recreation stakeholders and the public. The project team held 11 focus groups attended by approximately 85 residents and stakeholders on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, February 19-21, 2019. Stakeholder groups represented a range of interests including senior citizens, school staff, community organizations and groups, town committees, program partners, recreation and town staff, town officials, adult recreation participants and instructors, young adult participants, youth sports organizations and volunteers, church groups, and parents of youth program participants. Meetings were scheduled through the town and coordinated with the parks and recreation department, and were facilitated by the project team from UNH. Meetings consisted of an open, guided conversation related to the recreation needs and priorities in Wakefield. Detailed notes of public sessions were taken by the project team for each meeting. Guiding questions for focus groups consisted of the following:

- What do you like most about the current space available for recreation activities in Wakefield?
- What are the main drawbacks about the current space available for recreation activities in Wakefield?

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- What new spaces do you wish you had for recreation activities in Wakefield, or what new program ideas do you have?
 - Is new recreation activity space a priority for Wakefield, given other town priorities?

The project team met to review focus group notes and discuss salient themes and trends that emerged across the interviews. Focus group themes were used to prepare the final recommendations, and are presented in Appendix B (see page 21).

Town-wide online household survey, with paper copies available for those who could not or chose not to access the survey online. A link to an online recreation needs assessment was made available to Wakefield residents through a variety of methods, including direct e-mails to recreation participants via the park and recreation user database, e-mails to households in the town's database, invitations to participate in local media, and posts on the Wakefield park and recreation department's social media accounts. Residents were invited to complete the survey online, or if they preferred, paper copies were available to complete and return at the Park and Recreation Office and Town Hall. The survey was open and available for data collection for approximately four (4) weeks.

A total of 410 surveys were completed with enough data for analysis. The number of responses varied per question, as participants were given the option to answer or not answer all questions on the survey. Respondents to the survey were almost all residents (97.3%) who claimed Wakefield as their primary residence (90.7%). Respondents lived in Wakefield for an average of 17 years. Respondents were more female (69.2% vs. 48.1%) and more likely to have children under 18 living in the home (51.5% vs. 27.1%) than the town of Wakefield as a whole (US Census Bureau, 2010; NHDES, 2018). The survey demographics were more or less in-line with respect to the town in age (49 vs. 52 years), home ownership (90.1% vs. 86.1%), unemployment rate (3.4% vs. 2.8%), and percentage of adults over age 65 (20.3% vs. 21.6%). Results of the survey are summarized under "Findings and Recommendations" below, and data are presented in data tables in Appendix C of the report beginning on page 22.



Findings and Recommendations

Based on the activities associated with this project, including background research, benchmarking, stakeholder focus groups and interviews, and the resident household survey, the following findings/recommendations are offered for consideration by the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department:

1. **The results of this study support the need for a stand-alone multigenerational indoor community center for the town of Wakefield.**

- ✓ Survey respondents were asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that a town-supported multigenerational community/recreation center is needed in Wakefield. 80.9% of respondents agreed that *“Wakefield needs a new town-supported indoor recreation center to meet the recreation needs of Wakefield residents.”* More than half of respondents strongly agreed (58.8%) and over 1 in 5 respondents (22.1%) agreed to this statement.
- ✓ Strong majorities of survey respondents felt that it was likely that they would benefit personally (74.3%) or that their household (76.9%) would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Wakefield. Even stronger majorities (82.4%) agreed that the broader Wakefield community would benefit from an indoor community center. In fact, a strong majority of respondents (62.4%) felt it was *extremely likely* that the broader community would benefit. Perceptions of benefits included more positive activities for youth and teens (72.4%), increased health and wellness (69.6%), increased sense of community (58.6%), more activities for older adults (58.0%), and increased business/economic activity in town (27.3%). A list of open-ended comments related to perceived community center benefits are listed in the Appendix.
- ✓ A majority of the recreation facility and program needs identified in this study require additional dedicated facility space to meet expressed demand. For example, 72.8% of survey respondents stated that an indoor multi-purpose gym was a high (43.8%) or medium (29.0%) priority. Similarly, 71.5% of respondents indicated that indoor gym or athletic court space was a high (42.7%) or medium (28.8%) priority. Space for programmed activities such as youth basketball, adult drop-in recreation, youth summer camps, afterschool programming, senior programming, and other organized recreation programming is already at a premium given the space demands of schools and local youth sport organizations already using existing facilities. Adding additional programs such as open gyms, drop-in programs, or more youth or adult recreational sports programming - all of which were noted by a majority of survey respondents as either high or medium-term priorities - would require additional available gymnasium and athletic court space.

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- ✓ All 11 focus groups raised the issue of building a separate indoor community center to meet the space needs of Wakefield residents, and spoke to the need. It should be noted that there were voices in the focus groups that urged caution, felt that such a facility would undoubtedly come at a cost to the town, were skeptical that such a project would be fully supported by taxpayers, and suggested that the town had other priorities that should be met first. However, focus group participants on the whole had specific ideas for the space needs that a new indoor community center should be able to accommodate.

2. A multigenerational indoor community center should include dedicated spaces to accommodate the needs of specific age groups, such as youth/adolescents and seniors.

- ✓ A strong majority of survey respondents (79.2%) indicated that dedicated activity space for teens and youth was a high (47.3%) or medium (31.9%) priority. Similarly, strong majorities of survey respondents stated that youth recreational sports (76.3%), middle school/teen afterschool programs (75.6%), summer specialty day camps (75.4%), summer recreation camps (75.2%), elementary afterschool programs (73.7%), and non-sport teen/high school programs (72.5%) were also high or medium priorities. The popularity of the positive youth development movement in the 1990s saw the construction of separate buildings for teens and youth (i.e. “teen centers”) to accommodate the educational, social, emotional, and physical needs of this age group. Separate teen centers have largely fallen out of favor, as they present a challenge to program, staff and finance (Adler, 2018). Teens and youth need their own space to hang out and interact with their peers. However, research shows that different generations benefit when they spend time together (Abrahms, 2017). We recommend that a new community center include separate, connected, and dedicated activity space for teens and youth. In particular, programming should be available for non-sport related activities such as games, social space, art and music.
- ✓ In addition to dedicated space for teens, a majority of survey respondents (61.4%) felt that space for senior meals was a high (30.0%) or medium (31.4%) priority, and 65.9% felt that space designated for senior/older adult activities was a high (29.3%) or medium (36.6%) priority. Almost two-thirds of survey respondents (65.4%) felt that a senior center was a high (29.2%) or medium (36.2%) priority. Senior center space should include multipurpose activity area/s, a commercial or catering-level kitchen and dining facility, and adequate storage. The senior wing should include dedicated parking areas proximate to the building for senior use. It should be noted that the town of Wakefield currently owns the Greater Wakefield Resource Center located in Union, where senior meals and other activities currently take place. Current space is adequate for social programming and meals, but space for active recreation and physical activity is limited. In addition, parking spaces are limited, and it can be difficult for seniors to access the building, particularly during the winter.

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- ✓ A good space design model is Meredith, NH's Community Center, an 18,000 square foot building which was constructed in 2006. The building provides multigenerational space for activities throughout the day, and features a flexible design that allows for multiple user groups and programming. The Meredith Community Center also houses the Park and Recreation Department's senior programming, and provides dedicated senior space within the building. The center accommodates mostly seniors/older adults during the day for organized programming such as group fitness classes, walking, and pickleball, shifts to youth afterschool programming in the afternoon, and provides a space for recreational sports and adult recreation in the evening.

3. A multigenerational indoor community center should incorporate a variety of activity spaces to host diverse recreation, community, and civic activities in Wakefield.

- ✓ The strongest identifiable needs in this study were for teen/youth center space, multipurpose gym space, gymnasium/athletic courts, weight room/fitness center, indoor function/events room, senior center, indoor meeting space, and an indoor walking/jogging track. Outdoor amenities such as an outdoor walking/jogging track, multiuse trails, playgrounds, multipurpose athletic fields, and baseball/softball fields were also identified as needs by survey participants.
- ✓ One of the common ideas expressed in the focus groups was that when gym space is available it isn't needed, and when it is needed it isn't available. In addition, available indoor space is not adequately sized for programming needs. The Paul School is an elementary school gym that is limited in its ability to accommodate multiple games or practices at the same time. The side baskets are not adjustable for youth basketball games. In addition, the gym lacks adequate storage, with equipment and tables stored on the sidelines of the court. This creates space (and safety) challenges when programming recreational activities in this space. Other indoor space available to the parks and recreation department suffers in similar ways. The Town Hall/Opera House is used for pickleball, but the lack of storage and presence of equipment and furniture proximate to playing areas is a safety issue. The facility also lacks air conditioning, and is not suitable for use during summer months or during the day when town office staff are working below the activity area due to noise levels from activity programming. The parks and recreation department uses its current building for various recreation programming, including as a site for its afterschool program. The parks and recreation department has been creative in how it programs space that was not designed as a recreation center. The first floor of the building lacks storage, is limited in its capacity to accommodate more than 10-12 youth comfortably, and is in need of general maintenance and upkeep. The second floor could serve as community meeting space, but lacks access for persons with mobility impairments and is limited in capacity. Given the general condition of the

building and its lack of suitability as a recreation center, it is recommended that the town find alternative uses for the structure, or divest of the property.

- ✓ We recommend that a new building start with adequate gymnasium/athletic court space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc. In addition, the building should be able to accommodate multipurpose studio space for fitness, dance, yoga, and other activities. Gymnasium space is at a premium in Wakefield, particularly in the winter months and shoulder seasons (late fall/early spring) when demand for gym space exceeds supply. Gymnasium space would also be useful in the summer for camp programs. Access to additional gym space opens up the opportunities for adding new programs that can generate revenue, including specialty camps, adult recreational leagues, and can service the local youth sports community. In addition to the added activity space, community gym space (either in the athletic court areas or multipurpose spaces) could be used to accommodate civic functions such as voting or large town functions. It is recommended that the building include a high school sized basketball court (approximately 84' x 50') with the ability to run two junior high school sized cross courts (approximately 74' x 42') (ACSM, 2018) with a drop curtain to separate courts for practice. The community centers in Fryeburg, ME and Meredith, NH are good models for Wakefield with regards to gym space.
- ✓ The building should include space to accommodate indoor walking/jogging. This can be accomplished by suspending a walking/jogging track over the athletic courts, and including mezzanine-level stretching and/or fitness areas. This design has aesthetic and space advantages, but generally increases construction costs. Another option would be to have the track on the same level as the basketball courts around the perimeter of the facility. This can save money on engineering and construction, but can create challenges in managing exit/entry to the track and court areas. It is also possible to accommodate indoor walking without a track. For example, Meredith's Community Center provides adequate space around the perimeter of the athletic court areas that is used for morning walking programs.
- ✓ The building should include a multi-purpose room that can be used for community meetings, activity classes, or civic or private functions. This room could accommodate non-physical recreation programs, such as educational or enrichment classes, games, or other civic or community functions. The room should be furnished with modular and movable furniture that is adaptable and can be moved easily both before and after programs. The building should have a full kitchen proximate to the multi-purpose room to accommodate senior or community meals or other civic or private functions.
- ✓ In addition to the programming space identified above, a building of this nature needs facility space to serve current and future recreation programs. For example, the building should have space for the town's parks and recreation department, including office space to accommodate approximately 3 staff members, including the parks and

recreation director, a conference room that can be used for staff and other meetings, and copy/supplies area. The new building should include adequate and ample equipment storage for parks and recreation programs and activities, and should include storage/garage space for parks maintenance equipment and supplies. Finally, the new building should contain adequate restroom space, shower space, and a basic locker/change facility.

- ✓ If building plans and budget allow, space for basic weight training and fitness/cardio workout space could enhance facility offerings and could be a means of revenue generation for the facility. There was expressed need throughout the project for a fitness/workout facility that could be used for beginner or casual fitness enthusiasts as a means of introducing residents to basic strength training and cardio fitness activities. The lack of private fitness providers in town provides a niche that the parks and recreation department could fill and could generate revenue through memberships and/or personal training services. Should a private fitness provider locate to Wakefield, the community center's fitness space should be positioned to complement existing commercial offerings in this area, rather than to compete or draw business away from private businesses.
- ✓ Focus group participants noted that there were other priorities in town, including having a suitable emergency shelter and/or warming center, as well as having adequate space for large municipal events such as voting. A new community center could fill these needs, and could be designed to serve this dual purpose. Again, Meredith's Community Center could serve as a good model, as the building serves multiple municipal and civic functions.

4. Construction funding for a new multigenerational indoor community center should come from a diverse mix of funding sources, should generate revenue, and should be built with minimal tax burden.

- ✓ One of the questions that emerged from the focus groups as the project unfolded was, "*how are we going to pay for this?*" It is unlikely that a new multigenerational indoor community center will be able to be 100% self-supporting in the sense that it will generate enough revenue to service the capital debt burden and cover annual operations and maintenance costs. The predominant funding model for public recreation facilities throughout the country is some combination of funding sources, including tax dollars, fees and charges, and sponsorship/philanthropy. It is likely that support for such a project in Wakefield (as in most communities) will be predicated on the facility being built with as little impact on taxes as possible.
- ✓ Participants in this study expressed support for funding an indoor recreation facility through a combination of property taxes, user fees and rental charges, and partnerships with other user groups. A majority of survey respondents were willing to pay a fee to use indoor recreation facilities (72.6%) or to pay for recreation programs

(80.5%). In addition, a majority of survey respondents agreed that tax dollars were appropriate means to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities (65.8%), as well as to offset the costs of recreation programs and activities (57.2%). Indoor facilities such as this can be economic drivers for communities, and can provide opportunities for business sponsorship, rental/contracts, and referral services. Partnerships with non-profit groups, local youth sport organizations, and the School District are natural fits for a project such as this, and 74.5% of survey respondents felt that it was a good idea for the town to partner with other organizations to provide recreation services. Recreation facilities and amenities are potential assets for towns. Parks and recreation staff should seek out private entrepreneurs who might be interested in renting space in such a new facility in order to build and grow their existing programs. This could provide a source of income for the new facility and add to the economic vitality of the town by providing opportunities for new "pop-up" businesses to grow and serve the community. For example, multipurpose space could be rented to a local martial arts instructor to run martial arts programs, while adding to the range of program offerings available in town.

- ✓ Based on the needs expressed in this project, we believe that a building with a footprint similar to the one built in Meredith, NH would meet the current and future recreation needs in Wakefield. We hesitate to suggest exact square footage recommendations and project cost estimates as these will need to be provided following the building design/feasibility phase. Building operations costs can be recouped or offset through revenue generation plans, such as facility memberships, program fees, partnership agreements with surrounding towns and organizations, facility rentals to civic and other groups, and possible public-private ventures. The Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department has already shown the ability to generate revenue. For example, in FY2018 the department generated approximately \$115,415 in program fees. The department's general fund budget allocation was \$161,470. This means that the department recoups approximately 71.5% of its tax allocation. Generated funds represent 42.7% of total department revenues. This is significantly higher than the national average of 25% (NRPA, 2018), and higher than recently reported averages in area towns such as Belmont, Conway, Franklin, Gilford, Meredith, Moultonborough, Ossipee, and Wolfeboro (Town of Moultonborough Recreation Needs Assessment, 2015). It is likely that gaining access to additional programmable space with the ability to grow and expand programming options will increase the department's ability to increase its generated (non-tax) revenue.
- ✓ It is likely that a new facility would require the addition of 1-2 additional FTEs to assist with facility operations, management, and maintenance. This includes part-time staff to assist with building access and control and routine cleaning and upkeep.

5. A site feasibility study should be conducted on a suitable construction site that is ideally located at the Wakefield Ballpark Complex.

- ✓ One of the significant findings of this study was that study participants wanted a facility that was centrally located and easily accessible to all areas of the town. This is difficult to accomplish, given Wakefield's geographic spread. However, the town's parks and recreation department currently operates programs at the Ballpark Complex off of NH 153, and it is likely that there is adequate property at that location to site a building of the size and scope identified in this project.
- ✓ The potential build site is suitable in that the town already owns the land, and the building would be proximate to existing outdoor recreation amenities, including multipurpose athletic fields, baseball/softball fields, and the town's disc golf course. This site would also provide a central hub for parks and recreation programming in town, addressing a concern expressed by focus group participants that the town's park and recreation programming was too scattered and located in multiple spaces and places. Creating a central hub for the town's recreation programming would create efficiencies for staff and a "one-stop-recreation-shop" for participants and families. Additional outdoor amenities could be located at this location as well. For example, a majority of survey respondents (80.2%) stated that they thought an outdoor walking/jogging track was a high (44.0%) or medium (36.2%) priority, and 70.7% stated that additional playground spaces were either a high (35.7%) or medium (35.0%) priority. Both Freyburg, ME and Meredith, NH located their facilities proximate to their town's outdoor athletic facilities, and both provide easy pedestrian access to their indoor and outdoor recreation amenities.
- ✓ We recommend that a site feasibility study be conducted in the near term with an architectural/engineering firm to determine the suitability of the Ballpark Complex to carry both an indoor community center and existing and/or improved outdoor athletic fields/amenities. In addition, the firm should provide a conceptual design, site plan, business plan, and cost estimate for the project.
- ✓ We recommend that the timing for any new project should be scheduled with the town's current and future bonding capacity in mind. Consistent with survey responses, we believe that a new facility project such as this should take place within a 6-year timeframe.

6. An alternative to a new building is to consider repurposing existing town space for recreation purposes.

- ✓ The town could explore alternatives to new construction, as there may be opportunities to obtaining needed indoor space that could present themselves in the near future. For example, many towns in New England are downsizing, consolidating or upgrading aging school facilities. If school consolidation or reorganization is on

the table as an option in Wakefield, there may be an opportunity to repurpose an existing school to be used as an indoor community center. This is a common method for gaining indoor recreation space, particularly in New England. For example, Kittery (ME) repurposed an old school and combined both renovation and new additions to create a multigenerational indoor community center, and is a good model for that type of project. Other local examples include Dover's McConnell Center, the new Concord Community Center, and a new school renovation in Conway.

- ✓ It should be noted that repurposing a school would still require construction and renovation, so there would likely still need to be a significant investment in both planning and construction resources to ensure that such a project would meet the needs of Wakefield residents, particularly with regards to adequate gymnasium space.

Proposed Next Steps

1. Issue a Request for Proposals for a community center feasibility study, to include site and building plans and cost estimates for a facility similar in size and scope to meet the needs identified in this study. Investigate the possibilities of repurposing and renovating existing school properties, if such properties should come available to the town in the near-term.
2. Investigate alternative sources of funding for the project. Alternative sources of funding are difficult to obtain, but can be used to supplement tax dollars needed to service debt for capital construction. Sources of funding could include fundraising, planned giving, sponsorships, and/or grants (e.g. USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grants, Community Development Block Grants). Information on these and other programs can be found at <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/>.



Appendix A: Comparison Facilities

FRYEBURG (ME) COMMUNITY CENTER

Square Footage: 22,000 square feet

Opened: 2019

Cost: Estimated between \$3.3 - 3.6 million when fully complete

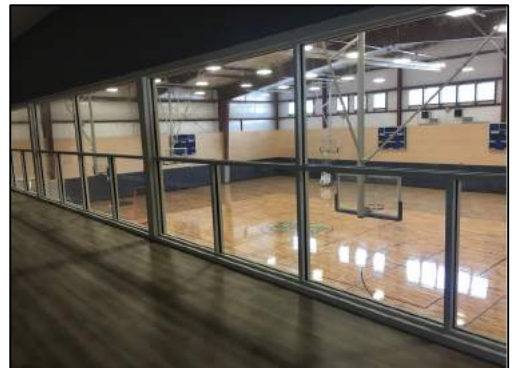
Operating Cost: N/A

Funding Source: Fundraised by Fryeburg Recreation Committee, a 501c(3) non-profit. Donated materials and labor from local contractors.

Managed By: Town of Fryeburg, ME Recreation Department

Features:

- High school sized basketball court striped for multiple activities (basketball, pickleball, volleyball)
- Two 73' x 46' cross-courts
- Hardwood floors
- Scoreboards
- Mezzanine area with commercial kitchen
- Upstairs function room
- Multipurpose room with synthetic flooring
- Staff office space
- Ample storage and mechanical room
- Located at the town of Fryeburg's outdoor sports complex with multipurpose athletic fields, baseball/softball diamonds, outdoor walking/jogging area, outdoor basketball courts, covered picnic shelter/pavilion, and maintenance building.



Comparison Facilities (Continued):

MEREDITH (NH) COMMUNITY CENTER

Square Footage: 18,000 square feet

Opened: April 2006

Cost: \$3.5 million construction,
\$500,000 for the land

Operating Cost: Approximately \$102,700; facility
generates approximately \$87,314

Funding Source: Fundraised \$400,000; bond
funding for the remainder; capital
fund was established in 2008 for
maintenance and upkeep

Managed By: Meredith Parks and Recreation
Department

Features:

- Full-sized basketball court with two cross-courts for practice and games
- Drop curtain to separate playing areas
- Synthetic flooring designed for flexibility
- Scoreboards, sound panels on gym walls
- Indoor climbing wall, performing arts stage
- Multiple function rooms separated by room dividers
- Senior center absorbed into parks and recreation department in 2014
- Commercial kitchen
- Game room and separate arts and crafts room
- Staff office space
- Ample storage and mechanical room
- Covered outdoor seating space
- Located in town and proximate to outdoor sports fields and playground. Pedestrian access to both the community center and fields; designed with "New England" aesthetic
- Serves multiple functions - town council chambers, emergency shelter, voting place



Comparison Facilities (Continued):

NORTH CONWAY (NH) COMMUNITY CENTER

Square Footage: 9,200 square feet

Opened: November 2015

Cost: \$1.3 million

Operating Cost: N/A; facility generates approximately \$38,000 annually in rental income and approximately \$71,000 in program services



Photo courtesy of Quentin Lewis (Google Maps)

Funding Source: Fundraising; town tax support of approximately \$65,000-75,000/year

Managed By: North Conway Community Center - 501c(3) Non-Profit



Features:

- Middle-school sized basketball court with two short cross courts for practice
- Synthetic flooring designed for flexibility
- Scoreboard
- Conference room, 24' x 25' multipurpose room, game room
- 14' x 14' weight/fitness room
- Commercial kitchen
- Staff office space
- Limited storage space
- LED lights and sensors throughout the building
- Located in downtown North Conway adjacent to Schouler Park, a large greenspace/common area in town

Appendix B: Focus Group Themes

Theme 1: Participants had strong, positive perceptions of the parks and recreation program and staff, and were aware of the program's ability to do a lot with limited resources.

Theme 2: There was a perception that Wakefield lacks social and physical connectedness, and that there is no central hub for recreation programs and activities, creating a lack of efficiency.

Theme 3: Participants were positive about outdoor recreation facilities—particularly the ballpark complex. There were concerns with a lack of amenities (power, running water, bathrooms) at the ballfields.

Theme 4: There is a lack of suitable indoor recreation and community space and this is limiting the ability to adequately meet the needs of the town. There is interest in a multigenerational community center.

Theme 5: There is concern about the costs of new facility development, and there are other priorities facing the town (school renovation, water district infrastructure, bridges, warming/emergency shelter).

Focus group themes are derived from responses from 11 focus groups (approximately 85 participants) held on February 19-21, 2019. Stakeholder groups represented a range of interests including senior citizens, school staff, community organizations and groups, town committees, program partners, recreation and town staff, town officials, adult recreation participants and instructors, young adult participants, youth sports organizations and volunteers, church groups, and parents of youth program participants.

Appendix C: Household Survey Data

A link to an online recreation needs assessment was made available to Wakefield residents through a variety of methods, including direct e-mails to recreation participants via the park and recreation user database, e-mails to households in the town’s database, invitations to participate in local media, and posts on the Wakefield park and recreation department’s social media accounts. Residents were invited to complete the survey online, or if they preferred, paper copies were available to complete and return at the Park and Recreation Office and Town Hall. The survey was open and available for data collection for approximately four (4) weeks. A total of 410 surveys were completed with enough data for analysis. The number of responses varied per question, as participants were given the option to answer or not answer all questions on the survey. Data for all responses received are indicated in the following tables.

Table 1: Basic Survey Demographics

| | Percent, Median or Mean |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gender | |
| Male | 30.8% |
| Female | 69.2% |
| Age | Mdn = 49 years |
| Resident or Taxpayer | 97.3% |
| Years Living in Wakefield | Mdn = 17 years |
| Children Under 18 Living in the Home | 51.5% |
| Employment Status of Adults in Home | |
| Employed Full-Time | 70.7% |
| Employed Part-Time | 15.9% |
| Retired | 25.2% |
| Not Retired, Not Employed | 3.4% |

Table 2: Expanded Survey Demographics

| | Percent, Median or Mean |
|--|-------------------------|
| Housing Arrangement | |
| Own Home | 90.1% |
| Rent Home | 5.8% |
| Other Housing | 4.1% |
| Residence | |
| Primary Residence | 90.7% |
| Secondary Residence | 9.3% |
| Residence Location | |
| East Wakefield (Woodman, Burleyville) | 29.0% |
| North Wakefield | 7.9% |
| Sanbornville | 55.9% |
| South Wakefield | 0.3% |
| Union | 3.1% |
| Wakefield Corner | 2.1% |
| Children Ages 5 and Under Living in the Home | 20.6% |
| Children Ages 6-12 Living in the Home | 37.3% |
| Children Ages 13-18 Living in the Home | 22.9% |

Respondents were more female (69.2% vs. 48.1%) and more likely to have children under 18 living in the home (51.5% vs. 27.1%) than the town of Wakefield as a whole (US Census Bureau, 2010; NHDES, 2018). The survey demographics were more-or-less in-line with respect to the town in age (49 vs. 52 years), home ownership (90.1% vs. 86.1%), unemployment rate (3.4% vs. 2.8%), and percentage of adults over age 65 (20.3% vs. 21.6%).

Table 3: Use of Wakefield Park and Recreation Facilities

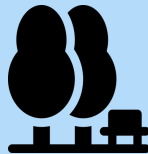
| Facility | 10 or more x per year | 1 - 9 x per year | % use | Unaware |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------|---------|
| Town Hall Opera House | 17.5% | 50.4% | 67.9% | 5.4% |
| Turntable Park | 20.5% | 46.4% | 66.9% | 3.5% |
| Ballpark Complex – Ball Fields | 39.8% | 24.3% | 64.1% | 3.0% |
| Rec Office | 22.6% | 31.1% | 53.7% | 6.0% |
| Paul School – Activity Room/Gym | 31.9% | 21.0% | 52.9% | 11.9% |
| Lovell Lake Beach | 23.5% | 29.4% | 52.9% | 2.7% |
| Ballpark Complex – Outdoor Courts | 26.4% | 23.4% | 49.8% | 6.3% |
| Garvin Park Playground | 17.3% | 26.9% | 44.2% | 15.6% |
| Greater Wakefield Resource Center | 8.7% | 24.1% | 32.8% | 15.4% |
| Town Skate Park | 9.1% | 16.5% | 25.6% | 10.5% |
| Ballpark Complex – Disc Golf Course | 8.8% | 16.8% | 25.6% | 10.5% |
| Ames Park | 7.3% | 11.5% | 18.8% | 35.8% |
| Weeks Beach and Park | 4.8% | 12.5% | 17.3% | 29.8% |
| Lake Ivanhoe Beachfront | 5.2% | 10.0% | 15.2% | 18.7% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

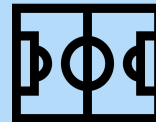
Top Three Most Used Recreation Facilities:



Opera House



Turntable Park



Ballpark Complex - Fields

Table 4: Perception of the Quality of Recreation Facilities

| Facility | Above Average or Excellent | Average | Below Average or Poor | Don't Use/Unable to Judge |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Park and Recreation Building | 9.1% | 27.5% | 30.2% | 33.2% |
| Lovell Lake Beach | 4.8% | 37.3% | 27.9% | 30.0% |
| Paul School – Activity Room/Gym | 9.1% | 38.0% | 19.8% | 33.2% |
| Turntable Park | 10.8% | 51.5% | 13.5% | 24.3% |
| Garvin Park Playground | 7.9% | 33.2% | 10.1% | 48.9% |
| Ballpark Complex – Ball Fields | 23.6% | 36.8% | 9.8% | 30.0% |
| Town Hall Opera House | 26.7% | 48.8% | 8.5% | 16.0% |
| Weeks Beach and Park | 1.1% | 13.2% | 7.3% | 78.4% |
| Greater Wakefield Resource Center | 10.2% | 29.3% | 7.0% | 53.5% |
| Lake Ivanhoe Beachfront | 0.5% | 13.3% | 7.5% | 78.6% |
| Town Skate Park | 11.4% | 23.0% | 6.5% | 59.1% |
| Ballpark Complex – Outdoor Courts | 22.3% | 32.5% | 5.4% | 39.8% |
| Ames Park | 2.7% | 20.3% | 3.0% | 74.0% |
| Ballpark Complex – Disc Golf Course | 14.0% | 19.6% | 1.4% | 65.1% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 5: Participation and Satisfaction - Recreation Programs

| Program Participation | Yes | No |
|---|-------|-------|
| Have you or members of your household participated in programs, special events, or activities offered by the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department over the past 12 months? | 70.6% | 29.4% |

| Program Participation | Excellent | Above Average | Average | Below Average | Poor |
|--|-----------|---------------|---------|---------------|------|
| How would you rate the quality of programs, special events or activities that you or members of your household have participated in over the past 12 months? | 35.0% | 30.8% | 29.2% | 4.6% | 0.4% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding



70.6% of survey respondents **participated** in parks and recreation programs, special events or activities in the last 12 months



65.8% of survey respondents reported that programs, special events, or activities were “**Excellent**” or “**Above Average**”

Table 6: Participation Constraints

| Participation Constraint | Strongly Agree/ Agree | Neither Agree/ Disagree | Strongly Disagree/ Disagree |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Lack of time – work or other obligations | 49.0% | 27.6% | 23.4% |
| Lack of time – other leisure activities | 38.8% | 45.4% | 15.8% |
| Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere | 34.1% | 33.8% | 32.1% |
| Facilities needed are not available | 28.5% | 41.7% | 29.7% |
| Not aware of what is available | 27.8% | 32.2% | 40.0% |
| Facilities are not adequate | 22.3% | 39.5% | 38.3% |
| Programs get cancelled because of low enrollment | 20.3% | 49.3% | 30.5% |
| Not interested in available recreation opportunities | 17.6% | 33.1% | 49.2% |
| No one to participate with | 16.8% | 34.5% | 48.6% |
| Lack of parking availability / convenience | 15.2% | 38.7% | 46.1% |
| Facilities too crowded | 9.9% | 42.7% | 47.4% |
| Lack of money / too expensive | 9.8% | 31.5% | 58.6% |
| Lack of childcare | 9.3% | 38.9% | 51.8% |
| Not satisfied with the quality of recreational staff | 7.2% | 32.5% | 60.3% |
| Lack of transportation / difficult to get to | 5.4% | 25.0% | 69.6% |
| Disability / accessibility issues | 5.4% | 43.5% | 51.0% |
| Inappropriate social environment | 4.8% | 33.6% | 61.5% |
| Difficult / confusing program registration process | 4.5% | 37.6% | 57.9% |
| Facilities are not safe | 4.2% | 27.0% | 68.7% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 7: Promotion Ideas

| Best Ways to Find Out About Recreation Program and Facility Offerings | Yes | No |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Social Media (Facebook, etc.) | 68.0% | 32.0% |
| E-mail | 57.7% | 42.3% |
| Flyer/Brochure | 48.3% | 51.7% |
| Department Website | 41.1% | 58.9% |
| School Announcements | 27.0% | 73.0% |
| Word of Mouth | 27.0% | 73.0% |
| Other | 3.1% | 96.9% |

Other Promotion Ideas:

- Rec director
- Billboard
- Flyer/brochure in PO box
- Sign up for mailings and on Local ctv where the board meetings are shown on tv would work like a ribbon on the bottom
- Lake Association eNews
- Website
- Town Website / Rec. Webpage
- A welcome letter to new residents with a map and description of programs and facilities offered would be helpful. I've lived for 15 years and had no idea about most of this stuff. I am on FB but the news feed rarely shows the parks and rec updates. The notification board.

Table 8: Facility Prioritization

| Facility | Hi Priority | Medium Priority | Lo Priority | Not a Priority |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Outdoor walking/jogging track | 44.0% | 36.2% | 12.9% | 6.9% |
| Teen/Youth Center | 47.3% | 31.9% | 10.4% | 10.4% |
| Outdoor multi-use trails | 36.9% | 37.2% | 17.7% | 8.2% |
| Outdoor multi-use trails | 36.9% | 37.2% | 17.7% | 8.2% |
| Indoor multipurpose gym | 43.8% | 29.0% | 19.9% | 7.3% |
| Indoor gym or athletic courts | 42.7% | 28.8% | 15.8% | 12.7% |
| Playgrounds | 35.7% | 35.0% | 17.8% | 11.5% |
| Indoor weights/fitness center | 35.8% | 34.9% | 17.3% | 11.9% |
| Indoor function/events room | 34.7% | 32.2% | 24.2% | 8.9% |
| Multipurpose athletic fields | 32.5% | 34.1% | 19.2% | 14.2% |
| Senior Center | 29.2% | 36.2% | 20.8% | 13.8% |
| Indoor meeting space | 23.2% | 36.8% | 25.4% | 14.6% |
| Baseball/softball fields | 29.5% | 30.1% | 9.9% | 20.5% |
| Indoor walking/jogging track | 32.8% | 26.5% | 23.0% | 17.7% |
| Outdoor games | 18.8% | 35.8% | 28.4% | 16.9% |
| Outdoor bandstand | 17.6% | 36.7% | 29.4% | 16.3% |
| Indoor performing arts stage | 16.5% | 34.6% | 33.7% | 15.2% |
| Undesignated green space | 14.5% | 36.3% | 33.1% | 16.1% |
| Community Dog Park | 22.7% | 25.6% | 27.8% | 24.0% |
| Indoor swimming pool | 23.5% | 23.2% | 24.4% | 28.9% |
| Public boat launch | 23.1% | 22.1% | 24.4% | 30.4% |
| Outdoor tennis/pickleball | 14.8% | 29.4% | 28.1% | 27.7% |
| Indoor climbing wall | 12.4% | 27.6% | 31.4% | 28.6% |
| Indoor multipurpose turf | 11.5% | 20.8% | 38.0% | 29.7% |
| Indoor pickleball court | 13.1% | 17.6% | 27.9% | 41.3% |
| Outdoor swimming pool | 12.1% | 17.8% | 27.6% | 42.5% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 9: Program Prioritization

| Program | Hi Priority | Medium Priority | Lo Priority | Not a Priority |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Community special events | 29.1% | 48.6% | 16.8% | 5.5% |
| Youth recreational sports | 53.3% | 23.0% | 8.0% | 15.7% |
| Open gyms / drop-in recreation | 47.4% | 28.7% | 12.5% | 11.4% |
| Middle school / teen afterschool | 50.9% | 24.7% | 11.3% | 13.1% |
| Summer specialty day camps | 45.3% | 30.1% | 11.1% | 13.5% |
| Summer recreation camps | 49.1% | 26.1% | 11.7% | 13.1% |
| Elementary afterschool | 47.6% | 26.2% | 10.0% | 16.2% |
| Group fitness programs | 37.5% | 35.8% | 18.1% | 8.7% |
| Non-sport teen / high school | 45.0% | 27.5% | 13.4% | 14.1% |
| Family programming | 29.1% | 37.0% | 18.0% | 15.9% |
| Senior / older adult activities | 29.3% | 36.6% | 19.0% | 15.2% |
| Musical concerts / performances | 25.5% | 40.3% | 25.5% | 8.6% |
| Nature / environmental education | 25.5% | 39.7% | 26.2% | 8.6% |
| Adult recreational sports | 29.9% | 34.7% | 21.9% | 13.5% |
| Sports lessons / instruction | 24.5% | 39.9% | 21.3% | 14.3% |
| Arts and cultural programs | 25.0% | 37.5% | 27.4% | 10.1% |
| Senior meals | 30.0% | 31.4% | 19.9% | 18.8% |
| Programs for persons / disabilities | 20.4% | 39.1% | 22.1% | 18.3% |
| Non-sport adult activities | 24.2% | 34.6% | 29.1% | 12.1% |
| Aquatics / swim programs | 33.2% | 25.2% | 21.7% | 19.9% |
| Outdoor equipment rental | 20.6% | 31.7% | 30.0% | 17.8% |
| Pre-kindergarten activities | 19.0% | 27.0% | 31.1% | 22.8% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 10: Indoor Multigenerational Community Center

| Multigenerational Community Center | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| To what extent do you agree or disagree that a town-supported multigenerational community/recreation center is needed in Wakefield | 58.8% | 22.1% | 8.8% | 5.8% | 4.4% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 11: Funding Mix - Willingness to Pay

| Funding Source | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| Pay a Fee for Indoor Recreation Facilities | 35.3% | 37.3% | 15.1% | 6.5% | 5.8% |
| Pay a Fee for Outdoor Recreation Facilities | 25.2% | 34.5% | 19.0% | 14.5% | 6.9% |
| Pay a Fee for Recreation Programs | 35.3% | 45.2% | 12.3% | 3.8% | 3.4% |
| Property Taxes to Build and Maintain Indoor Recreation Facilities | 34.1% | 31.7% | 16.6% | 5.9% | 11.7% |
| Property Taxes to Build and Maintain Outdoor Recreation Facilities | 29.3% | 35.5% | 16.6% | 9.7% | 9.0% |
| Property Taxes to Offset Programs and Activities | 29.3% | 27.9% | 21.0% | 10.7% | 11.0% |
| Good idea to for the town to partner with other organizations | 41.1% | 33.4% | 20.6% | 2.1% | 2.8% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Table 12: Perceived Benefits from a Multigenerational Community Center

| Level of Benefit | Extremely Likely | Somewhat Likely | Neutral | Somewhat Unlikely | Extremely Unlikely |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Personally Would Benefit | 50.2% | 24.1% | 14.1% | 5.2% | 6.5% |
| Household Would Benefit | 51.7% | 25.2% | 11.4% | 5.5% | 6.2% |
| Community Would Benefit | 62.4% | 20.0% | 11.0% | 3.1% | 3.4% |

Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding

Perceived Benefit Types (% of survey respondents indicating these benefits):



More Positive Activities for Youth/Teens = 72.4%



Increased Health and Wellness = 69.6%



Increased Sense of Community = 58.6%



More Activities for Older Adults = 58.0%



Increased Business/Economic Activity in Town = 27.3%

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments

Comments are presented verbatim from survey respondents.

- Utilize the opportunity for businesses to pitch in and gain advertisement space on a scoreboard for example. Or in the dugouts.
- Great programs, starting off from Wakefield Area Youth until now the program has made leaps and bounds. Great administration with the know how of people out moving and involved.
- I grew up here, lucky enough to be on a lake and all that it has to offer. My family was poor, but we weren't any different than other families around. We had chores and started part time jobs early in our young lives. We had a sense of family, although both parents worked. We had little in the way of distraction- like TVs or even radios, let alone the barrage of electronics and constant media blasting us. We were allowed to be young. We went to church. We had pickup ball games (boys and girls together), swam, hiked, biked , swam, climbed trees. We went sledding, bobsledding, skating, fishing, and skiing at a home made rope tow. SIMPLE. Today, life is so different. We have drugs, abuse, obesity, BULLYING. No respect for much of anything. We need to pull together, to offer a community solution or option for all of our generations to work and play together, Our REC department does so much more than I realized. There are still many who are left out, not intentionally, and may choose to do there own thing. My hope is that having a facility where more people could take advantage, with more outreach to "invite" our neighbors to participate, we could go a long way to uniting our town's several villages and finding common goals.
- The quality of people teaching the programs is an area that I think the Rec could really benefit improvement. I feel like often times we settle for coaches just to fill the position. Some of the coaches are WONDERFUL TEACHERS others really don't invest in what the kids are their for, which is to learn the sport. Those coaches often run a practice with no structure or discipline. I get we want our children to have FUN playing the sport they have chosen, but often times my kids complain that they don't learn anything; which does not make them eager to go play again if they feel they are not challenged. Their is nothing cheap about playing sports (the rec registration fee, equipment, traveling) especially if you have multiple kids playing. It would be nice to see a higher quality of teaching/coaches.
- A building at the ball fields with 2 basketball courts, a larger activity room, and a few officers would be perfect for the town. It would allow for all sports teams to have a place to do indoor activities and it would be a place for the community to come together.

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- I agree there is a need for a place for people of all ages to gather for recreational activities. I also believe it should be coordinated with other organizations where there is similar activity.
- I enjoy the available facilities but tennis courts would be a nice addition. What I would like to see most, however, is an expansion of the disc golf course.
- Keep up the great work! Thanks for all you do :)
- I moved to Wakefield 3 years ago. I became aware of the town rec department last year and have enjoyed seeing what is offered. The town easter egg hunt at the horse farm was amazing and so wasn't Wanye from Maine. I appreciate so much that these have been offered as a free, local, and fun activity to be enjoyed by my toddler and our family. Thank you!!
- There is a huge need to have a more rigorous programming. Many people travel to Rochester or Wolfeboro for programming. We have done sailing, swim lessons, and soccer in Wolfeboro because of lack of availability in Wakefield. A rec center has been needed for years. Meeting space for homeschoolers, after school programming, etc... Also not sure why this survey included the need for ball fields. We have those and lumping them in made the survey hard because there is not an unmet need.
- we are extremely supportive of the Wakefield Parks/Rec programs and their high value to all age groups in the Wakefield community
- Offer home schooler activities to generate support from large home school community
- Need a gym floor and place for fitness classes
- I'd love to see indoor fitness classes, like Zumba, cardio kick boxing, ect. I would be more than willing to pay per class as well for the ability to do those things just 10 minutes from my house instead of the 30 minute drive to Rochester YMCA.
- They do a remarkable job creating programming. Their programs are well-run and they bring a lot to the town. Bravo to them.
- The Paul School should be responsible for its own sports teams.

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- I think partnering with UNH Cooperative Extension would bring many needed opportunities to Wakefield that would otherwise not be available to the members of this community. I have high hopes for this possible new relationship between our town and UNH.
- ice skating, pool, Tennis courts
- Parks and recreation facilities should be safe.
- Wakefield Parks and Rec by and large do a great job with the resources at hand.
- A youth facility of some sort would be GREAT. We need some place for the older Wakefield kids to go, and winter here is LONG. It needs to be indoors.
- Our family would benefit from before care greatly. All the daycare facilities charge for a combined before and after care slot, not one or the other. The rec only offers after care.
- Our kids, like many we know, are old enough to come home on the bus after school and do homework for an hour, no problem, but not old enough to have us leave for work at 6:30 am and get themselves out the door for the bus an hour later. We work out of town starting at 7 and can't leave for work at 8:15 am when the Paul School opens. Before care would be a great option!
- We also like the trails idea and an indoor pool is probably dreaming, but we'd really love that. We strongly prefer to keep the little lake beaches- don't give those up! Maybe designate one as a dog beach?! Please?!
- The kids' ball programs are great. Sometimes they are disorganized, so it's an area for improvement, but we really love that they exist and they've been so great for our kids.
- We wish there were a way for the skate park and hoop facilities to be more in town, but we understand the challenge there.
- If anything can be done for teens that would be provided inside, it'd be a huge help. They need somewhere they can go where it's safe, healthy, and not inviting trouble. The Sanford Y has a great thing going on right now, but they are too far and our town budget is definitely smaller. Any modeling we can do on a more affordable level would be fantastic.
- Overall, kudos and thank you!

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- We could use a new football field and multipurpose building so teams and town people have an indoor year round place to practice and exercise. The current rec dept is well run and the staff is excellent. We need to invest in new facilities. Public and private partnership needed.
- Need more exercise/health programs for adults/seniors.
- I would be interested in tennis courts and recreation for the elderly citizens who live alone.
- The wakefield Rec is a great program. My kids enjoyed the summer program and truly loved it there! I hope to see a bigger facility with more adult excercise classes and maybe a gym for the students. Thank you for all you do!
- I belonged to the Park & Rec as a volunteer for 5 years and I attended the meetings for 4 years regularly and always helped out with the events. I stepped down due to it being so poorly run. There needs to be new people running the Rec.
- Paul school is not part of parks and recs. The rec program holds fundraisers and events. Instead of buying fireworks put it towards baseball dugouts or help pay a child's tution for summer camp. I am not paying for rec center from my taxes it does benefit myself or other taxpayers. I don't want to pay for the water district as a taxpayer because I am not on the system. Same goes for parks and recs . They already receive money from the town I don't believe taxpayers should fund all of it. Parents pay for activities and now you want to truly double dip by charging the parents through taxes and programs. If I pay for it through taxes then the programs for the children should be free.
- If you live in your town, care about your town then maybe you'll enjoy your time off staying in your town
- I really like the people that run parks and rec. They have been really helpful and are good with the kids.
- I believe there is room for improvement in putting programs together....many times they can't find coaches...knowing the struggle in finding coaches, they should be more proactive in finding them long before the program starts. Also, the website doesn't have specific answers to programs such as what day is practice, how often, when are games etc. for the various sports programs. Its hard for parents to commit without knowing this information in advance.

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- The more options we have in town to keep our kids (and adults) busy and in shape the better!
- An indoor facility like the works (obviously not as big) would be great for Wakefield. Families would pay for the service to be apart of it. Taxes used to fund the construction and maintenance then monthly fee for the activities
- many age groups would benefit from an indoor walking/running track
- Love all you folks do. Keep up the good work. Would love to see a functional tennis court in town again...I don't think the one in Forest Hills has had a net in the 16yrs I've been here. I think an Indoor Athletic/Gathering Center is a great concept as the closest such facilities currently are the YMCA in Sanford or Rochester. Could potentially sell resident and non-resident passes to generate additional income.
- A teen space would be great, teen nights, place to hang out. And open gym at paul school during non school hours. or available for coaches etc or others upon request (and probably some authorized use process).
- My children attend the afterschool program and the room needs great improvement in the walls, furniture, and toys and outdoor play area. Its a great afford able place with great staff but they lack resources and supplies to have a nicer newer cleaner facility.
- Nowhere in this survey is there any referenced to the Cotton Valley Rail Trail which goes from TurnTable Park to Wolfeboro. This is a multi-purpose trail used year round by residents and visitors alike. I walk the Trail frequently and have never been on it when I do not meet other people enjoying this amenity. Walking, jogging, biking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, dog walking, photography, geocaching, birding - the list of uses goes on. This is a marvelous resource for all ages (and I have seen all ages on it). The rails are still present, so there is a Rail Car Club that uses it, and the snowmobile club grooms it and uses it as well.
- Any reference to recreational activities in Wakefield that does not include reference to the CVRT is incomplete and does a disservice to the public by not keeping them informed of all possible activities.
- Otherwise, I think Parks & Rec does a good job of providing recreational opportunities, especially for the children of the area. The summer day camp program is a great option, as are the ski programs."

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- Very happy with everything as is. More may be better but not necessary. I would definately love more nature programs and community service programs.
- I think the sec department does a great job being creative and finding new opportunities for adults and children and families together. I would support any program they tried to put together. I enjoy volunteer coaching when my son plays sports for the rec. I would LOVE an indoor facility for my family to use!!
- "the Parks and Rec director should be the most visable and encouraging person in town to support our children and community. This job seems to have taken a back burner to his other endeavors. I feel that the town is at a loss for a leader that wants the best for our town.
- Already mentioned in "other" comments
- Outstanding dedicated Rec program director and staff members. Offering many programs for many different age groups and interest. The current rec Building is just too small to handle the many after school programs being offered and not adequate space for indoor recreational activities.
- I think Wayne and his team at the Rec do a fantastic job with the resources they have available, as does the Gafney Library and the Opera House. Because the area is economically depressed, more State and Federal funding would increase their opportunities to benefit the community.
- Outdoor track should be a priority. It is a cheap sport to engage and fits the skills of almost every very child 5 years and older. Track is also a foundation skill valuable to most team sports. An outdoor track would allow all ages o enjoy and give the school and opportunity to have a MS team as well.
- I really feel like young kids should learn more about gardening/ cooking at younger ages.
- A lot of the programs in town for school aged kids are too expensive if you have 2 or more kids
- Swimming lessons for residents ASAP
- Parks and rec staff and leadership is great
- Communicate and cooperate more with organizations both within and without Wakefield

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- We definitely need after school activities for the kids too old for the after school program, but too young to drive. (11-15?).
- I like all of the new events being offered. Sometimes I don't see them in time. I would like to be on an email or text list for upcoming events."
- Try and utilize our own fields instead of traveling to Rochester and new Durham. This is a discourage to support building more facilities in our town when we don't even play here
- They need more money to provide more / better programs. They do a great job with little funding.
- I think partnering with a hospital to build a health and wellness multigenerational fitness/community type center would be phenomenal for our community!
- The Rec Department does a fabulous job offering something for everyone of all ages.
- A Community Center would be wonderful for mixed use - indoor sports (bball, pickleball, dodge ball....), a community center for community functions, meeting rooms, space for all sorts of indoor all-season programs for all ages and activities."
- Zumba! Evenings.
- Programs need to be more fluid and meet the needs of the community. Age and interests change with the years and the rec center needs to be on top of those needs.
- Currently there is a situation where some of our Wakefield youth will not be able to participate in the summer ball program. This seems to be due to age requirements for team membership. Right now that means there is one team that consists of 22. (Not much playing time for any of them!)
- Another team having only 7 being signed up will not be able to play due to needing 9 to consist of a full team number. Where is the sense in this? A rewording of the rules of age requirements or a waiver from a parent would solve the issue. A few of the oldest sign ups for a team of 22 could easily shift up to play with the seven left hanging.
- The Rec Center needs to look at how the community is best being served! Youth and their families should not be forced to withdraw from playing a sport or have to travel to Farmington or Rochester to participate in a sport. "

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- I have to say our taxes keep going higher every yr. People keep voting for all these things and the taxes are forcing people to sell because they can't afford it. They don't just increase a few dollars they increase a thousand or more. We are a small town not Wolfeboro. How many more activities or buildings do we need ?? We have enough buildings to maintain as it is. Just an observation.
- We need a new Rec Center!
- It would be great to have a larger facility for Parks and Recreation other than the school gym as it is busy during Sports Seasons to use. It would be amazing to have beach sand poured on the beach and the beach cleaned up
- We strongly need a new Rec center.
- I've taken yoga at the Rec w Susan Chadbourne. Facility was very poor but She is excellent!!
- Have enjoyed a few concerts and nature programs at our lovely Opera House and Turntable Park.
- Would love an indoor pool in this area (currently go to Sanford ME YMCA).
- Thanks for Rec Dept does - hard to please many interests.
- I would be willing to pay a fee to utilize a town weightlifting and cardio facility, so long as it was clean, modern and safe equipment and environment. An indoor lap pool is asking a lot for a town the size of Wakefield, but I would pay a fee and utilize that too. Something like a smaller, lower cost YMCA-like facility would be amazing for Wakefield!
- Skiing
- We need a town field house to show Case our skill in different varieties of sports we are the only town that has to go to neighboring towns for gym time field time and mostly sport events we don't host we travel

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- I think that before taking on volunteers for coaches they should be checked out . Being a positive influence on our children. I had a bad experience with my daughter in soccer with a women who had called her a dumb blonde as my daughter took it pretty bad . She is a very bright girl on honor roll and even if she wasn't that's uncalled for . These people are suppose to encourage our children to be successful, work hard , play well with others , be supportive. This was not what my child got so I refused to have any of my kids play Rec sports . They wait to play in the school. I had brought this up of course several time years ago and got that they are volunteers so pretty much oh well. In my eyes I feel that's wrong we can't have our kids feeling low on themselves due to adults who are suppose to be uplifting them up to be better.
- Parks and Rec program is an important asset in our community. Rural towns, especially, need a central location for youth activities. Children need to structured play these days. Many need to get out of their houses and away from the TV and gaming. Socializing with peers outside of school helps children learn about themselves and others. All people benefit from social activities. The Rec offers consistent well run program for youths and all ages.
- There isn't a lot of advertising regarding the Rec center. We've lived here for a year now and I don't think I was even aware of the Rec Center for the first six months. Does the town of Wakefield offer any type of "Welcome to the Neighborhood" mailings to new residents? Would make great advertising geared toward newbies. I would like to find out more about the rec center; however, we are a one-car-family so it's difficult to get down there.
- There are times I'd like to participate in classes at the opera house but they are not convenient times for me. We have our grandson every other weekend and would've participated in some of the rec dept activities
- I think its important to have an Indoor rec building due to our long winters. The gyms available to us are over 25 minutes away. And the only indoor pool I'm aware of is at the works in Somersworth which is easily 30 minutes away.
- this is a program to shift expenses away from the school budget to recreation dept. & increasing local & federal taxes for both organization. People who live on income from pay to pay check. People who are in some cases working two jobs for that standard of living. Most of these services are available today-- upgrade the ball field and forget the rest.

Appendix D: Open-Ended Comments (Continued)

- We need to keep the taxes low to encourage new to the area home buyers and make Wakefield more appealing over the high taxed surrounding towns and add to our tax base. Higher taxes and too many paid employees, services/activities that not everyone uses is not a plus. Please do not create things for the sole purpose of raising taxes. Thank you.
- I do have a few ideas that could be well augmented by Library participation: Senior Reading/Book Clubs; Teen Book Clubs; STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math) Field Trips for Seniors/Teens. Perhaps Seniors & Teens. Guest Speakers/Educators on topics such as Technology / Storytelling / Myth & Legend / Self Care (Physical, Emotional, Psychological Health) / Dance / Music Workshops - Singing, Instruments...Let me know and I'll take a bit more time to put together a few ideas with a bit more structure - Andy (senko@rcn.com)
- I would think an indoor facility would be very expensive for such a small town. Maybe partner with adjacent towns.
- It would be helpful that the director be more involved with the running of programs etc. It is unfortunate that the salary & benefits are so generous and the time dedicated to the job is limited to less than 9-5 Monday- Friday, no weekends worked. Most if not all directors in the State of NH do put in time on the weekends as well. We do not believe that the performance is commensurate to the pay.
- I think that a town supported indoor gym / weights with programs to keep adults in good physical condition would be awesome. Maybe some yoga classes or similar.
- Send a flyer with tax bills listing programs, schedule and map of facilities avail to residents

Appendix E: Household Survey

1

WAKEFIELD (NH) PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following information is being gathered to assess the recreation interests, needs, and priorities of households in the Town of Wakefield. As a town resident or taxpayer, your responses to the following questions are important to us. The information that you provide will assist in establishing priorities and a strategic direction for recreation provision in Wakefield. Please read each question carefully before responding, and please answer each question to the best of your ability. You can be assured that all individual responses will be kept confidential. There will be a place at the end of the survey for you to write your own thoughts and comments. Thank you for your responses to the following questions.

USE OF WAKEFIELD RECREATION FACILITIES & PROPERTIES

- Which of the following Wakefield facilities and properties do you or other members of your household use or attend events in for recreation purposes? Do you use these facilities: *Frequently* (more than 20 times/year), *Regularly* (10-20 times/year), *Occasionally* (1 to 9 times/year), or *Never*?

| Recreation Facility/Property | Frequently Use | Regularly Use | Occasionally Use | Never Use | Unaware of Facility |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Paul School - Activity Room and/or Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Hall Opera House | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rec Office | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Greater Wakefield Resource Center | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - ballfields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - outdoor courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - disc golf course | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Skatepark | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Turntable Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ames Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Garvin Park Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lovell Lake Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lake Ivanhoe Beachfront | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weeks Beach and Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF WAKEFIELD RECREATION FACILITIES

- How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation facilities and properties available for public recreation in Wakefield? Please check the appropriate box. If you do not use the facility, please indicate.

| Recreation Facility/Property | Excellent | Above Average | Average | Below Average | Poor | Don't Use/Unable to Judge |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul School - Gym | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Hall Opera House | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rec Office | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Greater Wakefield Resource Center | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - ballfields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - outdoor courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ballpark Complex - disc golf course | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Town Skatepark | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Turntable Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ames Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Garvin Park Playground | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lovell Lake Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lake Ivanhoe Beachfront | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weeks Beach and Park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| |
|----------------------------------|
| PARTICIPATION/CONSTRAINTS |
|----------------------------------|

- Have you or members of your household participated in programs, special events, or activities offered by the Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department over the past 12 months? (check one)

___ Yes ___ No

- How would you rate the overall quality of programs, special events, or activities that you or members of your household have participated in during the past 12 months? (check one)

___ Excellent ___ Above Average ___ Average ___ Below Average ___ Poor ___ N/A

- Please rate the reasons that prevent you or your family from using the recreation facilities and programs in Wakefield, or that prevent you from using them as much as you would like.

| Reason | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree/Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Lack of time because of other leisure activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not aware of available facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of transportation/difficult to get to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Facilities are not safe | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| There is no one to participate with | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of time because of work or other obligations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Facilities are too crowded | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of money/too expensive | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Facilities needed are not available | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of parking availability/convenience | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lack of childcare | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Disability/accessibility issues | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inappropriate social environment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not interested in the available recreation opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family's needs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Difficult/confusing program registration process | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not aware of available recreation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not satisfied with the quality of recreation staff/personnel | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Programs get cancelled because of low enrollment | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- What are the **BEST WAYS** for you to find out about the recreation program and facility offerings in Wakefield? (check all that apply):

___ Flyer/Brochure ___ Department Website ___ Social Media (Facebook, etc.)

___ E-mail ___ Word of Mouth ___ School Announcements

___ Other (Write Here):

PRIORITIZATION OF NEW RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES

- Below is a list of recreation facilities/amenities that might be of interest. Please rate each of the following recreation facilities/amenities based on their priority level for you and/or your household. Use the following rating system as a guide: **High Priority** (needed in the near term, in the next 3 years); **Medium Priority** (needed in the medium term, in the next 4-6 years); **Low Priority** (needed in the long term, in the next 7-10 years); **Not a Priority** (no perceived need for this in the near, medium or long-term).

| Recreation Facility/Amenity | High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority | Not a Priority |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Multipurpose athletic fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor walking/jogging track | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor walking/jogging track | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Undesignated green space for passive or active drop-in recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor gym or athletic courts (e.g. basketball/volleyball/pickleball courts) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor function/events room | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor multipurpose gym/studio (dance, gymnastics, yoga, group fitness, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor multipurpose turf fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor senior center (e.g. social space, activity space, games, kitchen/meals) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Teen/youth center (e.g. space for drop-in recreation, games, social and activity space) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor weight room/cardio fitness center | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor community meeting space | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor performing arts stage | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor ice skating/ice arena | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor climbing wall | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor swimming pool | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indoor pickleball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Playgrounds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor games: horseshoes, volleyball, badminton | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor bandstand/performing arts area | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor multiuse trails | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community dog park | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public boat launch | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Baseball/softball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- What are your TOP THREE HIGHEST FACILITY PRIORITIES for Wakefield. Rank up to 3 (... 1, 2, 3):

_____ Outdoor Athletic Fields _____ Indoor Gymnasiums/Courts _____ Indoor Swimming Pool
 _____ Meeting Rooms _____ Outdoor Multi-Use Trails _____ Indoor Walking/Jogging Track
 _____ Playgrounds _____ Outdoor Tennis/Pickleball _____ Teen/Youth Center
 _____ Senior Center _____ Kitchen/Function Room _____ Indoor Weight Room/Cardio
 _____ Other (Write Here):

PRIORITIZATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

- Below is a list of recreation programs and activities that might be of interest. Please rate each of the following recreation programs/activities based on their priority level for you and/or your household. Use the following rating system as a guide: **High Priority** (needed in the near term, in the next 3 years); **Medium Priority** (needed in the medium term, in the next 4-6 years); **Low Priority** (needed in the long term, in the next 7-10 years); **Not a Priority** (no perceived need for this at all).

| Recreation Programs | High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority | Not a Priority |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arts/cultural programs (e.g. dance, performing arts, art class) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Musical concerts/performance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Community special events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recreation programs for people with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pre-kindergarten/early childhood activities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After-school programs (elementary school) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After-school programs (middle school) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-sport teen/high school recreation programs (e.g. cards, games, social activities) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summer "specialty" day camps (e.g. sports, arts, adventure) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Summer day camps (rec camp) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-sport adult recreation activities (e.g. cards, games, social opportunities) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Senior/older adult recreation activities, trips and events | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Family programming (parent/child activities) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Senior meals | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Group fitness programs (e.g. aerobics, weights, yoga, Pilates) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nature or environmental education programs, lectures | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Outdoor equipment check-out or rental opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports lessons or instruction | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Adult recreational sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Youth recreational sports (e.g. basketball, soccer, flag football, baseball/softball) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Open gyms/Drop-in recreation programs (youth and adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Aquatics/swim programs (e.g. swim lessons, water aerobics) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- What are your TOP THREE HIGHEST PROGRAM PRIORITIES for Wakefield. Rank up to 3 (...1, 2, 3):

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ____ Arts/Cultural/Music | ____ Community Events | ____ Adult Recreational Sports |
| ____ Afterschool Programs | ____ Summer Camps | ____ Senior Programs/Meals |
| ____ Outdoor/Nature Programs | ____ Youth Recreational Sports | ____ Aquatics/Swim Programs |
| ____ Drop-In/Pick-up Sports | ____ Fitness Programs | ____ Teen Programs |
| ____ Pre-K/Early Childhood | ____ Other (Write Here): | |

MULTIGENERATIONAL INDOOR COMMUNITY/REC CENTER

- One of the ways to gain indoor recreation and community activities space is to build a multigenerational indoor community/recreation center. *To what extent do you agree or disagree that a town-supported multigenerational indoor community/recreation center is needed in Wakefield?* (check one):

_____ Strongly Agree _____ Agree _____ Neutral _____ Disagree _____ Strongly Disagree

- Please respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

| Statement | Strongly Agree | Agree | Neither Agree nor Disagree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned indoor recreation facilities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation programs and activities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to run recreation programs and activities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned outdoor recreation facilities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain outdoor recreation facilities in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I believe that it's a good idea for the town of Wakefield to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver recreation services. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Please respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

| Benefit Statement | Very Much So | —————→ | | | Not at All |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I would personally benefit from a town-supported multigenerational indoor community/rec center in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| My family/household would benefit from a town-supported multigenerational indoor community/rec center in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The community would benefit from a town-supported multigenerational indoor community/rec center in Wakefield. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- In what ways would you/the town benefit from having access to a town-supported multigenerational indoor community/rec center in Wakefield? Check all (or none) that apply.

_____ Increased health/fitness _____ More positive activities for youth/teens
 _____ Increased sense of community _____ Increased business/economic activity in town
 _____ More activities for older adults _____ Other (Write Here):

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION: These questions are important because they help tell us whether a range of voices from different populations are represented in this survey. These questions are anonymous.

- Your gender: Female Male
- In what year were you born? _____
- Are you a resident or taxpayer of Wakefield? (check one) Yes No
- Do you own or rent your home: (check one) Own Rent
- Is your Wakefield home your (check one): Primary Residence Secondary Residence
- How many years have you resided in Wakefield? _____ number of years
- What village or locality in Wakefield do you live in/near? (check one)
 - Union Sanbornville Wakefield Corner North Wakefield
 - South Wakefield East Wakefield (Woodman and Burleyville) Other
- Are you or another adult household member: (check all those that apply)
 - Employed Full-time Employed Part-Time Retired Not Retired/Not Employed
- Do you have a child or children 5 years old or younger living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 6-12 living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 13-18 living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes No
- Do you currently volunteer for parks and recreation in any capacity (e.g. as a coach, scorekeeper, program leader, advisory board or committee member, special events helper)? (check one)
 - Yes No
- If you have ideas for new park and recreation facilities or programs, or if you have any general comments about parks and recreation services, please write them here:

Thank you for your time in completing this survey!