

Town of East Granby Plan of Conservation and Development Update

Parks and Recreation Commission: Goals & Concerns Worksheet

February 2025

This PoCD section will cover the town's parks and recreational facilities and programs/activities, assess efforts and establish goals. Broad goals from the 2016 PoCD included:

- Preserve areas for passive and active recreation
- Develop and maintain adequate recreational facilities
- Manage neighborhood parks, forests and other open spaces to enhance their value to the public
- Prioritize acquiring key open space parcels
- Work with the Recreation Department to spread awareness of available recreational opportunities in town

Considering the above, please add notes in the following broad areas:

Significant events of the past ten years (victories, losses)

- **Victories**
 - STEAP Grant award for the development of the North End at East Granby Farms.
 - Fundraising and soon to be installation of a new Playscape at East Granby Farms.
 - Active Mountain Biking and maintenance support at Cowels Park.
 - Resident investment and attention given to Granbrook Park.
- **Losses**
 - Decreased staffing and the impact it has on Park & Rec Programming, grant management, and fundraising.
 - Moving summer camps away from Granbrook, due to no structure onsite in case of a weather emergency.

Questions to consider:

- Has the town accomplished the goals stated above?

The town has worked towards many of the goals above, such as development, maintenance, and awareness of our parks and programs. However, we still see room for improvement in these areas.

- Has the town adopted policies and regulations to encourage the development and maintenance of recreational facilities?

Although we actively work towards development and maintenance of our recreational facilities, we do not feel as if there are sufficient policies and regulations in place to properly maintain our facilities.

- Does the town have a dedicated funding source for the purchase of recreational facilities and is the amount sufficient to accomplish stated goals?

No, we rely on volunteers to fundraise and do work, with the exception of mowing from DPW.

- Has The Commission been able to effectively spread awareness of available recreational opportunities in town?

The Commission feels as if the programs and parks are all well attended, though we see room for improvement to better “market” our offerings, specifically for the parks and trails that we oversee.

Concerns for the next decade

We recognize the growth in our town and want to remain relevant to our residents. We also want to embody quality programming and facilities, prioritizing our existing facilities over acquisition of new space.

Goals and Hopes

1. Relevance
 - a. Recognizing the growth and wanting to remain relevant to our residents.
 - b. We see polling and conversations as an effective approach to staying connected with our audience.
2. Connectivity
 - a. Connecting our town on a physical level.

- b. Walkable / bikeable paths to further connect our multitude of public access spaces.
- 3. Awareness
 - a. Creating greater definition for our parks and trails so residents and visitors are aware and feel welcome in these spaces.
- 4. Strategic / Financial Planning
 - a. We would like a master plan for maintenance, field, building usage etc.
 - b. Policies and documents that will help us better maintain and plan for the future as we steward our facilities.
 - c. Financial plan to do regular maintenance and improvements.
- 5. Staffing
 - a. To keep up with the demands of our growing town, we recognize that man power is the ultimately tool.
 - b. Paid personnel is a priority for our commission to produce the high quality programming and facility upkeep that we hold ourselves to.