

REC Report

Quarterly Recreation Update



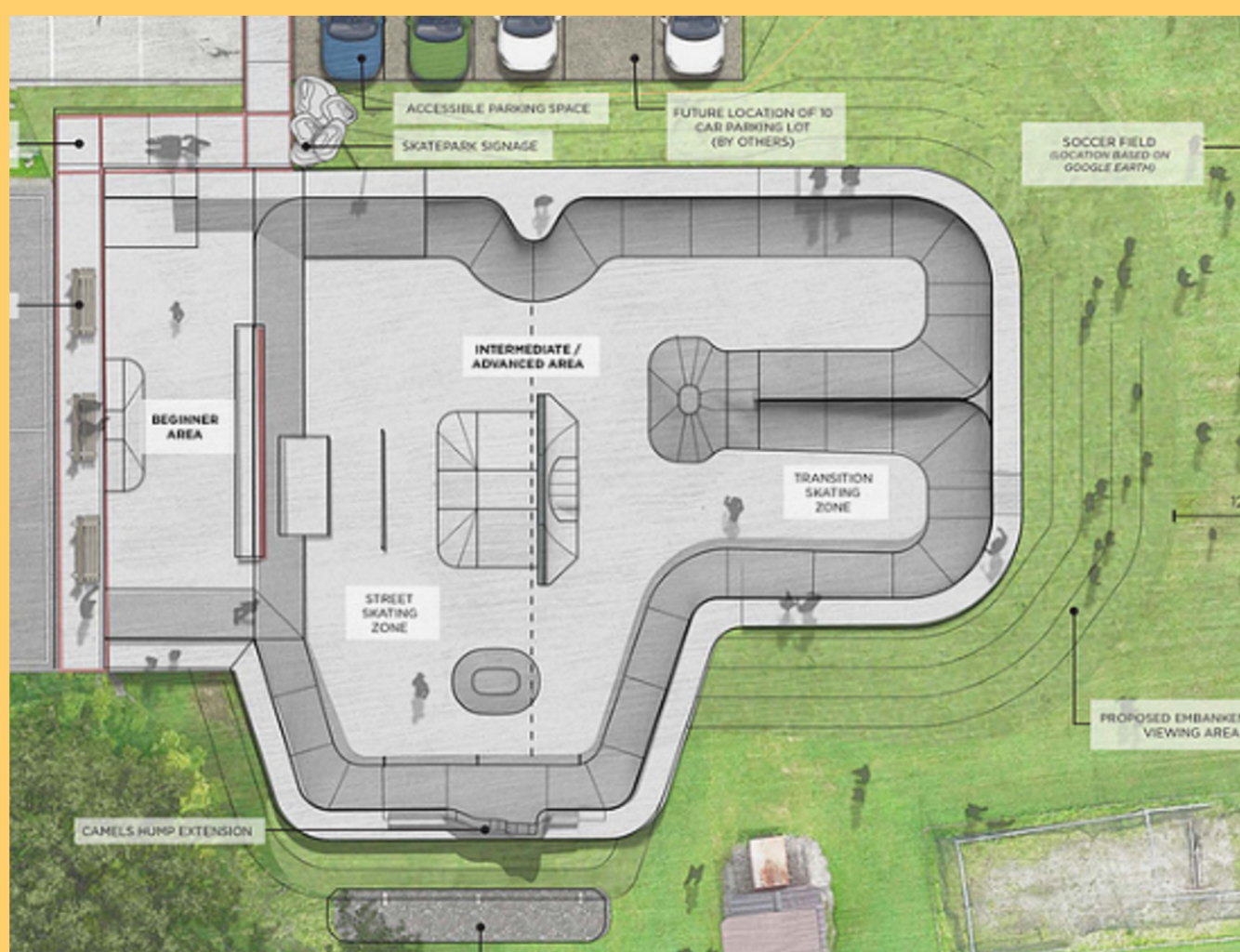
Looking at Fall

It is hard to believe that the Recreation Department's busiest season is coming to its end. Our summer camp and pool season ended August 15 and August 16 in time for the school year to start. This summer has opened the doors to a new summer camp model with more visiting instructors; 5 different sessions of swim lessons; tennis and pickleball lessons; and countless activities in our parks.

The summer is when we have the most connections with people and families in Waterbury and beyond. It gives our Department a chance to connect with families, hear immediate and future feedback, and point out how we can work together. Summer always feels a bit like warp-speed, and fall gives a chance to take in some of the long-term feedback and continue to improve our programs.

Cheers to summer and welcome to fall!

Skatepark Construction



Design Image from Waterbury Skatepark Coalition

The Hope Davey skatepark is under construction and almost complete. For the last 6 years the coalition has been working to build a new skatepark in Waterbury, replacing the wooden park formerly in Hope Davey Park. The coalition proposed a 4,000 square foot skatepark in the public park funded by donors. Currently, the park is actively being built by Catamount Skateparks with a completion date in mid-September.

The new construction is a fully concrete state-of-the-art park, designed with meticulous attention to detail to optimize accessibility, safety and fun. There are classic street and transition elements and unique features with space for beginners and experts. The concrete park was designed to last and with low maintenance in mind.

Following the completion of the park, the Town will resurface the basketball court, line the court, and install basketball hoops.

Changes for Afterschool 2025-2026

Waterbury Recreation is proud to announce that our afterschool program is shifting to a sliding scale based model for payment options. This means that families have the option to pay for care based on their needs and their ability. Cost for care will now range between \$15-35 a day, and it is up to you to decide what that rate is.

Waterbury Recreation has had declining enrollment in our afterschool program for the last school year. We also work very closely with the Waterbury Public Library and know the library has changed their policy for unsupervised primary school aged children. By moving to a sliding scale fee system, we hope to offer an affordable option for afterschool care for local families.

For families signing up for our program, when choosing the daily rate we ask that you consider:

- My family's ability to pay
- How long my child will attend daily (one hour, two hours, three hours)
- If I have multiple children enrolled

This is a new and significant change for Waterbury Recreation. Our registration software is working closely with us to determine how to help people enroll. However, sliding scale fees have an important user element and there will be multiple stages to enrollment. Please bear with us as we navigate this change, which ideally helps support our community!

Steele Room Exhibit through September 22

Derby & Ball Corp

Written by the Waterbury Historical Society, shortened by Waterbury Recreation

A new exhibit by the Waterbury Historical Society is now on display in the Waterbury Municipal Complex, exploring the emergence, evolution, and eventual demise of the Derby & Ball Corp.

Derby & Ball was primarily known for manufacturing three types of equipment: scythe snaths, baseball bats, and skis. Its origins can be found in the 1920 merger of two already-thriving snath manufacturing companies: Edwards & Edwards in Waterbury and Derby, Ball Corp. in Bellows Falls. The latter had been operating since the 1850s, while the former opened just 9 years prior to the consolidation.

In 1930, the company added baseball bats to its product line and became a major supplier to teams and leagues across New England and beyond, including Major League Baseball.



One page of a 4-page advertising spread for Derby & Ball's ski line, Ski Sport. WHS Archives.

After only a few years, Derby, Ball & Edwards stepped away from bat-making, rebranded as Derby & Ball, and shifted to a different sport with deep roots in Vermont recreation: skiing. The factory closed in the 1960s.

Success at Summer Camp

This year at the Waterbury Recreation Summer Camp we served 120 children. 77 percent of campers live in Waterbury. Campers were able to learn from scientists, performers, naturalists, builders and were able to visit local Waterbury organizations. They also competed in our Field Day, Camp Olympics, performed in our annual Talent Show, and celebrated at our end-of-year pool party!

Our locations were our own recreation building and Brookside Primary School. Campers spent almost every day at our public pool both in swim lessons (part of camp) and enjoying time in the water. We are grateful for the partnership with Brookside, access to learning the skills of swimming, and the terrific weather the entire summer.

Six campers attended with a scholarship provided by Waterbury Recreation, while more received other community-based scholarships.

Camp is not possible without terrific summer staff. Thank you to our tremendous camp and pool staff that help make summer a success!



EVENTS
CALENDAR

SUNZILLA
Thurs, Sept 11, 5pm
Free

KIDS HIKE DAY
Fri, Oct 10
9am-3pm
\$35

PUMPKIN
CHUCK
Sat, Nov 15, 11am
Free

KIDS BOWLING
PARTY
Mon, Nov 24
10am-4pm
\$45

KIDS LEGO
DAY
Tues, Nov 25
10-4pm
\$40

RIVER OF LIGHT
Sat, December 6
Parade: 4pm
Festivities: until 6pm

And more!