



Hampden Recreation Department

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Mission

The Hampden Recreation Department will enrich the lives of our citizens through recreation experiences for all ages in the Town of Hampden.

Vision

Committed to facilitating and coordinating quality recreation programs, services, special events, and providing well maintained public facilities, for positive enrichment opportunities for the Town of Hampden.

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide department actions and are the backbone of the organization:

Programming: To support the community's programming needs through a wide range of programming for residents of all ages.

Volunteerism: Volunteers make programming possible acting as coaches and program facilitators.

Responsibility: Risk management and participant safety are program priorities.

Facilities: Invest in facilities to provide for appropriate and well maintained spaces for recreation programming and opportunities for the community of Hampden.

Background

The Hampden Recreation Department is a full time year-round department offering programming for ages four and older. Five program sessions are offered per year with many drop in program options offered year-round. The Hampden Recreation Department website (www.hampdenrecreation.com) offers the public the opportunity to search for programming and offers online registration options for programs, within the convenience of one's own home any time of day. An onsite registration kiosk for public use during normal business hours is available at the Skehan Recreation Center, and staff are more than willing to assist patrons with establishing a household account or registering for a particular program.

The department operates out of the Skehan Recreation Center, a triple net leased facility, and has multiple outdoor facilities for recreation enjoyment. In addition to the facilities available at the Skehan Recreation Center, the Hampden Recreation Department also has the following facilities available for program and public use: Playground Structures for age 2-5 and 5-12, 2 sand beach volleyball courts, a multipurpose grass field, and a gazebo located at the Lura Hoit Pool Complex, 2 Little League sized baseball diamonds, 3 outdoor basketball courts, a batting cage, and 2 public tennis courts located off VFW Drive, and a full size lit softball field and a batting cage located off the Ballfield Road. These wonderful public spaces are regularly maintained by the Public Works Department and the Hampden Recreation Department works jointly with the Public Works Department to complete maintenance and renovation projects which enhance the recreational services for the community we serve.

The Recreation Department is a taxation supported department of the Town of Hampden and current staff includes 3 full time professionals and 15 part time and/or seasonal support staff. The department also receives a tremendous amount of support with programming from local volunteers. Collaboration efforts with local travel sport organizations, civic groups, and RSU 22 has created the framework for a well-balanced and diverse recreation opportunity environment for public enjoyment in the Town of Hampden.

Our Goals

The Hampden Recreation Department will enrich the lives of our citizens through recreation experiences for all ages in the Town of Hampden.

- A.** Maximize use of existing department facilities.
- B.** Offer programming that is current and captures the needs and interests of the residents of Hampden.
- C.** Develop plans and strategies for the improvement and expansion of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.
- D.** Improve communication with community stakeholders about department opportunities, needs, and the positive recreational impact being made for the residents of Hampden.

Goal

A. Maximize use of existing department facilities.

Strategies:

- A1.** Increase the number of programming opportunities to make use of spaces during off-peak hours.
- A2.** Promote rental opportunities for facilities.
- A3.** Collaborate with travel sports organizations, civic groups and RSU 22.
- A4.** Complete regular routine facility maintenance as part of the annual budget.
- A5.** Identify capital facility maintenance needs.
- A6.** Request taxation budget funds and/or reserve funding to complete capital facility maintenance or renovation needs.

Goal

B. Offer programming that is current and captures the needs and interests of the residents of Hampden.

Strategies:

- B1.** Understand residents and identify current needs and interests
- B2.** Collaborate with other stakeholders to brainstorm programming ideas within the community.
- B3.** Promote volunteerism. Recruit and provide education for volunteers.
- B4.** Reduce barriers for accessing programs, services, places, spaces, and information.
- B5.** Evaluate programming for efficiency and effectiveness.
- B6.** Provide opportunity/mechanism for public feedback.

Goal

- C.** Develop plans and strategies for the improvement and expansion of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities.

Strategies:

- C1.** Engage the community in discussion for department services and needs.
- C2.** Review Maine State Outdoor Comprehensive Recreation Plan recommendations
- C3.** Review 2015 Town of Hampden Recreation Plan and update short and long term planning goals and action items as needed.
- C4.** Create a working subgroup to evaluate needs, look at existing facilities, and plan for future growth.
- C5.** Create a working subgroup to spearhead potential funding opportunities/sources.
- C6.** Work with Town of Hampden staff, and community members to incorporate town center planning needs and recommendations.

Goal

- D.** Improve communication with community stakeholders about department opportunities, needs, and the positive recreational impact being made for the residents of Hampden.

Strategies:

- D1.** Review department marketing.
- D2.** Research opportunities for communication collaboration with other groups within the Town of Hampden.
- D3.** Invite community participation for dialogue.
- D4.** Encourage the community to share department communications.
- D5.** Increase public visibility of communications.
- D6.** Recruit support for regularly published town wide newsletter

About the Hampden Recreation Department's Strategic Plan

The purpose of the strategic plan is to align the department around a unified direction and strategy that will capitalize on leadership and organizational strengths, be intentional in using public resources and focus on organizational sustainability.

2019-2024 Strategic Planning Contributing Members

Recreation Department Staff:

Shelley Abbott, Director

Recreation Committee Members:

Jason Sharpe
Jane Jarvi
Stephanie Shayne
Frank Pergolizzi
James Dyer
Steve Brown
Josh Scroggins
Nancy Fenders

2020 Hampden Town Councilors:

Mayor David Ryder
Deputy Mayor Eric Jarvi
Ivan McPike
Shelby Wright
Stephen Wilde
Terry McAvoy
Dennis Marble