

Town of Richmond, Recreation Information & Data

The goal of this document is to 1) consolidate references to recreation, recreation committee, and volunteer coordinator from the 2018 Richmond Town Plan, 2) summarize data and information from the 2019 Vermont State of Recreation Survey, and 3) engage community members within the Greater Richmond area with the hope of re-establishing a Recreation Committee for the Town of Richmond. This document is meant to serve as a starting point for conversations around recreation. This document is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of recreational opportunities in the Greater Richmond area.

Richmond Town Plan 2018

Full plan: <http://www.richmondvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/2018-Richmond-Town-Plan.pdf>

Vision (page 3, 4)

- We heard that people wanted new and improved businesses, safe biking and walking routes, and more recreational offerings
- Richmond's vision is to be the most livable small town in Vermont
- We will take a forward thinking approach to emerging opportunities and challenges...
- In order to fulfill our vision, we will:
 - Be a healthy and accessible community for all ages...
 - Nurture a safe and resilient community with strong volunteerism, public services...
 - Support a wide range of social, cultural and recreational offerings, including open space and recreation facilities, arts and cultural activities, and community gathering places

Community Development (page 7, 8)

- Many Richmond residents expressed a need for increased volunteer recruitment and coordination, including better communication, to meet ongoing volunteer needs and volunteer needs during emergencies
- Richmond does not have a staff position responsible for coordinating activities, and current communication channels where events and activities are listed are underutilized
- Many participants in the planning process expressed a desire for more programs and facilities within Richmond
- ...residents – and particularly youth – have expressed a strong desire for additional facilities including a community pool, tennis courts, more basketball courts, safer bike routes, a permanent building for a community/senior center. The physical and financial feasibility, as well as predicted level of use of such facilities is still to be determined
- Richmond community members also expressed a desire to attract more young adults
- We can address many needs and build community by creating stronger volunteer networks, collaboration between organizations, and better community systems

Goals + Action (page 8, 9)

- Goal 3: Support and create outdoor recreation opportunities that are available to the public
- Goal 4: Continue to support and maintain various social and community recreation opportunities
 - Explore the creation of a town community outreach and recreation staff position
 - Identify possible methods of funding further recreation and community engagement opportunities
 - Create a management plan for municipal public spaces, facilities, and lands that includes capital improvements and budget as well as opportunities for expanded or new uses

Economic Development (page 10, 12)

- Vermont has recognized that recreation and tourism are major crucial economic sectors
- Goal 4: Publicize and promote Richmond's special features such as the Round Church, Cochran's Ski Area, as well as our many recreational, lodging and dining opportunities that might attract visitors

Education (page 13, 14)

- The School District wants to cooperate with the community in offering space options for additional continuing education, senior citizen activities, and other social, cultural and recreational uses...It is important to encourage the gathering of the community in the school buildings for as many occasions as possible. As people frequently visit the schools for various

reasons, they experience pride in the community and are encouraged to support public education which is essential to our future as a town, state, and nation.

- Goal 3: Partner with the School District to maintain infrastructure and maximize use of the school building for educational and other community purposes.
 - Encourage the use of buildings for community arts and adult continuing education programs
 - Foster community support for education in general by maximizing opportunities to draw the public to the school

Historic Resources (page 27)

- Goal 1: Work with the Richmond Historical Society to develop a walking and/or driving tour of the Town's historic sites

Utilities + Facilities (page 38)

- Citizens of Richmond have voiced a desire to strengthen and enhance recreational, community, and cultural facilities in the Town. The Library is an integral part in meeting those demands.
- Ensure that the Volunteers Green is maintained and publicly accessible/usable for residents and visitors
- Continue to rent or lease town spaces and grounds to businesses and organizations in order to best utilize space and maintain that income

Richmond Town Plan Implementation (page 41)

Recreation Committee Assignments

- Explore the creation of a town community outreach and recreation staff position
- Identify possible methods of funding further recreation and community engagement opportunities
- Educate the community and visitors of Richmond's recreational opportunities through the town website and social media
- Maintain maps and up to date information on the town website
- Work with the Richmond Historical Society to develop a walking and/or driving tour of the Town's historic sites

RECREATION COMMITTEE (2005)

VISION, MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TOWN OF RICHMOND, VERMONT

Vision Statement:

To increase community involvement that will promote healthy citizens with a greater sense of citizenship and civic consciousness.

Mission Statement:

To guide the creation and management of aesthetically pleasing, safe, healthful and enjoyable public areas in Richmond and to design positive, cost-effective programs for children, youth, adults and seniors in the community.

Objectives:

1. Serve as a steward to the Town of Richmond and the community by overseeing the maintenance, improvements, and use of the system of parks, trails and open spaces.
2. Design a variety of diverse recreational programs accessible to all ages and abilities that encourage active mind, body and spirit.
3. Promote partnerships and coordinate with community groups in planning for greenspace, recreational and cultural needs.

~~The Recreation committee meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Town offices in Richmond.~~

2019 Vermont State of Recreation Survey and Summary Report

Full report:

[https://www.vrpa.org/resources/Documents/State%20of%20Recreation%20Survey%20Summary%20Report%202019%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.vrpa.org/resources/Documents/State%20of%20Recreation%20Survey%20Summary%20Report%202019%20(1).pdf)

Recreation has been an important community value in Vermont, but recent trends at the state level have placed additional emphasis on expanding recreational opportunity in connection with economic development.

Definitions for data observations:

Volunteer agency – group or committee without any paid staff

Small agency – recreation department with five or less full-time (FTE) staff

Large agency – recreation department with six or more full-time (FTE) staff

Observations from State Data:

- Observation #1: SIZE MATTERS!
 - The data shows a very stark difference in the robustness of programs, facilities, and activities when correlated to the size of the recreation department and community
 - ...volunteer agencies manage fewer park resources when compared to small and large agencies. While such an observation is not surprising, it also suggests that residents within those communities may not be getting access to the depth of recreational resources they desire
 - Volunteer agencies appear to deliver fewer programs in general. Team sports were the most commonly delivered program among all size agencies
 - Large scale agencies can serve upwards of 50 times those of volunteer agencies, even though the relative difference in population is significantly less

Implications: As a baseline survey, it is challenging to draw too many conclusions related to the size of an agency, but the results do attest to the fact that the capacity of small recreating agencies to provide recreational facilities and programs is limited, raising several important questions. Are residents of Vermont's smaller towns forgoing access to recreation? To what degree do other communities or providers fill in the recreation needs?

SEE NEIGHBORING TOWN RECREATION DATA TABLE

- Observation #2: The All-Volunteer Army
 - ...a volunteer pool is critical in the delivery of programs
 - For an overwhelming majority of respondents (84%), volunteers are part of the management of recreational resources
 - For all agency types, volunteers provide program support as coaches, instructors, and other similar roles
 - Interestingly, the need for volunteers essentially scales with the size of the agency; larger recreation departments appear to offer more programs and correspondingly rely more heavily on volunteers

Implications: Volunteers are the backbone of Vermont's recreation infrastructure. Managing and maintaining strong volunteer teams is demanding work. The reliance on volunteers in the management of local recreation would seem to help ground the efforts to local needs. However, the data suggests a lack of local capacity...to raise funds, plan for new programs, and other management activities
- Observation #3: Show me the Money
 - The lack of money flowing into recreation departments has consequences
 - Going after grants and other revenue sources takes time, something smaller agencies don't necessarily have
 - Supporting recreation is done by leveraging many sources of funding
 - Examples: sponsorships, grants, earned/generated revenue, general fund (taxes), dedicated levies
 - Smaller agencies reported more frequently that revenue generation was part of their funding
 - Fee examples: facilities use, rec center admission, beach/pool/park admission, parking fee/membership, user fee
- Observation #4: The times they are a-changing
 - Growth in recreation departments, programs, and facilities is happening
 - In the coming years, the data suggests a bit of catch-up might be in the offing. Smaller and volunteer agencies are poised to expand both program offerings and their facilities

Data

Richmond has robust recreational resources just based on its location alone. As outlined in the Town Plan, there are many reasons why Richmond would be an outdoor enthusiast’s dream. However, access to recreation is not always equitable and while some activities require equipment, others are limited by capacity, availability, and/or heavily rely on transportation access (I.e. parents for youth) to indoor and outdoor facilities or even to neighboring towns. See tables below:

- Table 1 shows a Town Comparison, highlighting population in relation to dedication recreational staffing
- Table 2 showcases the number of residents in Richmond, Bolton, Huntington, and Jericho, who participate in programs offered by the neighboring towns of Williston and Essex

Table 1

Vermont Parks and Recreation Town Comparison				
Town	Population (2017)	Staff	^Budget	
Richmond	*4081	0 FTE	**\$5,500	
Hinesburg	4554	1 FTE	\$111,500	
Charlotte	3754	1 FTE	***47,000	
Waterbury	5142	1 FTE	\$380,695	
Killington	900-1500	1 FTE, 23 Seasonal	\$137,000	
Middlesex	*1747	.5 FTE	\$15,000	
Norwich	3317	1 FTE	\$253,351	
Bristol	3894	2 FTE		
Newport	4288	3 FTE, 30 Seasonal	\$479,801	
Middlebury	*8598	3 FTE, 25PT/Seasonal	\$482,000	
Williston	9637	1 FTE	\$597,660	
Milton	*11000	2 FTE, 3 Seasonal	\$225,373	
^Budget numbers are expenses				
*Indicates 2010 census population data				
**FY2020, Park Maintenance (\$4,000), Recreation Equipment (\$1500)				
***Charlotte budget does not include Rec Director Salary				
Information was gathered by the VT State Parks and Rec Salary Survey 2018, and by individual dept. inquiry				

Table 2

Neighboring Town Recreation				
# Household Accounts				
Williston Parks and Recreation				Essex/Essex Jct. Rec
Town	March 2015 - Present	Active (2018)	Active (2019)	All-inclusive*
Richmond	66	24	13	74
Bolton	5	1	0	3
Huntington	11	10	5	18
Jericho	52	13	8	218
*Includes recent merger of Essex and Essex Junction Parks and Rec Dept. databases				
*All active accounts used at least once (or more frequently) since 2018				
Information above was pulled as of November 7th, 2019				
Town of Jericho offers 6 week summer rec program for youth, Lynn Wagner; Jericho Rec Committee on hiatus				

Data (Continued)

Table 3 displays one youth recreational program offered by Richmond PE Teacher, Mr. Brian Godfrey. Table 4 highlights the Community Senior Center of Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington. This is a snapshot of two programs and not inclusive of other recreation programs in the Greater Richmond area.

Table 3

MMUUSD Enrollment by School 2019-2020												
School and Sending Town	PK Partnerships	Public PK	K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Building Totals
Smilie	5	20	7	20	13	14	19					93
Brewster-Pierce	15	28	21	22	26	16	20					133
Richmond	27	65	51	47	49	37	40					289
Jericho	78	0	75	49	75	62	61					322
Underhill Ctr	48	0	30	32	24	27	25					138
Underhill ID	0	24	0	0								24
Browns River								72	99	103	96	370
Camels Hump								81	72	99	79	331
Totals	173	137	184	170	187	156	165	153	171	202	175	1700

Richmond Elementary School 2019/20 After School Clubs by Mr. Brian Godfrey, PE Teacher

- Swim Lessons (6 weeks), \$175, limit 30 students
- Ice Skating Club (5 weeks), \$125, limit 30 students
- Get Air Jump Club (3 weeks), \$80, limit 30 students
- Maker Space & STEM Club (6 weeks), \$60, limit 30 students
- Rollerblading Club (6 weeks), \$60, limit 20 students
- Run Club (5 weeks), \$50, limit 40 students

RES Club Notes:

- All clubs are once per week on Monday's, and activities take place subsequently throughout the year
- Clubs typically fill-up in 24-48 hours once registration is available
- Families typically pay for clubs on top of paying for Part 2 afterschool programming
- Roughly 25% of participants are on some form of scholarship
- Proceeds from the clubs help fund the Snow Motion Program and other PE initiatives
- Brian Godfrey currently volunteers his time to provide these opportunities while teaching full-time
- Clubs serve a small percentage (13%/club) of the K-4 population with limited capacity
 - 13% = 30 students per club (capacity) / 224 K-4 RES students
 - 331 kids at Camel's Hump Middle School not served

Table 4

Community Senior Center of Richmond, Bolton, & Huntington	
2019 Snapshot	
Members/Newsletter Recipients	542
Followers/Non-members	30
Unique Activies Offered	45
Average Weekly Unique Activitites Offered	17
Activity Attendance (duplicates included)	475
Sponsored Events/Programs	34
Sponsored Event/Program Attendance	1200
Typical Week at a Glance	
Weekly Activities	27
Weekly Activity Hours	46.5
Average hours/day (Monday - Sat.)	7.75
Activity Hours 8AM - 8PM	