

**City of Rockland  
2002 Comprehensive Plan**

**Chapter 9**

**RECREATION and OPEN SPACE**

**State Goal:**

To promote and protect the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities for all Maine citizens, including access to surface waters.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this chapter is to inventory and analyze the existing municipal recreational facilities and services, parks and outdoor facilities, as well as City owned physical and visual access points to fresh and tidal water bodies. The recreational facilities and programs of School Administrative District (SAD) No. 5, within Rockland, will also be mentioned, as there is a lot of public use of these facilities and programs. The Rockland Recreation Department and SAD 5 are coordinating their efforts to make the best use of limited facilities and budgets.

**Introduction**

Residents of Rockland live in an area well supplied with opportunities for outdoor recreation. While this part of the Plan concerns itself largely with recreational facilities within the City, facilities located nearby also provide significant recreational resources. The Camden Snow Bowl, a municipally operated winter recreation facility, offers downhill skiing, a toboggan run, and skating on Hosmer Pond. Camden Hills State Park, located in Camden and Lincolnville, has hiking and equestrian trails, camping facilities, and the toll road to Mount Battie. Megunticook Lake, in Camden, Lincolnville, and Hope, provides many opportunities for canoeing, boating, and fishing. The Oyster River Bog, which Rockland shares with Thomaston, Warren and Rockport, is a resource for both wildlife and recreation. The St. George River, which reaches tidal water in Warren, flows through Thomaston and enters the sea between St. George on the east and Cushing on the west. There are many access points on the river and on the ponds and lakes along its course. A network of hiking trails is under development within the watershed. Its resources have been enhanced and defended by the Georges River Tidewater Association and by the Georges River Land Trust. The State has purchased extensive holdings in the Wesaweskeag River watershed in Rockland, Thomaston and South Thomaston to protect the salt marshes of this estuary. There is also a State beach at Birch Point, Lucia Beach, in Owls Head, which provides the nearest opportunity for ocean front swimming for Rockland residents. The State Park at the lighthouse at Owls Head offers views of Rockland Harbor from the lighthouse and from a rocky beach west of the light.

Boating access to salt water is readily available to Rockland residents with trailerable boats, not only at the launching ramps in the South End, but in Rockport, Camden, and Lincolnville. Other ramps are available in Thomaston, at Tenants Harbor and Port Clyde in the Town of St. George, and at two locations in South Thomaston.

The Atlantic Challenge Foundation offers area residents a Community Sailing Program using Rockland Harbor. This has enrolled over 100 persons annually to learn the art of sailing. The Junior Program serves children 8 to 14 and the Adult classes serve those 15 and older. A pier and launching facility built for the Atlantic Challenge Foundation offers additional access to parts of Rockland Harbor.

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There are numerous launching ramps on the lakes, ponds and rivers in nearby towns. Additional launching sites permit small boats such as canoes and kayaks to be carried to water bodies. For those with boats kept on moorings, Rockland Harbor has over 450 moorings, as well as slips and floats in various marinas. These are more fully discussed in Chapter 4, Marine Resources.

The picture of recreation would be incomplete without the facilities and programs offered by the private sector, both within Rockland and in nearby towns. Many of these have indoor facilities, permitting activity in inclement weather. Facilities include dance studios, health clubs, martial arts studios, tennis clubs, and driving ranges. The Rockland Golf Club offers a well-maintained 18-hole public golf course on Old County Road in Rockland. The Samoset Resort offers public use of its exercise rooms, swimming pool, tennis courts, and golf course. The new Penobscot Bay YMCA in Rockport offers many indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. A private facility on Route 90 in Rockport offers indoor tennis courts, a skating rink, indoor soccer, baseball, and softball. In Rockland, the Elks Club has two ball fields available for adult and children's leagues.

### Inventory and Analysis

#### Recreation Department

The Recreation Department is a department of City Government established by City Code. The City owns the Community Building and various public parks, playgrounds, and ball fields for which the Recreation Department is responsible. The City provides for most of its operational costs and capital improvement funds through the City Budget and the annual and five year Capital Improvement Programs. Some funding is also obtained from user fees for participants and from memberships, with lower charges for Rockland residents.

Staffing consists of three full time persons: the Director, Assistant Director, and Maintenance Director. The Department hires several part-time employees. Two part-time programmers schedule the activities at the Recreation Center and also provide staffing during evening hours and on Saturdays. Seasonal employees include summer maintenance personnel; three staff positions, 40 hours per week, for an eight-week summer day camp; and seven lifeguards at Johnson Memorial Park (Chickawaukie Lake). Lifeguards are on duty 63 hours per week during the summer, with two to three on duty at all times when the bathing beach is open. Instructors and coaches are also hired for specific programs. In addition to paid personnel, the Department engages the services of a number of volunteers who make many programs possible. A nine member Recreational Advisory Board is inactive. The Director is seeking five new members to fill out the board.

#### School Administrative District 5

School Administrative District 5 has an Athletic Director in overall charge of athletic programs and facilities. Various coaches, other athletic staff and maintenance staff complete the personnel available to operate and maintain SAD 5's athletic facilities.

#### Community Building

The Community Building, or Recreation Center, is located at 44 Limerock Street on the corner of Union Street. It is the centerpiece of the City's recreational activities. Constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project during the Depression, it was completed in 1935. It is one of few "Art

## Recreation and Open Space

Deco” style buildings in the City. The building is host to numerous recreational programs and provides offices for the Department. The Rockland District Nursing Association also uses an office in the building.

Like many older facilities, it has experienced numerous changes in the functions of its various rooms. At present, the multi-purpose meeting room is in the “Tower Room,” which is used by many community groups. Since it is not accessible to the handicapped, any meetings that handicapped persons wish to attend must be relocated to the much smaller lounge on the main floor. The lower floor contains the gymnasium and bleachers along both sides. The gymnasium is equipped for basketball, but does not offer a track for walking or running. A racquetball court is located, up a short flight of stairs, at the end of the gymnasium opposite the main entrance. Locker rooms, showers and rest rooms, a weight room and game room are also provided on the gymnasium level. The former bowling alley is now used for storage. It may become the future location of the weight room. Wheelchair users have access from the outside to the main entrance level and to the gymnasium level. However, the “Tower Room,” bleachers and the racquetball courts are not handicapped accessible. The design of the building limits opportunities to expand its recreational uses and makes installation of elevators or stair lifts for wheelchairs very expensive.

The location is quite central, being just a block from Main Street and within walking distance of many of Rockland’s older residential districts. However, it is on a relatively small 1.42-acre lot, with only limited off-street parking available.

The design of the building includes five separate flat roofs, in addition to the arched roof over the gymnasium. Most of the flat roofs have parapets above their outer edges as extensions of the outside walls of the building that are prone to leakage due to retaining snow. The flat roofs are due for re-surfacing during 2001 and 2002.

### **Johnson Memorial Park**

Johnson Memorial Park is the Chickawaukie Lake swimming facility off Route 17 and consists of 3.43 acres. It is the only public recreational access point to the lake; there is no access open to the general public in Rockport. Besides the swimming beach, there are a bathhouse, constructed in 1986, and picnic facilities at the park. Stands are provided for the lifeguards. An unpaved parking area serves both the swimmers and others using the park and those using the small boat-launching ramp. Most boats using the launching ramp are outboard powered, with smaller numbers of personal watercraft (jet skis), small sailboats, windsurfers, canoes and kayaks. Rowing boats are rarely seen. Fishing is popular on the lake and many of the boats are used for that purpose. In season, there is a float anchored off the beach for swimmers and floats parallel to the launching ramp for use of the boaters. In winter, there is considerable ice fishing on the lake and, ice conditions and snow cover permitting, some ice boating. Improvements during the 1990s included dam replacement, increasing the lawn area, and the establishment of a new garden around the bathhouse. The garden was donated and constructed by the Rotary Club. The ramp needs repair, as does the chain link fence on the northerly property boundary near the launching ramp.

## **Fields and Playgrounds**

The Department maintains several parks and ball fields. The Purchase Street Playground is located on Purchase Street and consists of 0.60 acre. The Department recently added new playground equipment purchased by the City and installed by Rotary Club volunteers.

The Warren Street Playground is located between Warren and James Street and consists of 0.46 acre. This playground has been sponsored by the Kiwanis, who annually donate money for equipment, much of which is installed by volunteer members of the Kiwanis Club. This facility has seen little recent use and is in poor condition. It needs grass and landscaping and could probably accommodate additional playground equipment.

The Community Playground, or Merritt Park, is situated on 1.42 acres behind the Community Building on Limerock and White Streets. It was built in 1987 by volunteers, following a community design process by Robert Leathers Associates, which involved school children in the design of the facility. The wooden playground equipment sees heavy use during milder weather, mostly by pre-teenage children. The landscaping, including fencing along Limerock Street and mature trees providing shade for some of the facilities, makes it a very attractive area. It is well maintained, but is nearing the end of its service life. The Recreation Director has requested funds to replace the equipment in 2002.

The Jay Cee Park is located on Old County Road and contains an adult softball field and a Little League Field (Kenniston Field). The park consists of 17.94 acres extending from Old County Road to Lawn Avenue Extension. Improvements needed include a new field fence and some infield work on the Little League Diamond.

Snow Marine Park is located on a 13.66-acre site extending from Mechanic Street to Rockland Harbor. It is Rockland's only public launching facility providing access to Penobscot Bay for trailerable boats. Two ramps are provided, with a line of floats located between them. There is extensive paved parking for vehicles with trailers. Portions of the park are used for athletic events and a Little League practice field is located there. During the summer, portable toilets are provided, but there are no permanent sanitary facilities.

## **School Administrative District 5 Facilities**

SAD 5's schools within Rockland, in contrast to some of the Recreation Department's playgrounds, are located on fairly large parcels of land. Some of these are equipped with outdoor facilities usable by the general public when schools are not in session.

## **Rockland District High School**

The gymnasium is in almost constant use by students during most of the school year. However, it is made available to the public for special events on some weekends. The American Athletic Union uses the gymnasium for seven to eight weeks each spring.

The high school is located on Broadway on a 22.15-acre site between Cedar Street and Lawn Avenue. The outdoor facilities consist of practice fields used primarily for gym classes during milder weather. Four tennis courts will be constructed at the school and two outdoor basketball courts are planned for construction on high school property. If they are included in the 2001-2002 budget, a field hockey and practice softball field will be constructed to the northwest of the school, while a practice football field will be located to the northeast of the school. A skateboard park was recently completed to the southeast of the parking lot, near Lawn Avenue.

### **MacDougal School**

This elementary school is located on Broadway on a 6.16-acre site a short distance from the high school. New playground equipment was installed during 2000. It is available for use by neighborhood children when school is not in session.

### **South End Elementary School**

This elementary school, on Broadway, shares a 41.31-acre campus with the Middle School. It has a multi-purpose room for various student activities. A playground is in the planning stages.

### **Middle School**

This school is located on Broadway near its intersection with Thomaston Street. The gymnasium includes a climbing wall that has proven to be very popular. The softball field, which had deteriorated, is to be reconstructed with a new backstop, etc. Rockland District High School home football and baseball games are played on the field at the Middle School, on Thomaston Street.

### **Other Recreational Facilities Open to the Public**

The Rockland Little League, Inc. owns a 3.72-acre ball field on Pleasant Street east of City Hall. The facilities include dugouts and a scoreboard. The field was donated by E. Allen Gordon.

A playground on Ocean Street, formerly a Fisher Engineering parking lot, was recently installed by MBNA. It is well equipped and is on a 0.25-acre lot.

The Rockland Golf Club is located on both sides of Old County Road north of Maverick Street. It is an 18-hole course on about 74 acres of land. Facilities include a clubhouse and pro shop.

### **Programs**

The primary responsibility of the Recreation Department is to operate community recreational programs for all age groups, with the main emphasis on youth. The secondary responsibility is park and ball field maintenance. The Department is cooperating closely with SAD 5's athletic staff. Softball and baseball scheduling is done by the Little League.

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### **Parks**

In addition to ball fields, playgrounds and other outdoor facilities designed and equipped for active recreation, Rockland has many small parks, some with landscaping and gardens, enjoyed by residents and visitors. Although Berliawsky Park, also known as Sandy Beach, is used informally for swimming, it has no facilities and is not staffed with lifeguards. Signs at the park discourage swimming due to water quality concerns.

Harbor Park, the Public Landing, combined with Mildred Merrill Park, the gazebo near Park Drive and Fisherman's Pier, also known as Buoy Park, provides just over six acres of public land overlooking Rockland Harbor. The former yacht club building at the Public Landing has a visitor's center and offices of the Rockland-Thomaston Area Chamber of Commerce. It also houses the office of the Rockland Harbormaster and has rest rooms and showers. This combined area is the most heavily used public land in Rockland, and is the site of many summer events, including the Maine Lobster Festival.

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Public parking is located along the seawall and around a grass oval at Harbor Park and on the pier at Buoy Park.

Marie Reed Park, at the eastern end of Samoset Road, has benches overlooking the Rockland Breakwater. The City constructed an improved footpath just above the beach between the park and the shoreward end of the Breakwater. This area is heavily used by residents and visitors, including fishermen who cast their lines from the Breakwater. The Breakwater, with the lighthouse located at its southern end, provides excellent views of Rockland Harbor and West Penobscot Bay. Limited parking is available on Samoset Road.

Although neither a park nor open space, the concept of the Rockland Harbor Trail improves the recreational potential of the Rockland Harbor waterfront. Designed as a pedestrian path from Snow Marine Park in the South End to the Breakwater, this trail uses public rights of way, primarily sidewalks, to connect various locations along the harbor. In 1999, a blue line was painted on sidewalks and along roads to delineate the trail. Although controversial, the blue line did make the Harbor Trail more visible. The Harbor Trail received a tremendous boost when MBNA constructed a ¼-mile long boardwalk that is open to the public during daylight hours. This wide pedestrian walkway is equipped with benches, and offers unparalleled views of Rockland Harbor which have never been available to the public in this way. Other sections of the trail await construction of sidewalks to reach their full potential.

Bicycle paths offer yet another recreational opportunity for Rockland residents and visitors. Although the City was not successful in gaining an MDOT planning grant for bicycle paths, the Rockland Cross-Town Bicycle Path Committee met on March 1, 2001 and is continuing to plan for bicycle paths. These would link such sites as the schools along Broadway, the proposed high-speed ferry terminal, downtown and the railroad passenger station. Also under consideration are installation of bicycle racks at busy locations, paving and striping of shoulders, a bicycle activated traffic signal on Camden Street, use of the landslide site on Samoset Road as a bicycle “rest stop,” and providing bicycle access to certain portions of Lindsey Brook as part of the flood control project.

The Parks Commission, established in 1983, is an advisory board to the City Council and is responsible for City owned parks.

**Table 9-1 - City Owned Parks**

Name	Location	Type	Area (Acres)
Berliawsky Park	Scott St.	Beach, Picnic Shelter, View	0.36
Butler Square	N. Main St. /Cedar St.	Memorial	NA
Chapman Park	Park/ Main Streets	Landscaped Area	0.02
E.A. Gordon	Pleasant St.	Ball field	1.0
Fisherman's Pier	Park Drive	Navigational Buoys, Access	2.1
General Berry Park	Main St./Water St.	Bench	0.05
Harbor Park	Harbor, Public Landing	Lobster Festival, Access, View	3.48
Kiwanis	Warren Street	Playground, Benches	0.46
Marie Reed Park	Samoset Rd./Breakwater	Benches, Access to Breakwater	NA
Merritt Park	Limerock Street	Memorial, Playground	NA
Mildred Merrill Park	Main St./Harbor	Benches, View	(W/ Harbor Park)
North End	Front Street	Benches, View (abandoned)	NA
Osgood Gilbert Park	Park Drive	Gazebo, View	0.51
Ralph Ulmer Park	Main St. /N. Main St.	Bench, Spanish-American War Cannon	0.11
Snowe Marine	Mechanic Street	Boat Launch, Picnic, Open Space, View	7.68
Winslow-Holbrook Sq.	Main St./Park Dr.	Benches	0.08

### **Open Space/ Undeveloped Land**

The City owns over 800 acres of undeveloped land in the Oyster River Bog. This land is discussed in Chapter 3, Natural Resources. There are no plans to develop any of this land.

The City owns about 52 acres of the former Poor Farm. One parcel, 8.80 acres on West Meadow Road, is near Meadow Brook and might offer some access to the brook. The other parcel, 43.00 acres, extends from Tolman Road and Dodge Mountain Road across the ridge of Dodge Mountain almost to Bog Road. The land rises from an elevation of about 250 feet above Sea Level near Dodge Mountain Road to about 615 feet at the ridgeline. Much of the land is wooded but ledgy areas provide good views over the City and Penobscot Bay to the east and over the Bog to the west. Parking could be provided along Dodge Mountain Road, outside of the subdivision, with access by foot trail to the land. Due to the steep gradients, vehicular access should not be provided to the higher ground away from the road.

Following a landslide, which destroyed two homes, the City acquired two lots with a total area of 2.89 acres on the south side of Samoset Road. This land offers nice views of Rockland Harbor and could be developed into a small park by the addition of a few benches, picnic shelters and a little landscaping. A small amount of parking could be provided along the 300 feet of frontage on Samoset Road.

### **Issues and Implications**

#### **Interagency Cooperation**

The Recreation Director has been cooperating closely with the SAD 5 Athletic Director to coordinate programs and the provision of recreational facilities. The Little League has assumed responsibility for scheduling baseball and softball games throughout the City. Major contributions made by community service organizations and other volunteers help to equip and maintain various playgrounds and parks. The Recreation Director has suggested that cooperation with the Town of Thomaston's recreation programs could result in provision of recreational opportunities not currently available to Rockland residents, other than through memberships in private facilities, such as a swimming pool and skating rink. Should the City explore ways of cooperating with adjoining municipalities to obtain additional recreational opportunities for its residents?

#### **Community Building (Recreation Center)**

The Recreation Center has served the City well for many years. It is scheduled to have its roofs repaired during 2001 and 2002. However, its design severely limits the range of activities that can be offered. The Recreation Director would like to replace the racquetball court, which is used by fewer than 100 people all winter, with a climbing wall. Providing handicapped access, particularly to the Tower Room, would be very expensive. Off street parking is very limited. The size of its lot restricts the possibility of additions to the building, such as the addition to the Rockland Public Library. The Recreation Director has suggested that if the SAD's serving Thomaston and Rockland were ever to combine to create a new regional high school, existing high schools in both communities could be used, in part, for recreational facilities. They already have gymnasiums and outdoor athletic facilities. With, or without, cooperation with Thomaston and other adjoining towns, serious consideration should be given to converting the Recreation Center to other public uses and creating a new facility offering expanded recreational opportunities to Rockland residents.

### **Johnson Memorial Park (Chickawaukie Lake)**

The beach, launching ramp and picnic grounds at Johnson Memorial Park receive heavy use, even when the swimming facilities are not open. The launching ramp is in poor repair. The Recreation Director would like to improve the floats at the ramp. The unpaved parking lot is not marked for vehicles with boat trailers. On some summer weekends, parking overflows onto heavily traveled Lake View Drive (Route 17). The park is surrounded by residentially developed land, making any land acquisition unlikely. Can the parking be improved without reducing the areas available for picnicking? Can, or should, the launching ramp be widened to accommodate more than one trailer at a time? Would it be economical to collect launching fees, as is done at Snow Marine Park, from those using the launching ramp?

### **Fields and Playgrounds**

1. Many fields and playgrounds are equipped and maintained by various community service organizations. This should be continued as long as those organizations are willing. Could local businesses be encouraged to sponsor or adopt certain parks and playgrounds?
2. Snow Marine Park, with its large area, could probably accommodate additional recreational facilities. At present there is no swimming facility at the park. With the improvement in water quality resulting from the connection of Ingrahams Hill residences in Owls Head to the Rockland sewer system, it may be desirable to establish a swimming beach here. This could replace the informal use of Sandy Beach at Berliawsky Park. Should the City consider establishing a swimming beach at the park? The launching ramp is very heavily used, but there is no launch service nor dinghy storage or floats, as are located at the Public Landing. The relatively shallow water near the park, other than in the channels serving the marine railways, restricts the mooring areas to boats with shallow draft. Also, much of the water adjacent to the park is in the Town of Owls Head. Therefore, there are relatively few moorings located within easy reach of the ramp. The former Sea Scout building, immediately adjacent to the park on land owned by Hurricane Island Outward Bound, is now used by the Atlantic Challenge Foundation. Should the City consider developing more general recreational facilities at this site? Should most additional development serve the boating public? Can, or should, permanent rest rooms be constructed? Can additional parking be accommodated without harming the recreational uses?

### **School Administrative District 5 Facilities**

It is clear that the athletic facilities of SAD 5 contribute substantially to the recreational opportunities available to Rockland residents. The active cooperation between their athletic staff and the Recreation Department is commendable. The City should remain alert to opportunities for future cooperation as it looks to meet the recreational needs of its citizens.

### **Other Recreational Facilities Open to the Public**

1. The Rockland Little League, in addition to providing a nicely equipped ball field on Pleasant Street, coordinates baseball and softball games throughout the City. Although their field is located in a largely industrial area, it is relatively convenient to many residents. Its continued use should be encouraged.
2. The Rockland Golf Club provides an important recreational resource for Rockland residents. The City should encourage its continuation.

### **Parks**

1. Harbor Park, with its multiple activities, offers little room to accommodate additional facilities. Although there has been some thought given to locating an amphitheater there for outdoor musical events, serious consideration should be given to the effects of such a facility on the other activities now using the park.
2. The Samoset owns the walkway connecting Marie Reed Park with the end of the Breakwater. In order to assure continued public access to the Breakwater, the City should pursue an easement or outright ownership of this property.

### **Open Space/ Undeveloped Land**

1. City-owned land in the Oyster River Bog is protected by conservation easements. No development is planned. This land continues to provide recreational opportunities for Rockland citizens.
2. Land once a part of the City's Poor Farm offers some possibilities for future development as parkland. If sewers are extended to significant areas of land in the valley of Meadow Brook, the residential development of this area would make retention and development of parkland an important amenity. While it is likely that areas adjacent to the brook would be retained in their natural state to serve as floodways, open areas on higher ground will gain increasing recreational importance as more of the neighborhood becomes developed. The City should retain land it now owns and consider requiring the set-aside of parkland by developers as subdivisions are laid out.
3. The City-owned land on the ridge of Dodge Mountain would offer some of the advantages Mount Battie gives to Camden, though provision of vehicular access would not be desirable due to the steep terrain. Development would consist of a few trails and, perhaps, benches at locations with particularly nice views. Can the City interest one or more community service organizations in providing limited development of this outdoor resource?
4. The City-owned landslide site on Samoset Road offers almost three acres of land, which could take some pressure off Marie Reed Park. Minimal development and expense would be involved for benches, picnic shelters, parking, and a little landscaping.
5. Another opportunity may be offered by the improvement of the branches of Lindsey Brook to control storm water problems. Land between Cedar and Maverick Streets, onto which the nearby Crockett Quarry drains, has been for sale for a long time. If a small part of the former Limerock Railroad right of way next to the Rockland District High School grounds could be acquired, along with this parcel on Cedar Street, pedestrian access could be provided between the golf course and the high school. Other parcels within the Lindsey Brook system, particularly its outer, or "upstream" sections where storm water detention ponds may be constructed, could also become a "greenbelt" linking

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various parts of the City. Some portions could also serve as rights of way for bicycle paths. Should the City purchase portions of the brook to form narrow parks?

6. In addition to the former limerock quarries now serving as landfills adjacent to the Transfer Station, the City owns other former quarries. Could these be developed for recreational fishing or other purposes?
7. Some neighborhoods lack readily accessible parks and playgrounds. One such neighborhood, the North End, is cut off from the Warren Street Playground by heavily traveled Route One, Main and Camden Streets. Residents of the neighborhood with a few picnic tables equipped the seaward side of Front Street, on land occupied by the remains of trestles of the Limerock Railroad and the kilns, which it served. Unfortunately, the area has been abused by vehicles parking on land next to the tables. Littering has also been a problem. If a narrow strip of land overlooking the marine-oriented activities along the shore could be purchased by the City, a small park, perhaps including some playground equipment, could become an attractive feature of the neighborhood. Removal of the abandoned railroad trestles, regrading on the east side of Front Street, and selective clearing of trees and brush could open up views of the Harbor.

### **Goals, Policies and Strategies**

**Goal: To offer expanded recreational opportunities to Rockland residents.**

#### **Policies:**

1. Expand recreational opportunities for Rockland residents of all ages and abilities.
2. Explore corporate sponsorship to equip and maintain playgrounds and parks.
3. Continue to actively cooperate and coordinate Recreation Department activities with those of School Administrative District 5 and the Rockland Little League.
4. Explore opportunities to cooperate with adjacent municipalities on joint recreational projects and programs, such as swimming pools and skating rinks.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Explore other locations, in either existing or new buildings, for the Recreation Center, which would offer additional facilities, activities and parking unavailable at the present Community Building.
2. Increase the budget and staffing of the Recreation Department.
3. Maintain all Recreation Department facilities, parks, and playgrounds to a high standard.
4. Reactivate the Recreational Advisory Board.

**Goal: To increase the recreational uses of City-owned land.**

#### **Policies:**

1. Carefully consider the recreational potential of City-owned land before it is sold for other uses.
2. Develop, with the assistance of the Park Commission, plans to make recreational use of suitable parcels of City-owned land.
3. Take full advantage of recreational opportunities created by City purchase of lands for other purposes, such as the Lindsey Brook Flood Control Project.

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### **Strategies:**

1. Retain the 8.80-acre parcel on West Meadow Road for future development as a park, particularly if there is increased residential development in the valley of Meadow Brook.
2. Retain and develop the 43-acre parcel on Dodge Mountain to provide hiking trails, overlooks, and parking on Dodge Mountain Road. If additional vehicular access is desired, to provide an auto road to the ridgeline, consider purchase of additional land to provide access from Dodge Mountain or West Meadow Roads. Consider purchase of a small amount of land to provide pedestrian access from the Bog Road.
3. Develop the 2.89-acre landslide site on Samoset Road as a small park, with minimal facilities such as benches, picnic shelters, and landscaping. The area provides pleasant views of the Harbor and would serve the needs of those hiking the Harbor Trail or bicycling along parallel roads.
4. Cooperate with the Oyster River Bog Association to increase public awareness of the natural and recreational features of the Bog.
5. On lands along Lindsey Brook acquired for floodwater detention areas, design the facilities to include, where feasible, neighborhood parklands. Some of these could also serve as bicycle and/or hiking trails between streets in residential neighborhoods.

**Goal: To provide, wherever possible, playgrounds for younger children in every neighborhood.**

### **Policies:**

1. Examine, with the participation of the Parks Commission, parcels that may become available for recreational use in neighborhoods with no parks or playgrounds.
2. Involve neighborhood groups, corporations and service organizations in the funding, construction and maintenance of parks and playgrounds.

### **Strategies:**

1. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow parks and playgrounds in all residential zones.
2. Apply for any grants available for the acquisition, equipping or maintenance of parks and playgrounds.
3. Encourage the continued active participation of various service organizations and volunteers in the equipping and maintenance of parks and playgrounds. Encourage business and corporate sponsorship of neighborhood playgrounds and parks.
4. Work with neighbors in the North End and any landowners involved to create a park and playground along the east side of Front Street.
5. Encourage developers to set aside land for parks and playgrounds during the Subdivision Review process, in order to provide parks and playgrounds for the future neighborhoods those subdivisions will create.

**Goal: To assure continued public access to the Rockland Breakwater from Marie Reed Park.**

**Policy:** To create a legally binding agreement assuring permanent public access to the Rockland Breakwater from Marie Reed Park.

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### **Strategies:**

1. Work with the owners of the Samoset Resort to acquire, by mutual agreement, the public right to access the Rockland Breakwater.
2. Assure the rights of the City of Rockland to repair and maintain the existing walkway or its equivalent.
3. Investigate the possibility of public use of the beach between the Marie Reed Park shore frontage and the inshore end of the Rockland Breakwater.