



Standish, Maine: Parks & Recreation

2019 Needs Assessment & Planning Report

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Abstract / Project Summary

The town of Standish is a vibrant and active community with strong citizen involvement and interest in public recreation opportunities. Standish has an abundance of natural and outdoor recreation resources, many due to its prime location on Lake Sebago, a popular New England vacation spot. Standish is experiencing a period of steady population growth, adding approximately 60 new homes per year. More than 10 years ago, the town engaged in a planning effort to identify the needs for year-round, indoor recreation space. This planning effort included a community needs assessment and formal feasibility study including a program analysis, site survey and plan, business plan, and conceptual design for a new community center and aquatics facility in Standish. The subsequent economic downturn in 2008 delayed the project. In 2018, the town of Standish elected to engage in a new round of planning to examine park and recreation needs, with a specific focus on year-round indoor recreation space. This project is intended to fill the needs assessment portion of the new process.

Based on the activities associated with this project, including background research, benchmarking, stakeholder focus groups and interviews, and resident household survey, the following findings/recommendations are offered for consideration by the Standish Parks and Recreation Department:

1. The results of this study support the need for a stand-alone multigenerational indoor community center for the town of Standish.
2. A multigenerational indoor community center should include dedicated spaces to accommodate the needs of specific age groups.
3. A multigenerational indoor community center should incorporate a variety of activity spaces to host diverse recreation, community, and civic activities in Standish.
4. Construction funding for a new multigenerational indoor community center should come from a diverse mix of funding sources, should generate revenue, and should be built with minimal tax burden.
5. A site feasibility study should be conducted on a suitable construction site that is centrally located, preferably near or proximate to the current town municipal building.
6. An alternative to a new building is to consider repurposing existing space and/or exploring partnerships with local groups to obtain needed space.

Introduction

The scope of this report focuses on the work of the planning and evaluation team from the University of New Hampshire in conducting a parks and recreation needs assessment for the Standish (ME) Parks and Recreation Department during the Fall and Winter of 2018-19. The UNH project team consisted of faculty and graduate students in the Department of Recreation Management and Policy, and was led by Dr. Bob Barcelona and Prof. Matt Frye. Specifically, the purpose of this study was to address the following:

1. To examine the parks and recreation needs as identified by the residents and key stakeholders of the Standish (ME) Parks and Recreation Department;
2. To determine which parks and recreation needs expressed were deemed to be priorities for the Standish (ME) Parks and Recreation Department;
3. To develop a set of recommendations that would allow the Standish (ME) Parks and Recreation Department to meet the priorities that were identified throughout the study.

The team from UNH has expertise in community planning and parks and recreation administration, and team members have conducted similar community planning studies in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, and Massachusetts and throughout the country. The team's philosophy and approach in undertaking the study was one of "holding up a mirror" and reflecting back to the community what was heard during the data collection process. The results and recommendations presented in this report are a direct reflection of the data that was collected. While the team's expertise in parks and recreation planning played a role in the final recommendations and discussion, all recommendations were informed by the data gathered during an extensive research and public input process. The research and public input process included the following activities:

1. Background and information gathering;
2. Benchmarking parks and recreation amenities with peer communities;
3. Focus group meetings with recreation stakeholders and the public;
4. Town-wide online household survey, with paper copies available for those who could not or chose not to access the survey online.

Public input activities were designed to get broad citizen participation and input into the process. Copies of study instruments, including the household survey, are included in the Appendix of this report.

Summary of Project Activities

The following sections provide the data analysis and interpretation for the research and public input activities of the project. Every effort was made to capture the key themes and ideas generated by each of the project activities. An integration of the key ideas and themes across project activities will be discussed in the “Findings/Recommendations” section at the end of the report.

About Standish

The project team reviewed information provided by the Standish (ME) Parks and Recreation Department that helped to provide historical, statistical, and demographic context for the report. In addition, the team reviewed overall town demographic information and trends provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Most recent Census data estimates that Standish has a population of 10,071 residents and 4,685 households (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Since 2000, the population of Standish has increased by 6.3%. Approximately 19.6% of the population is under the age of 18, while 13.5% is over the age of 65 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). The median age for Standish residents is 42 years. Less than 1% of Standish residents are foreign-born and more than 99% of the population are United States citizens. Median income for Standish residents is \$61,856.

There are currently four public schools operating in the town of Standish - Edna Libby Elementary School, Steep Falls Elementary School, George E. Jack School, and Bonny Eagle High School. School enrollment trends appear to have remained steady in recent years, suggesting that youth programs will continue to be in high demand and the need for indoor and outdoor recreation space for youth activities will remain steady. Standish has ample natural outdoor recreation areas and trail systems, primarily due to its prime location on Lake Sebago, a population New England vacation spot.

Standish Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department “is committed to improving the quality of life in Standish by providing exceptional community experiences through diverse recreation programs and parks for people of all ages” (Standish Parks and Recreation Mission Statement). The parks and recreation department is comprised of a director, program coordinator, office administrator, and before- and afterschool program coordinator. The department has a recreation advisory committee comprised of nine (9) members appointed by the Standish Town Council. The department has approximately 45 seasonal employees, and relies on the efforts of more than 75 volunteers. They offer a wide variety of programs

and special events for children, youth, adults and seniors, including sports, before and afterschool programs, senior trips, summer camps, and arts and cultural activities.

The main facilities used by the parks and recreation department include the elementary schools and their fields/playgrounds (Edna Libby School, Steep Falls Elementary School, and George E. Jack School), Johnson Field, Johnson Field Skate Park, Johnson Field Ice Rink, Johnson Field Playground, Kiwanis Beach, Standish Memorial Park, Standish Municipal Center, Mountain Division Trail, Steep Falls Wildlife Management Area, Council Chambers, Rich Memorial Beach, Rich Memorial Beach Ice Fishing Access Facility, Sebago Lake Station Landing, Watchic Lake Room, and Mill Street Park.

The parks and recreation department in particular manages more than 67 acres of land. Outdoor recreation and park amenities include beaches, playgrounds, an outdoor ice skating rink, outdoor exercise equipment, skateboard park, basketball and tennis courts, and trail systems. The parks and recreation office is located in the Standish Municipal Building, where it uses meeting rooms for indoor programs. Indoor recreation space is at a premium in Standish, and the parks and recreation department lacks programmable indoor recreation space – particularly space that it schedules and controls. Recreation programming occurs in a variety of spaces and places across the community, and the park and recreation department relies on partners such as the local school district to provide indoor and outdoor activity space throughout the year.

Benchmarking

Five (5) benchmark communities were identified by the Standish Parks and Recreation Department. Benchmark communities were identified because each have multi-generational community centers/recreation facilities that are comparable in regards to square footage, activity spaces, staffing levels, capital costs, operational costs, and cost recovery potential. The benchmark communities identified in this study were: Gorham, Kittery, Presque Isle, South Portland, and Wiscasset. A web-survey was sent to all benchmark communities soliciting information related to population size, recreation budget, recreation staffing levels, and indoor facility inventories.

Parks and recreation directors in benchmark communities provided data to the UNH team that was used for this report, and gaps were filled in with information provided from public records where available (e.g. budget documents, online information). Data was cross-checked and vetted where possible by the project team, however we relied on recreation director self-reports to assist in obtaining data. Where data was unavailable or inaccessible, we reported "NA". Caution should be taken when interpreting the results, as there are often differences between towns regarding department structure, mandate, and demographic differences, making direct comparisons difficult. Table 1 shows comparisons among benchmark communities regarding town support for parks and recreation.

Table 1: Benchmarking Information: Town Financial Support of Recreation

City/Town	Year-Round Population	Recreation General Fund Allocation	Recreation Allocation Per Capita	Cost Recovery	Percent Cost Recovery	Rec Staff FTE
Gorham	17,147	\$360,616	\$21.03	\$185,370	34.0%	6
Kittery	9,644	\$1,233,819	\$127.94	\$750,000	37.8%	10
Presque Isle	9,246	\$970,000	\$104.91	\$350,000	26.5%	9
South Portland	25,577	\$2,458,226	\$96.11	\$222,701	8.3%	7
Standish	10,071	\$94,495	\$9.38	\$359,927	79.2%	3
Wiscasset	3,675	\$365,000	\$99.32	\$456,000	55.5%	3

Table 1 is comprised of data obtained from benchmark communities regarding their "last budget year." For comparison purposes, we compared Standish's 2018 budget because we had complete (i.e. not projected) data from a cost-recovery perspective. Standish's support for public recreation increased between 2018 and 2019, including adding an additional full-time staff member, and increasing the general fund allocation for recreation by approximately \$30,000. Even with the increased support for public recreation, Standish is behind other benchmark communities with regards to recreation allocation per capita and recreation staff FTE, and well ahead of peer communities regarding the percentage of the overall recreation budget that is generated from non-tax sources. Given the inputs that they have to work with (e.g. facilities, staff, and budget), it appears that the Standish Parks and Recreation department is entrepreneurial in its ability to generate funds via fees, charges, and other non-tax revenue sources.



Table 2 shows a more detailed analysis of the indoor recreation facilities of the benchmarking communities, including figures representing the town’s construction or remodeling costs, annual operating costs of their indoor facilities, and annual cost recovery generated from the facility alone (memberships, user fees, rentals, facility specific programming, etc.). While the table below gives information about each community’s indoor facility, it is important to keep in mind that each facility is very different, and therefore operating costs as well as methods of cost recovery vary by facility and what the facility is designed to offer.

Table 2: Benchmarking Information: Indoor Recreation Facilities

City/Town	Year Built	Square Footage	Capital Cost	Annual Operating Cost	Facility Cost Recovery	% Facility Cost Recovery
Gorham	2006	NA	\$5,000,000	NA	NA	NA
Kittery	1941; 2012	49,558	\$5,500,000	\$269,507	\$85,294	31.6%
Presque Isle	2016	30,000	\$9,800,000	\$298,000	\$40,000	13.4%
South Portland	1976; 1999	NA	\$2,500,000	\$210,192	\$119,636	56.9%
Wiscasset	1998	30,000	NA	\$375,000	\$230,000	61.3%

Note: Wiscasset's cost recovery only includes memberships, rentals and concessions. When program fees, aquatics fees, and special events are included, their facility generates approximately \$427,000 annually

The following summaries provide snapshots of parks and recreation operations in benchmark communities as identified in this study. Information gathered was taken from survey responses from parks and recreation department staff, as well as from public records where available.

Gorham. Gorham's Municipal Center facility was built in 2006 at a cost of \$5,000,000. The building is located at 75 South Street, and accommodates the town's municipal and school district offices, as well as activity spaces for recreation programs. The building includes two activity rooms, an auditorium that also serves as town council chambers, a multipurpose room, conference space, and gymnasium. The building can accommodate basketball, volleyball, pickleball, badminton, multipurpose activity space, meeting rooms, staff offices, and fitness/weights. The department also manages other indoor spaces in town, including Robbie Gym and the Little Falls Activity Center. The latter facility hosts school-aged child care programs year-round, as well as senior activities, wrestling, dog training, dance, indoor cycling/spin, and voting on state and national election days.

Kittery. The town of Kittery’s indoor recreation facility operates out of the former Frisbee Elementary School (originally built as a Federal Public Works Project in 1941) which closed in 2009. The school was converted to a community center which opened to the public in

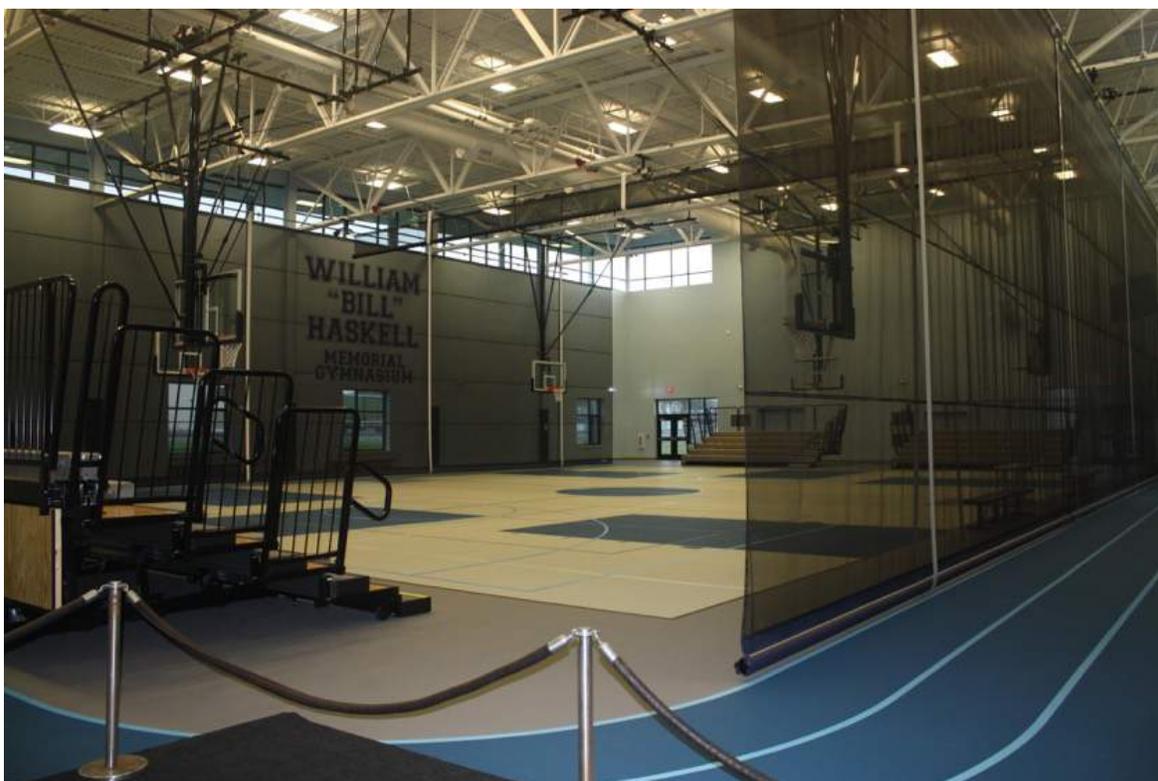
2012. Current yearly membership fees to the community center are as follows for residents and nonresidents, respectively: youth/senior- \$90, \$120; adult- \$180, \$240. Other sources of cost recovery include personal training sessions, punch passes, theater tickets, and facility rentals. The facility itself employs four reception staff, three dedicated custodial staff, and three full time program staff. The community center also has its own board of directors. Kittery's senior center is incorporated into the recreation department and is located inside the community center, offering weekly programs to both residents and nonresidents. The community center offers both youth and adult programming which includes sports, fitness classes, art workshops, trips, and socials. The facility also has an art gallery and a theater for concerts and other special events.

Presque Isle. Presque Isle's Sargent Family Community Center was built in 2016 for a cost of \$9,800,000. The facility is the home to the Recreation and Parks Department. The 30,000 square foot facility has one full-sized (50'x84') basketball court with two cross court basketball courts (40'x62'), and an indoor perimeter walking/jogging track that is separated from the court area by a drop-down barrier. The facility also has conference/meeting rooms, lobby/gathering areas, a Senior Center, Teen Center, kitchen, multi-purpose rooms, and locker/change facility. There is no charge to access the gym or track areas of the facility, although programs in the facility are fee-based, and the facility generates additional revenue through birthday parties, special events, and facility rental space. The Recreation and Parks Department partners with the Aroostook County Area Agency on Aging to accommodate the needs of the senior population. In addition to the Sargent Family Community Center, the department operates an indoor ice area, and has developed a partnership with the University of Maine at Presque Isle to provide swimming lessons and aquatics programs at their indoor pool. Presque Isle's facility appears to be a good comparison facility for Standish, as it can accommodate many of the needs expressed in this project. See <https://www.pirec.org/facilities-and-parks/sargent-family-community-center.html>.

South Portland. South Portland has two indoor recreation centers: The South Portland Community Center (SPCC) and the Redbank Teen Center. The SPCC was constructed in 1999 as an addition to the town's existing indoor pool, which was built in 1976. The center employs seven full time staff and nearly 50 part-time staff depending on the season. Today, the facility includes two gymnasiums, an elevated track, a senior wing with an industrial kitchen, large multipurpose and conference rooms, pool, afterschool program, fitness/aerobic area, and the recreation department offices. The center is home to both youth and adult programming. While the facility does include a senior wing, it is not a dedicated space for older adults and is often used for other programming needs. In the next few years, South Portland hopes to expand their afterschool programs beyond the center and into the elementary schools of the city, thus freeing up the afterschool wing of the building. The director hopes that this area could become a dedicated senior center as the town's older adult population needs a space which can facilitate a drop-in center and more

targeted programming for seniors. On the other side of South Portland lies the Redbank Community Center. This is specifically a teen center which has a full gym, kitchen, activity and game room, as well as an outdoor pavilion. The Redbank Center provides programming for teenagers in middle school through high school.

Wiscasset. The Wiscasset Community Center is a 30,000 square foot facility built in 1999. The facility is the home to the Wiscasset Parks and Recreation Department. The facility includes a 6-lane indoor lap pool, as well as an alcove pool that is used for open swim, swim lessons, and aqua fitness. In addition to the indoor pool, the facility includes athletic courts/gym space to accommodate basketball (full gym plus two cross courts), volleyball, pickleball, and badminton; multipurpose room; meeting/conference rooms; locker/change rooms; and indoor fitness/weights area. The department also runs the Wiscasset Senior Center which includes a function room and kitchen, and is located in the Wiscasset Community Center. The Wiscasset Community Center generates significant revenue from facility memberships (over \$200,000 in 2017-18), and rentals/concessions (approximately \$27,000 in 2017-18). Wiscasset's facility could be a useful comparison facility for Standish, particularly if an indoor pool is desirable.



Sargent Family Community Center, Presque Isle

Focus Groups

Focus groups and interviews were held with concerned citizens and stakeholder groups in Standish throughout the day on Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29, 2018. Eleven (11) focus groups were held with approximately 62 residents and stakeholders. Stakeholder groups represented a range of interests including senior citizens, community organizations and groups, town committees, program partners, recreation and town staff, Town Council members, adult recreation participants and instructors, youth sports organizations and volunteers, and parents of youth program participants. Meetings were scheduled through the town and coordinated with the parks and recreation department, and were facilitated by the project team from UNH. Meetings consisted of an open, guided conversation related to the recreation needs and priorities in Standish. Detailed notes of public sessions were taken by the project team for each meeting. Guiding questions for focus groups consisted of the following:

- What do you like most about the current space available for recreation activities in Standish?
- What are the main drawbacks about the current space available for recreation activities in Standish?
- What new spaces do you wish you had for recreation activities in Standish, or what new program ideas do you have?
- Is new recreation activity space a priority for Standish, given other town priorities?

The project team met to review focus group notes and discuss salient themes and trends that emerged across the interviews. The following themes and observations were found by the team to be dominant and salient throughout the focus group and interview process:

- **The Town of Standish has committed citizens interested in public parks and recreation.** Focus group participants were broadly supportive of public parks and recreation in Standish, and were interested in both the present and future of the department. Focus group participants represented a broad swath of program stakeholders, including direct users, community partners, and decision-makers. All spoke to the importance of parks and recreation within the fabric of the community, and all spoke to areas of strength within the department. There was broad support among focus group participants for the current parks and recreation staff and the job that they do in providing recreation programs, activities, and facilities to the broader Standish community.

Focus group participants spoke to the quality of park and recreation programs and the importance that parks and recreation activities play in their lives and the lives of their families. Participants mentioned a variety of strengths, including the quality

and diversity of programs that are offered, the specific needs that programs fulfill (e.g. social, physical/fitness, youth development), the quality of program staff, the outdoor recreation opportunities present in Standish (e.g. beach, trails, parks, playgrounds), and the affordability of recreation opportunities. Participants also spoke to challenges and identified areas that could be improved. These included the lack of a sense of community in Standish, the need for dedicated indoor recreation space, better communication/program visibility, issues with transportation and access, more recreational sport opportunities for youth and adults, additional non-physical recreation activities (e.g. book clubs, cooking classes), and more outdoor athletic fields. Many of these areas will be discussed in the themes that follow.

- **Improved communication and increasing visibility should be a priority for the parks and recreation department.** A consistent theme among focus group participants was the lack of knowledge about everything that the park and recreation department offers. Marketing and communication is a challenge for many community recreation departments, as they are tasked with providing information in a meaningful way to the broadest range of citizens. Focus group participants spoke specifically to the need for using both online and print communication tools, improving the department's social media presence, and providing more information on the diverse array of program and facility offerings. For example, outdoor recreation users spoke specifically about the need for trail maps that were available online. Other users spoke to the need for more signage, including using outside electronic signs to communicate high priority messages, and more use of the local cable access station to promote program and facility offerings. One common theme that ran through the focus groups was the difficulty in finding the parks and recreation offices in the existing town municipal building. The location of the park and recreation offices is difficult to find for new participants, even with the signage in the building. Finally, focus group participants noted the fragmentation of recreation services in Standish. As one participant said, there are "*lots of different activities, run by lots of different groups, in lots of different places.*" This creates confusion for participants, particularly around what is available and who is ultimately responsible.
- **There is an interest in creating a more connected community in Standish.** Focus group participants frequently talked about the lack of community cohesiveness in Standish. Standish is not unlike many towns in New England that are spread out over large geographic areas, and consist of separate and distinct town villages with little or no centralized downtown area. Residents identified at least six distinct locations within the town including Standish Corner/Bonny Eagle Pond area, Sebago Lake Village, Steep Falls Village, Richville area, and Standish Neck/White's Bridge/Chadbourne Road area (proximate to St. Joseph's College). The geographic disbursement of the villages and town areas, and the lack of a central downtown area and central community gathering space leaves the impression among residents that

Standish is not "one town" but rather separate and distinct villages or neighborhoods. Focus group participants saw this as a negative in terms of the feelings of community connectedness. This also creates the more practical challenge of getting around town for activities and meetings, as the distance between towns was seen as prohibitive, particularly with the lack of public transportation options available in town. Focus group participants talked about the need for more connectivity in town, including the need for more biking and walking infrastructure, including sidewalks, walking/biking paths, and increased trail connectivity.

- **There was broad support among focus group participants for expanded recreation program opportunities and more usable activity space in Standish.** Focus group participants identified the need for expanded availability of indoor and outdoor recreation activity space. Participants also spoke to the need for more diverse program offerings, including non-physical recreation programs and activities. Ideas for expanded program offerings intersect with the need for more diverse indoor and outdoor activity spaces. Indoor space needs that were identified by focus group participants included gymnasium space, multipurpose room/dance, indoor walking/jogging, dedicated multi-use senior and youth/teen space, commercial kitchen and function/dining room, stage for performing arts, and equipment rental space. There were mixed thoughts on whether an indoor pool was needed in the near future, however participants were interested in additional options for indoor swimming, water aerobics, swim lessons, and other aquatics programming. Participants expressed concerns that existing space for civic functions such as voting was inadequate, and there was a general concern that existing meeting space in the municipal building was over-scheduled. Outdoor space needs included additional multipurpose athletic fields for soccer and lacrosse and baseball/softball fields. Some participants mentioned the need for lighted fields to extend play, as there are no lighted fields in town.

Participants spoke to the need for additional opportunities for recreation programs in general. There was a general sentiment that recreation programs taking place in shared space (i.e. programs taking place in schools) often received lower priority in facility scheduling, and often get bumped for higher-level programs (e.g. competitive travel sports, school sports) when there is a conflict. Specific programs or activities of interest among focus group participants included fitness classes/strength training, senior aerobics/group fitness, senior aerobics/fitness classes, non-physical recreation programs (book clubs, cooking classes), adult recreational sports (kickball, pickleball, volleyball), family-oriented recreation programs, inclusive and adaptive recreation for youth with disabilities, and outdoor equipment rental and outdoor adventure programs.

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- **There is interest in a stand-alone multigenerational indoor community center that can meet the recreation programming and space needs of Standish residents.** Focus group participants generally felt that a separate, dedicated indoor multigenerational community center would solve the needs for year-round recreation space in town. All 11 focus groups raised the need for a new indoor community center. Some participants referenced the 2008 efforts to address these issues, and the subsequent plans for as "Standish Community Center." While focus group participants spoke to the need to reignite the conversation around building a new stand-alone community center, they were aware of the challenges in funding such a facility and had concerns about raising the tax burden for Standish residents. Groups felt that any building would need to be in a central location, near or proximate to the existing municipal building. Participants suggested that a new indoor community center could address many of the challenges raised in the focus groups, including addressing space needs, diversifying program offerings, serving as a community gathering space, taking pressure off the municipal building for civic functions, creating more visibility for park and recreation programs, and centralizing park and recreation offerings. There were voices in the focus groups that raised the question about whether the building of an indoor community center was a priority in the town at this point in time, and that there were other priorities that were more important (e.g. police, fire, space for voting, outdoor athletic fields).

Household Surveys

A link to an online recreation needs assessment was made available to Standish residents through a variety of methods, including direct e-mails to recreation participants via the park and recreation user database, e-mails to households in the town's database, invitations to participate in local media, and posts on the Standish park and recreation department's social media accounts. Residents were invited to complete the survey online, or if they preferred, paper copies were available to complete and return at the Standish Municipal Building.

A total of 436 surveys were returned with enough data for analysis. This response was encouraging and was in-line with a past community needs assessment survey for recreation conducted in the mid-late 2000's. A majority of survey respondents were Standish residents (97.3%), owned their home (93.0%), identified Standish as their primary residence (97.5%), were employed full-time (77.4%), and were female (79.2%). Approximately 45% of survey respondents reported having children living at home. Most respondents reported that they lived in or near Steep Falls Village (18.0%) followed by Standish Neck (17.3%), Standish Corner (16.4%), Two Trails/Watchic Lake (14.2%), Sebago Lake Village (13.3%), or Richville (9.3%). Approximately 11.5% of respondents reported that they lived in some "other" area of Standish. Tables 3-4 show the demographic breakdown of survey respondents.

Table 3: Demographics for the Resident Survey

Variable	Percent, Median, or Mean	N
Age	Median Age = 49	306
Are you a resident of taxpayer of Standish?		
Yes	97.3%	321
No	2.7%	9
Do you own or rent your home?		
Own	93.0%	304
Rent	5.2%	17
Other	1.8%	6
Is your Standish home your:		
Primary residence	97.5%	315
Second or seasonal home	2.5%	8
How many years have you lived in Standish?	M = 17.07	313
What village or locality in Standish do you live in / near?		
Steep Falls Village	18.0%	58
Standish Neck / White's Bridge / Chadbourne Rd. Area	17.3%	56
Standish Corner / Bonny Eagle Pond Area	16.4%	53
Two Trails/Watchic Lake Area	14.2%	46
Sebago Lake Village	13.3%	43
Richville Area	9.3%	30
Other	11.5%	37
Are you or another adult household member employed:		
Full-time	77.4%	250
Part-time	9.6%	31
Retired	24.1%	78
Not retired and not currently employed	3.1%	10
Gender		
Male	20.8%	67
Female	79.2%	255
Do you currently volunteer for parks and recreation in any capacity?		
Yes	13.6%	44
No	86.4%	280
Children Living in the Home		
Yes	45.3%	143
No	54.7%	173

Table 4: Households with Children

Percent of Households with Children:	Percent	N
Under the age of 5	20.7%	67
Between ages 6-12	35.8%	116
Between ages 13-18	24.1%	116

The demographics of survey respondents varied slightly from the demographics of the overall population in Standish. While the median age for survey respondents was 49 years old, the overall median age in Standish is 42, showing that respondents skewed slightly older. Additionally, respondents included a much higher percentage of females (79.2%) than is representative in the overall town demographics (51.6%). This is not uncommon in surveys such as this, as market research shows that women make the majority of leisure spending decisions within a household. Finally, households with children represented 45.3% of survey respondents, whereas the percent of households with children in Cumberland County is approximately 23.8% (US Census Bureau Quick Facts, 2018). Geographic representation of the survey was more or less evenly distributed.

Use of Recreation Facilities and Amenities

Respondents were asked how frequently they used the recreation facilities and amenities in Standish. The facilities that received the most use (one or more times per year) were the Mountain Division Trail (69.9%), Johnson Field (66.8%), and Rich Memorial Beach (54.8%). Facilities that were used by more than half of the respondents were School Playgrounds (52.5%). Table 5 below shows the breakdown of recreation facility use in Standish by survey respondents.



South Portland Pool

Table 5: Use of Recreation Facilities and Amenities in Standish

	1 - 10 per year	10 or more per year	% Use	Never Use / Unaware
Mountain Division Trail	36.1%	33.8%	69.9%	30.1%
Johnson Field	37.5%	29.3%	66.8%	33.1%
Rich Memorial Beach & Ice Fishing	23.7%	31.1%	54.8%	45.3%
School Playgrounds	33.6%	18.9%	52.5%	47.5%
Kiwanis Beach	31.9%	17.7%	49.6%	50.4%
Memorial Park	28.0%	20.1%	48.1%	51.9%
Sebago Station Landing	27.0%	19.4%	46.4%	53.6%
Standish Municipal Center Rooms	32.2%	14.2%	46.4%	53.6%
Steep Falls Wildlife Management Area	19.9%	13.3%	33.2%	66.8%
Mill Street Park	16.8%	13.1%	29.9%	70.1%
Steep Falls Field	19.2%	9.9%	29.1%	71.0%

Use of St. Joseph’s College

Respondents were asked about their use of facilities at St. Joseph’s College. A majority (64.4%) reported that they did not use the facilities. Respondents noted that a lack of awareness regarding available options (42.9%) was their main barrier to use, followed by cost to use St. Joseph’s College facilities (22.6%)

Table 6: Use of St. Joseph’s College

	Yes	No
Do you use the indoor rec. facilities at St. Joseph's?	35.6%	64.4%

What prevents you from using the St. Joseph’s College indoor recreation facilities, or using them more often?	% Identified
Not aware of what is available	42.9%
Cost	22.6%
Availability of the facility	17.8%
Sharing space with college students	8.4%
Transportation	4.5%
Parking	2.7%
Quality of the facility / equipment	0.9%

Perception of the Quality of Recreation Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate the overall quality of recreation facilities and properties available in Standish. The property identified as above average by the greatest percentage of respondents was Rich Memorial Beach (49.2%). Also, the Mountain Division Trail was rated as above average by 45.4% of respondents. Conversely, the Steep Falls Field was identified as being poor or below average by 47.8% of respondents. Table 7 below shows the breakdown of respondents' perception of facility quality in Standish.

Table 7: Perception of Facility Quality

Facility	Poor or Below Average	Average	Above Average
Rich Memorial Beach & Ice Fishing	8.7%	42.1%	49.2%
Mountain Division Trail	2.6%	52.0%	45.4%
Johnson Field	7.9%	58.1%	34.1%
Sebago Station Landing	8.2%	57.7%	34.1%
Standish Municipal Center Rooms	6.8%	61.6%	31.6%
Steep Falls Wildlife Mgmt. Area	12.5%	63.2%	24.3%
School Playgrounds	17.1%	65.7%	17.1%
Memorial Park	18.6%	67.3%	14.2%
Kiwanis Beach	30.8%	56.1%	13.1%
Mill Street Park	18.4%	69.4%	12.2%
Steep Falls Field	47.8%	50.3%	1.9%

Constraints to Recreation Participation in Standish

Respondents were asked the reasons why they did not use the recreation facilities or properties in Standish, or why they may use them less than they would like. Over half (58.9%) agreed or strongly agreed that they experience a *“lack of time because of work or other obligations.”* A further 39.3% agreed or strongly agreed that *“lack of time because of other leisure activities”* decreased their use. However, 42.3% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were unaware of available facilities, and 27.9% agreed or strongly agreed that better recreation opportunities could be found elsewhere. Table 8 below shows the breakdown of respondent's perceived constraints to recreation participation in Standish.

Table 8: Constraints to Participation

Constraint	Mean	SD	% Strongly Agree / Agree
Lack of time because of work or other obligations	3.46	1.13	58.9%
Not aware of available facilities	3.09	1.10	42.3%
Lack of time because of other leisure activities	3.18	1.01	39.3%
Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere	2.88	1.07	27.9%
No one to participate with	2.59	1.05	22.3%
Facilities needed are not available	2.65	1.05	18.4%
Not interested in the available recreation opportunities	2.46	0.97	14.1%
Facilities are not adequate to me / my family needs	2.46	0.97	13.8%
Lack of money / too expensive	2.43	0.99	12.5%
Lack of childcare	2.38	1.02	11.6%
Lack of parking availability / convenience	2.30	0.85	5.6%
Facilities are too crowded	2.47	0.78	5.2%
Inappropriate social environment	2.19	0.87	4.4%
Disability / accessibility issues	2.21	0.91	3.6%
Lack of transportation	1.80	0.83	3.3%
Facilities are not safe	1.97	0.82	1.5%

Recreation Facility Needs

When asked about the community’s needs, over half of respondents (58.1%) agreed moderately or strongly that a dedicated teen or youth center was needed in Standish. A majority of respondents also expressed a need for an indoor swimming pool (55.3%), indoor multipurpose rooms (54.4%), an indoor gym or athletic court (53.6%), a weight room and cardio gym (53.3%), and an indoor walking or jogging track (52.9%). For outdoor facilities, 53.3% moderately or strongly agreed that an outdoor jogging or walking track was needed. The table below shows a detailed breakdown of survey respondent needs for recreation facility development in Standish.

Table 9: Park and Recreation Facility Needs

Activity Space	Agree Strongly – Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Strongly - Moderately
Teen / youth center	58.1%	25.8%	6.8%	9.3%
Indoor swimming pool	55.3%	15.5%	11.4%	17.7%
Indoor multipurpose gyms	54.4%	25.3%	9.3%	11.0%
Indoor gym or athletic courts	53.6%	24.7%	10.4%	11.2%
Indoor weight room / cardio gym	53.3%	24.9%	9.8%	12.0%
Outdoor walking / jogging track	53.3%	22.3%	13.3%	11.1%
Indoor walking / jogging track	52.9%	22.7%	10.8%	13.5%
Indoor senior center	46.7%	23.4%	11.3%	9.6%
Community dog park	45.5%	21.8%	8.1%	24.5%
Developed parks or multipurpose athletic fields	42.8%	36.0%	7.9%	13.3%
Indoor function / event room	42.5%	27.2%	17.2%	13.0%
Community meeting space	41.4%	31.1%	15.4%	12.0%
Outdoor bandstand / performance area	39.6%	28.0%	14.4%	18.0%
Outdoor games	38.2%	28.5%	14.6%	18.7%
Indoor performing arts stage	38.1%	27.2%	18.6%	16.1%
Playgrounds	36.9%	33.2%	13.1%	16.8%
Indoor multipurpose turf fields	35.4%	23.8%	19.3%	21.6%
Undesignated green space	32.7%	34.1%	15.2%	18.0%
Outdoor swimming pool	31.4%	18.6%	18.4%	31.7%
Indoor climbing wall	28.8%	29.9%	18.6%	22.7%
Indoor ice skating / ice arena	28.7%	22.6%	19.2%	29.5%
Outdoor tennis courts	28.0%	28.8%	23.2%	20.1%
Indoor pickleball courts	17.3%	27.2%	26.3%	29.2%
Outdoor pickleball courts	16.7%	30.8%	24.3%	28.2%

Recreation Program Needs

Similarly, respondents were asked which recreation programs or events were most needed in Standish. Almost every program gained a majority who agreed moderately or strongly that it was needed. However, aquatics (69.8%), after-school programs (69.4%), and summer day camps (67.7%) scored highest. Table 10 below shows the breakdown of respondents' perception of recreation program needs.

Table 10: Recreation Program Needs

Program Type	Agree Strongly – Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Strongly - Moderately
Aquatics / swim programs	69.8%	19.4%	3.5%	7.4%
After-school programs (middle school / teens)	69.4%	19.1%	5.6%	5.9%
Open gym / drop-in rec	68.0%	20.3%	4.7%	7.1%
Summer day camps	67.7%	21.5%	3.8%	7.1%
After-school programs (youth)	67.4%	21.5%	5.9%	5.3%
Summer "specialty" day camps	67.4%	21.7%	3.2%	7.7%
Out-of-school activities for teens	66.1%	21.6%	6.1%	6.2%
Group fitness programs	65.8%	24.1%	4.1%	5.9%
Senior / older adult rec activities	62.2%	23.7%	6.1%	7.8%
Youth rec sports	61.7%	25.5%	5.9%	6.8%
Family programming	61.1%	16.7%	5.6%	16.7%
Senior meals	60.0%	27.4%	4.4%	8.3%
Community special events	59.2%	29.6%	5.2%	6.0%
Outdoor equipment rental	58.7%	25.1%	7.4%	8.9%
Adult rec sports	58.4%	25.1%	8.3%	8.3%
Nature or environmental education programs	58.1%	26.1%	10.3%	5.6%
Musical concerts / performances	57.6%	27.8%	7.2%	7.5%
Sport instruction	56.4%	26.8%	8.6%	8.3%
Non-sport rec activities	56.0%	26.4%	9.1%	8.5%
Arts / cultural programs	55.9%	27.7%	7.2%	9.2%
Recreation programs for people with disabilities	50.5%	34.9%	6.2%	8.5%
Pre-kindergarten activities	46.1%	28.1%	12.7%	13.0%

Importance and Satisfaction of Recreational Facilities in Standish

Respondents were asked to identify how important various indoor recreation facilities and amenities were to them as residents or taxpayers of Standish, and then asked how satisfied they were with the current state or availability of those facilities and amenities. These two measures allow for the creation of an Importance–Satisfaction Gap Measure. A negative Importance–Performance Gap Measure may suggest that a highly valued facility or amenity is not being delivered at a level commensurate with its value. Highly-valued facilities such as indoor multipurpose space, an indoor walking track, youth-specific indoor space, indoor space, and an indoor pool were all listed as Important or Very Important by greater than 60% of respondents. However, each of these amenities received an Importance-Satisfaction Gap Measure in the -50’s. Table 11 below shows a detailed breakdown of respondent perceived importance and satisfaction for various recreation facilities and amenities as well as an Importance-Satisfaction Gap Measure for each.

Table 11: Importance-Satisfaction Ratings of Recreation Facilities

Activity Space	% Important / Very Important	% Satisfied / Very Satisfied	Importance - Performance Gap
Indoor multipurpose space	64.5%	8.9%	-55.6%
Indoor jogging / walking track	61.7%	7.9%	-53.8%
Youth-specific indoor spaces	64.8%	11.5%	-53.3%
Indoor gyms / court space	61.3%	8.2%	-53.1%
Indoor aquatics / pool	62.3%	13.5%	-48.8%
Senior-specific indoor spaces	58.6%	10.7%	-47.9%
Indoor weight rooms / fitness space	51.8%	6.0%	-45.8%
Indoor function room	50.1%	18.7%	-31.4%
Indoor turf athletic facility	36.1%	6.7%	-29.4%
Indoor kitchen / dining	35.6%	11.6%	-24.0%
Indoor ice skating rink	27.7%	7.9%	-19.8%
Indoor meeting rooms	43.6%	32.1%	-11.5%

Perception of Benefits from an Indoor Recreation / Community Center

Nearly 8 of 10 respondents moderately or strongly agreed that the Standish community would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in Standish (79.4%). Furthermore, approximately 7 of 10 survey respondents moderately or strongly agreed that they (69.4%) or their household (70.9%) would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center. Table 12 below shows the breakdown of respondent’s perceptions of the benefits of a town supported indoor recreation center.

Table 12: Perception of Benefits

Variable	Overall N	N Agree Strongly - Moderately	% Agree Strongly - Moderately
I would personally benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish	327	227	69.4%
My family / household would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish	323	229	70.9%
The community would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish	326	259	79.4%

Perceptions of Need for Town Supported Indoor Recreation / Community Center

More than 70% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that Standish needs a town supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the needs of residents. The table below shows the breakdown of this data.

Table 13: Need for a Community Center

Variable	Overall N	N Agree Strongly - Moderately	% Agree Strongly - Moderately
Standish needs a new town-supported indoor recreation community center to meet the recreation needs of Standish residents	327	238	72.8%

Funding and Support for Parks and Recreation in Standish

A majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would be willing to pay a fee to use town-owned indoor or outdoor recreation facilities. Over 75% agreed or agreed strongly that they would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation programs and activities in Standish (77.9%). In addition, 67.2% agreed or strongly agreed that a portion of residents' property taxes should be used to offset the cost to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities in Standish. The table below shows respondents' support for funding recreation programs and facilities in Standish.

Table 14: Funding and Support

Variable	Overall n	N Agree or Strongly Agree	% Agree or Strongly Agree
I would be willing to pay a fee for use of town-owned indoor recreation facilities in Standish	325	226	69.5%
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation programs and activities in Standish	321	250	77.9%
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities in Standish	326	219	67.2%
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to run recreation programs and activities in Standish	324	205	63.3%
I would be willing to pay a fee for use of the town-owned indoor recreation facilities in Standish	323	182	56.3%
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain outdoor recreation facilities in Standish	323	206	63.8%

Findings and Recommendations

1. The results of this study support the need for a stand-alone multigenerational indoor community center for the town of Standish.

- ✓ Over 10 years ago, Standish engaged in a community needs assessment process, including contracting with an architectural firm (Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc.) to complete a program analysis, site survey, business plan, conceptual design, site plan, and cost estimate for a new multigenerational indoor community center. This process was undertaken in 2006 and completed in 2008, resulting in a recommendation for a 37,000 square foot indoor community center and separate aquatic facility. The results of the community center needs assessment undertaken during that time indicated strong support for dedicated indoor recreation space, including gymnasium/athletic courts, multipurpose space, meeting rooms, fitness areas, performing arts/stage, kitchen, indoor pool, and specific areas for seniors and teens. The 2006-2008 needs assessment also identified outdoor amenities as an area of need, including outdoor walking track/trails, picnic area, and outdoor sports fields. As part of their feasibility study, Bargmann Hendrie and Archetype, Inc. undertook a space analysis in town and identified several key barriers: 1) recreation space is spread out throughout town resulting in high administrative and delivery costs for programs; 2) issues with access for town residents because of the lack of centrality of facilities used for recreation; and 3) because of the reliance on other entities (schools, private/non-profit organizations, local colleges) to provide space for town recreation programs, facilities were not always available or well-equipped for use. Despite the recommendations of the needs assessment committee and the architect's feasibility study, the project was not pursued. The subsequent economic downturn in 2008 and issues with the proposed project site tabled the discussion. The larger economic conditions have changed since 2008 and the town is in a growth phase, adding approximately 60+ new homes each year. However, the same indoor and outdoor recreation space issues continue to be issues for the town.
- ✓ In 2006, 92% of survey respondents said that they would “*support a Community Center for Standish that would provide programs and facilities for all ages.*” The current study asked a more pointed question, and found that 89.2% of respondents agreed that “*Standish needs a new town-supported indoor recreation center to meet the recreation needs of Standish residents.*” More than 7 out of 10 respondents (72.7%) moderately (23.2%) or strongly (49.5%) agreed to this statement.
- ✓ Strong majorities of survey respondents agreed that they would benefit personally (89.3%) from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish. Even stronger majorities (92.3%) agreed that the broader Standish community would benefit from an indoor community center. In fact, a majority of respondents (55.5%)

strongly agreed that the broader community would benefit. Perceptions of benefits included increased health and wellness, community economic impact, increased access to healthy activities for seniors and teens, and a stronger sense of community for the entire town. A list of open-ended comments related to perceived community center benefits are listed in the Appendix.

- ✓ A majority of the recreation facility and program needs identified in this study require additional dedicated facility space to meet expressed demand. For example, 68% of respondents moderately or strongly agreed that they had a need for open gym or drop-in recreation programming. Space for programmed activities such as youth basketball is already at a premium given the space demands of schools and local youth sport organizations already using those facilities. Adding additional programs such as open gyms, drop-in programs, or more adult recreation programming would require additional available gymnasium and athletic court space. Similarly, more than half of survey participants (52.9%) identified indoor walking/jogging space to be a moderate or strong need. This need could be met through the construction of an indoor walking/jogging track as a feature in a new indoor community center.
- ✓ All 11 focus groups raised the issue of building a separate indoor community center to meet the space needs of Standish residents, and spoke to the need. Many focus group participants spoke of the 2006-2008 process, and were interested in raising the issue of a new building again. It should be noted that there were voices in the focus groups that urged caution, and suggested that the town had other priorities that should be met first. However, focus group participants on the whole had specific ideas for the space needs that a new indoor community center should be able to accommodate.

2. A multigenerational indoor community center should include dedicated spaces to accommodate the needs of specific age groups.

- ✓ A strong majority of survey respondents (83.9%) agreed that Standish needs dedicated activity space for teens and youth, and a majority (56.7%) strongly or moderately agreed dedicated space for teens was needed. This was similar to the results of the 2006 survey, where 90% of survey respondents believed that teen facilities should be part of the plans for a new community center. The popularity of the positive youth development movement in the 1990s saw the construction of separate buildings for teens and youth (i.e. “teen centers”) to accommodate the educational, social, emotional, and physical needs of this age group. Separate teen centers have largely fallen out of favor, as they present a challenge to program, staff and finance (Adler, 2018). Teens and youth need their own space to hang out and interact with their peers. However, research shows that different generations benefit when they spend time together (Abrahms, 2017). We recommend that a new

community center include separate, connected, and dedicated activity space for teens and youth. In particular, programming should be available for non-sport related activities such as games, social space, art and music.

- ✓ In addition to dedicated space for teens, strong majorities (70.1%) agreed that space should be designated for senior/older adult activities. Almost half of survey respondents (46.7%) strongly or moderately agreed that there is a need for a senior center area. Approximately 87% of respondents in the 2006 survey also considered this to be an important design feature for a new community center. Senior center space should include multipurpose activity area/s, a commercial kitchen and dining facility, adequate storage, and offices for senior center staff. The senior wing should include dedicated parking areas proximate to the building for senior use. A good space design model is South Portland, ME's Community Center (SPCC) which was constructed in 1999, and includes a space that is used by seniors during the day, and which is open for the general public's use during the afterschool and evening hours.

3. A multigenerational indoor community center should incorporate a variety of activity spaces to host diverse recreation, community, and civic activities in Standish.

- ✓ The results of this study pointed to similar needs for facility and activity space as identified in the 2006 needs assessment study and the 2008 architect-led feasibility study. The town has grown steadily over the past 10 years, the needs for indoor and outdoor facility space appear to have remained the same. The strongest identifiable needs in this study were for teen/youth center space, indoor swimming/aquatics activities, multipurpose gym space, gymnasium/athletic courts, weight room/cardio center, and indoor walking/jogging track. One of the common ideas expressed in the focus groups was that when gym space is available it isn't needed, and what it is needed it isn't available. Other indoor amenities that were identified as needs include dedicated space for seniors/older adults, a function/events room and kitchen, and community meeting space. Outdoor amenities such as a walking track and trails, playground, and multipurpose athletic fields were also identified as needs by survey participants.
- ✓ We recommend that a new building start with adequate gymnasium/athletic court space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc. In addition, the building should be able to accommodate multipurpose studio space for fitness, dance, yoga, and other activities. Gymnasium space is at a premium in Standish, particularly in the winter months when demand for gym space exceeds supply. Gymnasium space would also be useful in the summer for camp programs. Access to additional gym space opens up the opportunities for adding new programs that can generate revenue, including specialty camps, adult recreational leagues, and can service the local youth sports

community. In addition to the added activity space, community gym space (either in the athletic court areas or multipurpose spaces) could be used to accommodate civic functions such as voting or large town functions. It is recommended that the building include two full-sized basketball courts.

- ✓ The building should include an indoor walking/jogging track. The track could be suspended over the athletic courts, and include mezzanine-level stretching and/or fitness areas. This design has aesthetic and space advantages, but generally increases construction costs. A good model for this would be Kittery (ME)'s recreation facility. Another option would be to have the track on the same level as the basketball courts around the perimeter of the facility. This can save money on engineering and construction, but can create challenges in managing exit/entry to the track and court areas. A good model for this would be Presque Isle (ME)'s Sargent Family Community Center.
- ✓ The building should include a large multi-purpose room that can be used for community meetings, activity classes, or civic or private functions. This room could accommodate non-physical recreation programs, such as educational or enrichment classes, games, or other civic or community functions. The room should be furnished with modular and movable furniture that is adaptable and can be moved easily both before and after programs. The building should have a full kitchen proximate to the multi-purpose room to accommodate senior or community meals or other civic or private functions.
- ✓ We recommend that the building be designed with the ability to accommodate basic outdoor amenities based on the needs identified in this study. For example, the building site could include an outdoor gathering space with hardscaping and seating, picnic areas, a perimeter walking trail with outdoor fitness stations, and a multipurpose athletic field that can be used for summer camp and specialty programming, pickup or drop-in sports, or as an overflow or backup field for youth sports such as soccer or lacrosse.
- ✓ In addition to the programming space identified above, a building of this nature needs facility space to serve current and future recreation programs. For example, the building should have space for the town's parks and recreation department, including office space to accommodate approximately 3-4 staff members, including the parks and recreation director, a conference room that can be used for staff and other meetings, a separate restroom and copy/supplies area. Relocating the parks and recreation staff to the new building will open space in the Municipal Building for other functions, create more administrative efficiencies by locating staff near their programs, and alleviate the trouble that focus group participants identified in finding recreation department staff because of the location of their offices in the existing

Municipal Building. The new building should include adequate and ample equipment storage for parks and recreation programs and activities, and should include storage/garage space for parks maintenance equipment and supplies. Finally, the new building should contain adequate restroom space and locker/change facility.

- ✓ The building should be designed to include an indoor swimming pool in either a first or possibly second phase of the project. An indoor swimming pool was strongly or moderately supported by approximately 55.3% of survey respondents, and almost 71% of survey respondents agreed overall that an indoor pool was needed in Standish. The pool could include spaces for lap swimming, water exercise, swim lessons, and therapy. It should be noted that indoor pools add considerably to the price tag of community center facilities. For example, the pool proposed in the 2008 study was estimated to add an additional \$2 million to the total project cost. While pools have the ability to generate revenue through memberships and rentals, they also require significant operations and maintenance costs, in addition to the capital cost of construction.
- ✓ If building plans and budget allow, space for basic weight training and fitness/cardio workout space could enhance facility offerings and could be a means of revenue generation for the facility. There was expressed need throughout the project for a fitness/workout facility that could be used for beginner or casual fitness enthusiasts as a means of introducing residents to basic strength training and cardio fitness activities. The lack of private fitness providers in town provides a niche that the parks and recreation department could fill and could generate revenue through memberships and/or personal training services. Should a private fitness provider locate to Standish, the community center's fitness space should be positioned to compliment existing commercial offerings in this area, rather than to compete or draw business away from private businesses.
- ✓ One of the issues raised in this study was that Standish residents felt unaware or uninformed of the many programs and activities that are offered the parks and recreation department. More than 4 out of 10 survey participants felt that they were generally unaware of available recreation programs and facilities, and large majorities of residents were unaware of specific facilities that were available to them. Focus group participants also expressed their frustration about the confusing patchwork of services provided by various entities in town. To address this, we recommend increasing the department's marketing efforts, possibly by doing a combination of more direct mail/print materials and continuing to distribute information electronically through the department's website and social media platforms. Service fragmentation can be addressed by establishing a "resource hub" within the department, whereby the parks and recreation staff serve as a clearinghouse for information related to recreation and community activities in Standish. This can create a "one-stop shop"

for information related to community recreation in the area. Jericho, VT started a portal website to provide information and community engagement regarding available recreation and community activities in town. This has become a larger, more encompassing effort, and includes a variety of town-sponsored programs, activities, and initiatives. A good platform to use as an example could be <https://jerichovt.org/>.

4. Construction funding for a new multigenerational indoor community center should come from a diverse mix of funding sources, should generate revenue, and should be built with minimal tax burden.

- ✓ The vision of the 2008 Standish Community Building Development and Planning Committee was: *“To recommend to the citizens of Standish a multi-generational facility for all ages which will be self-supporting, with minimal tax consequence.”* One of the questions that emerged from the focus groups as the project unfolded was, *“how are we going to pay for this?”* It is unlikely that a new multigenerational indoor community center will be able to be 100% self-supporting in the sense that it will generate enough revenue to service the capital debt burden and cover annual operations and maintenance costs. The predominant funding model for public recreation facilities throughout the country is some combination of funding sources, including tax dollars, fees and charges, and sponsorship/philanthropy. It is likely that support for such a project in Standish (as in most communities) will be predicated on the facility being built with as little impact on taxes as possible.
- ✓ Participants in this study expressed support for funding an indoor recreation facility through a combination of property taxes, user fees and rental charges, and partnerships with other user groups. Indoor facilities such as this can be economic drivers for communities, and can provide opportunities for business sponsorship, rental/contracts, and referral services. Partnerships with non-profit groups, local hospitals or healthcare facilities, and the School District are natural fits for a project such as this. Recreation facilities and amenities are potential assets for towns. Parks and recreation staff should seek out private entrepreneurs who might be interested in renting space in such a new facility in order to build and grow their existing programs. This could provide a source of income for the new facility and add to the economic vitality of the town by providing opportunities for new "pop-up" businesses to grow and serve the community. For example, multipurpose space could be rented to a local martial arts instructor to run martial arts programs, while adding to the range of program offerings available in town.
- ✓ Based on the needs expressed in this project, as well as in reviewing the recommendations of past studies, we believe that a building with a footprint similar to the one designed and proposed in 2008 would meet the current and future recreation needs in Standish. We hesitate to suggest exact square footage recommendations

as these will need to be provided following the building design phase. However, we believe that a facility roughly in the range of 25,000 - 30,000 square feet (without the swimming pool) would more or less accommodate the needs expressed in this study. Rough construction costs for such a facility would likely range between \$6-8 million, with annual operations and maintenance costs estimated between \$180,000 - \$240,000. Operations and maintenance costs of similar facilities tend to be approximately 2-4% of capital construction costs per year per Federal planning guidelines. Operations costs could be recouped or offset through revenue generation plans such as facility memberships, program fees, partnership agreements with surrounding towns and organizations, facility rentals to outside and civic groups, and possible public-private ventures.

- ✓ It is likely that a new facility would require the addition of 1-2 additional FTEs to manage facility operations, management, and maintenance. This includes part-time staff to assist with building access and control and routine cleaning and upkeep.

5. A site feasibility study should be conducted on a suitable construction site that is centrally located, preferably near or proximate to the current town municipal building.

- ✓ One of the significant findings of this study was that study participants wanted a facility that was centrally located and easily accessible to all areas of the town. Given Standish's geographic spread, the ideal building location would be in a location that is proximate to the existing Municipal Building.
- ✓ To minimize costs, it is recommended that the town select suitable property already owned by the town as a potential build site. A possible location for the building is on land that was donated to the town on Moody Road. This property has potential to be used for both a community center and outdoor athletic fields. The need for additional outdoor multipurpose athletic facility space was raised as an issue in one of the focus groups, and more than 4 in 10 survey participants (42.8%) moderately or strongly agreed that more multipurpose athletic fields were needed in Standish. It should be noted that the need for outdoor athletic fields was expressed most strongly by local voluntary sport groups. The town works with local voluntary sport groups to facilitate youth sport programming by scheduling and maintaining outdoor athletic facilities. However, focus group participants specifically talked about the need for more recreational sport opportunities for youth, and local voluntary sport organizations are serving many of the youth sport programming needs for the town. Currently, the town has no lighted fields, and focus group participants raised issues with the current inventory of athletic fields available to them.

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- ✓ We recommend that a site feasibility study be conducted in the near term with an architectural/engineering firm to determine the suitability of the Moody Road site to carry both an indoor community center and outdoor athletic fields/amenities. In addition, the firm should engage in an updated program analysis, business plan, conceptual design, site plan, and cost estimate similar to the program conducted by Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc. in 2008.

6. An alternative to a new building is to consider repurposing existing space and/or exploring partnerships with local groups to obtain needed space.

- ✓ The town should explore alternatives to new construction, as there may be opportunities to obtaining needed indoor space that could present themselves in the near future. For example, many towns in New England are downsizing, consolidating or upgrading aging school facilities. If school consolidation or reorganization is on the table as an option in Standish, there may be an opportunity to repurpose an existing school to be used as an indoor community center. This is a common method for gaining indoor recreation space, particularly in New England. For example, Kittery (ME) repurposed an old school and combined both renovation and new additions to create a multigenerational indoor community center, and is a good model for this project.
- ✓ A repurposed George E. Jack School could meet many of the needs expressed in this project, including providing adequate square footage, parking, gymnasium, kitchen, art/computer rooms, and ample classroom and meeting space. The school is also currently a home for existing park and recreation programs, and is located in a central and visible location. The school also provides ample outdoor space, including a playground, trail access, basketball court, and athletic field. This could leave the Moody Road site to be used specifically for multipurpose athletic fields. However, it is not clear that the George E. Jack School is or will be available for repurposing. In addition, repurposing a school would still require construction and renovation, so there would likely still need to be a significant investment in both planning and construction resources to ensure that such a project would meet the needs of Standish residents.
- ✓ Approximately one-third (35.6%) of survey respondents, as well as a number of focus group participants, have used the recreation and fitness facilities at St. Joseph's College. St. Joseph's College makes some of their recreation and athletic facilities available to Standish residents to use either at no-cost or for a reduced fee. Focus group participants in particular appreciated their ability to use these facilities, and many took advantage of them. Others however, were confused about how to access the facilities, stated that the times offered were inconvenient, or felt uncomfortable in a college environment. Most, however, just didn't know what was available to them.

In the absence of a new town community center, the park and recreation department could engage in additional marketing of the amenities available at St. Joseph's College to facilitate participation and use of these facilities to meet the recreation needs of Standish residents.

Proposed Next Steps

1. Issue a Request for Proposals for a community center feasibility study, to include site and building plans and cost estimates for a facility similar and size and scope to meet the needs identified in this study. Investigate the possibilities of repurposing and renovating George E. Jack School, if it should come available to the town in the near-term.
2. Investigate alternative sources of funding for the project. Alternative sources of funding are difficult to obtain, but can be used to supplement tax dollars needed to service debt for capital construction. Sources of funding could include fundraising, planned giving, sponsorships, and/or grants (e.g. USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grants, Community Development Block Grants). Information on these and other programs can be found at <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Grant-Fundraising-Resources/>.
3. Develop a focused approach to marketing to increase awareness of parks and recreation programs and services. This can be accomplished by increasing the department's budget allocation for marketing, and adding a direct mail campaign with seasonal program information and offerings to all households in the Standish service area. Develop the "resource hub" in the Parks and Recreation by providing information regarding recreation and community activities in Standish.



**University of
New Hampshire**

Appendix A: Resident Survey

1

TOWN OF STANDISH, ME RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following information is being gathered to assess the recreation interests, needs, and priorities of households in the Town of Standish. As a town resident or taxpayer, your responses to the following questions are important to us. The information that you provide will assist in establishing priorities and a strategic direction for recreation provision in Standish. Please read each question carefully before responding, and please answer each question to the best of your ability. You can be assured that all individual responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your thoughtful responses to the following questions.

I. USE OF STANDISH RECREATION FACILITIES & PROPERTIES

Which of the following Standish facilities and properties do you or other members of your household use or attend events in for recreation purposes? Do you use these facilities: **Frequently** (more than 20 times/year), **Regularly** (10-20 times/year), **Occasionally** (1 to 9 times/year), or **Never**? If you never use the facility, are you aware that it exists?

Recreation Facility/Property	Frequently Use	Regularly Use	Occasionally Use	Never Use	Unaware of Facility
School Playgrounds (non-school hours)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Johnson Field (fields, ice rink, playground, tennis/pickleball courts, skate park, picnic)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Memorial Park (athletic fields)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Mountain Division Trail (hiking/biking)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Mill Street Park (playground, basketball court, ice rink)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Standish Municipal Center Rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Steep Falls Ballfield (baseball field)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Steep Falls Wildlife Management Area (hiking, biking, canoeing, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Rich Memorial Beach & Ice Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sebago Lake Boat Landing	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Kiwanis Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>				

- Do you use the indoor recreation facilities available at St. Joseph's College (e.g. indoor pool, locker rooms, indoor walking/jogging track, fitness/weight facility)? Yes No

- What prevents you from using the St. Joseph's College indoor recreation facilities, or using them more often? (check all that apply):
 - Cost
 - Transportation
 - Parking
 - Sharing space with college students
 - Availability of the facility
 - Quality of the facility and/or equipment
 - Not aware of what is available
 - Other: _____

- What other out-of-town recreation facilities do you use within a 15 minute drive from Standish?

II. EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF STANDISH RECREATION FACILITIES

How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation facilities and properties available in Standish? Please check the appropriate box. If you do not use the facility, please indicate.

Recreation Facility/Property	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Don't Use/Unable to Judge
School Playgrounds(non-school hours)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Johnson Field (fields, ice rink, skate park, playground, tennis/pickleball court, picnic)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Memorial Park (athletic fields)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Mountain Division Trail (hiking/biking)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Mill Street Park (playground, basketball court, ice rink)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Standish Municipal Center Rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Steep Falls Ballfield (baseball field)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Steep Falls Wildlife Management Area (hiking, biking, canoeing, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Rich Memorial Beach & Ice Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Sebago Lake Boat Landing	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Kiwanis Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>					

III. PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINTS

Please rate the reasons that prevent you or your family from using the recreation facilities in Standish, or that prevent you from using them as much as you would like:

Reason	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Lack of time because of other leisure activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Not aware of available facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are not safe	<input type="checkbox"/>				
No one to participate with	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of time because of work or other obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are too crowded	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of money/too expensive	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities needed are not available	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of parking availability/convenience	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Disability/accessibility issues	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Inappropriate social environment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Not interested in the available recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>				

- Did you purchase an annual membership (\$35 per resident household) to Rich Memorial Beach (resident-only beach on Sebago Lake) in (check all that apply)...
- 2017 2018 Did not purchase

- What prevents you from using Rich Memorial Beach, or using it more often? Check all that apply:
- Cost is too high
 - Membership registration process is too difficult
 - Fee structure (annual membership vs. per-visit fee)
 - Transportation/location
 - Sebago Boating Club Member (I access the beach via boat)
 - Facility rules (such as no babies with swim diapers allowed)
 - Hours the beach is open
 - Cleanliness of the beach / facilities
 - Lack of available amenities
 - Not aware of what is available at the beach
 - Other: _____
- Would you be more likely to use Rich Memorial Beach if:
- It was free/no cost to use
 - There was a per-visit fee option
 - Other: _____

IV. EVALUATION OF RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES

Below is a list of recreation facilities/amenities that might be of interest to you/your household. How much do you agree that the following facilities need to be BUILT (they are needed but don't currently exist) or IMPROVED (they currently exist but they need to be higher quality or there should be more)? Please rate each facility based on how much you agree that Standish should build or improve the following:

Recreation Facility/Amenity	Agree Strongly	Agree Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree Strongly
Developed parks/multipurpose athletic fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor walking/jogging track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor walking/jogging track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Undesignated green space for passive or active drop-in recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor gym or athletic courts (e.g. basketball/volleyball/pickleball courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor function/events room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor multipurpose gym/studio (e.g. dance, gymnastics, martial arts, yoga, group fitness, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor multipurpose turf fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor senior center (e.g. social space, activity space, games, kitchen/meals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Teen/youth center (e.g. space for drop-in recreation, games, social and activity space)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor weight room/cardio fitness center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Evaluation of Recreation Facilities/Amenities (continued)

Recreation Facility/Amenity	Agree Strongly	Agree Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree Strongly
Indoor community meeting space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor performing arts stage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor ice skating/ice arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor climbing wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor games: horseshoes, volleyball, badminton, corn hole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor bandstand/performing arts area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Dog Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

➤ Please list other recreation facilities/amenities that you or your household might be interested in:

V. EVALUATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of recreation programs or activities that might be of interest to you. Please rate each based on how much you agree that the particular program/activity is needed in Standish.

Recreation Programs	Agree Strongly	Agree Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree Strongly
Arts/cultural programs (e.g. dance, performing arts, art class)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Musical concerts/performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Community Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Recreation programs for people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pre-kindergarten activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Out-of-school activities for teens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
After-school programs (youth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
After-school programs (middle school/teens)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Summer "specialty" day camps (sports, arts, adventure)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Summer day camps (rec camp)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Non-sport adult recreation activities (e.g. cards, games, social opportunities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior/older adult recreation activities, trips and events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Family programming (parent/child activities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior meals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Evaluation of Recreation Programs/Activities (continued)

Recreation Programs	Agree Strongly	Agree Moderately	Agree Slightly	Disagree Slightly	Disagree Moderately	Disagree Strongly
Group fitness programs (e.g. aerobics, weights, yoga, Pilates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Nature or environmental education programs, lectures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Outdoor equipment check-out or rental opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sports lessons or instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Adult recreational sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Youth recreational sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Open gyms/Drop-in recreation programs (youth and adult)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Aquatics/swim programs (e.g. swim lessons, water aerobics)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

➤ Please list other recreation programs or activities that you or your family are interested in:

VI. Prioritization of Indoor Recreation Facilities and Amenities

In this section we are interested in indoor recreation space in particular. In general, how **important** are the following indoor recreation facilities and amenities to you as a resident or taxpayer of Standish?

Reason	Very Important	Important	Neutral/ Neither	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Indoor weight rooms/fitness space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor gyms/court space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor multipurpose space (e.g. dance, gymnastics, martial arts)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor meeting rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor kitchen/dining space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor aquatics/pool	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor jogging/walking track	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor ice skating rink	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Youth-specific indoor spaces (e.g. early child care, afterschool space, teen center)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior-specific indoor spaces (e.g. dedicated senior-only activity areas)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor turf athletic facility space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor function/events room	<input type="checkbox"/>				

You just told us how important various indoor facilities/amenities are to you in Standish. In general, how **satisfied** are you with the following indoor recreation facilities and amenities in Standish?

Reason	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral/ Neither	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Indoor weight rooms/fitness space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor gyms/court space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor multipurpose space (e.g. dance, gymnastics, martial arts)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor meeting rooms	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor kitchen/dining space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor aquatics/pool	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor jogging/walking track	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor ice skating rink	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Youth-specific indoor spaces (e.g. early child care, afterschool space, teen center)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Senior-specific indoor spaces (e.g. dedicated senior-only activity areas)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor turf athletic facility space	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Indoor function/events room	<input type="checkbox"/>				

➤ To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Standish needs a town-supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the recreation needs of Standish residents."

- Agree Strongly
- Agree Moderately
- Agree Slightly
- Disagree Slightly
- Disagree Moderately
- Disagree Strongly

Please respond by rating the following:

Statement	Agree Strongly					Disagree Strongly
I would <i>personally benefit</i> from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
My family/household would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
The <i>community would benefit</i> from a town-supported indoor recreation community center in Standish?	<input type="checkbox"/>					

If you would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in Standish - how would having access to a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in Standish benefit you, your household, or your community?

Please respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned indoor recreation <i>facilities</i> in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation <i>facilities</i> in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to run recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned outdoor recreation facilities in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain outdoor recreation facilities in Standish.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VII. HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions about you and your household. These questions are important because they help us understand whether a range of voices from different populations are represented in this survey.

- Are you a resident or taxpayer of Standish? (check one)
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you own or rent your home: (check one)
 - Own
 - Rent
 - Other
- Is your Standish home your (check one):
 - Primary residence
 - Second or seasonal home
- How many **years** have you resided in Standish? _____ number of years
- What village or locality in Standish do you live in/near? (check one)
 - Standish Corner / Bonny Eagle Pond Area
 - Sebago Lake Village
 - Steep Falls Village
 - Richville area
 - Standish Neck/Whites Bridge/Chadbourne Rd Area (St. Joseph's College)
 - Two Trails / Watchic Lake area
 - Other: _____

- Are you or another adult household member: (check all those that apply)
 - Employed Full-time
 - Employed Part-Time
 - Retired
 - Not Retired and Not Currently Employed
- What best describes you?
 - Male
 - Female
- In what year were you born? _____
- Do you have a child or children 5 years old or younger living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 6-12 living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 13-18 living in your home? (check one)
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you currently volunteer for parks and recreation in any capacity (e.g. as a coach, scorekeeper, program leader, advisory board or committee member, special events helper)?
 - Yes
 - No
- If YES – how many months out of the year do you engage in recreation-related volunteer activities?
 - _____
- Approximately how many hours do you typically spend volunteering in a year?
 - _____

If you have additional comments related to parks and recreation in Standish, or if you need more space to elaborate on your answers from earlier in the survey, please write here:

Thank you for your time in completing this survey!
Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Appendix B: Additional Facility Ideas (Survey Open-Ended Comments)

1. Walking trails
2. Sheltered picnic area near Rich Memorial Beach parking lot.
3. Could you set up outdoor game space (volleyball, cornhole, etc) at Rich memorial?
4. I forgot to mention we also frequently use the Gorham indoor sports/soccer complex frequently on the prior question.
5. More development of a parking area and trails in Standish Sanctuary /Steep Fall's WMA. Specifically trail maintenance with directional informational signs, Porta potty and parking.
6. More integration with local businesses, creation of a Standish Chamber of Commerce.
7. Indoor soccer league for kids during winter.
8. Groomed nordic ski trails for all abilities. Trails must be wide enough to be tracked for classic and for freestyle (skate) skiing. 10 to 20 km in length. Include a warming hut / lodge with a waxing area. This would be my top priority.
9. Indoor play facility for young children
10. Batting cages
11. Not sure
12. Lighted walking trails; walking trails that allow dogs, clearly marked as such; maintained cross-country skiing trails
13. i feel standish has a nice assortment
14. Indoor kid pay areas. From young toddler to school age.
15. fly fishing lessons, fly tying, archery, hunter safety, shooting sports air soft
16. Winter is LONG in Maine. We have a desperate need for indoor facilities. I can't tell you how often I drive to Portland to take my kids somewhere where they can shoot around (basketball or soccer). I moved here 15 years ago, when there was talk about a big community center with indoor courts and other amenities. Then it never happened. If I had realized that it was going to be like this, I would not have moved here. Standish is

no-mans land. Nothing to do here from November to May. There is nothing that brings this community together except Hannaford. The little fitness place next to Hannaford isn't family friendly and isn't open during times when working parents can get there. Standish plans poorly and has no vision

17. Billiards facilities and drop-in facility for playing cards and board games.
18. Library, access to books, periodicals, DVDs etc. You don't have a decent library in Standish.
19. a beach chair for the handicap, borrowing of snowshoes, kayaks, similar equipment, community vegetable garden space
20. Shooting range
21. Bounce or trampoline park, indoor
22. anything hiking
23. We just got a dog and having a place that's lit at night to walk him would be great. We play volleyball locally and would love more opportunities for that. Could Standish rent to residents kayaks, canoes, or paddle boats for the lakes? I'm realizing there are a lot of opportunities in town that I don't know about.
24. A place where the whole family can be active together, perhaps where parents can exercise while kids are happy in a kids area (game room, play where they can run or climb).
25. Local bike rides.
26. Community medical/screening/wellness clinic. Community garden. Child care for working residents to be able to take classes.
27. Would love some music and arts. Love the family movie nights.
28. Love the idea of a multi-purpose indoor space for winter activities.
29. I feel there needs to be a community room where things can be held such as the food pantry and things like that I also feel there needs to be a area where you can take your kids indoors and play sports like an indoor gym on many occasions I had to try to get into schools when I was not allowed to play or practice sports with my child was able to gain

access on some occasions with no issues but shortly after a group would show up and we would have to leave

30. non resident

31. I am not inclined to pay higher taxes for such amenities that I don't have time to use due to work.

32. bowling alley

33. Teen center, multipurpose athletic fields, basketball court, turf field. We definitely need a place for teens to get together

34. Swimming pool, teen center, community center with programs and a gym would be nice

35. I'd like to see a paved bike path that runs in place of the old railroad lines that would connect to other bike paths. This would need multiple municipality support/funding but it could be done and would surpass anyone's expectations. See W&OD trail in Northern Virginia as a template.

36. Garden co-op

37. An all encompassing community building would be an amazing addition to Standish

38. A designated space for fitness classes and more options/times. I really like the south Portland community center and the amenities they offer, however not sure that's doable in our town given the resources and smaller population.

39. If the town were to invest in a new or updated playground, I would want to see it be adaptive so that kids of all abilities can play together.

40. I've lived here for 32 years and I don't want to move from Standish but if I don't see improvements for the future of this town I can't stay any longer. We need playgrounds, a great Dog Park, a cleaned up town center that's not an embarrassment to our residents. A small town park to enjoy in center of town and Sidewalks and bike lanes

41. xc ski trails.

42. Sand volleyball courts. Outdoor walking track. Accessible playground for physical disabilities. Overall indoor space is limited for an area where it is dark and cold for more than 1/3 of the year. Also playground at Johnson field is too far from parking area and kids with disabilities can't access it. As far as a dog park - most of us live on larger

parcels of land (not an inner city) and the mountain division trail is great place for outdoor activity with dogs.

43. Bike trails

44. More indoor pool and fitness center options

45. I dont think town needs indoor swimming pool with St. Joe's available.

46. walking/hiking/biking/XCountry skiing trails connecting areas of Standish for accessibility to other recreational activities

47. if dog park allows small pups to be in separate area from the large pups

48. We miss having a really good library. It would be nice to put significant money into supporting/expanding the Steep Falls library and make it more in line with what Gorham or Windham or Cornish have.

49. Biking trails for seniors, not off road trail biking

50. Indoor playground for young children with social space for parents

51. N/A

52. I wish the town organized more outdoor activities and had equipment to loan like Windham with their snow shoe hikes and various other community event.

53. a more centralized community space with access to mutiple activities. Standish is so spread out and there isn't ONE community space, ballparks, potential dog park, etc. are all over the place. Not sure what affiliation the Kiwanis beach is, town-run? non-profit? where do all the fees go?

54. need bike paths and walkways TRY SIDEWALKS AND SAFE INTERSECTIONS

55. Facility should have a town annual membership in addition to a per use fee. Planet fitness offers a \$10 per month fee but does not offer fitness classes. I am interested in a variety of fitness classes. St. Joseph's does not have a gym for the community and fitness classes are limited, only 30 min to 45 min in length and cost \$7 per class which on an annual basis is cost prohibitive.

56. I travel to other towns to use almost all of the above.

57. dog-friendly beach & swimming area

-
58. why should we have a dog park just so we can pay some- one to pick- up after their dog !!!
59. I would just like sidewalks, and or hike/bike lanes along the streets, so people can just walk around town without being run over -- along 25, cape rd, 35.
60. No pool. (st Joe's has a beautiful pool wee can use.) like to see a space for seniors and younger adults and teens could come together to get to know your community's needs. I used to tell my son he may be able to help out an older neighbor by shoveling so they have access especially in event of emergencies. Nice to teach kids to look out for their neighbors. I liked the recent classes offered as well like jewelry or bead making, any craft .. nice idea for community spaces. Community potluck by neighborhoods etc might be a nice way to meet your neighbors . Horseshoe and volleyball areas .. fun!! Indoor weight room might be nice tool
61. A park for only walking, benches, flowers, bushes in Standish Village.
62. covered playground. the playgrounds we have are nice but there is no shade so can only really use in the morning in the summer or the equipment is waaaaaayyyyyy too hot. Also a splash pad at the parks would be a great addition for when the kids are outside playing in the heat they have a place to cool off a bit.
63. Indoor batting cages.. we currently pay \$125 per year to use Hitters Count & Maine Hits. We don't even have outdoor cages in Standish. Same with hoops, we are reliant on gym space and even that requires being on a team, would be nice to be able to have the kids play ball during vacation rather than video games
64. More bus trips
65. I would love to see a community pool where there are open swims & lessons. st Joes is a nice resource but often the pool is kept cooler and isn't as warm for the kids. I would also love to see gymnastics for younger kids. My daughter who is in first grade would love to participate. I also have a 1 year old and a gymnastics open gym for younger children would be very much loved!
66. Gym with childcare
67. Basketball courts outdoors and inside open gym with basketball courts
68. Basketball, volley ball. Tennis, card table or board games. Indoor fitness all types.

-
69. More things to do as a community to get to know each other and feel more at home
 70. None the town cant afford to maintain the facilities currently in place.
 71. indoor swimming pool with sauna
 72. Horseback riding trails!!!
 73. If Standish could clean up the baseball fields, especially Kiwanis, that would be a good start.
 74. Think what Standish currently has available (with inclusion of St. Joseph's) is plenty to suit our family's needs.
 75. Walking path to connect Sebago Village to Standish Corner.
 76. Hot tub
 77. It would be great to invest in something like the greater portland mountain biking club bought that grooms trails in the winter for fat biking as that may bring more people to the community perhaps a joint venture with the portland water district to groom specific trails?? would also make sense to perhaps look into being able to groom trails for traditional xc skiing as well. winter can be long so having access to good exercising areas would be great. grooming machine for fat bike trails would be a minimal investment the i came across the exact machine they have for around \$3000 brand new. Seems like we could stop dropping all this money on paying out severance packages and searches for town managers to put back into the community.
 78. Weekend Christmas tree lighting instead of a weeknight!
 79. Designated sledding hill Paved or well maintained walking/running paths Large public beach Well maintained sports fields/facilities
 80. Community gardens, greenhouse, food pantry
 81. Library, trampoline park
 82. Concession stand and score board at Johnson field.
 83. indoor local pool
 84. Cyclocross course. More gravel bike riding routes.

85. Better Playgrounds and Dog Park

86. Batting cages

87. UPGRADE AND CONGREGATE THE CURRENT ATHLETIC FACILITIES.

88. Revolving restaurant on top of water tower overlooking lake. Must be revolving, with disco ball and dance floor.

89. tennis and basketball courts indoor and outdoor

90. Pool and Dog park

91. Don't use

92. Don't need none of them especially Dog Park

93. Bike and water activities/rentals

94. N/A

95. Food Pantry

96. Sorry. But none of these needs to be built. These are wants not needs.

Appendix C: Additional Program Ideas (Open-Ended Survey Comments)

1. To be able to choose days for after school and not be tied into a entire week
2. Swim Zumba
3. Nordic skiing
4. INDOOR FACILITIES PLEASE.
5. ???
6. Plowed walking areas outdoors
7. geochacing, orienteering
8. Shooting range
9. Drop in exercise classes
10. Gardening
11. Swim lessons that are affordable!!!
12. Boating
13. Dog park and training classes
14. Activity center with pool and ping pong tables. Maybe library room or computer access-Tutor space.
15. biking, hiking, canoeing, kayaking
16. Skiing
17. cross-country skiing areas;bird watching;canoe trips;geo-caching;
18. Kayaking

-
19. I wish we had more outdoor and indoor opportunities throughout the year. Maybe a yoga or tai chi or exercise class. Also activities to get to know the community. We live closer to Windham, on the outskirts of Standish, not feel like part of Standish or Windham.
 20. walk and bike trails that go someplace
 21. Dog park
 22. safe, year-round walking/hiking/dog walking
 23. Easy hikes/walking trails
 24. support for the Town's history
 25. Gym
 26. Archery
 27. Saint Joseph's College: have participated in a variety...swimming but also sports clinics and if times were better and advertising were better we may do more there.
 28. Standish rec sucks we will not be participating
 29. Horseback riding trails
 30. Specifically rec for middle schoolers. It's scary to work far from home knowing my 11 year old has to get off the bus, walk home and be alone for 2 hours.
 31. Gardening, farming
 32. I would Love Water. Aerobics. I have M.S.
 33. Racquetball
 34. Adult pickle ball/senior/beginner
 35. None
 36. More family activities that families can participate in who have not school aged children. I was interested in many winter things-like the gingerbread house decorating, but realized we couldn't participate because it was for school kids, not families. "Mom groups" to meet

up on weekends/afternoons for working parents, and adult exercise programs, such as basic tumbling, and dance would be SO much fun!

37. Arts/crafts, educational programs at library, children's programs at library, music/town music groups

38. Golf, Shooting Sports

39. Pirate 101, Basic sword swallowing.

40. Don't use

41. Trails for hiking

42. N/A

43. Food Pantry

44. What about having free healthy eating and cooking classes? Many unhealthy folks around but probably wouldn't attend. Kids need to learn basic food prep and meal planning and cooking in school. Too many hungry kids.

Appendix D: Benefits of Community Center (Open-Ended Survey Comments)

1. We would have to travel outside the community less for many activities.
2. We live in Maine weather, rural living and major roads plays a significant factor in the amount and quality of recreation available to many Standish citizens. I live on Route 113. Simply walking the dog can be dangerous much less letting a child ride a bike or go for a walk alone.
3. Supplement our exercise regimen
4. This would allow us to be more active in the winter months and meet more people in the community. Standish is a very hard place to build community unless you grew up here.
5. Year round access to events!
6. It would be good to have a warm safe place to be when the power goes out.
7. A safe space for my teen to hang out with friends and participate in group sports for fun. I would benefit from an indoor pool and fitness area so I wouldn't have to travel as far to go to a gym.
8. It would assist people who don't have access to other recreational opportunities. Not everyone is interested in organized sports so a rec facility that's has options for pick up basketball or walking a track would great.
9. We drive to other towns for many recreational activities. Standish is great for outdoor activities overall. The skating rink improvements are great but it is still pretty small. Indoor pool at St Joe's is great but hours are limited and I drive to So Po Pool for better hours and lane times as well as for children activities (we have two children under 8). Please note that in the 8 years we have been here the improvements to the town (playgrounds, beach, fields etc) have been great. Keep up the good work.
10. Fewer and fewer kids are getting involved in athletics, and its important we emphasize the value of good health. my kids, wife and I would make use of an open gym or organized sports activities. Also think it would bring the town closer together through interaction.
11. it wouldn't, it would just raise taxes
12. would help during the winter months with healthy activities for all ages

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13. Bring the community together
 14. It would be great for our family with small children as they grow and develop
 15. I would like to see more daycare opportunities and facilities for the elderly. Both Windam, St Joes, USM in Gorham have facilities enough for the rest of us.
 16. more meeting room, an indoor place to walk, senior room
 17. Would be able to do activities in winter when only option for walking/running on the streets. Would like for year round access to swimming facilities.
 18. Positive safe environment for our teens and elders
 19. The schools have some of these facilities already associated with them, but they are not open to residents for use during non-school hours. This would be a plus with lower cost than building a mega-facility. Build those things that don't exist - a rec center with a pool for example. Every school has a gymnasium so there's no need to build a gym...use what exists...We have outdoor skating, soccer, etc. also available
 20. Offer more opportunities for ourselves and our children without the commitment of a full sports season. More winter activities.
 21. I have young children (4&7) we drive to Portland for ice skating lessons, Westbrook for swim lessons and waterboro for open swim. Standish is a bedroom town. People have homes here but they do recreate here. It would be nice to build relationships in our community
 22. We need some type of central center to pull together local businesses and residents to collectively build local resources. Standish is so spread out, there isn't a central center where local businesses can meet to discuss common interests (creation of a Standish Chamber of Commerce) and where residents can come together.
 23. I have seen how desirable it makes other communities when families are considering where to move to. Particularly I am interested in a space that has a pool I can take my child in the winter months.
 24. It would encourage and support my own exercise program
 25. I would love to have a place to practice basketball during the winter months for my daughters sake. But I don't want my taxes going up.

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26. After school opportunities for middle school students is critical and a high need for our working families.
 27. I may not be fully aware of the spaces we have now but if there was an indoor recreation/community center - I think this could only better this town. For so long, it's seemed like our sense of community is lacking. I love the idea of creating a better community for all ages!
 28. convenience
 29. We do not live on a large property and would enjoy activities that keep us moving but in the safety of an environment that allows access to the public without out crossing onto private property of others
 30. Depends on programs offered
 31. Having a space which *could* be utilized might make all the other ideas actually happen.
 32. Standish residents could use the facilities instead of going out of town.
 33. Weight/cardio room available at convenient hours would be the best. My schedule and lack of resources prevents me from exercising the way I want to. An indoor field and program of soccer, kickball, etc. would be great for my child's socialization and exercise. A facility to that has an indoor play area for kids would be great and able to rent out the space for birthday parties, etc. would be helpful.
 34. I need to exercise and won't travel out of town to do so and would be more likely to do it with a group
 35. I think it would be great for the valuation of the town. I would love to see a swimming pool and a swimming program.
 36. give me something to do in the community. i am old
 37. Almost ready to give up on this long survey.
 38. Would provide opportunities to all ages to stay fit, be active, meet people and be a community.

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39. This would turn Standish into a REAL community. We have needed this forever. Placed properly, you could provide access (for added fees) to residents of Buxton and Hollis. Winter is hard in Maine. Developing community is also hard because we all live so far apart. I dream of a facility that has activities for everyone, and services, too. Where do you go if you need help with anything? You go to the community center. If they can't help you, they will tell you who can. Have volunteers drive people to and from the center. I have a million ideas for this. Want to reduce depression, drug addiction, and a host of things that are harming our country? Give them a place to be physically together. We are all on our cell phones all the time. We don't interact with people face-to-face. We don't know our neighbors. This will help that. My background is in fundraising, social services, workforce development, and public relations. I would love to find ways to help with this.
 40. We are a family of 4 with 2 kids in school. We are always going to neighboring towns for activities to do with them. Our facilities here in Standish just are old and not well maintained. Our oldest daughter will be in middle school in 2 years and we are nervous because REC Ends for her. We would love to have options available for her after school. We don't want to be forced to send her home alone.
 41. My extended family would use it - specifically, grandkids.
 42. Opportunity increased socializing, opportunity to network with others, and opportunities to increase skills/chance to explore new opportunities.
 43. Would not have to go out of town to do yoga, pilates, stretch classes. Also, may save money.
 44. I would use the weight facility. Using the rooms for Scouts and other activities. After school teen meeting areas would be nice for my children to socialize with teen based activities such as online gaming or sports or climbing wall.
 45. The weather doesn't always allow for recreation (or the seasons) so it would be great to have a place to be comfortable and stay active. Group activities are good for mental health.
 46. Increased social opportunities and indoor fitness activity, particularly during nonsummer months.
 47. Give us and friends a central location to go.

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48. I have a newborn and plan on having more children. Right now there isn't one rec/community center to check out, That said, Standish has many schools it can utilize for most needs. I still think we could invest in the sports and activity needs.
 49. It would provide access to activities (swimming, athletics like basketball and soccer, and other physical activities) that we currently have to drive as much as an hour to access.
 50. I'm mainly interested in good indoor volleyball courts.
 51. It would bring the community and families together. It would keep people active. It takes too long to drive places from Standish. We need something in Standish to keep people together and active.
 52. It would help to increase physical activity especially during the winter months. It would increase community activity if there were hours that would accommodate working people.
 53. a general meeting place for many activities especially in the winter.
 54. would give Standish residents an opportunity to come together and enjoy activities together rather than having to commute to local towns. provide a safe space for indoor activities and an outlet for creativity and energy release.
 55. I live alone (do have a male friend), and a senior citizen with medical issues. Used to play tennis, ski, attend activities, swim, etc. - but health issues prevent me from doing so now. Next stop will probably be a nursing home!
 56. Meeting neighbors, physical fitness
 57. We would be willing to stay here in Standish instead of looking for venues outside of town. It would bring together the community.
 58. We could hold lots of events there witch would better our town also have the food pantry witch helps lots of people have lots of outlets for our seniors and kids/ teens witch will help all people
 59. Not at all, don't have time and I would not like to see property taxes rise.

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60. Increased socialization in winter months Less travel to get recreational/ community events Better space to offer community programs such as wellness fairs, food pantry, senior info, etc.
 61. Everything is such a distance; it is then not community based for Standish residents; easier access; more opportunities to get together with our neighbors
 62. having this type of center would help to provide good health ,socialization and longevity.may help to decrease crime by keeping delinquents off the streets. may help deter financial cost to travel to other towns and the cost you pay to participate.
 63. Teens need a place to go. Teens are bored. There isn't anything around here for them. Most times we drop them off at the mall to do something but that gets boring too. All these big cities around us have teen centers. We need one
 64. I would like some senior activities that would include more citizens,
 65. Get us more involved in the community. More opportunities for my kids to be active.
 66. An indoor recreation center would be a wonderful thing for our family. My children swim, so the ability to swim year-round would be beneficial for the swim season. My daughter loves to run, but I don't feel safe with her running by herself, so a track would be wonderful. The scout troop in town could benefit greatly from a place to hold meetings and ceremonies.
 67. We wouldn't have to go out of town to use facilities that support other communities!
 68. I believe we need more indoor choices for the long winter months to keep everyone healthy and active. Obesity is a huge concern for our youth and the cold weather makes it worse. We need choices for indoor activities and they need to be close to home for people to take advantage of them. I also believe price is a major factor for most families. A center that offers family memberships is great.
 69. I grew up in a town where we had a recreation center and an outdoor pool. As a kid I remember enjoying the summer taking advantage of sports camps in the morning and enjoying the pool I. The afternoon. We do not have this in Standish. Many parents are driving to Portland, Saco and Gorham to take advantage of their sports facilities. Also I would like to see more programs offered for grades 6-8. Currently the we don't have an after care program or a place for young teenagers to go. If they don't make the school sports team there is not a lot left for them to do but go home at 2:30 and be home alone while their parents work! We need to do more as a community to promote a community feel.

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70. Would offer activities during the downtime months of winter for everyone of all ages.
 71. More court space and recreation opportunities
 72. Kids in Rec
 73. We would be more likely to not leave the community looking for options and could stay closer to home. Could afford to do more by staying closer and would have more time. We would be way more likely to be more active physically and in the community with a center like this.
 74. When I lived in south Portland I utilized their community center multiple times per week for exercise, art classes, the track and pool. It was a wonderful asset to the town. My son is in elementary school and would benefit from having a recreation center as he grows up. I think it would build a stronger community and help draw people to the town.
 75. I would love to have the indoor walking space since there are not sidewalks or places to easily get out and get some steps in around town that I've found. Having great multipurpose space for our kids would be great for classes and camp spaces and the rec programs.
 76. More options for remaining physically active during alternate weather situations and off seasons.
 77. We would love to be more involved with our town yet there are very few things for us to do and meet people . We're 60 and want to do hikes , meet people who would use the dog park so our dogs can be socialized, tennis clubs , etc
 78. Personally, access to an indoor heated pool would be awesome. It would also benefit both youngsters learning to swim, and older folks who would benefit from water based activities and swimming. Access to indoor options for walking and working out, or playing sports would benefit the spectrum of citizens , esp older folks limited by the weather and cold or extreme heat. More designated outdoor trails for walking would be nice, because while the Otter Ponds trails are available, there is some steep access , and horse manure is an issue on many of those trails.
 79. We have 3 small kids, and really don't know any families because there aren't enough events or things (like a library, etc) for us to do to get to know one another and just have fun! This would be great.
 80. Would be great for exercise

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81. Consistent participation in scheduled activities rather than have cancellations when conflict with scheduling. We would tend to participate more as we are more familiar with provided activities and the activities align with our interests. We tend to use outside community spaces and St Joe's campus presently.
 82. Allow myself and children space for athletic activities "open gym" and community gathering. Rather than just organized sports for kids. The difficulty for my teens would be transportation when a parent isn't available as school district doesn't allow spontaneous bus stop changes.
 83. Outdoor concerts during the summer, a facility that allowed residents to swim and exercise anytime, a large capacity function room for people to rent or have community meals. Summer meals program for the youth of Standish during school vacations and summer time. Classes for education and personal enjoyment that residents can sign up for. Dirt or paved bike trails for touring and hybrid bicycles.
 84. If available with more hours an indoor pool and fitness center
 85. Wouldn't have to drive so far out of town to take fitness classes.
 86. We would benefit from it and use it but feel it would be more responsible to improve and let people know about what is already available... and especially to make areas easy to get to with sidewalks, bike paths etc.
 87. The normal reasons - fitness and community building. It would benefit the town extensively and deliver returns far in excess of the initial investment by increasing and strengthening the tax base.
 88. Provide an area to meet with other people in the community.
 89. Standish is a community, but it is so big people don't get the chance to see each other outside of schools and maybe rec programs. If we want it to feel like a community, we should create spaces times and opportunities for people to come together.
 90. Be a nice place to meet people and especially if you are retired.
 91. Stay local and be involved with the community
 92. My family is grown but while my kids were in school there was a noticeable lack of options for them after school. Standish has no sidewalks, so it was hard for them to safely walk / bicycle to athletic fields and other activities.

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93. It's always good to go to a recreation facility to get out . And socialize with the towns people.
 94. We have two school age boys that are in to a sport (sometimes more than one at a time) every season.
 95. We are in our mid to late 60's and the long winter months make it difficult to participate in recreation/fitness activities. We also want access to more function rooms and cultural activities in Standish.
 96. During my time as a Boy Scout/Cub Scout leader it was difficult to find a facility to hold Blue & Gold Banquets. We would enjoy an indoor walking track.
 97. My family and I have lived in Standish for 5 years and plan to stay here. We have two young children but feel very disconnected from the community. All our neighbors are older and we don't have a place to interact with other young families, especially in the winter.
 98. It would be a great way to plan activities with family and friends indoors year round.
 99. It would be nice to feel a part of the town of Standish and have more togetherness and get to know and help neighbors better. The town is spread out and it would be nice if we could come together more
 100. It would centralize all the facilities that are so spread out right now. Its confusing as to what facilities are town-run vs. private-business. And safety concerns at some locations.
 101. I love the idea of a rec/community center in our town! I think it would be fantastic to have a designated space with lots of activities! I think it would bring people together and open up opportunities for the community to grow and thrive. I have this image in my head of a busy building with lots of different activities happening at the same time. Neighbors greeting each other. New friends being made. I love this idea!
 102. I teach classes in Holistic Care.
 103. An indoor recreation/community center would give me and my family a place to work-out and be together.
 104. It's a great place to build community and get to know residents and families

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105. It would create more opportunities for family-based activities outside of school. Also, it would create opportunities for more clubs or groups to meet in a centralized location, such as Girl Scouts for my children.
 106. I would like to have access to the facility, but I would also like to volunteer my time to teach crafts and hand sewing classes for residents. I would want the town to purchase sewing machines so that people without machines could have access to those classes, but there would need to be a designated space where the machines could be locked.
 107. Allow social interaction with townspeople. Have been wishing for a YMCA for our town so this could fill that void as long as the fees are not prohibitive. Winters are very harsh and people could gather and feel more connected with a central meeting place. Very needed here
 108. St Joe's is pretty restrictive on time
 109. It would be one more option in our fitness pursuits as senior citizens.
 110. Community involvement would be great! It is important to our household to stay physically active.
 111. Many of us don't have the money, or the time to dedicate to winter outdoor sports (skiing, snowboarding, etc); and thus much of winter is spent indoors, relatively inactive. This would make for a healthier community; and more social interactions. It would be a good place to bring children, they could socialize outside of school. Drop-off hours for older kids 10+, would be extremely helpful for the parents trying to get things done, that can also allow for kids to get their energy out.
 112. IT was be nice to have a facility that is clean and safe for our family to participate in health and wellness activities all year round. It is difficult to get outside and be active during the winter months and can also be very costly. If the town had an indoor facility, we would be able to access a pool and track year round without the restrictions of weather, traveling far, high membership costs. We could also use this as a form of revenue for other communities to access. I am open to paying a membership fee but I want to be able to have access.
 113. Linking our communities and linking generations of people within our community. Keeping people socially connected and some of the community areas might be used for benefits, music jams, film screening, lectures, crafts, tutoring, mentoring, job coaching, community potlucks , reading groups, so many ideas!!

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114. Safe activities for all ages. Available in inclement weather. Social connections with others. Exercise.
 115. would be great to have the opportunity to have children do swim lessons in town, (st joes is expensive), would give opportunities for more sports (indoor soccer, gymanstics, etc) so the kiddos can be active all year round.
 116. I would take my kids, and they would be able to meet up with their friends and play pick up games
 117. Have a safe place, out of the elements to be active and involved.
 118. Access to Indoor Pool. Possible participation in Family Recreation programs. Use of gym/weight Room/aerobics programs throughout the year.
 119. I'd love access to an indoor pool. I think community center activities support healthy kids/teens and provide a sense of community for residents.
 120. Having a spot close to home to get energy out and participate in programs during the months where they can't be outside, or having a space when weather is inclement would be great. Also, quality and affordable child care is scarce in the area. I think the community would benefit greatly from a program for childcare.
 121. Being a teacher and having little to no time to workout right after school is the only option, having to be home and present for kids... this limits the ability to go. No one wants to go during dinner time when I should be home making dinner, bathing kids and putthing then to sleep. Having the ability to bring her to a local facility would not only help my well being which allows me to be a better parent, but also be a role model of health for my children.
 122. Offer more opportunities for physical activities and arts such as music and dancing for myself and my family. It's hard to do as many of these things in the winter time especially.
 123. It would bring the community together getting to know new people as well as the added benefits of exercise and community inclusion.
 124. Keep out of mischief, get to know your community and be there for one another, get out of the house

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125. Standish rec is a failure. Bait and switch.advertised as an art class you get crayons and daycare.its a joke, leave our tax dollars alone.
 126. All our family members would benefit from having an indoor rec center on our health, especially during winter time.
 127. If there was an indoor space we may be able to support a year round indoor farmers market. Plus when we have to Caucus for elections the town hall space is too small.
 128. Indoor swimming and walking track would help community health and socialization during Maine's long winters.
 129. The town of Standish needs a place where community members can go and utilize in the winter months when it can feel like you are so cooped up at home. The town beach was a WONDERFUL addition for an outdoor community space, but Standish is lacking an indoor space. I like the idea of a place for all ages. To attract younger families to Standish, these are the types of things they look for. I would pay for a membership to use the facility, no question! I hope others support this as well to get Standish on a path to being as desirable as other surrounding towns.
 130. With the availability of recreational facilities at St. Joseph's College is it really necessary for Standish to have their very own? Maybe explore ways to get information out to our residents about what SJC offers would be a better start. I, for one, would use SJC more if I knew what was there. Dates/times available etc.
 131. Build community
 132. My self and my children would be able to get out of the house especially in the winter months and utilize the space, if it were kid friendly.
 133. Having a central space that communities come together is essential to building strong communities and healthy youth. I would love to see things built or offered in Standish that make it a place families and the community thrive as well as a place that families from outside Standish out at the top of there list as places they want to move to.
 134. Especially in winter when weather prevents many outdoor activities.
 135. It would be wonderful to have our own town community center. So convenient.

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136. It would be nice to be able to still have rec available on snow delays, snow days and if the school is unavailable like when the roof came off GEJ. It would provide dependability like the local daycare centers.
 137. current programs/sports are dependant in winter on school gym availability.
 138. It would give my family and I a place to exercise during our long, cold winters in Maine without having to drive to nearby towns to use their facilities.
 139. if it had an ice rink, pool, indoor track, meeting rooms/event space etc, we would not have to go to saco/biddo for these things or be at the mercy of the st.joes athletics schedule.
 140. A place for safe activities, structured Rec department with scheduled activities and events, and make the town more desireable for possible residents
 141. Place to take my kid for various activities etc. especially in winter months
 142. Things to do and places to go with grandchildren. Increase our cultural and physical activities, as we are seniors and need such opportunities. More visibility for the town, may help in the overall participation in our town government.
 143. If we had this in Standish, I would not have to travel to other towns to use theirs. My family would do more active things together because of the convenience. I am worried that if Standish builds this the cost to attend/use it will be too much for me.
 144. We've been down this road before and I think a comprehensive study of both facilities, money, needs and location, and also studied should be who would be willing to run classes, etc. to be sure it would actually be worthwhile. It would NEED to be super efficient and run on clean energy, because, come on... It would be remarkable if we focused on outdoor recreation spaces, trails, beaches, etc. because we have a beautiful natural environment. I cannot see the benefit of my tax dollars going to indoor turf, skating rink or pool. Perhaps for indoor space we should make a better deal with St. Joseph's to use space they already have established, thus saving money, energy and trees.
 145. Safe spaces for bad weather, snow days, and people with disabilities
 146. It would benefit myself because of me having M.S. also being able to enjoy the company of other seniors. Families would also benefit from being able to have their children be more active at the same time they are working out or swimming in an indoor Pool, Or working out in the gym. This whole town would really appreciate it.

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147. Depends on what activities are offered there and what time of day they are offered.
 148. Accessibility, meet people
 149. Our kids need to go to other towns in order to play/practice sports. The only facilities that we have are the schools and they are always booked or not available for individuals to use on their own. We need places for our youth and young adults to do activities. We have nothing in our community that offers older youth to hangout and do various activities to keep them active and apart of the community.
 150. need things to do in the winter, without paying for a specific event
 151. Free indoor walking facility. Pickle ball facility.
 152. The health and well-being of myself and family
 153. It would help enable my family to remain active in the winter months, especially with a walking track. I'd like to see gymnastics and other activities offered for younger children. Swimming lessons could be provided with an indoor pool.
 154. It would benefit me by having a fitness center available locally and not have to drive 25 miles to go to one that has times convenient (ex:Not having to go to 5:30 am or 6:00pm spin classes)
 155. Just more options
 156. It would promote health and wellness activities that are currently difficult to obtain by just using the schools' spaces.
 157. My family could go there for exercise and socialization with community. A great place for community events especially in cold winter months!
 158. More open area for youth groups to meet
 159. It would encourage creativity and improve social interaction within the town. No worries about space availability. We are New Year round residents. I go to Gorham for most of my activities and would prefer to share classes with people in Standish.
 160. Having a community / recreation center would allow for programming that meets the needs of the varied audiences that Standish has. As a family, me and my husband both work with one of us commuting to Portland. As Standish grows, a place that that has

resources available at varied times is an absolute must. We'd love a community center where our child could do what she likes as well as both me and my husband.

161. Strong mind, strong body, strong spirit, strong town.

162. My son would have better access to recreation activities throughout the year.

163. i would have a local place to exercise in the winter months. but i did not know that St. Joe's is available to Standish residents. so that could be worth looking into first.

164. Opportunity to socialize

165. Additional flexible space for organized sports activities. The town could get some return by charging a reasonable rental fee for function rooms for example, teens need to keep busy, but connected and teen focused activities would be helpful in the struggle to keep them on a good path and community focused. Also, with an aging population, getting seniors out for socialization is important to well being.

166. A space to rent for parties, with outdoor play area for kids birthday parties. We have one person and its hard to schedule- its popular! Walking track- indoor for cold/increment weather-outdoor for healthy fresh air. We need to get outside more, get out kids moving and outside more, get teens away from their electronics.

167. Provide safe local ways to get community together and build healthy habits.

168. We would not have to use USM or St. Joe's

169. Tax payer dollars needs to be first concern-how much is overall cost and is it worth it if use is minimal? Transportation is an issue as this area is so spread out. Again are these wants or needs? Why aren't schools opened up nights, weekends, vacations for the public use? We pay most of local tax money for them. Most have gyms etc. Just need organization for purposes.