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# Community Facilities

*“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests get together to work toward the same goals.”*

*- Idowu Koyenikan*

## Introduction

**Planning for the replacement and expansion of existing community facilities and the addition of new facilities is an integral part of the Master Plan. Littleton strives to provide high-quality community facilities to its residents and the surrounding region.**

Future growth in population, and residential and commercial development often result in an increase in the demand placed on municipal services and infrastructure. Careful planning for this growth is important to ensure that an adequate level of service is provided to residents, businesses, and visitors at a manageable cost level.

Typically, community facilities represent public or publicly funded facilities. This chapter examines a variety of Town-owned facilities and important private facilities that serve the needs of residents and visitors of Littleton. These facilities include:

- Public Safety (Fire and Police Departments)
- Highway Department
- Parks and Recreation
- Historical Museum
- Public Library
- Town Office
- Opera House
- Public Schools
- Cemeteries
- Littleton Regional Hospital

## PUBLIC SAFETY

### Fire Department

The Littleton Fire Department (LFD) is located at 230 West Main Street. The building was constructed in 1989 and houses all the staff and equipment for the Littleton Fire Department. LFD is a member of the Twin State Mutual Aid district which is comprised of 22 communities in Grafton County and Vermont. LFD is also a member of the Northern New Hampshire Mutual Aid Pact, which is comprised of towns in Coos County and Northern New Hampshire.

Fire Department staff and volunteers are responsible for life safety inspections, emergency response, and fire prevention and management. The Fire Marshal's Office administers the NH Building Code which requires inspecting buildings during construction to ensure they meet code standards. Additional assistance in the area of inspection is needed to keep up a level of safety in the community.

Since the 2004 Master Plan, renovations to the Fire Department facility include the installation of a new propane boiler heating system, new overhead garage doors and openers, new LED interior and exterior lighting installed, installation of a plymovent diesel exhaust system, repair of exterior fire escape stairs, installation of a new fire alarm system, excavation and repair of sanitary sewer connection, and construction of interior mezzanine and compressor room. Additionally, the in-ground oil heating fuel tank was removed, and remediation was completed.

There are a number of improvements that have to be made to the Fire Department. The fire station is currently not protected by a fire sprinkler system, so compliance must be made for fire and life safety codes. There are additional



Photo by Randy Dame [www.firenews.org](http://www.firenews.org)

Above: Town of Littleton fire truck

heating system upgrades and repair needs. Other retrofits include the installation of a fresh air exchange system to ensure air is free from contaminants, new storm windows, parking lot/driveway repaving, remodeling to construct a reception office area, separation of firefight living quarters from apparatus bay and firefighting equipment/storage to comply with recent code changes, and the creation of additional storage space for records, reports, and equipment. There is a need for additional apparatus bays, a central air conditioning system, a hose drying tower, and repair of all interior floors.

### Police Department

The Police Department invested in a new building in 2008-2009 which is located at 2 Kittredge Lane behind the Fire Station. The department began operating out of the new facility in July 2009. The Police Department maintains a mutual aid agreement with the Towns of Lisbon, Monroe, Haverhill, Whitefield, Bethlehem, Franconia, Sugar Hill, Lincoln and Dalton, as well as the New Hampshire State Police. Officers from these agencies can assist, when available, with law enforcement matters, and are sometimes hired to help with other details and special events such as street fairs, parades, and fireworks displays.

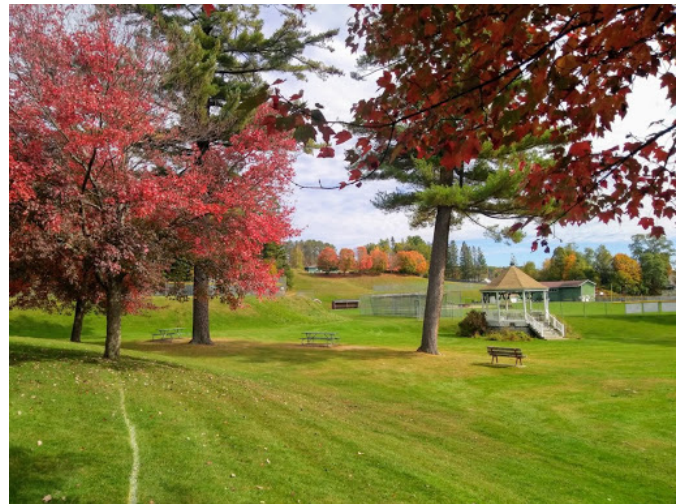
In 2018, the Police Department answered 11,456 calls for service. These calls cover the entire spectrum of police service, including but not limited to: assaults, sexual assaults, shootings, burglaries, thefts, domestic violence, vandalism reports, silent bank alarms, residential and commercial burglar alarms, medical emergencies, open doors, motor vehicle stops, motor vehicle crashes, traffic/speed enforcement, traffic details, assists to citizens, the fire department and to other agencies, escorts, criminal arrests, animal complaints, and citizen concerns. Additionally, officers conducted over 2,223 business and residence checks in 2018. The department continues to develop and expand the use of their information management software to ensure the most accurate records and data possible.

## Public Works Municipal Garage

The Municipal Garage is a division of Littleton Public Works and is located on Boynton Lane across from the Glenwood Cemetery. It was rebuilt in 2014 as a much larger facility, with a new salt shed built in 2015. The Highway Department is managed by the Highway Operations Manager whose job is to oversee the construction, repairs and maintenance of roads, and bridges in Littleton. This includes catch basins, culverts and drainage ditches, and covers approximately 55 miles of roadways and six bridges. The Department also maintains parking lots and sidewalks. Future projects include the installation of salt shed security fencing, drainage and parking area improvements, and the construction of a sand pile containment wall.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

The Town Parks and Recreation Department is administered by a 3-person commission that is elected at Town meeting on a three-year rotation



Above: Remich Park

Source: *Plaid Polka Dots Blog*

basis. The Department employs one full-time and one part-time person. Park facilities include:

- Remich Park
- Apthorp Park
- Norton Pike Fields
- Brickyard Road Field
- Dells Conservation Area
- Mt. Eustis Ski Area
- Kilburn Crag Area

The Parks and Recreation Department budget is generated through local taxes, donations, and user fees. The Department also depends on a network of volunteers to help with activities throughout the year. Programs sponsored by the Department include: softball and basketball leagues; youth basketball, softball, and soccer programs; summer day camp; ice skating; various recreation activity days including an Easter egg hunt, Kids Ski days at Mt. Eustis, and an Independence Day Event hosting approximately 1500 people. In 2018, the summer park program had 125 children enrolled and averaged 85 per day.

The Parks and Recreation Commissioners' present objectives include the continual upgrading and beautification of present facilities. The Commissioners have also expressed a need

for a youth oriented recreational center. Other goals include adding picnic facilities at the parks including BBQ pits, horse shoes, and other games for kids as well as expanding the ice-skating rink.

## HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The Littleton Area Historical Society, established in 1967, is a non-profit organization which is dependent on the generosity and support of its many contributors. The purpose of the Society is to promote interest in Littleton's heritage, to preserve significant architecture, artifacts and memorabilia, and to educate the public in this respect. Their membership is currently 130.

The Society's Museum is located at the Opera House on Union Street and is open on Wednesday and Saturday from 10am-3pm, and by appointment. Monthly programs are presented at the Tower Room of the Opera House and occasionally at the Community House, by a variety of writers, historians, businessmen and women, and collectors. The Museum is divided into several exhibits including art, education, military, Kilburn, fire department, Mt. Willard House, business/industry, Victorian parlor, barber shop, quilts, textiles and clothing, Pollyanna, Bette Davis, toys, farming, and others. The more recent projects of the Historical Museum include its research on ancestry, its outreach programs to the Senior Center, Riverglen House, schools, civic organizations, a cemetery walk, a guided Main Street tour, and the adventures in time travel slide presentation.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Littleton Public Library is located on the corner of Main and School Streets in a well-constructed, three-story building. The Library was constructed



Above: Littleton Public Library  
Source: Yankee Magazine

in 1906 with the aid of gifts from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and Harry Bingham. The building was designed by Robert Coit, a Boston architect. The Library houses the Kilburn collection of White Mountain art, and the world's second largest collection of Kilburn stereoviews. A bronze, life-size statue of the fictional character "Pollyanna" from the book by Littleton-born author Eleanor Hodgman Porter graces the library's front lawn. The Library offers a variety of programming including a summer reading program, story yoga for toddlers, a summer author series, movie nights, and book discussions.

In 2018, the Library's holdings of both print and non-print materials totaled 47,731. In addition, the Library subscribes to a number of magazines and newspapers. Littleton Public Library provides extensive interlibrary loan services, and will borrow for its patron's materials it does not own, from other libraries world-wide. Equipment available to the public includes a microfilm reader/printer, a photocopier, computers for word processing and internet access, and the Optelec 20/20 Plus magnifying machine for low vision users. Additionally, the Library receives the majority of its operating funds from Town appropriation, and receives additional funds from donations, trust



Above: Holiday Crafts Fair at the Littleton Opera House  
Source: Littleton Opera House Facebook Page

funds, non-resident fees, and an annual fund drive.

Most recently, the Library received a grant to upgrade their HVAC system and are currently conducting a building conditions assessment for the Library facility. This assessment will help the Library best plan for future improvements. The facility is also receiving some interior renovations to increase the comfort of the Library, such as replacing furniture.

## OPERA HOUSE

The Littleton Opera House is a 3-floor building located at the entrance of Littleton's Downtown area at 2 Union Street and is an important historic and community asset for the Town. The primary goals for this structure is to utilize the

space for diverse arts and cultural activities and programming and to ensure the building is "self-sufficient" and financially viable. The building itself houses the Historical Museum and has a performance venue and conference room space that are used for town gatherings and other functions including plays, weddings, and concerts. The main floor of the building offers up to 250 seats for attendees of meetings and performances while the Grand Hall has a balcony seating area of 150 fixed seats. The Tower Room is a smaller conference room located on the third floor of the building and is suitable for smaller sized events (under 55 people). The Opera House is managed by the Town of Littleton. Recently, a local Cultural Arts Commission was created to leverage arts and culture (and spaces like the Opera House) in Town for economic development, community building, and local placemaking.

Since 2010, the building had significant renovations completed to make the Opera House a usable facility including new windows, doors, siding, and achieving compliance of building and life safety codes. The Town recently received a grant for installing a new sound system and has applied for a USDA grant to purchase new lighting for the building. Other future improvements will be upgrading the HVAC system and continued preservation work such as restoring the floor. There is also desire to bring the rental process for events online for a more efficient and streamlined event space rental process.

Currently, the Cottage Street level of the building is unfinished and creating a plan for this floor is a priority project. Some of the ideas discussed for this space include a secondary, smaller performance space and classrooms for arts educational and training classes.

## TOWN OFFICE

The Town Office is located on the second floor of the Bank of New Hampshire building located at 125 Main Street and has office space for the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Planning and Zoning, Health, Finance, and Human Resources. The building is rented and currently serves the space needs for municipal staff. There are future plans to improve the ADA accessibility of the vehicle registration and tax collection windows and to explore retrofits that increase safety such as bulletproof glass for the windows.

Other recent improvements include the installation of a new phone system, modernizing the conference room by adding media equipment, and implementing standing desks for health and wellbeing purposes. The Town Office is also preparing for staffing changes (such as pending retirements) by restructuring and streamlining staff

duties and by partnering with Operation Able, a program that helps low-income seniors enter the workforce.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Town of Littleton's public-school system (K-12), Supervisory Administrative Union #84, had an enrollment of 708 students in 2018, which is a 16.8% decline of the student population since 2008. The operating budget for the 2017-2018 school year is \$4,502,084.45. The full analysis of school enrollment statistics for Littleton can be found in the Population and Housing chapter of the Master Plan. The largest facility project expected for the SAU in the future is the replacement of the current elementary school.

## CEMETERIES

There are three functioning cemeteries in Littleton. The Glenwood Cemetery Association owns and operates the Glenwood Cemetery. The St. Rose Cemetery contracts with the Association for maintenance services, and the Town subsidizes the Association's budget for the operation and maintenance of its cemeteries. In the future, Littleton should conduct an assessment of its



Above: Glenwood Cemetery  
Source: Find a Grave

cemeteries and evaluate how much space is available in each location in order to plan for future accommodations. Cemeteries include:

- Glenwood Cemetery on West Main Street - 45 acres
- St. Rose Cemetery on West Main Street - 20 acres
- Wheeler Hill Cemetery on NH Route 135 - 17 acres
- Meadow Cemetery on Meadow Street - 1.8 acres

## LITTLETON REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Littleton Regional Hospital (LRH) is located on NH Route 18 in Littleton, New Hampshire and is the largest employer in Littleton. The Littleton Hospital Association was founded in 1906 to provide health and medical services to the residents of the Littleton area, and was previously located on Cottage Street in Littleton. LRH is a community based, non-profit, Critical Access Care facility.

LRH currently serves nine communities in its primary service area and fourteen communities in its secondary service area. Its primary service area includes Bethlehem, Franconia, Lancaster, Lincoln, Lisbon, Littleton, Twin Mountain, Whitefield, all of which are located in New Hampshire and St. Johnsbury, VT. Some of these primary service area communities are also served by their own hospital facilities. Secondary service areas include Bath, Campton, Colebrook, Groveton, Jefferson, Monroe, North Stratford, North Woodstock and Woodsville all located in New Hampshire, and Concord, Danville, Gilman, Lunenburg and Lyndonville which are located in Vermont. LRH offers a wide range of inpatient and outpatient medical, surgical and diagnostic services, including a 24-hour physician staffed emergency department

and a number of specialty care departments.

In addition to providing healthcare, LRH offers diverse wellness educational programs, support groups and community outreach services including Care-A-Van services, Paramedic Intercept Program, Sharps Disposal Program, Bridge to Wellness Educational Series, Bridge to Positive Parenting maternity and parenting program and a new community newsletter, LRH's Community Health Focus, designed to inform and educate community members. LRH's commitment to provide quality health care is also demonstrated in its ongoing support of the Littleton Regional Hospital Charitable Foundation. The Foundation will support the future resource development needs of LRH in order to ensure that the hospital can continue to offer the highest quality healthcare and a continuum of care that addresses the needs of the community at large.



Above: Littleton Regional Healthcare  
Source: Granite North TV