

# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

(2003)

## ■ INTRODUCTION

An important function of town government is to provide residents and property owners with a level of service commensurate with taxes and fees paid that meets the current needs of the populace. The degree to which these facilities are developed can have a significant impact on the quality of life and general character of a community. This section of the Master Plan identifies the community facilities that exist within the Town of Temple. RSA 674:2, "Master Plan Purpose and Description" says that a Master Plan "shall include, if it is appropriate . . . a community facilities section showing the location of, type, and need for educational or cultural facilities, historic sites, libraries, hospitals, fire houses, police stations and other related facilities, including their relation to the surrounding areas."

The historic development of many of New Hampshire's towns centered on a Village area, within which most of the town and commercial functions were located. Today, in a more mobile and dispersed society, this is no longer the case; the various community facilities addressed in this section are located around the town. These locations are indicated on the accompanying map.

## ■ TOWN GOVERNMENT

The offices of Temple government are located in the Municipal Building on Route 45 just south of the Village. The Town Offices share a building and parking area with the Fire Department and Police Department. Space is provided for the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant, the Town Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Road Agent and a meeting room for local boards and committees. The meeting room is frequently utilized by the Police Department to compensate for the inadequate Police Office.

The Town Municipal Offices have been located at this site since 1986, when the former Fire Station was moved to this site and renovated into office and meeting space. Building additions were constructed at this time to house the Fire Department, bathrooms, mechanical room and an office. Interior renovation has occurred since then to provide additional office space within the former firehouse. Municipal office space is now insufficient. The former firehouse is about 1,000 square feet. Office space is about 540 square feet for 1 full-time and 4 part-time employees.

In 1995, a new computer system was leased to serve the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Selectmen. The software is designed specifically for NH municipalities and has automated many of the daily procedures, including new automobile registrations, dog licenses, tax bills and liens, record keeping and report-generation.

## ■ TOWN HALL

The Town Hall is located on the west side of the Common in the Village, in a row of other public buildings that is comprised of the Mansfield Public Library, chapel, church and post office. The Town Hall was built in 1842 by the Universalist Society, was later owned by the Grange, and became the Town Hall in 1888. It was used for town meetings until the late 1980s, when attendance exceeded capacity, and meetings were moved to the new fire station. Now they are held in the new Elementary School. At the present time the Town Hall is used for elections and some official town functions such as board meetings.

It is also used for various gatherings and events, such as the Harvest Festival and the annual play by the Temple Drama Club. The Recreation Commission uses it for annual Halloween, Christmas and Easter events, and performances by Andy's Summer Theater. The Temple Band uses it for rehearsals.

The building is approximately 36' wide and 61' feet long. There is a small kitchen on one side of the entrance and toilets on the other. A wheelchair accessible entrance has been added, but the toilets are not wheelchair accessible at this time. There is a closed-in balcony above these rooms used for storage. There is a stage at the back of the hall.

## ■ FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department is located on Route 45 just south of the Village. The Department shares a building and parking area with the Town Offices. There are two bays that hold four vehicles: a pumper, a tanker, a rescue vehicle, and an ambulance. An addition was added in 2002 to the side of the building creating one more bay that will house two vehicles.

In 1995, the Department completed the transfer of all emergency calls to Southwest New Hampshire Fire Mutual Aid in Keene, which serves as the central dispatch station for all fire, police, and ambulance calls in the region. In addition, all of the houses in Temple have been assigned numbers to locate them in case of emergency, in cooperation with the statewide Emergency 911 system that was recently put into effect.

In an effort to improve water supplies, the Department has installed dry hydrants (a fire hydrant that does not have pressurized water) on Hudson Road, Memorial Drive, and West Road. Other dry hydrants exist on East Road, Webster Highway, and Colburn Road. There are two pressurized hydrants in Temple, one at the Elementary School and one at the Tobey Reservoir pump station. There are also several ponds and streams within Temple that, because of their close proximity to roads, can be used as water resources.

Currently the Department is staffed by a Chief and 23 volunteer fire fighters. Volunteers undergo training at the departmental level and elsewhere. The Department regularly meets three times per month. One meeting is a general business meeting, another is a training drill, and the third meeting is to perform regular maintenance on the various fire trucks and equipment.

An important facet of the Fire Department is the Fire Department Auxiliary. The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the Fire Department; this mission is met by holding fundraisers to benefit the Department, and by providing sustenance to firefighters during structure fires and other major incidents. Additionally, the Auxiliary may provide emotional support to the victims of an incident. The Auxiliary is also responsible for producing the Town Newsletter. Currently there are 6 active members of the Auxiliary.

Generally, the Department is in good shape and meets the current needs of the town. The biggest problem faced by the Department is one that many small towns share, and that is finding volunteers who can give the time not only to serve, but also to be away for certification training. Level One Training can amount to as much of a commitment as twice a week for five or six months. Alternatively, Temple volunteers utilize the facilities at Meadowood Fire Training Center (Fitzwilliam, NH) for intensive specialty courses held during weekends. Currently less than a third of the Temple volunteers are certified firefighters.

## ■ AMBULANCE SERVICE

In 1997, Temple joined the Wilton/Lyndeborough Ambulance service and then collaboratively formed the Wilton/Lyndeborough/Temple Emergency Medical Service (WLT/EMS). The benefits of this association are many, as the town now houses an ambulance in the firehouse, and with the combined personnel of the three towns, it has a substantial emergency response staff of 35 trained individuals. One member of this staff is a fulltime EMT Paramedic such that there will always be someone available to provide Advanced Life Support services as needed in any of the towns serviced by WLT/EMS.

In addition to the ambulance stationed in Temple, there is an ambulance housed at the main WLT/EMS facility on Route 31 in Wilton, near the Lyndeborough Town line. Calls for response from the ambulance stationed in Temple are dispatched from Southwest NH Mutual Aid in Keene via the statewide 911 service. In cases where Advance Life Support is required Wilton is also automatically dispatched.

There are four levels of training for these Pre-hospital Care Providers. The first level is known as First Responder, followed by the levels EMT Basic, EMT Intermediate, and EMT Paramedic (the most advanced level.) Currently there is one First Responder, one EMT Basic, four EMT Intermediates, and zero EMT Paramedics residing within Temple.

## ■ POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is located in the Municipal Building with an office of 145 sq. ft. Department personnel consist of a chief, one full time officer, four part time officers, and a part-time administrative assistant. The animal control officer is associated with the Department. Calls are dispatched from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. Currently, Department equipment includes:

- ◆ 2 Cruisers (1 equipped with radar and a video camera)
- ◆ Fingerprinting and photography equipment
- ◆ "Use of force" equipment
- ◆ Safety aids for cruiser and the Police Office

The Enhanced 911 system has been implemented and there are new and up-to-date Mutual Aid agreements with neighboring towns. The Department is undertaking development of a safety incident protection system for the Temple Elementary School. The Department is developing a hazard incident response program for the protection of the town.

The Department participates in other activities such as making presentations to the pupils at the Temple Elementary School and at ConVal High School on such topics as bicycle safety, Halloween safety and juvenile law. The staff has also provided training to neighboring police departments and to the State of New Hampshire Police Training Academy.

## ■ HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Temple Highway Department is located in the Village behind the library. Personnel consist of a full-time Road Agent, two full-time employees, and one part-time employee. During winter months subcontractors are used to assist in plowing snow.

The facility is comprised of one large bay and two smaller bays. Improvements to the facility consist of the following: in 1990 old sheds were moved out to the backyard of the Highway Department and set on a new foundation, and walls of the garage were repaired and new doors installed; in 1991 an underground

fuel tank was removed and replaced with an above ground tank, and a new salt barn was constructed; and in 2000 a 40 x 42-foot addition to the garage was built to house two pieces of heavy equipment. The Road Agent's office is located in the Town Office building. Equipment consists of:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ 2 6-wheel dump trucks | ◆ 1 farm tractor       |
| ◆ 1 one-ton dump truck  | ◆ 1 brush chipper      |
| ◆ 1 grader              | ◆ 1 tow-behind sweeper |
| ◆ 1 loader              | ◆ plowing equipment    |
- 

## ■ SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

The Town of Temple contracts with the Wilton Recycling Center located on Route 101 in Wilton, for solid and selected hazardous waste disposal. The Center collects and recycles paper, most plastics, glass, aluminum, steel and fabrics. An incinerator burns other materials, and appropriate items are placed in a landfill. Temple pays a fee to the Center. The Center attempts, with increasing success, to sell the recycled materials, and depending upon the revenues, a refund is made to the town. Last year the Center recouped \$94,000.00 which was divided among the towns it serves. The Recycling Center has a reputation as an efficient, clean, and cheerful operation.

After applying for a sticker authorizing a resident's privileges, residents transport and sort their own waste when the facility is open for non-commercial deposits. Some residents find it inconvenient to utilize the recycling center and dispose of their refuse by contracting with private haulers.

## ■ LIBRARY

The Mansfield Public Library is located on the west side of the Village. The building was constructed in 1890 from funds made available by a Temple native, Solon Mansfield. An addition was added in 1951.

The Library is staffed by a part-time Librarian and administered by a seven-member board of trustees; in addition, a private Friends of the Library contributes to programs and events. The Library has a circulation of over 7,000 publications – which includes magazines and tapes as well as books. The Library also offers public speakers (provided by the Friends of the Library), a Summer Fun Reading Program, a computer with internet access, a copier, tax forms, and two adult tickets to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. An addition to the library was completed in 2002.

## ■ RECREATION

The open space and recreation opportunities are listed in the table below. In addition to those listed, there are 10,713.98 acres in Temple in current use, and 2,322.51 acres of those are in recreational current use.

A five-member Recreation Commission, established in 1976, oversees the maintenance of the town's public park, consisting of the Hildebrand tennis courts, a basketball court and a small playground. A nonprofit group consisting of Recreation Commission members fundraised and added onto the playground in 2002. It also organizes functions throughout the year such as an Easter Party, 4th of July, Halloween, and Christmas festivities.

The Conservation Commission, established in 1972, is involved in recreation and open space issues, as many of the properties that are managed by the Conservation Commission are used for passive recreation. The Commission also maintains several hiking trails in town, is working on an inventory of wetlands, performs site visits with landowner permission for advice and consultation on pond constructions and driveways, operates the Adopt a Highway program and provides financial support to many other projects. Most recently, the Commission has supported the restoration of a schoolhouse, the arch bridge and hiking trails on newly acquired town land.

**TABLE #11:  
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN TEMPLE**

**Town – Owned or Town Organization**

<b>Name/ Ownership</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Use/ Assessment</b>
Kendall Ledge or White Ledge	Northwest of Kendall Road	16	Maintained by the Conservation Commission. An outcropping of white quartz ledge. Natural area for hiking, views and nature study. Abundant natural habitat for berry picking and wildlife.
Temple Town Forest	South Side of North Road at Lyndeborough town line	46	Maintained by the conservation commission. Timber area, hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, riding and nature study.
Chris A. Weston Memorial Conservation Land	East Side of Rte. 45, north of town center	25.19	Created and maintained by the Conservation Commission.
Temple Common	Village Center	1.75	Town owned Historic Site. Location of old musterfield and Temple’s war memorial monuments. Site of band concerts, festivals, etc.
Temple Glass Works	North shoulder of Kidder Mtn.	1.4	Owned by Temple Historical Society, it is a historic site and subject of extensive archaeological studies.
Hildebrand Tennis and Basketball courts and Playground	Adjacent to and east of Ball field	2.3	Tennis and basketball practice by 25-30 persons/week mid-spring to mid-fall. The small playground has recently been expanded.
School Playground	Temple Elementary School Rte. 45	1	Small playground area used by elementary school pupils, plus some public use. On Conval property. New ball field and skating rink.
Temple Ball field	1 mile from village center, south side of General Miller Hwy.	4.03 (including cemetery)	Public use for field sports and picnics. Used by 120 persons/week mid-spring to mid-fall. Town owned.
Town owned land (4 sites)	West of Rte 45	4.01 3.65 4 4.14	Four town owned locations west of rte 45 open for recreational use.

**State/ Federal**

<b>Name/ Ownership</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Acreege</b>	<b>Use/ Assessment</b>
Miller State Park	Off Rte. 101	344 in Temple	Spectacular scenery, hiking trails, picnic area, fire lookout tower. NH's first state park. Was 3 acres at the top.
North Pack Monadnock	Temple- Greenfield town line	474.5	Federally owned. Open space, wildlife habitat, nature studies, hiking and hunting.

**Privately Owned**

<b>Name/ Ownership</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Acreege</b>	<b>Use/ Assessment</b>
Pony Farm Inc. Horsepower Inc. Stepping Stone Lodge Inc.	Webster Hwy and Putnam Road	30	Three corporations working together to provide summer riding camps, an academy, horse shows, clinics, workshops, therapeutic riding program, function hall for special events, lodging & meals. Serving about 2000 people/ year.
Temple Mountain Ski Area	Rte. 101 Temple/ Peterborough Line	313.58 (Temple) 40 (P'boro)	Currently for sale and future is uncertain.
Cabot NH Land Trust	East Side of Pack Monadnock	453	Owned by the Nature Conservancy. Forested land open for hunting, hiking and cross-country skiing. Wapack trail runs through the property.
Wapack Trail		Approx. 8 miles in Temple	Runs from Mt Watatic in Ashburnham, MA to Greenfield, NH. In Temple it runs for ~21 miles along the western boundary through public and private lands. Management is through sponsorship of the Friends of the Wapack. Hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, berry picking, nature studies. An estimated 3000 persons / year use the trail.
Lincoln Davis Morse Cabot Memorial Forest	Off of Mountain Road	966 total, 308 in Temple	Hiking, cross-country skiing. Wapack Trail passes though it. Owned and maintained by the N.E. Forestry Foundation.
Heald Tract	East Road	25.7	Hiking nature, study, berry picking.

■ **TOWN COMMON**

The Town Common is a 1.75-acre parcel that sits in the center of the Village and has served as the site of two town meeting houses and a muster field for military training. The Common is now an outside gathering place and has a hand-cut stone and wooden rail oval fence and maple trees. The Common, and the grassy area across Route 45, are the sites of several monuments that have been made possible through public as well as private efforts.

- ◆ 1872 – a Soldier’s Monument was dedicated.
- ◆ 1889 – two cannons and two piles of cannonballs were placed on the west side of the Soldier’s Monument.
- ◆ 1901 – a large monument at the south end of the Common commemorates 53 Revolutionary soldiers and pioneers of the town, and a smaller monument at the north end in honor of seven soldiers of the War of 1812 were dedicated.
- ◆ 1922 – a plaque was placed in the large boulder, dedicated to the veterans of World War I.
- ◆ 2001 – a veteran’s memorial monument was placed across the road and dedicated to veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, and Peacekeeping.

■ **CHURCHES**

There is only one church in town and that is the Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, located on the west side of the Village between the Post Office / Store and the Chapel. The church building was constructed in 1842, although the church congregation had been formed in 1771.

The Chapel was erected in 1888 and originally served as the meeting place for the Congregational Society. In 1966 the Society dissolved and the Church became known as the Congregational Church of Temple. Currently, there are 89 active members in the Church.

In 1998 there was a 30’ x 50’ addition added to the Chapel. The addition consists mainly of a large meeting room of size 30’ x 35’ and a kitchen equipped with commercial appliances. The Chapel’s new kitchen and meeting space offer a modern alternative to the Town Hall, or can be used in conjunction with the Town Hall for large receptions or other functions.

Regular activities in the Chapel include the Temple pre-school, Temple Sunday School (in conjunction with the Church), community pot-luck suppers (held monthly), and the regularly scheduled business meeting of Church Trustees, Deacons, etc. Other activities at the Chapel include various community benefits, lectures, and workshops.

■ **CEMETERIES**

There are four cemeteries in Temple, all of which are town-owned and maintained. The Temple Historical Society is currently in the process of undertaking an inventory of, and documentation of text on cemetery markers, headstones and monuments. A general description of the cemeteries follows.

CEMETERY	LOCATION	# OF SITES/ # USED	DESCRIPTION
Old Burying Ground	Between General Miller Highway and Cemetery Road, across the road from the Common.		Used between 1772 and 1891. Most of the first settlers in Temple were buried here.

North Cemetery	Near the junction of Converse Road and North Road.		Used between 1794 and 1822.
East Cemetery	General Miller Highway and Thomas Maynard Drive.		Laid out in 1800. Still used occasionally to bury members of old Temple families. In 1991 lettering for the gateway stone was completed. (On an ongoing basis, a few gravestones are repaired and/or rebuilt each year, subject to budget constraints.)
New Unnamed Cemetery	General Miller Highway		In 1993 three acres of land was donated, adjacent to East Cemetery. Projected completion of this new cemetery is expected to be approximately in 2010.
Miller Cemetery	General Miller Highway and Memorial Highway, across the road from East Cemetery.	238 lots, with as many as six gravesites to a lot. About 90% of the lots are assigned for use.	In 1991 the marker stone was carved and mounted. Land acquired in 1898.

■ **POST OFFICE**

The U.S. Post Office operates the Temple area postal service, housed in a frame structure attached to the general store in the center of town across from the Town Common. The building is leased from the owners of the store. The Town of Temple has no administrative relationship to the Post Office and provides no funds for its operation. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday for full days and for half the day on Saturday. There are 220 post boxes, all occupied, and 325 rural addresses. Currently there are two full time employees and two part time employees.

In August of 2001 the mailing address system in Temple changed to accommodate the 911 Emergency System. All addresses are now numbered street addresses and residents are required to provide visible address numbers on their properties. The Post Office is currently requiring a stricter adherence to the addressing of mail, where in the past the staff could identify almost anyone by name only.

■ **EDUCATION**

The Town of Temple is a member of the Contoocook Valley School District, which was created in 1968-69 to serve the nine towns of Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple. This District belongs to School Administrative Unit #1, with offices located at 106 Hancock Road (Route 202) in Peterborough. Funding for the District is by assessments to the member towns, based on average daily membership (50%) and equalized valuation of the town (50%).

The District maintains eight elementary schools (every town but Sharon has one), two middle schools (Great Brook in Antrim, serving Antrim, Bennington, Frankestown and Hancock, and South Meadow in Peterborough serving Dublin, Greenfield, Sharon, Temple and Peterborough), and the Contoocook Valley



High School in Peterborough. All of the school buildings, including the local elementary schools, are owned and maintained by the District; transportation is provided by the District.

Approximate Temple Enrollments:		<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>
Temple Elementary School	(K-4)	71	87
South Meadow School	(5-8)	75	87
ConVal High School	(9-12)	<u>45</u>	<u>71</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>191</b>	<b>245</b>

The elementary school in Temple is located on Route 45 approximately 2 ½ miles south of the Village; this is a new facility, having opened in 1998. The building has eight classrooms, a library, a kitchen, and a multi-purpose room. There is some playground equipment outside, and basketball hoops in the multi-purpose room. Lunch is brought to the school from the Middle School in Peterborough and eaten in the classrooms. The building is designed to accommodate as many as 150 students, and laid out to easily receive an added four classrooms.

The school provides education for kindergarten through fourth grades. From fifth grade on, pupils attend South Meadow School through grade 8, then ConVal High School through grade 12. Staff in Temple consists of a principal, who also teaches fourth grade, four other teachers, three teachers aides, an administrative assistant, and a custodian. A physical education teacher comes to the school twice a week, an art and music teacher twice a week, an occupational therapist once a week, and a speech therapist for half a day twice a week.

The South Meadow School and the ConVal High School are both operating at or over capacity. Both schools use temporary classrooms. The voters just approved a lease purchase agreement in September 2001, which will allow completion of building projects at the Peterborough and Antrim Elementary Schools, and expansion of the Library and Cafeteria at the High School.

The cost of education is of course of great concern to towns in New Hampshire, since education tends to be the most expensive item in a town’s budget. Within this region, the six school districts range from just over \$5,000 to nearly \$7,000 per pupil. The average cost per student in Temple is approximately \$6,400.

■ **HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The Town of Temple does not maintain any physical facilities relevant to the provision of health and welfare services to its residents. The town contracts with agencies housed in surrounding towns for a number of services, the most important of which are mentioned below.

◆ **Health Care**

Home based and public health services are provided by Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services, which is based in Keene, N.H., but maintains a satellite office in Peterborough serving Temple residents. The agency provides nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, hospice, medical social work, home health aides, a child health program, and various clinics addressing specific needs (flu shots, immunizations, etc.). Most of these services are reimbursable by Medicare, Medicaid, and private

insurance programs, but occasionally a specific service is needed but not reimbursable, or a resident has no source of medical coverage. In such instances a sliding scale is applied and the agency absorbs the excess cost, assisted by appropriations from the towns it serves and various fundraising efforts. Temple provides an annual appropriation to this agency; in 2000 it amounted to \$1,750.00. Fifteen residents of Temple received services during the year 2000, involving 309 visits.

♦ **Mental Health Care**

Mental health services are available through private agencies and private practitioners, but Monadnock Family Services, housed in Peterborough, provides mental health services to Temple residents in need or those choosing the agency as a provider. These services are often reimbursable through third party insurers, but requirements for reimbursement are rigid and visits often severely limited. During the fiscal year 1999 to 2000, Monadnock Family Services saw 26 Temple residents and provided 1,765 hours of service. The agency requests financial support from towns served in the amount of \$1.00 per resident, or \$1,259.00 last fiscal year, which underwrites services from those who are uninsured and/or in economic need.

Mediation services for families experiencing conflict are available through the Milford Area Mediation Program, housed in the municipal building in Milford. This program is staffed by a Director and volunteers who undergo extensive training in mediation techniques. Cases vary and may require one mediation session while others need long term follow-ups with many contacts. Referrals may be self-referred but others come from various social and law enforcement agencies and may be Court ordered. During the year July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, 9 residents of Temple received services through this agency. Services are free of charge and Temple provides a stipend to the agency in support of Temple residents, most recently in the amount of \$500.00.

♦ **Literacy**

Project Lift, housed in Hillsborough but operating out of town libraries, is an adult tutorial program for individuals studying for a GED, English as a second language, or those learning to read and write. This is a volunteer-staffed program, with volunteers being matched to students for weekly sessions. Sessions and materials are free of charge. Last year 5 students from Temple were served. The town makes a contribution of \$100.00 a year towards support of the program.

♦ **Welfare**

The Selectmen administer a local welfare system to residents in need who make specific requests.

■ **INVENTORY OF TOWN BUILDINGS**

Building	Year Built	Footprint Size (Sq. Ft.)	ADA Access	Bathrooms
Town Hall	1842	2,196	Yes	Not ADA compliant
Library	1890, 1951, 2000-2002	1,777	Yes	ADA compliant
Municipal Building	1986	1,492	Yes	ADA compliant
Fire Station	1986	2,400	Yes	N/A
Highway Department Buildings:				

---

---

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Garage	1963	1,260	N/A	N/A
Sheds	Moved to site in 1990	905	N/A	N/A
Salt Shed	1991	640	N/A	N/A
Heavy Equipment Storage Garage	2000	1,680	N/A	N/A