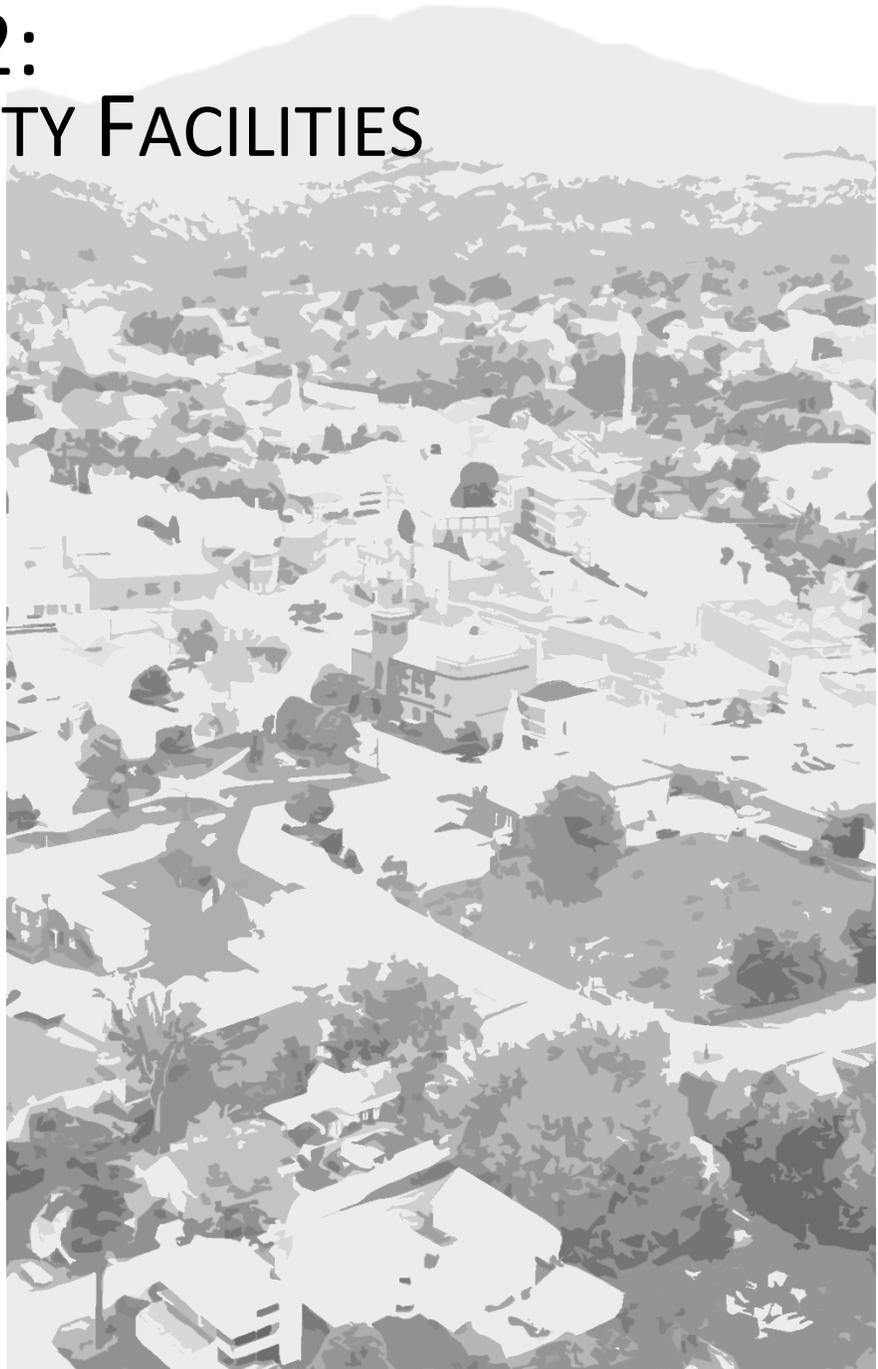


CITY OF CLAREMONT MASTER PLAN 2017

CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY FACILITIES



Prepared by the
Claremont Planning Board
and the
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Chapter 2: Community Facilities

Vision

Claremont's public facilities and infrastructure are integral to effective service to the City's residents, businesses, industries, and visitors. A balanced, forward-looking approach to maintenance and growth of community facilities will have a direct impact on improving the quality of life for Claremont's residents, the success of commercial properties now and economic development in the coming years. This chapter establishes, through its goals and recommendations, a roadmap to appropriate and intentional investment of public funds for the long-term enhancement of public health, safety, and economic vitality.



Existing Conditions and Future Challenges

Municipal Facilities

Fire Department

The Central Fire Station located at 100 Broad Street is essentially a hundred-year-old structure. It was constructed as what is known as an "Ordinary Type" building. This building type consists of solid masonry exterior walls with an interior structure of dimensional wood framing. The building contains three levels and has had numerous cosmetic upgrades over the years, but only one major construction project in its history. The major construction upgrade took place in 1981 and involved the rebuilding of the first-floor apparatus deck. At that time the first-floor construction was a hand laid brick arch, between small steel I-beams. These smaller I-beams were supported by larger steel girders that were set on two-foot square brick pillars in the basement. Through the sixties and seventies as fire trucks grew larger and heavier, the brick arches were crumbling as the heavy weight of the trucks compressed and relaxed these assemblies. The result was that one of the bays nearly failed under the weight of the largest of the vehicles (Snorkel 1). Because of this failure the floor was rebuilt with a steel reinforced, concrete deck. It is important to note that this new deck is still supported by all the original steel framing beneath. The only upgrade to the original steel framing was that the main girders were plated along their flanges to strengthen the overall product. These added plates are readily visible in the basement today. At this point that upgrade is now thirty-five years old and is showing some signs of aging, although not dramatically so.

The basement of the building houses a variety of mechanical equipment that supports both the building itself and the fire department operations as a whole. The building is heated by a combination of oil boilers, a wood pellet boiler and solar panels. This equipment was installed

in 2010, 2013 and 2014 respectively. There are two air compressors in the basement. One is for firefighters' breathing air and the second is for the support of the air requirements of the apparatus and the building in general. The basement also houses the firefighters' workout area, but that area is seriously inadequate, in that activities are hampered by very low ceilings. The remainder of the basement is used for inventory storage of material and equipment that supports firefighting activities. The basement even still has the original horizontal hose rack used for the drying of fire hose. Horizontal hose racks have not been built in fire stations in the past fifty years or more, since the changeover to vertical hose towers in the 1950's and 60's. In addition to all the aforementioned usages, the building's basement also houses the community's Rescue Boat as well as the department's Forestry RTV and its trailer.

Back on the main apparatus floor there are six fire trucks stored there whose weight totals just about one hundred tons. Although the building has only four bays, the rear area behind bays three and four also house fire apparatus. This rear area was originally designed and served as the horse stall area until the early thirties, when the use of horses ended. In the sixties, the stall area was opened up into the main apparatus area, when the dividing partition was removed and a large steel beam installed to support the second floor above. This stall area originally had a wood framed hardwood floor deck, but that was upgraded in 1981 when the rest of the apparatus deck was rebuilt. Because of this alteration involving the removal of the original separation between the horse stalls and the apparatus area, the larger fire trucks will not fit in this part of the building. The limited height in this part of the first floor prevents the placement of some vehicles there, sometimes restricting apparatus movement. The department is seeing a repeat of what took place in the late seventies. At that time the increased weight of fire department vehicles caused the need to rebuild the floor. Now thirty-five years later, the increase in height of the vehicles has overcome the size restrictions of the bay openings in the building. Apart from having the fire trucks custom built to overcome this restriction, there is no practical remedy.

The fire station also has an old wood framed barn on its property and uses this building to store utility vehicles and seasonal equipment. The building is unheated and has continuing structural problems associated with its foundation, but it is still kept in usable condition with occasional maintenance projects and minor upgrades. Replacement of this building has been a long-term request, but given the location and grade issues cost has been an issue.

The location of the fire station is in the center core of the city and has proven to be a good one over the years. In the seventies the conventional wisdom was that there should be a sub-station built in the southwestern section of the community. With the passing of time and the development of the eastern entrance of the City this no longer would seem to be the case. Given the growth patterns over the past forty years, it is safe to say that the current location of the Central Fire Station remains the most practical approach.

Despite the fact that the location appears to be on target with the overall needs of the community, any master plan must include future consideration of a new fire station. If community growth was projected to reach twenty percent in the next 20 years, a second

station would surely be the answer. Barring the knowledge of any such projection, the replacement of the Central Fire Station must be included in any long-term plan. With no growth or simply with a stable community progression, the Central Fire Station should be viewed as having a useful life expectancy of an additional twenty years, at best. This time frame could be extended, but it would require a large scaled renovation plan of the overall site and facilities.

Future Challenges:

- Height in part of the historic main building limits larger fire trucks
- Old wood framed barn used for storage of utility vehicles and equipment needs replacement
- The Central Fire Station should be viewed as having a useful life expectancy of an additional twenty years.

City Hall Complex

The original structure comprising the City Hall and Opera House was built in 1896 on Opera House Square. The building has undergone extensive renovation over the years and is commonly referred to the City Hall Complex. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. (See the Historic Resources Chapter for more detail on the building.)

The complex presently houses two principal tenants and municipal offices:

- The 758-seat Opera House, managed by a non-profit organization, and John Bennett Atrium are active venues for art, music, theater and other cultural events. The historic opera house has been restored with many of the original fittings.
- The upper level floor houses Claremont District Court on the northeast side of the building over the Police Station.
- The lower floor houses the City administrative offices including the City Manager, Finance Clerk & Bookkeeper, City Treasurer & Finance Director, Assessing, Human Resources, Information Technology, as well as the City Council Chamber. All but two offices, Finance and Treasurer's, and the City Council Chamber, are handicapped accessible. There are inadequate numbers of rest rooms and meeting rooms in the building.



Future Challenges:

The City has received an LCHIP grant for a review of the City Hall Complex, which will prioritize the many upgrade needs. The two biggest concerns are roofing conditions and ADA

compliance. The copper work on the clock tower is leaking and unless it is addressed will lead to deterioration of the wood framework and decking underneath. The Opera House flat roofs are continually being patched and seal coated to deal with leaks. The primary ADA areas that need to be targeted are the handicap ramp in the Police Department alley, and installation of an ADA compliant public restroom. The existing ramp is too narrow with a difficult curve in it that is unprotected from the elements. There is no existing handicapped accessible restroom available to the public on the main floor of City Hall. Other known projects and facility maintenance needs include installation of ADA-related improvements throughout the building, including the City Council Chamber, energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades, HVAC maintenance, and ongoing compliance with life safety codes.

City Hall Usage

<u>Department</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Maintenance	3
Central Collections	4
Treasurer's Office	2
Finance	2
City Manager's Office	2
Assessing	2
Human Resources	1
City Welfare	2

Police Department

Since 1880, the men and women of the Claremont Police Department have been serving and protecting the citizens of the community. In March 1888, the Claremont Police Department employed four police officers, paying them a total of \$198 for the fiscal year. Today the department employs twenty-five full-time sworn officers (which includes a sworn prosecuting attorney and a School Resource Officer) and six full-time civilian support personnel. The Police Department is a full-service law enforcement agency with an operating budget of \$2,744,984 for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017).

The Communications Division is a component of the Police Department which provides round-the-clock emergency communications for police, fire, and emergency medical services. It has an operating budget of \$490,710 for FY 2017. The Center also dispatches for the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office and the Cornish Police Department. With the advent of statewide 9-1-1 service and cellular communications, the Emergency Communications Center's call volume increases annually. Despite this increase, there has not been a corresponding increase in personnel. In 2015, the Center was completely renovated for the first time in decades with staff members doing most of the work.

Back in 1934, the department purchased its first cruiser, a panel truck. Today, the department has seven marked cruisers, two unmarked vehicles, and one All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV). The cruiser fleet is replaced on a regular basis through a lease purchase program. The lease program has been working very well and provides for consistent, cost-effective cruiser fleets

with reasonable maintenance costs. Cruisers are equipped with current two-way radio and mobile computing systems.

In 2015, the Communications Center handled 43,347 Calls for Service. Officers made 903 arrests, investigated 1522 offenses, and responded to 473 motor vehicle accidents. Keeping up with this volume of calls, offenses, and accidents puts a strain on the officers and communications specialists. Staffing levels limit our ability to be proactive and creative in our approach to community policing.

In its quest for on-going professional growth, the Claremont Police Department voluntarily complies with professional standards issued by the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®). This process began in 2005 with the first benchmark being achieved in 2009 when the agency was recognized by CALEA. The department was formally accredited in 2012 and re-Accredited in 2015. There are only thirteen accredited agencies in New Hampshire.

The process to achieve accreditation forced the agency to take a close look at its facilities. The police building is the northeast corner of the City Hall Complex. Access is from Broad Street and from Opera House Square. District court facilities are currently housed in the same building. The current space is not adequate and is fully utilized. The Communications Center is severely limited in space with administrative offices being crammed into equipment rooms. The facilities are also in need of general upgrades and replacement especially the locker rooms, shower areas, bathrooms, and the booking and processing area. Additionally, parking is limited and the garage bays are in need of upgrades.

While Homeland Security and Interoperable Communications grants have helped to establish a robust digital radio communications system for the department, the nature of these systems and increasing requirements require constant upgrading and/or replacement. The backbone of our radio system is fifteen years old and has exceeded its expected lifespan. This critical component will likely fail in the foreseeable future and should be replaced as soon as possible.

Despite the limitations outlined above, the Claremont Police Department continues to successfully meet the challenges it faces. Community interaction is an important function of the Claremont Police Department's mission. Community Policing is the cornerstone of the department's policing philosophy with a strong emphasis on encouraging its officers and the community to work together to solve problems. Its Mission Statement makes it clear: "The Claremont Police Department strives to provide the City with professional, compassionate police services with a primary focus on working together with the citizens of Claremont to help maintain and improve the quality of life within the City of Claremont."

Future Challenges:

- Communications Center is severely limited in space
- Facilities are in need of general upgrades and replacement, including locker rooms, shower areas, bathrooms, and the booking & processing area

- Parking is limited
- Garage bays are in need of upgrade
- Communication systems need upgrade to prevent failure

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works, with a full-time staff of 31 employees, is situated on a 32-acre site at 8 Grandview Street. An office building measuring 8,495 square feet (sf) was constructed in 1995 and is connected to the main garage facility.



The building accommodates 7 offices which includes an office for the director, the assistant director, the office manager, the water/sewer secretary, the highway foreman, the water/sewer foreman, and the maintenance foreman.

The main office building also contains a meeting/map storage room, a lunch room and rest rooms.

The main garage facility, constructed in 1947, has 12 bays for the storage and maintenance of the DPW equipment.

The site also houses a salt/sand storage shed, a long shed for equipment storage, a water meter shed, and various other buildings to accommodate small equipment.

In order to maintain the City of Claremont’s infrastructure, the DPW possesses:

- 33 trucks
- 2 tractors
- 1 street sweeper
- 2 loaders
- 18 large plows/wings
- 3 sidewalk plows
- 4 backhoes
- 1 grader
- Numerous small plows, trailers, mowers, and saws.

The Department of Public Works is comprised of 5 components as follows:

- Highway Division
- Cemetery Division
- Solid Waste Division
- Water Division
- Sewer Division.

Highway Division:

The Highway Division maintains:

- Approximately 146 miles of roads (126 mi. paved, 20 mi unpaved)—including paving, snow plowing, snow removal, salting, sanding, ditching, grading, pothole patching, sweeping,

mowing, sidewalks, and guardrails; as well as the management of vegetation, the maintenance of the parking garage, storm water management, and forestry control.

- 650 culverts
- 1730 catch basins
- 48 miles of roadside drainage
- 35 miles of sidewalk
- Small bridges and large drainage structures
- 1,500 street and traffic signs
- City line striping with two-employees
- Equipment maintenance/inspections
- Street lights.

This division, served by 15 employees, takes great pride in keeping the City of Claremont well maintained and safe for all of its citizens and visitors.

Highway Division Future Challenges:

- Replacement of old infrastructure throughout the city – coupled with labor shortage
- Main Street reconstruction project from Esersky Bridge to North Street
- Pleasant Street reconstruction project
- Improving road surfaces
- Improving traffic control/flow
- Re-construction of city roads and sidewalks
- Tyler Brook Corridor’s drainage issues
- Charlestown Road drainage issues
- Replacement of culverts on Bible Hill Road, Washington Street, Whitewater Brook Road, Girard Avenue, and Half Mile Road
- Cat Hole Road/Foisy Hill Road erosion issues
- Beauregard Village flooding issues
- Sugar River Drive slope failure (flooding concerns)
- Increasing sizes of numerous culverts (based on storm data)
- Tree removal throughout the city.

Cemetery Division:

The Cemetery Division maintains year-round burials & grounds maintenance for 76 acres in the following cemeteries:

- St. Mary’s Cemetery (burials only)
- Meyer-David Cemetery
- Union Cemetery
- Mountain View Cemetery
- West Pleasant Street Cemetery
- Average of 125 burials per year
- Pour foundations for monuments

This division, with two full-time and one seasonal employee, works on a daily basis with funeral directors and private families assisting them with burials. To complete these tasks, the cemetery department, in 2005, was able to update its 31,000 grave sites to a computer-generated data base. The department is now able to research burial sites as far back as the 1700's; thus, locating the resting sites of even Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers.

Cemetery Division Future Challenges:

- Restoration of original 1923 Main Street iron gates (damaged in the 1960's and left in a scrap pile)
- Resurfacing access drives

Sanitation Division:

The Sanitation Division provides service to Claremont residents who wish to bring household rubbish, recyclables, and construction/demolition materials to the facility.

The Transfer Station facility began construction in 2001, and is located on the same property as the prior landfill. Construction of this 21-acre site consisted of consolidating the municipal solid waste and covering the material accumulated throughout the years. The closure procedure, overseen by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, required layers of fill material, stabilization of the slopes, a gas venting layer, covering of textile material with an additional 18-inches of fill spread to protect the membrane, and finally a vegetative covering. The project also included stream relocation and construction of the current transfer station. This project cost was approximately \$6,000,000.

Currently, engineers from TTI Environmental Services are under contract to monitor the closed landfill by testing for gas emissions, sampling the underground wells, and completing the state mandated reporting.

In addition to the testing, the City of Claremont is responsible for mowing the 20+ acres of the closed landfill which encompasses steep sloping over the membrane and the trimming of drainage ditches.

The facility currently accommodates one small office trailer and a storage building. The staff includes two certified solid waste operators.

Sanitation Division Future Challenges:

- Expansion of recycling uses
- Illegal dumping
- Hazardous materials

Water Division:

The Water Treatment Plant produces an average of 950,000 gallons per day of finished water and has a capacity of 2.2 million gallons/day using filter in series. The plant can produce 4.0 million gallons per day in parallel filters without a back-up filtration system.

The water division oversees:

- 80-miles of water distribution mains
- 1130 water main valves
- 2 water storage tanks
- 3 water pump stations
- 3 reservoirs
- 4 dams
- 435 fire hydrants – to include flushing
- 3600 water meters – to include semi-annual readings.

It complies with and must submit reports to US EPA and NHDES regulations.

The major sources of water in the City of Claremont are as follows:

- Whitewater Reservoir- 150 Million Gallons (MG) capacity
- Rice Reservoir- 40 MG
- Dole Reservoir- 40 MG (Storage of 230 MG)
- Sugar River.

As noted above, Claremont's primary water source is the Whitewater Brook watershed. The Whitewater Reservoir is fed by a 4.3 square-mile watershed in the towns of Cornish and Croydon and yields approximately one-million gallons per day.

The system is also made up of the Rice Reservoir and Dole Reservoir respectively. Water is fed from the Whitewater and Rice Reservoirs through a 10-inch line into the Dole Reservoir where it enters the treatment plant.

A pump and main along Winter Street were installed in 1981 to draw water from the Sugar River into either the treatment plant or the Dole Reservoir. This was intended as a back-up supply for use when the Dole Reservoir is low.

The Water Treatment Plant, located adjacent to the Dole Reservoir, opened in 1981 with a finishing capacity of 2.2-million gallons per day. The plant, however, currently operates at 41% capacity.

A 3 million gallon water storage tank is located on Moody Hill and a one-half million-gallon tank is located on Bible Hill. The water circulates constantly and is used to gravity feed the residences in the area. This water bank is fed via a new booster pump station located on Charlestown Road.

Claremont Waterworks Company dates back to the late 1800's when a spring in the south part of town served ten homes. Today, the Water Division of the City of Claremont employs 5 people and serves over 3,500 customers with good, clean water!

Water Division Future Challenges:

- Meter replacement w/radio read
- Replace & increase size of pipe from reservoirs to the water treatment plant
- Repair Rice Reservoir and Whitewater Reservoir spillways
- Repair concrete wall @ Dole Reservoir
- Replace all lead service lines and connections
- Main Street waterline reconstruction (from Opera House Square to Esersky Bridge)
- Downtown area waterline reconstruction
- North & Main Street water line (to loop system)
- Lower Sullivan Street waterline replacement
- Summer Street water line replacement
- Veterans' Park water line improvements
- Woonsocket & Durham Avenue water line replacements
- Upgrades of Water Treatment Plants and pump stations
- Repair and replacement of old infrastructure
- Increased testing for lead, copper and other pollutants.

Sewer Division:

The Sewer Division maintains:

- 70-miles of sewer lines
- 1,150 manholes
- 7 pump stations – Washington Street; Gully Brook; Clay Hill; Mill Street; Elm Street; Sullivan Street; Sugar River Drive
- Pipe jetting.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant, located off of Plains Road, averages 1.1 million gallons per day and has a capacity of 3.9 million-gallons per day. This plant was designed with expansion capability of 1-million additional gallons per day. It currently operates at 28% capacity for liquids and 40% for solids.

This system serves industrial and commercial users and 2,715 residences.

The Sewer Division employs five people and is responsible for the infrastructure, health and sanitation needs for the City of Claremont's citizens and visitors.

Sewer Division Future Challenges:

- Meter replacement w/radio read
- Downtown sewer reconstruction
- Charlestown Road sewer reconstruction

- Ascutney Street sewer and storm water separation
- Bank Avenue sewer reconstruction
- Summer Street sewer reconstruction
- Upgrades of Wastewater Treatment Plant and pump stations
- Increase record keeping and sampling for EPA & NHDES
- Fulfill new requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NHDES)
- Develop a “Collection System Operation & Maintenance” plan
- Locate areas of infiltration and seepage from sewer pipes
- Reduce water that goes into the sewer by eliminating any drainage from storm or roof water systems

Repair and Replacement of Infrastructure

The Department of Public Works continually prepares, applies for and accepts various grant awards for city projects.

Library Department

The Fiske Free Library has provided educational, cultural, and recreational resources to the citizens of Claremont for over 140 years. Today the library plays a vital role in the life of the community, providing materials and services that help children learn to read, help students excel, and help adults improve their lives.

The library building, one of nine Carnegie-funded library buildings in New Hampshire, was built in 1903 at a cost of \$15,000. The library was expanded in the 1920s and the interior was modernized in the 1960s. Despite these changes, many of the library’s original 1903 furnishings are still in use. While attractive, centrally located, and structurally sound, the library building poses a number of problems for the delivery of 21st century library services. The 1991 Claremont Master Plan noted that “the library is rapidly approaching 100 percent capacity.” Since that time the library has continued to expand its holdings and circulation has averaged over 100,000 items per year.

Stack areas are crowded and difficult to browse, there is inadequate public seating, and staff work/office space is severely limited. While space constraints have been somewhat ameliorated by technology (CDs and DVDs replacing tapes, online reference sources, digitization), changes to the provision of services and the addition of new services is restricted by both the amount of space available and the inherent limitations of space that was designed for the delivery of early 20th century library services. A lack of adequate and convenient parking and a lack of air conditioning throughout the library are additional issues that constrain the ability of the library to expand services. Growth in Claremont’s population will increase the demand for library services and will place additional stress on an already overcrowded library.

Fiske Free Library Goals:

- Replace carpeting

- Install central air conditioning
- Replace tile flooring downstairs
- Replace 1903 shelving with format appropriate shelving
- Reconfigure staff work spaces
- Reconfigure public computer space
- Expand or replace existing library facility

Future Opportunities to expand services:

- Local History and Genealogy
- Digitization of library's historical resources (both in-house and outsourced)
- Technology training for the public
- Library-created programming (local history, literature, technology, arts)
- Sharing economy (circulation of non-media items)
- Community connectivity (circulation of wi-fi hotspots)
- Community outreach
- Small meeting rooms (tutoring, mentoring, counseling)
- Homeschooling resources
- Technology "petting zoo" (learn about and try out new technologies)
- Services for teens
- Library as community hub
- Library as source of community information for visitors.

Future Challenges:

- Reconfiguring existing space and/or creating new library space to accommodate new service areas such as:
 - Computer technology classroom
 - Small meeting and study rooms
 - Program/meeting/public event room
 - Shared learning space (Book groups, crafting, maker space)
 - Computing/technology space for public (wired and wireless)
 - Reading/studying/research space for public
 - Teen programming and casual space
 - Providing space and time for staff to prepare for programs, training, and other services that will require preparation and planning
 - Providing space and technology for in-house digitization and electronic storage and retrieval of materials.
- Adequate staffing to allow for community outreach, technology training, and programming.
- Providing continuing education opportunities to keep staff current with technology.

Planning and Development Building/Visitor Center

In 2001 Claremont opened a new 2000 square foot Visitors Center on the Sugar River at 14 North Street. The center became office space for a newly merged Planning, Building Code & Economic Development Department (Planning and Development Department), which brought

the functions of economic development, planning, zoning, building & health codes, project management/engineering, grant administration, marketing, and administration of land use or economic development boards and commissions under one roof. The building is also part of the Connecticut River Byways program and provides regional information for guests on the main level.

Several upgrades to accessibility were undertaken in 2005 and further ADA upgrades were completed in 2016, including new accessible parking in the front of the building, a new front walk and handicapped accessible front doors.

Other recent building improvements include drainage on the east and west sides of the building and improvements to the heating system.

A new pedestrian bridge and riverfront public common were constructed and opened in 2006 that connects the historic city center and mill district with the Visitors Center and neighborhoods of North Claremont.

Future Challenges:

The building is currently meeting all needs and demands by staff, residents and businesses, and will do so over the next 5 to 10 years. By year 10 roof replacement should be anticipated. An energy audit of the 14 North Street property in 2011 identified some energy efficiency issues, the most significant being insulation in the attic space. Lighting in the building needs to be upgraded for greater efficiency as well.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation facilities are contained in Parks and Recreation Chapter of this Master Plan. An inventory of parks and buildings with analysis and goals in that chapter are considered incorporated into the Community Facilities chapter.

Transportation

The City's transportation network and systems (including roads, sidewalks, public transit, and trains) are addressed in the Transportation Chapter of this Master Plan. This inventory and analysis are considered incorporated into the Community Facilities chapter.

Claremont Hazard Mitigation Plan 2016

The recently updated Claremont Hazard Mitigation Plan is a planning tool for use by the City of Claremont in its efforts to reduce future losses from natural and/or man-made hazards. In our area the highest hazards noted were flooding, severe winter weather, and dam failure. The goals of the plan are to:

- To identify, introduce and implement cost effective Hazard Mitigation measures so as to accomplish the City's goals and to raise awareness and acceptance of hazard mitigation opportunities generally.
- To improve upon the protection of the general population, the citizens, and visitors of the City of Claremont from natural and human-made hazards.

- To reduce the potential impact of natural and human-made disasters to:
 - critical support services,
 - critical facilities,
 - infrastructure,
 - private property,
 - the economy,
 - natural environment, and
 - historic treasures and interests.
- To improve the City's disaster response and recovery capability as a hazard mitigation strategy to be prepared for emergencies and reduce their impact.

There are a number of recommendations in the Hazard Mitigation Plan including replacement of existing culverts with larger ones throughout the city and recommended drainage improvements. These recommendations are considered incorporated into the Community Facilities chapter. A copy of the full Hazard Mitigation Plan is available online: [HYPERLINK]

School Facilities

The Claremont School District consists of three elementary schools: Bluff Elementary School, Disnard Elementary School, and Maple Avenue Elementary School; one middle school – Claremont Middle School, one high school – Stevens High School, and one half of a regional career and technical center (the other located in the Newport NH School District), the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, and the SAU #6 Administrative Offices located in an adjacent structure to the high school, known as the Dow Building.

The middle school, high school, career and technical center, and the Dow Building are located in the geographic center of town. The neighborhood elementary schools are located in the west, south west and northern sections of Claremont.

Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center

The Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center was constructed in 1992 and shows no renovation needs at this time. The Tech Center underwent conversion of its heating system from oil to propane in 2014.

Stevens High School

Stevens High School was originally constructed in 1867 and has had several additions and renovations over the past 150 years. The 145,000-square foot building serves a diverse population of currently fewer than 700 students in grades 9-12. For many citizens, the historic features of the building hold compelling and immeasurable emotional and intrinsic value.

During the most recent renovation at the High School, a new event entrance and parking lot were added to provide better handicapped accessibility. New up-to-date science labs were installed, new locker rooms were built and technology and connectivity were made available throughout the building. Many storage areas were renovated to provide better work space for teachers, administrative staff and students. New windows, heat recovery air handlers, and two

biomass boilers were installed to better provide a comfortable learning environment while maximizing energy efficiency. A new building management system allows for facility operation based on scheduled occupancy. Security upgrades include a keyless entry system and cameras and alarms on all exterior doors.

The school's athletic fields are located across Broad Street at Monadnock Park, about 300 yards from the school building.

Claremont Middle School

Claremont Middle School, built in 1956 and remodeled in 1995-1996, utilizes a team model in its design and curriculum delivery. Issues in the building include inadequate science labs, locker rooms; environmental issues such as not being energy efficient, inefficient lighting and a shortage of electrical and technology outlets. Locker rooms are not ADA compliant and are prone to mold despite efforts to keep them clean. Office space for faculty, staff and administration is also limited and changes with day- to-day operations. The roof underwent repairs and sprinklers were added in 2010. Two new propane fired boilers and a wood pellet boiler were installed in 2014 and windows were replaced.

Elementary Schools

Bluff Elementary School was constructed in 1939 with an addition added in 1996, bringing its square footage to slightly over 32,500.

Disnard Elementary School was constructed in 1958 as St. Mary's High School and transitioned to a high school annex building and then elementary school in the 1970's. Needs identified at Disnard are no room for all-day kindergarten; insufficient lighting and electrical systems; limited storage space; and administrative offices and common rooms that are small or non-existent.

Maple Avenue Elementary was constructed in 1952 with two major additions in 1968 and 1996. Room size, closets and general storage space are extremely limited, and parking issues also exist.

All three schools were sprinkled in 2007-2008. The three elementary schools converted heating systems from oil to propane in 2014.

SAU #6 Administrative Offices

The historic Tappan/Dow Building is home to the SAU Administrative Offices. Built in 1890, the building represents one of the finest examples of neo-classical/federal architecture in New England. Copies of its Greek porch can be found in Hartland, Vermont and Old Deerfield, Massachusetts. (From the Historic Sites and Structures Inventory, 2011 Master Plan).

Current challenges to the building include inefficient and inadequate spaces; a lack of energy efficiency despite the replacement of the windows in 2005; and lighting and technological access.

Independent Secondary and Post-Secondary Education Facilities

River Valley Community College (RVCC) is one of seven colleges in the Community College System of New Hampshire. RVCC is accredited by the rigorous standards of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. Students from around the state and beyond come to RVCC to support their career aspirations with a great education. RVCC offers associate degree and certificate programs, dual credit programs with area high schools, and professional skills training and is focused on supporting the development of a skilled workforce in New Hampshire. RVCC has also put in place a 3+1 articulation agreement for its nursing program with Granite State College. It provides students with an opportunity to begin with RVCC and continue their nursing education to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) level. After a student graduates from the RVCC nursing program, they take a third year of prescribed courses at RVCC and transfer 90 credits to Granite State College. At Granite State College, the student takes 30 more credits in nursing and graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree.

RVCC's Main Campus is at 1 College Place in Claremont. Two Academic Centers, in Keene and Lebanon, provide additional learning opportunities throughout the Connecticut River Valley. RVCC also offers online courses extending the reach of this local institution beyond their brick and mortar locations. Financial Aid and Scholarships are available to students. Approximately 1,100 students attend RVCC on either a full time or part time basis. RVCC's Academic Programs include Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Business Management, Computer Technology, Early Childhood Education, Massage Therapy, Nursing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, Radiography and many more. You can learn about the many opportunities available at River Valley Community College by stopping in or visiting www.rivervalley.edu.

Granite State College, University System of New Hampshire, is one of New Hampshire's top colleges for adult learners looking to expand their intellectual and professional boundaries. Degree and certificate programs are designed specifically with the working student in mind, making it possible to complete a degree or certificate entirely online. Granite State offers extensive online courses, face-to-face offerings in nine campus locations, including the Claremont Regional Center, credit awarded for prior learning, and selected competency-based programs. Further information can be found at www.granite.edu.

Utilities

Electric Service

Electric service is provided to Claremont primarily by Eversource with a small sector in northeast Claremont covered by the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative.

Three-phase power, needed by many types of industry, is available in much of Claremont including Rte. 103 from West Claremont through Washington Street; Rte. 120 north past Thrasher Road to River Valley Community College; Charlestown Road through the current business zone; and down River Road (Route 12-A) into Charlestown.

Broadband

In 2014 when the state completed its broadband mapping program, seven broadband providers were identified in Claremont. Three technologies were also identified: Asymmetric xDSL, Cable Modem – DOCSIS 3.0 Down and Terrestrial Mobile Wireless. Because state mapping finished prior to the NH Fastroads connection through Claremont, the provider list does not include the three providers who can access Fastroads. Download speeds and other broadband data as of September 30, 2014 can be seen at the NH Broadband Mapping & Planning program website at www.iwantbroadbandnh.org.

Question 22 of the Master Plan survey in 2016 asked “Do you have reliable access to broadband high-speed internet at your residence and/or workplace?” 94.5% answered yes, with 3.67% no and 1.83% don’t know. The comments verify that while service is good there are still a few pockets in the city that need to be better serviced. Service rates were also noted in the comments.

Community Television

Claremont Community Television Incorporated ("CCTV") is an incorporated 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. CCTV provides video production equipment for creating programs to broadcast to the community, and training in the use of this equipment. CCTV also operates the community access broadcast channels 10 and 8 on Comcast cable television service for Claremont, and web site hosting recordings of programs broadcast on the channels. The Federal Communications Commission classifies CCTV as a "PEG" cable channel with the mission to aid in the dissemination of local information regarding general public interests along with those of education and government matters while upholding the 1st amendment of the United States Constitution.

The CCTV office, training area/public studio, program library, equipment for use by the public and broadcast system ("Headend") are located at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. To broadcast live remotely in the city, there are connections at Claremont City Hall, Stevens High School, Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, Visitor Center and the Technical School. At Barnes Park in Claremont, a platform is available for the recording of events.

Goals

Goal 1. Upgrade and stabilize the current water and sewer infrastructure.

- Objective 1.1: Identify, prioritize and schedule repairs and replacements in the old city sewer lines.
 1. Use cameras to identify failing sewer lines and areas of infiltration/leakage in the system.
 2. Reconstruct sewer infrastructure on Main Street from Opera House Square to Union Street.
 3. Prioritize sewer replacement needs throughout the city and particularly on Charlestown Road, Summer Street, Opera House Square up Pleasant Street, and Bank Avenue.

4. Upgrade wastewater treatment plant and pump stations.
 5. Support the Claremont Hazard Mitigation Plan, giving special consideration to sewer infrastructure and contamination prevention.
 6. Update the Capital Improvement Program annually to reflect current priorities.
- Objective 1.2: Identify, prioritize and schedule repairs and improvements in the city water system.
 1. Upgrade the line size from a 10" to a 16" pipe to increase volume from Whitewater Reservoir to Rice and Dole thereby lowering operation costs from not having to utilize the Sugar River pump station.
 2. Repair Rice Reservoir & Whitewater Reservoir spillways.
 3. Repair concrete wall at Dole Reservoir.
 4. Continue the replacement of old lead service lines.
 5. Address drainage issues on Charlestown Road that are the result of inadequate water line sizes and faulty collection systems in surrounding neighborhoods.
 6. Reconstruct water infrastructure on Main Street from Opera House Square to Union Street.
 7. Reconstruct water infrastructure on Pleasant Street from Opera House Square to Summer Street.
 8. Prioritize water line replacements or improvements throughout the city, particularly at North & Main Streets, lower Sullivan Street, Summer Street, Woonsocket Avenue, Durham Avenue, and Veterans Park Road.
 9. Continue water meter replacement with radio read.
 10. Upgrade water treatment plants and pump stations
 11. Update the 1991 Source Water Protection Plan.
 12. Support the Claremont Hazard Mitigation Plan, giving special consideration to water supply security and infrastructure (drought, flooding, dam failure), as well as culvert and drainage improvements.
 13. Update the Capital Improvement Program annually to reflect current priorities.
 - Objective 1.3: Meet state and federal regulations.
 1. Fulfill new requirements for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) for the wastewater treatment plant.
 2. Complete sewer storm water separation on Ascutney Street.
 3. Track pending state or federal rule changes and incorporate anticipated cost of compliance into the Capital Improvement Plan.

Goal 2. Maintain municipal facilities to minimize barriers to access, protect investment, and ensure acceptable service levels to the public.

- Objective 2.1: Prioritize timely improvements and maintenance of municipal buildings and infrastructure to ensure public safety and compliance with N.H. fire and building codes and federal ADA accessibility standards.
 1. Continue ADA accessibility projects at City Hall complex, including the ramp at the Police/Court entrance, accessible bathroom facilities, City Council Chambers and other accessibility needs for the building.
 2. Repair City Hall roof and undertake other upgrades for public safety.

3. Upgrade police communication systems and associated electrical systems to prevent failure.
 4. Follow annual and 5- year maintenance and repair schedule at the Sawtooth parking garage; share costs on a per space basis with leaseholders.
 5. Continue maintenance plan for the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center and other Parks and Recreation facilities.
 6. Continue road and sidewalk maintenance. See additional details in the Transportation Chapter of this Master Plan.
 7. Include essential equipment in the Capital Improvement Plan.
 8. Respect the historic character of the City's municipal buildings when undertaking maintenance of them.
- Objective 2.2: Identify and pursue opportunities to improve energy efficiency and utilize renewable energy technologies in municipal facilities.
 1. Continue to undertake energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings including weatherization and lighting to lower operational costs.
 2. Seek grants, public-private partnerships, or other financing opportunities to install renewable energy facilities to reduce municipal energy consumption costs.

Goal 3. Address established unmet needs for services and/or overcome barriers to public access for services in facility improvement or replacement projects.

- Objective 3.1: Maintain critical service facilities for public safety and emergency response.
 1. Repurpose existing police department space to accommodate current and future staffing needs, including improvements in the Communications Center, locker rooms, shower areas, bathrooms, and the booking & processing area.
 2. Replace or upgrade fire department storage barn.
- Objective 3.2: Strive for high quality facilities that support community amenities and cohesion.
 1. Upgrade Fiske Free Library critical service needs, including shelving, painting, flooring and air conditioning.
 2. Expand community outreach of library services, particularly to the elderly and children.
 3. Consider expansion of recycling. Continue participation with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on hazardous waste collection.
- Objective 3.3: The city administration will consider studies of city-owned buildings and costs of operations as needed.

Goal 4. Actively seek grant funding for community facility projects.