

**City of Ellsworth**  
1 City Hall Plaza, Ellsworth, ME 04605

**RECREATION COMMISSION**

Site Visit

Tuesday, May 16 at 8:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Chair Eric Marichal, Vice-Chair Kathy Young, Kim Fitch, Josh Frost, Melinda Workman, and Jon Stein

**Staff Present:** Elizabeth Littlefield, Assistant City Planner; Maura Condon, Communications Specialist

1. Assessment and catalogue of recreational assets in the City of Ellsworth.
  - a. Downtown Main Street Recreation (The Grand, Franklin Street Parklet, Merrill Park, S.K. Whiting Park)
    - i. Franklin Street Parklet
      1. The side of the building needs updated paint/window frames.
      2. There is very little shade available, possibly could use some table umbrellas for shade.
      3. If made permanent – concerns regarding Fire Department access and plowing/snow removal.
    - ii. Merrill Park
      1. Positive note – the charging station at the parking lot next to the park is a benefit.
      2. Could use some more landscaping/plants
      3. Question regarding ownership of the benches and if they are permanent – concerns about damage from snow pile-up.
      4. Thoughts that the addition of signage could make this park more known to the rest of the community.
    - iii. The Grand
      1. Looked at some of the possible expansion options.
      2. Talked about the addition of a new HVAC system which will allow for air conditioning and heating year-round.
    - iv. S.K. Whiting Park
      1. The group thought that more signage would be beneficial here – something that says “City of Ellsworth” on it. The way it is now, it doesn’t look like it is a City park.
      2. There was a note that the “Museum in the Streets” sign is facing the road instead of the park making it difficult to read.
      3. Suggestion that this park could be decorated for winter holidays.
      4. Suggestion that picnic tables could be added to encourage people to use the park.
      5. Concerns about noise and traffic at this location.
  - b. Ellsworth Harbor Park
    - i. There was a note that the grass has been picked apart by birds and needs some work.
    - ii. Suggestion that a portion of the park could be used as a dog park.

- iii. There was a note that the gazebo is a big revenue-generator for this park.
  - iv. Suggestion that kayaks or canoes could be rented out to people for recreational use.
  - v. Fence that separates the residences from the park is falling down.
  - vi. Questions regarding a storage shed that was seen at the park – there was a comment that the Concert Band needs some storage area for their concerts.
- c. Indian Point Reserve
- i. There was a note that the trails needed some updates and some bridges need to be repaired.
  - ii. There was concern about the organization of the parking area. There is room for about 6 cars in the lot.
  - iii. There is a field across the street from the entrance. There was some conversation about potential future uses for that land.
  - iv. There was a note about signage for the entrance so people can see where it is.
- d. Jordan Homestead Preserve
- i. There was a note that this location had good signage which made it very easy to find.
  - ii. There was some conversation regarding the expansion of the parking area.
  - iii. One member asked if there should be a donation box put at the entrance of the Preserve. There were some concerns regarding this.
- e. Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary
- i. There was some conversation about the history of this asset and ways that the Recreation Commission can highlight the Sanctuary and trails.
  - ii. There was concern regarding the entrance and how it is very difficult to see the entrance and how busy the street is.
- f. Sunrise Trail Terminus – **Skipped due to time constraints**
- g. Ellsworth High School (Whitney Property, baseball field, tennis court) – **Some stops skipped due to time constraints.**
- i. Tennis Court
    - 1. There are several large cracks in each of the courts.
    - 2. There was some discussion on possible repairs and full replacements.
    - 3. It was noted that there should be more signage saying that the courts can be used by the general public.
- h. Rail Trail Terminus (next to Sunrise Glass)
- i. There was a note that there is possibly an access point behind LL Bean, however there was a sign saying “LL Bean Parking only.”
    - 1. There was some discussion regarding whether or not this was an official access point for the trail.
- i. Demeyer Field Complex
- i. There was a note that there should be more signage showing where the fields are.
  - ii. There was some concern with the work being done on Wilson Field, the workers on site said that the grass should grow back within a month in the areas they were working on.
  - iii. There was a note that there is more seating needed at all 3 fields.

- iv. There was a note that there are more opportunities for sponsorship because there was several fences without any banners on them.
- v. There was a note that more trash cans were needed – particularly in the dug-out areas of the fields.
- j. Branch Lake Public Forest – **Skipped due to time constraints**
- k. Downtown State Street Recreation (Track/baseball Courts, YMCA, Knowlton Park, The Moore Center, Donald Little Park, Riverwalk) – **Some stops skipped due to time constraints**
  - i. Track
    - 1. The track needs to be replaced. There was some discussion on what a track is supposed to look like versus what this one looks like.
    - 2. There was a concern regarding the age of the lights at the field and the costs. There was some discussion about the feasibility of replacing the lights to LED.
  - ii. Basketball Court
    - 1. There was a concern that the second court did not have any padding on the residential side to mitigate noise.
    - 2. There was a note that the doors to the courts have signs that say “closed” on them. NOTE: City Staff followed up regarding this and they were left up accidentally, the signs have been removed.
- l. Woodlawn Museum – **Skipped due to time constraints**