

# Community Facilities

## CHAPTER VISION

The purpose of this Chapter is to evaluate Canterbury’s community facilities, recreational facilities, and utilities. Providing and maintaining the essential services of community and recreational facilities are jointly one of the primary functions of government. As the population and the demographics of the community grow and change over time, it is important for the community to adjust its delivery of services to meet the needs of the changing population.

The Community Facilities Chapter is organized into evaluations of Canterbury’s Departments and Town services, with special discussions included of the School District, public utilities and the recreational opportunities and conservation lands, and describes the status and needs of Canterbury’s facilities as of the time of the publication of the Plan for Tomorrow update. The strength and efficiency of each service is paramount to the community’s well-being. The 2020 Community Survey and 2022 Visioning Session results help obtain residents’ perspectives into these critical components of the Town’s infrastructure and programs. Some of the survey results included short term and long-term needs and goals. Suggestions for future improvements in the Town’s community facilities can also be found in Canterbury’s 2023 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and through analysis of the Departments’ future capacities.

One tool the Town can use to help manage its community facilities is the preparation and update of an annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP), as part of the municipality’s financial planning and budgeting process. This CIP is central to the chapter’s Overall Key Findings which presents a list of recommended long-term actions relative to community facilities, recreational facilities, and utilities. The location of the Town’s community and recreational facilities are provided on maps to accompany this chapter.

## TOWN CHARACTER

The Town of Canterbury is a mix of natural and agricultural landscapes co-existing with the villages and residences throughout Town. The Town has a strong sense of community described as the sense of “knowing” people, hosting community events, school sports, and supporting the arts. Shaker Village, the Elkins Public Library, the Town store, the farmers market and the Canterbury Fair play roles in defining the community’s character. Canterbury loves its rural and historic character, its sense of community, and it is known as a great place to raise children. There is a vibrant sense of “village” in the Town center, and having a village helps people of all ages get to know one another. A demonstration of shared community spirit is the Canterbury Community Newsletter, published monthly for the community by the Canterbury United Community Church to inform Townspeople about local happenings with

Downloadable back issues available on the Town's website  
There is also a town-wide weekly email that is sent out by the library.

## THE TOWN'S THOUGHTS

Those responding to the Community Survey were given the opportunity to provide their priorities regarding investments in community services. Road maintenance was the highest priority, followed by fire protection and recycling. Of least concern was expanding the Town office and library hours. Overall, concerns related to the tax rate were also expressed throughout the Survey.

A common theme throughout the 2020 Community Survey was the strong appreciation for the array of natural recreation opportunities in Canterbury and how they are directly connected to respondents' high quality of life in Town. When asked about their favorite natural area, respondents most unanimously cited Shaker Village and its trails, Morrill Pond, and the Merrimack River. Following the trend of respondents' favorite locations, hiking trails and waterfront leisure were found to be the most desirable forms of outdoor recreation. This was further indicated through rankings of facilities which the Town should provide in the future. Results favored additional signed and maintained trails followed by waterfront recreation such as an enhanced Town beach and a Merrimack River boat launch. There was an overwhelming desire for connection

to a rail trail or multi-use trails network, with supported trail activities for hiking, cross country skiing/snowshoeing, and mountain biking.

The 2020 Community Survey also indicated about 76% of respondents currently have adequate broadband internet service for their needs and about 56% of respondents had adequate cell phone coverage. While preserving Canterbury's rural landscape remains the Town's highest priority, it is also understood that full broadband internet and cell coverage are critical for Town services to operate effectively, and also need to serve home-based businesses or new businesses looking to relocate to Canterbury. The current level of cellular and broadband service does not fit the existing residential needs and inadequate coverage would discourage new residents from moving to Canterbury.

The June 2022 Visioning Session addressed community facilities, broadband internet, energy and recreational opportunities. Overall, most residents appeared mostly satisfied with the Town's services and infrastructure regarding community facilities and utilities with the need for improvement focused on better access to broadband and cellular connectivity. Solar panel energy on community buildings is generally supported as well as the small-scale solar installations at residences and businesses. Canterbury would like to consider community power as an option and

have residents and businesses make their own vendor decisions. The desirability of trails for both recreation and getting around the village were discussed, as was the benefits a trails Committee or trail related groups can bring.

### MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Municipal Safety Complex building at 26 Baptist Road is the Town’s command center in time of area emergencies and provides for inside storage of all Town equipment and vehicles. It is also the facility where various Department trainings are held. The Municipal Building houses the Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department, Emergency Management services, and the Highway Department.

### SHORT TERM NEEDS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Town anticipates a need for better audio-visual equipment, communications, technology, computer, software, telephone lines, new internet, and furniture for future Emergency Operation Commands that are held in the Safety Complex Building. Security cameras need to be added in the safety Municipal Building for both employee and visitor safety.

### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

The Canterbury Highway Department operates out of the shared Municipal Safety Complex and has the responsibility for the maintenance and rehabilitation of over 85 miles of Town roads. The Department also conducts storm and tree

cleanup, maintains culverts, fixes washouts, conducts snow removal, manages paving projects and conducts gravel road grading. The Highway Department website is <https://www.canterburynh.gov/highway-Department>.

Canterbury has one full-time road agent appointed by the selectman, four full-time employees and one part-time employee. One position is also assigned to take care of transfer station duties. Concerns regarding recruitment and retaining Highway Department staff has been ongoing.

The Highway Department has responsibility for 12 vehicles and major equipment items, including two road graders, a multi-purpose dump/snowplow truck, a refuse packer truck, backhoe, a pickup truck with plow, a Farmall tractor, a utility trailer, and a front loader.

Highways & Streets, Street Lighting, Staffing Department  
Total Budget, 2021-2023 as compared to other communities

Total Highway Budgets	Population 2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 Budget Dollars Per Capita
Boscawen	4,043	\$589,798	\$629,154	\$622,064	\$153.86
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>2,389</b>	<b>\$762,995</b>	<b>\$825,902</b>	<b>\$863,407</b>	<b>\$361.41</b>
Gilmanton	3,760	\$934,88	\$932,3	\$1,059,105	\$281.67
Loudon	5,591	\$875,705	\$855,064	\$927,743	\$165.96

Per capita, Canterbury spends more on Highway Department costs than neighboring communities. This higher cost is due to many factors, including the number of road miles the Town needs to maintain especially during the stormy winter season, road repairs during the muddy spring season and flooded conditions, culvert upgrades, and the original condition of the roads will influence upgrade cost. Repaving is a high priority for the Highway Department.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT SHORT TERM NEEDS

Maintaining a fully staffed Highway Department is a leading short-term need. The Highway Department would like to obtain a GPS unit to find the culvert locations more easily during storms and have radios to enhance communications with other Departments during response operations. This is another challenge of Canterbury not having broadband internet throughout the Town. In anticipation of the next 4 years, \$10,000 was deposited in the capital reserves for highway equipment in 2023, specifically, \$30,000 for a highway truck, \$30,000 for a highway grader, and \$12,000 for a rescue truck, \$30,000 for a highway loader and \$30,000 for a highway backhoe. These amounts are identical to what the Town deposited in 2022. The Town also anticipates a need for a zero-turn mower.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LONG TERM NEEDS

In addition to planning for capital equipment purchases, as time permits, the Highway Department plans to periodically review various policies and procedures, such as their snow plowing agreement with Northfield as well as downed tree and limb reporting to utility companies. They also plan to map the locations of all Town-owned culverts for more efficient cleanout and maintenance.

#### VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

The Canterbury Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department headquartered at the Municipal Building consists of 24 volunteer members fulfilling various roles. A part-time Fire Chief also serves as the Emergency Management Director, and a full-time Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) are employed by the Town. The volunteer fire fighters and EMTs are provided with financial assistance to maintain their certifications. Canterbury Department is constantly recruiting to attract more volunteers. For equipment, the Department has three (3) pumper/tankers, two forestry vehicles and two rescue vehicles. The Fire and Rescue Department has a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/canterburyfd> to keep residents informed of immediate happenings. The official website is at [https://www.canterburynh.gov /fire-Department](https://www.canterburynh.gov/fire-Department).

The Department responds to medical emergencies calls, requiring firefighters to have advanced medical training through a partnership with Penacook Rescue Service. The Town has no ambulance and no direct ambulance service. One quarter of all calls are responses to emergencies on Interstate 93. The Canterbury Fire Department provides outreach and education, including fire prevention talks and woodstove inspections. Additionally, during the month of October the Fire Department hosts an annual Fire Safety and Prevention week; to include activities such as speaking to elementary school classes about fire safety importance. Through membership with the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact, the Department receives assistance from neighboring communities in case of a major fire and, in turn, provides aid and equipment to other Towns in the area. There are nearly 10 dry hydrants and over a dozen fire access water sources in Canterbury. A Town cistern is available on Intervale Road, in the northwestern corner of Canterbury. A private pump house and hydrant system was installed at Shaker Village.

Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact Incidents, 2022- 2023

Town	2022	2023	% Change
Boscawen	272	218	3.9%
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>13.6%</b>
Concord	10,644	10,378	-2.5%

Loudon	1,195	923	-22.8%
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Canterbury had a notable increase in fire and rescue calls from 2022 to 2023. All calls are dispatched through the Capital Area Mutual Aid Fire Compact of which the Canterbury Fire Department is a member. Approximately 25% of Canterbury’s calls pertain to incidents on I-93.

### VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Engine 3 was purchased in the early 1990’s and has failed the pump test for the past five years. During Town Meeting 2023, \$850,000 was authorized for the purchase of a new fire truck. Of the \$850,000, \$360,000 would come from the Fire Truck Capital Reserves, and the remaining \$490,000 paid for using bonds or a grant. Other needs include routine emergency medical services and fire training on a regular basis for volunteers, additional collaboration for search and rescue training with Fish and Game, and training at least half of all Department members in hazardous materials safety and handling. The Department continues to encourage EMTs and paramedics to train and maintain certifications through partial reimbursement.

During the 2022 visioning session, it was noted the section of Interstate 93 which includes Canterbury (Exits 17, 18, 19) is among the most unsafe stretches of interstate in the State and resources required to respond to serious crashes

can be a concern. The Town relies on the Mutual Aid Compact and the NH State Police. Recommendations include move to two-person full-time staffing for better call response coverage within the next five years, recruit more volunteers, and increase the Department’s training budget Department.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT

The Canterbury Police Department is staffed by a Chief, a lieutenant, and three Officers. There is currently a vacancy for a civilian Administrative Assistant. The Police utilizes 2021 hybrid cruisers The official Department website is <https://www.canterburynh.gov/police-Department>, while its Facebook page permits regular outreach at <https://www.facebook.com/canterburypoliceDepartment>. The Department operates out of the Municipal Safety Complex building. Since 2020, the number of calls for services has been steady with a decline in 2021 due to the pandemic. As population and the economy grows in Canterbury, more police services will likely be necessary.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Calls for Service	2,428	1,826	2,360	2,229

The Police Department has individual mutual aid agreements with surrounding Towns, Merrimack County Sheriff’s Department, and the NH State Police. Police calls for service are dispatched through the Merrimack County

Sheriff Dispatch. They enforce state and local laws to ensure resident safety.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

The Police Department plans to review their various standard operating procedures and policies annually for revision as situations arise and to be consistent with national standards. Emergency multi-agency drills with the Shaker Regional School District and the Canterbury Elementary School are a high priority. In addition to the maintenance and upkeep of relevant certifications, essential equipment upgrades are also needed. These include the purchasing of Automated External Defibrillators, as well as radios for interoperability.

### TOWN CENTER

Canterbury has a beautiful, welcoming Town Center on Hackleboro Road. The Town has invested in their Town buildings with recent improvements to the Sam Lake House. The schedule of Town property includes over 17 acres of land and buildings. A highlight of the year for residents is the annual Halloween Trick-or-Treating at the Town Center.



Within the Town Center itself, between Center Road and Hackleboro Road, are a covered bandstand on the Town green; the Town Offices at the Sam Lake House (10 Hackleboro Road); Elkins Public Library (9 Center Road); Meeting House (7 Center Road); and Town Hall (3 Center Road) with five acres and a small, shared parking area. Other buildings and land include the EFH museum (a unique, historical town feature and one-room schoolhouse); Municipal Building (utilized by the Highway, volunteer Fire/Rescue and Police Departments with 5 acres of land); Transfer Station building with over 6 acres of land; the Elkins Historical Building (former Library at 3 Baptist Road); and the Elizabeth F. Houser Museum (11 Old Tilton Road). A small municipal water supply system supplies the Town Center buildings, as drawn from a well on the Town Hall land.

The Town website <https://www.canterburynh.gov> is maintained by the Town administration. Town Department and board meetings are posted on the Town calendar, and

meeting agendas/minutes, town documents, regulations, and ordinances are also made available online. The latest and most up-to-date information is communicated via monthly newsletter and weekly email. While not as current, the town does host its own Facebook page, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Townofcanterburynh>.

### **Meeting House**

The historic Meeting House at 7 Center Road serves as the location where most Boards and Committees meet regularly, within the Town Center. One recently completed project was to install a ductless AC and Heating Unit at the building, to increase participant comfort during meetings.

### **Town Hall**

The Town Hall at 3 Center Road is an historic structure dating back to 1754. The Town Hall is accessible to people with disabilities, and improvements completed in 2005 resulted in vastly improved facilities for the meeting, as well as for the assembly of Town Committees and organizations.



### **Town Offices (Sam Lake House)**

The renovated Town Offices (Sam Lake House) are located at 10 Hackleboro Road. Residing within the Town Offices are the Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Town Administration, Assessing, Code Enforcement, and others. The historic Sam Lake house is adjacent to a fire pond and the property includes a field of solar panels.

### **TOWN ANNUAL EXPENDITURES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**

The Town approves their annual budget and expenditures at Town Meeting which is stated in their Annual Report along with all Department, Board and Committee activities every calendar year. At the 1996 Town Meeting, the voters authorized the Planning Board to prepare and amend a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) pursuant to New

Hampshire RSA 674:5-8. A CIP is a schedule that projects future municipal expenditures for necessary capital improvements over a typically six-year period to accommodate changing needs of the community. The six (6) year CIP is intended to be amended annually. The purpose of the CIP is to recognize and resolve deficiencies in existing recreational opportunities and community facilities on an annual basis and to anticipate and meet the future demand for capital expenditures, including the replacement of Town vehicles and equipment, renovating Town buildings, producing engineering studies, purchasing land for expansion or conservation, and more.

Every community needs a Capital Improvements Program to help with the long-term planning of budgets and facilities. The last CIP was produced in 2012, although in 2019 Town administration worked with Department heads for project updates for presentation to the Budget Committee. The CIP update is scheduled to be completed in early 2025.

### **ELKINS PUBLIC LIBRARY**

The library at 9 Center Road provides materials and informational services to all community residents to fulfill their educational and recreational needs. Special emphasis has been placed on being an educational support center and in stimulating young children's interest in reading and learning. Elkins Library serves as a center for the intellectual growth of the community. The Elkins Library has a small



meeting room available to Town groups on an “as available” basis. The library is governed by a Board of Trustees. Its official website is <https://elkinspubliclibrary.org> and it maintains an active Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ElkinsPublicLibraryNH>.

The Library Director maintains and publishes weekly notices by email to those who sign up, with the list at nearly 1,500 recipients to date. In addition to the Director, the library has four other employees: a circulation manager, a youth services librarian, and two circulation librarians. The Elkins Public Library has a capacity of about 130 people and has been unofficially designated a “cooling shelter” due to the air conditioning that can encourage people to drop in and get out of extreme heat weather. The library’s collection is at 18,942 materials as listed in the 2023 Library Director’s Report. Patron visits reached 14,130 participants in 2023, up 35% from 2022. With the placement of the new Elkins Public Library in the Town Center, it is an attraction for all ages open five days per week, Mondays and Tuesdays 9-5, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9-7, and Saturdays 9-12. Free Wi-Fi is available 24/7 outside the Library and laptops are available for use indoors. The Friends of Elkins Public Library (FOEPL) are volunteers who serve as a connecting link between the library and community and always welcome new members and ideas for the upcoming year. One recent accomplishment is the placement of a Discover Book bin outside the library to recycle used and worn books for

redistribution to underserved communities including schools, retirement facilities and hospitals in urban areas.

Library Budget, 2018-2023

Year	Budget	Percent Change
2020	\$221,075.00	-
2021	\$198,005.00	-10.4%
2022	\$236,996.00	19.7%
2023	\$259,258.00	9.4%

### LIBRARY SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Competitive wages to retain staff is a priority for patrons. The Town Library employees receive support and conduct outreach work with Granite Visiting Nurse Association, ServiceLink, and other agencies to provide wellness programs, education, and enrichment year-round. Another priority for the library is to increase its funding; the addition of which would promote growth and expand on an already robust schedule of programming, focused on residents of all ages. According to the 2022 Institute of Museum and Library Services Annual Report, Elkins Public Library provided 2,498 service hours to the community, with a total attendance of 2,422 residents at weekly and special library programming. In the past, blood drives have been held at the library. However, most recently they have been held in the Parish Hall, with church involvement.

## TRANSFER STATION, RECYCLING PROGRAM AND LANDFILL

Solid waste is of tremendous concern in Canterbury. The Transfer Station at 83 Baptist Road is situated on over 6 acres of land and accepts a wide range of recyclables. The transfer station is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 6:45 PM, and on Saturdays 8:00 AM to 5:45 PM. Recycling is mandatory in Canterbury and residents use a pay-as-you-throw program, with the purchase of bags available at the Town Office, Transfer Station and Shaw's in Concord. Upgraded equipment, such as new balers, may be necessary to maintain operations with the influx of recyclables. Tipping fees increased from \$74.70 to \$85.00 per ton, and the new state mandated groundwater testing for PFAS has increased in cost as well. Staff includes a part-time Transfer Station Manager (who works with the Highway Department part-time), and two transfer station employees. Assistance from the Highway Department staff is provided as needed. The official website can be found at: <https://www.canterburynh.gov/transfer-station>.

To determine the future of solid waste and recycling in Canterbury, the Solid Waste Committee is conducting research to assess options and goals for the Town's Transfer Station and recycling program. Considerations include budgeting, building expansion, compactor issues, composting and recycling advocacy, office building, green bag issues, and staffing. The Transfer Station is situated, in-

part, atop of the Town's old landfill, with landfill closure to occur in the future. A Transfer Station Upgrade Capital Reserve Fund is in place to save for various aspects of the transfer station. The topic of future household hazardous waste (HHW) collections has also been discussed, and options include joining with other communities to share costs and administration duties.

## TRANSFER STATION, RECYCLING PROGRAM AND LANDFILL SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

The Town recently invested in upgraded recycling, with the new baler up and running as of fall 2023. Transfer station staff and highway employees are trained on the operations of the baler, and only baled cardboard is accepted by the vendor. In the future, plastic and mixed paper will also be baled. The financial aspects of recycling are a key issue. A long-term goal is to host a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, every two years, with the aid of grant funding. In 2022, \$1,000 was set aside in the Capital Reserve Fund for landfill closure, and the implementation of future needs may benefit greatly from an even larger annual deposit.

## TOWN CEMETERIES

Canterbury has 33 documented historic family and community cemeteries, of which the Town maintains 27. Only one of these cemeteries, Maple Grove Cemetery, has ample available space for future interments. In 2010,

Cemetery	Size (acres)	Location	Map Lot #	New Interment Capacity
Lyford Cemetery	0.08	Shaker Road	101 073 0	0
Center Cemetery	2.4	Center Road	107 029 0	0
Matthews Cemetery	0.04	Baptist Hill Road	208 018 0	0
Smith Morrill Cemetery	0.05	Borough Road	221 014 0	0
Brown Cemetery	0.04	Asby Road	227 006 0	0
Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery	0.52	Baptist Hill Road	229 004 0	Yes - TBD
Osgoodite Family Cemetery	0.11	Borough Road	232 008 0	0
Maple Grove Cemetery	6.20	Baptist Hill Road	241 023 0	Yes - TBD
Kimball II West Cemetery	0.08	Pickard Road	253 039	0

Canterbury’s burial rate remained consistent at six to eight interments a year. At that time, it was expected that there would be enough burial space for many years into the future. In 2023, there were 16 deaths registered in the Town of Canterbury for the year ending December 2023.

Cemeteries are overseen by the three Cemetery Trustees and a cemetery historian. A cemetery sexton in Canterbury records burials and manages daily operations. The list of Town-owned cemeteries referenced in the 2023 Annual report are tabulated below. The location of all 33 cemeteries in Town can be found on the Community Facilities Map.

#### CEMETERIES SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

The Town wants to develop engineering, surveying, wetlands mapping, permitting and conceptual design of a second entrance to Maple Grove Cemetery to create access off Baptist Hill Road. A new entrance was created at the Shell Meetinghouse Cemetery to provide access to lower topography, creating an opportunity to inter cremains in a previously inaccessible area.

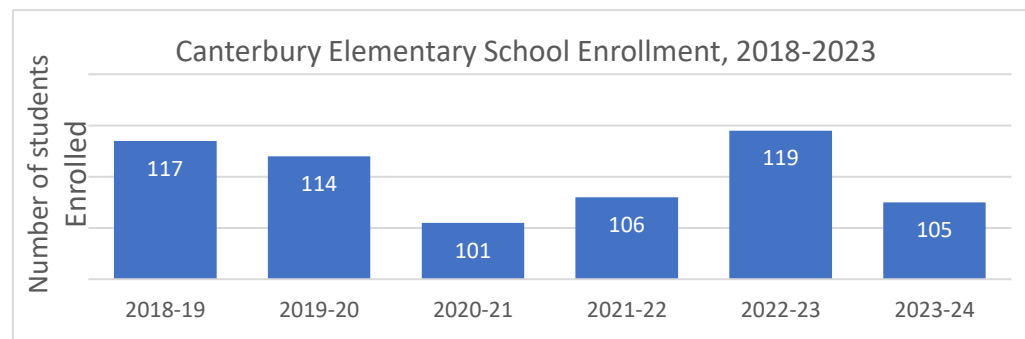
## CANTERBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Canterbury has been part of the Shaker Regional School District, School Administrative Unit 80 (SAU 80) with the Town of Belmont since 1971. The K-5 Canterbury Elementary School at 15 Baptist Road, originally constructed in the 1950s was enlarged with an addition in 1991. Middle and high school students attend classes in Belmont. The Elementary School’s website is at <https://ces.sau80.org> while Shaker Regional School District’s website is <https://www.sau80.org>.

In the mid-late 2000s, enrollment was at an all-time high at nearly 140 students, but in recent years enrollment has declined. According to NH Department of Education enrollment and SAU 80 monthly reports, over the past six years, enrollment in Canterbury Elementary School has decreased by almost 11% as shown by the figure below, although it appears to be stabilizing at around 112-118 enrollees by 2024.

### SCHOOL SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

While overall numbers are in decline, the SAU 80 reports that there is an increased need for special education paraprofessional support, as well as behavioral management support for students in preschool through first grade. The Canterbury Elementary School has limited space for small group work, and there is an overlap between art and music classes due to shared space with multiple grade



levels. Additionally, there is inadequate accessibility for children with disabilities, limited conference and office space, and no staff room. There is also a general and decided lack of storage space; whether that be for heating/instructional materials, hallway space for student clothing, backpacks, lunchboxes, extra footwear, etc. – all of which must currently be stored in the classroom.

The Canterbury Elementary School’s functional capacity is sufficient, however, with a projected functional capacity for 147 students per a SAU 80 contractor study.

### UTILITIES

Available utilities in Canterbury are comprised of electric, natural gas, telephone, internet and a small municipal water system in the Town Center that serves only those Town-owned buildings.

## ELECTRICAL & NATURAL GAS SERVICE

The electrical suppliers in Canterbury are Eversource Electric, NH Electric Co-operative, and Unitil. Natural gas is supplied by Liberty Utilities. Eversource serves 554 customers within the geographic easterly section of Town, from its southeastern border with Loudon to its northern border with Northfield. Unitil serves 648 customers in the western section of Town from Exit 17 east to New Road, Morrill Road, north to Borough Road and west to the Canterbury rest area on I-93 and crossing to the Merrimack River just across from the Merrimack County Nursing Home in Boscawen, then south along the Merrimack River back to Exit 17. NH Electric Cooperative serves only 76 customers in Canterbury located in the northeastern corner of the Town. Liberty Utilities natural gas service is supplied to Concord, Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Loudon and Northfield but neither the number of customers nor the area served is obtainable for communities. Natural gas is typically used to heat homes and hot water, which can also be accomplished by deliveries of heating oil and propane from area companies. Woodstove heating is often used as a backup source during power outages.

Solar energy is popular in Canterbury, used by the Town and by residents. Residents can install small solar arrays on their roofs or ground mounted to power homes and feed electricity back to the grid under net metering. One of the earliest adopters of solar energy, in 2010 the Town began its

set up of the first of two arrays, with a field of solar panels at the Municipal Building (26 Baptist Road) property to partly power the Municipal Building, fire, police and highway. A second array was established at the Town offices (Sam Lake House), which supplies power to the town offices, library, and more.

## ENERGY

Canterbury has a long history of and interest in energy conservation and renewable energy development. At this point in history and in the interest of future generations, the Town is ready to establish long range energy goals. Two Town committees of volunteers are currently focused on creating and sustaining energy conservation and development programs: the Energy Committee and the Canterbury Community Power Committee (CCPC). The Energy Committee is working with residents to improve energy efficiency in their homes through both education and weatherization projects. The CCPC is involved in the development of renewable municipal energy sources and storage systems for Town buildings and eventually for those of residents and businesses.

However, such a scattergun approach to improving Canterbury's energy future is less effective than a coordinated, long-term drive toward a stated goal.

The Energy Committee and the CCPC propose that the Town establish itself as an energy-conscious community by

adopting the following goals to be accomplished by December 31, 2034:

1. Convert to 100% renewable energy used for its buildings and lighting, and work towards the generation of enough renewable energy in Canterbury to support future Electric Vehicle (EV) needs.
2. Complete the transition of its municipal fleet to 100% electric vehicles.
3. Create local energy storage systems to supply 100% back up power to all residents and businesses.
4. Conduct energy audits and complete any required retrofitting of all municipal buildings.
5. Consider establishing an electricity generation trust fund to be available to the business and residential community for the purpose of purchasing new energy technology.
6. Adopt building standards and develop financial incentives programs that promote higher energy efficiency standards in residential dwellings and other buildings. In addition, educate residents about the responsible use of energy.
7. Create new landowner policies that would encourage the installation of solar farms.

8. Develop a set of data to be updated annually that quantifies energy used by homes and businesses and tallies percentages of buildings with PV solar, heat pump installations, EV charging stations and other energy related technologies.
9. Encourage the development of EV fast chargers in key locations in Canterbury.
10. Set energy reduction targets based on the above data.

The above goals and objectives for reaching them have been proposed by both committees over the past two years. Further details about how these goals might be achieved are available in Appendix 1.

#### ELECTRICAL, NATURAL GAS, AND ENERGY SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Large-scale solar arrays for the Town buildings and a Community Power group electric service for residents and businesses may be solid options for the future of renewable energy and the ability to obtain electricity at a reasonable, lower cost. Economic development will only be possible with appropriate electrical services.

#### WATER AND SEWER

There is one small municipal water system in the Town Center that serves only those Town-owned buildings. Two municipal wells, one serving the Municipal Building at 26 Baptist Road and one serving the Sam Lake House water

system are present in Town. All public buildings that serve 25 or more people will have a community water system as registered by NHDES, like the Canterbury Elementary School. The new Exit 17 development will have a registered water system and its sewer system may tie into Concord's wastewater system. Whether a private or community water system, PFAS and groundwater contaminants can be present.

There is no municipal water or wastewater treatment system in Canterbury. There are community septic systems in the Town Center. The rest of Canterbury is served by private drinking water wells and private septic systems.

#### WATER AND SEWER SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

The recent visioning session indicated that if water and sewer infrastructure were to be expanded, the most likely area would be in the vicinity of Exit 17; through an agreement with the City of Concord to extend services into Canterbury.

#### TELEPHONE SERVICE AND BROADBAND INTERNET

The telephone company in Canterbury is Consolidated Communications; a fiber optic provider of landline telephone, television and internet service. The primary cellular access is provided by AT & T Services which owns a telecommunications tower and antenna array on Borough Road. Reportedly, most of Canterbury should receive 4G/LTE service, yet discussions with Town Departments,

emergency responders, and by resident survey indicate cell coverage is inadequate depending on topography or weather conditions. The SBA telecommunications tower with its three antenna arrays are located at 129 Intervale Road is mainly used for emergency services repeaters. Broadband internet does not currently cover the entire Town and is supplied by Comcast, which may also offer "soft phone" or voice over internet protocol (VOIP) coverage depending on the personal software used. Greater access to high-speed internet and cellular services are a high priority of Canterbury residents and Town Departments. It is understood that Comcast is planning in the next year to extend broadband internet service to areas not yet served.

#### TELEPHONE SERVICE AND BROADBAND INTERNET SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Canterbury requires better access to high-speed internet while recognizing additional infrastructure cost may be incurred. Much of the fiber optic cabling is in place, yet its functionality and reliability are noted as inadequate. The need for full cellular coverage across the entire Town has been repeated for over a decade but with little result. Attracting the location of additional telecommunications towers and cellular providers to areas of "dead zones" is necessary for the Town's residents, emergency services, and businesses. Consideration for maintaining aesthetics and community character will also be required and may be addressed by updating the Zoning Ordinance provisions.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND STAFFING

A volunteer Recreation Committee serves Canterbury by organizing activities for younger residents including Halloween Candy Stops, Canterbury Youth Soccer for pre-k through grade 5 children, in 2023 summer Caramba Soccer Camp and for maintenance of the Town Beach at Riverland Conservation Area. A Basketball League and a Ski Program have been implemented in past years. Parks and Recreation operates under a small budget of less than \$4,000 annually.

With the community's rural characteristics, there are multiple four-season recreational opportunities in Canterbury. The Merrimack River forms the western border with the Town of Boscawen and provides the official Town access point at the Riverland Conservation Area, mostly for swimming, although carry-in canoes could be launched. With such a long river corridor, additional access points for all types of active water recreation such as a boat launch and fishing may be sought. An emphasis should be placed on the importance of water safety and preparedness for the river's strong undercurrents; and acknowledgement given to the presence of drowning risk in the absence of due diligence. The Town has posted signage and has an emergency life ring at the Riverland Conservation Area. Canterbury's primary built recreational facilities are the hiking trails on conservation areas maintained by the Conservation Commission and on the snowmobile trails over private land maintained by the NH Sno-Shakers. In the

winter months, the snowmobile club operates a clubhouse and a large network of trails for snowmobile enthusiasts and cross-country skiers. The unique 2021 Canterbury Tales and Trails guide available on the Elkins Library website and in print narrates trails-goers around more than 30 trails, many with cultural sites and surprises. The official Committee webpage is available at <https://www.facebook.com/Canterburyrec603> while the Town's page is at <https://www.canterburynh.gov/conservation-commission>.

## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND STAFFING OVERALL SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Public opinion agrees solutions regarding recreational opportunities should be "Canterbury specific." The Conservation Commission has expressed interest in regional trails connections and utilizing trails to entice economic growth. With local trails management, landowners would have an outlet to address concerns if there were trails-related issues. When there is interest, recreational programs such as the basketball and ski programs could be reestablished.

## CANTERBURY SHAKER VILLAGE

Located on 288 Shaker Road, Canterbury Shaker Village is an internationally-known non-profit museum founded in 1969 to preserve the heritage of the Canterbury Shakers. Designated as a National Historic Landmark for its



architectural integrity and significance, the Village has 25 restored original Shaker buildings, 4 reconstructed Shaker buildings, and 694 acres of forests, fields, gardens, nature trails, and mill ponds under permanent conservation easement. Tours, programs, exhibits, and events help visitors chart their journey through the Shaker values of simplicity, caring, and community. Their website is <https://www.shakers.org>.

A map of Recreation Facilities, Conservation Areas and Trails is included with this chapter and more information regarding trails and walkability can be found in the Transportation Chapter.

### HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Canterbury's Historic District Commission (HDC) was established to oversee the architectural style of Canterbury Center in the Center Historic District (CHD) zone and the Shaker Village Historic Overlay District zone to ensure the historic character remains true and consistent over time as found in rural New England villages. Exterior standards are regulated in the two Historic Districts and the HDC must approve any historic structure demolitions, new construction, change in natural features, or renovations.

The HDC is responsible for overseeing the Historic District Zoning Ordinance (Article 13) and is working to update their review guidelines and application for approval along with new regulations pertaining to the Historic Districts. The

guidelines include removal of mature trees, fences and walls, outdoor lighting, outbuildings and other features of the historic properties.

### CONSERVATION AREAS

The Conservation Commission continues its interest in conserving property with ecological value in perpetuity by deed restriction. The Town owns or has an easement on about 1,100 acres of high-value conservation areas in Canterbury, including the Robert S. Fife Conservation Area (49 acres), Merrimack River Conservation Area (600+ acres), Muchyedo Banks Wildlife Management Area (291 acres), Spender Meadow (118 acres), and Sloping Acres Farm (37 acres). Many other properties such as Kimball Pond Conservation Area, Deepwood Forest, Canterbury Town Forest, Rocky Pond Forest, Schoodac Conservation Area, Shaker Village and more protect the natural woodland features, wetlands and wildlife habitat of the Town.

The Land Use Change Tax fund enables savings toward the purchase of conservation property or easements. The balance of the Conservation Commission Fund is \$288,973.31. Many of the conservation areas located in Canterbury are designated as easements, or fee-owned properties held by public land trust holders such as the Five Rivers Trust, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, The Nature Conservancy, Shaker Village, and

others. Those conservation properties under the Town’s ownership or holding must be monitored annually by the Conservation Commission. More information about Canterbury’s conservation areas is found in the Natural Features chapter of the Master Plan.

### CONSERVATION AREAS SUMMARY OF FUTURE NEEDS

Land conserved in perpetuity cannot be developed, and there remains great interest in identifying and protecting the highest value conservation areas. Conservation priorities desired by the community include preserving agricultural land, retaining large blocks of unfragmented land, preserving wildlife corridors, restricting development in wetlands, and preserving open space.

### OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Objective 1 - Promote planning and implementation measures related to the Town's infrastructure**

- Continue to evaluate options for obtaining widely available high-speed internet access, as well as address the need to increase reliable cellular service in town. *Community-wide broadband is expected to be available by the end of 2024.*
- Continue to support Community Power options via the newly formed Community Power Committee

with the goal of reducing electrical costs for all Canterbury customers.

- Attract telecommunications tower and cellular providers to rural locations in Canterbury to provide complete cellular coverage across the community and update the Zoning Ordinance to ensure easier location and placement towers while blending with rural characteristics.

#### **Objective 2 - Undertake long-range planning, testing and survey tasks to prepare for future needs.**

- Develop the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) with annual updates to transparently engage in long-term planning for community facility and capital needs projects.
- Continue to assess Canterbury's waste management and recycling program, including potential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections.
- Promote regular water quality testing for contaminants and PFAS-type chemicals by residents at their homes and report the results of the Town water systems and Transfer Station monitoring well testing.