



View into the village



Dustin Park from Park St

## PITTSFIELD MASTER PLAN



2010



Agricultural View



Youth involved in patriotic fashion

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## Dedication

The Master Plan is dedicated to the many volunteers that serve on boards, committees, and commissions that guide Pittsfield's government in the performance of its obligation to the citizens of the Town. We recognize the volunteers who make the flower baskets each spring and keep them watered through the summer, the volunteers who put up the American Flags that adorn the downtown on holidays, who maintain the flower beds, help the Senior Center, Youth Workshop and Balloon Rally. We thank you for your time energy, hard work, sacrifice in support of one another and our Town.

## Acknowledgements

The Master Plan involves gathering information from many aspects of the town. The assistance of Town employees, business leaders, committee members and citizens has been critical and without their help the project would not have been possible. There is no way to fully acknowledge the time, effort and assistance each has played.

Master Plan Committee: Each of these individuals has given countless hours of their time and made personal sacrifices to participate. They have contributed knowledge, experience and a positive attitude about the town.

Members Include:

Paul Metcalf

Ralph Odell

Helen Schoppmeyer

Dan Schroth- Planning Board Representative

Merrill Vaughan

Susan Muenzinger- actively involved citizen- non member

Others Involved in the Past:

Mike Cyr

Daniel Greene

Fred Hast

Tom Hitchcock

Town Employees

Elizabeth Hast

Cara Marston

Police Chief- Robert Wharem  
Fire Chief- Gary Johnson  
Public Works- George Bachelder  
Waste Water Treatment- Ronald Vien  
BCEP- Earl Weir  
Welfare Department- Betsey Booth  
Recreation Department- Kathleen Boudreau  
Town Web Site- Bob Legg (photo)  
Linda Small  
Larry Konopka  
Diane Vaughan  
Bill Provencal  
Beth Odell  
Christopher Odell  
Matthew Odell

Each of these individuals has played a role in helping to identify the past events and prepare this document.



## Introduction

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Planning Boards are required to prepare a Master Plan (RSA 674:1) to guide the development of the community. The Master Plan can include topics that relate to town growth and development, but it must address the following areas.

- a. A vision section
- b. Land use section

The plan may include areas such as:

- 1. Transportation
- 2. Housing
- 3. Economic Development
- 4. Natural Resources
- 5. Recreation
- 6. Community Facilities
- 7. Education
- 8. Implementation

It is recommended that the plan be reviewed every 5-10 years. After acceptance of the Master Plan by the Planning Board, a Capital Improvement Plan may be developed, projecting for a period six years into the future. An approved Master Plan is required to produce a Capital Improvement Plan.

The most recent Master Plan was produced in 2000. The document was a major undertaking and was complete. The detail and specific nature of the document sets a high standard for future reports. Many of the details, descriptions, maps, and analyses have not changed since 2000.

A Master Plan Committee was created and composed of citizen volunteers and a representative from the Planning Board. The committee identified that a series of priorities existed.

- a. A quality of life for citizens of all ages needs to be maintained.
- b. An education system where young people can develop their academic potential and prepare themselves for productive lives needs to exist.
- c. Property taxes should not put undue financial pressure on its citizens.
- d. The town should have economic, social, and cultural opportunities for citizens of all ages.
- e. The unique qualities of the town's history as well as its natural and physical setting should be maintained to be enjoyed by the people of Pittsfield.

Looking at each topic, it is obvious that much of the data is unchanged from the 2000 Master Plan. Using the 2000 report as a foundation, data has been updated and changes have been identified. This report represents an update of the 2000 Master Plan, reflecting changes over the past few years and trends and issues that have developed.

# Demographics

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## Pittsfield



Pittsfield, incorporated in 1782, has a history of families, commerce and community activities. The town has numerous features that interact with its past, impact upon its make-up, and lead to the future. It is located in the northeast corner of Merrimack County, crossed by two State highways, Rt. 28 and Rt. 107. It is located within easy commute to major commercial locations, government centers and recreational areas. Flight travel is available by municipal airports in Concord, Laconia and Rochester and by commercial flights from Manchester and Boston.

Pittsfield is one of the more densely populated communities in the county, with a density of approximately 166 people per square mile.

The majority of the population is located in the downtown area, surrounded by forested and rural areas. The



Suncook River winds through town with walking trails along the river. Glimpses of the town's history can be seen in the parks, buildings, and memorials.

Each community has assets that give it unique character and opportunity for the future.

- Pittsfield is the only community in the area with a downtown.



- A high level of volunteerism exists
- A dedicated staff of municipal, town, and school employees serve the residents.
- It has a municipal water supply for the commercial and downtown areas.
- An efficient waste water treatment facility serves the town.
- Numerous community events occur throughout the year.
- A regional waste disposal/recycling center efficiently serves the town.

Every community faces challenges as it attempts to develop a plan that addresses the greater needs and desires of its residents. This chapter will examine various trends and changes since the last master plan.

### Population Characteristics

The age distribution of a community is an important characteristic. This data is useful in long range planning for areas such as schools, recreation needs, and other community services. The information is also useful as a comparison to neighboring communities and indicates the type of changes that are occurring within the town and the area. The following information gives a brief summary of the demographic characteristics and economic profile of Pittsfield.

## Population Trends

The following chart indicates the population growth within the town since 1790.

Table 1.1

Population of Pittsfield 1790 to 2004

Year	Population	% of Change	NH % of Change
1790	888		
1800	987	11.1	
1810	1005	1.8	16.9
1820	1178	17.2	14.5
1830	1271	7.9	9.6
1840	1719	35.2	5.6
1850	1828	6.3	8.6
1860	1838	.5	2.8
1870	1600	-12.9	2.5
1880	1974	23.4	8.8
1890	2605	32.0	8.7
1900	2129	-18.3	9.4
1910	2222	4.4	7.1
1920	1914	-13.9	3.0
1930	2018	5.4	5.3
1940	2183	8.2	5.6
1950	2321	7.2	8.6
1960	2419	4.2	13.8
1970	2517	4.0	21.5
1980	2889	14.8	24.8
1990	3701	28.1	20.5
2000	3996	8.0	8.3
2004	4307	7.7	5.2

Information presented for the year 2004 is based on the NH Office of Energy and Planning publication, 2005

The data above indicates a general increase in growth and does not directly follow the State trends. It could be assumed that specific economic, geographic, or community changes were associated with these differences in growth.

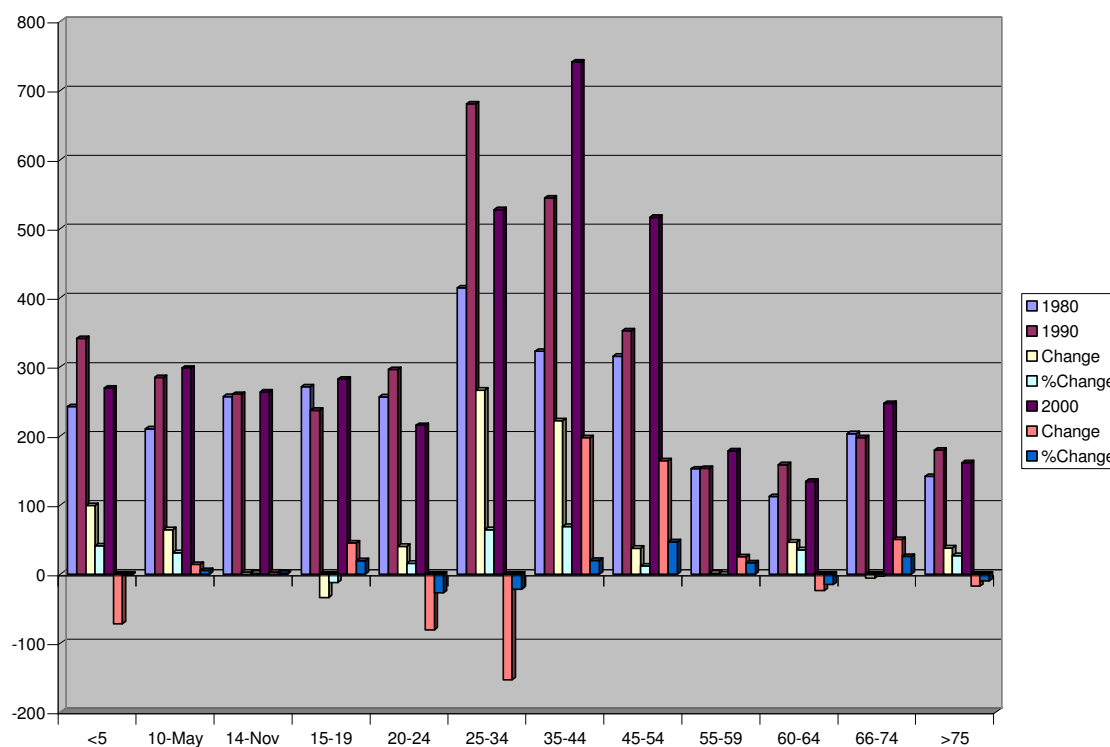
## Pittsfield- Count of People by Age

Identifying the distribution of the town's residents by age and gender is very useful in planning for schools and other community services.

Table 1.2

Age	1980	1990	Change	%Change	2000	Change	%Change
<5	242	341	99	40.9	269	-72	-2.1
5-10	210	284	64	30.9	298	14	4.9
11-14	257	260	3	1.1	263	3	1.1
15-19	271	237	-34	-12.5	282	45	18.9
20-24	256	296	40	15.6	215	-81	-27.3
25-34	414	680	266	64.2	527	-153	-22.5
35-44	322	544	222	68.9	741	197	19.7
45-54	315	352	37	11.7	516	164	46.5
55-59	152	153	1	.06	178	25	16.3
60-64	112	158	46	35	134	-24	-15.1
66-74	203	197	-6	-2.9	247	50	25.3
>75	141	179	38	26.9	161	-18	-9.9

Source: US Census



The table and graph indicates a decline in infants being born and of school age children, which has an impact upon school

administrative plans. We can also see a decline in the number of individuals 20-34 over the past twenty years. The growth that is occurring is the age group of 35 and older.

### Population Projections

New Hampshire has been faced with population growth for the past few decades, a fact that is a concern of planners and residents. The following information is prepared by the NH Office of Energy and Planning based on projected increases in year-round residents. It is projected that Pittsfield will grow at a rate of 2.6%-4.8% per decade, lower than the county average.

Table 1.3  
Pittsfield, Merrimack County, New Hampshire  
Population Estimates 2003-2225

	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Pittsfield	4,230	4,340	4,600	4,879	5,120	5,400
County (1000's)		147	157	166	175	184
State (1000's)	1,288	1,318	1,393	1,463	1,528	1,593

NH Office of Energy and Planning

The Office of Energy and Planning is basing their projections on two assumptions. First, the decentralization of the US that has been occurring for several years will continue. Secondly, the growth in New Hampshire is a forty-year trend. This trend is based upon a projected number of people wanting to move into the state and by examining historical growth of each county. The projected growth of towns again follows historical data and does not take into consideration social and economic stimuli within the counties or towns.

Table 1.4

## Population Trends of Pittsfield and Surrounding Towns

Town	2003	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Barnstead Change %	4,304	4,760 320 7.4%	5,100 340 7.1%	5,430 330 6.4%	5,730 300 5.5%	6,040 310 5.4%
Chichester Change %	2,440	2,500 60 2.4%	2,660 160 6.4%	2,820 160 6.0%	2,980 160 5.6%	3,150 170 5.7%
Epsom Change %	4,380	4,490 110 2.4%	4,760 270 6.0%	5,030 270 5.6%	5,290 260 5.1%	5,570 280 5.2%
Gilmanton Change %	3,310	3,560 250 7.5%	3,830 270 7.5%	4,080 250 6.5%	5,120 240 5.8%	5,400 240 4.6%
Pittsfield Change %	4,230	4,340 110 2.6%	4,600 270 6.2%	4,870 260 5.6%	5,120 260 5.3%	5,400 270 5.2%
Northwood Change %	3,780	3,850 70 1.8%	4,120 270 7.0%	4,340 220 5.3%	4,530 190 4.3%	4,730 200 4.4%

Taken from Data NH Office of Energy and Planning

Table 1.5

## Pittsfield- Educational Attainment

	Pittsfield	County	New Hampshire
Less than High School	21.2 %	11.8%	12.6%
High School	78.8%	88.2%	87.4%
Bachelors or Greater	13.1%	29.1%	28.7%

US Gov. Census Fact Finder 2002

Educational attainment is often used as a potential indicator of future economic and personal income potential of the students within the school. The data presented shows a lower level of educational attainment by students within the Pittsfield School system. Long term, these individuals may be under employable to their true potential leading to economic and social issues for the community.

## Pittsfield- Income Characteristics

The following charts indicate family and individual income trends with a comparison to surrounding communities, county and state. Overall, Pittsfield residents show a level of under employment and income potential. These indicators may again, indicate larger social and economic issues for the community.

Table 1.6

### Individual Income 2000

	Pittsfield	County	New Hampshire
Median Household Income (\$)	33,883	48,552	49,467
Median Family Income (\$)	44,233		57,575
Per Capita Income (\$)	21,082	23,208	23,844
Individual Below Poverty Level	202 (11.7%)	8800 (6.3%)	13,948 (4.3%)

US Census Bureau 2000

Table 1.7

### Economic Characteristics of NH Communities

	Median Family Income(\$)	Rank	Per Capita Income (\$)	Median Household Income (\$)	Rank	Percent in Poverty **	Rank
Barnstead	49,404	84	19,986	47,449	119	3.80	61
Gilmanton	51,712	102	23,163	50,542	148	5.86	121
Chichester	52,418	112	21,976	42,447	76	7.95	174
Epsom	56,875	142	22,026	50,685	152	3.11	43
Loudon	59,096	153	24,673	55,185	172	6.07	126
Northwood	53,953	122	21,491	50,675	151	4.22	78
Pittsfield	44,233	41	21,082	38,833	48	8.77	187

Census 2000

\* Rank is based upon communities within the State of New Hampshire

\*\*Percent of Households

## Volunteerism

The list of individuals who volunteer their time and expertise to various activities is significant. The town has numerous community wide events, activities for special group, and committees that provide assistance to the town. These activities provide unique experiences and add character to the town. The contributions by these citizens are a resource “which may be taken for granted”.

New England is experiencing many young people leaving the area with adults and “empty nesters” making up a larger portion of the population. This mature age group is being



viewed as a resource having skills, energy, interest in their communities and potential time to serve in various capacities. Today, we see this happening when we look at the make-up of the volunteer activities. These talents may be better utilized and should be looked upon as an important resource in all areas of the community.

## Summary

The statistical information is an overview of trends in Pittsfield. Identification of the causes of these trends is beyond the scope of this document and we can only hypothesize what they may lead to. But looking at the information we can identify areas that have impact within the town.

Growth- The demographics indicate that a growth in the

number of individuals over 40 can be expected and a decline in individuals 20-40 years of age.

This information is based upon regional projections. Economic and demographic factors can cause shifts in the trends for example a number of foreclosures in Pittsfield in 2008 and potentially more senior citizens may want to move to Pittsfield.

Income averages and poverty levels when compared to county averages show a concern. A larger than average number of families are facing financial pressure with these homes, having different priorities than others within the town.





## Housing

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Housing is an integral component of a community's future and vitality. It provides a basic necessity for a family, represents a major family expense, and impacts upon overall direction of a community. The availability, type, cost, and uniqueness contribute to business and residential growth. New Hampshire has observed decades of growth based upon economic, quality of life and personal interests. Pittsfield has been a desirable community in which to build due to it's proximity to Concord and major highways. "Bedroom Towns" have occurred creating unique tax burdens and demands on community services. This chapter will attempt to identify past housing trends and potential opportunities for the future.

The demand for housing, can result in changes that are encompassing for the town. Taking existing land, often being subdivided, requires that the development be evaluated for its impact upon traffic flow, environmental concerns, septic design, impact upon neighbors and other issues. Developments can impact upon the greater community and the tax burden of the citizens.

Housing, new and existing, is examined by several groups within the town. The safety of residents and the community are the utmost concern of the fire department and health inspector being involved, following federal, state and

local guidelines. Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Building Inspector, and Housing Standards are also involved, again with their specific standards and guidelines. State agencies may also be involved depending on the size and scope of the development. The intent of this process is to support the positive growth of the Town of Pittsfield and insure the safety and well being of its residents. This process, although appearing to be involved should be efficient, not to hinder the needs of the citizens.

A common question many people ask is how much growth is actually occurring in Pittsfield? Population growth has been shown to be at five percent over the past five years. The building that has occurred shown in Table 2.1 has primarily been single family housing.

Table 2.1  
Housing Units by Type

Housing Type	1970	1980	1990	2000
Single Family	508	650	776	878
Multi-Family	309	330	591	576
Manufactured	50	62	160	118
TOTAL	867	1042	1527	1569

NH Office of Energy and Planning

Manufactured Housing includes mobile homes, trailers and "other" units such as house boats, railroad cars, campers and vans. Multi-family includes any structure containing two or more units.

**Table 2.2**  
**Building Permits Pittsfield**

Housing Type	Years							
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Single Family	36	40	32	35	32	23	12	9
Multi Family	-1			-3	3	1	4	1
Manufactured	0	1	0	1	-3	0	6	1
Increased units	35	41	32	33	32	24	22	11

Building Inspectors Reports  
 Manufactured Housing- see note above.  
 NH Office of Energy and Planning  
 Pittsfield Town Report 2006,2007

Table 2.3 examines the growth of Pittsfield compared to surrounding towns. Pittsfield has had a lower number of building permits and a smaller percent of permits issued in comparison to existing housing then surrounding town. What factors may be causing this lower growth rate are not immediately available, but Pittsfield is growing at an equal or slower rate of growth than surrounding towns. The number of permits issued is one of the criteria examined to identify if a growth ordinance should be put into place.

**Table 2.3**

**Building Permits**

	Housing Units					
	2000	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Barnstead	1994	50	136	89	33	33
Chichester	849	33	30	17	12	13
Epsom	1592	52	57	50	38	39
Gilmanton	1848	47	45	58	51	49
Loudon	1684	44	52	48	45	32
Northwood	1905	28	30	48	69	49
Pittsfield	1569	35	40	39	39	32
Strafford	1564	33	38	31	34	41
% Change		2.1%	2.49%	2.37%	2.32%	1.86%

Pittsfield  
 2/16/2005 Pittsfield Planning Board

Pittsfield has a large number of rental properties as indicated by Table 2.4.

**Table 2.4**  
**Household Occupancy 2000**

Town	Population	Units	Rental	Ave. Size Household	%Owned
Pittsfield	3931	1569	583	2.62	61.1
Barnstead	3886	1422	162	2.73	88.6
Chichester	2236	823	95	2.71	88.5
Epsom	4021	1492	282	2.62	81.1
Northwood	3640	1347	207	2.70	84.6
US Census 2000					

Issues have developed in some units as they are required to upgrade existing facilities to meet changing housing standards. Pittsfield has a higher percentage of rental units than is suggested by Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission. The large number of units and the concern about the condition of the units results in a larger than normal burden upon the town officials

Looking to the future a question many would ask would be, how much housing will we need? Projections made by the 2000 Master Plan have not been met. Realizing these are estimates, Table 2.5 provides the following projections.

**Table 2-5**  
**Projected Housing Needs**

Year	Population	Units Needed	Units (1%vacancy rentals)
2000	3931	1569	
2005	4340	1656	1662
2010	4600	1755	1761
2015	4870	1862	1869

Estimates : NH Office of Energy and Planning  
Based on 2.62 persons per household  
Assumption rental unit percentage stays the same

Residential construction has fluctuated over the past 16 years. Variables such as loan rates, employment opportunities, available land and other factors all can impact. Predicting the amount or type of new housing is difficult and the town has minimal impact on influencing these factors.

In 2008, the New Hampshire Legislature enacted a law that requires all municipalities to provide reasonable and realistic opportunities for workforce housing which is affordable to a household whose income is not greater than 100% of the medium income for a four person household in the county in which the housing is located; in this case the county medium household income was \$50,487 in 1999. Similarly, rental housing is affordable to a household whose income is no more than 60% of the medium household income for a 3 person household for the county in which the household is located. The recent legislative session extended the effective date of the legislation to January 1, 2010.

Since workforce housing must be allowed in at least 51% of residentially zoned land, the workforce housing legislation places a greater responsibility on municipalities to provide for affordable housing. In response to the law, the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) has revised its needs assessment report. A draft, Regional Housing Needs Assessment Report (06/11/09) suggests that Pittsfield's proportionate share of new, low income housing units range between 45-79 units, and 12-82 low income elderly units (65+).

According to the report Pittsfield has a total of 1498 owner and renter occupied housing units as of 2000, the renter occupied proportion being approximately 38% of the total units, the second largest in the region.

As discussed in the 2000 Master Plan, Pittsfield has 398 units more than the “the theoretical fair share” of affordable housing units recommended by the CNHRPC in the 1995 needs assessment report on affordable housing. Even though the 2009 report by CNHRPC does not address the “fair share” concept, it could be argued that Pittsfield still has a sufficient amount of affordable units in the number of renter and owner occupied housing. As of 2007 building permit data the number of rental units has increased slightly over the 576 units reported in 2000. In addition, the number of owner occupied units by housing type (single family and manufactured) has increased from 996 in 1990 to 1221 in 2007 (based on building permit data).

To insure compliance with the workforce housing statute, Pittsfield regulatory framework (zoning, site plan, subdivision and other provisions) must be reviewed for provisions that add to housing costs or which inhibit development of affordable housing throughout the town. It would appear that the definition of multifamily housing is adequate under the statute (3 or more units), however, such units are only allowed in the Urban District.

Many of the homes and buildings in the downtown area have a history, unique architecture, or notoriety. We often look at the superficial value of a building and not identify the uniqueness that it contributes to the town. A Heritage Commission should be reactivated to identify historic buildings and develop plans to enhance their role in the community.



Built 1700s (printed with permission of owner)

Demographics indicate that the population is aging in Pittsfield and surrounding areas. The need for adult and senior housing will increase. A need exists today, using Rolling Green as an indicator, an eight month or longer wait exists for apartments; for first floor residences the wait is



Renovated home now used for assisted living over a year.  
(printed owners permission)

Several common trends continue to exist. Affordable housing continues to be a need in southern New Hampshire. A variety of housing options need to be expanded, condominiums, higher density housing, and housing designed for different lifestyles and ages will not only provide for new



residents but allow current residents to stay in Pittsfield as circumstances change. Larger investment homes can be a positive contribution to a community because the tax revenue can be greater than their tax burden. Demographics indicate that “baby boomers” make up a large proportion of population leading to the fact that if new housing (new families) is not increased school enrollment will decline. (Housing and School Generation in New Hampshire)

### Summary

Housing is a necessity and a major cost, either ownership or rental. The cost of housing as a portion of wages, in New Hampshire, is one of the highest in the country. Several factors influence the type of housing people choose and where people live. Demographics indicate that young people move away from Pittsfield and older individuals move into town. Housing opportunities and the cost of housing could be a major influence. A variety of housing types could be expanded to meet the needs of the future.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to improve the condition and value of the housing supply in Pittsfield.
2. Reactivate a Heritage Commission and catalog existing structures that are fifty years old or older, classify existing structures into developmental stages of the town and to prioritize the structures within the town with regard to historic,

cultural and architectural value.

3. Utilize the recommendation of the Heritage Commission to promote improved maintenance of buildings identified for their cultural, historic or architectural value. Provide for a formal delay period before an historic structure can be demolished allowing for community input and alternatives discussed.
4. Encourage the renovation and convert multi-unit housing to elderly and assisted living units with the town and require these units to meet the standard established by the American Disabilities Act.
5. Discourage the existence of absentee landlords by providing incentives to owner-occupied rental units. Work with landlords and tenant groups to better maintain existing units and add incentives for landlords of multi-unit housing (3 or more units) to convert buildings to business uses.
6. Seek to revitalize, reuse, demolish or sell tax-deeded properties with restrictions aimed at improving property values.
7. Discourage the construction of additional apartments because a large percentage of these units already exist.
8. Periodically evaluate the existing housing supply to insure that the available housing provides a variety of housing styles and ownership forms to meet the needs of current and future residents.
9. Encourage the development of nursing homes or extended care facilities for the elderly.

10. Continue to promote the benefits of RSA 79E Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive to revitalize buildings in the downtown area.
11. Develop a strategy to insure compliance with the workforce housing statute by performing a regulator audit, evaluating compliance with the greater than 50% provision, and developing procedures for workforce housing applications.
12. Determine Pittsfield's "fair share" obligation using the assistance of CNHRPC.

# Transportation

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Parking Vehicle and pedestrian transportation essential for individual and economic vitality of a community. The residents expect easy accessibility with a minimal amount of disruption. The commitment of safety, maintenance and improvements fall upon the community. Public accessibility to transportation impacts upon energy conservation, attractiveness of the community to business and individuals without personal transportation.

Growth of a community and the quality of life is enhanced by a planned and safe traffic flow. Parking within a minimal walking distance to community activities is important to encourage participation. Accessibility for handicapped is legally and ethically mandatory. Sidewalks, bike and walking paths, and other means of transportation should be encouraged. These need to be in place allowing for the character of Pittsfield to be maintained.

## ROADS

Pittsfield has 67 miles of roads with 16 miles maintained by the State and 41 miles by the Town. The classification of roads is indicated by the following table.

Table 3.1

### Pittsfield Classification of Roads

Classification/Definition	Total Miles
Class I Primary State Highway	3.14 miles
Class II Secondary State Highway	13.02 miles
Class V All other Traveled Highways- Known as "Town Roads" maintained by town	42.42 miles
Class VI Discontinued Highways Subject to gates and bars	9.5 miles
Total	60.09 miles

2000 Master Plan with changes in past seven years Deer Meadow and Hilltop View

#### State Highway- Route 28

Route 28 is the primary route between Route 4 and the Lakes Region. It is a two lane, 50 MPH highway running north-south bisecting Pittsfield. The highway runs adjacent to the town with six unmarked intersections



Rt. 28 with shoulder

with local roads. A commercial business has added one more intersection, potentially leading to more traffic congestion. Safety is an issued with accidents and fatalities occurring. A turn lane have recently been added to the Concord Hill and Rt. 107 intersections with a light to added at the Rt. 107 /Rt. 28 intersection. The route is heavily traveled showing an increase in traffic flow of 3000 per day from 1986-1996 (1) and a 2200 per day increase between 1998- 2004 (32%) (2). Traffic flow is heaviest during daily commuting hours. Due to the accessibility to the

Lakes Region, vacationers increase traffic flow with peak travel on weekends. Time delays occur as individuals attempt to cross Rt. 28 or traffic backs up as people turn off Rt. 28 to enter side roads. The volume of traffic and the design of the intersections create a concern for safety.

### Route 107

Route 107 a State maintained highway is an east/west route traveling between Northwood and Barnstead. The traffic flow has approximately 4000 vehicles per day (Appendix 3-1) using the route. The traffic is primarily commuter traffic with less vacation and commercial traffic that would be found on Rt. 28. The road has numerous driveways and road



Rt. 107 limited shoulder winding

East to West through Pittsfield

intersections, limited shoulders and turn lanes. It has numerous picturesque settings, has numerous turns and travels over a variety of topography. Route 107 intersects downtown Pittsfield bringing traffic into town. Much of this traffic is commuting and not using Pittsfield as a destination. Much of the traffic either goes onto Carroll St. or continues on Rt. 107 to Barnstead.

## Town Roads

The Town maintains 41 miles of Road, 22 of which are unpaved.

The center of town is characteristic of streets laid out by the early residents without the insight of today's traffic and road

maintenance needs. These streets are part of the character

of the town but have limitations. Vehicle and pedestrian safety are concerns and we have an increasing traffic flow (appendix 3-1).

Unpaved roads add character with trees, stonewalls and unique scenery. Maintenance consists of grading, cleaning ditches, filling holes, brush removal plus winter snow removal. Snow removal is more difficult than on paved roads and sight distances are often limited reducing traffic safety. As new homes, including subdivisions are being built the question will develop, if major road improvements are needed. Paving has a high initial investment but with increasing traffic flow of over 200 vehicles per day the long-term investment of paving out weighs the maintenance costs.

## Sidewalks

Part of the atmosphere and the nostalgia of New England towns are sidewalks which provide the opportunity for leisurely walks. Sidewalks



Prescott Rd.- Unpaved adding character but routine maintenance is needed



are limited to the downtown area and extension of these may be valuable. Concern for energy conservation by vehicles and the lack of exercise by society would be addressed by more walking opportunities. Visitors to Pittsfield could enjoy the features of Pittsfield from a different view by walking. Several of the existing sidewalks need repair and do not meet handicap access requirements.

#### Alternative Transportation

Individuals within Pittsfield that are dependent upon public transportation have few options. A taxi is available for general transportation at a standard rate. The Community Action Bus is available for anyone 60+ of age or disabled for a donation of \$1.00. This service provides opportunities for individuals to get to Concord for appointments or other needs. The service is planning on reducing its hours due to a lack in demand. Capital Area Transit (CAT) which serves the greater Concord area has no service east of the Steeple Gate Mall and has no plans of expanding the service.

A study done in 1964 indicated a shortage of parking spaces in the downtown area. Buildings that are converted to apartments or for other business uses must provide adequate parking for their residents or customers on the existing lot. Main Street businesses utilize parking spaces on the street. If additional store fronts were occupied, more customers existed, or additional businesses developed the second and third floors of the buildings the street parking would not be sufficient and would potentially limit the growth



of these businesses. A survey of parking spaces (Appendix) indicates and accurate count and location of parking spaces. Examining the spaces that are available the number and construction do not meet guidelines set by the American Disabilities Act. Public buildings such as the Library have handicapped access but not parking for vehicles. Additional space exists which is unmarked and is presently being used. Parking within a reasonable walking distance to downtown areas is limited.

#### Summary:

Transportation impacts upon the town in several ways. There is an immediate need for safe efficient roads, sidewalks and paths. The usage and demands for these increases as well as maintenance costs. They provide unique experiences, views and settings which could be expanded and frustrations if they are not maintained. Energy and the cost of transportation are concerns of each of us. Available municipal transportation is limited with the long range need to be increased. The demands increase without financial solutions. Creative approaches need to be identified which can address the need, potentially lead to greater unity and pride within the community.

#### RECCOMENDATIONS;

1. Sidewalk maintenance should be improved and development within the downtown area should include the construction of sidewalks.
2. Require that new construction include sufficient new parking space with appropriate landscaping to provide visual screening and shade.

3. Encourage the Town to establish a capital reserve fund to purchase existing lots when they become available for the purpose of developing additional parking.

4. Develop handicapped accessible parking areas, number and size, as required by the American Disabilities Act.

#### Roads and Streets:

1. Assess the status of the 9.507 miles of class VI roads to determine whether they can safely be built upon, and to determine if any should be gated and barred in entirety or particular sections to minimize littering and vandalism.

2. Encourage the development of “scenic byways” as indicated by RSA 231:158.

3. Formalize a clean roads campaign to encourage citizen involvement in keeping roadways free of litter.

4. Evaluate the intersections and road conditions in town for safety and maintenance needs.

5. Develop a left turn lane at the intersection of RT. 28 and 107.

#### North/South

#### Parking:

1. Develop a lot off of Rt. 28 to be designated as a park and ride lot.

2. Create a parking needs committee to develop a long range plan for the development of the downtown area and the parking needs.

#### Alternative Transportation:

1. Evaluate opportunities for car pooling or alternate arrangements.

2. Encourage walking and bike paths where ever possible within the town.

3. Encourage the transportation options for citizens in need of public transportation.

## Appendix 3-2

### Downtown Parking Spaces

Main Street	Spaces
South side Joy to Blake St.	31
North side Joy to Broadway	65
Town Hall	24
Carroll St.	
East Side Main St. to Bridge	29
West Side Main St. to Bridge	38
Private lot east side	28
Depot St.	
South side Carroll to Green St.	15
North Side Carroll to Green St.	11
Private lot north side	26
Elm St.	
East side Green to Main St.	7
West side Green to Main St.	12
Private lot Postal Service	14
Private lot east side	18
Private lot west side	10
Park St.	
South to North	12
Cram Ave.	
South side	6
Broadway	
West side private lot	10
Possible Catamount St. Entrance	6
Chestnut St.	
East side Main to Green St.	13
East side Private lot	30
Water St.	
Near Dam	3
River Rd.	
South side near Water St.	10
Catamount St.	
South side	7
North side	7
Private lot north side	58
Private lot south side	15
Fayette St.	
Lot at end	6
Private lot	22
Central NH Regional Planning 2007	

# Community Facilities

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## And Services



### Introduction

Community facilities and services include a broad spectrum of activities available to Pittsfield residents and visitors. This chapter of the Plan reviews Town departments including fire/ambulance, police, public works, wastewater/sewers and town administration (Town Hall). A discussion of water supply, solid waste/BCEP, utilities and the library are also included.

### Fire and Ambulance

The Pittsfield Fire Department is composed of 36 dedicated volunteers plus paid Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The volunteers respond to emergencies, perform fire inspections, truck maintenance, are present at town events and other activities as



needed to maximize the safety of the residents of Pittsfield. The Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are on duty 24/7. A recent change occurred from a volunteer chief to a full time chief supervising both fire and ambulance activities and

Fire Station and Equipment- Photo by Diane Vaughan responsible to the Select Board. The fire station, built in 1972, provides housing for fire

equipment and ambulance, office space, kitchen, meeting room and ready room for the EMT staff. The Capital Area Fire Compact, a communication system, provides dispatch to emergencies and mutual aid assistance. Forty fire boxes have been installed within the downtown area to aid in emergency response.

The Fire Department has several pieces of equipment as indicated in table 4.1.

Table 4.1  
Year to be Replaced

Tanker	2015
Engine I	2025
Engine II	2017
Ladder I	2008
Rescue I	
Forestry I	
Ambulance	2018

Due to budget limitations a new ladder truck was not purchased as originally planned in 2005. A proposal to purchase a used vehicle will be made at the 2008 town meeting. Extending the life of fire apparatus from 20 years to 25 will assist with the budget. An expected useable life for the ambulance of ten years is realistic. Growth and other changes within the town have impacted upon the demands of the department and the services they provide. The past ten years has seen a 67% increase in the number of responses. The department responded to 726 calls in 2007, 63% were EMT/rescue responses. The number of people responding is down indicating the demands on people to be a volunteer. This trend is not new and being experienced across the country. The majority of the responses are between 7 AM and 3 PM week days have a higher frequency then weekends. Historically volunteers worked in

town and were able to get away and respond to emergencies but this is no longer the case. As the community grows and the demographics change the number of responses will increase. Training is required for volunteers plus they must attend monthly meetings to maintain the standards required today. As seen in the following table (4.2) the training requirements require a substantial commitment for a volunteer. Several volunteers become dual qualified, both as a fire fighter and an EMT magnifying the issue.

Table 4.2  
Training Requirements

Fire Fighters		EMT's	
Training Required		Training Required	
Fire Fighter I	192 hrs.	EMT Basic	120 hrs.
Fire Fighter II*	92 hrs.	EMT Intermediate *	220 hrs + 40 experience
Driver Operator*	52 hrs.	Paramedic*	4-600 hrs. 400 internship
Inspector*	40 hrs.		
Company Officer*	190hrs.		

- Additional hours of training that is required
- 

There are several opportunities to influence local fire safety which include the following:

- Sprinkler systems for new residential construction
- Expansion of water resources- identify aquifers.
- Continued educational efforts of fire safety.

Since its construction in 1972 many changes have occurred to the fire station, equipment and personnel. Several structural concerns at the fire station were identified in the last Master Plan and overall they have not been acted upon.

- There is a general lack of storage space.
- Office space is cramped or not available.
- As new vehicles are purchased the space requirements will increase.

- The opportunity to have interns from the fire academy stay in Pittsfield and gain on the job training is not possible due to the facilities that exist.
- Many communities are considering centralized emergency centers for all emergencies responders.

Looking to the future several changes may occur to increase the efficient operation of the department.

- Call boxes may be eliminated, some do not work, maintenance cost exist and alternative methods for making calls are more common.
- Having volunteers paid on a per call basis may encourage and reward individuals making a commitment to the fire department.

The Fire Department and Ambulance Service are applauded for their efforts as evidence by letters to the editor in the local paper over the past few years as residents recognize the professional response and service that is provided.

### Police Department

The police department is active for a town the size of Pittsfield. The force consists of seven full time officers, six special duty plus the chief, allowing for two officers on duty each day seven days a week.



Pittsfield Police Station- Photo Town Web site Bob Legg

The number of accidents and the number of incident reports have declined. But the demands of the department are changing with more investigatory work, an increasing number of neighbor



disputes occur with issues developing over common land, driveways, private roads and other issues. Laws have not been broken but mediation is needed. Monitoring the progress of youth both in a preventive, criminal investigation and follow-up is a growing issue. The town drug issues involve many hours behind the scenes without immediate results. Underlying social issues are the base of many of these concerns, requiring unique skills.

The police department is attempting to work with other communities and organizations to provide the best services at the lowest costs. The department recently purchased a radar speed trailer in conjunction with other communities. A centralized dispatch center is used when services are not available from Pittsfield. A regionalized Drug Task Force is in place to address common needs with this criminal activity. Future opportunities may exist for additional group efforts.

Increased requirements are putting a time and financial burden on the police department. New national standards are being developed for the "Career Accreditation Program" requiring additional training of the existing force. Training at the Police Academy is being increased from 12-16 weeks increasing the salary and benefits needed to be paid while a new officer's attends the program. The US Department of Homeland Security has increased the amount of reports and observations that local departments must file.

The department has several community programs with additional being planned. An active explorers program involves numerous Pittsfield youth. There is the potential to start a citizen's

police patrol made up of retired police officers who would aid in police activities. A Crime Watch Program with other Police Departments, allowing for anonymous reporting of incidents by citizens. A local MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) could be initiated plus a citizens academy that allows citizens to gain greater insight in to the issues of the town.

Publicity of local police efforts and the needs of the community would be helpful. Public awareness and support is important as the Town looks to the future. Programming for family activities could help prevent many of the issues that are present.

The Police Station is a reused school. Utilizing existing facilities is a commendable practice but there are areas where the department could be more efficient.

- There is a need for more secure evidence storage.
- Modification of booking room is needed.
- There is no secure storage for cars held for evidence
- The building is not energy efficient
- There is no covered storage for department vehicles
- Room for staff meetings is limited.

The Police Department is working with others to develop emergency operation plans. This involves involvement with the Concord Area Pandemic Planning and preparedness for other emergencies. The department continues to address the changing needs of the community while working within numerous constraints.

## Public Works

The public works department is responsible for road maintenance of town owned roads and of other town property. They are responsible for the maintenance of town owned parks (Dustin Park, Forest B Argus Pool Area, the Common on Main Street) plus sidewalks, parking areas of town facilities, plus cemeteries on Broadway and other outlying areas. Maintenance includes a variety of road repair tasks, lawn mowing, snow removal, ice treatment, brush and needed tree care.

The staff includes a Superintendent and four full time employees. Each individual has designated areas of responsibility as assigned by the superintendent. An equipment inventory of major pieces of equipment is as follows:

- Three large trucks

- One smaller truck

- One four wheel drive pick-up

- One backhoe/ loader

- One loader

- One grader

- Sidewalk/ roadside mowing machine

- Variety of equipment sanders, plows, rake

The replacement value of this equipment totals \$1.2 million.

Major pieces of equipment are replaced based upon their useful life.

These are included as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), budgeted ahead for replacement.

The public works complex on Clark St. consists of office space, equipment storage and materials storage. The 120'X60' building has office space, a lunchroom, restrooms, a work area that is also used for equipment storage and an upstairs that is used as a sign shop. Space for equipment storage is not adequate with equipment such as plows, a rake and other equipment being stored outside. Sheds for salt and sand storage are located to the rear and the side of the main building. EPA requires that zero runoff from salt be in place and a warrant for the 2007 Town Meeting was approved to construct new salt storage off of Dowboro Rd. The buildings are used for salt and sand storage in the winter and can be used for equipment storage in the summer.

A schedule for road improvements and repair is developed annually. Major projects are included as part of the CIP and are projected several years in advance. An annual budget exists for routine work, this figure is one of the lowest per mile of road of surrounding towns (Public Works Dept. Study). Recently, the cost of paving material has increased 30-40%, significantly impacting upon the budget. The town has recently approved new roads at Deer Meadow and Hill Top View (1.2 miles) adding to the responsibilities of the department. Federal requirements for storm water runoff may impact the Public Works budget in the future. Equipment costs and other consumables are increasing there by stretching the budget and the workload.

Several areas need to be addressed to continue the service, meet federal and State requirements and maintain the quality of life

within the community.

1. A budget that continues to support the growing needs of the town and escalating cost of materials and equipment.
2. Driveway design to minimize run off and washing of town roads.
3. Appropriate lots within the downtown area to help store snow removed from streets and sidewalks.
4. Redesign turn areas in subdivision to hammer head design rather than cul-de-sac design.
5. Increase budget for reconstruction and maintenance of sidewalks.
6. Increase budget for repairs to cemeteries.

### Carpenter Library

Josiah and Isabella Carpenter donated the Josiah Carpenter Library building to the Town of Pittsfield in 1901. The library is located on Main Street in the center of the downtown. The only parking available is on the street in front of the building.

The library collection consist of 13,449 items including books for adults and children, large print books, magazine audio tapes and downloadable audio books. A network of eight computers includes four stations for public access to the Internet and one station for the public to search the catalog for the library's selection. Primary library programs include support of the Pittsfield senior Center book club through provisions of the books for their monthly discussion,

conducting a weekly story hour for pre-school aged students and their caregivers and operating a summer reading program.

The elected board of Library Trustees oversees the operation of the library, invests a portion of the trust funds dedicated to the library, and manages the 2007 budget of \$63,093.00. The library is open Monday through Saturday for a total of 29 hours. The staff consists of a library director, 5 assistants and a custodian, all working part-time.

In 2003 land was purchased to construct a sidewalk for handicapped access (elevator). Additional modifications were made within the bathrooms, children's materials were moved to the lower level and these changes reduced the space available for non-fiction books.

Presently the library does not need additional space. Modifications are needed to provide more energy efficient windows, and air conditioning for warmer months. The electrical service is not sufficient to operate air conditioning units or additional electrical equipment. The furnace was replaced in 2004 but the radiators and pipes are original and will need to be replaced in the future.

### Water Supply

The municipal water supply is provided by the Pittsfield Aqueduct Company, a subsidiary of the Pennichuck Aqueduct Company. The water supply originates at Berry Pond and is transferred to a filtration and treatment plant on Rt. 107. The water is then transferred underground to residential , commercial and community facilities.

There have been several capital improvements over the past eight years. In 2007 a transmission line was installed from Berry Pond to the filtration plant. 4400 feet of distribution line has been replaced (cement tin) with ductile iron pipe. This includes 1200 feet of line extended under Rt. 28 to Loudon Rd.

Table 4.3  
Water Utilization

	1999	Million Gallons	2006	Million Gallons
No. of Residential Accounts	529	61.53	550	42.27
No. Commercial Accounts	69	10.17	78	8.42
No. Industrial Accounts	5	2.6	5	1.1
Municipal	9	.71	10	.93
Total Usage		75.08		70.54

Information from Pennichuck Aqueduct company

The previous Master Plan pointed out that the present water supply was sufficient for the towns needs. Major expansion of the existing services would require a close examination of future needs and supply. It is difficult to identify the exact capacity of the Berry Pond Water Supply. It was also pointed out that it was not cost efficient to expand services into suburban areas, the cost of expansion out weighed income potential.

### Wastewater Treatment

The objective of the wastewater treatment plant is to take the septage from the community and appropriately process the materials prior to being discharged. The facility is located on 55 acres of land

on South Main Street and has been in operation since 1978. The main building includes an office, restrooms, lunchroom, laboratory, three garage bays for equipment storage and a wastewater inflow room. A second building houses electrical controls, an emergency generator and chlorinating facilities. Three aerating lagoons help solids to settle out and liquids to evaporate.

Examining the efficiency and quality of discharge from the plant modifications have been constructed in recent years. A dumping station has been constructed that collects inflow and materials brought to the plant from commercial septic services. A solids separation system has been put into place to eliminate materials before they enter the lagoon system. A screen has been put in place in the first lagoon to remove additional solids. Aerators have been added to the lagoons to increase the biological breakdown process within the lagoons. These efforts have increased the plant capacity and efficiency.

A second part of the wastewater treatment process is a series of seven pumping stations located within the town. The function of these pumps is to move the wastewater through the lines where they must move up a grade, parts of the system move the wastewater by gravity. Plans are underway to renovate these stations to improve the electrical components and bring them in line with OSHA regulations. These repairs will also make future repairs and maintenance more efficient.

A third component of the system is the actual lines that run



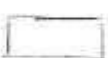


Pittsfield N.H.

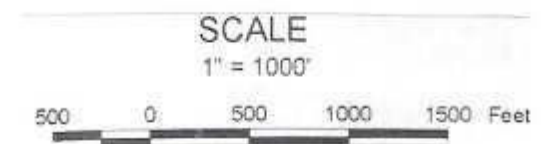
2000/2009

## Water and Sewer Service Area

### Legend

SW		Sewer and Water
WO		Water Only
NS		Internal Area Not Served

Constructed since 2000



Map 4-1

throughout the town. These lines are old, leaks may exist. Evaluation of lines is done by putting a camera into the line and looking for obstructions and breaks within the line and this has not been done since 1994. A concern in many communities is the practice of homeowners having sump pumps to take water that enters basements and pumping it into the sewer lines. This is prohibited and would reduce the material entering the treatment plant and subsequently increase the plant capacity.

The wastewater treatment plant accepts septage from commercial services at a fee of \$80.00 per 1000 gallons. The income in 2005 from these tipping fees was \$206,436.65 which goes into the budget to offset operating costs and the capital reserve fund.

Discharge from the plant is monitored to meet federal EPA guidelines. Tests are done daily and various other times depending on the type of test. These monitor a variety of chemical characteristics indicating the effectiveness of the plant and acceptability of the discharge.

The present wastewater system has a design discharge capacity of 400,000 gallons per day. If the flow exceeds 80 percent capacity (320,000 gallons) per day for 90 consecutive days a plan must be submitted to expand the capacity of the plant. Recent modifications with additional solid separators have helped reduce the volume decreasing the needs of the treatment plant. If materials entering the system from sump pumps could be eliminated the plant would be operating at a capacity of approximately 200,000 gallons

per day. Projecting future growth, it is estimated that 100 gallons per day would be added to the system per person. The plant would have the capacity for 1000 additional people.

The wastewater treatment plant is effectively meeting its goal for the town. It meets the guidelines established by the EPA and has made modifications to increase its capacity and are planning to upgrade the pumping stations. Growth within the town can be achieved within the existing plant.

1. Inflow from sump pumps should be identified and eliminated.
2. Plans to replace existing lines should be developed. This would include expanding the system west of Rt. 28 and other residential areas.
3. Utilize a camera to identify area of obstructions and broken lines.

#### BCEP- Solid Waste Disposal

Disposal of solid waste in Pittsfield is carried out at the Recycling/Transfer Station on Rt. 107. The facility is a joint venture with the towns of Barnstead, Chichester, and Epsom. Historically the site was originally used as a landfill and has evolved into a recycling and transfer site for solid waste. Residents separate items such as aluminum, cardboard, tin, newspaper, glass, tin cans and solid waste and are deposited at specific sites within the center. Non recyclable materials are compacted and hauled to a landfill within the state and a tipping fee is charged. Brush and non-treated wood are burned on site with materials such as leaves and lawn waste



composted and the compost used on municipal sites. Recyclable materials are bundled and sold to commercial buyers for further processing. Pittsfield does not have curbside pickup of waste materials so the success of this project is dependent upon the participation and cooperation of the citizens.

Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom and Pittsfield jointly fund the facility. Each community pays an annual fee (Pittsfield 2006 was \$159,074.40) for the operation and maintenance. Recyclable materials are sold generating income to reduce cost which is put into a capital reserve fund. A committee oversees the operation of the facility which includes a selectperson, one citizen, an alternate and a budget committee member.

#### Pittsfield Youth Workshop

The Pittsfield Youth Workshop (PYW), a nonprofit youth organization is committed to providing programs and services to help Pittsfield's youth to develop useful skills, self esteem, and meaningful friendships.

Founded in 1986, PYW serves Pittsfield, Barnstead and the surrounding area and is available to all youth in the 6 th-12 th grades including home-schooled and those currently attending school.



Facilities used by PYW

Supported by many grants, fund raising and donations, the

organization provides a variety of programs to Pittsfield's youth. PYW operates a Drop-in Center where youth have the opportunity to hangout, play games, learn new skills, develop positive relationships with peers and adult role-models from the community.

The Pittsfield Teen Mentor Project (PTMP) which began in 1998 is one of PYW's most acclaimed programs. This program is run by PYW staff in collaboration with the School District. It offers monthly rips, breakfast clubs, mentor pair collaboration and community service opportunities. Pittsfield Youth Workshop currently supports activities for over 400 eligible youth in the Pittsfield Area. These include Drop-In/ Homework Club, and special events committees to help organize community events like Old Home Day, Balloon Rally, Winterfest, Oktoberfest, and the Tree Lighting. Since the beginning in 1986, PYW has borrowed, rented and leased space for Drop-In, Homework Club, and Community events. In September 2007, PYW moved to space in the Corinthian Lodge (the old Pittsfield Academy building) abutting Dustin Park. PYW uses the first floor which has one large room, a kitchen, and a small office; the Masons utilize the second floor and the two organizations work together on maintenance and upkeep. Although they don't pay rent, PYW pays all utilities for the whole building including heat.

The new location is still not the most ideal space and the expenses associated with high operating cost take away from youth programming and development. In the long term, the Pittsfield Youth Workshop needs a more permanent home, in a larger and more cost appropriate space, and

centrally located to Pittsfield youth. A cooperative venture with the private sector and or use of tow-owned properties may provide possible opportunities for PYW to explore in the future as Pittsfield grows.

### Pittsfield Community Center

Constructed in 1789 as a church, the Pittsfield Community Center was converted and restored in 1987 by the Pittsfield Community Development Corporation, which operates the facility. The Center provides space for many community groups that meet on a regular basis, and it houses the Pittsfield Area Senior Center. The



Center is under the umbrella of the Elder and Nutrition Services of the Community Action Program for Belknap-Merrimack Counties. The Center serves seniors from Pittsfield, Epsom, Barnstead and Chichester.

Programs include community dining, meals-on-wheels, rural transportation, health screenings, exercise programs, seminars, crafts, information and supported referral for seniors, adults with chronic illness or disabilities, their families and caregivers.

The center is open from 8AM to 2 PM Monday through Friday. Transportation is available when the Center is open and is primarily for seniors at this time. The service is a door-to door, demand response system. Individuals may be picked up at their homes and taken to their destinations. This primarily includes shopping, errands,

banking, doctors appointments, programs at the Senior Center, etc. The use of the shuttle services is under review to explore ways to improve the system and extend the service.

### Welfare Department

It is mandated by the State that each community provides temporary assistance with housing, health and emergency financial needs of their residents. The welfare department is staffed by a part-time director and an unpaid deputy director. They have limited hours and are located in the basement of the Town Hall.

The director has cited high rental costs, unemployment, lack of health insurance and the overall trends in the economy as factors influencing the requests by residents for assistance. Residents must investigate opportunities for assistance from the State, the Community Action Programs, medical programs and participate in a job search before assistance is given. Residents claiming a disability or health problem must show proof of their limitations. These procedures have lead to many applicants not requiring aid and cutting expenditures for 2007 from an allocation of \$175,000 to actual expenditures of \$74, 287.34. The needs of the residents have been met while reducing the number served by the town.

Efforts to provide adequate services while monitoring the effectiveness of the programs is ongoing. The deputy welfare officer does home inspections of residents obtaining assistance to insure that housing standards are being met. As housing needs develop, options for temporary housing are explored rather than paying for

Motels.

Looking to the future it is difficult to predict needs as we see various costs escalating and the general economy having a downtrend at this time. The Welfare Director has indicated that a shelter would be helpful for the housing needs that do arise, very few opportunities exist in the area. It was also pointed out that further assistance could be given to help landlords screen and assist residents which would reduce some of the housing issues that develop. A food pantry helps with food needs and has a separate staff and governing body.

### Emergency Operations Plan

The disaster of 9-11 has made us aware the community preparedness is a need. An emergency management plan has been developed involving emergency services, town administration, community services, food pantry, school, churches and related individuals. Various scenarios have been evaluated including hazardous mitigation to possible breaches of the dam. A plan is in place with the Concord Hospital in case of a pandemic of bird flue or other illness.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

#### Fire and Ambulance

1. Install dry hydrants in rural areas where a water supply is located near a road.
2. Work with Pennichuck Water Works Inc. to maintain fire hydrants in town.



3. Acquire a utility truck with a bucket.

4. Facility needs

- There is a general lack of storage space.
- Office space is cramped or not available.
- As new vehicles are purchased the space requirements will increase.
- There is no bunk room.

5. The opportunity to have interns from the fire academy stay in Pittsfield and gain on the job training is not possible due to the facilities that exist.

6. Many communities are considering centralized safety facilities combining both fire and police. This potential should be investigated

## Police

1. Encourage officers to live in the proximity to Pittsfield to increase their community involvement and visibility.

2. Continue to expand the programs in the schools and the community to familiarize students and citizens with police-related operations and training services.

3. Provide appropriate funding to complete renovations to the Police Station.

- There is a need for more secure evidence storage.
- Modification of booking room is needed.
- There is no secure storage for cars held for evidence
- The building is not energy efficient
- There is no covered storage for department vehicles
- Room for staff meetings is limited.

## Public Works

1. Construct an unheated storage building for seasonal equipment storage.
2. Secure space to dump plowed snow in the winter.
3. Investigate methods of providing new or expanded facilities for the department.
4. Continue the funding of the capital reserve fund.
5. Continue and maintain and upgrade the town's roads, sidewalks, parks and cemeteries.
6. A budget that continues to support the growing needs of the town and escalating cost of materials and equipment.
7. Driveway design to minimize run off and washing of town roads.
8. Lots within downtown area to help with snow removal.
9. Redesign turn areas in subdivision to hammer head design rather than cul de sac design.
9. Increase budget for reconstruction and maintenance of sidewalks.
10. Increase budget for repairs to cemeteries

## Water Supply

1. Work with Pennichuck Corporation to ensure sufficient, high quality, inexpensive public drinking water.
2. Investigate new sources of water including other reservoirs, high yield wells in stratified drift and fractured bedrock- in anticipation of future growth.

3. Consider the impact of all proposed new businesses, expansion and large-scale residential development on the existing town water system.

#### Wastewater/Sewer

1. Clean TV and smoke test collection system
2. Monitor the need to modernize the existing storm sewer system and establish a fund to do so.

#### Solid Waste/BCEP

1. Encourage businesses and schools to develop an aggressive recycling program by emphasizing the economic and environmental benefits.
2. Provide information about how to dispose of hazardous waste not accepted by BCEP (drain cleaners, other poisons, etc.)

#### Town Hall

1. Increase the accessibility and utilization of the building by installing an elevator to serve the second floor and basement.

#### Carpenter Memorial Library

1. Increase the head librarians hours to correspond with the hours the library is open.
2. Investigate State and Federal grant monies for use in expanding the available programs offered through the library.
3. Encourage a closer working relationship between the public library and the schools.
4. Promote interest in the library by the residents in town.
5. Make necessary modifications to the building o make it more

energy efficient.

#### Utilities

1. Work with the telephone, electric, cable companies and contractors to bury utility lines whenever possible.
2. Amend the site plan regulations to require where feasible underground utility services for all new construction.
3. Work to upgrade data transmission and quality for future computer based business and offices in town.

#### General:

1. The town should examine possible cooperative efforts with surrounding towns to develop opportunities to decrease operating costs.
2. The town and its agencies should utilize the services of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as a consultant for soil and water questions and engineering services.
3. Develop plans for further expansion of sidewalks, water and sewer, and space utilization of community buildings.
4. Due to declining financial reserves and a desire to be active senior citizens should be considered for part-time employment by the town.

## Education

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### Background:

The Pittsfield School District operates two schools, Elementary (grades K-6) and Middle High School (grades 7-12). Enrollment is shown in Table 5-1 with a total enrollment in 2008-2009 was 640 (2006-2007 enrollment was 721).

Table 5.1

### Pittsfield School Enrollment 2008-2009

#### Elementary School

Grade	Home School	Pupils	Totals
P	0	9	9
K	0	40	40
1	3	49	52
2	2	53	55
3	4	50	54
4	4	43	47
5	1	47	48
6	2	41	43
Total	16	552	438

#### Middle High School

Grade	Home School	Pupils	Totals
7	2	43	45
8	3	60	63
9	0	45	45
10	6	50	56
11	1	43	44
12	1	38	39
Total	13	279	292

Capacity of both facilities combined is 940 students

Data: 2008 School Report

Educational opportunities exist for various groups of students.

High School students may select vocational classes at Concord High School and Horticultural classes at Pembroke Academy as part of their regular curricula. These programs are designed to address the needs and interests of the students.

Drake Field was deeded to the School District (12 acres) to be used for physical education. The field is used for extracurricular and summer activities but is limited for daily physical education because it is located ½ mile from the school. The school system is responsible for maintenance of the field.

The school board is composed of five elected members with rotating terms of office. The board is responsible for overall policy and direction of the school. The school has been part of a Supervisory Administrative Unit (SAU 51) with Barnstead. The SAU hires a superintendent and administrative staff to oversee the schools and coordinate activities. Barnstead recently voted to drop out and Pittsfield will now hire a superintendent and staff. Each school has their own Principle and staff.

Teacher salaries are an issue as teachers may change positions seeking higher compensation for the same responsibilities. A larger than normal turnover rate was observed in the 2005-06 school year.

Table 5.2

2008-09  
Teacher Salaries

	Starting Salaries	State Rank	Average Salary
State NH	\$32,301		\$50,128
Pittsfield	28,061	147	37,440
Pembroke	30,500	117	49,660
Coe-Brown	34,419	40	50,708
Rank 1-159			

NH Department of Education

Table 5.2 indicates that teachers working in Pittsfield could go to surrounding school systems and receive greater starting pay and average pay for teaching the same subjects.

Table 5.3

Class S Schools Teacher Salaries 2008-09

School	Starting Salary	State Rank	Average Teacher Salaries
Colebrook	\$28,923	138	\$40,188
Gorham	32,178	88	49,865
Hinsdale	31,000	105	45,712
Lisbon Reg.	31,469	96	45,471
Littleton	35,095	37	50,166
Milton	29,756	129	42,702
Moultonborough	33,659	48	56,266
Pittsburg	29,800	127	40,725
Pittsfield	28,061	147	37,440
Profile	30,132	122	46,033
Sunapee	31,962	89	57,250
Wilton/Lyn.	32,063	88	48,227

NH Dept. of Education

Table 5.3 indicates salaries for schools of similar size to Pittsfield. Only two of the twelve schools represented are in the top half of the schools in the state when examining starting salaries.

It could be concluded that overall smaller schools have lower salaries.

Table 5.4

Students Receiving Free or Reduced Meals 2006-07

	# of students	# Receiving Assistance	%	State%
Elementary	336	117	34.8	18.8
Middle	85	20	23.5	21.2
High School	215	40	18.6	14.5

NH Department of Education

Students receiving free or reduced costs for meals is based upon household income. This data coincides with previous information of income statistics of Pittsfield showing that family income is lower than surrounding towns.

Table 5.5

Pittsfield Valuation and Tax Rate Information

Tax Rate Information	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	% Increase
Net Value For State Ed.Tax	192,312,596	198,449,680	206,241,160	215,897,320	306,849,990*	
Net Town Appropriation	1,612,463	1,698,256	1,859,058	1,816,751	2,101,347	131%
Net School Education	2,696,589	3,059,589	2,896,085	3,091,943	3,462,899	130%
(Special Education Costs)	1,005,783	1,091,976	1,741,465	1,526,698	1,832,155	180%
State Education Aid	3,780,071	3,686,084	4,313,739	4,679,639	4,664,734	124%
School Budget as a % of Town Budget	62.2%	66.3%	60.9%	62.9%	62.2%	

\*Town wide property revaluation  
2006 Pittsfield Town Report

Several trends can be observed from this data.

- State aid is not consistent from year to year and did not keep pace with town expenditures
- Special Education costs (a mandated program) increases faster than other education costs and the overall town budget. This does not reflect upon the staff or intended to be a negative impression of Special Education. It does reflect the



- impact of mandated programs without financial support.
- The school budget is less than 2/3 of the town expenditures, a common standard.

Table 5.6

### Summary of Pittsfield Tax Rates

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006*
Town	13.08	8.62	8.63	9.64	7.34
Local Education	20.25	13.65	15.02	13.86	11.16
State Education	7.63	3.94	3.77	3.11	2.10
County	<u>2.99</u>	<u>1.77</u>	<u>1.96</u>	<u>2.30</u>	<u>2.00</u>
	43.95	27.98	29.38	28.41	22.60

\*Town wide property revaluation The drop in 2006 is impacted by a town wide property revaluation and does not indicate that the average property owner received a decrease in property taxes.

Pittsfield Town Report 2006

The impact of school costs on Pittsfield property taxes is a reoccurring issue. The property taxes collected, are dispersed to the school, town and county (Table 5.6), the majority of the taxes are collected from residential property. The burden upon tax payers reached a point where Pittsfield and four other communities took court actions with the State Supreme Court (Claremont Case 1997), that more equitable funding approaches must be developed. The final solution is not yet been resolved leaving towns without the ability to develop long term planning based upon State support.

Table 5.7  
Class S Cost Per Student  
Tax Assessment Per Student  
2007-08

School	Cost/Pupil By District Preschool-12	Property Tax Rate Per \$1000 of Assessment	Equalized Assessed Value per Pupil
Colebrook	\$10,865.29	\$21.96	\$565,017
Gorham	12,193.72	19.89	735,407
Hinsdale	12,127.89	22.39	438,906
Lisbon/Reg.	11,645.58	23.76	556,556
Littleton	14,471.90	20.89	777,497
Milton	10,912.60	18.32	718,899
Moultonborough	16,603.06	6.99	4,712,224
Pittsburg	18,305.97	13.20	2,764,058
Pittsfield	13,371.98	23.97	502,744
Profile	16,515.37		1,345,444
Sunapee	15,632.98	13.80	2,752,532
Wilton/Lyn.	11,738.22		854,194
Chichester	*	23.37	769,378
Epsom	*	15.14	676,233
Northwood	*	17.43	739,488
State Average		16.10	
State Median		16.64	

\* Communities without public high schools and only represents the cost of education K-8  
NH Dept. of Education

A variation in tax rate appears to exist among schools of similar size to that of Pittsfield. Pittsfield has one of the lowest assessed values per student but other communities with more taxable property have higher taxes. Table 5.7 also indicates the amount of assessed value in the community is critical to the tax rate. Pittsfield has limited commercial property and has less property value per student. This also indicates that Pittsfield is keeping the costs of operating the town and schools at a lower level.

Enrollment: A decrease in the Middle High School recently occurred with tuition students from Barnstead leaving. This has created a short term decrease in student population allowing some room to grow and an increase in per student tuition costs. The elementary school enrollment is steady with little room for growth. Population projections show no major changes indicating that enrollment and space needs will not change drastically unless a series of families with children move to Pittsfield. State projections as well as Pittsfield show increases in population but not at the same rate as recent years. “Baby Boomers” will be more prevalent and not utilizing the school facilities.

Facilities: Physical expansion does not appear to be an immediate need, but improvements are needed. The elementary school has carpeting needs and there are windows that need to be replaced. The parking area needs to be resurfaced and possibly expanded. The Middle High School needs to replace the gym floor and the roof needs attention.

Academics: Several measures of academic success exist one of which is the number of students completing four years of High School. The following Table (5.8) indicates the number of students graduating and post secondary outcomes.

Table 5.8

Graduation Statistics 2007-08

School	Attend 4 Yr. College	Attend less than 4 yr. College	Employment	Military
Pittsfield	30.2%	34.9%	32.6%	2.3%
Coe- Brown	63%	12.7%	14.6%	4.2%
Pembroke Academy	33.8%	24.2%	24.2%	2.9%

NH Department of Education

Table 5.9

School Drop Out Rate 2007-08

	#of Drop Outs	Annual %	Four Year Accumulated %
Pittsfield	12	6.1	22.3
Pembroke	19	1.8	7.1
Coe-Brown	6	.8	3.3
State		3.0	11.3

NH Dept. of Education

Table 5.10

Class S Schools

School Drop Out Rate 2007

School	No./ year	Annual %	4 yr. Accumulative
Colebrook	11	5.9	21.4
Gorham	4	2.2	8.6
Hinsdale	18	7.5	26.9
Lisbon Reg.	3	2.2	8.4
Littleton	6	2.1	8.2
Milton	19	8.4	29.7
Moultonborough	2	.9	3.4
Pittsburg	0	0	0
Pittsfield	12	6.1	22.3
Profile	3	1.6	6.2
Sunapee	2	1.2	4.8
Wilton/Lyn.	2	0.8	3.0

NH Department of Education

School completion rates and the number of students proceeding to post-secondary education are indicators and often used to evaluate school progress. This data indicates communities (Tables 5.8-5.9) have a variety of results. This surrounding area does not appear to be the critical factor and school size (class S) has variation as well. Other communities have poorer graduation rates or close to those of Pittsfield.

The drop out rate is a concern and individualized learning plans have been introduced to increase student success. Recently legislation has increased the age to drop out of school to 18 which is intended to increase the graduation success rate. We look at graduation rate as an indicator of potential success of the students and possibly reflect upon the quality of education. This becomes a bench mark for families and businesses thinking of locating in the area.

The school district is making strides to address the total educational needs of the students. The drop out rate was 4.8% annually down from 5.6% in 2002-03. A series of programs have been initiated to address the success of students.

#### Elementary School:

- Four Block Literacy Program - utilizes four methods of literacy instruction.

- Title I- a program for struggling learners.

- 21 st. Century Learning Center which provides small group instruction after school.

#### Middle/High School:

- Breaking Ranks- A school reform model has been initiated.

- A committee has been created to address drop out prevention

- Co-op Program-involving 14 students in 2005-06 has an

opportunity to obtain a GED.

Career Program (JAG) serves 30 students (2005-06) with career awareness and exploration.

Student Leadership Training- 40 students (2005-06) provides individualized leadership experience including class officers, teen mentors and others.

Pittsfield After School Program (PASP)- provides opportunities for any student for after school help, between 3-4 Monday-Thursday.

These programs are not found in every school and indicate a concentrated effort address the needs of students within the school system and meet the State and Federal guidelines.

A measurement, dictated by Federal and State guidelines, of school progress is the annual New Hampshire Educational Improvement and Assessment Program (NHEIAP) standardized tests. In 2005-06 the sixth grade reading proficiency indicating that 81% of students were reading at or above grade level, the highest ever. The results of the High School Language Arts and Reading evaluations are as follows:

Table 5.11  
Students at or Above Grade Level  
Language Arts and Reading  
Year % of Class

1999	35
2000	35
2001	31
2002	41
2003	48
2004	62
2005	71

2006 Pittsfield School Report.

The school has been recognized for making annual progress. School discipline is a concern of education and the 2006 school year

had a 20% reduction in Saturday detentions over the previous year. The schools recently published a Strategic Plan for 2007/08 approved by the School Board identifying goals and objectives and the values that are critical to the learning environment. Improvements can be made but evidence of direction effort and success exists. A major endowment has been given to be utilized for scholarships which will assist and encourage students to pursue their education. It has been noted in the 2007 budget hearings that due to limited student numbers not as many advanced placement classes can be offered potentially limiting the transition from High School and Post Secondary Training and their initial success.

Operating Costs: Several factors have influenced the cost of operating the school. Lost tuition income has been a factor as Barnstead elected not to have their students attend Pittsfield Middle High School. Technology needs exist, and keeping resources updated are often difficult to put into long range plans. Grants and gifts have helped but there is a difference that has to be made up. The state adds new initiatives to the academic framework and standards, that must be completed and the school system must find resources to meet the requirement. Federal standards for Special Education and “No Child Left Behind” and other issues mandate school compliance without financial support. Schools are finding that with low student numbers and possible declining enrollment the cost per student increases creating a potential burden on the budget.

The low student numbers and budget concerns have had an impact upon the offerings available. Higher level classes have low

enrollment (fourth year languages with 3-4 students) and it can be asked if they can be continued. Opportunities exist via on-line courses to continue the offerings but students must be motivated to obtain maximum benefits. Recent positions have been discontinued, in conjunction with retirement, space was relocated and course offerings were discontinued. The position of a school superintendent and related staff has been created as a result of the break up and creation of a new supervisory union.

Activities: A variety of programs are available for community involvement, enrichment and extracurricular activities. Students are involved with clean-up projects, work on Drake Field, activities at Pittsfield Youth Workshop and the Pittsfield Players. Athletic programs are actively competing and have demonstrated success as indicated by the 2006 soccer program. In school activities to assist students such as Jobs for Americas Graduates (JAG), PASP and leadership training to help students address needs and develop their potential. Programs for career awareness and exploration exist but could be expanded.

The Pittsfield School system has many qualities that should be acknowledged. The staff has been recognized as being committed and having a sincere interest in the students. The administration and School Board address the needs and provide solutions with the students and community's best interest in mind. Graduates are successful and graduation rates as well as test scores are improving. The school is small allowing for smaller classes, a sense of community, personal growth, an opportunity to address individual



needs and to be challenged.

The schools face various challenges, none that is unique to Pittsfield and often the result of circumstances beyond their control. Small schools are faced with an issue of efficiency which has a long range affect of the cost of education. Graduation success is often related to issues outside the walls of the school and require input from many facets of the community and families. Progress requires patience, continued effort and vision that the young people have potential and that it can be developed.

The Master Plan Committee is not intending to identify direction for the daily activities of the school system; a School Board and Administration has that responsibility. School issues have financial impact upon the town and the school system has the responsibilities to help young people to better themselves as well as be a foundation for the labor force.

Recommendations:

1. The School System should maintain efforts that allow students to maximize their potential and maintain academic standards set by the state.
2. Efforts should be maintained to allow students a variety of academic opportunities while keeping costs in line.
3. Cooperative efforts with other schools should be explored.
4. Curricula should be available to allow students to matriculate into local jobs.
5. Measures should be continued to maximize student attainment and reduce drop out rates.

6. Job shadowing and other career building experiences should be enhanced.
7. The use of non traditional educational opportunities, on-line courses etc. should be continued.
8. The qualities and opportunities of a small school should be maintained.

# Recreation

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## Introduction

Pittsfield has numerous recreational opportunities, a village surrounded by natural resources and many volunteers working to create experiences for all ages. The recreational activities are for all ages providing exercise, learning opportunities and experiences to be remembered in the future. Parks are maintained and contribute to the atmosphere of the town. The physical resources of the town allow for events organized by the town, others sponsored by volunteers or individuals pursuing their personal interests.

## Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Committee is responsible for activities and programs held at Dustin Park and Forest B Argue Pool. They also initiate additional activities through out the year. The expenditures for 2006 exceeded \$18,000. The major expense involves operation of the pool in the summer.

Dustin Park is located on Main Street and is the site of numerous activities. A farmers markets is located there during the summer months, Old Home Day and the Christmas Tree lighting are held. Monuments have been constructed recognizing veterans and Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities are held there also. Due to its location, size and the opportunity for walking traffic it supports community centered activities.

The Forrest B. Argue Pool and Recreation Area includes a pavilion, picnic tables and play ground equipment. It provides the opportunities for volleyball, horseshoes, fishing swimming and skating with appropriate weather.

- Improvements the Recreation Committee would like to make in the future include: The FB Argue Pool is in need of repair to the lights, and new lights added, plus a storage building is needed for pool supplies
- French Circle is used for practices and neighborhood activities. A fence along the road would help to prevent soccer balls from going in the road and be reminder for young people to stop. Benches and a playground area could be used by the neighbors.
- The committee is involved with the following activities. Harvestfest, Ice Skating, Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing Derby, Pre School Dance and Rhythm Program, Winter Fest, Summer Swimming Lessons. The Committee would like to investigate outdoor “on the beach movie series”.

The Town has several town managed facilities providing a variety of opportunities.

Middle/High School Gymnasium- Activities can be scheduled around school related events. This results in limited opportunities in the winter months.

Drake Field- is supervised by the school department and has a baseball field including a batting cage, tennis courts, an area for soccer and a playground area.

Dustin park, Frank Argue Pool, and French Circle- have structured programs by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Frank Lyman Park- is managed by the Historical Society.

### Volunteer Organizations



Sargent Town Forest

Tilton Hill Rd.- The Pittsfield Youth Association supervises youth baseball activities. They have a fund raising program underway to expand and improve the facilities creating a one-of-kind facility for the area.

Skate Board Park- has been built adjacent to the Middle/High School, supported by volunteer efforts.

Numerous volunteers contribute to 4-H, Boy/Girl Scouts, and club activities serving all ages.

Pittsfield has numerous natural resources available for recreational pursuits. Clubs have been formed, for example bicycle and canoe club. They have obvious common interests and utilize the natural



Skate Board Park adjacent to the Middle/High School

resources of the area. The town forest has walking trails available and other areas exist for hunting, fishing and snowmobiling.

Pittsfield has opportunities not available for individuals living 20-30 miles away. The combination of volunteers, natural resources, and traditions provide experiences that can foster good health, individual and family memories and pride and identity within the community.

Recommendations:

1. Support the development and success of the youth center in Pittsfield and provide activities for youth and families to supplement the Pittsfield Youth Workshop operation.
2. Develop a plan for a multi-use trail ie. Bicycling, roller blading, walking, jogging etc. with exercise stations throughout the town and investigate State and Federal grants for its implementation.
3. Add facilities for senior citizen activities, passive and active, to Drake Field and/or Dustin Park.
4. Add benches and trees at the Washington House lot for passive recreation.
5. Evaluate town-owned parcels located beyond the downtown area for use as green space with passive recreation uses such as picnicking, hiking , etc. Local groups and community service groups could help maintain these areas.
6. Work to attract a full service fitness center or indoor recreation club within Pittsfield.
7. Continue community use of the elementary and high school gyms as much as practical.
8. Investigate the feasibility of increased public access to the Suncook River and to some of the larger ponds such as Wild Goose

Pond and Jenness Pond.

9. Survey the residents of Pittsfield to determine their recreational interests and usage and to obtain information on priorities for existing and future facilities. Completed by the Economic Development Committee.

10. Develop an overall plan of recreational facilities for the town, including individual park plans and for existing facilities.

11. Review the CNHRPC Open Space Trail system for elements which can be implemented as part of an overall open-space program for the town.

12. Develop a play area for tots, perhaps in a corner of Dustin Park for children living in the downtown area.





## Natural and Historic Resources

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The natural and historic resources of a community provide a foundation of our past and our community identity. A previous study (Pittsfield Charrette, 1999) indicated that the residents felt our rural atmosphere is an important aspect of Pittsfield. History indicates the events and people who have shaped the community impacting upon the character of life today.

The term natural resources involves several features which include the following soil, topography of the land, water, wetlands, mineral resources, vegetation, wildlife and air quality. These are factors that contribute to the rural character and the natural beauty and unique scenes. They are critical for the quality of water, air and natural surroundings for future generations. As time passes we may take these for granted but they are being impacted by a series of factors.

Many view our forest, streams and rural character with the qualities of living in New Hampshire. Pittsfield is fortunate to have a variety of open spaces, wetlands, wildlife, topography providing scenic areas plus more. These open spaces provide recreational opportunities, areas for aquifers to recharge our wells and scenery for us to enjoy.

The argument has been made that open spaces are economically advantageous to a town (Auger 1996). There are few economic demands while contributing for recreational, personal enjoyment and our soil and water resources. Several land owners have deeded parcels of land preventing them from being developed (appendix). The town also has landholdings (appendix) that are part of town operating activities but others that are open space. The Sargent Town Forest is an example, with natural trails open to the public. All of these contribute to the town's natural resource base.

## Water

Water is a resource, often taken for granted. Lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands add to the character and recreational opportunities of a community but potentially most critical our drinking water. The majority of Pittsfield residents have private wells and septic systems. The aquifers replenishing these wells are dependent upon rain and snowfall filtering through the soil. The municipal water is provided from Berry Pond with a filtration plant located on Rt. 107. Berry Pond is surrounded by wooded areas and is replenished from springs and rainfall. The present system is functional and safe guards are in place to ensure that the quality of our private and our public water supply is maintained.

The Master Plan of 2000 identified the lakes and ponds of Pittsfield. These are large bodies of water that are easily seen. Wetlands are identified by swamps, marshes and low areas where water collects. We identify the beauty but may not recognize the

natural process of collection and filtration of water that occurs

### Vegetation and Wildlife

Much of the natural beauty and rural character of Pittsfield contribute to unique habitats for wildlife and species of plants. This provides the opportunity for hunting and fishing, hiking and opportunities for bird watching. We see collections of pine, hemlock and hard wood species with a variety of under brush. Small settings exist such as peat bogs and a stand of black gum trees.

Wildlife are located in areas that allow for their growth and reproduction. The diversity of fields, trees, under story, the availability of water and shelter provide these needs. Turkey, deer, other small game and predators are evident. Specific estimates are not available.

## Soils

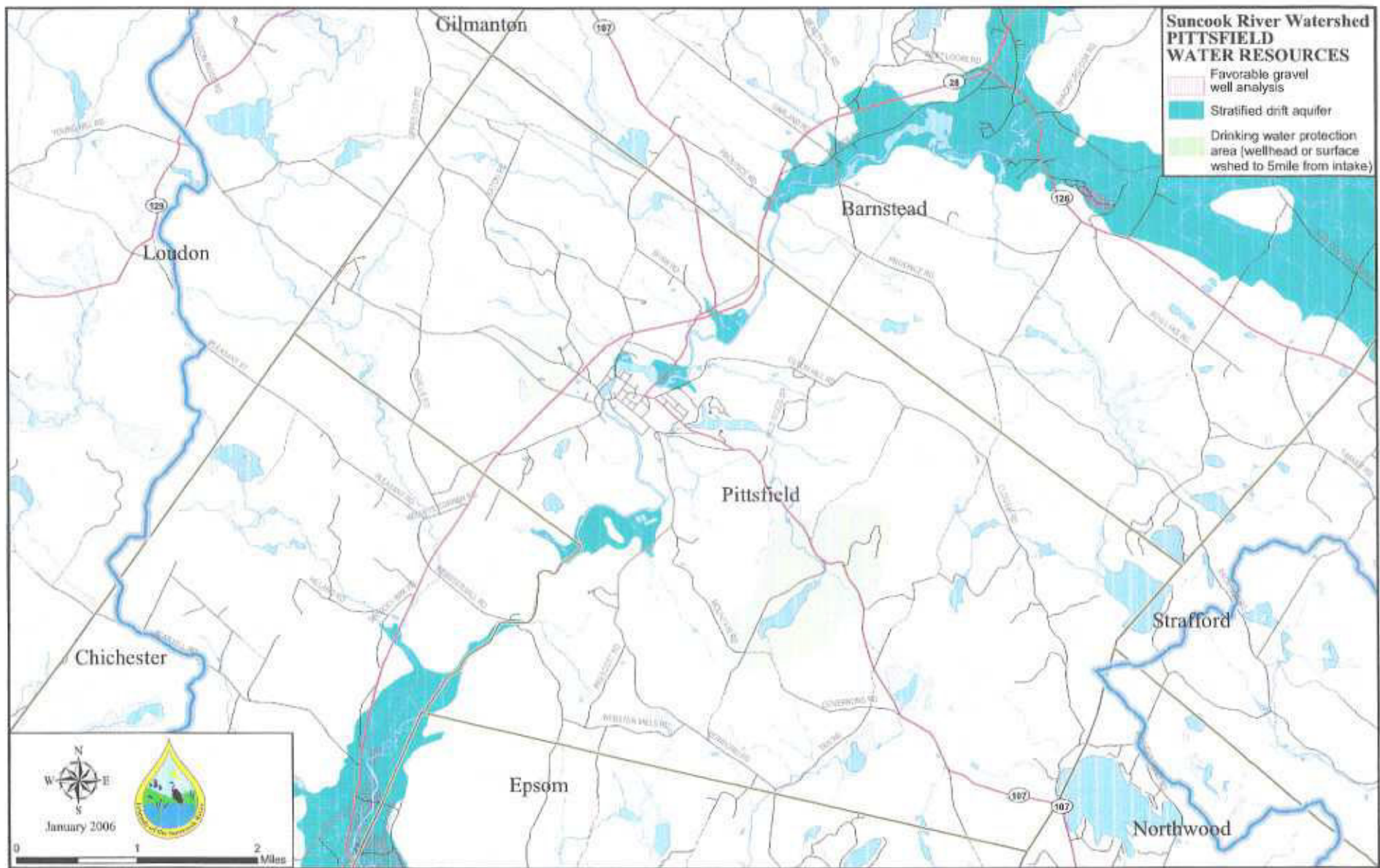
A geologist would describe the soils of Pittsfield as being created by glacial formation and modified by the movement of wind and water over many years to shape the terrain that we have today. The soils have a direct impact on the usability of the area for housing, wildlife, agriculture and general development. The major soils types found in Pittsfield are as follows: (NRCS 1965, 2000)

Paxton- These are well drained soils with a medium to coarse texture, a pan layer (soil layer that is very impermeable) below the surface. These soils are found in moderate to steep slopes and are relatively deep to bedrock.

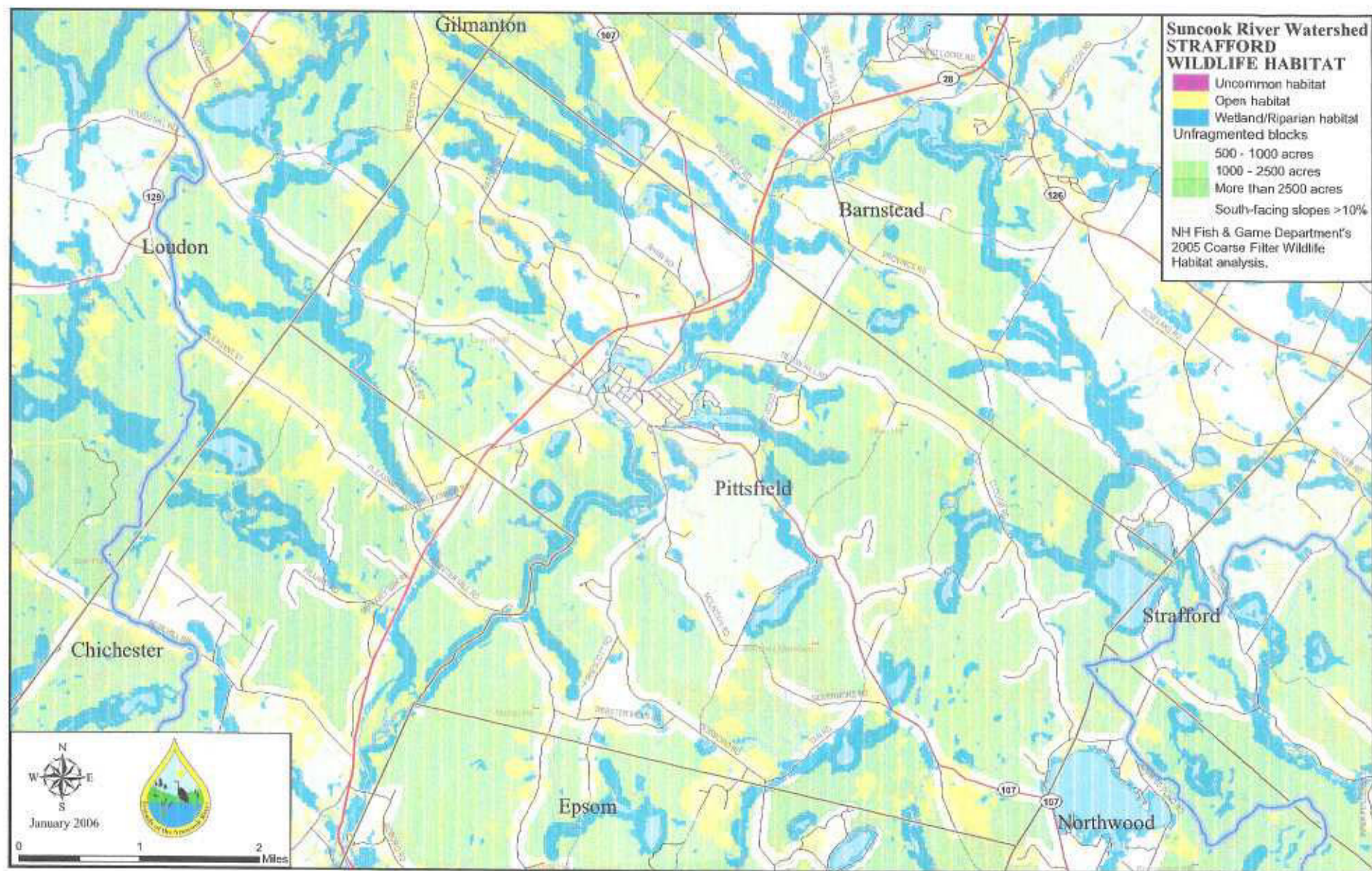
Shapleigh- Excessively well drained soils that are shallow to bedrock. They are found on the top and the sides of gently sloping to steep hillsides. These soils do not have a pan layer allowing the soils to drain better than Paxton soils.

Woodbridge- Soils that are moderately well drained with a pan layer approximately 24 inches below the surface. The soils are found on flat gently sloping areas and may have areas with water seeping to the surface.

Additional soil types are found in Pittsfield which are geologically related to the three types described above or the result of erosion and sediment deposits. They provide areas with different qualities impacting on the types of vegetation and the usability of the land. The value of this information is that as we look to the future some areas may be easier to work with or have qualities that should be preserved.







Map 7-2

Table 7.1

## Potential Value of Soils for Various Uses

	Grain+ Seed Crops	Grasses+ Legumes	Wild Herbaceous Plants	Hardwood Trees	Conifer Plants	Wetlands	Shallow Water area	Open land Wildlife	Woodland Wildlife	Wetland Wildlife
Paxton	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Very Poor	Very Poor	Good	Good	Very Poor
Shapleigh	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
Woodbridge	Fair	Good	Good	Good	Good	Poor	Very Poor	Good	Good	Very Poor

Table 7.2

## Factors Affecting Use for Build Sites

	Limiting Concerns					
	Shallow Evacuations	Foundations Drains	Septic Tank Systems	Lawns I	Depth to Seasonal High Water Level	Depth to Bedrock
Paxton	Pan Layer Stones	Needed-Seasonal High Water Table	Slow Permeability	Good	2+ ft.	2+ ft.
Shapleigh	Poor	Usually Needed Septage above Bedrock	Shallow to Bedrock	Poor	0-2 ft	0-2 ft.
Woodbridge	Severe Wetness	Needed- Seasonal High Water Table	Slow Permeability	Moderate	1 1/2 ft.	3 ft.

Table 7.3

Forest Land Management and Productivity

	Erosion Hazard	Equipment Limitations	Seedling Mortality	Wind- throw Hazard	Plant Competition	Common Trees	Trees to manage
Paxton	Slight	Slight	Moderate	Slight	Moderate	W. Pine R. Pine S. Maple	W. Pine R. Pine E. Larch
Shapleigh	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe	R. Pine W. Pine	E. Larch
Woodbridge	Slight	Slight	Slight	Moderate	Moderate	W. Pine R. Pine R. Spruce S. Maple	W. Pine R. Pine E. larch


Tables compiled from Soil Survey Merrimack County 1965 and Soil Survey Belknap Merrimack County 2005




## Soil Types

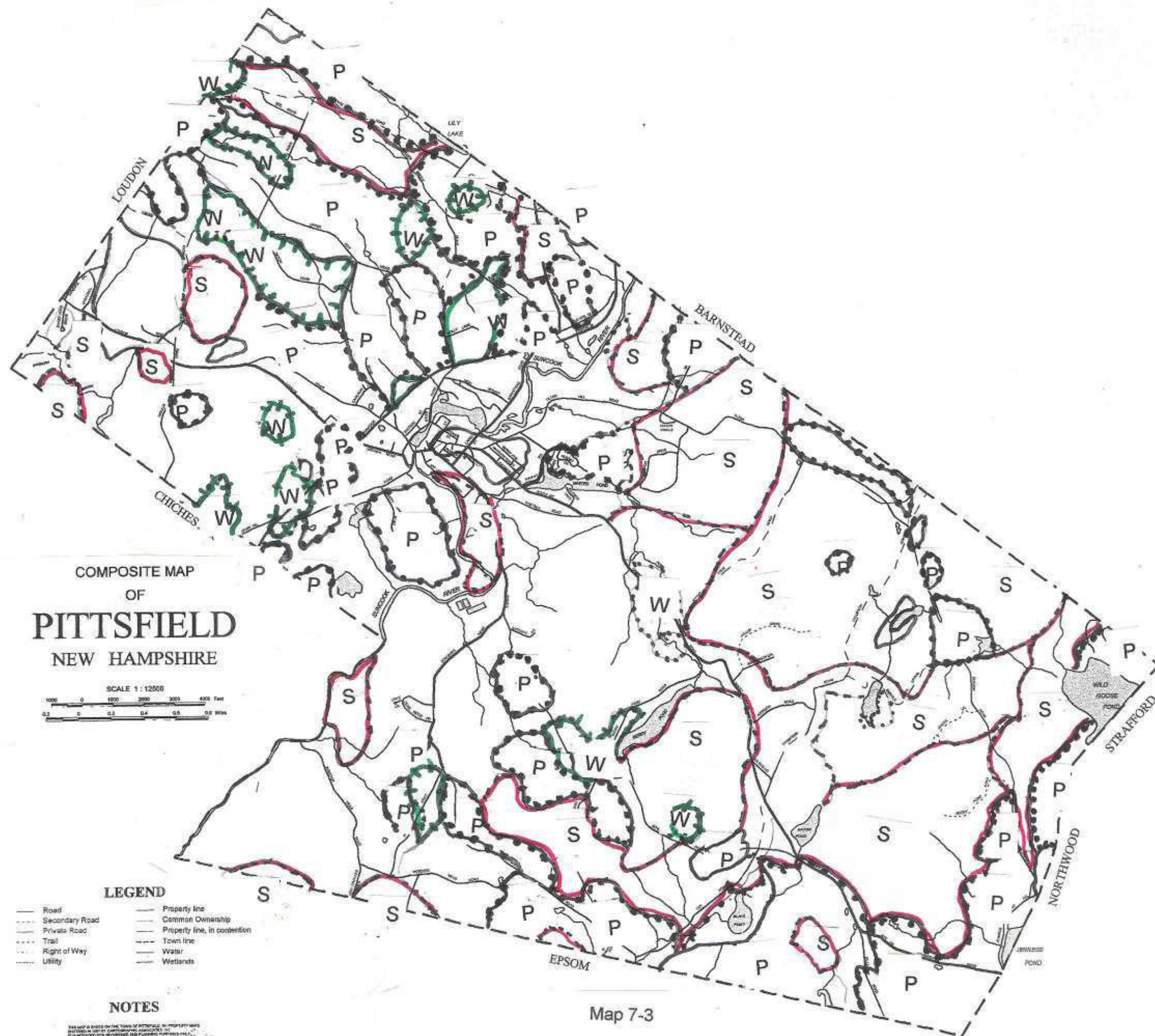
Pittsfield has three major soil types:

Paxton- P Black 

Shapleigh- S Red 

Woodbridge- W Green 

The following map is compiled from the Merrimac County soil Survey (1965) and The Belknap-Merrimac County Soil Survey (2005). The map indicates the general location of the soils.



These tables indicate the general usability of soils and can help understand how soils can be best utilized. All of the soils can potentially erode depending on the slope. “Best Management Practices” need to be utilized when disturbing the soil.

### Historical

Pittsfield has several unique features, a downtown, picturesque river running through town and a historic district. The Pittsfield Center Historic District was designated in 1980 by the National Registry of Historic Places and includes approximately 140 buildings in the downtown area. The inventory-nomination form identifies sites by their date of construction, architecture and function. The district’s combination of buildings, styles and quality of preservation is a unique collection unlike any other in the county. The designation does not limit the owner’s ability to change the building or its façade, it does allow property owners to apply for preservation tax incentives for rehabilitating historic structures. It also provides a review process when federal and state projects are involved that evaluates project need versus historic structure.

In 2007 Pittsfield voters approved the adoption of RSA 79E, a state law that allows municipalities to provide temporary relief for property owners to revitalize their downtown buildings. By application to the Board of Selectmen, qualified owners may have their tax increase resulting for the renovations delayed for up to five years. It is hoped that the availability of this new provision will encourage the investment in the downtown through rehab and active reuse of



under-utilized buildings. Although an economic incentive tool, it can maintain, preserve and enhance the historic character of the downtown area.

The Pittsfield Historic/Heritage District Commission began working on a historic district and ordinance to further enhance and preserve the historic and architectural resources within the town. The commission never completed its goal and today is no longer in existence. Heritage Commissions have been likened to conservation commissions, the former dealing with cultural resources, the latter natural resources. Heritage commissions functionally have different roles than historical societies.

The Pittsfield Historical Society is very active promoting activities that enhancing the appreciation and knowledge of our areas history. Regular meetings are held with presentations on topics related to the town or the surrounding area. They have created a historic trail around the downtown with markers on sites describing their historic significance. The historical society publishes a calendar each year maintains the Frank Lyman Park has developed a museum, has identified a series of family cemeteries in town and provides numerous mementos of

Pittsfield's History that are available. Several publications have been compiled and published describing Pittsfield history. These combined efforts keep the town's history readily



available to residents and visitors.

The town has a series of parks, buildings that are apart of



Former Tuttle Mansion

Pittsfield History and site that contribute to the historic character. Residents have easy access to these and often take part of in activities using the parks and other sites. Monuments have been erected identifying Pittsfield

residents who have served or are presently serving in the military. A series of building exist that show Pittsfield's role in local history such as the theatre which during the Civil War was the headquarters for the Grand Army of the Republic (known today as the Republican Party) and the Tuttle Mansion, once the home of a former governor (today a funeral home). Individuals have played important roles in the local economy and politics of the state. Maintaining and enhancing these sites help perpetuate a rich history which is resource of the downtown.

Recommendations:

#### Natural Resources

1. Continue to the various characteristics of properties of soil, water, wildlife (erosion potential, depth to bedrock, wetlands, wildlife frequency etc.) in reviewing uses of land and require appropriate management practices during the construction process
2. Require the protection of all sloped areas during development through the site plan and subdivision approval process.

3. Prepare and adopt a Water Resource Management and Protection Plan, as required by RSA 4:12v and in conjunction with the Conservation Commission and Natural Resources Committee.
4. Adopt a local wetland regulation to maintain the integrity of wetland functional values. In addition, consider the designation of certain sizable wetlands as prime wetlands pursuant to RSA 482-A:15 .
5. Monitor those engaged in timber operations and agricultural activities to exercise proper management techniques to ensure that these practices do not necessarily degrade the water quality of wetlands, ponds and streams.
6. Educate property owners on the value and need to protect Pittsfield's diverse natural habitats that support a variety of vegetation and wildlife.
7. Preserve and encourage agricultural activity to help maintain the patchwork of wooded areas and fields that are so pleasing to the eye and help maintain links to a more agricultural past.
8. Direct development to the historic settlement pattern of Pittsfield's village and concentrated center to preserve the rural countryside.
9. Coordinate development along highways to develop visual buffers to help maintain the rural character of the town.
10. Preserve open space, including forests abandoned fields, and areas of special ecological interest through measures of land purchase, conservation easements, deed restrictions, mutual covenants and land gifts.

11. Manage roadside trees and shrubs so as to maintain scenic vistas along town roads and create vantage points where feasible.
12. Gate off roads no longer maintained by the town to encourage passive recreation.
13. During the site plan review process, preserve stonewalls and tree lines whenever possible.
14. Protect special habitats such as the black gum forest, along the Suncook River and other natural features.

#### Historic Resources

1. Preserve and Promote historic resources for the enjoyment and appreciation of current residents and future generations, for their economic benefit to the town and for the intrinsic value in and of themselves.
2. Promote increased public involvement in the work of the Heritage/ Historic District Commission.
3. Determine the feasibility of providing incentives to encourage owners of historic properties to improve/ maintain them in such a way as to preserve their architectural integrity.
4. Encourage the on-going efforts of the Historical Society, Heritage/ Historic District Commission, Board of Selectman and other citizen groups to meet historic resource goals.

# Land Use

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## Introduction

Location, type and amount of development are critical features for the future appearance, tax burden, character and quality of life of the Town of Pittsfield. Several factors interrelate to influence the use of land. The objective of this chapter is to review these issues and identify potential direction for the future. The chapter includes a historical prospective, current use, zoning, community incentives and limitations that may need to be addressed.

Historical:

Land Use and Zoning:

Historically, communities have developed around their natural resources, examples of factories located next to rivers. Today, the objective of zoning is to give direction and provide for community growth. Zoning insures adequate space, designating land for specific uses while maintaining a character to the community and the quality of life desired by the residents. Through the Master Plan, zoning can also help to give direction to expansion of municipal services, roads and support services plus effective use of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Land can be allocated for the specific interests and needs of the citizens enhancing the quality of life.

## Pittsfield Zoning Districts

Table 8.1

Zone	Lot Size	Acreage (1999)	% of Total
Commercial	¼ ac.	24	1
Lt. Ind./Commercial	1 ac.	817	5
Urban	¼ ac.	121	1
Suburban	1-11/2 ac.	1,883	12
Rural	2 ac.	12,643	81
Total		15,488	100

Based upon table 1 pg. 7-4, 2000 Pittsfield Master Plan

Each zone has specific frontage and set back requirement. These have been established based upon their best fit for the community. Each zone has specific uses that are allowed by right or by special permit.

The five zoning districts have restrictions but the intent is to enhance the community planning process and provide direction to the citizens.

The Commercial District is intended for retail, commercial and professional activities. This area is located on both sides of Main Street, Depot and Broadway Streets. Single family residents are excluded but multifamily dwellings are allowed.

The Light Industrial/ Commercial districts are designated for light industrial use, wholesale marketing, warehouses and similar uses to that of the commercial zone. Retail is permitted by special exception and residents are not allowed unless it is in combination with a business.

The urban district is primarily residential on the periphery of the



light industrial/commercial zone. Single family and multifamily occupancy exists with the opportunity for limited business uses. These residential buildings are on smaller lots and utilize municipal sewage and water. The structures contribute to the history and the uniqueness of the community.

The Suburban District is primarily residential located as a transitional zone between the urban and rural zones. Lot size varies dependent upon municipal sewage and water. These areas allows for more open space, greenery, landscape and add to the rural character of the town.

The rural zone makes up the majority of the land in Pittsfield. Much of this land is open with larger residential lots and agricultural use served by private wells and septic systems. Much of the character associated with Pittsfield is related to the forests and open spaces. The rural areas also provide opportunities for wildlife and variety of outdoor activities.

### Zone Characteristics

The Commercial district is small in land mass but should be generating commerce, providing employment and character to the town. Main Street and several adjoining streets make up this zone. Examining the building, two blocks of commercial building exist with store fronts, restaurants, commercial enterprises on the first floor and multifamily housing above. Municipal building, library, a park, two banks, churches and other structures common to a small New Hampshire town are also present. Several large structures are found on Main Street, that historically, was large, several story homes.

These buildings have architecture that indicates a history and provides a character that many surrounding communities do not have. Today these have been converted to multifamily housing.

The goal of the commercial zone would be to promote retail sales and business. Several issues have been identified that need to be addressed when considering the future of the commercial zone.

- Parking-Limited to the streets with minimal spaces between buildings.
- Truck Traffic- Delivery and pick-up of materials, backing up of trucks is limited on the streets within the commercial zone.
- Available Lots- The down town areas have few empty lots so that business expansion requires modification or removal of exiting building which raises issues of redevelopment on small lots.
- Bulk storage- Space is limited around many of the existing buildings.
- Security- The commercial zone is in close proximity to many residential units creating a concern with walking traffic.
- Town Architecture- Much of the downtown character relates to the types and styles of the existing buildings which should be maintained and preserved and the Historic District.

Light Industrial/Commercial Zone- is located adjacent to the commercial zone downtown. It is also mapped on both sides of Rt. 28. It is designated for light industrial uses, office parks, wholesale marketing, warehouses, hotel, motel, conference center with the potential for retail. Expansions of this zone is often



looked at as a means to expand the tax base for the town. Several issues exist that need to be examined when looking at this zone.

- Rt. 28- this area has a great deal of frontage with undeveloped land but there are limited numbers of curb breaks allowed by the state highway department, three on the western side and one on the eastern side. The topography of the land is such that much of it would not be easily converted to useable space. Access to Rt. 28 would require entrance from secondary routes (Leavitt Rd. etc.) or the construction of a service road.
- Municipal Service.- Two areas designated for office parks in the 2000 Master Plan report were on the southern end of Rt. 28 and the parcel of land between Rt. 107 and Rt. 28. Neither of these has municipal services extended to the area which could limit the desirability of the land.
- Strip Mall- Concern has been expressed that development of a “strip mall” would change the character of the area.
- Growth- The downtown economic growth is a major concern and needs to be carefully considered when examining expansion of the light industrial/commercial uses on Rt. 28.
- Access to Rt. 28.- Dangerous traffic conditions develop as people enter or cross Rt. 28 at specific times of the day. A traffic light has recently been installed at the Rt. 107 Rt. 28 intersection.

The Urban district is primarily residential, characteristic of densely clustered homes on streets that historically followed the natural topography of the land. The zone also includes Drake Field, a large park that is the site for numerous community activities, and a walking trail along the river with access for boating. The style of homes and their arrangement contribute to a unique atmosphere that other surrounding communities do not have. The neighborhoods have sidewalks and the residents are in close walking distance to

community services. Joy Street, which is adjacent to the river, provides a quiet area with winter recreation on a lot behind the town hall.

- The river could become the focal point, creating an atmosphere unique to downtown areas in the region.
- Walking paths, adjacent to homes create a quiet setting attractive to residents and visitors.
- The recreational opportunities provide experiences for residents of all ages to enjoy, unique to New England towns.
- Maintaining the physical appearance of these buildings and grounds is critical to the overall atmosphere of the downtown and peripheral areas.

The Suburban Zone is located between the urban and rural zones, characteristic of homes on larger lots. These homes also maintain more extensive landscapes, provide opportunities for hobbies and outdoor recreation for people of all ages.

- The natural transition between urban and rural zones should be maintained.
- Larger bodies of land exist that could be subdivided and a plan for suburban growth should be examined.

The Rural Zone, is made up primarily of agriculture, forests and open space that creates much of the atmosphere of Pittsfield. Large parcels of land exist that can and have been subdivided into smaller lots. A struggle exists, to maintain the atmosphere of the town and manage the concerns of residential growth.

- Private septic systems and wells are utilized, utilizing designs approved by State Standards

- Setbacks are monitored to insure the aesthetic development of the lot.
- A road has been designated as scenic, putting restrictions on the scope of road improvement that can be done.
- Many of the homes are built close to roads limiting greenery around the homes.
- Cluster subdivisions provide a means to increase open space and recreational opportunities. Cluster subdivisions that maintain the spirit of the concept and place homes that compliment the topography and the character of the land could provide attractive housing options.
- The town has 9.5 miles of class VI roads with the potential of a large number of lots that could be developed. Significant road costs and liability could exist for the town unless a plan for this land use is developed.

Current use is a tool available to rural land owners where property is taxed by its use, not its value for development. This provides a tax saving to the land owner and it assists the maintenance of open land. The following chart indicates the utilization of current use in Pittsfield.

Table 8-2

Land Designated for Current Use  
Acres for each Use

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Farm Land	1,324	1,315	1,296	1,291
Forest Land	7,217	7,125	7,169	7,130
Forest Land w/ Documented Stewardship	766	966	959	955
Unproductive Land	142	156	164	185
Wetland	405	386	365	359
Land Removed From CU	69	44	76	92
# Owners in CU	206	214	215	211
# Parcels in CU	329	332	359	348
Total Land in CU	9,088	8,982	8,994	8,965
Form MS-1 Respective Years				

This data lead us to the fact that in 2005 approximately 70% of the rural land in Pittsfield was involved in Current Use. A small decline in total acreage occurs each year that could be assumed to be the land owners putting the land into residential development.

Pittsfield has several properties deeded to the Town, conservation easements exist on a series of properties. These include (Appendix) town municipal buildings, community property and lots in rural areas. Individual residents have relinquished the opportunity to develop their land by selling the development rights or conservation easements. All of this is in the rural zone and can provide green space and wildlife areas for years to come. Over 455 acres of land in rural areas is deeded to the town and 492 acres of land is involved with conservation easements. The land comprises 7.1% of the rural zone and 5.8% of the total town property.

Several of these parcels have management plans but others do not. Examining the proximity of these, opportunities for recreation, wildlife and community activities could be established. Identifying the optimum community value of this land should be performed.

Maintaining open spaces is a concern for southern New Hampshire as we see the need for housing. The area west of Rt. 28 has several features.

- a. Has a large number of wetlands.
- b. Large number of natural resources
- c. Rated high is wildlife habitat
- d. Quality soils for agricultural use.
- e. Over 450 acres of land has conservation easements.

MASTER PLAN  
Pittsfield, N. H.  
2009

PROPOSED  
5-ACRE ZONING



SCALE 1" = 1,000'

MAP 8-1

f. Farming already exists in the area.

Traditional approaches of preserving land do not appear to be readily feasible. The Master Plan proposes, that a Zone be created, designated for Agricultural Preservation, West of Rt. 28 (see Map) with a minimum lot size of 5 acres. Single family housing and business enterprises that utilize the natural resources would be promoted. Recreational uses would also be encouraged. The Town of Loudon has a similar district established on land abutting Pittsfield which would make a large contiguous area with similar goals.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Suncook River, historically has played a role in the towns development. The scenic tranquil setting created by the river could be a preferential attraction to help bring people to Pittsfield. Walking trails, quaint building, and parks provide a setting for events or new commercial industries. A boat launch has been installed and should be better utilized.

2. Several buildings are available that could provide economic growth for the town.

3. Utilize community development programs that will enhance municipal services encouraging the potential development of Light Commercial and Industrial development.

4. Develop the recreational uses of conservation and Town owned lands.

5. Develop a green belt area around the Suncook River to maintain the aesthetic, wildlife and conservation value of the river. Building should be limited to preserve the qualities of the river, and limit flood potential to homes.

6. Property owned, bordering Rt. 28, should be placed in the Light Industrial Commercial Zone, not bisecting into two zones as currently exists. This is accomplished by reviewing the Suburban, Light Industrial/ Commercial Zones.

7. The Zoning Ordinances should be reviewed and periodically adjusted to current needs and trends.



#### Residential Use:

1. Encourage the use of cluster subdivisions, wherever possible, to maintain open space, minimal utilities and protect natural and cultural features.
2. Encourage the reduction of the number of apartments within the downtown, wherever possible, by promoting renovation, conversion and reuse of existing multi-family units, business units and or elderly and assisted living units.
3. Provide additional age oriented housing.
4. Encourage the use of historic and architecturally significant buildings in the village center to maintain the viability and the existing character of Pittsfield.

#### Non-Residential Development:

1. Amend the Light Industrial/Commercial zone to provide adequate physical separation and buffers between non-residential uses and abutting residential zones.
2. Encourage owners to maintain and when appropriate to rehabilitate or remodel buildings to insure that the buildings within town are sound and attractive.
3. Reevaluate the need for a sign ordinance to encourage signage that is attractive and complimentary to the business and the town.
4. Develop opportunities to attract traffic to the downtown area by way of Leavitt, Loudon Rd and Rt. 107.
5. Retain natural buffers along Rt. 28 to retain the open and rural character.
6. Conduct a mini corridor analysis of Rt. 28 through Pittsfield, presently in progress
7. Rename the urban district to a village and residential district and the commercial to a mixed use district.
8. Continue to enhance the streetscape of downtown area.
9. Place existing utility lines underground.
10. Building Architecture- Areas along Rt. 28 overlook the town of Pittsfield and the style of buildings should be complimentary to the character of the town.

## Economic Development

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The economic viability of a community has an impact upon the quality of services, opportunities for the citizens and the outlook for the future. Regional, state and local factors contribute to economic growth. The 2000 Master Plan identified the need to increase the tax base, a higher than average unemployment rate, vacant buildings and underutilized commercial property. In recent years several businesses have moved to Pittsfield while others have been discontinued. The Chamber of Commerce and the Pittsfield Economic Development Committee work to promote the business community.

Historically, the economic development has followed the trends of the region and the resources of the community. Mills and manufacturing became prominent in the 1800s as in other New England towns. The cotton and leather industries moved south and eventually to other countries due to lower production costs. Farming and natural resource industries were common, utilizing the fields and woodlands of the area. New England has observed a general decline in these areas and has partially been replaced by small, part-time and hobby enterprises. Associated craftspeople developed businesses helping to create a diverse economic base.

### Demographic Information

The following information indicates general trends within

Pittsfield, much of the data has not been updated since the 2000 census.

Table 9-1

Income Level Pittsfield, Merrimac County State 1990/2000

	Pittsfield	County	New Hampshire
Median Household 1990	\$29,627	\$41,018	\$41,628
Income (\$) 2000	\$33,883	\$48,552	\$49,467
Difference	\$4256 14.3%	\$7534 18.3%	7839 18.8%
Median Family Income (\$)	\$44,233		\$57,575
Per Capita 1990	\$11,360	\$16,057	\$15,959
Income (\$) 2000	\$21,082	\$23,208	\$23,844
Difference	\$9,722 85%	\$7151 44.5%	\$7885 49.4%
Individuals Below	202	8800	23,948
% Poverty Level 1990	(11.4%)	(5.5%)	(6.4%)
%Poverty Level 2000	(11.7%)	(6.3%)	(4.3%)

US Census 2000

Income data indicates that Pittsfield has a higher than average level of poverty and a corresponding lower family income. Table 9.1 indicates that over the past decade the residents have made improvement in family and personal income but still fall behind in the level of poverty. There are numerous factors that could contribute including job opportunities, skills appropriate for available jobs plus numerous other factors.

Looking at the types of employment and the trends for the past years the following Table 9.2 will give an overview.

Table 9.2

Pittsfield Employment Status 1995-2005

	1995	2005
Civilian Labor Force	2,087	2,368
Employed	1,979	2,285
Unemployed	108	83
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	3.5%
Employment and Wages		
Goods Producing Industries		
Individuals Employed	613	539
Average Weekly Wage	\$495	\$933
Service Providing Industries		
Individuals Employed	395	280
Average Weekly Wage	\$449	\$598
Total Government (Federal, State, Local)		
Individuals Employed	183	207
Average Weekly Wage	\$371	\$532
Private Industry		
Individuals Employed	1,009	819
Average Weekly Wage	\$477	\$818
Total Jobs In Pittsfield	1191	1026

NH Dept. of Employment Security

The data indicates that improvement has been made in the rate of unemployment and the weekly wages earned. The total number of jobs in Pittsfield has declined while the labor force has increased.

Specific industries that employ Pittsfield residents can be seen in Table 9.3.

Table 9.3

Pittsfield Residents Employment by Industry 2000

Occupation	No. of Workers
Total employed age 16 and older	2,077
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	49
Construction	157
Manufacturing	448
Wholesale	73
Retail	265
Transportation/Warehousing	56
Utilities	20
Information	24
Finance/Insurance	86
Real Estate	68
Science/Technology	63
Management	0
Administrative Support/Waste Mngt.	62
Education	124
Healthcare/Social Assistance	207
Arts, Entertainment, Recreation	7
Food and Hospitality	81
Public Administration	138
Other	149

US Census 2000

The summary of jobs found in Pittsfield indicate a broad distribution of employment. Table 9.4 shows the major employers of Pittsfield and the type of industries.

Table 9-4

Major Employers in Pittsfield 2005

Company	Number of Employees	Industry
Globe Manufacturing	300	Manufacturing
Pittsfield School District	165	Education
Pittsfield Weaving	108	Manufacturing
Town Of Pittsfield	26	Town Management
H.A. Marston Inc.	21	Transportation
Barry Podmore Inc.	12	Machine

NH Employment Security 2005

## Employment Projections:

New Hampshire and Merrimack County expect to have a positive economic growth in the next decade. The areas of growth will represent demographic changes, economic opportunities, and technologies that will be available for a skilled workforce. The following tables indicate projections for Merrimack County.

Table 9.5

### Fastest Growing Occupations in Merrimack County

Occupation	2004 Employment	Projected 2014 Employment
Home Health Aide	283	505
Pharmacy Technicians	200	312
Medical Assistants	148	23
Personal Care Aide	881	1282
Dental Hygienists	235	341
Dental Assistants	183	265
Occupational Therapists	115	165
Physical Therapist	151	214
Community Social Services	124	175
Preschool Teachers	363	505

NH Dept. of Employment 2004

The occupations with the greatest growth reflect the population demographics and advances in medical technology. Our population is aging requiring additional services; technology has allowed individuals of all ages to have a fuller and richer life. Appropriate skill training for employees and facilities and services need to continue to grow to reflect our changing population.

Table 9.6

Projections by Industry for Merrimack County 2005

Industry	2004 Employment	Projected 2014
Ag. Forestry	321	380
Mining	209	225
Construction	3,358	3,963
Manufacturing	6,855	6,425
Utilities	431	396
Wholesale Trade	3,575	7,109
Retail Trade	9,929	11,867
Transportation	1,414	1,639
Information	684	725
Finance/Insurance	4,174	4,228
Real Estate	852	997
Scientific/Tech	2,714	3,302
Management	391	442
Admin/ Waste Mng.	1,736	2,191
Education	6,618	7,895
Health/Social Ser.	10,409	13,929
Arts, Entertainment	1,698	2,282
Foods/Accommodation	4,473	5,284
Non-Government	3,134	3,608
Government	10,585	11,338
Self-Employed	6,750	7,040

NH Dept. of Employment Security 2004

Employment projections for the region indicate favorable growth for the next ten years. Several industries will continue to decline indicating that individuals will need to shift career paths. These projections of new industries indicate growth of the service and business sectors and not manufacturing. Growth opportunities for new businesses reflect the general growth of the area but each community must attract and develop those industries that will fit their community best.

Economic Development Committee:

A committee has been created and is addressing the economic needs of the community. The group has been very active and has

addressed several areas.

- Secured professional assistance from Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission.
- Identified the economic strengths and weaknesses of the town.
- Established priorities to develop a vibrant downtown area.
- Developed downtown publicity by promoting an event with USAC race cars being brought to Pittsfield.
- Brought wireless internet to downtown Pittsfield with the use of a grant.

The ultimate goal is to increase business viability and attract economic growth for the future economic revitalization of Pittsfield.

Chamber of Commerce:

Most communities have chamber of Commerce composed of local business people who promote the economic viability of the community. The chamber is active promoting local businesses and an awareness of the services they provide. The Chamber has several activities that they have sponsored.

- They have sponsored a Fall Business Showcase
- Annual town wide yard sale.
- Sponsor signs on Rt. 28 identifying Pittsfield
- Sponsored "Meet the Candidates Night"
- Sponsor an annual scholarship for Pittsfield graduates.

Economic growth of a community has many positive benefits that may include lower taxes, increase income for existing businesses or opportunities for new businesses plus others. Along with obvious benefits there are areas that may need to occur.

- Business opportunities exist in the downtown area as indicated by empty storefronts and commercial buildings.



- To lower taxes costs either need to decrease or the tax base needs to be expanded.
- General job growth is predicted for the county but that is not a guarantee for any specific community. Employment predictions are indicative of general trends and new businesses will seek communities that are most advantageous to their needs.
- Projected career opportunities are in areas that require specific training and academic achievement.
- In the past few years employment in Pittsfield has declined requiring residents to travel to work. New industries could reverse this trends.

Examining recent business changes that have occurred within Pittsfield we may see opportunities for future growth.

- Several new businesses have moved to Pittsfield within the past few years. Crowded conditions, available space or greater opportunities in Pittsfield have brought businesses to utilize vacant structures within town.

There are various situations that initially could be looked at as a handicap but we can also identify potential opportunities.

- Empty store fronts and business can be a visual detriment or a potential resources.
- Buildings on Main Street could be utilized for both commercial and residential activity.
- Parking is a perceived limitation, as travelers leave Rt. 28 a traffic flow with appropriate parking should be available.

- A traveler does not have a specific reason to come to Pittsfield or stop when traveling on Rt. 28.
- There is the potential value of walking paths, the unique architecture and small town atmosphere.
- Development on Rt. 28 could enhance the tax base of the town but physical limitations exist. A concern about the type of development that could occur, the potential to draw business from the downtown and the change of character of the area all exist.

#### Economic Growth:

Growth industries exist for Merrimack County and surrounding area. The question exists, can new industries be attracted to Pittsfield and be successful. The 2000 Master Plan suggested that a Business Park be established west of Route 28. The overall development of Rt. 28 has several obstacles.

- A limited number of curb breaks exist. Much of the land is hilly or wet limiting building potential.
- A concern exists about detracting commercial development from the downtown.
- Traffic flow could be disrupted.
- Potential sewer capacity for new development is limited.

Possible solutions to these issues could be initiated prior to the development, which include the following.

- Establish a Tax Increment Finance District. Financing for public improvements where taxes derived from new businesses are allocated to pay down the debt incurred. Keene and Peterborough have successfully utilized this principle and Franklin has proposal for downtown renovation.
- Develop lots off roads adjoining Route 28, Loudon and Leavitt Rds. Municipal water is available and the natural landscape lends itself for the installation of sewers. Construction of service roads off of roads such as Leavitt or Loudon would increase building opportunities.
- Attract distinctive types of businesses that will attract customers and vendors to Pittsfield.
- Attract businesses where location on a major road is not critical.

#### Recent Developments:

The Suncook Valley Regional Development Corporation has been formed as Non-profit organization to work in conjunction with the town of Pittsfield to help promote growth and development of the town. The goal will be to address issues of attracting new businesses, unemployment and the revitalization of the downtown area.

Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission in conjunction with the Economic Development Committee has developed an Economic Strategy for Pittsfield. The work was based upon an economic profile completed in 2007 and examines the liabilities and assets of Pittsfield.

Pittsfield is not alone in developing and strengthening its

economic base. Pittsfield has character that is unique as compared to surrounding towns allowing opportunities to draw new businesses. Many of the amenities of recreation, walking paths, historic trails, and other could enhance the area for residents and also create a supportive environment for a business park, motel, creative businesses and other ventures that could locate in Pittsfield.

Recommendations:

1. Work with the school district officials to initiate steps that will encourage school completion, increase the technical content of the curriculum and a desire for advanced education.
2. Investigate programs of educational institutions in the region to develop long-term creative partnerships aimed at improving the local labor force capabilities.
3. Investigate the feasibility and costs of extending the necessary infrastructure to make properties along the Route 28 more attractive for development.
4. Initiate the business loop road concept approved by the State DOT at the time of the reconstruction of Route 28.
5. Continue to develop opportunities to entice through-traffic from the Route 28 access point into the downtown area.
6. Increase the diversity in the type of businesses within the downtown.
7. Encourage reuse of the existing building stock (for example single family structures containing apartments for small business incubation, and office and professional use.)

8. Improve parking opportunities as needed to accommodate increased business activity acquiring parcels for temporary or permanent Town owned property.
9. Coordinate the type and amount of non-residential development planned for the downtown with the Route 28 corridor development efforts to avoid competition with the downtown area businesses.
10. Promote an efficient approval process for new and expanded residential and non-residential developments while insuring all aspects of prudent planning procedures receive appropriate attention.
11. Coordinate efforts of all public and private entities to avoid conflict of interest and duplication of efforts in planning Pittsfield's future.
12. Improve the overall quality and appearance of the downtown by emphasizing the impact community appearance has on business location.
13. Make the revitalization of Pittsfield's downtown a priority for all town agencies while at the same time encouraging development at target sites along the Route 28 corridor.
14. Work with the State Office of Travel and Tourism Development to promote Pittsfield's ability to increase activities and business ventures related to tourism.
15. Increase recreational activities related to the Town's natural features to promote tourism within Pittsfield.
16. Develop a long term program of promoting Pittsfield through participation at area-wide events, information centers, conferences

and trade publications.

17. Continue to pursue all public and private resources available for advice, technical assistance and grants to support Pittsfield's economic development efforts.



## Summary

The Master Plan Committee was given the charge of examining trends, strengths and needs within the Town. Several areas were identified that should be examined in context of the whole report which includes: a. Quality of life of the citizens, b. Education, c. Taxes, d. Economic, Cultural and Social opportunities and e. the unique qualities of the Town. These are intertwined as expected. Many of the issues facing the Town are diligently being addressed ex. the efforts of the Economic Development Committee and the School Board.

Examining the Charrette (1999) and the 2000 Master Plan, many of the recommendations of both documents still appear to be applicable. Collection of data and identifying changes that are occurring have been mentioned, but many of the same needs and opportunities still present.

There are many positive features of the Town, not found in neighboring communities. Creating a picture of downtown Pittsfield and enhancing its positive features is difficult. Several efforts would add greatly to making this picture.

Reactivation of the Heritage Commission would allow the cataloguing the historic resources of the Town.

Developing a plan for the expansion of the sewer and water system.

Developing a plan for the expansion and repairs of sidewalks.

Develop a traffic analysis of the downtown allowing to identify areas of congestion, areas for walking, parking and business



development.

Develop a study for the needs and space utilization of town buildings.

The information can provide a view of the downtown and will have impact upon other recommendations. Important historical areas can be identified, pedestrian areas, and a flow of downtown activity can be developed.

Downtown Pittsfield is a site of opportunity. The empty store fronts and buildings that can potentially be renovated for commercial use and can become a commercial and economic stimulus. Being the only community in the area with a downtown, an historic district, numerous community activities and volunteerism, all help build an atmosphere that can be a destination site for a potential business. Having zoning and building standards that support positive growth, technical support and help for a new business plus a unified effort to promote a downtown can be a positive incentive. A visitor should see a vision for the downtown with the physical direction and community support that will compliment the creation of a new enterprise.

Taxes are an obvious concern, no quick remedy has emerged. Commercial development is one opportunity but the impact upon the appearance and qualities of the Town need to be balanced. A build out analysis of Rt. 28 should be continued. Continued efforts should be continued to identify businesses wanting to relocate and build upon the advantages of New Hampshire and village qualities of Pittsfield.

The school system plays a vital role in the future of young people of Pittsfield. Costs and student success create a concern but a small school environment, scholarships plus other opportunities are strengths. The present revaluation of the school system, taking a fresh look at the needs and the opportunities can provide schools that are unique, with a quality that people want their children to come to Pittsfield for the advantages that we can offer.

Pittsfield has a resource of hills, forests and open spaces. These are potential sites for future development and the concern exists on how to maintain open space while building homes. Inventories of wetlands, open spaces, wildlife areas etc. are keys to identify sensitive areas and opportunities for creative development. The resources that exist should be developed for the use by the citizen's examples: wetlands, trails, hunting, bike paths, snowmobiling and other needs.

Pittsfield, along with most the United States is facing economically difficult times. The impact affects individuals and businesses in many ways, often beyond what we see on the surface. We all need to be sensitive to this issue not only to the issues we face but to those around us. Efforts should be initiated to identify the needs, possible community forums, aid to help families help themselves, community gardens and be open to those in need. A test of a community is how we come together during challenging times.

Community activities provide a focus for town unity and identity and should be continued. The volunteerism could be expanded as new residents move to town and encouragement for the next

generation of Pittsfield residents. Volunteerism and the community identity, are key to the future of the quality of life as we know it. The construction of a “one of a kind” ball field and suggestions of a regional YMCA or other facility could enhance the image of the town. The advantages of Pittsfield can provide opportunities not available to people a few miles away.

Pittsfield has many positive features, including the citizens, natural resources and history. Town representatives continually work to provide services at a minimal cost, and needs are being addresses while looking to the future. The opportunity exists for Pittsfield to be known as an attractive vibrant community, tying historic, natural resources and business community together. It can be known for its popular events, a community that works together is attractive to visit and live. The recommendations in each chapter are to help town leaders and planners work to maintain the quality of life, experiences and opportunities we all feel exist.