

9. Community Facilities & Services



A primary purpose of this plan is to identify services currently available to town residents, evaluate the effectiveness of the town and other providers in delivering those services, anticipate future demands, and assess whether those demands can be met efficiently. Waitsfield residents enjoy a range of services and facilities, including an efficient municipal government, excellent emergency services, access to a variety of social, recreation and health-care services, and state of the art telecommunications infrastructure. Despite the wide range of excellent services available, the town faces several challenges regarding specific facilities and services.

The lack of municipal water and sewer hinders efforts to foster a compact settlement pattern, which can result in sprawl and a corresponding loss of the town's rural character. The local education system, despite maintaining a high standard of quality (especially K–6), is stressed by a growing tax burden under Act 60 that threatens the town's ability to fund necessary programs (Local Education is addressed in Chapter 10). And, continued growth in the community will require an ongoing assessment and upgrade of specific facilities. These issues are addressed in detail on the next pages.

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Town Administration

Waitsfield is governed by a five-member Selectboard elected to staggered terms by the voters. The Selectboard is responsible for preparing the town's budget, setting policy, and administering town finances and a variety of related duties. The Selectboard is staffed by a full-time Town Administrator who assists with town administration and supervision, and serves as the day to day contact person for local citizens. Town staff also includes a full time Town Clerk and Treasurer, elected by the voters, and an Assistant Clerk hired by the Town Clerk. The Clerk and Town Administrator maintain regular hours in the town offices located on the first floor of the Joslin Library. A description of the office and related issues is provided below.

Like most small Vermont communities, Waitsfield is heavily dependent upon volunteers to fulfill many governmental duties. In addition to members of the Selectboard—who receive a nominal stipend for their long hours of service—several dozen local residents are elected or appointed to serve on boards and committees, and to represent Waitsfield on regional organizations. This dedication and sense of duty helps define our community, and keeps local institutions open and accessible.

One group of local citizens not typically represented in municipal government is non-voting youth. An opportunity to engage the town's youth in community affairs is to appoint local high school students to serve on one or more local boards as an ex officio (non-voting) member. This concept was supported by 66.4% of recent survey respondents.

Town Planning

Waitsfield has an active land use planning and community development program that dates back—at least—to the late 1960s when the first municipal plan was developed. Most planning functions were—and still are—carried out by a volunteer Planning Commission appointed by the Selectboard. When zoning regulations were first adopted, they were administered by a part-time zoning administrator who was reimbursed through permit application fees. The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment,

also comprised of appointed volunteers, are responsible for much of the regulatory oversight of the regulations. Both bodies are assisted by a full-time Zoning Administrator, who is responsible for the administration and enforcement of local regulations, in addition to supporting the commission and board with their activities.

With the formation of the Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD)—comprised of Waitsfield, Fayston and Warren—in the mid-1980s, the Commission was able to augment its planning capacity with professional assistance. In the 1990s, increasing development pressure and growing complexity of local regulations prompted the town to make zoning and planning administration more consistent. Today, the town continues to participate in the MRVPD and use the services of its Executive Director, as well as outside consulting services on a project specific basis.

Government Finance

In Vermont, the principal mechanism for funding local government is the property tax. While certain types of outside assistance are available (including state highway aid, fees for services, miscellaneous special purpose grant programs—the primary state aid program), approximately 80% of Waitsfield's annual budget (excluding education, which is addressed in Chapter 10) is funded through the local property tax. It should be noted, however, that non-tax revenues consistently made up a relatively high percentage (20% or more) of Waitsfield's revenues for several years. This is due, in part, to an aggressive effort on the part of town government to identify and secure alternative revenue sources, such as grants, to fund specific projects.

Figure 9.1 shows annual municipal expenditures between 1996 and 2002. Both actual expenditures and expenditures adjusted for inflation are included. Education expenditures—by far the greatest municipal expense—are not included in the figure (see Chapter 10). The town has maintained a relatively stable budget for the past several years.

Waitsfield's municipal expenditures are generally higher than in neighboring communities, however, due partly to the town's function as the Valley's commercial center and the high level of service provided

by local government. In addition, the town does not enjoy as large a grand list (i.e. property wealth) as neighboring Fayston and Warren, nor large non-tax revenue sources such as those provided the town of Moretown in exchange for hosting the WSI landfill. As a result, Waitsfield's effective municipal tax rate (\$0.415) is higher than in most neighboring communities (see Figure 9.2). This, coupled with steep tax increases to fund local education, and related pressure to reduce municipal taxes, will limit the town's ability to maintain existing services, much less fund new initiatives, in coming years.

Capital Budget & Program

To limit fluctuations in town expenditures, thereby stabilizing tax rates, the town has adopted a capital budget and program on an annual basis for the past 20 years. The capital budget and program is a planning tool to help the town anticipate future capital expenditures and to schedule them so to avoid sharp increases in the tax rate during any one year. When combined with a capital reserve fund, the town may spread capital costs over a number of years, further stabilizing the municipal budget. It is also a mechanism for considering capital expenditures in the context of this Plan to ensure that budget decisions are consistent with the town's planning goals. The 2003 capital budget and program is included as an appendices to the Plan.

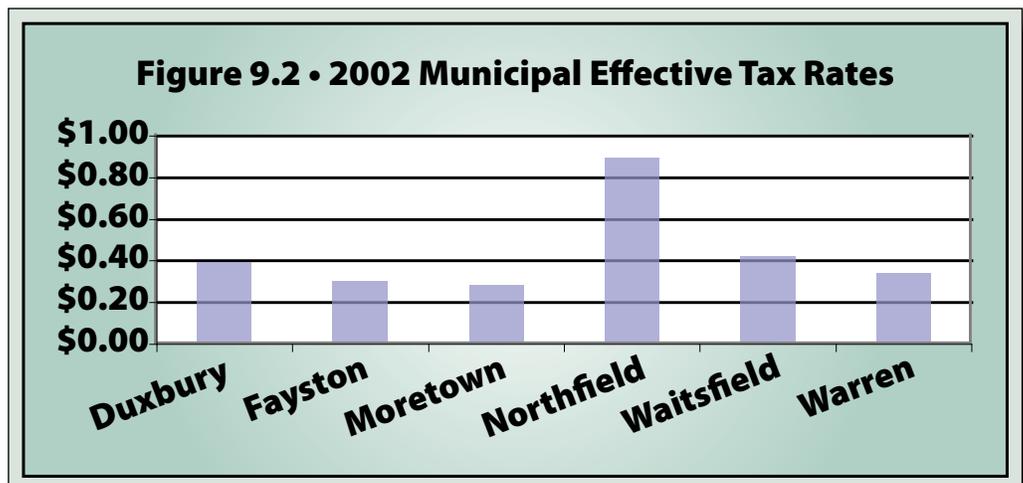
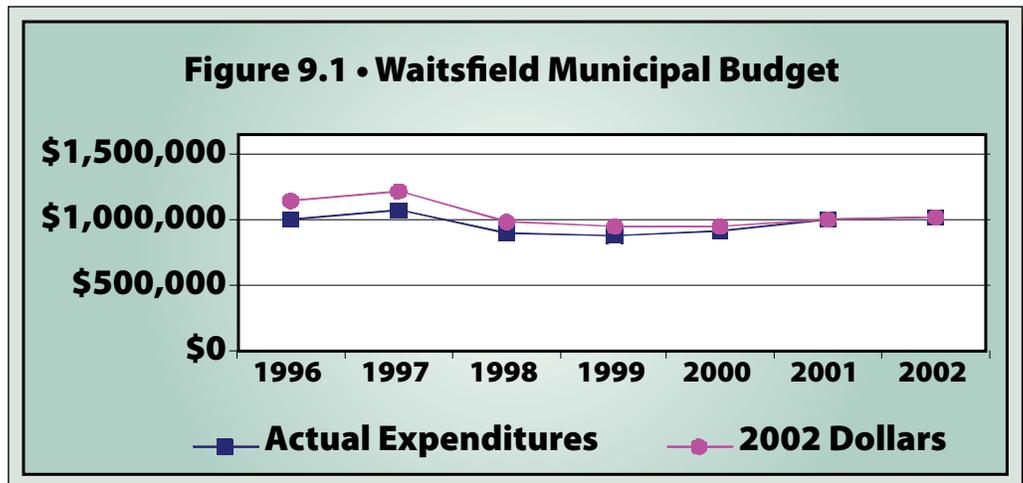
With regard to the town's capital reserve funds—which have been used effectively over the years—the town should always consider the appropriate balance between savings and indebtedness when making capital purchases. Interest rates on long term borrowing are at there lowest point in two generations. This—coupled with rapidly appreciating land costs in

town—presents an opportunity for the town to take advantage of low interest rates by bonding for key investments—such as acquisition of land for needed public facilities, conservation, recreation, housing and/or economic development.

Town Properties

The town owns several properties used for a variety of civic, recreation, conservation and cultural purposes. The following is a partial list of town properties and a description of relevant considerations related to each.

Joslin Library/Town Office. The town office is located on the first floor of the Joslin Library. The building has undergone several renovations in recent years, including exterior repairs and interior improvements in the library. Town office space is occupied by administrative offices, including the Town Clerk's office, meeting space and the vault housing the town's property records. Space in the building has become increasingly tight. The most pressing problem is



limited vault space, which is projected to reach capacity within the next three years. In addition, storage and work space for staff is limited, and attendance at public meetings of more than 12-15 people typically requires attendees to occupy office areas and/or to stand in hallways.

It is uncertain whether the library building could be expanded to accommodate additional vault and work space. If an expansion could physically be accommodated, it would need to be carefully designed to avoid damage to the building’s historic character. Other options include relocating to an existing building in Waitsfield Village, possibly adjacent to the General Wait House or in an existing Village building, or constructing a new facility elsewhere in Waitsfield Village or Irasville. Whatever the option, it is clear that planning should begin in the near future, with the goal of providing adequate office and vault space within Waitsfield Village or Irasville within the next 3-5 years.

An important consideration in planning for a new town office is the historic (pre-1950’s) practice of designing civic structures to reflect the values of the community. A new town office should serve as a community focal point and convey a sense of permanence, pride of place and respect for tradition, while at the same time incorporating necessary elements of function and efficiency. The offices should also be centrally located to encourage community interaction.

General Wait House. The historic General Wait House—the original home of Waitsfield’s founder, Benjamin Wait—was purchased in 1995. Funded

with the assistance of an “enhancement grant” from VTrans and private donations raised by the Waitsfield Historical Society, the building accommodates display space for the Historical Society, a visitor center operated by the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce, public restrooms, community meeting space, and office space for local service providers.

The main house was restored to serve the aforementioned functions; the attached barns were only stabilized and remain in need of restoration. Preliminary plans for the restoration include expanded display space for the Historical Society, and additional space for larger community meetings and functions than can be accommodated within the main house. Not only should the restoration provide a worthwhile community service, it should improve the outward appearance of the building and enhance the northern gateway to Waitsfield Village.

Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department. (See Public Safety below).

Town Garage. The town’s highway department, discussed in Chapter 8, is housed in a garage located off the Tremblay Road, near its intersection with North Road. Built in 1986 after a fire destroyed the previous garage, the garage is located on a 10.8 acre parcel. The current facility is adequate to meet anticipated needs, and the parcel can accommodate expansion should it become necessary.

Town Cemeteries (See below)

Other Properties. The town owns several parcels used for conservation, recreation and other community uses. These parcels (summarized in Table 9.1) are described in appropriate sections of this plan. In some instances, stewardship of these properties is the responsibility of a specific board or commission (e.g., cemeteries). In others, however, the responsibility falls to the Selectboard. With regard to those parcels used for recreation and conservation, the Waitsfield Conservation Commission, established in March 2003 by town voters, could assume the responsibility of preparing management plans for the use and sustainable stewardship of these properties.

Town/Village Green: With the exception of a small park adjacent to the Joslin Library, and the two undeveloped commons located at the intersections of the Common, Joslin Hill and East Roads, the community lacks a central common or green in a location

<p>TABLE 9.1 Town Properties (excluding buildings & cemeteries)</p> <p>Scrag Forest/ Joslyn Parcel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lareau Swimhole/Austin Parcel ◆ Munn Field ◆ Brook Road Parcel ◆ Eclipse Theater Pond ◆ LeClair Parcel ◆ Tardy Parcel ◆ Neill/Woliner Trail Easement ◆ Lawton Trail Easement ◆ Dowdel/Cohen Easement

appropriate for community gatherings. Such a green could serve as a central focal point in Irasville as that area develops (see Chapter 12), and/or could serve as an organizing feature in the event land in the Village Residential District is developed in coming years.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Law Enforcement

The Vermont State Police and the Washington County Sheriff’s Department are responsible for law enforcement in the Mad River Valley. The State Police operate out of the Middlesex Barracks located on Route 2 in Middlesex, and are primarily responsible for all law enforcement matters in our area, particularly major criminal investigations.

Waitsfield has contracted with the Washington County Sheriff’s Department for local police coverage for the past fifteen years. The goals of this program are to enforce traffic safety and provide emergency response services. In 2003, the town contracted for 16 hours of local patrol by a deputy sheriff per week, which is augmented by cross-coverage through a similar contract between the County Sheriff and the Town of Warren. To support this program, the town maintains a police cruiser purchased in 2003. The annual cost of this service in 2002 was \$29,751, which was offset by \$27,265 in associated revenues (e.g., traffic fines, mileage for out-of-town calls).

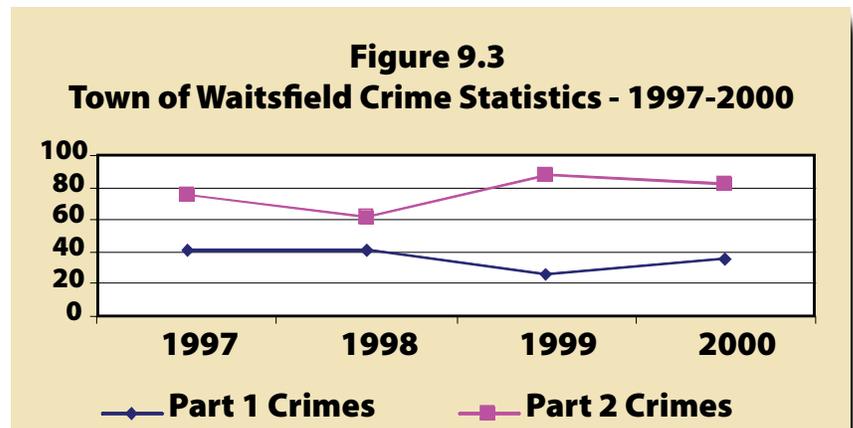
The local patrol is widely viewed as a cost effective way in which to provide police protection without the burden of a local police department. A major reason for its success is the community’s good fortune to have a locally elected constable and town resident serve as the primary sheriff’s deputy staffing the program. This has undoubtedly contributed to the excellent service—and common sense and respect for local residents—that the sheriff’s department has provided. In the event of a staffing change, which is anticipated to occur in the coming year, it will be important that the town and sheriff’s department staff the position with a deputy who can maintain the high standards and dedication to the community that Waitsfield has come to expect.

Sugarbush Resort also has an annual agreement with the sheriff’s department to assist with traffic control

during the ski season and special events. Officers direct traffic at the intersection of Route 100 and Route 17. Similar traffic control services have been required for large special events, which are typically a condition of a special event’s permit issued by the Selectboard under the Special Events Ordinance. This program ensures that traffic safety is maintained during periods of uncharacteristic high traffic.

While it is impossible to draw a correlation between the level of police coverage and crime rates, Figure 9.3 indicated the extent to which the number of crimes in Waitsfield has remained relatively stable in recent years¹. In 2000, the number of crimes per thousand Waitsfield residents was 26.6 “part 1” crimes and 49.3 “part 2” crimes. This compares favorably with crime rates for Washington County as a whole, which in 2000 had experienced 32.1 Part 1 crimes and 100.1 Part 2 crimes per thousand county residents, respectively. Part 1 crimes in Waitsfield in 2000 were limited to burglaries and larceny, while the majority of part 2 crimes committed were drunken driving, vandalism and family disputes.

One likely cause of the consistently low crime rate in Waitsfield is the strong sense of community that



exists. In many respects, a strong community is the best deterrent to crime. As the town grows it will be critical that it not develop in a way that serves to isolate community members or create barriers to local institutions, that options for civil interaction are provided, a strong sense of place is fostered, and that development is guided to reinforce traditional land use patterns—including attractive, pedestrian-scale villages—and maintain a clean, healthy environment.

¹“Part 1” crimes include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, arson and larceny. “Part 2” crimes are of a relatively less serious nature, including forgery, vandalism and drug and alcohol offenses.

Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department

Fire protection services are currently provided by the Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department. The department covers both Waitsfield and Fayston and maintains a mutual assistance agreement with other nearby fire departments. Fayston funds 40% of the annual operating and capital costs of the department. This 60/40 split was determined by the approximate percentage of responses within each town. In addition to the funding agreement, many Fayston residents serve as volunteers. As both towns grow, the breakdown of calls should be monitored to ensure that funding remains fairly allocated.

Presently, 21 active volunteers (2 of whom completed training in 2002) serve as fire fighters—fewer than were active ten years ago. Volunteers are reimbursed a nominal fee for time spent on emergency responses; however, the bulk of time spent on administration, training and maintenance is voluntary. While the number of volunteers is adequate to maintain the excellent level of service presently provided, the number of volunteers should be monitored and additional fire fighters actively recruited.

Major equipment, which is maintained in the fire station located adjacent to the General Wait House in Waitsfield Village, includes a new (2003) 1,000 gallon International pumper, a 1987 Ford pumper, a 1982 GMC tanker and a 2000 Chevrolet van. A 1943 Ford Model A pumper is also maintained which symbolizes the department’s years of dedicated service to the community. Annual contributions to a reserve fund are made toward future equipment replacement, although no major expenditures are included in the current capital budget and program.



From 1997 through 2001 the department averaged 47 calls per year, although 2001 saw the highest number of calls (60) during that period. In addition to emergency response, the department has emphasized fire prevention and education. The past performance of the fire department has been exceptional, and there is no reason to believe that performance will change in the coming years.

Ambulance & Rescue Services

The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service has been providing emergency medical care since 1971. The ambulance service, organized as a non-profit corporation, provides 24-hour service to residents and visitors of the Mad River Valley. The service operates from a Waitsfield Village facility purchased by the service in 2001. The facility—a former auto-repair garage—was purchased, renovated and equipped through a combination of private donations and one-time \$15,000 contributions from Valley towns. In addition to providing four garage bays, space is available for equipment storage, administrative offices and meeting and training facilities. New facilities include an emergency generator, base station radio and 25-pair phone cable so that the building is equipped to serve as an emergency disaster center.

Rescue equipment currently in use includes three fully equipped ambulances, a rescue/extraction vehicle (not used for transport) that carries heavy equipment, a “mass-accident” trailer, off-road rescue equipment, a dispatch radio and field radios, as well as a substantial amount of emergency medical equipment. The service has grown considerably over the years to meet the needs of the growing community.



Since 1983 the annual number of calls has increased by 81%, from 244 to 441 in 2002. The average first responder response time is 7 minutes, while the ambulance response time is less than 17 minutes. One reason for such a fast response time is the local dispatch service which notifies volunteers in scattered locations around the Valley of a call. Since the late 1990's, E-911 emergency response service has been available in the Valley.

SOLID WASTE

The management and disposal of solid waste is a growing challenge due largely to rampant materialism, excessive packaging and the prevalence of disposable consumer goods. This is exacerbated by the high cost of disposal—from both a financial and environmental standpoint. Efforts to reduce the amount of waste before it enters the waste stream, and recycle the broadest range of waste in a cost-effective manner, will become increasingly important as population increases.

Waitsfield is a member of the Mad River Solid Waste Alliance. The Alliance is a six-town district formed through an inter-local agreement in 1994. Other member towns are Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Warren and Waterbury. The Alliance is responsible for the preparation and adoption of a Solid Waste Implementation Plan, which is required under the state's solid waste law. That plan expired in 2002 and an updated plan was submitted to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for review and approval in 2003. That review is still pending as of the date of this plan.

A representative and alternate from each town serves on the Alliance Board. The Board meets bi-monthly to set policy, determine programs and oversee the activities of a part-time administrator. A per capita assessment is charged to cover administrative and program costs (\$1.75 for the past four years). Additional funding is provided by Waste Systems International, Inc. (WSI), which operates a landfill in Moretown. WSI funds the Alliance's education programs and a portion of the hazardous waste drop-off events, which comprise approximately 40% of the Alliance's budget.

Free disposal of appliances, tires, and collected roadside trash is also provided in association with annual Alliance-sponsored events such as Green Up Day, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days,

and tire collections. The Alliance works with the Association of Vermont Recyclers, and is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, which helps market some recyclable commodities.

Hauling, recycling and landfill services are provided under agreement with WSI. Trash collection services also are provided by other private haulers. As the "host district" for the WSI landfill, local residents can bring their recyclables to the Moretown facility at no charge. A regional transfer facility operates in Waitsfield's Limited Business District, providing area residents with a convenient solid waste disposal site as well as a place to recycle materials. The transfer station, which is privately owned and operated, was recently acquired by Casella Waste Management, Vermont's largest private solid waste operator. It appears that the transfer station is profitable, although should that change the Valley would be without a convenient disposal facility.

The WSI landfill has capacity to continue operation through 2005. Plans exist to open a third cell at the landfill which would extend its life through 2010, although it is not certain whether the third cell can receive all necessary permits. In the event the landfill closes in 2006, locally generated solid waste will need to be disposed outside of the district (some local haulers already truck trash out of the district). The Alliance is addressing the impact of a closure of the WSI facility in the updated solid waste plan.



SEWAGE DISPOSAL & WATER SUPPLY

Sewage Disposal

Municipal Wastewater Treatment. Currently, all of the town's sewage disposal needs are addressed by individual on-site systems. Lacking a central waste water collection and treatment facility, town officials have studied the feasibility of developing such a facility to serve the high density portions of town, especially Irasville and Waitsfield Village.

Over 41% of the respondents to the 2002 community survey either agreed or strongly agreed that a sewer facility is needed, although a fairly large percentage (35.3%) had no opinion on the matter. This is likely due to the many uncertainties regarding the cost and funding of such a facility.

In 1999, the town secured funding from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' (VANR) revolving fund to study the feasibility of developing a municipal wastewater disposal facility to serve Irasville and, possibly, Waitsfield Village. As a result of preliminary analysis, the town purchased a 12.2 acre parcel ("Munn" site) located south of Irasville for \$126,000 in November, 2000.

Subsequent to the acquisition of the Munn site, the town's consulting engineer continued to explore the feasibility of a wastewater system. While the Munn site appears adequate to dispose of up to 87,000 gallons per day (gpd) of treated waste, no additional sites with significant disposal capacity have been identified. Further exploration may identify additional sites, however, and potential exists to supplement disposal to the Munn site with coordinated management of other existing or potential scattered on-site systems.

Based upon initial estimates, a collection system and treatment facility to serve Irasville (with capacity of up to 87,000 gpd) will cost between \$4 and \$6 million. This cost estimate is, however, very preliminary. The Selectboard is presently exploring funding options for such a facility, including grants from a variety of state and federal sources. It would not be uncommon for 50% of the project costs to be covered through such programs. The remainder of the cost would likely be funded by the town through a 20 year bond. Debt service on the bond could be repaid through a combination of user fees and local tax dollars, although over 80% of the respondents to the community survey indicated that such a system should be funded by users.

Should a municipal system become a practical reality, it will be important that the allocation of available capacity be coordinated with other policies of this plan so that the system reinforces—rather than undermines—land use, housing and economic development goals of the town. Most importantly, service areas should correspond with designated growth center boundaries, and allocation policies should foster the type and rate of development desired by the community.

On-Site Disposal. It is important to note that a central collection and treatment system is only intended to serve designated growth centers. New and existing development outside of Irasville and, possibly, Waitsfield Village will continue to be served by on-site in ground disposal. In 2002 the Vermont Legislature amended the state's on-site septic rules to require all new development, regardless of lot size, to meet state septic system standards. This effectively eliminated the "10 acre loophole," which exempted lots greater than 10 acres from any design standards.

The new standards also allow for a number of "alternative" septic system designs which allow for the placement of septic systems on land that could not have met the previous standards. As a result of the rule changes, on-site disposal systems may now be located on hundreds of acres in Waitsfield previously unsuitable for on-site systems (see Map 5).

Water Supply

In addition to a municipal wastewater facility, the Selectboard has also explored the creation of a municipal water system through 0% interest loans from the VANR. As with suitable sewage disposal sites, the town has had difficulty identifying a suitable water supply within close proximity to the village centers. Several options exist, including piping water from known sources of groundwater located to the east of the villages, constructing a filtration system to use shallow-source groundwater associated with the Mad River, or consolidating existing community water supplies into a coordinated system.

Preliminary cost estimates indicate that a water system may cost approximately \$4,000,000, about two-thirds the cost of a wastewater system. And, many of the same issues related to funding a wastewater system also apply to a water system. The potential successes of a wastewater system—especially one that involves managed on-site disposal areas in Irasville—will

depend upon the installation of a water system and associated elimination of multiple source protection areas. For a discussion of groundwater resources, and the protection of those areas, see Chapter 3.

As with municipal sewer, the administration of a water system should be coordinated with other plan policies, including the establishment of a service area(s) corresponding to designated growth center boundaries.

Cemeteries

Waitsfield owns and maintains four cemeteries:

- ◆ **Irasville Cemetery, on Route 100 in Irasville;**
- ◆ **Village/Mill Cemetery, on Bridge Street just east of Waitsfield Village;**
- ◆ **General Wait Cemetery, behind the fire station in Waitsfield Village; and**
- ◆ **Common Cemetery adjacent to Waitsfield Common.**

The Waitsfield Cemetery Commission, a five member elected board, is the body responsible for the maintenance and management of the cemeteries. The town is fortunate that, due to decisions of current and past cemetery commissioners, Waitsfield has a perpetual care fund that is among the largest in Vermont. That fund is managed by a three member Board of Trustees who coordinates cemetery finances with the Commission. Due to the large endowment, and the Commission’s careful management, each of

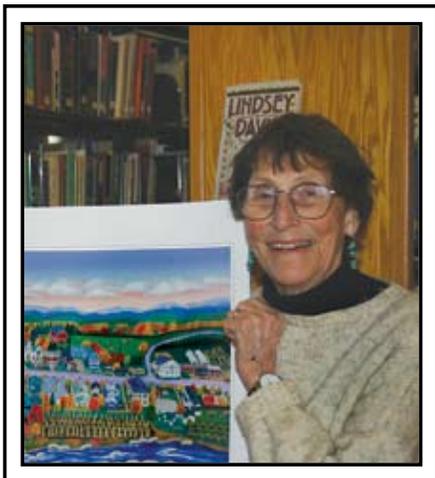
the four cemeteries is exceptionally well maintained on an ongoing basis.

Capacity exists in each of the cemeteries, although space is limited in all but the Common Cemetery (which was expanded with the purchase of nearly an acre in the early 1990s). Total remaining capacity, however, is approximately 600 spaces. In light of ongoing development pressure and the limited availability of suitable land, additional space may be required within the next 5 to 10 years to ensure that space will be available to serve future generations. Although expansion potential is limited for most of the cemeteries, such expansion would be most efficient to maintain on an ongoing basis. If expansion is not feasible, the establishment of a new cemetery might be required, although it should be located in proximity to one of the other four.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Joslin Memorial Library

The Joslin Memorial Library, located in Waitsfield Village, is administered by a five member Board of Trustees elected by town voters. A private organization, Friends of the Joslin Library, provides support on a regular basis. A part time librarian maintains library hours Monday through Saturday. Library staff is supplemented by a dedicated group of volunteers who perform a variety of tasks. Without these volunteers, the high level of service library patrons have grown accustomed to would suffer.



The library serves approximately 900 regular patrons from Fayston and Waitsfield, in addition to a large number of visitors and transients. The library houses over 9,700 books, supplemented by an interlibrary loan program with other libraries in the state. In 2002, annual circulation was approximately 16,500, which reflects a doubling in circulation over the past 10 years.

With the initial support of a private foundation grant, the library added a part-time children's librarian in 2000 which enabled the library to expand children's programs. These programs include a pre-school story hour, a Saturday reading program for school-aged children in addition to a summer program. The library also provides internet access, a large collection of audio book tapes, home book delivery for elderly and disabled residents and, also with support of a foundation grant, a newly expanded adult program.

In addition to private fundraising and income from various endowments, a large portion of the Library's operating costs are provided by the towns of Fayston and Waitsfield. In 2003 Fayston budgeted \$4,600 for operations and Waitsfield provided \$8,400. Waitsfield also leases the bottom floor of the library for town offices, which provided a much needed \$19,100 of income to the library.

Because the town has outgrown existing office space, it is likely that an alternate location for a larger facility will be considered in the coming years. Should a relocation occur, the library would be able to expand to provide additional storage and reading space. It would also provide limited handicapped accessibility, which is severely restricted today. When efforts to study town office space needs are initiated, a corresponding analysis of library space options should also occur. As stated above, the reason the town offices may be relocated is a lack of space—not due to the physical condition of the building. In fact, with the support of several state and foundation grants, the library has undertaken several maintenance projects in recent years which leave the building in good condition.

Recreation

The Mad River Valley offers a rich variety of recreation opportunities to year-round residents, seasonal home owners and visitors. A brief inventory of available facilities includes two major downhill ski areas; two cross country skiing facilities; an eighteen-hole

golf course; over sixty tennis courts; an airport offering gliding; a relatively clean river system suitable for fishing, paddling and swimming (the Mad River has been identified as one of Vermont's premiere swimming resources); several riding stables; and miles of trails, footpaths and old logging roads, including the four mile long Mad River Greenway in Waitsfield. Despite these many opportunities, only limited resources exist for formal or organized recreational pursuits, including youth sports leagues and services.

Public Facilities: Public recreation facilities in Waitsfield are limited, although in recent years the town has expanded the number and type of facilities available. Existing facilities include:

- ◆ **Ballfields and recreation facilities located at the Waitsfield Elementary School**, which are available for public use during non-school hours and the summertime. These facilities are limited, however, and do not presently meet state educational facility standards. There may be an opportunity in the future to acquire adjacent land in the floodplain for expansion.
- ◆ **Scrag Town Forest** consists of 360 acres acquired by the Town in 1991 (see Chapter 4). The forest offers backcountry recreation opportunities, although access is presently restricted. Efforts to secure permanent trail access from the north (Bowen Road) and/or south (Palmer Hill Road) should be pursued.
- ◆ **The Lareau Swimhole Park**, that was constructed with the assistance of a VTrans enhancement grant in 2003—in addition to two adjacent parcels (former Austin and former Tardy properties)—that provides less formal access to the Mad River.
- ◆ **The Mad River Greenway**—an extremely popular five mile grass path along the Mad River north of the Tremblay Road. The Greenway is maintained through a partnership between the Town, the Mad River Path Association, and landowners. Similar partnerships maintain a Village path network. This network could form the core of what could eventually be a single pathway linking Irasville with Warren Village to the south and the Fayston Elementary School to the west, and linking Waitsfield Village with Moretown Village and Harwood High School to the north.
- ◆ **An assortment of additional easements and license agreements** for trails and paths around town, although an extensive, integrated network has not been completed. Through continued partnerships with the Path Association and landowners, such a network could be developed in the future. In addition to trails, Class 4 Roads which are not maintained for year-round travel also provide recreational access, especially in the Forest Reserve District.

Private Not-for-Profit Facilities: Another facility open to the public is the Couples Club, an eight acre multi-purpose field located in the floodplain of the Mad River in Irasville which offers two baseball fields, a small pavilion and river access. The property is managed by the Couples Club, a private organization, and is exempted from property taxes by the Town of Waitsfield on an annual basis. The Valley Little League has entered into a long term lease with the Couples Club to ensure it will remain available for youth baseball.

The Skatium, an outdoor skating facility is located in Irasville and maintained by a not-for-profit organization. The Skatium has artificial ice and a Zamboni, but is susceptible to weather conditions due to the lack of a cover. The Skatium organization has identified enclosing the facility as a priority, which should be encouraged concurrent with efforts to improve the area's appearance, especially during non-winter months.

Several miles of winter trails for skiers and snow-machines are maintained by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) on private land in Waitsfield and surrounding towns. Part of an extensive statewide network, the local trails are maintained by the local VAST chapter—the Mad River Ridge Runners.

Recreation Programs and Planning: Waitsfield presently does not have an active recreation committee or board and does not offer any recreation programs. However, the town, together with Fayston and Warren, formed the Mad River Valley Recreation District in 1993. The purpose of the Recreation District was to support local recreation facilities and programs, and to identify and pursue opportu-

nities to expand existing facilities or create new facilities. The District has provided funds to improve the Couples Club fields and the Brooks Recreation Fields in Warren, in addition to providing support to other private non-profit recreation organizations such as the Skatium. In 1995 the District attempted to purchase land north of Waitsfield Village to establish recreation fields, although that effort was defeated by voters of each of the three member towns. A key reason for that defeat was the sites location and distance from town centers.

Health Care

For several years, the primary local source of health care has been the Mad River Valley Health Center in Waitsfield Village. The Health Center, which was created in 1981, is owned by a non-profit board which was initially formed to attract a doctor to serve the Valley. The facility is leased to a single physician who, together with nursing and administrative staff, provides general family medical care to Valley residents. In 1996 the Center was designated a Rural Health Clinic, which enhances the services to area Medicaid and Medicare patients.

The Health Center has been supported by small annual contributions from Waitsfield, Fayston and Warren for several years. In 2002, the Health Center Board began to explore options for expanding the small and outdated facility. The most promising option is to construct a new facility on the existing site. At this time, the Board is exploring options for creating a mixed-use facility that could include private office space. Locating all Valley health professionals into a single medical center is another option worth consideration.



In addition to the Health Center, a second medical doctor, providing medical care to adults, opened a practice in Waitsfield in 2001. This will raise the question of whether continued public support, through municipal contributions, is still required to ensure adequate local health care.

Other health care services available to local residents include:

- ◆ **A full service private dentist office** located in Irasville;
- ◆ **Visiting Nurse Service.** Home health care which includes therapy (physical, speech, occupational) and counseling, consoling the elderly; homemaker service (meals, shopping, housekeeping); Hospice consoling and counseling the terminally ill and their families; and child birthing classes.
- ◆ **Vermont Department of Health.** Well Child Clinic (preschool immunization), WIC Programs (prenatal and preschool nutritional programs).
- ◆ **Washington County Mental Health.** 24-hour emergency service, outpatient clinic, substance abuse programs, job placement, day programs, day hospital and resident programs.
- ◆ Hospitals serving the Valley include the **Central Vermont Medical Center** in Berlin, **Gifford Memorial Hospital** in Randolph and the **Medical Center Hospital of Vermont** in Burlington.

Day Care

Day care facilities are regulated by the VT Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Day care providers operating out of private homes who care for not more than six pre-school children from two or more families, in addition to not more than four school age children for four or less hours each day, must be registered with the state. Presently only one home child care operator is registered in the town—a reduction from past years, when as many as five home child care services were registered in Waitsfield.

Larger facilities, and those not operating out of the care provider's home, are licensed by the state. A licensed facility is allowed to provide care to larger numbers of children, and is subject to more stringent regulation and periodic inspection. Currently five licensed facilities operate in Waitsfield, including the after school program which uses the elementary school.

Other than the use of the elementary school, the town is not involved in providing day care to local residents. No change in this policy is anticipated, although changing demographics resulting in one parent homes and more two working-parent families

have created a growing need for adequate day care. It is not known how adequately these needs are now being served. While there are few actions the town would be likely to take to remedy this, additional facilities could be encouraged through the elimination of any local regulatory barriers to their development and the continuation of the after school program.

Senior Services

The Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Inc. is a non-profit corporation which operates to coordinate and provide services for the elderly population of Fayston, Moretown, Warren and Waitsfield. Funding is provided through a combination of local, state and federal grant funds and donated time and energy of Valley residents.

The most important program provided by the seniors is the operation of the Senior Center and the Senior meals program, both of which operate out of Evergreen Place—a shared housing facility for elders located in Irasville. Evergreen Place, which occupies a converted inn, is owned and managed by the Burlington-based non-profit Cathedral Square Corporation.

Social Services

Most social services are provided by state government through a variety of programs coordinated through the Agency of Human Services. In addition to state programs, all of which are delivered from offices located elsewhere in Washington County outside the Valley, several private non-profit organizations provide varying types and levels of assistance to local residents. Several of these service providers receive annual appropriations from the town (see Figure 9.3). In addition, the following two organizations are located within the Mad River Valley and provide assistance exclusively to Valley residents:

- ◆ **Valley Community Fund**, a non-profit organization serving residents of the Mad River Valley. Funded entirely through contributions, the Community Fund provides financial assistance to local residents experiencing financial hardship.
- ◆ **Mad River Valley Food Shelf**, coordinated by the Valley Clergy Council, distributes donated food and groceries to Valley residents in need of such assistance.
- ◆ **The assistance of these, and other, private organizations will likely become increasingly important as the current federal administration reduces support for programs designed to assist the least fortunate members of society.**

Cultural Organizations

Mad River Valley residents enjoy access to a wide range of homegrown cultural resources and events. While not directly supported by the town on a regular basis, the following organizations provide a variety of performances and exhibits.

- ◆ **Vermont Festival of the Arts**, which, in cooperation with the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual arts festival;
- ◆ **Valley Players**, a theater group operating out of the Oddfellows Hall in Waitsfield Village;
- ◆ **Green Mountain Cultural Center**, which sponsors a variety of exhibitions, performances and classes in the restored round barn in Waitsfield;
- ◆ **Mad River Chorale**, a local chorus group;
- ◆ **Phantom Theater**, an experimental theater group based in a restored Warren barn;
- ◆ **Skinner Barn**, which hosts a variety of performances and events in a restored barn on the Common Road;
- ◆ **Waitsfield Farmers Market**, which not only provides a direct market for local farmers, cooks, artisans and crafters, but also provides an opportunity for local residents and visitors to congregate and socialize on a regular basis between May and October; and
- ◆ **Bundy Center for the Arts**, which has been used for both the exhibition of visual arts as well as a venue for performing arts.

In addition, several individual artists and businesses support a strong community arts culture. Artists studios, which often include display space, are located throughout town, although several are concentrated in Waitsfield Village. Musicians regularly perform at Mad Mountain Tavern, Purple Moon Pub and the Eclipse Theater, which also functions as the Valley's only movie theater.

Community Center

Despite the range of recreation, community and cultural activities available to Valley residents and visitors—most of which are located in Waitsfield—several residents have lamented the lack of a central community center.

Such a center could serve as a gathering place and central recreation facility for the Valley's youth. It could also serve as a multi-generational facility that could serve as a recreational, social and cultural resource for a broad cross section of the community.

While there is clear support for a multi-purpose community center, the depth and breadth of that support is not yet clear. Should such support exist, the cre-

ation of a community center in Irasville could serve to strengthen that area's function as a growth center and activity center for the entire Valley.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES & FACILITIES

Waitsfield is served by both traditional and more modern forms of communication that inform the community and connect residents with each other and the wider world. In fact, Valley residents have access to telecommunications technologies that are on par with most urban areas and are considerably more advanced than in most rural communities.

Newspapers

The Valley Reporter, the valley's weekly newspaper, was first established in 1971 and is the town's official newspaper for public warnings, notices and announcements. The Vermont Journal, a second weekly paper covering the Mad River Valley and Waterbury, was founded in 2002 and is presently distributed free of charge to local residents. Waitsfield also receives limited local coverage in the Times-Argus, central Vermont's daily paper based in Barre. Other state and national papers are available through local outlets.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications facilities and services, until very recently, were limited to local and long distance phone systems, and wireless radio and television networks. The access provided by cellular phones and "personal digital assistants" (PDAs), on-line Internet services, and the World Wide Web was unheard of even a decade ago. Telecommunications services available to Waitsfield residents are now multiplying at an unprecedented rate, due to ongoing technological advances, industry deregulation, and an expanding number of local and national service providers. As explained in Chapter 7, the EPRI identified the Valley's advanced communications infrastructure as one of the area's greatest economic assets.

Technology and deregulation have blurred the lines between what were once distinct, separately regulated services—phone and cable systems are now used as much for data transfer as for more traditional forms of voice communication. Wired and wireless networks are being developed that allow for high speed internet access, voice and data integration, video conferencing, distance and on-line learning, and telecommuting.

Unlike traditional phone and broadcast networks, available for a nominal fee or the cost of purchasing a radio or television, many of the new technologies and services require a substantial initial capital investment (e.g., for computers, dishes or wiring), and subsequent monthly payments. There is also a learning curve associated with the use and application of new technologies. As a result, there is a growing information or digital divide, which affects mostly lower income households and the elderly on fixed incomes, who also are often less familiar or comfortable with new technologies.

Telephone Service: **Waitsfield Telecom** (Waitsfield-Fayston Telephone Company Inc.), Waitsfield's local, privately owned telephone company, was founded in 1904. In 1994 the company expanded to include GTE's former Central Champlain Valley service area, forming Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT). It now has over 100 employees and more than 20,000 access lines. In 2000, WCVT received authorization from the Public Service Board to borrow \$3 million from the Rural Telephone Finance Cooperative to fund network additions and improvements, including a new switching system. WCVT currently provides a variety of telephone services to area businesses and residents for monthly fees. Local consumers have the option of selecting from a variety of long-distance service providers, including the phone company's Green Mountain Long Distance service.

Wireless Services. Cellular phones and other personal wireless services are an increasingly common means of communication, and provide access to remote areas not served by phone lines. Because of local topography, cellular phone service remains spotty in the Valley. Private service providers are actively pursuing tower sites throughout Vermont to expand wireless coverage. Under the federal 1996 Telecommunications Act, the town cannot exclude personal wireless services or unreasonably discriminate among providers, but can regulate facility siting, environmental impacts, and appearance through local zoning. Radio frequency emissions, including related interference and health considerations, are regulated separately by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), but can be subject to local monitoring requirements to ensure that FCC standards are being met.

Radio, Television & Cable: Because of the mountainous terrain, Waitsfield residents without cable or satellite service get limited radio and television reception. **Waitsfield Cable**, owned and operated by Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom, has been serving the Valley since 1980. The company currently offers within its service area, for monthly fees, cable television, digital cable and radio, and pay-per-view options. The basic analog cable package includes three channels that feature local programming: Waitsfield Cable (Channel 11) advertising local events, Sugarbush Resort Television (Channel 12), and **Mad River Valley Television** (Channel 44), the Valley's designated public access station.

Channel 44, on the air since 2000, provides community access to local airwaves and coverage of local government, school and community events. MRVT is managed by an elected board of directors, and maintains a studio and production equipment for use by community groups. In 2003 and 2004, the town contributed \$2,000 to MRVT to support coverage of municipal meetings and public events. Nearly half of those responding to the 2002 community survey indicated that they watched Channel 44 at least occasionally (though less than 10% were frequent viewers). It is anticipated that viewers will continue to increase with additional local programming and coverage. Town residents outside the cable service area have access to other wireless television services for the price of dish installation and a monthly service fee.

Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) offers relatively low cost videoconferencing services to businesses, government, nonprofit organizations and schools at fourteen sites around the state. The closest site to Waitsfield is at the state office complex in Waterbury. VIT is increasingly being used by state government, the legislature, and statewide organizations to hold interactive public meetings and workshops, and thereby increase public access to state government and programs.

Internet & Web Services

Information and services, including government and educational services, also are increasingly being provided through Web sites, accessed via the Internet. Waitsfield residents with a phone line, computer, and modem, or a direct line connection, have access to a growing number of local and national Internet

service providers (ISPs)—and a variety of associated services, including e-mail, file and data transfer services, web sites, and access to the World Wide Web.

Green Mountain Access, founded in 1997 as an affiliate of Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom, has grown from a local ISP to a statewide company that offers many of the latest Internet technologies. Residential internet services currently offered include dial-up access, high speed digital service lines (DSLs), roaming access, and web hosting. Local businesses, in addition, may also have access to dedicated (ISDN and T1) lines, frame relay services for higher speed service. **Mad River Access**, another local ISP, offers local dial-up services.

The Internet is increasingly important as an educational tool, for information access and on-line (“distance”) learning opportunities. Waitsfield Elementary School has dial-up access to on-line services and resources through “K12net,” an extension of Vermont’s GOVnet, which supports local and distance learning programs. The Joslin Library also provides public DSL access, and subscribes to the recently created Vermont On-line reference and database service.

The Town of Waitsfield has limited Web presence through **madrivervalley.com**, a commercially sponsored community Web site hosted by Green Mountain Access. General contact information and board meeting times are listed; but no other local information, such as meeting minutes, plans, ordinances and regulations, is provided.



PHOTO: BEV KEHOE

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES GOALS

To provide a full range of community services and facilities a cost effective, environmentally sound manner without creating an undue burden on local taxpayers.

To provide facilities and services in a manner that reinforces the town’s land use, development and natural resource protection goals and policies.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES POLICIES

- 1) Facilities and services shall be planned to accommodate anticipated future growth (see Chapter 4) to avoid unreasonable burdens on the town’s ability to provide one or more facility or service. To this end:
 - a. the scale, timing and location of development shall be controlled to ensure that the resulting demand for services and facilities does not exceed the municipality’s ability to provide them; and
 - b. in the event new or expanded public facilities required to accommodate proposed development are not available or planned, the developer shall fund the proportional cost of the facility(ies) needed to accommodate the new development unless the town determines that the proposed development will provide community benefits which outweigh or offset the cost of the required facility(ies).
- 2) The provision of facilities and services will be coordinated with land use and development goals and policies outlined in this plan, including the reinforcement of growth centers. To this end:
 - a. facilities that require regular access by the general public and are compatible with compact, mixed use development, such as municipal offices, post offices, community centers and fire stations, should be located in Waitsfield Village or Irasville;
 - b. facilities that are both land intensive and require regular access by the general public, such as recreation fields, should be discouraged in the Agricultural-Residential, Commercial Lodging and Forest Reserve Districts unless designed to serve the immediate neighborhood;
 - c. facilities that do not require regular access by the general public, such as highway maintenance, or are not compatible with compact, mixed use de-

- velopment, such as solid waste transfer facilities, shall be located in appropriate centralized, non-residential locations, preferably in the Industrial District or Limited Business District.
- 3) Services and facilities shall be provided in an efficient and cost effective manner while ensuring a high level of service. To this end:
 - a. capital expenditures will be programmed to avoid sharp fluctuations in the property tax rate;
 - b. alternatives to the property tax to fund local services and facilities (including user fees, state/federal grants and loans, impact fees and negotiated exactions, special taxing districts, private foundations and assistance from non-governmental and/or local option taxes) will be used wherever practical, providing they do not place an additional burden on residents of limited financial means or undermine other policies of this plan;
 - c. wherever practical, services and facilities to address Valley-wide growth and development will be provided in conjunction with neighboring towns.
 - d. statewide efforts to restructure state educational funding to reduce the reliance on the local property tax (see Chapter 10) are strongly supported.
 - 4) The town recognizes the importance of making the most effective and efficient use of existing services, structures and facilities and utilities before expanding capacity or constructing new buildings or facilities. In the event a new building(s) is required, it shall be designed to reflect the community's historic and architectural heritage, a strong sense of permanence, and to serve as a symbol of civic pride.
 - 5) The General Wait House shall continue to be used primarily for civic, community and cultural purposes, including public restrooms, community meeting space, cultural activities, celebration of community history and heritage, and public information. To that end, restoration of the attached barns for one or more of these purposes is encouraged.
 - 6) Town funded emergency services, including fire and police protection, should be maintained in a manner that continues their current high level of service as the community grows.
 - 7) Municipal water and sewer systems should be developed to serve Irasville and Waitsfield Village. Such systems should provide the greatest volume of capacity in the most cost effective manner as possible. Once constructed, the system capacity shall:
 - a. be allocated in accordance with the land use, housing, and economic development policies of this plan;
 - b. be allocated only to serve users within a defined service area to include the Irasville Village District and, if practical, Waitsfield Village Districts, unless an imminent threat to public health requires extension beyond those boundaries—in that case capacity will be used only to eliminate that threat and not to serve other users outside the service area; and
 - c. be managed, together with the operation of the facility, to ensure maximum protection of water quality in the Mad River and its tributaries.
 - 8) Stormwater runoff shall be managed within designated growth centers, including Irasville, in a coordinated and integrated manner that ensures the maximum level of protection of water quality in the Mad River and its tributaries. Outside of designated growth centers, stormwater runoff shall be managed on-site to avoid off-site impacts and the degradation of water quality (See Chapter 3).
 - 9) Opportunities for the town to acquire land for conservation, recreation and community facilities are encouraged and should be explored. Priority should be given to parcels which provide multiple values to the community.
 - 10) Undeveloped and semi-developed town-owned properties, including Scrag Forest, the Lareau Swim-hole, and other conservation and recreation parcels shall be managed for the protection of ecological resources and sustainable use.
 - 11) The efforts of the Mad River Path Association to create a network of walking and bicycling paths in the Mad River Valley, including extending the Mad River Greenway to link Waitsfield Village with Moretown Village to the north, and with Warren Village to the south, are strongly supported. To this end, the town will assist the Path Association by:
 - a. holding easements on segments of the path right-of-way;
 - b. incorporating path easements into required open space and pedestrian connections as part of local development review processes; and
 - c. incorporating path segments into management plans for town-owned land.
 - 12) The Town will continue to work with the Couples Club to ensure the Club's recreation fields remain viable and accessible to local residents and youth sports leagues.
 - 13) The town will continue to encourage the efforts of VAST to provide an integrated network of winter recreation trails in a manner that does not adversely impact neighboring homeowners and the natural environment, and will allow VAST trail use of Class 4 roads on a case by case basis to avoid conflict with other users of the road and neighboring residential properties.
 - 14) The change in classification, maintenance, or use of Class 4 roads that result in an increase of automobile use, especially within the Forest Reserve District, shall

only occur if existing recreational uses are maintained or replaced or mitigated with comparable recreation opportunities.

- 15) Town cemeteries should be managed, and expanded if needed, to ensure that burial opportunities will exist for the foreseeable future, and to ensure that as undeveloped properties become limited, town cemeteries will continue to serve as an important cultural focus of the community.
- 16) The town will continue to participate as a member of the Mad River Valley-Waterbury Solid Waste Alliance, including the Alliance's efforts to reduce waste generation and provide environmentally sound waste disposal opportunities.
- 17) The Valley Transfer Station is encouraged to continue operation in its present location, and a privately operated bottle redemption center is encouraged in conjunction with the Transfer Station, or at a separate location in Irasville or Waitsfield Village.
- 18) Public and private social service providers, including state, regional and local agencies and non-governmental organizations, are encouraged to continue providing services to local residents. To this end, the town will continue to consider funding such organizations on an annual basis, and will support efforts to improve local delivery of such services through partnerships with local organizations.
- 19) The development and operation of a multi-generational community center is strongly supported within Irasville or Waitsfield Village.
- 20) The Valley Health Center should continue to provide the needs of local residents by serving as a designated Rural Health Clinic. The expansion of the Health Center is encouraged, and if possible such expansion should take the form of an integrated medical facility providing space for a variety of health care providers.
- 21) The expansion or development of wireless telecommunications facilities (e.g. cellular) requiring towers or similar facilities shall be integrated into the existing built environment, such as affixed to silos, steeples, cupolas, or on towers located within the Industrial or Irasville Village District.
- 22) The expansion of telecommunication service in the community, including broad-band Internet access, is strongly supported, as are efforts to ensure greater public access through the Joslin Memorial Library and local schools, and through greater municipal use of the world wide web to disseminate information.
- 23) The Town will continue to work with and provide support, to the extent practical, to community arts and cultural organizations.
- 24) The town will support and continue to help fund Mad River Television's (Channel 44) efforts to broadcast meetings of public interest, and will use this medium to expand local awareness of community events and issues.
- 25) Encourage the creation of recreation facilities that foster fitness and well-being (e.g., fitness courses) in a manner that is integrated throughout the community.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES TASKS

- 1) Update the municipal capital budget and program on an annual basis, and evaluate annual changes in the context of the town plan and projected community growth. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard, Planning Commission]*
- 2) Continue to maintain reserve funds for capital projects, including capital equipment, land conservation, and related projects, in accordance with the capital budget and program. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard, Planning Commission]*
- 3) Continue to work cooperatively with neighboring towns and the region on issues of mutual concern, and explore additional opportunities to share facilities and services with neighboring towns. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard, Town Boards and Commissions]*
- 4) Establish a special taxing district, or tax increment financing district, for one or more of the town's growth centers. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard, Planning Commission]*
- 5) Continue efforts to design, fund and construct municipal water and sewer systems to serve Irasville and, if practical, Waitsfield Village. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard, Study Committee]*
- 6) In the event a municipal wastewater treatment facility is constructed, delineate a service area and prepare an allocation ordinance to govern the allocation of available capacity in accordance with the goals and policies of this plan. *[Planning Commission, Selectboard]*
- 7) Review proposals for development to identify potential impacts on the town's ability to provide adequate services and facilities without an undue burden on local tax payers, and place appropriate conditions on new development regarding the timing of construction and provision for services or facilities. *[Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, Board of Adjustment]*
- 8) Revise the Waitsfield Subdivision Regulations to include updated facility and infrastructure standards, including those related to stormwater runoff, wastewater disposal, impact on community services and facilities, and trails, sidewalks and pathways. *[Planning Commission]*

- 9) Prepare an Official Map for the Irasville Village District depicting future public improvements, including roads, sidewalks, paths and park areas, and a town green/common. *[Planning Commission]*
 - 10) Conduct a telecommunications facility siting study to determine appropriate locations for new facilities which will ensure complete wireless coverage in the Valley without adverse impacts to the scenic landscape. *[Planning Commission, MRVPD*]*
 - 11) Explore the creation of a municipal stormwater management utility to serve the Irasville Village District in conjunction with the implementation of an Irasville Master Plan. *[Planning Commission, Selectboard]*
 - 12) Appoint a study committee to evaluate town office space needs and prepare a strategy for meeting those needs within the next 5 years. *[Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Selectboard, Study Committee]*
 - 13) Evaluate space and facility needs of the Joslin Library in conjunction with the town office study, and prepare a strategy to address any changes to the Library resulting from changes to the town offices. *[Selectboard, Library Trustees*]*
 - 14) Explore options for expanding existing town cemeteries or, if expansion is not practical, for the creation of a new cemetery located in close proximity to Irasville, Waitsfield Village or Waitsfield Common. *[Cemetery Commission]*
 - 15) Develop a plan for renovating the Wait House barns for public and cultural purposes. *[Selectboard, Waitsfield Historic Society*]*
 - 16) Develop long range management plans for undeveloped town-owned parcels, including Scrag Forest, Lareau Swimhole and adjacent land, and the Brook Road parcel. *[Conservation Commission, Selectboard]*
 - 17) Create a web page to increase local residents' awareness of and access to municipal documents, public notices, meeting agendas and meeting minutes. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard]*
 - 18) Secure improved, year-round trail access to the Scrag Municipal Forest. *[Selectboard, Conservation Commission]*
 - 19) Review ongoing financial support for the Valley Health Center in light of the presence of other health care professionals located in, and serving, the valley. *[Town Administrator, Selectboard]*
- *Participation strongly encouraged*

