

WELCOME TO



AMHERST, *NEW HAMPSHIRE*



September 27, 2021

Amherst Parks & Recreation FY23 Strategic Plan



Mission

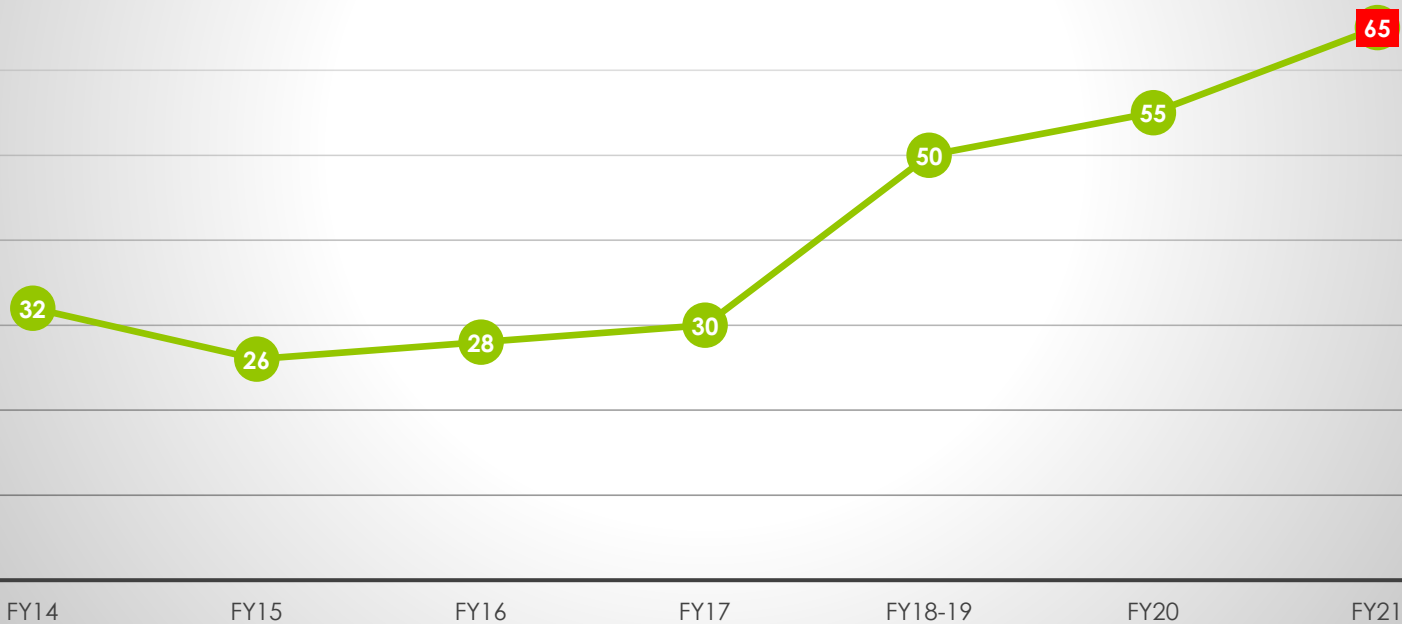
To enhance the quality of life for all Amherst residents with high-quality programming in health, leisure, fitness, and outdoor education through a series of well-maintained park(s) and recreational facilities.

FY 23 Department Goals

- Develop & Manage Park and Recreation Facilities available to citizens.
- Diversify program offerings to serve citizens of all ages.
- Update seasonal staff hiring practices to allow for increased recruitment, hiring and training.

Goal 1

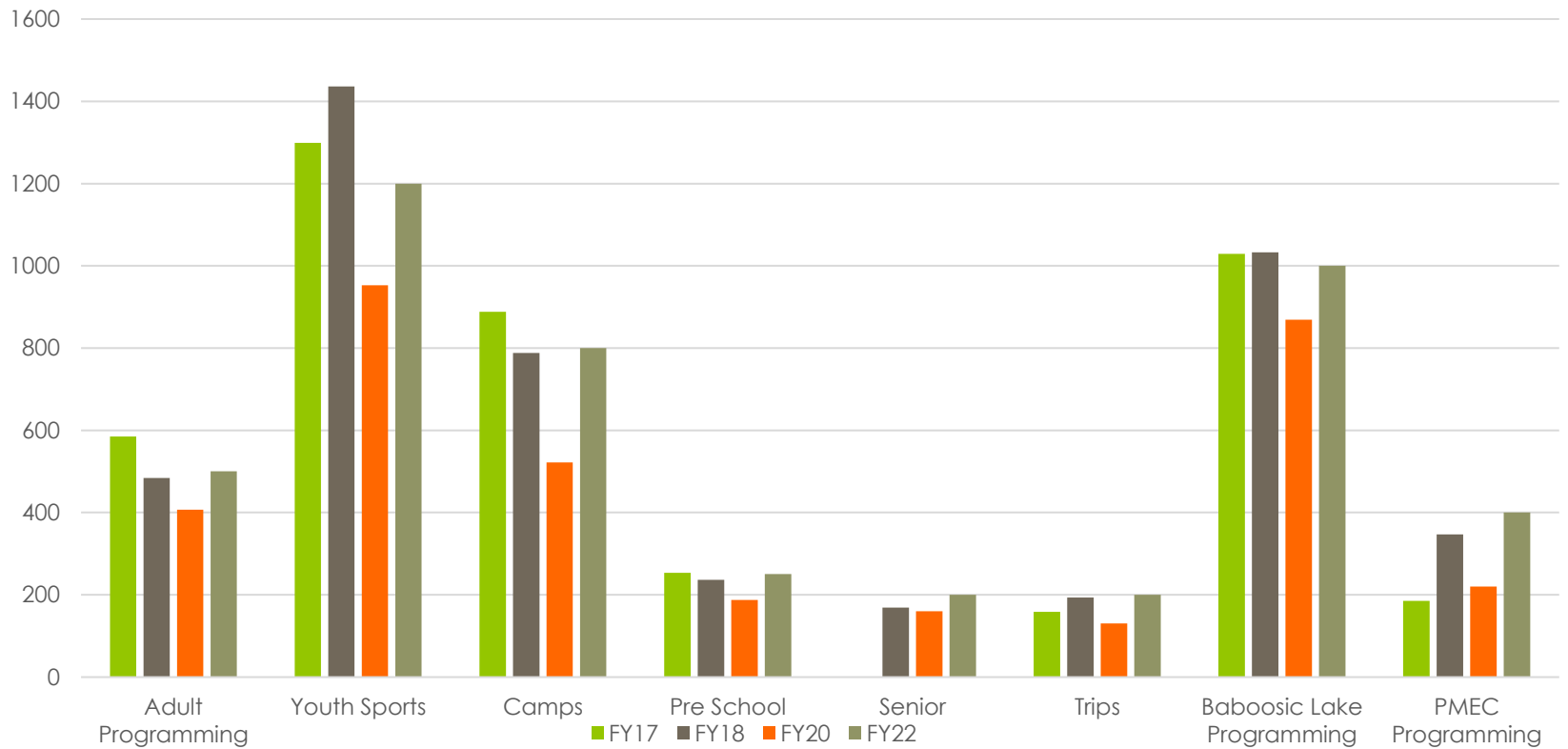
Develop and Manage Park & Recreational Facilities available to citizens.



Acres of land maintained by Recreation Department by year

Goal 2

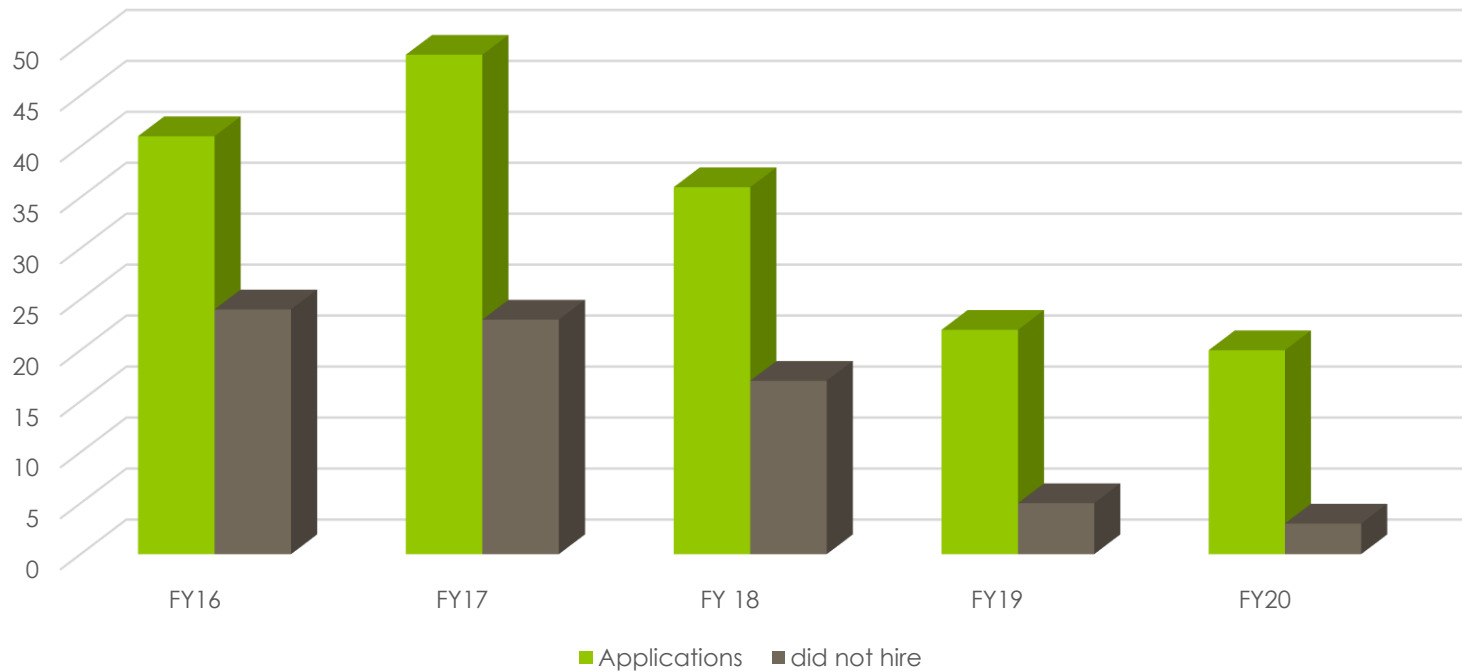
Diversify program offerings to serve citizens of all ages.



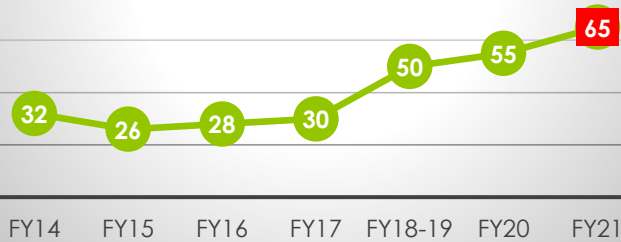
Goal 3

Update seasonal staff hire practices to allow for increased recruitment, hiring and training.

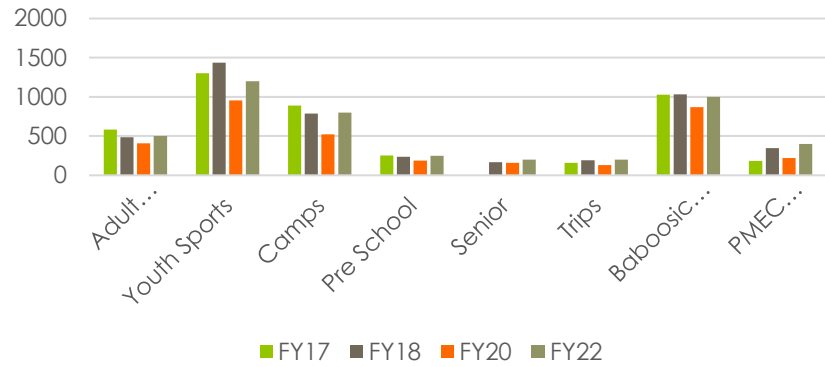
Seasonal Staff Applicants vs. Did not Hire



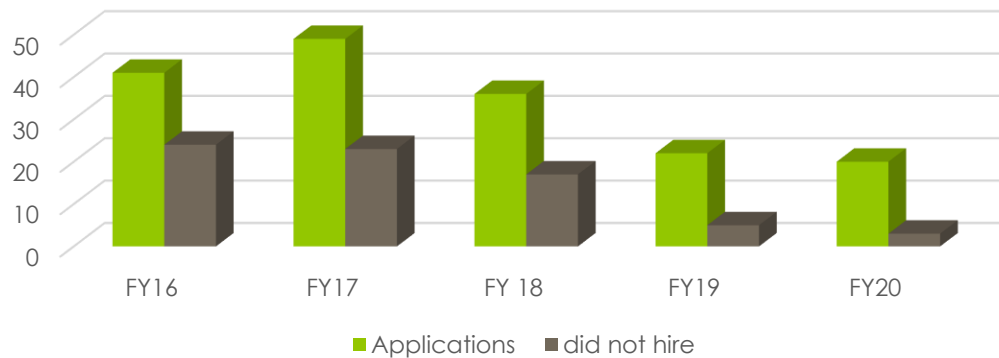
Develop and Manage Park &...



Diversify program offerings to serve citizens of all ages.



Seasonal Staff Applicants vs. Did not Hire



FY23 Initiatives

- **Initiative 1:** Development of Buck Meadow Conservation and Recreation Area for usable fields and indoor space.
- **Initiative 2:** Re-surface AMS courts to allow for basketball use and create a shaded picnic area by courts to allow space for outdoor classrooms and team meeting spaces.
- **Initiative 3:** Update Seasonal Staff Wage Scale to attract more applicants and compete with current job market.
- **Initiative 4:** Build an indoor facility to act as a community center for Amherst Residents of all ages. – ***Tabled but still important***

Initiative #1

Development of Buck Meadow Conservation and Recreation Area for usable fields and indoor space.



Buck Meadow Conservation & Recreation Area

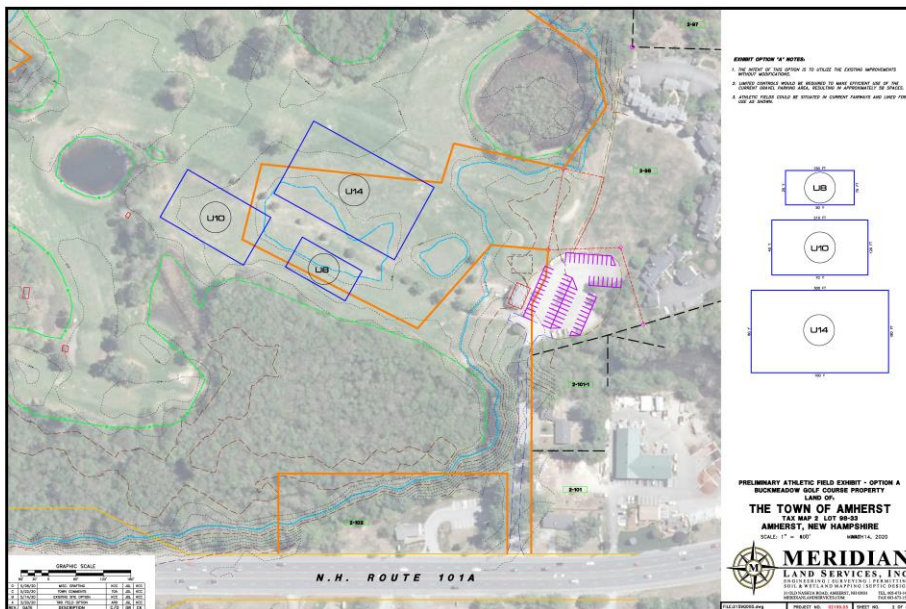
- Purchased in March 2020
- Roughly 10 Acres of flat field area
- Club house – 2,000 Sq. Feet
- Hiking trails
- Irrigation partially in place
- Storage for program equipment



Initiative # 1

Development of Buck Meadow Conservation and Recreation Area for usable fields and indoor space.

Phase I - FY21-22

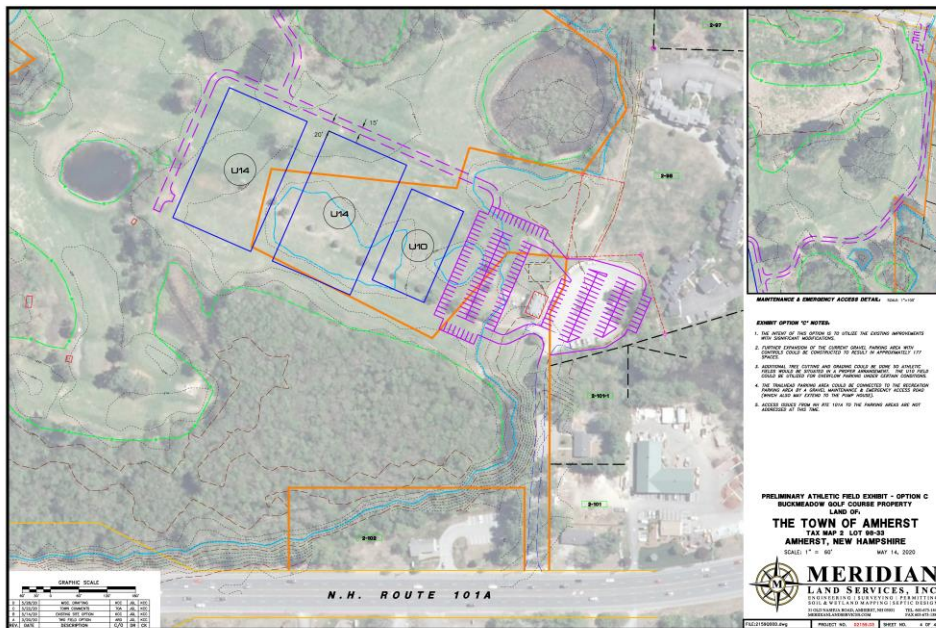


- ✓ Paint field on current land
- ✓ Installed Irrigation pump and updated pump house.
- ✓ Sell off any un-needed equipment/golfing supplies to help offset original purchase.
- ✓ Clean up entrance way and obtain driveway permit from DOT
- ✓ Install accessible ramp to clubhouse
- ✓ Install fire rated sheet rock ceiling in basement of clubhouse.
- ✓ Awarded 40K Grant for Clubhouse improvements
- ✓ Initiate 20% usage fee for programs using Buck Meadow.

Initiative # 1

Development of Buck Meadow Conservation and Recreation Area for usable fields and indoor space.

Phase 3 - FY24



- Add additional parking on north end of Club House.
- Grade and install three rectangular fields (2 full size & 1 practice).
- Install playground (fundraiser event).
- Install a gravel road around property to allow for better emergency accessibility.

Initiative # 1

Development of Buck Meadow Conservation and Recreation Area for usable fields and meeting spaces.

Funding Sources for Initiative #1

- Land Water Conservation Grant (LWCF)
 - 50/50 Grant where the town's portion of the match can be in-kind service.
 - Grant is an annual program through NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.
 - Year 1 of three of Capitol Reserve Funding (\$50K per year).
 - 20% usage fee for Buck Meadow.
 - Awarded \$40K Grant from Bean Foundation.
- Local Grants/Fundraising

Initiative #2

Re-surface AMS courts to allow for basketball use and create a shaded picnic area by courts to allow space for outdoor classrooms and team meeting spaces.

- AMS tennis courts have been underused and in need of resurfacing for 5-6 years.
- We have a major lack of outdoor basketball facilities in town.
- Create the ability to have both basketball and tennis at the same facility.
- Utilize the wooded area next to the courts to build a shaded picnic/learning area.



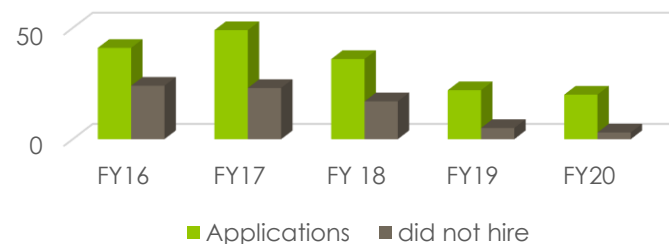
Initiative #3

Update Seasonal Staff Wage Scale to attract more applicants and compete with current job trends.

- No update to wage scale since 2017.
- Starting Positions \$8 per hour.
- Parks Crew Positions \$12 per hour.
- Not competitive with similar positions in area.
- All positions on Seasonal Wage Scale are paid for out of 02 Revolving Fund.



Seasonal Staff Applicants vs. Did not Hire



Initiative #4 – Tabled but still important

Build an indoor facility to act as a community center for Amherst Residents of all ages.

- With the potential for increased housing units to be built in Amherst, the desire for more recreational programming will increase, including indoor activities.
- Amherst is lacking accessible indoor space for daytime and weekend programming.
- This creates a lack of Adult and Senior Programming.
- The idea of aging in place is not happening in Amherst due to lack of programming and offerings to citizens once their children are out of school.



Budget Impact Summary

	FY23	FY24	Funding Source
Initiative #1 Buck Meadow			
Warrant Article split between two years for matching grant	\$50,000	\$50,000	CRF Warrant Article
Initiative #2 AMS Courts			
Resurfacing of AMS Courts	\$85,000		02 Revolving Fund
Picnic Area	\$2,000		02 Revolving Fund
Initiative #3 Seasonal Wage Scale			
Increased Wages	\$27,000		02 Revolving Fund
Initiative #4 Community Center			
Tabled but still important			

Questions??