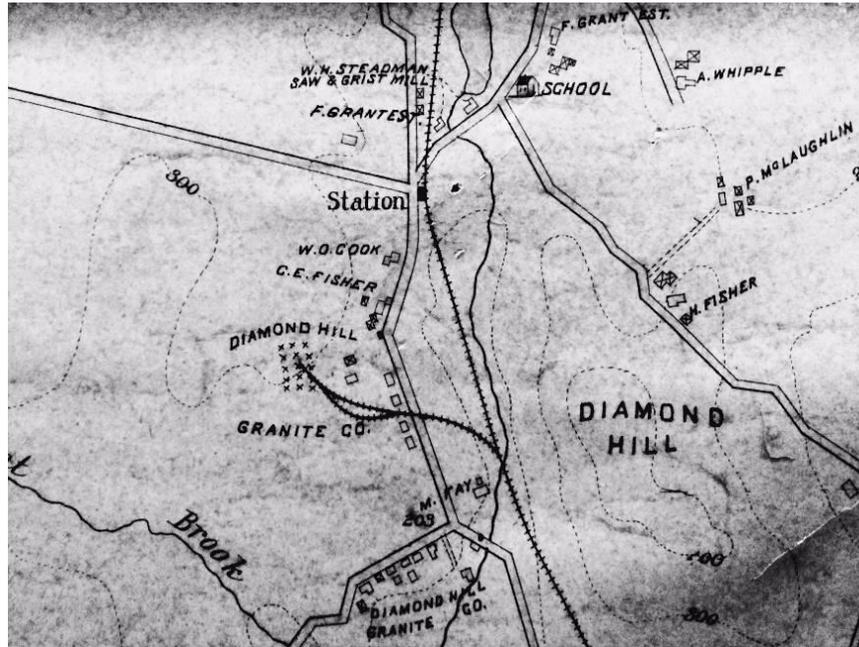




# Diamond Hill Town Park

## Conservation and Management Plan

2020-2025



Diamond Hill Rail Station ca. 1875

Town of Cumberland  
Rhode Island

February 15, 2020

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cumberland's Diamond Hill Town Park, a beautiful 146-acre conservation area and major active and passive recreational asset, is in need of three strategic upgrades. Abutting Diamond Hill State Park to the west, this facility features trails for hiking and mountain biking, soccer and baseball fields, an outdoor performing arts stage, picnic area and a 4,320 sf lodge building for assemblies, dances and other indoor events. The 292-car parking lot services both the Town and State parks.

Diamond Hill, the largest mass of crystalized white quartz in New England, is 481 feet above sea level. Granite and copper were mined on the site between 1800 and 1930. The State acquired the land in 1935, and the Primrose Camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps created the Diamond Hill ski facility in 1937. Diamond Hill Reservation operated on the park site from the mid-1960s - mid-1980s, and Ski Valley on adjacent private land (1939 - 1981).

The Town assumed ownership of this site from RIDEM in July, 1998. The Cumberland Department of Parks and Recreation manages an aggressive schedule of athletic events; social, civil and educational programming; outdoor recreational activities; and organized celebrations. Each August CumberlandFest draws as many as 10,000 from throughout Southern New England.

This Plan focuses on three park assets in need of improvement:

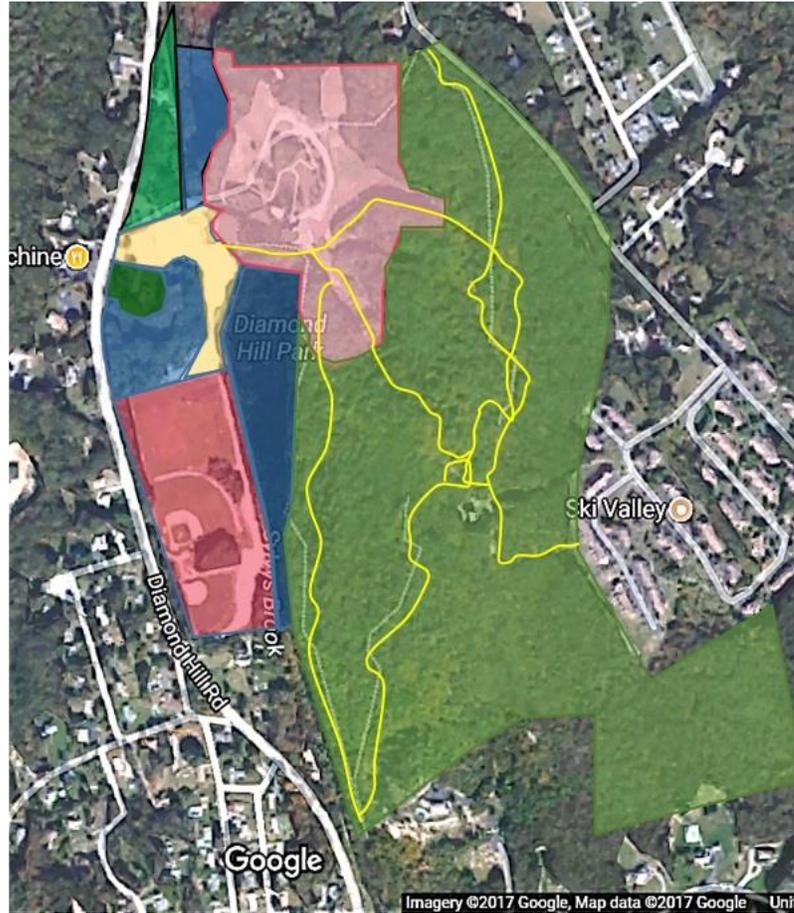
- \* the *Ski Lodge*, a 60-year old cinderblock structure should be renovated/updated
- \* the man-made wetland in front of the *Performing Arts Pavilion* should be periodically dredged to remove accumulated sediment and debris and an annual maintenance plan developed
- \* the *Park entranceway area* is need of new landscaping, signage and pedestrian safety installations.

These improvements would improve the comfort and safety for visitors, reducing barriers for the physically and developmentally disabled, and allow for a higher quality experience and expanded recreation resources available to the public.

This Plan succeeds the 2017, 2013, 1998 and 1995 Diamond Hill Park Master Plans. This Plan is consistent with the 2016 Cumberland Comprehensive Plan, which speaks to the need for improvements at the Park, including building improvements, landscaping and safety improvements, and renovations to the Performing Arts Pavilion and its environs.

The purpose of this plan is to document and evaluate the current state of the Park's attributes, to articulate a vision for the Park's future, and to specify steps to be taken to achieve that vision. The Plan's observations and recommended actions are consistent with Policy RICOS 12, 21, 23 and 27 of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The Park is maintained by the Cumberland Highway Division and operated by the Recreation Department, with the exception of the annual Haunted Hill event, which is to be managed by an outside vendor.

*The Site.* The *Town Park* is located on the east side of Diamond Hill Road.



The 2013 Park Use Area Plan shows: passive recreation area (green); active recreation area (red); festival/event area (pink); environmental resource (blue); and parking area (yellow).



Entranceway (r), leads to Ski Lodge within parking area and Town Parks and Recreation Department Building and athletic fields (upper right). Performing Arts area (l) includes a covered stage and perennial pond within audience area. Remnants of the former ski slopes (upper left) now function as hiking areas. *Parking:* Lot 1, east of the Lodge, has a capacity of 132 cars. Lot 2, west of the Lodge, has a capacity of 120 cars. Lot 3, adjacent to the athletic fields, has a capacity of 40 cars.

# 1. Conservation

## *Open Space/Passive Recreation Areas*

As indicated by areas of green on the site map on page 3, a majority of lands within Diamond Hill Park consists of open space designated for passive recreation. This primarily forested area constitutes an intact open space that provides multiple beneficial values. Conservation of this open space to sustain these values over time is a management objective of this plan.

The open space areas of the park lie within and are hydrologically connected to the groundwater and surface water systems that support public drinking water supplies (Pawtucket and Cumberland). Maintaining this land as open space provides water quality protection benefits to the water supply by filtering potential pollutants and preventing other land disturbing activities.

The passive recreational open space area is sufficient in size to support important natural habitat for a diversity of flora and fauna. Protection and conservation of natural habitats is accomplished primarily by preventing human disturbance.

## *Trails*

While unpaved foot trails exist throughout much of this open space area, portions of the property are not readily accessible and therefore undisturbed. Maintenance of trails may require removal of fallen or damaged trees for public safety purposes but otherwise it's intended that vegetation beyond the trails will be left undisturbed. Trails will be maintained using natural materials and in a manner that prevents erosion.

## *Conservation Areas-Allowed and Prohibited Uses*

To protect and conserve the open space values in this portion of the Park, the following management policies regarding uses will be followed:

- Park visitors are encouraged to stay on the trails to limit disturbance elsewhere on the property.
- Passive recreational activities will be limited to hiking, running, non-motorized biking, bird-watching, nature photography, educational and similar passive activities.
- The collection of plants, animals, rocks or minerals from the property is prohibited.
- Camping allowed only with permission of Recreation Director.
- Open burning is prohibited.
- Cutting of trees, including for firewood, is prohibited.
- Winterfest and Haunted Hill, valuable Town activities, occur annually. Incidental overflow and trail use related to these events is permitted. At the same time, prompt clean up after these events is a top priority.

## *Forest Management*

With respect to Forest Management, the State RIDEM and USDA Forest Service have resources and expertise to provide guidance or assist with management issues that may arise including tree diseases and wildfire risk.

Portions of the park are designated by the State as a Natural Heritage Area with respect to rare species. This is indicative of rare species having been detected in the general area including on adjacent properties. The Town will continue to work with the Rhode Island Natural History Program to stay abreast of any new reports of rare or threatened species being present in the park.

This area of the park will be periodically inspected by Town staff or designee(s) to identify any intrusions or unauthorized activities that are damaging to the park and its natural resources.

Invasive species are another threat to natural habitats in open spaces. As part of park maintenance, the Town will be vigilant as to the establishment of any invasive plants or animals. Common invasive species in Rhode Island include phragmites, autumn olive, multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed and Oriental bittersweet among others. Early intervention to remove invasive plants will limit their proliferation and reduce the cost of land management over time.

*Wetlands and Aquatic Resources*

The aquatic features of the park include wetlands, ponds and streams. Consistent with state regulations, the land surrounding these resources, currently in a natural state, will continue to be protected and conserved as buffer areas to the aquatic resource. Naturally vegetated buffers help filter pollutants, provide riparian habitat and help mitigate stream flooding. Any proposed alterations to wetlands will be done in manner that avoids and minimizes any impacts to the resources. Improvements to storm water management in the parking lot areas through green infrastructure practices is expected to reduce the discharge of pollutants via runoff into adjacent wetlands, ponds and streams.

## 2. Outdoor Recreation



Skiing was the original outdoor sport at the park.



15 acres of athletic fields abutting Diamond Hill Road- soccer/lacrosse (l), baseball (center) and softball/Little League (r).

### Diamond Hill Park Athletics

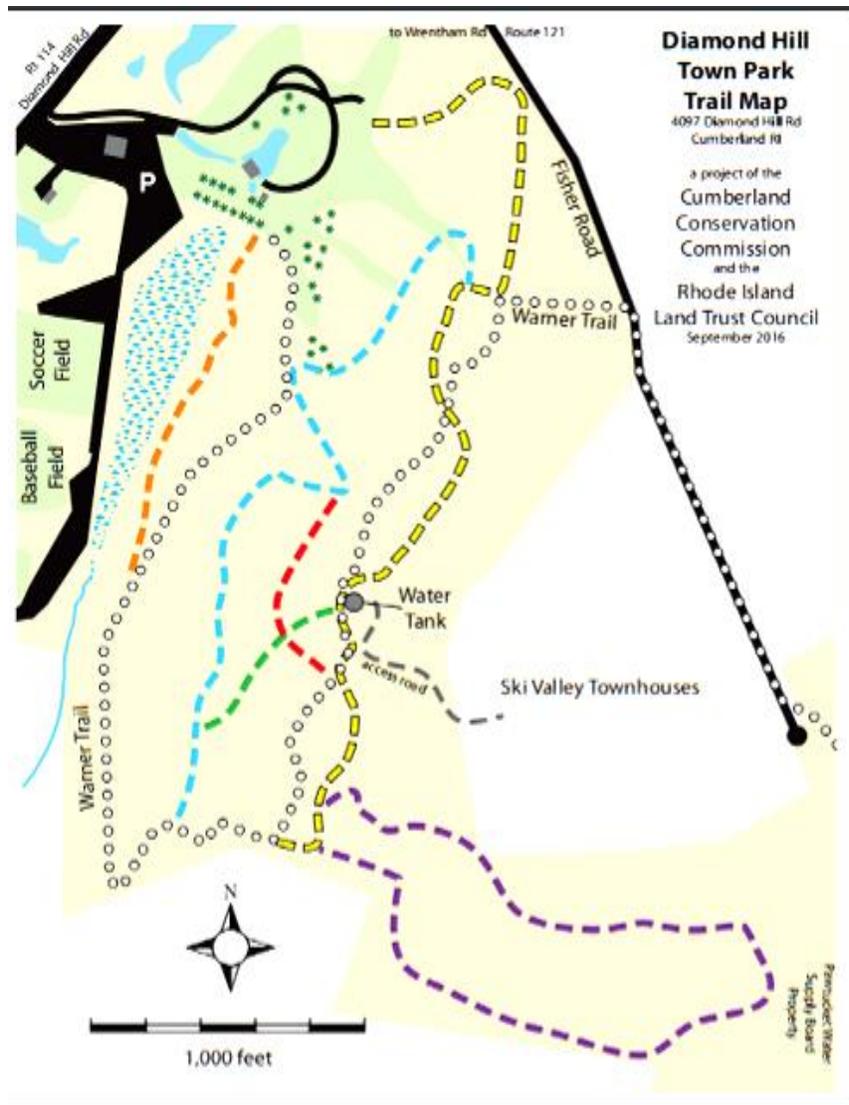
<i>sport</i>	<i>level</i>	<i>season</i>	<i>times</i>	<i>participants</i>
lacrosse	youth	Spring	M-F 5-8pm; Sat games	375
soccer	men's	Summer	Sa, Sun	50
soccer	middle school	Fall	M-F 3-5pm	100
soccer	youth	Fall	M-F 5-8pm	125
soccer	youth	Fall	Sa 8am-5pm	800
baseball	middle school	Spring	M-F 3-5 pm	25
baseball	youth	Spring	M-F 5-8 pm	50
baseball	youth	Spring	Sa, Sun 8am-8pm	50
baseball	AAU	Summer	Some week nights	25

baseball	AAU, men's league	Summer	Sa, Sun 8am-8pm	100
baseball	AAU, men's league	Fall	M-F 5-7:30 pm	50
baseball	men's	Fall	Sa, Sun 8am-7pm	125
softball	youth	Spring	M-F 5-8 pm	125
softball	youth	Spring	Sa, Sun 8 am-8 pm	100
softball	youth, AAU	Summer	Sa, Sun 8 am-8 pm	100
softball	youth, AAU	Fall	Sa, Sun 8 am-8 pm	100
flag football	youth	Fall	Sun 11 am-5 pm	325
sports camps	youth	Summer	M-F 8 am- 5 pm	300
practice	high school	Summer	M-F 5-8 pm	50

Future outdoor recreation improvements should include: turf fields, lights, restrooms, concession stand, and equipment storage.

### Hiking Trails

With varying degrees of steepness, these trails provide a variety of challenges for users. One can view the Boston skyline and Mount Wachusett from the Hill's summit. The Park contains a network of hiking trails throughout Diamond Hill, which connect to the historic Warner Trail. Acquisition of parcels along the trail through fee simple and conservation easements and to extend the trail to the Blackstone Heritage Corridor as recommended in the *Trails and Greenways, A Vision for the Blackstone River Valley* (2003) is a priority.

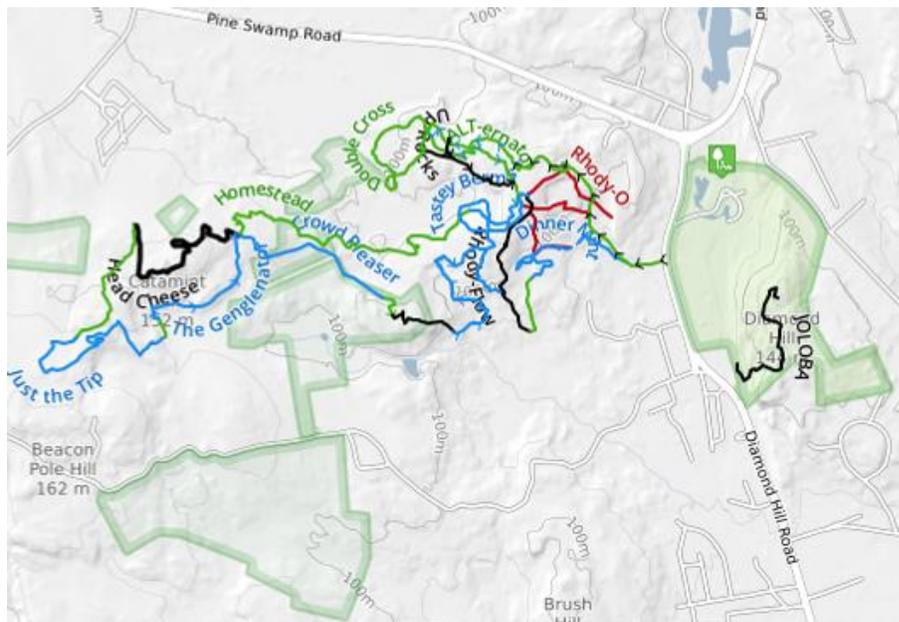




*Warner Trail.* <http://warnertrail.org/> The 30-mile Warner Trail runs between Diamond Hill Park and Sharon, Massachusetts. The first planned by Appalachian Mountain Club members, Charles H. Warner and John Hudson prior to World War II. By the early 1950's the trail was assembled. The trail is for hikers only and is on both public and private land. Since 1994, the Friends of the Warner Trail maintains the trail. The trail includes elevated viewpoints, forests, swamp crossings, brooks and reservoirs.

### *Mountain Biking*

Mountain biking has become very popular in recent years, especially with the younger, more athletic people. Both individual and seasonal organized competitive events are frequent in Rhode Island. Individual mountain biking activity should be allowed in Diamond Hill Town Park. However, this kind of activity takes a toll on the trail system and adjacent areas. Organized events are subject to permission from the Recreation Director.



Mountain bike advocates have posted Diamond Hill Park trails

<http://www.trailforks.com/region/diamond-hill/?lat=42.00026138623332&lon=-71.43617655029298&z=14&m=trailforks>

### 3. Events, Attractions

Diamond Hill Town Park provides major state and regional benefits as a venue for event and attractions. Thousands from all over southern New England attend the annual CumberlandFest as well as sports, shows, fundraisers and other events. The Recreation Director issues permits on an annual basis for established events. It is otherwise up to the Town Council to initially authorize any new events. Music in the park and food trucks should be encouraged.

#### Diamond Hill Park Events and Attractions

<i>event</i>	<i>type</i>	<i>participants</i>	<i>since</i>	<i>regional?</i>
CumberlandFest (3 days)	festival	10,000	1992	Y
Winterfest	attraction	9000	2015	Y
Haunted Hill	attraction	8000	2003	Y
Touch-A-Truck	show	3000	2009	Y
Chevy Car Show	show	1500	2004	Y
Soccer league award ceremonies	event	1300	2013	N
Creeps Car Show	show	1200	2012	Y
Youth baseball league picture day	event	1200	2006	N
Youth Baseball League awards days	event	1200	2004	N
Solstice Festival	concert	1200	2005	Y
Operation Stand Down-homeless vets	services	1000	1996	Y
Fit Challenge Spring & Fall	athletic event	800	2011	Y
Mountain Bike events and camp	athletic event	400	2010	Y
Cancer Society Relay for Life	event	400	2013	Y
BMX Eastern States Enduro	athletic event	220	2016	Y
Second Stage Studio Annual Concert	concert	200	2013	Y
Boy Scout Rally Camporee	camp out	200	2006	N
Greenway Challenge	athletic event	200	2014	Y
Williams Syndrome Charity Walk	event	200	2014	Y
Free themed movie nights	event series	175	2011	Y
Band concerts	event series	175		Y
Epilepsy Foundation Annual Charity Walk	event	125	2013	Y
Humane Society Annual Charity Dog Walk	event	100	2016	Y
US Olympic Archery program	athletic event	75	2012	N
Cumberland Food Pantry Bike Race	athletic event	70	2012	Y
School trips		10-15/yr		Y
Weddings		6-8/yr		Y
Family reunions		5-8/yr		N
Company outings		6-10/yr		Y
Birthday parties		5-8/yr		R
Walking/fitness/exercise groups		20-40/day		R
Cross country skiing/snowshoe hiking	Winter sport	10-15/day		R

#### Ski Lodge Activities

<b><i>Festivals/Events</i></b>	
CumberlandFest	10,000 participants
Winterfest	9000 participants
Haunted Hill	8000 participants
Operation Stand Down	1000 participants
Solstice Festival	1200 participants
Annual Cat show	300 participants, since 2008
Sports teams end of season dinners	8-12 per year
Soccer League picture day	1300 participants
Boy Scout rally	200 participants, since 2006

Ski swap	100 participants, since 2013
Election polling place	Primary, General, even years
Birthday parties	10-15 per year
Family reunions	5-8 per year
<b><i>Social/Educational</i></b>	
Local Schools for fundraiser distribution	8-10 per year
Dance registration	since 2006
Recreation Dance Program	300 students W, F, Sa
Step Dance Program	25 students M, Th
Cumberland Band Rehearsals	25 participants, since 2010
Quilting Club	30 participants, twice per month
Cumberland Colts Registration	300 participants, since 2011
Summer Camp Counselor Orientation	50 participants
Summer Camp Registration	300 participants
Soccer league for fundraiser distribution	3-5 times per year

## Notable Diamond Hill Park Events *CumberlandFest*



Held every August since 1992, this three-day event features amusements, rides, live music, arts and crafts, a 5K road race, bingo, midway rides, food court, special events and fireworks. This event is the largest family entertainment draw in northern Rhode Island. All proceeds are dedicated to local youth baseball, soccer, hockey and lacrosse programs. <http://www.cumberlandfest.org/>

## *Summer Solstice Celtic Festival*

This festival features Celtic music and dance performances. There is a “Traditions” stage, a “Heritage” stage, a “Riverfolk” stage, a “Youngfolk” stage, a “Riverdance” stage, an “Irish Session” tent where festival goers are welcome to play along with the performers. There is also an “After Festival Music Session” that takes place at the Blackstone River Theatre. <http://www.riverfolk.org/btrssf/>

## Haunted Hill/Spook Trail



Every Halloween season since 2002, the Cumberland Recreation Department has organized a "Spook Trail" in the "Haunted Hill" woods above the Performing Arts Pavilion area. <http://www.hauntedhill.net/> (photos: Robert Hart). Going forward, this event is to be managed by a private vendor on behalf of the Town.

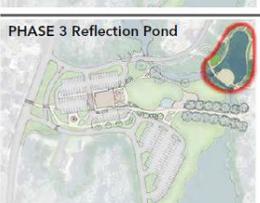
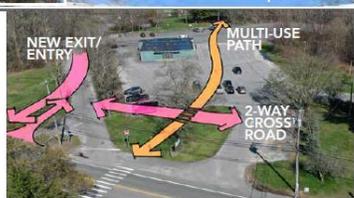
## Winterfest



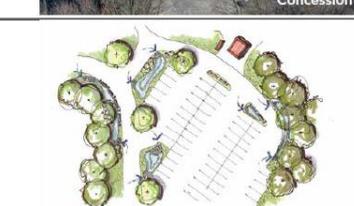
"... holiday adventure...invites young explorers to navigate Tinsel Town in a search for Santa... holiday-themed sets spaced along the wooded trail. It will be offered over eight weekend nights, Nov. 28 to Dec. 20....The target audience for Winterfest is 12 years and younger.

"The whole adventure begins at Scrooge's house...when visitors will open a secret door to the Candy Cane Forest and begin their journey. First stop will be the Gingerbread House. Along the way, they'll find Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch from Whoville, Frosty the Snowman at Bubble City, a tunnel of lights, an island of inflatables, and on it goes. The night-time trail will be aglow with Christmas lights that point the way from scene to scene. Music and decorations, in addition to characters of the season, will entertain along the way...Children will each have a stocking that characters along the way will be filling with special treats and tokens. Santa will be on hand to hear Christmas wishes. This will be town residents' first chance to ride on the Diamond Hill Express, the battery operated trackless train purchased by the Recreation Department earlier this fall." (The Valley Breeze 11/18/2015) <https://www.facebook.com/Winterfest-1567719026836029/>

## 4. Recommended Initiatives

<p><b>PHASE 1 Trailhead Restrooms</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New trail head restroom facility</li> <li>• Shade terrace with small sitting area</li> <li>• Wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<p><b>FUNDING / Estimate cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300k (RIDEM - RICAP 2018 Legislative Grant)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 2 Overlook Deck &amp; Pavilion</b> (2020 RIDEM Recreational Development Grant)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overlook deck with pavilion roof structure connected to existing ski lodge and restrooms</li> <li>• Initial phase of multi-use play field</li> <li>• Site improvements to re-stripe parking lot for drop-off/pick-up area</li> <li>• Initial phase of multi-use trail and sidewalk connections within parking lot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applying for 2020 RIDEM Recreational Development Grant</li> <li>• 400k (RIDEM)</li> <li>• 100k (Town)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 3 Reflection Pond</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean pond of debris &amp; invasive vegetation</li> <li>• Re-channel stream flow through the pond</li> <li>• Remove stage roof &amp; walls</li> <li>• Convert concrete floor area into picnic overlook</li> <li>• Install aeration fountain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300k (RIDEM - RICAP 2019 Legislative Grant)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 4 Entry Roads &amp; Pathways</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct new two way access road for access to north end of park</li> <li>• Construct new two way cross road connecting south end to north end</li> <li>• New multi-use path connecting crosswalk at Diamond Hill to interior trail system</li> <li>• Extend walkway south to connect with neighborhood on west side of Diamond Hill Rd. and create new pedestrian access areas into park</li> <li>• Incorporate storm water control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated cost between 700k 900k</li> <li>• 500k one time solar payment</li> </ul>	

Sheet 4

<p><b>PHASE 5 'Ski Lodge' Upgrades &amp; Site Improvements</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remodel existing 'ski lodge' for handicap accessibility.</li> <li>• Remodel existing restrooms for improved handicap accessibility</li> <li>• Incorporate windows for increased natural light</li> <li>• Incorporate a warming kitchen for catered events</li> <li>• Reorganize parking lot with space for a multi-use trail connecting Diamond Hill Rd. with trail system</li> </ul>	<p><b>FUNDING / Estimate cost</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250k for building renovations</li> <li>• 150k for site improvements</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 6 Multi-use play field splash pad &amp; playground</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete multi-use play field with perimeter walk that connects to existing trail system</li> <li>• Locate splash pad near trailhead restroom with nearby sitting area.</li> <li>• Incorporate playground near splash pad with a design theme that is unique to Diamond Hill's topographic features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 250k for completing multi-use play field and drainage improvements</li> <li>• 120k for splash park</li> <li>• 150k for playground</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 7 Improvements at athletic fields</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade athletic fields with improved utility connections for water and electric service</li> <li>• New restrooms and concession stand (similar to trailhead building)</li> <li>• Lighting at field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100k for upgraded service</li> <li>• 250k for restroom/ concession stand</li> <li>• 400k for field lighting</li> </ul>	
<p><b>PHASE 8 Improvements at central parking lot</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reorganize existing roadway and parking lot with access to both the ski lodge (north) and athletic fields (south)</li> <li>• Incorporate storm water collection system into landscaped islands and perimeter bio-swales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300k for parking lot/site improvements, including drainage</li> </ul>	

Sheet 5

#### 4a. Build a Trailhead Restroom



 BETA December 10, 2019

Trail Head Restroom/Concession  
Diamond Hill Park - Phase 2 Site Improvements  
Cumberland, Rhode Island

#### 4b. Renovate the Ski Lodge

The building dates to 1960 and is well past its expected useful life span. Constructed of cinderblock, its condition is fair. There is frequently standing water in the basement. The HVAC and electrical system are antiquated. The grandfathered ISDS system dates to the 1970's. The 1998 Master Plan pointed out many of these problems, citing a need for the public to be able to enjoy a comfortable facility that anticipated to meet present and future public demand. It is clear that almost 20 years later, this facility should be renovated. Repairs to the building were made over the years using a band aid approach.

A renovated Ski Lodge would provide an exciting, attractive signature element for the Park. Located close to the entrance, a modern facility with a pitched accented roof has the potential to impress visitors, engendering increased value of the building well into the future. The architectural style and interior furnishings should evoke historical references to recreational skiing.

##### *Present Conditions*

The Ski Lodge building measures approx. 73' x 60' with two large rooms with open floor plans. There is a stone fireplace at the east wall of the main function room. In 2014 an ADA-compliant ramp was installed at the side entrance. The building is serviced by forced hot air and wall-mounted air conditioners. The building sits in the midst of the main entrance parking lot, bereft of landscaping.



The Ski Lodge (ca.1960)



Main function room with period forced air space heater, fluorescent lighting, and utilitarian furnishings



ancillary room



main entrance



deteriorated tile floor



men's room



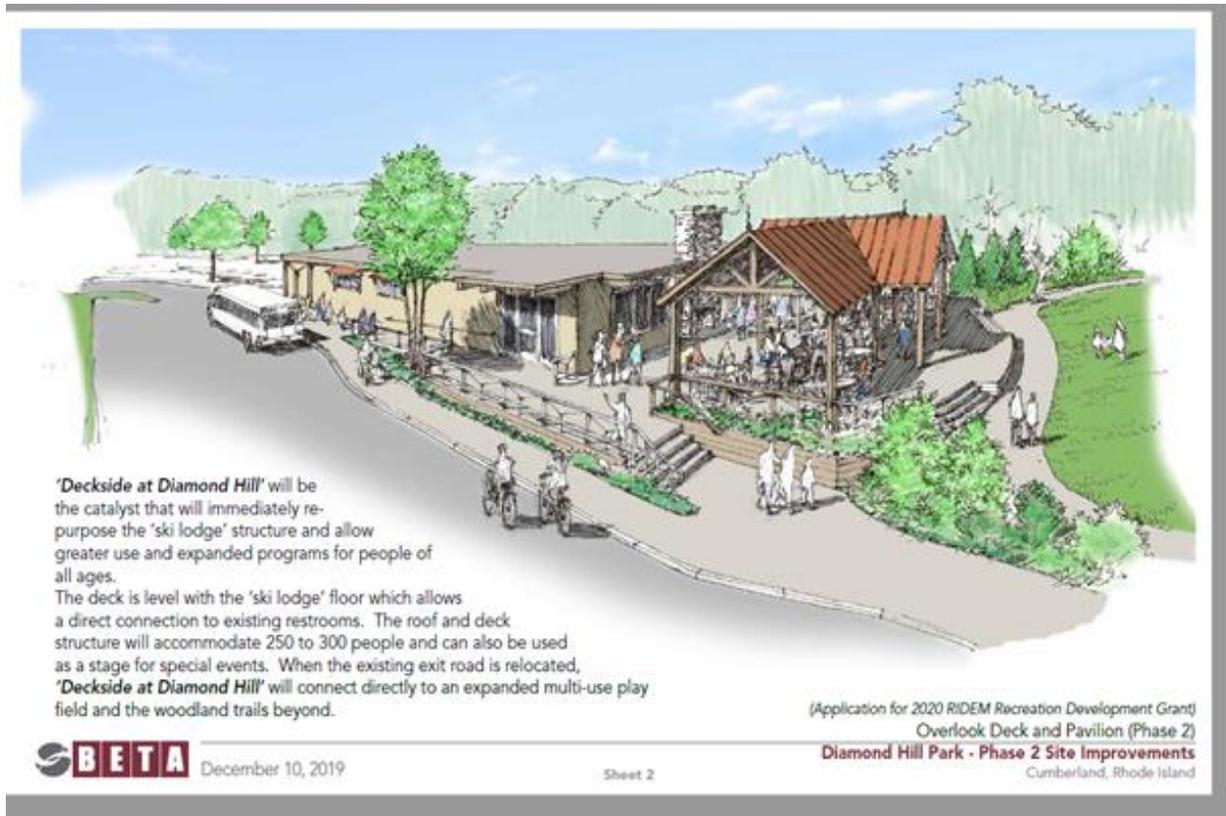
Full basement includes three large rooms, one of which is walled off.



electric panel

The Ski Lodge was constructed by the State of Rhode Island in 1960. It is of simple flat-roofed, cinderblock walled construction, with full unfinished basement. The first floor consists of the main function room of approx. 45' x 60' with a men's and women's bathroom, and an ancillary room of approx. 25' x 60'. The roof is supported by 6" x 10" horizontal trusses running the length of the ceiling and protrude beyond the roofline at the front and side entrances, and along the windows on the east side of the building.

The full basement consists of three chambers, two of which have concrete walls and floors, and one which is walled off, reported to have a dirt floor. There is frequent water infiltration leaving standing water on the floor of the northeasternmost room. The prolonged permeation of moisture has never been addressed, and there is a distinct atmospheric rank that threatens the entire building environment. There is also some roof leakage and paint blistering taking place.



### *Specifications for renovating the Ski Lodge into a new Diamond Hill Pavilion*

The Diamond Hill Pavilion and overlook deck will be a critical component of a new master plan to develop a new recreational center at Diamond Hill, by expansion and adaptive reuse of an old and no longer functional former ski lodge, with a renewed use and purpose that creates linkages to the athletic fields, Warner Hiking trails, the pond, picnic grove and concerts and cultural events outdoors.

The new deck and roof structure designed as an extension of the ski lodge will allow the Town to meet its goal of consolidating the summer camp programs (250+ children) and centralize the program to a single location instead of five schools throughout the town. During inclement weather, this will be invaluable. The roof and deck structure will also be the first step in the ultimate goal of reconnecting the ski lodge to the actual trails and park amenities.

Currently the ski lodge sits as an island within a parking lot and surrounding roads. Existing roadways and parking areas will be phased out over a multi-year plan so that the deck and roof structure will overlook a multi-use play field. The multi-use play field will be reinforced turf and irrigated so a variety of events can be held on a durable grass surface. The multi-use field (when fully completed) will become the actual landscape feature that connects all pedestrian activity to and from the ski lodge and to all the amenities of Diamond Hill Park. A portion of the play area will be part of this construction phase and will expand the use of the deck as a gathering area and or an extension of the existing ski lodge.

- Overlook deck with pavilion roof structure connected to existing ski lodge and restrooms
- Initial phase of multi-use play field
- Site improvements to re-stripe parking lot for drop-off/pick-up area
- Initial phase of multi-use trail and sidewalk connections within parking lot

- Improve groundwater runoff
- Improved lighting and access
- Playground and splash park

*Comparable Renovation Project: Meehan Overlook Building*

Between 2013 and 2015, the Town of North Providence renovated an existing camp building for year-round use, upgrading utilities, installing new bathrooms and constructing a new “sunset overlook terrace”.

The total project cost was \$800,000, including reorganizing the existing lower parking lot for a new access road and improved safety at the park entrance. Funding sources included a 2012 Champlin grant of \$190,000 for interior improvements and 2013 Champlin grant for \$176,500 for exterior building improvements. A Town Police substation is co-located within the building, improvements for which included \$70,000 for office construction from the US Department of Justice relating to a court settlement with Google.



*“The Meehan Overlook at Notte Park is the perfect blend of rustic charm and contemporary elegance. The wrap around covered deck gives you and your guests the opportunity to host your event both inside and outside. The space is equipped with refinished hardwood floors, new white cross beams and a beautiful fireplace with a mantel. Additionally, the property is ADA compliant and has restrooms attached to the property.”* The function room is available for weddings and event rentals.

<http://northprovidenceri.gov/meehan-overlook/>

*4c. The wetland in front of the Performing Arts Pavilion should be managed according to an annual maintenance plan that protects water quality, inflow/outflow structures, surrounding banks and landscape.*



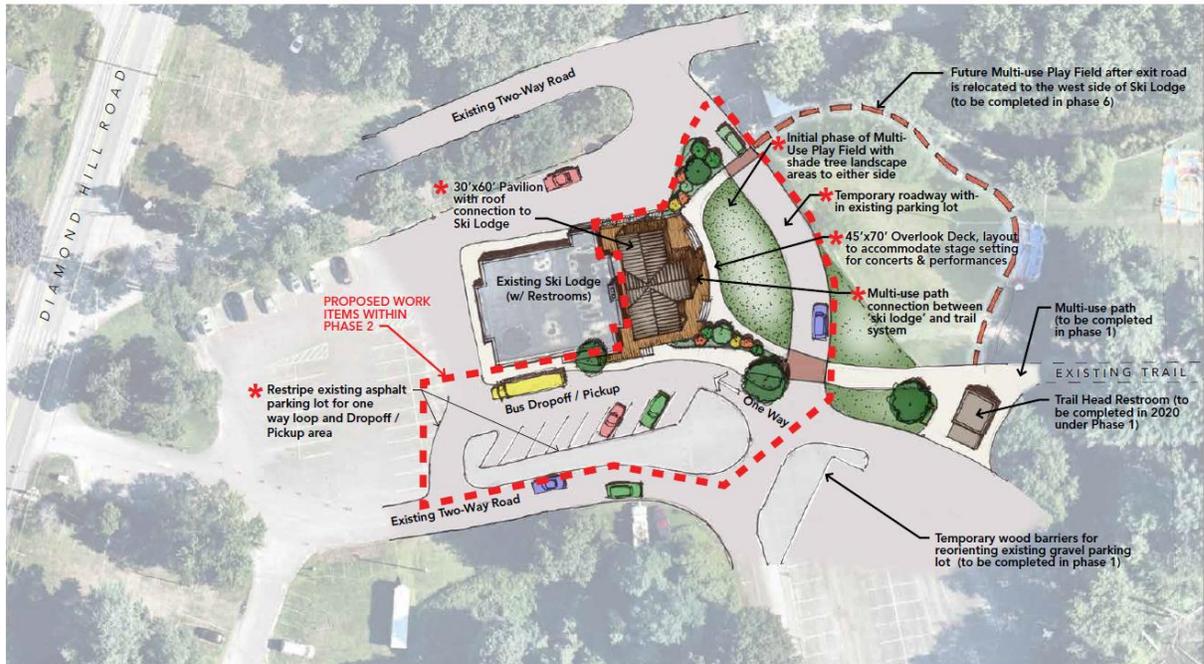
*A 2012 early spring aerial image (l) shows the impaired wetland in front of the Performing Arts Pavilion as an aquatic environment. This is a seasonal condition. The Town should seek a RIDEM maintenance dredging permit in order to restore the pond’s pleasing aesthetic appearance and the integrity of the water circulation system as originally designed by RIDEM in the early 1980’s.*



**BETA** December 10, 2019

Diamond Hill Park - Proposed Site Improvements  
Cumberland, Rhode Island

4d. Refresh the Park entrance to make more safe, distinctive and beautiful



Scale: 1" = 40'  
0 40 80 160



(Application for 2020 RIDEM Recreation Development Grant)

\* Proposed work items within Phase 2

**Diamond Hill Park - Phase 2 Site Improvements**  
Cumberland, Rhode Island



December 10, 2019

Sheet 3

New Entrance Sign



DIAMOND HILL  
PARK  
CUMBERLAND, RHODE ISLAND



The existing entrance sign (l) is dated. The Town is refreshing its municipal signage with custom-designed signs that evoke an elegant formality while referring to Cumberland's mining heritage. The newly designed Diamond Hill Park sign is at right.

*\* Install entrance and circulation and landscape improvements*

The Town paved the parking and circulation area around the Ski Lodge in 2014. Installation of vegetated traffic islands would soften the area's appearance and help circulation.

*\* Main entrance should be re-landscaped to make more safe and attractive.* Clearing and replanting would improve sight distances on Diamond Hill Road and draw attention to the new Park Sign.

*\* Main exit should be reconfigured to improve safety.* At present, drivers exit the Park at an angle to Diamond Hill Road, which frequently presents challenges safely entering traffic. Cumberland should submit a RIDOT Physical Alteration Permit (PAP) application to square off this intersection.

*\* South entrance/exit to the athletic fields needs to be improved by removing the islands.*

*\* Soften Ski Lodge.* Install landscaping adjacent to the Ski Lodge, to soften its appearance in the midst of the central parking lot.

*\* Delineate parking areas* with fencing and vegetation, to increase capacity, improve circulation and make more aesthetically-pleasing.

*\* Improve drainage.* Rain gardens should be designed and installed to treat storm-water runoff for most rain events.

#### *4e. Additional Objectives*

1. *Guidelines for Performing Arts at the Park.* In order to protect the quality of life for nearby residents, the Department of Parks and Recreation is to promulgate event permit guidelines regarding event frequency, type and scale. The Town Council should have licensing or permitting authority over proposed events.

2. *A second turf field.* Install turf on one of the fields at Diamond Hill as a way of extending play and meeting recreation needs of the expanding population, especially in the northern part of Town (10-15 year timeframe).

3. *Construct a new playground.*

4. *Improve existing picnic grove* located in the northwest area near the north pond, remove existing fire / barbecue pits, install picnic tables.

5. *Build a safe, handicapped-accessible access from the picnic grove to the north pond.*

6. *Skating:* An outdoor skating facility should be developed.

7. Renovate the first aid station/restrooms.

8. Improve the network of trails: install signs to identify trails with varying degrees of steepness and the connection to the historic *Warner Trail*; address any encroachments; encourage alternative purposes, such as dog walking, senior fitness; improve access to south pond and wetlands. Resurface some trails with stone dust and repair others.

9. *Install signage* to provide directional information, highlight unique ecological resources and history, and to help create an identity and recreational experience for the park as a whole.

10. *Security Access*: An unpaved vehicle roadway leads from Fisher Road through woodland in the north, to the center of the park in the vicinity of the Music Pavilion. This road will remain, and be used for emergency access.

## Appendix 1: CumberlandFest Committee August 9, 2000

6 | August 9, 2000 | Neighbors



JRC file photo

Above is a picture of the first Cumberlandfest committee. From left to right kneeling are Walter Edge, Mark Gardner, Gary Caron, James Such, George Stansfield and Tony Sousa. Standing from left to right are Ernie Labbe, Robert Campanelli, Bobby Ray, Dave Chenevert, Joyce Glode, Joanne Labranche, Dave Coutu, Linda Dubois, Dan Dent, Dan McKee and Paul Dubois. Missing from the photo were Bill Malloy, Bob Pielech, Gerry Schimmel, John Jackson and Bill Gray. This year, a plaque with these people's names is being installed in order to honor this group for starting the annual event.

## Appendix 2: Rare Species on Diamond Hill (Rhode Island Natural Heritage Survey)

### Insects:

*Atrytonopsis hianna*, dusted skipper C last obs. 1991

*Cicindela rufiventris*, red bellied tiger beetle C last obs. 1995

### Plants:

*Arethusa bulbosa*, dragon's mouth SE last obs. 1907

*Caulophyllum thalictroides*, blue cohosh ST last obs. 1960

*Gentian andrewsii*, Andrew's bottle gentian SH last obs. 1914

*Hypericum adpressum*, creeping St. John's-wort ST last obs. 1914

*Isoetes echinospora*, spiny quillwort C last obs. 1942

*Isoetes riparia*, river quillwort C last obs. 1942

*Penthorum sedoides*, ditch-stone-crop C last obs. 2016

*Sambucus racemosa*, red elderberry SH last obs. 1878

*Triosteum perfoliatum*, perfoliate-leaved horse-gentian C last obs. 1876

## Appendix 3: Historical Images of Diamond Hill ca. 1880 (Wikipedia)

