

## Chapter 3 Utilities and Facilities

The development of public utilities, facilities and services should be based upon a projection of reasonably expected population increase and economic growth, and should recognize the limits of the Town’s human, financial and natural resources. In addition, any proposed public facilities should recognize the Goals and Objectives set forth in the Town Plan. The town anticipates not more than 6% growth over the next twenty years. The existing municipal facilities and services are generally considered to be adequate to accommodate these anticipated future conditions, unless otherwise indicated in the Town Plan.

The Town of Chester annually approves a Capital Plan, which consists of annual capital expenditures. In 2016, the town approved a Bond Plan that finances capital item payments over multiple years for the first time. These planning efforts are beneficial as they identify priority capital needs and plan how to pay for them. These plans were not adopted as a Capital Budget and Program under 24 V.S.A. §4430. A duly adopted Capital Budget and Program can be used to limit or phase development in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4422, and it is a pre-requisite for levying impact fees under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 131. It would also serve as a legal tool in Act 250 proceedings under criterion 9a (1) “Impacts of growth.”

### Town Administration

The Town of Chester is under the Town Manager system of Government. Five elected Selectboard members have the responsibility for general supervision of the affairs of the Town. This responsibility is carried out by an appointed Town Manager who administers all Departments of Town Government. The Town Manager system of Government should be sufficient for the foreseeable future.

A Development Review Board (DRB) was established in 2007, replacing the previous Zoning Board of Adjustment. The DRB is responsible for all local development review, with the exception of zoning permits for permitted uses which the Zoning Administrator issues. The Chester Planning Commission performs planning functions for the Town in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 4325.

Table 3.1 lists town-owned lands and facilities.

### Emergency Services Departments

The Town of Chester is served by an Ambulance Service, a Fire Department and a full time Police Department. The Fire Department and the Ambulance Service have space for their vehicles and offices in the Town Garage.

Description		
Adams Family Aquifer	30.53	\$90,800
Bouchard Land	0.12	\$19,200
Cemeteries:		
Adams Road	1.00	\$6,500
Brookside	3.80	\$44,900
North Street	5.74	\$46,500
Pleasant View	8.90	\$93,400
Poplar Grove	0.42	\$2,700
Smokeshire	0.49	\$1,200
Spoonerville	0.28	\$1,800
Colbeth Land	0.12	\$16,200
Dodge Land	9.08	\$57,200
Emergency Services Land	4.04	\$95,400
Flamstead Acres (Lot 45)	0.11	\$13,600
The Green	1.50	\$57,500
Hadley Land	14.10	\$66,300
Hammond Park	0.55	\$41,000
Historical Society Building	3.86	\$481,800
Jeffrey Well Site	17.00	\$834,900
Land – Dean Brook Road	3.20	\$26,400
Library Building	-/43	\$623,300
North Street Bridge Field	0.50	\$32,000
Peck Land	4.00	\$42,000
Perry/Pierce Land	501.35	\$855,900
Quimby Land	1.10	\$25,800
Recreation Area (The Pinnacle)	37.28	\$709,200
Salt Shed/Henry Land	0.63	\$28,300
Town Garage	6.12	\$717,000
Town Hall	0.41	\$580,900
Wastewater Treatment Plant	13.45	\$2,752,900
Water Tank Site (GMUHS)	1.00	\$20,000
Weatherby Farm Land	40.00	\$105,000
Well Site on Canal Street	3.00	\$125,800
Wiley Land	3.00	\$73,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>717.11</b>	<b>\$8,689,000</b>
Source: 2017 Town of Chester Annual Report		

The Police department is located in the northeast corner of the Town Hall. In March, 2018 the newly-formed Chester Building Committee began work on a project to design, fund and construct a new Emergency Services Building which will house the Fire Department, the Ambulance Service, and the Police Department.

### **Ambulance**

The Chester Ambulance Service provides emergency medical services and transportation to residents of Chester and Andover. The service is paid for by tax revenues allocated from the general fund, grants, and donations. The fees collected for service are paid into the general fund. The Ambulance Service is licensed by the State of Vermont and inspected annually. The Fire Department and Ambulance service are dispatched through the Hartford (VT) dispatch center, as are emergency services from neighboring towns. The consolidation of the dispatch function facilitates coordination and sharing of resources among towns and services.

The Ambulance Service is staffed by a paid Ambulance Coordinator, a full-time employee licensed at a minimum level of Emergency Medical Technician, and about 25 volunteers. The volunteers range from people who only drive the ambulance to those licensed as Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians (AEMT's). The levels of licensure available in Vermont are Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), a person trained in basic first aid, CPR and automated external defibrillation, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), a person trained in all the EMR skills, plus more advanced skills such as nasal pharyngeal airways and intranasal and intramuscular medications, and Advanced EMT (AEMT), a person trained in advanced life support including intravenous and intraosseous access and advanced airway devices. The volunteers are paid a stipend for the calls they attend. The staff is divided into three rotating shifts and provide 24/7 coverage.

Chester also has an agreement with Ludlow to share licensed staff when needed. This increases the ability to respond to calls. A minimum of two licensed staff members are required for legal transport, with one staff member having at least an EMT license. The requirement of time for training, and time being available for calls, as well as the life and death responsibilities that are part of emergency medical care, represent a significant commitment on the part of the volunteers. Volunteers are extraordinarily dedicated people and are not easy to recruit.

The population is expected to age significantly over the next 20 years. This is already seen in an increase in the number of calls which now approaches 400 per year, but had stayed around 250 up until 2012. The age group most frequently served by the ambulance is over 60. An increase of cardiac arrest calls was noted over the winter of 2017 – 2018 as the bitter cold took its toll on our elderly citizens. The opioid crisis has also contributed to the rise in calls. The cost of calls where serious, life-saving medical treatment is administered is an increasing burden to the service.

The service has one transport vehicle, purchased in 2012. The Ambulance Service has decided to replace the vehicle after 10 years in order to take advantage of advances in patient transport compartments and chassis design. It will also get a better trade-in value for the old vehicle. With more room in the new Emergency Services building, a stock vehicle which can handle rough and snowy Vermont road conditions can be purchased. Formerly special vehicles with a shorter wheel base to fit in the limited garage space had to be ordered at extra expense.

Other equipment the Ambulance Service uses are a transport cot, a stair chair, child restraints to adapt the cot to fit a child and a monitor/defibrillator. Medical supplies must be kept on hand. Many supplies have expiration dates and must be replaced on a regular basis whether used or not. Some life-saving supplies such as Narcan, glucagon and epinephrine have risen in price significantly over the past couple of years. The unexpected price increases make it difficult to budget for the future, as well as afford in the present.

There is an informal mutual aid relationship between area towns and for-profit services, which is facilitated by the shared use of the Hartford (VT) Dispatch center. Combined with the arrangement with Ludlow, Chester is able to answer most of the calls it receives. The full-time employee position was unfilled for several months, which put added pressure on the Ambulance Service to handle weekday calls. Ideally, the full-time weekday employee is supplemented by a second licensed employee to cover other times. The cost benefit and possible level of service gain of having staff available at these times is being evaluated.

The Ambulance Service is currently housed in the Town Garage. The ambulance is parked in an enclosed, heated bay. Supplies are stored upstairs in a heated area. A small, locked office on that floor has a computer and printer. Some training takes place in a room shared with the Police and Fire Departments. There is a current need for a facility in the building where hazardous material equipment can be safely cleaned. This is one of the needs which will be addressed in the new Emergency Services building.

## Fire

The Chester Fire Department serves the Town of Chester and contracts with the Town of Andover to serve that municipality as well. The Town of Chester has mutual aid agreements with many other towns through the Connecticut Valley Mutual Aid, the Southwest Mutual Aid and the Upper Valley Mutual Aid organizations. The Chester Fire Department is dispatched by the Hartford (VT) Emergency Communications Center.

The Fire Department owns the following vehicles:

Vehicle	length
Class A Truck	33'
Class A Truck	28'
Tanker	36'
Rescue Truck	30'
Brush /Utility Truck	27.5'
Boat on Trailer	25'
Brush/Rescue Trailer with ATV and rescue sled	25
Hazardous Materials Trailer	25'

The Fire Department is staffed by 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Fire Chief, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants and several fully trained Firefighters. The Department's command structure is consistent with standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). Firefighters are paid once a year. They receive an hourly wage for the hours spent responding to calls and for the two trainings they attend each month. Firefighters volunteer their time for several other trainings each year.

Pressure on the Fire Department's resources comes from increasing state and federal requirements for training and safety equipment and changes to building materials and techniques. Some new building materials can give off toxic or carcinogenic smoke and fumes when burning. Firefighters need protection from these dangers. Newer construction techniques may also require different equipment. Training is essential to keep firefighters qualified, effective and safe. Additional training opportunities are constantly being sought.

The department seeks to meet Insurance Safety Organization (ISO) and National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards. The department's ISO rating affects fire insurance rates for all the town's residents. With this goal in view, the department has enhanced equipment testing and servicing procedures and improved record keeping. The department has developed a plan to schedule equipment replacement instead of risking equipment failures. Looking ahead, the department recognizes the need for a simple, used ladder truck, as newer buildings have roof structures that make ground ladders ineffective and dangerous.

The health and safety of the volunteer firefighters is constantly considered. Gear washing equipment is used to protect firefighters from the toxic chemicals deposited on the gear by smoke from fires. A ladder truck would make fires requiring ladders less dangerous. A ventilation system that would clear toxins in the air emanating from equipment after a fire would also be helpful.

## Police

The Chester Police Department serves the Town of Chester and is also paid to assist Okemo Mountain Resort in Ludlow, VT with traffic control. It currently has offices in the northeast corner of the Town Hall on the first floor. This is not a secure location and arrests are mainly processed at the Westminster State Police Barracks.

The Police Department has a full-time chief, a full-time sergeant, four full-time officers, three part time officers and one canine when fully staffed. All Police officers have graduated from the Police Academy. Currently the Police Department owns and maintains three police cruisers. The vehicles are replaced every 4 years due to high mileage and use on rough roads. Computers, firearms, ammunition and personal protection equipment such as bullet proof vests are paid for out of the town budget and by grants from Homeland Security. The Chester Police Department responded to 1,179 calls for service in 2017.

Chester Police officers receive 25 – 30 hours of training annually. In 2017, training topics included interacting with persons having a mental health crisis, administering Narcan, crash investigation, domestic violence, death scene investigation, firearms, and field training officer certification.

Chester's Police Department gets support from the Vermont State Police for processing arrests and background checks. This was formerly done at the Rockingham barracks. With the closing of that

barracks in 2016, arrests are now processed at the Westminster State Police barracks. Adjustments are still being made to accommodate the increased distance.

Chester has experienced an increase in drug-related crime due to the opioid crisis. State and federal regulations have also increased space demands for the Police Department. The Chief of Police is taking part in the effort to build a new Emergency Services building which will have space for the Police Department as well as the Fire Department and Ambulance Service.

## Water

The Village in the Town of Chester is served by the Chester Water Department. The water system has two (2) wells. The water from those wells is particularly delicious and only requires a bit of baking soda added to counteract acidity. The Jeffrey Well #2 Pump Station is located on an aquifer at 391 VT Route 103 North and is the primary pump station and water source for the town. The well is capable of producing 576,000 gallons of water per day. The current average daily use is approximately 164,000 gallons. This location is designed to satisfy the town's water needs for the foreseeable future. The Canal Street Well is located at the end of Canal Street in the middle of the village. It is an emergency backup source only. The water is stored in two water storage tanks. The older tank is west of town and the newer tank is south and east of town. The tanks are drawn down as needed and refilled by the Jeffrey Well. The tanks are normally filled at night to utilize off-peak hours for the best electrical utility rates.

The water system serves the needs of the community well and correlates well with the Land Use Regulations and the planned future development of the Town. Improvements made in 2016 and 2017 include the following:

- A second storage tank and the piping needed to integrate it into the system was completed.
- 900 feet of old 4- and 6-inch cast iron pipe on Coach Road was replaced with 8-inch ductile iron pipe. 900 feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe was added on First Avenue to complete a loop in the system and eliminate 2 dead ends. This improves water quality and service for that area.
- The water line to the Wastewater Treatment plant was changed from a 1 1/2-inch plastic line to an 8-inch ductile iron pipe, bringing much more reliable service to the Wastewater Treatment plant.
- 26 hydrants were replaced in the village and an 8-inch line and hydrant were added to Breezy Lane.
- The Jeffrey Well was modified to reduce the amount of water hammer caused when the pump is activated.
- Agitators and wireless remote telemetry have been added to both storage tanks, so that the tanks can send signals to the controls at the Jeffrey Well station.

These upgrades ensure that the water system is, and will remain, in compliance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. They also allow required fire flows to be maintained during emergencies. The system currently serves 577 accounts containing 886 units. The system historically sees about a 5% increase in demand every 10 years. Ongoing water main replacement over the next 20 years is expected to reduce that by eliminating several leaks in the old pipe.

Future projects under consideration include:

- Mapping all the water and wastewater mains, service connections to them, pump stations, river crossings, manholes, curb stops, gate boxes, and the ground water drainage system using GPS,
- Isolating ground water to keep it out of the wastewater system,
- Installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system (SCADA) for wastewater to improve efficiency, reduce operation cost, improve record keeping and provide more accurate operating information, which may be completed in conjunction with a new mapping program implemented in 2018 that is based on parcel data,
- Upgrading water and wastewater maintenance tools, including a small line cleaner, a new pump for draining excavation sites at line breaks and other power tools, to increase the speed of repairs.

Large projects (with costs in excess of \$100,000) may be funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund or Rural Development.

## Wastewater

In 2006, the Town of Chester constructed a new upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of nearly \$3 million. The new facility was one of the largest construction projects that the Town of Chester has undertaken in recent years. The town also updated the Wastewater/Sewer Ordinances, which require some pre-treatment for some commercial users due to excessive BOD (biochemical oxygen demand, which is dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic bacteria to digest waste in water) and chemical discharges that cannot be treated at the municipal facility.

The system currently serves 489 accounts and 786 units, with a steady increase every year. With the current upgrades, the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant is rated at 175,000 gallons per day, with 500,000 per day for emergency operations mode during high-water and flood stages. The average daily usage is between 90,000 to 100,000 gallons per day.

The Wastewater Department has upgraded the pump station that is located on Pleasant Street to increase efficiency and reduce maintenance requirements. Upgrades are planned to address the ground water drainage in the wastewater service area to reduce the infiltration into the system, which can overload it and require additional and unnecessary treatment at the plant. During the spring thaw and wet periods, some residences run sump-pumps that are discharged into the system. This is not allowed under State and Federal regulations. The town is working on a properly designed storm drainage system which will appropriately direct the ground and surface water to a designated location and bypass the wastewater system. These improvements may be funded by the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Rural Development or grants such as the Clean Water Block Grant or Ecosystem Restoration Grant.

## Solid Waste District

The Town of Chester is a member of the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District, which has prepared a Solid Waste Implementation Plan, with an appointed representative that serves on the District Board of Supervisors. To manage the district, the board engaged the services of the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission. The district has also adopted a Waste Management Ordinance, effective February 1, 2008, that included licensing commercial haulers. They pay a surcharge of \$7.00 per ton on municipal solid waste, construction and demolition waste, and bulky wastes generated within the District, which helps pay District expenses, including maintaining a website, [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org), which contains information about

reducing, reusing, recycling and household hazardous waste.

The Town does not provide for refuse collection. Residents may contract with a private waste hauler or bring refuse, including recyclables, brush, lawn and garden waste and kitchen waste, directly to the Chester-Springfield Recycling Center and Transfer Station at 135 Fairground Road in Springfield, one mile north of Riverside School (west side). They operate on a ticket system for trash payment. Tickets can be purchased at the Chester Town Hall, and other places locally.

A list of accepted recyclables is available at the Transfer Station or at the regional District website, [www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org](http://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org). Most recyclables are accepted free of charge, including all types of batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, televisions, monitors, printers, hard drives and peripherals. There is a "Second Chance Shop" for unwanted, but still usable, items including books. Architectural salvage can be found or donated. Metal is accepted free of charge; bulky waste is charged by weight. Household Hazardous Waste collection take place at several locations in the District each spring and autumn.

In 2012 the Vermont Legislature passed Act 148, The Universal Recycling Law, an "act relating to establishing universal recycling of solid waste." The Vermont Materials Management Plan: Moving from Solid Waste towards Sustainable Management, was effective on June 18, 2014. As of July 1, 2017, kitchen waste must be accepted at all transfer stations in Vermont. Keeping food waste out of landfills will become mandatory on July 1, 2020. Waste haulers and facilities are required to collect recyclables (metal, glass, #1 and #2 plastics, paper and cardboard) leaf and yard debris and clean wood.

### Electric Utilities

Electric power for the Town of Chester is provided by Green Mountain Power. Electric transmission service is provided by the Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO). Underground utilities are encouraged to preserve the historic look of the village and the beauty of scenic areas.

### Telephone, Cable Television and Internet Infrastructure

Telephone, high speed internet and television service are available in Chester through the town-wide fiber optic network built by Vermont Telephone (VTel). Comcast provides television cable service, high-speed internet and phone service. Dish provides satellite television service. These vital improvements enable people to work efficiently at home, reducing commuting traffic and benefiting the environment of the Town. It also offers essential support to businesses that may want to locate in this picturesque town.

### Communications Towers and Structures

A modern telecommunications infrastructure is essential to the public welfare and economic development. The Town of Chester is fortunate to own a site for a communications tower, a low hill on the western edge of the town center called the Pinnacle. The towers currently on the site cannot be seen in most parts of town. In 1997, at Chester's invitation, US Cellular erected the first cellular telephone tower at that site next to the existing low band tower. A second cellular phone company, Cellular One, rented space on the tower. VELCO offered to build a higher capacity tower for the town in 2015 since VELCO needed to expand its communication system to meet state mandates. The offer was accepted and the new tower was completed in 2018. Currently Cellular One and AT & T lease space on the new tower and US Cellular remains on the old tower while contract issues are resolved. Sprint and Verizon are negotiating for space on the new tower. The town also uses the towers for police, fire,

ambulance and public works radio communications. This arrangement has provided Chester with cellular phone service and given the town rental income as well. It has also prevented a proliferation of towers along ridge lines, which would mar the scenic vistas of the town. The town's ability to control where communication towers may be built is limited by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. This arrangement has worked well for everyone concerned so far.

## Recreation

The Town of Chester is fortunate to have some of the finest recreation facilities in the area. The operation of the Pinnacle and Memorial Fields, also known as Cobleigh Street Fields, are under the direction of a full-time Recreation Director. These facilities should continue to receive the financial and volunteer support necessary to maintain the facilities and to provide program leadership. They should be sufficient, with the recommendations set forth herein, to serve the needs of the community for recreation facilities for the next 25 years.

Recreation Department projects may be funded by Land and Water Conservation Fund grants as well as the Buildings and General Services Grants.

## Athletic Fields

There are five outdoor athletic facilities available to Chester residents.

1. Green Mountain Union High School has a soccer field, baseball field, track and other land areas used in school recreation and sports programs.
2. Chester-Andover Elementary School has a playground and athletic field used for school recreation and sports programs.
3. Pinnacle Recreation Area contains 25 acres and is the hub of summer and winter recreation for the towns sports program. The area includes a recently upgraded outdoor swimming pool, skateboard park, volleyball courts, basketball court, two tennis courts, two Little League baseball fields, an ice rink, playground and 12-hole disc golf course. The hillside is also used for sledding, tobogganing and snowmobiles, and the area is a VAST snowmobile access area with parking.
4. Memorial Fields, also known as Cobleigh Street Fields contains a ball field used for softball and soccer.
5. Green Mountain Softball facility - This privately-owned facility has volleyball courts and two softball fields, which are used for annual softball tournament events and are made available for Green Mountain High School softball games.

Some future objectives of the Recreation Department are a new Soccer Field, a dog park, walking trails around the Pinnacle and an indoor recreation facility. All recreation fields are utilized to full capacity and the Soccer Program is growing rapidly.

## Disc Golf

Constructed in 2016, the Chester Disc Golf Course is a popular and highly utilized recreational resource in town. The course winds its way through hilly, wooded and previously under-utilized town property at



the Pinnacle Recreation Area. Three more holes have been added in the summer of 2018 and an additional 6 holes are planned for 2019. The course is also used as a snowshoe trail in the winter.

## Swimming

The swimming pool located at the Pinnacle Area is the most highly utilized recreation program for the Town. Approximately 200 children per year receive swimming lessons through the Recreation Department. In addition, the swimming pool averages 50 to 60 kids per day during the summer months. The current pool was upgraded in 2017, which will extend the life of the pool to at least 2037. More renovations and improvements are planned for the bathhouse and the snack shack which operates at the pool location.

## Hiking Trails

There are currently three hiking trails on Chester public land. The town supports the continued expansion of the hiking and biking trail system including the potential purchase of additional lands to achieve this.

The **Lost Mine Trail** is two miles long and runs through Chester's 550-acre Town Forest. The trailhead is located just west of town off of Balch and Water Farm roads. The trail has a variety of features including a historic mine, pine and hemlock groves, a forest management area, massive and intricate stone walls, mossy streams and hillside caves. The trail is rated moderate for hiking.

The two-mile **Butternut Hill Trail** is also located in Chester's Town Forest. The trail is adjacent to and connects with the Lost Mine Trail, to form a four-mile loop. It ascends to the summit of Butternut Ridge (1,725 feet) and offers views of Stratton and Magic mountains and other hills to the southwest. There are multiple trails heads with small parking areas that offer access to the moderate/strenuous hike.

The **Green Mountain Nature Trail** is a two-mile loop trail that traverses through the 160-acre forest adjacent to the Green Mountain Union HS. This trail offers a moderate hike that winds and climbs through evergreen and hardwood forests. The trail also features a large glacial boulder, stone walls, several wooden bridges and views of the South Branch Williams River.

Looking ahead, the Town will continue to look for trail development opportunities on Town property, in particular a trail that is within walking distance of the village green. The 14-acre Brookside Town Forest Property, directly north of the Brookside Cemetery and across Lover's Lane brook, will continue to be evaluated for the development of a trail. Continued planning and design for enhancing Brookside Cemetery should also incorporate plans to access the Town Forest property across the brook. A pedestrian-style, wooden covered bridge spanning Lover's Lane Brook would be an ideal accent to the landscape and trail, and a unique attraction within walking distance of the village green.

Likewise, the Town will continue to assess opportunities to develop a flat, pedestrian-friendly trail either along the Williams River, on one of its tributaries, or in some other opportune location or corridor. A relatively flat walking trail, accessible from the village center, would greatly enhance walking and hiking experiences for everyone, and offer a more natural setting than the existing sidewalks in the residential areas.

At the Pinnacle Recreation Area on Lover's Lane, the establishment of a loop trail to offer walkers and hikers the opportunity to circumnavigate the pinnacle (summit) will be assessed for development. Construction of a loop trail would provide the Town with another trail asset in the heart of town and enhance and broaden the hiking opportunities at the recreation area.

For mountain bike enthusiasts, the establishment of a more defined mountain bike trail/trail network (both on and off road) within the greater Chester area will continue to be explored. To encourage winter recreation, all town hiking trails will be promoted for snowshoeing and, where feasible, cross country skiing. The Pinnacle area in particular, will be established and known for its snowshoeing 'track'.

Eventually, the existing trails will be linked to create an integrated Chester Town trail network, bookended by the GM Nature Trail to the east and the Pinnacle Trail to the west.

### **Winter Recreation**

The Chester Snowmobile Club is a private organization which cooperates with Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers (VAST) to bring an exhilarating and safe winter travel experience to Chester residents and visitors alike. With private landowners it plans, lays out and maintains 65 miles of snowmobile trails in the Chester area. These trails connect to the VAST state-wide trail system. Eight miles of those trails are on Town of Chester property and 23 miles of the trails are within the town itself. This system of trails attracts tourists in season, and is beneficial economically to the Town of Chester and its tourist industry. The club has assisted the Chester Fire Department by providing a machine and sled for use in medical emergencies on the local trails. The club grooms the sliding hill at the Pinnacle, the track for sleigh rides and dog sleds at Winter Carnival and provides a Port-a-Potty during the winter at the Pinnacle. An effort to establish a trail-side fuel station in Chester is underway.

### **Forest Lands**

The State of Vermont, Department of Forests and Parks owns the Williams River State Forest, 130 acres of land located in the southwest corner of town, also known as the Popple Dungeon area.

The Chester Water Department owns 550 acres of land off Reservoir Road in the geographic center of the town. The land was purchased as a watershed area and holds an 11-acre reservoir which is used for recreational purposes. The reservoir previously served as the town's drinking water source. It is now preserved for use during an emergency, such as if the Jeffrey and Canal wells are not available. The 550-acre site operates under a ten-year Forest Management Plan prepared and managed by the State Forester. The plan was first adopted in 1983 and is revised annually. Under this plan and careful management the Town Forest provides income to the Water Department. The town also owns a 139-acre parcel at the site of the new water storage tank. The land is primarily forested and the majority of it is in a conservation easement.

The Doctor Adams land (Lot 3 on Map 52) contains 30.53 acres and is also town-owned. It is valuable as wildlife habitat and is studied by the Environmental class at Green Mountain Union High School. It is also available to others for studies.

Another tract of land has been offered to the town by the Tomasso family. Negotiations for its acquisition are underway.

### Hunting and Fishing

Chester’s extensive woodlands provide hunting for wild game and game birds. The Town Forest is open in season for hunting as provided under State Regulations. Rivers and streams available for fishing are the south, middle and north branches of the Williams River and its tributaries. Within the Town Forest lands, the reservoir pond has been stocked with trout and provides good fishing for other species including bass. The Chester Rod and Gun Club, a private organization, provides Hunter Safety classes, which are required for those wishing to obtain hunting licenses.

### Historic Buildings

The Town of Chester has many historic buildings including these owned by the town. The Chester Historic Preservation Committee maintains them and seeks to promote uses for them by the town.

Building	Year Built	Present Use	Needs
Academy Building	c. 1881	Chester Historical Society	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building. Interior renovation with the goal of year-round operation.
Hearse House	c. 1830	Museum	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building
Public Tomb	1850	Winter storage of caskets while awaiting spring burial.	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building
Whiting Library	1891-92, 1995	Public Library	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building. Drainage, sidewalk, & driveway repairs
Town Hall	1884	Town Hall offices, Police, Department	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building. Renovation inside & out planned for 2018. Town funds are allocated.
Yosemite Fire House	c. 1870	Stores Town’s antique fire vehicles	Regular maintenance for slate roof and building. Planned creation of VT Fire Fighters’ museum
Jeffrey Barn	1890s	Awarded grant for 2018 condition assessment that will determine possible restoration and future use	Seeking someone qualified to assess the barn’s condition.

The Chester Historic Preservation Committee will be pursuing additional grants from the Preservation Trust and Historic Preservation grants from the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community

Development for the Academy Building and the Yosemite Fire House. Capital campaigns are also being planned.

### Public Facilities and Utilities Goals

1. To provide public infrastructure that furthers the goals, policies and recommendations of the Chester Town Plan.
2. To plan for, finance and provide a safe, efficient and convenient system of public facilities and services to meet current and future needs.

### Public Facilities and Utilities Policies

1. Encourage citizen participation at all levels of the local planning process.
2. Provide adequate public facilities that meet the needs of Chester residents and support the desired future conditions identified in this Town Plan.
3. Require developers to pay for any infrastructure expansions or increases in municipal services required when the demands to serve the new development exceed existing and anticipated capacity levels.

### Emergency Services

4. Provide the residents of Chester the best possible Ambulance, Fire and Police service by supporting improvements to these services that are prudent and necessary.
5. Require any new housing development in Chester to provide fire protection that meets state and local regulations.
6. Support the continued cross training of police officers as Emergency Medical Technicians.

### Water and Wastewater Services

7. Provide the Chester Village water customers with a pure, clean and reliable water supply.
8. Provide the Chester Village residents with a safe, efficient and reliable sewage treatment system.

### Solid Waste and Recycling

9. The Town shall continue involvement with the Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District to promote continued responsible waste management, cooperation with surrounding towns and expanded trash reduction efforts.
10. Work to reduce landfill garbage and increase reuse and recycling.
11. Promote the proper disposal of home hazardous materials by placing signs at strategic locations in town to announce the semi-annual collection dates, and announcing the collection dates in the town newsletter and website.
12. Support the implementation of Act 148, the Universal Recycling Law by maintaining recycling bins at public gathering places on town property, and in town offices, and allowing solid waste processing businesses in the bylaws.

### Recreation

13. Provide recreation programs to the Town of Chester residents that meet the recreation needs of all residents regardless of age.

14. Maintain the 550-acres Town Forest as a managed forest and continue access to it for field studies, fishing and hunting.
15. Maintain the Doctor Adams land for wildlife and scientific field studies for all.
16. Continue the use of the public lands as resources for hunting and fishing and encourage private owners to do the same.
17. Pursue expansion of the existing trail network. Purchase of additional lands should be considered to achieve this objective.

#### **Public Utilities**

18. Provide residents with safe, effective and efficient utility service.
19. Place utility lines in areas designated for growth.
20. Place new utility lines along existing corridors whenever possible; multipurpose use of utility corridors is encouraged with common use of utility poles for telephone, electric, cable and fiber optic lines.
21. Consider aesthetic and natural resource impacts when placing utility lines.
22. Promote underground electric lines where possible and practical.
23. Do not construct new towers, access corridors and utility poles serving towers when adequate communication coverage can be obtained through use of existing structures.

#### **Priorities for Action on Solid Waste:**

1. Promote education for citizens on trash reduction such as composting and eliminating single use items with poor recycling potential.
2. Promote education for businesses and organizations concerning solid waste disposal and reduction.
3. Encourage citizens, businesses and organizations to make extensive use of composting and recycling at point of use, the transfer station and curbside pickup.
4. Enforce the prohibition of illegal roadside dumping.
5. Encourage recycling and compost drop-off and pick-up operations to establish in the immediate Chester area for increased resident convenience.