

YEAR	MILESTONE	NOTES OF INTEREST
1899	Park Commission Formed (3/6)	<p>Startup budget: \$12,000 / annual budget: \$2,500 - approved by town meeting.</p> <p><i>The first necessity: "A public play ground of suitable contour for such as baseball, football etc. requiring a large acreage of fairly level land."</i></p>
	* Town Park land acquired (7/21)	\$900 paid to Henry L. Patrick for 11.43 swampy, rocky acres
	* First Parkland parcels acquired	\$3,917 paid to various landowners for 176.11 acres. On pond's West shore: land between the water and railroad tracks; and land between the railroad tracks and the top of Darling Hill. East side of pond: land from the intersection of Hopedale and Freedom streets to Hazel St.
	* Stone wall built around Park	All stone taken from excavation/clearing of property.
1900	Budget: \$2,500	
	* Swamp at Town Park drained	Land graded, drainage system installed
	* Rawson's Bridge constructed	Wooden bridge at North end of pond connects both shorelines
	* Town Park land dispute	H.L. Patrick returns \$900 for land, demands more money. Town to let court decide issue.
	* Adin Ballou homestead lot acquired (5/29)	Deed for 1/2 acre lot donated to Park Comm. along with \$800 to start a maintenance trust fund. Lot designed by Warren H. Manning
	* Ballou Statue dedicated October 27th	8' high statue of Roman bronze, weight:1600 lbs. Modeled by William Ordway Partridge of New York City and Milton, MA. Casting done in New York City. 8' high pedestal of Cape Ann granite designed by Daniel Woodbury of Boston, MA.
1901	Budget: \$2,500	
	* Original Town Park plans completed	Patrick land suit over Park grounds remains in litigation
	Trees planted at Town & Ballou Parks	
	* First tennis court built	Dirt surface
	* Temporary bandstand erected	
	Park garage built	
	* Large & small ballfields constructed	
	Rawson's Bridge raised	Mistakenly built too low - boats couldn't pass under.
	* Hazel St. entrance built	Road cut to west side of bridge connecting to railway line.
	Maroney's Grove picnic area built	Picnic area in a majestic pine grove off of Hazel St. entrance
	First Park Field Day Celebration - July 4th	Became a Town tradition for decades
1902	Budget: \$2,500	
	* First Park Superintendent hired	Fred A. Smith - naturalist & forester. Tree nursery set up.
	* Second tennis court built	Dirt surface

Drinking faucet added at Park

- \* Additional Parkland acreage acquired 4.75 acres bought from Geo. A. Draper - abutting today's Cutler St.
- Shooting & trapping problems in Parklands Signs posted with \$10 fine for violations
- Stone-crushing operation set up By Road Commission on lot across from Park - near 68 Dutcher St. Operation halted & lot cleared in 1903.
- \* Open brook from Park to Pond enclosed

### 1903 Budget: \$2,500

- \* Additional Parkland acreage acquired Land across from tracks on both sides of Old Salt Box Rd. donated, small parcel at north end of Parkland grounds donated by heirs of Chester Walker.
- \* First income from sale of Parkland timber \$568.20 added to Park coffers
- \* Hopedale St. extension built Road cut along pond connecting Freedom & Northrup Streets
- \* Town Park suit with H.L. Patrick settled Town paid landowner \$2,500 plus interest. Suit cost the Town many thousands of dollars to litigate over the past three years
- 2nd and 3rd Park Superintendents hired John Gallagher, Walter F. Durgin
- Hunters elude "No Hunting" in Parklands... ...by hunting from boats. Fines then posted for this activity too!
- Adin Ballou Park addition Front doorstep from Ballou's "old house" placed at the site
- Electric cars make Parklands stop Passengers dropped off & picked up at north end of Parklands near Rawson's Bridge.
- The more things change, the more they... First arrests made by police in Parklands for "drunken carousals."

### 1904 Budget: \$2,500

- \* Bath House constructed Cost: \$1,048.09 Built at site of old ice house which burned down during demolition. This prevented the intended re-use of much of the frame and sheathing in the new structure. Locker rentals were \$1.50/yr. - .50 deposit given back with key return
- \* Town Beach Opens (males only) Season attendance: 1971 baths taken. Daily high: 79
- Organized sports flourish at Town Park Baseball, rugby and association football are popular
- Adin Ballou Park addition Commemorative bronze tablet added to Ballou doorstep.

### 1905 Budget: \$2,500

- \* Town Beach & Bath House expansion 6,322 baths taken. Daily high: 143 Sand placed on ice melted in to create beach area / Dressing rooms built / float and springboard added. Bath house matron position created. Young ladies and women granted permission to swim.
- Many skating accidents on the ice *"The Park Commissioners wish it distinctly understood that they take no responsibility whatsoever for the safety of the ice as any time."*
- Dutcher St. houses built near Bath House
- \* Parkland footpaths built off of Dutcher St.

<b>1906 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 3,633 / Daily high: 154</b>
* Permanent bandstand constructed	Cost: \$828.40 Also used as a tool shed and dressing room for visiting teams utilizing the Town Park - if "properly behaved."
* Third tennis court built	Cost: \$345.72, Dirt surface
* Additional Parkland acreage acquired	One acre parcel at intersection of Adin St. and West Main St. (today's Rt. 16) donated to the Park Commission by Mssrs. Wm F., Geo A. and Eben S. Draper. A \$1,500 trust fund of \$1,500 was established to insure the parcel is "properly kept."
<b>1907 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 4,768 / Daily high: 167</b>
Bandstand Electrified	
Potable water line brought to Bath House	Provided by the Milford Water Co.
* Parklands road expansion	Road constructed connecting Rawson's Bridge to Freedom St.
* Foot path completed to Darling Hill	Opened up access to vantage point with fine views off of Old Salt Box Rd. Over three miles of paths now exist in the Parklands.
Tennis court backstop constructed	
Many bird feeders set out in Parklands	This practice continued for decades. The Commission supplied feed.
<b>1908 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 6,370 / Daily high: 181</b>
* "Lookout" shelter built on Darling Hill ridge	Cost: \$311.448
Four dressing rooms added at Bath House	
August 15th Field day attracts 3000	
<b>1909 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 5,704 / Daily high: 188</b>
Parklands pounded by Mother Nature	Gypsy moth devastation and a major ice storm destroy many trees
* New layout given to Town Park ballfield	
<b>1910 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 7,135 / Daily high: 233</b>
4000 attend the 10th annual field day	
"Unfailing" springs discovered in Parklands	On east side by the Maroney's Grove; on the west near a large white oak, and at the base of an enormous red maple.
<b>1911 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 6,888 / Daily high: 247</b>
The Park system is heavily utilized...	
<b>1912 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 7,190 / Daily high: 114</b>
* Access expanded to Darling Hill	New roads and footpaths constructed. 6 miles of roads and pathways now exist in the Parklands.
<b>1913 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 6,868 / Daily high: 135</b>
* Comfort Station at Town Park built	Cost: \$1471.20 Prep & construction spanned 1911-1913
<b>1914 Budget: \$2,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 6,474 / Daily high: 171</b>
Grandstand erected at Town Park ballfield	Work done by the "Base Ball association"
* New pathways added to Parklands	Connecting Rawson's Bridge - Maroney's Grove - the "big Texas rock"

district (located at the jetty) - and the "White Oak Spring"

\* 1st attempts made to clear ice for skating

A large area was cleared & flooded with some success

**1915 Budget: \$2,500**

Pond attendance: 7,103 / Daily high: 372

\* Chestnut Bark Blight hits

Many trees destroyed and cut down

Seats added on east shore of Pond

*"If the good derived from a public utility can be judged by the number of persons availing themselves of it's opportunities then the play-grounds, Bath House and Park System as a whole are surely doing what is intended. The increase in the town's population during the last few years has had a like effect on the number using our System and consequently the cost of maintaining the various utilities has increased."*

Population boom: Park St. School built

**1916 Budget: \$2,500**

Pond attendance: 6,842 / Daily high: 225

Park St. entrance cut through Park wall.

Tennis Courts redone

Cost: \$700

Darling Hill roadway construction begins

For easy access to the "Lookout"

\* Additional Parkland acreage acquired

The Commission purchases a tract west of the "Lookout" - the highest point in Hopedale at 525' above sea level. The State Fire Warden suggests it as a prime spot for a fire observation tower

\* Tree replanting begins in earnest

12,000 red & white pines planted to replace blighted Chestnut trees

**1917 Budget: \$2,500**

Pond attendance: 6,641 / Daily high: 410

\* Darling Hill Roadway cut in off Freedom St.

1,800' of roadway completed - known today as Overdale Parkway

**1918 Budget: \$2,500**

Pond attendance: 4,687 / Daily high: 241

Draper "Twilight League" formed at Park

Players utilized lockers at Bath House

**1919 Budget: \$2,500**

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a

\* Bath House use limited to residents

Swimmers and athletes using the Bath House as a changing facility caused over-crowded conditions at the Bath House. Commission decides to give usage priority to Hopedale residents when crowded.

**1920 Budget: \$7,000**

Pond attendance: 9,876 / Daily high: 344 (5X increase from 1904!)

Park ball field & tennis courts re-graded

**1921 Budget: \$4,500**

Pond attendance: 10,580 / Daily high: 555

Draper "Twilight" baseball league expands

Season stats & standings kept. Huge attendance

Flagpole erected at Town Park

Cost: \$370.31

**1922 Budget: \$4,500**

Pond attendance: 10,407 / Daily high: 457

\* Crowds at Town Beach drain resources

Swimming & facility use restricted to Hopedale residents only

**1923 Budget: \$4,500**

Pond attendance: 3,186 / Daily high: 202

\* Fisherman's Island stone shelter built

Cost: \$400

\* Maroney's Grove stone shelter built

Cost: \$432

* Lookout shelter on Darling Hill repaired	Cost: \$60
Park ball diamond infield converted to dirt	Cost: \$253.20
Parklands woodlot management continues	Program in place for 20 years. Income from sale of timber: \$687.50. 1,500 scotch pine trees planted
<b>1924 Budget: \$4,500</b>	Pond attendance: 4,536 / Daily high: 235
Sports at Town Park going strong...	Draper Twilight baseball, soccer, tennis and school games popular
<b>1925 Budget: \$6,000</b>	Pond attendance: 4,078 / Daily high: 205
Tennis courts & fencing rebuilt	Cost: \$1757.43 - paid for with special \$1,500 appropriation
* 10,000 red pines planted in Parklands	
Tree cutting vandalism becomes a problem	<i>"Cutting, injuring or removing any trees, shrubs or plants is strictly forbidden by law. A severe penalty is imposed upon violators of the law." Sections 11 and 12 of Chapter 87 of the Town's General Laws called for punishment of "imprisonment for not more than six months or by a fine of not more than \$500."</i>
<b>1926 Budget: \$6,000</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a
Tennis courts resurfaced	Cost: 291.75
Stone wall boundary built in Parklands	Separating Dutcher St. lots from Parkland.
<b>1927 Budget: \$5,000</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a
Park Bleacher & Bandstand repair	
<b>1928 Budget: \$5,000</b>	Pond attendance: 6,685 / Daily high: 283
* Rawson's Bridge replaced	Cost: \$1,300. Stone structure became known as the Rustic Bridge
<b>1929 Budget: \$5,000</b>	Pond attendance: 8,441 / Daily high: 332
* New Lookout Shelter constructed	Cost: \$304
Work begins on new Bath House	
<b>1930 Budget: \$5,000</b>	Pond attendance: 9,362 / Daily high: 373
* Commissioner F.J. Dutcher passes away	Original Board member served 32 years: 1899 - 1930.
* Bath House completely remodeled	Cost: \$5,000 - special appropriation. Re-opened to swimmers on 6/12. "Hours: 10 AM to 9 PM
Parkland stone bridge replaced	Cost: \$275. Bridge located just below the Dutcher St. entrance <i>"Help us to make all parts of the Town Park System a source of pleasure to those using it. We will be glad to receive suggestions and promise careful consideration."</i>
<b>1931 Budget: \$3,500</b>	Pond attendance: 8,645 / Daily high: 302
* Bath House & Swimming Director named	Mr. R.A. Lafountain 1st Swimming exhibition held to demonstrate progress from lessons
<b>1932 Budget: \$3,500</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a
Fisherman's Island shelter repaired	Cost: \$120

<b>1933 Budget: \$2,000</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a
<b>1934 Budget: \$2,500</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a
<b>1935 Budget: \$4,250</b> * Red Cross certified swim lessons offered New Float added at Town Beach Tennis courts repaired	Pond attendance: 8645 / Swim lessons: 146 passed Cost: \$315 Cost: \$834.61
<b>1936 Budget: \$4,250</b>	Pond attendance: 11,303 / Swim lessons: 106 passed
<b>1937 Budget: \$4,750 + \$2,000 appropriation</b> First N.E.A.A.U. swim meet competition Parkland roads re-graded	Pond attendance: 11,000 / Swim lessons: 71 passed 48 children participated Cost: \$1,389.45
<b>1938 Budget: \$5,750 + \$2,200 appropriation</b> * First tennis tournament held  * Sept. 21st Hurricane devastates Parklands	Pond attendance: 10,350 / Swim lessons: 164 passed <i>"The tennis courts were in almost constant use and a baseball game took place nearly every day."</i>  Maroney's Grove leveled. Fallen timber creates a severe fire hazard
<b>1939 Budget: \$4,000 + \$7,500 clean-up funding</b> Parkland clean-up goes all winter and spring  * First organized "play" at Town Park	Pond attendance: 11,077 / Swim lessons: 145 passed Dry weather and fire danger prohibits fireplace use all summer  Community House conducts organized youth sporting events.
<b>1940 Budget: \$4,000</b> Town Park drainage system rebuilt	Pond attendance: 9,462 / Swim lessons: 69 passed
<b>1941 Budget: \$4,500</b> Tennis courts reconditioned & resurfaced  Pond swim meet attracts 100 participants	Pond attendance: 7,521 / Swim lessons: 67 passed Cost: \$1,014
<b>1942 Budget: \$4,500</b> * 80' Wooden flagpole erected at Town Park	Pond attendance: 12,814 / Swim lessons: 112 passed Cost: \$455.40 <i>"In accordance with wartime regulations, a Flag is flown at all times."</i>
<b>1943 Budget: \$6,000</b> Park trees & shrubs inspected  Season ending town swim meet popular	Pond attendance: 11,275 / Swim lessons: 53 passed <i>"...certain of the trees were noted as being unusual varieties or specimens, types which are rarely found in such excellent condition in this part of the country."</i>
<b>1944 Budget: \$5,000</b> All facilities used heavily as war limits travel	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: not offered Limitations on wartime travel keep residents close to home. Facilities getting heavy use. No swim lessons due to labor shortages. Bath House hours expanded to Sundays and holidays. Men's & women's softball introduced
<b>1945 Budget: \$5,500</b> * Additional Parkland acreage acquired	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: 49 passed Town purchases land for Park Department: 31.5 acres with frontage on Overdale Parkway and Old Salt Box Rd., 12.367 acres from Hope-Dale Coal & Ice Co. where old ice houses once stood.

* Parkland land acquisitions complete	Connecting existing roads and pathways will provide complete access around the entire pond and Parkland reservation.
<b>1946 Budget: \$8,500</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 8282 / Swim lessons: 137 passed</b>
* F. Carlton Miner hired as Waterfront Director	
Tennis courts individually enclosed	Wire mesh installed to prevent injury from stray balls from ballfield.
Discussions on "farming" the Parklands	Beautification and fire equipment access cited as goal.
<b>1947 Budget: \$10,100</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 8282 / Swim lessons: 137 passed</b>
* Tennis courts refurbished with clay	
Sandy bottom of swim area extended out	
* First adult swim lessons offered	
New maintenance equipment purchased	Commission buys a Jeep and large gang mower. Jeep useful as 24-hour fire patrols needed in the Parklands during a very dry Fall.
Forester hired to survey the Parklands	
<b>1948 Budget: \$10,000</b>	<b>Pond attendance: down / Swim lessons: 250 enrolled, 171 passed</b>
* Supervised Park play now under Park Dept.	Community House supervised program for nine years. 100 children attend morning activities
* Weeds in Pond become nuisance	"Uninviting" water responsible for low daily swim attendance.
Parklands roads graded and leveled	
Proposal to add new playground equipment	
Raft at Town Beach rebuilt	Cost: \$333
<b>1949 Budget: \$11,000</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 8,740 / Swim lessons: 130 enrolled, 125 passed</b>
* New Park playground equipment installed	Cost: \$1,078.40 Swings, jungle jim, horizontal bars added.
* Draper Corporation drains Hopedale Pond	Solution to curb weed problem. Pond lowered & cleaned. View at: <a href="http://www.hopedale-high-alumni.com/hopepond/dredge/album.htm">http://www.hopedale-high-alumni.com/hopepond/dredge/album.htm</a>
Shade trees planted at Bath House	
* Draper Field ballpark completed	Constructed by Draper Corporation. View photos of construction at: <a href="http://www.hopedale-high-blue-raiders.com/BallFieldAlbum/album.htm">http://www.hopedale-high-blue-raiders.com/BallFieldAlbum/album.htm</a>
<b>1950 Budget: \$11,300</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 10,982 / Swim lessons: 100 passed</b>
* Basketball Court installed at Town Park	Cost: \$1135.19
Park staff added to supervise heavy use	Baseball and basketball "schools" and tennis tournaments offered
Diving class added at Pond	
In-town swim meets continue at Pond	An end-of summer tradition started in 1937.
* Park programs continue to expand	Archery, handicrafts, horseshoes, tennis, baseball and basketball sessions are all well attended
<b>1951 Budget: \$11,300</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 10,158 / Swim lessons: 162 passed</b>
* First multi-town swim meet held at Pond	Swim team formed. Competed with teams from Holliston, Franklin



Park morning attendance: 125+ children

and the Whitins Community Center.  
Badminton and volleyball programs added.

**1952 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: 11,825 / Swim lessons: 197 passed

Slide and parallel bars added at Town Park

Cost: \$286.80 Park open 3 nights a week for games. Croquet added

Backboard added to 3rd tennis court

Cost \$832.09 which includes resurfacing costs

\* Swampy area north of Bath House filled-in

Filled area runs from bath house behind 84-106 Dutcher St.

Arborvitae planted

At Ballou Park and at Northeast corner of Park off Northrup St.

New Parkland tables and benches installed

At first, second, and third fireplaces

**1953 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: 13,718 / Swim lessons: 128 passed

Park program expands again

Organized AM classes and games, afternoon play, twilight sports  
Jewel-craft, dominoes and checkers popular pastimes.

New swim ramps and diving boards at Pond

Weeds at Pond a problem once again

Chemical treatment done by helicopter

\* 500 small pine and spruce trees planted

Hopedale Boy Scout Troop 1 places trees in Parklands

**1954 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: 12,177 / Swim lessons: 400 enrolled, 192 passed

\* Shuffleboard court & play equipment added

Bandstand roof replaced

Storage shed & split rail fence added

North of Bath House behind 84-92 Dutcher St.

\* 1000 small spruce trees planted

Hopedale Boy Scout Troop 1 places additional trees in Parklands

Busy hurricane season, damage minimal

Area affected by Hurricanes Carol, Edna and Hazel

**1955 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: 10,310 / Swim lessons: 122 passed

\* Large slide installed at Pond

\* More playground equipment added at Park

Kiddie and horse swings plus overhead ladder bar installed

\* Park evening hours extended to 5 nights

Supervision needed to ease "rowdyism and noise"

Entrance to Park and Bath House paved

More minor hurricane damage

Rains from Hurricane Diane washes out some of Parkland roadway

\* Pond closes for year on August 13th

Flooding and polio epidemic force shutdown of swim season

\* 1200 additional small trees planted

Hopedale Boy Scout Troop 1 places additional trees in Parklands

Water ballet program at Pond

**1956 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: 13,537 / Swim lessons: 154 passed

\* Lighting added to first tennis court

\* Summer morning bus pick-up instituted

58 youngsters pr/day average brought to & from Park. Additional  
swim lessons added at Pond, 30 classes offered.



New raft section added

Bath House painted

Maintenance jeep replaced

Jeep pickup purchased for joint use with Highway Department

\* Town Park softball diamond rebuilt

Playground drainage improved

\* Park ballfield sprinkler system enlarged

Coverage increased to cover ballfield and tennis courts

Playground drainage improved

**1957 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: 300 enrolled, 195 passed

Town Park spruced-up

Sand added at playground, basketball court resurfaced, hot-top floor laid into bandstand. Due to extremely dry summer, lawn consultant hired to help save and maintain grass - fertilization program started. Intended to keep youngsters in and dogs out

Cedar picket fence added at Town Beach

\* Additional fireplace built in Parklands

Site added between current first and second fireplaces. Two picnic tables added.

Parklands road re-graded

**1958 Budget: \$15,000**

Pond attendance: 15,000 / Swim lessons: 149 passed

Park baseball diamond rehabilitated

Uneven spots leveled and filled.

Summer recreation program adds golf

Lessons given in conjunction with the Hopedale Country Club

Hand mowers replaced by gas-powered ones

Bath House upgrades made

Bike racks added, large lockers replaced by smaller ones

\* Entire Pond treated chemically for weeds

**1959 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: 171 passed

\* Weed control program instituted

Allied Biological Control Corp. contracted for 3 years service

**1960 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: 191 passed

\* F. Carlton Miner passes away

Served as Park Recreation Supervisor for 15 years, 1946-1960  
*"Countless hundreds of Hopedale children will remember him as the man who taught them to swim, organized their games or coached them in school athletics. The enviable position that our Summer Park Program enjoys is due in large measure to the direction it received over the years from "Carl" Miner. He will long be missed and fondly remembered."*

Charles Espanet appointed Supervisor and William Ohlsen Swim Director for remainder of season.

Metal bleachers added at Park ballfield

**1961 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a

Roger Hebert named Park Supervisor

\* Town Beach area expanded

Kiddie swim area added

\* Draper Corporation leases Ski Hill to Town

Ski area built under the supervision of Mr. Willard Taft. Park Commission to operate as part of winter sports program

Skating at Pond very popular

Ice scraper fabricated to help improve ice conditions

- \* Pond put on weed control program

*"It has become apparent however, that large infusions of seeds from the upstream areas beyond the Pond will continue to require treatment until these areas are also freed of undesirable weeds."*

**1962 Budget: \$14,000**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a

Parks Maintenance Supervisor passes away

Longtime employee Earl Simmons meticulously maintained grounds

Diving Tower on little raft added at Pond

Tow rope and fencing added at the Ski Tow

**1963 Budget: \$14,800**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a

Summer and winter programs in full swing

- \* Park Dept. supports retarded youth program

Sponsors four youngsters to attend special program in Bellingham

**1964 Budget: \$17,900**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a

- \* Charles Espanet named Recreation Director

Park employee since 1950 replaces Roger Hebert.

- \* Lights installed at Park basketball court

Funds raised by the Women's Club and the Hopedale Foundation.

- \* Small cove next to Bath House filled-in

Material excavated from Adin St. used to extend usable beach area.

- \* Swim area re-arranged to Red Cross specs

- \* Boy Scouts construct Adirondack campsite

Shelters built at the Lookout by Troop 1 boys and their dads.  
Materials donated by Draper Corp.

- \* Concrete picnic tables built in Parklands

Two tables placed at first, second, and third fireplaces

- \* Conservation Commission Formed

Park Commissioners Phillips, West and Marso also sit on this five-member board, as Park and Conservation initiatives closely related.

- \* Discussions begin on South End facility

**1965 Budget: \$20,300**

Pond attendance: 13,700 / Swim lessons passed: 222

Organized night basketball games started

- \* Bath House renovated

New floor and partitions installed, walls painted. Ramp replaces stairs.

- \* Three boat landings added within Parklands

Jeep pickup breaks down - replaced

Several park benches installed

**1966 Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: 15,024 / Swim lessons passed: 151

Park Tennis Clinic attracts 150 youngsters

Park programs heavily utilized

*""...that because of this fine recreational program the destructive acts of personal property by juveniles in the Town is very small."*

New bubbler installed at Bath House

- \* All-time record Pond attendance

*"The money appropriated to run the recreational program is one of the best investments for the future the town can make."*

Large, dangerous rock removed at Ski Tow

- \* S.Hopedale land purchased for development

Town appropriates \$15,000 to Conservation Commission for purchase of Deluca and Draper property abutting Rt. 140 and Mellen Street Buildings razed and burned on-site. Land survey now needed.

**1967 Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: >15,000 / Swim lessons passed: 195

Day trips added to Summer program

Trips taken to Southwick Animal Farm, Longwood Cricket Club for tennis championships, and in the "Impossible Dream" season, a Red Sox game at Fenway Park.

- \* Two week Summer tennis program added

Mr. Aram Karoghlanian and Mr. Roger Corey teach over 100 children

- \* South End Park has new additions

Six pieces of playground equipment installed, fence & lights installed

Ski Club buys new rope for Ski Tow

**1968 Budget: 21,970 (approx \$1 on the tax rate)**

Pond attendance: 18,387 / Swim lessons passed: 196

- \* Pond attendance jumps 6000 in three years

Approximately \$1 on the tax rate allows the Park Commission to *"...not only run one of the best recreational programs in the area but provide all maintenance as well."*

Merry-go-round installed at Town Park

Many decayed trees removed at Town Park

Shrubbery added to Dutcher St. entrance.

Four-wheel dump truck purchased

South End field area bulldozed and leveled

**1969 Budget: 21,970 (approx \$1 on the tax rate)**

Pond attendance: 16,120 / Swim lessons passed: 177

Summer Program interest remains high

Basketball league play, shuffleboard, paddleball, tetherball, arts & crafts, tennis, archery and baseball offerings all well attended as are various contests such as bike races and decorating, doll contests. Trip to the new New England Aquarium added. Swim team is popular.

Water Safety Demonstration at Pond

Director Charles Espanet's waterfront staff and Firemen led by Chief Charles Watson perform simulated lifesaving procedures to a large turnout at the Bath House.

Town park ball diamond reconstruction

Field re-sodded to major league dimensions. This will eliminate un-level spots which may cause injury; plus add a classic appearance.

No Parking signs added around Town Park

to provide clearer view for motorists and pedestrians alike

Motor boat permits required at Pond

Must be requested through Police Chief W. Chester Sanborn

- \* Park Commission to maintain Draper Field

One year lease for 1970 season arranged with Draper Division of North American Rockwell Corp.

Bird feeders added by Rustic Bridge area

Built by members of Boy Scout Troop 1.

Littering around Park becoming a problem

*"It was voted to request the Selectmen to insert an article in the Town Warrant to adopt a by-law prohibiting the discarding of trash on our public ways and Parklands."*

**1970 Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: 17,620 / Swim lessons passed: n/a

Summer Recreation program employs 11

Summer tennis sessions expand	Aram Karoghlianian and Sandra Folwell add adult lessons to the mix.
* Bi-weekly bacteria checks made at Pond	Water quality remained excellent all summer for swimming.
Bleachers added to Park and Draper Field	Concrete for slabs donated and poured by Rosenfeld Concrete Co.
<b>1971 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 11,996 / Swim lessons passed: 106</b>
Morning arts & crafts program expanded	Daily weekday sessions added at South End Park.
Balloon launch highlights summer activities	<i>"The Park Commissioners feel that the people of Hopedale should all be proud of their summer program, it could not be made possible if it were not for their tax money."</i>
<b>1972 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 7,395 / Swim lessons passed: 99</b>
* Pond attendance way down	Main factor is excessive weed growth that has choked the pond. Community House generously donates funds for weed treatments. <i>"By July the entire pond looked like a field with only the channel clear of weeds - snaking its way up the from the "shop" to the Rustic Bridge. That summer was also cool, plus the Casey Pool had just opened up in the Heights over in Milford, so our attendance was off quite a bit." That was a tough year for our staff - the swim area was a real mess after the weeds were treated."</i> (Former Recreation Director Charles Espanet -2004)
South End baseball field graded	
Fire Dept. helps flood Pond for skating fun	
<b>1973 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 12,300 / Swim lessons passed: 176</b>
* Charles Espanet retires as Director	Served 23 seasons, (1950-1972) in the Park Department - thirteen as an assistant to Carl Miner and Roger Hebert, ten as Director <i>"...from the present Commissioners and the many past Commissioners who worked with Charlie, from the people of Hopedale and particularly the youth of Hopedale, a most sincere Thank You and best wishes in your new endeavor."</i>
Paul Lombardi named new Park Director	Clayton Wright serves as Maintenance Foreman
South End Park morning attendance down	Arts & crafts program at site cut back to three days a week.
Tennis and Summer golf clinic offered	Instructed by Mr. Joseph Burke and Mr. Jean Stare
Attendance on summer bus remains high	Children still brought to Parkland Pond for morning fun and lessons.
<b>1974 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: 12,000+ / Swim lessons passed: 176</b>
Evening adult Water Safety program added	
Phase three of weed project completed	
Paul Lombardi resigns as Director	
<b>1975 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a</b>
* Clay Tennis courts replaced	Surfaces paved due to high maintenance upkeep costs. Tennis instruction offered mornings, afternoon's and evenings.
Miss Bette Robjent serves as Director	Games, crafts, swimming program and field trips remain popular
<b>1976 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a</b>

* Susan Griggs named Park Director	
Tennis and baseball clinics held at Park	Instructed by Mr. Larry Heron
Park maintenance staff gets State help	State-sponsored CETA workers assist with various jobs
<b>1977 Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a
* South End Field improvements made	The Conservation Commission oversaw the addition of two small ball diamonds and the grading and seeding of the multi-purpose field. <i>"It is becoming apparent that this area will one day, along with the Town Park, serve as a major site for athletic and recreational activities."</i>
<b>1978 Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a
Tennis courts resurfaced	
Roadwork & brush clearing in Parklands	
* Bath House and Park buildings get facelifts	Painting and many repairs completed
<b>1979 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a
Mr. Brad Smith named Park Director	Susan Griggs steps down after three outstanding years of service.
<b>1980 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	During these "missing years" when Commission reports were not submitted, the Summer Recreation program at both the Pond and Town Park remained intact. No longer were crafts programs offered at South End Field, nor was the daily bus run through town to bring youngsters to and from the Park and Pond on summer mornings
<b>1981 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	
<b>1982 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	
<b>1983 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	
<b>1984 Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a
David Guglielmi serving as Park Director	
Swim lesson program enjoys a comeback	
Arts & crafts, tennis popular at Town Park	Tennis tournament and the 2nd annual "island picnic" were held
<b>1985 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons passed: n/a
Park-related items from Conservation report	Concerns raised over storm drain runoff from Jones Road and Inman street development which empties directly into Hopedale Pond.
* Sprinkler system added at South End Field	Parking lot and access road work also done at the site - now becoming commonly known as Mellen St. Field. Perimeter barriers, backstops, and a flagpole all added.
<b>1986 Budget: n/a</b>	Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: 100 enrolled
Year-end Rocky Point trip very popular	85 youngsters attend this tradition that began in the mid-70's.
<b>1987 Budget: n/a</b>	Combined daily attendance at Pond & Park approx. 200 children
* Ms. Jody Whyte named Park Director	Replaces Former Commissioner David Guglielmi who served 3 years.
Renovations done at Bath House/Pond	New decking added to Pond raft, Girls locker room refurbished and reopened after several years, new picnic tables added.
New slide installed at Town Park	
Band concerts continue to be popular	

* Parkland foresting controversy creates stir	A major deadwood and brush clearing operation in the Parklands was halted when the forestry agent representing the Town resigned, leaving behind a mess of slash and debris of considerable size
* Gate installed in Parklands at Hazel St.	Due to vandalism and illegal dumping, old chain gate replaced.
<b>1988 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a</b>
Summer bus transportation reinstated	Scheduled morning bus runs bring town children to Park and Pond
Tennis instruction program returns at Park	
Town Park basketball court upgrades	Court resurfaced, relined, and new backboards added.
* Bandstand completely refurbished	Painted, new rails added, new door installed.
Parkland forestry concerns continue	Firm hired to chip and remove brush and slash, roadways graded and drainage culverts installed at perennial washout areas. <i>"The process of returning the Parklands to their "original" state with limited resources has proven to be an arduous task. There's still an enormous amount of work to be done restoring Parklands for the use and enjoyment of everyone."</i>
* More gates installed at Parkland entrances	Due to vandalism and illegal dumping, old chain gates replaced at the Dutcher, Freedom St. and Overdale Parkway entrances. Gates fabricated by Blackstone Valley Vocational High School
<b>1989 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a</b>
Summer bus pick-up discontinued	Prohibitive operating costs cited as factor
* Water fountains installed at Mellen St. Park	Joint effort by Parks, Highway Dept. and Water & Sewer Dept.
<b>1990 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a</b>
<b>1991 No Report Issued Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a</b>
* Condition of fields and grounds a concern	<i>Concerns raised by Board as field conditions have deteriorated since the Park maintenance position was eliminated years back. The Board will reach out to the Highway Dept. seeking additional co-operation and assistance, and to the Finance Committee seeking reinstatement of the position."</i>
* Board votes 2-1 on Mellen Field acquisition	Board feels land which is under Conservation Commission jurisdiction should be considered for movement to the Park Dept.
<b>1992 Budget: n/a</b>	<b>Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a</b>
Summer Recreation program activities:	Swimming and swim instruction, tennis lessons and tournament; Field trips: movies, Mendon Golf Range and Rocky Point Activities: fishing derby, cookout, Town Beach winter carnival, bike decorating, pet shows, arts & crafts, and canoeing.
Ice skating & hockey activities popular	
* Concern over condition of Draper Field	Field used heavily for school sports and little league with little upkeep <i>"Since the land is not owned or leased by the Town, public funds for maintenance and repair have not been allocated to the property. As such, the overall condition of this "park" continues to deteriorate year after year in spite of the physical efforts volunteered by residents to keep the area at least usable. It is our hope that steps can be taken by the town to ultimately resolve the long-standing issues surrounding</i>

*the use of this land as soon as possible."*

Weed control project approved by Board

\* Field maintenance issues with High School

Board approaches School Athletic Department seeking to have them assume more responsibility for field maintenance - since they utilize all areas heavily three seasons of the year. School cites lack of available funds to assist in this capacity.

**1993 No Report Issued Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a

Conservation Commission acquires land

Multi-acre lot at intersection of Lapworth and Tillotson Roads in the Pinecrest development is potential site for active recreation fields.

\* Huey & Duey issue ruffles feathers

Domesticated ducks placed illegally on Hopedale Pond attract children but also create problems as heavy feeding is contributing to a rapid rise in the Canada Geese population. Some residents want them removed, others insist that they remain. Issue receives coverage in Boston media.

**1994 No Report Issued Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: not offered

Field maintenance issues continue

School Dept. again asked to help subsidize field maintenance and equipment upkeep. Again, lack of available funds cited for lack of assistance.

Town Park abutters complain about noise

Complaints about disorderly youths and cars speeding down Dutcher St. are brought to the attention of the Police Dept.

Residents approach Board on playground

Seek new equipment. Request taken under advisement.

**1995 No Report Issued Budget: n/a**

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: 146 Swim lessons: 54

(1995 activity documented in 1996 report)

\* Foundation grant allows for Park facelift

Hopedale Foundation provides a generous grant for the following: New multi-level structure (Phase I of a two-part plan) installed, by Park members and volunteers. This replaced outdated see-saw's, swings, monkey bars and a chin bar. New kiddie swings added. Parklands roadway cleared of brush and widened. East and West sides resurfaced with crushed asphalt obtained free of charge by the Highway Dept. from the Rt. 16 reconstruction project. Comfort station roofed and painted.

Pond weed infestation worsens

Board seeks matching state grant money to defray costs

Loitering and rowdiness problems at Park

Police Chief Costanza obtains a Community Policing grant which will help enforce the 10PM curfew at Town Park, as well as the "no swimming after-hours" bylaw at the Town Beach.

Summer program a success

Attendance for both the Park and re-energized Pond programs has been excellent. Arts & Crafts program extremely well received.

Swim lesson program returns

Summer fees are \$25 for one child, \$35 for families with more than one child. Water Safety Instructor Jaime Dalton supervises lessons.

Parklands road clearing completed

Brush removed on the west shore roadway and at the Lookout

\* Resident volunteerism helps preserve Park

*"The Commission thanks Mr. Bob Colcord of Northrup St. for volunteering his time and energy to restore the Town Park ballfield to its current meticulous condition. This is the kind of community spirit*



*and volunteerism that everyone in Hopedale should be proud of."*

Parkland gates opened on trial basis

Summer trial fails as reports of speeding vehicles, property vandalism, and trash dumping are received.

## 1996 Budget: n/a

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: 183 Swim lessons: 104

\* More work done via 1995 Foundation grant

Phasell of new Town Park playground equipment upgrade completed by Gametime, Inc.  
Bandstand shingle siding replaced with clapboard, new roof added, building painted.  
All fencing around tennis courts replaced. Light poles structurally repaired and painted. Storage garage door replaced.

\* Park baseball field is the talk of the area

On-going maintenance program led by Commissioner Bob Colcord over the past several years has the field in excellent shape.  
Safety fence added around most of playground to keep stray baseballs from injuring toddlers.

\* Parklands road renamed for Willard W. Taft

A fall ceremony was held at a granite monument placed on the knoll just north of the Bath House where a group of approximately 30 Town officials and residents gather to honor local naturalist and former Park Commissioner Willard Taft. An inlaid bronze plaque sincerely *"...thanks Mr. Taft for his many years of preserving this special scope for the enjoyment of all."*  
The stone monument was generously donated by Kimball Sand & Gravel of Blackstone.

\* Summer Town Park bus program revived

Unfortunately, this effort failed as many new parents in Town seemed uncomfortable sending their children off alone to the Park for the day un-supervised. When Park staff noted that parents were following the busses in cars, it was decided to once and for all scrap the idea.

Loitering and unruliness at Park declines

Community policing effort by HPD continues to be successful.

\* Mellen Field improvements

Old playground swings replaced, implementation of a fee structure for organized leagues with restrictions on non-Hopedale-based teams. Wooden perimeter fence added to keep vehicles from vandalizing the field, new signage posted, new backstop added to first softball field. Predictions made by the Commission on this space in 1977 realized: *"The Mellen Fields have undergone a slow but steady transformation from a lightly-used open space to a well-defined, popular facility. Thanks in great part to the dedication and community spirit of Commissioner Mark Sesona and a score of volunteers from groups like the Hopedale Girls Softball League and the Milford-Hopedale Youth Soccer Assoc., the area now features a concession stand, porta-toilets, scoreboards and regularly groomed infields."*

\* Summer Recreation Director position revived

Ms. Jaime Dalton named to the position.

Bath House roofed and painted

Painting done under a supervised work-release program offered by the Northeast Corrections Center in Concord, MA., with substantial savings to the taxpayer.

Brush cleared by Corrections workers

On shore area from the Red Shop to the cove past the Bath House

Sand added at Park and Town Beach

Varney Bros. Sand & Gravel generously donates several truckloads

Northern half of Pond choked by weeds

Grant money being actively sought for remediation.

\* Canada Geese problem worsens

Do not feed" signage posted around lower end of the Pond. Plastic mesh fence added at each end of the raft helps keep geese off beach.

## 1997 Budget: n/a

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: 203 Swim lessons: 114

\* Wooden Dugouts constructed at Town Park

Hopedale High School industrial arts students design and construct two full-sized dugouts with materials purchased by the Park Dept. The group builds two picnic tables with leftover materials.

New batting cage added

Base line safety fence also added around Park ballfield.

Three tennis courts resurfaced.

Years of abuse from un-checked rollerblading and skateboarding take toll on surface. Parks and Police Dept. post & enforce "tennis only."

Park comfort station painted

No dogs" signage added around Town Park

Board attempts to revert Park once again to a "dog free" zone so residents complain about stepping in "surprises."

Safety fencing added to Mellen Field

Area around open dugouts enclosed.

\* Commission confronts "Duck" issue

Town meeting approves three Park-sponsored "waterfowl bylaws"  
*"One bylaw prohibits feeding waterfowl on or within the confines of Hopedale Pond, the other forbids the placing of domesticated/private owned animals on Town land under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission without written approval, and the third levies fines against those who fail to remove illegally placed animals from Park land."*

\* Huey & Duey fly the coop

Park Commission successfully negotiates removal of these fine feathered fowl from Hopedale Pond. Damage has been done however as Canada Geese population has increased ten-fold since the ducks were introduced. Goose droppings foul the shoreline necessitate extra precautions at Town Beach to keep it clean. New signage erected around the Pond citing fines for feeding waterfowl.

Swim program closed nine days in July

Combination of severe drought and trickle of inflow from upstream headwaters at North Pond (despite that area being near capacity), causes stagnancy. Elevated bacteria count forces interruption of swim program - which never recovers upon re-opening.

\* Board votes to keep Parkland gates closed

Gates to stay shut permanently. Vehicular vandalism and trash dumping primary reasons. Hopedale Police back the decision.

Parklands open for firewood-cutting day

Residents pay nominal fee to gather and cut dead/downed timber

Autumn "Day in the Park" a huge success

Sponsored by the Hopedale Arts Council who also sponsors summer band concert series.

## 1998 Budget: \$43,005

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a Swim lessons: n/a

Jody Whyte returns as Park Director

Jaime Dalton becomes to first female elected to Park Commission.

\* Park Dept. receives \$10,000 weed grant

State Representative Marie Parente instrumental in securing funds. Town appropriates matching funds which will allow for full treatment. Unfortunately record-breaking June rainfall postponed this project until Spring 1999.

\* Usage contract entered with Soccer league

Five-year agreement entered with Milford/Hopedale Youth Soccer Association allowing use of Mellen soccer field & facilities in return

turn for financial investments by MHYSA to improve and assist in the maintenance of the Mellen Field complex. \$10,000 in upgrades completed including refurbishment and extension of the old sprinkler system, field leveling and re-seeding, and parking lot improvements - all without cost to the Hopedale taxpayer.

\* Pond open to non-residents for swimming

Reverses Commission policy enacted in 1922. Pond attendance increases marginally. Water quality excellent all summer.

Bath House improvements made

The Boys changing area was completely refurbished thanks to a generous grant from the Hopedale Foundation. The Bath House bubbler was brought up to code, and repair were made to burst pipes.

Parklands outdoor maps constructed

Eagle Scout project by Troop 1 candidate Adam Brown,

Problems arise with Parkland abutters

Parkland behind Cutler St. residence willfully and maliciously cut and thinned. Hopedale Police asked to investigate. Illegal dumping of yard waste at Parkland entrances discussed with some Dutcher St. abutters.

Security lighting added at Town Park

Lights installed on Dutcher St. perimeter facing into Park. Timed lights illuminate inside of dugouts to curtail evening loitering.

Basketball light poles repaired and painted

Dangerous exposed wiring condition discovered and corrected

## 1999 Budget: n/a

Delayed weed control project completed

Pond attendance: closed Swim lessons: closed

Treatment by Aquatic Control Technologies of Sutton, MA completed in May. Next treatments should be needed in 2-3 years.

\* Summer swim program cancelled

A region-wide lifeguard shortage and spiraling wages affects lifeguard staffing. Funding limitations prohibit attracting certified candidates.

\* Mellen Field improvements continue

Volunteerism by the Hopedale Girls Softball Association continues to help keep the ballfield area at Mellen Field in excellent condition. Over the past few years, a snack shack, storage shed, scoreboard, and flagpole were build on-site by league members and volunteers. With assistance from the Water Dept., a water line was run into the storage shed and a backflow check valve was installed HYBA continues an aggressive field restoration project.

Park comfort station renovated

New toilets and refurbished sinks installed

Summer tennis lessons return to Town Park

Three-week program expanded to five due to popular demand.

## 2000 Budget: n/a

\* 100th anniversary of Adin Ballou statue

Pond attendance: n/a Swim lessons: n/a

Statue and granite base completely refurbished. Bronze work done by Healy Bros, Inc. of Rhode Island. New plaque with wording etched in the statue's base added due to weathering and wear on the statue.

Swim program returns with new Director

Correne Proctor replaces Jody Whyte as Director  
Lifeguard budget increase and season-end bonuses help the Dept. attract and retain staff.  
Chilly summer impacts attendance. Bath House interior painted.

Summer recreation program interest high

New arts & crafts and games added at Town Park, day trips included stops at the Douglas Waterslides, Pawtucket Red Sox, Crystal Falls Mini Golf, Franklin Park Zoo, Battleship Cove, the popular Boston Duck Boats, and Six Flags. Tennis lessons and a year-end Family

Fun Day rounded out a very full summer.

\* Park playground equipment upgraded

A generous grant from the Hopedale Foundation allows for the replacement of the 51 yr old jungle jim and horizontal bars with a rock climber tower, a tire swing, and three kiddie spring rides. Also, based on resident feedback, sturdy composite benches and picnic tables were added inside the playground area.

High school soccer moves to Mellen Field

Games and practices switch venue from Draper Field.

Parkland dispute at Overdale Parkway

Park Commission asked to rule in land dispute between Blackbrook Realty Corp. and residents of Overdale Parkway. Land in question involves several hundred feet of roadway extending from the current Parklands gate into what has always been considered an entrance to the Parklands. The Old Salt Box road parcel also came into question. When the Commission received a legal ruling from Town Council stating that the disputed land was not Parkland property, it disengaged from further involvement, but not without a word of caution *"...that it would not tolerate the privatization or commercialization of a single square inch of Parkland property - land obtained by our Town forefathers for both active and passive recreation purposes - without exhausting every legal avenue at the our disposal if need be."*

\* Ad-hoc committee formed to find field space

The Hopedale Athletic Recreational and Fields Committee (HARF), a cross-section of residents and Town officials organized in 1999 by the School Committee to seek new land for facilities and fields, becomes an ad-hoc group under the Park Commission. Exploratory funding of \$3000 granted at Town Meeting.

Vehicle Fair held at Town Park

Fundraiser for the school department's Bright Beginnings pre-school. Service trucks, town rescue and highway vehicles, and a fly-in by the Massachusetts Air National Guard helicopter highlight the day.

**2001 Budget: n/a**

Brett Boyd named Park Director

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a Swim lessons: n/a

Assisted by Cassie Parrott

\* Soccer agreement terminated and re-written

The Commission voided the existing agreement with Milford/Hopedale Youth Soccer after it was discovered that individuals on their Board had given unauthorized, non-league affiliated, out-of-town teams permission to use at Mellen Field. A new MHYSA board was elected and a formalized, legal document specifically outlining exact usage guidelines was established and agreed to by all. The new contract runs three years, expiring in 2004.

\* Irrigation well installed at Mellen Field

With dry summer conditions and skyrocketing water bills the Park Dept., with funding provided by MHYSA, installs a well at Mellen. *"The sprinkler installation was completed without a dime of taxpayer's money, and it should pay for itself in two years.."*

\* Shed roof dugouts installed at Mellen Field

Built by volunteers from the Hopedale Girls Softball Association

Weed Control maintenance program returns

9,000 allocated for spot treatment of lower Pond.

\* Bandstand repairs made

Vandalized 2X4 wooden railings on the bandstand, are replaced with sturdy, custom-made, wrought iron rails and a lockable gate. New wrought iron stairs also installed. Cost: \$5,700. Signs are posted requesting people to keep off this unique, 96 year old structure.

Vandalism forces comfort station closure

High repair costs due to repeated vandalism forces closure.  
Porta-pots placed on grounds.

\* Park Commission direction causes concern

*"Since budget cuts removed the Park maintenance position back in the mid 1980's, the Park Commission has served as both an elected policy-making Board while providing upkeep and maintenance services. We are the only elected Board in Hopedale which operates under these conditions, and the burden is not conducive to retaining interested, dedicated Board members - or attracting new candidates. With the Board currently looking long-term to add additional recreational fields and facilities to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding population, financial support from the Town to provide for a dedicated Park maintenance staff and a part or full -time Director to handle the day-to-day needs of the Board and the community is crucial, else our fields and facilities will fall into disrepair. Those most negatively impacted by this will be the children of Hopedale."*

*Park Commission Chairman Rick Espanet to the Board of Selectmen - June 2001*

## 2002 Budget: \$64, 317

\* Summer Swim Program Discontinued

Pond attendance: n/a Daily high: n/a Swim lessons: n/a

98 year program affected by increased operating costs and lack of use and support from the community. Proliferation of backyard swimming pools and foul waterfront conditions created by the large Canada Geese population (see 1993, 1996) contribute to the demise. This decision will remain in place unless feedback dictates otherwise. of what once one of the premier waterfront programs in the region.

\* Park Dept now "stewards" for Draper Field

Since this property became privatized when the last holdings of Draper Corporation left Town in the mid 1970's, all upkeep has been done by independent youth sports groups. In 2002 the property deedholder - along with the Board of Selectmen - asked the Park Commission to oversee all activities at the field to insure provisions set forth by the deedholder as part of a usage agreement signed with the Selectmen in 2001 are adhered to by all groups utilizing the area.

Chain link fence added at Mellen Field

Safety fence added along the parking lot area.

Weed Control maintenance continues

9,000 allocated for spot treatment of lower Pond.

Renovations made to Town Park ballfield

Volunteers spread loam, lay down sod and re-seed area. A new heavy-duty sprinkler head and timer was installed within the infield and the existing sprinkler system was repaired. Cost: \$1,100.

Ballou Park landscaping improvements

50 yr old arborvitaes which were growing wild and damaged by heavy winter snows were removed. Stumps were pulled. New plantings due.

Complaints lead to fee-based tennis program

Residents complained that individuals were conducting private, for-pay tennis lessons on our public courts. With tennis lesson interest high among adults and youngsters, but with limited budget resources available to start a program, the Board instituted fee-supported tennis instructions with a portion coming back to the Dept.

## 2003 Budget: n/a

\* Commission receives \$10,000 EPA grant

Pond attendance: closed Park Summer Program well attended

Chaired by Commissioner Jim Binney, the Park Department's ad-hoc committee's efforts finally start to get off the ground...

*"The Town was awarded \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to conduct the first thorough and comprehensive site assessment of the back section of the old Draper landfill property under the coveted Targeted Brownfields Assessment Program. This*

*is a major step towards not only cleaning/capping the old Draper land-fill site, but procuring and revitalizing otherwise useless land to accommodate the recreational facilities needs of the Town safely for generations to come."*

Tennis program: ace, set, and match

The Summer Recreation tennis program was run by Barry Gorman. The fee-based tennis program started in 2002 had to be shut down as the Board when was unable to receive an accurate accounting of lesson rosters and subsequent fees collected. Unfortunately due to continued usage abuses on the Town courts, the Board considers levying fines on individuals conducting private enterprise on Park property.

Adin Ballou Park beautification completed

Collaborative effort by former Park Commissioner Mark Sesona and Historical Commission member Elaine Malloy acquire a grant from the Blackstone Valley Historical Commission to add granite benches, new walkways, and a granite marker with plaque.

*"Combined with recent statue refurbishments completed by the Park Commission, Ballou Park is a landmark that exemplifies how co-operative commitment can help "preserve the trust" of Hopedale's rich heritage."*

Town Park hosts many activities

Hopedale J's Senior Ruth baseball team re-formed nearly 30 years after it's original season. Babe Ruth baseball, men's summer basketball, the annual fall Day in the Park festival, a July fourth baseball outing and picnic, and the 4th annual Bright Beginnings Center Vehicle Fair were all held at the Park this year.

Crushed stone added to Mellen parking lot

Budget delay postpones weed treatment

Town budget is not formally released to Town boards until late June Without a guarantee of available funds for weed control the Board had no choice but to defer the project until 2004.

Parkland gates sanded and painted

Pond garage doors replaced

Double wooden doors replaced with single steel/fiberglass door.

\* New maintenance equipment obtained

The Park and Highway Departments jointly purchase a state-of-the-art John Deere mowing/bagging tractor which will save many man hours of labor with it's high-volume capacity and mobile capabilities. The Department also took ownership of a 1989 Ford pickup truck which was taken out of commission by the Water Department.

Residents asked to report vandalism

The Commission asks residents to help preserve Park property by reporting any instances of vandalism or flagrant rules violations to the Board and/or the Police Dept. Loose dogs and the failure of some owners to pick up after their pets continues to be a problem. Major damage to plumbing at the Park comfort station was done, porta-pots are tipped and damaged regularly, the Town Park dugouts have been defaced by graffiti and had their lights broken, and the tubular playground slide was destroyed - as were barriers set up to keep youngsters off of it. Budgeting for these repairs is taking money away from worthwhile programs and additions to the program.