

FRIENDS OF CONSTITUTION PARK

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2026

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

As I reflect back to all of the work that was accomplished last year with the leadership of our small, all-volunteer “scrappy team” of Friends of Constitution Park, Ossipee (FCPO) Board of Directors, I am incredibly proud of what we achieved and deeply inspired by our collective passion to make a difference.

Briefly: FCPO

Installed a Windphone

www.mywindphone.com on the Beaver Trail



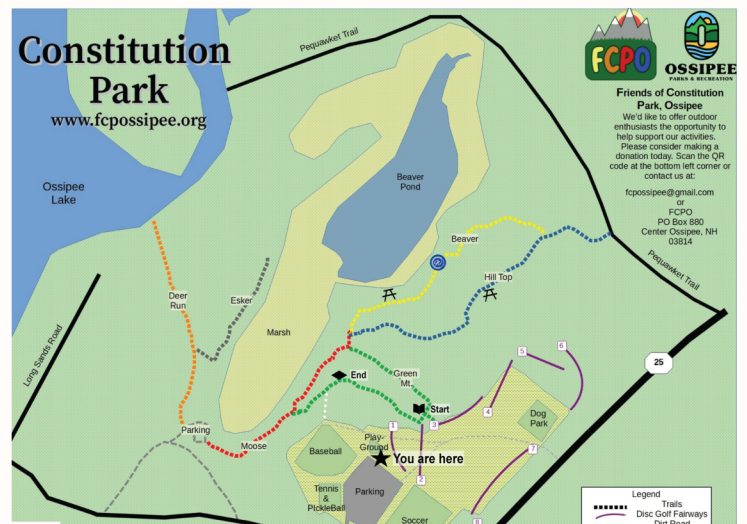
Installed another nine holes to complete the 18-hole disc golf course. www.udisc.com

Completed and dedicated the All-Accessible Deer Run Boardwalk trail

More than 100 attendees celebrated the dedication of the newly renovated trail and platform on a beautiful fall day. Remarks were offered by Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney, who spoke about Jacob McConkey's dedication to his community, and by William Abbott of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, who noted that the trail exemplifies the foundation's mission to improve access to the outdoors. Letters of commendation were also received from Congressman Chris Pappas and Senator Maggie Hassan.



Adopted a multi-year strategic plan



VOLUNTEERS

At our annual meeting on June 3rd, it was our honor and privilege to recognize two extraordinary people as our very first “Volunteer of the Year” recipients – CJ Emerson and Bob Grazer.

There are volunteers who give a few hours here and there... and then there are people like Bob and CJ, whose generosity, talent, vision, and dedication leave a permanent mark on a community.

Over the years, they have donated an incredible amount of time and resources to Constitution Park. But beyond their generosity, they have given something even more meaningful: they have helped shape the identity and experience of the park itself. Many of the beautiful signs you see throughout the park – the signs that welcome visitors, guide families, educate

hikers, and help create a sense of place – exist because of Bob and CJ’s creativity and hard work. Beginning with the 18-hole disc golf course, they designed and installed signage that elevated the entire experience for visitors. What could have simply been functional became thoughtful, attractive, and professional – helping transform the course into something our community could truly be proud of. And they did not stop there. Today, they continue to contribute their talents to our newest project: the interpretive signage along the Deer Run Trail. These signs will do more than point the way – they will tell the story of the land, the wildlife, the history, and the natural beauty of Constitution Park. Long after all of us leave here tonight, visitors will continue learning from and enjoying the work they helped create. What makes volunteers like Bob and CJ so special is that they do not seek recognition. They simply see what needs to be done and quietly make things better for everyone around them. Their work has strengthened our park, enriched our community, and created experiences that thousands of people will enjoy for years to come. We hope that their volunteer efforts encourage others to seek the positive outcomes of gifting their time and expertise. We are forever grateful for the support we have received for the Friends of Constitution Park, Ossipec. The excitement and passion we have discovered in people who are interested in the future of the Park is remarkable.

People power is the heart and sole of a successful organization. We want to create an outdoor space that enhances healthy activities for all local citizens and provides social, economic and educational benefits for the region.

Please let us know how you would like to help. Email us at fcpossipee@gmail.com “Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook and Instagram. Let us know what you would imagine Constitution Park would mean to you.



FUTURE

The FCPO board has recently completed a long range plan to help us navigate the future of the Park and our organization. One of our goals is to make people more aware of the Park and the activities. While we receive many accolades for our work, we are still surprised hearing from people that they “Had no idea there was even a park in Ossipee!” We are trying our best to get the word out by reaching out to organizations and camps to encourage them to utilize this wonderful property. We cannot do it alone, however. We welcome all opportunities for people to reach out to organizations, their friends, relatives and renters or visitors.

1. This summer, Chris Elliot, our Vice President, will be hosting monthly walking hikes throughout the 2 miles of trails in the Park. There is no need to sign up. Just show up at 1 PM and be prepared for some beautiful surprises as you explore the trails. The walks will be June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6. Walks will only be postponed for rain if it is a torrential storm.
2. FCPO will design and install signs that will showcase the work of elementary students by interpreting the environmental, historical and geographic attributes along the Deer Run All Persons Trail. To accomplish this effort we will collaborate with the first and fourth grade teachers and students at the Ossipee Central School.

The goals of the signage are to:

- Inspire, enrich, and educate the experiences of visitors by interpreting the natural features with regard to the landscape, habitats, historical meaning, and scenic beauty of the Deer Run Trail.
- Enhance the newly renovated all-persons Deer Run Boardwalk trail that was introduced to the public in the Fall of 2025.
- Attract new audiences to the Ossipee, NH area.
- Inform the public about all of the attributes of Constitution Park.
 - The project will consist of up to 10 signs, corresponding to special habitats, environmental, historical and geological sites. The signs will be placed along the .23 mile Deer Run All persons trail that has a 550' boardwalk that meanders over wetlands and woodlands and leads down to a viewing platform on Ossipee Lake, and a view off the Ossipee Mountains. Of special interest is the ring dyke that was formed from a volcanic interruption that occurred over 125 million years ago and is one for the largest in the world.

3. The theme of the Ossipee Library, along with the Ossipee Elementary “School’s Out” program this summer is “Plant a Seed”, read! The groups are partnering with Camp Robin Hood in Freedom, and Change Summer, for a service project in Constitution Park. The group of teens from Camp Robin Hood will be installing the summer Storywalk, “When a Tree Falls”, by Kirsten Pendrigh. The teens will also be designing a scavenger hunt to accompany the story. This book tells a beautiful story about nurse logs and the role they play in supporting forest life. Stay tuned for the announcement of this creative activity at the beginning of July.

4. Several people have reached out to us about reserving spaces for celebrations. Because we are a public park, we cannot shut down a specific space for a group. However, it would be courteous to let our Public Parks and Recreation Director, Justin Chaffee jchaffee@ossipee.org, know what you are planning. To date, people have respected others who are using a space for a celebration. Please be sure to “carry in and carry out” and “leave no trace behind”. But most of all, have fun!

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Memorial Bench Program for the trails

The FCPO recognizes that memorial benches provide meaningful opportunities for individuals and families to honor loved ones, celebrate special connections to a park, and contribute to the beauty and enjoyment of shared community areas for all people to enjoy. A memorial bench creates a lasting resting place for reflection, connection, and appreciation of nature and public spaces.

We are offering memorial benches for the 2 mile trail system in the Park for a donation of \$1500. This includes the purchase of a 4' bench made with recycled plastic, a plaque, set up and installation. If you are interested in purchasing a bench please reach out to Edwina Boose fcpossipee@gmail.com.



We want to thank Jim and Char Fitzpatrick and their family for donating the first memorial bench that will be located on the Deer Run trail.

NH Gives <https://www.nhgives.org/>

FCPO is once again participating in NH Gives which begins Tuesday, June 9 at 5 PM and goes for 24 hours until June 10 at 5 PM. Please look for our emails regarding how to donate during this event. As always we appreciate your donations anytime. There are several other ways to give. In addition to QR codes which are on most signs in the Park, we welcome you to view our webpage, www.fcpossipee.org, and scroll to the donation site: Donate Checks can be sent to us: FCPO, PO Box 880 Ossipee NH 03814

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4th Fireworks- 6 PM to dusk

Aubuchon Round-Up- Entire month of July

Aubuchon's in Ossipee will be matching and donating all round-up totals up to \$2500.

Party in the Park: August 8, 2026 Rain date August 9, 2026



Party in the Park is back and better than ever! Join us on Saturday, August 8th, at Constitution Park in Ossipee, NH, for a free, fun-filled day celebrating the best of our community. Hosted by Ossipee Parks & Recreation and Friends of Costit-

ution Park, this beloved annual event brings families, neighbors, and friends together for a day packed with exciting activities, live music, local food vendors, a makers market, and more. Whether you're bringing the little ones for their first Touch-a-Truck experience or catching up with neighbors over great food, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Best of all, it's completely free and open to all ages! Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead and help us spread the word by sharing this event with your friends, family, and neighbors. We can't wait to see you there!

**Tim Otterbach Dedication
October 17, 2026**

We lost a valuable friend and volunteer last September. We will be dedicating the picnic resting area on the Beaver Trail to Tim. Please save the date. We will update you on the time, soon.



Dueling Pianos- November 6, 2026 Save the Date!

Join the Friends of Constitution Park, Ossipee for a night of musical fun and dining. Get ready to tap your feet and sing along as two talented pianists battle it out. This in-person event promises to be a night to remember, filled with laughter, great music, food and community spirit.

As we continue the journey of accomplishing our goals, we hope many will join us with our community building and become a part of creating a more inclusive and vibrant Constitution Park.

I am reminded of the quote by Coretta Scott King that speaks to why we do this work: “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.” It’s that spirit of compassion and collaboration that makes what we do possible—and necessary. Community building is an act of hope, and we are proud to be a small part of it.

With deep gratitude,

Edwina Boose

Board of Directors

Chair, FCPO

Edwina Boose - Chair

Duain Cook

Chris Elliot - Vice Chair

Robert Levey

Tracey Fernandez - Treasurer

Gloria Villari

Alison Hayford - Secretary

Steven Roche

Camilla Ward

To develop, promote, and sustain the age-friendly recreational opportunities of Constitution Park for Ossipee and the surrounding communities