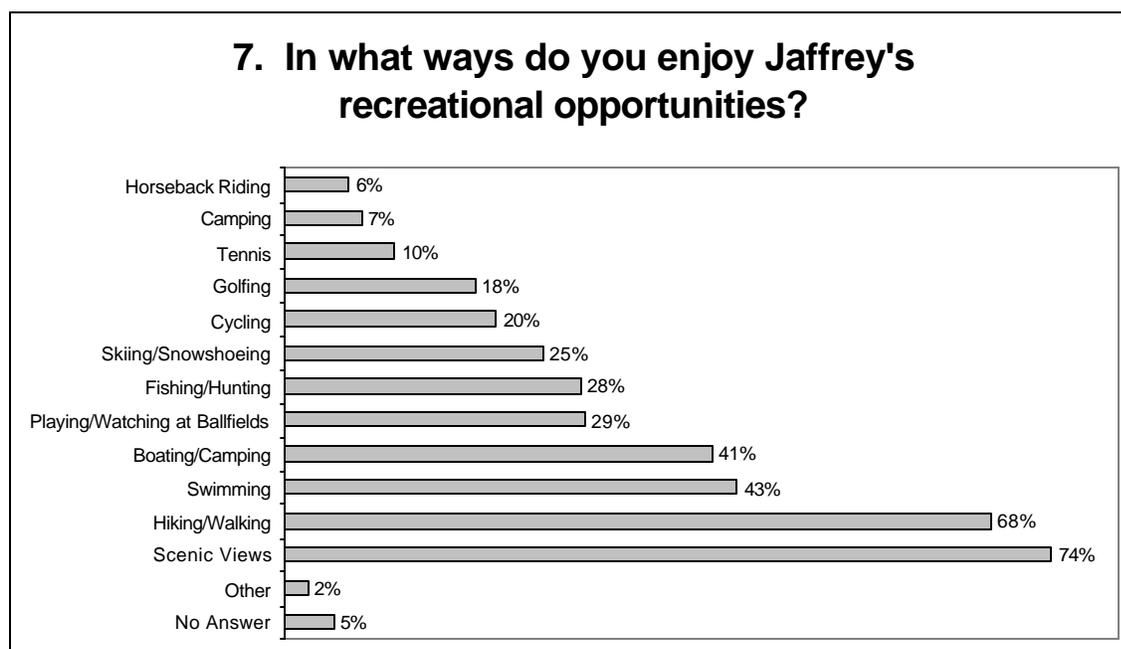


## RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

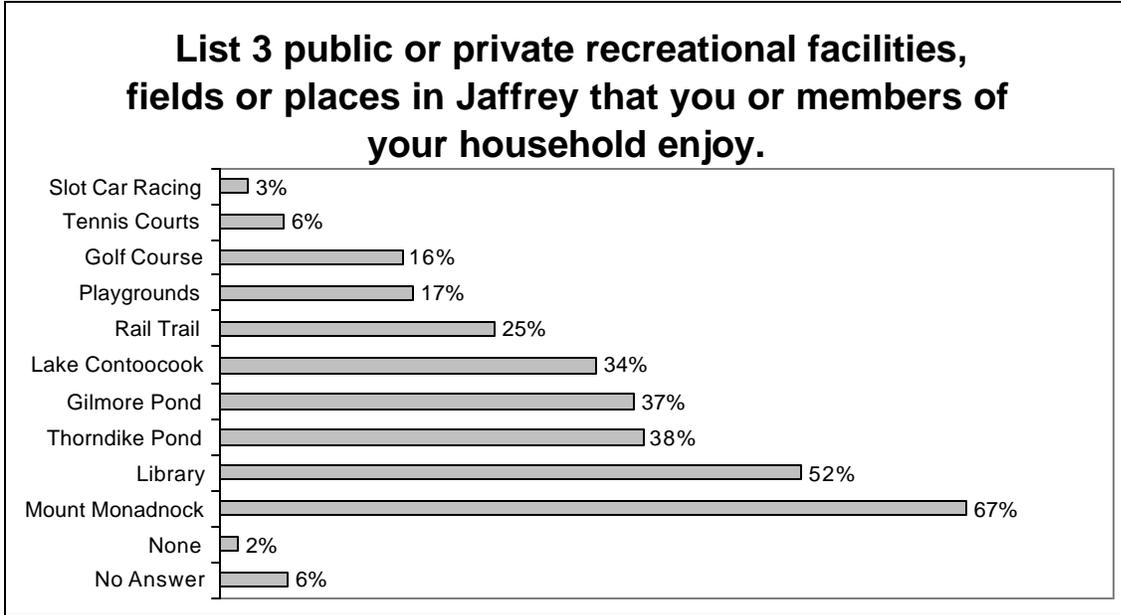
Recreational and community resources are important to the life and vitality of any community. In Jaffrey, the two are linked more often than not. Jaffrey is the town that is host to Southwestern New Hampshire's name and symbol: Monadnock. Jaffrey has a direct interest and future stake in the recreational opportunities that Mount Monadnock and its environs have to offer.

The Town's devotion to recreational opportunities can be summarized through the mission statement adopted by Jaffrey's Recreation Department, "To create and sponsor recreational opportunities for all community members, which enhance the quality of life and provide a positive and safe environment for body, mind and spirit."

Jaffrey's 2005 Community Survey contains responses and valuable information indicative of trends on how people in Jaffrey spend their recreational time. When asked, "In what ways do you enjoy Jaffrey's recreational opportunities?" citizen responses were as follows:



The 2005 Jaffrey Community Survey also asked residents to list a total of three recreational facilities (public or private) enjoyed by their household. When compiled, the responses reveal that Mount Monadnock, the Jaffrey Public Library, Thorndike and Gilmore Ponds, and Lake Contoocook comprise the overall majority of "enjoyed recreational facilities".



**Enough Protection?**

When asked, “Is the town doing enough or not enough to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources in Jaffrey?” approximately three quarters of the responses were almost evenly split between “Enough” at thirty-six percent and “Not Enough” at thirty-eight percent. Seventeen percent had “No Opinion” and roughly two and a half percent stated that the Town does “Too Much” in its protection of natural, cultural, and historic resources.

**Inventory of Recreational and Cultural Resources**

Contoocook Lake Beach

The Contoocook Lake Beach is a summer recreation area with swimming, changing rooms, rest rooms, concession stand, swimming lessons, volleyball court, horseshoe pit, and covered picnic pavilion. From June to August this facility is staffed by a number of part-time lifeguards and concession stand operators.

Humiston Field

Humiston Field includes multi sport playing fields, a playground, basketball courts, skating rink, office, youth center. The facility is open from dawn to dusk seasonally with some evening events, and is staffed by a full-time Director, part-time Assistant Director, full-time maintenance support, and part-time clerical support.

Jaffrey Civic Center

The Jaffrey Civic Center is a regional host to many activities and events such as art displays, poetry readings and meetings, historical lectures, scout meetings and art classes.

This facility is privately funded.

Jaffrey Meetinghouse

The Meetinghouse in Jaffrey Center, built in 1775, was originally used for Town Meetings and church services. Today, the Meetinghouse is still publicly owned and continues to be used for meetings as well as entertainment and plays. The Meetinghouse is one of the community’s historic treasures.

### The Jaffrey Public Library

Library resources include 30,366 books, 859 audio books, 114 puppets, 640 DVDs/videos, and 59 magazines. Special collections include the Amos Fortune Papers which are the original papers of freed slave Amos Fortune, which are displayed in an exhibit. Equipment available for public use includes nine computers, one copier, three printers, and one microfilm reader with printer. Equipment available for use by Library staff includes five computers, one projector for use with computers and/or DVD/VHS, fax machine, scanner, and two printers.

The facility is also used for presentation of a film series, book discussion groups, story hours, special programs, internet access, school visits, and a meeting room for community use.

### Mount Monadnock State Park

Six major trailheads with parking at each trailhead provide hiking access to the mountain. There are three ways to access the mountain from Troy: Old Toll Road, Metacomet and Marlborough Trail Head. The other three trailheads are: Dublin Trail Head, Gilson Pond and the Main Park Entrance in Jaffrey.

Mount Monadnock has year round hiking and camping. All trails are open during the spring, summer and autumn months. During the winter there are sixteen miles of backcountry skiing and hiking at the park headquarters. This is the only automobile access open, plowed and maintained during the winter months. There are twenty-eight campsites located at the main entrance of Mount Monadnock; 21 of them are family sites and seven are for groups only. Mount Monadnock busiest season is middle September through middle October with all of the beautiful fall foliage. Monadnock Mountain is also proud to have had Henry David Thoreau as one of its visitors in 1860, although he probably visited the mountain more than once. Thoreau took the train from Concord, Massachusetts to Troy, embarked and immediately began his hike to the mountain. Thoreau hiked Mount Monadnock and spent five days and nights there taking notes of his stay.

### Rails to Trails

Rails to Trails is a relatively new recreation opportunity available in the Town of Jaffrey. Trails meant for multiple forms of recreation including walking, biking and snowmobiling are available for use by youth and adults, from dawn to dusk year-round. The initial trail construction phase completed in 2003 includes 1.5 miles of hard-packed trail from the Rindge town-line to Downtown Jaffrey. The initial project was funded through Transportation Enhancement funds from the NH Department of Transportation. The trail is planned to expand from the Jaffrey Center towards the Town of Peterborough.

### The Shattuck Golf Club

The Shattuck Golf Club is a country club that is open to the public and is located on Dublin Road in Jaffrey.

### Shattuck Park at Thorndike Pond

The Shattuck Park at Thorndike Pond has approximately 2,000 youth and adult users annually. The facility includes a swimming area, grills, picnic pavilion and tables, boat landing, and portable toilets (seasonal). The facility is open from dawn to dusk seasonally, and is staffed by part-time lifeguards from June to August.

## **Local Events and Activities**

Annual and ongoing events in Jaffrey include the following:

- Monadnock Arts Auction
- Jaffrey Winter Carnival
- Easter "Eggstravaganza"
- Memorial Day Parade & Honoring of War Vets at town cemeteries
- Riverfest, Downtown
- Annual Booksale, Jaffrey Public Library
- Jaffrey Farmer's Market, Saturday mornings 9am-12noon, Monadnock Plaza
- July 4th in Jaffrey: Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Ice Cream Social, Strawberry Shortcake Bazaar, Band Concert & other events held throughout town
- Annual Jaffrey Garden Tour
- United Church of Jaffrey Annual Fair
- Amos Fortune Forum at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse
- Concerts on the Common, Downtown
- First Church Annual Fair, Jaffrey Meetinghouse Common
- Festival of Fireworks, Jaffrey Airport
- Oktoberfest & Golf Tournament
- Scarecrows on the Common
- Community Fall Cleanup Day
- "Christmas in Jaffrey" - a full week of seasonal community activities including house tours, treelighting, entertainment, church bazaars and other events held throughout town

### **Local Lodging**

#### The Benjamin Prescott Inn

Surrounded by picturesque 500-acre farm., he Benjamin Prescott Inn offers fine hospitality in a beautifully restored 1853 home. The Inn is located at 433 Turnpike Road, Route 124.

Telephone: (603) 532-6637

Toll Free: (800) 952-6637.

More Information: [www.benjaminprescottinn.com](http://www.benjaminprescottinn.com)

Email: [innkeeper@benjaminprescottinn.com](mailto:innkeeper@benjaminprescottinn.com).

#### The Currier's House

The Currier's House is an 1810 country bed and breakfast. Located in Jaffrey Center at 5 Harkness Road.

Telephone: (603) 532-7670

More Information: [www.thecurriershouse.com](http://www.thecurriershouse.com)

Email: [curriers@monad.net](mailto:curriers@monad.net)

#### The Grand View Inn & Resort

The Grand View Inn & Resort is a 19th-century country mansion set on 330 acres at the base of Mount Monadnock. Located at 580 Mountain Road.

Telephone: (603) 532-9880.

More Information: [www.TheGrandViewInn.com](http://www.TheGrandViewInn.com)

#### The Inn At Jaffrey Center

The Inn at Jaffrey Center is within sight of Mount Monadnock and is open through out the year.

Located at 379 Main Street.

Telephone: (877) 510-7019; (603) 532-7800.

More Information: [www.TheInnAtJaffreyCenter.com](http://www.TheInnAtJaffreyCenter.com)

The Woodbound Inn

The Woodbound Inn is a family resort located on Lake Contoocook providing views of Mount Monadnock. Located at 62 Woodbound Road in Rindge.

Telephone: (800) 688-7770, (603) 532-8341.

**Local Restaurants**

Athens Pizza House

86 Peterborough St

Telephone: 603-532-4466

Aylmer's Grille, LLC

21B Main Street

Telephone: (603) 532-4949

Web Site: [www.aylmersgrille.com](http://www.aylmersgrille.com)

E-Mail: [aylmer@aylmersgrille.com](mailto:aylmer@aylmersgrille.com)

Jade Ocean

5 Main St

Telephone: (603)532-6727

Jaffrey Pizza Barn

6 Blake Street

Telephone: (603) 532-8383

More Information: [www.jaffreypizzabarn.com](http://www.jaffreypizzabarn.com)

E-Mail: [npanagiotes@webryders.com](mailto:npanagiotes@webryders.com)

Kimball Farm

PO Box 382, Jaffrey, NH 03452

Telephone: (603) 532-5765

McDonalds of Jaffrey

85 Peterborough Street

Telephone: (603) 532-4517

Mrs Murphys Doughnuts and Coffeeshop

172 Peterborough St, Jaffrey, NH

Telephone: (603) 532-6885

The Inn at Jaffrey Center

379 Main St, Jaffrey, NH

Telephone: (603)532-7001

O'Brien's Food and Spirits

10 Turnpike Road

Telephone: (603) 532-9596

**Recommendations**

When asked what features people like about Jaffrey and do not want to be changed, the top four (of 13) items selected by the majority of respondents include its small town atmosphere (69%), scenic areas

(67%), rural character (65%), lakes and ponds at 63%. Information such as this can provide the Town with a reasonable direction for future growth.

The following recommendations may assist the Town with more clearly identifying, planning and implementing this and other recreation facility goals:

First, the Town may want to consider establishing a steering committee to work with the Town's Recreation Department, Team Jaffrey and the Chamber of Commerce to gather additional and specific information on recreational opportunities residents would like to see the Town to invest time and money in to develop or improve. A steering committee could report to the Selectmen and provide recommendations that could assist with annual budgeting for the expansion and maintenance of recreational resources.

Second, educating residents about existing recreational opportunities available in the Town through the Town newsletter or by further development of the Town's Park and Recreation webpage may assist residents with knowing where and how to access such opportunities.

Third, the creation of a map could further assist residents in locating and using public trails, picnic areas and swimming holes.

#### Prioritization Criteria

The Town may want to establish criteria for prioritizing the use of public funds on the maintenance or development of recreation projects. Some criteria the Town could consider using, which could be ranked in order of importance to the Town, include the following:

The proposed project would:

- Have multi-season use.
- Create linkages and/or improves connectivity between community and regional recreation or open space resources.
- Demonstrate solid connections with other community planning efforts.
- Help preserve and/or protect critical natural resources including surface water, wildlife habitat, productive soils, connections and buffers, scenic assets.
- Help preserve and/or protect critical cultural/historic resources.
- Not adversely affect water quality.
- Contribute to goals outlined in the economic development plan.
- Create educational opportunities for local residents (observing wildlife, general ecology such as forest succession or agriculture, etc.).
- Be in a scale relative to national standards for such projects.
- Be accessible to people with disabilities.
- Be consistent with the community vision or goals identified by local residents in the Master Plan Community Survey.
- Be accessible from local neighborhoods and schools.
- Be available for public use / have public access.
- Require minimal maintenance.
- Be consistent with the overall goals and recommendations of the Master Plan.