

## CHAPTER 8—Serving the Community

Community services, facilities and utilities are provided to meet the needs and desires of present and future residents and visitors to Warren. Some of the services and facilities are provided by the Town; others are provided in partnership with regional or state governments, volunteer organizations, and private corporations. They include administration and general services, education, emergency services, health care, senior services, child care, recreation and cultural activities, public lands, wastewater, water supply, solid waste management and communications. Some community services related to the social and cultural aspects of community life also are included in this section.

Each facility or service addresses a public need. The level of service is affected by population and economic changes. Depending on the type of facility and its capacity, population changes can result in efficiencies or economies of scale; deterioration in the level of service; or the need for new, upgraded, and/or expanded facilities.

Growth patterns also affect the provision and cost of community facilities and services. Studies have found that serving scattered development and sprawl is more costly than concentrating growth in villages and neighborhoods (residential clusters). Well-planned and well-designed land use can improve the efficiency of providing public services and reduce costs.

This chapter briefly describes Warren's emergency services, community services, public facilities and utilities and their respective capacities. It also describes their costs and some of the factors underlying the Town's ability to pay for them. Together they provide a foundation for shaping growth so that desired levels of service are maintained or enhanced without placing an undue financial burden on taxpayers.

### Municipal Services

#### Administration

The Town is the second largest employer in Warren with ~~12~~ 10 full-time and 69 part-time employees (including the Library employees). The Town Clerk, ~~Lister~~ and Treasurer are full-time, elected positions responsible for managing the office, town records, and accounts. (see table 8.1)

Warren town government is heavily reliant on citizen volunteers. Warren is governed by a five-member Selectboard that meets on a regular basis. In addition to the elected Selectboard, the Town appoints and maintains a seven-member Planning Commission, a five-member Development Review Board, a five-member Conservation ~~Committee~~ Commission, a Cemetery Commission, a Library Board, a Recreation Commission, and additional groups and committees who spend thousands of hours each year in community service.

#### Cost of Government

The cost of government has grown as Warren has equipped itself to respond to sophisticated demands and has embarked upon the replacement of its equipment, facilities, and structures. Also fueling the rise in costs has been an upward trend in the

cost of education, both at the local level and at the state level as a result of Act 60. As shown in Table 8.2, annual expenditures have increased in recent years.

The Town has initiated a fiscal management process known as Capital Programming, whereby capital expenditures (one-time, non-recurring major costs for equipment, land purchase or construction) are projected over a six-year period. This allows scheduling such expenditures and structuring their financing to avoid a sudden, unanticipated "shock" to the tax rate. Assuming that growth in operating expenditures is spread out, either through timing, financing, or withdrawals from accumulated reserve accounts, the year-to-year fluctuation in expenditures should not be extreme. If, however, expenditure growth should exceed growth in the Grand List and other sources of revenue, the tax rate will rise.

### **Town Buildings**

Warren owns nine public buildings. These are the Warren Fire Station, the Fire Station at Sugarbush, the Town **Garage (Shed)**, the Ruby Blair House, the Warren United Church, Town Hall, the Municipal Building, Warren Elementary School and the old East Warren School. The maintenance of these buildings is funded through property taxes, rent and endowments. The town maintains all of its buildings except the Ruby Blair House, the old East Warren School and the Warren United Church.

**Ruby Blair House:** The Town purchased the Ruby Blair House in 1997 due to its important location between the Town Hall and Municipal Building. A life lease was retained by Ruby Blair **who passed away in February 2008**. A number of suggestions have been made as to the future use of the building including a library, a historical museum and/or additional town office space. The Planning Commission **conducted a Municipal Facilities Planning Charrette in November 2006. The recommendations from that effort are contained in a Master Plan that was adopted by the Select Board on October 9, 2007 and is part of the Town Plan contained in Appendix E and is also referenced under "Long Term Plan for Municipal Facilities on page 8-3.** ~~has initiated a planning process for the optimal utilization of the properties surrounding the Town Municipal Building.~~

**Town Hall:** The Town Hall meeting room, with capacity for 250, is used for voting, plays, meetings, parties and other presentations. In 1997, for the first time in recent history, Town Meeting was held at the elementary school due to the limitation of space and easy access. A number of voters expressed sadness at the change in venue from the historic Town Hall to the school but understood the need and attributed the change to "a sign of the times." The second floor of the Town Hall is rented for dances, aerobics classes, Grange meetings, and other gatherings. The basement dining room and kitchen accommodate 150 people.

In 2003, the Selectboard began holding meetings in the Town Hall because the meeting room in the Municipal Building was converted to office space. **In 2008, the Select Board returned to the Municipal Building for its meetings while the Town Hall was renovated in order for the Library to temporarily relocate from the Municipal Building to the first floor of the Town Hall, while retaining the basement and second**

floor for continued town and public use. During this renovation, a new elevator was installed in order to make all floors of the building fully accessible.

**Municipal Building:** The Warren Municipal Building contains the offices of the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Listers, the Selectboard's Administrator, ~~the Zoning Administrator/911 Coordinator~~ and the ~~DRB / Planning Assistant,~~ and the library. It also provides a secure vault for town records and other official documents. In 2003, the Planning Commission considered several alternatives for providing relief for what has been determined to be a critical space shortage in the office, vault and library of the Municipal Building, as well as the lack of handicapped accessibility. The option chosen after lengthy review was that of adding a second story over the current library, incorporating an elevator, and reconfiguring the other space to accommodate vault and office requirements. A bond vote on this option was rejected, however, and the town is presently reassessing possible solutions to this dilemma. In the wake of the failed bond vote, the Selectboard did decide to complete some necessary maintenance of the Municipal Building including replacing the failing furnace, removing some of the asbestos in the building and installing a gas fired heater for the second floor offices. ~~In July 2009 the Warren Public Library is also located in the Municipal Building and also suffers from space limitations (Educational Services for more information about the Library)~~ ~~relocated from the Municipal Building to the main floor of the Town Hall giving them added space they needed.~~ In the Spring of 2010, the Planning and Zoning office moved to the old Library space, with half of that space set aside as a meeting area for the Town's Board's and Commissions. The space constraints in the Town Clerk's office and vault still have to be addressed.

**Town Garage:** Currently located on School Road in the Village, the Town Garage serves as the base for the Road Crew and the housing and repair of all Town owned road maintenance vehicles. The existing Town Garage facility presents many deficiencies, including the need to replace the existing building. Since 2005, the Selectboard and Planning Commission have explored various alternatives for this site, including the possible relocation of the Town Garage out of the Village residential area and onto another Town owned parcel with direct access to Route 100. In the event this were to occur, the existing Town Garage site within the village would provide an ideal opportunity to develop six to ten units of affordable housing within the village. In October 2008, the Town undertook a Brownfields Phase II Environmental Assessment of the Town Garage site during which it was determined that there were no environmental concerns which needed to be addressed and that the site would be suitable for re-use as residential housing.

**East Warren School:** Located at the Roxbury Mountain Four Corners in East Warren, the former East Warren School is currently being leased and ~~renovated~~ ~~maintained~~ by ~~Rootswork,~~ ~~the~~ a local, not-for-profit educational organization ~~dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and sustainable communities.,~~ ~~Rootswork.~~ ~~Rootswork is an educational group dedicated to sustainable agriculture.~~ In addition to use of the East Warren School property as a classroom, radio station, community garden and a hub of community activity, ~~Rootswork sub-leases~~ the downstairs of the building ~~currently is sub-~~

leased to the East Warren Community ~~to the School House Market~~, a consumer cooperative, which opened in September 2009. The East Warren Community Market's principal mission is to serve its members by providing a convenient year round market offering when possible, a broad selection of sustainably grown, local and / or organic goods. ~~nationally acclaimed specialty cheese business and school and broadcasts local radio station WMRW.~~

**Long Term Plan for Municipal Facilities:** The Selectboard requested the Planning Commission to create a master plan for the Warren municipal facilities. The objective was to establish a general plan and direction, i.e. a road map that describes how the municipal facilities should be used, where they should be located and how they can grow.

The Planning Commission presented its recommendations to the Selectboard on June 12, 2007. This recommendation was finalized by the Planning Commission following a November 4, 2006 Planning Charrette that was attended by over 50 interested Warren residents, community leaders, design and planning experts, Town officials and others. The overall vision for a Municipal Complex in the Village includes the major municipal functions—town offices, Library, Town Hall, and possibly a Post Office—all adjacent to and opening onto a Town Green and all adjacent to parking that is located on the east side of the Municipal Complex, away from Main Street. The master plan, which included both long term and short term elements, was adopted by the Selectboard at that June 12, 2007 meeting. The detailed description of the master plan is contained in Appendix E.

## **Educational Services**

The Town of Warren is part of the Washington West Supervisory Union with the towns of Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, and Waterbury. Warren students in pre-K through grade six attend the Warren Elementary School in Warren Village. Those in grades seven through twelve receive their education at Harwood Union High School in Duxbury.

### **Warren Elementary School**

The Warren Elementary School at Brooks Field has a capacity of up to 200 pupils, depending on age configuration. The school was constructed in 1972 on the open classroom concept. Since then the building has been altered to create separate classrooms and to make the best possible use of available floor space. Funding for an addition was turned down by the voters in 1988. In 1991, the cafeteria was enlarged and space in the basement was renovated to accommodate separate classrooms for preschool and music. In 1992, a dormer was added to existing attic space to create an additional classroom on the second floor. In 1997, a second attic space was enlarged to create small classroom/offices for special education and speech and language instruction. The roof of the school was replaced in 1991.

~~On Town Meeting Day 2004, the Warren voters approved a \$150,000 bond vote to build a 17' by 32' stage onto the existing gymnasium at the Warren Elementary~~

School. The stage will be used for public meetings, community concerts and theatrical performances, concerts by visiting artists and recreational and learning programs. The total cost of the project is anticipated to be \$175,000. The \$25,000 not covered by the bond will be raised through private donations and fund raising. The \$150,000 bond will add an estimated half a penny to the town tax rate.

### ***School Enrollment***

In ~~1998/99~~ **2003/04**, ~~174~~**159** students were enrolled in kindergarten through grade six (K-6) at the Warren Elementary School. Pre-kindergarten enrollment was ~~1615~~. For the ~~2003/04~~ **2009/10** school year, that number has ~~decreased~~ **increased** to ~~159~~ **177** students in K-6, with ~~17~~ **29** students enrolled in pre-kindergarten. The school has offered a ~~two-day-a-week~~ **full week** pre-kindergarten program ~~to all~~ **for three and** four year olds since **2005**, and a ~~two-day-a-week~~ **pre-kindergarten program for four year olds** since 1986, in the belief that “an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.” The School Board has felt that the earlier the school starts to help children develop well, the better their chances for success in school. In addition, state law through the Family, Infant and Toddler Project requires the school to identify and provide support for children from birth to three years who show a delay in development.

The school has capacity for enrolling an additional 30 students. The Warren School continues to have the highest enrollment of the four elementary schools in the Mad River Valley and the highest in the Washington West Supervisory Union after Waterbury.

Based on the current population and Town births since 1998, the Warren School Board forecasts a declining total enrollment through 2008 (Table 8.3). Despite the significant rate of increase during the 1990’s, the number of students in grades seven through twelve will eventually level out and decline in the next years. Enrollment in pre-K through sixth grade may drop to 127. Due to the declining enrollment and increasing cost of education, the Mad River Valley Planning District plans to study consolidation of the valley elementary schools.

In the Fall of ~~2003~~ **2009**, Warren sent ~~129~~ **117** pupils to Harwood Union High ~~and Middle Schools~~. Total enrollment at the ~~Harwood Union high schools~~ is ~~857~~ **808**. The core facility of the building (cafeteria, gymnasium, auditorium, etc.) is designed for 1,000 students. Students from Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield, Waterbury and Warren attended Harwood. Seventh and eighth grade students from Duxbury and Waterbury now attend the Crossett Brook Middle School and as a result there is more space available at Harwood. In ~~2003/04~~ **2009/10**, Warren students made up ~~17~~ **21**% of grades seven through twelve in the Washington West district. Table 8.3 shows the projected student enrollment for Warren through 2007/08.

The State of Vermont currently provides vocational education opportunities through a system of sixteen vocational centers serving local high schools around the state. The nearest center to Harwood Union High School is in Barre, and transportation opportunities are available for Harwood students to attend. Harwood does provide some vocational opportunities on site, although these programs are limited. A local vocational education advisory committee is exploring alternatives for expanding vocational programs at Harwood in areas such as ski area maintenance, wood technology, culinary arts and for maintaining the transportation program to the Barre center.

### ***School Costs***

School enrollment is only one factor of many that drive the cost of providing a quality education. In 1999, there were 192 students enrolled at the Warren School; in 2003, there were 159. School funding is based on a per student formula. Unfortunately, a 17% drop in enrollment does not reduce the need to insure, heat and maintain the building, operate the school buses, and provide administrative support. A drop in enrollment can make cuts in personnel the only viable option for savings. For example, the number of specialist teachers in areas such as art and music was reduced in 2003 by the equivalent of half a position (from 2.9 to 2.4), and the number of K-6 classroom teachers was reduced from 10 to 9.

Operation and maintenance costs for the school have increased steadily from \$104,471 in 1998 to \$119,128 in 2003 (approximately 2.5% annually.) These costs pay for the full-time custodian and a part-time assistant, along with fuels needed to heat and light the building and services needed to maintain it. Other costs, such as health insurance, continue to increase significantly.

### **Warren Public Library**

The Warren Public Library was temporarily relocated to the main floor of the Town Hall in 2009. The Town Hall was renovated in 2008-2009 and the library was able, with generous help from donors and grants, to furnish the interior with locally made bookcases, tables and computer stands. The library contains 7904 books, 365 videos and 294 DVDs, 570 audio books, and over 470 periodical issues, 88 toys, plus two multi-media language sets for children. The library also has access to over 3,000 downloadable audiobooks via ListenUp Vermont, millions of magazine articles through the Vermont Online Library, access to hundreds of newspapers via NewsBank, access to genealogy records via Heritage Quest Online and access to biography materials via WilsonWeb.

The library has initiated a number of programs for town residents, including a story hour for pre-school children, a summer reading program for school-age children and occasional lectures and book discussions for adults. In our new space we have seating for up to 50 people and equipment to show movies.

The library can offer public access computers to up to 5 people at a time and wireless access to several more. The card catalog is now online and patrons can renew and reserve library materials from their home computers. The children now have the entire Town Hall stage as their own library space, divided into two areas, one for older children and one for the little kids.

~~The Warren Public Library, located in the Municipal Building, contains more than 7,500 cataloged items as well as over 500 non-book items. Currently the collection is at full capacity. Due to severe space limitations, the librarian must discard or give away a book for every book purchased. The library has initiated a number of programs for town residents, including a story hour for pre-school children, a summer reading program for school-age children and occasional lectures and book discussions for adults.~~

~~The library interior was renovated in 2000 to facilitate the addition of an online public access computer. In 2002 and 2003, the library received over \$36,000 in grant funds which were used for interior modifications, hiring a program director, and~~

collection development. In addition to books and periodicals, the library now circulates videos, books on tape and CD's.

The Library is open 30~~1~~ hours a week and is staffed by one librarian, one children's librarian, two staff members, and ~~eight~~ **fourteen** volunteers. Warren participates in the state library programs and makes extensive use of the state Inter-Library Loan System, considerably expanding the available collection. ~~In 2002, the library became a member of the Vermont Online Library which provides community residents access to online electronic information databases. Due to space constraints, the popular pre-school story hour was relocated to the Warren Town Hall in 2002. While the library's circulation is decreasing slightly each year due to the increased use of personal computers, decrease in summer residents and the re-location of the pre-school story hour, the library has seen a rise in the use of the public access computer, audio/video materials, and library space for adult literacy instruction.~~

~~In 2003, the library completed its second long-range plan. Goals to be addressed during the next five years include keeping the community abreast of new technology, promoting programs for all ages, working to broaden community involvement in the library, as well as continuing the work of the library development committee in its search to expand library space.~~

**Since the library opened in the new space on June 1, 2009, circulation and foot traffic have both risen spectacularly. The librarians took advantage of the generous community contributions to overhaul the collection and significantly update the non-fiction selection.**

**In 2009, the library completed its third long-range plan, although its is being called a strategic plan at this time. Goals to be addressed from 2010 to 2012 include helping patrons find and evaluate information; helping patrons express creativity and share content; provide rich and inspiring library materials; helping patrons become informed citizens; providing children with encouragement and an opportunity to develop skills. The final goal is to make the library a welcoming, comfortable and pleasant space.**

**On a much longer term, the overall goal is to ultimately find and create a new, independent permanent home.**

## **Road Maintenance**

The Warren Road Department has a regular work force of five people. Part-time help is used as required for winter and flood emergencies. The Road Department and its equipment are housed at the Town Shed, a building of 1,600 square feet located off Brook Road in the Village. Table 8.4 lists the Department's equipment that has an approximate book value of \$20,000 or more.

Warren currently lacks a reliable source of gravel or winter sand to provide for the Town's future needs. The need for a long-term supply of gravel and sand has a direct bearing on the Town's ability to economically maintain its roads in a manner consistent with the Town's rural character.

Prompted by the Planning Commission's Scenic Road inventory, the Warren Selectboard held a number of public meetings during 2003 regarding the maintenance of roads in Warren. The Selectboard opted to revise the Road Maintenance Ordinance to

require public notice and a public review process prior to any significant changes in road maintenance.

## Emergency Services

### Warren Fire Department

The Warren Volunteer Fire Department has an active membership of 31 persons. Facilities include a four-bay station house and meeting room in Warren Village and a two-bay station house at Sugarbush Village. ~~The Sugarbush Village station is slated for removal. A new three-bay station will be built in a new location by Sugarbush Resort. The new fire station is a condition of Sugarbush Resorts Lodge at Lincoln Peak permit and will be built when development at the Peak goes forward.~~ Table 8.5 describes the emergency equipment housed at each station.

The Department has 3,500 feet of five-inch hose, 1,100 feet of three-inch hose, 1,900 feet of two-and-one-half inch hose, and 3,500 feet of one and one-and-three quarters. With its own equipment, the Department can provide a steady supply of water to a fire 2,000 feet by road from a roadside water source, such as a stream or pond. The availability of mutual aid equipment extends this range to about 3,000 feet with pumpers relaying at 1,000 foot intervals. Beyond these distances fires must be fought by the tanker load from the nearest water source. Available ladders and water pressures extend the maximum height at which a fire may be controlled to 50 feet above grade.

Warren participates in a mutual aid program with Waitsfield and Moretown, making the personnel and equipment of these towns available in the event of a shortage. Continued growth in Warren will require additional measures to assure fire protection of any new multi-story construction.

Through the Town's regulatory process, the Fire Department has been able to require new dead-end roads to have a minimum turning radius of thirty feet (minimum for the larger equipment) and to increase the number of fire ponds available in rural areas. However, because of an increase in the number of single family homes in these areas, the Department has identified a need to establish a hydrant system using larger bodies of water at high elevations.

As a condition of condominium complex development on the corner of the Access Road and the Golf Course Road, the Fire Department required the applicant to extend the existing snow making water line across the Access Road onto the Golf Course Road and install a fire hydrant. Eventually this line will be extended further down the Golf Course Road. The fire department has also required a number of developments in town to install gravity fed hydrants and sprinkler systems from on site ponds.

In March, 2005, the voters approved a \$300,000 bond for the construction of a fire pond at the gravel pit property off Route 100. A hydrant system ~~will be~~ **has been** installed from this pond to service Warren Village.

In 2004, the Fire Department successfully procured monies from a 2003 FEMA Homeland Security Grant to purchase and install a 40 Kw emergency power generator to provide inline backup electricity to both the Village Fire Station and the Town Municipal Building, with a future option to connect the Blair property and the Town Hall. This generator ~~will provide~~s emergency power for both buildings as needed within 8-10

seconds of a power failure. It will aid in both normal business power failures to maintain town operations, as well as in emergency situations in which radio communication, shelter, heat, hot water, and emergency vehicles and equipment are needed. Both the fire station and municipal building have kitchen and bathroom facilities, as well as ample space for a backup emergency shelter.

It is a goal of the Warren Fire Department to have an emergency plan for every building in town preplanned in a computer database. This would include information such as nearest available water source, special needs residents, and evacuation plans large structures.

### **Police Protection**

The influx of seasonal residents to the Town has made increased police protection an important issue. During the ski season there are special problems relating to traffic control, while during the off-season unoccupied seasonal dwellings are subject to vandalism and burglary.

The Vermont State Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency in the Town of Warren. Troopers stationed at Middlesex are responsible for the investigation of criminal and motor vehicle related incidents in addition to answering a wide variety of assistance and service related calls. Troopers are also responsible for the reasonable enforcement of motor vehicle laws. Detectives assigned to the Middlesex station are responsible for all major criminal investigations, including arson. Moreover, detectives conduct all death investigations. Middlesex station personnel are dispatched from the Vermont State Police station location at Williston. All emergency 911 calls are taken at that location as well. According to the Vermont Area Crime and Police Service Report for 2003, the Vermont State Police responded to a total of 374 documented incidents on the Town of Warren. Table 8.6 shows the breakdown of the incidents into categories.

In 2004, the Central Vermont State Police Community Advisory Board was formed to work with the personnel of the Middlesex State Police station. A member of the Warren Planning Commission was appointed to be the Warren representative on the board. The primary responsibilities of the advisory board are to:

- 1) provide a voice for concerns related to law enforcement and public safety;
- 2) give recommendations and information on how to best serve the represented towns;
- 3) be a conduit for information exchange between the represented towns and the Middlesex station; and,
- 4) provide community advocacy on behalf of the Vermont State Police.

In addition to the Vermont State Police protection, Warren has contracted with the Washington County Sheriff's Department for traffic enforcement. Sugarbush also has an annual agreement with Washington County Sheriff's Department to assist with traffic control during the ski season and special events. Officers direct traffic at the intersections of Inferno and Sugarbush Access Road, Route 100 and the Access Road, and Routes 100 and 17.

Past studies have indicated that it was premature to create a Warren Police Department and that adequate services can be provided by the Washington County Sheriff's Department and the State Police.

### **Mad River Valley Ambulance Service**

The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service (MRVAS) is a non-profit corporation that has been providing emergency medical care since 1971. In 2001, MRVAS moved from the Waitsfield Fire Station to their own building on Main Street in Waitsfield. MRVAS provides 24-hour service to residents and visitors of the Mad River Valley, Sugarbush and Mad River Glen ski areas. The Service maintains two fully equipped ambulances, a rescue/extraction vehicle (not used for transport) that carries heavy equipment, a dispatch radio and field radios, as well as a substantial amount of emergency medical equipment. Over the years, the service has grown considerably to meet the needs of the Mad River Valley community.

Since 1983 the annual number of calls has increased by 84%, from 244 to 448 in 2003. The average number of calls from Warren from 1998-2003 was 136. In 2003, the ambulance service responded to 145 calls from Warren, which amounted to 31% of the total annual calls for the Valley.

The MRVAS has a highly dedicated volunteer staff of 60 people, many of whom have advanced emergency medical care training. Twenty attendants hold certification to perform advanced life support procedures. Another thirty-four volunteers are EMTs, who have over 100 hours of classroom and in-hospital training. The EMTs operate under a licensed physician based at Central Vermont Hospital in Berlin. All volunteers serve at least five 12-hour duty shifts per month and attend training monthly. In addition to the medical volunteers, a number of Valley residents volunteer their time as dispatchers and drivers.

MRVAS is funded by a combination of subscriptions, donations and fees for service. According to its president, the current levels of funding and facilities are adequate to address the demand for service. The Valley is fortunate to have this excellent volunteer ambulance service, but it may become over-extended as area growth continues if provisions are not made for its support and/or expansion.

### **Community Services**

#### **Health Care**

There are only limited health care facilities in Warren. The First-Aid Station located at the **Sugarbush Lincoln Peak** ski area provides treatment during limited hours each day during the active ski season and deals primarily with suspected fractures occurring at the **Sugarbush Ski Area**. It is staffed with a physician who is associated with **Fletcher Allen Hospital in University Orthopedics** of Burlington. Treatment is limited to x-ray diagnosis and the setting of simple fractures and ski-related injuries. At present, the nearest **healthcare services** ~~physician's offices~~ are in Waitsfield.

### ***Local Health Services***

The Mad River Valley Health Center (MRVHC) in Waitsfield is a non-profit community owned facility leasing space to a variety of healthcare providers. The mission of the MRVHC is to provide a quality facility to insure the availability of local health care to residents of the Mad River Valley, neighboring towns and visitors. provides primary health care services to the residents and visitors to Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield and Warren. The health center MRVHC is non-profit corporation governed by a community Board of Directors composed of individuals representing the towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown and Duxbury. Healthcare providers at the health center include the Mad River Family Practice, a physical therapist, an alternative healthcare practice and mental health providers. MRVHC continues to own and manage the building and leases the space to the current medical practice.

MRVHC was incorporated in 1980 when a group of concerned citizens and businesses raised the funds to purchase the health center building and the medical practice from Dr. John Saia to secure accessible, family health care for the Valley towns. In 1986, MRVHC Inc. relinquished administrative responsibility for the existing practice and turned it over to Dr. Francis Cook. Over its 23-30+ year history, the practice at the MRVHC has served an estimated 70-80% of the population of the Mad River Valley at one time or another. Each month, Dr. Cook's practice sees an average of 600 patients and provides an average of 1050 patient procedures. Because of a 48% increase in the population of the Valley over the last 20 years, the health center building is **was** strained to serve the increased demands. In 2003, the board began a capital campaign for the purpose of raising money to construct a new and expanded health facility on the existing site. The new building, **re-opened in December 2005**, will provide increased medical office space to more efficiently serve the needs of the current medical practice. A second floor will provide additional space for complementary health services, a health information resource library, as well as space to hold health and wellness workshops. The building is designed to fit aesthetically into the streetscape of the historic Waitsfield Village location.

The mission of the MRVHC is to provide a quality facility to insure the availability of local health care to residents of the Mad River Valley, neighboring towns and visitors. Dr. Cook, two nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, and a three person administrative staff, operate a comprehensive family practice that provides health care to persons of all ages. **The Mad River Family Practice, owned by Central Vermont Medical Center, operates a comprehensive family practice that provides health care to persons of all ages.** The staff provides physical and gynecological exams, well child care, immunizations, lab work, diabetes **and other chronic illness as well as treatment of and** mental health care as well as timely response to illness, injury and accidents. In 1996, the Health Center received Rural Health Center designation further enhancing the services available to Medicaid and Medicare patients.

A new health care facility, Mad River Internal Medicine, opened in Waitsfield in 2001. The center is owned and operated by Dr. Karen Endacott, M.D. who has lived in the Valley since 1999. Previous to opening her private practice, she worked in Barre and East Corinth clinics. In addition, Dr. Endacott has worked in medical clinics abroad in Bandipur, Nepal and Arusha, Tanzania. Dr. Endacott has special interest in community and preventative medicine, as well as women's health.

### ***Hospitals***

Hospitals serving Warren residents are Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin, Gifford Memorial in Randolph, **Fletcher Allen Health Care / University of Vermont** ~~the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont~~ in Burlington and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Emergency after-hour service is available from a physician on call or at a hospital emergency department.

### ***Additional Health Services***

**A variety of other** ~~Other public agencies offer specific~~ medical services **are available** to Warren residents. Those currently available are as follows:

**Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice Visiting Nurse Service:** Home health care which includes therapy (physical, speech, occupational) and counseling, consoling the elderly; homemaker service (meals, shopping, housekeeping); Hospice consoling and counseling the terminally ill and their families; and child birthing classes.

**Vermont Department of Health:** Well Child Clinic (preschool immunization), WIC Programs (prenatal and preschool nutritional programs).

**Washington County Mental Health:** 24-hour emergency service, out-patient clinic, substance abuse programs, job placement, day programs, day hospital and resident programs.

**Dentist:** Valley Dental Associates provides full service general dentistry.

**Pharmacy:** The Drug Store is a community pharmacy with full prescription drug services and an on-site pharmacist.

In addition to these services, check the local phone book for physical therapy, chiropractic, massage therapy, mental health services as well as several yoga and exercise / fitness studios.

### ***Senior Services***

Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Incorporated (MRVSC) is a non-profit corporation that coordinates and provides services for the older citizens of Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield and Warren. In December 1998 the Seniors purchased the former Valley Inn and converted the Inn to shared housing and a senior center. The Senior Center, named Evergreen Place, is located in Irasville within walking distance of a number of essential services. Evergreen Place offers 18 residential rooms with private baths, ~~6~~ **all** of which are fully accessible, a large common area and a dining room that can seat 60. Evergreen Place is a shared housing facility for mobile senior citizens. In 2004, Evergreen Place ~~began studying the feasibility of expanded~~ **ing and enhancing** its facility.

The MRVSC has approximately 50 active members, and the lifetime membership cost is only \$1. MRVSC provides a number of services including a meals program, a monthly blood pressure clinic, a foot clinic once a week, and Bingo four evenings per

month. The meals program offers lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Evergreen Place. In-home meals also are available Monday through Friday upon request. Funding is provided through a combination of local, state and federal grants and donated time and energy of Valley residents.

## Child Care

During the 2002/2003 legislative session, the Vermont legislature passed a bill which included a new planning goal for municipalities. In June 2003, Public Act 67 amended Chapter 117 of 24 VSA (Municipal And Regional Planning And Development) to add goal 13, "To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development." Child care in this context encompasses the care of children from birth to age twelve. Most families (especially single parent families) in Warren lead lives that require full- or part-time child care outside of their homes. It has been estimated that child care represents 17% of a basic needs budget for a Vermont family. The accessibility, affordability and quality of child care also affects parents' ability to enter the workforce, be productive while at work and remain employed. The 2000 US Census reported that in 69.6% of families with children under the age of 6 in Warren both parents were employed. This indicates a potential need for child care services.

The elementary school ~~also offers an~~ after-school ~~programs for preschool children and for students from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.~~ The after care program for preschoolers, known as KPAS, runs from 11 AM to 3 PM. The K-6 afterschool program operates between 3 and 5 in the afternoon. ~~and is used once or twice a week for "play group."~~ Playgroup is also offered through the school, giving children preschool age and younger an opportunity to play with each other and experience a variety of activities with their parents' supervision. ~~a three-hour block of time when pre-schoolers play with each other under parental supervision. The school collaborates with the Family Center of Washington County to provide service to eligible children.~~

~~In 2010, there were two licensed or registered~~ There are a number of private day care facilities in the Mad River Valley. ~~In 2004, there were six licensed child care facilities in Warren in addition to the programs at the Warren Elementary School. There may be others that are not licensed. These six facilities have a total available capacity of 169 children. There may be other child care operations in Warren that are not licensed.~~ The Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services requires any person who provides care for children from more than two families, other than their own, to be registered or licensed. Family day care home registration is for a care giver seeking to operate out of his/her private home. A care giver wishing to care for children in a building other than his/her home requires a state license. A registered care giver may provide care in his/her home to six children, including up to two children under the age of two at any one time. In addition to the six, he or she may care for up to four school-age children for not more than four hours daily per child. Children who reside in the home are not counted in these limits, unless they are under the age of two.

Sugarbush operates the largest licensed facility in the Valley. A licensed facility is allowed to provide care to a larger number of children and is subject to more stringent

regulation and periodic inspection. Sugarbush has the capacity to care for up to 84 children. ~~During 1998/99 non-ski season, the day care had an enrollment of approximately 15 children.~~

~~Less than 6% of the respondents to the 2004 Questionnaire indicated that they use child care. Most of these used facilities in Warren. Only 10% of the respondents using child care indicated the service was not affordable or that their needs were not being met (see Appendix A). More formal study into the availability and need for child care is required.~~

## **Recreational & Cultural Activities**

Warren and the Mad River Valley abound in year-round cultural and recreational activities for residents and visitors alike. Cultural activities include opera, theater and chorale groups and performances, as well as the Vermont Festival of the Arts. Winter recreational activities include skiing (alpine, Nordic and variations in between), snowshoeing, skating and snowmobiling, while the warmer months feature a wide variety of recreational activities including biking (road and mountain), canoeing and kayaking, fishing, flying and soaring, golf, hiking, horseback riding, swimming and tennis.

~~While the recreation base of Warren rests upon skiing and ski-related facilities, there have been recent efforts to increase year-round tourism through cultural activities as well as soaring, golfing, tennis, horseback riding, on- and off-road biking, and numerous related indoor and outdoor recreational activities. Fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, and cross-country skiing continue to be popular pursuits.~~

## **Public Recreation Facilities & Programs**

Brooks Recreation Field in Warren Village has been the primary recreation field for the school and public use in Warren since the school was built in 1972. The field is used for baseball and softball diamonds; a field for soccer, ultimate frisbee and rugby; a cricket pitch; an ice rink for hockey and figure skating; and two tennis courts.

In 2004, the Brooks Recreation Field was not usable due to the construction of the Village Decentralized Wastewater System. The field has been regraded and seeded and is available again for recreational use, although the ball diamond and lights are in need of renovation.

Historically, Brook's Field has been used for the vendors and activities at the Fourth of July Fair. During the construction of the Village Decentralized Wastewater System the vendors were confined to the Village streets and other festivities were limited due to the space constraints.

In 2004, the Warren Selectboard decided to expand Brooks Recreation Field and ~~started the process of having~~ had the area logged and stumped. The newly logged area ~~will provide~~s space for the Warren Fourth of July vendors since they cannot park on the older field that now doubles as the village wastewater system leach field.

During the flood in June 1998, three homes located in the floodplain were destroyed. Working through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Acquisition Program, the Town purchased the damaged properties, which made it possible for the homeowners to buy new homes out of the floodplain. The Town removed the damaged

and at-risk structures from the floodplain and created Riverside Park to provide public access to the Mad River for swimming and boating and to the Mad River Path. A second small piece of property adjacent to the Covered Bridge in the Village was also purchased. In total, nearly 5 acres of river frontage has been added to the Town's inventory through the FEMA program.

Children's swimming programs are sponsored by the Mad River Valley Recreation District, usually at the Bridges or the Sugarbush Health and Racquet Club. The Valley swim team uses facilities at Norwich University in Northfield. The Warren Recreation Commission also sponsors children's programs, including an annual Christmas theater presentation, a summer recreation program and gymnastics classes. The Catamount Trail offers cross-country skiing through the western part of Town. As growth occurs in Warren, it will become increasingly in the Town's interest to expand public recreational facilities and purchase additional land for less formal recreation.

The Mad River Path Association's (MRPA), **mission is to build, maintain, support and conserve a system of continuous public pathways from Warren to Moretown to foster a healthy community by connecting the people, schools, businesses and special places of the Mad River Valley.** MRPA, a non-profit organization, works closely with the Town of Warren and, local property owners **and citizens to continue the work to complete the Mad River Path.** ~~provide public recreation trails in the town.~~

**The completion of the path as a recreational trail and alternative transportation route is a goal within the Town Plan. The town accomplishes this by providing support to the Executive Director, trail maintenance, and easement acquisition.**

The Warren Path that heads north from Brooks Field is a wooded trail approximately one mile long. ~~It is the goal of the MRPA to link the towns and villages of the Mad River Valley from Moretown to Warren with the Mad River Greenway Recreation Trail.~~ **Also, the section from Riverside Park to the Sugarbush snowmaking pond is open as well as the Kingsbury farm section. We look forward to when these sections are linked together and ultimately tied into the Waitsfield sections.** ~~In 2004, the MRPA officially opened the Kingsbury Bridge Greenway section. Extending from Warren Riverside Park to Butternut Hill Road, this trail traverses along the Sugarbush Pond and links the Towns of Warren and Waitsfield.~~

The MRPA receives funding from the Town of Warren through the Mad River Valley Recreation District, **its membership, grants, and by hosting the Mad Dash in the fall and by co-running the Sugarbush Adventure games in the spring.** **These are both popular annual events that celebrate community, health and fitness.** Residents of Warren serve on the MRPA board of directors as well as volunteering for trail work. ~~In September the MRPA hosts the Mad Dash, a popular annual community event that celebrates community, health and fitness.~~

### **Private Recreational Facilities**

Sugarbush owns and maintains numerous trails, lifts, and indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Two sports facilities are located in close proximity to the ski area and offer swimming, weightlifting, rock climbing and other gym-related activities. There are two cross-country ski touring centers in Warren. One center operates at the Sugarbush Airport in the winter and one operates near Blueberry Lake. Numerous horseback riding

centers are located in East Warren. Tennis facilities are located the Sugarbush Health and Racquet Club, and the Bridges. Sugarbush Resort operates an 18-hole championship golf course.

### **Other Forms of Recreation**

Fishing, swimming, canoeing, hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing ("bush-whacking") on both private and public lands is available throughout the Warren. Warren also helps fund the Skatium ice rink in Waitsfield.

### **Arts and Cultural Activities**

In April 1987, the Selectboard established the Warren Arts Committee for the purpose of providing cultural activities for town residents. The mission of the Warren Arts Committee is to provide a variety of affordable musical and cultural events for the residents of Warren. **Sugarbush has also become active in hosting musical events throughout the year.**

~~The Arts Committee has sponsored a wide range of artistic programs that appeal to all ages. Using the facilities of the Warren United Church and the Town Hall, the Committee has been able to provide quality performances uncommon for a town the size of Warren. With the addition of the new stage at the Warren Elementary School, the Warren Arts Committee will have another fine venue in which to present music and theatre to the general public as well as programming for school children. Sugarbush has also become active in the promotion of musical events, hosting a number of activities throughout the year.~~

**The Vermont opera festival got its start in Warren with intimate evenings of music held at the Pitcher Inn. The Mad River Chorale & Company ("MRC &Co."), a locally based singing group, and Café Noir host musical events at The Gate House at Sugarbush. MRC & Co envisions a future that would include launching a music school / camp in the Valley. The Phantom Theater. Housed in an historic Warren Barn during the summer, offers professional theater performances, while a local group conducts workshops for aspiring young thespians here in the Valley.**

**The Vermont Festival of the Arts is now listed by the State of Vermont as one of the top 10 events in the State. Although the Festival is Valley-wide many, of its events span art exhibits, tours of artists' studios, art and cooking workshops, barn and garden tours, food and wine tastings, musical performances, outdoor recreation, and the Warren Village Street Fair.**

**Finally, in Warren, music and art play an important role in fund raising for charitable events. Many restaurants open their doors to benefits for great causes. Private home owners also host functions to help local charities.**

## **Public Lands**

### **Town Lands**

The 28-acre Brooks Recreation Field and the adjacent 100-acre Eaton Estate parcel are the two largest parcels of land the Town owns. These properties are currently used as an extensive recreational area and also encompass the elementary school, town shed and a wastewater treatment facility. A double tennis court was built in 1985. Other recreation activities that take place during the year include cross-country skiing, running, soccer, cricket, and rugby. The Fourth of July Fair takes place here each year.

Other properties belonging to the Town (see map#6) include the park and bandstand near the concrete bridge in the Village, the cemeteries in Warren Village and East Warren, the site of the old town garage near the concrete bridge at the north end of the Village, the old town dump land, and a small lot directly across from the Town Hall. The Town also owns the former Coates property immediately west of the northerly intersection of Main Street and Route 100 for use as a municipal gravel pit and possible eventual use as recreation fields or a resource area for a municipal water system.

### **Other Conserved Lands**

Warren purchased development rights for a portion of the former George Elliott farm in 1985 located at the East Warren four corners (see Map 5) as well as an addition 147 acres along the west side of East Warren Road. The Town participated in the securing of public access and granting of conservation easements to the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) on portions of the former Eurich Farm as well as Double Top Mountain, both in 1986. In 1994 a conservation easement in East Warren (Fuller Hill) was donated to VLT. Part of the easement provides a public corridor to the National Forest near the Mill Brook. In 2000, the Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership assisted with the conservation of 45 acres of open meadow and woodland behind the East Warren Schoolhouse and in 2001 helped to permanently conserve 200 acres off of the Sugarbush Access Road. At the end of 2003, 309 acres of the Blair Farm at the corner of Fuller Hill and Plunkton roads were conserved. Excluding lands on the Green Mountain National Forest, there are nearly 2000 acres of privately owned land under conservation easement in the Town of Warren.

### **Green Mountain National Forest**

The Green Mountain National Forest currently owns approximately 7,200 acres in the Town of Warren. Approximately 18% of these lands, or some 1,260 acres, is under a special use permit to Sugarbush Resort for winter sports resort use. Although hiking, hunting, fishing, and sightseeing are allowed on the permitted lands, the primary use is downhill skiing. The Long Trail, which runs along the peaks of the Lincoln Range, is maintained by the Green Mountain Club. Recently, Sugarbush donated an easement to the Green Mountain Club along the Lincoln Range.

Approximately 650 acres in the southwest corner of the town have been included in the Breadloaf Wilderness, a component of the National Forest Wilderness system. As

designated wilderness, such activities as road construction, timber cutting and the operation of motorized vehicles are prohibited. The remaining federal acres are managed under the multiple use concept. At present they are chiefly used for hunting, fishing, hiking, logging, and primitive camping.

With help from the Friends of the Mad River, The Conservation Fund purchased Warren Falls to improve public access to the Mad River and to preserve a stellar swim hole. The USFS then bought the property from The Conservation Fund in 1998. The 368 acre Blueberry Lake parcel that is now owned by the Green Mountain National Forest was transferred through a similar collaboration in 2002.

The Green Mountain National Forest may purchase land within the approximately 12,800 acre National Forest Proclamation Boundary in the Town of Warren without specific Congressional approval. The Warren Planning Commission has recommended extending the Proclamation Boundary to include the entire town so needed land purchases can be made more easily. Management of land purchased in this manner would be under the guidelines of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and as outlined in the Green Mountain National Forest Management Plan. During 2003 and 2004, the Green Mountain National Forest underwent a lengthy public process of revising the Management Plan. The newly formed Warren Conservation Committee participated in the revision process. In July of 2000, the Forest Service and Sugarbush Resort worked out an exchange of approximately 57 acres (the parking lots and surrounding area) adjacent to Sugarbush Village for other productive forest land and an undisclosed sum of money.

## **Utilities**

### **Water Supply**

Data from the Mad River Valley Growth Study (May 1980) indicate an overall abundance of water within the Mad River Valley. However, individual watersheds within the Valley may experience shortages. Areas that have good potential for recharging aquifers include exposed bedrock, shallow soils to bedrock, and pockets of coarse ground material where water can be impounded. When development is proposed for such areas, particularly those located at higher elevations, it should be carefully considered so potentially negative impacts may be avoided. Groundwater probability areas with the potential for providing large volumes of water are found in the flood plain of the Mad River and its major tributaries.

The Mad River and all its tributaries are defined by the State as Class B rivers and, as such, are suitable for bathing and recreation, irrigation, and agricultural uses. They provide good habitat for fish and have high aesthetic value. They are acceptable for public water supply with filtration and disinfection. As Class B waters, they are subject to discharge restrictions on levels of dissolved oxygen, color, and turbidity, as defined by state statute. Any direct discharge of sewage effluent or other activity which would result in the degradation of water quality, would precipitate the reclassification of at least a segment of the river or a tributary to a waste management zone. Such a down-grading of the river classification would present the risk of adverse environmental impact to the river, as well the potential for altering development patterns due to the elimination of an

important development constraint. If reclassification is ever proposed, a thorough analysis of the long-term environmental, social and economic implications should be conducted before reclassification is considered.

### ***Sugarbush Water Supply***

The major public water system in Warren is owned and maintained by a subsidiary of Sugarbush Resort, the Mountain Water Company, and serves the needs of Sugarbush Resort and Sugarbush Village. The Company currently is serving 648 users and has the capacity to serve approximately 715 users. This water system utilizes water from Clay Brook treated in an infiltration gallery by the incorporation of two pressure filters. The rate of withdrawal from Clay Brook is currently limited by state permits to 274,000 gallons per day (gpd). The treatment capacity is 125 gallons per minute for each of two filters (180,000 gpd per filter). After filtration, the water is chlorinated and discharged to a distribution system comprised of four and six-inch pipes and six reservoirs providing 238,000 gallons of storage. The system is supplemented by seven drilled wells with a combined yield of 93,000 gpd. The topography of the area requires that the distribution system be divided into three service zones. In an effort to ensure compatibility between domestic demand and the environmental needs of Clay Brook, an elaborate monitoring and withdrawal control system has been implemented through the Act 250 process.

### ***Warren Village Water Supply***

A number of years ago groundwater contamination in Warren Village prompted the Town to investigate the extent of the problem and options for the future. The study's results indicated that the Village ground water supply is susceptible to contamination from surface influences, including septic systems, road salt and chemical spills. The study further indicated that a municipal water system to supply the Village area could provide an economical means of eliminating these threats to the water supply. The community wastewater disposal system, which ~~will be~~ **was** completed in 2005, should help alleviate this problem.

### ***Snowmaking***

Sugarbush Resort operates a snowmaking system, using water drawn from the Mad River and stored at a 12-acre man-made pond adjacent to Route 100 at the Waitsfield/ Warren border. The system includes pumps, distribution lines, compressors, compressed air lines, and snow**making** guns. Water and air is combined to create a mist that freezes into manmade snow upon exposure to the appropriate air temperature. **The main snowmaking line running between the manmade pond to the Lincoln Peak base area also provides water for emergency purposes to 15 fire hydrants. These hydrants are located primarily along the Sugarbush Access Road, with spurs servicing portions of the German Flats Road, the Maples Condominium and Colony subdivision.**

### **Wastewater Disposal**

With the exception of the Sugarbush wastewater treatment plant and the Warren Village facility, most wastewater in Warren is handled- by individual subsurface disposal

systems. Given the predominance of impermeable glacial tills in Warren, this can pose a potential health hazard. Areas above 1,500 to 1,800 feet are generally shallow to bedrock, with slopes over 15%, and contain the upper reaches of the watershed. As such, they are extremely susceptible to damage from high-density development that could increase surface runoff and potentially pollute groundwater recharge.

### ***Sugarbush Wastewater Disposal***

Presently, Mountain Wastewater Treatment, Inc., and the Lincoln Peak wastewater treatment facility, both owned and maintain by a subsidiary of Sugarbush Resort, owns and maintains are the Town's only advanced wastewater treatment facilities, although many larger projects do maintain large subsurface septic and leaching systems. The Mountain Wastewater Treatment Sugarbush wastewater system, originally constructed in 1969/70, is comprised of more than two miles of eight-inch sewer pipe, nearly 80 manholes, and a treatment facility. The facility utilizes aerated lagoons, chemical addition, filtration, and chlorination to produce an effluent of tertiary treatment quality (BOD and suspended solids are less than 10 parts per million). The Mountain Wastewater Treatment plant provides wastewater services to the Sugarbush Village condominiums and private residences, the Sugarbush Village businesses, Snow Creek condominiums, the Sugarbush Health and Racquet Club and several of the Lincoln Peak base area buildings.

The wastewater facility has a treatment capacity of 163,000 gallons per day. The treated effluent is stored in a large holding tank. The effluent is discharged into two leach fields adjacent to Rice Brook where it remains in the leach field for a short very brief period of time. Because the flow in Rice Brook is small and varies with the season, the amount of effluent discharged into the leach field is varied to match the flow in the brook. This system is grandfathered under the Indirect Discharge Rules of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). From 1988 through 1991, a biological-greenhouse sewage treatment demonstration project was in operation at Sugarbush. Although, the facility clearly demonstrated the viability of biological disposal methods in Vermont, ANR determined that it was not an acceptable means of treating waste on a permanent basis. Recently, ANR has permitted similar projects in other locations.

In 2006 Sugarbush Resort opened a new wastewater treatment facility, the Lincoln Peak wastewater treatment facility, adjacent to the employee parking lot off the east side of Inferno Road. The Lincoln Peak wastewater treatment plant has a 66,000 gallon per day wastewater treatment capacity consisting of sequencing batch reactors (SBRs) followed by filtration and ultraviolet disinfection. The SBR process is designed to achieve nitrification, denitrification and biological phosphorous removal. The tertiary treated effluent is discharged via pressure distribution to a series of dual alternating leachfields. The leachfields have a disposal capacity of 79,210 gallons per day. Currently the facility provides wastewater disposal services for the Clay Brook residences and hotel and will also provide disposal for future Lincoln Peak base area development.

In addition to the existing treatment facility, a new batch facility has been permitted on the 22-acre site located at the southeast corner of Access and Inferno Roads. As permitted in 2003, the facility will have the capacity to handle the waste from the any development at Lincoln Peak and other proposed on mountain improvements. If built,

~~the new facility may be maintained and operated by Mountain Wastewater, Inc. or a new subsidiary. It is proposed to treat up to 66,600 gallons of wastewater per day.~~

### **Warren Village Wastewater Disposal**

Dealing with wastewater treatment and water pollution in Warren Village has been a major concern of the Selectboard and Mad River Valley Planning District since the mid 1980s. The historic settlement pattern of Warren Village, with houses concentrated at high densities along the Mad River and Freeman Brook, has led to serious problems for continued on-site water and wastewater disposal. Because of small lot sizes and the presence of ledge on many properties, failing on-site septic systems often cannot be rebuilt to current Vermont standards. When on-site systems cannot be replaced, other methods of wastewater treatment, including off-site disposal, have to be available if buildings are to continue to be used. There were concerns that without an alternative to on-site systems, the Village might begin to lose its historic homes and buildings and with them its economic vitality and historic character.

In 1987, the Town sponsored a wastewater disposal alternatives study. The results of this study suggested that on-site disposal ~~could~~ ~~may~~ be expected to accommodate future development needs in much of Warren, including the Alpine Village settlement. Regarding Warren Village, the study recommended additional planning efforts to address future wastewater disposal needs. In 1989, the Town, in conjunction with other Valley towns and Sugarbush, sponsored a Valley-wide wastewater alternatives study, the results of which were to demonstrate the feasibility of a system that would potentially link Sugarbush Village, Mount Ellen, and Mad River Glen Ski area, Irasville, Waitsfield Village and Warren Village. While the preliminary cost estimates for such a system were considerable, three potential disposal sites on the floor of the Valley were identified and analyzed. Due to distance, it was recommended that Warren Village pursue an independent wastewater solution.

The 1994 Warren Village Wastewater Disposal Feasibility Study (Wagner, Heindel & Noyes) determined the need for a 30,000 gallon per day (gpd) treatment system and identified Brooks Field at the Warren School as the best disposal site. Preliminary engineering for a community system continued in 1995 and 1996 through a State wastewater planning advance program. However, annual user fees for the system were initially estimated at \$550. This figure posed serious concerns for Village residents and the project stalled.

In 1997, limitations of the on-site septic system serving the Pitcher Inn led owners to discuss an agreement with the Town to build a forced main and 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) leach field at Brooks Field. In July 1997 the Town granted the agreement, stipulating that the Town would work towards an eventual public takeover of the system. In October 1997 an Act 250 permit for the 5,000 gpd system was granted and it was built.

Over the winter of 1997 the community system engineering plans were re-evaluated. A final Community Wastewater System Engineering Study (Phelps Engineering), published in March 1998, proposed a 30,000 gpd system serving about 60% of Village buildings at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million, and estimated user fees of \$350 to \$400 per year.

Just as the Town started working with State and Federal agencies to secure public funding for the work, the June 1998 floods damaged or destroyed several on-site systems

within the Village. This prompted Vermont's congressional delegation to help secure a \$1.5 million grant through the US Environmental Protection Agency for Warren to explore a combination of approaches to managing wastewater in the Village.

The grant, through EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Planning Program, enabled Warren to evaluate a combination of techniques to manage wastewater in the Village. These include on-going maintenance of on-site systems, building off-site disposal systems like the Brooks Field system, and installing alternative on-site systems serving one or more buildings. In July 1998, Warren Village residents voted in a straw vote after a public meeting to continue planning and exploration for the Brooks Field system. In October 1998, the Town took over the Pitcher Inn system. In the agreement the Town will repay the costs of the 5,000 gpd system "if, when and as" additional capacity is permitted and built and users are connected, up to a maximum of 30,000 gpd and a maximum cost of \$305,258. A Board of Sewer Commissioners was formed in January 1999 to oversee operation of the system, and a new Health Ordinance was adopted, covering all on-site systems in the Town as well as the 5,000 gpd system.

In 1999, Stone Environmental was retained by the town to conduct a needs assessment which included an evaluation of each wastewater system in the village. After evaluating the current village systems, the consultants recommended a combination of individual on-site systems, both conventional and innovative, along with a range of small to large cluster systems. Between 2000 and 2004, the town worked with Forcier, Aldrich and Associates to design the system and to work with the village residents who opted to participate in the project. The Town obtained the necessary local and state permits in 2002 and put Phase 1 of the project out to bid in the spring of 2003. The lowest bidding contractor, NL Chagnon, was hired to complete Phase 1 of the project during the summer of 2003, which entailed expanding the existing disposal system at Brooks Field and connecting the participating properties within the village. Phase 2 of the project, which includes installing the village on-site systems for those properties that will not be connected to the Brooks Field Disposal System, ~~is expected to be~~ was completed in 2005 by NL Chagnon. ~~during 2005.~~

~~Once~~ ~~There are~~ completed, approximately 74 65 users will be hooked up to the village wastewater system. The operation and maintenance charges have two components, a Base Charge and a Usage Charge. The Base Charge pays 70% of the Annual Budget and is a combined fixed living unit charge of \$200 259 and a fixed bedroom charge of \$47 63 per bedroom. The Usage Charge ~~is a combined fixed charge will that~~ pays 30% of the Annual Budget. ~~The fixed cost of \$81 is per bedroom for flat rate usage charges. After operating the system for two years, the Town could not base their cost on metered usage. It was found that the homes on the system were very water efficient and many of the homes on the system are second home owners, which see sporadic use. It was determined that the operation and maintenance costs could not be supported by the usage charges thus leaving the rate system as a flat rate based system. based on a water meter reading that will entail a dollar amount per 1,000 gallons of metered water.~~ Operation and Maintenance charges will be billed four times per year.

~~In October 2008, the Town hired Forcier, Aldrich and Associates to amend the sewer district boundaries with ACT 250 to allow new flows for seven properties outside the current boundaries. In February 2009 the amendment was issued to allow the additional flows. The Town also has to perform down gradient monitoring at Brooke~~

### Field to ensure continued compliance with the Town's Indirect Discharge Permit allowing new flows into the system.

~~Aside from existing flows, new flows will not be allowed into the Brooks Field System until after the Town completes the State required new flow study and after the Indirect Discharge Permit has been amended. The Study is proposed to take place after the system has been in operation for two years.~~ Residents applying for new flows will be required to submit a Sewer Use Application to the Town, which will be reviewed by the Selectboard. Applications may be reviewed on a first come, first serve basis. The total remaining uncommitted wastewater reserve capacity shall be allocated by the Board in a manner that is consistent with the Town's allocation priorities. The total uncommitted reserve capacity shall be reviewed by the Board each 6 months and committed reserve capacity shall be regularly recorded and updated for use in allocation decisions. The Town adopted a Sewer Ordinance for the Municipal Wastewater System in 2004, which is updated yearly.

To assist with the design and installation of the Wastewater Project, the Town received a \$1.5 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency On-Site Demonstration grant, a \$1.3 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency State and Tribal Assistance Grant, an \$880,000 Vermont Dry Weather Flow Grant, and a \$3,000 Vermont Administration Grant. The Town voted on Town Meeting Day in March of 2002 to approve a bond in the amount of \$830,000. The Bond Cost Estimate is \$50,756 per year for 20 years allowing for a Town tax increase of \$0.017 cents. The Town also voted funds in the amount of \$125,000 on Town Meeting Day in 1999, 2000 and 2001. The total cost of the project is \$4,654,000.

### **Solid Waste Management**

Warren is a member of the Mad River Valley Solid Waste Alliance. The Alliance is a six-town district that includes Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Waitsfield and Waterbury. A representative and alternate from each town serves on the Alliance Board. The Board meets bi-monthly to set policy, determine programs and oversee the District Administrator. Presently, solid waste is trucked by private hauler to Waste Systems International (formerly Palisades) Landfill in Moretown. A regional transfer facility operates on Route 100 in Waitsfield, providing Valley towns with a convenient solid waste disposal site as well as a place to recycle materials. The Alliance holds two household hazardous waste events annually, produces a newsletter twice a year, and hosts an annual composter truckload sale. The Alliance owns a number of used oil recycling tanks which are being used at the Waitsfield transfer station and the landfill. Also available at the landfill is an oil filter crushing machine.

### **Communication**

#### **Local Phone Service**

Warren's local telephone service is provided by Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, a locally owned, Independent Telephone Company that has been providing telecommunication services to the Mad River Valley since 1904. Long Distance

telephone service is available from a variety of national providers as well as locally through Green Mountain Long Distance Service, which is the long distance subsidiary of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.

### **Wireless Service / Telecommunication Facilities**

**Cellular** ~~Wireless~~ telephone services are available in **Warren and parts of the Mad River Valley. Verizon Wireless, AT&T Wireless, SPRINT Sprint and Nextel Univel** maintain wireless facilities **at the Sugarbush Village Commercial and Vacation Residential Districts. in the Valley. The balance between protecting scenic resources and providing increased wireless service needs to be considered as the demand for wireless service grows.**

Recently, the Warren Planning Commission recommended and the legislative body approved on April 13, 2010 an updated telecommunications section to Article 4 to the Warren Land Use and Development Regulations. As stated in the Commission's public report: *The purpose of this amendment is to revise the provisions of Warren's Land Use and Development Regulations related to telecommunication facilities and to approve a minor modification of the boundary of the Sugarbush Village Residential district. The objective is to promote co-location of new telecommunications antennas on existing towers, or on / within existing structures by streamlining the review process for such applications. The revisions also bring Warren's regulations into compliance with state requirements for de minimus review of minor changes to existing telecommunications facilities.*

The commission believes that this will promote expansion of wireless coverage for the Sugarbush Village Growth Study Area and with the careful placement of **de Minimus** facilities upgrade and expansion of the telecommunications infrastructure in Town.

In addition, Ppaging service is available through Contact Communications, Rinkers Communications, and Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom.

### **Internet Access and Broadband**

Dial-up Internet services are available through a variety of local and national providers, including Green Mountain Access (the Internet subsidiary of Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom). Green Mountain Access also offers broadband Internet services via high-speed DSL and T-1 services as well as web hosting.

### **Cable Television**

Cable Television Services are available to residents of the Mad River Valley through Waitsfield Cable. Waitsfield Cable delivers over 150 channels of analog and digital programming including local radio stations and pay-per-view. There are three local origination channels operating in the Mad River Valley, Sugarbush Resort Television (channel 12), Waitsfield Cable (channel 11), and Mad River Valley Television (channels 44 and 45), a local public access station which offers local programming,

including televised events, public meetings, and other content of interest to Valley residents.

### **Newspapers**

The Mad River Valley is served by two daily Vermont newspapers, the Gannett Corporation-owned Burlington Free Press, which provides very limited coverage of local events, and the Barre-based Barre-Montpelier Times Argus, which provides regional coverage of significant events and issues. The Valley Reporter and the Vermont Journal are weekly newspapers based in Waitsfield that provide coverage of local news and events. As of Spring 2004, the Valley Reporter is designated as the Town's newspaper of record for the publication of official notices and warnings.

### **Radio Stations**

Many radio stations from Burlington and surrounding communities can be picked up in Warren. **WMRW-LP, Warren (95.1 FM) is a 100-watt (low power) all-volunteer, noncommercial, community radio station broadcasting (over the airwaves, and via Waitsfield Cable), 24 hours / day to the Mad River Valley, and as of February 10, 2010 broadcasting to the world via the internet at wmrw.org.**

**WMRW's mission is to inform, entertain, educate, and connect the diverse Mad River Valley community through independent, non-commercial, volunteer radio programming. WMRW's FCC license is held by Rootsworks Inc, a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and sustainable communities. Both Rootsworks and WNRW are located in the East Warren Schoolhouse.**

**WMRW exists to empower its listeners. WMRW encourages all residents to share their viewpoints, knowledge and talents with the community by hosting a regular show. As of winter 2010, WMRW has 48 local volunteer programmers ranging in age from 16 to 73, offering a diverse mix of music, talk and local public service announcements. In addition, nationally syndicated alternative news and entertainment shows not available from most mainstream media sources are aired. These include Democracy Now, E-Town, and Free Speech Radio News. Additional broadcasting schedule updates are available at WMRW's website, WMRW.org.**

~~Rootswork, a local non-profit organization, started broadcasting WMRW FM Radio from an antenna at the East Warren Schoolhouse Market in the Fall of 2004. The station broadcasts at a power under 100 watts and should be able to reach Warren, Waitsfield, and some of Fayston. WMRW will be is on the air 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.~~

### **Community Services, Facilities and Utilities Goals**

Goal 8.A The provision of an environmentally sound and cost efficient system of community services, facilities and utilities to meet present and future demands of Warren citizens and visitors.

- Goal 8.B The expansion of community facilities and services in a manner consistent with the goals and policies of this Plan.
- Goal 8.C The provision of educational programs and facilities that enable every child to become a competent, caring, productive, responsible individual and citizen.
- Goal 8.D The availability of safe and affordable child care services that will enable Warren residents to work out of the home while providing for their children's care.

**Objective 8.1. To ensure that adequate facilities and services are in place to accommodate future demands, so that those demands do not create an unreasonable burden on the Town's ability to provide one or more facility or service.**

### **Implementation Strategies**

- a) Control the pace and scale of development to insure the adequacy of facilities, services, and roads.
- b) Encourage private facilities and services to relieve burdens on municipal facilities and services. Assurances shall be provided to protect the Town from assuming responsibility for such facilities or services.
- c) Maintain the Capital Budget and Program, forecasting needs for schools, roads, land purchase, police and fire protection, recreation, and general governmental costs.
- d) Establish procedure for evaluating development proposals for demands on municipal facilities and services and the local road network, and for assessing developers to ensure that the public costs associated with new development are funded by the developer. Consider, as an option the need for development of appropriate impact fees in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 131 and such other similar mechanisms that may be deemed appropriate.
- e) Require phasing of proposed development when necessary to lessen impact of demand on facilities and services.
- f) Through Land Use and Development Regulations, **continue to** require ~~new~~ development to accommodate firefighting needs, including such provisions as reservoirs, hydrants, standpipes, fire ponds, and turnarounds with 30' radii.
- g) Investigate future firefighting and police protection needs and alternatives for meeting those needs in conjunction with other Valley towns.

- h) Continue to support the Mad River Valley Ambulance Service.
- i) Encourage developments to contract for private police services when such services are deemed limited.
- j) Locate and acquire a suitable source of gravel to provide for the Town's future gravel needs.
- k) Support the Mad River Valley Health Center's **continued operation and service to the community** ~~growth plans~~.
- l) Evaluate the solid waste generation potential of new growth. Seek efficiencies in the handling and disposal of solid waste and continued use of the Valley Transfer Station.
- m) Continue to support the Mad River Valley Solid Waste Alliance.
- n) Continue efforts to expand and enhance the Municipal Building or other alternatives to the Municipal Building.

**Objective 8.2. To preserve the small town quality of Warren Village by maintaining and strengthening the Village as the center for town government and services.**

### **Implementation Strategies**

- a) Acquire property, where appropriate, to enable necessary growth in town government facilities.
- b) Identify and, where possible, provide services and facilities necessary to enable Warren Village to continue to function as the town center, including an expanded post office. Implement the Master Plan for Municipal Facilities in Appendix E and accrue necessary funds to support it. Develop an implementation priority, a phasing plan and a budget to support the plan. Negotiate for rights to key parcels adjacent to the municipal complex .
- c) Maintain and support the wastewater system in Warren Village.
- d) Maintain and enforce the Town's on-site sewage disposal ordinance and require approval under the ordinance as a prerequisite to other development approval.
- e) ~~Provide permanent, accessible public restrooms in Warren Village.~~
- f) Explore possibility of a municipal water system for Warren Village.

- g) Explore new or existing space for the Warren Historical Society.
- h) Develop a plan for emergency power generation for all town buildings.
- i) Adopt the recommendations to correct deficiencies and make improvements at the Town **Garage Shed**. Decide whether to implement at the current location or create a new facility at the alternative sites that have been identified.
- j) Revisit the recommendations for implementing traffic calming measures in the Village.

**Objective 8.3: To continue to provide high quality education.**

**Implementation Strategies**

- a) Continue to provide sufficient and appropriate space to meet current and projected educational needs.
- b) Continue to monitor population and school enrollment trends to address future needs in an efficient manner.
- c) Ensure the amount and rate of growth does not exceed the school's ability to provide adequate educational programs and facilities for students and other programs and services to the community.
- d) Continue to operate the school and grounds as models for responsible citizenship and environmental stewardship.

**Objective 8.4. To determine community needs for child care and help foster the availability of safe and affordable child care.**

**Implementation Strategies**

- a) Monitor the adequacy of child care services offered to the community through Town surveys and other means, including a Valley wide public forum or a needs assessment conducted by the regional planning commission.
- b) Foster cooperation between the various child care facilities in the Valley to improve service and availability.
- c) Consider financial incentives to child care providers, such as property tax abatement for child care providers.
- d) Determine if other Town facilities could be used for child care.

- e) Address any barriers to increasing child care capacity that may exist in the Land Use and Development Regulations.

**Objective 8.5. To maintain the land resource necessary to support recreation and public access to recreation areas.**

**Implementation Strategies**

- a) Where appropriate, acquire interest (e.g., conservation easement) in important recreation resource areas. Continue to fund the Town's Conservation Reserve Fund for this purpose.
- b) Encourage the U.S. Forest Service's acquisition of additional lands in Town to be included in the Green Mountain National Forest and consider expanding the Proclamation Boundary.
- c) Investigate options for the expansion at Brooks Field.

**Objective 8.6. To support private organizations working to meet the many different needs of Warren.**

**Implementation Strategies**

- a) Continue to support the Mad River Valley Seniors and the Evergreen Place Expansion Plan.
- b) Encourage the efforts of Rootswork to restore the East Warren School, provide radio service in the Valley, and promote sustainable agriculture, including its extensive use of nearby and adjacent private property that has been deeded for agricultural use only.
- c) Continue to support the Warren Arts Committee and their efforts to provide cultural activities for town residents and visitors.
- d) Encourage the efforts of the local theater group, the Phantom Theater, and its utilization of the privately owned historic Edgcomb Barn.
- e) Encourage the continuation of the Valley Community Fund and the Valley Food Shelf.
- f) Encourage and support the efforts of the Friends of the Mad River and the Mad Path's efforts to create a continuous bike path.

**Table 8.1**  
**Administration Cost Summary**  
**2005-2010**

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>% - Decrease</u>
	2005	425,394	-7.09%
	2006	408,159	-4.05%
	2007	470,042	15.16%
	2008	477,267	1.54%
	2009	454,135	-4.85%
Budget	2010	495,743	9.16%

Source: Warren Town Report 2005 - 2010

**Administration Cost Summary**  
**2000-2005**

2000	284,322	7%
2001	367,921	29.40%
2002	352,396	-4.22%
2003	371,460	5.41%
2004	457,859	23.26%
2005	425,394	-7.09%

Source: Warren Town Report 2000-2010,

**Table 8.2**  
**General Fund Expense Summary**  
**2005-2010**

	<u>Year</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
	2005	1,422,012	15.63%
	2006	1,593,090	12.03%
	2007	1,736,585	9.01%
	2008	1,964,607	13.13%
	2009	2,155,224	9.70%
Budget	2010	2,143,080	-0.56%

Source: Warren Town Report 2005-2010

**General Fund Expense Summary**  
**2000-2005**

	<u>Costs</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
2000	1,714,466	
2001	1,558,829	-9.08%
2002	1,506,752	-3.34%
2003	1,221,190	-18.95%
2004	1,229,842	0.71%
2005	1,422,012	15.63%

Source: Warren Town Report 2000-2010

**Table 8-4**Warren Road Department  
Equipment Inventory 2010

Equipment	Budgeted Replacement Value
2009 International/Tandem	220000
2007 International/Tandem	220000
2005 International/Tandem	220000
2001 International	89000
2000 International	89000
2008 Dodge 5500	40000
2002 Deer 544E Loader	150000
2004 Deer 544H -Backhoe	120000
2004 Deer - 672H Grader	200000
1988 Deer - 672B Grader	\$50,000
2000 Reed Screen	30000
Roadside Mower	20000
Tractors/Mowers	20000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1468000</b>

Source: Public Works Capital Budget 2009

Table 8.5

**Warren Village Station**

## Equipment Inventory

<u>Year</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Replacement Date</u>
1997	E-1 pumper	
1990	E-2 pumper	2010
1986	Chevrolet K30 (750 gpm pumper)	
2008	Dodge 5500 support vehicle	
1969	American LaFrance 100' Aerial	
2001	3,500-gallon tanker	
1948	Ford 500 gallon per minute pumper, retired	
1890	Soda Acid pumper, retired	

**Sugarbush Village Station**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Equipment</u>
1994	E-3 Pumper
1977	American LaFrance 100' Aerial

Source Warren Fire Department

Table 8.6 - 2003 & 2008 Incidents Requiring Police Attention		
	2003	2008
<b>Violent Crime</b>		
Murder/ Manslaughter	0	0
Sexual Assault	2	0
Robbery	0	0
Assault	6	3
<b>Property Crime</b>		
Burglary	26	14
Larceny/theft	45	9
Theft from Building		2
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	2
Theft from Motor Vehicle		5
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts		2
Destruction of Property/Vandalism		7
Other property Crime	17	
<b>Other Crime</b>		
Illegal Drug Incidents	3	
Disorderly Sonduct/Other	29	
<b>Traffic Incidents</b>		
Fata Crashes	0	
Accident Investigation	13	
Motor Vehicle Complaints	18	
Driving with a criminally suspended license		29
Speeding	N/A	249
DUI Incidents	23	39
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Arrest warrants a		16
Death Investigation	1	
Runaway Juvenile	1	
Assistance/Service Calls	185	300