

# A Plan for the development of enhanced community skiing at Beaver Meadow Golf Course



## Introduction

Nordic skiing (or cross-country skiing) is a lifelong activity accessible to all who choose to participate. It is enjoyed from the recreational to highly competitive levels and affords participants the opportunity to engage in winter activity in a safe, comfortable manner. All that is needed is good snow and an interesting track. Rentable skis at the track creates an enticing opportunity for citizen to experience the fun of being outdoors on snow in the winter.

In Concord, good snow conditions are available for skiing but we also get snow that is difficult to ski on or changes into difficult snow conditions. When this happens, interest wanes, skiers become frustrated, and safety is compromised. Snowmobile grooming can help but is minimally effective when snow becomes icy or needs to be moved around to cover thin-snow areas.

Modern groomers with tracks, a front blade, and a rear power tiller, can create great snow conditions nearly all of the time. Recently, smaller, more affordable versions of the ones used at down-hill ski areas, are being produced. Less often, available snow is the limiting factor and the only option is to make snow, and push it around the track to where it is needed. Lighting, along tree lines, extends safe skiing opportunities into early evening hours.



## Plan

We propose a three-phase plan to improve skiing at Beaver Meadow that will mesh with existing plans for improvements at the venue. This will improve access to skiing and bring many more skiers to the venue during winter months. The location, clubhouse, food vendors, and parking all contribute this plan and makes this city-owned area available to many more citizens of Concord. The three phases are listed below:

1. Purchase of tracked grooming machine, to be owned and operated by City of Concord and the initiation of a ski rental service, through a partnership with a local ski vendor.
2. Installation of snow making equipment on 1-kilometer loop.
3. Addition of lighting along a 1-kilometer loop, away from neighborhoods.

## Resources

We propose a combination of City and private funds to purchase the grooming equipment in Phase 1 for the 2021 winter season. City funds currently designated for replacement of snowmobile and tow-behind groomer (approx.. \$50,000) could be put toward the purchase of the groomer. The remainder of the funds (approximately \$70,000) would be sought from private donors with an interest in strong community recreational development opportunities. Our research indicates that private donations could provide most of the resources need for all phases of this community project. Total initial and maintenance costs are shown in table 1.

Phase	Year	Start-up Cost	Annual Maintenance
Phase 1	2021	\$120,000	\$500
Phase 2	2022	\$60,000	\$1,000
Phase 3	2023	\$50,000	\$1,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$230,000</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

## Who will benefit?

Currently, the **Concord Nordic Bill Koch Youth Ski League** meets at Beaver Meadow on Friday afternoons though the winter. Approximately 50 kids aged 6 to 12 meet and learn skiing skills and play games on skis. **Concord High School Nordic team** also trains here several days per week and hosts races. **Local citizens** of all ages, including families, ski throughout the day most days when conditions are favorable. In addition, **Shaker Road School, Bow High School, and Derryfield School** (Manchester) skiers have used the venue. Secondarily, the City benefits by utilizing the facilities over the winter and by providing support for the food services on site. This multi-purpose use of the facility provides additional value to the **residents of the City**.

