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## Section 4.

# **Social Capital**

## **Schools**

A school is not just an education resource, but also a great social networking hub for the community. Northfield's school system, which includes the Middle/high School and Comisky Elementary school, ranks fourth out of 23 in the state.

**Comisky Elementary School** has approximately 371 students from Preschool to Grade 5. Judy Granger is the School Principal.

**Northfield Middle/High School** recently experienced a glorious moment when the high school girl's soccer team, the Marauders, won their 13<sup>th</sup> state championship title in a victory over the Arlington Eagles on October 27, 2001. The Middle/High School Principal is Peter Evans.

**Norwich University** is the oldest private military academy in the United States. The academy moved from Norwich to Northfield in 1866 after the college buildings in Norwich burned down. For many years Norwich was the chief source of horse cavalry officers and engineers, outside of Westpoint. In the 1960's, there were about 1000 students attending the university, with an instructor-student ratio of 1-13. Students who enroll in the Corps of Cadets follow a disciplined military regimen, while the other students lead a more traditional academic lifestyle. As stated earlier in this profile, Norwich is one of the most influential institutions in Northfield's history, as a major source of employment, education, and college culture.

## **Town Activities**

### **Recreation**

Northfield has approximately 36 acres of Park and Recreation facilities including two softball fields, children's playground, and a 350,000 gallon pool. There are many other community based recreational opportunities available, such as the Municipal Swimming pool, the Parks Department Program, the Northfield Country Club, the Northfield/Roxbury Snow Travelers, mountain biking, bicycle touring, fishing the Dog River, hiking Paine Mountain, cross country skiing, and the Northfield Petting Zoo. The Northfield Teen Center was established in 1996 to provide activities for middle and high school age youth.

## **Annual Celebrations**

In 2001, Northfield held its 25<sup>th</sup> annual weekend-long celebration and the 28<sup>th</sup> annual parade for Labor Day. The celebration brings thousands of people to the town, providing \$35,000 annually to local businesses and organizations that set up booths in Depot Square. Visitors also spend thousands more at other local businesses in town.

In 2001, Northfield also celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> annual quilt festival at Norwich University. The festival is New England's oldest and largest annual quilt event, with over 350 quilts on display in two buildings. In 2000, almost 900 people registered for classes, and there were more than 9,000 total visitors to the show.

## **Information Media**

### **Newspapers**

The Northfield News runs weekly and provides news and information to Northfielders and rare insights into rural Vermont living.

### **Websites**

Northfield has a website at <http://www.in-vermont.com/northfield/>. The site is a great source of pictures and information, and it is apparent that those who maintain the site intend to add more in the future.

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