

# 4-Town Comprehensive Plan



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## *Acknowledgements*

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## RECREATION & OPEN SPACE



*Town of Dryden Comprehensive Plan - December 8, 2005*

### 6. Open Space and Environmental Protection

#### **Goal**

Preserve the natural open space resources, environmentally sensitive areas and unique flora and fauna of the town as it develops in the coming decade.

#### **Objectives**

- Identify and map the significant environmental and open space resources of the town and channel future incompatible development away from such areas.
- Encourage the use of creative development concepts such as cluster subdivision to protect sensitive environmental resources on a site.
- Encourage development that promotes conservation of energy and water resources and minimizes where possible adverse impacts such as loss of agricultural and forest lands, soil erosion and sedimentation, and stormwater run-off.
- Support private land trusts and similar organizations in their efforts to protect significant open space and environmental resources within the town.
- Protect stream corridors, wetlands and other water bodies from inappropriate levels of development.
- Protect the functional capabilities of floodplains by channeling development away from such areas.
- Establish standards for stormwater runoff from new development to decrease pollution from streets and parking lots.
- Identify and implement measures to protect key viewsheds within the town.

### 7. Parks and Recreation

#### **Goal**

Develop a system of park and recreational facilities designed to serve the variety of recreational needs of town residents in a cost effective manner, and located as to provide easy access from major town population centers.

#### **Objectives**

- Coordinate the development of town parks with adjacent municipalities, schools, town community associations, and local civic clubs to ensure optimum use of public and private investment in park and recreation facilities close to where residents live.
- Identify and acquire locations close to existing and future residential neighborhoods that are suitable in terms of size and topography for park and recreation facilities.
- Use existing authority under State statutes to acquire wherever appropriate park land through dedication by the developer, or cash payment in lieu of land.
- Ensure that town parks provide adequate recreational facilities to serve the variety of athletics and other recreational activities town residents engage in.
- Incorporate natural features such as woodland, meadows and stream corridors into town parks for the purpose of preserving such natural assets and ensuring their continued enjoyment by the public.
- Create a system of bicycle/pedestrian paths that will integrate existing and future park and recreation facilities with residential and commercial areas.
- Ensure, to the extent practicable, access to town parks by persons with varying mobility capabilities through compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and its successors.

*Town of Galway Comprehensive Plan - Adopted August 2002*

### Recreation Goals

- Enhance advertising, staffing, and funding of existing recreational programs.
- Foster continued collaboration between the Galway Central School District and the Town to enhance shared recreational opportunities.
- Increase recreational opportunities, especially for senior citizens and young teens.
- Develop a linked open space and trail system throughout Galway that allows access to all users while minimizing impacts to the environment.
- Provide for swimming facilities.
- Provide for a community center for year-round social, recreational, and educational opportunities.
- Continue development of Town parks and facilities.

## Recreation Strategies

- When this comprehensive plan is updated, ensure that it has a strong recreation component.
- Continue to promote regular communication between the Town Board, the Youth Commission, and Galway Central School to discuss community recreational needs and opportunities.
- The Youth Commission should act as a coordinator of all youth programs in Town. Consider initiating a paid, part-time youth coordinator position to facilitate this.
- Increase funding to promote and advertise existing programs.
- Develop a new Community Center. As an alternative to building a new community center, the Town could work to recruit an existing organization such as the YMCA to open a satellite facility in Galway. Public/private partnerships should be explored to help fund and manage a new facility.
  - A new facility should have adequate space and equipment for public gatherings, classes, senior citizen activities, teen activities, day care, and indoor athletic facilities including a gym.
  - Other possible features of the facility could include a public pool, exercise equipment, ice skating rink and Internet access.
  - The facility should also be used for after school and summer programs for youth. A community center should also incorporate unstructured recreational activities such as basketball, ping-pong, video games, etc.
- Explore possibilities for increased swimming opportunities for town residents.
- Continue to fund and plan for the further development of existing Town recreational facilities.
- The existing plans for the Town Park on Route 147 should be completed as soon as possible. A skateboard/roller-blade park should be considered for this site as well.
- Expand the use of volunteers to supervise new and existing recreational programs. Senior citizens, high school students, parents of youth that participate, and seasonal residents should be actively recruited.
- Seek funding to increase staffing of recreation programs. Alternate funding could come from grants, user fees, or fees collected through the subdivision process.
- The Town should make regular contact with the U.S. Defense Department, owner of the Kesselring site, and the Mohawk Pathways Girl Scout Council, owner of the Woodhaven facility on Alexander Road, to ensure that if either of these properties ever become available, the Town is informed and has the opportunity to obtain it.
- Revisit zoning regulations for areas such as Woodhaven Girl Scout Camp, Cummings Pond, Butterfield Lake, Consaul Vly, Ludlow Swamp, and others to promote open space and optimize recreational opportunities.
- Explore development of a system of hiking, bicycle trails, cross-country skiing, and open space in Galway. Development of such a trail system must be a cooperative effort between the Town and private landowners. Other considerations and recommendations for a trail system might include:
  - Trails should be primarily for hikers or cyclists. Separate trail facilities for motorized vehicles or ATVs should be considered.
  - Negotiate easements with private landowners to create local trails. Interest groups should be involved in the maintenance, supervision, clean-up to minimize costs to the Town. Review liability issues for the Town and landowners.
  - Seek trails and easements along streams and link scenic locations. Especially link existing park, recreation facilities, and other potential sites. The CAC should be enlisted to help identify these locations. Use the Geographic Information System data developed for this comprehensive plan to analyze and help identify potential trail locations.
  - Having a requirement for parkland or payment in lieu of land to mitigate impacts of new development can, over time, assist the Town in securing new land for trails.
  - In order for the trail system to work, the landowners must not be forced to give their permission for trails to cross their land. They must be willing participants.

*Town of Saratoga - 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan*

### 2.5 Recreation

#### A. Issues

Recreational needs in the community are growing with the increasing numbers of residents living in the Town. At issue is whether to design a centrally located community park with playing fields, playground, picnic sites, etc. or create smaller pocket parks throughout the residential sections of the Town. There are additional recreational opportunities being established through heritage tourism efforts along the Champlain Canal corridor and bikeway connections from neighboring communities. Another issue is creating more public access to the water resources that border and traverse the entire community. The water quality of the Hudson River may be impacted for many years, should dredging be carried out to remove PCB's. All of these potential opportunities and constraints must be taken under consideration to best meet the growing demands from the residential and tourist community.

#### B. Goals

Improve the variety and availability of recreational facilities.

#### C. Recommendations

1. Develop a Town Recreation Plan. Include the components under this section. Research potential ways to finance various aspects of the plan. Consider recreation fees for major subdivisions to help pay for recreational facilities.

2. Identify and improve access and points of contact along shorelines of the Town and market these areas for water-based recreation activities. Identify and develop points of access along Fish Creek for non-motorized boats.
3. Consult with other communities regarding the control of jet skis on Saratoga Lake and Fish Creek.
4. Identify areas for passive forms of recreation such as expansion of the nature trail. Expand the existing Bog Meadow Nature Trail along the former railroad tracks to Schuylerville.
5. Explore methods to link with regional bikeways, heritage trails, scenic byways, etc.
6. Work with the Land Trust of the Saratoga Region and the Saratoga County Heritage Trail Committee to identify appropriate recreation uses on open space lands. Consider hiking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc. as they might relate to a countywide trail system.
7. Establish a Town bicycle plan that supports the recommendations of the Saratoga County Bicycle Plan.

## **PLANNING ACCORD FOR TUG HILL (PATH)**

### **A 15-town Plan for the Future of the Cooperative Tug Hill Council Area - 1991**

#### **GOALS FOR OUR FUTURE**

##### **5.0 Retain private and public hunting and fishing opportunities, and outdoor recreational activities, in our area.**

- 5.1 Avoid actions that would lead to the subdivision of lands important to hunting, fishing and recreation where that subdivision would remove lands from such use.
- 5.2 Support voluntary actions, of private. Landowners to improve hunting, fishing and recreational access to public lands designated for these uses, such as the sale of access easements, or involvement in fish and wildlife cooperator programs.
- 5.3 Identify areas important to recreation on a town-by-town basis. These might include, designated public recreation trails, public roads opened to snowmobiling, and parking areas.
- 5.4 Encourage educational programs that demonstrate the importance of hunting, fishing and recreation to our way of life and our area's economy. Also encourage educational programs and appropriate law enforcement to protect private property rights and to provide safe hunting, fishing and recreational opportunities.

##### **6.0 Retain scenic vistas and roads that are important to the character of our area.**

- 6.1 Assist member towns in the identification of scenic vistas and stretches of road on a town-by-town basis.
- 6.2 Share information on scenic vistas and roads among member towns.
- 6.3 Avoid development that would diminish the quality of scenic vistas and scenic stretches of road through town planning and land use controls.

### **2006 Community Survey - Summary Towns of Harrisburg, Martinsburg, Montague & Pinckney**

Of those responding to the question regarding the reasons for choosing to live and/or own property in the town, the top four answers included: **recreational opportunities** (65%), **sense of community, small town atmosphere and community pride** (40%), **cost of land** (27%), and **distance to friends and relatives** (25%). This was representative of all four towns; however, 91% of those responding to this question in Montague said **recreational opportunities** was a reason for choosing to live/own land in the town.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
Recreational opportunities	65%	62%	42%	91%	78%
Sense of community, small town atmosphere and community pride	40%	38%	45%	32%	44%
Cost of land	27%	35%	27%	17%	31%
Distance to friends and relatives	25%	26%	36%	9%	20%

Generally speaking, survey respondents said that over the past two years, the community has changed in the following ways: **more people on weekends (59%)**, **new camps (43%)**, **more people (33%)**, **less farming (32%)**, **recreational development (21%)** and **abandoned structures (19%)**

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
More people on weekends	59%	48%	52%	75%	65%
New camps	43%	47%	32%	58%	43%
More people	33%	34%	16%	55%	38%
Less farming	32%	41%	36%	18%	34%
Recreational development	21%	11%	19%	29%	24%
Abandoned structures	19%	24%	21%	7%	28%

Of those responding to the question about issues they are concerned with, the number one issue is **property taxes (74%)**, followed by **road maintenance (54%)**, **ATV's (54%)**, **snowmobiles (46%)**, **hunting & fishing (31%)**, and **wind farm development (30%)**.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
Property taxes	74%	77%	76%	72%	70%
Road maintenance	54%	61%	54%	49%	57%
ATV's	54%	52%	46%	58%	66%
Snowmobiles	46%	41%	42%	51%	55%
Hunting & fishing	31%	32%	21%	40%	40%
Wind farm development	30%	43%	31%	22%	23%

The top six types of development survey respondents feel would be compatible with their community include: **ATV trails (62% overall, although there was 70% in Montague)**, **snowmobile trails (59%)**, **single family homes (58%)**, **farms/agricultural uses (48%)**, **tourism/recreational uses (48%)**, and **wind turbine development (46%)**.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
ATV trails	62%	62%	52%	70%	74%
Snowmobile trails	59%	65%	46%	66%	69%
Single family homes	58%	69%	58%	48%	62%
Farms/Agricultural uses	48%	57%	51%	37%	47%
Tourism/recreational businesses	48%	39%	48%	47%	60%
Wind turbine development	46%	60%	44%	40%	48%

The top five areas survey respondents would like to see growth in include: **ATV trails (60%)**, **snowmobiles (54%)**, **hunting & fishing (45%)**, **hiking & skiing trails (41%)**, and **roads (39%)**.

	Overall	Harrisburg	Martinsburg	Montague	Pinckney
ATV trails	60%	64%	50%	69%	66%
Snowmobiles	54%	61%	42%	64%	60%
Hunting & fishing	45%	40%	35%	57%	59%
Hiking & skiing trails	41%	42%	39%	40%	47%
Roads	39%	48%	38%	37%	33%