

4-Town Comprehensive Plan



DRAFT 10/22/07



Acknowledgements

4-Town Planning Committee

Town of Harrisburg

Norman Roof
Randy Nicol

Town of Martinsburg

Terry Thisse
Paul Kelly

Town of Montague

Jan Bagdanowicz
Wendy Perry
David Andalora

Town of Pinckney

Sherry Harmych
Dan Pearson, Jr.

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RECREATION

Town of Dryden Comprehensive Plan - December 8, 2005

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 ATV s 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.

Goal 8. Recreation

Provide Diverse Recreational Activities and Facilities for Youth and Senior Citizens; Enhance Recreational Opportunities Along Sauquoit Creek.

Many residents feel that lack of youth and senior citizen recreation activities and facilities, is a negative aspect of the Village. In order to improve recreational opportunities and to take advantage of the existing resources in the Village, Whitesboro should implement the following strategies:

1. Meet recommended recreational guidelines by acquiring and developing at least 13.9 acres of additional recreational land in the Village. Funding for facilities and for enhancing programs can come from a variety of sources. The Village should aggressively seek state, federal, and other funding to cover the cost of acquiring new parks and improving existing ones. Also explore cost-sharing with local businesses, or allow community partners, such as local non-profit organizations, to maintain parks and open spaces for a fee.
2. Identify private parcels of land with park, open space, or public access value that would enhance park and recreation opportunities. Ensure that the needs of residents are considered by involving them in the planning and development of new parks and recreation programs.
3. Concentrate recreational facility development on small pocket parks, enhancement of existing parklands, and preservation of forested open spaces within the Village.
4. Concentrating on passive opportunities first, develop picnic areas, trails through green space, and community gardens. A more comprehensive recreational program could include swimming, skating, tennis and basketball courts. Some of these needs may be satisfied by town parks or the proposed new YMCA, again concentrating efforts on the more passive opportunities first.
5. As discussed elsewhere in this plan, there is great potential for developing smaller pocket parks throughout the Village. Because Oriskany Boulevard is difficult for children to cross, it is important to provide open space and parks on both sides of this major thoroughfare. Consider planning a park or pocket park for each major neighborhood in the Village (see map):
 - Between northern Village Boundary and Oriskany Boulevard from the western Village boundary to NYS Thruway;
 - Between northern Village Boundary and Oriskany Boulevard from NYS Thruway to Pleasant/Brainard Streets;
 - Between northern Village Boundary and Oriskany Boulevard from Pleasant/Brainard to Clinton Street;
 - Between northern Village Boundary and Oriskany Boulevard from Clinton Street to eastern border of Village;
 - Between Oriskany Boulevard and southern Village boundary (a very large area that could use several small parks)
6. Continue supporting development of the three new parks proposed a) at the corner of Roosevelt Drive and Westmoreland, b) near the Flagg Street playground and Goodell Avenue. c) the corner of Main Street and Edgemont.
7. Enhance public access to the Sauquoit Creek by securing properties or rights-of-way, especially at the very end of Sauquoit Street connecting along the railroad behind the driving range to the Sauquoit Creek.
8. Work cooperatively with the school to create an outdoor nature trail/learning lab on school property (near the elementary school) and make use of the unused lawn and wooded area along the Sauquoit Creek. This would be an excellent location to provide enhanced access to the creek, parking, and at the same time allow the school to take advantage of the area for environmental educational activities.
9. Promote walking as a “heart healthy” activity. The New York State Department of Health has excellent Heart Healthy programs that Whitesboro could implement. For example, a walking trail could be developed with distance markers to help people know how far they walk. The route could link parks, neighborhoods, the creek, and other locations, like Main Street or the library. A map showing this trail could be published and distributed to all Village residents.
10. Support construction of the new YMCA to be built in the Town of Whitestown, and work with the Utica Transportation Authority to provide public transportation connecting the Village to this new facility. Similarly, the Village should work with the Town of Whitestown to create sidewalk access between the Village and the Town Park on Gibson Road.

11. Include playground equipment for young children when planning new pocket parks. Swings, climbing apparatus, or other equipment would enhance use of the parks, give families with young children a desirable recreational facility, and would add to the pedestrian environment.
12. Create a self-supported community center for all ages, catering especially to youth and senior citizens. Some members of the community have suggested that the Village purchase the Wells & Lloyd Funeral Home, former Swancott residence, or former Methodist Church for this purpose.
13. Create a fenced-in skateboard park for youth.
14. Establish a recreation committee in the Village to oversee implementation of recreational strategies. The committee should work in cooperation with the Town of Whitestown to develop facilities and enhance programs. The role of the Youth Commission could be blended with this committee to meet the recreational needs of all age groups.
15. Work with the Town of Whitestown to evaluate the possibility of annexing Mohawk River "flats" on the north side of the railroad track for Village development and recreation purposes.

Town of Pittstown Draft Comprehensive Plan November 2005

Goal 6: To provide enhanced recreational opportunities, including recreational trails, increased access to the Tomhannock Reservoir, and community programs and facilities for all ages.

Overall Philosophy and Recommendations

Future needs were identified as: establishing a town recreation trust fund to be used for parks, playgrounds or other recreational purposes; identifying which areas in the town are best suited for recreational uses; charging a per lot fee, where appropriate for major subdivisions to enhance the trust fund and meet the future needs of the community for parks and recreation; prioritizing the uses which are to be funded. There needs to be increased access to area water bodies and to the Tomhannock Reservoir. Other suggestions include creation of a community center, initiation of a recreation committee, and creation of additional bike/hike trails. Pittstown can also use zoning and subdivision to help meet recreation goals. Finally, the town realizes that its road standards for new roads and highways offer an opportunity to provide paved shoulders or other travel lanes for pedestrians in the future.

Strategies

- A. Use zoning and subdivision regulations to provide for continued recreation access and lands.
 1. The town can utilize the state authorized provision to require land (or funds in lieu of land) to provide adequate recreational facilities in town. This provision (Section 277 of Town Law) relates to subdivision activity.
- B. Use of residential clusters and conservation subdivisions can help ensure that open spaces are available for recreation. Over time, work towards linking preserved parcels of land with trails and other green spaces.
- C. Increase access to Hoosick River, Otter Creek, Nipmoose Creek, and the Sunkauissia Creek.
 1. The town should approach landowners for voluntary permission for public access. Organizations such as the New York Conservation Society can offer assistance in developing agreements and working out insurance and liability issues. Other options for increasing recreational access include purchase of lands and purchase of easements to lands.
- D. Increase recreational access to the Tomhannock Reservoir.
 1. Work with the City of Troy to formally sponsor recreational use of the Reservoir. This effort will need to change the statute and needs to include safeguards for protecting water quality and to allow only those activities that are non-polluting and non-destructive. The Reservoir is a critical resource in Pittstown and offers a wide range of recreational possibilities if the arrangement could be made with the City of Troy.
- E. Consider developing a community center for all ages that includes a senior center in an easily accessible location in town.
- F. Create an ad hoc recreation committee (See Box 19).

G. Update and implement the 1993 recreation plan.

1. The proposed recreation committee should take the lead in coordinating this update. The first task should be to evaluate what of the included management strategies have taken place, what ones are still feasible, and develop new ones that may be needed. The town may need assistance of a professional grant writer to assist in funding some of these options.

H. Work with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to enhance utilization and marketing of the Pittstown State Forest and its trails.

I. Consider working with the City of Troy and the County Highway Department to develop a formal bike/hike trail around the reservoir.

J. Reservoir Road, Route 111 and Ford Road are used for biking and walking although it is neither a formal route nor improved for safety of pedestrians. These and other local roads should be identified as bike and hike routes.

1. Work with State and County highway departments to explore and implement improved pedestrian roadways. This discussion should explore shared use of the highway, designating a bicycle route, designating and building a bicycle lane, and development of a separated path. For many of the state and county roads, traffic speeds may make it uncomfortable for pedestrians to use shoulders. Therefore, separate bicycle paths are likely the preferred alternative to explore.

K. Rural road standards for new highways could be modified to provide adequate paved shoulders as part of the typical required cross section.

1. Consider use of smoothly paved shoulders adjacent to travel lanes for bikes on new roads that access residences. These areas provide a reasonably safe area for bicyclists to ride that is out of the stream of high-speed motor vehicle traffic. Further, shoulders can provide a buffer between bicyclists and the turbulence created by passing trucks.

L. The town should be prepared for and aggressively seek funding for additional bike/hike opportunities through available grants.

Box 19: The role of this committee is to update and implement the 1993 recreation plan (see next strategy below) along with: a) locating possible locations for park lands within each of the hamlets and working to find ways to fund and create small, pocket parks to serve these residents; b) increasing public access to streams; and c) increasing recreational opportunities at the Reservoir.

1. In order to be prepared for grant applications, the town should prepare a well thought out plan that includes project need, a work scope, budget, and time frames.

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%