

1. Project Overview



“Preserving our past; protecting our future.”

Introduction

The benefits derived from adequate recreation facilities and programs stretch far beyond enhanced quality of life. A parks system that responds to the needs of the community and also draws visitors, can result in increased tourism and revenue. In addition, proper attention to parks and open space resource maintenance protects our ecosystems, and promotes a more balanced and sustainable environment.

The 2009 New York State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan states: “Parkland and open space are two of New York State’s most valuable nonrenewable resources that enhance the quality of life... Recognizing the value of the parks and open space, this system of protected areas continues to expand to over 6,000 public areas comprising over 4 million acres. Federal, state and local governments as stewards of these resources are faced with a challenging situation of maintaining and revitalizing an aging system while looking to the future to protect critical open space areas and addressing the needs of the citizens and the environment. These resources can no longer be viewed as islands but

as systems that need to be connected to benefit both people and wildlife.”

In the preparing and implementing the recommendations included in this Recreation Master Plan, the Town of Pleasant Valley assumes the responsibility of protecting its natural resources, and providing for the current and future recreation needs of its community. Attention to upgrading and maintenance of existing park facilities, and planning for future recreation needs will help the Town identify, pursue and allocate limited resources in the most efficient way.

Purpose of the Recreation Master Plan

The purpose of the Recreation Master Plan is three-fold:

- Document an inventory of the Town’s existing recreation facilities and programs;
- Assess the need for additional facilities and programs, which would better meet the needs of the Town’s residents; and
- Provide a realistic framework to help the Town realize their recreation goals

*Helen Aldrich Park
Recreation Facility.*



*Figure 1-1
Goals and Objectives
Exercise at June 7, 2011
Community Meeting*

The Recreation Master Plan will assist the Town in making intelligent decisions about its future recreation policies, particularly with respect to maintenance and enhancement of existing facilities. The purpose of the Plan is to make those decisions clear and prioritize projects in relation to the Town's needs and available resources. The document is dynamic and meant to affect change in the way Pleasant Valley plans for its future recreation needs.

Plan Development and Public Participation Process

In 2010, the Town of Pleasant Valley issued an RFP for preparation of a Recreation Master Plan. The Recreation Master Plan would include an inventory of existing recreation facilities and programs; an assessment of existing and future demand for activities and programs based on population and demographic trend research as well as an online survey, and public

outreach, and recommendations for rehabilitated and/or new facilities and programs to address an existing need and future demand.

In addition, the Recreation Master Plan provides recommendations for funding sources to help implement the components of the Plan. In 2010, the consultant team of VHB/Saccardi & Schiff, Taconic Site Design and Landscape Architecture, and Arne Abramowitz Recreation Resources, was selected to prepare the Master Plan on behalf of the Town.

Although the Town had previously initiated several surveys and efforts to assess recreation needs in the community, this Recreation Master Plan was the first stand alone Recreation Master Plan document to be prepared for the Town. The 2006 Community Survey prepared in conjunction with the Town's Master Plan indicated overwhelming endorsement for "preservation of natural and scenic features". In addition, the Master Plan includes a section endorsing the planning for additional recreation as follows:

"Recreation as Preservation It is important to identify areas for recreational use that can also promote the Town's scenic and natural resources. Examples of recreational efforts that can enhance natural resources protection and economic diversity include planning for bikeways, trails along the Wappinger Creek, enhanced fishing and canoe access to the Creek, and improvements to existing Town Parks."

This Recreation Master Plan incorporates all of the Comprehensive Plan recommendations for expanded facilities and programming in the Town.

The Pleasant Valley Recreation Master Plan was prepared in conjunction with the Town Board and the Town Board Recreation Subcommittee, designated to coordinate the process.

1. *Schedule and Meetings*

The Recreation Master Plan was developed over approximately seven months structured around biweekly meetings with the Town Board

Recreation Subcommittee, discussion with various stakeholder groups, community meetings, and an online survey - each organized to gain input about issues and opportunities, goals and objectives and future recreation priorities.

The planning process began in April 2011 with a kick-off meeting in front of the Town Board. Over the months that followed, meetings occurred between the Town Board Recreation Subcommittee, the consultant team and various stakeholder groups and Committees to gather information and specific goals and objectives.

Pleasant Valley Recreation Master Plan Community Discussion

**When: Tuesday, June 7th 2011
from 7pm to 9pm**

**Where: Pleasant Valley Town Hall
1554 Main Street
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569**

**Come out and discuss
recreation needs and goals
in your community**

For more information, go to <http://pleasantvalley-ny.gov>

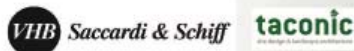


Figure 1-2
Poster Announcing
Community
Discussion.

**Bower Park****Cady Recreation Park****Helen Aldrich Park****Mill Site Museum and Memorial Park****Redl Park****West Road School**

*Figure 1-3
Residents indicate with
a thumbtack, the parks
they visit most often*

In addition, a key step in the planning process was extensive field survey and mapping research, which informed the existing conditions inventory of Town owned and operated recreation areas, and other recreation facilities located in the Town, but owned by other entities.

The list of stakeholders was provided by the Recreation Subcommittee and included:

- ▶ Town of Pleasant Valley Open Space Committee
- ▶ Town of Pleasant Valley Conservation Advisory Council
- ▶ Town of Pleasant Valley Recreation Department
- ▶ Friends of the Library
- ▶ Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- ▶ Pleasant Valley Senior Group

- ▶ Pleasant Valley Little League
- ▶ Pleasant Valley Soccer Program
- ▶ Pleasant Valley United Soccer Club
- ▶ Al Hammel Baseball Camp
- ▶ Trout Unlimited
- ▶ Dutchess R/C of Pleasant Valley (Airplane Club)
- ▶ Traver Road School and West Road Intermediate School

Stakeholder discussions were intended to solicit input from various recreation user groups and providers to better understand current and future needs. Stakeholder group input informed the planning process and it is these refined recommendations that have been included in this Recreation Master Plan.

2. Community Meeting #1

On June 7th, 2011, the Town Board held the first of two community participation meetings. Between 65 and 75 residents attended this evening meeting, which was held at the Town of Pleasant Valley Town Hall. The purpose of this first meeting was to solicit input for the mission,

goals and objectives of the Recreation Master Plan and to gain insight into which parks and activities were the most popular, where there is existing unmet demand and what the Town could do to accommodate current and future recreation needs.

As shown in Figure I-3, Pleasant Valley Recreation Areas, attendees at the Community Discussion indicated that West Road Park was the park they visited the most often.

The meeting included an interactive polling exercise surveying approximately 75 residents. A summary of the results of the polling survey is presented in Chapter III of this Recreation Master Plan and the full results of the survey, are included in the Appendix.

3. On-line Survey

In addition to the two public meetings held during the Recreation Planning Process, an on-line recreation preferences survey was conducted during the months of July and August 2011. Approximately 300 responses to the survey were analyzed and aggregated to form the basis for several of the recommendations



Figure 1-4
Attendees at the
June 7, 2011 Com-
munity Discussion



Figure 1-5
Interactive polling
exercise at June 7, 2011
Community Meeting

included in this Plan.

4. Preparation of the Recreation Master Plan

All of the research and information gathered at

the June 7th Community Meeting and through meetings, discussions and correspondence with stakeholder groups, and the Town Board Recreation Subcommittee, was synthesized and is included in this Recreation Master Plan.

This Recreation Plan is organized into four chapters. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the role and purpose of the plan, as well as a summary of the recreation planning and public participation process. Chapter 2, Existing and Emerging Conditions, analyzes existing and future population and demographic trends and projections; provides an inventory of physical recreation facilities and programs; and briefly describes the Recreation Department's administrative structure and 2011 budget.

Chapter 3, Foundations describes the essential elements, which form the basis of recommendations in the Recreation Master Plan. These three main tools are: (1) the Citizen's Needs Survey (including the interactive polling exercise and the on-line survey); (2) and assessment of



1. How old are you?

8% a. 0-24 years old

0% b. 25-34 years old

34% c. 35-49 years old

36% d. 50-64 years old

23% e. 65 years and older

Figure 1-6
Sample response from
Interactive polling
exercise.

the currently offered recreation programs; and (3) the Recreation Master Plan Mission, Goals and Objectives.

Chapter 4, Recommendations and Implementation Strategies, provides recommendations for both park physical planning and recreation programming.

Without a realistic implementation schedule, plans risk becoming the end of the process, rather than a means to realize goals. Therefore, plans must consider, especially today, the constraints of government priorities, funding, and regulatory controls. This final chapter provides recommendations for budget and funding sources as well as ideas to help facilitate implementation of Recreation Plan recommendations.

5. *Presentation of Draft Recreation Master Plan*

A Draft Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Town Board for review and comment. All comments were addressed and the Plan was revised accordingly. This document represents the Final Recreation Master Plan.

6. *SEQRA Review*

On November 9, 2011 this Final Recreation Master Plan was provided to the Town Board for their consideration for formal adoption. To satisfy the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and effectuate final adoption of the Plan an environmental review must be undertaken.