

Policy Area II Land Use Planning and Zoning

Goal:

To establish a quality integrated Parks and Recreation System; including facilities, programs and policies that provides residents and visitors with a diversity of leisure activities while preserving and capitalizing on the County's natural resources.



PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

An important contributing factor to the quality of life in Sullivan County are Parks and Recreational facilities, such as public usable open spaces like the Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River, and recreational facilities such as ball fields, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis courts, and ice-skating, among others. The trends for growth in the County will increase the need for public recreational spaces and programs, among the general population and special groups including the aging and disabled.

Parks provide social, personal, economic and environmental benefits to any community, and the residents of Sullivan County recognize this. Leisure opportunities, facilities and the quality of the local environment are the foundations of community pride and provide opportunities for community involvement, shared management and a stewardship of resources. Community recreation promotes ethnic and cultural harmony and reduces alienation, loneliness, and anti-social behaviors thereby reducing the high cost of vandalism and criminal activity. It also provides positive lifestyle choices for youth and alternatives to self-destructive behavior. In addition, parks and recreation services motivate business relocation and expansion in the community and are often the catalyst for tourism, an important sector of Sullivan County's economy.

The strategies outlined in **Sullivan 2020** will ensure that new development- residential, office and retail- is tied in with open space provisions and will adhere to per capita requirements of recreational facilities based on the National Recreation and Parks Association Standards. Abandoned rails will be converted into a system of parks and trails and will be actively marketed to residents and visitors through outreach programs.

The critical issue here is the need to maintain a balance between a diverse demographic distribution and economic tax base, varying requirements of recreational facilities and the need to preserve the natural open space in Sullivan County. The following strategies take into consideration all of these factors to ensure that Parks and Recreation will play an active role in the future of the County.

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STRATEGY 2.5

Identify future recreational needs in the County, and provide facilities that respond to the specific needs of the community.

Timeframe

SHORT TERM

INTERMEDIATE

LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Inventory and map all parks, recreational facilities and natural resources	C	
Integrate natural resource preservation into a Countywide park system.	C	
Conduct a resident survey to identify recreational needs and desires.	C/M	
Identify school recreational opportunities.	C/M	
Reclaim abandoned property, redevelop obsolete areas and integrate open space areas.	M/C	
Co-locate parks and recreation facilities with schools, libraries and other public facilities.	M/C	
Use National Recreation and Park Association standards for guiding future development for a Countywide Parks and Recreational Master Plan.	C	



Leadership Role: C – County M – Municipality P – Partners
 Status: A – Active P – Pending C – Complete

Resources

Documents

- ◆ **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2003.** New York State Parks, recreation and Historic Preservation. www.nysparks.com/agency/scorp
- ◆ **Handbook on the Alienation and Conversion of Municipal Parkland.** April 2005. New York State Parks, recreation and Historic Preservation.
- ◆ **Parks and Economic Development.** PAS 502. John L. Crompton
- ◆ **Parks, Recreation and Open Space: A Twenty-First Century.** PAS 497/498. Charles Wunder.

Organizations and Programs

- ◆ **New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** - www.nysparks.com
Manages and develops parks owned and operated by the State of New York.
- ◆ **Parks & Trails of New York** - www.ptny.org
The only organization working statewide to protect New York's parks and help communities create new parks.
- ◆ **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)** - www.nrpa.org
advocates the importance of thriving, local park systems, the opportunity for all Americans to lead healthy, active lifestyles, and the preservation of great community places. Its mission is "To advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people." NRPA's publications and research are well-trusted in the industry with the award-winning monthly publication, "Parks & Recreation, Journal of Leisure Research," which includes articles written by experts in the field, and more.
- ◆ **Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program** - www.fia.fs.fed.us
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service provides the information needed to assess America's forests. As the Nation's continuous forest census, the program projects how forests are likely to appear 10 to 50 years from now to evaluate whether current forest management practices are sustainable in the long run and to assess whether current policies will allow the next generation to enjoy America's forests.
- ◆ **International Federation of Park and Recreation Administration (IFPRA)** - www.ifpra.org
A non-profit organization with headquarters in the United Kingdom. It maintains contacts throughout the world with national professional bodies representing parks, recreation, amenity, cultural, leisure and related services.

Funding Sources

- ◆ **Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** - www.nysparks.com/grants/
Matching grant programs for the acquisition or development of parks and recreational facilities for projects to preserve, rehabilitate or restore lands, waters or structures for park, recreation or conservation purposes. Funds may be awarded to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest, for indoor or outdoor projects and must reflect the priorities established in the NY Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Other

- ◆ American Journal of Recreation Therapy
- ◆ Journal of Physical Education, Recreation & Dance (JOPERD)

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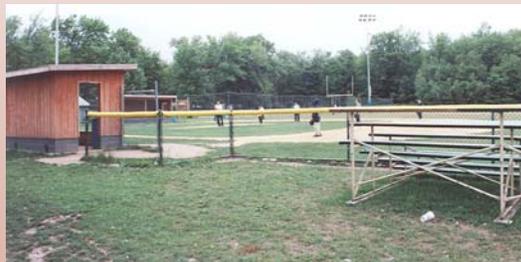
STRATEGY 2.6

Establish a Comprehensive Park and Recreation System throughout the County that provides for active public recreational space within a quarter mile of all residents.

Timeframe

SHORT TERM
INTERMEDIATE
LONG TERM

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Inventory recreational trails and propose linkages to create a system of recreational trails throughout the County that meet identified needs.	C	
Build partnerships with the National Park Service and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to help develop and meet the County’s goal for a quality and comprehensive Park and Recreational Master Plan.	C	
Expand park visitor services.	C/M/P	
Develop recreational programming to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address existing and future need, and • Identify facilities where programming can accommodate need. 	C/M	
Enhance recreation facilities at school sites and use schools as sites for programs and services.	C/M/P	
Develop centers or a system of shared facilities, such as partnerships with schools or private community centers, for the delivery of recreational services to the aging and people with disabilities.	C/M//P	
Facilitate public/private partnerships to encourage the private provision of recreational facilities.	C/M	



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Resources

Documents

- ◆ **“A Guide to Planning Trails in New York State”**
- ◆ **“Greenways & Trails—Bringing economic benefits to New York”**. The Business Council of New York State, Inc.
- ◆ **“Getting Involved—A Community Trail Handbook for Landowners”**. Greenway Conservancy for the Hudson River Valley & New York Parks and Recreation Association.
- ◆ **Fact Sheet 1 - Trail Design - 7 Easy Steps**
- ◆ **Fact Sheet 2 - Recommended Trail Standards - Hiking**
- ◆ **Parks and Economic Development**. PAS 502. John L. Crompton
- ◆ **Parks, Recreation and Open Space: A Twenty-First Century**. PAS 497/498. Charles Wunder.

Organizations and Programs

- ◆ **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC)** - www.railtrails.org/default.asp
A nonprofit organization with more than 100,000 members and supporters. It is dedicated to creating a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people.
- ◆ **National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)** - www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/index.html
Works collaboratively, by invitation, with nonprofit organizations, community groups, tribes or tribal governments, and local, State, or federal government agencies on a wide variety of conservation and recreation projects. *RTCA* provides a variety of assistance tailored to the partner's needs, such as help in building partnerships to achieve community-set goals, assessing resources, developing concept plans, engaging public participation, and identifying potential sources of funding. *RTCA* does not provide direct grant or financial assistance to support project implementation.
- ◆ **New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation** - www.nysparks.com
Manages and develops parks owned and operated by the State of New York.
- ◆ **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation** - www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dlf/publands/cats/index.html
Manages state lands which are freely open to active and passive recreational pursuits, including the Catskill Forest Preserve.
- ◆ **Parks & Trails of New York** - www.ptny.org
The only organization working statewide to protect New York's parks and help communities create new parks.

Funding Sources

- ◆ **Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** - www.nysparks.com/grants/
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- ◆ **Fact Sheet 3 - Funding Resources for Greenways and Trails**

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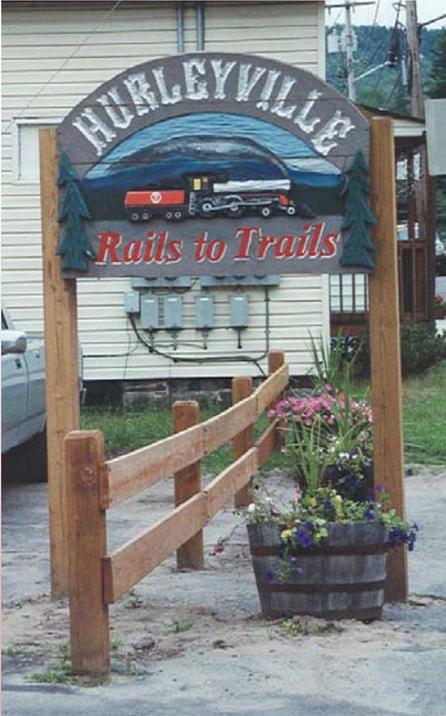
STRATEGY 2.7

Increase public awareness and develop Park and Recreational resources necessary to implement the community vision.

Timeframe

- SHORT TERM
- INTERMEDIATE
- LONG TERM**

Steps	Leadership Role (C/M/P)	Status (A/P/C)
Improve coordination between Parks and Recreation staff and the Division of Planning.	C	
Expand community involvement in facility and program planning and oversight.	C/M	
Increase outreach programs about outdoor recreational activities and wellness.	C/M/P	
Encourage the establishment of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), friends of groups or non-profit organizations for security, maintenance and management of public parks.	M/P	



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Organizations and Programs

- ◆ **Healthy Trails, Healthy People** - www.ptny.org
A program of Parks & Trails New York that helps New Yorkers develop more active communities and an enhanced quality of life through the creation of multi-use trails.
- ◆ **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation** - www.dec.state.ny.uswebsite/df/publands/cats/index.html
Manages state lands which are freely open to active and passive recreational pursuits, including the Catskill Forest Preserve.
- ◆ **Catskill Center for Conservation and Development** - www.catskillcenter.org
A non-profit organization working to protect the cultural, historic, and natural resources of the Catskill Mountains. Marrying both environmental protection and sustainable economic development, we are an advocate for the region's vibrant main streets, valuable natural resources, artistic and historic assets, and working landscapes.
- ◆ **New York Bicycling Coalition (NYBC)'s** - www.nybc.net
Their mission is to provide a coherent, credible voice for the interests of all bicyclists in the state, on- or off-road, recreational or racer by working with existing cycling clubs in New York and interested individuals.
- ◆ **New York State Quality Communities Initiative** - www.qualitycommunities.org
Demonstrates New York State's commitment to working with local government leaders and community organizations to find smart, innovative solutions to strengthen our economy, environment, and improve the quality of the place we call “home.”

Funding Sources

- ◆ **Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)** - www.nysparks.com/grants/
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- ◆ **Fact Sheet 3 - Funding Resources for Greenways and Trails**
- ◆ **Save America's Treasures** - www.cr.nps.gov/hps/treasures/application.htm
Save America's Treasures grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites. Projects must meet the program Selection Criteria.
- ◆ **National Endowment for the Humanities** - www.neh.gov
NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. NEH offers grants in the following categories: Challenge Grants; Preservation and Access; Research Programs; We the People; Education Programs; Public Programs and Federal/