

DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN & LAKE WALTON PRESERVE DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN

PROJECT UPDATE

**PUBLIC WORKS & CAPITAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE
DUTCHESS COUNTY LEGISLATURE**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



AGENDA

1. Park Master Plan & Implementation Priorities
2. Lake Walton Preserve Draft Concept Plan
3. Discussion



COUNTY-WIDE MASTER PLAN



MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

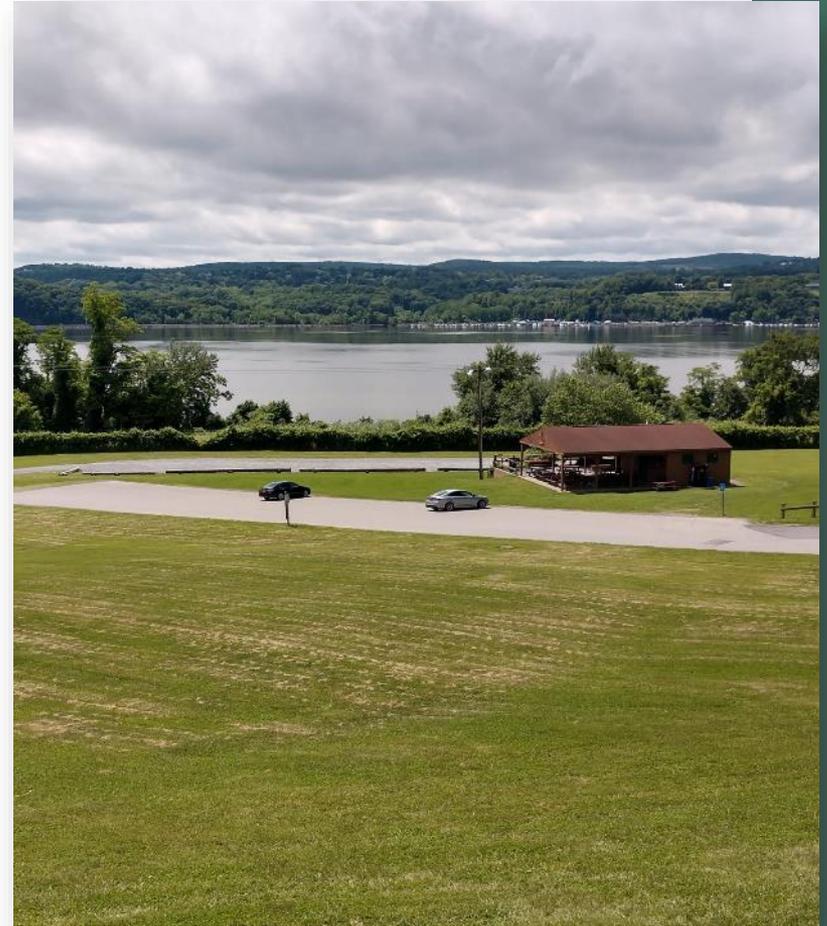
Informed and created by:

- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Public input (stakeholders, survey, workshops, pop-ups)
- Parks Staff input
- Core Team input
- Internal Design Session



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Quiet Cove Park
- Wilcox Park
- Bowdoin Park
- WRS Dutchess & Harlem Valley Rail Trails
- Facilities & Programming



COUNTY-WIDE MASTER PLAN CONTENT

1. The Master Planning Process
2. Dutchess County Overview
3. NYS County Comparison
4. The County Park System Today:
Facilities
5. The County Park System Today:
Programming
6. The County Park System Tomorrow:
Facilities
7. The County Park System Tomorrow:
Programming
8. Implementation



PRIORITY: QUIET COVE PARK



QUIET COVE PARK - DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS, NY POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY



Option 1: Continue One-way Traffic Flow
Option 2: Two-way Traffic Circulation

PRIORITY: QUIET COVE PARK



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.



QUIET COVE PARK - DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS, NY
POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY / FEBRUARY 2019



PRIORITY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Relocate park entrance/exit in coordination with Hudson Heritage project*
- Formalize parking areas (east of rail tracks)
- Demolish existing buildings (prior to area construction)
- New parking area (west of rail tracks)
- New accessible pedestrian connections to parking area
- New pavilion/gazebo structure

LAKE WALTON PRESERVE MASTER PLAN



SITE HISTORY

LAKE WALTON PARK
SWIMMING, BOATING, CAMPING, COTTAGES
PUBLIC GROVE

Location: 6 Miles North of Fishkill on Route 22 in Hopewell Junction

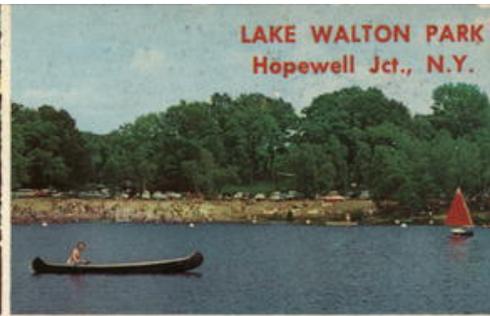
PRIVATE LAKE. PRICED FOR THE FAMILY
MAN. OPEN 33 YEARS. VISITORS WELCOME.
DRIVE UP AND LOOK AROUND.

Up to 6 in a car — \$1.00 weekdays
\$1.50 Saturdays
\$2.00 Sundays and
Holidays



LAKE WALTON is a private lake owned by the Brincker-HoM family since 1910. A 300 acre property with a spring fed lake located in the southern part of Dutchess Co., N. Y. between Rt. 82 and Rt. 376. Modern facilities with natural and artificial water supply. Cottages, Mobile home sites, Public beach, Picnic grove. Rental boats, Fishing and Camping.

Tel: Area code 914 - 226-7050



CardCow.com

LAKE WALTON PRESERVE GOALS



Explore. Learn. Experience.

SITE WALK WITH CORE TEAM



CONCEPT

LAKE WALTON PRESERVE M

- 1 Parking Lot (North)
- 2 Parking Lot (South)
- 3 1.4 Mile Universally Accessible Primary Loop Trail
- 4 Northern Access to Dutchess County Rail Trail
- 5 Southern Access to Dutchess County Rail Trail
- 6 Compost Restroom Structure Near Parking Lots
- 7 Dutchess County Maintenance Structure
- 8 Elevated Pavilion with Accessible Ramp and Compost Restrooms
- 9 Secondary Pavilion with Compost Restrooms
- 10 Bird Observation Blind with Informational Signage
- 11 Fishing and Observation Overlook
- 12 Overlook Picnic Area
- 13 Secondary Nature Trails
- 14 Boardwalks Over Wetland Areas
- 15 Elevated Observation Platform on High Point of Preserve
- 16 Managed Aquatic Vegetation on Lake Walton
- 17 Dutchess County Rail Trail
- 18 Sensory Exploration Patch with Outdoor Classroom

- 1 Parking Lot (North)
- 2 Parking Lot (South)
- 3 1.4 Mile Universally Accessible Primary Loop Trail
- 4 Northern Access to Dutchess County Rail Trail
- 5 Southern Access to Dutchess County Rail Trail
- 6 Compost Restroom Structure Near Parking Lots
- 7 Dutchess County Maintenance Structure
- 8 Elevated Pavilion with Accessible Ramp and Compost Restrooms
- 9 Secondary Pavilion with Compost Restrooms



CONCEPT

Universally Accessible Loop Trail



Elevated Pavilion with Accessible Ramp



CONCEPT

Bird Blinds Overlooks and Covered Observation Platforms



Boardwalks and Overlooks



PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Parking areas
- Rail Trail Connection
- Initiate Loop Trail



DISCUSSION





**DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
FEBRUARY 2020**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In January 2018, Dutchess County, under the leadership of County Executive, Marcus Molinaro, initiated the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed through a collaboration led by the County Executive's Office, the Dutchess County Department of Public Works-Parks Division, community members, local elected officials and dedicated local experts and volunteers. Thank you to the following for their generous contributions towards the development of the Master Plan

Honorable Marcus Molinaro, County Executive

Robert Balkind, Commissioner, Dutchess County Department of Public Works

Colleen Pillus, Communications Director, Dutchess County Executive Office

Loren Petrella, Communications Specialist, Dutchess County Government

Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Core Team:

David Whalen, Deputy Commissioner, Dutchess County Department of Public Works

Steve Olsen, Parks Director, Dutchess County Department of Public Works-Parks Division

Mary Kay Vrba, Dutchess Tourism, Inc.

Sandy Washburn, Parks and Recreation Director, Town of LaGrange

Deirdre Houston, Dutchess County Legislature

Kurt Beale, Challenger League

This document was prepared with assistance from M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. and supported by Place Alliance.



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section One: The Master Planning Process	1-1
Project Overview	1-2
The Planning Process	1-2
Public Engagement.....	1-3
Section Two: Dutchess County Overview	2-1
County Overview.....	2-2
Governmental Organization	2-3
Demographics.....	2-4
Dutchess County Parks	2-5
Section Three: New York State County Comparison	3-1
Overview	3-2
Methodology	3-2
Albany County.....	3-4
Orange County	3-5
Rockland County	3-7
Ulster County.....	3-8
County Comparison Findings	3-9
Section Four: The Dutchess County Park System Today – Facilities	4-1
Overview	4-2
Bowdoin Park	4-3
Wilcox Park.....	4-17
Quiet Cove Riverfront Park.....	2-27
Dutchess Stadium	4-32
William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail.....	4-35
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	4-41
Section Five: The Dutchess County Park System Today – Programming	5-1
Existing Recreational Programming	5-2
Administration and Staffing	5-7
Program Facilities.....	5-7
Public Interface	5-8
User Fee Structure.....	5-8



Section Six: The Dutchess County Park System Tomorrow – Facilities 6-1

Bowdoin Park 6-3
Wilcox Park..... 6-13
Quiet Cove Riverfront Park..... 6-23
Rail Trails..... 6-28

Section Seven: The Dutchess County Park System of Tomorrow – Programming..... 7-1

Future Programming – Needs and Recommendations 7-2

Section Eight: Implementation 8-1

MAPS, TABLE AND FIGURES

Map 4-1. Bowdoin Park Regional Context..... 4-4
Map 4-2. Bowdoin Park Facilities..... 4-14
Map 4-3. Bowdoin Park Natural Features..... 4-17
Map 4-4. Bowdoin Park Land Ownership 4-18
Map 4-5. Bowdoin Park Zoning..... 4-20
Map 4-6. Wilcox Park Regional Context..... 4-23
Map 4-7. Wilcox Park Facilities..... 4-29
Map 4-8. Wilcox Park Natural Features 4-32
Map 4-9. Wilcox Park Land Ownership 4-33
Map 4-10. Wilcox Park Zoning..... 4-34
Map 4-11. Quiet Cove Regional Context..... 4-38
Map 4-12. Quiet Cove Facilities 4-40
Map 4-13. Quiet Cove Natural Features 4-42
Map 4-14. Quiet Cove Land Ownership..... 4-44
Map 4-15. Quiet Cove Zoning 4-45
Map 4-16. Dutchess Stadium Regional Context 4-48
Map 4-17. Dutchess Stadium Facilities..... 4-50
Map 4-18. Dutchess Stadium Natural Features 4-51
Map 4-19. Dutchess Stadium Land Ownership..... 4-52
Map 4-20. Dutchess Stadium Zoning 4-53
Map 4-21. Dutchess Rail Trail Regional Context..... 4-56
Map 4-22. Dutchess Rail Trail Facilities..... 4-59
Map 4-23. Dutcehss Rail Trail Natural Features 4-61
Map 4-24. Dutchess Rail Trail Land Ownership 4-62
Map 4-25. Dutchess Rail Trail Zoning 4-64
Map 4-26. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Regional Context 4-67
Map 4-27. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Facilities 4-69
Map 4-28. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Natural Features 4-71



Map 4-29. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Land Ownership.....	4-74
Map 4-30. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Zoning.....	4-75
Table 2-1. Dutchess County Age Cohorts.....	2-4
Table 2-2. 2019 Authorized Park Staff Positions.....	2-6
Table 3-1. County Comparison Data.....	3-3
Table 3-2. County Park Acreage Per FTE Maintenance Staff.....	3-10
Table 3-3. County Park Acreage Per Resident.....	3-11
Table 3-4. Parks and Recreation Dollars Spent Per Resident.....	3-11
Table 3-5. Comparison of Park Facilities.....	3-12
Table 5-1. Dutchess County 2017 Program Attendance.....	5-4
Table 5-2. Program Lifecycle Analysis.....	5-6
Table 5-3. Program Cost Per Person.....	5-8
Table 5-4. Personnel Cost for Regularly Scheduled Programs in 2019.....	5-9
Table 5-5. Personnel Cost for Non-Regularly Scheduled Programs in 2019.....	5-9
Table 5-6. Annual Cost Recovery Analysis for Park Programs.....	5-10
Table 6-1. Bowdoin Park Facilities Recommendations.....	6-11
Table 6-2. Wilcox Park Recommendations.....	6-20
Table 6-3. Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Recommendations.....	6-26
Table 6-4. Rail Trail Recommendations.....	6-28
Table 6-5. System-Wide Recommendations.....	6-29
Table 8-1. Implementation Matrix.....	8-3

APPENDICES (UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

- Appendix A - Public Engagement Strategy
- Appendix B - Stakeholder Summaries
- Appendix C - Public Workshop Summaries
- Appendix D - Community Needs Survey Results
- Appendix E - ADA Assessments
- Appendix F - Structural Assessments
- Appendix G - Park Concept Plans
- Appendix H - Priority Project Profiles
- Appendix I - Concept Plans
- Appendix J - Concept Models
- Appendix K - Inventory Maps





SECTION ONE

THE MASTER

PLANNING PROCESS



Dutchess County Parks Staff at Maple Knoll Lodge, Bowdoin Park, December 2018

THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Dutchess County (County) has undertaken an effort to develop a County-wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan will create a roadmap for ensuring an appropriate balance of facilities, amenities and programs throughout the County now and into the future, with a special emphasis on creating universal access at all facilities, buildings, playgrounds and trails. The project included a system-wide evaluation of the County's six active parks.

The Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) is intended to be used as a resource for future development and redevelopment of the County's parks, open space, and recreation system over the next five to twenty years.

The County established a Core Team to guide the effort, which included representatives from key stakeholder groups. The planning process included stakeholder outreach and public engagement throughout the effort.

Facilitating the master planning process is a project team from M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., and supported by Place Alliance.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

This effort involved two phases with specific tasks included in each phase. Phase 1 was initiated in January 2018 and involved the public engagement and existing conditions evaluation components. Phase 2 began in September 2018 and include the strategies, recommendations and action steps of the Master Plan, as well as continued public engagement.

The following work tasks, as identified by the County for Phase 1, included:

- Public Engagement (continued through Phase 2)
- Community Needs Survey
- Level of Service Analysis for Existing and Future Facilities
- County Comparison

The following work tasks, as identified by the County for Phase 2 included:

- Prioritization of Demand and Opportunities
- Analysis of Programs and Services
- Completed Master Plan document including both Phase 1 and Phase 2 components

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The Master Plan was developed through a community driven process, which included public input throughout the duration of the plan's development. The purpose of the public engagement was to ensure that the recommendations of the plan reflect the needs and desires of the residents of Dutchess County. The public input will help guide County officials to prioritize spending for improvements to parks and recreation facilities.

Public engagement for this effort included a variety of outreach and engagement activities designed to inform the public and gather input to guide the study. The Public Engagement Strategy can be found in **Appendix A**.

The following community participation methods were included in this effort:

- Key Stakeholder Meetings and Interviews
- Interactive Public Workshops
- Digital Outreach
- Online Community Needs Survey

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

As part of the public engagement process, a series of stakeholder meetings and telephone interviews were conducted. The purpose of the meetings were to listen and learn from community leaders and key individuals to understand the needs and opportunities for Dutchess County Parks and Recreation for the next 5, 10 or 20 years.

Stakeholder meetings took place at Bowdoin Park, located on Sheafe Road in the Town of Wappinger, and the Milan Town Hall, located at 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan. The meetings were held at two different locations to better accommodate stakeholder's travel needs and allow for a more focused conversation about the parks and facilities each stakeholder was more likely to use. Given the large geographic area of Dutchess County, those that live in the northern portion of the county tend to frequent parks in the north and those who live in the southern portion of the county tend to frequent parks in southern Dutchess County.

The Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan Core Team (Core Team) assisted the project team to identify key stakeholders. Stakeholders were organized into groups by user group, municipal parks and recreation staff and local elected officials from municipalities that contain all or part of a County Park. All stakeholder groups were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

The Project Team and Core Team decided on the following stakeholder groups:

- Tourism and Business
- Parks, Trails and Programs (Southern County Parks)
- Municipalities (Southern Dutchess County)
- Parks, Trails and Programs (Northern County Parks)
- Municipalities (Northern Dutchess County)

Meetings were held on June 5 and June 6, 2018, concurrent with public engagement events scheduled at Bowdoin Park and Milan Town Hall. Additional outreach included a walking tour of Quiet Cove Riverfront Park. After these meetings and interviews were conducted, information was summarized, reviewed, and discussed with the DPW Deputy Commissioner and Parks Director. These conversations are helpful in understanding the needs of park visitors and a variety of user groups. A summary of stakeholder discussions can be found in **Appendix B**.

INFORMATION POP-UP STATIONS

During Phases 1 and 2 of the project, information pop-up stations were set up at various locations. A pop-up station provides an opportunity to meet community members where they are, offering a measure of convenience for those who may not otherwise attend public meetings. The purpose of the stations was to inform the public about the project and to offer an opportunity for public input. Each station was staffed by a member of the consultant team or a Dutchess County staff member. Pop-up stations were located at the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Millerton Trailhead on June 5, 2018, Dutchess Stadium on July 11, 2019 and the Millerton Farmer's Market on July 20, 2019.

STAFF WORK SESSIONS

A key stakeholder in this process was the staff that maintain and operate Dutchess County Park facilities and programming. During the master planning process, two staff work sessions were held to gather input from park staff about challenges and opportunities within the park system. The first work session was held on February 27, 2018 at Maple Knoll Lodge in Bowdoin Park. The session included a project overview and a mapping exercise facilitated by project team members. The second staff work session was held on December 19, 2018 at Maple Knoll Lodge. The purpose of this session was to gather input from park staff about the proposed concept plans and park improvements developed since the previous session.



Information Pop-up Station at the Millerton Trailhead along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail



Dutchess County Parks Staff at Maple Knoll Lodge, Bowdoin Park, December 2018

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

In addition to direct stakeholder outreach, there have been multiple opportunities to provide input and learn about the project through public workshops during both Phase 1 and Phase 2. The format for each of the public workshops was determined cooperatively with the County and the Core Team.

During Phase 1, a multi-day public engagement event took place on Monday, June 4, 2018 at Bowdoin Park, Pavilion 5 and Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at the Town of Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan. The events included stakeholder meetings and information pop-up stations during the day and public workshops in the evening with information drop-in sessions available throughout the day for park-goers. The intent was to provide multiple opportunities for the public to participate and provide input and ideas for the Master Plan. Public workshop summaries are available in **Appendix C**.

The public engagement events included a series of activity stations that presented information about the project as well as information about each Dutchess County park. Also included were comment boards to gather input about needs and opportunities within the Dutchess County Park System. The event included a presentation by the M.J. Engineering Team providing a project overview, outline of next steps and a question and answer session.

Phase 2 outreach events took place throughout the summer of 2019 and included a variety of open house style workshops and information tables at various locations throughout the County. The purpose of this outreach was to gather public input about proposed improvements at each of the Dutchess County parks. The proposed improvements were identified using information about needs and opportunities gathered from park staff, key stakeholders and the public through Phase 1 public engagement.

Phase 2 outreach events included an open house at Quiet Cove Riverfront Park on June 18, 2019, information tables at Dutchess Stadium on July 11, 2019, an information table at the Millerton Farmer's Market on July 20, 2019 and an open house at Bowdoin Park on August 7, 2019 which included live music and a food truck. Comments were solicited during Phase 2 engagement using short written survey forms distributed during each event. Phone surveys were also utilized to gather input from those who may not have been able to attend an event.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SCHEDULE PHASE 1

June 4, 2018, Bowdoin Park, Pavilion 5, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls - This event included a number of activities, including a Public drop-in session available throughout the day to learn about the project and share ideas. The event also included an open house with activity stations facilitated by members of the project team.

June 5, 2018, Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Milan - This event provided a similar set of activities as the Bowdoin Park event, located in an area that was more convenient for those who live in the northern part of the County. The events included a self-guided drop-in session, stakeholder meetings and a public open house.

June 5, 2018, Quiet Cove Riverfront Park, 1 Clear Water Drive, Poughkeepsie - This event was a walk and talk session at Quiet Cove included a guided walking tour of the park by a member of the project team. The purpose of this tour was to learn about needs and opportunities in the park from the first-hand perspective of park visitors.

June 5, 2018, Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Millerton Trailhead - This event included an information pop-up station. The purpose of the stations was to inform the public about the project and to offer an opportunity for public input.



Public Engagement Event at Bowdoin Park, June 2018

PUBLIC WORKSHOP SCHEDULE PHASE 2

June 18, 2019, Quiet Cove Riverfront Park, 1 Clear Water Drive, Poughkeepsie - This event included an open house with activity stations to gather input from the public about proposed park improvements.

July 11, 2019, Dutchess Stadium, 1500 Route 9D, Wappingers Falls - This event included an information pop-up station at Dutchess Stadium during a Renegades game with two information tables. Each table had several information boards about the project, information about proposed park improvements and a brief survey to gather input about the proposed improvements.

July 20, 2019, Millerton Farmer's Market, Dutchess Avenue and Main Street, Millerton - This event included an information pop-up station at the Millerton Farmer's Market. The station included information about the project, proposed park improvements and a brief survey to gather public input.

August 7, 2019, Bowdoin Park, Pavilion 5, 85 Sheafe Road Wappingers Falls - This event included an open house with activity stations to gather input about proposed park improvements. The event also included live music and a food truck.

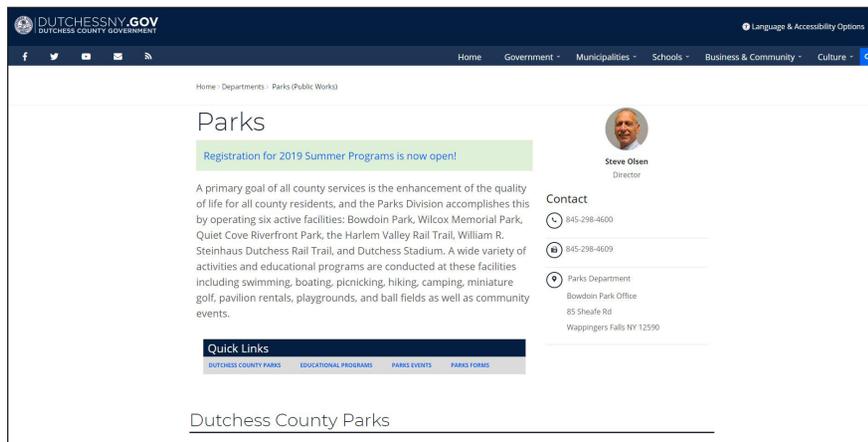


Public Engagement Event at Bowdoin Park, August 2019

DIGITAL OUTREACH

Digital outreach included use of the County website and social media to share project information with and notify the public of opportunities to participate in the process. The intent was to reach all interested stakeholders using a variety of outreach methods. Digital media is often a preferred method of sharing and gathering information for those that may not have the ability or time to attend public workshops. The County has utilized its website to promote public engagement opportunities and inform the public on the progress of the Master Plan. The website has been utilized to advertise the online Community Needs Survey, press releases about the Master Plan, and information about public workshop schedules and summaries. The website is located at the following link: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/>

The County also utilized its social media outlets, such as Twitter and Facebook, to advertise public engagement activities.



Dutchess County Parks Webpage

DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT EVENTS



Be part of the **Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan!**



Monday, June 4, 2018 – Bowdoin Park Pavilion #5, 85 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls

- **12:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Self-guided Public “Drop-in” Session** to learn about the project and share your ideas
- **6:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Public Open House**
- **6:30 pm – 7:00 pm: Presentation**

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – Town of Milan Town Hall, 20 Wilcox Circle, Red Hook

- **3:00 pm – 5:00 pm: Self-guided Public “Drop-in” Session**
- **6:00 pm – 8:00 pm: Public Open House**
- **6:30 pm – 7:00 pm: Presentation**

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 – Quiet Cove Park, 1 Clear Water Drive, Poughkeepsie

- **11:30 am – 1:30 pm: Walk and Talk Session**

Our County-wide Master Plan will be a roadmap to ensure an appropriate balance of facilities, amenities and programs throughout Dutchess County. The Plan will be used as a resource for future development and redevelopment of Dutchess County's parks, open space and recreation system over the next five to twenty years.

Take the Community Needs Survey:
www.dutchessny.gov/parksurvey



For more information contact:

Steve Olsen, CPRP, Director of Parks
Email: solsen@dutchessny.gov
www.Dutchessny.gov

Public Engagement Event Flyer

ONLINE COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY

In addition to in-person workshops, an online survey was utilized during Phase 1 to gather input about recreational facilities and programming needs or opportunities. The purpose of the survey was to identify community needs and issues concerning County parks, recreational programs and facilities. The results will be used as a baseline for determining needs, desires and willingness to fund facilities usage and program participation. The survey also helped indicate which parks are most frequented, where visitors are coming from and how County tax dollars should be prioritized for capital improvements to parks and recreation facilities.

The survey was created and distributed using Survey Monkey and went live on May 14, 2018. The survey remained open until July 1, 2018 with 1,000 responses received. Survey results and a summary of highlights are found in **Appendix D**.

The survey was advertised on the County website and through several press releases that were distributed prior to and during the survey period. Information and links to the survey were also distributed on flyers and business cards which included a QR code so respondents could access the survey directly on their smartphone or tablet. Business cards and flyers were distributed at Dutchess County Parks, public engagement events and stakeholder meetings and provided to park staff and Core Team members to distribute. Results of the survey were posted on the Dutchess County website.

LANGUAGE AND ACCESSIBILITY

The County worked with the Project Team to ensure meeting announcements and public information were accessible to all. The County website, for example, includes an option to translate text into a different language. Additionally, all public workshop venues were accessible.

Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Community Needs Survey

Be part of the Dutchess County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We need your input!



Go to this link and take the survey:

www.dutchessny.gov/parksurvey

For more information contact:

Steve Olsen, CPRP, Director of Parks | Email: solsen@dutchessny.gov | www.Dutchessny.gov

Scan the QR code
to access the
survey on your
mobile device



Community Needs Survey Business Card Handout



SECTION TWO
DUTCHESS COUNTY
OVERVIEW



DUTCHESS COUNTY OVERVIEW

COUNTY OVERVIEW

The County of Dutchess is located in the southeastern part of New York State. The County is bounded by the Hudson River to the west, Connecticut and Massachusetts to the east, Columbia County to the north and Putnam County to the south.

Dutchess County originally developed as an agricultural area. The population began to increase and urbanize with the onset of the Industrial Revolution. The County's location on the Hudson River made it a hub of shipping and manufacturing through the late 19th and up through the mid-20th centuries. Today, the County has developed into a suburban community making it a highly desirable place to call home for individuals, families and retirees. Dutchess County is approximately 825 square miles in size and has a diverse population estimated to be nearly 295,905.

Dutchess County Municipalities

Two (2) cities – Poughkeepsie and Beacon;

Twenty (20) towns – Amenia, Beekman, Clinton, Dover, East Fishkill, Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Milan, North East, Pawling, Pine Plains, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Stanford, Union Vale, Wappinger and Washington; and

Eight (8) villages – Fishkill, Millbrook, Millerton, Pawling, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Tivoli and Wappingers Falls.

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

The Dutchess County Parks Division (Parks Division) is housed within the Department of Public Works (DPW). The Parks Division is overseen by the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Public Works and managed by the Parks Director. The Parks Division operates and maintains all County park facilities with a diverse staff of year-round and seasonal employees that range from park maintenance, education and programming and overall planning and administration. The Parks Division has 39 employees including seventeen (17) full-time staff, one (1) part-time staff, seven (7) waterfront seasonal staff and fourteen (14) seasonal student workers.



Dutchess County Parks Staff at Maple Knoll Lodge, Bowdoin Park, December 2018

DEMOGRAPHICS

An analysis of demographic conditions is an important component to the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Demographic and socioeconomic information for the County provides insight into the County's population including potential needs and opportunities within the Dutchess County Park System.

POPULATION

Dutchess County experienced an overall population increase of 1.3% between 2009 and 2016 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While the overall population increased, there was not an even distribution of growth across the County. During the time period from 2009 to 2016, central and southern Dutchess County grew at a higher rate than the northern part of the County. Some northern communities experienced a population decrease including the Towns of Washington, Rhinebeck, Pine Plains and Milan, while several southern communities, including the Towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill and City of Beacon experienced a population increase.

Table 2-1. Dutchess County Age Cohorts

Age Cohort	Dutchess County			New York State		
	2009	2016	% Change	2009	2016	% Change
Under 20	78,767	70,473	-10.5%	5,059,659	4,765,536	-5.8%
20 to 34	51,185	55,742	8.9%	3,922,542	4,259,217	8.6%
35 to 44	44,477	35,064	-21.2%	2,836,735	2,501,802	-11.8%
45 to 54	47,958	47,399	-1.2%	2,881,804	2,780,247	-3.5%
55 to 64	32,728	41,456	26.7%	2,162,451	2,496,854	15.5%
65+	37,072	45,771	23.5%	2,560,705	2,893,801	13.0%
Total	292,187	295,905	1.3%	19,423,896	19,697,457	1.4%

Source: American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates, 2009, 2016

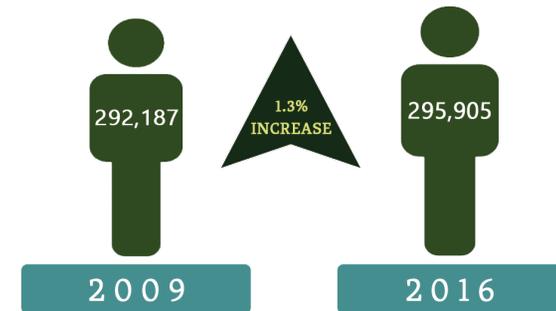
AGE COHORTS

Dutchess County followed a similar trend to New York State in age cohort distribution from 2009 to 2016. During this time, the age groups that experienced the largest population decrease in Dutchess County include the under 20 group, which decreased 10.5% and the 35 to 44 age group which decreased 21.2%. The age groups that experienced the greatest increase in population are the 55 to 64 age group which increased 26.7%, followed by the 65+ group which increased 23.5%.

INCOME

The median household income for Dutchess County was \$72,706 in 2016. This was higher than the State median household income at \$60,741 and the national median household income at \$55,322

DUTCHESS COUNTY POPULATION



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2016



DUTCHESS COUNTY PARKS OVERVIEW

The mission of the Parks Division is to enhance the quality of life for County residents by providing opportunities for active and passive recreation in the natural scenic beauty of Dutchess County park facilities. The County achieves this mission, through the operation of six (6) active park facilities across Dutchess County.

Dutchess County parkland is located primarily in the northern and southern regions of the County. Wilcox Park and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail are located in the more rural areas of northern Dutchess County, while Bowdoin Park, Quiet Cove Riverfront Park, the William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail and Dutchess Stadium are located in the more densely populated southern region of the county.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Dutchess County Parks budget makes up less than one percent of the overall Dutchess County budget. The total appropriations for Dutchess County Parks in 2019 was \$2,446,830 with a total of \$553,895 in revenues, leaving a net County cost of \$1,892,935. Based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) 2019 Agency Performance Review, the typical parks and recreation agency in the United States has a revenue to operating expenditure rate of 27.3%. The revenue to operating expenditure rate for Dutchess County is 23% which is slightly less than the national average. This indicates that Dutchess County Parks utilizes a higher tax levy percentage than other park systems nation-wide.

STAFF OVERVIEW

Dutchess County Parks employs approximately 20.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. The following is a breakdown of staff positions and number of employees:

Full-time staff members are supported by 14 summer seasonal staff that are hired to assist with grounds work, clerical responsibilities and programming.

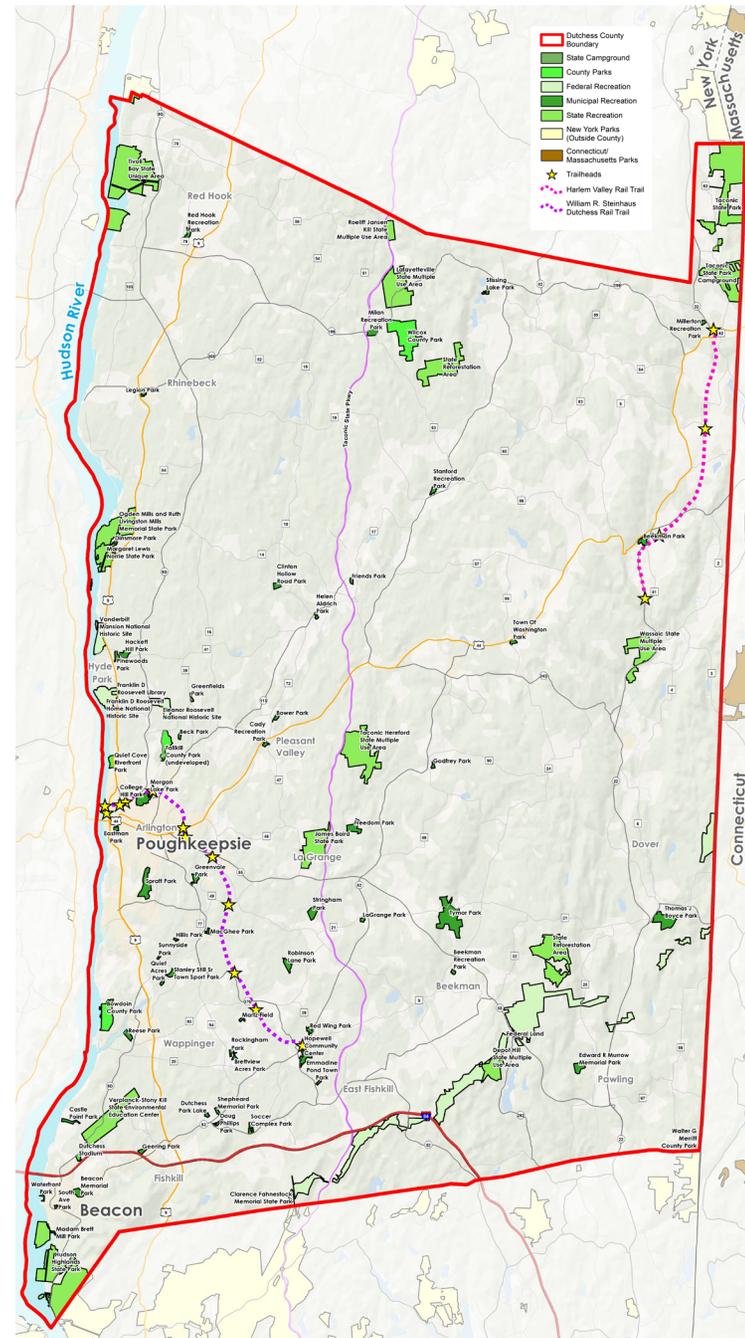


Table 2-2. 2019 Authorized Park Staff Positions

Position	FTE Staff
Assistant Park Naturalist	1
Lifeguard	3
Office Assistant	1
Park Attendant	2
Parks Director	1
Senior Park Maintenance Mechanic	5
Park Manager	2
Park Naturalist	1
Secretary	1
Park Maintenance Mechanic	3
Waterfront Director	0.5
Total	20.5

Source: Dutchess County 2019 Adopted Budget



Hillside overlooking the Hudson River, Bowdoin Park

PARK OVERVIEW

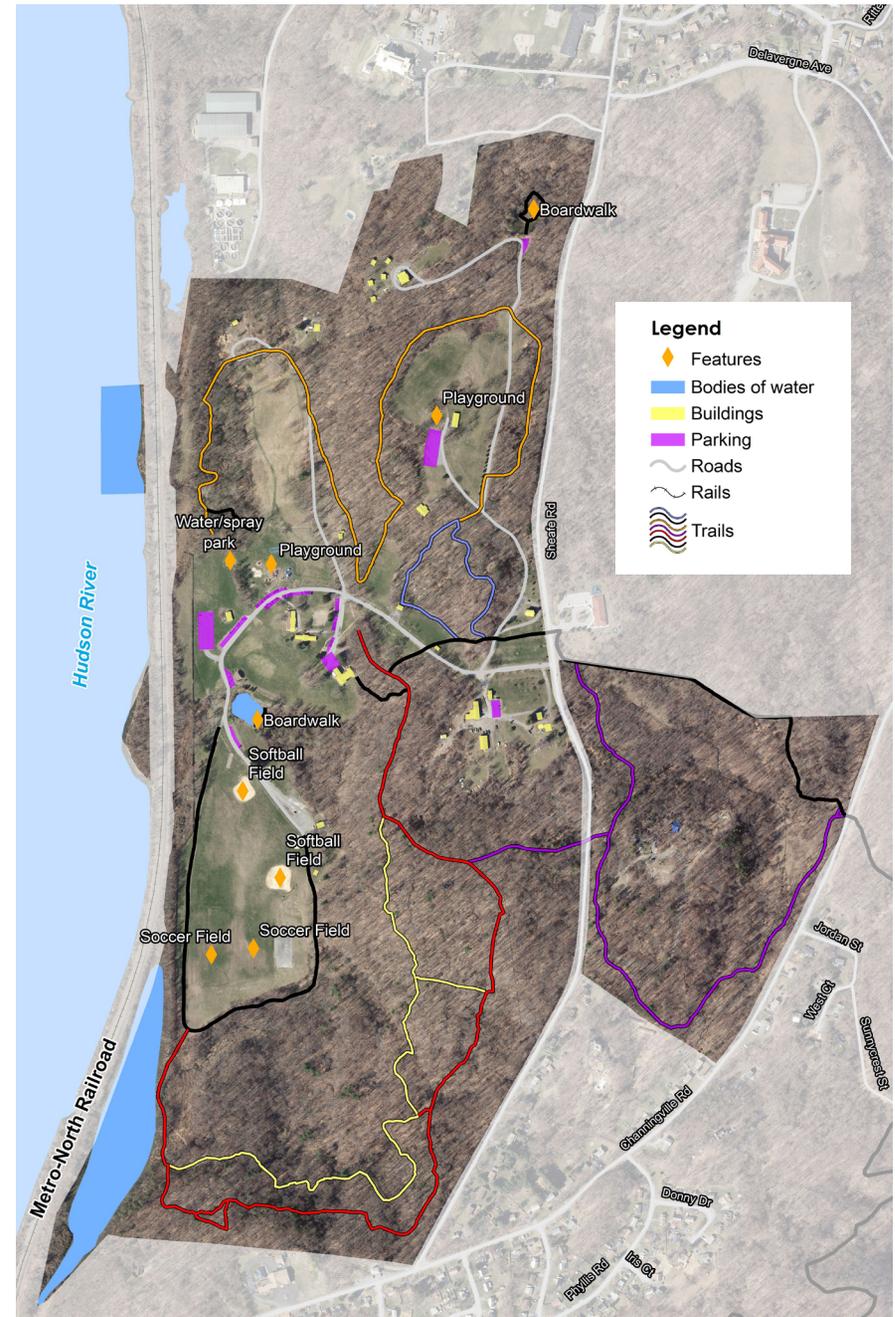
The following is a description of each park within the system.

BOWDOIN PARK

Bowdoin Park is a 311-acre park off Sheafe Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie overlooking the Hudson River. Visitors are met with breathtaking views of the Hudson River and rolling hills of the Hudson Highlands. This park is active with people of all ages utilizing the playgrounds and splash pad, hiking on the many trails, viewing nesting eagles, participating in maple sugaring, taking an archery class and much more. The park features pavilions for day use, hiking and cross-country trails, recreational ball fields and numerous programming opportunities for children and adults throughout the year. Bowdoin Park serves as the County park hub for the southern part of Dutchess County due to its proximity to major population centers and program offerings.

Bowdoin Park is home to a number of special events including regional cross-country tournaments and a summer concert series. Bowdoin Park is the designated location for the northeast region Nike Cross Regionals, a major inter-scholastic cross-country event that attracts several thousand people to Bowdoin Park each year. Bowdoin's cross-country trails are a significant draw to the park and offer a unique experience for visitor's.

The park property was once a farm and was acquired by the Children's Aid Society in the 1940s. The Children's Aid Society used the property for programming and constructed many of the buildings still used today. The park was acquired by Dutchess County in 1975 and has operated the park ever since. All of the buildings in the park were built prior to the County acquiring the land except for pavilions 3-5, the bandshell and some of the newer playground equipment.



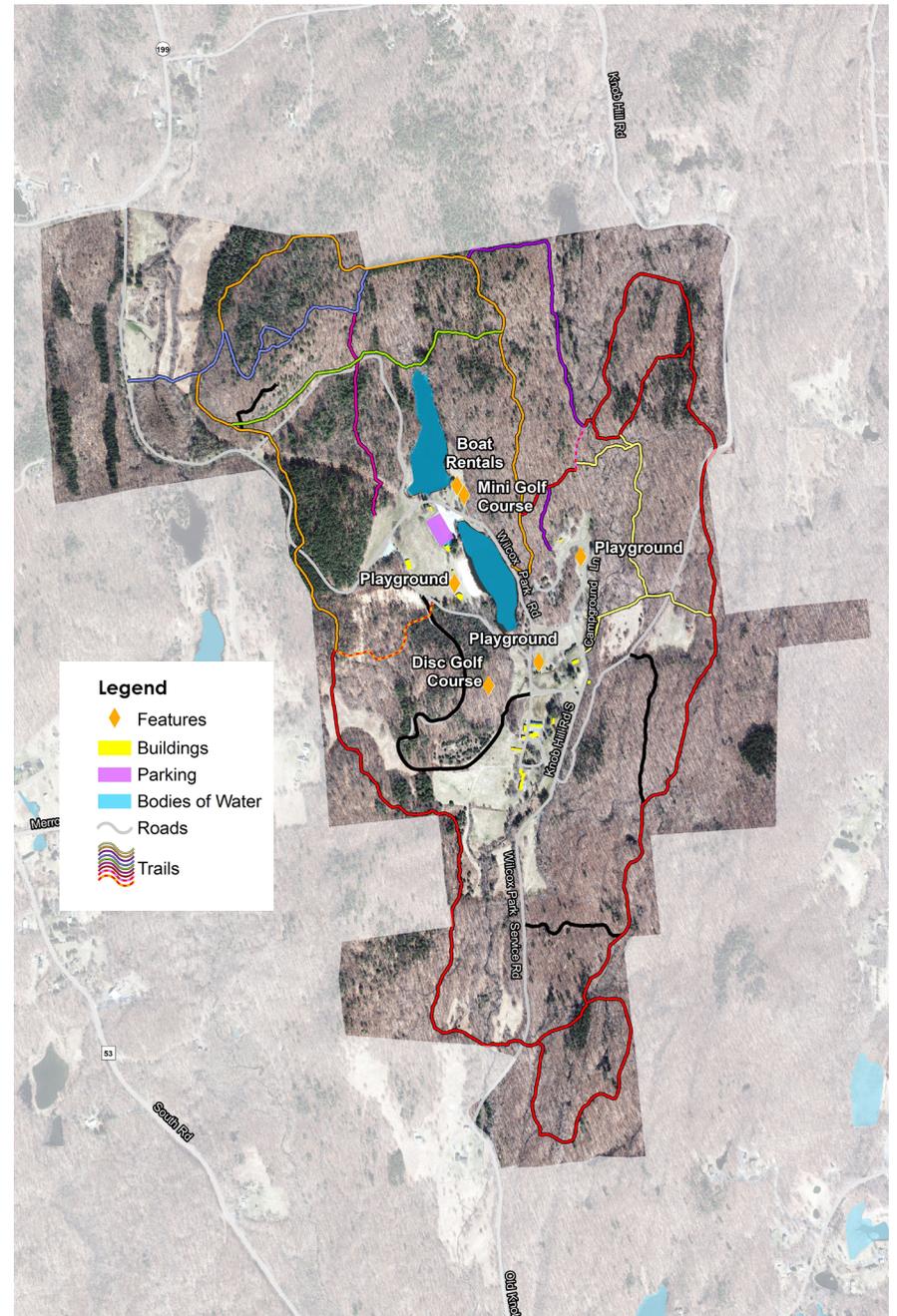
WILCOX MEMORIAL PARK

Wilcox Park is a quiet and serene, 614-acre park off of Route 199 in the Town of Milan. Located among the rolling hills, woodlands and pastures of northern Dutchess County, Wilcox Park offers a beautiful landscape with numerous opportunities for both passive and active recreation. The park offers swimming, tent camping, RV camping, an 18-hole disc golf course and more. The park is the largest in the Dutchess County Park System and serves as the County park hub for the northern part of the County. Wilcox Park was originally part of the Wilcox family farm and sold to the County in 1961 by Irene Kilmer Wilcox.

Wilcox park offers over 11 miles of well maintained hiking trails that wind through the woods and are well suited to cross-country skiing and snow shoeing in the winter.



Picnic Table Overlooking the Swimming Beach at Wilcox Park



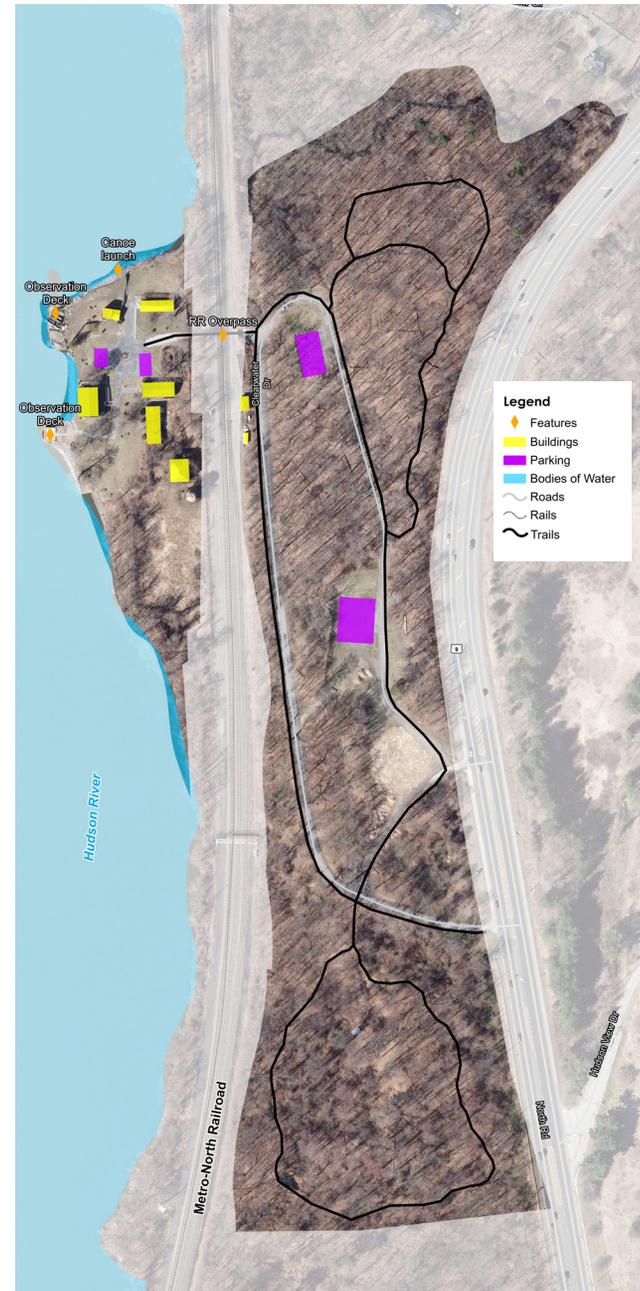
QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park is a 32-acre park off of Route 9 in the Town of Poughkeepsie. This park is one of the few places that offers direct riverfront access in Dutchess County. Quiet Cove is a peaceful and serene park nestled along the shores of the Hudson River and offers unique vistas of the majestic Hudson River Valley. The park offers a kayak and canoe launch, community room overlooking the river, picnic tables and observation decks for viewing the scenery or for fishing. Visitor's can often be found relaxing, reading a book on the porch of the Navy Boathouse Annex, or fishing off one of the observation decks.

Quiet Cove is located on the site of the former Hudson River Psychiatric Center. The property was retained by the State at the County's encouragement for the creation of a riverside park. As part of a cooperative partnership agreement with New York State, the County agreed to make improvements to the property and operate it as a riverfront park, while the State maintains ownership of the land. The County has recently implemented improvements to the park including a newly renovated shoreline and newly constructed waterfront observation decks overlooking the Hudson River. Other improvements to Quiet Cove include a boat launch for canoes and kayaks.



Overlooking an observation Deck from the Porch of the Navy Boathouse Annex



DUTCHESS STADIUM

Built in 1994, Dutchess Stadium has been the home of the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team for the past 25 seasons. The stadium is part of the Dutchess County Park System and is owned by Dutchess County and leased by the Hudson Valley Renegades. The stadium is located in the Town of Fishkill off of Route 9D with easy access to Interstate 84 and features an artificial turf playing field which was installed in 2014. The 4,300-seat facility is a regional destination and hosts additional events, such as concerts, car shows, collegiate and high school baseball games and other community sporting contests.

A master planning effort has recently been undertaken by the County that is specific to Dutchess Stadium. This planning effort includes improvements to seating and parking lot as well as other facilities.



Renegade's Game at Dutchess Stadium



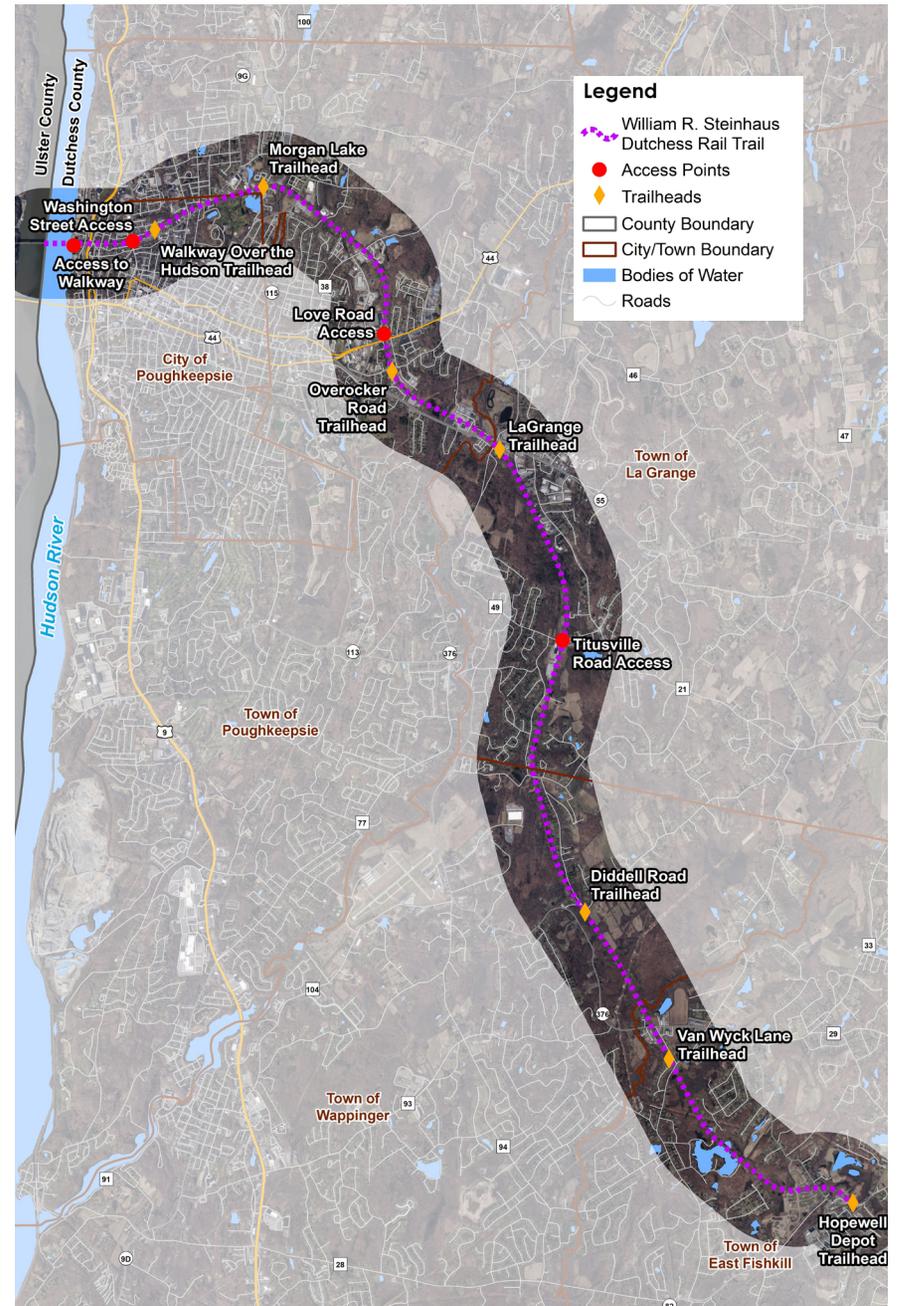
WILLIAM R STEINHAUS DUTCHESS RAIL TRAIL

The William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail (Dutchess Rail Trail) is a 13.9-mile multi-use linear county park that runs along the former Maybrook Rail corridor through the towns of Poughkeepsie, LaGrange, Wappinger and East Fishkill and City of Poughkeepsie, with a direct link to the Walkway Over the Hudson and the Empire State Trail. The paved trail provides recreational opportunities to residents and visitors and creates a link between communities and businesses.

Completion of the trail took place in four (4) phases. Phase One opened to the public in November 2007 and spanned the areas from NYS Route 376 to Lake Walton Road in East Fishkill. Phase Two was completed in 2009 and spans from Morgan Lake in the City of Poughkeepsie to Overocker Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Phase Three was completed in May 2011, and spans from Old Manchester Road in LaGrange to the Town of East Fishkill at Route 82 in the Hamlet of Hopewell Junction. Phase Four of the project included the construction of a new 750ft bridge that extends over NYS Route 55, and Wappinger Creek. Phase Four marked the completion of the Dutchess Rail Trail and resulted in an uninterrupted 13.9-miles of linear bike and pedestrian trail.



Morgan Lake Trailhead on the Dutchess Rail Trail



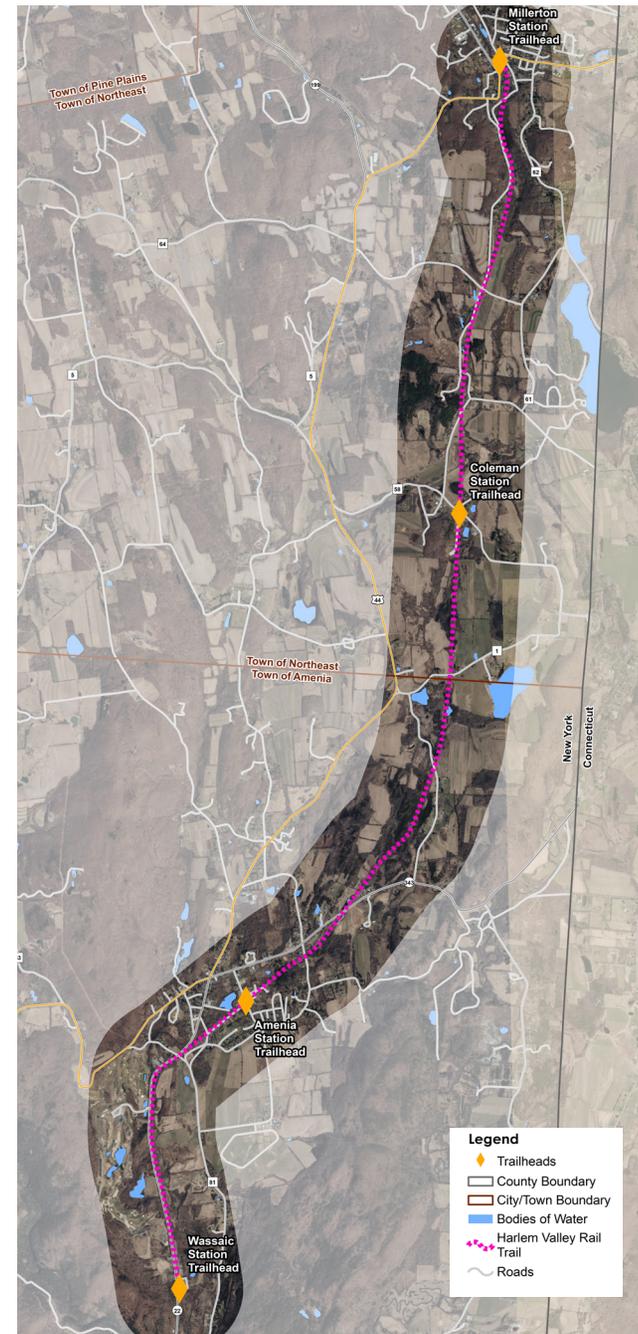
HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT) is a 10-mile paved trail for County residents and visitors. The trail weaves through farms, wetlands, forest hillsides, historic settlements and village centers. The first section of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail was opened in 1996 when the 4.5-mile trail segment from Amenia to Coleman Station Road was constructed and opened to the general public. The second 3.5-mile section, from Coleman Station Road to Millerton, was opened in 2000. The third 2.5-mile section of the trail, from Amenia to the Wassaic Train Station, was opened in 2005.

A \$9 million-dollar federal grant was obtained to facilitate the extension of the trail from the Village of Millerton north to Columbia County. Construction of this final phase is currently underway and is anticipated to conclude by the Fall of 2020.



Millerton Trailhead along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail





SECTION THREE

NEW YORK STATE COUNTY COMPARISON ANALYSIS



NEW YORK STATE COUNTY COMPARISON ANALYSIS

OVERVIEW

To gain a better understanding of Dutchess County parks and recreation programming and facilities, a County comparison analysis was completed to compare Dutchess County parks and recreation to other counties across the state. This analysis was completed using demographic and geographic variables including population, median household income, total square miles, number of municipalities and population density. After analyzing all counties in New York State, four (4) counties were identified as most comparable to Dutchess County including Albany County, Orange County, Rockland County and Ulster County. The comparison included information about the structure of parks departments including number of staff, maintenance and operations, department budgets and funding sources for capital improvement projects. The information gathered also included the number of parks and recreational facilities, as well as programming offered in each of the selected counties. This information will help to determine how the Dutchess County Parks Division compares with other similar counties in terms of facilities and program offerings.

METHODOLOGY

The selection of counties comparable to Dutchess County started with a comparison of population, which identified ten (10) counties, five (5) with a total population greater or equal to that of Dutchess County and five (5) with a total population less than or equal to Dutchess County.

The next factor examined was Median Household Income. Median Household Income can be a factor in determining park usage in terms of the cost of amenities and programs offered and the types of recreation that visitors engage in. Using this variable, the selection was further distilled to seven (7) counties including Albany, Broome, Oneida, Orange, Niagara, Rockland and Ulster Counties.

Lastly, to focus the selection to the four (4) counties chosen, a comparison of overall area in square miles was completed. After comparing total area, the final counties chosen include Albany, Orange, Rockland and Ulster Counties. Data and information for the County Comparison was gathered from the U.S. Census Bureau and through conversations with various parks and recreation staff from each of the selected counties.

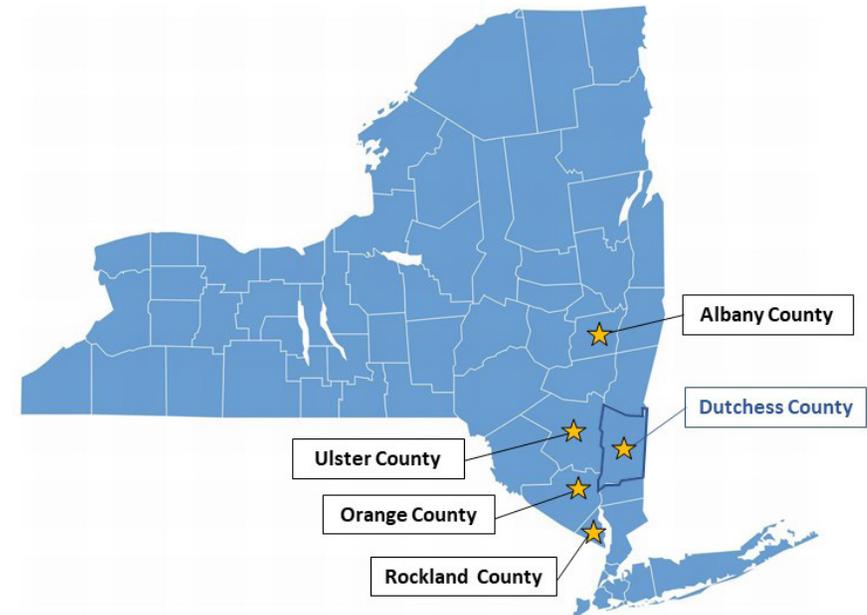
Table 3-1 represents the data and factors considered for the selection of the four comparable counties.

Table 3-1. County Comparison Data

	Dutchess County	Albany County	Orange County	Rockland County	Ulster County
Population 2016*	295,905	307,891	376,242	322,642	180,505
Median Household Income*	\$72,706	\$60,904	\$71,910	\$83,134	\$60,393
Total Area (Square Miles)	824	533	838	199	1,161
Population Density (People/SqMi)*	359	578	449	1621	155
Total Population 2010**	297,488	304,204	372,813	311,687	182,493
Percent Population in Urbanized Areas**	75%	90%	78%	99%	54%
Percent population in Rural Areas**	25%	10%	22%	1%	46%

Source: *American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates

**U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census



ALBANY COUNTY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Albany County is located in the Capital Region of New York State, bounded by Schenectady and Saratoga Counties to the north, Greene County to the south, Schoharie County to the west and the Hudson River and Rensselaer County to the east. In 2016, the total County population was 307,891. The majority of Albany County's population lies in the northeastern portion of the County in the City of Albany, and Towns of Colonie, Bethlehem and Guilderland. These areas primarily contain high density, urban and suburban patterns of development, while the southern and western portions of the County are primarily rural with agricultural and low density residential land uses. In 2016, the County median household income was \$60,904, slightly higher than that of New York State at \$60,741.¹

FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Albany County Department of Recreation was developed in 2016 under the leadership of Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy to oversee the maintenance and operations of Albany County parks, programming and recreational facilities. Prior to the development of the Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works oversaw all county parks and facilities maintenance and operations. Prior to the development of the Recreation Department, recreational programming was conducted through other county departments including the Department for Children, Youth and Families. The mission of the Recreation Department is to provide structured recreational programming for the citizens of Albany County. Through a partnership with the County Executive, County Sheriff, and County Legislature, the department offers free sports clinics to children within the County.

The Recreation Department employs eight (8) staff which include the Commissioner, Rink Manager, Assistant Rink Manager, Community Program Educator, Recreation Maintenance Person, part-time Karate Instructor, and two (2) Clerk Typists.

The total budget of the Recreation Department was \$964,264 for 2018. Revenue was generated from recreation facilities charges and the rental of real property in the amount of \$537,729, leaving a county share of \$426,535.²

Information regarding the Albany County Recreation Department was obtained through conversations with department staff, the Albany County website and the 2018 Albany County Adopted Budget.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Lawson Lake County Park – Lawson Lake County Park is a 420-acre park in the Towns of Coeymans and New Scotland off Lawson Lake Road. This is the largest park within the Albany County Park System and offers three marked trails for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The park features a number of buildings in the process of being rehabilitated, some of which can be reserved for overnight stays. Currently the only utility available in the park is electricity. Efforts are underway to reconnect to existing wells and the feasibility of a septic system is being explored.

Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail – A nine-mile linear trail covering 117 acres from the City of Albany to the Village of Voorheesville. This trail can be accessed at four (4) trailheads located at 8 Grove Street, Voorheesville, 839 Kenwood Avenue, Slingerlands, 29 Hudson Avenue, Delmar, and 720 South Pearl Street, Albany.

Albany County Hockey Facility – The Albany County Hockey Facility was built in 1990 and is located adjacent to the Albany County Airport on Hockey Lane. The indoor facility includes a standard sized, National Hockey League ice rink and regularly hosts multiple area league hockey teams, skating lessons and free skate for the general public.

Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve – The Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve is located off Heritage Lane in the Town of Colonie. The preserve is named for Mother Ann Lee, the first leader of the Shakers, a Christian community which first settled in what is now the Town of Colonie. The preserve offers a scenic pond with a boardwalk for nature viewing and a 2.5-mile loop trail.

PROGRAMMING

The Albany County Department of Recreation offers a range of sports clinics for children at various facilities throughout the County. Through a joint venture with the County Executive, County Sheriff, and County Legislature, Albany County offers a number of programming opportunities to county residents at no cost. This program is part of an effort to provide recreation opportunities to underserved populations of Albany County youth. The staff who run the sports clinics are all contracted except for a part-time karate instructor that is employed by the county. The County utilizes municipal park facilities to host programs.

Sports clinics include:

- Baseball
- Basketball
- Flag Football
- Ice Skating/Hockey
- Karate
- Lacrosse
- Track & Field

PARTNERSHIPS

The Albany County Department of Recreation partners with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), a national athletic organization formed in 1888 to establish standards and uniformity in amateur sports. Under this partnership, the AAU provides insurance coverage for the sports clinics offered by the County.

ORANGE COUNTY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Orange County is located in the lower Hudson Valley of New York State and bounded by Ulster and Sullivan Counties to the north, Rockland County and New Jersey to the south, Sullivan County and Pennsylvania to the west and the Hudson River to the east. In 2016, the total population of the county was 376,242. Most of the Orange County population is based in the northeastern and central portion of the county, while the rest of the County remains primarily rural, low-density residential, and agricultural lands. In 2016, the median household income for the county was \$71,910, which is higher than that of New York State at \$60,741.³

FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Orange County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (Parks Department) is responsible for county park planning and development, maintenance and operations, conservation initiatives, museum operations, recreation programs and special events. The Parks Department manages over 3,415 acres of parkland on twelve (12) parks and recreational facilities with an annual visitation estimated at nearly 700,000 park patrons. The Parks Department has a staff of one hundred thirty-five (135) employees, which includes eighty (80) seasonal employees and fifty-five (55) full-time employees. Most park maintenance is completed by the seasonal workforce. Recently, the Orange County has begun to contract out some of the maintenance tasks like mowing and general landscaping, in an effort to save money. They contract out this work on five of twelve park sites including the twelve-mile Heritage Trail. The 2018 adopted budget for the Parks Department is \$6.3 million and receives revenue from the park system's two (2) golf courses and facilities rentals.

There are four museums within the county park system that are operated by not-for-profit organizations. Those museums include the Brick House Museum and Farmer's Museum located off Route 17K in Montgomery, The Hill Hold Museum located off Route 416 in Campbell Hall, and the Neversink Valley Museum located off Hoag Road in Cuddebackville. The Parks Department provides maintenance support for the museum buildings and facilities but does not collect revenue from the museums.

Orange County has a robust park system that offers a wide range of parks, facilities and activities for all ages and backgrounds. Some parks, like the Thomas Bull Memorial Park in the Town of Hamptonburgh, provide year-round recreation opportunities. Thomas Bull Memorial Park includes a Winter Sports Area which offers ice skating, sledding, cross-country skiing and snow tubing.

Information regarding the Orange County Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation was obtained through conversations with department staff, the Orange County website and the Orange County 2018 Legislative Adopted Budget.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Algonquin Park – 44.8-acre park located in the Town of Newburgh on Powder Mill Road.

Blackburne Park – 67.7-acre park located in the Town of Hamptonburgh on State Route 416. This park is currently undeveloped.

Brick House Museum – 37.5-acre property and historic museum in the Town of Montgomery on Route 17K.

Cronomer Hill Park – 251.1-acre park located in the Town of Newburgh on Gardnertown Road.

D&H Canal Park – 259-acre park in the Town of Deerpark on Hoag Road. This park also features the Neversink Valley Museum, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and documenting the history of the people and industries associated with the Neversink area during the 19th and early 20th centuries.⁴

Glenmere Park – This park is currently undeveloped and located in the Town of Chester.

Gonzaga Park – 216-acre park in the Town of Woodbury on Seven Springs Road.

Heritage Trail – Heritage Trail is a 14-mile linear trail from the Village of Harriman to the Village of Goshen. Access points are located at the Chester Depot Museum, 19 Winkler Place, Chester, Saint James Place, Goshen and the Park and Ride Lot B, on Route 17M, Monroe.

Kowawese Unique Area at Plum Point – 102-acre park located in the Town of New Windsor on Route 9W.

Thomas Bull Memorial Park – 675-acre park located in the Town of Hamptonburgh off State Route 416. This park includes one of the two 18-hole golf courses in the county park system, the Hill-Hold Historic Museum and an arboretum among other amenities.

Warwick County Park – 705-acre park located in the Town of Warwick on Route 17A. This park features one of the two 18-hole golf courses in the county park system.

Winding Hills Park – 518-acre park located in the Towns of Crawford and Montgomery on State Route 17K.

County-wide Facilities and Amenities:

- Arboretum
- Baseball/softball fields
- Camping areas
- Cross country ski trails
- Dog park
- Equestrian areas
- Exercise trails
- Fishing
- Fitness stations
- Gift shops/pro shops.
- Golf courses
- Greenhouse
- Grills
- Horseshoe pits
- Indoor facilities (with kitchens)
- Multipurpose athletic fields
- Museums/tours
- Nature Trails

- Non-motorized boating areas
- Observation tower
- Open air shelters/pavilions
- Outdoor ice skating areas
- Outdoor volleyball courts
- Park benches
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds
- Ponds/rivers/streams
- Restaurants
- Restrooms
- Sledding areas
- Snowmobile trails
- Snow tubing
- Tennis courts
- Undeveloped parkland/reservoir land

PROGRAMMING

Orange County parks organizes fitness classes at Thomas Bull Memorial Park, the Orange County Veterans Golf Outing and wine and beer tastings paired with a 9-hole golf tournament at the Stony Ford Golf Course. Orange County does not provide organized parks and recreational programming, like summer camps. The need for organized parks programming is met by local municipal park systems.

ROCKLAND COUNTY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Rockland County is located in southern New York State and is bounded by the Hudson River to the east, New Jersey to the southwest, and Orange County to the northwest. In 2016, the total population of the County was 322,642 with the majority of the population living in the central and eastern portions of the County.⁵ The northwestern portion of the County is the least densely populated area due primarily to the presence of Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks. With nearly one-third of the County preserved as parkland, along with forty 40-miles of Hudson River waterfront, and 600 lakes and ponds, there are numerous passive and active recreation opportunities available to residents and visitors. The median household income for Rockland County was \$83,134 in 2016.⁶

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources (DER) oversees all maintenance and operations of the Rockland County Park System. Also housed within the DER is the Environmental Management Council, Soil and Water Conservation District, Water Quality Committee, the Agriculture Farmland Protection Board and the Parks Commission. The Rockland County Parks Commission was established to review requests for modifications to County Parks including drone laws, mountain bike installations and other parks and recreation related issues.

The Rockland County Park System includes a network of twenty-seven (27) parks comprising 3,179 acres. An overarching goal of the Rockland County Park System is to achieve the national standard of one acre of parkland per 100 of population and provide County residents ready access to parks and recreational opportunities without having to travel far distances.

The DER operates with a staff of twenty-four (24) which includes four (4) park rangers, three (3) grounds workers, fifteen (15) seasonal workers, and two (2) security guards. The total operating budget for the DER is \$2.5 million.

The DER has partnered with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to assist with trail maintenance for County parks that have connections to the Long Path Trail, a 358-mile trail that extends from the 175th Street Subway

Station in New York City to John Boyd Thatcher State Park in Voorheesville, New York.

The Rockland County Park System is unique due to the development pressures present in the County. The County is almost completely built-out, resulting in a need for land preservation. For this reason, the County's main focus of its Parks Department is on land preservation and providing passive recreational opportunities. Parks programming in the County is provided by local municipal park systems.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

- Andre Mountain, Town of Orangetown
- Buttermilk Falls Park, Town of Clarkstown
- Clausland Mountain Park, Town of Clarkstown
- Dater Mountain Park, Town of Ramapo
- Zebrowski-Morahan Demarest Kill Park, Town of Clarkstown
- Dutche Garden, Town of Clarkstown
- Elenor Burlingham Memorial Park, Village of Sloagtsburg
- H. Pierson Mapes Flat Rock Park, Town of Ramapo
- Haverstraw Bay Park, Town of Haverstraw
- Kakiat Park, Town of Ramapo
- Kennedy Dells Park, Town of Clarkstown
- Samuel G. Fisher Mount Ivy Environmental Park, Town of Ramapo
- Sean Hunter Ryan Memorial Park, Town of Clarkstown
- South Mountain Park, Town of Ramapo

Facilities and Amenities:

- Hiking trails
- Picnic tables
- Fishing
- Parking
- Scenic views
- Waterfall

PROGRAMMING

Rockland County does not provide organized parks and recreational programming. The County's main focus is on land preservation and providing facilities for passive recreation opportunities. Organized parks and recreation programming is offered through local municipal park systems.

PARTNERSHIPS

Rockland County partners with the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference to help maintain connector trails that connect County trails to other public trail systems. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference is a volunteer-powered organization that builds, maintains, and protects public trails.

Another partnership is with the Rockland Farm Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving Rockland County's remaining farmland. The Farm Alliance, Rockland County and the Town of Clarkstown partnered to preserve the historic Cropsey Farm in New City and transformed it into an organic, community learning farm.

ULSTER COUNTY

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Ulster County is located in the Mid-Hudson Valley of New York and bounded by Orange County to the south, Sullivan County to the west, Delaware and Green Counties to the North and the Hudson River and Dutchess County to the east. In 2016, the Ulster County population was 180,505 with nearly 56% of the population living in urban areas and 46% living in rural areas.⁷ The main population centers are in the eastern portion of the County in the City of Kingston and the Villages of Saugerties, New Paltz, and Ellenville. The higher population and dense urban development in this portion of the County is due primarily to the proximity to the Hudson River and its resources as well as access to Interstate 87. The central and western portion of Ulster County is heavily forested and characterized by the scenic rolling hills of the Catskill Mountains. In 2016, the median household income for Ulster County was \$60,393 which was less than Dutchess County at \$72,706 and slightly less than New York State at \$60,741.⁸

FACILITIES AND DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Ulster County Park System is operated and maintained by the Department of Public Works under the Division of Buildings and Grounds. The park system consists of four facilities including Ulster Landing County Park, Ulster County Pool, the Ulster County Fairgrounds and the O & W Rail Trail. The Department of Public Works employs 8 full-time and 7-8 seasonal employees to operate and maintain parks and recreational facilities. According to the Ulster County 2018 Adopted Budget, the Parks Department had a total of \$406,894 in expenses, and \$191,150 in revenues. The pool operated by the County is a significant expense, totaling \$255,464, or 63% of the total parks budget.

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES:

Sojourner Truth/Ulster Landing Park – A 103-acre park located on Ulster Landing Road in the Town of Saugerties. This park includes hiking trails, a large pavilion, boat launch and large swimming beach with lifeguards.

Ulster County Pool Complex – A public pool complex located on Libertyville Road in the Town of New Paltz. The complex includes an Olympic size swimming pool, two kiddie pools, locker room facilities, pavilion with picnic tables and a snack bar. The fee for entry is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children and \$1.00 for senior citizens.

Ulster County Fairgrounds – The Ulster County Fairgrounds are located on the same property as the Ulster County Pool Complex. The fair takes place the first week of August and includes live entertainment, concessions and agricultural contests.

O & W Rail Trail – Ulster County owns approximately 11.5 miles of the O & W rail trail but maintains an additional 19 miles under an agreement with the State of New York who owns the remainder of the trail.

PROGRAMMING

No parks programming is offered at this time.

PARTNERSHIPS

Ulster County partners with the Town of Lloyd to assist with rail trail maintenance.

COUNTY COMPARISON FINDINGS

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

County park systems play an important role in the overall context of parks and recreation offerings available to community members and visitors. Each county that was analyzed has some form of a county park system that exists within the context of national, state and municipal parks, all of which provide various forms of recreational facilities and programming.

A common issue among each of the county park systems analyzed, is finding the proper balance of facilities and program offerings, while not detracting from the usership of municipal park systems. Since county and municipal park systems utilize many of the same park users, it is important that the two systems work together to maximize park usership, rather than detract from one another. To strike this balance, county park systems often develop a niche in parks and recreational offerings that municipal park systems do not offer or are unable to offer. In some cases, the county has focused its efforts on land conservation, multi-purpose sporting facilities, or educational programming, depending on what is offered in municipal park systems.

While Rockland and Orange Counties do not provide many recreational programming opportunities at the county level, the local municipal park systems fill that niche by providing a range of programming and recreational facilities. The Rockland County Park System has focused its efforts primarily on land conservation and providing passive recreation opportunities to county residents and visitors. This is of particular importance due to significant development pressures within the County. Just three percent (3%) of the land area within the County remains to be developed or protected.⁹ Through efforts of the State of New York and Rockland County, one-third of the County has been protected as state and county parkland.

Orange County has the largest park system of the counties analyzed for this comparison. The County offers nearly 3,400 acres of parkland on its 16 parks and recreational facilities. Orange County has robust municipal park systems, like Rockland County, that provide programming to residents. For this reason, the County does not offer organized recreation programs except for some fitness classes. The County provides a significant amount of high quality recreational facilities for both passive and active recreation including two golf courses.

Albany County’s park system and programming is still relatively new but has quickly developed a niche in its program offerings. The County offers free sports clinics to children across the County which provide opportunities for children and families that otherwise would not be able to afford traditional summer and sports camps.

PARKS AND RECREATION METRICS

Park Acreage Per Fulltime Equivalent (FTE) Maintenance Staff

A comparison of park acreage to park maintenance staff was conducted for each county in the county comparison. The purpose of this comparison is to understand how Dutchess County compares in terms of how many staff it takes to maintain the county park system. The calculation was based on total acreage of county parks and total fulltime equivalent (FTE) county parks maintenance staff. This does not include administrative, programming and part-time staff or volunteer groups that may assist with additional maintenance tasks.

As indicated in Table 3-2, Ulster County has the most park maintenance staff per park acreage with one (1) employee per 15 acres of parkland. This was followed by Dutches County at 91 acres, Orange County at 114 acres, Albany County at 120 acres and Rockland County at 318 acres per FTE maintenance staff. It should be noted that different counties have different levels of maintenance requirements and this table is not necessarily an indication of work load. For example, Orange County has a high level of maintenance required with its golf courses and numerous facilities, while many of Rockland County’s parks are preserved woodland with trails for passive recreation which requires less day-to-day maintenance. Orange County also contracts some of its maintenance responsibilities like landscaping and other grounds work. Ulster County does not have as much park acreage as the other counties, but facilities like the pool and fairgrounds require a higher level of maintenance. Ulster County also utilizes DPW staff that float between park maintenance and other DPW tasks. The information from Table 3-2 was obtained through conversations with various county parks and recreation staff and county websites.

Table 3-2. County Park Acreage Per FTE Maintenance Staff

County	Number of Parks Maintenance Staff	Approximate County Park Acreage	Park Acreage Per Employee
Dutchess	12	1,175*	98
Albany	6	717	120
Orange	30	3,415	114
Rockland	10	3,179	318
Ulster	15	218	15

*Approximate park acreage includes acreage of rail trails which were calculated using the trail length and an estimated width of 30ft which includes the width of the trail plus 10 feet on either side. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is owned by New York State, but maintained by Dutchess County under a Memorandum of Understanding.

Source: Information gathered through conversations with county park employees and the NYS ITS.

Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents

According to the 2018 National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review, the median number of acres that the typical park and recreation agency oversees is 10.1 acres of land for every 1,000 residents. The lower quartile of park and recreation agencies oversees 5.1 acres of land per 1,000 residents, while the upper quartile oversees 17.4 acres of land per 1,000 residents.¹⁰

As indicated in Table 3-2, Dutchess County contains approximately 4.0-acres of county-owned parkland per 1,000 residents. The county with the highest number of acres of county parkland per 1,000 residents is Rockland County with 9.9-acres, followed by Orange County with 8.8-acres, Albany County with 2.3-acres and Ulster County at 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents. The information from Table 3-2 was obtained through conversations with various county parks and recreation staff and county websites.

The number of acres of county owned parkland per 1,000 residents is not necessarily an indication of the quality of amenities offered for county residents. A full comparison would require an analysis of all parks and recreation facilities available to residents, including national, state, county and municipal park systems.

Dollars Spent Per Resident

Using county parks and recreation budgets and total county population, a comparison of dollars spent per resident was conducted. As indicated in Table 3-4, Orange County spends the most on parks and recreation at \$16.75 per resident, followed by Rockland County at \$7.79, Dutchess County at \$7.69, Albany County at \$3.13 and Ulster County at \$2.25. It should be noted that this is not necessarily an indication of park quality. This evaluation does not take into consideration other State and local parks and recreation facilities available, nor does it take into consideration revenues that may offset this cost. Additionally, capital facility spending is not captured here.

Table 3-3. County Park Acreage Per Resident

County	2016 County Population	Approximate County Park Acreage	Approximate Acreage Per 1,000 Residents
Dutchess	295,905	1,175*	4.0
Albany	307,891	717	2.3
Orange	376,242	3,318	8.8
Rockland	322,642	3,179	9.9
Ulster	180,505	218	1.2

*Approximate park acreage includes acreage of rail trails which were calculated using the trail length and an estimated width of 30ft which includes the width of the trail plus 10 feet on either side. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is owned by New York State, but maintained by Dutchess County under a Memorandum of Understanding.

Source: NYS ITS; American Community Survey 2016 Five-Year Estimates

Table 3-4. Parks and Recreation Dollars Spent Per Resident

County	2016 County Population	Money Allocated to County Parks	Money Spent Per Resident
Dutchess	295,905	\$2,275,558	\$7.69
Albany	307,891	\$964,264	\$3.13
Orange	376,242	\$6,303,079	\$16.75
Rockland	322,642	\$2,512,620	\$7.79
Ulster	180,505	\$406,894	\$2.25

Source: NYS ITS; American Community Survey 2016 Five-Year Estimates; County Budgets

FACILITIES COMPARISON

Table 3-5. Comparison of Park Facilities

	Dutchess County	Albany County	Orange County	Rockland County	Ulster County
Swimming (Pool or Lake)	X	X			X
Fishing	X	X	X	X	X
Boating	X		X	X	X
Ballfields	X		X		
Tennis			X		
Basketball	X		X		X
Soccer	X			X	
Picnic Areas	X	X	X		X
Playgrounds	X		X	X	X
Hiking/Nature Trails	X	X	X	X	X
Camping	X		X		
Skating	X		X		
Winter Activities (Cross-Country Skiing, Snowshoeing, Sledding)	X	X	X	X	
Number of County Parks	6	4	12	27	4
Acres of County Parkland	1,089	717	3,318	3,179	218
Miles of Linear Trail	24	9	12	0	11.5
Other	Nature Center, Lodge Rental, Maple Sugar Shed, Spray Park		Arboretum, Dog Park, Equestrian areas, Fitness Stations, Two Golf Course, Museums, Restaurants, Senior Center		Fairgrounds

Source: Information from Table 3-5 was obtained through direct conversations with park staff and county websites.

-
- 1 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - 2 2018 Albany County Adopted Budget
 - 3 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - Orange County Tourism
 - 4 <https://www.orangecountygov.com/1479/Neversink-Valley- Museum>
 - 5 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - 6 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - 7 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - 8 American Community Survey, 2016 Five-Year Estimates
 - 9 County of Rockland, New York: Environmental Resources. Retrieved from <http://rocklandgov.com/departments/environmental-resources/>
 - 10 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review: Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks



SECTION FOUR
THE DUTCHESS
COUNTY PARK
SYSTEM TODAY -
FACILITIES



THE DUTCHESS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM TODAY - FACILITIES

OVERVIEW

An inventory of existing recreation facilities and programming has been completed to determine future needs and opportunities within the Dutchess County Park system. Understanding current conditions and needs will help to prioritize and plan for future capital improvements to facilities, park expansions or acquisitions, program offerings and staffing needs. This information will also assist the County in determining future budgetary needs and financing options.

The inventory process involved a detailed analysis of facilities, programs, natural features, existing developmental controls, existing utilities and infrastructure and existing transportation infrastructure. This was completed using mobile mapping, site visits and conversations with park maintenance staff, key stakeholders and input from the general public.

Mobile mapping uses street-level LiDAR and panoramic imagery collected over large areas to analyze the existing conditions of a particular location. Each park in the Dutchess County Park System was mapped to gather a real-time, visual inventory of existing conditions for park facilities including buildings, roads and trails.

Dutchess County has seven (7) park facilities with six (6) open to the public that are described in this section. The Dutchess County Park System consists of approximately 1,089 acres of parkland and 25 miles of linear bike and pedestrian trails that serve a county-wide population of 295,905. Dutchess County Parks offers a wide range of recreational facilities, special events and educational programming to children, adults, school groups and sports leagues. The County has recently acquired the 231-acre, Lake Walton Preserve. A master planning effort will be taking place for this park in preparation of opening to the public for passive recreational use. The Master Plan for the Lake Walton Preserve will be included as an appendix to this plan.

Following is a description of each Dutchess County Park which includes existing facilities, programs, natural features, developmental controls, parking, utilities and infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, accessibility and building conditions. Those parks include:

- **Bowdoin Park,**
- **Wilcox Park,**
- **Quiet Cove Riverfront Park**
- **Dutchess Stadium**
- **William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail**
- **Harlem Valley Rail Trail**

BOWDOIN PARK

Bowdoin Park is a 311-acre park on Sheafe Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie overlooking the Hudson River. The park features pavilions for day use, hiking and cross-country trails, recreational ball fields, playgrounds and numerous programming opportunities for children and adults throughout the year. Bowdoin Park serves as the major County park hub for the southern part of Dutchess County due to its proximity to the County's main population centers and program offerings. Bowdoin Park is home to a number of special events including regional cross-country races and a summer concert series. The Bowdoin Park property was originally a farm and was acquired by the Children's Aid Society in the 1940s. The Children's Aid Society used the property for programming and constructed many of the buildings still used today. The park was acquired by Dutchess County in the early 1975 and has operated the park ever since. All of the buildings in the park were built prior to the County acquiring the land except for pavilions 3-5 and the bandshell, as well as some of the newer playground equipment.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Bowdoin Park is located in the southwestern portion of Dutchess County in the Town of Poughkeepsie on Sheafe Road. The park is situated within the most heavily populated portion of Dutchess County in proximity to the Towns of Wappinger and Fishkill and Cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon. Due to its location near the County's main population centers, Bowdoin Park is a recreational destination. The park is located on both sides of Sheafe Road which splits the park into two east-west sections. The western section is approximately 260 acres and is used for most park activities. This area contains all of the park's facilities and programmable spaces. The eastern section of the park property is approximately 50 acres and is mostly underutilized except for the haunted mansion in October and Holiday Spirit Festival in December. **Map 4-1** is a graphic representation of the regional context of Bowdoin Park.



Overlooking the Hudson River, Bowdoin Park

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

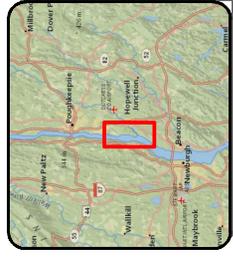
Bowdoin Park Regional Context June 2018

- Legend**
-  Park Boundary
 -  County Boundary
 -  Town Boundary
 -  Village Boundary
 -  Rails
 -  Interstates
 -  US Routes
 -  State Routes
 -  County Routes
 -  Parkways

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

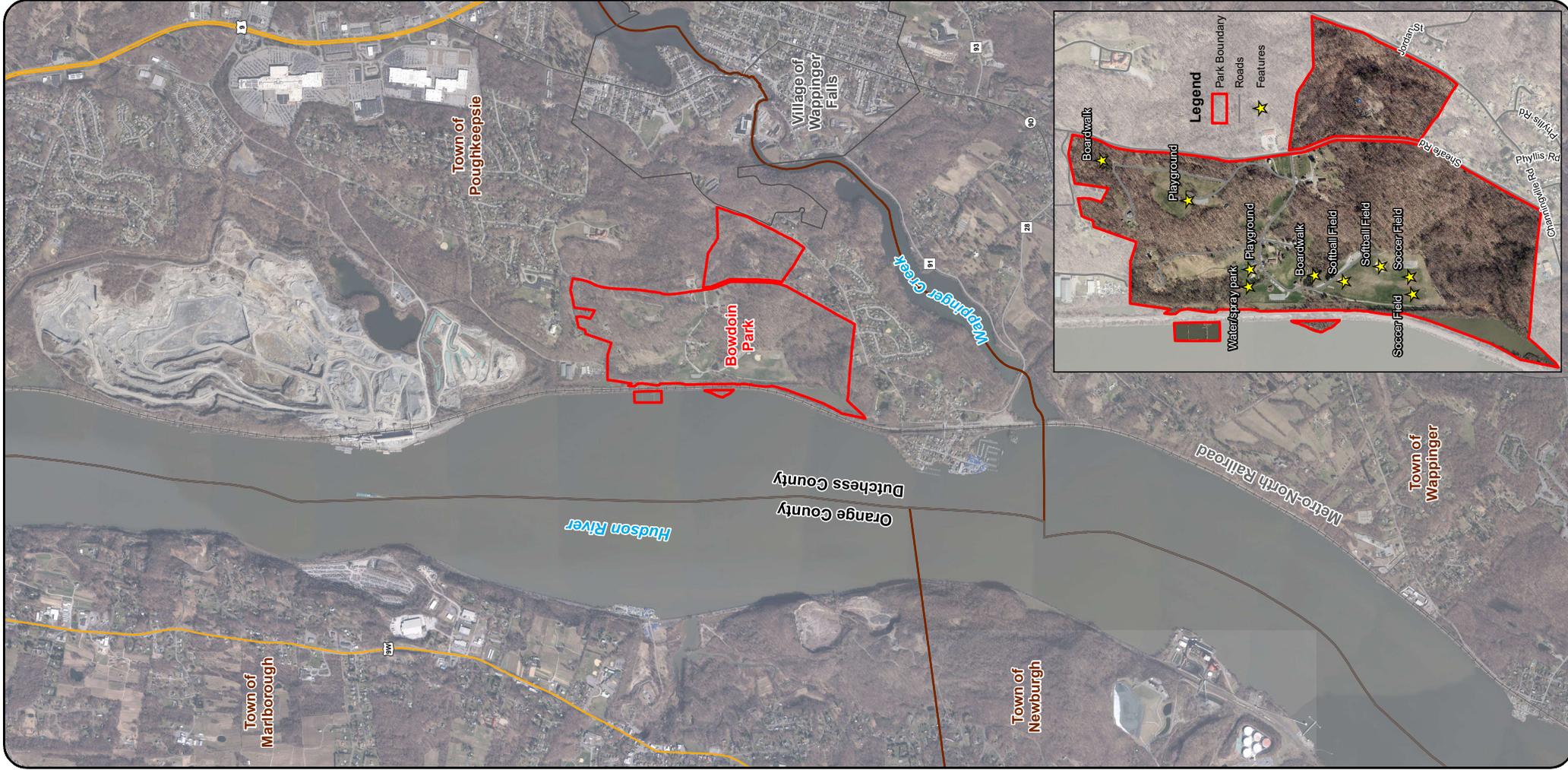


0 0.5 Miles



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Coxsack Road - Chenay Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Bowdoin Park offers a wide range of facilities for all ages and recreational needs. Following is a brief description of Bowdoin Park facilities including current conditions and any issues or opportunities brought up with parks maintenance staff, key stakeholders and input from the general public.

Athletic Fields – Bowdoin Park has several athletic fields including two (2) soccer fields, two (2) softball fields and a volleyball court. The cost to reserve a field is \$125.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$150.00 per day for Non-residents. The fields are level, grass covered and in generally good condition.

Basketball Court – One (1) basketball court is available for use in Bowdoin Park. The court is approximately 80 feet long and 20 feet wide with a single hoop at the southern end. The court is paved with concrete and generally in poor condition with areas of cracking and vegetation sprouting through.

Boardwalks – There are two (2) boardwalks available to park visitors for nature viewing. One of the boardwalks is located on the eastern edge of the pond beside the Bandshell. The second boardwalk is located in the northeastern corner of the park overlooking freshwater wetlands. The boardwalks were built in the 1980s and are constructed of wood decking. The boardwalks show some signs of wear but are in generally stable condition and are maintained regularly by park staff.



Boardwalk along pond, Bowdoin Park



Volleyball Court and Soccer Fields, Bowdoin Park



Basketball Court, Bowdoin Park

Ellesdie Chapel – The historic Ellesdie Chapel is located near the entrance to the park off Sheafe Road. The chapel is available to the public to rent as an event venue. The chapel can accommodate 65 people at a cost of \$150.00 per day for county residents and \$200.00 per day for non-residents.

Community Center Auditorium – The Community Center Auditorium is located on the upper floor of the Park Office Building. The maximum capacity of the space is 150 people and includes twenty (20) 5-foot diameter round tables, four (4) 6-foot rectangular tables, two (2) 5-foot rectangular tables and 150 folding chairs. The Auditorium also includes a full kitchen facility and bathrooms. The cost to rent this space is \$395.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$650.00 per day for non-residents.

The Archery Program is currently housed in the Community Center Auditorium. Due to space limitations, the Auditorium is unavailable to be rented during archery classes which results in lost revenue to the park. A new facility is needed to accommodate the increasingly popular archery class and simultaneously rent out the Auditorium on weekends from September-May.

The park staff has identified the Community Center Auditorium building as needing repairs including new siding.

Education Center – The education building is located adjacent to Pavilion Five in the center of the park. The building is used for Park Naturalist programming, classroom space and a small natural history museum. This facility has suffered from deferred maintenance over the years. If the building were to be further utilized, significant repairs would be needed, including new siding, roof and structural footing repairs.



Ellesdie Chapel, Bowdoin Park. Photo Source: Dutchessny.gov



Education Building, Bowdoin Park

Gaga Pit – Gaga is a fast paced, high energy ball game played in an octagonal pit which is considered a gentler version of dodge ball. The Gaga pit at Bowdoin Park is located adjacent to the soccer fields in a paved court. The Gaga pit can be disassembled and relocated to other locations throughout the park if the current space is needed for other activities.

Infirmary – The Infirmary building is located just south of the Pavilion Four parking area. The building is currently boarded up and in serious disrepair.



Community Center Auditorium, Bowdoin Park



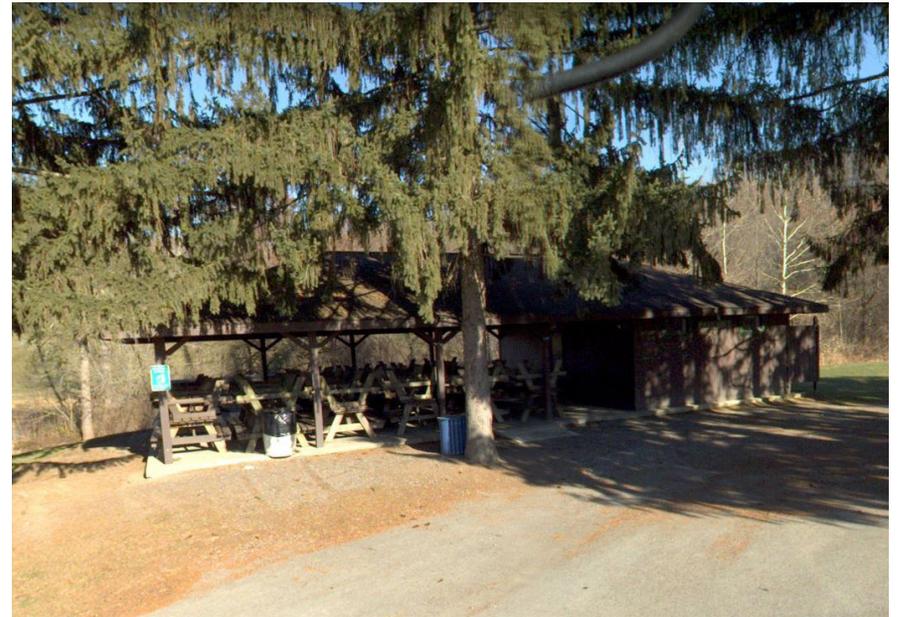
Infirmary Building, Bowdoin Park

Pavilions – There are currently five (5) pavilions located throughout Bowdoin Park that are available to the public for rent. All pavilions are maintained by park staff and receive new paint and staining every 4-5 years. Following is a description of each pavilion and costs associated with pavilion rentals:

Pavilion One – Pavilion One offers a sheltered picnic area with seating for 60 that includes ten (10) picnic tables, a grill, electrical outlets and running water. The cost to rent this pavilion is \$175.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$250.00 per day for non-residents.

Pavilion Two – Pavilion Two offers a sheltered picnic area with seating for 75 which includes 12 picnic tables, handicapped accessible bathrooms, grill, electrical outlets and running water. The cost to rent this pavilion is \$175.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$250.00 per day for non-residents.

Pavilion Three – Pavilion Three offers a sheltered picnic area with seating for 75 which includes 12 picnic tables, handicapped accessible bathrooms, a grill, electrical outlets and running water. The cost to rent this pavilion is \$175.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$250.00 per day for non-residents.



Pavilion Two, Bowdoin Park



Pavilion One, Bowdoin Park



Pavilion Three, Bowdoin Park

Pavilion Four – Pavilion Four is the most secluded pavilion in Bowdoin Park located in the northern section of the park past the Chapel. This pavilion offers a sheltered picnic area which seats 90 and includes 15 picnic tables, handicapped accessible bathrooms, grill, running water and electrical outlets. The cost to rent this pavilion is \$195.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$275.00 per day for non-residents.

Pavilion Five – Pavilion Five includes both indoor and outdoor facilities. The outdoor portion includes a sheltered picnic area with seating for 90. The indoor portion of the pavilion can hold a capacity of 64 people, is climate controlled with handicapped accessible bathrooms, full kitchen facility, running water and electrical outlets. The cost to rent this pavilion is \$375.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$545.00 per day for non-residents.

Bandshell – The Bandshell includes picnic tables, a grill and electrical outlets. This space is designed as a performance space and used during the park’s summer concert series. The angle of the structure allows concert goers to gather on the adjacent hillside to listen to music.



Pavilion Five, Bowdoin Park



Pavilion Four, Bowdoin Park



Pavilion Six/Bandshell, Bowdoin Park

Playgrounds – There are two (2) main playground areas located in the central and northern areas of Bowdoin Park. These playground facilities are relatively new and in good condition. Accessibility of playground facilities is an issue that has been described by stakeholders, park staff and the general public due to the topography of the park and location of parking areas in relation to recreational facilities.

Maintenance Buildings – The maintenance buildings in Bowdoin Park are located near the park entrance off Sheafe Road. The building complex consists of three (3) buildings, the largest of which contains a three-bay garage for maintenance equipment. Also included in the maintenance building complex is a gasoline filling station with three pumps and a pole barn.

Maintenance operations are currently at full capacity. An expansion of the current space is needed for more efficient maintenance operations and the Pole Barn is in need of electrical and heating system upgrades.



Playground, Bowdoin Park



Maintenance Buildings, Bowdoin Park



Playground, Bowdoin Park

Maple Knoll Lodge – Maple Knoll Lodge offers lodging and event space for weekday and weekend rentals. The facility can accommodate 60 people total and sleeps 24. The first floor includes full kitchen facilities and a gathering space with a fireplace. The upper level includes four bedrooms with bunks that can sleep 24 people. Restrooms are available on both levels including handicapped accessible bathrooms with bathing facilities on the first level. The lodge can be rented for day use (9:00am-5:00pm) or for overnight accommodations. The cost to rent the facility for day use is \$295.00 for County residents and \$500.00 for non-residents. For overnight accommodations, the cost to rent on weeknights is \$395.00 per night for County residents and \$550.00 per night for non-residents. Overnights on the weekend cost 650.00 per night for County residents and \$850.00 per night for non-residents. There are also five (5) cabins available for rent seasonally from Memorial Day to the end of September. Each additional cabin is \$75.00 per day for County residents and \$90.00 per day for non-residents.



Maple Knoll Lodge Living Room, Bowdoin Park



Maple Knoll Lodge Exterior, Bowdoin Park



Maple Knoll Lodge Rental Cabin, Bowdoin park

Maple Sugar Shed – Maple sugaring is an annual program open to the public that takes place at Bowdoin Park in the spring. Sugar maple trees are tapped, and the sap is brought to the Maple Sugar Shed for boiling and processing into maple syrup.

Splash Pad – The splash pad at Bowdoin Park is a popular feature among park patrons and was added in 2013 to replace the former water spray turtles. The splash pad is located adjacent to the main playground area and Pavilion Three. The splash pad features five water spray apparatus including two water cannons that can direct streams of water from rotating units; three large water spray red globes; a large circle spray that creates a gentle shower effect; two cascading L-shaped towers that rain down water and two tall cattails which emits a soft spray mist. The water spray pad features are touch button activated, with automatic shut off features to save water and energy.

Parking – There are fifteen (15) parking areas throughout Bowdoin Park that are paved with asphalt or surfaced with stone dust. Most of the parking areas are small in size and located beside or near the park’s main facilities such as the Park Office, playgrounds, pavilions and the ball fields.

A lack of parking has been noted by park staff, stakeholders and the general public as an issue in Bowdoin Park, particularly for large events like cross-country races that draw upwards of 3,000 people. During large events, all available space is utilized to accommodate parking, including lawn space near the entrance of the park off Sheafe Road and ball fields.

Park Office – The administrative offices for Dutchess County Parks are located within Bowdoin Park. The offices are housed in a single building located in the center of the park within proximity to the Education Center and Pavilion Five. All administrative functions of park operations and programming are handled through this office. As the Park Office reaches capacity, there will be a need to add additional office space.



Splash Pad, Bowdoin Park



Park Office, Bowdoin Park

Pond – The pond in Bowdoin park is located in the west-central portion of the park just below Pavilion Six. The Pond offers park visitors an area for nature viewing on the boardwalk that spans the eastern shore.

Map 4-2 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities in Bowdoin Park.



Pond at Bowdoin Park Overlooking the Hudson River

NATURAL FEATURES

TOPOGRAPHY

Bowdoin Park lies on the downward sloping banks of the Hudson River with a maximum elevation of 251 feet in the northeastern corner of the park, sloping down to the Hudson River at its lowest level. Several locations within the park have a slope greater than 15%, primarily in the central portions of the park where the main trail system is located. Steep slopes can create challenges in terms of the development of future trails, locations for new park facilities, and accessibility. Slopes greater than 15% may be more susceptible to erosion, particularly when cleared of vegetation.

GEOLOGY

Bowdoin Park is underlain by bedrock at varying depths below grade. The rock type is primarily shale in the central and western portion of the park, ranging in age from 460-470 million years old and limestone in the eastern portion of the park ranging in age from 480-500 million years old. The limestone layer is of the same type being quarried at the Tilcon Plant just north of Bowdoin Park at 460 Sheafe Road, Wappingers Falls.

SURFACE HYDROLOGY

Streams and water bodies serve a number of important functions for communities. Stormwater is conveyed to lakes, ponds and larger rivers which alleviates the potential for flooding. Water bodies also provide habitat to a diversity of mammals, birds, fish and insects. From a recreational standpoint, water bodies provide opportunities for fishing, paddling, swimming and nature study.

Bowdoin Park lies between the Hudson River to the west and Wappinger Creek to the east. Within the park are several water features including a pond in the center of the park that includes a boardwalk for nature viewing. Also included are several wetland areas which include freshwater emergent and freshwater forested/shrub wetlands in the northeastern portion of the parks, and estuarine and marine wetlands in the southern portion of the park along the Hudson River.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Bowdoin Park Facilities June 2018

- Legend**
-  Features
 -  Bodies of water
 -  Buildings
 -  Parking
 -  Roads
 -  Rails
 -  Trails

Recreation Resources

Basketball Court	1
Boardwalk	2
Community Room	1
Gaga Pit	1
Pavilions	6
Playground	2
Soccer Fields	2
Softball Fields	2
Trails	5.95 miles

Total Acreage of Park: 311

Bowdoin Park Parking

- A-1 Pavilion One Parking
- A-2 Pavilion Two Parking
- A-3 Bandshell Parking
- A-4 Pavilion Three (Lower)
- A-5 Pavilion Three (Upper)
- A-6 Playground Parking Area
- A-7 Main Office Parking
- A-8 Education Building/Pavilion Five
- A-9 Maintenance Parking
- A-10 Chapel Parking
- A-11 Pavilion Four Parking
- A-12 Maple Knoll Lodge Parking

Sources:
Dutchess County
ESR
NYS GIS



0 250 500 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 13060

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



SITE ECOLOGY

Dutchess County is home to a variety of plant and animal species, communities and ecosystems. The ecological community in and around Bowdoin Park is characterized by tidal shorelines and wetlands, non-tidal wetlands, riparian habitat, and deciduous forests. Along the western edge of Bowdoin Park are riparian habitats and tidal wetlands that are distinctive due to daily cycles of flooding and drying from the tidally influenced Hudson River. These areas provide habitat for a variety of plants, waterfowl, wading birds, and song birds that forage in the shallow waters and exposed mud-flats. Species of interest for conservation in these areas include the American Bittern, Wood turtle and Northern leopard frog.

Areas of the central and northern portion of the park are characterized by non-tidal wetlands. These areas are rich with biodiversity and support a variety of species including amphibians, turtles, dragonflies and other fauna. Wetlands are important due to their biological functions as well as their function in flood mitigation, water purification and maintaining water supplies.

The deciduous forest areas of the park contain primarily maple, hickory, oak, ash and beech trees which are the dominant tree species across the County. Most of the forests in Dutchess County are second-growth after being cleared for agricultural purposes 75-100 years ago. Species of interest for conservation in deciduous forest areas include spring ephemeral flowers, eastern box turtle, wood frogs, salamanders, woodland warblers, woodpeckers, American turkey and Indiana bat. Sugar maple is also a species of concern because in many areas of the County, it is being displaced by Norway maple.



Nature Trail, Bowdoin Park

FLOODING AND EROSION

The majority of Bowdoin Park lies outside of the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA) 100-and 500-year flood plain. Some areas south of the soccer fields and west of the central pond are within a flood plain area. No major facilities, trail networks or transportation infrastructure lie within a floodplain.

POTENTIAL SOURCES OF POLLUTION

No documented sources of pollution exist.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Bowdoin Park lies along the scenic sloping banks of the Hudson River and offers a visually dramatic landscape with views of the river and Hudson Highlands in the distance. Forested hillsides, open fields and river views provide a unique park experience for visitors.

Map 4-3 is a graphic representation of the natural features of Bowdoin Park.



Observation Deck, Bowdoin Park

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

The Bowdoin Park parcel is publicly owned by Dutchess County. The parcels surrounding the park are mostly privately owned residential properties except for the Metro-North Railroad Line which runs through the western edge of the park. The rail line is owned by Conrail, a service provider for CSX Corporation and Norfolk Southern Corporation. Bordering the northwestern portion of the park is a wastewater treatment facility, owned by the Town of Poughkeepsie, Town of Wappinger and Village of Wappingers Falls.

Map 4-4 is a graphic representation of land ownership in and around Bowdoin Park.

Existing Zoning

The current zoning of a particular parcel and surrounding area is important for understanding long-range planning and development requirements. The types of allowed land uses surrounding Dutchess County parks, for example, can have a potential impact on the number of park visitors, transportation needs or impacts to scenic viewsheds.

Although Dutchess County-owned property is not subject to local land-use regulations, it is important to understand the zoning of the surrounding region to plan for the impact that those allowed land uses may have on Dutchess County parks.

Bowdoin Park lies within the Town of Poughkeepsie in a zoning district designated as Residence, Single-Family 4-Acre (R-4A). The R-4A district is intended to conserve the more rural land areas within the Town by promoting a balance of open space and low-density, single-family residential uses consistent with natural resource constraints and the conservation, open space, agricultural and farm, recreational, and other land-extensive land use opportunities. Permitted uses in this district include, cemeteries, country clubs, single family dwellings, family day-care homes, golf courses, parks, places of religious worship, playgrounds and public utility structures.

The areas north and east of Bowdoin Park are zoned Quarry (Q) and Institutional (IN). The Q district is a district in which intensive soil and rock excavation may be undertaken on a large scale with minimum impact on the adjacent areas. Since extractive operations involve the use of explosives,

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

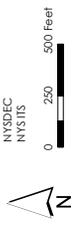
Bowdoin Park Natural Features June 2018

Legend

-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
-  FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain
-  NYSDEC Wetlands*
-  NYSDEC Wetland Checkzones*
-  NYSDEC Streams*
-  NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes
-  NWI Riverine
-  NWI Estuarine and Marine Deepwater**
-  NWI Estuarine and Marine Wetland**
-  >15% Slope
-  River's edge for reference

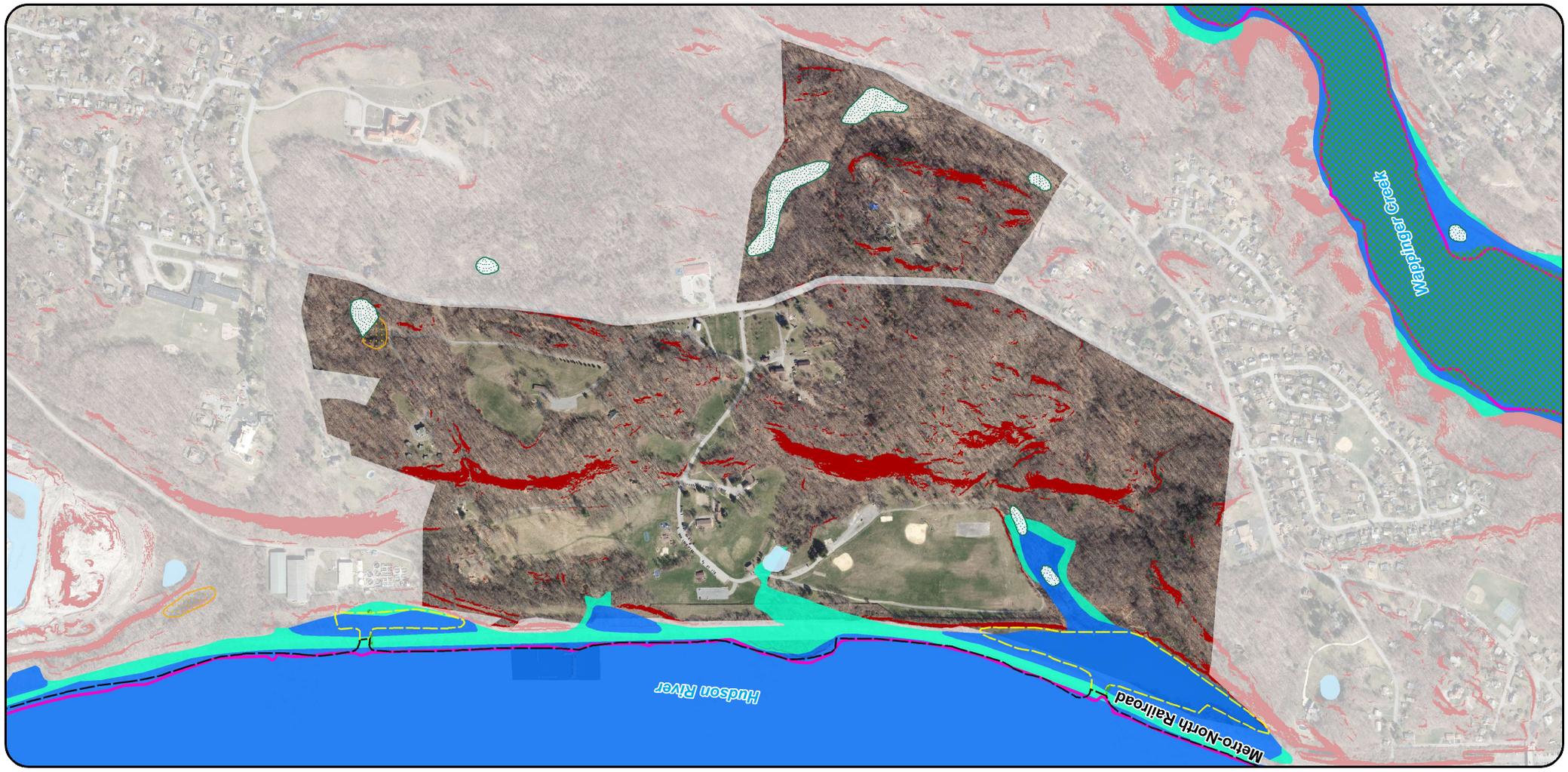
*None present in view extent
 **NWI Estuarine and Marine Deepwater/Wetland are exclusive to Bowdoin map limits.

Sources:
 Dutchess County
 FEMA
 NWI
 NYSDEC
 NYSITS




 Engineering and
 Land Surveying, P.C.
 1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Bowdoin Park Land Ownership June 2018

- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Village Boundary
 - Roads
 - Rails
- Ownership**
- Unknown*
 - Federal*
 - State*
 - County
 - City, Town, or Village
 - School
 - Private
- *None present in view extent

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



creating intensive noise and vibrations and generate air pollution and heavy truck traffic, it is essential that the operation be controlled by strictly enforced safety regulations and that the Quarry District be surrounded by a buffer zone of sufficient depth to protect abutting properties from any nuisance caused by the operations. The IN district is intended to preserve and protect private and public educational, and hospital uses located in the Town.

Map 4-5 is a graphic representation of zoning districts in and around Bowdoin Park.

Permits and Approvals

County-owned property is currently exempt from local level permits and approvals. Buildings and structures must comply with the New York State Building Code and all County requirements.

EXISTING UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking

Bowdoin Park has a total of eleven (11) parking areas that vary in size, totaling approximately 246 parking spaces. Most of the parking areas are in good or fair condition with minimal potholes and cracking present. Nearly half of the parking areas are paved with asphalt, while the others are unpaved and surfaced with gravel. Handicapped accessible spaces are limited throughout the park and total three (3) spaces located at the Pavilion Three upper parking area (A-5), Playground Area (A-6), and the Main Office Lot (A-7). For large events at Bowdoin Park, all available space is used for parking including the grassy areas along Sheafe Road beside Ellessdie Chapel and the ball field area in the southern portion of the park.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking at Bowdoin Park, see **Appendix G** and **Map 4-2**.

Water/Stormwater

All facilities in Bowdoin Park are connected to the Town of Poughkeepsie Water Supply and there are currently no issues with capacity.

Bowdoin Park lies within the Town of Poughkeepsie which is a designated MS4 Community. MS4 stands for small municipal stormwater sewer system and includes those areas that are within the boundaries of a Census Bureau defined “urbanized area” and are regulated under the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Phase II Stormwater Rule. The purpose of the EPA’s Phase II Stormwater Rule is to reduce the amount of pollutants carried by stormwater and improve water quality and recreational use of waterways. As an MS4 community, the Town of Poughkeepsie must comply with the regulations set forth by the EPA and enforced by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). This involves compliance with six minimum control measures which include:

- Public education and outreach;
- Public participation and involvement;
- Illicit discharge detection and Elimination;
- Construction site runoff control;
- Post-construction runoff control; and
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping

Sewer

The Chapel and Pavilion 5 are the only buildings at Bowdoin Park connected to municipal sewer lines. Sewage from these buildings are conveyed to the sewer treatment facility located just north of Bowdoin Park. This facility is owned and operated by the Tri-Municipal Sewer Commission, a joint-venture between the Towns of Poughkeepsie and Wappinger and Village of Wappingers Falls.

All other facilities with bathrooms are on individual septic systems.

Solid Waste

Dutchess County handles all solid waste removal at Dutchess County Parks. Waste is collected by park maintenance staff and picked up at central locations by a private waste removal company contracted by the County.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Bowdoin Park Zoning June 2018

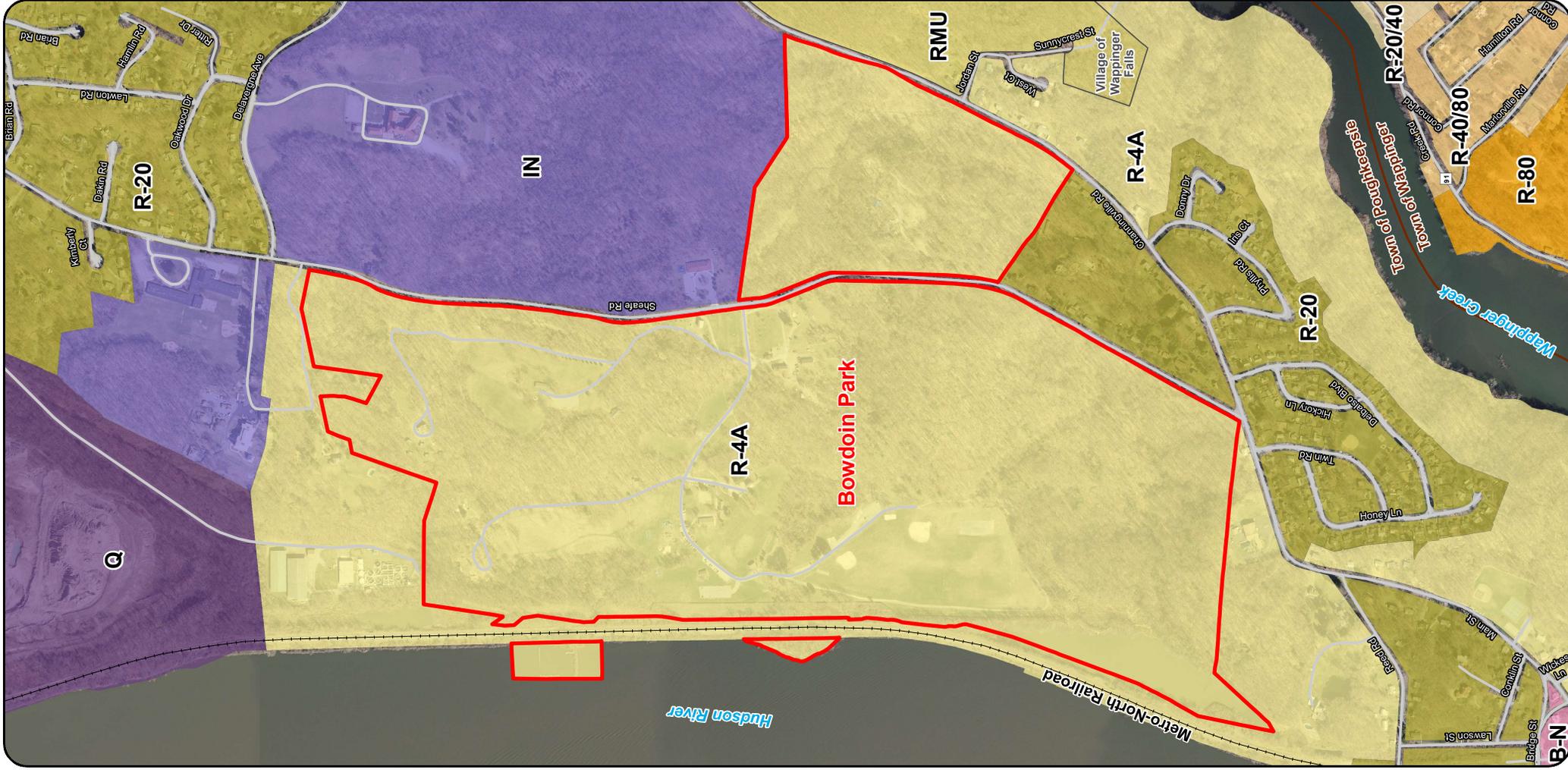
- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Village Boundary
 - Roads
 - Rails
- Zoning**
- B-N - Neighborhood Business
 - IN - Institutional
 - Q - Quarry
 - R-20 - Residence, Single Family
 - R-20/40 One-Family Residence
 - R-40/80 - One-Family Residence
 - R-4A - Single Family, 4 acre
 - R-80 - One-Family Residence
 - R-NH - Residence, New Hamburg
 - RMU - Residential, Mixed-Use

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Chenango, NY 13045

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Electricity

Electricity is currently available throughout Bowdoin Park and all facilities. A significant concern of park employees regarding electricity at Bowdoin Park is the location of the electric lines. Most power lines run above ground through the woods which increases the likelihood of trees falling on the lines, causing power outages.

Internet Access and Connectivity

Internet at Bowdoin Park is currently available in the Park Office and Maintenance Shop. Internet access may be extended to the Education Center in the future, but no plans have been established.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Bowdoin Park is accessible by car via Sheafe Road which is accessed off of Route 9. Within the park there is a paved road system that is used to access park offices and other facilities like the pavilions, playground and ball fields. Each facility has a corresponding parking area.

There is currently no public transportation available to Bowdoin Park.

ACCESSIBILITY

In October 2018, an accessibility assessment was performed at Bowdoin Park to identify deficiencies in accessibility of parking areas and accessible routes from those parking areas to the nearest building entrance or site feature. Each route, ramp, curb ramp and parking space deemed part of an accessible route was evaluated based on the standards set forth by the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.

There are several parking areas and access walks located throughout the park that service various park facilities. Numerous hiking trails run throughout the park. As these are unpaved, earth trails, it is understood that there is no intent for accessibility and as such, they were not evaluated as part of this assessment.

Overall, accessibility is deficient in many areas of Bowdoin Park. There are not enough handicapped accessible parking spaces and the slope from most parking areas to buildings or site entrances is steeper than what is recommended in the 2010 ADA guidelines.

The full Accessibility Assessment is available in **Appendix E**.

BUILDING CONDITIONS

In November 2018, a structural condition assessment of buildings located at Bowdoin Park was conducted to determine the structural condition of existing structures. The report identifies structural deficiencies and recommendations for needed repairs or for demolition. A number of buildings require significant structural repairs including the Education Building, Maple Knoll cabins and maintenance buildings among others. Two structures were recommended to be demolished including the Infirmary building and the Animal Rehabilitation building.

The full Structural Assessment is available in Appendix F.

WILCOX PARK

Wilcox Park is a 614-acre park off of Route 199 in the Town of Milan. The park is the largest in the Dutchess County Park System and serves as the regional County park hub for the northern part of the county. Wilcox Park was originally part of the Wilcox family farm and sold to the County in 1961 by Irene Kilmer Wilcox. The park has a number of facilities for passive and active recreation including the only swimming facility in the County park system and a 27-hole disc golf course.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Wilcox Park is surrounded by thick woodland and preserved land including the Lafayetteville State Multiple Use Area to the north, and a State Reforestation Area directly to the south. The park lies in the southeast corner of the Town of Milan on the border of the Town of Pine Plains. This region of Dutchess County is characterized by rural, low density residential, agricultural and dense woodland.

Map 4-6 is a graphic representation of the regional context surrounding Wilcox Park.



Lower Lake, Wilcox Park

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Wilcox Park Regional Context June 2018

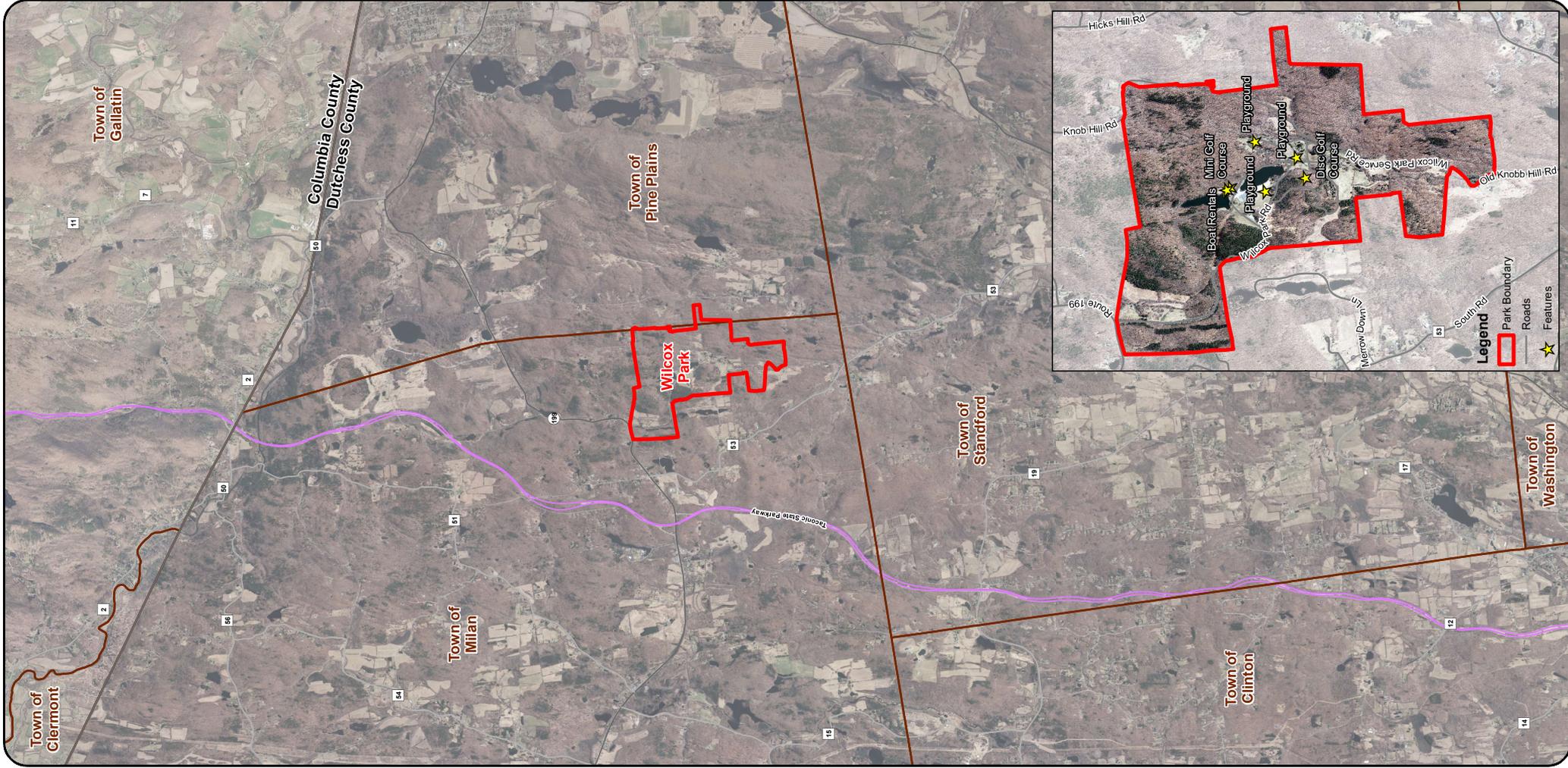
- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Interstates
 - US Routes
 - State Routes
 - County Routes
 - Parkways

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Wilcox Park offers a number of passive and active recreational facilities including the only swimming beach in the County Park System and an 18-hole disc golf course. A full list of facilities follows:

Basketball Court – Wilcox park offers a full-size basketball court with two baskets. The basketball court has recently been added and is in excellent condition.

Swimming Beach – The beach at Wilcox Park is the only swimming facility available in the Dutchess County Park System and is located near the center of the park on the lower pond. The beach is approximately 323 feet long and 80 feet wide with an area of approximately 27,600 square feet and provides space for visitors to sunbathe and access the lake for swimming. The beach includes access to bathrooms and the concession building, playground and Pavilion D.

The swimming beach is handicapped accessible with the use of a wheelchair mat and specialized wheelchairs that are designed to enter the water. A major barrier to accessibility at the beach is a lack of accessible bathrooms. The current bathrooms at the beach were built in the 1960s, before wheelchair accessibility was considered. The accessibility of beach facilities will need to be addressed in future plans to improve beach access.

Boat Rentals – Paddle boat and row boat rentals are available at the upper lake. The fee for paddle boats is \$5.00 per half hour and the fee for row boats is \$5.00 per hour. Water quality issues related to blue-green algae blooms over the last several summers have led to lake closures, impacting swimming and boat rentals.



Swimming Beach, Wilcox Park



Paddle Boat Rentals, Wilcox Park

Camping and RV Hookups – Wilcox Park contains the only camping facilities in the Dutchess County Park System. There are ten (10) RV sites available and seventeen (17) tent sites available. The RV sites are strictly for RV's and trailers and cost \$30.00 per night for Dutchess County residents and \$35.00 per night for non-residents. Electricity, water and dump stations are available for RV Camping.

Tent sites at Wilcox Park have no water or electric hook-ups. Each site can accommodate two (2) small tents, or one (1) large tent and each site is limited to six (6) people. The cost to reserve a tent site is \$20.00 per night for Dutchess County residents and \$30.00 per night for non-residents.

The facilities for camping at Wilcox are generally out-of-date and in need of upgrading. This includes new accessible shower facilities and improved RV sites that can accommodate newer and larger vehicles.

Disc Golf Course – The disc golf course at Wilcox Park is a full-size, 27-hole course that runs throughout the park. The course is considered world class by visitors who play and is available for free on a first-come-first-serve basis.

In order to host disc golf tournaments at Wilcox, a second course would need to be added within a 50-mile radius. Having a second, local course would create a destination for tournaments which would attract more visitors to the park. A major barrier to creating this destination is the lack of lodging and food options available in this remote part of Dutchess County. Improved camping facilities could be a way to mitigate this constraint and provide lodging accommodations.

Fishing – Fishing at Wilcox Park is available in the upper lake. New York State fishing licenses are required.

Mini Golf Course – A 9-hole miniature golf course is available to Wilcox Park visitors at \$2.00 per round. The current course is in need of updating and minor repairs to the artificial putting green turf.



Disc Golf Course Marker, Wilcox Park



Mini Golf Course, Wilcox Park

Pavilions – There are four (4) pavilions currently available to the public for rent. The cost to rent Pavilions A, B and D is \$150.00 per day for Dutchess County Residents and \$225.00 per day for non-residents. The cost to rent Pavilion C is \$225.00 per day for Dutchess County residents and \$300.00 per day for non-residents. Park Entry fees are included in the price of the rental for party guests. Following is a description of each pavilion:

Pavilion A – Pavilion A is the most secluded pavilion within the park. The pavilion holds 50 people and includes a sheltered picnic area with picnic tables and a grill located just outside the pavilion. Pavilion A does not include bathroom facilities.

Pavilion B – Pavilion B is located near the camp grounds and adjacent to the ball field and playground area. The pavilion holds up to 75 people and includes picnic tables, grill and sheltered picnic area. This pavilion does not include bathroom facilities.

Pavilion C – Pavilion C is located at the top of the hill overlooking the ponds and beach area. This pavilion offers picturesque views of Wilcox Park and can hold up to 150 people. This pavilion includes an outdoor sheltered picnic area with picnic tables and an indoor area with full kitchen and bathroom facilities.

Pavilion D - Pavilion D is located beside the beach area and can hold up to 75 people. This pavilion includes a sheltered picnic area with picnic tables, a grill and direct beach access. The pavilion is also located directly adjacent to the main beach parking lot making it wheelchair accessible.



Pavilion B, Wilcox Park



Pavilion C, Wilcox Park



Pavilion A, Wilcox Park



Pavilion D, Wilcox Park

Playgrounds – There are three (3) playground facilities available at Wilcox Park. One of the facilities is located beside the swimming beach and includes climbing equipment, slide and a swing set with eight (8) swings. The second play ground area is located near Pavilion B and is relatively new and in good condition. The third playground area is near the campground and is also relatively new and in good condition.



Playground at Swimming Beach, Wilcox Park



Pavilion Playground, Wilcox Park. Source: Dutchess County



Campground Playground, Wilcox Park. Source: Dutchess County

Trails (9.68 miles) – Wilcox Park has an extensive trail system that covers approximately 9.68 miles and spans across all portions of the park. There are eight different trails including the Red, Purple, Pink, Blue, Black and Orange Trails. The trails are regularly maintained and in good condition.

Upper and Lower Lakes – The lakes at Wilcox Park are divided into two north-south sections and formed by a dam at the southern end. The lower lake was developed in 1963 and the upper lake was created the following year in 1964. The upper lake is used for fishing and boating, while the lower lake is available for swimming.

Map 4-7 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities in Wilcox Park.



Lower Lake, Wilcox Park

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Wilcox Park
Facilities
June 2018

- Legend**
- ◆ Features
 - Buildings
 - Parking
 - Bodies of Water
 - Roads
 - Trails

Recreation Resources

Basketball Court	1	Yes
Beach Access		Yes
Boat Rentals		Yes
Camping		Yes
Canoe/Kayak launch		Yes
Disc Golf Course		Yes
Fishing		Yes
Mini Golf Course		Yes
Pavilions	4	
Playgrounds	2	Yes
RV/trailer hookups		Yes
Swimming		Yes
Trails	9.68 miles	

Total Acreage: 614

Wilcox Park Parking Areas

- C-1 Parking Area at Entrance
- C-2 Main Parking Area (Beach/Parking)
- C-3 Pavilion C Parking Area

Sources:
Dutchess County
ER
NYSITS

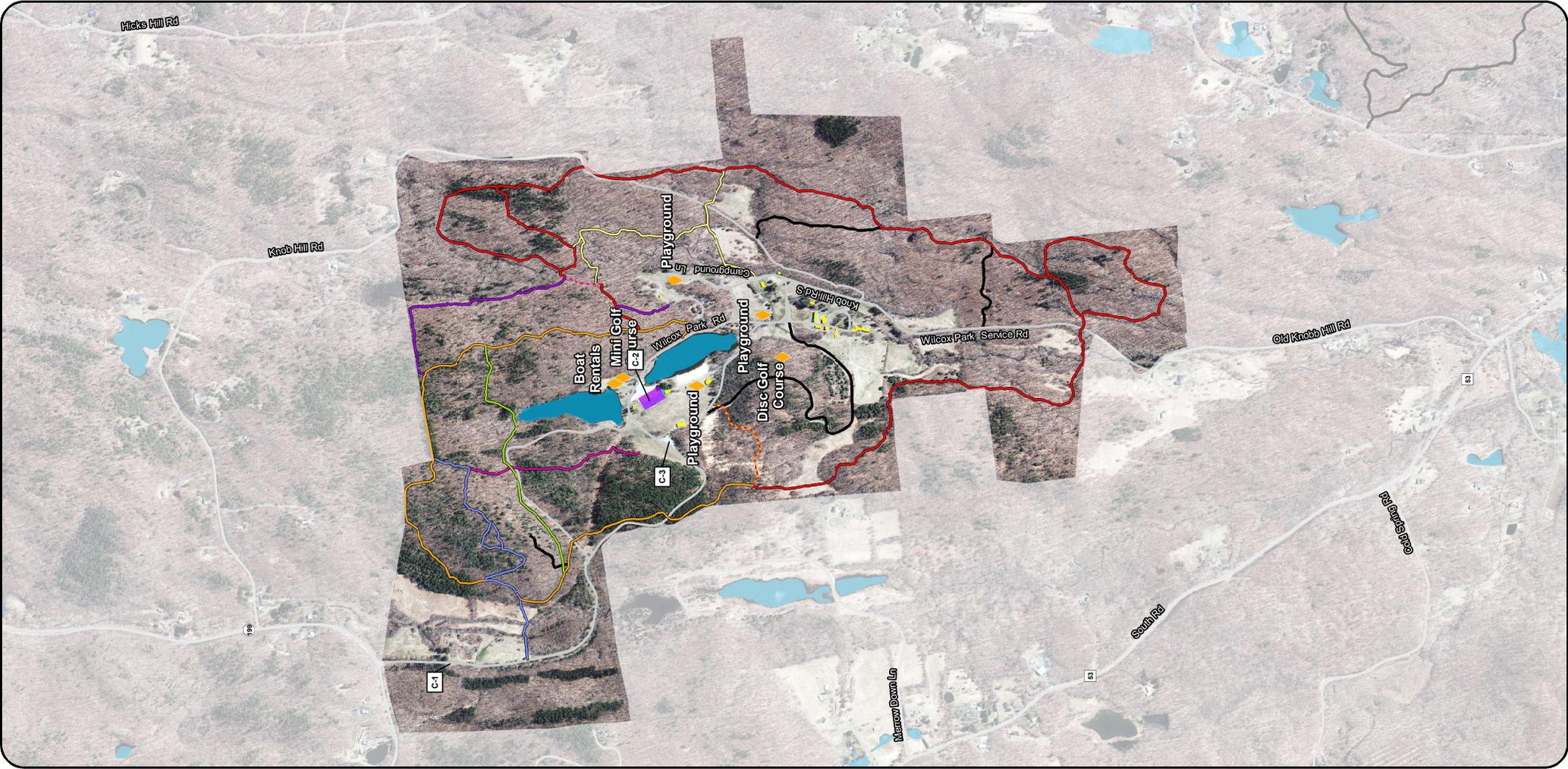


0 500 1,000 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1385 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



NATURAL FEATURES

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of Wilcox Park is characterized by wooded mountainous and rolling hills and low valleys with a maximum elevation of approximately 870 feet above sea level. A number of locations throughout the park have a slope greater than 15%. Steep slopes can create challenges in terms of the development of future trails and locations for new park facilities. Slopes greater than 15% may be more susceptible to erosion, particularly when cleared of vegetation. Areas in Wilcox Park with steep slopes are primarily in the wooded areas among the park's trail system in the northwest corner of the park, and in the central portion of the park just east of the upper pond.

GEOLOGY

The underlying bedrock at Wilcox Park consists of two (2) different rock types in the western, central and eastern portion of the park. The bedrock in the western and eastern portion of the park is slate dating to the Middle Ordovician period or approximately 460-470 million years. The underlying bedrock in the central portion of the park is graywacke, a type of shale that also dates to the Middle Ordovician period.

SURFACE HYDROLOGY

Streams and water bodies serve a number of important functions for communities. Lakes, ponds and larger rivers serve as natural catchment areas that collect stormwater and reduce the potential for flooding. Water bodies also provide habitat to a diversity of mammals, birds, fish and insects. From a recreational standpoint, water bodies provide opportunities for fishing, paddling, swimming and nature study.

Wilcox Park contains significant hydrological resources. The central ponds were created by damming a creek at the southern end of the lower pond. Several streams run through the park including Cold Spring Creek and other unnamed streams. Significant areas of wetlands also exist in Wilcox Park. In the eastern portion of the park, significant amounts of National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland exist alongside NWI Riverine areas. In the northeastern section of the park, there are NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetlands and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Designated Wetlands.

SITE ECOLOGY

Dutchess County is comprised of six ecological regions which include the Hudson Valley, Taconic Foothills, New England Marble Valleys, Hudson Highlands, and Berkshire Transition regions. Ecological regions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality and quantity of environmental resources. Wilcox Park lies within the Taconic Foothills region which extends from northern Beekman north to the border of Columbia County. The Taconic Foothills region is characterized by rounded and rolling hills and steep sloping valleys that form a number of streams and ponds. This region is dominated by Appalachian oak-hickory forests with some northern hardwoods including maple, beech and birch trees. This region is a mosaic of woodland, pasture, areas of cropland and rural residential development. Priority habitats in this region include contiguous forest, seasonal woodland pools, grasslands (including pasture), streams and intermittent streams.



Open Lawn Area, Wilcox Park

Flooding and Erosion

Understanding where flooding and erosion may occur can help determine the availability and location of land for parks development including the location for new maintenance and recreational facilities. Wilcox Park does not contain any FEMA 100-or 500-year flood Plains, meaning that flooding risk is minimal. There are however, a number of areas with steep slopes of 15% or more. Slopes of 15% or more are more susceptible to erosion, especially during large storm events. The steep slopes are primarily located in the wooded areas in the northwest and central section of the park just east of the lakes and scattered throughout the southern portion of the park.

Potential Sources of Pollution

Water quality is an ongoing issue at Wilcox Park within the lower pond. Blue-green algae blooms have occurred several times over the past three summer seasons, leading to beach closures, potential health risks and loss of revenue to the Park. There are a number of factors that contribute to the water quality issue. One factor is the number of geese that occupy the pond and beach area. Waste from water fowl can increase the nutrient load that enters the water and contribute to algal blooms. Another contributing factor is the stormwater runoff that feeds directly into the lake from the parking lot and surrounding areas. Stormwater runoff carries nutrients, waste products and roadway pollutants directly into the lake and impacts the water quality. Future plans to address the water quality of the pond will need to take into consideration the runoff that is currently directed into the lake.

Scenic Resources

Wilcox Park is set among the scenic beauty of northern Dutchess County. The active portions of the park are situated in valleys with views of the forested rolling hills in the Town of Milan. The more passive areas of the park lie within rolling hilltops and sloping hillsides.

Map 4-8 is a graphic representation of the natural features within Wilcox Park.

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

Wilcox Park is publicly owned by Dutchess County with all surrounding land being privately held. Nearby, to the north and south are areas on state owned land where the Lafayetteville State Multiple Use Area and State Reforestation Area lie.

Map 4-9 is a graphic representation of land ownership within Wilcox Park.

Existing Zoning

Wilcox Park is publicly owned by Dutchess County and not subject to the local land use regulations of the Town of Milan. The area that the park is in is designated as a Very Low Density Agricultural District (A5A). The purpose of the Very-Low-Density Agricultural District is to maintain the Town's rural character in areas distinguished by the presence of both small and large farms, sparse residential development, and where limitations on development are designed to protect both natural resources and open space. Clustering of residential dwellings is encouraged to maintain traditional agricultural settlement patterns and to support farming in the community .

Map 4-10 is a graphic representation of zoning districts in and around Wilcox Park.

Permits and Approvals

County-owned property is currently exempt from local level permits and approvals. Buildings and structures must comply with the New York State Building Code and all County requirements.

EXISTING UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking

Wilcox Park contains a total of three (3) parking areas located at the front gate (C-1), beside the swimming beach (C-2) and a parking area beside Pavilion C (C-3). These parking areas can accommodate a total of approximately 155 spaces which includes four (4) handicapped spaces at the swimming beach lot. The main lot beside the swimming beach is paved with asphalt and in fair condition with some cracking present. The other lots are unpaved and

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Wilcox Park Natural Features June 2018

Legend

-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
-  FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain*
-  NYSDEC Wetlands
-  NYSDEC Wetland Checkzones
-  NYSDEC Streams
-  NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes
-  NWI Riverine
-  >15% Slope

*None present in view extent

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
Map
FEMA
NWI
NYSDEC
NYSITS



0 500 1,000 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1335 Colchester Road • Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Wilcox Park Land Ownership June 2018

- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Roads
- Ownership**
- Unknown*
 - Federal*
 - State
 - County
 - City, Town, or Village*
 - School*
 - Private

*None present in view extent

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

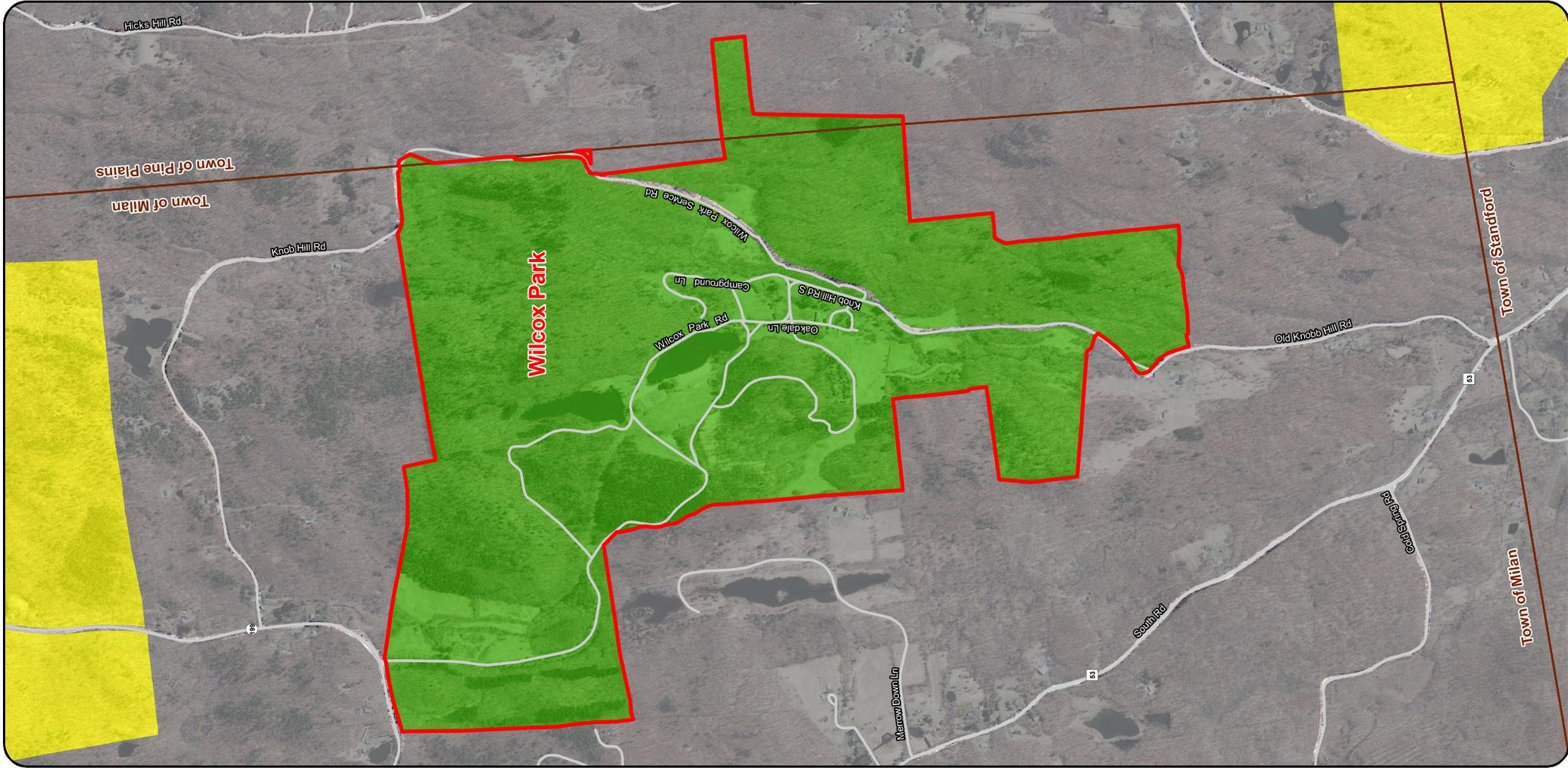


0 500 1,000 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1381 Colchester Road - Chenango, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Wilcox Park Zoning June 2018

- Legend**
-  Park Boundary
 -  Town Boundary
 -  Roads
 - Zoning**
 -  A3A - Agricultural
 -  A5A - Very Low Density Residential
 -  AR - Agricultural Residential
 -  R - Rural
 -  R2A - Low Density Residential Development
 -  RR - Rural Residential

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

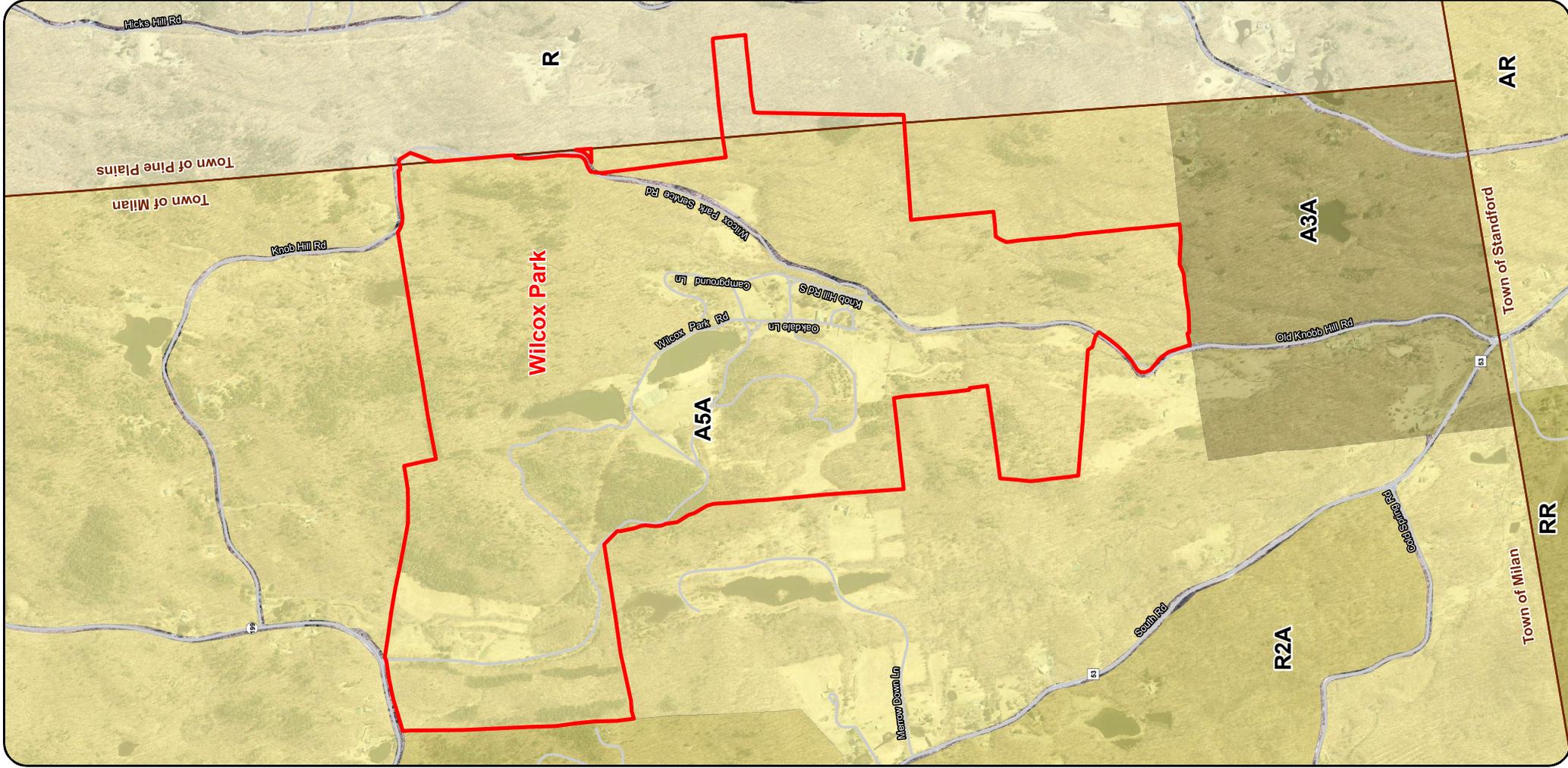


0 500 1,000 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1382 Colchester Road • Chenango, NY 13046

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



surfaced with dirt and gravel.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking at Wilcox Park, see **Appendix G** and **Map 4-7**.

Water

All facilities at Wilcox Park with access to water are connected to wells with the exception of the Concession Building that draws water directly from the lower pond. Water for the Concession Building is untreated and used only for the bathroom facilities.

All other sources of water are disinfected using ultraviolet light or chlorine.

Sewer

All facilities at Wilcox Park are connected to septic systems to treat and convey sewage. The septic tanks, and dump station for the R/V park are pumped annually as part of regular park maintenance.

Solid Waste

Dutchess County handles all solid waste removal at Dutchess County parks. Waste is collected by park maintenance staff and picked up at central locations by a private waste removal company that the County contracts with.

Electricity

The main electric line that brings electricity into Wilcox Park runs above ground in a remote wooded area of the park. Fallen trees often damage the lines and disrupt power. Due to the location of power lines, it is difficult for maintenance staff to access damaged lines. Moving power lines underground or parallel to the roadway would improve the reliability of electric service and improve access for maintenance purposes.

Internet Access and Connectivity

Internet access is currently available in the Park Office and Maintenance Shop.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Wilcox Park is accessed via an access road off Route 199. The two-way park road gives way to a one-way loop road that provides internal access within the park. The loop road provides access to park facilities including the camping area, ball field, maintenance area and swimming beach. There is currently no public transportation to Wilcox Park.

ACCESSIBILITY

In October 2018, an accessibility assessment was performed at Wilcox Park to identify deficiencies in accessibility of parking areas and accessible routes from those parking areas to the nearest building entrance or site feature. Each route, ramp, curb ramp and parking space deemed part of an accessible route was evaluated based on the standards set forth by the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

There are several parking areas and access walks located throughout the park that service various park facilities. Numerous hiking trails run throughout the park. As these are unpaved, earth trails, it is understood that there is no intent for accessibility and as such, they were not evaluated as part of the assessment.

Overall, accessibility is deficient in many areas of Wilcox Park. The main parking lot has an insufficient number of handicapped spaces for its size and has no “Van Accessible Spaces”. While the beach area does have a wheelchair and wheelchair mat available for entrance to the lake, the gravel path only provides access from the parking lot to the beach. It does not provide access to the playground area or bathrooms. The camping areas are largely inaccessible to those with mobility challenges, as there is no defined access walk to campsites, bathroom facilities or playground areas. Users must traverse sloped grassy areas to reach facilities.

The full Accessibility Assessment is available in **Appendix E**.

BUILDING CONDITIONS

In November 2018, a structural condition assessment of the buildings and park structures located at Wilcox Park was conducted. The report identifies structural deficiencies and recommendations for needed repairs or for demolition. Most of the buildings at Wilcox Park are structurally sound, requiring minor structural repairs. The most significant concern at the park is the condition of the Mansion building. The assessment concluded that this building had deteriorated beyond the point of repair and is recommended for demolition.

The full Structural Assessment is available in **Appendix F**.



Concession Building, Wilcox Park

QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park (Quiet Cove) is a 32-acre park on Route 9 in the Town of Poughkeepsie and is located on the site of the former Hudson River Psychiatric Center. The property was retained by the State at the County's encouragement for the creation of a riverside park. As part of a cooperative partnership agreement with New York State, the County agreed to make improvements to the property and operate it as a riverfront park, while the State maintains ownership of the land. The County has recently implemented renovations to the park including a newly renovated shoreline and waterfront observation deck overlooking the Hudson River. Other improvements to Quiet Cove include a boat launch for canoes and kayaks.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Quiet Cove is located in the northwestern corner of the Town of Poughkeepsie, just north of the City of Poughkeepsie and Marist College. The park is bound by U.S. Route 9 to the east, the Hudson River to the west, the Town of Hyde Park to the north and Marist College to the south. Quiet Cove is the only park in the Dutchess County Park System to offer direct access to the Hudson River. The northwest corner of the park is split by the Metro-North Railroad, leaving a small western portion of the park on the riverfront and the bulk of the property blocked from the river. The majority of recreational facilities lie in the small western section of the park. The eastern portion of the park is used primarily for parking and contains a walking trail used for passive recreation.

Map 4-11 is a graphic representation of the regional context surrounding Quiet Cove.



Welcome Sign at Quiet Cove

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Regional Context June 2018

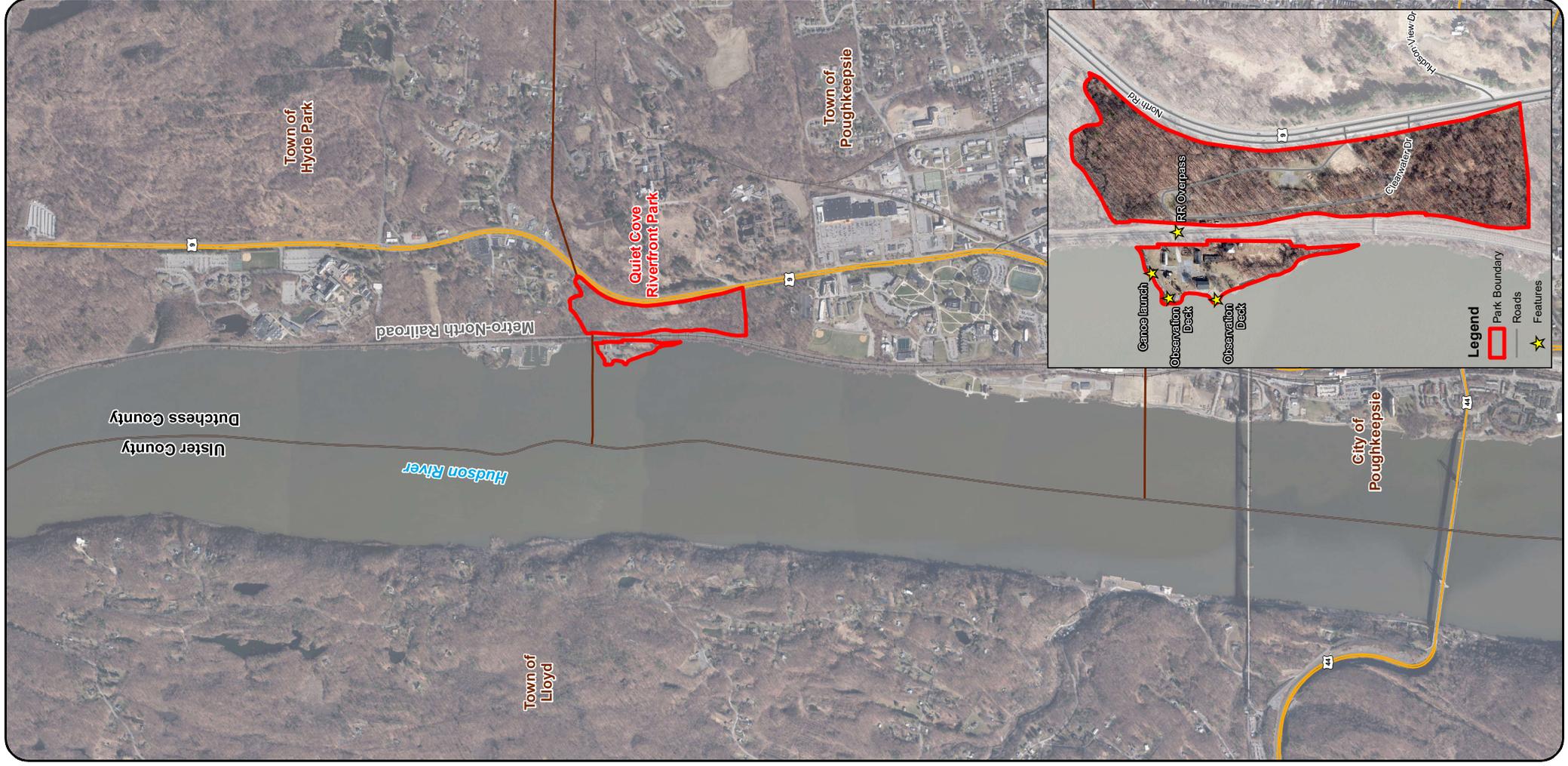
- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - City/Town Boundary
 - Rails
 - Interstates
 - US Routes
 - State Routes
 - County Routes
 - Parkways

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1385 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Quiet Cove has several recreational facilities available to park visitors. Following is a description of each of the recreational facilities available.

Navy Boathouse Annex – The Community Room in the Navy Boathouse Annex is available for rent at a rate of \$200.00 per day. The space can be used for parties and gathering and includes bathroom facilities. Currently, there are no kitchen facilities available in this building.

The current electrical infrastructure for this building is at capacity and will need to be upgraded to accommodate improved facilities such as a kitchen. The kitchen facilities cannot be upgraded until either the electrical system is upgraded or if a gas line were installed. Currently there is no gas hookup for a gas stove, and the current electrical system does not have the capacity to run an electric range.

Wisconsin Boat House (Kayak Concession Building) – The Kayak Concession Building is located at the northwestern most corner of the park, on the shore of the Hudson River. In 2019, a private kayak concessionaire was contracted by the County to offer kayak rentals and tours.

Fishing Access – Fishing is available at any location along the shoreline. New York State Fishing Licenses are required.

Observation Decks – The two (2) observation decks at Quiet Cove were built in 2015 and 2018 and provides scenic locations to sit and watch the river, have a picnic or go fishing. Deck chairs picnic tables are available at the observation decks for use by park visitors.

Map 4-12 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities in Quiet Cove Park.



Navy Boathouse Annex, Quiet Cove



Observation deck overlooking the Hudson River at Quiet Cove

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Facilities June 2018

- Legend**
- ◆ Features
 - Buildings
 - Parking
 - Bodies of Water
 - ~ Roads
 - ~ Rails
 - ~ Trails

Recreation Resources

Canoe/Kayak Launch	Yes
Community Room	1
Fishing	Yes
Foot bridge	1
Grills	Yes
Observation Deck	Yes
Trails	1.29 miles

Total Acreage: 32

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Parking Areas

- B-1 East Side Parking Area (South)
- B-2 East Side Parking Area (North)
- B-3 West Side Lot

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

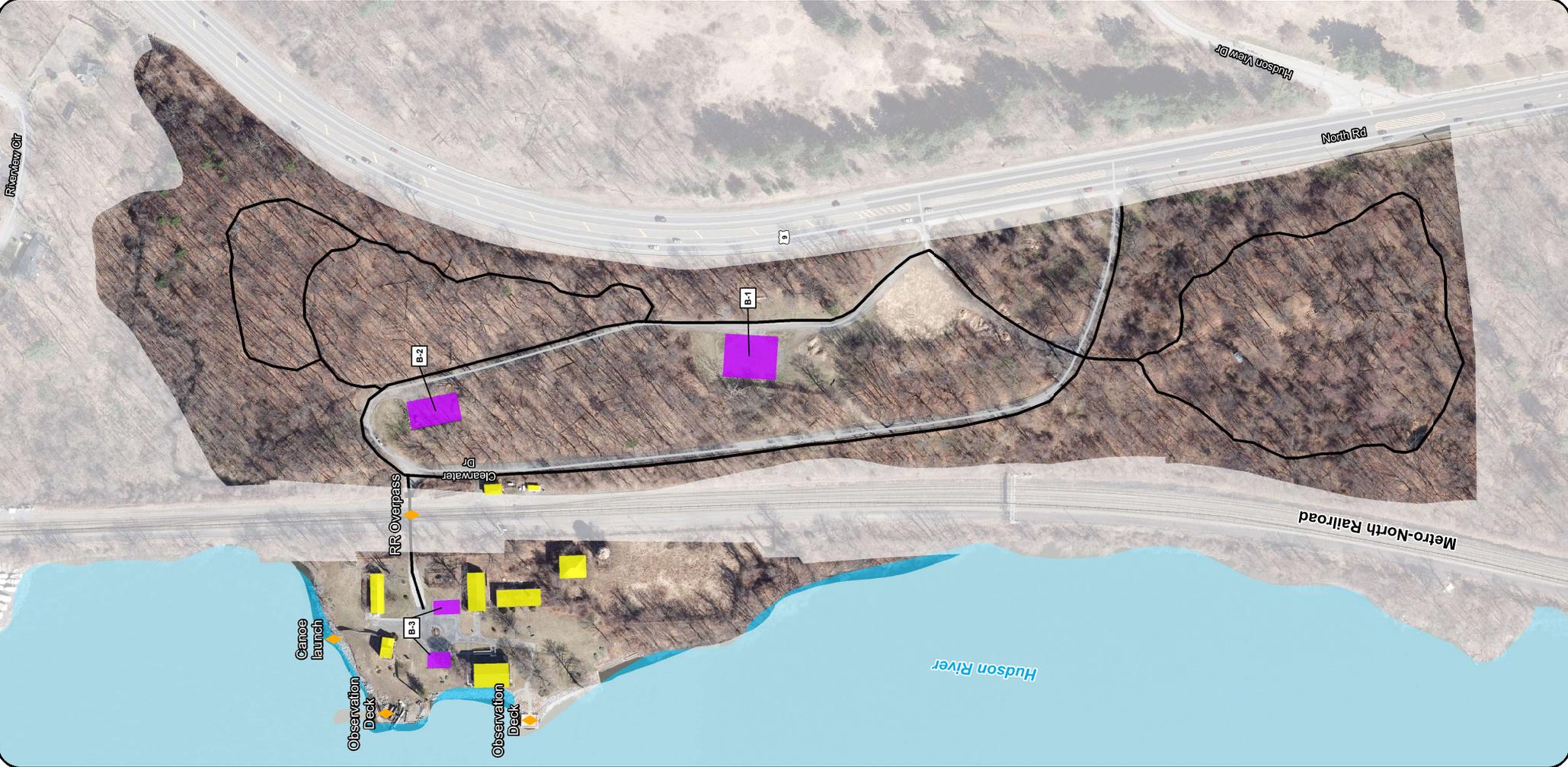


0 100 200 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1385 Governor Road - Chenango, NY 13046

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



NATURAL FEATURES

Topography

Quiet Cove is located on the downward sloping banks of the Hudson River. The topography of the park is characterized by gradually sloping woodland that extends from Route 9, west to the Hudson River. The maximum elevation of the park is approximately 77 feet above sea level on the eastern edge along Route 9, sloping downward to the lowest point at sea level on the Hudson River.

Geology

The underlying bedrock at Quiet Cove consists of graywacke, a type of shale that dates to the Middle Ordovician, or approximately 460-470 million years. Surface Hydrology

Streams and water bodies serve a number of important functions for communities. Stormwater is conveyed to lakes, ponds and larger rivers which alleviates the potential for flooding. Water bodies also provide habitat to a diversity of mammals, birds, fish and insects. From a recreational standpoint, water bodies provide opportunities for fishing, paddling, swimming and nature study.

Quiet Cove lies within a significant hydrologic area within the tidally influenced, Hudson River watershed.

Site Ecology

Dutchess County is comprised of six ecological regions which include the Hudson Valley, Taconic Foothills, New England Marble Valleys, Hudson Highlands, and Berkshire Transition region. Ecological regions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality and quantity of environmental resources. Quiet Cove lies within the Hudson Valley Ecological Region which extends along the entire western edge of the County along the Hudson River. Priority habitats in this region include tidal aquatic communities, streams, wetlands, contiguous forest and open grasslands. Quiet Cove contains primarily deciduous forest lands and tidal aquatic communities.

Flooding and Erosion

The northern and western portions of the park are within the FEMA 100-and 500-year Flood Plain. These areas that are most susceptible to flooding are also the areas where the majority of park facilities are located. Planning for flood resiliency is necessary to withstand potential flooding events in the park.

Sources of Pollution

There are no documented sources of pollution at this time.

Scenic Resources

Quiet Cove is located along the banks of the Hudson River and offers a unique vantage point of the river and surrounding mountainous hillsides of the Hudson River Valley. Quiet Cove is the only park in the Dutchess County Park System to provide direct river access, which extends the scenic and recreational resources beyond the park boundary to the river itself.

Map 4-13 is a graphic representation of the natural features within Quiet Cove.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Natural Features June 2018

Legend

-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
-  FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain
-  NYSDEC Wetlands*
-  NYSDEC Streams
-  NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland*
-  NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes*
-  NWI Riverine
-  >15% Slope
-  River's edge for reference

*None present in view extent

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
FEMA
NWI
NYSDEC
NYS GIS



0 100 200 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1381 Governor Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

Quiet Cove is owned by the State of New York and leased by Dutchess County. The property was originally home to the U.S. Naval Academy's rowing team and later owned by the Hudson River Psychiatric Center. In 2004, the land was retained by New York State and leased by the County to operate the land as a park. The County maintains the park and is responsible for improvements and park maintenance.

Map 4-14 is a graphic representation of land ownership within Quiet Cove.

Existing Zoning

Dutchess County and New York State owned land are not subject to local zoning regulations. The zoning of the land surrounding the park, however, can have an impact on future park usership that should be taken into consideration for the purposes of long-range planning. Just north of the park, in the Town of Hyde Park, the zoning is designated as a Water Front (WF) district. According to the Town of Hyde Park Zoning Code, Chapter 108, Section A, the purpose of the Waterfront District is to provide for water-dependent and water-enhanced land uses, including agriculture, recreation and tourism, and to provide for low-density residential uses, while retaining the district's open space quality. The district is also intended to preserve the open character and manorial quality of lands along the Hudson River corridor and to protect scenic and environmentally sensitive areas. The types of land uses permitted in this district will not have a significant impact on Quiet Cove and will only help to enhance the scenic beauty of the area.

The eastern border of the park, on the northbound side of Route 9, the zoning district, as set forth by the Town of Poughkeepsie, is designated as a Historic Revitalization Development (HRDD) district. This district applies to the former New York State Psychiatric Center along Route 9. The purpose of this district is to promote the preservation and adaptive reuse of landmark structures in historic districts and historically significant open spaces where feasible. This zoning district will help protect the scenic and historic resources of the area, while also allowing for the adaptive reuse of the land for commercial and residential development.

Along the southern border of the park, the land is zoned Institutional (I). The designation of this zone is due to the presence of Marist College. This

district is intended to preserve and protect private and public educational, and hospital uses located in the Town. This designation is likely to remain, and therefore should not have a significant impact on the park.

Map 4-15 is a graphic representation of zoning districts within and surrounding Quiet Cove.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

County-owned property is currently exempt from local level permits and approvals. Buildings and structures must comply with the New York State Building Code and all County requirements.

EXISTING UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking

Quiet Cove has three parking areas including two (2) on the eastern side of the railroad tracks and one (1) on the western side of the tracks. The two on the eastern side are the main parking areas for visitors to the park and can accommodate approximately forty (40) vehicles. These parking areas are unpaved, surfaced with gravel and are in generally fair condition with some small potholes present. The parking area on the western side of the railroad tracks contain seven (7) designated handicapped parking spaces and are paved with asphalt.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking at Quiet Cove, see Appendix G and **Map 4-12**.

Water

Quiet Cove is serviced by wells to provide water to park buildings and facilities. The water is potable and treated with chlorine for disinfection. Water is tested daily as per Dutchess County Department of Health regulations.

Sewer

All buildings and bathroom facilities that are open to the public in Quiet Cove are connected to the Town of Poughkeepsie Municipal Sewer System. The sewer line runs along the western side of the Metro-North Railroad tracks

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Quiet Cove
Riverfront Park
Land Ownership
June 2018

- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Roads
 - Rails
 - Ownership**
 - Unknown*
 - Federal*
 - State
 - County*
 - City, Town, or Village*
 - School*
 - Private
- *None present in view extent

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

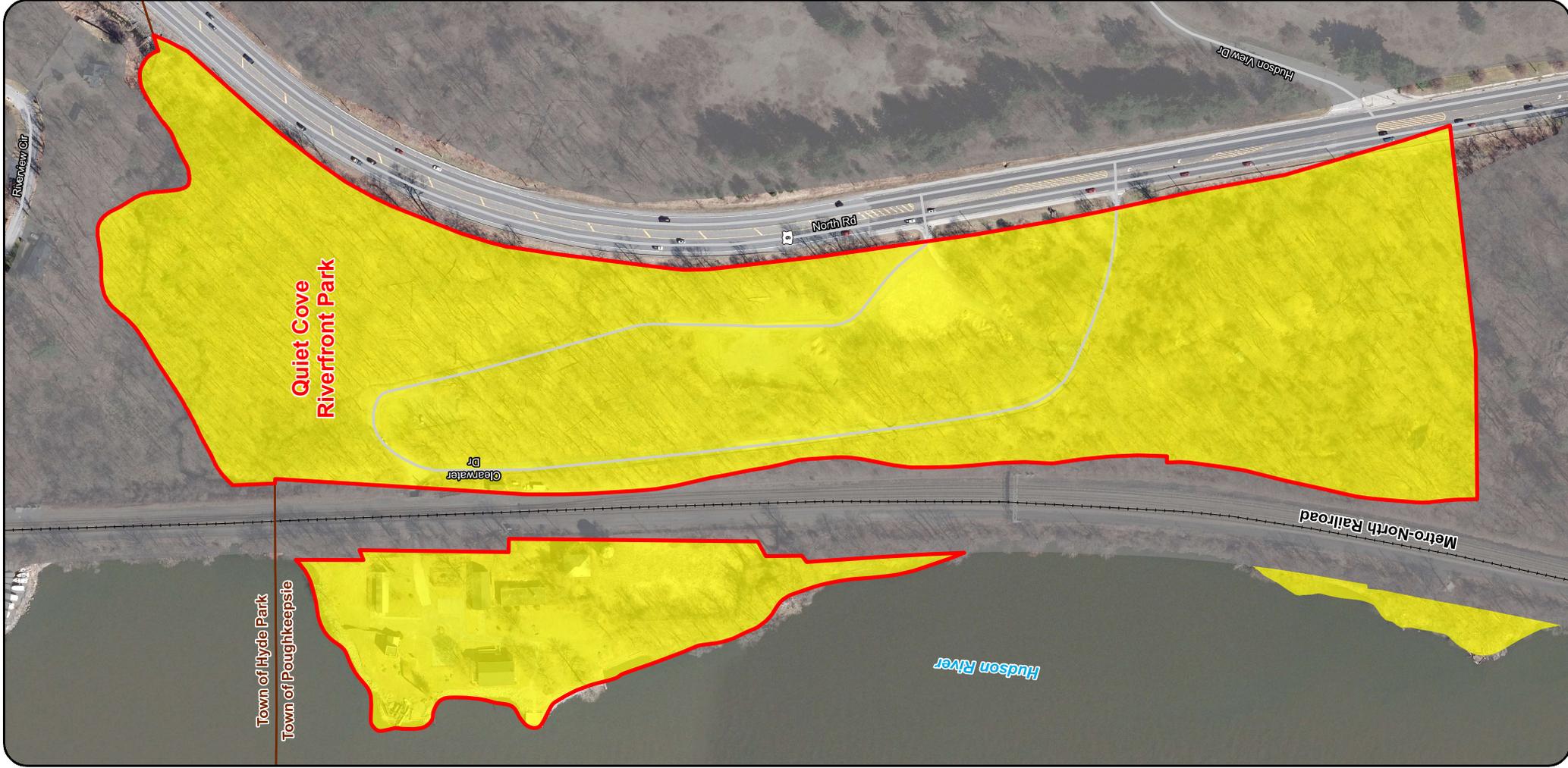


0 100 200 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 13046

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Zoning June 2018

- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Roads
 - Rails
- Zoning**
- HRDD - Historic Revitalization
 - IN - Institutional
 - L - Landing
 - R-2A - Single Family, 2 Acre
 - WF - Waterfront

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS

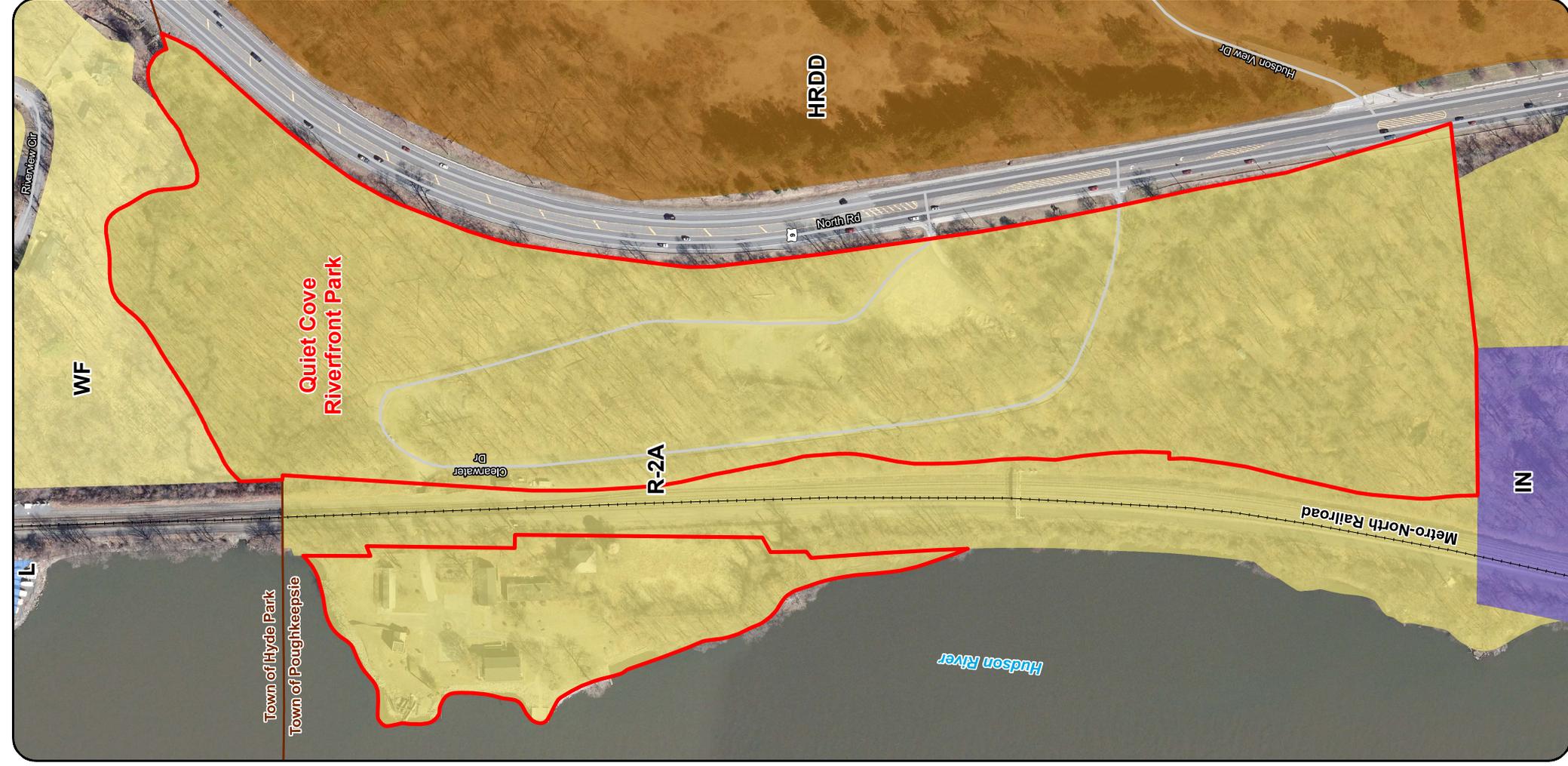


0 100 200 Feet



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1385 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



and is conveyed to the Town of Poughkeepsie Sewer Treatment Facility located at 78 Sand Dock Road, Poughkeepsie.

Solid Waste

Dutchess County handles all solid waste removal at Dutchess County Parks. Waste is collected by park maintenance staff and picked up at central locations by a private waste removal company that the County contracts with.

Electricity

Electricity is available at all buildings within Quiet Cove. The current electrical system within the park is at capacity and will require an upgrade to accommodate building expansions and improvements. This is particularly apparent within the Navy Boathouse Annex, which the County plans to install kitchen facilities. Currently, there are fire code and fire suppression challenges that prohibit the use of a cooking stove in the kitchen.

Internet Access and Connectivity

There is currently no internet access available at Quiet Cove. The fire alarm system in the buildings are currently programmed using a cell phone and cell reception.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The transportation infrastructure at the park is accessed via Clearwater Drive off Route 9. The access road is a one-way road that directs visitors through a narrow, single lane tunnel beneath the Metro-North Railroad and the eastern side of the park along the riverfront. The road continues one-way and loops back to the exit on Route 9. The first section of road that leads to the riverfront is paved with asphalt and the second section which extends to the exit is unpaved. There are currently no public transit options to Quiet Cove.

Accessibility

In October 2018, an accessibility assessment was performed at Quiet Cove Park to identify deficiencies in accessibility of parking areas and accessible routes from those parking areas to the nearest building entrance or site feature. Each route, ramp, curb ramp and parking space deemed part of an accessible route was evaluated based on the standards set forth by the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

There are several parking areas and access walks located throughout the park that service various park facilities.

Overall, accessibility is deficient in many areas of Quiet Cove Park. The main parking lot is inaccessible due to the slope of the terrain, but several handicapped spaces are available at the riverside portion of the park. A significant deficiency is that there is not a continuous access walk from the parking area to the observation decks, and the access walk to the Navy Boathouse Annex exceeds 8%.

The full Accessibility Assessment is available in **Appendix E**.

BUILDING CONDITIONS

In November 2018, a structural condition assessment of the buildings and park structures located at Quiet Cove Park was conducted to determine the structural condition of existing structures. The report identifies structural deficiencies and recommendations for needed repairs or for demolition. The buildings that are currently being utilized, including the Navy Boathouse Annex and the Kayak Concession building are structurally sound and do not require significant repairs. The buildings that are not being utilized have deteriorated significantly and either require significant structural repairs or are recommended to be demolished.

The full Structural Assessment is available in **Appendix F**.

DUTCHESS STADIUM

Built in 1994, Dutchess Stadium has been the home of the Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team for the past 25 seasons. The stadium is part of the Dutchess County Park System and is owned by Dutchess County and leased by the Hudson Valley Renegades. The stadium is located in the Town of Fishkill off of Route 9D with easy access to Interstate 84 and features an artificial turf playing field which was installed in 2014. The 4,300-seat facility also hosts additional events, such as concerts, car shows, collegiate and high school baseball games as well as other community sporting events.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

Dutchess Stadium is located in the Town of Fishkill off of Route 9D with easy access to Interstate 84. The Stadium borders the eastbound side of Interstate 84 approximately 1.2 miles west of the entrance to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge. Dutchess Stadium is a significant tourist destination and economic engine for the southern Dutchess County Region with its proximity to the City of Beacon, Interstate 84 and access on public transportation.

Map 4-16 is a graphic representation of the regional context surrounding Dutchess Stadium.



Renegades Game at Dutchess Stadium

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dutchess Stadium Regional Context June 2018

- Legend**
- County Boundary
 - City/Town Boundary
 - Rails
 - Interstates
 - US Routes
 - State Routes
 - County Routes
 - Parkways

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS



0 0.4 Miles



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Chenango, NY 13045

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Recreational Facilities at Dutchess Stadium are all designed with the intent of supporting the minor league baseball games that occur there. The following is a description of recreational facilities available at Dutchess Stadium.

Stadium – Dutchess Stadium is a 4,300-seat baseball stadium used for minor-league baseball games. The stadium was built in 1994 and is leased to the Hudson Valley Renegades, a local minor-league baseball team. The stadium features a number of concessions and a club house used for events.

Map 4-17 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities at Dutchess Stadium

NATURAL FEATURES

Dutchess Stadium is located in an urbanized area in the Town of Wappinger. Most of the site contains structures including the stadium, parking areas and roads to service the stadium and transportation hub located on the site. There is limited ground cover and trees except for portions of the northeastern and southwestern sections of the Dutchess Stadium parcel.

Map 4-18 is a graphic representation of the natural features surrounding Dutchess Stadium.

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

The pattern of land ownership of the Dutchess County parcel is complex. The land is owned by the Beacon City School District, while the stadium building is owned by Dutchess County. The Hudson Valley Renegades lease the space from the County. Dutches County maintains the property and facilities of the stadium.

Map 4-19 is a graphic representation of land ownership within Dutchess Stadium.

Existing Zoning

Dutchess Stadium is a County-owned facility and supersedes the local zoning regulations as the authority having jurisdiction. In the past, larger projects have been reviewed by local planning boards.

Map 4-20 is a graphic representation of zoning districts within and surround the Dutchess Stadium property.

EXISTING UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking

Dutchess Stadium contains one (1) large parking area that is divided into three (3) sections, identified as D-1, D-2 and D-3, as shown in Map 4-21. Lot D-1 is located closest to the main entrance and contains forty-four (44) handicapped accessible spaces and a total of 143 marked spaces. This lot is paved with asphalt and in good condition. The other two lots are unpaved, surfaced with gravel and are in fair or poor condition with potholes present in a number of locations. Lot D-2 contains seven (7) parallel handicapped parking spaces on its periphery, closest to the main entrance to the stadium. Parking is available at Dutchess Stadium at a cost of \$5.00 per car and parking passes are available for season ticket holders. Handicapped spaces are available in the front lot closest to the front gate.

Maintenance of the parking lot has become an issue with regards to tailgaters. Dutchess County park staff are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the parking lots. Tailgaters often leave significant amount of refuse in the lots that Dutchess County park staff have to clean up.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking at Dutchess Stadium, see **Map 17** and **Appendix G**.

Water

Dutchess Stadium is serviced by municipal water from the Town of Fishkill. No issues of capacity currently exist.

Sewer

Dutchess Stadium is connected to the City of Beacon sewer system. The sewer line the stadium runs parallel to Interstate 84, which is at a higher elevation than the stadium. Due to this elevation change, sewage is pumped from the stadium to the sewer line. The pump consists of a main pump and

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dutchess Stadium Facilities June 2018

- Legend**
- Buildings
 - Parking
 - Roads

Dutchess Stadium Parking Areas

- D-1 Main Entrance Lot
- D-2 Central Lot
- D-3 Southeastern Lot

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dutchess Stadium Natural Features

June 2018

Legend

- FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
- FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain*
- NYSDEC Wetlands*
- NYSDEC Wetland Checkzones*
- NYSDEC Streams
- NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland*
- NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland*
- NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes*
- NWI Riverine
- >15% Slope

*None present in view extent

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
FEMA
NWI
NYSDEC
NYSITS



 **Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.**
1325 Colchester Road • Chenango, NY 13045

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dutchess Stadium Land Ownership June 2018

- Legend**
- Park Boundary
 - Roads
 - Ownership**
 - Unknown*
 - Federal*
 - State
 - County*
 - City, Town, or Village*
 - School
 - Private

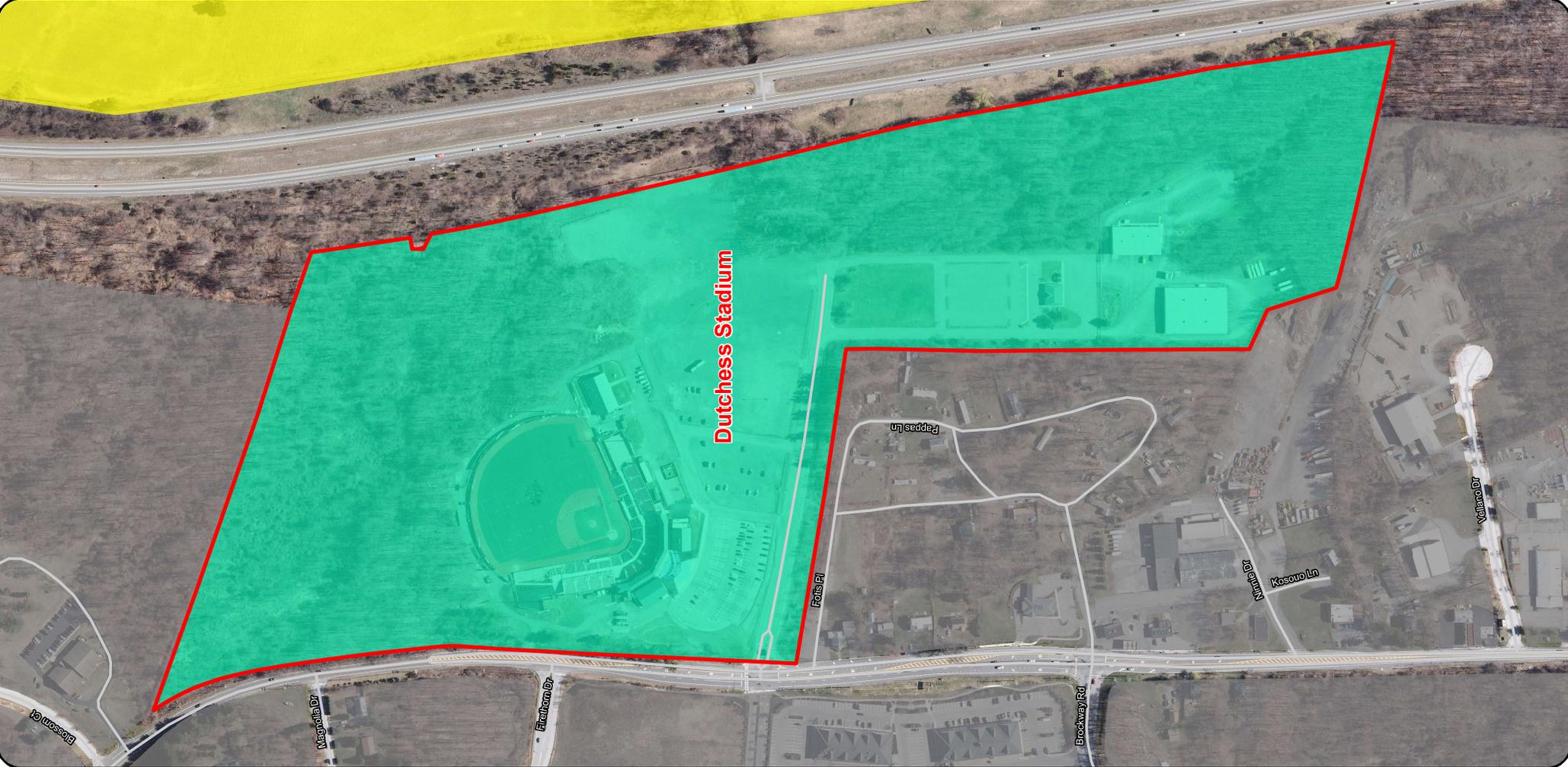
*None present in view extent

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Dutchess Stadium Zoning June 2018

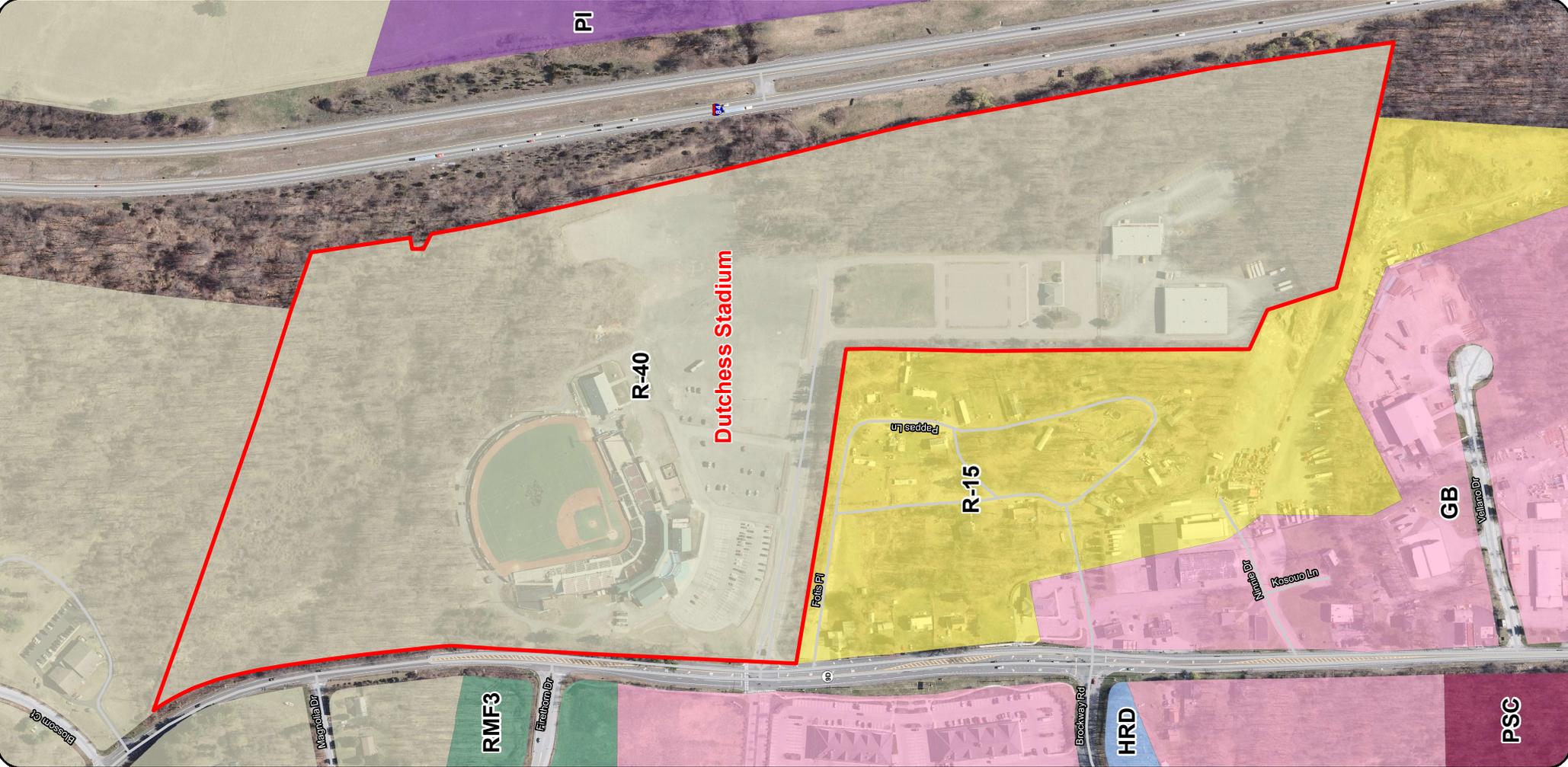
- Legend**
-  Park Boundary
 -  Roads
 - Zoning**
 -  GB - General Business
 -  HRD - Hudson River
 -  PI - Planned Industry
 -  PSC - Planned Shopping Center
 -  R-15 - One-Family Residence
 -  R-40 - One-Family Residence
 -  RMF3 - Multi-Family Residence

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1321 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 12506

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



backup pump. Recently, both pumps failed resulting in a sewer backup in the Stadium Clubhouse. The issue has been remedied but will need to be monitored in the future to ensure a properly functioning pump system. There is currently no sewage capacity issue at the stadium.

Solid Waste

Solid waste removal is the responsibility of the tenant.

Electricity

Electricity is available throughout the Dutchess Stadium facility. The electric system, however, is reaching capacity and will require an upgrade in order to accommodate facility improvements and expansions.

Internet Access and Connectivity

Internet access is available in stadium offices and concession areas.

EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Dutchess Stadium is located on Route 9D in the Town of Fishkill with easy access to Interstate 84 at Exit 11. Public transit is available to Dutchess Stadium via the Beacon RailLink, a bus line operated by the Dutchess County Department of Public Works, Division of Public Transit, and designed to connect various locations to the Beacon Train Station. The Beacon RailLink is part of three RailLink routes to the Beacon, New Hamburg and Poughkeepsie Train Stations. These bus lines connect passengers from train stations to major intermodal transportation hubs including the Beacon Intermodal Center located at Dutchess Stadium.

ACCESSIBILITY

Dutchess Stadium is an accessible facility and includes handicapped accessible parking, handicapped accessible box seating and general admission seating, and accessible entrances. Dutchess Stadium has recently undergone a Stadium Improvement Study which identifies accessibility deficiencies and recommendations.

BUILDING CONDITIONS

The Renegades baseball organization, with approval of Dutchess County, engaged the firm of Ballpark Design Associates in the winter/spring of 2018 to perform a Stadium Improvement Study. This study set a broad based

capital improvement plan for the future, and the Renegades and County have begun the process.

Phase I improvements began in the spring of 2019 and involved the refurbishment and sealing of the concrete stadium bowl surface as well as the reconfiguration and replacement of all spectator seating. The second portion of Phase I will be parking lot improvements, including new lighting and extended paved and improved surface areas, and is anticipated to be completed in the spring of 2020. The total funding for Phase I improvements is \$3 million dollars.

Phase II is anticipated to spend \$4.5 million dollars on to be determined projects. These projects are anticipated to begin construction in the fall of 2020.



Renegades Game at Dutchess Stadium

WILLIAM R. STEINHAUS DUTCHESS RAIL TRAIL

The William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail (Dutchess Rail Trail) is a 13.9-mile multi-use linear county park that runs along the former Maybrook Rail corridor through the towns of Poughkeepsie, LaGrange, Wappinger, East Fishkill and City of Poughkeepsie, with a direct link to the Walkway Over the Hudson and the regional trail network. The Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park provides access to the Hudson River's beautiful landscape for use by pedestrians, hikers, joggers and bicyclists. The bridge deck is 212 feet above the river's surface and is a total of 1.28 miles long, making it the longest elevated pedestrian bridge in the world. The Dutchess Rail Trail provides recreational opportunities to residents and visitors and creates a link between communities and businesses.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Dutchess Rail Trail is located in the southwestern portion of Dutchess County and runs through the Towns of East Fishkill, Wappinger, LaGrange, Poughkeepsie and the City of Poughkeepsie. The southern terminus is located at Hopewell Depot in the Hamlet of Hopewell Junction. The Hopewell Depot train station was built in 1873 and restored in 2012 to be used as a cultural and visitor's center. The northern end of the Dutchess Rail Trail connects to the Walkway Over the Hudson, creating a continuous trail network that continues into Ulster County. The Walkway Over the Hudson is a regionally significant destination that attracts visitors and provides positive contributions to the local and regional economy.

Map 4-21 is a graphic representation of the regional context surrounding the Dutchess Rail Trail.



Morgan Lake Trailhead Along the Dutchess Rail Trail

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

William R.
Steinhaus Dutchess
Rail Trail
Regional Context
June 2018

Legend

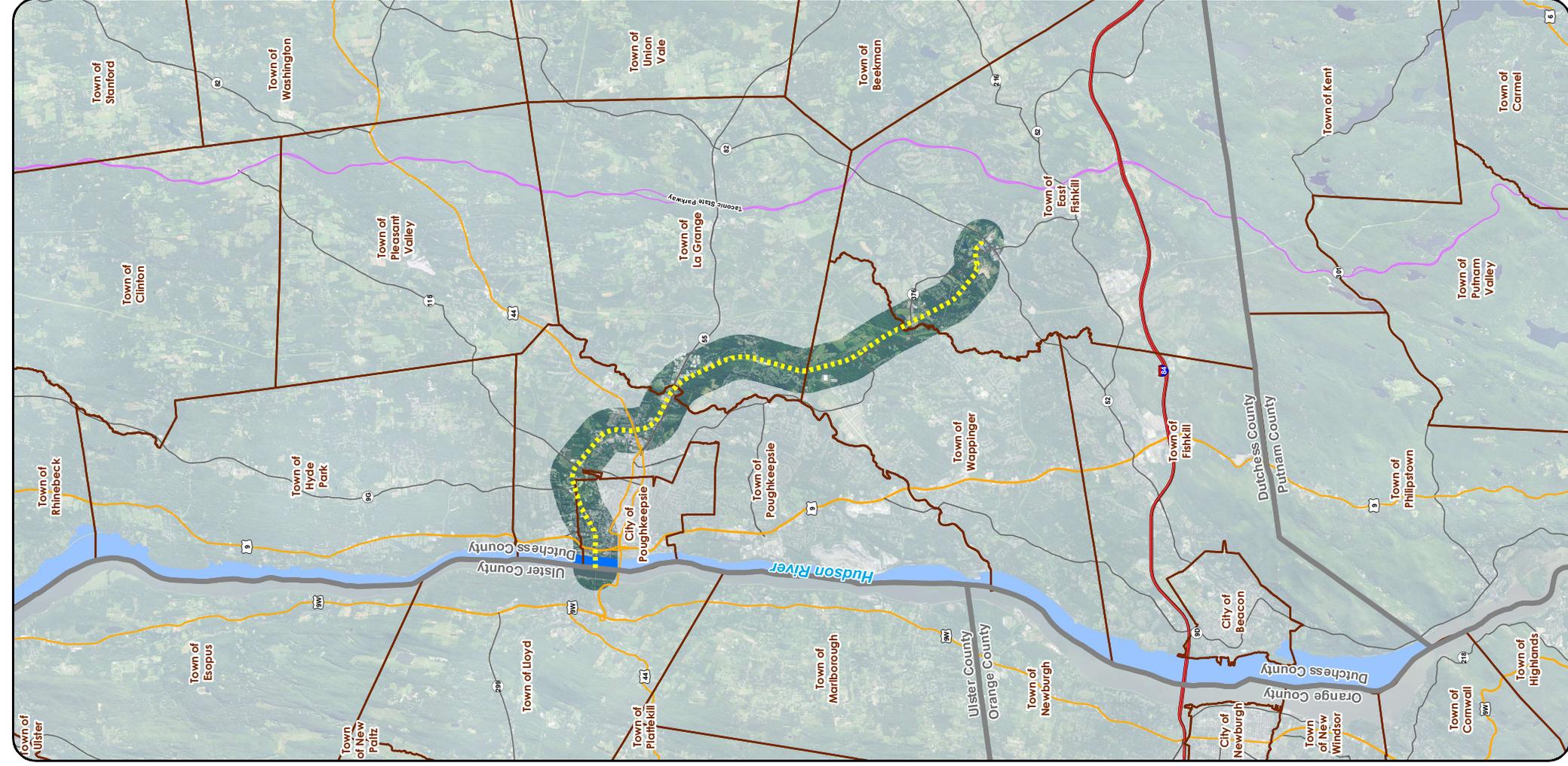
-  William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail
-  County Boundary
-  New York Town Boundaries
-  Interstates
-  US Routes
-  State Routes
-  Parkways

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
GIS
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Rail Trail – The Dutchess County Rail Trail is a 13.9-mile, linear path used for all non-motorized forms of recreation including bicycling, walking, jogging, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The trail is heavily used in the summer and fall and is one of the most popular attractions in the Dutchess County Park System. The entire trail is paved with asphalt at a width of twelve (12) feet. The trail is maintained by Dutchess County Parks Staff. The primary maintenance tasks involved in maintaining the trail include mowing and weed whacking along the entire length of the trail corridor. The trail is left unplowed in the winter time to allow for winter recreational opportunities like cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.

Several maintenance challenges exist along the Dutchess Rail Trail. One challenge is the small staff available to mow and trim branches. It takes approximately one week to mow and trim the entire length of the trail corridor. The high volumes of people on the trail during the summer and fall also create a maintenance challenge. Mowing and weed whacking often have to occur during inclement weather when there are lower volumes of visitors on the trail. High volumes of people make it difficult to move maintenance equipment up and down the trail corridor.

The trail was last paved approximately ten years ago. Portions of the trail will need to be repaved soon, particularly areas where tree roots are causing the pavement to buckle.

Benches – 26 benches have been installed along the trail corridor. The benches could be purchased as a memorial for \$1,500 and included the bench, cement base and engraving to honor specific people or organizations in the community. The money from the memorial bench program went into the Dutchess Rail Trail Amenities Fund to provide amenity enhancements along the trail to improve the experience for trail users.

Trail Heads – There are six (6) trailheads available to access the Dutchess Rail Trail. Each trail head contains a parking area for trail users and an information kiosk. The following is a description of each the trailheads along the Dutchess Rail Trail. The trailheads are in order from south to north along the trail corridor.

Hopewell Depot Trailhead – The Hopewell Depot Trailhead is located in the Hamlet of Hopewell Junction in the Town of East Fishkill on Railroad Avenue. This is the southernmost end of the Dutchess Rail Trail and offers parking, an information kiosk, bike rack and a composting toilet for trail users. Hopewell Depot was restored in 2012 and serves as a visitor’s center and museum to showcase the rail hub that Hopewell Junction was once known for. The Hopewell Depot Trailhead has two main parking areas. The larger of the two is unpaved and located off Railroad Avenue beside the recently restored Hopewell Station. The second parking area is located just east of the Railroad Avenue parking area off Turner Street.

Van Wyck Lane Trailhead – The Van Wyck Lane Trailhead is located approximately 2.25 miles north of the Hopewell Depot Trailhead in the Town of East Fishkill on Van Wyck Lane. The trailhead offers parking, an information kiosk, bike rack and a porta-potty available for trail users. The parking area is unpaved and can accommodate many cars including 11 designated handicapped parking spaces.

Diddell Road Trailhead – The Diddell Road Trailhead is located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the Van Wyck Lane Trailhead on Diddell Road in the Town of Wappinger just south of the intersection with Smith Crossing Road. The trail head offers parking, an information kiosk, bike rack and a porta-potty for use by trail users. The parking area is paved and can accommodate up to thirty-three (33) cars including two (2) handicapped spaces.

LaGrange Trailhead – The LaGrange Trailhead is located approximately 4.5 miles northwest of the Diddell Road Trailhead in the Town of Lagrange on Old Manchester Road. The trailhead offers parking, an information kiosk, bike rack and a porta-potty for trail users. There are two (2) parking areas located off Old Manchester Road that can accommodate up to 43 cars.

Overocker Road Trailhead – The Overocker Road Trailhead is located approximately 1.25 miles northwest of the LaGrange Trailhead in the Town of Poughkeepsie on Overocker Road. The trailhead is paved and can accommodate up to 18 vehicles. The trailhead offers parking, an information kiosk, bike rack, waste receptacles and a porta-potty for trail users.

Morgan Lake Trailhead – Continuing approximately 2.3 miles northwest of the Overocker Road Trailhead is the Morgan Lake Trailhead located in the City of Poughkeepsie on Creek Road. This trailhead offers parking, an information kiosk, waste receptacles, bike rack and a porta-potty for trail users. The parking area can accommodate 45 vehicles including two designated handicapped spaces.

Map 4-22 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities along the Dutchess County Rail Trail.



Informational Kiosk at the Morgan Lake Trail Head



Entrance to the Dutchess Rail Trail at the Morgan Lake Trailhead

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

William R.
Steinhaus Dutchess
Rail Trail
Facilities
June 2018

Legend

-  William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail
-  Access Points
-  Trailheads
-  County Boundary
-  City/Town Boundary
-  Bodies of Water
-  Roads

Trailheads

- Diddell Road
- Hopewell Depot
- La Grange
- Morgan Lake
- Overrocker Road
- Van Wyck Lane
- Walkway Over the Hudson

Total Mileage: 13.9

All Trailheads have parking and seasonal restrooms. Entire trail is paved with a minimum width of ten feet throughout with an increase heading north after Route 55.

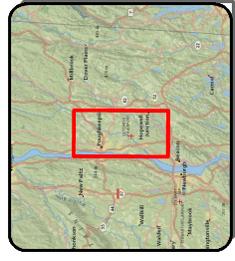
Dutchess Rail Trail Parking

- E-1 Hopewell Depot Parking Area A
- E-2 Hopewell Depot Parking Area B
- E-3 Hopewell Depot Parking Area C
- E-4 Van Wyck Lane Parking Area
- E-5 Diddell Road Parking Area
- E-6 La Grange Parking Area A
- E-7 La Grange Parking Area B
- E-8 Overrocker Road Parking Area
- E-9 Love Road Entrance Parking
- E-10 Morgan Lake Parking

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYS GIS



0 0.5 1 Mile



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
158 Green Road • Catskill, NY 12518

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



NATURAL FEATURES

Topography

The Dutchess Rail Trail runs along a relatively level surface throughout the 13.9-mile duration. The elevation at the beginning of the trail is approximately 250 feet above sea level. The elevation changes gradually along the trail in some areas but remains relatively level throughout its duration due to grading for the rail line that used to occupy the corridor. The elevation at the last trailhead is approximately 180-feet above sea level. The overall elevation slopes downward as the trail travels northwest towards the Hudson River.

Geology

The underlying bedrock along the Dutchess Rail Trail varies from where it begins at Hopewell Junction to where it ends in the City of Poughkeepsie. In order from south to north, the bedrock consists of limestone, slate, graywacke shale and mudstone.

Surface Hydrology

The surface hydrology along the Dutchess Rail Trail changes significantly along its 13.9-mile duration. The trail crosses over several waterbodies including Whortlekill Creek, Sprout Creek, Wappinger Creek, Casper Creek, Fall Kill and ends at the Hudson River. Several areas along the trail are within the FEMA 100- and 500-Year Flood Plains. These areas are primarily located where the trail crosses a river or stream.

Site Ecology

Dutchess County is comprised of six ecological regions which include the Hudson Valley, Taconic Foothills, New England Marble Valleys, Hudson Highlands, and Berkshire Transition region. Ecological regions are areas of general similarity in ecosystems and in the type, quality and quantity of environmental resources. The Dutchess Rail Trail lies entirely within the Hudson Valley Ecoregion which extends along the entire western edge of the County along the Hudson River. Priority habitats in this region include tidal aquatic communities, streams, wetlands, contiguous forest and open grasslands.

Flooding and Erosion

Several areas along the trail are within the FEMA 100- and 500-Year Flood Plains. These areas are primarily located where the trail crosses a river or stream. The river and stream crossings that are within the FEMA 100-and

500-Year Flood Plain are the Whortlekill Creek, Sprout Creek, Wappinger Creek, Casper Creek and Fall Kill. Although these areas along the trail are within a floodplain, the trail is slightly elevated, reducing the risk of flooding and damage to the trail.

Sources of Pollution

No documented sources of pollution currently exist.

Scenic Resources

The Dutchess Rail Trail offers visitors the opportunity to travel through the lush wooded forestlands of Dutchess County. Along the trail are opportunities for nature viewing and a respite from the stresses of daily life.

Map 4-23 is a graphic representation of the natural features surrounding the Dutchess Rail Trail.

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

The entirety of the Dutchess Rail Trail is publicly owned by Dutchess County. As such, all maintenance and operations of the trail are handled by Dutchess County parks. Most of the land surrounding the trail is privately owned, residential or commercial property. From a residential standpoint, access to a trail system can have a positive impact on property values and are an attractive amenity for new homebuyers.

Map 4-24 is a graphic representation of land ownership surrounding the Dutchess Rail Trail.

Existing Zoning

The County-owned land along the Dutchess Rail Trail is not subject to the zoning regulations of the municipalities along the trail corridor. The adjacent zoning districts can however impact current and future trail usage. Much of the land along the trail corridor is zoned residential. In the Town East Fishkill, the trail passes through an Industrial district at the Hopewell Depot Trailhead and through a Commercial district near the Van Wyck Lane Trailhead. In the Town of LaGrange, the trail passes through several commercial and mixed-use districts. In the Town and City of Poughkeepsie, the trail passes through several areas of commercial, industrial and mixed-use zones. Locations that are adjacent to commercial and mix-use zones provide access to local amenities for trail users and help to support local businesses.

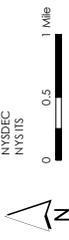
Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

William R.
Steinhaus Dutchess
Rail Trail
Natural Features
June 2018

Legend

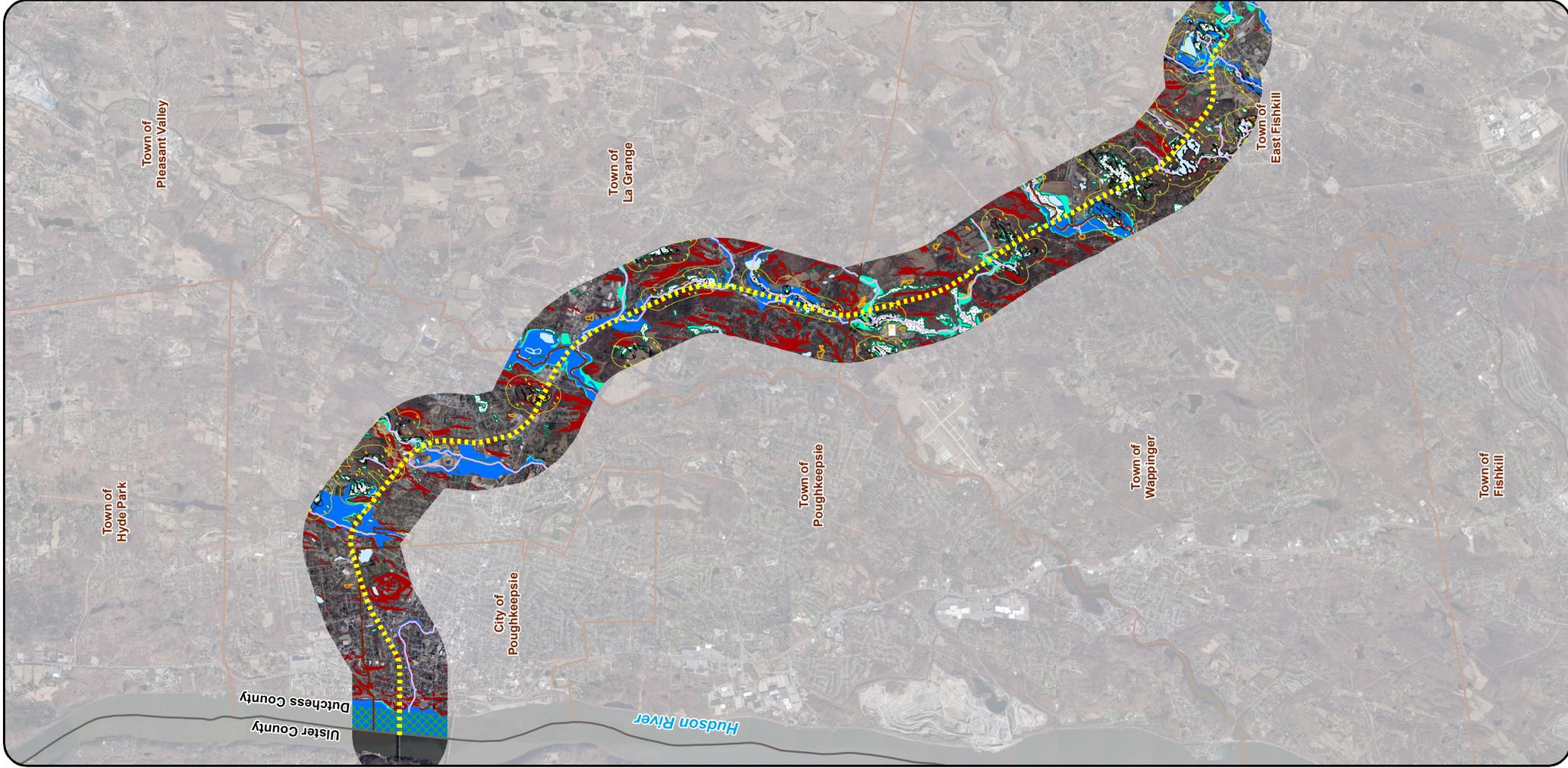
-  City/Town Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail
-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
-  FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain
-  NYSDEC Wetlands
-  NYSDEC Wetland Checkzones
-  NYSDEC Streams
-  NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes
-  NWI Riverine
-  >15% Slope

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
FEMA
NWI
NYSDEC
NYSITS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Chenango, NY 13046

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

William R.
Steinhaus Dutchess
Rail Trail
Land Ownership
June 2018

Legend

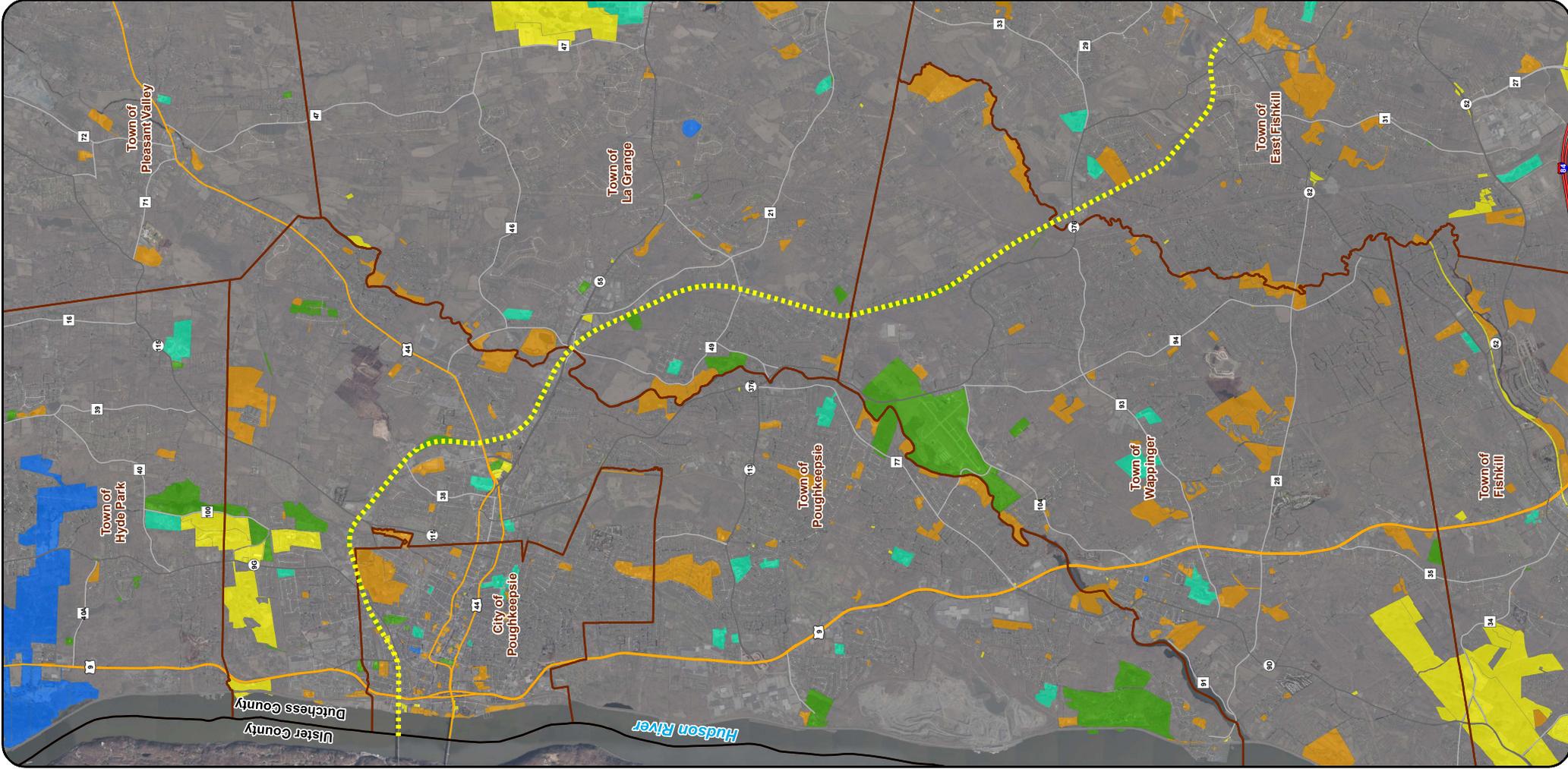
-  William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail
-  County Boundary
-  City/Town Boundary
-  Interstates
-  US Routes
-  State Routes
-  County Routes
-  Parkways
- Ownership**
-  Unknown
-  Federal
-  State
-  County
-  City, Town, or Village
-  School
-  Private

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
GIS
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1321 Colchester Road - Chenango Park, NY 13045

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Map 4-25 is a graphic representation of zoning districts surrounding the Dutchess Rail Trail.

Permits and Approvals

The construction of the Dutchess Rail Trail is complete. No permits or approvals are needed.

EXISTING UTILITIES

Parking

Each trailhead along the Dutchess Rail Trail includes one or more designated parking areas. Most are paved with asphalt except for two of the parking areas at the Hopewell Depot Trailhead and the Van Wyck Lane Trailhead. All of the parking areas are in good or fair condition. Each trailhead contains at least one (1) handicapped parking space, with the majority containing two (2) or more.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking along the Dutchess Rail Trail, see **Appendix G** and **Map 4-22**.

Water

There is currently no potable water that is accessible along the Dutchess Rail Trail. A water line runs along the length of the trail that could potentially be tapped into in the future for bathroom and drinking water facilities.

Sewer

There is currently no sewer or septic available along the Dutchess Rail Trail. Each trailhead along the corridor has a porta-potty that is available for trail users.

The addition of bathroom facilities has been identified by the public and park staff as a necessary facility improvement along the trail. Potential barriers to building bathroom facilities include access to a sewer line, available space for facilities within the County right-of-way and space for septic fields. Bathroom facilities would most likely be placed at some or all of the trailheads. This is the area where the most land is available both for a bathroom facility and a septic field.

Solid Waste

The Dutchess Rail Trail is a carry-in, carry-out facility. Some municipalities including the City of Poughkeepsie and Towns of Poughkeepsie and East Fishkill have an intermunicipal agreement to pick-up trash at trailheads.

Electricity

Electric utilities are located in only three areas along the Dutchess Rail Trail. One is at the North Grand Avenue crossing in the Town of Poughkeepsie where an old trail signal was restored. The other two areas are within tunnels located just north of the Hopewell Depot and the other located about a half mile from the trailhead of the Walkway Over the Hudson in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Existing Transportation Infrastructure

All trailheads along the Dutchess Rail Trail are accessible by car with parking areas available to visitors. Access to the Dutchess Rail Trail using public transit is limited except for a few select areas that require traveling on local streets to get to a trailhead. The nearest public transit route to the northern end of the Dutchess Rail Trail is the Route C bus with a stop located at Washington Street and Verrazano Boulevard in the City of Poughkeepsie. The Walkway Over the Hudson trail head is a short distance from this location where the Dutchess Rail Trail can also be accessed. Access to the Dutchess Rail Trail is also available from the Metro-North Railroad Station in the City of Poughkeepsie, with easy access to the Walkway Over the Hudson.

INTERNET ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

There is currently no internet access along Dutchess Rail Trail Corridor.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

William R.
Steinhaus Dutchess
Rail Trail
Zoning
June 2018

Legend

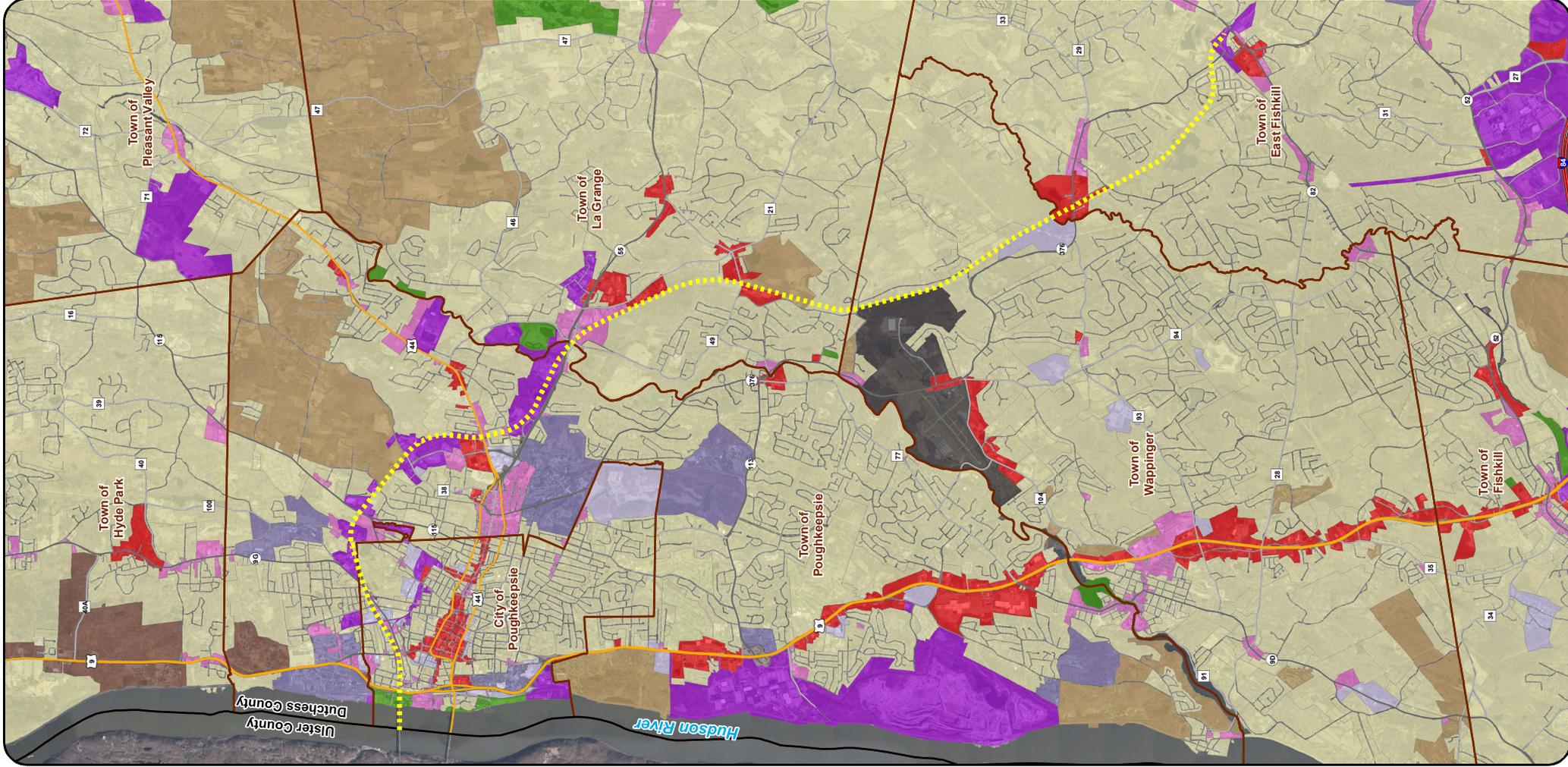
-  William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail
-  County Boundary
-  City/Town Boundary
-  Interstates
-  US Routes
-  State Routes
-  County Routes
-  Parkways
-  Airport
-  Commercial
-  Mixed Use
-  Conservation/Restricted Development
-  Historic Preservation/Revitalization
-  Industrial
-  Institutional/Medical
-  Office
-  Residential/Agricultural
-  Residential
-  Transportation

SOURCES:
Dutchess County
GIS
NYS GIS



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Clifton Park, NY 12065

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



The following trailheads along the Dutchess Rail Trail can be accessed by public transit using buses operated by the Dutchess County Department of Public Works-Public Transit Division:

Overocker Road Trailhead – Accessed by bus routes A, B, E and F at the bus stop located at the Route 55 and Burnett Boulevard stop. The Overocker Trailhead is approximately 0.4-miles from the bus stop.

Lagrange Trailhead – The LaGrange Trailhead is accessible by Bus Routes A, B, C, D, E, and F located at the Route 55 and Old Manchester Road stop. The trailhead is approximately 0.2-miles from the bus stop.

Hopewell Depot Trailhead – The Hopewell Depot Trailhead is accessible by the F Bus Route.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Dutchess Rail Trail is a flat paved surface and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Each of the trailheads includes handicapped parking spaces and paved ramp entrances to the trail.



Bench Along the Dutchess Rail Trail



Information Kiosk, Dutchess Rail Trail

HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT) is a 10.7-mile paved trail in Dutchess County. The trail weaves through farms, wetlands, forest hillsides, historic settlements and village centers. The first section of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail was opened in 1996 when the 4.5-mile trail segment from Amenia to Coleman Station Road was constructed and opened to the general public. The second 3.5-mile section, from Coleman Station Road to Millerton, was opened in 2000. The third 2.5-mile section of the trail, from Amenia to the Wassaic Train station, was opened in 2005. An \$11 million-dollar federal grant was obtained to facilitate construction of the trail from the Village of Millerton north into Columbia County. This last phase is currently under construction and slated for completion in Fall 2020.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The HVRT is located in the northeast corner of Dutchess County and connects the Towns of Amenia, North East and Village of Millerton. The trail begins at the southern end in the Town of Amenia at the Wassaic Train Station and currently ends in the Village of Millerton near the old Millerton Train Station. The next phase of expansion for the HVRT will include an extension from the Village of Millerton north to Columbia County.

Map 4-26 is a graphic representation of the regional context surrounding the HVRT.

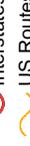
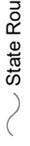
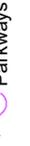


Millerton Trailhead along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail

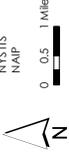
Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Regional Context

June 2018

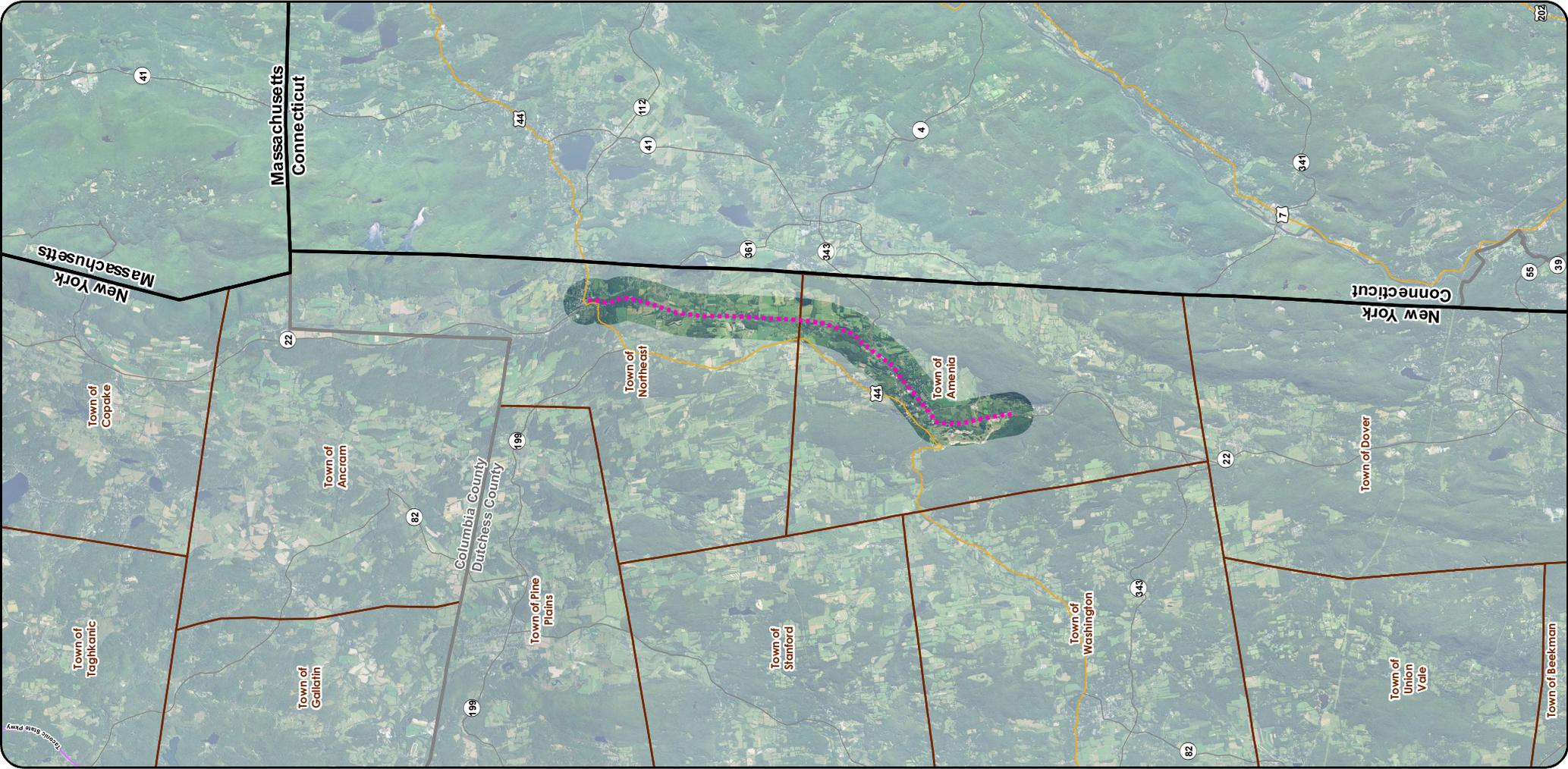
- Legend**
-  Harlem Valley Rail Trail
 -  State Boundary
 -  County Boundary
 -  New York Town Boundaries
 -  Interstates
 -  US Routes
 -  State Routes
 -  Parkways

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS
NAIP



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Rail Trail – The HVRT is a 10.7-mile, linear trail in northeastern Dutchess County, available for bicycling, walking, jogging, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Equestrian uses and motorized vehicles are not allowed, except for electric wheelchairs and e-bikes. The trail is 12-feet wide and paved along the entire corridor. Maintenance of the HVRT is completed through a partnership with Dutchess County, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association (HVRTA), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and advocating for the HVRT, and local municipalities.

Trailheads – There are four (4) trail heads along the HVRT. Through an agreement with Dutchess County, the HVRTA handles some minor maintenance at the trailheads along the trail. All trailheads have parking areas, bike racks, information kiosks and porta-potties except Wassaic. Following is a description of each trailhead facility.

Wassaic Station Trailhead – The Wassaic Station Trailhead is the southernmost trailhead along the HVRT. The trailhead is located in the Hamlet of Wassaic in the Town of Amenia at the Wassaic Train Station on Route 22. The station is currently active with commuter train service on the Harlem Line of the Metro-North Railroad to New York City. Parking is available at the Wassaic Train Station and is metered on weekdays and free on weekends and holidays.

Amenia Station Trailhead – The Amenia Station Trailhead is located approximately 2.6 miles north of the Wassaic Station Trailhead on Depot Hill Road in the Town of Amenia. The trailhead features a small paved parking area that holds approximately 10-15 vehicles, an information kiosk, waste receptacles and a porta-potty.

Coleman Station Trailhead – The Coleman Station Trailhead is located approximately four miles north of the Amenia Station Trailhead on Coleman Station Road in the Town of North East. The trailhead features a paved parking area, information kiosk and porta-potty available for trail users.

Millerton Station Trailhead – The Millerton Station trailhead is located approximately 3.6 miles north of the Coleman Station Trailhead On Main Street in the Village of Millerton. The trailhead offers a paved parking area, waste receptacles, bike rack, information kiosk and a porta-potty available

for trail users. The location of this trailhead provides direct access to local shops and restaurants available in the Village of Millerton.

There are a number of maintenance challenges associated with the HVRT. Currently, one of the most significant maintenance concerns is the encroachment of brush and tree branches along the trail. Another issue is that local municipalities that handle some trail maintenance have regularly changing Department of Public Works staff every few years creates a maintenance coordination challenge.

Map 4-27 illustrates the location of parks and recreational facilities along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.



Millerton Trailhead along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Facilities June 2018

- Legend**
-  Trailheads
 -  County Boundary
 -  City/Town Boundary
 -  Bodies of Water
 -  Harlem Valley Rail Trail
 -  Roads

Trailheads

Wassaic Station	Mile 0
Amenia Station	Mile 2.5
Coleman Station	Mile 6.9
Millerton Station	Mile 10.7

Total Mileage: 10.7
 All Trailheads are paved, have parking and seasonal restrooms.
 Width: 12 feet

**Harlem Valley Rail Trail
Parking Areas**

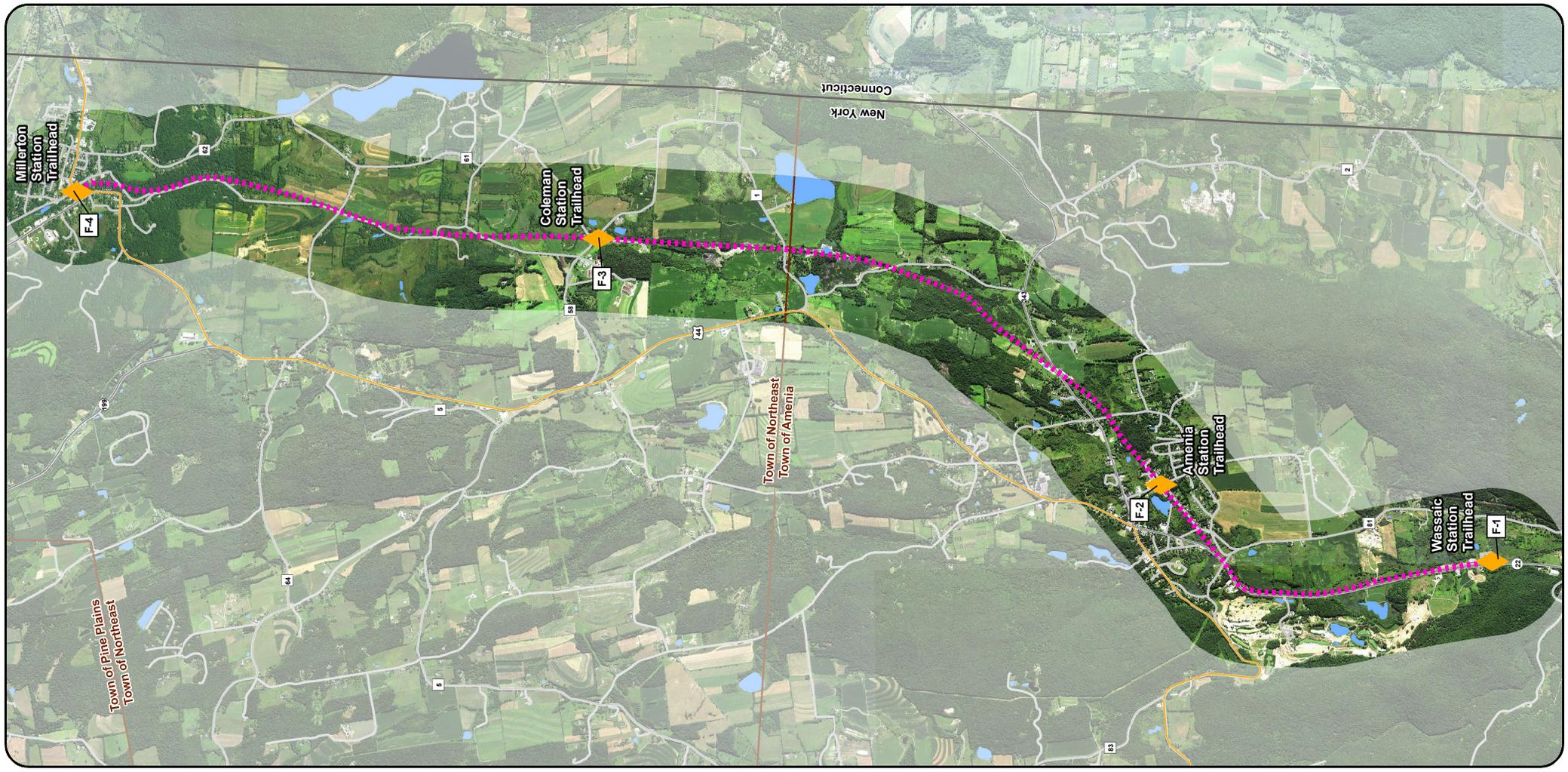
- F-1 Wassaic Station Trailhead Parking
- F-2 Amenia Station Trailhead Parking
- F-3 Coleman Station Trailhead Parking
- F-4 Millerton Station Trailhead Parking

SOURCES:
 Dutchess County
 NYSDOT
 NYS GIS
 NAPP




 Engineering and
 Land Surveying, P.C.
 1325 Colchester Road - Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



NATURAL FEATURES

Topography

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail runs through the rolling hills of northeastern Dutchess County. The trail is relatively level, as it was originally graded for use as a rail line. The elevation at the start of the trail in Wassaic is approximately 500-feet above sea level and 700-feet at the northern terminus in the Village of Millerton. From Downey Road to approximately the Village of Millerton boundary, the rock type changes to slate, before changing back to marble at the terminus of the trail.

Geology

The underlying bedrock along the HVRT remains consistent from where the trail begins in Wassaic to its northern terminus in the Village of Millerton. From Wassaic north to approximately Downey Road in the Town of North East, the underlying bedrock is marble dated to the Cambrian-Lower Ordovician period, or nearly 470-500 million years.

Surface Hydrology

The surface hydrology along the HVRT varies across the 10.7 miles from Wassaic to Millerton. The majority of the trail runs alongside the Webatuck Creek with significant areas of freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, freshwater emergent wetlands and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Wetlands.

Site Ecology

There is a wide variety of plant and animal species that exist along the HVRT. Since the trail follows the path of the former Upper Harlem Line of the Penn Central Railroad, many areas along the trail are in a state of recovery from industrial rail uses. It is common to see forest regrowth and habitat for animals and other plants where old rail lines and buildings used to stand.

Flooding and Erosion

Since the HVRT runs along an old rail bed, the surface is raised slightly which helps to reduce flooding risks. There are, however, a number of areas along the trail that are within the FEMA 100-and 500-Year Flood Plain. The sections within these flood plains are at a higher risk of flooding during large storm events. Areas of steep slopes 15% or more exist throughout the duration of the trail system. Areas that have a slope of 15% or greater are more at risk of erosion and washouts along the trail during severe weather.

Sources of Pollution

There are no documented sources of pollution at this time.

Scenic Resources

The HVRT provides a uniquely scenic vantage point of the Harlem Valley in eastern Dutchess County. Along the trail, visitors experience bucolic views of rolling hillsides, farms and views of the Taconic Mountain Range.

Map 4-28 is a graphic representation of the natural features surrounding the HVRT.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Natural Features

June 2018

Legend

-  Harlem Valley Rail Trail
-  City/Town Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Plain
-  FEMA 500-Year Flood Plain
-  NYSDEC Wetlands
-  NYSDEC Wetland Checkzones
-  NYSDEC Streams
-  NWI Freshwater Emergent Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
-  NWI Freshwater Ponds/Lakes
-  NWI Riverine
-  >15% Slope

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
FEMA
NAIP
NWI
NYSDEC
NIS FIS

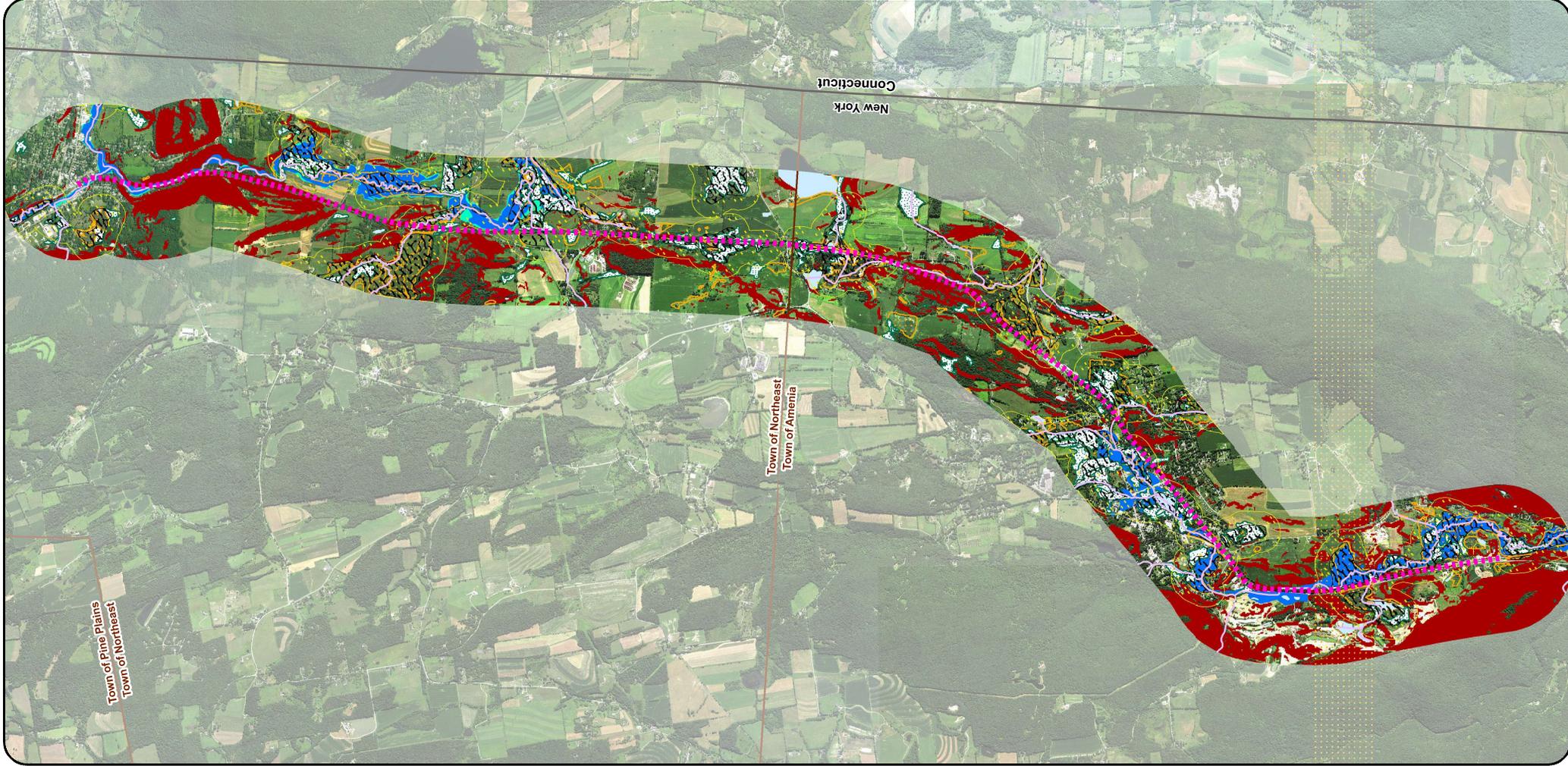


0 0.5 1 Mile



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Chenango, NY 13045

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



EXISTING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Each of the HVRT trailheads is accessible by automobile, is handicapped accessible and includes space for parking and bike storage. The Wassaic Station Trailhead is the only trailhead along the HVRT that is accessible via public transportation. This trailhead connects with the Metro-North Railroad, Harlem Division, with train service to New York City.

ACCESSIBILITY

The HVRT is a flat paved surface and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Each of the trailheads includes handicapped parking spaces and paved ramp entrances to the trail.



Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Millerton

EXISTING DEVELOPMENTAL CONTROLS

Land Ownership

The HVRT is owned by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Leased by Dutchess County. The County has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New York State for the maintenance and operations of the HVRT. As part of that agreement, Dutchess County is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the trail. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association and Towns of North East, Amenia and Village of Millerton assume some minor maintenance tasks in a MOU with Dutchess County.

Map 4-29 is a graphic representation of land ownership surrounding the HVRT.

Existing Zoning

The HVRT corridor is owned by the State of New York and supersedes local zoning regulations. The HVRT connects the Towns of Amenia, North East and Village of Millerton. The majority of the trail passes through residential and agricultural zoning districts. There are a few exceptions where the trail passes through a Hamlet Zone near the Wassaic Station Trailhead and at the Amenia Station Trailhead. The Hamlet zone in the Town of Amenia is designed to maintain the traditional scale, density, and character of small hamlets and the residential neighborhoods surrounding the hamlet cores and to allow expansion into surrounding land areas that are generally within walking distance from the hamlet centers or the train stations . Within the Village of Millerton, the zoning along the trail is either a residential district or business district near the Millerton Trailhead.

Map 4-30 is a graphic representation of the zoning districts surrounding the HVRT.

PERMITS AND APPROVALS

Any improvements to the HVRT must be approved by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as the owner of the property.

EXISTING UTILITIES

Parking

The HVRT includes a parking area at each of its four (4) trailheads. All of the parking areas are paved with asphalt and are in good condition. The Wassaic Station Trailhead parking is shared with the Metro-North Railroad station which is owned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority. Parking here is metered on weekdays and free on weekends and holidays. Parking at the Millerton Station is a sheared municipal parking lot located adjacent to the trailhead.

The number of parking spaces for those areas that do not have marked spaces were estimated based on a nine-foot by eighteen-foot parking space.

For more information regarding parking along the HVRT, see **Appendix G** and **Map 4-27**.

Water

There are currently no water utilities available along the HVRT.

Sewer

There are currently no sewer or septic facilities available along the HVRT. Porta-potties are available at each of the trailheads for trail users. The Village of Millerton installed a composting toilet at the Millerton Station Trailhead. The facility is available to visitors of the Village and the HVRT.

Solid Waste

The HVRT is a carry-in, carry-out facility. Some municipalities including the Towns of Amenia and Northeast and Village of Millerton have an intermunicipal agreement to pick-up trash at trailheads.

Electricity

There is currently no electricity available along the HVRT.

Internet Access and Connectivity

There is currently no internet access available along the HVRT.

Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Land Ownership June 2018

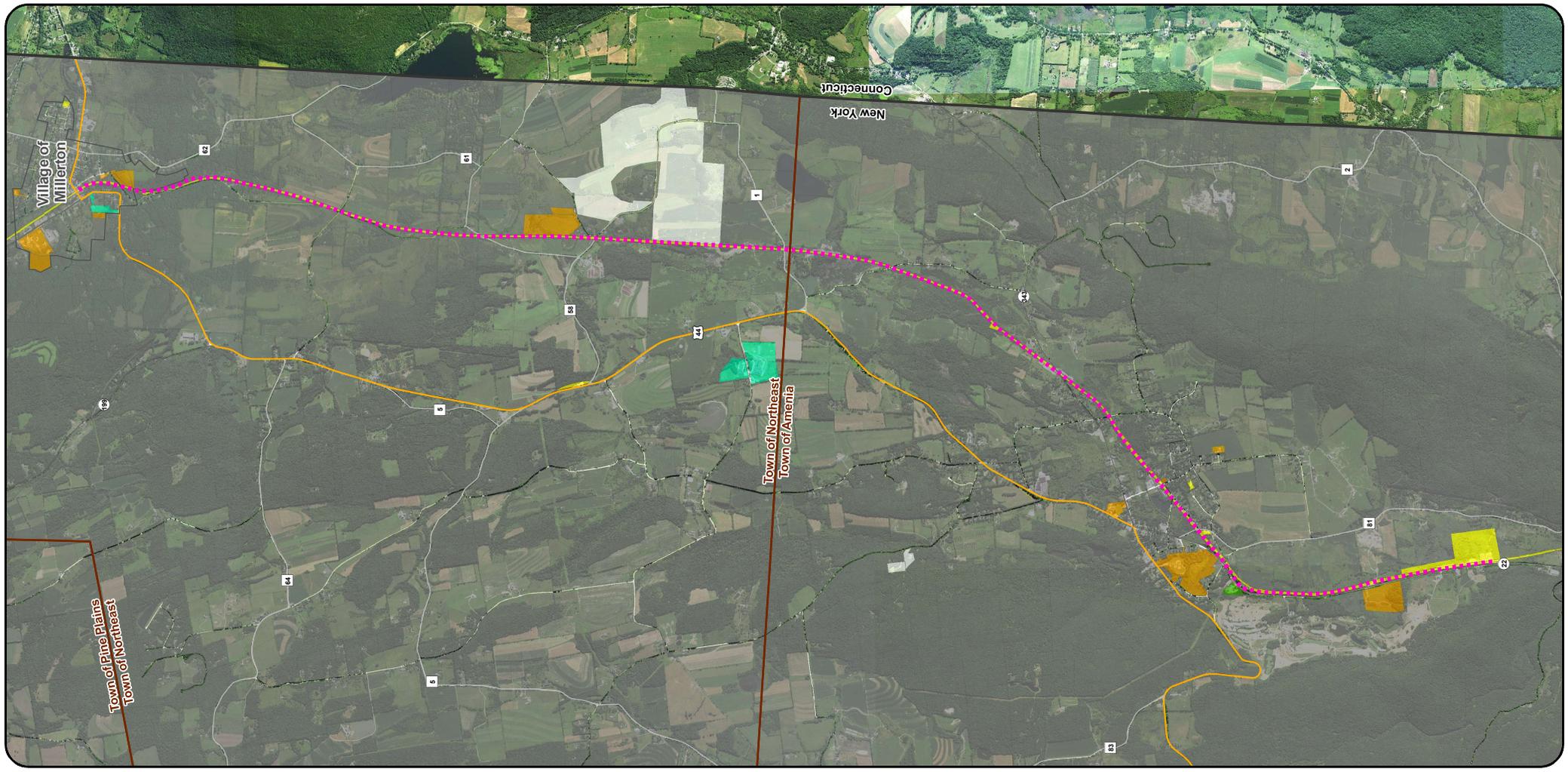
- Legend**
- Harlem Valley Rail Trail
 - State Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Village Boundary
 - Interstates
 - US Routes
 - State Routes
 - County Routes
 - Parkways
 - Ownership**
 - Unknown
 - Federal*
 - State
 - County
 - City, Town or Village
 - School
 - Private
- *None present in view extent

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYSITS
NWI
NAIP



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Clinton Park, NY 12566

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.



Dutchess County Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Harlem Valley Rail Trail Zoning June 2018

- Legend**
- Harlem Valley Rail Trail
 - State Boundary
 - Town Boundary
 - Village Boundary
 - Interstates
 - US Routes
 - State Routes
 - County Routes
 - Parkways

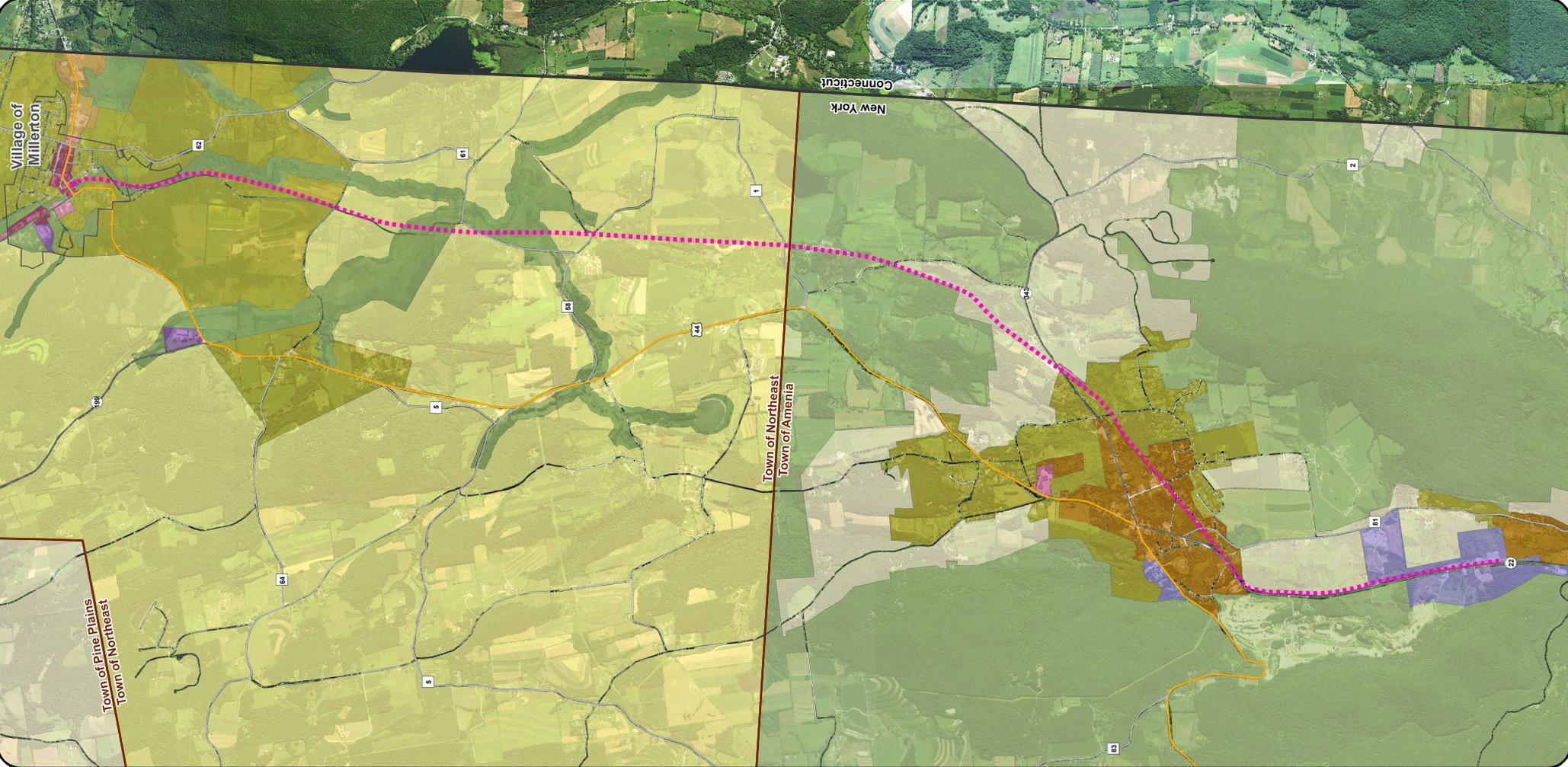
- Zoning**
- Residential
 - Rural/Rural Residential
 - Rural Agricultural
 - Agricultural
 - Boulevard District
 - Business
 - Highway
 - Hamlet
 - Land Conservation
 - Industrial
 - Office Commercial/Industrial
 - Planned Residential Business

Sources:
Dutchess County
Esri
NYS GIS
NWI
NAIP



Engineering and
Land Surveying, P.C.
1325 Colchester Road • Chenango, NY 13046

This map was prepared for illustrative purposes only and is not suitable for engineering, surveying, or legal purposes.





SECTION FIVE

THE DUTCHESS

COUNTY PARK

SYSTEM TODAY

PROGRAMMING



THE DUTCHESS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM TODAY - PROGRAMMING

EXISTING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

Bowdoin Park is the primary hub of programming for the Dutchess County Park System. Parks programming is staffed by two full-time employees, including a Park Naturalist and Assistant Park Naturalist, and four (4) summer interns. The full-time programming staff handle all administrative and programming tasks, including registration, outreach and running each program. Dutchess County parks offers six weeks of organized summer programs to children ages 9-17 that are available to the public on a first come-first serve basis. Two, four-day programs run each week, one for younger children (ages 9-11), and one for older children (ages 12-14). During the school year, programs are offered at local school districts and are available on an as-requested basis. School programs are offered in a class-room setting, tailored to the school curriculum.

Dutchess County parks programs give children an opportunity to experience and learn about the natural history of the area. Each session focuses on various aspects of environmental awareness, prehistoric Native American culture, and survival skills. The goal is to give children a deeper understanding and appreciation of nature within a fun and entertaining atmosphere and instill a sense of personal responsibility and teamwork during each session. Programs build on one another and increase in difficulty from year to year.

Oftentimes, those that stay through the program become summer interns, some of which have gone on to join the military, become a police officer or teach outdoor education.

Following is a description of program offerings available at Bowdoin Park.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Dutchess County Parks offers summer programming that is available to children ages 9-14 and occurs on weekdays through the summer. These programs give children an opportunity to experience and learn about the natural history of Dutchess County Parks. Each session focuses on various aspects of environmental awareness, prehistoric Native American culture, and survival skills. The main goal is to give children a deeper understanding and appreciation of nature within a fun and entertaining atmosphere while teaching personal responsibility and teamwork. Summer programs include:

Adventure Program (Ages 9-11) - This program duplicates the excitement of a movie or video game in a physical way. Participants learn archery, battle with foam weapons, play Nerf tag and learn group problem solving. There are group challenges each day that can only be solved through creativity and teamwork. The end of the week includes a simulated adventure for participants to use newly learned skills to overcome obstacles and win the game. Topics include:

- Archery
- Group Strategy and Problem Solving
- Nerf Tag Battles
- Foam Weapon Use
- Situational Awareness

Adventure Intensive Program (Ages 12-14) – The adventure day program is designed to duplicate the excitement of a movie or video game in a physical way. Participants learn archery, battle with foam weapons, play Nerf tag and learn group problem solving. There are group challenges each day that can only be solved through creativity and teamwork. The end of the week includes a simulated adventure for participants to use newly learned skills to overcome obstacles and win the game. Topics include:

- Archery
- Group Strategy and Problem Solving
- Nerf Tag Battles
- Foam Weapon Use
- Situational Awareness

Living Survival (Ages 15-17) – Living survival combines survival and adventuring skills into a scenario presented in the context of a story. Participants have to use all of their skills and knowledge to complete challenges such as making fires, purifying water, tracking, using camouflage, battling bandits, and solving ancient mysteries. The focus throughout the week is to teach self-reliance and teamwork. Participants learn to make quick decisions, plan ahead, use tactics, and deal with stressful situations. The program looks at each participants strength and how the group can use these to the advantage of all. Everyone receives a packet containing the scenario and the rules at the beginning of the summer.

Survival Program (Ages 9-11) - This program is a combination of nature study and survival skills. Participants will explore forest habitats, hike Bowdoin Park's many trails, and observe native wildlife. Our focus this year is fire making. Topics include:

- Fire Safety in the Woods
- Basic Fire Making
- Fire by Friction - Bow Drill
- Water Purification
- Survival Awareness

Survival Intensive Program (Ages 12-14) – The survival intensive program blends survival techniques with an understanding of how prehistoric people lived in harmony with the land. Topics include:

- Fire Safety in the Woods
- Basic Fire Making Review
- Intermediate Fire Making
- Fire by Friction - Hand Drill
- Water Purification
- Survival Awareness
- Edible Plants

Complete Survival (Ages 12-14) – The complete survival program ties together all the survival techniques learned in previous survival programs. This is combined with an understanding of how prehistoric people approached survival and resources. Four days are spent in a re-creation of a survival situation. Participants build shelters, start fires, find food and water, and observe the wildlife around them. Participants work together to accomplish tasks and challenges. The week ends with an optional overnight.

Archery – Archery lessons are available on weekends from September through May and take place in the Community Center Auditorium. This program is designed for children and adults with any level of experience in archery.

There is a need for more programming space to host programs like archery. Currently, when archery is taking place, the Community Center Auditorium is unavailable to rent for events resulting in lost revenue to the park. Adding new programming space will allow for programs and space rentals to occur simultaneously.

School Programs

School programs are hands-on to facilitate learning through experience rather than lecture. Program cost is \$5 per student. Maple Sugaring and Prehistoric Native American Studies can accommodate up to 60 students. All other programs have a maximum capacity of 30 students.

The following is a list of school program offerings:

- Animal Track ID
- Compass
- Mammal Studies
- Map Skills
- Maple Sugaring
- Nature Awareness
- Nature Exploration
- Pond Exploration
- Prehistoric Native American Studies
- Woodland Survival

SCOUT PROGRAMS

The Dutchess County Parks Survival Series of programs are designed to give scouts ongoing training in wilderness survival skills. Each class builds upon each other creating a framework that will allow students to handle any situation that might arise. Teamwork, creative problem solving, and self-reliance are important components to Scout programming. Students learn how to build different types of shelters, start fires under any conditions, find water and food, observe nature in detail and feel comfortable in the woods. The program cost is \$5 per student and can be adapted to different age levels.

HOME SCHOOL GROUPS

Home school groups make up a significant portion of naturalist programming with nearly 75 youth participating. Dutchess County Parks programs provide a recreational outlet for children who are home schooled that do not have access to sports and recreational opportunities offered through public schools. There are currently eleven (11) home school groups that utilize fifteen (15) times slots of naturalist programming.

Table 5-1. Dutchess County 2017 Program Attendance

Program	Attendance
School Programs	1,476
Weekend Archery	203
Summer Programs	133
Homeschool Archery	638
Home School Nerf	185
Home School Programs	218
Scout Programs	72
Total Attendance	2,925
Program Revenue	\$49,760

Source: Dutchess County – DPW Parks

PUBLIC WEEKEND PROGRAMS

Dutchess County Parks offers weekend programs open to the public that combine learning with fun to foster a better understanding of the natural world and our role in it. Programs that are held at Bowdoin Park meet at the Education Center and those that meet at Wilcox Park meet at Pavilion B. Public Weekend Programs include Archery, Maple Open Houses, Pancake Breakfasts and Fall Weekends.

PARK EVENTS

The Dutchess County Park system hosts a number of events throughout the summer and fall seasons available to members of the public for free or for a nominal fee. Events include:

Maple Open House – The Maple Open House is an annual event held at Bowdoin Park in early spring. The event includes demonstrations of how maple syrup is made, including early maple sugaring techniques used by Native Americans.

Pancake Breakfast – The Pancake Breakfast is an annual event held at Bowdoin Park in early spring that is open to the public and includes a full pancake breakfast served with maple syrup produced onsite at Bowdoin Park.

Nike Cross Nationals – Bowdoin Park is the host for the Nike Cross Nationals Northeast race, a regional cross-country race that attracts several thousand participants and spectators to the park. Bowdoin Park is recognized nationally for its cross-country course, both for its variety of trails and difficulty of the course.

Summer Concert Series at Bowdoin Park – Dutchess County Parks hosts a summer concert series in August and September at the Bowdoin Park Bandshell.

PROGRAM LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS

A program lifecycle analysis is a tool used to determine the stage of growth or decline for programs offered in a park system. All recreation programs have a lifecycle and each stage requires different needs in terms of marketing, staffing and facilities. For example, a program in the introduction stage may require considerable promotional efforts to gain participants, while programs in the saturation stage may require less promotional resources.¹ This analysis should be reviewed and updated regularly to determine if programs should be removed, restructured or if the development of new programs is needed. Information to support this analysis may include employee and participant input, registration history and a cost recovery analysis. This exercise helps create predictability to better guide marketing, changing participant needs, trends and program development.

PROGRAM LIFECYCLES

The lifecycle categories include the following:

- **Introduction Stage** – The initial stage of a program getting off the ground with heavy marketing to raise participation. The program slowly approaches half capacity.
- **Take-off Stage** - Rapid participation growth of the program with continued marketing.
- **Growth Stage** - Moderate and interested customer base with a high demand. The program may scale back on marketing. The program reaches three quarter capacity.
- **Mature Stage** – The program continues to show stable growth and has become a reliable performer. With the steady growth there is an increase in competition for space available. The program has reached full capacity.
- **Saturation Stage** - Minimal to no participation growth; extreme competition as capacity has maxed out.
- **Decline Stage** - Decreased registration and participation. Capacity increases as participation decreases.

Table 5-2. Program Lifecycle Analysis

Program	Introduction New program; modest participation	Take-Off Rapid participation growth	Growth Moderate, but consistent participant growth	Mature Slow participation growth	Saturation No participation growth; extreme competition	Decline Declining participation
Bowdoin Park						
Survival Program (ages 9-11)			X			
Survival Intensive Session (ages 12-14)			X			
Living Survival (ages 15-17)			X			
Adventure Program (ages 9-11)		X				
Adventure Intensive Session (ages 12-14)		X				
Archery		X				
School Programs			X			
Scout Programs			X			
Home School Groups			X			
Pancake Breakfast			X			
Maple Open House			X			
Nike Cross Regionals				X		
Summer Concert Series at Bowdoin Park	X					
Wilcox Park Programs						
Wilcox Survival Program			X			

Based on the Program Lifecycle Analysis, most Dutchess County Parks programs are in the growth stage. These programs are well established but are still continuing to grow and develop. Three programs, including the Adventure Program (ages 9-11), Adventure Intensive Session (ages 12-14) and the Archery program are in the Take-off stage. This indicates that these programs are relatively new but are experiencing rapid growth and gaining popularity. The Nike Cross Regionals race is the only program that is listed in the mature growth stage. This indicates that while the program is still going strong, the number of program participants is nearly at capacity and is unlikely to continue to grow. The Summer Concert Series is a relatively new program series and is listed under the introduction stage of growth. This program is continuing to develop and has the potential to be a significant draw to Bowdoin Park.

Nearly all the recreational programs offered by Dutchess County Parks are in some stage of growth, with no programs in decline and only one that has reached maturation. This indicates that parks programming will continue to grow and gain popularity.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Parks programming is staffed by two full-time employees, including a Park Naturalist and Assistant Park Naturalist, four paid summer interns and four to ten unpaid counselors in training (CIT). CIT's are typically returning program participants that have aged out of being eligible for participating in a program. The full-time programming staff handle all administrative and programming tasks, including registration, outreach and running each program.

Staffing levels are sufficient for current programming needs but are not enough for additional program offerings or to support additional demands for new programs or expanded existing programs. In order to continue developing parks programming and to meet the needs of the public, more programming staff would need to be hired.

PROGRAM FACILITIES

Bowdoin Park is the primary location for programming facilities followed by Wilcox Park. The following is a description of existing programming facilities utilized.

BOWDOIN PARK

Education Center - The Education Center building is located adjacent to Pavilion Five in the center of the park. The building is used for Park Naturalist programming, classroom space and includes small natural history and Native American museum. The building has suffered from deferred maintenance over the years and is in need of significant repairs, including new siding, roof and structural footing repairs if the building were to be further utilized. The building also does not currently meet program needs in terms of both size and function.

Community Center Auditorium – The Community Center Auditorium is located on the upper floor of the Park Office Building. The Archery Program is currently housed in the Community Center Auditorium. Due to space limitations, the Auditorium is unavailable to be rented during archery classes which results in lost revenue to the park. A new facility is needed to accommodate the increasingly popular archery class and simultaneously rent out the Auditorium on weekends from September-May.

WILCOX PARK

Pavilion B – Programs that occur at Wilcox Park typically meet at Pavilion B and branch out to other natural areas of the Park. Overall there is a significant lack of programming spaces at Wilcox Park. This is a particular issue during inclement weather since there are currently no fully indoor spaces to seek shelter.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

The public interface of recreational programming includes marketing, the registration process and methods of performance measurement. This is a key component to the success of parks programs as it includes how members of the community find out about program offerings, sign up for programs and how participants describe their program experience. The following is a description of the existing public interface for Dutchess County Parks Programs.

MARKETING

Dutchess County Parks programs are marketed using a variety of methods including the county website, printed flyers, social media, press releases and through postings on the websites of local organizations like Dutchess Tourism. Marketing materials are drafted by the DPW-Parks programming staff and are then approved by the County Executive's Office prior to distribution. Marketing materials for summer programs are typically distributed in late winter or early spring.

Many program participants find out about programs by word of mouth through friends and neighbors. Many home school groups have found out about recreation programs in this way and now make up a significant portion of program participants.

REGISTRATION

Program participants can register for programs by phone, through the mail or on the County's online registration system. All administrative tasks associated with program registration are handled by the two park naturalist staff members.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Performance measurement includes methods of gathering feedback and input from program participants about their experience with a program or activity. This feedback can be utilized to improve and develop programs to better suit the needs of the community. Paper evaluation forms are currently distributed to participants after they complete a program to gather feedback. The County's newly updated website provides an opportunity to develop an online evaluation form that creates a more convenient method of performance measurement.

USER FEE STRUCTURE

User fees for parks programs are determined by the Park Naturalist and Parks Director and approved by the County Legislature. Following is an overview of current user fees for programs, cost of service analysis and a cost recovery analysis. The purpose of this section is to understand the existing user fee structure and the fiscal impacts of parks programming.

PROGRAM USER FEES

The following table includes the current cost per person for each program offered through Dutchess County Parks. This table only includes programs that are administered by Dutchess County.

COST OF SERVICE

The cost of service for programs includes the direct costs associated with operating each recreational program. For the purposes of this analysis the direct cost of service includes the annual cost of personnel and materials for each program.

Table 5-3. Program Cost Per Person

Program	Cost Per Person
School Programs	\$5 per person
Scout Programs	\$5 per person
Summer Programs	\$175 per person
Public Programs	\$5 per person

Information provided by Dutchess County park staff.

Table 5-4. Personnel Cost for Regularly Scheduled Programs in 2019

Program Type	Program Name	Personnel Cost
Summer Programs (Weekday)	Adventure Program Session 1	\$5,957
	Adventure Program Session 2	\$5,957
	Adventure Intensive Session 1	\$5,957
	Adventure Intensive Session 2	\$5,957
	Survival Program Session 1	\$5,957
	Survival Program Session 2	\$5,957
	Survival Intensive Session 1	\$5,957
	Survival Intensive Session 2	\$5,957
	Complete Survival	\$5,957
	Living Survival	\$5,957
Public Programs (Weekend)	Archery	\$14,331
	Maple Open House	\$595
	Pancake Breakfast	\$2,314

Information provided through correspondence with Dutchess County park staff.

Table 5-5. Personnel Cost for Non-Regularly Schedules Programs in 2019

Program Type	Program Name	Personnel Cost
School Programs	Multiple	\$3,239
Home School	Multiple	\$4,015
Scout Programs	Multiple	\$1,332

Information provided through correspondence with Dutchess County park staff.

COST RECOVERY ANALYSIS

The cost recovery analysis for programs compares the total annual expenditures for programs with the total annual revenue for programs with a resulting percentage of costs recovered. This analysis shows the County share that is provided to sustain each program.

Table 5-5 indicates the total amount of cost recovery for each recreational program on an annual basis. The Revenues column includes revenue totals from programs in 2019 and the expenditures are estimates based on the personnel cost needed to execute each program. Based on the information provided, most programs are supported by the county tax levy. The programs with the least amount of cost recovered include Survival Program Session 2 at 31% of costs recovered, Survival Intensive Session 2 at 31% costs recovered and Living Survival at 33% costs recovered. The programs with the highest amount of costs recovered include the Survival Program Session 1 at 77%, Archery at 73% and Adventure Program Session 1 at 71% of costs recovered.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Dutchess County Park system includes several successful public-private partnerships that provide a range of activities, leveraging the amount of public tax dollars spent on recreational programming. Current partnerships include:

- **Kevin McCurdy’s Haunted Mansion** - Kevin McCurdy’s Haunted Mansion is a theatrically based haunted mansion experience that combines interactive audience participation and utilizes special effects technology and story telling to deliver a unique and fun experience for everyone to enjoy. The haunted mansion takes place during September and October and has been in operation for the last 42 years. The haunted mansion is located in the area of Bowdoin Park east of Sheafe Road.
- **Hudson Valley Renegades** - The Hudson Valley Renegades minor league baseball team have been playing at Dutchess Stadium since the stadium opened in 1994. The partnership with the team creates many opportunities for fun and entertainment for families and people of all ages.
- **Hudson River Recreation** - Hudson River Recreation provides ecologically responsible and sustainable water-based recreation opportunities in the Hudson River. They offer kayak rentals and guided tours of the Hudson

Table 5-6. Annual Cost Recovery Analysis for Park Programs

Program Type	Program Name	Revenues	Expenditures	Percent Cost Recovered
School Programs	Multiple	\$7,645	\$4,014	190%
Home School	Multiple	\$8,160	\$5,610	145%
Scout Programs	Multiple	\$555	\$1,332	42%
Summer Programs (Weekday)	Adventure Program Session 1	\$3,740	\$5,957	63%
	Adventure Program Session 2	\$4,250	\$5,957	71%
	Adventure Intensive Session 1	\$4,080	\$5,957	68%
	Adventure Intensive Session 2	\$3,570	\$5,957	60%
	Survival Program Session 1	\$4,590	\$5,957	77%
	Survival Program Session 2	\$1,870	\$5,957	31%
	Survival Intensive Session 1	\$4,080	\$5,957	68%
	Survival Intensive Session 2	\$1,870	\$5,957	31%
	Complete Survival	\$2,550	\$5,957	43%
	Living Survival	\$1,960	\$5,957	33%
Public Programs (Weekend)	Archery	\$10,470	\$14,331	73%
	Maple Open House	\$250	\$595	42%
	Pancake Breakfast	\$870	\$2,314	38%

Information provided by Dutchess County park staff.

River from Quiet Cove Riverfront Park. This partnership expands the recreational opportunities available to the public at Quiet Cove Park and offers a unique and scenic recreational experience.

COMPARISON OF NATURALIST PROGRAMMING

The naturalist programs offered at Dutchess County Parks provides a unique opportunity for children and adults to learn about the environment, develop outdoor skills and build self-confidence. As these programs continue to develop and grow it is important to re-evaluate program offerings for areas of improvement to better serve the community. Part of this reevaluation is to understand Dutchess Parks programs compare to other similar program offerings in Dutchess County. A comparison of nature-based programming was completed that examined the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center in Wappingers Falls, New York, the Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill, New York and the Norrie Point Environmental Center in Staatsburg, New York.

The following is an overview of programming at each location:

- **Stony Kill Farm Environmental Center** - The Stony Kill Farm Environmental Center (Center) is located off of Route 9D in Wappingers Falls, New York on a 1,000-acre farm. The site is the former home of the Verplank family and is owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and operated by the Stony Kill Foundation. The Center continues to be a working farm and offers environmentally-based programs that include:
 - **Workshops on the Farm** - Workshops are offered throughout the year for adults and children and are taught by local retired teachers and crafts people.
 - **Class Trips** - The Center offers class trips for school groups in grades preK-7 with activities tailored to the age of the group. Class trip activities include barn and livestock tours, composting, seed dispersment, water quality activities, bee pollination and cheese making.
 - **Summer Camp** - The Center offers a summer camp program for children ages 4-12 and provides a balance of structured and free play with environmental exploration, enjoyment of many arts and crafts experiences and age-appropriate learning activities. Summer camps
- **Sharpe Reservation** - The Fresh Air Fund's Sharpe Reservation (Reservation) in Fishkill, NY, has over 2,000 acres of beautiful land with lakes, ponds, streams and hiking trails through the woods. The Reservation offers student and community groups hands-on, interactive experiences to learn about the environment and explore nature. The Reservation includes the Sharpe Environmental Center, the Gustafson Planetarium, high and low ropes courses and nature trails. The Reservation is open seven day per week but is not open to the public. Admission is by reservation only or with a designated group program. Visitors can go for a day trip or can stay for a weekend in a heated lodge or rustic cabins. Program offerings include:
 - **Environmental Education Programs** - With nature as a classroom, students learn through exploration and a hands-on interactive curriculum. The Reservation also offers environmental science classes such as forest ecology, environmental solutions, climate change and biodiversity, and more.
 - **Sleep Away Camps** - With nature as the classroom, campers learn to compost, hike wooded trails, and learn about the environment while exploring in the outdoors. The sleep away camps at the Sharpe Reservation are free, but only available to children from low income families.
- **The Reserve** - The Reserve is a DEC owned facility located within the Mills-Norrie State Park in Staatsburg, New York, The Reserve's headquarters at the Norrie Point Environmental Center is located directly on the Hudson River and includes conference and classroom space, interpretive exhibits, a research lab, and a weather station. The Reserve hold public and school programs that focus on hands-on, inquiry-based learning involving current science and up to date facilities. Program topics include Hudson River habitat, climate change, invasive species, water monitoring and student-level research and stewardship projects. Programs at the Reserve require reservations but are free to the public. Programs include:
 - **School Field Programs at Norrie Point** - Designed for middle school, high school, and undergraduate college classes.

- **Distance Learning** - Educators “visit” your classroom through videoconferencing technology.
- **Community Science Eel Research** - Students and volunteers monitor tributaries for juvenile American eels.
- **Tidal Marsh Canoe Programs** - Public, private, and high school programs available, these free paddles take place at several Hudson River sites
- **Fishing the River at Norrie** - Free monthly public seining and fishing programs April-October at the Norrie Point Environmental Center.

The organizations and programs described above provides a point of comparison for analyzing the programs offered by Dutchess County Parks. Overall, there are many similarities and differences between the programs presented. In general, each of these programs have a similar target demographic which include school aged children and adults interested in lifelong environmental learning opportunities. Stony Kill Farm Environmental Center, the Sharpe Reservation, and Dutchess County Parks each provide summer camp opportunities that are focused on outdoor and environmental education and team building. However, Dutchess County camp programs are generally more affordable at \$175 per person compared to \$250 per person at Stony Kill Farm Environmental Center. Camps at the Sharpe Preserve free, but limited to children who come from low income families. All of the programs offered at the Reserve at the Norrie Point Environmental Center require a reservation but are free to the public, making it the most affordable option for community members.

A significant point of distinction exists between the use of the facilities where the programs take place. Dutchess County programs are located at County Parks that are open to the public, free of charge. Locations such as the Sharpe Reservation are located on private property and are only accessible to those who pay for or qualify for a program.

OVERALL OBSERVATIONS

The Dutchess County Park system offers quality programming at an affordable price that provides enriching learning opportunities to all members of the community. The variety in programming options from outdoor survival skills, archery and maple syrup making is truly unique. Many of the programs are continuing to gain in popularity and are in a stage of growth, presenting opportunities for expansion. However, there are a number of challenges that hinder the growth of programming and park visitation. One of the most significant challenges is the lack of programming facilities available. Currently, there are very few indoor programming facilities beyond for the Education Center, Pavilion 5 and the Community Center Auditorium. The existing Education Center is insufficient in both size, accessibility and amenities needed to provide enriching programs. Most parks programming takes place during the busiest time of the season, resulting in a loss of revenue when Pavilion 5 or the Community Center Auditorium cannot be rented due to those spaces being utilized for programs.

Recently, Bowdoin Park was certified by the New York State Department of Health as an official Summer Camp which indicates that Bowdoin Park meets the strict standards of the State’s health regulations. Maintaining this status will become increasingly more difficult as programs continue to grow, contributing to the need for additional and modern programming facilities.

A new, fully accessible Education Center at Bowdoin Park would begin to alleviate the indoor space challenge by accommodating programs, creating additional rental spaces and allow for the types of extensive learning opportunities that are on par with facilities such as the Norrie Point Environmental Center.

1. Program lifecycle analyses are a standard indicators used in the field of parks and recreation to determine the lifecycle of recreation programs. For more information see http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_002292.pdf, pages 5-4 to 5-5



SECTION SIX

THE DUTCHESS

COUNTY PARK

SYSTEM TOMORROW

FACILITIES



THE DUTCHESS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM TOMORROW - FACILITIES

The Dutchess County Park system of tomorrow will meet the recreational needs of County residents and visitors of all abilities. A concept plan was developed for Bowdoin Park, Wilcox Park and Quiet Cove Riverfront Park that provides a visual representation of the park vision. This section of the plan focuses on the proposed park improvements presented in the concept plans and are followed by an identification of needs and recommendations for facilities, grounds and accessibility that will help achieve the vision. The recommendations and concept plans provided in this section address the needs that were identified by key stakeholders, community members, park staff, accessibility assessments and structural evaluations of selected buildings.



BOWDOIN PARK

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The following is an overview of key challenges and opportunities that have informed the development of the concept plan.

Parking

A significant challenge at Bowdoin Park is the availability of parking during larger events and the location of parking for regular everyday use. During large events like the Nike Cross Country National races, nearly all free space is devoted to parking, resulting in heavy congestion and limited space for recreation activities. During regular park use, there is an adequate number of spaces, but the location of parking can be difficult for those with mobility issues. The current location of dedicated handicapped spaces is located in areas on an incline or a fair distance from recreational facilities. During the busy summer season, park visitors often park in undesignated areas to be able to park closer to recreational facilities. Facilities like the Chapel and Maple Knoll Lodge do not have formalized parking areas which result in haphazard parking patterns. These areas also have no accessible parking available.

Structural Assessment

A structural assessment of selected buildings at Bowdoin Park resulted in the identification of structural repairs to several buildings throughout the park. Several buildings have deteriorated beyond the point of repair and are recommended to be demolished, including the Infirmary building located near Pavilion 4 and the Animal Rehab Building. The Education Center building requires immediate structural repairs, otherwise the building is also recommended to be demolished. Full structural reports are available in

Appendix F.

Trail System

The extensive trail system at Bowdoin Park is a significant draw but does not provide recreational opportunity for those with mobility challenges. A need for the park is walking paths that are accessible and create better pedestrian connections between recreational facilities. Currently, park visitors usually have to share the road with cars when traveling by foot from one area of

the park to another, such as from the ballfield area to the splashpad area. A new accessible walking path loop system is recommended to enhance the pedestrian experience, create connections between recreational facilities and create new opportunities for passive recreation at the park.

Distribution of Park Facilities

Currently, the hub of activity at Bowdoin Park is the area around the playground and Pavilion 5. During the busy summer season, this area is often overcrowded with people and cars, while other areas of the park are underutilized. The underutilized areas of the park, like the athletic fields, present opportunities to create new recreational facilities and thereby even out the crowd to other areas of the park.

Space for educational programming and office space for programming staff is limited at Bowdoin Park. Currently, spaces that would otherwise be rented are being utilized for programming like the Community Center Auditorium which results in a loss of revenue to that park system that could be used to fund more program staff or facility improvements. The existing Education Center does not adequately meet the needs for programming and requires significant structural repairs.

Bowdoin Park East of Sheafe Road

Dutchess County owns a portion of land on the eastern side of Sheafe Road that is currently being utilized to host Kevin McCurdy's Haunted Mansion and the Holiday Spirit Festival during the fall and early winter seasons. This area of Bowdoin Park is largely underutilized outside of the fall season and presents opportunities for potential hiking trails or for overflow parking during large events.

ACCESSIBILITY – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Many facilities at Bowdoin Park are currently not in compliance with modern ADA standards which reduces the overall accessibility of the park to those with developmental and mobility challenges. An ADA Assessment performed in October 2018 revealed a number of deficiencies in accessibility from parking areas to park facilities. There is both a lack of ADA parking spaces at Bowdoin Park and most entrances to facilities are not fully accessible to those with mobility challenges.

Improved accessibility is a significant goal of Dutchess County from the park system to schools and other public and private facilities. To improve accessibility across the region, Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro launched the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative in 2015. This initiative seeks to change the way individuals, businesses, organizations and communities relate to their neighbors with all abilities. To build on this initiative and the County's accessibility goals, this master plan proposes a number of improvements.

Despite the current deficiencies in accessibility at Bowdoin Park, there are a number of opportunities for improving accessibility to people of all ages and abilities. The concept plan for Bowdoin Park includes accessibility improvements like a proposed sensory walking path, accessible playground and splashpad, accessible bathroom facilities and parking and pedestrian improvements.



Pavilion 5, Bowdoin Park

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Bowdoin Park is the premier destination for parks programming and facilities in the Dutchess County Parks System. The proposed concept for future improvements to Bowdoin Park places a special emphasis on accessible facilities, expanded programming opportunities, improved trail connections and recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.

The concept plan for Bowdoin Park includes a proposed redesign of the space that creates an Olmstedian-like setting in the southern area of the park currently occupied by underutilized ballfields. Frederick Law Olmstead is known as the father of Landscape Architecture and is well known for his park designs. Some of his most notable designs include Central Park in Manhattan, Prospect Park in Brooklyn and the Emerald Necklace in Boston. Olmstead's designs focus on the creation of pastoral landscapes and a sense of place within a park. The plan for Bowdoin Park includes the redistribution of park activities that are now concentrated in one central location. A key principle of this redesign is to create an enhanced space that is functional yet maintains the natural beauty of the park. The area is sectioned off using tree plantings and walking paths to create nodes of activity that make the space more functional and aesthetically pleasing. The concept plan includes the addition of new accessible facilities and creates a more efficient use of space.

The following is a list of proposed enhancements to the southern portion of the park in the area currently occupied by ballfields:

- **Accessible playground, splashpad and sensory loop path** – To improve accessibility in Bowdoin Park, the development of an inclusive playground, splashpad and a one-mile sensory walking loop path is proposed. The project will include a playground specially designed to accommodate individuals of all abilities, a new splash pad and a universally accessible loop path that allows for future connections to other pedestrian paths in Bowdoin Park.
- **Walking loop paths** – Additional walking paths are proposed that would connect to the sensory walking loop and to other park features. This system of walking paths offers passive recreation opportunities for older park goers or those with mobility issues who may be seeking the use of shorter walking paths. The addition of new paths in this area creates a

secondary path system to the existing path that surrounds the ballfields. The existing path will be maintained to provide an option for those seeking a longer distance track for running, walking and biking. Final placement of the walking paths will be located to have minimal impact on existing cross-country routes.

- **Accessible bathroom facilities** – The concept plan includes the addition of new accessible bathroom facilities located in a proposed new pavilion space near the splashpad and accessible playground.
- **Parking lot expansion and improvement** – The current parking facility near the ballfields and Pavilion 1 is a gravel lot with no delineated or ADA accessible spaces. The proposed redesign formalizes this parking area to include a vegetated buffer, pedestrian crossing with access to accessible playground and ADA accessible spaces. The lot is also proposed to be expanded to accommodate more vehicles.
- **Tree plantings** – New tree plantings are proposed for the ballfield area to compliment the new path system and to break up the open space that currently exists. Strategically placed tree plantings will add to the pastoral quality of the space to help create a more Olmstedian park-like setting.
- **New recreational activity nodes** – One of the key components of the new walking path system is that it has the potential to create new nodes of activity. These nodes of activity might include picnic areas, bocce ball and horseshoe courses, areas for volleyball and basketball courts, etc.
- **New pavilions** – Three new pavilion structures are proposed in the concept plan for the southern area of Bowdoin Park. This includes a facility with accessible bathrooms near the proposed accessible playground and two other pavilions. The exact location of these structures has not yet been determined.

The northern portion of the park in the area near Pavilion 5 includes proposed improvements that enhance accessibility, pedestrian connections and programming opportunities. Proposed improvements include:

- **Walking loop path** – A walking loop path is proposed for the northern area of the park near the existing playground and splashpad area. This

path is intended to create connections to existing recreational facilities and offer pedestrian oriented opportunities for passive recreation. This path system is intended to be part of and connected to the path system in the southern portion of the park.

- **Parking lot extension** – An expansion of the parking area below Pavilion 3 is being proposed to help alleviate some of the parking congestion of the existing playground and splashpad area. The lot will include ADA accessible spaces and connections to the new walking loop path system to improve accessibility from the parking lot to recreation facilities.
- **New Education Center** - The current education building requires significant interior and exterior repairs and is greatly insufficient for current and future programming needs. To accommodate the popular and growing parks programming, the concept plan proposes the construction of a new Education Center. The new two-story building will be located uphill from the current playground area and will include classroom space, museum space, office space, a large multi-purpose room, accessible bathroom facilities and parking.
- **Proposed overlook and pond improvements** – A new overlook/ observation deck is proposed for the pond area beside the bandshell. Pond improvements include improvements to the shoreline and stormwater best management practices to improve water quality and aesthetics.
- **Maple Knoll Lodge** – Proposed improvements to the entry drive to Maple Knoll Lodge are included in the concept plan. Improvements include the addition of 17 formalized parking spaces, paved entry drive, new footpaths and tree plantings.

BOWDOIN PARK CONCEPT PLAN - OVERALL PLAN



BOWDOIN PARK - SOUTH IMPROVEMENTS



BOWDOIN PARK - NORTH IMPROVEMENTS



MAPLE KNOLL LODGE IMPROVEMENTS



LOOP TRAILS AND OPEN GREEN SPACE



PAVILIONS AND PARK STRUCTURES



ACCESSIBLE PLAY



Table 6-1. Bowdoin Park Facilities Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Build a new Education Center that includes new classroom space, museum space, multi-purpose space and office space. The new building should be accessible and allow for the future expansion of program offerings.
Demolish the existing Education Center building and enhance the viewshed with the addition of a gazebo or other park structure.
Develop new accessible walking loop system to connect recreational facilities in northern and southern areas of Bowdoin Park. This will increase new passive recreation opportunities and improve pedestrian connections.
Formalize, repave and expand the lower parking lot near the ballfields. This may include a vegetated buffer, pedestrian crossings and new accessible parking stalls.
Develop new accessible playground area in the southern portion of Bowdoin Park.
Develop a new accessible splash pad in southern portion of Bowdoin Park.
Develop new accessible bathroom facilities and Pavilions in the southern area of Bowdoin Park.
Relocate and develop a new basketball court in southern portion of Bowdoin Park.
Expand parking area below Pavilion 4 to accommodate more parking.
Continue to maintain and preserve Bowdoin Parks' extensive trail system.
Implement recommendations as presented in the ADA Assessment in Appendix E. This may include improvements to parking areas and entrances from parking areas to buildings and recreational facilities.
Assess existing building interiors and recreational facilities for accessibility improvements.
Formalize entry drive and parking area at Maple Knoll Lodge.
Perform structural repairs as recommended in the Structural Assessment in Appendix F.
Demolish the Infirmary Building and Animal Rehab buildings as recommended in the Structural Assessment in Appendix F.



WILCOX PARK

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Water Quality

A significant challenge identified by stakeholders, park staff, local elected officials and the general public is the water quality of the lakes at Wilcox Park. Harmful algae blooms in the swimming lake has led to beach closures and a reduction of park visitors during the summer. Some species of algae can produce toxins that can be dangerous for humans and animals. Harmful algae blooms usually occur in nutrient-rich waters, particularly during warm, calm weather. A major contributing factor to algal blooms at Wilcox is a lack of stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Currently, all stormwater runoff is directed, untreated, into the lake from the road, parking lot and the hill above the beach. The stormwater that enters the lake is heated by pavement and enriched with nutrients from waterfowl and the surrounding landscape. This produces conditions that allow harmful algae blooms to flourish. The implementation of stormwater BMPs could have a significant impact on the water quality of the swimming lake and reestablish Wilcox Park as a swimming destination. BMPs may include the addition of green infrastructure techniques to slow the flow of stormwater and promote filtration and infiltration. Green infrastructure upgrades include naturalized shorelines with vegetative buffers, naturalized drainage swales to capture stormwater runoff before entering the lake, detention areas to temporarily store stormwater and promote natural infiltration and daylighting the stream that connects to the two lakes.

Pedestrian Connectivity

Wilcox Park has an extensive trail system that provides many opportunities for hiking, cross country skiing and snow shoeing, but few opportunities exist for pedestrians, bicyclists and those with mobility challenges seeking easy flat terrain. Currently, those seeking a flat paved surface have no other option than to share the road with vehicular traffic. There is a need to incorporate a pedestrian and bicycle path system that is accessible for all ages and abilities. The concept plan for Wilcox Park includes a proposed walking loop that is accessible to people of all abilities and provides pedestrian connections to various recreational facilities.

Camping

Wilcox Park offers the only camping facilities in the Dutchess County Park system. Currently there are 10 RV sites and 17 tent camping sites. There is a need for upgraded RV sites to accommodate modern RVs and the needs of modern campers.

As recommended by park staff and stakeholders, an opportunity exists to develop rental cabins for camping. This would provide an alternative to RV and tent camping and contribute to Wilcox Park becoming a premier camping destination.

A significant challenge regarding camping facilities at Wilcox Park are the outdated and non-ADA compliant bathroom facilities. The current bathroom and shower facilities at the camp ground will require significant upgrades to accommodate modern camping needs and to be in compliance with ADA standards of accessibility.

Structural Assessment

While most of the buildings at Wilcox Park are structurally sound, some will require structural repairs, and others are recommended to be demolished.

Based on a structural assessment completed in October 2018, the following buildings require significant structural repairs:

- Shed/Storage Structure (#3)
- Wood Storage Shed (#6)
- Pavilion Structure (#10)
- Gazebo (#15)

The structures have been recommended to be demolished:

- Mansion (#1)
- Salt Shed (#2)

The most significant structural challenge at Wilcox Park is the Mansion. Based on the structural assessment this building is no longer structurally sound and is recommended to be demolished. The building is currently unsafe for entry and would cost a significant amount to restore. The apartment attached to the Mansion is structurally sound and can remain despite the demolition of the Mansion.

Full structural reports are available in **Appendix F**.

ACCESSIBILITY – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Accessibility is a significant challenge at Wilcox Park. Most of the facilities available to the public were constructed prior to ADA legislation and are inaccessible to those with mobility issues. Bathroom facilities at the swimming beach and camping area need to be upgraded to improve accessibility to those of all ages and abilities.

An ADA Assessment completed in October 2018 that examined accessibility deficiencies of exterior site features, offers a number of recommendations to improve accessibility of parking areas and from parking areas to facilities. General recommendations include:

- ADA parking areas should be repaved to ensure slope of 2% or less
- Spaces should be marked with proper signage and striping and include a hatched no parking area
- Main parking area – Increase number of ADA spaces to 5 with a “Van Accessible” space and hatched no parking area
- Pathways from spaces to facility entrances should be continuous, smooth and at the proper slope. (connections from beach area to facilities)

For a full description of accessibility recommendations, see **Appendix E**.

SPLASH PARK



NATURALIZED SWALES



ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

The concept plan for Wilcox Park centers on improving accessibility to recreational facilities, improving the water quality of the swimming lake and developing the park as a premier recreational destination for hiking, camping and disc golf. The recommendations proposed for this concept plan were developed with input from stakeholders, members of the public and parks staff and when implemented, will achieve the vision of the plan.

The majority of recommendations for Wilcox Park are focused on the areas surrounding the swimming lake and the camping and RV area. The following is an overview of proposed improvements at Wilcox Park.

Water quality improvements – One of the biggest attractions to Wilcox Park is the swimming lake. Over the years a number of factors have led to the degradation of water quality, resulting in occasional algal blooms that close the beach to swimming. A significant contributing factor to poor water quality in the lake is a lack of best management practices (BMP) for stormwater runoff. Currently, all runoff is directed, untreated, into the lake from the parking lot, roadways and the lawn above the beach area. The runoff is heated by pavement and collects waste from waterfowl resulting in the perfect growing environment for toxic algae blooms. The concept plan for Wilcox Park proposes a number of BMPs and green infrastructure techniques for improving the water quality of the swimming lake, including:

- A naturalized drainage swale to capture runoff at the base of the hill to promote the infiltration of stormwater before returning to the lake.
- Naturalized shorelines to promote filtration of stormwater before entering the lake.
- Delineation of ambiguous pavement at entrance of parking lot with buffer plantings to promote infiltration of surface runoff.
- Daylighting and naturalizing of the stream connecting the two lakes to promote natural infiltration of contaminated water.
- New detention area to temporarily detain stormwater promoting natural infiltration before entering into the lake.

Walking loop – The proposed project includes the creation of a bike and pedestrian loop around the lower lake. This loop would provide formalized pedestrian connections to other park activity areas, including the camping and disc golf areas. The proposed project includes a road re-route and widening of the entrance/exit roads to accommodate two-way traffic. The closure of the road to vehicular traffic on the eastern side of the lake will allow for the creation of a loop trail and increase accessibility for people of all abilities by providing a path that does not compete with vehicular traffic. To create a continuous loop this project also includes the addition of a new walking path through the beach area. This path will also allow for increased accessibility of beach facilities including the pavilions and the concession building.

Lane width expansion – The addition of the walking loop will require a re-route of the entrance road, converting the current road system from one-way to two-way. This will require a lane expansion to accommodate two-way traffic. The overall project will result in safer alternatives for pedestrians so that they do not have to share the road with vehicular traffic.

Accessible playground – The concept plan for Wilcox Park includes accessibility improvements including a proposed accessible playground near the upper lake area. The development of a new accessible path system, separation of vehicular traffic from pedestrian areas and the addition of a new accessible playground creates a new node of activity that is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

Splash pad – The concept plan for Wilcox Park includes the proposed addition of a splash pad to compliment the other aquatic activities available in the park like swimming and boating in the upper and lower lakes.

Improved camping facilities – Wilcox Park is the main destination for camping in the Dutchess County Park system. The concept plan proposes camping upgrades that will improve existing and develop new facilities that make Wilcox Park a premier camping destination in the County. Proposed improvements include new and upgraded RV sites, improved bathroom and locker-room facilities, additional tent camping sites, new cabins available to rent and new pedestrian connections to connect camping facilities to other recreational facilities throughout the park.

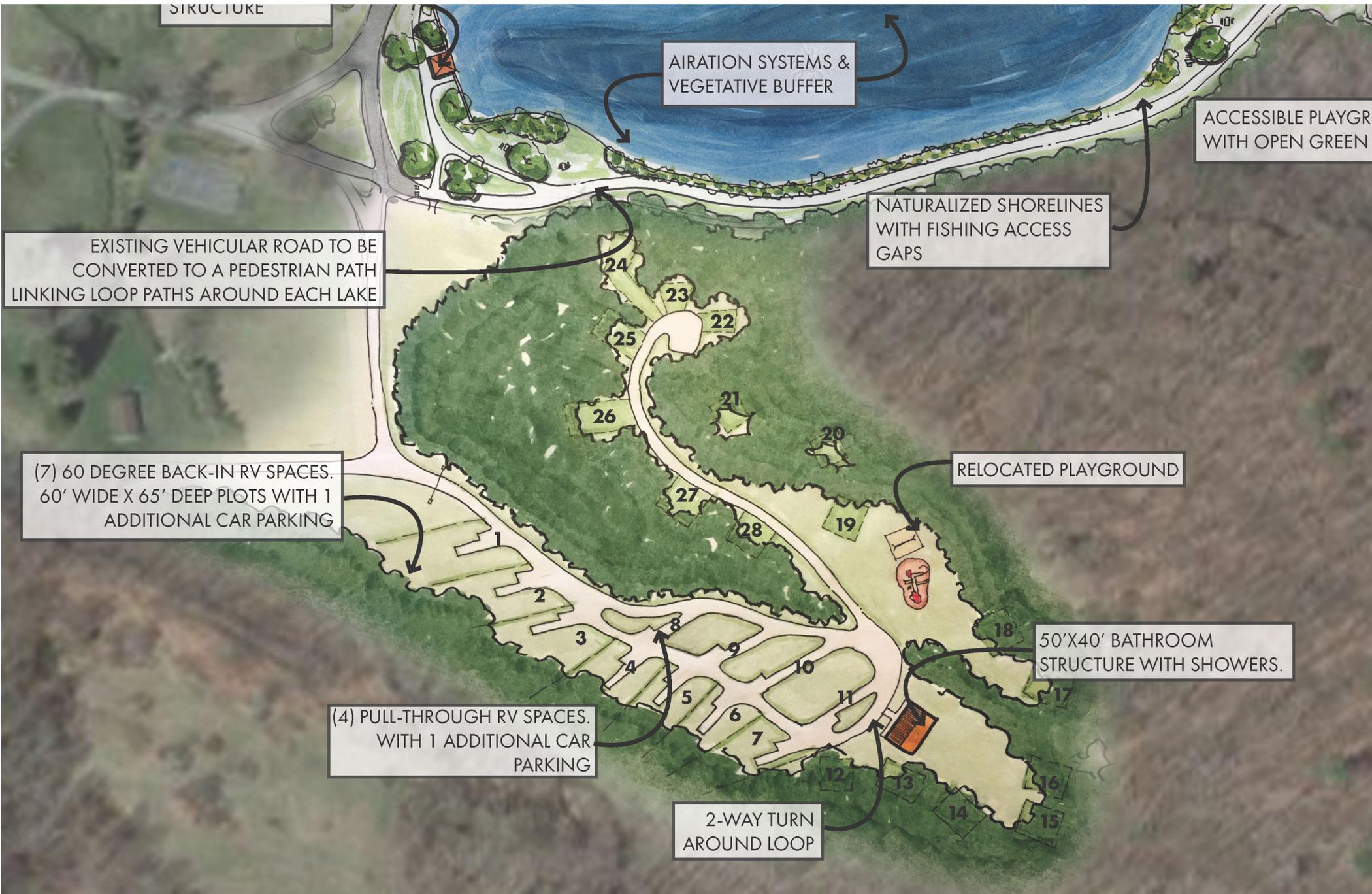
WILCOX PARK CONCEPT PLAN - OVERALL PLAN



WILCOX PARK CONCEPT PLAN - LAKE AREA



WILCOX PARK CONCEPT PLAN - CAMPING AREA EAST



STRUCTURE

AIRATION SYSTEMS & VEGETATIVE BUFFER

ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND WITH OPEN GREEN

NATURALIZED SHORELINES WITH FISHING ACCESS GAPS

EXISTING VEHICULAR ROAD TO BE CONVERTED TO A PEDESTRIAN PATH LINKING LOOP PATHS AROUND EACH LAKE

(7) 60 DEGREE BACK-IN RV SPACES. 60' WIDE X 65' DEEP PLOTS WITH 1 ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING

RELOCATED PLAYGROUND

50'X40' BATHROOM STRUCTURE WITH SHOWERS.

(4) PULL-THROUGH RV SPACES. WITH 1 ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING

2-WAY TURN AROUND LOOP

WILCOX PARK CONCEPT PLAN - CAMPING AREA WEST



Table 6-2. Wilcox Park Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Develop a stormwater detention area to temporarily detain stormwater, promoting natural infiltration before entering lake.
Daylight and naturalize the stream connecting the two lakes to promote natural infiltration of contaminated water and stormwater runoff.
Add shoreline landscaping to promote stormwater infiltration at the location of ambiguous pavement at entrance to parking lot.
Expand entrance and exit roads to accommodate two-way traffic flow.
Construct a new splash pad area at the swimming beach.
Construct a new pavilion overlooking the lake.
Expand the parking lot westward to replace pavement area returned to greenspace.
Develop a walking loop path system around the upper and lower lakes.
Add aeration systems and barley straw vegetative buffer to minimize direct sunlight in the lake.
Develop new tent camping sites in the areas identified on the concept plan.
Construct new rental cabins and a bathroom facility in the western portion of Wilcox Park as identified on the concept plan.
Upgrade and develop new RV camp sites.
Upgrade and expand bathroom and locker facilities in the tent camping area, including accessibility improvements.
Build a new accessible playground located beside the upper lake.
Upgrade concession building by adding accessibility improvements to bathroom facilities.
Convert existing vehicular road to a pedestrian path linking loop paths around each lake.
Implement recommendations of the ADA Assessment performed in October 2018.
Demolish Mansion Structure as recommended in Structural Assessment in Appendix F.



QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Parking

Parking has been identified by park staff, stakeholders and the general public as a significant challenge at Quiet Cove. Currently, parking is available on the eastern side of the railroad tracks and can accommodate approximately 15 vehicles. On the river side of the park there is no formal parking delineation, except for six (6) handicapped accessible spaces. Due to the inconvenience of walking from the current parking area to the riverside area of the park, many visitors park illegally on the western side of the railroad bridge. This often leads to congestion, particularly when visitors are loading and unloading canoes and kayaks. As Quiet Cove grows in popularity, new opportunities for parking will have to be explored.

Kayak/Canoe Amenities – Quiet Cove is one of the few access points to the Hudson River for kayaking and canoeing. Significant efforts have been made to enhance the kayak and canoe launch, but there is currently not a formalized canoe and kayak drop off area. Formalizing this area will deter visitors from parking and blocking off the area for boaters.

Circulation

Vehicular and pedestrian circulation within the park is challenged due to the pinch point created by the railroad bridge that separates the eastern and western sides of the park. With no formal parking area on the western side of the park and no formal pedestrian path, pedestrians often have to share the road with oncoming vehicles.

Structural Assessment

A structural assessment performed in October 2018 identified a number of structurally compromised buildings at Quiet Cove that either require significant structural repairs or are recommended to be demolished.

The full structural reports are available in **Appendix F**.

Accessibility

Accessibility is a challenge at Quiet Cove in terms of vehicular access, pedestrian access and access for people with mobility issues. While there are dedicated accessible spaces located in the lower portion of the park, accessibility is generally deficient from those spaces to other park facilities like the Navy Boathouse Annex, observation decks and picnic areas. There is a need to develop a more uniform path system that connects all of these facilities that is properly graded to accommodate people of all ages and abilities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

Quiet Cove is a truly unique park in the Dutchess County Park system and in the county as a whole. This park offers direct public access to the Hudson River and includes a kayak and canoe launch, picnic area, rental facilities and scenic views of the river and shoreline. The concept plan for Quiet Cove focuses on improving accessibility within the park, improved access to the Hudson River and addresses many of the parking concerns that have been an ongoing challenge. The recommendations proposed for this concept plan were developed with input from stakeholders, members of the public and parks staff and when implemented, will achieve the vision of the plan.

The following is a list of proposed enhancements to Quiet Cove Riverfront Park.

Parking expansion and improved pedestrian access – To alleviate the parking challenges at Quiet Cove, a new parking area is being proposed in area of the park west of the railroad tracks, as well as a new pedestrian path that offers enhanced ADA accessibility to park facilities. The parking area will include approximately 50 spaces. This project also includes a pedestrian path that is compliant with ADA accessibility standards to link the proposed parking area to other park facilities.

The new parking area is anticipated to provide better access to park facilities. This will formalize the parking area in the area of the park west of the railroad tracks, reducing the number of cars parked in the drive lane beside the Navy Boathouse Annex. The new driveway access will be located behind the existing buildings, limiting the impact of vehicles in the main area of the park. This project is anticipated to improve the circulation pattern of vehicles

entering the park by reducing the number of vehicle that drive through or park near the Kayak Concession building.

Input from the Community Needs Survey and stakeholder group discussions indicates that a lack of parking is a significant barrier to greater enjoyment of Quiet Cove. Additional parking will address this barrier and improve access to the park.

Kayak/canoe drop-off – The concept plan for Quiet Cove includes a formalized kayak and canoe drop off area with handicapped accessible parking spaces available. This will help to enhance public access to the Hudson River waterfront by creating a dedicated space for loading and unloading boats. The new drop-off area connects to the waterfront via a new footpath system that.

Park Entry Improvements - The concept includes the relocation of the main entrance and a reroute of the entry drive to accommodate two-way traffic to improve vehicular circulation. This includes converting the existing one-way exit road to a two-way ingress and egress. The eastern portion of the existing entryway would be widened to accommodate two-way traffic. Improvements also include formalizing two existing secondary parking areas to accommodate up to 33 parking spaces. These improvements will be coordinated with the proposed development on the eastern side of Route 9 and New York State Department of Transportation.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Path - The proposed concept includes closing the existing entry way to vehicular traffic and converting into a pedestrian and bicycle path. Bicycle and pedestrian amenities would be added at the park entrance and along the path, including bike racks and seating areas. The installation of removable bollards would also be included to prohibit vehicular traffic yet allow for maintenance and emergency vehicle access if needed.

Building Demolition – The Quiet Cove concept plan proposes the removal of several buildings. Some of the buildings recommended for removal have been determined to be structurally compromised based on the Structural Assessment performed in October 2018. Those buildings that are recommended to be demolished are located in the area on the proposed parking lot beside the railroad tracks. Another building that is proposed to be removed in the concept plan is the building directly west of the

kayak concession building. This building is currently not being utilized and significantly impedes the views of the river upon entry to this portion of the park.

Railroad Tunnel Improvements - The concept plan includes pedestrian safety and aesthetic improvements to the railroad tunnel, including lighting, painting and signage. These improvements would require coordination with Conrail.

PARK SIGNAGE



ACCESSIBLE KAYAK/CANOE LAUNCH



Accessible kayak launch, Quiet Cove Park

QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK CONCEPT PLAN - OVERALL PLAN



QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK CONCEPT PLAN - WEST



Table 6-3. Quiet Cove Riverfront Park Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Construct a new parking area and two-way access road in area of the park west of the railroad tracks.
Demolish existing buildings on site of new proposed parking area.
Construct a new pedestrian walkway to connect proposed parking area with park amenities and recreational facilities.
Construct a new pavilion or gazebo structure.
Relocate main entrance and reroute entry drive to accommodate two-way traffic and formalize secondary parking areas.
Convert the existing entry drive to a pedestrian/bicycle path and provide pedestrian and bicycle amenities, including bike racks and seating areas.
Improve the center island of the one-way entry court with landscaping and new park entry signage.
Plant tree buffering in key areas as identified on concept plan.
Develop new and improve existing walkways to ensure compliance with ADA standards.
Ensure that entrance ramps to buildings are properly graded to comply with ADA standards.
Construct an improved one-way entry court that includes a kayak/canoe drop-off area and handicapped parking spaces.
Implement recommendation developed in ADA Assessment located in Appendix E.
Implement recommendations developed in the Structural Assessment located in Appendix F.
Railroad tunnel improvements, including lighting, painting and signage.



RAIL TRAILS

The William R. Steinhaus Dutchess Rail Trail (DRT) and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT) are key components of the Dutchess County Park system that connect cities, towns and villages, draw visitors far and wide and create numerous opportunities for local businesses along their paths. The Dutchess County Park system of tomorrow will continue to prioritize these key assets by maintaining, extending and developing new facilities to meet the demands of county residents and visitors.

Following are key challenges and opportunities along with recommended action steps to address those challenges for both of the rail trails going forward.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Bathroom Facilities

Both the DRT and the HVRT lack adequate bathroom facilities along the trails. Currently, restroom facilities include portable toilets at trail heads and are only available seasonally. A significant challenge for improving bathroom facilities is the availability of water and sewer connections or enough land available to accommodate a septic field. Composting toilets may be an option for areas where connections to sewer and water are not feasible.

Trail Maintenance

Maintenance along the rail trails is a significant challenge due to the length of trails and number of parks staff available. With the current size of the staff it takes approximately one week to mow and trim the entire length of one of the rail trails. Conversations with park staff have indicated that another challenge with the maintenance of the rail trails is the availability of maintenance facilities. A new maintenance facility located near the halfway point of both rail trails would improve the efficiency of trail maintenance by providing space for maintenance equipment closer to the trail.

While different stretches of the trails have been developed at different times, older areas will soon need repaving. In certain sections, particularly along the HVRT, the pavement is showing signs of cracking and tree roots are starting to rise to the surface creating uneven ground.

Tourism

The DRT and the HVRT create numerous opportunities to promote and build tourism in Dutchess County. The DRT connects to the Walkway Over the Hudson which is a significant draw to the area.

Table 6-4. Rail Trail Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Explore opportunities for new bathroom facilities at trail heads.
Consider hiring additional parks maintenance staff to more efficiently maintain rail trails.
Explore opportunities for new maintenance facilities along rail trails for equipment storage.
Partner with local organizations like Dutchess County Tourism and local chambers to create better connections between businesses and rail trail users.
Add exercise stations along certain areas of the rail trails to offer alternative fitness opportunities to trail users.
Identify sections of trail that are degraded and develop a plan for repaving.

SYSTEM-WIDE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The assessment of parks and recreational facilities in the Dutchess County Park system has revealed tremendous recreational opportunities with extensive facilities and scenic and natural resources. However, limited staff, financial resources and time have taken a toll on some of the park system’s best assets. The following are key challenges and opportunities that relate to the entire park system, followed by system-wide recommendations to address those issues

Parks Staff

One of the unique qualities of the Dutchess County Park system is the large geographic distance between the northern and southern parks and the diversity of landscapes that are present throughout the county. This is a significant opportunity for the park system by providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities to meet the needs of residents and visitors. This also presents a significant challenge for park maintenance. The large geographic area combined with a relatively small maintenance staff results in significant maintenance challenges. One challenge is the amount of time that is needed for general landscaping at each of the parks and the rail trails. The vast amount of mowing, combined with a small crew leaves little time for other important maintenance tasks like hiking trail maintenance, building maintenance and larger parks projects. Another challenge is the amount of time spent traveling between parks in the northern and southern part of the county.

Current staffing challenges will be exacerbated with the planned extension of the DRT south of Hopewell Depot, expansion of the HVRT north of Millerton and with the acquisition and development of the Lake Walton property. To ensure that current maintenance and future maintenance needs are met, the county should consider hiring more fulltime and seasonal, part-time staff members. Seasonal staff can be dedicated to certain parks, reducing travel time. They can also be dedicated to mowing and landscaping, freeing up time for other staff to tackle larger more long-term maintenance tasks.

The significant amount of maintenance required across the county park system has contributed to the deferred maintenance of a number of park structures, including the Education Center at Bowdoin Park and the Mansion at Wilcox Park.

Table 6-5. System-Wide Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Hire additional fulltime and part-time staff to accommodate current and future maintenance needs.
Remove derelict or deteriorating structures throughout the park system as recommended in the Structural Assessments in Appendix F
Develop an equipment inventory to establish a plan for acquiring new maintenance equipment.
Explore opportunities for new facilities to house maintenance equipment along rail trails and at key locations throughout the county.



SECTION SEVEN

THE DUTCHESS
COUNTY PARK
SYSTEM TOMORROW

PROGRAMMING



THE DUTCHESS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM TOMORROW - PROGRAMMING

FUTURE PROGRAMMING – NEEDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Dutchess County Parks is a leader in providing educational programming to residents of Dutchess County. Its school programs, scout programs, summer programs and public programs provide opportunities for learning about local ecology, outdoor and survival skills, Native American history in the region and much more.

This section focuses on the next steps that are necessary to ensure the continued growth and success of parks programming. Included are future needs for administration and staffing, program facilities, the public interface and user fee structure. Following that is a set of recommended actions to guide current and future needs for programming and offerings in the Dutchess County Park system.

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

Currently, programs are staffed and administered by the Park Naturalist, Assistant Park Naturalist, four summer interns and four to ten counselors in training. The current staffing levels are sufficient for existing needs, but any growth of programming would require additional staff members. This is particularly true if programming were to expand further in Wilcox Park and Quiet Cove Park. With current staffing levels programs can not run concurrently at each of these locations.

Based on the Program Lifecycle Analysis, most programs are in the growth stage and are anticipated to continue to develop and attract more participants over time. Hindering the ability for these programs to grow is staff capacity. Without more staff over time, it will be a challenge to grow existing programs and develop new programs.

PROGRAM FACILITIES

The availability of programming space is a significant challenge, limiting the ability for future program growth and development. Additional facilities will allow for the growth of existing programs and development of new programs and will ensure a fully enriching experience for program participants.

With most programming taking place at Bowdoin Park, this would be an ideal location for additional facilities. Existing facilities most utilized for programs include the Education Center, which contains classroom space and the History Room which houses artifacts from the property. The Auditorium is also utilized which is used for archery and community gatherings. The current Education Center requires significant structural repairs and is not large enough to accommodate most programs. The Auditorium is a good programming space, but while in use for programs, it is unable to be rented

for other purposes resulting in a loss of revenue to the park.

The concept plan for Bowdoin Park proposes the construction of a new Education Center which would include a large multi-purpose room that could be utilized for archery classes or community gatherings. The proposed building also includes new classroom space, office space for park staff and exhibit space that can be utilized as a museum to showcase the Native American history of the park and region. Overall, this new facility could create one centralized location for programming activities and allow for flexibility of current and future programming needs.

There are also opportunities to expand programming to Wilcox Park, but a lack of indoor facilities makes this challenging because there is no fully indoor shelter in the event of inclement weather. Future planning of Wilcox Park should include the potential of constructing new programming facilities.



Proposed Education Center and Parking Area at Bowdoin Park

PUBLIC INTERFACE

The public interface addresses how participants find out about programs and park information, how they register for a program or reserve rental spaces and how feedback is collected about the participant and visitor experience. Dutchess County Parks has been diligent in informing the public about program and park offerings and has recently updated its website with a new online registration process. Despite these efforts, there are several deficiencies that could be improved to enhance the user experience and expand public awareness of the park system and offerings. The following are needs and opportunities related to marketing, registration and performance measurement that relate to program participant and visitor experience.

Marketing Strategy

Currently, marketing materials for programs are drafted by park naturalist staff and must be approved by the County Executive's office prior to distribution. The timing for the distribution of these materials is critical to the rate of participation for certain programs. For example, summer program notices should be distributed in late winter or early spring. Due to the volume of materials to be reviewed by the County Executive's office, sufficient time must be integrated into the marketing material development and review to achieve an optimal distribution schedule. While the county's communications protocols are unlikely to change, the parks department should consider adopting a formal schedule for marketing that indicates when materials need to be submitted for review.

Another challenge that relates to park visitation and program participation is the park system's lack of cohesive and standardized branding. The county should consider developing a park system-wide branding and marketing strategy that includes unified logos, signage and messaging. The system-wide marketing strategy may include unified messaging, colors, logos and signage. This marketing strategy should be updated annually and include the development of all program brochures and pamphlets for the upcoming year. This strategy can be approved all at once by the County Executive's office and help to streamline the approval process of marketing materials, allowing for easier and more timely distribution of upcoming program offerings.

There are a number of cross-marketing opportunities with local and regional organizations that can be utilized to ensure maximum exposure of the park system. The following organizations may provide opportunities for cross-marketing:

- **Dutchess Tourism, Inc.** – Dutchess Tourism, Inc. is the officially designated destination marketing and management organization for Dutchess County and is accredited by the Destination Marketing Accreditation Program (DMAP) of Destinations International. The organization works to bring tourism dollars to area businesses by marketing and promoting the assets of Dutchess County to the nation and the world.
- **Hudson Valley Tourism** – Hudson Valley Tourism, Inc. is the organization designated by I LOVE NEW YORK to promote tourism for the 10-county Hudson Valley region. Counties include Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Ulster and Westchester. Cross-marketing with Hudson Valley Tourism, Inc. presents opportunities to market Dutchess County Parks to a large geographic area.
- **Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce** - The Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce is an advocate for business, the authoritative informational source on matters affecting business, and the unwavering champion for the region’s economic health. Cross-marketing with the Chamber can help to build the connections between the park system and the local business community.

Registration

The County has recently developed a new website which includes online registration for parks programs and rental facilities. Program participants can still register by phone and through the mail for some programs. The expectation today is that most functions should be able to be performed on a mobile device, including registering for programs and reserving park facilities. The new county website is designed to be compatible with mobile devices which will allow for program registration on smartphones and tablets. Performance of online registration through mobile devices should be monitored for any issues to ensure an easy and efficient park visitor and program participant experience.

Performance Measurement

Currently, feedback for programs is collected using paper evaluation forms. The development of the new county website creates an opportunity to offer new forms of performance measurement to help with future improvements to parks programming. Online evaluation forms or a user survey could be developed to gather input about the user experience. Programs could be followed up with an evaluation survey emailed to each program participant of parents and guardians of program participants to gather immediate feedback about the program experience. Programs should be evaluated annually to ensure the needs of participants are being met to provides the best experience possible.

USER FEES

Parks can be significant revenue producers if high fees are charged and they can also be very costly if no revenue is produced. Striking the right balance between park revenues and the amount being supported by tax levy is key to the long-term sustainability of the park system.

In setting fees for programs and park facilities it is important to consider the populations being served and the socioeconomic conditions of the region. In lower income areas, high fees may result in parks being inaccessible to many community members. In general, park entrance is free at Dutchess County Parks and supported by tax levy, while the use of certain facilities and programs include fees. The fee structure is in place so that those individuals, families or groups that do use the facilities and services support them over and above the cost of keeping them available.

The determination of user fees for park programs and facilities usage should generally follow the following guiding principles of equity and accessibility:

- Fees should be charged for active use, as opposed to passive use, for example baseball diamond versus picnic areas.
- Subsidies should be consistent and universally applied.
- Historic patent consideration: whatever has been charged should continue to be charged with inflationary adjustment.
- Users of one facility should not be charged more than cost in order to subsidize another facility.
- Some activities should be revenue generating.

- An attempt should be made to recover all operating costs. Capital Costs should be recouped where possible.
- Fees are regressive, impacting lower income groups more, therefore fees should be kept to the minimum necessary.
- Fees should reflect current societal values. Assumptions here are that:
 - Recreation is a human service like health and education.
 - Recreation is a desirable service for all community members.
 - Recreation should be non-discriminatory and be accessible to people of all ages and abilities.
- Fees should reflect the demand for services; there should be a premium charge in prime time.

Table 7-1. Programming Recommendations

Facilities Recommendations
Recommendation
Establish a five to ten-year strategic plan for developing recreational programming and for hiring new programming staff.
Continue to develop and expand exhibit space to showcase local history and artifacts.
Provide justification for programs, projects and services and determine priority items for both capital and operational budgeting.
Continue building public awareness by developing a Marketing Strategy which includes unified branding and messaging.
Develop new and innovative methods of performance measurement like online surveys and evaluation forms to meet the needs of the public.
Explore opportunities to expand programming to Wilcox and Quiet Cove Parks.
Identify cross-marketing opportunities with local organizations to extend public awareness of park programs and offerings.
Continue to provide and expand cultural events such as music, theater, dance festivals and film viewings.



SECTION EIGHT IMPLEMENTATION



IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION AND PRIORITY PROJECTS

Following the adoption of this plan, an active implementation process will be necessary to have a lasting impact. This plan is the result of considerable effort on the part of park staff, stakeholders, local elected officials and the general public. Working with a range of public, private and nonprofit implementation partners, the County can accomplish the recommended actions and continue striving toward its vision for parks.

PRIORITIZATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The implementation table that follows represents the prioritization of recommendations based on the needs of each park. Each recommendation has been categorized from highest to lowest priority per park.

A recommendation status column has been included to allow for easy tracking and review of Master Plan implementation progress related to each recommendation. The recommendation status column can be part of an annual reporting to the County Legislature on progress of the recommendations.



Core Team meeting, June 2018

Implementation Matrix	
Recommendation	Status
BOWDOIN PARK	
Formalize, repave and expand the lower parking lot near the ballfields. This may include a vegetated buffer, pedestrian crossings and new accessible parking stalls.	
Develop new accessible walking loop system to connect recreational facilities in northern and southern areas of Bowdoin Park. This will increase new passive recreation opportunities and improve pedestrian connections.	
Develop new accessible bathroom facilities and Pavilions in the southern area of Bowdoin Park.	
Build a new Education Center that includes new classroom space, museum space, multi-purpose space and office space. The new building should be accessible and allow for the future expansion of program offerings.	
Demolish the existing Education Center building and enhance the viewshed with the addition of a gazebo or other park structure.	
Develop new accessible playground area in the southern portion of Bowdoin Park.	
Develop a new accessible splash pad in southern portion of Bowdoin Park.	
Expand parking area below Pavilion 4 to accommodate more parking.	
Implement recommendations as presented in the ADA Assessment in Appendix E. This may include improvements to parking areas and entrances from parking areas to buildings and recreational facilities.	
Assess existing building interiors and recreational facilities for accessibility improvements.	
Formalize parking areas at facilities including the Chapel and Maple Knoll Lodge.	
Perform structural repairs as recommended in the Structural Assessment in Appendix F.	
Continue to maintain and preserve Bowdoin Parks' extensive trail system.	
Demolish the Infirmery Building and Animal Rehab buildings as recommended in the Structural Assessment in Appendix F.	
Relocate and develop a new basketball court in southern portion of Bowdoin Park.	
WILCOX PARK	
Develop a stormwater detention area to temporarily detain stormwater, promoting natural infiltration before entering lake.	
Daylight and naturalize the stream connecting the two lakes to promote natural infiltration of contaminated water and stormwater runoff.	
Add shoreline landscaping to promote stormwater infiltration at the location of ambiguous pavement at entrance to parking lot.	
Upgrade and expand bathroom and locker facilities in the camping area, including accessibility improvements.	
Upgrade and develop new RV camp sites.	
Add aeration systems and barley straw vegetative buffer to minimize direct sunlight in the lake.	
Develop new tent camping sites in the areas identified on the concept plan.	
Expand the parking lot westward to replace pavement area returned to greenspace.	
Expand entrance and exit roads to accommodate two-way traffic flow.	

Implementation Matrix	
Recommendation	Status
Develop a walking loop path system around the upper and lower lakes.	
Convert existing vehicular road to a pedestrian path linking loop paths around each lake.	
Build a new accessible playground located beside the upper lake.	
Construct new rental cabins in the areas identified on the concept plan.	
Construct a new splash pad area at the swimming beach.	
Implement recommendations of the ADA Assessment performed in October 2018.	
Upgrade concession building by adding accessibility improvements to bathroom facilities.	
Demolish Mansion Structure as recommended in Structural Assessment in Appendix F.	
Construct a new pavilion overlooking the lake.	
QUIET COVE RIVERFRONT PARK	
Construct a new parking area and two-way access road.	
Demolish existing buildings on site of new proposed parking area.	
Construct a new pedestrian walkway to connect proposed parking area with park amenities and recreational facilities.	
Construct an improved one-way entry court that includes a kayak/canoe drop-off area and handicapped parking spaces.	
Relocate main entrance and reroute entry drive.	
Develop new and improve existing walkways to ensure compliance with ADA standards.	
Ensure that entrance ramps to buildings are properly graded to comply with ADA standards.	
Improve the center island of the one-way entry court with landscaping and new park entry signage.	
Plant tree buffering in key areas as identified on concept plan.	
Implement recommendation developed in ADA Assessment located in Appendix E.	
Implement recommendations developed in the Structural Assessment located in Appendix F.	
Construct a new pavilion structure.	
RAIL TRAILS	
Consider hiring additional parks maintenance staff to more efficiently maintain rail trails.	
Explore opportunities for new bathroom facilities at trail heads.	
Explore opportunities for new maintenance facilities along rail trails for equipment storage.	

Implementation Matrix	
Recommendation	Status
Partner with local organizations like Dutchess County Tourism and local chambers to create better connections between businesses and rail trail users.	
Add exercise stations along certain areas of the rail trails to offer alternative fitness opportunities to trail users.	
Identify sections of trail that are degraded and develop a plan for repaving.	
SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS	
Hire additional fulltime and part-time staff to accommodate current and future maintenance needs.	
Remove derelict or deteriorating structures throughout the park system as recommended in the Structural Assessments in Appendix F	
Develop an equipment inventory to establish a plan for acquiring new maintenance equipment.	
Explore opportunities for new facilities to house maintenance equipment along rail trails and at key locations throughout the county.	