

# Town of Kent Draft Recreation Master Plan Putnam County, New York



February, 2011

- Bohemia, New York
- Little Falls, New York
- Riverhead, New York

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March 9, 2011

Town of Kent  
25 Sybil's Crossing  
Kent Lakes, New York 10512

Attn: Louis Tartaro, Councilman  
Recreation Master Plan Committee Chairman

Re: Kent Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Tartaro:

The following Recreation Master Plan report summarizes our observations and recommendations for phased improvements to recreation programs and park facilities in the Town of Kent. It is the result of numerous meetings with Town staff, community groups and the Recreation Master Plan Committee, intensive study of existing park and public school facilities and recreation programs, and response from residents to the community-wide Recreation and Parks Survey. The plan identifies the values of the community, provides a Town-wide vision for recreation services, and establishes strategic direction for delivery of best in class recreation.

The master plan should be used by the Town to guide future programmatic decisions and conduct capital planning for improvements to existing parks and development of new park facilities. It should also be updated as the community evolves and recreation needs change. The plan includes a demographic analysis of the Town of Kent, an inventory of all parks and land used for recreation, assessment of current recreation programs and citizen's needs, and provides goals and objectives, specific actions to be taken, and a strategy for implementation over the next 15-20 years.

Ward Associates, P.C., is proud to have been able to assist in the development of this master plan and looks forward to assisting the Town with its implementation. We would like to thank the Recreation Master Plan Committee, the Recreation and Parks Director and staff, as well as all residents of the Town of Kent who participated in the process.

Sincerely,



Curt Coronato, ASLA  
Vice President

# **Town of Kent**

## **Draft Recreation Master Plan**

Putnam County, New York

The leaders, staff and citizens of Kent provided an outstanding effort in bringing their knowledge of the past and present, as well as their visions of the future of Kent's recreation and parks facilities to a reality in this plan. Both a clear vision and the enduring commitment of everybody involved were required to successfully accomplish the detailed planning process required to complete the Recreation Master Plan

### **Town Board**

Katherine Doherty– Supervisor  
John A Greene– Councilman  
Louis Tartaro– Councilman  
Michael Tierney– Councilman  
Penny Ann Osborn– Councilwoman

### **Recreation Master Plan Committee**

Louis Tartaro– Councilman– Committee Chairman  
William Huestis- Director of Parks & Recreation  
Neil Wilson– Town Planner  
Russ Fleming– Planning Board Chairman  
Maryanne Gierer– Kent Recreation Commission  
Janis Bolbrock– Planning Board  
Curt Coronato– Ward Associates, P.C. (Consultant)

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Adopted by Town Board  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2011

**Town of Kent**  
**Recreation Master Plan**  
Putnam County, New York

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Although Kent currently has an active recreation program offering a diversity of indoor and outdoor activities for residents of all ages, the Town recognized the need for a Recreation Master Plan that could be used to guide future programmatic decisions and conduct capital planning efforts. The plan, which will be updated on a regular basis as the community and its needs evolve, provides strategic direction by establishing goals and objectives as well as specific actions to be taken over the next fifteen to twenty years to achieve the Town's goal of providing best in class recreation and park services to Kent residents.

As the Town's planning consultant and facilitator of the planning process, our first objective was to become familiar with the Town of Kent, its residents, community values, demographics, existing parks and recreation land and facilities, recreation department and programs, and most importantly, community recreation needs. This was accomplished by holding a series of meetings to solicit input from Town residents, staff and community stakeholders, analyzing the results of a community-wide survey on recreation and parks, reviewing available data and maps, and inspection and analysis of all existing parks and recreation facilities in the Town of Kent.



Ryan Park



Huestis Park

The Town is just over 43 square miles including 2.5 miles made up of water. Because of the steep geography and abundance of reservoirs and other water bodies, the majority of the population resides on the east and north-central areas of Town, adjacent to Lake Carmel, Interstate 84 and the Route 52 corridor. Kent had an estimated population of 14,148 in 2009 with a median age of 38 years that was evenly divided by gender. The majority of residents work in management, professional and related industries, earning a median family income of \$79,716 (2000 US Census)

and commute to other areas of Putnam County, New York State and Connecticut. Because of the Town's extreme geography and the fact that nearly forty percent of the land has been protected from development by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) and New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), significant population growth is not expected in the future.

However, the Town's population and demographics are changing, along with those of Putnam County, New York State and the entire country. The population is aging and there has been an increase in the Hispanic and African American population. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of children under five years of age decreased by 21%, while the older age groups, especially those older than forty-five increased significantly. Enrollment projections from the Carmel Central School District show the same trends, which must be accounted for as new park facilities and recreation programs are planned. It will be important for the Town to review the results of the 2010 U.S. Census when they are released so necessary adjustments to the goals and objectives of this plan can be made.

The recreation needs assessment shows that, although the majority of residents are satisfied with Town park facilities, recreation programs, staff and maintenance, improved facilities and programs are needed to meet the current and future recreation needs of the community. Town residents who attended stakeholder and public input meetings and responded to the Recreation and Parks Survey believe that recreation is important to their families. They feel that more recreation opportunities are needed, especially for teenagers and senior citizens, and that the Town should offer more sports activity programs for youth and young adults.

In order to provide the quality and quantity of opportunities and programs that residents' desire, they believe the Town should improve existing and add new recreation facilities, including an indoor recreation center, community swimming pool and additional lighted athletic fields and courts. They would also like to see more nature areas and trails, as well as improved access to water bodies for boating, canoeing and kayaking. Residents do not believe they should be required to pay user fees or higher taxes for development of these new and improved facilities, and would like the Town to explore all other possible funding options, including the possibility of sharing recreation facilities and services with neighboring towns.

An inventory of parks and recreation land and facilities was prepared, including land owned by the Town of Kent, Carmel Central School District, Putnam County, New York State, New York City, as well as privately owned land used for recreation. From the inventory, a Town-wide Recreation and Parks Map and Facility Matrix were developed. The map shows the location of all parks and recreation land, while the matrix includes park acreage, state of development, recreational use, types of recreation activities and facilities at each park, and compares the Town's facilities with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines, which recommend that 10 acres of local parkland be developed for every 1,000 people. The matrix shows that with a total of 104 acres at Ryan and Huestis parks, and 70 acres within Lake Carmel Park District, much of that still undeveloped; Kent currently does not have the amount of useable recreation land recommended by NRPA. Based on a population of 14,148, the Town should have at least 142 acres of parkland developed for recreation use.



Parks and Open Space Map Provided by Putnam County Planning

Recently there has been “a shift away from reliance on an absolute national standard- to increasing community self direction where the number of acres for park and recreation land is based on what citizens

*determine is best for themselves.*"<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the goals, objectives and recommendations in this plan are not based entirely on the N.R.P.A. standard, but account for community recreation needs established from meetings with Town staff and community input at stakeholder meetings and from the recreation and parks survey.

With the first objective completed, a set of goals and objectives for improving the Towns recreation programs and facilities was developed. Besides using community input from stakeholder meetings and the community survey, the goals and objectives incorporated recommendations from the Kent Comprehensive Plan, Putnam County's Vision 2010 and the New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (S.C.O.R.P.).

Besides the provision of best-in-class recreation and parks services for its residents, other major goals include community involvement throughout the process, collaboration with other government agencies, development and improvement to partnerships with Carmel Central School District, NYCDEP, NYS Parks, NYSDEC, private camps and lakefront communities. The plan encourages private recreation initiatives, use of sustainable design principles, educating, and finally promoting the use and stewardship of Kent's historic, cultural and natural resources.

For each goal that was developed, a set of objectives required to achieve them was also provided. For example, objectives related to the main goal of providing best in class recreation services include improving existing park facilities to maximize their use while adding new facilities to serve a broader cross section of the population, providing facilities in underserved areas of town, planning for the addition of new facilities desired by the community, educating and informing the community about recreation opportunities on New York City and State-owned land, improving access to recreation and park facilities, enhancement of pedestrian and bicycle connections, and provision and training of recreation and parks staff. A detailed list of Goals and Objectives is included in this report.

In order for the Town to achieve the goals and objectives, specific actions to be taken and a strategy for implementation of the recommended improvements were then developed. The specific actions were separated into general, short term (1-5 years), mid term (6-10 years) and long term (11-20 years). General specific actions include Town Board

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<sup>1</sup> Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines  
James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP

adoption of the plan, ongoing assessment of NYCDEP and Town-owned land for development of needed recreation facilities, provision of access to and use of lakes and water bodies for aquatic recreation activities, updating the Town's requirements for recreation fees to be paid by developers, provision of a full-time recreation director and adequate recreation and maintenance staff for existing and proposed facilities, improving barrier-free access to all facilities and performing safety audits on all playgrounds.

Specific actions recommended to be accomplished in the short term include design and implementation of improvements to Huestis and Ryan parks, planning and design of an indoor recreation center, preliminary planning for a community swimming pool complex, planning, site acquisition (agreement with NYCDEP), design and construction of additional athletic fields, and planning, design and implementation of enhancements to Town's pedestrian and bicycle trails. In years 6-10 of the plan, it is recommended that the Town should accomplish preliminary planning of improvements to recreation facilities surrounding Lake Carmel, planning and design of new neighborhood parks, final design of the community swimming pool complex and construction of the indoor recreation center and highest priority neighborhood park.

Long-term specific actions include implementation of the community swimming pool complex, additional neighborhood parks and improvements to recreation land and facilities surrounding Lake Carmel. To complete the Recreation Master Plan, cost projections were developed for planning, design and implementation of all recommended improvements to recreation programs and park facilities, and sources for funding the improvements were discussed.

With identification of Kent's community values and recreation needs established, demographic analysis, recreation program assessment and parkland inventory completed, the goals, objectives and specific actions necessary for improvements to the Town's recreation program and park facilities have been set in place. This plan should be used as a guide for all program decisions and planning and design efforts related to recreation and parks for Town of Kent residents. By following this plan and updating the goals and objectives as the community evolves, the Town will soon be able to achieve its goal of providing best in class recreation services to its residents.

## 2. GEOGRAPHIC & DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

*“The demographic profile of the community allows an up-front and comprehensive understanding of the potential customer base.”<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Statistic</b>
<u>Geography</u>	
Total Area	43.2 square miles
Land Area	40.6 square miles
Water Area	2.5 square miles
Town of Kent Parks	104 acres
Lake Carmel Park District (Parks)	70 acres
Putnam County Parks	220 acres
New York State Parks	2,267 acres
Appalachian Trail (National Parks)	324 acres
NYSDEC Multiple Use Areas/State Forests	2,395 acres
NYCDEP Protected	2,655 acres
<u>Population</u>	
Population	14,009
Population (2009 U.S. Census estimate)	14,148
Population Density	344.8 per square mile
Female Population	7,061 (50.4%)
Male Population	6,948 (49.6%)
Residing in Urban Areas	62%
Residing in Rural Areas	38%
Age less than 18	26.3%
Age 18-24	6.2%
Age 25-44	32.1%
Age 45-64	25.7%
Age 65 and older	9.7%
Median Age	38 years
<u>Ancestry/Language</u>	
Irish	33.8%
Italian	31.3%
German	15.2%
English	7%
Polish	4.2%
Speak English Only at Home	89%
Speak Another Language at Home	11%
-Indo-European	4.8%
-Spanish	4.7%
-Asian or Pacific	1.3%

<sup>1</sup> Parks, Recreation and Open Space Guidelines

<b>Category</b>	<b>Statistic</b>
<u>Racial Makeup</u>	
White	93.81%
African American	1.41%
Asian	1.24%
Native American	0.14%
Pacific Islander	0.01%
Other races	1.81%
Two or more races	1.57%
Hispanic or Latino of any race	5.77%
<u>Housing</u>	
Households	4,868
Housing Density	131.8 per square mile
Housing Units	5,353
Median Value	\$162,600
Median Mortgage Cost per Month	\$1,572
Median Rent Cost Per Month	\$925
Households w/ Children under 18	38.3%
Married couples living together	64.4%
Female Householder w/ no husband	9.0%
Non-Families	23.0%
Household w/ Individual	17.5%
Over 65 and Living Alone	4.8%
Average Family Size	3.24
Average Household Size	2.84
Families	3,748
Occupied by Owner	83%
Occupied by Renter	17%
<u>Income</u>	
Median Income- Household	\$72,346
Median Income- Family	\$79,716
Median Income- Male	\$51,634
Median Income- Female	\$38,575
Per Capita Income	\$29,984
Individuals Below Poverty Line	4.1%
Families Below Poverty Line	4.2%
<u>Social</u>	
School Enrollment (ages 3 and older)	3,661
Pre or Nursery School Enrollment	259
Kindergarten Enrollment	169
Elementary School Enrollment	1,747
High School Enrollment	861
College or Graduate Schools	625

<b>Category</b>	<b>Statistic</b>
<u>Social (continued)</u>	
High School Graduate	88.8%
Obtained College Degree	28.8%
Obtained Associate Degree	8.4%
Obtained Bachelor Degree	16.3%
Obtained Graduate or Professional Degree	12.5%
<u>Economic</u>	
Persons in Labor Force	7,649
Females in Labor Force	3,676
Unemployment Rate	2.7%
Commute to Work Alone	78.2%
Carpooled to Work	9.6%
Public Transportation to work	6.4%
Work at Home	4.5%
Work for Private Business	75.8%
Work for Government	19.1%
Self-Employed	4.9%
Management/Professional or related	39.1%
Sales and Office	24.8%
Service	16.1%
Construction, Extraction, Maintenance	11.3%
Production, Transportation, Moving	8.4%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.4%

### **Comparison to Earlier Census Data**

Between 1990 and 2000 the overall population increased 1.64% from 13,183 to 14,009. During the same time period, the male population increased 5.26% from 6,601 to 6,948 while the female population increased 7.28% from 6,582 to 7,061. The number of children under 5 years of age decreased 20.56%, from 1,148 to 912. The age group from 5 to 24 years old remained relatively flat, down 0.87% from 3,676 to 3,644, while the group age 25 to 44 decreased 6.48% from 4,812 to 4500.

The biggest changes were in the older population, with the 45 to 54-age group increasing 39.06% from 1,618 to 2,250, those 55 to 59 increasing 77.92% from 453 to 806, those 60 to 64 increasing 34.41% from 410 to 539, the 65 to 74 age group increasing 16.42% from 597 to 695 and those 75 to 84 increasing 13.21% from 386 to 437. The largest increase (245.65%), from 92 to 226, was in the group 85 years and older.

While the white population increased 7.1% from 12,875 to 13,789, the Hispanic population increased 200% from 402 to 808 and the black population increased 218% from 91 to 198. During the same time period, the number of occupied housing units increased 10.64%, from 4,400 to 4,868.

The population increased 6%, from 12,433 to 13,183 between 1980 and 1990. As a comparison, Putnam County's population grew by 14.1% during the same period. The increase in population during the last two decades (1980-2000) has slowed considerably from the 54% increase during the 1970's, 107% during the 60's and 83% during the 50's.

### **Carmel Central School District Projections**

The last planning study for the Carmel Central School District was completed in 2002. After a projected peak of 4,986 students in 2003, the district projected an overall decline to 4,730 students by 2012. The elementary grades were expected to remain stable between 2007 and 2012, while the middle and secondary grades were expected to decline and stabilize toward the end of the projection period.

According to estimates in 2000, the population in the district increased 15%, from 25,046 to 28,804 between 1990 and 2000. The population of the district had increased to 29,232 in 2001.

### **Summary of Geographic and Demographic Analysis**

The Town is just over 43 square miles including 2.5 miles made up of water. Because of the steep geography and abundance of reservoirs and other water bodies, the majority of the population resides on the east and north-central areas of Town, adjacent to Lake Carmel, Interstate 84 and the Route 52 corridor. Kent had an estimated population of 14,148 in 2009 with a median age of 38 years that was evenly divided by gender. The majority of residents work in management, professional and related industries, earning a median family income of \$79,716 (2000 US Census) and commute to other areas of Putnam County, New York State and Connecticut.

Because of the Town's extreme geography and the fact that nearly forty percent of the land has been protected from development by New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) and New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), significant population growth is not expected in the future.

However, the Town's population and demographics are changing, along with those of Putnam County, New York State and the entire country. The population is aging and there has been an increase in the Hispanic and African American population. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of children under five years of age decreased by 21%, while the older age groups, especially those older than forty-five increased significantly. Enrollment projections from the Carmel Central School District show the same trends, which must be accounted for as new park facilities and recreation programs are planned. It will be important for the Town to review the results of the 2010 U.S. Census when they are released so necessary adjustments to the goals and objectives of this plan can be made.

### 3. PARKLAND INVENTORY

The following is an inventory of developed and undeveloped public parklands and schools owned by the Town, Park District, County, State and Federal governments in the Town of Kent. The inventory includes a matrix showing each park or school, acreage and facilities, existing conditions plans and analysis of the town parks, and a town-wide park & open space map.

#### **Town of Kent**

Kent has two developed parks for use by town residents.

Ryan Memorial Park, which is located in the southeast corner of town, is 14 acres containing several ball fields, court games, children's playground, picnic shelter, band stand, nature and fitness trails, picnic areas, park support buildings with comfort stations, parking areas and natural wooded areas. Ryan Park is the location for the majority of the Town's recreation programs and special events.

Huestis Park, which was developed more recently in the north-central part of town, is 90 acres and includes ball fields, court games, children's playground and parking area. Much of the park is heavily wooded, steep terrain that is undeveloped.

A detailed analysis of these two Town-owned facilities follows this inventory.



Aerial Photo of Ryan Memorial Park

**Lake Carmel Park District**

Lake Carmel Park District owns the waterfront property along the perimeter of Lake Carmel, including several sand beaches and associated facilities, which are designated for use by Park District residents only. Other facilities include Lake Carmel Community Center and Arts on the Lake.



Lake Carmel Park District Beach & Recreation Area

**Carmel Central School District**

Carmel Central School District, the public school district for all residents of the Town of Kent, owns approximately 54 acres at Kent Primary, Elementary and George Fischer Middle School. These properties contain gymnasiums, ball fields, court games and playgrounds that are generally open for use by town residents. The town pays an annual fee to the school district for use of the fields and facilities for its recreation programs.



Aerial Photo of Kent Primary and Elementary School Campus  
Town of Kent  
Recreation Master Plan

## **Putnam County**

Putnam County Memorial Park, the county's only major recreation facility, is located in the south-central area of town. The park has a total of 220 acres, 60 of which are developed for mostly passive recreation.

Recreation activities and facilities include hiking, camping for organized groups, a lake with swimming beach, fishing (age 16 & under), ice skating, x-country skiing, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, picnic pavilions, children's playground, open lawn areas, rest rooms and parking.

Several memorials are located throughout the park, which is also the site of many important County & Local events including the 4-H Fair, Irish Feis, Daniel Ninham Pow-wow, Tour De Putnam, horse & dog shows.



Aerial Photo of Putnam County Memorial Park

## **New York State**

### **New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation**

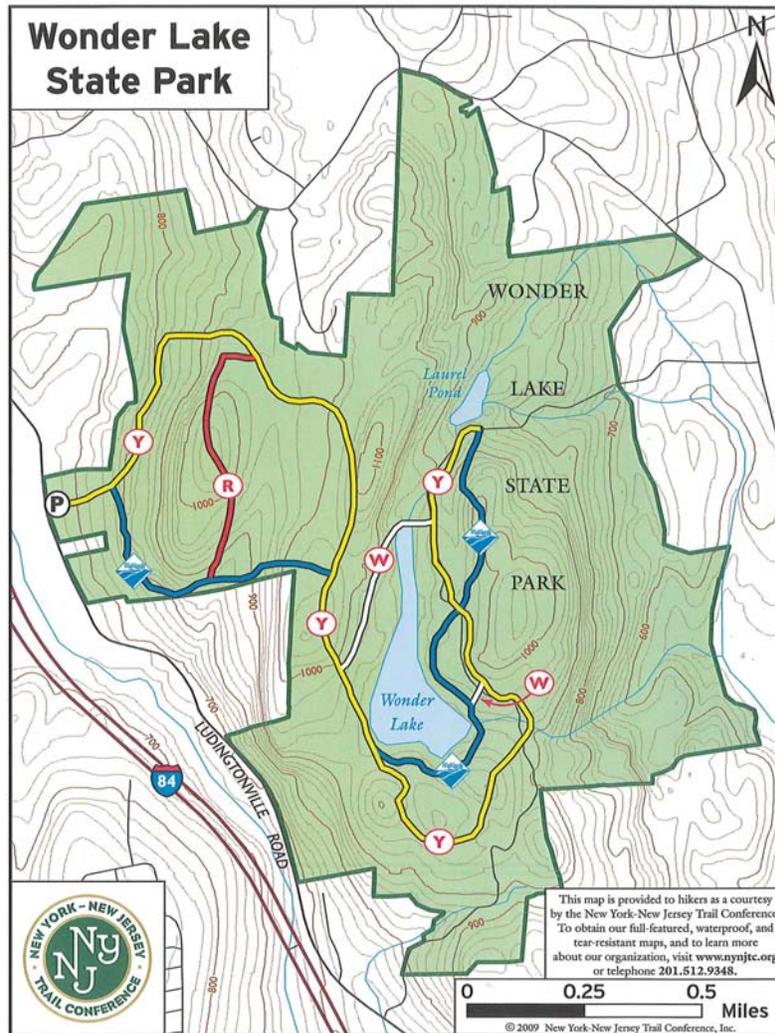
NYSOPRHP owns two parks in town, Fahnestock and Wonder Lake State Parks.

### **Fahnestock State Park**

This 14,086 acre park (1,473 acres in Kent), covering land in Putnam and Dutchess counties, boasts hiking trails, a beautiful beach, picnic areas, scenic campground, and abundant opportunities for boating, hunting, fishing, and birding. The park is also home to the Taconic Outdoor Education Center which provides high quality environmental programming and Fahnestock Winter Park which includes 15 kilometers of groomed trails for cross country skiing and snowshoeing, and an area for sledding.

## Wonder Lake State Park

Lying midway between public lands in Kent and the Great Swamp in Patterson, Putnam County, Wonder Lake State Park is a critical link in the Northern Putnam Greenway. OPRHP acquired the 794-acre Wonder Lake property in November of 1998 using Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funds. The new state park was once the summer home of television star Elizabeth Montgomery. Acquisition provides protection to the Great Swamp watershed and unique open space areas. Recreation activities allowed in the park include Hiking, Fishing and Hunting with proper permits.



Trail Map for Wonder Lake State Park

## **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

NYSDEC controls several Multiple Use Areas (MUAs) and State Forests throughout town, some of which are open for recreation uses such as hiking, fishing and hunting. The definition of a MUA according to NYSDEC is: A parcel of land owned by the state acquired for outdoor recreation, including public camping, fishing, hunting, boating, winter sports, and, whenever possible, to also serve multiple purposes involving the conservation and development of natural resources, including the preservation of scenic areas, watershed protection, forestry and reforestation. There is a total of 2,395 acres of land for recreation uses.

### Multiple Use Areas

White Pond Multiple Use Area contains 276 Acres, 125 of which include White Pond. Facilities include a large parking lot, boat access, and an accessible fishing pier. Car-top boats and boats with electric motors are allowed on this pond. Fishing is permitted, but swimming is not encouraged.

California Hill State Forest is located in the southwestern corner of Kent and contains 950 undeveloped acres. Access is from parking areas off of Gordon Road, Pudding Street and Waywayanda Court. Recreation activities include hunting, hiking, boating, mountain biking, x-country skiing, horseback riding and leashed dogs are allowed.

Big Buck Mountain State Forest, located north of Farmers Mills Road in north-central Kent, contains 146 Acres and is accessed from parking areas located off of Resseque Road.

Ninham Mountain State Forest, named after Chief Daniel Ninham of the Wappingers tribe, contains 1,023 acres in the Town of Kent. This property is very popular with bikers, hikers and horseback riders and has an extensive network of trails and old roads. Public access is from parking areas on Nichols Street, Gipsy Trail Road, and Mt. Ninham Road.

## **Putnam/Northern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services**

BOCES Center for Environmental Education- Madden Outdoor Education Center is located on 120 acres of second-generation forests off of Miller Hill Road in northwestern Kent. The center provides outdoor education programs for youth from Westchester and Putnam Counties.

## **New York City Department of Environmental Protection**

New York City DEP controls approximately 6,000 acres of protected open space, some of which is open for recreation uses such as hiking, fishing and hunting. Many water supply reservoirs and lands are open to the public for low-impact recreational activities when compatible with water supply protection. In order to responsibly provide recreation access to city property, DEP issues a

comprehensive permit- the Access Permit- that allows for fishing and hiking on certain designated areas in the watershed.  
 (New York City Department of Environmental Protection-continued)

Property	Acreage	Recreation Uses
Adams	178	Hiking/Hunting/Fishing
Boyds Corners North	254	Hiking/Hunting/Fishing
Dean Pond	201	Hiking/Hunting
Horse Pound Brook	1,085	Hiking/Hunting/Fishing
Kent Hills	118	Hiking/Fishing
Knapp Road	187	Hiking/Hunting
Mount Ninham	81	Hiking/Hunting
North Putnam	42	Hiking/Hunting
Richardsville	193	Hiking/Hunting
Taconic	119	Hiking/Hunting
White Pond	197	Hiking/Hunting
Total Recreation Land	2,655	

**National Park Service**

The Appalachian Trail runs through the western section of town within Fahnestock State Park. The trail is a 2,175-mile long public footpath. Conceived in 1921 and completed in 1937, private citizens built the trail and thousands each year volunteer to maintain its footprint. From Maine's Mount Katahdin and Georgia's Springer Mountain, this footpath traverses scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild and culturally resonant lands through 14 of the eastern United States.

The A.T. is a hiking trail, enjoyed by an estimated 4 million people each year. It is within a day's drive of 2/3rds of the U.S. population. People of all ages and abilities enjoy short walks, day hikes, and long-distance backpacking journeys. It offers a variety of opportunities for viewing spectacular scenery, for exploring, for adventure, for exercise, for nature study, and for renewal.



Appalachian Trail Map

Town of Kent  
 Recreation Master Plan

## PRIVATE CLUBS, CAMPS, RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL CENTERS & GOLF COURSES

### **Clearpool Education Center**

Clearpool Education Center, a private camp run by Green Chimneys, is located on 350 acres of protected woodlands in south-central Kent. The center includes a lake for swimming boating and aquatic activities, residential cottages, dining hall, classrooms, library, discovery lab, ropes course, gymnasium, outdoor athletic fields and courts, campfire ring with stage, health and wellness center, hiking trails, playground and gardens. The Town recently entered into an agreement with Clearpool as the site for the Recreation Department's Summer Camp program.



Aerial Photo of Clearpool Education Center

### **Holmes Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center**

Holmes Camp & Conference Center is located in the northeast corner of Kent on 550 acres that overlap into the Town of Pawling in Dutchess County. The property supports two year-round conference centers, three year-round retreat cabins, two seasonal youth facilities, a rustic camping program, several tent/trailer and day group areas, and an environmental science and arts program. The Center's three lakes provide the natural resource for swimming and boating activities, as well as winter fishing and ice skating. The Holmes provides programmed events, as well as rental facilities for self-directed conferences and retreats.

### **Children's Bible Fellowship of New York**

This Christian Camp and Conference Center is located on 200 wooded acres in central Kent. It's primary purposes are to create long-lasting relationships with the children of New York City, and to provide life-changing summer experiences for hundreds of students and for thousands of disabled children and adults.

### **Chuang Yen Ministry**

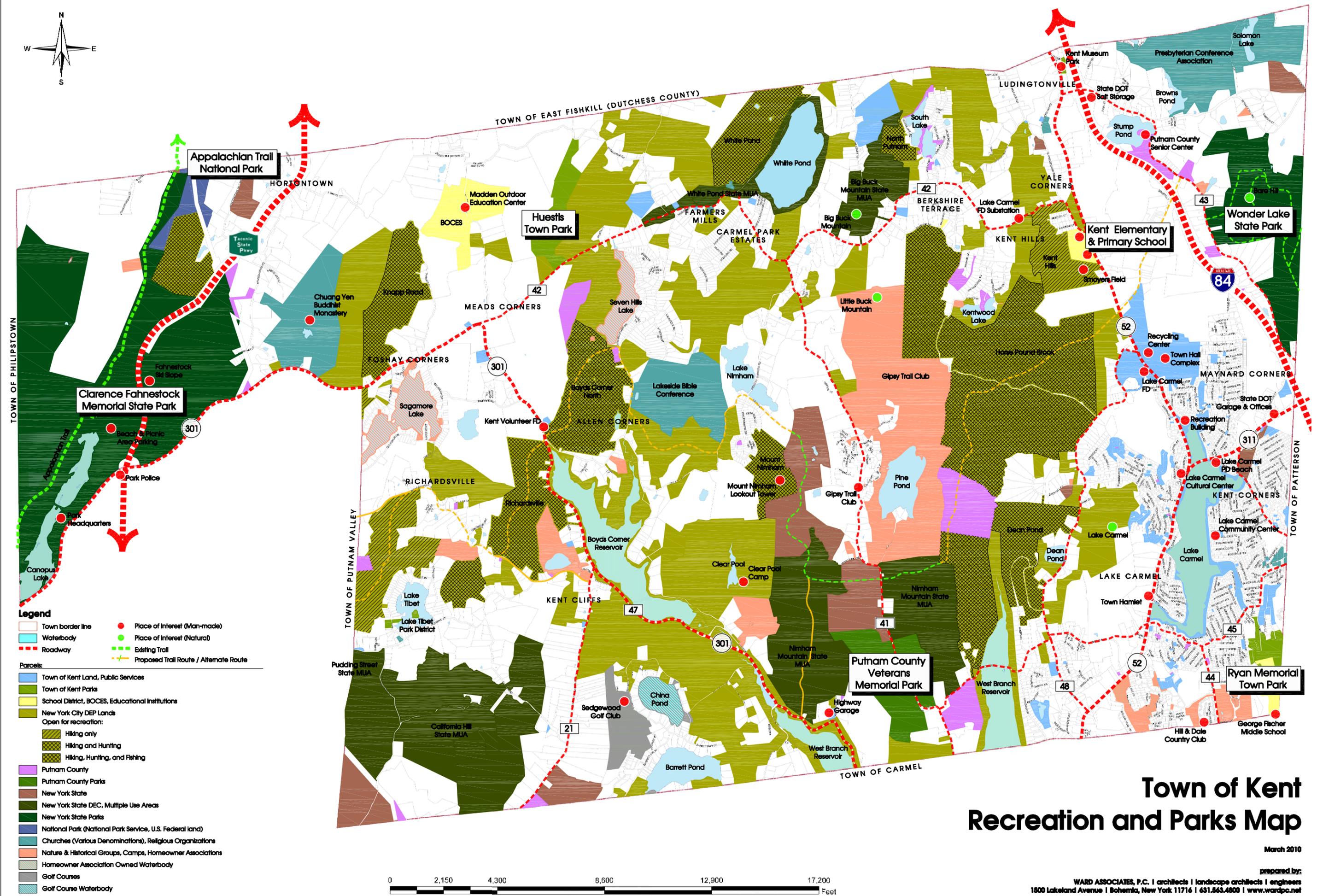
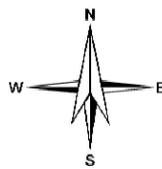
The Monastery, as the home of Buddhist Association of the United States, is situated on 225 acres in western Kent off of Rt. 301. The name of the Monastery "Chuang Yen", means "Majestically Adorned". The "Adornment" refers to the adornment of the Buddha's teachings. Traditionally, Buddhist Monasteries not only served as a focus for religious services and festivals, they were also community centers of learning and activities – both religious and secular. Carrying on that tradition, Chuang Yen Monastery extends and invitation to the public to view the religious services and festivals held here, and be the place to cultivate awareness to develop wisdom.

### **Gypsy Trail Club**

Gypsy Trail Club is a membership community located on 1000 acres of wooded lands off of Route 41 in central Kent. Facilities, including 85 Adirondack style cabins, are provided for tennis, sailing, canoeing, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, cross-country skiing, ice-skating and trap shooting. A Dining Room, which is open every weekend throughout the year, provides the setting for conversation and friendship. In the summer, the most important activity on any given day may involve nothing more than a day on the beach. Since its inception, the Club has attracted a membership that is active and actively involved in creating an uncommon sense of camaraderie.

### **Sedgewood Golf Club**

A private club with a nine-hole links style golf course and pro shop, clay tennis courts, gingerbread style clubhouse and China Pond for swimming.



- Legend**
- Town border line
  - Waterbody
  - Roadway
  - Place of Interest (Man-made)
  - Place of Interest (Natural)
  - Existing Trail
  - Proposed Trail Route / Alternate Route
- Parcels:**
- Town of Kent Land, Public Services
  - Town of Kent Parks
  - School District, BOCES, Educational Institutions
  - New York City DEP Lands
  - Open for recreation:
    - Hiking only
    - Hiking and Hunting
    - Hiking, Hunting, and Fishing
  - Putnam County
  - Putnam County Parks
  - New York State
  - New York State DEC, Multiple Use Areas
  - New York State Parks
  - National Park (National Park Service, U.S. Federal land)
  - Churches (Various Denominations), Religious Organizations
  - Nature & Historical Groups, Camps, Homeowner Associations
  - Homeowner Association Owned Waterbody
  - Golf Courses
  - Golf Course Waterbody

# Town of Kent Recreation and Parks Map

March 2010



prepared by:  
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TOWN OF KENT  
Recreation Master Plan

RECREATION MATRIX TOWN OF KENT	Acreage	Developed Acreage	Active Recreation	Passive Recreation	Basketball- Youth	Basketball-High School	Basketball-Collegiate	Handball	Ice Hockey	Tennis	Badminton	Volleyball	Baseball	Little League Baseball	Softball	Field Hockey	Football	Soccer	1/4 Mile Running Track	Multi-Purpose Court	Trails	Golf Driving Range	Golf Course	Swimming Pool	Beach Area	Playgrounds	
<b>Town of Kent Parks</b>																											
Ryan Memorial Park	14	11	X	X	1					1		2	1	3													1
Huestis Town Park	90	8	X	X	1							1			2												1
Subtotal Town Parks	104	19			2	0	0	0	0	1	0*	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Town of Kent Parks- Lake Carmel PD</b>																											
Lake Carmel Park District*	70	5	X	X	1			1				1									X						5
*LCPD Residents Only																											
Subtotal Lake Carmel Park District	70	5			1			1				1															5
<b>Public Schools</b>																											
Kent Elementary & Primary	26	10	X		2									3				2		1	X						
George Fischer Middle School	28	12	X							2			1		1			3									
Subtotal Public Schools in Kent	54	22			2					2			1	3	1			5		1							
Carmel High School (outside of Kent)			X							4			1	1	1		1		1								
Mathew Patterson ES (outside of Kent)			X											2				1		1							
<b>Putnam County Parks</b>																											
Putnam County Park	220	60	X	X	1							2									X				X	X	
<b>New York State Parks</b>																											
*Fahnestock State Park	1473			X																	X				X	X	
*Wonder Lake State Park	418			X																	X						
<b>US National Park Service</b>																											
*Appalachian Trail	324			X																	X						
<b>TOTAL TOWN OF KENT</b>	2663	106			6			1		3		6	2	6	3			5		1					5	2	
<b>NRPA Minimum Recommend (14,009)</b>		90-150				3				7	3	3	3	3	3	1*	1*	2	1*	1	NA			1*	NA	NA	

## FACILITY ANALYSIS- RYAN PARK

### Existing Facilities- Upper Area

#### **Baseball/Multi-purpose Field (Guglielmo Field)**

- Natural Grass Infield/Outfield, 90 Feet Basepaths
- Right & Left Field- 300 Feet, Center Field- 375 Feet
- Chainlink Backstop, Perimeter Fencing, Gates & Netting
- Sports Lighting
- Scoreboard/PA System
- Flagpole
- Batting Cage
- Dugouts (2)
- Storage
- Pressbox
- Grandstand
- Bleachers



#### **Volleyball Courts (2)**

- Sand Surface with Wood Edging
- Scorekeepers Stand
- Spectator Benches



### **Basketball Court**

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping
- Chainlink Perimeter Fencing & Gates

### **Tennis Court**

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping
- Chainlink Perimeter Fencing & Gates



### **Parking (25+ Spaces)**

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping

### **Other Features & Amenities**

- Picnic Tables



## **Facilities- Lower Area**

### **Little League Baseball/Softball Field (Dugout Field)**

- Natural Grass Infield/Outfield, 60 feet basepaths
- Right & Left Field- 200 Feet, Center Field- 220 Feet
- Chainlink Backstop, Perimeter Fencing & Netting



### **Sports Lighting**

- Scoreboard
- Flagpole

### **Batting cage**

- Dugouts (2)
- Storage
- Pressbox
- Bleachers

### **Softball/Multi-purpose Fields**

- 2 Natural Grass Infields w/ 60 feet basepaths
- 175 Feet Natural Grass Outfields (Overlap)
- Chainlink Backstop, Perimeter Fencing
- Players bench areas /Bleachers



### Children's Playground

- Sand Surfacing w/Wood Edging
- Manufactured Playground Equipment & Swings
- Benches & Picnic Tables



### Picnic Shelter

- Picnic Tables
- Barbeques

### Bandstand

- Wood Decking-stage

### Park Support Building

- Parks Maintenance
- Storage
- Concession
- Comfort Stations
- Vending Machines



### Parking (21 Spaces-Little League Field)

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping

## Parking (50 Spaces-Central Area)

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Stripping



## Other Features & Amenities

- Wood Fences
- Wood & Stone Retaining Walls
- Concrete Steps & Railing Between Upper & Lower Areas
- Wood Steps Between Areas
- Picnic Tables & Barbeques
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Fitness Trail & Equipment
- Horseshoe Courts (2)
- Electrical Service Enclosure
- Portable Comfort Stations



## **Problems Identified by Town & Consultant**

### **Children's Playground**

- Some Equipment and Surfacing may not meet CPSC/ASTM guidelines for children's playgrounds
  - Outdated Equipment
  - Safety Surfacing
  - Safety Distances/Equipment Spacing
  - Accessibility Issues
- No Barrier Free Access to Area
- Recommend Safety Audit by NRPA Certified Safety Inspector

### **Basketball & Courts**

- Repair Asphalt Pavement
- Increase Safety Buffers

### **Parking Areas**

- Repair Asphalt Pavement
- Clearly Delineate Parking Spaces
- Improve Circulation

### **Picnic Shelter**

- Repair or upgrade shelter
- Repair Pavement

### **Bandstand**

- Upgrade Bandstand Area

### **Wood Fences**

- Repair or Replace Where Damaged or Failing

### **Wood & Stone Retaining Walls**

- Repair or Replace Where Damaged or Failing

### **Fitness Trail & Equipment**

- Provide Barrier Free Access to All Areas
- Provide Adequate Clearance and Surfacing around Equipment

### **Electrical Service Enclosure**

- Improve Service & Relocate Enclosure Away from Playground

### **Wood Steps Between Areas**

- Repair Broken Steps & Provide Railing

### **Picnic Tables & Barbeques**

- Remove or Replace Broken Tables & Barbeques



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**EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**EDWARD RYAN MEMORIAL PARK, TOWN OF KENT**



## FACILITY ANALYSIS- HUESTIS PARK

### Existing Facilities

#### **Softball/Multi-purpose Fields**

- 2 Skinned Infields w/ 60 feet basepaths
- 275 Feet Natural Grass Outfields (Overlap)
- Multi-purpose Field 490 x 390 feet
- Chainlink Backstop, Perimeter Fencing & Gates
- Players bench areas
- Bleachers
- Picnic Tables



#### **Volleyball Courts**

- Sand Surface with Wood Edging
- Volleyball Net & Posts

#### **Basketball Court**

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping
- Basketball Backstops
- Spectator Bleachers



### **Parking (60+ Spaces)**

- Asphalt Pavement w/White Striping
- Entrance Road, Guard Rail & Gate

### **Children's Playground**

- Sand Surfacing w/Wood Edging
- Manufactured Playground Equipment & Swings
- Benches & Picnic Tables



### **Other Features & Amenities**

- Stone Walls & Swales
- Picnic Tables & Barbeques
- Kiosk W/Planters
- Flagpole
- Portable Comfort Stations
- Electric Service/Pole
  - Emergency Call Box

### **Natural Areas**

- Heavily Wooded steep Terrain



## **Problems Identified by Town & Consultant**

### **Softball/Multi-purpose Fields**

- Poor Drainage/Outfield Sink Holes
- Lack of Adequate Protect for Spectator Bleacher Areas
- Lack of Irrigation/Field Conditions
- Lack of Sports Lighting for Extended Use

### **Volleyball Courts**

- No Physical Separation from Multi-Purpose fields

### **Basketball Court**

- No Physical Separation from Multi-Purpose fields
- Asphalt Pavement in Poor Condition

### **Parking Inadequate**

- Not Enough Parking for Large Events

### **Children's Playground**

- Some Equipment and Surfacing may not meet CPSC/ASTM guidelines for children's playgrounds
  - Outdated Equipment
  - Safety Surfacing
  - Safety Distances/Equipment Spacing
  - Accessibility Issues
- No Barrier Free Access to Area
- Limited Visibility
- Recommend Safety Audit by NRPA Certified Safety Inspector

### **Natural Areas**

- No Access to or Development of Natural Areas of Park for Hiking Trails & Nature Education

### **Park General**

- Lack of Support Building w/ Comfort Stations & Storage
- Lack of Park Pavilion
- Lack of Adequate Electric Service
- Well Installed but not being used
- No Septic System for Support Building
- Lack of Fitness Trail
- Poor Drainage
- Need for Expansion of Athletic Field Areas
- Need for additional activities- Horseshoe Pits & Bocce Courts
- Need for Additional Benches & Picnic Tables
- No Cell Phone Coverage (Investigate)
- Lack of Maintenance Garage for Storage & Equipment



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**EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN ENLARGEMENT**  
**BILL HUESTIS PARK, TOWN OF KENT**



#### **4. CITIZENS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

*"It is of great importance that the process of community involvement be viewed as vital to a successful planning product, rather than simply fulfilling a requirement. Only through understanding the customer can there be assurance that services provided are wanted." Park, Recreation, Open space and Greenway Guidelines- James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP*

##### **Recreation Stakeholder Meetings**

Community involvement began early in the planning process with a series of recreation Stakeholder Meetings that were held at the Recreation Building October 29<sup>th</sup> & November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The Following groups were invited to attend:

- Arts, Culture & Environmental
  - Arts on the Lake
  - Kent Historical Society
  - Fife & Drum Society
  - Conservation Advisory Committee
  - Various Civic Associations
  - Kent Library
  - Children's Discovery Center
  - Area Businesses
  - Carmel Kent Chamber of Commerce
  - Putnam Arts Council
  - Putnam Chorale
  - Keep Putnam Beautiful
  - Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities
  - Fish & Game
  - Kent Rod & Gun Club
  
- Private Clubs & Camps
  - Clear Pool
  - Knights of Columbus
  - Presbyterian Camp
  - Mission Church
  - Carmel-Kent Lions Club
  - Carmel Rotary
  - Sedgewood Club
  - White Pond Center
  - Ryder Chess Club

- Adult & Senior Groups
  - Senior Citizens Representative
  - Veterans Representative
  - Kent Police Benevolent Association
  - Kent Fire Department
  - Lake Carmel Fire Department
  - Kent Fire Department/Women's Auxiliary
  - Lake Carmel Fire Department/Women's Auxiliary
  
- Recreation Providers
  - Fahnstock Park Director/ State Parks Rep
  - County Park Superintendent
  - County Legislators
  - Lake Carmel Park District
  - Kent Recreation Commission
  - Putnam Recreation for the Handicapped
  - NYCDEP Rep
  - NYSDEC Rep
  
- Athletic Groups
  - Kent Knight Youth Football
  - Kent Recreation Basketball
  - Carmel United Soccer Club
  - Soccer Representative
  - Lacrosse Representative
  - Baseball Representative
  - Softball Representative
  - Men's Softball
  - Men's Basketball
  - Men's Baseball
  - Women's Softball
  - Carmel HS Athletic Director
  - Kent Recreation Director
  
- Education Groups
  - Kent Primary PTO
  - Kent Elementary PTO
  - Parent Council
  - School Board
  - Carmel Schools Facilities Super
  - BOCES- Madden Outdoor Center
  - High School Adult Education
  - PARC
  - Communities That Care
  - Reality Check

- Youth Groups
  - Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts
  - Girl Scouts/Brownies
  - Kent Police Cadets
  - 4-H Youth Group
  - County Youth Bureau
  - CYO Youth Group
  - Carmel HS Interact Club
  - Parent Group/HS Age
  - Children's Committee
  - Tot Moms
  - Pre-school Group
  - Skateboard Group

A follow up meeting, for those who were unable to attend the original meetings, was held on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Town Hall.

The meetings included an overview of the Recreation Master Plan process by the Town's planning consultant including purpose, time frame and planning accomplished to date. Stakeholder Information Forms were distributed for attendees to provide important facts about their group and recreation needs. The balance of the meeting was a roundtable discussion with each stakeholder discussing their thoughts on Kent's Recreation programs and facilities as well as the recreation needs and desires of their particular group.

The following is a brief summary of these discussions.

### **Arts, Culture & Environmental**

Many stakeholders attended the meeting to show their support for Kent Recreation & Parks. A common theme throughout the discussion was that there currently are not enough activities provided for youth in Kent. Residents would like to see the Town provide more facilities, including an indoor community center, so users don't need to rely on the use of school facilities. For example, there is currently no adequate facility for the Town's wrestling program. Some voiced their displeasure with higher fees being charged for recreation programs and use of facilities.

The representative from NYCDEP discussed his position as Recreation Manager, DEP owned land and recreation uses allowed, as well as where residents could get more information via DEP's website. Town representatives discussed their frustration with projects at Horsepond Ridge and Smoyer's Field where Town spent money on planning and design only to have DEP cancel the agreement. DEP is willing to revisit these projects and has done so on similar projects in surrounding municipalities. The NYS Parks representative spoke about the new trails and facilities available at Wonder Lake State Park,

as well as the shortage of Town owned and even privately owned recreation facilities. At Wonder Lake, parking is free, but there are fees for camping, boating and swimming. The veteran's representative discussed recreation for seniors at the VFW and problems with accessibility.

The representative from the Kent Historical Society discussed their involvement with saving the Kent Recreation Building and provided information about the proposed Kent Museum Park on Rt. 52 at the northern entrance to Kent. The wrestling program at Carmel HS that currently has no room to wrestle in was also discussed. The Kent Rod & Gun Club representative discussed the club, membership, shooting range, fishing derbies, programs and courses for bow hunters, pistol permits and big game.

Representatives for Arts on the Lake discussed the not-for-profit group and its efforts to transform the Lake Carmel Firehouse into a cultural center for theatre, classes, art exhibits and outdoor concerts. A recent art exhibit attracted 650 people and other cultural events have attracted between 60 and 90. Residents who pay the membership fee get reduced rates for events. The group is currently working with a \$400,000 grant to refurbish the building, which is only enough to make minimal improvements, and would like to secure additional funding for more large-scale improvements including a 90-seat theatre.

Stakeholders from Seven Lakes Homeowners Association discussed residents' lack of knowledge about, and safety concerns with Huestis Park, especially the lack of restroom facilities and poor access. They also talked about the importance of the Town's Summer Camp program and the need for parking and traffic circulation improvements at Ryan Park. A representative of Putnam County Fish & Game discussed how their programs provide sporting opportunities for kids, and suggested that Kent look at the Town of Beekman for an example of a park that includes all facilities and programs in one park.

### **Education Groups**

These stakeholders agreed that there is a need for more recreation facilities, especially a community recreation center where recreation activities could be provided for all age groups, making the Town of Kent more attractive to families. They believe that because they pay high taxes to live in Kent, the Town should provide adequate recreation programs and facilities locally, and they should not have to rely on the school district and private recreation providers.

Because recreation opportunities are limited in Kent, many residents take advantage of programs and activities offered at Patterson Recreation Center, including sports camp and pre-school camp. The group discussed battles between Kent recreation programs and Carmel Sports Association for

use of school fields and facilities, as well as rules and fees set by the school district for use of their facilities. Although many residents are happy with the Town's summer camp program that has an enrollment of approximately 250+, they believe the program ends too early (2 p.m.), and leaves them in a bind. The group also discussed recreation opportunities at private camps throughout Town such as Clearpool and Holmes.

### **Youth Groups**

Representatives of the Kent Police Cadets and Putnam County 4H discussed educational and recreation opportunities provided by their organizations. The 4H representative talked about the annual fair at Veterans Memorial Park that is attended by approximately 20,000, as well as difficulty of finding adequate space for large meetings in Town. In the past, they have used the Carmel and Mahopac Libraries, Lake Carmel Community Center, Clearpool Camp and VFW Halls. Others attended to discuss their families' involvement in Kent Recreation programs including Community Day and holiday parties, and to show their support for Kent Recreation and Parks. Most agreed the Town needs to provide more space for meetings and would benefit from having a community recreation center similar to Patterson, as well as a swimming pool complex and lighted facilities that could be used in the evening.

### **Private Clubs, Camps & Schools**

The school board representative from the Carmel Central School District discussed the importance of the district and Town working together in a partnership to provide needed recreation facilities for residents of Kent and the district. The district is currently improving gym facilities, including installation of a new floor and bleachers at George Fisher MS, grandstands at Carmel HS and asked for patience with the ongoing construction. It was noted that Kent uses the districts gyms for gymnastics and basketball programs. The Town has an annual contract (approximately \$50,000) with the district for use of its fields and facilities.

The representative from Camp Herrlich in Patterson discussed the year-round program they provide for children as well as their partnership with Kent schools for after-school programs. Their program is geared toward environmental education and includes swimming and small boating. There are opportunities for youth in Kent to become camp councilors. The representative believes the Patterson Recreation Center is currently underutilized and that Kent should take this into account as they plan for a possible community center in Town.

Stakeholders representing Kent Recreation and Parks summer camp program spoke about the lack of adequate facilities at Kent schools and Veterans

Park. Problems include large class sizes, water quality issues with swimming in the lake at Vets Park, lack of adequate shelter during storms, conflicts between camp and summer school, transporting campers between school and park and lack of special programs and activities for older children. The program could be much better if it could be held at one location with adequate facilities.

Representatives from the Putnam County Youth Bureau and Lyons Clubs described their organizations and programs as they relate to Kent Recreation and Parks. PCYB spoke about partnerships and collaborations with schools and parks, mentoring school kids and noted that they mostly use school facilities. The Lyons Club stakeholder spoke about partnering with Kent to provide a central focal point or village green with bulletin board for posting announcements and activities, and their support for improvements along the Route 52 corridor, including a shopping hamlet proposed by Synthesis. Lyons Club currently meets at locations in Mahopac.

Other stakeholders spoke about their families' involvement in Kent Recreation programs, the need for an indoor recreation center, problems between Kent Recreation programs and Carmel sports leagues vying for use of fields and facilities, as well as their issues with Kent programs using Patterson Recreation Center. The representative from Kent Recreation and Parks discussed the proposed senior center and noted that, although an indoor recreation center would be great to have, it would most likely not happen in the short term because of budget constraints and current economic conditions. A long-term plan for an indoor recreation center should be developed.

### **Athletic Groups**

Many residents, including the Director of Human Resources for the City of Peekskill, attended the meeting to show their support for, and discuss the importance of having a recreation master plan to use as a blueprint for improvements to programs and facilities. Residents would like the Town to provide recreation programs and facilities for older children and suggested the development of a skate park. Representatives of Kent Knights Football and Cheerleading programs spoke about how they currently need to rent gym space for their programs because there are not enough facilities in Town. Because of the shortage of practice facilities for girl's softball and other sports, these children have trouble competing once they reach the high school level.

Representatives of Kent White Sox Baseball, a program with 120 kids, explained that they need to rent facilities in Danbury and Fishkill for practice. They would rather use the money for renting facilities to expand and improve the facilities in Kent. They are unhappy with having to pay increased user fees for facilities that league volunteers have paid for and improved.

Representatives of men's softball league talked about the condition of the fields at Huestis Park, where the outfields are in poor condition with uneven ground and sinkholes. The league would like to have a tarp for covering the infield and noted that the league would be willing to perform field maintenance. Their wish list includes field improvements, sports lighting and a support building with restrooms. Representatives of the Kent Recreation Basketball program noted that their adult league is growing, from 6 teams in 2009 to 8 in 2010. Representatives of gymnastics program explained that the program has been reduced because of lack of facilities, while children in surrounding towns have better facilities and begin at a younger age.

Others discussed the importance of recreation to Town residents, as well as their involvement in, and support of Kent Recreation and Parks. They believe that the recreation program is the core of the community and would like to see improvements to facilities and programs, similar to those in surrounding municipalities, including skate parks in key locations around town, additional basketball courts, soccer/ multi-use fields, a swimming facility, indoor community center and extended summer camp hours. They support the idea of a recreation master plan and believe that residents would be willing to pay more for better facilities and programs. They believe that the money, time and energy put into driving to other communities to use their facilities would be better-spent improving Kent's facilities, and discussed the need for more residents to get involved and vote when recreation issues come up.

### **Public Workshop**

Kent residents were invited to participate in a Public Workshop on April 26, 2010 at Town Hall. At the workshop, the Recreation Master Plan consultant made a PowerPoint Presentation and discussed the results of the community survey and preliminary recommendations based on input from stakeholder meetings and the community survey. The presentation included an explanation of the planning process, the need for a town-wide recreation master plan, results of the demographic analysis, parkland inventory, recreation program assessment, citizens' needs assessment, and preliminary recommendations for improvements to Kent Recreation programs and facilities. Following the presentation, residents were invited to comment on the presentation and the Recreation Master Plan. The following is a short summary of the comments related to the Recreation Master Plan.

Residents commented that the demographic data from the 2000 U.S. Census was dated, suggesting that it would be better to use more recent data. Some would also like to see comparisons to other communities recreation programs and facilities, believing that people will decide what community to live in based on recreation programs offered. Some thought that more analysis of the community survey results is required.

Several residents spoke about the Town's summer camp program and the decision to partner with Clearpool Camp. Some were concerned that the decision was made without approval of the Recreation Commission and that Kent residents will no longer be able to take summer jobs as camp councilors during difficult economic times. They also questioned Clearpool's process for screening camp councilors.

Others discussed their families' participation in Town recreation programs and the need for improving existing recreation facilities, a skate park, community swimming pool and an indoor recreation center. They believe there is a need for a better working relationship between the Town and the Carmel Central School District, and that the school district fields are in poor condition. They would like to see restroom facilities at park and school facilities and noted their willingness to volunteer to assist the Recreation department.

Stakeholders from the Farmer's Mills area discussed the need for recreation facilities and programs in that area of Town and requested more information on recreation staffing, coaches and youth who work in parks. Other residents commented on park maintenance and questioned how much staff and budget is needed to maintain the Town's recreation facilities. Other topics of discussion included transportation issues, or the amount of time it takes to drive across town to Ryan Park where most of the Town's programs are offered, as well as the need to get more out of NYCDEP since they control so much of the land in Kent.

A representative from Kent Recreation and Parks thanked all who attended the meeting for their input and noted that the president of the school board was in attendance, an important step towards better cooperation between the Town and Carmel Central School District.

## **Recreation and Parks Survey**

A Recreation & Parks survey questionnaire was developed by the Recreation Master Plan Committee with the assistance of the Town's planning consultant. The Survey was made available for completion by all residents of the Town of Kent via the internet (surveymonkey.com) or written format mailed or hand delivered to the Town Clerk. Kent residents were urged to participate in the survey via announcements on the Town web site and official Town & Recreation functions, word of mouth and posters throughout Town. The Survey began on Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended after 4 full weeks on Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5 PM.

## **Analysis of Survey Results**

The response to the Recreation & Parks Survey was excellent, with 571 residents beginning the survey and answering at least some of the questions and 473 residents completing the entire survey. This is an approximate 10% response rate based on a total of 4,868 households in the Town of Kent. The survey results provided a snapshot of residents' recreation habits and needs and were combined with information from stakeholder and other public input meetings for use in the development of the Recreation Master Plan as follows.

- Of the 571 residents who responded to the survey, 47% reside in the eastern part of Kent (east of Rts. 52 & 48) and 35% reside in central Kent (between Rt. 301, Rts 52 & 48, and south of Rt. 42). The balance (18%) reside in western areas of the Town (north of Rt. 42 and west of Rt. 301).
- 53% of survey respondents live outside of a park district and 46% reside in Lake Carmel Park District.
- 85% of respondents are married and 55% are female.
- The majority of respondents (70%) are between 35 and 59 years of age, with 11% in the 18-34 age group and 19% in the over-60 age group.
- 66% of respondents' spouses are between 35 and 59, with 15% over 60, 6% between 18 & 34 and 14% having no spouse.
- 94% of respondents own their own residence.
- 46% of respondents listed a family income of between \$50,000 and \$100,000, 36% listed \$100,000 & over, 12% between \$30,000 and \$50,000 and 6% less than \$30,000.

- When asked how often they use certain park facilities in Town, the response was as follows:

Often

1. Ryan Park (38%)
2. Veterans Memorial County Park (11%)
3. Huestis Park (10%)
4. Fahnestock State Park (8%)
5. Wonder Lake State Park (3%)

Occasionally

1. Veterans Memorial County Park (60%)
2. Fahnestock State Park (47%)
3. Ryan Park (40%)
4. Huestis Park (38%)
5. Wonder Lake State Park (14%)

Never

1. Wonder Lake State Park (49%)
2. Fahnestock State Park (42%)
3. Huestis Park (39%)
4. Veterans Memorial County Park (28%)
5. Ryan Park (17%)

Not Aware

1. Wonder Lake State Park (34%)
2. Huestis Park (13%)
3. Ryan Park (4%)
4. Fahnestock State Park (4%)
5. Veterans Memorial County Park (2%)

- When asked which park they visit most often, Ryan Park was the answer from 66% of respondents, followed by Veterans Memorial (11%), and Huestis Park (10%).
- When asked how often they use NYSDEC Multiple Use Areas and State Forests, 39% of respondents stated they never use them, 32% use them occasionally, 13% use them often and 16% were not aware of them.
- When asked which NYSDEC MUA they used most often, Ninham Mountain State Forest (47%) and White Pond MUA (47%) were mentioned the most, followed by Big Mountain (3%) and California Hill (3%).

- When asked how often they use NYCDEP recreation lands, 48% stated that they never use them, 21% use them occasionally, 11% use them often, and 21% were not aware of them.
- When asked which NYCDEP recreation lands they used most often, Mount Ninham (50%) was mentioned most, followed by Horse Pound (16%), Kent Hills (13%), Other (13%) and Boyds Corner North (9%).
- 44% of those who responded stated that they use recreation facilities in neighboring towns.
- When asked how often their families use Carmel Central School District facilities, an average of 47% replied never, 31% replied occasionally and 23% replied often. Kent Elementary (24.7%) and Carmel High School (24.5%) were rated highest among often used, while Kent Elementary & Primary were rated highest among occasionally used school facilities.
- When asked how they feel about the Town's Recreation & Park system, responses were as follows:
  1. 74% agreed (or strongly agreed) that they are satisfied with Town park facilities
  2. 80% feel that the quality of recreation instructors and supervisors is adequate
  3. 65% think that there are sufficient opportunities for children to use their free time constructively
  4. 57% disagreed (or strongly disagreed) with the statement that the type and quality of activities offered for teens is adequate
  5. 61% feel that more park and recreation space is needed in their neighborhood
  6. 62% believe they need more open space and natural areas.
  7. When asked about the quality of parks maintenance, 87% think it is adequate
  8. 57% of respondents stated their willingness to volunteer to clean up parks
  9. 77% of respondents disagreed when asked if they think the Town should charge user fees at Town parks
  10. 67% believe there should be more public education on how they can use their free time
  11. 95% feel that recreation is important to their family
  12. 65% would take advantage of art, ballet, music, drama and other creative and artistic efforts if programs were made available
  13. 71% think that there should be more sports activity programs offered for youth

- 14. When asked whether there should be more lighted softball fields for youth and adults, 69% agreed that there should be
- 15. 60% agreed that there should be more tennis courts
- 16. 62% think that there is an adequate number of playgrounds
- 17. 84% of respondents agreed (54% strongly) that the Town should have a recreation center to provide indoor recreation activities for residents of all ages
- 18. When asked if there should be a public pool complex for Town residents, 68% agreed (43% strongly).
- 19. 80% agreed that there should be more activities for senior citizens
- 20. 82% agreed that more activities and sports for young adults should be offered

- When asked to indicate the importance of certain types of recreation facilities that the Town should provide, the response was as follows in order of priority:

Top Priorities

- 1. Swimming Facilities
- 2. Nature Areas & Trails
- 3. Lighted Ballfields & Courts
- 4. Summer Camp Indoor Outdoor Facility
- 5. Boating, Canoeing, Kayak Access
- 6. Playgrounds
- 7. Baseball Fields
- 8. Little League Baseball Fields
- 9. Softball Fields
- 10. Fishing Access

Would Use

- 1. Picnic Areas
- 2. Boating, Canoeing, Kayak Access
- 3. Playgrounds
- 4. Fishing Access
- 5. Baseball Fields
- 6. Skate or Wheel Park
- 7. Soccer Fields
- 8. Softball Fields
- 9. Lighted Ballfields & Courts
- 10. Dog Park

Would Not Use

- 1. Field Hockey Fields
- 2. Lacrosse Fields

3. Frisbee Golf
  4. Bocce Courts
  5. Dog Park
  6. Skate Park or Wheel Park
  7. Soccer Fields
  8. Softball Fields
  9. Baseball Fields
  10. Lighted Ballfields & Courts
- When asked to indicate the importance of certain types of recreation activities and programs that the Town should provide, the response was as follows in order of priority:

Top Priorities

1. Team Sports
2. Fitness & Health Programs
3. Swimming Instruction
4. Special Events (car shows, concerts, arts & crafts fair, etc.)
5. Teen Programs
6. Adult Programs
7. Ice Skating
8. Walking Programs
9. Pre-school Programs
10. Hiking

Would Use

1. Hiking
2. Walking
3. Special Events
4. Adult Programs
5. Miniature Golf
6. Ice Skating
7. Fitness & Health Programs
8. Fishing
9. Cultural Arts Programs
10. Horseback Riding

Would Not Use

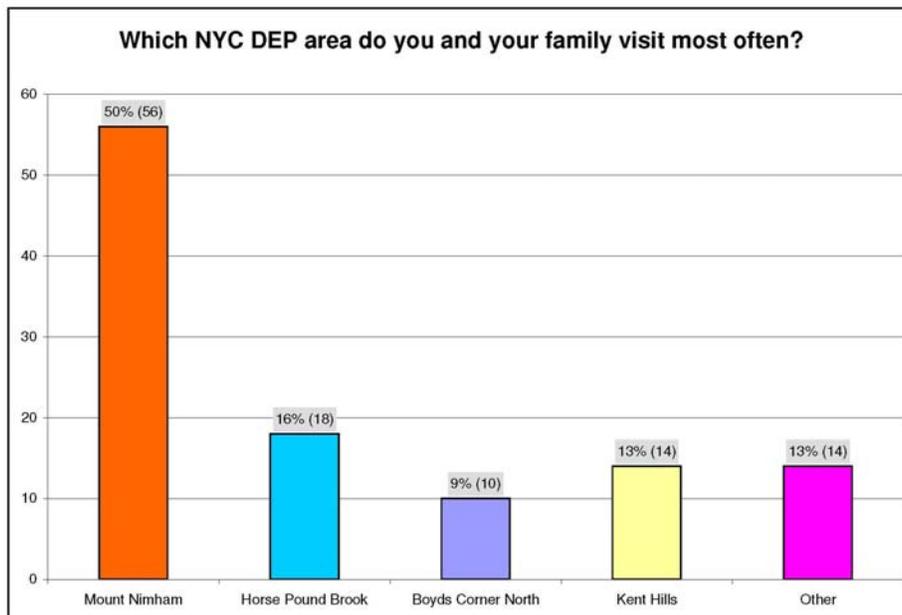
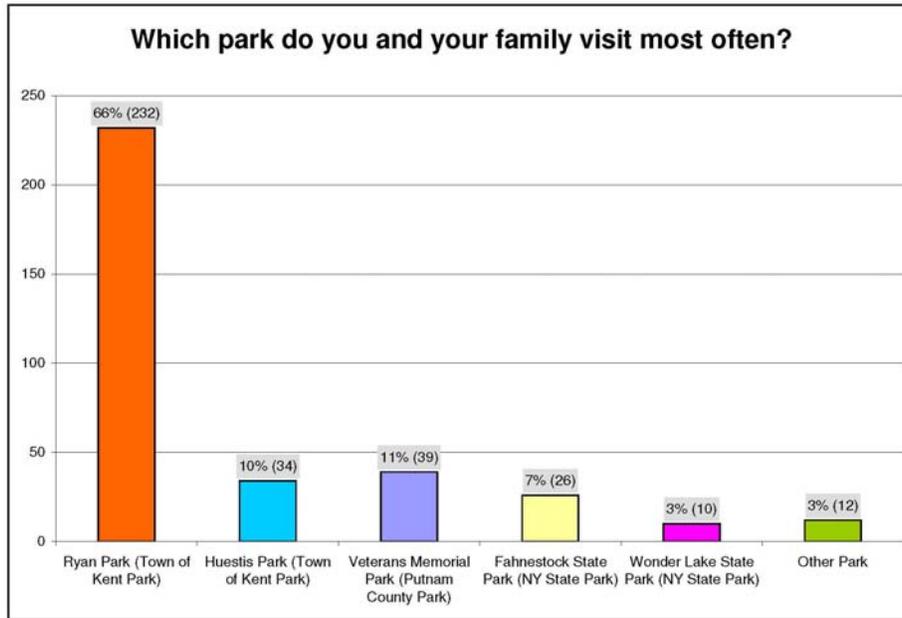
1. Field Hockey
2. Lacrosse
3. Roller Hockey
4. Cross Country Skiing
5. Recreation for Disabled
6. Track & Field Events
7. Pre-school Programs

8. Senior Citizen Programs
  9. Horseback Riding
  10. Cultural Arts Programs
- The most attended special events offered by the Town were as follows:
    1. Town Community Day (58% attended)
    2. None (34.9%)
    3. Movie Nights (30% attended)
    4. Children's Summer Entertainment Shows (23%)
    5. Annual Egg Hunt (23%)
    6. Halloween Parade (18%)
    7. Pumpkin Design Contest (16%)
    8. Children's Holiday Party (16%)
    9. Halloween Candy Hunt (16%)
  - When asked how often they use Town Park & Recreation facilities, the response was as follows:
    1. Weekly (19%)
    2. 2-3 times a week (15%)
    3. 2-3 times a month (15%)
    4. 8-12 times a year (13%)
    5. 3-8 times a year (11%)
    6. Once or twice a year (11%)
    7. 4-5 times a week (7%)
    8. Less than once or twice a year (5%)
    9. Never (4%)
    10. Daily (3%)
  - 77% of respondents stated that they would NOT be willing to pay higher taxes to support Parks & Recreation programs and facilities
  - 55% stated that they would NOT be willing to pay a fee to use Parks & Recreation programs & facilities
  - 72% were open to sharing recreation programs and facilities with neighboring towns
  - When residents were asked what type of new recreation facilities or programs they would like to have, the largest response was for the following programs and facilities:
    1. Recreation Center/Indoor (30%)
    2. Swimming Pool (28%)
    3. Ball Fields/Sports Lighting
    4. Parks/Nature Trails
    5. Courts (Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball)

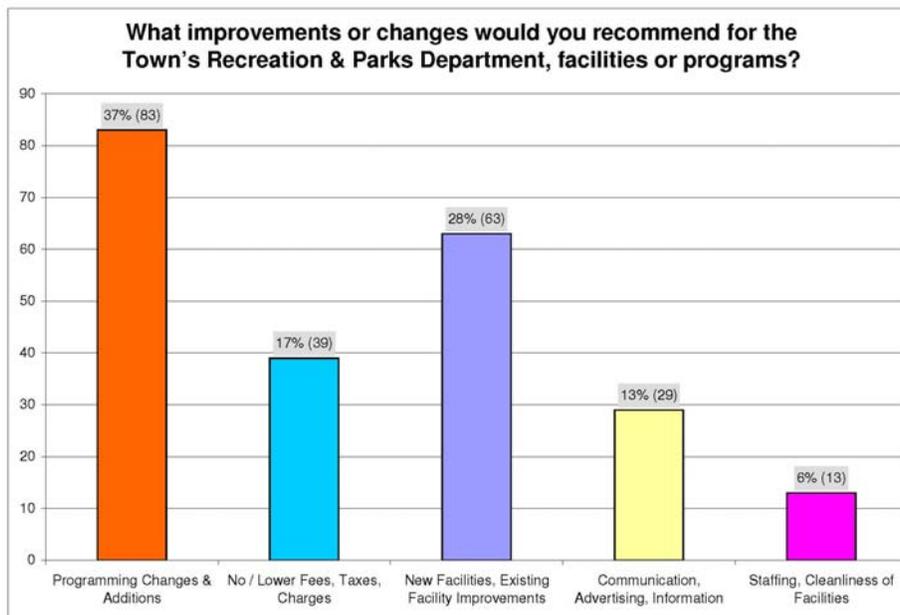
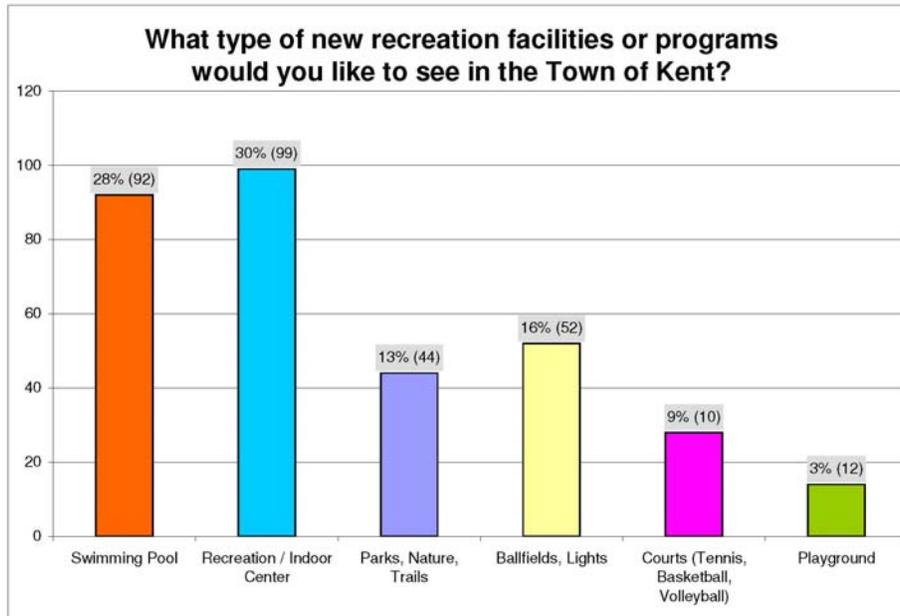
## 6. Playgrounds

- When asked which type of recreation program or activity residents would be willing to assist with as a volunteer, the response was as follows:
  1. Not Interested (35%)
  2. Special Events (33%)
  3. Cleanup/Setup (28%)
  4. Special Projects (25%)
  5. Coach (23%)
  6. Chaperone (19%)
  7. Teacher (9.3%)
  8. Sponsor (5%)
  
- Residents prefer that the Town inform them about local recreation and parks as well as related programs using the following methods:
  1. Email (55.6%)
  2. Town Website (49%)
  3. Newspaper (46%)
  4. Schoolhouse News (42%)
  5. School Flyers (39%)
  6. Leisure Line (22%)
  7. Comcast Channel 8 (20%)
  8. Word of Mouth (19%)
  9. Radio (16%)
  10. School Ed Channel 22 (12%)
  
- When residents were asked what improvements or changes they would recommend for the Town's Recreation & Parks Department facilities or programs, the largest response was for the following programs and facilities:
  1. Programming changes and additions (37%)
  2. New facilities/Improve existing facilities (28%)
  3. No fees/Lower fees/Don't increase taxes (17%)
  4. Communication, advertising, information on parks & recreation (13%)
  5. Staffing/Facility cleanliness

## Recreation Survey Results- Selected Charts



## Recreation Survey Results- Selected Charts



## **5. PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT & PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT**

### **Parks & Recreation Department**

#### **Current Organization & Staff**

##### Recreation Commission (Volunteers)

The Kent Recreation Commission meets the last Tuesday of each month (unless it's a holiday) at a Town meeting facility at 7:00PM. The ideas and suggestions of the residents are vital to help the Commission develop the most satisfactory program possible. All meetings are open to the public.

Maryanne Gierer-Chairperson  
Dr. John Maher  
Katie Connor  
Kevin Douchkoff  
Joe Colavito  
Robert Ulich

##### Parks & Recreation Staff

Parks & Recreation Director (Part Time Position)  
Clerk (Full time)  
Clerk (Part time)  
Recreation Assistant  
Recreation Programs Coordinator

##### Parks Maintenance Staff

Crew Chief  
Laborer  
Laborer

#### **Current Facility Use Policies**

Kent Recreation sponsored programs involve youth baseball, softball, gymnastics, soccer, basketball and many special events that involve youth registered in the Town of Kent Recreation & Parks Department who reside in Kent and/or Carmel Central School District only. Kent Recreation sponsors programs for adults who live in Kent and/or live in the Carmel Central School District. Those who work for the Town or work for the school district may also participate in these programs.

Since there is a shortage of facilities during high-use times, use is limited to recreation sponsored and affiliated community based programs. Facility use priorities are as follows:

1. Kent Recreation sponsored programs that serve residents of the Town of Kent and Carmel Central School District
2. Recognized affiliated community based programs that serve eligible residents only, and any partnerships with Kent Recreation
3. Resident groups of residents, church, civic, social clubs associated with Town of Kent
4. Carmel Central School District programs

**Current Recreation Programs**

**Spring Programs & Special Events**

<u>Program/Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
Boys Baseball	491	\$60-100	RP,HP,KS
Baseball Jamboree	75-150	\$2	Ryan Park
Girls Softball	153	\$60-100	RP,KS
Womens Softball	90+	N/A	Ryan Park
Mens Softball	168	\$900/Team	Huestis Park
Gymnastics	212	\$70	Kent Schools
Bowling	75-110	\$70	Carmel Bowl
Easter Egg Hunt	500+	Free	Kent Schools

**Summer Programs & Special Events**

<u>Program/Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
Day Camp	230	\$350-425	*RP,KS,VM
Creative Play	26	\$150-225	Kent Schools
Movie Nights	150+	Free	Ryan Park
Critters Party	80+	Can of food	Ryan Park
Renegades Trip	40-90	\$10-12	Dutchess Stadium
Car Show	500	\$10/Car	Ryan Park
Childrens Entertainment	70-150	N/A	Ryan Park
Jam Session	70-200	\$2	Ryan Park

**Fall & Winter Programs & Special Events**

<u>Program/Event</u>	<u>Participants</u>	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
Soccer	306	\$60	Ryan Park
Basketball	363	\$65-100	KS,GFS
Young Mens Bball	N/A	N/A	KS
Mens Basketball	88	\$100	MPS
Mens Softball	96	\$700/Team	Huestis Park
Gymnastics	180	\$70	Kent Schools
Bowling	64/52	\$70	Carmel Bowl
Ski Club	45 Families	\$25+Rentals	Thunder
RidgeCommunity Day	1,500-2,000+	Free	Ryan Park
Family Day	300-500	Free	Ryan Park

Program/Event	Participants	Fee	Location(s)
Pumpkin Painting	90-110	\$5	Ryan Park
Halloween Parade	200	Free	Ryan Park
Flashlight Tag	200	Free	Ryan Park
Holiday Party	110	\$2	Kent Schools

\*For summer 2010, the Town of Kent entered into an agreement with Clearpool to run the Town's Summer Camp Program. Clearpool offers better facilities, all programs at one location, and a schedule that meets the needs of Kent residents. Many of these changes were requested by Kent residents during the citizens needs analysis. The Town reports that the transition to Clearpool has been very successful.

### **Comparison to Recreation Programs in Surrounding Communities**

A review of available information on recreation programs and facilities in surrounding communities similar to Kent in population and demographics was conducted. These included Pleasant Valley, Patterson, Beekman, Beacon, Lagrange, Southeast, Putnam Valley and Red Hook. The recreation programs, facilities, websites and information available to residents in those communities were compared to the same in the Town of Kent.

Based on this review and information provided by the Kent Recreation Department, the following recommendations are suggested for improving the Town's recreation department and programs.

### **Recommendations**

- Incorporate Full-time Parks & Recreation Director w/ appropriate staff to manage existing programs and facilities. Make adjustments to and add staff as required to program and maintain proposed improvements to existing and new facilities.
  - Develop Mission Statement for Parks and Recreation Department
  - Continue and expand Parks & Recreation director and staff involvement in National, State and local recreation and park societies (NRPA), NYSRPS, HVLSA)
  
- Develop brochure on an annual or bi-annual basis advertising recreation programs and facilities.
  - Send flyer to all Town residents announcing brochure and how to get a copy (website, Town Hall, Parks & Recreation Dept.)

- Improve Town of Kent website pages devoted to Parks & Recreation Department.
  - Provide information on all parks and recreation facilities and programs, as well as staff contact info.
  - Allow residents to sign up and pay for programs through the website.
  - Provide electronic version of brochure.
  - Use social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter to communicate with Town Residents

### **Future Recreation Programs**

Based on input from meetings with Town stakeholders, information provided by the Parks & Recreation Department and comparison to what similar communities in Putnam & Dutchess counties are providing, the following is a list of desired recreation programs and special events that currently are not being offered by Town of Kent.

In order to provide many of these desired programs, additional facilities, as well as enhancements to existing facilities and recreation staff will be required.

Cultural Events- Theatre Group, Plays, Performances, Music

Exercise Programs- Yoga, etc.

Outdoor Skills- Hiking, Camping, Fishing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Small Boat Sailing

Nature Programs

Cooking, Knitting, Quilting, Homemaking

Senior Citizens Events

Tours, Trips

Hobbie Clubs- Stamps, Coins, Chess, Railroad, Airplane

Arts & Crafts, Woodworking

Dance Instruction

Pre-school Programs

Computer Instruction

Archery Lessons

Golf Lessons

Tennis Lessons

Swim Team- Lessons

Ice Skating, Inline Skating

Dog Obedience School

Bicycle Safety

Swap Event- Ski & Sports Equipment

## 6. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Goals & Objectives of the Kent Recreation Master Plan have been developed using a combination of community input from Kent residents during the planning process, including results of the recreation and parks survey, input from Kent Recreation and Parks staff, recommendations provided in the Kent Comprehensive Plan, New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and Putnam County's Vision 2010.

➤ **GOAL- Provide every resident in the Town of Kent with best-in-class recreation and park services in existing, proposed and future parks and recreation facilities.**

○ OBJECTIVES

- Improve existing recreation and park facilities to maximize their use for existing and needed Town programs
  - Huestis Park
  - Ryan Park
  - Park District recreation facilities (In collaboration with Park District)
- Add or improve existing facilities to serve a broader cross-section of the population
  - Older Youth (Teens)
  - Adults
  - Senior Citizens
- Provide recreation facilities for currently underserved areas of the Town
  - Develop neighborhood parks on Town or Park District-owned property in heavily developed residential areas
    - Neighborhood parks generally include a children's playground, game courts and a small multi-use field or lawn area
- Continue to plan for the addition of recreation facilities most desired by Town residents
  - Community Swimming Facility
  - Nature areas and trails
  - Lighted athletic fields and courts
  - Indoor Recreation Center
  - Boating, canoeing and kayak access
  - Playgrounds
  - Athletic Fields (baseball, softball, LL baseball)
  - Fishing access

- Educate and inform Town residents how to take advantage of abundant NYC & NYS-owned land, facilities and programs for permitted recreation activities
- Provide barrier-free access to all existing and future Town-owned recreation and park facilities
- Provide appropriately trained staff in adequate quality and quantity to program and maintain existing and proposed Town-owned facilities
  - Establish a full time recreation director
  - Provide a professional recreation and parks staff
- Enhance pedestrian and bicycle connections to and between the Town's parks, schools, municipal facilities, open spaces and future hamlet
  - Lake Carmel Perimeter Path with connections to Route 52 corridor and future hamlet, Ryan Park, Arts on the Lake, Town Hall complex and Kent schools
  - Support implementation of the Kent portions of the County Greenway System
  - Partner with KCAC on the paper roads program and to plan and implement a recreation trails network

➤ **GOAL- Provide the opportunity for community involvement in the planning, funding, construction, programming and maintenance of recreation and park facilities.**

○ OBJECTIVES

- Provide the means for public participation during the planning process for improvements to existing and new recreation and park facilities
- Encourage and support volunteerism and other forms of private sector involvement in facility improvements and maintenance
- Keep the public informed of plans and available recreation services to encourage active participation in the success and future direction of the recreation and parks system
- Use the Town web site to advertise meetings, present plans and receive comments from residents

➤ **GOAL- Encourage collaboration with government agencies on a local, state and national level.**

○ OBJECTIVES

- Collaborate with surrounding town governments, Putnam County, Carmel CSD, New York State OPRHP, DEC, NYCDEP and other departments within the Town of Kent to improve and expand recreation programs and facilities
- Encourage active involvement of Town recreation staff with national, state and local recreation and park societies (NRPA, NYSRPS, HVLSA) to keep Town up to date on recreation and park issues
- Ensure active involvement of Town stakeholders from the earliest stages of planning and design when partnering on recreation and parks projects

➤ **GOAL- Improve partnership with Carmel Central School District and develop compatible working relationship for provision of quality recreation facilities and programs for residents of Kent and CCSD**

○ OBJECTIVES

- Appoint Town recreation liaison to attend all CCSD Board of Education meetings related to facility planning or improvements and invite CCSD to attend Town of Kent Recreation Commission or Town Board meetings
  - Develop and nurture an open, healthy line of communication
- Partner with CCSD for planning and implementation of improvements to their indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, which can result in cost savings for the Town and school district
  - Cooperate on development of plan for School-Park concept on NYCDEP (Smoyer's Field) and adjacent Kent Schools complex
- Improve connections between Town of Kent parks and school district property to allow for sharing of recreation facilities and programs
  - Ryan Park & George Fisher Middle School
  - Huestis Park & Madden Outdoor Recreation Center (BOCES)
  - NYCDEP (Smoyer's Field) and Kent Schools complex (proposed School-Park)

- Include CCSD liaison in planning discussions and meetings related to proposed indoor community recreation or swimming pool complex. Partnering with the school district on development of these needed facilities on Town or school property can result in cost savings for both
- **GOAL- Develop and improve partnerships with NYCDEP, NYS Parks, NYSDEC, private camps and lakefront communities to take advantage of all recreation land, activities and programs available**
  - OBJECTIVES
    - Town recreation liaison or director shall meet with appropriate staff from NYCDEP & NYSOPRHP/DEC on a bi-annual basis or as required to keep informed on recreation land, activities and programs available
    - Meet with appropriate staff from NYCDEP to discuss requirements for use of DEP-owned property for Town recreation programs and facilities
      - Smoyer's Field property adjacent to Kent Schools complex for development of School-Park recreation complex
      - NYCDEP-owned property adjacent to Huestis Park
- **GOAL- Encourage private recreation initiatives to supplement public facilities.**
  - OBJECTIVES
    - Partner with Kent White Sox, Carmel Sports Association and other private or not-for-profit organizations for youth athletic programs, fund raising, field improvements and maintenance, etc.
    - Encourage planning for future development of private or public/private recreation facilities to provide desired indoor facilities (swimming pools/aquatic center, ice rinks, athletic fields, gymnasiums, health or youth centers)
- **GOAL- Provide facilities that promote sustainability goals by developing environmentally sensitive design principles.**
  - OBJECTIVES
    - Develop requirements for the use of sustainable construction and maintenance techniques
      - Use of local and recycled materials in construction of new facilities

- Use of organic fertilizers and integrated pest management for field maintenance
- Use of native plant materials to reduce need for irrigation
- Construct recreation buildings in energy efficient ways, using LEED program or a comparable standard
- Protect and improve water quality of lakes, streams and reservoirs
  - Incorporate Water Quality Improvement projects, including those funded by NYSDEC, into park improvement plans where feasible
    - Ryan Park, Recreation Building

➤ **GOAL- Educate and promote the use and stewardship of Kent's historic, cultural and natural resource heritage.**

- OBJECTIVES
  - Preserve and promote the Town's abundant cultural and natural resources
  - Develop environmental education and interpretive facilities
  - Support Arts on the Lake and other private groups offering historic, cultural or natural resource programs

## 7. SPECIFIC ACTIONS & IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### SPECIFIC ACTIONS- GENERAL

- **Adoption of Recreation Master Plan by Town Board (2011)**
  - The adopted Recreation Master Plan should be used by the Town as a guide to make recreation program decisions and conduct capital planning for improvements to existing and addition of new facilities
  - The plan should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis as community recreation needs evolve
  
- **Assess all NYCDEP-owned land that is best suited for athletic field and active recreation use, and meet with appropriate DEP representatives to inquire about regulations for development (2011)**
  - Incorporate into Town park system land best suited for current and future park and recreation needs that are allowed by NYCDEP (athletic fields, nature trails & education programs)
  
- **Assess all Town-owned land and paper streets for development of needed recreation facilities (2011)**
  - Incorporate into Town park system land best suited for current and future park and recreation needs (community recreation center, swimming pool, pedestrian/bike trails & connections, court games, neighborhood parks)
  - If feasible, Town-owned land to be incorporated into parks system should be centrally located (community center athletic fields or pool) and in areas of Town that are currently underserved, especially the heavily populated residential areas around Lake Carmel and north/central areas of Town (neighborhood parks w/small fields and courts, pedestrian/bike trails & connections)
  
- **Provide additional access to and use of the abundant number of lakes and water bodies for aquatic recreation activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, viewing and nature study**
  - Improve Lake Carmel Park District recreation facilities in and around Lake Carmel. Take advantage of NYCDEP and NYSDEC owned water bodies and properties for any recreation activities that are allowed by those agencies
  - Educate the community; beginning at an early age, on NYCDEP, NYSDEC and NYS Parks owned land and water, including why it is protected and what recreational and educational uses are allowed

- **Review and, if necessary, update the Town requirements for recreation land and fees to be provided by residential and commercial developers**
  - When developers propose to provide land in lieu of recreation fees as part of new developments, the Town Planning Board should require that the land to be provided meet certain requirements for the development of desired recreation facilities (i.e.- no steep slopes, wetlands or other site constraints)
  
- **Plan for and add recreation and maintenance staff and equipment required to program and maintain existing and proposed recreation and park facilities**
  - Hire full time recreation director and professional staff to manage programs and facilities (2010-2011)
  - Add necessary staff to manage new programs and facilities as they are implemented
  
- **Improve barrier-free access to all recreation and park facilities**
  - Perform in-depth accessibility assessment of all existing recreation and park facilities and develop plan for necessary upgrades to be accomplished in order of importance (2011-2012)
  - Require all proposed and future recreation and park facilities to meet state, local and national ADA requirements for barrier-free access
  
- **Employ certified playground safety inspector to perform safety audit for all existing children's playgrounds at parks in Town (2011)**
  - Upgrade or remove equipment or surfacing that does not meet current C.P.S.C., A.S.T.M., and A.D.A. guidelines for safety and accessibility. All new playgrounds shall conform to these requirements
  - Develop schedule for regular inspections and maintenance of playgrounds in accordance with National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) guidelines
  - Educate recreation staff on playground safety issues and consider attending Certified Playground Safety Inspector course offered by NPSI (National Recreation and Park Association)

## **SPECIFIC ACTIONS- SHORT TERM (1-5 YEARS)**

### **➤ Design & Implement Huestis Park Improvements**

- Contract professional consultant to develop park improvement plan that can be implemented in phases over several years (2011)
  - Include feasibility study to determine best method to improve athletic fields subgrade and drainage problems- include possible conversion to synthetic turf
  - Plan should address children's playground, athletic fields, court games, support building, electric service & lighting, parking expansion, perimeter fitness trail & access paths, natural areas and park amenities
- Implement priority improvements (2011-2012)
  - Upgrade children's playground in accordance with findings of safety audit
  - Improve athletic fields subgrade & drainage
  - Expand/Improve parking area
  - Install barrier free access to all facilities
  - Improve access into natural areas- nature trail, kiosk, nature education
- Implement phase 2 improvements (2013-2014)
  - Provide electric service
  - Install support building
  - Install perimeter fitness trail
  - Install irrigation system for athletic fields
- Future improvements (2014-2015)
  - Install sports and security lighting
  - Expand & improve court games

### **➤ Design & Implement Ryan Park Improvements**

- Contract professional consultant to develop park improvement plan that can be implemented in phases over several years (2011)
  - Include feasibility study for repair or replacement of picnic shelter and upgrade of electrical service and enclosure
  - Plan should address children's playground, athletic fields drainage & irrigation, dugouts and press boxes, support building, court games, electric service & lighting, parking expansion, access paths, natural areas, park amenities, connection path to GFMS and expansion of upper parking area and recreation



- **Planning, Design and Construction of Smoyer's Field/Kent Schools School-Park Complex**
  - Form partnership with CCSD to plan school-park complex that will serve as central active recreation sports complex for Kent and CCSD (2010)
  - Meet with NYCDEP to discuss requirements and regulations for Town recreation use of DEP land adjacent to Kent Schools complex (2010)
    - Multi-purpose Athletic Fields
    - Parking
  - Meet with CCSD to discuss concept of shared School-Park facility (2010)
    - Improve outdoor recreation facilities at Kent Schools complex
      - Athletic Fields
      - Court Games
      - Playgrounds
      - Support Building/Comfort Stations for School-Park users
  - Secure agreement for use of land with NYCDEP (2011)
  - Contract professional consultant to update plans designed by Insite Engineering (2011-2012)
    - Plan should include improvements allowed by NYCDEP for development of active recreation facilities including multi-use athletic fields and parking
    - Work with CCSD for design of support building with comfort stations on school property
  - Implement planned improvements (2012-2013)
  
- **Preliminary Planning for Community Swimming Pool Complex**
  - Form planning committee and schedule meetings to involve public in planning and design process (2013-2014)
    - Invite CCSD representatives to be part of process
      - A joint effort by the Town and school district for a facility that can be used by both can result in significant cost savings
    - Site selection- Town-owned, school-owned or property to be acquired
    - Selection of swimming pool and support facilities to be included
    - Budget and funding sources for design, construction, staffing and maintenance

- **Final Planning & Design for Indoor Community Recreation Center**
  - Contract professional consultant to finalize planning and design of community recreation center desired by Town government and residents (2013-2014)
  
- **Planning, Design and Implementation of Enhancements to Town's Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails (2011-2015)**
  - Continue partnership with Putnam County for implementation of Kent portions of County Greenway System
  - Implement bicycle connection improvements on Routes 301 & 52
  - Continue to support KCAC efforts to develop recreation trails and facilities on paper roads and as part of the Highlands Trail Extension

### **SPECIFIC ACTIONS- MID TERM (6-10 YEARS)**

- **Preliminary Planning for Lake Carmel Perimeter Improvements**
  - Partner with Lake Carmel Park District to form planning committee and schedule meetings to involve public in planning and design process (2016)
    - Assess existing facilities and develop scope of improvements
      - Pedestrian and bicycle paths
      - Lake access
      - Beaches
      - Recreation facilities
    - Budget and funding sources for design, construction, staffing and maintenance
  
- **Planning and Design of Neighborhood Parks**
  - Form planning committee and schedule meetings to involve public in planning and design process (2017)
    - Select Town and/or Park District-owned properties in heavily populated residential areas to be developed
    - Select recreation facilities to be included
  
  - Contract professional consultant to develop neighborhood park plans that can be implemented in phases over several years (2017)

- **Final Planning and Design for Community Swimming Pool Complex**
  - Contract professional consultant to finalize planning and design of community swimming pool complex desired by Town government and residents (2018-2019)
- **Construction of Indoor Community Recreation Center (2015-2016)**
- **Construction of Highest Priority Neighborhood Park (2018)**

**SPECIFIC ACTIONS- LONG TERM (11-15 YEARS)**

- **Construction of Community Swimming Pool Complex**
- **Construction of Additional Neighborhood Parks**
- **Implementation of Lake Carmel Perimeter Improvements**



### HUESTIS PARK IMPROVEMENTS (TOP PRIORITY-1-5 YEARS)

### IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CONNECTIONS (MID-TERM 5-10 YEARS)

### KENT MUSEUM PARK

### LOCAL PARK (LONG TERM-10-15 YEARS)

### SMOYER'S FIELD/KENT SCHOOLS PARK/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS (MID-TERM-5-10 YEARS)

### TOWN HALL COMPLEX COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER (MID-TERM-5-10 YEARS)

### SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX (LONG TERM 10-15 YEARS)

### LAKE CARMEL PERIMETER IMPROVEMENTS (MID-TERM 5-10 YEARS)

### FUTURE TOWN HAMLET/PARK (LONG TERM 10-15 YEARS)

### RYAN PARK IMPROVEMENTS (TOP PRIORITY-1-5 YEARS)

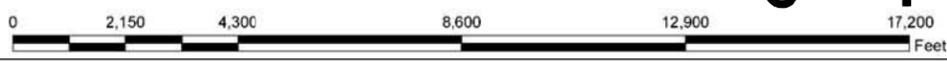
### CLEARPOOL CAMP TOWN SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM

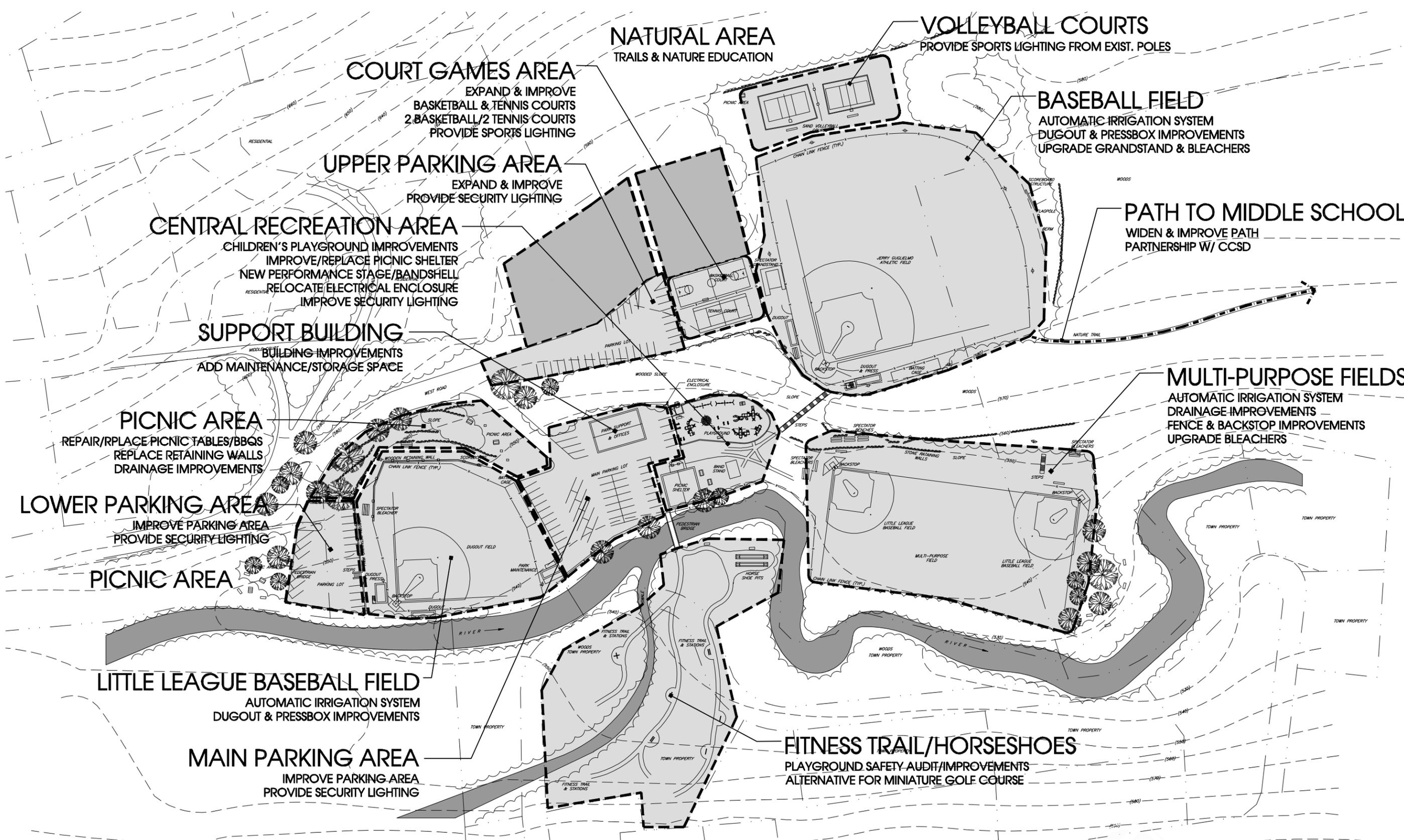
### LOCAL PARK (LONG TERM-10-15 YEARS)

- Legend**
- Town border line
  - Waterbody
  - Roadway
  - Proposed Bike Trail (Town of Kent)
  - Existing Hike Trail
  - Proposed Hike Trail Route (NYNJ TC)
  - Alternate Hike Trail Route (NYNJ TC)
  - Proposed Hike Trail Route (Town of Kent)
  - Non-abandoned Remnant Roads
  - Existing Place of Interest (Man-made)
  - Proposed Place of Interest (Man-made)
  - Existing Place of Interest (Natural)

- Legend of Parcels**
- Town of Kent Land, Public Services
  - Town of Kent Parks
  - Town of Kent Park District (Lake Carmel, Lake Tibet)
  - School District, BOCES, Educational Institutions
  - New York City DEP Lands
  - Putnam County
  - Putnam County Parks
  - New York State
  - New York State DEC, Multiple Use Areas (MUA)
  - New York State Parks
  - National Park (National Park Service, U.S. Federal land)
  - Churches (Various Denominations), Religious Organizations
  - Nature & Historical Groups, Clubs, Camps, Homeowner Associations
  - Homeowner Association Owned Waterbody
  - Golf Clubs, Courses
  - Golf Club Owned Waterbody

# Town of Kent Recreation and Parks Planning Map





# CONCEPTUAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

## RYAN PARK- TOWN OF KENT

**CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS**

- SEPARATE AGE GROUP AREAS
- UPGRADE EQUIPMENT
- ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING
- CENTRAL SUPERVISION AREA W/SHELTER
- BENCHES & TRASH RECEPTACLES

- IMPROVE ACCESS TO PLAYGROUND
- ACCESSIBLE PAVEMENT
- SECURITY LIGHTING

**PARK SUPPORT BUILDING**

- COMFORT STATIONS
- PARK OFFICE
- STORAGE/MAINTENANCE
- CONCESSION (ALTERNATIVE)

**PARKING AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

- EXPAND PARKING AREA
- RE-STRIPE FOR MAXIMUM SPACES
- IMPROVE CIRCULATION
- CREATE DROP-OFF/PICK-UP AREA
- NIGHT LIGHTING

**ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS**

- FIELD IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVE 1
- RE-GRADE OUTFIELD/FILL LOW AREAS
  - DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS
  - AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM
  - TOP-DRESS & GRASS SEED

- FIELD IMPROVEMENT ALTERNATIVE 2
- IMPROVE SUBGRADE/FILL LOW AREAS
  - PERIMETER DRAINAGE SYSTEM
  - SYNTHETIC TURF SYSTEM

- FIELD IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS
- SPORTS LIGHTING
  - SCOREBOARDS
  - WARNING TRACK
  - IMPROVED DUGOUTS/SHELTER
  - IMPROVE BACKSTOPS & FENCING

**COURT GAMES AREA**

- SEPARATE FROM ATHLETIC FIELD
- UPGRADE BLEACHERS
- COLOR COAT SYSTEM
- SPORTS LIGHTING
- ADD BOCCE & HORSE SHOES

- NATURAL AREAS**
- KIOSK W/TRAIL INFORMATION
  - DEVELOP HIKING TRAIL LOOP
  - NATURE EDUCATION AREA/SIGNAGE

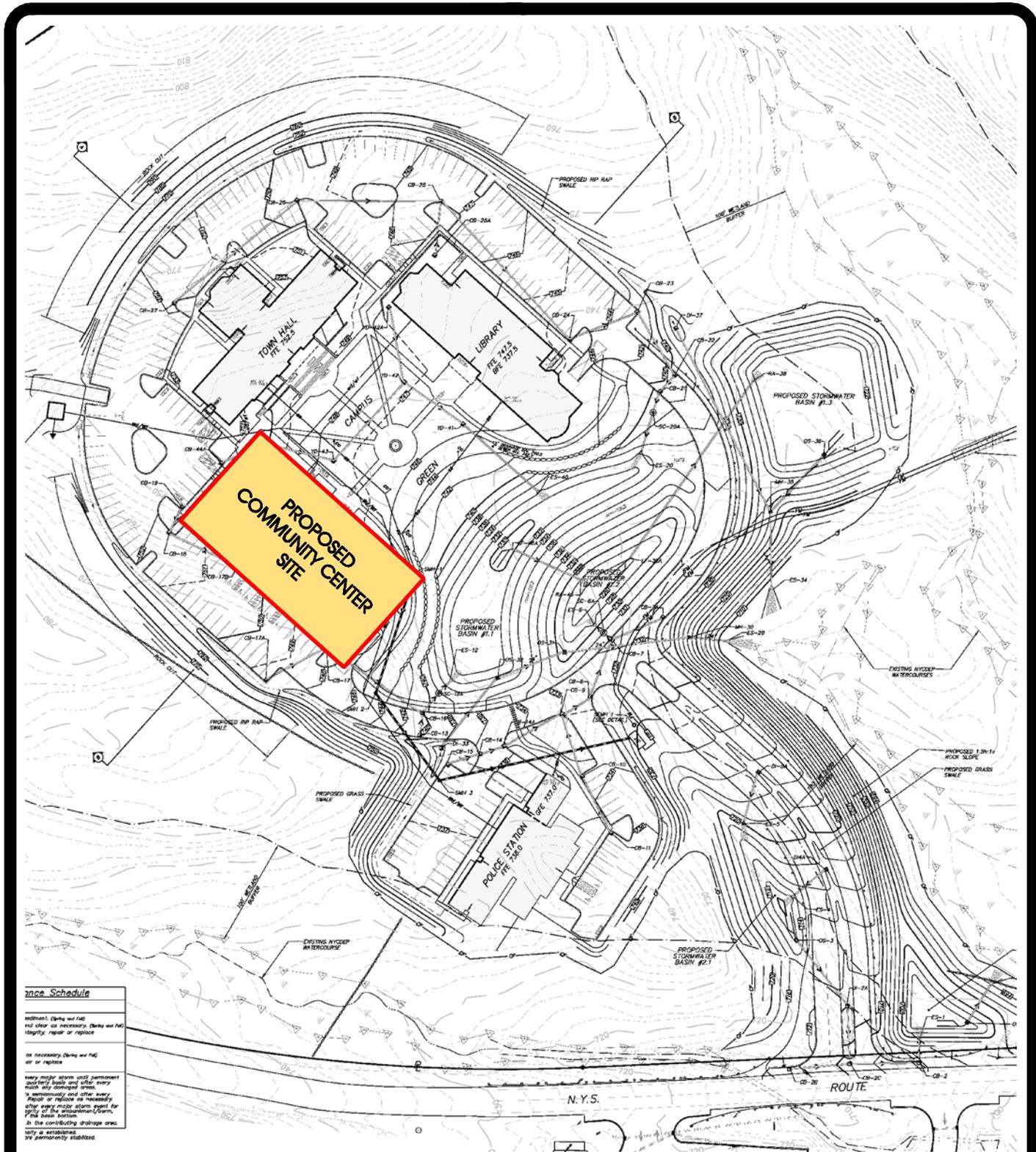
**PERIMETER FITNESS PATH**

- PROVIDES ACCESS TO ALL FACILITIES
- ALTERNATIVE FITNESS COURSE

**CONCEPTUAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN**  
**HUESTIS PARK- TOWN OF KENT**



AUGUST 2010



**Work Schedule**

Remove: (shrub and full) and clear as necessary; (shrub and full) slightly; repair or replace

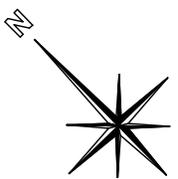
As necessary: (shrub and full) or or replace

Every major storm until permanent outdoor built and after every flood or release as necessary after every major storm until for 100% of the area/structure.

In the contributing drainage area.

Sety a establishes

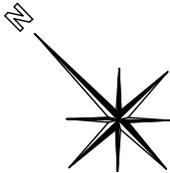
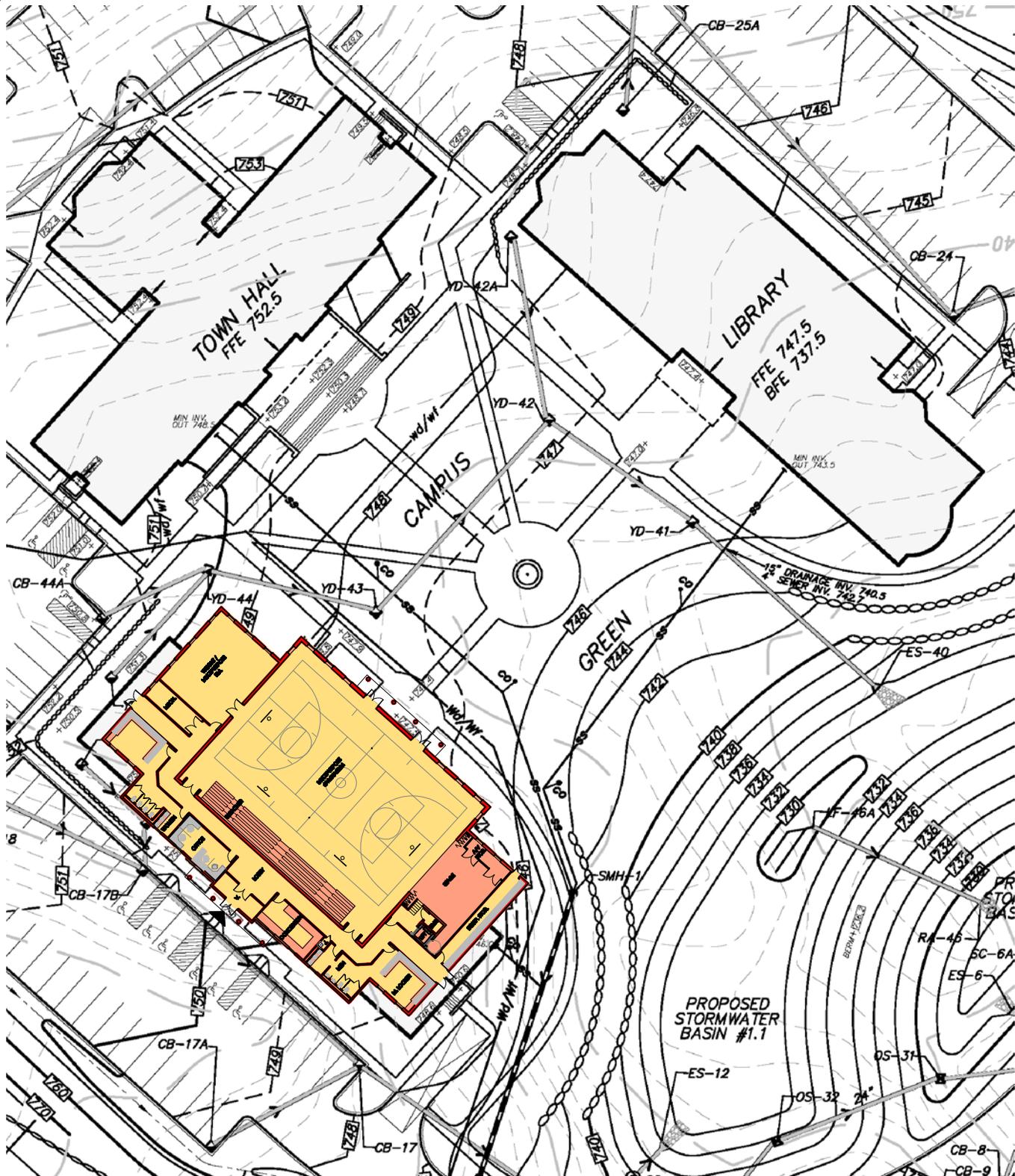
or permanently stabilized



**WARD ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
 ARCHITECTS | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS | ENGINEERS  
 1600 LAKELAND AVENUE  
 BOHEMIA, NEW YORK 11716  
 WWW.WARDPC.NET

**TOWN OF KENT**  
**TOWN HALL COMPLEX**  
**KEY PLAN**

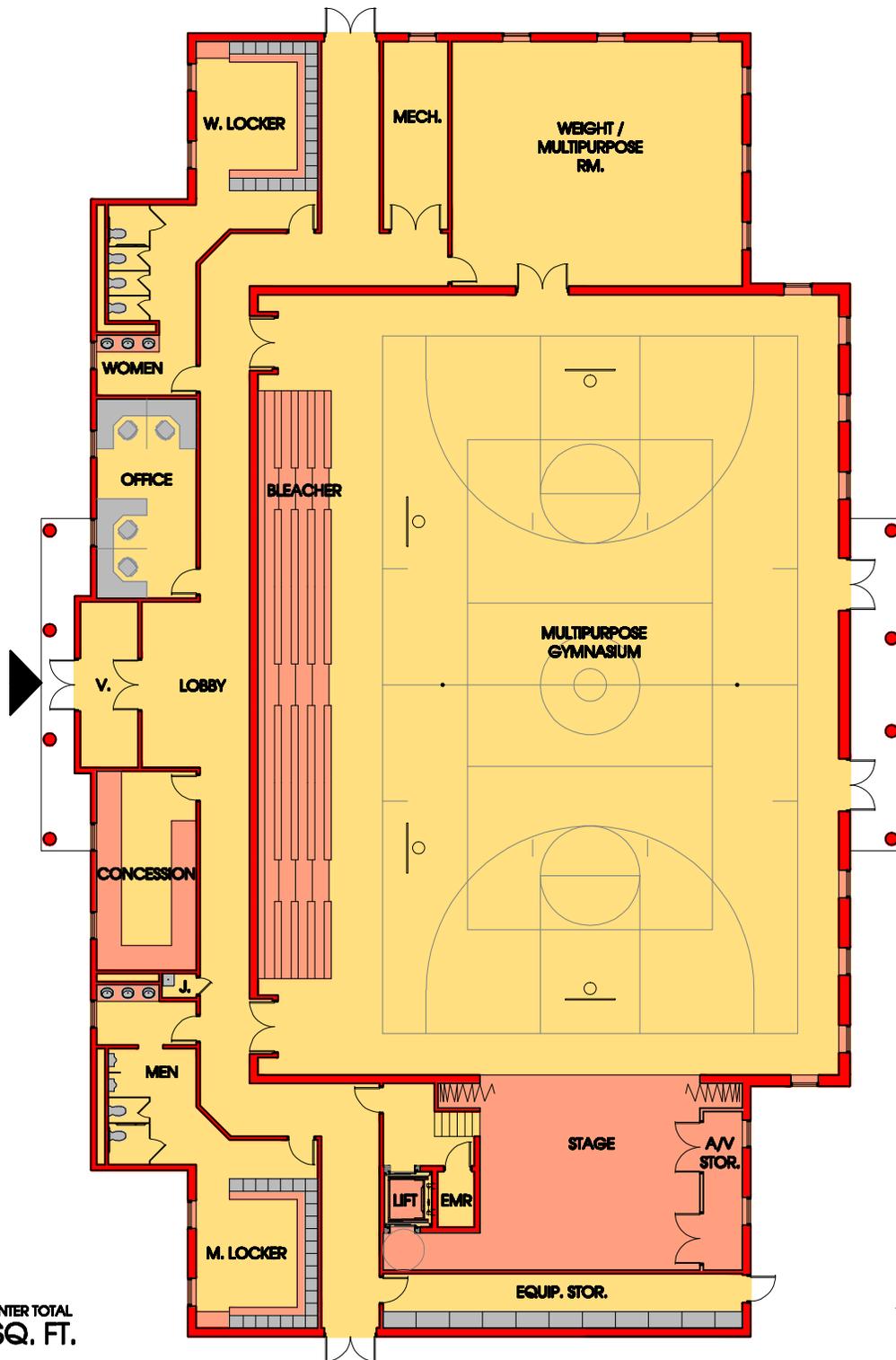
JUNE 7, 2010



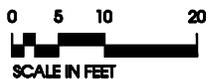
**WARD ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
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**TOWN OF KENT  
 COMMUNITY CENTER  
 CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN, ALTERNATIVE C**

JUNE 18, 2010



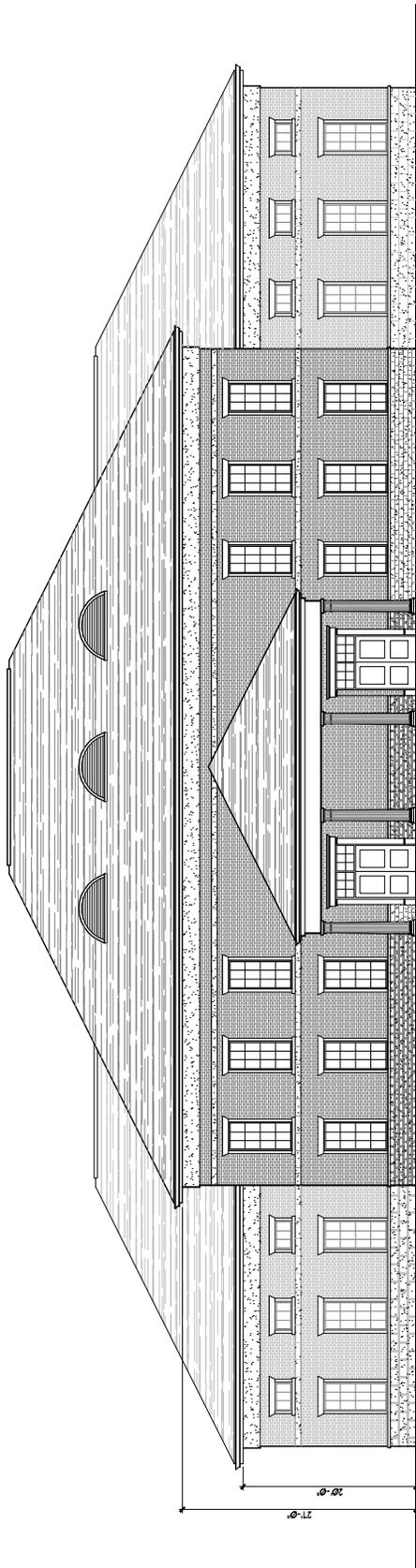
COMMUNITY CENTER TOTAL  
13,205 SQ. FT.



**WARD ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
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1500 LAKELAND AVENUE  
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TOWN OF KENT  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
CONCEPTUAL BUILDING PLAN, ALTERNATIVE C

JUNE 10, 2010



COMMUNITY CENTER TOTAL  
13,205 SQ. FT.

TOWN OF KENT  
**COMMUNITY CENTER**  
BUILDING ELEVATION, ALTERNATIVE C

JUNE 10, 2010

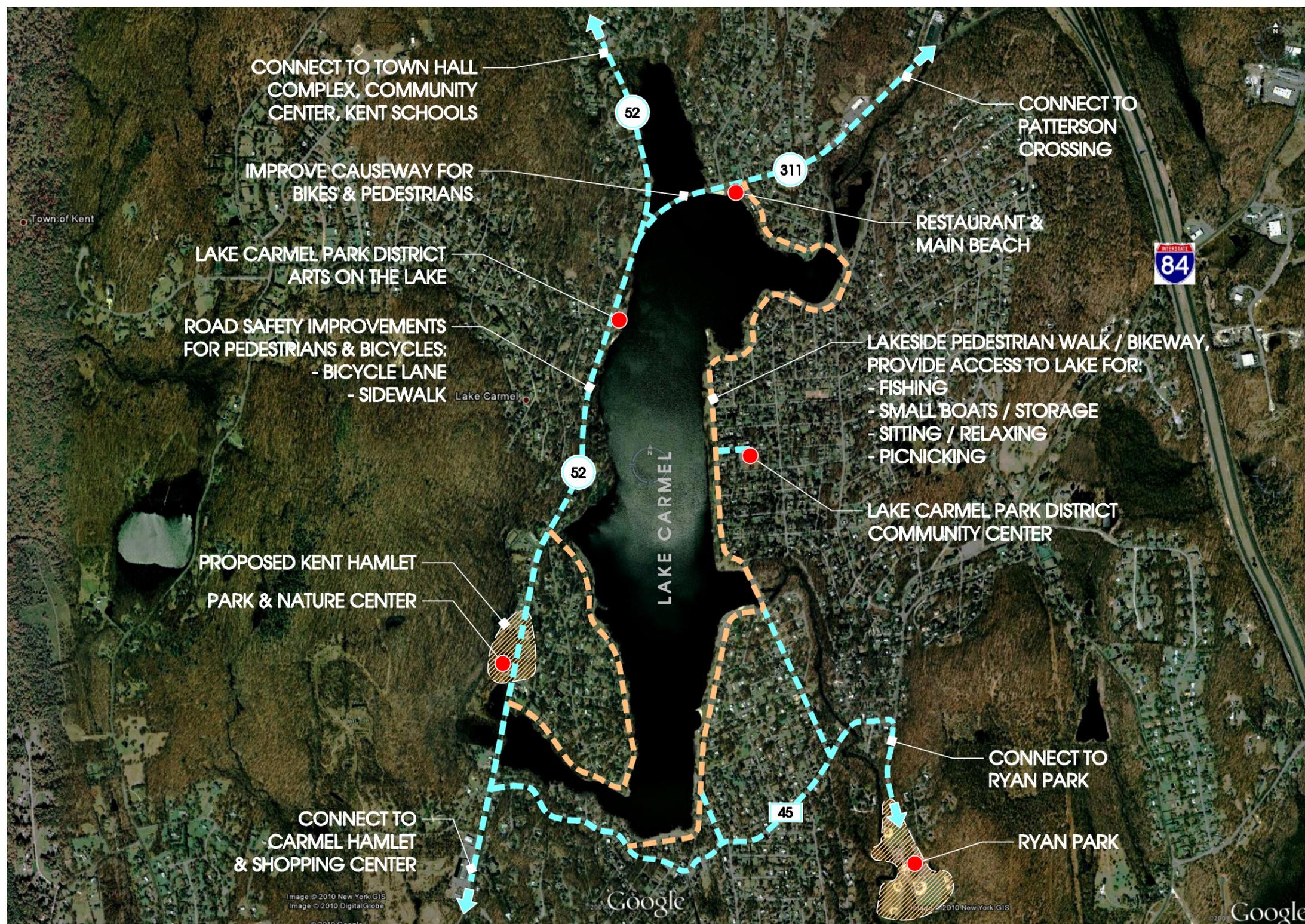


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**GENERAL NOTES:**  
 FIELD SUPPORT BUILDING BY TOWN  
 SMOYERS FIELD IMPROVEMENTS BY TOWN  
 SCHOOL SITE IMPROVEMENTS BY CCSD & TOWN  
 FACILITY USE BY CCSD & TOWN RESIDENTS  
 ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES:  
 \* (1) SOFTBALL /PRACTICE FIELD  
 \* (2) MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS (SOCCER, FOOTBALL, LACROSSE, FIELD HOCKEY)

Town of Kent & Carmel Central School District  
**SCHOOL - PARK CONCEPTUAL PLAN**  
 Smoyers Field / Kent Schools Site Improvements



Lake Carmel  
**PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE PATH CONNECTIONS**  
Conceptual Plan

## 8. COST OPINIONS AND DISCUSSION OF FUNDING OPTIONS

### Huestis Park Improvements

#### Estimated Construction (2011-2012)

Playground Improvements	\$	75,000
Athletic Field Subgrade & Drainage	\$	150,000
Expand/Improve Parking	\$	50,000
Barrier-free Access Improvements	\$	20,000
Natural Areas/Access	\$	<u>10,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 1	\$	305,000

#### Estimated Construction (2013-2014)

Electric Service	\$	50,000
Support Building	\$	250,000
Septic System & Utilities	\$	50,000
Perimeter Fitness Trail	\$	<u>25,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 2	\$	375,000

#### Estimated Construction (2014-2015)

Irrigation System (above ground reel system)	\$	20,000
Sports and Security Lighting	\$	200,000
Court Games Expansion/Improvements	\$	<u>100,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 3	\$	320,000

#### Alternatives

Irrigation System (underground)	\$	100,000
Synthetic Turf System	\$	1,500,000

#### Professional Services

*Planning, Design and CA	\$	75,000
Includes Playground Audit & Field Study		
*Additional for design of Synthetic Turf Alternative		

## Ryan Park Improvements

### Estimated Construction (2011-2012)

Playground Improvements	\$	100,000
New Picnic Pavilion	\$	150,000
Electric Service Improvements	\$	25,000
Expand/Improve Parking	\$	75,000
Dugout/Pressbox Improvements	\$	<u>20,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 1	\$	370,000

### Estimated Construction (2013-2014)

Athletic Field Drainage Improvements	\$	100,000
Support Building Improvements	\$	75,000
Court Games Expansion/Improvements	\$	150,000
Bandstand/Stage Improvements	\$	50,000
Connection Path to GFMS	\$	10,000
Parking/Security Lighting	\$	50,000
Repair/Replace Retaining Walls	\$	<u>75,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 2	\$	510,000

### Estimated Construction (2014-2015)

Irrigation System (above ground reel system)	\$	25,000
Natural Areas/Access	\$	10,000
New Recreation Facility TBD	\$	<u>100,000</u>
Subtotal Phase 3	\$	135,000

### Alternatives

Irrigation System (underground)	\$	150,000
---------------------------------	----	---------

### Professional Services

Planning, Design and CA	\$	100,000
Includes Playground Audit & Pavilion Study		

## **Indoor Community Recreation Center**

### Estimated Construction (2015-2016)

Indoor Community Recreation Center	\$ 4,000,000
Improve Infrastructure	\$ <u>500,000</u>
Subtotal Estimated Construction	\$ 4,500,000

### Professional Services

Preliminary Planning (2011-2012)	\$ 15,000
Planning, Design and CA (2013-2016)	\$ <u>285,000</u>
Subtotal	\$ 300,000

## **Smoyer's Field DEP Property**

### Estimated Construction (2012-2013)

DEP Property Athletic Fields & Parking Area	\$ 400,000
School Facility Improvements	
Athletic Fields	\$ 200,000
Playgrounds	\$ 150,000
Court Games	\$ 150,000
Support Building	\$ <u>250,000</u>
Subtotal Estimated Construction	\$ 1,150,000

### Professional Services (2011-2013)

*Planning, Design and CA (2013-2016)	\$ 80,000
*Revise design by Insite Engineering for DEP Property	

## **Community Swimming Pool Complex**

### Estimated Construction (2020-2021)

Swimming, Wading & Interactive Pools	\$ 4,000,000
Bathhouse/Filter Building	\$ 1,000,000
Site Improvements/Infrastructure	\$ <u>500,000</u>
Subtotal Estimated Construction	\$ 5,500,000

### Professional Services (2018-2019)

Planning, Design and CA (2018-2021)	\$ 350,000
-------------------------------------	------------

### **Neighborhood Parks (3 Locations)**

#### Estimated Construction (2018-2025)

Children's Playground	\$	150,000
Practice Athletic Field	\$	200,000
Basketball or Tennis Courts	\$	<u>150,000</u>
Subtotal	\$	500,000

Total (3 Parks) \$ 1,500,000

#### Professional Services (2018-2019)

Planning, Design and CA (2017-2025)	\$	105,000
-------------------------------------	----	---------

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Trail Enhancements**

#### Estimated Construction (2018-2025)

Scope of Work and Budget to be determined		
	Say	\$ 200,000

### **Lake Carmel Perimeter Improvements**

#### Estimated Construction (2020-2025)

Scope of Work and Budget to be determined		
	Say	\$ 500,000

### **Discussion of Funding Options**

In 2010, the Town budget allocated \$401,971 for parks and recreation staff, programs and facilities, with \$686,421 in expenses and \$284,450 in revenues. Additional funding for park planning and development, maintenance and improvements come out of the recreation fees paid by developers. With the proposed improvements to existing parks and development of new recreation facilities, the budget will need to address programming, staffing and maintenance of these facilities.

In order to pay for improvements to existing park and recreation facilities and development of additional facilities desired by residents, the Town could consider a park improvements or environmental bond program, similar to those implemented by other communities. Some good examples are the Environmental Open Space and Park Improvement Bond Act passed by Town of Huntington (L.I.) and approved by Town

residents in 1998, 2003 and 2008, and the Environmental Bond Act approved by voters in Nassau County in 2004 and 2006. Funding can also be obtained from several other sources, including, but not limited to:

- Private Funding Sources
  - Leagues and groups that use facilities
  - Local businesses
    - Banks
    - Anchor stores for proposed Patterson Crossing
  
- Putnam County Funding Sources
  
- New York State Funding Sources
  - Environmental Protection Fund
    - Parks Program
    - Historic Preservation Program
    - Heritage Areas Program
    - Acquisition
  
- Federal Funding Sources
  - Conservation & Reinvestment Act (CARA)
  - Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
  - Wetlands Reserve Program
  - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Fund (UPARR)
  - Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Grants
  - The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21)
    - Bicycle Transportation and Pedestrian Walkways