

Compiled Parks, Recreation, Trails & Sidewalks Comments

PARKS

Town 50/50 open space properties

Need access to some "50/50" open space lands/trails; parking especially needed

Long-term management plan needed for non-agricultural open space

Be selective with 50/50 lands - negotiate for good/usable lands

Distribution and use of parks

NE part of town lacks parks

Existing parks in south end of town need to be improved/utilized

Parks should be "winterized" with amenities such as warming huts so they can be used in winter

Take advantage of the canal (more recreation facilities; possible community center)

Done properly, dog parks have been successfully implemented in other parts of the country. There is support for this in the town. Locations include the former Monroe County Water Authority Well and a location on Linden Ave.

NE part of town needs parks; potential park next to Monroe Golf Club should be explored

The town could use some skateboarding parks.

Exploit the canal in Winter. For example close two locks raise the level a bit, if needed, and clear if for activities including free skating during the winter. Charge a small admission for coming onto the ice and bring vendors who would need to share the profits but ... don't raise taxes to "get it done". The canal is a wasted resource during the winter and this need not be the case.

Sponsor speed skating races and/or snowmobile races

General park comments

Safety in the parks is a concern (drugs, cars); perhaps the plan can include routine monitoring.

The character of parks and open spaces should be graduated, by design, from urban to rural to match the character of nearby neighborhoods, i.e., neighborhoods in rural areas should have rural style open spaces (natural terrain, preserved habitats, low impact uses, etc.), urban neighborhoods should have urban parks (parking, active recreation areas and facilities-sports, picnic facilities, etc.).

Kings Bend type facilities -- picnic areas, pavilions -- should be considered in other town parks. Usage fees could potentially pay for some park improvements elsewhere in town.

Some amenities that would be useful in town parks include bathrooms and water-fountains.

Specific facility comments

King's Bend Park: horseshoe pit; ice skating on pond

Great Embankment Park: more fields, pavilion, picnic tables, horseshoe pit, dog park

Park Road School/Powder Mills Park: improvements/amenities needed

The creek through Powder Mills Park is full of fallen trees and trash with picnic tables tossed in. This changes the path of the creek in natural ways, but suggests a remedy is needed to clear debris.

Like the lodges at Kings Bend Park, however, the rental rates are expensive

Lots of good meeting space (schools, town buildings, senior center)

King's Bend Park is a great park, good facilities

The playground at Thornell Farm Park could be expanded

Powder Mills Park and Mendon Ponds are great facilities; maintaining connections to these parks is important

The town's parks have opportunities for all age groups/diversity

A new Town recreation center--Lincoln School is outdated, too small, and so forth; former Monaco Oil co is perfect place for new rec center, where we could have more space, more facilities (think Skaneateles) and a center that would be fitting for Pittsford.

Erie Canal Park/Towpath experience is working well

RECREATION

Recreation Programs and Facilities

Town recreation programs and community events are successful

There may be unfilled recreation needs for seniors, late teens and young adults

Triathlon is a great event but could be expanded upon

Good variety of programs offered through the Rec Center

May need to conduct a use survey to sort through different groups and future needs

Conduct a survey of the use recreational facilities in town; consider use trends when building/maintaining facilities

Town should market the recreation programs already available

Explore the types of facilities/programs that might attract young families and/or other demographics that the town might want to attract

Good cooperation between schools and youth athletic teams

Town should have a pool

Town should have a skateboard park/ice rink

We don't have an adequate recreation center

Youth soccer league is growing; demand/need for fields is not being met

There is limited space at the Community Center

Collaboration between town and schools on use of pools saves taxpayers money - we should make people aware of this

Check in with the YMCA (may be moving) - could be an opportunity

The Veconi property (a property that could be considered for rec center site) is wooded and developing this property as a recreation center could change the context of the village (currently surrounded by woodlands).

Recreation center does a good job with outreach and mailings

Put timers on tennis court lights (to avoid wasting energy)

Need low-cost/no-cost recreational programs for families

Don't need to centralize a community center - distribute resources throughout town so people don't have to drive

The community center should be carefully evaluated. Is it needed? What will it cost? Take a good look at what we have and all of the alternatives

Perinton residents pay for a community recreation center - built with tax dollars and there's also a monthly fee - Pittsford residents should be aware of this

The town does not need a community center with a pool and gym. The town currently has 4 taxpayer funded pools in town and many gyms. There are outdoor pools at the YMCA as well as at the Tennis Club of Rochester and Midtown Athletic Club (opening in May '09), both of which are "public clubs".

The town should have an indoor water park, similar to the new one in Perinton.

Look at feasibility of creating one central location for community center on the canal to tie everything together

The town's recreation needs are very large. The plan should address that there is a need and demand for a field house and/or community center. Spiegel is an aging facility.

Recreation Programs and Facilities - cont.

People are spending money to meet their recreation needs outside of town. Would the Veremark property be a good site to provide recreational amenities?

The town needs to study and understand who it is serving and how it is meeting current and future recreation needs. A study/assessment of recreation needs vis-à-vis the Pittsford population should be conducted.

It is especially important to meet the recreation needs of senior adults and younger families.

The town needs more playgrounds and field space.

Instead of centralizing recreation facilities, what about multiple locations spread out across the town?

The town's athletic programs have shrank as groups like the Mustangs have filled the sports niche.

The town should consider looking at vacant buildings to lease/use to meet sports/recreation needs.

The town and sports community should work together to meet common goals.

Schools are charging maintenance/user fees in some cases.

The swimming club i-- PACK-- s doing "pretty well." There are about 130 members in the club. PACK has a good working relationship with the school district. However, the 6-lane pools available at the schools are now considered obsolete. 8-lane pools would allow PACK to host competitions. Also, a 50-meter long course, like Webster's, would be nice.

Would a sports bubble work in Pittsford?

A field house could potentially serve the needs of the schools, local colleges -- not just sports clubs.

The soccer program should strive to cultivate a stronger relationship with the school system.

What about hockey?

Given that the town is reaching build-out, different sports clubs should work with the town to estimate what a realistic full-build out need for the sports club is, and then find ways to meet that need. One issue, however, is that participation rates in various sports can change over time and nobody knows what the "next big thing" is in sports.

The town should explore partnerships with the colleges on new athletic facilities -- though the town's needs would need to be equally represented and accommodated in any partnership.

Sports clubs may need to self-police and try to limit the development of more and more teams. At some point, there is a reasonable capacity limit to how many teams the town can be expected to accommodate. The town and sports clubs should explore this.

The schools, town and sports clubs have a great working relationship. While there is always room for improvement, this relationship is special -- it does not exist in many communities.

The town is an aging community and will need to address the rec needs of older citizens. For instance, "over 50 leagues" are becoming increasingly popular in many areas of the country.

Concert series along the canal are great. Try to bring forward plans for a natural or artificial amphitheater that can improve the acoustics and audience enjoyment.

Athletic Fields

Town's athletic fields are overused

Need an athletic field house

Need more/higher quality athletic fields

Use school facilities to meet Town recreation needs

Kids and parents are traveling far to access fields; may need an indoor facility/field house

Money is currently going to other towns for the use of private recreation facilities; Pittsford could facilitate the development of a private rec. facility such as a field house (i.e. by leasing land).

Lighting athletic fields could help, but neighbors don't like it.

The town needs adult softball fields.

Soccer participation has grown substantially. Over 1,500 kids are involved, of which about 800 are non-competitive. Over 40 travel teams. 98% are Pittsford residents.

There is an increasing demand on town athletic fields.

More fields are needed to serve the needs of younger children.

Out of town teams frequently come to Pittsford to play matches.

The soccer program utilizes school fields.

Since 1977, the town has added just one soccer field.

The lacrosse league pays about \$25,000 per year, to utilize indoor space in other towns.

Soccer spends about \$90,000 to use the indoor space at Brighton sports zone.

Booking space at schools, for some sports, is so difficult that they don't do it anymore.

Lacrosse season tends to be heaviest in the fall, while soccer drops off in the fall.

Soccer and baseball face many of the same issues.

T-ball teams have no place to play.

There is a well run, centralized town system in place to assign fields/facilities in the town to various sports groups. It works well, but there is also room for improvement. The town uses a matrix. Possible improvements could include a more "real time" system that would allow sports teams to interface with each other and trade field times/locations.

Other towns have great facilities -- turf fields, etc.

Lights and turf go hand-in-hand.

More supply of fields and facilities will help everyone.

Athletic Fields - cont.

Multi-acre park properties, such as Chatham Woods could be great places to cheaply and easily install informal sports fields, backstops, etc. However, such properties were originally conceived as "passive" open space -- cannot easily accommodate parking or intense active sports uses, without impacts to surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Some claim that the Barker Road fields are underutilized, but lacrosse enthusiasts say they use them all the time.

Sports fields in the town need to be rested more often than they currently are. However, when fields are taken off-line to rest, the town is faced with complaints from those that want to use the fields.

Most damage to sports fields occurs during wet conditions. Sports clubs need to continue to help the town to enforce no-play rules when weather conditions are bad.

Ideal state for soccer in the Town of Pittsford: half-dozen fields reliably available for soccer use at any one time; another facility like Thornell Farm Park -- a set of three fields - would be good; an indoor facility located in Pittsford would be convenient location-wise, and would also solve a town, and larger regional, supply problem

Ideal state for baseball in the Town of Pittsford: indoor space for hitting practice; more informal areas for backstops -- could the perimeter of Thornell Farm Park work?; solve the athletic field supply issue between May 1 and June 30 (when little league is in session); enough fields for community ball in the spring season; by July there is no longer a capacity issue for baseball

Ideal state for Lacrosse in the Town of Pittsford: would rather pay \$10 to stay in Pittsford than pay \$7 to utilize a facility/field in Brighton or Irondequoit.; Lacrosse should continue to cultivate the good relationship it has with the schools; more fields would help ease the supply problem, as would indoor facilities/field house

Thornell Farm Park needs fences between fields, to keep balls from straying. However, some feel that "over fencing" parks can be aesthetically unappealing and that no system of fences can catch every stray ball.

Lights don't necessarily help the youth leagues -- they aren't the answer to everything. However, lights could allow for adult games to be scheduled later, freeing up more space for daylight usage by youth leagues. One issue is that in the past, residents have come out strongly against lights for fields in their neighborhoods.

Priority use of fields and facilities located in town should always be given to town residents.

The schools and town have a right-of-first-refusal agreement for use of athletic facilities.

TRAILS and SIDEWALKS

Completing the sidewalk & trail system

Fill gaps in trail system

Incorporate sidewalks into new residential development

Revisit the town's sidewalk plan

Build more sidewalks; helps to get people around on foot and combats childhood obesity

Trail interconnections between adjacent neighborhoods should be provided

The policy of building unconnected cul-de-sacs should be discontinued. However, if cul-de-sacs continue to be built, they should be connected by trails, such as the "post and mowed grass" variety (ex. Stephanage to Farm Field). Children should be able to bike to school and to the village safely.

More green space, including walking trails, bike paths, wooded areas and other green areas.

The plan may need to develop a more coherent vision for sidewalks and trails, or at least recommend some direction and some updates to the town's current sidewalk plan.

Specific trail connections mentioned

Connect trails to: the village, schools, Bushnell's Basin, the colleges, places where seniors live

Connect Thornell Road to Bushnell's Basin

A useful trail connection would be from Greythorne Hill to a proposed development north of Greythorne. This trail connection is not shown on the town's trail plan.

Connection between the canal path and Mitchell Road is needed

Connection between village and Tobey Estates (cornfield)

There should be better connections with Tinker Nature Park in Henrietta. From the Greythorne Hill neighborhood, one has to walk along Calkins to get to the park. An off-road trail connection could be made between Pittsford Hill Lane and Tinker Nature Park through the woods southeast of Greythorne Hill, which could also connect to the trail behind Wessex Court.

Nazareth students and some senior citizens are trying to walk/jog/bike down French Road to reach the Plaza and village, which is a very dangerous situation due to cars driving 40 mph and higher. A solution could involve tying in a "private" neighborhood trail loop into Grove Street. However, property owners do not want sidewalks because of liability.

The power line right-of-way between Tobey Estates and the village

Between Sutherland HS and surrounding residential areas

Specific sidewalk connections mentioned

Connect colleges to the town/village

Sidewalks connections needed in south end of town

Fill gaps along state/county roads

Sidewalks in Mendon HS area need upgrades

There are no sidewalks at Woodland and Monroe. Pedestrians/bicyclists have to cross over to the northerly side of Monroe to reach sidewalk.

Sidewalks needed on East Ave between St. John Fischer and Brighton

Sidewalk should be considered for the stretch of East Avenue from Saint John Fisher College to the village of Pittsford. It would be great to connect the neighborhoods along East Avenue and the colleges with the village of Pittsford with a safe walking route.

The town should look at installing sidewalks along Stone Road from Tobey to Clover. Since last comprehensive plan was completed there has been an enormous increase in housing activities and population along Stone Road corridor. In addition to Stone Road pavement itself being in not in very good shape, it is very narrow (hardly 10 feet lanes), no shoulders on either side. There has been an extensive increase of Pedestrian & jogger's traffic along this stretch of road.

Trail management issues mentioned

Pave the Auburn Trail

Plow the canal path in the winter for pedestrians

I would strongly discourage plowing the canal path in winter, since the path is a wonderful opportunity for folks to engage in winter activities like cross country skiing and snowshoeing. Removing the snow would be counterproductive. For folks choosing to walk, there are Yax Trax and similar items that can be attached to the bottoms of shoes for traction. A plowed path is much more likely to form ice which is not as safe as snow for walking.

Use canal for winter activities

Crushed stone or drainage improvement could help alleviate muddy conditions on the trail between Park Square and Sandy Lane.

There is a concern about safety along some trails in the town. Specific examples cited include drinking, being followed and gunshots.

Provide a water fountain on walking trails

Informing residents about parks, trails, etc.

The public should be educated about the town's trail system

Maps should be provided to show trail system

Create a map of greenprint lands and trails

Town's email list is underutilized; use to announce sessions, distribute comments, etc.

Bicycle and pedestrian amenities

Ensure the town is pedestrian-friendly

Make roads bike-friendly

Dedicated bike trails and safe on-road bike trails needed

Bike lands needed for connectivity

Look at transportation alternatives that do not force people to rely on cars

No bus shelters on Monroe Avenue coming from the City to the Village

Provide a bike lane from Pittsford Plaza to Woodland and the village

Encourage N-S and E-W connectivity

It's easy to get around the town on bike

We visited the Eastern Shore of Maryland where there are wide bicycle lanes everywhere and a large industry catering to the cyclists. Why we don't have more of that here? We live in the Autumn Woods neighborhood off of Mendon Center Road and we gladly share the road with the many cyclists we encounter but it is nerve wracking for us and for them without any bike lanes. Consider adding a bike lane from Tobey Rd all the way to the entrance of Mendon Ponds Park -it makes so much sense.

Trails in the vicinity of Stone Road between Clover and Tobey are not very user-friendly, not well maintained, lack drainage at many places. They could also be widened in certain places where it is difficult for two persons to walk along with each other. Trails are an asset to the community, however if these aren't maintained well and aren't user friendly, they can become a liability to the community.

OTHER COMMENTS

Miscellaneous

Town does a great job of honoring its history (events, tours, etc.)

Parks, trails etc. encourage a sense of community

Use old library on 31F or resolve

Investigate recreational shared services (town-village)

Need lower speed limits on streets - safe neighborhoods - encourages kids to play

Plant more trees, whenever and wherever. Many trees have been damaged or lost over the years by ice storms and other events. Trees make great memorials for loved ones, and can be the focal point for memorial services, such as that held for the former town parks director several years ago.

The library should be a resource to patrons of all ages – especially young people. As an example, the library could do a better job accommodating the needs of youth groups, such as the technology badge requirements for the Girl Scouts. Other library systems in the region run “badge programs” for the Scouts to meet such requirements. This is especially important since the town recreation center does not offer internet access.

People want "places to gather" -- the success of the Pittsford library demonstrates this.

There is a national push for health and fitness. The town should join it.

Private fundraising by sports groups can be effective.

Allow spaces for kids to play within any new development over a certain number of homes.