

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



INTRODUCTION

A dense population with limited available open space poses a challenge for an increasing demand in recreational opportunities for the Town of Irondequoit.

The goal of the Town of Irondequoit Parks and Recreational Master Plan is to recognize the recreational needs of the local community, and to bring new recreational opportunities for citizens for the next five to ten years.

The Town recognizes the need for comprehensive planning to accommodate current and future needs while retaining its high quality of life.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds upon the previous 1998 Master Plan and the 1977 Town of Irondequoit Parks and Recreational Master Plan to provide direction in the assessment and delivery of recreational lands, facilities, and programs for Irondequoit. The Town's first Parks and Recreation Master Plan was completed and adopted in 1977. The goal of the Town Parks and Recreation Plan in 1977 was to "provide the Town with a flexible tool by which it may balance implementation of future programs and allocate recreation facility improvement redevelopment and development."

This 2009 update demonstrates the Town's continued commitment to meeting the community's recreational needs.

OVERVIEW

Traditionally, most resources for active recreation in Irondequoit, such as athletic fields, courts, swimming pool, and others, have been provided by the East and West Irondequoit Central School Districts. The effective cooperation between the Town and the School District must and will continue. However, as the land holdings remain at current levels, the Town must take on greater responsibility to meet the consistently increasing recreational demands of its residents.

Creation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan indicates the Town’s strong commitment to providing quality parks and recreational services to residents and visitors. Citizens have played a significant role in establishing and maintaining recreational services in Irondequoit. Input from staff, the advisory board, citizens, and organizations have shaped much of the direction and recommendations of this Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds upon and is intended to complement the overall planning efforts within the Town’s updated Comprehensive Master Plan. It assesses Irondequoit’s unique assets and needs and establishes long-term goals and objectives. In addition, it proposes strategies for acquiring, developing, and operating recreational lands, facilities, and services within the Town's capabilities. Specific recommendations are made for the next five years in context with the long-term objectives.

This Plan is intended to be a working guide for the Town and other sources of recreational opportunities to provide a well-balanced delivery of high quality recreation appropriate to Irondequoit.

A Look Inside the Master Plan

Although included as a section of Irondequoit’s Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan section is designed to be a stand-alone document.

Use the following page guide to navigate directly to critical sections of the plan

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Demand for Recreational Opportunities

The demand for recreational opportunities within a community is measured by the rate and frequency of participation in specific recreational activities and is influenced by several factors including:

- Characteristics of the population, including ages, education, employment, income, and lifestyle.
- The availability of unique local programs, facilities, or other influences.
- Physical and climatic conditions which create feasibility, opportunities, or expectations for certain recreational opportunities.
- Willingness and ability of a community to support municipal recreational opportunities through taxes and fees.
- Changing trends in the popularity of specific recreational pursuits.

Broad standards such as those of the New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) are frequently referenced to determine recreational demand. However, neither addresses the unique interests and opportunities in individual communities such as Irondequoit.

General Demographics and Land Characteristics

- The Town's population decreased slightly between 1990 and 2000 from 53,377 to 53,354 and was 51,083 in 2007. 2012 estimates indicate the population will decrease to 50,413 people.
- The number of secondary school-aged children (age five to 19) increased in the past ten years, with the largest increase in the 10-14 year old bracket.
- Three general land uses exist - residential, commercial and manufacturing.
- Residential is the predominant land use in the Town, while the business and manufacturing district is concentrated along Ridge Road and the north end of Culver Road.
- The Town has less than two percent developable land available for expanding recreational opportunities. Moreover, plans for open space protection, growth management and natural features suggest a future reduction in population and in turn, the demand for recreation.
- Topography varies from very level lands to moderately rolling, which can offer diverse and unique recreational opportunities.
- Automobile travel is the primary mode of transportation, particularly with the use of State Routes 590 and 104 and the principle thoroughfares.

Existing Recreational Characteristics

Irondequoit residents are served by a variety of recreational lands and facilities provided by various levels of government, the East and West Irondequoit Central School Districts, commercial enterprises, and not-for-profit organizations within and beyond the Town.

The Town is interested in acquiring, developing, and making available to its residents desirable properties that can offer high quality recreational experiences to the community. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department has made some impressive progress in the recent past with the completion of the reconstruction of McAvoy Park and the planned construction of two new ball fields at the Town Hall location.

A knowledgeable and enthusiastic Advisory Board, supportive Town Boards, an involved and active Town staff and a host of interested citizens have provided the demand, support, and guidance to accomplish some impressive progress in a short period of time.

Acquisition and development of Town parks and other site facilities are ongoing. The use of commercial and community facilities outside of the Town provides an extensive availability of opportunities to Town residents.

Both the East and West Irondequoit Central School Districts have been the most important providers of facilities and programs that serve recreational and leisure interests. The Town has entered into informal agreement with the School Districts to provide major facilities, particularly sports facilities, to serve school and community needs. It is anticipated that as those agreements are renewed on a periodic basis, the Town and School District will continue to serve these needs and will possibly expand service. However, use of many school facilities has reached saturation and new venues are needed to relieve the stress being placed on those facilities. That will largely become the Town's responsibility. School facilities, especially athletic fields, are often over-used, resulting in poor conditions.

Since the 1998 Master Plan was completed, the Town purchased the Camp Eastman property (approx. 91 acres), at which the recreation staff holds numerous activities of regional importance at the many facilities.

Although both School Districts have recently or are now undergoing significant additions and changes to their recreation facilities, they are doing so on the same limited property. There has been no new land purchases involved with the additions or changes. As new facilities for various recreation activities need to be developed, Town parkland will most likely serve those future demands not satisfied by the School District.

Recreational opportunities available to Irondequoit residents are not limited to municipal or school facilities. In determining the level of availability of opportunities to Town residents, it is necessary to identify commercial, private, and other levels of government facilities and programs available to Town residents and within acceptable distances from the Town.

Summary of Future Needs

Throughout the planning process for the Parks, Recreation and Trails Plan, feedback was solicited from various sports organizations in the Town as well as Town staff and residents. Based upon their input and parks and recreation guidelines and standards from such references such as the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and the National Recreation and Parks Association, various recreational needs were identified. Specific demands and guidelines referenced are found on page 7-42.

- With the high attendance and number of sports teams that utilize large, rectangular fields (soccer, football, lacrosse, etc.), an additional five fields and two relief fields are desired by sports organizations. Recreational guidelines for 1 field per 10,000 people is outdated given the specific local demand and need in Irondequoit.
- Baseball is a very popular sport in Irondequoit. Demand for fields will remain high and field availability will decrease as reconstruction activities are carried out at Eastridge H.S. Up to five additional fields are needed to satisfy demand and fulfill 1 field per 5,000 people guidelines.
- The development of a centralized athletic complex that contains various fields is also highly desirable among sports organizations in order to build a stronger community in the Town as well as cut down on maintenance costs and increase efficiency.

- Recreational trails and walking paths are becoming more popular as evident with the construction of the Lakeside trail in 2006. Opportunities are available for trail expansion and the community is greatly in favor.
- Expanded, flexible meeting and event space for specialized programs and activities that are held indoors, especially for seniors, is considered highly desirable in the Town and was ranked as one of the three top priorities in the Parks and Recreation survey.
- An informal Parks and Recreation survey was conducted as a part of the development of this plan. Although the information garnered from the survey is useful in many ways, it is in no way represented here that the numbers and answers have any statistically accurate degree of certainty. The information gathered is anecdotal in nature, but is nevertheless quite helpful in determining the degree of interest in certain subjects and the thoughts and interests of the residents. A survey of the sort that would guarantee statistical certainty as to the answers and outcome is not within the scope of this project.

EXISTING FACILITIES: Town-Owned

The Town currently holds approximately 149 acres of land that is classified as park or recreational open space, or 1 acre per 349 residents. The Town does hold additional parcels of land, but they are not currently classified as either park or recreational open space as of the 2008 parcel assessment data.

It will become increasingly important to determine the recreational, open space, and cost-benefit values of specific land parcels as the Town's land inventory increases along with its responsibilities for maintenance and operation of those lands. The Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for operating and maintaining the Town's park system, various recreation programs at several locations, the Pinegrove Senior/Community Center and the Youth Outreach Program.

The table below shows the various athletic and recreational facilities that are available at each of the Town-owned parks and play areas as shown in Figure 7.1. A summary of each of the facilities with size, ownership, and any unique site characteristics is shown on the following pages.

Summary of Town-Owned Facilities									
	Facility	Tennis	Softball/ Baseball	Rect. Fields	Playground	Picnic	Shelters	Water Facilities	Walking/ Hiking Path
A	McAvoy Park		2	2	1				
B	Heyer-Bayer Park		1		1				
C	Spezio Park	2			1				
D	Camp Eastman			1			5	1	Yes
E	Joshua Park			2	1				Yes
F	Bateau Play Terrace				1				Yes
G	Pardee Play Area				1				
H	Vinton Play Area				1				
I	Bristol Tot Lot (Home Depot Play Area)				1				
J	Town Hall						1		
K	Irondequoit Bay Secret Cove Park								
L	Pinegrove*			5			2		Yes

* Outdoor facilities available, but owned by West Irondequoit CSD.

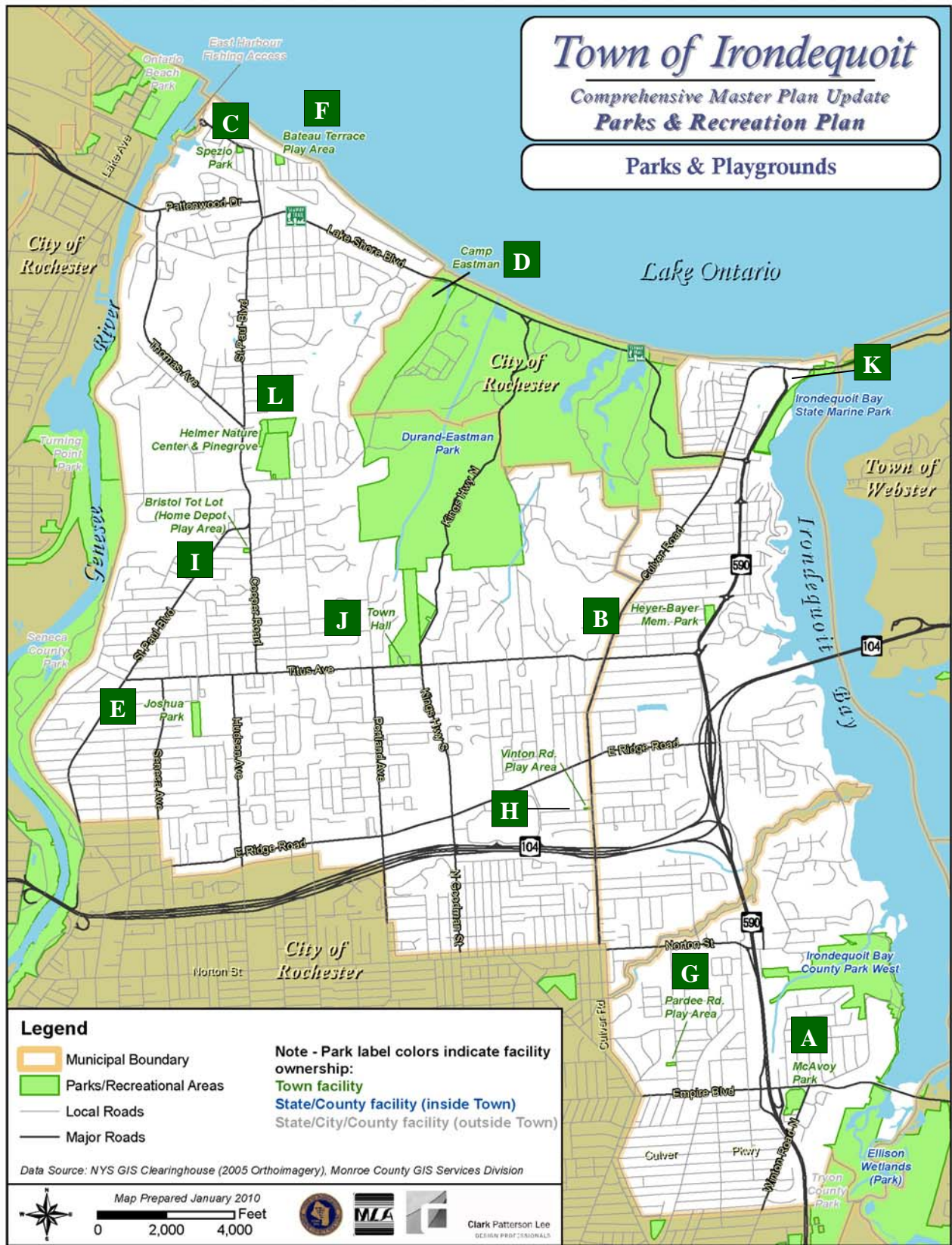


Figure 7.1

Town Parks

A McAvoy Park

Location: Corner of Winton Road and Empire Boulevard
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
 Size: 7.3 Acres



Source: Pictometry, Inc.

Recreational facilities:

- Two softball fields (all lighted and with a Sportex synthetic playing surface)
- One football/soccer/lacrosse/field hockey field (all lighted and with a Sportex synthetic playing surface)
- One smaller soccer field (approximately 40 yds. x 70 yds.)
- Playground equipment
- 2,300 square foot Concession Stand/Restroom Facility/ Office
- 19,800 square foot paved patio / picnic area
- Parking for approximately 157 cars
- Open mid-March to November; varies on season & weather.

B Heyer-Bayer Park

Location: Rudman Road
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
 Size: 2.7 AC (Triangular lot bordered by three sides of single-family homes and I-590).



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Irondequoit Rotary Play Area
- Youth softball field with backstop
- Approximate 1.5 acres of open space
- Playground equipment

Site Characteristics:

- No defined parking
- Lack of shade in summer

C Spezio Park
 Location: North end of St. Paul Boulevard
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
 Size: 0.71 Acres



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>Recreational facilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Equipment • 6 Swings • 2 Tennis Courts • Parking for approximately 10 spaces | <p><i>Site Characteristics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No room for expansion • Sidewalk on both sides of the park |
|---|---|

D Camp Eastman
 Location: 1588 Lake Shore Boulevard
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
 Size: 90.9 acres



Source: Camp Eastman (www.irondequoit.org)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p><i>Recreational facilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five community use cabins • Children’s fishing pier on Johnson Pond • One large (70 yds. x 120 yds.) soccer field • Hiking trails • Horseshoe courts • Volleyball courts • Spray animal/water play area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal sports field/Oktoberfest site • Preschool summer camp • Summer Day camp for youth ages 3 ½ to 13 • Town P&R maintenance building & offices • Parking at several locations • Irondequoit Rotary play area for physically challenged • American Legion Post 134 play area |
|--|--|

E Joshua Park

Location: East end of Seville Drive & Rogers Parkway (behind Wegman's)
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: Approximately 5.6 AC



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Playground equipment with padded rubber surfacing
- ½ -mile, 6 foot-wide paved walking path
- 2 Bocce Courts
- 1 Horseshoe Court
- 2 All-Purpose Fields (40 yds. x 70 yds.)
- Pedestrian access from Hudson Avenue

Site Characteristics:

- Athletic clubs playing here include West Irondequoit CSD baseball/softball, JV softball, soccer & men/women's lacrosse.

J Town Hall

Location: Corner of Titus Avenue and Kings Highway
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: 42.7 Acres



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Open lawn and gazebo for large-crowd functions
- Farmer's Market (in parking lot)
- Summer concerts
- 4th of July Festival
- Gazebos
- Ukrainian memorial, Fireman's memorial
- Facilities under construction include two baseball fields

K Irondequoit Bay Secret Cove Park

Location: SR 590 at Culver Road
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit*
 Size: 2.7 AC



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

Site Characteristics:

- Currently, there are no recreational facilities that exist at this property.
- * *The Town is slated to purchase this property for a minimal price as part of the Route 590 reconstruction.*

L Pinegrove Senior Citizen Center/Helmer Nature Center

Location: 154 Pinegrove Avenue
 Ownership: Town of Irondequoit (senior citizen center) West Irondequoit Central School District (athletic fields & Helmer Nature Center)
 Size: 33 Acres (1.8 ac Town, 20.9 ac School & 9.5 ac School– wooded)



Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2009)

Recreational facilities:

- Four soccer/lacrosse fields (West Irondequoit CSD)
- One lacrosse field (West Irondequoit CSD)
- Nature trails that link to Camp Eastman
- Outdoor pavilions (Helmer)
- Horseshoe/bocce (Pinegrove)

Site Characteristics:

- Athletic clubs using the fields include West Irondequoit CSD baseball/softball, JV softball, soccer & men/women's lacrosse.

Other amenities

- Sr. Center: Kitchen, cafeteria, multi– purpose room, arts & crafts room, support space
- Helmer: two large rooms for classes, display, and storage
- 80 space parking lot (1/3 School property)
- 13,335 sq. ft. overall bldg. size

*See pg. 23 for additional info.

Town Play Areas

F Bateau Terrace Play Area

Location: Off Rock Beach Road
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: 3.2 Acres

Recreational facilities:

- Playground Equipment
- Walking loop
- Beach access



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

G Pardee Tot Lot

Location: Pardee Road, opposite Meadowcroft Road
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: 0.51 acres

Recreational facilities:

- Playground Equipment



Source: Google Maps (www.google.com/maps)

H Vinton Tot Lot

Location: Corner of Vinton Road and Culver Road
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: 0.23 Acres



Source: Google Maps (www.google.com/maps)

Recreational facilities:

- Playground Equipment

I Bristol Tot Lot (Home Depot Play Area)

Location: Corner of Bristol Avenue and Cooper Avenue
Ownership: Town of Irondequoit
Size: 0.48 Acres



Source: Google Maps (www.google.com/maps)

Recreational facilities:

- Playground Equipment

Site Characteristics:

- Smallest of the four Town operated play areas

Summary of Existing Facilities

The tables provide a total summary of the existing recreational facilities in the Town of Irondequoit owned and operated by the Town as well as other private and municipal entities. In some instances, facilities may serve as dual purposes, such as football/soccer fields. In other instances, facilities may be available to the public only during limited times, such as athletic fields and gymnasiums in schools.

Some types of recreational facilities serve regional, rather than Town, uses. These include golf courses, beaches and amusement parks. Others facilities are dependent upon the availability of suitable land and climatic conditions. Beaches and winter sport are examples of such facilities.

Summary of Municipal & Private Facilities							
Facility	Town	Public School	Parochial School	County/ City	State	Private/ Commercial	TOTAL
Baseball	3	6	1				10
Softball		20	2				22
Football	5	2	2				9
Soccer/Lacrosse		12	7				19
Multi-Purpose Field		6	6				12
Basketball Hoops		3					3
Tennis Court	2	16	6				24
Natural Ice Rink							0
Playground	9	12	1				22
Golf Course-18 hole						1	1
Beach				1			1
Indoor Swimming Pool		2					2
Outdoor Swimming Pool							0
Gymnasium		11	2				13

Summary of Municipal & Private Facilities							
Facility	Town	Public School	Parochial School	County/ City	State	Private/ Commercial	TOTAL
Auditorium		3	1				4
Nature Center		1					1
Picnic Area	2			8			10
Multi-Purpose area (indoor)		7					7
Marina						6	6
Miniature Golf						1	1
Amusement Park						1	1
Bowling Alley						1	1
Movie Theatre						1	1
Splash Area/Water Facility	1					1	2
Shelters	7	2		8			17
Walking/Hiking Trails	2	1					3
Volleyball							0
Fishing	1			1	1		3
Boat Launch					1	4	5
Overlook							0
Exercise Track		2	1				3

EXISTING FACILITIES: School-Owned

The Town of Irondequoit has entered into agreements with both the West and East Irondequoit Central School Districts to maintain recreational facilities on school-owned sites. Students use these Town facilities during regular school hours and residents of the Town are allowed to use these facilities after school hours and on school holidays.

The following information is a descriptive list of the existing recreational facilities at both the West and East Irondequoit Central School Districts.

West Irondequoit Central School District

Irondequoit High School, Listwood Elementary School & Dake Middle School

Location: Cooper Road, between Hoover Road & Biltmore Drive.



Irondequoit Campus aerial. Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Irondequoit High School

Enrollment:
1,380 students

Facility size:
15 acres (35 acres shared
with Listwood E.S. &
Dake M.S)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- Softball field
- Two baseball fields
- Multi-purpose turf field
- Eight tennis courts
- Football field (with stands)
- Running track (around field)

Indoor Recreational Facilities:

- 15,000 SF gymnasium
- Auditorium
- 35'x75' swimming pool

Site Characteristics:

- Fall season - Soccer, football & field hockey occupy multi-purpose fields; varsity & Jr. varsity baseball & softball occupy ballfields
- Spring season - lacrosse (men & women's), field hockey, track & field in stadium field
- No room for expansion

Listwood Elementary School

Enrollment:
158 students

Facility Size: 3.0 acres
(35 acres shared with
Irondequoit H.S. & Dake
M.S.)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- 50' x 50' playground area with wood mulch surface
- Eight swings
- One 8' slide

Site Characteristics:

- No room for expansion

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- One 1,667 SF multi-purpose space

Dake Middle School

Enrollment:
600 students

Facility size:
6.4 acres (35 acres shared
with Irondequoit H.S. &
Dake M.S.)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- Shares outdoor facilities with Irondequoit H.S.

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 4,320 SF gymnasium in two stations.

Site Characteristics:

- No room for expansion

Sproule Field House

Location: 221 Cooper Road (across from Irondequoit H.S.)

Facility Size: 4.6 acres



Field house, Irondequoit H.S. at upper right.
Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One soccer/lacrosse field
- Two softball fields

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- One court gymnasium

Site Characteristics:

- West Irondequoit CSD softball, field hockey utilize fields
- Recreational soccer & football also use fields

Briarwood Elementary School

Location: St. Paul Blvd & Somershire Rd.

Enrollment: 134 students

Facility Size: 3.7 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One soccer/lacrosse field
- 60' x 60' playground area with wood mulch surface
- Twelve swings
- One 8' slide

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 1,667 SF gymnasium

Site Characteristics:

- T-Ball is the primary event played at the school
- Conditional expansion room available (adjacent church property acquisition)

Colebrook Elementary School

Location: Colebrook Drive, between Washington Avenue & Shorewood Drive

Enrollment: 163 students

Facility size: 12.8 acres (shares site with Iroquois M.S.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Outdoor Recreational facilities:</i> | <i>Indoor Recreational facilities:</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 60' x 60' playground area with wood mulch surface• Twelve swings• One 8' slide | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1,667 SF multi-purpose space |
| | <i>Site Characteristics:</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring season - men & women's lacrosse• No room for expansion |

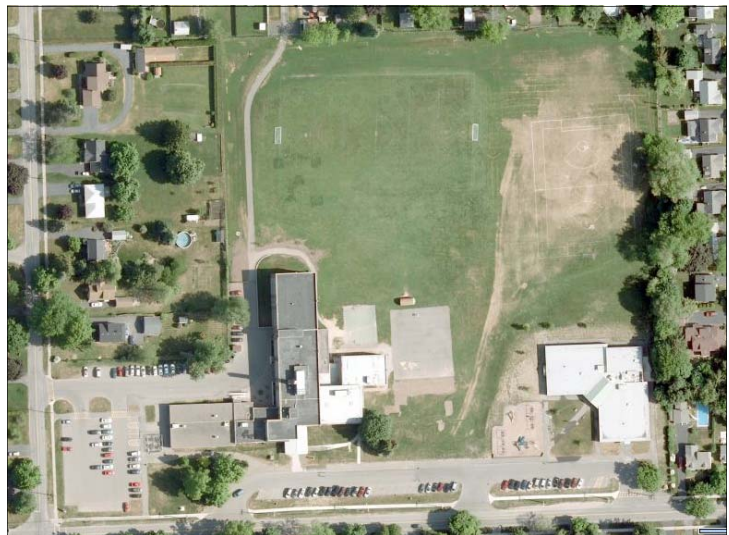
Iroquois Middle School

Location: Colebrook Drive, between Washington Avenue & Shorewood Drive

Enrollment: 387 students

Facility Size: 12.8 acres (shared site with Colebrook E.S.)

- | |
|---|
| <i>Outdoor Recreational facilities:</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One soccer/lacrosse field• One multi-purpose field• One basketball court (2 hoops) |
| <i>Indoor Recreational facilities:</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6,000 SF gymnasium in two stations |
| <i>Site Characteristics:</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall season - soccer• Spring season - men & women's lacrosse• No expansion room |



Colebrook & Iroquois Campus aerial.
Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Southlawn Elementary School

Location: Barry Road, between Dunbar Plaza Lane & Carol Drive

Enrollment: 239 students

Facility Size: 9.8 acres (shares site with Rogers M.S.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p><i>Outdoor Recreational facilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One softball field • One practice lacrosse field • One soccer/lacrosse field • Twelve swings • 35' x 75' playground area with wood mulch surface • One 8' slide | <p><i>Indoor Recreational facilities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,667 SF multi-purpose space <p><i>Site Characteristics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No room for expansion |
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Rogers Middle School

Location: Barry Road, between Oak Lane & Carol Drive

Enrollment: 468 students

Facility size: 9.8 acres (shares site with Southlawn E.S.)

- Outdoor Recreational facilities:*
- One softball field
 - Two soccer/lacrosse fields
- Indoor Recreational facilities:*
- 4,320 SF gymnasium in two stations
- Site Characteristics:*
- Freshman baseball, Viking football & men's lacrosse utilize outdoor facilities
 - No room for expansion



Southlawn & Rogers Campus aerial.
Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Brookview Elementary School

Location: Hudson Avenue & Brookview Drive

Enrollment: 161 students

Facility size: 2.8 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One softball field (no backstop, poor condition)
- 40' x 80' playground area with wood mulch surface
- One 8' slide
- Twelve swings

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 1,667 SF multi-purpose space

Site Characteristics:

- Expansion room available

Oakview Elementary School Site

Location: Titus Avenue & Oakview Drive

Enrollment: Closed; owned by District

Facility Size: 2.1 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One multi-purpose field
- Three swings
- One climbing dome
- 7,400 SF fenced-in playground area

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- Rental space for Child Daycare Center

Site Characteristics:

- Designated as the Teacher’s Learning Center

Pinegrove/Helmer Nature Center

Location: St. Paul Blvd & Pinegrove Ave.

Facility Size: 33.1 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One baseball field
- Three softball fields
- Two soccer/lacrosse fields
- Six swings
- One slide
- Chin-up bars

Site Characteristics:

- Helmer Nature Center occupies indoor/outdoor space
- ‘Outdoor classroom’ seating areas
- Covered pavilion
- Numerous trails
- 1,642 SF indoor space
- No expansion room

**See pg. 12 for additional info.*

Seneca Elementary School

Location: Thomas Avenue & St. Paul Blvd.

Enrollment: 164 students

Facility size: 2.9 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One softball field (poor condition)
- Half basketball court (1 hoop)
- Twelve swings
- One 8' slide
- Playground area with wood mulch surface

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 1,350 SF multi-purpose space

Site Characteristics:

- No expansion room

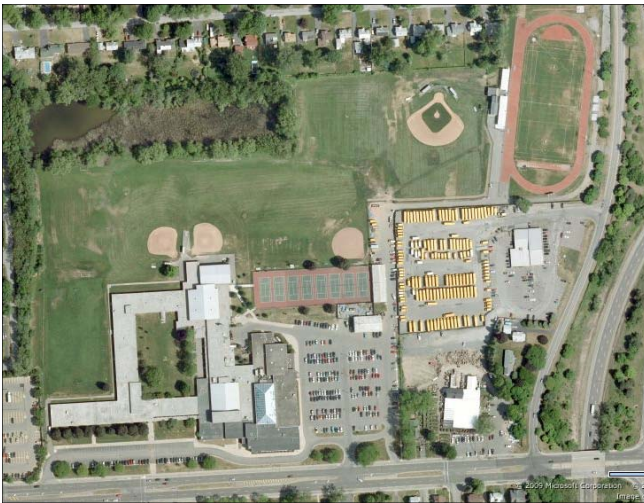
East Irondequoit Central School District

The East Irondequoit Central School District is proposing a capital renovation project to replace and renovate much of the older facilities in the school district. The project was voted and passed on December 9, 2008. Construction is expected to start the first week of June 2009.

Under the proposal, improvements will be underway at Eastridge High School to construct a new eight-lane, 25 meter pool and a new gymnasium. Outdoor facilities include upgrading the school's existing football field and running track area to a new multi-purpose artificial turf field, adding two more lanes to the existing running track (making a total eight lanes and thus meeting sectional guidelines) and constructing a new restroom/concession stand.

Eastridge High School

Location: Ridge Road
 Enrollment: 1,680 students
 Facility Size: 35 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One baseball field
- Three softball fields
- Eight tennis courts
- One soccer field
- One lacrosse field
- One football field & running track

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 75' x 35' swimming pool
- 140' x 120' gymnasium
- 100' x 100' gymnasium
- 970 seat auditorium with 20' x 120' stage
- Boys & girls locker rooms

Site Characteristics:

- Limited room for expansion
- June 2009 - one 60' & 90' field will be unavailable until 2011-2012

East Irondequoit Middle School

Location: Norton Road & Densmore Road

Enrollment: 807 students

Facility size: 13.9 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One 90-foot baseball field
- One 60-foot softball field
- One 63 yd x 110 yd all-purpose athletic field

Site Characteristics:

- Modified boys & girls basketball, girls soccer & football are played here

Ivan L. Green Elementary School

Location: Ridge Road, between Whipple Lane & Brown Road

Enrollment: 351 students

Facility size: 16 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- Three 60-foot softball fields
- One 90-foot baseball field
- One 70 yd x 120 yd all-purpose field
- One overlap soccer field
- Large playground area with wood mulch surface
- Eight swings - sets of two
- One 4' high climbing dome

Site Characteristics:

- Restricted room for expansion of facilities

Durand Eastman Elementary School

Location: Point Pleasant Road, between Baymouth Street & Dayne Street

Enrollment: 379 students

Facility Size: 5.0 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One 60-foot softball field
- 1,800 SF playground area
- Eight swings - sets of two
- 105' x 210' playground area with gravel surface & timber edging
- Three climbing/chin up bars
- One zip-line
- Second playground in poor condition

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 4,800 SF gymnasium
- 700 person auditorium
- Two locker rooms

Site Characteristics:

- No expansion room

Laurelton-Pardee Elementary School

Location: Norton Street & Pardee Road

Enrollment: 340 students

Facility Size: 6.5 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- Two 60-foot softball fields
- One 55 yd x 100 yd all-purpose field
- Second 55 yd x 100 yd all-purpose field used when no baseball
- Playground area with wood mulch surface
- Sixteen swings - sets of four
- Six "active" equipment pieces

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 3,750 SF gymnasium
- Locker rooms

Site Characteristics:

- Expansion room available

Helendale Elementary School

Location: Helendale Road & Westchester Avenue

Enrollment: 314 students

Facility size: 4.0 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

Outdoor Recreational facilities:

- One 60-foot T-Ball field
- One mini-soccer field
- 60' x 60' playground area with wood mulch surface
- Six swings
- Five "active" equipment pieces

Indoor Recreational facilities:

- 3,750 SF multi-purpose space
- 3,750 SF gymnasium

Site Characteristics:

- No expansion room available

Private (Parochial) School Facilities

Recreational facilities owned by parochial schools in the Town have been built to serve the needs of the schools. For this reason, use by individuals and groups not related to the school or church is limited.

Bishop Kearney High School

Location: 125 Kings Highway

Enrollment: 1,930 students

Facility Size: 41.8 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

- Outdoor Recreational facilities:*
- Two practice football fields
 - Two softball fields
 - Six tennis courts
 - One stadium field
 - Seven soccer fields
 - One baseball field
 - Running track
- Indoor Recreational facilities:*
- 900 person auditorium
 - Gymnasium
- Site Characteristics:*
- Gym & auditorium used by local groups for meetings & social gatherings

Christ the King School

Location: 445 Kings Highway

Enrollment: 290 students

Facility Size: 12.7 acres



Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth (maps.live.com)

- Outdoor Recreational facilities:*
- Four large multi-purpose fields
 - One medium playing field
 - Playground equipment facility
- Indoor Recreational facilities:*
- Combination auditorium & gymnasium

EXISTING FACILITIES: State, County & City

Irondequoit Bay State Marine Park

Location: Intersection of Route 590 & Culver Rd.
Ownership: New York State (operated by Monroe County Department of Parks)



Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Concrete public launch, three lanes
- 28 car & trailer parking
- 88 car parking spaces
- Six toilet facility
- 1,300 foot jetty
- Fishing pier with boat ties

Site Characteristics: The facility is lighted and wheelchair accessible. The swing bridge is open to allow boat traffic from the lake to the bay from April 1 to December 1 and closed so the road can be used connecting Irondequoit to the Town of Webster.

Irondequoit Bay Park West

Location: Between Route 590 & Irondequoit Bay South of Norton St. & Route 590
Ownership: Monroe County Department of Parks



Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Largely undeveloped land
- Two commercial marinas (owner-operated & leased from County)
- Informal car-top boat launch area (Orchard Park Blvd.)

Site Characteristics: 147 acres with 2,000 feet of pristine Bay frontage; an outstanding resource for Town and County residents. Steep slopes along the southern portion. The leases for the marinas expire periodically, at which time their use as owner-operated marinas is reviewed.

Durand-Eastman Park

Location: Between Lake Ontario & Titus Ave.

Ownership: City of Rochester/Monroe County



Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2008)

Recreational facilities:

- Archery range
- Nature trails
- Bike/multi-use trails
- Hiking & bridle trails
- Several water areas
- Picnic areas
- Multi-purpose fields
- 18-hole public golf course with club house (pro shop & snack bar)
- One-mile long, undeveloped sand beach

Site Characteristics: 965 acre park on the shores of Lake Ontario, including the section with the Town of Irondequoit. The Van Lare Wastewater Treatment Facility is also located here. Currently, parking is mostly uncontrolled and located along much of the length of the beach. The City of Rochester has undertaken some planning work in 2007 and 2008 for the construction of a beach house, designated parking, multi-use trail continuity, picnic areas, and a drop-off area. The project would also involve environmental cleanup along the beach and contributing streams along the shore in the area of the beach.

Durand Eastman Park is mostly rolling, wooded terrain and has a mile-long sandy beach. Only 300 feet of this beach is designated for bathing/swimming. In addition, the park contains four lakes stocked with fish, eight designated picnic areas, various shelters, an 18-hole golf course, and a nationally recognized arboretum with over 395 species of trees, shrubs, and plants. County-designated trails are outlined on the following pages, although many other unofficial, non-maintained, or non-County designated trails exist for walking and hiking for all-season use.

There is considerable vacant County land at the Van Lare Wastewater Treatment Facility which could potentially be used for recreational purposes by the Town if arrangements can be worked out with the County and City of Rochester. In particular is the 8 to 10 acres just east of and abutting Camp Eastman. This is relatively flat land, highly visible from Lakeshore Boulevard, accessible, and could be easily separated and buffered from the remainder of the treatment plant activities, and may even warrant a separate entrance.

State Fishing Access Site

This 1 acre +/- site at the very end of St. Paul Blvd. is operated by the New York State Dept. of Conservation. With about 300 LF of headwall on the Genesee River, it is a popular place for fishing in Irondequoit. There is ample parking for 80+ cars and the entire site is handicapped accessible. The site is well appointed with shade trees and landscaping, seating walls and benches and concrete bollards to keep cars off of the grass. Additional fishing access is also located at the piers on Irondequoit Bay & the Summerville Pier.



Trails in Irondequoit

The Town contains various designated trails in many of the Town and County parks, as well as other undesignated trails in other portions of the Town. Some of the trails include the following (see Figure 7.2):

Lakeside Trail

- Location: Culver Road in Sea Breeze to Pattonwood Drive & the O'Rourke Bridge (via sidewalks and road shoulders).
- Ownership: Monroe County, Town of Irondequoit, and the City of Rochester
- Features: 4.8 miles long, 13 ft. wide asphalt trail, timber boardwalk/bridge over Tamarack Swamp; provides linkages to the Seaway Trail; views of over 5,000 ft. beach shoreline; rest stops; signage.

Sea Breeze Boulevard Trail

- Location: Along former Sea Breeze Expressway from Titus Avenue to Irondequoit Bay Marine Park boat launch.
- Ownership: Monroe County, and the Town of Irondequoit
- Features: 1.5 miles long, 13 ft. wide asphalt trail; connections to adjacent neighborhoods; provides linkage to the new Irondequoit Bay Secret Cove Park, the Irondequoit Bay Marine Park, Sea Breeze Amusement Park, and the Lakeside and Seaway Trails.

Seaway Trail

- Location: Parallels 518 miles of shoreline along St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario and Erie, and the Niagara River in New York and Pennsylvania.

Features: One of “America’s Scenic Byways,” it is a well-marked leisure route for motorists, hikers and bicyclists with various cultural attractions along its length.

Eastman Lake Trail

Location: Durand Eastman Park

Ownership: Monroe County

Features: 1.5 miles long, scenic & wooded with wood chip or dirt trail.

Durand Lake Trail

Location: Durand Eastman Park

Ownership: Monroe County

Features: 1.2 miles long, scenic & wooded with wood chip or dirt trail.

Trott Lake Trail

Location: Durand Eastman Park

Ownership: Monroe County

Features: 0.5 miles long, scenic & wooded with wood chip or dirt trail.

Irondequoit Bay West

Other than the existing access road that connects Empire Blvd. with Bay Shore Road, there are no formal or designated trails in the Park. The recently completed park master plan does propose new trails/connections on the old railroad bed along the waterfront and as well as a safe crossing of Empire Blvd.

Helmer Nature Center

Location: 154 Pinegrove Avenue

Ownership: West Irondequoit Central School District

Features: 1.2 miles long with 0.5 mile north extension. 45 acres of land with mixture of woods and open fields with a variety of wildlife, a fully marked and accessible wood chip trail, bridges over ponds and wetland areas.

Seabreeze/Charlotte/Seneca Trail (former CSX railroad bed)

This existing, unimproved trail runs along the now abandoned CSX railroad bed along the east side of the Genesee River. The trail was originally scheduled for improvement in 2001-3, but was delayed and ultimately abandoned when negotiations broke down with the owner, CSX, Inc. A connection to the south, the ‘El Camino Trail’ (Rochester Running Track), is currently being designed and is scheduled for construction in 2010 to 2011. In its current state, the trail is 2.7 miles in length from the City line to St. Paul Boulevard.



Figure 7.2

EXISTING FACILITIES: Private/Commercial Recreation

All Star Sports Arena

The All Star Sports Arena, located at 557 East Ridge Road, is currently operated as active sports recreation facility rented out to sports groups in the Town for practice and games in soccer, lacrosse, and other field sports. The facility is located in both the Town and City limits.

Sea Breeze Park

Sea Breeze Park is located in the Sea Breeze area of the Town on Culver Road on a 22 acre site. Originally started in the 1900's as a picnic grove, it has developed into an amusement park with over 20 rides, refreshment stands, a miniature golf course, and picnic facilities. Special discount rates are offered to groups of 25 or more. The park has the ability to accommodate a crowd of up to 10,000 people. It is open to the public from mid-May through Labor Day week. It is the largest amusement park in the area and it is privately owned.



Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2008)

Miniature Golf Courses

The Parkside Whispering Pines Miniature Golf course is the only course of its kind in the Town and also happens to be on the National Register of Historic Places. Originally constructed in 1930, it is oldest course in continuous use in the country. The course is located at 4383 Culver Road in the Sea Breeze neighborhood.

Bowling Alleys

There's one bowling alley within the Town. It is Parkview Lanes at 4306 Culver Road. A second bowling alley, L & M Lanes is located at 873 Merchants Road but just over the Town line and located in the City of Rochester.

Health Spas/Gyms/Fitness Centers

There are eight gyms and fitness centers within the Town. They are Gold's Gym and Fitness at 730 East Ridge Road, Lady be Fit Express at 1945 Ridge Road East, Boundaries Gym at 2256 Hudson Avenue, Worgo Inc. Personal Training at 299 Avondale Road and Curves at 563 Titus Avenue.

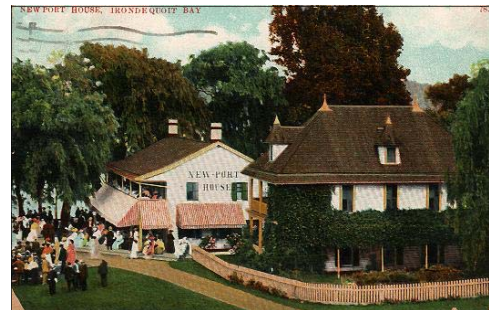
Private/Commercial Water Facilities

Rochester Yacht Club

This private club is located at 5555 St. Paul Boulevard. Approximately 50 percent of the site is in the Town of Irondequoit, including the eastern half of the boat basin, storage building, lockers and shop. The remainder of the club is located in the City of Rochester. Out of the 800 members, approximately 152 are from Irondequoit. Facilities include mooring and storage for privately owned boats, a large swimming pool, wading pool for children, two lighted tennis courts, a snack bar, patio, and restaurant and bar. Programs include swimming lessons for children and a women's sail program (June) and a children's sail program (July-August). These programs are open to the public with members given first preference. Social activities are also sponsored by the Club, but are open to members only.

Newport House & Marina

The Newport House was constructed in 1840 and over time transformed into a restaurant and marina with docking for approximately 160 boats. The restaurant facility is currently closed and plans for redevelopment of the property by the new owner for residential uses is under consideration by the Town. The boat docking facilities, storage and other related facilities will reportedly remain open for the near term.



Source: www.VintageViews.org (date unk.)

Rochester Canoe Club

The members of this private club, located on Irondequoit Bay at 2050 Bay Shore Boulevard, race small sail boats and sponsor other sailing programs for all ages. The club includes a clubhouse with a full kitchen, locker rooms, storage facilities, two sandy beaches and two temporary docks. Members boats are kept on land as are power boats used during weekend races; no boats are permanently kept in the water.

Irondequoit Bay Fish and Game Club

This private club is located on two acres at 658 Bay Front South. Facilities include a clubhouse with parking for over 60 vehicles and dockage for approximately 65 boats. The club also has approximately 300 members; about 150 are Town residents. The property also has a large lawn area for picnics and gatherings.



Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2008)

Shumway Marine

Shumway Marine is located at 40 Marina Drive on the Genesee River. It has summer dockage for 280 boats as well as winter storage facilities, a launching ramp, repair shop and ship's store. Dockage is available for a seasonal fee and launching rights are available on a daily fee basis.

Sutter's Marine

Sutter's Marine is located at 412 Bay Front South on Irondequoit Bay adjacent to Irondequoit Bay County Park West. It has summer dockage for 160 boats, available for a seasonal fee and launching rights on a daily fee basis. It also provides winter storage facilities, a launching ramp, repair shop and ship's store.

McMillan Marine, Inc.

This facility is located at 1070 Empire Boulevard on the south end of Irondequoit Bay. It has no dockage facilities, but provides off-season storage for about 200 boats. There is a launching ramp, ship's store for boat sales and service and repair shop. Launching rights are available on a daily fee basis.

Smith Boys of Rochester, Inc.

Located at 55 Marina Drive, this facility has no docking available but does offer off-season storage for around 50 boats. There is a ship store for boat sales and service and a small repair shop.

Genesee Yacht Club

Genesee Yacht Club is located at 10 Marina Drive. It has summer dockage for 48 boats, but has 150 members so there is a long waiting list. It also provides winter storage of boats for members, has a travel lift, and a small ship's store. Dockage is available for a seasonal fee – members only, and mooring rights are available only for reciprocal marina group members only when a slip might be available.

Recreational Opportunities near the Town

There are many recreational opportunities near the Town which are within reasonable travel time. Following are the closest major facilities to Town residents.

Braddock Bay State Park

This State Park is located approximately ten miles west of the Town along the shore of Lake Ontario. It has direct access from the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Facilities include picnicking, boating with a marina and launching site, multi-purpose fields, and hiking and nature trails. Winter facilities include cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails.

Ontario Beach County Park

This County Park is located at the end of Lake Avenue on the shore of Lake Ontario in the City of Rochester. Facilities include a beach house, lighted sand beach, benches, a picnic shelter, parking lot, a baseball diamond, a softball diamond, and two soccer fields.



Source: www.city-data.com

Seneca Park

Seneca Park, with over three miles of Genesee River frontage, is located in the southwest section of the Town between the Genesee River and the old, recently abandoned Penn Central railroad lines, now owned by Rochester Gas and Electric. It has playground areas, a softball field, a zoo, and a small lake with picnic tables and benches. The park is in good condition, but has little area available for expansion of

facilities. Since the early 1990's, the zoo has expanded with the addition of the Genesee Trail and Discovery Center in 1993 (now known as the Kodak ECO Center), The 'Rocky Coast' exhibit, opened in 1997, an animal health and education complex opened in 2003, and the controversial African Elephant Exhibit opened in 2005.



Seneca Park in 1907. Many trails still exist in the park, although the Zoo is the prime attraction today. Source: vintageviews.org

Y.M.C.A. Bay View

This branch is located at 1209 Bay Road in the Town of Penfield. Recreational facilities include a 37' x 75' swimming pool, a full size gymnasium with basketball goals and other play equipment, an exercise room with weight machines and other exercise equipment. Programs range for ages four months to senior citizens in swimming, athletics, and classes. Approximately 25 percent of those services by this Y.M.C.A. are residents of the Town of Irondequoit.

Y.M.C.A. Maplewood

This branch is located at 25 Driving Park Avenue in the City of Rochester. Recreational facilities include a 42' x 75' indoor/outdoor swimming pool, indoor/outdoor track, a weight room, and a full size gymnasium with basketball hoops, ropes, and a trampoline. Outdoor facilities include a small rectangular field, playground, and a large picnic shelter. Approximately 60 percent of the members of this Y.M.C.A. are residents of the Town of Irondequoit.

Webster County Park

This county park is located approximately five miles east of the Town of Irondequoit in Webster on the shores of Lake Ontario. Facilities include four lodges for public use, several parking lots, four cabins for group use, a playground equipment area, four tennis courts, nine picnic shelters, and a camping area with facilities for tent and trailer use.

Ellison County Park

This county park is located in the Town of Penfield at the southern extremity of Irondequoit Bay and is traversed by Irondequoit Creek. It is approximately two miles from the south east boundary of the Town of Irondequoit. The majority of the park is covered in wetlands that surround Irondequoit Creek.



Ellison Park with Empire Blvd in the background. Source: CPL (2009)

Lake Shore Golf Center

Lake Shore Golf Center, at 1165 Greenleaf Road in the Town of Greece, has an 18-hole regulation golf course, a 9-hole executive course, three par 3 holes, and two paddle tennis courts. There is a 9-hole winter golf course and a cross country ski course with lessons available. Full club house facilities include food and bar service, locker rooms, and a pro shop. This is a semi-private facility with membership and daily fees. Approximately 35 percent of the users are residents of the Town of Irondequoit. In addition, the Irondequoit Parks and Recreation Department has both a men's and women's senior golf leagues during the summer months.

Latta Lea Golf Course

This is a nine-hole, par 3 course located in the Town of Greece at 435 Latta Road. There is a club house with a pro shop and snack bar. Approximately 15 percent of the users are from the Town of Irondequoit.

Webster Golf Courses

These two courses, under the same ownership and located at 440 and 415 Salt Road in the Town of Webster, share a common club house with a pro shop, locker rooms, and food and bar service. Each course is a full size 18 hole facility. They are semi-private with memberships and daily fees. Approximately 30 percent of the users are residents of the Town of Irondequoit.

Lake Shore Rinks

This indoor facility, located at 124 Ling Road in the Town of Greece, has two enclosed rinks. Ice time can be rented for general and club skating.

Town of Webster Ice Skating Facility

The Town of Webster operates this field house building that doubles as an ice skating rink during the cold months of the year. Groups can reserve the rink for skating, ice hockey, and other activities.

Webster Field House

Also located in the Town of Webster on Publishers Parkway is a 45,000 SF field house with artificial turf. It is located in the same building as the Webster Ice Arena. This facility is used extensively by Webster soccer and other sports clubs for indoor practice and scrimmages. It is also reportedly used by out-of-town groups, such as Irondequoit Lacrosse, but only if there are no Webster teams needing it.

PARKS & RECREATION DEMANDS AND NEEDS

“Easy and enjoyable access to a broad spectrum of active and passive recreational facilities serving all ages” is one of the goals of the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan and, more specifically, of this Parks, Recreation and Trails Plan. With that goal, a balance must be struck so that development of new recreational facilities is consistent with objectives and techniques for preserving the Town's cultural and living qualities. It is hoped the Town's planning efforts will manage the locations and nature of future growth to utilize land, transportation, and other resources—including recreational ones—most effectively.

Irondequoit is less fortunate than many of its neighboring towns such as Webster or Greece in that there is very little undeveloped land available for the development of parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the Town needs to continue its efforts to acquire the additional land and resources as they become available and to strive to use existing resources in more effective ways. This section of the plan outlines the various demands and needs of various sports, activities and facilities and groups in the Town that are the basis for the recommendations to follow.

Delivery and Organization of Recreation

Currently, the Town provides a variety of recreation facilities such as athletic fields, playgrounds, trails and natural areas for residents of all ages to use. It is also home to one of the premier recreational and event gathering places in Monroe County with the acquisition of Camp Eastman. Seniors in Irondequoit are served in a variety of ways by the Town Parks and Recreation Department through its Program for Aging and Nutrition Program, among many others, at both the Pinegrove Senior Center and Camp Eastman.

The Parks and Recreation staff, which consists of a Director, Assistant, four office staff, five full-time maintenance workers and 83 part-time and seasonal employees, is organized, well-staffed and fully capable of carrying out its mission to serve the Town residents. Staffing has increased slightly (94.5 to 99) since 2006; the department does

not currently see the need to hire additional staff as attendance at Town recreational programs has remained steady. However, with an increase in the senior segment of the population, it is likely that current staff members will not be sufficient. Should the number of seniors served increase substantially, part-time senior staff (currently three employees) could move to full-time positions or additional staff may be required.

Both of the school districts in Town continue to be the principal providers of public facilities for youth sports programs such as football, baseball, softball and soccer. In addition, several youth sports organizations, which are led by dedicated volunteers in the community, serve a large number of youth, including the Irondequoit Soccer Club, All-Irondequoit Sports Association (AISA), Irondequoit Athletic Association (IAA), Irondequoit Lacrosse Club and the Irondequoit Vikings Football, and many others. Although no formal agreement exists, the Director of Parks and Recreation organizes a meeting once a year between the sports organizations and school districts to coordinate field use at the schools and parks.

Recreational Demands and Needs

Recommendations for recreational facilities and programs in the Town are based on solid findings and analysis of the current conditions. The needs for recreational facilities, both active and passive, and for specific facilities, are estimated based on several criteria:

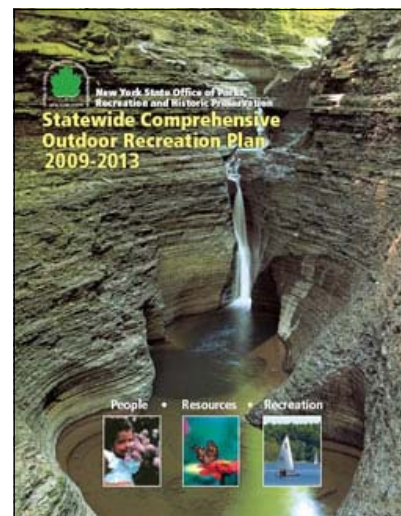
- evaluations of present and anticipated future populations,
- general and local recreational trends,
- experience with nearby communities,
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards and
- specific deficiencies identified by user group representatives.

Demands for many recreational facilities that require investments in relatively large areas of land, capital development and maintenance and operations can be identified relatively easily based on enrollments, recreational trends, and other available information. Various types of athletic fields and courts can be quantified; however, demands for many recreational activities, such as trails, skate parks, passive parks, and nature centers, cannot be as readily quantified. These are desirable and popular assets of a community.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) issues an oft-cited publication (“Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines”) used for assistance in determining the type and amount of facilities that should be made available in a particular municipality. Both the current version (1996) and an earlier version are referred to in this plan. Early versions provide more specific recommendations on facility provisions based upon population. In comparison, the later version provides methodology for self-determination of community needs based upon an assessment of community input, current trends, specific situations, methods, and practices. Some of the standards that were utilized are shown below.

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) that was published in 2009 tells us the population of the State will grow considerably older over the next 20 years and our efforts need to take those changing demographics into account. Low-intensity and passive activities such as walking, relaxing in a park, swimming, boating, tennis, golf and bicycling will see an increase in participation rates. Demand rates for courts and field games are likely to decrease, but only on the order of less than 1.5 percent.

The SCORP also identifies the Monroe County area as having ‘moderate’ to ‘acute’ shortages of swimming facilities, parks, fields, walking, biking, hiking and cross-country skiing. All, of course, vary depending on the location in the region and the town.



National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Standards

Often referenced by recreation and park planners and designers, the NRPA is a valuable starting point for determining adequate recreational facilities for municipalities. The standards are used as a guide and address minimum goals; they should be interpreted according to particular situations and specific local needs. Many other facilities do not include specific standards and are instead based upon local conditions and needs. If specific standards apply, the NRPA ratios for facilities are referenced throughout this section.

- Football Fields: 1 field per 20,000 people
- Rectangular Fields (lacrosse/soccer/field hockey): 1 field per 10,000 people
- Basketball Courts (2 hoops): 1 court per 5,000 people
- Baseball/Softball Fields: 1 field per 5,000 people
- Tennis: 1 court per 2,000 people
- Outdoor Ice Skating: 1 rink per 100,000 people

In Irondequoit, the population is expected to decrease by approximately 2 percent between now and 2030. Over the same time period, the demand for active recreation facilities, at current participation levels, will likely decrease slightly unless significant variations are realized in participation levels. The growing elderly population will likely continue to over-tax the Pinegrove facility until a suitable alternative is found.

The limited amount of available open, accessible land in the Town impacts parkland and right-of-way width influences the nature and extent of a bike or trail system. Nature centers and similar passive recreational attractions typically occur where physical or cultural features justify them and make them feasible. Also influencing land use is the protection of wetlands and other ecosystems, as these are important for recreation as well as for education, ecology and habitat protection.

Indoor recreational facilities are increasingly in demand for many reasons, such as providing year-round use and activities for all age groups. Many people have become accustomed to indoor recreational facilities, municipal and private/commercial, in other communities. Irondequoit must determine the feasibility and extent of developing indoor facilities for residents.

Senior recreation facilities are also increasingly in demand due to a growing population in this demographic group. The Pinegrove facility is increasingly less able to accommodate even the existing senior population due to the poor condition of the building and increasing number of activities and subsequent over-crowding. A new senior facility could be integrated in the construction of a new Community Center.

It is equally important that the Town provide at least some additional park land to meet known demands and resultant shortages. Additional land is also needed because recreational trends and levels of participation vary over time, resulting in a need for space for new opportunities. In addition, many potential park users do not participate in organized programs, but desire space to play informal games, picnic, run or jog, sit or simply “fly a kite”. Acquiring park land to serve future populations and demand is crucial while we understand the limited nature of appropriate parcels that remain available.



Parks can range from active areas with ball fields and playground to open areas for informal picnicking and other leisure activities. Source: Pagosa Daily Post, Bill Hudson.

Trails, Sidewalks and Other Linkages

As identified by residents during the planning process, there is a significant demand and need to connect parks and neighborhoods through walking/biking paths or sidewalks so that those of all ages have access to recreational opportunities. In addition, bicycle access in the town is expanding rapidly with the recent completion of the Lakeside Trail and the current reconstruction of Sea Breeze Expressway, which includes a multi-use trail.

While there are no standards for the number of trails or length that should be offered within a town, there are objectives and guidelines for the creation of a variety of linkages, including hiking and biking trails and walkways. The American Hiking Society recommends a trail within one mile of any location within a community. Numerous opportunities for additional trails suggest such a guideline could be met at least in part. Some areas of the Town are too well developed to accommodate off-road trails, therefore sidewalks and widened shoulders are important in these areas to maintain trail continuity and linkages.

On-road trails, including designated bike and shared travel lanes, will likely continue to be a major mode of connection between neighborhoods and trails. In the Parks and Recreation public opinion survey, nearly 30 percent of the respondents indicated that there was a strong need for more trails, hiking, jogging and walking paths and bike paths/lanes. In addition, the same number of people stated trails or paths was one of the three top priorities for the Town.

Outdoor Athletic and Recreation Facilities

During the planning process, officials for the various youth sports organizations indicated slight to moderate deficiencies in the availability of outdoor athletic fields. This is primarily due to the diminishing availability of school district fields and the overuse of existing fields, especially at the schools. Of special significance is the loss of the use of fields at Bishop Kearney due to lack of proper maintenance. Visiting team officials have likewise expressed a great dissatisfaction with the conditions of those fields. This leaves the youth soccer program without a location where tournaments can be played with numerous games being played simultaneously.

The public opinion survey indicates almost 1/3 of respondents identified more outdoor playing fields as the idea that would most improve parks and recreation facilities in Irondequoit. About 85 percent of respondents felt provision of safe play areas for youth was very important. In addition, more than three-quarters of respondents had children 18 years old or younger indicating a great deal of interest in this group in making their opinions known. This is much greater than the actual percentage of the portion of the population, but indicates a strong opinion among that group.

The needs for specific outdoor facilities and activities are as follows.

Football, Soccer, Lacrosse

These three sports are played on large rectangular fields of somewhat similar size. Younger classes of lacrosse and soccer can utilize smaller-sized fields for play. The heaviest demand for rectangular fields for these sports typically occurs during the spring season - football, though, is strictly a fall sport. The two active football club teams, Vikings and Screaming Eagles, utilize the West Irondequoit H.S. and McAvoy fields for games, in addition to use of fields by the school's football program. Demand for football fields is not likely to increase significantly in the near or extended future. Similar to complaints by other clubs, practice fields are often over-used and often not in ideal condition.



Field layouts for the three sports (football, soccer & lacrosse) are roughly 50-70 yards by 100-120 yards.

Irondequoit Screaming Eagles Pop-Warner Football League

Approximately 150 players make up the team and the ages range from 6 to 14. Five teams are in the league in the Town and they are divided according to their weight class. The team also has about 60 cheerleaders on three teams in the same age ranges (6 to 14).

Irondequoit Vikings Youth Football

Irondequoit Vikings Youth Football and Cheerleading Club has about 165 football enrollees and 60 cheerleaders as of 2009. Four teams make up the football organization in the Town, including a flag football team for small children, and they are broken down according to age: Category A (ages 11-14), Category B (ages 9-11) and Category C (ages 7-9). Cheerleaders are also divided among three categories as well (A, B, C).

League size in the Irondequoit Soccer Club has remained steady and, over time, the league has learned to live with a perennial and chronic shortage of fields. The teams routinely try to reschedule rainouts at the visitors fields out-of-town due to the lack of field availability for makeup games. The club uses fields in both districts as well as the Town's fields at McAvoy and Joshua Parks. The club anticipates some modest growth next year as the popularity of the sport continues to increase. A need for more fields for practice and game use has been identified as those currently in use are worn from over use by mid- to late-season and pose safety hazards to players. The loss of fields at Bishop Kearney due to maintenance leads to a loss of a location to sponsor large, multi-club tournaments or events. No other suitable locations of similar size exist in the Town. Field lighting and turf fields are included on the club's wish list, because of the extended practice and game availability without the risk of field damage.



*The Soccer Club regularly holds multi-team tournaments in Irondequoit - teams from all over come to the Town for this event.
Source: Irondequoit Soccer Club, John Maier.*

Irondequoit Soccer Club

The Soccer Club has 1,270 enrollees, including about 300 competitive players on 23 teams in the travel portion, and about 970 in the 'house' program portion. Players range in ages from five to 19 and the breakdown of teams is as follows: 12 U6 teams (boys and girls combined), 16 U8 teams (boys and girls combined), 7 U10 boys, 8 U10 girls, 2 U12 boys, 4 U12 girls, 2 U15 boys and 2 U15 girls, and one U19 team each for boys & girls. This adds up to a total of 70 teams.

Irondequoit's Indians Youth Lacrosse club has seen significant growth per year and projects additional growth by 2011 (560 active players in 2008-9). The club uses fields at Helmer Nature Center (Pinegrove) and other schools. The club's immediate needs include several fields for practice and regulation games in one location separate from school events, specifically the school varsity team. Field bleachers, backstops, catch nets and field lighting were also identified by the club to alleviate scheduling conflicts by scheduling night games. In addition, the club suggests the Town designate fields for certain sports only, to make them consistently available.

Current use of school fields to their full capacity does not permit the facilities' directors to rotate fields "off-line" for needed periodic maintenance. In addition, the development of additional fields on the school campuses is not a feasible alternative. Additional field capacity is necessary to reduce field use and to allow rotation and renovation of fields.

There is an anticipated deficiency of **one** additional rectangular field for 2010 and 2011 due to the temporary (two-year) loss of the game field at Eastridge H.S. as that facility undergoes a major reconstruction. The shortage of fields could be partly satisfied by the creation of new rectangular fields at Camp Eastman. The NRPA traditional standard for football fields is 1 per 20,000 which the Town exceeds or will exceed with the completion of the East Ridge High stadium.

A new sports complex would need to have a minimum of five fields on 25 contiguous acres; 40-80 acres would be optimal. The traditional NRPA standard of one rectangular field (soccer, lacrosse, field hockey use) per 10,000 population is now considerably outdated considering the enormous growth and popularity of the rectangular field sports among youth in the last 20 years. A sports complex would also relieve pressure on existing school fields that has led to poor conditions.

Over 30 percent of respondents to the public opinion survey identified the need for rectangular fields as one of their three top priorities. Over half of all respondents indicated they had at least one child in the Irondequoit Soccer Club. With the inclusion of respondents having at least one child in a lacrosse or football program, the figure rises to approximately 66 percent of all respondents. This is probably much higher than the actual percentage of families in Town, but indicates a strong need amongst those that do.

Baseball, Youth Baseball, Softball

Baseball, youth baseball and softball are popular in Irondequoit. While each has different requirements for fields, they are addressed collectively for planning purposes.

Although school needs are essentially met with the existing fields, community demand for existing fields exceeds capacity. There are 550 boys and girls, ages 4 to 19, on 42 teams enrolled in Irondequoit Athletic Association (IAA) program and 300 boys and

girls on about 22 teams enrolled in the All-Irondequoit Sports Association (AISA) programs. The boys teams on IAA plays at Christ the King, Eastridge H.S. and Pardee School (2 fields each); McAvoy, East Irondequoit M.S. and Pinegrove (one field each); and Ivan Green (2-3 fields). Girls IAA play at Sproule Field House, Lakeview field (at Kiddie Kollege on Pattonwood Drive), Rodgers M.S. JV field and Seneca E.S. AISA plays at the same schools and is not chartered by Williamsport official Little League. The leagues project enrollment to remain static over the upcoming years as the population growth rate for the town has leveled off and the demographics are trending toward a generally older population.

Athletic field reconstruction at East Irondequoit High School will limit availability of several fields (1- 90 ft field and 3- 60 ft. fields) for the next two to three years. The projected shortage in fields cannot be served at the schools or at other existing venues. IAA and AISA have expressed an immediate need for **four** replacement baseball/ softball fields.

Both groups have expressed a real need to bring the leagues together by creating a larger complex that would house all teams at one central location. This arrangement would also be worthwhile for football, soccer, and lacrosse groups as well. A central complex would have numerous advantages, including:

- Parents with multiple participants would need to go to just one location to deliver their players.
- Concessions could be run with enough participants and fans to make it work economically.
- Opportunities for fund raising to build and support concession and storage buildings.
- Maintenance would be easier with fields all in one location with less dependence on school district maintenance staff and more on volunteers in the community.
- Economies of scale when purchasing better equipment.



An example of a multi-field sports complex located in Mulvane, KS.

Discussions have continued regarding the joining of the two leagues into one, sanctioned league. However, the most recent vote on this measure (2009) was voted down. Town participation in the provision of a central baseball/softball complex should be contingent on the two teams combining to form one unified organization.

T-Ball sized fields (40 to 50-foot baselines) do not formally exist in the Town. Games are played in open fields that are set up on a weekly basis without backstops, dugouts, fencing, or other amenities.

Traditional NRPA standards indicate one 90-foot baseline field and one 60-foot baseline field for seniors per 5,000 people. For 90-foot fields, this is considerably more than is required for the town or region as participation levels drop considerably after the 12-13 year old age group. A figure of about one 90-foot baseline field per 10,000 population is probably more appropriate for a town the size of Irondequoit. Currently, there are six such 90-foot baseline fields in the Town which would equate to approximately a one in 8,000 level. The standard for 60-foot fields is exceeded by the availability of fields in the Town (21 fields).

The central problem for 60-foot fields remains that no one location in the Town has more than three fields and one of the primary locations (Eastridge H.S.) will be eliminating those three fields for a period of two years for reconstruction. Parents with multiple children in baseball often find themselves ferrying kids to multiple locations. There is a lack of a sense of a “baseball community” when no one location serves as a home for the organization. Maintenance, concessions and quality of fields all suffer with an organization spread out over so many venues.

About 23 percent of respondents to the public opinion survey identified the need for baseball fields as one of their three top priorities. A little over one-third of all respondents had children in one of the two town baseball programs.

Outdoor Tennis Courts

Outdoor tennis courts serve high school teams and players who do not participate at private, club and commercial courts. Courts in neighboring towns are underused. Within the Town, there are 24 courts - eight courts at the Eastridge H.S. campus, eight

courts at West Irondequoit H.S., six at Bishop Kearney and two at Spezio Park. The traditional NRPA standard of one court per 2,000 people is nearly met by the existing inventory and most likely exceeds the current "non-school" demand. As additional town parks are developed in the future, consideration should be given to possibly developing one or two courts within those parks conveniently located near population centers. Tennis is a sport that ebbs and flows in popularity and often there is a period of several years of decreased interest in tennis.

About three percent of respondents to the public opinion survey identified the need for tennis courts as one of their three top priorities.

Basketball Courts

There are three known outdoor basketball court locations in the Town and possibly more that were not detected by the master planning effort. A typical and traditional standard for development of outdoor basketball courts is one per 5,000 people; this would equate to a shortage of **five** basketball courts. An expanded search is needed to verify the numbers obtained during the master planning process. Any new park planning effort involving a parcel of land larger than a small pocket should consider the inclusion of a basketball court or a multi-purpose court that includes basketball hoops. It is a relatively inexpensive way to bring active recreation opportunities to a large number of participants.

About nine percent, or 40, of those who responded to the public opinion survey identified the need for basketball courts as one of their three top priorities.

Outdoor Ice Skating

Interest in ice skating consists of two principal forms: recreational ice skating and ice hockey. Speed skating and figure skating are specialties beyond the scope of the Town. The School District offers a varsity hockey team and a junior high school club team in addition to spring and summer league teams. No specific needs or demands were identified during the planning process. At least three outdoor ice skating locations were mentioned in the earlier (1977) Town Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These have since been removed due to the difficulty of creating and maintaining adequate rinks in Rochester's climate.

Outdoor Swimming Pools/Aquatics

Irondequoit has no outdoor public swimming pool, with the exception of the recently re-opened Durand Eastman Beach, which is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day and is operated by the City of Rochester. Plans have been prepared by the City for enlargement and improvements including a large beach house, organized parking, a drop area for parents and mass transit and other amenities. During the creation of this Plan, the improvements were not funded, but advanced planning has been pursued for the elimination of pollution problems along the shore that often render the beach unfit for swimming and closure by the Monroe County Department of Health.

Public outdoor pools have declined in popularity in most suburban environments due to the availability of private home and club pools, declining interest in “static” pools and easy access to natural beaches, particularly in the Finger Lakes and at Lake Ontario.

Aquatic centers with a variety of amusements such as water slides, spray pools, wave pools, and other attractions hold interest longer and have greater appeal to today's participants. With the addition of a water park of regional significance at Seabreeze Amusement Park, some years ago, Irondequoit residents are well served in this area. The Town also has a “Splash / Water Play” facility at Camp Eastman constructed about five years ago that has been very popular. However, these are seasonal facilities and interest was still expressed during public meetings. Additional thought and study is warranted on provision facilities that do not compete with attractions at Seabreeze.



The Town's “Splash/Water Play” facility at Camp Eastman was opened recently and is a favorite among children. Source: Town of Irondequoit

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a popular sport that is growing in popularity each year. It is a sport, however, that needs a greater amount of space to accommodate its needs than many other sports. There were only eight respondents in the survey who mentioned this as one of the top three things they thought should be accommodated in future parks plus four respondents who wanted to see a new BMX bike course.

In-Line Skating, Skateboarding, and Roller Hockey

In-line skating and skateboarding are mainstream activities appealing to large numbers of mostly younger participants. In-line skating is a valid form of transportation and recreation for which provisions should be made. Roller hockey uses in-line skates for an increasingly popular sport similar to ice hockey and using a similar rink. Skateboarding is also a well-established activity popular primarily among teenagers. The lack of appropriate venues for skateboarding often leads to misuse and conflicts with pedestrians and retailers in commercial areas. Skateboard parks are desirable recreational facilities among younger kids and teens. They may be simple and "portable" or large, complex, and very attractive.

About 9 percent or 38 respondents identified the need for a skate park or similar facility as one of their three top priorities in the public opinion survey. Skate park facilities recently constructed in the region include those at Hilton and Webster (both Town-operated) are extremely popular, well-used, and have a very effective injury preventive program.

Equestrian Trails

There are no known equestrian trails in the Town. A stable formerly located adjacent to the south end of Durand Eastman Park has now closed down and is thought to have been the last remaining facility of this type in the Town. During the planning for this parks and recreation plan, no needs or demands were identified for these facilities.

Pavilions and Lodges

The Town has an abundance of enclosed lodges and open-air picnic shelters including two lodges, three cabins, two open air shelters at Camp Eastman and eight open-air shelters at Durand-Eastman Park.

Many towns find great value in an enclosed lodge, cabin or park center that contains a meeting space, small kitchen and restrooms. Such a facility, if located within



Most of the lodges found in the Town are located in Camp Eastman.

a park, can serve many recreational programs and take advantage of park facilities as well as become a potential revenue source as it can be rented for a fee.

With the exception of Camp Eastman, there is very little space for lodges in existing parks. One large lodge with a capacity of 150 to 175 persons is potentially needed, especially with programs held at Camp Eastman. A location should be considered for this, as the existing lodges are well used and often fully occupied.

Children's Play Areas

Children's play areas are both important destinations and supplementary attractions to other facilities at parks. There is no standard for quantifying the need for children's play areas. Typically, play areas should be provided at each active park for ease of access by families in nearby neighborhoods. They are frequently the most-used park amenity and are highly ranked in terms of desirability for inclusion in the park layout. The Town has 25 playgrounds identified during the planning process, including those located at the schools and Town parks.

The Town operates a "Playground Program" at Iroquois, Laurelton, Listwood, and Rogers Schools. Annual registration for the program has been over 800 children each year for the past eight years with 874 registered in 2008. Annual attendance has been over 14,000 at all locations for three of the past five years. The program is offered to children from ages five to 14 years old.

Almost 10 percent of those who responded in the parks and recreation survey indicated that children's playground equipment was one of the top three priorities for parks and recreation improvements or additions. In addition, 86 percent or 388 respondents thought that "providing safe play areas for youth" was very important when considering the value of parks and recreation facilities in the Town.

New playground facilities should always be considered as part of any major new parks and recreation endeavor, including the construction of a new park or community center.

Other Outdoor Facilities

Most other outdoor facilities and activities commonly provided by a town such as Irondequoit can be readily accommodated within a park system as physical features, conditions and demands justify. The Town can be expected to provide a greater array of

outdoor facilities on Town parklands over time to complement existing school and other outdoor facilities, which will also require the Town to increase its role in controlling, scheduling and assisting user groups.

Indoor Facilities

Nearly all indoor facilities for public recreation within Irondequoit are provided by the School Districts. Demand for many types of spaces now exceeds availability. Continued growth in the elderly population in the Town, a trend being echoed across the state and country, will increase participation and demands for new indoor facilities. The public opinion survey indicated significant interest in indoor facilities, including a new community center.

Expansion of school facilities at either school district in the future is not likely considering the major expansions both districts have undergone in the past few years and are undergoing for the next two years. In addition, the lack of available space also hinders any possible expansions. Significant development of facilities by private interests is possible, but unlikely since Irondequoit residents are served by facilities in other communities. Therefore, the Town can be expected to play a larger role in the provision of indoor recreational facilities and programs.

Gymnasiums & Multi-purpose Space

All gymnasiums within the Town are in schools with the exception of several small private health clubs/gyms. Both the School Districts and user groups indicate the gyms are used to capacity and many users cannot be accommodated. According to Town staff, there are currently demands for gymnasium space for recreation that are not served by school gyms. Examples include active exercise classes for seniors, of which there are many, that are typically held in the Pinegrove cafeteria space and active exercise classes at one of the lodges at Camp Eastman which lacks adequate space. Inter-generational classes and programs needing gymnasium space have been dropped due to the lack of space at Pinegrove. The unmet demands will remain for at least the near term unless new accommodations can be made for gymnasium or multi-purpose space.

The public opinion survey indicated over 56 percent of respondents use parks and recreation facilities outside of Town and that when people leave Town to use recreation facilities, it is most frequently to use gymnasium/fitness/multi-purpose space. This fact,

combined with public meeting and staff comments, indicates a very real need for this type of space within the Town. In addition, the survey indicates that 74 percent of the respondents supported the construction of a Community Center in the Town and 78 percent stated some form of user fees should be assessed.

Indoor Swimming/Aquatics

Indoor swimming pools serve a variety of activities for all ages, including instructional, competitive, therapeutic and certain recreational activities. Both West Irondequoit H.S. and Eastridge H.S. will have new 8-lane, 25-yard pools constructed by the end of 2009 and 2012, respectively. The Irondequoit Swim Club (the Gators) sponsors a competitive swim program that traditionally uses both pools (previously both 6-lane pools) in order to accommodate swimmers from all over the Town. They will likely continue this arrangement for the foreseeable future. The Gators club has maintained a participant level of 90-100 kids for an extended period of time.

NRPA facilities guidelines recommend one 50-meter pool per 20,000 people, which roughly translates in water area to three 25-meter pools or one 25-meter pool per 6,667 people. Irondequoit's population already calls for an additional pool, using this standard. However, plans for any additional pool construction should only be considered after the impact of the two future 8-lane pools at the high schools is evaluated and scheduling/logistics data have been obtained. Indoor pools and aquatic centers typically have high operating and maintenance costs. Any planning of additional pool facilities should include an estimate of annual costs and probable revenues to determine whether the Town is able to support the cost of constructing and operating a pool or an indoor aquatic center.

Contemporary aquatic centers offer a variety of recreational water activities in addition to a customary pool. These often include zero-depth-entry pool, water slides, spray grounds and others that broaden appeal, lengthen participation times, and generate revenues. Any new pool facility should include this large variety of pool-related facilities to enhance its attractiveness to a larger variety of users. There were several comments in both the public opinion survey and public meetings regarding the attractiveness and popularity of the Town of Perinton's "enhanced" pool facility as well.

Indoor Ice Skating Rinks

Indoor rinks can serve a wide variety of year round activities in addition to ice skating and hockey; some interest has been expressed for such a facility in Irondequoit. Irondequoit Eagles Hockey uses rinks at three facilities that are within twenty miles of Irondequoit, including the Lakeshore Hockey arena (Rochester), Webster Ice Arena (limited basis) and the ESL Sports Center adjacent to MCC. Additional rinks are available at greater distances.

Indoor ice skating rinks are expensive to build, maintain and operate. It is unlikely that a public or commercial rink between Greece and Webster is feasible. When sufficient demand exists, the possibility exists for a private entity to expand to a rink in the Town. The traditional NRPA standard of one rink per 100,000 is considerably outdated considering the strong growth this sport has seen in the past 20 to 30 years. Evidence of a shortage of ice hockey rinks in the region can be found in the extended periods of time for which they are in use which is typically from early morning through late hours of the night.

In addition to those previously listed, existing ice arenas in the region include Thomas Creek (Fairport), Genesee Valley Ice Arena (Rochester), Ritter Ice Arena (RIT), the Blue Cross Arena (Rochester) and Manhattan Square Park (Rochester).

Fitness/Wellness Centers

A fitness/wellness center can be an attractive feature of a community center and it is a popular new concept in health care and lifelong fitness. The Town must decide its role in providing a fitness/wellness center within the existing market of commercial and other centers such as the YMCA's at Bay View (Penfield), Northwest (Greece) and Maplewood (Rochester). Approaches could include a Town-owned center providing entry-level services that do not directly compete with other centers or facilities, yet charging market-level fees that would cover all costs. Alternatively, the Town could partner with an entity such as YMCA to provide a facility, or could partner with or otherwise enable a private enterprise to provide facilities.

Pinegrove Senior Citizens Center

The Town of Irondequoit has had a senior citizens' program for many years at the Pinegrove Center facility. Various senior activities and programs are held at Pinegrove,

including a Nutrition program and exercise classes. Use of the facility has steadily grown; there was a 23 percent growth rate from 2006 to 2008 alone (52,301 visits in 2006 to 64,560 in 2008). It is important to note the number of visits includes multiple visits by the same persons, including the approximately 60 seniors in the daily nutrition program (5 days a week); seniors in weekly bowling, golf, and softball programs that take place off campus; and those seniors that come to the numerous art, library, personal finance, computer, and other classes and programs that are offered.

However, with its location on Pinegrove Avenue, the facility is far removed from Irondequoit citizens that reside on the eastern side of town. As a result, only a handful of east-side residents attend senior center activities or programs. There is no similar facility, either municipally operated or otherwise, available on the east side of town. The exclusive nature of this location is problematic in that the facility is supported by taxes of all residents, but in effect only serves a portion of the residents.

Nearly 44 percent of the respondents in the public opinion survey who use the Pinegrove Senior Center are “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the facility. Another 33 percent were “neutral” - either not satisfied or dissatisfied; nearly all of those indicate a dissatisfaction with the facilities rather than the programs. Forty-seven (47) percent of all respondents indicate that it is important to provide recreational facilities for adults and seniors in the Town. The public opinion survey and overall results are found in the appendices of the Town’s Comprehensive Master Plan.



The Pinegrove Senior Center, located on the same grounds and building as the Helmer Nature Center, provides a variety of services to seniors in the Town.

Source: Clark Patterson Lee (2009)

Logistical problems and space programming have been, in the recent past, problematic, serious and numerous. In the spring of 2009, the Town hired an engineering consultant to review the conditions of the Pinegrove facility and provide specific recommendations and improvements to make the structure safe for occupancy. This resulted in a Town Board decision to spend over \$500,000 to make necessary repairs to the facility. Problems related to inadequate space and activity conflicts are being addressed as part of the upgrade of the building taking place in the summer and fall of 2009.

Other improvements, including all new HVAC systems, hot water heaters and kitchen facilities will create a much improved facility intended to last a minimum of five years. In addition, a new exercise room (formerly the “library”), carpeting and painting will create a “like-new” facility.

Tiny tots and other programs once held at Pinegrove that introduce young and old and encourage inter-generational activities, are no longer held here because of a general lack of space for kids and the toys, equipment, bathrooms and support they would need. Popular activities requiring larger amounts of space such as ‘pickle ball’, HMO exercise classes, indoor walking/jogging and similar activities need a gymnasium size space which is currently not present at the Pinegrove facility.

Teen Center

Teen centers can take a variety of forms and serve a wide range of teen needs and activities. They often serve the segment of the teen population that does not participate in athletic or other activities of widespread interest as well as serve as meeting rooms or places to unwind during time off for those who do participate in athletic programs. Many communities offer teen centers and programs with widely varying successes. The School Districts offer a variety of programs for teens and these should be reviewed and discussed with District staff.



Teen centers, such as this one in Wytheville, VA, can offer a variety of space for youth to relax and meet. Facilities such as these can be integrated with other facilities such as YMCA or community center.

Numerous comments indicate a need for “teen” activity rooms and facilities. This appears to be a group under-served by the existing Town facilities. Resources such as these are important, especially for teens that opt not to join one of the major sports organizations - there are few alternative activities available at the Town level. A game room, teen center for music, arts, and other activities is recommended and could easily be included in any plans for a community center. However, the Town should determine whether and to what extent existing/expanded School District programming or multi-purpose rooms at a new community center can serve the range of needs.

Day Care/Pre-School Center

Day care centers are operated by both commercial and non-profit organizations and are, typically, beyond the range of services provided by towns such as Irondequoit. The neighboring Town of Perinton provides a pre-school center, but not a day care center, at its community center to serve children for short periods of time while parents and guardians are using the facility. This is frequently the case with other community and health centers in the region. It is not likely that Irondequoit is prepared to operate a day care center at this time. However, it might carefully consider the feasibility and desirability of providing a pre-school center as part of a community center complex.

Parks and Recreation Offices and Operations

Currently, the department is temporarily housed at the Town Hall while a final destination is contemplated. If a community center is built, it is probable that the Parks and Recreation Department offices will be relocated to that facility. At that time, the department will increase its responsibilities and reassess its staff size to enhance both its identity within the community and its efficiency in operating the center and programs. Senior program staff are located at the Pinegrove Seniors Center and will remain there for at least the next five years until a resolution is reached regarding the provision of a community center or a new senior center.

Park maintenance staff responsibilities will remain relatively constant unless significant park land is acquired and developed by the Town. The Town Parks Department has an operations center at Camp Eastman which provides indoor storage for equipment and materials, a maintenance shop, office and support spaces to serve needs for the foreseeable future.

Other Recreational Opportunities

Many recreational activities cannot or need not be quantified in a master plan. Besides the highly developed facilities which can be quantified for organized activities, there is a need for informal spaces for non-organized sports; informal activities, such as picnicking, walking, kite flying, Frisbee, birding and many other "non-scheduled" activities; as well as spaces set aside for "quiet", scenic and environmental enjoyment.

Demands for Recreational Lands

Parks and other public recreational lands are valuable assets to the quality of life in a community. It is also argued that an adequate park system combined with the preservation of important open spaces enhances real estate values and attract residents and businesses to a community. The quantity and, to a large extent, the types of park land within a community will vary depending on availability, the character of land, population density and distribution and other factors. No single standard applies.

Recreational lands in nearby towns in Monroe County and towns elsewhere vary from approximately ten to fifteen acres of municipal recreational lands per 1,000 people. The Town currently owns or has access to approximately 884 acres or 17.3 acres of recreational land per 1,000 people, which includes land on each of the schools and the portions of the County Parks within the Town (Irondequoit Bay West Park and Durand Eastman Park).

According to 2008 parcel data and NYS Real Property Service land classification, approximately 1,382 acres, or 17 percent, of the Town can be classified as vacant land or open space, which does not include highway rights-of-way, parkland that the City of Rochester owns in Durand-Eastman Park or school sites. Approximately 423 acres (30 percent) of that land is classified as designated parkland. The remaining vacant land consists of a mix of parcels ranging from less than one acre to 53 acres and averaging just under three-quarters of an acre (mainly vacant residential land).

The commonly accepted NRPA standards recommend that open space comprise ten (10) percent of the land area in older developed areas and 25 percent of the land area in newer developed areas. The former figure would indicate a need for 1,043 acres, the latter figure would indicate a need for 2,609 acres. As Irondequoit is nearly fully developed, and has been for quite some time, a reasonable standard would be an average acreage and would be more than satisfied if the additional 484 acres of Durand Eastman Park are considered.

It would appear that Irondequoit, as a nearly completely developed Town, has an acceptable ratio of open space. However, distribution of the open space is generally within a few large parcels, such as county parks or along the bay and the river. There are very few open spaces besides schools in most developed neighborhoods.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Planning for providing recreational lands, facilities, and services requires a definition of the role of parks and recreation within the context of the Town's overall vision, needs, and capabilities. Policies, goals, and objectives for providing parks and recreational opportunities must be consistent with the Town's overall planning as described in the Comprehensive Plan. The goals and objectives on the following pages build upon the Parks & Recreation's mission statement as well as the expressed sense of Town officials, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Town residents.



Irondequoit Parks & Recreation Department Mission Statement:

"The Town of Irondequoit Parks and Recreation Department is dedicated to offering residents a balanced system of parklands, preservation of open spaces, and broad-based leisure opportunities that will foster growth of healthy lifestyles."

Goal #1: Promote the creation of a diversity of active and passive recreation facilities within the Town for all age groups.

Objectives:

- Acquire and develop a system of recreational facilities that add to the existing Town inventory and that includes parks for active recreation, parks for special experiences, and a network of trails.

- Recognize the importance of recreational lands and facilities provided by the School Districts, neighboring communities, and other levels of government, including the County, and State.
- Encourage private construction and maintenance of recreational facilities available to Town residents.
- Partner with private, non-profit, volunteer, and other organizations to provide public access to significant natural, scenic, and historic sites.
- Recognize the importance of space within parks for individual and family informal recreation.
- Continue to encourage and support a voluntary Town-wide trails system. Develop trails that serve as park-to-park and residential area-to-park linkages, and install sidewalks, trails and park signage throughout Town for ease of wayfinding.
- Preserve significant open spaces within the Town in addition to park land for environmental and aesthetic values.
- Continue to pursue a plan for implementation of a community center that will serve the community's most important needs and that can be constructed, operated, and maintained within the Town's capabilities.

Goal #2: Capitalize on unique scenic, historical, and cultural assets, including the Port of Rochester, Irondequoit Bay, Sea Breeze, and scenic ravines, for recreational and education pursuits.

Objectives:

- Partner with the City of Rochester and Monroe County to cosponsor programs and special events at Durand Eastman Park, Durand Eastman Beach, and Camp Eastman.

- Acquire lands or rights thereto for the purpose of preserving open space and enhancing environmental, aesthetic, and cultural values - in addition to park land.
- Encourage new development that will preserve desirable woodlands, ravines, and vistas.
- Partner to provide access and trails on significant lands where appropriate.
- Create buffers along stream corridors that will protect stream channels, enable trails and linkages, and provide water access for fishing and other compatible activities.
- Publicize the trails within the Town and the unique scenic, historic, and cultural assets of the Town that are accessible to the public.
- Cooperate with neighboring towns, the City of Rochester, and other agencies to expand inter-municipal and regional trailways, particularly along waterways, railways, and historical routes.
- Recognize that revitalization of the Sea Breeze area can create an identifiable "destination" for the Town, enhance recreational pursuits, attract visitors, and contribute to economic activity.
- Attract tourism as an economic benefit to the Town through the promotion of recreational opportunities unique to Irondequoit.

Goal #3: Provide high-quality recreational lands, facilities, and programs in a fiscally appropriate manner.

Objectives:

- Recognize that well-planned, well-designed, high-quality facilities are investments which can reduce ongoing long-term operating and maintenance costs.

- Prepare master development plans for the development of each park property with priorities, potential phasing, and cost estimates to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness of development, to enable long term capital planning, to serve as basis for applications for grants in aid, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they occur.
- Provide adequate resources to enable a high quality of maintenance and operation of parks and recreational facilities that will extend useful life, maintain safety and accessibility standards, justify appropriate fees and charges, and enhance the value of the recreational experience.
- Continue to participate in inter-municipal agreements for provision of lands, facilities, and programs where costs may be shared for mutual benefit.
- Aggressively pursue state, federal, and other sources of financial assistance for land acquisition and development and for certain programs.
- Do not accept park land on behalf of the Town which does not satisfy the goals, objectives, and criteria of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Continue to impose fees in lieu of land on new residential development unless a particularly favorable situation occurs to justify acceptance of land.
- Periodically review the amount of the fees on new residences and adjust to reflect costs of providing recreational lands and facilities.
- Implement a comprehensive system of fees for programs and charges for use of facilities that will generate revenues to offset operating costs, recognizing that many participants are not Irondequoit residents.
- Encourage and support the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails by volunteers.

Goal #4: Ensure that parks and recreational offerings are responsive to the needs and desires of the community.

Objectives:

- Adopt and periodically update this Master Plan, ideally every three years.
- Inform the public and seek public input periodically and during specific planning processes.
- Institute a strong Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with broad-based community representation. Form a ‘Walkable Communities’ committee as a stand-alone group or a subcommittee of the P&R Advisory Board.
- Maintain strong working relations with the sports leagues and other organizations which provide recreational services within the community.
- Promote the Parks and Recreation Department, the Town's parks and facilities, and its recreational programs.
- Develop and expand the Parks and Recreation site on the Town's community web site to provide information on Town parks and programs, schedules, and, as capabilities permit, registrations and payments for programs.
- Provide lands, facilities, and programs to accommodate persons of differing abilities, including those with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town of Irondequoit Parks and Recreation Department, in cooperation with the School Districts, is now well established in its role for providing various recreational programs and facilities to residents. Although current demographics indicate a decline in population, needs and demands for services and facilities will continue to change. This trend can be slowed or halted with the help of new and expanded parks and recreation facilities such as trails, a possible sports complex, and community center.

To achieve the goals and objectives outlined on the previous pages, the Town must be proactive in its planning and development of recreational facilities. Various opportunities are currently found throughout the community in order to fulfill the needs and demands of residents and various recreational and athletic organizations. Although not specifically outlined, opportunities for private and commercial recreational developments exist and the Town should pursue these opportunities where feasible to increase tax revenue, relieve the burden on Town resources, and, most importantly, provide high-quality activities to the community. A table of the recommendations contained within this plan is found at the conclusion of this section.

Trails, Sidewalks and Other Linkages

Recreational trails and other linkages are becoming increasingly more popular and demand for them growing in most communities and Irondequoit is no exception. With the completion of the Lakeside Trail by the Town and County, trails are becoming an important component of the Town’s recreational inventory. The Lakeside Trail itself has become one of the premier trails of the region due to its variety of scenic quality and views. A well-maintained and interconnected system of sidewalks, trails and other linkages are important for health, quality of life, building



Trails of all kinds are becoming more popular all over the region - especially multi-use trails that can accommodate both walkers and bikers. Source: PBIC Image Library, Dan Burden.

community, promoting exercise and recreation, providing alternative forms of transportation and enhancing mobility for a multitude of users. There has been much discussion of trails in the focus group and public meetings with topics including: completion of a town-wide loop trail system, connections to other larger trail systems in the City of Rochester and Town of Penfield, trail safety and security, re-development of old railroad beds, and the like.

In Irondequoit, opportunities exist for two principal forms of trailways: Rail-to-trail conversions and a Town trail network. In order to improve and expand upon the current trail and sidewalk system in the Town, planning should include the following:

- Priority should be given to developing links, both pedestrian and bicycle, among neighborhoods and between neighborhoods and destinations.
- Incorporate connections to existing trails and sidewalks in all future developments.
- Where trails cannot be developed, sidewalks should be considered.
- As roads are improved, consideration should be given to widening and striping for delineated bike routes, where feasible.

More specifically, the expansion of trails and sidewalks are recommended in the following locations in the Town (see Figure 7.3 on following page):

- A. El Camino Trail to Thomas Avenue (“River-Rail Trail” or Seabreeze/Charlotte/Seneca Trail) - A regional linkage along the western edge of the Town connecting the El Camino trail (2010-2011 completion) in the City to the O’Rourke Bridge. The trail passes by many neighborhood streets and offers numerous locations where neighborhoods can be linked, most notably Seneca Park Road and Maplehurst Road. The trail would continue



*Potential trail connection at Westburn Road (top) and the existing condition of the St. Paul Blvd. RR bridge.
Source: McCord Landscape Architecture (2009)*

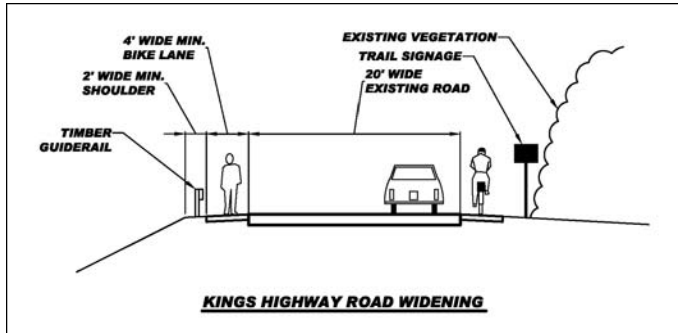


Figure 7.3

north and east behind the Stutson Bridge Plaza, adjacent to residential areas, over St. Paul Boulevard on the existing rail bridge to connect to the east-west spur. A paved, minimum 10-foot wide trail is recommended. The trail is already well worn by hikers and foot traffic; most of the former rails and ties have been previously removed

- B.** Lakeside Trail connection - Utilizing the old railway right-of-way that exists north of Lake Shore Boulevard to connect “River-Rail Trail” where it ends near St. Paul Boulevard to the newly completed Lakeside Trail. The railbed runs adjacent to a residential area before ending at Rock Beach Road. A paved, minimum 10-foot wide trail is recommended.
- C.** Genesee River connection - The old railway right-of-way also exists north of Pattonwood Drive and can serve as a connection that ends with views of the Genesee River and Charlotte area. A paved, minimum 10-foot wide trail is recommended.
- D.** Lakeside Trail-Sea Breeze Expressway connection (Durand Boulevard) - New sidewalks along Durand Boulevard and a widened road would offer a valuable connection between the Lakeside Trail and the new sidewalks and multi-use trail being constructed as part of the Expressway reconstruction.
- E.** Continuation of sidewalks at various neighborhoods and locations. Sidewalks should be added in proximity to existing or planned park areas to improve linkage to parks and recreation properties and features. In addition to those featured in the map, the following locations should be considered as well: Pine Grove Avenue west of Oakridge Avenue, Rock Beach Road to connect the Lakeside Trail to the CSX right-of-way, Colebrook Drive, and Durand Blvd. to connect the Sea Breeze Expressway Trail to the Lakeside Trail.
- F.** Irondequoit Bay Park West Trail - This trail has been mentioned in Genesee Transportation Council (Regional Trails Initiative) and Monroe County Parks Department (Ellison Park Area Master Plan and 1999 Irondequoit Bay Trail Plan) publications for a connection from Empire Boulevard into the park. The trail would follow existing Town lands west and up the Hobbie Creek ravine to the “Plateau” site, proceed north along the existing access road, over Ridge Road, and connect to the 104 corridor just to the north. In addition, the trail can utilize a former railbed as well as an informal dirt trail adjacent to power lines found in the southern section of the park near Empire Boulevard. A paved, minimum 10-foot wide trail is recommended.

- G. Kings Highway Trail - This trail would link the Town Hall complex and possibly a new community center with the Lakeside Trail, Durand Eastman Park and Durand Eastman Beach. Although paved, minimum 10-foot wide trail is recommended, difficult terrain and narrow road width may hinder creation of a dedicated separate multi-use trail. In lieu of that, widened shoulders (4 ft. min. width each side) are recommended with dedicated markings for pedestrians and bikers.



The section drawing at left shows the recommended dimensions for incorporating a safe, efficient bike and pedestrian path along Kings Highway.

- H. Helmer-Durand-Eastman Park Trail - Some of this trail is reportedly already existing as a rough foot path. The trail would formally connect the nature center to D-E Park. This trail would extend north either from the existing developed nature trail or via a separate route through the heavily wooded area and terminating at the Pine Grove Avenue / Edgerton Rd intersection or at Camp Eastman just to the north.
- I. Town Campus to Camp Eastman Trail - This trail, from the northern extent of the Town Hall Campus property, would pass entirely through Durand Eastman Park property. No easements or land acquisitions would be needed in order for this trail to become a reality for the general public. Portions are already in place and are used by the public informally. Much of the terrain is quite steeply sloped, crossing ravines running north-south. A crossing of Pinegrove Avenue near the abandoned Edgerton Road would provide a good access to the undeveloped, wooded, southern reaches of Camp Eastman. A trailhead and small parking area maybe possible at the north end of Oakview Drive.

To assist in trail and other linkage planning, creation, advocacy and maintenance, it is recommended that a volunteer, community-based, Town-sponsored organization or committee be established. Due to the various nature and issues regarding trails and sidewalks, two different committees are recommended. The committees would work closely with representatives from specific Town departments, such as Public Works, Planning and Parks & Recreation as well as County and regional agencies.

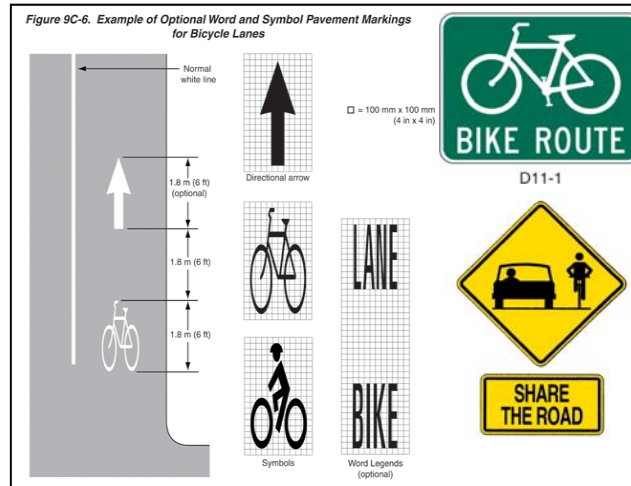
- *Trails Advisory Committee* - This committee can be dedicated to the planning and establishment of recreational trails for a wide variety of users. The development of a Town-wide Trail System Study should be the first goal of this group to outline a strategic plan for trails.
- *Walkable Communities Committee* - This committee would be charged with planning and seeking ways to improve both pedestrian and cyclist access in the Town. This group should also take part in the Trail System Study.

Town-wide Trail System Study

The Town and Committees should coordinate and collaborate with the Genesee Transportation Council in the preparation of a long-range trail system study for the Town. The study should identify:

- Shortfalls of the biking/hiking transportation system
- Conceptual trail routes in identifiable areas
- Connectivity to other systems and areas
- Class and trail users (variety of users recommended)
- Construction and maintenance (including phasing)
- Potential sources and means of financing

For bike routes in the Town, Figure 7.3 on page 70 provides a starting point for further study of establishing priority bike routes. The map shows a general rating of major roads in the Town based upon their speed, topography, number of intersections, lane widths, link to destinations, and other key aspects. As part of the Town-wide Trail System Study, bike routes should be re-analyzed in the Town in order to establish priority routes based upon standards and policies from resources such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Pedestrian and Bicycling Information Network (www.bicyclinginfo.org).



Standard pavement markings for bike lanes include arrows, striping and bike graphics. These pavement markings can be reinforced with dedicated, high-visibility signage as well.

Outdoor Athletic and Recreation Facilities

Football, Soccer, Lacrosse

A sports complex of rectangular multi-purpose fields, such as those used for football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, rugby and other activities of **three** full-size and **two** junior size fields is recommended. An additional **two** full-size relief fields that can be rotated out of service for maintenance and repair is highly desirable. The requests from lacrosse and soccer teams for field lighting and bleachers/stands should be weighed against safety and maintenance issues as activities on these fields generate considerable wear.

In addition, to serve the deficiency of suitable, well-maintained rectangular fields and to satisfy group and resident calls for more centralized location of facilities, **four** additional full size (55-yd x 100-yd min.) and **three** additional junior size fields (45-yd x 80-yd min.) should be built.

Opportunities for these fields exist at the following locations:

- South end of Camp Eastman
- Northwest corner of Van Lare property (additional discussion with City and County required)
- “Plateau” site (east of SR 104 & 590 interchange)

Baseball, Youth Baseball, Softball

Youth baseball requires three sizes of fields. They are fields with 90-foot, 75-foot, and 60-foot baselines and roughly proportionally sized outfields. Softball also uses 60-foot baselines, although adult softball elsewhere often uses 65- or 70-foot baselines. T-Ball and mini fields use 40 to 50-foot baselines. While softball and youth baseball use the same size fields, construction of the fields differs.

Baseball and softball fields are typically used for shorter seasons and experience less wear and damage than rectangular fields. A good maintenance program can allow fields to remain playable without the rotation recommended for the rectangular fields.



*Baseball field maintenance typically requires regarding of bases and baseline restriping, in addition to regular mowing of outfields.
Source: Clark County, WA*

Based on needs and demands gathered during the planning process, it is recommended that at least **four** additional 60-foot baseline and **three** 40- to 50-foot baseline baseball/softball fields be constructed in the Town to accommodate the short-term and potential long-term loss of fields at Eastridge H.S. and to ease scheduling issues. Locating these fields at one central complex is strongly desired for convenience of players, families and officials; for enhanced visibility of the venue; for efficiency of administration, operations, and maintenance and for support of concessions. A larger sports-oriented complex also becomes evermore important when considering the attrition rate of families considering the long-term needs of their kids - one of many reason families move out of the area.

Existing fields such as those at Heyer-Bayer Park should be upgraded and reconditioned as a practice field and as a stand-by game field. Parking is required at this park in order to increase access and so users do not have to park on the road.

The Parks and Recreation Department might consider the potential of offering baseball or softball programs to persons not served by the existing program. Two softball/baseball fields are currently being developed at the Town Hall site north of the Highway Department facility. Also, ideally, there should be at least one softball field in each of the parks for recreational, not league, use.

Outdoor Tennis Courts

None recommended at this time. Existing outdoor courts at the school campuses and at Spezio Park should serve the needs of players who do not play on private, club or commercial courts.

It is suggested that **two** courts be considered at future parks for player convenience. Two courts use roughly one fourth of an acre of land and are roughly the size of two full size outdoor basketball courts. Combining basketball and tennis courts is not recommended and is typically unsuccessful.

Basketball Courts

Based on recreational standards, there is a deficiency of **five** basketball courts in the Town. The courts should be suitable for full- or half-court games, feature adjustable youth baskets of safe, durable quality construction and be available for league or casual use. Basketball courts should also be included with any major park or park expansion project.

Outdoor Ice Skating

Outdoor ice skating rinks for recreational skating or hockey are not recommended in Irondequoit's climate. They require a significant investment in labor to establish and maintain ice for only very limited days of satisfactory skating. Very few towns in this region still attempt to offer outdoor natural ice skating. Irondequoit does not have sufficient staff or resources to attempt to maintain acceptable outdoor ice. Efforts to create artificial rinks on parking lots, tennis courts or other non-dedicated areas should not be attempted.

Outdoor Swimming/Aquatics

Both school districts, at the end of 2012, will have brand new, state-of the art aquatic facilities complete with much more space around the pools, locker rooms and bleachers. There is no discussion now of adding to these new facilities with a Town-owned pool either at a possible new community center or an alternative location.

Inline Skating, Skateboarding and Roller Hockey

It is recommended that a dedicated permanent skateboard park should be built at a central location within the Town, perhaps at the Town Hall or another nearby site. A permanent skateboard park would consist of a level platform with a mixture of manufactured ramps, pipes, rails and other structures with adequate safety precautions and information. An attempt to combine skateboarding with another use is probably not feasible due to conflicting demand times and frequent movement and storage of structures. Facilities built by the town should be carefully thought out and follow all updated protocol for safety including strict compliance with rules and guidelines, user behavior, equipment needs, etc. The location of the Police Department and other senior personnel at this location is important to insuring the equipment is properly cared for and rules are followed.



Equestrian Trails

There is no recommendation at this time to pursue the establishment of such a facility due to the high cost, specialized nature of the business, separate system of trails usually needed and space requirements.

Pavilions and Lodges

Based on the projected needs and potential demand for increased programs at the Parks and Recreation Department and for seniors, it is recommended that at least one new lodge be constructed. The lodge should be enclosed and may include limited amenities such as a kitchen/prep area and restrooms for large gatherings. The construction of the lodge is preferred for the Camp Eastman site and, alternatively, as a part of the proposed community center site or at the “Plateau” site.

Children’s Play Areas

Children’s play areas, which typically consist of a combination of swing sets, jungle gyms, teeter-totters and other equipment, are recommended to be incorporated at any future recreational development. They are frequently the most used park amenity and are highly desired by families with children. Play areas must be designed to meet current Consumer Product Safety Commission, Americans with Disability Act and other standards for safety and accessibility. They should also provide quality creative and interactive play experiences.



In addition, due to the additional land to the north, improvements to Bateau Terrace are recommended for consideration and include a sledding hill, gazebo/overlook structure, picnic areas, walking trail/loop to connect to the Lake and additional parking. Due to limited space in the area and past issues with the surrounding neighborhood, a better balance between public access to the park and the neighborhood should be the primary priority.

The existing playground equipment at all nine park locations is in good condition and has been well-maintained. New wood fiber mulch surfacing has been added to all park locations. Although the equipment is well-maintained, a thorough, piece-by-piece analysis is recommended to determine specific needed repairs and replacements. A new parking area is also recommended for the Heyer-Bayer Park as well - 10 to 15 spaces as space allows.

Open Space and Recreational Lands

Although Irondequoit is nearly fully developed, there are various opportunities for acquiring additional lands for the purposes of developing active and passive recreational facilities/parks. Given the number of athletic fields that are recommended, acquiring additional land is a highly desirable strategy for the Town. Acquisition of land for active facilities should be suitable for development and easily accessible. Lands adjacent to existing parks should be given higher priority in order to allow for greater expansion capabilities and shared use of nearby existing facilities (i.e. parking and restrooms).

In addition, property that offers unique features or opportunities for activities not otherwise available should be acquired regardless of acreage as opportunities occur. Examples of this include nature centers, bikeways, scenic vistas or fishing access areas. The most recent example of this is the acquisition of the 2.5 acre property that borders the reconfigured alignment of the Sea Breeze Expressway/SR 590. The additional frontage on Irondequoit Bay will allow for open views and the potential for activities such as boat mooring, a waterfront promenade/walkway, playground and picnicking. Additional recreational opportunities, whether active, passive, or a combination thereof, are also found at other sites in the Town, including lands adjacent to Birch Hills Drive and Newport Road.

The areas on the following pages represent significant parcels of open space that remain in the Town where preservation is considered feasible. These parcels were reviewed and observed while preparing this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In some instances, conceptual level plans have been generated based on previous recommendations and feedback from the public and steering committee. (See Figure 7.4 on page 79 for map of locations.)

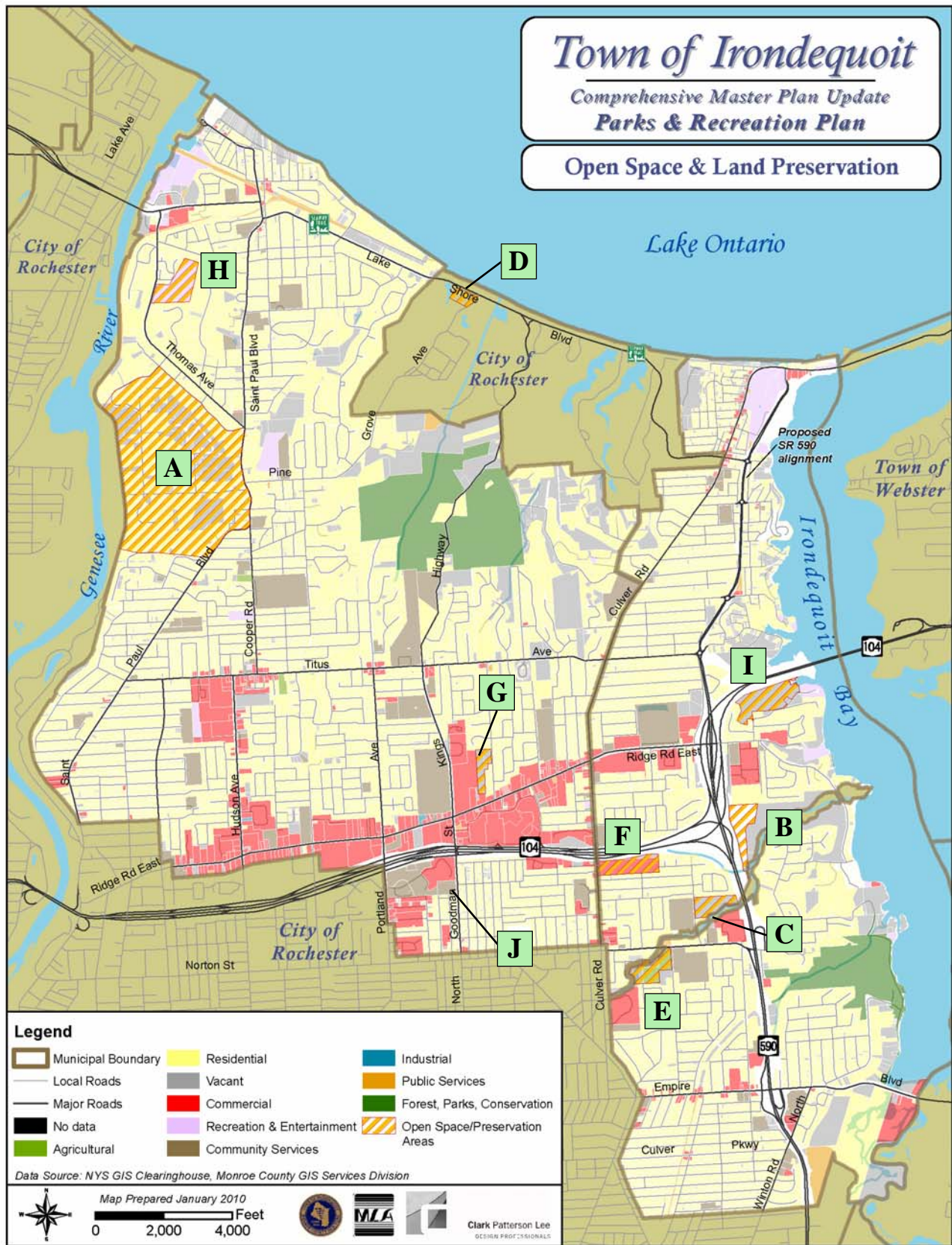


Figure 7.4

It is important to note that the East Ridge Road Corridor Management Plan (Section 5) recommends that primary consideration for the development of properties within the East Ridge corridor be given to uses that expand the Town’s tax base.

- A. The “Flats”
The area known as the “Flats” consists of approximately 100 acres of open, fertile land and contains a mix of fallow farmland, marshes and woodland. The Genesee River borders the western portion of the area and steep slopes surround the other three sides. Its present usage is primarily a mixture of open fallow land and limited residential development on larger-sized lots. Because of the high water table, large-scale development in this location is not likely.

A previous effort to construct athletic fields in this area was soundly rejected based on limited access to the location from elsewhere in Town as well as neighborhood concerns regarding noise and traffic. Should recreational opportunities come to fruition in this area, the Town should consider trailhead links as well as passive facilities such as picnic pavilions. In any case, additional input from residents in the area should be pursued as early as possible to mitigate any concerns or potential issues.

- B. “Plateau”
This approximately 17 acre parcel of vacant land is fairly level and open and is located adjacent to the SR 104 and 590 interchange. Currently, the area is jointly owned by the County of Monroe, State and Town of Irondequoit. It has been used for landfill operations for many years including rock and soil debris from the City’s sewer tunnel project as well as temporary storage of tree debris following the 1992 and 1997 ice storms. Additional details on this area are found in Section 6: Waterfront Redevelopment Plan.

In addition, the Town also owns approximately 50 acres of land straddling Densmore Creek to the southeast, but not the creek itself (City of Rochester). This area primarily consists of steep slopes and heavy woodlands and is not suitable for active development.

- C. Bettinger Property (Densmore Road)
This 11.50 acre vacant tract across from East Irondequoit Middle School consists of mostly flat, but heavily wooded land.

- D.** Van Lare Property (Lake Shore Boulevard)
This approximately six-acre portion of the Van Lare property fronts Lake Shore Boulevard and is currently under utilized except for a portion being used as a fill area for construction debris. Access to the parcel could be attained from Lake Shore Boulevard or the Van Lare entrance drive. As this portion of the property is located on Van Lare/City of Rochester property, a subdivision, easement or other legal agreement would be required if any opportunity was pursued by the Town.
- E.** Case's Garden Center (Pardee Road & Norton Street)
Three parcels of land measuring approximately 16.1 acres are currently used for agriculture and a retail farm market. Nearly all the acreage is relatively level except for the slopes adjacent to Densmore Creek; much of this area is heavily wooded. Buildings on the property include a dwelling, barn and greenhouse, as well as the market. The Garden Center and adjacent property make up one of the few remaining agricultural properties in the Town.
- F.** Wambach Property (Culver Road)
This 20 acre property on two parcels is heavily wooded adjacent to SR 104 and along the southeast edge with the remainder either non- cultivated or oriented toward an existing farm market and garden store. There is a private residence on the site as well. The topography is relatively level with some moderate to steep slopes. The Monroe County Pure Waters Authority maintains a right- of-way on the eastern portion of the property. Similar to Case's Garden Center, this is one of the few agriculturally-related properties left in the Town.
- G.** Kings Highway South
This nine-acre, two parcel area is located east of the (former) ESL Headquarters site on Kings Highway South. Currently vacant, the area is surrounded on by residential and commercial development and is accessible from Bouckhart Avenue to the east. It is relatively flat and is currently zoned manufacturing.
- H.** St. Paul Boulevard Exempt Fireman's Association (Thomas Avenue)
This 22-acre area is located on Thomas Avenue nestled adjacent to homes on

Eaton Road, Thomas Avenue and Mount Airy Drive. The parcel is predominantly wooded with some open space and includes a few makeshift fields, residential building and outbuildings.

- I. Bay Bridge (Newport Road)
This 24-acre parcel of land located off of Newport Road was previously used by the Town as a brush and yard waste landfill in the past. Its location adjacent to the Bay Bridge and Irondequoit Bay offers potential, but the property is limited in developable land due to possible soil stability, heavy brush/woodlands, steep slopes and wetlands at the base of the slopes. Additional information on this site is contained in Section 6: Waterfront Redevelopment Plan.
- J. Goodman Armory property (North Goodman Street, south of SR 104)
This five-acre property is no longer in service and may be available for purchase from the Federal government for preservation or adaptive reuse.
- K. Amans Farm Market Property (East Ridge Road)
The property is comprised of two parcels totaling approximately eight-acres. One parcel is the farm market; the other currently is used to store buses for First Student bus company. It is likely that the bus storage will no longer be needed and the property could be available for purchase.

Indoor Athletic and Recreation Facilities

Many of the indoor activities and facilities identified in the previous section of the Parks and Recreation Plan can be accommodated in a single facility for multiple uses. The only exception is indoor ice skating rinks, which, at this point in time, is not identified as a primary recommendation. If demand increases in the future, the possibility may exist for a private entity to expand a rink in the Town.



Indoor areas in field houses can quickly be converted from hard surface to artificial turf as shown above at the All-Star Sports Arena in Rochester. Source: All Star Sports Arena.

Activities that typically demand gymnasium or flexible, multi-purpose space can be accommodated in a field house as well as or better than in a Community Center. In other towns, private or semi-private (public-private ventures) field house facilities, such as the All-Star Sports complex, have been very successful at fulfilling the need for large indoor spaces provided by a field house.

Indoor practice of outdoor sports and indoor versions of outdoor sports usually require large open spaces as well as other gymnasium-type activities such as basketball, volleyball and indoor track can utilize a field house.

Cooperative venture may be possible in that it is anticipated that if a field house were available, the School District would use it for sports practice and other purposes. Sports clubs in Town currently utilizing the All-Star Sports complex may also be willing to participate in the cost and/or use of such a facility. The Town should determine the feasibility and relative desirability of including a field house in any indoor facilities it may develop. Partnering with the School District and/or others should be considered in determining the feasibility of a field house.

Community Center

A full discussion of the past and present initiatives and planning regarding the Community Center, as well as future opportunities, is located in Section 8 of the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Trails	Description
Sea Breeze/Charlotte/Seneca Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Line (El Camino' Trail) to Thomas Ave. near Pattonwood Dr. • Linkages at Maplehurst Rd., Covington Rd., Seneca Park Rd., and Westburn Rd. • Recommend minimum 10 ft. wide paved trail with signage and lighting at intersections/entry points
Lakeside Trail Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Ave. near Pattonwood Dr. to Rock Beach Road (easements required) or Washington Ave. • Crosses the south bridge over Dewey Ave. • Recommend minimum 10 ft. wide paved trail with signage and lighting at intersections/entry points
Genesee River Trail Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Ave. to the Genesee River • Crosses the south bridge over Dewey Ave. • Recommend minimum 10 ft. wide paved trail with signage and lighting at intersections/entry points
Lakeside Trail / Sea Breeze Expressway Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widened shoulders / travel lanes on Durand Blvd. for trail and/or bike lane
Town-wide Sidewalk Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous locations as shown on the map (page 73) • Prioritize sidewalk construction/rehabilitation based on a Town-wide Trail Systems Study
Irondequoit Bay Park West Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empire Boulevard to NYS Route 104 / Sea Breeze Expressway Trail • Recommend minimum 10 ft. wide paved trail • Coordinate activities with the Monroe County Parks Dept. Master Plan recommendations (Ellison Park) and Town of Penfield
Kings Highway Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town hall at Titus north to Lake Shore Blvd and the Lakeside Trail • Recommend combination of a minimum 10 ft. wide paved trail and widened shoulders / travel lanes for bike lane and/or trail
Helmer Nature Center to Durand-Eastman Connector Trail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend 4 ft. wide wood chip foot trail. • Connect to existing Helmer Nature trail or separate routes • Provide boardwalk(s) at marsh areas. • Terminus at Camp Eastman or Pine Grove Ave.

Parks and Open Space Properties	Recommendations
Plateau Site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master development plan • Full site survey (topographic & boundary) • Construction of 3-4 regulation size Little League fields, 2 ‘Border’ league size fields, and 0-2 T-ball fields • Parking area for ~300 vehicles • Drainage Improvements • Restroom Building / Concession Stand • Site Utilities • Large Playground • Landscaping/buffering improvements
Camp Eastman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master development plan • Survey (topographic) entire southern area • Construction of 3 large soccer fields and 2 small to medium soccer fields • Parking area for ~250 vehicles • Drainage Improvements • Restroom Building / Concession Stand • Site Utilities • Large Playground • Landscaping/buffering improvements • Timber fishing docks and walkways
Van Lare Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master development plan • Full site survey (topographic & boundary) • Construction of 2 Little league regulation fields, 2 ‘border’ league fields, and 0-2 T-ball fields • Parking area for ~185 vehicles • Drainage Improvements • Restroom Building / Concession Stand • Site Utilities • Large Playground • Landscaping/buffering improvements
McAvoy Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate purchase of adjacent property to south for future construction of parking area for ~60-70 spaces

Parks and Open Space Properties	Recommendations
Heyer-Bayer Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconstruct the existing baseball field • Parking area for ~40-50 vehicles • Construction of restroom facility
Pinegrove Community/Senior Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Safety and Integrity Improvements
Joshua Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently fully developed • Improve night-time security
Bateau Play Terrace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full topographic survey • Re-grade sledding hill • Trails / sidewalks / waterfront access • Construct restroom facility • Large Playground • Parking area for ~10-15 vehicles • Landscaping improvements (shade trees) • Gazebo and overlook area • Picnic area
Irondequoit Bay Secret Cove Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gazebo with paved plaza • Parking area for ~30 vehicles • Restroom / storage / picnic shelter bldg. • Gateway area with signage, kiosk, and landscaping • Playground • Permanent dock and boat slips • Small gazebo and plaza • Boat trailer turnaround area
Town Hall site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete ball fields started in 2007 <u>or</u> relocate Highway Dept. to Plateau site • Construct new Community Center • Maintain all other existing activities and functions on site
Eagle Rock / Bay Shore Drive Parcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently undeveloped land • Owned by the Town of Irondequoit • Recommend walking trails (wood chip) • Small parking area for 4-5 vehicles

Parks and Open Space Properties	Parks and Open Space Properties
Newport Cove / NYS Route 104 Parcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently undeveloped • Owned by the Town of Irondequoit • Recommend nature trails and nature interpretive center or signage system • Parking area for up to 10 vehicles
Spezio Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently fully developed • Re-surface tennis courts in the next 5 years
Birch Hills Drive Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently undeveloped • Owned by the Town of Irondequoit • Recommend walking trails (wood chip) with connection to the Lakeside Trail at the Tamarack Swamp • Parking for 4-5 vehicles.
Other Neighborhood Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace play equipment after 10 years of continuous use

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The additional development of recreational facilities and parkland in the Town is a high priority in order to provide high-quality recreational opportunities and maintain and increase the quality of life of its residents. There are various opportunities for funding such recreational developments in the Town, ranging from local bonding and fund drives to Federal and State grants.

The use of lands for public purposes short of outright purchase, particularly for trails and other similar uses, should be considered where appropriate. Non-profit organizations may be helpful partners in obtaining land or funds that might not otherwise be feasible.

The availability of certain forms of State and Federal assistance can vary widely from year to year. While not an exhaustive listing, the following represent a great starting point for the Town, community group or Town-sponsored committee or board to seek funds to achieve the desired improvements in Irondequoit.

Federal/National

Land and Water Conservation Fund

(U.S. Department of the Interior & National Park Service)

A matching grant program for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Current funding for the program is erratic, especially during the current fiscal crisis. Limited funds that may be available are administered through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

(Local Congressional Representatives & Senators)

Funds are available from this source through direct application to Irondequoit's Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C. Although parks and recreation projects are not excluded from funding under this program, indications up to this point in time (mid-2009) are that funded projects will be more of a basic infrastructure improvement nature and this may eliminate parks and recreation projects from further consideration. However, any transportation improvements in the Town that utilize these

funds should include bike routes, sidewalks, or multi-use trails to further the goals in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

National Recreational Trails Fund (U.S. Department of Transportation)

This program is part of the Federal Transportation Efficiency Act (TEA-21) and funds the acquisition, construction and maintenance of trails on state, county, municipal or private lands. The program also includes the "Rails to Trails" grants program as well. Typically, trails of regional significance are favored over local, smaller trails. Administration of the fund in New York State is by its Department of Transportation.



The Hojack Trail in Webster is a great local example of a rails to trails success story that could be repeated in Irondequoit. Source: www.TrailLink.com

Transportation Enhancements (U.S. Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration)

Projects under this program typically help to expand surface transportation choices and enhance transportation experiences. Projects can include the creation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, streetscape improvements, refurbishment of historic transportation facilities, and other investments that enhance communities and access. New York's apportionment for the TE funding has stood at the \$30 million level for 5 consecutive years. Administration is through the Genesee Transportation Council.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

This program offers grants and technical assistance for improving and protecting fish and wildlife habitats with a major emphasis on wetlands. The program is adaptable to a variety of habitat types and could include improvements such as trails, boardwalks, overlooks and habitat enhancements. The local coordinator is the Fish and Wildlife Service at Cortland, New York.

The Trust for Public Land

(Non-Profit National Organization)

The TPL receives funding from the Ford Foundation to establish a Property Acquisition Revolving Fund to purchase real estate on behalf of communities or non-profit organizations.

The Fund acts as a land bank until the sponsor is able to buy the property. The property must fulfill an important community development objective and may include environmental, recreational, and historic properties. In New York, the fund is administered through the Regional Office of The Trust for Public Land, in New York City.



Portions of Braddock Bay have been preserved through efforts of the Trust for Public Land. Source: Douglas Wilcox

The Nature Conservancy

(Non-Profit national organization)

The Conservancy acquires land that fits its ecological and conservation objectives. The Nature Conservancy also will serve as a land bank - acquiring and holding property until one or more sponsors, usually state or local government, can buy the property. The Conservancy will frequently prepare management plans for properties it may hold for an extended time. The Conservancy manages land programs both at the national (international) and local chapter level.

New York State

Environmental Protection Fund - Title 9

(NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation)

Grants are available for the acquisition and/or development of municipal parks and for historic preservation projects. Municipal or non-profit agencies may apply. Grants are for a maximum of 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs. Competition for the relatively limited funds is very high and typically a minority of applicants is funded,

sometimes at less than the requested amounts. It is necessary to document a clear planning process that identifies needs, demonstrates appropriate development, and includes community support; this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an important component of that documentation.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
(NYS Department of State - Division of Coastal Resources)

Grants are available for acquisition and/or development of projects in areas for which an LWRP plan has been prepared and approved by the State of New York. Municipal agencies may apply. Grants are for a maximum of 50 percent reimbursement of eligible costs. Competition for the relatively limited funds is very high and typically a minority of applicants is funded, sometimes at less than the requested amounts. An active Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is an important component of that documentation and an updated LWRP for the Town is scheduled for completion in late 2009.

Snowmobile Trail Development/Maintenance Program
(NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation)

This is a funding program available to counties for the development and/or maintenance of snowmobile trails compatible with established statewide trails plans.

New York Great Lakes Protection Act/Fund
(NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)

This act authorized the State to fund about \$300,000 for technical studies and research projects that will protect, restore and improve the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The Fund supports projects between government, academia, non-governmental and environmental groups to conduct research and exchange/apply information about remediating and sustaining the health of the plant, animal, and human elements of New York's Great Lakes ecosystem.

Legislative Appropriations

State appropriations for projects of local interest, such as acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities, are initiated through state legislative representatives and are acted on by the State legislature. This has been an important ongoing source of funding for special projects such as band shells and amphitheaters, picnic shelters, lodges, special gardens and memorials.

Local Resources

Real Estate Taxes

Local tax revenues are the primary source for funding maintenance and operations and they may be used for land acquisition and development, including serving as a matching share of funds for State, federal, and other grants in aid.

Sales Taxes

Sales taxes are an important source of income in Irondequoit. Revenues are available for virtually any appropriate use.

Fees and Charges

Revenues from fees for participating in programs and charges for the use of facilities should be important segments of the budget for parks and recreation. The extent to which programs and facilities are financed through fees and charges is a philosophical decision to be made by each community. A common philosophy is that parks and most facilities are community assets that contribute to the overall quality of life. It is commonly believed that those who use certain programs, facilities, and amenities should help by paying reasonable fees that help defray the costs of developing and maintaining them.

In Irondequoit, many programs and users of facilities are town residents. Fees and charges that reflect the total costs of programs and facility operations would be reasonable in Irondequoit. Over 90% of respondents to the public opinion survey indicated they would be willing to pay user fees for the use of various Town facilities. In addition, nearly all of those who responded indicated they would support a combination of tax-based funding and user fees to support a community center project. Approximately 100 respondents (less than 25 percent) indicated they do not support construction of a community center and cited a variety of reasons. Most fell into the categories of high taxes, economy and a perceived lack of need.

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

Under NYS Town Law §277.4, a municipality may "...prior to approval by the planning board of plats, require developers to reserve land suitable for parks, playgrounds, or other recreational purposes or, in lieu thereof, to pay money to the Town to be held in a trust fund for the purchase of land for recreational or park purposes, construction of recreational facilities, or maintenance of existing recreational facilities."

The recommendations of this Master Plan should be used as documentation of the appropriateness of accepting specific parcels of land. Unless a proposed parcel is specifically desired by the Town for a stated recreational purpose, the Town should accept payment of fees for the trust fund to acquire and develop park land as proposed in the Master Plan.

The Town currently assesses a fee of \$1,000 for each new single-family home and was last updated in December of 2008. Multi-family dwellings are assessed fees based upon the number of bedrooms constructed (one bedroom - \$500, two - \$600, and three - \$800). The fee should be periodically adjusted to reflect future costs of park land acquisition, development, and maintenance.

Implementation Techniques

Cost Sharing

Shared cost techniques permit intergovernmental cooperation in developing, operating, and maintaining mutually beneficial facilities. Such arrangements with school districts and other municipalities can allow a sharing of the cost of facilities or programs that may not otherwise be feasible. Irondequoit is experienced in this form of partnering through its agreements with the School Districts.

Leases, Easements, and Permits

Leases, easements and permits may enable the use of land or facilities for long or short terms. Advantages may include avoidance of immediate large capital outlay, possible less overall cost, avoidance of restrictions of debt financing, preservation of debt capacity, control of the period of the lease when permanency is not intended or obsolescence is anticipated and use or control of land or facilities which are not for sale

or otherwise available. These are particularly effective means of acquiring rights-of-way for trails.

In Irondequoit, some proposed trailheads might require permits or easements to allow public access to trails. Wherever possible, replacing permits with permanent easements should be pursued to ensure perpetuity.

Bonding

Bonds generate immediate financing and are appropriate for capital improvement projects. General obligation bonds are backed by the general credit and taxing power of the municipality. Bonding may be subject to permissive referendum if so petitioned. Other forms of bonds, such as revenue bonds, are occasionally applicable. The popularity of bonds varies with market fluctuations, interest rates, tax rates, and other influences.

Bond Anticipation Notes

Bond anticipation notes are short-term financing intended to be issued in anticipation of a long-term bond issue or as interim financing prior to grant in aid permanent financing.

Donations

Service clubs, "Friends" groups, special interest groups, developers, corporations and individuals are sources of money, land, materials and volunteer services for developing and maintaining facilities as well as for programs when appropriate liability, use, and suitability issues can be resolved.

Large donations may be in the form of sponsorships, naming rights, and other privileges. The Town should identify present and future opportunities for such participation and should pursue this where it is in the interest of the Town to do so.

Foundations

Foundations are a less common source of assistance for municipal parks and recreational programs. Established philanthropic foundations tend to favor programs over capital projects, but have been known to support unique projects of interest to a specific foundation.

Local private foundations may support local efforts benefiting the public, such as land acquisition or specific types of recreational opportunities.

Private Enterprise

Many types of recreational facilities are operated for profit by businesses. Golf courses, fitness and wellness centers, indoor sports arenas, ice skating arenas, gymnastics centers and many other types of recreational venues are potentially viable ventures which serve segments of the local demands.

Where markets exist, a town may forego public development of certain facilities and defer to the private sector to serve the needs of the community. Public-private opportunities may exist as well.

Conceptual Illustrations

Figures 1-3