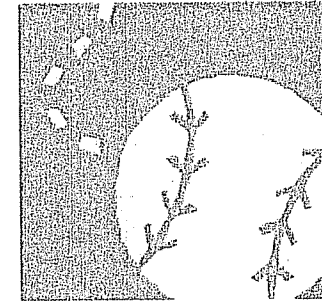
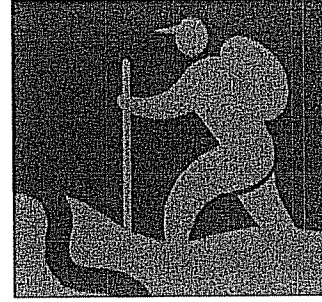
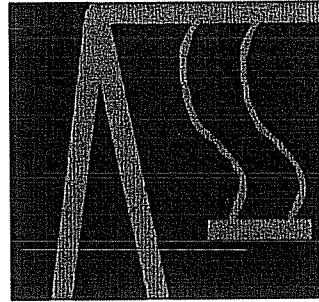
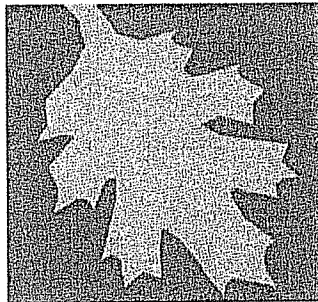


NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS



MASTER PLAN

- DRAFT -

Town of New Castle, New York

February 2007

Prepared by Cherbuliez/Munz, PLLC ■ Landscape Architects and Site Planners
55 Kisco Park Drive ■ Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
with DeSantis Consulting & Hahn Engineering

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF:

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Town Supervisor: Janet L. Wells

Town Board: Barbara Gerrard, Elise Kessler Mottel, John Buckley, Robin Stout

Town Administrator: Gennaro Faiella

The Recreation Commission

The Conservation Board

The Steering Committee: composed of a member of the Town Board, Recreation Commission, Conservation Board, School Board; the Environmental Coordinator of the Building and Engineering Department and the Athletic Director of the Chappaqua School District



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*So, in all these spheres - in painting, sculpture, drawing,
music, singing, dancing, gymnastics, games, sports,
writing and speech - we can carry on to our heart's content,
all through our long lives, complex and specialized
forms of exploration and experiment.*

chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of Plan

In November 2005, the Town of New Castle, at the recommendation of the New Castle Recreation and Parks Commission and the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department, retained a consultant firm to assess its parks, recreation resources, and services to residents, and to make recommendations to improve these resources and services. The plan will assess and make recommendations for facilities, programs, management, and finances for the next ten years. The last Recreation Needs Assessment Study was prepared ten years ago in 1996. The last Town Development Plan, which, among other subjects, looked at open space and recreation, was done in 1989. According to the "rule of thumb" for planners, municipal master plans are updated every five years in order to assess whether the goals and objectives are being met, and to make revisions/corrections as a result of the findings. Some municipalities have been satisfied updating their master plans every ten years. Full Master Plans are normally done every twenty years, in order to keep in tune with demographics, development, changing values, trends and economics.

This Recreation Master Plan uses information from many sources: including the US Census; Westchester County; the Town Supervisor and Town Administrator; the Town Board; the Recreation and Parks Department Superintendent and staff; annual reports, budgets, brochures from the department; the Town Environmental Coordinator. In addition, a Steering Committee was established to work with the consultants in order to provide input from the different entities of the Town concerned with recreation. The Steering Committee was composed of a member of each of the following: the Town Board, The Recreation Commission, the School Board, and the Conservation Board, The School District Athletic Director, the Recreation Department Superintendent, and the New Castle Environmental Coordinator were also members of the Steering Committee. Some information was made available for 2005, while other information was available only for 2004 or before. Where the consultants have found it helpful, statistics and budgets are looked at over a period of years; in other cases a single year is used to provide the necessary information for observations and recommendations. The work done for this Plan, including site visits, analysis of programs,

the survey and analysis, was completed in November 2006. Situations and events which took place after that date are not reflected in the Plan.



B. Relationship to Open Space

This Plan focuses on the Recreation and Parks Department, and will serve as a guide for the future of the Department. It also includes references to open space in New Castle and to the open space and conservation activities of New Castle. These activities are, in many ways, inextricably tied to the recreation and park resources of the Town.

New Castle's recent acquisition of open space and development of trails, such as at Burden, and Block/Sunny Ridge/Swope certainly point to the Town's recognition of the recreation value of open space and trails.

This close relationship of open space and recreation is recognized by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in its recreation plan (SCORP) which is summarized in Section F. 6 of this chapter. The state plan recognizes the importance of preservation of open space to expand recreational opportunities.

In addition, the County of Westchester has acquired in the last fifteen years a considerable amount of open space to be added to the nearly 18,000 acres of parkland, under the jurisdiction of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Conservation. In fact, since 1998 the County has acquired over

(continued on page 4)



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1,200 acres of open space, some of which will be managed by the municipality in which the land is located. Hilltop Hanover Farm in Yorktown, Oldfield Preserve in Lewisboro, and Hartsbrook Preserve in Greenburgh are three examples of County acquisitions; Hilltop Hanover is managed by the County, while the other two properties are managed by the respective municipalities. In some cases, the county's open space acquisition will be managed by a non-profit organization. Finally, the County has focused in recent years on creating linkages, both for recreational purposes through extensive trailway planning, as well as for natural resource corridors. These acquisitions are open to all residents, supplementing the existing County and local municipal resources. This Plan acknowledges the Town's acquisition of open space for conservation and limited recreation purposes, and includes recommendations for these open space lands. See page 6 for further introductory information about open space in New Castle.

C. Recreation Guidelines and Standards

Previous to the 1990's, park planners used generic national standards which were provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) related to the number of acres per 1,000 people to determine the quantity of open space needed for a community or to determine, for instance, the number of ball fields needed. These standards were based solely on population.¹ In the early 1990's, park planners recognized that this formula for recreational planning was no longer applicable for many reasons. With the decline in federal and state grant programs, changing responsibilities for providing facilities and services, new environmental legislation, the enactment of the 1992 Americans with Disabilities Act, and changing demographics, park planners have shifted to an approach which is tailored to the individual community, based on an evaluation of the community's needs.² This more comprehensive approach recognizes that recreational and open space demand is often met by a host of providers, and that it is the citizens of the community who determine what is best for them.

1. Lancaster, Roger A., Open Space Standards and Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association, 1993

2. Mertes, James D. and Hall, James R., Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration, 1995

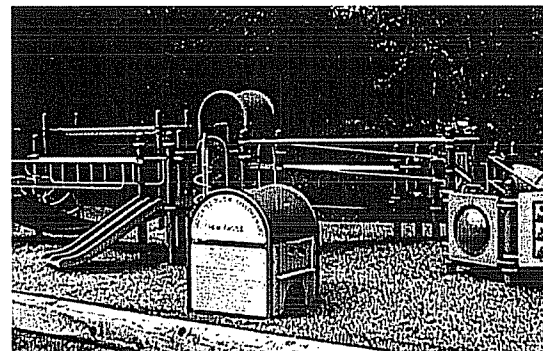
Community participation, therefore, has played a major role in the development of this Plan. Chapter Five summarizes the results of community input, including the Recreational Survey results.

D. Master Plan Process

The Master Plan Process was essentially divided into two major stages:

1st With the assistance of the Town, the Consultants conducted an inventory and analysis of all existing recreation and park related properties, facilities, programs, as well as the Recreation and Parks Department structure, management, budget, and relationship with other recreation facilities and providers. The work to complete this stage included input from the community, including a survey of residents, meetings with the Recreation and Parks Department Superintendent and staff, and acquiring information from community boards and organizations. A copy of the survey is included in the Appendix, along with a summary of the significant findings.

2nd The Consultants have provided, in consultation with the Town, recommendations for facilities, programs, the Recreation Commission, and the Recreation and Parks Department, all based on the results of the first stage. The final recommendations take the form of Short Term Recommendations (1 to 5 years), Long Term Recommendations (beyond 5 years), and a Five Year Capital Plan. The Five Year Capital Plan indicates new physical projects as well as physical improvements that expand and/or upgrade existing facilities. In addition, recommendations for the Commission and the Department and coordination with other entities are addressed.



E. Town Profile

■ PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The town of New Castle covers almost 24 square miles, and includes the two hamlets of Chappaqua and Millwood. It can be described as having three upland sections and two main valleys oriented in a North-south direction, carved out by the Saw Mill and Kisco Rivers. Much of the undeveloped land is wooded, and the topography is very varied, with the land elevation varying from about 40 feet above sea level in the Croton River Valley at the western corner of town, to 775 feet in the eastern corner, near Byram Lake. The town is bisected by the Taconic State Parkway in the west side and the Saw Mill River parkway in the center. The train line follows the same general north-south orientation, just east of the Saw Mill Parkway. East/west passage across the town is difficult because of the topography, the valleys and rivers, the parkways, and the railroad.

■ DEMOGRAPHICS

For the purpose of this plan, the population figure of 17,500 (actual figure according to the latest census of 2000 is 17,491) is used to account for the number of people to be served by the New Castle Department Recreation and Parks. The Department also serves the 33 children of teachers who attend the Chappaqua school district (as of 7/2006), and the children of 113 families that reside in the Town of Mount Pleasant but are in the Chappaqua school district. See the Appendix for the Census 2000 Profile which provides a great deal of information on the Town, related to population, households, employment, education, income and housing.

Population projections are provided here for New Castle. The population in 1990 had been 16,648; the increase was 5% to 2000, when the population was 17,467. According to the 2000 Westchester County Department of Planning Databook, the urban areas in the County have seen the increased growth, and it is anticipated that such growth will continue, while the suburban and rural areas have had modest to no growth, and in some cases, a decrease in population.



FIGURE 1

Population Projections for Five Year Periods for New Castle

Year	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Population	17,467*	18,242	18,736	19,038	19,053
% increase from previous period	1.7%	4.4%	2.7%	1.6%	0.1%

Source: Westchester County Dept. of Planning from NYSDOT.
Special forecasts prepared by Global Insight, Dec. 2003

* Actual population figure

FIGURE 2

Population Projections for New Castle by Age Groups

Age Group	2000		2005		2010		2015		2020	
			Percentage change from 2000 to 2005		Percentage change from 2005 to 2010		Percentage change from 2010 to 2015		Percentage change from 2015 to 2020	
0 - 4	1,398	0%	1,392	-1%	1,385	6%	1,471	9%	1,606	
5 - 9	1,702	-4%	1,635	-9%	1,515	-6%	1,426	-1%	1,446	
10 - 14	1,632	7%	1,739	0%	1,733	-10%	1,647	-10%	1,577	
15 - 19	1,102	11%	1,216	6%	1,294	-1%	1,277	-9%	1,174	
20 - 29	808	1%	819	11%	908	12%	1,032	5%	1,088	
30 - 64	9,223	6%	9,813	4%	10,175	1%	10,208	3%	9,945	
65 +	1,602	2%	1,628	6%	1,726	15%	1,977	12%	2,217	
Total	17,467	4.4%	18,242	2.7%	18,736	1.6%	19,038	0.1%	19,053	

Source: Westchester County Dept. of Planning from NYSDOT.
Special forecasts prepared by Global Insight, Dec. 2003

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

FIGURE 3

Projected School Enrollment (as of April 2006)

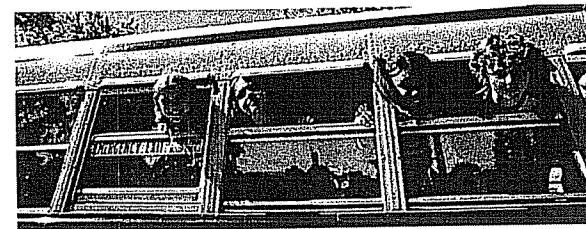
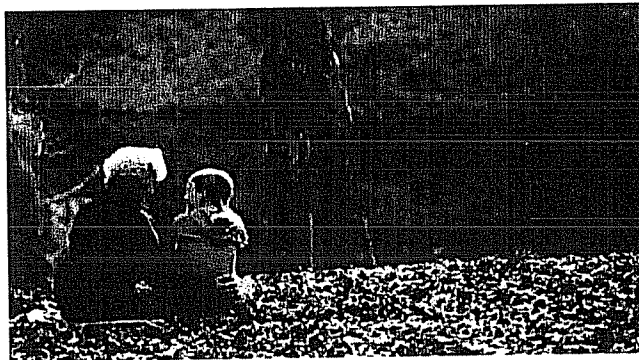
2006	2007	2008	2009
4206	4277	4281	4238

Source: Chappaqua School District

General observations can be made after examining the above three charts, remembering that these are all projections, so that evaluations of actual populations must be done regularly.

- The population in New Castle is projected to increase very slowly from the present time to 2020.
- The school enrollment is projected to change minimally, with some minor increases, and then a minor decline.
- The 0 - 4 age group will start to increase after 2010
- The 5-9 will decrease until 2010 and then increase
- The 10-14 will decrease to 2020
- The 15 -19 will increase in 2010 and then decline to 2020
- The 20-29 will increase to 2015 and then decline
- The 30-64 will increase in 2010 and then decline
- 65+ will continue to increase, and at a rate which should be watched

The most steady change in population is that for seniors who are anticipated to increase continually.



Race: The issue of race in New Castle is not a significant factor in assessing and planning for recreational resources, as it is in the cities of Westchester, where the immigrant population is increasing and changing, so that specific programs and facility needs must be addressed. A small increase in the Asian population is anticipated in New Castle in coming years, and should be observed to see if it continues and if the needs of this group are being met.

FIGURE 4

Race and Origin in New Castle

Race and Origin	Population	Percentage of Total Town Population
White	15,950	91%
Black	126	1%
American Indian	23	0%
Asian	1021	6%
Other	132	1%
Two or More Races	239	1%
Hispanic	499	3%
Total Town Population	17,491	100%

Source: US Census Bureau, SF3 Data, Census 2000, Westchester County Department of Planning Municipal Profile



ECONOMY

New Castle is considered an affluent community, which can be seen by comparing selected factors with Westchester County as a whole. New Castle is the 7th highest municipality in Westchester in the Median Sale Price of a single family home. See below also for household income.

FIGURE 5

Median Sale Price Single Family Home in 2004

Municipality	Westchester County	New Castle
Price	\$645,000	\$875,000

Source: Westchester County Department of Planning Databook, updated 2004

FIGURE 6

Household Income Data (1999)

Municipality	Westchester County	New Castle
Per Capita	\$36,350	\$875,000
Average Household	\$99,465	\$225.155

Source: Westchester County Department of Planning, New Castle Profile, from Census 2000 data which provided information on 1999

The above information is the latest available on Household Income. It is important to note on the Profile, (see Appendix) that there is a wide range of household incomes in the Town and the Town serves this range of people. In addition, 10% of the population is 65 and over, and many of the recreation needs of these residents (most do not work) are currently being provided. Finally, with the many years of continuous high level of services provided at reasonable cost by the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department, the residents rely heavily on the Town's recreation programs and facilities.

GENERAL INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The Town of New Castle has a large variety of recreational resources, including Town parks and conservation land, school district facilities, quasi-public properties such as Audubon sanctuaries, and private facilities. In addition, there are six private clubs for swimming and/or tennis, and two private golf courses, plus one public golf course (Hudson Hills owned by the County of Westchester). The New Castle Recreation and Parks Department facilities include two community facilities (Art Center and Community Center), four multi-purpose active parks and two passive recreation parks. Active parks refer to those which have programmed facilities such as playing fields and playgrounds, while passive parks are those which provide trails and open space.

Not under the auspices of the Recreation and Parks Department, is Town-owned open space which is utilized for recreation purposes, such as for observing nature and walking on trails, as well as land which is set aside for conservation purposes. These lands are classified as General Municipal Land (GML) and include Bicentennial Park - Duck Pond and Glazier Arboretum. These open spaces with trails, as well as others described in Chapter Two, are similar in use to passive parks, but are not under the jurisdiction of the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department. In addition, the school district owns land that is utilized for recreation purposes. Finally, there are other public and private resources in New Castle and within a five mile radius, which provide additional recreational resources as well as open space.

See the Inventory of Recreation and Open Space in New Castle in Chapter Two and in Figures 7 (page 11) and 8 (page 18) which list Recreational Resources in and near the Town of New Castle. Information is included about other recreational resources in the Town and those within a five mile radius. The availability of these other recreational opportunities may well influence the planning of new facilities and programs by New Castle.

Dedicated Parkland

The total amount of dedicated parkland in New Castle is currently 342 acres (341.7). See Figure 7 which notes that the Art Center of .9 acres is General Municipal Land.

(continued on page 6)

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Accessibility

The New Castle Department of Recreation and Parks has been responsive to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 336, enacted July 26, 1990. Playgrounds have been upgraded and new ones installed to accommodate children with disabilities. Ramps have been constructed into the Art Center and the Community Center. Lavatories are provided for the handicapped in all facilities. In addition, other facilities in New Castle serve the disabled; the handicapped accessible boardwalks at Glazier Arboretum and at Audubon's Pinecliff Sanctuary are two examples.

Open Space

While this Master Plan focuses on Parks and Recreation, open space must be considered, especially in light of New Castle's 2003 referendum to bond for \$2 million for Open Space Acquisition. Preservation of Open Space has become, over recent years, a major focus in the country, and specifically in Westchester County, where New Castle was the eleventh town in Westchester to vote to approve funding for Open Space. See page 1.

Prior to 2003, New Castle had already acquired open space for the purpose of recreation including trails and linkages, as well as for conservation. The following list summarizes acquisitions and donations of these properties, which are GML:

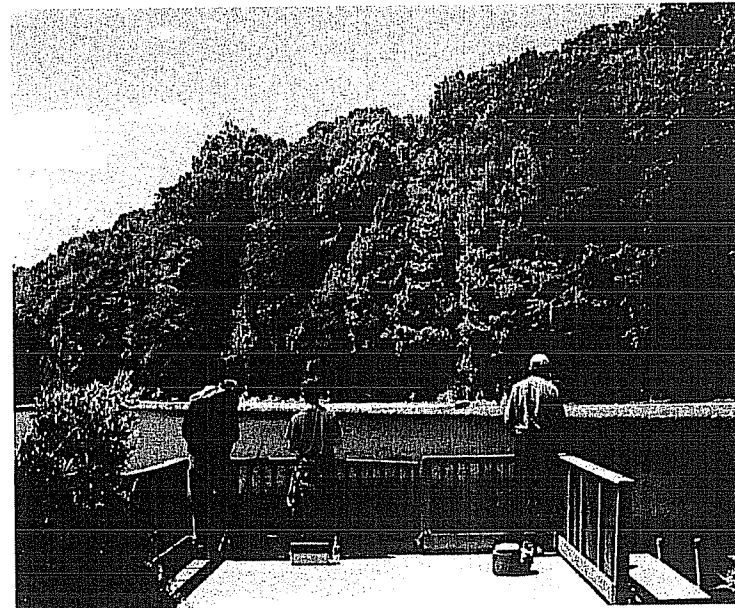
- 1973: Turner Swamp - conservation
- 1976: Glazier Arboretum - passive recreation for conservation and nature study
- 1998: Amsterdam - recreation
- 1999: Swope - conservation as biodiversity corridor and trail linkage (donation)
- 2000: Block - biodiversity corridor and trail linkage
- 2001: Sunny Ridge - biodiversity corridor and trail linkage
- 2003: Burden - conservation, watershed protection and trail linkage (purchased in part with Bond Act Funds)
- 2004: Greeley Woods - conservation, linkage, and historic value

Certain private properties have easements as a result of subdivisions for the purpose of providing additional trail linkages.

The lands and easements noted above are not under the auspices of the Recreation and Parks Department.

From 1998 through 2004, New Castle had spent over \$4 million on acquisition of open space (Amsterdam, Block, Sunny Ridge, Burden and Greeley Woods). These open space lands, plus Glazier Arboretum and Turner Swamp total approximately 282 (282.46) acres.

This Plan considers Open Space used currently for recreation purposes, as well as one property where recreation usage is anticipated (Amsterdam). The plan does not attempt to look at all open space in the Town or area, such as Chiselhurst, a DEP Conservation Easement, or the Annadale Property. An Open Space study was done in the Town's Development Plan of 1989; an update of the 1989 Plan would account for changes which have occurred since that time, including easements which were created as subdivisions were developed.



F. Summary of Relevant Plans and Studies

1 Town Development Plan, November 1989, Section on Open Space and Recreation

The Open Space and Recreation section of the Development Plan reviewed the Open Space and Recreation areas of the Town, comparing these areas in 1988 to the previous studies of 1966 and 1984. It refers frequently to the open space character of the Town and the need to preserve it. The additional acreage added to the Town's open space inventory between 1984 and 1988 includes acreage resulting from subdivisions. In addition, the Plan summarized all passive open space and recreation areas in the Town, including public, semi-public and private, and all active recreation areas, both public and private, in the Town. The plan compared open space and recreation resources in New Castle to the National Recreation and Park Association Standards. Open space and recreation policies were outlined. The plan makes recommendations for development patterns, including environmental and historic preservation. The plan frequently refers to the Town's "open space and recreation system," and makes recommendations for acquisition and preservation. This Open Space and Recreation Section concludes with specific planning recommendations for parks. The pertinent recommendations are noted below:

● **Gedney Park:**

Add year-round comfort stations, complete children's play area, install covered picnic area near pond. Develop comprehensive plan to redesign existing ball fields. Potential for third softball field on east side of access road. Parking should be redesigned and expanded. Access road needed for upper soccer field. Bike path extension should be provided between Park and Westorchard School if North County Trailway and Putnam Railroad right-of-way is improved.

Status: All accomplished except bike path.

● **Millwood Park:**

Need for more parking – create off-street on Con-Ed land across street.

Status: Parking within park has been expanded.



● **Recreation Field:**

Needs increased maintenance and irrigation.

Status: Provided

● **Whippoorwill Park:**

Maintain in natural state for passive recreation; create steps into steepest area off Whippoorwill Rd. Suggests that active recreation could be considered here if vehicular access is provided.

Status: This Park has had trails developed, and no other improvements.

● **Warburg Park:**

Maintain in natural state for passive recreation but could also provide active recreation facilities here.

Status: This park has had trails developed.

● **Glazier Arboretum:**

Suggest possible picnicking areas if safe parking available.

Status: Parking area, trails, managed meadows, and interpretive material have been provided.

● **Parkways and Rights-of-Ways:**

Recommends Town explore these for bikeways, walkways, and trail systems.

Status: Not yet addressed.

Finally, this section of the development plan proposes implementation techniques for open space preservation.





Recreational Needs Assessment Study, June 1996, Prepared by Cleary Consulting

This study uses earlier standards for open space and recreation facilities as comparisons with the existing open space and facilities in New Castle. Population projections are given; the population has not met the increase predicted. New Castle resources and those in the surrounding area are summarized, as are two seasons of programs in 1996. The 1996 Recreation and Parks Commission Priority List of improvements is provided. Finally the Study recommends that "mechanisms such as the payment of cash in lieu of parkland reservations established in the town subdivision law be utilized to meet the needs of the community when viable active park land cannot be obtained." This recommendation was implemented with the Parkland Trust Fund where the fee for a developer was established at a \$4,000 cash payment in lieu of parkland. In 2003 the Town Board raised the cash payment to \$7,000.

Recommended improvements and status for specific parks:

● Gedney Park:

Redesign existing ball fields, create third baseball field, redesign and expand parking, expand and modernize playground facilities, landscape and control erosion of pond.

Status: All have been completed

● Millwood Park :

Explore possibility of providing additional parking on Con Ed land across Saw Mill River Road, improve and expand playground area.

Status: Playground done, parking across road not possible. Parking expanded in park.

● Whippoorwill Park:

Provide steps down steepest part of trail into park. Consider providing vehicular access.

Status: Not done

● Warburg Park:

Develop vehicular access and parking from Pines Bridge Rd. Consider providing active recreation facilities.

Status: Access and informal parking done.

● Glazier Arboretum:

Provide picnic seating and paths, develop safe access and parking, consider use of site for gardening clubs.

Status: Not under jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Department. Parking and paths have been provided.

● Athletic Fields:

Expand current use of facilities through lighting and development of new multi-use fields.

Status: No other locations for fields have been provided. Lighting exists at Rec Field.

● Parkways and Rights of Ways:

Explore development of bikeways, walkways and trail systems.

Status: Trails currently in construction and railway system and draft plan in development currently by Conservation Board with Town Environmental Coordinator under the Town's Building and Engineering Department. Other trails have been developed in parks, such as at Gedney.

● Parking and Access Roads:

Improve parking areas and access roads into town parks.

Status: Accomplished at several parks.



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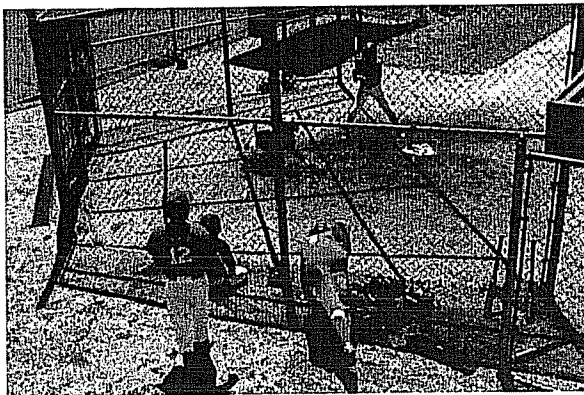
3 Amsterdam Property Master Plan, 2000, prepared by Cherbuliez/Munz, PLLC

This Plan examined the feasibility of different uses for the Amsterdam property.

A proposal for the development of two ballfields at Amsterdam is before the Planning Board, as of November, 2006.

4 Analysis of Present Ballfield Use, March, 2005 by Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Robert O.Snyder

This Analysis summarizes the uses of the ballfields in New Castle, provides the users groups, projections for future use, and the team time requirements. It concludes with the recognition of the pressure for use of the existing fields, noting that games and practices are scheduled on every field almost seven days a week, and that there is an immediate need for more fields. Finally, the Analysis states that "two additional ball fields will not allow either the school district or the Town to undertake major field renovations without affecting available field space." When major renovations must be done to fields, there is no surplus; therefore one field cannot be removed from play and still meet current needs. In addition, when inclement weather forces the cancellation of a game, it is often difficult to reschedule that game.



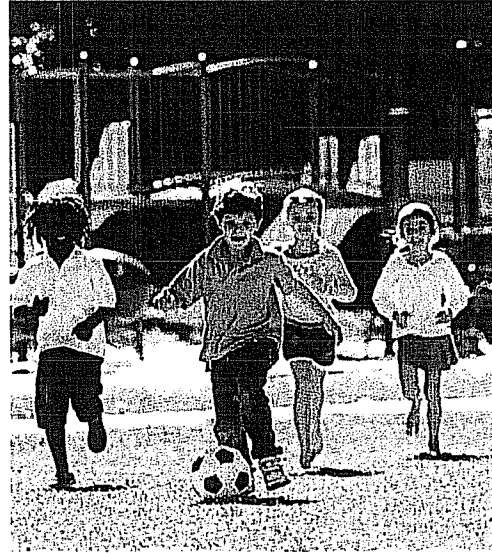
5 Trail Development Master Plan, Final Draft, 2003, by Stephen Coleman, Environmental Coordinator with the Conservation Board

This Plan establishes a policy for enhancing existing public/private open spaces within the Town of New Castle by linking them into a continuous system of trails, parks, and open space. A Draft Plan of a trail system has been designed, which will link the East End of Town with the West End. In addition, specific amenities and policies are established for this system. It is anticipated that the Draft Plan can be finalized in 2006.

6 The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), 2003, prepared by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

This Plan, prepared regularly about every five years, serves as a status report and as an overall guideline for New York State recreation resource preservation, planning and development through the year 2007. The State Office of Parks (OPRHP)'s planning process is based on three principles: Planning must be continuous, comprehensive, and participatory. These principles lead to the establishment of this plan. The plan recognizes the importance of preservation of open space to expand recreational opportunities. It examines the State's resources, and recognizes recent trends in recreation. Emphasis is put, for instance, on trail development, with walking, jogging, swimming, biking, boating, fishing, hiking, and visiting historic sights as the frequent activities of New York State park users. The state also recognizes that all levels of government provide recreational resources.





*“Play keeps us vital and alive.
It gives us an enthusiasm for life that is irreplaceable.
Without it, life just doesn't taste good...”*

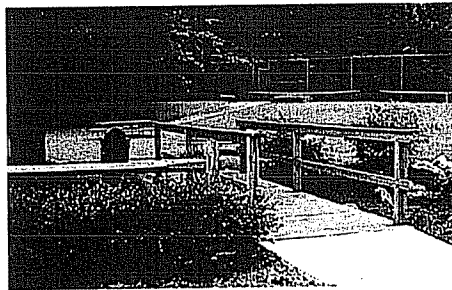
chapter 2 RECREATION RESOURCES *Inventory & Analysis*

A. Town-owned Recreation Resources

The resources are described briefly below, followed by a brief analysis, noting the condition and needs and opportunities. Parking is looked at, since it can be a concern at certain sites.

Information has been gathered from various sources, primarily from the Recreation and Parks Department, as well as from observations by the Consultants.

Since athletics is one of the most important parts of the Town Recreation and Parks programs, and many of these programs require the use of playing fields, a section below is devoted to the fields in the parks and at the schools.



TOWN CENTERS & PARKS

The resources in the Figure below are administered under the Recreation and Parks Commission, and managed by the Recreation and Parks Department. The total acreage of these resources is 342.6 acres, as shown on the chart below. Some of these resources are dedicated parkland (DPL) as opposed to general municipal land (GML). General Municipal Lands which are not administered by the Commission nor managed by the Recreation and Parks Department, but are used for recreational purposes, are described later in this chapter.



FIGURE 7

Town Centers & Parks Managed by Department of Recreation & Parks

Facility	Acreage	Status
Art Center	.9	GML
Community Center	*	GML
Recreation Field	2.7	DPL
Town Hall Playground	*	GML
Gedney Park	126.0	DPL
Millwood Park	7.0	DPL
Smith Park	2.0	DPL
Whipporwill Park	167.0	DPL
Warburg Park	37.0	DPL
Total	342.6	

GML = General Municipal Land

DPL = Dedicated Parkland

* Acreage minimal & not calculated

Source: from information provided by the Recreation and Parks Department

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Description

Location: Hardscrabble Road, in rural residential area, about one mile from town center.

Site: .9 acre, adjacent to Turner Swamp. Cleared for building, some upland woods.

History: Formerly the Kipp St. School. Acquired by the Town in 1973 for \$21,500, without specific use in mind.

Structure: Residential type one floor wood building, 1,825 square feet including 4 rooms dedicated to specific art functions (clay, woodworking, etc.), lavatory, and storage areas.

Road and Parking: Entry road and parking area for approximately 8 cars, including one handicap space.

Other: Handicapped accessible by ramp; entry terrace used for programs; small informal play area in rear of building.

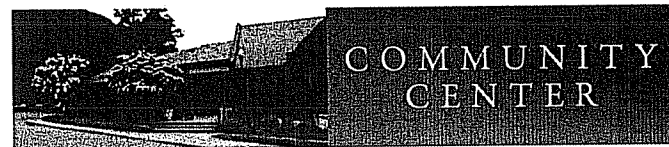
Use: Used year round, including a summer arts camp.

Analysis

Condition: Building & Grounds in excellent condition. Improvements and addition done in 1998 to building and exterior, including ramp, terrace, plantings.

Needs & Opportunities: Building accommodates current enrollment in classes.

Parking: Usually accommodates current needs.



Description

Location: Senter Street, in town, next to stores and restaurants, and adjacent to and overlooking the fields of Bell School.

Site: Approximately one acre, sloping site.

History: Built in 1930 as Town Library. Acquired from the School District in 1979 for \$127,500.

Structure: Tudor architecture, brick. Entered from street level, with access from rear to and from lower level. 4,757 square feet of total space; has been continually upgraded, with most recent interior and exterior entry improvements done in 2005. Street level floor has two large rooms for such uses as dance and exercise classes, an open office area, storage, a kitchen area with one of the rooms and a lavatory with an additional lavatory downstairs. Lower floor attractively renovated for Senior Center which includes a small kitchen area, a lavatory, storage, and lounge room with comfortable seating, TV, and access to outdoor terrace with tables and chairs, seating walls and plantings. Both lavatories are accessible to the disabled.

Parking: Paved, five spaces, adjacent to Center, with one handicapped accessible space. Users also park in surrounding public parking spaces in Town.

Analysis

Condition: Excellent condition. Exterior and interior improvements have been continuously made (see above).

Needs & Opportunities: Currently the number and type of programs are limited because of the lack of space at the Center. Additional space needed, but site may not be suitable for an addition.

Parking: Can be difficult as the few dedicated spaces are filled quickly, and in-town spaces are normally filled during daylight hours.



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Description

Location: In Town, adjacent to Town Hall, across from library

Site: 2.7 acre property, includes Recreation Field and Gazebo area

History: Created in the mid-50's when Tercia Brook was re-aligned and land fill was acquired and used to create Recreation Field, where lighting was installed in the 1960's.

Type: Active and passive

Amenities: One multi-use field with lighting system upgraded in 1991. Irrigation system, bleachers, wood gazebo, surrounded by ornamental plantings, used for summer concerts sponsored by the Recreation Department.

Parking: Served by parking areas surrounding Town Hall, as well as by on-street parking.

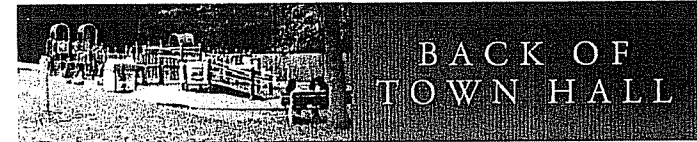
Use: Concerts at the Gazebo in summer. Field used by Bell School for Physical Education. In 1960 the School District leased and granted permission for the Town to use the School District land (behind the hamlet stores) for a period of 25 years for the purpose of public parking. In return, the School District has the use of Recreation Field for the same period of time.

Analysis

Condition: As well maintained as possible, since in season no down time is available. Continual upgrades done to fencing, entry areas, plantings. Gazebo and surrounding plantings regularly maintained and in good condition.

Needs & Opportunities: Down time needed for restoration of field.

Parking: Can be a major problem when games takes place at the same time that Town Hall and playground have active use. An event at the Library can also impact parking at Town Hall area and along road, and thus impact parking for Recreation Field.



Description

Location: Back of Town Hall as part of GML (general municipal land). Not officially part of Recreation Field parkland.

Site: Small area of approximately 40' x 100', adjacent to Town Hall parking lot. Fence separates two uses. Surrounded by small woodland area.

Type: Active

Amenities: Playground for tots through six year olds. Funded and built in 1999 by community volunteers.

Parking: Adjacent Town Hall lot used.

Use: Used at all times of day, primarily in good weather. Often used by young children with an adult when game taking place at close-by Rec. Field.

Analysis

Condition: Maintained in excellent condition. Surface mulch replaced regularly.

Needs: Consultant and Recreation staff have observed that the playground is not excessively crowded. Meets need.

Parking: Spaces can be found when no event is taking place at Town Hall or when no game takes place at Recreation Field.

For other Playgrounds,
see Gedney Park, Millwood Park
and Smith Park



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Description

Location: On Route 120/133, 1/2 mile east of the Hamlet of Millwood

Site: One of New Castle's largest parks, 126 acres of extremely varied topography, with fields, wetlands, a manmade pond (created in 1971 out of a marshy area) and Gedney Brook which flows into pond in valley in the park created by two ridges. Streams, rock walls, steep rocky woodlands and sloping and level woodlands. Road system connects different park areas.

History: The park, purchased in 1965 for \$145,000 (NY State paid 50%) under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Implications of State aid are that use of park may not be restricted to New Castle residents. The adjacent two-acre property with house was purchased in 1969 from Edward W. Terwilliger for \$42,000, using Parkland Trust funds.

Type: Active and passive

Amenities

Overall: Road system connects different areas of the park and the different facilities. Trail system throughout park, with three different trails, mostly going through wooded land, some steep, and some through rocky areas.

Front area: Picnic shelter at pond, rest room building, sledding hill, wetlands area. Recent improvements: large playground constructed in 1997 with benches, covered bridge over stream; new paved road system in lower area separated from new paved parking area for 57 cars with designated handicapped parking spaces; new plantings (2001); stream and pond native planting with observation deck (2003); small parking area of 4 spaces at end of pond; benches; trail systems at playground (by Boy Scouts), along pond and in wooded areas.

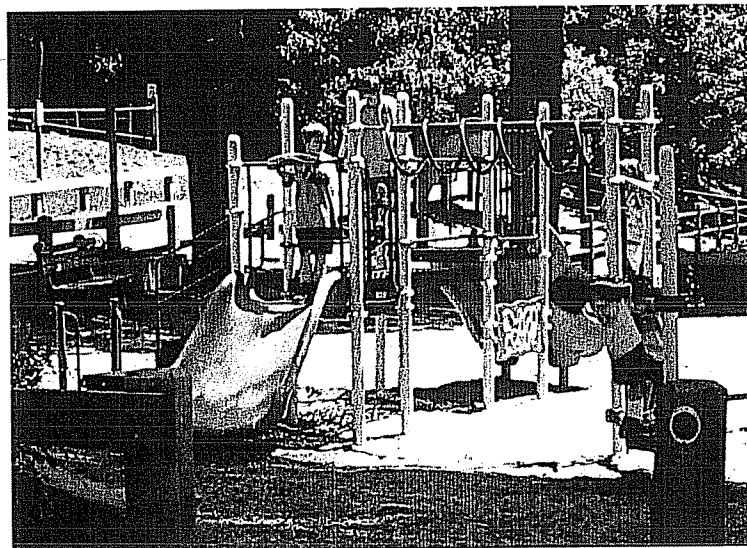
Adjacent town-owned house currently vacant. Had been used as residence of caretaker before 2000, but such services no longer needed.

Rear area: Picnic area, three baseball fields all with irrigation, bleachers, 70 paved parking spaces, small playground (2004), composting toilet building (2003), trail connections from lower area. Electrical wiring installed for scoreboard which not yet installed. New fire road plantings (2005).

Upper area: Soccer field (no irrigation) with unpaved parking, access road, woodland areas.

Parking: see above

Use: Park used heavily at front area playground by children and caregivers; park used heavily by walkers and walkers with dogs, especially in front area; rear area used often in season for Little League, softball and baseball, with children using playground; picnic area used moderately anticipating heavier use if new pavilion installed. Upper area used for soccer games. Rentals of fields and picnic area available on request.



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Analysis

Condition: The park has been continually cared for with major improvements (see above) as well as with careful maintenance. Natural features enhanced and made available to public by adding native plantings, trails, benches. Wood playground and wood fishing pier continually renovated as needed. Surfacing for playgrounds replaced as needed. Planting maintenance done regularly. Picnic shelter in front of park is in poor condition and not used.

House and adjacent property: House is to be demolished by Town.

Planned Improvements: Creation of a dog park in the rear area (2006 Capital Project); Additional planting between pond and roadway with walking path as part of continued improvement of pond; in rear area: new picnic pavilion planned, and additional plantings.

Needs & Opportunities

Front area: Remove unused and deteriorating picnic shelter & replace with plantings; continue plantings along pond and stream where erosion occurring near playground. Consider use of adjacent two acre parcel.

Rear area: In addition to proposed picnic pavilion, consider increasing use of picnic area with new amenities. Improve parking area near proposed Dog Park. (capital project 2006)

Upper area: Create two soccer fields out of existing one, regrading and improving playing surface. Add irrigation system. Clarify and improve parking area.



Description

Location: On Route 100, next to small stores, and across the road from shopping center.

Site: 7 acres of level and sloping land, some rock-outcroppings, adjacent to woodlands, with high rock outcropping between Route 100 and parking area. Stream bisects park, separating parking from picnic shelter and tennis courts.

History: Donated in 1950. Information on donor has not been located.

Type: Active

Amenities: 2 tennis courts, 1 Little League/Adult Softball field, small tot playground; picnic table, shelter with two picnic tables, stream crossed by bridge and bordered by wetland plantings, seasonal restroom building, paved parking for 31 cars, including two handicapped parking spaces.

Use: Field used by Little League and for adult games. Picnic area and playground often used in association with family attendance at ball games. Park also used by individuals and small groups, including at lunch time in good weather. Tennis courts used moderately. Residents may reserve softball field or picnic shelter.

Analysis

Condition: Good condition except for tennis courts which need rehabilitation.

Needs and Opportunities: Rehabilitation of tennis courts for more use.

Parking: Not sufficient space during ball games. Very limited room to expand but can study possibility.



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Description

Location: Entrance off Pineview Road in Kisco Park neighborhood, off Crow Hill Road.

Site: 2 acre site, level site, located about 30 feet below adjacent road; entered from road above site, by ramp. Wetlands adjacent.

History: In 1963-64, developers set this parcel aside as a "green space" known as Kisco Park. In 1979 it was dedicated as Eugene Smith Park in honor of a local resident who organized volunteers to cleanup and improve the park for the Kisco Park neighborhood.

Amenities: Half-size asphalt basketball court with benches; small playground for tots installed 2005; open grass area, asphalt bike/walking path.

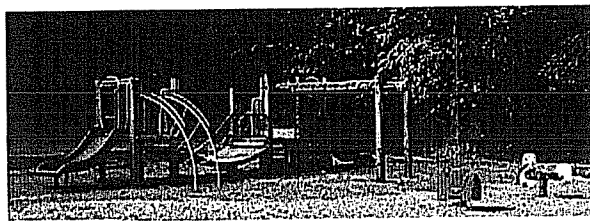
Use: New Castle's only neighborhood park. Used by neighboring community. Local events held.

Analysis

Condition: Good condition; new playground, open lawn area often wet, with wetlands adjacent.

Needs and Opportunities: None observed or provided to date by residents or staff. Recent improvements have been made.

Parking: Neighborhood park which residents walk to. No parking needed.



Description

Location: Entrance from Whipporwill Road, one mile south of the Route 117 (Bedford Road) intersection.

Site: New Castle's largest park of 167 acres. Very varied topography, primarily hilly with high ridges and valleys, some of which have level wetland areas. Some streams, pond, dammed at north end. Woodlands with primarily hardwoods, some mature trees, some areas of young growth, rock outcroppings, rugged terrain, wildlife.

History: Originally part of Berol Estate, purchased by Town in 1964 for \$270,415.73, in part with State funds and designated as passive parkland.

Type: Passive

Amenities: Entrance area has park sign with ornamental plantings, park has extensive marked trail system.

Parking: unpaved parking area at entrance, informal, sometimes quite muddy, could fit approximately eight cars.

Use: walking, hiking, wildlife and nature observation, much dog-walking with people letting dogs run unleashed, and some who come daily to walk dogs.

Analysis

Condition: Informally maintained. Entrance area appears untended, with fallen trees, brush piles. Some trails in need of improvements to prevent erosion.

Needs and Opportunities: Define and improve entrance parking area; consider gravel to avoid muddy surface; provide large trail map at entrance area, provide small trail maps with interpretive material in weather-tight stand, provide improved trail markers, improve trails. Provide interpretive signage.



Parking: See above for improvements needed. Determine how many spaces to indicate. Monitor use of park and enlarge parking if needed.

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN



Description

Location: Accessed from Pines Bridge Road, bordered on west boundary by the Taconic Parkway.

Site: 37 acres, wooded with some areas of dense shade with minimal understory, hilly rugged terrain, some level areas, stone walls, rock outcroppings some cliff-like, pond, wetland areas, lengthy trails over varied topography, very varied natural habitats with varied plant material.

History: Donated to the State by James and Bessie Rosenberg. Conveyed in 1963 to the Town of New Castle by the Taconic State Park Commission with stipulation that the property be dedicated for park and recreation purposes.

Type: Passive

Management: Indications on Kiosk state that "Warburg Park is a cooperative project between the Town of New Castle Conservation Board and the New Castle Recreation and Parks Commission."

Amenities: Informal parking area, with park sign and iron gate to prevent passage on unpaved road. Passage from parking into park is on road, that goes directly to Town Composting Area (indicated with signage), which has leaf piles and dumpster. Off the road is a trail extending to kiosk with information and trail map. Trail markings are provided for four trails, which loop around, with one returning adjacent to the composting area. Some trails with small boardwalk areas, which remain under water after rain; a few wood benches at pond, some in need of repair.

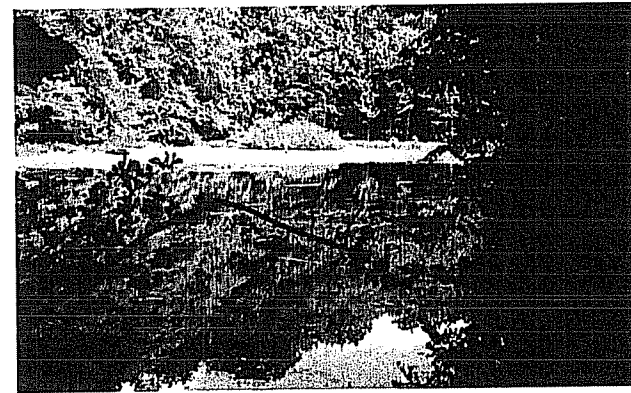
Parking: Informal partially paved and partially gravel, inclined and located at moderate incline off Pines Bridge Road.

Analysis

Condition: Parking/entrance area not attractive and does not give appearance of continual maintenance, parking surface poor, some dumping. Very small sign to trail at parking area is not located prominently and is hard to see. Entry to park is not possible to see as one drives on Pine Bridge Road from both directions, due to the

topography. Interior compost area not attractive, as viewed from trails. Entry to trails and kiosk set back, not in prominent location. Kiosk and most trails in good condition, except for boardwalks which need repair.

Needs and opportunities: Parking area needs organization for clarity as to where to park, to be more attractive and inviting, and to avoid appearance of neglect which has led to dumping and parking for non-park use (observed during inventory). Opportunity to add attractive gate to block interior road, which is needed for vehicles for composting operation. More attractive and visible park signage would also improve entry area. Consideration can be given to moving kiosk to parking area. Material at kiosk can be made more up-to-date. Needs clarity in park as to what is park and what is composting facility. Trail could be relocated away from composting area. Opportunity to "announce" park on Pines Bridge Road, by locating signage on road from both directions, before arriving at park (as has been done at Gedney Park).



SCHOOLS

The properties of the Chappaqua Central School District have been considered in this plan only in relation to their use for recreation in conjunction with the New Castle Department of Recreation and Parks. The condition of playgrounds, fields, or gyms is under the jurisdiction of the School District and is therefore not addressed here.

Figure 8 (page 18) indicates all recreation resources and activities of the Town, Parks, and Schools.

No analysis is provided on the School fields, gyms or playgrounds.



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

RECREATION RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

FIGURE 8

New Castle Recreation Resources & Activities (excluding fields)

Facilities & Activities	Tennis Courts	1/4 Mile Track	Gym*	Theater	Fitness Trail	Hiking/Nature Trail(s)	Play ground	Picnic Area	Shelters	Ponds	Rest room**	Ice skating	Sledding
New Castle Recreation /Sites											x		
Community Center											x		
Art Center											x		
Gedney Park						1	2	2	1	1	x	x	x
Millwood Park	2						1	1	1		x		
Recreation Field							1						
Smith Park							1	1					
Whippoorwill Park						1							
Warburg Park						1							
Bicentennial Park-Duck Pond								1		1			
Turner Swamp													
Glazier Arboretum						1				1			
Amsterdam (not in use currently)													
Burden						1							
Block/Sunny Ridge/Swope						1							
Grafflin ES			2		1		2						
Roaring Brook ES			1		1		1						
Westorchard ES			1				1						
Bell MS			2										
Seven Bridge MS			1	1	1								
Horace Greeley HS	5	1	3	1									
TOTAL	7	1	10	2	3	6	9	5	2	3			

NOTES: The number indicates the number of facilities at that site; the cross indicates that a specific facility exists at that site.

* Gyms have indoor basketball courts.

** Restrooms are indicated for parks only and do not represent a quantity but rather that they are provided.

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

■ FIELDS

See Figure 9 which indicates the playing fields and their use. The School district fields are used by the Recreation and Parks Department after 3 PM and at certain hours on Saturdays and Sundays. Gedney 1 Field and the Millwood Park field are not scheduled for two hours on Sunday afternoons to accommodate picnics and free play.

Analysis See "Analysis of Present Ballfield Use", page 9. After discussion with the Superintendent and evaluations of field use, the consultants recommend three new fields.

FIGURE 9

Playing Fields in the Town of New Castle

	Little League Baseball/ Softball	Little League/ Adult Softball	Little League Baseball/ Soccer	Soccer	Baseball/ Multi-Use	Baseball/ Soccer	Soccer/ Lacrosse	Contest Field	Adult Baseball	Girls Field Hockey
P A R K S										
Gedney Park	xx	x		x						
Millwood Park		x								
Recreation Field		x								
S C H O O L S										
Grafflin ES					x					
Roaring Brook ES	x									
Westchordard ES				x						
Bell MS			xxx							
Seven Bridges MS						x	x			
Horace Greeley HS	xxx			xx			x	x	xx	x
TOTALS	6	3	3	4	1	1	2	1	2	1

Note: The description of fields is taken from those used in the Inventory of Current Facilities, shown in the New Castle, March 2005, "Analysis of Present Ballfield Use" (see page 9)

■ GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAND

BICENTENNIAL PARK - DUCK POND

Description

Location: Situated between Route 120 (Quaker St.) and Douglas Road, ¼ mile from the New Castle Train Station and downtown.

Site: 1.9 acres

History: Created in 1975 from dredged material from Duck Pond. Given new name after Country's 200th birthday.

Type: Passive

Amenities: Pond, bridge and dam (both reconstructed after 1999 Hurricane Floyd) with waterfall, two picnic benches, three benches and trash container, sculpture and time capsule. Lawn area with gravel area. 9/11 Memorial being planned for site. Waterfall blocks out some of the adjacent road noise.

Use: Primarily used by neighboring residents as passive park. No heavy use.

Analysis

Condition: Maintenance appears to be limited to grass cutting. No clear use of gravel area.

Needs and opportunities: Additional plantings along pond edge could better maintain water quality of pond. Gravel area could be made into lawn, or be configured to relate to picnic tables and benches which could be organized in a more attractive area. Such improvements should be considered in relation to the proposed Memorial and the predicted amount and type of use.

Parking: Two spaces are provided off Douglas Road. Residents often reach area by foot. Sidewalks are being installed adjacent to park in 2006.



GLAZIER ARBORETUM

Description

Location: Access off Whipporwill Road.

Site: 47.8 acres, Varied topography of meadows, wooded areas, old orchard, wetlands, small pond and stream.

History: donated in 1976 to the Town by Henry Glazier to be preserved as an arboretum. At that time, Town also purchased from Mr. Glazier, 42 acres for \$100,000, which was added to the donation, to become the Glazier Arboretum.

Type: Passive

Management: Not part of Parks and Recreation Department. Managed by the New Castle Conservation Board with the Town Environmental Coordinator. Summer interns assist with trails and other amenities.

Amenities: Marked trails, attractive and functional boardwalks through wetland areas have been constructed and installed by Town DPW, kiosk with maps and information (visible from the parking area), bird boxes, some interpretive material posted, new (2005) meadow plantings.

Use: Walking, nature observation, demonstration of management of site for wildlife.

Parking: Well organized gravel parking area for about eight cars, with attractive fencing.

Analysis

Condition: Regular improvements by summer interns with Environmental Coordinator. Paths, plantings, interpretive information all in good condition.

Needs and opportunities: If residents are to be encouraged to use this property, some publicity needed as well as clarification of how Glazier relates to Parks System. Opportunities include continued improvements in trails and management for wildlife.

Parking: Existing unpaved parking organized for approximately 8 cars, and sufficient for current use as observed. Should be monitored for needs related to future use.



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

TURNER SWAMP

Description

Location: On Hardscrabble Road adjacent to Town Art Center, in rural neighborhood.

Site: 43 acres wetland, with some upland woods surrounding wetlands. Plans were to construct a dam, a pond, nature trails, and parking facilities.

History: Purchased in 1973 by the Town with a state grant, with matching funds of \$78,000 by the Town.

Type: Passive

Amenities: None

Parking: None

Use: None currently. Serves ecological function as wetland.

Analysis

Condition: The swamp itself is relatively untouched. Former paths now overgrown and unused.

Needs and opportunities: As wetlands, the "Swamp" serves an ecological purpose, without being developed for any use. Turner Swamp site could be developed with board walks for wildlife observation, as part of broader environmental programming if such programming provides a function different from other wetland areas where access and parking is more easily available.

Parking: If developed for wildlife observation, some parking would have to be provided. Could be considered at low usage times at Art Center.



RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Description

Located on Hunts Lane near the Department of Public Works facility and adjacent to the Town Recycling Center. The area used for Recreation and Parks Maintenance is 5,760 square feet with the building comprising 2,178 square feet. The area and building are used for storage and some maintenance of vehicles and equipment and for supply storage.

Analysis

The garage area is not large enough for all vehicles and large equipment, so that some vehicles must be left outside. Some material must also be stored outside at certain seasons. The facility is distant from all major parks that need continual and frequent maintenance, yet it is near the Recreation and Parks Department offices in Town Hall and is adjacent to the DPW maintenance facility. This adjacency allows some sharing of equipment and assistance from one Department to the other.

■ GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAND FOR RECREATION (includes some OPEN SPACE)

Open Space Background

The Town Development Plan of 1989 had recommended the development of an open space preservation plan to preserve, enhance, and augment the existing open space and to provide public access to as much open space as possible. In 1998 and 1999 two open space properties were added to the Town's inventory.

In 2003 the Town of New Castle passed an Environmental Bond Referendum of \$2 million for the purpose of acquiring land for preservation and open space. This action followed a growing trend in the country, as well as in Westchester County that had begun in the early 1990's, when New Castle became the 11th town to vote

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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

positively on a bond proposition for open space acquisition. Since 1998, New Castle has spent just over \$4.5 million to acquire open space parcels. Some of the acquisition funding has come from general municipal funds. In addition, the Town has protected properties by the use of other land preservation techniques, such as easements and by the acceptance of donations.

As an outgrowth of these land preservation and protection efforts, the Town, with the Environmental Coordinator of the Building and Engineering Department, developed in 2003, a Draft Trail Development Plan, which will have some modifications. The Plan will be carried out in three separate phases: I- East and West Ends of Town, II – the middle sections of Town, and III – combining of Phase I and II to create a Town-wide Plan. The Plan includes Town properties, as well as connections that utilize public and private properties, such as those owned by Westchester County, NYCDEP, the Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society, and property in Mount Kisco and Bedford. No specific schedule or funding mechanism has been established for the implementation of this plan.

Some easements, as a result of subdivisions, as well as sidewalks, create linkages as part of this plan. The final Trail Plan is anticipated to be complete in 2006.

■ PROPERTIES

AMSTERDAM

Description

Location: On Hoag Cross Rd. between Pines Bridge Road and Route 134. Adjacent to County of Westchester's Hudson Hills Golf Course.

Site: 13.2 acres, former private estate purchased by Town in 1998 for \$700,000 for recreation purposes, land slightly sloping to rear, lawns, wetland meadow, estate-type plantings including mature trees and shrubs, stone walls.

Type: Proposed for active recreation with wetland area to remain as open space. Design of Amsterdam is currently (as of 6/2006) under consideration by the Planning Board.

Amenities: Main house, carriage house with renovated upstairs apartment and downtown storage, pool, pool house, storage building, greenhouse.

Parking: A few spaces at main house and carriage house.

Use: Currently unused.

Analysis

Condition: Currently lawn mowed occasionally, but remaining features and amenities uncared for in anticipation of recreational development. Some of the ornamental trees are at the end of their life or in poor condition. Wetland area remains untouched.

Needs and opportunities: Based on a study for Amsterdam, the 1996 recreation study and recent Recreation and Parks Department Studies of Fields, the Town is considering the construction of two multi-purpose ball fields here, with parking, a road system, small playground, and restrooms. Structures except Carriage House and storage building to be removed. Carriage house may be used for caretaker.

Parking: If developed for recreation, the parking needs for two fields would be included in the design.

BURDEN PROPERTY

Description & Analysis

Location: Armonk Road

Site: 112 acres, divided into two sections, which are not connected. Varied topography, wooded with hardwoods and occasional conifers, some mature trees, stone walls, old stone foundations, rock outcroppings, low wetland areas, slightly sloping and level upland areas, meadows. Second section, north of Sheather Road and west of Harriman Road is primarily lowlands with wetlands along Armonk Road. Uplands along Harriman Road, have immature woodlands, streams flowing down to wetlands in western section, and remnants of wire fencing and other iron and wire constructions.

History: Several parcels making a total 112 acres, purchased in 2003, for \$2,5 million of which \$2 million was from Bond Act funding, as conservation land.

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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

Type: Passive

Management: Signs state: Nature Sanctuary, managed by New Castle Conservation Board.

Amenities: Walking trails installed during last couple of years; fenced area with barn/garage structure along Sheather Road.

Parking: None defined

Use: For walking, jogging, nature observation, and planned to be part of the Town-wide trail system.

BLOCK/SUNNY RIDGE/SWOPE PROPERTIES

(While separate purchases, these three parcels abut each other, and are considered by the Town as one area of open space land)

Description & Analysis

Location: Between Hawkes Avenue and Croton Dam Road (Route 134)

Site: Wooded, very varied topography with high points with views of the Hudson River, mature hard woods, some conifers, native laurel, pond, streams, rock outcroppings and ledges.

History:

- **Block:** 8.3 acres, purchased in 2000 for \$117,000 as conservation land.
- **Sunny Ridge:** 41.1 acres, purchased in 2001 for \$792,500 as conservation land.
- **Swope:** 33.78 acres, donated by owner

Type: Passive

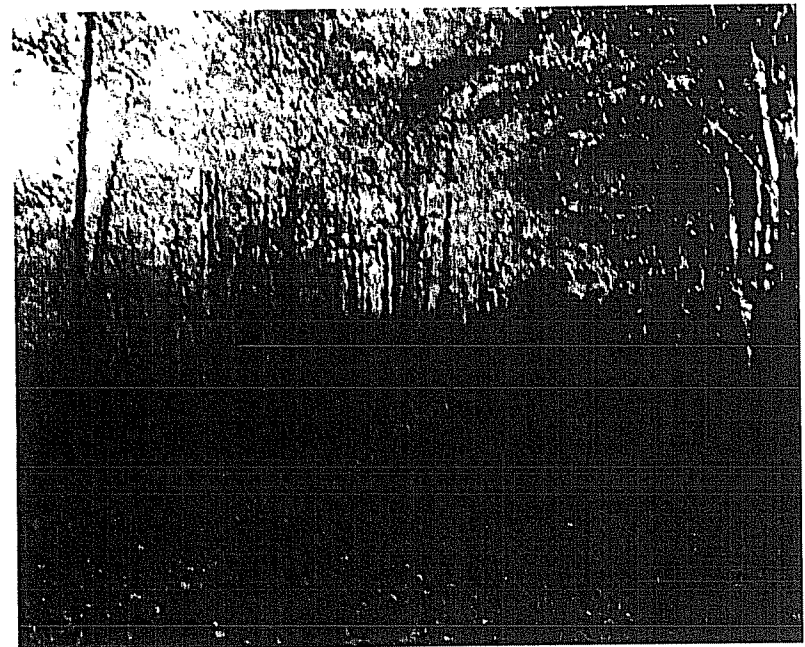
Amenities: Small parking area being developed along Route 134, kiosk and trails also under development.

Parking: see above

Use: To be part of Town-wide trail system and natural biodiversity corridor

B. Other Recreation Resources in and Near New Castle

The following resources are included here, to show the opportunities in and near New Castle. Resources are included if the public may use them, either by paying a fee, such as for the private swimming clubs, or for the Edith Macy Conference Center. Others are not included, such as the Campfire Girls property, as it may only be used by members, and membership is by invitation only. It is possible that residents currently use some of these resources, or would use them if their programs and facilities were publicized in New Castle. It is also possible that New Castle may partner with one of these resources, especially for programs, rather than duplicating the resource in New Castle.



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC RESOURCES

The following additional recreational resources available to the public are located in New Castle:

FIGURE 9

Public and Quasi-Public Resources

OWNERSHIP	USE / FACILITIES	SIZE
COUNTY-OWNED		
North County Trailway	Bike Trail	1.5 miles (continues beyond NC)
Hudson Hills Golf Course	Golf	150 acres
Wampus Lake Park	Fishing, boating, ice-skating	23 acres (small portion in New Castle; most acreage in North Castle)
QUASI-PUBLIC		
Cameron-Murtfeldt Sanctuary	Red maple swamp, small trail	7 acres
Haas Audubon Sanctuary	Nature preserve, trail, rock formations, forest	7.5 acres
Choate Audubon Sanctuary	Nature preserve, trails	38 acres: (32 acres owned by Audubon that also manages additional Town-owned 6 acres)
Pruyn Audubon Sanctuary	Nature Preserve, trails, meadow, swamp, boardwalk trail, butterfly and hummingbird garden	92 acres
Pinecliff Audubon Sanctuary	Nature Preserve, wheelchair accessible boardwalk trail	7 acres
Teatown Lake Reservation	Nature Center with extensive programs, trails, two lakes & interpretive center, unique wildflower island	834 acres (small portion in New Castle most acreage in Ossining)



PRIVATE RESOURCES IN NEW CASTLE

Swim and Tennis Clubs: Four private

- Birchwood Swim & Tennis Club
- Chappaqua Swim & Tennis Club
- Twin Oaks Swim & Tennis Club
- Willow Brook Swim & Tennis Club

Swim Clubs: Two private

- Millwood Swim Club
- Seven Bridges Field Club

Golf Club: Two private

- Whipporwill Club
- Mount Kisco Country Club

Other

- Wallace Auditorium at Readers' Digest
(used by New Castle for performances)
- Wagon Road Camp
(Childrens Aid Society - used by New Castle private sports
organizations)
- Edith Macy Conference Center
(Girl Scouts of America - available to lease)

OTHER PUBLIC AND QUASI-PUBLIC RECREATION RESOURCES IN A FIVE MILE RADIUS OF NEW CASTLE

County Facilities

- Briarcliff-Peekskill Trailway
- Graham Hills Park, Mount Pleasant
- Kitchawan Preserve, Ossining
- Merestead, Mt. Kisco



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■ MUNICIPAL and QUASI-PUBLIC FACILITIES

- Arthur Butler Memorial Sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, Bedford
- Catrocks Park, Mt. Kisco
- Eugene and Agnes Meyer Nature Preserve, North Castle
- Girls and Boys Club of Mount Kisco, Mt. Kisco
- Hardscrabble Wilderness Area, Mt. Pleasant
- Leonard Park, Mt. Kisco
- Marsh Memorial Sanctuary, Mt. Kisco (small portion in New Castle)
- Mianus Gorge, The Nature Conservancy, Bedford
- Mount Pleasant Sportsmen Club, Mount Pleasant
- Ryder Park, Briarcliff Manor

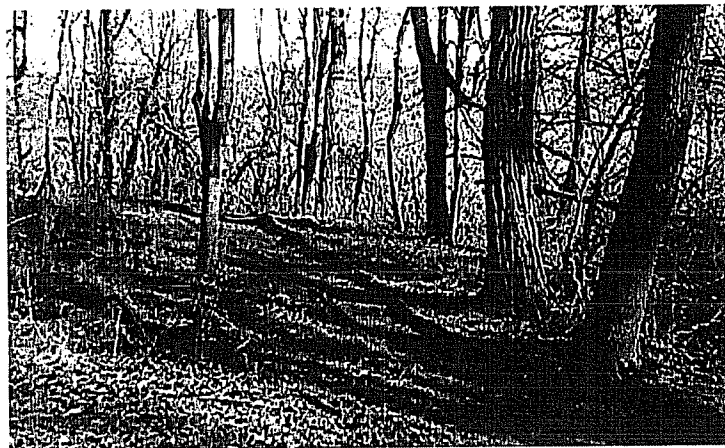
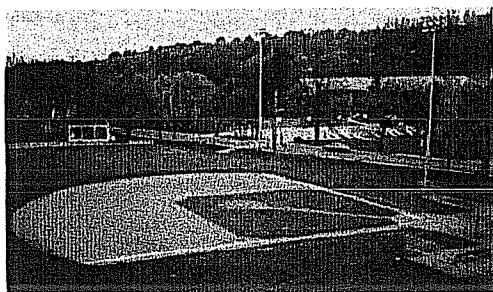
C. Summary Analysis of New Castle Recreation Resources

The specific properties under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Department are analyzed below, as well as those used for recreational purposes which are General Municipal Land managed by the Town.

Maintenance and improvements of facilities

In general, all properties with recreational facilities, such as playing fields and playgrounds, are in excellent condition. It is very clear that they are regularly maintained and that improvements are regularly done. New fields have been added and others have been upgraded, playgrounds have been added, and existing playgrounds have seen replacements with more up-to-date equipment.

While the fields, playgrounds and other active facilities are continually maintained, the trails, such as those at Whipporwill Park and Warburg



Park, are in need of increased maintenance. Some erosion is evident, and clearing of branches and other material would make passage on the trails more comfortable. At Warburg, small boardwalks are in need of repair and additions. Trails at Gedney Park are maintained, but could also benefit from more continual maintenance. Finally, some parking areas need improvements such as at Whipporwill and Warburg.

Insufficiency of facilities

With the very active athletic program in New Castle, there is clear evidence that the Town is in need of additional ballfields. See the "Analysis of Present Ballfield Use, March, 2005." Because of the frequently scheduled games and the present number of ball fields, a game usually cannot be rescheduled if it is cancelled due to inclement weather. At least three additional fields are needed.

The existing ballfields are maintained in as good a condition as possible, but without the possibility of rotating their use in order to allow time for improvements and for a field to "rest," their condition cannot be maintained at the quality that this Town should provide to its residents.

The need for additional soccer fields is to be addressed by a 2007 Capital Project to reorganize the existing field and add irrigation in Gedney Park, Upper Area, and pave and organize the parking area.

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Facilities not used frequently

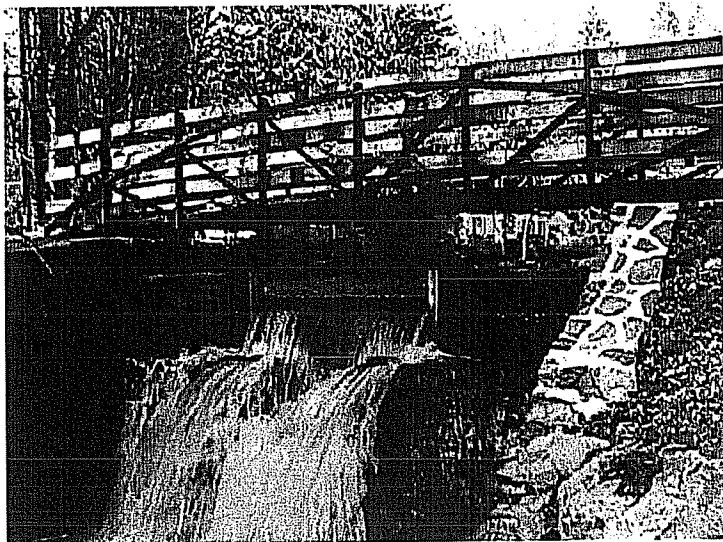
- The picnic shelter at the pond at Gedney Park
- The tennis courts at Millwood Park (*from survey responses, it appears that they are not used because they are in poor condition*)

Facilities with insufficient space

Those with insufficient space for the programs which are in heavy demand include:

- The Community Center : for programs and performances

There is inadequate performance space for Community Center programs and other programs offered, such as dance, theater, and music. School auditoriums are used for some programs, and are usually available. The Department has previously been able to resolve this need by using the Wallace Auditorium at Readers' Digest for dance recitals and other performances. With the proposed development at Readers' Digest, the use of this theater is not clear.



• The Maintenance Facility

In addition to inadequate space for vehicles and storage, its location distant from the parks leads to much time spent in traveling and transporting material and equipment, and thus is inefficient for operations. In addition, there is not adequate space for storage of material and equipment.

Parking Needs

Certain properties do not have sufficient parking for current use. These include:

- The Community Center – insufficient
- Millwood Park – insufficient
- Certain properties need parking to be better delineated and improved:
- Whipporwill Park (need to protect adjacent areas, need crushed stone to prevent mud conditions, and delineate to be more attractive)
- Warburg Park (need to make more attractive and avoid appearance of neglect leading to current dumping and parking for non-park use)

Parking at the open space properties purchased or received between 1999 and 2004, including Burden, Block, Sunny Ridge, Swope, and Greeley Woods are not considered here in regard to parking, since the plans for these properties are in process.



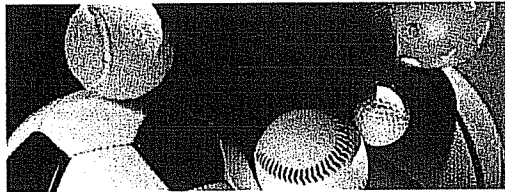
chapter 3 PROGRAMS *Inventory & Analysis*

A. Introduction

The New Castle Recreation and Parks Department, in conjunction with other entities, offers a very wide variety of programs throughout the year.

The purpose of the inventory, which is provided in the **Appendix**, is to present the range of programs, as well as to indicate the age groups for whom the programs are designed. Where fees are charged, that is indicated. The specific hours, groupings, fees, and other details of the programs are available in the seasonal Brochures provided by the Town to the residents. The programs are also available each season on the Town Website.

Many athletic programs are done in conjunction with the five athletic organizations. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), NCLA (New Castle Lacrosse Association), NCYBA (New Castle Youth Basketball), CYSC (Chappaqua Youth Soccer Club), and NCBSA (New Castle Baseball and Softball Association), as well as with private vendors who give instruction in such sports as wrestling, soccer, tennis, and basketball. In addition, programs and events are provided in conjunction with the Chappaqua Library and the Chappaqua School District Continuing Education.



The New Castle programs have evolved over the years in response to community demand. There are ten program areas, with different program areas and different programs offered by the Town, depending on season. In addition the Town participates in a consortium for special populations; these programs serve people in New Castle who have special needs.



B. Inventory of Programs

The programs for 2005 are shown in the Appendix in detail to indicate the quantity and range of offerings for all ages and many recreational interests. These programs are typical of those offered during the last three years. Where ages and grades are indicated, the classes or programs may be split into grades 3 and 4, and 5 and 6, for example. Many programs are repeated each season, while others are unique to the season. Some are offered during one season, others are repeated each season, and others are introduced as new programs, and are repeated if successful.

The programs are listed in the Appendix during the season in which they are held. The program areas are:

- *Pre-school, Youth and Adult Classes*
(includes dance and fitness)
 - *Athletics*
 - *Camps*
 - *Ski Trips*
- *Teen After-School Programs*
 - *Art Center*
- *Special Programs and Events*
 - *Seniors*

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C. Analysis of Recreation Programs

1 Variety of Offerings

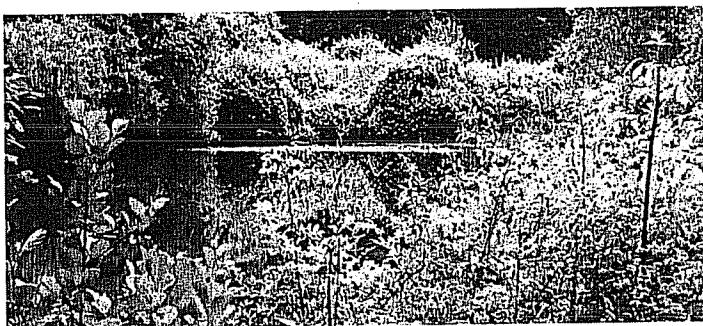
Programs are offered for all ages from one month old to seniors, as well for a large variety of interests. In addition, programs are often given at different times of the day, including evenings. To our knowledge, no other municipality in Westchester provides such a large variety of programs.

2 Limited Program Offerings in Specific Areas

One area where there are very few programs is those offered for Teens, except for programs in athletics and classes in Hip Hop and Jazz. In addition, there are several after school events for teens in grades six through eight. See also the Analysis of Resources concerning the lack of specific space dedicated to Teens.

A second area which lacks programming is in Field and Track, which may well draw all ages, including Teens.

Finally, there are only two programs related to environmental education: a Summer one-time one hour Family Fun with Plants on a Saturday and a nature program for children age 4-5 years old, given in the Fall. With the increasing attention the Town is giving to preservation of open space, to trail development (which can promote nature observation), and to the enhancement of Glazier Arboretum, it is appropriate that summer programs or seasonal programs in environmental education be offered by the Recreation and Parks Department.



3 Number of Classes Provided and Registration

The following material is taken from material provided by the Department of Recreation and Parks prepared for the 2005 Annual Report. Registration figures are used as an indication of interest in a program.

Large decreases and increases are noted, and considered significant when they represent a change greater than 10%. The purpose of this analysis is to try to understand where significant changes have occurred, and to provide a basis for recommendations about future programming.

In analyzing the Department's Report on Classes and Registrants provided for the past three years (2003 through 2005), the following observations can be made for each of the program areas.

■ PRESCHOOL & YOUTH CLASSES & ADULT FITNESS

Classes:

The total number of classes provided has decreased, as shown below.

Year	2003	2004	2005
# of Classes	176	176	158

Class	Status
Pre-school:	The number of classes offered has been relatively stable.
Youth:	Varied from 20 to 28, with 2004 having 28 classes offered.
Children Dance:	Varied from 39 to 48, with 2004 having 48 classes offered.
Adult (Day):	Relatively stable
Adult (evening):	Relatively stable



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

Registration:

Total registration has decreased, but not significantly, as shown below.

Year	2003	2004	2005
Registrants	1549	1472	1421

Program (from 2003 through 2005)	Status
Pre-school:	Decrease – not significant
Youth:	Decrease – not significant
Children Dance:	Decrease - not significant
Adult Dance:	Decrease - not significant
Adult (Evening):	Increase - not significant

Athletics:

Total registration was 72% less in 2004 than 2003; then increased by 2% in 2005. The drop between 2003 and 2004 was due to the increased participation in travel programs, which lead to an decrease in the enrollment in the Recreation and Parks Department programs.

Year	2003	2004	2005
Registrants	2056	1479	1511

Individual Registration	Status
Baseball – Boys:	Decrease – not significant
Dev. Basketball – Boys:	Increase – not significant
Basketball – Girls:	Decrease – large-significant
Dev. Basketball – Girls:	Decrease – not significant
Football – Flag:	Increase – not significant
Football-Youth tackle:	Increase – not significant
In-line Hockey:	Stable
Open Gym:	Decrease – large-significant
Adult Softball-Spring:	Increase – not significant

Adult 30+ Basketball:	Decrease – not significant
Adult Team Tennis:	Decrease – slight

Affiliated & Independent Athletic Programs	Status
American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):	Increase - slight
Chappaqua Soccer Club (CSC):	Increase – slight
New Castle Baseball Association (NCBSA):	Decrease – not significant
New Castle Lacrosse Association (NCLAX):	Increase, then decrease
New Castle Youth Basketball Association (NCYBA):	Increase – large-significant

Camps:

Total registration: decrease, then increase as shown below. There is no clear explanation of what led to the changes in registration in the Tot Camps noted below. Attention to future years' registration for these camps is appropriate.

Year	2003	2004	2005
Registrants	937	863	878

Camp Program	Status
Camp Adv. I:	Decrease – not significant
Camp Adv. II:	Decrease – not significant
Tots Camp I:	Large decrease, then large increase-significant
Tots Camp II:	Large decrease, then large increase-significant
CIT I:	Decrease – not significant
CIT II:	Decrease – not significant
Trip & Train I:	Stable
Trip & Train II:	Stable



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

Ski Trips:

Records are available from 2001 through 2005. The number of trips varies from three to seven, with the number of skiers varying from 114 to 330 total. The average trip varied from 38 skiers to 53. Weather is the determining factor in these trips and is, of course, very difficult to predict.



Teen After School Programs (for grades 6 through 8):

From 2002/2003 to 2003/2004 to 2004/2005:

Movies & Pizza: Increase from 02/03 to 03/04, & decrease 03/04 to 04/05 in average attendance for each program

Skate Park Lessons: In 2005, 21 participants – new program

Art Center:

Programs Provided: 144 programs were provided each year in 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Registration in Programs

Program (from 2003 through 2005)	Status (no significant changes)
Pre-K and K Art:	Increase then decrease
Woodworking:	Increase then decrease
Ceramics:	Decrease then increase
Youth Arts:	Increase then decrease
Arts Camp:	Stable
Adult Clay:	Decrease

Special Programs and Events:

Outdoor Events

Ragamuffin Parade
New Castle 10K
Summer Concerts

Like the ski trips, these outdoor programs depend heavily on weather conditions. They are generally well attended and are typical of the type of event which nearly every community provides for its residents. The statistics, therefore, are useful only to track participation, but are not particularly useful in planning for the future.

Other Events

	Status
Santa Letters:	Increase – not significant
Dance Festival:	Stable
Library Program:	Increase –large-significant
Pizza and Bingo:	Increase –large-significant

Seniors:

Changes are not significant except where indicated below. Although the Senior population is increasing, as shown in Chapter 1, the reason for the decrease in registration for some programs, primarily Day Trips, is not clear. Again, planning for Day Trips in the future can take into account this decrease.

Program	Status
Fitness:	Increase
Strength Training:	Increase – large-significant
Special Interest Trips:	Decrease then increase
Day Trips:	Decrease from 2003 – large-significant
Educational Programs:	Decrease then increase
Art Show:	Stable
Holiday Parties:	Decrease from 2003
Friday Social Programs:	Decrease from 2003



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Shopping:	Increase – large-significant
Movies:	Increase
Intergenerational Activities:	Decrease then increase
Swimming:	Increase then decrease
Bridge:	Increase in 2005 – large-significant



D. Analysis Summary

■ REGISTRATION

Overall, registration in 2004 was at a high for practically all programs compared to 2003 and 2005. At this time we do not have an explanation for this high.

Summary of Changes in Registration for 2003, 2004, and 2005:

Changes are listed below. Those with significant changes (over 10%) are noted below, as having a large decrease or increase. The other changes are important to note, but do not appear to signal a need for changes to programming for the near future. They should be watched for any new trends which might lead to program changes.

Children & Adult Fitness: Decrease overall
Increase in Adult Fitness (Evening)

Athletics: Decrease then increase overall
Large decrease in Basketball –girls
(no explanation available)
Large decrease in Open gym
(explained by change in location)

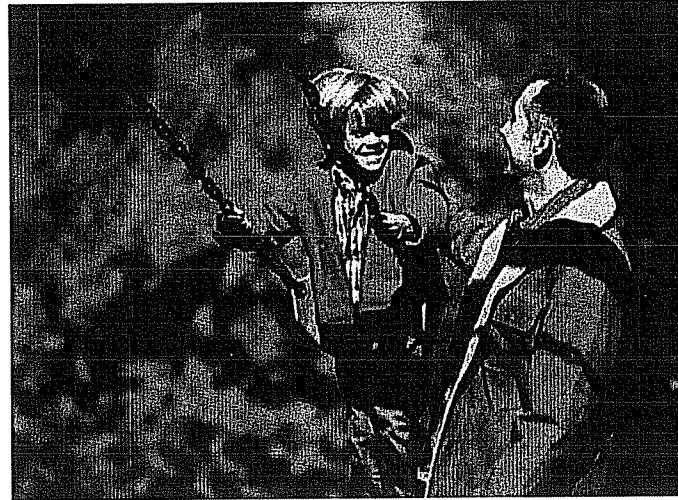
Camps:	Overall increase in registration
Camp Adventure:	Decrease
Tots Camp:	Large decrease, then increase
CIT:	Decrease
Trip & Train:	Stable
Teen (grades 6-8):	Increase then decrease
Arts:	Overall no significant changes
Special Events:	Large increase in Library Programs and Pizza and Bingo (significant)
Senior Center:	Large increase (significant) in: Strength training Shopping Bridge Movie

■ CONCLUSION

Where indicated, there are explanations for some of the increases and decreases in registration, while in some cases, there is no clear reason for the changes such as with the Tots Camps. Each year the Department observes the changes in registration and adjusts programs to account for these changes, eliminating those where there are very few registrants and adding programs where there is a demand. Program planning in the future can take into consideration the specific changes noted above.

The Program Recommendations which follow in Chapter Six are developed, in part, from the analysis above, as well as from the results of the survey. In addition, program recommendations are made to support the use of existing facilities, such as recently acquired open space parcels and trail development. Other recommendations have been developed from the Consultants' information about successful programs in other communities, with the thought that such programs might well be appropriate for New Castle.





*“We all need leisure hours in our lives
or we will have no time to create or dream.”*

chapter 4 ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT of the Recreation & Parks Department

OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

A. Introduction

This chapter gives an overview of the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department's organization and management. The Department, directed by the Superintendent, carries out the responsibilities of the Recreation and Parks Commission. The New Castle Town Code established the Commission as the entity responsible for the recreation and parks facilities and programs for the Town.

The following material presents an overview of the Department and assesses some of the functioning of each entity.

See the Chart in the Appendix for the current structure of the Recreation and Parks Department that is responsible to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

"The New Castle Recreation Commission was established in 1939 under Article 13 of the General Municipal Law. In 1960, the Commission hired its first full time professional and in 1963, added its first Recreation supervisor. In 1972, the Town of New Castle amended the Town Code to establish a Recreation and Parks Commission."¹

B. Commission and Personnel

OVERVIEW



Recreation Commission

The Commission was established under General Municipal Law of New York, by the Town Code of New Castle. Its activities are described in the Town Code, Chapter 27, Recreation and Parks Commission. A summary is given below. For details the Code should be consulted.

Purposes and objectives:

- A. To plan and provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment through participation in a wide variety of recreational programs.
- B. To study recreational and parks needs and resources of the town "outside."
- C. To achieve maximum return from moneys expended for programs by good management, and an appropriate division between tax-supported, partially tax supported, and self-sustaining programs.
- D. To encourage broad community participation and to coordinate policies and activities with those of the Town Board, other town bodies and agencies involved with the park system, the Planning and Zoning Board, the Conservation Board, and with the school district.

Membership: Seven members for a term of seven years



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1. Information provided by Town of New Castle Recreation and Parks Commission in Document titled Historical Data.Undated.

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Powers and duties:

- A. Equipping, operating and maintaining of sites and facilities designated by the Town Board as a playground or a recreation center or a park.
- B. Planning for future recreation and park needs.
- C. Operation and maintenance of facilities, making rules and regulations governing usage, and conducting programs.
- D. The establishment and collection of fees for the use of facilities or programs and the acceptance of moneys as gifts, to be used as recreational purposes.
- E. The acceptance and use, subject to approval of Town Board, of any grant or real estate for recreational use, permanent or temporary.
- F. Preparation and submission to Town Board annually by October 1 of each year of a recommended budget for the coming year. The budget may be approved wholly or in part by the Town Board.
- G. The making and submitting of a detailed annual report to and with the Town Board on activities during the year, not later than three months after the calendar year.
- H. Recommendation to Town Board of joint recreational programs with neighboring municipalities and school districts.
- I. Employment of persons to carry out functions of the Commission and the dismissal of such persons.
- J. Commission shall appoint a Superintendent of Recreation, who may be removed by due process.
- K. Job descriptions and compensation shall be developed by the Commission and approved by the Town Board.

Superintendent

Administers the policies of the Commission and directs programs and facilities.

See other responsibilities in Town Code.

Personnel

Staff is retained to carry out the work of the Commission, which develops job descriptions defining the scope of the powers and duties of the positions.

Wage and salary ranges are established by the Commission, approved by the Town Board, and are to be in conformance with applicable civil service regulations.

Current Staff with Salaries for 2005

Superintendent	\$82,967
Deputy Superintendent (3/4 time)	\$52,500* (position added in 2005)
Junior Administrative Assistant	\$53,392
Purchase Clerk	\$49,720
Park Foreman	\$61,340
Park Groundsman	\$49,720
Parks Groundsman	\$46,314
Caretaker	\$46,429
Recreation Supervisor	\$59,286
Recreation Supervisor	\$59,286
Recreation Supervisor	\$57,503
Recreation Supervisor, Seniors	\$63,476
Office Assistant/Auto Systems	\$49,082
Social Worker	\$53,392

Part Time and Seasonal Staff – approximately 150 positions

(Specific staff and their wage scales are indicated in the departmental budgets) Indicated below are examples:

- Part time instructors in programs such as art and dance.
- Youth athletic officials, score keepers, gym/field supervisors etc. – paid by the game, season, or hour.
- Seasonal staff for the summer camps - paid by the season.
- Instructors for other specialized classes (see Programs listed in Appendix)
- The total cost for these part time and seasonal workers in 2005 was \$31,914.

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

ASSESSMENT

Commission

Currently (as of January, 2006) the Commission has only four members. The Town Board has had difficulty recruiting new members. The Consultant has been told by the existing Commission members and the Town Administrator that the seven year term is an impediment, representing a long period of commitment which most people are concerned about making.

According to the Town Code, the Commission is to coordinate activities with the Town Board and other agencies. From what the Consultants have learned, this type of coordination is not done with any regularity. This situation has led to a lack of communication and limited information sharing between the Commission and the Town Board.

C. Management and Organization

OVERVIEW

The management of the Recreation and Parks Department follows the structure shown on the Chart in the Appendix. The responsibilities of the four divisions and their staff are outlined on the Chart. The staff is located at several sites, with the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendent, and the Administrative Division functioning out of the Town Hall DRP offices. The Recreation Division Supervisors are also located at the Town Hall office but travel to the sites of the various programs with which they are involved. Senior Service personnel work both at the Town Hall and at the Community Center. The Parks Division Personnel and Building Division (Caretaker) are located in the Maintenance Facility, traveling to the various sites which they develop and maintain.

The staff is supervised by the Superintendent, who delegates selected supervisory responsibilities to the Assistant Superintendent, Recreation Supervisors and the Parks Foreman.

D. Department's Relationship to Other Entities

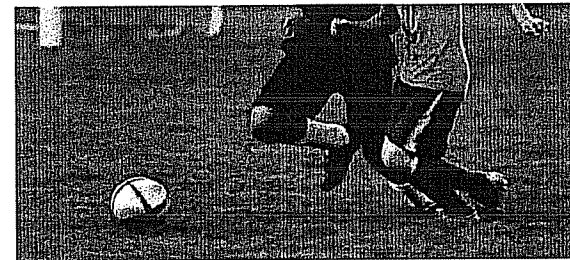
In carrying out the responsibilities of the Recreation Commission and the Department's mission, the Recreation and Parks Department interface with other departments in the Town in a variety of ways, as described below.



Relationship with other Town Departments and the Town Board

On behalf of the Commission, the Department provides yearly its Annual Report and a Proposed Budget to the Town Board and the Administrator. The Budget is then accepted or modified and adopted by the Town Board. The budget includes: proposed funding for all administration of the Recreation and Parks Department including staff and part-time staff, maintaining and improving all parks and centers; operating all programs, camps and senior services.

The Department interacts with the Department of Public Works and the Engineering Department in assisting with various work projects, as Public Works and Engineering also assist the Recreation and Parks Department. Equipment is occasionally loaned between departments, and staff from one department assists another department.



Relationship with School District

The relationship with the School District is carried out by the Recreation and Parks Department Superintendent with the School Athletic Director, for scheduling the use of school playing fields and gyms and the use of parks for school athletic programs.

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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Department pays the school district a yearly fee to use the school facilities. In 2004 the fee was \$57,000; in 2005 it was \$63,000. When using gyms, the Department must pay overtime for custodial staff at the schools. The school uses, without a fee, park properties for their programs, such as Gedney Park for Cross Country Track, and the Gedney Soccer Field for lacrosse. The Bell School uses Recreation Field for gym class and for their football program, in return for merchant parking. In addition, the Recreation and Parks Department does scheduling for fields and gyms, coordinating with the schools, administers background checks on all volunteer coaches and mandates that coaches be trained.



Relationship with Other Town Entities and Private Organizations

Over the years, the Recreation and Parks Department has worked with the Chappaqua School District Continuing Education to co-sponsor programs and Special Events.

The Recreation and Parks Department also works with affiliated and independent athletic for-profit programs, which are administered by volunteer boards, as well as working with independent providers to teach specific skills and run selected athletic programs.

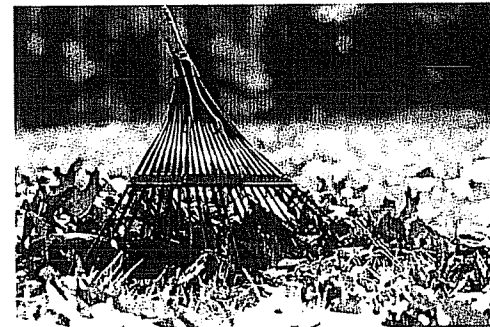
ASSESSMENT

Communication between the Commission and the Town Board is limited, as noted previously in this chapter.

Better communication and coordination between the Recreation and Parks Department and the five athletic organizations was requested in the survey comments.

It has also been noted by Staff that competition in the community from other organizations, such as private clubs, the library, the Boys and Girls Club of Mount Kisco, and school programs, influences and "hurts" the participation in some Recreation and Parks Department Programs.

The Superintendent and the Athletic Director both reported that scheduling for fields and gyms is done in a collaborative manner, which works out to the satisfaction of both parties, and results in workable scheduling of the fields and gyms.



E. Park Maintenance

Because of the importance of park maintenance, detailed information on this subject follows.



Staff

Park Maintenance consists of three full time staff that is supplemented by approximately five or six seasonal employees. The seasonal staff is used primarily during the peak season from May to October/November or until funding is exhausted.



General Duties / Responsibilities

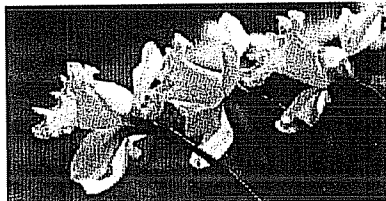
Basically, maintenance is performed in concert with the seasons of the year. There are specific duties germane to each season and the daily work assignments are predicated on the necessity to perform these seasonal functions. In addition there are core components that are carried out throughout the calendar year such as refuse removal, storm debris responses etc. The following is a basic list of tasks, with seasons indicated:

- General park facility repairs, renovations, painting etc. (ongoing)
- Playground upkeep, renovation and maintenance (ongoing)
- Athletic field grooming and preparation (ongoing with seasonal sports)

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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

- Community Center and Arts Center cleaning, minor renovations, repair (ongoing)
- Comfort station upkeep and cleanliness (ongoing)
- Park trail upkeep and improvements (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Pond renovations (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Other Park buildings and structures (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Snow removal: parks, paths, parking lots etc. (Winter)
- Floral plantings (2 seasons Spring, Summer)
- Special Events Preparations (ongoing)
- Ice Skating Prep (Winter)
- Irrigation work (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Tree / shrub pruning, planting, (2 seasons Spring, Summer)
- Tree removals, take downs (ongoing as required)
- Fertilization programs (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Refuse removal (ongoing)
- Storm debris response (ongoing)
- Grass cutting at all parks and town-owned properties, including Town Hall, and all other parcels (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer) No large park grass area responsibilities as this is a contracted service
- Park asphalt area maintenance and cleaning (3 seasons Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Fence repairs (ongoing)
- Vehicle equipment upkeep and regular maintenance (ongoing)
- Hand tools upkeep and maintenance (ongoing)
- Infield and other athletic renovations (2 seasons Fall, Spring)
- Other duties performed as identified



Work Hours for Maintenance Workers:

For maintenance workers, the normal day starts at 7 am and ends at 3 pm. This schedule is usually the case with most municipal maintenance operations. An early start is usually recommended as many program preparation tasks like field grooming, special events set up, refuse removal can be accomplished prior to the arrival of park patrons.

Field Preparations

At one time the Town would also mark, groom and take care of the School fields. This is no longer the case as the Town now pays a fee for School facility usage and care (for 2004, the fee was \$57,000; in 2005 it was \$63,000). The local little league hires a part time seasonal student to prep school fields on weekends in summer. The maintenance crews do groom and prep all Recreation and Parks Department fields as required. When weather conditions dictate, care must be done overtime on weekends.

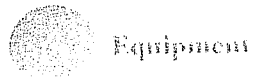
Grass Cutting

One of the major maintenance tasks performed by most crews is grass cutting in three seasons. A great percentage of this task is now contracted locally to a private company, usually, the low bidder. This outsourcing is occurring also in other municipalities, because of the cost of maintaining staff for the full year for seasonal activities, and because of the cost of equipment. Outsourcing has enabled the Recreation and Parks Department to direct its energies elsewhere and absorb other duties not associated with seasonal grass cutting. The Superintendent has indicated that this has also saved tax dollars. The Superintendent stated that if the Department was to do the grass cutting at the parks, two new staff would have to be hired; this would amount to approximately \$40,000 each plus approximately \$100,000 of equipment the first year, with maintenance of equipment continuing annually. The Parks crews still do some grass cutting but usually smaller areas by hand rather than the larger acreage. The grass cutting at the parks (the cost in 2005 was \$30,000) is part of a larger contract for all grass cutting and fall leaf clean-up in the Town (Amsterdam: \$25,000 and Town properties \$20,000 plus the park grass cutting of \$30,00 making a

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total \$75,000 contract). Recreation and Parks Department does the fall leaf clean up in parks with its own staff. Recreation and Parks is responsible for overseeing that all the work is done adequately both at parks and at all other properties. This oversight by the Department is efficient in that the contractor reports only to one person and it indicates a level of cooperation between departments.



Equipment

Currently the department operates 4 trucks (1 utility, 1 rack body, 1 mason dump, and 1 pickup), 2 tractor / backhoe / front end loaders, miscellaneous attachments to the tractors, 2 field grooming scarifiers / graders, and an assorted variety of usual hand tools. Routine servicing and maintenance on the equipment is done by RPD, while the general repairs are usually done by the Town DPW.

The Department has developed a vehicle replacement schedule for large maintenance equipment and one for cars and vans. These schedules indicate the years when it is anticipated that the vehicles will have to be replaced. The schedules shows that only one vehicle will need to be replaced in 2007, 2010, none in 2008, and two vehicles in 2006, 2009 and 2011. The most expensive vehicle is the Senior Bus at approximately \$50,000 (a 2004 cost), planned to be replaced in 2006.



Maintenance Facility

The location of the maintenance facility is currently near the Town DPW garage and adjacent to the Town Recycling Center. See the Inventory.



Community Center and Arts Center

Each of these facilities is maintained by a single caretaker but is supplemented as required by the regular maintenance staff.

ASSESSMENT

Grass Cutting:

Outsourcing of grass-cutting appears to be a good maintenance solution both from a financial and an organizational point of view.



Purchasing and maintaining of specialized equipment, as well as retaining full time staff to do seasonal work is costly. The solution is a sound one, of using contractors who have and maintain the equipment and are dedicated to this one service during the seasons when needed.

The same Contractor cuts the grass at Recreation facilities as at the Town islands, roadsides and other green spaces not under the responsibility of the Department of Recreation and Parks. Since the non-park grass cutting is paid out of a Town budget item, and these properties are not under the responsibility of the Recreation and Parks Department, it is not clear why Recreation and Parks is responsible for verifying that the grass cutting is done adequately.

Equipment Replacement:

The planning for vehicle replacement spread out over the coming seven years indicates that one or two large expenditures for new vehicles will be needed some years, while two of the years will not need replacements and therefore no expenditure. This staggering of expenses indicates good planning, as well as shows that vehicles are sufficiently well maintained during very active use, so that they last seven to nine years.

Maintenance Facility:

The Maintenance Facility is not large enough to house the current Recreation and Parks Department equipment and storage. Since there is not enough space to house all the equipment inside, some equipment must be left outside, a situation which does not protect the equipment. In addition, some materials must be stored outside if they cannot be used immediately when ordered due to inclement weather. Since some materials should not be exposed to the elements, this lack of indoor space is a problem.

Even if there could be space to enlarge the garage, it is not entirely structurally sound. While, on the one hand, the maintenance facility is distant from the parks which the Department must maintain, on the other hand, the location adjacent to the DPW facility does provide convenience for repairs of Park vehicles and for the two departments to loan and borrow equipment. Consideration of enlarging the Department of Recreation and Parks Facility (possibly also necessitating an evaluation of the facilities of the Department of Public Works and the recycling facility), or relocating it may be a wise undertaking.

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F. Department Policies, Guidelines and Other Written Material Pertinent to Administering the Department

OVERVIEW

(Dates of documents are shown below when provided)

- Mission Statement (in Appendix)
- Purposes and Objectives of the Commission (in Appendix)
- Recreation and Parks Commission – Chapter 27 from Town Code (in Appendix)
- Parks and Recreation Rules – Chapter A143 from Town Code (in Appendix)
- Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Park Use
- Community Center Facility Use Permit Rules & Regulations (Oct. 2002)
- Political Leaflet Distribution statement (July, 2002)
- Batting Cage Rules (March, 2005)
- Registration Policies
- Financial Assistance Guidelines & Application
- Waiver of Fees for Children (June, 2003)
- Photo Policy (May, 2002)
- New Castle Recreation and Parks Sports Programs Mission Statement
- Gold Medal Standards for Youth Sports, 2002
- New Castle Recreation & Parks Youth Sports Policies & Guidelines
- Resolution of the New Castle Recreation Commission
- Summary of Sponsored and Recognized Programs
- New Castle Code of Athletic Conduct and Fact Sheet
- Policy Change for Senior Trips (March, 2002)
- Senior Registration Guidelines
- Town of New Castle Senior Citizen Handbook
- New Castle Sports Parents Handbook
- Children's Medication Statement (November, 2002)
- Parkland Fee Local Law: Letter from lawyers of June, 2002
- Additional Material on Parkland Fees
- Resolution on gifts to Town
- Memorial Guidelines and Application

ASSESSMENT

The development over the years of policies, procedures, guidelines, and other operational information is an indication of how the

Department is responding to issues which develop during facility usage and program participation. While some of the policies are provided to parents of participants (such as the Recreation & Youth Sports Policies & Guidelines and the Senior Citizen Handbook), some of the material may not be known to all who use the facilities and programs.

Some of the material listed is undated. Other material is outdated by not being relevant to current practices or procedures. See Recommendations related to these policies.



G. Communication with the Public

OVERVIEW



New Castle Web Site

Information on the Recreation Commission and the Recreation and Parks Department is provided on the Town Website. The Department, listed as Recreation, is not displayed prominently. The following material is shown on the Website:

- Listing of facilities with photos (Duck Pond Park - Bicentennial Park and Glazier Arboretum are included under Parks, while Warburg Park is omitted).
- The current and past seasons' Program Brochures
- Extensive information for Seniors
- Sign Up Forms and Applications
- A Staff Listing
- Phone contact for specific programs, facilities and organizations
- Prohibited activities
- How to reserve a ballfield or picnic area

While not available as of June 2006, the Consultants have been told that on-line registration is planned for the future.

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Seasonal Brochures

These are sent to each household and provide complete information on all programs for the coming season, and registration information for selected future programs that need advanced registration, such as Summer Camps and certain athletic programs. Forms and directions for registering are included.

Specific Information and Guidelines for Residents

See the listing: F. Policies and Guidelines, on page 39

Guidelines for various programs are available at the Department and are provided to parents whose children enroll in specific programs. Innumerable flyers describing programs with registration forms are regularly available at the Recreation Department.

Cable Program:

Public Service announcements are provided on the Town Cable site. The site is also used to publicize a specific event or program for the Department. For instance, a brief show was run to encourage people to complete the Recreation Survey for this Master Plan.

Park Signage and Interpretive Material:

Several years ago, a logo was developed by the Recreation and Parks Department, and new signage was provided at the parks. Signage is also provided at other facilities indicating Town of New Castle, and the name of the facility. Specific resources also have interpretive material on display, and have trail maps available, such as at Warburg Park and Glazier Arboretum.

ASSESSMENT

In general, the communication with the residents appears adequate and comprehensive, with a few limitations noted below. Also see the assessment under the Policies and Guidelines.

Town Website:

The primary shortcoming in communication is the Town Website, and specifically the Recreation section. With the current heavy and

frequent use of the Web, the Recreation and Parks Department section can better serve the residents by being more visible, informative, and accurate. Providing on-line registration in the near future will be of great assistance to residents.



Signage and Interpretive Material:

With the new signage, all parks are identified as Parks in the Town of New Castle. Maps and interpretive material is provided at Glazier Arboretum and at Warburg Park.

H. Revenue and Expenses

OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

The 2004 Recreation and Parks Department Annual Report gives a synopsis of actual revenues and expenses for three years. 2005 information was not yet available when this plan was being developed. These are presented to indicate the increase in expenditures in all three years, with a very slight change in revenue:

Year	2002	2003	2004
Expenditures	\$1,509,149	\$1,554,745	\$1,770,490
Revenue	\$636,660	\$622,011	\$629,071
Net Tax	\$872,489	\$932,734	\$1,141,419
% of expenses supported by fee based revenues	42%	40%	36%

From 2003 to 2004 there was an increase in expenditures throughout the entire budget. The largest increase was in the camps, where payroll increased and Camp Adventure and Travel Camp expenses increased because of the increased cost of all supplies.

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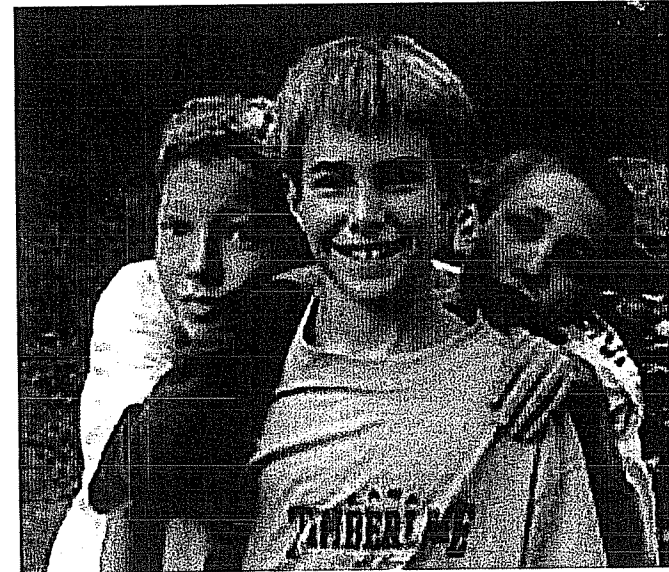
While the percentage of expenses supported by fee based revenues has diminished slightly, it is an impressive statistic that 36% of the cost of operating programs in 2004 was supported by fee based revenues, and, therefore as stated on page 11 of the New Castle Recreation & Parks Annual Report, 2004: "64% of the direct cost of recreation and parks services is derived from property tax, which is less than \$1.00 per household."

2004 Expenses and Revenue

Expenditures	
Administration	\$222,579
Youth Programs	\$499,645
Recreation Programs	\$152,693
Senior Recreation	\$300,101
Parks *	\$425,029
Community Center	\$97,808
Adult Recreation	\$72,635
Total	\$1,770,490
Revenues	
Miscellaneous	\$27,386
Youth Programs	\$407,470
Recreation Programs	\$144,403
Senior Recreation	\$10,042
Continuing Education	\$3,381
Community Center	\$2,686
Adult Recreation	\$33,703
Total	\$629,071

Source: Material on tables taken from Recreation and Parks 2004 Annual Report

* The expenses for this category, Parks, include major items of: salaries for staff, seasonal help, vehicles and equipment for maintaining parks, the fee paid to schools for facility use, parks grass contract, water for irrigation, and maintenance expenses for infields.



Revenue

From Fees for Programs, Trips, and Camps:

Income is generated from fees paid for all programs, trips, and camps. In reviewing the Department's Seasonal Brochures, most fees and charges are listed for public information and registration purposes. After reviewing most of these fees and charges, it appears that they are reasonable and within the current local municipal standards. Most communities in the Northern Westchester area have similar fee structures. Certainly there may be some variation from Town to Town or program to program but by and large the fees are similar.

Revenue did decrease in 2003 and 2004 from 2002 because the camp enrollment went down in 2003, and the fixed costs increase out-paced the revenue.

Programs generating the largest incomes:

Camps
Art Center
Youth Fitness



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Expenses

The major expenses:

Administration Parks

These two categories include all personnel, equipment, and contractual service to run the department and to care for and maintain the parks and other recreation facilities. Within these two categories, the largest expense is for salaries, while the second largest is for maintenance of the school fields, an expense that is approved by the Town Board. Since the Recreation and Parks Department uses the fields only after 6 PM till dark during the week and 9 AM to dark on Saturdays, and noon to dark on Sundays, the basis for this fee is not clear. The cost to the Town to maintain the school fields should be analyzed to determine whether or not it is cost-effective for the Town to continue to serve as liaison/administrator. The positive aspect of the Town's acting as liaison/coordinator is that that role allows the Town to have control of both the Town and school fields. This control enables the Recreation and Parks Department to mandate training for coaches, background checks, and set other requirements which benefit the athletic programs.

Programs incurring the largest expenses that generate revenue:

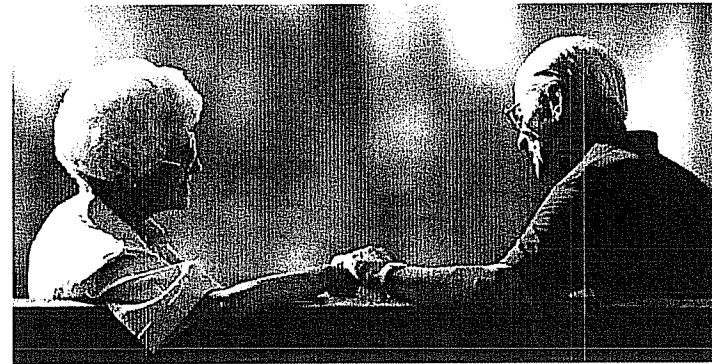
Camps Art Center Youth Fitness

These are exactly those programs that generate the largest revenues.



Large expenses which do not generate substantial revenue:

Senior Recreation programs Community Center operation



The expenses, on the whole, have continued to increase considerably in all areas, including salaries and part-time staff expenses, supplies, operation of equipment, vehicles and facilities and especially those that are affected by the rise in gas and oil prices.

Recommendations in Chapter Six will address this drop in revenue and increase in expenses.

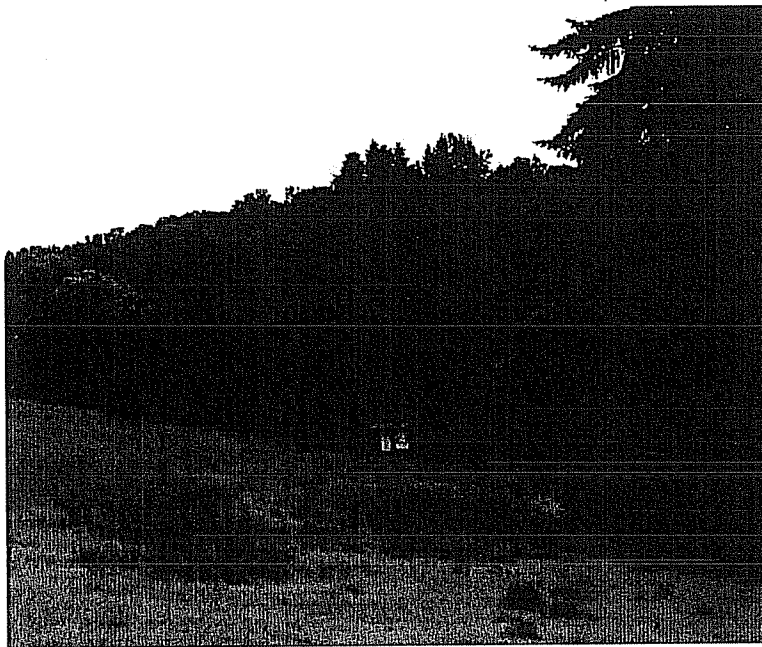


chapter 5 MAJOR ISSUES & NEEDS

A. Introduction

By examining the analyses and assessments of the demographics and the natural resources of the Town, the existing recreational resources (sites and programs), and the composition of the Recreation and Parks Department, and the results of the survey, the Consultants highlight here the main issues and needs for Recreation in the Town of New Castle.

These issues and needs will form, by and large, the basis for the Recommendations outlined in Chapter Six.



B. Demographics & Implications for Recreation

As this Study is for a ten year period, we have looked primarily at the population projections for the Town until 2015, the closest date available, while also providing here the projections until 2020, in order to have some idea of the future years. Illustrated below are the pertinent projections with general implications for recreation.

Age Group	Projections	General Implications for Recreation
Preschool	Slight decrease to 2010; increase 6% to 2015	After 2010 provide more preschool programs, & if necessary, preschool facilities such as playgrounds
5-9	9% decrease to 2010; increase 6% to 2015	Until 2010, decrease programs; after 2010 increase programs
10-14	Stable to 2010; 10% decrease 2010 to 2015	No change till 2010; decrease programs after 2010
15-19	6% increase to 2010; Essentially stable after	Increase HS programs
20-29	11 - 12% increase to 2015	Increase young adult programs & look at facilities for this group such as ball fields and basketball courts
30-64	No significant changes increases projected	No changes needed
65+	6% increase to 2010; 15% to 2015	Increase programs & selected facilities, such as moderate hiking trails

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From the demographics it is clear that the projected changes in the race and origin of people in New Castle are not significant, except for a small increase in the Asian population. This change will not influence the need for specific recreational resources. Since these numbers are projections, the actual changes which occur will be monitored by the Department of Recreation and Parks, just as the types of facilities and programs will be evaluated as to their need and appropriateness.

C. Issues & Needs Related to Facilities

1 Issues and Needs Identified in the Survey Responses

A. Existing Facilities:

All facilities are used; those with the heaviest use necessitate more intensive maintenance, as well as continuing improvements. Gedney Park is the most used facility, and has undergone continual upgrades, and will thus need continuing attention.

B. New Facilities:

■ INDOOR SWIMMING POOL

The first priority of respondents was for an indoor swimming pool. The lack of a municipal swimming pool was the primary reason given by those who responded that they are not satisfied with the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department.

The preferred financing option was strongly for a Membership/User Fee.

● ISSUES:

- **High cost and funding:** Since such a facility is a very costly venture, the Town can explore possible means of financing, such as methods used by other municipalities to provide this amenity, as well as consider the funding used for past high cost projects in New Castle. Since respondents indicated that the High School team could use such a pool, some coordination with the School District is warranted.

- **Location:** The location for this facility is a second issue, as the site must provide adequate parking as well as be located on or near a major road. If combining an indoor pool with other community services is considered, i.e. as a Teen Center, an Art Center, a Community Center, activity and performance rooms, then a larger site will be needed.



■ OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

Preferred options:

1. **Hiking/walking trails:** Trails are being developed currently at the recently acquired open space properties by summer staff and DPW staff, not under the Recreation and Parks Department.
2. **Nature Preserves**
3. **Cross Country ski/bicycle trails:** These may be able to be accommodated on the open space parcels. Certainly weather plays a major role for the development of ski trails, and the terrain in New Castle, is hilly, which makes both the development and maintenance of trails a difficult task.

Since Nature Preserves and Cross Country ski/bicycle trails are also available at other resources in New Castle and at resources near New Castle, coordination with these other entities and publicizing these facilities may meet the wishes of the residents. For instance, Teatown Reservation and the Audubon Sanctuaries are existing Nature Preserves with active programs.

■ OTHER NEW FACILITIES REQUESTED

- Space dedicated to Teens
- More tennis courts
- More baseball fields
- More soccer fields



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1 Issues and Needs Identified During The Consultants' Inventory & Analysis

A. Community Center:

Need for additional space. A primary issue is how to provide additional space at the existing facility. Parking is an issue currently and would continue to be if an enlargement would be possible. Should New Castle consider another location where more space can be available?

B. Recreation Field:

At this time no major improvements appear to be needed here.

C. Town Hall Playground:

The playground is up to current standards, and needs no improvements.

D. Gedney Park:

Improvements at Gedney Park have been on-going and continue as planned by the Recreation and Parks Department. These include a dog park, soccer field improvements with improved parking, a picnic shelter, removal of the shelter at the Pond, and continued planting improvements around the pond.

E. Millwood Park:

The Tennis Courts need to be improved, as the surface is not in good condition. It is also possible that a few more parking spaces can be created.

F. Smith Park:

This park is in good condition, with recent upgrades completed.

G. Whipporwill & Warburg Parks:

Improvements to parking and entrance areas at both parks are needed. Trails at both parks can be improved with better signage added. Warburg kiosk could be moved to a more visible location, and the trail system could be reworked to avoid its placement near the less attractive composting area.



H. Maintenance Facility:

Consideration should be given to enlarging this facility in its current location if possible, or relocating it closer to the parks where additional exterior and interior space could more successfully be provided. If the facility is moved to a location far from its current location, an evaluation should be included of the impact of having it distant from DPW and Town Hall.

I. Fields:

The need for more fields has been noted. Three new fields are needed. If two fields are constructed at Amsterdam, then one additional field will suffice for the short term. The issue is to identify locations for new fields and related services, such as parking. A possible joint venture with the County of Westchester, under their Legacy program, should be explored. Fields have been constructed under this program in such municipalities as White Plains and Peekskill. In New Castle the Alfredo property could be considered for this cooperative program.

J. Other - Dogs:

The issue of dogs in parks was evident in both the survey comments and through the Consultants' survey and analysis process. Requests were made in survey comments about allowing dogs to run free on trails and being allowed to be unleashed in parks. The current policy of the Recreation and Parks Department is that all dogs in parks must be on leashes, and owners must pick up litter after their dogs. A dog park is part the capital program and will be constructed, meeting the need of many residents. The recommendations also suggest other solutions.



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D. Programs

1 Issues and Needs Identified in the Survey

A. Existing Programs:

There appears to be no issue about continuing with the ten most frequently used programs:

1. Hiking/walking on trails
2. Soccer
3. Ragamuffin Parade
4. Musical Concerts
5. Baseball
6. Adult Exercise
7. Arts/crafts (children)
8. Basketball (children)
9. Dance classes (children)
10. Softball

Assessments can be done of the other programs to determine which should continue, and with what frequency. Certainly Senior programs will continue, although they are not specifically listed in the first ten because of the smaller population, leading to fewer responses.

Implications of the ten most frequently used, are that hiking and walking trails need to be maintained, and increased new facilities may be needed to support the frequent sports programs and activities, specifically soccer, baseball, basketball, and softball.

B. New Programs:

Listed below are the top three for each category followed by other requests:

■ YOUTH

1. **Tennis Lessons:** More courts were requested by residents. Consider scheduling a limited number of programs for each of the three age groups on the existing Millwood Courts to see the number of participants, since some residents are members of local tennis clubs. The High School tennis courts are generally heavily used. In



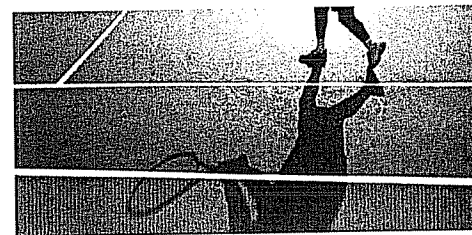
the summer they are used by camps and the school tennis teams, and in the spring and fall they are used from 3 PM to 7 PM by the school teams. As they are lighted, the public does use them from 7 to 10 PM, often staying till 10 PM.

2. **Music Lessons:** There is a question as to whether the Recreation and Parks Department should provide music classes, or should music be the responsibility of the school and of parents. In addition very few municipal recreation programs provide music lessons. The Consultants do not recommend that music lessons be offered by the Recreation and Parks Department, unless the Department wants to investigate coordination with the school system to provide music lessons.

3. **Theater Arts:** Some other municipalities have theater programs, often as part of a summer program. Other communities have private not-for-profit theater groups for adults and children. Again, the question is should theater programs be run by the Recreation and Parks Department, as they do run dance programs? Or, for instance, could a summer theater program for teens function well in New Castle run by the Recreation and Parks Department?

Other Requests:

- Youth football to go to older age
- More teen programs for middle school and high school
- Summer Art Programs for older children (12+)



■ ADULTS

1. **Cross Country Ski Lessons:** Dependent on weather. Can be planned similar to ski trips, to facilities in the area or on New Castle trails if grooming can be done. Or lessons could be sponsored with Westchester County Department of Parks, or with an adjacent community.

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2. Tennis lessons: Same comments as above for Youth

3. Healing Arts: While T'ai Chi is offered to the Seniors, requests were made for T'ai Chi for adults, especially in the evenings.

Other Programs: More evening and weekend adult programs for those who work. Yoga and T'ai Chi were specifically requested.

■ SENIORS

1. Theater Arts: same comments as above for Youth. Theater trips are currently part of the senior programs.

Second and third requests include: Cross Country Ski lessons, Healing Arts, Music lessons, and Tennis lessons which can all be evaluated as for Youth and Adults.

Other Programs requested specifically: Mah jong, opera and music education, and more fitness classes. The Senior Coordinator can work with the Seniors to determine more exactly which programs in each of these areas will be attended.

■ PROGRAMS REQUESTED IN GENERAL

Swim lessons, gymnastics, more family events, local hiking trips, running clinic and more winter activities.

2

Identified During the Inventory & Analysis

Based on a review of registration, and the Consultants' knowledge and experience, there are a few clear indications for minor changes:

A. Teen Programs:

An expansion of such programming is needed, all based on demographic projections.

B. Environmental Education:

With the increasing attention given by the Town to the acquisition of open space and the development of trails, as well as the use shown of Glazier Arboretum, and the trails at Gedney, Whipporwill and Warburg Parks, and with hiking and walking as the activity most

frequently enjoyed, some further development of environmental education is warranted. It is possible that such programming can be arranged with Teatown Reservation, Saw Mill River Audubon and with Westchester County. Activities such as nature walks, work programs to get people involved, and weekend family programs may be well attended.

C. Adult Fitness:

Increased classes after work and possibly on weekends have been requested.

D. Senior Programs:

Program areas that were requested in the survey are: strength training, shopping, bridge, and movies.



E. Organization and Management of the Recreation and Parks Department

Needs and issues identified here are based on meetings held with the Town Board, Department Staff, Steering Committee, a joint meeting of the Environmental Review Board and the Conservation Advisory Board where Town Board members were present, and from the Consultants' observations. Three major issues are summarized and discussed below.

1

Public Perception of Parks and Other Recreation Resources

■ ISSUE

Confusion about the management and operation of parks, trails and open space in New Castle:



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Based on the survey results and comments received from some residents whom the Consultants met various parks, it appears that many residents consider all open space, trails, and park properties as part of the Recreation and Parks Department. This perception is encouraged, in a minor way, by the Website, where Glazier Arboretum and Bicentennial Park-Duck Pond are included as part of Recreation. Since walking and hiking are seen as recreational activities, this perception is neither unexpected nor unusual. Conservation and preservation of open space are also closely linked with recreation and park activities, as seen, for instance, by the cooperative work of the Conservation Board and the Recreation and Parks Commission at Warburg Park.

Maintaining trails is therefore also perceived as a Recreation and Parks Department responsibility, which it is at Gedney, Whipporwill and partially at Warburg. Yet while trails are being developed at the open space parcels recently acquired, they are not under the jurisdiction of the Recreation and Parks Department. The result is that trails throughout the Town have no consistency in design, signage and other amenities and maintenance.

The public, therefore, must call different departments for information or comments on trails at different facilities, and where to call may not be clear. Signs at the Burden property do note that the site is a Preserve, under the auspices of the New Castle Conservation Board.

■ NEED

To clarify the operations and management of all parks, trails and open space:

With the ongoing planning and construction of new trails in New Castle at the recently acquired open spaces, and with the plan to create trail linkages throughout the Town, there is a need to clarify for the residents as well as for the Town departments, the operations and management of all entities with trails and environmentally sensitive lands, including parks, "preserves," open space, and linkages. This is also especially necessary since hiking and walking were noted on the Survey as the most frequently done activity. This clarification should occur on many levels, including material sent to residents such as the seasonal brochures, the Town web site, and park signage.

2

Discrepancy Between Parks and Open Space Levels of Protection

■ ISSUE

Certain parks and open space in New Castle are dedicated parkland (DPL) while others are general municipal land (GML), thus providing different levels of protection

■ NEED

To provide the same level of protection for all parks and open space lands used for recreation

This difference in status means that parks and open spaces that are used for recreational purposes (active or passive) have different levels of protection. It is clear that the current Town Board wants the open spaces now used for passive recreation such as trails to remain as that use. It is possible, however, that in the future other administrations will have different ideas about open space lands. Without being designated as parkland, the current general municipal lands used for open space and recreation, risk being used in the future for non-park purposes. The current GML lands are: Bicentennial Park-Duck Pond, Glazier Arboretum, Turner Swamp, Amsterdam, Burden, Block/Sunny Ridge/Swope, and the Art Center, the Community Center, and the Town Hall Playground. Consideration should be given to designating those GML lands as DPL where the intention is that they remain dedicated to parkland use. If there are is a possibility that a parcel may be used for a future Town facility, such as a Police Station, then that land may best remain as GML.

3

Responsibility for Parks and Conservation Functions

■ ISSUE #1.

The Town Board, the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Conservation Board rarely work together, leading to a fragmentation of roles and activities related to open space, conservation, and passive recreation:

How can these three entities work together to address parks and conservation functions which are related, to best serve the residents of New Castle?



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The dispersed responsibilities for conservation activities in parks and open space has lead to a lack of clarity for the public noted above, as well as to site conditions which are inconsistent and not coordinated.

The Recreation Commission, as a regulatory agency, organized under New York State municipal law, operates independently. It does not frequently coordinate with the Conservation Board nor necessarily with the Town Board, Supervisor, or Administrator. The Town Board does not currently have "a say" in the operations or management of the Recreation and Parks Department, except under its responsibility of approving (or disapproving) the budget presented to it by the Recreation Commission. The Recreation and Parks Department maintains its properties, including trails maintenance, with its maintenance staff.

The Conservation Board, as an advisory board, studies and advises on conservation issues, and does interact with the Town Board. From what the Consultants understand, the Conservation Board and the Recreation Commission work together rarely; one instance is seen in the trail planning and work at Warburg Park.

The Town Board, Supervisor and Administrator have taken the lead in open space acquisition with assistance from the Conservation Commission and the Advisory Committee on Open Space. The Town Board has also been assisted in the planning and development of a Town-wide trail system and in development of the open space lands (such as clearing, creating meadows and trails, small parking areas, providing interpretation and management) by the Environmental Coordinator who is in the New Castle Building and Engineering Department. Construction assistance has been provided by the Department of Public Works and youth workers in the summer.

■ ISSUE #2

The Consultants understand that the Town Board has had some issues with the functioning of the Commission.

The Town Board with the Supervisor and Administrator have found, for instance, that they are not kept informed of the activities of the Recreation and Parks Commission, and that they do not have a role in these activities, except for budget approval. The Town Board has not changed certain lands from General Municipal Land to Dedicated Parkland, such as Glazier Arboretum or the Burden property as they are very cautious about the maintenance of these

properties. The Town Board now has and wants to retain the role of decision maker regarding the development and care of these properties, with input from Town Boards. With a new Recreation, Parks, and Conservation Board, the Town Board will maintain control, whether the properties are Dedicated Parkland or General Municipal Land.

■ NEED

Establish in New Castle a means for the Recreation Commission, the Conservation Board, the Supervisor and the Town Board to work together to address the common issues of recreation, parks, conservation and open space:

To answer this need, it may be necessary to create a structure that is different from the current Commission and Conservation Board, as well as a different structure for the current Recreation and Parks Department.

4

Discrepancy between Revenue and Expenses

■ ISSUE

As shown in Chapter Four, the assessment of the Department's revenue and expenses shows a decrease in revenue and a considerable increase in expenses. This has led to reduction of the percentage of expenses which are supported by the fee based programs and events.

■ NEED

There is a need to examine the expenses and revenue, including fees for programs, in order that the percentage of expenses supported by fee based programs can be increased, at least to the 2002 figure of 42%.

■ CONCLUSION

It is evident that these issues and needs must be addressed. The recommendations in Chapter Six will provide possible solutions to the issues and needs identified here.





*“A child who does not play is not a child,
but the man who does not play
has lost forever the child who lived in him.”*

chapter 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Goals and Objectives

Based on the inventories, analyses, and assessments and survey results described in the previous chapters, as well as the issues and needs described in chapter 5, the Consultants have arrived at the following recommendations. The goal is to provide to the Town of New Castle, a blueprint for the future recreation resources and programs.

It is important to stress that this plan is presented to serve as a guide, and should be subject to review annually. Such a review will allow the plan to be a working document, and can be adjusted to reflect changes in demographics, residents' needs and wishes, the Town and Department's income and expenses, development and changes in the Town and near-by areas, environmental circumstances, and new recreational opportunities and trends. The goal, then, is for the Town to use these recommendations in a flexible manner, responsive to the residents, the Town, and the surroundings.

B. Recommendations for the Organization and Management of the Recreation Commission and the Department of Recreation and Parks

These recommendations are presented first since they serve as the foundation for the facility and program recommendations that follow. The recommendations are proposed to resolve the issues and needs discussed in Chapter. 5. A brief summary of the issues and needs follows here:

- ① **Resolve the confusion by the residents about the management and operation of parks, trails and open space, as well as the inconsistent level of design, maintenance, and amenities.**
- ② **Resolve the discrepancy between the protection of parks and open space lands.**

- ③ **Resolve the fragmentation of roles and activities related to open space, conservation, and passive recreation, as pertaining especially to the Town Board, The Recreation and Parks**

1 Short-term Recommendations (one to five years)

The Consultants recommend that these changes be implemented as soon as feasible, in order to create a different structure for recreation in New Castle.

■ **CREATE A RECREATION, PARKS AND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

In order to create the new Board, the following steps will have to be taken:

● *Dissolve the Recreation Commission*

To do this, the Town Board would need to pass a resolution or do so by local law. If done by local law, the Town Board must put the proposal on the Town Board Agenda, with a Public Hearing. After the Public Hearing, the Board can then decide for or against dissolving the Commission.

● *Dissolve the Conservation Advisory Board*

The new Recreation, Parks and Conservation Advisory Board can be established by local law with guidance from the Town Attorney. The terms of its establishment, its membership, and its duties will be based on both New York State Municipal Law and on the determinations of the Town Board. The Consultants recommend that it have nine to twelve members, rotating their terms, with three or four members each interested in and informed about recreation, parks, and conservation. The Board should meet monthly. The Town Board, with the Town Attorney will establish the requirements for the new Board, setting up such items



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

as sub-committees, tasks, and other requirements. Advice from the existing Recreation Commission, Conservation Board, and the Superintendent may be helpful in establishing these requirements.

■ EXPAND THE DEPARTMENT TO BECOME THE RECREATION, PARKS & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

This expanded department will be responsible for parks and preserves, and all programs, thus avoiding the fragmentation of the current structure.

● *Recommended New Structure*

The structure of the existing Recreation and Parks Department will need to be modified, as well as additional staff will have to be added to carry out the increased responsibilities. The new positions recommended below, and responsibilities will adhere to CSEA standards, titles and other requirements.

- Director of Conservation: this may be full time or part time and could be the Town Environmental Coordinator.
- Two new maintenance laborers added to the existing two, to assist in the new conservation activities, such as construction and maintenance of trails and other work at parks and preserves. Current summer workers can also continue in the role of improving trails.

● *Additional Responsibilities*

The Department will thus take on new responsibilities in the area of conservation and open space.

- Development and maintenance of trails in parks and preserves, so that they are consistently developed and maintained, with attention given equally in parks and preserves, to their maintenance, signage, kiosks, parking areas, and other amenities.
- Programs related to conservation and open space (*see Program recommendations*)

■ DESIGNATE ALL PARKS AND CONSERVATION/OPEN SPACE LAND CURRENTLY SERVING A RECREATIONAL PURPOSE, AS PARKLAND AND DESIGNATE SELECTED PARKS AS "PARKS" AND OTHERS AS "PRESERVES," BASED ON THEIR USE, CURRENT OR PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN MADE WHEN THEY CAME UNDER TOWN JURISDICTION. UNDER NEW YORK STATE LAW, DEDICATED PARKLAND IS PROTECTED FROM USE FOR NON-PARK PURPOSES. CATEGORIZE AS FOLLOWS:

● PARKS & CENTERS

- Art Center
- Community Center
- Recreation Field
- Town Hall Playground
- Gedney Park
- Millwood Park
- Smith Park
- Bicentennial Park- Duck Pond
- Amsterdam Park (with the assumption that sports facilities will be provided here)

● PRESERVES

- Whipporwill Preserve
- Warburg Preserve
- Glazier Arboretum (can it be called a preserve, as it is really not an Arboretum?)
- Turner Swamp
- Burden
- Block/Sunny Ridge/Swope Properties (what name will this have?)
- Greeley Woods

Note: all parks and preserves, are to be designated parkland. The Art Center and Community Center may remain as General Municipal Land if non-park uses are anticipated in the future.



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2 Other Recommendations

These recommendations are not considered short or long term (six to ten years), but rather improvements that should be accomplished as time, organization, and budget allows.

■ COORDINATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES

- Request School District to establish a policy of notifying the Recreation, Parks and Conservation Department of the District's need to take a facility back due to a rained out varsity contest. This notification should be given no less than 48 hours in advance. Other changes in availability of gyms or theaters should also follow the same policy.
- Coordinate with School District on increasing the use of gyms for additional open gym evenings for middle school teens and high school teens (*see Programming Recommendations*).
- Coordinate with other municipalities and the County on joint programming and shared use of facilities (*see Programming Recommendations*).

■ FEES

- Program fees should be reviewed yearly to ascertain their comparable status with other program offerings in the community or in neighboring communities.
- Program fees should always be reflective of the total cost of a program offering.
- Review all fees and charges during the yearly budget cycle. In this way a true projection can be made for the upcoming fiscal year
- Provisions should always be available for residents who cannot afford to pay for a particular fee based service. This provision should be made public.
- It is highly recommended that a written fees and charges policy be formulated as soon as possible. It is apparent that the Town already has some policy in place although unwritten. Currently, there are full recovery fee based programs, partial recovery fee

based programs, and no fee / free programs. This forms the basis for the beginning of the formal written policy.

- If an administrative / overhead fee is not already in place and added to the program cost then perhaps some consideration might be given to this as an additional source of revenue for the department budget.

■ MAINTENANCE

- Add two (2) additional maintenance workers, who would assist in creating and maintaining trails and related amenities, in parks and preserves, as noted in "Fees".
- Construct a new Maintenance Facility (*see Facility Recommendations, Short Term Recommendations, and Five Year Capital Plan*).

■ NEW POLICIES

- **Dogs:** Establish and make public a policy about dogs, allowing them to run free in specific parks at specific hours, provided that owners clean up after their dogs.
- **Non-competitive sports:** Establish a written policy that sports programs for children under ten years of age are non-competitive and for learning and recreation purposes only. Publicize this policy and enforce it.

■ PUBLIC INFORMATION

- Upgrade the Recreation and Parks information on the website to reflect changes made as a result of this Master Plan.
- Publicize new policies (see above) and availability of aid for programs for those who cannot afford to pay, putting this information on the website and in a notice in the Town newsletter.
- Establish on-line registration for programs. (currently in process)
- Publish events, new amenities, and special programs on the website.
- Update, as needed, the existing Map of Recreational Resources, and/or Develop Map of all Town-owned recreational resources, including a map of the trail plan when completed. Update all maps regularly. Put maps on the website, and have copies available in the Recreation, Parks and Conservation Department.



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

■ IN-HOUSE MANUAL

- Develop an Administrative Manual for the Department, including rewriting the Mission statement to reflect the changed responsibilities of the Department, and bring up to date departmental policies.

■ VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

- Develop a support and fund-raising "Friends of the Parks" group with 501 (C) (3) status. This group can sponsor events for a nominal fee, including celebrations of new facilities, such as new trails and a kiosk at a preserve, or a hold a picnic at a new picnic area.
- Create a Volunteer in the Parks program to support on-going maintenance and to have residents take part in trail development and other efforts.

C. Recommendations

For Facilities

(Parks, Centers, and Preserves)

Facility recommendations are divided into short and long term. Some recommendations are possible and important enough to address in the short term, that is, in a one to five year period. Others are presented for the long term, i.e. for the future five to ten years, based on work needed to establish locations, to consider funding mechanisms, or because the need does not have to met in the near future. Some of these longer-term projects are also part of the continuing improvement of the park system.

1

Short-Term (one to five years)

Many of the following recommendations are included in the Five Year Capital Plan. It is possible that some of the recommendations, such as the Teen Center, will be moved to become a short-term project, if a location is identified and improvements are needed. In addition, long-term projects could also become short term projects, if various factors change. This may well be the case with playing fields, where there is currently a need, but locations have not yet been identified.

Teen Center: Develop space specifically for Teens. Plan with a "Teen Council." This may become a Capital Project, depending on what the Town and "Teen Council" identify as the size, potential location, and amenities needed.

Gedney Park Improvements: As this park is the most used of all parks in New Castle, as shown in the Survey, continual improvements are appropriate. Recommended improvements include:

- Picnic area improvements in rear area
- Soccer field improvements, including parking
- Path along lake with planting
- Playground improvements in front area

Millwood Park: Rehabilitate existing tennis courts.

Warburg and Whipporwill Preserves: Reconfigure and improve parking areas, add or relocate amenities such as kiosk, signage, gates. Improve trails.

Burden Preserve: New parking area, new kiosk, new signage.

Preserves: Add picnic areas.

New Maintenance Facility: Location to be determined.

Greeley Woods: Create trail, entrance area with sign, and interpretive signage.

Feasibility Study for a Recreation Center with Indoor Pool: Based on the results of the Recreation Survey, initiate a Feasibility Study to identify a location for a Community Recreation Center, including an indoor pool, and all related amenities such as parking. Study should also evaluate other amenities which can be included (such as activity rooms for performance space, art, and exercise; administrative space; storage. In addition, the study should determine order-of-magnitude costs, funding alternatives, alternative solutions such as constructing individual facilities or constructing in phases with costs, the required SEQRA process, and a schedule. Finally the study should indicate the pros and cons of various alternatives.



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

Five Year Capital Plan

Year One 2007	Amount	Year Two 2008	Amount	Year Three 2009	Amount	Year Four 2010	Amount	Year Five 2011	Amount
Gedney: Soccer Field Improvements with parking reconfiguration	\$350,000	New Maintenance Facility: (location & details of size to be determined; cost may be affected)	\$400,000	Gedney: Add path along pond adjacent to road with additional planting	\$70,000	Warburg and Whipporwill: Trail improvements with relocating Warburg trail away from compost	\$40,000	Gedney: Front Area playground renovations	\$40,000
Millwood: Renovate Tennis Courts	\$40,000	Gedney: Picnic area improvements including new shelter	\$150,000	Whipporwill: Reconfigure parking area and add kiosk	\$30,000	Burden: New parking area, new kiosk	\$30,000	Preserves: Add picnic areas	25,000
				Warburg: New parking area with relocated kiosk, new signage & attractive gate	\$150,000	Greeley Woods: Create trail, entrance sign and interpretive signage	\$10,000	Preserves: Provide weather-proof interpretive signage systems	\$35,000
Total	\$390,000		\$550,000		\$250,000		\$80,000		\$100,000

NOTES

1. This capital plan pre-supposes that all preserves will be under the jurisdiction of one department, known as the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department, per Chapter 6, Recommendations.

2. Order -of-magnitude cost estimates are provided. All are given based on anticipated 2007 construction costs. Inflation will have to be factored in for all costs beyond 2007. Details of each project should be established the previous year and will influence the costs.

2 Long Term (six to ten years)

Playing Fields:

Identify locations for three (3) new playing fields, & construct fields with parking and other related amenities. It is possible that construction of playing fields could be moved to the "short-term" if locations are found, and land can be acquired within the next five years. If Amsterdam is developed with two fields, then one additional field will be needed.

Recreation Center with Indoor Pool :

A future Recreation Center will depend on the results of the Feasibility Study (see *Short Term Recommendations*, "Feasibility Study for a Recreation Center with Indoor Pool").

D. Recommendations for Programs

1 Summary of Recommendations

The programs recommended below are based on the results of the Recreation Survey and the analysis of registration in existing programs. The Consultants have also recommended several programs that other communities have initiated successfully. New programs should be evaluated for interest, attendance, and budget, as has been the policy of the department in the past for all programs.

■ GENERAL AND ALL AGES

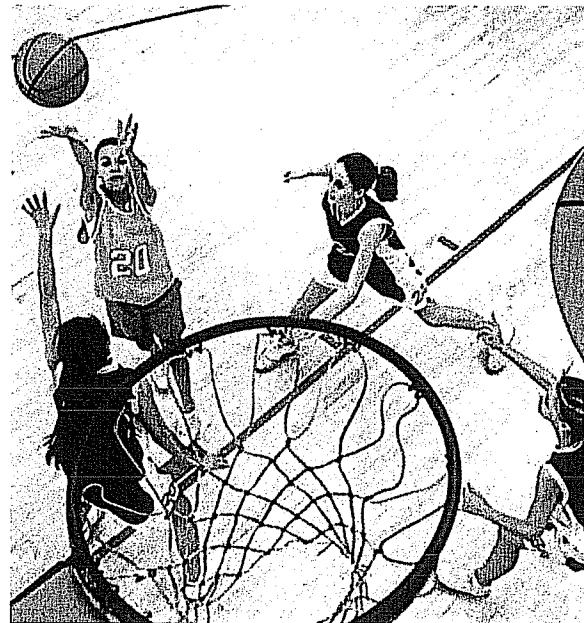
- Add more family events such as:
 - A Track and Field Day
 - Environmental Programs (coordinate or plan joint programs with County, Teatown, and Saw Mill River Audubon)
 - Hiking trips (on New Castle trails and on neighboring facilities. May also be combined with environmental programs)
- Add more co-ed events
- Provide more outdoor winter programs

- Provide tennis lessons: for all age groups on a trial basis, establishing one class for youth, adult, and seniors and assess interest and attendance. Lessons may be given on Millwood courts, or by arrangement with private or other municipal courts. Coordination with the School District Athletic Director should be done to see if there are possible times to use the High School Tennis Courts.

- Provide swimming lessons: for all ages when, and if, the proposed swimming pool is completed.

■ YOUTH

- Add more teen programs: for middle school age and for high school age. Involve high school students in planning events. Consider working with School District to set up additional open gym nights.
- Provide tennis lessons (see 4th bullet under General and all ages).
- Provide Summer Arts Program for older children, i.e. 12+
- Provide theater program



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NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

■ ADULT

- Provide more programs evenings and weekends (esp. exercise and yoga)
- Provide Cross Country ski trips with lessons: (schedule as other ski trips, or in conjunction with County and/or other municipalities)
- Set up a running clinic

■ **SENIORS** Based on census predictions of an increase in the Senior population, additional programs will be needed. Verify interest in these programs listed below with questionnaire specifically to Seniors.

- Provide Cross Country ski trips with lessons. (see 2nd bullet, Adult)
- Provide tennis lessons (see 4th bullet under General and All Ages)
- Provide dances (evaluate with Seniors type of dance programs)
- Provide fishing trip
- Expand fitness, strength training, shopping, bridge, and movies



2

Short Term Recommendations (one to five years)

These programs are suggested for the short-term (one to five years), because of the frequency with which they were requested, the stable or increased registration in similar programs, and the fact that they can be realized within the one to five year period.

Tennis lessons:

Provide for all three age groups on a trial basis. If successful, lessons can be increased in the future, and consideration may have to be given to constructing additional courts, unless the high school courts can be used. This program will have to wait until the completion of the renovations at the Millwood Tennis Courts, scheduled in the Capital Program for 2008.

Additional Teen Programs:

These will be dependent on finding locations

More adult evening and weekend classes:

Especially exercise and yoga

Expand selected Senior programs:

Such as fitness, strength train, shopping, bridge and movies

Cross-Country Ski trips

3

Long Term Recommendations (six to ten years)

Evaluation of other program recommendations should be done by the Department, in order to determine which programs should be implemented in the future, allowing time for the development of necessary support facilities or identification of locations for the programs, funding for equipment, and staffing needs. For instance, a Summer Theater Program for Teens, held in other municipalities, would need considerable advanced planning.



APPENDIX



*“Without a sense of caring,
there can be no sense of community”*

A. Demographic Profile of New Castle

New Castle Town

Westchester
gov.com

Census 2000 Profile for Municipalities in Westchester County
Andrew J. Spano, County Executive Gerard E. Mulligan, Commissioner of Planning

POPULATION DATA

Total population: 17,491 100%

Group quarters population: 92 1%

Population by race and Hispanic origin

White:	15,950	91%
Black:	126	1%
American Indian:	23	0%
Asian:	1,021	6%
Other:	132	1%
Two or more races:	239	1%
Hispanic (may be of any race):	499	3%

Age

0-5:	1,634	9%
6-17:	3,933	22%
18-34:	1,908	11%
35-64:	8,412	48%
65-84:	1,497	9%
85 and over:	107	1%

Place of birth and citizenship

Native:	15,521	89%
Born in New York State:	12,073	69%
Born in Different State:	3,226	18%
US Citizen Not Born in US:	222	1%
Foreign Born:	1,970	11%
Naturalized Citizen:	1,228	7%
Not a citizen:	742	4%

Year of entry for foreign born

Total Foreign Born:	1,970	100%
1990s:	547	28%
1980s:	301	15%
1970s:	412	21%
Entry Before 1970:	710	36%

Ability to speak English

	households in language group	households cannot speak English well	% of language group
Total Households:	5,753	57	1%
English speaking:	4,616	0	0%
Spanish speaking:	277	8	3%
Other Indo-European:	555	25	5%
Asian speaking:	215	24	11%
Other Language:	90	0	0%

HOUSEHOLD DATA

Total households: 5,753
Average household size: 3.0

Family Households (families):	4,978
Average family size:	3.3
Families with own children under 18:	2,945
Married-couple families:	4,563
Married-couples with children under 18:	2,647
Female-headed households:	312
Female-headed households with children:	251
Non-family households:	775
Householder living alone:	654
Householder 65+ living alone:	239

Children under 18 living in single-parent households: 518

EMPLOYMENT DATA

Employment

Total civilian labor force: 8,593 100%
Employed persons: 8,426 98.1%
Unemployed persons: 167 1.9%

Occupation of residents

Total employed residents:	8,426	100%
Management:	5,782	69%
Services:	487	6%
Sales and office:	1,806	21%
Construction:	253	3%
Production and transport:	98	1%
Farming:	11	0%

Residents commuting to work

Average travel time to work: 42 minutes
Total Workers 16 and over: 8,414 100%
Drove to work alone: 5,086 61%
Carpooled: 435 5%
Public transportation: 2,101 25%
Other means: 85 1%
Worked at home: 602 7%

EDUCATION DATA

Educational attainment

Total persons 25 and over:	11,388	100%
No HS Diploma:	394	3%
High School Graduate:	959	8%
Some College:	982	9%
Associate's:	402	4%
Bachelor's:	3,567	31%
Graduate Degree:	5,084	45%

School Enrollment

Total persons 3 and over enrolled in school:	6,342	100%
Preschool/Kindergarten:	944	15%
Elementary:	2,691	42%
High School:	1,151	18%
College:	550	9%

INCOME DATA

Household income, 1999⁽²⁾

Per capita: \$74,050
Average household: \$225,155
Average family: \$260,208

Households by income range

Total households:	5,753	100%
Less than \$15,000:	174	3%
\$15,000 to \$24,999:	257	4%
\$25,000 to \$34,999:	230	4%
\$35,000 to \$44,999:	301	5%
\$45,000 to \$54,999:	306	5%
\$55,000 to \$64,999:	520	9%
\$65,000 to \$74,999:	910	16%
\$75,000 to \$84,999:	3,097	54%

Poverty status, 1999⁽³⁾

Total poverty universe:	17,390	100%
Total persons in poverty:	801	5%
Persons under 18:	174	22%
Persons 65 and over:	57	7%

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A. Demographic Profile of New Castle (continued from page 57)

HOUSING DATA			
Total Housing units	5,843	100%	
Housing Occupancy and Tenure			
Occupied housing units:	5,732	98.1%	
Vacant units:	111	1.9%	
Owner-occupied:	5,258	92%	
Vacant for sale:	20	0.5%	
Renter-occupied:	474	8%	
Vacant for rent:	0	0.0%	
Housing units in structure			
Total housing units:	5,843	100%	
Single-family:	5,533	95%	
2 - 9 units:	277	5%	
10 to 19 units:	21	0%	
20 or 49 units:	5	0%	
50 or more units:	0	0%	
Mobile homes/other:	7	0%	
Year housing built			
Total housing units:	5,843	100%	
1990 to 2000:	493	8%	
1980 to 1989:	907	16%	
1970 to 1979:	644	11%	
1960 to 1969:	1,048	18%	
1950 to 1959:	944	16%	
1944 or earlier:	1,807	31%	
Single-family home value			
Average house value ⁽⁴⁾	\$557,389		% of 1-family ownership units
Housing Units by Range in Value			
Total specified 1-family units:	4,984	100%	
Less than \$200,000:	160	3%	
\$200,000 to \$249,999:	414	8%	
\$250,000 to \$299,999:	778	16%	
\$300,000 to \$349,999:	878	18%	
\$350,000 to \$399,999:	1,418	20%	
\$400,000 to \$449,999:	751	15%	
\$450,000 or more:	485	10%	

Monthly renter costs		
Average rent:	\$1,403	
Housing Units by Range in Rent		
Total specified renter units:	457	100%
<\$500:	11	2%
\$500-999:	62	14%
\$1,000-1,499:	133	29%
\$1,500 - 1,999:	92	20%
\$2,000-2,499:	45	10%
\$2,500+:	90	20%
No Cash Rent:	24	0%

Cost-burdened households ⁽⁵⁾		
Total households:	5,763	100%
Total Cost-burdened households:	1,411	26%
Renters:	172	36%
Owners w/mortgage:	1,067	28%
Owners no mortgage:	182	15%

Overcrowded Housing Units ⁽⁶⁾		
Total housing units:	5,843	100%
Persons per Room		
Less than 1:	5,803	99%
1 to 1 1/2:	35	1%
1 1/2 to 2:	5	0%
2 or more:	0	0%

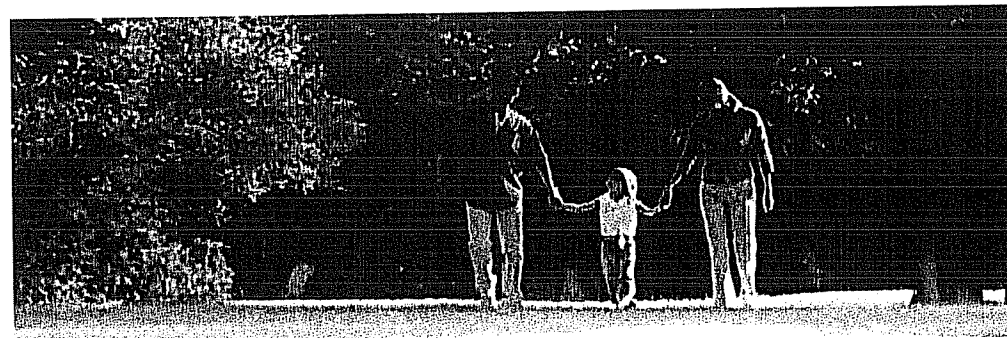
New Castle Town

Census 2000 Profile
for Municipalities in
Westchester County

Andrew J. Spano,
County Executive

Gerard E. Mulligan,
Commissioner of Planning

Westchester
gov.com




Source: US Census Bureau, SF3 Data. Notes: 1) Workers are a sub-set of employed persons. Employed persons may not have responded as being at work due to illness, layoff, etc. 2) Income and poverty values are for 1999 because the census asks for the past year's income. 3) Percent persons under 18, and 65 and over is a percent of their age group. 4) Does not include condominium or cooperative housing units. Average house value is self-reporting. House value is not comparable to housing sales statistics from the Westchester County Board of Realtors. 5) Cost-burdened is defined by the US HUD as those paying in excess of 30% of their income toward housing costs. Percents are a share of the tenure group. 6) The US HUD defines overcrowding as more than 1 person per room and severe overcrowding as more than 1.5 persons per room.

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

B. Program Inventory

INVENTORY OF ONE YEAR OF PROGRAMS

● **SPRING 2005** (end March through early June)

 ART <i>(fees charged for all classes)</i>	Ages/grades
PRESCHOOL WITH ADULT	preschool
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Merry-Go-Round • Magic, Mommy and Me • Me, Mommy and Clay • Saturday Morning with Dad 	
PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT ADULT	preschool
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painting and Playing through Space • Noodles and Doodles • Rainbow Creations 	
BUSING	K-5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roaring Brook School Busing to the Art Center 	
WOODWORKING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Wood • Wood Wood • Constructive Wood 	K-2 2-4 3-5
CERAMICS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clay Creations • Youth Ceramics 	K-3 3-5
YOUTH ARTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colors of the World • Lines and Colors • Architecture • Myths, Markers, Montages 	K-3 2-4 4-6 K-3
JUNIOR HIGH	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing and Cartooning • Junior High Ceramics 	5-8 5-8

PRESCHOOL & YOUTH *(fees charged for all classes)*

PRESCHOOL CLASSES

• Mommy & Me (or with caregiver)	1-4 months
• Mommy & Me (or with caregiver)	5-8 months
• Mini Movers (with parent/caregiver)	9-13 months
• Time Together (with parent/caregiver)	14-17 months
• Soon to be Two (with parent/caregiver)	18-24 months
• Tell Me A Story (with parent/caregiver)	ages 2-3
• Wednesday Kids in Action (without parent/caregiver)	ages 3-4
• Theme for the Day (without parent/caregiver)	ages 3-4
• What's Cooking?	ages 3-5

YOUTH CLASSES

• Let's Have a Ball	ages 4-5
• Fun for Four and Fives	ages 4-5
• The Nature Club	ages 4-5
• First Grade Kapers	grade 1
• Karate Kids A	grades 2-3
• Karate Kids B	grades 4-12 & adult
• Karate Kids C	grades 4-12 & adult
• Rocket Wizards	grades 3-5
• Jazz Band	grades 6-8
• After School Chess	grades K-5
• Strengthen & Stretch for girls	grades 7-8

ATHLETICS *(fees charged for all)*

• Chappaqua Indoor Soccer Tournament (in conjunction with AYSO)	grades 3-6
• Chappaqua Youth Soccer Club	
• Roller Hockey	grades 4-6
• Lacrosse (Separate programs for girls & boys, & given to grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8)	grades K-8
• Teaches Basketball (held during Holiday weeks in Feb. & April)	grades K-8
• AYSO Soccer (in conjunction with AYSO-Full year, i.e. Spring and Fall)	grades K-10
• Spring Baseball & Softball (administered by NCBSA with Rec. & Parks Dept.)	grades K-8



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

(fees for all programs except as noted)

- Spring Jazz Bands grades 6-8
- After School Chess grades K-5
- Family Entertainment, co-sponsored with the Library no fee
(Four entertainment events for varied ages)
- Friday Move and Pizza grades 6-8 no fee
- Catamount under the Stars- snowboarding or skiing (see ski trips)
- Pizza/Bingo (one time event) grades 3-5

ADULT PROGRAMS *(fee charged for all classes)*

ADULT DAY CLASSES *(different levels offered)*

- Aerobics Plus
- Tuesday Aerobics & Abs
- Stretch & Strengthening A
- Step TM 'n Pump
- Stretch into Yoga
- Cross-Training
- Stretch & Strengthening B
- Friday Aerobics & Abs Plus
- Body Conditioning

SPORTS

- Adult basketball – informal games (evenings) ages 30 +
- 2005 Westchester Challenge Tennis League ages 18 +
(for women)
- Softball – Adult Slow Pitch ages 18 +
- New Castle 10K

ADULT ART CENTER

- Drawing for Dummies (daytime)
- Ceramics (given mornings & evenings)

RECREATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

(fee charged for all classes)

(These classes are co-sponsored with Chappaqua Continuing Education)

ADULT EVENING CLASSES

- Adult Broadway Tap
- Body Sculpting
- One Stroke Painting
- Weeknight Workout
- Golf for Beginners
- Golf Improvement Workshop
- Kickboxing

NEW CASTLE SENIORS *(Where fees exist noted below)*

The services provided below are included in the Parks and Recreation Department brochure. While some of them are supportive, and thus not strictly recreational, they are carried out under the auspices of the Department, and therefore are included here. They indicate the extensive range of services available to seniors. In addition, door-to-door transportation is available to some programs, with a handicapped accessible bus to serve those residents requiring such service. The programs are generally for adults age 60+, while adults of age 55 + are encouraged to join the trips.

- The Senter Street Club
- New Castle Senior Times (monthly newsletter)
- Recreational Guide for Older Adults
- Intergenerational Opportunities
- Westchester Community College lectures on Thursdays
- Hiking for Health – held once weekly
- Trips
- Ongoing programs (includes fitness, Friday meetings,
- Shopping, bowling, bridge lessons, movies,
- Lunches, lectures, pottery and art.
 - Broadway North Players – held once weekly
 - Bowling – once weekly
 - Tennis – once weekly
 - AARP/55 Alive – held two days



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

- Supportive Services
- Volunteering Opportunities
- Telephone Reassurance Program
- Home Delivered Meals
- Library services for the homebound
- Bagels 'n Books – co-sponsored by the Library, once a month
- National Senior Health and Fitness Day

FITNESS

- Cardiovascular Fitness
- Ease into Yoga
- Strength and Weight Training
- Move, Stretch & Tone
- T'ai Chi

• SUMMER 2005 (June through August)

■ PRESCHOOL & YOUTH *(fees charged for all classes and camps)*

PRESCHOOL CLASSES

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) | 1-4 months |
| • Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) | 5-8 months |
| • Mini Movers (with parent/caregiver) | 9-13 months |
| • Time Together (with parent/caregiver) | 14-17 months |
| • Summer Fun w/parent or guardian | 18-24 months |
| • Lunch and a movie | ages 3 -5 |
| • Little Campers (without parent or guardian) | ages 2- 3 |

YOUTH CLASSES

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| • Karate Kids A | grades 2-3 |
| • Karate Kids B | grades 2-4 |
| • Karate Kids C | grades 2 + |
| • MTV and Party Dance | grades 2-4 |
| • Golf for Kids | ages 8-10 |

■ CAMPS

TOT CAMP (2 three week sessions or 6 week session) ages 3-5

CAMP ADVENTURE (includes programs & trips; same sessions as above)

TRIP & TRAIN at Camp Adventure (2 three week sessions) grades 6-7

BASEBALL CAMPS (for boys and girls)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| • Gedney Park Camp: (6 one week sessions) | ages 7-12 |
| • Greeley Baseball Camp: (3 one week sessions) | ages 13-15 |
| • Greeley Softball Camp: (2 one week sessions) | ages 7-14 |
| • Greeley Pitching Camp: | ages 9-14 |

COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING (2 three week sessions) grades 8-10

(see other CAMP programs listed under ATHLETICS below)

■ SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

(fees charged unless otherwise indicated)

- Family Fun with Plants

SUMMER MUSIC EXPERIENCE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| • Early Summer Band | grade 4 |
| • Learn to Play a Band Instrument | |
| grade 3 | |
| • Learn Piano | ages 5-12 |

WEDNESDAY CONCERTS IN JULY

NO FEE

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT (co-sponsored with Library)

NO FEE

- Puppet show
- Story theater with music

THE RUTH MANN DANCE RECITAL (Readers' Digest)

■ ATHLETICS *(fees charged for all programs)*

BASKETBALL CAMPS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Teaches "Players" Basketball Camp | ages 7-15 |
| • Little Hot Shots Basketball | ages 5-6 |
| • Teaches Basketball Camp | ages 7-15 |



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

SOCCER CAMPS (in conjunction with Professional Soccer Clinics)

- Super Stars Soccer Camp ages 5-13
- Caetano Pro Soccer School ages 4-15

■ ADULT FITNESS *(fee charged for all classes)*

ADULT DAY CLASSES (different levels are offered)

- Aerobics Plus
- Tuesday Aerobics & Abs
- Stretch & Strengthening A
- StepTM 'n Pump
- Stretch into Yoga
- Cross-Training
- Stretch & Strengthening B
- Friday Aerobics & Abs Plus
- Body Conditioning

ADULT EVENING CLASSES

- Body Sculpting
- Weeknight Workout
- Karate For Teens & Adults
- Dancing On Broadway
- The Art of Belly Dancing
- One Stroke Painting

■ NEW CASTLE SENIORS *(where fees exist noted below)*

- The Senter Street Club
- Supportive Services
- New Castle Senior Times (monthly newsletter)
- Westchester Community College-Mainstream Retirement Institute
- Hiking for Health (held once weekly)
- Trips
- Ongoing programs (fitness, Friday meetings, shopping, bowling, bridge lessons, movies, lunches, lectures, pottery and art)
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Library Service available for homebound
- Transportation services
- AARP/55 Alive (held two days)
- Tennis (once weekly)

- Water Workout
- Pizza n' Movie
- Muffins n' Movie
- Bridge

FITNESS

- Cardiovascular Fitness
- Strength and Weight Training
- Move, Stretch & Tone

● FALL 2005 (September through November)

■ ART *(fees charged for all classes)*

PRESCHOOL WITH ADULT

preschool

- Art Merry-Go-Round
- Magic, Mommy and Me
- Me, Mommy and Clay
- Saturday Morning with Dad

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT ADULT

preschool

- Painting and Playing through Space
- Noodles and Doodles
- Rainbow Creations

BUSING

- Roaring Brook School Busing to the Art Center

grades K-5

WOODWORKING

- Just Wood
- Wood Wood
- Constructive Wood

grades K-2
grades 2 -4
grades 3- 5

CERAMICS

- Clay Creations
- Youth Ceramics

grades K-3
grades 3-5



YOUTH ARTS

- Colors of the World

grades K-3

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

- Lines and Colors grades 2-4
- Architecture grades 4-6
- Myths, Markers, Montages grades K-3

JUNIOR HIGH

- Drawing and Cartooning grades 5-8
- Junior High Ceramics grades 5-8

ATHLETICS *(fees charged for all programs)*

- AYSO SOCCER grades 3-10
(in conjunction with AYSO-Full year, i.e. Spring and Fall)

- YOUTH TACKLE FOOTBALL grades 4-6

- FLAG FOOTBALL (boys & girls) grades 3-5

BASKETBALL

- Youth Basketball (boys & girls) grades 3-8
(leagues offered to grades 4-8)
- Teaches "After School" Basketball (boys & girls) grades K-6
- Teaches "Holiday Hoops" Basketball (boys & girls) grades K-8
- New Castle Youth Basketball Assoc. (boys & girls) grades 5-8

DANCE PROGRAM *(fees charged for all programs)*

- Dancin' Duo ages 4-5
- Twinkle Toes ages 4-5
- Tap & Ballet Duo ages 4-5
- Fancy Feet with Ballet & Tap ages 4-5
- Ballet & Tap Combo grades K & 1
- Tuesday Trio grades K & 1
- Afternoon Ballet, Tap & Some Jazz grades K & 1
- Line Dancing grades 1-3
- Lyrical Jazz grades 2-4
- MTV and Party Dances grades 2-4
- Funky Tap & Hip Hop grades 3-5
- Tap & Jazz Together grades 5-10

PRESCHOOL AND YOUTH *(fees charged for all classes)*

PRESCHOOL CLASSES

- Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) 1-4 months
- Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) 5-8 months
- Mini Movers (with parent/caregiver) 9-13 months
- Time Together (with parent/caregiver) 14-17 months
- Soon to be Two (with parent/caregiver) 18-24 months
- Tell Me A Story Time (with parent/caregiver) ages 2-3
- Kids in Action (without parent/caregiver) ages 3-4
- Theme for the Day (without parent/caregiver) ages 3-5
- What's Cooking? ages 3-5

YOUTH CLASSES

- Let's Have a Ball ages 4-5
- Fun for Four and Fives ages 4-5
- The Nature Club ages 4-5
- NEW: Intergenerational class for seniors & children
Early Bird Dinners grades 2-5 & Senior
- Karate Kids A grades 2-3
- Karate Kids B grades 4-12 & adult
- Karate Kids C grades 4-12 & adult
- Rocket Wizards grades 3-5
- Jazz Band grades 6-8
- After School Chess grades K-8

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS *(fees charged where indicated)*

FREE FALL FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Flute Sweets and Tickletoons - cosponsored with Library
- Make Your Own Scarecrow - cosponsored with Library
- Pumpkin Painting - cosponsored with Library
- Great Goblin Contest
- Ragamuffin Parade
- Pizza/Bingo (fee charged) grades 3-5
- Family Sunday Bingo age 4 yrs. +
- Friday Movie and Pizza grades 3-6



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

ADULT PROGRAMS *(fee charged for all classes)*

- Adult Basketball – informal games

30 +

ADULT ART CENTER

- Drawing for Dummies
- Ceramics

ADULT DAY CLASSES *(different levels are offered)*

- Monday Aerobics Plus
- Tuesday Aerobics & Abs
- Stretch & Strengthening A
- StepTM 'n Pump
- Stretch into Yoga
- Cross-Training
- Stretch & Strengthening B
- Friday Aerobics & Abs Plus
- Body Conditioning

RECREATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

(fee charged for all classes)

(These classes are co-sponsored with Chappaqua Continuing Education)

ADULT EVENING CLASSES

DANCE

- The Art of Belly Dancing
- Let's Line Dance
- Adult Broadway Tap
- Jazz for Adults

FITNESS

- Body Sculpting
- Weeknight Workout
- Kickboxing

NEW CASTLE SENIORS *(where fees exist noted below)*

- Supportive Services
- The Senter Street Club

- New Castle Senior Times Newsletter
- Intergenerational program at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls School
- Outdoor Adventure Group
- Tennis
- Bowling
- Bagels with Books
- Trips
- NEW: Choose Your Craft
- Painter's Palette
- AARP/55 Alive

FITNESS *(each class is held once weekly for 45 minutes to an hour)*

- Cardiovascular Fitness
- Yoga
- Strength Training
- Move, Stretch & Tone
- T'ai Chi

• WINTER 2005 - 2006 *(December, 2005 through March, 2006)*

ART *(fees charged for all classes)*

PRESCHOOL WITH ADULT

- Art Merry-Go-Round
- Magic, Mommy and Me
- Me, Mommy and Clay
- Saturday Morning with Dad

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT ADULT

- Painting and Playing through Space
- Noodles and Doodles
- Rainbow Creations

BUSING to Art Center- after school for Roaring Brook Students

WOODWORKING

- Just Wood
- Wood Wood
- Constructive Wood

grades K-2
grades 2-4
grades 3-5



NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

CERAMICS

- Clay Creations grades K-3
- Youth Ceramics grades 3-5

YOUTH ARTS

- Colors of the World grades K-3
- Lines and Colors grades 2-4
- Architecture grades 4-6
- Myths, Markers, Montages grades K-3

JUNIOR HIGH

- Drawing and Cartooning grades 5-8
- Junior High Ceramics grades 5-8

ATHLETICS *(fees charged for all classes)*

BASKETBALL

- Open Gym – Saturdays grade 4-adult
- Youth Basketball
 - Developmental grade 3
 - League grades 4-8
- "Teaches" Basketball Camps (holidays & after school) grades K-8

SOCCER

- Indoor Soccer Tournaments grades 3-6
- "Teaches" Super Stars Soccer (holidays and after school) grades K-5

TENNIS

- "Teaches" Super Stars Tennis (after school) grades K-5

WRESTLING

- Wrestling Clinic grades 2-8

SOFTBALL

- "Windmill" Pitching for Beginners/Intermediates ages 8-14
(parent participation required)

DANCE *(fees charged for all classes)*

BALLET

- Tutu Ballet age 3
- A.M. Ballet ages 3-5
- Specialty Ballet grades 4-10

HIP-HOP AND JAZZ CLASSES

- Many different sessions for different age groups ages 4-8
grades 2-12

COMBINATION CLASSES

- Dancin' Duo ages 4-5
- Twinkle Toes ages 4-5
- Tap & Ballet Duo ages 4-5
- Fancy Feet with Ballet & Tap ages 4-5
- Ballet & Tap Combo grades K & 1
- Afternoon Ballet, Tap & Some Jazz grades K & 1
- The Dance of Broadway grades 1-3
- Lyrical Jazz grades 2-4
- MTV and Party Dances grades 2-4
- Funky Tap & Hip Hop grades 3-5
- Tap & Jazz Together – Level 1 grades 5-10

PRESCHOOL & YOUTH *(fees charged for all classes)*

PRESCHOOL CLASSES

- Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) 1-4 months
- Mommy & Me (or with caregiver) 5-8 months
- Mini Movers (with parent/caregiver) 9-13 months
- Time Together (with parent/caregiver) 14-17 months
- Soon to be Two (with parent/caregiver) 18-24 months
- Nursery Rhyme Time (with parent/caregiver) ages 2-3
- Wednesday Kids in Action (without parent/caregiver) ages 3-4
- Theme for the Day (without parent/caregiver) ages 3-4
- What's Cooking? ages 3-5
- Fun Time with Music (3 separate sessions) ages 3-6

YOUTH CLASSES

- Let's Have a Ball ages 4-5
- Fun for Four and Fives ages 4-5

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

- The Nature Club
 - Karate Kids A
 - Karate Kids B
 - Karate Kids
 - Rocket Wizards
 - Jazz Band
 - After School Chess
 - Spring: Strengthen & Stretch for Girls
- ages 4-5
grades 2-3
grades 4-12 & adult
grades 4-12 & adult
grades 3-5
grades 6-8
grades K-5
grades 7-8

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS *(fees charged where indicated)*

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Pre-Weekend Blast Off : 3 events, fee per child
 - Pizza/Bingo, 2 events, fee per child
 - Pizza/Bingo, 2 events, fee per child
 - Family Sunday Bingo, 1 event, fee per person
 - Santa Claus letters
 - Share a Valentine
 - Build a Snowman Contest
- grades 6-8
grade 3
grades 4-5
ages 4-adult

TRIPS

- No School Day trips
 - Westchester Skating Academy & Sportime USA
- Middle School
- (1 event each, fee per student)

SKI TRIPS

- Ski Trips: 5 offered; fee per trip per person
- ages 11 & up
- (under age 11 may go if accompanied by adult)

ADULT PROGRAMS *(fee charged for all classes)*

ADULT DAY CLASSES *(different levels are offered)*

- Monday Aerobics Plus
- Tuesday Aerobics & Abs
- Stretch & Strengthening A
- StepTM 'n Pump
- Stretch into Yoga
- Cross-Training
- Core Fusion
- Friday Aerobics & Abs Plus
- Body Conditioning

RECREATION & CONTINUING EDUCATION

(fee charged for all classes)

These classes are co-sponsored with Chappaqua Continuing Education

ADULT EVENING CLASSES

DANCE

- Let's Line Dance
- Adult Broadway Tap
- Jazz for Adults

FITNESS

- Body Sculpting
- Weeknight Workout
- Kickboxing

NEW CASTLE SENIORS *(where fees exist noted below)*

- Supportive Services
- The Senter Street Club
- Transportation
- Intergenerational program
- Westchester Community College Lectures
- Trips
- Piano Lessons
- One Day Wellness Center
- Winter Walking and Hiking Group
- Creative Studio Arts Day
- Senior Activity Group Holiday Dinner
- Christmas Day Dinner

FITNESS *(each class is held once weekly for 45 minutes to an hour)*

- Cardiovascular Fitness
- Ease into Yoga
- Strength and Weight Training
 - Move, Stretch & Tone
 - T'ai Chi



■ COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

Other cooperative programs, with the "Five Families", the Library, Continuing Education, and several private vendors are noted above as they are integral to the Parks and Recreation Program. The two programs noted below are unique situations.

SKATE PARK

The Town of New Castle has partnered with The Village of Pleasantville to create a skate park for use by the residents of both municipalities. The purchase of the equipment and fork lift to place the equipment was split 50%/50%. The park is set up in the southern section of the Commuter Parking Lot in New Castle, not far from the border of Pleasantville.

2005 Season

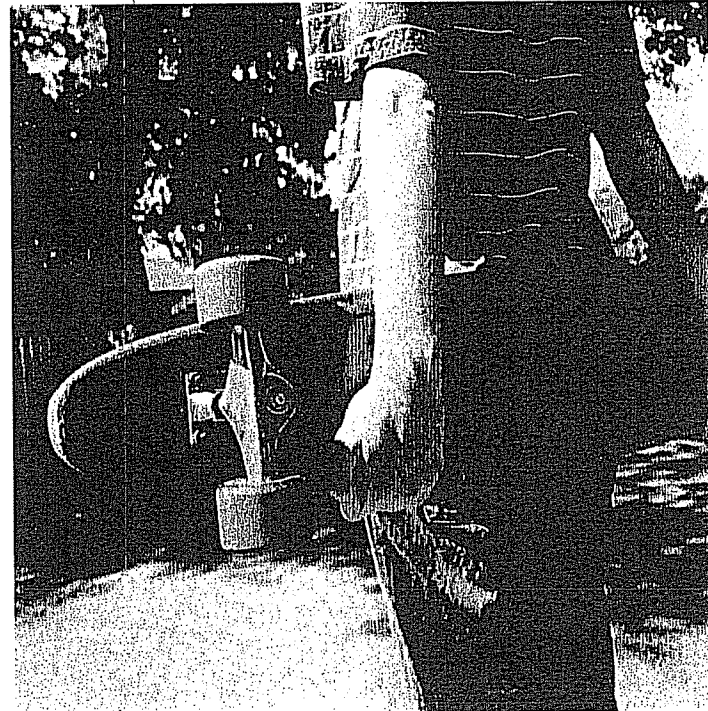
- Was open August 6 – Nov. 13; in summer: 7 days a week 12 noon– 7 pm.
- In Fall: weekends, 12 noon – 7 pm
- Fee charged per person to residents and non-residents each use
- Some lessons provided for a fee

2006 Season

- Dates and hours to be adjusted based on 2005 attendance.
- Daily fee and Season passes; non-resident 25% more.

NORTH EAST WESTCHESTER SPECIAL RECREATION

The services of this non-profit organization are utilized by some residents of New Castle. North East Westchester Special Recreation, established in the early 1970's is a therapeutic recreation agency serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in the north east portion of Westchester County. The Board of Directors is composed of the Recreation Supervisors of the municipalities that are part of this consortium.



JANUARY 2006

Town of New Castle Recreation & Parks Survey



Please complete the following survey to assist the Recreation and Parks Department in evaluating the current and future recreation facilities, programs and leisure opportunities offered to you as residents of the Town of New Castle, NY

Fold, seal and return this survey by February 28, 2006.

Your responses to this questionnaire will be strictly confidential.

C. Recreation Survey

This survey was sent to the 6,000 households in New Castle in January 2006. 1764 surveys were returned, representing 12.7% of those sent. Some surveys were returned with additional written comments. Significant findings of the Survey results and comments are described in D. of this appendix. Issues and Recommendations reflect the Survey findings.

BACKGROUND

1. Are you: Male Female

2. Your age:

3. Total number of people in your household

4 and under	Young adults 19-30
Children 5-11	Adults 31-64
Young teens 12-14	Seniors 65 +
Teens 15-18	

PROGRAMS

4. Are you satisfied with the current programs of the Recreation Department?
Yes No

If not, please indicate why:

Check which of the following you and your household members use.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Special Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/crafts (adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> No-school-day trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/crafts (child) | <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool playgroups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball (adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ragamuffin Parade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball (child) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bingo | <input type="checkbox"/> Ski trips |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus tours/trips (seniors) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports clinics /training classes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance classes (adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> Softball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance classes (child) | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Art Camp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness classes (adult) | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp: lots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp: Trip & Train |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holiday week camps | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Camp: C.I.T. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth activities & classes K-5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horseshoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Wrestling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating | <input type="checkbox"/> 10K Road Race |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lacrosse | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martial Arts | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Concerts | |

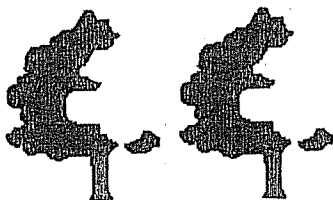
5. Check any of the following programs that you or your household members would use; indicate your top three choices for each age group on the lines using priority order 1-3 with #1 top priority.

	Youth	Adult	Seniors
<input type="checkbox"/> Dances			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski lessons			
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental education			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing			
<input type="checkbox"/> Music lessons			
<input type="checkbox"/> Healing arts			
<input type="checkbox"/> Inline skating			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis lessons			
<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre arts			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)			

FACILITIES

6. Check the New Castle facilities you or members of your household use regularly or use for specific programs during the year.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gedney Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Warburg Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Main playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Whippoorwill Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pond area | <input type="checkbox"/> Smith Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dog walking areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Rec Field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Hall Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball field playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Duck Pond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Glazier Arboretum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Area | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Millwood Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ball field | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis court | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground | |



7. Would you use a small park/playground in your neighborhood?
Yes No

Street address:

8. Indicate in priority order from 1 (most) to 5 (least) the new facilities you and/or your family would use if made available.

Community Center/Teen Center
Indoor swimming/leisure pool
Outdoor pool/leisure pool
Indoor theater for dance, music, and plays
Outdoor basketball courts
Other (please specify)

9. Check which financing option you would support for New Castle to build a new Community Center, and/or a new indoor swimming/leisure pool, and/or a new outdoor swimming/leisure pool.

	Community Center	Indoor Pool	Outdoor Pool
Increase in real estate tax each year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership or User fee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some combination of the two options above	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Is access to recreational facilities for the disabled adequate?
Yes No

Add comments if you wish:

11. How should existing and future open space be developed by the Recreation Department?

- ☐ New multi-use fields
☐ Hiking/walking trails
☐ Bicycle/cross country ski trails
☐ Nature preserves
☐ Seasonal outdoor ice skating rink
☐ Other Please specify

- ☐ Outdoor swimming pool
☐ Playgrounds
☐ Environmental Education Center
☐ Basketball courts

12. Would you support the development of a trail network that links open space even if an easement through the edge of your property is necessary?
Yes No

If not, why?

Surveys must be returned to the New Castle Recreation and Parks Department by February 28, 2006.
Thank you!

Name & address: (optional)

D. Significant Findings of Survey

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS FROM THE NEW CASTLE RECREATION AND PARKS SURVEYS

4-1-06

1. SURVEYS RETURNED

1764 surveys were returned out of the 6,000 sent out. This is 12.7% of the number sent. In survey work, a return of 10% or over is considered a good return.

2. WHO RESPONDED?

210 Males answered. 28% of total.

534 Females answered. 72% of total.

Over half the respondents were in the 31 to 50 age group.

3. SATISFACTION WITH RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Of the 760 who answered this question:

- 528 people or 80% of the respondents are satisfied
- 132 people or 20% are not satisfied

The most frequently stated reason for lack of satisfaction was the fact that there is no community swimming pool, like so many other surrounding communities provide.

4. THE TEN MOST FREQUENTLY USED PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Ranked in the following order:

1. Hiking/walking on trails
2. Soccer
3. Ragamuffin Parade
4. Musical Concerts
5. Baseball
6. Adult Exercise
7. Arts/crafts (children)
8. Basketball (child)
9. Dance classes (child)
10. Softball

5. NEW PROGRAMS

The top three priorities for new programs for Youth are:

1. Tennis Lessons
2. Music Lessons
3. Theater Arts

The top three priorities for new programs for Adults are:

1. Cross Country Ski Lessons
2. Tennis Lessons
3. Healing Arts (Yoga, T'ai Chi were those programs most frequently requested)

The top three priorities for new programs for Seniors are:

1. Theater Arts
2. Environmental Education, Cross Country Ski Lessons, & Dances (equal)
3. Fishing, Healing Arts, Music Lessons, Tennis Lessons (equal)

6. EXISTING FACILITY USE

The facilities are used in the following order of frequency:

1. Gedney Park
2. Millwood Park
3. Community Center
4. Recreation Field
5. Town Hall Playground
6. Whipporwill Park
7. Art Center
8. Glazier Arboretum
10. Senior Center
11. Duck Pond
12. Warburg Park
13. Smith Park

Gedney, the order used with most frequently used first, are:

- Trails
- Main playground
- Pond area
- Ballfields
- Dog walking areas
- Ballfield playground
- Picnic Area



(continued on page 73)

NEW CASTLE RECREATION & PARKS MASTER PLAN

Millwood, in order of frequency used:

- Ballfield
- Playground
- Tennis Courts

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Of 614 people who answered:

- 204, or 33 % would use one
- 410, or 67 % would not
- Addresses were provided by many who said they would use a neighborhood park.

8. PROPOSED NEW FACILITIES

The 1-5 priority order for new facilities is:

- #1: Indoor Swimming Pool/Leisure Pool – 41% of total voted
- #2: Outdoor Swimming Pool/Leisure Pool – 29%
- #3: Indoor Theater – 14%
- #4: Community Center – 12%
- #5: Outdoor basketball Courts – 4%

This same sequence of priorities occurred for the number one priorities that were requested in the survey, as for the sum of all facilities listed in first, second, or third priority.

9. FINANCING OF NEW FACILITIES

The preferred financing option for all three proposed facilities was the same for all three, Community Center, Outdoor Pool, and Indoor Pool , as follows:

1. Membership/user fee - strongly preferred
2. A combination of tax increase and membership fee
3. Tax increase – very low interest

There were many notes written indicating that taxes should not be increased.

10. OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

The preferred form of development of Open Space is, in order of priority:

1. Hiking/Walking trail
2. Nature Preserves
3. Bike/X Country ski trails
4. Outdoor Swimming Pool
5. Seasonal Outdoor skating rink
6. New Multi-use fields
7. Low interest in Playgrounds, Environmental Education Center, and Basketball Court.

11. EASEMENT FOR TRAIL NETWORK

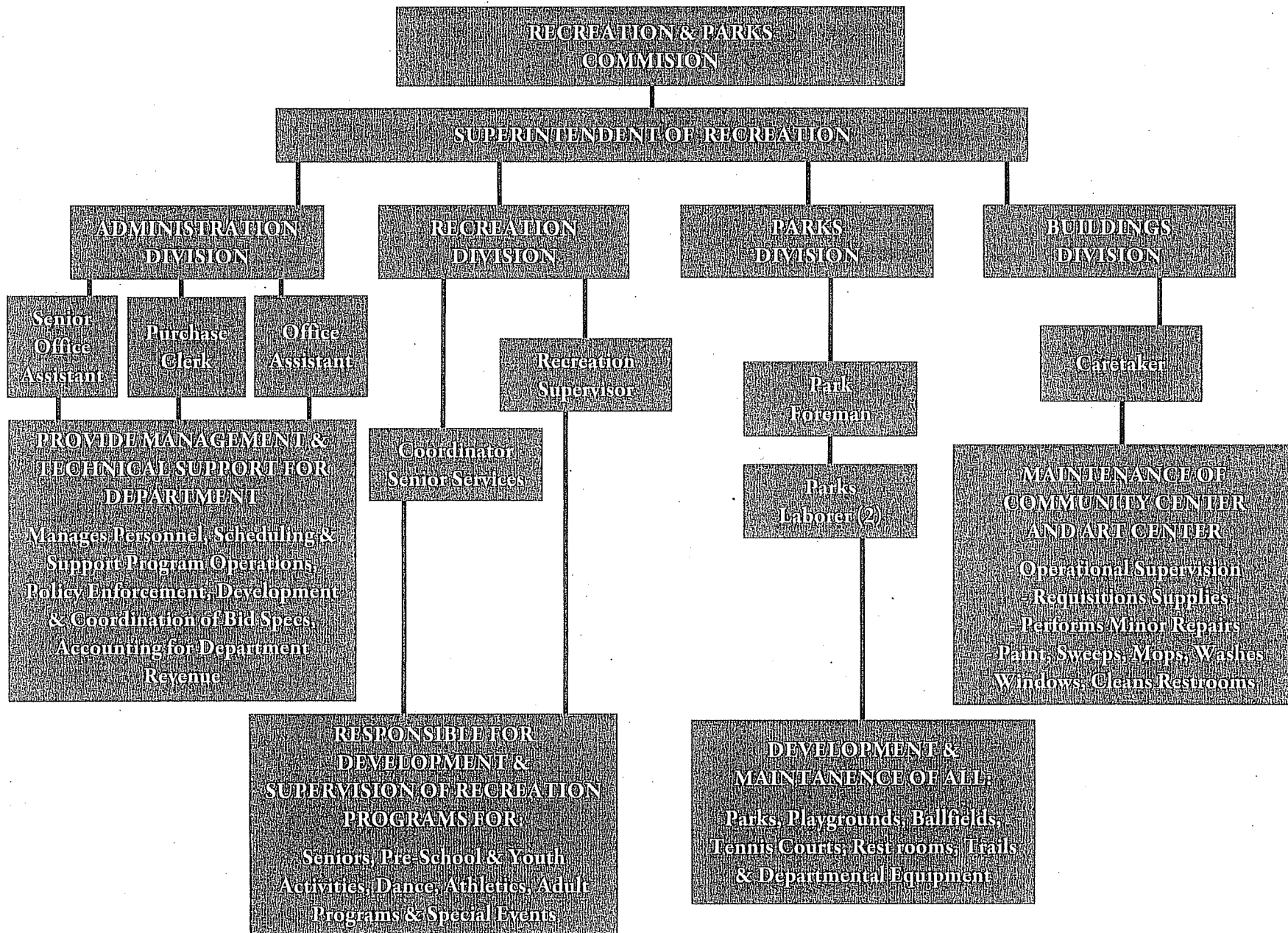
Of the 672 respondents:

- 356 or 53% would support an easement through private property
- 321 or 47% would not support such easements

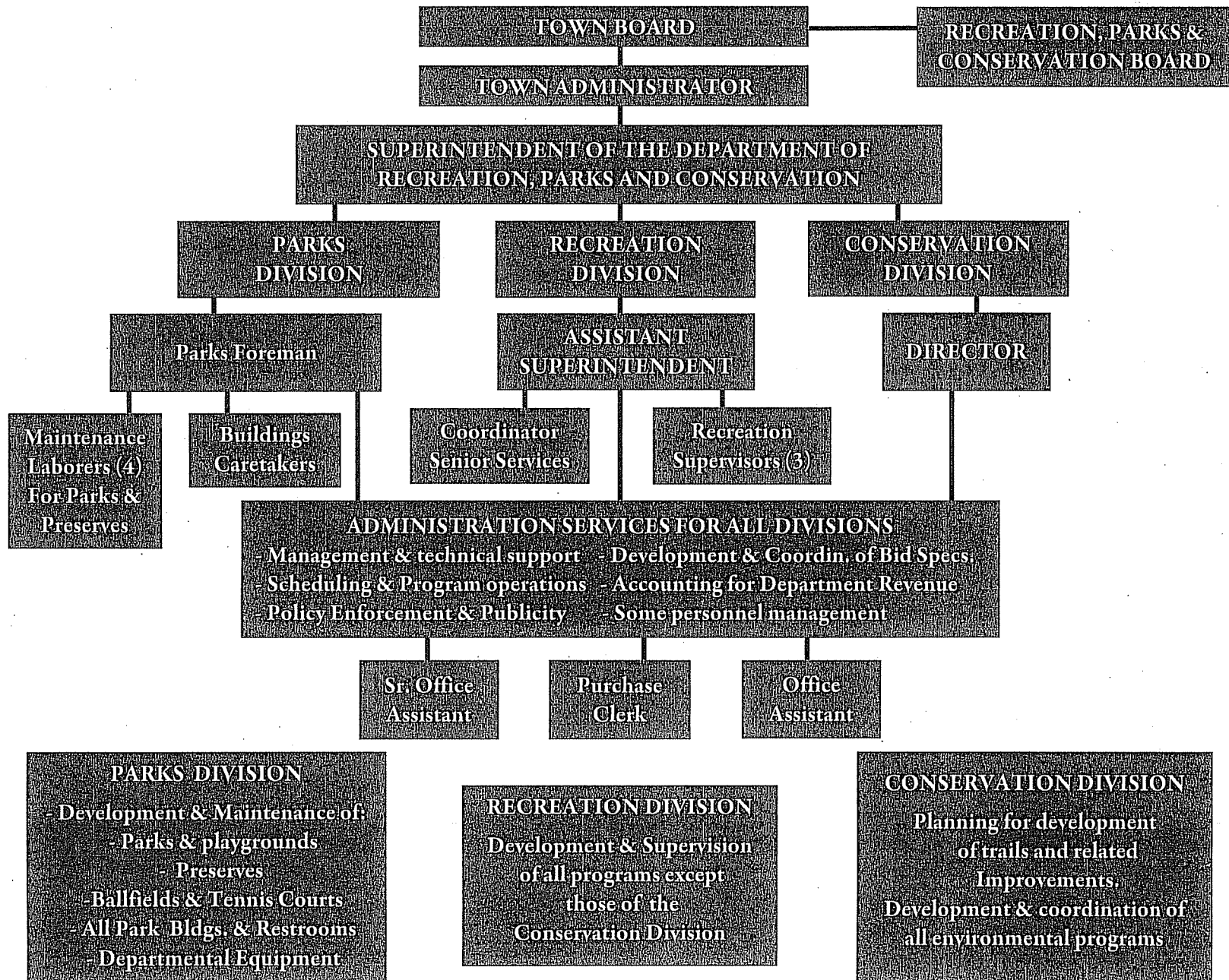
Those against were vehement in their expression, noting the need for privacy, the danger of strangers on the property, possible littering, and liability.



E. Chart of Existing Department Organization



F. Revised Chart of Proposed Departmental Organization



Recreational Resources in the Town of New Castle

