

# **Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

## **Town of North Salem, NY**

### **October 2014**



*Prepared for:*  
Town Board &  
Town Recreation Committee  
North Salem, New York

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## Letter of Introduction from the North Salem Recreation Committee

North Salem, New York is a special place with its country atmosphere, horse trails, green space, rolling hills and charming landscape and is, therefore, deserving of the best recreational opportunities for its residents. It is with this in mind that our Recreation Committee spent many months creating a look into the future to provide Town residents with a host of improvements we hope will be made to our Town's parks and recreation services.

The Committee surveyed the various parks, walking trails, sporting facilities, playgrounds, fields and open space available in the Town, considered the results of a 2009 Town wide survey on recreation that many of you participated in, listened to the opinions of the many groups that are part of our recreation system, consulted with experts in the field of recreation and obtained valuable input at open houses to develop this Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Our goal is to remind those of you who already know, and to inform those of you who do not, of the many resources North Salem has to fulfill the recreational needs of all of its residents and to provide a plan to coordinate the need for improved and additional recreational facilities and programs with the changing population of our Town. To do so we will need a Recreation Committee focused on implementing the plan, and the support of the community. We ask all of you to work with us to accomplish our ambitious objective of providing state of the art recreational programs and facilities to improve the health and well-being of all North Salem residents.

Sincerely,

John Varachi, Co-Chair  
North Salem Recreation  
Committee

Andy Pelosi, Co-Chair  
North Salem Recreation  
Committee

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Executive Summary

The *Town of North Salem Comprehensive Plan*, as adopted in December 2011, recognized public interest in and the need for planning for orderly change as new growth and development occur, as well as for the preservation of desirable community assets including parks and open space lands.

This *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* is intended to be a supplement to the *2011 Comprehensive Plan*, reflecting current and anticipated future conditions and identifying the Town's specific short term and long term park and recreational needs and capabilities in greater detail than was possible or appropriate in the *2011 Comprehensive Plan*. This Plan is a guide to the acquisition, development, improvement and financing of recreational lands and facilities within the Town's realistic capabilities and in context with all other providers of recreational opportunities to Town residents. It provides necessary documentation of the Town's recreational needs for potential state, federal and other sources of funding and for informing Town officials and residents.

#### ***Existing Parks & Recreation Facilities and Programs***

Open space, parks, undeveloped land and agricultural land make up the predominant land uses in the Town, comprising approximately 61 percent of the Town's total 14,967 acres. North Salem is host to both the Titicus Reservoir, which is part of the New York City watershed, and Mountain Lakes Park. Several parks and preserves such as Joe Bohrdrum Park, Volunteers Park and the Purdys Ridge Preserve are owned by the Town. The North Salem Central School District has several fields for active sports. In addition to other private and non-profit recreation facilities, the North Salem Open Land Foundation and Bedford Audubon Society preserve an additional 1,421 acres of open space which is free and open to the public.

The Town of North Salem provides a rich diversity of recreational activities and opportunities for residents of all ages. The North Salem Recreation Department's youth programs serve over 600 students from kindergarten all the way through high school with quality sports programs, summer camps, theater programs and seasonal activities. The Department also facilitates several adult sports teams, activities for senior citizens and in cooperation with the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library book clubs and lecture series.

#### ***Demographic Trends***

A major factor in planning for future Town recreational needs is determining the population that will be using the recreational facilities and programs. While the overall population in the Town of North Salem has seen a decrease of approximately 1.3 percent since 2000 to 5,104 in 2010, there are two major demographic shifts that will drive future recreation needs in North Salem: a decreasing school age population, and a growing active senior population. North Salem Central School District enrollment is projected to decline by 248 students, or 21.3 percent, by 2023, when compared with 2013 enrollment, with peak enrollment in the high school expected in 2018<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, North Salem

<sup>1</sup> *North Salem Central School District Long Range Planning Study*, November 2013.



is likely to experience a significant increase in the 65 and over population in the coming decade as residents choose to age in place.

### ***Assessment of Needs***

In July of 2009, as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, the Town of North Salem administered a town-wide survey<sup>2</sup> asking a variety of questions about residents' opinions on Town services, water, transportation, housing and land use, recreation and open space. Residents were asked to rate twenty-six (26) recreational and cultural opportunities to determine if there are a sufficient number of facilities, too many or if more facilities are needed in the Town. Based upon the results of the survey the top recreational facilities that the Town's residents want more of are bike and pedestrian paths, pools (outdoor/indoor), walking and hiking trails and music and performing arts facilities.

According to data compiled by the Town of North Salem Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee approximately 931 participants<sup>3</sup> were served by the various recreation opportunities provided by the Town and 967<sup>4</sup> youth participated in various independent athletic/recreation organizations. Of which over half of all participants and volunteers/coaches were North Salem Residents (see Appendix B for full break down). School, Town and independent teams use fields and facilities owned and managed by the school district and Town. While participation in the various programs fluctuates from year to year the data provided give a general idea of the population served and the most popular programs. Just under 90 percent of those served were youth. Approximately six percent of participants were involved in men's sports. The final six percent of those served are seniors, with more than half of participants involved in the various North Salem Senior Club meetings, trips and luncheons.

The Town of North Salem currently has almost 9,130 acres of parkland, open space, undeveloped and agricultural lands which provide the 5,104<sup>5</sup> Town residents with significantly more parks and open space per capita than the national average. However, given the high rates of participation in youth sports and the fact that the vast majority of this recreational land is in the form of passive open space, there is currently an inadequate amount of active recreational lands within the Town.

### ***Goals Objectives & Recommendations***

Following analysis of the existing recreation facilities and program and assessment of needs, the following goals and objectives for the future park and recreation needs of the Town have been identified:

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<sup>2</sup> 1,812 surveys were mailed to property owners, 443 were returned (25%), representing 1,078 people.

<sup>3</sup> Data from 2013. This total number does not account for double-counted participants who are involved in multiple activities throughout the year. Youth numbers include the 300 campers involved in the North Salem Summer Camp, of which approximately 60% are out of town/state residents.

<sup>4</sup> Data from 2014. This total number does not account for double-counted participants who are involved in multiple activities throughout the year. Approximately half of all participants are Town residents.

<sup>5</sup> 2010 Census.



**Goal 1:** *Maintain and preserve existing parks and recreational facilities and opportunities for future generations.*

**Goal 2:** *Selectively expand parks and open space land to link existing facilities and provide additional recreational opportunities for all residents.*

The four main objectives identified in this Plan support the attainment of the goals identified above:

- *Maintain Town-owned parks and consider instituting a capital infrastructure program for maintenance of recreational facilities.*
- *Explore the feasibility of providing swimming and event facilities at the soon to be Town owned Hemlock Lake Camp in Mountain Lakes Park<sup>6</sup>.*
- *Educate residents about existing park and recreation opportunities in Town and surrounding area.*
- *Determine what additional facilities or programs, if any, may be needed in the future, given the Town's demographic trends.*

Based upon these goals and objectives, recommendations for their implementation have been formulated.

- *Institute a Capital Infrastructure Plan for parks and recreation facility improvements and identify funding sources.*
- *Clarify park dedication and recreation requirements in Town zoning regulations.*
- *Update appropriate fees-in-lieu of setting aside recreation area(s).*
- *Explore feasibility of renovating the Hemlock Lake Camp and pool at Mountain Lakes Park.*
- *Coordinate communications and outreach efforts across all recreation service providers.*
- *Increase utility of Town web site.*
- *Consider adding another field (grass or turf) at Joe Bohrdrum Park or elsewhere in the Town.*
- *Expand opportunities for biking.*
- *Form a committee to explore the enhancement of senior recreation and social programs.*
- *Explore feasibility of creating a Town-wide trail system linking existing parks and open space available to all users.*
- *Explore feasibility of obtaining property for a community park.*

### ***Maintenance and Improvements to Existing Facilities***

One of the major goals identified in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to “maintain and preserve existing parks and recreational facilities and opportunities

<sup>6</sup> Negotiations between the Town of North Salem and Westchester County have yielded an agreement, soon to be finalized, in which the County will transfer the 20 acre portion, including Hemlock Lake Camp, to the Town.

for future generations”. Several recommended improvements to Volunteers Park and Joe Bohrdrum Park, compiled from the Committee's notes and in-person tours of the sites, are listed in Section 5.0 and provide order of magnitude costs for their implementation. Based upon the identified improvements and their associated costs; the Town can then prepare a financial forecast to determine what funding will be available over the next three to five years in order to more efficiently prioritize and implement capital improvements.

### **Hemlock Lake Camp at Mountain Lakes Park**

*Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park*, commonly referred to as Mountain Lakes Park, is in the southern part of North Salem and covers almost 1,000 acres in North Salem and another 80 acres in the Town of Lewisboro. Owned by Westchester County, the park is characterized by rugged terrain, five lakes and native hardwood forest with miles of trails. Open year round, the park offers opportunities for camping, fishing, ice skating, hiking, nature exploration, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and picnicking. Since 1992 the Town of North Salem has used Hemlock Lake Camp, an approximately 20 acre section of the park bordering Hemlock Lake, for its Summer Day Camp.

In 2012 the Town of North Salem opened discussions with the County for a more permanent arrangement on the use of Hemlock Lake property. Once renovated the vision for the Hemlock Lake Camp is four-fold:

- Fully renovate the mess hall, nurse's station, pool and additional out buildings for continued use as the Town's summer day camp.
- Once renovated, open the pool to Town residents on the weekends and during the month of August, when not in use by the camp.
- Use the renovated mess hall for events, meetings, etc. during the months when not in use by the day camp.
- Allow Town residents increased access to Hemlock Lake and the myriad of trails that run through the County owned portions of Mountain Lakes Park.

Section 6.0 of this Plan includes ten (10) improvements to the camp which were identified by the Town and included in the contract with Westchester County. It is recommended that the Town establish a committee or working group, comprised of various representatives from the Town and current and potential users of the camp's facilities, dedicated to the renovation of the Hemlock Lake Camp. The committee/working group's mission would be to identify and prioritize the improvements needed for the camp and to help guide the vision of the camp and evaluate the various costs and benefits of implementing that vision.

### **Next Steps**

Subsequent to adoption of the Recreation Master Plan, or acceptance of the Plan as an advisory document, a timeline for implementation should be developed outlining immediate, short and long term actions based upon the recommendations included in Chapters 5.0 and 6.0 of this Plan. Furthermore, upon finalization of the agreement with Westchester County, the establishment of a committee or working group dedicated to the renovation of the Hemlock Lake Camp is crucial to the realization of the vision presented. To enhance the Town's senior recreation and social programs it is recommended that the Town

establish a working group consisting of the recreation committee and local residents to lead the process and consider coordinating with existing senior centric organizations such as Founders Hall.

The next update of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which should coincide with the next revision of the North Salem Comprehensive Plan, should include a new Town-wide survey which includes specific questions about recreation particularly aimed at facilities and activities for adult and senior residents.

## 1.2 Methodology

The Plan is a result of a planning process which sought input from Town residents and organizations and which follows an orderly sequence of analyses of availability of and demands for recreational opportunities, evaluation of the delivery and conditions affecting current and future delivery of recreational opportunities, and a strategy for serving the Town's needs through appropriate financing and improvement of facilities.

Inventory of the Town of North Salem's recreational facilities and programs is based upon an initial inventory provided by the Town Recreation Committee and supplemented with interviews of Town staff and residents and original research. All maps were created with Westchester County GIS data and are based on an initial inventory provided by the Town, maps developed as part of the Town of North Salem Open Space Plan, site visits and input from the Town Recreation Committee. Two maps were created to reflect North Salem's existing supply of protected recreational land/facilities: Map 1: Public Recreational Facilities, which identifies all County, Town and NYC DEP lands and Map 2: Protected Land: Private/Nonprofit Recreational Facilities. Map 2 identifies all protected land not defined as Public Recreational Facilities; the land identified as "Land Trusts or Easements" is owned by multiple entities, some parcels of which have overlapping easements.

The demand for leisure opportunities in North Salem is identified through analysis of relevant demographic data and projections, recreational trends, participation and expressed interests of Town residents, and, to a limited extent, recognized state and national industry standards for recreational lands and facilities. The *2009 Town-wide Survey* was utilized to identify the recreational opportunities that Town residents would "like to see more of" and "support".

Beginning with a review of the recreational goals and objectives included in both the *2011 Comprehensive Plan* and *2009 Open Space Report* and based upon the availability of and demands for recreational opportunities, two major goals are identified in this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*, with accompanying objectives and recommendations which lay out intermediate steps toward these goals. Short to medium-term recommendations are anticipated to be completed within one (1) to five (5) years following adoption of the Plan with long-term recommendations anticipated to be completed within six (6) to ten (10) years following adoption. A number of maintenance tasks and improvements to the Town's two parks, Joe Bohrdrum Park and Volunteers Park, were identified by the Town Recreation Committee in their initial inventory and supplemented in during an on-site tour with various representatives of the Committee and Town.

## 2.0 INVENTORY & OPERATIONS

The Town of North Salem is comprised of approximately 14,967 acres, or 23.4 square miles, and is generally characterized by residential land uses, open spaces and agricultural land covering a rolling topography of wooded hillsides, stream corridors and pastures. Small pockets of commercial uses and residential neighborhoods in the hamlet areas that include Croton Falls, Purdys, Peach Lake and Salem Center complement the rural character of the community. Open space and parks, undeveloped land and agricultural land make up the predominant land uses in the Town, comprising approximately 61 percent of the total land area (see **Map 1**).

### 2.1 Parks, Fields & Open Space

The Town of North Salem has identified the preservation and protection of existing open spaces and recreational opportunities as well as the expansion of these resources as a major priority. This inventory of existing recreational facilities serves as a key component of this report and establishes the groundwork for the recommendations section (see **Map 2**).

#### 2.1.1 City of New York

- **Titicus Reservoir**



Formed by the damming of the Titicus River in 1893, the Titicus is one of 12 reservoirs in New York City's Croton system. Located in the western half of the Town the reservoir consists of a single basin, approximately 2 miles long containing 7.2 billion gallons at full capacity. The Reservoir contains largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown trout, chain pickerel, common carp and panfish and is stocked with 7,000 brown trout every spring. The Titicus Reservoir and surrounding land is owned by the New York City Department of Environmental Preservation (NYC DEP). Trout fishing is permitted year round with a free NYC DEP watershed access permit.

#### 2.1.2 Westchester County

- **Mountain Lakes Park**

Located in the southeast corner of the Town and a portion of neighboring Lewisboro, the *Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park*, commonly referred to as Mountain Lakes Park is Westchester County's northernmost park. The 1,082 acre park is characterized by rugged landscape, five lakes and native hardwood forest with miles of trails. Open year round, the park offers opportunities for camping, fishing, ice skating, hiking, nature exploration,

snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, picnicking and a high/low ropes challenge course.

The Town of North Salem uses a 20 acre section of the park bordering Hemlock Lake for its Summer Day Camp. This facility has a wonderful outdoor area with a lake, cabins, ball field, swimming pool and out buildings. The Town is currently in negotiations with the County to take ownership of this section of the Park.

### **2.1.3 Town of North Salem**

The parks and recreational facilities in North Salem are available to Town organizations and residents free on a reserved basis. The Recreation Department manages the scheduling of the various fields and courts for use by the North Salem Middle and High School teams, youth organizations and local residents.

- **Joe Bohrdrum Park**

Joe Bohrdrum Park is located in the western portion of the Town, at the top of Sunset Drive, accessible from Daniel Road off Hardscrabble Road, or Oak Ridge Road off Titicus Road. A gravel parking lot on site can hold approximately 60 vehicles. This 13 acre park has two (2) tennis courts, a regulation size soccer field (which can be split to run two fields across approximately 40 by 95 yards), two (2) Little League fields, a batting cage, a children's playground, two (2) basketball courts, a picnic area and a handicap accessible comfort station.

- **Volunteers Park**

Volunteer's Park is a 15.44 acre public park located on the northern end of June Road, near the Putnam/Westchester County border. It contains a baseball field (90 foot bases), a batting cage, a regulation soccer/lacrosse field, a basketball court, a playground and a comfort station. There is also a parking lot. A paved path provides access to each area.

- **Baumler Robson Memorial Field**

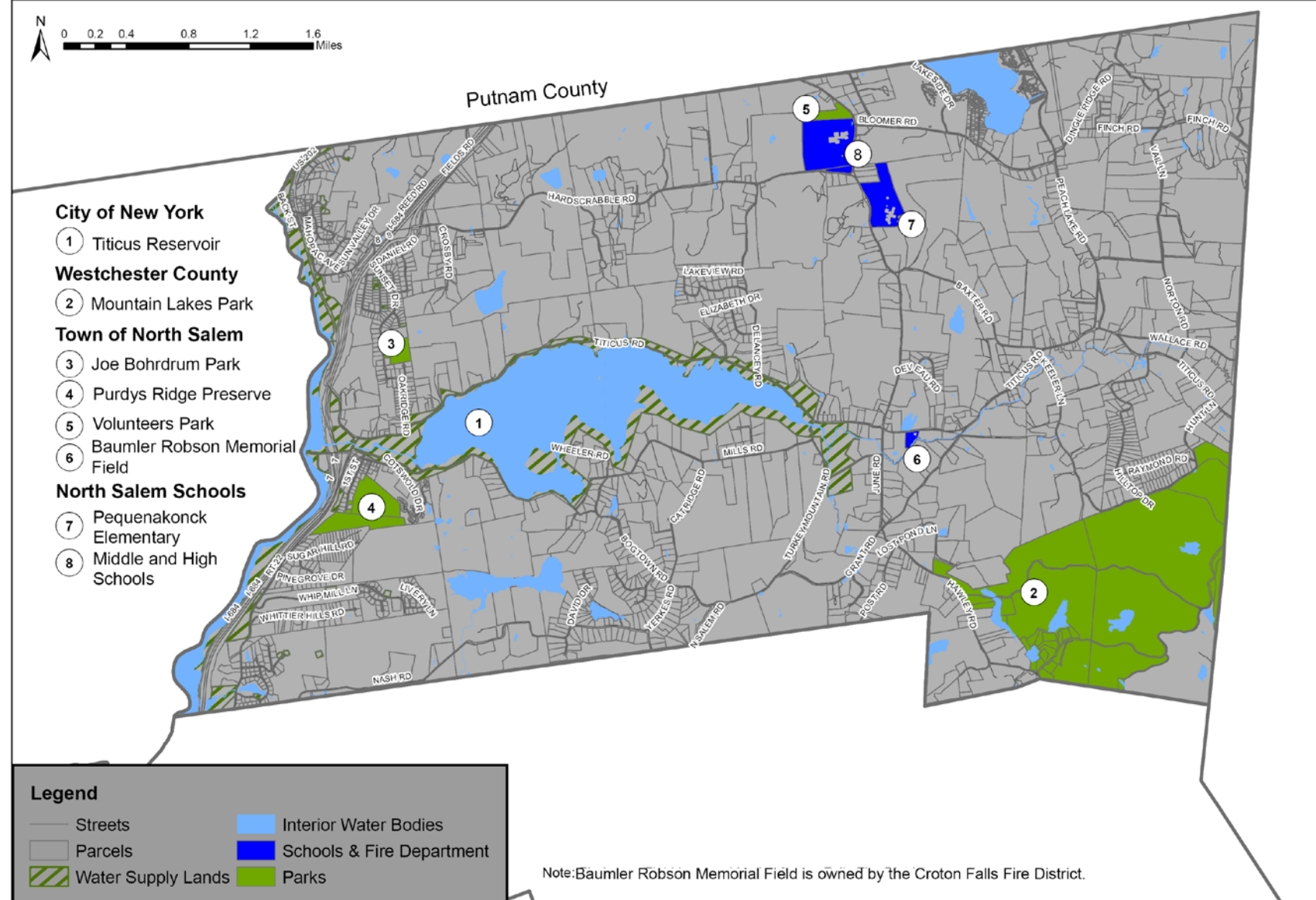
The Croton Falls Volunteer Fire Department maintains a Little League baseball field, formally dedicated as the Jack Baumler and Michael Robson Memorial Field, behind the Fire Station on Titicus Road.

- **Playgrounds**

The Town maintains two small playgrounds which are located at Volunteers Park and Joe Bohrdrum Park. The playground at Pequenakonck Elementary School is intended to only be used by students during the supervised school day; signs have recently been posted to this effect. There are several additional private playgrounds associated with various churches in town which are used by various daycare and church programs.



# Map 1: Public Recreational Facilities



Town of North Salem, New York  
 Data Source: Westchester County Data  
 Date: August 2014  
 Prepared by: Ferrandino & Associates Inc.

### 2.1.4 Town of North Salem Central School District

The Town of North Salem Central School District (NSCSD) consists of the Pequenakonck Elementary School (K-5) and the North Salem Middle/High School (6-12). The NSCSD served a school population of 1,165 students in 2013-2014 with 58.6 percent of students living in the Town of North Salem (including the hamlets of Purdys and Croton Falls), 23.2 percent of students living in Southeast, NY, 14.6 percent of students living in Somers, NY and 3.4 percent of students living in Carmel, NY. The North Salem Middle/High School offers a wide range of sports opportunities to students including: cross country, field hockey, soccer, swimming, tennis, volleyball, basketball, bowling, ice hockey, alpine skiing, wrestling, baseball, softball, golf, lacrosse, and track and field. The school district offers Modified (7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Junior Varsity (JV) and Varsity teams in most sports, depending on interest. Due to the small size of the school district and the wide range of sports offered, some athletic teams are merged with teams at the John Jay Katonah-Lewisboro School District or the Somers School District and practice at facilities in neighboring towns.

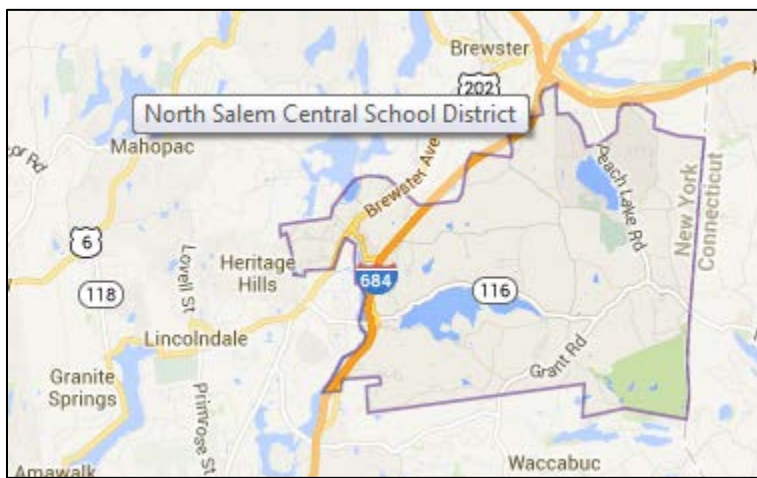
- **Purdys Field**

Purdys Field is located on the west side of Route 22 at Titicus Road on watershed land. The North Salem Central School District (NSCSD) has permission to use this field through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. This field is used by the high school and youth programs for soccer in the fall and lacrosse in the spring. It is also used for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Softball when there is a demand for that program. At the beginning of the fall and spring seasons, the NSCSD will mark out the initial high school dimensions, field markings are then maintained by the school. The youth dimensions are marked and maintained by the youth programs. The NSCSD mows the grass due to the use of the field by the youth programs. When not in use by the NSCSD, the North Salem Highway Department maintains the field.

- **Middle School and High School**

The middle school and high school gyms are located at the North Salem Middle/High School. The gyms host practices and games for the Recreation Department's programs as well as for both high school (junior varsity and varsity) and modified middle school sports, including volleyball, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball and softball.

The North Salem Central School District includes portions of the Towns of Southeast, Somers and Carmel, NY.  
(Source: Google Maps, 2014)





Tompkins Field (Lower Field) located off June Road just south of the Middle/High School, hosts the high school boys' soccer and lacrosse teams and has a regulation size track that is open to walkers when not in use by the track and field team. The cross country trail is located at the North Salem Middle/High School just off of Tompkins Field. This trail is where both girls' and boys' cross country teams (modified, junior varsity and varsity) practice, host scrimmages and compete.

The upper fields to the north of the school are where the girls' field hockey teams (modified, junior varsity and varsity) practice and compete. The baseball field, located just to the west of the field hockey fields, is used by the boys' baseball teams and recreational teams. An additional field, between the baseball and field hockey field, is used by recreational soccer clubs in the spring and fall.

- **Pequenakonck Elementary School**

During the winter, when the middle school and high school gyms are full, the Pequenakonck Elementary School Gym (PQ Gym) is used for YMCA recreation programs, North Salem Youth Basketball, the North Salem Recreation Departments men's basketball program and other North Salem Recreation Department programs as needed.

Pequenakonck Field (PQ Lower), located off June Road, has two regulation sized softball fields in the spring, which are also used as a regulation soccer field in the fall. It also hosts high school and Little-League softball, recreational soccer and JV boys soccer. The field is also marked to include two 25 yard by 50 yard soccer fields. AYSO runs the U-8 program on this field when conditions permit. Pequenakonck (PQ) Upper; located behind the school, has an additional 25 yard by 50 yard soccer field which is also utilized by Little-League T-ball. There is also a softball batting cage.

### **2.1.5 Private/Non-Profit**

In addition to Town and School District owned property, there are several organizations that manage recreational facilities. While many of these facilities are free and open to the public, others charge for admission or require membership.

- **North Salem Open Land Foundation**

Founded in 1974, the North Salem Open Land Foundation (NSOLF) is committed to preserving the natural beauty of North Salem and protecting open space to provide refuge for wildlife. NSOLF currently owns 23 parcels of land, totally approximately 748 acres and holds conservation easements over another 469 acres. Most of these 1,217 acres are open to the public for walking, riding, cross-country skiing and other forms of passive recreation. The Foundation continues to proactively seek additional lands for acquisition and their conservation easement program that fall within the Croton Watershed and the Eastern Westchester Biotic Corridor.

NSOLF properties include: the Lances Preserve, Graff Preserve, Hearst Preserve, Hearst-Mead Preserve, Marx Preserve, Bell Blakely Preserve (North and South), Hawthorne Preserve, Baxter Preserve (The Racetrack), Baxter Preserve North, Gentile Preserve, Hayfield-on-Keeler Preserve, Mills

Preserve, Durand Preserve, Grossman Preserve, Sporn Preserve, Halmi Preserve, Gaymark Preserve, Bloomerside Preserve, O'Donohue Preserve and the Stempler Preserve.

For more information on the NSOLF, its properties, and the “rules of the trail” go to their [website](#). Trail maps are available at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and Town Hall or available for download from the website.

- **Purdys Ridge Preserve**

In 2005, the Town of North Salem, with support from the North Salem Open Land Foundation, purchased this 66 acre parcel to preserve it from development. The Preserve is accessed via Old School House Road in the Purdys hamlet. A hiking trail was created on the property as an Eagle Scout project. The trail is a fairly moderate uphill and downhill trail beginning with a few wooden steps located at the end of Old School House Road. A trail map is available at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library.

- **Bedford Audubon Society**

Founded in 1913, the Bedford Audubon Society (BAS) is the Northern Westchester and Eastern Putnam Counties Chapter of the National Audubon Society. BAS promotes environmental education, grass-roots activism, public and private conservation efforts, preservation and protection of open space. The Ruth Walgreen Franklin and Winifred Fels Memorial Sanctuary is located between Titicus Road (Route 116) and Hardscrabble Road on the north side of Titicus Reservoir. This 204 acre property consists of mainly low deciduous woodlands, Red Maple Swamp and Shrub Swamp which provides habitat for many bird species. Existing in an undeveloped state for many years, recent work has begun to establish a marked trail system, foot bridges, parking area and signage for the property. Go to the BAS [website](#) for additional information and a trail map.

- **Hammond Museum**

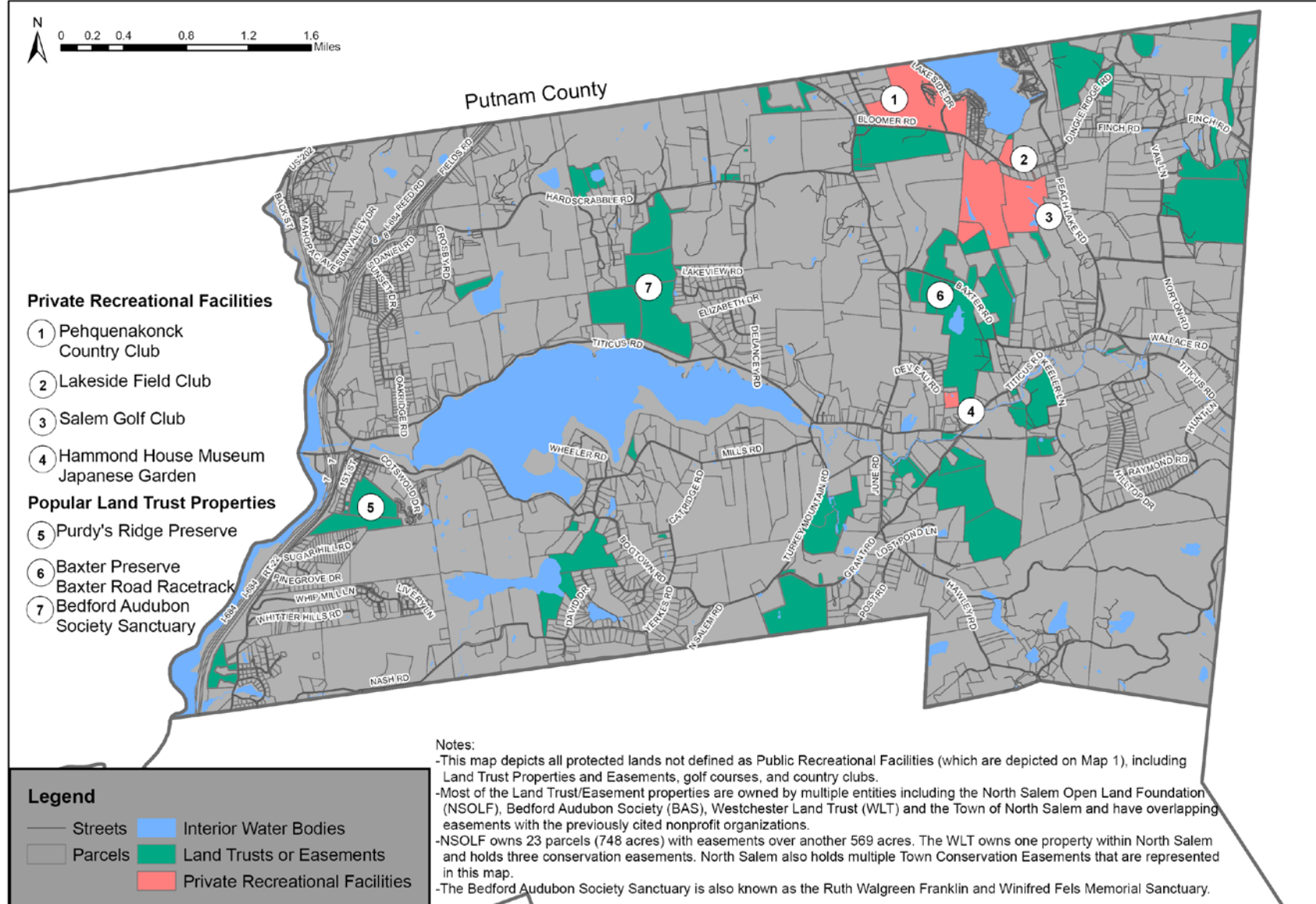
The Hammond Museum, a nonprofit museum that provides a variety of exhibits and programming for people of all ages, is also home to the Stroll Garden, a Japanese Garden open to visitors and members of the museum. For more information visit their [website](#).

- **Golf Courses & Country Clubs**

North Salem hosts two golf courses which provide opportunities for socialization and play. The Pehquenakonck Country Club is a semi-private golf course that has daily adult and youth green fees for the general public as well as yearly memberships. The Salem Golf Club is open to members only (non-members can rent space for events).

The Lakeside Field Club, a private club situated on 8 acres overlooking Peach Lake, provides opportunities for tennis and swimming (in both a pool and the lake). In addition to their 25 yard pool and six lighted tennis courts, Lakeside's facilities include a modern clubhouse with snack bar and grill, changing rooms with showers, a picnic area with barbecue grills, basketball, tetherball and ping-pong and a kids' playground.

## Map 2: Protected Land: Private/Nonprofit Recreational Facilities



Town of North Salem, New York

Data Source: Westchester County Data

Date: August 2014

Prepared by: Ferrandino & Associates Inc.

## 2.2 Recreational Activities and Opportunities

The Town of North Salem provides a rich diversity of recreational activities and opportunities for residents of all ages. The North Salem Recreation Department's youth programs serve over 600 students from kindergarten all the way through high school with quality sports programs, summer camps, theater programs and seasonal activities. The Department also facilitates several adult sports teams, book clubs and lecture series in cooperation with the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and activities for senior citizens. In addition, private non-profit groups run programs for baseball, basketball, softball and soccer, commonly referred to as "rec programs".

### 2.2.1 North Salem Recreation Department

#### 2.2.1.1 Youth Activities & Programs

The North Salem Recreation Department organizes and facilitates a wide variety of programs for the Town's youth. The department, in cooperation with the North Salem Central School District, manages the usage of the Town's many fields and sports facilities by the numerous privately organized youth sport teams. Additionally, the department organizes several events throughout the year in cooperation with the local schools, library and other organizations such as the Halloween Mask Contest and Valentine Card Contest. The department also organizes and runs several summer programs including the Theatre Arts Workshop and their largest program the annual North Salem Summer Camp.

- **Babysitting**

A free babysitting instruction class held annually at the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and organized through the Recreation Department, provides would-be sitters in grades 6-12 with information and skills necessary to provide safe and responsible child care.

- **Baseball/Softball**



The North Salem Baseball/Softball Association is an affiliate of Little League® and provides opportunities for over 200 boys and girls in grades K-12 to play baseball and softball. The teams use fields at Joe Bohrdum Park and Volunteers Park as well as fields at Pehquenakonck Elementary School (PQ), the Middle/High School and the Baumler Robson Memorial Field at the Croton Falls firehouse.

**Little League Baseball at Baumler Robson Memorial Field**

Credit: Amy Golisano



- **Basketball**

The North Salem Youth Basketball Association (NSYBA) is a non-profit organization serving over 200 youth (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade to high school) which is not administered through the Recreation Department. The NSYBA runs November through March for boys and girls teams which practice in the Pehquenakonck Elementary School (PQ) gym and the North Salem Middle/High School gyms. The Recreation Department in cooperation with the East Coast Panthers runs a summer basketball camp that is held at the North Salem High School gym in August for girls and boys entering grades 4 through 8. The Recreation Department also sponsors teams from the North Salem Youth Basketball League and the Brewster Sports Center for participation in the Westchester County Basketball Tournament which is held in March at the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

- **Cheerleading**

The Recreation Department organizes a summer and winter cheerleading clinic for ages 8-14 held in the school gym.

- **Lacrosse**

The *North Salem Youth Lacrosse Club* organizes teams for over 150 boys and girls grades K through 8. Teams play at Volunteers Field. Please see their [website](#) for more information.

- **Skiing/Snowboarding**

During the winter the Recreation Department organizes a five week “Learn to Ski/Snowboard” program at Thunder Ridge in Patterson, NY for grades 3 and up. The program includes lessons, lift tickets, rental of equipment, transportation and chaperones.

- **Soccer**

Soccer is a perennially popular sport for the Town’s youth of all ages. The *North Salem Soccer Club* was formed in 1993, in



**Hendres Soccer Camp at North Salem High School**  
Credit: Amy Golisano



**Girls Soccer - Kindergarten**  
Credit: Amy Golisano

association with the Westchester Youth Soccer League (NYSL), with the goal to provide an opportunity for the Town's youth to play competitive soccer and learn good sportsmanship, teamwork and respect. The Club organizes teams in both the fall and also in the spring for boys and girls grades K through 12 (high school spring only). The teams play at Joe Bohrdrum Park field, North Salem High School and Volunteers Park field. For more information please see the Club's [website](#).

Additionally, the North Salem Recreation Department organizes a summer soccer clinic for girls and boys ages 3 through 15 taught by the North Salem varsity boys' soccer coach, at the North Salem High School.

- **Tennis**

The Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Hardscrabble Club located in nearby Brewster, offers tennis lessons for all ages and levels, on a continuing schedule.

- **Theater**

The North Salem Recreation Department, in cooperation with the Theatre Arts Studio, offers a two-week theater summer camp. The program typically averages 20-25 participants ranging from 5-12 years of age depending on the production being staged. The program rehearses at the North Salem High School and mounts a performance at the end of the two weeks at the Schoolhouse Theater in Croton Falls.

Additionally, during the school year the North Salem Middle and High Schools offer a drama club and musical theatre club as after school programs. There are approximately 20 participants in the drama club and 60 participants in the musical theatre club.

- **Summer Camp - Mountain Lakes**

The Recreation Department organizes and runs the annual North Salem Day Camp which is held in a 20 acre section of Mountain Lakes Park bordering Hemlock Lake. The camp program serves approximately 300 campers entering pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade during a five week session each summer. Typically about 60 percent of the campers are from out of town/state, although this changes from year to year. The camp employs about 100 carefully-screened staff, including instructors, medical personnel and Red Cross certified life guards.

The Town's Mountain Lakes facility has a wonderful outdoor area with a lake, cabins, ball field, swimming pool and out buildings. Typical camp activities include sports, art, music, karate, gymnastics, canoeing, kayaking, outdoor skills, nature, games and dance. Special events such as Pizza Day, Cupcake Day, Ice Cream Sundae Day and Barbeque Day are held periodically throughout the five week program.

### 2.2.1.2 Adult Programs & Activities

- **Book Clubs, Writers' Workshops and other Library Programs**

North Salem has several book clubs and discussion groups co-sponsored by the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and Recreation Department which are held at the library and are free and open to the public. The Library also hosts the North Salem Writers' Workshop, a "Healing Through Writing" program, computer and arts programs, as well as an ongoing program of writer presentations, open to the public, by local and non-local noted authors.

- **Men's Sports**

Spring and fall/winter men's soccer is organized through the Recreation Department. The outdoor program runs from April through June at Volunteers Park, the indoor program runs from November through April in the Pequenaconck Elementary School (PQ) gym. Approximately 25 players participate in each program. Men's Open Basketball Over 40 program, which serves approximately 25 players, meets on Monday nights at PQ gym through the spring. Additional men's sports programs, organized through the Department, are dependent on interest and have included lacrosse.

### 2.2.1.3 Senior Programs & Activities

The North Salem Recreation Department organizes a variety of programs and activities for seniors including: a senior book club, chair yoga, tai chi and a stretch and strengthen class for seniors. The Department also organizes day trips and overnight excursions for seniors to cultural and tourist destinations as demand requires.

The *Senior Citizen Club*, for adults 55 years of age or older, has meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at the North Salem Fire House. Seniors are asked to bring their own bag lunch but club members provide dessert and coffee. Additionally, there are several annual luncheons including the *Annual Senior Citizen Installation Luncheon* and the *North Salem Senior Citizen Holiday Luncheon* periodically throughout the year.

The Somers-North Salem-Lewisboro *Nutrition Program* provides well-balanced lunches served daily for residents 60 years of age and over at the Wayne Van Tassel Memorial Park, Route 139, Somers. It provides lunch Monday through Friday at noon. The *Senior Citizen Van* runs to the Nutrition Program site on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also available is *Meals on Wheels*, a home-delivered hot meal program for residents 60 years of age or older, who are unable to get to the meal program at the nutrition site due to health reasons. There is a suggested donation of \$2 per meal for these programs, which are partially funded by the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services, and the Towns of Somers, North Salem and Lewisboro.



#### 2.2.1.4 *Special Recreation Programs*

The North East Westchester Special Recreation program was established in the early 1970s as a community based therapeutic agency serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in the northeast portion of the county. The program offers a variety of year round recreational activities designed with the specific support needed for participant success in this environment. The program focuses on teaching skills, fostering fun and friendships and teaching or correcting social or behavioral deficiencies.

#### 2.2.2 **Other Recreational Opportunities**

Due to its scenic character and wealth of protected open lands North Salem is a regional destination for outdoor enthusiasts, drawing day hikers, bikers, fishermen, equestrians and hunters from neighboring counties and the state of Connecticut.

Residents of North Salem take advantage of the Town's many parks, lakes, streams and open lands. Additional specialized recreational opportunities are offered in Town as well as in nearby communities.

- **Boating and Fishing**

North Salem's lakes and streams offer opportunity for boating and fishing activities. The ponds off of Baxter Road and in Mountain Lakes Park have bass and panfish. Titicus Reservoir (discussed in Section 2.1.1) is diverse in its fish species, while the Titicus River, which feeds the reservoir, is stocked with trout and is accessible at numerous access points. The East Branch of the Croton River is stocked with trout and is accessible from Route 22. A New York State fishing license is needed for all.

- **Dance**

Dance classes are offered at the Schoolhouse Theater in Croton Falls and upstairs at Union Hall in North Salem. Currently the Schoolhouse offers ballet, tap, jazz, Broadway /character dance. Union Hall offers ballet only.

- **Equestrian Recreation**

As of 2012, there were thirteen (13) commercial horse farms in North Salem offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities, including fox hunting, show jumping, dressage, eventing, trail riding and basic lessons. In addition to these facilities, there are sixty-two (62) parcels of private land with permits for keeping horses and a number of home barns with 1-2 horses for which a permit is not required.

North Salem enjoys some of the most beautiful and extensive bridle trails in the eastern United States. These trails are located primarily on private property and are maintained by the North Salem Bridle Trails Association (NSBTA), a non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of preserving, protecting, developing and maintaining this historic system of bridle trails and promoting equestrian

recreation in North Salem. To access and use the trails, riders must be members of the NSBTA and pay a modest annual membership fee. For more information visit their [website](#).

North Salem is also home to the Golden Bridge Hounds (GBH), one of the oldest fox hunting clubs in the United States. In addition to fox hunting (and all of the horse and hound activities related to the sport), the GBH sponsors hunter paces and annual hunter trials. It also sponsors a Pony Club (GBHPC) for young riders and fox hunting enthusiasts. For more information visit their [website](#).

- **Hunting**

North Salem is well known in the hunting community for its abundant deer and turkeys. As regulated by the NYS DEP, only bow-hunting is allowed in Westchester County due to its population density. Deer hunting in North Salem is mostly on private property, subject to a landowner permission slip which can be picked up at Town Hall. The season extends from October 1 through December 31. The County has recently opened its Mountain Lakes Park property to bowhunters who have a DEP permit (see County [website](#) for details). This change has provoked some controversy as the Park remains open to regular visitors during hunting season.

Turkey hunting is on private property only between May 1 and May 31, and again between October 1 and November 15. Further information can be found on the DEP's [website](#).

- **Gardening**



**North Salem Community Garden**  
Credit: Joan Gabel-Myers

North Salem is known for its great estates, many with spectacular gardens and landscaping. Several gardens have participated in the Garden Conservancy's Open Day's program (see their [website](#)) including Duck Hill, Perrin Garden, Keeler Hill, the Hen and the Hive and Ice Pond Farm, to name a few, which opens participating private gardens around the country to the public on select days during the year.

While ornamental gardening has always been popular, with the trend toward locally grown food and increased interest in organic foods, vegetable and fruit gardening has recently gained popularity in Town. The North Salem Open Land Foundation, in collaboration with the North Salem Central School District, created the North Salem Community Garden at the North Salem High School which provides town residents and members of the school district (which includes students from the hamlets of Purdys and Somers) an opportunity to grow vegetables and flowers organically. The garden has 30 raised beds for the public in addition to several beds reserved for students.

- **Golf**

North Salem is home to two golf courses which provide opportunities for socialization and play. The Pehquenakonck Country Club is a semi-private golf course that has daily adult and youth green fees as well as yearly memberships. The Salem Golf Club is open to members only.

- **Swimming**

In North Salem approximately 12 to 14 percent of homes have private and/or community pools<sup>1</sup>. Private facilities are also open to members of the Lakeside Field Club, which has a pool and allows swimming and boating in Peach Lake. Additional swimming opportunities are available to North Salem residents at the Ridgefield, CT Recreation Center which has an indoor pool, swimming classes and a small lake, and at the Lewisboro Town Park which has a swimming pool complex.

- **Tennis**

Tennis is a popular sport in North Salem, with boys and girls varsity teams at the middle and high school levels. Additionally, tennis lessons for youth of all ages are offered through the Recreation Department in cooperation with the Hardscrabble Club, located in nearby Brewster.

- **Theater**

There are several venues in the North Salem area that offer professional theatre and performing arts. The Hammond Museum offers performances by professional groups. The Schoolhouse Theatre, in Croton Falls, is a non-profit professional regional theatre that offers main stage productions, youth theater programs, workshops, staged readings and film screenings. The Brewster Theatre Company, Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield Theatre Barn and The Palace Theatre – Danbury are just a few other additional theatres in the area.

- **Walking, Jogging, Dog Walking and Biking**

Walking, jogging and biking are popular in North Salem. The Town's diverse lands, beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife make North Salem an outdoor lovers' paradise.

Hiking trails crisscross throughout Town and can be found in Mountain Lakes Park and the various Open Land and Audubon properties. Additionally, many of North Salem's roads, both dirt and paved, are excellent for hiking, walking and jogging. Dirt roads are both scenic and have low vehicular traffic. Paved roads are great

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Assessor's records, approximately 11.8% of the 2,082 homes in North Salem have pools if individual co-op houses are included. If the co-op houses are taken out of consideration (in that they are really just one owner), then approximately 13.7% of all North Salem homes have a private pool.

for walking and all roads offer spectacular scenery and excellent wildlife viewing from deer to turkey and chipmunks to bald eagles. Mills Road in particular is a very popular destination for walkers, runners and cyclists as it offers scenic views of the Titicus Reservoir and is habitat to some wildlife including the hawk and the bald eagle. It provides a 3.5 mile stretch from the Ruth Keeler Library to the end of the Reservoir.

Most parks and preserves in Town permit dogs, as long as they are restrained. At Mountain Lakes Park, dogs are not permitted in picnic areas and must be leashed at all times. The Open Lands on Baxter Road and Turkey Hill Road are favorite sites for dog walking and permit dogs to be off leash weekdays before 10AM and after 4PM.

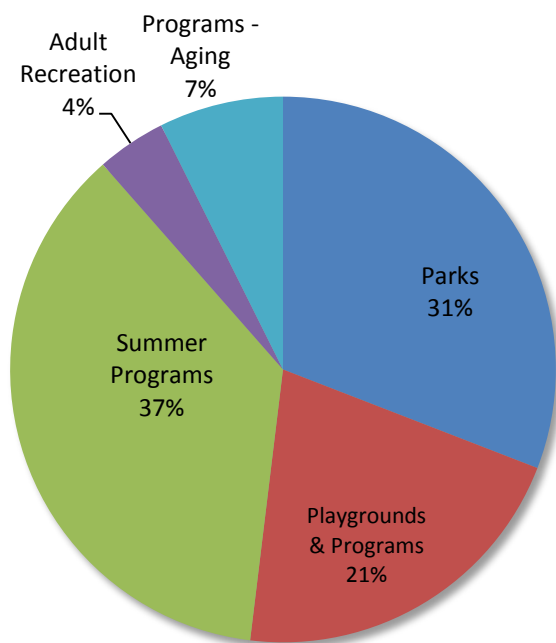
North Salem is a beautiful place to bike and is a destination of bikers from out-of-town. While most roads in Town offer something lovely, the Mills Road/116 loop is one of the most popular routes and is closed to traffic periodically for organized bike rides. These rides provide an opportunity to safely enjoy the scenery on a bike without the hazard of traffic.

- **Yoga and Tai Chi**

Over the past 20 years yoga and Tai Chi have become a popular vehicle for stress reduction, flexibility, strength, and enjoyment. North Salem recreation department offers weekly yoga and tai chi classes to seniors at the Firehouse. Additionally, there are multiple private yoga studios and health clubs nearby that offer various forms of yoga for practitioners of all levels.

## 2.3 Operations & Oversight

**Figure 2.1: Recreation Department Budget Break-down (2013)**



The Town of North Salem Recreation Department has an annual budget of approximately \$490,000 (**Table 2.1**) with a staff of 1 full-time and 1 seasonal employee. Additional part-time seasonal staff is brought on in the summer for the day camp. The department provides more than 20 programs including a summer camp, youth and adult sports and a program for the developmentally disabled. In addition, the department provides a nutrition program for seniors.

**Table 2.1: Department 2013 Budget Summary**

Category	Final 2013 Budget
Parks	\$151,159
Playgrounds & Programs	\$102,982
Summer Programs	\$179,159
Adult Recreation	\$20,082
Programs - Aging	\$36,076
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489,458</b>

Source: Town of North Salem, 2014.

Approximately \$70,000 of the \$151,000 for Parks is from Recreation Department fees for capital improvements. In 2013 the Town replaced the drainage on the ball field in Volunteers Park (approximately \$61,000) and spent approximately \$7,000 on new bleachers.

The North Salem Highway Department maintains all Town parks. The park maintenance facility is located at the Highway Department's facilities (250 June Road) where storage and vehicles are located.

### 3.0 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1 Census Data, Population Forecasts, and Demographic Trends

The Town of North Salem is located in Westchester County, New York. The 2010 total population in the County was 949,113, an increase in population of about 3 percent since 2000. The 2010 total population in the Town of North Salem was 5,104, a decrease in population of approximately 1.3 percent since 2000. Of the total population in 2010, 48 percent was male and 52 percent was female. The median age in the Town was 47.1 in 2010, an increase over 40.1 in 2000. This is an indicator of the aging population of the Town. The largest age cohort in the Town of North Salem is 35 to 64 at nearly 47 percent. The two smallest age cohorts represented in the Town are “85 and over” at approximately 4.7 percent and “under 5” at 4.9 percent.

**Table 3.1: 2010 Population by Age**

Age	Total	Percentage (%)
Under 5	249	4.9
6 – 17	975	19.1
18 – 34	587	11.5
35 – 64	2,380	46.6
65 – 84	674	13.2
85 and over	239	4.7

Source: 2010 U.S. Census.

Approximately 24 percent of the total population is 17 and under, reflecting a decrease of 9.5 percent since 2000. **Table 3.2** below demonstrates the percent decrease/ increase by individual age groups of 17 and under from 2000 to 2010. The largest percentage decrease from 2000 to 2010 is seen in the population group “under age 5,” at a decrease of approximately 35.5 percent. All age groups saw a decrease in population, with the exception of the population group 15 to 17, which saw a 39 percent increase (174 to 242) from 2000 to 2010.

**Table 3.2: Change in 17 and under Age Groups from 2000 to 2010**

Age Group	Percent (%) Change in Youth Population (2000-2010)
Under 5	-35.5
5 – 9	-9.8
10 – 14	-5.3
15 – 17	39.1
<b>17 and under</b>	<b>-9.5</b>

Source: 2000 and 2010 Census.

According to the North Salem Central School District (which includes students from the Towns of Southeast, Somers and Carmel), the School District has seen an overall decrease of 244 students, or 17.3 percent between 2003 and 2013. The most significant losses were noted in the elementary grades. The District enrollment is projected to continue to decrease by 248 students, or 21.3 percent,

by 2023, when compared with 2013 enrollment<sup>1</sup>. The School District attributes the enrollment decline to decreasing births and lower birth ratios, changing resident characteristics and housing factors.

**Table 3.3: Projected North Salem Central School District Enrollment**

		K-5	6 – 8	9 – 12	K - 12
Current	<b>2013</b>	488	306	370	1,164
Projected	<b>2014</b>	472*	319*	372	1,163*
	<b>2015</b>	450	312	364	1,126
	<b>2016</b>	443	275	371	1,089
	<b>2017</b>	415	273	383	1,071
	<b>2018</b>	422	242	384*	1,048
	<b>2019</b>	424	232	361	1,017
	<b>2020</b>	418	210	348	976
	<b>2021</b>	417	218	312	947
	<b>2022</b>	418	219	288	925
	<b>2023</b>	416	212	288	916

\*Denotes peak enrollment during 2014- 2023.

Source: *Long Range Planning Study*, 2013.

While, there has been a notable decrease in the 17 and under population, as indicated from the U.S. Census and the decrease in student enrollment in the School District, there has been a significant increase in the senior population. From 2000 to 2010, the Town of North Salem has seen a 30.5 percent increase in population in the age group 55 and over from 1,269 to 1,656 residents. **Table 3.4** below shows the percent increase by individual age groups of 55 and over from 2000 to 2010. The largest percentage increase from 2000 to 2010 is in the population group 65 to 69, reflecting an increase of approximately 55 percent.

**Table 3.4: Increase in 55 and over Age Groups from 2000 to 2010**

Age Group	Percent (%) Change in Senior Population (2000-2010)
55 – 59	31.1
60 – 64	40.8
65 to 69	55.1
70 to 74	26.8
75 to 79	5.1
80 to 84	5.7
85 and over	27.8

Source: 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census.

The senior population in the Town is expected to continually increase in the coming years. The *2012 Housing the Hudson Valley* report, prepared by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress using projections from the Cornell University Program on Applied Demographics, indicates that the population 65 and over in the area will increase significantly over the next few decades. In Westchester County, the 65 and over population increased by a more than 10 percent from 1990 to 2010. Based on Cornell's projections, the 65 and over population is expected to grow

<sup>1</sup> *North Salem Central School District Long Range Planning Study*, November 2013.



an astounding 28 percent in Westchester County from 2010 to 2030 (see **Table 3.5**).

**Table 3.5: Westchester County, 65 and over Projections**

	U.S. Census Bureau – Ages 65 and over			Cornell Projections – Ages 65 and over		
	1990	2010	% change	2020	2030	% change
<b>Westchester County</b>	126,026	139,122	10.39	154,879	178,376	28.22

Source: *Housing the Hudson* Report, 2012.

The demography of the Town of North Salem indicates a senior population that is anticipated to grow significantly by 2030. Conversely, the youth population has seen an overall decline in population and student enrollment. It is expected that the student enrollment will continue to decrease by an additional 21.3 percent by 2023. This is an important factor when considering the current and future recreational needs of the Town.

## 3.2 Recreation Trends and Issues

### 3.2.1 Changing Town Demographics

A major factor in planning for future Town recreational needs is determining the population that will be using the recreational facilities and programs. Based upon the above demographic analysis for the Town, there are two major demographic shifts that will drive future recreation needs in North Salem: a decreasing school age population, and a growing active senior population.

North Salem Central School District (NSCSD) enrollment is projected to continue to decrease by 248 students, or 21.3 percent, by 2023, when compared with 2013 enrollment, with peak enrollment in the high school expected in 2018<sup>2</sup>. The NSCSD projections<sup>3</sup> assume that the population of the School District area will remain stable with modest turnover in existing housing stock (40 – 70 per year as has been typical over the past three years) and minimal new development bringing younger families into the District. Future kindergarten classes are anticipated to be maintained at the lower levels seen in the past ten years, due to declining birth rates. Additionally, it is anticipated that non-public school enrollment will remain approximately 4 – 7 percent of the District enrollment, as has been witnessed for the past few years.

<sup>2</sup> *North Salem Central School District Long Range Planning Study*, November 2013.

<sup>3</sup> The Cohort Survival Model that was used to forecast the NSCSD enrollment is typically very accurate, particularly for the period closest to the year of the study. Projections for periods further out, beyond 5 years, are less reliable. Major changes in the basic assumptions such as, new housing activity which is significantly higher or lower than expected, significant changes in the level of housing turnover, expansion, consolidation, closing or establishment of new non-public schools, economic conditions that affect employment, finance and housing and major changes in sociological and household characteristics which would impact the number of school children in a household, would impact the projected enrollment and potentially require a revision of the projection.

While at this time it is difficult to determine how accurate the NSCSD projections for 2018 and beyond will be, the following national and local trends indicate that the assumptions are likely to hold true:

- Housing turnover is not expected to dramatically increase in the next five to ten years, particularly as 1) more seniors are choosing to remain in their homes longer and 2) a decline in first time homebuyers age 25-34, due in part to rising student debts and difficulty in finding well-paying jobs, which has contributed to a delay in marriage and the beginning of families for this age cohort.
- Limited new large-scale residential construction is anticipated within the NSCSD area (which includes the Towns of Southeast, Somers and Carmel). The Bridle Side development in North Salem is already accounted for in the projections. Furthermore, the North Salem *2011 Comprehensive Plan* recommends preserving the existing residential density of the Town which would prevent a large increase in the number of residential dwelling units that could be built within the Town in the future.

This anticipated continued decline in student enrollment may have profound impacts on the number and types of youth athletic and recreational programs that the NSCSD and Town of North Salem support in the future.

On the other hand, North Salem is likely to anticipate a significant increase in the 65 and over population in the coming decade as residents choose to age in place. It is important that age-friendly fitness and recreational opportunities be integral to any Town plans for investment in recreational facilities or programs. In a survey conducted in 2008, 87 percent of those 60 years of age and over, wanted to take better care of their physical health. The owners of the new wave of gyms, exercise facilities and wellness centers aimed at people over 50 years are riding the trend, with 25 percent of health club members now over age 55<sup>4</sup>.

### 3.2.2 2009 Town-wide Survey

In July of 2009, as part of the Comprehensive Plan update, the Town of North Salem administered a town-wide survey<sup>5</sup> asking a variety of questions about residents' opinions on Town services, water, transportation, housing and land use, recreation and open space. As there have been no major demographic changes within the Town within the last five years, just a continuation of the general demographic trends discussed above, the basic conclusions of this survey remain valid. In the survey residents were asked to rate twenty-six (26) recreational and cultural opportunities to determine if there are a sufficient number of facilities, too many or if more facilities are needed in the Town. Based upon the results of the survey the top recreational facilities that the Town's residents want more of are: bike and pedestrian paths, pools (outdoor/indoor), walking and hiking trails and music and performing arts facilities (**Table 3.6**).

<sup>4</sup> "8 Trends that Will Define Active Aging in 2008". International Council on Active Aging, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> 1,812 surveys were mailed to property owners, 443 were returned (25%), representing 1,078 people.

**Table 3.6: Top 5 Recreational Opportunities Voted “Need More”**

	Need More	Sufficient	Too Many
Bike/Pedestrian Paths	43%	53%	4%
Outdoor Pool	41%	56%	3%
Indoor Pool	37%	59%	4%
Walking & Hiking Trails	24%	72%	4%
Music & Performing Arts Facilities	20%	77%	3%

Source: North Salem 2009 Town-wide Survey, extrapolated by Ferrandino & Associates Inc., June 2014.

The survey also asked residents to rank the top three new facilities they would likely support and the top three new facilities they would be most likely not to support. The results of that ranking can be found in **Table 3.7** below. The top five recreational opportunities that North Salem residents voted that they “need more” of are ranked in the top 10 for new facilities that residents “would support”.

Ranked #1 in facilities that the Town would support, 43 percent of respondents felt that North Salem “needs more” bicycle and pedestrian paths while 53 percent felt that there are “sufficient” facilities and 4 percent feel that there are “too many” facilities already. This indicates that there is broad support for additional bicycle and pedestrian paths in the Town. Ranked #5, 24 percent of respondents felt that North Salem “needs more” walking and hiking trails while 72 percent felt that there were “sufficient” facilities and 4 percent felt that there are “too many” facilities, indicating that there is some support for more walking and hiking trails in Town (see **Appendix A** for full survey results on recreational questions).

Indoor and outdoor pools are both in the top ten for new facilities that residents “would support” (#3 and #2 respectively) and also in the top ten for “would not support” (#7 and #10 respectively), with 37 percent and 41 percent of respondents voting that the Town “needs more” swimming facilities, indicating that there is broad support for this sort of new facility in Town. Likewise, artificial turf fields are included in the top ten list for facilities Town residents “would support” (#8) and “would not support” (#3), with only 11 percent of respondents indicating that the Town “needs more” artificial turf fields, while 82 percent felt that there were “sufficient” fields and 8 percent thought there were already “too many” artificial turf fields.

Music and performing arts facilities were also voted as one of the top five recreational opportunities that the Town “needs more” of and is included on the top ten list (#4) for support for new facilities. Additionally, visual arts facilities also made the top ten list for new facilities the Town “would support”, with 17 percent of respondents indicating that the Town “needs more” of these facilities.

Of note, equestrian centers and trails both made the top ten for new facilities Town residents “would not support” (#2 and #4 respectively); 18 percent and 15 percent of respondents respectively felt that the Town already has “too many” of these facilities. This would seem to indicate that there is not broad Town-wide support for new facilities of this type.

**Table 3.7: Ranking of Support for New Recreational Facilities**

Rank	New Facilities You Would Support	New Facilities You Would Not Support
1	Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths	Skateboard Parks
2	Outdoor Swimming Pools	Equestrian Centers
3	Indoor Swimming Pools	Artificial Turf Fields
4	Music & Performing Arts Facilities	Equestrian Trails
5	Walking & Hiking Trails	Golf Courses
6	Parks for Walking Pets	Ice Rink
7	Visual Arts Facilities	Indoor Swimming Pools
8	Artificial Turf Fields	Campgrounds
9	Tennis Courts	Gymnasiums
10	Cross Country Ski Trails	Outdoor Swimming Pools

Source: North Salem 2009 Town-wide Survey, extrapolated by Ferrandino & Associates Inc., June 2014.

\*Ranking is based upon combined total of votes for first, second and third choices.

Although not included as an option in the 2009 Survey, the Recreation Department has indicated that there has been some recent interest expressed in providing paddle tennis courts in one of the Town's parks.

### 3.3 Participation Rates and Use Patterns

According to data compiled by the Town of North Salem Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee approximately 931 participants<sup>6</sup> were served by the various recreation opportunities provided by the Town and 967<sup>7</sup> youth participated in various independent athletic/recreation organizations. Of which over half of all participants and volunteers/coaches were North Salem Residents (see Appendix B for full break down). School, Town and independent teams use fields and facilities owned and managed by the school district and Town. While participation in the various programs fluctuates from year to year the data provided give a general idea of the population served and the most popular programs.

Just under 90 percent of those served were youth (**Table 3.8**). Approximately six percent of participants were involved in men's sports. The final six percent of those served are seniors, with more than half of participants involved in the various North Salem Senior Club meetings, trips and luncheons.

<sup>6</sup> Data from 2013. This total number does not account for double-counted participants who are involved in multiple activities throughout the year. Youth numbers include the 300 campers involved in the North Salem Summer Camp, of which approximately 60% are out of town/state residents.

<sup>7</sup> Data from 2014. This total number does not account for double-counted participants who are involved in multiple activities throughout the year. Approximately half of all participants are Town residents.

**Table 3.8: Participation in Recreation Activities by Age**

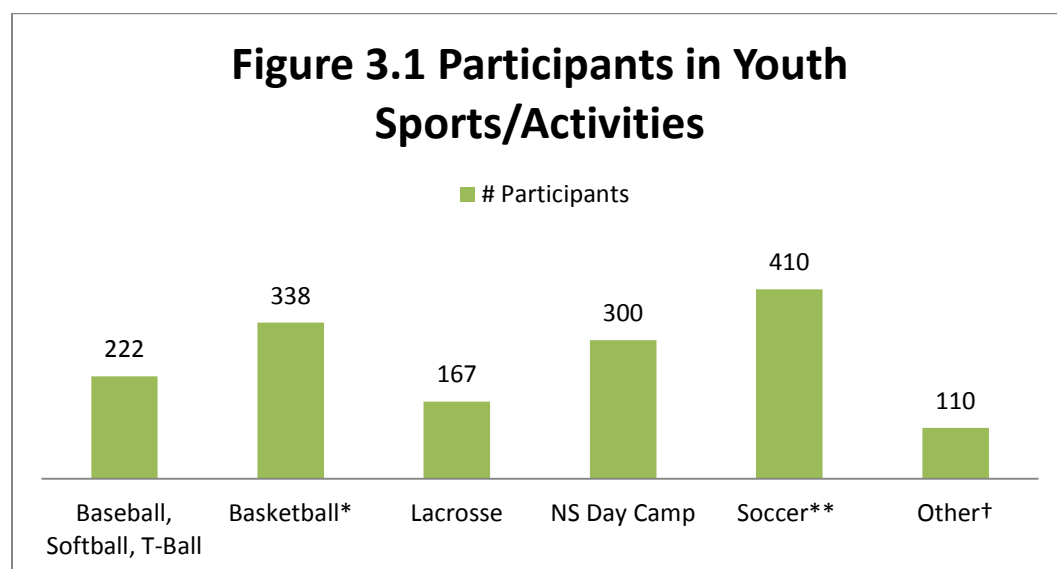
	Participants (#)	Percentage
Youth*	1,697	89%
Adults	95	5%
Seniors	106	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Extrapolated by Ferrandino & Associates Inc., October 2014.

\*Includes data from independent youth sports organizations (2014) and Recreation Department (2013) only.

### 3.3.1 Youth Participation

Youth athletic and recreation programs are by far the most popular opportunities offered by in Town. As seen in **Figure 3.1<sup>8</sup>**, soccer is the most popular youth sport/activity with 410 youth (27 percent) involved. Basketball with 338 youth (22 percent) and the North Salem Day Camp with 300 youth (19 percent) are the next most popular sports/activities followed by baseball, softball and T-ball with 222 youth (14 percent) and lacrosse 167 youth (11 percent). See Appendix B for full break-down by sport/activity.



Source: Extrapolated by Ferrandino & Associates Inc., October 2014. Data from independent youth sports organizations only unless noted.

\*North Salem Youth Basket Ball League and Recreation Department camps.

\*\* North Salem Soccer Club and Recreation Department camps.

† North Salem Recreation Department: babysitting, cheerleading, skiing/snowboarding, tennis, theatre arts workshop.

The remaining 7 percent of participants are involved in the Recreation Department's "Other" activities which include baby-sitting, cheerleading, skiing/snowboarding, tennis and theatre arts workshop programs.

In addition to the youth programs offered by the Recreation Department and independent athletic organizations, the North Salem Central School District

<sup>8</sup> Does not reflect athletics run through the North Salem Central School District.

(NSCSD) offers students opportunities to participate in seventeen (17) sports, many with multiple teams at different levels.

Youth programs offered in Town are open to all students of the North Salem School District, including those students who live outside the Town. According to the NSCSD only 58.6 percent of students reside within the Town (which includes the Town of North Salem and the hamlets of Purdys and Croton Falls), 23.2 percent reside in the Town of Southeast, 14.6 percent reside in the Town of Somers and 3.4 percent reside in the Town of Carmel. Participation rates for independent athletic organizations are similar (see **Appendix B** for a breakdown by sport and Town of origin). The additional “out of Town” participants in the North Salem Recreational Department’s programs provide a substantial part of the volunteer work and the critical mass that allows the programs to thrive. However, they also impose a burden on the Town’s recreational facilities and programs that are paid for by the Town’s taxes.

### **3.3.2 Adult Participation**

According to the North Salem Recreation Department there is minimal interest in athletic programs for adults. The Recreation Department runs a men’s “over 40” basketball program which draws approximately 15 players and a men’s soccer program (fall/spring) which draws approximately 25 players. In the past there was also a men’s summer lacrosse program, which was cut due to lack of interest. The Ruth Keeler Memorial Library sponsors several adult programs including, the history and biography book club (co-sponsored by the Recreation Department), monthly book discussion groups, a “Conversations with Local Gardeners” program, a monthly writers’ workshop and a “Night Time Arts” program. Approximately 2,000 adult patrons utilize the library’s programs annually.

The North Salem Recreation Department and the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library are both constantly on the lookout for new programs to offer. The Recreation Department periodically offers new programs, such as “yoga stretches for an improved golf game” and various dance/exercise classes which often do not generate enough interest to run.

### **3.3.3 Senior Participation**

The North Salem Senior Citizen Club’s meetings, trips and luncheons are the most popular program that the Recreation Department offers for seniors. Approximately 35 seniors typically participate in the meetings and trips, with approximately 50 seniors typically attending the Club’s luncheons. Senior Citizen Chair Yoga, a program offered by the Recreation Department, typically draws four to five seniors per class. The Senior Citizen Book Club, offered through the library, has approximately 8 participants.

Based on anecdotal data from the Recreation Department, there has been a decline in senior citizen interest and participation in programs in recent years. This decline could be due to the changing demographics of “senior citizens”, as more active and healthy seniors continue to work and participate in other organizations and programs not targeted to seniors. However, given the trends that people are living longer and many seniors are choosing to remain in their



homes, certain programs may become more popular again as the “baby-boomer” generation ages.

### 3.4 Standards of Service

The Town of North Salem currently has almost 9,130 acres of parkland, open space, undeveloped and agricultural lands providing approximately 1.8 acres per resident, which is significantly higher than the national average. However, given the high rates of participation in youth sports and the fact that the vast majority of this recreational land is in the form of passive open space, there is currently an inadequate amount of active recreational lands within the Town.

The Town’s two active recreation areas, Joe Bohrdrum Park and Volunteers Park, which provides three (3) baseball/softball fields and three (2) soccer/lacrosse fields, are both under 20 acres. The Baumler Robson Memorial Field at the Croton Falls firehouse has one (1) Little League field. The North Salem Central School District supplies an additional four and a half (4.5) soccer/lacrosse fields (one field is only 25 yards by 50 yards), a field hockey field, and three (3) softball/baseball fields at Purdys Field, Pequenaconck Elementary School and the Middle/High School. All of these facilities are shared among the Town’s Recreation programs, the NSCSD teams and independent athletic organizations. Given the high rates of participation, with most youth involved in multiple sports year round, and the increased amount of playing and practice time per sport over the past decade or so, the athletic fields in town are all utilized year round (weather permitting) with little or no time to “rest”. The lack of down time for the fields to rest and recuperate has led, in some cases, to poor field conditions which has forced several community teams to practice at facilities in neighboring communities.

### 3.5 Conclusions

Based upon the demographic trends, the results of the 2009 Town Survey and the standards of service, the following conclusions about the recreational needs for the Town of North Salem can be drawn:

- Currently North Salem/NSCSD athletic field space is at capacity, with some middle/high school sports teams training at facilities in neighboring communities due to bad weather and poor field conditions. Additional demand may be placed on the current facilities until peak high school enrollment in 2018, after which demand is expected to diminish. A new field (either grass or turf) could potentially help to relieve some of this pressure and allow for a healthier utilization of the fields.
- Based on survey results, there is mixed support for a turf field in town. While a turf field is becoming a basic standard for a town’s youth athletic program, the cost of building such a field is often prohibitive.
- Active seniors a quickly growing demographic group nationwide, including in North Salem, are interested in staying involved and in shape. They are often interested in recreational activities such as walking, biking, paddle tennis, etc. According to the results of the 2009 Town-wide Survey, additional walking and biking paths were the number one facility that the Town’s residents were interested in supporting. Anecdotal information



from the Town Recreation Committee suggests that most residents are satisfied with the amount of walking and hiking trails in Town, but would like to see more biking facilities. The Recreation Committee would endorse adding bike lanes to the Town's roads; however, it recognizes that jurisdictional and financial considerations place it under the purview of the County and State.

- Numerous adult and senior programs are offered through the North Salem Recreation Department, but participation by these demographic groups remains low. However, higher participation rates for senior programs, and additional interest in new programs may materialize in the next few years, as residents choose to "age in place".
- Anecdotal information from the Town Recreation Committee suggests that a lack of general education about the numerous programs and recreational facilities in Town might be one of the barriers to participation in adult and senior programs. The next update of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which should coincide with the next revision of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, should include a new survey which asks specific questions about the types of new recreation facilities and programs residents want to see, particularly for seniors.

## 4.0 GOALS & OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

The *2011 Comprehensive Plan* includes the following objectives relating to recreation and open space.

### *Enhance Recreational Facilities*

- Preserve Town-owned parks and consider instituting a program of capital infrastructure maintenance for recreational facilities
- Explore the feasibility of providing a swimming pool and support facilities at Mountain Lakes Park that is run by the Town under a license agreement with the County of Westchester
- Update the 1994 Town Recreation Master Plan

The *2009 Open Space Report*, which was included as an appendix to the *2011 Comprehensive Plan*, also included the following objectives related to open space.

### *Enhance Existing Open Space Areas*

- Discuss improvements to Mountain Lakes Camp with Westchester County.
- Provide walking trails on preserved parcels.
- Educate residents about existing open space areas and recreation possibilities.
- Develop parking and better public access to trails and open space.
- Work with Department of Parks and Recreation to enhance existing recreation areas.

In the years since the *2009 Open Space Report* and *2011 Comprehensive Plan* were adopted, the Town has taken concrete steps toward achieving several of these objectives, particularly with respect to the Mountain Lakes Camp which is discussed further in section 6.0 of this Plan.

Based upon the above objectives, the Inventory of existing recreation facilities and programs in Section 2.0 of this Plan and the Needs Assessment in Section 3.0, the following goals and objectives for the future park and recreation needs of the Town have been identified:

## 4.1 Goals

A goal is the long-term “end toward which an effort is directed”, which may not be strictly measurable or tangible. There are two major goals identified in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, with accompanying objectives and recommendations in Section 4.2 which lay out intermediate steps to work toward these goals.

### **2011 North Salem Comprehensive Plan:**

#### *Vision for North Salem*

“The Town seeks to maintain and enhance its rural residential character and identity.”

#### *Guiding Principle*

Expand open space and recreational opportunities for all residents.

**Goal 1:** *Maintain and preserve existing parks and recreational facilities and opportunities for future generations.*

The Town of North Salem already has significantly more park and open space per capita than the national average, with more than 60 percent of the Town's land preserved as either park or open space. The Town needs to focus on maintaining them to the high standards established locally.

**Goal 2:** *Selectively expand parks and open space land to link existing facilities and provide additional recreational opportunities for all residents.*

"[T]he primary goal of the Town's ongoing planning and development review is – in all areas of Town – to continue to preserve and protect the integrity of existing open space areas and to encourage the preservation of additional, desirable open lands" (2011 *Comprehensive Plan*). Extensive walking and hiking trails exist in many of the Town's parks and preserved open spaces; however many of these parcels are isolated. Any plans to expand the Town's existing park and open space facilities should focus on properties that either abut existing parcels or link parcels already preserved. Consideration should be given to acquiring active and/or passive recreation area(s) in Croton Falls. The need for additional active recreation space should be considered in light of the Town's demographic trends.

## 4.2 Objectives

An objective is a short to mid-term purpose or target which recommendations or actions are intended to attain or accomplish. The four main objectives identified in this Plan support the attainment of the goals identified above:

- *Maintain Town-owned parks and consider instituting a capital infrastructure program for maintenance of recreational facilities.*
- *Explore the feasibility of providing swimming and event facilities at the soon to be Town owned Hemlock Lake Camp in Mountain Lakes Park<sup>1</sup>.*
- *Educate residents about existing park and recreation opportunities in Town and surrounding area.*
- *Determine what additional facilities or programs, if any, may be needed in the future, given the Town's demographic trends.*

<sup>1</sup> Negotiations between the Town of North Salem and Westchester County have yielded an agreement, soon to be finalized, in which the County will transfer the 20 acre portion, including Hemlock Lake Camp, to the Town.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the Goals and Objectives identified in Section 5.0 of this Plan, the following recommendations have been formulated. Short to medium-term recommendations are anticipated to be completed within one (1) to five (5) years following adoption of the Plan with long-term recommendations anticipated to be completed within six (6) to ten (10) years following adoption.

### 5.1 Short to Medium-Term Recommendations

- *Institute a Capital Infrastructure Plan for parks and recreation facility improvements and identify funding sources.*

A Capital Infrastructure or Improvement Plan (CIP) will assist the Town in making choices about which parks and recreational capital projects should be implemented, how they should be financed and when. Discussed more fully in the *2011 Comprehensive Plan* (Section 10.0), several of the initial steps of the capital planning process are being undertaken as part of this Plan. It is recommended that the Town prepare a financial forecast to determine what funding will be available over the next three to five years in order to more efficiently prioritize and implement capital improvements to the existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities and programs. A separate CIP should be undertaken for the renovation of the Hemlock Lakes Camp at Mountain Lakes Park.

- *Clarify park dedication and recreation requirements in Town zoning regulations.*

As part of its zoning regulations, the Town of North Salem mandates that new sub-divisions either dedicate at least ten percent of their property for recreation use or pay a fee-in-lieu of the recreation area. The resulting recreation areas created as part of the sub-division can be privately or Town owned and maintained.

“With regard to recreation set asides and fees, there are currently differences which must be reconciled among the Town regulations Chapter 157 (Open Space), Chapter 200 (Subdivision of Land) and Chapter A267 (Site Plan Rules and Regulations) for RMF-4 and RMF-6 zones” (*2011 Comprehensive Plan*). As written, Chapter 157 is interpreted that if a development does not have space for an on-site park and instead pays a fee-in-lieu, that the resulting recreation area is “primarily, but not exclusively,” for the benefit of the residents of the development subject to the fee. However, this recreational requirement was intended to be a benefit for the general public as it lessens the burden on the Town’s recreational facilities and programs and this should be clarified in Town law. While this objective was originally included in the *2011 Comprehensive Plan*, it has not yet been accomplished and should be undertaken by the Town Board when the opportunity arises.

- *Update appropriate fees-in-lieu of setting aside recreation area(s).*

An alternative to recreation land dedication, fee-in-lieu payments are recommended in the Town’s code. Applicants for development pay a fee

in lieu of dedicating parkland within the development in order to meet "neighborhood park, playground or recreation purposes, including the acquisition of property," which lessen the burden from the new development on the Town's existing facilities or programs. Last examined in the *2009 Assessment of Fees in Lieu of Parkland Report*<sup>2</sup>, the Town currently charges \$10,000 per dwelling unit for a multifamily development or other form of residential development (exempting the first unit in the development).

The 2009 report concludes that typically, wealthy communities with higher land values and more dense development – e.g., the Village of Irvington – assess higher fees for their lots than communities with more room to grow like Lewisboro and Pound Ridge. In a review of the current fees in lieu of recreation land (see **Appendix C**), the typical range in Westchester County is anywhere from \$7,500/lot to \$15,000/lot.

The Towns of Lewisboro and Pound Ridge, which are similarly affluent and rural in character to North Salem, currently charge \$10,000 per lot/unit (up from \$7,500 in 2005) and \$12,000/lot/unit (up from \$7,500 in 2005) respectively.

Based upon the above review, it is recommended that the Town of North Salem consider raising its fee in lieu of recreation from \$10,000 to \$12,000 per dwelling unit. It is also recommended that this fee be re-evaluated periodically, on an annual or bi-annual basis, to reflect changing land costs.

- *Explore feasibility of renovating the Hemlock Lake Camp and pool at Mountain Lakes Park.*

See Section 6.0 of this plan for more information on recommendations for renovation of the Hemlock Lake Camp.

- *Coordinate communications and outreach efforts across all recreation service providers.*

The Department of Recreation advertises its programs through a variety of print and online media including:

- The Town's web site which has some information on certain re-occurring youth and adult sports programs and the Mountain Lakes Day Camp;
- The Town's bi-annual newsletter which is sent to all residents and posted on the Town's web site;
- Email blasts from the Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and the North Salem School District which contain information about certain programs that would be relevant to their constituents.

The Recreation Department should establish and manage its own email list that includes all interested residents and school district members, including the expanding active senior population without children in the school system. A bi-weekly or monthly email with up-coming recreational

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<sup>2</sup> Prepared by Ferrandino & Associates Inc., 2009.



opportunities/events could be sent via the Department's list to potentially increase participation in undersubscribed programs. Coordination among all recreation service providers (i.e. the Recreation Department, Ruth Keeler Memorial Library and North Salem School District), should continue to cross advertise programs and maximize the potential pool of participants.

- *Increase utility of Town web site.*

Currently, the Town's web site has minimal information on certain re-occurring youth and adult sports programs and the Mountain Lakes Day Camp and a link to the current Town newsletter, all of which direct residents to call the Recreation Department directly for more information. In an increasingly digital world, this extra step of calling for more information, when the Department is open during the working day, likely inhibits certain residents from participating. The expanded utility of the Town's web site, which could include additional information on programs and events, links to forms for program sign-up and online-payment, etc. will help to remove barriers to participation and potentially increase revenues for programs.

- *Consider adding another athletic field (grass or turf) at Joe Bohrdrum Park or elsewhere in Town.*

A new field (either grass or turf), or the conversion of an existing field to turf, could potentially help to relieve some of the pressure on the existing fields in town and allow the fields time to "rest" and recuperate. Any consideration of a new field (either grass or turf) should take into account the long term assessment of needs for the North Salem Central School District. While any new field would likely be shared by Town, NSCSD and

The screenshot shows the official website of the Town of North Salem, New York. The header features the town's name in a script font over a background image of trees. A navigation bar includes links for Home, Supervisor, Town Clerk, Boards, Departments, Police, Highway, Town Links, and Emergencies. The main content area is titled "Recreation Department > Park Information" and provides details about the town's parks. A sidebar on the left lists various recreational programs. The footer includes the town's name and the year 2009.

*Town of North Salem, New York*

Home Supervisor Town Clerk Boards Departments Police Highway Town Links Emergencies

**Recreation Department > Park Information**

270 Titicus Road  
North Salem, NY 10560  
Ph. 914-669-5665 Fax 914-669-8460

Home North Salem has two town parks - Joe Bohrdrum and Volunteers Park.

- Joe Bohrdrum is located at the top of Sunset Drive, accessible from Daniel Road off Hardscrabble Road, or Oak Ridge Road off Titicus Road. It has 2 tennis courts, a regulation size soccer field, 2 baseball fields, a children's playground, basketball court and a picnic area.
- Volunteers Park is located on June Road just north of the High School. It has a regulation soccer field and baseball field, a children's playground and a basketball court.

Park use is regulated by the Town Board and information about it may be found in the Town Code. Both parks are available to town organizations and residents on a reserve basis. If your organization wishes to reserve either park for a specific date contact the Recreation Department for instructions on obtaining a use permit.

The Town of North Salem, New York | Rebecca Gessler © 2009

independent athletic teams, the need for such a field would be dependent on the enrollment in the NSCSD which encompasses students who live outside the Town of North Salem.

Ideally any new field should be a partnership between the Town of North Salem and the North Salem Central School District. For example, the Town could provide the space for the field while the NSCSD, which has a wider tax base including all the District residents who would potentially utilize the field, could provide the funding for the construction of the field. Maintenance of the field could also be split, depending on the season and the users.

The Town has indicated that there is space at Joe Bohrdrum Park for another athletic field. Access to the field, additional parking spaces, drainage and other issues should be taken into account during any consideration of this space for a new field. While a turf field is typically two to three times more expensive to install than a traditional grass field, it generally requires less maintenance and permits harder use of the surface, especially during inclement weather. The costs (including maintenance) and benefits of a turf field should be explored more fully by the Town and NSCSD to determine if it makes sense to make such an investment.

- *Expand opportunities for biking.*

North Salem, with its scenic roads, is a popular destination for weekend bicyclists many of whom travel 30-40 miles in the course of their ride. Routes 121, 22 and Mills Road/116 are particularly popular and are even included on the Westchester County Trail and Bike Route System. While popular, these routes can be dangerous as they are very narrow and are considered “shared roadways” which do not have shoulders or bike lanes.

According to input on the 2009 Town Survey, 43 percent of respondents want additional biking and pedestrian opportunities in the Town. While ideally off-road trails, protected bike lanes and sidewalks along the Town’s scenic roads would be constructed for bikers and pedestrians, many of the popular routes are on State or County roads which are too narrow to widen without destroying the rural character of the road which is the essence of their appeal. Better signage that indicates that the most popular biking routes are “shared” roads would help to improve safety on the road by alerting drivers to the possibility of bikers. Signage could take the form of road signs or pavement markings. Additionally, it is recommended that the Town allow a traffic free morning on Mills Road and/or Mills Road/116 on a semi-annual basis in the spring and fall and invite joggers and walkers to join.

For those bikers, especially children, who could use additional paths not on shared roadways, there have been discussions with the Town Highway Department about the feasibility of constructing a new bike path around Joe Bohrdrum Park that would loop around the outside of the baseball fields, past the far basketball courts and around the soccer field. Additionally, this path could be designed to be ADA accessible to provide recreation options for a population that isn’t currently served by the Town’s existing roads and trails.

- *Form a committee to explore the enhancement of senior recreation and social programs.*

Active seniors a fast growing demographic group nationwide, including in North Salem, are interested in staying involved and in shape. They are often interested in recreational activities such as walking, biking, paddle tennis, etc. While numerous senior programs are offered through the North Salem Recreation Department, participation by this demographic group remains low. However, higher participation rates for senior programs and additional interest in new programs may materialize in the next few years, as older residents choose to remain in their homes.

Given the Town of North Salem's modest population, it is recommended that any senior recreation and social programs should consider including a larger geographic area in order to maximize economies of scale and take advantage of services that are offered to seniors outside the Town's borders. The Town's senior programs already coordinate with several northern Westchester towns as part of the Somers-North Salem-Lewisboro Nutritional Program which would be a natural geographical area to consider when considering a new program. The Westchester County Office of Senior Programs and Services would also be a natural partner and could provide guidance and support for the establishment of a new senior recreation and social programs.

To enhance the Town's senior recreation and social programs it is recommended that the following initial steps be taken:

1. Establish a working group consisting of the recreation committee, local residents and consider coordinating with existing senior centric organizations, to lead the process.
2. Define a geographical area to serve (likely including several additional towns in Northern Westchester or beyond).
3. Perform a community needs-assessment survey of local seniors.
4. Identify potential strategic partnerships with existing non-profits.

## 5.2 Long Term Recommendations

- *Explore feasibility of creating a Town-wide trail system linking existing parks and open space available to all users.*

There are existing bridle trails, open exclusively to members of the North Salem Bridle Trails Association (NSBTA), which link many of the Town's preserved open space parcels across privately owned properties. Town residents would benefit from a trail system that could link up different recreational areas. Trails would provide local recreational space for residents who would like to walk, ride a bicycle or ride a horse. As opportunities arise, the Town should consider obtaining access to the properties that link existing parks and open space lands for all residents.

- *Explore feasibility of obtaining property for a community park.*

The Town should explore the feasibility of acquiring property (30+ acres) for a community park that is located in the center of town with excellent road access that would be ideal for active recreation use and potentially a cultural and/or senior center.

### 5.3 Maintenance & Improvements to Existing Facilities

One of the major goals identified in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to “maintain and preserve existing parks and recreational facilities and opportunities for future generations”. As was recommended in Section 5.1 above, the Town should institute a Capital Infrastructure Plan (CIP) for parks and recreation facility improvements. **Table 5.2** below, with recommended improvements compiled from the Committee’s notes and in-person tours of the sites, begins the process of prioritizing the various capital improvements to Volunteers Park and Joe Bohrdrum Park and provides order of magnitude costs<sup>3</sup> for their implementation. Based upon the identified improvements and their associated costs the Town can then prepare a financial forecast to determine what funding will be available over the next three to five years in order to more efficiently prioritize and implement capital improvements. Based upon the CIP plan the Town could then create an ongoing field maintenance schedule for all town fields and parks.

Several of the short and medium term items listed below could potentially be undertaken by local volunteers with the only costs associated with materials needed. Similarly, playground materials and equipment could be installed by volunteers, with costs of the ground cover and equipment dependent on the materials chosen and shipping costs. The longer term items, such as a new field at Joe Bohrdrum Park or turf at Volunteers Park, would likely require professional help in the engineering and installation of the project which accounts in part for their much higher costs.

<sup>3</sup> All costs are generic and based upon a review of multiple similar projects. The costs of the smaller tasks includes a range of costs that on the low end include just the cost of materials and equipment and on the higher end include the costs of labor. Larger tasks such as installing a turf field typically require detailed plans which should be prepared by professionals.

**Table 5.2 Recommended Improvements to Volunteers & Joe Bohrdrum Parks**

<b>Volunteers Park</b>		<b>Cost (Order of Magnitude)</b>	<b>Joe Bohrdrum Park</b>		<b>Cost (Order of Magnitude)</b>
<b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b>	• Replace playground fence with “see through” alternative.	• \$15,000 - \$30,000	• Remove graffiti from storage shed.		• \$100 - \$1,000
	• Resurface, replace nets and repaint lines on basketball court.	• \$5,000 - \$10,000	• Fix playground picnic tables.		• \$100 - \$1,000
	• Properly maintain the flag pole.	• \$100 - \$1,000	• Re-grade parking lot.		• \$1,000 - \$5,000
	• Determine if drainage system should be installed for soccer/lacrosse field.	• \$50,000 – \$75,000	• Pave basketball court and install new nets on baskets.		• \$5,000 - \$10,000
<b>Medium to Long Term (3-10 years)</b>	• Add seating in the soccer/lacrosse field so there is adequate seating for spectators.	• \$2,000 - \$10,000	• Install more seating for soccer and baseball fields.		• \$2,000 - \$10,000
	• Improve the 8 foot fencing in order to prevent soccer/lacrosse balls from being kicked/thrown out of the field and add higher fences or netting behind each goal.	• \$15,000 - \$25,000	• Consider replacing wood chips with synthetic material, and adding one or two more pieces of equipment in playground.		• \$10,000 - \$50,000
	• Properly curb the walkway at the entrance to the field and near the playground to reduce erosion and mud infiltration.	• \$2,000 - \$10,000	• Consider new field behind current soccer/lacrosse field (grass or turf).		• \$500,000 - \$750,000 for grass or \$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000 for turf
	• Replant grass as needed.	• \$500 - \$800/ field	• Consider installing paddle tennis courts.		• \$100,00-\$200,000 (\$50, 000 each)
	• Paint comfort station, replace doors, wood trim, signage and paving stones in front.	• \$500 - \$5,000			
	• Consider lights for fields.	• \$150,000 – \$350,000			

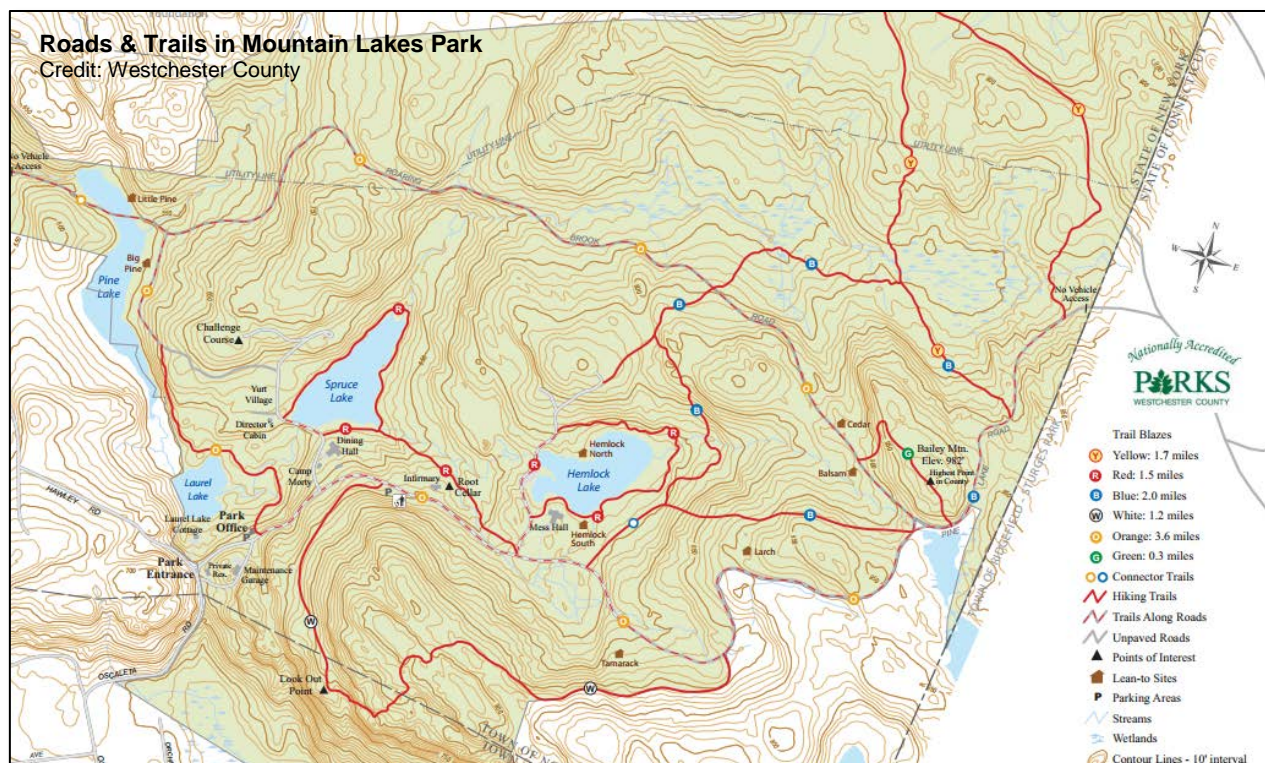


## 6.0 HEMLOCK LAKE CAMP AT MOUNTAIN LAKES PARK

*Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park*, commonly known as Mountain Lakes Park, is in the southern part of North Salem and covers almost 1,000 acres in North Salem and another 80 acres in the Town of Lewisboro. Owned by Westchester County, the park is characterized by a rugged landscape and native hardwood forest with 8.4 miles of trails. The park has five lakes and a spectacular overlook which makes for breathtaking hiking destinations. The park also contains Bailey Mountain which, at 982 feet above sea level, is the highest point in the County. Open year round, the park offers opportunities for camping, fishing, ice skating, hiking, nature exploration, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, and picnicking.

Mountain Lakes Park was purchased in 1961 and by the mid-1960s two camps were built on the property at Hemlock Lake and Spruce Lake. These camps were operated through the 1960s and early 1970s by the County as overnight camps. Each 'camp' consisted of many outbuildings including sleeping cabins and a mess hall. The camp on Spruce Lake used the lake for swimming, while the camp on Hemlock Lake used an 180,000 gallon pool for the camp swimming. Both camps fell into disrepair through the 1980s and 1990s.

The Town operated a summer camp prior to 1992 at the North Salem Middle School. It was felt by the Town Board at the time that with the abundant open land in North Salem there might be a more appropriate place to have summer camp. In the early 1990s the Town of North Salem petitioned the County to use one of the camps, the one at Hemlock Lake, for its summer day camp program. The County approved the use of the camp at a set cost per camper per day. The agreements with the County were controlled over the years by multiple IMAs (Inter-Municipal Agreements).





## North Salem Day Camp at Hemlock Lake



The Recreation Department organizes and runs the annual North Salem Day Camp which is held in a 20 acre section of Mountain Lakes Park bordering Hemlock Lake. The camp program serves approximately 300 campers entering pre-K through 7th grade during a five week session each summer.

The Town's Mountain Lakes facility has a wonderful outdoor area with a lake, cabins, ball field, swimming pool and out buildings. Typical camp activities include sports, art, music, karate, gymnastics, canoeing, kayaking, outdoor skills, nature, games and dance. Special events such as Pizza Day, Cupcake Day, Ice Cream Sundae Day and Barbeque Day are held periodically throughout the five week program.



Images (top left to bottom right): Campers learn about wildlife (credit: Pat Sallstrom); Canoeing on Hemlock Lake (credit: Pat Sallstrom); Archery practice (credit: Janice D'Erasmus); Circus Day at camp (credit: Pat Sallstrom); Swimming in the pool at Hemlock Lake Camp (credit: Janice D'Erasmus).



The Town has continued to run its nine week summer day camp program with an average attendance of about 300 children, at Hemlock Lake 'camp' since 1992. The Town typically hires about one hundred teenagers and some adults to manage the summer program, bringing needed jobs into the Town for this demographic. The program is self-sustaining, with the program fees paying for all of the costs to run the camp.

The *2011 Comprehensive Plan* and the *2009 Open Space Report*, which was included as an appendix to the Plan, included the following objectives in relation to Hemlock Camp:

- Explore the feasibility of providing a swimming pool and support facilities at Mountain Lakes Park that is run by the Town under a license agreement with the County of Westchester
- Discuss improvements to Mountain Lakes Camp with Westchester County.

In 2012 the Town of North Salem opened discussions with the County for a more permanent arrangement on the use of Hemlock Lake property. The Town expressed its interest in taking ownership of the 20 acre Hemlock Lake section for a couple of reasons:

1. The Town does not own the property and the many improvements that are needed in the 20 acre Hemlock Lake section cannot be done with the available cash set aside for the camp's annual maintenance. Long-term bonding for improvements, on property not owned by the Town, is not a feasible option for funding the much needed improvements.
2. The Town would like to expand its current use of the property, over time, to allow use by non-summer camp users.

## 6.1 Existing Conditions

Hemlock Lake Camp was originally constructed by the County in the 1960s. The mess hall, cabins and other structures on the property have “good bones”, having been framed using redwood, but are generally in poor repair at this time. The mess hall, which overlooks Hemlock Lake, is used by the day camp but many of the windows are missing glass or screens and the kitchen is no longer functional. Some of the cabins and bathrooms are unused by the day camp and are in very poor condition. The nurse's station is in decent repair as it is by the summer camp and maintained annually.

Hemlock Lake is used by the summer camp for canoeing and boating, but lacks a beach area for swimmers. The southwest portion of the Lake is infested with phragmites, an invasive species.

The camp also has a 180,000 gallon in-ground aluminum pool, which requires minimal annual maintenance. Adjacent to the pool is a paved area that doubles as a basketball court and parking lot. Beyond the paved area is a small level field which is used by the camp for archery and other activities.

Access to the Camp is a major issue as the road up to the property, depicted in the park map on the previous page, is only 1.5 lanes wide which necessitates one way traffic for pick-up and drop-off during the Town's summer camp. Additionally, the bridge on the road that runs along the eastern side of the



summer camp is currently closed for repairs. It is expected that the County will make the necessary repairs to the bridge, as it is not along a roadway used for the Town's campers, but is used by the County to get to their water tanks on top of that hill. The County will have an easement along the road from the Town for that access.



**Mess hall at Hemlock Lake**  
Credit: Ferrandino & Associates Inc.

## 6.2 The Vision

Little if any work has been done on the camp buildings since they were originally erected in the 1960s and, while the Camp's current state of repair does not inspire confidence, North Salem does not have to look far to find inspiration for what the camp could look like. The County recently renovated Hemlock Lake's sister camp, the camp at Spruce Lake, now called Camp Morty, also located in Mountain Lakes Park. The \$5 million renovation included a complete overhaul of the mess hall (\$1 million) with a brand new professional kitchen (see image below), a new bathhouse with showers and laundry facility, and several yurts for campers and staff to stay in among other needed improvements.

While not nearly as ambitious as Camp Morty, once renovated the vision for the Hemlock Lake Camp is four-fold:

- Fully renovate the mess hall, nurse's station, pool and additional out buildings for continued use as the Town's summer day camp. A number of other out buildings on the camp property could potentially be rebuilt over time and used by organizations such as the boy scouts, girl scouts or other specialized programs.
- Once renovated, open the pool to Town residents on the weekends and during the month of August, when not in use by the camp.
- Use the renovated mess hall for events, meetings, etc. during the months when not in use by the day camp.

- Allow Town residents increased access to the Mountain Lakes Park. Residents would be able to boat on Hemlock Lake outside of the regular summer camp program, using Town owned canoes and rowboats. Additionally, a number of the Mountain Lakes Park trails that access the greater 1,082 acre park run through the Hemlock Lake parcel, which would allow Town residents greater access to the extended Mountain Lakes Park for passive recreation.



In order to accomplish this, it is recommended that the Town create a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) focused on the improvements needed at the 20 acre Hemlock Lake Camp site. The CIP will help the Town to prioritize its tasks and identify funding for them.

Table 6.1 below includes ten (10) improvements to the Camp which were identified by the Town and included in the contract with

Westchester County. As part of the contract, the County will provide some financial support for the required improvements. There is no date by which any of these items must be accomplished, except for the installation of the well which the County requested be complete by May 2017.

Generally it is recommended that in the short to medium term (1- 5 years) the Town focus on improvements to the facilities used by the summer camp. Structures which are to remain can be re-roofed, re-sided and have their windows replaced as needed. Necessary improvements to the pool for extended use outside of the summer camp requirements could also be undertaken at this time. However, to open the pool up to the public when not in use by the camp would require additional investments in new accessible changing rooms and bathrooms to meet code standards and the potential expansion of the parking area and widening of the access road. As these additional improvements could constitute significant costs, the Town should evaluate what the likely usage of the pool facilities would be and what revenues would be generated to determine if the investment is worth it.

Similarly, it is recommended that improvements to the mess hall's roof, siding and replacement of its windows occur in the short to medium-term so that it can continue to be utilized by the summer camp. A full renovation of the facility which could include a brand new kitchen, full insulation and new lighting, plumbing, etc. should be considered in the long-term, taking into account potential new uses for the facility.



**Table 6.1 Hemlock Lake Camp Renovation Tasks**

Task		Cost* (Order of Magnitude)
<b>Short to Medium Term</b>	Re-roof, re-side and re-window buildings to be used by summer camp	N/A
	Install well for water to fill pool	\$20,000 - \$25,000
	Fix cement platform around pool, chlorination system, pumps, etc.	\$8,000 - \$30,000
	Remove buildings which are irreparable and unused	\$5,000 - \$50,000
	Level playing field for sports	\$5,000 - \$350,000
<b>Long Term</b>	Construct new changing rooms, bathrooms and other facilities for use by public	\$30,000 - \$50,000
	Widen access road	\$1,000,000+
	Full renovation of the Mess hall including the kitchen area	\$250,000 - \$1,000,000
	Remove invasive species, including phragmites in Hemlock Lake	N/A

\* All costs are generic and based upon a review of multiple similar projects.

The cost to renovate (re-roof, re-side and re-window) the structures utilized by the day camp is dependent on the number of structures to be renovated and the work done to each. It is recommended that the Town conduct a thorough inventory of work needed to be done to each structure in order to get that structure to the level of use needed. The costs for the demolition of unused structures are dependent on the number of structures to be taken down.

The costs for improving the small field at the camp would be dependent on the amount of work to be done. Simply leveling the field for use by the camp would be at the lower range. Preparing the field for use by recreation leagues or the North Salem Central School District would require much more investment in drainage, leveling and sodding, as well as potentially require improvements to park access.

As an alternative to renovating the pool, the Town could consider using the Hemlock Lake for swimming. That is how Camp Morty operates and a similar setup could be used at Hemlock Lake. The change would require the lake level to be lowered at the dam and equipment brought in to remove some siltation. Additional bathing and changing structures could potentially be required to meet code requirements and the potential expansion of the parking area and widening of the access road if the lake is opened up to the general public. While up-front costs for the switch would be high, there would be minimal up keep on an annual basis at the lake. The Town should carefully consider the costs and benefits to both options before making a decision.

Widening of the access road, which would likely be necessary in order to open up the camp's pool or lake to residents, would be a significant undertaking and a considerable expense. Any plans to open up the camp's facilities to non-campers should take this into consideration.

The eradication of invasive species on the property, including the phragmites in Hemlock Lake, is a very long term goal. It would require a complete survey of the property to determine which invasive species are present, followed by many years of dedicated effort by volunteers to dig-up and remove those species. While the volunteer efforts to remove the invasive species would be more or less free, the main task costs would be to hire experts to survey the area for the invasive species unless the Town can find someone to do so pro bono.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Town establish a committee or working group, comprised of various representatives from the Town and current and potential users of the camp's facilities, dedicated to the renovation of the Hemlock Lake Camp. The committee/working group's mission would be to identify and prioritize the improvements needed for the camp and to help guide the vision of the camp and evaluate the various costs and benefits of implementing that vision.

## 7.0 NEXT STEPS

Following review of this Plan by the North Salem Recreation Committee and the Town Board, the Town Board should consider formally adopting the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014* as an appendix to the *2011 Comprehensive Master Plan*. Subsequent to adoption of the Recreation Master Plan, or acceptance of the Plan as an advisory document, a timeline for implementation should be developed outlining immediate, short and long term actions based upon the recommendations included in Chapters 5.0 and 6.0 of this Plan. Instituting a Capital Infrastructure or Improvement Plan (CIP) is a key component of success in implementing the various recommendations. Furthermore, upon finalization of the agreement with Westchester County, the establishment of a committee or working group dedicated to the renovation of the Hemlock Lake Camp is crucial to the realization of the vision presented.

To enhance the Town's senior recreation and social programs it is recommended that a working group be established consisting of the recreation committee, local residents and consider coordinating with existing senior centric organizations, to lead the process. The next update of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which should coincide with the next revision of the North Salem Comprehensive Plan, should include a new Town-wide survey which asks specific questions about recreation particularly aimed at facilities and activities for adult and senior residents.

## 8.0 SOURCES CONSULTED

### ***Inventory: Facilities***

City of New York:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed\\_protection/titcus.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/watershed_protection/titcus.shtml)  
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/75434.html>

North Salem Central School District:

[http://www.northsalemschools.org/athletics/athletics\\_home](http://www.northsalemschools.org/athletics/athletics_home)

Private/Non-Profit:

<http://www.nsof.org/index.php/hearst-preserve>  
[www.bedfordaudubon.org/sanct01.html](http://www.bedfordaudubon.org/sanct01.html)  
<http://www.hammondmuseum.org/index.html>  
<http://northsalemgolf.com/>  
<http://www.salemgolfclub.org/>  
<http://www.lakesidefieldclub.com/>

Town of North Salem:

<http://www.northsalemny.org/recreation-department/recreation-department-park-information>

Westchester County:

<http://parks.westchestergov.com/sal-j-prezioso-mountain-lakes>

### ***Inventory: Programs***

American Youth Soccer: <http://www.ayso.org/>

Garden Conservancy, The: <https://www.gardenconservancy.org/>

Golden's Bridge Hounds: <http://goldensbridgehounds.org/>

North Salem Bridle Trails Association: <http://www.nsbta.org/>

North Salem Recreational Department:

<http://www.northsalemny.org/recreation-department/recreation-department-home>

North Salem Soccer League:

<http://home.comcast.net/~mputillo/nssc/ehhome.html>

NY State Department of Environmental Conservation:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/29461.html>

Westchester County: <http://parks.westchestergov.com/deer-management>

### ***Operations & Oversight***

Town of North Salem, Final Approved 2013 Town Budget:

<http://northsalemny.org/sites/default/files/2013%20Final%20Budget%20adopted%2012%204%202013.pdf>

### **Needs Assessment**

- International Council on Active Aging. (2008). *8 Trends that will Define Active Aging in 2008*. Retrieved from: <http://icaa.cc/media/press2008/8trendsfor2008.htm>
- Hudson Valley: Pattern for Progress. (2012, September). *Housing the Hudson Valley: Unlocking the Opportunities*. Retrieved from: <http://pattern-for-progress.org/sites/default/files/Housing%20white%20paper%202012%20final.pdf>
- Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). *Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association. [http://www.prm.nau.edu/prm423/recreation\\_standards.htm](http://www.prm.nau.edu/prm423/recreation_standards.htm)
- North Salem Central School District. (2013, November). *North Salem Central School District Long Range Planning Study Update: Demographic and Enrollment Analysis*. Retrieved from: [http://northsalemschools.org/Assets/Long\\_Range/12513\\_Long\\_Range\\_Planning\\_Study\\_112013.pdf?t=635218503700370000](http://northsalemschools.org/Assets/Long_Range/12513_Long_Range_Planning_Study_112013.pdf?t=635218503700370000)
- North Salem 2009 Town-wide Survey.
- Ruth Keeler Memorial Library. <http://www.northsalemlibrary.org/>
- U.S. Census Bureau. *2000 and 2010 Census*.

### **Recommendations**

- ARC: Community Housing Resource Center. (n.d.). *Aging in Place: A Toolkit for Local Governments*. Retrieved from: <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/livable-communities/plan/planning/aging-in-place-a-toolkit-for-local-governments-aarp.pdf>
- Moeller, Philip. (2012, July 17). *How to Start Your Own Aging-in-Place Program*. U.S. News & World Report: Money. Retrieved from: <http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/the-best-life/2012/07/17/how-to-start-your-own-aging-in-place-program>
- National Aging in Place Council (NAIPC). <http://www.ageinplace.org/>
- Town of North Salem 2011 Comprehensive Plan.
- Town of North Salem 2009 Existing Open Space Report.



## 9.0 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A. 2009 TOWN-WIDE SURVEY RESULTS

Do you think there are adequate recreational and cultural opportunities in Town?

Category	Need More		Sufficient		Too Many		TOTAL	Support	
	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%		User Fees	Taxes
Artificial Turf Fields	30	11	227	82	21	8	278	58	18
Arts & Crafts	55	18	245	79	10	3	310	79	12
Baseball & Softball Fields	31	9	294	86	18	5	343	68	29
Basketball Courts	41	12	297	86	9	3	347	72	25
Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths	150	43	184	53	14	4	348	51	41
Boating	38	13	240	82	14	5	292	72	14
Campgrounds	14	5	281	91	13	4	308	66	8
Cross Country Ski Trails	51	16	256	81	9	3	316	62	23
Equestrian Centers	15	5	256	77	61	18	332	64	7
Equestrian Trails	20	6	261	79	51	15	332	66	9
Fishing	28	9	281	88	10	3	319	63	14
Golf Courses	22	7	285	87	22	7	329	75	8
Gymnasiums	32	10	275	86	11	3	318	65	11
Ice Rink	20	6	281	91	9	3	310	74	7
Indoor Swimming Pools	110	37	175	59	11	4	296	111	19
Music & Performing Arts Facilities	65	21	243	77	9	3	317	81	18
Neighborhood Playgrounds	50	15	275	83	8	2	333	52	34
Outdoor Swimming Pools	128	41	174	56	11	4	313	87	22
Parks for Walking Pets	47	15	259	80	18	6	324	67	29
Picnic Areas	46	14	276	83	9	3	331	46	32
Skateboard Parks	26	9	238	83	24	8	288	61	15
Soccer & Lacrosse Fields	38	11	290	85	14	4	342	67	33
Tennis Courts	54	15	289	82	8	2	351	93	10
Visual Arts Facilities	53	17	244	80	9	3	306	56	12
Walking & Hiking Trails	84	24	247	72	13	4	344	52	41
Walking & Running Tracks	44	13	288	84	11	3	343	51	33

**Which new facilities would you most likely support? Which facilities are you least likely to support?**

<b>New Facilities you would support?</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>New Facilities least likely to support?</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bicycle/Pedestrian paths	90	Skateboard Parks	93
Outdoor Swimming Pools	76	Equestrian Centers	86
Indoor Swimming Pools	69	Artificial Turf Fields	80
Music & Performing Arts Facilities	55	Equestrian Trails	59
Walking & Hiking Trails	50	Golf Courses	52
Parks for Walking Pets	35	Ice Rink	50
Visual Arts Facilities	26	Indoor Swimming Pools	35
Artificial Turf Fields	24	Campgrounds	28
Tennis Courts	23	Gymnasiums	22
Cross Country Ski Trails	19	Outdoor Swimming Pools	18
Boating	18	Music & Performing Arts Facilities	18
Walking & Running Tracks	18	Visual Arts Facilities	18
Neighborhood Playgrounds	18	Soccer & Lacrosse Fields	14
Basketball Courts	14	Baseball & Softball Fields	13
Picnic Areas	14	Parks for Walking Pets	12
Arts & Crafts	14	Basketball Courts	11
Soccer & Lacrosse Fields	13	Picnic Areas	10
Golf Courses	13	Fishing	10
Equestrian Centers	12	Cross Country Ski Trails	10
Equestrian Trails	12	Tennis Courts	9
Gymnasiums	12	Bicycle/Pedestrian Paths	8
Fishing	12	Boating	7
Baseball & Softball Fields	10	Arts & Crafts	7
Skateboard Parks	9	Walking & Hiking Trails	3
Campgrounds	8	Walking & Running tracks	3
Ice Rink	5	Neighborhood Playgrounds	3

## APPENDIX B. YOUTH PARTICIPATION BY ACTIVITY

## Participants in Youth Sports/Activities

Activity	# Participants	
Baseball, Softball, T-Ball	222	14%
Basketball*	338	22%
Lacrosse	167	11%
NS Day Camp	300	19%
Soccer **	410	27%
Other†	110	7%
	<b>1,547</b>	

\* North Salem Youth Basketball League and North Salem Rec Department.

\*\* North Salem Soccer Club and North Salem Rec Department.

† North Salem Rec Department: babysitting, cheerleading, skiing/snowboarding, tennis, theatre arts workshop

## Participants in Independent\* Youth Sports by Town

Sport	% Participants by Town						% Volunteers by Town	
	Total Participants	North Salem	Somers	Southeast/Brewster	Carmel	Other	North Salem	Other
Baseball	125	65.6	11.2	19.2	2.4	1.6	63	37
Softball	61	55.7	11.5	29.5	3.3	0.0		
T-Ball	36	66.7	22.2	8.3	2.8	0.0		
Lacrosse	167	58.7	7.2	31.1	1.2	1.8	40	60
Basketball	248	56.9	13.7	25.0	4.0	0.4	69	31
Soccer	330	60.3	12.7	24.2	2.1	0.6	67	33

\* Does not include NSCSD or North Salem Recreation Department.

## APPENDIX C. RECREATION FEES IN LIEU OF PARKLAND

## Fees in Lieu of Parkland for Selected Westchester &amp; Putnam County Municipalities

Municipality	2008	2014
<b>Bedford</b>	\$10,000/Lot	\$10,000/Lot \$350/0BR Unit \$500/1BR Unit \$650/2BR Unit \$800/3BR Unit \$1,000/4+BR Unit
<b>Briarcliff Manor</b>	\$10,000/D.U.	\$12,000/Lot
<b>Carmel</b>	\$7,500/Lot	\$7,500/Lot
<b>Greenburgh</b>	\$8,640/Lot \$4,320/D.U. \$2,000/D.U. Sale \$1,000/D.U. Rent	\$8,640/Lot \$4,320/D.U. Sale \$2,160/D.U. Rent
<b>Irvington</b>	\$15,000/Lot	\$15,000/Lot \$15,000/1 Family \$6,500/0-1BR (MF) \$13,000/2+BR (MF) \$3,000/Assisted Lvg.
<b>Lewisboro</b>	\$7,500/Lot \$7,500/D.U.	\$10,000/Lot \$7,500/Multi-Family
<b>Mount Kisco</b>	\$7,500/D.U.	\$7,500/Lot
<b>North Castle</b>	\$8,500/D.U. \$4,250/Studio \$4,250/Affordable	\$10,000/Lot \$7,500/Multi-Family
<b>Pound Ridge</b>	\$7,500/Lot \$7,500/D.U.	\$12,000/Lot
<b>Somers</b>	\$11,500/House \$5,750/0-1BR Unit \$8,050/2BR Unit \$9,775/3BR Unit \$11,550/4+BR Unit	Established by Town Board
<b>Tarrytown</b>	\$7,796/D.U.	\$9,392/Lot (Increases annually by CPI of past year)
<b>Yorktown</b>	\$5,000/Lot \$2,000/D.U.	\$10,000/Lot

Source: 2009 Assessment of Fees in Lieu of Parkland Report and Ferrandino & Associates Inc. 2014.