

D. PARKS AND RECREATION

Goal: Provide a range of recreational programs, services and facilities to address the needs and interests of the current and future population of the Town; and coordinate with the Villages and adjacent Towns.

- Objective:** Coordinate recreational programs, activities and services between the Town, Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor, other adjacent communities and school districts in order to better utilize available facilities and plan for additional recreational opportunities.

Implementation Strategies:

- The Town Parks and Recreation Department should continue to coordinate efforts with the Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor, public libraries, schools, and other organizations and prepare an inventory of recreational and cultural programs, activities, services and facilities available from each agency/group. The inventory and interaction amongst these groups could also identify service gaps, duplication of programs/activities, under-utilized facilities, and possible cost-sharing opportunities.



The Community Center (left) and parks (Ryder Park on right) offer a variety of recreational activities, including basketball and tennis courts, playgrounds, ballfields, fishing, picnic areas and senior programs.

- The Town and Village Ossining Parks and Recreation Departments should coordinate efforts with the schools to possibly create new, and better utilize existing, practice fields, play areas and active recreational land.

- The Town should coordinate efforts with the Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff Manor as well as the Town of New Castle and property owners to create or expand trails, pathways and connections to parks, schools and developed areas.

[Note: refer to the other implementation strategies about trails and open space in the Environmental Resources chapter of this Plan.]

- The Town should work with the schools and other groups to implement joint-use agreements for use of public and private property by community groups and residents.¹

2. **Objective:** Continue to evaluate, and modify or expand as necessary, the recreational programs and services offered through the Town recreation programs, Community Center, schools, and other organizations, as well as the park facilities, to meet the growing needs of residents.

Implementation Strategies:

- The Town and Village Parks and Recreation Departments should continue to offer a variety of programs and services and co-sponsor new activities at Ossining's parks, the Community Center and other facilities to meet the growing needs and interests of the community.
- The Town and Village Parks and Recreation Departments, along with the schools and libraries, should continue to identify new activities, special events and programs that are targeted to young residents which encourage self-expression and help bridge generational or cultural gaps. In addition, young people should participate in identifying and planning the youth-oriented activities and events.
- The Town and Villages should work with high school students and other youth in the community to establish a teen panel or youth committee which will more actively involve young residents in projects, volunteer efforts and youth-based initiatives, and provide input on relevant issues in a more organized manner.
- The Town, Villages, Library, places of worship and other organizations should have a coordinated program for posting and disseminating information about recreational, social and entertainment events, activities, programs and opportunities throughout the communities. Websites, newsletters and mailings,

¹ *Joint-use agreements have been used by many communities and schools as a way of dealing with liability issues and the logistics of using playing fields, auditoriums, classrooms, equipment etc.*

bulletin boards, GoTV and local media, postings in public places as well as other initiatives should be used on a regular basis for distributing information.



The Town's new Sally Swope Sitting Park provides passive open space and trails for the community.

3. Objective: Cooperate with other Hudson River communities to plan for appropriate, sensitive renewal of waterfront resources and provide more public access.

Implementation Strategies:

- The Town should coordinate with, and actively participate in efforts by the Villages of Ossining, Briarcliff Manor and Croton-on-Hudson to find appropriate use of waterfront areas which balances public access, protection of natural resources, scenic views and suitable land use activities.
- The Village and Town should continue to have the Louis Engel Waterfront Park open for the enjoyment of all community members and visitors.



View of the Hudson River from a Crotonville property.

4. **Objective:** Continue on-going maintenance of the park and recreational facilities in order to provide clean, efficient services and programs to the community.

Implementation Strategies:

- The Town and Village Parks and Recreation Departments should ensure that the parks, preserves and public areas are clean, comfortable and safe amenities for the community.



The baseball field, tennis courts and play equipment are located within a beautiful setting at Ryder Park.



Outdoor and indoor recreation and exercise activities are available for all ages.

- The Town Parks and Recreation Department should establish an "Adopt-a-Park" and/or "Adopt-a-Waterway" program to match volunteers and community groups with specific parks, public open spaces and streams/water bodies in an effort to keep these areas clean and environmentally maintained. Volunteers can assist parks and public works staff to remove litter, mow lawns and fields, paint buildings/signs and other duties in the parks, public open spaces and streams.

- The Town should coordinate efforts with local civic and youth groups to assist in establishing a frequent, formal structure for the Town clean-up days. Efforts should also be made to incorporate the parks and recreational areas into the clean-up activities.



Recreational facilities are also provided by private operations, such as Club Fit.