

# Acknowledgements

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- Appendix C: RecPlex Feasibility Study
- Appendix D: NYS Trail Funding Guide

## Executive Summary

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### *Purpose*

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As communities struggle to compete in a global economy for workers, commerce, and residents, it is important to identify those amenities that are most important to a diverse group of individuals and families. Recreation is defined as an activity done for pleasure or relaxation. As our work lives continue to grow more connected with our home lives through the advancement of technologies, access to high quality recreation has become a new standard of living. The Town of Beekman is developing the *Recreation Master Plan* in an effort to identify existing and future opportunities for recreational land and programs to satisfy current and future residents.

### *Planning Process Overview*

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Through its *Recreation Master Plan*, the Town will assess the conditions of its community parks, identify current and future needs, and establish a planning framework to achieve those needs. This includes partnerships and funding sources that would minimize taxpayer investment. The Plan will guide future parkland acquisition and recreational development in the Town of Beekman.



The planning process includes the identification of existing recreational needs through a community survey, Public Open Forum and detailed analysis of the existing parks system. This analysis led to a detailed comparison against State and National standards for municipal park planning. Lastly, the goals and strategies in the *Recreation Master Plan* were synthesized, leading to a set of recommendations that are to be carried out over the next five years.

### *Beekman's Recreational Opportunities & Challenges*

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The Town of Beekman has undergone a transformation over the last 30 years, witnessing a population that growth of 30% between 1990 and 2000. Many of these new residents are families (80.9%), which require diverse recreational facilities and programs. The largest age group in 2012 is expected to be 15-24 year olds, comprising approximately 20.2% of the population. In addition, there is expected to be a dramatic increase (9.7%) in the population that earns more than \$200,000 in 2012.

This large demographic change has identified the need to preserve open space and key viewsheds. Beekman contains many natural features that together make it a beautiful place to live and visit, such as the Hudson Highlands and the Appalachian Trail. The Town also provides five major parks and a network of trails, with a sixth proposed park that will provide new waterfront access.

The Town offers several active and passive recreational facilities, including a mini-golf course, public swimming beach, and a major league baseball field with lights for night games. Beekman has developed many new recreational facilities in the last 10 years, including Town Center Park, as well as, bike paths, and nature trails. The Beekman Trails Committee has established a trail system vision for the Town of Beekman that includes nature trails, paved and unpaved trails, and



connector trails linking each park. In addition, the Beekman Recreation and Parks Department offers a diverse schedule of passive and active recreational programs for residents of all ages.

When analyzing the parks and recreation system within the Town of Beekman, it was important to compare the existing facilities to the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). The SCORP

and NRPA guidelines produce separate, yet, equally important standards from which to develop recreational facilities on the local level. According to the SCORP analysis, the Town of Beekman provided 50% of the recommended recreational facilities to residents in 2000. This was based on all 153 acres of recreational parks, parkland, facilities, and trails in the Town of Beekman.

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## Summary of Goals and Strategies

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Through the planning process, the Town developed a set of goals to sustain a high quality of parks and trails for its residents. The following goals were defined through an extensive public outreach process and meetings with the Recreation Commission.

- Access & Awareness Goal:** Encourage and continually improve accessibility to Beekman’s active and passive recreation resources.
- Recreational Stewardship Goal:** Enable the Town to successfully achieve its recreational vision through public and private partnerships that promote stewardship of the Town’s resources.
- Open Space Goal:** Continue to support the preservation and protection of the Town’s open space and natural resources.
- Programming Goal:** Promote both active and passive recreational programs to meet the growing needs of the Town’s current and future residents.
- Recreational Facilities Goal:** Continue to support the development and maintenance of a park and recreation system that meets the needs of current and future Town residents.

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## High Priority Action Items

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The Town of Beekman Recreation Commission is dedicated to carrying out all of the goals and strategies identified in the *Recreation Master Plan*. Throughout the planning process several items were recognized as extremely important to the future expansion and development of parks and trails in the Town. These items were prioritized by the Recreation Commission and placed in order of one to fourteen (one being the most important), based upon importance and immediate need to see the item developed or completed in the near future. The following items comprise the highest priority action items identified through the *Recreation Master Plan* process:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1. <i>Swimming Facilities</i></b>                     | <b>8. <i>Doherty Park</i></b>                      |
| <b>2. <i>Town Center Park</i></b>                        | <b>9. <i>Major Amenities</i></b>                   |
| <b>3. <i>Recreation Park</i></b>                         | <b>10. <i>Shared Recreation</i></b>                |
| <b>4. <i>Trails</i></b>                                  | <b>11. <i>Recreation Programs and Services</i></b> |
| <b>5. <i>Facilities</i></b>                              | <b>12. <i>Acquire New Properties</i></b>           |
| <b>6. <i>Recreation and Parks Maintenance</i></b>        | <b>13. <i>RecPlex</i></b>                          |
| <b>7. <i>Potential future Park (Greenhaven Road)</i></b> | <b>14. <i>Passive Recreation</i></b>               |

# I. Introduction

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## *What is a Recreation Master Plan?*

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Community parks provide an important means to protecting valuable natural resources and preserving safe, scenic areas for resident use and enjoyment. There has been a growing



recognition of the important role outdoor recreation plays in people's lives. In an increasingly busy, technological era, access to outdoor recreational facilities is regarded as an important quality of life asset. Outdoor recreation is known to provide a healthy outlet for everyday pressures, as it gives people opportunities for socializing, exercising, and decompressing from stress.

There are two categories of recreation, passive and active. Active recreation refers to a mix of uses in a park that include the following: athletic fields, gymnasiums, tracks, courts, playgrounds, or bike paths. Passive recreation refers to a mix of uses in a park that include the following: natural habitats, landscaping, ornamental gardens, open space, picnic areas, bird watching, or water bodies.

A *Recreation Master Plan* is an important community planning tool. A community develops a Recreation Master Plan to evaluate the existing condition of its parks and recreational resources and identify what changes it would like to see in the future. Through an ongoing public participation process, community residents are invited to provide feedback on what types of resources they would like to see at their local parks (i.e. ball fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, etc.). In addition, they are asked to identify what types of recreational resources (i.e. trails, bicycle lanes, etc.) they would like to see developed and where. A *Recreation Master Plan* can function as a detailed blueprint to guide future recreational development.

## *Planning Process*

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Through its *Recreation Master Plan*, the Town will assess the conditions of its community parks, identify current and future needs, and establish a planning framework to achieve those needs. This includes partnerships and funding sources that would minimize taxpayer investment. The Plan will guide future parkland acquisition and recreational development in the Town of Beekman.

The Town initiated the planning process by identifying the existing recreational issues and concerns through a community survey, Public Open Forum, and detailed analysis of the existing parks. Subsequently, the Town's recreational facilities and parks were compared with State and National standards to understand trends and community needs. The result of this analysis, as well as recreational goals and strategies identified in previously completed plans, was a clear set of guidelines regarding the level and standard of recreation services, programs, and facilities to be provided for Beekman residents and property owners. See **Appendix A** for complete park system inventory.

The Town of Beekman Recreation Commission was charged with oversight of the Plan. Tasks included reviewing draft documents, collecting information on parks and recreational facilities, and serving as a point of contact for community members within the Town. In addition to multiple Commission meetings dedicated solely to the Plan's development, the Town conducted a Public Open Forum to engage participants in the creation of a community driven vision for the future of Beekman's recreational assets. The Recreation Commission served as a community advocate for the ideas and topics that were addressed during the day-long event, affirming that the goals and strategies of the *Recreation Master Plan* reflected the community's vision.

## ***Public Participation Process***

### ***Public Open Forum***

On September 26, 2009, the Recreation Commission hosted a Public Open Forum, held at the Beekman Recreation Center. The Forum was conducted to gauge public opinion on recreational programming and activities within the Town of Beekman. A group of approximately 25 persons participated in a 7 station workshop, answering questions regarding recreational programming, activities, and necessary park and trail improvements.

In an effort to receive as much public opinion as possible and reach those residents unable to attend the Forum, the Town made the questions from stations 1 and 2 available in a survey format throughout the month of October 2009. The survey was available online and in paper format. The Beekman Recreation and Parks Department distributed hard copies of the survey at a variety of passive and active recreational programs and activities. The survey was completed by approximately 110 persons, ranging in ages and program participation.

Overall, the responses from participants were very diverse, but contained several similar themes. Most respondents indicated that they only



recreate at Town Center Park (TCP) and Recreation Park in Beekman, followed by non-municipal recreational spaces, such as Tymor Park and local school fields. Many of the respondents enjoy varying recreational activities and family events provided by Beekman, as well as, the good field conditions and the existing exercise classes. However, many persons were not satisfied due to lack of indoor pool, restrooms at TCP, and other amenities.

Most importantly, when asked what they believed Beekman's park and recreational system would look like in 5 years, the majority envisioned the RecPlex (indoor recreation pool/facility) at TCP, an upgraded beach area, more trails, and other amenities. Consistently, participants asked for an indoor pool and gym that would be available year round for residents, as well as, additional exercise classes. In addition, many participants wanted an increase in the amount of programs offered to residents of all age groups. To see the full results from the Public Open Forum and the Survey, see **Appendix B**.



### ***Recreation Master Plan Survey***

These opinions from the Public Open Forum were used to supplement and update data gathered during the 2006 Recreation Master Plan Survey. The Survey was available to all Town residents and asked for input regarding the community's preferred recreational activities and facilities. Survey responders identified the need for the following: indoor pool, teen center, concert area, ice rink, aerobics, multi-purpose gym, and indoor soccer field. Most survey responders noted their willingness to pay for reasonable access to recreation activities and facilities. The survey further obtained the public's opinion about the appropriate membership fee for the proposed RecPlex. Full results of the RecPlex Survey are included in **Appendix C**.

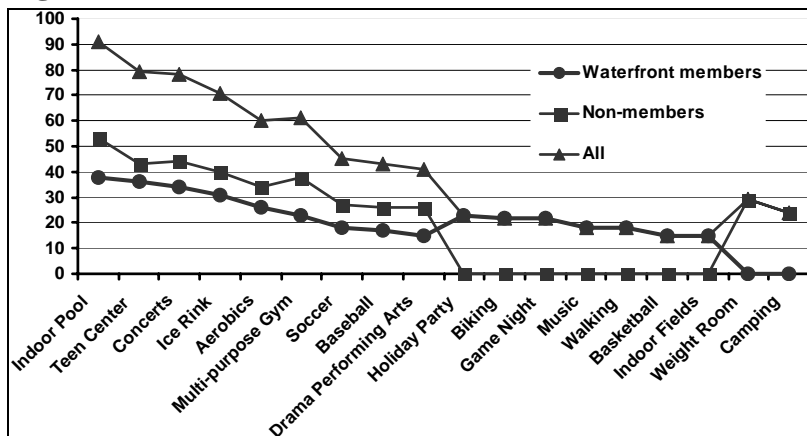
The results of the survey were grouped in three categories: 1) All Residents, 2) Residents with a membership to the waterfront ("Waterfront Members"), and 3) Residents without a waterfront membership ("Non-Members"). The first survey question asked the responders to choose from a list of activities/facilities and rank their importance for inclusion in the Town Center Park (see **Figure 1**).

An indoor pool was at the top of the list for all responders. A teen center and a place for concerts were identified as the second and third choices respectively from the proposed list. Slight variations between the Waterfront Members and the Non-Members were noted in the ranking of

the top activities/facilities. Both groups generally identified the need for the following: indoor pool, teen center, concert area, ice rink, aerobics, multi-purpose gym, and indoor soccer field. There were several activities on which no opinion was expressed from one respondents group or the other, such as a place for holiday parties, biking, game night, music, walking, basketball, indoor fields, weight room, and camping.

When asked if the Town needs a centrally located multi-purpose recreation facility, 89% of the Non-Members and 89.4% of the Waterfront Members answered yes. See **Figure 2**.

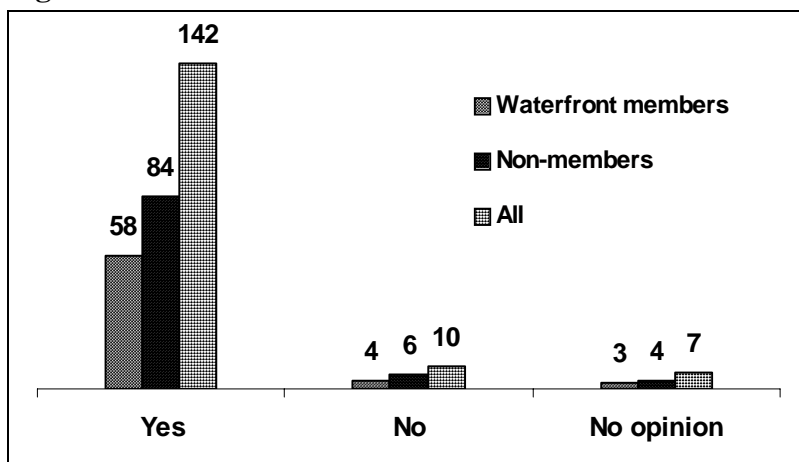
**Figure 1: Preferred Activities & Recreation Facilities.**



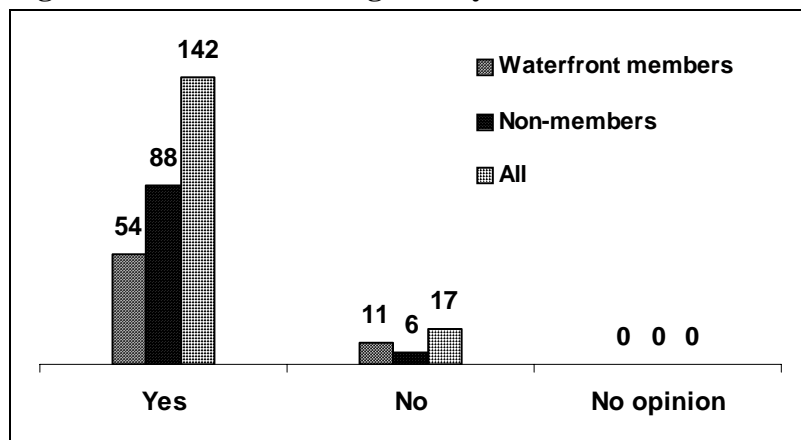
Source: 2006 Recreation Master Plan Survey

Most of the responders, 83% of the Non-Members and 93.6% of the Waterfront Members, noted their willingness to pay for reasonable access to recreation activities and facilities. See **Figure 3**. When asked how much would be willing to pay, the majority of both groups, preferred to pay \$50 or less. See **Figure 4**. It should be noted that this dollar figure was not based upon any developed services or the RecPlex space program.

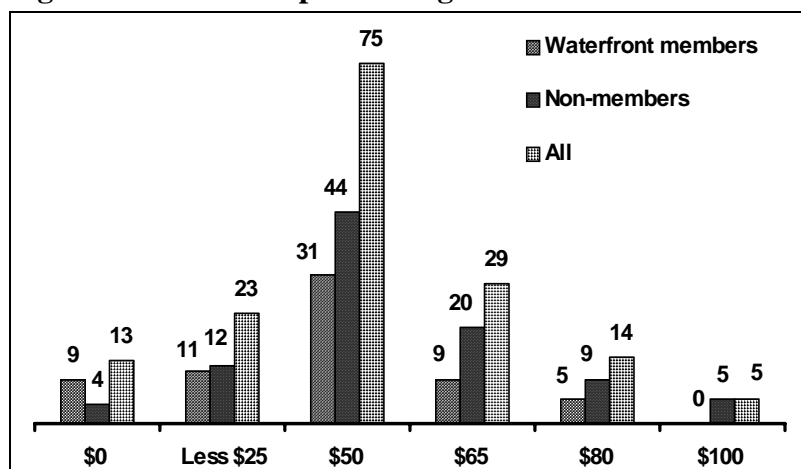
**Figure 2: Need for RecPlex**



Source: 2006 Recreation Master Plan Survey

**Figure 3: Residents Willing To Pay**

Source: 2006 Recreation Master Plan Survey

**Figure 4: Membership Fee Range**

Source: 2006 Recreation Master Plan Survey

## Community Recreational Resources

The Town of Beekman is located in the Hudson Valley region, surrounded by an abundance of natural resources. Located approximately thirteen miles east of the Hudson River shoreline, and containing several small water bodies within its boundaries, the Town of Beekman has experienced recent growth from a formerly small, rural area to a booming suburban Town that is an easy commute from New York City. The Town has accounted for the recent population growth by seeking future parcels that can be developed into recreational parkland, as well as, amenities to enhance existing parks. Beekman's park system complements regional and state recreational facilities, such as Depot Hill Multiple Use Land, and the Appalachian Trail, both of which are located within the Beekman boundaries.

## II. Goals & Strategies

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### *Development of Goals*

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A good *Recreation Master Plan* builds upon a framework that ties broad ideas and specific activities together, identifying the community's short- and long-term needs. Effective policies that will guide community investment and decision making in the Town of Beekman over the next decade often require a multi-level approach. The Plan's framework is very much like the blueprint of a building. All of the components, from the largest to the smallest, must fit together in a logical way for the structure to stand and function well for years to come.

This document is the base upon which the community's future recreation direction, development and success will be built. The Town of Beekman *Recreation Master Plan* has the following key elements:

*Community Vision Statement:* A general statement about the future condition or state of parks and recreational resources in the community; it is the end toward which all actions are aimed.

*Goal:* A statement of measurable activity to be accomplished in pursuit of the policy, which is reasonably attainable. Consider broad actions or aspirations, such as "increase," "develop," or "preserve."

*Strategy:* A specific proposal to do something that relates directly to accomplishing a goal, which usually takes the form of a plan, activity, project, or program.

### *Vision Statement*

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#### **Beekman's Recreation Vision**

*"Expand and maintain Beekmans's park and recreation system to provide all residents with quality facilities, trails, programs, and open space that are not only safe and attractive, but provide diverse active and passive recreational opportunities."*

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## High Priority Action Items

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The Town of Beekman Recreation Commission is dedicated to carrying out all of the goals and strategies identified in the *Recreation Master Plan*. Throughout the planning process several items were recognized as extremely important to the future expansion and development of parks and trails in the Town. These items were prioritized by the Recreation Commission and placed in order of one to fourteen (one being most important), based upon importance and immediate need to see the item developed or completed in the near future. The Commission should work on the items below in the order of importance established; however, it is likely that priorities may change due to funding, manpower, economic conditions and environmental concerns.

### **1. Swimming Facilities:**

*Continue the development of Town-wide swimming facilities to serve the Town of Beekman. Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park's swimming area. Continue to identify and pursue the development of new waterfront facilities, such as, the future park on Greenhaven Road. Study the possibility of developing an indoor or outdoor swimming pool. (See RF Strategy 1, pg. 15)*

### **2. Town Center Park:**

*Continue the development of Town Center Park (TCP) in accordance with the Town Center Park Master Plan. Such additional improvements include, but are not limited to a pavilion, restrooms, trail extensions, indoor facility (RecPlex), outdoor music venue, concession stands, picnic areas, landscaping, gazebo, and lighting. Improvements should be planned and budgeted in the Recreation and Parks Department annual budget. Long term plans also include development of a special turf like surface under the multi-use fields. The Recreation Commission should contract with an Engineer or Architect to design the pavilion, fields, and trails. (See RF Strategy 2, pg. 15)*

### **3. Recreation Park:**

*Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park to provide users and employees with the highest quality of facilities and programming possible. Specific issues that currently need to be addressed include the following: improvement and development of new swimming facilities; lack of accessible public restrooms; turbidity of the beach water; deteriorating condition of the lifeguard chairs, as well as, poor positioning and height; lack of security of the mini-golf course; lack of a central entrance for beach users to ensure safety and collection of user fees; lack of storage for day camp and other programs; outdated computers and computer information system; existing office space not large enough or provide enough privacy for employees; need to expand existing facilities or develop new facilities (Community Center at Recreation Park, trails, skating, and meeting spaces); and better coordination of scheduling for the Community Center at Recreation Park, which is constantly overbooked. (See RF Strategy 8, pg. 17)*

**4. Trails:**

*Develop a comprehensive Town-wide trail network. The network should include multi-surfaced trails and nature trails to improve public access. Work with Dutchess County and New York State Department of Transportation to provide proper bicycle lanes on major roads. Long term, implement the improvements identified by the Beekman Trails Committee and the official Beekman Trails Map. Hire an engineer to develop a conceptual design, budget, and timeline for completing the proposed Town-wide trail network. (See RF Strategy 17, pg. 18)*

**5. Facilities:**

*Identify opportunities for expansion of the existing Town Recreation & Parks Department facilities. Examine all facilities including offices, programming areas (indoors and outdoors), service areas, and storage areas. Identify opportunities on existing and any future recreational parcels for expansion and development of new facilities. Expansion of recreational facilities will alleviate existing problems, such as, lack of work space, overcrowded storage areas, lack of programming areas for children, teens and adults, as well as, scheduling conflicts. (See RF Strategy 14, pg. 18)*

**6. Recreation and Parks Maintenance:**

*Identify opportunities for development of new Town Recreation and Parks Department maintenance facilities. The facilities should include offices, work space, easy access, and storage areas which are able to handle all of the Town Recreation & Parks Department equipment. Currently equipment is stored at several parks, including Recreation Park in a mobile storage unit, in the short term this structure should be moved to a less visible site in the parks system. In addition, examine the possibility of enhancing park maintenance through additional staff for the Town Recreation & Parks Department. (See RF Strategy 15, pg. 18)*

**7. Potential future Park (Greenhaven Road):**

*Develop a Beach Development Committee to determine the appropriate waterfront and park amenities for a future park on Greenhaven Road. The Recreation Commission should contract with an Engineer to design a park master plan, identifying financially feasible stages for the Town to realistically develop the waterfront site into a community beach. Working with the Engineer, the Committee should develop a construction schedule that prioritizes the development milestones of the park. Stage one of the beach development should include: water/sewer access, restrooms, electricity, phone service, parking lot, sand beach, boating docks, fishing area, equipment shed, lifeguard chairs, and any other Red Cross or NYS Department of Health requirements to open the beach. Stage two of the beach development should include: pavilion, concession stand, walking/biking/skating trail, playground, picnic and BBQ areas, and sporting areas (volleyball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, etc.). (See RF Strategy 7, pg. 16)*

**8. Doherty Park:**

*Continue to develop Doherty Park as a multi-use park facility. Specific improvement should include signage at the entrance and along the nature trail; providing separation between*

*pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles particularly near the vehicle access drives and parking areas; and identifying opportunities for the development of future ball-fields. Identify locations for pavilions, restrooms, concession stands, benches, tables, landscaping, and gazebo. (See RF Strategy 13, pg. 18)*

**9. Major Amenities:**

*Examine all existing parks and any future parks as the location of new major amenities. Develop research to better understand the cost and complexities of developing skating facilities (ice skating, and/or roller skating), dog park, multi-use field, spray park, indoor gym, tennis courts, basketball courts, and batting cages. (See RF Strategy 6, pg. 16)*

**10. Shared Recreation:**

*Investigate opportunities to share recreational services and programs. Sharing services and programs with Arlington Central School District, and local, county, state and federal park agencies could supplement the Town's overburdened fields and facilities. The Recreation Director should coordinate with these entities on periodic basis to facilitate scheduling local sporting events. (See P Strategy 4, pg. 15)*

**11. Recreation Programs and Services:**

*Diversify recreational and cultural programs to cater to the needs of all residents and age groups. These programs should target a diverse range of residents, including Beekman's seniors, teens, youth, and adults. Programs should be evaluated annually. In addition, the Town should evaluate which recreational and cultural needs are currently not being met and determine methods to provide these services. (See P Strategy 1, pg. 14)*

**12. Acquire New Properties:**

*Identify future parcels that can be acquired by the Town and developed for active and passive recreational purposes. Particular focus should be for parcels with the capabilities of providing several multi-use fields. The Recreation Commission should work closely with the Open Space Committee, Town Board and the Planning Board to accomplish this vision. Appoint a Recreation Commission member to work with the Town Board, Planning Board, and developers to identify and prioritize potential recreational parcels and trail connections. (See RF Strategy 4, pg. 16)*

**13. RecPlex:**

*Continue to work towards creating a RecPlex in the Town of Beekman to meet the needs of current and future Town residents. Throughout the Recreation Master Plan process residents have consistently requested an indoor gym and pool, both of which were included in the RecPlex Feasibility Study. Discussions with the Town Board and future public meetings should identify opportunities for funding the project. (See RF Strategy, pg. 16)*

**14. Passive Recreation:**

*Expand passive recreational offerings through the development of programming and facilities. Encourage passive recreational programs and activities for residents of all ages, such as, fishing, boating and kayaking. (See P Strategy, pg. 15)*

**Access & Awareness Goals & Strategies**



**AA Goal:** Encourage and continually improve accessibility to Beekman’s active and passive recreation resources.

*AA Strategy 1: Promote healthy living and lifestyles for all ages and residents in Beekman. Encourage programs, services, and incentives that enhance the general health and wellbeing, as well as promote healthy lifestyles, of all Beekman’s residents.*

*AA Strategy 2: Continue to improve the marketing and promotion of Beekman’s parks and recreational facilities.*

*AA Strategy 3: Update signage at the park entrances and throughout the parks to reflect a uniform design and theme. Signage creates a sense of place through thematic designs; allows users to identify public spaces, and provides an element of public safety. Also signage within the parks allows users to better traverse the nature trails and find where specific amenities are located within each park.*

*AA Strategy 4: Develop wayfinding signage throughout Beekman to direct residents and tourists to the Town’s recreational and cultural resources. This*



*wayfinding system should also be developed for the Town’s multi-use trails. The wayfinding system should reference local cultural landmarks, municipal facilities, and historical sites.*

AA Strategy 5: **Improve access to the Town’s parks.** This should include paving appropriate parking lots; reorganizing the parking areas at Recreation Park; and defining the parking areas at Doherty Park. All parking areas should be compliant with the Americans Disability Act (ADA) to encourage the use of the parks by persons with special needs.

AA Strategy 6: **Ensure the future Town-wide trail network is designed to meet the special needs of local residents and visitors.** Evaluate current facilities to ensure the needs of seniors and handicapped patrons are accommodated in each of the facilities. Identify passive recreational opportunities, such as “wandering gardens” with easily accessible wheelchair width paved paths adjacent to raised garden beds filled with vegetables and flowers.



### Recreational Stewardship Goals & Strategies



**RS Goal:** Enable the Town to successfully achieve its recreational vision through public and private partnerships that promote stewardship of the Town’s resources.

RS Strategy 1: **Prioritize the allocation of scarce resources to the development of recreation and cultural resources in the Town.** Determine the feasibility of developing new programs and offering additional services using available funding.

RS Strategy 2: **Investigate potential grant funding opportunities that may assist in the design, development, and construction of new parks, trails, and facilities.** Allocate resources to the Recreation Director or Recreation Commission to identify potential recreational grant opportunities.

RS Strategy 3: **Coordinate the formation of the “Friends of Beekman Park & Recreation” as a quasi-governmental not-for-profit, 501-c3 organization to access recreation and trail grant funds.** The organization could be operated as a 501-c3, not-for-profit, therefore,

allowing Beekman access to additional recreation and trails grants offered by New York State. These types of organizations usually host events and fundraisers to benefit the overall park system and build awareness of local programs and facilities.

**RS Strategy 4:** *Continue to improve communication between the Town Recreation & Parks Department, the Recreation Commission, the Town Board, and the Planning Board to ensure Beekman residents' needs are met. This*

*would include topics related to land acquisition, recreation fees vs. donated recreation lands, and right-of-ways for trails.*



**RS Strategy 5:** *Develop a provision in the Beekman's land use regulations to require the Planning Board to counsel with the Recreation Commission on any project that requires recreation fees and donated recreation lands.*

**RS Strategy 6:** *Periodically review and update the Recreation Fee required in lieu of land required as part of subdivision approvals.*

**RS Strategy 7:** *Develop a volunteer program that is aimed at providing better maintenance and enhancement of parkland. Include existing community groups (i.e. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Rotary Club, etc.) that would be willing to work towards the beautification of the local park system. Groups can be rewarded for their efforts through plaques and honorary markers next to the improvements.*

**RS Strategy 8:** *Encourage active participation of Recreation Commission members on recreation and open space related commissions and committees in the Town of Beekman.*

**RS Strategy 9:** *Continue to develop the SCORP Service Area Map, which identifies all existing parks by their SCORP classifications. The map displays which neighborhoods are currently underserved by parks according to their corresponding SCORP service area distances. The Recreation Commission should use this map to establish a clear vision for where new parks should be located in Beekman.*

**RS Strategy 10:** *Investigate opportunities to share recreational resources with surrounding municipalities. Develop shared services research, which would identify and analyze opportunities for cost savings through shared staff, services and equipment.*

*RS Strategy 11: Continue to utilize volunteer labor to improve recreational resources in Beekman. Promote “Pride in Beekman” through use of volunteers that assist with small construction projects along trails and within the parks.*

*RS Strategy 12: Explore the feasibility of developing an annual Park Maintenance and Facility Repair Plan, which can identify and prioritize specific improvements, projects within the park system, and a cost benefit analysis of additional staff expansion. Examine the cost of creating a Town Parks & Recreation Department Maintenance Division, including additional staff and equipment. The duties of the Recreation Director should be revised to include oversight of the Maintenance Division, which would be responsible oversight of all park and recreation facilities.*

## Open Space Goals & Strategies



**OS Goal:** Continue to support the preservation and protection of the Town’s open space and natural resources.

*OS Strategy 1: Develop an inventory of vacant land for the purpose of identifying parcels appropriate for open space designation, recreation, waterfront access, trail connections, and other needed community resources.*

*OS Strategy 2: Develop a “Resource Map” that identifies key open space locations and linkages between parks, trails, cultural amenities, and neighborhoods. Also, the map should include the inventory of vacant land that has the potential for passive recreational purposes. Once this map is finalized it will enable the Recreation Commission and the Planning Board to better understand which lands are important in achieving an overall system of transportation and recreation that is strictly passive based.*

*OS Strategy 3: Continue to seek opportunities to acquire additional recreational land during the land subdivision process. The Town should seek to acquire quality land rather than fees in lieu of land; land costs generally exceed*

*the Town's ability to purchase future land with these fees. The Commission should work with the Planning Board to continuously improve the quality of open space land that is accepted by the Town in lieu of recreation fees.*

**OS Strategy 4:** *Continue to seek lands and waterfront access points that can be used and developed as passive recreational lands. Work with the Dutchess Land Conservancy to limit the amount of sprawl in Beekman by conserving key viewsheds and open space as passive recreational land.*

### **Programming Goals & Strategies**



**P Goal:** **Promote both active and passive recreational programs to meet the growing needs of the Town's current and future residents.**

**P Strategy 1:** *Diversify recreational and cultural programs to cater to the needs of all residents and age groups. These programs should target a diverse range of residents, including Beekman's seniors, teens, youth, and adults. Programs should be evaluated annually. In addition, the Town should evaluate which recreational and cultural needs are currently not being met and determine methods to provide these services.*

**P Strategy 2:** *Expand recreational offerings that promote the growth of arts and culture in the Town. Offer additional dance and theater classes, as well as, designated space for such activities. Encourage summer youth programs that incorporate Town cultural sites and events into their activities.*

**P Strategy 3:** *Develop programs that increase awareness of Beekman's natural and living habitats. Increase partnerships with community organizations, such as, Hudsonia or the Audubon Society, to teach local residents about the surrounding ecosystem and the types of birds that it harbors. Long term plans should include a full-time position that is dedicated towards this type of programming, possibly partnering with the Arlington School District to supplement classroom teaching.*

- P Strategy 4: Investigate opportunities to share recreational services and programs. Sharing services and programs with Arlington Central School District, and local, county, state and federal park agencies could supplement the Town’s overburdened fields and facilities. The Recreation Director should coordinate with these entities on periodic basis to facilitate scheduling local sporting events.*
- P Strategy 5: Provide passive recreational or “hang out” opportunities for teenagers on weeknights and weekends.*
- P Strategy 6: Expand passive recreational offerings through the development of programming and facilities. Encourage passive recreational programs and activities for residents of all ages, such as, fishing, boating and kayaking.*

### Recreational Facilities Goals & Strategies



**RF Goal:** Continue to support the development and maintenance of a park and recreation system that meets the needs of current and future Town residents.

*RF Strategy 1: Continue the development of town-wide swimming facilities to serve the Town of Beekman. Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park’s swimming area. Continue to identify and pursue the development of new waterfront facilities, such as, the future park on Greenhaven Road. Study the possibility of developing an indoor or outdoor swimming pool.*

*RF Strategy 2: Continue the development of Town Center Park (TCP) in accordance with the Town Center Park Master Plan. Such additional improvements include, but are not limited to a pavilion, restrooms, trail extensions, indoor facility (RecPlex), outdoor music venue, concession stands, picnic areas, landscaping, gazebo, and lighting. Improvements should be planned and budgeted in the Recreation and Parks Department annual budget. Long term plans also include development of a special turf like surface under the multi-use fields. The Recreation Commission*

*should contract with an Engineer or Architect to design the pavilion, fields, and trails.*

**RF Strategy 3:** *Continue the development of multi-use fields within Beekman’s parks system. The Recreation Commission should contract with an Engineer to design a utilization plan of its parks to maximize active and passive recreational spaces. For example, Doherty Park could provide additional field space if developed or utilized fully.*

**RF Strategy 4:** *Identify future parcels that can be acquired by the Town and developed for active and passive recreational purposes. Particular focus should be for parcels with the capabilities of providing several multi-use fields. The Recreation Commission should work closely with the Open Space Committee, Town Board and the Planning Board to accomplish this vision. Appoint two or more Recreation Commission members to work with the Town Board, Planning Board, and developers to identify and prioritize potential recreational parcels and trail connections.*

**RF Strategy 5:** *Examine all existing parks and any future parks as the location of new major amenities. Develop research to better understand the cost and complexities of developing skating facilities (ice skating, and/or roller skating), dog park, multi-use field, spray park, indoor gym, tennis courts, basketball courts, and batting cages.*



**RF Strategy 6:** *Continue to work towards creating a RecPlex in the Town of Beekman to meet the needs of current and future Town residents. Throughout the Recreation Master Plan process residents have consistently requested an indoor gym and pool, both of which were included in the RecPlex Feasibility Study. Discussions with the Town Board and future public meetings should identify opportunities for funding the project.*

**RF Strategy 7:** *Develop a Beach Development Committee to determine the appropriate waterfront and park amenities for a future park on Greenhaven Road. The Recreation Commission should contract with an Engineer to design a park master plan, identifying financially feasible stages for the Town to realistically develop the waterfront site into a*

*community beach. Working with the Engineer, the Committee should develop a construction schedule that prioritizes the development milestones of the park. Stage one of the beach development should include: water/sewer access, restrooms, electricity, phone service, parking lot, sand beach, boating docks, fishing area, equipment shed, lifeguard chairs, and any other Red Cross or NYS Department of Health requirements to open the beach. Stage two of the beach development should include: pavilion, concession stand, walking/biking/skating trail, playground, picnic and BBQ areas, and sporting areas (volleyball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, etc.).*

**RF Strategy 8: Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park to provide users and employees with the highest quality of facilities and programming possible.** *Specific issues that currently need to be addressed include the following: improvement and development of new swimming facilities lack of accessible public restrooms; turbidity of the beach water; deteriorating condition of the lifeguard chairs, as well as, poor positioning and height; lack of security of the mini-golf course; lack of a central entrance for beach users to ensure safety and collection of user fees; lack of storage for day camp and other programs; outdated computers and computer information system; existing office space not large enough or provide enough privacy for employees; need to expand existing facilities or develop new facilities (Community Center at Recreation Park, trails, skating, and meeting spaces); and better coordination of scheduling for the Community Center at Recreation Park, which is constantly overbooked.*

**RF Strategy 9: Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park’s swimming area.** *Hire a consultant to identify and address the turbidity of the beach water.*

**RF Strategy 10: Continue to improve the Town’s park system and facilities to provide the Town’s residents’ with the highest quality of services and recreational opportunities.** *Pursue grant funding opportunities that may assist in the design, development, and construction of new parks, trails, and*



facilities.

- RF Strategy 11: Improve Beyer Drive Soccer Field to be more user-friendly and accessible to the surrounding neighborhood.** The Recreation Commission should work with the Town to improve the park's stormwater management system, signage, and parking area. Currently this park is used primarily as a soccer field, but could host playground equipment to benefit the adjacent neighborhood community.
- RF Strategy 12: Continue to develop Doherty Park as a multi-use park facility.** Specific improvement should include signage at the entrance and along the nature trail; providing separation between pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles particularly near the vehicle access drives and parking areas; and identifying opportunities for the development of future ball-fields. Identify locations for pavilions, restrooms, concession stands, benches, tables, landscaping, and gazebo.
- RF Strategy 13: Examine all existing parks and any future parks as the location of a multi-use field with a special turf like surface.** Develop research to better understand the cost and complexities of developing the field.
- RF Strategy 14: Identify opportunities for expansion of the existing Town Recreation & Parks Department facilities.** Examine all facilities including offices, programming areas (indoors and outdoors), service areas, and storage areas. Identify opportunities on existing and any future recreational parcels for expansion and development of new facilities. Expansion of recreational facilities will alleviate existing problems, such as, lack of work space, overcrowded storage areas, lack of programming areas for children, teens and adults, as well as, scheduling conflicts.
- RF Strategy 15: Identify opportunities for development of new Town Recreation and Parks Department maintenance facilities.** The facilities should include offices, work space, easy access, and storage areas which are able to handle all of the Town Recreation & Parks Department equipment. Currently equipment is stored at several parks, including Recreation Park in a mobile storage unit, in the short term, this structure should be moved to a less visible site in the parks system. In addition, examine the possibility of enhancing park maintenance through additional staff for the Town Recreation & Parks Department.



*RF Strategy 16: Investigate alternative locations for Town of Beekman government meetings, which are located at the Community Center at Recreation Park during the months of June to September. During these months routinely attended active and passive recreational programs are forced to relocate, reschedule or cancel.*

*RF Strategy 17: Develop a comprehensive Town-wide trail network. The network should include multi-surfaced trails and nature trails to improve public access. Work with Dutchess County and New York State Department of Transportation to provide proper bicycle lanes on major roads. Long term, implement the improvements identified by the Beekman Trails Committee and the official Beekman Trails Map. Hire an engineer to develop a conceptual design, budget, and timeline for completing the proposed Town-wide trail network.*

## III. Implementation

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### *Implementing the Plan*

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The adoption of the *Recreation Master Plan* is only the beginning. The mere statements of goals and strategies included in this Plan will not produce the desired results unless the Town of Beekman implements the concepts through land use regulations, public investment and cooperation, and/or the formation of partnerships with adjacent municipalities.

Once the *Recreation Master Plan* is adopted, the Town Board should designate the Recreation Commission responsible for review of the Plan's goals and strategies, in addition to providing recommendations for the Town to pursue. The Commission should work on each strategy in the order of importance established by the "time frames" given within this document; however, it is likely that priorities may change with the availability of funding sources for particular projects.

### *Implementation Timeline*

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The Action Matrix that follows identifies the responsible or lead party designated for implementing the action and the approximate timeframe the action should be accomplished. The recommended timeframes are identified as follows:

S - Short (or near) term: Next twelve months (Beginning 2010)

M – Midterm (or intermediate): Next Two to Three Years (2011-2013)

L – Long term: Three to Five years (2013-2015)

O – On-going: To be accomplished any time over the next five years.

In addition, potential funding sources have been identified wherever possible. The following table gives the complete names of the agencies that may be abbreviated within the subsequent Action Matrix. See **Appendix D** for complete recreational funding information.

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### ***Funding Sources for Parks & Recreation Projects***

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Meeting the goals of a Recreation Plan can be costly, whether implementation requires further planning and analysis, construction, expansion of services, or facility maintenance and improvements. To ensure the Plan's success, the Town of Beekman should identify and capitalize on available funding sources. Recreation projects are typically funded through private donations, bonding and/or in-lieu-of fees, as well as grants from state and federal programs.

State and federal agencies are the primary sources of funding for local parks and recreation projects. Funding programs support a range of actions including land acquisition, planning and design, construction, and maintenance. State grants are administered through various funding agencies including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS), and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP). Most State funding programs stem from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), which was established to provide a dedicated source of funding for vital environmental programs.

Federal grants are generally available through the National Parks Service, the Federal Highway Administration, the Department of Education, and National Resource Conservation Services. Federal funds are commonly administered by the State to the localities.

The state and federal grants listed in **Table 1** below are extremely competitive and can be difficult to secure without a Recreation Plan in place. Project eligibility, the supported action, and project elements vary depending on the grant program. If the project meets eligibility requirements, a community must then ensure that the project is aligned with the funding source's priorities and ranking criteria. Funding priorities are established each year and are based on a point system. Most grant cycles are announced on an annual basis and the opportunity to apply ranges from several weeks to several months. Towns must keep abreast of available funding opportunities and be cognizant of application deadlines. The Town of Beekman's Recreation Plan should be examined regularly to ensure the plan is aligned with the community's wants and needs, as well as with the state and federal criterion necessary to successfully secure grant funding.

**Table 1: Sources of Grant Funding**

Grant Source	Eligible Projects	Application Due Date	Funds Available
<b>Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act</b> <i>New York State Office of Parks, Recreation &amp; Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park preservation and rehabilitation</li> <li>• Historic preservation of properties on the State and National Register</li> <li>• Acquisition of easements for use by general public for recreation, conservation or preservation purposes</li> </ul>	Annual call for proposals (summer)	Special funding cap of \$1 million for projects over \$4 million  Standard funding cap of \$500,000
<b>Environmental Protection Fund</b> <i>NYSOPRHP &amp; New York Department of Coastal Resources</i>	<b>NYSOPRHP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park preservation or rehabilitation</li> <li>• Historic preservation of properties on the State and National Register</li> <li>• Acquisition of easements for use by general public for recreation, conservation, or preservation purposes</li> </ul> <b>NYS DCR Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General local waterfront revitalization or redevelopment</li> <li>• Public coastal education</li> </ul>	Annual call for proposals (summer)	Cap of \$1 million for projects over \$4 million (Typically \$10,000 - \$500,000)
<b>Furthermore</b> <i>The Kaplan Fund</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications (maps, pamphlets, books, guides, and catalogues) to expand public interest in the built and natural environment, historic resources and preservation, cultural history, art landscape and design.</li> </ul>	March 1 <sup>st</sup> & September 1 <sup>st</sup>	Up to \$20,000
<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund</b> <i>National Park Service</i>	<b>National Park Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acquisition</li> <li>• Recreational/park improvements including trails</li> </ul>	Not yet established	\$7,000 - \$400,000
<b>National Trails Endowment</b> <i>American Hiking Society</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of new trails or improvements of exiting trail facilities</li> <li>• Increasing disabled access</li> <li>• Purchasing of trail lands</li> <li>• Trail research projects</li> <li>• Constituency-building for a specific trail project</li> </ul>	November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Up to \$10,000
<b>National Recreational Trails Program</b> <i>NYSOPRHP &amp; Federal Highway Administration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail development</li> <li>• Acquisition of trail easements or rights-of-way</li> <li>• Trail management activities</li> </ul>	Irregular call for proposals (spring)	Total funding \$1 million (\$5,000 - \$80,000)

Grant Source	Eligible Projects	Application Due Date	Funds Available
<b>Preserve New York</b> <i>Preservation League of New York &amp; New York State Council on the Arts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic structure and/or landscape reports and cultural resource surveys to plan for the preservation</li> <li>• Restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings and landscapes</li> </ul>	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Total funding \$106,500 (\$3,000 - \$15,000)
<b>Recreation and Conservation Grants (not-for-profit organizations only)</b> <i>Recreational Equipment, Inc.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community recreation projects including outdoor education and recreational access</li> <li>• Conservation projects to encourage community support</li> <li>• Advocacy and public policy to protect access and recreational opportunities</li> </ul>	March	Up to \$5,000
<b>Transportation Enhancements Program</b> <i>New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities for bicycles &amp; pedestrians</li> <li>• Scenic or historic highway programs</li> <li>• Tourist &amp; welcome center facilities</li> <li>• Transportation related museums</li> <li>• Control &amp; removal of outdoor advertising</li> <li>• Environmental mitigation to reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality, landscaping &amp; scenic beautification</li> </ul>	Irregular call for proposals (summer)	\$50,000 - \$2.5 million

Source: Laberge Group, 2010

### Acronyms for Implementation Matrix

Acronym	Full Name
AHS	American Hiking Society National Trails Endowment
BTF	Baseball Tomorrow Fund
CW/CA	Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act
EPF	Environmental Protection Fund
FOUNDATION	Private Foundations or Non Profit Organizations
Furthermore	Kaplan Fund
HREMP	Hudson River Estuary Management Program
HRIF (Foundation)	Hudson River Improvement Fund
HRVG	Hudson River Valley Greenway
HVRGC	Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund
NPS – LWCF	National Park Service – Land & Water Conservation Fund
NYSCA	NYS Council on the Arts
NYSCC	NYS Conservation Council
NYSCS	NYS Canal System
NYSDEC	NYS Dept of Environment Conservation
NYSDOS-LWRP	NYS Dept. of State, Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan
NYSDOS-DCR	NYS Dept. of State, Department of Coastal Resources
NYSDOT TEP	NYSDOT Transportation Enhancement Program
NYSOPRHP	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
NYSOPRHP-CLG	NYSOPRHP-Certified Local Government
NYSOPRHP-EPF	NYSOPRHP-Environmental Protection Fund
NYSOPRHP- RTP	NYSOPRHP-Recreational Trail Program
OPRHP-Parks Program	Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation-Parks Program
Preserve New York	Preservation League of NY and NYS Council on the Arts
PTNY	Parks & Trails NY
REI	Recreational Equipment, Inc. Recreation and Conservation Grants
RCAP	Rural Community Assistance Program
SBF	Scenic Byways Foundation
TEA-21	Transportation Equity Act for the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
USDOI- RICA	US Dept. of the Interior, Rivers Trails, & Conservation Assistance

### ***Implementation Matrix***

The following represents the Implementation Matrix for the goals and strategies identified by the Town of Beekman.

Goals & Strategy		Time Frame	Possible Funding or Assistance Source
<b>ACCESS AND AWARENESS</b>			
<b>AA Goal 1: Encourage and continually improve accessibility to Beekman’s active and passive recreation resources.</b>			
AA 1	Promote healthy living and lifestyles for all ages and residents in Beekman.	O	Local
AA 2	Continue to improve the marketing and advertisement of Beekman’s parks and recreational facilities.	O	Local, Chamber
AA 3	Update signage at the park entrances and throughout the parks to reflect a uniform design and theme.	O	Local NYSOPRH
AA 4	Develop wayfinding signage throughout Beekman to direct residents and tourists to the Town’s recreational and cultural resources.	M	Local NYSOPRH HRVG, HRIF, HVRGC NYSCA
AA 5	Improve access to the Town parks.	O	Local NYSDOT
AA 6	Ensure the construction of a Town-wide trail network is designed to meet the special needs of local residents and visitors.	O	Local, County, NYSOPRHP HRVG, HRIF, HVRGC NYSCA, Foundations
<b>RECREATIONAL STEWARDSHIP</b>			
<b>RS Goal 1: Enable the Town to successfully achieve its recreational vision through public and private partnerships that promote stewardship of the Town’s resources.</b>			
RS 1	Prioritize the allocation of scarce resources to the development of recreation and cultural resources in the Town.	O	Local
RS 2	Investigate potential grant funding opportunities that may assist in the design, development, and construction of new park trails and facilities.	O	Local, State & Federal Resources
RS 3	Coordinate the development formation of the “Friends of Beekman Park & Recreation” as a quasi-governmental not-for-profit, 501-c3 organization to access recreation and trail grant funds.	S	Local
RS 4	Continue to improve communication between the Town Recreation & Parks Department, the Recreation Commission, the Town Board, and the Planning Board to ensure Beekman residents’ needs are met.	S	Local
RS 5	Develop a provision in Beekman’s land use regulations to require the Planning Board to counsel with the Recreation Commission on any project that requires recreation fees and donated recreation lands.	S	Local
RS 6	Periodically review the Recreation Fee required in lieu of land required as part of subdivision approvals.	O	Local
RS 7	Develop a volunteer program that is aimed at providing better maintenance and enhancement of parkland.	O	Local, Foundations & Non-profits

Goals & Strategy		Time Frame	Possible Funding or Assistance Source
RS 8	Encourage active participation of Recreation Commission members on recreation and open space related commission and committees in the Town of Beekman.	O	Local
RS 9	Continue to develop the SCORP Service Area Map, which identifies all existing parks by their SCORP classifications.	S	Local
RS 10	Investigate opportunities to share recreational resources with surrounding municipalities.	O	Local
RS 10	Continue to utilize volunteer labor to improve recreational resources in Beekman.	O	Local, Foundations
RS 11	Explore the feasibility of developing an annual Park Maintenance and Facility Repair Plan, which can identify and prioritize specific improvements, projects within the park system, and a cost benefit analysis of additional staff expansion.	M	Local
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>			
<b>OS Goal 1: Continue to support the preservation and protection of the Town's open space and natural resources.</b>			
OS 1	Develop an inventory of vacant land for the purpose of identifying parcels appropriate for open space designation, recreation, waterfront access, trail connections, and other needed community resources.	O	Local, County, NYSAG
OS 2	Develop a "Resource Map" that identifies key open space locations and linkages between parks, trails, cultural amenities, and neighborhoods.	S	Local, County, NCOA
OS 3	Continue to seek opportunities to acquire additional recreational land during the land subdivision process.	S	Local, NYSAG
OS 4	Continue to seek lands and waterfront access points that can be used and developed as passive recreational lands.	O	Local, LWCF
<b>PROGRAMMING</b>			
<b>P Goal 1: Promote both active and passive recreational programs to meet the growing needs of the Town's current and future residents.</b>			
P 1	Diversify recreational and cultural programs to cater to the needs of all residents.	O	Local, County, NYSOPRHP
P 2	Expand recreational offerings that promote the growth of arts and culture in the Town.	M	Local, County, NYSOPRHP, NYSCA
P 3	Develop programs that increase awareness of Beekman's natural and living habitats.	O	Local, NYSOPRHP
P 4	Investigate opportunities to share recreational services and programs.	O	Local, School District
P 5	Provide passive recreational or "hang out" opportunities for teenagers on weeknights and weekends.	S	Local, County

Goals & Strategy		Time Frame	Possible Funding or Assistance Source
P 6	Expand passive recreational offerings through the development of programming and facilities.	S	Local, NYSOPRHP
<b>RECREATIONAL FACILITIES</b>			
<b>RF Goal 1: Continue to support the development and maintenance of a park and recreation system that meets the needs of current and future Town residents.</b>			
RF 1	Continue the development of town-wide swimming facilities to serve the Town of Beekman.	S	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 2	Continue the development of Town Center Park (TCP) in accordance with the Town Center Park Master Plan.	L	Local, NYSOPRHP Local HRVG, HRIF,
RF 3	Continue the development of multi-use fields within the Beekman parks system.	L	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 4	Identify future parcels that can be acquired by the Town and developed for recreational purposes.	O	Local
RF 5	Examine all existing parks and any future parks as the location of new major amenities. Develop research to better understand the cost and complexities of developing skating facilities (ice skating, and/or roller skating), dog park, multi-use field, spray park, indoor gym, tennis courts, basketball courts, and batting cages.	O	Local
RF 6	Continue to work towards creating a RecPlex in the Town of Beekman to meet the needs of current and future Town residents.	O	Local NYSOPRHP
RF 7	Develop a Beach Development Committee to determine the appropriate waterfront and park amenities for the future park on Greenhaven Road.	M	Local, NYSOPRHP EPF, LWCF
RF 8	Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park to provide users and employees with the highest quality of facilities and programming possible.	O	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 9	Continue the development, improvement, and maintenance of Recreation Park's swimming area.	O	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 10	Continue to improve the Town's park system and facilities to provide the Town's residents' with the highest quality of services and recreational opportunities.	O	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 11	Improve Beyer Drive Soccer Field to be more user-friendly and accessible to the surrounding neighborhood.	S	Local
RF 12	Continue to develop Doherty Park as a multi-use park facility.	O	Local, NYSOPRHP HRVG, HRIF, HVRGC
RF 13	Examine all existing parks and any future parks as the location of a multi-use field with a special turf like surface.	M	Local, NYSOPRHP
RF 14	Identify opportunities for expansion of the existing Town Recreation and Parks Department facilities.	M	Local

<b>Goals &amp; Strategy</b>		<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Possible Funding or Assistance Source</b>
RF 15	Identify opportunities for development of a new Town Recreation and Parks Department maintenance facility.	S	Local
RF 16	Investigate alternative locations for the Town of Beekman government meetings, which are located at the Community Center at Recreation Park during the months of June to September.	O	Local
RF 17	Develop a comprehensive Town-wide trail network.	L	Local, County, NYSOPRHP, HRVG, HRIF, HVRGC, NYSCA, Foundations

## IV. Summary of Existing Plans & Studies

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The following is a summary of existing plans and studies completed for the Town of Beekman. Each of these plans contains research, analysis, and recommendations that are directly related to the successful integration of the *Recreation Master Plan* with existing goals and strategies. The following plans and studies are reviewed below:

- *Beekman Town Center Park Master Plan, 1999*
- *Town of Beekman Open Space Plan, 2005*
- *Town of Beekman Comprehensive Plan, 2007*
- *Town of Beekman RecPlex Feasibility Study, 2008*

### ***Beekman Town Center Park Master Plan, 1999***

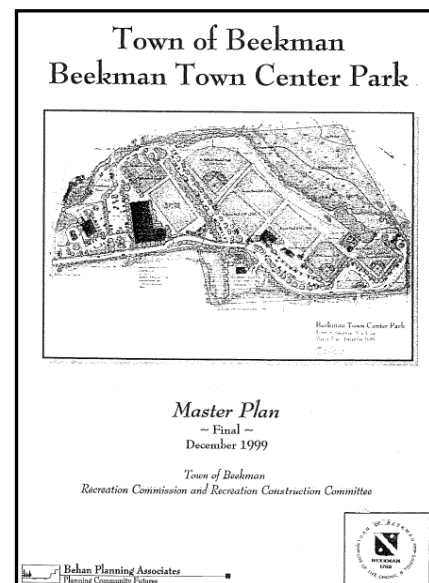
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As a result of the residential growth experienced by the Town of Beekman, it was determined that a new Town park was necessary to meet growing recreational needs. The Town Board purchased land in 1998 for the development of the new park. The Town Board appointed the Recreation Construction Committee to work in conjunction with a professional planning firm in the development of the *Town Center Park Master Plan*.

The plan included an inventory of the site's conditions, determination of recreational need based upon the standards and development guidelines established by New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP), compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), a list of recreation priorities, and a community survey conducted to assess the recreational needs and wants of residents.

The recreational needs were ranked and prioritized; the highest priorities in the Town included the development of additional soccer fields, followed by baseball fields, a maintenance building, sports facility building, and a roller hockey rink. Additional priorities were discussed with the hope of implementation during later phases of the project.

The plan resulted in five development phases for the Park. Each phase was designed to build upon the previous phase by adding new elements or programs to the Park's design. Need, construction efficiency, and financial constraints were also taken into account. It was recognized that the development of the Park may not take a linear path and the development of the phases may



incorporate one or more phases as funding became available. The development of an indoor recreation facility was identified as the last phase (Phase V). The facility would potentially include a swimming pool, a gymnasium, racquetball and handball courts, restrooms/locker areas, concession area/lounge, offices, and associated parking.

Over the past several years, the Town has successfully implemented several of the Park's recreational components. The Plan's next step was to understand the feasibility and affordability of constructing an indoor recreation facility, thus the completion of the *RecPlex Feasibility Study* in 2008.

### ***Town of Beekman Open Space Plan, 2005***

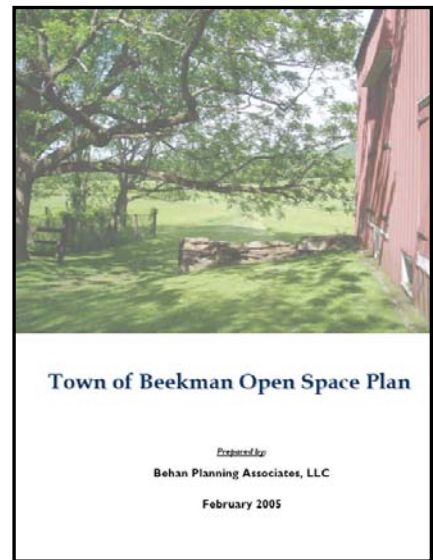
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Due to increased pressure by residents to maintain Beekman's small town atmosphere while continuing to provide enough infrastructure and services for the continued influx of residents, the Town developed an *Open Space Plan*. The Town completed the plan in 2005, which provided framework for the preservation of Beekman's unique character by conserving and protecting open space while managing new growth and development.

The majority of land considered as "open space" is privately owned. The Plan recognizes that forming partnerships with land owners would provide a unique opportunity to connect Beekman's scenic, unique, and special places for recreation, education, and general enjoyment. The plan identified that the existing system of natural features, cultural landmarks, and scenic corridors needed to be linked together by trails, scenic roadways and access points to enhance and provide a unique rural experience in Beekman.

Several potential improvements realized through the plan include, connecting people to Beekman's natural areas in an effort to develop understanding, respect, and appreciation for natural resources. Public access to Beekman's waterbodies, creeks, and streams should be created where feasible – including access to the Red Wing Quarry pond, Sylvan Lake, and the Prison Reservoir located off of Gardner Hollow Road, as well as Fishkill Creek and Whaley Lake Stream. Natural features such as the Fishkill Creek are prominent elements of the landscape that can be utilized as corridors, connecting people to a series of natural and cultural features such as lakes, hamlets, historic sites, and parks. Parks and recreational areas, such as Sylvan Lake and Depot Hill Multiple Use Area, offer destinations for swimming, day hiking, camping and other outdoor activities.

The plan recognizes the Appalachian Trail as the Town's most prominent recreational trail feature. The trail system traverses Beekman's southern ridge, providing an opportunity for long-distance hikers to travel along the Appalachian ridgeline from Georgia to Maine. In addition to



the Appalachian Trail, there is a public trail system within the Dalton Farms subdivision that is maintained by the Dalton Farms Home Owners Association. Together these trails should be used as a framework for developing a comprehensive local and regional trail and open space system in Beekman.

Below are concepts from the *Open Space Plan* for providing connections between neighborhoods and special places throughout Beekman:

1. Identify, conserve, build awareness of, and encourage restoration and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and features.
2. Create or enhance public access to waterbodies and streams.
3. Create a town-wide interconnected trail system that links the community to Beekman's natural, cultural, historical, and recreational amenities
4. Protect scenic views of landscapes visible from public roads and places, and scenic vistas.

### **Recommendations**

- a) Identify desired water uses (such as fishing, swimming, etc.) and potential access areas and integrate these access points into a plan for trails and recreation.
- b) Acquire lands or easements for public access at significant critical areas such as Sylvan Lake and Fishkill Creek.
- c) Work with the town's recently-formed trail committee to develop a town-wide trail master plan.
- d) Implement a kick-off trail project to build momentum and interest in further trail development.
- e) Develop a trail and map highlighting the unique agricultural resources of the town -- "through the agricultural countryside." This will promote awareness of the diverse farmland resources within the town.



### **Short-term actions**

*Trail and Community Connections: Implement at least one trail segment to build community connections.*

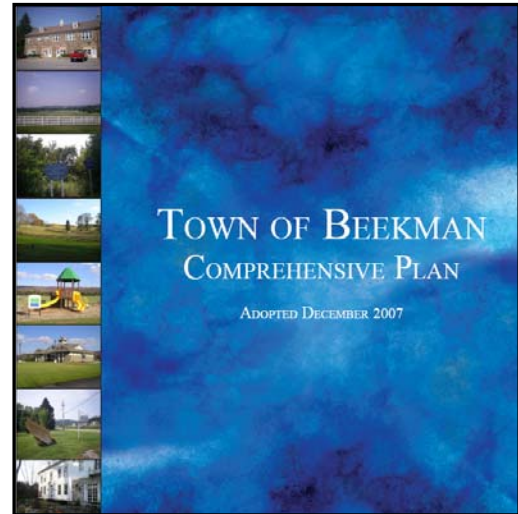
One early potential action is to create a trail system within town-owned park lands to better utilize and enjoy these existing resources. Another early project would be to find a "do-able" link to connect a town-owned park to another special place in town, such as a large neighborhood. This would involve obtaining a trail easement through gift to the town or through purchase of a trail easement, and following through with trail design and construction as needed. As part of developing individual trail projects, the idea for trail segments should be processed with the

newly formed Beekman trails committee and the recreation committee. Any trails planning should also include outreach with any neighboring landowners, to discuss and resolve all potential issues related to trails.

### ***Town of Beekman Comprehensive Plan, 2007***

In 2007, the Town of Beekman completed an update to the *Comprehensive Plan*. The updated plan serves as a tool for the Town to manage growth and deliver public services in a sustainable manner. Recognizing the importance of providing adequate services for a growing population, the Town inventoried its existing resources and solicited public input to identify issues and concerns most important to Beekman’s residents and property owners.

A Comprehensive Plan Survey was conducted as part of the process. Approximately 27% of the respondents to the Town-wide survey selected “indoor recreational facilities” and “indoor swimming pool” as priority improvements. Approximately 10% of the respondents to the survey indicated the most important issues facing the Town over the next 10 years were the “adequacy of parks and recreation facilities”. Overall, residents expressed a strong need for not only quality, but also a diversity of passive and active recreational opportunities in the Town of Beekman.



Also as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update, in-person interviews were conducted with individuals and groups identified as stakeholders by the Town. The Town’s Recreation Director was one stakeholder interviewed. The interview noted the need for more space for both active and passive indoor and outdoor recreation activities for all ages. The President of Dalton Farms Homeowners Association indicated support for the development of recreational facilities for seniors and youths. Seniors often bring their grandchildren to programs. The Vice President of the Beekman Athletic Club identified the need for more year-round playing fields and recreation facilities in order to continue to provide competitive programs.

During the public workshop on Natural Resources, Open Space & Recreation in March 2007, conducted as part of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan update, participants reemphasized the need for an indoor recreational facility, a teen center and an indoor swimming pool. Overall, residents expressed a strong need for not only quality, but also a diversity of passive and active recreational opportunities in the Town of Beekman.

The following goals and strategies are included in the Town’s *Comprehensive Plan*:

**Recreation & Cultural Goals**

**RC Goal 1: Identify the recreational needs of Beekman’s residents and study the feasibility of providing any additional recreational services and/or facilities to satisfy this identified need.**

RC Strategy 1.1: Prioritize the allocation of scarce resources to the development of recreation in the Town.

*RC Action 1.1.1: Determine the feasibility of developing new programs and offering additional services using currently available funding.*

RC Strategy 1.2: Explore the feasibility of creating additional recreational opportunities including improved lake access and constructing an indoor recreational facility.

*RC Action 1.2.1: Develop the future deeded waterfront parcel to allow for boating, swimming, and picnicking. Use this facility to supplement the currently used waterfront facility.*

*RC Action 1.2.2: Implement recreational use fees for selected programs and services.*

*RC Action 1.2.3: Recreational Impact Fees should be evaluated annually and adjusted as may be necessary to reflect the rising cost of recreational properties and infrastructure.*

*RC Action 1.2.4: Evaluate the current and future demand for a gymnasium, indoor/outdoor swimming pool, fitness room, indoor track, concessions area, party rooms, and a multipurpose space to be included in a RecPlex facility. Consider partnering with neighboring municipalities and school districts to fund the construction of a RecPlex facility.*

RC Strategy 1.3: Diversify passive and active recreational opportunities to cater to the needs of all residents.

*RC Action 1.3.1: Examine all currently available opportunities and determine resident population groups whose needs are being met or not met, and the extent to which this is true.*

*RC Action 1.3.2: Provide passive recreational or “hang out” opportunities for teenagers on Friday and Saturday nights.*

*RC Action 1.3.3: Request parent volunteers to supervise children and young adult indoor recreational activities in the Recreation Center on weekends when staff supervision is unavailable.*

*RC Action 1.3.4: Dedicate one night per month to invite a guest speaker/instructor to the Recreation Center to offer a non-traditional passive or active recreational class. The class can be lecture or active-style and open to all ages. A small fee could be charged to offset the cost of inviting the speaker/instructor.*

*RC Action 1.3.5: Provide additional exercise classes for senior citizens.*

RC Strategy 1.4: Develop and implement a Town-wide Recreation Master Plan.

*RC Action 1.4.1: Allocate funding to develop a Recreation Master Plan seeking outside professional assistance.*

*RC Action 1.4.2: Ensure that the goals of the Recreation Master Plan reflect those of the Comprehensive Plan.*

RC Strategy 1.5: Improve and expand currently available athletic programs.

*RC Action 1.5.1: Construct new athletic fields (i.e. baseball, softball, tee-ball, soccer, and lacrosse fields) to meet the Town's growing demand for these sporting activities.*



*RC Action 1.5.2: Gain access to public school facilities to supplement the use of currently over-burdened public fields and courts.*

*RC Action 1.5.3: Explore alternatives to expand recreational opportunities in Beekman (e.g. lights on baseball and softball fields to increase the amount of league competition and practice time; acquisition of additional recreational fields; etc).*

*RC Action 1.5.4: Install amenities such as additional batting cages to offer baseball and softball players more practice; bullpens on fields where participants ages 13 and older compete; bleachers, scoreboards and an announcement booth at Town Center Park; and construct currently planned dugouts at senior baseball fields.*

*RC Action 1.5.5: Develop the underutilized property in Doherty Park for active and passive recreational uses.*

**RC Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the existing as well as the continued development of the park and recreation system to meet the needs of current and future Town residents, and provide them with top quality parks and facilities.**

RC Strategy 2.1: Improve access to Town parks where feasible.

*RC Action 2.1.1: Pave Town Center Boulevard and parking lot to improve park access, better organize the parking lot, and establish the park as a more permanent amenity in the Town.*

*RC Action 2.1.2: Complete the network of walking trails through the Town that will connect the parks.*

RC Strategy 2.2: Enhance current park facilities to meet passive recreation demands.

*RC Action 2.2.1: Install a greater number of benches in parks and along the walking trail network.*

*RC Action 2.2.2: Construct restrooms and a concession stand at Town Center Park.*

*RC Action 2.2.3: Run water and electric lines to Town Center Park.*

*RC Action 2.2.4: Enhance park facilities to provide a safe recreational experience for visitors and to eliminate the threat of vandalism.*

RC Strategy 2.3: Capitalize on the Appalachian Trail and State forests as recreational destinations.

*RC Action 2.3.1: Install signage at trailheads and along roadways that provide directions to the trailheads. Wayfinding signage informs both residents and visitors that trails exist as well as leading the informed hikers to the trails.*

**RC Goal 3: Continue to create a network of trails and paths throughout the community to link and improve accessibility to recreational, cultural, commercial, and regional resources.**

RC Strategy 3.1: Ensure the construction of a trail network is practically designed and meets the special needs of local residents and visitors.

*RC Action 3.1.1: Seek trail development guidance from the Trails Committee and utilize the schematic plan that has already been developed by the committee.*

*RC Action 3.1.2: Meet the special needs of seniors who heavily utilize the current trail system. Provide an adequate number of benches and emergency call boxes along the trails.*



*RC Action 3.1.3: Provide wayfinding signage for tourists leading pedestrians to historical sites, municipal facilities, recreational areas, and the tourist center.*

RC Strategy 3.2: Continue to utilize volunteer labor to undertake small construction projects along the trails including bench and garden installation.

*RC Action 3.2.1: Continue to seek assistance from local Scouts troops. Investigate the possibility of utilizing other local young adult and adult organizations.*

**RC Goal 4: Promote and support the growth of arts and cultural events throughout the Town as a means of enhancing the Town’s cultural experiences and strengthening its sense of community.**

RC Strategy 4.1: Host a Beekman Community day once a year as an outdoor event where arts and culture are promoted.

*RC Action 4.1.1: Invite touring dance or theater groups to perform; invite local restaurants to cater the event; offer film screenings on a large outdoor screen; and/or display local art by professional artists and students.*

RC Strategy 4.2: Expand recreational offerings that promote the growth of arts and culture in the Town.

*RC Action 4.2.1: Offer additional dance classes and consider creating theater classes. Designate space in the new recreational facility to hold dance and theater classes.*

*RC Action 4.2.2: Encourage summer youth programs and local schools to incorporate Town cultural sites and events into their activities.*

*RC Action 4.2.3: Explore the feasibility of designating an outdoor area for summer concerts and events.*

RC Strategy 4.3: Display local art from professional artists and students throughout the Town.

*RC Action 4.3.1: Designate one wall in the Town Hall and Recreation Center for the display of local art.*

*RC Action 4.3.2: Encourage middle school and high school art teachers to reach out to casual dining restaurants about displaying art in restaurant lobbies. Community-oriented restaurants are often interested in supporting this type of local initiative.*

*RC Action 4.3.3: Display local art at Beekman’s Community Day.*

**RC Goal 5: Preserve, enhance, and promote the Town’s historical and cultural resources for the enjoyment of the current residents and future generations.**

RC Strategy 5.1: Hold commemorative historical events to bring people together and substantiate the Town's historical identity.

*RC Action 5.1.1: Consult the Beekman Historical Society, Friends of History, or other historical organization about establishing select historical events that could be held annually.*

*RC Action 5.1.2: Advertise events in regional newspapers to invite visitors to learn about Beekman's history in addition to local residents.*



RC Strategy 5.2: Support the development of a Town walking tour as a way to educate the public about historic homes, buildings, and sites within the community.

*RC Action 5.2.1: Develop promotional materials and maps to support a community walking tour program.*

*RC Action 5.2.2: Consider training responsible upper-level high school students to lead weekend tours on a volunteer basis as a way for students to conduct community service, foster public speaking skills, and learn about their community.*

**RC Goal 6: Create tourism opportunities by promoting the Town's historic identity.**

RC Strategy 6.1: Create a network of tourism sites and corresponding map to guide visitors through the Town's historic district.

*RC Action 6.1.1: Collaborate with the Beekman Historical Society, Friends of History, or other historical organization to create and distribute the historic district map.*

*RC Action 6.1.2: Distribute the historic map at the proposed tourism center and post it on the Town's website.*

RC Strategy 6.2: Market local historical events and tourist destinations.

*RC Action 6.2.1: Utilize advertisement opportunities in regional newspapers and on websites including "iloveny.com" to attract tourists to the area.*

*RC Action 6.2.2: Provide background materials and encourage local press to spotlight community sites and resources in occasional articles or as part of an ongoing series.*

*RC Action 6.2.3: Ensure that main Town resources are identified in Dutchess County tourist promotion materials and regional/state websites are linked to community ‘resource’ web pages.*

*RC Action 6.2.4: Foster a reciprocal advertising relationship between businesses and the historical organizations (i.e. Beekman Historical Society, Friends of History, etc). Local restaurants and shops could distribute historic district brochures while historic district tour guides could recommend visiting commercial destinations in the Town for entertainment and refreshment upon completion of the tour.*

**RC Goal 7: Develop and enhance destinations throughout the Town that have cultural, historical and/or educational interest.**

RC Strategy 7.1: Establish local incentives for historic preservation.

*RC Action 7.1.1: Consider property tax rebate incentives to encourage private property owners to carry out stabilization, rehabilitation, and improvements to historic structures.*

*RC Action 7.1.2: Consider additional incentives including historic landowner recognition programs (i.e. awards, certificates, plaques, etc.) or use of a voluntary façade easement program. Through a facade easement, the Town can assist a homeowner in preserving the historic qualities of the structure without a financial burden to the homeowner.*

RC Strategy 7.2: Create a Cultural and Historical Committee who will report to the Town Board.

*RC Action 7.2.1: Assign the Cultural and Historical Committee with the task of organizing local events relevant to their area of expertise and ensuring similar goals stated in the Comprehensive Plan are realized.*

*RC Action 7.2.2: Encourage the Cultural and Historical Committee to fully develop a Geographic Information System (GIS) map showing historic and cultural places in the Town. The inventory should include all historical markers, cemeteries, and other historical and cultural sites.*



RC Strategy 7.3: Inform/update current owners, residents, and local real estate firms/agents of historic property incentives, funding, low interest loan resources and rules and regulations that pertain to local historic districts that exist at the state and federal level.

*RC Action 7.3.1: Utilize newsletters, direct mailings, brochures, the Town web site and other means.*

*RC Action 7.3.2: Encourage the Beekman Historical Society, Friends of History, or other historical organization to begin fostering a relationship with the general public as resource for historic preservation information.*

**RC Goal 8: Protect and enhance the unique local history of the Town's Hamlets through reuse, rehabilitation and maintenance of significant structures, as well as to safeguard against the loss of these important resources.**

RC Strategy 8.1: Investigate becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG) under NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation program.

*RC Action 8.1.1: Explore the benefits of participating in the CLG program. To participate in the CLG program, the Town is required to create and adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance designed to protect historic structures.*

*RC Action 8.1.2: Consider designating the Beekman Historical Society as the organization to review proposed activities that have potential impact on local historical resources.*

*RC Action 8.1.3: Pursue grants to undertake historical building restoration projects.*

RC Strategy 8.2: Develop and designate a Local Historic Overlay District (LHOD) to protect local historic structures and sites.

*RC Action 8.2.1: Develop boundaries for the LHOD. Consider designating the Roosevelt House in Dalton Farms as the center of the historic district with the Beekmanville and Poughquag Hamlets representing the boundaries at either end of the district.*

*RC Action 8.2.2: Consider developing and adopting a Local Historic Overlay District as part of the Town's Zoning Ordinance.*

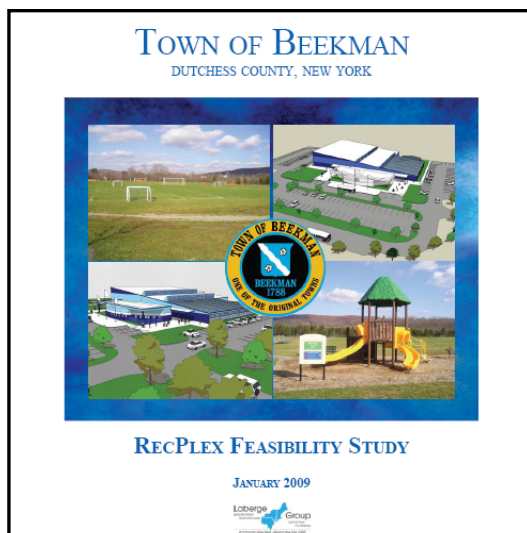
RC Strategy 8.3: Identify significant historical structures and sites and officially designate them as Town historical landmarks. Apply for these sites to be included on the National Register of Historic Sites.

*RC Action 8.3.1: Consult the Beekman Historical Society for evaluating, preserving, and cataloguing historic documents.*

- RC Action 8.3.2: Renovate the Old Grist Mill to improve structural integrity and to include both a museum and tourism center.*
- RC Action 8.3.3: Install signage that identifies historical structures and landmarks.*
- RC Action 8.3.4: Work with the Trails Committee to create wayfinding signage that leads visitors down the Old Upper Road. Consider incorporating the Old Upper Road into the Town Trails network.*

### ***Town of Beekman RecPlex Feasibility Study, 2008***

In 2008, the Town of Beekman completed the *RecPlex Feasibility Study*. The purpose of the study was to understand the feasibility and affordability of constructing an indoor Recreation Complex (RecPlex) in the Town Center Park. The study examined the estimated costs of constructing and



operating the facility, as well as its affordability to Beekman's residents. In order to ascertain these potential costs, the feasibility analysis examined the existing site's constraints, preliminary space programming for the facility, preliminary costs of the facility, and conceptual financing options.

Town Center Park includes 47.4 acres for passive and active recreation. The Town studied a specific location for the proposed RecPlex, which revealed that topography in the area is relatively flat and soils are generally well suited for construction of the facility. The proposed RecPlex location is not anticipated to impact any wetland areas, while the cultural resource

investigation indicated that there are potential artifacts within proximity to the project site. Currently no municipal water and/or sewer services are available in the Town Center.

In July 2008, a public workshop was held at the Beekman Recreation Center to discuss the RecPlex Feasibility Study. The workshop included a brief presentation, followed by an interactive workshop, during which participants worked in groups to review potential recreational amenities of the facility and to answer a series of questions related to the RecPlex. Overall, community members involved in the workshop expressed both satisfaction and interest in regards to the proposed facility. During the group discussion, participants articulated a desire for green/sustainable building materials to be used during the facility's construction and operation. Another important issue to the community was the presence of adequate space in the pool area for both swimming activities and ample seating for viewing. Other emphasized features included a walking track, a low cost to the community, and daycare/teen centers.

The RecPlex was developed to respond to the desired recreational components identified during the public workshop. Preliminary cost estimates were analyzed and a phased approach was recommended for construction of the 61,504 square foot facility. The total probable operation and maintenance costs associated with the facility range between \$1,691,700 and \$2,180,450 annually. Based on the demographics of the service area, the revenue potential for the facility is estimated to range from \$1,859,160 to \$2,142,715 annually. The *RecPlex Feasibility Study* is attached as **Appendix C**.



## V. Existing Conditions: Community Profile

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### *Highlights: Opportunities & Challenges*

- *The Town of Beekman's population grew 30.4% between 1990 and 2000.*
- *Residents between the ages of 15-24 years are expected to be the largest age cohort in 2012 (20.2%).*
- *Approximately 80.9% of all Town households consist of family households.*
- *Approximately 9.7% of the population is expected to earn more than \$200,000 in 2012.*
- *Beekman's highest elevations are the Hudson Highlands, which are located in the southern and northeastern portions of Town.*

### **Location**

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The Town of Beekman is located in the southeastern portion of Dutchess County, approximately 15 miles east of Poughkeepsie. The Town includes several Hamlets, including Poughquag, Beekmanville, Green Haven, Clove Valley, and Sylvan Lake. Beekman is bordered to the north by the Town of Union Vale, to the east by the Town of Pawling, to the west by the Town of LaGrange, and the Town of East Fishkill to the south.

NYS Route 55 is the major transportation route in Beekman, running northwest to southeast through the northern portion of Town. NYS Route 216 is the other major route, branching off NYS Route 55 in the center of Town, providing access to the Taconic State Parkway, which is less than three miles from Town. Also close to the Town is Interstate 84 (I-84), which is an east-west arterial highway.



These regional roads provide connections for commuters to the New York metropolitan area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Similarly, the Town is located equidistant between the Hudson and East-Harlem commuter railroad lines that terminate in New York City. The Town's proximity to these connections is part of its growing attraction as a bedroom community of New York's expanding metropolitan area.

**Map 1: Regional Location**

**Map 2: Aerial Map**

## History

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The Town of Beekman, incorporated in 1788, was one of the earliest Towns recognized by New York State. By 1827 the Town's original boundaries had been modified to form the adjacent Towns, resulting in its present shaped boundary.



Beekman was originally settled by emigrants from New England as they journeyed west, making Beekman one of the oldest settlements in the surrounding area. The Town experienced an industrial boom in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a second influx of immigrants settled the area to mine iron ore in the Sylvan Lake and Clove Valley areas. Prior to WWI, New York State constructed the Green Haven Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison that has served as a major source of employment for many residents.

Through much of this historical growth and change, the Town has remained primarily rural and agricultural, with the later 20<sup>th</sup> century bringing an influx of sprawling suburban growth. Farms have been subdivided and became suburban developments, with clusters of development in the Hamlets of Poughquag, Green Haven, Beekmanville, and Clove Valley.

## Demographic Profile

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This section summarizes a number of trends, including population, social, housing, and construction activity, currently impacting the Town of Beekman. Comparison of this information will provide a necessary context for understanding the existing and future recreational needs of the Town. Information was derived from research and analysis of data found in the 2000 U.S. Census and ESRI Business Analyst Online. It should be noted that future projections and estimates may not be entirely accurate as a result of the current national economic recession.

### Population

Local population growth and decline is often dependent upon several factors; including economic expansion, environmental capacity, housing suitability, age driven needs, and regional desirability. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Town of Beekman's population increased from 10,469 in 1990 to 13,655 in 2000. This reflects a 30.4% growth rate for the Town, which is substantially higher than experienced by either Dutchess County (8%) or the State (5.5%) during the same period.

According to **Table 2: Population Trends**, demographic estimates by ESRI for 2011 indicate an expected population of approximately 17,177 persons. Beekman is currently experiencing a period

of high growth that is not expected to slow down. This will require the Town to provide sufficient recreational facilities and programs for residents of all ages.

**Table 2: Population Trends, 1990-2011**

Year	(T) Beekman		Dutchess County		New York State	
	Number	Growth	Number	Growth	Number	Growth
1990	10,469	NA	259,462	NA	17,990,455	NA
2000	13,655	30.4%	280,150	8.0%	18,976,457	5.5%
2006	15,693	14.9%	304,072	8.5%	19,532,703	2.9%
2011	17,177	9.5%	327,579	7.7%	19,953,521	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, & ESRI Business Analyst Online Age

When analyzing age distributions of Beekman, it is important to understand the trends, and how they affect the overall characteristics of the community. According to ESRI 2012 projections, although there is an overall expected population increase, certain age groups are expected to grow faster than others. Specific age cohorts are more likely to desire different recreational facilities and programming.

According to **Table 3: Age Distribution**, in 2000 the age cohorts of 35-39 and 40-44 years of age had the highest percentages of residents (10.7% and 10.5% respectively) when compared to all other age groups. However, in 2012, approximately 11.4% of the population will be between the ages of 15-19 years old, making it the largest age cohort. The second largest age cohort will be 20-24 years of age, with 8.8% of the total population. Children between 0-15 years of age, which comprised 26.4% of the population in 2000, are expected to decrease to 20% by 2012. These numbers show that there will be a large number of active young adults within the community, as well as a significant amount of residents between the ages of 45-54 years (17.1%).

**Table 3: Age Distribution, 2000-2012**

Age Cohort	Census 2000		Estimated 2007		Projected 2012	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
0 - 4	905	7.9%	1,021	6.7%	1,020	6.4%
5 - 9	1,109	9.7%	1,001	6.5%	1,075	6.7%
10 - 14	1,003	8.8%	1,237	8.1%	1,109	6.9%
15 - 19	783	6.8%	1,654	10.8%	1,831	11.4%
20 - 24	439	3.8%	1,384	9.0%	1,418	8.8%
25 - 29	476	4.2%	739	4.8%	893	5.6%
30 - 34	895	7.8%	611	4.0%	893	5.6%
35 - 39	1,220	10.7%	1,053	6.9%	679	4.2%
40 - 44	1,206	10.5%	1,379	9.0%	1,128	7.0%
45 - 49	967	8.4%	1,381	9.0%	1,403	8.7%
50 - 54	730	6.4%	1,154	7.5%	1,342	8.4%
55 - 59	500	4.4%	878	5.7%	1,116	7.0%
60 - 64	360	3.1%	579	3.8%	750	4.7%

Age Cohort	Census 2000		Estimated 2007		Projected 2012	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
65 - 69	264	2.3%	403	2.6%	475	3.0%
70 - 74	230	2.0%	277	1.8%	335	2.1%
75 - 79	170	1.5%	226	1.5%	234	1.5%
80 - 84	110	1.0%	164	1.1%	175	1.1%
85+	85	0.7%	155	1.0%	176	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,452*</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>15,296*</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>16,052*</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

*\*This population figure has not been corrected as part of the Count Question Resolution (CQR).*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, & ESRI Business Analyst Online

### Household Composition

The U.S. Census Bureau provides information on household composition, which details the structure of the individuals and families living within the Town boundaries. According to **Table 4: Household Composition**, the majority of households in the Town are comprised of families (80.9%), as compared to non-family households (19.1%), which include non-traditional family structures and individuals living alone.

In comparison to Dutchess County and New York State, Beekman has a much higher concentration of family households. Especially family households with married parents and children under 18 years of age (41.2%), which is much higher than Dutchess County (27.7%) or New York State (21.6%). This results in an average household size (3.04) and family size (3.41) that are both higher than County or State averages. Perhaps most significant is the lack of seniors living alone, which totals only 4.5% of all households in Beekman, which is significantly less than State averages (13.9%).

**Table 4: Household Composition, 2000**

	(T) Beekman		Dutchess County		New York State	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>3,751</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>99,536</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,056,860</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Family Households</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>80.9%</b>	<b>69,201</b>	<b>69.5%</b>	<b>4,639,387</b>	<b>65.7%</b>
Married-couple family	2,625	70.0%	55,209	55.5%	3,289,514	46.6%
with children <18	1,546	41.2%	27,522	27.7%	1,527,187	21.6%
Other family (no spouse present)	410	10.9%	13,992	14.1%	1,349,873	19.1%
with children <18	262	7.0%	8,953	9.0%	704,194	10.0%
<b>Nonfamily households</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>19.1%</b>	<b>30,335</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>2,417,473</b>	<b>34.3%</b>
Householder living alone	538	14.3%	24,481	24.6%	1,982,742	28.1%
Households with children <18	1,808	48.2%	36,475	36.6%	2,431,419	34.5%
Households with ages 65+	167	4.5%	7,499	7.5%	982,266	13.9%
<b>Average household size</b>	3.04		2.63		2.61	
<b>Average family size</b>	3.41		3.16		3.22	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1

## Income

**Table 5: Household Income** provides a detailed breakdown of household incomes in the Town of Beekman. Town household incomes are projected to increase dramatically from 2000 to 2012. Approximately 9.7% of the population is expected to earn more than \$200,000 in 2012. The largest income bracket is anticipated to be those households (27.9%) earning between \$100,000 and \$149,999 annually. The average household income is projected to increase \$34,188 from 2000 to 2012. In comparison, the median household income only increased \$12,828 between 1990 and 2000.

**Table 5: Household Income, 2000-2012**

Income in 1999	2000		2007		2012	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Less than \$25,000	408	10.9%	334	7.8%	264	5.8%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	827	22.1%	602	14.0%	413	9.1%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	949	25.4%	842	19.7%	793	17.5%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	822	22.0%	888	20.7%	791	17.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	503	13.4%	1,056	24.7%	1,264	27.9%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	120	3.2%	317	7.4%	567	12.5%
More than \$200,000	113	3.0%	243	5.7%	441	9.7%
<b>Median HH income</b>	\$65,955		\$83,127		\$100,143	
<b>Average HH income</b>	\$79,638		\$101,355		\$123,648	
<b>Per Capita income</b>	\$26,437		\$30,510		\$37,221	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, & ESRI Business Analyst Online

## Education

According to **Table 6**, over 38% of persons over the age of 25 in the Town have an associate, bachelor's, or graduate college degree. This is relatively high in comparison to Dutchess County (36.7%) and New York State (34.6%). The Town also has a low percentage of persons who have less than a high school degree. Only 8.6% of Town residents hold less than a high school diploma. This is a low number compared to the County (16%) and State (20.9%).

**Table 6: Educational Attainment, 2000**

Attainment Level	(T) Beekman	Dutchess County	New York State
Less than 9th grade	2.2%	4.9%	8.0%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	6.4%	11.1%	12.9%
High School graduate	32.6%	28.0%	27.8%
Some college, no degree	20.1%	19.2%	16.8%
Associate degree	12.2%	9.1%	7.2%
Bachelor's degree	16.7%	15.7%	15.6%
Graduate or professional degree	9.8%	11.9%	11.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1

### Topography



The topography of any area has historically shaped the built environment. Therefore, by studying the elevation changes in a community, it is easier to understand the settlement patterns. The highest elevations in Beekman are the Hudson Highlands, which are located in the southern and northeastern portions of Town. The Hudson Highlands, between Emma Way and the Pawling Border, reaches the highest elevation of 1,330 feet above sea level. This forested ridge is also where the Appalachian Trail

passes through Beekman, with slopes that reach 60% at certain points.

The northeastern and northwestern sections of the Town also contain substantially sloped areas, although overall these areas are not as dramatically sloped as in the south. In the northwest, slopes reach only 45% in a few select areas, and in the northeast a small number of slopes are between 45% and 60%.

The center of Town is relatively flat with the majority of land sloped only between 0% and 8%. Building on slopes greater than 25% causes development constraints, negative environmental impacts, and escalated construction costs. Clearing of steeply sloped land also increases water runoff dramatically and can contribute to washouts and flooding in low-lying areas of development.

## **Natural Resources**

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The Town of Beekman possesses abundant natural resources as a result of its location in the fertile and scenic Hudson Valley. The Town is approximately thirteen miles east of the Hudson River shoreline. There are several water bodies within the Town, including, Sylvan Lake, Prison Reservoir, Furnace Pond and part of Nuclear Lake, which is shared with Pawling. Beekman's unique natural features have allowed the Town to preserve a rural, natural environment, reminiscent of its agricultural heritage.

The southern and eastern portions of the Town, with their more rugged and steeply inclined terrain, contain protected federal and state lands. A segment of the Appalachian Trail passes through these forested lands in the southern portion of Beekman. By contrast, the flatter central valley area contains the majority of Town's farmland, and parts are designated as an agricultural district. Preservation of the Town's natural characteristics such as its forest, farmlands, and streams are important considerations in fostering the continuation of the community's quality of life, overall aesthetic appeal and recreational opportunities.



## **Watersheds**

Most of the Town of Beekman falls within the Fishkill Creek Watershed, which drains approximately eleven municipalities in Dutchess County and three in Putnam. The creek and its tributaries contribute to groundwater aquifers and then ultimately drain into the Hudson River. A small portion of the Town's southeastern corner is part of the Croton River Watershed, which flows south towards Putnam County. The area known as the Hudson Highlands is the natural divider between the two watersheds, and the conservation of this forested area is critical to protection of the region's pristine drinking water.

## **Wetlands**

Wetlands perform numerous functions, including removing excess nutrients from water. These functions in turn provide benefits to the environment and to area residents. The Town's wetland habitat is focused along Fishkill Creek and its tributaries in the northeast and southwest portions of the Town, and along the Hudson Highlands in the southeastern part of Town.

## **Groundwater**

The Fishkill Creek Valley bisects the Town with dramatic hillside terraces and mountainous regions to the northwest and southeast of the valley setting. Groundwater, the principal source of water for residents, is found in unconsolidated sand and gravel deposits in the Fishkill Creek Valley, and within bedrock. The valley corridor along the creek contains sand and gravel deposits and the underlying carbonate rock units of the Wappingers Group. These formations provide an abundant water supply to meet the local needs of the Town residents.

### ***Fishkill Creek-Valley Bottom Aquifer***

Beekman's main aquifer and primary recharge area is located in the center of the community along the lowlands of this valley. Approximately 95% of the Town of Beekman lies within the 190 square mile watershed of the Fishkill Creek. Data strongly indicates that sand and gravel aquifers and carbonate-type bedrock aquifers in the corridor are the most prolific in this region and will sufficiently meet the Town's future water demands. To preserve the aquifer, existing zoning limits large commercial and residential projects within the Fishkill Creek Valley corridor.

## **Forests**

Beekman contains forested lands accessible to the public and owned by the Federal Government in the northeastern portion of Town, as well as the Depot Hill Multiple Use Lands (State owned public land). Depot Hill is a 260-acre forest that was established on abandoned farmland through a process of natural regeneration in the early 1900s. The forest contains prime deer and upland game hunting, hardwood forest on the mountaintop, and the Appalachian Trail.

## VI. Inventory & Assessment: Parks & Recreational Facilities

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### *Highlights: Opportunities & Challenges*

- *The Town of Beekman has five major parks, with a sixth proposed park that will provide new waterfront access.*
- *The Town offers several active and passive recreational facilities, including a mini-golf course, public swimming beach, and a major league baseball field with lights for night games.*
- *The Town has developed many new recreational facilities in the last 10 years, including Town Center Park, as well as, bike paths, and nature trails.*
- *The Beekman Trails Committee has established a trail system vision for the Town of Beekman that includes nature trails, paved and unpaved trails, and connector trails linking each park.*
- *The Beekman Recreation and Parks Department offers a diverse schedule of passive and active recreational programs for residents of all ages.*

### **Town Owned Parks & Recreational Facilities**

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This section provides an overview of the Town owned parks and recreational facilities within Beekman. Each park and recreational facility was examined to evaluate the condition of the equipment and facilities, inventory the parks' resources, and assess any issues, concerns, or future plans for each park. Included in the analysis were the following parks: Town Center Park, Recreation Park, Doherty Park, Beyer Drive Soccer Field, Fishkill Creek Park (Unofficial Name), and a potential Town Park located on Greenhaven Road. See also **Map 1: Parks & Recreation Map** and **Table 7: Town Park and Recreational Facilities**. For detailed descriptions of each park see **Appendix A**.

#### **Town Center Park**

The Town Center Park ("TCP") is a 47.4 acre site located in the "center" of the Town of Beekman. Also the site of the recently completed Beekman Library, TCP has continued to be developed according to the *Town Center Park Master Plan*, which was completed in 1999. Currently the Park includes 2 little league/softball fields, 1 large baseball field, 1 regulation sized soccer field, several open acres with multiple nets for youth soccer, 2 multi-station playgrounds, 1 swing set, a proposed nature trail that is approximately 0.4 miles in length, and a recently completed paved trail that loops around the soccer fields connecting the baseball



fields. The new paved trail provides access to park users and is dog-friendly (leashed). The site also includes several benches, and picnic tables for eating and socializing. There are currently plans for a pavilion to be constructed in the southeastern corner of TCP, which would be accessible from the paved trail.

**Conditions Assessment:** The amenities in TCP are in excellent condition. A new paved trail in the park was recently completed and is in excellent condition. The multi-station playgrounds were installed separately, with the most recent addition being less than 2 years old. The baseball fields and their adjoining dugouts are all in excellent condition. On the northern side of the property, there are minor issues with drainage following heavy rains.

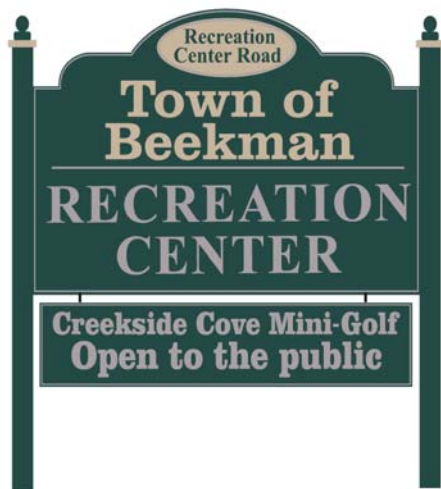
**Accessibility:** Parking is available in a large unpaved, unlined parking lot to the west of the fields along Town Center Boulevard. Additional parking is proposed near the large baseball diamond. The park can be accessed by the unpaved trail that abuts private property to the north and the paved trail that loops around the park, connecting the parking lot with the soccer and baseball fields. The recent addition of the paved trail has increased the accessibility of the park to a variety of users, and further expansion of the trail is strongly recommended.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** The TCP is owned and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Community Park* under the SCORP classification guidelines and a *Sports Complex* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

### Recreation Park

Recreation Park is a 25.8 acre densely developed recreational parcel with multiple passive and active facilities. The Park includes 2 little league baseball fields, 1 large baseball field with lighting for night games, 1 regulation sized soccer field, 1 tennis court, 2 basketball courts, 1



1 mini-golf course, 2 multi-station playgrounds, 2 swing sets, sand volleyball court, and 2 batting cages. The Park also includes a man-made outdoor swim area, which receives water from the Fishkill Creek. The water is pumped into the swimming area after chlorination, and then fed into a retention area before again entering the Creek. The swimming area is frequently used by residents during the summer season. The swimming area is primarily surrounded by sand and some grass; however the sand causes problems with maintaining the appropriate silt levels in the Fishkill Creek and may need to be minimized. The Park also includes an outdoor pavilion, which has several picnic tables, a concession stand, storage facilities, bathrooms,

drinking fountains, and day camp offices/garages. In addition, the Town also constructed a community center, which is used for passive and active recreation, and currently serves at maximum capacity for many groups and organizations.

**Conditions Assessment:** Recreation Park is generally in good condition. The baseball fields, basketball courts, and tennis court are all well maintained. The swimming area has persistent issues with turbidity, which is caused by a variety of sources. The Town is currently addressing ways to improve the swimming area. Other issues include vandalism and theft of the mini-golf course, which has caused security problems, however, not detracted from the overall appearance and appeal of the course.

**Accessibility:** There are plenty of parking spaces available in a large paved, lined parking lot at the park entrance, as well as near the northern most little league baseball field. The Park can also be accessed by the Recreation Road paved trail. Due to multiple entry points to the Park, it is difficult for staff to enforce the entrance fee assessed to patrons prior to using the swimming facilities.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** Recreation Park is owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Community Park* under the SCORP and a *Sports Complex* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

### **Doherty Park**

Doherty Park is a 65 acre recreational facility located off Beekman Road. The Park offers 2 regulation sized soccer fields, with benches, and a storage facility building. The site is also the location of a 1.14 mile dog-friendly (leashed), unpaved nature trail that loops around the 65 acre property. The trail consists of a marked path that traverses open, vegetative fields, and enclosed wooded areas. The woods



provide opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to hike alongside a small waterfall, a marshy pond, and large growth trees. There is plenty of land available for future development of additional multi-purpose fields or parkland for general recreational activities.

**Conditions Assessment:** Doherty Park is in fairly good condition. The soccer fields and the storage facility are well maintained. The nature trail is in good condition, however, could use signage to better direct users. These could be located at the beginning of the trail and designated areas alongside the trail.

**Accessibility:** Parking is available in a small unpaved, unlined parking lot at the park entrance and behind the soccer fields. However, no signage is provided directing patrons where to park vehicles. Additionally, the fields are accessible by motorized vehicle and consideration should be given to a fence or barricade to protect these areas.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** Doherty Park is owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Community Park* under the NRPA and SCORP classification guidelines.

### ***Beyer Drive Soccer Field***

The Beyer Drive Soccer Field is approximately 9.31 acres, located in the Beyer Drive neighborhood. It contains 1 regulation sized soccer field that is fenced in, with benches on the sideline.

**Conditions Assessment:** The Beyer Drive Soccer Field is in fair condition. The field itself is well maintained, however, it has persistent drainage issues that limit use of the field. The site currently has no stormwater management infrastructure.



**Accessibility:** Parking is available in a medium sized unpaved, unlined parking lot adjacent to the soccer field.

The Park is accessible on Beyer Drive and within walking or biking distance to an established residential neighborhood.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** Beyer Drive Soccer Field is owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP and NRPA classification guidelines.

### ***Fishkill Creek Park (Unofficial Name)***

The Fishkill Creek Park is located on approximately 5.5 acres of land. The site is accessible from Van Wyck Court, and provides a small unpaved parking lot, a newly constructed foot bridge, and several benches overlooking the Fishkill Creek. The main attraction of the site is the Fishkill Creek, which direct access for fishing. Future trail connections are proposed to connect it to the proposed park on Greenhaven



Road and Doherty Park. Also proposed for the future of the site is a second walking bridge over the Fishkill Creek to allow users access to both sides of the waterfront.

**Conditions Assessment:** The Fishkill Creek Park is in good condition. Currently it serves as a passive recreation resource that allows users to fish and overlook the Creek. The newly constructed benches and foot bridge are all in very good condition.

**Accessibility:** Parking is available in a small unpaved, unlined parking lot at the park entrance. It is necessary to drive through the residential neighborhood located on Van Wyck Court to reach the Park's entrance. In the future the site is proposed to have trail access through a potential future park on Greenhaven Road or Doherty Park.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** Fishkill Creek Park is owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP and NRPA classification guidelines.

### **Potential Future Park (Greenhaven Road)**

Currently there is a proposed future Town Park with lake access located on Greenhaven Road. The future park is proposed to be donated to the Town as part of a future subdivision development agreement. If developed as proposed, the site will include a 50-foot buffer around the edge of the lake, a trail way around the perimeter of the lake, and a public beach. The Park and the easement are proposed to be Town owned and operated. Additional amenities will include parking, a beach volleyball court, bathrooms, and a boat launch facility for non-motorized boats.



**Conditions Assessment:** The site is currently the location of undeveloped lakefront property.

**Accessibility:** The site is expected to be accessible via an entrance on Greenhaven Road.

**Ownership/Maintenance:** The Park located on Greenhaven Road will be owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Beekman.

**Classification:** It is identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP and NRPA classification guidelines.

**Table 7: Town Park and Recreational Facilities**

Park/ Facility Name	Acres	Park Maintenance	Baseball Field	Batting Cages	Basketball Hoop	Benches	Grill	Lighting	Multi-Purpose Field	Parking	Paved Sidewalk/Trail	Picnic Tables/Shelter	Play Equipment	Restrooms	Soccer Field	Tennis Court	Trails	Volleyball Court	Water Access/View
Town Center Park	47.4	X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Recreation Park	25.8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doherty Park	65	X				X			X	X				X	X		X		
Beyer Drive Soccer Field	9.3	X				X			X						X				
Fishkill Creek Park	5.5	X				X				X							X		X
*Potential Future Park (Greenhaven Road)	TBD	X				X	X			X		X		X			X	X	X

Source: Laberge Group, 2009

\* Park is currently undeveloped; amenities are proposed to be included upon development of the park.

### ***Town of Beekman Recreational Trail System***

In addition to the existing recreational facilities that were described in this section, the Town of Beekman also contains a diverse trail system. Several of the parks, including Doherty Park, Town Center Park, and Recreation Park contain beautiful nature trails, combined with paved and unpaved connector trails. The Town of Beekman has established the Beekman Trails Committee, which has worked with the Recreation Commission to establish a vision for future trail extensions and connections within the parks system. These future trails have been documented on **Map 2: Existing and Proposed Trails Map**. Most important to the vision is the connection of all parks in Beekman, through a well designed trail network, which includes a portion of the Appalachian Trail, which runs from Maine to Georgia.

### ***Town of Beekman Recreational Programming***

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The Town of Beekman Recreation and Parks Department currently provides a diverse schedule of passive and active recreational programming for residents of all ages. Most of the programs are operated out of the Community Center, which is located in Recreation Park. The programs are offered to all age categories: preschool, youth, teens, adults, seniors, and families. Each program is very different, dependent upon the age group and the overall activity level of the participant group. The following

programs are currently offered by the Recreation and Parks Department:

- **Preschool:** Toddler & Tots, and Music Together
- **Youth:** After Camp Theater Program, May/April Friday Night Programs, Brick Kids, and Karate
- **Teens:** Leadership Council
- **Adults:** Ballroom & Latin Dance, Centerpiece Workshop, and Fitness Classes
- **Seniors:** Organized Trips/Events, Line Dancing, Miniature Golf, Exercise, and Art Classes
- **Families:** Family Fun Friday Nights, Opening Day Beach Party, Seasonal Guided Trail, and Miniature Golf

It is the intent of the Town to offer as diverse a group of programs as possible, for both passive and active recreation participants. Beekman continues to update their program schedule each season, adding new activities for residents of all age groups. The Beekman Recreation and Parks Department has established a website ([www.beekmanrec.com](http://www.beekmanrec.com)) to allow park users the ability to stay informed of programming changes and recreational scheduling through website content updates and email distribution lists.

**Map 3: Parks & Recreation**

**Map 4: Existing and Proposed Trails Map**

**Map 5: Town Center Park**

**Map 6: Recreation Park**

**Map 7: Doherty Park**

**Map 8: Beyer Drive Soccer Field**

**Map 9: Fishkill Creek Park**

**Map 10: Potential Future Park (Greenhaven Road)**

## VII. State & National Recreational Needs Assessment

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### *Highlights: Opportunities & Challenges*

- *The NRPA and SCORP guidelines produce separate, yet equally important standards from which to develop recreational facilities on the local level.*
- *According to the SCORP analysis, the Town of Beekman provided approximately 50% of the recommended recreational facilities to resident in 2000.*
- *The Town of Beekman has 153 acres of recreational parks, parkland, and trails.*

Following the inventory and conditions assessment of Beekman's parks and recreational facilities, Town-owned recreational resources were compared with New York State and National recreation standards. Town recreational resources were analyzed using the criteria of the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the National Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines (NRPA). These State and National guidelines will enable the Town to determine the extent of the Town's recreational need and to identify areas that are currently underserved by existing parks and recreational facilities.

### **SCORP Guidelines**

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The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) developed the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) to provide guidance to communities focused on developing recreational resources. The recommended SCORP guidelines provide suggested requirements on the approximate number of acres needed to support the recreational opportunity, the maximum travel time of a potential user, and the appropriate means of accessing the resource. The SCORP also provides suggestions on how recreational resources may be further enhanced. The State developed these guidelines through researching the various recreational activities, working with the public through a public participation process, and obtaining feedback from other government agencies that have a vested interest in open space and recreation.

These standards can be used as a guide by communities looking to develop additional recreational facilities. The SCORP guidelines look to maximize the social and economic benefits of recreation while minimizing the adverse impacts to the resource. These standards provide communities with information to assist them in developing specific recreational resources and ensure the success of the resources or facility. Through comparison of the community's characteristics, population density, and land availability with the SCORP standards, communities can better identify the likely need for a proposed resource. If the community specifics differ greatly from the recommended standards, and fall short of the SCORP minimum standards, the potential success of that proposed resource is questionable.

## SCORP Analysis

**Table 8** describes the different facility types identified by SCORP and their associated standards. Each recreational facility provides different opportunities for residents, and based upon population and square miles, communities should facilitate the development of all or some of these parks. Most of the smaller parks are accessible by foot or bicycle, which encourages each neighborhood to contain at least one of these facilities. This raises the quality of life and allows users to access a variety of facilities within close proximity to their homes. However, this table is a statewide standard; therefore, Beekman may not all of the facility types listed.

**Table 8: SCORP Recreational Facility Design Guidelines\***

Facility Type	Service Area	Approx. Size In Acres	Max. Travel Time	Means of Access	Comments
Play lot	0.2 sq. mi.	2,500 sq. ft. to 1 Ac	10 min.	By foot or By bicycle	Similar to a Pocket Park but typically combined with residential development, may have some play equipment.
Pocket park	0.2 sq. mi.	2,500 sq. ft. to 1 Ac	10 min.	By foot or by bicycle	Primarily passive recreation areas for office workers and shoppers.
Neighborhood Park	0.8 sq. mi.	5-10	20 min.	By foot or by bicycle	Should contain a balance of passive areas with landscaping, and active areas such as play fields, court games, tot lots, etc.
Community Park (serves multiple neighborhoods)	0.8 sq. mi. To 28 sq. mi.	20-50	30 min.	Automobile, mass transit, bike, hiking or trail	Offers both passive and active recreational opportunities. Not intended for scheduled or organized athletic events. May include play structures, game courts and fields, swimming pools or beaches, trails, individual and group picnic areas, landscaping and gardens, and/or areas for concerts or plays. Support facilities such as parking and comfort stations would be needed.

Facility Type	Service Area	Approx. Size In Acres	Max. Travel Time	Means of Access	Comments
<b>Urban Parks (serves entire city)</b>	28 sq. mi. to 50 sq. mi.	50-150	30 min	Automobile, charter bus, mass transit, or trail	Extensive day use areas; may include play structures, game courts and fields, swimming pools or beaches, trails, individual and group picnic areas, landscaping and gardens, and/or areas for concerts or plays. Support facilities such as parking and comfort stations would be needed. Provides 4-season activities and may accommodate organized athletic leagues or events.
<b>Large Regional Parks (serves a county)</b>	50 sq. mi. +	40+	1-2 hrs.	Automobile, charter bus, mass transit, or major trail	In addition to activities mentioned for Urban Parks, these parks may include camping, picnicking, water access and selected winter activities such as ski touring or snowmobiling.
<b>Metro</b>	28 sq. mi. to 50 sq. mi.	25	30 min.	Limit vehicle access. Promote non-motorized modes of access.	Urban parks emphasizing special recreational cultural or historical themes and activities, day and evening operation during all seasons.

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2009-2013. Appendix I: Recreation Facility Design Guidelines. Standards and Development Guidelines.

\* Partially derived from National Recreation and Parks Association

**Table 9: SCORP Facility Development Standards**

Facility Type	Instant Max. User Density	Standard Per 1,000 Pop	Comments
Skating Areas (natural)	500 users/acre	1 site/2,500	This category includes non-refrigerated rinks
Camping	20 users/acre	N/A	Density figures based on 5 sites per acre, 4 users per site
Picnicking	35 users/acre	N/A	Density figures based on 10 tables per acres, 3.5 users per table
Boating	6-8 acres/boat	N/A	This figure is used for both powered and sail boating. There are generally 3 users in each boat.
Skiing	30 users/acres of developed slope	N/A	N/A
Big Game Hunting	1 hunter/5 acres	200 acres/1,000	N/A
Fishing (Stream)	5 users/mile	0.5 mi. stream/1,000	N/A
Golf Course	8 users/hole	0.5 holes/1,000	N/A
Field Games (Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer)	15 users/acre	3 acres/1,000	The following may be provided through off-peak use of school facilities
Swimming Pool	1 user/25 sq. foot	750 sq. ft./1,000	The following may be enclosed to extend seasonal use
Tennis Courts	4 users/court	1 court/2,000	The following can be lighted and converted for ice skating
Basketball (Courts)	16 users/court	1 court/1,999	N/A

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2009-2013. Appendix I: Recreation Facility Design Guidelines. Standards and Development Guidelines.

### ***Park & Recreational Needs Assessment***

The Town of Beekman has multiple parks and recreational facilities. It is the purpose of the *Recreation Master Plan* to identify whether the Town is providing enough parks and facilities according to State and National standards established by the SCORP and NRPA. These standards allow the Town to better understand whether they are providing too much or not enough of one type of facility or parkland.

According to **Table 10**, Doherty Park is Beekman's largest park, totaling 65 acres in size. Doherty Park is classified as a Community Park by both the SCORP and NRPA. In addition, Beyer Drive Soccer Field and Fishkill Creek Park are both designated Neighborhood Parks by the NRPA and SCORP. The Town Center Park, which is 47.7 acres, and Recreation Park, which is 25.8 acres, are

classified as a Sports Complex under the NRPA classifications, and a Community Park under the SCORP classifications.

**Table 10: SCORP Park and Open Space Classifications for Beekman**

Park/Facility Name	Acreage	SCORP Classification	NRPA Classifications
Town Center Park	47.7	Community Park	Sports Complex
Recreation Park	25.76	Community Park	Sports Complex
Doherty Park	65	Community Park	Community Park
Beyer Drive Soccer Field	9.31	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park
Fishkill Creek Park	5.54	Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood Park

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2009-2013. Appendix I: Recreation Facility Design Guidelines. Standards and Development Guidelines.

### Facility Standards for Beekman

The final step in the SCORP analysis is to evaluate the Town’s needs for specific recreational facilities. This is accomplished by using the State standards for park facilities per 1,000 persons. The Town of Beekman had a population of 13,655 in 2000, and is expected to reach approximately 17,177 persons by 2011. As shown in **Table 11**, the Town of Beekman currently meets the SCORP standards for the types of facilities that it provides for residents. Most notably is the surplus in swimming pool square footage per 1,000 residents. This surplus, along with shortages in fields (soccer, baseball, and softball), tennis courts, and basketball courts contributed to a SCORP analysis of 50% in 2000. This number reveals that the Town is providing approximately one and one-half of the recommended number of recreational facilities for



residents, however unless Beekman continues to develop and/or expand facilities, the SCORP analysis number will steadily decline.

It is important to note that although this analysis is useful in comparing Beekman to predetermined guidelines for the provision of recreational programming and facilities in New York State, it does not take into account the possibility of there being other choices for residents to use these types of facilities.

These choices could include private or school owned and operated facilities, such as YMCA’s, high school basketball gyms, or community college gyms. Despite this lack of information in the analysis, Beekman should still strive to achieve the standards established for facilities per 1,000 persons.

**Table 11: SCORP Facility Needs for Beekman**

			2000 Needs Analysis		2006 Needs Analysis		2011 Needs Analysis	
Facility Type	SCORP Standard Per 1,000 Pop	Existing Condition	13,655 Residents	Estimated Surplus or Shortage	15,693 Residents	Estimated Surplus or Shortage	17,177 Residents	Estimated Surplus or Shortage
Field Games (Baseball, Softball, Football, Soccer)	3 acres/1,000	6	13.6	-7.6	15.6	-9.6	17.1	-11.1
Swimming Pool	750 sq. ft./1,000	52	13.6	38.4	15.6	36.4	17.1	34.9
Tennis Courts	1 court/2,000	1	6.8	-5.8	7.8	-6.8	8.5	-7.5
Basketball Courts	1 court/1,999	2	6.8	-4.8	7.8	-5.8	8.5	-6.5
<b>Total Facilities Developed</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>40.8</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>46.8</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>9.8</b>
<b>Needs Analysis (%)</b>				<b>50%</b>		<b>30%</b>		<b>19%</b>

Source: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2009-2013. Appendix I: Recreation Facility Design Guidelines. Standards and Development Guidelines.

**Map 11: SCORP Service Area**

## **NRPA Guidelines**

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Since 1983, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has published the *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Guidelines* to assist communities in developing park and recreation plans. The most recent version was published in 1996. Through this publication, the NRPA looks to ensure that communities know how to secure “the right kind of land” to meet their community needs. To ensure that this occurs, the NRPA recommends a systems approach be used in planning a community park network. A systems approach emphasizes addressing the recreation system as a whole rather than providing strict acreage formulas for the amount of park, recreation, and open space. The NRPA approach stresses using a Level of Service analysis, which considers users of the facilities rather than per capita figures to evaluate recreational need. Several steps of the NRPA’s multi-step planning process have been undertaken as part of this planning effort. These efforts are described in further detail below.

### **Identifying Customers**

**Step #1 involves identifying customers or users.** According to the NRPA guidelines, this includes Participant Users (individuals that participate in a structured manner, i.e., sports leagues); Direct Users (those that use a facility in an unstructured manner, such as hiking or picnicking); and Non-Users (those that do not use the park directly and may or may not recognize the benefits the park system brings to the community.) Non-users may also represent a latent need for specific types of resources, including, for example, facilities that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As part of this planning process, the consultants met with the Recreation Commission to discuss expressed community needs. In addition, a demographic profile was developed, providing for a synopsis of the community’s socioeconomic. Specific characteristics analyzed included population trends, age, income, household composition, housing trends, and education.

### **Obtaining Customer Involvement and Developing Relationships**

**Step #2 includes obtaining customer involvement and developing relationships.** This was accomplished through a Public Open Forum that solicited public input on the issues and concerns with existing and future recreational needs. The goal behind the Public Open Forum was to obtain feedback from users and non-users on what they would like to see at the various parks and recreational facilities, including improvements to existing resources and development of new amenities, and existing and future recreational programming.

### Assessing Need

**Step #3 involves assessing need.** Common themes regarding potential inadequacies in the system were identified. The community's resources were analyzed in relation to residents expressed desires (as indicated through the Public Open Forum). In addition, multiple Recreation Commission meetings revealed a balance between customer perceptions and feedback with information about ongoing recreation activities and programs.

### Developing the Strategic Plan

**Step # 4 is developing the strategic plan.** A community vision for the Town's parks and recreation system was identified. Based on the values and ideals residents have identified throughout the public participation process, as well as the critiques and shortcomings identified, the strategic plan will provide viable solutions to rectify inadequacies in the park and recreation systems for the Town of Beekman.

Implementation techniques, including policy development, capital improvements, development of new funding sources, and any proposed land acquisitions, are included in the final six steps of the NRPA planning process. The *Recreation Master Plan* has been developed as part of this process and includes a matrix of appropriate implementation techniques to facilitate the development of the Town's park system.

### NRPA Analysis

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As shown in **Table 12**, NRPA has broken the classification of parks and open space into several categories. Each category is described based upon features, size, location, need, and expected use. The NRPA has established a set of location criteria to be used when analyzing existing park system patterns. The guidelines give specific distances that each park should be located in each community, such as the placement of neighborhood parks in communities with existing transportation and/or physical barriers. These standards allow for park planners to design more interconnected, active, and passive recreational facilities to serve community members.

**Table 12: NRPA Parks and Open Space Classifications**

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
<b>Mini-Parks</b>	Used to address limited, isolated, or unique residential needs.	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 s.f. and 1 acre.
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>	Basic unit of the park system & serves as the recreational & social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½ mile distance and not interrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.	> 5 acres and < 10 acres is optimal.
<b>School Park</b>	Depending on circumstances, pursuing joint opportunities can fulfill space requirements for variety of park classification needs (e.g., neighborhood, community, or sports complex).	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable, Depends on function.
<b>Community Parks</b>	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes & open space.	Determined by quality & suitability of site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods at ½ to 3-mile distance.	As needed. Often 30- 50 acres.
<b>Large Urban Parks</b>	Serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when smaller parks are inadequate. Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as unique landscape/open space preservation.	Determined by quality & suitability of site. Usually serves entire community.	> 50 acres and < 75 acres is optimal.
<b>Natural Resource Area</b>	Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, and open space.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
<b>Greenways</b>	Effectively tie the park system components together to form a continuous park environment.	Resource availability and opportunity.	Variable.
<b>Sports Complex</b>	Consolidates heavy programmed athletic fields & associated facilities to large multipurpose sites.	Strategically located in community-wide facilities.	Min.: 25 acres Optimal: > 40 acres and < 80 acres.
<b>Special Use</b>	Area for specialized or single purpose recreation activities such as campgrounds, golf courses etc.	Variable depending on specific use.	Variable.
<b>Private Park/ Recreation Facility</b>	Privately owned facilities that contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable depending on specific use.	Variable.

Source: National Parks Recreation Association, Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. (1996)

The NRPA Pathway Classification is a new feature to the 1996 guidelines. This update reflects the recognition of the growing importance in park planning to include a well linked, multi-modal transportation path for active and passive recreation. As communities realize that more people are using these trails, bicycle lanes, and other types of recreational paths, it is important for planners to identify potential opportunities for multi-modal transportation linkages. Beekman is fortunate enough to include a segment of the Appalachian Trail in the southern portion of Town. The *Recreation Master Plan* will identify opportunities to link the existing park and trail system with the Appalachian Trail, through a Town-wide recreational trail/path system.

**Table 13: NRPA Pathway Classifications Table**

Classification	General Description	Description of Each Type Size Criteria
<b>Park Trail</b>	Trails located within greenways, parks, & natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with nature.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians/cyclists/skaters. Type II: Multi purpose hard surface trails. Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. Hard or soft surfaced.
<b>Connector Trails</b>	Multipurpose trails emphasizing safe travel for pedestrians throughout community. Recreation & transportation focus.	Type I: Separate/single-purpose, hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians/cyclists/skaters located in independent ROW. Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard surface trails typically in independent ROW.
<b>On-Street Bikeways</b>	Paved segments of roadways that serve as a means to safely separate cyclists from cars.	Bike Route: Designated portions of the roadway for preferential/exclusive use of cyclists.
<b>All-Terrain Bike Trail</b>	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
<b>Cross Country Ski Trail</b>	Trails developed for traditional and skate-style cross-country skiing.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
<b>Equestrian Trail</b>	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.

Source: National Parks Recreation Association, Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines. (1996)