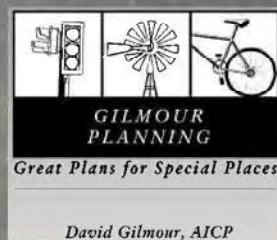
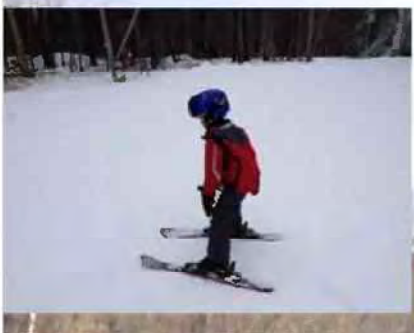




# PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN

April 2013-Town of Shandaken, Ulster County, NY



David Gilmour, AICP



TOWN OF SHANDAKEN  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**  
*APRIL, 2013*

*Robert A. Stanley, Supervisor*

**Town of Shandaken Parks & Recreation Board:**

*Heather Roberts - Chairperson*

*Sandra Stanley - Vice Chairperson, Glenbrook Park Manager*

*Martie Gailes - Secretary, Big Indian Park Manager*

*Carole Chanler – Pine Hill Park Co-Manager*

*Lisa Schnack – Pine Hill Park Co-Manager*

*Carol Urban – Parish Field Park Manager*

**Plan Author:**



*This project is funded by a 'Greenway Planning Grant' from the  
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council of the State of New York*



TOWN OF SHANDAKEN

**PARKS & RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN**

*APRIL 2013*

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>Section</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>Overview</b>	1
<b>Introduction</b>	2
<b>Population Analysis</b>	9
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Organization</b>	13
<b>Recreation Programs</b>	15
<b>Shandaken Recreation Service Standards</b>	29
<b>Trails &amp; Linear Parks</b>	31
<b>Signage</b>	38
<b>Town-owned &amp; Managed Recreation Facilities</b>	44
<b>Conclusion</b>	52
<b>Appendix A – Sign Definitions &amp; Sign Inventory</b>	
<b>Appendix B – Public Opinion Survey, Process, Instrument &amp; Data</b>	

## **Acronyms & Abbreviations Used in the Plan**

ADA = Americans with Disabilities Act  
AWSMP = Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program  
BMRA = Belleayre Mountain (ski) Racing Association  
CCEUC = Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County  
CHP = Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play (a project funded by NYS Dept. of Health)  
CIC = Catskill Interpretive Center  
CMP = corridor management plan  
COA = County Office of the Aging (Ulster County)  
CPSLMP = Catskill Park State Land Master Plan  
CWC = Catskill Watershed Corporation  
DEC = NYS Department of Environmental Conservation  
DEP = NY City Department of Environmental Protection (also ID'd as NYC Bureau of Water Supply)  
DOT = Department of Transportation (State or Federal)  
GTSC = Governor's Traffic Safety Council  
FEIS = Final Environmental Impact Statement (such as under NYS SEQRA process)  
HRVG = Hudson River Valley Greenway  
IMBA = Internal Mountain Biking Association  
LWRP = Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning  
NA = Not Applicable  
NFIP = National Flood Insurance Program  
NRPA = National Parks and Recreation Association  
NYS = New York State  
NYSERDA = New York State Energy Research Development Authority  
Onteora = Onteora Central School District, with OHS as Onteora High School  
OPRHP = Office of Parks Recreation Historic Preservation (NYS)  
ORDA = NYS Olympic Regional Development Authority  
SCORP = Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
SEQRA = (NY) State Environmental Quality Review Act  
SHARP = SHandaken Area Revitalization Project  
TA = technical assistance  
UCAT = Ulster County Area Transit  
UCEM = Ulster County Emergency Communications / Emergency Management Dept.  
UCEMC = Ulster County Environmental Management Council  
UC Health = UC Health Department  
UCNTP = Ulster County Non-motorized Transportation Plan  
UC Planning = UC Planning Board &/or UC Planning Department  
UCYB = Ulster County Youth Bureau  
UCTC = Ulster County Transportation Council  
UMP = Unit Management Plan  
U&D = Ulster & Delaware Railroad  
VFDs = Volunteer Fire Departments  
WAC = Watershed Agricultural Council



**OVERVIEW** - The Town of Shandaken Parks & Recreation Board's mission is to preserve, promote, maintain, and expand recreation offerings. This 10-year master plan looks at parks and recreation facilities and fixtures, and mountain, stream and hamlet access. Through examination of conditions, trends and opportunities, program service offerings, and community needs, it lays out actions to benefit the wellness of residents and outdoor tourism.

A main interest of recreation leaders is optimizing and sustaining existing resources, tapping into and playing off of vast scenic beauty and recreation amenities, including State assets, and leveraging community and economic development. By discussing the rationale associated with various recreation objectives and alternative projects, the plan provides reasoning for recommendations and shows how priorities are arrived at. In preparation for creating this Comprehensive Plan, the Parks and Recreation Board created and distributed a community survey (see Appendix) that resulted in 280 responses or a 12.4% rate of return – it is one source of guiding information that shaped this plan's development.

Bolstering recreation tourism requires action on sign systems so that there are coherent and quality signs in and leading to recreation assets. Sign upgrades will assist safe use of parks and the pursuit of diverse exercise and leisure activities. Other maintenance and capital investments needed at the six main local park facilities include:

- Establishing permanent restrooms and drinking fountains at the Big Indian and Phoenicia recreation facilities;
- Implementing multiple actions to reinforce appealing, safe and accessible environments in and around parks;
- Acting to sustain athletics fixtures, including rehabilitating the little league/ softball field at Glenbrook Park, basketball courts in all parks, as well as the tennis court in Smith Park;
- Periodically upgrading playgrounds;
- Bolstering potential options for skating and sledding, and possibly skateboarding;
- Investing in a stage in Phoenicia; and
- Addressing indoor recreation options, by adding swimming and/or gym capacity.

But the main way to support recreation for a broad base is by developing a system of linear and multipurpose trails. Walk- and bike-ability needs to be enhanced at each major recreation site and surrounding hamlet, including by forging easily identifiable spur trails to parks and a multimodal/multiuse system that connects hamlets. In Pine Hill, it is a priority to complete a prototype trail in Smith Park along with a broader 'greenway' connecting hamlet destinations. At the same time, there is need to form detailed strategies, and sequences of actions, to advance other trail and access projects, whether it be rail trail segments, a multimodal implementation plan for Phoenicia/Woodland Valley, or efforts to enhance the supply of places for cross-country skiing, mountain biking and snowshoeing.

Providing more focus on walking and biking involves a change in thinking. There is a need for coordination. It will entail building local capacity to help plan, design, develop and steward assets in collaboration with regional entities so there is quality public access and excellent user experiences.

Finally, the Town's summer recreation program is an important public service and a good value. Defining options and requirements for adding one more day per week will inform the feasibility to expand service, including through more varied activities, off-site excursions and learning programs. Winters are long in Shandaken, so the Recreation Board is also advised to examine how to promote healthy activity by residents, including by bolstering the Town's Winter Recreation Program such as by assisting the formation of activity groups or designing incentives and initiatives that assist people in being active.

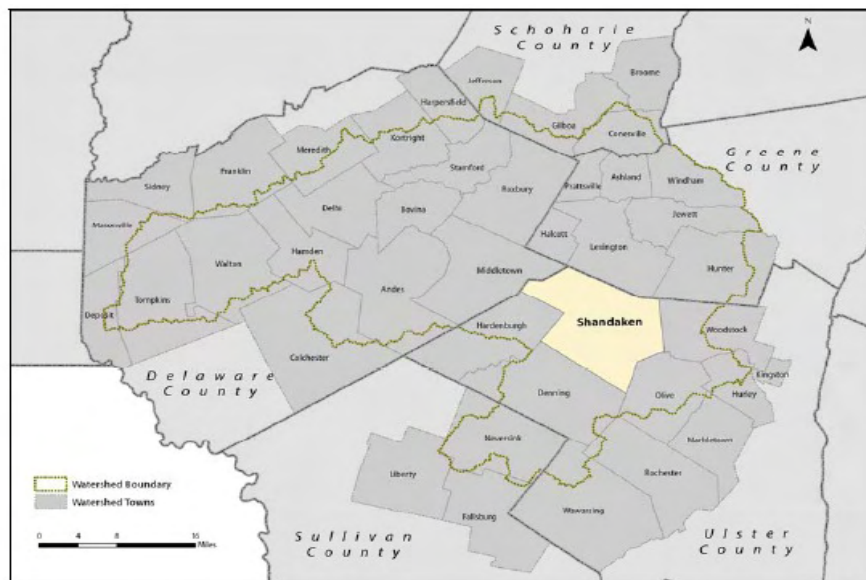




## **INTRODUCTION**

**Definition of Planning Area** – Shandaken is in western Ulster County. It covers 79,200 acres and has 111 miles of roads. The community sits in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, 100 miles northwest of New York City. The town is entirely within the 705,500 acre Catskill Park. The Town is rural in character, with population concentrated on Route 28 and in six hamlets: Mount Tremper; Phoenicia; Chichester; Shandaken/Allaben; Big Indian; and Pine Hill.

**Natural Features & Landscape** – Area land forms include mountaintops, wooded and steep hillsides and mountain valleys, with natural communities of beech, maple, hemlock, ash, oak, other northern hardwoods and conifer forests. There are few relatively flat plateaus, although numerous streams feed the main watercourse - Esopus Creek. Shandaken is entirely within the New York City watershed. Interspersed throughout the open spaces are the hamlets, developed where terrain is more accessible.



*NY City Water Supply Map - NYC DEP: 2010*

Natural features provide an extraordinary backdrop. Visitors and residents, attracted by natural beauty and the resources of the central Catskills, use the Park for recreation. Most mountains in Shandaken are protected under the NYS Constitution Forest Preserve and are “Forever Wild” although there is a State Constitution exclusion from this designation for Belleayre Ski Center, operated by the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA) in conjunction with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

**History** – During the colonial era, the Central Catskills were part of the Hardenburgh Patent, owned primarily by the Livingston family. The Town of Shandaken was part of Woodstock until 1804.

Yankees fleeing the stony soils of Connecticut joined immigrants from other states and foreign shores in exploring the region west of the Hudson in hope of locating arable farmland. Settlers in the valleys of the Central Catskills soon learned to use the natural resources of the mountains to supplement their attempts at farming. Small sawmills and tanneries spouted across the landscape. Military demand for leather goods during the War of 1812 spurred the development of large-scale industrial tanneries,



which not only decimated the small hand-crafters, but also destroyed much of the extensive hemlock forests in the Catskills.

The Hudson River was opened up to competition amongst steamboats, turnpikes were chartered and constructed to provide access to resource-rich hinterlands. Horse-drawn wagons full of lumber, furniture, hides or bluestone shared the turnpike with stage coaches that brought mail and visitors to the region including sportsmen to hunt and fish from the natural bounty.

Construction of the Rondout & Oswego Railroad (later the Ulster & Delaware) provided a new, more efficient means of transportation for both freight and passenger traffic. Following the railroad's reorganization in 1875, the Central Catskills began to be promoted as a tourist destination. A great wave of resort hotel construction followed.

The Ulster & Delaware Railroad's passenger traffic peaked at 676,000 in 1913 and declined afterwards. Air conditioning and convenient air travel further reduced the number of people coming to the Catskills for vacation and to beat the summer heat in New York City.

The Shandaken wild forest, part of the Catskill mountain trail network houses numerous trails, fire towers and lean-tos originally constructed by the civilian conservation Corp (CCC), a group of unemployed men recruited by the federal government, during the depression as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

The slide mountain range, in the heart of Shandaken is one the most popular hiking destinations in the Catskills, including the unique Panther Mountain dome. It is said to be formed by a meteor, setting it apart from the other Catskill peaks.



**Cultural and Man-Made Features** - The Catskill Forest Preserve was created to protect water resources and open space, and to provide opportunity for recreational uses. The first trail was built in 1892 to the summit of Slide Mountain, the highest peak in the Catskills.

The Catskill Park, a checkerboard of public and privately owned lands was established in 1904. The State owns over 1/3 of lands within the Park, and these are mandated "forever kept as wild forest."

The natural beauty and resources of the Central Catskills, including in Shandaken, has influenced two major movements with effects far beyond the Catskills. An unknown painter named Thomas Cole first visited the Catskills in 1825. He soon was creating landscape paintings, which were tremendously popular and produced numerous followers, known as the Hudson River School.

In the second half of the 19th Century, John Burroughs, a native of nearby Roxbury, raised the public consciousness about the value and beauty of the natural environment. His writings were based on his experiences in the Catskills and formed the genesis of the environmental movement.

Pressure to satisfy the needs of New York City for a safe and sufficient water supply culminated in 1905 when the New York State Legislature approved creation of the New York City Board of Water



Supply with eminent domain powers to establish reservoirs and regulate the watershed in the Catskill Mountains. The Shandaken Tunnel, located in the center of Town connects the Schoharie Reservoir to the Esopus Creek, eventually feeding the Ashokan Reservoir.

Current recreational assets include Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area, public and private campsites, opportunities for hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, skiing, kayaking, and tubing.

The Town hosts the Catskill Mountain Railroad's Esopus line, a scenic and historic trip along a section of track that was once part of the Ulster and Delaware Railroad. The Phoenicia station is also the home of the Empire State Railway museum, housing a small gift shop, model train displays, and historic photos and artifacts from the U&D Railroad.

Summer in Shandaken provides opportunity for participation in celebrations held in Town Parks including the four-day Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, Indian Pow Wows, Classic Car Shows, and Shandaken Day. Also, Belleayre Ski Center, at the western edge of Town, has for 20 years hosted a summer music festival featuring world class performances in 13 separate weekend concerts.

**Land Use** – Shandaken has a very limited supply of developable land, influenced by natural constraints like floodplains and steep slopes and because 72% of land in-town is owned or protected by the State or City of New York<sup>1</sup>. According to the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's (hereafter DEP) New York City Watershed Land Acquisition Program Final Environmental Impact Statement, 2010, besides protected areas, land use consists of: High-Density Residential, at 3,808 acres, or 5% of land area; Low-Density Residential, 6,361 acres or 8%; Commercial/Other, 1,474 acres, or 2%; and Vacant, 9,804 acres or 12%.

**Community Opinion Survey** – In 2012 the Shandaken Parks and Recreation Board created a community survey to offer an opportunity for residents and property owners to evaluate current recreational facilities and programming and share their desires for improvement or expansion. A copy of the questionnaire is included in an Appendix.

The primary means of distributing the questionnaire was through a town-wide Postal Patron mailing. The questionnaire was also available on the Town Website or could be picked up at Town Hall. The survey instruments were placed in sealed envelopes printed with the Town of Shandaken return address. Included in the mailing was a smaller pre-addressed return envelope. The mailing was hand-delivered to the seven post offices in the Town of Shandaken on May 4, 2012. Residents were urged to respond by May 30, 2012; however, questionnaires were collected until August 24, 2012. Announcement of the survey was made at the May and June Town Board Meetings. These meetings are viewable on live cable television and then repeated throughout the month.

Two meetings were held for the purpose of allowing residents to speak in-person concerning Town parks and recreational programming. The first meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall on May 14, 2012. The second meeting, at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 at Pine Hill Community Center, was publicized through the Town website and posters (see Appendix) placed at the seven post offices and the Phoenicia School.

Overall, 2,248 questionnaires were mailed. 280 responses were received. This represents a 12.4% rate of return. A tabulation of the responses is included in the Appendix.

---

<sup>1</sup> According to a 2010 FEIS (pp 4-141-144), of 72% protected acreage in-Town, 3% or 2,701 acres is under DEP stewardship, with 1,424 acres acquired fee simple and 1,220 acres are opened for public recreational use.





**Catskill Park Recreation Framework** – Shandaken has extensive State-owned lands, defined as Catskill Forest Preserve. The Catskill Park is a tremendous asset and public use of its resources is a foundation for planning community recreation. The Catskill Forest Preserve Public Access Plan, 1999, notes:

*The Catskill Forest Preserve is one of New York's great natural resources. The forest preserve plays an important role in the towns and villages of the Catskill region for residents and visitors alike. The 300,000 acres of forever wild public lands receive more than a half million visitors a year who drive the scenic highways of the region on their way to hike, bike, canoe, hunt, fish, camp, and study nature. Surrounding communities depend heavily on access to forest preserve lands as a nature-based tourism attraction that can be the cornerstone of sustainable economic development for the region.*

Given extensive state-owned lands and fixtures, it is worth considering how public recreation offerings and regional planning for them influences and relates to local efforts. For example, local initiative to plan a new trail or public access should fit with regional plans. This section reviews various regional plans for recreation and State lands management, highlighting recent developments that may influence local recreation efforts.

The DEC's Catskill Park State Land Master Plan, 2008, hereafter CPSLMP, is the guiding framework for actions on Forest Preserve and other lands administered by DEC. Developed in 1985 and updated in 2008, it establishes management units, classifying each area based on its features and public use. It directs DEC to form unit management plans (UMPs) for each unit in conformance with guidelines for assigned land classifications. Each UMP details the respective environment, facilities, and public uses, plus management objectives and a schedule to address needs. The 2008 revision focuses on more and diverse use by recreationists, including mountain bicycling, and it presents strategy for addressing Federal and State policies, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Numerous units overlap with Shandaken. The Wilderness units all have foot trails, lean-tos, and parking lots (as do all Wild Forests). Each one also has various unique recreation fixtures, some as highlighted below. The main UMPs covering Shandaken are<sup>2</sup>:

- **Big Indian Wilderness** (1993 UMP) – covering an area west of County Route 47 and south of Route 28 near Pine Hill and Big Indian Hamlets, also with designated campsites;
- **Hunter - West Kill Wilderness** (1995 UMP) – north of Route 28 and Shandaken hamlet;
- **Slide Mountain Wilderness** (1998 UMP) – South of Route 28, also with designated campsites and a separate ranger maintained (seasonal) Woodland Valley Campground (72 sites)<sup>3</sup>;
- **Phoenicia - Mt. Tobias Wild Forest** (1994 UMP) – by Routes 28, 212 and 214, with an observation tower on Tremper Mountain near Phoenicia (maintained by volunteers);
- **Shandaken Wild Forest** (2005 UMP) – north of Route 28 and west of Route 42 between Big Indian and Pine Hill, also with designated campsites. Examples of UMP proposals are:
  - Reinforcing Lower Birch Creek Road holdings as an Administrative Use Area and destination for residents, persons with disabilities, and families. There ponds enable fishing and woodlands can be used for organized group events, wildlife observation, star gazing, picnicking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing;

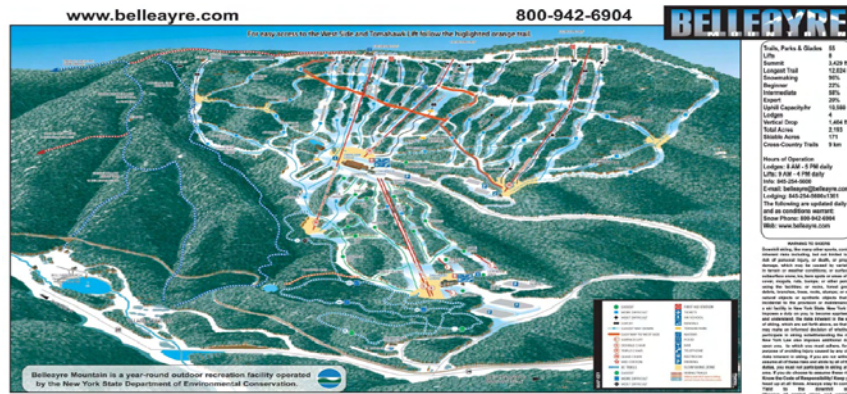
---

2 DEC designated Fishing Access Sites in-town on Esopus Creek and Woodland Valley Stream are other examples of state-managed recreation resource offerings.

3 The 170 acre Woodland Valley Campground site itself is an Intensive Use Area with its own UMP (1994).



- Establishing Rochester Hollow Road as a recreation area, including marking and constructing a two mile cross country ski/mountain bike/hiking trail (pp. 25-26).
- **Belleayre Ski Center** (1985 UMP, revised 1998) – with its own Intensive Use Area<sup>4</sup> covering 2,211 acres by Pine Hill, plus Belleayre Mountain Day Use Area and Lake (38 acres) (described in a 1990 addendum to the UMP)<sup>5</sup>; and
- **Site of proposed Catskill Interpretive Center (CIC)**, on Route 28, just west of Boiceville.



While details in the CPSLMP, Public Access Plan and the UMPs are extensive, there were efforts to consider aspects of them and major aims and objectives as well as new developments. Since 2008 issuance of the CPSLMP, the Olympic Regional Development Authority (ORDA), a New York State public authority, assumed management of Belleayre Ski Center in fall 2012. According to the Town Recreation Board, olympic-level training facilities and programs have been publicly suggested by ORDA's management as possible future developments at the Ski Center.

A new Ski Center UMP is anticipated for release in 2013. It is expected to outline potential steps at the Ski Center for capital investments in facilities modernization and expansions and upgrades that would support winter and summer sports training, competition, recreation and tourism. According to the Recreation Board, planned actions could include:

- New ski lodges and lifts;
- Expansion of trails; and
- Acquisition of the adjacent, now defunct, Highmount Ski Center, providing a restoration of downhill skiing, thereby significantly increasing the number of challenging trails.

The offerings at Belleayre influence significant trips into the Catskills. The Recreation Board is prepared to monitor planned developments by and around Belleayre and make further suggestions to the Town Board on the impact and relationship to community and regional recreation.

Separately, an upgrade was provided to the CIC location when the Central Catskills Collaborative led construction of an interpretive kiosk viewable from Route 28. Additional improvements there will bolster local recreation. Accordingly, it is essential for the Town Parks & Recreation Board to participate in forming and implementing an architectural and landscape improvement program and helping advance the next stage of development there. According to the CPSLMP, paraphrased, p.15, the CIC will provide interpretation of the region's natural and cultural resources through educational programs and services. It will be a resource to direct visitors to outdoor recreation, historical and cultural offerings in the region, including local communities and services they offer. The plan also

4 An expansion of Belleayre Ski Center is being Drafted as a UMP amendment, according to a 2008 Scoping Document.

5 NY State's Constitution was amended twice to allow for ski area development otherwise prohibited by Article XIV.



notes, page 52, that original designs were for a 17,000 sq. ft. building, hiking trails, a picnic area and that renewed progress with CIC development requires identification of funding sources and innovative partnerships with other agencies, local governments and the private sector.

The Recreation Board can help the CIC advance by advocating for actions that jibe with that plan.

Examples of ways to add value to this process include:

- Making sure all parties know of existing town-owned and -managed facilities and interest in stimulating recreation use at and around them;
- By fostering recreation opportunity in and by hamlets, so that it is easy, reinforces sense of place, and does not always require people to get in their cars to reach destinations;
- By exploring potential linkage with summer and winter programs; and
- Helping align resources and aiding collaboration, partnership and resource development and stewardship with entities like schools, area non-profits and the local government.

Another recent development influencing State Parkland involves steps by DEC to acquire 1,200 acres by Belleayre Mountain on "Belleayre Ridge" near Route 28 in Big Indian. The action emanates out of permitting for Belleayre Resorts. In 2012 the Recreation Board and Town Board each formed policy recommendations to assign the site an "Intensive Use" management classification. Support for the designation is influenced by the site's adjacency to the Ski Center and Belleayre Beach/ Pine Hill Lake, which are also Intensive Use areas. With a relatively flat ridgeline and roads, it is presumed there is occasion to support varied forms of recreation based on relatively easy accessibility to the site using some minimally challenging terrain. This could afford use by an array of individuals and families, including for mountain biking and cross-country skiing, with proper trail maintenance. As this recreation plan was being formed, a plan for the tract was being developed. It will inform the land classification. Regardless of the designation on that parcel, the Town's expressions of interest is used as a guide for suggesting local recreation actions identified for Pine Hill and Big Indian within this plan.

On another note, the Public Access Plan proposes strengthening connection between Forest Preserve and local communities, improving public understanding of and access to the Preserve, and creating a "Sense of Park." Examples of actions that jibe with ones explored in this recreation plan include:

- The location of "family trails" will be planned and constructed to improve recreational access, enjoyment, and understanding of the Forest Preserve for all people, including with accessibility for people with disabilities (p IV.16). Where possible, family trails will be developed and maintained in partnership with local governments, organizations, and residents.
- Forest Preserve lands will be linked with nearby communities through trail connections where feasible, appropriate, and supported by local governments, residents and landowners. Priority will be given to trails that tie into public transport, reduce the need for new structures and improvements -- such as parking lots and access roads on Forest Preserve lands, support economic development plans, and foster the development of interpretive and educational programs.
- Details for a regional visitor information system are also presented. The section below on 'Signage and Wayfinding' inventories signs in local parks and it describes ways to advance user information.



*A view of the Lower Birch Creek Road Parcel and accessible fishing platform*

*Picture from DEC website*

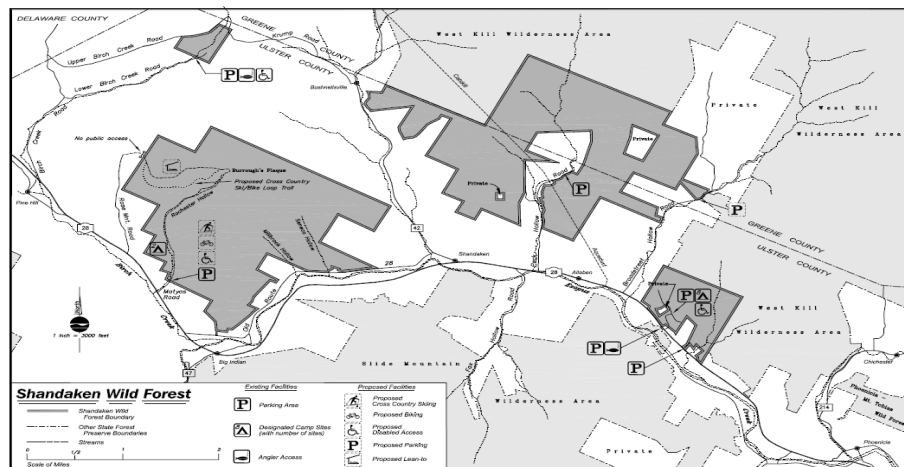


It will be advantageous for the Recreation Board to help refine project concepts and identify and pursue resources that can support the establishment of priority recreation projects plus ensure their sustained success and management. Obviously, when there is local consensus on the form of desired action, it should be easier to leverage State actions and investment. As paraphrased from CPSLMP page IV.30:

*To continue to improve the management of public use and increase understanding about the resources of the Forest Preserve, the Department expresses interest in strengthening partnerships and establishing new ones. The help of individuals, organizations, educational institutions, local governments, and other State agencies will enhance the ability of the State to realize the recreational and economic development potential of the Forest Preserve while assuring its preservation for future generations.*

Turning to activities, as noted in CSPLMP, hunting, trapping and fishing all take place on State lands. Hunting influences high levels of Catskill Park use in later summer and early fall. While there is not a lot of discussion herein on hunting, it is important for the Recreation Board to monitor the needs of this community, such as to promote safe and harmonious access. The group can also support educational opportunities, such as for courses to prepare youths for obtaining their licenses and for continuing safety training for all ages.

Finally, a major theme in the CSPLMP is promoting and providing universally accessible opportunities for recreation consistent with ADA. Many state-managed accessible recreation destinations are available, including within Shandaken Wild Forest Unit at lower Birch Creek Road (shown in the accompanying map graphic), which includes a fishing site; in Rochester Hollow, where there is an accessible lean-to; and in Allaben with two accessible campsites, picnic tables and fire rings.



Map graphic from Shandaken Wild Forest UMP (2005)  
including Rochester Hollow environs





**POPULATION ANALYSIS** – Given this plan's aim to provide strategic direction for future development of Town parks and recreation resources, this element examines characteristics of local and regional population, including a core service group – residents. It explores demographics, such as population age features, education, ethnicity, as well as income and housing characteristics. It also examines the distribution of people and possibilities for future change. This includes population trends and exploration of possible building development and redevelopment in Shandaken. Finally, there is identification of social and economic forces that may influence demand. Together these factors allow for consideration of demand overall, and of possible shifts within the town over time.

Table 1

<b>Town of Shandaken Resident Age Profile</b> <i>Based on 2010 US Census</i>	
Under 5 years	110
Five to 9 years	135
10 to 17 years	272
18 to 64 years	1,960
65 years and over	608
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>3,085</b>

The US Census of Population & Housing ([census.gov/](http://census.gov/)) is produced every decade. This analytical resource can be used to describe characteristics of resident population and compare points in time:

- The population of the Town in 2010 was 3,085 persons<sup>6</sup>. Compared with the prior decade there was a decrease in resident population from 3,226 in 2000. In other words, between 2000 and 2010 town population decreased 141 persons (a change of -4.4%).
- In 2010, 517 persons, or 16.8% of town population were 'minors' under 18 years of age.
- Median age in 2010 was 50.2 years old. In 2000 the median age was 45.0. The increase in median age from 2000 to 2010 shows that the community, in aggregate, is aging.
- Older persons, 65 or more, were 19.7% of all residents. This rate is expected to continue upwards as 'baby boomers' age and people live longer<sup>7</sup>.
- Shandaken is more homogeneous ethnically than the County. For example, in 2010, 153 people or 5.0% of residents self-classified as 'Hispanic or Latino', compared with 8.7% regionally.
- Not shown in Table 1, 49.7% of residents were female/ 50.3% male.
- Using 2000 Census statistics, the Comprehensive Plan (page II-2) notes:
  - 84.2% of residents had high school degrees or higher, an increase from 70.9% in 1990.
  - 26.6% of full-time residents had a bachelors degree or higher, versus 16% in 1990.

Shandaken's populace resided in 1,505 households in 2010. Average 'household size' was 2.02 persons. The size distribution was: 1-person household 39%; 2-person 38%; 3-person 11%; and 4- or more 12%.

The community housing stock was 2,776 housing units in 2010. Full-time residents occupied 54.2% of total units in-town (with 39.0% owner-occupied and 15.2% renter-occupied). Of the remaining stock,

---

6 Source: DP-1- Shandaken, NY: Profile of General Pop. & Housing Characteristics: 2010. Demographic Profile.

7 Citing Cornell Institute for Social & Economic Research projections, the 2009 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), page 21, notes that statewide residents over aged 60 will increase 52.6% through 2025. In Shandaken growth is also expected in persons 80+ years old.





35.3% were units classified as 'seasonal, recreational, or occasional use' (with the remainder for rent or sale or vacant for some other reason). As shown by surges during fall, summer, and winter, demand for recreation facilities is influenced by use of the 35% of units that are not occupied year-round.

Shandaken residents have lower median household incomes compared with the County (\$43,349 vs. \$57,584<sup>8</sup>). A substantial part of population, 14.6%, is listed in poverty<sup>9</sup>. This is a relatively high rate compared with many other places in the county which has an overall rate of 11.3%. As noted in Low Income Populations and Physical Activity, 2012, this group often confronts social and environmental barriers to physical activity and has less means to overcome them compared with those in other income groups.

Shandaken park and recreation development is presumed to be influenced by the resident bases' income profile, including a sizable group of low to moderate income households. For instance, a community income profile skewed somewhat below the average or median values demonstrated in many other municipalities in the region may limit the effect of appeals for funding in the form of donations. Likewise, limited and fixed income households may be challenged to afford user fees and tax sensitive households may be less likely to support investments. Still, it is noteworthy that many people value recreation as shown in the Shandaken Parks and Recreation Community Survey, 2012, where a majority (56%) of respondents supported town-wide budget appropriations for recreation (with acknowledgment that grants and donations are the preferred way to fund parks and recreation).

Transportation influences activity patterns and whether and how people recreate, outdoors and indoors. Considering the set of older persons and income patterns, it is not surprising that a sample cited in the 2000 US Census showed 8.6% of Shandaken households with no vehicle available. It is plausible that the household rate of no access to vehicles has increased due to economic recession and impacts of 2011 flooding. In Shandaken, for people with jobs, the average commute to work is 32 minutes.

A sizable group, on the order of 500 persons, including youths under 16, depend on active transport (walking and bicycling), adults with transport, and public transport like school buses and Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) to access places like parks or recreation programs. For these groups, it is important that there is an ability for them to walk and bicycle safely to places of recreation. There is evidence nationwide that children walking and biking are disproportionately impacted in severe accidents involving motor vehicles.

On separate note, different age groups demand and benefit from different facilities and services. In 2010 Shandaken had 110 children under five. This subset is recognized to have unique needs, such as for playgrounds and play spaces that aid healthy emotional development and motor skills<sup>10</sup>. They are also susceptible to unintentional injuries, often minor, from falls and other accidents (in addition to injuries involving motor vehicles). While there must be adherence to safety standards in the design and operation of fixtures like play equipment intended for toddlers and very young children, recreation stakeholders are advised to make efforts to structure park spaces that are likely to be well used by children for active play, including by providing open space, natural areas, and landscaping designs and layouts that support creative play.

---

8 [http://www.mhvccommunityprofiles.org/indicator\\_data\\_tables.php?subregion=3&data=6.1.1](http://www.mhvccommunityprofiles.org/indicator_data_tables.php?subregion=3&data=6.1.1) sourced from U.S.

Census; figures in constant 2010 dollars with 2006-10 results rolling; American Community Survey (ACS).

9 Census 5-Year average estimates for 2011 from ACS [//quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36000.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/36000.html)

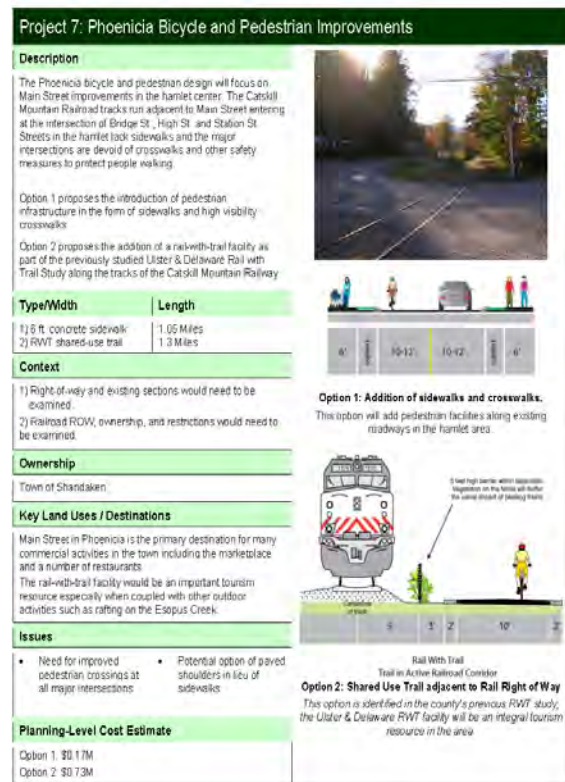
10 See resources at national Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities [ncef.org/rl/playgrounds.cfm](http://ncef.org/rl/playgrounds.cfm) and reports like From Playpen to Playground - The Importance of Physical Play for the Motor Development of Young Children by Dr. Jeffrey Trawick-Smith by Center for Early Childhood Education Eastern CT State University.



**Potential Population Change** – Besides assessing current population and how it matches-up with the recreation base, an estimate of future population was consulted to identify potential for growth and change in needs. Within this plan, an estimated future population figure is applied within a standards-based analysis to assess the future supply of recreation facilities covering the ten-year time horizon extending out to 2023. The anticipated population can be used to guide investment, but this plan also considers how actions to plan and develop recreation resources can benefit and support tourism, which is an underpinning of the economy.

Examples of factors that influence potential for residential population growth, include migration (such as influenced by environment and economic conditions), changes in housing and transportation supply, and birth and death rates. According to Shandaken's 2005 Comprehensive Plan, page III-1, and citing New York Metropolitan Transportation Council – Population Forecasts for Ulster County and the surrounding five counties within the NYC metropolitan statistical area, it is estimated that local population will increase at a rate of approximately 0.62%/year through 2020. However, the plan also notes (p. III-2) that continued growth in hamlets, places where a substantial portion of growth can reasonably be anticipated, is inhibited by water and sewer infrastructure deficiency (it does not directly mention the influence of natural hazards, like flooding, on growth). For purposes of examining how resident population growth could influence demand for recreation services and/or facilities, this plan applies a conservative annual population growth rate of 0.31% through 2023.

Using the 2010 population of 3,085, and an annual growth rate of 0.31%, this means that 2013 population is estimated as 3,114. Carried further, 2023 population would be 3,212. This figure is used to extrapolate future recreation facilities demand in 2023; however, it is reasonable to assume that annual growth could reach or exceed 0.62% annually.



Graphic from Ulster Co. Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (hereafter UCNTF), 2008

**Development Landscape** – As part of planning where and how to invest, it is also worth considering where growth occurred and whether there are potential developments that may alter or elevate demand in a particular place. No secondary source information was identified that defines where new housing development occurred over the last 10 years; however, the comprehensive plan, p.II-19, in considering growth in traffic volume on Route 28, notes that western segments have remained relatively constant with little, if any growth in traffic, compared with small incremental increases in volume more to the east.

**Belleayre Resorts** – Under an agreement in 2008 the proposed Belleayre Resorts project is advancing through permitting and pre-construction. The proposal includes two hotels (370 rooms), an 18-hole golf



course, and 259 lodging units and other facilities. The site is by Pine Hill. It is reasonable to expect that some part of this development will be completed within the next 10 years. While there will be planned trails and recreation amenities on-site like pools and tennis, it is reasonable to expect some induced demand for public recreation facilities in the vicinity, such as at Smith Park. While the park can accommodate more use, the Town Recreation Board should periodically monitor (count) visitation and characteristics of use in that area.

In other parts of town, the same rates and types of growth are expected as occurred over the last decade. Still, given a proposal to establish a linear rail and trail or trail on the Ulster and Delaware (U&D) right of way, it is reasonable to expect more recreation activity and users in and by the corridor and the parks and recreation areas that are close and accessible to it<sup>11</sup>. Also, if land use laws are altered, such as by establishing and incentivizing priority growth areas, some increased demand for parks and recreation can be expected in and by them. A presumption is that the next comprehensive plan and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process will analyze impacts and assess how demand for recreation offerings may play-out under particular development scenarios.



---

<sup>11</sup> In 2012 the Ulster County Executive proposed planning and development to advance a rail trail on unused/underused parts of U&D corridor (see: <http://co.ulster.ny.us/downloads/2013%20Budget%20Speech.pdf> ) and subsequently the County Legislature approved the budget. See also U&D railroad corridor rail trail feasibility study <http://www.co.ulster.ny.us/planning/rtrail.html>

---



**PARKS & RECREATION ORGANIZATION** – Recreation is a municipal service. The Parks and Recreation Board meets monthly to help preserve, promote, maintain, and expand recreation offerings. Chapter 38A adopted in 2011 established the Board<sup>12</sup>. Duties it is assigned include:

- Discuss courses of action regarding town recreational activity offerings, including summer recreation programs and other activities sponsored by the Town and comment on issues to the Town Board;
- Look at areas for expansion of recreational activities within Shandaken;
- Compile detailed information to promote the Town and its recreational offerings;
- Review recreation fees;
- Review the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan every five years; and
- Research funding sources for recommendations.

The Supervisor, with Town Board involvement, leads recreation administration and budgeting, aided by staff. The Highway Department provides valuable assistance with parks maintenance, delivering services like plowing. There is a seasonal summer program (see below) supervised by a Recreation Director; aided by an Assistant and seasonal counselors. Volunteers also figure prominently, assisting parks clean-ups and special projects.

The Recreation Board's five members serve three year terms without compensation. Besides the Chairperson and officers, 'Park Manager' roles provide for member monitoring of four main parks, with the 'Managers' serving as point persons to assess conditions, recommend actions and stimulate community involvement.

The 2011/12 budget shows direct recreation allocations of \$35,000, or 1.5% of total budget contained within two line items covering 'personnel' and 'contract services'. In addition, a small, undefined amount of the budget overhead supports recreation administration and maintenance, while other appropriations, often small sums, benefit recreation related actions like: 'Shandaken Day', 'Community Improvement' and 'Publicity'. Records indicate there are also special segregated funds dedicated for recreation development. One part is a town recreation donation account 'trust and agency account', while another part represents funds contributed by the DEP, presumably through sources like Good Neighbor Fund. Collectively, these asset reserves represent on the order of \$20,000 as of April 2011. Such resources are a good source of local leverage when outside grants require a local match.

Grants and external assistance leverage local parks development. State Greenway grants are underwriting this project plus walking trails at Pine Hill Park and around that hamlet. Prior DEP contributions, from 'Good Neighbor Fund', have been channeled into parks. Historically, Ulster County Youth Bureau (UCYB) grants support programs, although interviews with key stakeholders identifies an impression that the Bureau's support involves small sums and the application process and reporting are burdensome. Technical assistance (TA) has also come from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) under its Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work, and Play (CHP) project, for advancing a healthy community and complete streets policy, and from UC Planning for identifying ways to reinforce tourism and 'Main Street' environments. Groups like Rotary clubs and Shandaken Area Revitalization Project (SHARP) also assist beautification efforts.

There are opportunities to leverage parks environment improvements through regional initiatives, grants and TA. To advance projects implementation, it is essential to prioritize needs, explore fit, and

---

<sup>12</sup> The revamped law provided reorganization of the local group assigned oversight of recreation.



define project rationales. It is also important to advance projects designs, readiness and approvals<sup>13</sup>. Some prime funding and TA notions for Shandaken recreation are:

- Catskills Smart Growth resources, circa 2009, in partnership with Catskills Collaborative;
- Multimodal project development, aided by the Ulster County Transportation Council (hereafter UCTC), using State Department of Transportation (DOT) and federal ‘Recreational Trails’ funds, and by teaming-up with non-profits and foundations, including land trusts;
- Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) competitive grants for improved recreation and access;
- State Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning (LWRP) funds;
- Environmental Protection Funds (NYS), with monitoring of opportunities from the NYS Office of Parks Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP);
- Researching a potential partnership with regional YMCAs to secure a national ‘Y’ grant;
- Defining potential to work with and tap into ORDA resources;
- Exploring how to smooth administration and increase the chance of securing UCYB funds, including by partnering on preventative health oriented matches for physical projects or social programs; and
- Pursuing Governor’s Traffic Safety Council funds and partnering with regional non-profits in the education and social programming arena.

---

13 Often a difficult aspect of project finance to achieve is project engineering and design, since many grants fund bricks and mortar work, but not initial planning. Shandaken officials are encouraged to set aside budget resources for this purpose in an attempt to increase the potential of securing larger external matches.





**RECREATION PROGRAMS** – The Town has summer and has had winter programs. Within the region there are also organized youth and senior activities, including youth sports. This element defines features of service and reviews Town programs, as a way to identify users, demands and needs. Future objectives are also contemplated based on this basic needs assessment.

*Community Context* – In addition to offerings at Onteora Central School District, many non-profits provide and support recreation and leisure programs and cultural offerings and events. Although this is a sampling and not an exhaustive list, examples of active local groups are:

- 4H Club;
- Belleayre Mountain (ski) Racing Association (BMRA);
- Catskill Mountain Railroad and Empire State Railroad Museum;
- Phoenicia and Pine Hill Libraries;
- Phoenicia Fish & Game Association;
- The Phoenicia as well as the Fleischmanns/ Pine Hill Rotary Clubs;
- Pine Hill Community Center;
- Scouting;
- Shandaken Historical Society; and
- Shandaken Theatrical Society.



*Picture from DEC's Belleayre web page*

Regional groups involved in camps, services and trainings include: Ashokan Center, Olive; Frost Valley YMCA, Denning; Ulster YMCA's Camp Seewackamano, Olive; Catskill Center for Conservation & Development (CCCD); AWSMP; hiking groups, like NY- NJ Trail Conference, and Catskill, and Appalachian Mountain Clubs; Fats in the Cats Mountain Bike Club; and nature and natural history organizations like Trout Unlimited.

*Organized Recreation* – Besides BMRA alpine skiing, the main youth sports within Shandaken are<sup>14</sup>:

- Youth soccer – Co-ed, through Woodstock Soccer Club (under American Youth Soccer Organization, with practices and games at Emerson Fields). The league has Under-6, U-8, U-10 and U-12 divisions, April to June and August through October. According to town records, there were 58 players in 2012.
- Baseball – Co-ed Mountain Valley Little League, also for Olive and Woodstock, uses Glenbrook Park and Phoenicia Elementary School, with Tee Ball (Ages 4-6); girls softball minor and major leagues (Ages 7-8; 9-12); boys minor and major leagues (Ages 7-8; 9-12), April to June, also with a Challenger League for physically- and mentally-challenged youths, and training for umpires over 12. Town records indicate the league served 39 players in 2012.
- Prior to 2012 there were efforts by volunteers to organize youth basketball for boys and girls in grades 4-7 with practices at Phoenicia School; however, with reconfiguration of the schools, an intramural program that blends the school community is urged.

Besides a wealth of enrichment programs at Phoenicia Library, adult programs are limited. The Town does partner with County Office of the Aging, which aids independent living, assists and advocates for seniors, offers information and referrals. The COA provides for routine meetings of seniors, such as for

---

<sup>14</sup> Various high school sports occur on a league basis, including soccer, skiing (school web page). There was not an inventory of Onteora after-school cultural enrichment and sports offerings for elementary/ middle school students, although it is notable that there was very high demand for a new middle school program (grades 4-6) of games, arts & crafts, and counseling (Oct. 1, 2012 Woodstock Times).



socialization and information exchange, plus some out of town excursions to cultural events or regional destinations. More informally, a group of varied age adults play basketball in Phoenicia School gym.

***Town Summer Recreation Program***<sup>15</sup> - For years Shandaken has offered a summer program for children five to 14. Service is free to residents and relations of property owners, six weeks from July (after the 4th) to mid-August, Tuesday through Thursday. Currently, the camp operates at Belleayre Mountain Pine Hill Day Use Area. It uses the manicured lawns, picnic areas, pavilions and swimming beach<sup>16</sup>. As part of the program of service, transport to and from Pine Hill is provided by Ulster County Area Transit (UCAT) under arrangement, with most children using this service versus getting rides or walking to the site.

A Recreation Director is employed seasonally to plan, organize and supervise this program. Service is aided by an Assistant Recreation Director with support from 12 seasonal camp counselors. The Director has a Water Safety Instructor credential and the Director and another individual are certified lifeguards. The program happens rain or shine. The staff groups the attendees by age:

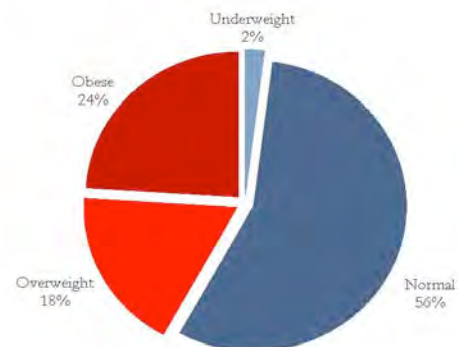
- Five to eight years (a participant must have completed one year of kindergarten);
- Nine and ten years; and
- Eleven and up.

Some staff stay with groups while others lead activities, and the Director and Assistant provide management supervision, including by the water. The Director indicates staff counsel kids through individual attention. Activities are organized in blocks, plus there are large group activities, time for free play, and lunch. The 45 minute activity blocks cover: Arts and crafts; Fields and games; and Swimming (also available during free play). In 2012 there were also field trips to Zoom Flume water park (\$10 per person) and Ulster County Fair.

In 2012 there were 120 distinct participants, with formal registration before the season. Average daily attendance was 55 children and the highest daily attendance was 90. With operations at Pine Hill from 9:30-4:30, there was an estimated 6,930 total service hours. Using a nominal budget appropriation of \$25,000 from the annual budget, not including any donated service or materials, this represents a rate of \$3.61 per service hour per child.

The recreation survey explored programs and interests, providing insight into service levels and needs. Asked to ID activities participated in, 20 respondents indicated use of the summer service. For overall satisfaction (excellent; good; fair; or poor), 59% (8 of 19) cited service as good. For frequency of use (1-6; 7-12; or 13+ times), 67% cited the highest category. Asked to rank needs for programs for young age groups (question 8) by specifying a rank category (with '1' highest and '6' lowest priority), there was relatively strong support for elementary age programs, with 77% (63 of 82 responses) checking higher rank categories (1-3). In terms of importance of potential improvements in an expanded summer program, 90% cited (193 responses) need as 'very important' or 'somewhat important' with 10% citing 'not important'. It is also important to consider

Figure 10. BMI Distribution in Ulster County: 7th Grade



*Chart in 2010 County Health report shows high regional rate of overweight youth*

15 Telephone interview of Ryla Hart, Recreation Director, summer program, by David Gilmour, AICP, on October 8, 2012.

16 This is the only public bathing beach located in the town.



public health benefits of the program, which gets kids outside and moving, and the fact that it is a source of jobs for residents.

*Winter Recreation Program* – With a major ski area in-town, there is a history of local government promotion of skiing. From 2006 to 2012 a volunteer-led 'winter recreation program' facilitated discount lift tickets and other incentives for households renting or owning property<sup>17</sup>. In 2012, 305 individuals, of varied ages, purchased IDs enabling access to 26 lift tickets (and 13 guest passes) for \$25 good any day except Saturday after January 1. Incentives changed in 2013 with the transfer to ORDA. As of late 2012, the discount offered was for skiing by children 8 to 12 years old on six select Sundays for \$180.

A concern is that a reduced discount may result in less resident activity, as the incomes of many households cannot support higher price lift tickets and the incidence of children skiing may decline because parents do not join them. The parks and recreation questionnaire was distributed before these policies were framed, but after the Governor identified intent to transfer control to ORDA. Results showed most respondents (60 of 117) skied 1-6 times (question #7). There was support for an 'Expand(ed) winter recreation program' (#9), with 193 of 216 (89%) labeling the action 'very' or 'somewhat important' versus 'not important'. This rate is similar to the levels of support for: expansion of the summer recreation program; biking and walking/hiking trails; renovated courts/fields; and upgraded fields.



Picture from DEC web page, 2012

*Summer & Winter Program Expansion* – There is a need for funding to research and design a more robust Summer Program curriculum that engages participants and supports intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development. While the movement is blooming, there is strong public health evidence of the benefits of broad-based, wellness-oriented camps and programs. It may be feasible to cost-effectively introduce on- and off-site sports and games like: hiking, cycling, tennis, archery and ball sports, as well as youth confidence and team building, and learning activities like: gardening, composting, recycling, rain harvesting, nature viewing, equipment maintenance, and ecology, just to name a few. One possibility may be to enhance service in conjunction with area non-profits that provide structured environmental education. Forming curriculum will assist these endeavors. It is also critical to define options and requirements for possibly adding one more day per week to the summer program.

A further way to advance the development of camp curriculum, and programs, is to form strategy to restructure the town Recreation Director position with expanded responsibilities, greater budget which equates to more time dedicated to program planning, or by establishing a new civil service educator or planning position. For instance, rather than a restricted, seasonal role, an enhanced part- or full-time position would be able to facilitate more comprehensive program development, across seasons. The person in this function could possibly also support the development of other recreation activities and programs, including during the long-winter season in the Catskills.

The UMP for Pine Hill Lake (expected to be available for public comment in 2013) may provide insight into the feasibility to continue to accommodate (and expand) the program there. But it also makes sense to explore alternatives for a base, plus the potential to offer more off-site excursions, games, and programs.

---

<sup>17</sup> Telephone interview of Tina Rice, volunteer coordinator of the winter recreation program, by David Gilmour, AICP, October 10, 2012. For approximately eight years prior to 2006 the coordinator role was a paid position.



Given a lack of indoor facilities and challenges inherent in recreating outdoors in winter, there is rationale for the Town to promote and support physical activity by individuals and families, including seniors, within a winter recreation program. Support could encompass skiing or an array of activities, like ice skating and snowshoeing. It is crucial to define ideal substance and structure of a winter program. As alpine skiing is part of community heritage, it makes sense to request ORDA support in accessing ski clinics where a set of discounted lessons are made available for locals to encourage lifelong uptake of the sport in a safe way.

While the recreation survey shows most (56%) support retaining town-wide appropriations as the 'most favorable' funding option, it may also make sense to introduce a small registration fee for the summer program (and/or winter offerings), as this could offer a reasonable way to generate some funds and operating reserves for program development and improvements. Based on a quick scan of charges for summer programs in the area, a suggestion is \$25 to \$75 per individual. Introducing a sliding scale, with smaller cumulative fees for households that enroll more than one child is urged, as well as reserving funds, or requesting donations, to establish camp scholarships<sup>18</sup>.

*Other Recreation Program and Event Recommendations* – The Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice ([phoeniciavoicefest.org](http://phoeniciavoicefest.org)) is an example of a major cultural offering occurring in a park – the event focuses on promoting the human voice through multiple performances of genres like opera, song, world music, baroque and choral music. The Festival now has a foundation and board of advisors and is an example of an activity that is complimentary to parks use and stewardship. There are many events that occur in parks -- the community and individual volunteers are congratulated for supporting and facilitating these varied events and for providing stewardship of the settings in which they take place.

On a smaller scale, Big Indian Park has for 28 years hosted the Annual Classic Car Show. Generally, over 500 attend this display of classic cars in the sylvan setting of this small park. Also, in late July, the Big Indian Park will host the Third Annual Thunder in the Valley Pow Wow. This is an educational event attracting over 1,000 people who have the opportunity to enjoy Native American culture, exhibits, story-telling, drumming and Aztec dancers.

As a way to stimulate recreation awareness and parks use, efforts can identify a range of other social and cultural activities that are feasible in parks. Through work with interested collaborators it should be possible to organize some additional types of organized concert(s), dance(s), theater, festival(s), youth activities, historical reenactments or other events. For instance, a summer movie screening may offer a way to help galvanize community. Private sponsors can be instrumental in underwriting such programs. The potential to facilitate more offerings could be increased if management responsibility were assigned to Town recreation staff. However, it is presumed that supporting organizations can themselves contribute resources for parks development and maintenance.

Considering services and offerings identified, there is also potential to coordinate with local businesses and instructors to offer introductions to and instruction in other sports and recreation activities. For instance, Zoomba style dancing has been provided and proved to be popular at both the Pine Hill Community Center and the Methodist church. Other possible topics include: dance, winter sports, swim lessons; bicycling; hiking; yoga; meditation; martial arts; golf; gymnastics and bike or ski equipment maintenance. Offerings might happen on evenings and weekends, for youth and/or adults, as

---

<sup>18</sup> The Recreation Board also states its interest in exploring feasibility to establish a 'work benefits program' whereby it may be possible in certain situations for residents to contribute quantifiable work towards the completion of designated municipal recreation projects in lieu of program participation fees.



well as to promote inter-generational contact. The Ashokan Center and CCCD are also possible programming allies – as they have staff educators and provide initiatives to instill sense of place and get kids and adults outside and recreating.

It is suggested that the Recreation Board continue to identify and structure appealing inter-generational activities, such as the Turkey Trot, an annual two-mile fun run/walk that is based out of Parish Field and which is carried out in the hamlet of Phoenicia to raise money for local charities. People often find pleasure when they get out and walk and bike. Community programs can build awareness of health topics and establish support for recreation. Staging additional ‘Open Streets’ events on a preset dates, such as along the Turkey Trot route, with a small set of streets closed to motorized traffic would be novel and liberating and build on established momentum. People-friendly activities like this have been shown to be popular and can aid business and community cohesion. A foundation appeal for support to catalyze more events will probably succeed because impacts on the community can be gauged.

Given growth in older age groups, the Town can also attempt to collaborate with Ulster County Health Department and other affinity groups to organize challenges to get seniors active and out on trails and streets. One opportunity may be to coordinate with Ulster Corps, a non-profit that organizes volunteer service. Besides having a volunteer establish a community walking group, a motivated set of retirees could ask for permission to work with Onteora Schools on mentoring teenagers, or by helping organize walking school buses as part of a safe route to schools initiative in Phoenicia in collaboration with CCEUC and other health and safety advocacy and educational groups.

It is also contemplated that private businesses like retailers, lodging businesses and outfitters can contribute to the development of recreation-oriented programs and event offerings that benefit residents and visitors. For example, the proposed Belleayre Resort is encouraged to stage open offerings on-site and in community parks and settings like Belleayre Lake. Moreover, it will be beneficial if there could be reduced- or no-cost access for resident youths (and in limited cases adults) to the recreational opportunities contemplated to be provided through its Wilderness Activity Center. The Center is planned to have a concierge service with an object of getting people outdoors and taking advantage of recreational activities offered by the resort and other providers like guided fishing, canoe rentals, tubing, and hiking and biking tours. Its goal is to provide outdoor experiences that stimulate increased activity and return visits through greater exposure to and instruction in those sports as well as others like alpine and cross-country skiing, ice skating, mountain, rock and ice climbing, mountain biking, and hunting.

Finally, as a way to consider recreation needs and services, the Recreation Board can annually assign part of one meeting for a recurring assessment of changes within the recreation service landscape. This will promote consideration of demand, supply, and issues. This type of routine assessment can help inform ways to sustain or enhance service and improve communication among stakeholders<sup>19</sup>.

---

19 The Library moved out of its temporary location on Mt. Ava Maria Drive. A major long-term project the Recreation Board can consider undertaking is providing research on potential to establish a community youth center there or elsewhere.





**SHANDAKEN RECREATION SERVICE STANDARDS** – Besides quantifying parks and fixtures that comprise the recreation system in Shandaken, this section defines groupings and applies standards within a needs assessment intended to help guide recreation planning and investments for the town (and presumably the region, in cases where it is particularly challenging or infeasible to achieve new or improved recreation assets using local resources alone). Analysis that follows explores opportunities and gaps. It describes how recreation facilities supply and demand are now and may play-out in the future.

Overall, these are guidelines. They examine recreation level of service considering local and regional conditions, but they are framed by consulting national standards and ones used in other communities.

A modern rural recreation system has different types of facilities with alternate functions, sizes, locations, service areas, designs and development criteria. For this analysis, assets and fixtures are grouped in three park general classifications, or categories:

- Special Purpose;
- Trails & Greenway; and
- Community & Neighborhood-level Park.

These are formed by refining ones in Planning & Urban Design Standards, edited by American Planning Association (APA), published by Wiley and Sons, Inc. 2006, and From Recreation to Recreation: New Directions in Parks and Open Space System Planning, Meagan Lewis, Editor, APA, PAS Report #551, 2008.

The service guidelines presented are applied against an inventory of facilities, combined with observations of use, interviews, reviews of geography, and exploration of demand in the region. Planning goals were considered in forming the service guidelines, particularly the interest of recreation leaders in optimizing and sustaining existing resources, tapping into outdoor recreation amenities, including State assets, and leveraging community and economic development. It was not possible to compare service with adjacent communities because there is not a ready or consistent set of plans and data for the surrounding area to use. Therefore, the needs assessment is framed considering service standards used in the U.S., especially other rural places in the northeast, including ones with tourism economies. Many municipalities have formed recreation service standards using 1993 guidelines by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA). The standards that follow are formed considering the application of NRPA-based guidelines in other places, although the standards herein cover a broader array of facility types than are considered in many communities.

**Community & Neighborhood Parks** – Given low population density, this class is a hybrid. It blends smaller ‘neighborhood parks’ that serve recreational and social purposes for adjacent hamlets, with those of ‘community parks’, which are generally larger and situated in accessible, central locations and which provide for more wide-ranging town recreational needs and service areas. Community parks enable valuable and popular forms of recreation that require more space, so they typically comprise more diverse facilities. They also often are centers for town-wide activities, such as when used as bases for cultural events (like Parish Field for the Turkey Trot and Festival of the Voice). As with any park, there is more value to the community when tied into linear trails/ greenway.

Community & Neighborhood parks have these added features. Often they include attractive settings for informal recreation, ideally within an easy walk of those they are intended to serve. Children benefit from and need programmed places to play, so the neighborhood aspect provides open and play space for different ages. Besides aiding informal recreation, ‘community and neighborhood’ parks in Shandaken typically have playgrounds and grassy areas. Some fields accommodate athletics, like little



league. Usually there are benches and playgrounds, which should be shaded with attractive areas for adults accompanying children. As shown by Simpson ‘Mini’ Park, vest pocket parks are assigned to the group – they support hamlets by providing nearby places of respite for workers, residents, shoppers and tourists.

While a high parks density with a narrower service radius, such as ½ mile, is ideal to serve walkers and bikers, especially kids, given the small population, and very low population density outside hamlets, a larger distance core service radius is considered acceptable of ¾ to 1 mile extending outwards from each community and neighborhood park facility. A typical small size community and neighborhood park size is three to five acres, especially when the main footprint consists of mostly useable, unconstrained space. Still, smaller size is acceptable in ‘mini-parks’. Larger footprints can certainly be beneficial. As parks here usually serve broad populations, their more multipurpose roles mean that ideally these comprise landscape units of 20 to 45 acres. In those cases, the parks may feature open fields as part of site mix, including athletic fields.

**Special Purpose Parks & Facilities** – this group addresses unique facilities, landscapes and open spaces. It includes ones oriented towards single and special uses like community centers and historic sites. Typically with town-wide service areas, or larger, this grouping includes: bathing beaches, swimming pools and indoor athletic and cultural facilities, like Pine Hill Community Center. The Phoenicia Elementary School, with its yard and fixtures, complements neighborhood recreation, but it has limited periods when the public may use these facilities, so with caveats this space is treated as part of special purpose parks supply. More extensive acreage in the Catskill Forest Preserve with its vast natural resources and service areas consisting of many municipalities, and associated special purpose campgrounds, primitive hiking trails, and intensive use areas also fit under this category<sup>20</sup>.

**Linear Parks & Other**– As discussed under 'Trails & Linear Parks', these facilities are designed for accessible non-motorized corridors for walkers and bicyclists. Different from primitive hiking or biking trails, these follow designated key streets, and other rights of ways, like rail or former road corridors, as well as along natural environments like streams, thereby providing appealing recreational and multi-modal connections between parks, other assets and population centers. Besides offering connectivity and adding to facilities supply by providing access on treated, universally accessible<sup>21</sup> surfaces with traffic controls, linear parks often have distinguishing features like: landscaping, buffers, incorporation of historic attributes, sitting areas, and amenities and design treatments intended to achieve visually appealing and cohesive spaces which aid way-finding and offer pleasing user experiences. Linear parks are also referred to as greenways and these link open space and cultural nodes, establishing those points as destinations and providing a unique way to access them.

---

20 State Park units are not delved into in great detail, but UMPs are important resources to consider and work consistent with in planning local recreation. For background on UMPs see the DEC web page ( <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4979.html> ) and the Route 28 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (draft of 2012).

21 As paraphrased from Wikipedia ‘universal design’ refers to a broad spectrum of ideas meant to produce buildings and environments that are inherently accessible to people without disabilities as well as people with disabilities. Its notion (attributable to architect Ronald L. Mace) is for built environments that can reasonably provide for and accommodate use to the greatest extent possible by everyone, regardless of their age, ability or status in life.

Table 2 – Town of Shandaken Parks and Fixtures Inventory

<b><u>PARK / FACILITY</u></b> <i>Neighborh'd&amp;Community= Green (1-5); Special Purpose Park*= Blue (6-8); Linear Park &amp;Other(s)*= Orange (9-10)</i>	<b><u>ACRES</u></b> (Space for recreation or in Parcel)	<b><u>FEATURES</u></b>	<b><u>OTHER FEATURES</u></b>	<b>Playground</b>	<b>'Bat'ball field</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	<b>Basketball</b>	<b>Volleyball Court</b>	<b>Soccer/Lax/ Hockey Play Field</b>
1. Big Indian Park & Ride	18.5	Pavilion	Lawn/ field	1	½				
2. Glenbrook Park**	10.0	Pavilion& restrooms	Dog Park	1	1		½		
3. Parish Field & Tanbark Trails	99.9	Open field	Community garden spot	1			1		
4. Simpson Mini Park	0.3	Streamside w gazebo/ picnic	Adjacent parking						
5. Smith Field (Pine Hill)	3.2	Open field; Play equipment	Tanbark Trail; garden	1		X	1		
6. Pine Hill Lake & Day Use Area	35.0	Lake: swimming; canoeing	Picnic, trails access					1	
7. Phoenicia Fish & Game Ass'n Inc.	10.4	Outdoor & indoor ranges	Field house						
8. Pine Hill Community Center	0.4	Indoor cultural space	Community garden						
9. Phoenicia Elementary School	3.0	Community garden	Indoor court (not counted)	1	1LL		1¼		
10. Emerson Playing Fields	7.2	Soccer fields							2½
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>187.9</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Notes:

\* Facilities like primitive trails, skiing (alpine, including Belleayre Ski Center, and nordic), public and private campgrounds, museums and various private recreation facilities are not shown in Tables 2 or 3. Nor are flexible apparatus like portable volleyball nets like the one available at Glenbrook Park.

\*\*Glenbrook Park site encompasses a larger area; however, since there are other town-managed land uses present, a conservative figure was used.

\*\*\*Tennis courts at Smith Park (Pine Hill) treated as deficient due to wear.

Table 3

SHANDAKEN-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDED RECREATION FACILITY STANDARD (Per Population Increment)	Playground	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Volleyball Court	'Bat'ball Field	Running Track	Soccer Field	Football Field	Swimming Pools	Field Hockey Field/ Lacrosse Field	Skate Park	Golf Driving Range	Golf Course
SHANDAKEN-BASED STANDARD	1 per 2,000	1 per 2,500	1 per 3,500	1 per 4,000	1 per 3,000	1 per 30,000	1 per 20,000	1 per 25,000	1 per 20,000	1 per 30,000	1 per 20,000	1 per 25,000	1 per 25,000
FACILITIES IN SHANDAKEN IN 2012	5.0	0.0	3.25	1.0	2.5	0.25	3.25	0.25	0.0	0.25	0.0	0.0	0.0
CURRENT DEFICIT/ SURPLUS (Using 2013 population of 3,114)	3.44	-1.25	2.11	0.78	0.46	0.15	2.84	0.13	0.16	0.15	0.16	0.12	0.12
PROJECTED DEFICIT/ SURPLUS (Using 2023 Population of 3,212)	3.39	-1.28	2.08	0.80	0.43	0.14	2.84	0.12	0.16	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.13



**Facilities Inventory & Supply Analysis** – Table 2 is an inventory of local parks and facilities in Shandaken. It is grouped to show the service standard categories:

- Community and Neighborhood Park (1-5);
- Special Purpose (6-8); and
- 'Linear Park and Other' resources (9-10).

*Linear Park & Other* – These unique 'other' resources exist on leased and school lands. These fixtures labeled as 'other' are counted in the facilities supply. That inventory is used in a needs projection that examines existing and projected recreation facilities surplus and deficit. There are about 10 acres in the set. While use depends on the particular features of each one, it is not always presumed access is guaranteed to the community like for a public park. For instance, the school site is not available to the general public during school hours. Depending on the case, working to formalize recreation uses, joint use and/or protection of an asset may be important. Recreation leaders are encouraged to explore feasibility to cost-effectively secure long-term sustained access to the 'Playing Fields'.

There is no acreage under the Linear Parks sub-type. Achieving development of linear trails is important to aiding access to existing parks and serving hamlets/ neighborhoods.

*Special Purpose* - There are about 46 acres in the Special Purpose class now. This excludes most State-owned Intensive Use area; other state lands and easements, including fishing access points; DEP lands; the railroad museum; the old or new library sites; and the community theater location.

*Community Neighborhood Park* – There are about 132 acres in Community Parks. One sizable part is woodlands hosting Tan Bark Trail at Parish Field site. Discussion that follows suggests, depending on further prioritization and alignment of resources, there may be need for new fixtures or facilities, like: a fixed volleyball court, a sledding area, ice skating, a skate park, indoor swimming and/or an indoor exercise/ weight room and a permanent multipurpose playing field (some of which are 'special purpose' type). It is acceptable for those types of development to occur within this class.

Table 3 summarizes population service standards derived and used for different types of facilities in Shandaken. These guidelines are based in-part on NRPA standards used in communities throughout the U.S. While they are sometimes unchanged, tailored adjustments were made to account for conditions in Shandaken, including seasonal surges. This means that these individual facility service standards are Shandaken-specific and based on features of this area. The table shows aspects of service, now and in the future, that are satisfactory, or where there may be a need for enhanced facilities or supply.

The following commentary explores the individual types of facility standards used. It provides type-specific assessment of existing facilities and future needs:

- *Playgrounds* – These are important elements of healthy places and are optimally located in centers of population. The way playgrounds are spaced in Shandaken, they serve people within one mile, sometimes more, although the rural road network usually does not afford walking or biking access in this service radius (many communities have objectives for playgrounds within ¼ to ½ mile of all residences). Based on a review of locations, distribution, and population characteristics, it is construed there may be a need for a playground around Mount Pleasant/ Mount Tremper and possibly Chichester.

Parish Field playground has strong use. There is space available for upgrading equipment, making it a good site for diverse equipment that serves a broad area, especially if sustained





access can be secured through a 15-25 year lease or outright purchase. In considering investments here, an objective is to plan for peak use during events. Providing landscaping can buffer adjacent residences and improve sitting areas. It is also advised to develop features like pivoting swings, tunnels and bridges, a drinking fountain, and a restroom<sup>22</sup> to support more use and longer visits. As an alternative to investing in manufactured fixtures, it may make sense to try designing apparatus for dramatic and creative play, like partially buried tree trunks, that are safe and stimulate active play and children's motor skills development.

It is warranted to upgrade playground equipment routinely on a rotating schedule of investment every three to seven years in town-controlled locations. Adding moveable fixtures, like tire swings, is a way to increase vigorous activity. Fixtures used by more than one child, like tubes that children crawl through, aid social development. Expensive equipment may not stimulate children, so it is suggested to target investment in manicured berms and water features.



Moriello Park, New Paltz

- While outdated, one NRPA general standard is for one linear trail per community. This is in-line with open space character of the area and the recreation vision of the town and region, and there is sound rationale for achieving a higher density of linear trails given the tourism-dependent economic base. *Importantly, by achieving Neighborhood and Community parks integrated within connected linear trails, the distance between parks can be allowed to expand within hamlet areas to 1.0 mile+/-*. This is because a facility like an accessible rail trail will afford easy, pleasant access for diverse users, including families and older persons, with the corridors themselves becoming part of the parks system and recreation experience. A priority for Shandaken should be advancing the formal design and development of a local linear park, preferably that connects multiple hamlets. Private developers must be convinced to forge formal connections to potential linear parks and enhance linear trails and complete streets on and fronting on their properties. Developers are also encouraged to contribute to development of linear parks and associated amenities community-wide.

For this plan, linear trails, also known as greenway trails, refer to multi-use (shared use) trails known variably as rail trails, bike paths, recreation ways, carriage roads, and community trails. They are relatively straight and flat, often hardened with asphalt or crushed stone, and designed for a multitude of uses like bicycling, hiking, strolling, jogging, inline skating, birdwatching, dog walking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Greenway trails are distinguished from other shared use trails by including a transportation component, in that they are desirable for use as a thoroughfare, and suitable for road bicycles, in addition to mountain bikes<sup>23</sup>.

The Ulster County Executive has goals to advance public health and wellness and develop the regional linear trail system. This plan replicates that intent at the local level. An objective is to identify segments of trail, preferably including a part of the U&D right of way<sup>24</sup>, that can be constructed and opened to public access in order to show the benefits of achieving this type of trail. Priority should be provided to places likely to have high rates of visitation.

22 An alternative may be to establish a publicly accessible restroom within 500+/- feet with signage providing directions.

23 This definition is derived using one in the New York Statewide Trails Plan, 2010, by OPRHP (page 14).

24 The County Long-Range Transportation Plan includes the U&D Corridor as a multi-use trail and the County Trails Advisory Committee supports the concept.



The Recreation Board is positioned to support major project implementation, but in its current form it is not equipped to execute project development. However, it can consider taking on physical planning for small or discrete projects, such as with regional or non-profit support.

Areas suggested for focus include Woodland Valley and Pine Hill, the latter with physical enhancements and operations that enable direct linkage to Belleayre Lake. Advancing a Riverwalk in Phoenicia has been challenging, but renewed investment in landscape design is urged to determine if this standard is achievable, or a more basic pedestrian-oriented approach (like for a linear park plaza) is advisable.

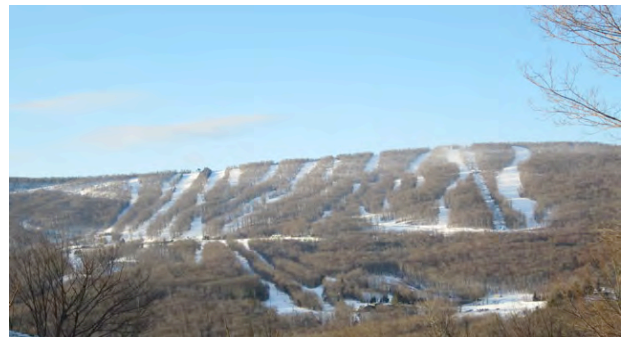
In helping establish Shandaken linear trails, the Recreation Board must advocate for sustainable trails that have minimal impacts on the environment, require low maintenance, and meet the needs of diverse users. It is essential to forge trail standards, either under a regional compact or at the local level, with guidelines that aid formation and operation of these critical recreation facilities. They should cover signage, accessibility, trail monitoring, and closure. Taking these steps will help interconnect hamlets and neighborhoods with the broader Catskill Park and regional rail trail network while supporting quality recreation and tourism.

- *Basketball* – Assigned a one-mile plus service radius, supply consists of four outdoor courts (partial or whole) plus one indoors at the Elementary School. The school gym is available after school by permission and adults meet there on a weekday evening (there is also pick-up volleyball). Use of courts seems steady, but there appears to be an adequate supply provided an objective is advanced to provide routine court resurfacing and hoop replacements.
- *Pool/ Lifeguard Assisted Bathing* – There is a public bathing beach open for a fee in summer at Pine Hill Lake but there is no easily used, versatile indoor pool in-town. (As Table 3 shows it is uncommon for communities the size of Shandaken to have pools, much less indoor pools, although the latter would be desirable given the climate and economic base). Hannah Resort, eight miles west of the town, offers swimming in a heated indoor pool, for a fee, and other options are available further away at SUNY Delhi and the YMCA in Kingston. The Recreation Board indicates that a recreation center is planned for Arkville (five miles west of town) with groundbreaking scheduled in 2013 for an indoor heated pool (six lanes for meets and an area for recreational swimming), locker rooms, and an outdoor patio. If community access to the pool and programs could be arranged for a reasonable fee, it offers a way to meet much of the anticipated demand in Shandaken, so there could be efforts to support project development and coordinate access, including through local outlays, as the cost to construct and operate pools is substantial. Alternatively, since there is an indoor pool in at least one lodging facility with another planned for Belleayre Resort, it is encouraged to explore the feasibility of entering into a agreement to use one. An ADA threshold being phased-in requires access upgrades at pools with public accommodation, like at hotels. It is suggested to consider offering municipal partnership, whereby contributions towards ADA accessibility upgrades are provided in exchange for access for a set period. In considering creative ways to provide access to an indoor pool, there should be careful assessment of the respective range of benefits and expected costs. Finally, if a new pool is contemplated by public or non-profit entities, it is worth exploring potential to establish an exercise gym as part of the use.
- *Soccer/ Field Hockey/ Lacrosse* – many places set separate service standards for these sports, but strong added demand is not anticipated for field hockey and lacrosse, although it is reasonable to expect sustained, possibly slightly increased, demand for soccer fields based on the success of youth soccer. A long-term objective is securing a multi-purpose athletic field with a 2.0 acre footprint in a central location. While this will be difficult, one idea is to achieve



a formal agreement for long-term use, or outright ownership, of the 'playing fields' in Mount Tremper. Monitoring of other opportunities is also urged, including the potential to formalize community access to fields at OHS under a joint use agreement, even though the school site is not optimum due to the long distance for parts of the community.

- *Sledding* (not in table) – winter snow sports are a Shandaken heritage. No places were identified that have sledding guidelines, but there are examples where sledding hills are popular aspects of parks, including at Woodstock's Comeau property<sup>25</sup>. Provided there is a reasonable attempt to facilitate its safe pursuit, having a place to sled is desirable. A guideline is for establishing at least one place in-town recognized and available as a location for sledding. Glenbrook Park is suggested, as it is not presumed people are able to use Belleayre Mountain, although it is a strong candidate given supporting services. It is also preferable to have a place for sledding available somewhere by Phoenicia/Woodland Valley or Mount Tremper.
- *Little League/ Softball/ Baseball Field* – Minimum space requirements range from 1.0+ acres for little league fields to 1.75 for softball and over 3.0 acres for regulation baseball. While there was not rigorous assessment of fields mix or adequacy of individual fields, field sizes are constrained. A focus is advancing turf, infield, safety and equipment upgrades and upkeep.
- *Volleyball* – Based on national popularity of volleyball, an ambitious service standard is suggested. Although a portable net at Glenbrook Park is lightly used, the costs to establish a permanent court is relatively small and having one readily accessible would enable ease of use, such as on evenings. Locations to consider siting one permanent court are: Pine Hill, Big Indian, or Parish Field, with a decision whether to invest informed by further testing of public interest in establishing a fixed court.
- *Tennis* – There is a court at Smith Park that is unusable due to wear. A high priority is rehabilitating the court and surrounding fence, as the supply in the community comes up as deficient according to the standards applied in Table 3, plus there is at least temporarily heightened demand caused by the destruction of courts in nearby Fleischmanns during flooding in 2011. The Recreation Board expresses interest in adding lighting. There is also a set of courts in Olive at OHS (not counted in the inventory). Providing clarification about when and how the community can use and access ones at OHS would be helpful. Advocacy for lighting the courts at OHS is another way to extend the available supply.
- *Ice-skating* (not in table) – one recent year there was an effort to establish skating in Big Indian. While weather variability must be considered, having a place to skate, especially with lighting and/or on a refrigerated surface, can support social interaction and tourism. A decision is needed whether to re-attempt skating in Big Indian or at Pine Hill. Places like New Paltz have obtained inflatable bladders to offer ice skating as part of festivals like winter carnival. Establishing a rink is an activity a community group could assist and if a bladder were used



Source: DEC website

---

25 Another example is at Town of Lake George solid waste facility where there is a tubing hill and at Dynamite Hill where there is sledding and skiing in the Town of Chester (also in the Adirondack region).



maybe a volunteer fire company would fill it. Another model is for a rink at Belleayre ski area or for a private rink at a lodging facility, like one at Mohonk Mountain House in Marbletown, which is at times accessible to the public for a fee.

- *Cross Country Skiing* (not in table) – Belleayre Ski Center has 5.6 miles (9.0 kilometers) of trails, including for beginner and intermediate abilities<sup>26</sup>. These nordic trails are not groomed or patrolled, free to use, and dependent on natural snow. There are no restrooms/ changing areas.

There are other places in-town available for cross country skiing (and snowshoeing), including at Rochester Hollow in Shandaken Wild Forest, plus on a new 1.5 mile trail at Emerson Resort, Mt. Tremper, accessible for a fee (as well as equipment rentals)<sup>27</sup>. It is also important to consider the potential to link and extend trails along the U&D corridor.

At and around Belleayre there is potential to upgrade level of service by providing trail enhancements, snow making and grooming, which accommodates skiers of advanced abilities, including 'skate'-skiers, and which can enable events and activities like races and instruction. A restroom and accessory space for warming and skis preparation is also needed. These types of upgrades could help elevate the facility to regional quality, bringing it to a standard similar to or exceeding what is found at Mountain Trails Cross Country Ski Center (Hunter, Greene County) and Minniewaska State Park (Town of Gardiner). An updated Belleayre Mountain Ski Center UMP is expected in 2013 which will outline intent around nordic skiing. There appears to be potential to link and extend trails, such as through public access on trails that can accommodate nordic skiing that are planned to the west associated with Belleayre Resort, and for primitive nordic skiing linked off of trails within the Big Indian public land acquisition, also nearby to the east, especially if this latter area is classified 'intensive use' as is the expressed interest of the Town Board.

- *Golf Course & Golf Range* – There is no public golf course, although a facility planned at Belleayre Resorts will have public access. No publicly-owned courses lie within 20 miles, although courses are open for a fee in Roxbury (Delaware County), Hunter (Greene County) and elsewhere. Likewise, there are no public or private driving ranges, but there are ones in the region. The potential to site a public facility is a low priority based on space and cost requirements, but the Recreation Board should advocate for school system and community access at the private course planned by Pine Hill.
- *Disk Golf* (not in table). Given vast open space and growth in popularity in the sport nationally, it is suggested to explore whether there may be community or market support for establishing disc golf. “All courses share the basic elements: targets, tee pads, signage, topography, and safety” [wikipedia.org/wiki/Disc\\_golf](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/Disc_golf) There are no facilities identified in Ulster, Delaware, or Greene Counties, but there is one in Orange County. It is assumed this type of activity can be structured to fit on woodlands, floodplains and watershed. County economic development staff could be consulted on the feasibility to spur this type of recreation investment.
- *Canoeing/ kayaking (& fishing) access* – standards are not formed for these sports since many opportunities exist for public access and associated use of stream environments, including for 'tubing', within the Catskill Park. But one specialized group of users for which there is a history of use and discussion of potential enhancements surrounds whitewater boating. The activity is popular in Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania and the Adirondacks. The City of Manchester, NH has a whitewater park and in Port Jervis (Orange County, NY) there is investment underway to establish one. AWSMP is a resource for developing a regional facility.

---

<sup>26</sup> The main website for the mountain facility lists conditions.

<sup>27</sup> The Recreation Board indicates there are preparations underway to provide snow making on the trail.





- *Hunting / shooting (and archery) range (not in table)* - given rural character and vast open space, hunting is important to the social and economic base. It is beneficial to maintain at least one range in the community and the facility west of Mount Tremper operated by the fish and game club appears to adequately serve this role with use for diverse activities, including community gatherings and a primitive biathlon. Outreach to the club by the Recreation Board can define whether there are any promotions or planning for the area and the facility that it can assist to help ensure awareness of the club, site use and optimization and club sustainability.
- *Skate Park* – given local interest in forming a facility in Pine Hill and a perceived relationship of this sport to freestyle alpine skiing and sports like mountain biking, an ambitious service standard is set, although it is not typical for communities the size of Shandaken to have these.
- *Mountain Biking (not in table)* – Having diverse, high quality mountain biking options in Shandaken bolsters its niche as a sporting destination. Importantly, there is cross country mountain biking available on trails at Belleayre early spring to late fall - whenever there is not skiing. Terrain is described as extensive and supports varying skills. The managed landscape around these alpine trails and service paths is an excellent venue for the sport, when combined with adjunct facilities like lodges and the trails network that branches out from the core set at the ski area<sup>28</sup>. There is an annual race at Belleayre as part of the NY State Mountain Bike Series which is well attended by top regional professionals.

Mountain biking is also available at Rochester Hollow and bicycle access on the U&D corridor could connect isolated assets. The CPSLMP formally designates primitive mountain bicycling corridors in a few isolated areas in the Forest Preserve, mostly places that are very rugged, and the plan identifies objectives to minimize conflicts between different types of trail (p. 17), link intensive use areas and promote non-degradation of resources. It is suggested for the local Recreation Board to identify desirable upgrades at and by Belleayre to further improve site access and improvements to signage to establish those trails as more of a cycling destination. It may also be possible to coordinate cooperative assistance from a volunteer-based group like FATS in the CATS Mountain Biking Club to help expand the trail system there and provide drainage and trail stabilization improvements using Internal Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) design guidelines (trails with natural surfaces typically are 3 to 8 feet wide). Presuming the sport will increase in popularity, the Recreation Board can monitor use to inform ways it can help provide support, with a local objective to advocate for establishing one formal mountain biking corridor within easy access to Route 28.

**CASE STUDY** -- In 2010-12 Windham Mountain (Greene Co.) was the only US venue for an international World Cup Tour mountain bike race organized by Union Cyclists International. This major event occurred over a week in summer, taking advantage of extensive trails, including at Elm Ridge, as well as services available in the community. There were downhill and 'Olympic Cross Country' and 'Four Cross' races plus clinics, concerts, and kids activities. The event and location serve as a model of how to successfully organize trails and extend resources to enable races and other ancillary recreation activities that benefit a community and region. Behind this pinnacle event is planning and operation of trails and systems that support quality outdoor cycling for lay riders, including other races and outdoor sports gatherings. Volunteers and nonprofits were instrumental in creating a supportive environment. The power of this recreation development model is strong, with indications that an International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) office will open there. Developing quality trails in the Central Catskills at places like Belleayre can bolster the reputation of the region as a great place for outdoor activities, thereby aiding tourism overall.

<sup>28</sup> According to International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA) 'Marketing for Mountain Bike Tourism' on [imba.com](http://imba.com), when people travel from outside a community to partake sport, there should be sufficient supply that enables them to undertake an activity equal to the time they traveled to pursue it.





- *Road Bicycling* (not in table) -- While there is not a local facility standard established for road bicycling, the area is a destination for touring and recreational rides and there are organized weekly rides as well as some racing here consisting of formally sanctioned one day and series races, including as part of the popular and growing Tour of the Catskills that runs one stage through Shandaken. Visitors traveling to events like bike races, triathlons (the HITS event is a local example) and orienteering, provide relatively high spending multipliers as they tend to stay overnight. One local group involved in organizing events is Catskill Mountain Velo Club.
- *Bocce Ball* (not in table) – this is an example of a sport that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities. A suggestion is to explore interest and possibly the establishment of a prototype court in a park that is used often for family and community gatherings and picnics.

These standards were developed considering local demographics, geography, economics, public finances, climate, activity and transport patterns, and population density and distribution. Standards offer a norm or a point of departure. As such, they can form the basis for intelligent development of recreation plans and programs. These standards should be reviewed every three to five years and if advisable, adjusted to changing conditions. It is particularly important to monitor regional developments. For instance, if a proposed public indoor pool advances in Delaware County, and there is ready access to it for residents, some of the demand here will be served. Exploring potential to share and coordinate services with adjacent communities and regional governments, like school districts under joint use agreements, promotes efficient resource allocations and operations, provided facilities are sized appropriately and designed for flexible, diverse use.

Main objectives for Shandaken are:

- Sustain existing parks/ facilities like basketball courts, plus rehabilitate Pine Hill tennis court;
- Enhance winter sports and outdoor recreation opportunities that are made possible by leveraging the natural resource offerings available; and
- Achieving indoor recreation options, such as through swimming/ gym capacity, if possible.

Besides investing in maintaining the little league/ softball field, enhancing existing facilities offers an effective way to advance recreation by upgrading service. There should also be monitoring for chances to invest in expanding park footprints and sustaining athletics field capacity.

Another key way to support recreation for a broad base is by developing a linear trail system. As the comprehensive plan notes, paraphrased page III-2, pedestrian amenities should be maintained and enhanced at each major hamlet, with trail systems that connect and link hamlets, and a community-wide greenway trail (informed by a) multimodal plan.

As noted in the 2012 CCCD/ Catskill Heritage Alliance 'Economic Valuation Study for Public Lands in the Central Catskills: Economic Impact and Opportunities from Outdoor Recreational Activities', p1:

*All outdoor recreational activities, including both those that rely on public and protected lands and those that rely on private lands, attracted a total of 2,496,753 visitors. These visitors had an estimated economic impact of \$114,768,000 on the region's economy and supported 2,413 jobs.*

Working for a more diverse, high quality supply of recreation facilities in town benefits not only resident health and wellness, but it can also reinforce sense of place and the economic base. Clearly, local investment resources are limited. Careful study and collaboration is required to define how and where to direct investment in recreation facilities, policies and programs development, including to leverage and maximize the impact and enhance the overall recreation experience of the region. The standards and resource developments outlined above provide a guide to for the additional and ongoing recreation planning that would be expected in the future.



**TRAILS & LINEAR PARKS** – Trails are major outdoor assets and an underpinning of Shandaken’s history and character. This element presents strategy for developing community trails and complete streets as a part of local and regional recreation. Recognizing there is a web of trails in the mountain and stream environments, it focuses on local actions that can enhance public access and use, including by bolstering linkage in and by hamlets and diversifying facility offerings and establishing a linear greenway in the timeframe of this plan.

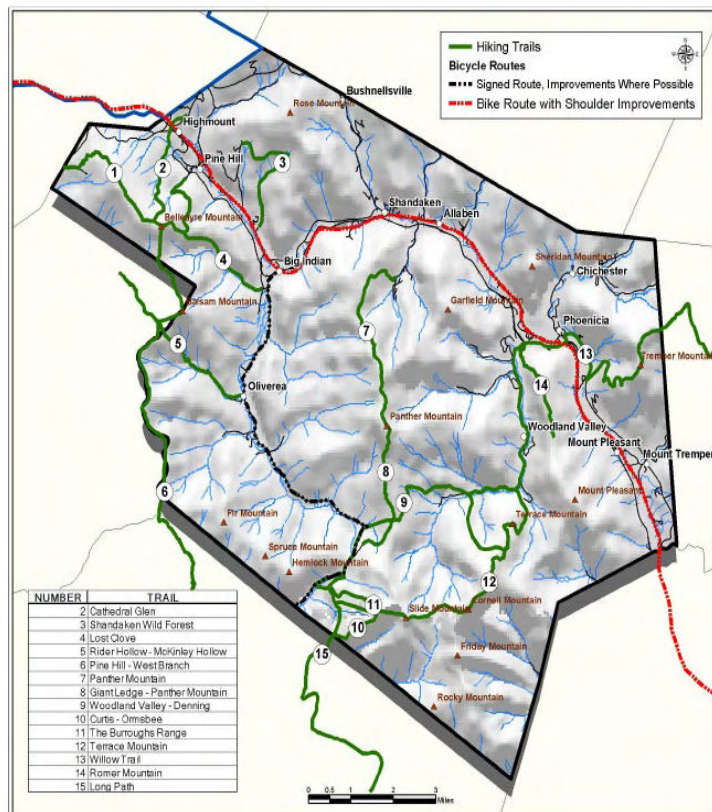
Fostering walkability reinforces sense of place, sustains quality of life and supports health and wellness. Based on the community survey (question 7), over half of respondents (146 of the 280 returned surveys) identified 'hiking' as an activity they participated in, with 72% reporting doing so 7-12 times or 13+ times per year. Not only do trails support nature viewing, hiking and walking, but activities like cross-country skiing, fishing, hunting, bicycling, canoeing, and other pursuits are made possible through recreation trails and stream access. Moreover, having different types of trails available, including bike routes and accessible paths for families and people with limited mobility, supports community transport and public health.

As people often connect with trails using roads, the linked notion of encouraging complete streets is to promote development of streets so they provide for full access, not just for autos, but also for people, so they can walk and bicycle on them safely from place to place<sup>29</sup>. Also, there are places in hamlets with no sidewalks, or where sidewalks are not serviceable. Promoting and formalizing accessibility makes it feasible to reach trail-heads from homes, lodging and businesses without always having to get in cars. Likewise, there is strong potential to link hamlets through a safe, universally accessible greenway system by which people can move into and about Town by bicycle, on foot and other active means.

Different types of trails have alternative features depending on whether intended users are bicyclists, hikers, walkers, pet walkers, horseback riders, or others. Goals are to foster a diverse, multi-functional supply of trails in and around population centers while providing connection between places. This entails building local capacity to help plan, design, develop and steward assets in collaboration with regional entities so there is quality public access and excellent user experiences.

According to 2009 polling research in the NY Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the

Figure 7 – Existing Trail System (source: USGS maps and Ulster County Transportation Plan)



Map figure from 2005 Comp Plan showing trail system features

<sup>29</sup> See <http://www.planning.org/research/streets/>



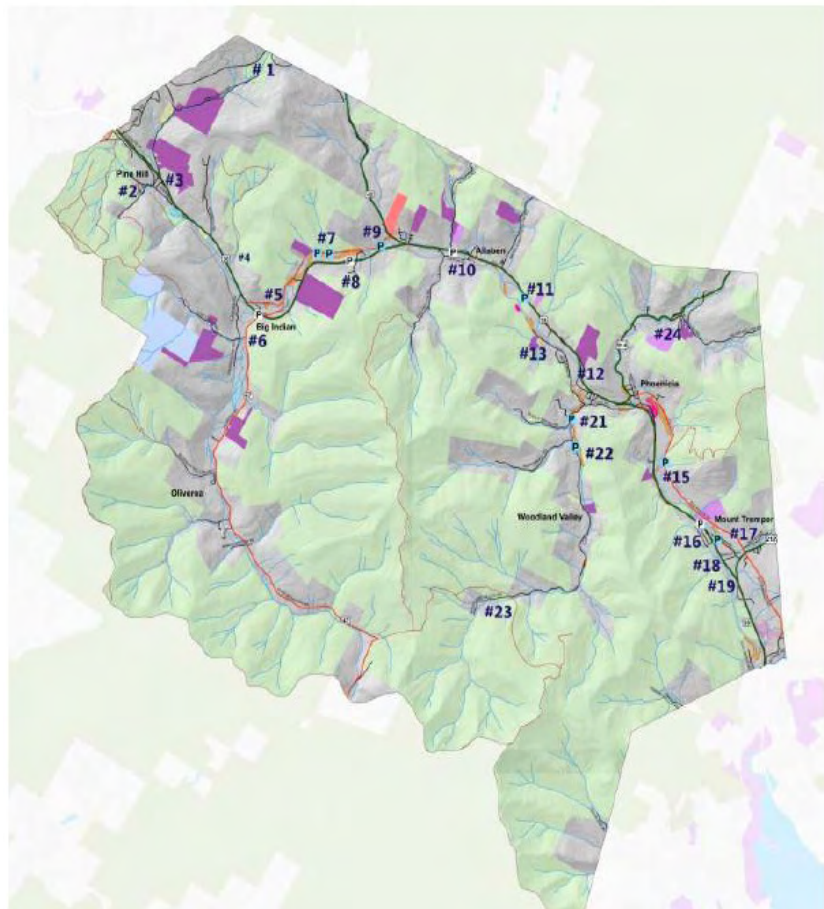
2nd most pressing recreation facility need identified by the public was for trails<sup>30</sup> (park professionals ranked it highest). Strong demand for trails is also evidenced by the National Bicycling & Walking Study, 2004, which showed bike use increasing 89% and walking 13% since 1990. The Report of the 2012 NY State Trail User Count, 2012, conducted by the non-profit Parks & Trails NY ( *ptny.org* ), demonstrates the levels of use and popularity of trails. For instance, it estimates that the Hudson Valley Rail Trail (Walkway Over Hudson) has 667,405 users per year and the Hurley O&W Rail Trail has 81,157 users per year.

An indication of potential to cultivate more trail use and active transport in Shandaken is demonstrated in the local recreation questionnaire response. In an open-ended request for facilities people would like to see in Shandaken (question #6), there were suggestions encompassing walking and biking, such as for development of creekside access in Phoenicia, mountain biking on DEC and DEP lands, as well as for programs like bike maintenance training and bike rental offerings.

**Existing Conditions** – As Shandaken is entirely in the Catskills, there are numerous trails, especially primitive hiking trails, and bridges, signs, campgrounds, and fixtures like lean-tos and parking. The 2009 New York State Open Space Conservation Plan by the DEC and OPRHP notes that the Catskills are part of a diverse natural and historic landscape, including spectacular scenery (page 70). It cites Route 28 (page 79) as the primary road connecting population centers and notes that preserving the environment around the corridor provides a way to support recreation/ tourism and form links between regional trails and Route 28 scenic byway. Also, the master plan discusses the local trail system, identifying hiking trails and bicycle routes. Besides Long Path, it identifies 14 ‘trail’ environments such as Romer Mountain, the Borroughs Range, and Lost Clove. Moreover, each DEC UMP discusses trails and their development in-depth. The Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway: Proposed Corridor Management Plan, Draft, Sept. 2011, also delves into local trails as it discusses regional context and recreation potential.

Multimodal access comes in many forms and it is beneficial to achieve diverse supply. In

**Shandaken Map: Sites 1-24**



*Figure by AWSMP of possible recreation access improvement points (2011)*

---

<sup>30</sup> The highest facility need, according to the public, was for beaches.





2009, paving on major segments of Route 28 included some shoulder widening from Delaware County to Phoenicia, although added pavement markings (painting) were not provided for motorist awareness of bicycles or pedestrian traffic control. In Shandaken, large areas are also designated owned by DEP for purposes of watershed protection. Much of these lands are open to public recreation, although the presence of formal trails on many parcels is limited. DEP lands open to recreation are examples of places where local impetus can be applied to form new trail segments and amenities.

Local and regional non-profits like NY-NJ Trail Conference, Woodstock Land Conservancy, Catskill and Appalachian Mountain Clubs, and Trout Unlimited, foster hiking and outdoor activities and help maintain trails. Given limited volunteer resources on the Recreation Board itself, it is essential to tap into assistance from these groups. Officials can coordinate with them by helping mobilize involvement, following-up with elected leaders and local agencies, by collecting input on project designs and helping assemble resources to assist project implementation.

**Trails Development & Enhancement** – There is strong and varied potential for projects that augment the regional system, including new segments. Recreation leaders can help define designs and management structures for trails and linear parks. Given the tremendous benefits of trails and rail-trails, it is important to define how actors can collaborate and leverage action and resources. There is a need to facilitate community involvement in designing and stewarding local links. Also critical is establishing roles for the Recreation Board, friends groups and non-profits as custodians.

The UCNTP provides a regional trails vision. As it notes on page 20, based on current and proposed trails, and analysis of demand, a core bike/pedestrian trail system was identified and evaluated. Considering project prioritization, page 28 of the UCNTP notes opportunities exist to improve hiking trails/connections to the Catskill system. What follows is discussion of project concepts, augmented with analysis of ways the Recreation Board can organize with others to assist trails development.

*Pine Hill Greenway* – One project Town residents started in 2008 which is crucial to complete as a prototype is formation of Pine Hill ‘greenway’. A small catalyst grant was received to implement loop walking trails, within Smith Park, and in the hamlet. The community loop will connect destinations. Such action promotes walkable scale and hamlet sense of place and will forge links with the Mountain and Pine Hill Lake. It will bolster tourism infrastructure and reinforce the area as a regional attraction, which is poised to become a stronger destination with the development of Belleayre Resorts (see Ulster County Main Street Tool Box)<sup>31</sup>.

Besides advancing Pine Hill greenway, the Recreation Board must advocate for and lead establishment and reinforcement of pedestrian and bicycle systems in and connecting other hamlets, including project notions like a major linear greenway and supporting projects like a Phoenicia Riverwalk (see below). The Creating Healthy Places to Live, Work and Play (CHP) project, out of CCEUC, is focused on environmental and policy change that can aid active living and support preventative health, such as where people can easily exercise as part of routine activities of daily living, thereby helping reduce prevalent chronic diseases like type II diabetes and obesity. An inquiry should explore potential for the CHP project to assist formation of a hamlet mobility strategy for Phoenicia. It could serve as a mini bicycle and pedestrian plan by defining actions to advance hamlet walk- and bike-ability. As detailed further on, numerous other types and scales of projects can be employed to improve hamlet access as well as link them using trails.

---

31 The ‘Existing Parks’ section below covers improvements directly in Smith Park and delves into its environments.



*Ulster & Delaware Right of Way* – One major project in the UCNTP that covers Shandaken involves the Ulster & Delaware (U&D) right of way, which runs across the community east-west. The underused U&D corridor is identified as feasible for accommodating trails. The Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor U & D Rail + Trail Feasibility Study, 2006, by Alta Planning & Design, analyzes potential phased implementation of a major trail in the right-of-way from Kingston to Belleayre 40 miles west. The study analyzes, section by section, potential for development of a rail trail or rail with trail. Catskill Mountain Railroad leases the right of way from Ulster County, operating a tourist train. However, indications are the County seeks to renegotiate terms and/or may not renew the lease along the full corridor in Shandaken. There appears to be support for advancing some form of linear trail arrangement in the corridor, such as starting with unused segments. Drawing on other linear trail projects all around the state as anecdotes, this type of investment seems very likely to stimulate increased tourism, economic revitalization and health benefits. Moreover, maintenance costs for trails are relatively low and manageable, plus there is potential to secure outside funds and volunteer support to leverage non-motorized infrastructure formation and sustained operations.

The Recreation Board defines the effort to establish the U&D rail corridor as a functional multiuse trail as a priority trail project for the community. Presuming this project will be very active over the next five years, it is suggested they establish a task force which can assist in forming recommendations for local linear trail policy, physical planning and project(s) implementation. The group is prepared to assist a 'pilot' trail project along a western part of the corridor. Finally, establishing non-motorized trails is a cost-effective way to foster recreation supply in Shandaken because this type of improvement will establish larger service areas for the parks and recreation facilities situated near it.



*Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP)/ Stream Access & Recreation Committee* – The Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan, 2007, by CCEUC provides general and specific recommendations for improving stream management within this basin, especially more populated environments in and by Route 28. The AWSMP is a resource for implementation of that plan, along with a Project Advisory Committee. The Stream Access & Recreation Committee, as one part of the management planning, is primarily charged with a goal of informing stakeholders on the status of recreation within the watershed and advocating for a viable recreation based economy, consistent with the overall Program goal of restoring stream system stability and ecologic integrity while sustaining viable communities in the watershed. That plan recommends investigating opportunities to develop multiuse, low impact trail systems along stream corridors, noting that trails accommodating varied uses, like snowshoeing, provide multiple benefits, including drawing visitors to resorts and increasing user awareness of stream management.

Recently AWSMP staff produced opinion research on stream recreation access needs and it generated initial assessment of physical access and recreation improvements and examples of educational actions the program can support. Priority physical improvement objectives include: to reduce stream bank erosion at access points; improve water access and develop more access points; as well as improve signage about access points. Future funds are anticipated to be made available for priority projects.







Two dozen potential physical projects were identified in Shandaken. Besides actions directly in Town parks, like at Pine Hill and Big Indian (discussed in narratives for each facility), examples are:

- Trail development, improved access, and sitting areas by the closed bridge off Riseley Rd.; and
- Toilets, educational signs, and trail improvements at DEC fishing access by Allaben Cemetery.



*Examples of sites to consider for enhanced access to stream environments -- by AWSMP staff (2011)*

Stream management process offers strong potential to aid the Recreation Board in its duty to help preserve, promote, maintain and expand recreational offerings in-town, including through new trails and formalized stream access. With focus on stream environments, besides trail planning, the committee can also assist safe and quality development for canoeing, kayaking, tubing, swimming, and resource interpretation. While a member has attended committee meetings, it is suggested to formally go on record with preferences. There should also be efforts to assist projects readiness and communicate with the Town Board on ways to leverage technical and financial assistance for projects of interest.

***The Phoenicia: Riverwalk & Other Linkage*** – there is a notion, dating back a decade, to design and construct footpaths along streams in Phoenicia. The idea is for access and amenities like benches, landscaping, lighting and interpretative signage. There should be efforts to achieve technical assistance and financial resources that can help define alternatives and advance Riverwalk project landscape and engineering designs consistent with community development goals and natural resource management objectives. The Riverwalk project notion fits with a 'Phoenicia Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements/ scenic walk(s)' project identified in the UCNTP. For that initiative, the idea is for bicycle and pedestrian design improvements focused on Main Street. The UCNTP notes, page 4, that the Catskill Mountain tracks enter at the intersection of Bridge, High and Station Streets. Many streets lack sidewalks and some intersections are devoid of cross-walks and other safety



*Rendering of Riverwalk Concept (Source: CCCD)*



measures to protect walkers. Finally, other planning efforts identify potential to: establish better connections with Parish Field; extend Tan Bark trail; improve access for children to school over streets and trails, and provide for non-motorized transport on roads branching out of Phoenicia, including by fostering enhanced intermodal connections with Woodland Valley.

Developing a mini non-motorized plan for Phoenicia can reinforce quality of life and access in the hamlet while helping advance trails and complete streets as a part of the Town's overall recreation supply. Connecting trails with parks (and laying trails out in parks) is a proven way to increase use and provide for healthy and active living. It is presumed that forming detailed strategy, budgets and refined design concepts can leverage project implementation. As evidenced by severe flooding in 2011, substantial areas are susceptible to hazards. As this plan is advancing, the Town is also developing a hazard mitigation plan. It is expected to provide strategies for hazard avoidance and response, presumably including actions to manage, and in cases prohibit, new development in floodplains. Assuming it may guide some uses away from potential flooding, recreation uses may constitute appropriate development in flood-prone areas and can be designed to sustain the economic base.

**Recreation Board Approach** – UCTC regularly requests identification of local projects that can improve the non-motorized system. As part of the regional transport capital planning, UCTC also often provides TA with project development and assists communities in accessing and leveraging funds for implementation. The Recreation Board is urged to allocate time to help advance priorities and explore and vet designs and alternative options with other interested local and regional stakeholders. One objective is to define priorities for the next three years. This will involve detailing options identified in this plan, and others, and breaking these down into aspects that they can assist. It is also recommended to keep a broader running list of possible trail projects and work with others in defining emerging priorities and ways to advance them. Besides potential to contribute to community recreation, the UCNTP presents criteria for evaluating and prioritizing potential trail enhancements. Factors which recreation leaders can use to consider the design and prioritization of projects include impact on: transportation; system connectivity; quality of life; multiple use; relative cost; and feasibility.



The Board can also assist coordination to ensure that non-motorized projects remain an achievable priority for local leaders. Continued involvement in regional Byway planning is urged and it is important to monitor implementation and development within the regional development framework and system of financing. Importantly, this plan encourages establishing detailed designs for new trails and reinforcing trail-heads and stream access by existing parks and in central, accessible locations. These new spaces should have sufficient area, facilities and quality that they can adequately handle the levels of use anticipated in the foreseeable future.

**Maintenance Agreements** - with a range of interested parties, the Recreation Board can also support the formation of a 'friends' group or 'friends of trails' organization. They can organize volunteers to provide trail monitoring and maintenance, to ensure that trails operate at a high level of service.

In conclusion, trails enhancements and new multiuse trails will enable greater recreation and bolster existing parks while fostering easy connections between the





Catskill Park's open spaces and populated places. Forming linear trails and complete streets will have positive effects on Shandaken's quality of life and economic vitality. Establishing multi-modal infrastructure also aligns with a regional effort to create a trail network that serves as a transport alternative and regional amenity.

In addition to fostering more managed access to streams by trails, a prime notion is forging an accessible trail across town. The proposal put forth by Ulster County involves converting parts of the U&D corridor into a shared or dedicated multi-use trail with links on complete streets to hamlets. Within the effort to enhance trails in and by hamlets, there must be commitment to multimodal access to parks. 'Existing Municipal Recreation Facilities' explores designs and capital improvements in and by Town recreation facilities. Some key areas to foster linkage are:

- Within a Pine Hill Greenway, including to Belleayre Lake (and preferably for other linked trails that lead into the Big Indian acquisition) as well as with reinforced connection under and across Route 28, as well as into ridges to the south;
- Around Big Indian Park and extending across Old Route 28 to foster connection with Glenbrook Park, as well as up into Oliveria Valley;
- To provide a cohesive greenway connection between Phoenicia and Woodland Valley as well as with Parish Field in the hamlet (including extending Tan Bark Trail network so it links with Tremper Mountain and DEC trails); and
- Around Riseley Road, not only for a trail, but also for nature viewing, mountain biking, and access to the Esopus and State lands, including for kayaks and canoes.







**SIGNAGE** – this section shows ways to improve parks and locally managed resources by establishing coherent and high quality signs in and leading to recreation assets. Using field visits in 2012, an inventory was created (Appendix A) documenting signs at six parks and on roads within 250 feet. The review covered signs on the broader street network to explore how wayfinding (and resource interpretation) influence public awareness of resources, access to facilities, and quality experiences.

Strategies for improving signs and setting new ones draws on local and regional plans. For example, the Comprehensive Plan prescribes information signs and wayfinding. Resource plans consulted which provide insights on local and regional actions on signage include: The proposed Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan; County Planning's Main Street Strategic Toolbox Report on Hamlets of Phoenicia, Pine Hill & Shokan, 2012; The Regional Economic Development Study and Community Revitalization Strategy, referred to as Revitalizing the Esopus/ Delaware Region of the Central Catskills (draft of May 2012), also known as the Esopus-Delaware Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP); Ulster & Delaware Railroad Corridor "U & D Rail + Trail" Trail Feasibility Study Final Report July, 2006; and the UCNTP.

**Goals For Shandaken Parks Signage** – To identify aims for recreation signage, there was a review of responses to the 2012 survey. While no questions directly addressed signs, basic inferences are insightful. Question #7 asked for ID of 12 activities people participated in over a year with space available to list activities not in the set. A high prevalence of response was provided for hiking, while biking, swimming, and fishing showed high relative frequencies. These are all outdoor actives where access and enjoyment of resources, and public safety, is supported through signage. For example, signs identify trailheads and approaches to streams. Also, #6, an open-ended question, explored recreation facilities people would like. Types of responses include: guided (bike) rides (presumably meaning aided through route signs); marked bike lanes along State and local routes; safe bike trails; walking trails; river walk; rail trails; trail guides; better signage; self-guided history trails; access to streams; parking; and entrances to town.

To identify recreation needs and opportunities, there were multiple visits to the six main facilities in 2012. Field work was accompanied by interviews with volunteers appointed as monitors for: Big Indian; Glenbrook; Parish Field; and Smith Parks. There was also review of content from overlapping efforts, particularly the AWSMP's Stream Access and Recreation Committee and Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee.

A notion for parks and recreation signage in Shandaken is to bolster community use of resources and stimulate compatible environmental recreation and tourism, including in hamlets. Accordingly, goals that advance this vision are:

- Welcome visitors and promote awareness of diverse offerings;
- Define sign standards to promote ease of use through clear, coherent designs;
- Guide residents and visitors to connect with and safely use parks and trails;





- Help users interpret the environment, attractions and destinations;
- Deploy signs to aid enjoyment of parks, managed use of resources, and promote vitality;
- Safely integrate off-road facilities into the broader traffic network; and
- Form and implement design principles so signs are nice and fit surroundings.

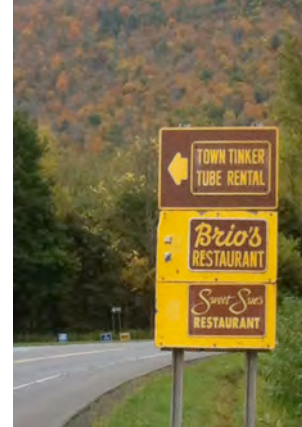


*These pictures depict: 1) a view of pedestrians in Phoenicia – this picture taken on Bridge Street looking west towards Mt. Ava Maria Road; and 2) view east from driveway into Parish Field on Mt. Ava Maria Road. For a new visitor, there is not signage identifying attractions or guiding people to them.*

**Wayfinding/ Hamlets Sign Systems** – There are opportunities to lay out town-wide and hamlet-oriented directional and interpretive signs for recreation in a standard, appealing fashion. An objective is to guide mobility using signs that convey information in a clear, simple, and appealing manner. Signage should reinforce sense of place, so that streets are pleasing and feel safe. An important aspect of wayfinding systems are pedestrian signs that give directions and information on the supply and location of recreation assets.

With strength in heritage and tourism trades, improved wayfinding in and around hamlets and outdoor amenities has potential to enhance settings and advance a quality environment for the critical travel and tourism sector. Walking and bicycling are popular activities among all age and income groups. Places like Pine Hill, Shandaken and Phoenicia are well-suited to accommodating these modes. Further, as people live more actively, this will also stimulate demand for wayfinding and access to recreation facilities.

Economic development agents in the Catskills, cite an anecdote that users seek more guidance to help them identify and access recreation resources that can seem hidden. Multiple groups are interested in assisting development of wayfinding signage in some fashion. Overall, there is a need for coordination. The Recreation Board can help develop local sign systems and local aspects of regional systems. Siting signs for local destinations, like town parks, requires local impetus, but there could also be signs positioned on the highway network to highlight recreation







offerings like trails. Other examples could be to ID a greenway (Pine Hill) or links with U&D corridor, presuming aspects of a linear trail will advance within a 10-year time frame. Such signage helps link people with facilities, bolster identity of places, and establish park and hamlet gateways to promote access and encourage higher levels of use.

Wayfinding is covered in the regional Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (2010), UCNTF and is mentioned extensively in the proposed scenic byway corridor management plan (hereafter CMP). That Byway CMP notes that besides kiosks, consistent with Catskill State Park Sign Law, there is a need for signs to identify venues and provide a unique and high quality hierarchy of signs and plaques including to aid visitor interpretation. It also suggests standards to direct motorists to designated parking supplies.



Various State recreation resources are not provided signage on secondary routes (off of State roads) to lead people to and identify access points. This includes numerous Fishing Access Points throughout town. The 2011 draft Byway CMP (page 48), notes Shandaken has DEC hiking trail-heads needing directional signage from Route 28, including Tremper Mountain; Wittenberg; Rochester and Fox Hollows; Cathedral Glen; Pine Hill-West Branch; Lost Clove; McKenley Hollow; Giant Ledge and Slide Mountain in addition to offerings like at Lower Birch Creek Road. Also, there are lands owned by the DEP where it is possible to develop trails, in which case there would also be a need to help guide users to them. A particular suggestion for establishing a local trail wayfinding system to guide users to trail-heads in obscure locations is by determining a way to attach small brown and yellow trail name and direction arrows (or nameplates or medallions) either below or on top of dominant street sign nameplates. Likewise, for bike routes, directional signs are usually basic with an arrow indicating direction. In more advanced systems, destinations are added as sub-markers on poles identifying routes as well as the distance to them. Pedestrian-oriented signs are also needed that provide directions, maybe even structured as maps. To walkers, bikers, and transit users, knowledge of distance is important as travel times are slower. For them, getting sidetracked hundreds of feet can mean a delay of minutes. In developing maps, it is important to show location, surrounding streets and destinations. These signs can be simple or elaborate.

There is room to customize pedestrian signage and kiosks, by district or function, and based on the kind of information to be conveyed, and audience. Directional signing should impart a unique theme so trail users know which route they are following and where it goes. The theme can be conveyed using: medallions, bollards, and mile markers. Central information installations at trail-heads and crossroads can also help users find their way and acknowledge rules. More extensive signs at these places are also useful for interpretive education. State and national standards for signs come into play when Federal Highway funds are used.

*Sign Design Guidelines* – It is imperative to achieve a uniformity of design for major sign themes and the associated sub-systems. It is also important to manage unnecessary signage. To start, there should be an effort to outline the hierarchy of a local sign system and form principles of sign development. An exploration of vocabulary for development of the possible parts will build capacity and aid consistency and coherent branding. Themes and compatibility should be advanced using these principles:

- Coordinate all signage within a particular system or project
- Define the character features and prevailing themes of parks and recreation sites to aid the definition of brands, logos and sign design



- Assess visual character, scale and surroundings at each site to inform sign location(s). In reviewing context, examine viewsheds and lines of sight into and around the park
- Identify preferred siting treatments for sign types at: parks; linear trails; and stream access points. For instance, for safety, signs should be set back horizontally three feet from trail heads.
- On trails, markers (blazes) should be elevated and positioned within typical lines of sight.
- Determine suitable and preferred locations for different sign types at each recreation facility or resource. This is akin to forming sign master plans.
- Avoid sign lighting.
- Promote low-profile and ground-mounted ID signs, except when a signature treatment is used to create a gateway or sense of arrival, or when features like topography dictate otherwise.
- Encourage wood materials (highway signs excluded) and natural themes.
- On highway signs, promote consolidation of information on mounts.
- Mesh signage with other park and sub-area landscaping treatments and physical amenities like benches; lighting; recycling bins; bike parking; etc.
- In many settings consider using basic two-color schemes, consistent with the DEC Catskill Park sign system; however, it often can be appropriate to use colors within design as well as to include distinct logos.
- Use consistent letter styles (fonts).
- Encourage creativity in sign deployment. For instance, in Tannersville (northern Catskills) a color picture of an antique car with 'parking' superimposed on it establishes it as a character enhancing sign.
- The face area for most ID signs should cover no more than 25 square feet per side.



The Recreation Board can convene interested stakeholders to explore themes and advance a recreation signage framework. It should identify potential to upgrade signs and consolidate and expand information. The inventory provides a starting point for evaluating signs and defining standards, stewards, and resources for implementation.

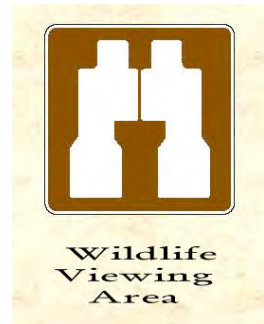
**Traffic Control** – Stop signs, cross-walk markers, start of bicycle lane identifiers and designated bicycle route distance markers are examples of visual controls and signs used for recreation information and traffic control. These tools are sited following rigorous standards, such as set by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The MUTCD defines specific standards for road managers nationwide to install and maintain traffic control devices on all public streets, highways, bikeways, and private roads open to traffic. As the Town and its partners work to advance access to locally managed parks and trails, traffic control is a necessary part of technical discussion. There may be occasions to consolidate control signs on poles to achieve an appealing physical environment as well as extend the system, by adding distance markers.

As Shandaken recreation leaders advance hiking and biking facilities, traffic controls and wayfinding signs will be needed. Properly guided, the Town can create safe, organized signage. Recreation officials can support the Highway Superintendent. The 'Transportation System Enhancement Plan' within UCNTF details ways to improve vehicular mobility and parking, and pedestrian and bicycle



safety, with many traffic control and management ideas. It should be consulted in dialogue about non-motorized transport. As part of coordination, it is essential to advocate for a pedestrian/ bicycle traffic control program that is coherent. The UCTC and Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee are strong allies.

**Park-Specific Signage Recommendations** – As part of an overall program, the following actions will aid signage for locally managed parks and trails. Priorities may depend on broader facilities investments, which will be determined subsequently.



*Glenbrook Park:*

- Funds should be budgeted in the short-term for informational signage to demarcate the accessible bathroom, restrooms and accessible parking spaces (including pavement painting)<sup>32</sup>.
- On-site there is opportunity to provide interpretive signage for visitors, such as on the derivation of the name of the neighborhood (and Town), site or hamlet history. It is suggested to include a large format map highlighting area recreation attractions, such as nearby fishing access, and other recreation resources accessed from Route 42
- The Park Manager identifies planning to place a kiosk by NYS Routes 42 and 28 intersection – it will be beneficial to have information (including directions) on Glenbrook Park included.
- Post 'Local Park' destination markers on Route 28<sup>33</sup> and the north side of Route 42<sup>34</sup>.

*Smith Park – Pine Hill:*

- Upgrade the Park's ID sign to a signature design and scale that aids park character, recognizing that topography and highway guardrail influences size and positioning.
- Add informational signage to warn users of potential hazards and to guide parking.
- Design a Pine Hill greenway logo, considering it for use on the ID sign and in an interpretive display. Also develop a series of consistent 'greenway' off-site markers with distance figures using the logo
- Off-site:
  - Position Pine Hill Greenway trail wayfinding panels and trail markers;
  - Underwrite destination markers for this 'local park' on Route 28; and
  - Advocate for a 'Friends of Smith Park Pine Hill' Tourism Oriented Development (TOD) sign on Route 28.

*Big Indian:*

- Explore if a signature identification sign is needed;
- Facilitate an interpretative display describing the Slide Mountain and Oliveria environments, nearby recreation offerings and the legend of Chief Winnisook;
- Provide a 'directory sign' that identifies and demarcates distances to other area recreation resources, with a sub-directory on local hiking trails, trailheads, and amenities.



<sup>32</sup> A longer-term project, with a signage component, is for landscaping to optimize space in the parking area to the south.

<sup>33</sup> All main parks are on or close to Route 28, so providing 'local park' destination markers should be replicated for each one.

<sup>34</sup> DOT is encouraged to add traffic controls, like pedestrian signs or paintings, to provide awareness of pedestrians, such as along the 1,500 feet from the NYS 42/28 intersection to the park's southern edge.



### *Parish Field / Phoenicia Park*

- Develop a signature gateway and identification sign. An arched gate can provide sense of place and arrival (see generic example).
- Provide a visible trailhead sign with hiker symbol at the main entrance and deploy trail markers repeatedly at uniform distances. A group like NY-NJ Trail Conference likely would assist.
- Off-site: Catalyze the development of a hamlet-wide, pedestrian-oriented wayfinding system. Convene potential partners and with interest, work to secure grant resources to leverage design and construction of a system that connect users with resources, gets people out of their cars, and contributes to safe and vibrant streets. This can be a prototype for the hamlets.

Establishing design guidelines for recreation signage and building-out a local sign systems that plays off the regional one will form an identity for various recreation resources and guide users to parks. Investment will support optimal and healthy user experiences, but design and construction of the types of signage suggested requires coordination between disciplines and attention to detail.

Suggestions for early priorities are: 1) design and construct a hamlet sign system for Phoenicia/ Woodland Valley, including a new gateway/ID sign for Parish Field and a visible trailhead sign at Tamarack Trail base; 2) Develop a new sign for Smith Park and design and deploy Pine Hill greenway signage; and 3) form a design manual for signage for local parks and implement wayfinding to area park and recreation resources, including to trails and stream access points within town from over the local road and trail network. Non-profits and agencies can leverage implementation of these sorts of projects. A preliminary planning estimate of the cost to plan and develop the three sign system projects identified above is between \$25,000 to \$75,000 over five years. While these are substantial figures, it is presumed 50-75% could be derived from in-kind donations of services and materials, fundraising, monetary contributions, and non-profit, foundation and government grants and assistance. It is uncertain how projects may unfold, so it will be useful for the Board to annually consider sign needs and relative priorities.



*A Quality ID Sign*

Focus on the design of signs and sign systems will improve awareness and use of recreation offerings. There is a need for pedestrian-scale signs, recognizing signs must also be deployed to inform people in autos. Forming strategy for signage for recreation and aligning financial and human resources to develop Shandaken's sign systems will have benefits. It is important to identify catalytic projects and forge signs that are easy to interpret and enhance their surroundings. Employing a context-specific approach will reinforce parks and trails identities and that of the districts they are in.





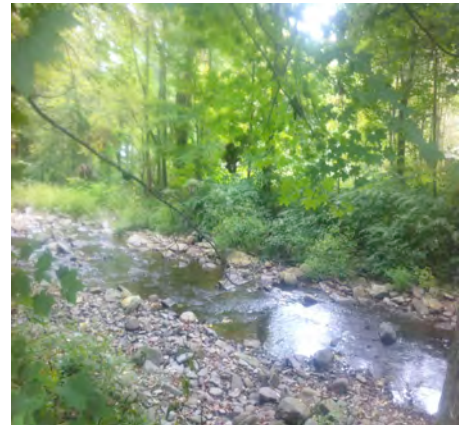
**TOWN-OWNED & MANAGED RECREATION FACILITIES** – This section reviews individual recreation facility sites and surroundings. It defines features and fixtures. Exploring the facilities supply and spaces, offers ideas for planning, and corresponding notions for site-and area- landscape and architectural treatments. For each place, opportunities are identified to extend resources and achieve complimentary development. There is discussion of each park's location and size along with its main assets and attributes. There is also description of the surrounding environment and access (as mobility to recreation assets influences use) with identification of ways to enhance and invest in parks over short- and longer-time frames using human resource and budget outlays.



Sources of data were: interviews with Recreation Board members; plans, publications and reference materials provided to the consultant; local and regional data accessed on web pages and on-line databases and geographic information, including Ulster County online. Gilmour Planning did not research park-specific files or those of Town Clerk; however, site visits and field reconnaissance were performed, with some photo documentation.

**Harvey E. Smith Park** -- This Pine Hill park is accessed off historic Elm Street by its Route 28 intersection. The site consists of three parcels of 3.20 acres (PINs: 4.46-2-9 to -11), with 500 feet of frontage on Route 28 and an open field of 1.35 acres. There is driveway access down a hill from the street with gravel parking for six cars. Amenities include:

- A tennis court (60x120 feet) with a ten foot wood and wire fence;
- Asphalt basketball court (2,000 square feet/ two hoops);
- Play fixtures: toddler slide with climbing apparatus (circa 2007); tire swing; two infant and two youth swings, a small swivel apparatus and climbing bars; and
- Three picnic tables.



Birch Creek runs on the side of the park and a four foot mesh fence protects users from a steep adjacent bank by the west-north-west section. According to Ulster County Parcel Viewer, floodplain covers most of the site. Reconnaissance shows erosion's impact to the bank by the fence. It is encouraged to provide resilient landscaping designs and investments on-site that can withstand storm surges.

In 2008, community efforts resulted in the Town securing a Hudson River Greenway Grant for establishing a Pine Hill Recreation Trail, including a walking trail in the park's core. Aspects were installed on-site, including through volunteer contributions. In conjunction with this initiative, preliminary efforts arose to site a 'freestyle skate/ bike/ snowsport' facility here.







While resources and support were galvanized, momentum slowed around these efforts, although such improvements would be consistent with an alpine and outdoor recreation theme for the hamlet, the adjacent ski center, and surrounding State lands.

Pine Hill is a focus of community economic revitalization efforts. The Ski Center and Pine Hill Lake Day Use Area, are major regional outdoor recreation attractions by the hamlet and the Big Indian Wilderness. Pine Hill Lake has: a six acre pond with swimming beach (supervised by lifeguards in summer), a bath house, non-motorized boating opportunities (including row boat & canoe rentals), and manicured lawns with picnic areas and access to regional hiking trails. Other civic uses nearby, include:

- Morton Memorial Library, Shandaken Museum, and a stone arch bridge (all on Elm Street); and
- Pine Hill Community Center on Main Street

The hamlet's wilderness setting, including access to the primitive hiking trails (the Pine Hill-West Branch trail head is nearby) plus links to Belleayre and the Day Use Area can be augmented by potential to establish linkage on an underused rail right of way as an accessible trail. Moreover, activity in the hamlet is expected to increase with construction and eventual occupancy of Belleayre Mountain Resort (a private development) and upgrades to ORDA facilities.



The Ulster County Main Street report on Pine Hill provides information on Town and hamlet characteristics, especially the economy and trade areas. It identifies strategies to plan for hamlet economic competitiveness that mesh with a theme “unique Catskill mountains experience”. Fostering park investments and enhancing linkage between it and hamlet destinations will contribute to an outdoor recreation atmosphere in Pine Hill, aiding a quality experience for users while supporting the hamlet's image as an enclave for recreation and second home owners. The report suggests highlighting local attractions and emphasizing connection to these, including encouraging local institutions to cultivate and promote the image of Pine Hill and the experience it has to offer visitors.

Signage must be improved to facilitate wayfinding in order for people to access Smith Park amenities and there is need for unified signs. The Recreation Board has a cost estimate to rehabilitate the tennis court surface and net, which is a priority along with resurfacing the basketball court. A mid-term investment need is replacement of all fences, but there must also be a broader plan. Besides a need to mitigate bank erosion, service at this park will be enhanced by formulating safe access to the stream using gentler terrain at the east end of the site, thereby providing a place for people to relax and for children to play and explore the stream accompanied by adults. The level east end of the park is also ideal for a community garden. Since Smith Park is adjacent to Route 28, tree plantings can frame views and aid noise buffering. Landscaping can define the driveway and parking, complete the internal trail, and upgrade sitting areas. The Rotary Club of Fleischmanns/Pine Hill is pledging financial and



volunteer support for plantings by the fence and providing benches. Building trade students at SUNY Delhi, the same group that aided development of the Route 28 kiosk and which is assisting programming for a CIC in Mount Tremper, can also assist designs here, including for interpretive displays and rustic, durable furniture, made from wood harvested in the region. Finally, while there is steady use of the dog park at Glenbrook Park, and a similar level of use would be expected in Pine Hill, it does not appear there is ample space, so it is suggested to monitor for other places where this type of public use facility could be sited in Pine Hill.

Emphasizing and formalizing walking and bicycle access to the Park along Elm Street is consistent with the greenway grant notion. The Town Board is encouraged to adopt a complete streets policy<sup>35</sup>. Through enhanced wayfinding and traffic control paint and signage, and some road shoulder modifications, it is possible to bolster Elm Street's walk- and bike-ability and reinforce the Park's connection with Main Street and other outdoor attractions, including trails, in order to support residents and aid the tourism experience. The UC report notes potential for Main Street development and creating a walkable experience in Pine Hill. The hamlet community can work with Phoenicia, Shokan, and Belleayre in their various promotion efforts to include and advertise Pine Hill as a recreational respite. This will mesh with streetscape improvements and bolster potential to formalize a hamlet greenway trail.

**Glenbrook Park** – This 'community park' fronts on Route 42 in Shandaken hamlet. The parcel is 29.5 Acres: (PIN 5.13-2-25) plus there is a 1.4 acre town-owned parcel (5.13-2-24) immediately adjacent to the south which has a gravel parking area accessing Route 42. An inventory of amenities on-site includes:

- A pavilion, 3,250 square feet, electrified, open on 3 sides with barbecue pit and 12+ picnic tables (comfortably accommodates 100) and storage;
- One unisex lavatory, accessible from the pavilion (constructed circa 2009), plus male and female bathrooms up a set of stairs (all maintained seasonally, May through September);
- Ed West Field – youth little league/ adult fast-pitch softball field with functional lighting and an electronic scoreboard - the facility meets typical minimum standards, with a radius of 225 feet from center plate to the outfield fence, 60 foot base path segments, and 25 feet behind home plate. There is a dirt base path with a grass field and perimeter galvanized metal fencing (four feet high); two roofed dugouts (with some secure storage); bleachers and a concession outbuilding;
- Asphalt basketball court, 2,000 square feet, with one hoop



---

<sup>35</sup> See [completestreets.org](http://completestreets.org) or Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Creating Healthy Places project.



(unlined);

- Dog park and agility center – with three fenced pens, plus electronic composting waste disposal and dog exercise equipment;
- Playground equipment: one 4-seat swing set (2 small child seats); slides and climbing apparatus for children; a larger slide; a jungle gym; and a teeter totter;
- Benches (3) and a flagpole (plus a memorial in the adjacent parking area);
- A portable volleyball stand; and
- Multiple driveways and signage.

The park's core is 4.75 acres of manicured lawn bisected by a hill, along with driveway, playing field, playground, the dog park, and structure footprints. The routine daily visitations by dog park users is noteworthy, as are efforts by interested residents to fundraise for its development and work with municipal officials to establish operating rules. There are some specimen pine trees and an ornamental iron gate. The pavilion is a nice asset and could probably be marketed for use, for community gatherings and small events

like weddings. This is a main little league site (along with the Phoenicia school). The larger site hosts other municipal uses, including an ambulance barn/police substation; upper-level gravel pit and cell tower.

**Accessibility & Environment:** There is accessible parking by the pavilion and unmarked parking is available in the driveway by the dog park, plus at the gravel parking lot adjacent to the south (estimated space for 50+ autos there). There is no formal path connecting the area by the pavilion with the ball field, although the grade is level. Nor is there a formal path at an accessible grade connecting from the gravel lot to the ball field.

State Route 42 has two foot shoulders and there are no sidewalks connecting settlement by Route 28, or Creekside Drive (Co. Route 47). A DEC sign identifies stream access by Creekside Drive.

The park parcel is bounded by Rudy Frank Road (beyond the active gravel pit) and a low density neighborhood. Beyond it is a large tract of Shandaken Wild Forest (which is assigned Intensive Use). There is also NYC DEP publicly-owned land in the vicinity by Ruthenbeck Road, although there is no direct access there from the Park.

Maintenance and investment recommendations for the park are:

1. Maintain signage and enhance info and ID signs (potential users, such as motorists or hikers,







- do not know there are restrooms here) and consider the potential fit of interpretative signage;
2. Grade and re-seed the ball field, with establishment of perimeter warning track (short- to mid-term term). The little league or scouting organizations are suggested sources of assistance;
  3. Plan a universally accessible gravel path to connect with the southern gravel lot (mid-term to long-term);
  4. Explore feasibility to upgrade the field and restroom lighting (using sensors), taking advantage of investment incentives available through NYSERDA or utilities (mid- to long-term);
  5. Establish a capital reserve for eventual replacement of playground equipment; and
  6. While gravel operations are expected to continue into the future, exploring long-term feasibility to establish a multi-sport playing field in the upper level, will establish an objective for reclamation of the maintenance and gravel processing areas at some undefined point.

**Simpson Mini Park** – This vest pocket park is at the busy intersection of Route 214 and Main Street Phoenicia. Located on scenic Stony Clove Creek<sup>36</sup>, the park is a narrow finger of land between the highway and stream. While compact, it has a small segment of sidewalk by the bridge, several picnic tables, a monument, benches, a gazebo, and a bulletin board, plus it is the venue for the popular annual Phoenicia Rotary Duck Race fundraiser.

Major capital improvements financed mainly by the Town are not contemplated here, but there is need for painting controls on the street to reinforce pedestrian access (and motorized user awareness of pedestrians), and signage to reinforce adjacent public parking. Assignments of footprints in the park for revolving outdoor art installations and for ornamental planting maintained by volunteers will help keep the public space vital. An appeal to merchants should be able to achieve assistance with periodic litter removal, as high

passive use occurs during peak season. Benches will need periodic replacement, so it is best to define a standard fixture. Finally, should major road reconstruction or utility upgrades be contemplated, if feasible, it is desirable for poles to be removed, or their placement optimized, with lines placed underground and associated transformer equipment screened.



---

36 The site affords fishing access.



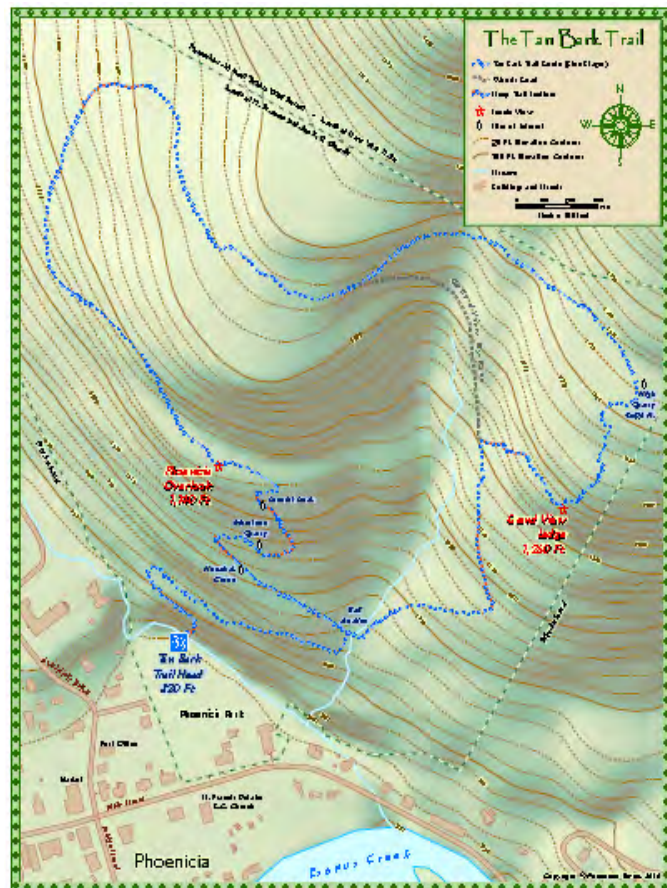
**Parish Field Park** – One of three parcels owned by another party that the Town uses under agreement for public recreation, this 99.9 acre site (part of PIN: 14-1-2-2) is accessed off Ursula Drive in



Phoenicia's core. Parish Field is owned by St. Francis De Salles Church (Archdiocese of NY) and leased for \$1 per year. The majority of leased lands consist of forested hillside adjacent to state lands in 'Phoenicia - Mount Tobias Wild Forest', but a level, open field of roughly 2.85 acres is right in the hamlet. Site amenities are:

- Asphalt basketball court with two hoops (60 by 75 feet);
- Playground equipment: two slides; swing set; teeter totter; and Star Net Climber;
- Four benches; and the
- Tan Bark Trail, primitive hiking trail and associated sign system.

**Tanbark Trail** – going back about five years, community members commenced efforts that established a two-mile hiking trail with lookouts and several historic plaques celebrating the history and beauty of the Catskills, and 'tan barking' (tanning) and bluestone quarry industries. Originating at Parish Field, the trail illustrates a blending of natural resources and history. The trail mostly traces a path worn by horses pulling carts loaded with hemlock bark used in leather tanning. Signs on the trail inform about Phoenicia in the 1800's, as well as late 19th century quarrying. The loop trail leads to two main overlooks. Phoenicia overlook has expansive views of the hamlet, Esopus Creek, Romer and Panther Mountains. Grandview ledge faces southeast towards the Shawangunks and Hudson Valley. The trail is unique in that it begins walking distance of Main Street and a UCAT and Trailways bus drop-off, allowing visitors to blend shopping and restaurants use with their hiking and park visit experience.







**Environment & Access** – Situated within easy walking distance of much of the hamlet, the main 'park' footprint is flat. In the center of the field soils appear to drain quickly which aids accessibility for users of all abilities, although there is not a formal earthen or paved trail internally connecting amenities (besides a gravel driveway by the main entrance at Mt. Ava Maria Drive). The park appears hard to find, because users are not guided to the entrance by wayfinding signs.



A factor considered influential on site development and investment is a number of high attendance events. The Phoenicia International Festival of the Voice, in its 4th year, attracts 5,000 guests during the 4-day event. Initiated as a concert in the Park to raise money for playground equipment, the presentation was so popular that the Festival has become an annual event held the first week of August<sup>37</sup>. Likewise, the annual Turkey Trot drew over 300 participants in 20011 and 2012

Given the lease term, it is appropriate to invest in the facility, while pursuing its purchase.

Recommendations for this location are:

1. Establish a quality gateway that attracts and welcomes users and deploy signage and interpretive materials to reinforce history and help users understand trail qualities, with plantings to screen and enhance the border to the west, north and south of the entry alley, and beautify the alley itself;
2. Target a mid-term upgrade of the court surface and augment playground equipment, preferably with some 'nature play' materials, also by providing improvements in and by the swale at the park's edge so children can safely play at and around it;
3. Define uses and establish an architectural program and funding strategy to establish an electrified stage with quality drainage and landscaping;
4. Decide whether an accessible public restroom should be established on-site or nearby (independent of this, providing a drinking fountain is a priority). If joint use of Parish Hall were feasible, this could be a versatile and economical option<sup>38</sup>.
5. Explore how to invigorate volunteerism around the community garden.



<sup>37</sup> In 2012 the Festival had eight concert venues, all within walking distance of each other. According to people involved, participating artists and visitors reported enjoying the setting and they were amazed that resident volunteers donate almost everything from building the stage to housing performers.

<sup>38</sup> Due to a lack of sanitary sewers, the Recreation Board suggests investigating potential for composting toilets.



***Big Indian Park*** – Located on the south side of Route 28 by County Route 47, this NY DOT park and ride has about 3.40 acres of space that is maintained by the town as a park. Site amenities include:

- Big Indian statue/totem pole; paved driveway and parking with about 20 spaces;
- Playground equipment: jungle gym; two swing sets – one for children with three seats and one with six seats; two slides – one small and one large; one carousel;
- Two pavilions - open-sided and electrified. The main one seats 50 with nine picnic tables and a large barbecue grill (developed with volunteer contributions in 2012);
- A batball backstop;
- A porta-potty maintained on-site; and
- Three benches.

The site is bordered by Birch Creek tributary to the west. The historical/cultural heritage of the area is highlighted in this park through the Big Indian legend with the wood carved statue at its gateway. This heritage offers an opportunity for unique enrichment with future park improvements.

Researching and monitoring potential to purchase adjacent lands could achieve space for a small playing field and access to surrounding open space, including the U&D corridor, which will reinforce potential for this site to serve as a location for recreation access. Other maintenance and investment recommendations are:

1. Establish a permanent lavatory and a drinking fountain<sup>39</sup>;
2. Provide signage and interpretation;
3. Develop a mid-term program and schedule to upgrade playground equipment;
4. Enhance stream access, including as a visual amenity; and
5. Consider installing manually operated or timed lighting on a pavilion to enable ice skating.

***Emerson Soccer Fields*** – The ‘playing fields’ occupy 2.85 acres of the Emerson Hotel site in Mount Tremper that is owned by Kaatskill Development Corporation and leased for \$1 per year. Accessed off Riseley Road with frontage on State Route 28 this is an excellent amenity with:

- One larger and two smaller soccer fields with the bigger one used for high school athletics and youth league games and the others used for school practices and by the area youth league;
- A parking lot for roughly 20 cars; and
- Rented ‘porta-potties’.

These are the only rectangular fields for sports. An objective to ensure sustained access is to explore a long-term lease or purchase of the footprint where the fields are. As for operations here, parking on Route 28 should be discouraged, with use of Riseley Road for parking instead when the lot is full (traffic control signage or painting or alternate side parking policy might be considered to promote safety on Riseley Road). The Esopus Creek environments nearby are nice and there are opportunities for stream access and it is suggested to work with the Emerson to form a walking loop with the parking area serving as one place people can enter it. Finally, given good visibility from Route 28, and provided traffic management controls are established on Route 28, the location may be good for staging community festivals or events, if this is allowed by lease terms.

---

<sup>39</sup> It is suggested to explore the feasibility to utilize composting technology for sanitary waste disposal.



**CONCLUSION** -- This resource plan recommends a broad set of actions over ten years to advance parks and recreation. Shandaken faces challenges in serving a small, aging and seasonally fluctuating population within a large rural jurisdiction where there are extensive public lands with vast open space. Managing and developing recreation resources is complicated and will require investment, but the topic is influential on community and economic development as Shandaken has a natural resource and tourism based economy.

In preparing this plan an extensive review of existing facilities and programs was conducted. A community-wide survey solicited input from residents evaluating their recreational experiences and desires for improvement or expansion.

High-priority goals identified are:

- Maintain, rehabilitate and enhance existing parks;
- Sustain athletics fields and recreation space supply/ capacity;
- Expand the Summer Recreation and the Winter Recreation Programs; and
- Expand and improve access to walking/hiking/biking trails

Shandaken's recreation facilities need to be accessible while offering compelling, venues. Development of multiuse trails that connect hamlets and park environments will enhance the recreation spectrum, enabling easy and varied activity in more places by people of all ages and abilities.

Community parks and trails are important to Shandaken's identity. They provide for quality of life. Analysis of park fixtures replacements and upgrades is intended to help ensure that existing parks and playgrounds are widely used and remain focal points for the community. There is a need to rehabilitate the tennis court, plan for the periodic upgrade (and enhancement) of playgrounds, as well as basketball courts. There is also a need for restrooms and drinking fountains at or by recreation spaces as well as for sign systems that help people find, use and interpret those environments.

Parks planning will support community and provide benefits in terms of wellness while aiding fiscal stability over the long-term, through higher tax revenues from the areas adjacent to and near parks and recreation facilities, as well as through careful project execution. Efforts to reinforce and expand town recreation will also strengthen the community's draw for outdoor tourism, which is vested in local and natural heritage and the extensive public lands that are available for managed use by the public.

A first action to advance this plan should be formation of an implementation table. In one page it can present short-, medium- and long-term actions. In developing it, the Recreation Board can identify and explore resource requirements, important dependencies, and uncertainties. The process of crafting an implementation framework will pinpoint partners to consult and it will help identify evaluation criteria which can be used to monitor and track progress. It will be understood to be a guideline. Once it is developed, is also strongly recommended to develop an annual action plan for the next year. One to three pages, it will provide more rationale about the efforts that the group plans to be immediately involved in. Of course, issues come up, so the annual action plan should be ambitious, but leave some room to address opportunities and issues as these arise. As users consider prescriptions herein, they should contemplate priorities, and the mix, and identify particular ones they have interest in and most want to support.

## APPENDIX A – Sign Definitions & Signs Inventory

**Overview** – This document, data of which was collected using field visits from August to October 2012, provides an inventory of signs at six parks and on roads within 250 feet of these facilities. It also gives definitions of the sign types cataloged. By defining types and an inventory of signs within and besides Town-controlled recreation facilities, it is possible to classify signs, inform ways to promote parks and recreation, and guide users to sites and uses. There were visits to six Shandaken parks to note signage. The inventory of highway information signs within 250 feet of these six sites excludes traffic sign like speed limit and caution sign controls.

**Definitions** – Recreation signs are structures with letters or pictures, located outdoors, that display information. They contain names, announcements, displays, illustrations, icons or insignias that are used to identify and promote public interests from public view. The signs focused on exclude traffic management devices like stop signs and many other highway control devices, although here is limited discussion of internal circulation signs, such as describing entrances and exits. Still, discussion touches on aspects of highway information signage, like street signs and ones promoting regional and area wayfinding for walkers, bicyclists and motorists. For this section, monuments and flag poles in parks are not treated as signs.

In the inventory that follows, parks signs are erected by or with permission by some level of government. These are defined and assigned the following types and classifications:

- *Banner* – a seasonal or temporary sign applied to cloth or other flexible background.
- *Commemorative sign* – a plaque style sign, interpretive in nature, that memorializes a person, event, structure or site. In the Catskill Park and New York State these signs have a standardized form, such as white on brown background or yellow on blue, like in the picture from Pine Hill.
- *Directional Signs* – on- and off-premise signs providing direction to recreation resources. These include accessory or sub-system signs that identify assets or features, like a hiking trail or restrooms.
- *Directory sign* – a listing of features, uses, or events.
- *Highway Information signage* – signs guiding various transport modes and developed and sited in the right of way according to rigorous regional government standards so as to provide uniformity and safety. One sub-type points to recreation destinations like hiking trails or stream access, like shown in the graphic on the right.
- *Identification Sign* – a name for a specific site, including symbols and letters.
- *Informational sign* – factual signs, such as facility types, hours and rules
- *Interpretive sign* – often developed as display panels, these aid pedestrians in understanding a theme. They may tell a story and provide context about a place or history. The tool helps users comprehend objects, artifacts, a landscape, or location. For purposes here, bulletin boards are under this type.
- *Special event* – a temporary promotional sign.
- *Tourism Oriented Development signs (TODs)* – highway information listing businesses and attractions.
- *Warning sign* – a message using letters or symbols identifying a potential hazard and urging caution.





*Glenbrook Park* – The review here includes the dog-park, but not adjacent Town-owned land to the north by the ambulance garage. There is not permanent signage to identify the accessible restroom (or donor).

<i>In- or Infront of Park</i>	<i>Features/ Characteristics</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>ID Sign</b>	Town of Shandaken Glenbrook Park – Signature sign. Wood with name and image of hotel once here	Character and sense of place enhancing. Needs routine maintenance.
<b>ID Sign</b>	Glenbrook Park – iron arched gateway with ornamental lettering.	Character and sense of place enhancing
<b>ID Sign</b>	Shandaken Dog Park & Agility Center – Wood ID sign.	
<b>Info Sign</b>	Dog Park – matches ID sign symbols	Incidental info signs inform waste disposal process
<b>ID Sign</b>	Neil Grant Pavilion	Incidental info signs define pavilion rules
<b>Scoreboard</b>	Internally lit facing athletic field with wood ID sign above it 'Welcome to Ed West Memorial Field'	
<b>Banners</b>	Plastic - eight signs on athletic field perimeter fence, covering facility rules and motivation	
<b>Bulletin Board (potential)</b>	One side of electrical panel shelter is structured for <u>possible</u> use for this purpose, although it's unused	



Off-site signs and highway information signs within 250 feet of the park include:

- The ID sign for Shandaken Memorial Building – a wood sign with letters and images, adjacent to north.
- DEC wood ID sign for stream fishing access on Creek Road (Co. Route 47).

#### *Smith Park Pine Hill*

<i>In- or Infront of Park</i>	<i>Features/ Characteristics</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>ID Sign</b>	This sign is mounted on two pole elevated with the base of the sign reader board about four feet high	Appears due for replacement within three to five years
<b>Info Sign</b>	Basic black on white sign with rules and operating hours	

There is no highway signage within 250 feet identifying this resource, but there is highway information 'destination signage' on State Route 28 for the library, fishing access and hamlet – the latter a new installation – plus streets signs. These are potential signs to add to with signs identifying the park<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Research was not provided into whether it would be permissible according to Manual of Uniform Traffic Controls and Devices (MUTCD) standards and the Catskill State Park sign law to position markers for parks on top of street signs.

*Playing Fields* – there is no signage on-site at this facility. Within 250 feet there is a new street sign (at the intersection of Riseley Road and Route 28) that complies with current FHWA design criteria and which has a component part a new Catskill Park logo sign on it. Also almost within this radius, stationed in the Route 28 right of way, to the east, is a sign noting 'Mount Pleasant' with white lettering on brown background (also with the new Catskill Park logo positioned above it). While neither sign is recreation-oriented, there could be consideration whether there can be an opportunity to use the same sign poles and/or signs for identifying the playing fields resource.


#### *Big Indian Park/ Parking Area*

<b><i>In-or Infront of Park</i></b>	<b><i>Features/ Characteristics</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
<b>Highway information sign</b>	While on blue metal 'Parking Area' on frontage	
<b>Bulletin Board</b>	Temporary 2-sided – white background w black lettering	Letter applied according to message
<b>Info sign</b>		

Within 250 feet of the site on Route 28 right is a sign noting 'Big Indian' with white lettering on brown background (also with the new Catskill Park logo positioned above it). There is also 'destination' signage on Route 28 indicating parking ahead on the approach from the west. There should be consideration whether opportunity exists to use the same pole mount for identifying this recreation resource as more than just parking.



*Simpson Mini Park* – there is no highway signage within 250 feet identifying the park, although a highway sign in the right of way fronting on the park identifies directions for Routes 28/ 214. Signage noting the public parking available across the street is limited.

<b><i>In- or Infront of Park</i></b>	<b><i>Features/ Characteristics</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
<b>Kiosk</b>	Single sided (two panel) plexiglass protected display framed in wood (white) with facade mimicking roof gable. Information describes Catskill Forest Preserve	

#### *Parish Field –*

<b><i>In-Park &amp; Fronting on Park</i></b>	<b><i>Features/ Characteristics</i></b>	<b><i>Notes</i></b>
<b>ID Sign</b>	Wood sign mounted on stump by street: white letters on green	
<b>Info/ Interpretive sign</b>	Metal three-color sign with character lettering at trailhead identifying 'Tanbark Trail' describing feature/ history	There are axillary signs posted along trail system

There are no off-premise signs noting the park or its hiking trail or picnic or nature viewing opportunities within 250 feet and nor is there ID signage for this specific resource on Route 28 or elsewhere in the hamlet. Symbols could be added for highway information, while local pedestrian-oriented signs could be developed for walkers and route signage augmented for bicycle travelers.



End of Item.

APPENDIX B -- Public Opinion Survey Process, Instrument & Data

**Shandaken Parks and Recreation  
Community Survey**

INTENT

The Shandaken Parks and Recreation Board sought to create a community survey that would offer an opportunity for residents to evaluate the current recreational facilities and programming and share their desires for improvement or expansion. This information would provide insight and direction as the Board prepares a 10-year Comprehensive Plan for the Town Parks and Recreational Programming.

PREPARATION

The Board reviewed on-line questionnaires used in other communities and adapted the questions to Shandaken's needs. A professional planner, Hiliary Smith, reviewed the draft questionnaire and suggested revisions which were incorporated. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix.

DISTRIBUTION

The primary means of distributing the questionnaire was through a town-wide Postal Patron mailing. The questionnaire was also available on the Town Website or could be picked up at Town Hall.

TIME PERIOD

The questionnaires were placed in sealed envelopes printed with the Town of Shandaken return address. Included in the mailing was a smaller pre-addressed return envelope. The mailing was hand-delivered to the seven post offices in the Town of Shandaken on May 4, 2012. Residents were urged to respond by May 30, 2012. Questionnaires were, however, collected until August 24, 2012.

PUBLICITY

Announcement of the survey was made at the May and June Town Board Meetings. These meetings are viewed on live cable television and then repeated throughout the month.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two meetings were held for the purpose of allowing residents to speak in person concerning Town Parks and Recreational Programming. The first meeting was held at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall on May 14. Unfortunately, there were no residents present.

The second meeting was publicized through the Town Website and posters (see Appendix) placed at all seven post offices and the Phoenicia School. The second meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 at the Pine Hill Community Center. Residents present were:

Carole Chanler; Walter Crump; Gary Gailes; Martie Gailes; Kathy Nolan;  
Alan Shiner; and Judy Shiner

## RESPONSE

2,248 questionnaires were mailed. 280 responses were received. This represents a 12.4% rate of return. A tabulation of the responses is included in the Appendix.



## SHANDAKEN PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY

The Shandaken Parks and Recreation Board is currently working on the development of a 10-year master plan for Shandaken Park facilities and recreation programs. Your assistance is vital in helping to determine the needs and concerns of the citizens of Shandaken regarding future plans for our parks and recreation activities.

Please return your questionnaire in the enclosed envelope or drop it off at town-wide collections sites or at Shandaken Town Hall, Route 28, Shandaken, NY 12480

1. Please check the hamlet in which you live

<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Tremper	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Valley
<input type="checkbox"/> Shandaken	<input type="checkbox"/> Big Indian/Oliveria
<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenicia	<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Hill
<input type="checkbox"/> Chichester	<input type="checkbox"/> Highmount

2. Please indicate the number of persons living in your household, including yourself, that are:

<input type="checkbox"/> Under age 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 35-50
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 10-19	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 51-64
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 20-34	<input type="checkbox"/> Age 65+

3. Please check those facilities/activities you or members of your household used or visited in the last year. Also please rank the number of your visits by assigning one of the following:

1 - for Very Often	- more than 11 visits
2 - for Fairly Often	- 6-10 visits
3 - for Infrequently	- 1-5 visits

Park	No. Visits	Activity	No. Visits
<input type="checkbox"/> Big Indian Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Belleayre Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Glenbrook Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NYS Trail Network	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pine Hill Smith Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tourist Rail Ride	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Simpson Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tan Bark Trail	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenicia Parish Field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tubing	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Emerson Soccer Fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream Access	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. Please rate the overall maintenance of the parks and recreation fields in Shandaken

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
------------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------------

5. Grants and donations are the preferred way to fund parks and recreation. Please rate other funding approaches from 1 to 3. With 1 as the most favorable and 3 as the least favorable option.

<input type="checkbox"/> User fees
<input type="checkbox"/> Town-wide appropriation
<input type="checkbox"/> Bonds

6. What additional recreation programs or facilities would you or members of your household like to see in Shandaken?

7. Please check those activities participated in over the last year.  
 Indicate frequency by assigning: 1 for 1-6 times; 2 for 7-12 times; 3 for 13+ times.  
 Indicate overall satisfaction by assigning the following ratings:  
 A for excellent; B for Good; C for Fair; or D for poor.

Activity	Frequency	Overall Satisfaction
___ Adult Softball	_____	_____
___ Adult Basketball	_____	_____
___ Skiing	_____	_____
___ Hiking	_____	_____
___ Fishing	_____	_____
___ Hunting	_____	_____
___ Biking	_____	_____
___ Swimming	_____	_____
___ Youth Basketball	_____	_____
___ Youth Baseball	_____	_____
___ Soccer	_____	_____
___ Summer Camp	_____	_____
Other _____		

8. Please rank the following groups' need for additional recreation facilities or programs.  
 Assign 1 for the highest priority and 6 for the lowest priority.

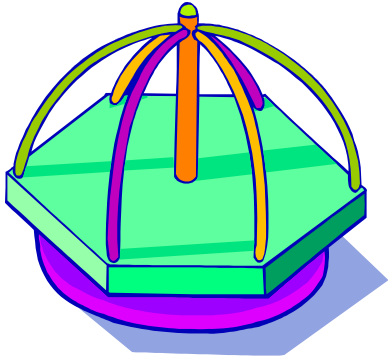
Age Group	Facility	Programming
Pre-school aged children	_____	_____
Elementary school students	_____	_____
Middle School students	_____	_____
High School students	_____	_____
Adults age 18-65	_____	_____
Adults age 66+	_____	_____

9. Please check next to each potential improvement your opinion as to the importance of the proposed improvement

Potential Improvement	Very Important	Somewhat	Not Important
Create Permanent Bandstand	_____	_____	_____
Develop biking trails	_____	_____	_____
Develop walking/hiking trails	_____	_____	_____
Increase sheltered picnic areas	_____	_____	_____
Renovate courts and fields	_____	_____	_____
Upgrade playground equipment	_____	_____	_____
Upgrade pavilions	_____	_____	_____
Expand Summer Recreation Program	_____	_____	_____
Expand Winter Recreation Program	_____	_____	_____

**We value your opinion, please return this questionnaire by May 30, 2012, in the enclosed envelope, OR drop it off at town-wide collection sites, or at Town Hall, Route 28, Shandaken, New York.**

# You're Invited to a Discussion



On the Future of  
Shandaken Parks & Recreation Programs  
7:00p.m. Tuesday, May 29, 2012  
Pine Hill Community Center

## **Parks & Recreation Questionnaire**

### **No. 1 - Hamlet of Respondents**

Mt. Tremper	42
Shandaken	48
Phoenicia	65
Chichester	28
Woodland Valley	25
Big Indian/Olivera	39
Pine Hill	22
Highmount	12

### **No. 2 - Age of Respondents**

Under age 10	51
Age 10-19	50
Age 20-34	46
Age 35-50	117
Age 51-64	176
Age 65+	143
Representing 580 Individuals	

### **No. 3 - Frequency of Usage of Parks**

Big Indian	115 respondents
Glenbrook	117 respondents
Smith Park	36 respondents
Simpson Park	41 respondents
Parish Field	156 respondents
Emerson Fields	36 respondents
Belleayre Beach	129 respondents
NYS Trails	117 respondents
Tourist Rail Ride	69 respondents



Tan Bark Trail	61
Tubing	61
Stream Access	158 respondents

**No. 4 - Overall Maintenance Rating**

Excellent	63	25%
Good	154	61%
Fair	31	13%
Poor	2	1%

## **No. 5 - Funding Options**

### **User Fees**

**197 total responses**

49 or 25% ranked User Fees Most Favorable  
22 or 11% ranked User Fees Moderately Favorable  
126 or 64% ranked User Fees Least Favorable

### **Town-wide appropriation**

**200 total responses**

107 or 54% ranked Town-wide Appropriation Most Favorable  
70 or 35% ranked Town-wide Appropriation Moderately Fav.  
23 or 11% ranked Town-wide Appropriation Least Favorable

### **Bonds**

**201 total responses**

58 or 29% ranked Bonds Most Favorable  
65 or 34% ranked Bonds Moderately Favorable  
75 or 37% ranked Bonds Least Favorable

		No. 3 - Frequency of Usage of Parks			
Park	Respondents	1 = 11+ visits	2 = 6-10 visits	3 = 1-5 visits	
Big Indian	122	18	19	85	
Percentage		15%	16%	69%	
<b>Glenbrook</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>77</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>64%</b>	
Smith Park	36	6	3	27	
Percentage		17%	8%	75%	
<b>Simpson Park</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>63%</b>	
Parish Field	161	32	43	86	
Percentage		20%	26%	53%	
<b>Emerson Fields</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>35%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>51%</b>	
Belleayre Beach	135	32	33	70	
Percentage		24%	25%	51%	
<b>NYS Trail Network</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>54</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>33%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>44%</b>	
Tourist Rail Ride	72	6	11	55	
Percentage		8%	16%	76%	
<b>Tan Bark Trail</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>40</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>15%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>65%</b>	
Tubing	61	6	6	49	
Percentage		10%	10%	80%	
<b>Stream Access</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>58%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>21%</b>	

## Parks and Recreation Questionnaire

### No. 6 – Additional Recreation Programs or Facilities

- Pool - Indoor, heated, with lap lanes, diving board  
Pay for with bond  
Clean place to swim  
Exercise facility  
Children's pool  
White water park  
///// ///// ///// ///// ///// ///// ///// / = 42X
- Biking Trails - Mountain biking trails restored to Wilson Camp  
Grounds  
Turn Railroads into bike trails //  
Guided rides and races /  
BMX Track  
Mountain bike trails on DEP DEC land /  
Marked lanes along 28 & Plank Rd.  
Safe bike trail (Rte 28 is dangerous) ///  
Bike Maintenance clinic  
Bike Instruction  
ATV Trails  
Bike lane on 212 and Wittenberg Rd.  
Rollerblade trail  
Bike rentals (low cost)  
Path along the river  
///// ///// ///// ///// // = 22X
- Walking Trails - River walk //  
Rail trails ///// //  
More Turkey Trots  
Trail guides /  
Better signage  
McKinley Hollow new bridge trail guide  
Family hikes  
Naturalist led walks //  
Promote NYC DEP lands  
Easier/less step trails  
Close Plank Road on Sunday for walking/biking  
Self-guided history trails  
///// ///// // = 12X



Tennis	-	<p>///// ///// //// = 15X</p> <p>Parish field</p>
Recreation Center	-	<p>///// ///// = 10X</p> <p>Senior center</p> <p>Youth activities /</p> <p>Gym /// = 3X</p> <p>Interpretation center</p> <p>Center located in Phoenicia</p>
Golf course	-	<p>///// // = 7X</p>
Bandstand	-	<p>Big Indian Park (2)</p> <p>Parish Field</p> <p>Summer music program</p> <p>Family friendly music gatherings</p> <p>Pavilion in which music could be performed</p> <p>Pavilion in Parish field</p> <p>///// / = 6X</p>
Ice Skating	-	<p>///// / = 6X</p> <p>curling</p>
Senior Classes	-	<p>Programs</p> <p>Tai Chi</p> <p>Yoga</p> <p>Night Sky Star Gazing</p> <p>Bingo, games</p> <p>Center</p> <p>Fitness classes</p>

Archery	-	/
Air ballooning	-	/
Basketball Courts	-	Pine Hill Replace rims, padding Glenbrook / = 1X
Batting cages	-	// = 2X
Baseball diamond	-	/ = 1X
Benches	-	In all the parks // = 2X
Bocce court	-	// = 2X
Climbing Walls	-	/
Crafts	-	painting, music /
Day Camp	-	full time /
Dog Park	-	/// = 3X
Entrance to town	-	Establish park/like setting @ 28 & 212
Festivals	-	food fests, fairs, trades/arts expos Carnival
Fishing	-	More fish released for fishing
Flea Markets	-	To benefit parks Located in empty Catholic Church /
Community Garden	-	/
Garbage bins	-	/
Grills	-	/

Horses	-	Access to parks Horseback riding / Trails /
Miniature golf	-	/
Playground Equip.	-	// = 2X
Restrooms	-	for tourists Big Indian Park / // = 2X
Road to nowhere	-	make a ball field, pavilion Drive-in movie
Sculptures	-	/
Skate park	-	//// / = 6X
Softball	-	// = 2X
Tee ball	-	/
Snowmobile Club	-	// = 2X Snowmobile trail system Snow shoe trails X country trails //
Streams	-	better access /// = 3X Parking and picnic areas nearby Kayak/canoe group trips

	Question No. 8 - Facility Needs						
Age Group	Rating 1	Rating 2	Rating 3	Rating 4	Rating 5	Rating 6	
	1 = highest priority			6 = lowest priority			
Pre- School	32#	13#	12	15	9	24	
Elementary Students	30	19	29	9	15	2	
Middle School	37	24	22	17	6	4	
High School	35	20	13	12	6	8	
Adults 18-65	33	17	9	8	23	17	
Adults 66+	35	13	10	7	11	35	



	Question No. 8 - Programming Needs						
		1 = highest priority		6 = lowest priority			
Age Group	Rating 1	Rating 2	Rating 3	Rating 4	Rating 5	Rating 6	
Pre- School	29	7	5	10	13	16	
Elementary Students	23	20	20	6	12	1	
Middle School	22	14	19	6	2	2	
High School	31	11	7	5	21	16	
Adults 18-65	24	10	7	5	21	18	
Adults 66+	29	14	11	6	7	24	

		No. 9 - Potential Improvements			
		Very Important		Somewhat Important	Not Important
Park	Respondents				
Bandstand	219	58		79	82
Percentage		29%		36%	37%
<b>Biking Trails</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>145</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>85%</b>		<b>7%</b>	<b>8%</b>
Walking/hiking Trails	243	162		61	20
Percentage		67%		25%	8%
<b>Sheltered Picnic Areas</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>95</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>31%</b>		<b>43%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Renovate Courts/Fields	212	77		110	24
Percentage		36%		53%	11%
<b>Upgrade Playgrounds</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>81</b>		<b>113</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>37%</b>		<b>52%</b>	<b>11%</b>
Upgrade Pavilions	210	54		103	53
Percentage		26%		49%	25%
<b>Expand Smr. Rec. Pro.</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>92</b>		<b>95</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>44%</b>		<b>46%</b>	<b>10%</b>
Expand Wntr. Rec. Pro.	216	97		96	23
Percentage		45%		45%	10%