

Town of East Bloomfield/Village of Bloomfield

Recreation Master Plan

2006

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1. Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This is a recreation master plan for the community comprised of the Town of East Bloomfield and the Village of Bloomfield (hereafter referred to as the *Community*). It is a joint plan that builds upon the established practices of inter- municipal cooperation.

The Community recognizes that recreation and open space play a vital role in maintaining the mental and physical health of our citizens. There is a need for comprehensive planning to accommodate current and future needs to retain the quality of life in our community.

This Recreation Master Plan is the logical "next step" to build upon the comprehensive planning to provide direction in the assessment and delivery of recreational lands, facilities, and programs.

Traditionally, most resources for active recreation, such as athletic fields, courts, and others, have been provided by the Bloomfield Central School District. The cooperation between the Community and the School District will and must continue. However, as the Community grows, a greater responsibility will be placed on the Town/Village to meet added recreational demands of its residents.

Acquisition of parkland in recent years to complement existing parks has created a valuable foundation for acquiring an orderly inventory of lands to serve future active and passive recreation.

Citizen involvement is particularly evidenced in the delivery of recreational services in our community. Youth sports organizations run by volunteers serve hundreds of participants. Input from citizens and organizations have highly impacted the direction and recommendations of this Master Plan.

This Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds upon and is intended to complement the other planning efforts within the Community. It establishes long term goals and objectives. It proposes strategies for acquiring, developing, and operating recreational lands, facilities, and services within the Community's capabilities. Specific recommendations are made for the next ten years in context with the long term objectives.

This Plan is intended to be a working guide for the Town/Village and other sources of recreational opportunities to provide a well balanced delivery of high quality recreation appropriate to East Bloomfield.

This plan is the result of input from community residents, sports and cultural organizations, the Bloomfield School district, elected officials, and other providers of facilities and services.

2. Analysis

DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

General

The demand for recreational opportunities within a community is measured by the rate and frequency of participation in specific recreational activities and is influenced by several factors including:

Characteristics of the population, including ages, education, employment, income, and lifestyle.

The availability of unique local programs, facilities, or other unique influences.

Physical and climatic conditions which create feasibility, opportunities, or expectations for certain recreational opportunities.

Willingness and ability of a community to support municipal recreational opportunities through taxes and fees.

Changing trends in the popularity of specific recreational pursuits.

Population

For the purposes of this plan all statistics are for the Town, including the Village. Although East Bloomfield's 2000 population of 3361 was only approximately a 3 percent increase from its 1990 population of 3258, recent interest of developers in several subdivisions indicate that growth during the next ten years will accelerate.

The availability of developed or approved building lots and favorable economic conditions suggest that the growth rate may approach 33 per cent within the next ten years. This plan assumes construction of 500 new homes over the next ten years with an average household size of 2.66 persons yielding roughly 1,330 additional residents.

Therefore, demand for recreational and leisure services and facilities is projected to increase during the next ten years.

The age distribution of the Town's residents is important in identifying trends of interests and needs. A "young" community will exhibit interest in and, possibly, reflect school district provision of recreational opportunities which vary from those found or desired in "older" communities.

The following 2000 census data provide important insight into the nature of interests in recreation among the community's residents.

Population: Ages	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	238	7.1
5 to 9 years	256	7.6
10 to 14 years	253	7.5
15 to 19 years	235	7.0
20 to 24 years	143	4.3
25 to 34 years	440	13.1
35 to 44 years	577	17.2
45 to 54 years	511	15.2
55 to 59 years	196	5.8
60 to 64 years	157	4.7
65 to 74 years	195	5.8
75 to 84 years	124	3.7
85 years and over	36	1.1

Using the 2000 U.S. census, demands based on age can be projected as follows:

Under Age 5 (pre-school)	7.1%
Age 5 -19 (school age)	22.1%
Age 20 - 24 (typically, low)	4.3%
Age 25 - 44 (child bearing age)	30.3%
Age 45 - 59 (highest income)	20.8%
Age 60 - 84 (active seniors)	14.2%
Age 85 and over	1.1%

The age distribution of East Bloomfield's residents is similar to nearby towns. An increase of the population of persons under age 25, which is the primary demand for municipal and school provided recreational activities, is anticipated with the development of 500 new homes. The continued growth rate of persons age 25 through 59, and particularly age 25 through 44, which are the principal child-bearing ages, also suggest the possibility of future growth in the under 19 ages.

The age 65 and older segment of the Town's population suggests a sustained and, perhaps, growing interest in facilities and activities serving that age group.

Bloomfield Central School District

The East Bloomfield Central School District is the major generator of demand for and, presently, the major provider of sports and other recreational programs and facilities in East Bloomfield. It is important to recognize that the School District includes large areas outside of the Town, particularly areas of West Bloomfield and Bristol. The School District's population and its mission must include those areas outside of

the Community. Most indoor facilities and most recreational, or "community educational" programs are provided by the School District. That is expected to continue, at least for the near future.

As the population continues to increase, the need for facilities will also increase. Presently, the School District struggles to satisfy the current demands of youth and adult sports programs. In addition to school fields, fields are being utilized in Bristol, West Bloomfield and a privately owned cross-country track in the Town of East Bloomfield.

Physical and Climatic Influences on Demand

The physical characteristics of the Town influence the nature and locations of demands and the ability to service those demands.

Location

East Bloomfield is located in northwest Ontario County and borders the Towns of Canandaigua, Victor, Bristol and West Bloomfield. Its location as a gateway to southern Ontario County, along State Routes 5&20, 444 and 64, and its scenic rural character indicates the community will continue to develop both residentially and commercially.

The Town is nearly square, and contains approximately 33 square miles or approximately 21,500 acres. The Village of Bloomfield occupies 1.4 square miles in the central portion of the Town.

Land Uses

A large portion of the Town's land is undeveloped or agricultural. Residential development is scattered outside of the Village with a denser concentration within the Village limits. Commercial development is located in the "downtown district" of the Village and primarily along Rtes 5&20 in the Town. Industrial development exists along Rtes 5&20 west of Rte 64 with a small portion in the Village.

Due to proposed plans for several large residential developments around the perimeter of the Town, an increase in future demand is anticipated for recreation. Open space protection, growth management, and the topography and water courses within the community will require careful planning of future recreational opportunities.

Land Forms

Topography is primarily level lands with some steep slopes and freshwater wetlands

Major creeks and flood plains offer attractive linear open spaces. They include Mud creek which flows along the eastern border of the Town and Fish Creek which drains an area north of the Village.

Soils vary from highly permeable sand and gravel to less permeable unsorted glacial tills and clay.

Transportation

Automobile travel is the primary mode of transportation to and within the Town. The principal highway corridors receive heavy traffic, particularly commuter traffic.

East Bloomfield is served by three principal transportation corridors. State Rtes 5&20 travels in an east-west direction through the Town of East Bloomfield and the Village connecting them to Canandaigua to the east and West Bloomfield to the west. State Route 444 bisects the Town in a north-south direction and continues beyond Rtes 5&20 via rte 64 South while Rte 64 North leaves E Bloomfield at Rtes 5&20 and travels northwest to West Bloomfield.

East Bloomfield is served by Ontario County public transportation, CATS. This "dial-a-ride" service can take a person anywhere in Ontario County and operates between 7am and 7 pm Monday-Friday.

The nearest small airport for general aviation is at Canandaigua. It is headquarters for Mercy Flights. There is also a certified small local airport located on County Road 30.

Few roads in the Town of East Bloomfield are pedestrian or bicycle friendly. Roads in the Village are pedestrian friendly with sidewalks installed on at least one side of every street. There are no bike trails in either the Village or the Town at this time.

3.EVALUATION

AVAILABILITY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East Bloomfield residents are served by a variety of recreational lands and facilities which are provided by various levels of government, the Bloomfield Central School District, commercial enterprises, and not-for-profit organizations within and beyond the Community.

A knowledgeable and enthusiastic Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, supportive Town/Village Boards, and a host of interested citizens have provided the demand, support, and guidance to accomplish truly impressive progress in a short period of time.

The Bloomfield Central School District has been the most important provider of facilities and programs which serve recreational and leisure interests. Continued and expanded school / community provision of recreational opportunities is expected. However, use of many school facilities has reached saturation and new venues must be created.

As a result of this saturation, the Town will have to assume a larger role in providing recreational opportunities. The Town is currently acquiring, developing, and making available to its residents a very desirable property on Rtes 5&20 which will offer high quality experiences. Until the growing inventory of Town parkland is developed, the Town and other organizations will continue to use School District facilities until their capacities are reached. Future demands beyond that which can be served by the School District will most likely be served by facilities to be developed on Town parkland.

Partnering with the Village of Bloomfield, which is, of course, within the Town is likewise a mutually beneficial approach to the delivery of recreational opportunities to all Community residents.

Many of the youth sports leagues and other organizations involved in providing recreational opportunities also include participants beyond East Bloomfield's boundaries. As the School District and these organizations are, at this time, the larger providers of facilities and services, it is to be expected that East Bloomfield will continue to include and to form meaningful partnerships with its neighboring towns and the School District.

Town of East Bloomfield Lands and Facilities

Boughton Park:

The park is owned jointly with the Towns of West Bloomfield and Victor. Access to this park is limited to the residents of these three communities only. It is maintained

in a forever wild format and has great potential as a prime recreation area for the community. Fishing is permitted, however no hunting or swimming is allowed. The park has two entrances, one on Boughton and one on Stirnie road. The Stirnie Road entrance has the boat launch, picnic pavilion, and picnic area. The remainder of the park is available for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, and cross country skiing.

Location – 7392 Boughton Rd and 1912 Stirnie Rd

Size: 329 acres

Facilities include: Hiking trails, group picnic shelter, boat launch, portable rest rooms, two large ponds, charcoal grills

Elton Park

Elton Park is a small memorial park located in the center of the community. It is a gathering place for such things as weddings, antique and auto shows, street dances, outdoor concerts in the summer, and other festivities.

Location: Rtes 5&20 in the Village of Bloomfield

Size: 1.9 acres

Facilities include: Picnic tables, gazebo with electricity for community events

American Legion Post #970 facility

This facility with fields was purchased from the American Legion for a cost of \$60,000 in 2006. It was purchased to ensure the continued use by youth sports, Veterans, and other civic organizations through the generosity of the American Legion.

It was offered to the Town by the Legion and approved through a referendum on the November 2005 ballot

Location: Rtes 5&20 in the southeast area of Town, near the intersection of State Rte 444

Size: 18 acres

Facilities include: Main building with kitchen/bathroom facilities,
1000 sq. ft. storage building, 4LL/softball fields, 2 multipurpose
fields, T-ball fields

Village facilities:

Pickle Park:

This small park is located on the west side of the Village and has benches for sitting.

Location: Main St.

Size: 1/8 acre

Facilities include: benches for sitting

Public Works Department Ice Skating rink:

There is an open-air ice skating rink located at the wastewater treatment plant which is lighted for use at night. There are no public restrooms available on site.

Location: 5R Elm St. at the WWTP

Size: approximately 80' by 200'

Facilities include Ice skating rink, benches for sitting

Bloomfield School District:

The School District facilities are available to all community residents and include elementary and middle/high school campuses.

Middle/High School:

Location: Oakmount Ave. in the Village

Size:

Facilities include: Outdoor: Softball field, track, 1 combination
lacrosse/ field hockey field, 3 soccer fields

3 tennis courts, children's (preschool) playground, 1 volleyball court, 1 basketball court, pavilion with picnic tables/grill

Indoor: Wrestling room, 1 gymnasium, fitness/wellness center

Elementary school:

Location: Maple Ave. in the Village

Size:

Facilities include; Outdoor: 1 Baseball field and 1 youth baseball field, 1 soccer field, 2 junior soccer fields, 1 children's playground

Indoor: 2 Gymnasiums,

Private facilities available for community recreation:

Parkview Fairways

Location: 7100 Boughton Rd

Facilities include: 18 hole golf course with clubhouse, 1 soccer field – developed for school use

Hol/field Rod and Gun Club

Location: Whalen Rd.

Ownership: Private

Recreational facilities include: Three skeet fields, trap field, sporting clays range, rifle range

Neighboring municipalities: Some community residents take advantage of recreational lands and facilities of neighboring communities. Those in close proximity to East Bloomfield are listed.

Village of Victor

Harlan Fisher Park (Village of Victor) – children's play area, picnic area, trails
Mead Square Park (Village of Victor) – benches

Victor Central Schools facilities – swimming pool

Action adventures by Splatball – 3 locations in Victor

Town of Canandaigua:

YMCA – swimming pool, fitness programs

Civic Center - 250 North Bloomfield Rd. - ice hockey

West Bloomfield:

Bristol:

State of New York

Ganondagan State Historic Site

Location: Boughton Hill Road (County Route 41),
(State Route 444) west to approximately Murray Road

Ownership: State of New York

Size: Currently approximately 520 acres

Recreational facilities include: Visitor / interpretive center Replica of a Seneca long house, approximately three miles of interpretive trails, Native American gardens

Delivery of Recreational Services

The Bloomfield Central School District has been the principal supplier of recreational facilities in the community. The School District has a policy to make most school facilities available to the community with a few exceptions. The School District schedules the use of the athletic fields on its campus as well as its indoor facilities. It also offers an extensive Community Education program.

Youth sports organizations led by volunteers have served large numbers of youths.

The Town has an opportunity to provide parks and recreational services which will complement those already in place by others.

The Town and Village (together with the Towns of Victor and West Bloomfield) have approximately 350 acres of park land, most of which is in Boughton Park.

Most of the park land is not developed, with the intention of maintaining much of the land for passive recreation. This very attractive park managed by three towns contains two man-made lakes that were once the municipal water supply for the Village of Fairport. It contains trails around the perimeter of the property as well as in the interior.

There is strong interest in building a community center which has been identified as lacking or insufficient in our community. An ideal site for this would be the newly acquired American legion fields on Rtes 5&20 as there is currently a large enough building on site with restrooms and a full kitchen.

The evolution of the community's parks and recreational offerings over the past five years is the result of an aware Town Board supported by a strong and effective Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has an essential role in providing expertise and perspective in its advocacy and advice on policies, programs, and related matters.

CONDITIONS AFFECTING DELIVERY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The East Bloomfield community offers an inherent quality of life through its scenic qualities and largely rural character

Opportunities

.Most of the Town remains in undeveloped or agricultural lands. High density residential developments are mostly clustered within the Village and limited areas of the Town, with dispersed large lot homes. Commercial and industrial uses are generally limited to specific corridors most suited to those uses.

Large acreages are developed or designated for uses which are considered recreational. These include Boughton Park containing 330 acres, the American Legion fields containing 18 acres, the School District campus which is extensively developed with athletic fields, Village park lands and the ice skating rink at the wastewater treatment plant.

At this time, various recreational interests are competing for the same limited open space. The limited means of providing recreational opportunities which reflect the needs and desires of East Bloomfield residents are a goal for the recreation committee. Volunteer organizations have a history of serving many of the youth sports demands.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is organized, staffed, and capable of carrying out its mission. As its duties expand with additional developed and undeveloped park land and programs, staff and resources must be added.

Vision

The East Bloomfield community has demonstrated its recognition of the importance of preserving the quality of its physical and environmental character through its planning and regulatory efforts. Easy and enjoyable access to a broad spectrum of active and passive recreational facilities serving all ages is a goal of the Town/Village's Comprehensive Plan and of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Development of new recreational facilities must be consistent with objectives and techniques for preserving the scenic and environmental qualities within the Community.

The Parks and Recreation Committee is the body which can identify, communicate, and support the Town and Village Boards in achieving the vision.

NEEDS TO BE SERVED

The needs for recreational lands, both active and passive, and for specific recreational facilities are estimated based on evaluations of present and anticipated future populations, expressed local interests, recreational trends in general, experience with neighboring and nearby communities, and specific identified deficiencies.

It is important to recognize that local interests may vary considerably among nearby towns due to demographic differences, particularly successful local programs, unique facility or natural features, or other reasons.

Specific Demands

Demands for many recreational facilities which require investments in relatively large areas of land, capital development, and maintenance and operations can be identified relatively easily based on enrollments, recreational trends, and other available information.

Demands for many recreational activities, such as trails, skate parks, passive parks, and nature centers, can not be as readily identified. These are desirable and popular assets of a community. Trails should be planned as both destinations and linkages. Development of the Town and opportunities such as rights of way will influence the nature of a trail system. Nature centers and similar passive recreational attractions typically occur where physical or cultural features justify. Protection of wetlands and other ecosystems is important for recreation as well as for education, ecology, and protection of the aquifer.

Indoor recreational facilities are increasingly in demand for many reasons. They provide year-round opportunities. They can provide activities for all age groups. Many people have become accustomed to indoor recreational facilities, municipal and commercial, in other communities. The feasibility of and nature of indoor facilities which a specific community provides must be determined.

East Bloomfield should undertake a feasibility study to determine whether development and operation of a community center should be undertaken and, if so, what facilities and activities should be provided.

It is important that sufficiently greater parkland be provided than presently required to

meet identified "demands". Recreational trends and levels of participation vary over time and spaces for new opportunities should be available. In addition, many potential park users do not participate in organized programs, but desire space to play informal games, picnic, run, jog, sit, or "fly a kite". Acquiring parkland to serve future population growth and resulting demand growth is crucial while appropriate parcels remain available.

Demands for Outdoor facilities requiring Large Dedicated Spaces

East Bloomfield's relatively high rate of participation in programs among its population age 18 and under and current emphasis on an expanding availability of youth sports programs reflects trends in demands elsewhere.

Youth sports organizations participation in a joint consortium indicated deficiencies in the availability of outdoor athletic fields. However, as the population and programs grow as projected, competing demands for fields will occur. A likely increased use of school fields to accommodate increased school programs will lessen the availability of school fields for the increased community demands, thereby, increasing the deficiencies.

Football, Soccer, and Lacrosse

Football, soccer, and lacrosse are played on large rectangular fields of somewhat similar size. Younger classes of lacrosse and soccer can use smaller fields. The heaviest demands for rectangular fields occur during the spring.

Bloomfield Steelers Youth Football and Cheerleading Club has 100+ enrollees. That number is not expected to increase over the next five years so demand for fields for football is not likely to increase significantly.

East Bloomfield Soccer participation is currently in greater demand than existing facilities can support. Some soccer fields are utilized in Bristol and West Bloomfield due to the insufficient number of fields in the east Bloomfield community.

The school supports a lacrosse team and there is apparently no non-school lacrosse program for older players in East Bloomfield. However, the Greater Rochester area has several adult leagues.

There may be opportunities for the Town to offer additional programs to serve needs which are not met by existing programs.

Use of school fields to their capacities does not permit rotating fields "off-line" for needed periodic maintenance. Development of additional fields on the school campus is not feasible. A minimum of ten percent or more of excess field capacity is necessary to reduce field use and to allow rotation and renovation of fields. A minimum of one field in addition to program needs is needed currently to allow for minimum field maintenance.

Baseball, Youth Baseball, and Softball

Baseball, youth baseball, and softball are popular in East Bloomfield. While each has different requirements for diamonds, they are addressed collectively for planning purposes.

As with rectangular fields, school needs are essentially met with existing fields. Community demand for existing fields exceeds capacity. The league projects at least five percent growth per year.

Current baseball and softball field needs are essentially served by the American Legion fields for Little league and school fields for the middle/high school league. The projected increase in demand for additional fields cannot be served at the schools or at other existing venues. It is recommended the Town study areas for additional recreation in the future as the demand dictates.

Outdoor Tennis Courts

Outdoor tennis courts serve high school teams and players who do not participate at private, club, and commercial courts. Courts in neighboring towns are underused. Two tennis courts at the High School would appear to satisfy current "non-school" demand for outdoor courts. As additional town parks are developed in the future, consideration should be given to developing tennis courts within those parks so as to be conveniently located to population centers of the Community.

Outdoor Skating Rink

Interest in ice skating consists of two principal forms. They are recreational ice skating and ice hockey. Speed skating and figure skating are specialties beyond the scope of this plan.

There is an indoor ice arena available within reasonable, yet inconvenient, travel distance, which is the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. Other facilities are available at greater distances from East Bloomfield.

There is an outdoor ice skating rink for recreational skating available at the wastewater treatment plant, located in the Village. It is used for approximately six weeks a year, weather permitting. It requires a significant investment in labor to establish and maintain ice for only very limited days of satisfactory skating. Very few towns in this region still attempt to offer outdoor natural ice skating so we are very fortunate to be able to provide this service to our community.

Outdoor Aquatic Centers

East Bloomfield has no outdoor public swimming pool or natural beaches.

Public outdoor pools have declined in popularity in most suburban environments. The availability of private home and club pools, and easy access to natural beaches, particularly in the Finger Lakes and at Lake Ontario, further decrease demand for a public outdoor pool in East Bloomfield.

Aquatic centers which have a variety of amusements such as water slides, spray pools, wave pools, and other attractions hold interest longer and have greater appeal to today's participants. Many communities with outdoor pools are converting or adding attractions.

The regional demand for aquatics is well served at the new commercial water park in Canandaigua and at Sea Breeze Park in Irondequoit. Six Flags Darien Lakes offers a large water park one hour drive from East Bloomfield. East Bloomfield, in itself, has insufficient population to support a local municipal outdoor aquatic center.

Roller Sports

In-line skating and skateboarding are mainstream activities appealing to mostly younger participants.

In-line skating is a valid form of transportation and recreation for which provisions should be made. Roller hockey uses in-line skates for an increasingly popular sport similar to ice hockey and using a similar rink.

Skateboarding is also a well established activity which is popular primarily among teenagers. The lack of appropriate venues for skateboarding often leads to misuse and conflicts with pedestrians and merchants in commercial areas.

Skateboard parks are a desirable recreational facility. They may be simple and "portable" or large, complex, and very attractive.

Development of a skateboard park should be in response to expression of sufficient interest by prospective users. Frequent movement and storage of skateboarding structures is not feasible. A permanent skateboard park consisting of a "level" platform with manufactured ramps, pipes, rails, and other structures should be built, within or close to the Village as a central convenient location.

Hiking and Biking Trails

Trailways and linkages among neighborhoods and destinations are important assets with increasing demand. Hiking trails were rated in the top third of recreational features by respondents to the Village's 2004 questionnaire.

There can be no "standards" for miles of trails within a community. There can be guidelines and objectives for the creation of various types of trails, walkways, bikeways, and other linkages.

The American Hiking Society recommends a trail within one mile of any location within a community. The abandoned Conrail Track Bed is mostly privately owned at this time but there is potential for development of a hiking/biking path along this right-of-way. If it was developed, it could be used to tie in the American Legion grounds with the Village.

Within the community, pedestrian and bicycle linkages among neighborhoods and between neighborhoods and destinations such as schools, parks, and commercial centers should be considered wherever possible. When roads are improved, consideration should be given to widening and striping for delineated bike routes or, more desirable but less easily accomplished, providing parallel bike paths.

A long range master plan for hiking, biking, and other trails in East Bloomfield should be prepared. Included should be connections to adjacent towns and regional trailways, linkages within the community, and recreational trails of varying degrees of difficulty.

Equestrian Trails

There is interest in equestrian activities in East Bloomfield. There is interest in linking stables and private lands of the Town, and, possibly, Boughton Park.

Large portions of these areas of the Town remain lightly developed. It is recommended that the equestrian community become organized, to plan and acquire easements, permits, or title from property owners for a network of horse trails.

Pavilions

Most towns find value in an enclosed pavilion, cabin, or park center which contains meeting space, small kitchen, and restrooms. Such a facility within a park can serve many recreational programs and take advantage of adjacent park facilities. It can be rented for fees to groups and families for special events.

Children's Play Areas

Children's play areas are both important destinations and supplementary attractions to other facilities at parks. There is no standard for quantifying the need for children's play areas. However, play areas should be provided at each active park.

Children's play areas must meet current Consumer Product Safety Commission, Americans with Disabilities Act, and other standards for safety and accessibility, of equipment design and maintenance, and for ground surfacing. They should also provide quality creative and interactive play experiences.

Procedures for on-going monitoring and maintaining play equipment and surfacing should be established and complied with.

Other Outdoor Facilities

Most other outdoor facilities commonly provided by a community can be readily accommodated within a park system as physical features, conditions, and demands justify. The Community will be expected to provide a greater array of outdoor facilities on Town park lands to complement existing school and other outdoor facilities which will, also, require the community to increase its role in controlling, scheduling, and assisting user groups.

Demand for Indoor Facilities for Recreation

Nearly all indoor facilities for public use are provided by the Bloomfield School District. Demand for many types of spaces now exceeds availability. Future growth in population and participation will increase the shortage of facilities to meet demands.

Expansion of school facilities in the near future is not likely. Significant development of facilities by others is also not likely. The East Bloomfield community will be expected to play a larger role in the provision of indoor recreational facilities and programs.

There is also considerable interest in building a community center, probably at the American Legion fields, which would contain many or all of the indoor facilities for which needs have been identified.

Gymnasiums

All gymnasiums within the community are in schools. Both the School District and user groups indicate the gyms are used to capacity and many users cannot be accommodated. There are currently demands for gymnasium times for recreation which are not served by school gyms. The unmet demands will increase with both population growth and, as observed elsewhere, growth in participation in activities served by gymnasiums.

Indoor Swimming Pools

Indoor swimming pools serve a variety of activities for all ages. They are used for instructional, competitive, therapeutic, and certain recreational activities. The east Bloomfield community does not possess an indoor swimming pool at this time. It was identified as the number one choice in the 2004 questionnaire for needed recreation. Indoor pools and aquatic centers have high operating and maintenance costs. A feasibility study to estimate annual costs and probable revenues should be undertaken to determine whether the Town is able or willing to support the cost of constructing and operating a pool or an indoor aquatic center. Any plans should include the School District.

Indoor Skating Rink

Indoor ice skating rinks are expensive to build, maintain, and operate. It is unlikely that a public or commercial rink is feasible. It is believed, when sufficient demand exists, the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center could expand to a second rink.

Fitness / Wellness Centers

A fitness/wellness center can be an attractive feature of a facility such as a community center. The School District does provide limited access to a fitness center. The Town must decide its role in providing a fitness/wellness center within the "market" of commercial and other, such as YMCA, centers. Approaches could include providing "entry level" services not directly competing with others, yet for fees which are "market" level to not compete and to cover all costs, partnering with an entity such as YMCA to provide a facility, or to enabling private enterprise to provide facilities.

Senior Citizens Center

East Bloomfield has had a senior citizens' program for many years, which meets at the American Legion facility. A venue which is available for seniors whenever desired could be an important feature of a community center which could also be available for other activities when not being used for seniors' activities. Senior citizens should participate in the planning of a facility and identify with it. Typically, a lounge, kitchen, dining room, and activity room are found in senior citizens centers.

Teen Center

Teen centers can take a variety of forms and serve a wide range of teen needs and activities. They often serve the segment of the teen population which does not participate in athletic and other broad interest activities. Many communities offer teen centers and programs with widely varying successes. The School District offers some programs for such teens. Also, a not-for-profit Christian-based group known as Renewalk Ministries provides a meeting place and sponsors the "Never Alone Club" for young adults. The East Bloomfield community should determine whether and to what extent it should provide a dedicated teen center or whether existing or expanded School District programming can serve the range of needs, including those not otherwise served.

Day Care/Pre-School Center

Day care centers are operated by both commercial and non-profit organizations and are, typically, beyond the range of services provided by communities such as East Bloomfield. The Bloomfield Cooperative Nursery School provides a pre-school, but not a day care center, at the East Bloomfield United Methodist Church to serve children ages three through five. The Bloomfield School District operates a before and after school program for school-age children.

It is not likely that the East Bloomfield community is prepared to operate a day care center at this time.

Meeting / Multipurpose Rooms

The main room at the Town Hall, a small meeting room at the Village Office, and a small room at the library are available. Often the local churches will also make their meeting halls available to civic groups.

Multipurpose rooms are desirable spaces to include in a community center. The projected growth of Town sponsored recreational and other programs requiring such spaces as well as needs of other community organizations will prompt the inclusion of multipurpose or specialty spaces as part of a community center.

Parks and Recreation Department Offices

In the event the Town develops a community center, a Parks and Recreation Department office should be located in that facility. The Town should also consider hiring at least a half-time director.

Parks and Recreation Department Operations Center

The parks maintenance responsibilities will continue to grow as park land is acquired and developed by the community. Space should be planned to provide indoor equipment and materials storage, maintenance shop, office, and support spaces which are expected to serve needs for the foreseeable future. This could be planned in cooperation with the highway department.

Other Recreational Opportunities

Many recreational activities cannot or need not be quantified in a master plan. Besides the highly developed facilities which can be quantified for organized activities, there is a need for informal spaces for non-organized sports; informal activities, such as picnicking, walking, kite flying, Frisbee, birding, and many other "non-scheduled" activities; as well as spaces set aside for "quiet", scenic, and environmental enjoyment.

Demands for Recreational Lands

Parks and other public recreational lands are valuable assets to the quality of life in a community. It is also argued that a quality and adequate park system and preservation of important open spaces enhance real estate values and attract residents and businesses to the community.

The quantity and, to a large extent, the types of park land within a community will vary depending on availability, character of land, population density and distribution, and other factors. No single standard applies.

As a rapidly growing town with an abundance of open space remaining, the Town should continue to acquire land suitable for recreation to serve future needs while it is reasonably available. Or offer incentives to developers to include recreational areas in new developments.

Much of the community's park land is and will remain undeveloped or with very limited development in the near future. The cost and burden of maintaining those lands will be minimal and will remain within the Town's capabilities until the need for development occurs.

Park land for Active Recreation

The minimum quantity and nature of park land to accommodate specific active recreational facilities can be determined. Acquisition of land for active facilities should be suitable for development and should be located for convenient access.

Special Use Recreational Lands

Lands offering unique features or opportunities for activities not otherwise available should be acquired regardless of acreage as opportunities occur. Examples include nature centers, bikeways, scenic vistas, fishing access, and a community center site.

4 Strategy

ROLES of COMMUNITY AND OTHERS

General

Many providers of recreational opportunities serve East Bloomfield residents. Most developed facilities are on Bloomfield Central School District property. Many adult programs that could be considered "recreational" have been and will continue to be offered by the School District through its Community Education program. The East Bloomfield community provides three parks which are used by community residents and for community programs such as its summer concert series. The majority of participants in organized recreational activities belong to organized sports leagues which are nearly always run by volunteers. Commercial and private venues serve demands for ice skating, golf, equestrian activities, and others.

The Community has recently acquired land holdings to be used for park land and the Town and Village will enter into an intermunicipal agreement that would allow the Community to develop; maintain, and operate a proposed community center at the American Legion facility if such a facility is determined to be feasible at that site.

Facilities

The School District will continue to provide most of the developed outdoor and indoor facilities used for recreation for the near future. The District reserves exclusive use of certain varsity fields. Priorities and methods of scheduling usage are through the District athletic department.

State and county parks, not-for-profit organizations, and commercial and private operators typically offer facilities and resources which complement, rather than duplicate, facilities which are offered locally. Many of these facilities serve markets which are much larger in population or geographic area than a community such as East Bloomfield. The Greater Canandaigua Civic Center Ice Arena, Victor parks, Ontario County Park, Sandy Bottom Beach in Honeoye and golf courses outside of the Community, are examples of resources available to and used by East Bloomfield residents.

Limited community park development to date has not created scheduling issues in community parks. As new fields and other facilities become operational at community parks, the Community must define its park use policies regarding long term capital investments, scheduling of facilities, recreational programming, and potential revenue generation.

Policies for acceptance of park land within residential subdivisions are necessary to ensure that lands received by the Community serve identified recreational needs will be available to all Community residents, and can be appropriately operated and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department.

At a minimum, acceptance of such land should require that it meet criteria for park land and identified needs as defined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and its subsequent updates; the preliminary subdivision plats and the proposed land parcel be reviewed by the Planning Board; means for development, operation, and maintenance are available or will be committed

Trails are a valuable community resource and are receiving an increased focus. Volunteer organizations should be encouraged to develop and maintain a system of trails that is intended to eventually link most neighborhoods with parks and other destinations. Most new large housing developments should have trail easements.

The Community should collaborate with Genesee Transportation Council in preparing a long term master plan for a system of trails of various categories within the Community and connecting to trails in neighboring communities. The master plan should identify:

- * Specific trail route where it can be identified (such as abandoned rail line)
- * Conceptual trail route where alternatives and future availability will determine actual route
- * Connectivity to larger intermunicipal trail systems
- * Class and specified uses of each trail or segment thereof
- * Construction and maintenance standards by class of trail
- * Provisions for ensuring permanent maintenance
- * Potential sources and means of financing acquisition by purchase, easement, permit, or other rights

Acceptance of trail lands or rights should be in accord with the long term trails master plan (to be developed) to ensure the criteria can be met, public concerns are met, and on-going maintenance can be assured. A variety of trails should be encouraged.

Programs

Independent, primarily sports organizations, offer a significant majority of recreational programming in East Bloomfield. Most of these programs include both East Bloomfield and non-East Bloomfield residents, most notably residents of West Bloomfield and Bristol. The relationship between East Bloomfield and West Bloomfield and Bristol residents is long standing and is not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

As in many other communities, school district boundaries are much stronger than municipal boundaries in determining associations, particularly when school children form relationships at school. The School District, as the provider and maintainer of most indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, schedules the community use of its facilities in conjunction with school activities. Most of the community sports organizations use School District facilities, use of which has reached saturation in many cases.

The Community of East Bloomfield has not historically had the facilities, program capabilities, or administrative resources to offer a broad range of recreational programs or to serve as a "clearing house" for recruiting and scheduling sports leagues or similar organizations.

As the Community develops its parks and indoor facilities, it should identify constituencies which are not now or likely to be served by the School District, existing organizations, or private enterprise. Certain preschool, recreational youth sports, adult sports, and senior citizens' programs may be accommodated in proposed facilities and offered where sufficient demand justifies. Community programs would then have priority for use of Community facilities and it could schedule use by other organizations at resulting available times.

Most of the youth sports programs are presently self-sufficient and rely primarily on the American Legion for facilities. Many of these programs anticipate continuing growth in participants, current or soon to occur shortages of needed facilities, and lack of ability to create their own facilities.

In the event a youth sport organization becomes unable or unwilling to continue its mission or a demand becomes apparent for a new sports program within the Community, the Town should determine the demand for and feasibility of such a program within the Community or a larger market where appropriate, the opportunities for volunteer organization, and whether the Town should offer a program.

The Community privately sponsors a senior citizens' program using the American legion facilities. When a suitable opportunity occurs, this program could become the responsibility of the Town. Upon assuming responsibility for senior citizens' programs, the Town should evaluate the extent and nature of potential participants through interaction and coordination with senior citizen organizations and living areas.

TOWN LANDS AND FACILITIES

Recommendations for Land Acquisition

The Community should continue to acquire title to or otherwise control of lands that will serve future recreational needs.

Parks for Active Recreation

Parks for active recreation, such as athletic fields, courts, and similar facilities, should be placed within one mile of homes where feasible and no more than two miles where necessary. Parks for active recreation should contain no less than twenty and, preferably, no less than thirty acres to allow development of a sufficient concentration of active recreational facilities with parking and other support facilities and effective buffering, screening, and/or preservation of scenic character, depending on the site.

Parks for active recreation should:

- * Provide fields for organized recreation to meet needs beyond those now served.
- * Provide fields and spaces available at all times for informal and non-scheduled activities
- * Provide adequate on-site parking to avoid overflow parking on roads.
- * Contain support facilities appropriate to the uses and contain at least restrooms, drinking fountain, provision for watering and maintaining fields, telephone, and appropriate landscaping.
- * Provide visual and noise screening and buffering to neighboring properties.
- * Not be lighted for night use to protect neighbors' ability to enjoy evenings.
- * Be constructed of the highest practical quality to reduce on-going maintenance costs, enhance vandal resistance, and to project a sense of pride and quality of the community.

Northwest Quadrant

Boughton Park Preserve is well located and suitable to serve the northwest quadrant of the Community. The park offers sufficient appropriate acreage to serve active recreation, passive recreation, and special experiences.

Southwest Quadrant

There are no recreational facilities available in this area at this time. The community should consider the purchase of twenty to thirty acres at some time in the future to meet the future demands of this area.

Southeast Quadrant

The southeast quadrant of the Community is served by the American Legion fields and facility. This 18 acre parcel is used for active recreation and hopefully will contain a community center in the future.

Northeast Quadrant

There are no recreational facilities present in the northeast quadrant of the Community at this time. This area is projected to grow considerably in the next ten years. At least a twenty acre, preferably thirty acre, undeveloped park site should be acquired in the northeast quadrant of the Community to serve the future needs of this area.

In the future, acceptance of small parcels within residential subdivisions for community parks should be discouraged for the following reasons:

- * Inefficiency and difficulty of maintenance
- * Likely conflicts with neighbors, particularly if scheduled games create street parking, noise, and litter.

- * Potential possessiveness of the neighborhood.
- * High likelihood of misuse and vandalism.
- * Lack of control of the property when the park should be closed.
- * Acceptance of such parcels in lieu of fees dilutes the effectiveness of the Recreation Reserve Fund to meet goals and objectives.

Central (Village)

There are two small parks and an outdoor ice skating rink located within the Village, as well as all of the School District facilities. When looking at the center of the community, which has the highest concentration of population, coordination with the School District is important to determine what, if any, additional facilities are need in the Village. Passive recreation should be addressed.

Parks for Special Experience

Parks for special experiences may be "stand alone" parcels containing unique visual, environmental, cultural, or historical interest or they may be discrete sections of larger parks with active recreation.

Parks for special experiences typically occur as opportunities provide. They may become available through outright purchase, various forms of less than fee simple ownership, or they may be donated to the Community or another entity.

While many parcels may be identified as significant landmarks or open spaces, parks should have accommodations for public access, parking, and for appropriate recreational pursuits.

The American Legion fields have sufficient developable land to accommodate a community center of a size likely to be built by the Community with related parking and support facilities. This facility could be considered a park for special experiences.

The scenic vista preservation areas identified in the Rtes 5&20 Corridor Study would make good choices for special experiences. There were eight view sheds identified. Four are located west of the Village with two near the intersection of Cannan Rd and two near the intersection of Rte 64, looking north and northwest. Four view sheds were identified east of the Village with one on Ashman Rd looking south, one on Rtes 5&20 near Flat Iron Rd looking south and two near the eastern Town line, just east of Wheeler Station Rd. looking southwest and northwest. Just south of the Village, along Rte 444 is one of the most notable view sheds along the corridor located at mile marker 444 4401 1007. Travelers can see for many miles in the south, southeast, and southwest directions. Additionally there is a great view from this vantage point, to the northwest, of a large portion of the Village. If land becomes available, this location would make a good pull-off/observation area.

Trails

Trails are of interest to the residents of our community. Based upon the survey results, demand for trails is increasing in East Bloomfield as it is in most communities.

Opportunities exist for development of a trails network in East Bloomfield to link many neighborhoods with other neighborhoods, parks, and other attractions. Additional trails may be destinations which offer things to do or see. Trails should follow the abandoned Conrail track bed that traverses the Village. Intermunicipal coordination, planning, and financing are necessary to link important regional and multi-community trails and they are important to enhance qualifying for grants- in-aid.

No specific recommendations are provided for pedestrian or bicycle improvements within the Community of East Bloomfield. The accommodations for both are the shoulder of the roadway. The Corridor communities are encouraged to pursue bicycle-route designations to further encourage multi-modal users within the corridor. If the commercial node at the Route 444/ Routes 5 & 20 intersection continues to develop, pedestrian connections and pathways should be provided between adjacent properties to encourage patrons to walk between them.

In addition to hiking trails, opportunities should be explored for additional potential trail uses such as pleasure biking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and, perhaps, snowmobiling. These uses are not generally compatible with walking, hiking, and jogging but can often be combined where they can be designed properly.

A plan which defines, at least conceptually, desired locations, types, and properties of trails should be undertaken by the Community in collaboration with Genesee Transportation Council. It should address implementation strategies, land acquisitions, and techniques for obtaining trail way rights through purchase, permits, easements, and other means. The role of the Community in providing and maintaining trails should be clearly defined and strategies developed to design and construct trails for efficient long term maintenance. Trails on community property should be maintained by the municipalities. Trails on private properties should have permanent trail easements.

Recommendations for Outdoor Facilities

The recommendations for land acquisition propose that community facilities for organized "active" recreation, such as fields and courts, be located primarily within the American Legion facility

Multipurpose Rectangular Athletic Fields

For planning purposes, fields for football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, rugby, and some other activities are quite similar and can be interchangeable, particularly by seasons of use. Often, two games of "junior" versions of the sports can be played on one full sized field.

The temptation to over-schedule fields should be resisted. Sports played on rectangular fields, in particular, generate considerable wear and damage which leads to poor quality of play and, more important, injuries. Sufficient fields should be provided to allow rotating fields out of service for maintenance and repair.

Lacrosse is considered a spring sport. Soccer is considered an autumn sport. In reality, lacrosse is played at least spring and summer. Soccer is offered as a year round program. The greatest demands occur during the spring when both sports compete for fields.

It is desirable to have a venue with several rectangular fields at one location for convenience of players, families, and officials; for enhanced visibility of the venue; for efficiency of administration, operations, and maintenance; for support of concessions; and, particularly, for the ability to accommodate tournaments which require multiple fields. The Bloomfield Central Schools campus offers such a potential and is easily accessed for tournaments. The American Legion fields could accommodate some fields with the remainder of fields which will be needed in the future distributed throughout the other proposed park areas for active recreation.

Baseball and Softball Fields

Youth baseball requires three sizes of fields. They are fields with 90 foot, 75 foot, and 60 foot baselines and roughly proportionally sized outfields. Softball also uses 60 foot baselines, although adult softball elsewhere often uses 65 or 70 foot baselines. While softball and youth baseball use the same size fields, construction of the fields differs.

Baseball and softball fields are typically used for shorter seasons and experience less wear and damage than rectangular fields. A good maintenance program can allow fields to remain playable without the rotation recommended for the rectangular fields.

Bloomfield/Farmington Little League Baseball uses existing fields at the American Legion facility. The fields serve its needs only through its policy of shortening games and practice sessions to accommodate its program. The fields are currently in very poor condition. Assuming approximately twenty-five percent growth in the next ten years, improvements to existing fields and additional fields would be needed by 2015 to maintain an adequate level of service.

Outdoor Tennis Courts

There does not appear to be a need at this time for additional outdoor tennis courts. Existing outdoor courts at the school campus should serve the needs of players who do not play on private, club, or commercial courts. However, for convenience of players, it is suggested that courts be considered for each of the two remaining proposed parks for active recreation. Two courts use roughly one fourth of an acre of land and are roughly the size of two full size outdoor basketball courts. Occasional attempts elsewhere to combine tennis and basketball courts are usually unsuccessful due to conflicts for use of the courts and incompatibility of the nature of the two activities.

Outdoor Aquatics Centers

Consideration of an outdoor aquatics center is not feasible for this community within the next ten years.

Outdoor Ice Skating Rinks

An outdoor ice skating rink is currently provided by the Village department of Public Works. No expansion to this service is planned at this time due to the considerable labor to create and maintain suitable ice for very few days of skating. Efforts to create ice on parking lots, tennis courts, and similar "retrofits" should not be attempted.

Roller Sports

A dedicated permanent skateboard park should be considered at a central location in the community, within or near the Village, when there is sufficient interest to justify the cost.

Recommendations for Indoor Facilities

Community Center

A community center containing a variety of indoor facilities should be proposed. The choices of facilities to be included within a community center or elsewhere must be based on analyses and evaluations of needs and capabilities.

A community center would be an attractive and appropriate asset. From experience in other communities, there appears to be sufficient demand for some or all of proposed facilities such as:

- * Gymnasium with running track
- * Lockers and showers
- * Senior citizens' activity room
- * Game, meeting, and crafts rooms
- * Kitchen

* Department of Parks and Recreation offices

A community center is a significant capital investment and an on-going operational commitment. A feasibility study should be undertaken to identify the "market" for the specific facilities that have been proposed and, perhaps, for additional or alternative facilities to determine adequacy of demand, size or capacity (as appropriate) of each facility, potential revenue generation, maintenance and operating expense projections, capital costs, means of financing development and operation) and extent of community support.

OPPORTUNITIES AND METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Financing

The recommended acquisition and development of recreational lands and facilities should achieve a balance of municipal recreational opportunities to serve the Community's growing needs within the projected future.

Acquisition of park land for future needs should be a priority while large parcels of suitable land are available and before land costs increase.

Development of recreational lands according to carefully prepared master development plans for each property will ensure cost effective development and enhance eligibility for financial assistance.

The Community recognizes that recreational lands and open space must be fiscally prudent. Therefore, private resources and-private-public partnerships should be used where appropriate opportunities exist to provide maximum benefit at the least public cost.

Sources of Financial Assistance

Many vehicles and combinations of vehicles are available for financing the acquisition and

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development of public parks and recreational facilities. Local funds, human resources, and equipment can be applied against various sources of state, federal, and other financial assistance to achieve maximum value for the local expenditure. The use of lands for public purposes short of outright purchase, particularly for trails and similar uses, should be considered where appropriate. Non-profit organizations may be helpful partners in obtaining land or funds that might not otherwise be feasible.

The availability of certain forms of state and federal assistance can vary widely from year to year. The following are a few of the more widely available sources of assistance currently available that could be applicable to East Bloomfield.

Grants are available from New York State for acquisition and/or development of municipal parks and for historic preservation projects. Municipal or non-profit agencies may apply. Grants are for a maximum of fifty percent reimbursement of eligible costs.

Competition for the relatively limited funds is very high and a minority of applicants is usually funded, sometimes at less than the requested amounts.

It is necessary to document a clear planning process which identifies needs, demonstrates appropriate development, and includes community support. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is an important component of that documentation.

This program is administered through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Environmental Protection Act of 1993 - Title 3

Acquisition of open space conservation projects is provided for in Title 3 of this act. Conservation of open spaces which have been prioritized in the New York State Open Space Plan may be by either the Department of Environmental Conservation or the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Acquisition may be by either of the two state agencies. There may be opportunities for local and state participation such as state purchase and lease back to a community of lands-for recreational use. However, presently Ganondagan and Sonnenburg Gardens are the only sites in Ontario County identified in the Open Space Plan. The program is primarily administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation with cooperation from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

New York State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996

This act authorized New York State to issue \$1.75 billion in bonds for "long term improvements to the state's environmental infrastructure and natural resources above

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and beyond those paid for by the Environmental Protection Fund or other sources of state funding". Municipal park projects, historic preservation, and heritage area projects are eligible. Parks grants are administered through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. While the criteria of this program and of the Environmental Protection Act vary slightly, this program favors waterfront or water based recreation which is not favorable to East Bloomfield except, perhaps, along Mud Creek.

National Recreational Trails Fund

This program is part of the Federal TEA-21 Transportation Efficiency Act and it funds the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of trails on state, county, municipal, or private lands. It includes the "Rails to Trails" grants program.

Implementation is through the U.S. Department of Transportation in consultation with the Department of Interior. Administration of the fund in New York State is by its Department of Transportation Trails of regional significance are favored.

Partners for Wildlife

This program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers grants and technical assistance for improving and protecting fish and wildlife habitats. Wetlands are a major emphasis. However, the program is adaptable to a variety of habitat types and could include improvements such as trails, boardwalks, overlooks, and habitat enhancements. Eligibility is open to virtually anyone - municipalities, private citizens, corporations, and others. The program is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The local coordinator is the Fish and Wildlife Service at Cortland, New York.

Snowmobile Trail Development/Maintenance Program

This is a funding program available to counties for the development and/or maintenance of snowmobile trails which are compatible with established statewide trails plans. It is administered by the New York State Parks Bureau of Marine and Recreational Vehicles.

The Trust for Public Land

The Trust for Public Land is a non-profit organization which has received funding from the Ford Foundation to establish a Property Acquisition Revolving Fund to purchase real estate on behalf of communities or non-profit organizations. The Fund acts as a land bank until the sponsor is able to buy the property. The property must fulfill an important community development objective and may include environmental, recreational, and historic properties. In New York, the fund is administered through the Regional Office, The Trust for Public Land, New York City.

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Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is also a non-profit organization which acquires land which fits its objectives. The Nature Conservancy also will serve as a land bank, acquiring and holding property until one or more sponsors, usually state or local government, can buy the property from the Conservancy. The Conservancy will frequently prepare management plans for properties it may hold for an extended time. The Conservancy manages land programs both at the national (international) and local chapter level. Land acquisition and management efforts in East Bloomfield would be with the Central\Western New York Chapter which is located in Rochester.

Legislative Appropriations

State appropriations for projects of local interest, such as acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities, are initiated through state legislative representatives and are acted on by the state legislature. This has been an important ongoing source of funding which may be lessened in the immediate future to accommodate other state funding priorities.

Local Resources

Real Estate Taxes

Local tax revenues are a source for funding maintenance and operations and they may be used for land acquisition and development, including serving as a matching share of funds for State, federal, and other grants in aid.

Sales Taxes

Sales taxes are an important source of income in East Bloomfield. Revenues are available for virtually any appropriate use.

Fees and Charges

Revenues from fees for participating in programs and charges for the use of facilities should be important segments of the budget for parks and recreation. The extent to which programs and facilities are financed through fees and charges is a philosophical decision to be made by each community.

A common philosophy is that parks and most facilities are community assets ~which contribute to the overall quality of life and maintenance of the desirability and value of a community with the costs supported through taxes and other broad based methods.

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It is commonly believed that programs, the cost of developing certain specialized facilities, and the cost of maintaining facilities for specific users should be paid for by those benefiting there from.

In East Bloomfield, some programs and users of facilities are non-Community residents. Fees and charges which reflect the total costs of programs and facility operations would be reasonable in East Bloomfield.

Parks and Recreation Reserve Fund

It is recommended that the community of East Bloomfield maintains a Parks and Recreation

Reserve Fund enabled by Section 277 of the New York State Community Law which provides that a community may, "prior to approval by the planning board of plats, require developers to reserve land suitable for parks, playgrounds, or other recreational purposes or, in lieu thereof, to pay money to the Community to be held in a trust fund for the purchase of land for recreational or park purposes, construction of recreational facilities, or maintenance of existing recreational facilities. "

The recommendations of this Master Plan should be used as documentation of the appropriateness of accepting specific parcels of land. Unless a proposed parcel is specifically desired by the Community for a stated recreational purpose, the Community should accept payment of fees for the reserve fund to acquire and develop park land as proposed in the Master Plan.

The Community currently assesses a fee of \$100.00 per lot for minor subdivisions and \$500 plus \$60/lot for major subdivisions. It is recommended the fee be reviewed annually. The fee should be periodically adjusted to reflect future costs of park land acquisition, development, and maintenance.

Techniques for Implementation

Leases, Easements, and Permits

Leases, easements, and permits may enable the use of land or facilities for long or short terms. Advantages may include avoidance of immediate large capital outlay, possible less overall cost, avoidance of restrictions of debt financing, preservation of debt capacity, control of the period of the lease when permanency is not intended or obsolescence is anticipated, and use or control of land or facilities which are not for sale or otherwise available. These are particularly effective means of acquiring rights-of-way for trails.

Bonding

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Bonds generate immediate financing and are appropriate for capital projects. General obligation bonds are backed by the general credit and taxing power of the municipality. Bonding may be subject to permissive referendum if so petitioned. Other forms of bonds, such as revenue bonds, are occasionally applicable. The popularity of bonds varies with market fluctuations, interest rates, tax rates, and other influences.

Bond Anticipation Notes

Bond anticipation notes are a form of short term financing intended to be issued in anticipation of a long term bond issue or as interim financing prior to

grant in aid permanent financing.

Donations

Service clubs, "Friends" groups, special interest groups, developers, corporations and individuals are sources of money, land, materials, and volunteer services for developing and maintaining facilities as well as for programs when appropriate liability, use, and suitability issues can be resolved.

Large donations may be in the form of sponsorships, naming rights, and other privileges. The Community should identify present and future opportunities for such participation and should pursue same where it is in the interest of the Community to do so.

Private Enterprise

Many types of recreational facilities are operated for profit by businesses. Golf courses, fitness and wellness centers, indoor sports arenas, ice skating arenas, gymnastics centers, and many other types of recreational venues are potentially viable ventures which serve segments of the local demands.

Where markets exist, a community may forego development of certain facilities and defer to the private sector to serve the needs.

5. Program

General

Planning for providing recreational lands, facilities, and services requires a definition of the role of parks and recreation within the context of the Community's overall vision, needs, and capabilities. Policies, goals, and objectives for providing parks and

recreational opportunities must be consistent with the Community's overall planning as described in its Comprehensive Plan.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of the East Bloomfield community is:

The Community of East Bloomfield is dedicated to offering residents and visitors a balanced system of parklands, preservation of open spaces, and broad-based leisure opportunities that will foster growth of healthy lifestyles and maintain the character of our community's scenic vistas."

East Bloomfield Town/Village Joint Comprehensive Plan

Following are goals and policies for recreation, open space, and historic resources which were adopted in the 1998 Comprehensive Plan:

Goals:

- * Provide open spaces and diverse recreational activities.
- * Protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Policies:

- * Maintain the quality of open space throughout the community and to develop a coordinated recreation program among the Village, Town and School District.
- * Encourage use of private initiative, public programs and land use controls to attain meaningful open space and recreational opportunities for the community.
- * Consider options other than fee simple purchases for the acquisition of park land.
- * The school district's role in providing recreational lands, facilities and

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programs should be coordinated with governmental efforts to provide active recreational sites and facilities

- * The Village and Town should consider the creation of a joint parks and recreation commission to develop a coordinated parks, recreation and open space master plan for the community
- * Encourage greater utilization of existing facilities for recreation
- * Natural areas such as the floodplain along Mud creek, Sterling Pond, the

Factory Swamp and the reclamation of the existing gravel pit should be evaluated for their potential to contribute to the community's recreation resource system.

- * Develop a map to identify scenic vistas which would be considered for protection
- * Investigate options to retain scenic vistas
- * Encourage cluster development to preserve open space to provide common area recreation and/or passive use
- * Develop a system which emphasizes a variety of forms of transportation such as public transit, bicycling, and walking.

Recreation Master Plan

Long range Goals and Objectives for Parks and Recreation:

The following goals and objectives for parks and recreation build upon the Mission Statement and the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. They reflect the expressed sense of the Municipal Boards, the Recreation Committee, and of community residents.

Goal 1: Promote the creation of a diversity of active and passive recreation facilities within the Community for all age groups.

Objective 1 Acquire and develop a system of Community recreational facilities which includes parks for active recreation, parks for special experiences, and a network or trails.

Objective 2 Recognize the importance of recreational lands and facilities provided by the School District, neighboring communities, and other levels of government, including the County and State.

Objective 3 Encourage private construction and maintenance of recreational facilities available to Community residents.

Objective 4 Partner with private, non-profit, volunteer, and other organizations to provide public access to significant natural, scenic, and historic sites.

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Objective 5 Recognize the importance of space within parks for individual and family informal recreation.

Objective 6 Encourage and support development of a community-wide trails system.

Objective 7 Preserve farmland and other significant open spaces within the Community in addition to park land for environmental and aesthetic values.

Objective 8 Continue to pursue a plan for implementation of a community center which will serve the community's most important needs and which can be constructed, operated, and maintained within the Community's capabilities.

Goal 2: Capitalize on unique scenic, historical, and cultural assets for recreational and education pursuits.

Objective 1 Acquire lands or rights thereto for the purpose of preserving open space and enhancing environmental, aesthetic, and cultural values - in addition to park land.

Objective 2 Encourage new development which will preserve scenic vistas.

Objective 3 Provide access and trails on significant lands where appropriate.

Objective 4 Create buffers along stream corridors which will protect stream channels, enable trails and linkages, and provide water access for fishing and other compatible activities.

Objective 5 Publicize the historic markers, buildings and districts within the Community and the unique scenic, historic, and cultural assets of the Community which are accessible to the public.

Objective 6 Cooperate with neighboring communities and other agencies to expand intermunicipal and regional trail ways, particularly along waterways and historical routes.

Objective 7 Recognize that revitalization of the Village can create an identifiable "center" or "destination" for the Community, enhance recreational pursuits, attract visitors, and contribute to economic activity.

Objective 8 Attract tourism as an economic benefit to the Community through the promotion of recreational opportunities which are unique to East Bloomfield

Objective 9 Preserve viable agricultural land as open space.

Goal 3: Provide high quality recreational lands, facilities, and programs in a fiscally appropriate manner

Objective 1 Recognize that well planned, well designed, high quality facilities are investments which can reduce ongoing long term operating and maintenance costs.

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Objective 2 Prepare master plans for the development of each park property with priorities, potential phasing, and cost estimates to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness of development, to enable long term capital planning, to serve as basis for applications for grants in aid, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they occur.

Objective 3 Provide adequate resources to enable a high quality of maintenance and operation of parks and recreational facilities which will extend useful life, maintain safety and accessibility standards, justify appropriate fees and

charges, and enhance the value of the recreational experience.

Objective 4 Continue to participate in intermunicipal agreements for provision of lands, facilities, and programs where costs may be shared for mutual benefit.

Objective 5 Aggressively pursue state, federal, and other sources of financial assistance for land acquisition and development and for certain programs.

Objective 6 Do not accept park land on behalf of the Community which does not satisfy the goals, objectives, and criteria of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Objective 7 Continue to impose fees in lieu of land on new residential development unless a particularly favorable situation occurs to justify acceptance of land.

Objective 8 Periodically review the amount of fees on new residences and adjust to reflect costs of providing recreational lands and facilities.

Objective 9 Implement a comprehensive system of fees for programs and charges for use of facilities which will generate revenues to offset operating costs, recognizing that some participants are not East Bloomfield residents.

Objective 10 Encourage and support the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails.

Goal 4: Ensure that parks and recreational offerings are responsive to the needs and desires of the community.

Objective 1 Adopt and periodically update this Master Plan, ideally every five years

Objective 2 Inform the public and seek public input periodically and during specific planning processes.

Objective 3 Continue a strong Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with broad based community representation.

Objective 4 Maintain strong working relations with the sports leagues and other organizations which provide recreational services within the community.

Objective 5 Promote the Parks and Recreation Department, the Community's parks and facilities, and its recreational programs.

5-4

Objective 6 Develop the Parks and Recreation site on the Community's community web site to provide information on Community parks, programs and schedules.

Objective 7 Provide lands, facilities, and programs to accommodate persons of differing abilities, including those with disabilities.

ACTION PLAN

General

The Community should acquire, plan, develop, and improve land and facilities which will enable it to meet community recreational needs within ten years and to provide land to accommodate development to serve needs beyond ten years, including reducing dependency on school facilities.

Community Center

The Community should undertake a study to determine the feasibility of and specific facilities to be included in a community center, to estimate capital and operating costs, to project appropriate revenues, and to determine the means of implementation if feasible.

Parks for Active Recreation

Acquire parcels of not less than twenty, preferably thirty, acres in the northeast and southwest portions of the community suitable for development of active recreational facilities.

Parks for Special Experiences

Acquire or accept lands and set aside portions of large community parks which offer unique or significant recreational opportunities or appropriate space for development of a "stand alone" recreational facility. This will occur as specific opportunities arise.

Trails

The Community should secure rights to develop and maintain trail ways for hiking, equestrian and snowmobiling. Trails within municipal properties should be maintained by the municipalities. The abandoned railroad right-of-ways would make an excellent trail way.

The community should also provide incentives for landowners that provide responsible public use of their land. Easements should be encouraged to maximize available funds.

5-5

The Community should also support user based fees for snowmobile trails.

The community should develop a consistent system of trails informational signage and graphics

Heritage Areas

The Community should preserve and promote the historic, natural and cultural resources and activities that tell the story of our community's history. This can be

an important component of our local economy and give us a unique identity for the present as well as for the future. The rehabilitation and reuse of existing historic facilities should be encouraged whenever feasible.

Open Space Preservation

The community should purchase land and/or easements within watershed protection areas to protect water quality and animal and plant habitats and to provide areas suitable for hiking, bird watching, photography and other educational uses.

Planning

Recreational Site Master Plans: Prepare master plans for the "ultimate" development of existing parks:

- * Boughton Park Reserve
- * Elton Park
- * American Legion property

Upon acquisition of park land for active recreation in the northeast and southwest quadrants, prepare master plans for their development.

Development through Ten Years

Community Center (tentative considerations subject to feasibility study)

- Spectator facilities, lockers, and showers
- Fitness / wellness center
- Senior citizens' center
- Meeting, games, and crafts rooms
- Kitchen
- Department of Parks and recreation offices
- Outdoor Active Recreation arks
- Multipurpose Rectangular Fields

5-6

Proposed parks: northeast and southwest quadrants

Support Facilities: At each active recreation park

- Parking - at least 70 cars per athletic field plus parking for each other activity as appropriate
- Restrooms
- Concession stand - wherever two or more fields
- Equipment storage - at least 200 square feet for maintenance and

activities equipment
 Water - at all athletic fields
 Walks, paths, and necessary vehicular circulation accessible to persons with disabilities
 Identification, informational, and regulatory signage in accordance with a Communitywide coordinated graphics system
 Various other support facilities as required for specific facilities and activities within each park
 Children's play areas
 Individual picnic areas with open pavilions
 Enable and implement trails where practical, the objective of at least one trail within one mile of any point within the Community.

TEN YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

General

The following capital improvements are based on the proposed "Action Plan" and are believed to be implemental within the ten year period of this plan.

Estimates of state, federal, or other aid which would reduce Community costs are not included.

Estimated costs are based on current contracted professional and construction costs in the geographic area for appropriate quality of municipal construction. Costs should be adjusted annually to reflect changes in construction costs.

Proposed Actions - 2006 through 2016

American Legion facility:	\$580,000
Community Center	
Feasibility study	\$50,000
Development, including related site development	\$210,000
Site development	
Site development beyond community center	\$100,000
Skateboard park (or at other location)	\$150,000
Children's play area	\$60,000
	5-7
Village Park	\$410,000
Land acquisition – 15 acres @\$10,000/acre	\$150,000
Access and parking	\$100,000
Children's play area	\$60,000
Trails and misc.	\$100,000

Beyond 2016:

Southwest Quadrant	\$873,000
Land acquisition – 30 acres @\$8,000/acre	\$240,000
Survey of active portion	\$8000
Master plan	\$20,000
2 multipurpose fields	\$200,000
Baseball field	\$80,000
Restrooms, storage building	\$150,000
Parking	\$100,000
Trails and misc.	\$75,000
 Northeast Quadrant	 \$873,000
Land acquisition – 30 acres @\$8000/acre	\$240,000
Survey of active portion	\$8000
Master Plan	\$20,000
2 multipurpose fields	\$200,000
Baseball field	\$80,000
Restrooms, storage building	\$150,000
Parking	\$100,000
Trails and misc.	\$75,000

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