

Town of Glenville Park Master Plan 2022

Introduction

One of the most cited reasons why Glenville residents enjoy living here is the quality and variety of its parks and preserves. Glenville parks and preserves offer a bounty of recreational activities, including forested hiking trails, horse trails, fishing, hunting, orienteering, canoeing/kayaking, swimming, baseball, softball, soccer, football, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball, tennis, ice skating, hockey, broomball, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, sledding, playground activities, and more. The settings of these parks vary significantly, providing residents with a pleasant diversity of environments. In Glenville, there are four large parks and preserves that comprise 776 acres, including the Town-owned Sanders Preserve (398 acres) Indian Meadows Park (197 acres) and Maalwyck Park (59 acres), as well as the Schenectady County-owned Indian Kill Nature Preserve (108) acres. If you add in various smaller town park or preserve holdings and open space properties owned by the Town, County and State, including three islands in the Mohawk River, 1,121 acres of land in Glenville and Scotia are publicly owned and dedicated towards park use or open space. The Town of Glenville provides exceptional recreation and park experiences to all members of the greater Glenville community, creating a better quality of life, access to the outdoors and opportunity for play of all varieties for all ages and abilities. A long-standing town priority, park development has given rise to today's park system, including a mix of facilities for group sports and athletics and amenities that support individual or unstructured use for fun, fitness, and leisure.

Parks offer numerous benefits to a community such as improved health, increased economic activity, and added social cohesion through the creation of a shared public space. Health benefits confer to the neighborhood that sits near a park, due to the presence of greenery and opportunities to exercise. In addition, parks offer wide-open spaces for community organization and activity as well as educational opportunities. Economic benefits are more quantifiable than lifestyle benefits. For example, property values of homes near parks can be significantly higher. Parks have been shown to revitalize communities' local economies by attracting home buyers, and developers who will follow suit to construct additional housing in the now desirable area. Businesses seek communities with ample housing stock and quality of life amenities. There are countless environmental benefits brought about by the presence of greenspace provided by a robust park system like in Glenville. Greenspace improves natural ecologies by providing wildlife habitats and facilitating seasonal migration. Parks improve air quality by increasing the amount of greenery. Natural areas create green infrastructure that helps mitigate storm water runoff and reduce flooding by buffering surface water.

The Town of Glenville's Park Master Plan is designed to act as a multi-year roadmap to guide in the development and maintenance of park facilities and services while being mindful of connectivity and access. The Plan protects and enhances green infrastructure and preserves natural resources. This plan provides a comprehensive, long-range strategy for the creation, optimization, and maintenance of our community's municipal parks and recreation amenities and programs. Glenville's overall Park Master Plan delineates the importance of parks in its goals of being livable, diverse, and on the rise. This park plan includes a detailed inventory and general recommendations for each of the Town's parks. Prioritization of each park's objectives improves funding opportunities and ensures that changes and investments integrate into a comprehensive strategy which fits into the bigger picture of serving the current and future recreational needs of the community.

The Glenville Park Plan seeks to determine community needs and the next steps for the Parks Department. The town will develop goals, strategies and determine what direction the community should pursue for park capital improvements, programming, and amenities.

TASK 1: Document existing conditions.

TASK 2: Determine community goals for individual park facilities.

TASK 3: Identify strategies for implementing the goals.

TASK 4: Develop a strategic plan.

Glenville Parks

The Town of Glenville has considerable acreage designated for recreation. According to Glenville's Open Space Plan, there are approximately 1,120 acres of government-owned open space within the town. These properties, belonging to the state, county, town, or village, comprise roughly 3.5% of the town's 31,293 total acres. The Town of Glenville is responsible for the stewardship of 767 acres of park, preserve or natural areas and is dedicated to preserving these spaces' natural beauty for generations to come.

As part of this effort, the Town seeks to judiciously add new property for recreation, particularly parcels contiguous to existing parks, enhancing community connections, or in areas where other recreational opportunities are limited. The Town is interested in grants, donations, and bequeaths that make obtaining desirable park acreage and pathways possible.

National Recreation and Park Association¹ data shows that the typical park and recreation agency offers one park for every 2,277 residents served, with 9.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Glenville's present-day population stands at 29,326 residents and would call for 12 parks comprising a total of 290 acres. While our town-owned parkland is consolidated into fewer parks than that of the average municipality, the Town has plenty of acreage to meet the passive and active recreational needs of its residents.

¹ 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review

<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>

LOCATION	OWNER	ACREAGE
Sanders Preserve	Town of Glenville	398
Indian Meadows Park	Town of Glenville	197
Various State-owned parcels along the Mohawk River/Exit 26 Bridge	State of New York	108
Indian Kill Nature Preserve	Schenectady County	108
Big Island (Isle of the Onondagas)	State of New York	69
Maalwyck Park	Town of Glenville	59
Andersen Park	Town of Glenville	33
Christiana Property	Town of Glenville	48
Lock 9 Canal Park	State of New York	21
Daly's Island	State of New York	21
Little Island (Isle of the Senecas)	Schenectady County	14
Alplaus Kill Natural Area (Cozy Dale)	Town of Glenville	11
Unnamed Island ("Conor Island" on some maps)	State of New York	10
Hemlock Hollow	Town of Glenville	9
Legacy Veterans Park	Town of Glenville	6
Berkley Square	Town of Glenville	3
Indian Kill Park	Town of Glenville	2
Veteran's Memorial Park	Schenectady County	2
Freemans Bridge Boat Launch	State of New York	0.5
Green Corners School	Town of Glenville	0.1
Total Acreage		1,119.6
Total Acreage in Town		31,293
Town-owned Park Space		767
Percent of Park Space		3.5%
Percent of Town-owned Park Space		2.5%

Existing Facilities and Programs

The Town of Glenville, including the Village of Scotia, at over 31,000 acres, has approximately 30,000 residents living within a 50-square mile region. One third of the town is considered suburban, while the remainder is rural. Within the suburban areas, Glenville residents enjoy access to parkland through state, county, town and village ownership, school district grounds, private or nonprofit ownership, and neighborhood park districts. This plan will address each park/facility.

The Town of Glenville has acknowledged a “shared use space” arrangement between the Town Parks Department and community-based sports leagues and programs to make available town open space for the shared development and use for designated athletic facilities. These facilities have been developed and are predominantly supported through community involvement but do not retain exclusive use by the sponsoring league, they are Town assets.

Indian Meadows

Located at 155 Droms Road, Indian Meadows is a traditional town park in a non-traditional setting, with features of a protected wetland and meadows enhancing active recreational resources. Indian Meadows Park was utilized as farmland until 1963 when the Town of Glenville acquired it. The Town has always intended to operate and maintain this park into the future. The initial 175 acres of park land was acquired through a New York State grant which funded 75% of the purchase price with the Town contributing \$10,812.50. Additional parcels were added in 1989, 2003 and 2014 at a combined cost of \$5,401. The wetland contained within Indian Meadows Park is renowned for its natural beauty. It offers a diverse wildlife habitat for waterfowl and mammals including the beaver, muskrat, kingfisher, a variety of ducks, and a wide array of fish, amphibians, and invertebrates. The park location amongst a widely developed suburban community has the potential to serve as a valuable oasis of exploration and learning.

The most visited park, Indian Meadows, is made up of 197 acres featuring multiple, diverse amenities designed to engage visitors for an entire day. The park is home to several tennis, pickle ball, and basketball courts; pavilions; outdoor fitness equipment; a large playground; and a little free library and story trail. There are several miles of trails located throughout the park allowing for running and walking. The playing fields provide ample space for youth sports leagues like baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, and football. The current facilities also include one public building containing restrooms. Indian Meadows Park provides recreational facilities for a variety of year-round activities and contains undeveloped natural areas.

Winter boasts miles of groomed cross-country skiing and snowshoe trails. The park also offers the community a small sledding hill and a warming hut adjacent to the two ice rinks maintained for recreational skating and hockey. Summertime brings community events such as the concert/movie series of "Thursdays in the Park" hosted by the Town for residents to enjoy free of charge.

The Scotia-Glenville Lions Club created a tree farm to continuously provide a stock of hardy trees for the Glenville park system for years to come, and the Burnt Hills Master Gardeners created a pollinator garden to sustain the ecosystem within the park. Large tracts of open space within the park are managed for wildlife preservation and bird habitat. For the naturalist, there are hiking trails, a freshwater wetland, and a variety of birds, mammals, and foliage for nature study. Open meadows have been set aside as bird sanctuaries and to provide habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

Many of the recreational facilities within Indian Meadows are maintained by individual sports league members, community volunteers and local Rotary Clubs. Indian Meadows is linked to nearby Andersen Park via the Glenville Greenway Trail which was established through the construction of a boardwalk built by local Rotary clubs. Indian Meadows has been a particular focus for the local Rotary clubs as they have helped maintain trails, erected dugouts for the softball field, and have built trail bridges and a free small library on site. In addition, the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and several community volunteers assist hardworking park staff with keeping the park looking pristine.

The perimeter trail and secondary paths serve to complement the existing park amenities. The main trail, which links to the Greater Greenway Trail extends all the way to Andersen Park, is groomed throughout the winter season to allow for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking along a 4-mile loop. Public education, birding, and hiking are readily available for both the young and old in the community.

Fig.1: Indian Meadows Park



Indian Meadows Park

Short Term Goals:

- Pave existing roadways and parking areas with topcoat
- Develop a disc golf course
- Construct paved bisecting road
- Upgrade perimeter trails
- Add benches to trailways – memorial bench program
- Bring utilities to playing fields – softball, football, lacrosse
- Renovate warming hut
- Identify and manage invasive species
- Improve drainage of playing fields

Long Term Goals:

- Construct second entrance from Droms Road
- Add parking areas to lacrosse and football areas
- Build ADA-compliant path and wildlife viewing area
- Enhance winter sledding hill
- Replace the tennis court fencing
- Improve the trail marking system and signage
- Erect pavilion with restrooms in the vicinity of softball, lacrosse, and football fields
- Build shared concession stand in same vicinity of softball, lacrosse, and football fields

Maalwyck Park

Maalwyck Park is the town's riverfront park providing public access to the Mohawk River as well as numerous facilities for both active and passive recreational activities. Located at 300 Maalwyck Park Road, this 59-acre park features multiple sport playing fields off Amsterdam Road (Route 5) and features 1,700+ feet of riverfront on the Mohawk River. This park enables the community to take advantage of a variety of activities in a setting that tells the story of this area's Native American, Dutch, and American histories.

The original 41.5-acre parcel was purchased by the Town in 1992 for \$121,216 with the intention of developing much needed playing fields for the town's youth. In 1999, 16 additional acres were purchased for the park, creating a one-and-a-half-mile greenbelt along the river. The later acquisition of 2 additional acres permitted a second Route 5 access point and allowed for the construction of the western entrance and a roadway which traverses the width of the park parallel to the river. These later parcel acquisitions represent an additional \$91,500 investment by the Town. The site is approximately one mile from NYS Thruway Exit 26, and a major employment center, Glenville Business and Technology Park, directly across the road from the park.

Serving as the home field to the community-based soccer organization FiftyFC, Maalwyck features over 16 acres of soccer fields along with newly developed football and lacrosse fields. The park serves as the location for several soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, and lacrosse tournaments. The Electric Aeroplane Modelers club and local drone club utilize space within the park for both meetings and competitions. Several entities continue to rent playing field space to host activities throughout the season. In 2020, a central pavilion with a concession stand and restrooms was constructed. An inclusive playground was installed in 2021, followed by a regulation horseshoe pit.

Maalwyck is also home to the Town of Glenville Oktoberfest which has grown into a premier regional event featuring German food, music and beer and attracting approximately 10,000 people annually. In addition, the park is adjacent to the Erie Canal Lock 8 access point for fishing and kayaking. The fishing site also provides visitors with a pretty view overlooking the lock, which seasonally alters the water level of the Mohawk River.

The improvement of the car-top boat launch adjacent to the Lock 8 dam structure is proposed to allow further access to the river and enhance the NYS Canalway Water Trail. The New York State Canalway Water Trail is a great destination for paddlers, featuring over 125 public access points along the 524-mile Canal System.

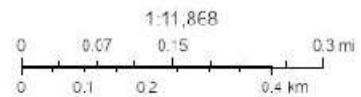
Planned for 2023, a perimeter walking path will provide the public with a beautiful view of the river, the historic Lock 8 dam, and the bike path on the opposing shore. This pathway will tie together the riverfront areas, recreational facilities, and site amenities. Picnic tables and benches will allow for passive, general public use of this traditional public park situated in a unique riverfront setting.

Fig. 2: Maalwyck Park



July 20, 2022

Parcels



Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community
 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

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Short Term Goals:

- Construct a car-top boat launch downstream of the Lock 8 dam structure
- Build a 1.2-mile perimeter walking path
- Add benches via a memorial bench program

Long Term Goals:

- Provide safe pedestrian paths to reach the park from nearby neighborhoods
- Pave interior park roads
- Develop passive playing field areas on the lower plateau
- Plant trees in strategic places for wind buffer and shade



Sanders Preserve

Just a 10-minute drive from town center, the Sanders Preserve is a 398-acre preserve trisected by roads but features significant acreage for residents and visitors to enjoy nature at its finest. The preserve contains varied topography and geologic elements including several ravines, streams and a waterfall supporting many native species of flora and wildlife. The park provides opportunities for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and horseback riding on over 6 miles of trails. One of the numerous Eagle projects here included the construction of a small Adirondack lean-to. Sanders Preserve offers a wide variety of natural hiking and cross-country ski trails. The preserve features a beautiful ravine with small waterfalls, wildflowers, and ferns. The forest exhibits various stages of succession due to its past farming and logging uses. Deer, rabbits, porcupines, raccoons, and several species of birds, including turkey, inhabit the preserve.

The trails are clearly marked with new color-coded blazes and updated trail maps are available. Hunting is allowed in designated areas of the preserve with special hunting permits available through the Clerk's office at Town Hall. West of the intersection of Gower Road but before Washout Road, a parking lot is available on Sanders Road.



The 398 acres of land which makes up most of what is now the Sanders Preserve was acquired by the Town of Glenville in October 1965 when John Glen Sanders passed. The tract from the Sanders estate was purchased as park land for \$20,000 (75% state money and 25% town money). An additional landlocked parcel was also purchased at the same time for \$1,200. The Sanders Family (one of Glenville's oldest families) and the Glen Family (from which the name Glenville originates) were linked by marriage. It is believed that this land was once the location of the Sanders Farm and served as their summer home. Two donations, twenty acres in 1998 and 3 acres in 2020, brought the preserve's total to 398 acres. Today, this land, protected under Preserve status, is available to anyone who wishes to enjoy its natural splendor.



Fig. 3: Sanders Preserve



July 20, 2022

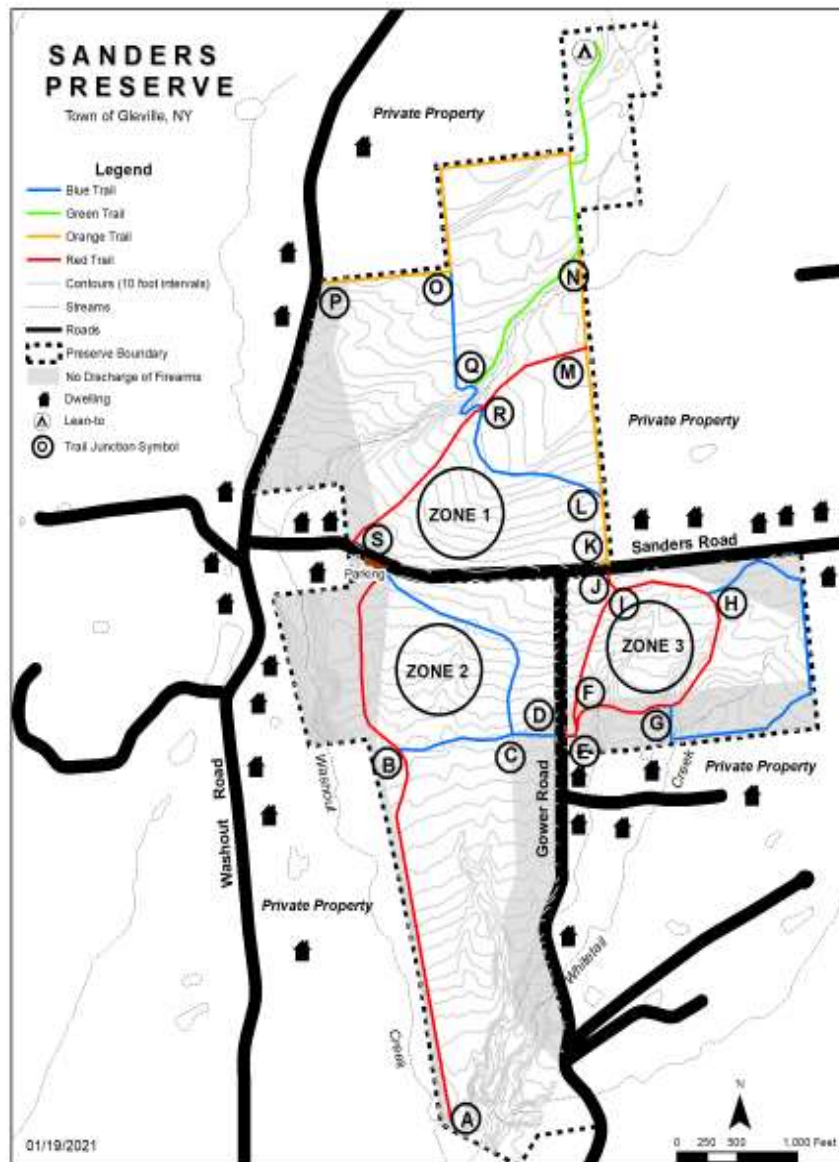
 Park and Open Spaces
 Parcels

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Fig.4: Sanders Trail Map



Short-Term Goals:

- Provide trail maintenance - Improve drainage and crossings in wet areas of trails
- Identify invasive species and develop management plans
- Use GPS markers at lettered trail intersections
- Install updated color-coded maps at trail intersections
- Add benches via memorial bench program

Long-Term Goals:

- Replace preserve sign
- Improve parking lot
- Upgrade trail accessibility, develop means of access by emergency rescue vehicles
- Enhance accessibility to key areas
- Develop small picnic areas

Examples of invasives already identified in Sanders Preserve



Pale swallow-wort



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Andersen Park

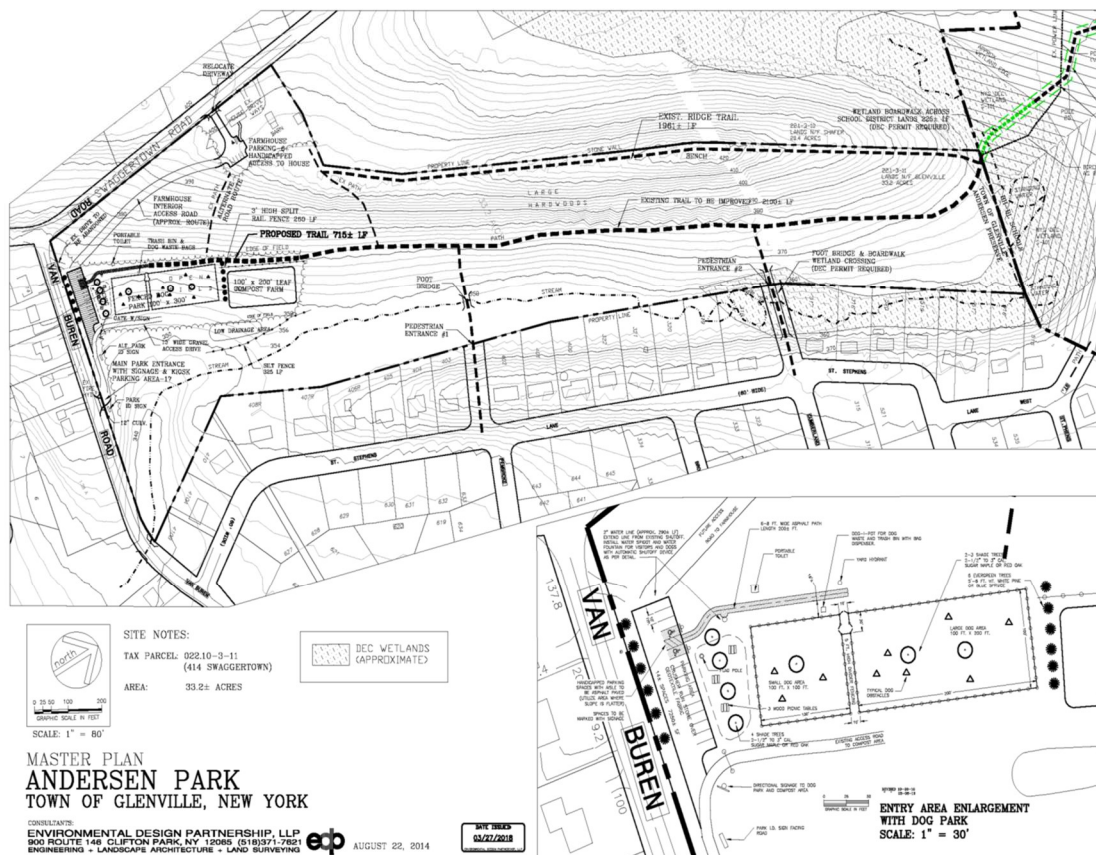
Andersen Park became a Town park in 2007 and consists of a 33-acre parcel on the corner of VanBuren and Swaggertown Roads. The land donated to the Town by Mark Andersen in his will, requiring that the entire parcel remain a public park. The Town acknowledged Mark's generous donation by naming the park in his wife's memory.

Andersen Park's major feature is the dog park which is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to dusk. The park allows for leash-free recreation for dogs. The dogs are separated into large dog and small dog sections and are provided with water, waste bags, play equipment, benches, and shade facilities. Residents can apply to use this dog park with no fee. Non-residents are also invited to use the facility and must pay for a tag through the town clerk's office.

Beyond the fenced dog park area is a half-mile trail where dogs and their owners can take in nature. As with all Town trails, dogs must be leashed at all times. Andersen Park is conveniently connected by nature trail to Indian Meadows Park to the North via a boardwalk built by the Rotary Club. This network of trails is called the Glenville Greenway.

Included within the Andersen Park property is a Town operated leaf compost farm that provides clean compost material for town projects. An earthen berm and trees help separate the dog park from the compost farm.

Fig. 5: Andersen Park

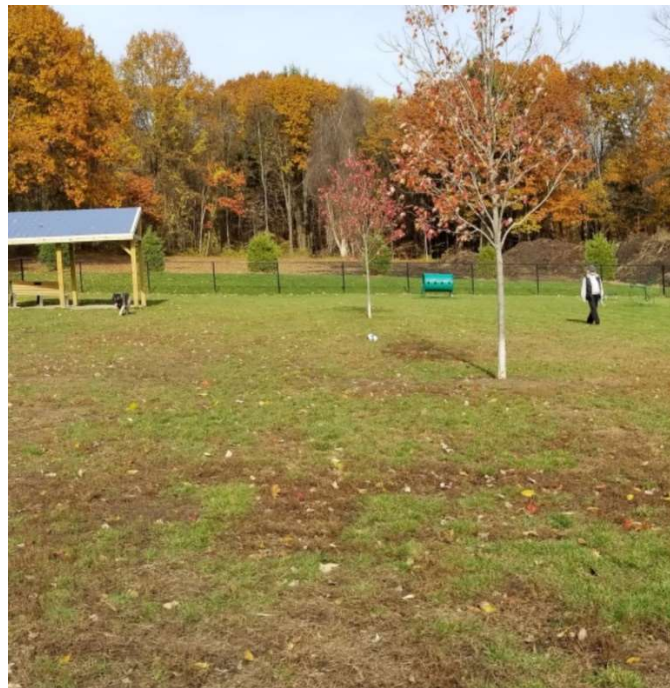


Short-Term Goals:

- Add a key fob system to the dog enclosure gates to restrict access to only registered dogs
- Add security cameras
- Place pavers under benches to prevent digging
- Remove remaining old barn and adjacent debris

Long-Term Goals:

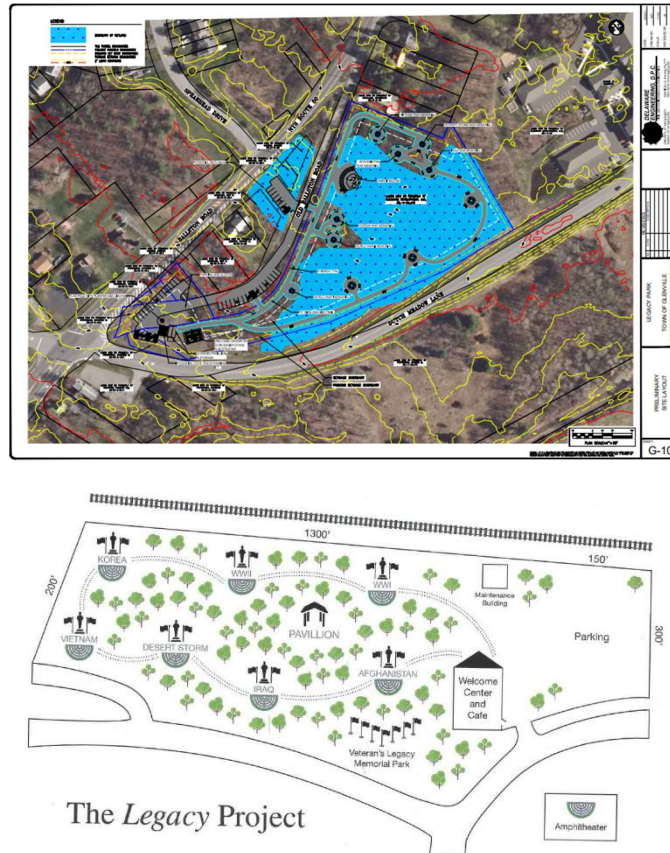
- Construct road to upper portion of property
- Widen upper portion of red trail for winter grooming
- Identify and manage invasive species
- Add two pedestrian entrances from the adjoining neighborhood to link to the main trail



Legacy Park

The newest edition to Glenville Parks is the 6-acre Legacy Park located on the corner of Route 50 and Dutch Meadows Lane. In collaboration with the Capital Region Veterans Memorial group, the Town is looking to develop the park to eventually include a walking path, monuments honoring all major conflicts, an amphitheater, and a café.

Fig. 6 & 7: Legacy Park



Short-Term Goals:

- Create an entry road and parking area for the new park
- Build a perimeter trail around the existing wetlands

Long-Term Goals:

- Support veterans group effort to install memorials for major historical conflicts
- Construct an amphitheater for ceremonies and events
- Collaborate with veterans committee on a café and museum honoring hometown veterans
- Add benches via memorial bench program

Christiana Open Space

The Christiana Property, approximately 48 acres of land near the corner of Onderdonk and Droms Road, is designated as an open green space allowing for preservation of natural elements and providing passive recreation opportunities to the community. Donated to the Town by Jeff Christiana and Blake Reality in 2008, the parcel is two-thirds wetlands with a pond and a northern branch of the Indian Kill running through it. A small parking lot on Onderdonk Road provides access and has a kiosk containing the trail map.

The blue trail follows the eastern edge of the wetland before looping to the northern side of the property. Small footbridges cross the creek where needed. The yellow trail leads from the northwest side of the wetlands along the western edge back to the parking area. Many of the trail improvements and bridges were constructed by scouts through various projects throughout the years.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping are allowed during times designated by New York State and are subject to all applicable state and local laws. Seasonal hunting and trapping permits are required and can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office.

Birding is a popular activity for this open space. Spring warblers and shorebirds can be found here.

Goals:

- Improve trails
- Repair and add wetland crossings

Fig.8: Christiana Property

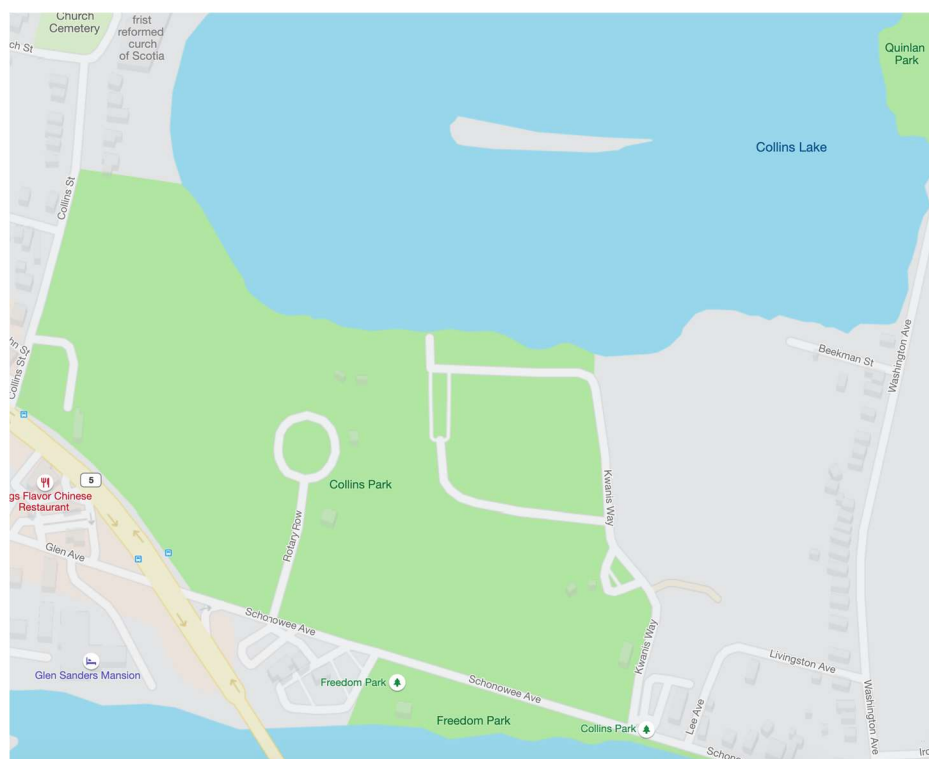


Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks serve as a social and recreational center for nearby neighborhoods due to residents being afforded easy pedestrian access to the parks from their homes. The three to ten-acre neighborhood parks within the Town of Glenville are owned by the Village of Scotia, namely Collins Park, including Quinlan Park and Freedom Park.

Collins Park is located in the Village of Scotia between the Schonowee Avenue and Collins Street. It provides paths for walking or riding bicycles as well as on-leash dog walking. The park contains many recreation areas including playing fields, a splash pad, playground and tennis, basketball courts, and open space for pick-up volleyball. Collins Lake at the park center is a 55-acre, oval-shaped lake on the Mohawk River floodplain. There is boating on the lake and people can relax on the beach. Quinlan Park is adjacent to Collins Park along Washington Avenue and is often grouped together as being part of Collins Park. Quinlan Park is a popular fishing spot used by many.

Fig. 9: Collins, Freedom, and Quinlan Parks in Scotia, NY



Freedom Park is in the Village of Scotia between Schonowee Avenue and the banks of the Mohawk River next to Jumpin' Jacks Drive-In eatery. The park contains an outdoor amphitheater including a covered stage. Free community concerts and other events such as water-ski shows are held at the park throughout the summer season. There are docks located on the Mohawk River available that day boaters can use as well as electric and water hookups for overnight stays of up to three nights.

Cozy Dale

In 2003, the Town of Glenville acquired a parcel at the eastern gateway of the town border for public recreational use and as protected green space under the NYS Strategic Investment Program which paid \$65,000 toward acquisition and post-purchase improvements. The parcel, consisting of approximately 11.4 acres of forest, waterways, and local historic points of interest along the former Boston and Maine (B&M) and the Canadian Pacific railroad lines, offers visitors to the area much to explore. Owned by the Pfaffenback family dating back to 1905, this parcel remained farmland and undeveloped for many decades. The farm known as Cozy Dale was known for their prize-winning Golden Guernsey dairy cattle.

The area continues to be undeveloped largely due to the presence of floodplain and federal wetlands. It is home to mature hardwoods, many varieties of wildflowers, lush ferns and other distinctive flora and fauna indigenous to the Alplaus basin in the Mohawk Valley. The parcel offers numerous access points for fishing along the Alplaus Kill, where bass, brown trout, northern pike, walleye, perch, and other varieties of fish are prevalent.

In 2022, a three-car pull-off parking area was added along Glenridge Road. Once additional amenities are constructed, this parcel would be used for hiking and bird watching trails, protected green areas for the cultivation of wildflowers, picnic and fishing spots. Interpretive trails would identify plants, inherent wildlife, and points of interest along the railroad lines, that hold significance to the history and heritage of the Town of Glenville. Complete with an area for a canoe launch, picnic spots and scenic overlooks, this parcel would quickly become a local favorite for resident families, anglers, and nature lovers alike.

Short-term goals:

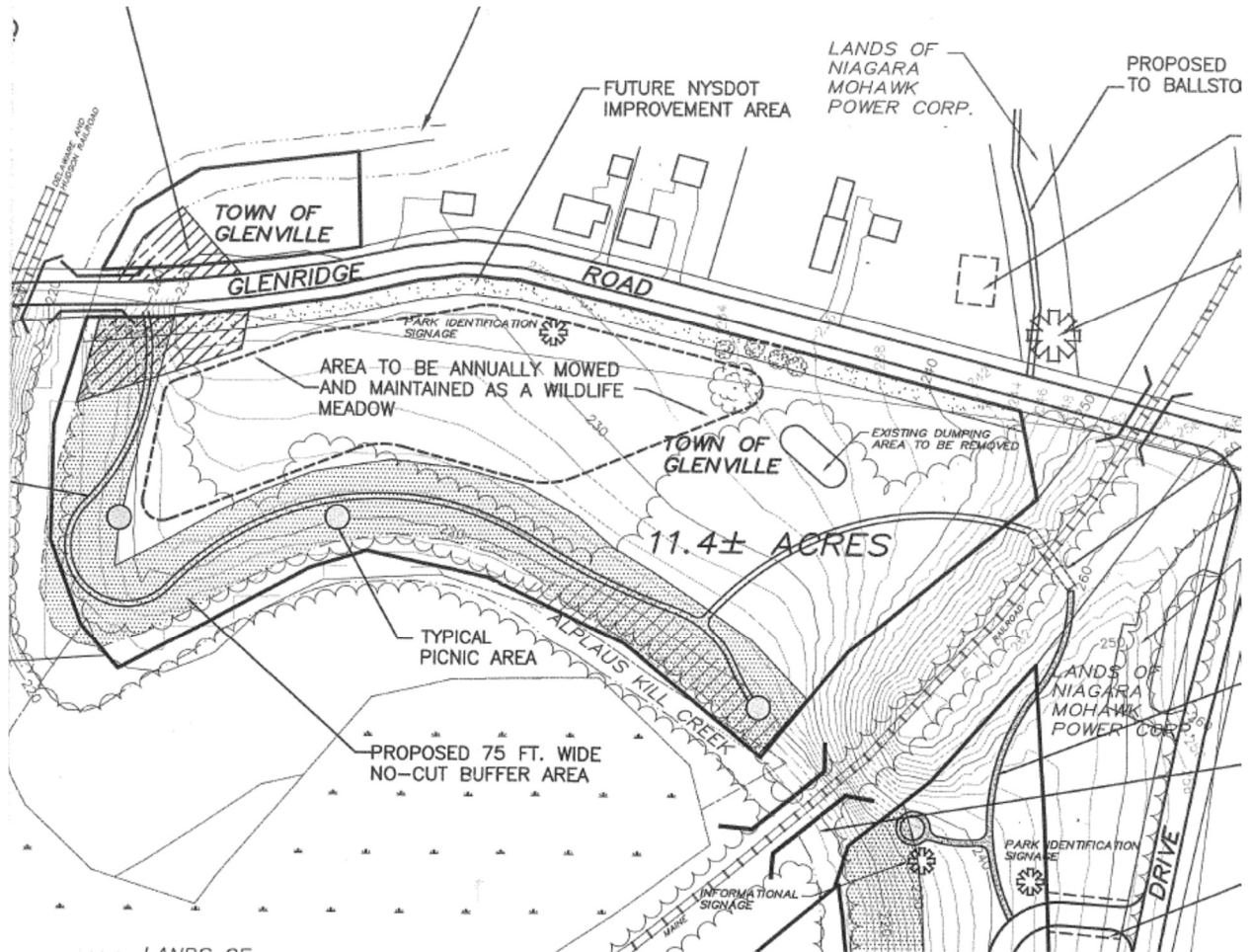
- Improve access to Cozy Dale/Alplaus Kill Natural Area
- Clean up illegally dumped items
- Identify invasive species and develop management plans

Long-Term Goals:

- Construct trails to riverbank and fishing access
- Create picnic areas



Fig. 10: Cozy Dale



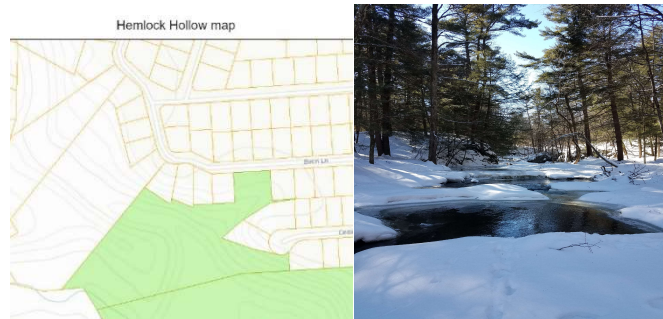
Park Districts

A special park district is defined as a form of local “special-purpose” district for providing public parks and recreation in or near its geographic boundaries. Within the Town of Glenville, Berkley Square (approx. 3 acres), the pond in the center of the Returns Development, and Hemlock Hollow (approx. 9 acres) are park districts which serve as recreational space for use only by the respective district members/residents. They have a board of commissioners that the town appoints annually (per their recommendation) that determines to what degree the property will be maintained, improved, and used. That determination then drives their annual budget which the town levies only on the properties within the “special-purpose” district.

Goals for Park Districts

- Identify and manage invasive species
- Rebuild bridge in Hemlock Hollow

Fig. 11: Hemlock Hollow



Annual Planned Park Events



Glenville Oktoberfest - The annual Oktoberfest takes place in beautiful Maalwyck Park on the last Saturday of September. Growing in offerings and attendance each year, this celebration began in 2010 and brings together local businesses, community organizations, neighbors, and others from around the region. Estimates of attendance suggest we may have surpassed past peaks and had over 10,000 people in attendance. This popular event is attended by people from all over Schenectady County, surrounding counties and the Greater Capital Region. The highlight of the event is of course the food with catering provided through German-American Club of Albany, Ruggiero's, and Two for the Road Food Truck to name a few. Two biergartens feature authentic German food, drink, games, and live music. The Kids Zone, Car Cruise In, Dachshund Dash and Craft Alley are all proven draws to the event. The Harvest Area hosts dozens of regional community groups – Rotary, the YMCA, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Empire State Aerosciences Museum, dog rescue groups and more. Also popular are the helicopter rides, bounce houses and a variety of games. The German bands keep the crowds entertained throughout the event until the evening's end with a spectacular fireworks display.



Thursdays in the Park – Since 2017, the Town has hosted Thursdays in the Park during the month of August at Indian Meadows Park. Each of Thursday's events bring either live music or a movie screening for town residents to enjoy free of charge. Residents bring lawn chairs for an evening of outdoor family fun in Indian Meadows Park. Often food vendors are present for dinner purchases and Stewart's Shops has provided free ice cream giveaways at these events.



Trail Tour - In recent years, the Town has offered a winter trail tour in mid-February. This free community guided "walk, snowshoe or ski" tour highlights the trails connecting Indian Meadows and Andersen Park as the full version of the event. A shorter, family-friendly tour is completed by traversing the trail loop within Indian Meadows. Both tours start and end at the Indian Meadows playground. Warming fire and hot chocolate are provided at the adjacent pavilion.

Love My Parks Day – An annual event hosted on the first Saturday of May, the Town of Glenville welcomes community volunteers to get our parks ready for the upcoming season. Celebrating “Love My Parks Day” participants enjoyed projects that included cleaning up park lands, planting trees and gardens, restoring trail and wildlife habitat, removing invasive species, and working on various site improvement projects - all which help to prepare our town park system and public lands for the start of the season.



Youth Sports Leagues

Organized programming led by Town of Glenville parents include several youth leagues listed on the Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District website at <https://www.bhbl.org/community-corner/youth-athletic-programs/> as well as the Scotia-Glenville Central School website at <https://www.scotiaglenvilleschools.org/athletics/community-sports/>

For BHBL junior baseball, go to www.bhblbaseball.com/site/

For BHBL softball, go to www.bhblgirlssoftball.com/

For BHBL football and cheerleading, go to www.bhspartanyouthfootball.com/site/

For BHBL junior lacrosse, go to [BHBL JR Spartan Lacrosse > Home \(bhlacrosse.org\)](http://BHBLJR.SpartanLacrosse.com)

For SG/BHBL soccer, go to www.fiftyfc.com/site/

For Tartan Youth lacrosse, go to: www.tartanlax.com/

Additional sports and recreational opportunities are offered through the following organizations:

Greater Glenville YMCA: <https://cdymca.org/programs/sports/>

Girls on the Run: <https://www.gotrcr.org/>

Stride adaptive sports: <https://www.stride.org/>

For Follow Through Basketball Camp: <https://www.followthrucamps.com/>

For Mighty Kicks Soccer: <https://mightykicks.net/>

Also, Glenville parks are the host site of many tournaments and competitions including FiftyFC soccer tournaments, high school cross-country invitationals, Gladiator games lacrosse tournaments, Ultimate Frisbee tournaments, and local 5k races such as the Muddy Sneaker.

Town Trails

- **Glenville Greenway** Trail loops around Indian Meadows Park and informally connects to a loop around the adjacent Andersen Property and Dog Park. The trail does traverse private property in sections and people are asked to stay on the trail to respect landowners' privacy.
- **Sanders Preserve Trail** has roughly 6 miles of moderately trafficked series of trails that feature small waterfalls and are suitable for all skill levels. The trail offers several activity options and is accessible year-round. Dogs may also join their handlers and use the trail system at Sanders Preserve, however they must be kept on leash.
- **Indian Kill Nature Preserve**, located on Hetcheltown Road - This Schenectady County-owned preserve consists of 100 acres of diverse habitats including native hardwood forest, conifer plantations, and wetlands. The Preserve offers year-long opportunities such as hiking, nature study, fishing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

- **Glenridge Road Trail** connects the Woodhaven residential neighborhood to the Town Center where sidewalks can be found along Stoodley Corners. The Town Center sidewalks conveniently and safely connect residents to grocery stores and neighborhood-scale strip malls.
- **Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail** located along the Mohawk River between Schonowee and Freemans Bridge Road. The trail connects a loop which circles around Schenectady's Erie Canal Trail. This trail is slated for reconstruction under a Local Waterfront Redevelopment grant from NYS Department of State.
- **Story Trail** located within Indian Meadows Park is a 3/10th of a mile walk along a wide and well-maintained natural path. The Glenville and Scotia Rotary Clubs installed a series of wooden presentation boxes for inserting pages of the featured story. It is an ideal walk with young children, pets and those looking for a short walk through a natural bucolic setting.

Waterfront

Lock 9 - State Canalway Park - Located at NYS Route 103 (Bridge Street) This 21-acre state-owned park contains grassy areas for leisure-time recreation, includes picnic tables, grills and docks for canoes, kayaks, and rowboats. Bass, walleye, northern pike, pickerel, bullhead, tiger-muskie, and perch fishing are among the many species of fish found in Glenville fishing areas along the Mohawk River.

Freemans Bridge Boat Launch – Located on Freemans Bridge Road, next to the Water's Edge Lighthouse Restaurant, it provides access to the beautiful Mohawk River from a hard-surfaced boat launch. This NYS DEC access site is handicap accessible and affords float-off and float-on launching for most trailered boats. The parking lot can accommodate 13 cars with trailers.

Lock 8 Canalway Kayak Launch – Located at 300 Maalwyck Park Road, within Maalwyck Park, it is one of the 125 public access points along the 524-mile Canal System for paddlers to launch a kayak or canoe.

2020 Park Survey

The Town recently surveyed residents in November of 2020 about park facilities. Most residents reported use of the parks for walking and enjoy access to large, preserved parks for that purpose. However, many described safe access, closer proximity, and enhanced trails as necessary improvements to increase utilization of existing parks. Improvements to the trail system will be needed to safely connect residents to the parks and other points of interest. Residents attending a public forum to discuss trail needs found that the YMCA and town parks are two amenities that would benefit greatly from trail installations.

The Glenville Parks Department sought feedback regarding parks, programming, and community goals for the parks. A copy of the survey questions and results are in Appendix I. The purpose of the survey was to gauge the public's use of, access to, preference for, interest in and desire for parks.

Approximately 179 respondents submitted ratings and comments. Assessing age distribution, the survey lacks adequate representation of the twenty-something age grouping. The strongest number of responses came from residents over age 55 with 24% in the 55-64 year grouping and another 26% in the over 65 group. Twenty-one percent (21%) were respondents ages 35-44 years of age and another 19% were ages 45-54. Respondents younger than 34 accounted for 10% of the total responses.

Overall, respondents were content with the quality and number of Glenville's parks and amenities. Seventy-five percent of respondents were pleased with the number of parks and amenities offered by the Town of Glenville. Comments ranged from praise for the nature trails, and appreciation for the dog park to excitement about the opportunities to bicycle or play sports. Specifically, comments show that 39% of respondents value the preservation of nature. Another 29% value the trails. Cleanliness (14%) and proximity of parks (13%) were the next most popular park qualities while the availability of sports was important to 5% of respondents. Clearly the town is on the right track with its park system and available programming.

Next, the survey assessed what activities park attendees enjoyed. Overwhelmingly 88% of respondents walk. Approximately 20-30% run, bicycle and attend concerts. At the same time, later in the survey respondents listed both expansion of amenities such as trails (23%) as one the top requests for park programming improvements.

Most park attendees 86% visited Indian Meadows. The next most popular parks were Maalwyck Park at 46% and the Mohawk Hudson Trail system at 44% respectively. Sanders Preserve ranked fourth at 37% followed by Andersen Park at 24% and the Greenway Trail at 19%. The Greenway Trail is the park-to-park trail between the Andersen property and Dog Park and Indian Meadows Park.

Few respondents visited parks daily, around 5%. The other measures were evenly distributed at 17-22% between a few times a week, weekly, a few times a month, monthly or less than monthly. Survey respondents cited distance (21%), safe walkable access (14%) and security (13%) in the parks as the top deterrents to their park visits.

When asked what prevents respondents from visiting parks, respondents referenced access concerns through the comments. Distance is a deterrent for 21% of respondents. Lack of a safe walking path

deters 14%. Safety concerns prevent 13% from visiting parks. Pest and disinterest keep 12% home equally. However, other measurements of access also ranked, specifically inadequate ADA accessibility (4%) and insufficient parking (6%).

Finally, the survey questioned respondents on what improvements the Town of Glenville Parks Department should implement to improve parks. Unsurprisingly, adding amenities (23%) and expanding park facilities, especially trails (23%) ranked highest. Security (14%) and better trail maps (13%) were the next most common recommendations. Maintenance (9%) and parking at (8%) were important with marketing (5%) and more events (5%) the final recommendations.

In the short term, based on the recently completed resident survey effort, the Town Parks Department in conjunction with the Town Highway Department will seek out opportunities to expand and enhance:

1. Adding trails that connect neighborhoods to existing parks and offer more distance for serious walkers, runners, and bicyclists.
2. Adding access and safety features within parks – parking, ADA trails, cameras, and lighting.

Further public engagement will be required, under a designated committee structure, to discuss needs, host public meetings, and facilitate discussion groups defining long-term strategic goals for each park holding. Some of that work has already been completed. Recently, the Town Planning Department has received Empire State Development grant funding to conduct a Greenway Feasibility Study. A public meeting was held in January 2020. Similar requests were made for trails between parks and other facilities. The town has obtained grant funding to reconstruct the Mohawk Hudson Bike Trail along the river between Freemans Bridge Road and Schonowee Avenue.

