

3. Existing Parks and Open Space

3.1 Introduction

To assist communities in parks planning, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed a Parks, Open Space, and Pathways Classification Table. Originally developed in 1983, this table was updated in 1996. To assist Warwick in its assessment of its existing parks and recreation facilities, each of its parks has been classified according to the NRPA classifications table. See Table 9 on Page 75.

The NRPA identifies a ***Trends Report*** as one way to conduct an analysis of a community's recreational system. By conducting an "environmental" scan, strengths and weaknesses in the system can be identified early on in the process. As part of the inventory and analysis phase of this planning effort, an environmental scan was conducted at each of Warwick's parks. To assist the consultant team evaluate the park system, an Individual Park Inventory Form was completed for each park. A blank copy of this form is included in the Appendices.

3.2 Town Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

The following sections describe the Town of Warwick's parks and recreational resources.

3.2.1 Union Corners Park

Location: Union Corners Park is located south of the Village of Florida on Route 41, Union Corners Road. This park is 47.9 acres and is home to the Town's Parks Department. The surrounding area is primarily residential in nature.

Recreational Resources: The park offers many different recreational opportunities, including an 18-hole Disk Golf course that is home to national competitions organized by Dan Doyle. There is also a little league baseball/softball field, a field with movable soccer nets, a large wooden multi-station play set and a very small play set for children, a swing set, and a sandbox with cement tunnels surrounding the sandbox area. There are 2 pavilions that house picnic tables with additional picnic tables dispersed throughout the park. The park also contains a walking trail for the park users. There is space available for the storage of equipment adjacent to the Parks Department building.



One of the two pavilions is located on a slight hill behind the gazebo and overlooks a few of the 18 holes. The second pavilion is rented out to the public with the baseball/softball field and is adjacent to the park's only restroom facilities. Both pavilions have wooden covers, concrete floors and picnic tables.

General Condition: The park has a mixed terrain, with hilly areas by the entrance, the disc golf course, and the gazebo and pavilion. The park flattens out towards the swing, multi-play stations, and the pavilion with the ball field.

The park appears to be in good condition. The sandbox and cement tunnels require upgrading, as does the small multi-play station. To address safety deficiencies, mulch or rubber should be placed under the larger wooden play structure. The pavement appears to be in relatively good condition, as it is not cracked or broken. The pavilion's picnic tables as well as those located throughout the park appear to be in adequate condition.

No drainage problems were observed the day of the site visit. Several of the disc golf course holes are located dangerously close to the children's play structures and the pavilions, prompting a potential accident hazard.

Although the park provides the disc golf and playing fields for ball and soccer, it could be enhanced with other amenities such as horseshoe pits for the pavilions, volleyball, or tennis. The park grounds are nicely taken care of but additional landscaping is needed.

Accessibility: One sign is posted at the park entrance gate. The park closes at 9:00 P.M. The park's primary parking lot is small, unstriped and located near the children's play area. Pavilion/ball field and soccer spectators tend to park along the road and along the grass edge across from the Parks Department. The park lacks any marked pedestrian ways along its internal road. There are no handicapped parking spaces but the restrooms are ADA compliant. There is no lighting in the park for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: The park is owned by the Town of Warwick and is maintained by the Town Parks Department. This park is classified as a *Community Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.2.2 Warwick Sports Complex/Union Corners Sports Complex

Location: The Town of Warwick Sports Complex is located directly across from the Town of Warwick-Union Corners Park on Route 41, Union Corners Road. This 64.3-acre complex is home to soccer and baseball games throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Recreational Resources: This complex offers a number of amenities including a senior little league baseball field, four soccer fields, a pavilion with restrooms and a concession stand, and a storage facility. There is additional land behind the baseball field that could potentially

accommodate a roller hockey rink or some other recreational activity. There are also two new multi-use fields (120' X 70') under construction.

The baseball field is located adjacent to a gravel parking lot at bottom of a small hill. The two dugouts are fenced in with a player bench and protective wooden cover. The soccer fields and concession stand (with the attached pavilion and restrooms) are located uphill from the baseball field. In addition to four soccer fields, there is an open area with movable practice nets.

General Condition: Overall the sport complex appears to be in very good condition. The baseball field appears to be relatively new and in good condition. The four soccer fields are large and have an installed drainage system. Each of the fields is equipped with either a bleacher or benches for spectators. There are two water fountain spouts located adjacent to the concession stand. A small storage shed is located next to the field at the base of the hill.

Several of the park's fields are inconveniently far from the restroom/concession pavilion. There is a portable restroom that services these fields. The park needs tree coverage to provide shading and general landscaping. Game spectators must view from a wide-open area with only the distant pavilion to provide comfort. There is a need for additional picnic tables and benches throughout the park complex.

Two additional multi-use fields are planned for the Complex. Designed to be 120' by 70', the fields are scheduled for completion by fall 2006. It is anticipated that the fields will accommodate football and lacrosse games. The Town had to engage a hydrologist to identify water sources for the field.

Accessibility: There is a large sign at the entrance of the Town of Warwick Sport Complex with a fenced in area. The sign does not state the park hours. Of the recreational fields, only the soccer fields have lighting to accommodate night games. [The soccer club pays for the electricity to run the lights.] Lacking permanent restroom facilities, the Complex is not ADA-compliant.

Ownership and Classification: The sports complex is owned by the Town and is regarded as part of the Town of Warwick - Union Corners Park. The Town's Parks Department maintains the complex and is in the process of clearing 10 additional acres for further recreational development. This park has been identified as a *Community Park* under the SCORP classification.



3.2.3 Pine Island Park

Location: Pine Island Park is located in the western portion of the Town, on the corner of Kay Road and Treasure Lane off Routes 26 and 1. Residential development surrounds this 4.8-acre park.

Recreational Resources: Pine Island Park has many amenities and recreational opportunities. The park contains one baseball little league field/softball field, a basketball court, two tennis courts, a wall ball board, an outdoor ice rink, a child's play area, a walking trail with exercise stations and a pavilion with picnic tables and restrooms. In addition to these amenities, the park is home to the Town's Summer Recreation Program.

The children's play area includes 2 multi-play structures, one set of swings, a round rotating disc (i.e. merry-go-round), and several benches around the play area's perimeter. The pavilion is adjacent to the play area and includes the park's only restrooms and a storage area. The walking track is a 1/3-mile gravel path that runs the perimeter of the park.



General Condition: The park appears to be in decent condition. While most of the playground equipment appears to be in good condition, the swings and the merry-go-round are older and may need to be replaced in the near future. The ice rink blacktop is new and appears to be in good condition. The wall ball board needs a fresh coat of paint and ball field currently has grass growing in clumps. Both the tennis courts and the basketball field's surface appear to be in good condition.

There is a noticeable drainage problem adjacent to the ice rink. There is a small gravel trench filled with stones and piping that runs between the basketball and tennis court area and the ice rink. The pipe emerges at a dip in the ground, allowing the water to pool. The park could be further enhanced with landscaping and shade trees.

Accessibility: The only sign for the park is located on the topside of the pavilion. Gravel parking areas are located outside of the park directly off Kay Road and Treasure Lane. One parking area is adjacent the pavilion and the other is near the basketball court. There is no lighting in the park for nighttime use. The park and the facilities are not ADA compliant.

Ownership and Classification: This park is owned by the Town of Warwick and is maintained by the Town parks department. Pine Island Park has been identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.2.4 Airport Road Park

Location: Airport Park, 4.4 acres, is located off of Route 13, Kings Highway on Airport Road, several miles from the Town of Chester boundary. The Warwick Municipal Airport is located east of the park with existing and newly constructed residential development located on the westerly side of Kings Highway.

Recreational Resources: The Park houses a flat terrain and is well suited for field sports. This park's resources include: a little league baseball field (60' X 200' sand lot field), basketball court, one multi-station play structure, a set of multi-age swings, restrooms and trash receptacles. For younger children, an open space area provides an opportunity for an additional play area.

General Condition: The recreational areas of the Park appear to be well maintained with a new multi-station play structure in excellent condition, the grass mowed, and the restrooms clean. Unfortunately, not all the Park's facilities are in good condition. The unstriped parking lot is comprised of a mixture of gravel and pavement. The baseball field is unimproved and the basketball court lacks proper linage. The swings are in need of repair or replacement, as the chains are rusted and broken. The swings and the new multi-station play structure both lack a bed of woodchips or mulch to pad against falls.

Landscaping is limited to twelve new shade trees, just planted in fall 2005. Although the restrooms are new, they are located a distance away from the recreational facilities.

Accessibility: There are two entrances for park patrons to enter the Park. However, the entrances are very narrow openings in the guardrail that surrounds the Park, prohibiting strollers and wheelchairs from freely entering and exiting. In addition, there is no park entrance sign, nor are there road signs alerting residents of its existence. The recreational area is not equipped with nighttime lights, limiting the Park's useable hours. There were no signs on the restrooms indicating that they were ADA compliant. The park as a whole is not ADA compliant.



Ownership and Classification: Owned by the Town, this Park has been identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.2.5 Kings Estates Sugar Hill

Kings Estates Sugar Hills (KESH) is a 352-home private community located directly off of Kings Highway (Route 13) on the boundary line of the Town of Chester and the Town of Warwick. The Estate consists of 4 small play lots on Darin Road, Marian Court, Helene Road and Alicia

Lane. The KESH community residents pay and use these recreational resources. All the parks added together comprise about 15 acres.

- **Name: Darin Road Park**

Recreational Resources: The Park at Darin Road contains a full-court basketball court, a six-seat swing set, a bench and a trash receptacle. There are no lights except for the adjacent street lighting.

General Condition: The Park is in good condition. The basketball hoops have no nets but the court is smooth and not cracked, the bench appears to be new and the swings are not damaged.

Accessibility: The parking area has spaces for several cars but the entrance to the parking area is narrow with a large curb. The Park is not ADA compliant.

- **Name: Alicia Lane Park**

Recreational Resources: The Park contains one multi-purpose field that is known as “Judy’s Field of Dreams” and KESH field. This Park also contains two benches and two trash receptacles. There is no lighting at the Park for nighttime use. Currently there are plans for the installation of a backstop and soccer nets however at this time the Park offers no additional amenities.

General Condition: The field is in good condition, it is green and is well maintained. There is a fence at one end for safety reasons, as the ground drops down significantly.

Accessibility: There is a parking area adjacent to the field however, it is not clear if Parking is allowed for field visitors. This Park is not ADA compliant.

- **Name: Marian Court Park**

Recreational Resources: The Marian Court Park contains one large Multi-Station play structure for toddlers to age 11. There are woodchips under the structure for safety. Currently, there are no other amenities at this Park. However, there are plans to add an infant/toddler swing set to the playground.

General Condition: The Park is in good condition, however the play structure is located on the flat area of a very steep hill.

Accessibility: To get up to the play structure, there is a steep man-made path from the road. This path consists of gravel, grass and dirt and appears it would

be dangerous in wet conditions. It appears that there is no parking area for this Park; the adjacent parking appears to be for the surrounding residential units.

- **Name: Helene Road Park**

Recreational Resources: The Helene Road Park area contains a two-hoop basketball court, one bench, and one trash receptacle. There are no lights. There are no other amenities at this location.

General Condition: The basketball court is in good condition, there are nets on the hoops and the court has no cracks or bumps. The bench and the trash receptacle appear to be new.

Accessibility: Parking is limited to Street parking.



Ownership and Classification: The four parks in King Estates Sugar Hills are owned by the King Estates/Sugar Hills resident association and are each classified as a *Mini Park/Pocket Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.2.6 Cascade Park

This mostly natural 504-acre park was developed with the urging of local residents and volunteers. Unfortunately, these individuals are no longer actively involved in maintaining the park and it has become overrun with weeds. The trails are not well maintained, with the Town doing maintenance once per week. ATV users and off-road vehicle enthusiasts use the trails, which is becoming an issue.

Location: Cascade Park is located on Cascade Lake Road in the southern portion of Town near the New York/New Jersey border. The park is located at the end of a rural residential neighborhood with Cascade Lake being a part of the park.

Recreational Resources: This Park contains a 5-acre lake, several benches and unofficial trails. Cascade Lake is a small lake but allows non-motorized boating and fishing. There is access to the water for the launching of a small boat with a concrete dock to sit on or to access a rowboat, canoe or kayak. There are no picnic tables or trash receptacles in the park. The park contains four miles of multi-use trails used for walking, bicycling, horseback riding. Cross-county skiers and naturalists also use this multi-use trail adjacent to the Appalachian Trail and Abram Hewitt State Park (NJ).

General Condition: This Park is in poor condition. There is trash strewn throughout the waterfront due to the lack of trash receptacles and the trails have lent themselves to residents using ATV's and large pick-up trucks to go off-road on these trails. The use of the ATV's and large pick-up trucks are destroying the park, the trails are wide, and the dirt is eroding from the trail creating large ditches when the vehicles turn around at a fast speed. The trail markers also



need to be repainted. In addition, there are down tree branches throughout the parking, making for a dangerous situation for walking around. There is a "beach area", however, there is no sand for a beach or amenities that would support having that facility there.

Accessibility: The parking area is in good condition, with off street parking. The park is difficult to locate, there is no signage directing possible patrons to the park. This facility is located in a

somewhat rural area and posting directional signs could improve the usage of this park. The main road leading to the park is in a poor condition and needs maintenance. There is no lighting at this park and it is not ADA compliant.

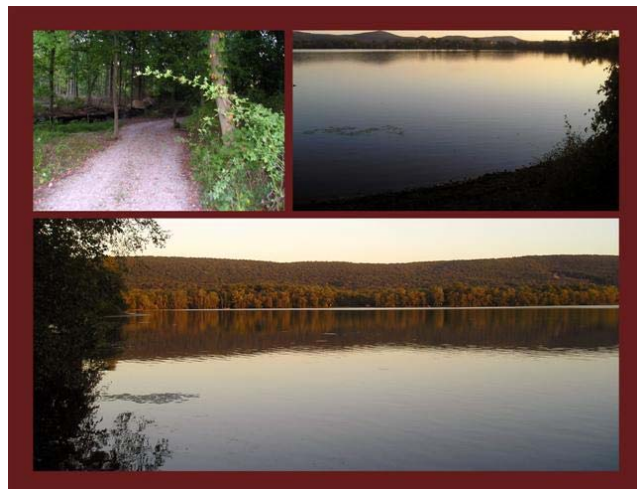
Ownership and Classification: This park is owned and maintained by the Town of Warwick. This park has been identified as a *Natural Resource Area* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.2.7 Wickham Lake

The Town owns Wickham Lake and about 13 acres of lakefront lands. Some of the lake was previously owned by the Mid-Orange Correctional Facility, which used the lake as its back-up water supply.

Location: This park, in the process of being developed, is located by the Warwick Municipal Airport off CR 13 in the northeastern portion of Town, just south of the Town of Chester border.

Recreational Resources: The Town is planning on providing a new water access site at this park, allowing park patrons to bring non-motorized boats to use in Wickham Lake. The plan is to construct



a 10-15 space parking facility. According to DEC, Wickham Lake is classified as a “B” waterbody, which means it is suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, fishing, and fish propagation and survival.

General Condition: This park is currently undeveloped, with trees and a small clearing area by the lake’s edge. As the park is not yet maintained, there is debris such as rocks and branches covering much of the land.

Accessibility: Accessing this park is not easy as the road providing access is an unpaved dirt road with several deep trenches and pits.

Ownership and Classification: The Town owns this park, which would be classified as a *Natural Resource Area*.

3.2.8 East Shore Beach

Location: This beach is located on Gamache Lane in the Town of Warwick. It is approximately 38 acres in size, although not all the land is cleared for beach use.

Recreational Resources: Recreational resources at this park including a child’s climbing apparatus, a slide, three swing sets including one baby swing set, and a volleyball net. There are about ten wooden table and bench sets and hibachis on stands distributed throughout the park. Despite the fact that the table and bench sets are estimated to be only about 8 –10 years old, several are in very poor condition, posing hazards to users. There is a floating dock for jumping into the water, but no boating is permitted at the beach.

General Condition: Mostly forested, this beach has a small open sandy area by the water. The tall trees provide a lot of cover and shading. The beach is also very rocky, with a lot of twigs and tree debris. Despite about half a dozen trash receptacles located throughout the park, beach goers appear to dump their used charcoal and there is also evidence of littering.

Accessibility: This beach, which is open only Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the summer months is accessible to both Town residents and non-residents for a fee. Residents pay \$3 while non-residents pay \$5. Beach goers can drive up to the entrance but must know the code to access the beach. The parking area is limited and the beach is not ADA-compliant, although a stonewall sand ramp was developed to make it easier for baby strollers to be pushed down to the sandy area. Lifeguards



must be on duty to accommodate swimmers and the area cordoned off for swimming is limited as the water quickly deepens in this area.

Ownership and Classification:

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) owns the beach while the Town leases it from the PIPC on a continual basis. The Town is also responsible for the beach's maintenance. The beach is classified as a *Special Use Park*.

3.3 Village of Warwick Parks

This section describes the Village of Warwick's park and recreational resources.

3.3.1 Veteran's Memorial Park

Location: Veteran's Memorial Park is located off Forester Avenue. This 60.7-acre park is near the Village's commercial district. The surrounding neighborhood is a mixture of both commercial and residential.



Recreational Resources: This park has a number of recreational resources including, a skateboard park with paved surface (130' X 150'), two little league baseball fields, one little league softball field, two Tee Ball baseball fields, a regulation size football field, a pavilion, two concession stands and 4 batting cages. In addition, there is a 9-11 memorial, a Warwick fireman's memorial, several open space areas and restrooms.

General Condition: The park appears to be in good condition. The three newer Little League fields and the softball field have sponsorship arrangements with local landscapers who maintain the fields in exchange for free advertising on signs posted at the park. Therefore, these fields appear to be in excellent condition. The field bleachers and fencing all appear to be in good condition as well. The park houses several drinking water fountains. The concession area is between the first two main fields and the 4 batting cages are behind the concession stands.

Two fields appear to be in poor condition: the football field and an adjacent baseball field. Orange cement barrels in the baseball field's outfield separate these two fields. The football field lacks lines and spectator bleachers. The baseball field has 2 large sets of enclosed bleachers, with one set closed for rehabilitation. The bleachers appear to be a safety hazard currently and it appears that the rehabilitation has not yet started. The field has dry hard dirt and the backstop fencing is in poor condition. The dugouts are covered and appear to be in decent condition.

The skateboard park is located on the park's driveway, just before the ball fields. Fencing surrounds the skateboard park; both appear to be in good condition.

Pedestrian safety could be enhanced through the provision of separated pedestrian paths and improved parking arrangements. Landscaping could be an effective way to enhance the park. Several open areas could potentially house a child's play area, a sitting garden or additional parking.

Accessibility: The current restrooms are not ADA compliant, however the Village is planning on constructing accessible restrooms when funding is available. The only parking for the ball fields is a small, unstriped lot in front of the concession area. There is one painted, pedestrian crosswalk connecting the football/baseball field and the concession area. The area lacks a stop sign or other pedestrian signals. Many of the resources, including the football field, four ball fields, concession stand and batting cages, are all lit for nighttime use. However, one ball field and the pavilion lack lighting.

Ownership and Classification: The Village owns this park and recently was donated more land adjacent to this park but currently do not have plans to develop the land. Local landscapers, as was mentioned, maintain several of the fields. This park has been identified as a *Community Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.3.2 Stanley-Deming Park

Location: Stanley Deming Park is located at the corner of South Street and Park Lane. The 10.5-acre park is located in a dense residential area along a major roadway.

Recreational Resources: The park has a variety of recreational resources including wall ball, two basketball courts, one volley ball court, Ice-skating in the winter, sand volleyball in the summer, one little league baseball field, several multi-structure stations, two sets of swings, a sandbox, a summer recreational program and a permanent bandstand with restrooms. In addition, there are drinking fountains near the restrooms and many picnic tables and benches dispersed throughout the park.



General Condition: Stanley Deming Park is naturally landscaped, covered by trees and a small creek. An attractive wooden bridge runs over the creek. The bandstand is constructed of white cement and wood. The park appears to be in good condition. The play structures appear to be relatively new. Two swing sets are provided to accommodate children of various ages. The

basketball court has a drinking fountain in the corner and a fence that appears to be in good condition.

Some of the park's resources present hazards that should be addressed. One metal multi-play structure lacks mulch or a rubber pad to protect against injury from falls. The baseball field is unimproved, as it lacks defined infield or baselines. The sand box area is surrounded by a chain-linked fence and is filled with older, packed sand that should be replaced. Large rocks inside and along the edge of the creek present a danger to young children playing by the creek.

Accessibility: Parking is located on Park Lane along the park's perimeter, where there are some delineated spaces. During busy times (such as during the summer when the park houses the summer recreation program), patrons and recreation program drivers must parallel park all vehicles in the non-delineated parking spaces. There is no signage directing patrons to the park or at the actual park itself. The basketball court is the only resource that is lit for nighttime play, with two poles with small light fixtures. This Park is not ADA compliant.

Ownership and Classification: This park is owned and maintained by the Village of Warwick and is considered a *Community Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.3.3 Lewis Woodlands

Location: This 4.8-acre garden area is located just north of the Village of Warwick in the Town off Colonial Avenue. Formerly owned by the Dutchess County Garden Club, this land was transferred to the Village of Warwick.

Recreational Resources: With a garden area with daffodils and wildflowers, the area is primarily natural but does house several trails. Trail hikers can identify the trees and plants through the use of a nature map provided at the park.

Accessibility: The park is open to residents and guests. There is no parking lot, visitors must park along the road. There is little in the way of signage informing residents or passersby of the park.

Ownership and Classification: This parcel is owned and maintained by the Village of Warwick. This park has been identified as a *Natural Resource Area* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.4 Village of Greenwood Lake Parks

This section describes the Village of Greenwood Lake's parks and recreational resources.

3.4.1 Legion Field

Location: Legion Field is located on the corner of CR 5 (Lake Road) and Old Route 17A in the Village of Greenwood Lake. The field, which is less than an acre in size, sits directly adjacent to the American Legion building, surrounded by a mixture of commercial and residential development. The American Legion parcel is about 8 acres.

Recreational Resources: Legion Field contains one softball field and a small set of bleachers. There is a fenced backstop and a fence in front of the team benches.

General Condition: The condition of the field is good, with the well-maintained soil and decent grass on the outfield. While the grass was dry on the date of the site visit, this was likely due to the fact that it was a particularly dry summer. The backstop fencing needs repairs, as the top of the fencing is coming apart in several locations.



Currently, field users and Legion members must share the parking lot, resulting in an occasional parking crunch. The field is currently used for girls' softball but is not considered safe because of its proximity to the parking lot. Although there was discussion of the Town engaging in a land swap with the American Legion to enhance safety at the site (by relocating the driveway and parking area to an adjacent property recently acquired by the Town, thus directing automobiles further away from the field), there is no certainty that this proposal will come to fruition.

Accessibility: The field is not lit for nighttime use and does not appear to be ADA compliant. Although there is a gravel parking lot, the outfield provides overflow parking when the Legion has a function. Currently, persons wishing to use the field must receive permission from the American Legion before occupying the area.

Ownership and Classification: The American Legion both owns and maintains the field. This field has been identified as a *Pocket Park/Mini Park* under the SCORP classification guidelines.

3.4.2 Helen Kelly Park

Location: Helen Kelly Park, 2.4 acres in size, is located on Elm Street in the heart of Greenwood Lake close to Lions Park. Together the two parks total about 9.7 acres. The Park is surrounded by residential homes with Greenwood Elementary School located one block away.

Recreational Resources: The Park contains a little league ball field, soccer field, basketball court, batting cage, one sitting bench and one trash receptacle. The infield is a mixture of dirt and grass and without definitive baselines or bases. The dugouts contain one bench and are fenced in with chain link fencing that is beginning to rust. There are no restroom facilities at the Park.

General Condition: All of the facilities are individually enclosed with chain link fencing that is spotted with rust. The fence that encloses the ball field and soccer field is in unsatisfactory condition with tree stumps imbedded at different sites and sections of the fence leaning over in some areas.



The ball field has no definitive markings or bases. The soccer field is an open grassy area with soccer nets at each end. It appears the field is used for practice and pick-up games, as it is not a regulation soccer field and is not lined or identified in any way. The only bench in the Park is located under trees adjacent to the soccer field.

The full sized and lined basketball court is the sole facility in the Park in good condition. The asphalt court surface is smooth; there are no cracks, bumps, or uneven edges. The backboards and basket hoops are sturdy, with a net attached to each hoop. The fencing around the court is in fair to good condition; some poles are uneven and there are occasional spots of rust.

The batting cage appears to be well maintained. The net surrounding the hitting area is without tears or holes and the poles supporting the net are not rusted or broken. The cage area is mowed and there is no debris.

Accessibility: The only available parking is along the street. The Park is open from dawn to dusk as the park facilities are not lighted for nighttime activities. Any persons trespassing when the Park is closed is subject to arrest by the Greenwood Lake police Department. The park is not ADA compliant.

Ownership and Classification: The Park is owned and maintained by the Village. This Park has been identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification guidelines.

3.4.3 Lions Park

Location: The 7.3-acre Lions Park is located near Helen Kelly Park at the end of Elm Street in the Village of Greenwood Lake. Together the two parks total about 9.7 acres. The Park is located primarily in a residential neighborhood with the exception of a municipal garage that is adjacent to the Park. The entrance sign states the Park was donated by the Greenwood Lake Lions Club. The lettering on the sign is fading and in need of refurbishing. The entrance sign to the Park is blocked by landscaping and is not visible to patrons visiting the Park.

Recreational Resources: The Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including two little league baseball fields, two full regulation size basketball courts and several half-size courts, a multi-station play structure, one slide, and two sets of swings. In addition, there are several picnic tables, a pavilion, bleachers, concession stand, and restrooms. The two baseball fields and a concession stand are at the main entrance to the Park. A set of bleachers are located adjacent to the baseball field which is lighted for nighttime use; the second baseball field had no lights. The pavilion and children's play area sit outside of the fenced ball fields. The basketball courts are located across the street from the other amenities.

General Condition: Both bleachers and the surrounding fence could benefit by being repaired or replaced. The concession stand is in need of repair inside the structure, along with new painting and improvements to the building's outside.

The children's play area has one new multi-station play structure that is in very good condition, however the slide and swing sets are in poor condition and need updating. Proper protective ground cover such as mulch or rubber chips should be placed under the swing sets. It does appear as if improvements in this area are underway. Short net less basketball hoops are placed throughout the children's play area, however the hoop poles are tilting. The rusted seating in the park needs to be repainted and improved.



The basketball courts appear to be in good condition with netted hoops, a lined court, and a smooth court surface. Both, the full size and half size soccer fields are in good condition. The half size soccer field has limited use as it is only used by children 8 and under. The fencing around the courts is also in good condition.

Accessibility: Parking is limited to on-street parking and one handicapped space directly in front of the entrance to the fields. This portion of Elm Street has, at times, heavy truck traffic that appears to be from the municipal garage. Two large piles of sand and gravel block a portion of the road directly across from the children's play area. These piles are considered dangerous and should be relocated in a different area.

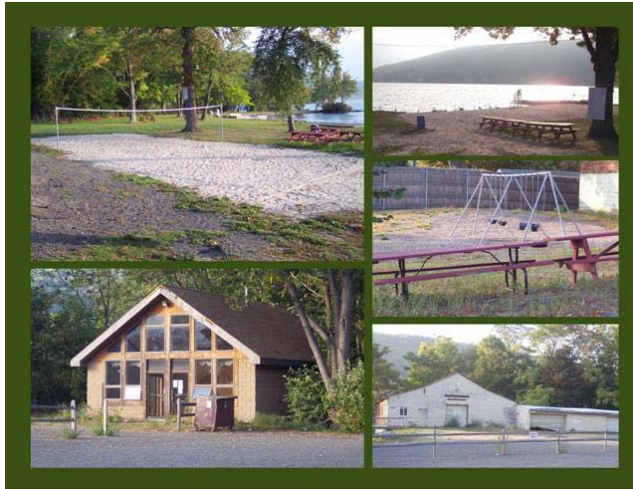
Ownership and Classification: This Park has been identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification. The Park is owned and maintained by the Village.

3.4.4 Greenwood Lake Public Beach

Location: This 2.9-acre public beach is located in the Village of Greenwood Lake, off NYS Route 17A.

Recreational Resources: This open and sandy beach houses a number of resources. Beach goers have access to Greenwood Lake for swimming. Although barbequing is prohibited, there are about a dozen picnic table and bench sets distributed throughout the beach. There is also a volleyball net and children's swing set.

General Condition: There is a dilapidated structure located at the beach that the Town is planning on replacing. Architecture students from City College Technical School in New York City developed design concepts for a new site design of the beach. In addition to a visitor center comfort station, the building will likely house a restaurant/banquet facility and possibly office space. Aside from this, much of the beach is in satisfactory condition, although maintenance has been an issue since the Town and the Village have been working jointly.



Accessibility: Easily accessible by foot to the residents of Greenwood Lake, other Warwick residents must drive to the beach. There is a gravel parking area and the beach has a capacity of 100. Limited to use by Town and Village residents, residents have the option of paying for daily passes or seasonal passes. Lifeguards must be on duty for swimmers to swim in the lake.

Ownership and Classification: Formerly a private marina, the Town acquired the area through its purchase-of development rights (PDR) funds. The beach officially opened to the public in July 2004. While the Town owns the beach, the Village of Greenwood Lake maintains the beach. The beach is classified as a *Special Use Park* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.5 Village of Florida Parks

This section describes the Village of Florida's park and recreational resources.

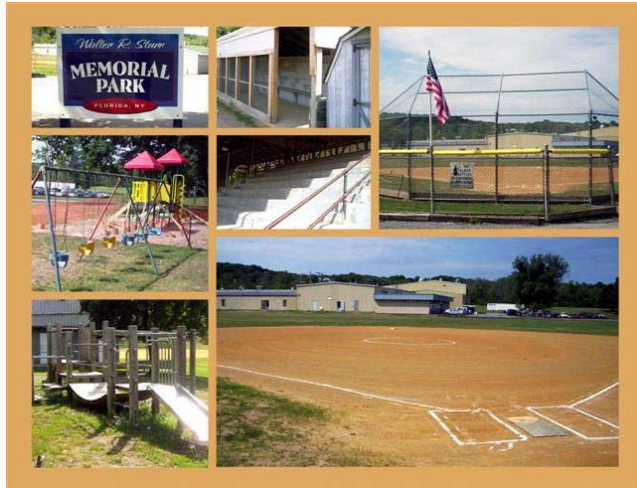
3.5.1 Walter R. Sturr Memorial Park

Location: Water Sturr Memorial Park is located in the Village on Bridge Street, which is off Route 41 (Union Corners Road). At only 3.6 acres, this park is one of the smaller of the local parks. Residential homes, a cemetery and a manufacturing facility surround the park.

Recreational Resources: This Park contains one softball field, one basketball court, 2 multi-station play structures, a swing set, spring animals, a small storage structure, a pavilion, a concession stand with restrooms, and covered bleachers.

General Condition: The Park appears to be in decent condition. The field has nice dirt and green grass in the outfield, the dugouts are enclosed and protected. The new play structure is plastic and ground-up rubber mulch provides protective cover.

Several improvements appear to be warranted. The older multi-station play structure is wood and lacks proper ground cover (such as mulch or rubber). The spring animal and the swing set are older and also lack any safety padding below them. The bleachers, which are constructed of cement, are deteriorating in some areas and also require a fresh coat of paint. The basketball nets are torn and require replacement. The park pavilion needs to be remodeled and improved.



Accessibility: There are no lights and the parking is limited to a small gravel area. This park is not ADA compliant.

Ownership and Classification: The Park is owned and maintained by the Village of Florida. This park is identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification guidelines.

3.5.2 Louis H. Sherwin Park

Location: Sherwin Park is located directly off of Round Hill Road near Golden Hill Elementary School. This park is 2.7 acres and is used for little league purposes only. Cornfields and residential development surround the park.

Recreational Resources: The park contains 2 little league softball fields, one little league baseball field, a batting cage, and a concession stand with restrooms and a storage area. Several sets of small bleachers face the ball fields, while picnic tables have been placed under trees adjacent to the concession stand. Several trash receptacles are dispersed throughout the park.

General Condition: The park appears to be in poor condition, with several facilities in need of repair and/or upgrading. One field is in particularly poor condition, and does not appear to be currently in use. This field has overgrown grass that is growing in clumps in some areas and lacks both baselines and a backstop. Of the remaining two fields, one appears to be in good condition but could benefit from additional landscaping. The other field has weed growth in front

of the dugouts. The picnic tables throughout the park appear to be well used and in relatively good condition. The batting cage appears to need some maintenance. The park could be greatly improved with some general landscaping.



Accessibility: The gravel parking lot may be inadequate if all fields are in use. While none of the recreational facilities are lit for nighttime play, the concession stand does have lighting. The entrance of the park is wide and allows cars to have plenty of room for ingress and egress travel. This park is not ADA compliant.

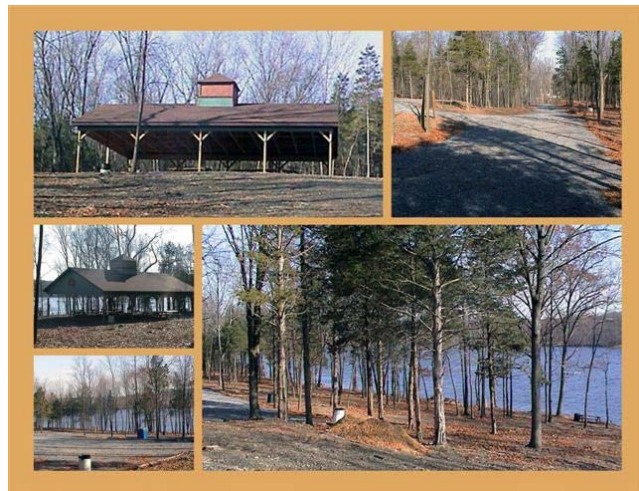
Ownership and Classification: The park is owned by the Lions Club and maintained by Florida Little League. There has been discussion about the

Lions Club donating the land to the Little League, but as the League is not incorporated, this has not been possible. There has also been discussion of an adjacent property owner interested in donating land to increase the size of the park. This park has been identified as a *Neighborhood Park* under the SCORP classification.

3.5.3 Village of Florida Park at Glenmere Lake

Location: Orange County acquired a sizable portion of land in the northeastern section of the Town, straddling the boundary with Chester. Although originally acquired for the creation of a reservoir, the County has not yet had to develop a reservoir at the site. As the land continues to remain undeveloped, the Village of Florida was able to purchase a portion of the property from the County for the creation of a public waterfront park. This park is about 97 acres in size and is located off Harter Drive in the Village.

Recreational Resources: Recently developed, this park is a passive park. Park visitors can access the Glenmere Lake for non-motorized boating or hike along existing 1 ½ mile-walking trails. The park also accommodates picnics, as it has a pavilion, picnic tables and benches. The Village owns the top 15 feet of the lake water, but the County retains ownership of the remainder for drinking purposes. For this reason,



swimming will not be permitted at the park. There is discussion that additional residential development adjacent to the park will result in additional trails.

General Condition: Newly constructed, the park is in excellent condition.

Accessibility: The park houses a sizeable gravel parking area that can accommodate approximately 40-50 vehicles. Open to everyone, there are signs located on Glenmere Avenue identifying the park.

Ownership and Classification: The Village of Florida owns and maintains the park, which is classified as a *Natural Resource Area* under the NRPA guidelines.

3.5.4 Seasonal Ice Rink

Every winter a temporary ice rink is set up at the State Police Substation Barracks located on Pumpkin Swamp Road in the Town of Goshen. Year-round infrastructure at the site includes a light fixture on a pole. The flat, grassy area is filled with water that is frozen to ice. The rink shares the same driveway as the State Police but must park on a dirt area in front of the ice rink off of the paved driveway.



There has been discussion recently about developing new resources at the site, including tennis courts, basketball courts, and a walking track. During the winter months, these proposed courts could also be flooded to provide for additional ice skating rinks. Lighting, parking, and security features, as well as restrooms, are also being discussed.

Owned and maintained by the Village of Florida, the rink is classified as a Special Use Park under the NRPA guidelines.

3.6 Warwick Valley School District

This section describes the Warwick school district's park and recreational resources.

3.6.1 Warwick Valley High School/Middle School

Location: The Warwick High School and Middle School are located in the Town of Warwick off Covered Bridge Road and Extension West. The Sandfordville Elementary School is nearby. The surrounding area is characterized by rural residential development.

Recreational Resources: The school facilities include three inside gyms, a football field surrounded by a cross-country track and bleachers, a softball field, a baseball field, a soccer field, multi-purpose fields, five tennis courts, a concession stand, and restrooms.

General Condition: The high school building appears to be in excellent condition. The facilities seem to be in good condition; both the track and football field appear to be relatively new and the multi-purpose fields, ball fields and soccer fields appear to be in satisfactory condition. The tennis courts' surface condition appears to be good as there were no apparent cracks, no surface bumps, or tears in the court nets.

Accessibility: The large parking lots are newly paved and striped. Entrance gates close when the school and fields are not in use. The football field and track are lighted facilities for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the school district, this park has been identified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.6.2 Park Avenue Elementary

Location: The Park Avenue Elementary School is located on Park Avenue and Forrester Avenue in the Village of Warwick. The school is surrounded by residential development and several commercial establishments near the Village's commercial district.

Recreational Resources: The school's facilities include a gymnasium, three multi-station play structures, three swing sets, and open play areas.

General Condition: The building itself appears to be an older structure but in good condition. Two of the three multi-station play structures are newer and made of plastic and wood while the third structure is entirely wooden and outdated. The swing sets are metal and are also outdated. The swing sets are in very unsatisfactory condition as they are rusted and several of the swings are damaged. There is mulch underneath all the equipment.

Although there are many pieces of playground equipment and large open areas, when the site visit was conducted school children and their schoolteachers were playing ball in a newly paved parking lot.

Accessibility: There is a sign that states the school is private property and the playground is not for public use.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the school district, this park has been identified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.6.3 Kings Elementary School

Location: The Town of Warwick Kings Elementary School is located on Kings Highway (Route 13) in the Town.

Recreational Resources: School facilities include a gymnasium, three baseball fields and a children's play area. The children's play area includes several swing sets and multi-station play structures.

General Condition: The school and its facilities appear to be in good condition.

Accessibility: The entrance to the elementary school is newly paved with a medium sized identification sign. There is a sign at the entrance indicating that school (and its facilities) are private property and not open to the public. Entrance gates at the respective parking lots are closed when the respective facility is not in use. The facilities lack lighting for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the school district, this park has been identified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.6.4 Sandfordville Elementary

Location: The Sandfordville Elementary School is located on Sandfordville Road near the Warwick Valley High School and Middle School in the Town. The elementary school stands on a slight hill surrounded by rural land. There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped land surrounding the school.

Recreational Resources: This school houses a gymnasium, two soccer fields, a basketball ½ court, several multi-station play structures, swing sets, slides, lacrosse field, baseball and a cross country track. In addition, there are open areas, a memorial, and a small flower garden.

General Condition: The school and its' facilities appear to be in good condition. The soccer and lacrosse fields appear to be in good condition. The children's play facilities appear to be new and each piece of equipment has a bed of mulch. The stone memorial is attractively landscaped, and the children's play area has pine trees around its edge.

Accessibility: The school's entrance is clearly delineated with a school sign. There is one driveway that leads to a parking lot in the front of the school, while another leads to a rear parking area adjacent to the school playground. These facilities lack lighting for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the Town, this property is leased by the School District. This park has been identified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.6.5 Pine Island Elementary

Location: The Pine Island Elementary School is located on School House Road off of Route 1 (Pine Island Turnpike). The school is located on a slight hill and is surrounded by residential homes.

Recreational Resources: The school houses several facilities including, a non-regulation size soccer field, a basketball court, a wall ball board, and an unimproved ball field.

General Condition: The facilities at this school appear to be in good condition. The soccer field is grassy and the basketball hoops have nets that are in good condition. However, the soccer field sits at the edge of a slight hill and if the ball gets away, it will roll down the hill to a parking lot area. The ball field is unimproved and only provides a backstop for games, there are no bases or dirt on the field. The wall ball board appears to be intact and large to allow many children to use it at one time.

Accessibility: The entrance is directly off of School House Road and after entering school grounds, the flat area turns into an incline as it travels up to the front entrance of the school. All of the paved surfaces at the school have recently been paved with new striping for designated parking spaces.

Ownership and Classification: The school district is the owner of the school and is classified as a School Park according to the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.7 Greenwood Lake Union Free School District

This section describes the Greenwood Lake Union Free School District's park and recreational resources.

3.7.1 Elementary

Location: The Greenwood Elementary School is located in the Village of Greenwood Lake on Waterstone Road. This school is one block away from Helen Kelly Field and just a few blocks away from the Lions Field. The school is surrounded by residences and is about two blocks from the Village's commercial district.

Recreational Resources: The school's facilities include a large plastic multi-station play structure and medium sized swing set.

General Condition: The playground is in very good condition, with a play structure that appears to be new and a rust-free and intact swing set. The playground facilities sit on a bed of mulch to ensure the child safety. The fence enclosing the playground area is also in good condition, there is no visible rust and all the support poles are intact.



Accessibility: The school's entrance is located on a one-way street with on-street parking provided adjacent to the school and in the school's parking lot. These parking areas are striped

and are in good condition with no cracks or surface bumps. There is no lighting for nighttime use and public use of the facility is limited to elementary school-aged children only.

Ownership and Classification: This school is owned by the school district and is classified as a *School Park* under the NRPA guidelines.

3.7.2 Greenwood Lake Middle School

Location: Greenwood Lake Middle School is located on Lake Road (Route 5) several miles north of the Village. This school is in a rural residential area near the Town of Chester border.

Recreational Resources: The middle school's facilities include a baseball field, softball field, a soccer field, basketball court, a multi-station play structure and two sets of swings. The soccer field overlaps with the ball field's outfields.

General Condition: The school facilities appear to be in good condition with level fields that have adequate drainage capacity. Fencing surrounding one of the ball fields and the multi-station play structure is apparently new. The basketball court has nets and is lined, but is covered with bird excrement. The swing sets are older but appear to be in good condition, as they are rust free and the seats are properly attached.

Accessibility: The school entrance is highly visible, with a paved driveway. The entrance is attractively landscaped, complete with a small waterbody. There is no lighting for nighttime use for any of the school's facilities.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the school district, this park has been identified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.8 Florida Union Free School District

This section describes the Florida Union Free School District's park and recreational resources.

3.8.1 S.S. Seward Institute

Location: S.S. Seward Institute, which provides education for grades 9 through 12, is located off Main Street in the heart of the Village. The school is surrounded by both the Main Street commercial district and residential family homes.

Recreational Resources: The school facilities include one multi-use field with two soccer nets and one unimproved ball field. The soccer nets are moveable and the ball field is only equipped with a backstop. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, which accommodates both basketball and soccer.

General Condition: The ball field/soccer field is in poor condition. The grass is worn away and the dirt appears to be hard packed and to have small pebbles throughout the field. The field is dry, not lined and not conducive to regulation games.

Accessibility: The entrance to the school is located on Main Street and the exit is on the adjacent side street, Fairries Avenue. The entrance to the school is very pedestrian friendly as there are sidewalks along Main Street. The parking lot is newly paved and there are no lights on the field for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the School District, this park has been classified as a *School Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.8.2 S.S. Seward Sports Complex/Field of Dreams

Location: This park is located at end of Edward J. Lempka Drive in the neighboring Town of Goshen. A donated cornfield, the park is comprised of 400 feet of black dirt covering rock. Many individuals volunteered their time for the development of the park.

Recreational Resources: The Park contains 2 soccer fields, small bleachers, an unimproved baseball field, a concession stand with a storage facility and a portable restroom. There is one trash receptacle in front of the concession stand and a gravel parking area. There are plans to develop a baseball field infield in 2007.

General Condition: The Park appears to be in good condition. The concession stand and storage facility were built in 2004 and the bleachers and benches, both made of aluminum, appear to be in good condition. The unimproved baseball field is all grass with no defined infield or baselines and spills over onto one of the soccer fields. The soccer goals are moveable nets and there is open space to practice during game times. Due to the composition of the land, (soil over rocks) there is little drainage at the park.

Accessibility: An unpaved, one lane roadway provides access to the site, leading up to a gravel parking area. There is no signage identifying the presence of the field, either along the roadway or at the park entrance. The two soccer fields lack lighting and are limited to daytime use. This field is not ADA compliant.

Ownership and Classification: The field is owned by the School District, and is used by the Florida Soccer Club and School District. The Florida Soccer Club has invested considerable resources into the field, both for improvements and maintenance. It is identified as a Special Use Park under the NPRA classification.

3.8.3 Golden Hill Elementary

Location: The Golden Hill Elementary School is located in the Town just outside the Village of Florida off of Round Hill Road. Residential homes abut the school on one side, while open space lies adjacent on the other.

Recreational Resources: The school is home to many facilities including the Alex F. Paul Athletic Fields that house one ball field and two soccer fields, bleachers, and portable restroom

facilities. The school playground includes one large multi-station play structure, two slides, two climbing apparatuses, one set of monkey bars, several swing sets, a four-seat spring apparatus, a plastic basketball hoop and benches. Indoor resources include a gymnasium and basketball court.

General Condition: The Alex F. Paul Fields are in decent condition, with a ball field that has nice, new, soft dirt with no grass growing in the baselines and backstop fencing that is rust-free and in good condition. The soccer fields appear to be somewhat dry with thinning brown grass and the aluminum bleachers are in good condition. The children's play area is in good condition, with a multi-station play structure that appears to be new. The swing sets are painted and intact, and the grass is decent condition. However, most of the apparatuses do not have mulch or rubber mats under the structure. There is a wooded area bordering the playground that may pose a hazard.

Accessibility: Although a sign indicates that the Alex F. Paul Fields are reserved for school activities only, organized sports groups may use the facilities as long as a Facilities Use Form is completed and proof of insurance is provided. The children's playground, reserved for children ages 5-12, is closed from dusk to dawn. The driveway leading up to the school is long, curved, paved asphalt and is in good condition. The entrance to the school is well marked with an appropriate school sign. There are no lights for nighttime use.

Ownership and Classification: The school is owned by the school district and is classified as a *School Park* under the NRPA guidelines.

3.9 County, State or Federally Owned Parkland Resources

Orange County owns several properties in the Town of Warwick that function as recreation and open space resources. These are described in the following section.

3.9.1 Orange County Park/Hickory Hill

Location: Warwick County Park is located to the east of the Village of Warwick immediately off NYS Route 17A. The 708.5-acre Park is a short drive from the Village's commercial district and several nearby residential neighborhoods.

Recreational Resources: This large Park offers a picnic grove, ball field, small children's play area, restrooms and an 18-hole golf course. The picnic area contains picnic tables, a pavilion, hibachis, a multi-station play structure and a slide. There are trash receptacles throughout the picnic area. Individuals wishing to picnic are welcome throughout the year, however the restrooms are seasonal and close in October. Orange County residents as well as non-residents must pay a fee for the use of the pavilion and ball field. The pavilion occupancy is limited to 96 persons; groups exceeding 20 persons must require a permit in advance. The pavilion has a paved floor and electricity is available.

General Condition: The ball field backstop fencing is rusting with one broken support pipe. In addition, the ball field consists of all grass; there is no designated infield, outfield or baselines.

Conditions in the picnic grove portion of the Park are in need of improvement. The pavilion and picnic tables appear to be newer, however the hibachis are in disrepair, with the grills and bodies rusting out. The children's slide is situated on a slight slope that could be dangerous. The apparatus connected to the slide is metal and rusting. The multi-station play structure is plastic and appears to be newer. Neither the slide nor the multi station has protective mulch or chips under the apparatus to protect the children from injuries sustained in a fall. The restrooms are in need of renovations as there are no doors on two of the three toilet stalls.

The Hickory Hill Golf Course and clubhouse appear to be in very good condition. The greens and fairways appear well maintained with water sprinklers, mowed grass and sufficient cart paths.

Accessibility: The entrance drive and internal circulation roadways are narrow, not well marked, and are scattered with potholes. In addition, while the road is divided into one-way traffic, the road lacks adequate signage alerting drivers of the changing traffic pattern.

The picnic grove is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day for family and small group picnicking. Hickory Hill Golf Course is open to County residents and non-residents. The course offers a season privilege card to residents and non-residents that offer seasonal membership packages. Reduced fees are offered for seniors, juniors, and those playing after 4PM. In order to receive county rate, Orange County residents must present proof of residency. Other fees include renting a golf court for 9 or 18 holes, a single-rider golf cart and a start time fee.

This park does not appear to be ADA compliant and has an adequate amount of parking in the picnic grove.

Ownership and Classification: Owned by the County, this park has been identified as a *Large Urban Park* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.9.2 Sterling Forest State Park

Location: The 17,988-acre Sterling Forest State Park is located in the southeastern tip of the Town and is accessible only via CR 84 (Long Meadow Road in the neighboring Town of Tuxedo). Approximately 8,668.6 acres of the park is located in Warwick.

Recreational Resources: Sterling Forest State Park offers fishing, biking, hunting, hiking, boating, and horseback riding. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are permitted on

designated trails. A Master Plan for Sterling Forest, adopted in 2001, identifies the geographic boundaries of each of these activities. An entire network of trails runs throughout the Park,



including the Allis Trail (with 1.3 miles in Warwick) and the Sterling Ridge Trail (\pm 5 miles in Warwick). Walks and talks led by park educators and rangers are available for the general public, while educational programs for school groups and other organizations are available by appointment. Trails range from easy to somewhat difficult. Hiking is allowed only on marked trails, as bushwhacking is prohibited.

General Condition: This park is one of the largest unfragmented areas of the Hudson Highlands. The park houses more than 50 ecological communities and an abundant variety of plants and animals, including more than 80 butterfly species. The Park is a critical ecological link in the greenbelt, which extends from the Housatanic River in Connecticut through the Hudson and New Jersey Highlands to the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania.

The Park houses approximately 810 species of trees, shrubs, and herbs, including 40 species previously unknown to PIPC parks and 20 species the New York Natural Heritage Program currently has listed as either endangered or threatened. Approximately 125 species of bird have been sighted within the park's boundaries, including waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds. Other notable birds include the Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, Golden-winged Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers, and Scarlet Tanagers. There are 30 NYS DEC-listed wetlands that provide habitat for beavers, otters, muskrats, turtles, snakes, amphibians, and waterfowl.

Accessibility: The Park is open daily from dawn until dusk. The Park's information center operates seven days a week, from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. There is parking near the information center, with additional parking lots located throughout the Park. The Park is a "Carry In, Carry Out State Park" and all visitors must remove their own trash.

Ownership and Classification: The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), is the steward of more than 100,000 acres of Parkland in New York and New Jersey, including seven Parks located in Orange County. The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), the States of New York and New Jersey, in conjunction with the federal government, acquired Sterling Forest in 1998. Maintained by PIPC, this park has been identified as a *Natural Resource Area* under NRPA classification guidelines.

3.9.3 Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge

Location: The Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge straddles two states: Sussex County, New Jersey and Orange County, New York. As of April 15, 2003, the refuge encompassed about 4,800 acres. Land acquisition is still proceeding. Approximately 222.9 acres are located in the southwest of Warwick. Much of the description that follows has been taken from the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge website.

Recreational Resources: The refuge provides numerous opportunities for public recreation. There are 3 nature trails for wildlife observation, three fishing access sites on the Wallkill River, including one at Pine Island in Warwick, and three canoe access sites. The refuge also provides

hunting opportunities for White-Tailed Deer, American Turkey, migratory bird, and resident Canada Goose. Anglers may also fish from rowboats or canoes on the river. In winter months, with proper snow conditions, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are allowed on several of the trails.

The flat, 2.5-mile Liberty Loop Trail was developed on a former sod farm that had at one time been a forested wetland. The trail is co-aligned with the Appalachian Trail for 1 mile. The trail loops around a wetland and grassland management unit, providing hikers with an opportunity to observe waterfowl and grassland birds. The trail parking area is located on the south side of Oil City Road in Pine Island.

The Wood Duck Nature Trail is a 1.5-mile flat trail located on a former railroad bed that ends at the Wallkill River. The self-guiding interpretive trail includes a nature photography blind, interpretive nature signs, a footbridge across Beaver Run, and several benches. Extensive wetlands are located along the trail. The trailhead is located on Route 565 in Wantage, New Jersey, approximately 200 yards north of Route 23. Future plans include construction of a footbridge across the Wallkill River, continuation of the trail along the former railroad bed, and construction of a parking area off of Scenic Lakes Road in Hardyston.

The 2.7-mile Dagmar Dale Nature Trail traverses grasslands and hardwood forests from the Refuge headquarters down to the Wallkill River. This trail consists of two loops: the 1.7-mile North Loop (Blue Trail) and the 1-mile South Loop (Yellow Trail.) Both trails traverse hilly terrain. Parking for this trail is behind the refuge headquarters on Rt. 565 in Vernon, New Jersey.

General Condition: Volunteers, in addition to the Refuge, assist with the maintenance of this natural state park. While the refuge does not have an environmental educator on its staff, some educational opportunities are available through refuge volunteers and the New Jersey Audubon Society.

Accessibility: There is no refuge entrance fee. Hunt permit application fees are \$10 per season (deer, turkey, and/or migratory bird). Golden Age and Golden Access Passport holders pay \$5.

Ownership and Classification: Congress established the refuge in 1990 to preserve land and conserve a diverse population of wildlife, plants and their habitats for present and future generations. The management emphasis is on Federally-listed endangered and threatened species, migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, nesting and wintering grassland birds, and forest-dwelling birds.

Owned and maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services this park has been identified as a *Natural Resource Area* under NRPA classification guidelines. Volunteers also assist with maintenance.

3.10 Public and Private Trails

The Town of Warwick houses a variety of trails through its hillsides and ridges. These trails include both publicly owned and maintained facilities as well as private facilities, and range from converted multi-use rail-to-trails to pedestrian-only nature hikes through sensitive ridge areas.

3.10.1 Highlands Trail

The existing Highlands Trail is a 35-mile trail that traverses a number of scenic areas along the Hudson Valley's rugged highlands region, including many parks, forests and natural areas. The trail travels along segments of the Appalachian Trail, converted rail-trails, through Museum Village, over Schunnemunk Mountain, through Black Rock Forest and finally to the top of Storm King Mountain overlooking the Hudson River. In the Town of Warwick, the Highlands Trail traverses the Sterling Forest State Park and coincides with a segment of the Appalachian Trail at the northeastern tip of the Town.

Once fully completed, the proposed 150+ mile trail will connect Storm King Mountain with Phillipsburg, New Jersey, on the Delaware River. The route will connect major scenic attractions in both states. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference (NYNJTC), a volunteer, not-for-profit organization, maintains the Highlands Trail. According to NYNJTC, a network of trails including alternate routes and multi-use paths is ultimately envisioned.

NYNJTC identifies the Highlands Trail as a combination of co-alignment on established trails, new trails, and on-road facilities. The co-aligned sections bear both trails' blazes, except for the Appalachian, Sterling Ridge, and Allis Trails, which have plastic Highlands Trail logos at critical points. Hikers must pay attention at intersections as the Highlands Trail often leaves one trail to join another.



As camping is not permitted along the Trail, thru-hikers must stay at bed-and-breakfast facilities along the route, or at established State Park campgrounds. No fires, horses, bikes, or motorized vehicles are permitted on the Trail unless specifically allowed by local regulations.

As a pedestrian-only hiking trail, this facility has been identified as a Type III *Park Trail* under NRPA classification.

3.10.2 Appalachian Trail

One of the Town's most significant features is the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The complete trail is 2,174 miles and runs from Maine to northern Georgia. Approximately seven miles of its stretch pass through the Town of Warwick. According to the Town's Comprehensive

Plan, the Trail is known to have more miles of boundaries, as a ratio of its acreage, than any other park in the nation.

The Appalachian Trail was initiated at Harriman-Bear Mountain State Park in the Hudson Valley in 1923 and completed in 1937. Founded by Benton Mackaye, it was developed through the help of volunteers. A footpath, the trail is used by hikers that want to experience short-term hikes ranging from hours to a couple of days or long-term hikers that wish to hike the entire trail in one season. Orange County offers about 35 miles of trail that includes scenic views of Greenwood Lake to the Bear Mountain Wildlife Center. The trailhead and parking areas nearest to the Town of Warwick are located off NYS Route 17A by Continental Road in the Town, northwest of the Village of Greenwood Lake.

The NYNJTC is responsible for maintenance of the trail in New York and New Jersey. Through a network of hiking clubs and individuals, volunteers assist with the maintenance of this National Scenic Trail under a cooperative agreement with the Appalachian Trail Conference and the United States National Park Service. The National Park Service owns several miles of the trail corridor outside of the State Parks.

As a pedestrian-only hiking trail, this facility has been identified as a Type III *Park Trail* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.10.3 Hazen Property Nature Trails

The Hazen Property is located at the southern edge of Warwick, just north of the New Jersey border, west of Cascade Park.

Approximately 200+ acres have been set aside and designated as permanent open space. In addition to three gravel-parking areas, there are unpaved hiking and walking trails open to the public. These lands are maintained as a natural area. Aside from about a dozen residences that were developed at the site, the subdivision property was preserved as open space.

There are three parking areas on each of the main roadways that traverse the property: Black Rock Road, Conklin Road, and Bowen Road.

These lands are both owned and maintained by the Orange County Land Trust. As a pedestrian-only hiking trail, this facility has been identified as a Type III *Park Trail* under the NRPA classification guidelines.

3.10.4 Proposed New Trails

In the spring of 2005, the Hudson River Valley Greenway Conservancy awarded the Town of Warwick a \$3,000 grant for the planning, design, promotion, signage, and traffic study for an interstate bike path connection. This bike path is the first phase of a multi-phased plan that would eventually form a walking/biking trail from the east portion of Warwick to the western portion, connecting all three of the Town's Villages.

The project is a multi-municipal collaborative effort between Warwick and the neighboring Township of Vernon, New Jersey. The Vernon Open Space Committee approached the Warwick Partnership for Quality Communities to discuss the possibility of constructing a bike path that would link the two communities. To allow for a loop, the Vernon bike trail will connect to Warwick at two locations: Prices Switch Road and at Meadowburn/Blooms Corners Road. The loop connects to Canal Drive in Vernon, and ultimately connects to a municipal park.

The Warwick Partnership for Quality Communities Committee developed an eleven-mile bike path route that will connect to the Vernon bike path at the state line and follow roadways in a circular pattern through the Pine Island area. The path will eventually continue through to connect to the Town of Goshen.

The Town has also sought funding through SAFETEA, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act. This extends TEA-21, which provides funding for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Although they initially sought \$500,000 through to fund the trail construction, they were awarded \$400,000 to improve and connect walking/biking trails.

3.11 Public and Private Open Space

The Town of Warwick has a considerable amount of preserved open space within its boundaries. For the purpose of discussion, this land is categorized as either publicly owned—that is a municipality, a State agency, or a Federal agency, or a government subsidiary owns it—or it is privately owned. This land is further classified as “permanently” protected or not permanently protected. Distinguishing between levels of protection can be complicated. An attempt has been made to appropriately categorized lands based on ownership, existing land uses, and ongoing administrative and/or development trends. The following classifications correspond to classifications found on the Greater Warwick Park and Recreation Map.

3.11.1 Privately Owned/Temporarily Protected

The only lands classified as privately owned and temporarily protected, are several parcels that are presently conserved under Section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law. In effect since 1974, New York State created this law to encourage the long-term ownership of woodlands to produce forest crops and increase the likelihood of a more stable forest economy. Through this law, qualifying landowners are granted some form of tax relief as long as they meet program requirements for the ten-year commitment period.

To be eligible, land tracts must consist of at least 50 contiguous acres, exclusive of any portion not devoted to the production of forest crops. In addition, any timber harvest conducted within the previous three years must have been conducted in accordance with a sound forest management program approved by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. While eligible tracts must be managed primarily for forest crop production, other compatible uses, such as forest recreation and watershed management are permitted.

There are several sizable 480-a parcels located in the eastern section of Town, along the hillsides. Several parcels are located off Cascade Road, with a few adjacent to Orange County Hickory Hill Park. Other parcels are located along NYS Route 17 adjacent to Sterling Forest State Park.

3.11.2 Privately Owned/Permanently Protected

Privately protected open space includes parcels that have been dedicated for permanent conservation and are to remain undeveloped in perpetuity. Such land may or may not be open to the public. This land can include parcels that will not be developed because the Town or a conservation organization has purchased their development rights, or the owner has agreed to place a conservation easement on his or her land. Private protected parcels in Warwick include the following:

- Purchase of Development Right (PDR) Farmlands acquired by the Town of Warwick. These farms include Borderland Farm, Buckbee Farm, Sayre Farm, Sweetman Farm, Brady Farm, and Lewis Farm.
- Privately protected open space including parcels owned by the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Orange County Audubon Society, the Orange County Citizens Foundation, the Orange County Land Trust, Scenic Hudson, and the Trust for Public Land. The previously discussed Hazen Property—owned by the Orange County Land Trust—falls under this classification.
- Privately owned parkland, including the parks and resources located in the Kings Estates/Sugar Hills subdivision.

3.11.3 Publicly Owned/Permanently Protected

This category includes parcels that are owned by various municipal, State, and Federal level agencies that, for various reasons, are not to be developed. The following lands are included in this classification.

- Municipal water supply lands.
- National Park Service lands dedicated to the Appalachian Trail.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services' Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Palisades Interstate Park Commission's Sterling Forest State Park.
- Orange County/Hickory Hill Park.
- Land donated for the creation of an animal refuge.

3.11.4 Publicly Owned/Temporarily Protected

This category includes lands that, while under public ownership, are not officially allocated as open space or the existing use does not preclude development. The primary land in the Town that falls within this classification is the land adjacent to Glenmere Lake that Orange County acquired

for the possible future development of an aquifer. Despite the fact that the County has not yet needed to use the area as a water source, it is regarded as highly unlikely that the County would either develop or sell the lands.

3.11.5 Local Parks

The final category includes all the locally owned parks and open space parcels. One point that should be highlighted is the fact that *not all the lands currently used as parkland in Greater Warwick are designated as parkland*. **Municipally owned lands not officially designated as parkland may be developed for other, non-park uses in the future if those uses are deemed as taking a higher precedence.** It is very difficult for a municipality to change the use of officially designated parkland.¹ To qualify for State or Federal funding to develop park and recreational facilities on a proposed site, that site must be designated as parkland.

Second, *one parcel actually classified as parkland under the New York State Real Property Tax Classification System in the Town of Warwick, is not used as parkland*. A parcel on Continental Road owned by the Village of Greenwood Lake, but located in the Town, has been used for mulch storage for the past several years. It is currently in the process of being restored.

Finally, it should be further noted that *some of the lands local residents have come to use and rely upon as parkland are not under public ownership*. These parcels are privately held, and while current landowners may be agreeable to allowing their lands to be used as fields, **there is nothing in place to guarantee these lands' availability in the future.**

3.12 Recreational Programs

The Warwick Recreation Committee is responsible for overseeing several community-wide recreational programs available to all Warwick residents. These programs vary by season and by location. Independently organized leagues, both for youths and adults, offer opportunities for a variety of activities. The Town's Recreation Commission is responsible for user scheduling.

3.12.1 Summer Programs

TOWN (PINE ISLAND)

The Town's Summer Recreation Program is held at Pine Island Park. The program operates from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday and runs from July 5th to approximately August 12. The program hosts about 283 Kindergarten through 5th grade-aged children with an average of 110 children per day. Activities include games, arts and crafts, and trips to Greenwood Beach. Special events held during the 2005 season



¹ New York State courts have found a public trust in parkland that prohibits the alienation or discontinuance of parkland by a municipality without express approval by the State Legislature. Paul M. Bray, "Parks: Enduring Benefits, Endless Challenges." *Democratic and Chronicle*, June 21, 2002.

included visits from Pat's Pals, complete with animal and reptile guests; a carnival; and a trip to see the play, *Narnia*, at the Sussex Playhouse.

The Summer Teen Program was held Monday – Wednesday evenings. Activities included Monday night softball, Tuesday night game night and Wednesday night bowling. The attendance ranged from 20 –40 teens per activity.

As this is a Town program, the Town pays for all program costs. In 2005, the budget of \$21,500 covered recreation costs for 283 children for the six-week program. Program costs include counselor training (for CPR and First Aid certification).

VILLAGE OF GREENWOOD LAKE

In 2005, the Village of Greenwood Lake had about 130 children participate in its summer program. While the Village previously sponsored a full summer camp program, it has not done so in recent years. Summer activities include an instructional swimming program held at the Greenwood Lake Beach two mornings per week, which is limited to 40 children. An arts and crafts program (limited to 30 children) is held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM three days a week at the recreation hall located in the Village Library.

Evening sports activities held at Lions Field and Helen Kelly Field include basketball, football, girls' softball, and flag football. Activities not sponsored by the Village but held at Village parks include Little League and the soccer club.

The summer program runs for six weeks, beginning in July. The estimated budget for the 2005 summer program was approximately \$40,000. The Town of Warwick pays \$27,500 to cover the cost of Town residents that participate in the Village's recreation programs.

VILLAGE OF WARWICK

The Village of Warwick's Recreation Program offers a variety of activities available to Town and Village of Warwick residents. Stanley Deming Park hosts a program for children aged 5 – 12. Activities include small games, arts and crafts, story time, and theme weeks. Basketball is also taught at the park. An instructional and a recreational swim program is held at the Warwick High School pool. Instructional tennis is taught at the Warwick Middle School Tennis courts. Track and field sports are taught as well as exercising and fitness. Instructional soccer and touch football are also taught at the Warwick Middle School field. A cheerleading program and a skateboard clinic were introduced in 2005.

As this program is open to both Village and Town residents, the Town pays to cover program costs for participants who live in the Town. In 2005, the budget of \$69,365 covered recreation costs for 288 children for the six-week program. The Town pays 60% of the program service costs (\$52,311), while the Village pays 40%.

VILLAGE OF FLORIDA

The Village of Florida hosts a six-week summer recreation program for children in grades Kindergarten through 6th in the Florida Union Free School District. The six-week recreation program is a day program that operates from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday – Friday and is held at the Golden Hill Elementary School. Activities include arts and crafts, team sports, games, foosball, ping-pong and music. In addition, short education sessions on chess, marbles, art and bird watching have been included in the past. Once a week the children travel to the Florida Public Library for storytelling and for an opportunity to borrow books. The current enrollment in this program is 400 children.

The Village of Florida's 2006 proposed recreation budget is \$69,500. The program budget covers the expenses of the summer day program, which is \$25,500, and all additional Village sponsored programs. The Town pays \$21,5000 to cover the cost of Town residents that participate in the summer program.



3.12.2 Town Recreational Activities

Recreational programs are an integral part of the Town's recreational opportunities. The Town of Warwick in partnership with the Villages of Warwick, Florida and Greenwood Lake offer recreational activities for children and teens. The 2005 season included the following events held throughout the year:

TOWN OF WARWICK

The Warwick Valley Community Center, a local nonprofit, sponsors a number of other recreational activities in Warwick. Partially funded by the Town, the Center will receive approximately \$26,600 from the Town in 2006 to cover center operating costs, including fuel, insurance, and electricity. The Center estimates its visitation at about 25,000 visits from 5,000 residents during the year. The multi-purpose community center offers the following:

- Reaching Out Teen Center
- Pre-school program
- After school program for both children and teens
- Enrichment classes
- Bi-monthly film series
- Jazz performances

Some Specific activities include:

- Natural science
- Parenting programs
- Modern dance
- Ballet
- Tai chi
- Yoga
- Arts and crafts
- Dog training
- Piano
- Weird Science
- Cooking for kids

VILLAGE OF GREENWOOD LAKE

The following are the recreational activities offered in the Village of Greenwood Lake:

Activities at Lions Field

- Little League
- Softball
- Soccer
- Men's Softball
- Girls recreation softball
- Girls competitive softball
- Soccer
- East Arm Rowing Club
- Adult men's basketball

VILLAGE/TOWN OF WARWICK

The Village of Warwick's recreational activities include the following:

- Track Program
- Tennis Program
- Park Program
- Swim Program
- Cheerleading Program
- Soccer Program
- Basketball Program
- Football Program
- Skateboarding Clinic

VILLAGE OF FLORIDA

The Village of Florida recreational activities include the following:

- Summer Swim Program
- Golf Clinic – 2006
- Teen evening Recreation
- Ice Rink – Seasonal
- Youth Basketball
- Cheerleading
- Off-Season Baseball Clinic
- Family Swim Night
- Parent/Child Horseshoe Tournament – 2006
- Pitch/Hit/Run Baseball Competition – 2006
- Junior Olympics - 2006

Town Special Events

The Town of Warwick and its three Villages offer many events throughout the year for local residents and tourists to enjoy. The Warwick Valley Tourism Guide brochure is printed every year and includes dates and descriptions of events for every month. An overview of the events include: concert series, historic tours, plays, parades, wine tastings, holiday gatherings and many festivals and craft fairs. The large special events in Warwick include Applefest and the Farmers' Markets.

APPLEFEST

In early October the Village of Warwick, sponsored by Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce, is home to the Applefest festival. In 2005, Applefest celebrated its 17th year and has previously received national recognition as one of the country's "Top 100 Events in North America" by the American Bus Association. The festival includes 275 vendors, musicians, craftspeople, and types of food ranges from American apple food to the more exotic Greek food.

FARMERS MARKET

The Town of Warwick, from May to October, houses three farmers' markets: the Warwick Valley Farmers' Market, the Greenwood Lake Farmers' Market, and the Florida Farmers' Market. The Warwick Valley Farmers' Market is held every Sunday at the South Street Parking Lot from 9-2; the Greenwood Lake Farmers' Market is held every Friday from 2-7 PM at the CVS parking lot; and the Florida Farmers' Market is held on Tuesdays from 10-5:30 PM at Route 17A. Available products include, regionally produced vegetables, fruits, perennials, organic produce, herbs, baked goods, cut flowers, preserves, local wines, goat cheese, honey, and more.



FLORIDA FAMILY FUN FEST

Held the second Sunday in August on Main Street in the Village of Florida, this annual event offers recreational activities for residents and visitors of all ages. Approximately 100 vendors sell a variety of food items. Main Street is closed to accommodate two stages for musical performances. Children can enjoy games and rides.

3.13 Parks and Recreation Administration

The following sections describe Warwick's park and recreation related administration and funding.

3.13.1 Recreation Commission

The Town has an appointed 7-member Recreation Commission responsible for overseeing the parks and recreational activities available in the Town. The Town Board appoints the Commission members, who then report directly to the Town Board. A major role performed by the Commission is they coordinate field usage between the Town's various organizations and leagues. The Commission does not have a mission statement and there is no staffed recreation department.

The Town has a parks maintenance department that operates out of the Town Department of Public Works. They are based out of a building located in the Town's Union Corners Park. The Town's parks department is responsible only for maintaining the fields and structures located at the Town-owned parks, not the Village-owned parks. Each of the Town's three Villages has their own public works departments responsible for maintaining their parks.

3.13.2 Recreation Impact Fee

The Town of Warwick has a Recreation Impact Fee that is assessed for every new home being constructed. The fee, previously \$1,500 per unit, was recently increased to \$2,500 per unit. There was a moratorium in place in the Town for a while, so no impact fee funds were coming in.

The purpose of the Recreation Impact Fee was to acquire funds to meet the increasing needs for parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities. The Town Board may also accept land in lieu of fees, or may waive or partially waive the fees in appropriate cases.



Currently the Town's recreational impact fees includes: The Town of Warwick fee is \$2,500, the Village of Warwick fee is \$3,000, the Village of Greenwood Lake is \$1,500 - \$2,500 and the Village of Florida fee is \$2,000.

King Estates, a private community located in the Town, has an annual parks assessment fee that is levied on residents.

This fee, \$120 collected from each of the community's 342 homes, results in an annual budget of \$44,000. As Kings Estates lacks a homeowners association, the funds collected through this fee are used to maintain the neighborhood's existing parks and fields.