

VISION 2020 Plan

Goal 1

Use the existing parks and conservation area system "bones" and enhance with strategic acquisitions to implement the 2020 Parks and Recreation Plan. Our goal is to develop a town-wide system of Parks and Recreation to include:

- a. general use and multi use/special use facilities
- b. neighborhood pocket parks
- c. conservation areas, bike/hike trails, and natural areas

Objectives:

- 1) Develop a general use town park
- 2) Build a multi-use, multi-generational Community, year-round Activity and Recreation Center
- 3) Build a multi-sport, multi-league Team Sports facility
- 4) Build a multi-sport outdoor sport facility for use by persons with disabilities.
- 5) Complete a thorough inventory of existing parks, conservation and nature areas, and recreational facilities within the town and a needs analysis of the same.
- 6) Maintain existing neighborhood pocket parks and make improvements as necessary. Add additional neighborhood pocket parks, if possible, in neighborhoods that are not currently being served
- 7) Develop a multi-modal trail system within town to connect with other multi-modal trail systems such as the NYS Canalway trail system, the City of Schenectady's trail system, and neighboring towns' trail systems.
- 8) Promote and enhance Rotterdam's conservation areas.

Goal 2

Ensure an effective Parks and Recreation program that can be enjoyed by all town residents under the administration of a Parks, Recreation, and Community Programs Department with oversight from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Objectives:

- 1) create a separate Parks, Recreation, and Community Programs Department within the town budget with both year-round and seasonal staffing.
- 2) continue the Parks and Recreation Commission as an advisory commission and adopt formal rules for its membership, operation and scope of authority.
- 3) develop greater cooperation among the various leagues and sports and recreation programs (all age levels and abilities) to most efficiently use park resources, most efficiently use the various private leagues/groups resources, and to enhance the sports and recreation programs available to all town residents.

- 4) adopt a uniform system of signage to promote Rotterdam parks and recreation facilities.
- 5) develop a wide-range of parks and recreation programs that appeal to residents of all ages and interests to enhance the quality of life in the town.
- 6) Have summer programs at individual parks with adequate staffing.
- 7) develop a range of events within the parks and recreation system throughout the year that promote both the parks and the town.
- 8) "We ♥ Rotterdam Parks" events
- 9) Encourage residents and organizations to volunteer services to aid in the parks and recreation program.
- 10) Have clean and well cared for parks and recreation facilities.
- 11) Design parks and recreation facilities so they can be used by a wide range (ages and abilities)of residents and so that they are safe.
- 12) Assign a park police officer, install cameras and adequate lighting, and have police agencies perform unscheduled patrols of all town parks and recreation facilities.
- 13) Develop an anti-littering program to keep our parks and recreation system clean.

Goal 3

Minimize the impact on property tax payers of the cost of implementation and the ongoing operation of the 2020 Parks and Recreation Plan.

Objectives:

- 1) dedicated use of various non-property tax sources of revenue (e.g. park land fees, facility use fees, etc.)
- 2) Seek federal, state, and private grants to implement various components of the plan
- 3) intergovernmental cooperation agreements with Schenectady County and neighboring municipalities.
- 4) bequests, and gifts
- 5) Town Board to establish a Rotterdam Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve Fund
- 6) Encourage volunteer service and possible use of "friends of" groups to raise money for, develop, maintain, conduct programs and staff our parks and recreation system.

Submitted for public review by
Town of Rotterdam Parks Commission