



Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

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Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

The purpose of the Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Plan) is to provide the Town with guidelines for the expansion and improvement of community parks and recreational opportunities with specific recommendations for actions within the next five years. The plan identifies future recreational needs, and establishes immediate and long range plans for promoting, financing, implementing, administering, and maintaining facilities and programs. The update process reflects an effort to guide the development of recreational programs and facilities based on the Town's growth patterns and within the framework of the Town's comprehensive planning and zoning. The Plan is also important in documenting recreational needs that qualify the Town for state, federal, and other sources of financial assistance.

The planning process for this study included outreach efforts aimed at the general public, key stakeholders, and an advisory committee, and provided continuity and oversight. Several local initiatives were also referenced, including the Town's Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Inventory, and forthcoming Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. Each of these bears upon the health and quality of life experienced by the community as a whole, both of which are central to the Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department's mission.



The Master Plan is also informed by a series of public priorities with respect to the many benefits offered by park and recreation facilities. Community members have prioritized six general benefits they would like to derive from their park system as follows: youth development; environmental benefits; physical health; social functioning (i.e., opportunities for interactions with neighbors); mental health; and economic impacts.

Existing demographic trends and projections suggest that the population of the Town of Chili, like many other towns, is becoming older. Declines in the pre-school and school ages, with a corresponding increase in older adult populations, suggest careful evaluation of priorities in providing recreational programs and facilities. Real population growth, if it continues at a high rate, can mitigate the trends somewhat and sustain demands for recreational opportunities used by the younger population. However, the level of overall population growth is projected at lower levels than in previous decades, and may not have this effect.

The existing inventory of municipal parks and recreational facilities includes eight parks and two municipally-owned open space areas. In addition to Town-owned facilities, the Town of Chili also contains a variety of other facilities, including Black Creek Park (Monroe County), the Genesee Valley Greenway, school district-owned facilities, two natural areas owned by the Genesee Land Trust, and private facilities (e.g., golf courses, fitness centers).

The Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department offers a number of different indoor and outdoor programs and special events for residents. The programs currently include the following:

- Athletic programs for youth and/or adults (e.g., Basketball League, Fitness, Indoor Soccer);
- Training courses (e.g., Babysitter Training, First Aid);
- Recreational programs (e.g., Melody Kids, Pint Size Science);
- Camps and child care programs (e.g., After School, Kids Club, Summer Day Camp); and
- Special events (e.g. Breakfast with Santa, Fall Fun Day, Movie Series, Chil-E Fest).

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Residents' responses to the Master Plan recreation demand survey indicate a number of important considerations as the Town plans for future programs and services. Some of the key findings of this survey include the following:

- More than 75% of respondents indicated that parks, recreation services, and open space are "very important" to the quality of life in the Town of Chili, while 23% said they were merely "important."
- 83% of respondents have participated in Recreation Department programs in the past year.
- 91% of respondents had visited parks or trails in Chili during the past year.
- 93% of respondents indicated that they drive to parks, trails and recreational facilities; however, 30% of respondents said they also walk, and 23% said they also bike.
- The parks and amenities most desired by survey participants include water features such as a spray park (52%), park shelters or lodges (32%), indoor turf fields (25%), play areas for children (24%), linear trail corridors/bike paths (23%), and large multi-use parks (23%).

In response to both public feedback and a series of needs and opportunities as identified by the Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department, the following priority recommendations have been developed to guide future development of recreational programs and facilities:

- Develop the Cornflower Property to include a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, and a stacked loop trail system.
- Advance a number of low-impact improvements to the Pfrengle property, including a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, nature trails and conservation areas, and space for recreational programs and outdoor environmental education.
- Transform a roughly 2,400 SF portion of Union Station Park into an innovative and interactive spray park, with water play elements for kids of all ages.
- Gauge community interest and establish a preliminary program for a community center to include meeting spaces, programmed fitness facilities, and both youth- and senior-oriented facilities.

Several other improvements to facilities and/or services are recommended as well. Park-specific recommendations include several improvements to Davis, Hubbard, Memorial, Union Station, and Widener Parks. Connections between various parks and a series of individual park system amenities are also recommended. Programmatic improvements include the development of a variety of new programs, and the support of those that are currently offered. General maintenance measures, the development of support committees, and other operational considerations will also help the Town to maintain a sustainable park system. In summary, the recommended approach to programs and facilities seeks to achieve a balance between active and passive recreation. This approach will help to support both organized athletic programs and passive recreational opportunities where they currently exist, and will help to identify and advance new opportunities for recreational activities that take advantage of the Town's valuable natural settings.

A number of potential resources may be available to the Town in implementing the recommendations featured within this Master Plan. These include, but are not limited to, statewide grant resources such as the Municipal Grant, Recreational Trails, and Green Innovation Grant programs. Depending on funding availability and the degree of priority associated with each, individual projects or program improvements may take place over the course of the next ten years.

INTRODUCTION

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A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF STUDY

The Town of Chili contracted with EDR and Architectura, PC in 2012 to prepare an update to the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The update is designed to be an important tool for the Town to advance its vision of an evolving parks and recreation system that best serves the needs of a growing and changing community.

1. STUDY AREA

The Town of Chili is located in south-central Monroe County, along the Genesee River in Western New York. The Town is bordered by the neighboring communities of Wheatland to the south, Riga to the west, Ogden and Gates to the north, Rochester to the northeast, and Brighton and Henrietta to the east. Chili is approximately six miles from north to south, and varies from about 4-1/2 to 8-1/2 miles wide from east to west. The Town has an area of about 40 square miles.

The topography in the Town varies between gently rolling and flat terrain, with a few areas of moderately steep slopes that are primarily located in the southern part of the Town. All of the surface water in Chili eventually drains to the Genesee River, and most of this occurs by way of Black Creek. A significant portion of the Town (38%) is covered by wetlands designated either by the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Many of these wet areas are forested swamps and seasonally flooded bottom lands, and are primarily concentrated along Black Creek and southward.

2. PURPOSE

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (Plan) will provide a long range workable guideline that the Town can follow to expand and improve community parks and recreational opportunities with specific recommendations for actions within the next five years. The plan identifies future recreational needs, and establishes immediate and long range plans for promoting, financing, implementing, administering, and maintaining facilities and programs.

The Plan is designed to guide the acquisition and development of recreational land based on the Town's growth patterns and within the framework of the Town's comprehensive planning and zoning. The Plan is also important in documenting recreational needs that qualify the Town for state, federal, and other sources of financial assistance. In addition, the Plan provides the means for acquainting Town residents and their elected officials of local recreational efforts, while defining needs and identifying the most effective means of meeting the needs for recreational facilities and services within the Town's capabilities.

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The Plan will strive to embrace all forms of recreation including organized athletics, free-play, or nature-based outdoor recreation, such as hiking, biking, trail running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, nature photography, fishing, canoeing, and kayaking. In addition to the traditional perception of athletic physical activity, recreation promotes social interaction, outdoor environmental education, and healthy lifestyles. Fitness needs can be met through many of these recreational pursuits, as well as through active transportation, such as bicycling and walking. The opportunity to consider active transportation as a part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is part of the changing role of recreation.

B. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Planning of any kind cannot be done in a vacuum, and must be informed by local residents. New York State has identified principles to guide community planning processes, which state that planning should be continuous, comprehensive, participatory, and coordinated. Citizen participation is a key component in the process. **Table 1** chronicles the meetings that were conducted regarding this project.

Table 1: Chronology of Community Involvement

Date	Event	Purpose
January 14, 2013	Project Meeting	Project Kick-off with Town representatives
January 15, 2013	Committee Meeting	Project Kick-off with Advisory Committee members
March 5, 2013	Sports Groups Meeting	Needs and Opportunities discussion with representatives from various private sports groups who utilize Town of Chili facilities
March 23, 2013	Public Workshop	Participatory workshop with Town of Chili residents to present the project and gather input regarding needs and opportunities
June 11, 2013	Committee Meeting	Review proposed community center recommendations and solicit feedback from the committee
June 18, 2013	Committee Meeting	Review proposed priority projects, recommendations, and solicit feedback from the committee
August 20, 2013	Public Meeting	Review proposed priority projects, recommendations, and solicit feedback from the public
October 16, 2013	Chili Town Board Meeting	Present plan for town review

The planning process for this study included outreach to both the general public and to key stakeholders. Representatives from various organizations served on the advisory committee, and provided continuity and oversight. The general public was invited to attend a public workshop and a public meeting to learn more about the Plan, and provide feedback to the committee. In addition, stakeholders from private sports groups were invited to attend a meeting to discuss the needs and opportunities of groups using the Town of Chili's sports facilities.

The planning process also included gathering the feedback of Town residents through a recreation demand survey, which was available online and in select locations in a paper format. **Appendix A** includes information related to public outreach. **Appendix B** and the Inventory chapter both provide information about the survey results.

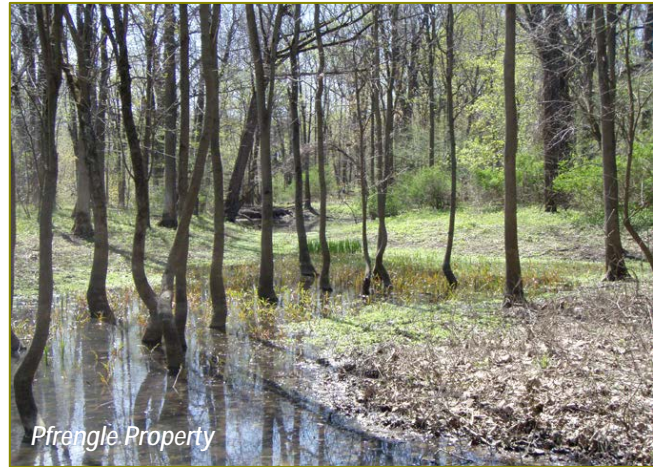
C. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES

The goal of planning is to improve the welfare of people and their communities by creating more convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive places for present and future generations (APA, 2011). Planning enables civic leaders, businesses, and citizens to play a meaningful role in creating communities that enrich people's lives. In

developing new plans, it is important to refer to plans and studies that have already been completed to evaluate how the new plan relates to existing plans. The Plan builds on the following planning initiatives:

Town of Chili Open Space Inventory (2011)

An Open Space Inventory was completed for the Town of Chili in February 2011 by Bergmann Associates. The purpose of the Open Space Inventory was to create a comprehensive inventory of open space lands in the Town of Chili and to identify a series of preliminary best practices and recommendations to preserve and protect open space. Numerous town parks, open spaces, private recreational facilities, and state lands were mentioned as valuable open space opportunities. The Pfrengle property was identified as a conservation area and natural open space.



Town of Chili 2030 Comprehensive Plan (2011)

The 2030 Plan addresses a range of issues affecting Town residents, including parks, recreation, and open space. The plan notes the following key points:

1. Comparing town facilities to the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) recommended standards suggests that the current amount of land allocated for neighborhood parks and playgrounds in the Town of Chili is insufficient. Neighborhood parks and playgrounds are small recreational areas that serve residents within a radius of one-half mile.
2. Waterfront recreation is identified as a development opportunity in the Town. Specifically, the plan identifies a developed greenway along Black Creek to link with the Genesee Valley Greenway and connect park facilities such as Black Creek Park, Churchville Park, Oatka Creek Park, Union Station Park, Chili Nature Center, and the Pfrengle Property.
3. One of the high priorities of the plan is to prepare an Open Space Plan in order to find solutions for maintaining the vast rural character that attracts people to the Town, while meeting the needs of a growing community. This is also identified in one of the plan goals, which states, "Preservation of open space/natural areas will emphasize the protection of unique natural resources and significant environmental assets within the town."
4. The plan identifies the following objective, "Retention or creation of park and/or public open space in conjunction with development where needed" in regards to managing the built environment. The Town identifies that criteria and guidelines are needed for determining the correct course of action regarding requirements for land dedication or in-lieu payments for parks and open space.
5. The plan identifies the following objective, "Protection of natural resources, selected open space, environmentally sensitive areas, and unique natural areas" in regards to protecting the environment. The plan identifies a number of ways to accomplish this objective, including (but not limited to) incentive zoning mechanisms, a conservation easement program, and environmental protection overlay districts (EPODS).
6. The plan identifies the following goal, "To provide accessible and attractive parks and diverse recreational opportunities." The two objectives outlined for reaching this goal are "An integrated system of parks and recreational facilities throughout the town, including undeveloped open space as one component, with linkages between various parks of the system (i.e. pathways, stream corridors, trails, and utility rights-of-ways" and "Adequate recreational services." Strategies for accomplishing this goal and objectives include (but are not limited to) developing an additional 60 acres of park and recreation lands, establishing a trails committee to prepare a trails master plan, and establish a parks/recreation/open space fund.

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7. The plan also recommends a linear park that serves as a combined recreation and conservation area along the entire 15-mile length of Black Creek from Churchville Park to the Genesee River and the Genesee Valley Greenway Trail.

The planning process also included the review of the following plans and studies:

- Old Highway Garage Future Use Study for Town of Chili Highway Garage (2012)
- Black Creek Trail Feasibility Study (2012)
- Chili Center Development – Resident Survey Results (2009)
- Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2007)
- Town of Chili Resident Survey Results (2006)
- GTC Regional Rights-of-Way Preservation Action Plan: Abandoned Railroads (2005)

D. PARALLEL PROJECTS

As with most planning efforts, other projects are planned or proposed concurrent to the planning efforts at hand. The purpose of this section is to briefly describe projects that are being proposed within or adjacent to the Town of Chili that could potentially impact parks and recreation, or contribute to the objectives of the master plan.

1. TOWN OF CHILI AND TOWN OF WHEATLAND AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

New York State's Farmland Protection Program provided the Towns of Chili and Wheatland with planning grants to fund the development of an agricultural and farmland protection plan. The plan will help maintain the economic viability of the local agricultural industry and its supporting land base. The plan will also help protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture. Agricultural and farmland protection plans identify the location of farmland to be protected, the value of that land to the local economy, the value of that land as open space, and the consequences of possible conversion. The plan typically also describes programs and strategies the local government intends to use to promote and protect continued agricultural use.

2. TOWN OF CHILI BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN

The Town of Chili will be engaging the services of a consultant to prepare a bicycle and pedestrian master plan to inventory existing active transportation facilities, identify gaps in the network, and establish priority projects that increase the accessibility and safety of active transportation for residents and visitors in the Town of Chili. Community input will be a key element in the process of establishing the recommendations. This project will aim to better connect residential neighborhoods with commercial/service areas of town and trail systems already in place, increase access for all ages and abilities, and focus on techniques for the long-term maintenance of Chili's active transportation network.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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Parks and recreation offer a variety of benefits to individuals, as well as communities as a whole. These benefits are related to physical health, mental health, social functioning, youth development, environment, and economic impact. Chili residents were asked to evaluate the different benefits and select which benefits were most important to them. These informal rankings as determined by the public survey and workshop are indicated below (1 is highest, 6 is lowest).

A. PHYSICAL HEALTH (*CHILI PRIORITY 3*)

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- More than 60% of US adults age 20 or older are overweight or obese. The percentage of young people who are overweight has tripled since 1980 (16% of people age 6-19 years).
- Regular physical activity can help lead to weight loss, and reduce the risk of many serious diseases, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, arthritis, and depression.
- When people have access to parks, they exercise more.
- One-third of Americans say there are not enough playgrounds in their community to serve the number of children who live there.
- Greater availability of local facilities and green space results in higher levels of basic physical activity among older adults.
- Creation of (or enhanced access to) places for physical activity led to a 26% increase in people exercising 3+ days/week.

B. MENTAL HEALTH (*CHILI PRIORITY 5*)

- Physical activity produces important psychological benefits, relieving symptoms of depression and anxiety, improving mood, and enhancing psychological well-being.
- Contact with the natural world improves both physical and psychological health.
- Americans who recreate frequently are significantly happier with their lives than are other Americans.
- Access to green views and environments can improve cognitive functioning, impulse control, resilience to stressful life events, and overall mental health.
- Low nature access has been linked to increases in ADHD, clinical depression, stress, and anxiety.
- People who lived in residential areas with the least green spaces had a 44% higher rate of anxiety disorders than people who lived in the greenest residential areas.

C. SOCIAL FUNCTIONING (*CHILI PRIORITY 4*)

- Parks and recreation contribute to improved quality of life.
- Access to parks & rec facilities has been strongly linked to reductions in crime and juvenile delinquency.

BENEFITS OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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- Social interaction through recreation breaks down unfamiliarity, fear, and isolation, and promotes positive contact between different racial/ethnic groups and the broader community.
- When people are connected to nature, it contributes to feeling less isolated and less focused on themselves. They become more eager to form connections with their neighbors. A greater sense of community and social ties emerges, as well as an increase in generosity, trust, and civic-mindedness.
- Research shows that residents of neighborhoods with greenery in common spaces are more likely to enjoy stronger social ties than those who live surrounded by barren concrete.

D. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (*CHILI PRIORITY 1*)

- Many municipalities are recognizing that resources can be more effectively used if youth are perceived as resources to invest in, rather than problems to be policed.
- Students who participate in at least one hour of extracurricular activities per week are 49% less likely to use drugs and 37% less likely to become teen parents.
- Recreational facilities keep at-risk youth off the streets, give them a safe environment to interact with their peers, and fill up time within which they could otherwise get into trouble.
- In Fort Worth, TX, crime dropped 28% within a one-mile radius of community centers where midnight basketball was offered.
- Play is a critical element in a child's future success; play helps to develop muscle strength and coordination, language, cognitive thinking, and reasoning abilities.
- Park programs can help youth build optimism, self-confidence, and a sense of autonomy.

E. ENVIRONMENT (*CHILI PRIORITY 2*)

- Green space provides substantial environmental benefits.
- The trees contained in parks and open space improve air quality through the removal of air pollutants, carbon storage and removal, and temperature reduction.
- One tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion.
- Trees and the soil under them act as natural filters for water pollution by absorbing nutrients and removing polluted particulate matter before it reaches storm sewers.
- Evaporation from a single large tree can produce the cooling effect of ten room-size air conditioners operating 24 hours/day!
- Trees manage the flow of stormwater runoff more effectively and less expensively than concrete sewers and drainage ditches.

F. ECONOMIC IMPACT (*CHILI PRIORITY 6*)

- By promoting physical activity, parks are a direct way to address the \$147 billion direct and indirect costs of the obesity epidemic.
- Many people are willing to pay a larger amount for a property located close to parks and open space than for a home that is not. Higher value homes result in higher property taxes.
- Municipal investments in waterfront and other open space development have succeeded in attracting new business and boosting tourism with subsequent increases in tax revenue.
- Employees who exercise have been shown to miss fewer days of work, be more productive, and be able to achieve higher levels of concentration.
- When choosing business sites, employers strongly consider the quality of life provided by an area's parks and recreation.
- Parks and recreation facilities generate tourism and associated expenditures on visitor travel, lodging, eating, and retail.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

This section contains an inventory and analysis of existing conditions in and adjacent to the Town of Chili. The topics discussed in this section include demographic characteristics; an assessment of parks, facilities and programs; an inventory of recreational demand; and a review of community needs and opportunities.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following sections assess the population, household size, and age of the residents of the Town of Chili.

1. POPULATION

The population of the Town of Chili, according to the 2010 U. S. Census, was 28,625, an increase of 3.6% over the town's 2000 population of 27,638. This is a slighter rate of population increase than was seen from 1990 to 2000, during which years the population grew by 9.8%. The ten year growth rate in Chili is comparable to the New York State ten year growth rate of 2.1% and the Monroe County ten year growth rate, excluding the City of Rochester, of 3.3%. Rochester's population declined by approximately 9,200, or 4.2%, during that period.

Population projections prepared by the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, despite being prepared in 2003, seem to be mostly on track with population figures reported by the 2010 U.S. Census. In 2003, population was projected to be 28,452 persons in 2010, and the Census reports an actual population of 28,625. The study goes on to project that the Town of Chili's population will only reach 30,067 people by 2040. **Table 2** illustrates the historic and projected population change for the Town.

Table 2: Historical and Projected Population Change for the Town of Chili, NY

	Historical						Projected			
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2010	2020	2030	2040
Population ¹	11,237	19,609	23,676	25,178	27,638		28,452	29,094	29,635	30,067
Decennial Change ¹		8,372	4,067	1,502	2,460		814	642	541	432
% Change ¹		74.5%	20.7%	6.3%	9.8%		2.9%	2.3%	1.9%	1.5%
Population ²						28,625				
Actual Change (2000-2010)						987 (3.6%)				

Sources: (1) Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, Regional Population Forecasts, 2003; and (2) U.S. Census 2010.

The population growth rate in Chili has slowed. Population is expected to increase more slowly than what occurred in the past 50 years. Demands for recreational opportunities will continue to expand as the population grows.

2. HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The average household size in Chili in 2010 was 2.50 persons, down from 2.67 persons in 2000. That follows a trend in decreasing household size in Monroe County and New York State as a whole. The primary reason for decreasing household size is a 34 percent increase in the percentage of the town's population over the age of sixty and the relatively low growth in the population under the age of twenty. The following section illustrates the changing age demographics of the Town.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

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3. AGE

Age is an important influence in both the choice of and the rate of participation in specific recreational activities. Following is a discussion of the age breakdown of the town's population based on the 2010 and the 2000 census.

Shifts in the ages of the town's population can indicate trends which influence future demands for specific forms of recreation. The age group 0 to 5 represents the preschoolers. This age group does not require costly facilities and it often uses facilities when they are not in use by others. For planning, this age group becomes of significance primarily as its population enters school. The 0 to 5 population in 2010, which represents 5.3% of the town's population, suggests a 6% decline from the 5.8% of the population for ages 0 to 5 in 2000. Should this trend continue, demands for future high cost facilities such as athletic fields, gyms, and rinks would likely increase at a lower rate than population growth, stabilize, or even decrease.

The age group 5 to 19 in 2010 represented 19.9% of the town's population, compared with this age group in 2000, when they represented 22.8% of the population. This is a 9.5% decrease in actual population within this age bracket from 2000 to 2010. This age group is of great importance as it generates the greatest demands for the high cost facilities noted above. The decrease in the ratio of young people indicates that demand for these facilities is likely to lessen over time, unless there is an overall high level of growth.

The early 20's age group often represents a relatively low percentage of the population of a suburban town such as Chili. Many attend college, are in the military, or have found employment elsewhere. Those who remain may continue to participate in sports and other local recreational opportunities, but their numbers do not significantly influence demands. However, this age group does make up a greater portion of Chili's population than several nearby similarly sized towns. In 2010, 1,723 town residents were ages 20 to 24, or 6.0% of the town's population. In 2000, 1,556 town residents were ages 20 to 24, or 5.6% of the town's population. The percentage of this age group increased by 10.7% from 2000 to 2010.

The 25 to 44 age group typically represents young couples establishing households and families with children at home. Individually, this group does not generate large demands for municipal recreation requiring major facilities. However, they create the under 20 age group which is the greatest demand generator. The population of persons ages 25 to 44 declined from 8,136, or 29.4% of the population, in 2000 to 7,058, or 24.7% of the population, in 2010. The implication of this decline, if it continues, is a continued decline in persons under 20.

Members of the 45 to 59 age group typically are at their peak earning levels, often with maximum disposable income and a preference for travel and private or commercial recreational pursuits over municipal facilities and programs. On a per capita basis, this age group typically generates the least demand for municipal recreation requiring major facilities. In 2010, there were 6,722 persons ages 45 to 59, or 23.5% of the town's population. That represented an increase of 19.4% over 5,626 persons, or 20.4% of the population in 2000.

The number of persons age 60 and older and their percentage of the population is growing. From 2000 to 2010, the population age 60 and older increased 34 percent from 4,408, or 16.0% of the population, to 5,905, or 20.6% of the population. The large growth of this age group and the similarly large increase in the 45 to 59 age group suggest significant continued growth of the older population and growth in demand for services sought by this age group.

In summary, the population of Chili, like many other towns, is becoming older. Declines in the pre-school and school ages, with a corresponding increase in older adult populations suggest careful evaluation of priorities in providing recreational programs and facilities. Real population growth, if it continues at a high rate, can mitigate the trends somewhat and sustain demands for recreational opportunities used by the younger population. However, the level of overall population growth is projected at lower levels than in previous decades, and may not have this effect.

INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

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B. INVENTORY OF PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

This section provides an inventory of the parks, facilities, and programs that are available in the Town of Chili. This section represents a verification of the thorough inventory provided in the 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Site visits were used to field verify information, and Town staff were involved in confirming other data.

1. PARKS, FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE

Residents of the Town of Chili have access to eight Town-owned parks. Two other open space areas, Cornflower Property and the Pfrengle Property, are Town-owned open space that can also be used by the public. All of these recreational areas provide a number of amenities for residents and visitors alike. **Table 3** illustrates the size and amenities of each of these sites, and of the Town of Chili's park system as a whole.

Table 3: Town of Chili Park Amenities and Features

Park	Ballantyne Park	Chili Heights Nature Trail	Cornflower Property	Davis Park	Hubbard Park	Memorial Park	Pfrengle Property	Union Station	Widener Park	Yolanda Park	TOTAL
Acres	1.3	36	32	52	7	11.6	101	59	28	3.7	331.6
Park Amenities and Features											
18 Hole disc golf course									1		1
Baseball/softball fields		1		1	1	2					5
Baseball/softball fields - youth				3	1	5					9
Basketball courts				1	1	1		1			4
Buildings/restrooms						2		1	1		4
Concession/restroom				1							1
Concession/press box						1					1
Parking spaces (approximate)	12	37	n/a	230	50	390	n/a	160	52	30	961
Fishing access site, boat launch	1										1
Fishing piers								1			1
Historic bridge		2					1				3
Horseshoe pits				1							1
Nature/walking trail		X		X			X	X			n/a
Open space		1					1				2
Open lawn area	X			X	X	X		X		X	n/a
Playground equipment	1			2	1	1		1		1	7
Pond		1							1		2
Rectangular athletic fields				5		1		2		1	9
Shelter, pavilion, enclosed lodge		1		2				1			4
State and/or federal wetlands		X	X		X		X				n/a
Stream/creek					X	X	X	X	X		n/a
Tennis courts				2	2	8					12
Wooded classroom		1									1
Woodlands		X	X				X	X		X	n/a

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The existing conditions of these Town-owned recreational areas, including park boundaries, natural features, and amenities, are illustrated in more detail in [Figure 5](#) through [Figure 15](#). Each figure utilizes georeferenced NYS aerial photographs and state and federal wetland mapping, as well as property boundaries and LIDAR data at two foot contour intervals from Monroe County GIS Services. Existing conditions photos of each recreational area are provided in [Appendix C](#), and Building Conditions Surveys are included in [Appendix D](#).

In addition to Town-owned facilities, the Town of Chili also contains a variety of other parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas.

Monroe County Parkland. Located in the western part of Chili, Monroe County's Black Creek Park is still a relatively undeveloped park. The 1,505-acre park offers amenities that accommodate a variety of recreational activities, such as hiking, birdwatching, fishing, soccer, horseback riding, sledding, and cross country skiing. The park has two soccer fields, a baseball diamond, a playground, a designated sledding hill, and five hiking trails. The park also offers one open-air picnic shelter, two enclosed, heated lodge buildings, and two restroom buildings. The park provides access to Black Creek, Mill Creek, and a number of wetland areas. Located at 3835 Union Street, the park has entrances on Union Street and Green Road.



Genesee Valley Greenway. The Greenway is a 90-mile trail that begins at Genesee Valley Park in the City of Rochester, travels through the Town of Chili, and ends in Pennsylvania. The greenway is primarily a mix of packed cinders, gravel, and mowed surfaces. Little Black Creek Pocket Park, on the west side of Scottsville Road, provides parking and limited amenities. These include a picnic area, a non-motorized boat launch, fishing access, and the opportunity to see a canal era culvert and waste weir. Access to the greenway in Chili is also available at the Brook Road parking lot, which has room for horse trailers.

School Facilities. The Town of Chili is comprised of four different school districts: Caledonia-Mumford, Churchville-Chili, Gates-Chili, and Wheatland-Chili. Please see [Figure 2](#) for an illustration of district boundaries. Each school district offers a variety of recreational facilities at the different schools, which include pools, gymnasiums, cardiovascular/weight rooms, athletic fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, tracks, playgrounds, and nature trails. In addition, Roberts Wesleyan College, as well as several private schools, all have recreational facilities.

Open Space. The Genesee Land Trust is responsible for two different open space areas located in the Town of Chili, Brookdale Preserve and the Reed Road Bird Refuge. Brookdale Preserve is a 275-acre protected open space that is open to the public. The preserve contains wooded wetlands, open meadows, and hardwood uplands. It is home to numerous species of birds, and an exceptional variety of frogs. There is one trail that provides access to a portion of the property, as well as the Genesee Valley Greenway, which borders the eastern edge of the preserve. A trailhead for the greenway is located off of Brook Road, and can be used to access the preserve.

Reed Road Bird Refuge is a 131-acre protected nature preserve that is open to the public. The refuge is a mature wooded wetland with excellent migratory and nesting bird habitat. There are no marked trails. The refuge is on Reed Road, between Ballantyne and Morgan Roads. Very limited roadside parking is located at approximately 1200 Reed Road in Scottsville.

Private Recreational Facilities. Several fitness centers, golf courses, and sporting clubs operate in Chili, and have facilities available to paying members. In addition, a number of residential and apartment complexes have

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recreational facilities for residents who live in the complex. Churches, such as St. Pius X, New Hope Community Church, and Pearce Memorial Church, also have recreational facilities, such as soccer fields and playgrounds.

2. PROGRAMS

The Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department offers a number of different indoor and outdoor programs for residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy. These programs range from athletics to performing arts, and include weekly classes as well as special events. **Table 4** lists examples of the programs currently administered by the Department.

Table 4: Town of Chili Recreational Programs and Special Events

Youth Athletic Programs	Recreational Programs
Basketball League (Youth)	Community Center Playgroup
Dance Classes (Youth)	Melody Kids (Preschool)
Fencing Lessons (Youth)	Pee Wee Art (Preschool)
Flag Football (Youth)	Pint Size Science (Preschool)
Floor Hockey (Youth)	Science Classes (Youth)
Friday Night Football Skills (Youth)	Camps and Child Care Programs
Kindergarten Basketball	After School Programs
Kindergarten Floor Hockey	Baseball Camp
Lacrosse League (Youth)	Cheerleading Camp
Pee Wee Books and Balls (Preschool)	Kids Club Program
Pee Wee Soccer (Preschool)	Nature Camp
Pee Wee Sports - Indoor (Preschool)	Recess and Vacation Camps and Days
Tennis Lessons (Youth)	Summer Day Camp
Youth and Adult Athletic Programs	Special Events
Golf (Youth and Adult)	Breakfast with Santa
Karate (Youth and Adult)	Chil-E Festival
Fitness (Youth and Adult)	Community Christmas Tree Lighting
Zumba (Teen and Adult)	Community Garage Sale
Adult Athletic Programs	Concerts
Fitness - Dancing with the Girls (Adult)	Dinner with the Easter Bunny
Floor Hockey (Adult)	Easter Egg Decorating Night
Indoor Soccer (Adult)	Easter Egg Hunt
Men's Open Basketball	Evening for the Girls
Men's Soccer	Fall Fun Day
Softball Leagues (Adult)	Family Bingo
Volleyball League (Adult)	Farmers Market
Training Courses	Halloween Party
Babysitter Training Classes (Youth)	Mother Son Game Night
First Aid Classes (Youth)	Movie Series
Dog Obedience Classes (Adult)	Summer Dance
	Valentines Dance

Residents of the Town of Chili also have the opportunity to participate in athletic opportunities provided by local school districts as well as the following youth athletic organizations:

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- Chili Lions Football and Cheerleading Association
- Chili Soccer Association
- Gates Chili Little League
- Chili Youth Baseball

C. RECREATIONAL DEMAND

A recreational demand survey was used to gather information reflecting Chili residents' current levels of recreational activity, their attitudes towards parks and recreation, their needs related to parks, recreation and community facilities, and their insight into barriers that presently exist. The content was developed in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Town officials. Survey data was captured through the use of Survey Monkey, a third party online survey tool, as well as through the use of paper surveys that were available in select locations. The survey went live in February 2013. Over 400 surveys were received. The entire survey results are provided in **Appendix B**. Some of the key findings include:

- Approximately 90% of respondents are Chili residents, while 10% are not. About 75% of respondents are between the ages of 35 and 54.
- 93% of respondents indicated that they drive to parks, trails and recreational facilities; however, 30% of respondents said they also walk, and 23% said they also bike.
- More than 75% of respondents indicated that parks, recreation services, and open space are "very important" to the quality of life in the Town of Chili, while 23% said they were merely "important."
- The primary ways that respondents learn about Town facilities, programs and activities include the Town newsletter, the Town website, school fliers, Chili Recreation emails, and friends and neighbors.
- 83% of respondents have participated in Recreation Department programs in the past year. Of those participants, 54% rated the Town's recreational programs as excellent, 40% rated them as good, 5% rated them as fair, and a handful of respondents rated the programs as poor.
- Only 68% of survey participants have utilized the Chili Community Center. Of that number, 40% rated the facilities as good, 38% rated them as fair, 12% rated them as poor, and 10% rated the facilities as excellent.
- 91% of respondents had visited parks or trails in Chili during the past year. Of those respondents, 48% visit parks or trails in Chili sometimes (1-2 times a month), while 31% visit frequently (once a week or more), and 21% visit rarely (less than 5 times a year).
- 60% of survey participants rated the overall condition of Chili parks and trails as good, while 30% rated them as excellent, and 9% rated them as fair. A handful of people rated them as poor.
- 55% of respondents indicated an equal preference for developed parks and natural areas, while 33% prefer developed parks, 10% prefer natural areas, and 2% have no preference.
- The parks and amenities most desired by survey participants include water features such as a spray park (52%), park shelters or lodges (32%), indoor turf fields (25%), play areas for children (24%), linear trail corridors/bike paths (23%), and large multi-use parks (23%).
- No significant barriers were identified regarding reasons why survey respondents do not use Town parks, facilities and programs more often. 17% noted that a program or facility was not offered, while 11% noted that program times were not convenient.

D. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department has identified the following needs and opportunities regarding parks and recreation programs, facilities, and operations in the Town. One list was developed using feedback from Town staff and committee members, while the second list was developed using feedback received at the public meeting and through the recreational demand survey.

1. FEEDBACK FROM TOWN STAFF AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Programs

- Teen programs
- Camping
- Fishing
- Birdwatching
- Gymboree program for toddlers
- Community gardening
- Special needs programs
- Organized hiking
- Before and After school “daycare” program
- Playcare babysitting program
- Preschool recreation and education program
- Birthday party packages (space and equipment rental)

Facilities

General/Overall:

- Additional lodges and picnic shelters
- Bleachers
- Community Center with workout/fitness area, and indoor walking track
- Dog park
- Ice rink
- Landscaping and park beautification – flowers, shrubs and trees
- Multi-purpose turf field
- Pickleball courts
- Restroom improvements

Park Specific:

- Cornflower Property – development plan
- Davis Park – restrooms, improve drainage, connect park, improve parking and safety
- Hubbard Park – restrooms
- Memorial Park – restrooms, amphitheater, upgrade Merante Field to artificial turf
- Pfrengle Property – develop trails, parking area, amenities for camping and fishing
- Union Station Park – improve natural trails and fishing pier, develop spray park
- Yolanda Park – improve drainage

Operations

- Stripe parking lots
- Lighting at parks and fields
- Additional park staff/equipment to help with projects/improvements
- Increased security and cameras to help deter vandalism
- Creation of a Trails group
- Creation of a Friends group

2. FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC (Please refer to Appendix)

RECOMMENDATIONS

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This chapter highlights recommended strategies for enhancing parks and recreation in the Town of Chili, as well as the key issues that informed the recommendations. Recommended improvements, shown in **Figure 16**, are compiled based on feedback from a town-wide recreational survey, a public workshop and various committee meetings.

A. KEY ISSUES

This plan responds directly to the mission statement of the Chili Parks and Recreation Department, which states:

"The mission of the Chili Parks and Recreation Department is to provide wholesome leisure opportunities and recreational facilities to the residents of Chili regardless of age or ability. Through a commitment of professional excellence, we strive to offer quality programming and facilities to enhance the quality of life for residents of the community."

In addition, the plan responds to key issues identified below as critical considerations for the Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Department to keep in mind.

- Key Issue 1:** Provide high-quality parks, recreational facilities, and programs. Effectively utilize what already exists by upgrading present parks, facilities, and programs. Develop new parks, facilities, and programs to meet changing or unmet needs.
- Key Issue 2:** Improve the balance between organized athletics and alternative recreation with regards to programs offered and facilities available. Organized athletics includes team sports such as baseball, soccer, and football. Alternative recreation includes active and passive recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling, and birdwatching. Improving the balance should focus on program offerings, as well as parks and facilities.
- Key Issue 3:** Structure an economically sustainable parks and recreation system to support the goals of all recreational groups. Phase in a fee structure over time for use of the Town's facilities to help finance the development and maintenance of Town recreational amenities.
- Key Issue 4:** Maximize the impact of limited resources through coordinated long range planning. Develop synergy between the various planning efforts anticipated to occur in the Town of Chili over the next

few years: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, Towns of Chili and Wheatland Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, and the Town of Chili Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.

B. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. COMMUNITY CENTER

Designing for public buildings requires the need for durability, longevity and architecturally sensitive buildings. The Town of Chili is considering the possibility of developing a new Community Center. During the course of the planning process, public input was sought at the community workshop and in the recreational demand survey to establish the needs and desires of Chili residents related to this facility. The information gathered during the Master Planning Phase concluded that a Community Center is highly desired by the residents.

Based on this information, Architectura evaluated the old highway garage for its suitability as a Community Center. A collective decision was made to design a new building in Memorial Park instead. This new center would be a synthesis of space for exercise and community activities. Town staff worked with EDR and Architectura, PC Architects to develop a vision and a preliminary building program.

The facility would provide a main entrance for the majority of visitors, with a central location for recreational offices. A one-story plan was developed, removing the need for an elevator, designed to include a large, centrally-located gymnasium space with smaller spaces around it. The building will incorporate computer technology and energy efficiency. Gardens adjacent to the building will provide a hands-on area for varying age groups to enjoy learning about plants and to provide pleasant exterior spaces to sit and relax. The proposed Community Center has the following program elements:

- A walking track,
- Interior courts with a curtain system, when required, to separate the track traffic from the court use,
- Smaller rooms for group exercise and classes,
- Storage spaces distributed throughout the building dedicated for various uses,
- A senior center with a separate entrance, and
- Two kitchens to support these community spaces.

The building design and programs that have been developed are preliminary. A more detailed feasibility study, targeted to begin in 2015, is recommended to provide:

- Site assessment,
- Site selection criteria,
- Alternative building designs, and
- Cost estimates.

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2. UNION STATION SPRAY PARK

Town representatives, as well as local residents, have expressed interest in developing a spray park within the Town of Chili. Union Station Park was selected by Town staff as the likely location for the proposed spray park. The proposed spray park will be roughly 3,550 SF with innovative and interactive water play elements for kids of all ages. The layout of the spray park elements will be movement oriented to stimulate active fitness.



Pineway Ponds Spray Park, Ogden, NY

An existing sidewalk in combination with a newly constructed sidewalk will connect the existing parking area to the south, the existing playground to the north, the spray park, and the existing lodge with restrooms to the east. Benches will be provided within the spray park area, along with an open shelter containing picnic tables that will be located outside the spray park area. The shelter will provide shade and seating and allow for parents to monitor their children playing on the spray park as well as the playground.

Around the perimeter of the spray park, interpretive signage will display exciting educational information about water: how much water is being used per day, where the water is from, where the water is going, how the spray park fits into the overall watershed, and information about the eco-swale. The water from the spray park will sheet flow to the western edge where an eco-swale will collect the water and ultimately move the water to Black Creek. The eco-swale will contain native plants that will filter the runoff and decrease the reliance on existing stormwater infrastructure and treatment facilities, which will help to protect the water quality of Black Creek. Stepping stones placed in the eco-



swale allow for interaction with the system. Native trees will be planted on the southern edge of the spray park area to provide shade, assist with stormwater interception, and improve air quality. A gateway to the spray park will highlight the main access point. Please refer to **Figure 19** for an illustration of this recommendation.

3. PFRENGLE PROPERTY

The Pfrengle Property is approximately 101 acres and consists of a mix of upland and wetland ecological communities, with Black Creek forming the northern border. The property has been identified by the Town of Chili for alternative recreational use and ecological conservation. Proposed site improvements include a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, nature trails, ecological conservation areas, and space for recreational programs.

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Improvements are intended to be minimally intrusive. The focus will be on providing parking and access, with ecological management as a secondary emphasis. The improvements will leave flexibility for different development strategies in the future. Management guidelines encourage the re-establishment of native grassland habitat and support grassland bird species. Construction details emphasize the long term sustainability of natural communities and maintainability of built trail facilities. Nature trails will be constructed on the existing trail system and will provide low-impact and sustainable alternative outdoor recreation. Open meadow areas will allow outdoor recreation and space for organized programs. The open water wetland will be accessible for kayaking and canoeing.

The combination of elements will allow for visitors to explore nature, interact with natural ecosystems, and learn about environmental education. The proposed site design balances conservation and enhancement of site ecology with alternative recreational use. The Pfrengle Property is currently designated as rural vacant land, but should be designated as parkland or forever wild to preserve the valuable ecological character. Future acquisition of two parcels of land to the west of the Pfrengle property is recommended. Acquiring these parcels will provide enough grassland habitat to support a diverse group of grassland birds.



Possible activities and programs include: spring kite day, Recreation Department summer camps, supervised youth overnight camping, outdoor education camps, woodland treasure hunts, bird watching, frog round-up, and cross country skiing. Please refer to **Figure 18** for an illustration of this recommendation.

4. CORNFLOWER PROPERTY

The Cornflower Property is approximately 32 acres of scrub shrub, woodlands, and open fields. The property is currently designated as rural vacant land, but has been identified by the Town of Chili as future parkland for alternative recreation. The feasibility of developing athletic fields on the site was considered, but alternative recreation elements were determined to be more suitable due to the lack of space for parking, and the proximity of a neighborhood to the north.

Proposed site improvements include a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, and a stacked loop trail system. The trails will be located and aligned to minimize erosion and clearing of mature vegetation. The trail system will connect to an existing neighborhood loop trail to the north, along with a bicycle and pedestrian friendly neighborhood street to the north. Rest areas will be provided every 300 yards or less and will contain limestone quarry stone slabs as inexpensive, vandal-resistant seating.

The primary trail surface will be constructed from recycled asphalt millings and will utilize an open curve configuration to increase sight distances, enhance safety, and minimize conflicts between trail users. A boardwalk bridge will be constructed on helical pier foundations to provide long-term stability and minimize site impact. The secondary trails will have a natural surface and will minimize impacts to existing ecosystems.

An off-road cycling loop will be provided in the western area of the site. The trails will be natural surface trails, constructed utilizing sustainable trail design techniques. Challenge elements, such as chokes and optional lines, will

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increase the difficulty of the existing moderately flat terrain. A minimum 100-foot buffer will be maintained between all site improvements and the property line to minimize conflicts with neighboring properties, and maintain a safe distance from the active railroad to the south. The focus will be on creating low-cost, soft improvements that do not limit future use for more intensive recreational development.

Possible activities and programs include: outdoor education camps, woodland treasure hunts, bird watching, off road cycling camps, and cross country skiing. Please refer to **Figure 18** for an illustration.

C. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the priority recommendations already outlined in this chapter, a number of other recommendations have been developed in regards to parks, facilities, programs, and operations.

1. PARKS AND FACILITIES

Park-Specific Recommendations. Some of the recommendations are more general, or apply to a number of parks and facilities. However, the following recommendations are specific to the individual park listed.

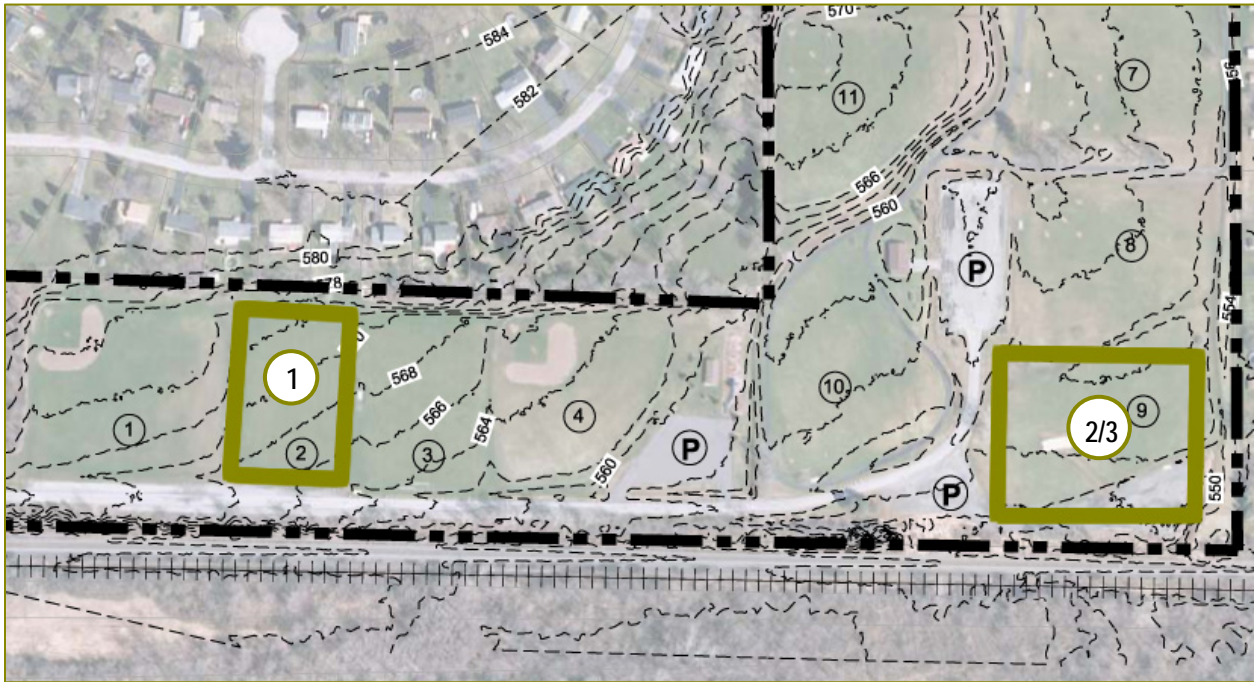
Davis Park Parking and Safety. Davis Park contains five rectangular athletic fields, used for soccer and football, and six baseball/softball fields. The facility is a prime location for tournaments, but access and circulation in the park can be problematic during high volume events. The park has two entrances; access from the west is from Chestnut Ridge Road and access from the north is from Paul Road. The park entrances are separated by athletic fields, and do not provide a continuous roadway through the park. Various parking areas are located within the park, and provide approximately 230 parking spaces. A typical athletic field requires roughly 50 parking spaces. Davis Park would need nearly 555 parking spaces to accommodate visitors during tournament events. The current lack of parking creates circulation and safety concerns.

Converting one rectangular athletic field to parking would provide enough space to accommodate the high volume of visitors. Three alternatives were considered for the recommended new parking area. The first solution is to remove one of the smaller rectangular fields (field #2) and provide approximately 250 new parking spaces, thus eliminating the need for parking along the entry road. The second alternative is to remove one of the larger rectangular fields (field #9) and provide approximately 290 new parking spaces, thus eliminating the miscellaneous gravel parking area in the south east area of the park. The third possibility is to remove one of the larger rectangular fields (field #9) and convert the green space to reinforced turf. This area would function dually as parking during tournament events and green space during other times. Please see the inset graphic for an illustration of these options.

However, these recommendations would only provide short term, temporary fixes. The Town's Parks Department does a good job maintaining high quality playing fields, but the overall design and layout of Davis Park is less than ideal. The park was not planned or designed; instead, the park evolved over time. This type of development does not maximize the resources that are available. A park master plan and re-design is recommended in order to provide safe circulation for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, and make the best use of the park.

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Davis Park Parking and Safety Alternatives

Davis Park. In addition to parking, circulation and safety improvements, Davis Park is also in need of restrooms and improved drainage. Park visitors would benefit from improvements to the existing restroom facilities, as well as the addition of more restrooms. The number of restroom facilities is inadequate for such a large, heavily utilized park. The park also experiences drainage issues that need to be addressed.

Hubbard Park. At one time, Hubbard Park had functional restrooms. However, due to changes in underground utilities, the restroom building in the park no longer has functional plumbing, and is used for storage instead. Park visitors would benefit from the restoration of restroom facilities to this park.

In addition, Hubbard Park offers the opportunity to address drainage issues in an ecologically responsible manner. See [Figure 21](#) for an illustration.

Memorial Park. With the hope of making Memorial Park a central park for the Town of Chili, the park requires both improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities. Recommended improvements include:

- A new amphitheater at the park would be an attractive amenity that could be used for outdoor concerts, movies and civic events.
- Merante Field could be converted to artificial turf, which would provide a playing field that is useable during longer parts of the year. An enhanced turf field would alleviate some of the pressure on Davis Park.
- The existing park restrooms need to be upgraded.

Union Station Park. The key project recommended for Union Station Park is the spray park that is already described in the Priority Recommendations section. In addition, park users would benefit from improved nature trails and an upgraded fishing pier.

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Widener Park. Currently, the Town of Chili requires that all pets in Town Parks be restrained on a leash. However, running dogs off leash is a highly desirable practice for many dog owners. Resources are limited for the enforcement of existing leash laws, and as such, running dogs off-leash has become common. Off-leash animals can cause environmental impacts and create safety issues. Widener Park has been recommended by the Town of Chili as a location for a potential off-leash dog area. Establishing an off-leash area should not conflict or displace established park uses, but instead should be a transformative use, bringing life to an area of the park that is underutilized or has undesirable activity. Roughly 2 acres is the preferred size for an off-leash dog area.

Easy access to existing parking is essential, as the majority of visitors will arrive by car. Selection of a site with low flooding potential will enhance the utility and sustainability of the dog park. The final location within Widener Park should be selected using the following evaluation criteria: acreage available, proximity to existing parking, flooding potential, amount of fencing required, existing soils and vegetation, potential conflicts with existing park uses, and environmental impacts. Natural features can provide some containment of pets, but most dog parks utilize fencing to achieve 100% containment. This helps to insure the safety of both dogs and other park visitors. In addition, a separate area for small dogs is recommended.

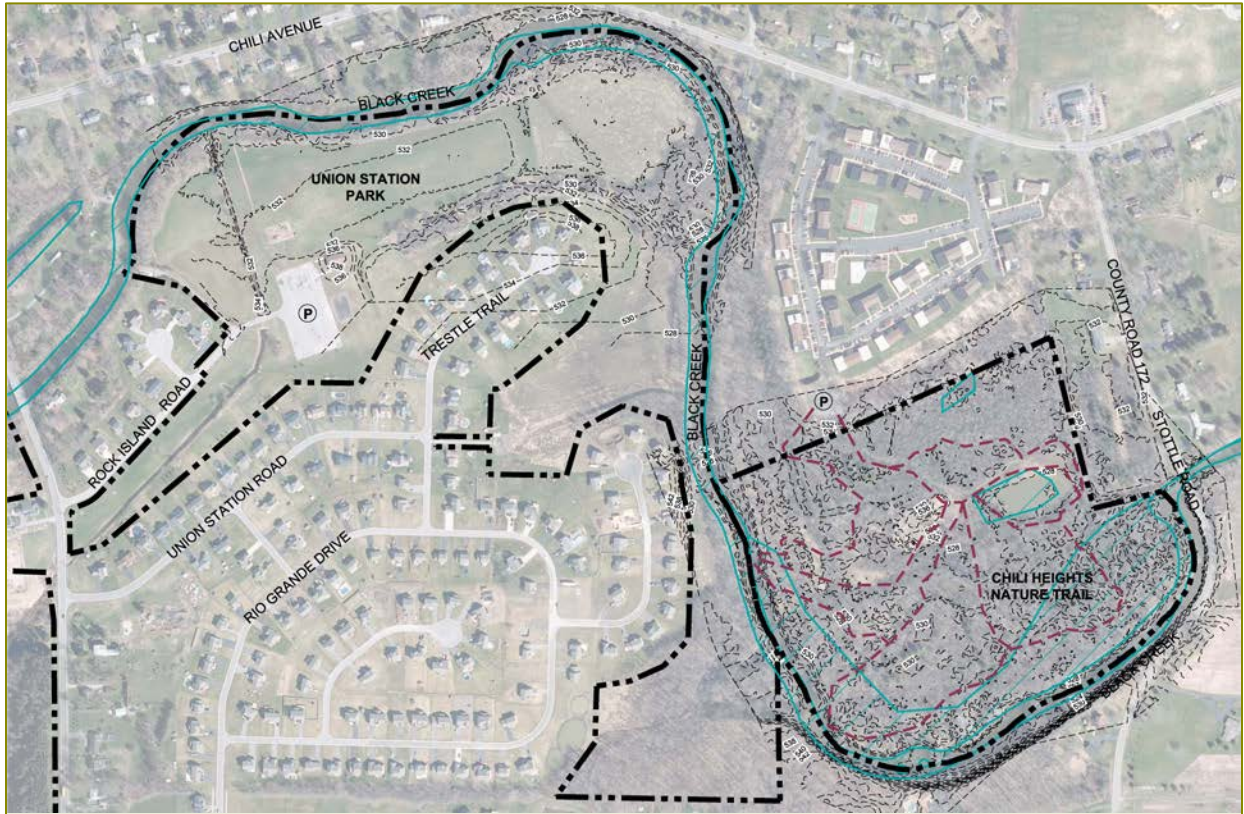
Yolanda Park. Located along Interstate 490, Yolanda Park experiences drainage issues that need to be addressed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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2. OVERALL RECOMMENDATIONS.

Park Connections. Chili Heights Nature Trail and Union Station Park are neighboring town parks that are currently divided by Black Creek. A bridge connection between the two parks would be valuable to park users and would provide the opportunity for a longer, continuous loop trail system. The proposed trail within Union Station Park would be near federal wetlands and would require permitting. Due to the narrow property boundary of Union Station Park, a privacy fence would be required between the proposed trail and neighboring residences. In addition, there is the potential to connect to Black Creek Park.



Park Connections

New facilities and improvements. Some upgrades and amenities are needed in the Chili park system, but are not specific to any particular park at this stage in the planning process. Recommended improvements include:

- Additional lodges and picnic shelters
- Bleachers
- Ice rink
- Additional restroom access
- Multi-purpose turf field
- Pickleball courts
- Landscaping and park beautification – flowers, shrubs and trees
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to parks and open space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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3. PROGRAMS

The Town of Chili recognizes the need to continually improve the variety and quality of the recreational programs that are offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The following is a brief overview of recommended programs, as well as recommendations that will support improved recreational programs.

New Programs and Events.

Offer different programs to specific audiences:

- Teen programs
- Gymboree program for toddlers
- Special needs programs
- Preschool recreation and education program

Offer new or different types of care programs:

- Before and after school “daycare” program
- Playcare babysitting program

Offer new types of programs:

- Camping
- Fishing
- Birdwatching
- Organized hiking
- Community gardening
- Birthday party packages (space and equipment rental)

Support Existing Programs and Events.

Provide storage:

- Community Center Playgroup
- Melody Kids
- Pint Size Science
- Recess and Vacation camps and days
- Science classes
- Nature camp
- Basketball League

4. OPERATIONS

General facility operating requirements:

- Stripe parking lots
- Lighting at parks and fields
- Increased security and cameras to help with vandalism
- Additional park staff/equipment to help with projects/improvements

Create groups to support facility development and maintenance:

- Create a Trails group
- Create a Friends group

Make parks and recreation system more sustainable:

- Develop a fee structure and a system to phase in facility fees over 3 years
- Additional park staff/equipment to help with projects/improvements

IMPLEMENTATION

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The Implementation chapter includes a discussion of the identified projects, recommendations, potential funding sources, the need for SEQRA documentation, and operation and maintenance strategies for open space. Also included is a summary of follow-on activities.

A. IDENTIFIED PROJECTS

Table 5: Identified Projects and Recommendations

#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
1	Concept Project	Cornflower Property	Site Development	The 32-acre Cornflower Property is currently designated as rural vacant land, but has been identified by the Town as future parkland for alternative recreation. Proposed site improvements include a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, and a stacked loop trail system.
2	Concept Project	Pfrenge Property	Site Development	The 101-acre Pfrenge Property has been identified by the Town for alternative recreational use and ecological conservation. Proposed site improvements include a small parking area, a trailhead with informative signage, nature trails, ecological conservation areas, and space for recreational programs.
3	Concept Project	Union Station Park	Spray Park	The proposed spray park in Union Station Park will be roughly 2,400 SF with innovative and interactive water play elements for kids of all ages. The spray park will be complemented by native plantings, educational signage about water, and innovative stormwater management techniques.

IMPLEMENTATION

Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
4	Concept Project	Feasibility Study	Community Center	The Town is considering a new Community Center. Public input was sought to establish the needs of Chili residents related to this facility. Town staff worked with the consultants to develop a vision and a preliminary program for a new building in Memorial Park.
5	Parks and Facilities	Davis Park	Parking and Safety Improvements	Davis Park is a prime location for tournaments, but access and circulation can be problematic during high volume events. The park has two entrances, but they do not provide a continuous roadway through the park. Various parking areas are located within the park, but do not provide enough parking. Converting one athletic field to parking would provide enough space to accommodate the high volume of visitors.
6	Parks and Facilities	Davis Park	Restrooms	Park visitors would benefit from improvements to the existing restroom facilities, as well as more restrooms. The number of restrooms is inadequate for such a large, heavily-utilized park.
7	Parks and Facilities	Davis Park	Drainage Improvements	The park experiences drainage issues that need to be addressed.
8	Parks and Facilities	Hubbard Park	Restrooms	The restroom building in the park no longer has functional plumbing, and is used for storage instead. Park visitors would benefit from the restoration of restroom facilities to this park.
9	Parks and Facilities	Hubbard Park	Drainage Improvements	This park offers the opportunity to address drainage issues in an ecologically responsible manner, and could be a pilot project for different water management techniques.
10	Parks and Facilities	Memorial Park	Field House with Indoor Turf Field(s)	Survey results expressed interest in a year round indoor athletic field house. The field house would contain indoor turf field(s) and practice areas and would meet the needs of a variety of sports groups. Site alternatives for the location of the field house would need to be considered, but Memorial Park is currently a possibility based on the size of the park and the location.

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#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
11	Parks and Facilities	Memorial Park	Merante Field Upgrade	Merante Field could be converted to artificial turf, which would provide a playing field that is useable during longer parts of the year. An enhanced turf field would alleviate some of the pressure on Davis Park.
12	Parks and Facilities	Memorial Park	New Amphitheater	A new amphitheater at the park would be an attractive amenity that could be used for outdoor concerts, movies and civic events.
13	Parks and Facilities	Memorial Park	Restrooms	The existing park restrooms in Memorial Park need to be upgraded.
14	Parks and Facilities	Memorial Park	Expansion to Adjacent Land	Land adjacent to Memorial Park could be added to the park to provide space for parking.
15	Parks and Facilities	Union Station Park	Trail Improvements	Park users would benefit from improved nature trails.
16	Parks and Facilities	Union Station Park	Fishing Pier Upgrade	Park users would benefit from an upgraded fishing pier.
17	Parks and Facilities	Widener Park	Off-Leash Dog Park	Widener Park has been recommended by the Town as a location for a potential off-leash dog area. Establishing an off-leash area should not conflict or displace established park uses, but instead should be a transformative use, bringing life to an area of the park that is underutilized or has undesirable activity. Roughly 2 acres is the preferred size for an off-leash dog area.
18	Parks and Facilities	Yolanda Park	Drainage Improvements	Yolanda Park experiences drainage issues that need to be addressed.
19	Parks and Facilities	Chili Heights Nature Trail	Trail Connections to Union Station Park	Chili Heights Nature Trail and Union Station Park are neighboring town parks that are currently divided by Black Creek. A bridge connection between the two parks would provide for a longer, continuous loop trail system. In addition, there is the potential to connect to Black Creek Park.
20	Parks and Facilities	Union Station Park	Trail Connections to Chili Heights Nature Trail	Chili Heights Nature Trail and Union Station Park are neighboring town parks that are currently divided by Black Creek. A bridge connection between the two parks would provide for a longer, continuous loop trail system. In addition, there is the potential to connect to Black Creek Park.

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#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
21	Parks and Facilities	Location Unknown	Additional Lodges and Picnic Shelters	Recommended amenity for the Town park system, location not determined.
22	Parks and Facilities	Location Unknown	Ice Rink	Recommended amenity for the Town park system, location not determined.
23	Parks and Facilities	Location Unknown	Landscaping and Park Beautification	Recommended amenity for the Town park system, location not determined.
24	Parks and Facilities	Location Unknown	Pickleball Courts	Recommended amenity for the Town park system at Hubbard Park
25	Programs (New)	N/A	Offer Different Programs to Specific Audiences	The Town recognizes the need to continually improve the variety and quality of programs that are offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Different programs for specific audiences could include: teen programs, Gymboree program for toddlers, special needs programs, and preschool recreation and education program.
26	Programs (New)	N/A	Expand Care programs	The Town recognizes the need to continually improve the variety and quality of programs that are offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. New or different types of care programs could include: a before and after school daycare program, and a playcare babysitting program.
27	Programs (New)	N/A	Offer New Types of Programs	The Town recognizes the need to continually improve the variety and quality of programs that are offered by the Parks and Recreation Department. New or different types of programs could include: camping, fishing, bird watching, organized hiking, community gardening, and birthday party packages.
28	Programs (Support Existing)	Location Unknown	Provide Storage	The Town recognizes the need to support existing programs by providing storage space. Programs requiring more storage include: the community center playgroup, Melody Kids, Pint Size Science, recess and vacation camps/days, science classes, nature camp, and the basketball league.

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#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
29	Programs (Support Existing)	Location Unknown	Provide Access to Restrooms	The Town recognizes the need to support existing programs by providing access to restroom facilities. Programs requiring improved restroom access include: tennis lessons and baseball camp.
30	Programs (Support Existing)	Location Unknown	Provide More Space	The Town recognizes the need to support existing programs by providing more space. Programs requiring more space include: kids club, floor hockey, karate, zumba, fencing, fitness (dancing with the girls), basketball and volleyball leagues, summer day camp, nature camp, indoor soccer, dog obedience classes, as well as special events (game nights, holiday events, community garage sale, family bingo, etc).
31	Programs (Support Existing)	N/A	Address Transportation Issues	The Town recognizes the need to support existing programs by addressing transportation issues. Programs requiring transportation include: summer day camp, nature camp, after school programs, pee wee sports (transport equipment), and floor hockey (transport equipment).
32	Programs (Support Existing)	N/A	Address Scheduling Conflicts	The Town recognizes the need to support existing programs by addressing scheduling conflicts. Programs requiring this attention include: babysitter training, first aid classes, science classes, karate, fitness (dancing with the girls), summer dance, cheerleading camp, dog obedience classes, family programs, and groups/meetings.
33	Operations	Location Unknown	Stripe Parking Lots	Ongoing operational need
34	Operations	Location Unknown	Increased Lighting at Facilities	Recommended upgrade for the Town park system, location not determined.
35	Operations	Location Unknown	Increased Security and Cameras	Recommended upgrade for the Town park system, location not determined.
36	Operations	N/A	Additional Park Staff	Recommended, specifics not determined.
37	Operations	Location Unknown	Additional Park Equipment	Recommended upgrade for the Town park system, specifics not determined.

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#	Category	Project	Recommendations	Description
38	Operations	N/A	Create a Trails Group	A group could be created to support the development and maintenance of trails and associated facilities.
39	Operations	N/A	Create a Friends Group	A group could be created to support the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
40	Operations	N/A	Develop Facility Fee Structure	To make the parks and recreation system more sustainable, the Town should develop a fee structure (similar to those used in other communities) for the use of Town parks and recreational facilities. This fee structure should be phased in over a span of three years. Fees will help cover the operations and maintenance of Town facilities.

B. POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Table 6 identifies a number of potential resources which could be used to provide financial or technical assistance for park and recreation facilities and/or programs. Individual program requirements differ from one to another, so each should be reviewed for its potential application to the Town's park system and future improvements. In addition, some may be available only to municipal governments or support organizations (e.g., "Friends" groups), while others may be available to both. The range of funding agencies, priority areas (both geographic and programmatic), and funding requirements is constantly shifting, as is the amount of money made available through each of these resources. Careful attention to the changes is each is warranted.

Table 6: Potential Funding Sources

Funding Source	Category	Relevant Project Type(s)
Surface Transportation Program	Federal	Recreational trail projects
Transportation Alternatives (TA)	Federal	Bicycle and pedestrian facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors including for pedestrian and bicycle trails
Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Communities Grants	Federal	HUD grants to entitlement communities to carry out community development activities —revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.
Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ)	Federal	Bicycle and pedestrian facilities (TA projects)
National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program	Federal	Green infrastructure, stormwater management
Land & Water Conservation Fund	Federal	Acquisition of land and/or water rights for public access purposes; development of outdoor recreation activities and support facilities; multi-purpose projects (i.e., non-recreation projects that may generate recreational benefits)
Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Municipal Grant Program	State	Park acquisition, development and planning of parks and recreational facilities

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EPF Recreational Trails Program	State	Maintenance and restoration of existing trails; development/rehabilitation of trail facilities; purchase/lease of construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails; acquisition of easements or title to property
Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program	State	Water quality and stormwater management projects; construction and maintenance of green infrastructure
KaBOOM!	Private	Resource development (e.g., grant assistance) and playground planning/construction*
The Trust for Public Land's Conservation Campaign	Private	Resource development and related technical assistance regarding land conservation initiatives*
National Trails Fund	Private	Establishment/construction, protection, and maintenance of hiking trails
Global ReLeaf Program	Private	Tree plantings for areas in need of reforestation
The Conservation Alliance Fund	Private	Permanent protection of land for habitat/recreational value
Surdna Environment/Community Revitalization	Private	Community revitalization and environment, including greenway trail design

* Indicates resource development or capacity-building program or service; these may not be direct funding sources, but may provide other appropriate services for park/recreation development, funding campaigns, etc.

The process of accessing several New York State grant resources has changed in recent years with the development of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA). The CFA is a streamlined resource through which applicants can access multiple financial assistance programs that are made available through various state agencies. The CFA offers the opportunity for local governments (and other eligible applicants) to submit a single grant application to any appropriate agencies that may have resources available to help finance a given proposal. All submitted CFAs are also reviewed by the applicant's Regional Economic Development Council, which may elect to endorse the proposal as a regional priority project. Several grant resources have been made available through the 2013 CFA that may be appropriate funding opportunities for implementation of the Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan, including the Environmental Protection Fund's (EPF) Municipal Grant Program, EPF Recreational Trails Program, and the Environmental Facilities Corporation's Green Innovation Grant Program.

C. SEQRA DOCUMENTATION AND PERMITTING PROCESS

Development activity related to implementing the proposed recommendations may involve potentially adverse impacts to the environment from construction activities. The following is a framework to comply with applicable State and Federal permitting requirements.

1. SEQRA DOCUMENTATION

The Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be subject to review under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) prior to the adoption and implementation of the Plan by the Town of Chili. Development activities associated with the implementation of the recommendations proposed in the Plan may involve short term and long term adverse environmental impacts resulting from construction activities. Once the Notice of Completion of the draft EIS is filed, a copy of the draft EIS is made available to the public during a 30 days public comment period.

Detailed instructions for each step of the SEQRA review can be found at the NYSDEC website under regulations, Chapter VI: 617: State Environmental Quality Review. Please note that a separate SEQRA review must be completed for each recommendation proposed in the plan prior to initiating construction.

2. PERMITTING PROCESS

The proposed recommendations will require permitting and coordination with a number of different state and federal entities, including, but not limited to, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), United State Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP).

Joint Application. Submittal of a Joint Application for Permit to both the Corps and the NYSDEC will be required prior to commencing construction of this project. There is a potential for disturbance to both Waters of the United States and NYSDEC mapped wetlands and streams as a result of the construction of this project. Prior to submitting a Joint Application for Permit, an on-site wetland delineation will need to be conducted, a wetland delineation report prepared, and a jurisdictional determination site visit conducted with the regulatory agencies involved.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This project is likely to disturb greater than one acre of land and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be needed to obtain coverage under the NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, GP-0-10-001. Stormwater management practices set forth in a SWPPP should be designed to protect water quality, enhance operations and reduce maintenance. All measures and practices should comply with NYSDEC requirements. Prior written authorization from the NYSDEC is needed in order to proceed with construction activities that disturb more than 5 acres at a time.

In addition, NYSDEC regulations require a weekly site inspection by a licensed professional engineer or landscape architect (or their representative) to review compliance with the prepared plans during construction. Site inspections must also be performed within 24 hours of any storm event exceeding ½ inch of rainfall.

NY State Historic Preservation Office. Coordination with the SHPO will be necessary to confirm the absence or presence of known archeologically sensitive areas, listed sites and eligible sites within the project area.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Coordination with the USFWS will be necessary for potential impacts on federally listed rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species.

New York Natural Heritage Program. Coordination with the NHP will be necessary to identify any State endangered and/or threatened wildlife and plant species and/or important ecological communities that are located in the project area boundary.

EDR is capable of providing all the necessary services to assist with the permitting process.

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D. RECOMMENDED OPEN SPACE MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES

The following maintenance and operations guidelines can be used to help insure that open space areas, such as Cornflower Property and the Pfrengle Property, are cost-efficient and ecologically sustainable.

1. MANAGEMENT OF WOODED AREAS

In woodland or other natural areas, landscape conditions caused by natural phenomena should not be modified unless required for public safety in connection with the reconstruction of trails or the development of new trails. No harvesting of plant life should be allowed in the parks, except as necessary for approved research and monitoring programs.

Control of fungi, insects, rodents and other species of concern (possibly including deer) should be limited to where required to conserve and protect rare, threatened or endangered plant species, to manage a human health hazard, or to prevent outbreaks of the pest from spreading to the larger vegetative populations within or outside the park. Otherwise, these populations should be allowed to function unimpeded. The concept of holding pests to tolerable populations in contrast to complete elimination is a key component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM advocates the use of a variety and combination of controls, including chemical, manual and biological to control pests. Achieving an effective balance among the controls helps to reduce the hazardous side effects. IPM is recommended for all necessary pest management and invasive plant control programs undertaken in the parks.

2. EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Invasive species are non-native species that can cause harm to the environment or to human health. As a threat to biodiversity, they have been judged second only to habitat loss. Exotic invasive plant species are a serious issue in many parks and naturalized areas. Invasive species alter and degrade natural habitat by crowding out native plants. Some of the invasive species found in the Pfrengle Property include Japanese Honeysuckle, Garlic Mustard, Common Reed, and Reed Canary Grass. Control of invasive plant species is critical to maintaining biodiversity and high-quality wildlife habitat. Strategies include:

- Undertake a comprehensive survey to identify areas of each park with significant concentration of invasive exotic plant species and develop a detailed plan for ecological management of the site and control of invasive species.
- Initiate pilot projects to evaluate the feasibility of various control techniques on each of the invasive plant species found in each park. For each species, the following techniques should be evaluated on a trial basis:
 - Cutting or pulling by hand.
 - Selective herbicide application.
 - Any biological controls that may be available.

- Develop a parks-wide integrated exotic plant control program based on the results of the pilot projects described above.
- All herbicides should be applied by state certified applicators in accordance with label restrictions. These chemicals should not be used in any areas with documented rare plants.
- In general, do not mow areas with invasive plant infestations as this method fails to remove the roots/rhizomes and can serve to spread seeds.
- Concentrate initial control efforts on areas with light infestations or where invasive species are just becoming established as such areas are easiest to control.
- Do not spread soil or compost that may be contaminated with the roots, rhizomes or seeds of invasive plant species.

3. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT

- Deer management options include: Monitor indications of deer overpopulation based on evidence of overbrowsing, deer-vehicle collisions, complaints of landscape damage by neighbors, etc. If overpopulation is indicated, work in concert with NYSDEC to develop an approach to population control/vegetation protection.
- Removal of individual nuisance or disease transmitting animals by park personnel or Animal Control Officers should be allowed when such removal is necessary to the health, safety and welfare of staff and visitors to the park or to the preservation of threatened plant life.
- A comprehensive plan to maintain and enhance the diversity and quality of wildlife habitat in each park should be developed.
- Preserve large mast-producing trees (cherry, beech, oak, hickory and mulberry) that provide food for wildlife.
- Where possible, preserve trees with active dens, nests or cavities.
- When selecting plant material, give preference to shrubs that provide food and cover for wildlife. Planting food and cover producing shrubs (especially under existing stands of mature trees) will enhance the habitat value for a variety of wildlife species, especially songbirds. However, only native species of plants should be used.
- In landscape designs, encourage structural diversity; plantings should provide a multi-layered effect, as this is attractive to songbirds for cover, feeding and nesting.
- Encourage botanical diversity. Consider planting more native vines, conifers and mast-producing trees (oak, hickory, beech).
- Plant any badly eroded areas to enhance soil quality, improve populations of soil invertebrates, and decrease siltation of water bodies. In high traffic areas, use defensive vegetation (thick, thorny vines and shrubs) to keep people out.
- Plant native trees and shrubs, as these are recognized as desirable by wildlife, and are well adapted to local climate and soils.

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- Mow designated field areas on an annual basis to maintain open meadow (not lawn) habitat. This habitat is important to open country bird species and is becoming uncommon in Western New York. Reducing the mowing regime can benefit the local ecology and reduce operations costs. Schedule mowing to minimize disruption to nesting and breeding cycles of grassland bird species.
- Encourage development of brushy irregular edges of lawn areas by allowing limited invasion (or planting) of food-producing shrubs and evergreens into openings. This can also be accomplished through the release of surrounding understory vegetation (by the limited removal or girdling of mature trees along the edge). Creation of an irregular brushy zone between forests and openings enlarges the transitional areas and increases the "edge effect" which increases both habitat value and visual interest.
- Consider planting species that are attractive to butterflies, such as butterfly bush, milkweed, joe-pye weed, butterfly weed and clover.
- Limit tree pruning as well as the clean-up of fallen branches and trees. This material should be removed only when it presents a safety or circulation problem, as it provides cover and foraging areas for a variety of songbirds.
- When trees are cut, do not remove the fallen material. To provide cover for rabbits and songbirds, and to improve soil quality, the woody debris can be placed in small piles (large piles are often burned by park users), or lopped and scattered. Do not haul it away or reduce it to chips. Branches and tops can be placed in eroded areas to hold leaf litter and sediments, and to discourage human traffic.
- Brush piles should be built in conjunction with land clearing or forest thinning operations. The materials used for the brush pile will depend upon what is locally available. In areas cleared of natural wildlife cover; it is best to build at least three or four brush piles per acre. To help conceal wildlife traveling along woodland borders, place a brush pile every 200 to 300 feet.
 - Rot resistant trees, such as oaks and locust, make durable bases for the brush piles, as do old lumber or timbers that might be lying around. The base of the brush pile should be formed by placing alternate layers of logs at right angles to one another. The logs used should be at least six inches in diameter and spaced six to ten inches apart in each layer.

- It is important to remember that the base will act to keep pathways open under the pile once the brush is placed on top. Smaller trees and brush should be piled on top of the base until a mound or tepee-shaped brush pile is created. Any brush may be used as filling on the piles; hardwood treetops will last longer, but evergreens (such as discarded Christmas trees) can provide excellent, short term cover.
 - Finished piles should be four to eight feet tall and 10 to 20 feet in diameter. If you choose to build a rectangular shaped brush pile, it should be at least 10 to 15 feet wide and at least 25+ feet long. The brush piles should be built densely enough in the center to provide adequate shelter from adverse weather and predators, but loose enough around the edges to allow for easy access. Strict attention should be given to the size of the brush piles built. The tendency is to make brush piles too small. If a person can kick a brush pile over, or a dog can burrow through them, they are too small.
- Any earth disturbing activities undertaken in the parks should utilize “best management practices” to minimize potential erosion or sedimentation.
 - The presence of unleashed dogs in the park should be monitored on a continual basis. Existing pet control ordinances should be strictly enforced, and the Town should take additional measures if it is determined that unleashed dogs pose a safety/security threat to park visitors and/or wildlife or if the presence of dog feces poses a health concern.

4. NOISE MANAGEMENT

- The use of motorized vehicles should be minimized to the extent practicable by both Town staff and visitors, except to access appropriate parking facilities.
- Regulations concerning the use of radios and other noise-producing instruments should be strictly enforced, and modified as necessary, to assure a quiet and tranquil experience for park visitors, and to protect the wildlife.
- The construction of proposed park improvements may create additional noise for short periods of time. After construction, noise impacts should be restricted to vehicular traffic and noise associated with public use of the park (human voices, etc.).
- None of the noise impacts likely to occur during construction or operation of the proposed facilities will be of a decibel level or duration that could cause annoyance or interference with verbal communication for neighboring residences. Temporary construction noise and increased human activity could disturb park wildlife, but the type and level of noise associated with park use are not anticipated to be significantly different than that which currently exists. As is the case with existing noise sources, any noise impacts associated with the proposed project should be of limited duration, moderate decibel level, and should occur exclusively during daylight hours.
- Hours of construction operations should be restricted to 7:00a.m. - 7:00p.m. Monday through Saturday, with no work permitted on Sunday. Work on trails in sensitive areas of each park should not take place during the spring and fall migrations or the bird breeding season.
- All heavy construction equipment will comply with State Environmental Law, Subchapter E, Part 450 (Noise from Heavy Motor Vehicles).
- Vegetative buffers between the parks and adjacent land use will be preserved wherever possible to reduce noise and visual impacts from the proposed project and to reduce disturbance to park users caused by adjacent uses.

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5. SOILS MANAGEMENT

- All construction activities within the parks should incorporate measures to minimize potential soil erosion. Measures to be applied should be consistent with good management practices developed by the NYSDEC.
- Detailed soils investigations should be completed prior to initiating any major construction to determine the suitability and limitations of the soil for the proposed development.
- If debris is encountered during construction activities, it shall be characterized and handled in accordance with an appropriate Soil Management Plan.
- Required clearing and grading will be kept to a minimum and accomplished as quickly as possible to minimize the amount of time soils are exposed to erosional forces (wind and rain).
- Erosion and sedimentation control are critical in the Black Creek watershed. All protective measures should meet or exceed NYSDEC regulations. Silt fence will be placed down-gradient of disturbed areas to protect undisturbed vegetation, wetlands, wildlife habitat and watercourses from potential erosion and sedimentation. In certain sensitive areas hay bale dikes or similar barriers may also be used. Hay bales will be set at least one inch below the ground surface and staked down to prevent wash-out or removal.
- Vegetative stabilization of disturbed areas will be performed as soon as possible, generally within one week after establishment of finished grades. Stabilization will generally be in the form of seeding and mulching. Outside of the growing season, grading and distribution of excavated soils will be followed by temporary mulching of the graded material.

E. FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITIES

In the course of preparing the *Town of Chili Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update*, there were some issues that were not addressed or resolved. These issues should be considered as the proposed improvements move into the next phase of development. The following issues need to be considered:

1. Cornflower Property - An environmental assessment, similar to the one that was prepared for the Pfrengle Property, should be completed for the Cornflower Property prior to any further planning or park improvements.
2. Community Center- A detailed feasibility study is needed for a Community Center. The analysis and design that was completed during the course of the Master Plan Update is intended to be a preliminary assessment of the potential for developing a new Community Center in the Town of Chili. The materials included in this study are the first vision of what the building could be, but additional study is needed.
3. Davis Park- A comprehensive master plan is needed for Davis Park to maximize efficiency for this heavily-used town resource. Each year, Davis Park hosts many Chili Recreation programs, attracting a large number of people. To ensure safety and efficiency, a comprehensive review of pedestrian, bike and vehicular access, parking, safety, drainage, facility conditions, and management issues is recommended.