

Community facilities are the physical components that give a town its public identity. While some services are basic necessities, such as fire and police protection, others fulfill social or educational needs. These cultural functions help bring together a mostly rural population and create the strong sense of community so important to residents.

The demand for larger and more varied community facilities and services increases with population growth. With the increasing demands placed upon public budgets, intelligent planning of facilities is essential. The northern migration of new homeowners from the New York Metropolitan Area also tends to raise the level of expected community services to meet the standards of more developed municipalities to the south.

The 2006 Community Survey asked if residents felt that Pleasant Valley's community facilities are adequate. The library, fire, and ambulance services, and the recycling services were found by most residents to be adequate. Survey respondents did comment that they would like to see a greater police presence in town. Currently the Town contracts with the Dutchess County Sheriff for police services.

Recreation

The adequacy of recreation facilities for all age groups, on the other hand, received a mixed response. While the majority of residents felt that the number of parks is adequate, many commented that they would like to have more recreational opportunities such as a swimming facility, hiking/biking trails, playground and picnic areas, and senior and youth activities provided at a community center. Residents also want expanded access to the Wappinger Creek and tributaries to provide more fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities. There was also interest expressed in a creek walk.

The Town should enhance existing town parks facilities (see Map #4). A first step would be to complete an inventory and long-range plan for physical improvements to all of its recreational properties, particularly the largely undeveloped park land off North Avenue. Usage of the four park properties and the Wappinger Creek in the Pleasant Valley hamlet area should be encouraged. Plans for pedestrian trails should be developed. The Town should take advantage of any reasonable opportunity to gain public access to the Wappinger Creek for trails or fishing purposes. Access to Town-owned property along the Little Wappinger Creek in the Salt Point hamlet should be enhanced, and Town-owned land in that area should be developed for recreational use.



Traver Road Elementary School is located on the outskirts of the Pleasant Valley hamlet



The Helen Aldrich Park in Salt Point has many amenities including playground, ballfield, and community meeting space

Park Facilities

NAME	LOCATION	ACREAGE	FACILITIES AVAILABLE
Bower Park	Ravine Road	16.2 ±	Soccer Fields, Picnic Tables, Future Hiking Trails and Wappinger Cteek Access
Pleasant Valley Recreation Park	Route 44 (behind Town Hall)	5.5 ±	Wappinger Creek Access, Canoe and Kayak Ramp, Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Grills, Playground, Tennis Court, Basketball Court, Lighted Softball Field
Helen Aldrich Park	Hibernia Rd./ Salt Point Turnpike	6.8 ±	Pavilion, Picnic Tables, Playground, Tennis Court, Basketball Court, Volleyball, Lighted Softball Field, Schoolhouse Building with Meeting Room and Bathroom Facility
Mill Site Memorial Park	Main Street	1.8 ±	Walking Gardens, Bricked Paths, Fountain, Benches, Fishing Dock, Veterans War Memorial with Eternal Flame, Mill Site Museum
Redl Park	West Road/ Van Wagner Road/ Salt Point Turnpike	28.9 ±	Future Recreation Site

Central Water and Sewer

The majority of survey respondents agreed that central water and sewer are needed for business and residential growth in the town center. A town sponsored water committee is conducting a study of the feasibility of central water in the town center, and will propose the formation of a central water district.

Other Services

The Town currently has one library in the town center that most residents feel serves their needs. Those who indicated that the library is not adequate stated that it needs more room for books and expanded programming.

The two Post Offices, one in the town center and one in the hamlet of Salt Point, meet the needs of residents. The Town should consider creating better access and parking for the town center branch, which should be encouraged by all possible means to stay in the core of the hamlet center. The branch in Salt Point, while in a central location, raises traffic concerns due to competing access points from Salt Point Turnpike. Moving the branch to another location within the hamlet should be considered.

Pleasant Valley schools are rated very highly. Residents cited the schools as one of the top ten strengths of the community. School-aged children are in one of three districts: Hyde Park, Millbrook, or Arlington, which educates the largest sector of Pleasant Valley children. The Town has three schools: Traver Road Primary, West Road Intermediate, and Netherwood Elementary. The middle and high schools are in neighboring municipalities.

Implementation Strategies: Community Facilities

Short-term:

- 6.1 Include community services (i.e.: senior programs, youth programs, recreation facilities, creek access points) on the Town's website.
- 6.2 Implement recreational activities identified in the community survey (i.e. hiking/biking trails, playground areas, picnic areas, senior and youth activities, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, and swimming).
- 6.3 Identify possible hamlet site(s) for a community center.
- 6.4 Investigate shared parking opportunities or other hamlet locations for the Pleasant Valley Post Office.
- 6.5 Where appropriate, require a trail easement in lieu of recreation fees to facilitate the establishment of a Wappinger Creek trail system.

Long-term:

- 6.6 Identify possible hamlet sites for relocation of the Salt Point Post Office.
- 6.7 Construction of a central water and/or sewer facility in the hamlet of Pleasant Valley.
- 6.8 Create new areas for access to the Wappinger Creek in order to expand opportunities for recreation.
- 6.9 Open a Community Center facility.

