Town of East Bloomfield/Village of

Bloomfield

Recreation Master Plan

Update of

2022

Town of East Bloomfield/Village of Bloomfield

Recreation Plan Committee:

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Town Council member - Kathy Conradt- secretary

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With special thanks to Sara Turnbull for her assistance with the community survey.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission statement of the East Bloomfield community is:

The Community of East Bloomfield is dedicated to offering residents and visitors a balanced system of parklands, preservation of open spaces, and broad-based leisure opportunities that will foster growth of healthy lifestyles, maintain the character of our community’s scenic vistas, and to ensure the continued quality of life.

**1. Introduction**

This is an update to the 2006 recreation master plan for the community comprised of the Town of East Bloomfield and the Village of Bloomfield (hereafter referred to as the Community). It is a joint plan that builds upon the established practices of inter-municipal cooperation.

The Community recognizes that recreation and open space play a vital role in maintaining the mental and physical health of our citizens. There is a need for comprehensive planning to accommodate current and future needs to retain the quality of life in our community.

This Recreation Master Plan is the logical "next step" to build upon the comprehensive planning to provide direction in the assessment and delivery of recreational lands, facilities, and programs.

Traditionally, most resources for active recreation, such as athletic fields, courts, and others, have been provided by the Bloomfield Central School District. The cooperation between the Community and the School District will and must continue. However, as the Community grows, a greater responsibility will be placed on the Town/Village to meet added recreational demands of its residents.

Citizen involvement is particularly evidenced in the delivery of recreational services in our community. Youth sports organizations run by volunteers serve hundreds of participants. Input from citizens and organizations have highly impacted the direction and recommendations of this Master Plan.

This updated Recreation Master Plan builds upon and is intended to complement the other planning efforts within the Community. It establishes long term goals and objectives. It proposes strategies for acquiring, developing, and operating recreational lands, facilities, and services within the Community's capabilities. Specific recommendations are made for the next ten years in context with the long-term objectives.

This Plan is intended to be a working guide for the Town/Village and other sources of recreational opportunities to provide a well -balanced delivery of high- quality recreation appropriate to East Bloomfield.

This plan is the result of input from community residents, sports and cultural organizations, the Bloomfield School district, elected officials, and other providers of facilities and services.

1. **Analysis**

DEMAND FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

General

The demand for recreational opportunities within a community is measured by the rate and frequency of participation in specific recreational activities and is influenced by several factors including:

1. Characteristics of the population including ages, education, employment, income, and lifestyle.
2. The availability of unique local programs, facilities, or other unique influences.
3. Physical and climatic conditions which create feasibility, opportunities, or expectations for certain recreational opportunities.
4. Willingness and ability of a community to support municipal recreational opportunities through taxes and fees.
5. Changing trends in the popularity of specific recreational pursuits.

Population

For the purposes of this plan all statistics are for the Town, including the Village. East Bloomfield's 2019 population is estimated to be 3576 with 1606 units in the Town and 662 units in the Village.

The age distribution of the Town's residents is important in identifying trends of interests and needs. A "young" community will exhibit interest in and, possibly, reflect school district provision of recreational opportunities which vary from those found or desired in "older" communities.

The following 2019 census data provide important insight into the nature of interests in recreation among the community’s residents. Approximately 27% of the community population is under 18years of age, 7% is between 18-24, 30% is between 25-44, 25% is between 45-64 and 11% of the population is over 65 years of age.

Bloomfield Central School District

The Bloomfield Central School District is the major generator of demand for and, presently, the major provider of sports, community educational programs and other recreational facilities in the community. It is important to recognize that the School District includes large areas outside of the Town, particularly areas of West Bloomfield and Bristol. The School District's mission must include those areas outside of the Community.

As the population continues to increase, the need for facilities will also increase. Presently, the School District struggles to satisfy the current demands of youth and adult sports programs. In addition to school fields, fields are being utilized in Bristol, West Bloomfield and a privately owned cross-country course in the Town of East Bloomfield.

PHYSICAL AND CLIMATIC INFLUENCES ON DEMAND

The physical characteristics of the Town influence the nature and locations of demands and the ability to service those demands.

Location

East Bloomfield is located in northwest Ontario County and borders the Towns of Canandaigua, Victor, Bristol and West Bloomfield. Its location as a gateway to southern Ontario County, along NYS Route 5 and US Route 20, 444 and 64, and its scenic rural character indicate the community will continue to develop both residentially and commercially.

The Town is nearly square, and contains approximately 33 square miles or approximately 21,500 acres. The Village of Bloomfield occupies 1.4 square miles in the central portion of the Town.

Land Uses

A large portion of the Town's land is undeveloped or agricultural. Residential development is scattered outside of the Village with a denser concentration within the Village limits. Commercial development is located in the “downtown district” of the Village and primarily along Rtes. 5 & 20 in the Town. Industrial development exists along Rtes. 5 & 20 west of Rte. 64, with an additional small portion in the Village.

Land Forms

Topography is primarily level lands with some steep slopes and freshwater wetlands.

Major creeks and flood plains offer attractive linear open spaces. They include Mud Creek which flows along the eastern border of the Town, and Fish Creek which drains an area north of the Village.

Soils vary from highly permeable sand and gravel to less permeable unsorted glacial tills and clay.

Transportation

Automobile travel is the primary mode of transportation to and within the Town. The principal highway corridors receive heavy traffic, particularly commuter traffic.

East Bloomfield is served by three principal transportation corridors. State Rtes. 5 & 20 travels in an east-west direction through the Town of East Bloomfield and the Village connecting them to Canandaigua (to the east) and West Bloomfield (to the west). State Route 444 bisects the Town in a north-south direction through the Village to Rtes. 5 & 20. Rte. 64 North travels from the northwest of Town to Rtes. 5 & 20 and Rte. 64 South southeast of Town to Naples.

The nearest small airport for general aviation is at Canandaigua. It is headquarters for Mercy Flight. There is also a certified small local airport located on County Road 30.

Few roads in the Town of East Bloomfield are pedestrian or bicycle friendly. Roads in the Village are pedestrian friendly with sidewalks installed on almost all streets. There are no bike trails in either the Village or the Town at this time.

**3.** Evaluation

CURRENT RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East Bloomfield residents are served by a variety of recreational lands and facilities which are provided by various levels of government, the Bloomfield Central School District, commercial enterprises, and not-for-profit organizations within the Community. Commercial and community recreational facilities outside of the Town are also available to Town residents.

The Town is currently developing and making available to its residents a very desirable property on Rtes. 5 & 20, known as Veterans Park, which will offer high quality experiences. A knowledgeable and enthusiastic Recreation Advisory Committee, supportive Town/Village Boards, and a host of interested citizens have provided the support and guidance to accomplish truly impressive progress in a short period of time.

Partnering with the Village of Bloomfield, which is within the Town, is likewise a mutually beneficial approach to the delivery of recreational opportunities to all Community residents.

The Bloomfield Central School District has been the most important provider of facilities and programs which serve recreational and leisure interests. The School District includes residents beyond the Town of East Bloomfield's borders and community educational programs are, therefore, available to these other School District residents. Continued and expanded school *I* community provision of recreational opportunities is expected. However, use of many school facilities has reached saturation and new venues must be created by the Town.

Many of the youth sports leagues and other organizations involved in providing recreational opportunities also include participants beyond East Bloomfield's boundaries. As the School District and these organizations are the larger providers of facilities and services at this time, it is to be expected that East Bloomfield will continue to form meaningful partnerships with its neighboring towns and the School District.

In determining the level of recreational opportunities available to Community residents, it is necessary to identify commercial, private, and other levels of governments' facilities and programs which are in, or within acceptable distances from, the Community.

Town of East Bloomfield Lands and Facilities

**Boughton Park**

The park is owned jointly with the Towns of West Bloomfield and Victor.

Access to this park is limited to the residents of these three communities only. It is maintained in a forever wild format and has great potential as a prime recreation area for the community. There are two man-made lakes where fishing is permitted. However hunting, motorized boats, and swimming are not allowed. The park has two entrances, one on Boughton Road and one on Stirnie Road. The Stirnie Road entrance has a boat launch, picnic pavilion, and picnic area. The remainder of the park is available for hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, and cross-country skiing.

Location – 7392 Boughton Rd. and 1912 Stirnie Rd.

Size: 329 acres

Facilities include: hiking trails, group picnic shelter, boat launch, portable rest rooms, two large ponds, charcoal grills

**Elton Park**

Elton Park is a small memorial park located in the center of the community. It is a gathering place for such things as weddings, antique and auto shows, street dances, outdoor concerts in the summer, and other festivities.

Location: Rtes. 5 & 20 in the Village of Bloomfield

Size: 1.9 acres

Facilities include: picnic tables, gazebo with electricity for community events

**Veterans Park**

This facility with fields was offered to the Town by the Savage Post No. 170, Inc. (American Legion) and approved through a referendum on the November 2005 ballot. It was purchased from the Savage Post No. 170 for a cost of $90,000 in 2006 to ensure its continued use by youth sports, veterans, and other civic organizations.

Location: 6910 Rtes. 5 & 20

Size: 18 acres

Facilities include: main building with kitchen/bathroom facilities, 1000 sq. ft. annex building, 1 little league field,1 softball field, 2 T-ball fields, 2 multipurpose fields, T-ball fields, playground, and pavilion

Village Facilities

**Pickle Park**

This small park is located on the west side of the Village and has benches for sitting.

Location: Main St.

Size: 1/8 acre

Facilities: benches for sitting, sidewalks

Bloomfield School District

The School District facilities are available to all community residents and include elementary and middle/high school campuses.

**Middle/High School**

Location: 19 Oakmount Ave. in the Village

Size: approx. 82.3 acres

Facilities include: Outdoor: Softball field, all-weather track, 1 combination lacrosse/ field hockey field, 1 soccer field, 6 tennis courts

Indoor: 1 gymnasium, 1 auxiliary gymnasium, fitness/wellness center, performing arts center

**Elementary school:**

Location: 45 Maple Ave. in the Village

Size: approx. 18.2 acres

Facilities include: Outdoor: 2 baseball field, 2 soccer fields, basketball court, children’s playground, 1 softball field Facilities

Indoor: 1 gymnasium, 1 auxiliary gymnasium, one combination cafeteria/auditorium

Private facilities available for community recreation

**Parkview Fairways**

Location: 7100 Boughton Rd.

Facilities include: public 18-hole golf course with clubhouse, 1 cross-country, course developed for school use

**Hol/field Rod and Gun Club**

Location: 2857 Whalen Rd.

Ownership: Private club

Facilities include

**Local churches**

There are 5 churches in the Village and Town which make their meeting halls available to civic groups and community activities.

Neighboring municipalities

Some community residents take advantage of recreational lands and facilities of neighboring communities. Those in close proximity to East Bloomfield are listed.

**Village of Victor**

Harlan Fisher Park (Village of Victor) – children’s play area, picnic area, trails

Mead Square Park (Village of Victor) - benches

Victor Central Schools facilities – swimming pool

**Bristol**

Levi Corsor Park – tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball court, 2 pavilions, bleachers, ice skating rink, walking track, restrooms, 1 full-sized soccer field, 1 youth soccer field

Bristol Mountain – 5662 Rte. 64 – skiing and snowboarding, lodge with cafeteria

**Canandaigua**

YMCA – 32 N Main St. - swimming pool, fitness programs

Civic Center - 250 North Bloomfield Rd. - ice hockey

Kershaw Park – Lakeshore Dr. – covered picnic area, pathways, playground, volleyball, swimming

Onanda Park – 4965 W. Lake Rd. – pavilions, playground, fishing, rental cabins, meeting lodges, winter sledding and cross-country skiing, swimming

Roseland Waterpark – 250 Eastern Blvd. – 30-acre private lake, wave pool, various water rides

Outhouse Park – playground, pavilion

**West Bloomfield**

Prouty Park – 2 soccer fields, 1 basketball court, 1 softball field, playground, pavilion, portable restrooms

State of New York

**Ganondagan State Historic Site**

Location: 1488 State Rte. 444, Victor

Size: approx. 520 acres

Recreational facilities include: Visitor/interpretive center replica of a Seneca long house, approximately three miles of interpretive trails, Native American gardens, festivals, snowshoeing

**Sonnenberg Gardens** – 151 Charlotte St., Canandaigua – 9 themed gardens, conservatory

**High Tor** – 6100 acres from the southern tip of Canandaigua Lake south to Village of Naples – hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking, cross-country skiing, bird watching

**Stid Hill** – Rte. 64 in the Towns of Bristol and South Bristol – hunting, trapping, bird watching

CONDITIONS AFFECTING DELIVERY OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

At this time, various recreational interests are competing for the same limited open space. Providing increased recreational opportunities, which reflect the needs and desires of East Bloomfield residents, is a goal for the Recreation Committee.

Vision

The Community has demonstrated its recognition of the importance of preserving the quality of its physical and environmental character through planning and regulatory efforts. Easy and enjoyable access to a broad spectrum of active and passive recreational facilities serving all ages is a goal of the Town/Village’s Comprehensive Plan and of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Development of new recreational facilities must be consistent with objectives and techniques for preserving the scenic and environmental qualities within the Community. The Parks and Recreation Committee is the body which can identify, communicate to, and support the Town and Village Boards in achieving the vision.

NEEDS TO BE SERVED

The needs for recreational lands, both active and passive, and for specific recreational facilities are estimated based on evaluations of present and anticipated future populations, expressed local interests taken from a community survey conducted in May-June of 2021, recreational trends in general, and specific identified deficiencies.

It is important to recognize that interests may vary considerably among nearby towns due to demographic differences, particularly successful local programs, unique facilities or natural features, or other reasons.

Specific Demands

Demands for many recreational opportunities, such as trails, skate parks, passive parks, and nature centers have been identified. These are desirable and popular assets of a community. Trails should be planned as both destinations and linkages. Development of the Town and opportunities such as rights of way will influence the nature of a trail system. Nature centers and similar passive recreational attractions typically occur where physical or cultural features justify. Protection of wetlands and other ecosystems is important for recreation as well as for education, ecology, and protection of the aquifer.

Many potential park users do not participate in organized programs, but desire space to play informal games, picnic, run, jog, or sit. According to the responses in the survey it is felt that we have adequate parkland at this time. Focus should be on enhancing amenities in the existing parks.

Outdoor Facilities Requiring Large Dedicated Spaces

East Bloomfield's relatively high rate of participation in programs among its population age 18 and under and current emphasis on an expanding availability of youth sports programs reflects trends in demands elsewhere. Youth sports organizations participation in a joint consortium, such as with Little League and Youth Football, indicate a temporary solution to deficiencies in the availability of outdoor athletic fields. However, if the population and programs grow as projected, increasing demands for fields will occur.

Use of school fields to their capacities does not permit rotating fields "off-line" for needed periodic maintenance. Development of additional fields on the school campus is not feasible. A minimum of ten percent or more of excess field capacity is necessary to reduce field use and to allow rotation and renovation of fields. A minimum of one field in addition to program needs is needed currently to allow for minimum field maintenance.

Most other outdoor facilities commonly provided by a community can be readily accommodated within a park system as physical features, conditions, and demands justify. The Community will be expected to provide a greater array of outdoor facilities on Town park lands to complement existing school and other outdoor facilities which will, also, require the community to increase its role in controlling, scheduling, and assisting user groups.

Indoor Facilities for Recreation

Nearly all indoor facilities for public use are provided by the Bloomfield School District.

Expansion of school facilities in the near future is not likely. Significant development of facilities by private developers is also not likely. The East Bloomfield community will be expected to play a larger role in the provision of indoor recreational facilities and programs.

Demands for Recreational Lands

Parks and other public recreational lands are valuable assets to the quality of life in a community. It is also argued that a quality and adequate park system and preservation of important open spaces enhance real estate values and attract residents and businesses to the community.

The quantity and, to a large extent, the types of park land within a community will vary depending on availability, character of land, population density and distribution, and other factors. No single standard applies.

Much of the community's park land is and will remain undeveloped or with very limited development in the near future. The cost and burden of maintaining those lands will be minimal and will remain within the Town's capabilities until the need for development occurs.

Special Use Recreational Lands

Lands offering unique features or opportunities for activities not otherwise available should be acquired as opportunities occur. Examples include nature centers, bikeways, scenic vistas, and hiking trails.

**4.** Strategies

ROLES OF COMMUNITY AND OTHERS

General

Many providers of recreational opportunities serve East Bloomfield residents. Most developed facilities are on Bloomfield Central School District property. The East Bloomfield community provides three parks which are used by community residents and for community programs such as its summer concert series. The majority of participants in organized recreational activities belong to organized sports leagues which are nearly always run by volunteers. Commercial and private venues serve demands for ice skating, golf, equestrian activities, skiing and snowboarding, and others.

Facilities

The School District will continue to provide most of the developed outdoor and indoor facilities used for recreation for the near future. The District reserves exclusive use of certain varsity fields and, in case of inclement weather, the athletic program has priority for use of the gymnasiums. Priorities and methods of scheduling usage are through the District athletic department. Available times for organizations to use school facilities are assigned in the following priority order:

1. School activities including band, athletics, curricular, co-curricular, adult education, student sponsored activities
2. School related organizations including PTSA and booster clubs
3. Boy and Girl Scouts in the school district
4. Competitive youth leagues hosted by Bloomfield teams
5. Towns and Villages within the school district
6. Other non-profit organizations including recreational adult groups, Rotary, Lions Club, etc.
7. Rooms available for activities include gymnasiums, auditorium and cafeterias. Classrooms are generally not available for use to outside organizations.

Although they are allowed to use school facilities, outside groups who fall lower on the priority list above often are unable to rely on scheduling their activities at the school because they can be “bumped” by a higher-priority organization. These groups must make multiple inquiries to find an alternative location for their activities. The Town should study the feasibility of hiring a Recreation/Athletic Coordinator, possibly in collaboration with the School District.

Limited community park development to date has not created scheduling issues in community parks. As new fields and other facilities become operational at community parks, the Community must define its park use policies regarding long-term capital investments, scheduling of facilities, recreational programming, and potential revenue generation.

Trails are a valuable community resource and are receiving an increased focus. Volunteer organizations should be encouraged to develop and maintain a system of trails that is intended to eventually link most neighborhoods with parks and other destinations. Most new large housing developments should have trail easements.

The Community should collaborate with Genesee Transportation Council in preparing a long-term master plan for a system of trails of various categories within the Community and connecting to trails in neighboring communities. The master plan should identify:

\* Specific trail route where it can be identified (such as abandoned rail line)

\* Conceptual trail route where alternatives and future availability will determine

actual route

\* Connectivity to larger intermunicipal trail systems

\* Class and specified uses of each trail or segment thereof

\* Construction and maintenance standards by class of trail

\* Provisions for ensuring permanent maintenance

\* Potential sources and means of financing acquisition by purchase, easement, permit, or other rights

Acceptance of trail lands or rights should be in accord with the long-term trails master plan (to be developed) to ensure the criteria can be met, public concerns are met, and ongoing maintenance can be assured. A variety of trails should be encouraged.

Programs

Independent, primarily sports organizations, offer a significant majority of recreational programming in East Bloomfield. Most of these programs include both East Bloomfield and non-East Bloomfield residents, most notably residents of West Bloomfield and Bristol. The relationship between East Bloomfield and West Bloomfield and Bristol residents is long standing and is not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

The Community of East Bloomfield has not historically had the facilities, program capabilities, or administrative resources to offer a broad range of recreational programs or to serve as a "clearing house" for recruiting and scheduling sports leagues or similar organizations.

As the Community develops its parks and indoor facilities, it should identify constituencies which are not now or likely to be served by the School District, existing organizations, or private enterprise. Certain preschool, recreational youth sports, adult sports, and senior citizens' programs may be accommodated in proposed facilities and offered where sufficient demand justifies. Community programs would then have priority for use of Community facilities and it could schedule use by other organizations at resulting available times.

Most of the youth sports programs are presently self-sufficient and rely primarily on the Veterans Park for facilities. Many of these programs anticipate continuing growth in participants, current or soon to occur shortages of needed facilities, and lack of ability to create their own facilities.

The Community privately sponsors a senior citizens' program using the Veterans Park facilities. When a suitable opportunity occurs, the Town could become a larger supporter of the seniors program.

**Parks for Special Experience**

Parks for special experiences may be "stand alone" parcels containing unique visual, environmental, cultural, or historical interest or they may be discrete sections of larger parks with active recreation.

Parks for special experiences typically occur as opportunities provide. They may become available through outright purchase, various forms of less than fee simple ownership, or they may be donated to the Community or another entity.

While many parcels may be identified as significant landmarks or open spaces, parks should have accommodations for public access, parking, and for appropriate recreational pursuits.

Veterans Park has potential to be considered a park for special experiences.

The scenic vista preservation areas identified in the Rtes. 5&20 Corridor Study would make good choices for special experiences. There were eight view sheds identified. Four are located west of the Village with two near the intersection of Cannan Rd. and two near the intersection of Rte. 64, looking north and northwest. Four view sheds were identified east of the Village with one on Ashman Rd. looking south, one on Rtes. 5&20 near Flat Iron Rd. looking south, and two near the eastern Town line, just east of Wheeler Station Rd. looking southwest and northwest. Just south of the Village, along Rte. 444 is one of the most notable view sheds along the corridor located at mile marker 444 4401 1007. Travelers can see for many miles in the south, southeast, and southwest directions. Additionally there is a great view from this vantage point, to the northwest, of a large portion of the Village. If land becomes available, this location would make a good pull-off/observation area.

**Trails**

Trails are of interest to the residents of our community. Based upon the survey results, demand for trails is increasing in East Bloomfield, as it is in most communities.

Opportunities exist for development of a trails network in East Bloomfield to link many neighborhoods with other neighborhoods, parks, and other attractions. Additional trails may be destinations which offer things to do or see. Trails should follow the abandoned Conrail track bed that traverses the Village. Intermunicipal coordination, planning, and financing are necessary to link important regional and multi-community trails, and they are important to enhance qualifying for grants-in-aid.

No specific recommendations are provided for pedestrian or bicycle improvements within

the community of East Bloomfield. The accommodations for both are the shoulder of the roadway. The Corridor communities are encouraged to pursue bicycle-route designations to further encourage multi-modal users within the corridor. If the commercial node at the Route 444/ Routes 5 & 20 intersection continues to develop, pedestrian connections and pathways should be provided between adjacent properties to encourage patrons to walk between them.

In addition to hiking trails, opportunities should be explored for additional potential trail uses such as pleasure biking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and, perhaps, snowmobiling. These uses are not generally compatible with walking, hiking, and jogging but can often be combined where they can be designed properly.

A plan which defines, at least conceptually, desired locations, types, and properties of trails should be undertaken by the Community in collaboration with Genesee Transportation Council. It should address implementation strategies, land acquisitions, and techniques for obtaining trail way rights through purchase, permits, easements, and other means. The role of the Community in providing and maintaining trails should be clearly defined and strategies developed to design and construct trails for efficient long-term maintenance. Trails on community property should be maintained by the municipalities. Trails on private properties should have permanent trail easements.

Recommendations for Outdoor Facilities

The recommendations for land acquisition propose that community facilities for organized "active" recreation, such as fields and courts, be located primarily within the Veterans Park facility.

**Football, Soccer, and Lacrosse**

Football, soccer, and lacrosse are played on large rectangular fields of somewhat similar size. Younger classes of lacrosse and soccer can use smaller fields. The heaviest demands for rectangular fields occur during the spring.

Currently youth football and cheerleading are not active.

East Bloomfield Soccer participation is currently in greater demand than existing facilities can support. Some soccer fields are utilized in Bristol and West Bloomfield due to the insufficient number of fields in the East Bloomfield community.

The school supports a lacrosse team and there is a non-school lacrosse program for youth in East Bloomfield. The Greater Rochester area has several adult leagues.

Lacrosse is considered a spring sport. Soccer is considered an autumn sport. In reality, lacrosse is played at least spring and summer. Soccer is offered as a year-round program. The greatest demands occur during the spring when both sports compete for fields.

The temptation to over-schedule fields should be resisted. Sports played on rectangular fields, in particular, generate considerable wear and damage which leads to poor quality of play and, more important, injuries. Sufficient fields should be provided to allow rotating fields out of service for maintenance and repair. Turf would be ideal for these sports.

It is desirable to have a venue with several rectangular fields at one location for convenience of players, families, and officials; for enhanced visibility of the venue; for efficiency of administration, operations, and maintenance; for support of concessions; and, particularly, for the ability to accommodate tournaments which require multiple fields. The Bloomfield Central Schools campus offers such a potential and is easily accessed for tournaments.

**Baseball and Softball Fields**

Baseball, youth baseball, and softball are popular in East Bloomfield. While each has different requirements for diamonds, they are addressed collectively for planning purposes.

Youth baseball requires three sizes of fields. They are fields with 90-foot, 75-foot, and 60-foot baselines and roughly proportionally sized outfields. Softball also uses 60-foot baselines, although adult softball elsewhere often uses 65- or 70-foot baselines. While softball and youth baseball use the same size fields, construction of the fields differs.

Baseball and softball fields are typically used for shorter seasons and experience less wear and damage than rectangular fields. A good maintenance program can allow fields to remain playable without the rotation recommended for the rectangular fields.

Community demand for existing fields exceeds capacity. Bloomfield/Farmington Little League Baseball uses existing fields at the Veterans Park facility. The fields serve its needs only through its policy of shortening games and practice sessions to accommodate its program. The fields are currently in very poor condition. School fields are dedicated for the middle/high school league. The Bloomfield/Farmington Little League projects at least five percent growth per year. The projected increase in demand for additional fields cannot be served at the schools or at other existing venues. It is recommended the Town study areas for additional recreation in the future as the demand dictates.

**Outdoor Tennis Courts**

Outdoor tennis courts serve high school teams and players who do not participate at private, club, and commercial courts. Courts in neighboring towns are underused. Six tennis courts at the High School would appear to satisfy current “non-school" demand for outdoor courts.

**Indoor/Outdoor Skating Rinks**

Interest in ice skating consists of two principal forms. They are recreational ice skating and ice hockey. Speed skating and figure skating are specialties beyond the scope of this Plan.

There is an indoor ice arena available within reasonable travel distance, which is the Greater Canandaigua Civic Center. Other facilities are available at greater distances from East Bloomfield. There is insufficient demand for an outdoor skating rink in our community at this time.

**Outdoor Aquatic Centers**

East Bloomfield has no outdoor public swimming pool or natural beaches. Public outdoor pools have declined in popularity in most suburban environments. The availability of private home and club pools, and easy access to natural beaches, particularly in the Finger Lakes and at Lake Ontario, further decrease demand for a public outdoor pool in East Bloomfield.

Aquatic centers which have a variety of amusements such as water slides, spray pools, wave pools, and other attractions hold interest longer and have greater appeal to today's participants. Many communities with outdoor pools are converting or adding attractions.

The regional demand for aquatics is well served at the new commercial water park in Canandaigua and at Sea Breeze Park in Irondequoit. Six Flags Darien Lakes offers a large water park one hour drive from East Bloomfield. East Bloomfield, in itself, has insufficient population to support a local municipal outdoor aquatic center.

Consideration of an outdoor aquatics center is not feasible for this community within the next ten years.

**Roller Sports**

In-line skating and skateboarding are activities appealing to mostly younger participants.

In-line skating is a valid form of transportation and recreation for which provisions should be made. Roller hockey uses in-line skates for an increasingly popular sport similar to ice hockey and using a similar rink.

Skateboarding is also a well established activity which is popular primarily among teenagers. The lack of appropriate venues for skateboarding often leads to misuse and conflicts with pedestrians and merchants in commercial areas.

Skateboard parks are a desirable recreational facility. They may be simple and "portable" or large, complex, and very attractive.

Development of a skateboard park should be in response to expression of sufficient interest by prospective users. Frequent movement and storage of skateboarding structures is not feasible. A permanent skateboard park consisting of a "level" platform with manufactured ramps, pipes, rails, and other structures could be considered to be built, within or close to the Village as a central convenient location. Liability for such a sport would also need to be addressed.

**Hiking and Biking Trails**

Trailways and linkages among neighborhoods and destinations are important assets with increasing demand. Hiking trails were rated in the top percentage of recreational features by respondents to the Town-wide 2021 survey.

There can be no "standards" for miles of trails within a community. There can be guidelines and objectives for the creation of various types of trails, walkways, bikeways, and other linkages.

The American Hiking Society recommends a trail within one mile of any location within a community. The abandoned railroad bed is mostly privately owned at this time, but there is potential for development of a hiking/biking path along this right-of-way. If it was developed, it could be used to tie in the Veterans Park grounds with the Village.

Within the community, pedestrian and bicycle linkages among neighborhoods and between neighborhoods and destinations such as schools, parks, and commercial centers should be considered wherever possible. When roads are improved, consideration should be given to widening and striping for delineated bike routes or, more desirable but less easily accomplished, providing parallel bike paths.

A long range master plan for hiking, biking, and other trails in East Bloomfield should be prepared. Included should be connections to adjacent towns and regional trail ways, linkages within the community, and recreational trails of varying degrees of difficulty.

**Equestrian Trails**

There is interest in equestrian activities in East Bloomfield. There is interest in linking stables and private lands of the Town, and, possibly, Boughton Park.

Large portions of these areas of the Town remain lightly developed. It is recommended that the equestrian community become organized, to plan and acquire easements, permits, or title from property owners for a network of horse trails.

**Pavilions**

Most towns find value in an enclosed pavilion, cabin, or park center which contains meeting space, small kitchen, and restrooms. Such a facility within a park can serve many recreational programs and take advantage of adjacent park facilities. It can be rented for fees to groups and families for special events. There are two covered pavilions within the community at Veteran’s Park and at the Boughton Park Preserve, but no enclosed pavilions exist at this time.

**Children’s Play Areas**

Children’s play areas are both important destinations and supplementary attractions to other facilities at parks. There is no standard for quantifying the need for children’s play areas. However, play areas should be provided at each active park. Children’s play areas must meet current Consumer Product Safety Commission, Americans with Disabilities Act, and other standards for safety and accessibility, of equipment design and maintenance, and for ground surfacing. They should also provide quality creative and interactive play experiences. Procedures for on-going monitoring and maintaining play equipment and surfacing should be established and complied with.

Currently there are play areas available at the elementary school and Veteran’s Park.

**Hunting and Fishing**

Hunting and fishing are also valuable recreational opportunities. Currently they are permitted in designated areas of High Tor, a County Park, and Stid Hill, a DEC managed wildlife area. Some restricted hunting and fishing is permitted on privately owned land when permission from the property owner is obtained. Farmland and open space should be preserved to protect this type of recreation for the future.

**Gymnasiums**

All gymnasiums within the community are in schools.

**Indoor Swimming Pools**

Indoor swimming pools serve a variety of activities for all ages. They are used for instructional, competitive, therapeutic, and certain recreational activities. The East Bloomfield community does not possess an indoor swimming pool at this time. The insufficient demand and cost to construct and maintain such a pool make it impractical at this time.

**Fitness/Wellness Centers**

A fitness/wellness center can be an attractive feature of a facility such as a community/athletic center. The School District does provide limited access to a fitness center. The Town must decide its role in providing a fitness/wellness center within the "market" of commercial and other, such as YMCA, centers.

**Senior Citizens Center**

East Bloomfield has had a senior citizens' program for many years, which meets at the Veterans Park facility. A venue which is available for seniors whenever desired could be an important feature of a community/athletic center which could also be available for other activities when not being used for seniors' activities. Senior citizens should participate in the planning of a facility and identify with it. Typically, a lounge, kitchen, dining room, and activity room are found in senior citizens centers.

**Teen Center**

Teen centers can take a variety of forms and serve a wide range of teen needs and activities. They often serve the segment of the teen population which does not participate in athletic and other broad interest activities. Many communities offer teen centers and programs with widely varying successes. The East Bloomfield community should determine whether and to what extent it should provide a dedicated teen center.

**Day Care/Pre-School Center**

It is not likely that the East Bloomfield community is prepared to operate a day care center at this time.

**Meeting / Multipurpose Rooms**

The main room at the Town Hall, a small meeting room at the Village Office, Veteran’s Park, the fire hall, and a small room at the library are available to groups for meetings. Often the local churches make their meeting halls available to civic groups. The Bloomfield School District has also recently constructed a large-group multi-purpose instruction room in the stand-alone building previously used as the district office.

Multipurpose rooms are desirable spaces. The projected growth of Town-sponsored recreational and other programs requiring such spaces, as well as needs of other community organizations, will prompt the inclusion of multipurpose or specialty spaces as part of an overall plan. The existing accessory building, commonly referred to as the “annex building” could serve this purpose with some improvements.

OPPORTUNITIES AND METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The recommended development of recreational lands and facilities should achieve a balance of municipal recreational opportunities to serve the Community's growing needs within the projected future.

Development of recreational lands according to carefully prepared master development plans for each property will ensure cost effective development and enhance eligibility for financial assistance.

The Community recognizes that recreational lands and open space must be fiscally prudent. Therefore, private resources and private-public partnerships should be used where appropriate opportunities exist to provide maximum benefit at the least public cost.

Sources of Financial Assistance

Many vehicles and combinations of vehicles are available for financing the acquisition and development of public parks and recreational facilities. Local funds, human resources, and equipment can be applied against various sources of state, federal, and other financial assistance to achieve maximum value for the local expenditure. The use of lands for public purposes short of outright purchase, particularly for trails and similar uses, should be considered where appropriate. Non-profit organizations may be helpful partners in obtaining land or funds that might not otherwise be feasible.

The availability of certain forms of state and federal assistance can vary widely from year to year.

Revenues from fees for participating in programs and charges for the use of facilities should be important segments of the budget for parks and recreation. The extent to which programs and facilities are financed through fees and charges is a philosophical decision to be made by each community.

**Parks and Recreation Reserve Fund**

It is recommended that the community maintains a Parks and Recreation Reserve Fund enabled by Section 277 of the New York State Community Law which provides that a community may, "prior to approval by the planning board of plats, require developers to reserve land suitable for parks, playgrounds, or other recreational purposes or, in lieu thereof, to pay money to the Community to be held in a trust fund for the purchase of land for recreational or park purposes, construction of recreational facilities, or maintenance of existing recreational facilities. "

The recommendations of this Master Plan should be used as documentation of the appropriateness of accepting specific parcels of land. Unless a proposed parcel is specifically desired by the Community for a stated recreational purpose, the Community should accept payment of fees for the reserve fund to acquire and develop park land as proposed in the Master Plan.

Techniques for Implementation

**Leases, Easements, and Permits**

Leases, easements, and permits may enable the use of land or facilities for long or short terms. Advantages may include control of land or facilities which are not for sale or otherwise available. These are particularly effective means of acquiring rights-of-way for trails.

**Donations**

Service clubs, "Friends" groups, special interest groups, developers, corporations and individuals are sources of money, land, materials, and volunteer services for developing and maintaining facilities as well as for programs when appropriate liability, use, and suitability issues can be resolved.

Large donations may be in the form of sponsorships, naming rights, and other privileges. The Community should identify present and future opportunities for such participation and should pursue same where it is in the interest of the Community to do so.

**5. Program**

GENERAL

Planning for providing recreational lands, facilities, and services requires a definition of the role of parks and recreation within the context of the Community's overall vision, needs, and capabilities. Policies, goals, and objectives for providing parks and recreational opportunities must be consistent with the Community's overall planning as described in its Comprehensive Plan.

EAST BLOOMFIELD TOWN/VILLAGE JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

“The Town and Village are served by a variety of recreational facilities on the Bloomfield Central Schools Campus as well as commercial enterprises, not for profit organizations, and four parks. Recreation is an integral component of a well-balanced life and lifestyle. Recreation is for everyone of all ages. Our resources and facilities should reflect this. From early childhood to late adulthood East Bloomfield should offer programs, services, clubs and indoor /outdoor spaces for every citizen. Ease of access and enjoyment should be indicators. Open public spaces and dedicated facilities should be designed with access and enjoyment in mind. These plans must prepare us for future recreational demands and opportunities as we examine the current inventory of resources in East Bloomfield (Village). A thoughtful and functional new Master Plan for Recreation will include this philosophy of planning and implementation. Our parklands and the Bloomfield School Campus offer the blueprint for achievement.

The newly written Recreation Master Plan should include the following items as well:

1. Snow Trails
2. Village Sidewalks
3. Veterans Park facilities, fields and pathway
4. Boughton Park Trails
5. Pickle Park sidewalk
6. Elton Park Commons

Approximately 3.5 miles of NYS Snowmobile Trail C4 are located within the Town and Village. This trail is managed and maintained by the Finger Lakes Snowmobile Club.”

EAST BLOOMFIELD TOWN/VILLAGE RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The following goals and objectives for parks and recreation build upon the Mission Statement and the goals and policies of the Comprehensive Plan. They reflect the expressed sense of the Municipal Boards, the Recreation Committee, and of community residents.

**Goal 1:** *Promote the creation of diverse active and passive recreation facilities within the Community for all age groups.*

Objective 1 Retain a recreation/athletic coordinator to work with, and for, the Town and School District to schedule facilities and activities.

Objective 2 Recognize the importance of recreational lands and facilities provided by the School District, neighboring communities, and other levels of government, including the County and State.

Objective 3 Partner with private, non-profit, volunteer, and other organizations to provide public access to significant natural, scenic, and historic sites.

Objective 4 Recognize the importance of space within parks for individual and family informal recreation.

Objective 5 Encourage and support development of a community-wide trails system.

Objective 6 Preserve farmland and other significant open spaces within the Community in addition to park land for environmental and aesthetic values.

**Goal 2:** *Capitalize on unique scenic, historical, and cultural assets for recreational and education pursuits.*

Objective 1 Encourage new development which will preserve scenic vistas.

Objective 2 Provide access and trails on significant lands where appropriate.

Objective 3 Create buffers along stream corridors which will protect stream channels, enable trails and linkages, and provide water access for fishing and other compatible activities.

Objective 4 Publicize the historic markers, buildings, and districts within the Community and the unique scenic, historic, and cultural assets of the Community which are accessible to the public.

Objective 5 Co-operate with neighboring communities and other agencies to expand intermunicipal and regional trail ways, particularly along waterways and historical routes.

Objective 6 Attract tourism as an economic benefit to the Community through the promotion of recreational opportunities which are unique to East Bloomfield.

Objective 7 Preserve viable agricultural land as open space.

**Goal 3:** *Provide high quality recreational lands, facilities, and programs in a fiscally appropriate manner*

Objective 1 Recognize that well planned, well-designed, high-quality facilities are investments which can reduce ongoing long-term operating and maintenance costs.

Objective 2 Prepare master plans for the development of each park property with priorities, potential phasing, and cost estimates to maximize efficiency and cost effectiveness of development, to enable long term capital planning, to serve as basis for applications for grants in aid, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they occur.

Objective 3 Provide adequate resources to enable a high quality of maintenance

and operation of parks and recreational facilities which will extend useful life, maintain safety and accessibility standards, justify appropriate fees and charges, and enhance the value of the recreational experience.

Objective 4 Continue to participate in intermunicipal agreements for provision of

lands, facilities, and programs where costs may be shared for mutual benefit.

Objective 5 Aggressively pursue state, federal, and other sources of financial

assistance for recreational opportunities development and for certain programs.

Objective 6 Do not accept park land on behalf of the Community which does not satisfy the goals, objectives, and criteria of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Objective 7 Continue to impose fees in lieu of land on new residential development unless a particularly favorable situation occurs to justify acceptance of land.

Objective 8 Implement a comprehensive system of fees for programs and charges for use of facilities which will generate revenues to offset operating costs, recognizing that some participants arenot East Bloomfield residents.

Objective 9 Encourage and support the planning, acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails.

**Goal 4***: Ensure that parks and recreational offerings are responsive to the needs and desires of the community*.

Objective 1 Adopt and periodically update this Master Plan every five years by a Recreation Committee.

Objective 2 Inform the public and seek public input periodically and during specific planning processes.

Objective 3 Maintain strong working relations with the sports leagues and other organizations which provide recreational services within the community.

Objective 4 Promote the Parks and Recreation Department, the Community's parks and facilities, and its recreational programs.

Objective 5 Develop the Parks and Recreation site on the Community's web site to provide information on parks, programs and schedules.

Objective 6 Provide lands, facilities, and programs to accommodate persons of differing abilities, including those with disabilities.

ACTION PLAN

General

The Community should plan, develop, and improve land and facilities which will enable it to meet community recreational needs within ten years and to provide land to accommodate development to serve needs beyond ten years, including reducing dependency on school facilities.

Trails

The Community should secure rights to develop and maintain trail ways for hiking, equestrian use and snowmobiling. Trails within municipal properties should be maintained by the municipalities. The abandoned railroad right-of-ways would make an excellent trail way. The community should provide incentives for landowners that provide responsible public use of their land. Easements should be encouraged to maximize available funds.

The Community should research availability of outside funding sources to assist in purchasing and developing trails.

The community should develop a consistent system of trails informational signage and graphics

Heritage Areas

The Community should preserve and promote the historic, natural and cultural resources and activities that tell the story of our community’s history. This can be an important component of our local economy and give us a unique identity for the present as well as for the future. The rehabilitation and reuse of existing historic facilities should be encouraged whenever feasible.

Open Space Preservation

The community should purchase land and/or easements within watershed protection areas to protect water quality and animal and plant habitats and to provide areas suitable for hiking, bird watching, photography and other educational uses.

Planning

The Community should:

Retain a recreation director/coordinator to work with the Town/School District to schedule all facilities use and activities.

Work with local service groups and businesses to encourage community events.

Recreational Site Master Plans: Prepare master plans for the "ultimate" development of existing parks with the following suggestions:

\*General

1. Space should be planned to provide indoor equipment and materials storage, maintenance shop, office, and support spaces which are expected to serve needs for the foreseeable future. This could be planned in cooperation with the highway department.
2. Explore ways to provide desired services to the senior population

\* Boughton Park Reserve

1. Dam remediation
2. Docks maintenance
3. Add benches to side trails
4. Add more portable restrooms
5. Consider additional parking
6. Consider more boat storage/canoe racks on-site
7. Develop educational programs for seniors and families

\*Elton Park

1. Maintain memorials and monuments
2. Replace aged trees
3. Pave walkway and maintain gazebo

\* Veterans Park property

1. Water, hydrants, and electrical service should be expanded
2. The annex building should be upgraded
3. Existing trees should be evaluated and a plan designed to add trees to provide shade
4. A new changeable copy sign should be purchased to announce events
5. Adding an entrance from Rte. 444 should be discussed
6. A permanent restroom facility adjacent to the pavilion should be constructed
7. Resurface soccer field
8. Provide grills adjacent to pavilion
9. Storage for athletic equipment
10. Handicapped-accessible picnic tables

\* Trails development.

1. Make connections to the Victor trails system
2. Connect the school facilities to Veterans Park in partnership with the Village and Schools
3. Develop, enhance and/or maintain trails in Boughton Park
4. Pursue the plans submitted by RIT students for trails from the Park to the center of the Village and onto Veteran’s Park