



CITY OF NEWBURGH
PARKS & OPEN SPACE
INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT & IMPROVEMENT GUIDE



JULY 2022

The research and recommendations in this report were made possible by the generous and thoughtful contributions from staff at the City of Newburgh, the Newburgh Conservation Advisory Council, and the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy.



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INTRODUCTION

Scenic Hudson has worked with the City of Newburgh and key park advocates to create this Parks Inventory, Assessment, and Improvement Guide. It catalogs parks and open spaces in the city, assesses conditions in each, and recommends specific improvements needed to provide optimal benefits to the City and its residents.

This report is meant to inform action and investment in the City's parks and open space network. Scenic Hudson conserves land and creates parks that connect people with the Hudson River and other Hudson Valley landscapes. Scenic Hudson's River Cities Program is dedicated to working with public agencies, civic organizations, and community leaders to improve the City's park system in a way that is responsive to community needs, centers environmental justice, and takes action toward climate resilience.

The work to create this inventory began in 2018. Since then, the City of Newburgh, along with

the rest of the world, has experienced the severe challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has placed stress on many aspects of life in cities. It also has pointed out how vital Newburgh's open spaces are for community health and well-being. This inventory and its recommendations take on more urgency as the City works to set a course for the future in a world changed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parks as critical infrastructure

Parks are urban infrastructure that support community resilience. They provide a multitude of benefits to Newburgh residents. A well-maintained and robust open space network drives quality of life in Newburgh by contributing to neighborhood character and cohesion, increasing economic activity, improving environmental and human health, and mitigating impacts of climate change.

The first step in building a vital and equitable park system is understanding the role that parks and



urban ecology play as infrastructure in the cities of the twenty-first century. The ecosystem services derived from Newburgh's parks and biodiversity affect residents and visitors alike, the community as a whole, and flora and fauna throughout the Mid-Hudson region.

Parks have played an important role in urban planning and community health in U.S. cities for centuries. Newburgh hosts two nationally renowned parks that carry a deep history and current relevance. These are Downing Park, designed by the famous landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and Calvert Vaux, and Washington Headquarters State Historic Site. These environments bring esteem to the Newburgh park system, while other parks - large and small - impact the well-being of residents.

Yet not all residents or neighborhoods have equitable access to park space and the natural systems that positively affect community well-being. The distribution of these community assets and associated benefits are often unevenly

distributed in cities, leaving some neighborhoods underserved. It is the hope that this inventory serves as a foundation for improving and expanding the Newburgh park system. The outcome sought is an equitable and resilient open space network that improves access to nature without displacement, boosts the local economy, and provides nature-based solutions to mitigate the climate crisis.

The City of Newburgh

The City of Newburgh's physical character is defined by its dense housing stock, an abundance of Victorian architecture, and its iconic presence on the Hudson River. Parks, open spaces, and varied streetscapes fill out the urban fabric. Equitable access to the public realm is vital for community well-being. According to the Trust for Public Land's ParkServe tool, nearly 24% of Newburghers live in areas underserved by parks^[1]. This tool also identifies priority areas that could benefit from a new park based on both physical and social indicators.



Source: "Newburgh and Snake Hill Panorama" by Daniel Case under CC BY-SA 3.0



Source: Eva Deitch

Newburgh is an ethnically diverse city. In 2020, just under 40% of Newburgh’s nearly 28,000 residents identified as White alone, with races other than White make up the remaining 60% of the population. Immigrants make up 24% of residents and over 53% of the population is of Hispanic or Latino origin. Newburgh’s median household income of \$43,435 is just about half of the \$80,000 for Orange County as a whole. And school-aged children make up 26% of the total population.^[2] This youthful, diverse city needs a park system that reflects its unique population and addresses the disparity in distribution and quality of vibrant ecosystems throughout the city.

Open Space and Park Advocacy

Numerous organizations exist to advocate for and steward the City of Newburgh’s park system. The City currently does not have a formal parks department in charge of park planning, programming, and maintenance. The City delegates these functions between existing departments including the Department of Planning and Development, the Department of Recreation, and the Department of Public Works.

The City has a Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) that advocates for all of the City’s natural resources, including open spaces, wetlands, drinking water sources, the urban forest, coastal areas, and air quality. The CAC was formed by consolidating numerous municipal committees in 2013. It has standing committees addressing the urban waterfront, parks, urban forestry, open space/natural resources, and the city’s watershed.

Nonprofit and community organizations also play a key role in developing open space strategies. Scenic Hudson focuses on urban environmental justice issues together with conservation of natural and scenic landscapes in rural areas. In Newburgh, Scenic Hudson works alongside the Downing Park Planning Committee, the Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy, the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, Outdoor Promise, Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative, Melanin Unchained, Habitat for Humanity, Waterkeeper, and Ecological Citizens Project among others. Together, with community members, these organizations strive to create a more equitable, biodiverse, and healthy Newburgh.

Why a parks inventory and improvement guide?

This guide presents findings from a survey of parks and open spaces in the city and recommends improvements based on an analysis of existing conditions, programming, and use. The intended users of the guide include:

- The City of Newburgh, who owns and maintains the majority of park and open spaces in the city.
- Downing Park Planning Committee, and any similar group that might form to assume stewardship of a specific open space.
- The Greater Newburgh Parks Conservancy, a nonprofit with the mission to plan, protect, restore, and enhance parks, community gardens, trails, and other green spaces
- The Conservation Advisory Council, a legally mandated body acting as an advocate for all of the city's natural resources.
- Community partners interested in park stewardship or programming.
- New York State Parks, which owns and maintains the state park in Newburgh.

What does this guide contain?

This guide is organized into four sections:

Section 1: Impacts

Provides a digest of recent scientific, academic, and practical research on the impacts of parks and open space in urban communities.

Section 2: Inventory

Provides an inventory of parks and open spaces in the city, including what amenities are present in each.

Section 3: Assess

Introduces the park assessment tool used to review all spaces and shares key findings.

Section 4: Improve

Suggests recommendations to improve the park and open space system based on the assessment and relevant park standards.



Source: Scenic Hudson

IMPACTS OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

The parks and open spaces of Newburgh provide ecosystem services—otherwise known as benefits derived from nature—to the community.^[3] Generally, parks and open space in urban areas positively impact human populations and biodiversity. Sometimes, however, these benefits are not distributed equally throughout the community. This section contains a brief overview of current literature that lays out the impacts of parks and open space in cities.

Human wellbeing

Mental Health

Parks and green spaces provide opportunities for most people to routinely experience biodiversity and nature. These experiences have been linked to increased happiness, sense of purpose, and a decrease in stress.^[4] Green space has been shown to lower cortisol secretion, a physiological signal of lower stress levels.^[5] Time spent in nature is also linked to positive effects on blood pressure, heart rate, and muscle tension.^[6] A growing body

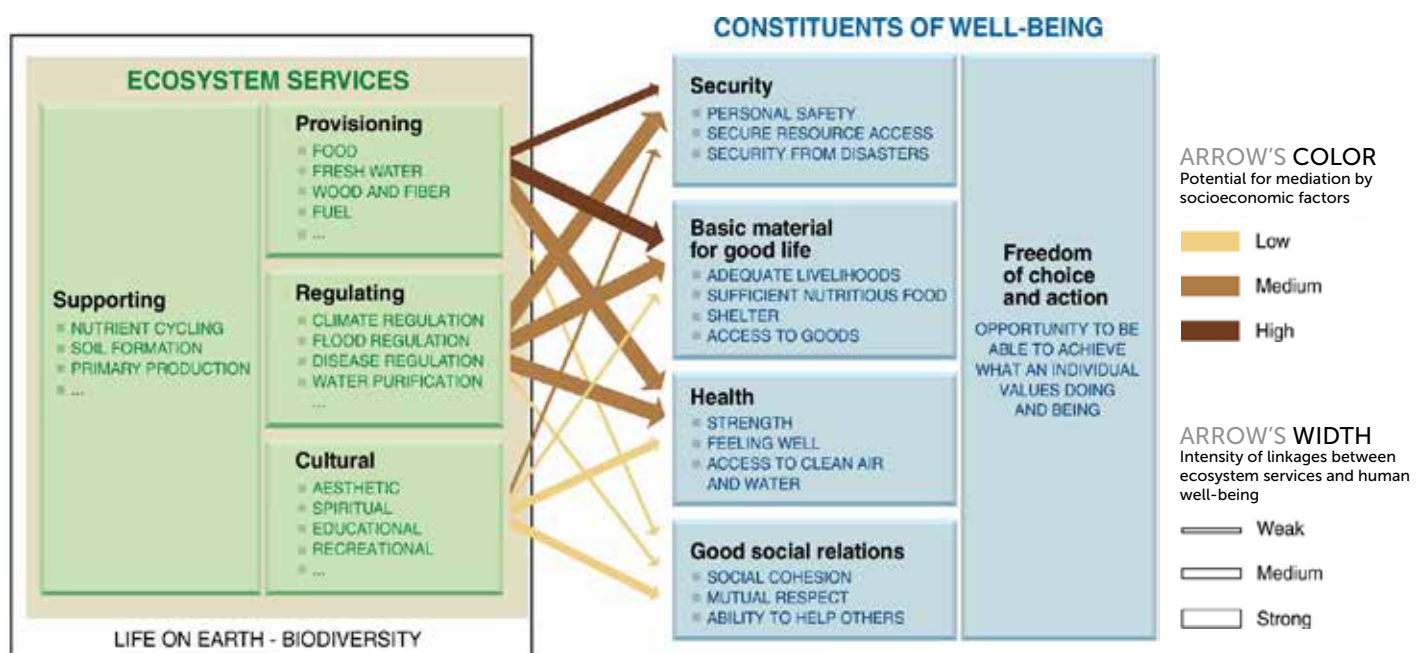
of research seeks to move beyond the factor of “green” and instead focus on biodiversity in urban areas as the critical factor in the relationship between urban ecology and mental health.^[7] The quality and experience of urban ecology as well as observed levels of biodiversity are significant in improving the psychological well-being of humans.^{[8] [9]}

Social Ties

Parks are key places in cities where residents can gather and form bonds that create social resilience. Well-maintained vegetation and natural areas in a park system increases time spent in the public realm.^[10] Trees can be important factors in community interaction. Studies have found that people are more likely to gather in treed areas. The social ties gained by gathering in parks can result in better physical and mental health.^[11]

Physical Activity

Increases in physical activity are linked to access to open space and parks in cities.^[12] This is particularly true for children, as parks are a primary place for play and vigorous activity in cities. A city’s park density has also been associated with more exercise as people are more likely to access



Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

a park by walking if it is within a half-mile radius of their home.^[13] Additionally, the presence of trees on streets leads to the perception of walkability, which can lead to increased physical activity.^[14]

Community Safety

Residents of areas surrounded by greenery report lower levels of fear and lower incidents of aggression and violent behavior in their neighborhoods.^[15] Some community parks and landscaping projects have also been shown to decrease vandalism.^[16] In one study in Philadelphia, narcotic possession was reduced by 18 to 27 percent near areas where grey roadside was converted to vegetated plots for stormwater control.^[17] Another study in Philadelphia found evidence that the presence of trees in urban areas may be a strong factor in decreasing urban gun violence.^[18] Parks, trees, and vegetation in cities can provide opportunities to establish safer communities through nature-based solutions.

Climate change and environmental health

Adapting to Climate Change

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations' body charged with assessing the latest science on climate change, recently released the Sixth Assessment Report, urging policy makers to adapt to and mitigate for the worst impacts of climate change. For cities, the IPCC warns of amplified extreme heat and increased flooding from heavy precipitation.^[19] Vegetative landscapes and permeable surfaces in urban areas can help mitigate the impacts of these extreme climate events.

Air Quality

Trees and other plants regulate the Earth's atmosphere through respiration. Carbon-intensive human activity has resulted in dangerous impacts to local air quality and global atmospheric composition. Air pollution negatively affects human health, atmospheric visibility, and climate



Source: Outdoor Promise



Source: Eva Deitch

stability. Parks can help mitigate these effects.

Tree canopy cover in urban areas can remove air pollution at a rate of 13g/square meter per year (almost 2 tons per year in New York City).^[20] Each year, urban trees in the United States remove 711,000 metric tons of air pollution including toxic and greenhouse gases like nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide that contribute to climate change.^[21]

Temperature

Urban heat island effect is the condition where the thermal mass of urban environments absorbs and radiates heat from the sun. Widespread asphalt and concrete increase urban temperatures by 3-7°F.^[22] Street trees and vegetated landscapes like parks reduce temperatures in cities. A tree-shaded surface may be 20-45°F cooler than unshaded areas.^[23] Low income urban dwellers, especially those over the age of 65, disproportionately suffer from heat-related mortality.^[24] As climate change continues to cause extreme heat events, it is imperative that cities seek nature-based solutions to mitigate extreme temperatures.

Water Quality

The leading cause of poor water quality in U.S. water bodies is stormwater runoff. The Hudson River intakes over 27 billion gallons of raw sewage and polluted stormwater from combined sewage overflows each year.^[25] As rain runs over impervious surfaces in cities, it takes pollutants off roads and deposits them in the closest surface waters.

Stormwater may have many negative impacts including flooding, erosion, property damage, increased cost of water and wastewater treatment, and reduced water quality, which can harm plants, animals, and people. Trees, rain gardens, bioswales, and other vegetated landscapes can absorb and store water in root structures while filtering toxins from stormwater thereby reducing the associated problems with extreme rain events.^[26]

Biodiversity

Many urban areas, like Newburgh, have had industries and land use patterns that have degraded urban ecosystems. Parks, natural areas, gardens, and vegetated streetscapes provide habitat to species that in turn provide valuable benefits to humans.^[27] Beyond the human health aspect, biodiversity supports ecosystem services such as pollination, water and air purification and soil health. Planning for and supporting biodiversity in the public realm helps cities be more resilient in the face of climate change.

Economic impacts

Property Values

Real estate analyses often show that homes with open space nearby have higher value because both renters and owners are often willing to pay more for access to green space.^[28] These higher property values result in increased property taxes, which can in turn offset a municipality's annual cost of purchasing and maintaining open space. A study in Portland, Oregon revealed that properties within 1,500 feet of an urban park have an increased average sale price of 1.43%.^[29]

Green Gentrification

Increased property values due to greening can cause burdens on some residents. New parks may change the desirability of a neighborhood, leading to speculative increases in rents or property values, a process known as green gentrification. Dr. Jennifer Wolch of the University of California, Berkeley, a leading researcher on this topic, refers to a "green paradox," where greening may be unwanted in neighborhoods of low-income residents and people of color due to fear of displacement caused by increased park use by more privileged, non-residents and the leveraging of green space for real estate investment.^[30]

Dr. Wolch promotes urban greening strategies to be "just green enough" in environmental justice communities to ensure socio-ecological stability and well-being.^[31] This type of greening rejects

market-based or conventional urban design while explicitly designing for community needs. Urban greening can positively affect the lives of current residents without adding amenities that would incite speculative real estate development.^[32]

Successful Economic Districts

Well-maintained parks and vibrant green boulevards in commercial districts can boost economic activity. The psychologically comforting effect of parks and nature can draw people into downtowns and commercial districts. Studies have shown that people prefer to shop, spend more money, and stay longer in commercial districts and downtowns with large trees and more greenery.^[33] Better employee performance and cognitive function are also associated with experience of and exposure to nature, including views from the workplace.^[34]

Tourism

Natural beauty and open space can be big drivers of tourism.^[35] The American Planning Association promotes parks as places that can draw visitors to a city. They are spaces for special events, festivals, or can be seen as "living works of art" or historical markers.^[36] When regional or out-of-state park goers visit parks or for recreation, they often support local restaurants, bike shops, and lodging facilities. Tourism and outdoor recreation are lucrative industries and contribute nearly \$54 billion to the New York State economy annually.^[37]

Maintenance Costs

Parks are an important part of a city's fiscal strength. In general, municipal service costs are significantly less for open space as compared to other land uses. Cost-of-community-services analyses consistently find that open space and commercial land uses pay for themselves, while the cost of servicing residential development often exceeds the revenues gained from it. Of course, every city must balance its land uses, tax base, and service costs, but at times, developing parks, rather than residential units, can lead to greater fiscal health for a city.^[38]

INVENTORY

Parks come in different shapes and sizes, providing varied programming and services to the diverse population of park users in the community. The following section reflects the categories of parks and open spaces present in Newburgh today, including general insights on the types of formal and informal programming in each space.

Types of parks and open spaces

City Recreation Parks



Source: www.ballparkreviews.com

City recreation parks offer a wide range of recreational facilities, like pools, as well as facilities for organized sports and formal programming like leagues, camps, and special events.

Delano-Hitch
Desmond Tennis Court
Newburgh Armory Unity Center
Gidney Avenue Basketball Courts

Historic & Cultural Landscapes



Source: *Scenic Hudson*

These sites are educational and tourist assets within a community. Historic tourism is a significant economic engine nationally. The most successful models of historic landscapes are those that evolve their narrative and interpretations to be relevant and directly contribute to their host communities.

Broadway Park/ Downing Vaux Park
Downing Park
Washington's Headquarters

Riverfront Parks



Source: *Scenic Hudson*

In communities with a large water body, waterfront parks can be some of the most important sites for community recreation and tourism for water-focused uses like fishing, boating, and swimming, but also simply enjoying the proximity to water.

1st Street Fishing Pier
Newburgh Boat Launch
Ward Brothers Mem. Rowing Park
People's Waterfront (Open Space)
South Street Park
Unico Park/ Newburgh Landing

Some urban green spaces such as vacant land, stand-alone community gardens, school playgrounds, and street trees were not included in the field survey conducted in 2018. While important assets to the open space and urban ecological network of Newburgh, the survey generally focused on publicly accessible spaces over which the City of Newburgh or New York State has purview.

Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds



Source: Scenic Hudson

Neighborhood-scale parks are typically smaller than an acre and programmed to serve the recreation demands of the nearby residences and civic facilities. Small parks embedded in residential neighborhoods provide access to recreation and social gathering space for youth, seniors, and everyone in between.

5 Bennet Street
Audrey Carey Park
Hasbrouck Street Park
Safe Harbors Green
Tyrone Crabb Park
Xavier Lunan Park

Streetscapes



Source: Scenic Hudson

Parks in this category consist of small, unbuildable, and un-programmed but maintained areas along roadways. These pocket parks frequently host monuments, serve as buffers from neighborhoods to roadways, or provide gardening space for a neighbor or gardening group. Some may include seating.

Cerone Drive Triangle
Clinton Square
Dupont & Broadway Triangle
Forsyth Street Triangle
Leroy Place Park
Leroy Place & Liberty Triangle
Montgomery Street Triangle
North Street Triangle
Park Place

Open Space



Source: Scenic Hudson

Several large swaths of land have been left undeveloped due to physical site constraints (topography, flood plains, and wetlands), non-conforming lot sizes, or because of former uses that created brownfield sites. The City's zoning code designates many of these areas as open space and may include privately owned parcels. Minimal development of parking and access amenities have or may allow for passive recreation opportunities.

Bay View Terrace
Crystal Lake / Snake Hill
Muchattoes Lake
Schleiermacher Park
Quassaick Creek Open Space
Marne Avenue Open Space

The City of Newburgh has nearly 95 acres of programmed parklands and approximately 152 acres of open space within its four-square-mile footprint. The City owns, maintains, and programs many of these spaces.

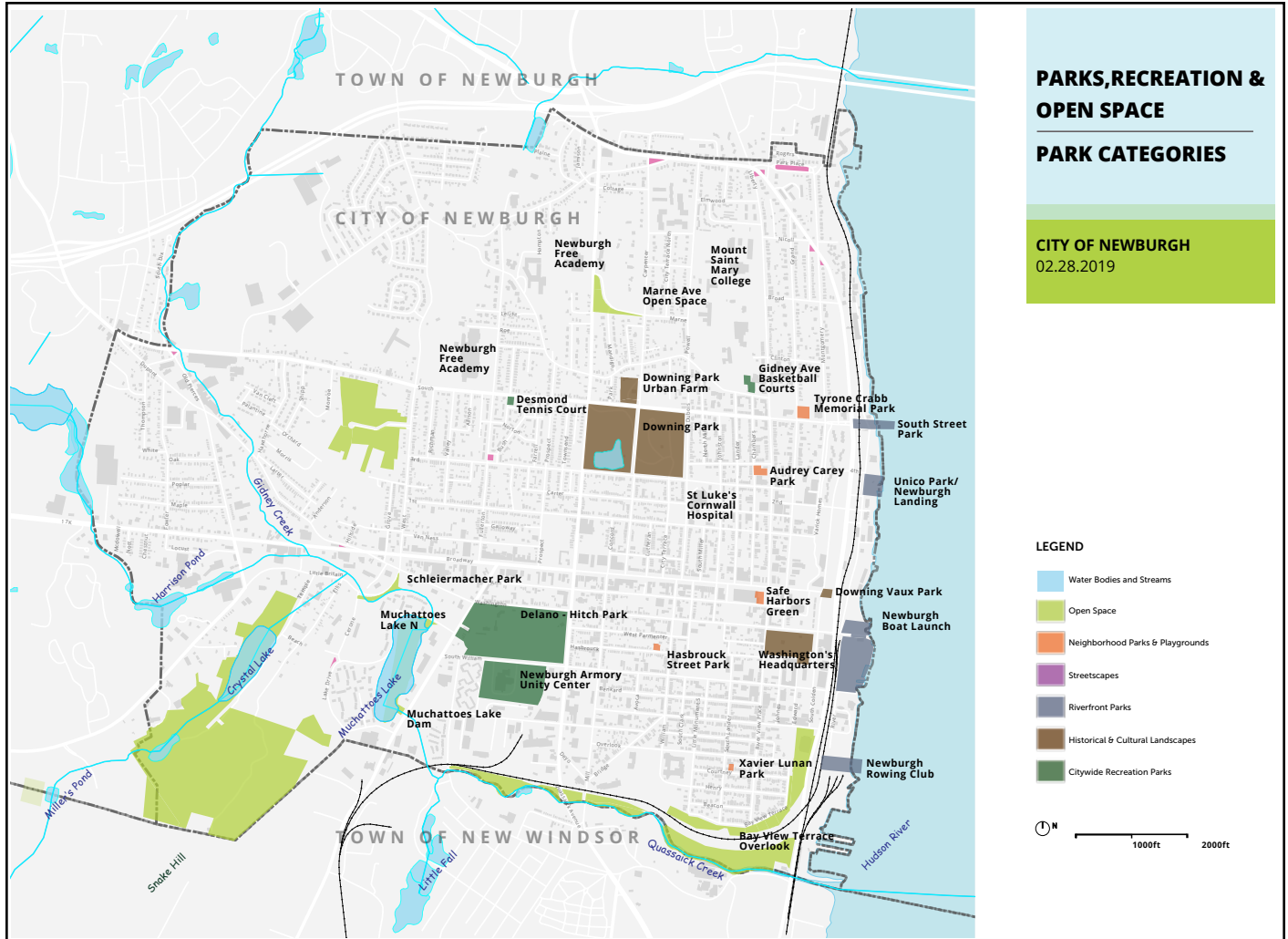
Within the six categories, Open Space contains the largest share of area, accounting for 151.86 acres or nearly 62% of the total area. It is the one category that includes privately owned property, specifically within the Quassaick Creek Open Space area. The following pages outline the different parks and open spaces that create Newburgh’s open space network.

Park Type	Count	Acres
Citywide Recreation Parks	4	39.7
Historical and Cultural Parks	3	37.39
Riverfront Parks	6	13.83
Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds	6	2.41
Streetscapes	10	1.76
Open Space	6	152.86
Total	35	247.94

Source: Scenic Hudson

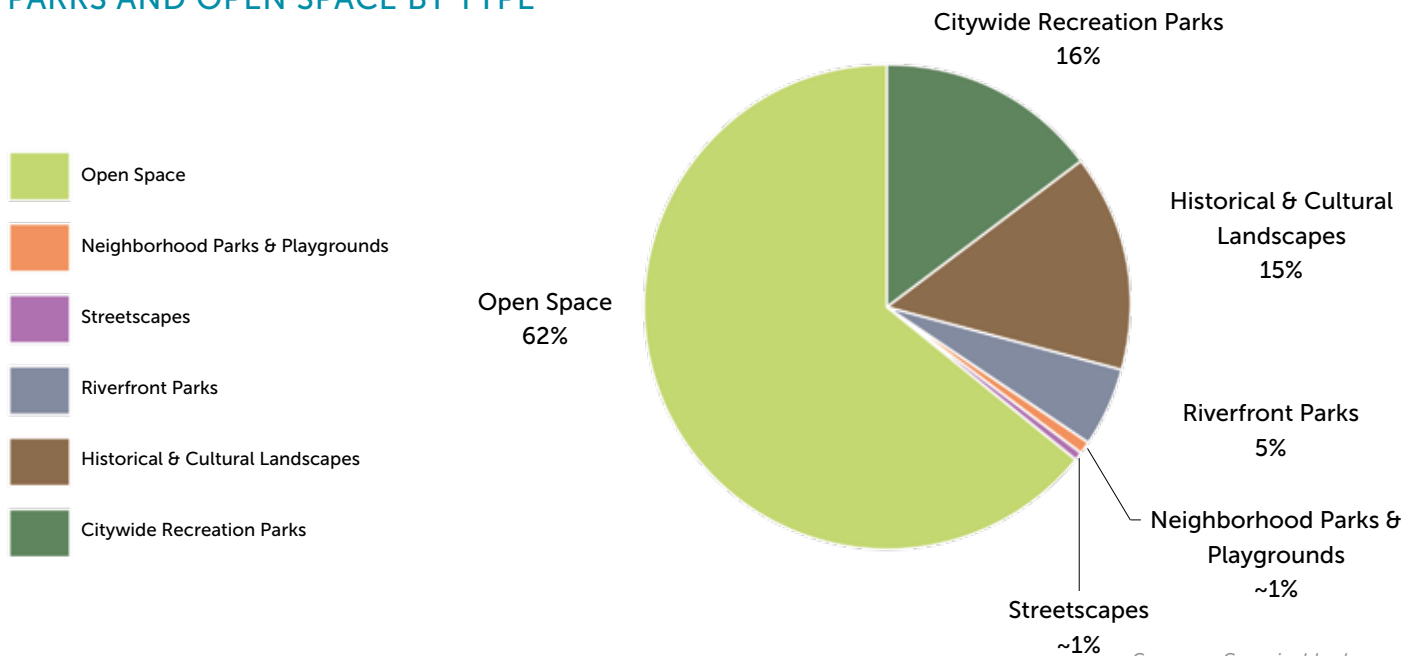


Source: Eva Deitch



Source: Scenic Hudson

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BY TYPE



Citywide Recreation Parks

Citywide recreation parks offer recreational and sports programming or amenities intended for use by the entire Newburgh community. These often include popular sports fields, courts, or facilities that can be used by leagues or reserved for community events.

DELANO-HITCH PARK



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

401 Washington Street
 26.7 acres
 Year established: 1918

Amenities:

2 playgrounds
 3 basketball courts
 1 Little League baseball fields
 Aquatic center (pool)
 Baseball stadium
 Community recreation center
 Fastpitch Hall of Fame
 Horseshoe pits
 Monuments
 Outdoor exercise equipment
 Skate park
 Soccer/ football field
 Softball field
 Speed skate track

Programming & Events:

Adult soccer leagues
 Adult softball
 Baseball tournaments
 Basketball leagues
 Community events
 Concerts
 Little league baseball
 Summer camp
 Youth soccer leagues

Maintenance/management roles: The City oversees park and facility maintenance and programming.

NEWBURGH ARMORY UNITY CENTER



Source: City of Newburgh

Geography:

321 S William Street
12 acres
Year established: 1931
Re-established in 2017

Amenities:

Community garden
Community rooms
Computer labs
Event space
Gym
Indoor basketball
Indoor soccer/ baseball field
Outdoor field

Programming & Events:

Adult soccer
Adult/youth education
Art and humanities
Chess
Exercise classes
Jaripeo Rodeo Tierra Caliente
Literacy
Non-profit offices
Science, Technology,
Engineering, Math tutoring
Youth vegetable garden

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns the property. The Newburgh Armory Unity Center, a nonprofit, leases the property from the City. All maintenance on the property and facility is performed by the Armory.

GIDNEY AVENUE BASKETBALL COURTS



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

14 Gidney Avenue
0.64 acres
Last upgraded in 2019

Amenities:

2 outdoor basketball courts
Bleacher seating
Overhead lighting

Programming & Events:

City basketball league

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

DESMOND TENNIS COURTS



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

385 South St (and corner of Lily)
0.29 acres
Year established: 1960 by dedication

Amenities:

2 outdoor tennis courts

Programming & Events:

Occasional tennis pro clinic

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

Historic & Cultural Landscapes

Newburgh’s historic and cultural landscapes are landmark parks that preserve historic structures and landscapes from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These have amenities reflective of early U.S. history and park design.

DOWNING PARK



Source: "Polly" by Daniel Case under CC By-SA 3.0

Geography:	Amenities:	Programming & Events:
123 Carpenter Avenue	Amphitheater	Farm stand
35 acres	Benches	Farmers market
Year established: 1897	Lake	Fitness classes
	Monuments	Gardening workshops
	Pergola	Outdoor concerts
	Shelter House Cafe	Tours
	Strolling paths	Yoga
	Urban farm & greenhouse	Youth training and education
	Views	

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property with collaborative fundraising, landscaping, and programming coordination by the Downing Park Planning Committee. The urban farm is programmed and managed by Newburgh Urban Food and Farm Inc.

Historic/cultural significance: Designed in the Picturesque landscape style by Fredrick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux (designers of Central Park in Manhattan) in honor of Andrew Jackson Downing, eminent horticulturist, pioneer of the public park concept, advocate of Central Park, and native to the City of Newburgh. The City of Newburgh commissioned the design, which was the last collaboration between Olmsted and Vaux.

WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS



Source: CaptJayRuffins CC BY-SA 4.0

Geography:

6.2 acres
 Year established: 1782
 For public use: 1887
 Last renovated: 2018

Amenities:

Historic monuments
 Museum and historic house
 Picnic lawn
 Sculptures
 Views
 Visitors center

Programming & Events:

Community events
 Educational Programming
 Tours

Maintenance/management roles: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation owns, manages, and maintains the property.

Historic/cultural significance: The historic house on this site was used as George Washington's headquarters and residence while Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the last year of the Revolutionary War. The Tower of Victory was erected for the centennial celebration in 1887 and includes a bronze statue of Washington by William Rudolph O'Donovan. The site was acquired as the nation's first publicly owned site and designated a historic site in 1850. The site also includes the grave of Uzal Knapp, the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War, and a bronze Minute Man sculpture by H.H. Kitson, unveiled in 1924.

BROADWAY PARK/ DOWNING VAUX PARK



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

1 Broadway
0.45 acres
Year established: 1902
Last renovated: 2009

Amenities:

Benches
Monuments
Strolling paths
Views

Programming & Events:

Fireworks viewing
Tours

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

Historic/cultural significance: The park staircase was designed by Calvert Vaux’s son, Downing Vaux. Originally surrounded by city buildings, the park offered a pedestrian route down the steep slope with a rustic-romantic aesthetic that would also serve as a green oasis with plantings and views contrasting the busy, crowded city of that time.

Riverfront Parks

The Hudson River is a key ecological component of Newburgh’s open space network. The city’s riverfront parks offer varying ways to engage with this powerful force of nature through scenic or recreational uses.

PEOPLE’S WATERFRONT



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

1 Washington St
8.04 Acres

Amenities:

BBQ stations and picnic tables
Benches
Interpretive signage
Pollinator garden
Views
Walking paths

Programming & Events:

Fireworks viewing
Host to “The Wall That Heals”

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property. While not officially designated parkland, People’s Waterfront offers formal park elements.

1ST STREET FISHING PIER



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

1st Street

0 Acres

Year established: 2017

Amenities:

Accessible bench seating

Accessible fishing railing

Site lighting

Views

Programming & Events:

Fishing

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

NEWBURGH BOAT LAUNCH



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

144 S Water Street

2.04 Acres

Amenities:

2 boat ramps

Benches & picnic tables

On-site parking

Site lighting

Views

Programming & Events:

Occasional group kayak tours

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

SOUTH STREET PARK



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

180 Water St
0.880 Acres

Amenities:

Views

Programming & Events:

none

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

Notes: A new park has been designed and engineered for the re-development of the dead-end road into a roundabout and continuation of the waterfront promenade with a possible fishing pier and other shoreline amenities.

UNICO PARK/ NEWBURGH LANDING



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

70 Front Street
2.05 Acres

Amenities:

Benches and picnic tables
Boat and fishing pier (closed)
Concert/ flex event space
Drinking fountains
Information kiosk
Interpretive signage
Monuments
Public restrooms
Seasonal food vendor
Site lighting
Views

Programming & Events:

Race start for the Newburgh to
Beacon Hudson River Swim, now
in its 15th year

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property.

WARD BROTHERS MEMORIAL ROWING PARK



Source: Scenic Hudson

Geography:

2 Renwick Street
0.81 Acres

Amenities:

Benches
Boat ramp
On-site parking
Picnic tables
Rowing building storage facility
Shade pavilion
Site lighting
Trailhead for shoreline trail

Programming & Events:

Adult and youth team rowing education
Rowing summer camp

Maintenance/management roles: The City owns, maintains, and manages the property. The Newburgh Rowing Club is a nonprofit corporation that offers training and membership to people 12 years and older at the site and manages the docks and boat storage on the site.

Open Space Areas

Open Space is a designated city zone that includes a set of development regulations and protections for significant natural features. While most parklands described in the other categories were comprised of a single parcel, these six areas typically consist of multiple parcels that may include ownership by private entities as well as the City. The combined acreage of these places provides the City of Newburgh many passive recreation opportunities within a more naturalized setting and makes up more than half of parkland acreage.

Name	Address	Acres	Amenities
Bay View Terrace Open Space	Bay View Terrace	5.82	Site lighting, view station
Crystal Lake/Snake Hill	Temple Ave.	106.05	Signage, parking, benches, trails, urban farm
Marne Ave.	Marne Ave.	2.26	Mowed lawn and street trees, possible view
Muchattoes Lake	136 Lake Street Rear, 192 Lake Street	10.44	Trail
Quassaick Creek Open Space	Multiple	27.33	Planned trail
Schleiermacher Park	2-4 West St.	0.96	Former ruins of a park and bridge, not functional

Source: Scenic Hudson

Streetscapes

Most streetscape and pocket parks in Newburgh came to be from the acute angles that Leroy Place and Water Street created running across the city’s north/south grid. Prior landowners have historically dedicated these spaces to the City as parks in perpetuity. These small pockets of green serve as buffers from automobiles, host flower gardens or monuments, and act as small gateways to the neighborhoods of Park Place, Liberty, Grand, Forsyth, and Montgomery Streets. A few others occur scattered across the city. Together, the ten amount to 1.72 acres, but most of them are not even one tenth of an acre.

Name	Address	Acres	Amenities
Cerone Drive Triangle	37 Cerone Pl.	0.09	None - Wooded open space
Clinton Square	374 Third St.	0.17	Monument, fencing, landscaped trees, sidewalk to monument
Dupont Broadway Triangle	562 Broadway	0.02	None
Forsyth Street Triangle	38 Forsyth Place	0.10	Mowed lawn, landscape trees, view, monument stone
Leroy & Liberty Triangle	Leroy Pl. & Liberty St.	0.08	Mowed lawn, landscape and street trees, street lighting, view
Leroy Place Park	Grand Ave. & Leroy Pl.	0.07	Orange County Veterans Memorial monument, mowed lawn, landscape beds, view
Montgomery Street Triangle	367 Water St.	0.06	Garden, mowed lawn, landscape trees, street light, view
North Street Triangle	North Plank Rd. & North St.	0.19	Mowed lawn and street trees
Park Place	Park Place Street Scape	0.93	911 Memorial monument, mowed lawn slope, view
Thompson Street Triangle	South St, Thompson, & Pierce Rd. S.	0.05	Mowed lawn and street trees

Source: Scenic Hudson

Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds

These six smaller parks, none of which is more than 0.7 acres, serve as social and recreational hubs throughout Newburgh. Common amenities include play equipment, seating, and landscaping. For dense urban neighborhoods in Newburgh, these neighborhood parks provide the closest access to usable open space and vegetated landscapes for many Newburgh residents.

Name	Address	Acres	Amenities
5 Bennet Street	5 Bennet St.	0.19	Lawn, shade trees, trash receptacle
Audrey Carey Park	251 Liberty St.	0.6	Signage, site lighting, playground, benches, tables, mist stick, splash pad, dog station, flex space, wall art, landscaping, trash & recycling
Hasbrouck Street Park	10 Hasbrouck St.	0.22	Signage, site lighting, playground, benches, swings, trash & recycling
Safe Harbors Green	103 Broadway; 97 Broadway	0.5	Signage, walking paths, wall art, benches, solar lighting, trash & recycling, library, computer training, indoor event space
Tyrone Crabb Park	210 Grand St.	0.73	Signage, site lighting, playground, splash pad, benches, tables, bike rack, dog station, flex space, landscaping, trash & recycling
Xavier Lunan Park	66 Courtney Ave.	0.17	Signage, site lighting, 2 sets of playground equipment, splash pad, benches, tables, basketball hoop, trash & recycling

Source: Scenic Hudson

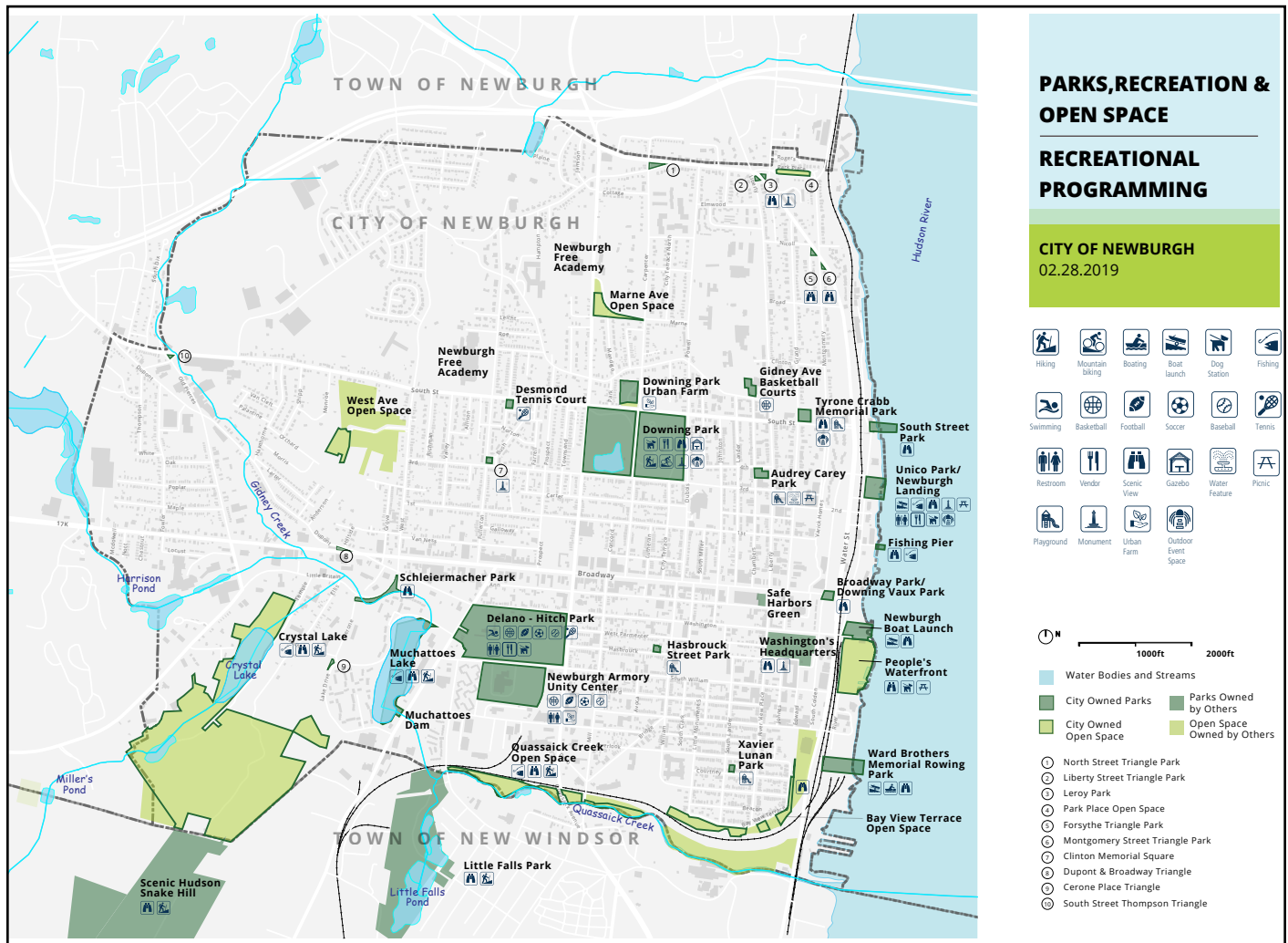
ASSESS

The following section presents the findings of a 2018 existing conditions survey conducted on city parklands. The goal of this survey was to determine capital improvement and maintenance needs at each park to identify various strategies for bringing the entire open space system in the city up to a high standard that meets the recreation interests of the community. The Scenic Hudson survey team drew on institutional experience in park design, maintenance, and management as well as standards for park design and management set by industry leaders.

Elements of good park design

Ultimately, a great park is dependent upon the quality of the user experience. A successful park is able to accommodate a variety of experiences for a diverse population while maintaining quality amenities needed to sustain those uses. The more positive the user experience, the more likely they will stay longer and visit more than once.^[39]

Park size and location can be a major factor in determining the number and types of amenities as well as the diversity of programmed and informal



activities that may occur. While not included in this report, an in-depth analysis of park locations and amenity distribution throughout the city may yield additional clarity where service gaps may occur. While not comprehensive, The Trust for Public Land's ParkServe tool provides an open-source online platform that can help users evaluate park service in cities.

Park design and amenities provide opportunities to accommodate common experiential needs of a user or group of users. Good park design also incorporates the principals of universal design where facilities, amenities, and activities can be experienced by as many user groups as possible without reducing the quality of experience for any.

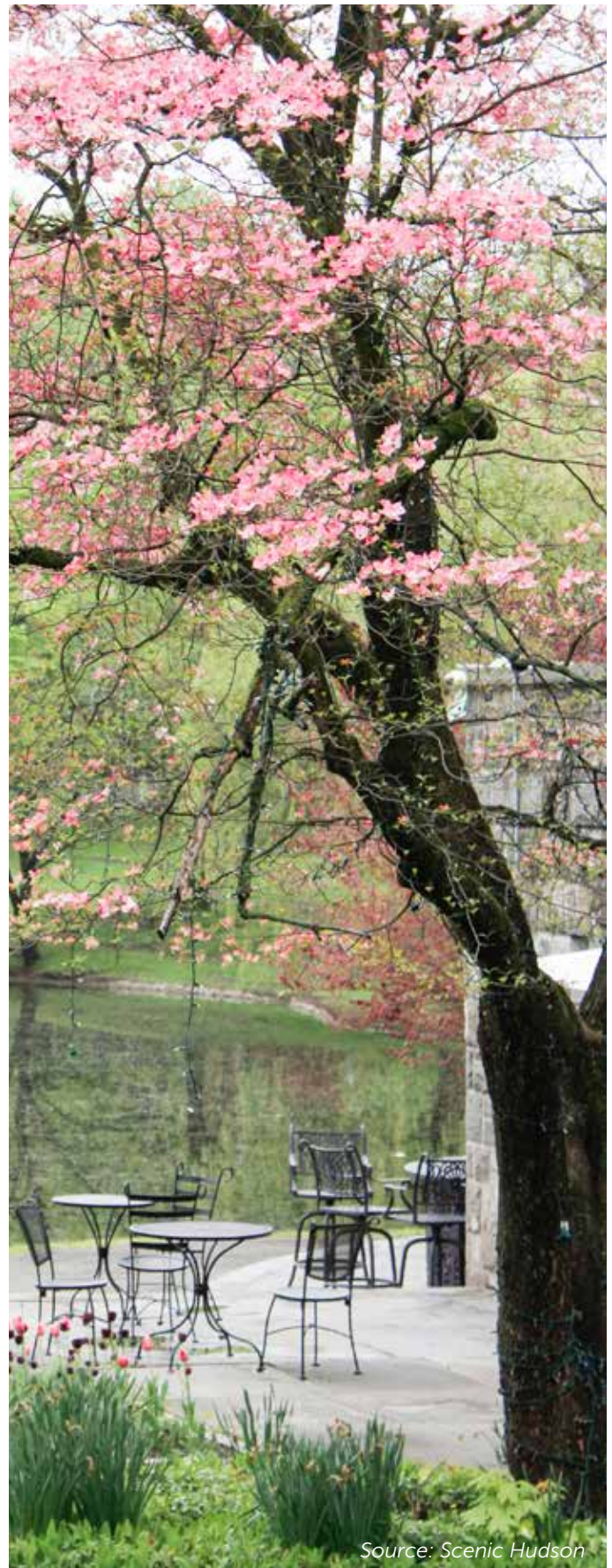
Park survey

In the summer of 2018, Scenic Hudson staff developed a survey tool to assess the City of Newburgh's parks (see Appendix A). The survey was designed to quickly capture a large amount of information in these categories:

- General Information
- Park Access
- Park Use
- Landscape Features
- Amenities
- Safety & Appearance

Each surveyor was prompted to quantify and evaluate the existing conditions of recreational or landscape amenities and record the data in a centralized spreadsheet. Additionally, conversations with residents, City staff, and community leaders provided information on current programming and use as well as potential improvement needs. (see Appendix C for tables on park design evaluation criteria.)

Each site had a unique set of amenities and features. This diversity made quantitative or comparative analysis unreliable. Every park was appraised as a unique snapshot in time when the field observations were made.



Source: Scenic Hudson

Assessment

Sites were assigned a score based on the site visit assessment. The overall condition of each site and its amenities were evaluated. Sites were scored on a scale of 0-4, where 0 is “poor” and 4 is “excellent.” These scores were used to develop three categories that reflect the level of need for capital investment and maintenance: Maintain, Renew, and Re-Envision.

Maintain

Parks in this category are either in good or excellent shape and routine investment is necessary to uphold this status. Recommendations for these parks include minor, low-cost additions, repairs, or cleanups to improve the park’s physical landscape or user experience. Such tasks could include: bike racks, landscaping maintenance, new tree plantings, invasive species removal, surface repairs, and park furniture replacement.

Scores: ◆◆◆◆ (Good) to ◆◆◆◆◆ (Excellent)

Renew

Parks in this category are in need of larger capital investments or maintenance. This could include the replacement or addition of key amenities and infrastructure like playground equipment, upgraded lighting, infrastructure upgrades, new landscaping, a new vegetation plan, or a re-worked circulation network. These actions would be in addition to the minor site improvements from which a park in the Maintain category might benefit.

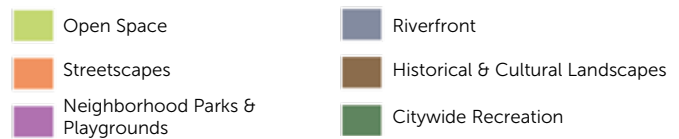
Scores: ◆◆◆◆ (Fair) to ◆◆◆◆◆ (Good)

Re-Envision

Parks in this category are either unimproved, heavily degraded, or improved in a way that does not meet current community needs. Parks in this category warrant a comprehensive review that will likely require the entire park being re-developed.

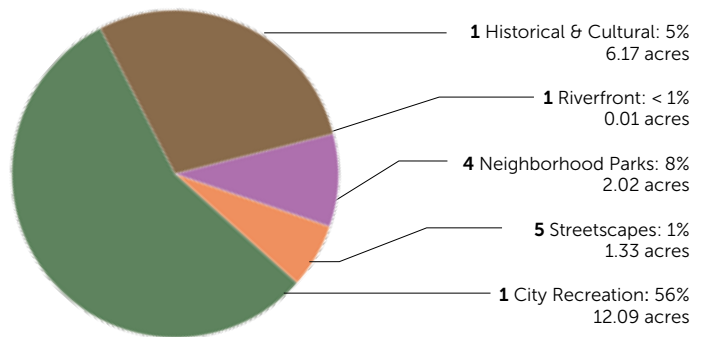
Scores: ◆◆◆◆◆ (Poor) to ◆◆◆◆◆ (Fair)

SHARE OF PARK TYPE BY ASSESSMENT CATEGORY



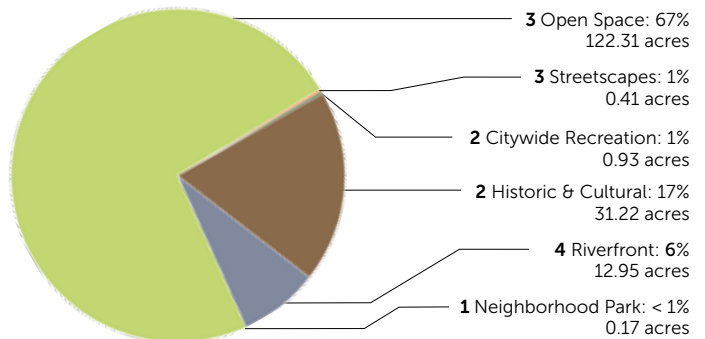
MAINTAIN

21.51 ACRES



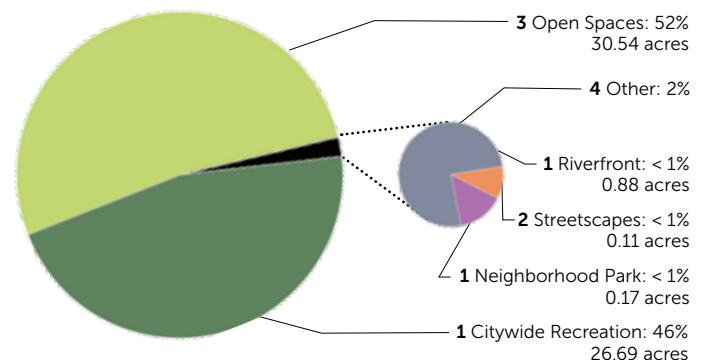
RENEW

167.99 ACRES



RE-ENVISION

58.44 ACRES



PARK ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

	Maintain	Renew	Re-Envision
City Recreation Parks			
Delano-Hitch			◆
Newburgh Armory Unity Center	◆		
Desmond Tennis Court		◆	
Gidney Ave Basketball Court		◆	
Historic/Cultural Landscapes			
Broadway Park/ Downing Vaux Park		◆	
Downing Park		◆	
Washington's Headquarters	◆		
Riverfront Parks			
1st St Fishing Pier	◆		
Newburgh Boat Launch		◆	
People's Waterfront Park		◆	
South Street Park			◆
Unico Park/ Newburgh Landing		◆	
Ward Brothers Memorial Rowing Park		◆	
Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds			
5 Bennet Street	◆		
Audrey Carey Park	◆		
Hasbrouck Street Playground			◆
Safe Harbors Green	◆		
Tyrone Crabb Park	◆		
Xavier Lunan Park		◆	
Open Space			
Bay View Terrace Open Space		◆	
Crystal Lake/Snake Hill		◆	
Marne Ave			◆
Muchattoes Lake		◆	
Quassaick Creek Open Space			◆
Schleiermacher Park			◆
Streetscape Parks			
Cerone Drive Triangle			◆
Clinton Square		◆	
Dupont Broadway Triangle			◆
Forsyth Street Triangle	◆		
Leroy Place Park	◆		
Leroy & Liberty Triangle	◆		
Montgomery Street Triangle	◆		
North Street Triangle		◆	
Thompson Street Triangle		◆	
Park Place	◆		
Total Count	12	15	8

IMPROVE

The following chapter presents various strategies and recommendations based on the inventory and assessment for prioritizing capital investment. It identifies opportunities for the City along with partner organizations and community residents to be involved in park stewardship. It is organized by goals with corresponding recommendations. It begins with a citywide context and is then followed by the three categories of assessment.

Citywide

Building community support and direct interest for sustained maintenance and capital investment is critical for a healthy, functional park system and the associated ecosystem services provided to Newburgh residents and visitors. The recommendations in this section relate to

issues that affect the entire open space network in Newburgh. Cities in the United States have histories of inequitable distribution of parks and recreational amenities, often-times along clear lines of racial and economic segregation.^[40] A participatory citywide approach to parks is critical to ensure that everyone has access to nature and recreation opportunities in their neighborhood.

Goal 1 – Establish Community Ownership

RECOMMENDATION 1.1 – ESTABLISH NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS FORUMS. These community forums can work to inform the partnership between the City, the Conservation Advisory Council’s Parks Subcommittee, and park advocates to discuss park and open space issues including (but not limited to) provision of amenities, personal safety, accessibility,



Source: Scenic Hudson

beautification, biodiversity, and gaps in service. The City should identify neighborhood leaders and organizations that are already working in advocacy capacities in Newburgh around open space, park use, climate adaptation, and environmental justice. These stakeholders could be key in strengthening and sustaining a dialogue between the public, community organizations, and the City.

RECOMMENDATION 1.2 – ESTABLISH A DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION. This can be in conjunction with, or in addition to, the Recreation Department and/or the Department of Public Works within city government as budget allows. A Department of Parks and Recreation would manage municipal funds specifically for park planning, design, management, programming, maintenance and improvements. The Department may retain in-house maintenance staff, coordinate with the Department of Public Works, or develop relationships with local maintenance contractors. The Department should be led by a Superintendent of Parks and Recreation who would report directly to the City Manager and maintain a close working relationship with the Conservation Advisory Council.

RECOMMENDATION 1.3 – DEVELOP PARKS AND OPEN SPACE IN UNDERSERVED NEIGHBORHOODS. The Trust for Public Land developed an online GIS tool that analyzes park access and identifies areas that may be suitable for a new park based on a detailed set of physical and social factors. The current analysis of Newburgh indicates that about 24% of residents live outside a 10-minute walk to a public park. Park advocates and the City should ensure that the data on the platform is up to date so this tool can be used to prioritize equitable park distribution and address gaps in service.

Maintain

The *Maintain* park assessment category identifies parks that are in great or excellent condition, needing ongoing capital investment. In these parks, the basic elements of good design are

SAMPLE MAINTENANCE SCHEMES

Routine Maintenance	
Seasonal landscape maintenance	Routine spring and fall leaf and litter cleanups Daily trash and dog waste removal (as required) Weekly mowing Monthly litter cleanups
Amenities	Routine spring and fall cleaning and painting of benches, light posts, playground equipment, monuments, etc. (as required)
Signage (Entry, Rules & Regulations, posted hours)	Clean, paint or replace damaged or missing signs as required Refresh community information kiosks
Park Access	
Crosswalks	Paint or re-paint crosswalk striping
Paved sidewalks, paths, and level trails	Clean, paint or replace damaged or missing signs as required Refresh community information kiosks
Entry points	Open up closed and locked gates
Landscape	Prune, replant or remove overgrown vegetation
Vehicular	Re-stripe or establish designated ADA parking
Amenities	
Signage	Replace the basic required signage (entry sign, rules & regulations) Renew outdated signage to match new City branding
Lighting	Replace light bulbs Repair or replace lighting fixtures
Landscape	Pruning up street trees of low or dead branches (as required) Prune overgrown shrubs that block views or obscure historic vistas Remove invasive or poisonous plant species Replace or add a tree planting Adopt a garden spot
Benches	Replace or add a new sponsored bench
Community Art	Paint a pathway, plaza or wall Seasonal art installation

Source: Scenic Hudson

well established as are a higher degree of design elements and amenities. The improvement needs for these parks mostly include routine seasonal management such as landscape maintenance, seasonal cleanups, park structure upkeep, and painting or other low-cost additions, repairs, or replacements.

Maintenance needs and costs can often be overlooked during park design and development. However, maintenance is a critical aspect to provide ongoing and balanced benefits to the community. This challenge may be compounded by the common exclusion of maintenance as a fundable program through grants.

Goal 2 – Develop a Park Investment Plan

A current and detailed accounting of municipal expenditures on parks and open space helps to adequately develop strategies to pay for and invest in these community assets. An inclusive audit that takes into account municipal spending as well as resources contributed by private and nonprofit entities is the first step in understanding the capital needs of the City’s parks and open space network.

RECOMMENDATION 2.1 – CONDUCT A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS. It should provide a clear assessment of all city resources currently being utilized to plan for, manage, and maintain Newburgh’s open space network.

Analyze the City’s current budget for existing funds, labor, and material currently dedicated by the City for park maintenance as well as dedicated Community Development Block Grants or other grant awards received over the last five years for capital improvements.

- Include a record of services, labor, and materials that have been donated in-kind.
- Analyze materials and labor costs required to routinely sustain existing parks and amenities and identify the maintenance cost gap.
- Identify new park and open space needs and develop budgets for capital improvements anticipated within three, five, and ten years.
- Identify potential funding from various government sources, including the 2021 American Rescue Plan, or from foundations to lay out a funding strategy for anticipated projects.



Source: Scenic Hudson

MAINTENANCE NEEDS BY PARK

Every park and open space, regardless of its overall condition, has ongoing maintenance needs. This table indicates some of those needs by park that were identified during site assessments. Please see Appendix C for details.

	General, routine or seasonal maintenance	Minor crosswalk, sidewalk, or access point repair	Identify ADA parking or no-parking areas	Renew and streamline park signage	Repair or replace lighting	Remove or prune overgrown, invasive or poisonous vegetation	Bench replacement	Tree replacement	Add a bench or picnic table	Add a tree	Add a bike rack	Add interpretive signs	Community art
Citywide Recreation													
Delano-Hitch	+	+	+	+	+			+	+	+	+	+	+
Newburgh Armory Unity Center	+	+	+							+		+	
Desmond Tennis Court	+	+		+	+				+	+			
Gidney Ave Basketball Court	+	+		+	+		+		+				+
Historic/Cultural Landscapes													
Broadway Park/ Downing Vaux Park	+		+			+	+			+	+		
Downing Park	+		+			+	+	+				+	
Washington's Headquarters	+		+										
Riverfront Parks													
1st St Fishing Pier	+				+								
Newburgh Boat Launch	+		+		+	+	+		+	+	+	+	
People's Waterfront Park	+								+				
South Street Park	+	+	+										
Unico Park/ Newburgh Landing	+	+			+	+	+		+				
Ward Brothers Memorial Rowing Park	+	+	+										
Neighborhood Parks & Playgrounds													
5 Bennet Street	+								+			+	
Audrey Carey Park	+	+				+	+		+	+	+	+	
Hasbrouck Street Playground	+	+	+								+	+	
Safe Harbors Green	+	+											
Tyrone Crabb Park	+	+						+	+	+	+	+	
Xavier Lunan Park	+	+	+				+		+		+	+	
Open Space													
Bay View Terrace Open Space	+	+	+			+							
Crystal Lake / Snake Hill	+	+	+			+							
Marne Ave	+												
Muchattoes Lake	+	+				+							
Quassaick Creek Open Space	+					+							
Schleiermacher Park	+					+							
Streetscape Parks													
Cerone Drive Triangle	+												
Clinton Square	+								+	+			
Dupont Broadway Triangle	+								+				
Forsyth Street Triangle	+								+				
Leroy Place Park	+								+				
Leroy & Liberty Triangle	+								+				
Montgomery Street Triangle	+								+				
North Street Triangle	+								+				
Thompson Street Triangle	+								+				
Park Place	+								+	+			
Total Count	35	15	12	3	6	10	7	3	18	9	7	9	2

Source: Scenic Hudson

Goal 3 – Establish Park Maintenance Campaigns

Many routine tasks can utilize the efforts of local organizations and community groups to sustain the attractiveness and benefits of the park. Such tasks could be community paint days, local artist murals, landscaping maintenance, new tree plantings, invasive species removal, sidewalk repair, trail maintenance, and training. Well-planned campaigns can also be used as educational and skill-building opportunities. (see a list of park partners on page 6)

RECOMMENDATION 3.1 – CREATE A PARK ADOPTION PLAN. The City can solicit organizations and sponsors to host a park for a year. Alternately, the City or CAC can set a number of years for a group to carry out or organize routine cleanups.

- Adopt-a-Park – Organizations sponsor the maintenance of a park for a number of years in agreement with the City.

RECOMMENDATION 3.2 – DEVELOP A PARK MAINTENANCE CALENDAR. A public schedule can identify specific days for citywide improvement and beautification efforts. Link these workdays with, or in advance of, fun social events that activate parks.

- Spring Cleanup– leaf cleanup, mowing, invasive plant removal, garbage pickup, graffiti cleaning, amenity painting, etc.
- Fall Cleanup – leaf cleaning, litter pickup, cover cropping, etc.

Other cleanup efforts can be linked to community events, for example: monthly/weekly cleanups, Earth Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veteran’s Day, or the Newburgh Community Cleanup sponsored by Safe Harbors of the Hudson.

Goal 4 – Replace In Kind

The replacement of basic amenities that have been damaged, degraded, or outmoded is a normal and semi-routine task. Such amenities

could be signs, lighting, benches, tables, and trees. Some of Newburgh’s parks may be missing basic rules and regulation signage or may have outdated signage that is not reflective of the more recent branding.

The level of skill required with replacing amenities varies. Tree planting can easily be taught to community members, but replacing a broken light fixture is best done by a City employee or other contractor with a higher skill level or specific training. Engaging the community in replacement cycles and maintenance can potentially provide opportunities for professional training and skill building.

RECOMMENDATION 4.1 – CREATE IN-KIND REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGNS. These can expand amenity replacement needs through system-wide fundraising and robust community engagement. Volunteer and community-build projects have the potential to raise resources for amenity improvements while benefiting multiple sites at once. A few examples might be:

- Add-a-Bench, -Tree, or -Garden Bed Donors pay a sum that covers the cost for the installation of a bench, the planting of a tree, or the seasonal design and upkeep of a garden. Each would be installed with a plaque with a personalized message or dedication.
- Build-a-Bench, -Table or -Garden Bed Community members are taught basic construction skills to build park amenities

These types of community service offer ways for residents to give back to their community while learning skills, improving the public realm and creating a sense of ownership. Grant programs similar to the City’s *Love Your Block Mini-Grants* funded by the NY State Attorney General’s office may help pay for these projects.

Goal 5 – Identify Minor Site Improvements

Minor, low-cost projects can complement well-

maintained amenities and expand the benefits of a park. Smaller design and construction projects can be good opportunities for local partner organizations, foundations, or local business donations to contribute to the betterment of the park system. Volunteers assisted by City staff can help implement these types of projects.

Such additions could be: bike racks, added trails or gathering areas, new planting beds, a shade structure, a community garden plot, rain garden, or other green infrastructure. Many of these needs are best communicated by neighborhood residents whose experiences can help prioritize need and guide the design. Some of these needs have been outlined in the park assessment.

RECOMMENDATION 5.1 – DESIGNATE A DAY EACH YEAR FOR PARK REPLACEMENT NEEDS. Annualized system-wide campaigns can be put in place to help fundraise for and replace smaller amenities. This should be established well in advance of the relevant season and can address:

- Replacing worn park benches
- Putting a bike rack in every park
- Formalizing ad-hoc entrances or “social” trails
- Providing shade for 50% of seating and all playground equipment

RECOMMENDATION 5.2 – PARTNER WITH INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN STUDIOS. Studios can address smaller design projects throughout the park system. Certain amenities such as garden design, murals, furniture design and placement, sculptures, or other amenities can be developed and planned for through the use of graduate-level design studios or design competitions. Emerging designers can drive innovation in the public realm, often at a much lower cost than traditional contracts.

Between the Hudson Valley and New York City, there is a thriving design community that is host to numerous world-class design and construction



The Crystal Lake area is a parcel of publicly-owned open space, Its former historic use as a privately owned recreation destination is coming alive again with new recreational opportunities and minor access amenities. It is an example of how Scenic Hudson has engaged the City through a lease agreement for upkeep and stewardship of a unique open space in the city. The project helps improve a public open space by organizing routine cleanups, small physical improvements, collaborating with local organizations to foster youth engagement and skill building while hosting small events to attract and engage local residents and other visitors. Scenic Hudson collaborated with the Ecological Citizens Project, a farm training and mentorship program, to train two local residents to become the ‘regenerators’ of the Crystal Lake urban farm.



Source: Scenic Hudson

management academic programs. Design studios and competitions are great ways to access emerging talent and design services at a lower cost.

The Hudson River Estuary Program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation partners with Cornell University to link landscape architecture studio work with potential funding and professional support to realize studio work focused on climate adaptation in estuary cities like Newburgh.

Renew

The *Renew* park assessment category identifies parks and open space that need a high degree of capital investment to add or replace significant amenities. Parks in this category may lack basic elements that provide the recreational, social, and mental health benefits of good parks. These needs often exceed routine annual maintenance. Other times parks in this category may only benefit a narrow group of users, creating circumstances of exclusion. Disparities in accessibility, preference, and use require analysis not included in this report. Further study is needed to understand how park amenities, access, or distribution impact different user groups within the city.

Goal 6 - System-wide Improvements

RECOMMENDATION 6.1 – TARGET A SYSTEM-WIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN. This approach can tackle common deficiencies experienced at numerous sites, regardless of local conditions. These types of improvements may include access to public restrooms, shade provision, increasing biodiversity through native planting, climate adaptation measures, or ADA accessibility. These campaigns may not happen on an annual basis, but based on infrastructure conditions, out-datedness, or alignment with other City initiatives, system-wide projects can promote cohesion throughout the open space network.

Goal 7 – Prioritize Major Capital Projects

RECOMMENDATION 7.1 – RENEW OR ADD MAJOR AMENITIES IN CITYWIDE PARKS.

Major amenities can be found at larger parks such as Delano-Hitch Park, Downing Park, and the waterfront and typically benefit the community at large. Alternatively, new themes could be developed in other parks or underutilized areas of large parks. These capital projects can be great targets for grant-leveraging opportunities.

Some examples of these projects (large to small) might be:

- Renovate the Aquatic Center
- Update the Recreation Center
- Create neighborhood parks in city-owned vacant land (Crystal Lake and People’s Waterfront)
- Renovate the tennis courts
- Renovate the stadium parking lot
- Build a walking trail at Delano-Hitch
- Build a new basketball court in a neighborhood that is lacking
- Create a dog park
- Build new tennis courts

RECOMMENDATION 7.2 – EXPLORE DESIGNATION OF CITY-OWNED LAND AROUND CRYSTAL LAKE AS DEDICATED PARKLAND.

Crystal Lake (see page 39) is a unique open space that is currently zoned as Conservation Development District. The lake, which was a private recreation amenity that included swimming and boating facilities, began a decline into disrepair and neglect in the 1970s.

Scenic Hudson currently leases part of this publicly owned land as a community farm and has improved the site with signage and a small parking lot. Today, many people use the lake for passive recreation and fishing. The open space is part of the greater Quassaick Creek watershed and has

trail linkages to the Snake Hill Preserve.

Official park dedication could catalyze investment from state and nonprofit park programs to add needed park amenities to a Newburgh neighborhood that is currently underserved by parks and open space.

Re-envision

Parklands in this category are either unimproved or are improved in a way that does not meet community needs. In some instances, these landscapes have often been neglected and have become degraded beyond a case for maintenance. In other cases, these spaces may be routinely maintained as “clean and green” or “lawns and trees,” but provide minimal social, cultural, or ecological benefits.

Each re-envisioning should be prioritized according to how it would fulfill the greatest community benefit, how it might provide linkages to other community assets or natural resources, or how it would fill a gap in the park system that is critical to the vitality of a neighborhood or commercial district.

Altogether, these major projects can be very time and resource intensive. They often require a robust public planning process and a comprehensive design. However, these projects can often be funded through governmental and foundational capital improvement grants. Success is reliant on strong community ownership and a solid maintenance plan with secured funding.

Goal 8 – Unify Waterfront Parks

Newburgh’s Hudson River waterfront has been the focus of many plans and land use changes over the last few decades. Urban renewal during the 1960s destroyed several blocks of downtown Newburgh near the waterfront. And while much of this district remains vacant today, the Newburgh waterfront has new and historic amenities, businesses, views and serves as a gateway to the city.

Recent zoning changes have designated the riverfront area as a commercial district for redevelopment. While this designation may aspire to meet specific economic needs, it does little to recognize the social and ecological health benefits of a protected, accessible, and resilient Newburgh shoreline.

There is a tremendous amount of open space on the Newburgh waterfront. Developing a comprehensive plan for waterfront open space that respects this unique condition can improve walkable connections between the waterfront, neighborhoods, and downtown.

RECOMMENDATION 8.1 – PRIORITIZE GREEN SPACE AS THE DRIVER OF WATERFRONT PLANNING. The Newburgh shoreline holds incredible potential to be a scenic gateway to the city. The form-based zoning districts established in 2015 offer contextual guidance for density, a mix of uses, and improved connectivity along the waterfront and upland to the Broadway corridor. Yet beyond open space standards and a requirement of open space provision for lots over 50,000 square feet, there is not a comprehensive parks and open space plan for Newburgh’s Hudson River waterfront.

The zoning code provides clear guidance for a balance between buildings and the public realm. To augment this form-based code, a innovative waterfront open space plan can be the next step in developing a cohesive and resilient district. It can serve as the baseline for a re-envisioning that centers public life and climate resilience while providing ample development opportunities and a green connection to Broadway and downtown.

RECOMMENDATION 8.2 – ENSURE PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ALONG THE WATERFRONT AT THE CON-ED SITE (PEOPLE’S WATERFRONT). This site has the potential to be a landmark park for Newburgh and a key link in waterfront access. The former superfund site currently has minimal infrastructure and programming and offers connection to the

shoreline trail from Washington Street to Ward Brothers Memorial Park with possible ties to the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge and Quassaick Creek.

The City can work with community members and organizations to create an open space plan for the site. In 2020, Scenic Hudson completed a cost estimate on construction of park amenities that could transform the site into a successful social environment. As a prominent open space for both Newburgh and the Mid-Hudson region, People’s Waterfront could help further ecological restoration of the estuary while acting as a catalyst for complimentary cultural, recreational, and economic vitality in the waterfront district.

RECOMMENDATION 8.3 – DESIGN AND DEVELOP SOUTH STREET PARK AS PART OF A COMPREHENSIVE WATERFRONT PLAN. South Street Park is a small parcel of dedicated parkland on the city’s shoreline at the eastern terminus of South Street between Water Street and the Hudson. While already dedicated parkland, this park should be designed and developed as part of a comprehensive waterfront strategy. In the interim, South Street Park can be activated through temporary tactical installations such as seating, public art, or interpretive signage.

RECOMMENDATION 8.4 – UPDATE WARD BROTHERS MEMORIAL ROWING PARK. Ward Brothers Memorial Rowing Park is a riverfront park that is currently underdeveloped, but well used. The park is used for scenic views of the Hudson River and the Hudson Highlands, picnic areas, and access to the boathouse and the Hudson River Waterfront Trail. The site is primarily surfaced by crushed rock and serves as a flexible event space or parking lot. The shoreline is roughly maintained. The site includes a narrow extension southward that may provide opportunities for connection to the Quassaick Creek corridor. Ward Brothers holds great potential to be the southern anchor of Newburgh’s riverfront park system and gateway to the Quassaick Creek Greenway. The site could benefit from increased vegetation and delineated program areas and trails.

Goal 9 – Protect Open Space Around Waterbodies

The Quassaick Creek watershed is a prominent natural feature that threads through Newburgh via tributaries including Gidneytown Creek from the north. Key surface water bodies include Crystal Lake, Muchattoes Lake, Harrison Pond, and Millers Pond. Downstream of Muchattoes Lake, Quassaick Creek forms the southern border between the City of Newburgh and the Town of New Windsor.

The watershed provides strong open space connections with the Snake Hill/Crystal Lake natural area, Muchattoes Lake, Schleiermacher Park, and Little Falls Park in the Town of New Windsor. It passes through a naturalized open space corridor comprised of many different property owners including the CSX rail company. This naturalized area skirts below Bayview Terrace where Quassaick Creek joins the Hudson River.

Already, trails have been planned and routes mapped along Quassaick Creek to create a continuous greenway. Numerous local and regional organizations have been involved in this watershed effort including: Scenic Hudson, NY/NJ Trail Conference, Riverkeeper, and Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance. These organizations have worked alongside the City's Planning Department and Engineering Department as well as Newburgh's Conservation Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION 9.1 – CREATE THE QUASSAICK CREEK GREENWAY. For decades, the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance and other local stakeholders have led a campaign for the creation of a linear park along the lower branch of Quassaick Creek. The creek is a unifying natural resource that threads from the mid-western extent of the city via several tributaries and creates the city's southern border.

The creek corridor connects directly with the Hudson River waterfront, Little Falls Park in the Town of New Windsor, and up through Muchattoes Lake and Schleiermacher Park to the



Source: Scenic Hudson

Crystal Lake/Snake Hill natural area. Watershed connections extend northward via Gidneytown Creek and toward Washington Lake and Brookside Pond in the Town of Newburgh.

Scenic Hudson secured a grant through the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and a matching grant from the Orange County Land Trust to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and develop an implementation plan for the greenway.

This investigation will identify potential trail alignment and neighborhood access points along the creek corridor. The study will also identify ways in which the greenway can address disparities in park access in the city.

The feasibility study can be used by the City to secure funding to design and develop the corridor as a public park. The implementation plan will provide a high-level outline to guide engineering, budgeting, and management to ensure the greenway can be built and maintained.

Community engagement and public participation in the visioning of this community asset is key to its success. A vibrant greenway will not only improve water quality and ecology of the corridor, but it can promote sustainable land use while providing recreational, social, and cultural benefits to the community.

RECOMMENDATION 9.2 – STUDY THE OPEN SPACE POTENTIAL OF THE GIDNEYTOWN CREEK CORRIDOR.

Gidneytown Creek is a key Quassaick Creek tributary that flows through the northwestern part of the city before joining Quassaick Creek just north of Muchattoes Lake. The health of Quassaick Creek is dependent upon the health of its tributaries upstream.

Gidneytown Creek shares many aspects of Quassaick Creek. Much of the creek runs through industrial and publicly owned lands, weaving through residential and commercial neighborhoods. This riparian corridor could be studied as part of an urban greenway network. While it has been channelized in places and may be neglected, Gidneytown Creek provides habitat to riparian species and presents an opportunity for Newburgh to incorporate another urban waterway as a community and ecological asset.

Goal 10 – Re-purpose Underutilized Public Land

The City owns vacant or otherwise underutilized parcels throughout Newburgh. Many of these lots may be considered prime locations for redevelopment. Other parcels may have high potential to fulfill open space and park needs for residents. Some re-purposing or activation of these spaces can be through temporary leases for amenities like community gardens, play spaces, or passive recreation.



For example, there are numerous community gardens in Newburgh, yet not all residents have access to this type of amenity in their neighborhood. Because the City owns various underutilized parcels, the costs associated with land acquisition can be curbed while leases can offer some income from programmed uses. This combination of factors offers a cost effective and piecemeal approach to new park projects.

RECOMMENDATION 10.1 – REPURPOSE UNDEVELOPED OPEN SPACE FOR PUBLIC USE.

Conducting neighborhood-scale needs assessments for parks and open space can be limited if there is no available land to be improved and/or the status of publicly owned properties is unknown. A public asset inventory can identify and categorize publicly held properties such as vacant land, underdeveloped properties, brownfields, school district parcels, etc. This can be a first step in developing new parks for neighborhoods or recreational uses that are currently underserved by the parks network. Below are two examples of how underutilized public lands may be re-envisioned as meaningful open spaces.

Opportunity: Marne Avenue Open Space

The Marne Avenue open space consists of two parcels, owned by the School Board and the City, which can potentially provide open space benefits for the community, if designated as open space. Close to the highest point in the City, the 2.3 acres of land is thought to be undevelopable due to its constraining geometry and topography.

The slopes face south/southwest and overlook Newburgh Free Academy North Campus off Robinson Avenue. The land is maintained as mowed lawn and is bordered with street trees at its perimeter along Robinson Avenue and Marne Avenue. There are no opportunities for any passive activity.

Potential vision: Given the assets of this area and proximity to the high school, perhaps there is an opportunity to develop the slope as a terraced farm or urban orchard run by educators of the school for extracurricular programming ideally in partnership with local organizations well equipped with skills, knowledge, and tools.

RECOMMENDATION 10.2 – COLLABORATE WITH INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO CO-CREATE NEW PARKS.

There are many community organizations with a passion for park advocacy and urban ecology in Newburgh. Scenic Hudson works with many state, regional, and local stakeholders to find alignment in mission and vision for strengthening the region’s parks, open space, and ecosystems. Coordinated campaigns can pool resources and add capacity to the City’s parks and open space initiatives.

The passion, skills, and resources held by Newburgh’s community and park advocates can play a significant role in ensuring Newburgh’s parks and open spaces are vibrant, biodiverse, and meet community needs.



APPENDIX A

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE: SITE PROFILE SURVEY

CITY OF NEWBURGH OPEN SPACE PLAN

A: General Info

Park Name(s)		Date of Survey	
Park Type: Citywide	Neighborhood	Pocket	Undeveloped Open Space
Street Address/ Intersection			
Park Owner	Year	S-B-L	
Lot Size (SF/ Acres)			
Property Classification		Land Use Zone	
Adjacent Land Use			

B: Access

1. Vehicle Parking Access	Yes	#	No	Limited to Maint. Only
2. Accessible Parking	Yes	#	No	
3. Pedestrian Access Points	Yes	#	No	
4. Pedestrian Access Type	Informal	#	Formal	#
5. Crosswalks to Access Points	Yes	#	No	
6. Bus Access	Yes		No	
Additional Notes - Is there potential for improved access?				

C: Users

1. Does the space offer flexible use? Yes No

2. How many people observed?

Children under 12	Young Adults	Adults 18+	Adults 60+
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3. How is the park being used? Circle

Passive	Yes	No	Sitting/ Reading/ Fishing
Active	Yes	No	Walking/ Hiking/ Play
Sport/ Game	Yes	No	
Community organization	Yes	No	

5. Does this site serve as a pedestrian travel way/ cut through? Yes No

6. Other observations (what other activities would be here at other times of the day; day of the week; season?)

D: Landscape Features

D: Landscape Features

1. General Landscape Description (circle all that apply)

Forested	Garden	Overgrown	Open lawn	Tree Park
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2. Terrain Description (circle all that apply)

Steep slopes	Hilly	Flat/ Slight grade
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3. Tree Canopy/ Shade Cover

None	A few single trees	About 50%	More than 75%
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4. Condition of Specimen Trees (circle all that apply)

Major Damage or Decline	Some damage or stress	Good form and health	Excellent (new)
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5. Shrubs

Natural	Yes	No
	Invasive Overgrowth	Planted and maintained

6. Water Body (circle all that apply)

Creek/ Stream	Lake or Pond	Human-made dam or ditch
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7. Ground Surface (circle all that apply)

Lawn	Pavers	Pavement	Soil	Gravel
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8. Observed Maintenance Frequency:

Minimal Mowing	Regular Mowing and Pruning	Extra Care with Gardens
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9. Additional Notes/ Observations
(Erosion, tree/ shrub species, maintenance frequency, etc.)

E: Park Amenities

Use the following to rate conditions

1 - Poor	2 - Fair	3 - Good	4 - Excellent
Needs replacement/ Unsafe condition	Needs Repair/ Worn or broken	Some minor repair soon	New or Recent Install

1. Recreation Facilities	Rate Condition			
Basketball	Yes	Accessible	No	
Baseball	Yes	Accessible	No	
Soccer	Yes	Accessible	No	
Tennis	Yes	Accessible	No	
Pool Indoor	Yes	Accessible	No	
Other	Yes	Accessible	No	
2. Structures and Facilities	Rate Condition			
Gazebo/ Pavilion	Yes	Accessible	No	A
Playground Equipment	Yes	Accessible	No	
Park Signage	Yes	Accessible	No	
Lighting	Yes	Accessible	No	
Picnic tables	Yes	Accessible	No	
Monument/ Memorial	Yes	Accessible	No	
Bathrooms	Yes	Accessible	No	Clean Unclean
Benches	Yes	Accessible	No	
Fence	Yes	Accessible	No	
Drinking Fountains	Yes	Accessible	No	
Trash/ Recycling	Yes	Accessible	No	
Dog station	Yes	Accessible	No	
Water feature	Yes	Accessible	No	

Trails	Yes	Accessible	No	Informal	Formal
Accessible Paths	Yes	Accessible	No		
BBQ	Yes	Accessible	No		
Wall Art/ Sculpture	Yes	Accessible	No		
Other		Accessible			

4. Additional Notes/ Observations

F: Safety & Appearance

Litter	Excessive	Some	None
Gates	Locked	Unlocked	None
Posted Hours and Rules	Yes	No	
Hidden Spaces	Yes	No	
Vagrancy	Yes	No	
Dumping	Yes	No	
Design	Fair	Good	Great

(What makes this space safe/ unsafe? Attractive or not?)

APPENDIX B

Park Name	Lot Size (Acres)	Park Type	Coded Land Use	Zone	Owner
Delano-Hitch Recreation Park	26.685	Citywide Rec	City Park	Park	City of Newburgh
Desmond Tennis Court	0.287	Citywide Rec	City Park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Gidney Ave Basketball Court	0.638	Citywide Rec	Recreation Fields	Residential Medium Density	City of Newburgh
Newburgh Armory Unity Center	12.085	Citywide Rec	Army	Institutional	City of Newburgh
Broadway Park/ Downing Vaux Park	0.455	Cultural/ Historic	City Park	Park	City of Newburgh
Downing Park	30.763	Cultural/ Historic	City Park	Park	City of Newburgh
Washington's Headquarters	6.169	Cultural/ Historic	Cultural Facility	Park	State of New York
Audrey Carey Park	0.595	Neighborhood	Playground	Downtown Neighborhood	City of Newburgh
Hasbrouck Street Park	0.215	Neighborhood	City Park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Safe Harbors Green	0.503	Neighborhood	Vacant Commercial	Broadway Corridor	Safe Harbors
Tyrone Crabb Park	0.734	Neighborhood	Picnic ground	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Xavier Lunan Park	0.169	Neighborhood	City Park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Bay View Terrace Open Space	5.822	Open Space	City Park; Vacant	Open Space	Multiple
Crystal Lake	106.050	Open Space	Vacant Commercial & Residential	Conservation Development District	City of Newburgh
Marne Ave	2.260	Open Space			City of Newburgh
Muchattoes Lake	10.440	Open Space	City Park	Residential High Density	City of Newburgh/ City IDA
Quassaick Creek Open Space	27.325	Open Space	Vacant Commercial & Industrial	Open Space	Multiple
Schleiermacher Park	0.959	Open Space	City Park/ Vacant	Open Space	City of Newburgh
1st St Fishing Pier		Riverfront		Commercial	City of Newburgh
Newburgh Boat Launch	2.045	Riverfront	City Park	Park	City of Newburgh
People's Waterfront Park	8.044	Riverfront	Consolidated Iron Brownfield	Open Space	City of Newburgh
South Street Park	0.880	Riverfront	Vacant Commercial	Park	City of Newburgh
Unico Park/ Newburgh Landing	2.053	Riverfront	Playground	Park	City of Newburgh
Ward Brothers Memorial Rowing Park	0.810	Riverfront	Municipal	Park	City of Newburgh
5 Bennet Street	0.19	Streetscape	City Park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Thompson Street Triangle	0.053	Streetscape	City park	IND-Industrial	City of Newburgh
Montgomery Street Triangle	0.056	Streetscape	City park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Forsyth Street Triangle	0.098	Streetscape	City park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Leroy Place Park	0.070	Streetscape	City park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Leroy & Liberty Triangle	0.079	Streetscape	City park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
North Street Triangle	0.190	Streetscape	Residential Vacant	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh
Cerone Drive Triangle	0.093	Streetscape	City park	Residential High Density	City of Newburgh
Park Place	0.934	Streetscape	Not a stand alone lot		City of Newburgh
Dupont Broadway Triangle	0.020	Streetscape	Park/ Vacant land in Industrial Area	Commercial District	City of Newburgh
Clinton Square	0.169	Streetscape	City park	Residential Low Density	City of Newburgh

(continued from page 48)

Amenities Summary	Programming	Park Rating
Signage, parking, recreation center, aquatic center, baseball stadium, soccer/football, softball, 3 little league, 3 basketball courts, 2 playgrounds, skate park, exercise equipment, track, benches, bathrooms, drinking fountains, trash & recycling, monuments	Stadium games, league games, summer camps, summer festivals	Fair
Signage, 2 tennis courts	occasional tennis clinic	Good
Site lighting, 2 basketball courts	league basketball	Great
Indoor basketball, gym, track, indoor baseball, outdoor rodeo	Summer camp, youth and adult, career skill building	Great
Signage, educational sign, Site lighting, benches, trash & recycling, monument, view station, landscaping	none	Fair
Signage, parking, food cafe, bandshell, gazebo, walking paths, benches, trash & recycling, monuments	Summer music events, farm market	Fair
Museum, Visitors Center, picnic lawn, monuments, Educational services	Tours, adult and school education, outreach programs	Good
Signage, Site lighting, Playground, benches, tables, mist stick, dog station, flex space, wall art, landscaping, trash& recycling	future early childhood center	Good
Signage, Site lighting, Playground, benches, swings, trash& recycling	none	Fair
Signage, walking paths, wall art, benches, solar lighting, trash & recycling, library, computer training, indoor event space	festivals, movie nights, theatre, art events classes and workshops	Great
Signage, Site lighting, Playground, benches, tables, bike rack, dog station, flex space, landscaping, trash& recycling	Horizons on the Hudson, children focused events by city	Great
Signage, site lighting, 2 sets of playground equipment, benches, tables, basketball hoop, trash& recycling	none	Poor
Site lighting, view station	none	Good
Signage, parking, benches, trails, urban farm	Sanctuary Healing Farm and Garden,	Good
Signage, trail	none	Fair
none	none	Fair
none	none	Poor
Seating, lighting, signage, trash & recycling	none	Fair
Signage, parking, boat ramp, benches, trash & recycling	none	Fair
Signage, walking paths, BBQ stations, benches, trash & recycling	City events	Fair
none	none	Poor
Signage, educational sign, Site lighting, benches, tables, drinking fountains, dog station, flex space, landscaping, monuments, boat and fishing pier, bathrooms, trash & recycling	River Swim event,	Fair
Signage, rowing club building facility, site lighting, parking, gazebo, boat ramps, benches, tables, informal basketball hoop, informal soccer, trash& recycling	Adult clubs, Summer camp	Good
Mowed lawn and trees	none	-
Mowed lawn and street trees		-
Garden, mowed lawn, landscape trees, street light, view	Neighbor's garden, potential for seating	-
Mowed lawn, landscape trees, view, low monument stone	Potential for garden and seating	-
Orange County Veterans Memorial monument, mowed lawn, landscape beds, view	Could use trees and possible seating	-
Mowed lawn, landscape and street trees, street lighting, view	View could be pruned and seating added	-
Mowed lawn and street trees	Large area with nothing	-
None - Wooded open space	None	-
Small 9-11 monument on the west end with small flower bed, Mowed lawn slope, view	None	-
None, sometimes mowed	None	-
Monument, fencing, landscaped trees, sidewalk to monument	None, could use seating	-

APPENDIX C - PARK DESIGN EVALUATION

PARK ACCESS

Park Element	Poor	Fair	Good / Excellent
ADA access into/ out of park	Crosswalks are not ADA compliant	Crosswalks are well marked and ADA compliant.	Crosswalks are well marked and ADA compliant. 100% of pathways and service areas are ADA compliant
Sidewalks and pathways clear and well maintained	Sidewalks are in impassible disrepair	Sidewalks and pathways well maintained	Sidewalks and pathways well maintained and 100% of major amenities are ADA compliant
Welcoming entrances	Park entrances are obscured by overgrown plant material or hidden from view from traveling vehicles Marked entrances are locked	Park entrances are well marked and obvious Park entrances open during park hours each day	Pedestrian entrances are situated along primary circulation routes and provide connections to complimentary land uses
Safety	Obscured or Insufficient emergency access points	Maintenance/ emergency access points are provided.	Emergency access points are clearly marked. Emergency call centers are provided.
Multi-modal	Access is ignorant of multiple modes of access (pedestrian, skateboards, bicycles, automobiles, etc.)	On or off street automobile parking, bike racks.	Emergency access points are clearly marked. Emergency call centers are provided.

Source: Scenic Hudson

WAYFINDING & CIRCULATION

Park Element	Poor	Fair	Good / Excellent
Park entrance identification sign	Park is not identified with a sign	Park identification visible prior to arrival and at points of entry Rules and Regulations are posted	Park entrances are branded and have legible entry signs from long distances
Park internal routes & wayfinding	Informal pathways indicate a need/ demand for park access and circulation routes.	Formal ADA compliant pathways connecting entry points through the site Simple and understandable circulation navigation	Formal ADA compliant pathways connect through the site for specific uses or to different amenities over terrain Multiple entry points and circulation paths
Interpretation materials	No additional internal signs to help people navigate the space.	Major attractions, park areas, and nature trails are well marked	Information kiosk Educational/ interpretive signage or other materials High level of detail and quality of materials

Source: Scenic Hudson

PROGRAMMING

Park Element	Poor	Fair	Good / Excellent
Park activities and attractions	<p>No passive or active amenities exist</p> <p>Major natural features do not have supportive amenities allowing users to enjoy or prolong a visit</p>	<p>One main park attraction or amenity, such as a natural feature (waterfall, lake, view, etc.) or specific activity</p>	<p>Major amenities specifically for different user groups</p> <p>Active amenities are provided for multiple skill levels</p>
Programming and activities	<p>No programming provided and no spaces to accommodate social events.</p>	<p>Limited or infrequent programming occurs.</p>	<p>Social or educational programming occurs on a regular and frequent basis</p> <p>Flexible-use spaces allow for a wide range of uses including small and large social events.</p>
Comfort and aesthetics	<p>Major amenities are worn or in disrepair to the point of being unusable or unsafe.</p>	<p>Some element of shade is incorporated to extend the use of the site (tree-shaded bench)</p>	<p>Most passive activity amenities are provided with natural shade or shading structures.</p> <p>Wall art, sculpture or monuments are provided to enhance the decor.</p> <p>Specific amenities are available to enhance daily use (wifi, charging stations, etc.)</p>
Multi-modal	<p>Access is ignorant of multiple modes of access (pedestrian, skateboards, bicycles, automobiles, etc.)</p>	<p>On or off street automobile parking, bike racks.</p>	<p>Emergency access points are clearly marked.</p> <p>Emergency call centers are provided.</p>

Source: Scenic Hudson

SAFETY & APPEARANCE

Park Element	Poor	Fair	Good / Excellent
Park is clean and well maintained	<p>Evidence of frequent or chronic littering, dumping, vandalism, vagrancy or other illicit behaviors</p> <p>Lawns are overgrown or have exposed soil.</p> <p>Landscape beds are neglected, overgrown and unsafe</p> <p>Natural areas are weedy, full of invasive species, eroding slopes</p>	<p>Trash receptacles are frequently emptied and not overflowing</p> <p>Landscape beds are maintained on occasion and lawns are frequently mowed.</p> <p>No evidence of vagrancy or illicit behaviors</p> <p>Seasonal toilets</p>	<p>Buildings are freshly maintained, attractive and welcoming</p> <p>Cutting edge technology is incorporated into receptacles and building facility.</p> <p>Permanent restrooms</p>
Safety	<p>Obscured or non-existent emergency access points</p>	<p>Emergency access points.</p>	<p>Emergency access points are clearly marked.</p> <p>Emergency call centers are provided.</p>
Amenities in good condition	<p>Amenities are worn and in disrepair, rusty, splintered, peeling, rotting, crumbling, cracking, sinking</p>	<p>Supportive amenities are basic in form and function</p> <p>Buildings are maintained</p> <p>A few colors, texture, and variety of paving and plant materials to enhance the user's experience</p>	<p>Formal ADA compliant pathways connect through the site for specific uses or to different amenities over terrain</p> <p>Multiple entry points and circulation paths</p>
Visibility	<p>Un-lit paths</p> <p>Sight lines obscured by overgrown vegetation</p>	<p>Open visibility</p> <p>Working lighting along perimeter and at entrances</p>	<p>Right-scaled lighting fixtures well distributed</p> <p>Well lit night-time use areas</p> <p>Well attended day or night</p> <p>Patrolled by security, local police, or neighborhood watch</p>

Source: Scenic Hudson

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