

# Where it stands

## Parks and Rec master plan

### The background

The 2007 Parks and Recreation master plan has been over a year in the making.

The last plan was adopted in 2001. Last year, the Town Board hired consultant Tony Kotz and Associates to update the report.

Input was sought from the Town Board, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Master Plan Committee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Trails Committee, the senior club, the Penfield and Webster school districts, performing arts groups and sporting organizations around town. Several public hearings were held as well.

"There's been good discussion," Supervisor George Wiedemer said.

The 2007 Parks and Recreation master plan is available at [www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org), under Parks and Recreation. The Town Board will present the report to the public before voting on it. Wiedemer said there is still time to make changes.

### What's in the report

The plan outlines the demands for and availability of recreational opportunities around town and identifies strategies for acquiring land and expanding outdoor and indoor facilities. It also touches on methods for implementing the report and outlines the status of the recommendations made in the 2001 plan.

Based on the 2000 U.S. census, the report projects that the town's population in 2011 will be 37,500 and predicts dramatic growth in the number of residents over 45 years old as well as preschool-aged children.

Two indoors recreational facilities are identified to serve residents in the plan – the current Penfield Community Center at 1985 Baird Road, and a field house, which has not been built. According to the report, a field house could meet the demand for more indoor fields and additional gymnasium space for sports teams to practice in. There is little room for expansion at the current community center.

Wiedemer said there is some money in the 2007 budget for a feasibility study, which could look into the indoor spaces recommended in this report in conjunction with recommendations being made by another committee that is studying the town's 1995 Long Range Facilities and Land Use Planning Report.

As for some of the demands identified by the public, such as a skateboard park, Wiedemer said the town looked into what is being offered in the area by commercial business or nonprofits like the YMCA.

"The skateboard folks have taken a big interest in the East Rochester skate park," Wiedemer said, referring to X Dreams skate park. "We met with those people and their goal is to put in an outdoors facility over there."

Wiedemer said the town does not want to compete with or duplicate services provided by a business.

The 2001 master plan calls for an outdoor skate park to be built at Rothfuss Park, but the 2007 report states that "sufficient demand and



A hearing is set for next week on what kinds of recreational activities the town should provide in the future.

resources to support a skate park should be documented before the town builds a skate park."

Also included in the plan are efforts to make Penfield the friendliest biking community in the state as well as ways the town can acquire more park land, expand current parks and develop trails, fields and picnic areas.

### What's next?

Residents are encouraged to view the report on the town's Web site

[www.penfield.org](http://www.penfield.org).

An informational hearing is planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, in the Town Hall Auditorium, 3100 Atlantic Ave. The meeting will also be broadcast live on PCTV Cable Channel 12 and available for download after the meeting by visiting PCTV on the town's Web site.

Comments can be sent to the Penfield Recreation Department, 1985 Baird Road, Penfield, N.Y. 14526 or by e-mailing [recreation@penfield.org](mailto:recreation@penfield.org).

— AMY CAVALIER