



2024-2028 Parks, Open Space & Trails Plan

**Town of Gates
Recreation & Parks Department**

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Chapter 1

Statement of Purpose

Gates Recreation & Parks Department

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this document is to develop a plan of action for the future of the Town of Gates and its parks/park facilities for a 5-year period from 2024-2028. This Plan will outline the Town of Gates park infrastructure; including the existing condition of park buildings and amenities, current park usage, and a park-by-park improvement plan. It will further explore the potential opportunities to develop new open spaces and trails within dedicated town parkland. The plan will include an implementation matrix, which will outline the priority, estimated cost, and timeline for the projects recommended earlier in the document. It also includes pictures and maps of the Town of Gates parks, as well as demographic information of town residents. The main goal of this plan is to describe areas in need of improvement, along with the anticipated costs of instituting such improvements.

The information in this document will give Town of Gates officials recommendations for projected improvement projects to develop a more functional and dynamic park system. This, in turn, will allow them to consider funding and scheduling these projects. This plan is projecting the needs of both our current residents and those of future generations.

Chapter 2

The Gates Community

This section of the plan lists and briefly describes the town, demographics, surveys and staffing dedicated to the Recreation Programming and upkeep of the town parks. Section A. and B. are taken from the town's Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in 2023.

A. The Town

The Town of Gates is a suburban community located in the central western portion of Monroe County. It is bordered by the City of Rochester on the east, the Town of Chili on the south, the Town of Ogden on the west, and the Town of Greece on the north. Geographically, the Town of Gates is the smallest town in Monroe County, just slightly over 15 square miles in size.

The topography of the town is flat with several small streams and a good portion of marsh land. The northern section of town has a large portion of land that has bedrock at or within six feet of the surface. Many areas within the town have a high susceptibility for flooding due to too much area with little or no slope and bedrock. According to the Town of Gates Planning Inventory, eighteen percent of the total area of Gates is considered to be unsuitable for development.

The town is accessible by four main highways that intersect within the town. Unlike other suburban towns, the Town of Gates does not have a central "business area" or "downtown". Rather, businesses and residential areas are distributed throughout the town in decentralized areas.

B. Demographic Factors

Population

Based on the 2021 American Community Survey, the population of the Town is 28,975 and is not expected to change significantly. The Town's greatest growth period was the decade between 1960 and 1970 where the population nearly doubled from 13,755 in 1960 to 26,442 in 1970.

Chart 1 illustrates the Town's historical and projected population by decade.

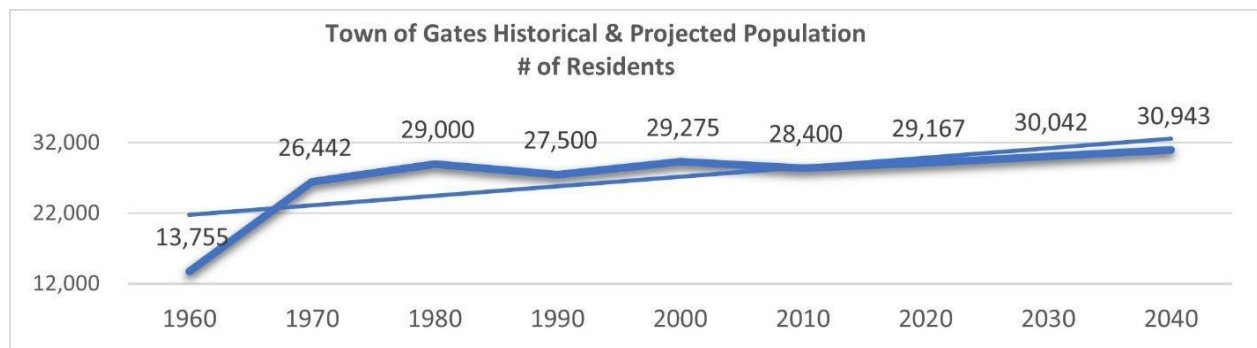


Chart 1. Historical & Projected Population # of Gates Residents

Monroe County's population is 759,443 according to the 2020 Census data and is expected to slightly increase to 774,632 by the year 2030. Chart 2 illustrates Monroe County's historical and projected population by decade.

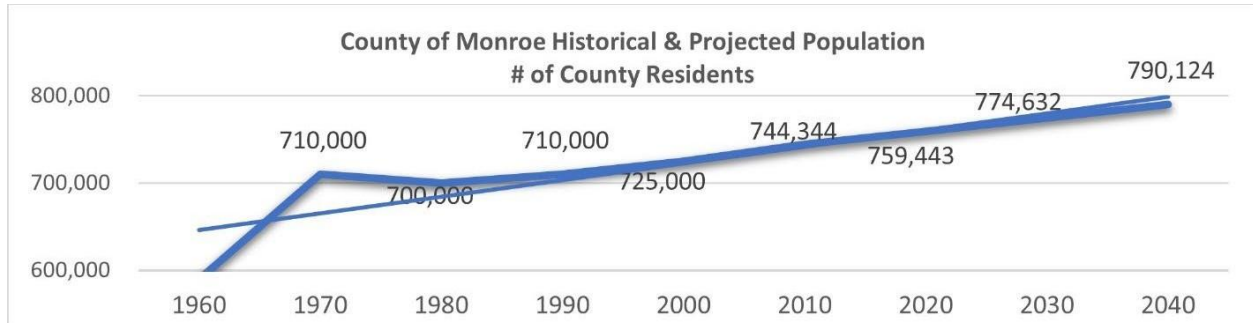


Chart 2. Historical & Projected Population # of County Residents

An analysis of the age distribution of the Town's population shows that the highest age classifications are the age groups of 50-74 which represents 35.8% of the Town's population.

While these age classifications are increasing, the age category of 5-14 and 15-24 are showing slight declines. This trend of the population aging will have an impact on school enrollments, Town recreation programs, housing needs and senior service needs. Chart 3 illustrates the Town's age-distribution, Chart 4 illustrates the population by Race, and Chart 5 indicates population distribution by income.

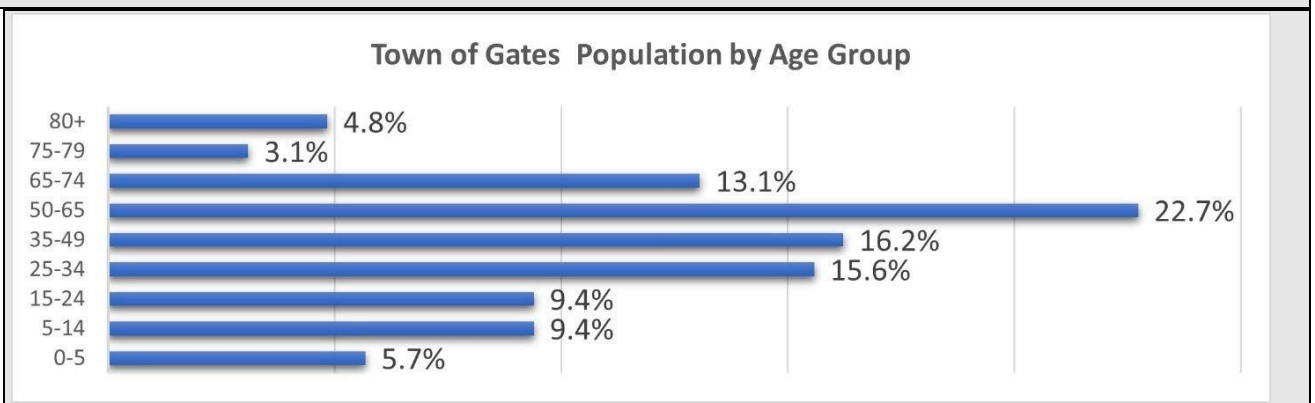


Chart 3. Population by Age Group

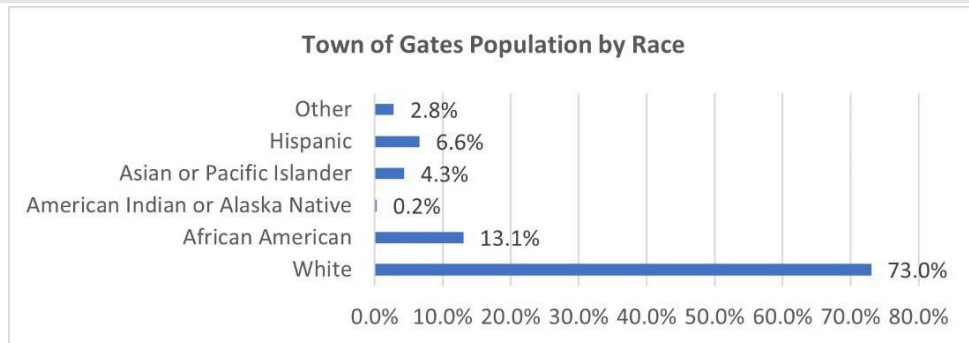


Chart 4. Population by Race

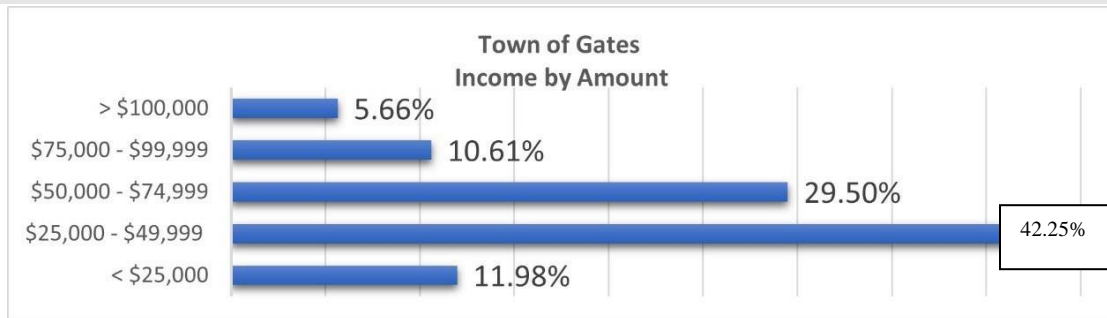


Chart 5. Income Level by Amount

2023 Parks Survey

Which parks do you use?

Memorial	19
Wegman Rd	18
Westgate	11
Lions	8
First Responders	4

Why do you use the parks?

Playground	21
Enjoy outdoors/nature	15
Attend special events	12
Use park shelter/pavilion	10
Picnic & general leisure	7
Walk/Run or Bike for exercise	6
Meet friends	4
Sports	2

Favorite Park amenities

Playground	10
Walking Paths/trails	4
Lodges/Pavillions	4
Available Bathrooms	4
Free Events	3
Baby swings	2
Courts	2
Kitchen	
Picnic Tables	
Proximity	
Distance from parking lot/roads	
Summer Camp	
Movie Night	
Camp Out	

Least favorite thing about our parks

Bathrooms dirty or unavailable	7
Playgrounds need to be updated	4
Trash/Litter throughout park	3
Bees & Mosquitos	2
Older kids fighting	2
Bathrooms not stroller accessible	
Amount of time to fix playground equipment	
Lack of woodchips/safety surface for playgrounds	
Sandbox at Wegman Road park	
Outdoor picnic tables are dirty	
No winter games	
Lack of 5 year & under equipment	
Muddy trails	
Seclusion and lack of security/police	
Dogs being off leash	
Rental spaces are dated	

What facility/activity do you want us to add?

Spray park/splash pad	8
Updated shelters	3
Bathrooms being unlocked and available	3
Outdoor Pool	2
Update all playgrounds	2
Update bathrooms	2
Inclusive/Adaptive Playground equipment	2
Ice Rink	
More shade for Playground areas	
More walking tracks	
Playground equipment for 5 and under	
Geocaching	
Bags available for dog owners	
More baby swings	
Pickle ball	

Survey was conducted in September/October 2023. 43 surveys were completed. It was available at each park, as well as promoted through the Recreation & Parks website, email, and social media.

TOWN BOARD OFFICIALS

Cosmo A. Guinta
Supervisor

Chris DiPonzio, Deputy Supervisor

Lee Cordero, Councilman

Andrew Loughlin, Councilman

Steve Tucciarello, Councilman

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

Abramo Bianchi, chairperson
Steven Murphy
John Unson
Valerie Young, Secretary

RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT STAFF

Daniel Hooek, Recreation Director
Cindy Briggs, Recreation Supervisor
Stacie Paris, Recreation Supervisor
Ellen Fridman, Recreation Supervisor

Buildings and Ground Staff

Kristian Sarkis
Austin Correa
Pedro Vazquez
Mike Mandara
Brian Mancuso

As of the fall of 2024, the Recreation and Parks Department has 4 full time staff. Other than the Director, their main job roles are to plan and run programs and coordinate events. The Director works with the Supervisor, Town Board, and Buildings and Grounds staff on all park related issues.

Chapter 3

Current Park Infrastructure

NATURAL RESOURCES

This section lists and briefly describes existing land owned and maintained for recreation purposes. It describes the environmental characteristics of the land and the amenities within each park.

A. Environmental Characteristics

The Gates Recreation and Parks Department manages and operates five park/recreation areas in the Town consisting of approximately 140 acres. An additional 110 acres were donated to the town in 2021 and could be developed into usable parkland in the future. The table below shows the current land use of each park. Each area differs in acreage, usage, operation, and age. The following is a synopsis of the individual parks and elements within each park.

Developed acres include ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, football fields, playgrounds, volleyball courts, pickleball courts, and other active recreation areas. Open space acres include passive areas within the park that do not have any type of play equipment or picnic grills. Open space areas include walking paths or trails.

Park	Total Acres	Acres Dev.	Open Space	Acres Woods	Acres Water	Parking/ utilities	Acres Building
Former Dolomite Property	110			85+			
Hinchey Historical House	3.1		1	1		.1	1
Lions	14.58	6.08	2	1	3	2	.5
Memorial	30.10	15	5	3.5	1	5.1	.7
First Responders Park	73.14	15	16.04	36	5	1.1	.3
Wegman Road	2.8	1.5	.5	0	0	.8	.2
Westgate	16.42	8	1	5.42	0	1	1
Totals	250.14	46.58	33.22	130.92	10.23	10.1	3.7

Table 1

C. Usage

In order to serve the needs of the Gates community, it is necessary to provide both active and passive areas within each park. To blend these areas and make them accessible to all residents has been, and will continue to be, a challenge. The size, location, and topography of each park have affected the amount of space devoted to active versus passive areas.

Active Recreation Areas

The flat, open lands within the parks have been used for ball diamonds, soccer, lacrosse and football fields. These fields are used by both the department and town youth organizations.

Park	Westgate Park	Memorial Park	Lions Park	First Responders Park	Wegman Road Park
Ball Diamonds	2	0	0	1	0
Soccer/Football Fields	0	2	1	4	0
Tennis Courts	1	0	3	0	0
Volleyball Courts	0	0	1 sand	0	0
Bocce Courts	0	1	0	0	0
Basketball Courts	4	0	1	0	0
Swings	7	4	8	5	6
Play Structure	2	1	1	2	2
Trail	1 nature	1 walking	1 walking	1 hiking	1 walking
Climbers	0	1	0	0	1
Sand Box	0	0	1	0	1
Pickle Ball Courts	2	0	0	0	0
Disc Golf Course	0	0	0	1	0

Table 2

Passive Recreation Areas

Passive areas within the parks include walking trails, picnic areas, and areas alongside the ponds. These areas are listed in Table 3.

PARK	PICNIC AREA	WALKING TRAIL	PARK BENCHES	POND	OTHER
Lions Park	Enclosed rental shelter, picnic tables, grills	yes Paved	yes	yes	mature trees
Memorial Park	Enclosed rental shelter, picnic tables, band shell, grills	yes Paved	yes	yes & wet-lands	open fields
Westgate Park	Enclosed rental shelter, grills	yes	yes	creek	wooded area & new trees
First Responders Park	Open pavilion	Unmarked nature	yes	yes	natural setting
Wegman Road	Small open pavilion, picnic tables & grill, covered picnic table	yes, paved	yes	no	few trees

Table 3

***Undeveloped** – Dolomite Parkland

A. **Memorial Park** - located on the north side of town, next to Lions Park, and is 30.10 acres in size.



Pictures taken May 2024

- Existing Conditions

The land is relatively flat and includes a shallow marshy pond and small stream. The park has one major access road running the length of the park. The paved walking trail is approximately 2/3 of a mile, and is accessible to wheel chairs, strollers, and bicycles. It is frequently used by a mostly adult population. This park is a large open area bordered by hedgerows and mature trees. The buildings and pathways are accessible to the public. The shelter is enclosed and heated for year-round use, and is available for the public to rent.

- Current Park Usage

- The football/soccer field is used by Gates Jr Spartans, GRADA Ultimate Frisbee, a tiny tots soccer program, RISE flag football, and college rugby teams
- The walking path is utilized daily, especially in the spring/summer/fall seasons
- The enclosed shelter is rented throughout the year, and is also used daily for the town summer camp program in July & August
- Gates Summer Celebration (large town event with music, food, and fireworks), is held in early August and uses a majority of the park

- Future Plans Recommendations

- Add outdoor public restroom building (projected to be completed Fall 2024)
- Add new park lodge
- Develop an area around the band shell, to give it more of an amphitheater feel
- Add a larger, more accessible playground
- Remove old playground
- Explore the feasibility of a multi-purpose trail that would connect Memorial Park to the Erie Canal trail
- Splash Pad to replace area where the old playground currently sits
- Sledding Hill
- Better lighting throughout the park

B. Lions Park - located at the end of Kentucky Avenue, on the north side of the Town, and is 14.58 acres.



Pictures - Taken May 2024

- Existing Conditions

The soil is clay with the topography being flat. There is a 2.5 acre pond that is stocked with fish. This park is lined on three sides with a mixture of hedge rows and mature trees. The shelter is enclosed and heated for year-round use, and is available for the public to rent. The walking path borders the park, and leads to Memorial Park. The park has 3 tennis courts, one basketball court with two baskets, a sand volleyball court, a large swingset, and a playground that was built in 2016.

- Current Park Usage

- The football/soccer field is used by GRADA Ultimate Frisbee in the spring
- The walking path is utilized daily, especially in the spring/summer/fall seasons
- The enclosed shelter is rented throughout the year, and is also used daily for the town summer camp program in July & August
- The tennis and basketball courts are heavily used

- Future Plans Recommendations

- Add an outdoor handicap accessible restroom
- Add a floating dock to the pond on the Northwest side of the park
- Resurface tennis/basketball courts
- Add a new swing set closer to the current playground and use old swing set location for a new volleyball court

C. **Westgate Park** - located on Howard Road, on the southeast section of the town, and is 16.42 acres.



Pictures - taken May 2024

- Existing Conditions

This park has active areas, and a wooded area with a nature trail. The park is bordered by a shopping plaza to the east, and has a residential area on the north. This park is located directly off a main thoroughfare and is highly visible to passing motorists. The park has one tennis court, two pickleball courts, two full basketball courts, with two baskets each, four youth baskets in a separate area, two playgrounds, and a swingset. There is also a butterfly garden (maintained by the Gates Garden Club) and a nature trail that were completed as Eagle Scout projects. The enclosed building is heated with a full kitchen and restrooms and is rented throughout the year. There is also a separate restroom building for park patrons.

- Current Park Usage

- The enclosed shelter is rented throughout the year and is also used daily for the town summer camp program in July & August
- The basketball courts are heavily used
- Youth baseball organizations use the two baseball fields most evenings and weekends during the spring and summer

- Future Plans Recommendations

- expand the parking area at the north end of the park
- Remove old park benches and install new ones throughout the park

D. First Responders - located on Lyell Road, and at 68.10 acres, it is the largest town-owned park.



Pictures - taken May 2024

- Existing Conditions

The park has a mixture of wetlands, wooded areas and open land, containing a wide diversity of flora and fauna. Some protected plants as trillium and jack-in-the-pulpits can be found there. The park also has a man-made pond and climax flora. Wildlife found in the park includes deer, rabbits, fox, raccoons and a wide variety of birds. The park has an open pavilion, athletic fields, a playground, a 9-hole disc golf course, and a handicap accessible fishing pier.

- Current Park Usage

- The park usage includes soccer and baseball, disc golfers, and those using the playground.
- There is a nature trail, and a handicap accessible fishing pier.
- The open pavilion, built in the summer of 2023, will give residents a centralized space in the park to gather.
- Many people visit the park with dogs, or to walk along the trails and pond area.
- The Boy Scouts have organized a Camporee at the park for the past few years, and the Recreation Department has hosted a few camp-out weekends recently.

- Future Plans Recommendations

- Make improvements to the parking area by adding lights, and have the parking lot professionally sealed, marked, and striped for better parking and traffic flow.

E. Wegman Road Park - located on Wegman Road, and is comprised of 2.8 acres of flat land.



Pictures - taken May 2024

- Existing Conditions

This park is highly visible from the road and is centered in a residential neighborhood. The playground and sandbox are key features in the park. The rear of the property is an open field that is surrounded by a paved walking trail. A small restroom building, open pavilion, and a covered picnic table are also part of this park.

- Current Park Usage

- The playground is the most used park amenity
- An open pavilion was built in 2022 to replace a smaller, outdated structure
- The paved walking trail is used frequently

- Future Plans Recommendations

- A permanent youth basketball hoop would be a great addition to the space previously occupied by the open pavilion that was removed in 2021
- Continue to inspect and maintain the existing playground
- Add colorful, kid friendly play spaces on existing asphalt

Appendix A



KEY

- 1 New Lodge Building with Outdoor Patio
- 2 Band Shell Amphitheater
- 3 Sledding hill
- 4 New Bathroom Facility
- 5 New Playground
- 6 Existing Bathroom Facility to remain
- 7 Existing Pavilion to remain
- 8 New open lawn area
- 9 Enhanced entry drive with trees and medians to separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- 10 Enhanced tree line buffer along property line to create a sense of enclosure within the park
- 11 Additional parking lot
- 12 Enhanced connection to Lion's Park. Preferably drivable by emergency vehicles, if needed.
- 13 Overflow parking area and/or future park expansion area
- 14 Existing sports fields to remain
- 15 Future walkway



Concept Sketch 3

Memorial Park Sketch Master Plan Concepts - Gates, NY
prepared for the Town of Gates
January 24th, 2024

Appendix B

TOWN OF GATES - FACT SHEET COMPARISON

	2010	2020
How many residents live in the Town of Gates?	28,400	29,167
Who lives in Gates? Male:	48%	48.8%
Female:	52%	51.2%
White	83%	74.8%
African American	10%	11.7%
Hispanic	5%	7.6%
Asian	3%	3.2%
Other	1%	2.7%
<u>Breakdown of population based on age:</u>		
Ages 0 – 19 years:	24%	19.5%
Ages 20 – 34 years	18%	20.6%
Ages 35 – 64 years	40%	38.9%
Over ages 65 years	17%	20.5%
Avg. Home value:	\$111,800	\$151,000
Median Income:	\$49,039	\$73,759

Information obtained from 2010 & 2020 Census

