COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Feedback from the community/stakeholder interviews,
- Recommendations from the past plans and studies,
- Proposed & planned trails and bikeways by a range of agencies, organizations, municipalities and private entities

- Community Engagement including stakeholder interviews and well attended public meeting - This collective effort helped inspire this plan’s recommendations that will address the needs of the community.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE DRAFT PLAN

- The results of the public survey and prioritization tool
- Development of design guidelines
- Cost estimation of prioritized trail segments

PRIORITIZATION TOOL & PUBLIC SURVEY

- The prioritization framework is a flexible approach, intended to provide clear direction for seeking project funds and completing design and engineering of the most critical projects, while still allowing for opportunistic implementation of the entire network
IDENTIFYING AREAS TO PRESERVE

- Protection of natural areas and wildlife habitat/corridors: sensitive environmental areas, wetlands, steep slopes, floodplains, water quality, scenic features
- Recreational opportunities: identify needs of local area, access to parcels, trail construction (low impact usages)
- Safe travel corridors: Ped/Bike, connections to link residential dense area to recreation (e.g. Crossgates Mall - Watervliet Reservoir)
- Usage of a good solid plan as a flexible tool to help in the identification of parcels

Protection/efficient use of natural resources are promoted in the Guilderland Town Code. Examples include but not limited to:

§ 280-35A(1) Reduce adverse impacts of growth on surface water and groundwater quality
§ 280-35A(2) Provide incentives for publicly accessible and open space resources and recreation lands
§ 280-35A(3) Protect contiguous open space areas and corridors
§ 280-35A(7) Protect important views, as well as steep slopes, hillsides, and ridges
§ 280-35A(8) Protect historic, archeological, and cultural features
§ 280-35A(9) Protect valuable wildlife and habitat areas

Importance of Trails and Corridor Conservation
- Trails as gateways: Wildlife viewing, physical exercise, destination connectors, fishing, boating, photography, hiking as a type of meditation, ever changing with each step
- Impossible to know the value of a trail until you have walked through wilderness without one. If given a cloudy day with no other cue or compass, a person will not travel the length of a football field without circling
- 85% of Native American trails have been paved
Source: "On Trails" by Robert Moor
CURRENT CONSERVATION/TRAIL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

FULLER STATION ROAD SUBDIVISION TRAIL DEVELOPMENT (proposed)

Fort Hunter Transportation Study Bicycle System recommendation:
“Approximately three east west bicycle routes, one each through the northern, central and southern sections of the neighborhood.”

WINDING BROOK DRIVE PROJECTS

WINDING BROOK COMMONS
(proposed)

VOSBURGH FUTURE LOOP
(ongoing)

A loop trail is planned on the 53 acres Town-owned open space in the French’s Mill Estates Subdivision. The loop trail would connect the existing Vosburgh Trail system and Lynnwood Elementary School as well as lay the groundwork to create a bike/ped connection to the Fort Hunter neighborhood.

WATERVLIET RESERVOIR RECREATION PLAN (proposed)

The Town is working with the City of Watervliet, and DEC on a recreation plan for the Watervliet Reservoir including non-motorized boat access and hiking links to the Vosburgh Trails area.

JOHNSTON ROAD MILL HILL TRAIL (ongoing)

This trail would connect Westmere Elementary School/Town Center Plaza/Crossgates Mall and Farnsworth Middle School and its surrounding neighborhoods while serving as a neighborhood resting area with benches and picnic tables in the busiest part of the Town.

Town’s Growth management tools to encourage trail connectivity & public access to open spaces/conservation areas:

Guilderland Zoning Code Sections:

§ 280-14D(10) of Town Code states that a CH District shall include a publicly accessible trail network and/or sidewalks connecting the development to surrounding areas.

§ 280-35D(3)(c) of Town Code states that where the general public is granted access to conservation areas or there is a linking of open space or trail corridors through the site existing/proposed publically accessible trails or open space networks, the development may be awarded a ten-percent-unit count bonus.

§ 280-39E(4) of Town Code states that pedestrian walkways, marked crosswalks and multi-use paths should be used to connect buildings to one another, to parking areas, and to public streets and sidewalks.

§ 280-39E(4) of Town Code states that facilities for pedestrian and bicycle circulation within the site, and connection of such facilities to adjoining properties and facilities, are encouraged.

Guilderland Subdivision Code Sections:

§ 247-25A(7) of Town Code promotes connecting neighboring developments by bicycle/pedestrian paths or greenways, in order to promote and support the objectives of the Town’s bicycle path master plan, and provide safe nonmotorized access between the development and neighboring developments and possible future developments and parks, recreational sites and school playgrounds.

§ 247-25A(7) of Town Code states that lands comprising of at least 5% but not to exceed 10% of the total area to be subdivided shall be reserved for park purposes in a location with suitable public access.

NEXT STEP...

Rezoning of open spaces and parklands to Open Space (OS) Zoning District.
### Rezonings of Parklands/Open Spaces to Open Space (OS) Zoning District

**Total Acreage:** 4,774.93 (14%)

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<th>Owner</th>
<th>Property Address</th>
<th>Acreage</th>
<th>Zone(s)</th>
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<td>Wild, forested, conservation lands and public parks, public and private golf courses</td>
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<td>4,774.93</td>
<td>14%</td>
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</table>

**Additional Notes:**
- **Wild, forested, conservation lands and public parks, public and private golf courses**
- **Total Acreage:** 4,774.93 (14%)
- Branding program initiatives:
  - “Hike Guilderland”
  - “Get Out and Walk This Winter”
- Fall photo contest
- Trail Bingo
- School District Community Calendar
- Mass e-mails, social media, websites
- Additional signage on main highways
- Scout projects and yearly cleaning up
- Currently working on publicizing suggested routes incorporating sidewalks with trail system

**HIKE GUILDERLAND:**


**SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY CALENDAR:**

[https://www.guilderlandschools.org/calendar/](https://www.guilderlandschools.org/calendar/)

With the help of 11 Boy Scout Troop 3050 members, Jesse Buila completed his Eagle Scout project by Eagle Scout Project constructing and installing an informational kiosk at the Vosburgh Road trailhead.

Boy Scouts and adult leaders from Guilderland Boy Scout Troops 24, 50, 83, and 264 participated in the 11th Annual Community Service Work Day at Tawasentha Park. The Scouts worked on improving drainage at several wet spots in the Park’s trail network and performed required maintenance work on the trail along the Normanskill Creek.

Members of the Altamont Reformed Church and the Niskayuna Reformed Church after spring clean-up at the Community Gardens.