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## Introduction

Community facilities and services are one of the more visible aspect of a Town's involvement in the life of its citizens. With the Town of Orleans, the most visible community facilities are its Town Offices, ball fields, water tower, and roads. These facilities are an important focal point for many community activities providing for the needs of the local government and its citizens.

Planning or at least an inventory of community facilities is a key aspect of the Comprehensive Plan. Understanding a community's facilities, capacities and condition can help when addressing potential demands within the community as it may develop, the Town can maintain efficiency in the delivery of public services.

This chapter provides an overview of the existing public facilities and services available in the Town, including the hamlets of LaFargeville, Fishers Landing and Fineview.

## Government Facilities

The Town of Orleans Municipal Offices are located at 20558 Sunrise Avenue in the hamlet of LaFargeville. The Town Supervisor's office is located there, along with the Town Clerk, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Town Assessor and the Town Court. There is also a meeting room available for community meetings and events.

## Police, Fire and Emergency Rescue Service

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy. The Town does not have its own police force, but instead relies upon the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and New York State troopers, stationed in the NYS State Trooper Barracks on NYS Route 12, just east of I-81.

Three Volunteer Fire Departments provide their services. LaFargeville Volunteer Fire Department located in LaFargeville, Fishers Landing Volunteer Fire Department located in Fishers Landing and the Wellesley Island Fire Department all provide fire suppression services within the Town along with other neighboring Departments if needed.

The Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS) based in Clayton provides ambulance services in the Towns of Orleans and Clayton. Their district covers 154 square miles of most rural terrain including a large portion of the St. Lawrence River shoreline along the US/Canadian border.

## Public Utilities

National Grid provides electric service to residents of the Town of Orleans. Contact National Grid for more information regarding potential three phase power availability.

There is also a fiber optic line, owned by the Development Authority of the North Country that runs along NYS Route 12 through the Town, and has a connection in LaFargeville at the School.

### School Districts

Much of the Town of Orleans is served primarily by the LaFargeville Central School district. However, small portions of the Town fall within the Thousand Island Central School district and the Indian River Central School district.

The LaFargeville Central School District is a rural school district with a PK-12 population of 535 students housed in one building and a staff of \_\_\_ full-time personnel. The school offers many extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Sixty three percent of graduates plan enroll in schools of higher learning as of 2018. The school is considered the hub of the community where civic, social, and cultural activities take place.

Local opportunities in higher education are available at Jefferson Community College, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Potsdam, Syracuse University, St. Lawrence University, Clarkson University, and SUNY Canton college of Technology, and Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. Jefferson Community College also has formal collaborations for four year and Masters programs through Empire State College and the SUNY Consortia.

### Library

A library is an important community facility that provides a central location for the public to access books, reading and other research materials. Typical library collections include a variety of materials on many different topics and in different formats. Most libraries house books and digital materials while providing access to regional library loan systems. The presence of a library in a community enhances the overall quality of life for area residents.

The Orleans Public Library is located on NYS Route 180 in LaFargeville, New York. Its hours are 9am to noon, and 1:00 to 5:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesday hours are 6pm to 8pm while Saturday hours are 10:00 am till 12:00 noon.

### Medical Services

River Hospital is an independent hospital that provides access to primary health care to seasonal and year-round citizens in Alexandria, Alexandria Bay and surrounding communities such as the Town of Orleans. Some of the services the hospital is able to perform are ambulatory surgeries, emergency services, cardiopulmonary procedures, radiology, laboratory services and physical therapy.

In addition, the hospital operates River Family Health Center which provides comprehensive family health care for day to day health concerns.

### Water/Sewer Districts

## CHAPTER 4.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Town of Orleans has two water districts which include the Hamlet of LaFargeville Water and Route 12 Water (currently under construction). A privately owned and operated water system serves Thousand Islands Park.

The LaFargeville Water District was constructed in the 1970s and uses two groundwater wells on Middle Road in the Hamlet as their source of water. A water storage tank is also located at the well site on Middle Road. The water district encompasses the entire Hamlet of LaFargeville which includes residences, the HP Hood milk plant, and LaFargeville Central School.

The Route 12 Water District is currently under construction and is anticipated to be complete in 2020. The source of water for this district is the Village of Alexandria Bay via a connection with the Town of Alexandria. The Village uses the St. Lawrence River as their source of water supply. This district encompasses the NYS Route 12 area between the Town of Alexandria and the Town of Clayton which includes residences, businesses, and Grass Point State Park. The district includes a ground water storage tank and a booster pump station.



The Thousand Island Park Water System is privately owned by the Thousand Island Park

Corporation. It was constructed in the early 1900s and encompasses the Thousand Island Park on the southwestern portion of Wellesley Island. The source of water supply for this district is the St. Lawrence River, and is seasonally operated during the spring, summer and fall months.

There are five sewer districts within the Town. Districts in operation include the Fishers Landing Sewer District, Hamlet of LaFargeville Sewer District, Thousand Islands Park Sewer District, and Fineview Sewer District. A sewer district in Collins Landing has been formed, and funding is being sought for construction.

The Fishers Landing Sewer District was constructed in the mid-2000s and encompasses residences and businesses along the NYS Route 12 corridor and surrounding areas between the Town of Alexandria and the Town of Clayton. The collection system is a combination of gravity sewers and pump stations and wastewater is conveyed to the Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant located east of property owned by the Thousand Islands Bridge Authority. The wastewater plant is jointly owned with the Towns of Alexandria and Clayton. This treatment plant also treats wastewater from the neighboring Towns of Alexandria and Clayton.

The LaFargeville Sewer District was constructed in the 1970s and serves residences and businesses in the Hamlet of LaFargeville. The wastewater is collected utilizing a combination of vacuum and low-pressure sewers, and conveyed to the treatment plant located on Sunrise Avenue. This treatment plant only serves the Hamlet of LaFargeville. HP Hood utilizes the Town system for domestic sewage collection and treatment, and utilize their own treatment facility for waste generated from the facility.

## CHAPTER 4.

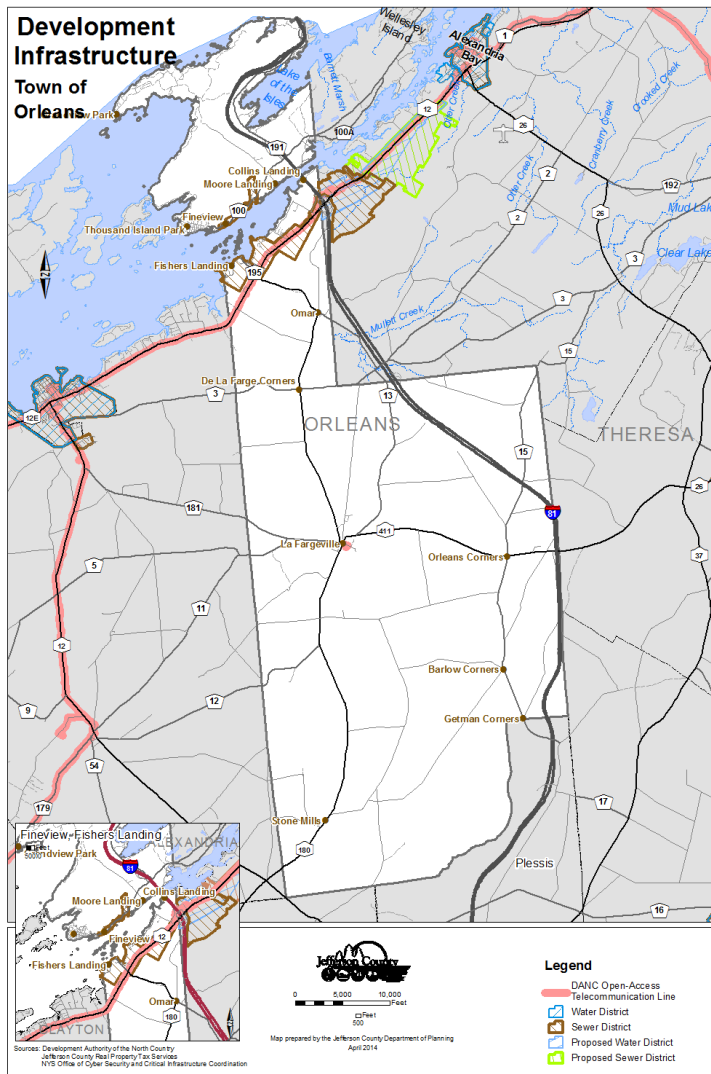
## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Thousand Islands Park Sewer District was constructed in 1970s and encompasses the Thousand Island Park on the southwestern portion of Wellesley Island. Wastewater from the collection system is conveyed via gravity sewers and pump stations to the treatment plant located on Park Avenue.

The Fineview Sewer District was constructed in the late 1990s/early 2000s and encompasses multiple residences along the County Route 100 corridor and connects to the existing Thousand Islands Park Sewer District. Wastewater from

this district is conveyed to the Thousand Islands Park Sewer District for treatment.

The Collins Landing Sewer District is currently in the preliminary engineering phase. The district encompasses the properties along the St. Lawrence River shoreline on Collins Landing Road. The proposed system would be a low-pressure sewer system with individual grinder pumps at each property. The system would convey wastewater to the Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant which is operated by the Towns of Alexandria, Clayton, and Orleans.



## Recreational Facilities

Orleans's riverfront and island areas along the St. Lawrence River provide the primary setting and shoreline focal point for many of those who live, visit, and sometimes retire to within the northernmost reaches of the Town. The "River" provides active and passive water-related recreational opportunities for its year-round residents, seasonal residents and visitors, attracting many back year after year and ultimately compelling many to retire in the Town.

This portion of the Thousand Islands Region of the NY State Parks system contains five state parks including: Wellesley Island State Park, Grass Point State Park, Waterson Point State Park, Rock Island State Park and DeWolf Point State Park. During the summer months, the parks offer visitors opportunities for camping, fishing, boating, picnicking as well as visiting a historic lighthouse. Winter activities include cross-

country skiing and ice fishing at most of the parks as well.

Wellesley Island State Park, with the largest camping complex in the Thousand Islands region, offers excellent fishing, particularly for smallmouth bass, pike, and muskie. The park also has a full service marina and three boat launches. A sandy beach on the river offers great swimming and sunbathing and there is a camp store, laundromat, arcade and a 9- hole golf course. Website: <https://parks.ny.gov/parks/52/details.aspx>

Within Wellesley Island State Park is the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center also located in Orleans, one of the largest nature centers in the park system. Located on over 600 acres of land, the Nature Center offers 8 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails, as well as scenic views of the St. Lawrence River and Eel Bay. The center hosts environmental education programs year round, both for the public and schools.

Grass Point State Park, on Wellesley Island, rests on a point of land that projects into the American Channel of the St. Lawrence River. Known for some of the best fishing in the country, the park is a popular spot for campers and day-users, who come to boat, swim, fish, picnic or just relax. There is a marina and boat launch, an area for games, and the sandy beach and shallow water are excellent for children. Located on the west side of the beach is Grass Point cottage, a full service accommodation.

Rock Island Lighthouse State Park is located about 4.5 miles northeast of Clayton, off

Fisher's Landing in the Town of Orleans. For private vessels, Grass Point State Park is the closest launch site (about a 5 minute boat ride to the island). Docking is available to private craft and those aboard Clayton Island Boat Tours.

Waterson Point State Park may be small, but it's picturesque and ideal for fisherman and boating enthusiast who wished to escape the hustle and bustle of the larger parks. Two docks provide overnight and day dockage for 30 boats as well as a comfort station (toilets only). The park also has picnic facilities, including a century old gazebo and access to shoreline fishing.

DeWolf Point State Park boasts a cabin colony, camping area, stone gazebo and dockage for boats on the Lake of the Isles in the St. Lawrence River. Fishermen and nature lovers appreciate this small parks rustic beauty.

Lake of the Isles is another unique river feature in the Thousand Islands. Being one of the largest coastal inland bays on the St. Lawrence River, Lake of the Isles contains a sheltered and productive fishing area. It is almost entirely surrounded by Wellesley Island, but has two outlets in the St. Lawrence River. Its shallow nature and limited connection to the St. Lawrence result in warm water temperatures during the summer months. Being a sheltered bay makes the area very good for boating, swimming and anchoring as well.

During the winter months, the Thousand Islands Snowmobile Club maintains a NYS

Snowmobile Corridor trail stretching from the St. Lawrence County Line beyond the Village of Alexandria Bay and traveling through Orleans to the Towns to Clayton, Cape Vincent, Lyme, to Chaumont, Depauville and close to LaFargeville. The snowmobile club has over 80 miles of trails. Linkages to services such as gas, food and lodging have been advantageous to helping snowmobile corridor businesses during the off-season.

The Town of Orleans also contains two NYS Wildlife Management Areas (WMA):

Perch River WMA consists of 7,862 acres along the southern boundary of the Town of Orleans dominated by wetland and open water habitats, as well as woodland, early successional, and grassland habitats. The area is well known for its waterfowl and furbearer populations. Deer, upland small game, and a variety of unique non-game species can also be found. Grasslands are mowed periodically in late summer to inhibit brush growth and maintain the diversity of habitat that make the area so attractive to wildlife. Water levels in the impoundments are managed to provide stable open water and emergent marsh habitat for the waterfowl and other water-dependent bird and furbearer species found on the WMA.

Perch River WMA is divided into three zones: refuge, restricted use, and public use. With the exception of an annual open house, during which the entire WMA is open to the public for two weeks in late August, there is no public access allowed in the refuge areas. In the restricted area, there is no public

access during most of the spring and summer, but controlled hunting and trapping are allowed during the fall and winter. Hunters must register to enter the area on each day they hunt. Trapping is by seasonal permit. The public use area is open year round.

Perch River WMA is renowned for its excellent waterfowl hunting. A wide variety of waterfowl species and other water bird species can be found on the area during the spring and fall migrations. Deer and small game hunting are popular. Woodcock, ruffed grouse, and turkeys, along with pheasants that are stocked during the fall, provide diverse opportunities for upland bird hunting.

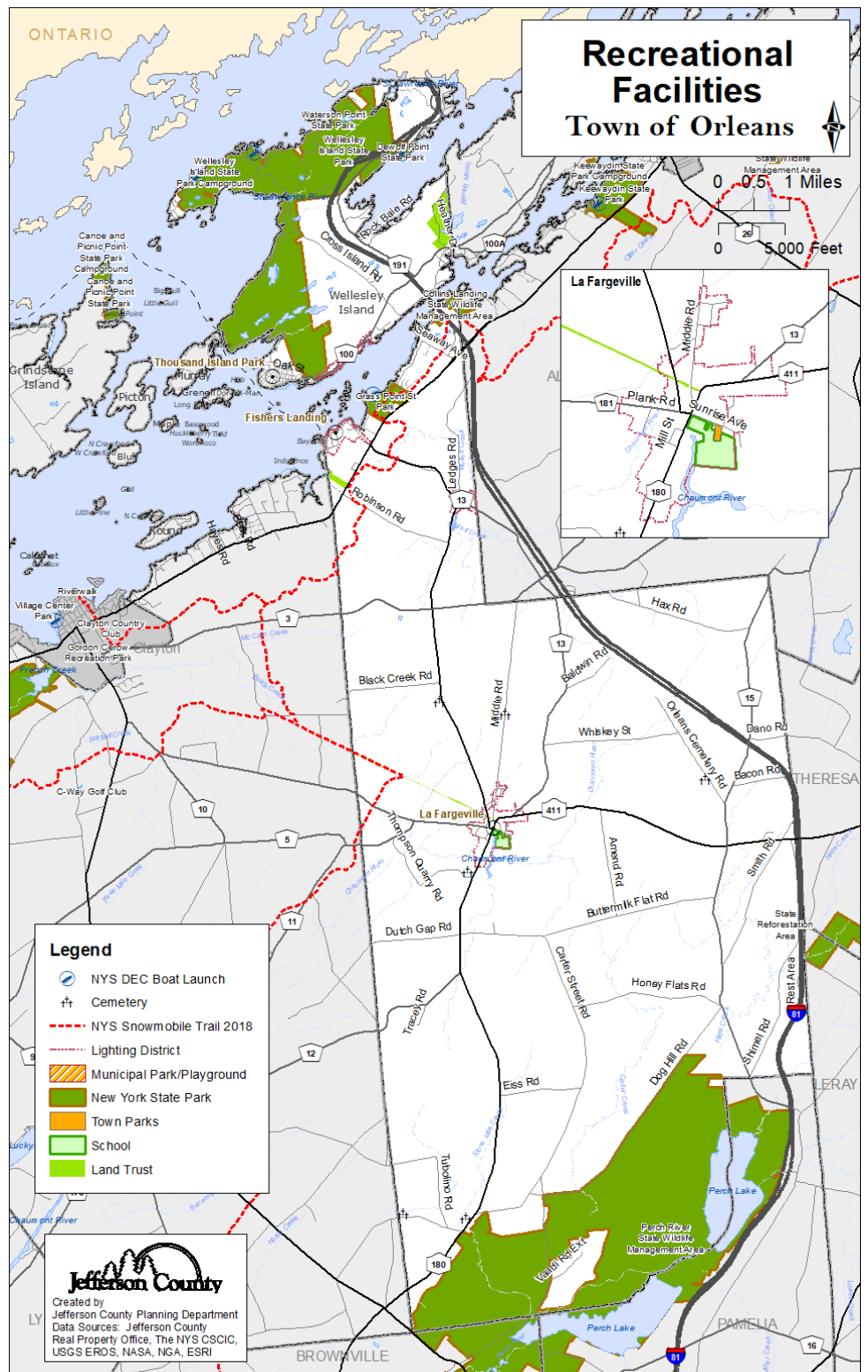
Perch River WMA is recognized for its wildlife observation opportunities. The observation tower and Mosentine overlook along Vaadi Road and the overlook parking area on Allen Road provide good observation points for bird watchers.

Collins Landing WMA consists of 44 acres on the St. Lawrence River (sort of in the shadows of the Thousand Islands Bridge) with 14 acres of upland and 30 acres of wetland. The upland consists of three ecological communities: shrubland, pine-northern hardwood forest, and early growth northern hardwoods. The wetlands are a mixture of deep emergent marsh, shrub swamp, flood plain forest, and red maple hardwood swamp. While trails aren't designated, hiking is allowed throughout the property

The Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail is maintained by the Thousand Island Land Trust (TILT) and contains twenty-five miles of multi-use trail built on the old bed of the New York Central Railroad. In 1993, TILT began acquiring pieces of the former New York Central/Penn Central Railroad bed in Clayton, Orleans, Theresa, Redwood and Philadelphia. Therefore, it connects LaFargeville to the surrounding communities mentioned above. The LaFargeville access point can be found opposite the LaFargeville Agway, off State Route 411 (Theresa Street).

The rails-to-trails project, now 25 miles long, is named for former director, Louise “Sissy” Danforth, who was the inspired energy behind its development. It’s a multi-use trail in several sections that can be accessed from several points. TILT encourages multiple ways to enjoy the trail by scheduling biking and hiking treks.

This project is a collaboration of many partners. Most of the maintenance on the trail is performed by TILT’s







Stewardship Staff, with assistance from local ATV clubs.

Since 1985, Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) has conserved thousands of acres of land in Jefferson County. The conserved land helps to protect the cultural and natural features of the property, while also providing open space and recreation areas for the public.

Park and recreational facilities owned by the LaFargeville Central School contain 24.9 acres. The site includes ball fields, a playground and trail around the perimeter of the facilities.

## Recreation – Call to Action

According to the US Surgeon General, one out of every two U.S. adults is living with a chronic disease, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. These diseases contribute to disability, premature death, and health care costs. Increasing people's physical activity levels will significantly reduce their risk of chronic diseases and related risk factors. Because physical activity has numerous other health benefits—such as supporting positive mental health and healthy aging—it is one of the most important actions people can take to improve their overall health.

*Step It Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities* recognizes the importance of physical activity for people of all ages and abilities. It calls on Americans to be more physically active through walking and calls on the nation to better support walking and walkability.

Improving walkability means that communities are created or enhanced to make it safe and easy to walk and that pedestrian activity is encouraged for all people. The purpose of the *Call to Action* is to increase walking across the United States by calling for improved access to safe and convenient places to walk and wheelchair roll and by creating a culture that supports

these activities for people of all ages and abilities.

The *Call to Action* includes **five strategic goals** to promote walking and walkable communities in the United States:

- 1) make walking a national priority;
- 2) design communities that make it safe and easy to walk for people of all ages and abilities;
- 3) promote programs and policies to support walking where people live, learn, work, and play;
- 4) provide information to encourage walking and improve walkability; &
- 5) fill surveillance, research, and evaluation gaps related to walking and walkability.

Action by multiple sectors of society, as well as by families and individuals, will be needed to achieve these goals.

Ultimately, individuals make the decision to walk. However, the decision to walk can be made easier by programs and policies that provide opportunities and encouragement for walking and by improvements to community walkability. Improving walkability means that communities are created or enhanced to make it safe and easy to walk and that pedestrian activity is encouraged for people of all ages and abilities.

Community and street design policies are recommended approaches for increasing physical activity, including walking. Community design can support physical activity, for example, by locating

residences within short walking distance of stores, worksites, public transportation, essential services, and schools and by building and maintaining sidewalks or paths between destinations that are well-connected, safe, and attractive. Street design can also support walking and enhance pedestrian safety through measures that improve street lighting and landscaping and reduce traffic speed. Transportation and travel policies and practices that create or enhance pedestrian and bicycle networks and expand or subsidize public transit systems can be another approach to encourage walking for transportation.

### Recreation Needs

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standard, ten acres of park and recreation related open space should be provided for every 1,000 people. While this standard has been used by many municipalities for years, recreational planners are now recommending that communities use the standards as a starting point and determine what the specific recreation needs are for their area. When this standard is applied to the Town of Orleans, with a 2010 population of 2,789 residents, the minimal amount of park and recreation open space recommended is approximately 30 acres.

Developed park and recreational facilities owned by the LaFargeville Central School contain 24.9 acres. The site includes ball fields, a playground and trail around the perimeter of the facilities.

Certain types of recreational facilities rely on population density to determine the level of need. The Townwide population density of the Town of Orleans is just over 35.9 people per square mile, according to the 2010 Census. Within the Hamlet of LaFargeville, the density is 180.4 per square mile, while outside the Hamlet in the Town, the density is 29.3 persons per square mile.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association, playgrounds are the chief center of outdoor play for children up to twelve years of age. They also offer some opportunities for recreation for younger adults and families. Playlots should be provided for preschool children up to six years of age, primarily in conjunction with multi-family developments and where desirable, in single-family neighborhoods which are remote from elementary schools.

It is recommended that three acres of playgrounds and/or playlots be provided for every 250 families. According to the 2010 Census, there were 750 families in the Town. Therefore, there should be around 9 acres in the Town.

Playfields are multipurpose recreation areas, primarily for the use of adolescents and young adults. They often include athletic fields for such organized sports as baseball, football, soccer and track while playgrounds for the use of smaller children are also often included on the same site.

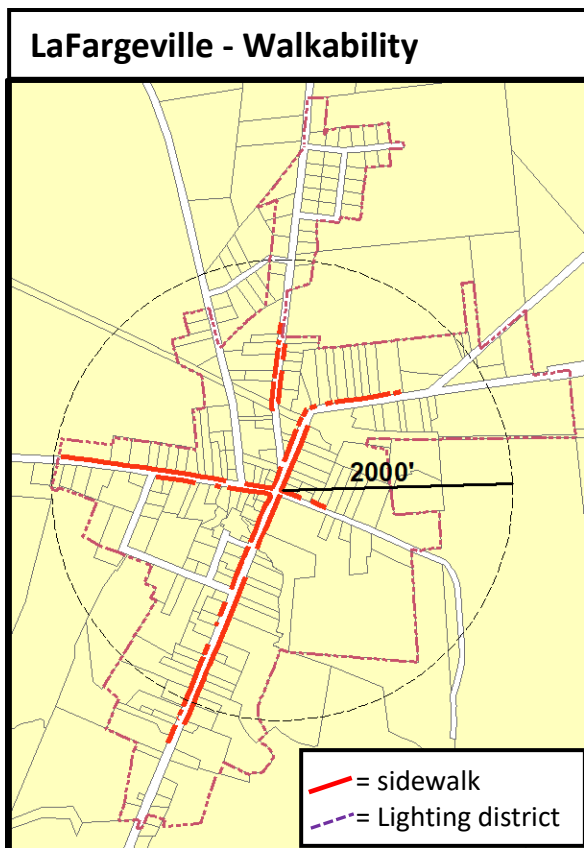
Per NRPA standards, three acres of playfield space should be provided for each 1,000 persons served. According to this standard, there should be approximately 9 acres of playfields provided within the Town. Currently there are three baseball fields, three soccer field, and playfields on the LaFargeville Central School property in the Hamlet of LaFargeville near the Town Office.

### Recreational Priorities:

- ✓ Create a website domain or publication where recreation and trail information is readily available. In conjunction, continue to enhance and expand the existing trail systems.
- ✓ Educate the public about summer and winter recreation opportunities in the Town. Consider facility options to expand the types of recreational activities available year round.
- ✓ Focus on needed recreational facilities for all Town residents, where concentrations of residents warrant such as LaFargeville, Fishers Landing, and Thousand Island Park.
- ✓ Enhance/upgrade Fishers Landing boat launch facility with dockage as use levels or crowding may warrant.

Walkability Priorities:

- ✓ Improve the physical condition of pedestrian walkways\sidewalks.
- ✓ Provide a continuous system of crosswalks, sidewalks and walkways (fill gaps where needed) throughout the hamlet to enhance walkability for all users.
- ✓ Assure walkways and building entrances are accessible to all types of users.



**Walkable Hamlet Center**

A compact mix of residential and other uses with a pedestrian network within 1/4 mile to 2,000 foot radius of the center point of the hamlet encourages walking for short trips, to nearby churches, school, playground, ball fields and area stores within close proximity.

Crosswalks are a key system component to alert drivers to expect potential pedestrians.

A community could adopt a priority to provide sidewalks or pedestrian connectivity within a quarter mile of the school, or other pedestrian destination, commercial area or employment center to enhance walkability hamlet-wide.