

REIMAGINING the YOUTH CENTER & REC FIELD

Woodstock's Third Space



Agenda

1. Introduction of taskforce and mission
2. Presentation of rationale and approach
3. We are making progress! - Explanation of next steps and master plan process
4. Public be heard: Limit comments and questions to 3 minutes, the session will be chaired by Ben Schachter
5. Final Remarks by task force

Who we are: Youth Center Task Force

Ben Schachter

Patrick Acker

Laurie Osmond

Peter Cantine

Jason Glaser

Jacque Manganaro

Paula Chandler

Josie Diels

Joseph Appel

The Concept of a Third Space

A “Third Space” is a social environment distinct from the home (first space) and the workplace (second space). In the context of what we are looking to achieve it refers to public places where people can gather and socialize outside of their homes and workplaces. Think well resourced parks, community centers and accompanying facilities. These spaces are important for building a sense of community and belonging, as they provide opportunities for informal social interactions, relaxation, and enjoyment in a safe and well maintained setting.

This concept is informing our approach as a taskforce.



Mission Statement

- "We envision the transformation of the Woodstock Youth Center and Andy Lee campus into a vibrant community hub, fostering a safe, inclusive, accessible, and nurturing space for our youth and for all. Through this investment in Woodstock's future, we aim to strengthen intergenerational ties and enhance the appeal of our town for families. With a focus on health, recreation, and community connection, we strive to establish a third space that serves as a cornerstone for the holistic well-being of our youth and the entire community."

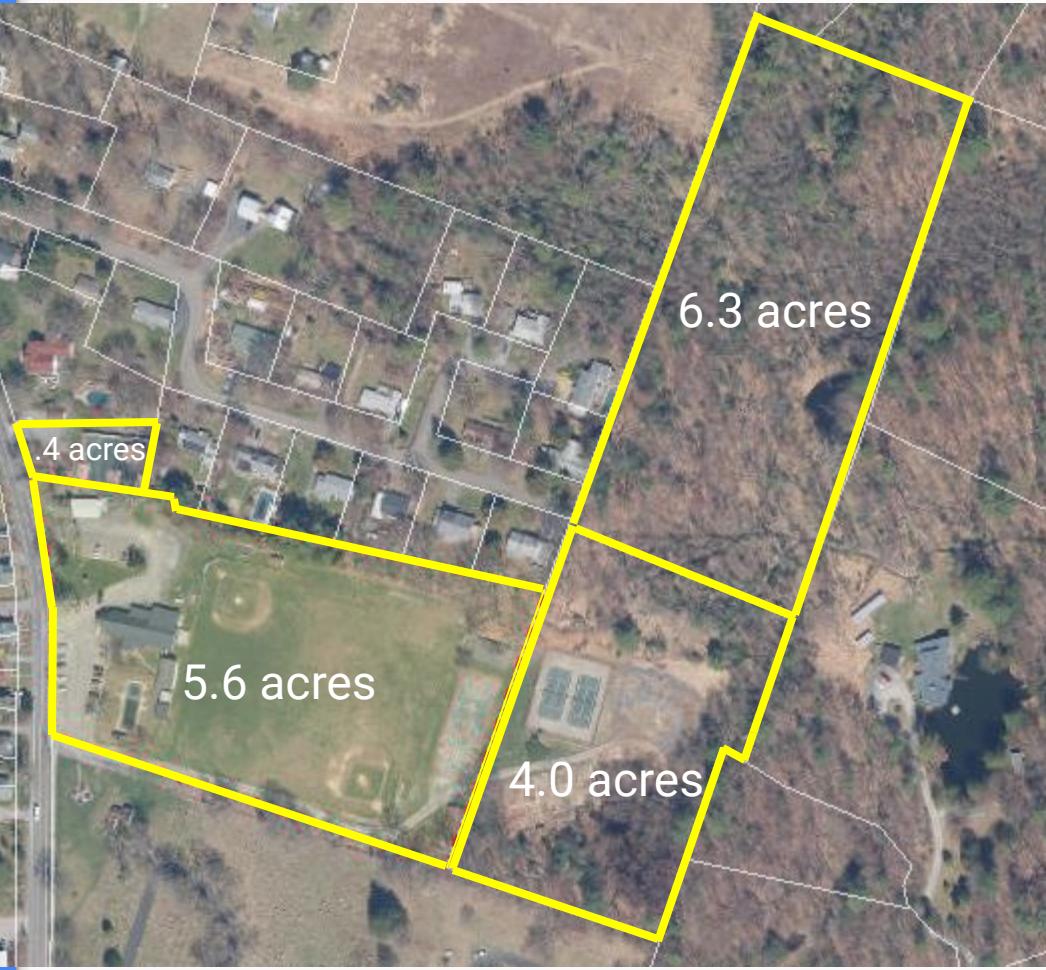
Today's Youth Center & Rec Field

The heart of Woodstock



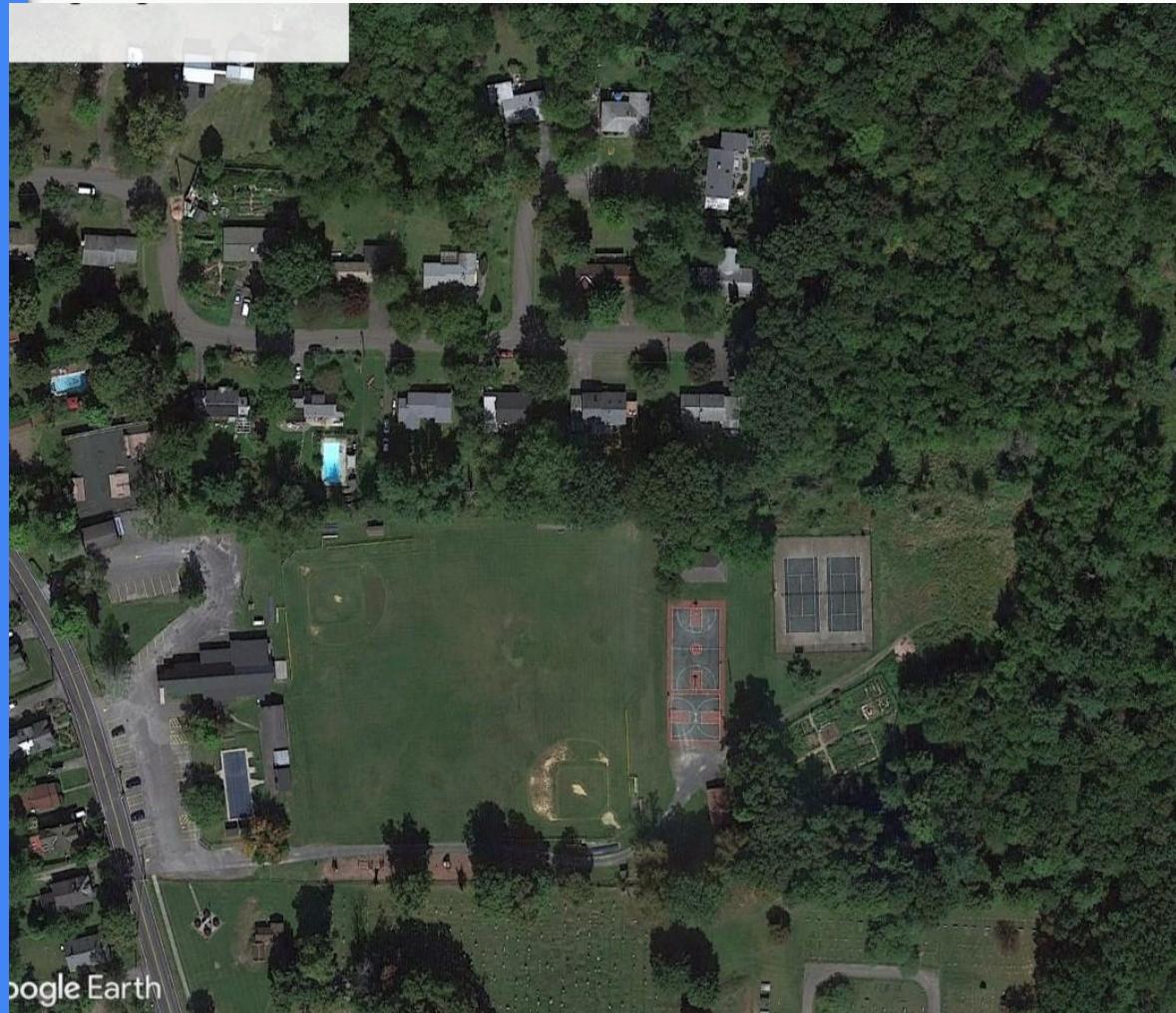
Actually Four Parcels Owned by
Woodstock

1. Current Skate Park
2. Buildings and Field
3. Tennis Courts and
Community Garden
4. Other Area



Current Layout

- Youth Center and Skate Park in northwest corner near Rock City Rd
- Community Center close to parking lot and entrance
- Pool (used only by camp in summer)
- Two baseball fields
- Access road
- Community garden
- Playground
- Tennis court (2)
- Basketball court
- Pavilion (2)



Current State of Youth Center Building



- **History of the Woodstock Youth Center Building**
 - The Woodstock Youth Center is a 1½ story building converted from a 2-story home that had an extension built on.
- **Youth Attendance is Increasing**
 - Average daily visits up about 25-30% versus last year
 - Overall visits up 6,202 sign-ins in 2022 and now 8,391 in 2023 vs 2022
- **Current Offerings** - various programs and equipment including tutoring, computers, video games, a single basketball hoop, skate park, etc..
- **More Space is Needed**
- **Building in Need of Repairs or Replaced** - size, layout, facilities, issues that are covered under the WEC report if anyone is interested in reading it
- **Proximity to Road/Lines of Sight are Issues** - Potential for accidents – ie people entering parking area through an area marked One Way
- **Indoor Sporting Facilities Needed** - (Covered skatepark, Indoor gymnasium. etc..)

History of Youth Center and Rec Field

Prior to 1790 - Lenape hunting grounds

1790s-1920s - farmland

1832 - Cemetery founded

Early 1920s - Fish & Game club acquired land,
Baseball diamond built by volunteers

1921-1922 - St. Joan's church built

1948 - Fish & Game club donate land to town as
a "living war memorial"

1950s - pool donated to the Town, Little League
begins

1956 - Local teen Andy Lee killed in tragic
hunting accident; local teens petition to have
Rec Field renamed after Andy Lee

1974 - Town acquires St. Joan's church and
Youth Center building

1990 - basketball court added

Early 2000s - community garden founded

Andy Lee

About halfway up Rock City Road lies the Woodstock recreation field named in honor of Andy Lee. And yet not many Woodstockers know why it bears the name it does or who Andy Lee was. Andy Lee was the type of teenager who would make any town proud. An excellent student, Lee also participated in a wide variety of extracurricular activities while attending Kingston High School (as Woodstock students did during the 1950s). He served as vice president of the student council and treasurer of the junior class. Lee also excelled at football, having been selected as a member of Kingston's varsity team as a sophomore. Well-loved by his fellow students, Andy Lee was selected as both the best athlete and most popular boy by the junior class. Andy Lee's life came to a tragic end on a cold January day in 1956. While hunting with two friends, one member of the group, according to press accounts, slipped as he was about to fire upon partridges that had just taken flight. Lee was struck in the chest by the wayward round from his friend's 12-gauge shotgun. Andy Lee died before he could be taken to the hospital and was laid to rest in the Woodstock Cemetery next to the field that now bears his name.



THE ANDY LEE MEMORIAL FIELD. The Andy Lee Memorial Field was named after a young man killed in a shooting accident. Once part of a farm, the field is now the site of many activities, including Little League, adult softball, family picnics, the town recreation program, and ice-skating. Shown are members of the 1957 Woodstock Yankees. From left to right are the following: (first row) Stan Longyear, Ross VanWagenen, John Mower, and ? McClocklan; (second row) Jackie Wilber, Roger Graham, Bob Gordon, Lloyd Gibson, and Roger Phelps; (third row) Dennis Shultis, Jay VanWagenen, Alex Sharpe, Jim Kinns, and Rowan Dordick; (fourth row) ? Di Benedetto, Rudi Hellenschmidt, Bob Hastie, and ? Curry. (Courtesy John Mower.)



ST. JOAN D'ARC CATHOLIC CHURCH. Just past the main cemetery, within the compound as the Andy Lee Memorial Field, is the building that was once home to the local Catholic parish. Construction on St. Joan d'Arc Catholic Church began in 1921, Peter Spellman said the first Mass on June 25, 1922. (Author's collection.)

Our meetings so far have included input from...

A number of youth advisors, aged 7-19

Parents

Sunday Rec Field Softball Players

Woodstock Farm Fest

Rotary Club

Historical Society of Woodstock

Woodstock Public Library

Onteora School Board

The Housing Task Force and the Housing Committee

Woodstock Summer Rec Program

Other Woodstock residents

Public Be Heard meetings 1/17/24, 2/6/24, 6/6/24

Woodstock Day School student meeting

Consolidated Public Input

YOUTH CENTER & ASSOCIATED STRUCTURES

- Improved Youth Center building
- Covered skate park (with roller skating?)
- Indoor gymnasium/courts
- Improved parking
- Playground/musical instrument station
- Preservation of historic Dutch Elm tree

Consolidated Public Input

FIELDS & FARMERS' MARKET

- Covered Farmers' Market pavilion
- Community/educational garden
- Walking loop/track
- Covered walkways/ADA sidewalks/wheelchair paths
- Outdoor tennis courts/pickleball
- Outdoor basketball court
- Baseball diamond
- Pollinator pathways
- Public restrooms
- Lighting for night time play/events
- Bandstand
- Forest Trails
- Murals/public art
- Memorials/historical information
- Outdoor/concrete chess boards

Consolidated Public Input

POOL & SENIOR FACILITY

- Indoor/outdoor pool
- Separate Senior Center (or wing)

GIVENS

- Renewable energy
- Everything as aesthetically pleasing as possible (also see zoning). Not industrial or institutional in feel or appearance, reflecting Woodstock's local character

Consolidated Public Input

YOUTH CENTER ELEMENTS/PROGRAMMING (NOT RANKED)

- Video monitors for schedule of events
- Movie/media room in Youth Center
- HEPA filtration in Youth Center
- Quiet room
- Homework help (already offered at YC)
- Musical instruments in Youth Center
- Bean bag chair chill spot
- More vending machines and computers
- Writing and poetry showcases
- Lockers for youth center
- Outdoor movies
- More scheduled events, tournaments, movies
- Kitchen/cooking classes
- More couches and tables
- More nooks and spaces
- Job board for kids
- Computer lab
- Better piano
- Live music/jam/performance space for kids
- Monthly movies indoor/outdoor
- Small library in Youth Center
- Arts and crafts room
- Improved dropoff area
- Covered open space

Consolidated Public Input

OTHER SUGGESTED ITEMS (NOT MUST-HAVES)

- Observatory
- Community message board (@farmers' market)
- A hammock village/rocking chairs
- Water slide in pool
- Roller skating rink w/ DJs and competitions
- Volleyball area
- Tree house/Forest Walk
- Water stations/Splash Pad

Accessibility

Refers to a site, facility, work environment, service, or program that is easy to approach, enter, operate, participate in, and/or use safely and with dignity by a person with a disability.



Master Plan

Environmental Design and Research of Saratoga Springs hired to develop Master Plan over the next 100 days (completed by end of summer). They were selected from six candidates.

Considerations:

- Expertise and experience
- Price point (they were very competitive)
- Responsiveness
- Extant resources on their team
- Fresh eyes
- Funding already apportioned by town board

Deliverables:

- Conducting focus groups with stakeholders
- Environmental impact assessment
- Graphic depiction of development
- Master plan with timeline and estimated budget
- Presentation to town board

Financial Support

Four sources of government and public funding:

- Local
- County
- State
- Federal

Private Fundraising

- Muffins to Millions

Next Steps

1. **Engagement:** Themes and ideas addressed in public be heard meetings and listening sessions have been consolidated. Public is encouraged to continue to send ideas to <youthcentertaskforce@woodstockny.org>.
2. **Development:** EDR <https://www.edrdpc.com/> is beginning the process of creating master plan options. EDR will conduct additional stakeholder interviews as part of the process.
3. **Feedback:** Master plan options will be presented for public input and feedback before 9/1/24. Participatory focus groups with key stakeholders will be held to share the proposals and garner feedback on them.
4. **Present:** Findings and present recommendations to the town board in a public forum.
5. **Fundraising:** Public and private funds will be pursued with several committee members having experience in fundraising

This is a Once in a Generation Opportunity

Improve the lives of all
Woodstockers



We Aim to Create a Third Space

A place not home, and not work or school, where

**Woodstockers can gather and feel
like they belong**



What Do We Woodstockers Want to Create?



Thanks!

Contact us:

youthcentertaskforce@woodstockny.org

Feel free to reach out to members of the taskforce that you know and we will make sure your thoughts are considered.

Please let us know as well if you or your group would like to be included in EDR's stakeholder engagement

