

# WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS 2017 Proposed Operating Budget



# 2017 by the numbers

\$47.7 million expense budget

2.5% of county budget

76% operating cost covered by revenues...  
national average is 23%

\$11.5 million tax levy

\$40 per resident annual cost

\$350 million asset (not including land value)

\$183 million positive impact on the local economy



*"A growing number of public health officials now prescribe time in parks for the overall well-being of their patients. In fact, it is becoming a standard medical practice to tell patients to take a hike."*

*"Doctors to Patients:  
'Take A Hike'." JD Supra  
7 June, 2016*

# “Go out and play.”

## It's good for your health.

We heard it over and over as kids. We say it to our own kids. And it's been the motto and message of Westchester County Parks as we use local media, direct marketing and social media platforms to encourage people to come out and visit the parks. Whether they're skilled athletes pursuing a specific, structured activity or just want to spend some time in the fresh air, residents are getting the message that their 50 Westchester County Parks provide the space they need to go out and play, regardless of time of year, place of residence, age, interests or economic status.

Recent articles show that our friends at the National Recreation and Park Association are just as passionate about the importance of physical activity. Their studies reveal that “96% of Americans agree that children should be given more opportunities to be physically active,” and that “83% of Americans believe that park and recreation centers can provide opportunities for physical activity.”

At PRC we're not only promoting good physical health: our parks also provide settings where residents can come and just “be” – heal, relax, read a book or just clear their minds. Our robust programming schedule provides countless opportunities to nurture their social selves, with concerts, performances and shows for a great time out with friends and family.

*Here in Westchester, according to our most recent residents' recreation survey, most residents use Parks and 85% rate them good/excellent.*

Clearly, providing our 18,000 acres of green space is an important part of the prescription for a healthy lifestyle for children and people of all ages. It's at the core of our department's mission:

*Create life-enriching experiences at safe, clean, affordable parks and preserve our natural resources through responsible leadership.*

Residents can count on PRC to be accountable, professional and provide excellence as evidenced by being Nationally Accredited for close to a decade and a half. PRC constantly demonstrates its strong commitment to consistently delivering a high level of service.

*Nationally Accredited – Only agency in New York State to achieve accreditation by the National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA).*



Hiking at Cranberry Lake Preserve – North White Plains



Cycling on North County Trailway



*“We know that an average of 22 minutes a day of physical activity - such as brisk walking in a park - can significantly reduce the risk of heart disease and diabetes.”*

*U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy  
in National Park Service 2016 Park Rx press release*

Fitness station at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla



# Just what the doctor ordered...

Residents don't need expensive memberships or lots of equipment to use our giant outdoor fitness center. They fill the tires, lace up their boots or running shoes, choose a park where they can get fit at their own pace and schedule and they're off.



Below, North County Trailway





Dunwoodie  
Golf Course,  
Yonkers



Westchester's  
Winter Wonderland,  
Kensico Dam Plaza,  
Valhalla

*“Parks developed and managed by cities and counties ... offer the most widespread opportunities to enjoy recreation that can help address public health issues.”*

*“Parks for Healthy Cities –  
Time to Fill Our Prescription.”  
The Huffington Post  
20 April, 2016*



Playland Park  
at sunset, Rye



# Lose yourself in the fun

It's easy to lose yourself in the fun that we offer year round.

Popular community programs showcase fireworks, music and dance of diverse cultures, thrilling amusement rides, a fabulous Winter Wonderland, Westchester Knicks basketball and much more.



Below, Cultural Heritage Festivals





Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers



Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Somers



Beach at Rye Playland, Rye



# Slow down and breathe...

We recognize that many Westchester residents maintain very busy schedules. We strive to give them their time and space to slow down and discover the many treasures in the parks.

*"... studies have shown that forest environments promote lower levels of cortisol (the stress hormone), lower pulse rates, and lower blood pressure."*

*Pierre-Louis, Kendra  
"A Ramble Through the Woods Can Help Beat Stress-Related Health Issues."  
Earth Island Journal  
11 July, 2014*

Below, Muscoot Farm, Somers





Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson



# Take 5 and call me in the morning

Our thousands of acres of unspoiled habitat are a testament to Westchester County Parks' commitment to excellence in management of our precious natural resources, and residents show their appreciation by becoming volunteer stewards, citizen scientists and enthusiastic participants.

*"The more high-tech our lives become, the more nature we need. It's an equation. It's true of families, it's true for children, it's true for adults."*

*Miller, Anna Medaris  
"Are you Nature-Deprived?"  
U.S. News & World Report interview with Richard Louv  
13 October, 2015*

Below, Sal Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park, North Salem





Young Farmers Program, Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm



Perfect Pitch and Swing Baseball Camp



# Learn and have fun.

Our summer camp programs epitomize the “go out and play” mindset. Our experts teach young people how to hit a ball, milk a cow, play a musical instrument, respect wildlife and much more, helping them to learn new skills and discover new interests that can stay with them for a lifetime.

Camp Morty enables inner-city children who receive support from the Department of Social Services to experience camping and camaraderie at the Sal J. Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem.

Below, Summer Music Program



Lenoir Preserve drive, after project completed in 2016



Lasdon Park, in progress – Glass House Conservatory.



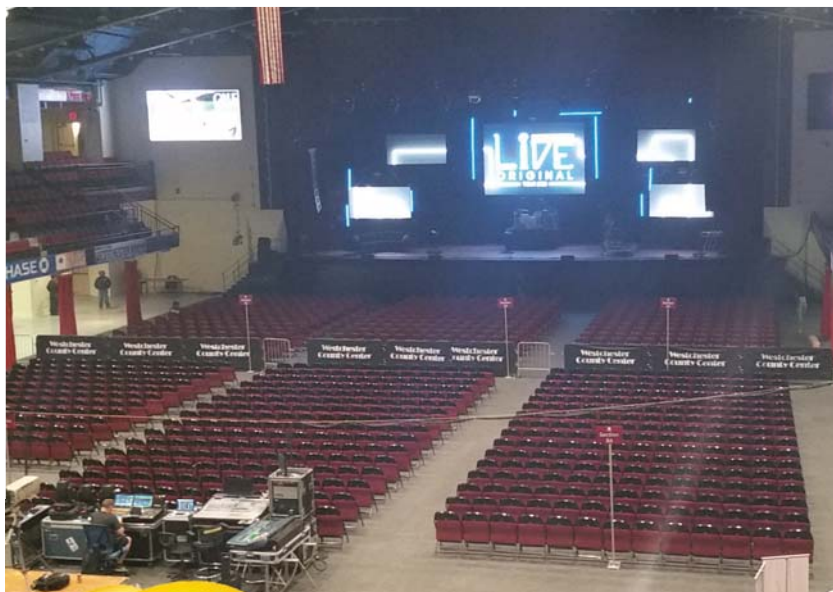
Improvements at Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale



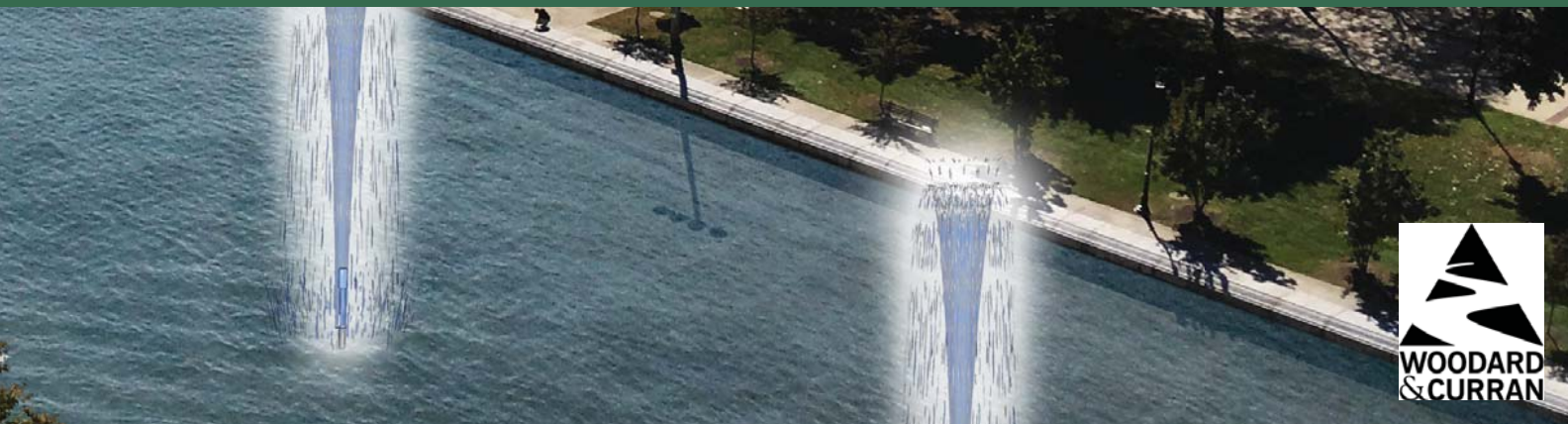
# Strengthen your core.

The 2017 proposed capital budget for Parks of \$110 million will help upgrade recreation facilities across the county. Kensico Dam Plaza, Glen Island Park, Blue Mountain Reservation, the County Center and the North and South County Trailways are just some facilities that will benefit by this capital program.

New video displays and chairs, Westchester County Center, White Plains



Below, Rendering of fountains at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla



# Spend time with supportive Friends...

County residents are enthusiastic members of these and other organizations that work to enhance our parks.

