

A. Existing Facility Inventory

The City of Beacon operates eight park and recreation facilities within the city limits. In addition, there are over a dozen other facilities owned and operated by a variety of groups, including State and Federal agencies, the Beacon City School District, and other non-profit organizations. The park system serves a City population of approximately 14,000 residents.

In 2017, the City of Beacon commissioned a Parks & Recreation Fee Study to assess the condition of recreation facilities within the City and analyze the ratio of park and open space per resident to recommend improvements. Utilizing National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines on population-based acreage needs, the study found that when accounting only for City-owned facilities the recommended ratio of 10 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents was not met. However, when taking into account additional parkland operated by other government and non-profit agencies, sufficient acreage was provided.

The park system consists one large regional park (larger park areas with multiple park facilities; Memorial Park), three neighborhood parks (smaller park areas predominately located within neighborhoods; South Avenue Park, River Front Park, Green Street Park), two specialty park areas (predominately consist of areas with a particular use; Polhill Park, The Settlement Camp), one natural park area (predominately natural conservation area; Hiddenbrooke Park), and one linear park (pedestrian trail or transportation corridor; Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail).

Like many communities, the City of Beacon strives to keep up with the demand for programming and facilities within its park system. It has a long-standing relationship with the Beacon City School District to share facilities and offers a variety of programs through partnerships with several local organizations including the Beacon Boulder Project, Beacon Disc Golf, Beacon Girls Softball, Beacon Junior Baseball, Beacon Pop Warner Football, Beacon Sloop Club, Beacon Youth Soccer, Small Tribe Hoops Class, Summer Hoops Basketball, and Wee Play Community Project.

Beacon is currently working with neighboring communities on strengthening connections between regional facilities through the construction of several pedestrian and multi-use trail facilities, including the City of Beacon Greenway Trail, the Beacon / Fishkill Hudson River Trail, and the Fjord Trail to Cold Spring. These projects are currently in various stages of development.

Following is a brief description of each park facility operated by the City. Parks and trails are listed alphabetically.

Fishkill Creek Greenway & Heritage Trail

The Fishkill Creek Greenway and Heritage Trail (FCGHT) began approximately 5 years ago as a master plan to provide pedestrian connections throughout the City of Beacon along Fishkill Creek. While not fully constructed, several key portions have been completed and provide scenic views and important connections throughout the City. Constructed primarily of crushed stone, several amenities have been installed along the completed portions of the trail including benches, trailhead / kiosk signage and dog waste bins. Agreements are already in place for select parcels that an easement for future trail segments be included in any development plan, with several such areas currently under construction.



- Paths & Walkways – Comprised primarily of crushed stone, trail is in good condition. Minor ADA compliance issues at street crossings, several of which are already planned for improvement in the near future.
- Site Amenities – Benches and “Dogipot” stations are located at frequent intervals along completed portions of the trail and are in generally good condition.
- Signage – Kiosk trailhead located at street crossings are in good condition, some graffiti on board. There is limited wayfinding or identification signage for the trail.
- Lawn / Greenspace – Lawn was in generally good condition along completed portions of the trail.
- Trees / Vegetation – Trees, shrubs, and vegetation along the trail were in good condition.

Green Street Park

Green Street Park is a small neighborhood park a little over 1 acre in size. The park contains a variety of amenities for community residents, including an old ball game pole that has become a symbol of the park. Several improvements have been made in recent years, including installation of a new playground area and construction of an ADA accessible parking space. A new plaza space is planned at the corner of the park to improve pedestrian connections.



- Basketball Court – Pavement cracks were observed in the court surfacing, with extensive patchwork repairs visible. Color surfacing and striping is worn and faded.

- Playground – Playground was recently installed and is in good condition. Signage is present and poured-in-place safety surfacing appears to be in good condition.
- Pavilion – Shade pavilion is in good condition. Minor graffiti was observed on the structure. The concrete pad was in good condition, very minor stormwater ponding observed.
- Site Amenities – Tables and waste bins beneath the pavilion were in good condition.
- Ball Game Pole – Structure is in fair condition, minor wear observed.
- Restroom Facility – Restroom structure was in fair condition. There is no ADA route to get to the restrooms, and while paint was in good condition a moderate amount of graffiti was present on the doors and CMU blocks.
- Parking Area – Asphalt of parking stalls was in good condition, quantity of stalls is limited. One stall is marked as ADA, however no signage was present.
- Signage – No park sign or wayfinding signage was present.
- Paths & Walkways – Path is comprised of stone dust with steel edging and is in good condition. Path appeared to be well maintained.
- Lawn / Greenspace – Turf was in good condition, very few bare spots observed. Ponding was observed in a depressed area at the corner of the park, currently used for stormwater detention area.
- Trees / Vegetation – Trees were in good condition, but very few located within park area resulting in limited shade.

Hiddenbrooke Park

Hiddenbrooke Park is a unique area within the City of Beacon, with ownership of the overall area split between the City, the County, and private owners. The front portion of the park, which is owned and maintained by the City of Beacon, contains hiking trails, the access driveway, and is predominately comprised of wooded and meadow spaces. Dutchess County manages an area at the rear of the property abutting Mount Beacon. Private residences and an active monastery are located along the northern edge of the property and share the access drive with the City. This split ownership in addition to provisions of the grant used to purchase the property limit potential development opportunities of the park.

- Hiking Trails – Trails appeared to be in good condition and used frequently by surrounding neighborhoods.
- Parking Area – Gravel pull-off area is small in size, not adequate for use of park, and in fair condition. The driveway is paved throughout the park and is in good condition.
- Signage – Signage at the front of the park is embedded in stone pillars. They are in good condition, but difficult to read from a distance.



- Lawn / Greenspace – Meadow / lawn areas at the front of the site near the entry drive are in good condition, natural condition.
- Trees / Vegetation – Park is generally a natural area, trees appeared to be in good condition. Deadwood or trees in decline should be removed as necessary, especially around trail areas.

Memorial Park

Memorial Park is the largest active-use park located within the City limits operated by the City. The park is used by the adjacent Middle School for gym classes, practices, and sporting events. A stream is buried beneath the park, and multiple areas have drainage issues ranging from poor drainage to extensive ponding. The park contains numerous sport fields used by youth and adult athletic leagues.

- Football Fields – The football field is in fair condition with some minor drainage issues including poor drainage and ponding around the goal posts. The field has operational athletic lighting for evening activities, and a support building for the field is operated and maintained by the local Pop Warner football organization. The field is sometimes utilized for other sporting events, and no permanent striping is present.
- Baseball Fields – There is one full-size, two little league, and one tee-ball baseball fields located within the park. The fields are supported by the Joe Ferrone Memorial Fieldhouse, which contains storage and meeting spaces. The athletic lighting at the large field is currently inoperable. Fencing, backstops, and dugouts at all fields appeared to be in good condition, and the skinned infields were in fair condition with minor weeds and ponding. The outfield and perimeter areas appeared to be in fair condition, with moderate drainage issues ranging from soft soils to ponding. Scoreboards appeared to be in fair condition and the warning tracks were not uniformly installed and appeared to be in fair condition as well.
- Softball Fields – There are three full size and one youth softball fields located within the park. Athletic lighting is currently inoperable according to City staff. Fencing, backstops, and dugout benches at all fields appeared to be in good condition, and the skinned infields were in fair condition with minor weeds and ponding. The outfield and perimeter areas appeared to be in fair condition, with drainage issues ranging from soft soils to heavy ponding.
- Soccer Field – Like elsewhere in the park, the field turf is in fair condition however contains numerous ponding areas and heavily saturated soils.
- Basketball Courts – The basketball courts are in poor condition with extensive drainage issues. The court area itself is situated below grade with a concrete curb as at one point it doubled as an ice rink during winter months. While the ice skating aspect of the court



is no longer utilized, the curb prevents runoff from escaping the court area resulting in ponding in excess of 3" after rain events.

- Tennis Court – The tennis courts are currently unusable and in very poor condition. The court pavement is deteriorated and perimeter fencing is disassembled in some areas. Netting is currently not installed and the court surface has settled in areas and accumulated debris.
- Skate Park – The skate park is located adjacent to the southern parking lot and located where two additional tennis courts used to be situated. The skate park is community managed, was recently resurfaced and appeared to be in good condition. Fencing was intact, minor ponding observed in some areas.
- Playground / Tot Lot – Future renovations are currently planned for the Tot Lot area. Safety surface was installed and appeared to be in fair condition, and the fencing was in good condition. Play equipment is a mix of permanent structures and movable toys, appearing to be in fair condition.
- Natural Play Area – The Wee Woods play area contains fallen logs, rope courses, and other outdoor-themed installations. It appeared to be in good condition.
- Pavilion – Pavilion structures appeared to be in good condition, minor graffiti was observed.
- Site Amenities – Many of the bleachers, tables, and benches appeared to be rusted through and in poor condition. Some were missing components (end caps from bleacher rows, etc.) and had minor graffiti.
- Storage Sheds – The storage sheds appeared to be in good condition. According to City Staff, they are currently too small to meet the needs of the park.
- Parking Areas – Striping within the parking areas is inconsistent and faded. There is a mix of off-road parking lots and nose-in parking directly off the side of Wilkes Street. The pavement appeared to be in fair condition, with some drainage and ponding issues evident, especially at the southern parking lot.
- Restroom Facility – The restroom facility appeared to be in good condition. A mural was recently painted on all sides of the structure as a collaborative effort between the community and a local artist, and no graffiti was visible on the structure.
- Lawn / Greenspace – The turf itself appeared to be in good condition with few bare spots, however there was extensive evidence of poor drainage, with some areas ponding over 3" of water.
- Trees / Vegetation – Trees within the park were in good condition.

Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park

Pete & Toshi Seeger Riverfront Park is located to the north of the Beacon MTA Rail Station and is only accessible by Red Flynn Drive. The park contains several basketball courts that are used by various local athletic groups, as well as sand volleyball courts and a large playground. Located on the Hudson River, the park offers scenic views up and down the river when walking along the perimeter trail. A design has been completed for improvements to the park, including reconstructing the basketball courts, expanding the parking area, and improving the pathways.

- Basketball Courts – The park contains one full and two half size basketball courts. All courts contain extensive pavement cracking, settlement, and patching. The fencing is in poor condition with several gaps and tears in the chain fabric. The court markings are faded, and the backboards have minor graffiti.
- Volleyball Courts – The sand volleyball courts are in fair condition. The netting appeared to be in good condition and well maintained, and the sand area itself has minor weeds and debris from adjacent trees within them. There is no defined edge to the sand area.
- Playground – The playground appeared to be in fair condition. Minor graffiti was observed on some play structures, and the safety surfacing lacks an adequate ADA transition from the adjacent walkways. Edging is provided in the form of varied height timber piles.
- Paths & Walkways – Paved walkways were in poor condition with extensive heaving and cracking evident, caused by the adjacent trees being too large and planted too close to the edge of walk. The gravel trail around the park perimeter was in fair condition, with some rutting and washout observed in spots.
- Parking Area – The parking area appeared to be in fair condition. Striping was worn and faded, and associated signage was crooked. Minor cracking was observed in the pavement.
- Site Amenities – Park grills were rusted through and in poor condition. Benches varied in material and size throughout the park; the benches along the perimeter trail were in good condition while others were generally poor. Tables located in the park interior were in similarly poor condition, and minor graffiti was evident on some pieces.
- Pavilion – The pavilion is in good condition. Concrete pad was in good condition with no cracking, and only minor graffiti was observed on the structure.
- Shoreline – The rip-rap shoreline armoring appeared to be in good condition and preventing erosion of the park shoreline.



- Storage Sheds – Storage sheds appeared to be in good condition. The fence around the shed area was in much better condition than that around the courts, and the gate was locked with a chain and lock.
- Signage – Information signage was in good condition, however there was limited wayfinding signage to get to the park.
- Lawn / Greenspace – Turf was in good condition, especially in the interior of the park. Appeared to be well draining, some small bare spots were observed near the parking lot.
- Trees / Vegetation – Trees were in generally good condition, some are located too close to the parking area and paved walkways causing damage to the pavement.

Polhill Park

Polhill Park is a small pocket park located on Main Street in downtown Beacon. It contains the visitor's center for the City and informational mapping and signage, serving as the gateway to the City. A bus stop shelter is located directly adjacent to the park.

- Visitor Center – Operated by the Chamber of Commerce, the building structure appeared to be in good condition. Would benefit from additional signage.
- Site Amenities – Tables and benches appeared to be in fair condition. There was a lack of consistent style & material across amenities – some were wood, some plastic, colors did not match, etc.
- Parking Area – There is no parking area designated for the park – the only available spaces were located at the adjacent Fire Department and were signed to prevent public parking. Only two spaces were available, each for 2-hour EV charging only, and there was one designated stall for Visitor Center employees.
- Bus Stop Shelter – Appeared to be in good condition, conveniently located to provide public transportation from the Visitor Center.
- Paths & Walkways – Plaza space appeared to be in fair condition, some weeds & moss growing within the pavers. The path to the visitor center was made of staggered steppingstones and did not appear to be ADA compliant.
- Signage – Historic marker and welcome sign appeared to be in good condition.
- Pop-Up Library – The wood structure of the pop-up library appeared to be in fair condition. The door hinge was not flush with the unit. Appeared to be well stocked with books.
- Lawn / Greenspace – Turf appeared to be in fair condition, some bare spots were evident around the paver area.



- Trees / Vegetation – Trees were generally in good condition and provided adequate shade over the area. The large evergreen tree is used for holiday displays in the winter.

Settlement Camp

The Settlement Camp is a unique property within the City of Beacon. The City currently leases the land from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS-OPRHP) to operate a summer camp during the summer. The camp runs two, 2-week long sessions with approximately 70 kids attending per session. In addition to camp buildings, the park also contains an old barn used as a drive in theater in the summer months that can accommodate around 30 vehicles, and is also rented out as a wedding venue that can accommodate between 100 and 125 guests. Buildings located on site not operated for summer camp purposes or as part of the wedding venue are generally dilapidated, spread throughout the property and not usable. There are approximately 50 total structures within the park area.

- Disk Golf – The disk golf course is operated by a volunteer group and occupies one of the buildings within the park. The building is in fair condition, appropriately signed, and the notice board and course elements appeared to be in fair condition as well.
- Pool Facility – A fiberglass lined pool, the filter building and equipment was upgraded when the property was leased by the City. It is currently permitted by DOH (with some items grandfathered in) and operated during the summer months. The pool appeared to be in fair condition and has a unique configuration as the pool deck slopes around it, resulting in a retaining-wall like effect at the one end of the pool.
- Theater Building – Building is in good condition, currently used for drive-in movies organized by the City and rented out by the City to residents as a wedding venue. It is very popular and used frequently.
- Summer Camp Buildings – Approximately 5 of the structures in the park located along the main loop road are used for summer camp activities by the City during the summer. The buildings are in generally fair condition with some loose boards, clutter, broken windows, etc. Intent is to provide a wilderness experience within City limits for kids.
- Summer Camp Barn – The large barn is in fair condition and contains a rock climbing used by the Beacon Boulder Club as well as space for the local garden club.
- Misc. Structures – Other buildings in the property are diffuse, spread out, and in very poor condition. City currently has no plans to renovate or restore these buildings as they are in too poor condition and too spread out to be adequately used for City events.
- Homestead Building – This building is in good condition and currently houses the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. organizational offices. It is somewhat underutilized and contains a lot of empty rooms.



- Parking Area – Parking is inadequate to accommodate peak summer traffic and event crowds. The roads and parking areas are comprised of dirt and/or gravel, with no paved access roads.
- Signage – There is limited signage on site, very few wayfinding signs within the park or leading to the park.
- Lawn / Greenspace – The lawn areas were in good condition, very few bare spots observed.
- Trees / Vegetation – The park is primarily a natural area, trees appeared to be in good condition.



South Avenue Park

South Avenue Park is a large neighborhood park adjacent to the Beacon Recreation Department building. Just under 7 acres in size, the park contains several athletic court facilities and amenities. The park can be accessed by a parking lot off South Avenue or from the Recreation Department building. It is surrounded by a mix of single-family homes, apartment complexes, and Beacon Housing Authority residences. South Avenue Elementary School is located one block north of the park.

- Tennis Courts – Two tennis courts are located at the northwest corner of the park and are in fair condition. Net assemblies were in good condition; however, the court surfacing contains numerous cracks and the fencing around the court is in poor condition. The timber retaining wall supporting the courts is deteriorating, and there are currently plans to replace the wall soon.
- Basketball Court – The court surfacing is in good condition with minor cracking evident near the hoop assemblies. Minor graffiti was evident, fencing was in fair condition, and the court lighting appeared to be in good condition. As with the tennis court, the timber retaining wall is deteriorating and is planned for replacement.
- Horseshoe Court – Wood framing is deteriorating and there is extensive debris and weeds growing within the play area. Difficult to access and infrequently used according to City staff.
- Shuffleboard Court - Wood framing is deteriorating and there is extensive debris and weeds growing within the play area. Difficult to access and infrequently used according to City staff.
- Bocce Ball Court - Wood framing is deteriorating and there is extensive debris and weeds growing within the play area. Difficult to access and infrequently used according to City staff.
- Community Garden – Located outside of the Recreation Department, the garden is in good condition and well maintained.
- Multi-Use Open Field – Turf is in good condition, minor drainage issues evident.

- Multi-Use Paved Area – Large crack observed through center of pavement, pavement is in poor condition, extensive debris and weeds growing within the pavement area.
- Playground – Playground equipment and safety surfacing appeared to be in good condition. Some graffiti observed on play equipment, and there is no ADA accessible route to the playground.
- Parking Areas – Main parking area off South Avenue is in fair condition, striping is very faded and there is limited lighting. Pavement is in good condition. Parking at the Recreation Department Building is in good condition, used primarily by City staff.
- Signage – No signage in parking lot, one small sign to identify park located on light pole at South Avenue parking area.
- Pavilion – Located adjacent to the Recreation Department Building, pavilion appeared well maintained and in good condition.
- Paths & Walkways – Asphalt paths are in poor condition with moderate cracking and heaving present throughout the path system. Several areas appeared to be constructed on slopes that were not ADA compliant.
- Lawn / Greenspace – Turf was in good condition, very few bare spots observed. Some minor drainage issues were evident.
- Trees / Vegetation – Trees appeared to be in good condition, located throughout the park area.

Recreation Department Building at South Avenue Park (23 West Street)

Home of the City Recreation Department. Building includes Recreation Department offices, a small gym area, and one classroom area for educational opportunities and gatherings.

Additional City Owned/Operated Facilities

- Beacon Housing Authority – Grocery Distribution, Hair Salon (residents only)
- Camp Beacon (use to be determined) - Former low security work camp
- City of Beacon DPW Facility – Community Flex Space
- Former Beacon Fire Department HQ – (use to be determined) – Potential Community Flex Space
- Memorial Building – Community Flex Space, VFW

Alternative Service Provider Facilities

Beacon City School District Facilities

- Beacon High School – Pool, Gymnasium, Weight Room, Theatre, Community Flex Space, Tennis Courts (8), Baseball Field (1), Softball Field (1), Soccer Fields (2), Multi-Sport Turf Field (1)



- Glenham Elementary – Gymnasium, Playground (2), Multi-use Grass Field, Baseball Field (1)
- J.V. Forrestal Elementary – Gymnasium, Community Garden, Playground
- Rombout Middle School – Multi-use Grass Field,
- Sargent Elementary – Playground, Beacon Soccer Club Complex, Gymnasium
- South Ave Elementary – Playground, Basketball Courts



Faith Based Organization Facilities

- Christ Church United Methodist
- Cedar Street Building
- Delavan St Building
- Hanna Lane Building
- Leonard Street Building
- Route 52 Building
- South Ave Building
- Union Street Building

Additional Facilities

- Dennings Point State Park - Trails
- Dia Beacon – Art Gallery, Community Flex Space
- Elks Lodge/ Beacon Elks – Community Flex Space
- Fishkill Correctional Community Center – Community Flex Space (Staff Only)
- Former Beacon High School – Art Studios
- John Street Building
- Long Dock Park – Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Kayak Launch, Trails
- Madam Brett Park - Trails
- Main Street Building
- Main Street (Outdoor Events)
- Mount Beacon Park – Trails, Observation Tower
- Riverfront Park + Building
- Salvation Army

