

growing trend towards telemedicine which allows patients to connect with a doctor from their home (see Section 10, Economic Development, pg. 10.7 for a discussion of broadband access).

#### **6.2.1.4**      *Post Office*

Rockland is served by two U.S. postal offices; one located in the hamlet of Livingston Manor and the other located in the hamlet of Roscoe.

#### **6.2.1.5**      *Public Schools*

Rockland comprises portions of three school districts: Livingston Manor Central School District, Roscoe Central School District, and Liberty Central School District. The Livingston Manor and Roscoe districts are very well respected as is the Liberty district. The Livingston Manor district encompasses approximately 70% of the Town, while the Roscoe and Liberty districts encompass 25% and 5% of the Town respectively (see Figure 6-2, School Districts). According to its district office, Livingston Manor has a projected 2018-2019 enrollment of 475 students while Roscoe and Liberty have approximately 257 and 2,000 students respectively. While these figures represent a slight increase over the 2017-2018 school year, school populations in the three districts have been declining since 2000.<sup>1</sup> This is a direct reflection of overall population declines in the communities within the districts. If, however, the growing interest in rural living among urban dwellers sparks an influx of people moving to the area, enrollment numbers in these school districts may increase accordingly.

In looking ahead, the Town should carefully assess impacts to the three school districts associated with new residential development. The Town could help the districts track increases in enrollment by providing the estimated number of school-age children resulting from residential projects – especially any large-scale residential project such as the existing Hemlock Ridge complex. This would assist the districts' with their capital facilities planning to accommodate increases in student enrollment.

#### **6.2.1.6**      *Library*

Rockland is served by two public libraries; the Roscoe Free Library located in the hamlet of Roscoe and



Livingston Manor Central School District



Livingston Manor Library

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<sup>1</sup> Easley, Hema. "Close, consolidate or wait: Schools grapple with shrinking enrollment." [Times Herald-Record](#), October 21, 2018, p. 4.

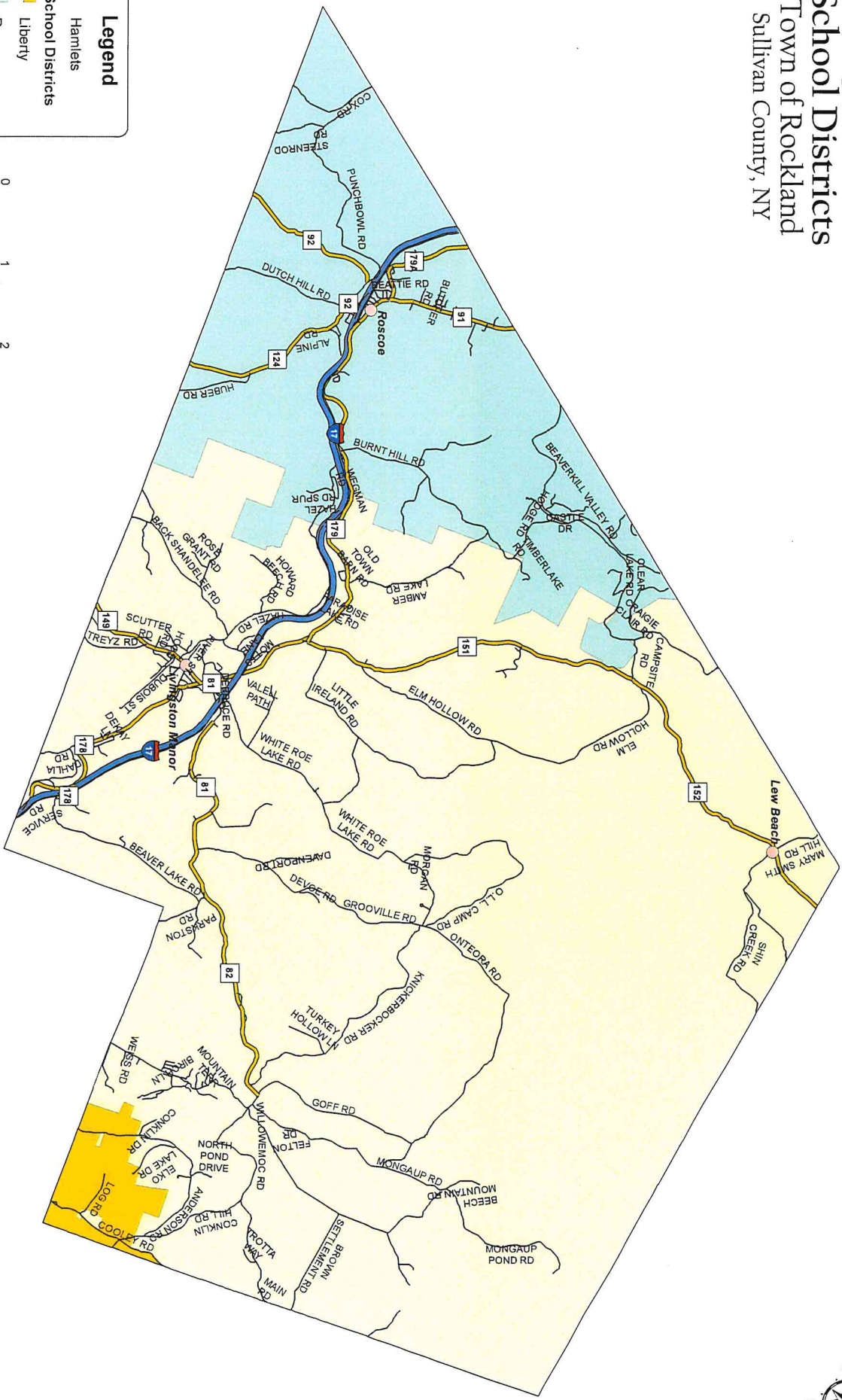
Figure 6-2  
**School Districts**  
 Town of Rockland  
 Sullivan County, NY

**Legend**

- Hamlets
- School Districts
  - Liberty
  - Roscoe
  - Livingston Manor



Date: 4/30/2019



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the Livingston Manor Free Library located in the hamlet of Livingston Manor. Both of these libraries belong to the Ramapo Catskill Library System which allows its members to use any of the 47 chartered libraries in the Ramapo Catskill system. In addition to traditional book lending, both libraries offer a wide variety of enrichment and resource programs such as children's story times, high school equivalency classes, tax preparation, summer senior art program, senior exercise classes, computer/WiFi internet access, e-books, crafts, guest speakers, and local history collections. The Livingston Manor library is home to a non-profit community newspaper primarily run by local students.

#### **6.2.1.7**            *RRFD Community Center*

The Rockland-Roscoe Fire District (RRFD) owns and maintains a community center which is available for public functions, holds weekly senior luncheons, and is home to the Town of Rockland Senior Citizens group.

#### **6.2.1.8**            *Parks*

The Town owns and maintains Riverside Park in Roscoe. There are two privately owned parks in Livingston Manor known as Rotary Park and Renaissance Park, both of which are open to the public. In addition, the public schools in Livingston Manor and Roscoe each have playground equipment and athletic fields which can be used by the public. All of these parks and their amenities are discussed in Section 7, Cultural, Historic and Recreational Resources.

#### **6.2.1.9**            *Roads*

The Town owns and maintains approximately 106 miles of roads which interconnect with Sullivan County and state roads to provide the Town with an excellent roadway network. Town roads are well maintained throughout the year and are kept clear and safe during winter months. The community is generally satisfied with this Town service.

#### **6.2.1.10**          *Water*

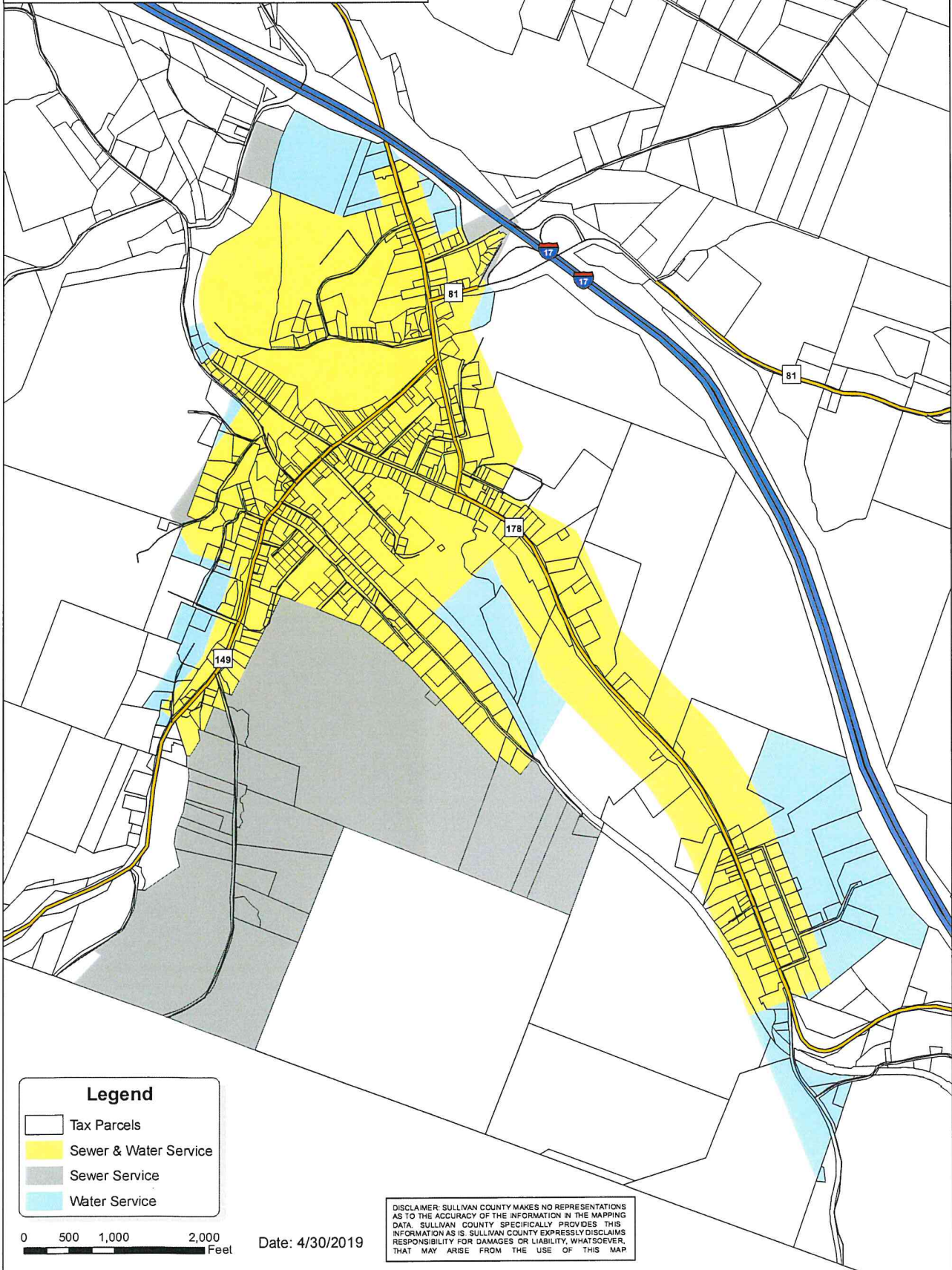
Rockland owns and operates two water districts each of which has its own wells and treatment processes.



RRFD Community Center

Figure 6-3

**Sewer & Water Service**  
**Livingston Manor**  
Town of Rockland  
Sullivan County, NY



**Legend**

- Tax Parcels
- Sewer & Water Service
- Sewer Service
- Water Service

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet

Date: 4/30/2019

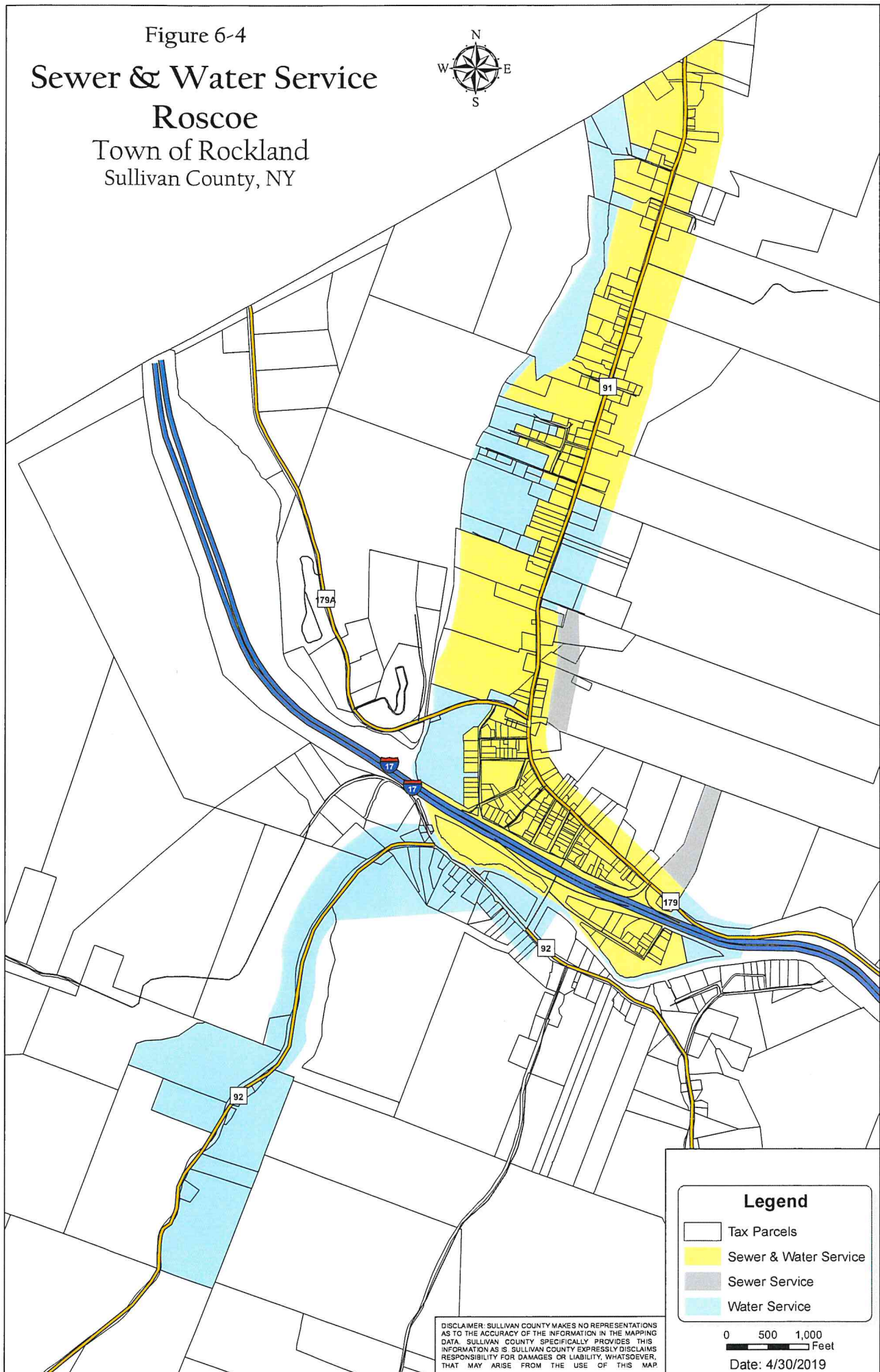
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Figure 6-4

# Sewer & Water Service

## Roscoe

Town of Rockland  
Sullivan County, NY



They are the Livingston Manor Water District, which serves residential and commercial users in the hamlet of Livingston Manor, and the Roscoe-Rockland Water District, which serves residential and commercial users in the hamlet of Roscoe (see figures 6-3, Sewer & Water Districts Livingston Manor and 6-4, Sewer & Water Districts Roscoe). The rest of the Town is served by privately owned wells.

#### **6.2.1.11**      *Sewer*

The Town owns and operates two sewer districts each of which has its own wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Livingston Manor WWTF treats flows from the Livingston Manor Sewer District, which district serves the hamlet of Livingston Manor (see Figure 6-3). The Roscoe WWTF treats flows from the Roscoe Sewer District, which district serves the hamlet of Roscoe (see Figure 6-4). Lands outside of these two districts are served by privately owned septic systems. Presently, the Roscoe Sewer District is undergoing upgrades to equipment at a wastewater pump station and to certain other equipment at its WWTF. In the near future, the Town plans to add a disinfection system to the Roscoe WWTF, which system will protect the public health and the environment. The Town is also working to add a disinfection system to the Livingston Manor WWTF, which system will protect the public health and the aquatic ecosystem of the Willowemoc Creek to which the facility discharges treated effluent.

#### **6.2.1.12**      *Solid Waste*

The Sullivan County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling Services manages solid waste disposal in the county. The department operates a transfer station and materials recovery facility in Monticello along with five recycling/refuse stations one of which is located in Rockland at the Highway Department garage. Town residents and businesses can contract individually with local haulers for solid waste pickup. Local haulers primarily dispose of solid waste at one of the County's transfer stations. Town residents can also dispose of their own refuse at the County's transfer stations for a fee. There are no active landfills in Sullivan County, so refuse from county transfer stations is shipped by private hauler to out-of-county disposal sites.

The Town sponsors an annual town-wide cleanup day during which town residents can dispose of household items, scrap metal and other acceptable items at the county transfer station located next to the Town's Highway Department garage.

### **6.3      Recommendations**

#### **Strategy 1      Continue to assess the needs of police and fire protection.**

- Action 1.1      *Use the SEQR process to assess potential impacts on the demands for police protection associated with new development projects and increased tourism.*
- Action 1.2      *Use the SEQRA process to assess potential impacts on the demands for fire protection associated with new development projects. Where upgrades are needed to mitigate impacts, developers should contribute to the cost.*

- Action 1.3      *Support the fire districts' efforts to secure governmental and private sector funding for new equipment and new or expanded station houses.*
- Action 1.4      *Support meaningful governmental initiatives to attract and retain volunteer firefighters.*
- Action 1.5      *Replace fire department vehicles and other essential equipment as necessary to maintain fire fighting capabilities.*
- Action 1.6      *Coordinate with Sullivan County to establish a reverse 911 system to warn residents of emergencies.*

**Strategy 2      Strive to maintain and expand library services for Town residents.**

- Action 2.1      *Continue to support the many beneficial resources, programs and initiatives currently offered by the Roscoe and Livingston Manor libraries. Modern libraries in many ways have become more like community centers by offering a wide array of community-based activities.*
- Action 2.2      *Monitor the need for new and/or expanded library services to meet the 21st century needs of the community. Additional library resources may be needed both now and in the future to meet growing needs of the community.*
- Action 2.3      *Monitor the need and feasibility of adding future space to one or both libraries. Increasingly, modern public libraries have added space for uses such as an outdoor reading area, a tutoring room, a children's reading room or a multi-purpose community room.*
- Action 2.4      *Continue to seek governmental and private sector funding opportunities for ongoing and expanded library services.*

**Strategy 3      Inform the three school systems of growth impacts to enrollment from proposed large-scale residential developments.**

- Action 3.1      *Use the SEQRA process to carefully assess the number of school-age children resulting from any new, large-scale residential developments. Share this information with each relevant school district so it can plan for any increase to enrollment.*

**Strategy 4      Continue to maintain a high level of service and maintenance on Town roads.**

See also recommendations in Section 9, Transportation.

- Action 4.1      *Maintain a five year capital improvement plan for Town roads and related Highway Department equipment and facilities. Update the plan on an annual basis to keep it current.*
- Action 4.2      *Maintain an asset management plan to identify measures to fund capital improvements identified in the capital improvement plan.*
- Action 4.3      *Continue to budget adequate funding to maintain Town roads and highway equipment and related facilities*
- Action 4.4      *Replace aging vehicles and equipment as necessary to maintain highway department capabilities.*
- Action 4.5      *Explore alternatives to traditional sand and/or salt for winter treatments of Town roads.*
- Action 4.6      *Continue to seek governmental funding assistance for the purchase of new equipment and new vehicles as well as for roadway improvements.*

**Strategy 5      Continue to maintain high quality standards for water and sewer service.**

- Action 5.1      *Continue to maintain a five year capital improvement plan for each water and sewer district.*
- Action 5.2      *Develop an asset management plan to identify measures to fund improvements identified in the capital improvement plan.*
- Action 5.3      *Continue to maintain and improve (as necessary) equipment and facilities in the Town's water and sewer districts. Protecting potable water quality and the water quality of streams receiving treated wastewater effluent is of utmost importance to the Town.*
- Action 5.4      *Continue to seek governmental and private sector funding assistance for improvements to the water and sewer districts.*
- Action 5.5      *Limit the expansion of water and sewer infrastructure in areas where dense growth is not encouraged by this Plan. Consideration could be given to water extensions in select areas for reasons of public health and safety.*
- Action 5.6      *Periodically review and update (if necessary) Town septic system design and maintenance regulations to protect public health and the environment.*

**Strategy 6      Continue to support proper disposal of solid waste and recycling efforts.**

- Action 6.1      *Work to apprise town residents—especially new residents—of Sullivan County's recycling requirements. Post county recycling requirements on the Town's website and at town hall.*
- Action 6.2      *Continue to provide a town-wide cleanup day for household items, scrap metal and other acceptable items. This will help to prevent improper disposal of such items along roads and in streams.*
- Action 6.3      *Periodically review and update (if necessary) junkyard and property maintenance regulations including inspections and renewals to ensure continued compliance.*

## **Section 7 – Historical, Cultural and Recreational Resources**

### **7.1 Goals**

- > To preserve, interpret, and promote Rockland's historical resources.
- > To promote year-round cultural events and arts programs for residents and visitors.
- > To enhance and promote year-round recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities.

### **7.2 Summary of Existing Conditions**

The combination of many historical, cultural, and recreational resources give expression to the Town's sense of place. These resources help attract a diversity of residents and visitors and generate economic opportunities in a rural setting. Roscoe's renowned position in the history of fly fishing in America stems from deep historical and cultural roots that are anchored around the confluence of two streams sourced from upstream forests. These forests remain havens for outdoor recreation including hiking, camping and horseback riding. Sustaining the health of these resources and their associated year-round activities are central to Rockland's vision of the future.

#### **7.2.1 Historical Resources**

The Town has an appointed historian and other active individuals knowledgeable in the Town's past.

Rockland's rich history and historic buildings contribute to its character and community sense of place. The Sullivan County Historical Society website ([www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org)) includes a Town of Rockland History, by Wilmer Sipple, former Rockland Town Historian, which explores this history in detail. A brief summary of the Town's history through the present day provides some historical perspective as follows:

The Town of Rockland's history is largely tied to the Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creek stream basins. This region was originally the borderland between the Iroquois nations to the north and the Algonquin to the south. The Lenni-Lenapes, a branch of the Delaware tribes, were the predominate Indian group in this



Woman fly fishing, ca. late 19<sup>th</sup> century



Woman fly fishing, ca. early 21<sup>st</sup> century

border region. During this time, Rockland was a wild and difficult region to penetrate except by the Indian trails in the area.

The granting of the Hardenburgh Patent to Johannes Hardenburgh in 1709 by England's Queen Ann set the stage for the eventual development of the Catskills. It was an immense tract comprising some two million acres that included what are now Delaware, Greene, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties.

Soon thereafter, a new owner, Robert Livingston, appeared on the scene and in less than forty years he acquired title to nearly half of the entire patent. Lands encompassing what is now the Town of Rockland were part of this acquisition.

Following the Revolutionary War, the first settlers in the Town of Rockland were the Jehiel Stewart family and his brother Luther, who settled in Big Beaver Kill Flats around 1789. The location was at the time a part of the town of Rochester in Ulster County. In 1798 it became a part of Neversink and in 1909 a bill was introduced in the legislature to separate the western part of Neversink to form Rockland. The Town of Rockland was legally established on April 1, 1910 by an act of the State of New York and Israel Dodge was its first Supervisor

The area remained remote and difficult to reach until John Hunter turned an old Indian trail into a road. When finished in 1815, it opened up settlements in Shin Creek, Beaverkill, Craig-E-Claire, Turnwood and Rockland. The first settlers worked to clear the forests for homes and farm land, and this activity provided an early source of income because of the ready market for logs and lumber. Logs were lashed together forming rafts to float down the Willowemoc and Beaverkill streams and then down the Delaware River to Trenton and Philadelphia.

With the improvement of roads into the area, the life of settlers became easier as business began to boom and new settlers came to share in the area's abundance. The arrival of railroads in the mid 1800s opened up the area and promoted the rise of the great resort era and many agricultural dairy farms. The construction of Route 17 through Rockland in the 1960s further boosted the tourist-based economy even as railroads and dairy farming declined.

Following the decline of tourism and resort era hotels in the mid-1970s, Rockland's economy and that of Sullivan County was largely mired for several decades in a recession. This period of decline lasted through the nation-wide economic recessionary period of 2008-2012.

Today, there is a resurgence of tourists coming from the NY metropolitan area. Increased tourism has helped to promote economic growth in Rockland and in its hamlets of Roscoe and Livingston Manor. The proximity of both hamlets first to the railroad and then to Route 17 has caused them to become the commercial, cultural and civic centers of the Town.

#### **7.2.1.1**     *Historical Surveys*

Two historical surveys were undertaken in recent years. In 2012 the *Reconnaissance-Level Historic*

*Resource Survey of the Lower Beaverkill Valley* was completed, and in 2015, the *Livingston Manor Historic Survey* was completed. These surveys are valuable to the Town and to this plan because they provide a wealth of information and provide recommended actions. The following summaries of these surveys inform this discussion, while the recommended actions are condensed and adapted into the recommendations, giving direction to the Town's historic preservation efforts.

#### Beaverkill Valley survey

The scope of this survey covers a sizeable portion of the Town including the hamlet of Roscoe. Well-researched and footnoted, it incorporates a breadth of historical influences, illustrating the development of natural resource-based settlements, the rise of sport fishing and tourism, and the impacts of the railroad and the automobile. The majority of its recommendations are focused on conducting more intensive level surveys, including further documentation on the post-WWII residential subdivision at Miller heights; the potential designation of historical districts at Rock Flats and Beaverkill, and the protection of the Beaverkill area through the designation of a Critical Environmental Area.

#### Livingston Manor survey

The survey focused on the hamlet, inventoried 216 properties, identified 94 of these as “notable”, and of the 94, selected 34 as potentially eligible for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. This detailed and comprehensive account of the development of Livingston Manor is accompanied by numerous photographs and is a noteworthy addition to the historical documentation in the Town. Consistent with the Beaverkill survey, a recommended action in Livingston Manor is to conduct more detailed inventories for the notable properties. Also recommended is the undertaking of a hamlet revitalization plan to help guide new development, both in terms of location and historical oriented design.

Both surveys recommend that the Town consider the enactment of a historic preservation ordinance and that the survey reports and related documentation of historic properties be published. Recommendations centering on further documentation or the development of revitalization plans could benefit from the engagement of students in related university programs. In terms of enacting a town historic preservation ordinance, there are many sources of assistance. The two town surveys and the partners involved in their creation also place the Town at an advantage for taking the next steps suggested in the surveys.



Post card view of Main Street, Livingston Manor, ca. 1925



Chester Darby house, Roscoe, ca. 1870

### **7.2.1.2 Covered Bridges**

Three of the four remaining covered bridges in Sullivan County are in Rockland. All these bridges are open to vehicles and have adjacent recreational areas.

#### Beaverkill Covered Bridge

Erected in 1865, this bridge played a role in connecting civilization with some of the remaining wild interior lands of the Catskills. As access to the Beaver Kill increased and it became popular for fishing, the state began constructing camping areas in the 1920s and the Beaverkill Campground became the second in the Catskill Park. In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps did extensive work to improve the grounds, including building 30 individual campsites with fireplaces and tables, stone walls along the river's edge, two sets of bathhouses, a picnic area with 15 fireplaces and tables, a reservoir, and 3,000 feet of piping.

The early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century brought increased structural deterioration to the bridge and its abutments. With assistance from the State of New York, a \$2.6 million repair and restoration project was begun in 2015 and completed in 2017. The bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 3, 2007.

#### Livingston Manor Covered Bridge

This bridge, connecting old Route 17 with Livingston Manor, was built in 1860. Originally known as Mott Flats Bridge, and also called the Van Tran Bridge, the structure was restored in the mid-1980s by the Sullivan County Department of Public Works. Adjacent to the approximately 100' wooden span is Covered Bridge Park, an open area along the Willowemoc Creek providing fishing access, picnic areas, and a pavilion with restrooms.

#### Bendo Covered Bridge

Located on Conklin Hill Road, the name of this bridge is derived from Bend of the River Bridge. Less than 50' long, the bridge was built in 1913 and is a piece of a former bridge located in Livingston Manor. Adjacent to north side of the bridge is the private Covered Bridge Campsites. On the south side of the bridge, the land is owned by the State of New York.



Livingston Manor Covered Bridge, ca. 1860



Beaverkill Covered Bridge, ca. 1865

### **7.2.1.3     *Resources on the National Register of Historic Places***

In addition to the Beaverkill Covered Bridge, there are four other resources on the register. (Figure 7-1, Cultural & Historic sites).

#### Roscoe Presbyterian Church and Westfield Flats Cemetery

The church and cemetery are located in the hamlet of Roscoe. The church was built about 1884 and was spared during the 1916 downtown fire which destroyed 23 buildings. The adjacent cemetery, whose name is the former name of the hamlet of Roscoe, contains about 200 burials, with the earliest dating to the first decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The site was listed on the register on June 8, 2001.

#### Dundas Castle

The castle, also known as Craig E. Clair Castle, is a historic house near the hamlet of Craigie Clair along the Beaverkill. Modeled after Dundas Castle, Scotland, the structure was completed in 1924 and has changed owners a number of times. The building and grounds have been neglected for several years and remain in private hands. It was added to the Register on March 21, 2001.

#### Agudas Achim Synagogue

The synagogue is a historic building on Rock Avenue in Livingston Manor that was listed on the Register on November 19, 1998. Built in 1920 to serve the Jewish population of the Catskills, it possesses mixed architectural influences and unique interior and exterior features.

#### Rockland Mill Complex

The mill is a national historic district located just north of downtown Roscoe along Route 91. As described on Wikipedia, the district includes four contributing buildings and three contributing structures. They include the grist mill (ca. 1850) containing much of its original machinery; remains of the original power canal, mill pond, and tailrace with stone retaining walls; tenant house (ca. 1850); proprietor's house (1867); and ice house (1867–1900). The district was listed on the register August 23, 1984.

## **7.2.2     Cultural Resources**

#### The Roscoe O&W Railway Museum

During its heyday in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the New York, Ontario & Western Railway

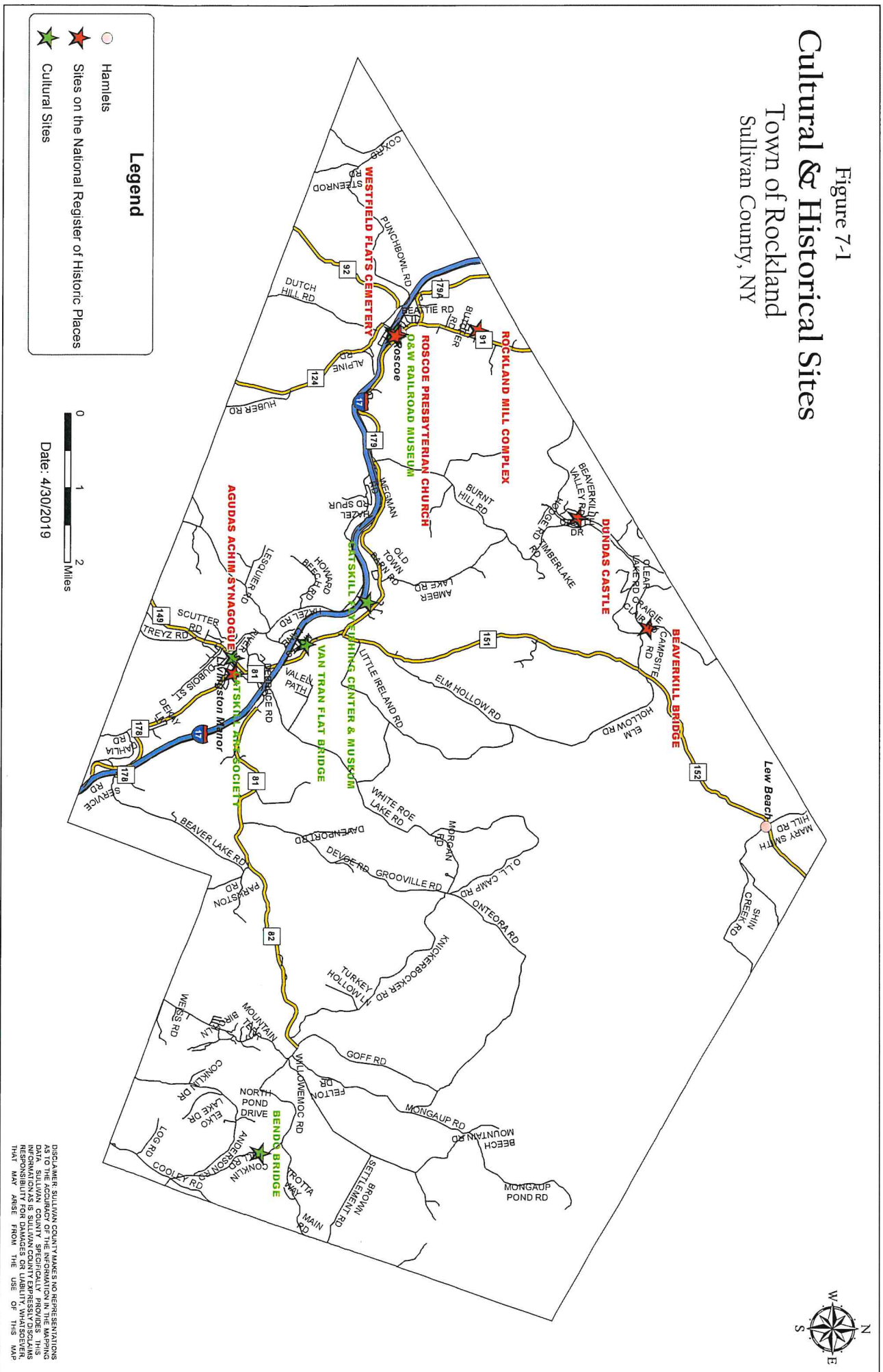


Dundas Castle, ca. 1924



Agudas Achim Synagogue, ca. 1920

Figure 7-1  
**Cultural & Historical Sites**  
 Town of Rockland  
 Sullivan County, NY



stretched from Weehawken, NJ, through Livingston Manor and Roscoe, to Oswego, NY, where connections could be made to Chicago. The railroad contributed significantly to the rise in tourism, recreation, and commercial development of the Town. In 1984, more than 30 years after the last passenger train departed Roscoe, the Roscoe O&W Railway Museum was established under the charter of the Ontario & Western Railway Historical Society. Spending its early years in a caboose, the museum, at the site of the former Roscoe Station, has steadily grown into an attractive destination with many historical artifacts of the former railway added over the years.

As described on the museum's webpage ([www.nyow.org/museum.html](http://www.nyow.org/museum.html)), which is part of the society's website, the museum complex consists of the O&W refurbished caboose, the original trout weather vane and train signal, the Cooks Falls and Roscoe watchman's shanties, the Beaverkill Trout Car (which released fish into local waters from Long Island hatcheries), and the O&W station motif building. The museum contains O&W artifacts and memorabilia, other railroadiana, and local history displays showing the impact of the O&W on community life, hunting, fishing, farming, tourism and local industries. The O&W Railway Historical Society remains quite active, maintaining an informative website; supporting model railroading displays; preserving railroad equipment, artifacts, and thousands of archives; and publishing many articles, books, and photos.

#### Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum

A celebration of the many facets of the area's tremendous fly fishing heritage, the Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum began in 1983 and opened at its present location in 1995. Located along Willowemoc Creek between Livingston Manor and Roscoe, the 53-acre site features a historical and contemporary museum, an education center, public fishing access, and a nature trail. The center is open seven days a week from April through October.

The Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum is a nonprofit organization. The center's website ([www.cffcm.com](http://www.cffcm.com)) explains the many exhibits and programs in the context of its mission to preserve America's fly fishing heritage, teach its younger generations of fly fishers, and promote the future of fly fishing.

Among the many resources and offerings of the center are the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame, Heritage Craft Center, Demarest Rodmakers Gallery, Poul Jorgensen Golden Hook Award, Catskill Rodmakers



Roscoe O&W Railroad Museum



Catskill Fly Fishing Center & Museum

Gathering, Hardy Cup, Wulff Gallery, Catskill Rodmakers Workshop, and Arts of the Angler Craft Center. Educational programs have covered river ecology, angling history, stream craft, including fishing etiquette, fly tying, fly casting, aquatic entomology, and stream improvement to increase public awareness of the values of fly fishing. The center also serves a stewardship role in preserving Junction Pool, the famed fly fishing confluence of the Beaver Kill and the Willowemoc Creek.

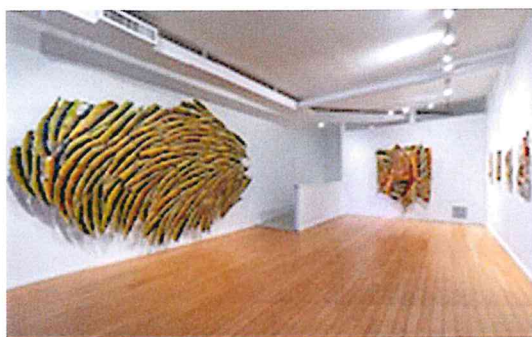
#### Catskill Art Society

Livingston Manor is home to the Catskill Art Society (CAS), a nonprofit organization founded in 1971 whose mission is cultivating public interest, participation, and enjoyment of the arts; and through its 4,500 square-foot multi-arts center, CAS explores contemporary art practices and facilitates creative and professional development for established and emerging artists.

CAS is dedicated to presenting multi-disciplinary programming in all art forms with a combination of local and national artists. CAS features artwork on a regular basis and, through its guidelines, invites submissions across disciplines. The Society occupies a renovated historic building on Main Street, helping to anchor the diversity of activities in the hamlet. CAS also strives to be a regional destination, serving the greater community through its facility which features plenty of natural light, galleries, a multi-purpose teaching studio, a clay studio, and an art library with digital learning resources. CAS also organizes the annual Trout Parade in cooperation with the Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce and many others. Looking toward the future, CAS plans to add performance and exhibition spaces. More information is available at [catskillartsociety.org](http://catskillartsociety.org).

#### Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Built adjacent to the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock Festival and opened in 2006, Bethel Woods is located about 17 miles south of Livingston Manor in the town of Bethel. Founded by Alan Gerry, entrepreneur and philanthropist from nearby Liberty, the site features the 15,000-seat indoor-outdoor concert Pavilion, a 1,000-seat outdoor terrace stage, a 440-seat indoor hall, the Woodstock Festival Field, the Museum at Bethel Woods, and event spaces and classrooms. Outdoor concerts and events run June through September, while year-round programming and exhibits are held in the other venues. Prior to the creation of Bethel Woods, the original festival site has been a longtime draw for visitors and, in the 1990s, the scene of events organized by the Gerry Foundation. The museum, which celebrates the original festival, is aptly described on Roscoe's website as an immersive and captivating multi-media experience



Catskill Art Society



Catskill Art Society, childrens art class

that combines film and interactive displays, text panels and artifacts to explore the unique experience of the Woodstock festival, its significance as a culminating event of a decade of radical cultural, transformation, and the legacy of the Sixties and Woodstock today. The entire Bethel Woods complex is a positive, regional economic driver in the region that plays a primary role in the revitalization of tourism and complements the many resources in the town of Rockland.

#### Shandee Music Festival

Located south of Rockland in the town of Callicoon, the Shandee Music Festival encourages and promotes the careers of young, exceptional classical musicians through an annual series of summer concerts. SMF's Sunset Concert Pavilion and bucolic festival grounds have been a consistent attraction for concert goers and a formative venue for talented young musicians. SMF is also a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1993. In helping young musicians pursue professional careers as concert artists, SMF assists students in playing music in local schools and special care facilities, along with larger venues such as Bethel Woods.

#### Livingston Manor and Roscoe Free Libraries

The libraries, also described in Section 6, Community Services, are part of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, which includes 47 libraries and encompasses parts of four counties. The libraries offer a variety of services – public use computers, internet and Wi-Fi access, printers and fax – but also serve as community gathering spaces on a regular basis. Special programs are featured, and the spaces in the libraries are often used as meeting places. Both libraries are active in community events and are open to exploring new ways to further engage the community. The Roscoe library also serves as the repository for historical information, as the town historian is also the librarian.

#### **7.2.2.1 Town events**

The Town of Rockland has a number of community organizations and businesses who are regularly involved in a wide range of activities, programs, and events, as listed on [www.livingstonmanor.org](http://www.livingstonmanor.org) and [www.roscoeny.com](http://www.roscoeny.com). Three of the larger and most well know community cultural events are the Rotary Ice Carnival and the Trout Parade held in Livingston Manor and the Fourth of July parade in Roscoe.

#### Rotary Ice Carnival

The ice carnival has been part of the Livingston Manor community for 59 years. Held in January and organized by the Rotary Club and other partners, the all-day event includes a snow sculpture contest, a dance at the school, crowning of the ice carnival king and queen, performances by ice skaters, horse-drawn sleigh rides, and snowshoe and skating races.

#### Trout Parade

The annual Trout Parade is held in Livingston Manor on the second Saturday in June. Organized by the Catskill Art Society (CAS) in partnership with the Livingston Manor Chamber of Commerce, this street fair brings the community together and encourages artistic expression through the creation of fish-themed floats and costumes for marching in the parade and by the display of student works in the windows of



Rotary Ice Carnival - ice skating event



Trout Parade

local businesses. This heritage celebration was begun in 2004 and includes marching bands, performing arts, live music, and merchandise tables.

### **7.2.3 Recreational Resources**

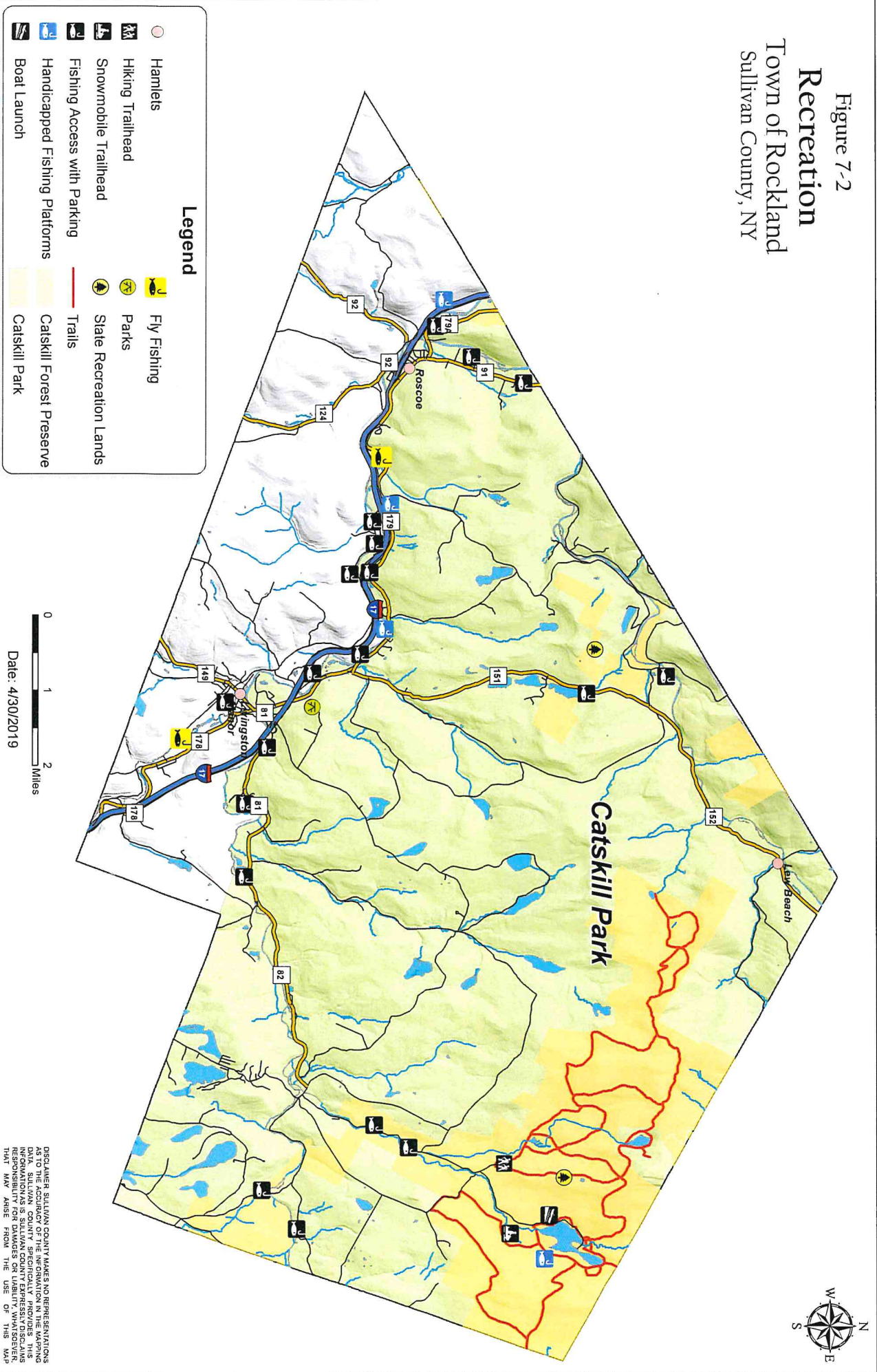
#### Catskill Park and Catskill Forest Preserve

In addition to Rockland's predominantly rural and low-density land use pattern, about 80 percent of the Town's area lies within the Catskill Park, and approximately 16 percent of that area includes the Catskill Forest Preserve (see Figure 7-2, Recreation).

The 705,500-acre Catskill Park is defined by its "blue line" boundary, which encompasses all or part of a number counties and municipalities and is characterized by the mix of public and private lands within this boundary. Approximately 41 percent of the lands within the Park are part of the Catskill Forest Preserve. Forest preserve lands are protected by Article XIV of the New York State Constitution, which designates this land as "forever wild." Classifications of forest preserve lands are Wilderness, Wild Forest, Primitive Bicycle Corridors, Intensive Use Areas, and Administrative Areas. The forest preserve lands in the town of Rockland consist primarily of the Willowemoc Wild Forest, the Beaverkill and Mongaup Pond Campgrounds (Intensive Use Areas), and the Catskill Fish Hatchery (Administrative Area).

The Catskill Park State Land Master Plan (NYSDEC, 2008) includes statistics on the Park's resources. The 242-acre Beaverkill Campground has 109 camping sites, a camping capacity of 654, and a picnic capacity of 300. The 680-acre Mongaup Pond Campground has 163 camping sites, a camping capacity of 978, and a picnic capacity of 450; additionally, there is a 150' beach and a launch for small, non-motorized boats. Willowemoc Wild Forest offers a variety of recreational facilities including 29 miles of snowmobile trail suitable for horse and mountain bicycle use as well as 26 miles of hiking/cross-country ski trails and a leanto at Long Pond. The Catskill Fish Hatchery near DeBruce produces an average of 120,000 pounds of brown and brook trout yearly for stocking the waters of New York State. The hatchery is regularly toured by groups of school children and attracts an estimated 5,000 visitors each summer. Adjacent to the hatchery is Camp DeBruce, a NYSDEC summer camp for youth. Based on environmental educational programming, campers are exposed to new skills, including archery, canoeing, fishing, fly-tying, birding, and can engage in sportsman education classes.

Figure 7-2  
**Recreation**  
 Town of Rockland  
 Sullivan County, NY



Both Livingston Manor and Roscoe are primary gateways to the Park, leading to numerous forest preserve resources in and beyond the Town. In addition to accessing the forest preserve resources via these hamlets, there are numerous other noteworthy recreational destinations in the forest preserve to the north. These include, the Balsam Lake Fire Tower, Alder Lake, Little Pond Campground, Big Pond, several lean-tos, and numerous miles of hiking trails. During hunting season, the expansive tracts of forest preserve are a major attraction, boosting local economic activity. To the south of Roscoe in the town of Fremont is Crystal Lake Wild Forest. This is a 497-acre detached parcel of the forest preserve that includes a man-made lake, a short hiking trail with opportunities for camping, boating and fishing.

### Fishing

Rockland's many pristine lakes and streams, along with extensive public access to them, contribute to the Town's reputation as an angler's paradise. The Town boasts many public access points to world-class fly fishing streams that are secured by public fishing rights (PFRs) (Figure 7-2). PFRs are permanent easements purchased by the NYSDEC from willing landowners, giving anglers the right to fish and walk along the bank (usually a 33' strip on one or both banks of the stream). The majority of lands adjacent to the Willowemoc Creek are accessible via PFRs. Key access points are marked by yellow-on-brown wooden DEC signs. While access to private lands along some streams is not granted to the general public, fishing clubs and resorts do account for additional access to recreational fishing, which complements public fishing opportunities in the Town.

### Boating

Non-motorized boating is also a popular activity. In addition to Mongaup Pond, Crystal Lake, and other destinations mentioned above, Waneta Lake along the Beaverkill Road is a public destination with accessible fishing, picnicking, and car-top boat access.



Couple fishing (Beaverkill)



Catch of the day (Willowemoc Creek)

### Camping

The Town features a full range of camping opportunities. Two of New York State's seven public campgrounds in the Catskill Park are in Rockland (Beaverkill and Mongaup Pond). A third, Little Pond, is located just three miles from the town's northern boundary. Rockland is also home to three private campgrounds: Roscoe Campsites; Covered Bridge Campsite; and Hunter Lake Campgrounds. On forest preserve lands, there are lean-tos, designated campsites, and an abundance of primitive camping opportunities, consistent with NYS regulations.

### Hunting

Rockland serves as a major attraction and gateway for numerous types of hunting. New York State has designated seasons for Wild Turkey, Deer, Black Bear, Waterfowl, Migratory Game Birds, Furbearer, and Small Game Hunting. The arrival of deer season each fall helps support many local businesses in the community, including motels, restaurants, outdoor stores and food markets.

#### **7.2.3.1 Community Parks.**

In addition to recreation opportunities noted above, the Town is fortunate to have a several community parks located in or near Roscoe and Livingston Manor. These parks are open to the public and owned and maintained either by the Town, County, local school districts, local fire departments, and private individuals and organizations.

Covered Bridge Park. As discussed above, this park is located next to the Livingston Manor Covered Bridge along the Willowemoc Creek. The park offers excellent stream access, along with picnic areas, a pavilion and restrooms. The park is owned and maintained by Sullivan County.

Rotary Park. Located in Livingston Manor, the park is privately owned and maintained and is open to the public. It has two baseball fields, a multi-purpose soccer field, winter ice skating rink, playground equipment and restrooms. The park hosts the outdoor activities of the Ice Carnival each January. Under current plans to convert the adjacent O&W railbed into a recreational trail, the park will serve as a connecting trailhead.

Renaissance Park. Located in the center of Livingston Manor, the park is privately owned and maintained. It provides access to the Little Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creek. The park has a pavilion and is a gathering place for community activities. Livingston Manor Renaissance volunteers maintain the native plant garden and flower boxes at the park. The park is also an anchor on the proposed River Walk trail, which will provide enhanced access to the Willowemoc Creek by way of a linear park paralleling Main Street.

Round Top Trails. Located in Livingston Manor at the edge of Orchard Street Cemetery, the park is owned and maintained by the Town with help from a volunteer group. It features two uphill loop trails (.6 mile and .2 mile) on Round Top mountain with trailhead access near the mountain's base. The trails are



Renaissance Park entrance



Playground equipment (Livingston Manor Central School)

connected to each other with one loop featuring a scenic hamlet overlook while the other reaches Round Top's summit at an elevation of about 1,820 feet.

Riverside Park. This park is located in Roscoe and is owned and maintained by the Town. Opened in 2009, it features walking trails, three picnic areas, and access for fishing on the Willowemoc Creek.

Roscoe-Rockland Fireman's Field. Fireman's field is owned by the Roscoe-Rockland Fire Company and has a baseball field, several pavilions, and rest room facilities. In addition to firefighting training, the site may be used for a fee for certain events (e.g., parties, weddings) with permission from the fire company. Public events such as live music also take place.

Beaverkill Valley Fire Department Park. Located in Lew Beach next to the Beaverkill firehouse, the park is available for fire department members and their families. The park has a utility field/baseball field and a playground set with benches. The park can also be used by non-members for a fee.

School Facilities and Playgrounds. Livingston Manor and Roscoe Central Schools each have two baseball fields, a football field, a soccer field, a basketball court, one or more tennis courts, and a playground. LMCS also has a running track.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

#### **Strategy 1 Strengthen partnerships**

- Action 1.1 *Actively engage with the DEC and outdoor recreation stakeholders in the development and update of Unit Management Plans, the Catskill Region Recreation Master Plan, and other projects related to the outdoor resources of the Catskill Forest Preserve and Park.*
- Action 1.2 *Increase coordination among successful events and their sponsoring groups to further advance year-round activity calendars and related promotional events.*
- Action 1.3 *Seek to establish an events schedule on the Town's website and social media sites*

*to promote community participation and year-round visitation to the Town. The schedule could include events such the Trout parade and Ice Carnival as well school plays and musical concerts, senior center lectures and events, and agritourism events sponsored by local farms.*

**Strategy 2      Enhance existing resources and explore the creation of new facilities.**

- Action 2.1      *Pursue opportunities to better integrate local parks within a larger network through physical connections.* For example, the future O&W rail trail (i.e., linear park) could be connected to both Rotary Park and to a new sidewalk on Pleasant Street leading to Downtown Livingston Manor. The proposed River Walk Trail will be linked to Renaissance Park and the Downtown Livingston Manor sidewalk network.
- Action 2.2      *Explore connecting Roscoe and Livingston Manor via foot and bicycle paths.*
- Action 2.3      *Showcase the Town's many parks and recreation attractions as a whole.* Utilize interpretive media including printed and web-based as well as existing Downtown kiosks and new kiosks at other strategic locations such as the municipal parking lot. This effort could also include development of a mobile phone wayfinding application discussed in Section 5, Commercial Areas and in Section 9, Transportation.
- Action 2.4      *Improve access to community parks by improving hamlet walkability.* Connecting public parks via sidewalks and ADA compliant crosswalks would improve pedestrian safety and convenience.
- Action 2.5      *Assess existing bike routes and any new routes for adequate signage and promotional materials.* For example, bike routes could be included in the wayfinding mobile phone application discussed in Section 9, Transportation.
- Action 2.6      *Explore the creation of new parks, including reuse of lands at the former poultry processing plant, the former airport, and other locations.*
- Action 2.7      *Explore development of a community center.* Identify potential locations, partners, and types of programs and facilities, e.g., recreation hall, fitness equipment, and meeting space.
- Action 2.8      *Explore the creation of a Town parks & recreation department.* This department would improve maintenance and general upkeep of existing and future recreation facilities including parks, walkways and trails, and bicycle

paths. Personnel could also assist at Town events such as the Trout Parade and 4th of July parade.

- Action 2.9      *Explore the creation of a visitors' center for the western gateway to the Catskill Park. A visitors' center can orient arriving visitors and interpret the resources in and out of the Catskill Park. One potential location for such a center is adjacent to the O&W caboose located next to the Route 17 exit ramp at Livingston Manor.*
- Action 2.10     *Continue to support efforts to complete the Livingston Manor River Walk Trail and the O&W Rail Trail.*
- Action 2.11     *Encourage proposed subdivisions to develop multi-use pathways and linking of open spaces. Subdivision plans should recognize and address this through the creation of pathways for walking and/or biking that connect to other trails, recreational spaces, or areas of Town. Open spaces that are created or maintained by the design of a subdivision should consider trail connections to other similar open spaces where opportunities present.*

**Strategy 3      Advance historic preservation efforts.**

- Action 3.1      *Work with historic resource partners to explore advancing recommended actions from the Bearverkill Valley and Livingston Manor historic surveys.*
- Action 3.2      *Explore development of historical walking tours for community use and to promote historic tourism. Utilize the Town's historians and information from the Beaverkill Valley and Livingston Manor historic inventory surveys to identify historic buildings of local interest or importance to include on the tour.*
- Action 3.3      *Consider enacting a town historic preservation ordinance that will allow the local designation of historic landmarks and districts.*
- Action 3.4      *Consult with the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the eligibility of notable properties for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.*
- Action 3.5      *Post historic survey reports and documentation of historic properties on the Town's website to raise awareness and encourage participation in the Town's historic preservation efforts.*
- Action 3.6      *Work to build on the Town's historical assets, cultural events, and arts programs as a complementary theme for tourism, recreation, and economic development.*

**Strategy 4      Work to provide recreational opportunities for persons with special needs.**

- Action 4.1      *Seek to identify playground equipment that may be appropriate for flood-prone hamlet parks that would accommodate special needs persons including mobility challenged persons. Such equipment is versatile and can be used by children of all ages and abilities.*
- Action 4.2      *Encourage the development of multi-use trails and walkways that are accessible to special needs persons including mobility impaired persons.*

**Strategy 5      Seek governmental and private sector funding opportunities.**

- Action 5.1      *Community stakeholder groups and organizations should work regularly with Town government to explore and develop funding opportunities to accomplish objectives in this section.*