

## Town Parks & Recreation Committee – Park Highlights

By committee member Adeline Rudolph

In this time of COVID-19, we are encouraged to stay at home, but when you need to take a break, visiting a local outdoor park or trail is a great option. As the NYS DEC states: “Getting outdoors to walk, jog, hike, ride a bicycle, fish, or visit a park or state lands is a healthy way to stay active, spend time with immediate household family members, and reduce stress and anxiety when practicing social distancing.”

The new state guidance asks hikers to hike locally and avoid unnecessary travel. If public lands are near your home, the state says it’s still okay to use them if you are responsible and follow the current guidelines, elaborated below.

Here are some lesser known parks and trails you may not yet have visited within the Town of Canandaigua (and click [here](#) for a list of all Town Parks on our website):

The new **Miller Park** on the corner of County Rd. 32 and Route 21 provides stunning views of the City of Canandaigua as well as the Bristol Hills. Follow the rolling hills and grassy paths to find nature signage and a gazebo. This is a very easy place to practice social distancing as well. There are also no playgrounds to tempt small children, who may not understand restrictions. You can access the park via the parking lot on Route 21.

**Onanda Park’s Upland Trails** hold many treasures, including waterfall views that are easier to see in early spring, lake views, and even a hidden lean-to. Onanda also has newer trails you may not have encountered which can be accessed from Barnes Rd. Of course, the lakeside area is open as well, with rocks for skipping in the lake and a stream to explore.

**Blue Heron Park** has a frisbee golf course (please do not share frisbees), a nice flat multi-purpose path, and ponds to enjoy. It’s perfect for a walk with kids and dogs or a little birdwatching.

**The Peanut Line Trail** provides a short, flat hike through the woods featuring an old culvert and an interpretive sign. You can find the trailhead parking on County Rd. 30, near Thomas Rd.

**The Switchback Trail** links Middle Cheshire Rd. to West Lake Rd. and the City of Canandaigua. Good for walkers or bikers with a bit of a challenge going uphill. This trail can help connect larger runs/ walks from West Lake to Middle Cheshire Rd.

**McJannet Park** offers a scenic view of Canandaigua Lake, just south of the hamlet of Cheshire on Route 21. This is a great wide open view you can see without leaving your vehicle as well.

Beyond Town parks, [Ontario Pathways](#) offers an extensive trail system that crosses through the Town of Canandaigua and beyond (the trailhead next to the Ontario County fairgrounds is easy to access).

[Ontario County Park](#), located off Route 64 is another great outdoor destination for local families.

In addition, our neighbors in the City of Canandaigua, Victor, and Farmington have several trails and parks to explore. Visit their websites to see details and park locations.

As you use our Town of Canandaigua parks, please keep in mind:

- Stay local and keep visits short;
- Visit in small groups limited to immediate household members;
- Maintain distance from others while in places where people tend to congregate, such as parking lots, trailheads, and scenic overlooks;
- All playgrounds, basketball courts, and other equipment are closed;
- Avoid equipment like slides and swings and other frequently touched surfaces;
- Avoid unnecessary contact with surfaces that are often touched, such as geocaches, doorknobs and handrails
- If you arrive at a park and crowds are forming, choose a different park or return another time/day to visit; and If parking lots are full, do not park along roadsides.
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least six feet of distance between yourself and others, even when outdoors;
- Stay home if you are sick, or showing or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, coughing, and/or troubled breathing; Avoid all close contact, such as shaking hands, hugging, or high-fives;
- **New Yorkers over 70 years old or with a compromised immune system should not visit public spaces, including those outdoors.** These New Yorkers should remain indoors or spend time in the backyard or other personal outdoor space, pre-screen visitors by taking their temperature, and require visitors to wear masks.
- New Yorkers who are sick or have had contact with someone who is sick in the last 14 days should stay home and spend time in the backyard or other personal outdoor space. Do not visit public outdoor spaces.

Please, enjoy our public outdoor spaces safely and locally. Stay healthy and enjoy getting to know our Town of Canandaigua parks.