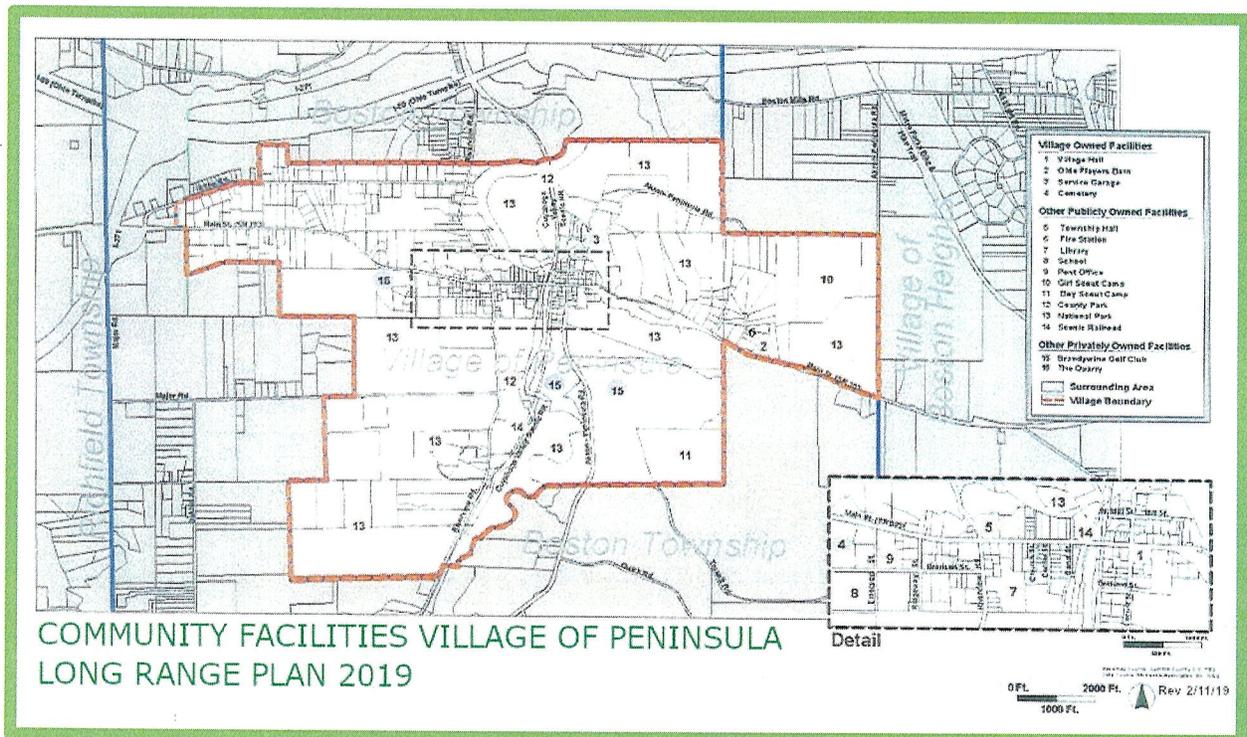


Facilities and Services

Long Range Plan Update Facilities and Service Policies

- Continue to build upon relationships with the School District, Library, other recreational site owners, and the Recreation League, to ensure availability for Village resident recreation use.
- Build on existing properties and facilities to ensure adequate recreational use opportunities for all Village residents.
- Explore the formation of a recreational district with adjacent communities.
- Adopt zoning requirements to ensure that future land uses protect and conserve important Village natural, physical, cultural, and historical resources and open space.
- Undertake a careful review of the status of the Village Service Garage and Players Barn properties.
- Continuously evaluate the need for improved storm water regulations and infrastructure.
- Monitor changes in communication technology to ensure the best service is available to the Village residents and businesses.
- Ensure that the scope of water/sewer availability is consistent with the goals and policies of this Long Range Plan Update.

Overview. Local recreational and community facilities were inventoried to create a compilation of parks and other community facilities found in the Village and surrounding region. The inventory has not changed significantly since the 2003 Long Range Plan with two exceptions; the Woodridge Intermediate School was sold to Heritage Classical Academy, a

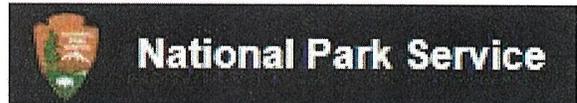


private school for children in kindergarten through eighth grade; the Village's Fire station and fire services, provided by the Valley Fire District, is located in a new facility just to the east of the center of the Village.

Community facilities exist for the benefit of the citizens of the Village. The region's fire and police stations, schools, parks, and various community facilities provide residents with access to services and recreational opportunities. The *Community Facilities Map* that follows provides additional information related to public and private facilities available within the Village.

Existing Regional Recreation Facilities. The Village of Peninsula is literally surrounded by tens of thousands of acres of park and recreation land. The Village sits within or near to National, State, and County - as well as a number of private - recreational facilities. These facilities offer various types of recreation and programming. Activities include but are not limited to downhill and cross country skiing, ice skating, golf, sledding, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, walking, nature interpretation, picnicking, boating, kayaking and swimming. Many recreational classes are offered, including, but not limited to crafts, nature and recreation are available to the public free of charge. Some facilities have cabins and meeting rooms that can be rented by the day.

The Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), surrounding the Village and encompassing roughly three quarters of the land area of the Village, flanks the Cuyahoga River and extends between Cleveland and Akron. The CVNP measures nearly 33,000 acres (more than 60 square miles) in gross area, including nearly 20,000 acres (more than 35 square miles) under Federal ownership. This sprawling park includes biking, hiking, picnicking, winter sports, and fishing and nature programs. The CVNP website (www.nps.gov/cuva) lists all improvements and amenities in and near the park.



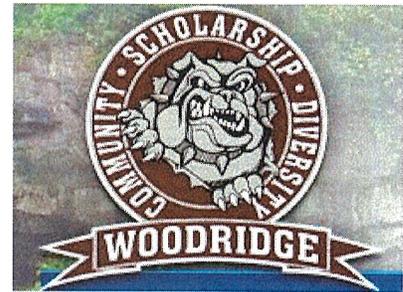
Deep Lock Quarry Metro Park is located along the east side of Riverview Road, adjacent to the Cuyahoga River, near the Village's southern boundary. This Park preserves the land surrounding the lock along the Ohio and Erie Canal that raised and lowered boats the greatest depth of any other lock on the Canal. Today the site is heavily vegetated and includes trails, a quarry trail, and a portion of the Towpath Trail. It also has a large paved parking lot and a hike/bike access trail from the Towpath to the Park. Metro Parks, serving Summit County (Metro Parks) is an important source of recreation in the region. The Metro Parks website (Summitmetroparks.org) includes a summary of the organization's history and properties. Metro Parks is financed by a real estate tax levy, which voters are periodically asked to approve, as well as the income earned from revenue-producing facilities.

Other nearby Metro Parks properties include the Bike & Hike Trail in Boston Heights to the north and east, Furnace Run in Richfield to the west, and O'Neil Woods and Hampton Hills in Cuyahoga Falls to the south.

Existing Village Recreation Facilities. The Village does not currently own and maintain any parks. Much of the recreational services and activities available to Village residents are provided by other communities, the national and regional parks or private entities.

Other Public Recreation Facilities. Other public facilities are available - in varying degrees - to Village residents, whether by virtue of meeting residency requirements or simple proximity. Some of these facilities are listed below.

School Facilities. The Woodridge Local School District has various facilities located throughout the School District and is also a provider of recreation services for Village residents. Although these facilities are designed to meet the needs of school children and are located outside of the Village, many of these facilities are made available to residents, including Village residents, at nights and weekends. The new Woodridge Elementary School, located on Quick Road, has a playground facility open to all residents. The Intermediate School property on Bronson Street was sold to a private educational institution, and therefore, the facilities previously available at that site are no longer publicly owned.



Adjacent Community Facilities. Many adjacent communities have a variety of parks and recreation facilities that are open and available to the public. Richfield Village and Richfield Township have a joint recreational district to provide recreational opportunities to the area. In addition, the City of Cuyahoga Falls to the south has numerous recreational facilities and a state of the art Natatorium that are available to non-residents. Boston Heights has a community park facility located off Olde Route 8. The pavilion and kitchen are available for rental to non-residents.

Private Recreation Facilities. In addition to public facilities available for use of all Village residents, several private facilities exist and provide a variety of services to their respective memberships.

- ❖ Brandywine Golf Club is located on several hundred acres along Akron- Peninsula Road in the Village. This property includes an 18-hole golf course, as well as a 9-hole par three course. The facility is privately owned, but open to the general public.
- ❖ The Quarry is located on a portion of the Haramis property on the south side of Main Street (SR 303), west of Riverview Road. The Quarry offers seasonal memberships to residents of the Village and surrounding areas, is maintained by a private association,

and offers swimming in an abandoned quarry filled with water.

Existing Recreation Facility Analysis. National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) no longer publishes a set of standards for various facility types based strictly on a community population. The 2003 Long Range Plan used the NRPA's old standards to provide a baseline to determine the need for recreational facilities in the community. Since needs of the population vary from one community to the next, the NRPA recommends a more comprehensive evaluation of area facilities and services rather than a simple comparison to a standards table. That evaluation is beyond the scope of this Long Range Plan Update. However, a review of the information presented in the 2003 Long Range Plan could lead to the conclusion that the Village is well served by numerous recreational options.

Park Types. For planning and management purposes, recreation professionals classify park and recreation facilities based on the type of facility and expected usage. It is important to note as an introductory comment that, due to the size of the Village, the function of Mini-Parks and Neighborhood Parks could be interpreted as being interchangeable in the Village. Also, the population or "community" that frequents Village recreation facilities includes not only Village, but also surrounding Boston Township residents. Frequently, a six-tier classification system for parks is used, as described below:

- ❖ **Mini-Parks.** Mini-Parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. The park next to the Bronson Church, which is used for numerous community activities, could be considered this type of park.
- ❖ **Neighborhood Parks.** Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide areas for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks are generally 15 acres or more in size and serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius from the neighborhood they serve.
- ❖ **Community Parks.** Community parks typically contain recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas for intense recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks, such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities.
- ❖ **Regional/Metropolitan Parks.** Regional parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping and trail use. Many also include active play areas. The Village is surrounded by an abundance of these types of facilities such as the



Deep Lock Quarry Park and the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

- ❖ *Special Use/Conservancy Parks.* Special use recreation facilities are typically single-purpose recreation facilities, such as golf courses, nature centers, outdoor theaters, interpretative centers, or facilities for the preservation or maintenance of the natural or cultural environment. Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment may be the primary focus with recreation use as a secondary focus. There are several such facilities surrounding the Village.
- ❖ *Passive Parks.* The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments and fountains, and historical features. The regional/metropolitan parks discussed above provide a variety of passive park areas.
- ❖ *Linear Parks.* A linear park is any area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, and pleasure driving. Built along natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, abandoned railroad easements, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as schools, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas and desirable site characteristics may be developed into linear parks. Both the Towpath Trail, Cuyahoga River and the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, are considered to be linear parks.

Recreation and Park Challenges. The Village does not maintain its own recreational facilities' or activities. This is not unusual for a community of its size. Since the community is relying on private resources or the use of facilities from other communities, it does present some challenges. These include the following:

Reliance on School Sites. Historically, the Village relied on presence of the Woodridge Intermediate School to provide opens space and some play equipment for the community. The sale of the property to a private school has moved that site from a public facility to a private one thus reducing the access to the opens space and play equipment. Current school sites are all located outside of the Village.

Facility Ownership. The Library, the Girl Scout Camp, and other park facilities are not owned or controlled by the Village. While this fact could be seen as a negative by the Village, the Village could alternately participate formally and actively in whatever process decides programs and events to be offered at these facilities in the future, to assure consistency with goals of this Long Range Plan Update.

Program Offerings. The function of a Village recreation department or organization is performed by a combination of School District and private recreation league programming. This is not surprising, however, due to the small size of the Village. The Village should periodically evaluate whether this arrangement is meeting the needs and

desires of the residents. Opportunities for joint cooperation should be explored if the Village determines the existing facilities and services are inadequate.

Administration. Areas for joint cooperation and administration among the Village, adjacent communities, and the School District should be explored, including the possibility of a joint authority.

Open Space. Protection of open space is important for the ecosystem and natural habitat. Although the Village includes and is surrounded by an astounding amount of permanent open space, this should be factored into future land use planning and decision-making when considering future proposed development and redevelopment.

Current Availability of Privately Owned Facilities. In addition to the publicly owned facilities mentioned, the Brandywine Golf Club and The Quarry are privately owned facilities that offer an additional range of recreational opportunities. Preserving the recreational nature of these facilities are consistent with the Village's mission and goals.

If the community demands additional recreational activities, a Recreation Master Plan would help the Village to set recreation priorities, identify potential funding sources, and focus attention to recreational facilities with the greatest needs. Additionally, the Village may wish to explore the option of requiring large residential development, should it occur, to provide property or fees-in-lieu of property to support recreation enhancements in the Village. Consideration of participating in a joint effort with the surrounding communities could also be explored as a means of expanding recreational options to residents.

Public Schools. As noted previously, the Village is served by the Woodridge Local School District. This District mostly covers areas outside of the Village, in adjacent communities including Boston Township and portions of the City of Cuyahoga Falls. The Woodridge Local School District has a total of three facilities, including an Elementary School, Middle School, and High School on a campus located outside of the Village. With the recent construction of a new Middle School, no school facilities are located in the Village.

Public Facilities. The Village's community facilities are the structures and lands, public and semi-public, which provide the support services for the citizens and the Village. In addition to the recreation facilities noted previously, Village owned facilities include Village Hall, the Village Service Garage, and the Players Barn.

- ❖ Peninsula Village Hall is located at 1582 Main Street, at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street (SR 303) and Akron-Peninsula Road. The Hall includes offices for the Village Administration (Mayor and Clerk), as well as the Village Police Station.
- ❖ The Village Service Garage is located on North Locust Street, near its current terminus,

and serves current Village needs adequately. A recent fire destroyed the building and contents of the facility. The option of relocating this facility should be explored. The property is located adjacent to the Village's industrial area which may provide an opportunity to support future development or redevelopment of the area.

- ❖ The Players Barn is located on 1039 West Streetsboro Road (Main Street), on the east side of the Village. The site includes the barn building, gravel parking area, and considerable vacant land. The Village should undertake a careful review of this asset, including its reuse capabilities (public or private), desired ownership and use scenarios, and its possible sale. Since the property is located within CVNP statutory boundaries, coordination with the Federal government in this regard should take place.

Community Services. The Village of Peninsula provides the following services to its residents and businesses.

Police Protection. The Village has its own Police Department, which provides police protection to Boston Township as well as the Village. The Village Police Department operates from a single station in Village Hall.



Fire Protection. The Village (along with Boston Township and Boston Heights) is part of the Valley Fire District, which operates from two stations, one inside the Village and the other outside of the Village. Since the 2003 Long Range Plan, a new station was constructed on Dogwood Drive off of SR 303 just east of the center of the Village.



Road Maintenance. Public roads within the Village are maintained by the State (SR 303) and the Village (all remaining public). In addition, a few small private roads are located in the Village, some as extensions off public roads, and some as isolated cul-de-sacs.

Storm Water. The Cuyahoga River runs through the center of the Village and with it brings potential issues of flooding. As noted in the Land Use Chapter, various properties adjacent to the river are located within the 100-year flood area and are required to carry Flood Insurance. However, issues related to storm water flow and isolated flooding can occur outside of that area. The Village may wish to consider a more detailed review of the storm water system and its future needs, particularly if new development and redevelopment occurs.

Communication Systems. The Village is currently serviced by several private for-profit communications businesses that provide cable and internet service to the residents and businesses. Wi-Fi is important to the tourism and to the downtown business area. It is also critical tool to support the small entrepreneurs or people working from their homes. As our

economy continues to focus on the “internet of things” it is important that the technology available to the Village residents and businesses stays current. The Village is ripe for an increase in businesses in this area and adequate communication facilities will support their development. As new technology develops, such as 5G and small cell technology, the Village should work to encourage its development but not impact the small town character it is working to preserve.

Public Water/Sanitary Sewers. No municipally owned water or sewer service is currently available in the Village, but a feasibility study for the possible extension of such sewer service has been conducted and is under consideration by the Village. Land use planning decisions can be supported - or undermined - by decisions made on the provision of public water and especially sanitary sewer services. If any Village areas are to be served by such services in the future, the goals and policies of this Long Range Plan Update must be adhered to in deciding not only where to provide service and what level of service to provide to which areas, but also - and possibly more importantly - where *not* to provide service. Such decisions, if not closely coordinated with this Long Range Plan Update, could seriously conflict with this Plan's purpose.

Other Public Facilities. The Boston Township Hall, owned by Boston Township, is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Main Street (SR 303) and Riverview Road and houses not only Boston Township offices, but also a museum. The property and grounds for both of these buildings serve as a public gathering place on many occasions, including Memorial Day and others. The Peninsula Library and Historical Society is located on Riverview Road, south of Main Street (SR 303) and is a full-service library managed by a private association and supported by the Peninsula Library Foundation.

Semi-Public Facilities. There are two active churches within the Village. These include the Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church on Akron-Peninsula Road and the Peninsula United Methodist Church on Main Street (SR 303) at Akron-Peninsula Road. A third church - the Bronson Church - is located on Main Street (SR 303) west of Akron-Peninsula Road but has been converted to non-church use. The other semi-public facility is the G.A.R. Hall owned by the Peninsula Foundation. It provides traditional roots entertainment through the “Voices in the Valley” program. Located at the intersection of Main Street and Riverview Road, the facility also hosts the Civil War Lecture Series from March to October.

Summary: Facilities and Services Policies.

- ❖ Continue to build upon relationships with the School District, Library, other recreational site owners, and the Recreation League, to ensure availability for Village resident

recreation use; and include cooperative maintenance agreements and other financial support as appropriate.

- ❖ Build on existing properties and facilities to ensure adequate recreational use opportunities for all Village residents.
- ❖ Explore the formation of a recreational district with Boston Township or other adjacent communities.
- ❖ Adopt zoning requirements to ensure that future land uses protect and conserve important Village natural, physical, cultural, historical resources, aesthetics and open space, and enhance environmental stewardship.
- ❖ Undertake a careful review of the status of the Village Service Garage and Players Barn properties, including reuse capabilities and scenarios.
- ❖ Ensure that the scope of water/sewer availability is consistent with the goals and policies of this Long Range Plan Update.
- ❖ Continuously evaluate the need for improved storm water regulations and infrastructure.
- ❖ Monitor changes in communication technology to ensure the best service is available to the Village residents, businesses and visitors.