



# Fort Hardy Park Master Plan Newsletter #1 - August 16, 2021

## Project Introduction

The Village of Schuylerville received a grant from New York State through the Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to craft a Site Master Plan for Fort Hardy Park. The primary goal of the master plan will be to provide a roadmap for the development of a set of projects designed to update the form, function and efficiency of the park. The master plan will seek to respect the rich history of the site while best utilizing its beautiful open spaces for passive and active recreation.

The LA Group of Saratoga Springs has been engaged as the consultant to guide the Village through the master planning process. The plan will carefully consider the existing uses in the park, the layout of buildings, improvements to existing sports fields and infrastructure, waterfront access, and pedestrian pathways connections to the nearby Canal Region Visitor Center and Champlain Canalway Trail/Empire State Trail. A funding implementation plan will guide how the recreational improvements to the park can be best implemented.



## A Park Rich in History

Fort Hardy Park, also known locally as Schuyler's Canal Park, was a French and Indian War supply fort constructed in stages from 1755 to 1757 by the British as part of the campaign against the French in the upper Hudson Valley. The Field of Grounded Arms was the site where the British Army gave up their armaments after their surrender at the Battles of Saratoga. This was the first major victory for the Americans and convinced France, Spain and the Netherlands that the small united colonies might just win against the most powerful army in the world.

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The site is now a peaceful park that all may enjoy. It rests between part of the old Champlain Canal (a dream of General Schuyler), and the mighty Hudson River. The Park is maintained by the Village of Schuylerville and is the site of many events during the year, from the Turning Point Parade in August to river contests, and other recreational events during the summer, fall and winter. Fort Hardy Park is also the centerpiece for youth sports and recreation programs through the Old Saratoga Athletic Association.

## Master Plan Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) has been carefully selected to reflect the cross-section of park users and the community. The committee will begin meeting in August. Members of the MPAC include Dan Carpenter, Tim LeBaron, Dave Roberts, Tom Wolski, Mike Prendergast, Cathy Boden, and Beth Woodard.

## Public Outreach and Meetings

Public outreach and stakeholder participation will play a key role in the success of the master plan. Three public meetings are planned to assess the needs and preferences of the residents.

- **Public Meeting #1**  
will focus on program development.
- **Public Meeting #2**  
will focus on soliciting input on the Master Plan Concepts.
- **Public Meeting #3**  
will present the Master Plan and receive final comments.

The first public meeting will be scheduled for this fall. We look forward to hearing from the community about shaping the future of Fort Hardy Park.



**Department  
of State**

*This Master Plan will be prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.*

*Please email your comments and questions to Tracey Clothier, [tclothier@thelagroup.com](mailto:tclothier@thelagroup.com).*