

TOWN OF MALTA

PARKS & RECREATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2014



Malta Department of Parks, Recreation & Human Services
ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00am - 8:00pm & Saturdays 9:00am - 12:00pm



Opening Day at the Luther Forest Athletic Fields

CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH
PEOPLE, PARKS & PROGRAMS

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2014 Eagle Scout Project



Malta Seniors Having Fun



To enhance the quality of life in our community, the Town of Malta Parks, Recreation & Human Services Department strives to be a leader by providing exceptional programs, facilities and services. We thank you for viewing the Parks & Recreation Annual Report which highlights town's facilities and the department's accomplishments and activities. We invite your feedback and hope you enjoy all of the recreational opportunities that Malta has to offer.



GLOBALFOUNDRIES / Town of Malta Foundation

In 2014, the Department was instrumental in securing seven successful grant awards from the GLOBALFOUNDRIES/Town of Malta Foundation.

- \$4,000 to revitalize the Collamer Park.
- \$1,000 to expand the Eco Explorers Discovery Pack loaner program.
- \$4,000 for field equipment for the upkeep of Town fields.
- \$4,000 for programs for children and their families.
- \$4,500 for the 2015 Summer Concert Series.
- \$10,000 for the Honor Flight program for Malta veterans and their guardian.
- \$5,000 for additional stage lighting at the community center.

Concerts, Programs, Camps and Events

- In 2014, 1095 resident households and 1189 non-resident households were registered in the system with a total of 2284 resident and 1995 non-residents in those households.
- There were 355 facility reservations.
- 168 gifts were provided to 28 children at holiday time.
- 564 bags of groceries were provided to those in need.
- A Halloween drive provided costumes to local children.
- AARP provided tax services to \pm 400 people.
- Donations of toys and candy for Easter baskets were provided to families coping with cancer treatments.
- American Red Cross blood drives collected 91 pints of blood.
- 501 children participated in summer camps.
- 72 counselors were hired for summer camps.
- Over 400 programs were provided to our community.
- Camp Malta provided \$60,420 in revenues
- All programs accounted for \$286,542.25 in revenues.
- The part-time recreation sports specialist brought in \$18,170.50 in gross revenues. After deducting all of her payroll expenses, this town employee brought in a 63% profit.

Rentals

Rentals accounted for \$65,413.77.

- \$22,707 was attributed to room rentals in the community center which includes birthday party packages. Birthday parties started in the winter of 2014 and brought in \$2,110.
- \$8,762.50 was attributed to pavilion or event reservations at the two parks
- \$33,944.27 was attributed to the rental property adjacent to the center.
- Room 106, provided as a free service to town residents, was used 66 times for a \pm \$1,000 benefit to our residents.

Senior Services

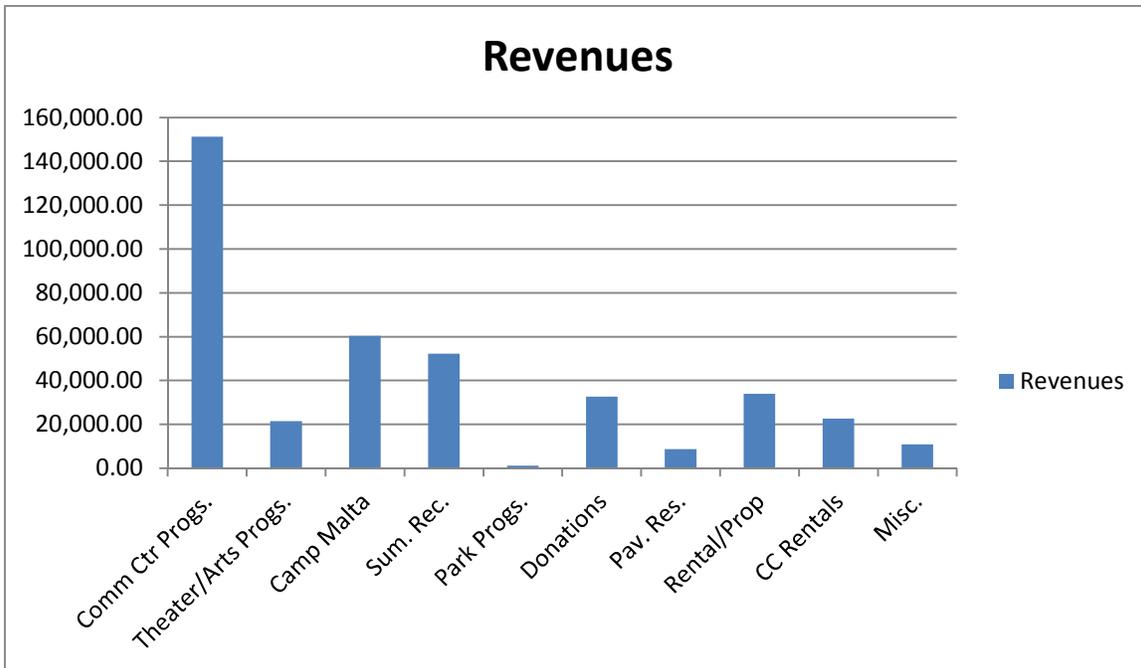
The town provides many opportunities for seniors throughout the year from health and wellness opportunities, AARP tax and driving courses, the Saratoga County meal program, legal services and many others not included in the program numbers above. The use of the building is made available and fees are waived to provide these opportunities to our seniors as well as to the Malta Senior Citizens, Inc., a not for profit club under agreement with the Town.

The Town operating budget provided \$10,000 to fund senior programming. Residents from the Town (which includes the Village of Round Lake) age 60 or older are provided a 50% discount on most classes priced \$30 or higher.

- In 2014, the program was used \pm 353 times by 87 different residents for a total of \$8,964 discounted dollars.
- The average senior customer used the discount for +4 classes.
- The average class discount was +\$23.
- The average discount amount used per person was +\$92.
- All but 6 classes would have paid for the instructor and produced a profit without the senior subsidy. The amount that would have been required to pay for those 6 classes without the subsidy would have been \$91.40.
- \pm \$7,200; the amount of fees waived for rooms for senior program/meeting use. This does not include the hours used for the Saratoga County meal program.

Financial Snapshot

In 2014, the Department took in over \$396,732.51 in revenues



Malta Community Park



Malta Community Park	22.5± acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Softball/Youth Baseball Field • 2 Tennis Courts • 1 Basketball Court • Nature Trail - .75 mile • 2 Pavilions • Playground • Swings • Bathroom Facility
	44.6± acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undeveloped Open Space

In 1986 The Town of Malta entered into an agreement for 22 ± acres within the Luther Forest to be set aside for possible future use as a park. The construction of the Town's first active recreational facility became a huge community effort. In 1990 the Town Board appointed a park committee. The committee formalized a five-year plan.

In 1993 the Malta Community Park opened with the Summer Recreation Program utilizing the site. The number of children enrolled in the program doubled for the year and grew by 100 children for the next several years. The Town's first park was so successful that it quickly outgrew the facility and the Town Board started seeking another facility for the southern end of the Town, the Shenantaha Creek Park.

The Malta Community Park is located in a forest of pine trees. The sandy plain area, which used to be an old glacial lake, is the active recreational area of the park. A nature trail that was expanded by Girl Scouts earning their Girl Scout Gold Award and a Boy Scout earning his Eagle Scout Award follows the valley of a small stream where there is an abundance of wildflowers, ferns, mosses and other vegetation. The paved trail to this park is the Parade Ground Trail.

Shenantaha Creek Park



Shenantaha Creek Park	61.4± acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Soccer Fields • 2 Tennis Courts • 2 Basketball Courts • Paved Multi-Purpose Trail • 2 Pavilions • Playground • Swings • Volleyball Court • Bathroom Facility • Open Space • Primitive Area • Historic Moraine Area • Flax Mill Ruins
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Shenantaha, meaning “deer water” is the Iroquois name for the Ballston Creek which forms the eastern boundary of the park. In 1993, the Town Board commissioned the Ruhle Road Park Committee to plan a park on ± 56.1 acres of land along the Ballston Creek and an abandoned rail right of way. Since the land was essentially land locked to vehicular access, the Town purchased an additional ± 5.29 acres for access and egress in 1995. The park opened in 1997. The Shenantaha Creek Park is rich with history. Surrounding the active recreational area of this old farmland are woods full of oaks, maples, pines, hemlocks and shad. There is a moraine area where deep bowls worn in rocks may be mortars used for grinding acorns by Native Americans or may be the result of glacial action. The remains of a mill that pressed flax seed oil can be found along the creek. There are many foot trails leading to the stream and wooded areas with old stone walls. This beautiful park contains a balance of active recreation, historical features, and protected open space. The paved trail along this park is the Zim Smith Trail.

Malta Ecological Park



Malta Ecological Park	188 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft surface trails • Kiosk and interpretive signage • Multi-use open space used for unleashed dog area • boardwalks
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The Malta Ecological Park was developed to protect the site's abundance of natural resources, including extensive wetland areas. Trails and boardwalks lead to areas to view and interpret nature in its natural setting. Phase I of the park was completed to provide the infrastructure of the park. Phase II of the park will lead to a large pond for fishing, a beaver dam and a heron rookery. The extension of the trails, boardwalk and interpretive signage system will increase the Town's system of passive recreation opportunities year-round.

Collamer Park



Collamer Park	1.1±	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Small Basketball Court • Picnic Areas
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The Wiggins-Collamer House was built circa 1835 by George Wiggins. It remained in the family until 1972 when Nelson P. Collamer, the great, great grandson of George Wiggins donated the parcel to the Town of Malta. The home was used as the Malta Town Hall in the 1970's. While residing in the house, Mr. Collamer allowed the property to be used as a public park for campers and picnickers.

While the park grounds are open to the public, the building has been sold to a private business.

Luther Forest Athletic Fields



Luther Forest Athletic Fields	34 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Softball #1 298' X 250' • Softball #2 298' X 250' • Softball #3 320' X 250' • Softball #4 298' X 250' • Soccer Field #1 120' X 165' • Soccer Field #2 120' X 165' • Soccer Field #3 210' X 330' • Soccer Field #1 210' X 150' • Concession building with bathrooms • Concession building
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Phase I of the Luther Forest Athletic Fields was completed in 2012 and included two softball fields with skinned infields and sod outfields to accommodate various age groups; three soccer fields installed with sod

for various age groups and a gravel parking area. Phase II, completed in 2015 will add two additional softball fields and two concession/restroom/ storage facilities.

The Malta Athletic Association is a not for profit made up of local leagues that provides maintenance and operations of designated field space in the town in return for field use. Want to join or get involved? Call 899-4411. To receive more information or to rent a field, go to www.maltaathleticassociation.com .

Round Lake Preserve



Round Lake Preserve	92 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trailhead and interpretive signage • Picnic area • Boardwalk with dock and gangway for fishing • Canoe/kayak launch
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In 2008, the Town of Malta and Saratoga PLAN partnered to preserve a critical environmentally and archeologically sensitive area adjacent to the Round Lake and Anthony Kill watershed. In doing so, farmland, scenic vistas, critical environmental areas and historical resources of the site and region were protected and public access to Round Lake and the Anthony Kill was provided. The Round Lake Preserve property consists of 92 acres, including 57 acres of upland farmland and wetlands owned by Saratoga PLAN. The Town of Malta owns the remaining 35 acres, which consist of a lakefront parcel and the existing site access road. With an Environmental Protection Fund grant award and Town funding, Phase I on the project will be completed in 2015.

The boardwalk, located on the Anthony Kill, introduces you to a paddler’s paradise. The creek meanders seven miles downstream to Mechanicville where it empties into the Hudson River. You may have to navigate obstructions like fallen trees and beaver dams that may block the waterway. Further downstream, the creek develops Class II and III rapids, best attempted by well-equipped and experienced paddlers.

If you enjoy fishing, you can launch at the Preserve and travel upstream to Round Lake for top-notch fishing and wildlife viewing. Many warm weather fish species thrive there, including large mouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill, pumpkinseed, northern pike and brown bullhead. Round Lake is particularly known for its largemouth bass which shelter under matted beds of vegetation. A plastic frog lure can entice these

aggressive hunters from their hiding spots. Anglers also find success by fishing weed less jigs or plastic worms and tubes rigged weed less in holes in vegetation. Take along binoculars and watch for wildlife in the wetlands and open water.

Trails



Residents and visitors to the Town travel easier and safer throughout the Town by way of shared use trails and sidewalks connecting strong links to neighborhoods, parks, the downtown and neighboring towns. In 2014, the Town Board passed the following policy.

Winter Maintenance of Multi-Purpose Trails

The Town of Malta has developed the following policy in order to respond in an orderly, consistent, and fiscally responsible manner to the desires of the community for a basic winter trail policy. This policy has been developed based upon the recognition that there are limited community resources. It also recognizes the inherent nature and variability of winter conditions. The Town expects that its agents, employees, and officials will exercise both discretion and professional judgment in determining whether and when trails need to be maintained.

- The removal of snow from trails is based on the availability of staff to perform the work. There are no guarantees that the removal of snow will occur within a specific time period.
- Trails will be cleared as time allows and after all other maintenance, roadway, parking lot and sidewalk snow and ice control operations are completed.
- Recognizing limited resources, trail clearing will occur during regularly scheduled shifts, Monday through Friday. Overtime will not be expended to clear trails during non-work hours. Scheduled work hours may be adjusted if resources permit.
- Trail clearing will begin when the snow depth exceeds 2 inches or the snow has subsided for 48 hours.
- Accumulations resulting from drifting and/or snow deposited as a result of public street snow removal operations will be performed as determined necessary by the town.
- Due to mechanical limitations of equipment and trail irregularities, trails will not be cleared or maintained at dry pavement level. Materials such as sand and salt will not be used. Surface irregularities and slippery conditions may result.
- Due to the construction of the trails, the use of heavy equipment such as backhoes or dump trucks will not be used for snow removal. No hauling of snow away from the trail will occur due to potential damage to the trail surface or edges.
 - OR -Areas where snow must be hauled away will wait until additional personnel and equipment are available to assist.

- Breakdown of equipment will result in delays in snow clearing until repairs are made. Every attempt will be made to continue the program after the repairs are made.
- The town will not be responsible for any damage or restoration to lawns or property that is within the right-of-way.

Based on trails that see high traffic pedestrian use and support commercial areas, the following are identified as priority trail snow removal areas.

- The Parade Ground Trail along Dunning Street to the Malta Community Park; and
- the Ice Cream Trail; along Ruhle Road South to Mallard Cove.

The trail priority designations will be reviewed annually. This policy is subject to change based upon current winter conditions.

Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parade Ground Trail • 5 ½ miles of trails in Luther Forest Technology Campus • Zim Smith Trail & Extension • Ruhle Road Bridge Extension • East High Street Trail • Ice Cream Trail
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David R. Meager Malta Community Center



Malta Community Center	7.23 acres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-purpose room with stage • Classrooms • kitchen • Meeting rooms • Gymnasium • Library • Fitness room
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In 1999 the Town constructed an intergenerational community center to provide social, health, recreational, cultural and educational opportunities for residents of the Town. In 2009 the doors of a 20,000 sq/ft expansion opened that included a library, fitness room and gymnasium. The gymnasium was dedicated to Gerald Winters who devoted many years as a volunteer to the Town and started both the Malta Seniors club and the Malta Youth Commission. The community center houses the Department of Parks, Recreation & Human Services who offer many classes at this location. Rooms in the center and the gymnasium are available to rent by calling 899-4411.