
FRIENDS OF CLIFTON PARK OPEN SPACE

www.cpopenspace.org

August, 2016

A “Central Park” for Clifton Park!

Shenendehowa School Board Has 34 Acres For Sale

Currently, the school owns 34 acres of rare open space in the middle of the Town’s Town Center Zoning District. The School Board has decided to sell this property for a fair price and it is our understanding that the Town of Clifton Park continues to be interested in buying this property and keeping it in the public domain.

Friends of Clifton Park Open Space urge the School Board and the Town government to work together toward the Town’s acquisition of this property which runs behind the YMCA and down to the Library property—behind the Hannaford Plaza by the Shatekon School.

Once gone, this beautiful open space will be gone forever. School Board’s Request for Bids is Due 10-31-16

The Time To Act Is NOW!!



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There’s Lots of Ways A “Central Park” Would Enhance Our Town Center

Acquisition Comes First, Planning Second, but some ideas..

- Complement existing parks in western Clifton Park with a generous open space in the eastern part of town.
- Create a possibly less rugged, more groomed park at the hub of town activity as a gathering point for town-wide commercial, civic and public events similar to Congress Park in Saratoga Springs or The Crossings in Colonie.
- Augment existing public facilities such as the School campus, Public Safety complex, Library, the Commons and Collins Park further west.
- Attract shoppers to the economic activity in the surrounding commercial entities.
- Encourage guests in the “Hotel District” to “stay awhile” and enjoy Clifton Park commerce.
- Improve property values with the area’s attractiveness.
- As this parcel is already tax exempt, no property is removed from the tax rolls.
- Establish an attractive Commercial, Civic and Public use “anchor” for Southern Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce promotional activities.
- Provide a needed walkable area retreat for future multi-use developments slated for this Town Center Zone.

This initiative can complement the suburban fabric of Town and enhance its sustainability, economic competitiveness, and livability.

If you agree, contact the Town:

By Phone @ 371-6651 or Via Email:

pbarrett@cliftonpark.org

If you agree, contact the School Board:

boe@shenet.org

If you agree, send a Letter to the Editor:

Community News: cnews@saratogian.com

Schenectady Gazette: opinion@dailygazette.com

2013 Town Center Plan

On March 8, 2013, an Open House was held by the Town of Clifton Park from 4 to 6 PM to provide the public with a chance to see preliminary ideas in the Town Center Plan and share their concerns and suggestions.

Approximately 35 people attended the Open House. They had the opportunity to participate in informal discussions with planning team members. The following are comments & suggestions received which relate to or support the idea of a Town Center Park in the District:

- Additional Open Space (green space / functional public spaces)
- Establish a Sense of Town Identity – this is Clifton Park
- Push Rt146 below grade with N/S car, bike, pedestrian traffic
- Include performance/art/culture assets
- Include playground area in open space
- Have new building go up rather than out to preserve open space.
- Make sure bike paths and sidewalks are wide enough to accommodate pedestrians walking and riding in both directions.
- Town Hall as focus at end of Clifton Country Rd or combine with Justice Building & have it bridge developed & natural areas to the west
- Develop zoning for the area along the Northway please consider requirement for visibility and sound buffering. We don't want Clifton Park looking like a Long Island town on an Expressway
- The study area is saturated with concrete and other impervious surfaces and auto dependent infrastructure. Design standards that will discourage status quo conditions and encourage more soft surfaces, pedestrian facilities and pedestrian connectivity.
- Mixed use with residential facilities must be encouraged.
- The lack of green space in the study area needs to be addressed, as well as drainage of surface water flow from all impervious surfaces. Flooding of roadways does occur on. It needs to be eliminated.
- Green space by Shatekon School should be a priority to preserve
- Bike facilities should be expanded because we have a critical mass of retail services. With more residential use of this study area, bikes could be all one needs!

MORE IDEAS:

TODAY:

- Land surrounded by Private, Public, Semi-Public Entities
 - Two schools
 - Multiple Shopping Plazas and Hotels
 - Library
 - Shen Campus
 - Public Safety Building
 - YMCA
- Currently is wooded with a mature growth forest
- Existing trails meander through these woods connecting the schools with the Library and the main Shen Campus

IMMEDIATELY:

- Existing trails and path network on the property
- Short term opportunity for immediate use,
- No major town development expenditures.
- Existing character of the parcel has wooded amenities **BEFORE** development takes place.

LONG-TERM:

- Town “green” with amphitheater for concerts and events that could attract town-wide
- Suburban gardens with park benches that offer a chance to catch glimpses of sun or relax in the shade.
- Interactive water feature where children could play and cool down in the summer
- Paved paths for bikers, handicapped-access, joggers, strollers, etc.
- Some tree clearing for more manicured space with lawn areas for picnics, Frisbee toss, or lawn games

Email us your ideas at: friends@cpopenspace.org

These are only ideas. Based on past practices, the Town would likely initiate a process of educating the public on potential concepts & soliciting their ideas and involvement in the creation of any town plans for the land.

The important thing now is ACQUISITION!! Help us Make That Happen!!!

Would You Contribute to an "Open Space" Fund? Tell us at friends@cpopenspace.org

FRIENDS OF CLIFTON PARK OPEN SPACE would like your **financial help** in sustaining our research and outreach efforts. If you would like to help in this way, please detach, complete and mail the form below with your check made out to: **FCPOS, P.O. Box 821, Clifton Park, New York 12065**

--Or--Go to our website: www.cpopenspace.org and make a contribution directly from there.

Thank you very much for your support!

Yes, I want to help Friends of Clifton Park Open Space in their work to preserve the “Park” in Clifton Park

I would like to contribute: \$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Clifton Park Open Space—or—FCPOS

Friends of Clifton Park Open Space is a 501C3 corporation and Contributions are fully deductible as a charitable donation