

Community Facilities Introduction

Community facilities and services are one of the more visible aspects of the Town and Village's involvement in the life of its citizens and help make a positive statement about its visual character. Identifying needs related to community facilities, is important within the Comprehensive Plan process. By maintaining facilities to meet the growing demands of residents and visitors, the community can enhance its quality of life.

This chapter provides an overview of the existing public facilities, public recreation areas and facilities, infrastructure, and services available in the Town and Village.

Government Facilities

The Clayton Town Office is located at 405 Riverside Drive, in the basement of the Clayton Opera House. The Town Supervisor's office is located there, along with the Town Clerk, the Code Enforcement Officer, and the Town Assessor. There is also a fully accessible room available for community meetings.

The Village of Clayton Municipal Building is located at 425 Mary St. The Mayor's Office is located there, along with the Village Clerk, Treasurer, and the Joint Village/Town Court. This facility is also completely Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.

The Town Highway Department and the Village Department of Public Works share a joint Highway Facility, occupied since 1994. The Highway Dept. also benefits from shared services with other Towns, the Village, Jefferson County, and the TI Central School District.

Community Facilities Goals:

1. Pursue funding sources for public utilities and parks projects consistent with community priorities.
2. Pursue funding sources to allow overhead utilities to be put underground in key areas.

Recreational Goals:

1. Continue to educate the public about year round recreation opportunities in the Town and Village, including winter activities and resources.
2. Explore and promote the many ecotourism based recreation opportunities in the Town and Village to increase awareness for enhancing tourism levels and to expand recreational benefits to residents.

Recreational Objectives:

1. Consider facility options and explore needed recreational facilities to expand year round activities.
2. Expand and maintain public access to the St. Lawrence River waterfront.

Recreational Strategies/Actions:

1. Enhance and maintain boat access facilities and dockage as use levels may warrant.
2. Continue the expansion of trails to include the Riverwalk as they are valuable community assets that enhance quality of life for residents and visitors.
3. Consider the expansion of pedestrian and bikeway recreation trails that will tie into existing pedestrian systems.
4. Continue the development of the Riverwalk and explore means of connecting the pathway to pedestrian/bicycle routes into the countryside. (Particularly, the Thousand Island Land Trust is seeking funds to convert a portion of the Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail into a pedestrian walkway/bikeway which would connect to the Riverwalk system. The project would still allow snowmobile use in the winter months.)

Police, Fire, and Rescue

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy and also based upon the public's perception of security.

The Town relies on the New York State Police, with a substation located on NYS Route 12 near the TI Bridge, and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement.

The Village is served by its own police force, housed in the Village Municipal Building. The Village's full time police department is composed of three full-time police officers and two part-time.

The Clayton Volunteer Fire Department provides fire and rescue service north of CR 5 while the Depauville Fire Department covers the Town areas south of CR 5. Approximately 90 firefighters are assigned to 4 companies, and equipment includes a hook and ladder, engines/pumpers, tanker, rescue trucks, and three fire boats (one is an air boat for winter water protection as needed).

The newly constructed Thousand Island Emergency Rescue Service building, on Graves St is the 911 ambulance service provider for the Towns of Clayton and Orleans in Jefferson County. Their paid paramedics serve 24/7/365, supplemented with paid and volunteer EMTs.

Medical Services

Samaritan Health Center is a primary care health center staffed with physicians and nurse practitioners Monday thru Friday, located at 909 Strawberry Lane, in the Village.

River Hospital is an independent hospital that provides access to primary health care to citizens in Alexandria Bay and surrounding

communities. It is 10 miles east of Clayton. Services include ambulatory surgeries, emergency services, cardio-pulmonary procedures, radiology, laboratory services, and physical therapy.

Cerow Recreation Park

The Cerow Recreation Park is located at 615 East Line Road in the Village. This multi-use, town-owned recreational facility is comprised of numerous components including an indoor arena that hosts events and shows in the summer and ice activities, including hockey and figure skating in the winter months. An Olympic-sized public pool, lighted basketball and tennis courts, baseball, softball and soccer fields encompass the outdoor recreation facilities. There's also an open air pavilion as well as a one mile perimeter walking trail around the 28 acre site for more leisurely pursuits.



Cerow Recreation Park



Village Square Park

Village Square Park

Clayton maintains a 2.70 acre park in the center of the Village surrounded by Park Circle Drive. Facilities include active recreation areas with a children’s creative playground, tennis court, and basketball court occupying half the acreage. The other half of the property accommodates passive recreation, with grass, trees, and several picnic tables. Its central location is considered within walking distance (about ¼ mile) of a large percentage of the Village. It is also the farmers market site that occurs on Thursdays, June - September.

Frink Park

Frink Park (about 1.2 acres) hosts events throughout the year, including weekly summer concerts in July and August, Independence Day Fireworks, Punkin Chunkin, et al. This Village-



Frink Park, Village of Clayton

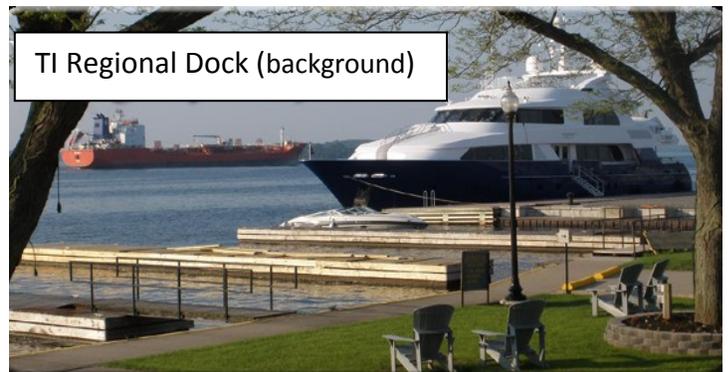
owned park and pavilion includes the Thousand Islands Regional Dock and a portion of the Riverwalk.

Veterans Memorial Monument

Veterans Monument at the end of John Street has served as a local memorial for veterans for over 50 years. It has places to sit, with views of the river, and provides direct access to the Riverwalk.

Thousand Islands Regional Dock

Frink Park shoreline includes a 386 foot long dock, known as the Thousand Islands Regional Dock, which accommodates tall ships, yachts, tugboats, and cruise ships each summer. Water depth is up to 27 feet, with six large and 21 small mooring cleats, it also has power, water, and fuel access upon request. Similarly, pump-out ability is available upon request. A grocery store



TI Regional Dock (background)

Rotary Park (foreground) Village Waterfront

is located 1/2 mile from the dock.

Rotary Park

Rotary Park (0.5 acres), also known as the Village docks, is a series of docks serving as free (3 hour) day use docks (with a donation box) just west of Frink Park in the Village, along with free public restroom facilities that serve the area. This strategic location along the waterfront is close

to many downtown businesses. It also boasts a fully accessible viewing platform.

Clayton Harbor Municipal Marina

This new facility includes 49 floating slips with 30', 40', and 50' slips as well as 68' and 88' T-ends. It also has a 300' Pier with 6 – 60' slips or combination. Services include electricity (30 amp and 50 amp service available), municipal water, wifi (included with no additional charge), laundry facilities, a pumpout, restrooms and showers.

Riverwalk

The Riverwalk is about 2,500 feet in length and connects the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel to Frink Park, Rotary Park, and Veterans Monument, adding a place to enjoy a stroll, walk, or run along the St. Lawrence River waterfront. The third phase of the Riverwalk, to be finished by November of 2017, will add 410 feet from John Street to sidewalks on Riverside Drive, near James Street.

Centennial Park

Another village park by the water, Centennial Park (1/3 of an acre) offers views of the St. Lawrence River with picnic tables, waterfront chairs, a waterfront walkway, and an interpretive War of 1812 historic board.

Clayton Lions Field

Located on Webb Street in the Village, it is a 4.7 acre lighted field for Town and Village residents. The school system and community organizations use it for football, softball/baseball, and soccer. Wintertime uses include sledding and oval skating. Its year-round use is very important to the community, having been the site of fairs and carnivals. It also has a playground and water fountain.



Clayton Harbor Municipal Marina



Riverwalk, Village of Clayton

Clayton Lions Field, Village of Clayton



Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT)

TILT helps preserve the regional landscape by accepting conservation easements and in fee property, and then establishing accessible areas for public enjoyment. TILT is a non-profit organization based in Clayton that relies on memberships to cover its operational expenses, seeking outside grants, and private donors to fund programs and conservation initiatives. Currently, TILT protects over 8,200 acres of land, some fee-owned and the rest as conservation easements, including important wetland, grassland, and woodland habitat. This includes over 40 miles of trails that are open to the public year-round. Refer to their website for a full description of their efforts.

Foster-Blake Woods Nature Trail - A quiet footpath through the woods along the Palisades, the trail leads to an overlook of the St. Lawrence River at the water's edge. Located 3.7 miles west of the Village of Clayton on NYS Route 12E. There is a small parking area marked by two boulders set back from the road.

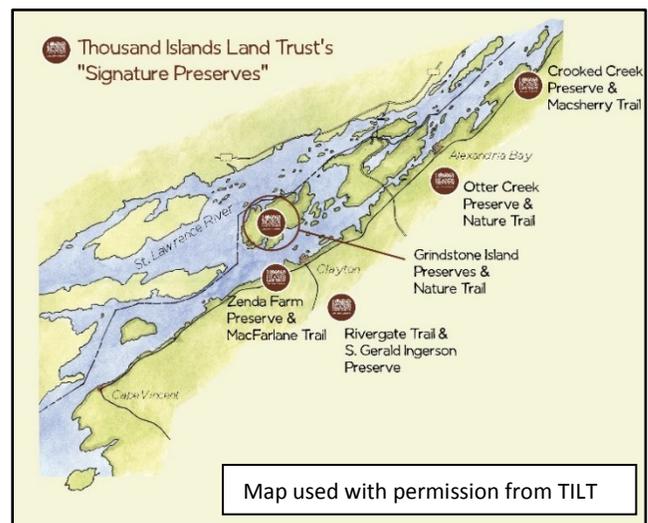
Grindstone Island Nature Trail - This one mile long trail connects Canoe Point and Picnic Point in the State Park at the foot of Grindstone Island.

Sissy Danforth Rivergate Trail - Built on the old New York Central Railroad bed in the towns of Clayton, LaFargeville and Theresa, this 27 mile trail is a great place to hike, bike, and ski. The Rivergate Wheelers ATV Club has a trail map on their website. An application is pending to plan for a seven mile paved extension of the Riverwalk to LaFargeville in the Town of Orleans.

Zenda Farm Preserve - A farm of over 400 acres near the western edge of the Village is home of the annual Community Picnic, boasts a 1.5 mile

walking trail, pastures, pothole ponds, a restored wetland, forests, and a series of ten Historic Jamesway Buildings which are the only examples of their kind in the United States.

Otter Creek Preserve – Otter Creek Preserve is a 107 acre forested area with mature oak/pine ridges and field edges home to osprey, bald eagles, barred owls, great-horned owls, and red-tailed hawks, et al. It serves as a breeding habitat for neotropical migratory song birds. While it is near the Village of Alexandria Bay on NYS Route 12 and 26, it's only about seven miles from the Clayton Town Boundary.



Eagle Wings Shoal, Dive Site - One of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail dive sites, its series of unique rock formations and adjacent deep water support an interesting underwater ecological diversity example, ideal for scuba diving. Shallow water predators such as the largemouth bass and northern pike may be seen, and deep water fish such as smallmouth bass, walleye, and muskellunge are also frequent visitors. Freshwater drum, carp and suckers can also be observed. This small group of islands is also a rare nesting habitat for the NYS threatened species, the common tern.

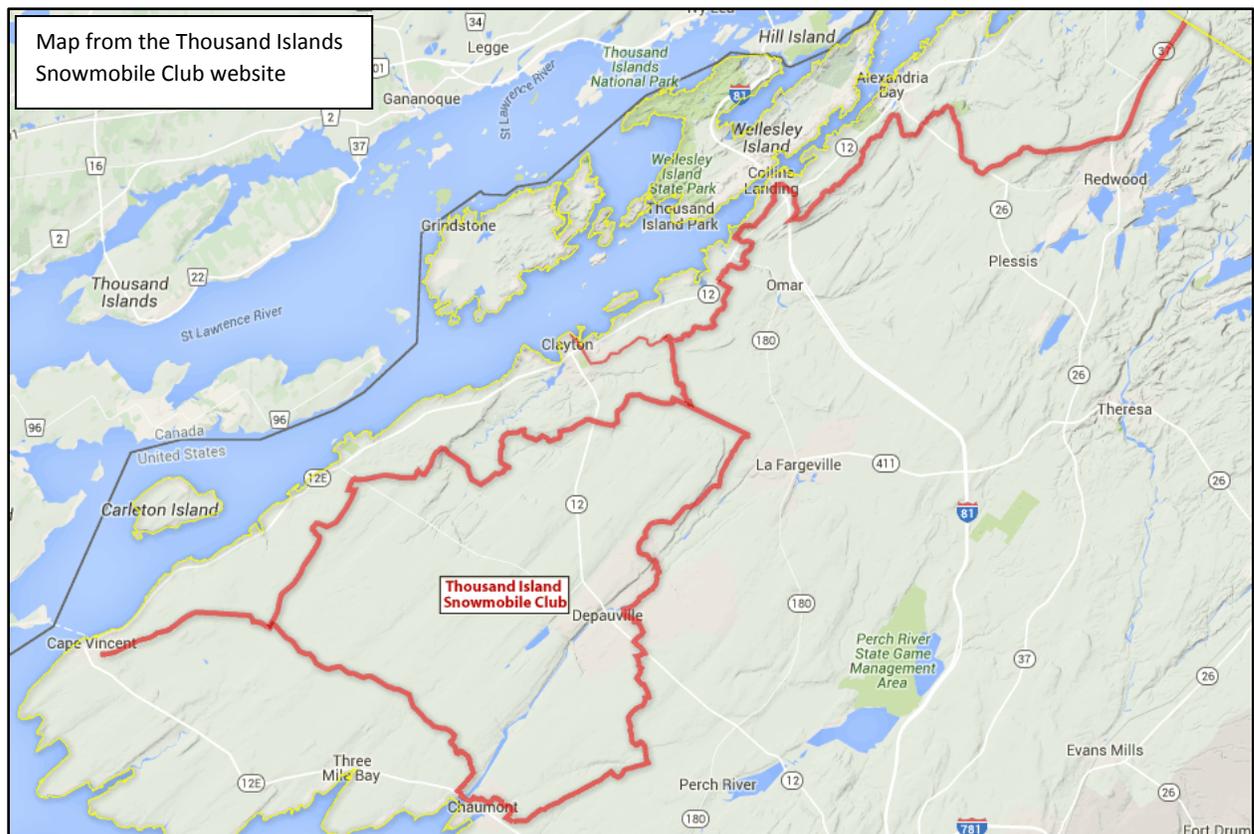
NYS Snowmobile Corridor Trail

The Thousand Islands Snowmobile Club maintains over 80 miles (2014-15) of New York State snowmobile trail that connects the Towns of Clayton, Orleans, Alexandria, Cape Vincent, and Lyme (refer to map below). It connects the Village of Clayton to Alexandria Bay and Redwood to the northeast and the Villages of Cape Vincent and Chaumont to the southwest, as well as the Hamlets of Depauville and La Fargeville. The club secures permission for the trail right-of-way from over 100 private landowners and maintains, grooms, and places signs along the trail throughout the system annually.

Within the Town of Clayton, the snowmobile trail travels from the west side of the Town westerly and connects to the Village of Cape Vincent. From the western edge, it then goes

through the French Creek wildlife management area through the valley just north the the C-Way Golf Club, then connects to the Rivergate Trail. From the Rivergate trail one can ride northerly and westerly to the Village of Clayton or northerly and then eastward to the Village of Alexandria Bay and beyond. One can also travel south from there along the eastern side of the Town near Depauville, then south to the Town of Brownville, and west to the Village of Chaumont and then northerly to the Village of Cape Vincent.

Potential riders should check the Thousand Islands Snowmobile Club website for trail conditions such as snow depth and grooming schedules to determine when riding will be possible. There website address is: www.1000islandssnowmobileclub.com.



In addition to the map on the previous page, refer to the Town of Clayton Recreational Facilities map for local trail locations.

The 1000 Islands Region offers thousands of acres to participate in activities to take advantage of this natural paradise. The Town as well as the region serves as an outdoor recreational playground to enjoy, from fishing to kayaking, diving and snorkeling, as well as golfing, hiking, boating, biking, camping, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling to name a few.

State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas

The Town is within the Thousand Islands Region of the NY State Parks system, includes one state park, Canoe Picnic Point, and is close to a number of others, including Cedar Point, Grass Point, Burnham Point, and Wellesley Island State Parks, all within a few miles of the Town. During the summer months, the parks offer visitors opportunities for camping, fishing, boating, swimming, and picnicking. Winter activities include cross-country skiing and ice fishing at most of the parks as well.

Canoe Picnic Point State Park is 70 acres, only reachable by boat at the eastern end of Grindstone Island in the Town, offering a quiet camping experience in a wooded area with dock space. Just south of the camping area is a picnic area, with a gazebo and shore dinner cooking facility. The park also has 25 campsites, 5 cabins, a nature trail and showers. Fishing is excellent and boat rentals are available nearby for those who may not own a boat.

Cedar Point State Park offers camping, fishing, boating, picnicking, and swimming on the St. Lawrence River a few hundred feet west of the Town line in the Town of Cape Vincent. It boasts 174 campsites as well as a beach, boat rentals, dockage, a marina with pump out station, a playground, pavilion, playing fields, and showers.

Grass Point State Park lies just east of the Hamlet of Fishers Landing in the Town of Orleans on the St. Lawrence River. It has 77 campsites and one cottage that is a full-service rental. The park is popular for campers, boaters, swimmers, picnickers as well as people who like to fish. There is a shelter, marina and boat launch, a game area, playground, and a sandy beach featuring shallow water suitable for kids.

Burnham Point State Park lies a few miles west of Clayton in the Town of Cape Vincent and, while small and quiet, has lightly wooded camping with 50 campsites. It offers showers, picnic tables, a playground, and boat launch (small crafts only) as well.

Wellesley Island State Park is a few miles east of Clayton in the Town of Orleans, but offers the largest camping complex in the NY State Park system with 431 campsites, 10 cabins, and 12 cottages. While most sites offer drive up accessibility, there are secluded campsites accessible only by foot or boat as well. The park has a full service marina and four boat launches, a sandy beach on the river for swimming, an indoor game area and 9-hole golf course. One of the main attractions of the park is the Minna Anthony Common Nature Center, which includes a museum, varied habitats such as wooded wetlands, 3 miles of shoreline and open granite outcrops, and 8 miles of trails for hiking,

cross-country skiing and nature education. The Nature Center hosts recreational and environmental education programs year round, both for the public and schools.

Keewaydin State Park is about 5 miles east of Clayton on the St. Lawrence Rive in the Town of Alexandria, and offers boating access, fishing, winter ice fishing, and cross-country skiing. The sheltered marina provides dock space for seasonal and transient visitors. Overlooking the river are 48 campsites. The park's terrain, provides vantage points for watching the ocean going ships. It also has an olympic size swimming pool and picnic areas.

French Creek Wildlife Management Area is a 2,300 acre area just west of the Village of Clayton. Parking areas can be accessed from the Bevins Road, Deferno Road. and one off NYS Rte 12E on a driveway across from the Zenda Farm Complex. The property consists of open meadows, hardwood uplands, and wetlands along the meandering French Creek. It supports a wide variety of small game, song birds, and waterfowl. Uses such as birdwatching, hiking, picnicking, hunting, fishing, trapping, canoeing, and kayaking are common activities on the property. Three parking areas serve visitors at access locations.

In addition to wetland birds, waterfowl and shorebirds, white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, and ruffed grouse are found on the upland portions of the area. Ring-necked pheasants are stocked in the fall to enhance the upland bird hunting. Local furbearing species include raccoon, muskrat, beaver, fox and coyote. During the spring the area has ideal conditions for angling, especially for bullheads and pan fish. Snowmobiles are allowed on this Wildlife

Management Area, but are limited to the 1000 Islands Snowmobile Trail which winds through the Wildlife Management Area, providing a scenic view of the winter landscape.

Other Recreation Facilities/Areas

The Clayton Country Club is a public 9 hole golf course on the east side of the Village on NYS Route 12. There is a Club House with a full bar and snacks. Memberships are offered, and weekly leagues, events, tournaments, and special events occur throughout the season. A paddle court is being relocated from the Yacht Club to the property as well, meant to be used during the winter months, and as a pickle ball court during the summer.

Natali's C-Way Resort and Golf Club is located between Depauville and the Village of Clayton on NYS Route 12. It includes a motel, in-ground pool, dining room, banquet facilities, and an 18 hole golf course. Memberships are offered, weekly leagues, events, tournaments, and special events occur throughout the season.

River Golf Adventures is an 18 hole mini golf course, arcade, and pavilion for birthday parties. It is located just outside the Village on NYS Route 12 east going toward Alexandria Bay.

Thousand Islands

The Thousand Islands constitute an archipelago of 1,864 islands that straddles the Canada-US border in the St. Lawrence River as it emerges from the NE Corner of Lake Ontario. They stretch about 50 miles downstream from Kingston, Ontario to Morristown, New York. To count as an island, emergent land within the river channel must have at least one square foot

of land above water level year-round, and support at least two living trees.

Two-thirds of the islands are in Canada's province of Ontario, while the remaining Islands are in the State of New York.

The Thousand Islands is world renowned destination corridor for nature lovers, and both Ontario and New York have government regulated parks along the waterfront. Fourteen of these islands form the Thousand Islands National Park, the oldest of Canada's national parks east of the Rockies. The park hosts campgrounds, docks for boat access and inland walking trails. Thirty New York State Parks are also located within the Thousand Islands Region, several of which were described previously.

Boating, Fishing, & Water Recreation

As a major market force and summer attraction to the area, St. Lawrence River shoreline and water activities range from swimming, fishing, sightseeing, and boating, which includes canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, ski-boats, speed boats, cabin cruisers, sailboats, yachts, off-shore performance boats, other pleasure craft, and tour boats. Recreation uses range from the obvious uses above to island and state park hopping, drifting/swimming as well as tourism related boating between islands, the U.S. mainland, and Canada.

The prevalence of water use and private boating and fishing along the St. Lawrence River is evidenced by the number of boat sales, boat repair shops, and marinas in the area. In addition, the St. Lawrence Seaway, previously mentioned, is a major international shipping

corridor serving the import/export needs of the Great Lakes region. Barges, riverboats, lakers and ocean going ships can often be seen using the Seaway throughout the shipping season. There are several boat launches and marinas in the Town and Village of Clayton.

Boat Launches/Marinas

Boat launches exist in Town and Village of Clayton at private marinas and at the public Mary St. docks, the Village owned dock and boat launch.

Open Access Telecom Network

The Open Access Telecom Network is a fiber optic network that the Development Authority of the North Country has been seeking funds for and expanding on in the region since 2003. It consists of carrier-class telecommunications network serving the northern portion of New York State, connecting our region to carrier locations in Syracuse, New York.

Within the Town of Clayton, the system provides access along NYS Route 12 from Depauville north to the Village, continues east along NYS Route 12 through to Orleans and Alexandria. Westerly the line continues along NYS Route 12E to Cape Vincent. In Depauville, the line continues west on Caroline Street onward through the Town of Lyme to Chaumont (refer to the Development Infrastructure Map).

Municipal Water/Sewer

The Village water system draws from the St. Lawrence River. The system has a 1,000,000 gallon capacity and reported current demand of approximately 30% (300,000 gallons).

The Village also has a sewage treatment system that was updated in 1995. It is designed to treat 1.1 million gallons per day and currently serves approximately half of that (0.5 MGD). Both of these systems are designed to allow for future expansion.

In 2014, the Village's original water and sewer lines installed during late 1800's were updated with a \$4.4M improvement made in the sewer distribution system using Cured in Place Piping (CIPP) lining to repair and replace 19,000 feet of lines. Other improvements included the East Union Street pump station replacement, the Riverside Drive pump station update including new pumps, and a new pump station that was added to serve the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel. A total of 19 pump stations in the village are required due to its geography and elevation changes. Additional upgrades to the Village water plant are planned for 2017.

The Hamlet of Depauville also has a sewer system designed to treat 0.034 MGD. It serves about half that capacity, with over 100 hookups using 17,000 gallons per day as of the year 2000. The system is permitted to treat 50,000 gallons per day. This system also has the potential to handle expansion in the area.

Other areas outside the Village include a municipal sewer district to Heritage Heights for 39 home owners and the Cape Vincent Correctional Facility for sewer. Bartlett Point will have 42 users to be served by a new water district in the Town.

Libraries

Hawn Memorial Library is located on John St. in the Village. Use is free with a library card for

year-round and summer residents. It offers books, magazines, and music CDs. Scanning, computers, and WI-FI use are free within the building. It is handicapped accessible.

The Depauville Free Library and Community Center was established in 1920. It received its charter in 1955 and moved into the old Depauville School on CR 179, Caroline Street. Serving as a community center with 3 acres, it includes a basketball/tennis court, small baseball field and playground maintained by the Town. The building is handicapped accessible.

Ecotourism

Ecotourism is an alternative form of tourism whose core element is nature based. Its intent is to raise awareness amongst travellers about the natural setting or place that they visit and at the same time minimize negative impacts of the activity. The main characteristics of ecotourism concern destinations where the cultural and environmental heritage are in abundance. It involves responsible travel to natural areas while conserving the environment and improving the welfare of local people.

Recreation Needs

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standard, ten acres of park and recreation related open space should be provided for every 1,000 people. While this standard has been used for years by many municipalities, recreational planners are now recommending that communities use the standards as a starting point and determine what the specific recreation needs are for their area. When this standard is applied to the Town of Clayton, with a Townwide 2010 population of

5,153 residents, the minimal amount of park and recreation open space recommended is approximately 51.53 acres including the Village (exceeded with existing facilities). The Village population was 1,978 in 2010.

Developed park and recreational facility acreage owned by the Town/Village is approximately 39 acres within the Village of Clayton, while 2,373 acres comprise the State Park, wildlife management area, and Depauville Library Community Center outside the Village. Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT) Properties are not included in this total which provide additional recreational opportunities.

Certain types of recreational facilities rely on population density to determine the level of need. The population density of the Town of Clayton outside of the Village is 38.74 people per square mile, according to the 2010 Census. Within the Village, the density is 1,177.38 people per square mile.

According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), playgrounds are the chief center of outdoor play for children up to twelve years of age. They also offer some opportunities for recreation for younger adults and families. Playlots should be provided for preschool children up to six years of age, primarily in conjunction with multi-family developments and where desirable, in single-family neighborhoods which are remote from elementary schools.

Table 19. National Recreation Field Standards

<u>Facility Type</u>	<u>NRPA Standard (per number of residents)</u>	<u>Existing Quantity</u>
Baseball Field	1 per 3,000	3
Softball Field	1 per 3,000	3
Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	2
Football Fields	1 per 20,000	1
Golf Courses (number of holes)	18 holes standard per 5,000	27 holes (one 18 hole course and one 9 hole course)
Picnic Shelter	1 per 2,000	1
Playgrounds	1 per 2,000	1
Soccer Fields	1 per 10,000	3
Swimming Pools	1 per 20,000	1
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000	3
Sand Volleyball Courts	1 per 5,000	

Source: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

It is recommended that three acres of playgrounds and/or playlots be provided for every 250 families. According to the 2013

American Community Survey data released by the Census Bureau, there were 849 families in the Town outside the village, and 504 families in the Village. Therefore, there should be around 9 acres dedicated in the Town, and 6 acres in the Village. Currently, there are multiple locations within the Village that have playgrounds as described in a previous section, with one outside of the Village in Depauville at the Library/Community Center.

Playfields are multipurpose recreation areas, primarily for the use of adolescents and young adults. They often include athletic fields for such organized sports as baseball, football, soccer, and track while playgrounds for the use of smaller children are also often included on the same site. Per National Recreation and Park Association standards, three acres of playfield space should be provided for each 1,000 persons served. According to this standard, there should

be approximately 15 acres of playfields provided within the Town. Currently there are playfields in multiple locations in the Village: Cerow Park, Clayton Lions Field, and Village Center Park. In the Town, the Depauville Library/Community Center has a small ballfield and a basketball/tennis court.

Individual standards per field type are another way of looking at potential need for certain fields in the area. The National Recreation and Park Association is the primary source for such standards and are illustrated in Table 19. However, local priorities for facilities should also be considered. Of note: there have been concerns expressed that our youth field sports programs are in need of additional fields. At this time a review of the need for an additional youth soccer field or fields would be appropriate. Any new field or fields could also be available for other youth sports (i.e. lacrosse, field hockey).