

Nyack Parks Commission Meeting Minutes February 2026

Meeting held Saturday, February 15, 2026, in Memorial Park

Attendees:

Jim Willcox

Andrea DeVito

Minerva Parker

Chris Lattanzio

Joe Carlin (Village Liaison)

Marcy Denker, Village Sustainability Coordinator

The meeting begins at 11:00 a.m. at the upper field in Memorial Park.

Village Sustainability Coordinator Marcy Denker requested a meeting with the Parks Commission to discuss plantings and a new pathway from the southeast corner of the upper park near Piermont Avenue. Last year, the fence was extended as part of a plan to redirect foot traffic into the park away from the eroded “goat path” and instead toward the staircase.

Marcy pointed out that the park master plan shows a pathway to the staircase, and the way to get people to take that route would mean obstructing access to the eroded goat path. New soil and some plants were added in that area as part of the big landscape project two years ago, but without adequate attention to the need for protecting them, most of the shrubs were trampled.

The new plan involves new plantings that would block access to that slope without interfering with the children’s sledding areas. In addition, the plantings should also be designed to integrate the existing elements of the landscape—from the fence and existing trees to the memorial to the edge of the implied (or future paved) path into the park.

Marcy shared a plan that directs traffic to the steps, with an alternative route to the south side of the park down the sledding hill. Passersby would continue to have a view of the river from the fence, above the shrubs, and between the trees. The planting scheme includes small and large native trees, shrubs, and various flowering plants, making it an attractive feature year-round and contributing to the biodiversity in this little corner.

The Parks Commissioners discussed the need for a clear pathway from the fence to the steps so people can easily understand the new route. The master plan called for an additional pathway to the steps from the north side of the upper park, but it was deemed unnecessary and unlikely to be used. There was also a discussion about erecting a rope fence with plantings to deter people from using the goat path. There was some concern expressed that plantings alone wouldn’t be sufficient to keep people from continuing to use the goat path, so some alternatives will be considered.

The hope is that the plan can be implemented this spring, starting with three small flowering trees. The plants could be purchased with donated Tree Project funds and planted by volunteers in May. Marcy will supervise the soil preparation (decompaction and addition of compost) in late March or early May and source the other plants for planting after that. Marcy is hoping to get volunteers from the Parks Commission, Parks Conservancy, Tree Committee, Climate Smart Committee, and Pollinator Pathway to assist with the plantings.

There will be a follow-up meeting in March to discuss further actions.

Meeting concludes at 12:30 p.m.