



Village Improvement Society *of Saranac Lake*

Improving and Beautifying
Saranac Lake since 1910



VIS -- Celebrating 112 Years!

In 1910, ten women banded together and formed the Village Improvement Society of Saranac Lake in order to implement the Olmsted Brothers plan for Saranac Lake. Over the past century, VIS acquired land and created parks throughout the Village.

*“Small open spaces scattered about a village ...
furnish the opportunity for people to rest outdoors.
... Such small bits of park are very real and
important elements in making for civic beauty and
the joy of living...”*

-- Plans for Improvement of Saranac Lake by Edward
Clark Whiting, Landscape Architect (Issued by: Village
Improvement Society of Saranac Lake; 1910)

VIS Today: About Us

* Not-for-Profit, Volunteer-Run Organization

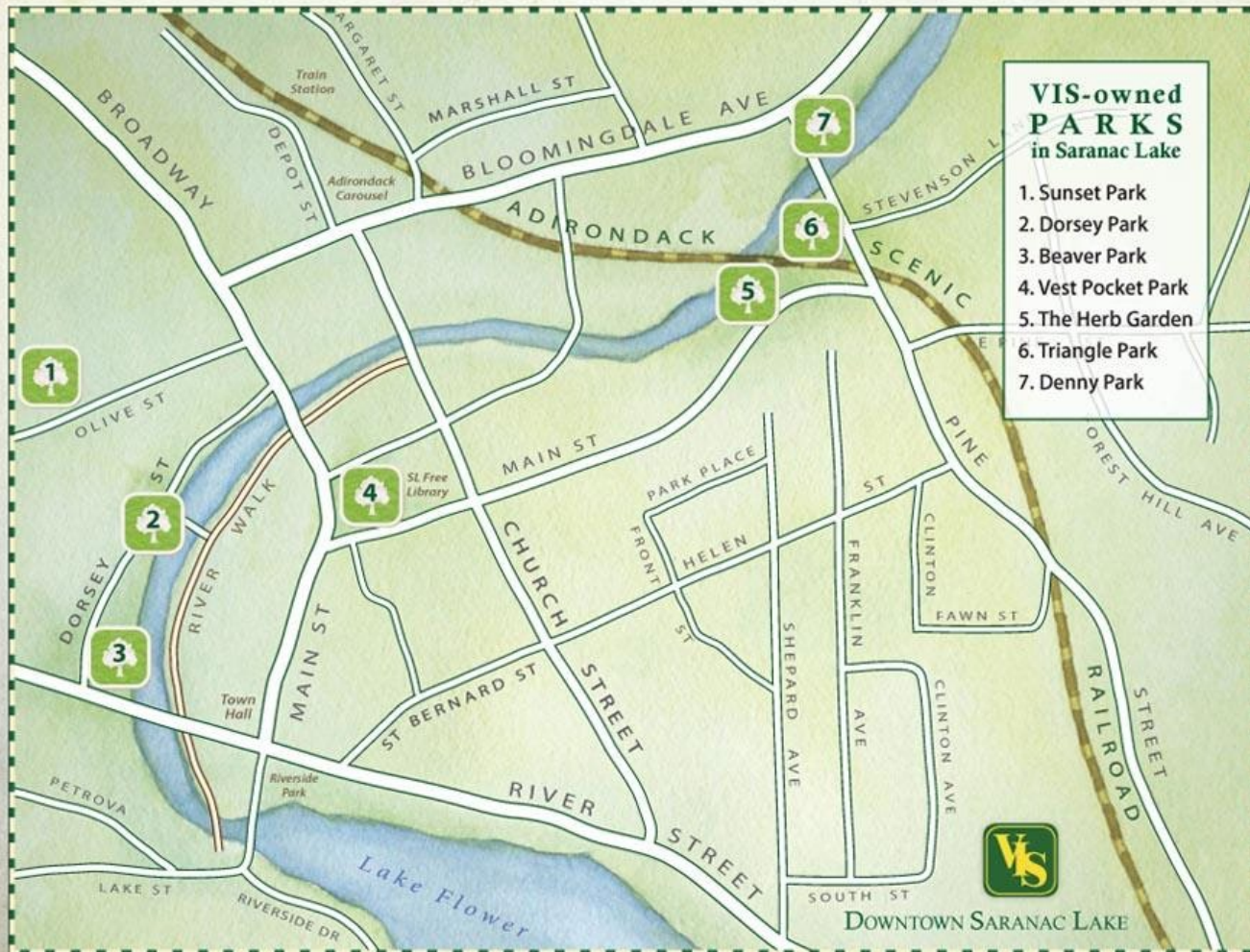
* Organizational Structure

- Board of Directors
- Sub-Committees (Parks; Plantings; Communications)
- Park Managers
- Volunteers (various activities)
- Operating funds from annual appeal donations

The VIS Board

- President: Randall Swanson
- Vice President: Meg Holmes
- Secretary: Open
- Minutes: Tracey Schrader
- Treasurer: Liz Johnson
- Roger Steinbrueck (Plantings Coordinator)
- Donna Walsh (Campership Coordinator)
- Cris Winters (Communications)
- Lisa Paschke
- Judy Steinburg
- Chris DiStefano

VIS Maintains Seven Parks



Beaver Park

Park Manager: Jacob Vennie-Volrath



Beaver Park is a popular fishing and picnic spot that overlooks the river.



Vest Pocket Park

*Park Managers: Jenni Evans
& Roger Steinbrueck*



Located next to the Saranac Lake Library, Vest Pocket Park is a pleasant place to relax while shopping downtown.

You can access the Library's wi-fi system from the park.

Denny Park

Park Manager: Randall Swanson

Denny Park features an extensive lawn and a variety of trees. The park is an attractive entrance to the eastern edge of the Village.



Dorsey Park

Park Manager: Kathy O'Kane



Dorsey Park's secluded location makes it an ideal spot to sit and view the river. You'll find a park bench sheltered by shade trees and a cedar hedge.

Triangle Park

Park Manager: Lisa Paschke

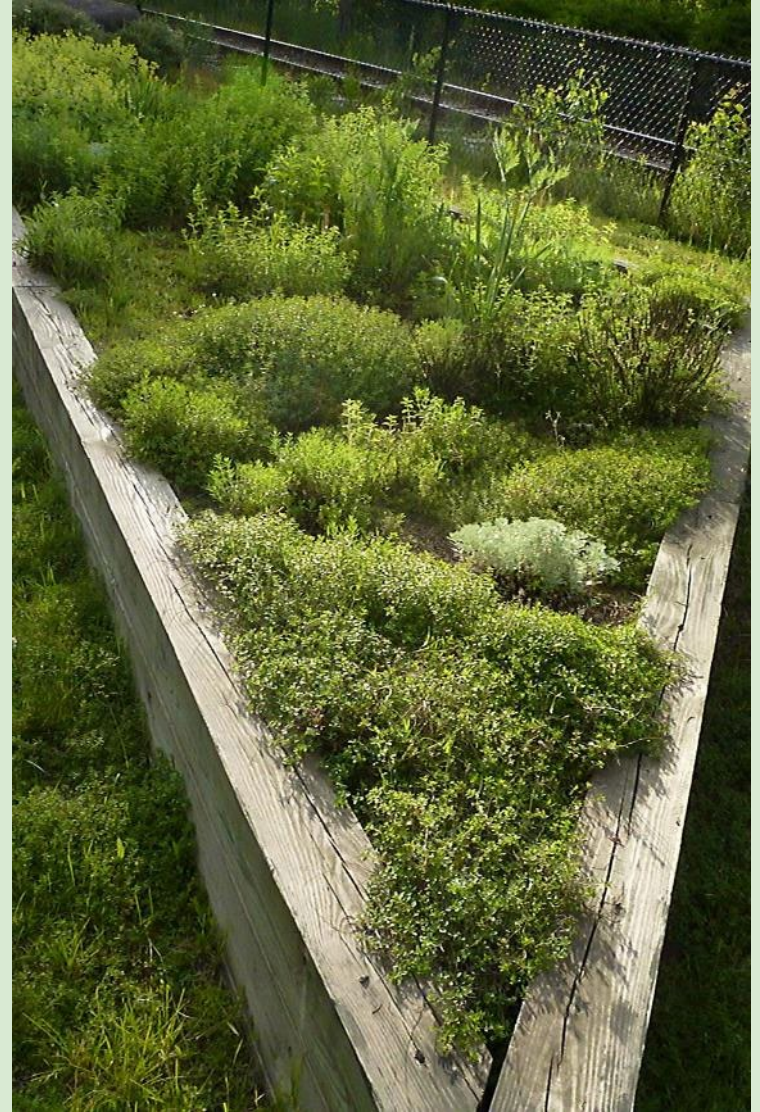


This beautiful park is planted with perennials and bulbs. A steep triangle of riverbank is left in its natural state.

The Herb Garden

*Park Managers: Cris Winters
Margaret Worden*

The Herb Garden is located near
Triangle Park by the train tracks.

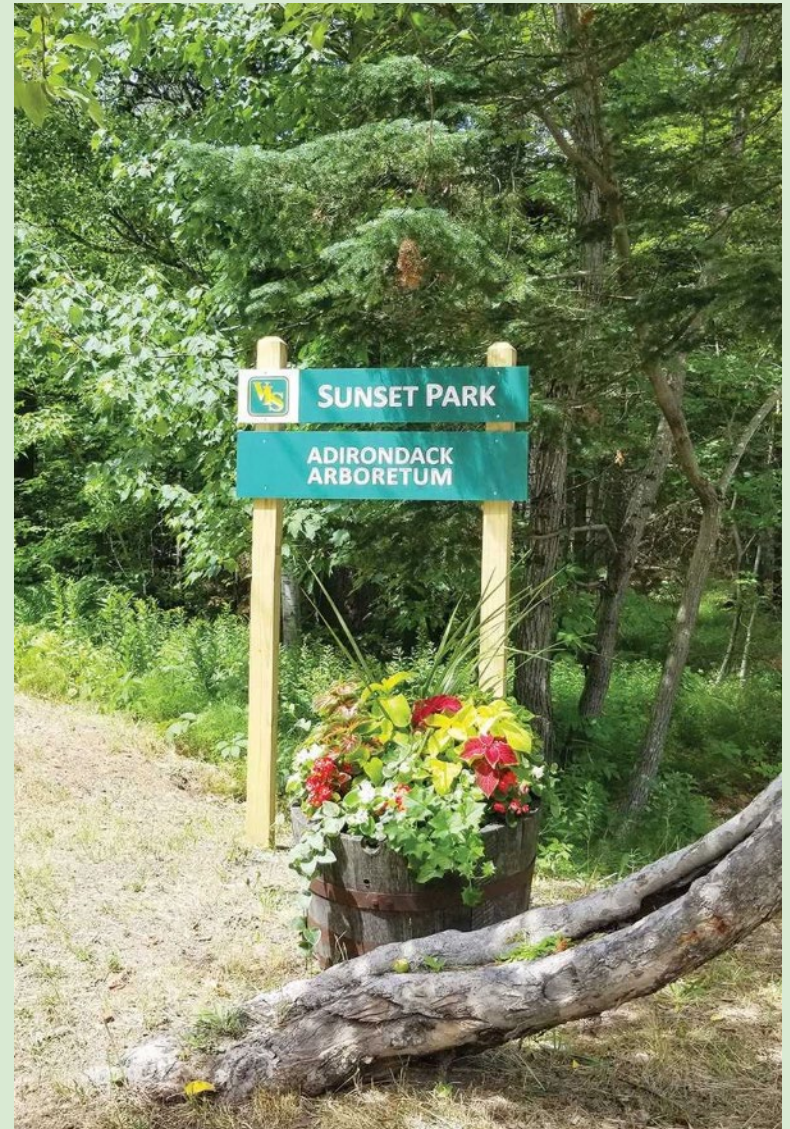


Sunset Park

Park Manager: Meg Van Dyck-Holmes



Sunset Park is a certified Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. Along the arboretum's meandering paths, visitors can view wildlife and over 35 types of trees.



Flower Baskets & Village Entry Signs



VIS provides the Village's hanging flower baskets.
Volunteers also tend the Village's four entry signs.

VIS Volunteers Help Install and Maintain the Downtown Flower Barrels



Village Plantings

VIS volunteers plant and tend flowers throughout the Village.



- Four Village entry signs
- Korea/Vietnam Veterans memorial
- WWI memorial “star garden”
- Two Riverwalk gardens
- Main St. parking lot median
- Ward-Plumadore Park

- NBT Circle
- Alpine planter
- Berkeley Green



2022 VIS planting of the Star Garden



Other Volunteer Projects

A clean-up of Sunset Park

Staining park benches at Vest Pocket and Denny Park.



VIS Camp Scholarship



Since 1963, VIS has awarded scholarships to Camp Colby to local middle school students.

Community Partnerships

Village of Saranac Lake

VIS paid for half the cost of six new trees planted on Main Street.



VIS partnered with Adirondack Action to install a pollinator garden at one the VIS owned parks



VIS works with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to curb the spread of Japanese Knotweed in two of the VIS owned parks.



Keep Saranac Lake Blooming Awards

Every year the VIS Board gives out awards to property owners who have contributed to beautifying Saranac Lake through their gardening efforts.

We have two categories: Residential and Business.

The VIS Board nominates and votes on the nominees at a chaotic September meeting. This year we decided to award 6 Residential award winners and 5 Business awards.

'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Residential Awards



'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Residential Awards



'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Business Awards



'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Business Awards

Adirondack Stiles Real Estate Company 3 Broadway



'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Business Awards

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. 36 St. Bernard Street



'Keep Saranac Lake Blooming' Awards Business Awards

Wilkins Agency 83 River Street





Village Improvement Society
of Saranac Lake

How you can help

- **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Serve on the Board of Directors

- Help with a Park or Summer Plantings

- Park Clean-Up Days

- Public Relations

- Community Outreach

- Visit the website to make a donation, join our mailing list or volunteer.

- www.saranaclakevis.org/

VIS Online

www.saranaclakevis.org

*Visit our website to learn
more about our history*

[www.facebook.com/
VillageImprovementSociety](https://www.facebook.com/VillageImprovementSociety)

Like us on Facebook



The Village Improvement Society of Saranac Lake has survived and thrived for 112 years.

No, not everything runs smoothly all the time but the benefits to the community are certainly worth it to all.

For communities that do not have such an organization, perhaps this can inspire you to form one.

You may be surprised by the interest and enthusiasm of community members to work toward improving and beautifying the community.