

Preface: Fairfield Hills is used by several organizations for outdoor events, including the Farmers' Market, Relay for Life, and fund raisers for various local organizations. In addition, the Cultural Arts Commission is investigating an arts festival modeled on the Common Ground Country Fair of Maine see <http://www.mofga.org/TheFair/tabid/135/Default.aspx>). They are targeting to have their inaugural festival in 2012, and continue annually thereafter.

The current Master Plan supports outdoor community events as noted on Page 17: *"In the interim and possibly for all time, these areas [i.e., the West and East Meadow areas] will be open space with opportunities for passive recreation such as trails, nature preserves and special event community outdoor activities such as concerts, fairs and similar non-permanent uses."*

Why Fairfield Hills

- Centralized location – easy to get to
- Large, open spaces
- Parking
- Access to water and toilets

Status Quo

- **Relay for Life**
 - One day per year from 5PM to 5AM in June.
 - Gravel "track," about ½ mile, laid over the soccer fields.
 - Area for pitching tents nearby
 - One water hook-up
 - Porta-potties
 - No lights
- **Farmers' Market**
 - Tues, June – Oct 2-6, set up at 1 out by 7
 - Old entrance area, provides hard surfaces, shade and nearby parking
 - Generally tranquil area, though close enough to Wasserman for advertising

Needs

- Large, open spaces (near parking)
- Level areas for participants to walk, push strollers, or navigate using wheel chairs – typically a hard surface is preferred to grass
- Access to water
- Access to toilets
- Parking (near open spaces)
- Quiet location
- Ability to advertise event as it is happening
- Lighting
- Shade

Points to Ponder

- Centralized location for community to gather
- Open fields require very little in maintenance
- Support local organizations
- Augment overall quality of life by supporting a variety of festivals
- Compete with athletic programs, if playing fields are used
- Potential for trash

Alternatives

Relay for Life, nationally, is often held in high school stadiums. However in Newtown, the field is artificial turf and so pitching tents nearby is not possible. At this point, representatives from both Relay for Life and the Farmers' Market are unaware of reasonable alternate locations.