

## BOSTON FOREST PARK

### DESCRIPTION

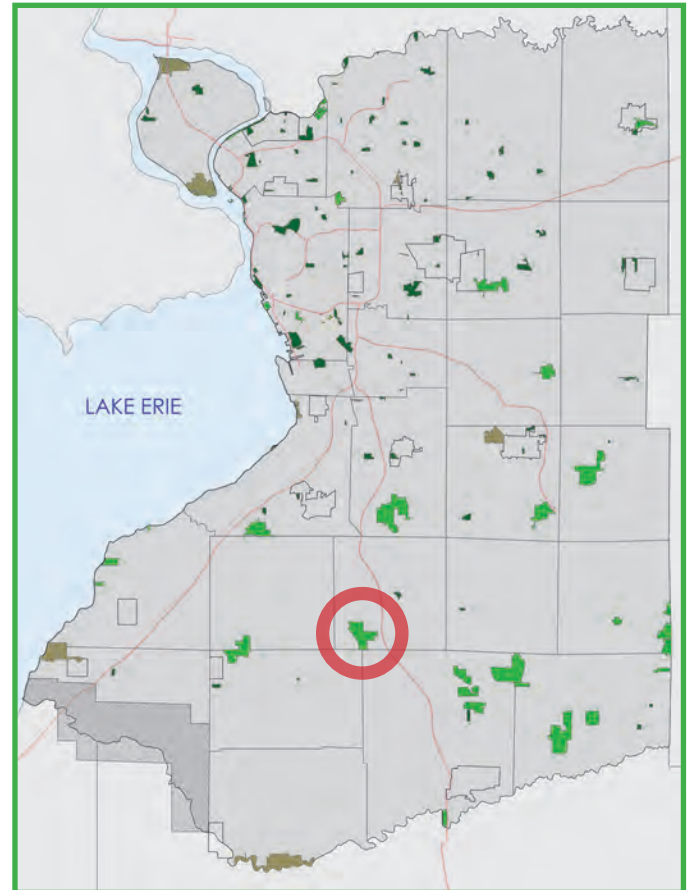
Boston Forest is a 710 acre County Park property in southern Erie County. Technically, almost 480 acres is undeveloped parkland and the remaining 230 acres is Forestry Division lands. The eastern half of the park is relatively flat, while the remainder has sloping terrain. Three major swales cut through the property from east to west. Most of the property is a combination of woodlands and naturalizing meadows with small tree growth. A number of multi-purpose trails traverse the property.

### LOCAL CONTEXT

Boston Forest is located in the southwest section of the Town of Boston and approximately 18 miles from Downtown Buffalo. Roads that bound the park include Feddick Road on the east and south, Rice Road to the north, and Zimmerman Road to the east. The Rice Road interchange from Route 219 Expressway is located one-half mile to the east. The area around the property is a rural community of forests, farms and occasional residences. The most unique and significant adjacent land use is the Hunting and Conservation Club located on Zimmerman Road immediately south and east of the parkland.



Local context map



Park Location Map: Boston Forest Park is located in the Town of Boston

### PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

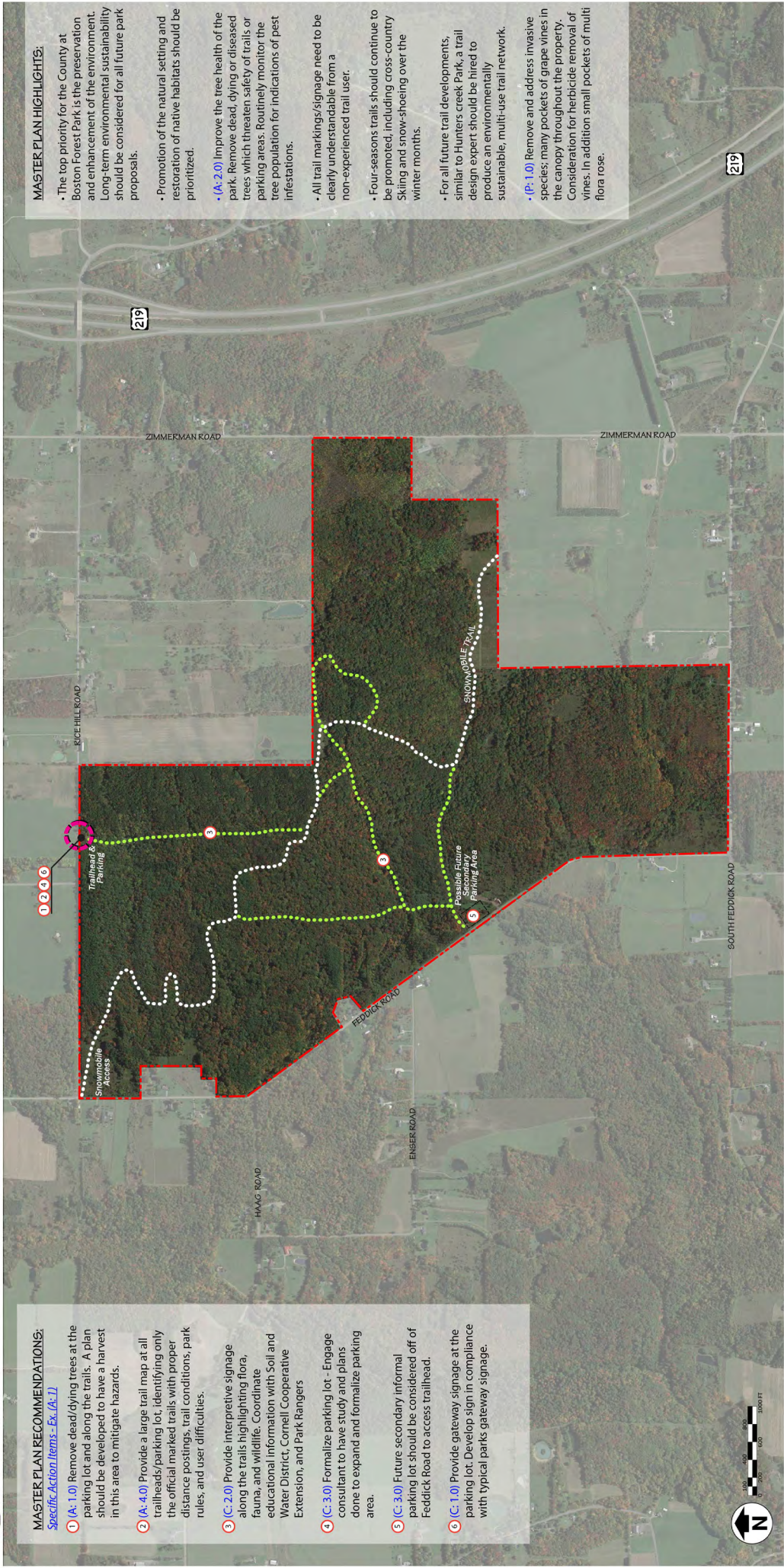
- **Provide a large trail map at all trailheads/parking lot.**
- **Assess and address parking lot trees; Based on visual inspection the trees are showing signs of infestation.**
  - Remove dead/dying trees at the parking lot and along the trails.
  - A plan should be developed to have a harvest in this area to mitigate hazards.
- **Formalize parking lot, and well as consider future secondary informal parking lot off of Feddick Road to access trailhead.**





# MASTER PLAN BOSTON FOREST PARK

## ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



### MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

*Specific Action Items: Ex (A-J)*

- ① (A- 1.0) Remove dead/dying trees at the parking lot and along the trails. A plan should be developed to have a harvest in this area to mitigate hazards.
- ② (A- 4.0) Provide a large trail map at all trailheads/parking lot, identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, park rules, and user difficulties.
- ③ (C- 2.0) Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife. Coordinate educational information with Soil and Water District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Park Rangers
- ④ (C- 3.0) Formalize parking lot. Engage consultant to have study and plans done to expand and formalize parking area.
- ⑤ (C- 3.0) Future secondary informal parking lot should be considered off of Feddick Road to access trailhead.
- ⑥ (C- 1.0) Provide gateway signage at the parking lot. Develop sign in compliance with typical parks gateway signage.

### MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- The top priority for the County at Boston Forest Park is the preservation and enhancement of the environment. Long-term environmental sustainability should be considered for all future park proposals.
- Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.
- (A- 2.0) Improve the tree health of the park. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten safety of trails or parking areas. Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
- All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.
- Four-seasons trails should continue to be promoted, including cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing over the winter months.
- For all future trail developments, similar to Hunters Creek Park, a trail design expert should be hired to produce an environmentally sustainable, multi-use trail network.
- (P- 1.0) Remove and address invasive species; many pockets of grape vines in the canopy throughout the property. Consideration for herbicide removal of vines. In addition small pockets of multi flora rose.

### Legend:

- Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations
- Existing Trails
- Park Boundary
- Destination
- Natural Features





Park signage off of Rice Hill Road



Parking area at Boston Forest Park off of Rice Hill Road

## CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- No boundary lines or corners were observed during the inspection
- Lack of park and trail signage
- No formal trail maps

## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

### Key - (Project Type: Project Number)

A - Action Item: Completed at low to no cost by Parks Staff

P - Assistance or completion of project by potential partner/user group

C - Capital project

- The top priority for the County at Boston Forest Park is the preservation and enhancement of the environment. Long-term environmental sustainability should be considered for all future park proposals.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: NYSDEC/In-House
- Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: NYSDEC/WNY Prism
- (A: 1.0) Assess and address parking lot trees; parking area on north end has several large ash trees around its perimeter and along the trail. Due to the inspection during dormancy it is difficult to determine their canopy. Based on visual inspection the trees are showing signs of infestation.
  - Remove dead/dying trees at the parking lot and along the trails.
  - A plan should be developed to have a harvest in this area to mitigate hazards.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- (C: 3.0) Formalize parking lot.
  - Coordinate with Town and DPW/Parks
  - Future secondary informal parking lot should be considered off of Feddick Road to access trailhead.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: DPW



- **(A: 2.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
  - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten safety of trails or parking areas.
  - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: In-House/Forestry**
- **Improve trail safety** wherever public use is promoted (In addition to proper signage of potential hazards and user difficulties) This may include trail surface material upgrades, drainage improvements, vegetation clearing, railings and barriers, etc.
  - **Priority: Medium**
  - **Partner: In-House**
- **(A: 4.0) Provide a large trail map at all trailheads/ parking lot,** identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, park rules, and user difficulties.
  - Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife. Coordinate educational information with Soil and Water District, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Park Rangers.
    - **Priority: Medium**
    - **Partner: Cornell Cooperative/ECSWD/In-House/Forestry**
- **All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.**
  - **Priority: Medium**
  - **Partner: In-House/Forestry**
- **Four-seasons trails should continue to be promoted, including cross-country Skiing and snow-shoeing over the winter months.** (Note that seasonal trail closures, or temporary closures due to wetness or erosion, will be adhered to for environmental sustainability.)
  - **Priority: Medium**
  - **Partner: In-House**
- **For all future trail developments, similar to Hunters Creek Park, a trail design expert should be hired to produce an environmentally sustainable, multi-use trail network.**
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: WNYMBA/Forestry**
- **(C: 1.0) Provide gateway signage and landscape treatment at the parking lot.** Develop sign in compliance with typical parks gateway signage.
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: In-House**
- **(C: 2.0) Provide interpretive signage in the park.**
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: In-House**
- **(P: 1.0) Remove and address invasive species;** many pockets of grape vines in the canopy throughout the property. Consideration for herbicide removal of vines. In addition small pockets of multi flora rose.
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: WNY Prism**



Trail

**BOSTON FOREST PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Several large, dead ash trees are present near the parking lot and along the trail systems. Remove the dead/dying trees to improve safety.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
C	3.0	Formalize parking lot. Consider future secondary informal parking lot off of Feddick Road to access trailhead.	Engage consultant to design plans	High	3-5 Years	DPW
A	2.0	Provide welcome sign and rules for the park	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House, Highway
A	3.0	Provide consistent wayfinding and directional signage within the park	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce directional sign panels, trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
C	1.0	Establish gateway signage for the park	Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape.	Low	6-10 Years	\$17,800
C	2.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500

**KEY:**

A: Action Item: Completed at low to no cost by Parks staff

P: Assistance or completion of project by potential partner/user group

C: Capital Project

POB: Parks Operating Budget