



CONSERVATION PARKS

5.0 CONSERVATION PARKS

5.1 Boston Forest Park

5.2 Eighteen Mile Creek Park

5.3 Franklin Gulf Park

5.4 Hunters Creek Park

5.5 Scoby Dam Park

5.6 Buffalo River Natural Habitat Parks

(Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge and Park, Red Jacket Riverfront Park, Seneca Bluffs Park, Times Beach Nature Preserve)

5.7 Lakeview Pocket Preserve

5.8 Eighteen Mile Creek Headwaters Property

BOSTON FOREST PARK

DESCRIPTION

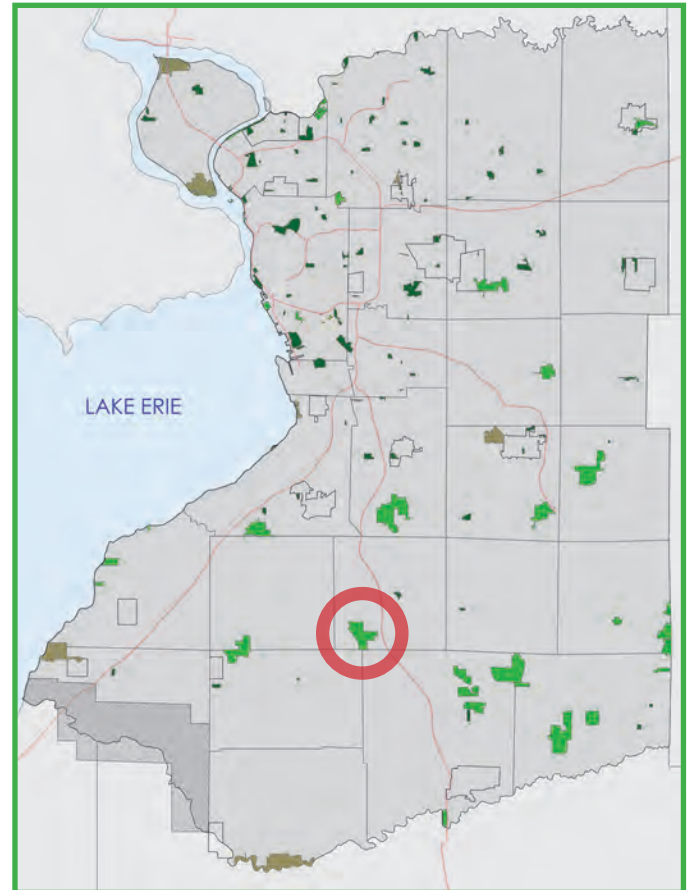
Boston Forest is a 710 acre County Park property in southern Erie County. Technically, almost 480 acres is undeveloped parkland and the remaining 230 acres is Forestry Division lands. The eastern half of the park is relatively flat, while the remainder has sloping terrain. Three major swales cut through 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

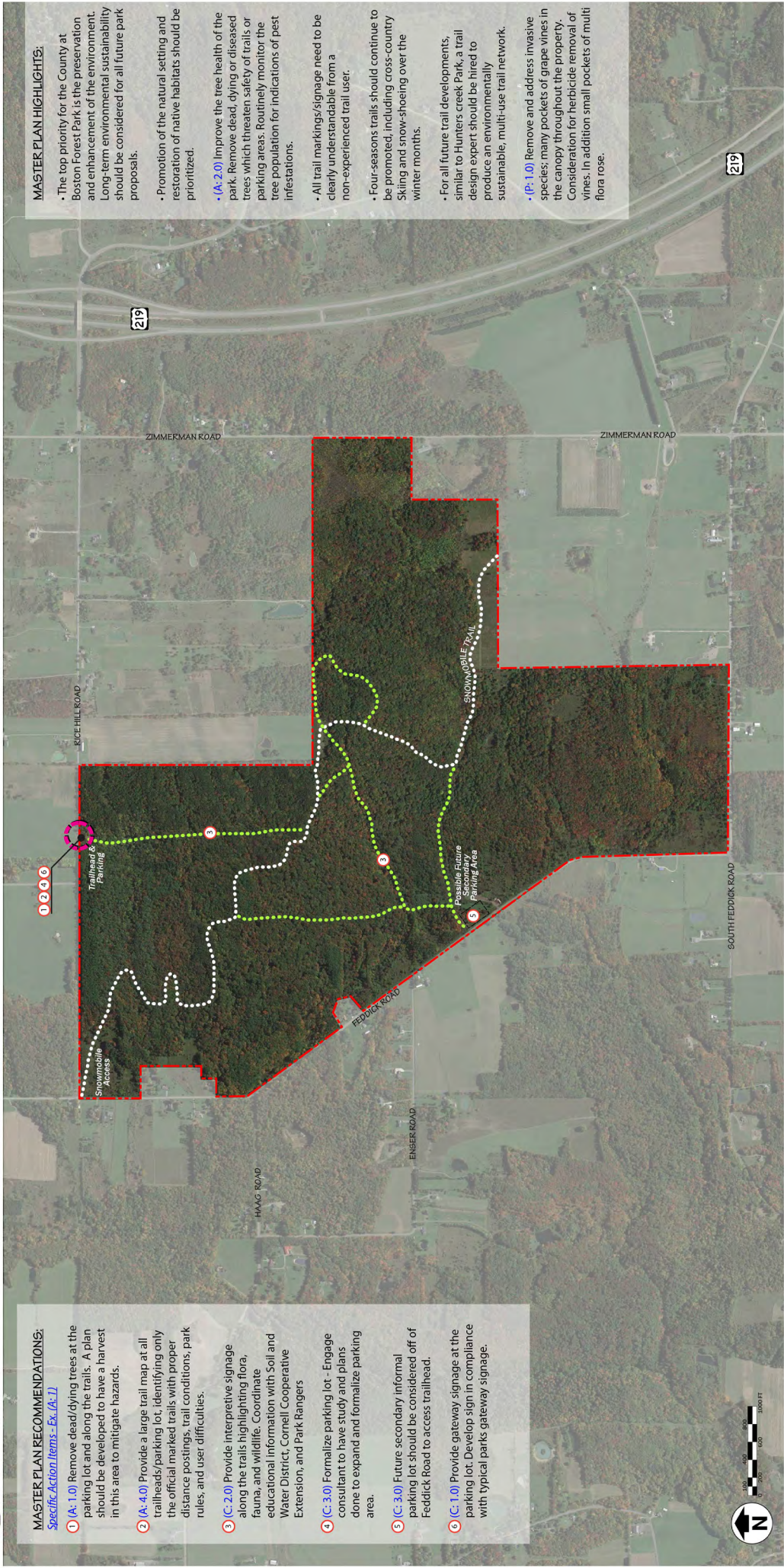
PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **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

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EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK

DESCRIPTION

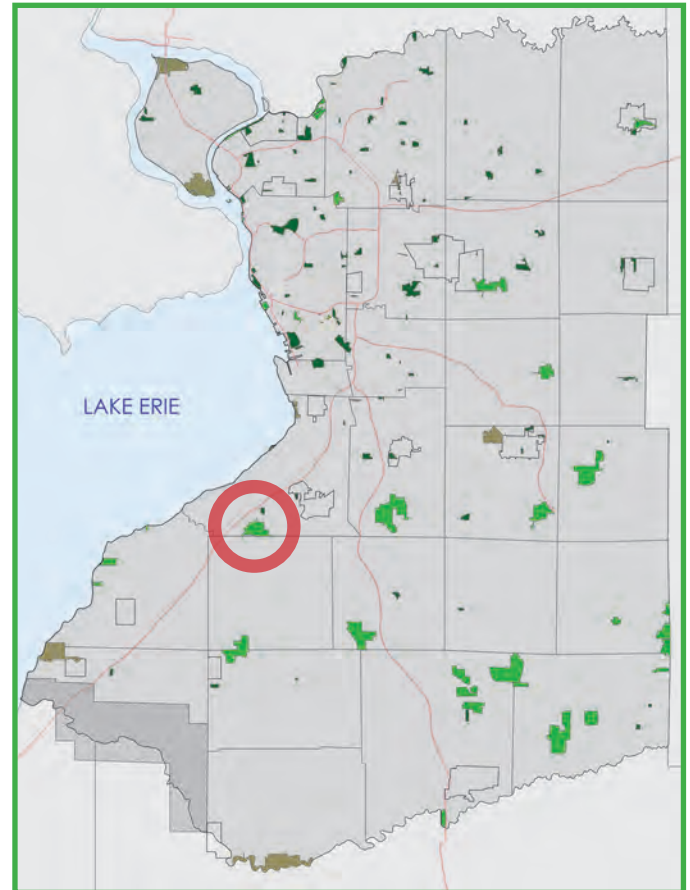
Eighteen Mile Creek Park is defined by the two branches of Eighteen Mile Creek; the North Branch and South Branch. This 466-acre park is presently undeveloped. Access is extremely difficult to the Creek and parking is currently very limited, however, this portion of the Creek is a hot-spot for fishing. While the park's landscape character is dramatically marked by a 60'-deep gorge cut by Eighteen Mile Creek, most of the Park's land above the gorge and between the two branches of the creek is very flat. Park and area history is generally tree covered, with former farm fields reverting back to woodlands. Previous concepts for this park proposed a conservation-oriented park with nature study and passive recreation, and an alternative proposed developing the land into a golf course. Current plans call for maintaining the passive, natural setting of the entire park area.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Located on the southern edge of the Town of Hamburg, Eighteen Mile Creek Park lies approximately 15 miles south of Downtown Buffalo. The Park is located between the fork of the North Branch and South Branch of the Creek. It is situated roughly 3.5 miles from Lake Erie and 3 miles from the Village of Hamburg to the northeast. The center of the park is accessible only via South Creek Road, a narrow, two-lane town road. The area around the property is largely rural, with a few newer residences and housing developments nearby. The south fork of the Creek borders on the Town of Eden.



Local context map



Park Location Map: Eighteen Mile Creek Park is located in the Town of Hamburg off of South Creek Road

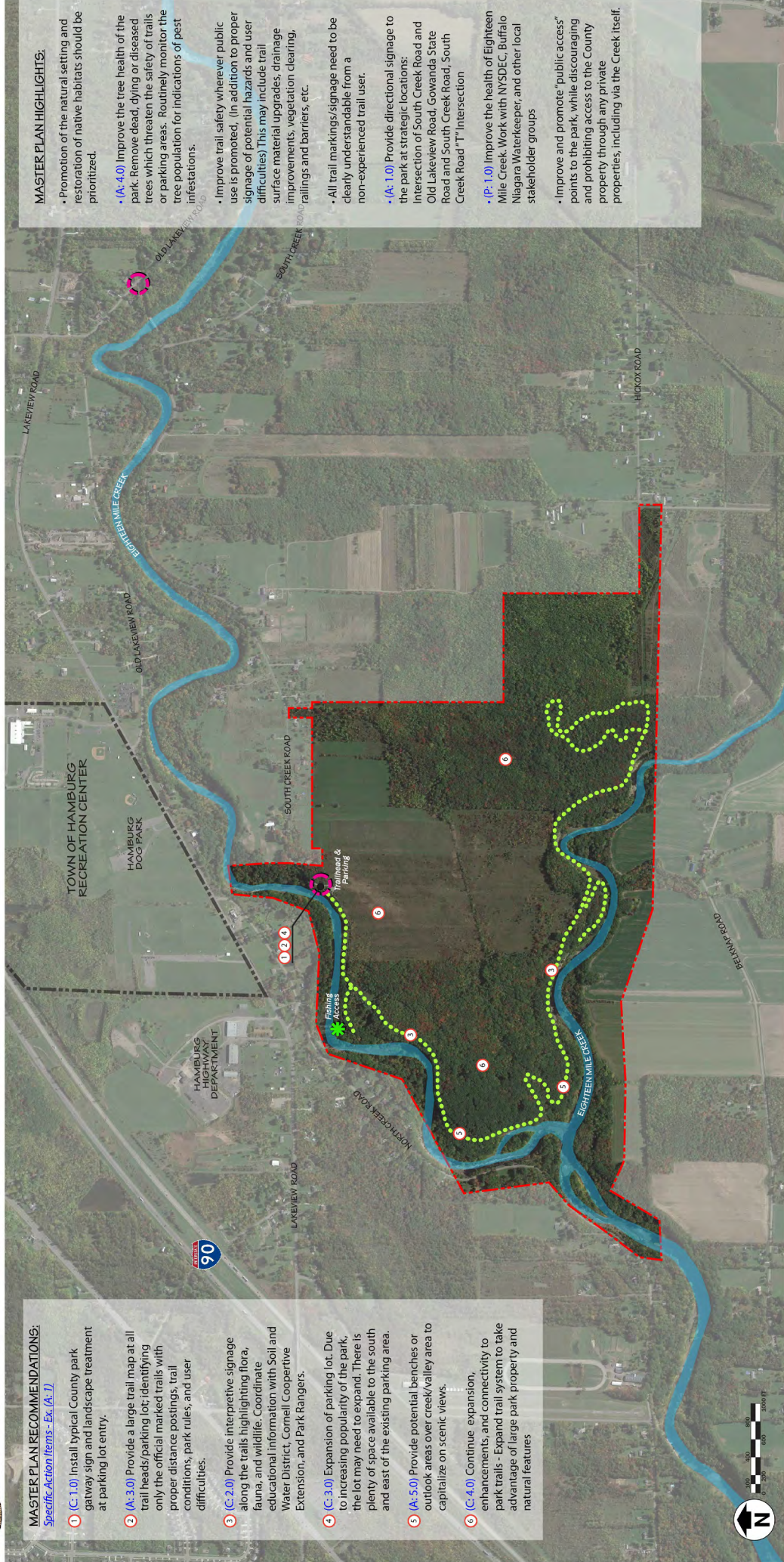
PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Install typical County park gateway sign and landscape treatment at parking lot entry.** Provide new welcome sign and large trails map.
- **Improve trail safety;** this may include trail surface material upgrades, drainage improvements, vegetation clearing, railings and barriers, etc.
- **Address and remove emerging invasive species** like Japanese Knotweed along the Creek and Common Buckthorn.



MASTER PLAN EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Specific Action Items - Ex. (A.1)

- 1 (C.1.0) Install typical County park gateway sign and landscape treatment at parking lot entry.
- 2 (A.3.0) Provide a large trail map at all trail heads/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) Expansion of parking lot. Due to increasing popularity of the park, the lot may need to expand. There is plenty of space available to the south and east of the existing parking area.
- 5 (A.5.0) Provide potential benches or overlook areas over creek/valley area to capitalize on scenic views.
- 6 (C.4.0) Continue expansion, enhancements, and connectivity to park trails - Expand trail system to take advantage of large park property and natural features

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.
- (A.4.0) Improve the tree health of the park. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten the safety of trails or parking areas. Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
- 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, fallings and barriers, etc.
- All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.
- (A.1.0) Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations: Intersection of South Creek Road and Old Lakeview Road, Gowanda State Road and South Creek Road, South Creek Road "T" Intersection
- (P.1.0) Improve the health of Eighteen Mile Creek. Work with NYDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and other local stakeholder groups
- Improve and promote "public access" points to the park, while discouraging and prohibiting access to the County property through any private properties, including via the Creek itself.

Legend:

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

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Outdoor activities include hiking, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- This magnificent Creek setting has difficult access.
- Limited parking.
- Difficult to find, very little signage apart from the immediate parking area.
- Complaints have been raised by certain neighboring residents: some people are accessing the park area through private properties.
- Welcome sign has been vandalized by graffiti.
- Old stone chimney was found, in disrepair, off of a trail in the woods.
- Park map sign has been vandalized with graffiti.
- Trail signage is limited.
- Invasive species

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

- **(A: 4.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
 - Apply for funding from NYSDEC for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.

■ Priority: High

■ Partner: In-House/Forestry



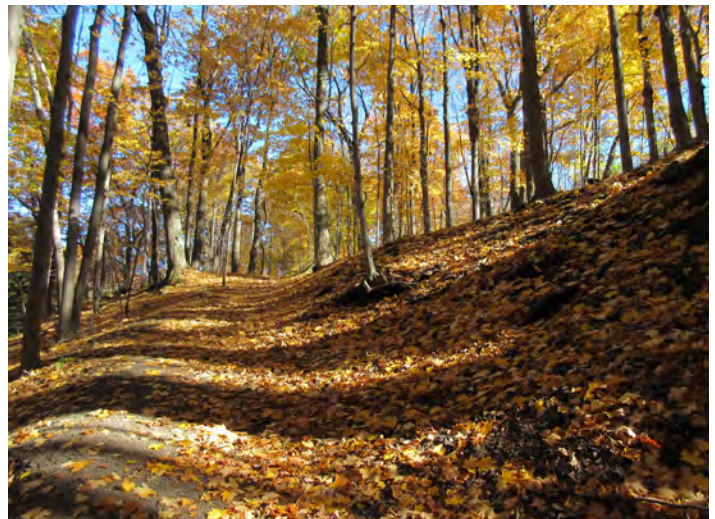
Graffiti on park kiosk



Parking area



Eighteen Mile Creek



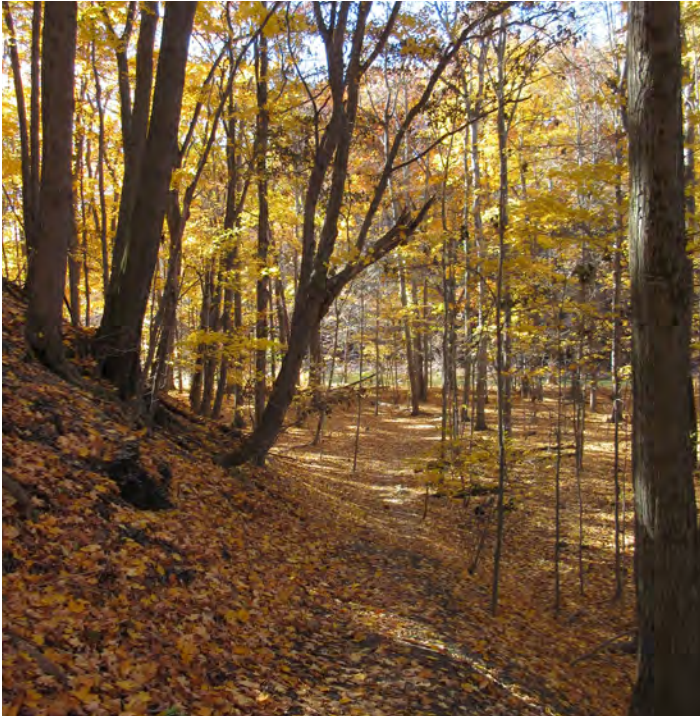
Park trail

- Improve and promote “public access” points to the park, while discouraging and prohibiting access to the County property through any private properties, including via the Creek itself.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/WNY Prism
- **(P: 2.0) Address and remove emerging invasive species** like Japanese Knotweed along the Creek and Common Buckthorn.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY Prism
- **(P: 5.0) Manage and address large grassland areas for grassland birds and pollinator friendly plants.**
 - Consult and coordinate with experts in the field from State and Federal natural resource agencies, academic institutions, and private conservation organizations.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: Natural resource agencies and experts
- **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
- **All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- **(C: 1.0) Install typical County park gateway sign and landscape treatment at parking lot entry.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 3.0) Provide a large trail map at all trail heads/ parking lot; identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, park rules, and user difficulties.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- **(A: 1.0) Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations:**
 - Intersection of South Creek Road and Old Lakeview Road
 - Gowanda State Road and South Creek Road
 - South Creek Road “T” Intersection
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House



Fishing at Eighteen Mile Creek





Trail down to the Creek

- **(P: 1.0) Improve the health of Eighteen Mile Creek.** Work with NYSDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and other local stakeholder groups.
 - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements to the ecological status of the waterways and naturalization of the surrounding wooded areas can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: ECSWD/NYSDEC/Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper**
- **(C: 4.0) Continue expansion, enhancements, and connectivity of park trails.**
 - Expand trail system to take advantage of large park property and natural features
 - Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations.
 - Provide distinct trail markers to guide trail users.
 - 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: In-House**
- **(P: 4.0) Improve and enhance fishing access.**
 - Provide clear trails and access points, along with possible fishing platforms or stone areas.
 - Fish species include steelhead and smallmouth bass.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: In-House/NYSDEC**
- **(C: 3.0) Expansion of parking lot.** Due to increasing popularity of the park, the lot may need to expand. There is plenty of space available to the south and east of the existing parking area.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: DPW**
- **(A: 5.0) Provide benches or overlook areas** over the creek/valley area to capitalize on scenic views across the ravines.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House/Local stakeholder groups**
- **(C: 2.0) Provide interpretive signage** highlighting some of the significance of the park space and its natural and physical assets.
 - Coordinate with Hamburg Historical Society with information pertaining to the history of the park site;
 - Acquire information regarding the history of the old stone chimney and other lesser known facts about the park.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: Hamburg Historical Society/In-House**
- **(P: 3.0) Potential mountain biking/shared trail systems could be established** with proper studies, usergroup funding/support, and if deemed appropriate (does not conflict with other park uses).
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: Usergroups/WNYMBA**
- **Provide possible small picnic shelter or two adjacent to the creek.**
 - This could provide anglers and park patrons areas to eat and seek shelter from inclement weather.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: Usergroups/In-House**

EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	4.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
P	2.0	Address and remove emerging invasive species like Japanese Knotweed along the Creek and Common Buckthorn.	Partner with usergroups such as WNY Prism	High	1-2 Years	In-House WNY Prism
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, including large park trails map at main trailhead	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce directional sign panels, trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
C	4.0	Continue expansion, enhancements, and connectivity of park trails. Expand trail system to take advantage of large park property and natural features	Engage consultant to design new trails	Medium	6-10 Years	P.O.B
P	1.0	Improve the health of Eighteen Mile Creek	Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Medium	Ongoing	Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD

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



EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	4.0	Improve and enhance fishing access. Provide clear trails and access points, along with possible fishing platforms or stone areas.	Work with potential usergroups like the NYSDEC and other potential partners with interest	Medium	3-5 Years	Partner
A	1.0	Provide directional signage to the park.	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	5.0	Provide benches or overlook areas over the creek/valley area to capitalize on scenic views across the ravines.	Establish a few of these areas in several areas of the main trail	Low	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
C	3.0	Provide additional parking	Engage a contractor to construct a larger parking lot	Low	6-10 Years	\$30,000
P	3.0	Potential mountain biking/shared trail systems could be established with proper studies, usergroup funding/support, and if deemed appropriate (does not conflict with other park uses).	Work with usergroups to implement possible expanded trails	Low	3-5 Years	Partner

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FRANKLIN GULF PARK

DESCRIPTION

Franklin Gulf Park is a 631 acre undeveloped park in the Towns of Eden and North Collins. It is primarily a wooded area that has impressive topography and scenic natural features, such as creeks, ravines, waterfalls and ledge outcroppings. The topography is dominated by the “gulf”, a steep gorge which is practically inaccessible. The park landscape lends itself best to passive uses such as hiking and nature enhancement uses.

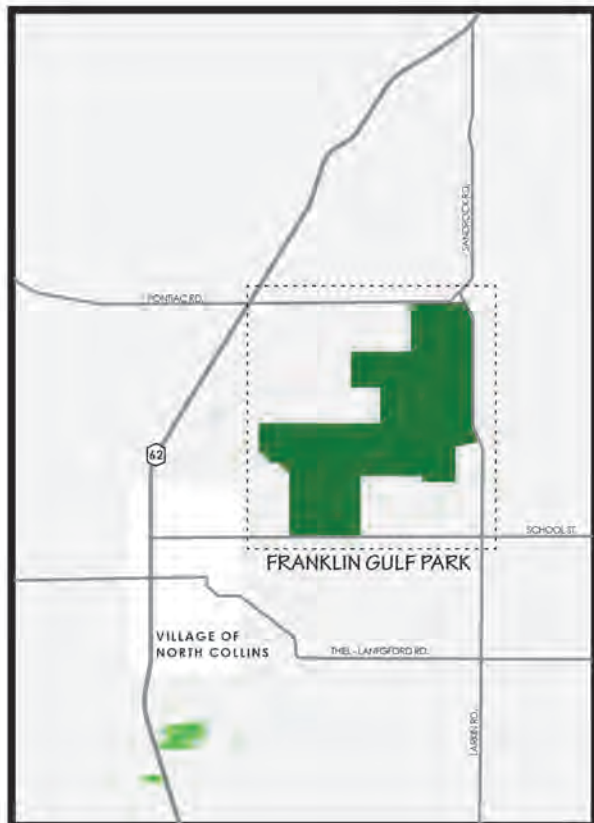
Franklin Gulf Park is the winner of Buffalo Spree Magazine’s The Best of WNY 2015: Most Beautiful Under-The-Radar Park award.

LOCAL CONTEXT

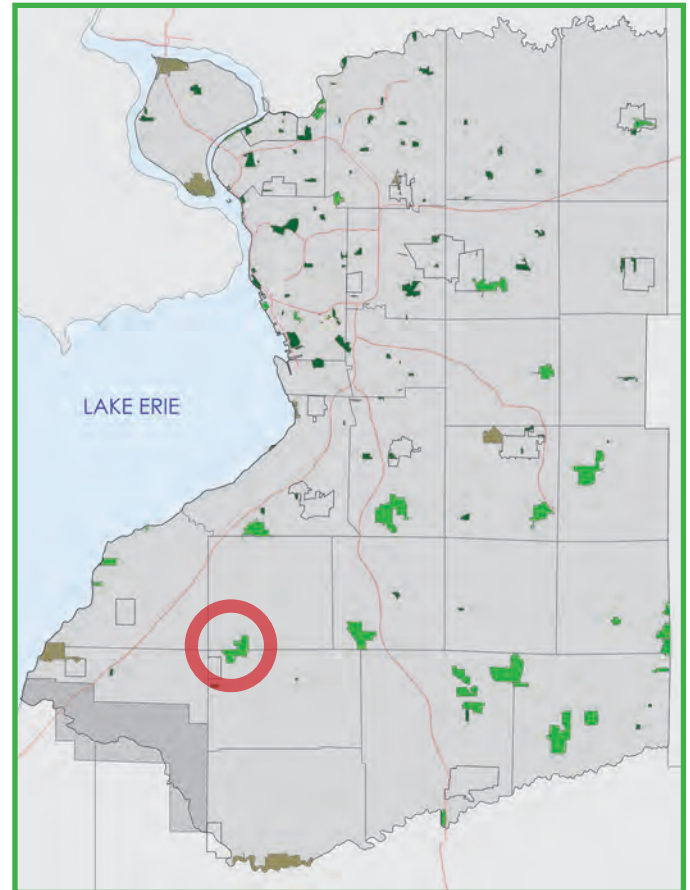
This irregularly-shaped park is generally bound by Sandrock Road to the north, Rogers Road to the east and School Street to the South. Surrounding land uses are largely agricultural, with a scattering of residences throughout. The Village of North Collins is only a short distance to the southwest of the property. An active railroad line crosses the gulf slightly beyond the western edge of the park.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Outdoor activities include hiking, wildlife viewing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing (ungroomed trails). A maintained snowmobile trail is located on the western portion of the park.



Local context map



Park Location Map: Franklin Gulf Park is located in the Towns of Eden and Collins.

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Routinely inspect and provide upkeep of all trails;**
 - Remove dangerous tree limbs and other potential hazards;
 - Improve drainage and divert water away from trails where necessary.
- **Enhance and expand small informal parking area;** parking area only accommodates a few cars.
- **Implement an invasive species management plan.** Address and remove emerging invasive species.



MASTER PLAN FRANKLIN GULF PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

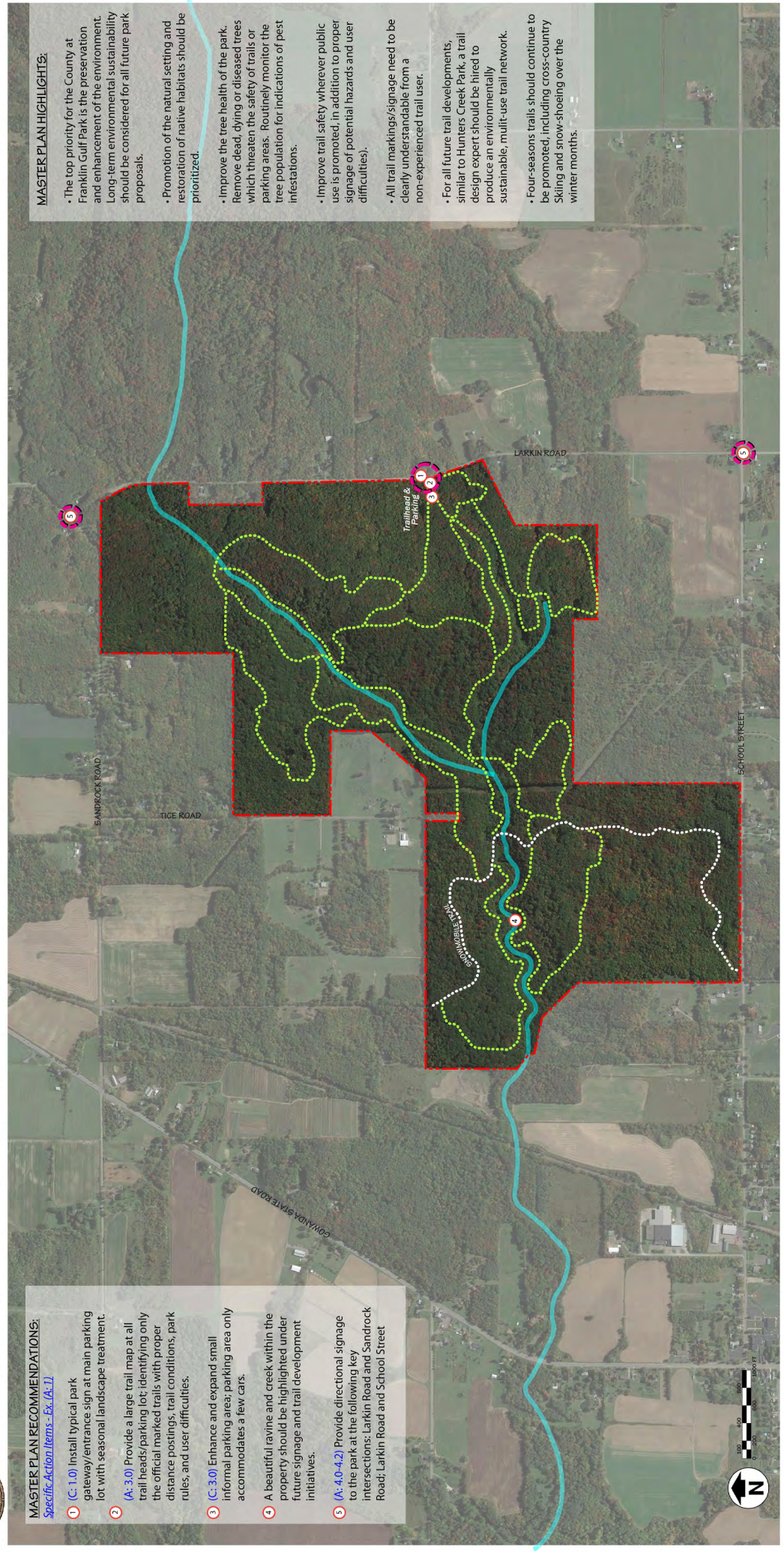
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Specific Action Items - Ex (A.1)

- 1 (C: 1.0) Install typical park gateway/entrance sign at main parking lot with seasonal landscape treatment
- 2 (A: 3.0) Provide a large trail map at all trail heads/parking lot; identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, park rules, and user difficulties.
- 3 (C: 3.0) Enhance and expand small informal parking area; parking area only accommodates a few cars.
- 4 A beautiful ravine and creek within the property should be highlighted under future signage and trail development initiatives.
- 5 (A: 4.0-4.2) Provide directional signage to the park at the following key intersections: Larkin Road and Sandrock Road; Larkin Road and School Street

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- The top priority for the County at Franklin Gulf 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.
- Improve the tree health of the park. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten the safety of trails or parking areas. Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
- Improve trail safety wherever public use is promoted, in addition to proper signage of potential hazards and user difficulties).
- All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.
- 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.
- Four-seasons trails should continue to be promoted, including cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing over the winter months.



Legend:

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



View down the creek

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Does not have typical park gateway signage at park entrance
- Lack of park and trail signage
- No formal trail maps
- Small parking lot cannot accommodate sufficient cars

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

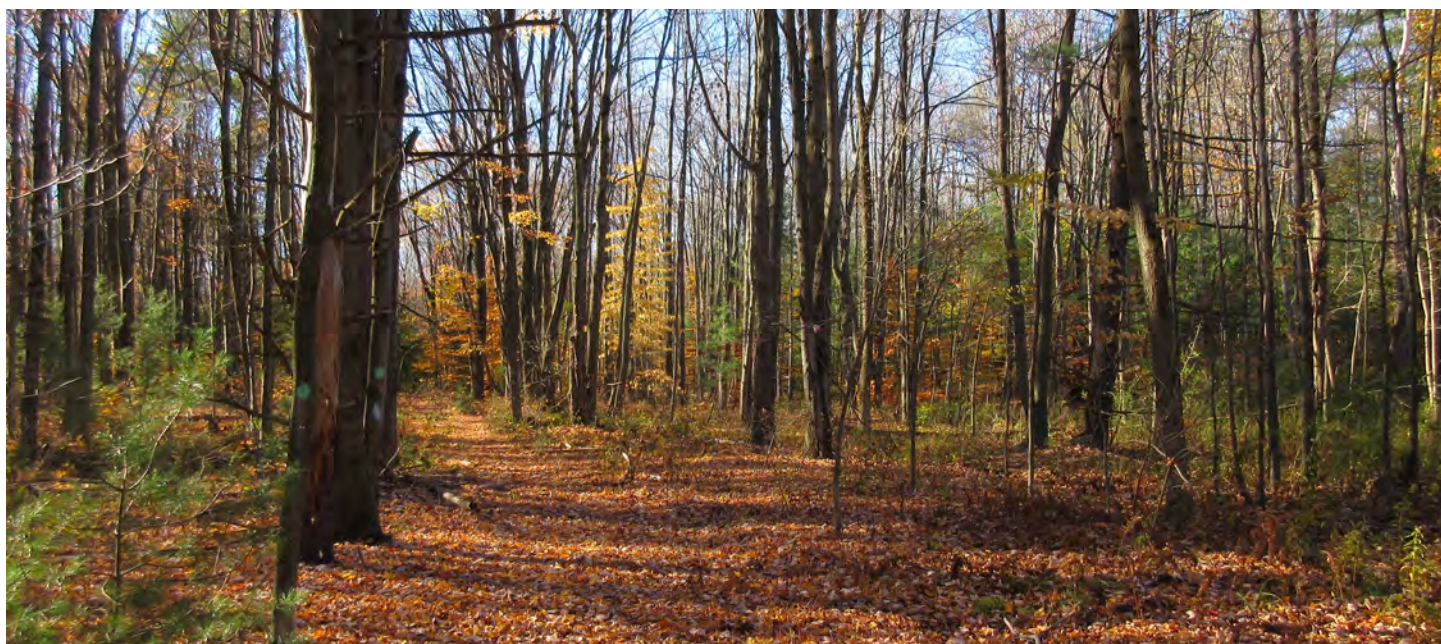
- **The top priority for the County at Franklin Gulf Park is the preservation and enhancement of the environment.** Long-term environmental sustainability should be considered for all future park proposals.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/In-House
- **Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/WNY Prism
- **(A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten the safety of trails or parking areas.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry

- **(C: 1.0) Install typical park gateway/entrance sign at main parking lot with seasonal landscape treatment.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 3.0) Enhance and expand small informal parking area; parking area only accommodates a few cars.**
 - Provide secondary lot to accommodate 20 cars; Potential location off of School Street at snowmobile trailhead.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House



Parking area

- **Routinely inspect and provide upkeep of all trails;**
 - Remove dangerous tree limbs and other potential hazards;
 - Improve drainage and divert water away from trails where necessary.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNYMBA/In-House**
- **(P: 1.0) Implement an invasive species management plan.**
 - Address and remove emerging invasive species.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY Prism**
- **(A: 3.0) Provide a large trail map at all trail heads/ 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**
- **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**
- **All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.**
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: In-House/Forestry**
- **(A: 4.0-4.2) Provide directional signage to the park at the following key intersections:**
 - Larkin Road and Sandrock Road
 - Larkin Road and School Street
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **Highlight beautiful ravine and creek within the property with future signage and trail development initiatives.**
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House/Forestry**
- **(C: 2.0) Provide interpretive signage in the park.**
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **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**
- **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: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Trail



FRANKLIN GULF PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	2.0	Provide welcome sign and rules for the park	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
C	3.0	Enhance and expand small informal parking area	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	High	3-5 Years	In-House
P	1.0	Implement an invasive species management plan	Potential partnership with WNYPRISM to develop volunteer opportunities	High	Ongoing	In-House
A	3.0	Provide consistent wayfinding and directional signage within the park, including large trail maps at all trailheads	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce directional sign panels, trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	4.0	Provide directional signage to the park at the following key locations:	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	X
A	4.1	Larkin Road and Sandrock Road	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	4.2	Larkin Road and School Street	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
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

C: Capital Project

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

POB: Parks Operating Budget

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HUNTERS CREEK PARK

(SGT. MARK RADEMACHER PARK)

DESCRIPTION

Officially named Sgt. Mark Rademacher Park, this park is more commonly referred to as Hunters Creek Park. This is a 756-acre park within the Town of Wales. This property has seen much activity over the past few years in the way of nature trail use by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and cross-country skiers. In particular, Hunters Creek has become extremely popular for mountain biking, which is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. The sloping terrain and Creek gorge help to define the park's character, as well as a primarily forested interior.

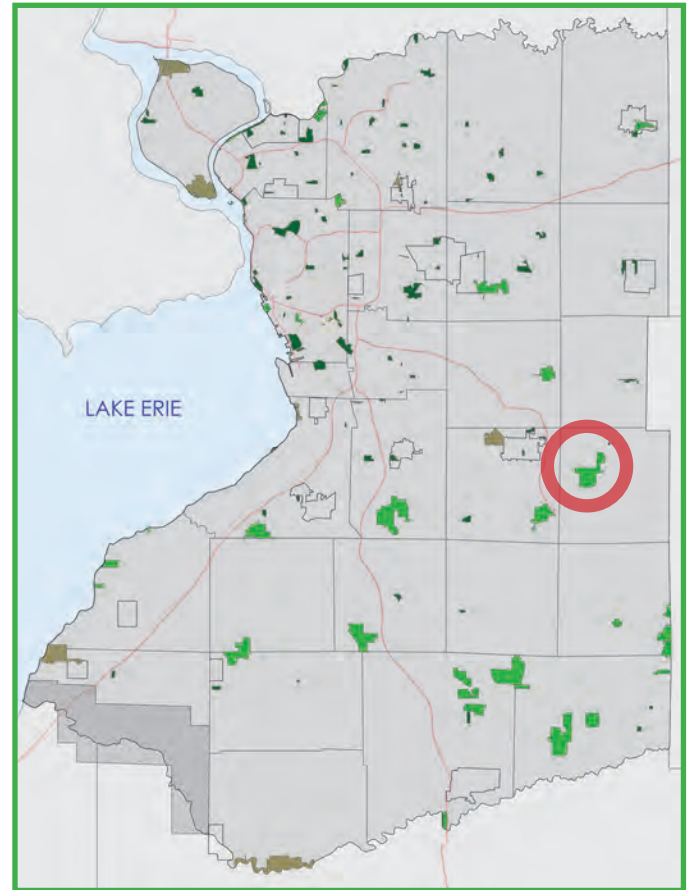
The main park area is roughly square, with a "panhandle" extending to the northeast. The Creek divides the park into an east half and west half (accounting for roughly two-thirds of the area). After flowing off park property, the Creek re-enters the park at the northeast corner, roughly paralleling the narrow north property line. The Park currently has dirt "service" roads and an extensive trail network throughout the park. Two parking areas exist: one off of Hunters Creek Road and another near the intersection of Centerline and Vermont Hill Road.

Hunters Creek Park has adopted and implemented many of the recommendations proposed in the 2003 plan, however some still need to be improved and expanded further. Thanks to many contributions from user groups, the park now features over 20 miles in multi-purpose trails. These trails include the "Orange Blazes" trail (The Conservation Trail); which is part of the greater "Finger Lakes Trail" which extends all over New York State spanning over 1,000 miles of hiking. The trails are for all non-motorized users, and feature hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snow-shoeing.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

The history of the area we now refer to as Hunters Creek Park began tens of thousands of years ago with the formation of the area topography and dramatic creek gorge. Hunters Creek bisects this undeveloped park and cuts an impressive gorge through a portion of it. Following the area's settlement, this property consisted of farm land and woods. Foundations of old homesteads and barns can still be seen. In the park's interior, a large log cabin was constructed by Sanford Hubbard for the Kellogg family as a hunting lodge. Only the fieldstone chimney and foundation remain.

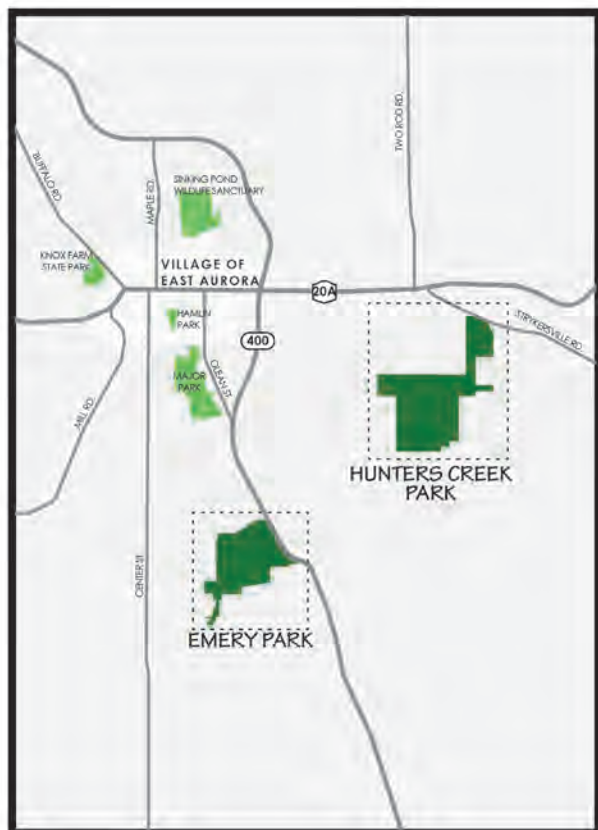
In the 1950s parallel underground gas transmission lines were constructed through the area in an east-west direction and a major transmission station was constructed on Rieter Road. In the early 1970s, several parcels totaling approximately 760 acres were purchased by Erie County using Federal and State funds for a future park. Around that same time, a number of roads and trails were constructed by county-sponsored groups and the Boy



Park Location Map: Hunters Creek Park is located in the Town of Wales, 2 miles from Emery Park

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Routinely inspect and provide upkeep of all trails;**
 - Remove dangerous tree limbs and other potential hazards;
 - Improve drainage and divert water away from trails where necessary.
- **The top priority for the County at Hunters Creek Park is the preservation and enhancement of the environment.** Long-term environmental sustainability should be considered for all future use proposals.
- **Provide a large trail map at all trailheads,** identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties should be provided.



Local context map

Scouts planted thousands of evergreen trees. In recent years some of these roads and trails have eroded and deteriorated, while other trails have been further developed and improved.

In 1983, the Erie County Legislature voted unanimously to approve a resolution to rename Hunters Creek Park to “Sgt. Mark A. Rademacher Memorial Park.” Mark Rademacher, a 20 year old Town of Wales resident, was one of the few US Army Rangers killed in the Grenada Invasion in November, 1983. Reflection of the new park name is not found within the park, i.e. no signs were erected or no other verification can be found, but there are other memorial remembrances within the Town of Wales. Today, other than a trail that bears the Rademacher name, most still refer to the park as “Hunters Creek Park.”

With the growth of mountain biking as a recreational activity, the use of the park has dramatically increased as it has been termed “ideal” for single track riding. It has become a regional draw for trail activities including mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife observation.

Currently this property receives limited county maintenance. Volunteers and local organizations have maintained the park on a regular basis by removing trash, maintaining the trails, improving trails, designing trails, etc. These groups include the Western New York Mountain Biking Association, Friends of Hunters Creek, Foothills Trail Club, and the Western Chapter of the NYS Horse Council.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Within the Town of Wales in eastern Erie County. The site is approximately 20 miles to the south and east of downtown Buffalo, and is about 3 miles southeast of the Village of East Aurora. Also, the park is only 2 miles north of Emery Park, another major County facility. Access to the park is from either Hunters Creek Road on the east or on Centerline Road near Vermont Hill Road to the south. The area surrounding the park is largely rural in nature with active farms and large open tracts of undeveloped land. Residential properties are scattered along both Centerline and Hunters Creek Roads.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Few other parks equal the use and beauty of Hunters Creek Park. Other area park facilities that complement the passive recreational uses at Hunters Creek are Kenneglenn Scenic Nature Preserve which lies adjacent to the park, Emery Park in Aurora and the Knox Farm State Park in East Aurora. Town parks and schools in Wales and Aurora/East Aurora offer active recreational opportunities.

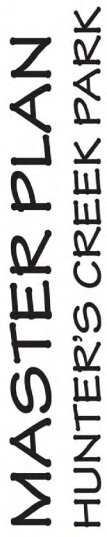
CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

The rapid increase in popularity and use at Hunters Creek Park has also come with numerous issues and concerns. Some of these include, but are not limited to:

- A concern for perimeter properties / trespassing
- A lack of respect for boundary private properties by certain park users.
- A concern for emergency services access
- A concern over trail use and long-term maintenance
- Improvements needed with signage and clear trail markers
- A concern for safety and liability.
- Emerging invasive species



Small creek



MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:
Specific Action Items - Ex. (A: 1)

1. **(A: 3.0)** A large trail map should be provided at all trailheads identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties.
2. **(C: 1.0)** Provide typical park gateway signage on Centerline Road and Hunters Creek Road at parking locations. Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest.
3. **(C: 3.0)** Based on popularity of park, County should consider formalizing parking area off of Centerline Road.
4. **(C: 3.0)** Possibly work with stakeholders and volunteers to construct rain garden in lawn area of parking lot. This can be a focal feature for users as they enter the park and utilize native plantings and interpretive signage.
5. **(A: 1.0-1.3)** Provide directional signage to the park at the following key intersections:
 - o Centerline and Reiter Road
 - o Centerline and Hunters Creek Road
 - o Hunters Creek and Strykersville Road
6. **(D: 1.0)** Provide/develop possible overlook areas capitalizing on impressive gorges and scenic views of the creek.
7. **(D: 1.0)** Shared trail use on road/bridge for Regional Finger Lakes Trail - Proper signage and traffic control measures needed.



- 

 Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations

 Existing Trails

 Park Boundary


 Destination
 Natural Features

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

Trails:

- **Routinely inspect and provide upkeep of all trails;**
 - Remove dangerous tree limbs and other potential hazards;
 - Improve drainage and divert water away from trails where necessary.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House
- **(A: 3.0) A large trail map should be provided at all trailheads** identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties.
 - Trail map should also explain the meaning of the orange blazes “conservation trail”.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House
- **All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user** (hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders)
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House
- **Trail safety improvements should be made 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: WNYMBA/In-House
- **Provide/develop overlook areas capitalizing on impressive gorges and scenic views of the creek.**
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House/WNYMBA
- **Proper warning signage and/or physical barriers should be placed at specific points where the trail travels through difficult or steep terrain.**
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House



One of the many park trails

- **Four-seasons trails should continue to be promoted, including cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing over the winter months.** (Seasonal trail closures, or temporary closures due to wetness or erosion, should be adhered to for environmental sustainability.)

■ **Priority: Low**

■ **Partner: In-House**

Structures:

- **(C: 5.0) In the short-term, County should provide porta-johns at each parking area, until a more permanent comfort station can be built.**
 - Usergroups should provide additional restroom accommodations for any events that may take place at the park.

■ **Priority: High**
■ **Partner: In-House**
- **Determine a viable and productive use for the County owned residence and outbuildings on park property on Hunters Creek Road (2003 Master Plan).** Consideration should be given to turning this building into a parks-related facility, including the potential for revenue generation. Potential future uses could include:
 - Possible seasonal residence for a park ranger to monitor the park and oversee public use of the park.
 - Meeting rooms for parks and environmental groups, local organizations and educational programs, etc.
 - Park Comfort Station / restroom facility; could include interpretive information, park related maps, etc., and could be a stop along the Finger Lakes Trail.
 - Warming Hut for winter activities and cross-country skiing
 - If remodeled, one of the outbuildings could be utilized for the storage of emergency equipment and trail maintenance tools, etc.

■ **Priority: Low**
■ **Partner: In-House**



One of the many park trails



Picnic table near Hunter's Creek



Trail symbols

- **(C: 4.0) Accommodate a modest comfort facility (restrooms) at one or both of the parking lots/trail head locations.**
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House

Maintenance/Safety:

- Improvements should be made within the park to assure adequate emergency vehicle access, consult with local fire department and sheriff to determine what types of equipment they would need to get through.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **Establish a natural buffer of varied width around the entire park property,** with the special exceptions of park entrances, trail heads, “public” trail linkages to adjacent properties and emergency access points along both Centerline Road and Hunters Creek Road. Buffers should also be established around state or federal regulated wetlands.
 - The provisions for setbacks are designed to be flexible due to the varied conditions along the perimeter of this and other county owned properties. There will be specific cases where natural barriers, vegetative screens or fences may be the best solution.
 - Exceptions to the recommended perimeter buffer may be made where the park property abuts or adjoins other publicly held lands where public access and linkages would likely be promoted, such as from the adjacent Kennebec Scenic and Nature Preserve Property.
 - Consideration will be given to establishing an even wider buffer around sensitive environments such as official wetlands or areas with unique vegetation, etc.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House

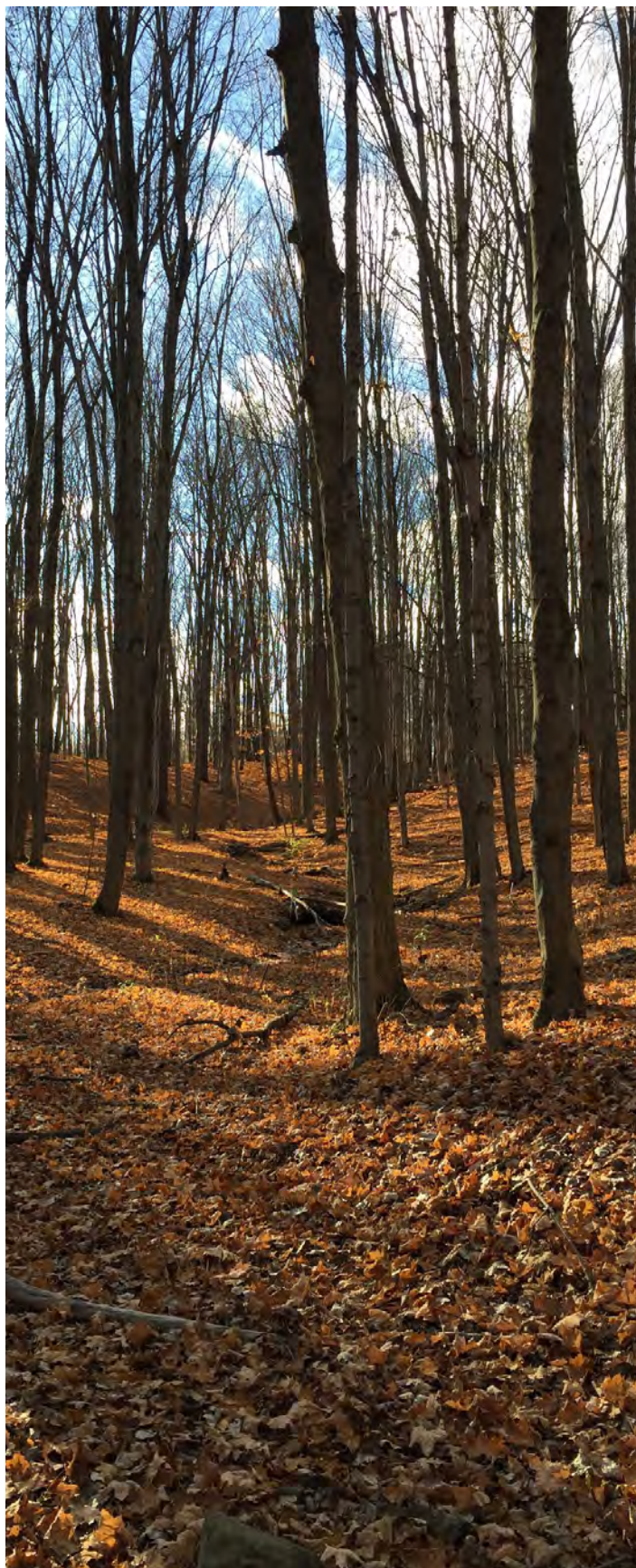
- **(C: 3.0) Based on popularity of park, County should consider formalizing parking area and entrance drive off of Centerline Road.**
 - Possibly expand lot to accommodate a growing number of park users.
 - Possibly work with stakeholders and volunteers to construct rain garden in lawn area of parking lot. This can be a focal feature for users as they enter the park and utilize native plantings and interpretive signage.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House/WNYMBA/Volunteers

Signage:

- **(C: 1.0)** Provide typical park gateway signage on **Centerline Road and Hunters Creek Road at parking locations**. Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest. Develop sign in compliance with typical park gateway signage.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **(A: 4.0)** Provide proper warning and directional signs along both Hunters Creek Road and Centerline Road identifying the park entrances. Recommendations should be made to the County's DPW to study the traffic along Centerline to decide whether further safety enhancements/traffic calming provisions are warranted. (i.e., is a flashing yellow light warranted?). It is recommended that reduced speed limit signs be placed at the park entrances.
 - Shared trail use on road/bridge for Regional Finger Lakes Trail - Proper signage and traffic control measures needed.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **(A: 1.0-1.3)** Provide directional signage to the park at the following key intersections:
 - Centerline and Reiter Road
 - Centerline and Hunters Creek Road
 - Hunters Creek and Strykersville Road
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- Undertake a formal perimeter/boundary survey, with permanent boundary markers set at regular intervals and at critical points around the entire park property.
 - Partner with an area college to utilize students to assist with these survey efforts as part of their field education.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: University At Buffalo/Consultant**



Narrow park trail



View into the woods

- **(C: 2.0)** Generate and install a series of interpretive signs; coordinate with local historians, Park Rangers, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and other stakeholder groups to highlight the many unique natural and historic features of the park property, such as:
 - History and geology of the Creek/gorge
 - Local history of the area (early settlers, early trails and routes, Holmes farm and other area homesteads, cemeteries, etc.),
 - Kellogg Cabin site (log cabin built in 1940 by Sanford Hubbard – son of Roycroft’s Elbert Hubbard)
 - Potential map showing earlier farm properties on the current park land
 - Story behind the gas pipeline, which originates in Texas.
 - Unique park flora and fauna
 - Potential ancient forest groves on park property
 - Story of natural succession, i.e. second growth forests, open meadows, etc.
 - Unique amphibious habitats
 - Potential Native American Site (Indian Ridge Trail?)
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Local Historian/Cornell Cooperative/In-House

Connectivity:

- **Continue expansion, enhancements, connectivity among park trails, and regional trails such as the Finger Lakes Conservation Trail.**
 - Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry

Environment:

- **The top priority for the County at Hunters Creek Park is the preservation and enhancement of the environment.** Long-term environmental sustainability should be considered for all future use proposals.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/WNYMBA/In-House
- **(P: 1.0)** Address and remove invasive species such as Japanese Siltgrass.
 - Develop invasive species management plan for the park
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY Prism
- **Promotion of the natural setting and restoration of native habitats should be prioritized.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/WNY Prism

- **(A: 5.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry**
- **“Active” recreation (athletic fields and courts) should not be promoted within the park.**
 - Only “passive” recreational elements and activities should be promoted for Hunters Creek Park. Primary emphasis will be placed on improving environmentally sustainable nature trails.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.**
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - Prioritize plantings for bird and butterfly habitats;
 - Designate potential native plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats;
 - The County should encourage the development of outdoor classrooms through partnerships with local schools. Outdoor classrooms can be living laboratories for local children to immerse themselves in nature and our local ecosystem.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House**
- **Improve the health of Hunter’s Creek. Work with NYSDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and other local stakeholder groups.**
 - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements to the ecological status of the creek and naturalization of the surrounding wooded areas can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: ECSWD/NYSDEC/Waterkeeper**



Unique tree in the woods showing signs of poor health



Hunter's Creek

HUNTERS CREEK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	5.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park.	Remove dead, dying or diseased trees which threaten the safety of trails or parking areas.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
P	1.0	Address and remove invasive species and emerging infestations to prevent spread to other areas.	Work with potential partners such as WNY Prism to develop invasive species management plan for the park.	High	Ongoing	X
C	5.0	In the short-term, County should provide porta-johns at each parking area, until a more permanent comfort station can be built.	Usergroups should provide additional restroom accommodations for any events that may take place at the park.	High	1-2 Years	X
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, including large park trails map at main trailhead	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce directional sign panels, trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	4.0	Provide proper warning and directional signs along both Hunters Creek Road and Centerline Road identifying the park entrances.	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	1.0	Provide directional signage to the park at the following key intersections:	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	X
A	1.1	Centerline and Reiter Road	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway

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

HUNTERS CREEK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.2	Centerline and Hunters Creek Road	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	1.3	Hunters Creek and Strykersville Road	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
C	1.0	Provide typical park gateway signage on Centerline Road and Hunters Creek Road at parking locations. Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest. Develop sign in compliance with typical park gateway signage.	Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape.	Low	6-10 Years	\$35,600
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
C	3.0	Expand and formalize parking lot off of Centerline Road	Engage a contractor to construct a larger parking lot, and local stakeholder groups to define planting areas and rain gardens	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,500
C	4.0	Accommodate a modest comfort facility (restrooms) at one or both of the parking lots/trail head locations.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$75,000



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SCOBY DAM PARK

DESCRIPTION

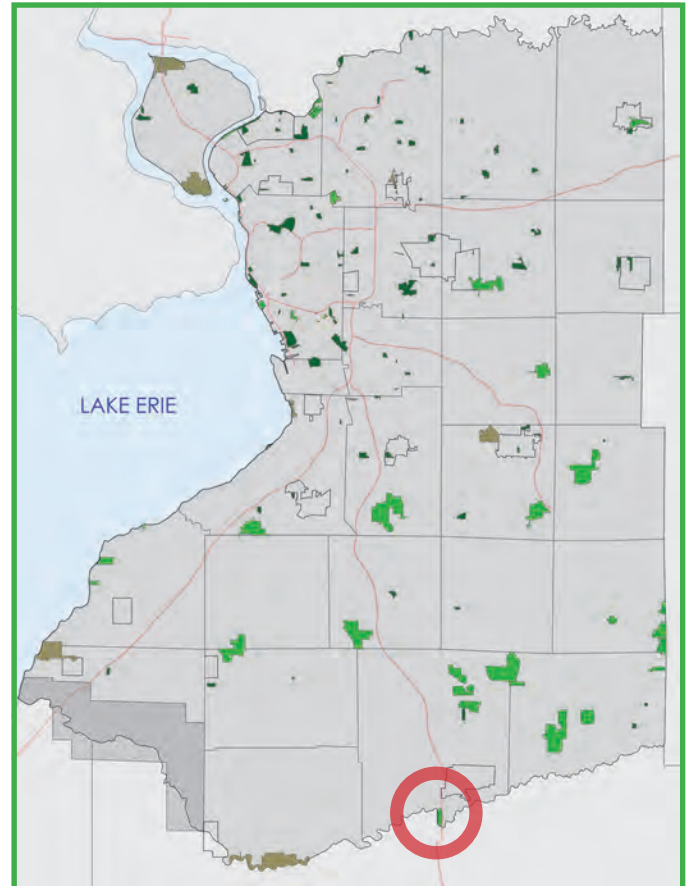
Scoby Dam Park is a linear strip of land along Cattaraugus Creek and is a mecca for fishing. The passive park takes advantage of its superb siting on the Creek, including fishing, informal kayak access, hiking and the beautiful scenery at the southern end of Erie County.

Scoby Hill Dam is the site of a small turn-of-the-century hydroelectric generating facility on Cattaraugus Creek, and at one time generated a small percentage of the Village of Springville's electricity. The dam was constructed in 1924 and is 30-feet high. The existing building is in very good condition, it and the Dam are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The site affords scenic views of the creek and dam.

Currently, Scoby Hill Road ends at Cattaraugus Creek near the dam. The bridge, which formerly carried Scoby Hill Road across Cattaraugus Creek, was removed after the 1998 summer flooding and there are no plans to rebuild it. The creek bank suffered a great deal of erosion in the June 1998 storm.

The Army Corps of Engineers is currently developing a plan to open the access upstream to various fish populations that will make this area a primary fishing destination in Erie County.

A rest stop along Cascade Road is maintained by the County. It contains a small picnic shelter and a large area of maintained turf.



Park Location Map: Scoby Dam Park is the southern most park in the County System, located in the Town of Concord on the border of Cattaraugus County



Scoby Dam

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Manage and monitor invasive species within the park.**
- **Preserve the beautiful stand of large trees along the bank of the Creek; infill with new tree plantings to assure a long-term sustainability and beauty.**
- **Promote this County park as a prime fishing site along the scenic Cattaraugus Creek.**
- **Provide improved access to the edge of the creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms.**

LOCAL CONTEXT

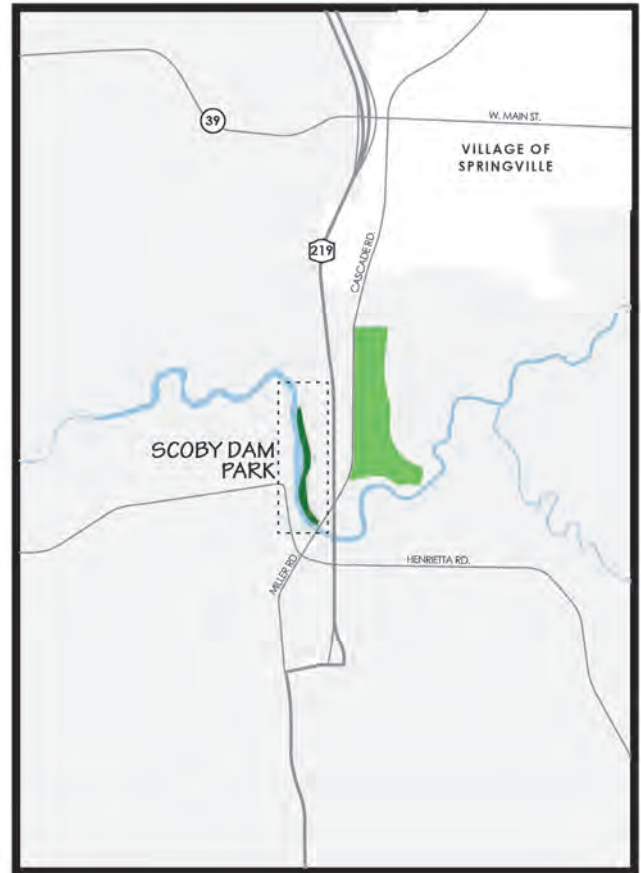
This site is at the far southern end of Erie County along the border with Cattaraugus County. Access to this relatively remote site is from Scoby Hill Road just downhill from Route 219 before crossing the Cattaraugus Creek Bridge heading south. Only a few residences are nearby along Scoby Hill Road in this mostly rural location.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

The primary recreational use for the park is for fishing, picnicking, and kayaks. Casual walk and hiking along the trail is also a popular activity at the park.

RECENT PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Approval of restoration project of dam between U.S Army Corps of Engineers, DEC, and Erie County. Dam would be lowered by 25 feet, with installation of a fish ladder and series of pools to allow fish to bypass the dam.



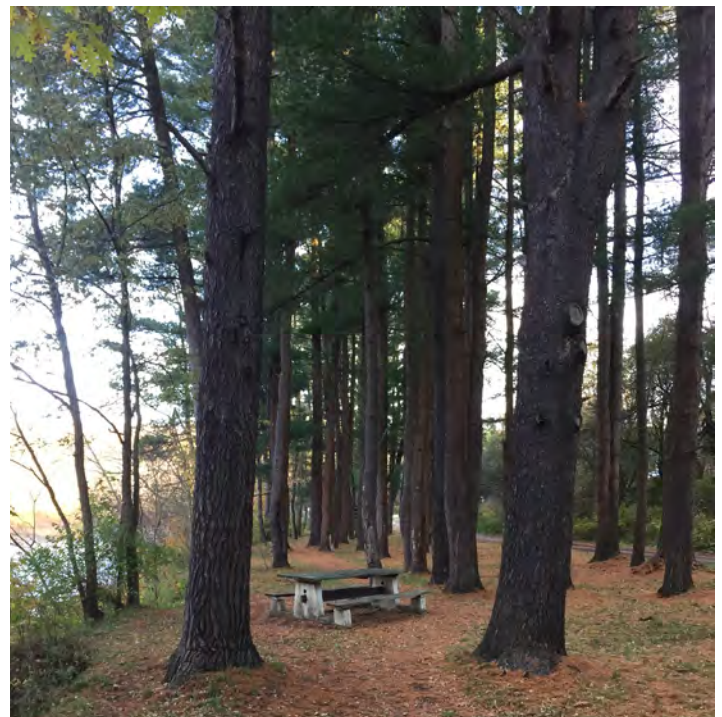
Local context map



Access to the Creek



Access road parallels the park



Large stand of Hemlock Trees



MASTER PLAN SCOBY DAM PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

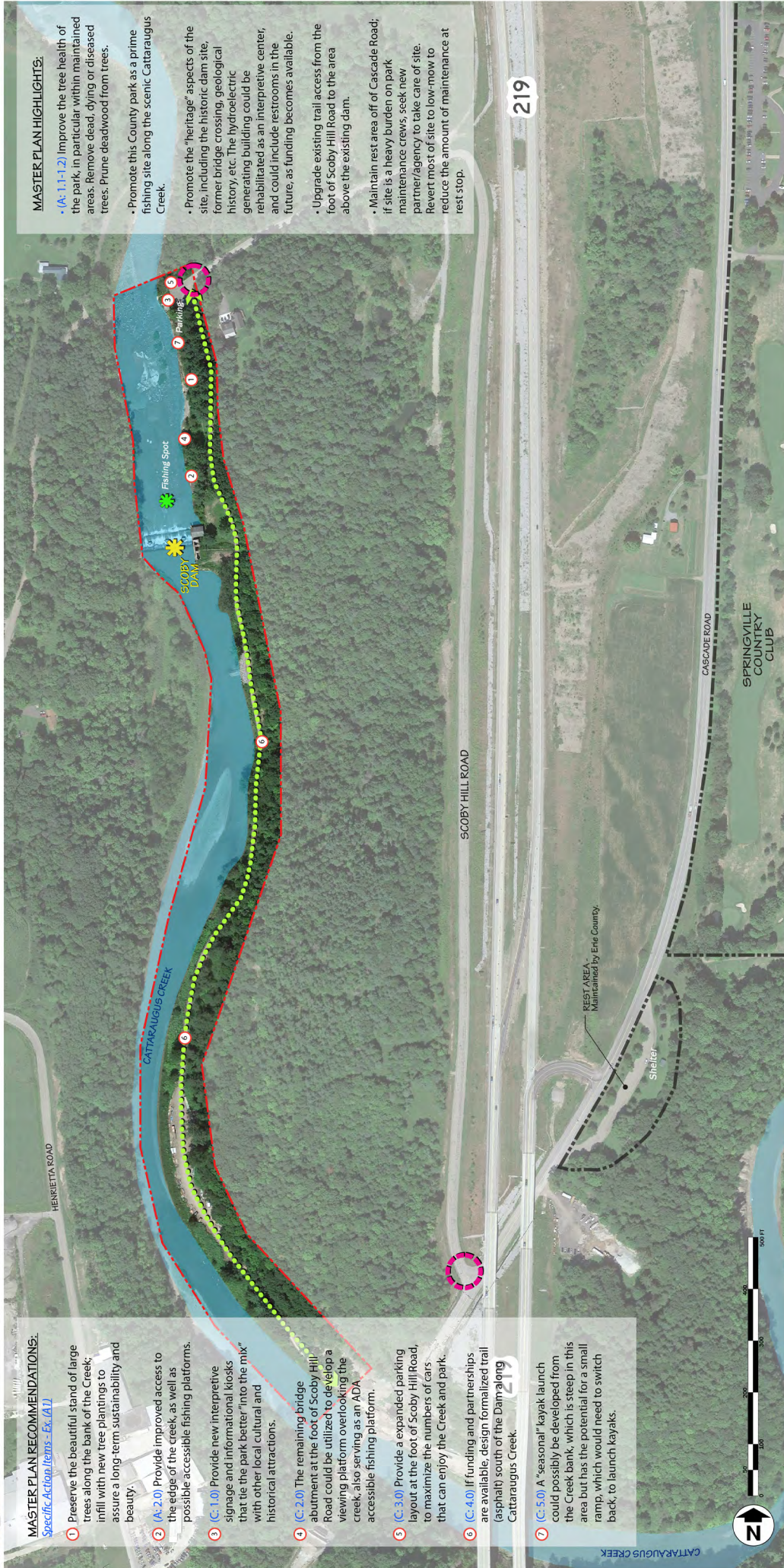
MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Specific Action Items - Ex. (A1)

- 1 Preserve the beautiful stand of large trees along the bank of the Creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms, and beauty.
- 2 (A-2.0) Provide improved access to the edge of the creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms.
- 3 (C-1.0) Provide new interpretive signage and informational kiosks that tie the park better "into the mix" with other local cultural and historical attractions.
- 4 (C-3.0) The remaining bridge abutment at the foot of Scoby Hill Road could be utilized to develop a viewing platform overlooking the creek, also serving as an ADA accessible fishing platform.
- 5 (C-3.0) Provide an expanded parking layout at the foot of Scoby Hill Road, to maximize the numbers of cars that can enjoy the Creek and park.
- 6 (C-4.0) If funding and partnerships are available, design formalized trail (asphalt) south of the Dam along Cattaraugus Creek.
- 7 (C-5.0) A "seasonal" kayak launch could possibly be developed from the Creek bank, which is steep in this area but has the potential for a small ramp, which would need to switch back, to launch kayaks.

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- (A-1.1-1-2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- Promote this County park as a prime fishing site along the scenic Cattaraugus Creek.
- Promote the "heritage" aspects of the site, including the historic dam site, former bridge crossing, geological history, etc. The hydroelectric generating building could be rehabilitated as an interpretive center, and could include restrooms in the future, as funding becomes available.
- Upgrade existing trail access from the foot of Scoby Hill Road to the area above the existing dam.
- Maintain rest area off of Cascade Road; if site is a heavy burden on park maintenance crews, seek new partner/agency to take care of site. Revert most of site to low-mow to reduce the amount of maintenance at rest stop.



Legend:

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



A view down Cattaraugus Creek towards the dam

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Directional and interpretive signage is lacking for this County facility
- No formalized fishing areas are currently available.
- Erosion has done much damage to the Creek bank.
- Safety barriers or landscape buffers are lacking to the more dangerous spots along the creek.
- Only 2 picnic tables at the park.
- Park boundaries are unclear
- Minimal parking available

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

- **(A: 1.1-1.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Provide new tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges.
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
 - Develop annual tree planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural image of the park.
 - Apply for funding from NYSDEC and Erie County Soil and Water District for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- **(P: 13.0) Manage and monitor invasive species within the park.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY Prism/ECSWD

- **Preserve the beautiful stand of large trees along the bank of the Creek; infill with new tree plantings to assure a long-term sustainability and beauty.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- **(P: 1.0) Improve the health of Cattaraugus Creek.**
 - Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements to the ecological status of the river/creek can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD
- **(A: 2.0) Provide improved access to the edge of the creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: NYSDEC/In-House
- **Promote this County park as a prime fishing site along the scenic Cattaraugus Creek.**
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House/VBN
- **Promote the “heritage” aspects of the site, including the historic dam site, former bridge crossing, geological history, etc.**
 - The hydroelectric generating building could be rehabilitated as an interpretive center, and could include restrooms in the future, as funding becomes available.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 1.0) Provide new interpretive signage and informational kiosks that tie the park better “into the mix” with other local cultural and historical attractions.**
 - Provide an interpretive “story-line” for the Park’s geological and local history, i.e. How and when the gorge was formed?; When was the area first settled?; What’s the history behind the Scoby Dam? What were some significant historic happenings in the area, or in the park?; What fish species are found in Cattaraugus Creek?; etc.
 - Provide interpretive signs or markers at key historic and natural sites, such as at the Dam, old generating building, former bridge site, etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House



View of the dam from the parking area



Cattaraugus Creek

- **(C: 2.0)** The remaining bridge abutment at the foot of Scoby Hill Road could be utilized to develop a viewing platform overlooking the creek, also serving as an ADA accessible fishing platform.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** Consultant/Contractor
- **(C: 3.0)** Provide a expanded parking layout at the foot of Scoby Hill Road, to maximize the numbers of cars that can enjoy the Creek and park.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** In-House
- Upgrade existing trail access from the foot of Scoby Hill Road to the area above the existing dam; provide signage and trail markers.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** In-House
- **(C: 4.0)** If funding and partnerships are available, design formalized trail (asphalt) south of the Dam along Cattaraugus Creek. Include additional access points to the creek for fishing and to capitalize on views of the scenic area.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** Consultant/Contractor
- **(C: 5.0)** A “seasonal” kayak launch could possibly be developed from the Creek bank, which is steep in this area but has the potential for a small ramp, which would need to switch back, to launch kayaks. Given the shallow depth of water over much of the year in the Creek, it is likely that spring high-water season is the likely use period for this park feature.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** NYSDEC/In-House/Stakeholder group
- **Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.**
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - Prioritize plantings for bird and butterfly habitats
 - **Priority:** Medium
 - **Partner:** NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House
- **Maintain rest area off of Cascade Road;** if site is a heavy burden on park maintenance crews, seek new partner/ agency to take care of site.
 - Revert most of site to low-mow to reduce the amount of maintenance at rest stop.
 - **Priority:** Low
 - **Partner:** In-House



Water flowing down Cattaraugus Creek



SCOBY DAM PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.1	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
P	2.0	Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park.	Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others.	High	Ongoing	Partner
A	1.2	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings	Develop an annual tree planting program.	Medium	Ongoing	P.O.B.
P	1.0	Improve the health of Cattaraugus Creek	Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Medium	Ongoing	Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD
A	2.0	Provide improved access to the edge of the creek, as well as possible accessible fishing platforms.	Parks staff and partnership support, such as the NYSDEC	Medium	1-2 Years	\$15,000
C	1.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park	Coordinate with historical society to develop copy and obtain images for the interpretive content. Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$7,000

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

SCOBY DAM PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	2.0	The remaining bridge abutment at the foot of Scoby Hill Road could be utilized to develop a viewing platform overlooking the creek, also serving as an ADA accessible fishing platform.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
C	3.0	Provide a expanded parking layout at the foot of Scoby Hill Road, to maximize the numbers of cars that can enjoy the Creek and park.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$25,500 - DPW
C	4.0	If funding and partnerships are available, design formalized trail (asphalt) south of the Dam along Cattaraugus Creek.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$100,000
C	5.0	A “seasonal” kayak launch could possibly be developed from the Creek bank, which is steep in this area but has the potential for a small ramp, which would need to switch back, to launch kayaks.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$18,000



Entrance sign



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BUFFALO RIVER NATURAL HABITAT PARKS

(Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park [Now known as - Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge and Park], Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park, Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park, Times Beach Nature Preserve)

DESCRIPTION

Erie County has continued to take a leadership role in the preservation and enhancement of the environment along the Buffalo River. This former industrialized corridor has seen much improvement with regard to water quality and habitat restoration. The County has worked closely with the City of Buffalo, New York State, and various Federal agencies to remediate, restore, and revitalize three small, but notable, park sites along the Buffalo River, including Thomas F. Higgins Bridge and Riverfront Park (Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park), Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park and Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park.

Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge and Park (Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park) site lies at the confluence of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek. Both Red Jacket and Bailey Peninsula park sites have become favorite fishing locations.

Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park, lies at the foot of Smith Street along the Buffalo River, with excellent southerly views of the River and historic grain elevators. It also has a naturalized wetland / pond area which is reminiscent of an earlier time in history, before industries took over the landscape.

Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park lies just east of Bailey Avenue at Seneca Street and Avon Place. The County has recently obtained additional land to expand the habitat park.

Times Beach Nature Preserve runs along Fuhrmann Boulevard on the Outer Harbor and is owned by the City of Buffalo. Erie County manages maintenance and operations of the park. Over the last five years, extensive invasive species removal, control and native plant



All four natural habitat parks are located in the City of Buffalo

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Continue efforts in partnering with local agencies and stakeholders to maintain, restore, and enhance parks.**
 - Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat parks.
 - Actively seek community and neighborhood volunteer participation for clean-ups, plantings, and invasive species control.
- **Install security camera system at parks – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.**
- **Produce interpretive signage in key areas within the parks.** Educate park users about local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.



View towards the Lighthouse and Times Beach

restorations were funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers, and will be turned back over to the County in 2018 for full responsibility of the habitat maintenance and operations.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

All four properties have a history along and near the Buffalo River. There was a point in Buffalo's history when the city was one of the largest and most powerful industrial centers in the country, and the Buffalo River was at the epicenter of this industrial might. Ships once traveled up and down the river, servicing the numerous grain elevators, steel mills and other factories. It's hard to believe that heavy industry once dominated this urban river-scape. Although some industry still exists and some ships do pass through, it is a fraction of its former use, and now fish, wildlife and vegetation have come back to reclaim their historical homes.

LOCAL CONTEXT

During the completion of the original Erie County Parks Master Plan, South Buffalo and the Outer Harbor were in need of revitalization efforts. Over the last several years South Buffalo and specifically areas near the Buffalo River are witnessing a renaissance. From Buffalo Riverworks to the Ohio Street Complete Streets Project, this area has seen tremendous improvements. New apartments/lofts, restaurants, and parks have made South Buffalo and up-and-coming vibrant destination. Likewise, the Outer Harbor is now a haven for bikers, joggers, park-goers, and nature enthusiasts, as new parks like Wilkeson Pointe and Outer Harbor State Park have sparked regional interest in the area as a recreational asset. The Habitat Parks contribute to this rebirth providing natural sanctuaries, wildlife habitats, and scenic views of the Buffalo River.

Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge and Park formerly known as Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park, lies in a small triangular piece of land between the Buffalo River, Cazenovia Creek and Bailey Avenue. It is just south of the major intersection of Elk Street, Seneca Street and the I-190, and just north of the major city intersections of McKinley Parkway and South Park Avenue. Southside Elementary School lies across Bailey Avenue further to the east, adjacent to the restored natural site.

Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park is located at the foot of Smith Street, off of South Park Avenue. Many industrial uses and single family homes to the north surround the park site which fronts the Buffalo River. Active railroads are also present to the east and west of the site.

Seneca Bluffs Natural Habitat Park is located just a short kayak trip up river from Baily Peninsula Habitat Park. Located off of Seneca Street and just a couple blocks from Bailey Avenue, this park has approximately over 3,000 feet of shoreline frontage on the Buffalo River. Several industrial sites front Seneca Bluffs on the opposite side of the river with businesses and single family homes residing south and east of the park site.

Times Beach is located on the Outer Harbor, accessible off of Fuhrmann Boulevard via the Buffalo Skyway. Wilkeson Pointe Park lies directly south of the park site while the Buffalo Lighthouse is directly to the north. In close proximity to Times Beach is access to the Queen City Bike Ferry, which provides waterborne transportation back and forth to Canalside. The Outer Harbor in recent years has become a beacon for people in the City to escape urban life to bike, walk, kayak, and enjoy breath-taking views of Lake Erie.



Buffalo River

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

All of the habitat park sites are passive, nature-based sites. However, many other area parks offer both formal recreational and nature-based opportunities including:

- Tifft Nature Preserve (passive/habitat preserve)
- Wilkeson Pointe
- Outer Harbor State Park
- Mutual Riverfront Park
- Conway Park
- Houghton Park
- Riverfest Park

CURRENT MAINTENANCE OF THE HABITAT PARKS

With funded construction, restoration and invasive species control efforts ending in 2018, maintenance responsibility, funding, and dedicated staffers will be a concern for all habitat parks moving forward. Invasive species is a major issue within these parks, as well as several other County Parks. Long-term management of these parks needs to be addressed in order to monitor and preserve habitats, plant life, and the Buffalo River. Typically Parks crew members maintaining natural habitat parks have not always had the necessary training to preserve and maintain natural parks. Long-term/trained dedicated staffers as well as local partners/community groups need to work together as caretakers and stewardship advocates for these important urban natural habitats.

- **Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge and Park** – Area across Cazenovia Creek being restored to parkland, and will be turned over to the County in 2018 for ongoing maintenance and invasive species control.
- **Red Jacket** – Currently in a post-construction warranty period with LDC Construction. Park will receive additional invasive species control spraying in the spring. Park will be turned over to the County in 2018 for ongoing maintenance and invasive species control.
- **Seneca Bluffs** – Army Corps of Engineers has Federal funding for maintenance and invasive species control of the 50' riparian shoreline buffer. The County is responsible for the rest of the land. County will be responsible for the entire park as of 2020.
- **Times Beach** – Full maintenance and operations will be transferred back to the County in 2018 with the end of the US Army Corps 5-year invasive species management and native planting investment. This park needs a grant or increased parks operations budget to maintain this nature preserve.
- An extensive invasive species management plan and policy is needed to:
 - mitigate the impacts of invasive species,
 - reduce the rate of invasive species introduction (prevention),
 - eradicate new invader populations, and
 - reduce damages by slowing the spread of

invasions across the landscape or adapting to an invader's presence through control or altered management practices.

In addition, monitoring is key to most invasion mitigation strategies—for knowing what and where to control and for evaluating the effectiveness of management actions. Native plants communities are indispensable to ecosystem health, resiliency, and productivity. Recognizing the need to maintain native plant communities, the County should create and implement a Policy for promoting the use of native plants in revegetation projects within the Parks System, as well for other projects on County-managed lands.



Times Beach

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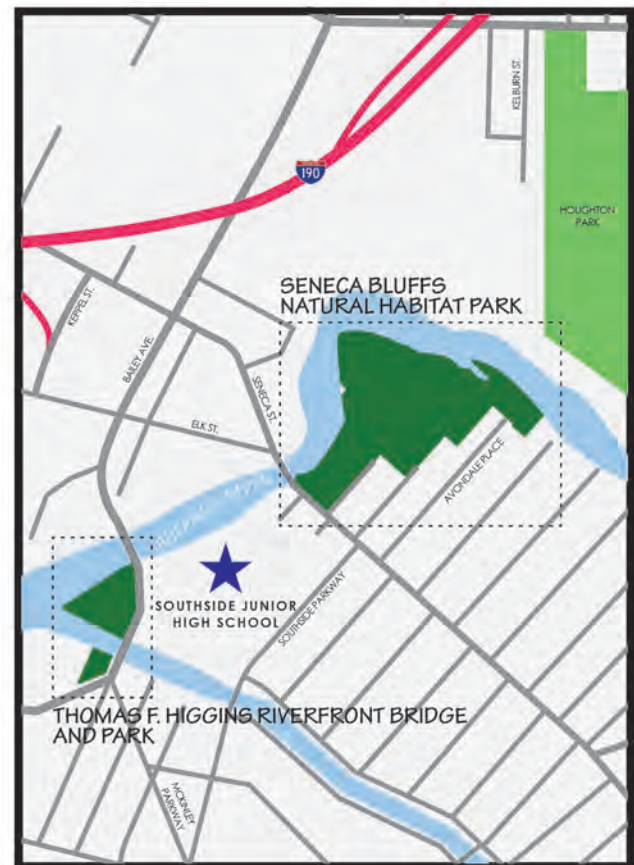
THOMAS F. HIGGINS

RIVERFRONT BRIDGE & PARK

(Formerly known as Bailey Peninsula Natural Habitat Park)

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Finished construction in 2017 to restore natural ecological systems. These restoration efforts have improved many issues such as (On-going construction and restoration to continue):
 - Invasive Species
 - Shoreline erosion/loss of habitats
 - Loss of wildlife/natural habitats
- At least half of the trees that were planted recently have been destroyed by beavers.
- Site continues to suffer from park users disobeying critical rules which protect and maintain important habitats and wildlife (i.e. litter, disruption of peaceful habitats, etc.).
- Encroachment of businesses, industrial practices, unlawful dumpings, poor care of the Buffalo River.
- Lack of a 'greenway' connection to other riverfront parks/trails.
- Impacts from urban conditions and abuse.
- Due to lack of staff and the small acreage of the park (moderate maintenance needed) security is problematic .
- Additional signage is needed off of Bailey Avenue
- Fast traffic and difficult sight lines on Bailey Avenue make pedestrian access difficult.
- Aggressive invasive species control needed



Park Location Map: Bailey Peninsula is located off of Bailey Ave.



View of Buffalo River from Thomas F. Higgins Riverfront Bridge & Park





MASTER PLAN

THOMAS F. HIGGINS RIVERFRONT BRIDGE & PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Specific Action Items - Ex. (A1)

- (A: 1.0-1.2)** Improve park signage; Provide typical park signage on Bailey Avenue. Provide wayfinding and directional signage to new parking area.
- (C: 1.0)** Produce interpretive signage in key areas within the park. As restoration efforts come to a close, new signage can help educate park users about the natural systems that have been restored as well as, local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.
- Replant trees in spring which were decimated by beavers. Identify funding for tree wrapping to prevent further destruction of newly planted trees.
- Promote public access to the River; through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches. Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Maintain, restore, and enhance park. Continue efforts in partnering with local agencies and stakeholders.
- Continue to monitor natural systems to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.
- (P: 1.0)** Install security camera system - tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.
- Encourage passive activities to take place, promoting positive use of the park while discouraging negative activities. Activities may include kayaking, public art installations/projects, fishing classes, and neighborhood gatherings.
- (P: 2.0)** Improve the health of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek. Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.

Increase connectivity to Habitat Parks via new 'greenway' corridors, 'rails to trails' initiatives, bike routes, etc.
* Trail connection to Seneca Bluffs

SOUTHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NOTE: Aerial Drones Not Permitted in Park Which Remains in Construction

Future Park Trails

Cazenovia Creek

Buffalo River

Bailey Avenue

MCKINLEY PARKWAY



Legend:

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

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

- **Maintain, restore, and enhance park.** Continue efforts in partnering with local agencies and stakeholders.
 - Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.
 - Actively seek community and neighborhood volunteer participation for clean-ups, plantings, and invasive species control.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo/Local schools and community groups
- **(A: 1.0-1.2) Improve park signage;**
 - Provide typical park signage on Bailey Avenue.
 - Provide wayfinding and directional signage to new parking area.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **Continue to monitor natural systems to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 1.0) Produce interpretive signage in key areas within the park.** As restoration efforts come to a close, new signage can help educate park users about the natural systems that have been restored as well as; local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: Niagara River Greenway/In-House
- **Increase connectivity to Habitat Parks**
 - Coordinate with City of Buffalo and local stakeholder groups
 - via new/future 'greenway' corridors, 'rails to trails' initiatives, bike routes, etc.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo, WNY Land Conservancy, Niagara River Greenway
- **(P: 1.0) Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.**
 - Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs



View of natural habitat park

- **(P: 3.0) Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;**
 - Emphasize the plantings of native vegetation which provides food, cover, and nesting locations for birds.
 - Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC, US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **(P: 4.0) Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.**
 - Plant late season nectar sources such as New England Aster, which would improve late summer/early fall migrating periods.
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House**
- **Encourage passive activities to take place,** promoting positive use of the park while discouraging negative activities.
 - Activities may include kayaking, public art installations/projects, fishing classes, and neighborhood gatherings.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Neighborhood community groups and stakeholders**
- **(P: 2.0) Improve the health of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek.**
 - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD, local businesses dependent on the River**
- **Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.**
 - Increase awareness of park by providing guided nature walks with Erie County Park Rangers. Tours could include other habitat parks.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **Prioritize protection and enhancement of areas deemed appropriate for additional native plantings.** Native plant gardens will promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper/In-House**
- **Promote public access to the River;**
 - through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches.
 - Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Restored native plants and trees



New sign and landscaping

THOMAS F. HIGGINS RIVERFRONT BRIDGE & PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	1.0	Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.	Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.	High	Ongoing	City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs
P	3.0	Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;	Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	4.0	Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.	Coordinate with NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD	High	1-2 Years	Partner
A	1.0	Improve park signage;	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park signage	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	1.1	Provide typical park signage on Bailey Avenue.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park signage	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
P	2.0	Improve the health of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek.	Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Medium	Ongoing	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD
A	1.2	Provide wayfinding and directional signage to new parking area and park.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House
C	1.0	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

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RED JACKET RIVERFRONT NATURAL HABITAT PARK

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Finished construction in 2017 to restore natural ecological systems. These restoration efforts have improved many issues such as;
 - Invasive Species
 - Shoreline erosion/loss of habitats
 - Loss of wildlife/natural habitats
- Site suffers from park users disobeying critical rules which protect and maintain important habitats/wildlife (i.e. litter, disruption of peaceful habitats, etc.).
- Mistreatment of the Buffalo River.
- Lack of a 'greenway' connection to other riverfront parks/trails.
- Impacts from urban conditions and abuse (graffiti on boulders and railings)
- Railings at overlook are deteriorating, contains missing rails, and is covered in graffiti.
- Due to lack of staff and the small acreage of the park (moderate maintenance needed) security is problematic .
- Signage at Smith Street and South Park Avenue does not conform with typical County park signage.
- Sidewalk along Smith Street terminates at St. Stephens Place. Local users have to walk on the street south of St Stephens Place to access park.
- Lack of interpretive signage
- Aggressive invasive species control needed



Park Location Map: Red Jacket Riverfront Park is located off of Smith Street.



Overlook area





MASTER PLAN RED JACKET RIVERFRONT PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



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

- **(P: 5.0) Maintain, restore, and enhance park.** Partner and coordinate with local agencies and stakeholders
 - Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.
 - Actively seek community and neighborhood volunteer participation for clean-ups, plantings, and invasive species control.
 - Coordinate with local user-groups like Valley Community Association, neighborhood block clubs, and local schools to provide programs and stewardship opportunities at park.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: City of Buffalo/Local schools and community groups**



New native tree plantings along path

- **(A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Provide new tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges.
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
 - Develop annual tree and native planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural character of the park.
 - Apply for funding from NYSDEC for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry**
- **Continue to monitor natural systems at property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.**
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **Maintain park as 'natural habitat park'**
 - Apply no (or limited) mowing and limited weed whacking policy. Reducing lawn maintenance will increase natural habitats and would help divert park crew members to work on additional tasks.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **(P: 6.0) Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.**
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM**
- **(P: 3.0) Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;**
 - Emphasize the plantings of native vegetation which provides food, cover, and nesting locations for birds.
 - Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC, US Fish and Wildlife Service**



Pathway between Buffalo River and small pond area



Railings in poor shape at the overlook area

- **(P: 4.0) Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.**
 - Plant late season nectar sources such as New England Aster, which would improve late summer/early fall migrating periods.
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House**
- **(C: 1.0) Produce and install interpretive signage in key areas within the park.** As restoration efforts come to a close, new signage can help educate park users about the natural systems that have been restored as well as; local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: Niagara River Greenway/In-House**



Great panoramic views

- **Increase connectivity to habitat parks;**
 - via new/future 'greenway' corridors, 'rails to trails' initiatives, bike routes, etc.
 - Coordinate with City of Buffalo and local stakeholder groups, specifically with the proposed DL&W Greenway trail.
 - **Priority:** High
 - **Partner:** City of Buffalo, WNY Land Conservancy, Niagara River Greenway
- **Install security camera system** – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.
 - Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.
 - **Priority:** High
 - **Partner:** City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs
- **(A: 3.0) Repair and improve rails at overlook;**
 - Replace missing rails and provide new paint. Replace entire sections if needed to ensure proper safety.
 - **Priority:** High
 - **Partner:** In-House



Shoreline conditions



Park signage off of Smith Street

- **Encourage passive activities to take place**, promoting positive use of the park while discouraging negative activities.
 - Activities may include kayaking, public art installations/projects, fishing classes, and neighborhood gatherings.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Neighborhood community groups and stakeholders**
- **(P: 2.0) Improve the health of the Buffalo River.**
 - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements to the ecological status of the river/creek can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD, local businesses dependent on the River**
- **(A: 4.0) Promote public access to the River;**
 - through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches.
 - Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**
- **(P: 7.0) Replace or provide space for murals and public art on concrete walls on either side of Smith Street.**
 - Collaborate with local artists and interested neighborhood residents.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: Local artists/Community groups/Schools**
- **(A: 2.0) Replace existing gateway signage to be in conformance with the branding of the Parks System.**
 - In the event the sign requires repairs or needs to be reconstructed it should conform to the signage used on the other parks.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Artwork off of Smith Street

RED JACKET RIVERFRONT PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings to increase tree canopy and renew the resource over time.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	3.0	Repair and improve rails at overlook;	Replace missing rails and provide new paint. Replace entire sections if needed to ensure proper safety.	High	1-2 Years	P.O.B
P	1.0	Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.	Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.	High	Ongoing	City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs
P	3.0	Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;	Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	4.0	Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.	Coordinate with NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	5.0	Maintain, restore, and enhance park.	Partner and coordinate with local agencies and stakeholders Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.	High	Ongoing	Partner
P	6.0	Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.	Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others.	High	Ongoing	Partner
A	2.0	Improve park signage;	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park signage	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House

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



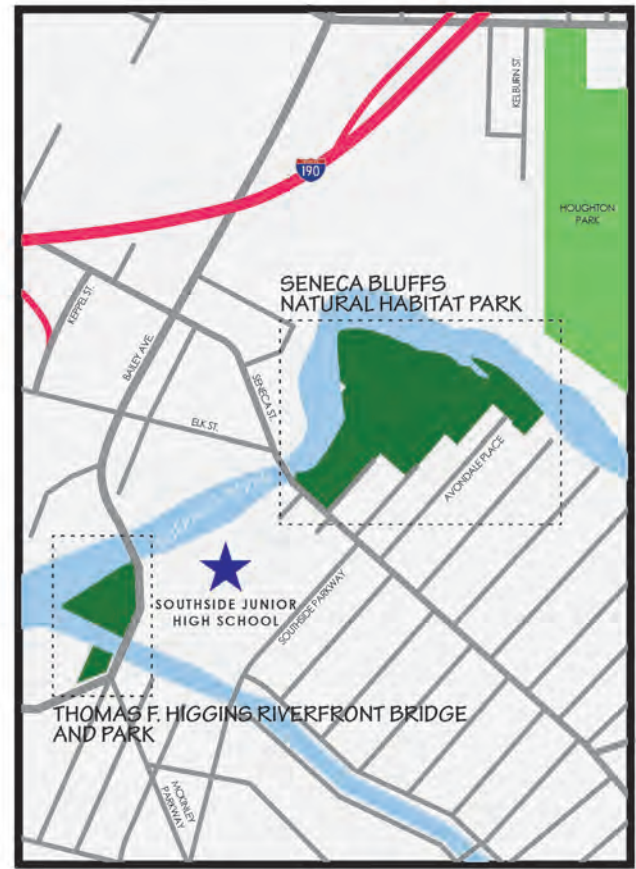
Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	2.0	Improve the health of the Buffalo River	Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Medium	Ongoing	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD
A	2.1	Provide wayfinding and directional signage to the park.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House
A	4.0	Promote and provide public access to the River;	through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches. Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.	Low	3-5 Years	\$15,000
C	1.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels	Low	6-10 Years	\$7,000
P	7.0	Replace or provide space for murals and public art on concrete walls on either side of Smith Street.	Collaborate with local artists and interested neighborhood residents.	Low	3-5 Years	Partner

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SENECA BLUFFS NATURAL HABITAT PARK

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Finished construction in 2017 to restore natural ecological systems (more improvements on-going). These restoration efforts have improved many issues such as;
 - Invasive Species
 - Shoreline erosion/loss of habitats
 - Loss of wildlife/natural habitats
- Site suffers from park users disobeying critical rules which protect and maintain important habitats and wildlife (i.e. litter, disruption of peaceful habitats, etc.).
- Encroachment of businesses, industrial practices, unlawful dumpings, poor care of the Buffalo River.
- Lack of a 'greenway' connection to other riverfront parks/trails.
- Impacts from urban conditions and abuse.
- Due to lack of staff and the large acreage of the park (moderate maintenance needed) security is problematic.
- Does not have typical park signage visible off of Seneca Street.
- Lack of interpretive signage
- Aggressive invasive species control needed



Park Location Map: Seneca Bluffs is located off of Seneca Street in South Buffalo.



Trail and signage from parking area





MASTER PLAN SENECA BLUFFS PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS: *Specific Action Items - Ex (A-1)*

- ① (C: 1.0) Produce interpretive signage in key areas within the park. As restoration efforts come to a close, new signage can help educate park users about the natural systems that have been restored as well as; local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.
- ② (C: 2.0) Provide typical park signage on Seneca Street. Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest.
- ③ (A: 4.0) Promote public access to the River/Creek. Through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches. Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.
- ④ (C: 3.0) Install water line at the site to properly manage native plantings and possible community gardens.
- ⑤ Provide area for community gardens - coordinate with community groups for active participation of these gardens.
- ⑥ (C: 4.0) Provide expanded trail system and potential elevated boardwalk on lower terrace to access shoreline and minimize disturbance to sensitive habitats/communities.



MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Maintain, restore, and enhance park. Partner with local agencies and stakeholders.
- (A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the park. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- Monitor natural systems at property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.
- Maintain park as 'natural habitat park'. Apply no (or limited) mowing and limited weed whacking policy. Reducing lawn maintenance will increase natural habitats and would help divert park crew members to work on additional tasks.
- Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.
- (P: 1.0) Install security camera system - tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.
- Encourage passive activities to take place, promoting positive use of the park while discouraging negative activities. Activities may include kayaking, public art installations/projects, fishing classes, and neighborhood gatherings.
- (P: 2.0) Improve the health of the Buffalo River/Creek. Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.

Legend:

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



View of the Buffalo River

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

- **(P: 5.0) Maintain, restore, and enhance park.** Partner with local agencies and stakeholders.
 - Pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.
 - Actively seek community and neighborhood volunteer participation for clean-ups, plantings, and invasive species control.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo/Local schools and community groups
- **(A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Provide new tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges.
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
 - Develop annual tree and native planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural character of the park.
 - Apply for funding from NYSDEC for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry
- **Monitor natural systems at property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 3.0) Install water line at the site to properly manage native plantings and possible community gardens.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **Maintain park as 'natural habitat park'**
 - Limit mowing and weed whacking. Reducing lawn maintenance will increase natural habitats and would help divert park crew members to work on additional tasks.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 1.0) Produce and install interpretive signage in key areas within the park.** As restoration efforts come to a close, new signage can help educate park users about the natural systems that have been restored as well as; local wildlife, unique flora and fauna, past use/history of the site, etc.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: Niagara River Greenway/In-House

- **Increase connectivity to habitat parks;**
 - via new/future 'greenway' corridors, 'rails to trails' initiatives, bike routes, etc.
 - Coordinate with City of Buffalo and local stakeholder groups
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: City of Buffalo, WNY Land Conservancy, Niagara River Greenway**
- **(P: 1.0) Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.**
 - Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs**
- **(P: 6.0) Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.**
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM**
- **(C: 2.0) Provide typical park signage on Seneca Street.**
 - Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Buffalo River



- **(P: 3.0) Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;**
 - Emphasize the plantings of native vegetation which provides food, cover, and nesting locations for birds.
 - Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC, US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **(P: 4.0) Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.**
 - Plant late season nectar sources such as New England Aster, which would improve late summer/early fall migrating periods.
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House**
- **Provide area for community gardens** - coordinate with community groups for active participation of these gardens.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Community members/groups**
- **(C: 4.0) Provide expanded trail system and potential elevated boardwalk** on lower terrace to access shoreline and minimize disturbance to sensitive habitats/communities.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: In-House, NYSDEC**
- **Encourage passive activities to take place**, promoting positive use of the park while discouraging negative activities.
 - Activities may include kayaking, public art installations/projects, fishing classes, community gardens and neighborhood gatherings.
 - **Priority: Medium**
 - **Partner: Neighborhood community groups and stakeholders**
- **(P: 2.0) Improve the health of the Buffalo River/Creek.**
 - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements to the ecological status

of the river/creek can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.

- **Priority: Medium**

- **Partner: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD, local businesses dependent on the River**

- **(A: 4.0) Promote public access to the River/Creek;**
 - Through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches.
 - Long-term capital improvements could include formalized fishing deck/platform.
 - **Priority: Low**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Informal parking area



Existing trail

SENECA BLUFFS: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings to increase tree canopy and renew the resource over time.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	3.0	Repair and improve rails at overlook;	Replace missing rails and provide new paint. Replace entire sections if needed to ensure proper safety.	High	1-2 Years	In-House
C	1.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels	High	6-10 Years	\$10,500
C	2.0	Establish gateway signage for the park; Provide typical County Park sign on Seneca Street	Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape.	High	1-2 Years	\$17,800
C	3.0	Install water line at the site to properly manage native plantings and possible community gardens.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	High	1-2 Years	\$5,000
P	1.0	Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.	Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.	High	Ongoing	City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs
P	3.0	Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;	Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	4.0	Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.	Coordinate with NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	5.0	Maintain, restore, and enhance park.	Partner and coordinate with local agencies and stakeholders Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.	High	Ongoing	Partner

KEY:

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

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C: Capital Project

POB: Parks Operating Budget



SENECA BLUFFS: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	6.0	Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.	Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others.	High	Ongoing	Partner
A	2.0	Improve park signage;	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park signage	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	2.1	Provide wayfinding and directional signage to the park.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
C	4.0	Provide expanded trail system and potential elevated boardwalk on lower terrace	Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	3-5 Years	\$220,000
P	2.0	Improve the health of the Buffalo River	Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Medium	Ongoing	Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD
A	4.0	Promote and provide public access to the River;	Through trails, overlooks and possible kayak launches.	Low	3-5 Years	\$75,000

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TIMES BEACH NATURE PRESERVE

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Impacts from urban conditions and abuse
- Some graffiti found on boardwalk and signs
- Due to lack of staff and the large acreage of the park (moderate maintenance needed) security/patrol becomes an issue at times.
- Does not have typical park signage visible off of Fuhrmann Blvd.
- Aggressive invasive species control needed

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

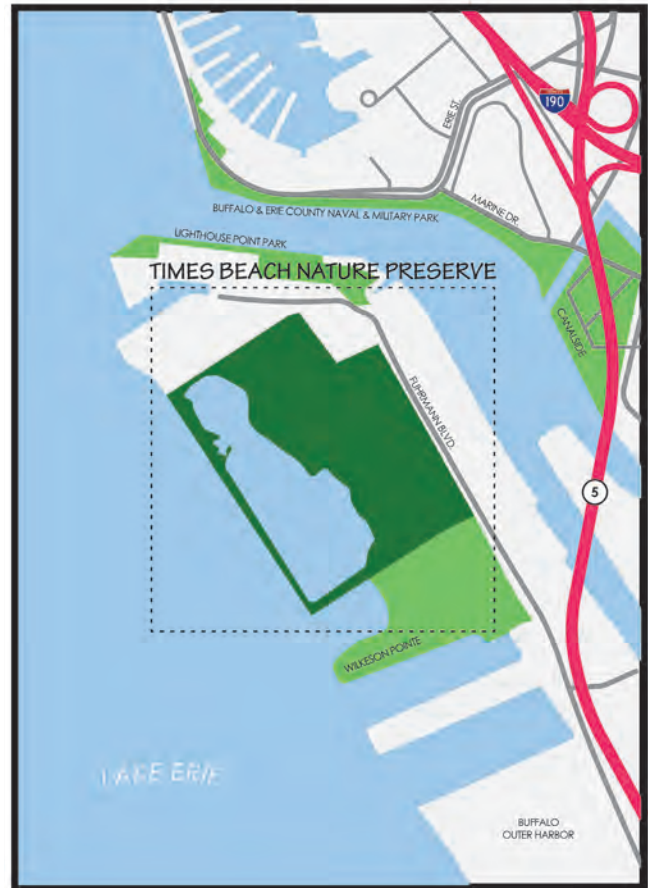
Key - (Project Type: Project Number)

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

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C - Capital project

- **(P: 5.0) Maintain, restore, and enhance park.** Partner with local agencies and stakeholders
 - Continue to seek grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.
 - Partner and collaborate with Friends of Times Beach group.
 - Actively seek community and neighborhood volunteer participation for clean-ups, plantings, and invasive species control.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo/Local schools and community groups



Park Location Map: Times Beach is located on the Outer Harbor off of Fuhrmann Blvd.



View of the marsh at Times Beach





MASTER PLAN

TIMES BEACH NATURE PRESERVE

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 (A-2.0) Provide typical park signage off of Furhmann Blvd. Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest to entrance sign.
- 2 (A-3.0) Improve and maintain park trails and boardwalks.

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Continue efforts in partnering with local agencies and stakeholders to maintain, restore, and enhance park.
- (A-1.0) Improve the tree health of the park. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- Continue to monitor natural systems at property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.
- Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.
- Increase connectivity to Habitat Parks and other nearby parks via new/future 'greenway' corridors, 'rails to trails' initiatives, bike routes, etc.
- (P-1.0) Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.
- (P-2.0) Improve the health of Lake Erie. Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.



Legend:

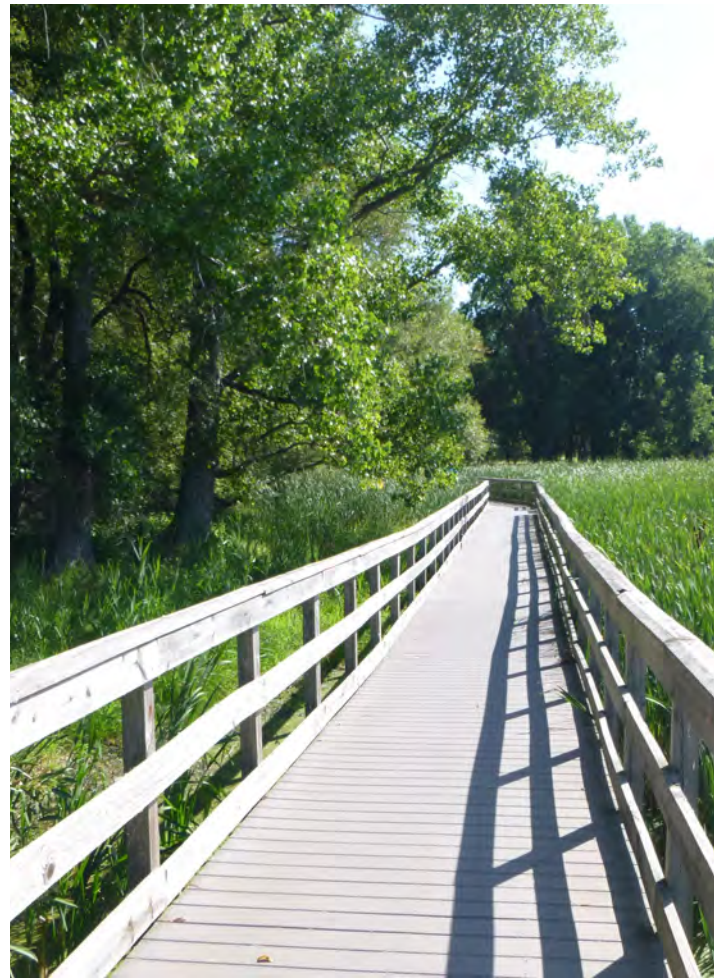
- Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations
- Destination
- Natural Features
- Playground
- Existing Trails
- Park Boundary

- **(A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the park.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry**
- **(P: 3.0) Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;**
 - Emphasize the plantings of native vegetation which provides food, cover, and nesting locations for birds.
 - Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC, US Fish and Wildlife Service**
- **(P: 4.0) Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.**
 - Plant late season nectar sources such as New England Aster, which would improve late summer/early fall migrating periods.
 - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
 - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House**
- **Monitor natural systems at property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.**
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: In-House**



Boardwalk and bird viewing area

- **(P: 6.0) Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY PRISM
- **(A: 2.0) Provide typical park signage off of Fuhrmann Blvd.**
 - Provide gateway treatment including landscaping with seasonal interest to entrance sign.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(P: 1.0) Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.**
 - Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: City of Buffalo/Erie County Sheriffs
- **(A: 3.0) Improve and maintain park trails and boardwalks.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House/Stakeholder and Volunteer Groups
- **(P: 2.0) Improve the health of Lake Erie.**
 - Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Continued improvements can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper/ NYSDEC/ECSWD



Boardwalk



Trail adjacent to Fuhrmann Blvd.

TIMES BEACH NATURE PRESERVE: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings to increase tree canopy and renew the resource over time.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	2.0	Improve park signage; Provide typical park signage off of Fuhrmann Blvd.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park signage	High	3-5 Years	In-House
A	3.0	Improve and maintain park trails and boardwalks.	Parks staff and partners	High	Ongoing	In-House
P	3.0	Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds;	Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service.	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	4.0	Provide pollinator friendly plants and pollinator gardens for the presence of Hummingbirds, Butterflies, Bumblebees, Clear-winged moths, and others.	Coordinate with NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	5.0	Maintain, restore, and enhance park.	Partner and coordinate with local agencies and stakeholders Continue to pursue grants and partnerships that can enable stewardship and caretakers for the habitat park.	High	Ongoing	Partner
P	6.0	Continue the removal and treatment of invasive species.	Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others.	High	Ongoing	Partner
P	1.0	Install security camera system – tie into City of Buffalo Police Department blue light security camera system.	Coordinate with Sheriffs and other agencies to increase security at the park.	Low	Ongoing	City of Buffalo, Erie County Sheriffs
P	2.0	Improve the health of Lake Erie	Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.	Low	Ongoing	Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD

KEY:

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LAKEVIEW POCKET PRESERVE

DESCRIPTION

Lakeview Pocket Preserve is an approximately 9 acre wooded parcel off of Lakeshore Road on the shoreline of Lake Erie. The undeveloped parcel sits upon a bluff with a beautiful view overlooking the lake. There are a variety of trees on-site dating to more than 100 years of age, and a series of wetlands which provide habitat for a variety of species according to the Western New York Land Conservancy. Private residences reside on either side of the parcel. Notably, on the eastern side of the property is a new wedding/retreat venue called Suncliff on the Lake.

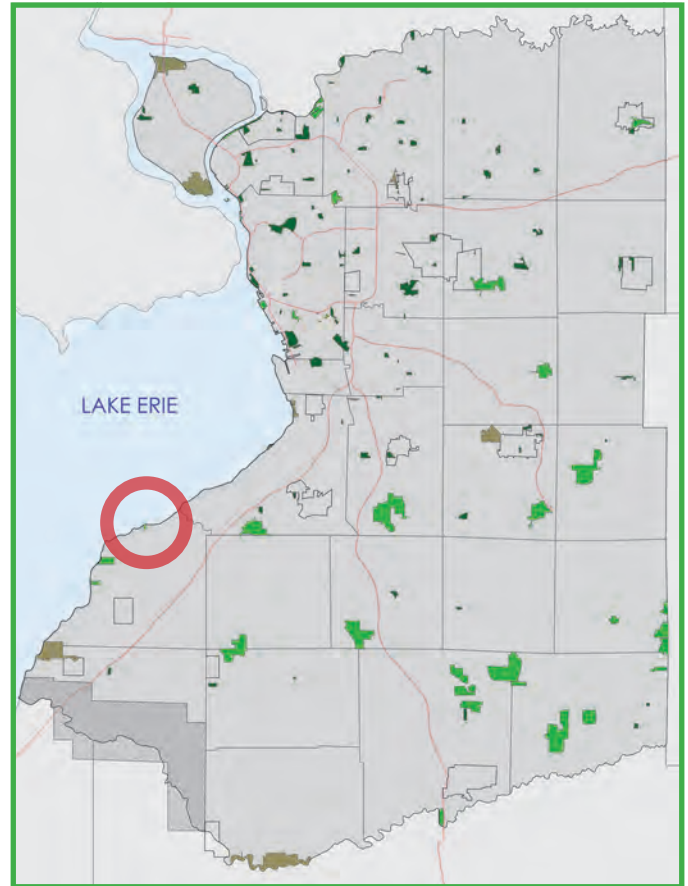
The Pocket Preserve in the near future will have a direct connection to the Shoreline Trail on Lakeshore Road. The Shoreline Trail will connect users with Wendt Beach to the south and Graycliff Estate to the north.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Nearby County Parks include Bennett Beach and Wendt Beach.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Property is underdeveloped and currently does not have access or any formal trails
- Much of the site is overrun with invasive species
- Safety along the bluff would be an issue in terms of allowing the public in this area
- Abandoned building foundation located near Lakeshore Road



Park Location Map: Lakeview Pocket Preserve is located in the Town of Evans off of Lakeshore Road



Aerial view of the north side of the property which features a large bluff overlooking the Lake (Photo credit: Bing Maps)

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Monitor and remove invasive species from site** to prevent spreading of unwanted plants, and to preserve the unique native species found on-site.
- **Prioritize the preservation of the natural habitat;** especially rare tree/plant species, wetland areas, and habitats of wildlife.
- **Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes.** Design a trail through the property to take advantage of the unique natural features and the bluff over Lake Erie. Tie new trail into Shoreline Trail System.

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

- **(A: 1.0) Improve the tree health of the pocket preserve.**
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- **(C: 1.0-1.4) To take advantage of the property's distinct natural setting and location on Lake Erie, it would be advantageous to create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes.**
 - Design and construct a single trail from Lakeshore Road, with minimal to no damage to existing trees/habitats, to the bluff overlook on the shoreline. Tie potential trail into Shoreline Trail along Lakeshore Road.
 - A portion of the trail may have to be an elevated boardwalk to prevent damage to any wetland areas.
 - Design and construct small pull-off area for parking with minimal disturbance to the sensitive environment.
 - Design and construct small overlook at end of trail near shoreline to capitalize on fantastic panoramic views out over Lake Erie. Railings along the bluff would be critical to make this happen because of the danger of a potential steep fall from the bluff.
- **(P: 2.0) Prioritize the preservation of the natural habitat; especially rare tree/plant species, wetland areas, and habitats of wildlife.**
 - Preserve the native plants on-site to ensure the ability to collect seeds and possibly re-use on the property.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House/Grants/In-House
- **(P: 3.0) Monitor and remove invasive species from site to prevent spreading of unwanted plants, and to preserve the unique native species found on-site.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY Prism
- **(P: 1.0) Possibly partner/coordinate with Suncliff on the Lake group as a possible funding source.** As an adjacent property, a possible boardwalk through the woods and other scenic features could be an additional asset and tool for the venue to promote wedding photos and other amenities.
 - Groundskeepers for the venue could also be a possible resource to provide maintenance assistance.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Suncliff on the Lake

Aerial of the Lakeview Pocket Preserve property - outlined in red
 (Photo credit: Google Maps)



LAKEVIEW POCKET PRESERVE: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	1.0	Increase tree health and tree canopy of the Pocket Preserve.	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, P.O.B., Forestry
C	1.0	Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes;	Design and construct a single trail from Lakeshore Road, with minimal to no damage to existing trees/habitats, to the bluff overlook on the shoreline.	High	3-5 Years	\$100,000
C	1.1	Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes;	Design and construct small pull-off area for parking with minimal disturbance to the wooded property.	High	3-5 Years	\$15,000
P	2.0	Prioritize the preservation of the natural habitat; especially rare tree/plant species, wetland areas, and habitats of wildlife.	Coordinate and partner with NYSDEC, WNY Prism, etc.	High	Ongoing	Partner
P	3.0	Monitor and remove invasive species from site to prevent spreading of unwanted plants, and to preserve the unique native species found on-site.	Coordinate and partner with NYSDEC, WNY Prism, etc.	High	Ongoing	Partner
C	1.2	Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes;	Design and construct small overlook at end of trail near shoreline to capitalize on fantastic panoramic views out over Lake Erie.	Low	3-5 Years	\$12,500
C	1.3	Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes;	Partner with stakeholders to create interpretive signage areas along trail, educating users about the history of the site, unique tree/plant species, wetland characteristics, etc.	Low	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.4	Create a 'natural habitat park' for passive recreational purposes;	Typical park signage should be installed on Lakeshore Road. Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Low	3-5 Years	In-House
P	1.0	Partner/coordinate with Suncliff on the Lake group as a possible funding source. As an adjacent property, a possible boardwalk through the woods and other scenic features would be advantageous	Work with Suncliff on the Lake group for partnership opportunities and maintenance assistance	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House

KEY:

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

C: Capital Project

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

POB: Parks Operating Budget

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EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK HEADWATERS PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

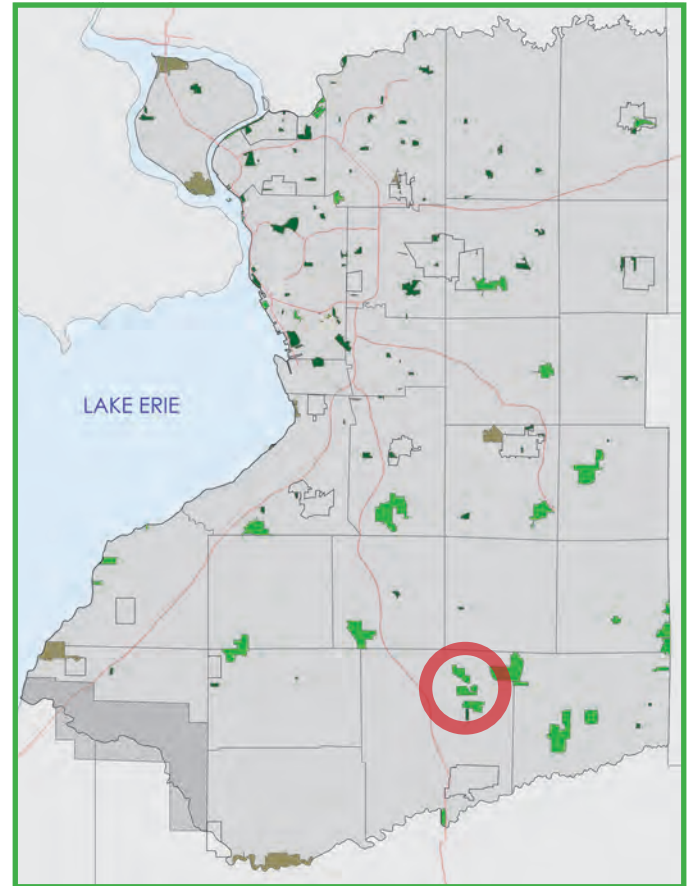
Eighteen Mile Creek Headwaters Property is approximately a 223-acre community forest located in the Town of Concord off of Sharp Street. The 18 Mile Creek forest consists of a mature mixed hardwood forest overlying a glacial moraine aquifer that feeds a trout stream. Because of this location, the forest filters fresh water, creating a healthy and supportive living environment for local trout populations and other wildlife. Protecting this forest secures a key connection to over 1,000 acres of headwater forest, creating connected landscapes of open space to benefit the public. The property provides habitat for more than 150 species of birds, 30 species of trees and 14 types of shrubs.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Nearby Forestry Lots include Forestry Lots #8, #9, and #13.

CONSERVATION VALUES

- Preservation of this property is very important due to forests and wetlands on the property which provide critical habitat for land and waterbirds that use the Niagara River watershed, a region designated as a nationally important area for birds.
- Preserving this public land and forest ensures the ability to better enhance and protect the region's plentiful drinking water.



Park Location Map: Eighteen Mile Creek Headwaters Property is located in the Town of Concord.



Headwaters of Eighteen Mile Creek (Image Credit: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper)

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

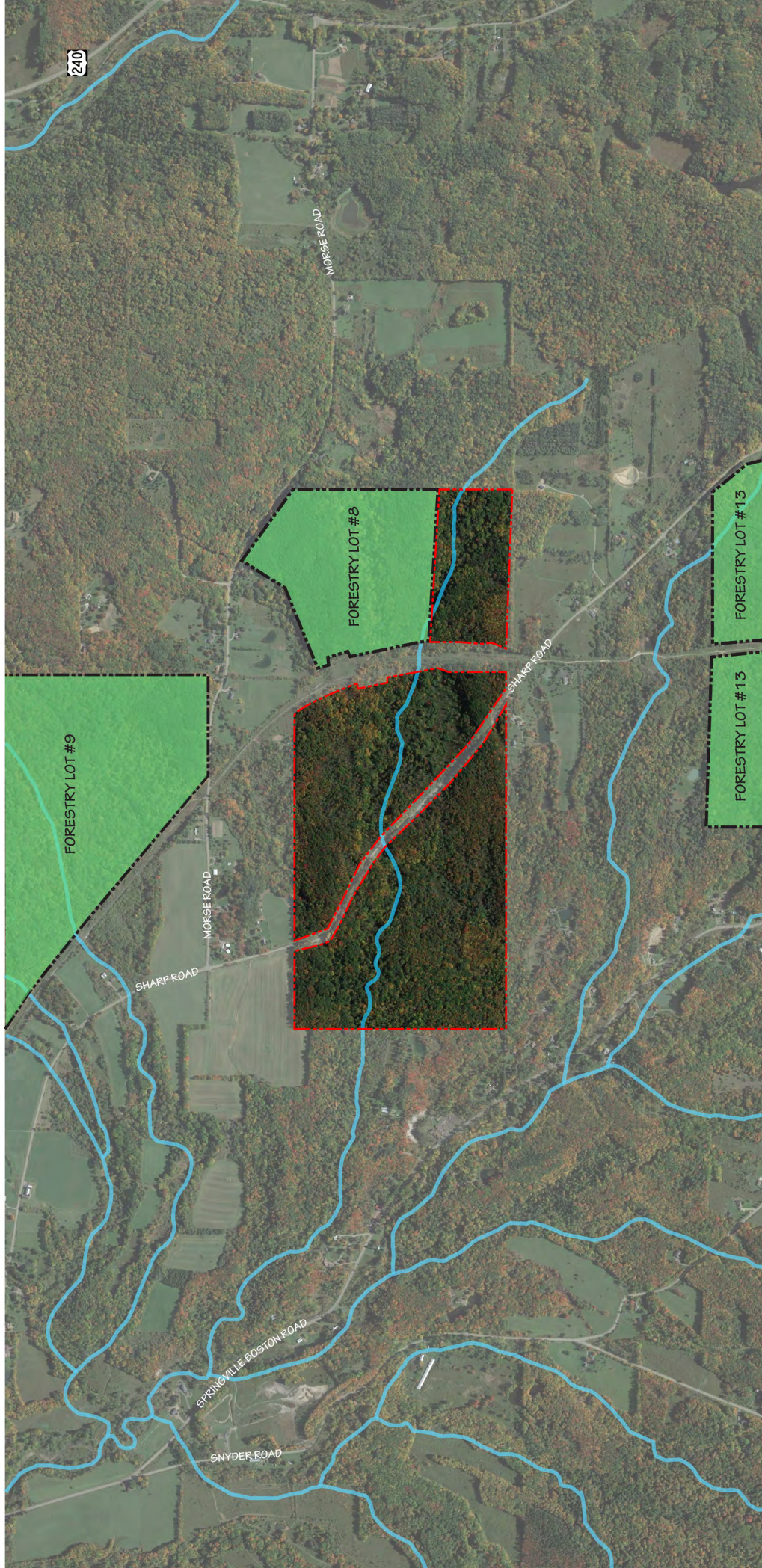
- **Monitor and remove invasive species from site** to prevent spreading of unwanted plants, and to preserve the unique native species found on-site.
- **Prioritize the preservation of the natural habitat;** especially rare tree/plant species, wetland areas, and habitats of wildlife.



MASTER PLAN

EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK HEADWATERS PROPERTY

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Legend:

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

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