

ISLE VIEW PARK

DESCRIPTION

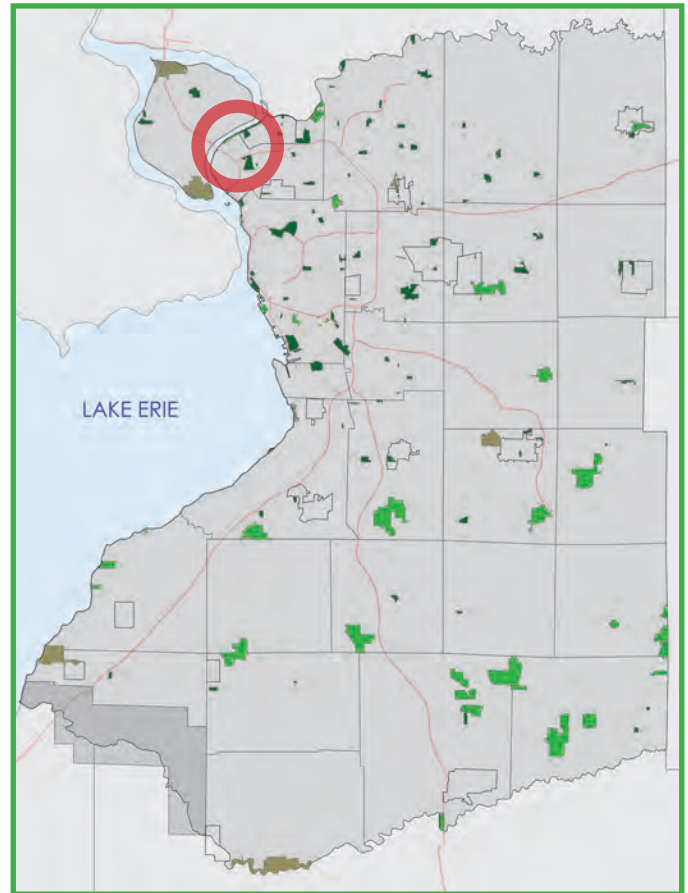
Isle View Park is a magnet for people on a warm summer evening. This 39-acre linear County-owned park in the Town of Tonawanda, is part of the Shoreline Trail System/Riverwalk and heavily used by bikers, joggers, walkers, roller-bladers and many others. A pedestrian bridge connects Isle View Park to Niawanda Park and is adjacent to the Two-mile Creek Greenway, forming an extensive linear park system along the banks of the Niagara River. Park features include boat launching ramps, a paved path (part of the Shoreline Trail), a large gazebo available for renting, a small playground, and numerous passive areas to view the Niagara River. The park also features a Tribute Garden, which is a special place of hope, healing, and awareness for lives impacted by domestic violence, managed by the County's Commission on the Status of Women.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

The park was acquired by the County in 1959, and is located on the site of the abandoned Erie Canal and towpath.

LOCAL CONTEXT

This popular linear park is located within the Town of Tonawanda, adjacent to the Niagara River. The Shoreline Trail travels through Isle View park in a north-south direction, linking to Niawanda Park at its northern end. This linear site is somewhat isolated from any major residential areas given that it is at the foot of a bluff overlooking the Niagara River.



Park Location Map: Isle View Park is located in the Town of Tonawanda along the Niagara River



Sunset over the Niagara River

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Maintain and improve Shoreline Trail/Riverwalk;** Provide safe pavement surface, easily identifiable trail striping, and proper signage.
- **Remove and manage invasive species within the park, as well as planting native plants and pollinators to increase and protect birds and insects.**
- **Continue to support and coordinate with 'County Commission on the Status of Women' in regards to the Tribute Garden.** Enhance and respect the space as a major asset of the park.



Local context map

RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

The 2012-2017 Capital Improvements within Isle View Park totaled \$217,399 and included the following projects:

- Construction of Domestic Violence Tribute Garden
- Concession Building - Updates and repairs to plumbing system.
- Parking lots and drives - Various paving repairs and reconstruction.
- Maintenance Shop- Replaced roof
- Future Improvement - Grant in place to remove dead dying ash trees and replace with new trees

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Many picnic tables and benches are in disrepair, falling apart, and in some cases pose safety concerns.
- Main entrance is in need of updating. Center median is not maintained and stone columns near the street are missing lights.
- ADA access to decks and platforms is a major concern in many areas of the park.
- Path needs repaving and restriping. (Grant in place to have this work done at a later date, also going to be widening the trail)
- Cracking and deterioration of asphalt entry at main entrance.
- Overlook areas off of trail are in rough shape; brick pavers are being displaced or sunken in due to natural effects. Railings are seeing wear and tear.
- Isle View Riverdogs building is not functional and vacant
- Many areas along the water are starting to become overgrown with vegetation



Overlook area: Restore/repair pavement



Several picnic tables throughout the park resemble this one, and should be replaced



Section of asphalt path missing





MASTER PLAN ISLE VIEW PARK

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Specific Action Items: Ex. (A-J)

- 1 (A: 3.0; C: 2.0-3.0) Replace and repair the many dilapidated picnic tables and benches scattered throughout the park. Place new benches in areas where they have been previously removed (if the concrete pad remains)
- 2 (C: 9.0) Resurface asphalt section at east entry and parking near office/maintenance building.
- 3 (A: 4.0) Restore yellow warning stripes near boat launch area.
- 4 (C: 10.0) Small overlook areas off of trail are in need of general repairs and updating; leveling of pavers, ramps/access improvements, railing upgrades, interpretive signage opportunities, etc.
- 5 (A: 5.0) Maintain and enhance parking islands; Provide additional plantings (possible rain gardens); Replace any damaged curbing
- 6 (C: 11.0) Place additional new playground equipment towards south end of park. Equipment can be placed closer to parking area making it easier for parents with small children to access play area.
- 7 (A: 6.0) Cut back, remove, and maintain overgrown vegetation, especially identified invasive species near shoreline edge.
- 8 (C: 7.0) Replace lighting fixtures at stone columns at main entrance of park. Restore and repaint columns as necessary.
- 9 (P: 3.0) Long term improvements could include providing additional (signature) overlooks; Overlooks could include donor/ pavement areas, viewing binoculars, and interpretive signage.
- 10 (P: 1.0) Upgrade existing park facilities; renovate and repair buildings at main entrance as necessary.
- 11 (C: 8.0) Maintain and enhance paved Shoreline (Riverwalk) Trail. Make necessary improvements at all times to ensure the safety of all types of trail users.

MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- (P: 2.0) Continue to support and coordinate with County Commission on the Status of Women in regards to the Tribute Garden. Enhance and respect the space as a major asset of the park.
- Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
- (C: 1.0) Engage consultant to establish enhanced gateways for the park at the main entrance and secondary enhanced on south side of park.
- (P: 4.0) NYS DOT through Great Lakes Scenic Byways has identified Isle View Park as a priority location for new information support facility to include heritage related material.

Legend:

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

Structures:

- **(P: 1.0) Upgrade existing park facilities; renovate and repair buildings at main entrance as necessary.**
 - Restore Isle View Riverdogs structure to shelter.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 7.0) Replace lighting fixtures on stone columns at main entrance of park. Restore and repoint columns as necessary.**
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Greenway funding/In-House



Isle View Riverdogs: Restore and revert to shelter



Parks office and maintenance building

Maintenance/Safety:

- **(P: 2.0)** Continue to support and coordinate with the County's Commission on the Status of Women in regards to the Tribute Garden. Enhance and respect the space as a major asset of the park.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: County Commission on the Status of Women/Greenway funding
- **(A: 3.0, C: 2.0-3.0)** Replace and repair the many dilapidated picnic tables and benches scattered throughout the park.
 - Place new benches in areas where they have been previously removed (if the concrete pad remains)
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 8.0)** Maintain and enhance paved Shoreline Trail/Riverwalk. Make necessary improvements at all times to ensure the safety of all types of trail users (i.e. bikers, joggers, walkers, etc.)
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House



View towards the Tribute Garden



Shoreline Trail/Riverwalk within the park



Former location of a bench which was removed; Replace with new bench

- **Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)**
 - New renovations like improvements to overlooks and decks should be ADA accessible with railings and ramps where necessary.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House
- **(C: 9.0) Resurface asphalt section at east entry and parking near office/maintenance building.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Contractor
- **(A: 4.0) Restore yellow warning stripes near boat launch area.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Contractor/In-House
- **(C: 10.0) Small overlook areas off of trail are in need of general repairs and updating; leveling of pavers, ramps/ access improvements, railing upgrades, interpretive signage opportunities, etc.**
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Greenway funding/Contractor



The trail at Isle View Park is very popular over the summer

- **(P: 3.0) Long term improvements could include providing additional (signature) overlooks;**
 - Overlooks could include ‘donor’ pavement areas, viewing binoculars, and interpretive signage.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner : Greenway funding/Stakeholders
 - **(A: 5.0) Maintain and enhance parking islands;**
 - Provide additional plantings (possible rain gardens)
 - Replace any damaged curbing
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- Recreation:**
- **(A: 2.0) Continue to improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.**
 - Provide or replenish fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually.
 - Replace swings/play equipment as needed due to wear and tear.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House
 - **(C: 11.0) Place additional new playground equipment towards south end of park.** Equipment can be placed closer to parking area making it easier for parents with small children to access play area.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Greenway funding/Consultant



Overlook with benches



Small playground with swings

Signage:

- **(C: 1.0)** Establish enhanced gateways for the park at the main entrance and secondary entrance on south side of park off of River Road.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Consultant/In-House
- **(P: 4.0)** NYSDOT through Great Lakes Scenic Byways has identified Isle View Park as a priority location for new information support facility to include heritage related material. Work with NYS Scenic Byways Program and NYSDOT to coordinate and implement possible opportunity for park.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: NYSDOT/Great Lakes Scenic Byways

Connectivity:

- **(C: 12.0)** Design/create possible gateway areas at south and north end of Shoreline Trail.
 - This can be a small node with decorative pavement, landscaping elements, and seating areas, etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Greenway funding
- **(C: 13.0)** Long term improvement to consider land acquisition to the south to expand Isle View Park to the Grand Island Bridge.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Greenway funding

Environment:

- **(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.
 - 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 or partner with the Erie County Soil and Water District for example, for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
 - **Priority: High**
 - **Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry**



Bridge from Isle View to Niawanda Park



Shoreline Trail signage as you enter the Isle View Park

- **(P: 6.0) Systematically remove most or all of the mature, non-native, invasive Norway Maple Trees that were planted in a large portion of the park, and replace with native trees and shrubs.**
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC, ECSWD

- **(A: 6.0) Cut back, remove, and maintain overgrown vegetation, especially identified invasive species near shoreline edge to enable better views of the Niagara River and to ensure environmental stability.**
 - Remove/control non-native invasive species, including Phragmites.
 - Add native low-growth riparian vegetation along the extent of the shoreline. Engage consultants for recommended species and design.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: Waterkeeper/WNY Prism/In-House

- **(P: 7.0) Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds; Park is a Niagara International Bird Area (Niagara IBA) designation.**
 - 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: 8.0) 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

- **(P: 5.0) Improve the health of the Niagara River. Work with Erie County Soil and Water District, NYSDEC, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and other local stakeholder groups.**
 - Focus projects should include river bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: ECSWD, NYSDEC, Waterkeeper



Shoreline conditions



Shoreline conditions



Natural area within the park



ISLE VIEW 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 | 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 | Continue to improve playground safety | Provide or replenish engineered fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually. | High | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| C | 6.0 | Provide required accessible parking in all parking lots, including signage, pavement symbols and aisle striping. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to perform construction | High | 1-2 Years | \$3,500 |
| C | 8.0 | Maintain and enhance paved Shoreline (Riverwalk) Trail. Make necessary improvements at all times to ensure the safety of all types of trail users | Provide trail resurfacing, mileage markers, restriping, and bicycle parking throughout entire corridor. Work with Niagara River Greenway Commission | High | 1-2 Years | \$20,000 |
| P | 2.0 | Enhance and maintain Tribute Garden | Continue to support and coordinate with the County's Commission on the Status of Women | High | 1-2 Years | In-House |
| P | 6.0 | Systematically remove most or all of the mature, non-native, invasive Norway Maple Trees that were planted in a large portion of the park, and replace with native trees and shrubs. | Coordinate with NYSDEC, ECSWD, and County Foresters. | High | 1-2 Years | Partner |
| P | 7.0 | Enhance habitats for both resident and migratory birds; Park is a Niagara International Bird Area (Niagara IBA) designation. | Seek input and technical expertise from groups such as the NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service. | High | 1-2 Years | Partner |

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

ISLE VIEW PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|--------------|-----------|--|--|----------|-----------|----------------|
| P | 8.0 | 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 | 3.0 | Repair damaged bench slats throughout the park | Utilize parks staff to perform repairs | Medium | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| A | 4.0 | Restore yellow warning stripes near boat launch area. | Utilize parks staff to perform repairs | Medium | 1-2 Years | P.O.B. |
| A | 5.0 | Maintain and enhance parking islands; Provide additional plantings (possible rain gardens) Replace any damaged curbing | Utilize parks staff and volunteer groups to perform repairs and enhancements | Medium | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| A | 6.0 | Cut back, remove, and maintain overgrown vegetation, especially identified invasive species near shoreline edge to enable better views of the Niagara River and to ensure environmental stability. | Utilize parks staff, usergroups and volunteers to perform improvements | Medium | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| C | 2.0 | Replace damaged benches throughout park | Engage a contractor to remove damaged benches and provide new benches | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$4,800 |
| C | 3.0 | Replace missing benches throughout the park | Engage a contractor to provide new benches | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$4,800 |
| C | 4.0 | Replace damaged gutters and fascia on Comfort Station near Gazebo | Engage a contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 1-2 Years | \$5,000 |
| C | 9.0 | Resurface asphalt section at east entry and parking near office/maintenance building. | Engage a contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 1-2 Years | \$8,000 |



ISLE VIEW PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|--------------|-----------|---|---|----------|------------|----------------------------|
| C | 10.0 | Small overlook areas off of trail are in need of general repairs and updating; leveling of pavers, ramps/ access improvements, railing upgrades, interpretive signage opportunities, etc. | Engage a contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$25,000 |
| P | 1.0 | Upgrade existing park facilities; renovate and repair buildings at main entrance as necessary; specifically Isle View Riverdogs building | Revert Isle View Riverdogs structure to shelter | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$75,000 |
| P | 5.0 | Improve the health of the Niagara River | Focus projects should include bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction. | Medium | Ongoing | Waterkeeper, NYSDEC, ECSWD |
| C | 1.0 | Establish Enhanced Gateways | Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape typology for each location. | Low | 6-10 Years | 17,800 |
| C | 5.0 | Reconstruct concrete revetment, appears to be undermined | Engage a consultant to develop plans and specifications, engage a contractor to perform repairs or reconstruction | Low | 6-10 Years | \$74,000 |
| C | 7.0 | Replace lighting fixtures on stone columns at main entrance of park. Restore and repoint columns as necessary. | Engage a contractor to perform repairs | Low | 1-2 Years | \$10,000 |

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

ISLE VIEW PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|--------------|-----------|---|--|----------|------------|----------------|
| C | 11.0 | Place additional new playground equipment towards south end of park. Equipment can be placed closer to parking area making it easier for parents with small children to access play area. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to perform construction | Low | 6-10 Years | \$30,000 |
| C | 12.0 | Design/create possible gateway areas at south and north end of Shoreline Trail. | This can be a small node with decorative pavement, landscaping elements, and seating areas, etc. Engage a consultant to develop plans and a contractor to perform construction | Low | 6-10 Years | \$15,000 |
| C | 13.0 | Long term improvement to consider land acquisition to the south to expand Isle View Park to the Grand Island Bridge. | Coordinate with landowners and partners | Low | 6-10 Years | NA |
| P | 3.0 | Long term improvements could include providing additional (signature) overlooks; Overlooks could include 'donor' pavement areas, viewing binoculars, and interpretive signage. | Coordinate with Niagara River Greenway Commission and other potential usergroups/investors | Low | 6-10 Years | \$60,000 |
| P | 4.0 | Work with NYS Scenic Byways Program and NYSDOT to coordinate and implement possible opportunity for park. | NYSDOT through Great Lakes Scenic Byways has identified Isle View Park as a priority location for new information support facility to include heritage related material. | Low | 6-10 Years | Partner |

