

4.0 SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS

- 4.1 Elma Meadows Park
- **4.2 Grover Cleveland Golf Course**
- 4.3 Sprague Brook Park

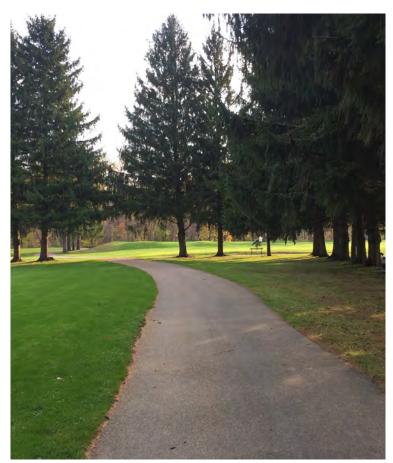
ELMA MEADOWS PARK

DESCRIPTION

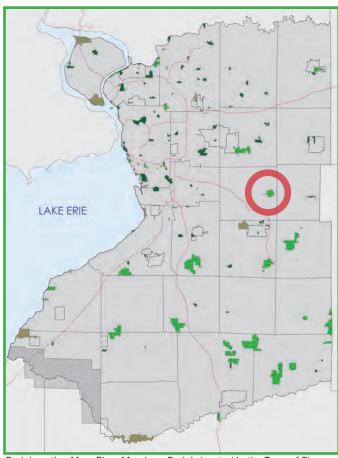
Elma Meadows is a 214-acre facility functioning primarily as an 18-hole par 72 golf course in the Town of Elma, but also has a secondary use as a picnic grove and passive recreation area. The picnic area occupies approximately 25 acres of land. The property has impressive topography with highpoints in the northwest to lowlands in the southeast. The golf course takes advantage of this change of elevation, and the large grassy slopes are heavily used in the winter for sledding. The east and north sides of the park border Buffalo Creek. Given its impressive topography and scenery, as well as reasonable rates, Elma Meadows has been a favorite with area golfers and among seasonal park users. Many from the community utilize the park during the winter for sledding and its groomed cross-country trails.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

Construction for Elma Meadows Park began in the fall of 1957. The winter sports component was ready in 1958 and the golf component was completed in the spring of 1959. Mrs. Frank C. Gervan of 61 Connection Dr. came up with the name "Elma Meadows" in July 1958. Prices per round of golf on weekdays were \$1.50 and \$2.50 on Saturdays, Sundays & holidays.



Pathway within the golf course



Park Location Map: Elma Meadows Park is located in the Town of Elma off of Girdle Road

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- Provide the required number of accessible parking spaces, including signage and aisle striping.
- Prevent further deterioration of picnic shelters.
 Perform necessary repairs and renovation to keep shelters usable and safe.
- Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.
- Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use areas; provide areas of wildflowers and meadows.

LOCAL CONTEXT

This Park and Golf Course lies about 20 miles south and east of the City of Buffalo. It is on the east side of the Town of Elma, close to the Marilla Town line. It is also only minutes from the Village of East Aurora to the south. Access to the Park and golf course is easy from Route 400 from either the Jamison Road or Maple Street Exits, cutting over to Girdle Road to the park entrance.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Elma Meadow's separate 25-acre park is unique when compared to the other County-owned golf course, Grover Cleveland. The park provides the surrounding communities an area for picnicking, passive recreation, and numerous playgrounds, in addition to the eighteen-hole golf course.

RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

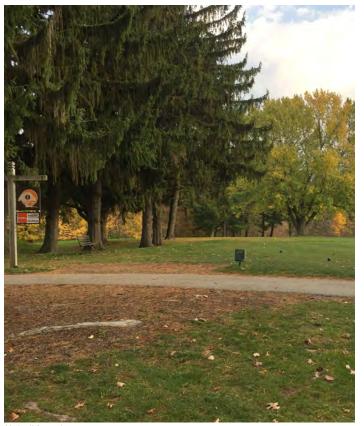
- New \$1.5 million irrigation system installed on golf course.
- Fairways completely re-seeded.
- Fairway on the 10th hole rebuilt to alleviate drainage concerns.
- Full replacement of domestic hot water system.
- Future Improvement: New tee boxes to be constructed (2019).



Local context map



Fall view of the park



Hole #1 tee box

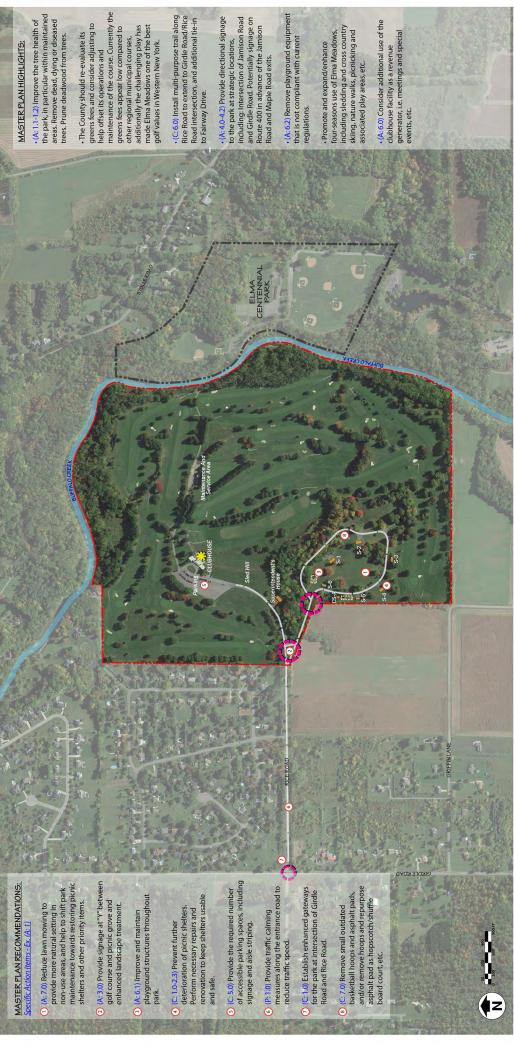
FINAL PLAN VOLUME 2



Much of the park area remains mowed

ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE







FINAL PLAN VOLUME 2

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Park area does not have designated formal parking lot.
- Small basketball half courts remain in park.
- Old playground equipment remains.
- Entire park is mowed.
- Lack of signage.
- Maintenance office in park area is showing deterioration.
- Shelters are showing wear and are in disrepair.

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

Golf Course:

 Monitor greens fees and consider adjusting to help offset its operations and maintenance of the course.
 Currently the greens fees appear low compared to other regional municipal courses, additionally the challenging play has made Elma Meadows one of the best golf values in Western New York.

■ Priority: Medium■ Partner: In-House

- (A: 6.0) Consider additional use of the clubhouse facility as a revenue generator, i.e. meetings and special events, etc.
 - Priority: Low

■ Partner: In-House

Maintenance/Safety:

- (C: 5.0) Provide the required number of accessible parking spaces, including signage and aisle striping.
 - Priority: HighPartner: In-House
- (A: 7.0) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use areas, and help to shift park

maintenance towards restoring picnic shelters and other

priority items.

Priority: High

■ Partner: In-House

- (C: 1.0-2.3) Prevent further deterioration of picnic shelters. Perform necessary repairs and renovation to keep shelters usable and safe.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House



Maintenance facility



View down the fairway at hole #1

- (P: 1.0) Provide traffic calming measures along the entrance road to reduce traffic speed.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House/Town of Elma
- (A: 8.0) Aesthetic improvements and repairs are needed at the park maintenance building. (2003 Master Plan)
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- (C: 6.0) Install multi-purpose trail along Rice Road to extend to Girdle Road/Rice Road intersection, and additional tie-in to Fairway Drive.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Town of Elma

Signage:

- (A: 3.0) Provide gateway and directional signage at "Y" between golf course and picnic grove.
 - Priority: Medium Partner: In-House
- (A: 4.0-4.2) Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations, including:
 - o Intersection of Jamison Road and Girdle Road.
 - Potentially signage on Route 400 in advance of the Jamison Road and Maple Road exits.
 - Priority: Medium■ Partner: In-House

- (C: 1.0) Establish enhanced gateway for the park at intersection of Girdle Road and Rice Road.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House

Recreation:

- (A: 6.1) 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.
 - Replace timber edging around primary playground area.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House



Park signage off of Girdle and Rice Road



Old non-compliant metal slide



FINAL PLAN VOLUME 2



Existing basketball does not conform to any standards

- (A: 6.2) Remove playground equipment that is not compliant with current regulations.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- Promote and expand/enhance four-seasons use of Elma Meadows, including sledding and cross country skiing, nature walks, picnicking and associated play areas, etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- Increase the seasonal attraction of the clubhouse, i.e. utilize the fireplace more often, promote more sledding, winter sports competitions, cross country-skiing, and seasonal events and tournaments, etc. (2003 Master Plan)
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- (C: 7.0) Remove small outdated basketball hoops and asphalt pads, and/or remove hoops and repurpose asphalt pad as hopscotch/shuffle board court, etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House



Existing playground

- Analyze use and recreation trends of the area to place additional sporting/leisure activities; i.e. shuffleboard court, splash pad, trails, universal fitness station, etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Contractor/In-House

Environment:

- (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. 0
 - 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, inhouse staff and volunteer group plantings.
 - Develop annual tree planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural image of the
 - 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

- (P: 3.0) 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 native pollinator friendly plantings for bird and butterfly habitats;
 - Designate potential native plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats;
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House
- (P: 2.0) Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park.
 - Address and remove threatening invasive species.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY Prism/ECSWD



Many large trees within the park contribute to the tree canopy



FINAL PLAN VOLUME 2

ELMA MEADOWS 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 |
| А | 2.1 | Continue to improve playground safety | Provide or replenish engineered fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually. | High | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| А | 7.0 | Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring picnic shelters and other priority items. | Create meadows and wildflower areas in highly visible park areas | High | 1-2 Years | P.O.B. |
| С | 5.0 | Provide the required number of accessible parking spaces, including signage and striping | Engage contractor to perform repairs | High | 1-2 Years | \$2,400 |
| Р | 2.0 | Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park. Address and remove threatening invasive species. | Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others. | High | Ongoing | Partner |
| Р | 3.0 | areas; Propose appropriate additional | Designate potential native pollinator plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats. | High | Ongoing | 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

4.1 ELMA MEADOWS PARK

ELMA MEADOWS PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| 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. |
| А | 3.0 | Provide signage at "Y" between golf course and picnic grove | Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels | Medium | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| А | 5.0 | Ensure that shelters, comfort stations and buildings are identifiable | Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels. | Medium | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| С | 2.0 | Prevent further deterioration of the following structures: | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 3-5 Years | х |
| С | 2.1 | Shelter #1 - Repair brickwork | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | Long | \$22,000 |
| С | 2.2 | Shelter #2 - Repair brickwork | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | Long | \$22,000 |
| С | 2.3 | Shelter #3 - Replace roof | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$10,000 |
| С | 3.0 | Prevent deterioration of comfort station near picnic grove - replace roof | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$10,000 |
| С | 4.0 | Replace handrails on exterior stairs with compliant railings. | Engage contractor to perform repairs | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$6,000 |
| А | 2.2 | Improve playground safety | Remove playground equipment that is not compliant with current regulations | Low | Ongoing | In-House |
| А | 4.0 | Provide directional signage <u>to</u> the park at strategic locations: | 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 |

VOLUME 2 FINAL PLAN

ELMA MEADOWS PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|--|---|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| A | 4.1 | Intersection of Jamison Rd. and Girdle Rd. | 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 |
| А | 4.2 | Potentially signage on Route 400 in advance of the Jamison Rd. and Maple Rd. exits | 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 | 6.0 | Consider additional use of the clubhouse facility as a revenue generator, i.e. meetings and special events, etc. | Coordination and planning with parks staff | Low | 3-5 Years | P.O.B. |
| А | | Aesthetic improvements and repairs are needed at the park maintenance building. | Repair and improve building | Low | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| С | 1.0 | Establish Enhanced Gateways for the park at intersection of Girdle Rd. and Rice Rd. | | Low | 6-10 Years | \$17,500 |
| С | 6.0 | Install multi-purpose trail along Rice Road to extend to Girdle Road/Rice Road intersection, and additional tie- in to Fairway Drive. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements | Low | 6-10 Years | \$20,000 |
| С | 7.0 | Remove small outdated basketball hoops and asphalt pads, and/or remove hoops and repurpose asphalt pad as hopscotch/shuffle board court, etc. | Engage contractor to perform improvements | Low | 6-10 Years | P.O.B. |
| Р | 1.0 | Provide traffic calming measures along the entrance road to reduce traffic speed. | Coordinate with Town of Elma | Low | 6-10 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

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GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE

DESCRIPTION

Grover Cleveland Park and Golf Course is a 111-acre park fully developed as an 18-hole golf course. Previously a City of Buffalo Park, Grover Cleveland Golf Course was sold to Erie County for one dollar in 1986. Now primarily a golf course with supporting golf-related facilities, Grover Cleveland used to have more recreational services. The current Golf Course was designed to put a premium on accuracy not distance. The course plays over 5600 yards with par being 34-35-69. The Golf Course is relatively flat overall with no dense tree cover. Mature trees border the north and west sides, with only linear groupings of trees within the course area.

Another notable "heritage" aspect of the Grover Cleveland Golf Course is that the site has one of the oldest stone buildings in Erie County on it, the 'Schenck house', possibly dating back as early as the 1810s. This structure is in need of upgrades to preserve its structural and architectural integrity.

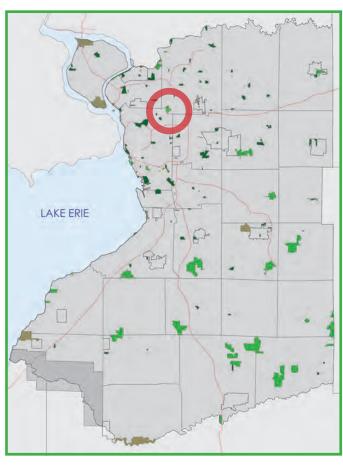
PARK AND AREA HISTORY

The Grover Cleveland Golf Course has an impressive and storied history within the Western New York region. It is one of the oldest Golf Courses around, and was the original site of the Country Club of Buffalo (between 1900–1926). The original clubhouse was built in 1901, designed by architect George Cary, who also built the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society building. The 18-hole golf course, tennis courts, and polo field were added in 1902. To highlight, the Country Club of Buffalo hosted the 1912 U.S. Open Golf Tournament. The City of Buffalo purchased the club in 1925 for \$800,000.00, and renamed the site to honor the former Mayor of Buffalo, Governor of New York State, and President of the United States of America.

The Country Club of Buffalo eventually moved out to its current site in Williamsville. A portion of the golf course property was sold by the City of Buffalo to the Veterans Hospital in



Grover Cleveland Golf Course Clubhouse



Park Location Map: Grover Cleveland Golf Course is located in the Town of Amherst off of Main Street

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- Improve drainage; engage a consultant to conduct a drainage study and develop a design to solve drainage issues, therefore improving the playability of the course.
- Restore the Schenck House structure and associated out-buildings. Potential exists for an Erie County heritage-related museum, upgraded golf course-related facility, meeting rooms, etc. Maximize access and visibility to Main Street.
- Plant additional trees and shrubs along Main Street and Bailey Avenue to improve playability of the course.

the 1940s, resulting in the Grover Cleveland course being shortened to its current length of 5600 yards.

Many historical design features are still visible, even though years of neglect and other haphazard changes have erased some of the course's character. Unfortunately, the original Clubhouse building burned to the ground in the 1970s. The County acquired the course in 1983. Although the "shortened" course length has made it hard to compete with newer, longer courses in the area, Grover Cleveland remains a very popular venue in Erie County and one of the best deals in the region. This property was originally a large farm / estate, which was acquired and used by the Country Club of Buffalo after they were forced to move from their Nottingham Terrace (North Buffalo) location to make way for the Pan-American Exposition of 1901.

LOCAL CONTEXT

The Grover Cleveland course sits very strategically in an urban "first-ring suburb" neighborhood adjacent to the University at Buffalo South Campus. It is located between four major municipalities in the northeast corner of the City of Buffalo, adjacent to the Town of Amherst and close to both the towns of Tonawanda and Cheektowaga. Residential and institutional land uses compose most of the surrounding neighborhood, with commercial strips along Main Street off the northeast corner of the course and along Bailey Avenue off the southeast corner. The main entrance for the course is on Main Street, which forms a portion of the northern border; single family residential backyards form the northeast and part of the eastern boundary, with Eggert Road completing the eastern boundary of the



Local context map

course; the southeast end borders a single family residential area while the southwest property line borders the Veteran's Administration Hospital. Lastly, Bailey Avenue and the University at Buffalo South Campus form the entire western boundary line.



View of the golf course





MASTER PLAN GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE





RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Grover Cleveland Gold Course sits in an urban setting with nearby parks and recreation facilities within the City of Buffalo, Town of Amherst, and Town of Tonawanda. The site has a regulation tennis court and seasonal trails for cross-country running and skiing.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Limited resources, low fee schedules, and intensive course play are taking their toll on the course.
- The County should re-evaluate its greens fees to reflect regional golf course fees, and to put revenue into repairing and enhancing the golf course.
- General course improvements and enhancements are needed to keep the course competitive in the area.
- The course is too exposed to the perimeter roadways
- Constant drainage issues make some holes often unplayable, and is usually one of the last courses to open in the spring.
- Schenck house is in disrepair and isolated.

RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

- Various improvements and upgrades to Club House and Halfway House.
- Parking lot and roadway improvements Utility road and access road were repayed and parking lot was striped.

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: 1.0-1.2) Improve the tree health of the park.
 - o Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - o Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Provide new native tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges (Consult County Forester and local experts to determine appropriate species to benefit wildlife).
 - Provide additional tree and shrub plantings along the Main Street and Bailey Avenue course edges to improve safety and playability at this course.
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, inhouse 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: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry



View of the golf course





The Schenck House

 (C: 3.0) Improve drainage; engage a consultant to conduct a drainage study and develop a design to solve drainage issues, therefore improving the playability of the course.

Priority: MediumPartner: Consultant

- (C: 2.0) Restore the Schenck House structure and associated out-buildings. Potential exists for an Erie County heritage-related museum, upgraded golf courserelated facility, meeting rooms, etc.
 - Maximize the access and visibility to Main Street, the proximity to the University at Buffalo and the close proximity to some of the region's most prestigious homes as major marketing advantages for future uses at this facility.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: Preservation Buffalo Niagara/The University of Buffalo/VBN

- (C: 4.0) Provide interpretive signage and markers to highlight the rich history of the course and past events in non-playable areas.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House
- (C: 5.0) Upgrade course facilities in the future, as funding becomes available. This includes resurfacing the existing parking lot, and upgrading/remodeling clubhouse/proshop etc.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Consultant/Contractor
- Consider the inclusion of the Schenck House and outbuildings on the National Register of Historic Places.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House

- (C: 6.0) Undertake a course master plan; given its unique historical design, it would be in the County's best interest to reinvigorate some of its original design features, and to promote the course as a regional "heritage" attraction.
 - A Golf Course Architect should be hired to assist with this restoration plan.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Consultant/In-House
- (A: 1.3) Provide additional tree plantings between various "tight" fairways and holes to improve safety measures and playability on the course.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House/Forestry
- Consider transitioning tennis court into a multi-purpose sports court; offer different interchangeable activities.
 Many schools in the area offer several tennis courts.
 - Consider in the short-term dual striping the court to allow for pickleball for example or other court sports.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Consultant/Contractor
- (C: 1.0) Enhance or upgrade the park sign at the corner of Main St. and Bailey Ave., and provide landscape improvements.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House



Single tennis court off of the main park road



Entry into the Golf Course from Main Street



VOLUME 2 FINAL PLAN

GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|---|--|----------|---------------|-----------------------|
| A | 1.0 | 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. 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 |
| А | 1.1 | | Develop an annual tree planting program. | Medium | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| A | 1.2 | Provide new tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges. | Provide additional tree and shrub plantings along the Main Street and Bailey Avenue course edges | Medium | Ongoing | In-House, Forestry |
| A | 1.3 | Provide additional tree plantings between various "tight" fairways and holes to improve safety measures and playability on the course. | Apply for tree grants | Medium | Ongoing | In-House, Forestry |
| С | 2.0 | Prevent further deterioration to the Schenck House structure and associated out-buildings. Potential exists for an Erie County heritage-related museum, upgraded golf course-related facility, meeting rooms, etc. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements | Medium | 6-10 Years | \$50,000 |

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

GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|--|---|----------|---------------|-------------------|
| С | 3.0 | Improve drainage; engage a consultant to conduct a drainage study and develop a design to solve drainage issues, therefore improving the playability of the course. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements | Medium | 3-5 Years | \$40,000 |
| С | _ | Establish Enhanced Gateways for the park at intersection of Main Street and Bailey Ave., as well as the Main Street entrance. | Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape typology for each location. | Low | 6-10 Years | \$35,600 |
| С | | Provide interpretive signage in the park: | Coordinate with historical society to develop copy and obtain images for the interpretive content. | Low | 3-5 Years | \$3,500 |
| С | 5.0 | Upgrade course facilities in the future, as funding becomes available. This includes resurfacing the existing parking lot, and upgrading/remodeling clubhouse/proshop etc. | Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements | Low | 6-10 Years | \$45,000 |
| С | 6.0 | Undertake a course master plan; given its unique historical design, it would be in the County's best interest to reinvigorate some of its original design features, and to promote the course as a regional "heritage" attraction. | | Low | 6-10 Years | \$15,000 |

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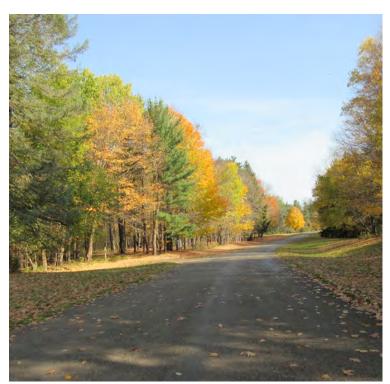
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SPRAGUE BROOK PARK

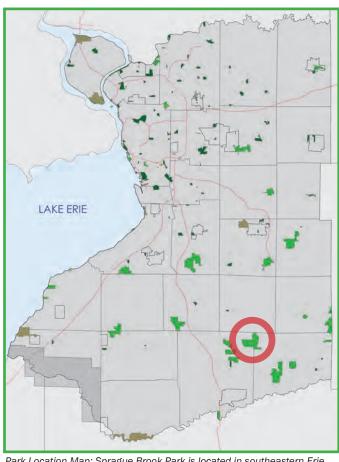
DESCRIPTION

Sprague Brook Park is one of the largest developed County Parks at 967 acres, and is the only facility in the park system offering overnight camping. The park is located in the rural, well-forested Towns of Concord and Sardinia in southeast Erie County, just off Route 240 on Foote Road. Functionally, Sprague Brook Park centers around 130 campsites in three large camping areas. Additional recreational amenities are meant to enhance the camper's use and experience of the park and allow for large group picnics and outings. While some "active" recreation is offered, emphasis is on passive recreation throughout the park's vast open spaces and woodlands. As of late, multi-purpose trails through the direction and construction from the Western New York Mountain Biking Association have become a popular and integral part of the park. Mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing have all become part of the network of available recreational opportunities at Sprague Brook.

Sprague Brook is a park of hidden natural treasures, from flora and fauna to incredible natural scenery along the Brook, in the woodlands, atop the hillsides, etc. One of the most impressive sites is the views to the opposite distant hillside of Kissing Bridge Ski area. The terrain is gently sloping throughout, with some severe topography in the park's northeast section. Three ponds add to the park's beauty and usefulness for park users and wildlife enhancement. Numerous trails traverse the forested areas which have become very popular for mountain bikers. The park is also a popular destination for winter activities, such as sledding and cross-country skiing.



Gorgeous views are aplenty as you make your way through the park



Park Location Map: Sprague Brook Park is located in southeastern Erie County within the Towns of Sardinia and Concord

PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

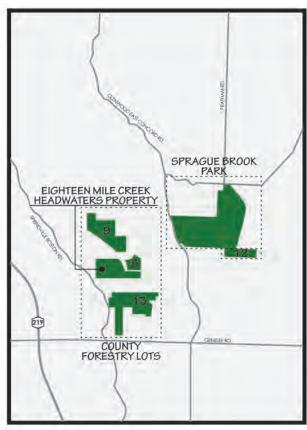
- Routinely inspect and provide upkeep of all trails;
 - Remove dangerous tree limbs and other potential hazards;
 - Improve drainage and divert water away from trails where necessary.
- Provide large trail map at all trailheads identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties.
- Continue and expand "re-naturalization" initiative in the park to phase out current practices of regularly mowing large expanses of lawn.
 - Provide wildflowers and meadow areas near main entrance to park.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

Sprague Brook Park was acquired by Erie County in 1963 by using state and federal aid programs to assume title to more than 2,200 acres of parkland. In 1964, Erie County bought an additional 86 acres of land for expansion in the Town of Sardinia and Concord for \$1,500.00.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Sprague Brook Park is approximately 28 miles southeast of the City of Buffalo, and is located off the main Route 240 traveling south from Orchard Park and West Falls. The Park is on the opposite hill from Kissing Bridge Ski area, one of the region's popular destinations.



Local context map

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Sprague Brook Park is situated in a rural setting with very little demand for recreational facilities. Rather, due to its snowy winters, Sprague Brook serves the south towns as a destination park for winter recreation including sledding, snow shoeing, and cross-country. Given the low population in the immediate vicinity, recreational demand is not as high as many of the county parks in urban areas.



Sprague Brook Casino

RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS/ IMPROVEMENTS

The 2012-2017 Capital Improvements within Sprague Brook Park totaled \$420,507. Recent projects included:

- Resurfaced all 4 tennis courts.
- Continued expansion and upkeep of park trails (WNYMBA).
- Aprons paved around Comfort Stations A and B.
- Converted 32 non-electric campsites into electric.
- Replaced roof on Comfort Station A.
- Renovated Comfort Stations A and B including new lighting and doors.
- Installed new fire alarm systems and doors (2018).

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- Too much of the park's open space is regularly mowed.
 This detracts from the park's overall theme of nature and wildlife.
- The maintenance facilities should be better screened from the public use areas
- Conflicts with ATV riders
- Some outdated play structures still remain throughout park
- Lack of general park signage, some are hidden and difficult to see.
- RV sanitary dump station is located on the right side of the park loop road, and RV and trailer waste ports are located on the left side of the vehicles.
- Comfort stations and shelters need upgrades and repairs.

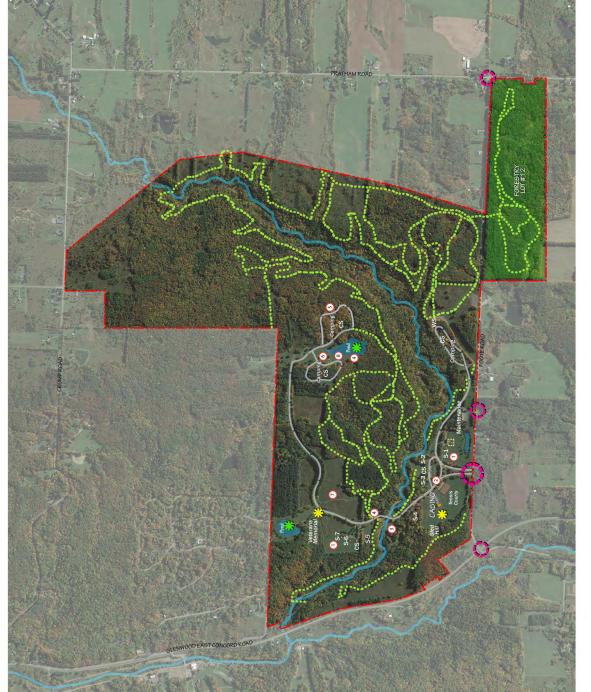


SPRAGUE BROOK PARK MASTER PLAN

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (1) (A: 1.0-2.3) Continue and expand "re-naturalization" initiative in the park areas mowed down once at the end of each season, and others never mowed regularly mowing large expanses of lawn. Transition the little-used lawn expanses to natural meadows; some to phase out current practices of
- around tree rings in street medians/islands. Timbers are missing (A: 9.0) Repair wooden timber edging and should be replaced. @
- shelters to the park based on current rentals of picnic shelters if there is demand for it. (C: 4.0) Consider adding additional 0
- and other relevant content to produce on sign panels. Develop signage typology to highlight flora, fauna, and wildlife within park trails and other (C: 2.0) Provide interpretive signage throughout the park. Coordinate with historical society to obtain images destinations of the park. 9
- (C: 5.0) Consider expansion of camp sites and facilities, mainly adding more sites to the northernmost campground. 6
- equipment are outdated, most are unsightly, and many do not meet any throughout the park. These pieces of (A: 4.2) Remove the numerous old equipment that dot the landscape metal playground structures and current playground safety requirements. 9
- park to highlight the impressive vistas to the surrounding hillsides, Kissing Bridge Ski Area, etc. Provide benches (P: 3.0) Establish overlook areas in the and seating areas. 0
- north side of the park, potentially with updated playground equipment, additional benches, picnic tables, etc. around pond near campsites on the Expand recreation/passive area **⊚**





MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- (A: 3.1-3.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- swings/play equipment as needed due to playground structures throughout park. Provide or replenish fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually. Replace · (A: 4.1) Improve and maintain wear and tear.
- renovate and potentially expand existing (A: 7.0) Upgrade existing park facilities; cross-country ski warming hut.
- picnic shelters. Perform necessary repairs and renovation to keep shelters usable • (A: 8.0) Prevent further deterioration of and safe.
- Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible (2003 Master Plan)
- showing drive amenities, camp sites and wayfinding and directional signage • (A: 5.0) Coordinate with Parks and within the park. Overall park maps Highways to provide consistent
- main entrance. Develop sign model and (C: 1.0) Engage consultant to establish enhanced gateways for the park at the landscape typology for each location.
- enhancements, and connectivity among park trails. Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations. Continue progress with expansion,
- (A: 4.2) Remove the numerous old metal



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:

- (A: 7.0) Renovate and potentially expand existing crosscountry ski warming hut.
 - If partnership funding and resources are available, provide new warming hut.

Priority: MediumPartner: In-House

(A: 8.0) Prevent further deterioration of picnic shelters.
 Perform necessary repairs and renovation to keep shelters usable and safe.

Priority: MediumPartner: In-House

- (C: 4.0) Consider adding additional shelters to the park based on current rentals of picnic shelters if there is demand for it. Shelter locations could include;
 - Off main park road near bridge over Sprague Brook. Picnic tables already in this location.
 - Near campsites and pond area

■ Priority: Low■ Partner: In-House

- (P: 4.0) Design and provide 'Adirondack style Leantos', if usergroups such as an Eagle Scout group or the
 Adirondack Mountain Club can provide funding and
 support, and if deemed appropriate in select areas of the
 park.
 - 'Lean-tos' could be adjacent to camping areas and be rented out for camping purposes.





Potential 'Lean-to' design - Image credit: Adirondack Mountain Club



Warming shelter



Park could accommodate additional shelters in the future



Shelter #3



Grouping of picnic tables



Maintenance:

- (A: 1.0-2.3) Continue and expand "re-naturalization" initiative in the park to phase out current practices of regularly mowing large expanses of lawn. Transition the little-used lawn expanses to natural meadows; some areas mowed down once at the end of each season, and others never mowed again.
 - Establish meadow/wildflower appearance near main entrance off of Foote Road; this area is passive in nature with no active recreation.
 - Establish select zones of 'no-mow' naturalized areas where excess lawn is being mowed. There are large areas of mowed lawn which have no active recreation; these areas, especially those which abut wooded areas can transition into no-mow areas with potential meadows and wildflowers.
 - Restore and connect grassland/meadow habitat in the northwestern area of the park to support valuable host plants and nectar sources for pollinators and declining species of grassland birds. (Restore native plants and remove knapweed and tree rows within grassland)
 - Include signage like "Regeneration Area", or "No-Mow Zone" to engage park users to learn about the landscape management technique. Include potential benefits of the practice being used.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: In-House

- (P: 2.0) 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: 5.0) Provide large trail map at all trailheads identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House
- All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user (hikers, mountain bikers)
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: WNYMBA/In-House
- Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
 - New renovations can present opportunities to address standards in ADA accessibility. These can include for example improved accessibility/ updated surfaces to children play areas, and potential paving of new trails for people with mixed abilities.
 - Priority: Medium
 - Partner: In-House



Scenic overlook within established meadow areas

(A: 9.0) Repair wooden timber edging around tree rings in street medians/islands. Timbers are missing and should be replaced.

> ■ Priority: Low ■ Partner: In-House

(C: 3.0) Consider either relocating the sanitary dump station to the left side of the loop road, or adding a drive lane on the right side of the dump station.

■ Priority: Low

■ Partner: Consultant/In-House

Signage:

(A: 5.0) Provide consistent wayfinding and directional signage within the park. Overall park maps showing drive amenities, camp sites and shelter locations.

■ Priority: Medium

■ Partner: In-House/Highway

(C: 1.0) Establish enhanced gateway for the park at the main entrance.

■ Priority: Low

■ Partner: Consultant/In-House

- (C: 2.0) Provide interpretive signage throughout the park. Coordinate with historical society to obtain images and other relevant content to produce on sign panels.
 - Develop signage typology to highlight flora, fauna, and wildlife within park trails and other destinations of the park.

■ Priority: Low ■ Partner: In-House

Connectivity:

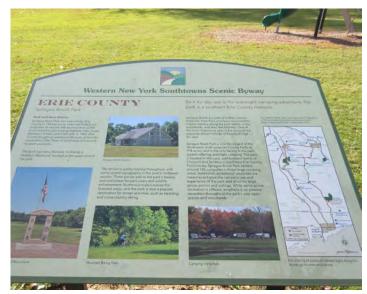
- Continue expansion, enhancements, and connectivity among park trails. Coordinate with WNYMBA.
 - Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations.
 - Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife.
 - Design and provide distinct trail markers for better park orientation.

■ Priority: Medium

■ Partner: In-House/Forestry/WNYMBA



Park signage off of Foote and Glenwood East Concord Road



Scenic Byways signage



Camping sites

Recreation:

- (A: 4.1) 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: 5.0) Consider expansion of camp sites and facilities, mainly adding more sites to the northernmost campground.
 - County should explore the feasibility of other areas where camping may be appropriate.

■ Priority: Medium■ Partner: In-House

 (A: 4.2) Remove the numerous old non-compliant metal playground structures and equipment that dot the landscape throughout the park. These pieces of equipment are outdated, most are unsightly, and many do not meet any current playground safety requirements.

- Consideration should be given to several "legacy" playground pieces, such as the pumpkin coach. This equipment appeared to be in good condition and could be maintained in the park as a feature or considered artwork, without a fall surface which would encourage its use as a play event. Refer to Volume One for additional information regarding "legacy" playground pieces.
- Consider earthtone colors for playground equipment in the Heritage park setting rather than bright, primary colors. Potential opportunities exist to reuse this old playground equipment by reaching out to local artists and craftsman. The metal parts could be used as installation pieces located throughout the park. (2003 Master Plan)

■ Priority: Medium■ Partner: In-House

- Promote winter use through expansion of cross-country ski trails, sledding, winter camping, etc.
 - Consider location for potential depressed ice skating area similar to Como Lake Park.

■ Priority: Low

■ Partner: In-House/WNYMBA



An old non-compliant seesaw in poor shape

- (C: 6.0) Consider dual-striping one or more tennis courts to allow for pickleball or other court sports to expand recreational opportunities.
 - Priority: Low■ Partner: In-House
- (P: 3.0) Establish overlook areas in the park to highlight the impressive vistas to the surrounding hillsides, Kissing Bridge Ski Area, etc. Provide benches and seating areas.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: In-House/WNYMBA
- Promote the use of Sprague Brook Park for important seasonal events. Consider upgrading existing facilities to accommodate different events. Work with stakeholders and local user groups to analyze the feasibility of hosting events such as festivals, etc.
 - Priority: Low■ Partner: In-House
- (C: 7.0) Remove old half-court basketball courts and revert to natural area, if usage is limited. If basketball remains a desired recreational activity, explore the possibility of consolidating courts and engage consultant to create a full size asphalt court.

■ Priority: Low■ Partner: In-House



Recently resurfaced tennis courts



View down the main park road towards Kissing Bridge



- (C: 8.0) Expand and enhance recreation/passive area around pond near campsites on the north side of the park, with updated playground equipment, additional benches, picnic tables, etc.
 - Remove existing benches which are deteriorating.
 - With resources or grants available consider placing a small facility or pavilion near pond area to be a revenue generator for company retreats, rentals, events, etc. Capitalize on the scenic location with access to the pond and nearby trails.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Local Stakeholder Group/In-House
- Offering concessions at the Casino during the winter.
 (Selling of County made maple syrup) Capitalize on the many winter seasonal events that take place.
 - Priority: Low
 - Partner: Private Businesses/In-House



Small halfcourt basketball court and rusted backboard/rim



View along the pond edge

Environment:

- (A: 3.1-3.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas.
 - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
 - o Prune deadwood from trees.
 - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
 - Provide new native tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges (Consult County Forester and local experts to determine appropriate species to benefit wildlife).
 - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, inhouse 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 for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
 - Priority: High
 - Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry

- (P: 5.0) 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 native pollinator friendly 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



Much of the park is forested, but there are many trees in maintained areas of the park as well.



- (A: 10.0) Enhance and restore natural habitat around ponds.
 - Reduce intensive mowing which occurs right up to the pond edge. Allow for the development of shoreline vegetation.
 - Consider planting native grasses and plants around areas of the perimeter.
 - Seek input from Erie County Soil and Conservation District.

■ Priority: High

■ Partner: In-House/ECSWD

- (P: 6.0) Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park.
 - Address and remove threatening invasive species.

■ Priority: High

■ Partner: WNY Prism/ECSWD

- (P: 1.0) Improve the health of Sprague Brook. 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.
 - Potential projects could be similar to 'Living Shoreline' project at Ellicott Creek Park.

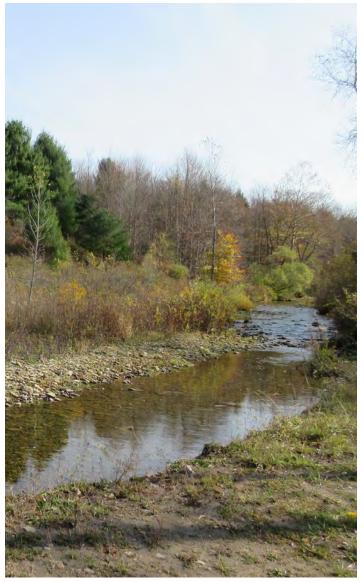
■ Priority: Medium

■ Partner: ECSWD/NYSDEC/Waterkeeper/

In-House



Pond near camp sites



Sprague Brook



View of Sprague Brook from the main park road overpass

SPRAGUE BROOK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|---|--|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| А | 1.0 | | Establish "Natural Regeneration Areas" identified on the Master Plan | High | 1-2 Years | In-House |
| А | | Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat | Establish "Low Mow Zones" identified on the Master Plan | High | 1-2 Years | In-House |
| А | | reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat | Provide necessary signage along the "Low Mow Zones" to inform the public the reasons behind the practice and also to identify the areas to park personnel. | High | 1-2 Years | In-House |
| A | 3.1 | | | High | Ongoing | In-House, Forestry |
| А | 4.1 | | Provide or replenish engineered fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually. | High | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| А | 10.0 | Enhance and restore natural habitat around ponds. Reduce intensive mowing which occurs right up to the pond edge. Allow for the development of shoreline vegetation. Consider planting native grasses and plants around areas of the perimeter. | Coordinate with mowing crews on proper management and care. | High | Ongoing | 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

SPRAGUE BROOK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|---|--|----------|-----------|-------------------|
| Р | 2.0 | 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. | Coordinate with WNYMBA | High | Ongoing | P.O.B. |
| Р | 5.0 | Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas; Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park; | Designate potential native pollinator plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats. | High | Ongoing | Partner |
| Р | 6.0 | Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park. Address and remove threatening invasive species. | Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others. | High | Ongoing | Partner |
| А | 3.2 | 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. |
| А | 5.0 | Overall park maps showing drives, | Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers. | Medium | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| А | 6.0 | Ensure that shelters, comfort stations and buildings are identifiable | Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels. | Medium | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| А | 7.0 | Renovate and potentially expand existing cross-country ski warming hut. | Parks crew task | Medium | 3-5 Years | P.O.B. |
| А | 8.0 | Prevent further deterioration of picnic shelters. Perform necessary repairs and renovation to keep shelters usable and safe. | Parks crew task | Medium | Ongoing | P.O.B. |

SPRAGUE BROOK PARK: ACTION ITEMS

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|---|---|----------|------------|-------------------|
| А | 9.0 | Repair wooden timber edging around tree rings in street medians/ islands. Timbers are missing and should be replaced. | Parks crew task | Medium | 1-2 Years | P.O.B. |
| А | 2.2 | Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat | Begin an educational program, through the use of the County's website, to the general public which provides information regarding the "Low Mow Zone" program | Low | 3-5 Years | In-House |
| А | 4.2 | Improve playground safety | Remove playground equipment that is not compliant with current regulations, with the exception of "legacy" pieces of equipment | Low | Ongoing | In-House |
| С | 1.0 | | Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape typology for each location. | Low | 6-10 Years | \$17,800 |
| С | 2.0 | 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 | \$10,500 |
| С | 3.0 | Improve the sanitary dump station, currently on the wrong side of waste ports on most trailers and RV's | Engage a consultant to develop plans, and a contractor to construct improvements | Low | 6-10 Years | \$60,000 |
| С | 4.0 | Consider adding additional shelters to the park based on current rentals of picnic shelters if there is demand for it. | Off main park road near bridge | Low | 6-10 Years | \$200,000 |

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

| Project Type | Project # | Recommendation | Implementation Strategies | Priority | Term | Estimated Cost |
|-----------------|--------------|--|---|----------|------------|-------------------|
| С | 5.0 | | Engage consultant to strategize potential areas | Low | 6-10 Years | \$5,000 |
| С | 6.0 | | Engage contractor to perform improvements | Low | 3-5 Years | \$3,000 |
| С | 7.0 | Remove old half-court basketball courts and revert to natural area, if usage is limited. | Parks crew task | Low | 3-5 Years | P.O.B. |
| С | 8.0 | Expand and enhance recreation/ passive area around pond near campsites on the north side of the park, with updated playground equipment, additional benches, picnic tables, etc. | Partner with usergroups/In-House | Low | 3-5 Years | \$15,000 |
| Р | 1.0 | Sprague Brook through stream bank stabilization, erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration and | | Low | Ongoing | Partner |
| Р | 3.0 | Establish overlook areas in the park to highlight the impressive vistas to the surrounding hillsides, Kissing Bridge Ski Area, etc. Provide benches and seating areas. | Coordinate with WNYMBA | Low | 6-10 Years | \$5,000 |
| Р | 4.0 | Design and provide 'Adirondack style Lean-tos', if usergroups such as an Eagle Scout group or the Adirondack Mountain Club can provide funding and support, and if deemed appropriate in select areas of the park. | Work with potential partner | Low | 3-5 Years | Partner |

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