

Chapter 4: Park Vision and Goals

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities for all New York State residents and visitors and to be responsible stewards of our valuable natural, historic and cultural resources.

Park Vision

Midway State Park will be a place for all visitors to enjoy and appreciate the historic, cultural, natural, and physical resources and the recreational opportunities that the park offers.

Overall Park Goal

Achieve a balance between the recreational use and the protection and interpretation of the cultural, natural, and scenic resources of the park.

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide recreational use that is compatible with the park's historic, cultural, natural and scenic resources.

Goals

- Develop activities that are compatible with the historic character of the park and contemporary uses of the park's resources
- Design sustainable facilities and site plans to be compatible with the historic character of the park and its resources
- Develop performing arts programs for the park

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Identify, protect, preserve and interpret structures, uses and areas within the park that are significant to the history, archaeology and culture of the local community, region, state and nation.

Goals

- Maintain key historic characteristics that led to listing Midway State Park on the State and National Register of Historic Places
- Identify and manage archaeologically sensitive areas
- Acquire operational historically compatible rides for addition to the park

Natural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Identify, protect and interpret the natural resources within and associated with the park.

Goals

- Protect and maintain existing older specimen trees within the park
- Maintain and restore water resources and encourage recreational access to the lake
- Identify and map ecological communities within the park, identify areas with environmental sensitivity, and direct intensive development away from such areas
- Develop interpretive signage describing the park's plants, animals, water sources and natural communities
- Control the impacts of invasive species on the biodiversity of plants and animals
- Protect the water quality of the lake

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect and enhance the scenic qualities and viewshed of the park, particularly the views of Chautauqua Lake.

Goals

- Design and locate all activities, structures and infrastructure to minimize visual impacts and to fit into the park's historic setting
- Provide and maintain vistas to Chautauqua Lake using topography, lakeshore, historic buildings or existing clearings
- Participate proactively in local planning initiatives

Accessibility Goals

Overall Goal

Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the historic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.

Goals

- Develop programs to interpret the historic, natural, cultural, and physical resources of the park and educate the public of their importance
- Continue and enhance an outreach program designed for local schools and other organizations
- Develop partnerships with other providers that can offer interpretive programs designed for the park visitors and groups

Facility Development and Capital Investment Goals

Overall Goal

Develop facilities that are needed to preserve the resources and operate the park in a safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible manner.

Goals

- Develop storage and maintenance facilities for the park
- Repair and develop the Hippodrome to recreate and preserve its historic character and provide for historic uses
- Inventory existing picnic pavilions and develop rehabilitation, replacement and/or removal plans

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal

Operate and maintain the park in a safe, clean and sustainable manner that protects the historic, natural and cultural resources.

Goals

- Develop maintenance and operation guidelines
- Develop partnerships for maintenance and operation of the park facilities
- Develop partnerships for marketing and promotion of the park
- Refine the marketing and business plan
- Enhance revenue generation opportunities
- Partner with Long Point State Park to more efficiently combine maintenance and operating resources

Sustainability Goals

Overall Goals

Plan, operate and develop the park using sustainability concepts wherever possible.

Goals

- Use sustainable site planning practices such as vegetated swales and permeable surfacing
- Provide recycling containers for park patrons throughout the park
- Design new buildings to current LEED standards where possible
- Retrofit existing buildings to reduce energy consumption

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goals

Develop partnerships with organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector.

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goals

Encourage scientific research into the natural and cultural resources of the park.