

**JAMESPORT STATE PARK
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**DRAFT MASTER PLAN AND
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**



**September 23, 2008
Riverhead, NY**



David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions and Welcoming Remarks
2. Overview and Timeline of the Planning Process
3. Overview of the Park
4. Public Input
5. Next Steps

Agency Initiatives

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has developed new initiatives that will help guide the agency's activities. They are as follows:

- Revitalizing our Parks and Historic Sites
- Natural resource stewardship and interpretation
- Creating connections
- Sustainability

The master plan for Jamesport State Park is part of an accelerated planning initiative that will advance these themes, and determine the best course of action to preserve and utilize park resources for this and future generations.

Introduction

Jamesport State Park is distinguished by its pristine beachfront and its ecological significance. A primary goal of the master planning process is to provide a clear direction for the balanced use and protection of the park and its resources.

The purpose of this public information meeting is to actively invite public participation and involvement in the planning process. Public participation will help OPRHP identify issues, concerns and alternatives as well as determining the depth to which each of the topics is explored within the Draft Master Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). It is important to provide public input opportunities now and throughout the planning process to encourage identification of the compelling issues to be addressed within this planning effort.

This information packet and the public information meeting are intended to provide the public with a concise overview of Jamesport State Park, the setting, the resources and the issues identified to this point. Additionally, the meeting is designed to provide an opportunity for public input at an early stage in the master planning process.



Jamesport State Park– Public Information Meeting

Overview

The 533 acres of land that comprise Jamesport State Park and the adjacent conservation easement area were acquired by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation from Keyspan in 2003 through the assistance of the Trust for Public Land. Prior to it becoming parkland, the Keyspan property was highly sought after for development. The parcel was one of the largest privately remaining undeveloped tract of land left on Long Island. The actual park area encompasses 233 acres adjacent to the Long Island Sound and the State owns the conservation easement on 300 privately owned acres comprising the section with road frontage on Sound Avenue. This arrangement benefits the North Fork region because it allows for the continuation of the historical use of this land, thus preserving the character of the region while providing local produce. The master plan will outline recreational uses, environmental interpretation and resource protection strategies for the park.

Timeline

2003 – Land acquired by OPRHP

2004 – Draft Interim Management Guide developed

Environmental Setting

Jamesport State Park sits on 233 acres of waterfront overlooking the Long Island Sound. It is an area of unique ecological resources and has the potential to provide an array of recreational and interpretive opportunities. The conservation easement on the land directly south of Jamesport State Park provides protection from encroachment of incompatible uses.

Natural Resources

ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

During their 2004 survey of Jamesport State Park, New York Natural Heritage Program Scientists identified sixteen different ecological communities throughout the park. According to the NHP report, the 233 acres of parkland surveyed are in varying stages of succession or disturbance. Hallock's Pond is considered to be the most noteworthy natural resource in the park.

FLORA AND FAUNA

Preliminary searches of the Natural Heritage database and reviews of the New York State Museum records revealed no known or historical records of rare plant populations within the park. However, habitat potential for rare plants exists along the northern area of the park. Although no rare plants were found in the 2004 survey, there is the potential that they may exist. More detailed investigations will be conducted. The park is also home to Piping Plovers, an endangered species in New York State.

TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

The geologic formations of Suffolk County consist of thick deposits of sediments on a relatively impermeable, crystalline bedrock surface. The bedrock varies in depth from 400 to 2,200 feet below sea level. The youngest glacial stage formed Long Island Sound and the topography seen today in Suffolk County. The topography of the park is generally level with gentle slopes ranging in elevation from 20 to 140 feet above sea level. A maritime bluff slopes abruptly up from the beach.

WATER RESOURCES

Freshwater bodies

The park supports two freshwater bodies—Hallock’s Pond and the Lily Pond. Hallock’s Pond is about 4 acres in size and has been tentatively classified as a “coastal pond” by the Natural Heritage Program Biologists. If Hallock’s Pond is determined to be a coastal plain pond it would be considered a significant occurrence due to the scarcity of the community type. Lily Pond is quite smaller at only 1 acre and has been identified as a shrub swamp. Howell’s Spring is also located near the northeastern border of the park.

Long Island Sound

With more than a mile of shoreline, the Long Island Sound is a main water feature of the park.

Cultural Resources

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Agriculture and recreation have long played a role in the use of the land that makes up Jamesport State Park. Historically, the park and adjacent farming parcels were owned by several families who had farmed the land since the late 17th century. According to *The History of Hallockville: The Museum Farm, The Neighborhood and the Surrounding Land Including Jamesport State Park*, by Richard Wines, the Hallock Family settled in the area around 1660 and descendants continued to farm there throughout the 18th century and lived there through the late 1970s. During the late 1800s and early 20th century an influx of Polish immigrants to the area yielded a change in the ownership of the land, but farming continued.

In 1903 the Boys Club of New York opened Camp William Carey on 30 acres of what is now the northwest corner of Jamesport State Park. The camp served approximately 2,500 disadvantaged boys from New York City ranging in age from 8-15 years. In 1944 the camp acquired additional land to bring its total holdings up to 125 acres. After 60 summers of camp, Camp Carey ceased operations in 1963.

HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND LANDSCAPE

Some structures belonging to the Hallockville Farm Museum, located adjacent to Sound Avenue, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, no historic structures or landscapes actually exist within the park.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

According to OPHRP Historic Preservation records, some areas of the park are considered archeologically sensitive.

Scenic Resources

The landscape of Jamesport State Park has several features that add to the scenic value of the park. They include:

- The Long Island Sound
- Hallock’s Pond
- Beaches
- Dunes
- Wooded areas

Recreational Resources

An assessment of potential recreational uses for the park will be conducted during the master planning process. The following have been identified as interim recreational resources:

- Multi-use trails
- Passive activities (sightseeing; birding)
- Beach access

Infrastructure

An assessment of existing and proposed structures, roads, parking and utilities requirements will be conducted during the master planning process. The following items will be reviewed:

- Existing Buildings
- Roads and Parking Areas
- Water and Sewer
- Heating
- Electricity
- Phone/Internet
- Solid Waste
- Recycling

Operations

An assessment of operational needs will be made during the master planning process. The following items will be addressed in the plan:

- Park Staff
- Park Headquarters
- Maintenance
- Emergency Operations
- Sustainability

Sustainability Considerations

Development within the park will incorporate sustainable design to the most extent practicable. The following will be considered in the master plan:

- “Green” Buildings
- Energy Alternatives
- Transportation Alternatives
 - Bike Patrols
- Solid Waste and Recycling
 - Carry-in/Carry-out
- Water Usage
- Efficiency

Public Input

Your information and suggestions are important in the master planning process. The information gathered at tonight's meeting provides us with a valuable component and will be reviewed and considered before determining master plan alternatives that meet the needs and mission of the park

Preliminary list of items to be addressed in master plan

- ADA Compliance
- Archaeological Resources
- Boundary Encroachments
- Connectivity
- Education / Interpretive Programs
- Equestrian
- Infrastructure Needs
- Invasive Species Control
- Maintenance
- Nature / Visitors' Center
- New Recreational Trends
- Parking
- Partnerships
- Permits
- Preservation – Natural and Cultural
- Public Safety and Security
- Special Events
- Sustainability
- Trails
- Traffic and Circulation (internal and external to the park)

Next Steps

The issues, concerns and alternatives identified at the public information meeting and through written comments will be summarized and made available to the public at a later date. The Draft Master Plan/Draft EIS will address these issues and further opportunities for public input may take place during the preparation of the Draft EIS/Draft Master Plan. Public review of this document will include a public hearing and public comment/review period. Comments made during this time will be considered in the preparation of the Final EIS/Final Master Plan. After the issuance of the final plan and a public consideration period, a findings statement will be issued along with the Commissioner's decision regarding adoption of the plan. Comment and suggestion forms are available at the sign in area and will be accepted until Friday, October 17, 2008.

Master Plan Timeline

Public Information Meeting	September 23, 2008
Draft Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)	April 2009
Hearing	June 2009
Final Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)	September 2009
Findings and Adoption	September 2009

Additional information can be obtained from OPRHP at:

Robert Nellen, Park Manager
Wildwood State Park
PO Box 518, North Wading River Rd
Wading River, NY 11792
631-929-4314

Elisabeth Pezzolla, Park Planner
Planning Bureau, 17th Floor
Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238
518-486-2909

Written comments may be sent to Ms. Pezzolla using the address above or may be sent via email to:
elisabeth.pezzolla@oprhp.state.ny.us