

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP
AND INFORMATION SESSION**

**BETHPAGE AND TRAIL VIEW STATE PARKS
TRAILS PLAN**

October 30, 2014
Bethpage Clubhouse
Lenox Room
4pm-8pm



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Rose Harvey
Commissioner

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Agenda

1. 4:00pm - 8:00pm Workshop – Staff available for questions and comments
2. 5:00PM and 7:00PM Information sessions
 - a. Introductions and Welcoming Remarks
 - b. Overview of the Trails Planning Process
 - c. Overview of the Park
 - d. Public Input
 - e. Next Steps

Introduction

Purpose. The purpose of this workshop/public information meeting is to invite public participation and involvement in the trail planning process. Public participation will help OPRHP in identifying issues, concerns and alternatives as well as determining the depth to which each of the topics is explored within the Trail Plan. 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.

OPRHP Mission. The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) 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.

Priority Themes. The agency has developed three priority themes and initiatives that help guide its activities. These priorities are;

- Keep state parks and historic sites open, safe, affordable, and accessible.
- Increase, deepen, and improve the visitor experience.
- Fix our aging infrastructure and convert and transform New York's parks and historic sites into a welcoming, transformative, 21st Century parks system.

The trails plan for Bethpage and Trail View State Parks will incorporate these initiatives to set the best course of action to preserve and utilize park resources for this and future generations.

Bethpage and Trail View State Parks are distinguished by the variety of trail resources, which are available to a large population on Long Island.

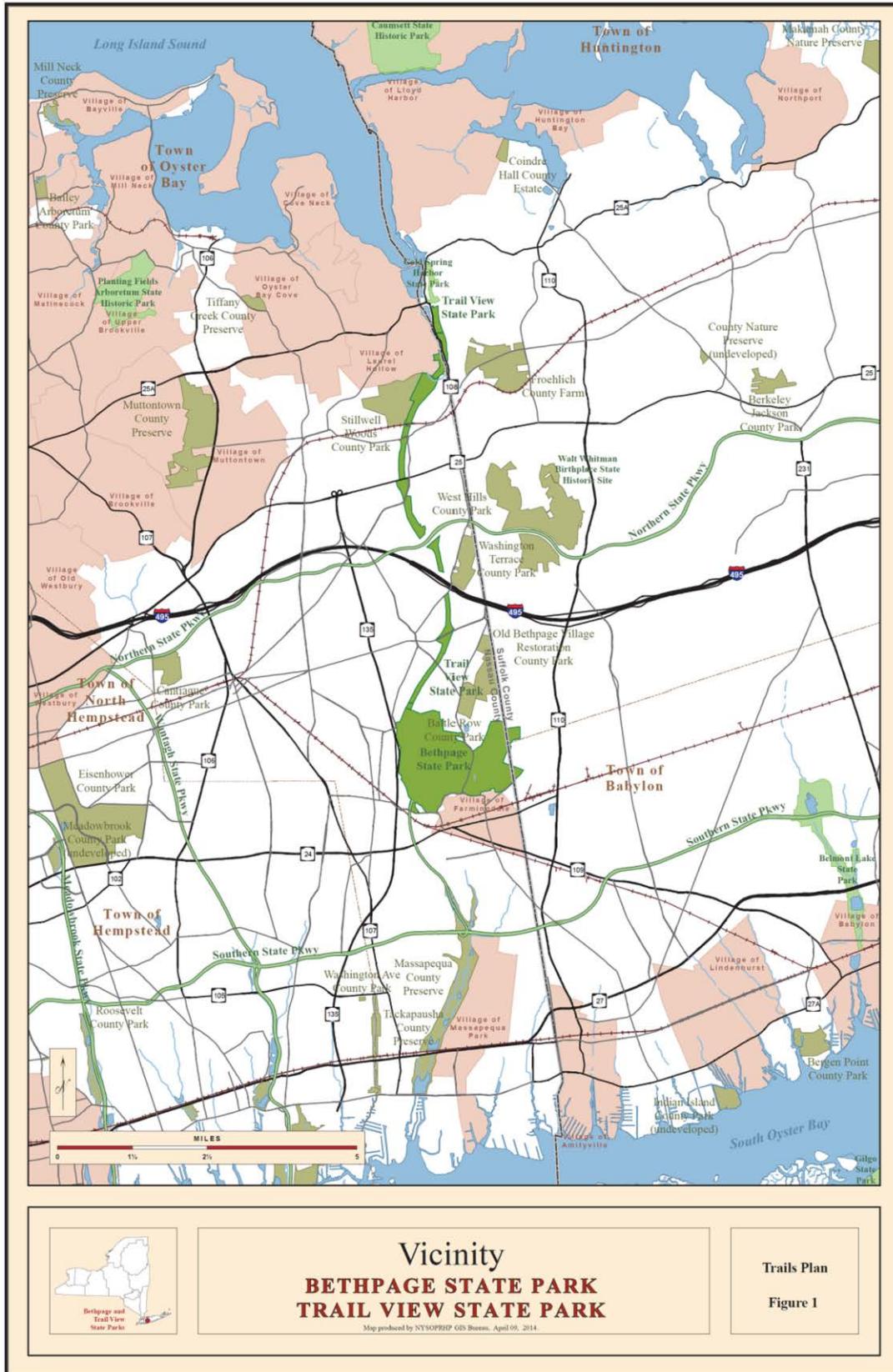
Additional information can be obtained from OPRHP at:

Long Island State Park Region
625 Belmont Ave.
West Babylon, NY 11704
631-669-1000

Caumsett State Park Preserve
25 Lloyd Harbor Road
Huntington, NY 11743
631-423-1770

OPRHP
Planning Bureau
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207
518-486-2909
Bethpage State Park
99 Quaker Meeting House Road
Farmingdale, NY 11735
516-249-0701

Information Packet for Bethpage and Trail View State Parks Trail Plan
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Master Plan Tentative Timeline

Public Information Meeting – October 30, 2014

Draft Plan – Late November 2014

Final Plan and approval – Late December 2014

Overview of the Parks

Although best known for its world class golf courses, **Bethpage State Park** (BSP or Bethpage) also offers a variety of recreation resources including picnicking, playgrounds, horseback riding, Polo and trails for hiking and bicycling. Most of the trails in BSP are concentrated in the northwest corner of the park near the picnic area.

Bethpage opened to the public as a state park in 1932. The land was purchased from the heirs of Benjamin Franklin Yoakum who had built an 18 hole golf course on the land which opened for play in 1923. The other golf courses and park facilities were added in later in the 1930's and 1950's.

Trail View State Park (Trail View), formerly the right of way for the proposed northern extension of the Bethpage and Caumsett State Parkways, runs from the northwest corner of Bethpage north to eventually connect with Cold Spring Harbor State Park. The park was created in 2002 after the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) transferred jurisdiction of the land to the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). Trail View is 7.5 miles long and hosts three trails along its length; the Bethpage Bikeway Extension (completion expected in 2014 by DOT), the Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt Trail, maintained by the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference (LIGTC), and a mountain bike trail maintained by Concerned Long Island Mountain Bikers (CLIMB). Together, these trails offer a host of non-motorized recreational activities.

Environmental Setting

Cultural Resources

Parts of Bethpage and Trail View State Parks have potential for containing prehistoric and historic resources. It is important that these cultural resources are not compromised for future generations. A comprehensive approach can be taken to develop sound management directions.

Historic Resources

Trail view is close to several structures and one district on the National Register. The trails plan will not impact these resources, which are all outside the park.

Archaeological Resources

Parts of Trail View are within several areas of archaeological sensitivity as identified by the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO will be consulted about any work that includes sub-surface disturbance in these areas.

Environmental Resources

Flora and Fauna

The area consists of stands of oak and oak-pine forest, shrublands, and successional old field. In many areas, the edge of the parkland is bounded by a hedge of more mature trees. Field assessments were conducted in 2002 by New York Natural Heritage Program to identify and map the types of habitats and species of concern at Bethpage State Park. The agency has compiled information on the flora, fauna, and trail conditions in both parks.

Wetlands

There are no New York State regulated wetlands in these parks. National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps of Bethpage and Trail View State Parks indicate small areas considered to be wetlands according to federal guidelines.

Physical Resources

Geology, Topography and Soils

The bedrock of the parks is under several hundred feet of sediments from the Late Cretaceous period. Geology of the parks consists of coastal plain deposits of the Monmouth and Matawan Groups and the Magothy Formation.

The parks are within the Coastal Plain physiographic province which is characterized as undulating and rolling topography. In general, the elevation of the parks ranges from 140 to 260 feet above sea level.

The predominant soils within the parks as found on the Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey are Enfield silt loam and Riverhead sandy loam.

These are very deep, well-drained soils found on broad plains and the sides of terraces. These soils are well suited to open land and woodland wildlife habitat. Slope and erosion pose some limitations for recreation development. Sustainable trail design and surface shaping will be necessary to reduce runoff. Paved paths and trails will require a coarse-grained material added to the subgrade to reduce the potential for frost action

Water

There are no water bodies (streams, ponds, lakes) in these parks.

Recreation Resources

- The trails in these parks exclude motor vehicles including cars and trucks, snowmobiles, ATVs, Motocross and ORVs. These trails have specific design uses.
 - The CLIMB trail is used by mountain bicyclists.
 - The Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt trail is used for foot traffic, mainly walking and hiking.
 - Other trails are not designated and are used by walkers, joggers, hikers, bicyclists, snow shoers, cross country skiers and other non-motorized forms of trail use.

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- There is a paved, non-motorized shared-use trail – The Bethpage Bikeway Extension – built and maintained by New York State Department of Transportation which runs through Bethpage State Park and part of Trail View State Park. Activities on this trail include walking, hiking, jogging, bicycle riding, mountain bicycling, roller blading, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. This trail leaves the park north of the Long Island Expressway and leads, on-road, to the Syosset train station.

Next Steps

- The issues, concerns and alternatives identified at the public open house/information session and through written comments will be summarized and made available by request. The final trail plan will address these issues.
- Further opportunities for public input may take place during the preparation of the plan.
- The public will have a chance to view and comment on the final plan
- After the public consideration period, the region will adopt the plan.
- Implementation will happen according to priorities set forth in the plan

Written comments will be accepted until *November 14, 2014*. Please send them to:

Salim Chishti
OPRHP
Planning Bureau
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Or email at: bethpage.trailview.plan@parks.ny.gov.