

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

Hallock State Park will be a place for visitors from New York State and beyond to experience the North Shore of Long Island while providing the opportunity to appreciate and learn about the natural, cultural and physical resources within the park to enjoy a variety of outdoor activities.

Overall Park Goal

The overall goal for Hallock State Park is to strike a balance between recreation and the protection and interpretation of the natural and cultural resources within the park.

Natural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

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

Goals

- Identify areas with environmental sensitivity, such as wetlands, and design programs and facilities that will provide interpretation without adversely impacting sensitive resources.
- Protect, maintain and manage areas important as habitat for rare, threatened, endangered or protected plant and animal species and significant community types.
- Maintain, restore and/or enhance the natural environment, where appropriate, to improve the quality of natural resources and support biodiversity of plant and animal species.
- Encourage the restoration of plant and animal species indigenous to the park.
- Manage animal species, as necessary, to protect the park's natural resources.
- Control and/or eliminate invasive species.
- Design and locate recreational and interpretive facilities that do not exceed the parkland's capacity to withstand use or infringe on important natural habitats, and that are compatible with the protection of park resources.
- Apply the principles of Ecosystem-Based Management to operation and resource protection within the park.

Recreation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide day use facilities and programming compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources.

Goals

- Provide year-round facilities and programs for the public.
- Implement programs and facilities that are consistent with regional and local needs and demands as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and other federal, state and local plans and programs.
- Develop programs to interpret the natural, cultural and physical resources and educate the public of their importance.
- Identify recreational activities that are compatible with the park's natural and cultural resources; provide appropriate support facilities for those activities.
- Develop a trail system in the park that connects people with the natural resources of the park in a safe, ecologically sustainable manner.

Open Space Protection Goals

Overall Goal

Protect open space in and nearby the park through acquisition, easements or other cooperative agreements.

Goals

- Research connectivity to nearby parks and other open spaces.
- Create a buffer zone to development that surrounds the park using open space protection strategies such as conservation easements and/or acquisition of land from willing sellers.
- Evaluate, classify and designate recent and future acquisitions according to the Parkland Classification System and the Park Preservation Law (Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law) as appropriate, in order to preserve open space.

Cultural Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Identify, protect, preserve and interpret structures, landscapes and other physical resources and educate the public of their importance to the, culture of the local community, region, state and nation.

Goals

- Identify and protect archaeologically sensitive areas.
- Minimize or avoid disturbances within archeologically sensitive areas.
- Develop and coordinate programs and activities that interpret the history and culture of the park and surrounding area.

Scenic Resource Goals

Overall Goal

Protect the scenic quality of the park and its view of Long Island Sound.

Goals

- Design and locate activities, structures and infrastructure that fit into the park's setting and minimize visual impacts.
- Provide and maintain vistas to Long Island Sound using topography or existing clearings whenever possible.
- Provide and maintain vistas to the adjacent agricultural land.

Access Goals

Overall Goal

Provide appropriate access to and within Hallock State Park Preserve in a manner that ensures the safety and security of park patrons and the park's natural, recreational and cultural resources.

Goals

- Provide and maintain a safe entrance and exit to the park using local roads.
- Provide a non-motorized trail system that links the parking area(s) to the park's natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Provide a vehicle access road system that connects the main parking lot with internal parking areas, the proposed nature center and activity areas.
- Provide access to park resources for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADA).

Education and Interpretation Goals

Overall Goal

Provide opportunities for education and interpretation of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park that supports OPRHP initiatives.

Goals

- Design interpretive programs that focus on the park's natural and cultural resources.
- Develop interpretive programs that reflect the history of the site including Native American, military, agricultural, and environmental history.
- Provide interpretive programs designed for the general public and for organized groups.
- Develop programs that are compatible with the protection of park resources.
- Provide a year-round interpretive program.
- Develop an outreach program designed for local schools and other organizations.
- Develop partnerships with other providers that can offer interpretive programs designed for park visitors and groups.

Operation and Maintenance Goals

Overall Goal

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

Goals

- Develop a set of design, maintenance and operation guidelines.
- Develop partnerships for maintenance and operation.
- Identify specific approaches to address resource protection within the operation and maintenance programs.
- Identify strategies for the handling of organic material generated at the site that will have minimal impact on the natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- Determine where renewable energy opportunities exist.
- Identify opportunities for utilization of clean, renewable energy sources – solar photovoltaic panels, solar thermal systems, geothermal, wind, biomass, and biogas energy sources - for both existing and new energy demands.
- Examine the potential for use of bio-based heating fuels.
- Strive to become a zero-waste park; minimize waste generated, maximize re-use and recycling.

Facility Development and Capital Investment Goals

Overall Goal

Build a quality facility consistent with standard park design aesthetics that is fiscally responsible in its development and has a minimal impact on the environment.

Goals

- Provide a nature/interpretive center and a maintenance facility that fit the functions and needs of the park through sustainable design and construction.
- Provide an office facility that meets the needs of the park administration functions and staff.
- Provide on-site housing for the park manager to ensure the security of the park.
- Provide public restroom facilities in appropriate locations.
- Provide safe and reliable potable water supplies for park patrons.
- Incorporate sustainable practices into park design, maintenance and operations. Through the Sustainable Sites Initiative, utilize previously disturbed sites, protect and restore habitat, and use products made from secondary or with a high content of recycled material.

Communication and Partnership Goals

Overall Goal

Develop partnerships with other organizations, federal, state and local agencies, not-for-profit groups and the private sector whose intentions are in line with the stated mission and goal of the park.

Ensure open and transparent communications with the public.

Goals

- Organize a group that includes the organizations in the area to improve coordination of programs, services and facilities.
- Develop partnerships for maintaining facilities and conducting programs.
- Coordinate with federal, state and local agencies in the management and stewardship of the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.
- Foster relationships with organizations with an interest in the park such as:
 - Hallockville Museum Farm
 - Peconic Land Trust
 - Audubon New York/North Fork Audubon

Inventory, Monitoring and Research Goals

Overall Goal

Encourage scientific research and monitoring efforts at the park so that the natural and cultural resources are properly managed and protected

Goals

- Provide a coordinated approach to inventories, monitoring programs and research that facilitates data exchange.
- Conduct and encourage inventory, monitoring and research by individuals, interest groups and institutions.
- Assure that all inventory, monitoring and research programs are compatible with the protection of the park's resources and ecosystems.