

Chapter 5: Analysis and Alternatives

Park Classification

The land classification system is a component of OPRHP's planning process and utilizes natural and cultural resources characteristics, land uses, levels of improvements, physical capacity and other management related data to identify appropriate classifications for lands administered by OPRHP. The system provides five major classification categories: Park and Land Resources, Water Access, Historic Resources, Linear Systems, and Environmental Education Facilities.

The planning team assessed the natural resources in the park, the physical constraints of the land, recreation potential of the park, suggestions received during the public comment period, and the needs of the Long Island Park Region and determined that the following classifications could be considered for Hallock.

Hallock State Park could be classified as a Park Preserve. The Park Preserve classification is described as follows:

- Natural areas with few developed facilities within urban, suburban or rural areas
- Possible salt marshes, wetlands, bogs, dunes, unusually steep topography, flood prone areas or other significant environmental resources
- Low level of use
- 0-5% developed areas
- 0-15% managed areas
- 85-100% natural areas

The second classification that Hallock could be considered for is a Scenic Park. The Scenic Park classification is described as follows:

- Natural setting, limited development, scenic attractions with urban, suburban or rural areas.
- A mix of natural and developed areas with significant scenic features.
- High level of use.
- 0-5% developed areas
- 0-50% managed areas
- 50-100% natural areas

When comparing the criteria established for the Park Preserve classification with the Historic Preserve classification and the Scenic Park classification, it is clear that the park falls predominantly into the Park Preserve classification, with some overlap into the other classifications. Despite a history of environmental degradation at the park, there are native species at the park and the land is reverting to forests. Between this and the environmental focus at the park, it is recommended that the park be classified as a Park Preserve.

Designations

Three designations, Park Preserve (PP), Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) and Bird Conservation Areas (BCA), exist for New York State Parks. Designations may be adopted for either an entire park or specific sections of a park to recognize a significant natural resource or resources within a park. All three designations were considered for Hallock State Park.

Park Preserve

Article 20 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law (Park Preserve Law) outlines the process for designation of entire parks as a park preserve, or portions of parks as a park preservation area.

Background for Analysis:

The Park Preserve law provides for designation of park land containing wildlife, flora, scenic, historical and archeological sites that are unique and rare in New York State. Designating the park as a preserve would provide legal protection to all of the park’s resources—natural, historic and archeological. A park-wide designation would also come with restricting the creation of developed areas. A developed area is considered any portion of the park that is paved or has another hard surface, or an area that contributes to the built environment of the park, or an area that is landscaped and not managed for habitat protection. This designation would also preclude moderate and high recreational use from occurring at the park. Existing compatible recreational uses can continue.

Historically, the land encompassing the park was used for agriculture, a boy’s camp, a portion for sand mining and, more recently, by trespassing ATV and off-road vehicle users. As a result, some environmental degradation has occurred in the park and native plants and animals have suffered. The topography, geology and general access to the park limit the activities and intensity of development within the park. As noted earlier, Hallock’s Pond and the shoreline bluffs and hoodoos are considered ecologically unique and important features of the land.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo (No Park Preserve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not recognize the significant natural features within the park.
Alternative 2 Designate the entire park as a Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May limit certain activities within the park. Passive recreational activities will be supported. Would protect the park as a whole to ensure the land would be safeguarded against incompatible uses in the future.
Alternative 3 Designate a Park Preservation Area in selected locations within the Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area from Hallock’s Pond east. The bluffs, dunes and shoreline adjacent to the LI Sound. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated areas would protect significant resources. Passive recreational activities will be supported. Impacts to resources by more intensive recreational uses will be minimized.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Natural Heritage Areas

The Natural Heritage Area (NHA) program was created in 2002 in Environmental Conservation Law (§11-0539.7). The goal of the NHA program is to identify and conserve rare, threatened and endangered species and significant natural communities that occur within state owned lands. To be eligible for designation, a site must possess at least one of the following criteria:

- provides habitat for state-listed endangered or threatened plants or animals;

- provides habitat for species ranked as rare under criteria developed by the New York Natural Heritage Program; or
- contains "significant ecological communities" where such term means all rare ecological communities as well as the best examples of common communities.

Unlike the Park Preserve Law (which provides some reference to recreational uses), there is no definitive statement on uses or recreation in the NHA law. There is an implicit responsibility in the administering agency to assure that existing uses will not be detrimental to the viability of the identified rare, threatened or endangered species or significant natural communities. No provision in the NHA law is made to prohibit or hinder future recreational uses. The type and extent of any proposal would be evaluated in the context of the scientific criteria (that led to designation) and site characteristics and management recommendations.

Background for Analysis:

The park has one significant ecological community: Hallock’s Pond. The pond is considered significant because it is an example of a coastal plain pond which is a rare ecological community, especially on Long Island. Coastal plain ponds are permanently flooded ponds that are typically groundwater fed, with fluctuating water levels. They typically occur in kettle-holes or shallow depressions in the outwash plains south of the terminal moraines of Long Island. Most occurrences of coastal plain ponds are found on Cape Cod (NYNHP, 2002). Coastal plain ponds provide a specific setting for a variety of plants and animals that live in this kind of habitat. Because of this, there is the potential for unique flora and fauna to be found near the pond.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo – No NHA designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant areas will not be recognized. • A greater awareness of the significance of the resources will not be created. • Significant natural communities and habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species will still be recognized and managed, but they would not be designated as a Natural Heritage Area.
Alternative 2 Designate an NHA that includes Hallock’s Pond and a 100 foot buffer around the pond.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates all areas that support rare plants and, potentially, rare amphibians and animals. • Creates greater awareness of the significance of the resource.
See Figure 10 for the proposed NHA boundary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designates areas that meet the criteria of the law.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Bird Conservation Areas (BCA)

A Bird Conservation Area (BCA) designates areas within the park that provide ideal habitat for birds. While bird conservation will be a high priority within designated areas, designation does not place any restrictions on future land use decisions. In addition to emphasizing bird conservation within the planning process, BCA designation also brings greater public awareness of the site’s bird

community, as well as funding opportunities for bird-related publications (kiosks, bird lists), research, or management.

Background for Analysis:

A preliminary assessment of the site was conducted to determine if the park met any of the criteria for designation as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) as described under Article 11, Title 20 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL). Although no formal bird surveys have been conducted at Hallock State Park, there are a number of resources available that document birds at or in the immediate vicinity of the park. Among the resources consulted by OPRHP staff was the New York Bird Breeding Atlas and data collected by members of the North Fork Audubon to establish a list of birds for the park.

In order to qualify for designation as a BCA, a site must meet at least one of the nine criteria outlined in the ECL. Following the preliminary staff evaluation of the bird community and habitat at Hallock State Park, it was determined that there is insufficient information to support a BCA designation.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo – No BCA designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park will not be recognized. • Management practices associated with a BCA will not be instituted.
Alternative 2 Designate a BCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCA Management policy will protect the resource. • Needs further documentation to meet requirements for BCA designation.
Alternative 3 Conduct further assessment at the park for consideration as a BCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will ensure an accurate assessment of the birds and bird habitat will be completed. • Will better inform the designation decision. • Will ensure that a BCA is warranted and beneficial to the area.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 3

Park Name

Background for Analysis:

Jamesport State Park is an inappropriate name for the park and is confusing to the general public because the park is not located in Hallock, NY. Jamesport is a hamlet south of the park; the park is actually located in the towns of Riverhead and Southold. Numerous suggestions were offered during the public comment period and the following names were seriously considered during the planning process:

- Hallock State Park Preserve
- North Fork State Park Preserve
- Hallockville State Park Preserve
- Soundview State Park Preserve
- Paumanok State Park Preserve

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo –Jamesport State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park name will not reflect the history or location of the park • The public will continue to take issue with the name • The public is familiar with this name
Alternative 2 Hallock State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects the significant natural resource of the park • Reflects the history of the area and the Hallock family who owned the land for several centuries
Alternative 3 North Fork State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects the general location of the park • A very common name for the area • Relates to the Long Island Sound
Alternative 4 Hallockville State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects the history of the area and the Hallock family • Is very similar in name to the Hallockville Museum Farm • The public might confuse the park and the museum
Alternative 5 Soundview State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates the LI Sound into the park name • Is a commonplace name for businesses in the region
Alternative 6 Paumonok State Park Preserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects the Native American (Algonquin) history of the area • Is the Algonquin name for Long Island • There is a Suffolk County trail called the Paumonok Trail • Does not tie in the local history of the park

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Natural Resource Protection Strategies/Management

Although Hallock State Park Preserve is currently an undeveloped facility, it is imperative that the master plan outline strategies and a clear direction for the management and protection of the natural resources of the park. In doing so, the master plan will help carry out some of the natural resource goals outlined in Chapter 4.

Deer Management

It has been recognized that deer over-browsing is impacting the natural resources of the park. Deer impacts are mainly the result of preferential browsing of individual plants. Over time, preferred plant species are eliminated or greatly reduced in abundance and non-preferred species become increasingly dominant. These changes in species abundance and composition can have serious effects at the ecosystem level. When deer suppress the regeneration of over-story tree species, those species will not be represented in the next iteration of the forest, thus changing the forest type. In addition, the loss of a tree species from a forest community greatly affects other organisms that depend on that species. Through the loss of species, deer can also impact forest ecosystems through the alteration of forest structure, including a rise in the number of and abundance of invasive species (Chapin 2008).

Deer management is a statewide issue and OPRHP will continue to participate in strategy development and implementation with the understanding that such actions must be done in accordance with the agency’s recreation and resource protection mission.

Hallock’s Pond Management

Background for Analysis:

Hallock’s Pond is located in the center of the park and is approximately 4.5 acres in size and approximately 24 feet deep. As a coastal plain pond, Hallock’s Pond is permanently flooded and groundwater fed with seasonal and annual water level fluctuations. There is a small patch of *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed Grass) within the pond and other invasive species located in the woodland area nearby.

Historically, the pond was used for agriculture and recreation. Some native trees around the pond were recently removed illegally. As a significant ecological community, Hallock’s Pond should be protected and used for environmental education. Trails should be carefully planned in this area and should, in general, be located away from the edge of the pond. Given its ecological importance, fishing will not be allowed in the pond and hand powered or motorized boats will be prohibited.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No maintenance required. • The pond has survived many years without management and is in relatively good condition. • Invasive species could take hold of the area. • Uncontrolled access to the area would impact the pond.
Alternative 2 Active adaptive management of the pond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native vegetation will benefit wildlife that depends on riparian habitat.
Active management would include the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native vegetation will enhance aesthetics

- Native vegetation restoration
- Monitor for invasive species
- Water quality protection measures
- Monitor for rare aquatic plants and wildlife
- Develop an observation deck to control access to the pond
- around the pond.
- Prohibit fishing to help limit the introduction of invasive plants and aquatic life.
- Maintain a wooded landscape to improve water quality.
- Monitor the pond for three consecutive years to get further aquatic plant and water quality data.
- Would provide OPRHP further opportunities to study the pond, and to determine what lives in the pond and how native fish and aquatic species could be reintroduced.
- Would provide controlled access to the pond.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Invasive Species Management

Background for Analysis

Invasive species are usually defined as non-native species (e.g. plants or animals) that adversely affect the habitats they invade economically, environmentally or ecologically. Although native species can be considered to be invasive in certain circumstances, this usually results from some human impact on the environment as opposed to the physical or genetic traits of the invading organisms. These species, due to a lack of competition or predation, can develop extremely large populations, causing severe adverse effects such as a loss of wildlife habitat, reduction of crop yields, personal injury and direct death of other plants and animals.

Many different invasive plant species exist in the park, though no invasive animal species are known at this time. All of these species represent a threat to the native plants and animals of the park. Currently, the park has limited resources to devote to invasive species management.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural habitats and park operations will continue to be impacted by invasive species.
Alternative 2 Work to eradicate and prevent all invasive species All known occurrences of invasive species in the park would be identified and control work would be initiated to remove them from the park. This plan would restore all of Hallock State Park Preserve to a natural state with only native species present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of these species, followed by native restoration of the area, would result in improved habitat values and functions. • There are currently no successful eradication techniques known for some invasive species found in the park. • Constant effort and attention would be required to keep invasive species from re-invading the park.

Alternative 3 Eradicate and prevent all invasive species from sensitive habitats

In lieu of total control of all invasive species throughout the park, this alternative would focus control efforts on areas where invasive species could have a serious negative effect on a sensitive habitat. This would include the ponds, the maritime dunes and on trails. In terms of control efforts, these two areas represent relatively small, manageable areas where invasive species presence poses a serious threat to the quality of a rare, sensitive habitat.

- Removal of these species, followed by native restoration of the area, would result in improved habitat values and functions.
- Considerable resources would be saved when compared to managing invasive species across the entire park.
- Focusing efforts at these locations would help to ensure that these habitats remain and/or improve their condition if invasive species are currently present.
- Continued successful management of some invasive species requires extensive coordination with landowners beyond the park's boundaries.

Alternative 4 Remove invasive animal species in the park

- Would help protect the native plant and animal species.
- Would be done in a humane matter.

Preferred Alternative: Combination of 2, 3 and 4

Maritime Dune Restoration Management Strategy

Background for Analysis

The dunes located in the park have been degraded by ATV and off-road vehicle use. This use is explicitly prohibited in all New York state parks. As a result of ATV and off-road vehicle trespass, there is little vegetation, native or otherwise, left in this area and it is especially vulnerable to erosion.

Alternatives	Considerations
<p>Alternative 1 Status Quo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The dunes will be left as is. • With the park open to the public, there will be more of a presence in the park and, therefore, enforcement of illegal ATV and off-road use will increase. • Invasive species could take hold.
<p>Alternative 2 Restore Native Vegetation to the dunes</p> <p>Any invasive species would be removed and monitored for any re-growth. Native species such as grasses and low shrubs would be planted. Signage and fencing would be installed to inform visitors of the efforts and to keep people off of sensitive areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returning the native vegetation would allow for the ecological community to come back gradually. • Plantings would stabilize the dunes. • Restoring native plants would provide habitat for native fauna. • Educate park visitors about the ecological importance of dunes and native plants. • Controlled access to the area would help protect the areas identified for restoration. • Designated hiking trails would be blazed through this area to keep people out of restoration areas.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Endangered Species Management Strategy

Background for Analysis

A pair of piping plovers, a federally and state-listed endangered species, nest in the park. Additionally, two state-threatened terns, the least tern and the common tern, have been observed at the park in recent years, however, there is no evidence that either species is breeding at this site.

The piping plover breeds on sandy beaches where patches of grass are present. Unfortunately, nearly everywhere in New York the piping plover shares its habitat with humans, whose activities are often in conflict with the survival of the plover and their chicks. Over time, plover nesting locations can move due to natural changes to beach habitat resulting from storms, flooding and other factors.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plover nest area will be left as it is.
Alternative 2 Actively manage the plover nesting areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install plover fencing and increase the park visitor’s awareness Route trails away from current nesting area Monitor changes in plover nesting habitat over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install protective fencing around the general vicinity of the nest to allow the plovers access, but to keep people out. Place signs on the beach and near the nest to inform park visitors that this is a unique area of the park. Ensure that the trail and access to the beach does not come too close to the plover nesting area.
Alternative 3 Develop a management plan for the endangered species of the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would provide long-term management recommendations for the plovers.

Preferred Alternative: Alternatives 2 and 3

Bluff Management Strategy

Background for Analysis:

The bluffs at the park are very sensitive and contain rare geological formations known as hoodoos. The bluffs also support a significant bank swallow nesting colony each spring. With rising sea level and other natural changes occurring along the shoreline, the area is in a constant state of flux. The hoodoos and bluffs are also susceptible to degradation through human activity and potentially

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The bluffs are left as is.
Alternative 2 Engage in natural restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow for erosion and other changes to the shoreline, dunes and bluffs that occur as a result of natural processes and storms.
Alternative 3 Install signage that informs the public of the geologic features and natural history of the bluffs and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place signs on the beach and near the bluffs to inform park visitors that this is a unique area of the park.

hoodoos and place trails that are routed appropriately near these areas

- Ensure that the trails do not come too close to the bluffs or hoodoos.

Preferred Alternative: Combination of Alternatives 2 and 3

Recreation Resource Development/Management

As an undeveloped park, there has been little permitted recreation occurring at the park since the land was acquired. Occasional horse rides in the park have occurred in recent years. The purpose of this section of the plan is to assess the feasibility for various recreational opportunities within the park. The following activities were either suggested during the public information meeting or developed internally by OPRHP.

Trail System

Background for Analysis

There are several existing trails and unpaved roads within the park that were developed by the previous owners of the property. There are also many trails created by ATVs and off-road vehicles especially in vulnerable areas (dunes).

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave existing trails as is. • Do not develop designated trails. • Do not develop trails to identified points of interest within the park. • Trail system does not meet ADA code. • Could degrade the natural resources.
Alternative 2 Develop and designate trails within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails would be designed and maintained. • Trails would highlight unique features of the park. • Trails would be designed to be ADA accessible where possible. • Trails would be developed primarily for pedestrians. • Trails would be kept natural—no impervious surface trails will be developed.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

The existing trails have been assessed for their potential use. A new coherent trail system will be developed that addresses the needs of various user groups. The new trail system will provide educational, recreational and scenic opportunities in the park. With the exception of designated times of the year, only hiking will be permitted at the park.

Horseback Riding

Background for Analysis

There is a large equestrian community on Long Island but ongoing residential and commercial development is resulting in fewer locations for equestrians to ride. A large contingency voiced support of horseback riding in the park during the public comment period. The park is not large enough to support separate trail networks for hiking and equestrian use and year-round equestrian access would require the construction of additional parking areas to accommodate horse trailers and

other parking for other park users. In addition, horseback riding can result in undesirable ecological impacts as horse manure is one of the easiest ways for invasive species to enter the park.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Do not allow horseback riding within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would alienate a large user group in the area. • Park Preserve designation does not preclude horseback riding as an activity. • Would help control the spread of invasive species in the park.
Alternative 2 Develop an equestrian center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is relatively small and this would require a significant amount of space within the park. • Would require a substantial monetary investment from OPRHP to construct the associated infrastructure. • Would require an interested concessionaire to operate the facility.
Alternative 3 Allow horseback riding by permit at designated times of the year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow horseback riders to have access to the park during the spring and fall—similar to what is currently permitted. • Certain trails would need to be designated for equestrian use. • Horseback riders would use the park during low seasons and, therefore, no additional parking areas would be necessary. • Permits would be required.
Alternative 4 Allow horseback riding year round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require the development of a separated bridle trails. • May require a larger or additional parking lot to accommodate horse trailers. • A larger lot or an additional parking area would mean more impervious surfaces in the park. • The park is not large enough to support two separate trail systems. • Permits would be required.
Alternative 5 Allow horses to ride along the shoreline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May have an adverse impact on natural resources. • Would be allowed when horses are allowed in the park during designated time of year, with a permit. • Riders would be directed away from any sensitive nesting areas.

Preferred Alternative: Alternatives 3 and 5

Biking

Background for Analysis:

Bicycling is currently not allowed at the park. The sandy soils of the park may create a difficult and undesirable terrain for off-road bicyclists.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status quo: No off-road biking in the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biking in the park would be difficult given the sandy soils of the park. • No additional trail maintenance would be required. • Bike racks would be provided at the parking area for park visitors entering the park from adjacent public roads.
Alternative 2 Allow off-road biking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require additional trails to segregate trail activities. • Could potentially facilitate the spread of invasive species. • May require additional maintenance for trails.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Shoreline Access and Swimming

Background for Analysis

As an undeveloped park, there currently is no swimming at either Hallock's Pond or Long Island Sound. The shoreline at Hallock is natural, rocky and undeveloped. Because of its size and natural character, it is not conducive to the traditional beach infrastructure associated with bathing beaches (changing rooms, rest rooms, etc.).

Also, Hallock's Pond is not suitable for swimming because of its ecological sensitivity.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Since Hallock is not a bathing beach, the public will have access to the shore but OPRHP will not actively manage the site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less costly to operate • Maintains the natural character of the area
Alternative 2 Develop indoor swimming facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require additional infrastructure to support guarded swimming. • May require additional parking areas. • Guarded swimming is available at nearby Wildwood and Orient Beach State Parks.

<p>Alternative 3 Develop a formal bathing beach and provide guarded swimming at the Long Island Sound</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require the construction of significant infrastructure to support guarded swimming. • May require additional parking areas. • Bathing beaches and guarded swimming is available at nearby Wildwood and Orient Beach State Parks.
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Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Fishing

Background for Analysis

There is no fishing currently allowed in the park. Informal fishing most likely occurs in Long Island Sound by people accessing the shoreline from beaches east and west of the park. Although Hallock’s Pond supports a freshwater fish population, the pond is ecologically significant and its shorelines are too sensitive to support public fishing.

Alternatives	Considerations
<p>Alternative 1 Allow fishing at Long Island Sound</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing might conflict with other users at the beach or in the water. • Would provide a new fishing opportunity on the Long Island Sound. • 24-hour fishing would be by permit only.
<p>Alternative 2 Do not allow fishing at Long Island Sound.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would lessen the potential conflicts between users. • Would eliminate a recreational opportunity at the park.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Scuba Diving

Background for Analysis

Scuba diving is not a permitted activity in the park at this time. Scuba diving is permitted at other state parks on Long Island. These parks have experienced a decline in participation for scuba diving as evidenced by the decline of permits issued by the Long Island Park Region.

Alternatives	Considerations
<p>Alternative 1 Allow scuba diving at Long Island Sound.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could potentially conflict with other users. • No vehicles would be permitted to drive to the shore. • Would be by permit only. • Users would have to carry their gear from the parking lot to the beach.
<p>Alternative 2 Do not allow scuba diving at Long Island Sound.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would deny a passive recreation opportunity at the park.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Boating/Water-Dependent Activities

Background for Analysis

There are no boating access facilities within the park at this time. A boat ramp is available at the Town of Riverhead beach, west of the park. Given the steep slopes from the park’s bluffs to the beach, the park is not suitable for development of a trailered boat launch. No boating or water-dependent activities will be allowed at Hallock’s Pond.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Car-top boat access (kayaks, canoes) at the shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could potentially conflict with other users at the beach or in the water. • No vehicles would be permitted to drive to the beach, • Would require a permit to park at the nearest parking lot. • Would improve recreational access to the Long Island Sound. • Park patrons would have to carry their car-top boat from the parking lot.
Alternative 2 Surfing and windsurfing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would conflict with other users in the water. • Water is typically calm and not conducive to surfing or windsurfing. • Would be by permit only. • No vehicles would be permitted to drive to the beach. • May impact the plover nesting area.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Camping

Background for Analysis

Camping is currently not allowed at the park. When this property was first acquired by OPRHP camping was discussed as a potential activity. The size of the park, at 233 acres, might also limit the camping capacity of the park. An extensive camping facility is located nearby at Wildwood State Park.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no infrastructure in the park to support camping. • Camp sites are available at Wildwood State Park.
Alternative 2 Allow limited Primitive Camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 5 sites could be established in

According to DEC, primitive camping, also known as back country camping, is a rustic, self-dependent experience in which campers carry in and carry out their supplies and trash.

- the park.
- Staff would need to be present 24/7.
- There is no electricity, potable water or comfort stations required with less than 5 sites.
- Would accommodate those interested in a rustic camping experience.
- Would not serve those looking for a more formal campground.
- Some capital investment would be needed to develop camping at the park.

Alternative 3 Develop formal campsites with RV access

- Would require a significant capital investment.
- Would require the installation of the necessary infrastructure and utilities to support this type of camping.
- Staff would need to be present 24/7.
- The park is small in size; finding a site to accommodate this use could be difficult.
- Would add to the impervious surfaces of the park.
- Potential adverse impacts to the park and natural resources.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Environmental Education and Interpretive Programs

Background for Analysis

Limited environmental education and interpretation is currently provided at the park. The Hallockville Museum Farm has been permitted to hold nature walks in the park on occasion, but that has been the extent of the environmental education and interpretation at the park.

The park has a unique past including strong ties to: Native Americans, immigrants and early agriculture on Long Island, archeology, the War of 1812, environmental history, and ecological interpretation. All of these aspects of the park’s history will be interpreted.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no existing signs, kiosks or brochures available to interpret the park. • The Hallockville Museum Farm sponsors walks into the park highlighting the environment of the park.

<p>Alternative 2 Develop Environmental Education and Interpretive Opportunities at the park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop interpretive panels • Develop informational brochures and handouts that highlight the wildlife, natural resources and history of the site. • Develop a new nature center • Foster partnerships with Hallockville Museum Farm and other interested parties to promote environmental education and interpretation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive panels could be located at key areas for interpretation such as Hallock’s Pond and the bluffs/hoodoos. • Kiosks could be developed to explain the significance of the proposed Natural Heritage Area and Bird Conservation Area. • Panels would support the interpretive exhibits in the nature center. • Brochures could be distributed at the nature center. • Could assist park patrons when navigating the park on their own (self-guided tours). • Would require a significant capital investment. • Would require additional staff to operate the nature center. • Would provide a new learning space for students and the general public. • Would provide bathrooms, offices and meeting space for park staff. • Would provide bathrooms and classroom space for the public. • Would help interpret the unique past of the park.
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Preferred Alternative: Alternative 2

Hunting

Background for Analysis
 Hunting is currently not allowed in the park. Hunting is allowed in some state parks.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting is not allowed in the park.
Alternative 2 Allow hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May help control over abundant wildlife. • May create a conflict between park patrons and hunters given the small size of the park.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 1

Facility Development and Operations

As discussed earlier in this chapter, topography and natural resources play a large role in determining appropriate recreational and educational uses and locations of buildings within the park. In addition, the park boundary and adjacent land uses can also dictate uses, infrastructure and the operations of the park. This section will explore the development of the park and explain options discussed for development.

Entrance/Exit to the Park and Circulation

Background for Analysis

There are two main access roads to the park. One access road (right-of-way) is located on the western edge of the property and the other access road is located more in the center of the property. Both right-of-ways (ROW) are approximately 60 feet wide, are lined with trees, and provide access from Sound Avenue north to the interior of the park. The western ROW is adjacent to a large commercial greenhouse operation to the west and agricultural lands to the east. The central ROW is adjacent to agricultural lands on both sides. There are no formal interior roads in the park at this time.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Two-way road, entering and exiting on the western ROW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would focus traffic and paved surfaces in one area. • Road width would need to accommodate two-way traffic and a wide shoulder for pedestrians. • Located away from Hallock’s Pond. • The adjacent commercial farm and greenhouses are unsightly. • There is extensive truck traffic on the road adjacent to this ROW during the spring, summer and fall. • Truck traffic would make it difficult for park patrons entering the park. • Would require removal of many mature trees that lined the original Camp Carey access road in this corridor. • Would be constructed with a pervious paving material.
Alternative 2 Two-way road entering and exiting on the eastern ROW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would focus traffic and paved surfaces in one area. • Road width would need to accommodate two-way traffic and a wide shoulder for pedestrians. • Road would be closer to Hallock’s Pond. • Would not have to compete with truck traffic. • Park entrance would be closer to neighboring organizations (e.g.

	<p>Hallockville Museum Farm).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some existing trees would need to be removed. Only the minimum numbers of trees would be removed near the north end of the ROW. • Would be constructed with a pervious paving material.
<p>Alternative 3 One-way road with traffic entering on the western ROW and exiting from the eastern ROW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road width would only need to accommodate one-way traffic. • Would require paving a larger area. • Entering on the western ROW might be difficult with truck traffic entering and exiting on the adjacent roadway. • Park patrons see the adjacent industrial greenhouse as they enter the park. • Might be difficult for park patrons not familiar with the area to see the western ROW. • Not much of room for a park sign. • Would go near Hallock’s Pond, but not as close as in Alternative 2. • Would be constructed with a pervious paving material.
<p>Alternative 4 One way road entering on the eastern ROW and exiting out the western ROW</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger area for vehicles to turn into the park. • Road width would only need to accommodate one-way traffic. • Would require paving a larger area. • Would go near Hallock’s Pond, but not as close as in Alternative 2. • Would allow for a park sign and landscaping. • Safer entrance for traffic—less congestion. • Safer exit for park traffic. Is easier to see to make the turn onto Sound Avenue. • Would be constructed with a pervious paving material.
<p>Alternative 5 Shoreline Access Road</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be developed off of the Main Road. • Would be constructed with a pervious paving material. • Would provide access to the proposed scenic drop-off and handicap accessible lot. • Would be a shared road with pedestrians. • Would provide emergency vehicles with access to the shoreline.

Preferred Alternative: Alternatives 4 and 5

Parking Areas

Background for Analysis

As an undeveloped park there are no formal parking areas within the park at this time. The need for two potential parking areas within the park was discussed at length during the planning process. The need for additional parking areas was weighed with the cost and impacts of asphalt or another impervious surface. In addition to the location for the parking areas, the feasibility of using pervious paving materials for the parking areas was also considered.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Main Parking Lot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would serve as the primary parking lot for the park. • Would be centrally located near comfort stations, natural resources, and nature center. • Would accommodate approximately 75 vehicles. • Would be screened with landscape treatments to improve the visual aesthetic. • Bio-filtration swales will be considered to help mitigate stormwater runoff. • May be constructed with a pervious paving material.
Alternative 2 Potential Future Parking Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be a pervious surface. • Future lot would be dependent upon demand and available space. • Would be developed after the park has been open and operating for a few seasons to determine need and final location.
Alternative 3 Drop-off/Accessible Parking Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would be used to facilitate access to the waterfront. • Would assist those with mobility issues in getting as close to the beach as possible. • Would provide a scenic overview location. • Would provide four accessible parking spaces.

Preferred Alternative: Combination of Alternatives 1, 2 and 3

Location of the Nature Center/Maintenance Facility/Park Manager Residence

Background for Analysis

When the parkland was first acquired in 2006, there was a discussion of locating a nature center along Sound Avenue to create a cluster of interest points with Hallockville Museum Farm and the Antique Power Museum located in the same general vicinity. The possibility of locating a nature center at the interior of the park, closer to the natural resources, was also discussed.

The spatial needs for a nature center and maintenance facility were discussed during the planning process. In order to accommodate educational and administrative functions, it was determined that the nature center should be approximately 5,000 square feet. This should provide enough space to handle two classrooms of students at one time. There should be a classroom/lab space, office space, reception desk, restrooms, and a designated contact station area incorporated into the structure to maximize the efficiency of overall park operations.

The maintenance facility should be relatively small with two garage bays for vehicle and equipment storage. Equipment to maintain trails would need to be stored in this area. As a small park, site staff will be able to utilize equipment or larger vehicles from Wildwood State Park on an as-needed basis.

In an effort to keep the overall developed footprint of the site to a minimum, the nature center, maintenance facility and park residence would be located in the same general area. Since the park is located in a primarily agricultural and residential area with little ambient lighting, maintaining the “dark skies” character of park should be kept in consideration.

As noted earlier in this section, many decisions about this facility are dictated by the varying topography and general constraints of the site. Seven potential locations for the nature center were identified and the maintenance facility and park manager residence were considerations in evaluating these sites. This list was narrowed to three as described below. Please see Figure 11 for a map of the proposed locations.

Alternatives	Considerations
<p>Alternative 1 Site 1: Sound Avenue</p> <p>This location was one of the first sites considered when the parkland was acquired.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to the other destinations in the area (Hallockville Museum Farm, wineries, Antique Power Museum). • Nature center would be a presence on Sound Avenue. • Away from the natural resources. • The structures would be visible to the public and less vulnerable to vandalism. • Water, electric, telephone, and natural gas mains exist on Sound Avenue and infrastructure costs would be reduced. • The site topography is fairly level. • There is only 1.4 acres available at the site and it might not be enough space to accommodate the nature center, maintenance, parking and the park residence. • There is no view of the water or natural resource of the park. • This location is nearly a mile from the interior of the park. • Constructing the nature center at this location might require the need for additional comfort stations and maintenance areas in the interior of the park.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queuing for entrance to the park could potentially back up onto Sound Avenue. • Emergency vehicles could easily access the site. • Limit ambient lighting.
<p>Alternative 2 Site 2: Northwestern area of the park.</p> <p>This site is in the general location that Camp Carey once occupied.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site could accommodate the nature center, maintenance and park residence all in one location. • Close to the natural resources of the park. • This site is considered disturbed because it was once occupied by the camp. • There is limited access to the LI Sound (the beach access is approximately 0.8 mile away). • Possible views from top of bluffs. • Far removed from Hallock’s Pond and most other natural features of park. • Some utilities would need to be extended to this site. • There are negative views of the industrial greenhouse and audible related noise. • The park manager could better monitor the park during off hours. • The residence is relatively isolated. • Limit ambient lighting.
<p>Alternative 3 Site 3: Southwest of Hallock’s Pond, between existing right-of-ways.</p> <p>This area was disturbed during the 1960s when the site was being used for sand mining.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closest location to Hallock’s Pond. • Closer to the natural resources of the park. • Closest access to the access trail to the Long Island Sound beach. • The site has been cleared of top soil, leveled and is relatively clear of trees and vegetation. • The site is fairly level topography. • The site can accommodate all three structures. • Closest to the adjacent agricultural land uses. • Limit ambient lighting. • All utilities would need to be extended out to this site. • The park manager could better monitor the park during off hours. • The residence is somewhat isolated.

Preferred Alternative: Alternative 3

Comfort Stations

Background for Analysis:

As an undeveloped facility, there are currently no comfort stations (restrooms) in the park. A comfort station should be located near the main parking area as well as near the beach or the interior of the park.

Alternatives	Considerations
Alternative 1 Develop comfort facilities as part of the nature center and park office complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would serve as the primary restroom for the park.• Would be located near the main parking area and activities.
Alternative 2 Develop composting comfort facilities at the beach drop-off/accessible parking area	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would provide a second comfort facility in the park.• Would be located near the beach and the park interior.• Would be an environmentally sustainable composting system.

Preferred Alternative: Alternatives 1 and 2

Master Plan Alternatives

Two master plan alternatives are considered here. The first is the Status Quo alternative. This alternative consists of current facilities, programs and practices. Under this alternative, the current resource protection, operation, capacity and facility practices will continue. There would be no addition of new recreation resources to meet park patron needs nor will any of the natural resources identified in the park be adequately protected.

The second alternative combines the preferred alternatives from the Recreation Development/Management and Natural Resource Protection/Strategies sections. This alternative is the one that best meets the goals for the park. The following discussion shows the Status Quo alternative and the Preferred Master Plan alternative.

Status Quo

As an undeveloped facility, the park is in a natural state with little infrastructure or amenities. It is not suitable for public use in this condition.

Considerations

- Restrooms are needed in the park
- There are no formal roads in and out of the park
- The pond is not actively managed
- The bluffs and hoodoos are not actively managed
- Endangered species need to be monitored and managed
- Existing trails need to be managed
- Maintenance facilities need to be developed for the park.
- Invasive species need to be controlled and managed
- A nature center is needed
- Park administrative offices need to be developed
- A park residence needs to be developed
- Sustainability issues need to be addressed
- No designations exist within the park

OPRHP has specific goals and visions for state parks. These visions and goals are a driving force for planning at any of the state facilities. In addition, as part of the drafting of this master plan, several general and specific goals were set for the vision of this particular facility. The status quo of the park does not address many of the statewide OPRHP visions and goals, nor does it meet the specific goals for Hallock State Park.

Preferred Master Plan Alternative

The preferred alternative is a master plan that responds to the natural and recreational resources of the park. At the same time the new plan responds to the needs of park patrons and staff, protection of natural resources and principles of sustainability.

This alternative is preferred largely because of the improvements to natural resource protection and recreation resources that it contains. This alternative includes many new strategies for protection of natural habitats within the park including designations of Park Preserve and Natural Heritage Areas.

Each preferred element in the master plan was analyzed for its suitability in meeting the goals of the agency and of this park. It was also analyzed for effects to the existing resources and potential impacts. The following is a summary of the preferred alternatives. A full description of the Master Plan is provided in Chapter 6.

Natural Resource Protections Strategies/Management

- Designate Park Preserve and Natural Heritage Areas as indicated
- Implement management strategies for the coastal plain pond (Hallock's Pond) and maritime dune ecological communities
- Initiate endangered species management practices
- Initiate invasive species control and management programs as indicated
- Implement Environmental Education and Interpretation programs
- Construct observation areas at identified locations at Hallock's Pond

Recreation Resource Development

- Improve and expand trail system and designate trails
- Allow car-top boat access to Long Island Sound
- Allow scuba diving at Long Island Sound
- Allow fishing at Long Island Sound
- Managed the ocean shorefront as a natural beach
- Allow equestrian use at designated times of the year through a permit system
- Develop environmental education and interpretive programming
- Develop picnic area near Nature Center

Operations and Infrastructure

- Develop park entrance and exit with pervious paving material
- Develop main parking lot
- Develop Nature Center, with classroom and lab space
- Develop maintenance facility and park manager residence
- Develop scenic drop off and handicap parking near the beach
- Develop new comfort station with composting toilets at scenic drop off and handicap parking lot
- Develop park offices and restrooms at Nature Center
- Install recycling bins in the park and conduct active recycling efforts