

Sampson State Park

Seneca County
Town of Romulus, New York



**Revised Draft
Master Plan**
July 29, 2020



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

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Abbreviations Used

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BCA	Bird Conservation Area
DEC	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DOT	New York State Department of Transportation
EAWPP	Emergency Action Written Preparedness Plan
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
IBA	National Audubon designated Important Bird Area
NHA	Natural Heritage Area
NYNHP	New York Natural Heritage Program
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NYS	New York State
OPRHP	Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SSP	Sampson State Park
SEQR(A)	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SSP	Sampson State Park
UD	Universal Design



Introduction

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) administers 180 state parks and 35 historic sites encompassing more than 350,000 acres of parkland in 11 regions. The Finger Lakes Park Region, where Sampson State Park (Sampson SP) is located, contains 25 parks, two historic sites, and four golf courses.

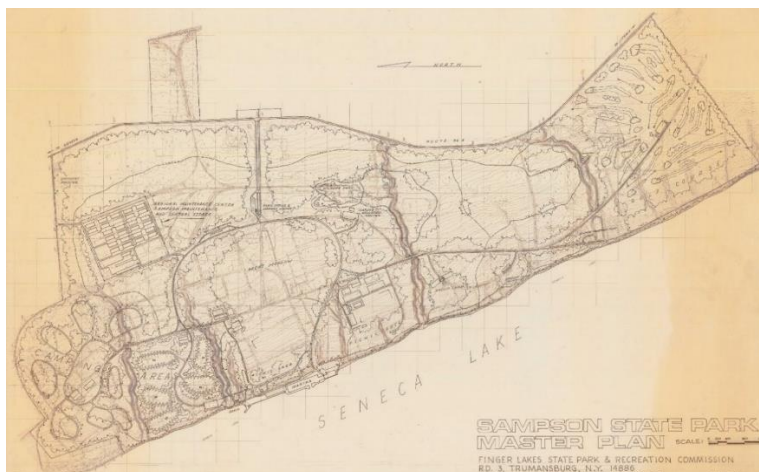
Under Section 3.02 of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Law, OPRHP is directed "...to conserve, protect and enhance the natural, ecological, historic, cultural and recreational resources contained therein and to provide for the public enjoyment of and access to these resources in a manner that will protect them for future generations." Master planning is an important tool that can be used to help meet the substantial responsibility of providing recreation while at the same time protecting and interpreting resources.

The master plan process explores the existing physical, natural, cultural, recreational, and structural resources of the park. It assesses the condition of these resources to provide recreational and interpretive opportunities situated within healthy and productive environments. The process calls for the development and consideration of alternatives that improve the recreational opportunities and experiences offered at the park and enhance the stewardship of natural, cultural, and historic resources. The preferred alternatives best meet OPRHP's mission and vision for the park, and together they form the master plan.

OPRHP has determined that the preparation of a master plan for Sampson SP will further its mission 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.

Planning that has been done in the past

In 1976, a master plan revision was drawn by C.H. Dunlap, a Landscape Architect, for the Finger Lakes State Park & Recreation Commission. The plan shows locations of the regional maintenance center, a "Great Meadow", camping loops, a nature center, wildlife pond, marina, large picnic areas, group camps and a golf course.



Sampson State Park Master Plan map, completed in 1976

In 2008, an additional 165 acres of land was acquired from Aspen Square Management. The purpose of this acquisition was to buffer privately developed areas to the north of the park from the park's recreational and operations facilities.

Planning and Environmental Review

The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document is accompanied by a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement which provides that review and compliance with SEQR.

Park Description

The Region

Sampson SP is located in the Town of Romulus in Seneca County OPRHP's the Finger Lakes State Park Region. Best known for its scenic lake views, wineries, and productive fishery, this region covers all of Wayne, Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Chemung and Tioga Counties. Sampson SP is centrally located on Seneca Lake, at 618 feet deep, one of the deepest in the area.

Like giant fingerprints of Ice Age glaciers, the eleven Finger Lakes fan out across Central New York. The movement of water shaped the gorges, lakes and other land features characteristic of this region. Eleven state parks front on these lakes, six featuring gorges with waterfalls. Taughannock Falls SP, near Ithaca, features one of the highest waterfalls in the Eastern U.S., plunging 215 feet past rocky cliffs that tower nearly 400 feet above the gorge.

Location and Access

Sampson SP is located on the eastern shore of Seneca Lake, on NY 96A, approximately 6 miles northwest of the intersection of NY 96 in the Village of Ovid. The park lies entirely in the Town of Romulus, Seneca County. (Figure 1 in the Revised DEIS)

The park is centrally located in the Finger Lakes region. Access to area wineries, breweries, distilleries, restaurants, cultural venues, and retail shopping is convenient, with popular locations, including the Waterloo Premium Outlets and del Lago Resort and Casino in Waterloo, NY, within a 30-mile radius. Access to area tourist attractions by boat is also convenient with distances to Geneva and Watkins Glen of approximately 10 and 20 nautical miles respectively.

Sampson SP is accessible by motor vehicle using the main entrance located on NY 96A. There are no public bus routes from nearby metro areas that access the park. Pedestrians and bicyclists may enter the park using the main entrance located on NY 96A or any of several other gated access points where interior park roads meet local residential roads. There are no public hiking or snowmobile trails connecting to Sampson SP. The park is easily accessed off the NYS Thruway from the major cities of Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse. The cities of Auburn, Geneva, and Ithaca are within a reasonable driving distance.

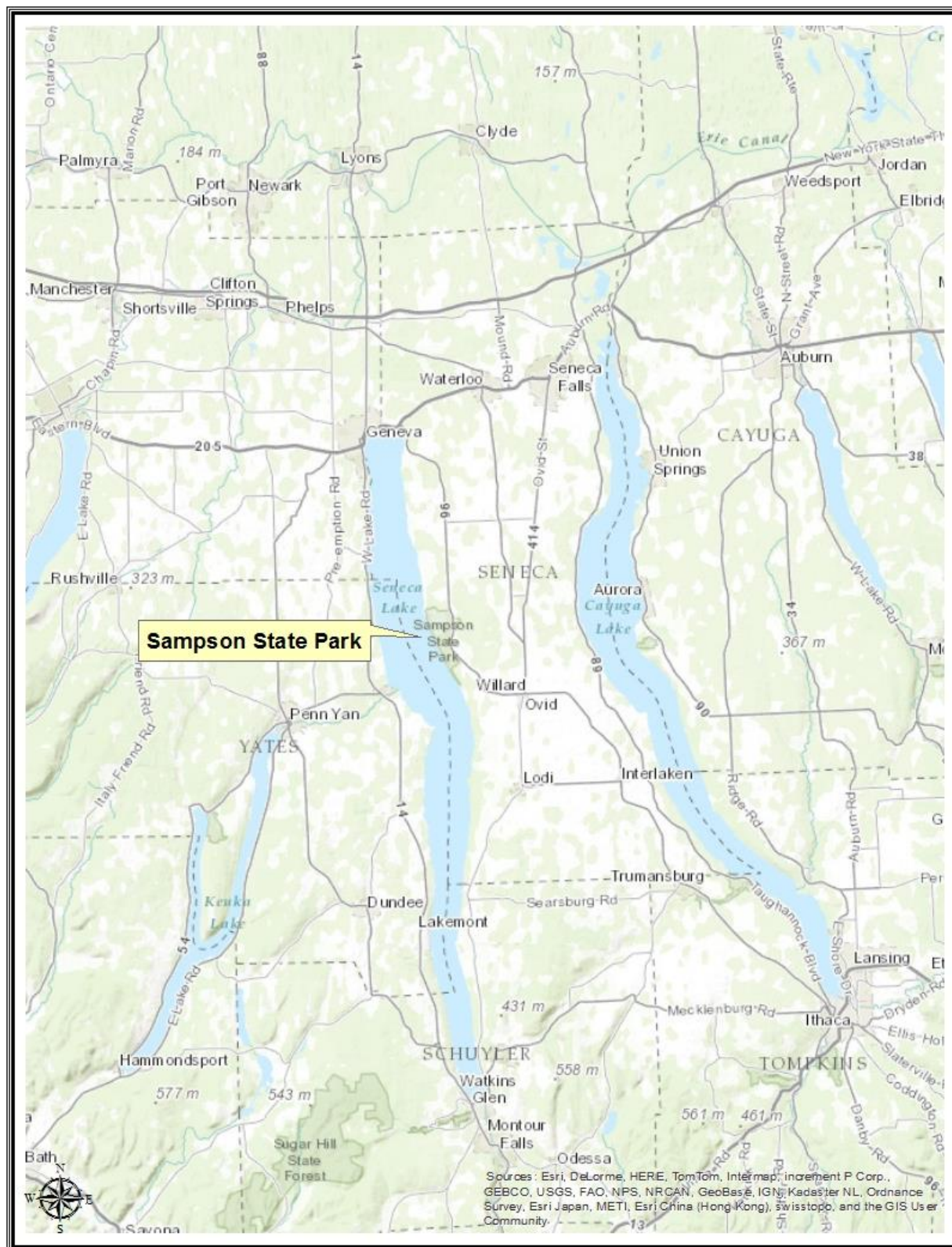


Figure 1 -- Sampson SP Location

Establishment of the Park

Sampson State Park was established in 1960 on land purchased from the United States Air Force. The park presently contains over 2,000 acres of land located in southeastern Seneca County in the Town of Romulus, adjacent to Seneca Lake in New York State's scenic Finger Lakes region. Before transitioning into a state park, the site was used as a U.S. Naval training center, a college for returning veterans, and a U.S. Air Force base. Named in honor of a local native, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, who fought in the Spanish-American War, the naval training facility was active during World War II. Between 1942 and 1946 more than 400,000 recruits were trained at the site. After World War II, a portion of the grounds became Sampson State College, which educated returning servicemen from 1946 to 1949, until the Korean War. The site then became an Air Force base, which was active from 1950 to 1956.

After the purchase of the facility by New York State, in the process of transforming the facility from a military base to a public recreational facility, many of the existing structures were removed, and some were retained and repurposed for park use. Some roads were reconditioned or removed. In some parts of the park, vacant, unused buildings remain, a reminder of the site's military past.

In the 1980s, a group of WWII veterans approached OPRHP to rehabilitate the former Navy brig into a military memorial museum for the veterans that were stationed there. Air Force veterans joined in the effort and sited an Air Force museum on the opposite side of the same building. The museum contains artifacts including guns, uniforms, and household items from the site's days as a military base.

Existing Conditions

This description of the existing conditions at the park is a summary highlighting the most important elements that lead to the formation of the master plan. More detailed descriptions and maps of the existing resources are included in Chapter 1 and Appendices of the DEIS.

Physical Resources

Geology

The bedrock consists entirely of the Ludlowville Formation, a sheet of shale with some limestone. The surficial geology (see Figure 4 of the DEIS), influenced by the Wisconsin Ice Sheet, consists of till deposited underneath the glaciers consisting of a poorly sorted sand-rich sediment of variable texture from boulders to silt consisting of a wide range of non-sorted to poorly sorted sand or larger size particles suspended in a mud mix (diamict).

Soils

Weathered stone is the parent material for the soils found throughout the area. The soils in the park are primarily silt loams derived from glacial till (Figure 6 in the DEIS). A description and map of soil types found in the park is found in Appendix C of the DEIS.

Topography

There are dozens of gorges scattered throughout the landscape of the Finger Lakes. The topography in Sampson SP is typical of the Finger Lakes region, with gently rolling hills, open meadows, and steep gorges running perpendicular to the lake (DEIS, Figure 2). The park has four smaller gorges, known locally as ravines, which were carved by streams flowing east to west from the uplands into Seneca Lake.

Water Resources

See Figure 5 of the DEIS for a map of these resources.

Lakes and Ponds

The most prominent water feature of the park is Seneca Lake. At 38 miles long, it is the second longest of the Finger Lakes. Its surface area is 42,800 acres, with an average depth of 291 feet. Seneca Lake supports a healthy fishery, a key part of Finger Lakes tourism. The lake is classified AA(TS) by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), indicating that its waters are suitable as a source of drinking water (Seneca provides drinking water for nearly 100,000 local residents), and for swimming and fishing and may be suitable for trout spawning. The park has approximately three miles of shoreline along the lake.

Streams

There are four streams located in Sampson SP. Two of these streams originate from the watershed in the uplands east of the park's boundaries, and two originate from the uplands within the park. All four streams flow to Seneca Lake. Three have a "C" classification from the DEC, and the most northern one has a C(TS) standard. The "C" classification designates streams where fishing can be recommended. The C(TS) standard means that the stream is likely to support trout spawning.

Watersheds

The entire park is part of the Oswego River/Finger Lakes Watershed, one of the largest in NYS, and includes all of Seneca County and most of the Finger Lakes. This watershed has 8,896 miles of rivers and streams and 76 significant freshwater lakes (including Seneca Lake) and covers 5,070 square miles of land area entirely in New York State. The watershed feeds the Oswego River and empties into Lake Ontario.

Wetlands

There are no DEC-regulated wetlands in the park. The federal National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) identifies several wetlands in the park (Figure 5 in the DEIS).

Natural Resources

A number of reports are available that document the natural resources of the park or area. The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) compiles a report which provides comprehensive information and scientific expertise on rare species and natural ecosystems. The Unique Natural Areas (UNA) designation documents important natural communities, rare plants and animals, and areas of geological significance at the county level. The park, along with the swamp woodlands of Montezuma Wildlife Refuge and the Finger Lakes National Forest, have been identified as a UNA in recognition of the importance of the protected forest and natural area.

Ecological Communities

According to the NYNHP (Lundgren, 2014-B), there are 14 distinct community types that were observed within the park in 2014 (Figure 7 in the DEIS). There are no designated significant natural communities of statewide significance in the park but there are locally significant natural communities.

Rare and Endangered Species

Four rare species, three plants and one animal, have been documented in the park to date (NYNHP, 2020). Two rare plant species were discovered in the park as recently as 2014.

Flora

The flora of Sampson SP includes species typical of forests and fields of the region as well as less common species that occur in more unique habitats such as the park's ravines. Appendix D of the accompanying EIS has plant lists from ecological community and rare plant surveys in the Park.

Fauna

The birds, fish, mammals, amphibians and reptiles that are found in the surrounding areas are representative of those found in the Park. The ecosystems of the Park provide a variety of habitats that support a variety of fauna typical of this area of New York State. These include both terrestrial and aquatic species. A comprehensive list is available in Appendix D of the accompanying EIS.

Invasive Flora and Fauna

Nineteen species of non-native invasive plants have been documented in the park by NY Natural Heritage Program, OPRHP and other organizations. These records are available on the iMapInvasives website (www.imapinvasives.org). One of the most problematic is the pale swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) which is hard to control and is prevalent along the shoreline and edges of some of the ravine forests.

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) was detected in the park by DEC in 2017. Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, (*Adelges tsugae*), two common destructive invasive insects, have not been officially detected in the park, but Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is likely present due to proximity of known infested trees. Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been found on the shoreline north of the guarded swim amenity area, and Bloody-red Shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*) have been found at the marina.

Cultural Resources**Archaeological**

The archeology and history of the Finger Lakes are of particular interest because of its central location and importance to the Iroquois nation. Perhaps as early as 6000 B.C. prehistoric people made settlements, grew agricultural crops, hunted, and fished in the region. Later, an Iroquois (Cayuga) village, Kendaia, existed on part of what is now the park. A historic sign along Route 96B marks the location.

Prehistoric

Long before Europeans arrived on the continent, Native Americans were living and traveling by way of footpaths throughout the Finger Lakes and along the shores of Lake Ontario.

Historic

Native American settlements were destroyed by General George Washington's orders after they sided with the British during the Revolutionary War. The land that is now Sampson SP was part of the land that was deeded to former soldiers in recompense for their service in that war. There is a Settlers Cemetery in the park.

In WWII, the land was first a naval training base, then a college and then an Air Force Base. Recognized as the second largest naval training facility in history, an astounding 411,429 recruits trained here between 1942-1946. In 1960, the State of New York bought the base for recreational purposes. The former brig is now a military museum housing exhibits about the history of the bases and servicemen in WWII.

Scenic Resources

The primary scenic resource of Sampson SP are the vistas from various parts of the park of Seneca Lake. Views across the lake, its waters, with variations at different seasons and times of day, such as its dramatic sunsets or autumn colors, are the highlights of visual scenery from the park. The viewshed extends along the lake far to the north and south, as well as to the lush western shore of the lake where the Keuka Lake outlet flows into Seneca Lake in the Village of Dresden. The wineries of the region appear as patterned agricultural expanses, adding to the texture and openness of the visual landscape.

Other visual resources in the park are the closer views of landscaped areas, woodlands, waterways, and the park's distinctive ravines.

Recreational Resources/Activities

The primary recreational resource at the park is camping. The park has 309 campsites in existing camping loops, with 242 electric and 64 non-electric sites. These sites accommodate tents, pop-up trailers and RV's. Ten contemporary cottages along the lakeshore are available for rental. Twenty new cabins and 67 short term or seasonal RV sites will be available for rental in the 2020 season. Additional camping accommodations and amenities may be developed in the future, dependent on funding and market conditions.

The marina at the park is very popular both for seasonal rentals and visitors to the area. Refurbished in 2019, the marina offers 90 new seasonal and transient boat slips, a gas dock, hookups for electricity, water, and pump-out stations. A ship store opened in 2020. Other recreational amenities include:

- A sandy beach is available seasonally as a guarded swim amenity.
- Hunting and fishing are popular activities at the park. Fishing opportunities extend into the winter months, with ice fishing.
- A playground, which is scheduled to be updated, is available in the waterfront area.
- The park has tennis, horseshoes, court games, picnicking and trails.
- Winter activities include snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
- The park office offers indoor games such as table tennis, shuffleboard, and miniature golf.
- Bicycle and paddle boat rentals are available.



Agency Mission

The mission of the Office 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.

Vision Statement

Sampson State Park will be the extended-stay waterfront destination of the Finger Lakes, providing a variety of recreational opportunities that are compatible with and make the best use of the natural and cultural resources of the park.

Strategies

To further this vision, the plan will be implemented in consideration of and commitment to the following strategies:

Recreation Resources

- Update the existing campground areas, amenities, and provide new camping opportunities.
- Provide a variety of trail opportunities for all patrons to experience the park's landscape.
- Provide waterfront day-use recreation opportunities for day use patrons and campers to experience Seneca Lake and its surrounding landscape.

Natural Resource Protection

- Develop a comprehensive inventory of invasive species.
- Develop and implement Stewardship Plan, addressing enhancement of early successional habitat for species of conservation concern, including grassland and shrubland birds, and incorporating Invasive Species Management Plan.
- Minimize park development in known, mapped areas and buffer zones of special habitat types.
- Protect statewide significant ecological community types and areas of known habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species.
- Increase patron's awareness of natural resources within Sampson SP through interpretive signage and environmental education opportunities.
- Partner with external groups to provide a variety of environmental education programming.

Park Operations and Management

- Move forward with recommended Operations and Maintenance strategies.
- Offer quality service to patrons and support employees by providing a clean, safe, and respectful work environment.
- Identify, preserve, protect, and interpret elements of Sampson State Park that are significant to the history, archeology and culture specific to Sampson State Park and the local community, region, state and nation.
- Increase access for patrons of all abilities, backgrounds, and interests to enjoy the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park in a safe and secure environment.
- Protect open space within and adjacent to the Park using open space conservation strategies.
- Provide opportunities for patrons to learn about the park's natural, cultural, and physical resources.
- Develop a consistent and efficient way to share information with patrons, partners, and the surrounding community.
- Encourage opportunities for the creation of new partnerships.

Actions

This section provides a narrative description of the master plan, outlining specific actions planned for implementation in the Park. The actions are divided into subject areas: first natural and cultural resource protection, then recreational resource development, and finally actions related to park management, and operations.

The action steps described here are based on the alternatives analysis of the accompanying Revised DEIS and the selected preferred alternatives (DEIS Chapter 2).

Action steps are guided by the vision developed for Sampson SP. Elements of the park's vision are translated into actions intended to realize each element. The vision, together with these action steps, describe the master plan. Some of the action steps are administrative or managerial in nature and will not be articulated in other master plan documents.

The master plan is also presented graphically in the large format Master Plan Map that accompanies, and is part of, this document.



Natural Resource Protection Actions

Stewardship Plan

Action #1 – Develop a comprehensive stewardship plan.

The plan will identify science-based natural resources projects that promote healthy forests and habitats for a variety of native flora and fauna. Protection of the known rare species in the park will be part of the stewardship plan.

Invasive Species Management

Action #2 – Develop a comprehensive invasive species management plan, including early detection and rapid response, and follow recommendations of OPRHP and other state agency staff, biologists and other partners.

Under this alternative, the current management protocols can be updated and expanded with new techniques and strategies that will detect and respond to invasive species on a timely basis.

Firewood Procedures

Action #3 – Firewood procedures remain status quo.

No alternatives to the status quo were considered. The core team feels that the current system is the best strategy for protecting the park's natural resources and for complying with OPRHP and DEC Firewood Regulations. The park will continue to provide firewood for campers through a concessionaire; complying with OPRHP and DEC Firewood Regulations and thereby continuing to protect the park's natural resources.

Wildlife Resources

Action #4 – Develop a stewardship plan that includes wildlife habitat management strategies and follow recommendations of OPRHP and DEC staff and partner organization wildlife biologists.

This alternative will allow a team of natural resource professionals to work collaboratively with other partner organizations and stakeholders in the region. Led by representatives of OPRHP and DEC, the team will be charged with formulating long-term strategies for accomplishing park, region, and statewide wildlife goals.

Recreational Resource Development Actions

Campground Improvements and Expansion

Action #1 – Upgrade existing campsite loops in the park with improved electric and water service.

This alternative was selected because it meets multiple master plan goals. The action will direct the park toward the vision developed as part of this planning effort and will meet the expectations of patrons camping at the park.

Action #2 – Expand camping and associated facilities within the concessionaire's contract area.

This alternative was selected because it aligns with the vision for the park and meets the master plan goal of providing and expanding recreational opportunities at the park. It is anticipated that expanded camping facilities will attract additional visitors/users; will help meet the expectations of camping patrons; and will be done in a manner to protect natural and cultural resources within the park.

Waterfront Redevelopment

Action #3 – Improve guarded swim amenity accessibility.

This alternative was selected by the planning team because it is consistent with the master plan goals for the park. Improved guarded swim amenity access will create more useable space for all patrons to enjoy waterfront activities.

Action #4 – Upgrade existing fishing pier.

This alternative was chosen because the planning team determined that planned waterfront development will increase demand for recreation activities at the park. The fishing pier is deteriorated and requires upgrades, such as resurfacing the concrete and replacing rails.

Day-Use Facilities**Action #5 – Provide a pavilion**

The planning team selected this alternative because providing a new full-service pavilion enables the park to meet the vision for this master plan. The facility will provide additional opportunities for patrons to relax in the park. Final location is to be determined in the future as the concessionaire's leased area plans move forward.

Action #6 – Provide an accessible picnic area.

This alternative was selected by the planning team because existing picnic facilities are within the concessionaire contract area. Providing a new picnic area enables the park to meet the vision for this master plan and will provide additional opportunities for patrons to relax in the park.

Action Step #7 – Improve and expand opportunities within the existing recreation building.

New indoor amenities such as table tennis, foosball, and pool would be provided, energy-efficient elements installed, and aesthetic improvements made to provide a more appealing venue for hosting regional events.

This alternative was selected by the planning team because the team determined that the current recreation building's size and location meet the needs of the park. The current recreation building location is convenient to other areas in the park, especially the campground.

Action #8 – Field Games – No improvements to existing field game facilities or new field game facilities.

This alternative was chosen by the planning team because there is not enough demand for improved or new field game facilities. The park receives very little day use of this type, and current facilities and open spaces meet the internal demand created by campground patrons. It is highly likely that facilities found at local schools meet the demand created by the communities surrounding the park.

Action #9 – Court Games – Improve existing tennis courts; improve existing basketball court; provide outdoor bocce ball courts and provide outdoor Pickleball courts

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because they fit several of the master plan goals. These updates will make patrons' experiences using these facilities more pleasurable and may add new patrons to the Park with Pickleball as an added amenity.

Trail System**Action #10 – Improve the trail system through development of a comprehensive vehicle/pedestrian/trails circulation plan. To be assessed and developed in the future.**

Although the 2015 Draft Master Plan/EIS laid out a direction for the trails system within the park, since that time OPRHP has leased a central portion of the park to a concessionaire, impacting some existing and some planned improvements. The planning team recognizes the need to develop a comprehensive trail system in the park but has decided to allow some time for the integration of the concessionaire's planned improvements prior to developing a park-wide trails system.

The plan has tentatively identified the following: to improve cycling facilities; to develop nature and history interpretive trails; to create multi-use natural surface trails in the park; and to improve and designate water access along Lake Shore Trail. These were selected as the tentative preferred alternatives due to the desire to improve and expand trail opportunities and experiences within the park while protecting the resources of the park. Trails will be an integrated part of an overall trail system plan to be developed for the park in the future.

Action #11 – Develop connector paths near camping loops.

The planning team selected this as the preferred alternative because it will improve patrons' experience and safety while staying at the campground. The development of new connector paths will be coordinated with the park's overall vehicle/pedestrian/trails circulation plan to be developed in the future.

Action #12 – Cross-country Ski Trail System – Status quo – No cross-country specific trails.

This alternative was selected because the planning team determined that a multi-use trail system will be a better fit for the park based on current use and information gathered during the planning process. The Finger Lakes National Forest is nearby Sampson SP and has a trail system where cross-country skiing is permitted. For Sampson SP, cross-country skiing will be permitted on appropriate designated trails. These will be determined at a future date with the development the park's overall vehicle/pedestrian/trails circulation plan.



Facilities and Operations Actions

Energy Facilities

Action #1 – Provide a new substation.

The planning team selected this alternative because it will meet anticipated electrical needs for planned development in the park.

Action #2 – Add solar energy infrastructure to the park.

The planning team selected this alternative because it meets multiple master plan goals, including to increase sustainability at the park. The location(s) for this facility will be determined in the future with further on-site assessment.

Action #3 – Internet Connectivity – Provide Internet and Wi-Fi coverage in the park.

This alternative was selected by the planning team because it fits with master plan goals. The planning team determined that a need exists to update the park's current network. There is supporting information that there is demand for these services.

Comfort Stations

Action #4 – Modernize existing comfort stations at camping loops.

The planning team selected this as the preferred alternative because it meets several of the master plan goals for the park. The existing buildings are considered to be in satisfactory condition supportive of the improvement work. Additional comfort stations will be available within the concessionaire contract area.

Campground Dump Station Improvement/Expansion

Action #5 – Dump Station Improvement/Expansion – Provide a new four-bay dump station.

The planning team selected this as the preferred alternative because it addresses health and safety concerns and patron dissatisfaction for using the current dump station.

Park Office/Visitor Center

Action #6 – Improve existing park office building.

This alternative was chosen because the current location and size of the park office meet the needs of operating the park. The improvements fit the master plan goals by making the facility ADA accessible and improving energy efficiency, water conservation, and facility maintenance issues.

Park Water System

Action #7 – Replace core water system infrastructure in the park.

The planning team selected this alternative because it aligns with the vision for the park and accommodates new development. It will also meet the statewide goal for repairing aging infrastructure in the park.

Park Roads

Action #8 – Develop a uniquely designed park road system connecting existing and new facilities, improving roads that are retained and removing unneeded roads.

Although the 2015 Draft Master Plan/EIS laid out a direction for redesigning the road system, since then OPRHP has leased a central portion of the park to a concessionaire with some existing and some future planned improvements. The planning team recognizes the need to redesign the park road system in the park but has decided to allow some time for the integration of the concessionaire's planned improvements prior to developing a redesign plan.

The core team chose this alternative because it was identified that the road system should better meet the needs of the park as described in the vision. This alternative also likely allows reversion of some road

sections to natural vegetation and meets agency goals of sustainability. OPRHP will further assess the vehicular/pedestrian/trails system in the future.

Parade Ground and Museum

Action #9 – Parade Ground – No changes to Parade Ground.

The 2015 Draft Master Plan/EIS indicated (ii) “Improve Parade Ground; provide electric and water service & create an event space in the storage building” as the preferred alternative and that moving large outdoor events closer to the lake and main developed area of the park is the preferred long-term alternative. This alternative would create a greater sense of connection with the lake at large outdoor events in the park. The redesigned space would have pathways for better access to the waterfront and campground.

In 2018, OPRHP entered a contract (40-year lease) with a concessionaire to redevelop the marina, waterfront, and adjacent upland areas with additional camping, recreation activities and services. The Parade Grounds are now within the leased area. For the 2020 season, the parade grounds will be used as they have in the past. It remains to be determined if this use will continue or move elsewhere in the park. This will be further assessed in the future.

Action #10 – Navy and Air Force Veterans Museum – Implement an improved circulation and entry plan for the museum and adjacent grounds which responds to the desired usage and needs of the park.

The core team selected this alternative because implementation will meet the master plan goal of improving the visitor experience and public safety at the park.

Water Tower

Action #11 – Remove the water tower and accessory building.

The core team selected this alternative because implementation will meet the master plan goal of improving public safety.

Firing Range

Action #12 – Firing Range – No Changes to Range; mowed twice annually; used occasionally by Park Police.

The core team selected this alternative because this will fill an operational need in the region. A gate along the park road, signage and fencing may be installed to further enhance public safety.

Sustainability and Green Infrastructure

Action #13 – Explore and incorporate new green infrastructure and sustainable practices at the facility.

The planning team selected this alternative because it directs the Park to strive for energy efficiency and explore new sustainability practices that can reasonably be incorporated into its operations. Training in-house sustainability staff, utilizing OPRHP support, exploring emergent technologies and potential funding opportunities will serve to make green infrastructure and practices increasingly accessible.

Implementation

Timeline

The master plan sets forth OPRHP's vision for capital improvements and operational enhancements to the Park for the next ten to fifteen years. OPRHP has not developed detailed cost estimates for the proposed components. Cumulatively they will cost tens of millions of dollars to implement. The pace and sequencing of recommended actions will be determined by the availability of funding, which is a function of the size of OPRHP's annual capital budgets and the need to balance investments throughout the park system. The master plan will be reviewed annually to select projects that will be added to the Park's budget for implementation and to assess the progress of plan implementation.

Several of the action items included in the master plan are projects that are fully funded and have advanced in the design process. The implementation of these projects fully aligns with the vision for the park and are important actions for realizing some of the goals for the park discussed during the master planning process. Modernizing the existing campground comfort stations and making them compliant with ADA guidelines, as well as constructing accessible pathways within the campground loops to comfort stations and the park office will be implemented in the park immediately.

The implementation of the balance of the action items in the master plan for the Park will be divided into priority phases. These elements are subject to reorganization based on available funding for specific components in the Master Plan.



Priorities

Action Item Sequencing & Priorities

Implementation Priorities	Description/Development Component
Natural Resources Actions	
1st Priority:	Develop a Natural Resources Stewardship Plan
	Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan
Ongoing:	Firewood procedures & enforcement of regulations
	Implement natural resource management strategies for invasive species and wildlife
Capital Infrastructure Actions	
1st Priority:	Construct a new four-bay dump station; remove existing dump station
	Implement circulation, parking and pedestrian improvements to museum area
	Replace and upgrade water distribution infrastructure in the park
	Improve existing campground loops and replace electric pedestals and upgrade to 50-amp service
	Construct a food concession facility (concessionaire)
	Modernize comfort stations and improve accessibility
	Provide seasonal camping facilities with new waterfront amenities (concessionaire)
2nd Priority:	Construct a solar array
	Guarded Swim Amenity – improve accessibility
	Remove the water tower and accessory building
	Fishing Pier – Resurface the fishing pier and replace railings
	Improve existing park office building
Recreational Development Actions	Implement an improved circulation and entry plan for the Navy and Air Force Veterans Museum and adjacent grounds which responds to the desired usage and needs of the park
	Develop a redesigned park road, pedestrian pathway and trails system connecting existing and new facilities through development of a comprehensive vehicular/pedestrian/trails circulation plan
	Construct a new accessible picnic area
	Install outdoor bocce ball courts
	Improve tennis and basketball courts
	Provide outdoor pickleball courts

Implementation Priorities	Description/Development Component
	Improve and expand opportunities within the existing recreation building
	Improve existing park office building
	Construct a new pavilion
	Improve existing campground loops – Phase 2 – site work and pad improvements, paving, connector paths; reconfigure water & electric hookups
	Expand camping and associated facilities within the concessionaire's contract area.
Operations Actions	
1st Priority:	Develop the internet network and provide Wi-Fi in the park
	Maintain the firing range; a gate, signage and fencing may be installed
2nd Priority:	Explore and incorporate new green infrastructure and sustainable practices at the facility.



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