



**New York State  
Parks, Recreation and  
Historic Preservation**

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
Governor

**ERIK KULLESEID**  
Commissioner

**AGENCY DECISION  
AND  
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

**Adoption of a Final Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for Nissequogue River State Park**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has prepared and released a Final Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), dated August 2, 2023, for Nissequogue River State Park located in Kings Park, a hamlet in the Town of Smithtown in Suffolk County, NY.

By the authority vested in me in State Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Law, I do hereby adopt the Final Master Plan and FEIS for Nissequogue River State Park.

This decision is based on the attached Findings Statement and the content of the Final Master Plan and FEIS, which have been prepared according to the provisions of Part 617, the regulations implementing Article 8 of Environmental Conservation Law - the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Erik Kulleseid

Commissioner

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

11/2/23

Date

**State Environmental Quality Review  
FINDINGS STATEMENT  
Nissequogue River State Park  
Final Master Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**October 26, 2023**

Pursuant to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act – SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law and 6 NYCRR Part 617, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as lead agency, makes the following findings.

**Title of the Action:**

Adoption and Implementation of a Final Master Plan for Nissequogue River State Park.

**Location:**

Nissequogue River State Park is located on the north shore of Long Island where the Nissequogue River meets the protected cove of Smithtown Bay within the Long Island Sound. The park is in Kings Park, a hamlet in the Town of Smithtown in Suffolk County, NY.

**Description of the Action:**

The Final Master Plan for Nissequogue River State Park provides a long-term vision for future park development to meet park users' needs, protect the park's natural resources, honor the site's local history as a place of healing, and serve as a social anchor for the surrounding community.

**Date of Completion of the FEIS:** August 2, 2023

These findings consider the relevant environmental impacts, facts and conclusions disclosed in the Final EIS; weigh and balance relevant environmental impacts with social, economic and other considerations; provide a rationale for the agency's decision; certify that the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and certify that consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is one which avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that included within the Master Plan are those mitigation measures that will avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

**Findings:**

1. The Final Master Plan was subject to a complete Environmental Impact Statement process including virtual and in-person public information meetings, virtual focus groups, two public comment periods, and an online public meeting.
2. The FEIS contains a chapter with the agency's responses to comments received on the Draft Master Plan and Draft EIS. This chapter also includes clarification of issues raised

during the review of the Draft Plan and DEIS and provides information on modifications to the Final Master Plan and FEIS as a result of comments received.

3. Nissequogue River State Park (NRSP) is a 521-acre park located in Kings Park, a hamlet in the town of Smithtown in Suffolk County, New York.
4. NRSP was established in 2000 with the transfer of 155.5 acres of the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center (KPPC) hospital to OPRHP. Many buildings, roads, and landscape features remain from the former state-run health institution which operated from 1885 until 1996. An additional 365.7 acres were transferred to OPRHP in 2006.
5. Fifty-seven (57) buildings and structures/features remain from the former KPPC campus. Fifty-five (55) are over 50 years old. The buildings represent a variety of hospital functions, including patient wards, staff housing, a power plant, and administrative buildings, and vary greatly in size and configuration.
6. In a 2007 Resource Evaluation prepared by OPRHP, the remaining KPPC buildings constructed between 1890 and 1960 constituted a historically and architecturally significant district that is currently eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Regulations under Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act dictate that, although not currently listed on the National register as a historic district, the determination of the site's eligibility, necessitates a review process as if it were. This designation was updated in 2022 to a more localized collection of historic structures and two individual structures, determined to meet the criteria for eligibility.
7. The park's topography ranges from areas of steep slopes along the northern section of the park to large, level areas in the south created during its use as a hospital facility.
8. The park is adjacent to Nissequogue River, a River of Special Significance and one of the largest coastal wetlands on Long Island's north shore. Portions of the river have also been designated a Scenic and Recreational River, including the sections of the river that fall within or adjacent to the park.
9. Ecological communities in the park include intertidal low salt marsh, high marsh, coastal shoals/bars/mudflats, freshwater wetland/pond, dredge spoil, successional field, successional mesophytic forest, and mesophytic forest. There are also areas of littoral zone (open riverine water) present within the park. The low salt marsh is considered a significant natural community. Successional mesophytic forest comprises most of the natural areas of the park.
10. The park supports numerous bird species, including shorebirds, wading birds, migratory songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Portions of NRSP were designated as a Bird Conservation Area (BCA) in 2000, under Environmental Conservation Law Section 11-2001 which authorizes the designation of BCAs in order to integrate bird conservation into agency planning and management.
11. There are a number of scenic views and vistas from the park including the Long Island Sound and Nissequogue River. Views of the water can be accessed from various locations in the park, which offer different scenic perspectives. There are also scenic views within the park related to the historic KPPC development.

12. NRSP currently supports predominantly passive recreational activities, such as walking, hiking and bird watching. Active recreation resources, such as ballfields, are currently limited. Trails and paths within the park include paved pedestrian trails as well as numerous user-formed trails. In the winter, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are allowed. NRSP supports boat access (kayak launch and larger boat dock and marina) to the Long Island Sound. Fishing is permitted year-round along the Nissequogue River shoreline.
13. The plan identifies a vision statement and a series of goals for the park. The vision is that NRSP will be distinguished by its naturalistic landscape and environment of wellness, inspired by its history of healing and its close relationship with the community. The Master Plan will shape the Park into a rich recreational resource at the local, regional and state levels.
14. The plan presents a series of “preferred alternatives” for future development and operation of the park. Status quo alternatives were also evaluated for each element of the plan as well as other feasible alternatives. The preferred alternatives strike a balance between historic preservation, expansion of recreational resources, and natural resource enhancement and protection. The various preferred alternatives for elements of the plan were combined to create a single preferred alternative; this alternative represents the Final Master Plan.
15. The status quo alternative includes the existing programs, facilities, and practices at the park. While this alternative may not result in any immediate adverse environmental impacts, the potential exists for long-term indirect adverse environmental impacts. As visitors continue to use the park, or use it in new or unforeseen ways, additional demands could be placed on the natural, cultural, and recreational resources, as well as on park staff. Without the guidance of the proposed Master Plan, the potential for adverse impacts on environmental resources would increase, therefore, the status quo alternative was rejected.
16. The plan considers the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the park and responds to the needs and safety of park patrons, protection of natural, cultural, and scenic resources and the principles of sustainability. It also details designations, recreation, and stewardship elements. The plan also prioritizes implementation actions and recognizes that implementation will be dependent on the level of public and private funding available to OPRHP in future years.
17. Under the Master Plan, the BCA boundary will be expanded to portions of the park along the southern boundary. This strategy highlights areas important for bird habitat protection and management that connect to other green spaces south of the park. The designation provides recognition on a statewide level relative to other state parks and sites. The BCA designation itself does not preclude existing or future recreation uses or park operations.

18. The Final Master Plan describes the development of a set of targeted recommendations for the preservation and reuse of the site's historic and cultural assets, including select buildings, infrastructure, and landscape features related to the former KPPC, prioritizing buildings determined eligible for the National Register.
19. The plan creates thematic zones within the park that connect to historic uses. These include an agricultural and natural area sited around the historic agricultural fields in the west of the site (West Farmstead), a cultural and community core centered on York Hall (The Bluff and The Green), and a recreation area in the south end (Southern Fields).
20. The plan calls for actions related to historic interpretation and preservation including: propose methods for parkwide interpretation of the site's history and infrastructure; preserve historic and current relationships between the residents of Kings Park and Smithtown and the former KPPC; consider alternatives for building retention (ex. rehabilitation, re-use and stabilization); develop a set of targeted recommendations for the preservation and reuse of the site's historic and cultural assets; provide recommendations for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of York Hall; and preserve, protect, and interpret the existing cemetery.
21. The plan calls for actions related to natural resource protection and enhancement including:
  - consider the coastline, coastal uses, and coastal issues that could enhance the watershed of the Nissequogue River and mitigate potential impacts on nearshore resources (ex. ensure vegetated upland buffer zones are established and protected);
  - promote aquifer recharge by increasing permeable surfaces in formerly paved areas;
  - identify areas where forest expansion can connect existing forested habitats within the park and areas that should undergo managed natural succession to encourage habitat diversity;
  - continue to use the regional strike team to control and prevent the spread of invasive species until an Invasive Species Management Plan is developed;
  - identify optimal areas for designation of grassland habitat and forest edges and in formerly disturbed areas and consider habitat creation to support expansion of the BCA;
  - enhance the existing reservoir with native plantings and create strategic access in selective locations;
  - propose areas to be preserved and enhanced as a botanical garden and location for community horticulture;
  - provide recommendations for preservation of the mature ornamental tree canopy within the park interior; and
  - align project goals that are consistent with state and local coastal management plans, including Smithtown's approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).
22. The plan calls for actions related to recreational resource expansion including:

- propose locations for a range of active recreational needs, including health and fitness stations, equipment rentals, and seasonal recreation programming and provide facilities for group gatherings and picnics;
- improve access to the park's waterfront resources;
- identify areas to expand active recreation with supporting amenities like shade structures, picnic areas, restrooms, and parks concessions;
- define parkwide fitness trails for pedestrians and bicycles with appropriate signage, mile markers, bike racks and pumps, trailheads, meeting areas, etc;
- provide active recreational facilities in the southern end of the park including a variety of amenities like sports fields;
- identify locations for universally accessible playgrounds;
- identify locations for dog parks and enclosed off-leash areas;
- preserve open multi-use areas suitable for model airplane use and identify potential areas for alternative forms of active recreation such as disc golf;
- provide opportunities for passive recreation in the core areas of the park for picnicking, relaxing, walking, and nature viewing; and
- align project goals that are consistent with state and local coastal management plans, including Smithtown's approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) and Smithtown's Draft Comprehensive Plan.

23. The plan calls for actions related to circulation including:

- expand the existing Kings Park Hike and Bike Trail to form a continuous paved loop that enters the park from NYS 25A;
- ensure circulation plans consider emergency access and circulation for the site's public services;
- implement a traffic and circulation plan that creates welcoming park entrances, manages public vehicular access, prioritizes park patron safety, and provides primary and secondary roads, maintenance and service roads, and visitor parking areas;
- study the potential for a traffic circle or roundabout to control vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the northern St. Johnland Road entrance;
- propose traffic calming measures along Old Dock Road and St. Johnland Road at pedestrian and cyclists crossing points between park parcels;
- create a grade-separated crossing on St. Johnland Road;
- remove former hospital campus roads that are redundant or interfere with planned park uses and review potential related impacts to community roads;
- convert existing interior vehicular roads to multi-use park paths to enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized circulation throughout the park;
- create a universally accessible path at the reservoir; and
- prioritize and include universal access in the development of new park amenities, especially between trailhead parking areas and new programmed buildings.

24. The plan calls for actions related to waterfront access and protection including: create a new connection to the Long Island Greenbelt Trail at northern end of the park and building districts; propose reduction of redundant paths along the existing Long Island

Greenbelt Trail that contribute to erosion and habitat degradation; designate areas for kayak rentals; improve access to the waterfront for water-dependent activities, pedestrians, and cyclists; maintain access to the boat and kayak launch, docks, and boat slips according to the marina redevelopment project and coordinate the park Master Plan with proposed improvements to the marina (proposed improvements to the marina are considered as a future condition in the Master Plan); propose park paths that connect the marina to adjacent and complementary park amenities; and enhance passive recreational areas along the coastal shoreline, while protecting natural resources.

25. The plan calls for actions related to infrastructure and buildings including: acknowledge the National Register-Eligible status of select buildings in long-term park planning and development; implement measures to prevent theft, vandalism, and illegal entry into the buildings; provide recommendations for the targeted removal of select buildings and infrastructure and strategies for appropriate mitigation and/or interpretation; identify future park programming that is compatible with select extant buildings and meets the needs of the park and the surrounding community; identify an area, building, or collection of buildings for a KPPC interpretive museum and related functions (e.g., archives); identify additional areas for maintenance facilities based on proposed park programming; identify operational improvements to increase efficiency and decrease costs; and explore areas of the park that can support community use, private events, and concessions.

26. The plan calls for actions related to outreach and partnership development including:

- build capacity with local and regional friends' groups;
- foster partnerships to support recreational and cultural programming with local educational institutions;
- maintain open lines of communication during park development with local and state elected officials and partner organizations;
- identify opportunities for artistic and cultural partnerships for the operation of York Hall as a performance space and event venue;
- identify potential partnerships for a KPPC Museum and Education Center;
- increase engagement and consultation with Indigenous Nations and other stakeholder communities to shape interpretive content;
- identify potential partnerships for a botanical garden area and community garden destination;
- recommend private and public partnerships to preserve and utilize adjacent land parcels through land transfers, acquisitions, conservation easements, or other agreements;
- identify existing and potential partners for active recreation programming; and
- identify potential outreach and partnership development that recognizes and champions the responsibility to uphold and progress the principles of inclusion, diversity, equity, and access.

27. The following environmental impacts and mitigation measures associated with the implementation of the Master Plan were identified in the FEIS:

- Most of the physical disturbance proposed in the Master Plan would take place in areas that are already developed or otherwise previously disturbed. There would be demolition and construction of structures, clearing and planting of vegetation for habitat enhancement and cultural landscaping, and grading associated with projects. There would be an overall decrease in impervious surfaces as a result of the demolition and removal of former KPPC structures and infrastructure. New development would primarily be sited within the footprint of structures that have been or would be removed. When possible, new or renovated development would be equipped with green infrastructure capabilities such as permeable paving, bioswales with native plantings, vegetated slopes, filter strips, and infiltration trenches.
- Implementation of projects proposed by the Master Plan would require individual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) subject to approval by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) through the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) General Permit process. A SWPPP, including sedimentation and erosion controls, would be developed for each individual project that met the threshold. Following demolition and removal, disturbed areas would be restored by creating a smoothly graded surface and seeding with a grass mix.
- New trail sections may require some vegetation removal and grading. Disturbance would be limited primarily to the required width of the trail corridor. The policy and guidelines for trail building that have been established by recognized trail organizations and governmental agencies would be followed. These established guidelines assure that work would be completed in a manner that maximizes the protection and preservation of the resources of the park. Restoring closed trails with native vegetation and stabilizing the damaged areas would reduce the potential for soil erosion and mitigate impacts to adjacent areas.
- Existing coastal erosion would be decreased by removing invasive species and planting native vegetation to stabilize the shoreline and bluffs. Any disturbance within the Coastal Erosion Hazard Area (CEHA) would consider the impact of coastal flooding, sea level rise, and the ability to be designed in line with the requirements set forth by the NYSDEC.
- The level of development proposed in the Master Plan would not increase demand enough to affect the groundwater supply. Drinking fountains, children's spray showers, new public restrooms, and other small water draws would be connected to the existing infrastructure. Proposed agricultural or horticultural uses in the West Farmstead area or near the botanic garden would use best management practices to conserve water. Habitat improvements would further filter any pollutants beyond the stormwater runoff controls previously discussed. Any potential disturbance near the former ash landfill would receive additional planning and review to ensure the hazardous materials cannot escape into the groundwater.

- Only a small portion of NRSP is subject to flooding during a 100-year flood event. The Master Plan proposes paving, trail construction and rehabilitation, and reconstruction of beach access stairs in these areas. Any infrastructure required to be constructed in these areas would be designed to withstand periodic inundation. All other existing structures proposed to remain are above the mapped flood plain. There would be no new development within the CEHA. The bluffs are designated as natural protective features to be protected from encroachment or damage from development activities. Vegetative buffers along the shoreline would be preserved or increased to the greatest degree possible.
- The Master Plan proposes to expand the existing BCA to portions of the park along the southern boundary which would highlight the importance of this habitat and guide natural resource management including protection of plants and animals.
- To further protect plants and animals, most proposed new developments are limited to existing developed areas. Limited disturbance is proposed for natural areas such as an accessible loop trail around the reservoir and stairs to access the river's shoreline. Vegetation removal and grading of the slopes in this area would have minor adverse impacts on the site's existing use by wildlife. Non-trail areas would be planted to stabilize the slopes and visual access to the reservoir would be limited to certain viewpoints, thus reducing overall impacts. New safety lighting would be dark skies compliant. When lighting is designed and installed, timers and motion-sensors may be considered to reduce potential impacts to wildlife. New recreational uses such as mountain biking courses, off-leash dog runs, and equestrian facilities would be carefully designed to standards and sited away from sensitive areas.
- Some vegetation removal would be necessary for actions such as creating scenic viewpoints, trail improvements, and invasive species management. These activities would be conducted in a manner that minimizes the existing impact on the most sensitive habitats or areas. The trail system would be defined with clearly marked, designated trails and would utilize existing trails to the greatest extent possible to reduce new areas of disturbance. Non-essential social trails would be closed to reduce redundancy and to improve the visitor experience. Water management and erosion control techniques, such as debarment and development of knicks and rolling grade dips, would be used on natural surface trails to reduce the potential for erosion and impacts to natural areas. Trail use may increase the spread of invasive species through transport of plant material on shoes, bike tires, and dog scat. Boot brushes and bike cleaning stations may be installed to reduce this potential impact. Development of an Invasive Species Management Plan would include monitoring for new instances of invasive species. Tree removals would be undertaken according to OPRHP guidelines to prevent impacts on roosting bats or nesting migratory bird species.
- All areas disturbed by the projects included in the Master Plan would be restored to existing or improved condition, following the OPRHP Native Plant Policy. Only native flora would be used in areas not designated for historic or educational

gardens and orchards such as the Botanic Garden and West Farmstead areas. Cultural landscape and agricultural plantings would be chosen carefully to avoid any species that might spread into natural areas or attract invasive species. Plantings would also be selected considering existing deer overpopulation within the park.

- Regarding scenic resources, proximity to and visibility of the Nissequogue River would be emphasized and continued through alignment of circulation approaches with important viewsheds and careful clearing of vegetation. Selective views of the reservoir and from the high point in the park at the former ash landfill would be improved through limited clearing of vegetation. The existing bird blind would be rehabilitated. Planting to interpret and expand ornamental horticulture would improve aesthetic resources at the Botanic Garden and West Farmstead areas. The scenic character and view corridor of the Kings Park Boulevard will be preserved. In addition, the new formalized park entrances would benefit aesthetically from landscaping and new wayfinding signage.
- While many of the former KPPC historic structures would be preserved for adaptive reuse, many others would be demolished due to their threat to public health and safety. Demolition would adversely impact the historic and community character of the site, but the removal of deteriorated and vandalized structures would benefit the overall scenic resources of the park. In particular, the demolition of Building 93 would result in a significant adverse impact. Such demolitions would be subject to a mitigation process in coordination with DHP and would receive the due process and procedures assigned to them by their guidelines.
- The Phase 1 archeological report recommends that an Archeological Resource Management Plan (ARMP) be completed following the conclusion of the Master Plan. Projects included in the Master Plan avoid sub-surface resources to the greatest extent practicable. Kings Park Boulevard and several other park roads would be closed with some parts demolished and removed. The loss of these appurtenant facilities would not result in an adverse impact as the design of the Master Plan preserves the overall historic character of the site. All existing and former cultural resources would be interpreted through various park programming and proposed partnerships such as a potential museum. All projects would follow the OPRHP Intra-Agency Protocol for the Application of Section 14.09 of the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law.
- Regarding impacts on transportation, the Master Plan proposes a cohesive circulation system that connects park patrons to the adjacent waterfront areas and enhances existing transportation resources including improvements to roadways and trails. The Master Plan also proposes a traffic circle and controlled grade crossings with stop signs and pedestrian activated signals at intersections with trails and major roads to improve safety. As a result of projects within the Master Plan, the number of park visitors might increase thereby increasing the number of personal vehicles accessing the site. This would result in the need for additional parking areas to be constructed. However, vehicular access would be

limited to the edges of the park and to key program destinations to limit impacts. Furthermore, the Master Plan prioritizes bicycles, pedestrians, and universal access to limit the need for vehicular access to the greatest extent practicable. Areas adjacent to trails would be landscaped and wayfinding would be installed to improve navigation. Permanent and temporary road closures would be required for the creation of the new circulation system. Temporary increases of traffic associated with construction as well as operational changes to the park are anticipated. However, the Master Plan proposes phased implementation so there would be no long-term traffic disruptions nor prolonged use of heavy equipment and stockpiling of materials impacting adjacent land uses. Implementation of the Master Plan would reduce fragmentation, decrease traffic, and remove pedestrian-vehicle conflicts in the long-term.

- The Master Plan does not propose an increase in demand for energy beyond the capacity of existing utilities in NRSP. Solar power and other alternative energy sources would be explored including solar canopy installations at the proposed parking fields in the West Farmstead and Southern Fields areas. Phased upgrading of park utilities is proposed which might include electrical service as needed.
- There would be temporary adverse noise impacts associated with construction of proposed improvements. Existing vegetation within the park would provide a buffer that would help prevent adverse impacts to adjacent property owners. The use of areas in the park for special events might have the potential to produce additional noise, but these would be limited by agreements and other approvals to prevent disturbance to the adjacent residential neighborhoods.
- New dark skies compliant lighting, where lighting is shielded and directed downward with no glare or light spillage on adjacent properties or roadways, would be installed where necessary to provide safe use of existing and proposed parking and park programming.
- Potential air quality impacts as a result of Master Plan implementation would be minimal. During construction, there would be a temporary increase in vehicular traffic levels and related emissions. Construction and maintenance activities may also be associated with related odors such as fuel and exhaust odors as well as dust. Air quality impacts from construction vehicles would be mitigated by assuring that these vehicles are in good running condition and are not producing excessive exhaust. There would only be a modest increase in vehicular traffic due to additional parking spaces at periphery lots and program venues. The enhancement of pedestrian / bike facilities and connections to adjacent neighborhoods and trail systems would encourage non-vehicular travel. The Master Plan would also be implemented over a period of time and such air quality and odor impacts would be temporary and localized to the specific work areas.
- There would only be temporary, minor adverse impacts to open space from implementation of the Master Plan. This would mainly occur during construction

phases where project sites would be temporarily closed off to public access. Once completed, public access would be restored.

- The proposed Master Plan would greatly increase the amount and quality of recreational uses available in the park. New facilities and uses are primarily limited to existing developed areas while preserving the existing amount of open space. Active recreation would be promoted. Expansion of the BCA, partnerships with adjacent landowners, enhancement of existing and proposed trails, improvements to existing viewsheds, and a decrease in impervious surfaces and fragmentation included in the Master Plan would all improve the ability of park visitors to connect with nature in a meaningful way.
- The Master Plan would have a beneficial impact on human health by expanding access to outdoor recreation and removing existing hazards. Pedestrian safety would increase with improved trail and road crossings. Vehicular use would be limited to reduce potential conflicts. While the ash landfill has been capped, any proposed ground disturbance including clearing vegetation to improve viewsheds would require additional review to prevent contamination of groundwater. Trail improvements, including closing of redundant and social trails, would decrease exposure of the public to disease-carrying pests such as ticks that are present throughout the natural areas of the park. Proposed plantings and agriculture would be subject to OPRHP's Pesticide Reduction Policy, thereby minimizing the public's potential exposure to harmful chemicals.
- The Master Plan proposes to abate hazardous materials and demolish deteriorated structures where preservation and adaptive reuse are not feasible. OPRHP would assure rigorous compliance with all relevant health and safety standards and regulatory requirements governing demolition, construction, excavation, and the removal and handling of asbestos containing or contaminated materials.
- The Master Plan was designed to be compatible with all existing plans and historic community character. The plan was evaluated for compatibility in relation to the current planning efforts underway by the Town of Smithtown, specifically their Comprehensive Plan update. The proposed action is consistent with the coastal policies identified in the Town of Smithtown's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The Master Plan and FEIS for NRSP are also consistent with the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area Management Plan.
- Existing community uses would continue under the implementation of the Master Plan. Improved vehicular circulation in the park would benefit the surrounding communities with less through traffic and better crossings and intersections. Any new structures that support recreational needs such as picnic pavilions or public restrooms would be designed to not overpower or conflict with the character or predominant architectural styles of the park.
- Solid waste generated as a result of normal park operations would be handled by the use of "least-toxic" methods and materials. The park will continue to follow the current solid waste disposal protocols currently in place.

- The proposed Master Plan would result in some unavoidable adverse impacts. These would be monitored, and action would be taken, if necessary, to prevent any significant impacts from occurring.
- Additional site-specific planning, development, and implementation of the Master Plan would involve the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of public resources in the form of time, labor and materials. It would also require a commitment to the long-term operation and maintenance costs of the park.
- Implementation of the Master Plan would result in improved recreational use of the park but in a manner that is not expected to induce growth of the surrounding area. Recreational use would be carefully managed to support the vision and goals established to maintain the quality of the park's recreation resources, historic resources, and important open space and natural habitats. There would be positive, ongoing, economic impacts to the communities surrounding the park, in the form of investment in the communities. Tourism related expenditures, for activities such as day-use, trail activities and special events, are a major element of the economic vitality of nearby communities. Enhanced connections of the park to the neighboring state park and community should result in modest enhancement of recreation-related business and sales.

28. The plan describes the process for supplemental environmental review and provides for guidance as to when additional environmental review may be required and identifies the types of actions that are likely to require additional review. The following types of actions have been identified as likely to require additional review under SEQR: any new actions not addressed within the EIS that do not meet the Type II categories identified in 6 NYCRR Part 617; any change from the preferred alternatives for natural or cultural resource protection, recreational and facility development or other elements of the Plan that would result in significant environmental impacts; any leases, easements, memoranda of understanding, or other agreements between OPRHP and private entities or other agencies that affect resources in a manner that is not sufficiently addressed in this plan; any project determined through SHPO review to have an Adverse Impact on historic resources at the park; all pedestrian crossings that intersect town-owned roads, the bridge, and any new traffic calming measures; new parking and vehicular entrances to the park along Old Dock and St. Johnland Roads; the demolition of Building 93; clearing of vegetation or construction related to creating access to views of the former reservoir/wetland; any action that may result in ground disturbance near the ash landfill; stabilization measures and construction of stairs on the bluffs; agricultural and horticultural uses; and introduction of equestrian use.

**Certification To Approve/Fund/Undertake:**

Having considered the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement and having considered the preceding written facts and conclusions relied on to meet the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.11, this Statement of Findings certifies that:

- The requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and
- Consistent with social, economic and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action is the one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating as conditions to the decision those mitigative measures that were identified as practicable.
- Consistent with the applicable policies of Article 42 of the Executive Law, as implemented by 19 NYCRR Part 600.5, this action will achieve a balance between the protection of the environment and the need to accommodate social and economic considerations. The proposed action is consistent with the coastal policies identified in the Town of Smithtown's LWRP to the maximum extent practicable.

cc:

Mr. Edward R. Wehrheim - Town of Smithtown – Supervisor

Ms. Sherri Aicher - DEC Region 1 Permit Administrator