Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan
Focus Group: Historic Preservation
04.07.21
Agenda

- Welcome and introduction of project team (5 minutes)
- Project presentation (20 minutes)
- Breakout groups (45 minutes)
- Report back and closing (20 minutes)

ZOOM POINTERS

- Please list your name (and affiliation, if applicable) in your Zoom participant profile.
- Please remain muted, except during breakout group discussions
Project Team

Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)
Division for Historic Preservation (DHP)

STARR WHITEHOUSE
Lead Consultant
Landscape Architecture & Planning

Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (BCA)
Historic Preservation

Cashin Associates
Site Engineering

Bay Environmental
Environmental Analysis

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc
Archaeology
Project Timeline

PHASE I
- Contextual Analysis
- Site Inventory & Analysis
- Public Information Meeting & Survey
- Preliminary Concept Development
- Fall/Winter 2020
- Winter/Spring 2021

PHASE II
- Preliminary Master Plan Development
- Draft EIS and Preliminary Master Plan Alternatives
- Public Comment
- Development of Final EIS and Master Plan
- Spring/Summer 2021
- Fall/Winter 2021
Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Goals

• Expand historic preservation efforts across the State, at the local and regional level, and cultivate pride of place.

• Engage the public through programming.

• Expand and protect natural connections between parks and open space.

• Restore, conserve, and protect the State’s biodiversity.

• Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

• Build a 21st century green and resilient outdoor recreation system; repair and green aging infrastructure and open new facilities.

• Reinvent and redesign the State’s outdoor recreation system.

• Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.
Theme Goals: Historic Preservation

• Meaningfully commemorate the full history of the site through interpretive programming and architectural preservation.

• Maintain or re-introduce certain landscape features from the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center to preserve the historic character of the institution’s campus.

• Introduce programming to historic buildings that draws visitors and activates the park year round.

• Enhance the safety and security of the park by renovating and activating select historic buildings, and evaluate strategic removal of attractive nuisances.

• Cluster cultural and historic programming nodes within the park to minimize disturbance of ecological communities along the perimeter of the park.
Survey Results by Location

The recreational needs assessment survey was available online from February 3 - 17:

- 1653 people took the survey
- 51% of respondents live in Smithtown
- 76% of respondents live within 10 miles of the park
- Residents from 10 New York counties reported visiting the park in the past year:
  - Suffolk
  - Nassau
  - Queens
  - Kings
  - New York
  - Westchester
  - Rockland
  - Sullivan
  - Albany
  - Brockport

Legend

- Project Area
- Survey Responses by Zip Code
  - Water
  - County Boundary
  - 1-10
  - 11-30
  - 31-100
  - 101-200
  - 201-475

Sources: NYS DOT, NYS OPRHP, Suffolk County GIS


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Survey Respondent Profile

RESULTS BY GENDER
• Female: 886 (54%)
• Male: 706 (43%)
• Non-binary: 8 (<1%)
• Prefer not to say: 53 (3%)

RESULTS BY AGE
• Under 18: 6 (<1%)
• 18-24: 65 (4%)
• 25-34: 276 (17%)
• 35-44: 414 (25%)
• 45-54: 426 (26%)
• 55-64: 307 (19%)
• 65+: 159 (10%)
Public Survey Response Regarding Building Re-Use

Does your vision for the future of Nissequogue River State Park include keeping and reusing the existing buildings?

Total Respondents: 1,642

67% of respondents said that some number of historic buildings should be retained and reused

The largest amount of respondents advocated for the retention of a select number of historic buildings.
Public Survey Response Regarding Building Re-Use

What facilities would you like to see at the park?

Total Respondents: 1,640

Top 5 Facilities (% of respondents)

- Restrooms (84%)
- Outdoor Performance (47%)
- Farmers Market (46%)
- Restaurant / Cafe (44%)
- Pub / Brewery (37%)
Site Timeline

Pre-1665  The Nesaquake inhabited the area now occupied by the Nissequogue River State Park.

1665    Smithtown founded.

1884-1895  Kings County Farm and Asylum established.

1895    Kings County Farm and Asylum taken over by the State.

1900-1920  Pre-War Period: The Kings Park State Hospital (KPSH) undertook the first period of major expansion.

1920-1944  Inter-War Period: KPSH constructed many of the hospital’s largest structures and building groupings.

1944-1960  Post-War Period: KPSH reached its peak population of 10,065 residents.

1975    KPSH renamed the Kings Park Psychiatric Center (KPPC).

1996    Kings Park Psychiatric Center permanently closed.

2001    Nissequogue River State Park established.
Extant Historic Buildings

Legend
- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Historic Building
- Modern Structures
- Other Buildings
- Water

National Register (NR) Eligibility

Historic Buildings and Structures

The buildings of the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The 2007 Resource Eligibility Evaluation identifies the property’s significance related to the areas of health and medicine and architecture during the period between 1890 and 1960.

KPPC Criterion

Criterion A: Associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Building Inventory

- BCA completed a resource evaluation of the 52 extant historic structures to update the existing 2007 Resource Eligibility Evaluation.

- BCA analyzed building demolitions during and after hospital operations.

- Construction Phases:
  - 1890-1919: 5 extant buildings/structures
  - 1920-1944 (Interwar): 38 extant building structures
  - 1944-1960 (Postwar): 9 extant buildings/structures
Benefits of National Register Designation

- Formal recognition of property’s historical and architectural significance.
- Opportunities for preservation incentives, such as:
  - Preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation.
  - Federal and State of New York investment tax credits.
  - International building code, fire, and life safety code alternatives.
- Learn more at the National Register of Historic Places website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister
Buildings Demolished (During Hospital Operations, 1960-2001)

Years Demolished

- 1960s
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s-00s
- Existing Buildings

Buildings Demolished (Following Parks Land Transfer: 2001-2017)

Year Demolished

- 2017
- 2016
- 2013
- 2012

Historic Landscape Features: Agriculture

1. First Greenhouse (destroyed by fire in 1898)
2. Orchard (1900s-1960s)
3. Dairy Fields (1895-1933)
4. Dairy and Stables (1895-1960s)
5. Greenhouse (1922-1980)
6. Hotbeds (1922-1972)
8. First Greenhouse (1935-Current)
9. Grazing Field (converted to cemetery)
10. First Piggery (1897-1965)
11. Propagation Field (early 20th century)
Historic Landscape Features: Water Infrastructure

1. 1920s
2. 1920s
3. 1932
4. Undated
Historic Landscape Features: Recreation

1. Kings Park Boulevard
2. Tiffany Field (1897-CURRENT)
3. Tennis Courts (Approx. 1930-1940)
4. Miniature Golf Course and Basketball Court (1950s-1970s)
5. Handball Court (Extant)
6. Tennis Courts (1913-CURRENT)

1930s

1972

1950s
Historic Landscape Features:
Trees-Lined Streets and Boulevards

1910s

1920s

1910
Historic Re-Photography: Extant Historic Buildings
Building 93

1950s

2021
Building 80 (York Hall)
Building 15
Building 90

1930s-1940s

2021

MAP
Buildings 95-99 (Doctors’ Cottages)
Building 3
Building 138

1930s

2021

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER STATE PARK MASTER PLAN
April 7, 2021
Building 83 (Firehouse)
Historic Re-Photography:
Kings Park Boulevard
Kings Park Boulevard

1913

2021

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER STATE PARK MASTER PLAN
April 7, 2021
Kings Park Boulevard

1905

2021

[Image of Kings Park Boulevard in 1905]

[Image of Kings Park Boulevard in 2021]
Kings Park Boulevard

1905

2021

33
Kings Park Boulevard

1920s

2021

New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

April 7, 2021
Historic Re-Photography:
Demolished Buildings
Building 34
Building 2
Building 32
Park Aerial

1947

2020
Next Steps and Contact

• EIS scoping and comment period: May - June 2021

• Release of draft Master Plan and DEIS: Summer 2021

Contact the project team at:

NissequogueRiver.Plan@parks.ny.gov

To access additional information about the Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan/EIS, visit:

https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx
Thank You!