Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan

Focus Group: Programming & Concessions

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 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

- Engage the public through programming.
- Reinvent and redesign the State’s outdoor recreation system.
- Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Build a 21st century green and resilient outdoor recreation system; repair and green aging infrastructure and open new facilities.
- Expand historic preservation efforts across the State, at the local and regional level, and cultivate pride of place.
- Expand and protect natural connections between parks and open space.
- Restore, conserve, and protect the State’s biodiversity.
Theme Goals: Programming and Concessions

- Provide opportunities for programs and concessions that complement the natural and historic qualities of the park.
- Offer educational, cultural, and recreational resources for visitors of all ages and abilities.
- Generate revenue to fund park maintenance and operations while supporting the local economy.
- Establish strategic partnerships to sustain adaptive reuse of historic buildings.
- Introduce programming to historic buildings that draws visitors and activates the park year round.
- Cluster programming nodes within the park’s interior to minimize disturbance of ecological communities along the perimeter of the park.
- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety through traffic calming measures and improved lighting along roadways.
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
  - Westchester
  - Nassau
  - Rockland
  - Queens
  - Sullivan
  - Kings
  - Albany
  - New York
  - Brockport
Recreational Needs Assessment 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%)
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

How do you get to the park?

Total Respondents: 1,240

69% of respondents said they drive to the park.

14% of respondents walk to the park.
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

Where do you enter the park?
Total Respondents: 1,242
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

What activities would you like to see at the park?

Total Respondents: 1,642

Top 5 Activities (% of respondents)

Walking / Jogging (56%)
Outdoor Events / Performance (46%)
Cycling (43%)
Non-motorized Boating (40%)
Guided Tours (33%)

Suggested Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th># Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walking / Jogging</td>
<td>927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor events / performances</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cycling</td>
<td>713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-motorized boating</td>
<td>651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guided tours</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td>528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guided tours (history)</td>
<td>528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor fitness / training</td>
<td>479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bird watching</td>
<td>460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community gardening</td>
<td>447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play (early childhood)</td>
<td>423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ice skating</td>
<td>391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horseback riding</td>
<td>389</td>
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<tr>
<td>Active recreation (field / court)</td>
<td>387</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>355</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skateboarding / roller blading</td>
<td>330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor events / performances</td>
<td>325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>311</td>
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<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Responses
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

What amenities would you like to see at the park?

Total Respondents: 1,643

Top 10 Amenities (% of respondents)
- Pedestrian Trail System (55%)
- Bike Trail System (54%)
- Multi-use Trail System (38%)
- Restored Natural Habitat (38%)
- Lighting (35%)
- Picnic Areas (33%)
- Botanical Gardens (33%)
- Dog Park (28%)
- Playgrounds (29%)
- Signage / Wayfinding (28%)
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

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%)
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

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 existing buildings should be retained and reused.
Local Park Context

There are several 100+ acre parks and public open spaces located within 5 miles of Nissequogue River State Park.

These include:

- Sunken Meadow State Park (1,288 acres)
- Blydenburgh County Park (627 acres)
- Caleb Smith State Park (548 acres)
- Makamah Nature Preserve (160 acres)
- David Weld Sanctuary (125 acres)
Extant Building Typologies

Administration Building (Building 125)
York Hall (Building 80)
Building 93
Doctor's Cottages (Buildings 95-101)
Old Laundry Building (Building 5)
Firehouse (Building 83)
Topography (10' contours)

Legend
- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Local Parks
- Buildings
- Water

10' Contours

Sources: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.

High Point +240'
Low Point +10'
Relatively Flat @ +60'
Valley @ +20'
Relatively Flat @ +70'
Oval @ +170'
Mound @ +160'
Mound @ +190'

Nissequogue River
Sunken Meadow State Park
Harrison Pond Park
Kings Park
Smithtown
Kings Park Blvd
Laurel Road
St. John's Land Road
Old Dock Road
Main Street
BAY WHITEHOUSE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS...P.C.
Existing Pedestrian and Bike Circulation

Legend
- Primary Trails
- Secondary Trails
- Old Trails
- Park Sidewalks
- Local Bicycle Routes
- LI Greenbelt Trail
- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Primary Entrances
- Secondary Entrances

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
Existing Pedestrian and Bike Circulation

Legend
- Woodland
- Local Parks
- Buildings
- Water

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
Primary Entrances
Public Through Roads
Primary Roads
Secondary Roads
Maintenance Roads
Active Parking Lots
Closed Park Roads
Inactive Parking Lots
LIRR
Bus Route
Woodland
Local Parks

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
FOREST HABITATS
- Successional Mesophytic Forest
- Mesophytic Forest
- Degraded Area
- Successional Old Field

COASTAL HABITATS
- Freshwater Pond
- Littoral Zone
- Coastal Shoals, Bar and Mudflats
- Intertidal Marsh
- High Salt Marsh
- Dredge Soil

OTHER
- Ashfield
- Open Areas

LEGEND

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
Existing Conservation Areas

Legend
- Orange: Bird Conservation Area
- Dark grey: Low salt marsh, a NHP Significant Ecological Community
- Blue: DOS Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat

Sources: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS DOS, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
Legend

- Coastal Erosion Hazard Area*
- 500 Year Floodplain
- Zone VE- Wave Action Hazard Area**
- Zone AE- 100 Year Floodplain***

*NY DOS designation
**FEMA VE Zone, updated 2009
***FEMA AE Zone, updated 2009

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C., NYS DOS, FEMA

Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan
April 7, 2021
Precedent Images: Programming (For discussion only)
Precedent Images: Concessions  (For discussion only)

- Equipment rentals
- Kayak and canoe rentals
- Dining
- Historic building tours
- Ice skating
- Disc golf
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!