Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan
Focus Group: Sports & Active Recreation

03.24.21
Agenda

• Welcome and introduction of project team (5 minutes)
• Project presentation (15 minutes)
• Breakout Groups (40 minutes)
• Report back and closing (15 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)

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

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

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

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

- Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.

- Engage the public through programming.

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

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

- Expand historic preservation efforts across the State, at the local and regional level, and cultivate pride of place.
Theme Goals: Sports and Active Recreation

- Provide a balance of activities and uses in the park while preserving the park’s natural beauty
- Provide trail access to natural areas while minimizing impacts on sensitive ecological communities
- Provide sufficient visitor amenities and facilities to support active recreation
- Enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety through traffic calming measures and improved lighting along roadways
- Rebalance site circulation to prioritize access by pedestrians and cyclists
- Provide enriching play opportunities for children of all abilities
- Offer recreational opportunities not available in parks and open spaces nearby
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

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

Sources: NYS DOT, NYS OPRHP, Suffolk County GIS
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%)
Recreational Needs Assessment Survey Results

What amenities would you like to see at the park?

Total Respondents: 1,643

Top 10 Amenities (% of respondents)

1. Pedestrian Trail System (55%)
2. Bike Trail System (54%)
3. Multi-use Trail System (38%)
4. Restored Natural Habitat (38%)
5. Lighting (35%)
6. Picnic Areas (33%)
7. Botanical Gardens (33%)
8. Dog Park (28%)
9. Playgrounds (29%)
10. Signage / Wayfinding (28%)
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.

![Bar chart showing survey results](image-url)
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%)

Suggested Amenities
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)
Local Park Context

- Sunken Meadow State Park offers the most amenities of the three large parks within 5 miles of Nissequogue River State Park, including an array of water sports.

- There are many opportunities for hiking and fishing in nearby parks, including at Nissequogue River State Park.

- While ball fields are available at Nissequogue River and Sunken Meadow State Parks, local parks support mostly passive uses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Sunken Meadow</th>
<th>Blydenburgh</th>
<th>Nissequogue River Park</th>
<th>Caleb Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ball Fields</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boating (motor)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing / Kayaking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Dog Area</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equestrian Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rowboat Rentals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow shoeing / XC Skiing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand-up Paddle Boarding</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surfing / Windsurfing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Existing Park Context

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

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

TRAILS
- Primary Trails
- Secondary Trails
- Old Trails

SIDEWALKS
- Park Sidewalks
- Local Bicycle Routes

BICYCLE PATHS
- Primary Entrances
- Secondary Entrances

Legend

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

- 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.
Existing Vehicular Circulation
Existing Intersections Conflicts

Legend

- Primary Entrances
- Public Through Roads
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Maintenance Roads
- Primary Trails
- Secondary Trails
- Park Sidewalks
- Woodland
- Local Parks

SOURCES: NYS OPHP, 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 OP/RHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.
Existing Ecological Communities
Existing Conservation Areas

Legend

- Bird Conservation Area
- Low salt marsh, a NHP Significant Ecological Community
- DOS Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat

SOURCES: NYS OPRRP, 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***

* NYS 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
Disc golf

Fishing

Flexible open space

Fitness equipment

Pavement/jogging trails

Cycling trails

Park Precedent Images (for discussion only)
Park Precedent Images (For discussion only)
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!