

# Sampson State Park Draft Master Plan

Seneca County, Town of Romulus, New York  
Date of Draft 10/13/2015



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

# Table of Contents

List of Tables .....	ii
Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	iii
I. Introduction .....	1
A. Establishment of the Park .....	1
B. Planning that has been done in the past .....	2
C. Planning and Environmental Review .....	2
II. Park Description .....	3
A. The Region .....	3
B. Location and Access .....	3
III. Existing Conditions .....	5
A. Physical Resources .....	5
Geology         5	
Soils           5	
Topography    5	
Water Resources .....	5
B. Natural Resources .....	6
Ecological Communities .....	6
Rare and Endangered Species .....	6
Invasive Flora and Fauna .....	7
C. Cultural Resources .....	7
Archaeological	7
Prehistoric    7	
Historic       7	
D. Scenic Resources .....	8
E. Recreational Resources/Activities .....	8
IV. Agency Mission .....	9
V. Vision Statement .....	9
A. Strategies .....	9
VI. Action Steps .....	10
A. Natural Resource Protection .....	10
Action Step 1. Develop comprehensive invasive management plan, including early detection and rapid response, and follow recommendations of OPRHP staff and biologists .....	10
Action Step 2. Firewood Procedures remain Status Quo .....	10
Action Step 3. Wildlife Resources – Develop a comprehensive resources management plan including wildlife habitat management strategies, and follow recommendations of OPRHP and DEC staff and partner organization wildlife biologists. ....	10
B. Recreation Development .....	11
Action Step 1. Campground Improvements/Expansion .....	11
Action Step 2. Relocate the cabin colony to selected sites in the campground .....	11
Action Step 3. Build up to 15 cottages along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake near campground loop 5 and up to 20 family/group-oriented cottages at preferred locations in the park. ....	11
Action Step 4. Expand sandy beach area to the east, create a terraced seating area near the waterfront playground and reduce the height of the breakwater .....	11
Action Step 5. Solicit proposals from concessionaires to rebuild, maintain, and run a marina at Sampson State Park .....	12
Acton Step 5A. Alternative – If no suitable proposal is generated from Action Step 5 then OPRHP will eliminate the marina, and build a redesigned boat launch facility and day use area. ....	12

Action Step 6. Provide a new pavilion and picnic area near the waterfront .....	12
Action Step 7. Improve and expand opportunities within the existing recreation building ...	12
Action Step 8. Improve existing tennis and basketball courts and provide beach volleyball courts .....	12
Action Step 9. Improve existing cycling facilities, designate closed roads as new bike paths, develop a new bike path to expand cycling .....	13
Action Step 10. Provide nature and history based trails.....	13
Action Step 11. Create multi-use trails at key areas in the park.....	13
Action Step 12. Develop connector paths in camping areas and nature path to waterfront .	13
Action Step 13. Close undesirable shore access points and Improve preferred shore access trails.....	13
Action Step 14. Develop new water view trail.....	14
C. Facilities and Operations .....	14
Action Step 1. Provide internet connection/Wi-Fi hotspot(s) in the Park. ....	14
Action Step 2. Modernize comfort stations.....	14
Action Step 3. Provide a new four-bay dump station .....	14
Action Step 4. Improve existing park office building.....	14
Action Step 5. Replace the park’s core water distribution system infrastructure .....	14
Action Step 6. Develop a redesigned park road system connecting existing and new facilities, improving roads that are retained and removing unneeded roads	14
Action Step 7. Improve Parade Grounds; provide electric and water service & create an event space in the storage building .....	15
Action Step 8. Remove water tower and accessory building .....	15
Action Step 9. Maintain firing range for Park Police training activities .....	15
VII. Implementation.....	17
Timeline	17
VIII. References .....	21

## List of Tables

Table 1 – Priority Phases .....	18
---------------------------------	----

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BCA	Bird Conservation Area
DEC	New York State 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
EMB	Environmental Management Bureau of OPRHP
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
Sampson	Sampson State Park
SEQR(A)	State Environmental Quality Review Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SSP	Sampson State Park
UD	Universal Design

## **I. Introduction**

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) administers over 215 state parks and historic sites encompassing more than 330,000 acres of parkland divided into 11 regions. The Finger Lakes Park Region contains 25 parks, two historic sites, and five golf courses. Sampson State Park is administered by the Finger Lakes Park Region.

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 final 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 those visitors in the responsible stewardship of our valuable natural and cultural resources.

### **A. *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 the Finger Lakes region of New York State. Before transitioning into a state park, Sampson was the site of a U.S. Naval training center, a college for returning veterans, and a U.S. Air Force base. The naval training facility was active during World War II from 1942-1946. Following the war, the land was designated for use by Sampson State College from 1946 to 1949. After that, an Air Force base was in existence from 1950 through 1956.

After purchase by New York State, many of the existing structures were removed, and some were retained for park use. Some of the roads have been reconditioned or removed in the process of transforming the facility from a military base to a public recreational facility.

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.

### ***B. 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. This plan shows locations of several facilities including the regional maintenance center, a “Great Meadow”, camping loops, a nature center, wildlife pond, marina, large picnic areas, group camps and a golf course.

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.

### ***C. 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 (SEQRA). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document is accompanied by a Draft Environmental Impact Statement which provides that review and compliance with SEQR.

## **II. Park Description**

### ***A. The Region***

Sampson SP is located in the Town of Romulus in Seneca County in the Finger Lakes State Park Region. This region covers all of Wayne, Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Steuben, Schuyler, Tompkins, Chemung and Tioga Counties.

Like giant fingerprints of Ice Age glaciers, the Finger Lakes span all of Central New York. Water has chiseled magnificent attractions in this region, which the State Parks highlight and display. Eleven parks front on lakes while six feature gorges with waterfalls. Taughannock Falls SP, near Ithaca, does both. Sampson SP is centrally located on one of the deepest of the Finger Lakes that is best known for its magnificent wineries and productive fishery. One of the highest waterfalls in the East, Taughannock Falls plunges into a canyon that opens to Cayuga Lake, the longest Finger Lake.

Sampson SP offers camping, picnicking, boating, fishing, bird watching and swimming.

### ***B. 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 DEIS)

The park 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 foot or snowmobile trails connecting to Sampson SP.

The park is easily accessed off of 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 of the park.

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 many known locations like the Waterloo Premium Outlets and future Lago Resort and Casino in Tyre, NY within a 30 mile radius of the park. 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.

### **III. Existing Conditions**

This description of the existing conditions at the park is meant to be 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 accompanying DEIS.

#### **A. *Physical Resources***

##### **Geology**

The bedrock consists entirely of the Ludlowville Formation, a sheet of shale with some limestone. The surficial geology (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 complete listing of the soil types found in the park, their characteristics and limitations is found in Appendix X of the DEIS. (NRCS, 2015)

##### **Topography**

The topography (Figure 2 of the DEIS) of the area is typical of the Finger Lakes region with gently rolling inter-lake hills and steeper gorges running perpendicular to the lake. There are dozens of gorges scattered throughout the landscape of the Finger Lakes. There are four smaller gorges, known locally as ravines, in the park, which have been carved by streams flowing East to West from the uplands to Seneca Lake.

##### **Water Resources**

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

###### **a) *Lakes and Ponds***

The most prominent water feature of the park is Seneca Lake. The lake is 38 miles long, making it the second longest of the Finger Lakes. It has a surface area of 42,800 acres and a maximum depth of 618 feet. Seneca Lake is known to support a healthy fishery. The lake is classified AA(TS) by the DEC indicating that its waters are suitable as a source of drinking water and for swimming and fishing, and may be suitable for trout spawning. The park has approximately three miles of shoreline on the lake.

**b) Streams**

There are four streams located in Sampson SP. Two of these streams originate from the watershed in the uplands to the east of the park, and two originate in the uplands of the park. All four streams flow to Seneca Lake. Three have a “C” classification from the Department of Environmental Conservation (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.

(<http://www.dec.ny.gov/ismaps/ERM/viewer.htm>)

**c) Watersheds**

The entire park is part of the Oswego River/Finger Lakes Watershed. This watershed is one of the largest in NYS and includes all of Seneca County and most of the Finger Lakes. This watershed includes 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.

**d) 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)

**B. Natural Resources**

The natural resources of the area are documented in numerous reports. The New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) compiles one such report in which natural resource features are recorded. The NYNHP provides comprehensive information and scientific expertise on rare species and natural ecosystems. Unique Natural Areas provide documentation on the county level. These reports inventory environmentally sensitive areas throughout a county. Details of these reports and maps are found in Chapter 1 of the DEIS.

**Ecological Communities**

According to the New York Natural Heritage Program (New York Natural Heritage Program, 2015), there are 14 distinct community types that were observed within the park in 2014 (Figure 7 in the DEIS). There are no significant natural communities present in the park.

**Rare and Endangered Species**

Two species listed as Threatened in NY State have been documented in the park to date (New York Natural Heritage Program, 2015) (Lundgren, 2014-A). One, a rare tree species was just discovered in the park in 2014, and more surveys are needed. Also, comprehensive surveys for all rare animal taxa such as many invertebrates or recently listed bat species has not been done. Also, documenting which animal species in the park are in the State Wildlife Action

Plan or other conservation initiatives can help to inform the development of natural resource management plans.

## **Invasive Flora and Fauna**

Several species of invasive plants are known to occur in the park through staff observation and records made by outside organizations. These records are available on the iMapInvasives website ([www.imapinvasives.org](http://www.imapinvasives.org)). Two invasive plant species are particularly worrisome; Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*) and Pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*).

Sampson State Park is in the quarantine area for the Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). At this time, no Emerald Ash Borers have been detected in the park.

Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), a common destructive invasive insect, has also not been detected in the park.

Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have been found on the shoreline north of the beach area. Bloody-red Shrimp (*Hemimysis anomala*) have been found at the marina.

## **C. Cultural Resources**

### **Archaeological**

The archeology and history of the Finger Lakes are of special interest because of its central location to the Iroquois nation. It was a place where prehistoric people as early as perhaps 6000 B.C. made settlements, grew agricultural crops, hunted and fished. A later Iroquois (Cayuga) village, Kendaia existed on part of what is now the park. A historic marker along Route 96B is near the location.

### **Prehistoric**

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

### **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 became 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 from 1942 to 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.

## ***D. Scenic Resources***

The main scenic resource of the park is the vista of Seneca Lake. The grandeur of the lake, its waters, and the dramatic sunsets are the highlights of visual scenery from Sampson State Park. The panorama includes views far to the north and south as well as the lush western shore of the lake where the Keuka Lake outlet flows into Seneca Lake in Dresden. The wineries of the region present as agricultural expanses, adding to the openness of the visual landscape.

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

## ***E. Recreational Resources/Activities***

The primary recreational resource at the park is camping. The park has a total of 309 campsites with 245 electric and 64 non-electric sites. Sites accommodate tents, pop-up trailers and RV's. Several primitive cabins are also available.

Hunting and fishing are popular activities at the park. Fishing opportunities extend into the winter months with ice fishing.

The marina at the park has around 100 slips and is very popular both for seasonal rentals and visitors to the area.

Other recreational resources include tennis, horseshoes, court games, picnicking and trails. The park office also provides space for indoor games such as table tennis, shuffleboard, and miniature golf. Bicycle rentals are also available.

## **IV. 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.

## **V. 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.

### **A. Strategies**

In support of this vision the park will:

- Update the existing campground areas and provide new camping opportunities.
- Develop a cottage/cabin area.
- Provide a variety of trail opportunities for all patrons to experience the park's landscape
- Seek a concessionaire to provide upgraded marina facilities for public access to Seneca Lake.
- Provide waterfront day use recreation opportunities for day use patrons and campers to experience Seneca Lake and its surrounding landscape.
- Utilize the following natural resource protection strategies:
  - Develop a comprehensive inventory of invasive species.
  - Develop and implement an Invasive Species Management Plan.
  - Protect statewide significant ecological community types and areas of known habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species.
  - Minimize park development in known and mapped areas of special habitat types.
  - Where feasible, maintain and enhance grassland bird habitat.
  - Increase patrons' awareness of natural resources within Sampson State Park through interpretive signage and environmental education opportunities.
  - Partner with external groups to provide a variety of environmental education programming.
- Move forward with 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.

- Protect and enhance the scenic qualities and viewshed of the park, particularly the views of Seneca Lake and the west shore.
- Provide access for patrons of all abilities 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 natural, cultural, and physical resources of the park.
- Develop a consistent and efficient way to share information with patrons, partners, and the surrounding community. Encourage opportunities for the creation of new partnerships.

## **VI. Action Steps**

This section provides a narrative description of the master plan, outlining what will be done in the Park for natural and cultural resource protection, recreational resource development, management, and operations. Many of the action steps described here are based on the analysis of the accompanying DEIS and the preferred alternatives (Chapter 2).

Some of the action steps are administrative or managerial in nature and will not be articulated in other master plan documents. Action steps are presented which have been guided by the vision for Sampson SP. As elements of the park's vision were developed, action steps were created to realize each element. Along with the vision, these action steps describe the master plan. The master plan is also presented graphically in the large format Master Plan Map that accompany, and are part of, this document.

### ***A. Natural Resource Protection***

#### **Action Step 1. Develop comprehensive invasive management plan, including early detection and rapid response, and follow recommendations of OPRHP staff and biologists**

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

#### **Action Step 2. Firewood Procedures remain Status Quo**

The park will continue to provide firewood for campers through a concessionaire continuing to protect the park's natural resources and complying with OPRHP and DEC Firewood Regulations.

#### **Action Step 3. Wildlife Resources – Develop a comprehensive resources management plan including 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 led by representatives of DEC and OPRHP to work collaboratively with other partner organizations and stakeholders in the region. The team would be charged with formulating long-term strategies for accomplishing park, region, and statewide wildlife goals.

***B. Recreation Development***

**Action Step 1. Campground Improvements/Expansion**

- ***Build a seasonal full-service campsite loop with new bathhouse;***
- ***Improve water and electric service in the campground;***
- ***Add a solar energy array to the campground;***
- ***Designate a camping loop to provide an opportunity for seasonal occupancy***

These alternatives were selected because they meet multiple master plan goals. They are actions that 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 Step 2. Relocate the cabin colony to selected sites in the campground**

This alternative better utilizes the existing cabins by integrating them into the camping loops. Some of the sites in the existing campground will be considered as decisions are made for the cabins' relocation. This alternative will make access to bath facilities more convenient for cabin camping patrons.

**Action Step 3. Build up to 15<sup>1</sup> cottages along the eastern shore of Seneca Lake near campground loop 5 and up to 20 family/group-oriented cottages at preferred locations**

This alternative aligns with the vision developed for the park and meets several of the goals for the park. (Locations can be found in Figure 10 & 11 of the accompanying DEIS)

**Action Step 4. Expand sandy beach area to the east, create a terraced seating area near the waterfront playground and reduce the height of the breakwater**

This action step is consistent with the master plan vision and goals for the park. The additional sandy beach and terraced seating area will create more useable

---

<sup>1</sup> This action step will be implemented in phases with the first 9 to 10 waterfront cottages constructed in 2016.

space for patrons to enjoy waterfront activities. The reduced height of the breakwater will improve the scenic vistas from the beach.

**Action Step 5. Solicit proposals from concessionaires to rebuild, maintain, and run a marina at Sampson State Park<sup>2</sup>**

Chosen to allow retention and improvement of the marina, this action step is dependent on a suitable concessionaire coming forward in an RFP process. If no suitable proposal is generated, then OPRHP will eliminate the marina and construct a redesigned boat launch facility and day use area. OPRHP issued an RFP for the marina on 8/26/2015.

**Acton Step 5A. Alternative – If no suitable proposal is generated from Action Step 5 then OPRHP will eliminate the marina, and build a redesigned boat launch facility and day use area**

This alternative will be chosen if, after a suitable period, no suitable concessionaire has produced a proposal to run the marina. This will provide an updated boat launch facility and enhance the park's recreational boating connection with Seneca Lake. This action will also provide additional green space at the waterfront.

**Action Step 6. Provide a new pavilion and picnic area near the waterfront**

This alternative was selected because it fits the master plan goals for the park. A redesigned waterfront area will further connect the Park to Seneca Lake. The waterfront space will provide additional opportunities for patrons to relax in the park.

**Action Step 7. Improve and expand opportunities within the existing recreation building wing**

The planning 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 Step 8. Improve existing tennis and basketball courts and provide beach volleyball courts**

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because they fit several of master plan goals. The updates will improve and increase the number of recreational opportunities available to patrons of the park.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Request for Proposal issued for the marina requests submitters to consider fuel sales, on-site boat storage, and a seasonal restaurant to be included as part of the scope of proposals submitted to OPRHP.

**Action Step 9. Improve existing cycling facilities, designate closed roads as new bike paths, develop a new bike path to expand cycling**

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because cycling is one of the most popular activities at Sampson SP. Increasing cycling opportunities is a priority for both staff and patrons, and opportunities exist to increase the mileage for cycling recreation.

**Action Step 10. Provide nature and history based trails**

This alternative was selected by the planning team because it fits several of the master plan goals. Each trail will be an integrated part of the multi-use trail system proposed by this plan.

**Action Step 11. Create multi-use trails at key areas in the park**

- Create multi-use trails near the southern ravine, pioneer cemetery, and southern portion of property
- Create a multi-use trail near the northern ravine
- Create a multi-use trail in the northern section of the park

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because they fit several of the master plan goals and address public comments. The alternatives will provide patrons with opportunities for hiking, biking, skiing and snowshoeing, as well as nature interpretation.

**Action Step 12. Develop connector paths in camping areas and nature path to waterfront**

- Develop nature path from park office to waterfront
- Develop connector paths in camping loops

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because they will improve patrons' experiences while staying at the campgrounds and provide nearby opportunities for walking and nature interpretation, and protect natural areas from social paths.

**Action Step 13. Close undesirable shore access points and Improve preferred shore access trails**

The planning team selected these as the preferred alternatives because they fit several of master plan goals. Designating and improving shore access points will improve users' experiences on the Lake Shore Trail and provide patrons with safe, maintained access to the water in areas of the park other than the beach. Undesirable lake access points will be closed and revegetated with the goal of eliminating dangerous off-trail travel to the lake shore.

**Action Step 14. Develop new water view trail**

This alternative was selected by the planning team because it will provide additional walking/hiking and nature interpretation opportunities for patrons near the day-use area of the park.

**C. Facilities and Operations**

**Action Step 1. Provide internet connection/Wi-Fi hotspot(s) in the Park (e.g., park office, recreation building, and campground)**

The planning team determined that a need exist to update the park's current network. There is also a sense that there will be a great demand for this type of service by campers and other patrons.

**Action Step 2. Modernize comfort stations**

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.

**Action Step 3. Provide a new four-bay dump station**

The planning team selected this as the preferred alternative because it improves traffic exiting and addresses health and safety concerns and patron dissatisfaction with the current dump station.

**Action Step 4. Improve existing park office building**

This alternative was chosen because the current location and size of the park office meets the needs of operating the park. The improvements fit the master plan goals by addressing ADA, sustainability, energy efficiencies, and maintenance issues.

**Action Step 5. Replace the park's water distribution system infrastructure**

The planning team selected this as the preferred alternative because it aligns with the vision for the park and meets the statewide goal for replacing aging infrastructure in the park.

**Action Step 6. Develop a redesigned park road system connecting existing and new facilities, improving roads that are retained and removing unneeded roads**

This alternative was chosen because it best meets the needs of the park as described in the vision. This alternative also allows reversion to natural vegetation and supports agency goals of sustainability.

**Action Step 7. Improve Parade Grounds; provide electric and water service & create an event space in the storage building**

Moving large outdoor events closer to the lake and main developed area of the park is the preferred long-term alternative. This alternative will create a greater sense of connection with the lake at large outdoor events in the park. The redesigned space will have pathways for better access to the waterfront and campground.

**Action Step 8. Remove water tower and accessory building**

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

**Action Step 9. Maintain firing range for Park Police training activities**

The core team selected this alternative because it will fill an operational need in the region. Maintenance appropriate for the type of facility present will mitigate potential long-term environmental impacts. Minor impacts to the public use of the lakeshore multi-use trail and surrounding area are acceptable.

## VII. 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 far along in the design process. The implementation of these projects fully align 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.

The following projects/action items will be implemented in the park immediately:

- Construct up to 15<sup>3</sup> lakeside cottages near loop 5 of the campground;
- Modernize the existing campground comfort stations and make them compliant with ADA guidelines;
- Construct accessible pathways within the campground loops to comfort stations and the park office; and
- Solicit proposals from concessionaires to rebuild, maintain, and run a marina in the park.

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.

---

<sup>3</sup>This action step will be implemented in phases with the first 9 to 10 waterfront cottages constructed in 2016.

Table 1 – Action Item Sequencing & Priorities

Implementation Schedule	Description/Development Component
1 <sup>st</sup> Priority:	Redesigned boat launch and day-use area*
	Construct a new pavilion and picnic area near the waterfront
<b>Natural Resources Action Items</b>	
Ongoing:	Firewood procedures & enforcement of regulations
	Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan
	Develop a Natural Resources Management Plan
	Implement natural resource management strategies for invasive species and wildlife
<b>Capital Infrastructure Action Items</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Priority:	Construct a new four-bay dump station; remove existing dump station
	Replace water distribution infrastructure in the park
	Improve existing campground loops – Phase 1 – replace electric pedestals and upgrade to 50-amp service
	Improve tennis and basketball courts
	Comfort stations – Phase 2 – modernize and improve accessibility to the comfort station not included in Phase 1
	Cabins – relocate cabins to the campground
2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority:	Construct a solar array in the campground
	Parade grounds – improve grounds for hosting large events; renovate the tractor storage barn into an indoor event space for regional tourism events
	Remove the water tower
	Beach – expand the sandy beach area, improve accessibility, and construct a terraced grassy seating area
	Beach – redesign and lower the breakwater; construct a beach volleyball court
	<b>Recreational Development Action Items</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority:	Close undesirable shore access points and Improve preferred shore access trails
	Improve existing cycling facilities, designate closed roads as new bike paths, develop a new bike path to expand cycling
	Develop a redesigned park road system connecting existing and new facilities, improving roads that are retained and removing unneeded roads
	Construct a new contact station along redesigned road

Implementation Schedule	Description/Development Component
	Create multi-use trails at key areas in the park
	Improve and expand opportunities within the existing recreation building
	Improve existing park office building
	Construct a seasonal full-service campground loop with new bathhouse
	Improve existing campground loops – Phase 2 – site work and pad improvements, paving, reconfigure water & electric hookups
	Develop connector paths in camping areas and nature path to waterfront
	Develop new water view trail
	Develop nature and history based interpretive materials for multi-use and cycling trails
	Build family/group oriented cottages in preferred locations
<b>Operations Action Items</b>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Priority:</b>	Develop the internet network and provide Wi-Fi near the park office
	Maintain the firing range

\* Dependent on the outcome of the preferred alternative for Action Item 5.

## VIII. References

- iMapInvasives.org. (2015, September). Retrieved May 2015, from  
NYiMapInvasives.org: <http://www.nyimapinvasives.org>
- Lundgren, J. A. (2014-A, October 16). (M. Riehl, Interviewer)
- Lundgren, J. A. (2014-B). *Ecological Communities of Sampson State Park*. 2014 Update,  
New York Natural Heritage Program, Albany, NY.
- New York Natural Heritage Program. (2015). Biotics Database. Albany, New York,  
United States of America. Retrieved April 2015
- NRCS. (2015). *Web Soil Survey - Home*. Retrieved 2015, from  
<http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>