

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
INFORMATION PACKET
GREEN LAKES STATE PARK ADDITION MANAGEMENT PLAN
ADDENDUM TO THE GREEN LAKES STATE PARK MASTER PLAN (2011)

February 7, 2019
Fayetteville Village Hall



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner

Agenda for Public Information Meeting

1. Introductions and Welcoming Remarks
2. Overview of the Planning Process
3. Overview of the Site
4. Public Input
5. Next Steps

Introduction

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) 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.

Guiding Principles

Fundamental to the successful achievement of our mission is the dedication of our employees and the adherence to a common set of values. These guiding principles serve as a pledge to the people we serve and a commitment to ourselves and to each other.

- **A Commitment to People.** We are committed to serving and protecting the public to the best of our ability, with courtesy and respect. We are committed to our employees and volunteers, encouraging teamwork, self-improvement and mutual support.
- **A Commitment to Preservation.** State Parks and Historic Sites are unique and irreplaceable public assets. We are committed to wise acquisition, planning, and, where appropriate, development; timely and professional care and maintenance; and a responsibility to future generations in whose trust we manage our resources. We are committed to providing encouragement to all agencies and individuals to identify, evaluate and protect recreational, natural, historic and cultural resources.
- **A Commitment to Service.** The availability of recreational, educational and cultural opportunities to all is vital in today's society. We are committed to equal access and outreach to all segments of our society, recognizing individual needs and interests. We are committed to safety, security, creativity and accountability in providing our programs and services.
- **A Commitment to Leadership.** We recognize the preeminence of the New York State Park and Historic Site System. We are committed to excellence, innovation and professionalism. We are committed to forging partnerships with others who are responsible for providing recreational, natural, historic and cultural services.

The creation of a management plan for newly-acquired acreage at Green Lakes State Park is part of an ongoing statewide planning initiative to advance the principles above, and to determine the best course of action to preserve and utilize park resources for this and future generations.

Project Background

OPRHP is in the early stages of preparing a Management Plan as an addendum to the Green Lakes State Park Master Plan (2011). The need to prepare this addendum is driven by the recent acquisition of +/- 261 acres adjacent to the Park's southern and eastern boundaries. In part, the land was procured to enhance existing natural buffers and protect viewsheds of, and from within, the Park. The Management Plan will help provide direction for the operation, recreational development and natural resource protection of the new land for the next 10 - 15 years. Jurisdiction of the parcels was transferred to OPRHP on March 19th, 2018.

The current Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement may be viewed online at <http://nysparks.com/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>.

Purpose of the Meeting

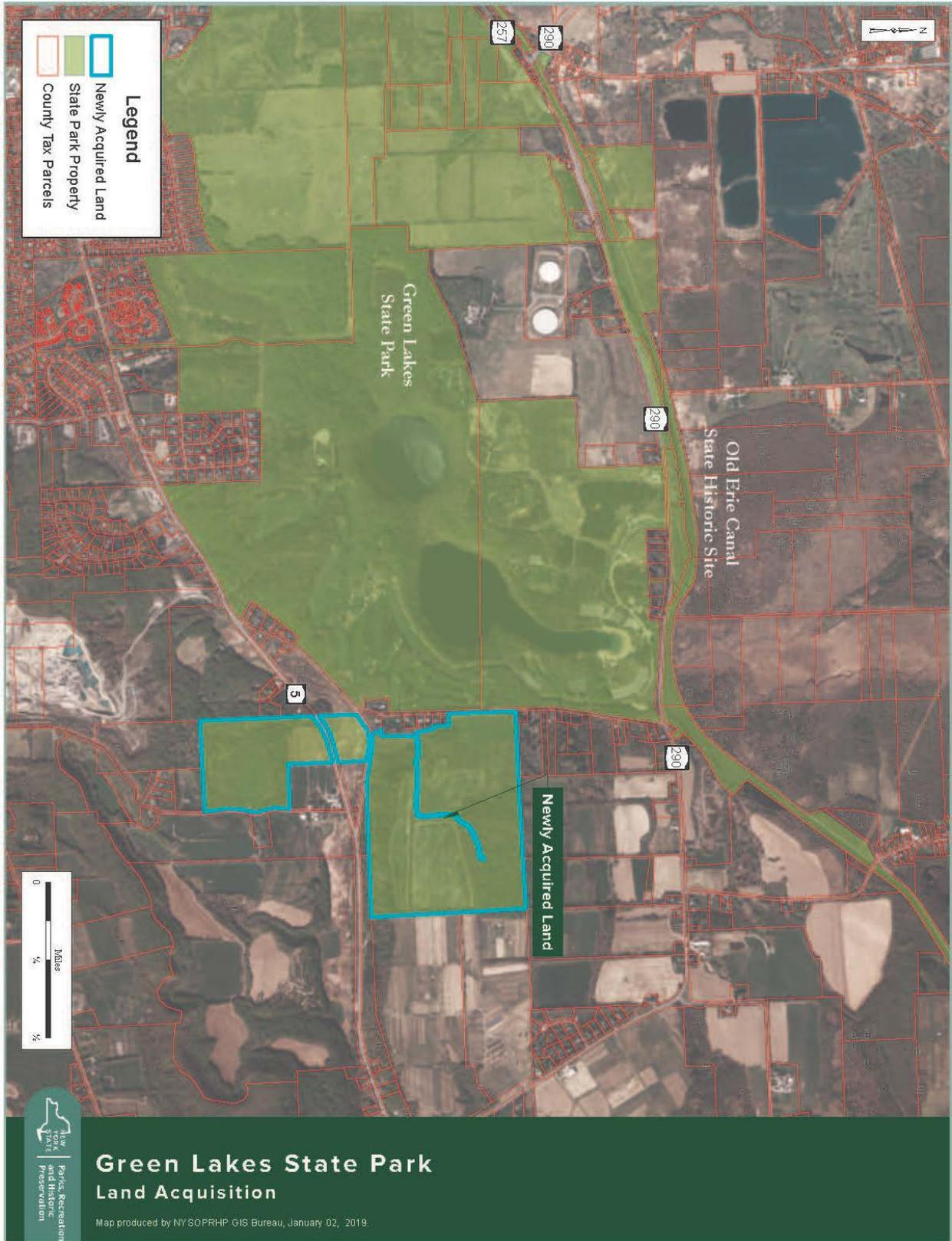
The purpose of this information meeting is to invite public participation in the planning process; to identify issues, concerns and alternatives to be addressed in the Management Plan; and to discuss potential uses for the new acreage. This collaborative process is an integral component in stewardship of the Park's inimitable resources and will help OPRHP continue to provide safe and enjoyable recreational and interpretive opportunities at Green Lakes.

This information packet is intended to provide the public with a concise overview of the history of Green Lakes State Park and the conditions and resources of the newly-acquired parcels.

Additional information can be obtained from OPRHP at:

Central Region – NYS Parks 6105 E. Seneca Turnpike Jamesville, NY 13078 315-492-1756	OPRHP Planning and Analysis Bureau 625 Broadway, 2 nd Floor Albany, NY 12207 518-486-2909
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Email: GreenLakes.PlanAmend@parks.ny.gov



Overview of the Park

Green Lakes State Park offers a multitude of recreational opportunities in a unique natural setting. Activities such as golfing, swimming, picnicking, camping, hiking, and biking are all available to more than 800,000 visitors annually. The park contains two glacial lakes, Green Lake and Round Lake. Round Lake and its surrounding old-growth forest has been designated a National Natural Landmark.

Historical Timeline

- 1792 – The “Military Tract” is surveyed and divided into lots to compensate soldiers of the Revolutionary War.
- 1817 – Lands surrounding Round and Green Lakes are settled by David Collin III and later divided among his six children.
- 1800s – Small passenger steamboats bring people from Syracuse and Fayetteville to Green Lakes Landing via the Fayetteville Feeder Canal and the Erie Canal. Facilities for picnicking, boating and dancing are made available on Green Lake through private initiatives.
- Late 1800s – The area is known to naturalists and hikers as one of the most outstanding recreational areas in the United States.
- 1928 – The State of New York purchases 500 acres surrounding, and including, Round and Green Lake.
- 1930s – The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) has a camp in the park and builds the cabins that patrons still use today.
- 1942 – Green Lakes State Park serves as the site of a German prisoner of war camp during World War II.
- 1975 – The State of New York acquires an additional 188 acres at the southern boundary of the Park to preserve the drainage basin of Round Lake.

Environmental Setting

Green Lakes State Park is located in the Central New York State Parks Region, within Onondaga County, in the Town of Manlius. The park is bordered to the north by Route 290 and Old Erie Canal State Park. The western border of the Park is Route 257 and the eastern boundary, prior to the acquisition of new land, lay parallel to Pierson Road, a public highway managed by the Town of Manlius. The Park’s southern boundary is principally a jagged line that abuts the village of Fayetteville and Route 5.

The State has continued to acquire lands surrounding Green Lakes State Park to protect and buffer its Lakes and recreational resources from increasing development pressures. In fact, the Park has nearly doubled in size in the past 20 years. With the most recent addition of land the Park’s total property measures approximately 2,030 acres.

The two newly acquired parcels are located toward the southeast corner of the Park. The northernmost parcel is bounded to the west by a portion of Pierson Road with its remaining sides surrounded by private property. George Taylor Road and Route 5 shape the northernmost parcel’s southern boundary. The southernmost parcel of the acquisition is bounded to the north by George Taylor Road, and is bisected by Route 5. It is bounded to the east, in part, by Townsend Road; private property surrounds its remaining edges as well.

User Demographics

Green Lakes State Park attracts more than 800,000 visitors annually. Most visitors come from within Onondaga County. The average day use visitor stays for almost 4 hours and the average camping visit is approximately 7 ½ days. Average group size is 3 – 4 people, and typical visitors are families with school aged children.

Environmental Resources

Green Lakes State Park is a maximum of 1,400 feet above sea level. The rolling hills are covered with moderately deep, to deep, fine-textured loam soils. The bedrock is primarily limestone.

The Park contains ten distinct community types, two of which are considered to be significant natural communities from a statewide perspective. These are the rare meromictic lakes (Green and Round Lakes) and the maple-basswood rich mesic forest which includes about 140 acres of old-growth forest. The remainder of the Park consists of additional forest land, shrublands, old field communities, and developed landscapes. There is one wetland area within the Park, to the south and west of Round Lake, and it is associated with the Lake's outlet.

The park supports a number of common mammal species such as fox, squirrel, and raccoon. The signs of a large white-tail deer population are evident throughout the park.

The newly-acquired acreage is primarily undeveloped with rolling hills, hardwood forests, and agricultural fields, excepting a cell tower atop the high point of the northernmost parcel. Access to the tower is along a designated utility ROW access road (unpaved) via Pierson Road. The freshwater wetlands on the property are dominated by the non-native *Phragmites* (common reed, *Phragmites australis*) and a small good quality coldwater stream (Pools Brook). Wildlife that occur on the property include white-tailed deer, eastern coyotes, wild turkeys, red fox and squirrels. The combination of open fields and tree-lined edges provide habitats for some species of songbirds and raptors.

Scenic Resources

Green Lakes State Park is the flagship park of the Central Park Region. The establishment of the Park was focused on the unique lakes within it, and the topography of the site provides opportunities to view the lakes in a number of ways. The open landscape at the west end of the Park is yet another contributing feature to the scenic quality of the Park. The multiple native tree species at Green Lakes provide a variety of fall colors for viewing. The Park provides opportunities to view natural communities both up close – from trails or recreation areas – and from a distance, as patrons may explore surrounding communities or drive along scenic perimeter roads.

OPRHP acquired new land, in part, to enhance existing natural buffers and protect these aforementioned viewsheds. The northernmost parcel of new land overlooks the Park's historic golf course, designed by one of the game's most innovative course architects, Robert Trent Jones. With panoramic views of the surrounding hills and meromictic lakes, the sightlines to, and from within, the golf course are a unique component of the Park's character. The acquired parcels protect this visual dynamic of the Park from increasing development pressures.

Current Recreation Users

Green Lakes State Park has three major activities—golf, camping and day use. These uses are well established and take place around the primary natural features of Green and Round Lakes. The park offers one 18-hole golf course located to the south of Green and Round Lakes, on a hill that provides views of the lakes and beyond. The most popular day use areas are located around the north end of Green Lake. They include multiple picnic areas, a newly constructed Environmental Education Center, rental areas/buildings, a swimming beach, bathhouse, concessions, boat/kayak rental, and fishing along the Green Lake Trail. Round Lake, a National Natural Landmark surrounded by old-growth forest, is a well-loved retreat. Bird watching is also promoted in the Bird Conservation Area, located in the higher southwestern hills of the park. The camping areas are located on the higher ground of the west side of Green and Round Lakes and boast 137 campsites – including more than 40 sites with electric service – and seven cabins. There are approximately 15 miles of trails throughout the park offering

year-round uses, e.g. hiking, biking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, which are some of the most popular patron activities.

Prior to acquisition by OPRHP, property owners of the newly-acquired acreage let community members hunt the agricultural fields and woods. At this time, OPRHP has allowed recreational hunting to continue at the property via self-issue permits.

Tentative Management Plan/Master Plan Addendum Timeline

Public Information Meeting – February 7, 2019

Summary of Comments from Public Information Meeting Available – April 2019

Management Plan/Master Plan Addendum Approved – Fall 2019

Next Steps

- The suggestions, issues, concerns and alternatives identified at the Public Information Meeting and provided through written comments will be summarized and made available to the public.
- OPRHP staff will prepare the Management Plan with consideration given to comments made during the Public Information Meeting and comment period.
- The Management Plan/Master Plan Addendum is approved by the Regional Director.

Written comments concerning the Management Plan/Master Plan Addendum will be accepted until Thursday, March 7th, 2019.

Please send comments to:

Paige A. Barnum
Park Planner
OPRHP Planning Bureau
625 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Albany, New York 12207

Or by email to: GreenLakes.PlanAmend@parks.ny.gov