

A TOURISM PLAN FOR THE PROPOSED ONONDAGA PARK ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDEN Syracuse, NY



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	2
GOALS	2
THEME FOR INTERPRETATION	3
OPABG COMPONENTS	4
ASSESSMENT OF ONONDAGA PARK ARBORETUM/BOTANICAL GARDEN	
AREA RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS	6
RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS OUTSIDE THE OPABG AREA	8
ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT INTERPRETATION	11
FACILITIES ASSESSMENT	13
TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT	16
COMMERCIAL RECREATION AND	19
TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS	19
MARKETING ASSESSMENT	22
PROMOTION ASSESSMENT	27
EMERGENCY SERVICES	30
TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT	34
RECOMMENDATIONS	39

INTRODUCTION

The Onondaga Park Arboretum & Botanical Garden is a 160-acre facility that encompasses Onondaga Park, the west end of Kirk Park and the Onondaga Creek Corridor from W. Colvin Street to W. Newell Street in the southwest community of the City of Syracuse.

The Onondaga Park Arboretum & Botanical Garden (OPABG) is proposed as a connected series of community parks open to neighbors and visitors, shaped by a combination of community, municipal and institutional actions, and gradually augmented by new structures (visitor center, conservatory, greenhouses, educational/exhibit facilities, etc) that will complement the outdoor exhibits. The evolution of this arboretum/botanical garden as a unique urban educational landscape will be dependent upon generous and meticulous care and feeding from participating partners, friends groups and donors and patrons.

GOALS

With this basic concept in mind, the goals of the Onondaga Park Arboretum & Botanical Garden are listed below:

1. To provide to residents and visitors diverse and high quality recreational, educational, and social experiences through the OPABG.
2. To increase resident and visitor use of the OPABG as a mechanism for increasing financial and local support for the OPABG.
3. To increase involvement by schools and neighborhood residents in the OPABG in order to foster stewardship, appreciation, and protection of park resources.
4. To boost the local economy to surrounding neighborhoods by increasing resident and visitor expenditures to park concessions, festival vendors, and neighborhood businesses.
5. To integrate the OPABG concept into surrounding neighborhoods through community-sponsored beautification efforts that boost community pride and enhance community linkages with the parks in the OPABG area.
6. To increase and enhance connections among the parks within the OPABG, and between the botanical garden and other parks and green spaces within the City of Syracuse.

THEME FOR INTERPRETATION

After assessing the resources and attractions within the OPABG, a theme for interpretation was developed by the class through in-class discussion. This theme was based on the theme for the entire City of Syracuse Parks System that was developed in 2003. The OPABG theme can be used to unify and guide future interpretive efforts within the area, giving park visitors a clear understanding of the importance of the OPABG to local residents and of the resources that this area protects. The following is the interpretive theme:

The Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden offers residents and visitors a unique recreational experience that connects communities through a shared landscape, and fosters an appreciation of the area's rich local history and diverse natural resources.

OPABG COMPONENTS

The Onondaga Park Arboretum & Botanical Garden will include four contiguous precincts with connections to two others. The contiguous precincts will be connected by the Onondaga Promenade, a pedestrian corridor that will link all exhibit areas. The precincts are as follows:

- **Upper Onondaga Park:** This will be the realm of the woodland drumlin collections, the Victorian garden collections, the endangered species plant pathologies exhibits, and the cold hardiness exhibits. These will be supported by the renovated fire house (which will serve as community meeting place, a classroom building and an exhibit hall), a refurbished grotto, Hiawatha Lake (a revitalized lagoon), picnic facilities, and Round Top (a vantage point from which there are spectacular views of the City).
- **Lower Onondaga Park:** This will be the civic center of this educational landscape and is the most intensely developed part of the facility. It will include the Greenhouse Complex with a café and exhibition spaces, formal decorative gardens, ethno-botany gardens, the community agricultural cooperative, a family activity area centered around a fountain/pool facility to be used for water play in the summer and for ice skating in the winter, plant propagation facilities (Grow Out Station), a visitor center, parking for cars and busses, and the facility's main entrance (on South Avenue).
- **Elmwood Park:** A forest park along Furnace Brook, Elmwood Park will serve as an exhibit of the rich plant diversity that is possible in an urban forest. The park will also offer a soon-to-be-revitalized historic mill building that will serve as a community building and an environmental study center.
- **Kirk Park:** This 33.15-acre park is managed by the Coity of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs. Adjacent to Lower Onondaga Park, Kirk Park offers local residents an outdoor pool, ball fields, tennis and basketball courts, as well as a community Center.
- **Woodland Reservoir:** This reservoir is owned and managed by the City of Syracuse Department of Water. Original water department buildings dating to 1894 are found on the property. The area also has excellent views of Syracuse and a pedestrian trail surrounding the reservoir.
- **Corcoran High School property:** Adjacent to Corcoran High School is a 10-acre parcel of land comprised of woodlands and wetlands. The property is owned by the City of Syracuse School District. A small roadside parking area and a trail system have been developed on the property.
- **Southside Neighborhood:** To the south and east of Upper and Lower Onondaga Parks lies this neighborhood comprised of small and middle-sized homes. Many of the homes date back to the 1930s.

- **Strathmore Neighborhood:** This historic neighborhood lies west of Upper Onondaga Park. Some of the homes in this neighborhood were designed by famous architects.
- **Connector Streets:** South Avenue, Valley Drive, Glenwood Avenue, and Strathmore Road will serve as connector streets linking the above contiguous elements to Elmwood Park. The connector streets will have plant collections that reflect on-going research about cold- hardiness and salt tolerance in urban lake-effect conditions.

ASSESSMENT OF ONONDAGA PARK ARBORETUM/BOTANICAL GARDEN AREA RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS

Numerous historic, cultural, industrial, and natural resources and attractions were discovered throughout the Upper Onondaga Park, Lower Onondaga Park, Elmwood Park, Corcoran High School Property, and the Strathmore Neighborhood areas. The assessment of resources and attractions within the Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden Area is shown in table 1.

Table 1. Resources and attractions assessment of Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden Area

UPPER ONONDAGA PARK	
Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	67
Resources	Hiawatha Lake & Lagoon --Created in 1911 as water source for the surrounding area. Hiawatha Lake is now a historic source with its stonework and island. Drumlins View --Excellent view for those interested in the landscape of the area.
Attractions	Fire House --Currently is considered for an education center with an ESF outreach program proposed. Band Gazebo --A historical significance which is 30 feet in diameter. Walkway --Located around Hiawatha Lake for those who enjoy walking and nice views. L-Shaped Swimming Pool --50 meters long with six lanes and can hold 352 recreationists. Sports Complex --8 Tennis courts and 3 basketball courts Covered Pavilion --Holds 13 picnic tables and is convenient for large gatherings such as family reunions.
LOWER ONONDAGA PARK	
Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs
Acres	15.6
Resources	Onondaga Creek --Runs through the park. SUNY ESF is currently working on restoring the riparian habitat of a section of the creek.
Attractions	Greenhouse --Used to grow many of the plants within the park. It is admired by those participating in the Strathmore Neighborhood Tour. Tourist Camp --Developed as a building for visitors to stay and rest while visiting the park. This building is now vacant. Playground

Table 1 (continued). Resources and attractions assessment of Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden Area

<u>ELMWOOD PARK</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs
Acres	65
Resources	Furnace Brook --Runs through the park and gives local residents access to fishing, water resources, and flora and fauna. Woodlands --Offer a diversity of plant and animal species. Stone Mill --Located at the entrance of the park. Will eventually serve as an educational center.
Attractions	Historic Stonework --Found throughout the park. Built by the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration and Works Progress Administration in the 1930s.
<u>CORCORAN HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY</u>	
Location	North of McDonald Road along Glenwood Avenue
Acres	10
Resources	Woodlands & Wetlands --These two resources offer a wide variety of flora and fauna for the school to use for educational purposes.
Attractions	Nature Trails --Currently under construction for the school to use for educational purposes.
<u>STRATHMORE NEIGHBORHOOD</u>	
Resources	History of community and homes
Attractions	Art on the Porches --Created in 2000. The home owners allow local artists to display their work on the porches. Strathmore Neighborhood House Tours --Annual tour of the historic architecture of the home in the neighborhood.
<u>KIRK PARK</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs
Acres	33.15
Resources	Onondaga Creek --Runs through this park and is also part of the SUNY ESF creek restoration project.
Attractions	Seals Community Center --Including a fitness center and computer lab with internet access. Playing fields --Including 9 tennis courts, 3 basketball courts, a large field for football, soccer, and lacrosse, and 2 softball diamonds. L-Shaped Swimming Pool --With nine 25-yards-long lanes and can hold 464 recreationists.
<u>WOODLAND RESERVOIR</u>	
Resources	The main source of water to the area which is also one of the many views from this neighborhood. Buildings dating to 1894. Path surrounding reservoir. Vistas of Syracuse.

RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS OUTSIDE THE OPABG AREA

While the focus of this plan is on the OPABG, many resources within the OPABG could be connected to resources and attractions outside the OPABG area to both increase visitation to the OPABG and generate city-wide support for the OPABG as well as other local parks. Categories of resources outside the OPABG area that should be connected to the OPABG resources include: History & Art, Botanical Gardens, and Stonework. In this assessment, general information about these resources outside the OPABG area will be provided.

History & Art

Onondaga Historical Association Museum

Onondaga Historical Association Museum exists to inspire people's understanding that the history shared as a community is the foundation for our future together. The purpose is to encourage residents from Syracuse neighborhoods and Onondaga County communities to explore, appreciate and utilize their past. The museum has great collections to draw upon for its exhibits on the area's people, architecture, sports legends, industries, and transportation. The Onondaga Historical Association is conveniently located in downtown Syracuse, within two blocks of all local bus lines. The directions below will bring drivers to lot, on-street, and garage parking within one block of the Association's buildings at 311 and 321 Montgomery Street. Exhibits focusing on the history of the OPABG area and adjacent neighborhoods could enhance connections between this museum and the OPABG.

- www.cnyhistory.org

Everson Museum of Art

The Everson Museum of Art has an international reputation. Many distant visitors come to Syracuse just for Everson Museum. To connect the museum with the OPABG will increase resident and visitor use of the OPABG. The Museum is on 401 Harrison Street, Syracuse. The Art on the Porches Event of the Strathmore Neighborhood could be one mechanism for cooperative promotion between this museum and the OPABG area.

- www.everson.org

Botanical Gardens and Arboretums

Other gardens and landscaped areas in and around Syracuse could be connected to the OPABG to provide residents and visitors diverse and high quality recreational, educational, and social experiences. Some of these areas are:

James Pass Arboretum

Pass Arboretum in Syracuse is a peaceful place to stroll and enjoy a diversity of tree plantings. The 13.8-acre park was originally created in 1927. Although some of the historic landscape elements are no longer present (e.g., the shrub collection and pond), the park receives a great deal of use by local residents.

Oakwood Cemetery

The Oakwood Cemetery encompassed a glacial hill where springs carved valleys around steep slopes forested with massive oaks. The rural cemetery, designed as a series of landscape pictures, is a place of spiritual fulfillment for the living as well as a resting place. An overall picturesque effect is achieved through varied topography, irregular land division, winding roads and paths, and controlled internal views. The rural cemetery is designed to be a place of natural and man-made beauty, where individuals and families could escape their everyday lives and enjoy the surroundings.

- www.shadesofoakwood.com/index.html

Thornden Park Rose Garden

In the 76-acre area, specimen trees were planted in groves, and extensive perennial plantings were complemented by sunken formal gardens. In 1921 the City of Syracuse purchased the property and dedicated it as parkland. It was described as a "park ready-made- a mature landscape of informal groves and picturesque water features and land forms." In 1923 the beautiful E.M. Mills Rose Garden was constructed, which heralded the advent of much activity--a pool was installed, the amphitheatre was built, and a pinetum and herb garden was established. Adjacent to the rose garden is an annual and perennial garden with an attractive lily pond and waterfall. At the top of the historically landscaped park, one can watch a magnificent sunset overlooking the Onondaga Lake. The park is adjoined by Ostrom Avenue, Madison Street, and South Beech Street.

- www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/parks/thornden.html

Ryder Park

Ryder Park, a 12-acre, town-owned park in DeWitt, encompasses the James L. Guyette Arboretum, a butterfly house, trails and walkways, and a pond. Facilities at the park include a playground, picnic pavilion, rest rooms, and exercise course. The park is adjacent to the historic Erie Canal.

Cornell Plantations (Ithaca, NY)

Cornell Plantations, a museum of living plants, include the arboretum and botanical garden of Cornell University. In a garden setting, teaching collections include herbs, cut flowers, vegetables and international crops, while adjacent gardens contain flowering trees, shrubs, perennials and groundcovers. The heritage crop garden is a must-see site which portrays how technology and other cultures have influenced American vegetable

gardens. Additionally, plants native to New York grow in the wildflower garden and a network of trails affords an opportunity for hiking and nature study. Located at One Plantation Road, the Plantations' grounds are open free of charge to individuals and families from sunrise to sunset daily.

- www.cayugalake.com/ithaca/plantations.html

Sonnenberg Gardens (Canandaigua, NY)

Sonnenberg is a preeminent example of Victorian era garden design. Tree filled lawns surround the elaborate Italian parterre garden, rose garden, Japanese garden and old-fashioned garden. This garden is located on the Charlotte Street, Canandaigua, NY.

- www.sonnenberg.org

Stonework

Historic stonework is another resource that can be used to connect OPABG to other resources in and around Syracuse.

Burnet Park

Burnet Park is a pleasing combination of hills and level surfaces 88 acres in extent. The park is bounded by Avery Avenue, Coleridge Avenue, and Grand Avenue. A historic promenade, complete with stone wall, staircases, and sitting area, is found on the south side of the park along Grand Avenue. Springs contained within two grottos are adjacent to the promenade.

- www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/parks/burnet.html

Schiller Park

In 1901, the City purchased 23.5 acres for a public park, and in 1911, landscape architect David Campbell implemented his design. Unique to the park is a monument to Goethe and Schiller, honoring the German neighborhood population. Some of the park's built elements retain vestiges of the arts and crafts movement. At the park's highest point, one can view a great panorama of downtown Syracuse. The park is bounded by Oak Street, Rugby Road, Farmer Street, and Whitwell Drive.

- www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/parks/schiller.html

Lincoln Park

This 19.32-acre park contains many beautiful examples of historic stone stairs and walkways created in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration. Built on a drumlin, the park has beautiful views of Syracuse, as well as a pool, ball field, tennis and basketball courts, and a playground.

Other Nearby Parks

Stonework dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps era exists in most state parks adjacent to Syracuse including Clark Reservation State Park and Green Lakes State Park. In addition, stonework from historic Erie Canal locks can be found in Old Erie Canal State Park in DeWitt, Erie Canal Park in Camillus, and Onondaga Lake Park in Liverpool.

ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT INTERPRETATION

A successful interpretation program begins before visitors reach the parks. Currently, there is little or no interpretation occurring at any of the parks in the OPABG area, and it is difficult to find quality information about these parks on the web or in travel guides. Without adequate information sources, it is difficult for people to find out about the parks. In addition, it is difficult for people to locate the parks once they learn about them. Currently, there is no directional signage to point potential visitors to the parks, and park entrances are nondescript and difficult to find.

Most existing interpretive information is currently found on the Internet. The website for the Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth programs includes basic park information about all of the parks in the OPABG area. The Centers for Nature Education website includes information for a self-guided walk in Elmwood. Elmwood also has a pamphlet of the woody plants found in the park that was compiled by SUNY-ESF in 1995.

The Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden plan includes an array of interpretive recommendations, and details the use of signs, exhibits and education centers to interpret the OPABG. These education and interpretation centers will make use of existing and historic buildings. The exhibits will be rotated seasonally to reflect the changing weather as well as to maintain interest in visitors year-round. There will also be plenty of directional signs located on the main roads so that it will be easy to find the parks. Improving directional signage should greatly increase attendance at the parks. Also, the use of the greenhouse in Lower Onondaga Park and the fire barn in Upper Onondaga Park as a grow-out station and interpretive center, respectively, will offer many opportunities for hands-on interpretation. The plan focuses on interpretive signage as one of its main tools to educate the public. An example of this occurs along the proposed Onondaga Promenade which will connect the various parks. The plan calls for interpretive signs and stops which detail cold-hardiness and salt-tolerance in urban trees.

There are also some concerns with the interpretation as described in the OPABG plan. One such example concerns the themes for the exhibits. These themes have been chosen to reflect the stakeholders' and financial backers' interests; the connection between these exhibits may be unclear to visitors. All interpretation should be focused on a common and meaningful theme chosen before trail and park design occurs. The interpretive stops are designed to relate to and reinforce this overall theme. The interpretation of the OPABG needs to have one unifying theme that unites different parks, different cultures, different backgrounds, and different areas of the city. A disjointed interpretive program will not serve this purpose, and may actually reinforce and seemingly support the separation that currently exists between the different communities in the OPABG area.

Moreover, the addition of tours, guided or otherwise, is needed in the OPABG plan. Without tours or self-guided tour pamphlets, it will be difficult for park visitors to find all of the exhibits spread throughout the park. Guided tours in particular are one way of getting local people involved in the park and, therefore, in their community. Funding for

staff in the park may be limited; guides will likely be volunteers. Tour guide positions could be open to students in the community who need volunteer hours to fulfill school requirements or to elder and retired people who would just like to have something to do. This would be a great way to connect the community to the park. Guidebooks and a website also need to be considered for the OPABG.

FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

Upper Onondaga Park

The current parking facilities need to be expanded to create better access to Upper Onondaga Park. It is necessary to clean Hiawatha Lake more regularly and treat the water for the overgrowth of algae. Both the lagoon and reflection pool need to be restored to working order. The firehouse needs to be restored and reopened as a part of the Botanical Garden Plan.

Table 2. Facility assessment of Upper Onondaga Park

Parking	No lined spots to park. Small parking are at overlook has approximately 7 spots. Parking along the edge of park is available.
Benches/Picnic Tables/Trash Cans	34 benches. 10 picnic tables. 8 trash cans.
Playground	Wooden play sets, wood chip substrate. 4 toddler swings, and 6 normal swings. 4 slides. Climbing areas. 8 benches. 2 trash cans.
Trails	Paved walkways around/through park for pedestrians.
Buildings	Bathhouse, in use in summer. Firehouse, and corresponding pump house. Both boarded up and unused.
Pavilions	One. Contains 4 picnic tables, and 2 trash cans.
Pool, Bathhouse	50-meter long outdoor pool. 6 lanes. Bather capacity: 352 people.
Sports Areas	1 Pool, 8 tennis courts, 3 full court basketball courts.
Historical Features	Hiawatha Lake and lagoon constructed in 1911. Historic stonework. Reflection pool and lagoon (both filled with grass), stone bridge over the connecting ponds. Band gazebo and firehouse also of historic interest.
Other Features	Hiawatha Lake, with overlooking gazebo. Scenic overlook. 6 swings (4 toddler) separate from play area. 2 water fountains. 2 “doggie bag” stands (both empty).

Lower Onondaga Park

The current parking lot needs to be repaved and lined. Additional parking facilities need to be established. The greenhouse needs to be renovated to be more aesthetically pleasing. Some of the play area equipment needs to be updated. The stone pond needs to be restored to working order.

Table 3. Facility assessment of Lower Onondaga Park

Parking	Paved lot behind greenhouse. Unmarked spots, approximate capacity: 30 cars.
Benches/ Picnic Tables/Trash Cans	No benches or picnic tables. 2 trash cans.
Playground	Wooden and metal structures. Swings: 2 tire, 4 toddler, and 5 regular. 2 slides. 3 “seesaw animals”. Wooden structures: 2 climbing areas, see-saw. Water fountain, trash can.
Buildings	Working greenhouse
Sports Areas	1 Baseball field, 2 grandstands with 5 tiers each.
Historical Features	Historical stonework. Stone archway, staircase, and bowtie-shaped shallow pond. Pond empty, bottom paved with asphalt.

Elmwood Park

The front gravel parking area needs to be paved and lined. Mill building needs to be renovated and reopened. All historical stonework needs to be fortified to sustain the increased traffic of future use. It is important that the staircases to the ridge trail be repaired for safety standards. Both trails need to have trail boundaries established and a new substrate other than compacted earth. This will help lessen the compaction and erosion of soil, while discouraging the making of informal trails.

Table 4. Facility assessment of Elmwood Park.

Parking	Gravel lot in front, approximately 10 spots; parking area along main park road, paved, lined lots with 12 spaces, 1 handicapped.
Benches/Picnic Tables/Trash Cans	5 benches in park, 2 picnic tables, 6 trash cans throughout park.
Playground	Plastic and metal. Wood chipped substrate. 6 swings, 4 slides, climbing areas. Water fountain. Flagpole without flag.
Trails	1 gravel, dirt footpath leading length of park. Established dirt trail on the ridge, also running length of park. 7 staircases up to forest trail. Back 1/3 of paved driveway blocked off for pedestrian use.
Buildings	Historic mill building, boarded up and unused.
Pavilions	One in middle of park. 2 picnic tables, no trash cans.
Sports Areas	Metal volleyball poles by pavilion. Little league baseball field. Benches for both teams, 1 grandstand with 3 tiers.
Historical Features	Historical Stonework, dating back to 1931-41. Two of four bridges crossing Furnace Brook are original stone. Brook is lined with stonework. Also lining portions of trail and ascending stairways. Stone Mill dates to 1848.
Other Features	2 water fountains.

Kirk Park

The Tourist Camp building needs to be renovated and reopened. A better parking facility at this end of the park also needs to be established.

Table 5. Facility assessment of Kirk Park

Parking	4 lots. 3 paved. Near basketball court: 26 spaces, no handicapped. Near football stadium: unlined, approximately 30. Near community center: 32 spaces, 1 handicapped. Small parking area by Tourist Camp building, unmarked and unpaved. Approximately 2-3 spots.
Benches/Picnic Tables/Trash Cans	No picnic tables or benches. 8 trash cans.
Trails	Stone trail linking two sides of the park. Includes bridge over Onondaga Creek.
Buildings	Tourist Camp building, unused and boarded up. Bathhouse, Seals Community center.
Pavilions	Roof over 2 of the basketball courts.
Pool	The pool is a 25-yard long, nine-lane outdoor pool. Handicapped accessible ramp. Bather capacity: 464 people.
Sports Areas	3 basketball courts, 9 tennis courts, football practice field. Football stadium: grandstand with 10 tiers, handicapped accessible, and scoreboard. 2 softball diamonds.
Historical Features	Tourist Camp building, stonework in upper Kirk Park area.

Corcoran High School Property

The missing bridges need to be installed, completing the trail. Benches and at least one trash can needs to be installed.

Table 6. Facility assessment of Corcoran High School Property

Parking	Pull off from road, enough for 2 cars.
Benches/Picnic Tables/Trash Cans	No benches, picnic tables or trash cans.
Trails	Circular trail through woods, wood chip substrate. Lacking bridges across streams.

Woodland Reservoir Property

A definite trail path with wood edging and a gravel substrate needs to be installed to avoid compaction and erosion of current dirt path and improve appearance of path. An informal trail exists adjacent to fence surrounding reservoir.

Table 7. Facility assessment of Woodland Reservoir Property

Parking	Small, unmarked lot off street. Approximately 5 spaces.
Trails	Loop trail around reservoir pond. Packed earth substrate. Elevated trail near fence: install stairs for easier access from parking area.
Buildings	Reservoir buildings owned and used by Syracuse Department of water.
Historical Features	Original 1894 buildings.
Other	Overlook of city and reservoir itself; one “doggie bag” stand.

Strathmore Neighborhood

Some sidewalks need to be repaired. Bushes that are overgrowing sidewalks need to be trimmed back to allow for safe passage. Benches could also be installed throughout the neighborhood.

Table 8. Facility assessment of Strathmore Neighborhood

Parking	Parking along streets of neighborhood.
Trails	Self-guided walking trail through neighborhood. Cement sidewalk.
Buildings	Homes of Syracuse residents.
Historical Features	Neighborhood listed on the National Historic Register. Many are mid-20 th Century residential homes.

TRANSPORTATION ASSESSMENT

The City of Syracuse plays an important role in transportation in Central New York. Two interstate highways, I-81 and I-90, intersect just north of the city. The Erie Canal, a branch of the New York State Canal System, passes just north of Syracuse and provides a means for boat travel from the Atlantic coast to the Great Lakes. Onondaga Lake connects the canal to Syracuse's Inner Harbor area. The city is also home to the regional transportation center, located on the north side of the city. Transportation tenants in the new center include major bus and train companies. Hancock International Airport is the major airport in the region. Ground, water, and air transportation highlight the importance of the City of Syracuse to the transportation network of Central New York.

Travel to Syracuse from other locations

Bus Service. In the Syracuse area, a number of service providers can be utilized for transportation. Greyhound is the main service provider. A Greyhound hub is located at the north side of the city at the regional transportation center which is a major stop for long distance travel. Adirondack Trailways is another service provider that operates throughout New York State and into Canada, including Toronto and Montreal. Contact information: (315) 472-4421 or (315) 472-5338.

Railroad. Amtrak is the nationwide rail travel service in Syracuse, with eight daily departures. Amtrak arrives at and departs from the Regional Transportation Center located on the northern side of the City of Syracuse. For more information: (800) USA-RAIL; www.amtrak.com.

Air Transportation. Syracuse Hancock International Airport, located on I-81 north of the City of Syracuse, is served by five major domestic airlines (US Airways, Northwest Airlines, JetBlue Airways, and Delta Airlines), seven regional and commuter airlines such (Commutair, American Eagle, Comair, Continental Express, United Express, TransMeridian Airlines, and US Airways Express), six air cargo carriers (Airborne Express, Business Air/Air Now, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, the United State Postal Service, and Wiggins Airways), two fixed based operators (Syracuse ExecAir Services, Inc., and Piedmonte Hawthorne Aviation), and charter services. Nearly 200 passenger flights arrive and depart daily. For more information: (315) 454-4330; www.syraairport.org.

Automobile use. Syracuse is located at a major crossroads—the intersection of I-81 and I-90. I-81 is a major north-south highway which provides straight nonstop travel between the Canadian border and the southern United States. I-90, the New York State thruway, is the east-west connection between New York State and Massachusetts. Moreover, two other major highways, Routes 690 and 481, run east-west and north-south. US Route 11, and State Route 5, 92, 173, 175, and 298 can be found within the city's boundary. It takes 20 minutes or less to drive anywhere in the city, and to most surrounding suburban destinations. A number of car rental services can be found at Hancock International Airport and at various other places throughout the city.

Water Transportation. Syracuse is adjacent to the Erie Canal and other segments of the New York State Canal System. The canal system allows boaters to travel from Syracuse to Lake Ontario, other Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Seaway, the Atlantic Ocean, Buffalo, and New York City. Several cruise lines operate on this canal system.

Visitor Information. There are several resources for more visitor information.

- The Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau
572 S. Salina St.
(800) 234-4797 or (315) 470-1910
www.visitsyracuse.org
- The Syracuse Urban Cultural Park Visitor Center
318 Erie Blvd. E (within Erie Canal Museum)
(315) 471-0593
Guided tours of downtown are offered for \$2.

Travel to Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden

There are several ways to travel to the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden sites within the city of Syracuse.

Automobile. The Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden sites are very accessible by automobiles. There are several parking lots surrounding the parks as well as many access roads that allow visitors to travel around the parks. Parking in the area is limited except for a few small parking lots. Visitors are mostly expected to park on the sides of streets and service roads.

Bicycle. Many city streets in the area bicycle-friendly; however, without proper markings, there are some safety concerns. The City of Syracuse has put out a map of the suggested bicycle routes in the area called “The Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area Bike Map”. This map is free and shows the suitability of roads for biking on a rating scale from Poor to Excellent. Throughout the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden, several service routes can be used for bicycling. Unfortunately, these routes are not found on the Bike Map.

Local Bus Service. Centro Bus is the provider of local bus service. There are about 50 bus routes for commuters within the Syracuse metropolitan area. Several stops are located in and around the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and most of them are by the main entrance on South Avenue. To help visitors plan their trip to the park, a more detailed bus schedule and bus routes can be found at www.centro.org.

Pedestrian Use. The majority of roads (i.e., 95% to 97%) in Syracuse are designed with sidewalks on at least one side which makes it safer and easier to walk around the city. The Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden contains trails hiking or jogging. However, in this area, due to the lack of sidewalks, pedestrian safety is still a concern.

Directional Signage. Signage directing visitors to the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden is lacking. Even with existing signage, it is difficult to follow signs to the destinations because of missing signs at important intersections. There are no signs pertaining to the parks at any exit off I-81, I-90, I-690, I-481, or other major routes in the Syracuse area.

Concerns Related to Transportation.

- There are no travel connections between Upper and Lower Onondaga Park, and Kirk Park and Elmwood Park.
- Biking is a major concern in and around the park. The lack of designated bicycle lanes on all routes throughout the park make it necessary for bicyclists to share the roadway with motor vehicles, creating a potentially dangerous situation for bicyclists.
- It is crucial to maintain the quality of existing sidewalks especially in the winter due to icy conditions.
- Except for the signs at the entrances of the parks, there are no signs to indicate to visitors the location of the parks.
- In many areas in the parks, pedestrians have to share the roads with motor vehicles and bicycles due to the lack of sidewalks and paths. This situation can become a serious hazard to pedestrians' safety.

COMMERCIAL RECREATION AND TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS

Input from business owners around the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden is needed to form a bridge between the OPABG and the surrounding community businesses. The vast diversity of restaurants in the area has the potential to enhance the experience of OPABG visitors, just as the OPABG has the potential to increase the profitability of local businesses. Tables 9, 10, and 11 list local businesses in the OPABG area.

Table 9. Restaurants in the OPABG area

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Wan Fa Restaurant	2707 S. Salina St. Syracuse, NY	(315) 422-1110	Chinese	All
Whaley's Barbecue Smokehouse	1610 South Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315) 471-3038	Barbeque	All
Char-Walls Steak & Ribs	1833 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 474-1059	American	All
Swallows	1914 South Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-9292	American	All
China Wok	4841 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 469-8000	Chinese	All
Gannons Isle	4800 McDonald Rd Syracuse, NY	(315) 475-1250	Ice Cream Parlor	Family
B&B Lounge	310 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-9670	American	All
Jamaica Lick Finger Restaurant	686 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 476-5850	Jamaican	All
Jerk Hut Restaurant	440 South Avenue Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-5303	Casual	All
Kelley's Bar & Restaurant	5076 Velasko Rd Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-6773	Bar & Grill	Adults
Kentucky Fried Chicken	1524 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315) 472-4441	Fast Food	All
Maloney's Superette	405 Stolp Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 424-4906	Delicatessen	All
New Long Cheng	1007 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315) 479-7222	Chinese	All

Table 9 (continued). Restaurants in the OPABG area

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
New Wan Fa Restaurant	2707 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315) 422-1110	Chinese	All
Pizzaz Pizza Inc	1916 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 422-1033	Pizza	All
Thomas' Kitchen	2311 S. Salina Street Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-1255	Soul-food	All
T-House Restaurant	702 Summit Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-9707	American	All
Tippin-In Lounge	227 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 478-9011	Bar & Grill	Adults
Thelma's Kitchen	200 Linkoln Ave Syracuse, NY	(315) 474-3970	American	All
Velasko Pizzeria & Deli	4800 McDonald Rd Syracuse, NY	(315) 476-3455	Pizza	All
La Pizzeria	2419 S. Salina Street Syracuse, NY	(315) 472-2222	Pizza	All
Sabatino's Geddes St.	1000 S. Geddes Street	(315) 472-1111	Pizza	All
Seniora Pizza	933 S Geddes Street	(315) 478-4976	Pizza	All

Table 10. Overnight accommodations near the OPABG.

Type of accommodation	Business name	Address	Phone	# of rooms	User type
Hotel / Motel	Hawthorne Suites Armory Square	416 S. Clinton St. Syracuse, NY 13202	(315) 425-0500	61	Business
	The Hotel Syracuse	500 S. Warren St. Syracuse, NY 13202	(315) 422-5121	456	Business
	Budget Inn	4406 S. Salina St. Syracuse, NY 13205	(315) 492-1714	25	Family
Bed and Breakfast	Bed and Breakfast at Giddings Garden	290 W. Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, NY 13207	(800) 377-3452	4	Couples

Table 11. Tourism and recreation service providers in the City of Syracuse.

Type of business	Business	Address	Phone	User type
Outdoor gear providers	De Julio's Army & Navy Store	666 Burnet Avenue Syracuse, NY 13203	(315) 479-8170	Family
	Eastern Mountain Sports	Carousel Centre Syracuse, NY 13290	(315) 466-1026	Family
Bike shops	Bicycle Alley	120 Julian Place Syracuse, NY	(315) 449-3955	Family
	Bicycle's On The Ridge	2714 Erie Blvd E Syracuse, NY 13212	(315) 446-6816	Family
	Advance Cyclery	118 Seeley Rd. Syracuse, NY	(315) 449-2453	Family
Skate shops/rinks	Empire In Line	1608 S. Geddes Street Syracuse, NY	(315) 422-9164	Unknown

MARKETING ASSESSMENT

The marketing assessment of the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden is based on observation of visitors to Upper Onondaga Park and interviews of staff in several arboretums and botanical gardens near Syracuse. Information about the age groups, number of people in age groups, and activities in which they were engaged are documented. Interviews with staff of several arboretums in New York State provide information about visitor composition, average duration for visits, and location of residence of visitors.

Visitor Observations

The pie charts below (Figures 1 and 2) illustrate visitor observations made at Upper Onondaga Park on Sunday, November 13th from 11:30am-1:00pm. There were 76 visitors during the two-hour observation period. Most of the visitors were family groups. Playground use and dog walking were the most common activities. Most users walked to the park based on the observed lack of cars.

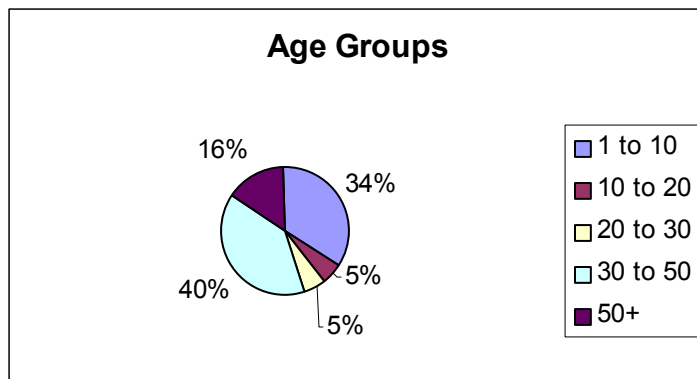


Figure 1. Age groups of visitors observed in Upper Onondaga Park.

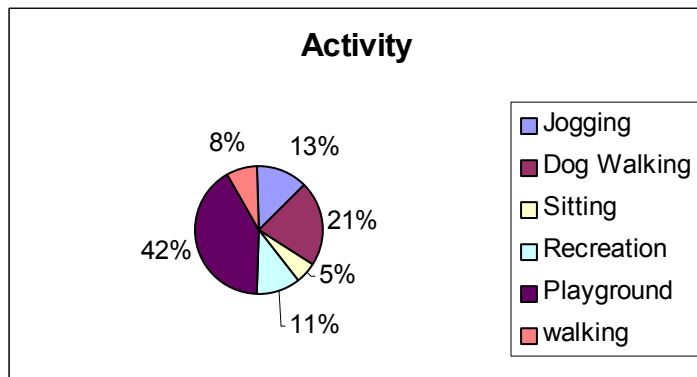


Figure 2. Activities in which visitors were engaged as observed in Upper Onondaga Park.

Arboretum Staff Interviews

Representatives from Buffalo Botanical Gardens, Cornell Plantations, and Sonnenberg Gardens were interviewed.



Figure 3. Map of botanical gardens and arboretums surrounding Syracuse.

Buffalo Botanical Gardens

The Buffalo Botanical Gardens are open year round with an annual visitation of about 51,000 visitors (Table 12). Most of these visitors are from Western New York, but there are also many foreign visitors (likely because of the proximity to Niagara Falls which attracts people from all over the world). The average stay for a visitor is about one hour. The majority of the visitors are seniors.

Table 12. Visitor information of Buffalo Botanical Gardens, Ithaca Plantations, and Sonnenberg Gardens

Name of Garden	Annual visitation	Fees	Age of Visitors	Avg. stay	Length of Season
Buffalo Botanical Gardens	51,000	\$3 - 4	Mostly seniors	1 hour	Year round
Cornell Plantations	150,000 - 200,000	Free	Middle aged; Young adults	1 - 3 hours	Year Round
Sonnenberg Gardens	26,000	\$5 - 10	Middle aged	1.5 - 2 hours	May - Oct.

Cornell Plantations

The Cornell Plantations had the highest amount of annual visitation of the three botanical gardens (Table 12). There are no entrance fees at this attraction. Most of the visitors (44%) come from the Ithaca area. Most of the visitors are middle-aged, but many visitors are also be faculty and students from Cornell as well. Families were the most common group of people to visit. Most families had only one child (57%), while 27% had 2 children.

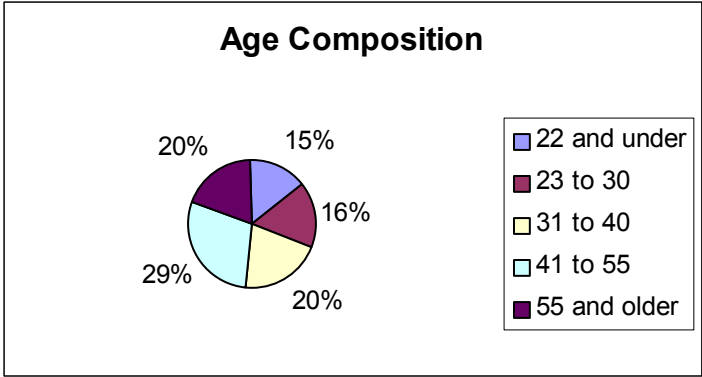


Figure 4. Age composition of visitors of the Cornell Plantations.

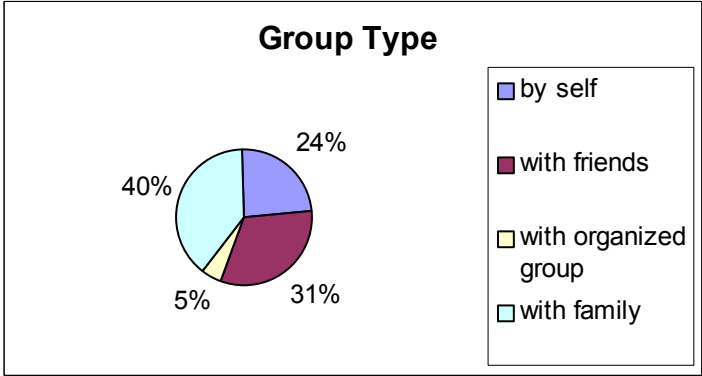


Figure 5. Group types of visitors of the Cornell Plantations.

Sonnenberg Gardens

Sonnenberg Gardens had the lowest visitation, but also has the highest fees. The visitation numbers do not include weddings and special events. It is only open half of the year, with the peak month in August. The majority of visitors come from Rochester; many visitors also come from Canada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New Jersey. Below are data gathered from Sonnenberg Gardens.

Visitor's Locations of Residence

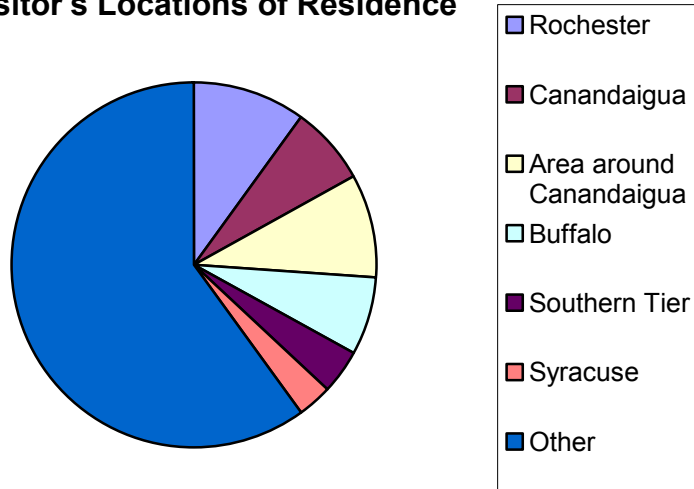


Figure 6. The residency of visitors of Sonnenberg Gardens.

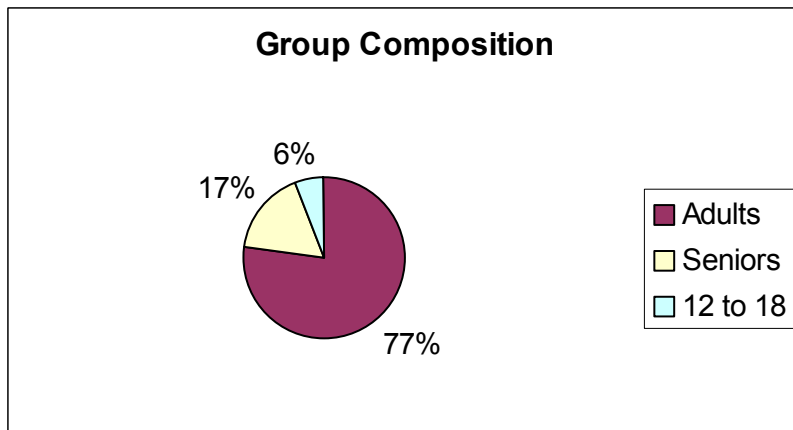


Figure 7. The group composition of visitors of Sonnenberg Gardens.

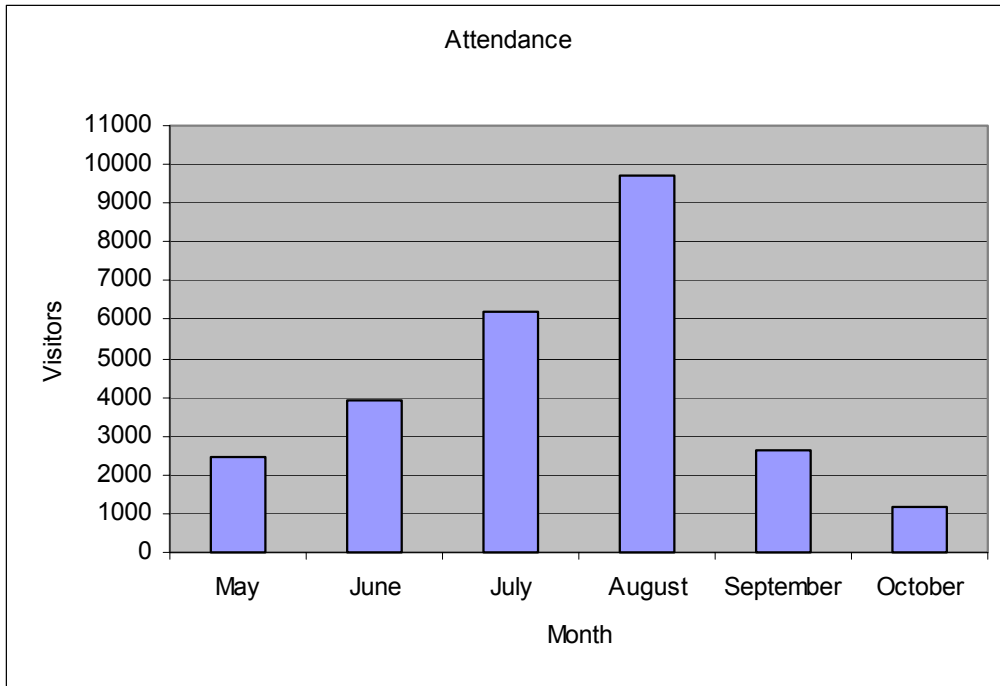


Figure 8. The attendance of visitors of Sonnenberg Gardens.

Conclusion

According to the information collected from several arboretums and botanical gardens near Syracuse, the majority of the visitors for OPABG would likely be coming from Syracuse and Central New York. With proper promotion, it is likely that people passing through Syracuse will also visit. OPABG will attract visitors seeking to relax and enjoy natural beauty. Most visitors would be likely to stay for an hour or two. Without entrance fees, OPABG will attract a range of people since attendance will not be restricted to wealthier people. Visitor composition may be similar to that currently observed in Upper Onondaga Park, with the addition of tourists from areas outside of Syracuse as well.

PROMOTION ASSESSMENT

Visitor Markets

Promotional efforts can and should be focused on a variety of visitor markets. Because the OPABG will not charge admission, it will be easier to draw local residents from Central New York to the area. Promotion should be inclusive of residents of Syracuse to allow locals to form an appreciation and understanding of their local parks. Incorporating local residents of South Side and Strathmore neighborhoods is of vital importance because they could become stewards of the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden. There should also be promotion for the Strathmore neighborhood to draw in history buffs that may be visiting for a day or the weekend. Another possible visitor may include business travelers coming to Syracuse for conventions. There are convention centers throughout Syracuse that are near the proposed Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Festivals and special events similar to the ones downtown every weekend during the summer could attract visitors that wouldn't typically visit the park.

In terms of group composition, there will be a variety of people that visit the park, from individuals to family and school groups. The park will be a nice area for families to have picnics and take their children to play. Individuals will be able to bike, rollerblade, snowshoe, walk, run, or just sit and read in the parks. Garden groups would also be interested in the greenhouse and botanical garden.

Current Promotion

Current promotions are focused on promoting the concept for the OPABG. Local residents using the parks are the most appropriate target for current promotions. Newspaper articles related to the plan have been printed in the Post-Standard. However, more local publication exposure of the plan is needed to make residents of Syracuse more aware of the plan.

Other promotional resources and opportunities exist, especially via the internet. The following are some of the internet sources that were discovered:

Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs

This website is one of the best found and provides information on many of the parks mentioned in this plan (Elmwood, Upper and Lower Onondaga, and Kirk Park). It is an attractive site that provides historical and natural history about the parks. The site is easy to navigate because Syracuse's parks are broken down into three categories including Community, Neighborhood, and Downtown Parks which makes it easy to search the site for a specific park. Locations of the parks are provided but directions to the parks are not. Beautiful, professional pictures are used throughout the site to help promote the parks. Special events such as festivals and community gatherings are posted for people looking for something to do. Community recreation programs are also listed for those interested in getting involved locally. Overall, this seems to be the most comprehensive, attractive, practical, and useful site regarding information provided on the parks.

- <http://www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/index.html>

The City of Syracuse website

This website is really cluttered and not user-friendly. Unfortunately, this is probably the first website that people search before coming to Syracuse because it is so intuitive. Information on the Rosemond Gifford Zoo is provided under the Attractions Menu but no parks are promoted. In order to find any information about the parks in Syracuse, users must access a link under the Departments Menu and then under Parks which takes you to the Parks and Recreation website mentioned above. Under Tourist Attractions, there's a list of links that are suggested for tourists. This is probably the most useful thing on the website; it provides some brief information about Strathmore and Onondaga Park with pictures. The most information provided by the website is actually found under the Neighborhoods Menu. However, visitors would expect to find this kind of information under tourist attractions. People do not tend to search every menu option on a website, so it is important to make it easier for potential visitors to find information on this website. It is often difficult to read some of the text because it is white. This site does not provide any new information to possible visitors, and may be annoying to use.

- <http://www.syracuse.ny.us/#>

Syracuse Then and Now

This is a very informative webpage that is also attractive. It provides detailed information about the history of the Strathmore neighborhood that surrounds Onondaga Park. There are also very nice photographs of the area. Inter-page links are easily found on the webpage connecting users to photos of Onondaga Park. However, one of the photos clearly has litter in it which is not exactly the image that should portray of the park. There are a couple of brief paragraphs about Woodland Reservoir on the page. Information on Elmwood can also be found here. The link to the Onondaga Park Association does not work on this website. Overall, this site is fantastic for those interested in the history and architecture of Syracuse. This site should be promoted more.

- <http://www.syracusethenandnow.net/>

Onondaga Park Association

This link has not worked since this assessment began. This is something that should be remedied soon in order to provide information to the public about Syracuse's natural and historical resources.

- www.onondagapark.org/index.htm

Centers for Nature Education

This website is great for promoting Elmwood Park. Information is provided about a self-guided tour of the park. The photographs of Elmwood attempt to highlight the park's stonework. However, much of the vegetation in the photos is overgrown and unsightly. Although the site incites interest in the park, the pictures provided are not indicative of what the park looks like now. Much of the stonework has been damaged by harsh winter conditions and neglect. The stonework should be restored in order to re-establish some of the park's natural and historical beauty. This site is easy to navigate and provides great information on Elmwood. The site would improve if it extended its reach to other parks included in this plan.

- www.takeahike.org

The Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau

This site is very professional, attractive, and easy to access. Unfortunately, no information on the parks in the plan has been found. Under the “Attractions” category are links to Beaver Lake Nature Center, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Highland Forest, etc., but none to the parks included in this plan. This absence of park information is rather disappointing because it is an attractive website. A link to “I Love NY” was also provided in the top right hand corner of the homepage.

- <http://www.visitsyracuse.org/>

None of the aforementioned sites even mentioned the fact that the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden is being planned. It would be better if some of these websites begin to mention that plans are in place for the OPABG, so people would remember it when planning a day or weekend trip in the future. Although promotion of the park has not begun, it is still meaningful to get people thinking about it. Also, if local residents are anticipating such a park, it would be helpful if they could put pressure on the city to push the plan through as quickly as possible because it will provide an economic boost to the area.

Other Promotional Materials

“I LOVE NY”: Greater Syracuse and Onondaga County Travel Guide

- Provides information on accommodations, recreation, events within Onondaga County, dining, arts, maps, etc.
- Provides information on county and state parks while only mentioning Onondaga Park.
- Published by the Syracuse Convention & Visitors Bureau (a division of the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce).

Bike Maps

- Bike maps of the parks could be useful for park promotion.
- The current bike map of Syracuse, however, indicates a lack of bike lanes/routes throughout the city.

Area Schools

- Corcoran High School: website not working on the internet.
- ESF has some pamphlets out about Elmwood but they are bland and boring. They need to be revised to include better pictures and more creativity.

Conclusion

There are many possibilities for promotion in the future. Currently, there is limited promotion of the individual parks included in the plan. Once the OPABG begins to take shape, it will be easier to begin promoting the area to visitors. There are many promotional possibilities that exist with local community groups, local schools, and Syracuse websites. Many repairs and modifications need to take place before the promotion of the OPABG seriously begins. Overall, there is great potential for successful promotion.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Assessment of the Emergency Services indicates an abundant number of services already in Syracuse in relative proximity to the proposed Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden area. The major service for emergency assistance is 911, which is available throughout the city anytime or day of the week. The following are other services available:

Police Department:

- 511 State St. (Main Office)
- Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance): 911
- Non-emergency: (315) 442-5111
- DARE: (315) 442-5216
- Domestic Violence Hotline: (315) 442-5332
- Drug Hotline: (315) 487-8477
- Crime Prevention: (315) 442-5210
- Missing Persons: (315) 442-5233
- Neighborhood Watch: (315) 448-8762
- Youth Enforcement: (315) 442-5233

Community Police Center (Non-Emergencies)

- East
 - 800 E. Genesee St.: (315) 478-0445
 - 716 Hawley Ave.: (315) 472-5058
 - 2450 James St.: (315) 431-0972
 - 473 Westcott St.: (315) 472-0528
- North
 - 500 Butternut St.: (315) 476-4141
 - 255 Wolf St.: (315) 471-3257
- South
 - 4141 S. Salina St.: (315) 492-3080
- West
 - 200 S. Geddes: (315) 474-7442
 - 713 S. Geddes: (315) 478-2871

Fire Department

- Chief's Office, 511 S. State St.: (315) 473-5525
- Reporting a fire: 911
- Non-Emergency: (315) 471-1168
- Fire Station 1 – 900 S. State St.
- Fire Station 2 – 2300 Lodi St.
- Fire Station 3 – 808 Bellevue Ave.
- Fire Station 5 – 110 N. Geddes St.
- Fire Station 6 – S. West St. & Fabius St.
- Fire Station 7 – 1039 E. Fayette St.

- Fire Station 8 – 2412 S Salina St.
- Fire Station 9 – 400 Shuart Ave.
- Fire Station 10 – 2030 E. Genesee St.
- Fire Station 17 – 2317 Burnet Ave.
- Fire Station 18 – 3741 Midland Ave.

East Syracuse (Village)

- Police & Fire Department – 204 North center
 - Emergency Only (Fire and Ambulance): 911
 - Non-Emergency: (315) 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: (315) 437-4687

North Syracuse (Village)

- Police Department – 600 South Bay Rd
 - Non-Emergency: (315) 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: (315) 458-5670
- Fire Department
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance): 911

Hospitals

- Community General Hospital
 - 4900 Broad Road, Syracuse: www.cgh.org
 - Information & Assistance: (315) 492-5011
- Crouse Hospital
 - 736 Irving Ave, Syracuse: www.crouse.org
 - General Assistance: (315) 470-7111
 - Prompt Care: (315) 470-2951
- University Hospital (SUNY Upstate Medical Center)
 - 750 E. Adams St, Syracuse: www.universityhospital.org
 - Information & Assistance: (315) 464-5540
 - Emergency Rooms:
 - Adult: (315) 464-5611
 - Pediatric: (315) 464-5565
- St. Joseph's Hospital
 - 301 Prospect Ave, Syracuse: www.sjhsyr.org
 - General Information: (315) 448-5111
- Four Winds (Psychiatric Health)
 - 650 S. Salina St, Syracuse
 - General Information: (315) 476-2161
- Van Duyn Home & Hospital
 - 5075 W. Seneca Trnpg, Syracuse
 - General Information: (315) 435-5511
- Hutchings Psychiatric Center
 - 620 Madison St, Syracuse
 - General Information: (315) 473-4980

- Veterans Administration Hospital
 - Irving St, Syracuse

Visitor Safety

Visitor Safety is an important consideration for the OPABG project. Some aspects of safety are parking (including handicap parking), pedestrian walkways (sidewalks), bike lanes, and lighting. Also, there are safety concerns with user-to-user conflicts (e.g., automobiles and bikers). Each park has its own safety issues as well. The following is a break down of the safety assessment for each park:

Upper Onondaga Park

- Parking is limited (“no parking on grass” signs).
- Not many sidewalks from entrances, especially at Crosset St. and near some bus stops.
- No bike lanes at all or bike racks.
- Need more lighting. There is no lighting near basketball courts.
- Safety around Hiawatha Lake – railing needs to be enhanced.
- Engine 18 Firehouse building needs to be cleaned up and secured until repairs can be completed.
- Need more Bus Stops around the park and the ones that are there need to be in better locations (i.e., not near stone walls, where visitors have no place to walk except in the road).

Lower Onondaga Park

- Parking limited (“no parking on grass” signs).
- No sidewalks and most walkways are in poor condition.
- No bike lanes and racks.
- Need more lighting.
- Clean and repair the stonework.
- Some playground equipment is in poor condition. The Green House grounds need to be cleaned up and made more appealing.

Kirk Park

- Parking limited – 4 small lots (“no parking on grass” signs).
- Not many sidewalks. No pedestrian entrance to park.
- No bike lanes and bike racks.
- Need more lightning throughout the park.
- Light the footbridge over Onondaga Creek.
- Tourism Building should be tidied up for safety reasons. Litter and glass needs to be cleaned up.

Elmwood Park

- Parking is limited.
- Walkways in the upper wooded area are in poor condition. Stairs are in poor condition and covered in debris.

- No bike lanes or racks.
- Need more lighting around stairs, the ball field, and the parking lots.
- Clean and repair the stone work.
- The Old Mill Building should be secured better until repairs can be made.

Corcoran Property

- Parking area is narrow.
- No lighting.
- Need bridges (still working on this newly created trail system).
- Need a pedestrian crossing from the school to the park.

Strathmore Neighborhood

- Use limited by no parking
- Need better sidewalks in a few locations, especially around the main walking route.
- Need more lighting around the walking route.
- Roadside cleanup (garbage and fall debris) – needs to be done in a more timely fashion near walking route.

Woodland Reservoir

- Parking is limited.
- No lights. Even though the reservoir is closed from dusk to dawn, lights should still be installed over parking area.

Overall, the parks need to be enhanced with regard to safety considerations. Handicap parking is an important issue as well as parking in general. The parks should be as handicap accessible as possible. Pedestrian and road connections between parks need to be safe for our visitors and residents in the area. Walkway and bike path connections needs to be established and properly lighted, along with appropriate signage showing the designated routes. Street crossings need to be put in place. Bus stops should be properly located and lighted.

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The following tables describe the current technical and funding opportunities available for the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Tables 13 through 22 include the names of organizations that can provide technical support or funding, their responsibilities, and their contact information. Organizations were divided into groups based on the technical support or funding opportunities they provide, and type of organization.

Table 13. Government agencies with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Contact
Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council	A quasi-governmental agency that coordinates and facilitates the interaction between agencies in developing transportation plans and programs in Onondaga County and small portions of Oswego and Madison Counties.	www.smtcmppo.org
City of Syracuse Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Youth Services	Management, planning, and promotion of Syracuse City Parks.	www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/index.html
City of Syracuse Division of Neighborhood Planning Commission	Works with neighborhood residents through its Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today, community development block grant, and historic preservation programs.	www.syracuse.ny.us/neighborhoodPlan.asp City Hall Commons 201 E Washington St, Rm 412 Syracuse, NY 13202
City of Syracuse Department of Water	This agency manages the reservoirs within the City of Syracuse, including Woodland Reservoir.	www.syracuse.ny.us/deptWater.asp 101 N. Beech St. Syracuse, NY 13210

Table 14. Educational organizations with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Contact
Cornell Cooperative Extension	Informs and educates public on how to protect natural resources. Coordinates the Community Tree Stewards Program.	www.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga/natres/natres.html

Table 15. Community-based organizations with technical assistance potential

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Contact
Rotary Club	Social Aim organization that supports some specific activities and found some infrastructure at parks.	www.rotary.org
F.O.C.U.S. of Greater Syracuse	Community-wide visioning program. The goals of this organization are categorized into the areas of education, government, health and human services, neighborhoods, downtown, and economic development, recreation, and tourism.	www.focussyracuse.org

Table 16. Nature education organizations with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Contact
Centers for Nature Education	Promotes and informs the public about natural resources, history, and events inside parks.	www.takeahike.org
CANOPY	A coalition of volunteers from Syracuse City park associations and community gardens that advocates for Syracuse’s green spaces.	Lee Gechas 315-446-5319 leegech@dreamscape.com
The Syracuse Garden Club	Members are responsible for several projects that beautify the community. Works with youth and educated the public about gardens.	Starke Donnally 141 Clarke Street Syracuse, NY 13210 Phone: 315-472-2140 fax: 781-823-5946

Table 17. Park and neighborhood organizations with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Contact
Onondaga Park Association	Preserves and enhances Onondaga Park for use by local residents. Sponsors the annual Strathmore-By-The-Park Historic Homes Tour and park clean-ups.	None available
Elmwood Park Neighbors Association	Promotes the improvement of its neighborhood and preservation of Elmwood Park. Also sponsors clean-ups and guided tours.	www.elmwood-park.org 315-391-3535
The Partnership for Onondaga Creek	Promotes awareness of the environmental issues concerning Onondaga Creek.	www.peacecouncil.net/creek/
Syracuse United Neighbors	Works to improve the quality of life on the south and near-west sides of Syracuse.	http://sunnews.blogspot.com /
Greater Strathmore Neighborhood Association	Works to educate the public about the historic architecture of the Strathmore Neighborhood through events and tours, and to preserve historic structures in the area. Organizes an annual Art-on-the-Porches event.	http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/syracuse/greaterstrath /

Table 18. Educational institutions with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Programs/ Activities	Contact
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	Faculty, academic staff, and students are involved in many aspects of tourism planning for the Onondaga Park Botanical Garden. Also hosts a number of student organizations interested in community service.	www.esf.edu www.esf.edu/students/csl/cs.htm
Syracuse University	Promotes, supports, facilitates, and recognizes public and community service.	www.syr.edu http://students.syr.edu/depts/cpcs/
Onondaga Community College	Community college that offers courses on diverse subjects.	www.sunyocc.edu
Le Moyne College	Liberal arts courses are offered to students.	www.lemoyne.edu/index.asp
Syracuse City School District	Numerous schools are near the Onondaga Park area, including the nature trail on the Corcoran high school property.	https://www.astihosted.com/scsddcp/DesktopDefault.aspx

Table 19. Other groups with technical assistance potential.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities/ Previous Projects	Contact
Boy Scouts of America, Hiawatha Seaway Council, Onondaga District	This scouting organization strongly promotes community service, and to a degree, already helps in the parks.	http://home.tweny.rr.com/colliersville/onondaga/
Girl Scouts	A youth organization that promotes community service for girls.	http://www.gscny.org/

Table 20. Organizations related to economic development and tourism businesses that are potential funding sources.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities/ Previous Projects	Contact
Greater Syracuse Economic Growth Council	Group dedicated to economic development in Syracuse.	www.syracusecentral.org
Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce	Provides business assistance and development programs to local businesses. Promotion the Syracuse area through travel guides and an internet site.	www.syracusechamber.org
Entrepreneurial Council	Local support for entrepreneurs.	www.syracuseentrepreneur.com

Table 21. Government organizations that are potential funding sources.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities/ Previous Projects	Contact
U.S. Federal Grant Database	A searchable online database of federal grants.	www.grants.gov
New York State Natural Heritage Trust	Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant: A program for the funding of collections care or special projects at municipal or not-for-profit institutions that house, care for and interpret for the public, systematically organized collections of living things.	http://nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/programs/botanical.asp
City of Syracuse Division of Neighborhood Planning Commission	Works with neighborhood residents through its Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today, community development block grant, and historic preservation programs.	www.syracuse.ny.us/neighborhoodPlan.asp City Hall Commons 201 E Washington St, Rm 412 Syracuse, NY 13202
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service	Currently offering grants for its Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which provides funding to landowners (including city governments) seeking to restore fish and wildlife habitat. This grant could provide a funding opportunity for Onondaga Creek restoration efforts.	www.fws.gov/partners/pdfs/grantsgov06partners.pdf
City of Syracuse Department of Community Development	Provides grants for neighborhood development within the City of Syracuse.	www.syracuse.ny.us/communityDevelopment.asp City Hall Commons 201 E Washington St, Rm 612 Syracuse, NY 13202

Table 22. Non-governmental organizations that are potential funding sources.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities/ Previous Projects	Contact
Preservation Association of Central New York	Dedicated to the conservation of historic architecture, neighborhoods and main streets, and preserving the past by making historical structures a living part of communities in CNY.	www.syracusethenandnow.net or www.pacny.net
The 1772 Foundation	Seeks to preserve and enhance American historical entities for future generations to enjoy with particular interest in farming, industrial development, transportation and unusual historical buildings.	www.1772foundation.org
The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust	The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust invites applications for grants up to \$20,000 for education and research in ornamental horticulture. Not-for-profit botanical gardens, arboreta, and similar institutions are eligible.	Thomas F. Daniel Grants Director, SSHT Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118, USA; e-mail: tdaniel@calacademy.org 415 750-7191.
The Milagro Foundation	Provides grants between \$2,500 and \$5,000 for community-based organizations working with underprivileged children in the areas of art and health education.	www.milagrofoundation.org/apply.asp

Conclusion

There are a number of groups and organizations, from both the private and public sector, which would be able to assist in the creation of the Onondaga Park Botanical Garden and Arboretum. Though there are far more groups willing to provide technical assistance rather than financial backing, technical support is advantageous to the development of the OPABG as well. The large numbers of volunteers willing to help in the parks, and with planning and development is also an important component of proceeding with OPABG effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for the OPABG tourism plan are listed according to goal number and recommendation number (e.g., “1-1” means goal #1- recommendation #1).

Goal #1: To provide to residents and visitors diverse and high quality recreational, educational, and social experiences through the OPABG.

Recommendations:

1-1. Survey the residents of the OPABG area. A survey would determine how residents currently use the parks in the OPABG area, and make it possible to incorporate these uses into the botanical garden design. It is important to build the park to fit visitors’ and residents’ needs. This survey would also give residents the opportunity to suggest possible improvements to the existing facilities, and to provide input into the development of the OPABG early in the planning process. The OPABG project will be most successful with public involvement during every step of the process.

Timeline for completion: Immediate.

1-2. Create political connections between the City of Syracuse and the OPABG. Have representatives from the Park’s department, CANOPY School District, Water Authority, and a few community groups inform the Mayor and other elected officials in the city about the proposed OPABG project, and present plans for the enhancement of parks within the area. Request additional financial support from the City of Syracuse for implementing the OPABG plan.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

1-3. Safety enhancement. Certain safety issues need to be resolved within the parks and other green spaces within the OPABG. Specific areas of interest include:

- fix or replace the playground equipment in Lower Onondaga Park,
- add more railings around Hiawatha Lake between the lake and the Boathouse,
- repair some of the currently existing railings, and
- repair loose stonework in Elmwood.

Timeline for Completion: Within 1 year.

1-4. Stonework Restoration and Replacement. The stonework in the area of the arboretum and botanical garden has great historic value. The stone work was created by the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration & Works Progress Administration (1931-1941). Restoration of the stonework is needed to create a more aesthetically pleasing and safe experience for visitors.

- **Elmwood Park Stonework Restoration:** Since this particular park has the most historically significant stonework it is important that the restoration process start here. The stone mill and the stairways need to be repaired for the safety of the visitors to the area. There are also two stone bridges crossing Furnace Brook that need to be reinforced. In addition to these bridges, there are two more that have been replaced with modern, steel bridges. These modern bridges do not

complement the historical feel of the park, and should be replaced with stonework that compliments the rest of the historical stonework of Elmwood and the park's designation as a National Historic Landscape.

- **Upper Onondaga Park Stonework Restoration and Repair:** The current stonework in this park needs to be restored to enhance the aesthetic value of the waterfalls, ponds, and gardens.
- **Lower Onondaga Park Stonework Restoration and Repair:** Restoration and repair need to be completed on the tourist house, the walkways, the grottos and the fountains in this particular park.

Timeframe for Completion: Within 5 years.

1-5. Enhance Woodland Reservoir trails. There is an existing informal trail at the Woodland Reservoir Property (i.e., the trail adjacent to the reservoir fence). A substrate besides compact earth (e.g., wood chips) should be used on the trail. A staircase needs to be installed for better access to the informal trail from the parking area. However, if proximity to the reservoir fence is not desired by the Syracuse Water Department, techniques should be implemented to remove the informal trail completely (e.g., arboretum style plantings on the slope near the parking area).

Timeline for completion: 1 year.

1-6. Create and/or repair pedestrian and bike entrances into the parks. Improving access to the parks for both pedestrians and bicyclists would help eliminate or significantly reduce user-to-user conflicts between automobilists and walkers/bikers for a safer environment. Specific areas for improving sidewalks include:

- create entrances at Upper Onondaga Park, especially at Crosset St., Lower Onondaga Park, and Kirk Park,
- enhance the walkways at Elmwood Park,
- repair damaged sidewalks in Strathmore Neighborhood, and
- add a crosswalk across South Ave. from Upper to Lower Onondaga Park.

Timeline for Completion: 2-4 years.

1-7. Create and enhance picnic areas. There are several locations in the proposed Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden that could be used for picnic areas. These are located near the playground in Elmwood Park, at the top of the drumlin in Upper Onondaga Park, and near the tourist home in Lower Onondaga Park.

Timeframe for Completion: 1-2 years with continued maintenance throughout the life of the area.

1-8. Restore firehouse, stone mill, and tourist house into educational and/or visitor centers. These abandoned buildings are being considered for restoration because of their historical significance to the parks. Plans exist to convert the firehouse and mill building into educational centers. Some suggestions are:

- **Create cultural exhibits in the Firehouse.** Within the proposed educational center at the firehouse, include exhibits on the culture and heritage of the different ethnicities and neighborhoods in the area of the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden.

- **Convert the Tourist Home into a Visitor Center.** The tourist home could be used as a visitor rest room facility and tourism information center. This building could be an important distribution point for information about Syracuse attractions as well as nearby businesses.

Timeframe for Completion: 2-5 years.

1-9. Lighting enhancement. Add or increase lighting in high use areas and travel routes within the parks and other green spaces within the OPABG for visitor safety. Specific locations include:

- Corcoran property parking area,
- basketball courts at Upper Onondaga Park,
- along walkways at Lower Onondaga and Kirk Park (over Onondaga Creek) along with the main walkway at Elmwood, and
- along all travel routes particularly in Strathmore Neighborhood and main parking areas at all parks and green spaces within the OPABG.

Timeline for Completion: 2-4 years.

1-10. Improve and expand parking. The current parking situation within the parks of Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden area is not sufficient to support increased use. Some existing lots need to be re-paved and lined, and additional parking facilities need to be incorporated into the parks. The following is a list of improvements that need to be made to handle increased use.

- Lined parallel parking spots should be designated along the length of the circular street running through Upper Onondaga Park. Implementing orderly parking here will serve two purposes. First, it will ensure that the greatest number of people will be able to park along this road. Second, it will promote awareness to pedestrians, especially out of town visitors, that cars use this road as well.
- Repave and reline the existing lot by the Greenhouses at Lower Onondaga Park. The asphalt in this lot is in poor condition and needs to be repaved for any further use. Lines need to be painted to promote the maximum number of vehicles that can park in this space. In addition, a sign needs to be posted clearly stating the current use of the lot (i.e., as parking for Upper Onondaga Park).
- Acquire a new lot for additional parking at Lower Onondaga Park to help alleviate some parking dilemmas. In the current OPABG plan, it is anticipated that the acquisition of Elmwood Tire on South Street will contribute another parking lot for the area. A sign needs to be posted at this lot after its completion, indicating its use for OPABG patrons.
- Pave and line the existing gravel parking lot in Elmwood Park. Lines need to be painted to promote the maximum number of vehicles that can park in this space.
- When the Tourist Home building in Lower Onondaga Park becomes open again for public use, parking spaces will need to be clearly defined adjacent to it.

Timeline for completion: Two years.

1-11. Develop parking area kiosks. It would be useful to put kiosks (containing a map, some background information (such as the park's history or plant life), and photos) at parking areas within the OPABG area to greet visitors. Kiosks should contain a limited

amount of text, and identify trails and walkways within the parks. Another function of these kiosks will be to connect the various parks into one contiguous corridor within the OPABG. The map on the kiosks should show the location of all of the parks within the OPABG, as well as highlight the park that the visitor is currently visiting. For example, Woodland Reservoir could have a kiosk at the parking lot that provides information about the Syracuse reservoir system.

Timeline for completion: 5 years.

1-12. Develop self-guided interpretive materials for OPABG. A guidebook interpreting the history and flora of the OPABG should be developed. In addition, interpretive signs located at each of the specific gardens within the OPABG should be designed and installed. Signs should be made as vandalism resistant as possible.

1-13. Restoration of Onondaga Creek. This recommendation has already been proposed by SUNY ESF. The restoration of the Onondaga Creek would make access to this resource once again possible for nature study, non-motorized boating, and fishing. Onondaga Creek is an important recreational and natural resource in the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden area and should be restored. In order for fishing to be a recreational opportunity in the Onondaga Creek, storm-water runoff problems must be corrected.

Timeframe for Completion: 10 + years.

Goal #2: To increase resident and visitor use of the OPABG as a mechanism for increasing financial and local support for the OPABG.

Recommendations:

2-1. Form a 501(c)(3) organization. In order for the OPABG to apply for grants and utilize funding from membership sources, it will need to establish a not-for-profit corporation in New York State with federal and state tax exempt status. The membership base should include local residents, business owners, local organizations, government agencies, and other stakeholders. The organization would foster public support, keep the community involved, seek donations, and increase OPABG promotions.

Timeline for completion: 1-2 years.

2-2. Continue to pursue state, local, national, and private grants. Thorough investigation of the grant programs available from both government and private sources needs to be done. Two specific areas to investigate are grants for historical preservation and grants for botanical gardens. Because of the rich history of the parks, it may be possible to obtain a grant to fund the rehabilitation of the historic stonework found in Elmwood and Upper Onondaga Park. Also, certain facets of the Botanical Garden and Arboretum can be funded by grants set aside for the creation of these attractions.

Timeline for Completion: 6 months.

2-3. Improve existing websites about the parks and create a website specifically for OPABG. Existing websites mention many of the parks individually. However, none of these websites mention the OPABG specifically. Also, some of the websites are difficult to navigate for information on the parks. Some of the photographs used in the promotion of the parks do not depict the park as a beautiful place to visit (e.g., overgrown weeds on stone stairs in Elmwood are shown). It is important that the OPABG has a website created specifically for it. The arboretum will be unlike anything else that Syracuse has to offer and it should be promoted accordingly. Other websites that promote parks (mentioned in the Assessment Report) should provide a link on their page to the OPABG website, as well. It is important that the website be created immediately to highlight ongoing efforts to create the OPABG and to obtain local support. Following completion of the OPABG, the website would be used for promotional and educational purposes.

Timeline for completion: Immediate

2-4. Increase local support through partnership development. Partnerships fostering a sense of community and stewardship will create tremendous support for the OPABG. Some groups recommended for partnerships are:

- **Area schools and universities.** Creating an open invitation to local schools and universities to use the parks in the OPABG area will help increase awareness of the park and its use. For instance, schools could sponsor field trips to the parks to learn about local history and local flora and fauna. Also, schools could hold field days and events at the park to promote the OPABG.
- **Local businesses.** Area businesses such as bike rentals, snowshoe rentals, restaurants, and book shops could help promote the park by carrying pamphlets, brochures, and bike/pedestrian maps of the OPABG.

- **Nature Centers.** Collaborating with area nature centers like Beaver Lake and Baltimore Woods would attract local residents that are interested in nature education. Having promotional materials at these locations will increase visitor use, of the parks in the OPABG area. Conversely, the proposed education center at the OPABG would carry promotional material for the nature centers.

Timeline for completion: Immediate

2-5. *Expand programs within parks.* Establish a number of programs within the parks to draw in visitors from all demographics. Programs could include conventional park activities (i.e. sports event), in addition to environmental education events, and various festivals. New programs will create awareness of the park's condition and could motivate users to come to the park more often and inspire them to help the park reach its full potential. Community groups should be strongly encouraged to utilize the parks for events and festivals. Promotion of the OPABG concept should be presented at all events through displays and presentations.

Timeline for Completion: 1 year.

Goal #3: To increase involvement by schools and neighborhood residents in the OPABG in order to foster stewardship, appreciation, and protection of park resources.

Recommendations:

3-1. Creation of a OPABG Youth Conservation Corps. A Youth Conservation corps would provide valuable hands-on training to high school and college students in natural resource management issues. The Corps would be modeled after the Parks Conservation Corps of the NYC Parks Department. This youth group consists of college-aged leaders who come from environmental science backgrounds and high school-aged team members. This program could be housed in the firehouse and would need storage space for tools, and funding for restoration projects. Leadership could be provided by ESF students. This program also draws inspiration from the Prospect Park Woodlands Youth Crew. (<http://prospectpark.org/help/main.cfm?target=youthemployment#woodlands>). This group should be organized immediately as there are many suitable tasks in the OPABG area, and helping in the planting of the OPABG would provide a great learning experience.

Timeline for completion: Immediately.

3-2. Provide diverse opportunities for volunteer service. There may be volunteers who want to assist with the creation of the park and who have important skills to offer. Given the small staff of the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs and the monumental task of making the OPABG a reality, it would only make sense to seek out groups or individuals that can offer assistance when appropriate.

Examples include:

- Work with Centers for Nature Education to develop interpretative information.
- Utilize local colleges and the knowledge contained within the faculty and student bodies.
- Work with CANOPY to organize the many volunteers willing to assist in the park.
- Work in coordination with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council to create linkages between parks.
- Create a list of projects that could be undertaken by Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other youth groups, and work closely with these groups.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

3-3. Explore alternative sources of labor Prisoners in the Onondaga County Department of Corrections already assist in other local parks (Onondaga Lake Park), and could be used to pick up trash and assist with other types of manual labor. Also, area youths sentenced to community service time could be another potential source for technical support, such as building and grounds maintenance. Coordination between the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs, the Justice Department, and the Onondaga County Board of Corrections could be useful to the success of this project.

Timeline for Completion: 6 months

3-4. Hold a “Name the arboretum” contest. Local school groups could be invited to participate in a contest to select an attractive name for the OPABG. A shorter name more suitable for tourism promotion will be needed to affectively attract visitors.

Timeline for Completion: 1 year.

3-5. Create teaching materials for K-12 local schools. Create teaching materials that integrate park resources with current school curricula. For example, classes about plants or local history could be taught during field trips to the parks. The learning materials should include activities that can be carried out in-class as well as during fieldtrips.

Timeline for completion: 2-5 years.

Goal #4: To boost the local economy to surrounding neighborhoods by increasing resident and visitor expenditures to park concessions, festival vendors, and neighborhood businesses.

Recommendations:

4-1. Marketing the OPABG

Marketing of the OPABG to visitors should begin before the OPABG officially opens. Opening events at the OPABG should be organized and promoted widely. The following market groups should be the focus of marketing efforts.

- **Seniors, families, and couples.** In order to attract residents and visitors, marketing should be directed towards seniors, family groups, and couples who reside both locally as well as in areas adjacent to Syracuse.
- **Students.** Students of local K-12 schools will be an important market for OPABG programs. By participating in OPABG fieldtrips, students will also be likely to bring their families back to the OPABG.
- **Convention attendees.** The proximity of the OPABG make it a feasible excursion for convention attendees at the ONCenter.
- **Residents of nearby cities.** The region east of Syracuse towards Utica and Albany lacks arboretums and botanical gardens. Marketing to Binghamton will also attract visitors (the Cornell Plantations is similar travel distance from Binghamton). The OPABG is likely to attract visitors from Rochester as well.

Timeline for completion: Just prior to completion of OPABG and ongoing.

4-2. Promoting the OPABG. It is important that people visiting Syracuse know about the OPABG. Therefore, several promotional techniques are recommended:

- Advertising the OPABG in travel guides for Syracuse and New York State.
- Promoting at the Carousel Mall may be helpful, since the mall is one of Syracuse's largest attractions regionally. Promotional displays on mall directories should be considered.
- Short TV and radio ads should be considered in Central New York and large media areas adjacent to Syracuse (e.g., Rochester and Binghamton).
- OPABG brochures should be placed at visitor information centers along the New York State Thruway and Interstate 81.

Timeline for completion: Following completion of the OPABG

4-3. Establish an OPABG Business Network. A list of local businesses that contribute to the creation and upkeep of the Arboretum could be put on all future OPABG brochures and other promotional media. Network members could also be given preferential treatment at OPABG festivals and activities.

Timeline for Completion: 1 year.

4-4. Invite local businesses to participate in festivals and events at the OPABG. Local businesses should be an integral part of all OPABG festivals and events. Local businesses should also be offered concessionaire opportunities within the OPABG visitor center.

Timeline for completion: Following completion of the OPABG

Goal #5: To integrate the OPABG concept into surrounding neighborhoods through community-sponsored beautification efforts that boost community pride and enhance community linkages with the parks in the OPABG area.

Recommendations:

5-1. *Reinvigorate the Onondaga Park Association.* The neighborhood association that once led the charge for the Arboretum is less motivated than it used to be. Inform leaders of the association that new efforts are being made to make the Arboretum a reality, and request assistance from the Association for arboretum development efforts.

Timeline for completion: Immediately.

5-2. *Sponsor community clean-up projects.* By giving community members a chance to change the conditions of the parks within the OPABG area and surrounding neighborhoods, they will have a stronger sense of stewardship and protection for park resources. Local park associations could provide much of the technical assistance.

Timeline for completion: Immediately.

5-3. *Launch media campaign.* The City and interested community groups can distribute press releases, stage news conferences, or utilize other forms of media coverage to inform Syracuse area residents of the OPABG's goals, progress towards development, and the types of volunteer assistance it needs. This campaign should emphasize the accomplishments of volunteers and stress the need for more technical support.

Timeline for Completion: Immediately.

5-4. *Expand city-wide planting efforts.* Integrate the arboretum concept throughout the City of Syracuse through neighborhood plantings and other landscape enhancement efforts (e.g., CommuniTree project and gardening clubs). This type of effort would transform Syracuse into a "garden city", making it more attractive to visitors and convention attendees. Planting efforts should first focus on neighborhoods surrounding the OPABG area, and then spread out into other Syracuse neighborhoods.

Timeline for completion: 1-5 years.

5-5. *Make the Strathmore Neighborhood a tour-friendly extension of the OPABG.* Because of its proximity to the OPABG and its historic architecture, the Strathmore neighborhood could be an important extension of the OPABG. Efforts should be made to ensure that this neighborhood is accessible by all visitors. Sidewalks that are impassable by strollers and wheelchairs need to be repaired. Overgrown bushes and hedges that impede walking on the sidewalks need to be trimmed back. A compromise between the residents of Strathmore and the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs needs to be reached to decide if two to three benches could be placed throughout the neighborhood.

Timeline for completion: Two years.

5-6. *Create a guided tour of Strathmore.* For people interested in history, a guided tour of the Strathmore neighborhood would be perfect. Residents or interns (from the education center or local colleges) could guide the tours that would end in the proposed

OPABG restaurant for refreshments. The residents of the neighborhood would feel more empowered if they had control of the tours and the information being provided.

Timeline for completion: Within 2-5 years.

5-7. *Neighborhood Exhibition.* Exhibitions about the Strathmore and Southside Neighborhoods can be held in the Onondaga Historical Association Museum to introduce the story of the historic homes in the neighborhoods, as well as the historic creation of the neighborhoods in the early 1900s. Photos and models of Strathmore and Southside Neighborhood homes can provide visitors with information about historic homes and these neighborhoods.

Timeline for completion: Within 2-5 years.

Goal #6: To increase and enhance connections among the parks within the OPABG, and between the botanical garden and other parks and green spaces within and around the City of Syracuse.

Recommendations:

6-1. Recommend the OPABG as a field study site. Recommend the parks within the OPABG area as a field study site to schools and colleges with landscape architecture, urban forestry and ecology, and other vegetation management courses.

Timeline for completion: 2-3 years

6-2. Coordinate regional arboretum/botanical garden tours. Promote the parks and gardens of Central New York through the development of a regional garden tour. The tour could include the Cornell Plantations in Ithaca, Sonnenberg Gardens, Oakwood Cemetery, Thornden Park, Pass Arboretum, and OPABG. This effort would require cooperation among different institutions and agencies.

Timeline for completion: Following completion of the OPABG

6-3. Establish connections between parks in the Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. In order to better accommodate pedestrian travel throughout the entire OPABG, connecting corridors should be established at various locations. Once these connecting corridors are made, they should be established on a variety of maps that are dispersed to the public with official backing from the City of Syracuse. Two main connecting corridors are recommended (Figures 2 and 3).

- **Onondaga Creek Blvd. to Clyde Ave via. West Brighton Ave. Corridor (Figure 9).** This pedestrian and bike corridor will guide visitors from Elmwood to Kirk Park safely and efficiently.
- **Roberts Ave. to Robineau Road via. Twin Hills Drive Corridor (Figure 10).** This pedestrian and bike corridor will guide visitors from Upper Onondaga Park to Elmwood Park safely and efficiently and in the most direct route.
- **Summit Avenue.** A pedestrian route could also be developed on Summit Avenue, connecting Upper Onondaga and Elmwood Parks. However, a stone staircase (similar to the existing staircases already in the park) would have to be installed in Elmwood, due to the steep slope that would need to be traversed in order to enter Elmwood at this location. Stone is recommended for building materials in order to maintain the historic integrity of Elmwood's landscape.

Timeline for completion: 1 year.

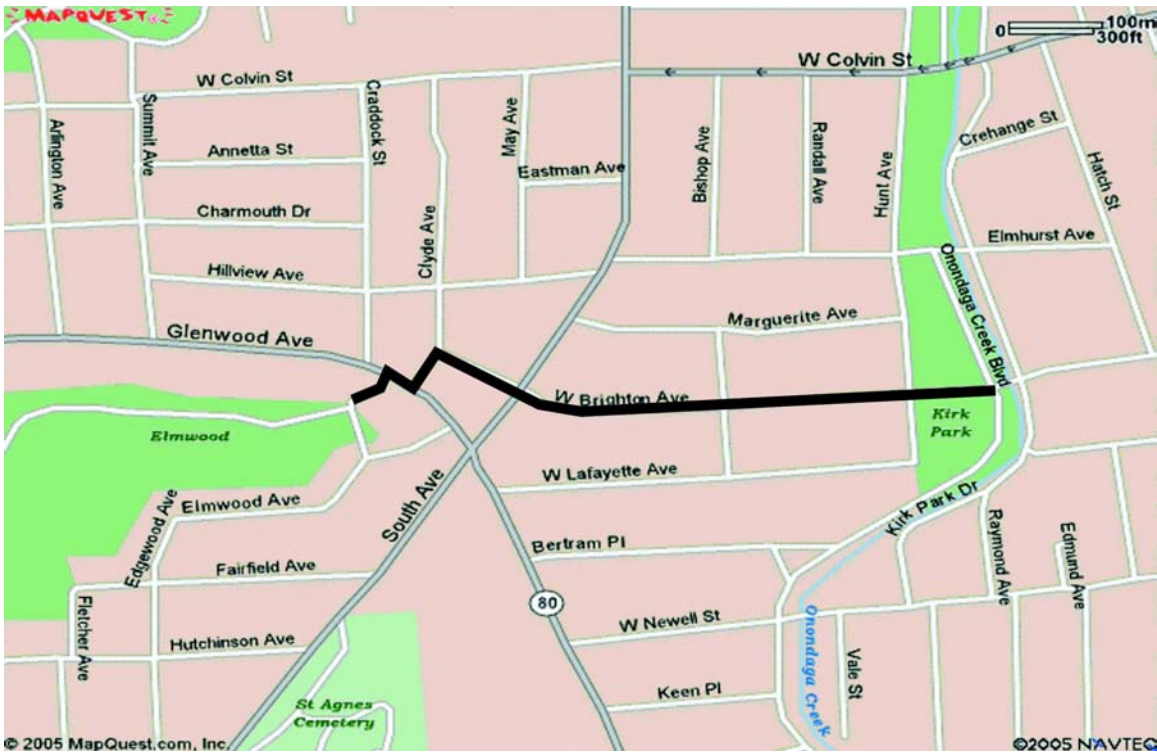


Figure 9. Proposed connecting pedestrian route: Onondaga Creek Blvd. to Clyde Ave. via. West Brighton Ave, and West Brighton Ave. to Elmwood Park entrance via. Clyde Ave.



Figure 10. Proposed Connecting Pedestrian Route: Roberts Ave. to Robineau Road via. Twin Hills Drive, and Twin Hills Drive to Elmwood Park via Robineau Road.

6-4. Create a system of pedestrian walkways and bikeways throughout the OPABG. All motor vehicle roads located in the parks and connecting the parks in the OPABG area should be equipped with adequate sidewalks and bike lanes for safety reasons. Bike lanes should be designated by the City of Syracuse and included on existing bicycle maps (Figures 11 and 12).

Timeline for completion: 3 years



Figure 11. Proposed Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Lanes: should be located to the side of all vehicles lanes as shown.



Figure 12. Proposed Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Lanes.

6-5. Install adequate directional signage to the OPABG. Directional signage should be placed at major road intersections in order to allow for easier travel from outside areas. Since I-81 and 690 will be the major travel routes to the OPABG, signage should be presented at I-81 and 690 exits within Syracuse and along the way to the main entrance of the OPABG.

Signage at interstate exits.

- Signs at Syracuse exits 18 and 17 of I-81 North and South (Adams/Harrison Street and Brighton Avenue exits in particular).
- Signs at S. West Street exit to 690.

Entrance signage.

- OPABG entrance sign at South Ave. and Onondaga Creek Blvd.

Directional Signage. Signage leading visitors to the OPABG should be placed at the following intersections.

From 690 exit 11:

- 690 exit ramp and S. West St.
- S. West St. and W. Onondaga Ave.
- W. Onondaga St. and Onondaga St.

From I-81 exit 18:

- 81 exit ramp
- Almond St. and Harrison St.
- Harrison St. and West Onondaga St.

From I-81 exit 17:

- South State Street and McClure Ave.

- South Salina and McClure Ave.
- South Salina and West Brighton Ave.
- South Ave. and West Brighton Ave.
- South Ave. and Onondaga Ave.
- East Calthrop Ave. and Exit 17 Ramp
- South Salina Street and East Calthrop Ave.

Timeline for completion: Prior to opening of OPABG

6-5. Create safe street crossings. To create safe street crossings between the parks and other green spaces within the OPABG travel routes for increased visitor safety. Specific areas of interest include:

- South Ave. (from Lower Onondaga to Kirk Park),
- Roberts Ave. and Robineau Rd. (from Upper Onondaga to Elmwood),
- W. Brighton Ave. (from Kirk Park to Elmwood), and
- areas within the Strathmore Neighborhood.

Timeline for completion: within 1 year.

CONCLUSION

The Onondaga Park Arboretum and Botanical Garden will one day offer numerous recreational and tourism opportunities for residents, visitors from Central New York and other locations, and convention and conference attendees. Increased promotion and interpretation are needed to let potential visitors know about the historic and natural resources in the OPABG area. Park and road enhancement and stonework restoration is needed to preserve park resources for future generations. Increased financial support for the Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs is necessary to provide leadership for park stewardship, education, recreation, and promotion efforts in the future. To obtain funding, develop a membership base, and carry out OPABG projects, a not-for-profit organization is needed. Community groups, school groups, and other non-profit organizations can play an important role in the stewardship and promotion of this unique area. With the help of various groups, the goals of the Onondaga Park Botanical Garden and Arboretum can be met and this attraction can become a reality.

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