



A Tourism Plan for the CITY OF SYRACUSE'S PARKS AND GREENSPACES



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INTRODUCTION

With over 147,000 residents, the City of Syracuse is New York State's fifth largest city. Syracuse is well known by Central New Yorkers for its sporting events and downtown restaurants, especially in the Armory Square and Clinton Square areas, and is home to many unique neighborhoods with strong social networks of different cultures and ethnicities. What Syracuse is not well known for -- by both people from outside the city and city residents themselves -- is its vast network of parks (Figure 1). These green spaces offer city residents opportunities for socializing, recreating, and relaxing, and protect important natural and historical resources representative of Syracuse's rich history and diverse landscapes. A portion of Syracuse is also designated as an Urban Cultural Park by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

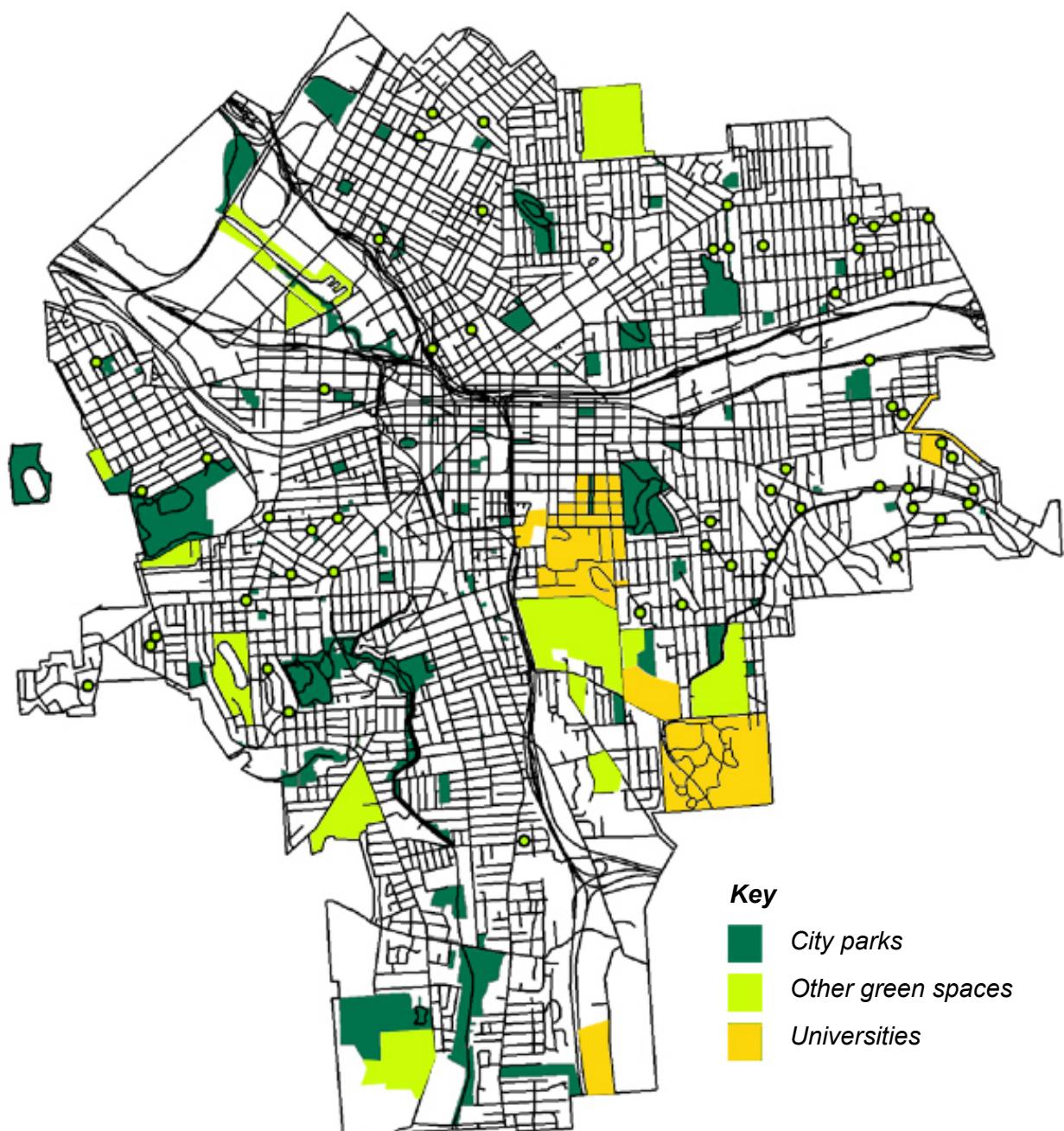
In order to increase use of the city's parks, boost the economy of the city, and increase stewardship of park resources, students from the Tourism Planning class at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) have created this tourism plan for the City of Syracuse park system. This plan focuses on the "green parks" of Syracuse (i.e., large parks and green spaces within the City of Syracuse) that have potential for attracting visitors from outside the Syracuse area. While downtown parks are equally important for tourism purposes in the Syracuse area, these are not the focus of this plan. However, this plan attempts to connect these downtown destinations with the "green parks" of Syracuse, in order to make tourism in Syracuse more viable as a whole. Connections between city parks and the parks and trails outside the City of Syracuse are also made in order to increase the marketability of tourism in the Syracuse area in general.

CONCERNS AND ISSUES

Concerns and issues for tourism planning for the City of Syracuse parks were identified by students in the ESF Tourism Planning class with assistance from community residents, agency personnel, and organization staff, and through student and instructor observations. The following list of issues and concerns is intended to provide insight for developing tourism plan goals and recommendations.

1. Preserving historic & natural resources in parks.
2. Budgetary limitations of involved agencies/organizations.
3. Improper use of parks (e.g., late night parties, litter, broken glass).
4. Vandalism and other criminal activity.
5. Increasing resident involvement in the parks.
6. Cleanliness of water bodies in parks.
7. Perceptions of residents concerning safety in parks.
8. Continuing cooperation between neighborhood associations and park managers.
9. Improving linkages between facilities within individual parks.
10. Encouraging neighborhood identities & social interaction through the parks.
11. Resident perspectives concerning the fee structure of park programs.
12. Access to the parks (e.g., barricades; parking issues).
13. Limited use of parks by tourists.
14. Perspectives about urban parks by residents of Syracuse and areas outside of Syracuse.
15. Limited connections between parks for walking and biking.
16. The lack of a visitor monitoring system for the parks.
17. Limited knowledge of residents about the existence of city parks.
18. Lack of park master plans for most parks.
19. Maintaining specific parks or sections of parks for diverse recreational experiences including solitude.

Figure 1. Map of existing Syracuse parks, green spaces, and university campuses (source: Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs).



VISION

The following vision statement was developed during an in-class facilitated session with Syracuse residents, agency personnel, and neighborhood association representatives:

We envision that within the next 10 years, the parks within the City of Syracuse will be...

- Attractions that provide diverse and high quality recreational experiences for residents and visitors.
- Interconnected both with nearby parks and with businesses in neighboring communities.
- Perceived as safe sites for recreation, education, and social interaction by residents and visitors.
- Appreciated by local residents and visitors for their unique water, natural, and historic features.
- Protected by local residents and organizations through the development of neighborhood-based stewardship efforts.
- Well maintained and well funded catalysts for economic growth.

GOALS

Based on the stated issues and concerns, and the vision statement, the following goals were created by the class to guide the tourism planning process:

1. To provide to residents and visitors diverse and high quality recreational and social experiences through the City of Syracuse park system.
2. To increase resident and visitor use of the City of Syracuse parks to a level suitable to park resources (level of suitability to be determined through park master plans).
3. To promote and utilize the City of Syracuse parks as tools for education and interpretation.
4. To increase involvement by schools and neighborhood residents in the City of Syracuse parks in order to foster stewardship and appreciation of park resources.
5. To boost the local economy by increasing resident and visitor expenditures to park concessions, festival vendors, and neighborhood businesses.
6. To increase funding for park maintenance, security, programs, and facilities.
7. To increase and enhance connections between parks within the City of Syracuse park system, and between the park system and areas outside the City of Syracuse.

THEME FOR INTERPRETATION

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

Parks within the City of Syracuse offer residents and visitors a unique recreational experience by connecting diverse communities and landscapes, and creating an appreciation of the rich local history and natural resources of Syracuse.

PARK CATEGORIES

The majority of parks, ball fields, and green spaces within the City of Syracuse are owned and managed by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs (SDPRYP). This agency currently manages a total of 172 parks/areas, encompassing 896 acres ranging from large parks and natural areas to traffic islands. The parks are broken down into the classification system shown below (City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs 1999). With the exception of the parks and green spaces included under “Schools, Reservoirs, and Other Owners,” most of the parks listed on the following pages are managed by the SDPRYP.

Community Parks (9 areas, 447 total acres)

- 15-75 acres in size on average.
- Usually contains a major facility complex and significant green space.
- Used by residents beyond adjacent neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Parks (25 areas, 124 total acres)

- 2-14 acres in size on average.
- May contain recreation facilities and smaller green spaces.
- Primarily used by residents from surrounding neighborhoods.

Playlots, Fields, & Courts (20 areas, 33 total acres)

- Typically contain play equipment & athletic fields for active recreation.
- Primarily used by residents from surrounding neighborhoods & athletic teams.

Downtown Parks (16 areas, 5 total acres)

- Typically contain civic, cultural, & historic elements; passive recreation.
- Primarily confined to the central business district.

Open Space Areas/Cemeteries (7 areas, 69 total acres)

- Typically passive recreation used primarily by residents from adjacent neighborhoods.

Natural Areas (5 areas, 163 total acres)

- Typically passive recreation; usually undeveloped areas containing natural forests or open green space.

Medians and Traffic Islands (90 areas, 55 total acres)

- Less than an acre in size located in highly developed area with visual, civic, cultural, and historic importance.

Schools, Reservoirs, and Other Greenspaces (Numerous areas, total acreage not known)

PARKS IN SYRACUSE

The parks included in this chapter are the ones with the greatest tourism potential, both because of their relatively large sizes, the uniqueness of the resources and attractions found in each, and/or the existence of visitor facilities.

Community Parks:

Burnet Park*



One of Burnet Park's historic stone grottos.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	88
Historic and/or Natural Resources	The Burnet Park Promenade (currently being restored) features 1930s Works Progress Administration stone work, carriage path, & grottos with springs.
Interpretation	This park has no exhibits or interpretive signage. The historic Promenade would be an excellent location for interpretive programs.
Recreation Activities	Walking, biking, golf, swimming, active recreation, picnicking, ice skating.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods and beyond.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Burnet Park Promenade Group; Men's Garden Club of Syracuse.
Trails and Walkways	Historic promenade and service road.
Parking	There are about 150 parking spaces in addition to some street parking scattered throughout the park that service the athletic fields and courts, ice rink, pool, and playground.
Events	Burnet Park Promenade Walk, sports camps, golf tournament, Mobile Recreation Units.
Playground	The park has a playground with swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Swimming Pool	A 50-meter long, eight-lane outdoor pool, with a capacity of 492 bathers exists.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Two softball diamonds (one of which is lighted), 1 baseball diamond, 2 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, and 2 handball courts. There are 2 multi-purpose athletic fields (for football, soccer, and lacrosse).
Picnic Area	11 picnic tables and several benches are located in a grove of trees. Garbage cans are available.
Golf Course	The course is a nine-hole, par-3 course. A small paved parking area with about ten spaces serves the clubhouse.
Ice-Skating Rink	The rink is covered by a pavilion.
Concerns	Close proximity of promenade to Grand Ave.; Accessibility and parking for the Promenade; Pedestrian circulation through park and to James Pass Arboretum.

*Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is listed separately on page 24.

Elmwood Park



The walkways and trails of Elmwood Park provide views of historic stonework and landscapes, as well as diverse plants and wildlife.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	65
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Diversity of wildlife and plant species; foundry site (1806); stone mill (1848); Temporary Emergenct Relief Administration & Works Progress Administration stonework (1931-41); glacial meltwater valley; Furnace Brook.
Interpretation	Part of the Know Your City Parks Program website. Part of the NOBEL Program (Elementary School Program) run by Centers for Nature Education. Publications exist about the park and it's ecosystems. No in-park exhibits or signs at this point. The Old Mill in process of being converted to an environmental interpretation center.
Recreation Activities	Walking, fishing, birdwatching, picnicking, biking.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly users from adjacent neighborhoods and schools
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Elmwood Park Neighbors Association.
Trails and Walkways	The park has both an upper and a lower trail, as well as a service road.
Parking	There is a gravel parking area for about 15-20 cars along with 12 paved parking stalls.
Events	SUNY ESF Bioblitz, Project Watershed, nature walks.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Elmwood Park has one little league hardball diamond.
Playground	The playground consists of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Picnic Area	A covered pavilion is available with two picnic tables and some benches
Local schools	Forms a park/school complex with an adjacent elementary and high school.
Concerns	Poor lighting; Broken glass and vandalism; Stream-bank construction and erosion; Invasive plant species; Funding for nature center.

Kirk Park



Kirk Park's sports field is home to numerous team competitions. (Photo courtesy of Alix Krueger.)

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	33.15
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Onondaga Creek (this portion of the creek is part of the area proposed for creek restoration).
Interpretation	None.
Seals Community Center	The center has includes a computer lab with Internet access and fitness center.
Recreation Activities	Walking, swimming, sporting events, community center.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Kirk Park Colts League; Youth Enrichment Opportunities Program Little League.
Trails and Walkways	None.
Swimming Pool	The pool is a 25-yard-long, nine-lane, L-shaped outdoor pool, with a wheelchair accessible ramp, and a capacity of 464 bathers.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Two softball diamonds, a multi-purpose athletic field (for football, soccer, and lacrosse), 9 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, and an outdoor roller-skating area covered by a pavilion.
Parking	There is paved parking for about 40 vehicles for the athletic fields and for about 36 vehicles near the community center and pool.
Events	Community center events, mobile recreation units.
Concerns	Onondaga Creek (storm water runoff and accessibility).

Meachem Field



Meachem Field provides a small picnic area for residents and visitors, as well as an ice skating rink and sports fields.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	19.20
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Developed for sporting activities.
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Walking, swimming, active recreation, ice skating.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Valley Men's Club; Valley Junior Athletic Association.
Trails and Walkways	Walkways
Swimming Pool	Valley Pool is a 25-yard-long, six-lane, heated indoor pool with a shallow end, wheelchair accessible tier, and stairs, and a capacity of 126 bathers.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Two lighted softball diamonds and 1 lighted baseball diamond, 2 multi-purpose athletic fields (for football, soccer, and lacrosse), and 3 lighted tennis courts.
Ice Rink	Indoor ice rink with paved parking for about 22 cars.
Picnic Area	There are 6 picnic tables adjacent to the ice rink.
Parking	There are about 195 paved parking spaces servicing the athletic fields.
Events	Dancing Under the Stars, Valley Field Days, winter carnival, clinics, hockey tournaments.
Local schools	Forms a park/school complex with an adjacent middle and elementary school.
Concerns	Onondaga Creek (stormwater runoff and accessibility).

Sunnycrest Park



Sunnycrest Park offers numerous facilities for residents and visitors including athletic fields. (Photo provided by Alix Krueger.)

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	45.88
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Majority of use is for sports.
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Walking, golf biking, sporting events, running, ice hockey.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Sunnycrest Park Association; Transfiguration Church Neighborhood Watch.
Trails and Walkways	Walking trail along golf course; running track.
Parking	There are about 150 paved parking spaces serving the athletic fields and ice rink. A 40-space paved parking lot serves the golf course.
Events	Dancing Under the Stars; sports clinics; camps; all-city sports day; tournaments.
Athletic Fields and Courts	One lighted softball diamond, 1 lighted baseball diamond, 1 Little League diamond; a football stadium, an Olympic running track, 1 lighted multipurpose athletic field; 3 tennis courts, 2 full- and 2 half-court basketball courts.
Concession stands	Two exist in the park.
Playground	The playground consists of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Ice Rink	The ice rink is enclosed.
Golf Course	Sunnycrest Golf Course is a nine-hole, par-3 course. The clubhouse includes restrooms and vending machines.
Picnic area	Adjacent to the clubhouse is a pavilion with 4 picnic tables.
Local schools	Forms a park/school complex with an adjacent high school.
Concerns	Parking and access (specifically the northern & western areas of the park).

Lower Onondaga Park



The historic greenhouse in Lower Onondaga Park attracts visitors during the annual Strathmore Neighborhood home tour.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	15.60
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Onondaga Creek, neo-classical greenhouse, tourist house, sunken gardens & grottos with pools & fountains (not working). A plan is currently proposed to turn this park into an arboretum and botanical garden.
Greenhouse	The greenhouse is used to grow many of the plants used for the parks. The facility is open to the public only during special events.
Tourist home	This stone building is vacant at present, but was formerly used as a rest area for visitors to the park.
Interpretation	Tours of the greenhouse are offered for special events only. There is potential for restoring and interpreting the ponds and Onondaga Creek.
Recreation Activities	Walking, biking, active recreation.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Onondaga Park Association, Onondaga Park Botanical Garden Subcommittee; Youth Enrichment Opportunities Program Little League.
Trails and Walkways	A park road exists. Lower Onondaga Park is connected to Kirk Park by a walkway and footbridge.
Parking	A small parking area is available adjacent to the Tourist home. There are about 30 paved parking spaces for the greenhouse.
Events	Strathmore Neighborhood Tour.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Lower Onondaga Park has a Little League baseball diamond.
Playground	The playground consists of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Concerns	Budget and design issues for restoring the pools and fountains; Enhancing connections to Upper Onondaga Park.

Upper Onondaga Park



Onondaga Park's pavilion is just one of the historic sites within the park.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	67
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Hiawatha Lake & lagoon (1911); drumlin with views; lilac garden; fire house; ponds and waterfalls (need to be restored); band gazebo. A plan is currently proposed to turn this park into an arboretum and botanical garden.
Hiawatha Lake and Band Gazebo	Stonewalls and structures exist around Hiawatha Lake and around the bandstand island. The island is 60 feet in diameter and the bandstand is 30 feet in diameter.
Firehouse	There are current plans to renovate the firehouse into an education center.
Interpretation	No in-park exhibits or signs exist at this point. The Firehouse Building is in the process of being converted to a Community and Education Center.
Recreation Activities	Walking, fishing, swimming, biking, sports, picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Onondaga Park Association; Greater Strathmore Neighborhood Association
Trails and Walkways	A walkway exists around Hiawatha Lake. Service roads are also found in the park.
Parking	There is parking along one side of the street within the park.
Events	Strathmore-by-the-Park Historic Homes Tour; Art-on-the-Porches event; tennis camp; fishing derby; Pops in the Park.
Swimming Pool and Bathhouse	The pool is a 50-meters-long, six-lane, L-shaped outdoor pool, with a capacity of 352 bathers.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Upper Onondaga Park has 8 tennis courts and 3 basketball courts.
Playground	A playground exists with swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Picnic Area	There is a covered pavilion with 13 picnic tables and several sets of swings.
Concerns	Budget & design issues for pond & waterfall restoration; Invasive plant species; Parking and accessibility; Connections to Lower Onondaga Park and Elmwood Park.

Schiller Park



Schiller Park, a popular summertime destination for local children because of its pool and slide, is also known for its scenic view, vast green areas, and monument of Goethe and Schiller.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	37
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Bronze statue of the famous German writers “Goethe & Schiller” The Round Top/drumlin (Native American burial ground and lookout during the French and Indian War).
Interpretation	Part of the Know Your City Parks Program website. No exhibits or interpretive signage. The existing recreation center could be a location for future interpretive programs.
Recreation Activities	Walking, swimming, active recreation, community center
Visitor Groups	Adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Schiller Park Association; German American Society of Central New York.
Trails and Walkways	Several informal trails exist throughout the park. Barricaded service roads also exist.
Parking	There are about 80 paved parking spaces available.
Events	Arbor Day poetry reading of 2001; community center events; mobile recreation units.
Bova Community Center	The center houses an educational computer lab with Internet access and basketball gymnasium.
Swimming Pool	The pool at Schiller park is a 50-meter-long, ten-lane outdoor pool, with a capacity of 485 bathers. There is a 125-foot-long shallow end deck top water slide.
Athletic Fields and Courts	One softball diamond, a hardball diamond, 6 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, 2 handball courts, and a multipurpose field (soccer, football, lacrosse) that overlaps both diamonds.
Playground	The playground consists of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Concerns	Need for increased membership in the park association (1 current member); broken glass; accessibility; playground being used as a hangout.

Thornden Park



*Thornden Park's spectacular rose garden attracts visitors from throughout the Central New York area.
(Photo provided by Alix Krueger.)*

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	76
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Carriage House; Field House; Lily Pond & Perennial Garden; Herb Garden; Rose Garden; Pinetum; Amphitheater; Lilac Grove; Azalea Walk (Winter Walk); weeping beech tree; Stand Pipe on drumlin with views.
Interpretation	Rose garden with guided walks. Historical maps and walking guide. Historic stonework as well as forest and view sheds. Part of the Know Your City Parks website.
Recreation Activities	Walking, swimming, picnicking, fitness course, sports.
Visitor Groups	Residents from adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods; SU and SUNY ESF Students; Residents of Central New York.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Thornden Park Assoc., Syracuse Rose Society, Westcott East Neighborhood Association, Syracuse Shakespeare Festival
Trails and Walkways	A service road is found in the park. Walkways exist.
Parking	Most of the parking for Thornden Park is along one side of the park road. A parking area of about 30 to 40 parking spaces services the pool.
Events	Shakespeare in the Park; "Billy B"; garden & walking tours; chili-fest; Syracuse Opera.
Swimming Pool	The pool is a 50-meter-long, six-lane, outdoor pool, with a capacity of 499 bathers.
Athletic Fields and Courts	One multi-purpose athletic field (football/soccer/lacrosse), 5 tennis courts, and 3 basketball courts.
Amphitheater	The large open-air amphitheater is made of stone.
Playground	Thornden Park has a playground with swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Picnic Area	There are two pavilions with 11 picnic tables.
Concerns	Security system for the Carriage House; lighting; parking; accessibility; design issues (specifically for the pinetum).

Neighborhood Parks:

Barry Park



Barry Park's trail is used extensively for walking and running by local residents.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	13.31
Historic and/or Natural Resources	This park is predominantly used for active recreation (athletic fields) and walking.
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Walking, biking, sports.
Visitor Groups	Residents from adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Barry Park Association.
Trails and Walkways	A trail exists in the park.
Parking	A paved parking lot for about 35 cars is available for the multipurpose fields. Other parking for Barry Park is either on adjacent Broad Street or located in the median along Meadowbrook (informal parking comprised of gravel, grass, and bare soil).
Events	Mobile Recreation Units; Soccer camp; Salty Dogs Street Soccer Program.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Two softball diamonds, 3 multi-purpose athletic fields (football/soccer/lacrosse), 2 tennis courts, 1 full- and 2 half-court basketball courts.
Playground	There is a playground consisting of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Concerns	Parking; accessibility; lighting.

Lincoln Park



Lincoln Park, though popularly known for its pool and playground, has beautiful pathways lined with historic stonework and one of the best views in Syracuse.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	19.32
Historic and/or Natural Resources	1930s Works Progress Administration stonework; drumlin with views; monument on upper area (missing plaque).
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Walking, sports, swimming.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Lincoln Hill Neighborhood Association, Lincoln Park Association (in the process of forming).
Trails and Walkways	Several stone staircases and walkways connect the park to the surrounding neighborhood.
Parking	There is one small paved parking lot for about 14 cars. Street parking is also available.
Events	
Swimming Pool	The pool is a 25 yard long, outdoor pool, with a capacity of 195 bathers.
Athletic Fields and Courts	One Little League baseball diamond, 1 tennis court, and 1 full- and 2 half-court basketball courts.
Playground	The playground consists of swings, slides, seesaws, and climbing bars.
Concerns	Lighting; accessibility (barricades); shading from overgrown vegetation along some trails makes them slippery; improving viewsheds; replacing plaque on monument.

Play lots and Fields:

Van Duyn Field



Van Duyn Field's athletic fields and courts are used primarily by local residents.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs.
Acres	3
Historic and/or Natural Resources	This facility is predominantly used for active recreation (athletic fields).
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Sports.
Visitor Groups	Residents from adjacent neighborhoods and students from adjacent school.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Valley Little League
Trails and Walkways	
Parking	There are 54 paved parking spaces. An additional 56 paved spaces service the Van Duyn Elementary School (overflow parking for Van Duyn Field).
Events	Sporting events.
Athletic Fields and Courts	Seven Little League baseball diamonds, and one full- and 2 half-court basketball courts.
Picnic area	There are two picnic tables adjacent to the concession stand.
Concession stand	One exists in the park.
Local schools	Forms a park/school complex with an adjacent elementary school.
Concerns	

Natural Areas:

Morningside Heights Park



Morningside offers spectacular fall foliage as well as historic stonework, a nature trail, and a community garden.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs; the access road and three water tanks are owned by the City of Syracuse Department of Water
Acres	10.42
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Works Progress Administration stonework; Historic toboggan run; nature trail; community garden; drumlin with views and water towers.
Interpretation	Features a Community Garden with interpretation. An interpretive nature trail runs through the park with an interpretive sign at the trailhead. Publications about the natural history of the park. Part of the Know Your City Parks website.
Recreation Activities	Walking, birdwatching, passive recreation.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent neighborhoods and students of local schools.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	South East University Neighborhood Association.
Trails and Walkways	A nature trail beginning at the Ed Smith school exists on the property.
Parking	There is no designated parking for the park. Some parking is available at the Edward Smith Elementary School (adjacent to the park).
Events	Ed Smith Elementary School and Centers for Nature Ed. After Hours Program (studying animal tracks and scat)
Community gardens	There is a community garden with a picnic table.
Concerns	Parking and access (the only entrance is gated); entrance signage; broken glass; vandalism to trail markers and interpretive sign; safety concerns.

Westminster Park



*The view from Westminster Park
is one of Syracuse's best!*

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	4.78
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Drumlin with views.
Interpretation	None.
Recreation Activities	Walking, passive recreation.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	None.
Trails and Walkways	A long stairway exists in the park that connects Euclid Avenue to the park.
Parking	There is no parking except along adjacent streets.
Events	None.
Concerns	Accessibility (barricade at the end of Westminster Avenue); Parking; Lighting; Lack of signage; Deterioration of safety railings.

Heath Park



*Heath Park's nature trail is beautiful in any season.
(Photo provided by Alix Krueger.)*

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs (owner)
Acres	30.6
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Conifer forest.
Interpretation	Part of the Know Your City Parks Program website. No exhibits or interpretive signage.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, birdwatching.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods, local school groups and colleges.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	None.
Trails and Walkways	A trail exists through the center of the property.
Parking	Roadside parking is available only.
Events	Nature walks.
Concerns	Poor access to trail.

Rand Track/Webster Pond



Webster Pond, located in the Rand Tract, is home to hundreds of ducks and other birds.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs (owner); Angler's Association of Onondaga (manager).
Acres	95
Historic and/or Natural Resources	"Forever wild" area designated as a conservation education area by the SDPRYP; important wetland habitat for migrating birds.
Interpretation	Part of the Know Your City Parks Program website. No exhibits or interpretive signage.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, fishing, nature interpretation.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods, local school groups.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Angler's Association of Onondaga.
Trails and Walkways	A trail exists on the northern edge of the property. Roadside parking is available only.
Parking	There are about 25 parking spaces in a half paved, half-gravel parking lot adjacent to Webster Pond.
Events	Youth fishing program, Rand Tract Mushrooms, nature programs with local schools.
Fishing Access	There is limited fishing access for children along portions of Webster Pond.
Benches	There are about 25 benches along the pond.
Concerns	Potential health and water quality issues due to large numbers of waterfowl; Poor access to the trail; disconnection between the trail and Webster Pond.

Open Space Areas and Cemeteries:

James Pass Arboretum



Pass Arboretum's peaceful setting is a beautiful place for walking.

Managing Agency or Organization	Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, & Youth Programs
Acres	13.8
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Original planting occurred in 1927. The gardener's house, shrub collection, and pond no longer exist.
Interpretation	Publication. Tree identification labels.
Recreation Activities	Walking, tree identification, dog walking.
Visitor Groups	Residents of adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Pass Arboretum Steward.
Trails and Walkways	Walkways exist throughout the arboretum.
Parking	There is no parking available for the arboretum except for street parking on adjacent streets.
Events	None.
Concerns	Missing and damaged signs; tree pruning needed; missing sidewalk connection to Burnet Park and Promenade.

Schools, Reservoirs, and Other Greenspaces:

Inner Harbor



Syracuse's Inner Harbor is a great place to picnic or walk.

Managing Agency or Organization	Lakefront Development Corporation, NYS Canal Corporation.
Acres	42
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Erie Canal and industrial history; Onondaga Creekwalk; amphitheater.
Interpretation	Interpretive signs exist.
Recreation Activities	Walking, fishing, passive recreation, interpretation.
Visitor Groups	Residents from adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	None.
Trails and Walkways	Onondaga Creekwalk.
Parking	There are about 65 parking spaces in gravel lots. In addition, there are about 240 paved parking spaces.
Events	Future concerts, private gatherings (1,500 seat amphitheater)
Fishing access	There is fishing access along the boardwalks and docks.
Picnic area	There are about 25 picnic tables and several benches with views of the Harbor.
Concerns	Trash clean-up in the canal & inner harbor; invasive plant species.

Woodland Reservoir



The pathway around Woodland Reservoir offers great views of the reservoir, the historic Water Department buildings surrounding it, and the City of Syracuse.

Managing Agency or Organization	City of Syracuse Department of Water
Acres	
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Original 1894 buildings, 1910 brick standpipe, views of city, developed trail around the reservoir.
Interpretation	None. Potential exists to interpret the design and use of the reservoir and water department buildings.
Recreation Activities	Walking, jogging.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly adjacent neighborhoods.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Greater Strathmore Neighborhood Association.
Trails and Walkways	A trail exists along the edge of the reservoir.
Parking	Small parking area with a five-car capacity.
Events	None.
Concerns	Trail erosion and compaction; Stairway needed from parking lot to trail.

Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park



The red panda and other inhabitants of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo are popular with visitors.

Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Department of Parks
Acres	
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Features over 600 animals in diverse habitats ranging from the tropics to the woodlands with indoor and outdoor exhibits.
Interpretation	The Zoo that offers excellent interpretation through exhibits and on-site presentations.
Recreation Activities	Walking, animal study, and picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Central New York as well as other states and countries.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo
Trails and Walkways	Numerous walkways.
Parking	Paved parking for about 550 vehicles.
Events	Numerous programs for all ages; Zoo Boo.
Playground	Small outdoor play area.
Picnic Area	Numerous picnic tables are located within the zoo.
Concerns	Limited visitor travel between the zoo and the rest of Burnet Park.

Smaller City Parks

Many smaller parks managed by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs also exist in Syracuse. These parks are found in Table 1.

Table 1. Additional Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Program properties and acreage (source: City of Syracuse Department of Parks Recreation and Youth Programs 1999 and City of Syracuse 2002.)

Park category	Park names	Park acreage
Neighborhood Parks	Cannon St. Park	
	Castle & State Playground	1.8
	Comfort Tyler Park	3.2
	Cummings Field	4.6
	Frazer Park	5.7
	Jubilee Park	2.3
	Homer Wheaton Park	11.4
	Huntington Park	5.5
	Lewis Park	3.2
	McChesney Park	4.3
	McKinley Park	7.8
	Norwood Park	8.7
	Roesier Park	2.6
	Skiddy Park	2.8
	Spencer Park	3.2
	Wadsworth Park	7.7
	Washington Square Park	3.2
	Westmoreland Park	2.3
	White Oaks Park	5.6
	Wilson Park	2.1
Playlots, Fields, and Courts	Baker Playground	0.5
	Clark Fields	2.1
	Clinton Playground	0.8
	Columbus Park	1.5
	Grace Playscape	0.5
	Highland Park	0.8
	LeMoyne Fields	8.3
	Nottingham Courts	0.6
	Onondaga-Geddes Playground	0.9
	Porter Playscape	0.7

Table 1 (continued). Additional Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Program properties and acreage (source: City of Syracuse Department of Parks Recreation and Youth Programs 1999 and City of Syracuse 2002).

Park category	Park names	Park acreage
Playlots, Fields, and Courts (continued)	Roberts Field	4.3
	Salem Hyde Field	4.3
	Seymour Playground	0.1
	Sherman Field	2.2
	Union Park	2.0
	Valley Playground	1.5
	Webster Field	1.5
Downtown Parks	Armory Square	31'x99
	Billings Park	0.3
	Bruce Park	0.02
	City Place	
	Clinton Square	0.5
	Fayette Fire-fighters Memorial Park	1.2
	Forman Park	1.3
	Franklin Park	0.9
	Genesee-Townsend Plaza	0.1
	Hanover Square	0.1
	Lincoln Plaza	0.1
	Perseverance Park	0.2
	Pitts Park	0.04
	Plum St. Circle	0.8
	St. Mary's Circle	0.2
	Vanderbilt Square	0.1
Open Space Areas and Cemeteries	First Ward Cemetery	3.7
	Gray Ave. Park	6.2
	Leavenworth Park	3.5
	Lodi Cemetery	0.8
	Onondaga Creek Blvd.	31
	Rose Hill Cemetery	11.8
Natural Areas	Meachem Parkway	22.1
Medians & Traffic Islands	90 different sites	55 acres total

Other Green Spaces

Other green spaces, not under the jurisdiction of the SDPRYP, exist throughout the city as well. These include cemeteries, water reservoirs, golf courses, country clubs, and college properties. The majority of these additional greenspaces provide opportunities for activities such as walking, biking, birdwatching, and dog walking. These areas greatly add to the city's diversity and scenery while at the same time serving as parks in some neighborhoods. These areas include:

- **Oakwood Cemetery.** This historic cemetery is a popular location for walking and birdwatching. Tours of the wildlife and historic individuals buried in the cemetery are provided by the Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association.
- **St. Mary's Cemetery.** This large cemetery is a popular location for birdwatching.
- **Westcott Reservoir.** This site, owned by the City of Syracuse Water Department, has good views of Onondaga Lake and is used for sledding in the winter (even though sledding is not permitted). No parking facilities or trails exist presently.
- **College properties** (SUNY ESF and its Lafayette Road Experiment Station, Syracuse University, LeMoyne College, Onondaga Community College). College campuses in Syracuse provide a wide array of active and passive recreation opportunities typical of a university or college, including sporting events, films, and speaker presentations. The Syracuse University and SUNY ESF campuses are home to many historic buildings, and also offer fantastic views of the City of Syracuse from several walkways and patios.
- **Corcoran High School Property.** Ten acres of wetlands and woodlands owned by Corcoran High School exist north of McDonald Road along Glenwood Avenue. The high school is planning on creating nature trails on the property that can be used for environmental education programs. The proximity of this property to Elmwood Park provides great potential for cooperative recreation programs between the SDPRYP and the City of Syracuse School District.

Assessment of Parks and Greenspaces in Syracuse

The City of Syracuse possesses a wide array and diverse collection of parks, visitor attractions, facilities, and recreational opportunities. A large number of parks managed by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs were designed in the early 1900s. Although much design work and many alterations have been done since, master plans are needed for some of the major parks. Although the city's park system is currently stressed by a lack of adequate funding and staff, the SDPRYP manages to offer high quality programs and services to the residents of Syracuse at extremely reasonable fees or at no cost at all. With the park department's budget constraints, local park/neighborhood associations are important for raising funds for park improvements and amenities, and sponsoring park events. Increased funding is needed to protect park resources, promote the parks to visitors and residents, and increase interpretation in order to foster park stewardship. If budget constraints continue, local park and neighborhood associations will likely play an increasing role as fundraisers and park stewards to the city's parks.

INTERPRETATION WITHIN SYRACUSE PARKS

Interpretation can help tell the visitors about the natural and historic features of the parks through hands-on experiences, on-site programming and interactive exhibits and websites. With the exception of on-site programs and walks, and interpretation at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, little interpretation currently exists within the parks of Syracuse. Interpretation in the parks has been done mostly by outside not-for-profit or community organizations working with the SDPRYP (e.g., Centers for Nature Education, SUNY ESF, and park associations). Existing interpretive efforts are included in the tables on pages 5 through 24 for each large City Park. The following theme was developed by the Tourism Planning Class students in order to guide and unify future interpretive efforts within the parks:

Parks within the City of Syracuse offer residents and visitors a unique recreational experience by connecting diverse communities and landscapes, and creating an appreciation of the rich local history and natural resources of Syracuse.

Virtual interpretation. The following virtual interpretation exists on the SDPRYP website.

- A slide show interpreting most of the city monuments (some of which are located in the parks). This site does a good job of giving visitors an idea of what they will encounter when they see the monuments.
- An interactive map of the larger parks. This website also provides information about the history and facilities at each park.

Exhibits. Interpretive exhibits at present are limited to those found in the Rosamond Gifford Zoo (a county park). The exhibits in the zoo are high quality and interactive, and very popular with zoo visitors. Within other city parks, there are currently no interpretive exhibits or interpretive centers. Two interpretive centers, however, are planned for Elmwood and Upper Onondaga Parks (i.e., the mill building and firehouse, respectively).

Interpretive signs. Interpretive signs are found at the trailhead to Morningside Heights Park and the Inner Harbor area only. The sign at Morningside Heights Park has been vandalized.

Interpretive publications. The Parks Department along with community organizations have some trail guides, brochures, and maps, but these are produced in limited quantity and are only available by contacting the parks department's main office. An excellent series of brochures exists concerning the history of some of the parks.

Interpreter-led programs. One of the best ways to experience the parks, in a hands-on way, is to join one of the Centers for Nature Education's "Know your City's Parks Program" tours or walks.

- These hands-on, educational activities involve school-aged children and adults throughout the various parks in the city.
- These events are free and open to the public.
- Programs run throughout the summer and involve the Rand Tract, Elmwood Park, Schiller Park, Thornden Park, Heath Park, Burnet Park, and Morningside Heights Park.

Environmental education programs. The NOBEL program (Neighborhood Opportunity Based Environmental Learning), an environmental education program run by the Centers for Nature Education in conjunction with the Syracuse City School District, organizes programs for elementary school children within the city parks and in city schools. This program has been held in two elementary schools so far, and plans exist to expand it.

Assessment of Interpretation in Syracuse City Parks

The interpretation offered in most of Syracuse's city park involves mainly on-site programs and walks. The Centers for Nature Education, in conjunction with the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs, has worked on many of the interpretive efforts. Brochures available through the parks department are excellent, but not easy for visitors or residents to obtain. Interpretive efforts need to be greatly expanded in order to reach more school children as well as visitor markets (a market currently not reached by interpretive efforts). Accessibility to interpretive materials also needs to be enhanced so that information is available to visitors and residents every day within each major park.

COUNTY, TOWN, AND STATE PARKS OUTSIDE SYRACUSE

Many county, town, and state parks exist outside the boundaries of the city of Syracuse but within Onondaga County. Because of their proximity to the city, these parks and open spaces, if packaged in conjunction with the City of Syracuse Parks, could offer visitors a highly diverse park experience. Opportunities to connect these parks with city parks through bike routes, pedestrian walkways, and driving routes could benefit all parks.

<u>Onondaga Lake Park</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks
Acres	1,100
Proximity to Syracuse	Adjacent
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Salt Museum, Sainte Marie among the Iroquois (now closed), Mud lock, canal and industrial history, historic tram rides, Onondaga Lake, wetlands
Other facilities	Onondaga Lake Park Marina and Launch has a total of 90 slips and a paved launch. There are playgrounds, restrooms, tram service, a dog park, picnic areas, a café, bike and skate rental shop, a fitness trail, a sledding hill, and a Family Activity Center containing a skatepark and playground. There are several areas for parking along the length of the park.
Recreation Activities	Walking, biking, active & passive recreation, boating, skating, archery, picnicking, dog park, fishing, sledding.
Visitor Groups	Adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods; Central New York area
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Friends of Historic Onondaga Lake
Events	Lights on the Lake, car shows, 93Q Sundays, ethnic celebrations, Antique Fest, races and fitness activities, trams.
Concerns	Separation of park facilities by highways; invasive plant species; Lack of continuous trail around Onondaga Lake.

<u>Ryder Park</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Town of DeWitt Parks and Recreation
Acres	12
Proximity to Syracuse	Adjacent
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Butternut Creek, James L. Guyette Arboretum, Butterfly House, pond
Other facilities	This park includes a playground, butterfly house, 1 large pavilion housing restrooms, and 1 small pavilion. There are picnic tables, barbeques, a dock for fishing, a large parking area, a walkway/exercise loop, and a dock for boat tie up.
Recreation Activities	Walking, nature interpretation, picnicking, fishing, exercise course
Visitor Groups	Adjacent and surrounding neighborhoods.
Neighborhood /Park Associations	
Events	Erie Canal Day Festival, concert series, butterfly house guided tours, nature Programs.
Concerns	Goose droppings, invasive plant species, stream-bank & adjacent trail erosion; low water levels on stream at certain times of the year making boat tie-up structure inaccessible.

Old Erie Canal State Park (Cedar Bay)	
Managing Agency or Organization	NY State Office. of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Acres	36 mile linear trail system from DeWitt to Rome
Proximity to Syracuse	Adjacent
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Historic Erie Canal, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, interpretive signs, Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum, Erie Canal Village, Canastota Canal Town Museum, Canal Center DeWitt, kiosks.
Other facilities	There is adequate parking at the head of the trail starting in Dewitt. There is a canoe put-in at the corner of Kinne and Cedar Bay roads and a couple of pull-off areas along Cedar Bay Road. Cedar Bay Park includes restrooms, a large gravel parking lot with room for overflow, picnic tables, a pavilion, barbeques, swings, and a canoe put-in. At the corner of Cedar Bay and North Burdick is another entrance to the Canal trail with a small gravel parking area, picnic table, and an information booth.
Recreation Activities	Walking, hiking, biking, horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Residents of surrounding neighborhoods, Central New York, other states and countries.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	
Concerns	Invasive plant species; water quality; connecting the towpath in this park to the tow path in the Erie Canal Park in Camillus (connection through Syracuse is difficult to make).

Erie Canal Park	
Managing Agency or Organization	Town of Camillus Parks system
Acres	300
Proximity to Syracuse	About 4 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Lock Tender's Shanty and Sims Store Museum (replicas with artifacts & memorabilia), Nine Mile Aqueduct Restoration project, flower gardens.
Other facilities	Picnic areas, parking, boat tours, Lock Tender's Shanty Museum, and the Sims Store Museum.
Recreation Activities	Walking, biking, snowmobiling, picnicking, flower gardens, hiking, horseback riding, fishing.
Visitor Groups	Adjacent & surrounding neighborhoods & beyond.
Neighborhood /Park Association and others	Camillus Canal Society
Events	Towpath Days, Sunday guided boat tours, Wednesday evening dinner cruises, school programs.
Concerns	Completing the Nine Mile Aqueduct Restoration project, invasive plant species, accessibility, water quality.

Baltimore Woods	
Managing Agency or Organization	Centers for Nature Education, Inc. (manager); Save the County, Inc.(owner). Centers for Nature Education owns the land on which the interpretive center was built.
Acres	181
Proximity to Syracuse	About 10 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Pioneer herb garden, butterfly garden, Mildred Faust wildflower garden, weavers & dyers garden, medicinal herb garden, the pioneer log cabin, “three sisters garden”, perennial rock garden, John A. Weeks Interpretive Center, diverse glacial features, Baltimore Brook.
Other facilities	Baltimore Woods includes the Centers for Nature Education Inc. headquarters and interpretive center, a cabin, gift shop, picnic area and pavilion, restrooms, trails, and adequate parking.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, natural & historic interpretation, snowshoeing, environmental education
Visitor Groups	Adjacent and surrounding neighborhoods and beyond
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Volunteers from CNE.
Events	Environmental education programs including school programs, scout projects & programs, herb & plant sales, nature walks, and camps
Concerns	Increasing funding, increasing staff and volunteers, increasing visitation and number of programs.

Clark Reservation State Park	
Managing Agency or Organization	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Acres	365 +50 recently donated
Proximity to Syracuse	About 2 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Glacial plunge basin lake 62' deep (meromictic – surface and bottom waters do not mix), wetland, nature center with exhibits, scenic overlook, rare plant species, wildflowers, and fossils.
Other facilities	Facilities include adequate parking, trails, a playground, picnic tables and pavilions, restrooms, and fishing access.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, fishing, birdwatching, botanical study, picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly Central New York but other locations as well.
Neighborhood& Park Associations	Council of Park Friends
Events	Guided nature walks and recreation programs.
Concerns	Invasive plant species.

Jamesville Beach Park	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks
Acres	253
Proximity to Syracuse	About 4 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Jamesville Reservoir and wetlands, Butternut Creek.
Other facilities	Large parking area, playground, beach, picnic area with pavilion, special events field, rest room, concession stand, boat rentals, disc golf course.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, fishing, bird watching, picnicking, kayaking, swimming, canoeing.
Visitor Groups	Central New York area
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	Balloon Fest, other events and programs.
Concerns	Invasive plant species; conflicting recreational uses on lake

Green Lakes State Park	
Managing Agency or Organization	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Acres	1,700
Proximity to Syracuse	About 6 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Round Lake (180' deep) and Green Lake (195' deep) are glacial meromictic lakes. Round Lake is registered as a National Natural Landmark.
Other facilities	Facilities include camping, cabins, golf courses (18-hole and disc), playgrounds, picnic areas with pavilions and barbeques, restrooms, beach, concessions, showers, fishing access, canoe put-in and boat rentals, and parking throughout the park.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, golf, cross-country skiing, swimming, camping, biking, picnicking, boating, fishing, orienteering.
Visitor Groups	Residents of surrounding neighborhoods, New York State, and other states and countries.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	Recreation/nature programs (summer), multiple golf tournaments, YMCA triathlon, Senior Games triathlon, Subaru Outback Rendezvous.
Concerns	Dogs off leashes & cleaning-up, lake trail erosion; user conflicts on trails, over-crowding of beach during the summer.

Beaver Lake Nature Center	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks Department
Acres	600
Proximity to Syracuse	About 15 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Mud Lake and diverse habitats; unique plant and wildlife species.
Other facilities	Nature center, canoe rentals on Mud Lake, hiking/cross country skiing trails and boardwalks.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, snowshoeing, birdwatching, and other nature study
Visitor Groups	Adjacent and surrounding neighborhoods, New York State, other states and countries.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	The Friends of Beaver Lake
Events	Interpreter-led programs, school programs, annual Golden Harvest Festival, other events and tours.
Concerns	Funding.

Oneida Shores County Park	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks Department
Acres	340
Proximity to Syracuse	About 20 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Oneida Lake.
Other facilities	Beach and bathhouse, trails, campground, picnic areas and pavilions, playground, motorboat launch, Arrowhead Lodge.
Recreation Activities	Swimming, camping, hiking, fishing, boating, birdwatching.
Visitor Groups	Adjacent and surrounding neighborhoods, New York State, other states and countries.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	TK99 Beach Days; races, and other events.
Concerns	Funding.

<u>Highland Forest</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks Department
Acres	2,759
Proximity to Syracuse	About 25 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Pioneer Museum, pristine woodlands, Spafford Forest.
Other facilities	Trails, horse stable, self-guided nature trail, Community House Ski Lodge, Skyline Lodge, picnic areas and shelters, cabins, camping, ski rentals.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, orienteering, hayrides and sleighrides, picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly residents of Central New York and New York State.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	Highland Jaunt and other programs.
Concerns	Funding.

<u>Pratt's Falls</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks Department
Acres	306
Proximity to Syracuse	About 7 miles from the City of Syracuse boundary.
Historic and/or Natural Resources	137' waterfall and woodlands,
Other facilities	Trails, Camp Brockway (lodge), picnic areas, cabins, archery range.
Recreation Activities	Hiking, birdwatching, cross-country skiing, archery, picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly residents of Central New York.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	
Events	
Concerns	Funding

<u>Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery</u>	
Managing Agency or Organization	Onondaga County Parks Department
Acres	20
Proximity to Syracuse	Located in Elbridge, NY
Historic and/or Natural Resources	Fish ponds containing brook, brown, and rainbow trout; Carpenter's Brook.
Other facilities	Picnic shelter, kids fish pond
Recreation Activities	Hatchery tours, fishing (kids only), picnicking.
Visitor Groups	Predominantly residents of Central New York.
Neighborhood & Park Associations	Friends of Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery
Events	Annual Open House; Children's fishing derbies; Fall Sportsmen's Days
Concerns	Funding

Assessment of Parks Outside the City of Syracuse

The parks outside the Syracuse are diverse areas containing numerous historic and natural resources. These parks in general are well maintained, have significant recreational opportunities, and attract visitors from distant locations. Creating connections between these parks and the City of Syracuse Parks could greatly enhance visitation at both. Packaging of Syracuse City Parks and Onondaga County parks could be enhanced through website development and publications (e.g., self-guided tours). In addition, enhancing physical connections through trail development with parks adjacent to Syracuse (i.e., Onondaga Lake Park, the Erie Canal Park in Camillus, and the Erie Canal State Park) is necessary. Recommendations for connections between these parks and the Syracuse City Parks are included in the Recommendations section under Goal 7.

RESOURCES AND ATTRACTIONS OUTSIDE SYRACUSE'S PARKS

In the City of Syracuse, besides parks, there are many resources and attractions that should be considered for tourism planning. These resources and attractions are divided into seven categories below.

Natural Resources and Attractions

Springtime waterfall. Just west of Burnet Park and slightly north of Grand Avenue is a rock outcropping that is a remnant of the glacial retreat in the Syracuse area. During heavy rains and in the springtime, this outcropping becomes a waterfall. The Friends of the Burnet Park Promenade wish to extend the Promenade to this waterfall.

Views from drumlins. Many drumlins (remnants of the historic glacial retreat that began in Central New York approximately 19,000 years ago and ended about 11,000 years ago) are scattered throughout the Syracuse area. Many parks and greenspaces in Syracuse are located on drumlins, offering incredible views of the city. These areas include Thornden, Burnet, Morningside Heights, Upper Onondaga, Westminster, Lincoln, Schiller, Woodland Reservoir, and Westcott Reservoir. In addition, drumlins exist outside of the parks on the Syracuse University Campus and in the Berkeley Park Historic District (see description below), and outside city borders in the communities of Taunton, Solvay, Dewitt, and Jamesville.

Historic Districts

Clinton Square. Clinton Square has been one of the most popular spots in the city since the 1800s. This public square is host to many events and festivals. In the summer, the flower garden and fountains attract Syracuse workers for lunch and city visitors. During the winter, the ice skating rink replaces the fountains, attracting families. The Christmas lights display is popular with residents. The Jerry Rescue Monument and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument are also located here.

Armory Square Historic District. Armory Square offers unique shopping, dining, and entertainment in Syracuse in restored, historic warehouse buildings. In 1984, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located adjacent to an OnTrack Station. The Museum of Science and Technology is also located in the district.

Franklin Square. Adjacent to the Inner Harbor and Creekwalk, the Franklin Square district is home to historic buildings and popular local restaurants.

Hanover Square. Located downtown, Hanover Square was Syracuse's first major commercial district. The square has a water fountain and is popular with lunchtime visitors, especially during its World in the Square lunchtime entertainment series. Swingin' in the Square, a series of Friday night dance parties, is also held here.

Columbus Circle. Surrounded by beautiful historic buildings such as the County Courthouse and The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Columbus Circle is a popular park with visitors. The park contains the Christopher Columbus Monument and the Syracuse Arts Festival is also held here annually.

Berkeley Park Historic District. Berkeley Park, located east of Oakwood Cemetery in the Syracuse University area, is a forty-one acre residential subdivision designed in 1911. The subdivision was designed to follow the natural contours of the drumlin on which it was built in order to capitalize on the views.

Hawley-Green Historic District. This Historic District on Syracuse's northeast side is one of the few 19th century residential areas remaining in Syracuse. The area first attracted carpenters, wagon makers, silversmiths, painters, and musicians who built modest houses in this area in different architectural styles.

Sedgwick-James-Highland Preservation District. The Sedgwick neighborhood on Syracuse's northeast side contains 20th century homes by some of Syracuse's finest architects and builders. Along winding roadways and city streets are many different styles of architecture. The district is also the city's largest preservation district.

South Salina Street Historic District. This collection of residential, commercial and religious buildings represent the former village of Danforth. The three-block area comprises the historic center of the community that was annexed by the city of Syracuse in the late nineteenth century.

Neighborhoods

The City of Syracuse has many different neighborhoods, each with unique attributes that have potential for attracting visitors. Neighborhoods such as South Valley, Brighton, and Eastwood have potential as service providers for visitors because of their proximity to some of the major parks. Neighborhoods with unique festivals, attractions, and/or shops are listed below.

The Strathmore Neighborhood. Located in the Southwest section of the City. It is primarily a residential neighborhood of single-family homes with unique styles of architecture. The Strathmore Neighborhood Association has been discussing creating a Local Historic District. In the area, there are many mid-20th century residential houses, including the Robineau Residence and the Robineau Studio (both listed on the National Register). Moreover, a Local Protected Site (Onondaga Park) is also located in Strathmore. An architectural tour around this neighborhood and park is arranged annually. An Art on the Porches event is also held to display the works of local artists on the porches of Strathmore homes.

The Westcott Street Neighborhood. This neighborhood, on the southeast side of Syracuse, has many unique shops, restaurants, and entertainment businesses. It is host to a large number of Syracuse University, LeMoyne College, and ESF students living off campus. Moreover, it also hosts an annual Westcott Street Cultural Fair and a Westcott Neighborhood Historic Homes Tour.

Tipperary Hill. This neighborhood, bordering Burnet Park to the north, is home to the Irish community of Syracuse. The community has Irish Pubs and specialty shops selling products from Ireland, and is known for its unique traffic light (the green light is on top) at the intersection of Tompkins and Milton Avenues. An annual St. Patrick's Irish Festival is also held in a local school in this community.

The North Salina Street Neighborhood. On the north side of Syracuse is another unique community with Italian bakeries and cafes. Promotion of this area of town as Syracuse's "Little Italy" is currently underway by the local neighborhood association. An annual puppet festival, sponsored by the International Puppet Museum, is held in close proximity.

Lincoln Hill Neighborhood. This residential neighborhood surrounds Lincoln Park. Park walkways connect neighborhood blocks to the park.

Museums & Educational Centers

Onondaga Historical Association Museum. Exhibits on the history of the anti-slavery movement and the Underground Railroad in Onondaga County are displayed in this museum. Exhibits feature three carved faces recovered from the basement of Syracuse's 1846 Wesleyan Methodist Church, a stop-over on the Underground Railroad. Other exhibits related to the history of Onondaga County are also displayed at the museum. No fee is charged and visiting time is 12-4 pm (Tuesday-Friday) and 11 am-4 pm (Saturday & Sunday).

Open Hand Theater's International Mask & Puppet Museum. The museum is located in a wonderful castle built in 1890 in the historic district on N. Salina St. Exhibitions at the museum change every two months. The museum is also used for the productions of Open Hand Theater, a unique theater experience featuring "giant" puppets.

Erie Canal Museum. This museum, home to the Syracuse Urban Cultural Park Visitor Center, is located in the 1850 Weighlock Building, a National Register Landmark. The building, the only one of its kind remaining in the world, was designed to weigh canal boats and collect tolls at the confluence of the Erie and Oswego canals. The museum is open daily 10 am to 5 pm, year-round at 318 Erie Blvd, East Syracuse. The admission is free.

Museum of Science & Technology. Located within the Armory Square Historic District, the museum is open from 11 am to 5 pm from Wednesday to Sunday. Inside the museum, is an Exhibition Hall and IMAX Movie Hall. An admission fee is charged. Most visiting groups are families with children.

Everson Museum of Art. Located in Downtown Syracuse, this museum features the works of American artists from the 18th century to present, and includes paintings, sculptures, drawings, photography, and videos. It is open to the public from Tuesday to Sunday. Outside the Everson Museum of Art is a small park with benches, a fountain, and large sculptures and art work. Other galleries are located nearby.

Canal Interpretive Center. Open by appointment only, this interpretive center, operated by the Erie Canal Museum, is located on the towpath in Old Erie Canal State Park in Dewitt. The Canal Center's exhibits introduce visitors to the types of canal structures seen in the park, such as aqueducts, bridges, and wide waters. It houses the Museum's full-size canal boat collection, including a historic houseboat and buoy tender.

Salt Museum. Located in Onondaga Lake Park in Liverpool, NY, the museum interprets the Onondaga County salt industry that existed during the 19th century when Syracuse, America's leading salt manufacturing community, earned the name "Salt City." The museum is open from May through September, Tuesday to Sunday, from noon to 5 pm. Admission is free.

St. Marie Among the Iroquois. This interpretive center portrays the lives of the Jesuit Missionaries and Native Americans who lived in the Syracuse area in the 1600s. The center is located near Onondaga Lake in Liverpool, NY and includes a state-of-the-art interpretive center and reproduction of the fort that was once found on the site. The center is presently closed due to budgetary issues.

Beaver Lake Nature Center. This interpretive center located in Baldwinsville, NY, is managed by Onondaga County Parks. The nature center has impressive interpretive exhibits and an extensive trail network through diverse habitats.

Syracuse Public Library. The Central Library, part of the Onondaga County Public Library System, is located in downtown Syracuse in The Galleries, and indoor shopping center located on Salina Street. The library has extensive literary collections. The fifth level is devoted to local history and genealogy.

Sims Museum. This museum, located in Camillus, NY, is a replica of the original Sims' canal store located on the Erie Canal. The Museum is located in the Camillus Erie Canal Park.

Malls

Carousel Mall. Located near Onondaga Lake in the center of Syracuse, this mall is one of the biggest shopping malls in the northeast, offering a diversity of stores. A huge parking area is provided. Additional shops will be added as part of DestiNY, a large attraction that is proposed for property adjacent to Carousel Mall. The mall is open daily (Monday through Saturday from 10 am-9:30 pm, and Sunday from 11 am-6 pm).

Shoppingtown Mall. Shoppingtown Mall also offers a diversity of shops and department stores. It is located on Erie Blvd in Dewitt and is open daily (Monday through Saturday 10 am to 9:30 pm, and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm).

Special Events

Many special events are offered throughout the year in Syracuse. Some of the events held annually include:

The New York State Fair. the New York State Fair takes place annually in Syracuse at the fairground (near Onondaga Lake). Thousands of in-state and out-of-state visitors come to the State Fair. Fair activities include an amusement park, agricultural products fair, animal shows, restaurants, stores, flower fair, and talent shows. In addition, the Fairgrounds are used throughout the year for other festivals and events.

Pops in the Park. This summer series of concerts is arranged annually by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs. The Syracuse Pops Orchestra performs from the bandstand in Upper Onondaga Park.

Winterfest. This event is held for 11 days in mid February. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities are held including parties, cook-offs, ice skating, and races.

Native Dance & Friendship Festival. Held in Clinton Square in August, this annual event features Native American dance, musical performances, crafts, and dance competitions. The festival celebrates the traditions of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquoian for "People of the Long House") which today includes the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, and Tuscarora nations.

Syracuse Jazz Festival. This festival is the Northeast's largest free jazz festival. It hosts internationally and nationally known jazz artists, as well as jazz artists from the Central New York area. Performances are held in Hanover Square, Clinton Square, and other locations throughout the city. There is no fee for this event.

NYS Budweiser Blues Festival. This event is the largest blues festival in the Northeast. It utilizes many locations in the city of Syracuse such as the Hotel Syracuse, Clinton Square, many clubs, restaurants and sites in and around Armory Square.

Shakespeare in the Park. This popular summer series of Shakespeare plays is held annually in Thornden Park.

Juneteenth. This celebration of the liberation of African Americans from slavery is held annually in June in Clinton Square, Hanover Square, and other downtown locations. The event features live performances celebrating African American culture and a Freedom Parade.

A Taste of Syracuse. This event is held in Clinton Square. Admission is free. More than 35 restaurants provide a limited menu of dishes for sale and mini-portions for tasting. Some of the items are available for \$1.

Fleet Syracuse Arts and Crafts Festival. This annual festival is held in Columbus Circle and features numerous artisans and crafters from around the northeast.

Cultural Festivals. Numerous cultural festivals are held annually in and around Syracuse. These include the Irish Festival, Polish Festival, Italian Festival, Octoberfest, and Scottish Games.

Lights on the Lake. Onondaga Lake Park is host to this annual holiday event that starts in late November and ends in early January. Numerous businesses and organizations sponsor the event. Visitors from throughout Central New York drive slowly through the park to view the light displays.

Sports Facilities

P&C Stadium. This Stadium is adjacent to the Syracuse Transportation Center and is home to Syracuse's Sky Chiefs baseball team.

Syracuse War Memorial. Located in downtown Syracuse, this arena is home to the Syracuse Crunch hockey team and is used frequently for concerts and other events.

Syracuse University Dome. The Dome is home to Syracuse University's large sporting events. Many concerts are held here as well. Syracuse University's Manley Fieldhouse also hosts many athletic events.

Facilities at the Fairgrounds. Equestrian events are often held at the stadium at the State Fairgrounds.

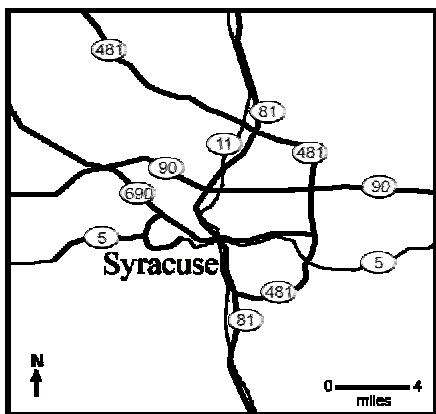
TRANSPORTATION

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 outside areas

Automobile use. Syracuse is located at a major crossroads -- the intersection of Interstates 81 and 90. I-81 is a major north-south highway that 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. In addition, two other major highways, Routes 690 and 481, run east-west and north-south. US Route 11, and State Routes 5, 92, 173, 175, and 298 can be found within the city's boundary (Figure 2). It takes 20 minutes or less to drive anywhere in the city, and to most surrounding suburban destinations. Numerous car rental services are found at Hancock International Airport and at diverse locations throughout the city.

Figure 2. A map of major highways in Syracuse.



Bus Service. Greyhound is the main service provider. Syracuse is the hub of Greyhound in Central New York, 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.

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.

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, US Airways, and Delta Airlines), seven regional and commuter airlines (Commutair, American Eagle, Comair, Continental Express, United Express, TransMeridian Airlines, and USAirways Express), six air cargo carriers (Airborne Express, Business Air/Air Now, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, the United States Postal Service and Wiggins Airways.), two fixed-

base operators (Syracuse ExecAir Services, Inc., and Piedmonte Hawthorne Aviation) and charter services. Nearly 200 passenger flights arrive and depart daily.

Water Transportation. The Erie Canal passes in an east-west direction just north of Syracuse. The Erie Canal and other segments of the New York State Canal System enable 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.

Travel to parks within Syracuse

There are several ways to travel to parks within the City of Syracuse. Most people either drive, bike, or walk to parks. Public transportation is also available.

Automobile. Most of the city parks contain parking lots and park access roads that connect to city streets (Table 2).

Railroad. OnTrack, the city's train service, offers regular service from Wednesday through Sunday from Syracuse University to Carousel Mall (Colvin Street and the Regional Transit Center need to call in advance for the train to stop). A stop is made near Armory Square, an important tourist destination in the city. OnTrack also has a stop near Jamesville Beach County Park. During special events (e.g., Carrier Dome events), OnTrack will extend its service to other areas. The schedule can sometimes be confusing.

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. Most of the parks are within two blocks of these bus routes (Table 2). Complicated bus schedules and routes, and locating bus stops make the system difficult to understand and use.

Bicycle. Using bicycles is another alternative way to travel to Syracuse parks. Many city streets are pleasant for bicyclists to use, but many others have safety concerns. According to the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTTC), results from a bicycle and pedestrian plan survey indicate that 41% of bicyclists said the Syracuse area is bicycle-friendly. SMTTC has produced a free Greater Syracuse Metropolitan Area Bike Map for bicycle commuters that identifies suitable roads for bicycle travel. While this map is not intended for recreational use, it does provide basic road information for bicyclists. Most of the parks, with the exclusion of Lower Onondaga Park and the Inner Harbor, are not included in this bike map system. There are several trails and access roads in the parks that can be used by bicyclists. At present, only one street in the City of Syracuse (i.e., Comstock Avenue) has bike lanes.

Pedestrian Use. The majority of roads (i.e., 95% to 97%) in Syracuse have a sidewalk on at least one side. Several city parks also contain trails for hiking (Table 2). Most city parks have sidewalks and/or stairways that connect the parks to their surrounding neighborhoods. However several sidewalks around the parks are in poor condition or disconnected, increasing concerns for pedestrian safety.

Directional signage

Signage directing visitors to the parks is greatly lacking for parks within the City of Syracuse. Only Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Burnet Park, Inner Harbor Park, and the Onondaga Creekwalk have directional signs in their surrounding areas. However, even with the existing signage, it is still difficult to follow signs to their destinations because of missing signs at important intersections. With the exception of the zoo, there are no signs pertaining to the parks at any exit off I-81, I-90, I-690, or I-481.

Table 2. A transportation inventory for some of Syracuse's parks.

Park name	Major access road	Close to bike road*?	Bus stop within two blocks?	Hiking route in park?	Biking route in park?	Nearby green spaces and parks	Pedestrian concerns
Burnet Park	S. Avery Ave. Grand Ave. Coleridge Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pass Arboretum 2 Cemeteries Westcott Reservoir	Needs a sidewalk on S. Avery Ave. Stone staircases are slippery.
James Pass Arboretum	S. Avery Ave. Salisbury Rd. Tompkins St.	Yes	No	Yes	No	Burnet Park 2 Cemeteries Westcott Reservoir	
Onondaga Park	Roberts Ave. South Ave. Onondaga Ave. Onondaga Creek Pkwy.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kirk Park Elmwood Park Woodland Reservoir Onondaga Creek	
Kirk Park	Kirk Ave. Onondaga Creek Blvd.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Onondaga Park Elmwood Park Onondaga Creek	
Elmwood Park	Glenwood Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Kirk Park Onondaga Park Woodland Reservoir Onondaga Creek One Cemetery	Disconnection of sidewalk on Craddock St.
Van Duyn Field	Valley Dr.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Onondaga Creek	
Rand Tract	Valley Dr.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	One Cemetery Onondaga Creek Heath Park	Trailhead is difficult to find. Trail not connected to Webster Pond.
Thornden Park	Ostrom Ave. S. Beech St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Syracuse University Westminster Park Oakwood Cemetery	
Schiller Park	Oak St. Highland St. Farmer St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Two Cemeteries Mc Chesney Park	
Lincoln Park	Robinson St. Hawley Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sunnycrest Park	Some stonework paths within the park are slippery.
Sunnycrest Park	Robinson St. Caleb Ave. Shotwell Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lincoln Park Huntington Park	
Morningside Height Park	Broad St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Oakwood cemetery Syracuse University Meadow Brook Westminster Park	
Westminster Park	Euclid Ave. Stratford St. Westminster Ave.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Thornden Park Meadow Brook Morningside Heights Park Syracuse University Oakwood Cemetery Barry Park	Staircase is steep and can be slippery.
Barry Park	Westcott St. Meadow Brook Dr. Broad St.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Thornden Park Morningside Height Park Syracuse University Oakwood cemetery Westminster Park	

Table 2 (continued). Syracuse parks transportation inventory.

Park name	Major access road	Close to bike road*?	Bus stop within two blocks?	Hiking route in park?	Biking route in park?	Nearby green spaces and parks	Pedestrian concerns
Meachem Field	W. Seneca Turnpike	Yes	Yes	No	No	Onondaga Creek Heath Park	High speed vehicular traffic in the access road
Westcott Reservoir	Salisbury Rd. W. Genesee St.	Yes	Yes	No	No	Pass Arboretum 2 Cemeteries Burnet Park	Steep climb to top of reservoir.
Inner Harbor and Onondaga Creekwalk	Solar St. Van Rensselaer St. W. Kirkpatrick St.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Onondaga Lake Park Franklin Square	Disconnection of Creek Walk with other parks.

* “Bike road,” a reference from the bike map provided by the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC), indicates that the road rates “average” or better for bicycle use and safety.

Parking in the City of Syracuse

Parking. Parking is prohibited on sidewalks, in front of driveways, within ten feet of a fire hydrant, in front of schoolyards, on or within ten feet of pedestrian crosswalks, between the sidewalk and the curb, and anywhere else where official signs prohibit it. Violators are issued tickets by the Police Department. Vehicles illegally parked in unsafe locations will be towed by police order at the owner's expense.

Odd/Even parking. Many streets are designated for alternate side of the street parking. From 6:00 pm on even numbered days of the month, until 5:59 pm of the following day, cars must be parked on the even side of the street. The reverse is true for odd numbered days

Metered parking. Unless otherwise posted, parking meters operate Monday through Saturday, except the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Downtown parking lots. Approximately 14 parking garages and 32 open lots exist in Syracuse's downtown area (Downtown Committee of Syracuse 2003). There are about 13,576 parking spaces in downtown, not including street parking.

Concerns Related to Transportation

- A lack of clear travel connections exists between adjacent parks. These connections would allow visitors to visit series of parks as greenway systems.
- The lack of designated bicycle lanes on nearly all roads in the City of Syracuse make it necessary for bicyclists to share the roadway with motor vehicles, creating a potentially dangerous situation for bicyclists.
- Seasonal concerns exist related to pedestrian safety. In the winter, icy conditions exist through the city and the park system.
- Some of the stonework paths and staircases in the parks are overgrown with vegetation and tend to be slippery. Repair to stonework is also needed to repair damaged stones and prevent visitor accidents.
- There are few directional signs indicating the locations of the parks.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

The assessment portion of the marketing and promotion section of this plan is intended to:

- 1) identify the marketing position of the City of Syracuse Parks and potential marketing statements;
- 2) assess the current visitor demographic associated with park usage;
- 3) assess current and potential visitor markets associated with local attractions, resources, and activities; and
- 4) assess current park promotional activities.

Marketing Position

The following marketing position is a brief paragraph that summarizes how the City of Syracuse Park System is situated with regard to attractions, resources, competition, and visitor market groups:

A regional urban center, Syracuse is the geographic hub of New York State. At the crossroads of major north-south and east-west transportation corridors (i.e., Interstate 90, Interstate 81, the Amtrak rail road corridor, and the New York State Canal system), the City is easily accessible for interstate travelers. Both large and small urban areas -- including Rochester, Utica, Rome, Ithaca, Binghamton, Oswego, and Watertown -- are within an 1.5-hour drive of Syracuse. Nearly 1,000 acres of glacial topography, drumlins, plains, lakes, and streams, compose the City of Syracuse Park System. This vast network of parks offers community residents and visitors high quality recreation experiences in a natural setting. The recreational experiences available are extensive, and include field sports, swimming and fishing, nature and historical interpretation, an exciting calendar of special events, and simply appreciating inspirational landscapes. These experiences strengthen the fabric of local neighborhoods and allow visitors to sample the natural and historical richness of Syracuse.

Marketing Statement

The marketing statement is intended as a tool to promote the marketing position and theme of the City of Syracuse Parks System. Given the diversity of park recreational opportunities, it presents a challenge to capture the central theme of the parks in one appealing statement. It is recommended that Syracuse residents be asked for their input concerning the creation of an effective marketing statement. Some examples of marketing statements are presented below.

Syracuse Parks: Climb a step or two for an inspirational view

Syracuse Parks: Where landscape unites community

Syracuse Parks: Discover the parks in your own backyard

Visitor Demographics

Park use can be divided into three categories:

- 1) **park programs**, such as the Youth Summer Camp Program, adult athletic programs, and programming for senior citizens;
- 2) **special events**, such as *Pops in the Parks*; and
- 3) **recreational use**, such as dog walking or playing basketball.

Each of these categories offers a diverse set of potential activities to different visitor groups.

The Division of Youth Programs reports attendance totals to the City's statistical database called Syrastat (Personal communication with C. Abbott, SDPRYP, 2003). In some cases this information specifies participant gender. For example, 550 males and 365 females registered for the 2003 Summer Camp Program (Personal communication with C. Abbott, SDPRYP, 2003). Some inferences about age may be possible based upon the type of program. Visitor use statistics associated with special events appear to be limited to attendance estimates. Little or no statistical information is available that is associated with the recreational use of park resources. Examples of statistical indicators of park usage that are currently unavailable include: location of visitor origin, gender, age, group composition, length of stay, educational level, and information regarding recreational needs and interests.

According to the SDPRYP, the parks are primarily used by local City residents (personal communication with A. Krueger and G. Lewis, SDPRYP, 2003). General demographic information is available from the U.S. Census Bureau. Between 1990 and 2000 the population of Syracuse declined by nearly 11%. The population of Onondaga County decreased during the same period by 2%. The fastest declining age group in Syracuse for the same period was that of persons 65 and older, declining 22%. The correlation between Census Bureau information and park usage is unknown. More detailed information regarding park usage would be useful in developing specific marketing and promotion strategies.

Visitor Markets

Table 3 provides an initial assessment of visitor markets within Syracuse City Parks. This information is intended to provide a framework for future discussion and further refinement. Designations in Table 3 are based solely on best professional judgment. Additional marketing research needs to be conducted.

Appendix A includes a table that assesses potential and growth markets for parks within the City of Syracuse. Visitor market groups that have the greatest potential for visiting Syracuse's parks and greenspaces include:

- Local residents, visitors from other areas within Central New York, and residents of other urban centers (e.g., Rochester and Watertown);
- Both solitary individuals and groups of visitors (e.g., families, school groups, organizations);
- Day users (i.e., visitors coming to Syracuse for a day or less) primarily with potential for visitors traveling to Syracuse for weekends;
- Conference attendees coming to Syracuse for several days (the parks offer opportunities for conference field trips);
- Visitors interested in historic and natural resource tours, as well as picnicking, hiking, biking, and nature viewing; and
- Visitors interested in special events and festivals in the parks.

Promotional Efforts

Many promotional products are developed by Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs (SDPRYP). A large proportion of the promotional products developed by SDRYP appear to be created by the Special Events Division (Roach 2003), and to focus on special events. However, the Special Events Division also has some involvement in: the promotion of park programs, via the production of the brochure entitled *Summer Fun*, and in the promotion of park recreational use, via web site development (Roach 2003). Table 3 provides a brief description of the major promotional products produced by SDRYP. Existing promotional product distribution outlets include public and parochial schools, public libraries, events, and the internet.

Table 3. City park promotion by the SDPRYP.

Products	Comments
SDPRYP (website) http://www.syracuse.ny.us/parks/index.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides links to programs, special events, and facilities• Each major park is given an individual page• Website development is ongoing (Roach 2003)• In some cases, e.g., Elmwood Park, images do not adequately capture the unique and spectacular nature of the park.• Add image captions.• Limited linkages from other sites
Sights and Sounds (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a detailed calendar of special events planned for the summer months.• Includes significant color imagery.• Attractive brochure.• Images would be more effective with captions.
Summer Fun (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides detailed information about sports and youth programs and other special events.• Available in hardcopy or via the SDPRYP website.• Attractive brochure with great use of imagery.
Fall and Winter (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current version unavailable.• This product appears to contain information about special events and youth programs.
Fall, Winter, and Spring Swimming (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides information regarding policies, hours of operation, dates, programming and lessons, and a program registration form.
Community Centers School Year Program (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brief listing of facility hours and program types.• Promotional statements could be stronger and larger.
James Pass Arboretum (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keys out 36 different tree species using ID map.• Provides historical and restoration information about the Arboretum.• Brochure would benefit from an introduction.
Sustaining Our Urban Forests (brochure) (In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a FAQs format to impart information related to Urban Forestry and how residents can help sustain urban trees.• Describes the Syracuse Urban Forestry Master Plan.
Skating Information (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a fee schedule and a season pass registration form.• Missing a promotional title and statements.• Brochure could be more attractive.
Golf Courses (brochure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• League and course fee information.

In addition to the SDPRYP, other organizations and organizational partnerships are involved in promoting Syracuse's park-related activities. Table 4 identifies these organizations and describes the promotional activities in which they are involved. Syracuse park promotional activities completed in conjunction with Onondaga County Parks were not found.

Table 4. City park promotion by non-SDPRYP organizations.

Product	Organization	Comments
The City of Syracuse website http://www.syracuse.ny.us	City of Syracuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a link to the SDPRYP website. • Inclusion of bulletin board photo of a Syracuse park on site homepage to make it easier for visitors to find park information.
Neighborhood association newsletters	Various associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numerous newsletters exist in hardcopy and on the internet. • May periodically include information about special events at City Parks (Roach 2003)
Know Your City Parks website http://www.takeahike.org/urban_parks.htm	Centers for Nature Education, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides some of the most comprehensive and detailed descriptions for Elmwood, Heath, Morningside, Schiller, and Thornden Parks, and the Rand Tract. • Missing a link to the SDPRYP website.
Syracuse Chamber of Commerce website http://www.syracusechamber.com/	Syracuse Chamber of Commerce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes special events. • No promotion of City Parks. • Missing a link to the SDPRYP website.
Syracuse Post-Standard Bimonthly Calendar of Events	<i>Syracuse Post-Standard</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A published schedule of special events (Roach 2003).
Visitors Guide for Syracuse and Central New York	<i>Syracuse Post Standard</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide to attractions in the Central New York area that is distributed in area hotels. • Contains information about downtown parks. • Missing information about City of Syracuse Parks.
SyracuseFun website http://www.syracusefun.com		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address information for seven major parks, and links to the SDPRYP website. • Onondaga Park 360-degree tour is well done. • Additional imagery could be added to the address page.

Table 4 (continued). City park promotion by non-SDPRYP organizations.

Product	Organization	Comments
A Brief History of Thornden Park (brochure)	Author unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a detailed history of the park and descriptions of park features. Informative descriptions, useful map, and nice historical images. Brochure should include mention of author(s).
The CommuniTree Stewards Program brochure	Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes how you can become a community tree steward. Project sites include City Parks.
Historical Landscapes of Syracuse (overview and series brochures)	Syracuse Department of Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Series of brochures to be used in conjunction with an overview brochure. Describes ten Syracuse historic landscapes, including Lower Onondaga Park, Thornden Park, and James Pass Aboretum. Text font size in overview brochure is too small. Some thematic interpretation would be a great addition.
Greater Syracuse and Onondaga County Travel Guide brochure	Syracuse Convention and Visitor's Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes brief description and contact information for Onondaga Park. Provides some descriptions of special events. Information related to recreational use of City Parks is limited.
Syracuse Convention and Visitor's Bureau website	Syracuse Convention and Visitor's Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lists activities available in major City Parks and provides City Parks contact information. Missing a link to the SDPRYP website on its homepage.
Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and Syracuse Opera programs	Syracuse Symphony Orchestra and Syracuse Opera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically includes information about special events at City Parks.
Restoring the Past Enhancing the Future brochure	SUNY-ESF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brochure describing the Onondaga Creek Restoration Project. Nice visual imageries.
Elmwood Park's Woody Plants brochure	SUNY-ESF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides an identification key to the woody plants in Elmwood Park.

Table 5 provides examples of promotional products available for outdoor recreation attractions in Onondaga County (excluding City Parks). These products and their sponsoring organizations represent potential opportunities for developing organizational linkages with SDPRYP.

Table 5. Promotion of other recreation attractions in Onondaga County.

Product	Organization	Comments
I Love NY 2002: Finger Lakes Mini-Guide and Map brochure	The Finger Lakes Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a regional map and lists accommodations and attractions for towns within the region. Does not list Syracuse Parks in its attractions section.
Erie Canal brochure	Syracuse Convention and Visitor's Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides comprehensive historical descriptions of the canal and surrounding communities.
Old Erie Canal State Historic Site brochure	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describes the Canal story Describes interpretive facilities on the Canal.
Green Lakes State Park brochure	OPRHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directions, facilities, trail map, and description of resources.
Clark Reservation brochure	OPRHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directions, facilities, trail map, and description of resources.
Columbus Circle: A Walking Tour of Special Syracuse Places brochure	The Urban Cultural Park Program, OPRHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-developed self-guided tour brochure.
Syracuse Urban Cultural Park brochure	The Urban Cultural Park Program, OPRHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides a guide to cultural park sites.
Springs, Lakes, and Reservoirs brochure	Onondaga Historical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides historical description of the Syracuse water supply system.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Twenty-eight hotels and motels and three bed and breakfasts are found within the City of Syracuse (Table 6). The majority of these establishments are geared towards families. However, many accommodations also cater to corporations and business travelers. The low number of bed and breakfasts may indicate an opportunity for additional bed and breakfasts in the area.

Table 6. Accommodations in and near the City of Syracuse.

Type of accommodation	Business name	Address	Phone	# of rooms	User type
Hotel/Motel	Best Western Fairgrounds	670 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13209	315-484-0044	47	Family/ Business
	Best Western Syracuse Airport Inn	Hancock Airport N. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-455-7362	95	Family/ Business
	Double Tree Club	6701 Buckley Rd. N. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-457-4000 800-572-1602 fax: 315-453-7877	187	Business
	Econo Lodge	3400 Erie Blvd East Syracuse, NY 13214	315-446-3300	44	Family
	Econo Lodge University	454 James St. Syracuse, NY 13202	315-425-0015 fax: 315-474-7089	48	Family
	Ramada Inn	1305 Buckley Rd. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-457-8670 fax: 315-457-8633	150	Family/ Business
	Ramada Limited	6590 Thompson Rd. Syracuse, NY 13206	315-463-0202 fax: 315-463-9270	74	Family/ Business
	Embassy Suites	6646 Old Collamer Rd. E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-446-3200 800-EMBASSY	215	Business
	Crest Hill Suites	6410 New Venture Gear Dr. E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-432-5595 fax: 315-432-5686	86	Business
	Hilton Garden Inn	6004 Fair Lakes Rd. E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-431-4800	100	Family/ Business
	Hawthorne Suites Armory Square	416 S. Clinton St. Syracuse, NY 13202	315-425-0500	61	Business
	Microtel Inn Carrier Circle	6608 Old Collamer Rd. E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-437-3500 800-435-1665 fax: 315-437-0111	99	Family/ Business
	Marriot Residence Inn	6420 Yorktown Circle E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-432-4488 800-331-3131	102	Family/ Business
	Courtyard by Marriot	6415 Yorktown Circle E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-432-0300 800-321-2211 fax: 315-432-9950	149	Family
	Red Carpet Inn	2914 Brewerton Rd. N. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-454-3266 800-251-1962	65	Family

Table 6 (continued). Accommodations in and near the City of Syracuse.

Type of accommodation	Business name	Address	Phone	# of rooms	User type
	Sheraton - Syracuse University	801 University Ave. Syracuse, NY 13210	315-475-3000	235	Business
	The Hotel Syracuse	500 S. Warren St. Syracuse, NY 13202	315-422-5121	456	Business
	The Marx	701 E. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13210	315-479-7000	261	Business
	Budget Inn	901 S. Bay Rd. N. Syracuse, NY 13039	315-458-3510	35	Family
	Budget Inn	4406 S. Salina St. Syracuse, NY 13205	315-492-1714	25	Family
	Comfort Inn Fairgrounds	7010 Interstate Island Rd. Syracuse, NY 13209	315-453-0045 800-228-5150	109	Family
	Quality Inn	1308 Buckley Rd. N. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-451-1212 800-4CHOICE fax: 315-453-8050	142	Family or Business
	Western Ranch Motor Inn	1255 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13209	315-457-9236	42	Family
	Holiday Inn	100 Farrell Rd. Syracuse, NY 13209	315-457-8700 800-465-4329	152	Business
	Genesee Inn Executive Quarters Hotel	1060 E. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13210	315-476-4212 800-365-4663	96	Family or Business
	Red Rood Inn	I-90 and Carrier Circle Syracuse, NY 13202	315-437-3309 800-843-7663	115	Family or Business
	Motel 6	6577 Court St. E. Syracuse, NY 13057	315-433-1300	87	Family
	State Fair Motel	514 State Fair Blvd Syracuse, NY 13204	315-424-1931	22	Family
Bed and Breakfast	Bed and Breakfast at Giddings Garden	290 W. Seneca Turnpike Syracuse, NY 13207	800-377-3452	4	Couples
	Bed and Breakfast Wellington	707 Danforth St. Syracuse, NY 13208	800-724-5006	5	Couples
	Dickenson House on James	1504 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203	315-423-4777 888-423-4777	4	Couples

CAMPGROUPS

Being that the City of Syracuse is an urban setting, there are no campsites within the City area. There are campsites located outside the city limits in Green Lakes State Park, Highland Forest, Oneida Shores, and at privately-owned campgrounds.

RESTAURANTS

Diverse dining establishments were taken into consideration, from ice cream parlors to pizza shops. Each of these restaurants influences its community and plays an integral role in the park system of Syracuse. By recognizing this important connection between the parks and nearby restaurants, we can hopefully work to improve visitation to both these establishments and the park system.

There are a multitude of restaurants that surround each of the parks, offering a variety of eating experiences and cuisines. Restaurants were sorted according to their proximity to the parks (Appendix B). These park groupings and the number of restaurants that surround them are as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Thornden, Barry, & Westminster Parks: | 49 businesses |
| • Burnet Park & James Pass Arboretum: | 36 |
| • Onondaga, Kirk, & Elmwood Parks: | 19 |
| • Van Duyn Field, Meachem Field, & Rand Tract: | 20 |
| • Schiller Park: | 37 |
| • Lincoln & Sunnycrest Parks: | 31 |
| • Inner Harbor Area: | 28 |

Some duplication exists for restaurants found near more than one park. Because the focus of this report is on the parks and greenspaces surrounding downtown Syracuse, restaurants in downtown Syracuse that are not adjacent to the larger parks and greenspaces identified on pages 5 through 24 are not included in this report.

OTHER TOURISM SERVICE PROVIDERS

There are many businesses within the City of Syracuse that offer visitors additional recreational services. Services also exist within local parks. Three outdoor gear providers, six golf courses and equipment providers, six bike repair and/or rental shops, three dive shops, nine ski/snowboard equipment sales/rental shops, and eight skating arenas are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Listing of tourism and recreation service providers in and adjacent to 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
	Northern Outfitters	2540 Erie Boulevard E. Syracuse, NY 13224	(315) 449-1208	Family
Canoe & kayak rentals/shops	Jamesville Beach County Park	Jamesville, NY	(315) 435-5252	Family
	Camillus Kayak Shop	24 Main St. Camillus, NY	(315) 672-8439	Adults
	Syracuse Yacht Sales	6901 East Genesee St. Dewitt, NY	(315) 446-2731	Adult
	Northern Outfitters	2540 Erie Blvd. E. Syracuse, NY 13210	(315) 449-1208	Adult
	Boat Works	230 Bridge St. East Syracuse, NY	(315) 438-8915	Adult
Golf courses/shops	Burnet Golf Clubhouse	S. Avery St. Syracuse, NY 13204	(315) 487-6285	Adult
	Brooklawn Public Golf Course	Thompson Rd & Carrie Syracuse, NY 13206	(315) 463-1831	Adult
	Drumlins Golf Professional Shop	800 Nottingham Road Syracuse, NY 13224	(315) 446-5580	Adult
	Pope's Grove Golf Course	695 State Fair Blvd Syracuse, NY 13209	(315) 487-9075	Adult
	Central New York PGA	822 State Fair Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13209	(315) 468-6812	Adult
	Sunnycrest Park Golf Course	Robinson St. Syracuse, NY	(315) 463-9358	Adult
Bike shops	Wayne's & Meltzer's Bike Super Store	2714 Erie Boulevard E. Syracuse, NY 13224	(315) 446-6819	Family
	Bicycle Alley	120 Julian Place Syracuse, NY 13210	(315) 449-3955	Family
	Bike Loft	717 South Bay Road Syracuse, NY 13212	(315) 458-5260	Family
	Advance Cyclery	118 Seeley Rd. Syracuse, NY	(315) 449-2453	Family
	Open Road Sports	3530 Erie Blvd. East Dewitt, NY	(315) 446-3287	Family
	Dewitt Sports	6901 E. Genesee St. Dewitt, NY	(315) 446-0460	Family

Table 7 (continued). Listing of tourism and recreation service providers in and adjacent to the City of Syracuse.

Type of business	Business	Address	Phone	User type
Dive shops	Aquatic World	114 Kreischer Rd N. Syracuse, NY 13212	(315) 458-1955	Family
	The Dive Shop	2105 West Genesee Syracuse, NY 13219	(315) 487-7558	Family
	Aquatic Center of Syracuse	1732 Erie Blvd. Syracuse, NY 13210	(315) 479-5544	Family
Skate shops/rinks	Dance 'n on Ice	144 Ball Circle Syracuse, NY 13210	(315) 478-8318	All Ages
	Skyehigh Inc	167 Marshall Street Syracuse, NY 13210	(315) 422-4857	All Ages
	Cicero Twin Ice Arena	5575 Meltzer Court Cicero, NY 13039	(315) 752-7465	All Ages
	Lysander-Radisson Ice Arena	2725 W Entry Rd Baldwinsville, NY 13027	(315) 635-1555	All Ages
	Tsha'hon'no- Nyen'dakhwa	Route 11 Nedrow, NY	(315) 498-6812	All Ages
	Burnet Park Ice Rink	S. Avery St. Syracuse, NY	(315) 473-4330	All Ages
	Meachem Field Ice Rink	W. Seneca Typk. Syracuse, NY	(315) 473-4330	All Ages
	Sunnycrest Park Ice Rink	Robinson St. Syracuse, NY	(315) 473-4330	All Ages
Ski/Snowboard shops, rentals, & facilities	Onondaga County Highland Forest	Route 80 Fabius, NY 13063	(315) 683-5550	All Ages
	Alpine Edge	3000 Erie Blvd. East Syracuse, NY	(315) 446-0222	All ages
	Camillus Ski Association	Blackmore Road Camillus NY 13031	(315) 487-2778	All Ages
	Four Seasons Golf and Ski Center	Route 5 Fayetteville, NY	(315) 637-9023	All ages
	Lund's Ski Shop	6820 E Genesee St. De Witt, NY 13214	(315) 445-0880	All Ages
	Ski Company	3401 Erie Boulevard East Syracuse, NY 13214	(315) 445-1890	All Ages
	Open Road Sports	3530 Erie Boulevard East De Witt, NY 13214	(315) 446-3287	All Ages
	Ski Company	3401 Erie Boulevard East Syracuse, NY 13214	(315) 445-1890	All Ages
	Hardpact Boardgear	109 South Warren Street Syracuse, NY 13202	(315) 426-1446	All Ages

EMERGENCY SERVICES & VISITOR SAFETY

Police/Fire/Ambulance Services for Syracuse & Surrounding Areas Syracuse (City) (Including Town of Onondaga & Salina)

- **911 service** (available throughout the City of Syracuse and Central New York area)
- **Police Department**
 - 511 State St (Main Department)
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 442-5111
 - D A R E – 442-5216
 - Domestic Violence Hotline – 442-5332
 - Drug Hotline – 487-8477
 - Crime Prevention – 442-5210
 - Missing Persons – 442-5233
 - Neighborhood Watch – 448-8762
 - Youth Enforcement – 442-5233
- **Community Police Centers (Non-emergency)**
 - **East**
 - 800 E. Genesee St – 478-0445
 - 716 Hawley Ave – 472-5058
 - 2450 James St – 431- 0972
 - 473 Westcott St – 472-0528
 - **North**
 - 500 Butternut St – 476-4141
 - 255 Wolf St – 471-3257
 - **South**
 - 4141 S. Salina St – 492-3080
 - **West**
 - 200 S. Geddes – 474-7442
 - 713 S. Geddes – 478-2871
- **Fire Department**
 - **Chief's Office**, 511 S. State St., 473-5525
 - Reporting a Fire – 911
 - Non-emergency: 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. Genesse St.
 - **Fire Station 17**, 2317 Burnet Ave.
 - **Fire Station 18**, 3741 Midland Ave.

Camillus - (Town)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 4600 W. Genesse St
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 487-0102

Dewitt – (Town)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 5400 Butternut St
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 449-3640

East Syracuse – (Village)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 204 North Center
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 437-4687

Geddes – (Town)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 1000 Woods Rd. (Solvay)
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 468-3283

Manlius – (Town)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 1 Elmbrook Drive, West Manlius
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Tips Hot Line: 682-8673
 - Administrative Calls: 682-2212
 - Fire Department (Business Calls): 682-8318

Marcellus – (Village)

- **Police Department/Fire Department**, 6 Slocumbe St
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 673-2079

North Syracuse – (Village)

- **Police Department**, 600 South Bay Rd
 - Non-emergency: 425-2333
 - Administrative Calls: 458-5670
- **Fire Department**, 109 Chestnut St
 - Emergency Only (Fire & Ambulance) – 911

Hospitals (Syracuse & Surrounding Areas)

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

Emergency facilities in the Parks

The City of Syracuse parks are, in general, safe locations for recreation. Most have adequate lighting and phone service for their intended uses. Service centers (including car repairs services and gas stations) are typically found in close proximity to most parks. Safety improvements are, however, needed in some parks. Tables 8 and 9 include information about lighting and other safety considerations for the parks in and around Syracuse. Although lighting is an important consideration for parks and is included in the tables, it is important to realize that extensive lighting may not be necessary in parks seeking to offer visitors natural settings. In addition, many parks within Syracuse close at dusk, making lighting necessary for nighttime sporting events only.

Table 8. Syracuse City Parks and their associated safety features.

Park name	Lighting ^a	Telephone service	Visitor safety	Service centers
Burnet Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Pass Arboretum	Poor	None	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Onondaga Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Kirk Park	Good		Good	2-5 blocks from park
Elmwood Park	Minimal	None	Broken glass; Vandalism	2-5 blocks from park
Van Duyn Field	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Webster Pond	Minimal	None	Potential health hazards due to extremely large bird populations; Uneven pavement	2-5 blocks from park
Rand Tract (not including Webster Pond)	Minimal	None	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Thornden Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Vandalism	2-5 blocks from park
Schiller Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Lincoln Park	Minimal	Located at park building (summer only)	Broken glass; Vandalism	2-5 blocks from park
Sunnycrest Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Morningside Heights Park	Good	None	Vandalism	2-5 blocks from park
Westminster Park	Minimal	None	Unsafe railing	Over 5 blocks from park
Barry Park	Minimal		Good	2-5 blocks from park
Meachem Field	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park
Westcott Reservoir	Minimal	None	High risk associated with sledding (not permitted)	Adjacent to park
Inner Harbor/Creekwalk	Good		Good	2-5 blocks from park
Wolcott Reservoir	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	2-5 blocks from park

Table 9. Parks outside of Syracuse and their associated safety features.

Park name	Lighting	Telephone service	Visitor safety	Service centers
Heath Park	None		Good	2-5 blocks from park
Onondaga Lake Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	1-5 blocks from park in some locations
Erie Canal State Park	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Ryder Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Baltimore Woods	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Beaver Lake Nature Center	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Green Lakes State Park	Good. Minimal on trails	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Clark Reservation State Park	Good. Does not exist on trails	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Jamesville Beach County Park	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Oneida Shores	Good	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park
Highland Forest	Minimal	Located at park buildings	Good	Over 5 blocks from park

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Park, tourism, and economic development organizations and agencies

Different organizations, governmental agencies, business, community groups, NGOs and others need to be included in the tourism planning process. A large number of organizations exist in the City of Syracuse. Most are community-based organizations like neighborhood associations, and are linked to the parks in a variety of ways. Because it is necessary to obtain consensus from stakeholders for the tourism planning process, a list of organizations is included in Tables 10-14.

Table 10. Governmental Agencies related with park administration and planning.

Name of Organization	Responsibilities	Address
State		
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation	Manages States Parks.	www.nysparks.com Agency Building #1, 20th Floor Empire State Plaza Albany, NY 12238
NYS Department of Economic Development, Empire State Development Corp., Tourism Division	Coordinates marketing and promotion of tourism attractions statewide and by tourism region.	iloveny.com
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation	Provides numerous services including promotion of outdoor and educational activities, environmental conservation efforts on state lands, and hunting/fishing licenses.	www.dec.state.ny.us
County/Region		
Onondaga County Parks.	Manages and promotes Onondaga County Parks.	www.ongov.net/parks Main Office at (315) 451-7275
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.smtcpo.org
City		
City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs	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 Community Development	Provides grants for neighborhood development with the City of Syracuse.	www.syracuse.ny.us/communityDevelopment.asp City Hall Commons 201 E Washington St, Rm. 612 Syracuse, NY 13202
City of Syracuse Department of Water	This agency manages the reservoirs within the City of Syracuse.	www.syracuse.ny.us/deptWater.asp 101 N. Beech St. Syracuse, NY 13210

Table 11. Organizations related to economic development and tourism businesses.

Name of Organization	Responsibility	Address
State		
Empire State Development	Economic development	www.empire.state.ny.us
The Business Council of NYS	Provides business assistance and development programs to state businesses	www.bcnys.org
New York State For Small Business	Assistance for small businesses.	www.nylovesmallbusiness.com
County/Region		
Onondaga County Industrial Development Agency	Promotes industrial development in Central New York.	www.ocida.org
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County.	Informs and educates the public on how to protect natural resources. Community Tree Stewards Program	www.cce.cornell.edu/onondaga/natres/natres.html
Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board	Public agency that helps to develop and implement plans that will enhance the future of the Central New York Region.	www.cnypdb.org
City		
Greater Syracuse Economic Growth Council	Group dedicated to economic development in Syracuse.	www.syracusecentral.com
Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau	Group dedicated to the success of local hotels and businesses, through convention planning and promotion.	www.syracusecvb.org 572 Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202-3320 Phone: 315-470-1910
Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce	Provides business assistance and development programs to local businesses. Promotion of Syracuse Area through travel guides and an internet site.	www.syracusechamber.com
Entrepreneurial Council	Local support for entrepreneurs.	www.SyracuseEntrepreneur.com
Business Incubator	Promotes new business ideas.	www.SyracuseBusinessIncubator.com
Better Business Bureau	Ensures that businesses in Syracuse remain of a high quality.	www.syracuse.bbb.org

Community-based organizations

There are a large number of community-based organizations in the City of Syracuse. However, improved networking between organizations is needed to effectively implement local goals. With regard to the parks in the city of Syracuse, community-based organizations have concerns about safety, preservation of historic resources, and neighborhood identity, as well as others issues. Neighborhood associations are included in Table 12.

Table 12. Community-based and county organizations and NGOs.

Name of Organization	Goals/Activities	Address
Community based		
Neighborhood associations	There are a large number of associations with focus on improve the quality of life of their neighborhoods. Safety, green areas, etc. See Table 15 for a listing of these groups.	Community.syracuse.com
Social Services		
Rotary club	Social aim organization that supports some specific activities and found some infrastructure at parks.	www.rotary.org
F.O.C.U.S 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 environment, arts and events and tourism.	www.focussyracuse.org
Nature Education		
Centers for Nature Education	Promotes and informs the public about different parks and their attractions, history and events. Manages Baltimore Woods.	www.takehike.org
Onondaga Audubon Society	Conducts programs and field trips related to birdwatching and natural resource protection. Bird sanctuary management.	www.onondagaaudubon.org (315) 637-0318
CANOPY	A grassroots coalition of volunteers from Syracuse City Park Associations and Community Gardens that advocates for Syracuse's Green Spaces.	658 W. Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204 Contact: Lee Gechas (315) 446-5319, e-mail leegech@dreamscape.com
Men's Garden Club of Syracuse (The Syracuse Garden Club)	Members are responsible for several projects that beautify the community. Works with youth and educates the public about gardens.	Starke Donnally 141 Clarke Street Syracuse, NY 13210 Phone: 315-472-2140 Fax: 781-823-5946

Table 12 (continued). Community-based and county organizations and NGOs.

Name of Organization	Goals/Activities	Address
Historical Preservation		
Onondaga Historical Society	Collection of manuscripts, archives, and photographs that preserve the History of Syracuse.	www.cnyhistory.org 311 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202
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.pacny.net or www.syracusethenandnow.net
Sports		
Syracuse District Golf Association	Golf amateurs association.	www.amateurgolf.com/syracuse/
Anglers Association of Onondaga	The oldest continually active sportman's club in New York State. This group manages The Rand Tract and Webster Pond. A Youth Fishing Program is held at the pond.	1946 Valley Rd. Syracuse, New York 13027 315-469-5935
Onondaga Cycling Club	Facilitates participation in the sport of bicycling through races and other events.	www.onondagacyclingclub.org
Central New York Kayak Club	Promotes the sport of kayaking.	www.cnykayakclub.com
Executive Women's Golf Association	An association of women that share an interest in golf in Central New York.	www.cnyewga.com

Park and Neighborhood Associations

Many of the city parks within Syracuse have associations that work to improve and maintain them. These associations are listed below in Table 13. These organizations will be highly instrumental in implementing future plans for city parks.

Table 13. Park and neighborhood associations.

Organization	Goals	Address
Thornden Park		
University Neighborhood Preservation Association (UNPA)	The major goal of UNPA is to help families and individuals purchase a home in the Syracuse University area.	www.unpa.net
Syracuse Rose Society	Educates the public about roses and maintains the Edwin Mills Rose Garden in Thornden Park.	www.syracuserosesociety.org/
Thornden Park Association.	A not-for-profit corporation that advocates for, restores, and revitalizes Thornden Park.	(315) 478-5164
Syracuse Shakespeare Festival	A not-for-profit organization that brings Shakespeare productions to the Thornden Park Amphitheatre each summer.	www.syracuseshakespearefestival.org/Thornden.cfm
Schiller Park		
German American Society of CNY	The monument to Goethe and Schiller links this association to Schiller Park. Also sponsors bricks of people of German-American heritage.	germanamericanscny.org/Goethe-Schiller/01/
Burnet Park		
Friends of Burnet Park Promenade	Advocates for Syracuse green spaces.	(315) 488-3383
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo	Assists zoo staff with providing visitor information, news and events, and educational programs.	rosamondgiffordzoo.com
Gifford Foundation	Helps the Rosamond Gifford Zoo with its efforts to become a model for conservation education.	www.giffordfd.org
Other		
Onondaga Park Association (OPA)	Preserves and enhances Onondaga Park for the neighborhoods it adjoins. Sponsors annual Strathmore-by-the-Park Historic Homes Tour.	www.onondagapark.org
Elmwood Park Neighbors Association	Promotes the improvement of its neighborhood and preservation of the Elmwood Park.	(315) 3913535
The Partnership for Onondaga Creek	Promotes awareness about the environmental issues of Onondaga Creek caused by sewage.	www.onlakepartners.org
Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP)	Promotes cooperation among government agencies and other parties involved in managing the environmental issues of Onondaga Lake and the Onondaga Lake watershed in Syracuse, New York.	www.onlakepartners.org
Lincoln Hill Neighborhood Association	Promotes the improvement of the Lincoln Hill neighborhood.	www.lincoln-hill.org
Lincoln Park Association	Promotes the improvement and preservation of Lincoln Park.	(315) 472-0018
Barry Park Association	The Barry Park Association, Inc., was formed by neighbors to focus attention on the park.	Community.syracuse.com

Table 13 (continued). Park and neighborhood associations.

Organization	Goals	Address
<u>Other (continued)</u>		
Neighborhood Watch Group of Central New York	This organization is the umbrella group for more than 100 individual Neighborhood Watch Groups located throughout Onondaga County, outside Syracuse city limits.	Russ Mitchell, Pres. Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept., 407 South State St. Syracuse, NY 13202 Phone: (315) 435-3201 Fax: (315) 435-3201 nwofcny@yahoo.com
Southeast University Neighborhood Association (SEUNA)	Promotes and preserves a safe and pleasant neighborhood environment and ensures the quality of the university area.	www.seuna.org
Westcott East Neighborhood Association	This association seeks to enable local residents to collectively enjoy and improve the Westcott East Area neighborhood.	Starke Donnally, President PO Box 6817 Syracuse, NY 13217 Phone: (315) 472-2140 Fax: (781) 823-5946 westcottneighborhood@hotmail.com
Syracuse United Neighbors (SUN)	This organization works to improve the quality of life on the south and near-west sides of Syracuse.	Richard Puchalski 1540 S Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13205 Phone: 315-476-7475 Fax: 315-476-4523 sun@dreamscape.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.	Don Brown ddbrown@landolakes.com
Historic Oakwood Cemetery Preservation Association	A not-for-profit citizen's organization that preserves, promotes, and protects the historic and natural resources of Oakwood Cemetery, and aids in maintaining and restoring the cemetery's buildings, statues, monuments, and grounds.	PO Box 15065 Syracuse, NY 13215
Sunnycrest Park Association	Not-for-profit association which seeks to maintain and improve facilities at Sunnycrest park.	Mike Behnke sunnycrestpark@aol.com

Educational institutions and organizations

Besides being potential attractions, the universities, schools, and educational programs in Syracuse also play a role in the community by providing technical support and educational programs to the parks. Elementary and high school students are frequent users of the parks, and many of the parks are used for educational programs for these students. Table 14 lists the existing university and schools in the Syracuse area. These entities have an important role in a tourism planning process.

Table 14. Schools, universities, and educational organizations.

Name of Organization	Program/Activities	Address
Universities and Colleges		
SUNY College of Environmental Science	The faculty and academic staff are involved in many projects with local agencies in the areas of habitat restoration, community planning, recreation, interpretation, and urban forestry.	www.esf.edu http://www.esf.edu/students/cs/l/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	This community college offers diverse courses. The location of the college at the top of Onondaga hill also offers beautiful vistas.	www.sunyocc.edu
Le Moyne College	Liberal arts courses are offered to students.	www.lemoyne.edu/index.asp
Others Educational Institutions		
Syracuse City School District	School involvement is essential to the parks in order to increase student-based stewardship of park resources, and because the parks provide locations for environmental education. Groups such as the SDPRYP and CNE actively work with the school district on environmental education programs and events.	www.syracusecityschools.com

MONITORING VISITOR USE IN THE SYRACUSE CITY PARKS

In order to make appropriate management decisions, park administrators must know how people use the various parks and whether these visitors are satisfied with their experiences or not. Monitoring is a process in which managers inventory an area and gather baseline data about current conditions. They may then compare the conditions over time to the baseline in order to understand how the area has changed. By studying an area with a structured monitoring system, managers are able to distinguish trends and causes of change, and thus take appropriate management actions.

The purpose of this chapter is to analyze the existing sources of data that could be used to understand visitor trends, and to identify what information is missing about the activities and perceptions of visitors to the Syracuse City Parks.

Available Data

Youth programs. Currently, the Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs collects information about the numbers of visitors that participate in the youth programs at the park community recreation centers, basketball leagues, summer camps, and other organized activities (Table 15). Nine hundred and fifteen children participated in the 2003 summer camp program. Participants had to register to attend the camps. The records of registrations are helpful in understanding which segments of the youth population of Syracuse attend the park programs. It is important to point out that the information about organized activities represents only one segment of the population of park users. Many people visit the parks without any association to a sports or youth programs.

Table 15. Attendance of park users to various park activities during the summer 2003

Activities (2003)	Attendance numbers
Community Centers Attendance (July and August)	16,306
Night Recreation (July and August)	6,567
Summer Park Recreation Programs (June 30-Aug 11)	5,849
Salty Dogs Soccer	354
Mobile Recreation Units: Hoops Clinic, Craft Wagon I and II, Sports Clinic, Adventure	5,441

Rosamond Gifford Zoo use. The number of people that visit the zoo is also recorded. These users represent another segment of the park visitor population. Although there may be overlap between the people who use the city-owned park community centers and those who go to the county-owned zoo, park administrators have observed that people that go to the zoo seldom realize that Burnet Park extends beyond the zoo (Kreuger and Lewis 2003). Although zoo administrators have witnessed a decrease in visitation over the past three years, exact zoo attendance data was unavailable for this report; an average number of 330,000 visitations per year was provided by the zoo. Zoo administrators believe that the attendance decrease in 2003 may be dependent on the poor weather and the lack of a new exhibit to stimulate visitation.

In September of 2003, the Burnett Park Zoo conducted a survey of its visitors. Although the all of the information from that survey is not yet available, it represents a valuable source of information for the zoo and the parks in general. Zoo administrators provided information from the survey about the distances that people travel to visit the zoo (Table 16).

While the majority of the visitors to Burnet Park are local to the Syracuse area, according to administrators, a larger percentage of visitors travel longer distances to the zoo than suspected prior to the visitor survey (Table 16). This fact affects many facets of zoo management including: advertising, education, and interpretation. Moreover, since it has been suggested both by park administrators and zoo administrators that visitors who come to the zoo do not take advantage of the entire Burnet Park resource, this information may help managers create more connectivity between zoo visitors and the city parks.

Table 16. Distances from which people travel to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Distance Visitor Traveled	Percent of Visitors
Less than 25 miles (<25)	55 %
25-50 miles	18
50-100 miles	15
More than 100 miles (>100)	8 %

Burnet Park Golf Course use. In the past three years, the park golf course has observed a decrease in visitation from 29,450 visitors in 2000 to 25,670 in 2002. Golf course administrators suggest that the decreases could be attributed to the increase in competition from new golf courses, the lack of funding for advertising the park's golf course, and the poor weather that was experienced during the 2003 summer season (there was a significant increase in rain during the 2003 season).

U. S. Census Bureau data. Another source of information is the U.S. Census Bureau. The census figures for Syracuse provide broad information about Onondaga County residents (Table 17). This information is important since observations from park administrators suggest that the vast majority of city park users are local residents (Kreuger and Lewis 2003). It also illustrates general trends about Onondaga County, such as a decrease in population, which may affect the visitation of the parks (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

Table 17. Summary census data for 2000 for Onondaga County.

Category	Number or Percent for Onondaga County
Population 2000	458,336
Population estimate 2001	457,866
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	-2.3 %
Per capita money income, 1999	\$21,336
Private non-farm employment, 1999	227,818

National recreation trends. Another valuable source of data more specific to recreation is Outdoor Recreation in America (1999) This documents provides information about the trends in recreation nationally. Table 18 shows the top ten most popular outdoor activities for the nation and illustrates the changes in participation over the course of a year.

Table 18. National trends in outdoor recreation (source: Outdoor Recreation in America 1999).

Activity	Percent of individuals participating in activity	Percent change 1998-1999
Walking	42 %	-5 %
Driving	35	-4
Swimming	40	+7
Picnicking	32	+2
Fishing	28	+6
Bicycling	22	+3
Cultural site	16	-2
Hiking	15	-2
Wildlife viewing	15	-1
Running/jogging	16 %	-- %

SCORP data. The New York State Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for 2003-2007 provides additional recreational data specific to New York State. Table 19 indicates the top ten most popular recreation activities in New York State (NYS) and the number of visitor days that people participated in each activity. (A visitor day is a standard measurement for visitor use that counts participation in twelve-hour blocks.) The NYS data indicates that visitors tend to participate in recreational activities multiple times during the year. The trends displayed relate to the parks, because the parks are the area where urban dwellers may participate in outdoor activities without traveling far from their homes.

Table 19. Statewide recreation trends for New York (source: SCORP 2002).

Activity	Number of NYS participants	Number of visitor days per year	Number of visitor days per participant per year
Relaxing in park	10,901,801	105,721,762	9.70
Walking	9,173,807	363,149,284	39.59
Swimming	7,687,154	90,348,208	11.75
Biking	5,242,681	53,506,692	10.21
Historic sites	3,682,223	33,422,957	9.08
Boating	3,564,820	37,535,195	10.53
Fishing	3,462,233	19,564,751	5.65
Hiking	3,150,310	22,610,782	7.18
Field sports	3,086,063	28,683,448	9.29
Basketball	2,742,192	2,742,192	10.00

Qualitative data. The above data sources are quantitative records of numbers. Also available are more qualitative types of data, such as the observations and communications of park administrators with park visitors. This information is more difficult to illustrate in tables but is valuable in understanding how people use the parks. The administrators communicate with and observe visitors, which adds to their understanding of visitor activities and perceptions. For example, administrators have noticed that park users tend to come to parks for a certain purpose and may not visit the other parts of the park. For instance, one person may come to play basketball and not even realize that the park has a large lake on the other side of the hill. In addition, administrators have observed that many users are residents of adjacent neighborhoods since many people have been seen walking to the parks. Finally, it has been observed that parks experience both different amounts and different kinds of use throughout the year. While visitation increases in the summertime, the parks are still used in the winter for sledding and cross-country skiing.

Through an observational study conducted in the Fall of 2003, it has been demonstrated that some visitors are looking for a sense of solitude in the parks. In nearly all of the Syracuse City Parks, there is a significant population of visitors who come to walk their dogs, stroll or do exercise. In the participant observation study performed at Schiller Park, the dog walkers and exercisers tended to express an appreciation for the naturalness of the park and sought solitude in the park. Many visitors use the park in such a way as to avoid other users. For example, some visitors come at off times, while most users are at work. Others try to find more secluded areas to enjoy their valued peace and quiet. Often when asked about solitude, the visitors refer to the naturalness of the parks and the enjoyment they find in being in nature without a lot of other people around them. These observations are important, because they show that many people come to the parks to get away from urban crowds and find some solitude. For this reason, it is critical to consider the ideas of crowding and spatial distribution when managing the parks.

Information to Acquire

Currently, the SDPRYP has limited information about the visitors that use the city parks for activities other than special programs or fee-charging activities. Observations suggest that people who walk their dogs and exercise in the parks make up a significant portion of the park users. Quantitative information about recreational activities in the parks such as walking, biking, and swimming would be useful. Understanding these activities is essential, especially in light of national trends concerning these uses. For example, national recreation trends show that in 2001, 70% of the American population participated in an outdoor recreation activity (Outdoor Recreation in America 1999). The national data implies wide use of areas that provide outdoor recreation opportunities like city parks. It also emphasizes the need to collect information about popular activities like walking, biking, relaxing, and swimming.

In addition to the lack of information about participants in unorganized park activities, there is little information concerning visitors' perceptions of the park resources and their experience. Although a great deal can be deduced just from looking at numbers and participation, it is critical to also explore visitors' perceptions. Managers not only want to know how many people are participating in activities, but also whether the experiences meet visitor expectations. Although managers frequently learn about visitors' perceptions by talking with visitors, this information is not well documented. More detailed information is needed for management decisions.

Furthermore, little is known or understood about conflicts in the parks. Conflicts are inevitable when diverse recreational opportunities are provided. Managers often find themselves making decisions that benefit one group at the expense of another or at the expense of the natural or cultural resources. A better understanding of total park use, the relative popularity of various activities, and the documentation of visitor perceptions would aid decision makers in dealing with conflicts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for enhancing tourism in the City of Syracuse Parks are listed according to the goal that they are designed to accomplish. Table 20 sorts the recommendations according to their priority for completion. Recommendations are listed according to goal number and recommendation number (e.g., “1-1” means goal #1 - recommendation #1). While it is important that all parks within the City of Syracuse seek to provide quality recreational experiences for city residents, tourism enhancements (e.g., directional signage and brochures) should focus on large city parks and downtown parks.

Table 20. Recommendations prioritized according to timeline for completion and budgetary factors.

Timeline for completion	Budgetary needs	Recommendation
Immediate	Low	2-1. Improve online access to the SDPRYP website. 4-1. Create special park events for City School District students. 4-2. Hold a marketing slogan contest. 5-2. Encourage restaurants to sponsor park activities and events. 5-3. Improve telephone book advertising for all restaurants and services. 5-1. Encourage business owners to expand hours of operation. 6-1. Increase public participation in the tourism planning process. 6-2. Create a tourism task force for the Syracuse City parks. 6-3. Enhance relationships with not for profit organizations and community groups. 6-4. Increase collaborations with the Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau. 7-1. Increase virtual linkages.
	Medium	2-2. Regional newspaper advertisements of special events.
	High	1-1. Replace railings in some parks.
Within 1 year	Low	1-2. Improve safety on brick paths and staircases. 1-3. Consider barricade removal in certain parks. 2-7. Further development of the SDPRYP website. 3-3. Create a virtual tour of the parks on the Internet. 5-6. Encourage local businesses to make park information available to customers. 5-5. Neighborhood Business Information Boards.
	Medium	1-4. Public transportation enhancement. 1-5. Expand visitor experience surveys for park programs and events. 2-5. Promote the parks to hotel users. 2-6. Develop Syracuse CVB poster of park views. 3-1. Expand the Know Your City Parks Program. 7-2. Expand SDPRYP brochure distribution. 7-3. Expand content of non-SDPRYP promotional brochures to include Syracuse Parks.
	High	1-6. Perform visitor exit surveys at the parks. 2-4. Change public perceptions about park safety. 2-8. Create the staff position of Marketing Coordinator in the SDPRYP. 5-4. Monitor resident and visitor expenditures to concessions, festival vendors and neighborhood businesses. 6-6. Monitor for evidence of use, enjoyment and economic value.

Table 20 (continued). Recommendations prioritized according to timeline for completion and budgetary factors.

Timeline for completion	Budgetary needs	Recommendation
1-2 years	Low	4-5. Increase involvement of park/neighborhood associations. 4-6. Annual neighborhood association “state-of-your-local-park” reports. 6-5. Continue to pursue additional local, state and national grants for park improvements.
	Medium	1-9. Create and enhance additional picnic areas near important views. 2-9. Include a map to the Syracuse City Parks in the Yellow Pages. 3-2. Create a Director of Interpretation position within the SDPRYP. 3-4. Expand the NOBEL Program. 3-5. Create a student intern program. 4-3. Expand community festivals that are held in the parks. 4-4. Create park-related materials that can be used in the City Schools.
	High	1-7. Upgrade or replace older playgrounds. 1-8. Use interpretation as a focal point to attract tourists and residents alike. 1-10. Create additional parking areas in specific parks. 2-3. Promote the city parks as an integrated system.
2-5 years	Low	5-8. Incorporate business services into parks.
	Medium	1-13. Install curbing or wheel stops. 5-10. Create a picnic-in-the-park guide to Syracuse. 5-7. Create special events showcasing local business and neighborhood identity.
	High	1-11. Develop master plans for all major parks within the City of Syracuse. 1-12. Improve parking areas. 2-11. SDPRYP brochure redesign. 2-10. Monitor the condition of natural and historical resources in the city parks. 3-6. Create a system-wide guidebook series. 3-7. Create and install park directories. 5-9. Provide information about local businesses in parks.
5-10 years	High	1-14. Develop the Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden. 1-15. Restore Onondaga Creek in Lower Onondaga Park. 7-4. Create an interconnected system of bike/pedestrian trails within Syracuse. 7-5. Create connections between trails inside and outside Syracuse.

Goal #1: To provide to residents and visitors diverse and high quality recreational and social experiences throughout the City of Syracuse park system.

Recommendations:

1-1. Replace railings. Old metal railings at Lincoln Park and Westminister Park can be a hazard and are aesthetically unpleasing to the eye. Replacement of these railings is currently underway and will enhance the visitor's experience. **Timeline for completion:** Immediate.

1-2. Improve safety on brick paths and staircases. Because the age of the historic stonework and brick paths in many of the city parks, restoration is needed in some cases. Sites of concern include one of Lincoln Park's brick paths (shading of the path by shrubs has led to the growth of moss on paths, making them very slippery), and repair to the stonework in Burnet and Elmwood Parks. The continued restoration of the Burnet Park Promenade should also be considered high priority.

Timeline for completion: Within 1 year.

1-3. Consider barricade removal in certain parks. The Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation and Youth Programs should consider the removal of barricades in certain parks only. These parks include Shiller, Westminster, and Lincoln. Prior to removal, public input should be gathered to identify the sentiments of local residents since barricade removal could affect pedestrian use of the parks and nighttime security. **Timeline for completion:** Within 1 year.

1-4. Public transportation enhancement. Both CENTRO and OnTrack have stops in downtown Syracuse and near city parks. Schedules showing times and routes that connect visitors with the parks should be simplified. Use of buses by bicyclists should also be promoted (each bus can carry at least two bicycles). **Timeline for completion:** Within 1 year.

1-5. Expand visitor experience surveys for park programs and events. While data is already collected for the number of participants of park programs, it is recommended that program participant surveys be utilized as well. These surveys would provide data about participant experiences, and their satisfaction with the quality of the experience. Moreover, a comparison of surveys from various user groups, programs, events and other recreational activities may indicate areas that need or do not need improvement. **Timeline for completion:** Within 1 year and ongoing.

1-6. Perform visitor exit surveys at the parks. These surveys will enable managers to gauge the perceptions of park users and better understand whether a high quality experience is being provided. The exit surveys target park users that are not necessarily involved in park programs. This population of park users makes up a significant percentage of the park visitors and little information is known about their use or perceptions. The exit surveys will provide valuable information about the numbers of non-program users, their frequency of use, the types of activities they participate in at the parks, as well as demographic information and spatial, temporal and seasonal distribution patterns (see Appendix C for example survey questions). The survey must be short (one page, approximately ten to twelve questions is generally sufficient for a brief exit survey). If more information is needed, mail-in surveys should be considered. The survey should be conducted on randomly-chosen days at various times so that different users may participate. It is recommended that park managers create a survey schedule that represents a distribution of seasons, times of day, weekend days versus weekdays, and various parks. This is a significant and time-consuming task. Because of staffing limitations in the SDPRYP, volunteer assistance from park associations and college students should be sought for administering the survey. **Timeline for completion:** Within 1 year for first survey; every 5 years (at the maximum) after the first year of implementation.

1-7. Upgrade or replace older playgrounds. Playgrounds are an important attraction for Syracuse parks as they add to the quality of the recreational and social experience. Old, out-of-date playgrounds can be both an eyesore and a potential hazard. Playgrounds that need upgrading or replacing include those at Lower Onondaga Park and Thornden Park. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years.

1-8. Use interpretation as a focal point to attract tourists and residents alike. Making interpretation a reason why people come to visit the Syracuse parks can be accomplished through guidebooks and brochures, park signage and exhibits, virtual tours and activities on the Internet, and in-park presentations and tours. Interpretation will also help promote the parks. More specific recommendations are included under Goal #3. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years and ongoing.

1-9. Create and enhance additional picnic areas near important views. Several parks in Syracuse offer tremendous viewing opportunities that should be taken advantage of. Small pockets of vegetation should be cleared and maintained to enhance viewing areas at the tops of Schiller Park, Lincoln Park, and Westminister Park. Creating small picnic areas at each of these parks would take advantage of these improved views. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years with ongoing maintenance.

1-10. Create additional parking areas in specific parks. Additional parking is needed in the following locations:

- Upper Onondaga Park. The parking situation in the park should be assessed further as part of the Onondaga Park Arboretum project.
- Burnet Park near the Promenade. Work with the owner of the farm stand located on Grand Avenue, just west of the promenade, to examine the possibility of designating their parking area for visitor use. Parking at the farm stand would encourage visitation to both the promenade and the farm business.
- Heath Park. Consider identifying the southern side of Conifer Drive, adjacent to the park, as designated parking for this park. “Designated parking” signs should be posted.
- Rand Tract. Post “designated parking” signs near the trailhead for the Rand Tract.
- Morningside Heights. Consider moving the road barricade at the end of Broad St. further into the park to create a small space for parking adjacent to the barricade.

Timeline for completion: 1-2 years.

1-11. Develop master plans for all major parks within the City of Syracuse. Every major park in Syracuse should have a current master plan. Master plans are detailed designs of the future vision for each individual park. The plans dictate where future amenities will be located and provide an estimate of future budgetary needs. With a master plan in hand, local park/neighborhood associations will have an idea of what specific park amenities to purchase and where to place them. Master plans will also look at existing park issues and concerns, and how they may be corrected in the future. In addition, master plans can be used for interpretation and orientation purposes as park maps and also within brochures and websites. It is recommended that the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs utilize the students of the Landscape Architecture Department at SUNY ESF for the development of park master plans. Students would get a rare opportunity to work on real word projects and provide the city with a vast amount of work that it doesn’t have the time or money to conduct. Students would also have the time to work closely with park/neighborhood associations and utilize their input. **Timeframe for completion:** Once started, a master plan should take much less than a year to complete. Ideally, all the major parks should have master plans within the next 5 years.

1-12. Improve parking areas. Poorly maintained parking areas are an issue at several of the parks in Syracuse. These unkempt or unmarked lots are visually unpleasing to visitors. Improving parking areas will increase the quality of the visitor experience. Suggested improvements include:

1. Re-grading the gravel parking lot at Rand Track/Webster Pond to promote better drainage;
2. Repaving the parking lots at the greenhouse in Lower Onondaga Park, Barry Park, and Meachem Field,
3. Painting parking lines and handicap parking symbols for the above repaved lots along with lots at Schiller Park, Thornden Park, and Lincoln Park; and
4. Revamping the median of Meadowbrook Drive (adjacent to Barry Park) to reorganize parking and prevent torn up grass.

Timeline for completion: 2-5 years with ongoing maintenance.

1-13. Install curbing or wheel stops. Curbing and wheel stops contain parking areas and prevent vehicles from parking on grass. While this does not seem to be an immediate problem, installing these types of elements can prevent future damage while increasing the visual quality of the parks. Park master plans should examine the need for curbing and wheel stops. **Time for completion:** 2-5 years.

1-14. Develop the Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden. The plans for the Onondaga Park Arboretum/Botanical Garden offer an incredible opportunity for the City of Syracuse to develop Upper and Lower Onondaga Parks into a state-of-the-art arboretum and major tourist attraction. With leadership from faculty and students of the SUNY ESF Department of Landscape Architecture and the Onondaga Park Association, the master plan has been completed and several grants have been acquired. The facility will not only be a major tourist attraction, but would support numerous educational, scientific and interpretive programs and studies. **Timeline for completion:** Economic constraints may push initial construction to 2-5 years from now, with final completion in approximately 10 years.

1-15. Restore Onondaga Creek in Lower Onondaga Park. Restoration of the shorelines of Onondaga Creek within Onondaga Park 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 City of Syracuse and should be treasured and restored. Clean-up of Onondaga Creek water from stormwater runoff is needed before fishing is promoted. **Timeline for completion:** 10+ years.

Goal #2: To increase resident and visitor use of the City of Syracuse parks to a level suitable to park resources (level of suitability to be determined through park master plans).

Recommendations:

2-1. Improve online access to the SDPRYP website. The following are needed in order to improve online access to information about the Syracuse Parks to both residents and visitors:

- Add an attractive bulletin board image of Upper Onondaga Park on the City of Syracuse homepage that is directly linked to the SDPRYP homepage.
- Add a link button for “Parks” to the Syracuse CVB homepage.
- Improve access to the site by enhancing search engine use. Searches on “Syracuse parks” and “city parks” should immediately bring up the SDPRYP website.
- Add a link button for parks to the City of Syracuse Mayor’s office web page.

Timeframe for completion: Immediate.

2-2. Regional newspaper advertisement of special events. In order to promote Syracuse as a destination, keystone special events, such as the annual Winter Fest, should be promoted to residents of surrounding urban areas (e.g., Rochester, Binghamton, and Watertown) by purchasing advertisements in respective local newspapers. **Timeframe for completion:** Immediate and ongoing.

2-3. Promote the city parks as an integrated system.

- **Expand use of the City Parks logo.** In order to present visitors and residents with a visual element that they can connect to the parks, the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Program’s logo needs to be used consistently on park brochures, interpretive signs, directional signs, and websites. The logo that may be most appropriate for park use is actually the past SDPRYP logo called “tree-man.” Consistent use of the logo will help identify the park system as a large, unified system of natural and historic sites.
- **Create a unified directional signage system for the parks.** At present, it is difficult for both residents and visitors to find the City of Syracuse Parks because of the lack of signage directing individuals to the parks. Signs indicating that visitors are entering the Syracuse Parks District should be posted at major highway exits for the large parks within the city. Signs directing visitors to major parks should be located appropriately throughout the city. Signs should be consistent and have a logo that visitors and residents can identify for the city parks.

Timeframe for completion: 1-2 years.

2-4. Change public perceptions about park safety. Perceptions of park users concerning park safety can only be changed through education and increased staff/security presence. The following recommendations are suggested:

- Inform park users of the emergency services located nearby through signage and brochures.
- Provide maintenance staff with uniforms so that park users visually note the presence of park workers.
- Increase patrols of parks having vandalism and crime issues.
- Create a student intern program in conjunction with local universities that patrols the park and educates park users about park resources.

Timeframe for completion: 1 year and ongoing.

2-5. Promote the parks to hotel users. Many visitors come to Syracuse for conferences, conventions, and sporting events. By promoting the parks to visitors who are staying overnight, the SDPRYP can tap into these existing market groups. Three suggested promotional strategies are:

- 1) Expand the existing brochure used in hotels that is produced by the *Syracuse Post Standard* to include information about the Syracuse Parks.

- 2) Expand visitor information provided on TVs in hotel rooms to include Syracuse park information.
- 3) Include the Syracuse parks in Syracuse CVB-sponsored familiarity motorcoach tours. The parks would provide convention-goers with outdoor recreational experiences during their visits.

Timeline for completion: 1 year.

2-6. Develop Syracuse CVB poster of park views. The Syracuse CVB currently has two posters that it distributes to local attractions and businesses to promote the City of Syracuse. It is recommended that the Syracuse CVB develop an additional poster highlighting the phenomenal views from the parks of the Syracuse area on a poster. Some of the views to consider include those from the following parks: Westminster, Morningside Heights, Lincoln, Schiller, Burnet, Elmwood (winter time view), Upper Onondaga, Clark Reservation, and Woodland Reservoir. Views from Syracuse University and SUNY CESF should also be considered. These views could also be included in the playing card promotion done by the Syracuse CVB. **Timeline for completion:** 1 year.

2-7. Further development of the SDPRYP website. The Department's website represents an important means of providing the public with broad access to information describing the diversity of opportunities in the Syracuse City Parks System. Recommendations for additional improvements to the website include:

- 1) The addition of inspiring imagery to both the site homepage and the individual parks pages, an example of a page in need of this modification is the Elmwood Park page;
- 2) Images should include people and a brief and informative caption;
- 3) The provision of current seasonal program brochures and self-guided interpretative brochures in Portable Document Format (PDF) for easy viewing and printing;
- 4) The addition of a "Neighborhood Links" button for each of the individual park pages, "Neighborhood Links" should include a virtual "Neighborhood Business Kiosk" and a link or contact information for the local neighborhood association; and
- 5) Re-tooling of the map interface so that it rapidly downloads, pop-up labels are more easily visible, and the browser back button functions.

The use of a SUNY-ESF or SU student intern could be considered as a cost-effective means of implementing these recommendations. **Timeframe for completion:** 1 year.

2-8. Create the staff position of Marketing Coordinator in the SDPRYP. Currently, there does not appear to be one central staff position that coordinates the promotion of the parks for both visitors and residents. This position is necessary to ensure that park resources are adequately utilized and appreciated by community residents and visitors to the City of Syracuse. This new position could be developed as part of an existing position and would:

- 1) Develop promotional partnerships between the SDPRYP and community marketing and promotion stakeholders (including the Syracuse CVB and local businesses);
- 2) Provide a centralized point of contact in the SDPRYP for community marketing and promotion stakeholders;
- 3) Coordinate the promotional activities among SDPRYP Divisions;
- 4) Coordinate the implementation of the marketing and promotion recommendations detailed in this plan; and
- 5) Develop future recommendations for promotion of the parks.

Timeframe for completion: 1-2 years.

2-9. Include a map to the Syracuse City Parks in the Yellow Pages. Within the yellow pages maps can be inserted with a map of Syracuse, which contains the parks that the city has to offer.

Timeframe for completion: 1-2 years.

2-10. Monitor the condition of natural and historical resources in the city parks. Visitor use of the parks inevitably contributes to resource impacts. In order to maintain the high quality of the parks, managers must continually assess the natural and historic resources and determine where impacts are occurring or are likely to occur. Developing master plans for the parks will help identify areas of concern for high visitor impacts. Land and water features such as steep slopes (potential for erosion), sensitive areas like riparian zones, and heavily used access areas or facilities should be considered. Historic sites such as Works Progress Administration stonework and historic buildings should be assessed for vandalism and other on-site hazards (e.g., loose stones). Indicators of change (e.g., the amount of litter or erosion) should be determined for resources and monitored over time to show changes. The indicators must be explicit in order to replicate the measurement during future monitoring. It is recommended that standards be set in the planning process related to the indicators. These standards determine what level of resource impact is acceptable in a given area. When standards are exceeded, management action would be required to bring the area into compliance with the standard. It is recommended that indicators and standards be selected for possible resource impacts related to increased visitor use as part of the master plan development process. **Timeline for completion:** 1-5 years and ongoing.

2-11. SDPRYP brochure redesign. As detailed in the marketing and promotion assessment, in some cases brochure redesign would help re-enforce the publication messages. For example, the skating information brochure should be redesigned to a pocket-width folded format, with careful consideration given to the following: the overuse of white space in the current brochure; inclusion of attractive imagery; use of the park logo; and title text size (i.e., the brochure title should be larger than the authorship title). Brochure cover re-design could emphasize activity and promotion. If cost-effective, brochures should be printed on slightly heavier, recycled paper. Additionally, the Summer Fun brochure should include image captions. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-5 years.

Goal #3: To promote and utilize the City of Syracuse parks as tools for education and interpretation.

Recommendations:

3-1. Expand the Know Your City Parks Program. The Know Your City Parks Program, sponsored by the Centers for Nature Education, is an excellent way to promote the parks and the historic and natural resources they contain. This program should be maintained as an important part of visitor and resident education and expanded if possible. More parks could be added to the website as well.

Timeframe for completion: Within 1 year.

3-2. Create a Director of Interpretation position within the SDPRYP. With the development of environmental and community education centers in Burnet and Upper Onondaga Parks, the need for a trained environmental educator is essential. This position would work with all groups involved to enhance and develop interpretation opportunities throughout the park system, and would be responsible for implementing some of the recommendations below. This position will make it possible for the City to focus on interpretation as a tool for tourism promotion, visitor education, and stewardship. **Timeframe for Completion:** 1-2 years.

3-3. Create a virtual tour of the parks on the Internet. A highly interactive website should be developed. This site could be based at the SDPRYP website or other local websites such as the www.syracusefun.com website. The site could include a virtual tour of the parks, as well as other fun activities based on park resources. A section of the site should be designed for children, and promoted for use in schools. **Timeframe for Completion:** 1 year with ongoing updates.

3-4. Expand the NOBEL Program. The NOBEL program run by the Centers for Nature Education should be expanded to schools throughout the City of Syracuse. Park stewardship should be maintained as an important part of these programs. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years.

3-5. Create a student intern program. The purposes of this program would be to educate visitors to the parks and to create a staff presence within the parks. Students would be given T-shirts that recognize them as Park Stewards. Their responsibilities would include one-on-one education of visitors, monitoring park resources, notifying the SDPRYP of problems, and maintaining a clean park environment. Students could be chosen from local universities and provided with a small stipend if possible. **Timeframe for Completion:** 1-2 years and ongoing.

3-6. Create a system-wide guidebook series. Interpretive guidebooks for the park system as a whole are needed. PDF version of these guidebooks should be placed on the parks website. If budgetary restrictions prohibit the printing of these publications, the website (PDF) version could be used exclusively. Some guidebooks to develop are:

- **A guidebook to trails and walkways within the parks of Syracuse.** The guidebook would contain maps of each park that has trails and include interpretation about park history and the historic and natural resources found along the trails. Parks that should be included in this guide are Elmwood, Upper and Lower Onondaga, Burnet, Woodland Reservoir, Morningside Heights, Lincoln, Schiller, Heath, Rand Tract, Barry, and the Inner Harbor Creekwalk. Connections to trails outside Syracuse (e.g., trails in Onondaga Lake Park and along the Erie Canal) should also be noted.
- **A guide to nature study in the parks of Syracuse.** Many parks and other green spaces in Syracuse are already used for the study of animals, birds and plant species. Creating this guidebook would enhance in-school educational experiences as well as the educational

experiences of park visitors. It would also encourage students to bring home information to their parents, encouraging more family visitation to the parks.

- **A guide to the historical resources of Syracuse parks.** The WPA stonework and paths, historic buildings, monuments (already included online), and other sites are unique within the City of Syracuse. A guide showing the location of these resources would be valuable in educating visitors and increasing park use. Making this type of brochure available at local museums would encourage park visitation by museum goers.
- **A guide to the views of Syracuse.** This short, tri-fold brochure could explain drumlin formation and identify drumlin locations for views of the city. A count down of the ten best views in Syracuse (and a city-wide contest to determine the order of the views) is recommended.
- **A guide to Syracuse neighborhoods and historic districts.** The neighborhoods and historic districts surrounding the parks of Syracuse are unique and have great potential for attracting visitors. This guidebook would serve to attract visitors both to the parks and the neighborhoods surrounding them. Information about tourist-related services and businesses should be included, as well as information about the history of settlement in the Syracuse area, dating back to the creation of the Onondaga Nation. This guidebook would be distributed in neighborhood businesses and in attractions throughout the city.

Timeframe for completion: 1-5 years.

3-7. Create and install park directories. Adding park directories at parking areas and other major access sites within the major parks would greatly simplify exploration of the parks and adjacent neighborhoods by visitors. These directories should be made of high quality, vandal-proof materials (e.g., fiberglass embedded panels for signs and aluminum for display units). Wooden displays are not recommended. Directories should include the following:

- A map of the park highlighting trails, and other park facilities;
- Hours of operation of facilities (if applicable);
- The location of nearby businesses and services;
- Interpretive information about park resources.

The SDPRYP logo should be used on each directory, and directories throughout the park system should have a consistent appearance. **Timeframe for completion:** 2-5 years

Goal #4: To increase involvement by schools and neighborhood residents in the City of Syracuse parks in order to foster stewardship and appreciation of park resources.

Recommendations:

4-1. Create special park events for students. In order to develop an appreciation for park resources, special events could be created in the parks, especially in those parks adjacent to schools belonging to the City of Syracuse School District. Student “field days” or programs like “adopt-a-park” could be developed in order to educate students and increase the link between students and the parks. Older students should also be encouraged to participate in existing park events by volunteering their time and/or artistic talents, or by helping with park clean-up. **Timeframe for completion:** immediate.

4-2. Hold a marketing statement contest. A marketing statement or slogan is needed to effectively market the city parks in Syracuse. Students of the Syracuse City School District could be encouraged to participate in a slogan contest. A prize such as a year membership to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo or free pool or youth program admission could be offered for the best slogan. **Timeframe for completion:** Immediate.

4-3. Expand community festivals that are held in the parks. Many local festivals are currently held in Syracuse. Entire festivals or specific events sponsored as part of existing community festivals could easily be moved to adjacent parks. Holding new festivals in the parks could also encourage city residents to visit the parks for the first time. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years.

4-4. Create park-related materials that can be used in the City Schools. These materials include the guidebook series as well as the interactive web site (see page 93). These projects will encourage students to use the parks as part of school programs, and also encourage students to get their parents involved in the parks. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years with ongoing updates.

4-5. Increase involvement of park/neighborhood associations. Most major parks of Syracuse have some sort of park/neighborhood association. Many of these organizations are relied on for park maintenance, events, and fundraising. Without these organizations, many city parks would be without certain amenities and events, the direct results of fundraising and/or work efforts by park/neighborhood associations. With the current budget problems for the parks, it is imperative that these organizations continue to develop and take on some of these park management issues. Parks that should consider park associations are Kirk Park, Meachem Field, and the Inner Harbor Park. Expansion of the Lincoln Park Association and the Schiller Park Association is also needed.

Timeframe for completion: If these organizations do not exist for a specific park they should be created and established within 2 years. If they already exist they should be looking at methods to improve their park and implement them within 1-2 years.

4-6. Annual neighborhood association “state-of-your-local-park” reports. Designate SDPRYP staff to provide a brief news and issue summary, on an annual basis, to each of the City’s neighborhood associations. This opportunity is intended to encourage resident discussion about neighborhood park issues and provide interface with SDPRYP personnel. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years.

Goal #5: To boost the local economy by increasing resident and visitor expenditures to park concessions, festival vendors, and neighborhood businesses.

Recommendations:

5-1. Encourage business owners to expand hours of operation. Many businesses located near popular city parks such as Armory Square and Clinton Square are closed on Sundays -- days when visitors commonly visit these areas. Businesses are encouraged to open on Sundays. **Timeframe for completion:** immediate.

5-2. Encourage restaurants to sponsor park activities and events. Event sponsorship would enable businesses to gain recognition. Events can include festivals, sporting events and teams, and races. These events allow the local establishments to connect with the parks and potential customers. Sponsorships would also provide the park's with much needed funding. The identity of sponsors could be advertised on event brochures. **Timeframe for completion:** immediate and ongoing.

5-3. Improve telephone book advertising for all restaurants and services. Although most visitor-related businesses and services are listed in the phone book, in brochures, and on web sites, many are still difficult to find information about. In particular, park services such as golf courses, skating rinks, pools, and other community services should be listed under the appropriate title in the yellow pages. At present, the only access to information about these services is through the SDPRYP listing, which many local residents may not be able to find. **Timeframe for completion:** immediate.

5-4. Monitor resident and visitor expenditures to concessions, festival vendors and neighborhood businesses. Although businesses tend not to disclose their profits directly, it is possible to survey businesses to see if there are increases in profits associated with park use. With the help of the Chamber of Commerce (which performs business surveys), the SDPRYP could incorporate survey questions related to profits from park users in existing surveys. As changes in promotion and marketing take place involving the parks, the monitoring of businesses will show whether the changes have positive effects on the associated businesses. **Timeframe for completion:** Within 1 year and ongoing at specified intervals.

5-5. Neighborhood Business Information Boards. To encourage park visitor patronage of local businesses, provide a "Neighborhood Business Information Board" at staffed indoor park facilities where local business can display business cards and menus. This effort would require the notification of local businesses in order to initiate participation. **Timeframe for completion:** Within 1 year.

5-6. Encourage local businesses to make park information available to customers. Encourage business owners to provide their customers with information about nearby parks so that customers will have a place to visit nearby. If the customers return to recreate at that park, they might also return to eat at the establishment. **Timeframe for completion:** Within 1 year and ongoing.

5-7. Create special events showcasing local business and neighborhood identity. To encourage neighborhood identity and support local businesses, create additional special events in the parks. For example, a "Schiller Park Dinner Theatre Festival" could be offered that promotes neighborhood identity by performing one of this famous German playwright's works and allowing local restaurant owners to demonstrate their skills. Food festivals could also be organized. "Food tasting" and "wine tasting" competitions could encourage the public to visit the parks. This will boost the number of visitors to the park and advertise local merchants to the visiting public. Local vendors could also be encouraged to sell their wares at these festivals. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-5 years

5-8. Incorporate business services into parks. Businesses, such as outdoor recreation providers could advertise their business and aid in park activities by providing services such as boat rides at Onondaga, historic trail walks, and equipment rentals in order to get people into the parks and to raise revenue for both the business and the parks. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-5 years.

5-9. Provide information about local businesses in parks. The Syracuse parks could provide people recreating with information about nearby places to eat through directories located at parking areas (see page 94 for more detailed information about this recommendation). This will bring business to establishments in neighboring communities. Also it will make it more convenient for people to find places to eat nearby. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-5 years and ongoing.

5-10. Create a picnic-in-the-park guide to Syracuse. This brochure would include information about park picnic sites throughout Syracuse, as well as nearby restaurants that offer take-out foods. Distributing this brochure at local hotels and universities will give tourists and students information about parks and restaurants in Syracuse. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-5 years.

Goal #6: To increase funding and organizational support for park maintenance, security, programs, and facilities.

Recommendations:

6-1. Increase public participation in the tourism planning process. This proposed tourism plan requires review by the public in order to have a collective vision for the future of City of Syracuse. A public information meeting should be held in order to present the recommendations of this plan and collect resident input. Information should also be presented through public meetings already existing in the City of Syracuse such as FOCUS and CANOPY meetings. Information could also be distributed to the public in the following ways:

- On local news broadcasts, in libraries, during public events, and in public places.
- Mass mailings
- Internet sites
- Specific meetings with specific groups of stakeholders.

Timeline for completion: immediate.

6-2. Create a tourism task force for the Syracuse City parks. A task force to conduct the implementation of this tourism plan should be created. This committee should consist of staff from government agencies, NGOs, businesses, neighborhood associations, and universities in the Syracuse area. Eventually sub-committees to address particular matters should also be created. The task force should be responsible for creating an action plan for this tourism plan and following-up on the implementation of plan recommendations. Task force members should represent different tourism-related interests such as park management, planning, promotion and marketing, and education/interpretation. Agencies and organizations that could be included on this task force are included in the chapter on local organizations. **Timeframe for completion:** Immediate and ongoing.

6-3. Enhance relationships with not for profit organizations and community groups. Relationships between the SDPRYP and community organizations (e.g., park associations, Centers for Nature Education) need to be strengthened. Relationships with other groups like the NYS DEC, Onondaga County Parks, and the Audubon Society should also be explored further. These relationships are essential to accomplishing goals for increased funding, volunteer recruitment, program development, and educational efforts. **Timeframe for Completion:** Immediate and ongoing.

6-4. Increase collaborations with the Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau. The SDPRYP should utilize the marketing potential of the Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau to help promote the City of Syracuse parks as an additional destination with Syracuse for visitors.

Timeframe for Completion: immediate and ongoing.

6-5. Continue to pursue additional local, state and national grants for park improvements. Grant opportunities exist for park improvements, specifically for Local and State Historic Landscapes such as Elmwood, Upper Onondaga and Thornden Park. The New York State Quality Communities Clearinghouse website identifies several grants these parks can apply for as Historic Landscapes. These funds would help alleviate the current budget issues and provide a means for these parks to rebuild and restore themselves to historic conditions. Several grants have already been awarded for the continued development of the Onondaga Park master plan. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years and ongoing.

6-6. Monitor for evidence of use, enjoyment and economic value. Monitoring can be used to increase funding, because it provides evidence to legislators and government leaders in support of the claim that parks bring in visitors, and thus provide economic benefits. It is often difficult to demonstrate that tourism provides economic benefits to an area without the information provided in a

visitor survey. In order for the parks to increase their funding, they must prove that they are an economically viable area for administrators to invest their budgetary dollars. Because the SDPRYP needs to have its funding increased in order to continue to provide a quality recreation experience and protect park resources, monitoring visitor use and expenditures is essential. **Timeframe for Completion:** 1 year and ongoing.

Goal #7: To increase and enhance connections between parks within the City of Syracuse park system, and between the park system and areas outside the City of Syracuse.

Recommendations:

7-1. Increase virtual linkages. A broader network of virtual linkages between the SDPRYP website, other area park systems, and area business organizations is a cost-effective means of enhancing inter-organizational connections. It is recommended that reciprocal virtual linkages be established with the following organizations: Centers for Nature Education, Inc., Syracuse Convention and Visitors Bureau, Onondaga County Parks, SUNY-ESF, Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, and possibly the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. **Timeframe for completion:** immediate with ongoing updates.

7-2. Expand SDPRYP brochure distribution. Currently SDPRYP brochure distribution is primarily accomplished through the Syracuse Public Schools and Onondaga County Public Libraries. It is recommended that brochure distribution be expanded to include Onondaga County Parks, local businesses and attractions, and the Syracuse CVB. In return, the SDPRYP should also work to promote the attractions of these groups. **Timeframe for completion:** 1-2 years.

7-3. Expand content of non-SDPRYP promotional brochures to include Syracuse Parks. To improve the accessibility of Syracuse parks to area visitors and residents, agencies producing local and regional promotional brochures should be asked to include Syracuse parks information. Examples of brochures to be targeted are:

- 1) *I Love NY: Finger Lakes Mini-guide*;
- 2) *The Visitors Guide for Syracuse and Central New York* (published by the *Syracuse Post-Standard*); and
- 3) *The Syracuse and Onondaga County Visitors Guide* (published by the Syracuse CVB).

Timeframe for completion: 1 year.

7-4. Create an interconnected system of bike/pedestrian trails within Syracuse. Improved bicycle and pedestrian connections between the university area and other neighborhoods with the parks are needed (Figure 3). Clear directional signage and maps of the trail system can be developed to guide visitors. These routes, once complete, should be officially designated by the City of Syracuse as City Bike Routes. Landscaping improvements and the addition of bike lanes and/or walkways will be needed in many areas. Five main bicycle and/or pedestrian loops/routes are recommended:

- **Burnet Park/Tipperary Hill Loop.** This biking/walking route will guide visitors through Burnet Park along the historic Promenade, and will pass popular Tipperary Hill sights (e.g., upside down traffic light). A bike path/walkway needs to be added on the west side of S. Avery Rd. to make this option safe.
- **Strathmore Neighborhood Park Loop.** The biking/walking route will guide visitors through the Strathmore neighborhood, past Woodland Reservoir, through Elmwood Park, and through Lower and Upper Onondaga Parks via parks roads and Onondaga Creek Parkway. A connection between Summit Ave. and the service road within Elmwood Park will need to be created. It is recommended that a portion of Onondaga Creek Parkway be closed to motorized vehicles as a parallel road, also used by motor vehicles, already exists adjacent to the parkway.
- **Creekwalk to Downtown Route.** Plans are already in place to create a pedestrian route that connects the Inner Harbor Creekwalk with downtown Syracuse. Directional signage is needed.
- **University Area Loop.** This biking/walking route would provide both visitors and university students with a safe travel route throughout the university area. This route will also connect

the university area with the Westcott Street neighborhood. Bicycle lanes will need to be added to some city streets.

- **Schiller-Lincoln Parks Loop.** This loop would pass through Schiller, Lincoln, and Sunnycrest Parks, as well as a portion of the Sedgwick-James-Highland Preservation District.

Further research concerning the feasibility of these routes (i.e., field checking the proposed routes) is needed. **Timeframe for completion:** 5-10 years.

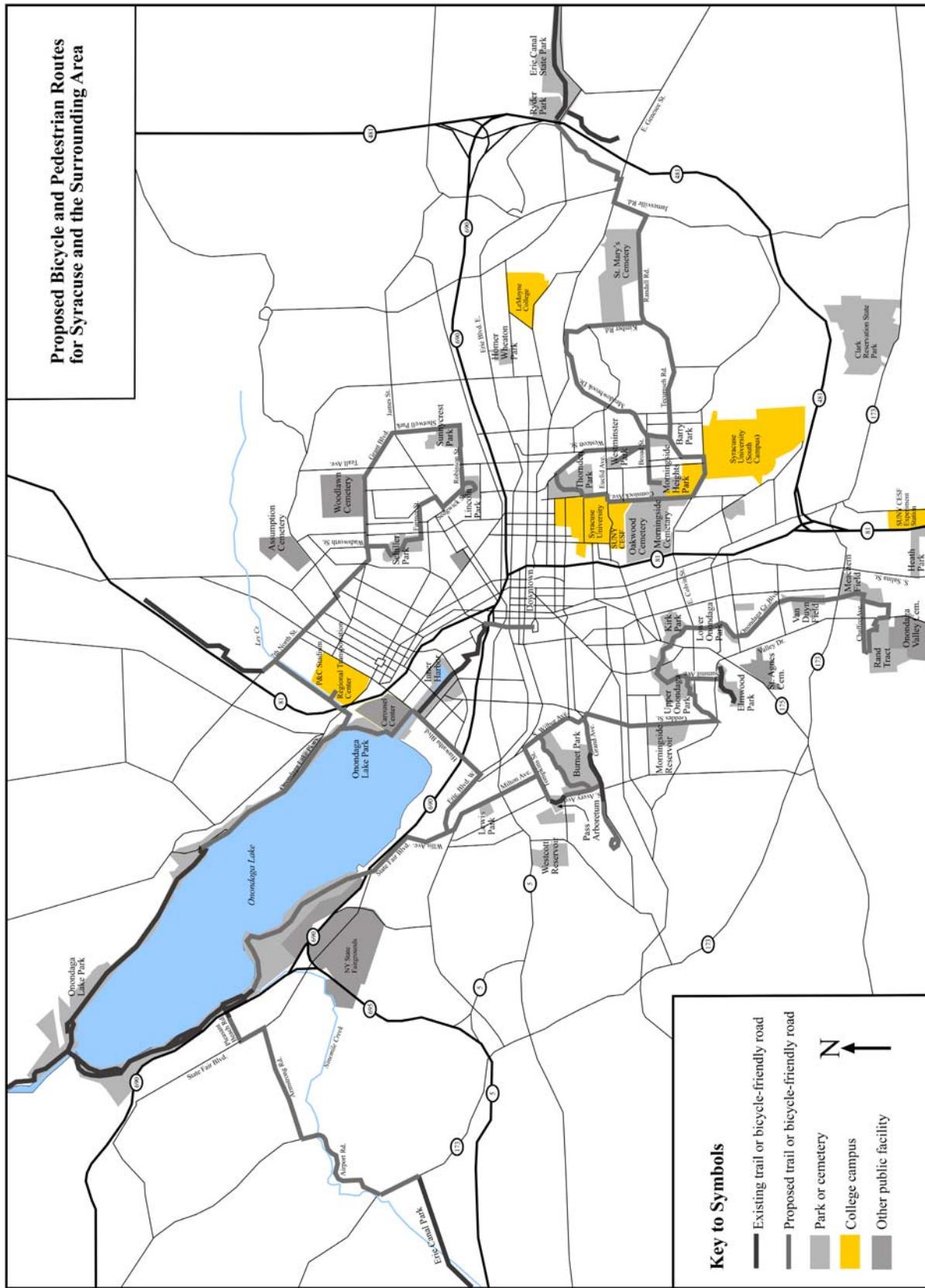
7-5. Create connections between trails inside and outside Syracuse. Connections between the bicycle and pedestrian routes recommended above and existing routes outside the City of Syracuse are needed to facilitate visitor movement from Syracuse throughout Onondaga County (Figure 3). Plans are already underway to connect the Onondaga Creekwalk with Armory Square; other connections are needed as well. In most areas, bicycle lanes, bridges, and trails will be needed. In addition, landscaping improvements could be used to create “green corridors” that enhance the beauty of these travel routes. These additional connections are as follows:

- Connect the Onondaga Creekwalk in the Inner Harbor area with the Onondaga Lake Park trail system by extending existing trails. A connection to the William F. Walsh Regional Transportation Center and P&C stadium is also recommended. Careful consideration will be needed for locating the trail near the OnTrack rail line.
- Connect the proposed Burnet Park Loop with State Fair Boulevard. The trail on the west side of Onondaga Lake Park should be extended to the southern end of the lake to connect with State Fair Boulevard there. A footbridge across Ninemile Creek will need to be constructed.
- Connect the towpath for the Camillus portion of the Erie Canal with the Onondaga Lake Park trail on the western side of the lake. A bicycle lane and directional signage will need to be added on roadways.
- Connect the Onondaga Lake Park trail on the eastern side of the lake with the existing Beartrap Creek Trail by creating a new trail along Ley Creek.

Further research concerning the feasibility of these routes (i.e., field checking the proposed routes) is needed.

Timeframe for completion: 5-10 years.

Figure 3. Map showing the proposed trail system for the Syracuse area.



CONCLUSION

The parks and greenspaces of Syracuse offer numerous recreational opportunities for residents, visitors from Central New York and other locations, and convention and conference attendees. Increased promotion is needed, however, to let potential visitors know of the city's historic and natural resources. Park enhancement and, in some locations, restoration, is also 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. Community groups, school groups, and other non-for-profit agencies can play a vital role in the stewardship and promotion of these unique areas. Only by working together will the parks reach their true potential for the residents of Syracuse.

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APPENDIX A.

An assessment of market groups for Syracuse Parks.

Each market group is categorized as follows: **(P) Potential.** A market with potential for Syracuse, if additional recreational infrastructure is provided; **(G) Growth.** An existing market that shows potential for growth utilizing currently existing infrastructure; **(E) Existing.** A market that currently exists at or near appropriate levels; and **(L) Low probability.** A market that has a low probability of being attracted.

Market Components	Travel Options	Young Active Adults	Families with Children	Pre-retirement Adults	Active Seniors
Trip Origin	Outside Syracuse	G	G	G	G
	Local	G	G	G	G
Trip Length	Weekend	P	P	P	P
	Day Trips	G	G	G	G
	0 - 2 hours	G	G	G	G
Park Attractions	Athletic Facilities	G	G	P	L
	Interpretive Centers	P	P	P	P
	Zoo	L	G	L	L
	Programs	G	G	G	G
	Special Events	G	G	G	G
	Botanical Gardens	P	P	P	P
	Facilities for Social Gatherings	P	P	P	P
	Monuments and Statuary	L	L	G	G
	WPA Stonework	L	G	G	G
Local Resources	Onondaga Lake	P	P	P	P
	Erie Canal	G	G	E	E
	Onondaga Creek	P	P	L	L
	Drumlins / Views	P	P	P	P
	Local History	P	P	P	P
	Local Schools	L	G	L	L
	Transportation Network	G	G	G	G
	Restaurants	G	L	G	G
	Pubs and Nightlife	G	L	G	G
	Museums	G	G	G	G
	Theatre	G	G	G	G
	College Sports	E	E	E	E
	Professional Sports	G	G	G	L
	Conference facilities	G	G	G	G
Lodging	Camping (outside Syracuse)	P	P	L	L
	Hotels and Motels	G	G	G	G
	B&Bs	G	G	G	G
Park Activities	Walking and Hiking	G	G	G	G
	Dog Walking	E	E	E	E
	Soccer	G	G	G	L
	Basketball	E	E	L	L
	Tennis	E	E	L	L
	Golf	L	L	E	E
	Swimming	G	G	G	G

Market Components	Travel Options	Young Active Adults	Families with Children	Pre-retirement Adults	Active Seniors
Park activities	Play Equipment	L	G	L	L
	Picnicking	G	G	G	G
	Ice Skating	E	E	L	L
	Nature Interpretive Tours	P	G	G	G
	Historical Tours	L	G	G	G
	Ultimate Frisbee	G	L	L	L
	Summer Camp Programs	L	G	L	L
	Motor-boating	L	L	P	P
	Sailing	P	P	P	P
	Canoeing	P	P	P	L
	Kayaking	P	L	P	L
	Fishing	L	P	P	P
	Birdwatching	L	L	E	E
	Biking	P	P	P	P
	Cross Country Skiing	P	P	P	L
	Skateboarding	G	G	L	L
	Snowshoeing	P	P	L	L
	Running	E	L	E	L

APPENDIX B.
Restaurants within the City of Syracuse adjacent to local parks.

Thornden, Barry, and Westminster Parks area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Hershey Ice Cream Store	101 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-5194	Ice Cream Parlor	Family
Varsity Pizza	802 S Crouse Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)478-1235	Pizza	Family
Pita Pit	107 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-0460	Carry out/ Casual	Family
King David's Restaurant	129 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-5000	Mediterranean	Family
Panda West Chinese Restaurant	135 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-7777	Chinese	Family
Cosmos Pizza	143 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-6766	Pizza	Family
Faegan's Cafe & Pub	734 S Crouse Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)472-4721	American/ Casual	All
Syra-Juice Juice Bar & Eatery	Marshall Square Mall Syracuse, NY	(315)475-8423	Carry out/ Casual	Family
Aladdins Natural Eatery	163 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-4000	Mediterranean	Family
Mok Hwa Restaurant	701 S Crouse Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)422-8688	Korean	Family
Samrat Indian Restaurant	701 S Crouse Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)479-6051	Indian, Vegetarian	Family
Acropolis Pizza House	167 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-4876	Pizza	Family
Starbucks	177 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-2707	Coffee Shops	Adults
Rachel's Restaurant	801 University Avenue Syracuse, NY	(315)475-3000	Casual	Family
Subway Sandwiches & Salads	720 University Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)470-0910	Fast Food	Family
Win Hope Chinese Restaurant	907 E Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)478-2905	Chinese	Family
Peppino's Pizzeria	901 E Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-6540	Pizza	Family
Sabastino's	477 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)478-1000	Pizza	Family
Peking Restaurant	471 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-6666	Chinese	Family
Domino's Pizza	113 Harvard Pl Syracuse, NY	(315)423-0333	Pizza	Family

Thornden, Barry, and Westminster Parks area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Munjed's Middle Eastern Cafe	530 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)425-0366	Middle Eastern	Family
Dorian's Gourmet Pizza & Deli	534 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-2697	Pizza	Family
Phoebe's Garden Cafe	900 E Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-5154	Casual	Family
Darwin's Restaurant & Bar	701 Crouse Av Syracuse, NY	(315)472-1901	Casual	All
Chuck's	727 S. Crouse Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)477-1544	Casual	All
Baja Burrito	727 S. Crouse Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)472-7992	Mexican	Family
Alto Cinco	526 Westcott St. Syracuse, NY	(315)422-6399	Mexican	Family
Bruegger's Bagel Bakery	731 S. Crouse Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)478-1477	Bagel/Deli	Family
Mama's Kitchen	501 Westcott St. Syracuse, NY	(315)477-1309	Diner	Family
Cafe Paradiso	110 Harvard Pl. Syracuse, NY	(315)423-9040	Coffee Shop	Family
Smooth E	125 Marshal Ave. Syracuse, NY	Not Available	Drink Shop	Family
The Deli	727 S. Crouse Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)425-7844	Deli	Family
ZJ's Pizza & Wings	700 S. Crouse Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)422-2123	Pizza	Family
El Saha	137 Marshall St. Syracuse, NY	(315)474-7565	Deli	Family
Mimi's At Madison	475 Irving Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)475-0130	Delicatessens	Family
Rodo's Cafe 1200	1200 E. Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)476-7417	Delicatessens	Family
Adassa's Restaurant	1629 E. Fayette St. Syracuse, NY	(315)478-0046	Casual	Family
H K Take Out Food	1640 Erie Blvd E Syracuse, NY	(315)428-0395	Carry-Out & Delivery	All
Imperial Chinese Restaurant	1508 Erie Blvd E Syracuse, NY	(315)422-2777	Chinese	All
Kaplan Hasan	501 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)477-1009	Coffee Shops	Adults
Liberty Deli	323 Irving Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)476-8214	Delicatessen	All

Thornden, Barry, and Westminster Parks area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
No Borders No Boundaries	171 Marshall St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-2277	Coffee Shops	Adults
Sharona's Cafe	725 Irving Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)423-8816	Café/ Deli	All
Subway Sandwiches & Salads	720 University Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)470-0910	Delicatessens	All
Taps Bar & Restrnt	515 Westcott St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-1303	Bar & Grill	Adults
Drumlins Restaurant	800 Nottingham Rd. Syracuse, NY	(315)446-8511	Casual	All
Johnny's Pizza	120 Julian Pl. Syracuse, NY	(315)446-8728	Pizza	All
Number 1 Kitchen	317 Nottingham Rd. Syracuse, NY	(315)445-2066	Chinese	All
Team Syracuse Inc	115 Harvard Pl Syracuse, NY	(315)423-0333	Pizza	All

Burnet Park & James Pass Arboretum area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Coleman's Authentic Irish Pub	100 S. Lowell Ave. Syracuse, NY	(315)476-1933	Irish	Family
Hanged Man Ice Cream & Cafe	719 S Geddes St Syracuse, NY	(315)425-1929	Ice Cream Parlors	Family
China House Restaurant	600 S Geddes St Syracuse, NY	(315)476-8888	Chinese	Family
Sabatino's Pizza Deli & Grocery	1000 S Geddes St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-1111	Pizza	Family
Saba's Pizza & Deli	309 S Wilbur Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)422-7222	Pizza	Family
Patsy's Pizza	1205 Erie Blvd W Syracuse, NY	(315)472-4626	Pizza	Family
Arby's Roast Beef Drive-In Restaurant	787 Erie Blvd W Syracuse, NY	(315)475-5966	Fast Food	All
Wheeler's Restaurant	415 Avery Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)488-7991	Casual	Family
Steve's Restaurant	401 Milton Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)487-9802	Casual	Family
Stack Farm Dairy At Marble Farms' Store	1122 Grand Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)424-8554	Ice Cream Parlor	Family
The Westwood	4744 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)426-7905	Casual	All
Beijing Chinese Food	4738 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)426-1184	Chinese	All
Pizza Hut	4738 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)422-2666	Pizza	All
Burger King Restaurants	4734 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)476-8261	Fast Food	All
Mc Donald's	4733 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)476-0900	Fast Food	All
Oompa's Pizzeria	500 Ulster St Syracuse, NY	(315)423-0201	Pizza/Deli	All
Trio's Pizza & Wings	500 Ulster St Syracuse, NY	(315)423-0201	Pizza	All
Denny's Restaurant	1440 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)487-1323	Diner	All
Quick Cup Restrnt	1513 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-9088	Casual	All
Forum West	321 W Onondaga St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-9410	Casual	All
Blarney Stone	314 Avery Av. Syracuse, NY	(315)487-9675	Casual	All

Burnet Park & James Pass Arboretum area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Burger King	500 Burnet Park Dr. Syracuse NY	(315) 479-8850	Fast Food	All
Del's Drive In	121 State Fair Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)472-0631	Casual	All
Millwright Cafe	620 Erie Blvd W Syracuse, NY	(315)426-1278	Café/ Diner	All
Bosco's Express	1711 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)468-1932	Pizza	All
Brooklyn Pickle	1600 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)487-8000	Delicatessen	All
China Pavilion Restaurant	2318 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)488-2828	Chinese	All
Di Bello's Family Restaurant	4647 Onondaga Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)475-7992	Pizza	Family
European Delights	2142 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY 13219-1616	(315)487-1649	Delicatessen	All
Gregorio's Pizza	1643 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)488-0545	Pizza	All
Guidos Food Market	130 Van Rensselaer St Syracuse, NY	(315)422-5282	Delicatessen	All
Kirby's American Restaurant	2212 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)468-0041	American	All
Morgan's of Syracuse	329 Fay Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)468-2113	Casual	All
My Bar	205 N West St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9279	Bar and Grill	Adults
Subway Sandwiches Tcby Treats	2136 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)488-6055	Delicatessens	All
Vincentinis Pizzeria	Westvale Plaza Syracuse, NY 13219	(315)488-4141	Pizza	All

Onondaga, Kirk, & Elmwood Parks 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
Gersey's Ltd	1517 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)478-9112	Casual	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
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
Smitty's Barbeque Smoke House	1610 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)478-9115	Barbecue	All
T-House Restaurant	2722 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)478-9707	American	All
Tippin-In Lounge	227 South Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)478-9011	Bar & Grill	Adults
Velasko Pizzeria & Deli	4800 McDonald Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)476-3455	Pizza	All

Van Duyn and Meachem Fields, and Rand Tract area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Arctic Island Ice Cream	210 W. Seneca Typk. Syracuse, NY	(315) 469-1234	Ice cream parlor	Family
Campbell Valley Diner	4710 S. Salina Street Syracuse, NY	(315) 492-8415	Diner	All
Aquarius Restaurant	2817 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)476-0622	Casual	All
Danzer's Restaurant	153 Ainsley Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)422-0089	German	All
Enzos Pizza	424 W Seneca Tpke Syracuse, NY	(315)469-2030	Pizza	All
Gannon's Isle	1525 Valley Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)469-8647	Ice Cream Parlors	Family
Henson Family Restaurant	4629 S Salina Street Syracuse, NY 13205-2745	(315)492-3200	American	Family
Jordan Grocery & Pizzeria	2625 Midland Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)469-8525	Pizza	All
Jreck Subs Shop	1601 Valley Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)492-4101	Delicatessen	All
Liberty Diner	4004 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)492-9852	Diner	All
Little Caesars	4018 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)492-2244	Pizza	All
Luigi's Pizza & Italian Restaurant	1524 Valley Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)469-6179	Italian	All
Mamas Pizza	2711 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-6262	Pizza	All
Mc Donald's	6105 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)469-8246	Fast Food	All
Ming Hing Restaurant	4141 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)498-9988	Chinese	All
Papa John's Pizza	4335 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)498-5100	Pizza	All
Rong Cheng	402 W Seneca Tpke Syracuse, NY	(315)492-2888	Asian	All
Sabatino's	121 Ballantyne Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)469-4444	Pizza	All
Sal's Birdland Restaurant	4421 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)469-3277	Casual	All
Subway Sandwiches & Salads	4727 S Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)469-7097	Fast Food	All

Schiller Park area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Oompas Pizzeria	500 Ulster St Syracuse, NY	(315)422-8900	Pizza	All
Pavone's Pizza	500 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-0606	Pizza	All
Spring Chinese Restaurant	500 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)428-2222	Chinese	All
Subway Sandwiches & Salads	500 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)425-0600	Deli/Fast Food	All
Jreck Subs Shop	712 Catherine St Syracuse, NY	(315)425-0684	Deli/Fast Food	All
Burger King	623 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-0092	Fast Food	All
Di Lauro Bakery	502 E Division St Syracuse, NY 13208	(315)471-0519	Bakery	All
Kentucky Fried Chicken	825 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-9766	Fast Food	All
Pho Saigon Restaurant	912 Park St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-7938	Asian	All
Legend's Restaurant & Lounge	917 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-0879	American	All
Lv Cafe Sport	941 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)423-0805	Café/Deli	All
E J's Restaurant	401 Pond St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9237	Diner	All
A J's Ice Cream	1100 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-7497	Ice cream parlor	Family
Park Avenue Cafe and Deli	607 Carbon St Syracuse, NY	(315)234-2613	Café/Deli	All
Riley's	312 Park St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-7111	Bar and Grill	Adults
Florina Greek Pita House	302 Park St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-5632	Pizza	All
Alessandro's Pizza & Bread Bakery	812 Oak St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-1679	Pizza	All
Weber's Restaurant	820 Danforth St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-0480	American	All
Burger King	7 North & Buckley Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)457-8197	Fast Food	All

Schiller Park area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
New York Roast	1621 Grant Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)425-9970	Casual	All
Felton's Ale & Spirit House	1801 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)454-4331	Bar & Grill	Adults
Antonio's Pizzeria	700 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)437-0119	Pizza	All
Corner House Restaurant	1400 Grant Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)472-7889	Casual	All
Di Lauro's Pizza	502 E Division St Syracuse, NY	(315)422-4426	Pizza	All
Famoso Tavern II	313 Sand St Syracuse, NY	(315)422-0094	Bar & Grill	Adults
Farone's La Trattoria	541 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)424-8522	Itallian	All
Gino & Joe's Pizza Express	2921 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-5551	Pizza	All
Hill Deli Cafe Inc	175 Wainwright Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)473-4455	Delicatessens	All
James Street Market & Deli	989 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-3663	Delicatessens	All
Jreck Subs Shop	712 Catherine St Syracuse, NY	(315)425-0684	Delicatessens	All
Lee's Garden	2601 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)437-3638	Chinese	All
Legend's Restaurant & Lounge	917 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9341	Casual	All
Little Caesars	822 Wolf St Syracuse, NY	(315)477-0700	Pizza	All
Peppino's Pizzeria	1849 Grant Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)422-2395	Pizza	All
Pho Saigon Restaurant	912 Park St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-7938	Chinese	All
Sorrento's Restaurant	1614 Lodi St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-1208	Italian	All
Twin Trees	400 Butternut St Syracuse, NY	(315)470-1111	Delicatessens	All

Lincoln and Sunnycrest Parks area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Skyline Grill	753 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)428-9474	Casual	All
Julie's Place Home	770 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)472-9528	American	All
Dinosaur Bar-B-Q	246 E Willow Syracuse, NY	(315)476-1662	Barbeque	All
Pascale Bake House Cafe	304 Hawley Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)471-3040	Bakery/Deli	All
To The Moon	305 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)478-1003	Casual	All
Barge Inn	324 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)424-9569	American	All
Burger King	968 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-8850	Fast Food	All
James Street Market & Deli	989 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-3663	Delicatessen	All
Tiffany's Catering	101 Oak Pl Syracuse, NY	(315)476-7630	Barbeque	All
Angotti's Family Restaurant Inc	725 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)472-8403	Italian	All
Pelican Diner	221 Dorothy St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-6795	Diner	All
Corner House Restaurant	1400 Grant Blvd Syracuse, NY	(315)472-7889	Casual	All
Little Mac's Pizzeria	301 Robinson St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-6227	Pizza	All
Abed Llc	2204 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)432-8888	Pizza	All
Adassa's Restaurant	1629 E Fayette St Syracuse, NY	(315)478-0046	Casual	All
Brooklyn Pickle	2222 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)463-1851	Delicatessen	All
Casa Mia Pizza	3106 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)432-9999	Pizza	All
Dominick's Restaurant	1370 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)471-0474	Italian	All
Dragon City	1901 W Genesee St Syracuse, NY	(315)484-9999	Chinese	All
Eba Inc	489 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-2200	Pizza	All

Lincoln and Sunnycrest Parks area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Little Mac's Pizzeria	301 Robinson St Syracuse, NY	(315)474-6227	Pizza	All
MAI Lan Vietnamese Restaurant	505 N State St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-6740	Vietnamese	All
Murrays' Kitchen	2722 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)463-4888	Casual	All
Papa John's Pizza	2611 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)432-5100	Pizza	All
Pelican Diner	221 Dorothy St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-6795	Diner	All
Pizza Hut	150 Swansea Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)437-5623	Pizza	All
Steak & Sundae Restaurant	3001 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-6551	American	All
Subway Sandwiches & Salads	2500 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-2222	Fast Food	All
Taste of Philadelphia	2533 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)463-9422	Sandwich Shops	All
The Breakfast House	1412 Burnet Ave Syracuse, NY	(315)475-3800	Diner/ Breakfast	All
Togo's Great Sandwiches	2921 James St Syracuse, NY	(315)437-1777	Delicatessen	All

Inner Harbor area:

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
A J's Ice Cream	1100 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-7497	Ice Cream Parlors	Family
A-La-Mode Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop	331 Nottingham Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)446-6716	Ice Cream Parlors	Family
Antonio's Ice Cream	1401 Buckley Rd Syracuse, NY	(315)461-9814	Ice Cream Parlors	Family
Arby's Roast Beef Restaurant	Carousel Ctr Dr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-0040	Fast Food	All
Aunt Josie's Restaurant	1110 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9082	Casual	All
Boulangerie Ltd.	526 Plum St Syracuse, NY	(315)466-3108	American	All
C & C Mini Mart Inc Deli	1431 N Salina St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-0618	Delicatessen	All
Cajun Cafe	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-5715	Fast Food	All
Chinese Gourmet Express	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)424-9313	Fast Food	All
Arby's	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-0040	Fast Food	All
Hooters	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-0066	Bar & Grill	Adults
Johnny Rockets	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)474-7406	Diner	All
Kohr Bros Frozen Custard	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-1415	Ice Cream Parlor	Family
Mr Smoothie	1 Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)472-1717	Drink Stand	Family
Pizzeria Uno	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-8667	Pizza	All
Ruby Tuesday	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-1705	Casual	All
Sbarro's	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)476-8626	Pizza	All
Umi of Japan	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-0184	Chinese	All
Cheers To All	600 N Geddes St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9742	Casual	All
Dry Dock Grill the	306 W Division St Syracuse, NY	(315)466-6202	Bar & Grill	Adults
Harborside Deli	100 W Court St Syracuse, NY	(315)479-9091	Delicatessen	All

Inner Harbor area (continued):

Restaurant	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Clientele
Little Gem Diner	832 Spencer St Syracuse, NY	(315)422-1686	Diner	All
Roman's Tavern Inc	426 N.Franklin Street Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9874	American	Adults
Shuffles Pizza	426 N Franklin St Syracuse, NY	(315)471-9874	Pizza	All
Spaghetti Warehouse	689 N Clinton St Syracuse, NY	(315)475-1807	Italian	All/Family
Taco Bell	Carousel Center Syracuse, NY	(315)476-0007	Fast Food	All
The American Cafe	Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-3110	American	All
Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers	9562 Carousel Ctr Syracuse, NY	(315)466-6402	Fast Food	All

APPENDIX C

Sample Survey Questions

1. Why did you come to the park today?
 walk my dog play basketball
 walk swim
 jog relax
 bike birdwatch
 look at the view participate in a park program
 picnic playground
 other, specify: _____

2. How often do you visit the park?
 this is my first time
 once/year
 once/month
 once/week
 more than once/week

3. Please write in the county and state that you are from: _____

4. Are you a resident of the City of Syracuse? Yes No

5. How did you travel to the park?
 bicycle
 walking
 car or other personal motor vehicle
 bus
 other, specify: _____

6. How would you rate your overall experience at this park? Circle one of the following.
1) very unsatisfied 2) unsatisfied 3) neutral 4) satisfied 5) very satisfied

7. How would you rate the appearance of the park? Circle one of the following.
1) very poor 2) poor 3) neutral 4) good 5) very good

8. How many people did you come to the park with? Write in a "0" if you came by yourself. _____

9. How did you first find out about this park? Check one answer only.
 From a someone in my Syracuse neighborhood
 From a friend or family member
 Through a school
 Brochure
 Website
 Newspaper article
 Other, specify: _____

10. How could we improve the quality of your park experience?

11. What additional programs or services would you like to see in this park?