
Beechwood State Park

Assessment and Recommendations



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report discusses the current conditions at Beechwood State Park and offers recommendations on how to turn the park into a community focal point. The Park's history as a Girl Scout camp has created strong connection with the local community and there is much interest in maintaining and enhancing this cultural connection. The recommendations focus on connecting people, especially youths, with the cultural history of the area and to the natural environment in which Beechwood exists.

Development of a park Master Plan will be the most important objective for the town of Sodus. The recommendations contained within this proposal will help guide the town in writing this master plan. This proposal will also be useful for future park management as a reference source for information regarding the local community as well as the natural setting that the park is within.

Important issues covered in this proposal:

- Financial limitations and opportunities
- Current conditions of buildings and infrastructure
- Volunteers
- Connections to local residents and businesses
- Recreation, interpretation and youth programs
- The natural environment
- Park management

Within this plan there are recommendations on where to find funding for capital improvements, how to connect to local volunteers and businesses, trails in the natural environment, marketing and promotion, educational programs, park management and maintenance, and monitoring park progress.

We hope you find the Beechwood State Park Assessment and Recommendations Report a useful tool for developing and maintaining a viable, self-sustaining park.

INTRODUCTION

Beechwood State Park is located in the town of Sodus, NY, about 2 miles west of Sodus Point, about 2.5 miles north east of the village of Sodus, and along the southern edge of Lake Ontario. It covers approximately 250 acres and has about 1500 feet of shoreline. It is bounded by Maxwell Bay on its eastern edge and Lake Road on its southern edge.

Beechwood has a long and rich history as a Girl Scout camp before being purchased by the state in 1996. The state sought to keep the property as a preserve, but in 1999 the Town of Sodus got permission to manage the park as they see fit. The original property was about 150 acres and recently another 100 acres of old apple orchards were acquired and added to the park. Until today, the park has seen minimal management and many of its buildings and infrastructures are in disrepair.

These assessments and proposals were compiled by the students of SUNY ESF's Ecotourism and Nature Tourism class, fall 2010, taught by Dr. Diane Kuehn. The final document was edited by Ronald Rothrock with assistance from Dr. Kuehn.

Specific issues of concern

- Need for a master plan
- Buildings in various states of deterioration
- Vandalism
- Lack of revenue for park development
- Volunteer labor only
- Liability issues associated with trails and bluffs
- Wastewater system (no working bathrooms)
- Poor signage (none in park; poor entrance sign)
- Need for formally designated and marked parking area
- Lack of water availability
- Electricity
- Limited access/directions to lake
- The need for a park website (need for promotion about park)
- No information onsite
- Need for educational programs for youth groups
- Protected species restricting activities
- Insect pests in untended park orchards causing problems for adjacent orchard owners

Vision

By 2020, we envision Beechwood State Park to:

- Be an economically, environmentally and socially self-sustaining destination for youth groups and other visitors in NY;
- Offer multiple-use opportunities for local residents and visitors by providing a variety of outdoor activities, recreational facilities, and events;
- Serve as a place to reconnect with nature, local history, and each other through on-site educational opportunities;
- Foster strong relationships with local communities for implementing park development and programs;
- Have volunteers and staff that are well organized and dedicated to maintaining and improving the park while educating visitors.

Goals

Goal 1: To be a financially self-sustaining destination for youth and other visitors that serves as an educational model for conservation, green infrastructure, and renewable energy.

Goal 2: To manage for and provide high quality, multi-use recreational experiences through the development and maintenance of on-site facilities, community-wide events, and programs.

Goal 3: To provide interpretive and educational opportunities for visitors of all ages that reconnects them with nature, local history, and each other.

Goal 4: To include local communities and residents in park planning, development, and programs by raising awareness about the park, and providing opportunities for public input and involvement.

Goal 5: To develop an organizational structure for park staff and volunteers that enables them to work towards continual park improvement, development, and maintenance.

Brand

Each park has its own unique brand that it “sells”, and Beechwood should be no different. Two different ideas for branding the park are presented here. Both of these possible brands connect the natural and cultural history to the future vision of the park.

From old growth to new growth

From beech to beach

Theme

Along with a brand, Beechwood State Park should have a theme. The theme of the park is a unifying message that park staff and volunteers present to the public during educational encounters. The suggested theme is:

The ecosystems and rich history of Beechwood State Park provide visitors with an understanding of the interaction between nature and local heritage.

PARK ASSESSMENT

Assessment of Park Setting and Use

Introduction

Our objective is to understand the function, quality, usability, and potential that Beechwood State Park has to offer. The park has historic and ecological qualities of value. The park also is in position to aid the community of Sodus, New York, and the residents of Wayne County. This assessment examines the positive and negative aspects of the character, infrastructure, resources, and quality of the park.

Location

Beechwood State Park is approximately 140 acres in size, and is located on Lake Road in Sodus New York, in Wayne County. The Town of Sodus is part of the Finger Lakes and Great Lakes Regions, and is just east of the city of Rochester on the southern coast of Lake Ontario. The project site is just west of Maxwell Bay and Salmon Creek. Lake Road is County Route 101 and is part of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail. The Great Lakes Seaway Trail is one of America's Byways and is recognized for its unique landscape, scenic freshwater coastline, and historic significance. The views across Lake Ontario from Sodus Point and Beechwood add to the sense of pride and closeness to nature that is felt along the coast.

Ownership

The property was acquired in 1998 and conveyed to the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation and Historical Preservation for the establishment of a new state park. The park had previously been a property of the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley since 1929. The town Sodus has a lease on the property from the State of New York and the park is managed by the town of Sodus. The park is classified as a State Park, and therefore must conform to its management and regulation guidelines, as defined by state law.

Management

The park has a state park manager and manager's house on the property. The manager is responsible for keeping the roads clear and usable for emergency purposes. The manager also monitors vandalism on the site. One of the park manager's most important tasks is the inventory, monitoring, and analysis of fauna and flora for the park and surrounding state lands in the surrounding areas. Much of the management and monitoring for the site is currently done by the Town of Sodus Supervisor Steve LeRoy and Craig Wollensen. They have been responsible for boarding up buildings to prevent vandalism and for safety concerns. They are also knowledgeable about the history of the site, and have a general inventory of the resources and restrictions of the site. Steve and Craig will be the main resource for physical installations and maintenance to the park in the near future.

Historic Uses

Mr. Mills of the Mr. G.R. Mills, Harris, and Mills Lumber Company offered to sell the site of what is now Beechwood State Park to the Girl Scouts in 1928. The sale took place one year later after waterlines, an entrance road, service buildings, and electric were added to the site. The Girl Scouts and other youth groups including the Boy Scouts of America used the site until the camp

was shut down in 1998. The site was used as an educational tool for environmental education, camping and team building skills, and recreation activities (Garigen, & Nagel, May 2000).

Current Uses

The park is currently underutilized by the public due to a lack of adequate infrastructure and management. The buildings that were used by the Girl Scouts are boarded up due to vandalism and decay. The roofs on these buildings are leaking and in a state of disrepair. The entrance road is wide enough for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, but there is no suitable spot for parking on site, or for large bus drop offs. There is erosion and slope degradation by the waterfront on the northern portion of the site. There is a lack of maintenance of the existing camping structures that could be used for overnight camping by youth groups. The connection to Maxwell Bay from the camping area is via trails. The trails on the site are lined with species considered invasive and aggressive to the Northern Finger Lakes Region. The park is suitable for use by youth groups and family day users from the Town of Sodus and surrounding areas within Wayne County.

ROS Zones

The park can be classified into two separate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Zones. The first zone is the by the manager house along Lake Road, down the entrance road and extending over towards the camping opportunities at Maxwell Bay. This is a rural zone. It is filled with roads and can be easily accessed by motorized vehicles. The orchard to the west of the historic Girl Scout camping sites can also be classified as a rural ROS Zone. It has opportunities for agritourism for the community of Sodus. Rural ROS Zones are littered with man-made infrastructure in the natural setting. They are typically located in less densely populated areas, which are often in areas of agriculture.

The rest of the park can be placed under the classification of roaded natural on the recreation opportunity spectrum. The site has trails wide enough for vehicular movement throughout the site. These trails could be limited to management, service, or emergency vehicles. This would make the majority of the traffic pedestrian, but leave access for vehicular transportation if necessary. This classification makes the most sense for the park if it is to maintain the infrastructure needed to attract day users and youth groups, while minimizing the ecological disturbance throughout the park.

Summary

Beechwood State Park can become a great asset to the Town of Sodus and Wayne County. The park can become a celebrated park of the region's cultural history, and can continue to educate the public about the values that were taught by the Girl and Boy Scouts that used the park in the past. The management and infrastructure of the park need to be addressed if the park is going to become an attraction for visitors and residents of the Town of Sodus.

Habitat Assessment of Beechwood State Park

Introduction

Beechwood State Park's setting is characteristic of the northern hardwood forest type, with the presence of agriculture and reforestation. The landscape has been altered in a way that it provides a variety of habitats specific to the area which range from fragmented forest and fields to shoreline. These habitats provide the necessary characteristics for common fauna of the area to thrive. The following paragraphs provide a general assessment of the different habitats and explain both the benefits as well as concerns of their conditions. It should be noted that these are broad categorizations of habitats and are presented this way in order to avoid confusion and ease of mapping.

Habitats

The first habitat zone of Beechwood includes the area in the southwestern-most portion of the park as well as the open field in the center where the mess hall and swimming pool are located (Figure 1). These areas are mainly open fields, some containing old apple orchards. This area has been influenced by agriculture and development since the park was created and is characteristic of monoculture farming and old fields found in the region. Row cropping of apples and grapes are the dominant overstory flora in this area. An understory of common field grasses and shrubs includes *rubus spp.* (e.g., raspberries and blackberries), native cool-season grasses such as timothy, orchard grass, and blue grass, as well as invasive or naturalized plants like goldenrod, swallowwort, honey suckle, purple loosestrife, and multiflora rose. The presence of understory grasses is high due to the fact the park does not currently mow in the orchards. The overstory vegetation in these areas is over grown and is in the early stage of decline due to lack of care.

These agriculturally dominated areas provide excellent habitat for many mammal and bird species. Forests adjacent to this area are ideal for certain species that favor open pastures for grazing, but need the protection of forest for nesting and mating. Whitetail deer, woodchucks, field mice, fox, and coyote are common mammals that use areas such as these.

The second habitat zone to be assessed is that of the conifer plantations located in the central portion of the park. These plantations are characteristic of those planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. They are comprised of only a few species which are Norway, red and white spruce, Japanese Larch, red and white pine, and Scotch pine. These species are incorporated with each other at a regular spacing that encompasses a variety of soil types and drainage. There is a great deal of tree mortality in these areas. There is little to no understory in these areas due to the lack of light hitting the ground. Different bird species and a few ground mammals live in this habitat.

The next habitat zone is that of the northern hardwood forest that is scattered in pockets throughout the park boundaries. This zone is dominated with tree species such as maple, ash, beech, and birch, with others such as hophornbeam, basswood, tulip poplar and hemlock scattered throughout. This area can be defined as having 60% or more canopy cover of trees and occurs on soil substrate with less than 50% rock outcrop (Reschke 1990). There is a good deal of old growth within these areas that provide somewhat of an uneven-aged feel to this largely even-

aged forest. The abundance of hardwood trees in these areas provides large quantities of mast for a number of mammal and bird species. These areas are some of the most pristine in the area with little evidence of human impact. The uneven terrain and downed woody debris in these areas provides ample habitat for ground dwelling mammals. There are a few invasive species in this sector, including European buckthorn, Norway maple, and Japanese barberry. While the overstory trees are in pristine condition, the understory vegetation has been largely replaced by certain invasive species such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose.

The wetlands and marsh areas along Maxwell Creek/Bay and northwest of the Pioneer lodge are all associated with the dendritic properties of the inlets and streams which is clearly visible in the map. These areas are incredibly pristine with no evidence of invasive species present at this time. These areas include the presence of certain rare species of plants that include the water dock and the Halberd-leaved tearthumb (Wesley 1999). The presence of these plants, as well as the susceptibility of disturbances, makes these wetlands some of the most sensitive areas in the park. Erosion, water contamination and major die back of native species are all factors that would likely change the species composition of these areas from a pristine wetland to an area choked with invasive species. These wetlands are inhabited by numerous amounts of wildlife and cater especially to waterfowl and other birds of the area.

The final zone in the park is that of the shoreline adjacent to Lake Ontario. This encompasses a relatively small area of the park but is unique in its own way. This terrestrial-aquatic interface is home to rare species of plants such as Buffalo berry and provides excellent habitat for many nesting birds and mammals. There are many trees in the area that have fallen into the lake; these provide excellent cover and breeding grounds for fish and other aquatic organisms. This area is considered extremely sensitive, mainly due to the high levels of erosion along the shoreline.

Summary

The habitats of Beechwood State Park are typical to those found in the Great Lakes Region and upstate New York. There is a wide variety of vegetation found in this area that includes the presence of some rare species of plants as well as some invasive species. The park's habitats provide the necessary cover and food for many mammalian and bird species to survive and thrive. Both positive and negative human impacts can be found in the park, but add a unique feel to the park.

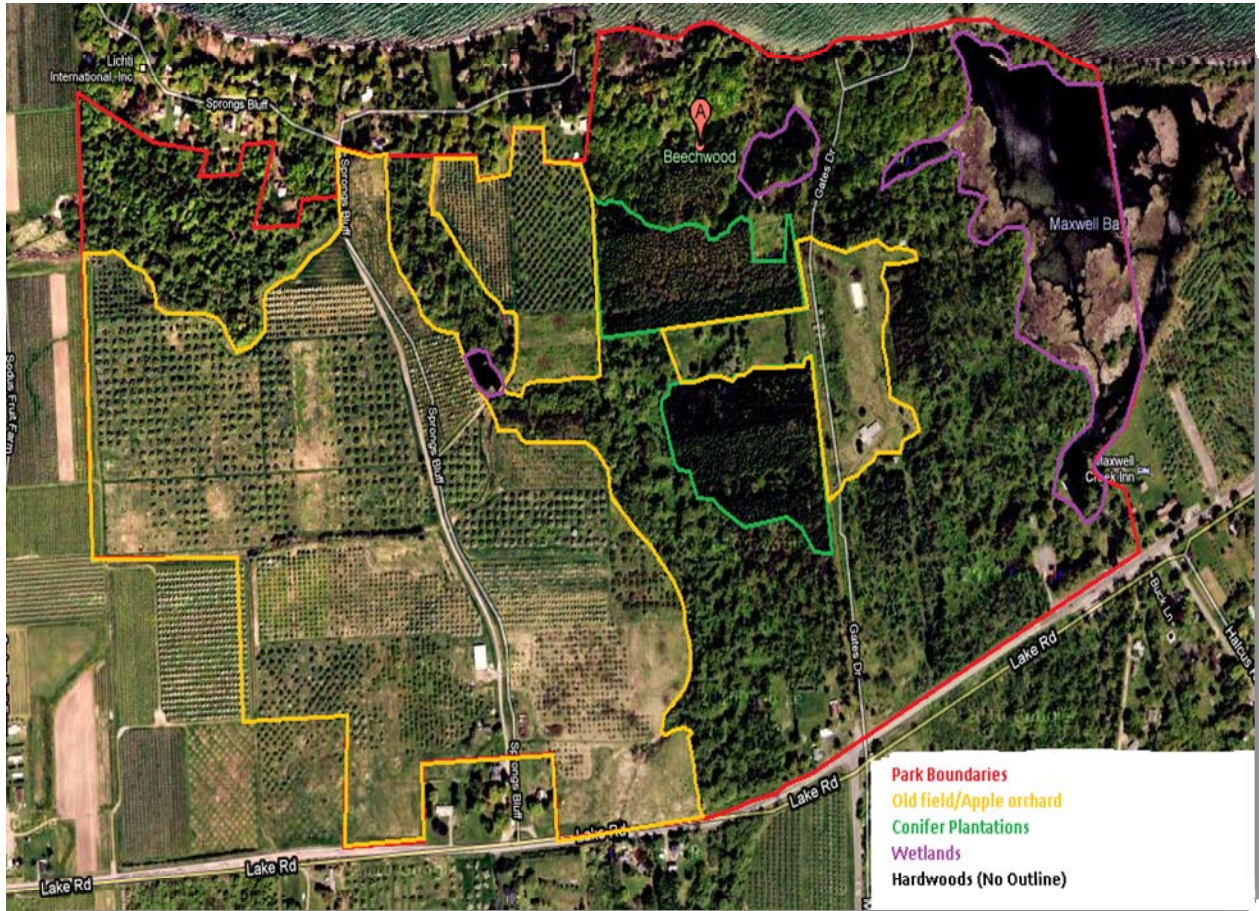


Figure 1. Delineation of Beechwood habitat zones

Beechwood State Park Flora and Fauna

Introduction

The property on which Beechwood State Park is situated has a wealth of flora and fauna that create a unique opportunity for recreation. The park is home to many native species including some rare and threatened plants and wildlife. These native species give the park a very “natural” appearance; however, the park is far from natural as it is home to many non-native species. These introduced species may have different effects on the park and its users. The diversity of Beechwood State Park overall should aid in the attraction of visitors from near and far.

Native Species

An inventory of many of the important native species was compiled to catalogue the species of the area. The species found here are ecologically, commercially, and historically important to the southern Lake Ontario Region. Some of the native species to the area may be classified as rare or threatened by state or federal governments, and visitors to the park may have a unique opportunity to view the species in a semi-natural state. Table 1 is a list of some of the parks native plants and wildlife that may be found year-round or seasonally on the grounds.

Introduced Species

Many of the introduced species arrived with the colonization by Europeans. These species have different effects on the natural environment from benefits to detriments and have had many different conveyances to their new home ranges. Often times these introduced plants and wildlife can outcompete native species where their ranges overlap. Invasive species are those species that are “1.) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2.) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” (NISIC, 2010). Beechwood State Park is home to many of these alien species that may detract from a visitor's experience or take away from the natural beauty of the area. Table 2 is a list of some of the park's non-native resident plant and wildlife species that may be seen year-round or seasonally on the park grounds.

Table 1. Native species that may be found within Beechwood State Park in Sodus, New York. (F. Robert Wesley 2009; James Woods 2010).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal or State Protection
Birds	American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	No
	American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>	No
	American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Yes
	American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	No
	American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	No
	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Yes
	Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	No
	Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	No
	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	No
	Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	No
	Black Throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	No
	Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	No
	Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	No
	Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	No
	Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	No
	Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	No
	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Yes*
	Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	No
	Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	No
	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	No
	Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerine</i>	No
	Chestnut Sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	No
	Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	No
	Common Yellow Throat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	No
	Double Crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Yes
	Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	No
	Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	No
	Eastern Wood Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	No
	Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	No
	Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	No
	Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	No
	Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Yes
	Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	No
	Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	No
	House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	No
	House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	No
	Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Yes*
	Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	No
	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Yes*
	Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Yes
	Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	No
	Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	No
	Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	No
	Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	No
	Red-Tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Yes
	Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	No
	Ruby Throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	No
	Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	No
	Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Yes
	Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	No
White Breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	No	
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>	No	
Yellow-Rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	No	
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica aestiva</i>	No	
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Yes	

Table 1. (Continued) Native species that may be found within Beechwood State Park in Sodus, New York. Common name, scientific name, and federal or state protection listing also declared. (F. Robert Wesley 2009)(James Woods 2010).

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal or State Protection
Mammals	American Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Yes
	American Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Yes
	Common Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	No
	Eastern Chipmunk	<i>Tamias striatus</i>	No
	Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>	Yes
	Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Yes
	Grey Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Yes
	Indiana Bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Yes
	Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Yes
	Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Yes
	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Yes
	White-Tailed Deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Yes
Plants	American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	No**
	American Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	No
	Dwarf Horsetail	<i>Equisetum sciripoides</i>	No
	Glaucous Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera dioica</i>	Yes
	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Yes
	Millet Grass	<i>Milium efusum</i>	Yes
	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	No
	Schreber's Aster	<i>Aster schreberi</i>	No
	Sedge	<i>Carex digitalis</i>	No
	Striped Maple	<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	No
	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	No
	Tamarack Larch	<i>Larix laricina</i>	No
Water Berry	<i>Sepherdia canadensis</i>	No	

*Protected by Migratory Bird Act from unregulated "taking"

**Mature individuals in decline due to Emerald Ash Borer

Table 2. Introduced species to Beechwood State Park in Sodus, New York. (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, 2010; USDA 2010; NYSea Grant 2008).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Effects of Introduction
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Invasive
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Moderate
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus color</i>	Invasive
Red-Billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus scopulinus</i>	Invasive
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	Invasive
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens sp.</i>	Invasive
Multiflora Rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Invasive
Privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	Invasive
Sumac	<i>Rhus sp.</i>	Invasive
Swallowwort	<i>Cynanchum</i>	Invasive
Queen Anne's Lace	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Beneficial
Pacific Salmon and Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus sp.</i>	Beneficial/non-native *
Round Goby	<i>Neogobios melanostomus</i>	Invasive
Zebra Mussel	<i>Dreissena polymorpha</i>	Invasive

*Important to the recreational fishery of Lake Ontario

Summary

Beechwood State Park offers an excellent resource to upstate New York in the way of floral and faunal diversity. The plants and wildlife found on the property may be a great way to recruit visitors interested in wildlife and nature viewing, and also present a great opportunity for interpretation and instruction on the important ecological and biological processes that occur in this area. The presence of rare species on this property should especially draw crowds to observe and learn about these and other extraordinary species of the area. It is, however, important that as more and more visitors come to Beechwood State Park that we do not allow for the destruction of these species or their habitats. It should also be considered that the presence of invasive species may detract from visitors' experiences in the way of physical harm to the visitor (e.g., multiflora rose), obstruction of trails, and the eradication of native species.

Facilities

Roads and Parking Assessment

The current condition of the roads and parking areas within and adjacent to Beechwood State Park is such that minor improvements are needed to ensure the safety and enjoyment of visitors. There are several concerns regarding the roads and parking areas within park.

Current Road Conditions

Roads are an important element in Beechwood State Park since they make it possible for visitors to access the park. Presently, the majority of the roads are in fair and good condition. The roads are dirt roads with vegetated center strips.

The roads are approximately 8 feet wide with no turnout areas. The shoulder widths are approximately 2-4 feet. The roads' surfaces are relatively flat, and not crowned or tilted. Several roads have invasive plants growing on their shoulders.

For the purpose of this assessment, names were given to the roads and will be used in the discussion that follows (Figure 2). The Eastwood Road is covered with grass. Lakeview Road is narrow and the east side of the road has a minor erosion problem. The Lakeview Road will likely have problems during winter and wet conditions. This is an important concern for safety because the east side of the Lakeview Road has less than 3 feet of shoulder and has a slope (Table 3). If visitors use this road during wet conditions they may not be able to drive up the incline in the road and may slide into the shoulder. Using the Lakeview Road during wet weather may damage the road and create ruts in the road surface.

The rest of the roads in Beechwood have adequate shoulders. There are several trees located on Shoreline Road and the north end of the Main Road entrance gate that have overhanging limbs. The Main Road has the only street light within the park.

Additional Roads

Lake Road runs parallel to Beechwood State Park. This state road runs between Sodus Point and Beechwood State Park. The road is managed by the New York State Department of Transportation. Lake Road is used as a public highway and can be used to transport Beechwood visitors to the three parking areas in or adjacent to the park.

The Seaway Trail runs parallel to the shoreline of Lake Ontario and other bodies of water within the state of New York and Pennsylvania. The Seaway Trail comprises Lake Road, and has the potential of bringing additional visitors to experience the parks' beautiful, natural, and cultural history.

A public road through the apple orchard is currently used by residents living within the area. This road is not maintained by park volunteers.

Access Roads

Secondary access roads are located between the dining hall and pool area. These access roads were covered by grass, and are important for vehicles involved in emergency service transportation, maintenance, delivery, and construction. Access roads limited to these services help minimize the disruption of visitor activities by eliminating unnecessary vehicular traffic.

Parking Areas

The parking areas within and adjacent to Beechwood State Park are in adequate condition. There is one parking area within Beechwood and two adjacent to the park. Parking facilities are essential for providing safety, and efficient parking is important for visitors' experience.

Two parking areas are located within the boundaries of Beechwood. The first (located on the main park road) is presently not used extensively by visitors. The parking area is approximately 216 x 75 feet in size. This parking area can support up to 48 vehicles (Table 4). The surface of the parking area is a mixture of soil, gravel, and grass, and may encounter problems during wet weather when the surface becomes saturated and muddy. The east side of the parking area is an open area facing the Main Road. Since there are no parking facilities for larger vehicles and buses, the main gate of the park is used as a drop off area for large groups of visitors.

The second parking area in the park is adjacent to Maxwell Creek (on the west side), just off of Lake Road. It can hold up to 10 vehicles, and is surfaced with gravel (Table 4).

Outside of the park are two additional parking areas. On the east side of the creek is a DEC-managed parking area. It can hold up to 10 vehicles, and is surfaced with gravel (Table 4). The Wayne County Park parking area (across Lake Road from Beechwood) is approximately 390 x 42 feet and can maintain up to 43 vehicles; it is a paved parking lot (Table 4). These nearby parking facilities are important to handle the overflow from the other Beechwood parking lot during large events within the park.

There were no handicap-accessible spaces designated in any of the parking areas included in this assessment. An accessible space is required for every 1 to 25 regular spaces. Also, not all parking facilities had adequate lighting.

Road signs

Currently, there are no road signs within the park. Signs are important for visitor safety. Posting signs assists in regulating speed, and notifying visitors of vehicle restrictions as well as road turnout for passing vehicles. They also notify drivers of potential hazards. The naming of roads is also important for safety; this will help to locate people in the event of emergency and to assist those not familiar with the area to find their destination in the park.

Soils

Soils within the park are a mixture of silty loam and sandy loam. Both of the soils are well drained soil classes. Knowing soil characteristics is critical to design for erosion prevention. It also affects plant growth and ease water infiltration. As the foundation for the roads and parking area within Beechwood State Park, soils affect stability for safe passage and parking for visitors.

Conclusion

Roads and parking areas are important components of facilities in Beechwood State Park. These areas help in preserving the natural appearance of the park and also keep visitors safe while in the park. Protecting native vegetation while maintaining the roads and parking lots will also preserve the scenic, natural, and cultural resources along the roads and parking area within the park. The appearance and use of the roads and parking areas will enhance visitors' experience so they can use area for recreation activities, education, and relaxation.

Table 3. Assessment of roads within Beechwood State Park.

Road name	Shoulder present?	Slope	Lighting	Over-hanging limbs	Restricted vehicle	Barriers	Invasive plants	Erosion
Main Rd.	Yes		X	X		X	X	
Dining Hall Rd.	Yes						X	
Shoreline Rd.	Yes			X	X		X	
Lakeview Rd.	Yes	X			X		X	X
Pioneer Rd.	Yes				X		X	
Eastwood Rd.	Yes				X		X	

Table 4. Parking area assessment within and adjacent to Beechwood State Park.

Parking area	Size (feet)	Number of vehicles	Lighting	Surface	Handicapped spaces	Trash cans
Beechwood State Park (on main park road)	216 x 75	48	None	Grass	None	None
Beechwood State Park (on Maxwell Creek)	96 x 58	10	None	Gravel	None	None
Maxwell Creek (DEC)	49 x 91	10	None	Gravel	None	None
Wayne County Park	390 x 42	43	None	Paved	None	None

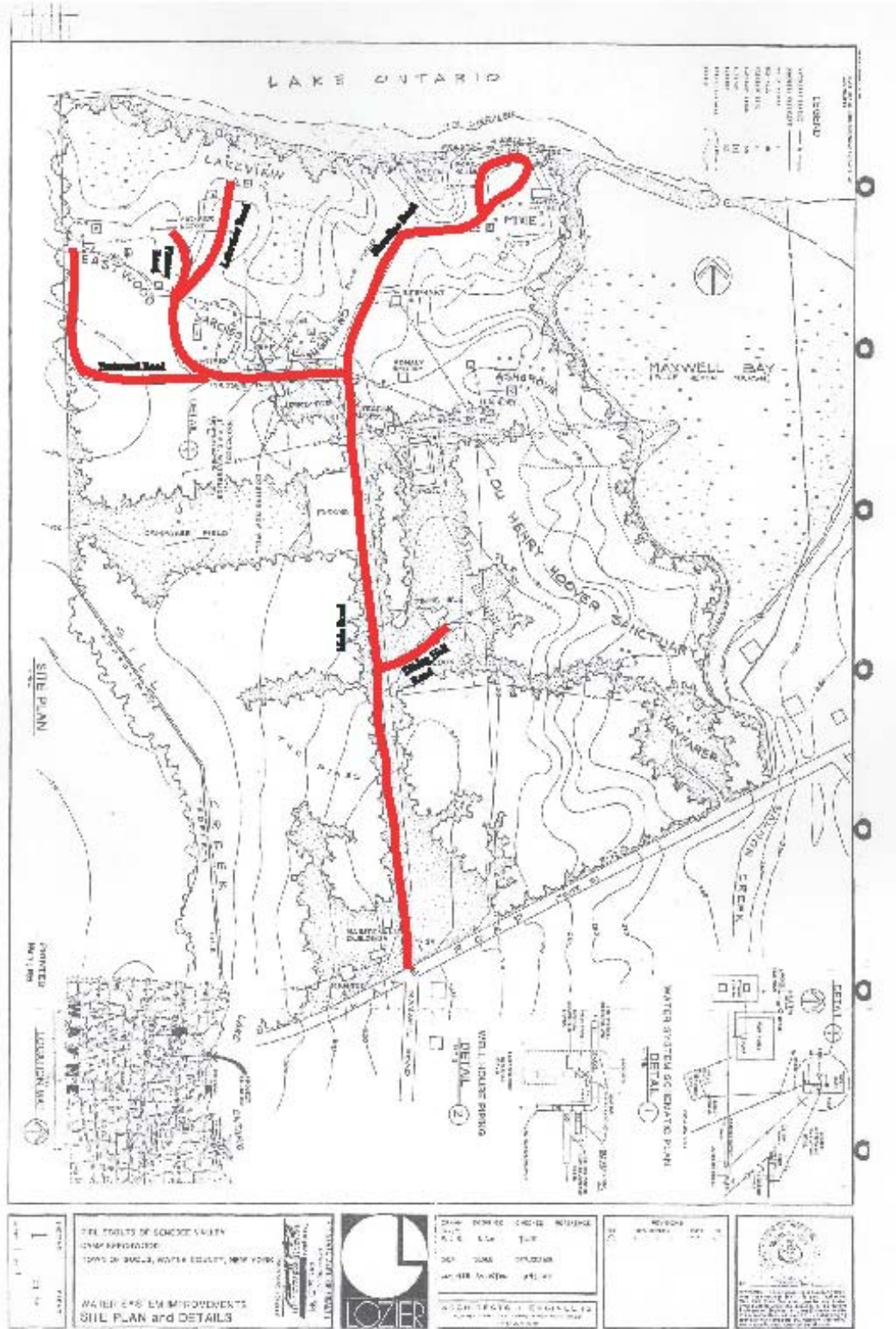


Figure 2. Map of the roads in Beechwood State Park.

Trails Assessment

Introduction

Properly planned trails will promote safe, long-term recreational use. Beechwood State Park (BSP) has an old trail system remaining from when it was a Girl Scout Camp. This park is very diverse and has numerous opportunities for the development of educational and recreational trail systems. At the present time, however, only the walking trails that were developed when the camp was operational and the main access roads are present. Also, since the more recent acquisition of the old apple orchard, there has been no official trail development.

Access Trails

Access trails provide visitors with access to the park. BSP can be accessed numerous ways (i.e., Lake Ontario, Maxwell Bay, through the apple orchard, parking lot at Maxwell Bay, or the main entrance off Lake Road). For the purpose of this assessment, only the access points that were intended for visitor use/access will be described. Neither of the entrances are well marked and may require regular maintenance if the town wants to see an increase in visitor use.

The main entrance along Lake Road, near the maintenance barn and caretaker's house, is a wide grassy road. The soil has been compacted therefore it provides a very solid base and it appears to be mowed/maintained most regularly. The road leads to the camp's main field where the old dining hall and pool are located. The road is approximately 14' wide, which meets the guidelines for single vehicle travel. The path is lined with woodlands on the left and a greater mix of meadow/woodlands on the right. Approximately 2,000' from the main gate, the trail splits off into the inner camp trails.

The other planned access point is from the parking lot at Maxwell Bay, approximately a quarter-mile east of the park's main entrance. The lot appears to be primarily used by anglers that visit Maxwell Bay and Creek. This particular area has approximately six lean-tos between the parking lot and stream and provides for an inviting atmosphere. There are multiple social or destination trails that have been created by visitors.

A trail leads to the main camp from this lot. The trail begins muddy and rocky and is immediately followed by a relatively steep slope approximately a quarter mile long. The trail surface is poorly drained and can be very slick during rain events. No trail markers or edging make finding and traveling along this trail difficult. This trail does not comply with ADA requirements and would need to be noted as such.

Camp Trails

Camp trails include access roads and trails that link campsites and potential environmental and cultural resources. Approximately 30% of the access routes are over-grown gravel roads that can accommodate motor vehicles, while the rest are single track hiking trails. The trails in the park are unmarked and the only map is the one used while the Girl Scout camp was still functional.

Trails that are accessible by motor vehicle are similar to the Lake Road access trail -- mostly hard packed grass with evidence of past use defined by the two tire treads. The remainder of the

trails are mostly hard packed single track optimal for walking. There are areas of concern as the bluffs, wetlands, and steep ridges all pose potential hazardous trail conditions.

The lean-to sites in the northeast corner of the property may be dangerous if wandering at night. Approximately 50 yards to the north are the shores of Lake Ontario and to the east, the ridge overlooking Maxwell Bay. The trail along the ridge is narrow and very steep while the other trail to the bay from the site is wide and beginning to fill in with secondary growth.

There is a trail that is located near a circular clearing (wood pile) that goes to the lodge. Issues with this trail include steep terrain, dilapidated wood features (steps and bridges), and no trail markers.

Other interior trails are grown in and hard to see, particularly with the fall leaf litter. Due to the current conditions of the trails, it is hard to qualify them for ADA use. Trails are composed mainly of compacted soil which provides a good base, but the roots and leaf litter are not ideal for physically-impaired individuals.

Orchard Trails

These trails were used while the orchard was operational. Most, if not all, of the trails through the orchard are old roads used to maintain the apple crop. The trails are overgrown and grassy and pose potential hazards for recreation enthusiasts. Some of the trails have been rutted with tire treads that have now been overgrown and less visible.

Given that there is no organized/mapped trail system, there is great potential to build a multi-use trail system through the orchard. The presence of private properties to the north of the orchard (along the shoreline) will require some delicate planning so that potential user impacts are limited. There is some evidence that some of the homeowners may drive through the orchard as the tire tracks lead to their yards. This poses safety issues if trails were to be developed for park visitors.

There is a stream that also divides the orchard property that has possible beaver activity. The attached picture shows evidence of flooding, thus prohibiting vehicles and recreation users from crossing.

Conclusion

The trail system at Beachwood State Park is a remnant of the Girl Scout Camp. Given the lack of maintenance, the trail layout needs to be re-thought. Many people that recreate enjoy loop or figure-eight trails. Trails that lead to a destination and require you to turn around may discourage some from using that trail again. This technique may also improve the visitor's overall satisfaction because there could be less user-user conflict. Although vehicle access to the park is limited, there is still an opportunity for vehicles to drive in the park for maintenance and emergency situations. None of the trails are finished/improved and are mainly uneven or rocky. The trees on the property are mostly deciduous and cause the trails to become littered with leaves, often causing safety issues when climbing slopes and following unmarked trails. The newly acquired orchard has existing roads that are wide enough for vehicles and can provide

numerous recreation opportunities. Overall, there is an enormous potential for developing and/or improving recreation and educational opportunities here at Beechwood State Park.



Figure 3. Current trails and park boundary line.

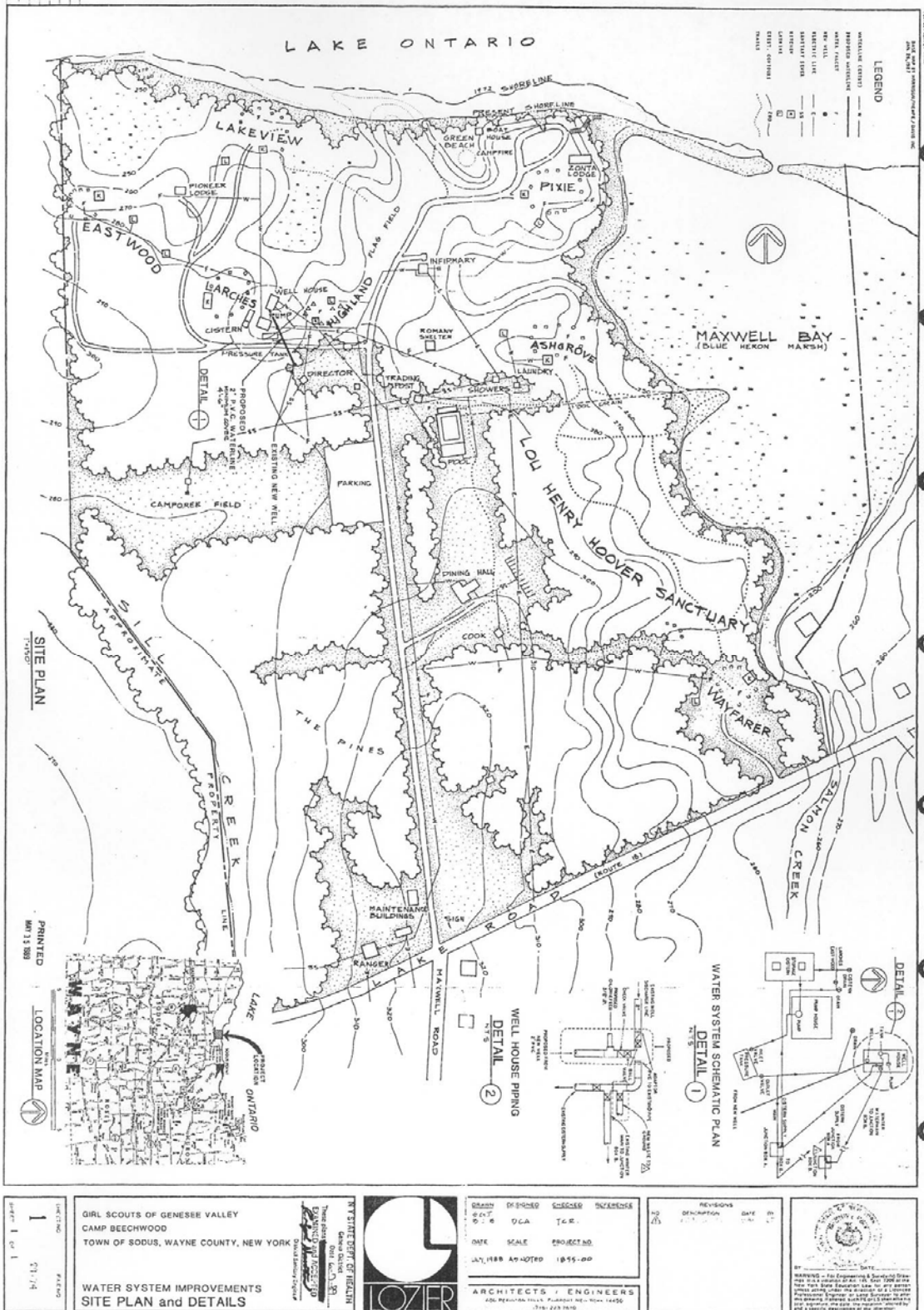


Figure 4. Historic map of Camp Beechwood without the newly acquired orchard.



Figure 4. Park access from Maxwell Bay parking lot. Poor drainage at trailhead and lack of signs may discourage users from traveling this route.



Figure 7. Ridge trail above Maxwell Bay.



Figure 5. Existing orchard trail.



Figure 8. Footbridge allowing travel over marshy area east of recently remodeled lodge.



Figure 6. A tree lying over trail both encourages and discourages use and poses a significant liability issue. Trees like this should be removed.



Figure 9. Second footbridge allowing travel over wet areas.



Figure 10. Trail through the Camporee Field that leads to inner camp parking lot with overgrown vegetation.



Figure 12. Evidence of existing trail southeast of remodeled lodge.



Figure 11. Trail that leads to old carriage house at south end of property, Lake Road entrance.



Figure 13. Stairs built in hillside are old and difficult to see during the fall season.



Figure 14. Stream dividing orchard.

Day Use Areas and Facilities

Introduction

Beechwood State Park is located in the town of Sodus, NY. It consists of 150 acres of land with 3,500 feet of shoreline along Lake Ontario. It is easily accessible via The Great Lakes Seaway Trail and has the ability to accommodate a great variety of day use activities. The following is an assessment of the day use areas and facilities currently available within the park.

Assessment

For simplicity purposes, the park was divided into three distinguishable areas. These include the Maxwell Creek/Bay area, the Lake Ontario shoreline, and all other areas within the park. An assessment of these three areas was performed to determine their positive and negative aspects (Table 5).

Table 5. Positive and negative aspects of the three potential day use areas within Beechwood State Park.

Area of Park	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects
Maxwell Creek/Bay	Existing parking area	No designated day-use area
	Some posted rules and regulations	No designated day-use facilities
	Existing fishing opportunities	Several dilapidated lean-tos
	Potential Canoe/Kayak launch area	No dock for convenient loading/unloading
Lake Ontario Shoreline	Scenic views	No designated day use area
	Existing fishing opportunities	No designated day use facilities
	Existing bird-watching opportunities	No posted rules or regulations
	Potential canoe/kayak docking area	Lake front not easily accessible Small beach cluttered with debris
All other areas within the park	Existing bird-watching opportunities	No designated day-use area
	Existing but limited hiking opportunities	No designated day-use facilities
	Picturesque landscape	No posted rules or regulations
	Potential for various other day use opportunities	Numerous dilapidated lean-tos and other structures
	Possible renovation of existing structures	
		No restrooms
		No running water

Maxwell Creek/Bay Area

Currently, this area is not designated as a day use area. However, it contains a reasonably-sized gravel parking area along with a few posted rules and regulations. These components help reduce the liability that may be associated with this area. Maxwell Creek provides great fishing opportunities, specifically while salmon are spawning. It also provides a location to launch canoes and kayaks into the Bay, although, for the time being, there is no formal launching area at this site. The site is lacking day use facilities such as picnic tables, pavilions, grills, benches, restrooms, or running water for water fountains. There are several dilapidated lean-tos found in this area, some of which have the potential for repair. Another possibility could be to use their materials in the construction of picnic tables, pavilions, or benches.

Lake Ontario Shoreline Area

This area is not designated as a day use area, although, it does provide great fishing and bird-watching opportunities, specifically during times of bird migration. It also presents beautiful scenic views of Lake Ontario, sailboats, the bluffs, and sunsets over the water. However, the lakefront is not easily accessible and consists of a small beach cluttered with debris. There are also no day use facilities or posted rules or regulations at this site. The lack of hazard signs raises liability concerns because of the steep cliffs and fallen debris which may be dangerous for visitors. The lakeshore presents a potential docking area for canoes and kayaks, providing access to the park.

All Other Areas within the Park

Overall, the park possesses a very picturesque landscape, which has great potential for bird-watching, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and winter use. However, to ensure safe visitor experiences, trail, regulation, and directional signage is needed. Throughout the park are several dilapidated lean-tos and other structures, some of which have the potential for repair and day use designation; currently, however, they present safety concerns.

Summary

Overall, the park lacks designated day use areas and facilities. Most, if not all, facilities that do exist on the property are in need of repair. There is no signage or posted rules and regulations found throughout the park. It also lacks adequate parking, running water, and restrooms. However, the park does provide scenic views and possesses the ability to accommodate a diverse array of day use activities such as walking/hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing/bird-watching, fishing, picnicking/grilling, nature photography, and possibly either guided tours or interpretive material upon the completion of an educational program.

Group Use Facilities

Introduction

Beechwood State Park contains diverse facilities and natural resources that provide excellent opportunities for educational and interpretational programming for youth groups and other organizations. The Town of Sodus is currently leasing Beechwood State Park from New York State, and is in the process of evaluating its potential for group use. Facilities must be thoroughly assessed before extensive use occurs, as little has been done in terms of maintenance since New York State purchased the land in 1999. Numerous facilities are in poor physical condition, and some structures are unlikely to be repaired due to budget constraints. Despite widespread deterioration, however, Beechwood State Park contains many facilities and resources relevant to group use. Some structures remain in useable condition, and others can be repaired, in time offering groups excellent facilities.

Past Use by Youth Group Organizations

Beechwood State Park is comprised of land historically operated as orchards to the west, and a Girl Scout camp to the east. The former Girl Scout camp, which will serve as the group use portion of the park, is bounded to the east by Maxwell Bay, to the south by Lake Road (Route 18), and to the west by Sill Creek and the fore-mentioned orchards. Girl Scout camps traditionally consist of six-day rotations of troops, with meals provided in a centralized dining hall. Other activities take place throughout the camp in various facilities, and individual troops camp in their own sites, comprised of platform tents and a picnic shelter. Beechwood State Park contains facilities related to all of these camp activities, many of which may effectively serve for groups in the future. While owned by the Girl Scouts, the public was allowed to access Camp Beechwood during non-summer months. Boy Scouts notably utilized the camp during this off-season. In recent history, Girl Scout groups, Boy Scout groups, and the Alternative Learning Academy for Student Achievement (ALASA Academy) have utilized Beechwood State Park. Individual troops have camped in the park on overnight trips, and the ALASA Academy held their three-day Fall Family Camping Weekend at the park.

Overview of Existing Facilities

Many of the remaining Girl Scout camp structures exist in various states of disrepair. Many are boarded up in order to prevent trespassing and discourage other illegal activities, and many have been vandalized. Most structures are not currently in use, and, considering budget constraints, should continue to be secured or destroyed to prevent liability issues and unwanted activity. Multiple group campsites traditionally used by visiting scout troops remain in repairable condition, but need work before they will again be acceptable for youth group use. Electricity, water, and wastewater infrastructure exists to several buildings, but requires professional inspection and repair (or replacement) before any existing facilities could be used.

Deteriorated Facilities

The old dining hall, trading post, infirmary, in-ground pool, laundry, well, shower house, and several platform structures comprise a group of structures in varying disrepair that will likely need to be secured or removed. Such facilities have attracted graffiti in the past, and have significantly deteriorated structural integrity. Repairs to the dining hall, trading post, and infirmary will likely be determined by budgetary constraints. The in-ground pool may

eventually be filled, while platform structures and laundry and shower houses will likely need to be removed. The structures mentioned here represent little group use value and rather present a burden in terms of potential unwanted activity and liability.

Platform Tent Group Campsites

Several group campsites exist in the form of traditional scout sites. Most sites include approximately ten tent platforms and one picnic shelter. Tent platforms could use repair, and represent minor fixes in relation to other deteriorated facilities. Such repair could potentially be carried out by Eagle Scouts or others who have required projects for their organization and have used the park. Picnic shelters should be evaluated on an individual basis, but generally appear to be structurally sound, needing relatively minor repairs before use. Overall, all but one of the group campsites are not in immediate useable condition and should be repaired before youth groups are encouraged to utilize them. Once minor repairs such as replacing rotten boards, painting, and removal of out-facing nails and waste have been completed, group campsites will present a unique opportunity for youth groups to camp in a familiar setting though without the structured activity of a typical youth summer camp.

Zonta Lodge Area

The Zonta Lodge and surrounding buildings are structurally sound, but in need of significant work. The Zonta Lodge is currently boarded up and should continue to be so until appropriate repairs make the area safe for visitors. While this area is likely salvageable, much work needs to be done to ensure this facility provides a safe and well maintained atmosphere for group use.

Maxwell Creek Access Shelters

The Maxwell Creek fishing access point represents a major parking area with access to Beachwood State Park. A small picnic shelter and nine three-sided camping shelters are located here. The picnic shelter overlooks Maxwell Creek, while individual shelters are clustered around an open field area. Maxwell Creek shelters are structurally sound and available for immediate use, but could use minor repairs.

Romany Picnic Shelter

The Romany picnic shelter is currently in useable condition, and may be utilized by groups in the immediate future. Though not located in close proximity to any parking area, the shelter rests in acceptable condition for use by adult and youth groups without repair. The Romany shelter has a grill area, and provides sturdy shelter from the elements attractive for both day use and overnight trips. The ALASA Academy has recently used the Romany shelter as a headquarters for activities; however, potential for overlapping use by groups and day-users should be considered as a potential conflict. This shelter has great potential for use by organizations who may seek to picnic within the park.

Lakeview Lodge

The Lakeview Lodge exists in useable condition in close proximity to Lake Ontario, though not closely accessible to parking areas. Figure 15 depicts the interior of the lodge, representing a sheltered and clean facility, though lacking bathroom facilities or heat; a working fireplace could provide heat in cooler seasons. While not currently used by anyone, interest has been expressed for use of the lodge for occasional town meetings. Organizations and clubs who host events or

meetings in such facilities may also be interested in using and even renting the lodge. Finally, traditional Camp Beechwood youth group users including the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and ALASA Academy could potentially use the lake-view lodge as a center for activities or overnight stays.



Figure 15. Interior of Lakeview Lodge

Comfort Stations

Multiple latrines are scattered throughout Beechwood State Park in varying condition. While some of these latrines may be repairable, budget constraints may require securing these facilities in favor of a less costly alternative. As long as use remains low, portable toilets may represent a feasible alternative in the short-term. Construction of bathroom facilities is another option that provides challenges in the need for water piping infrastructure, waste removal and cost. Built rest rooms should be considered if large increases in park use are desired. At low levels of use, the current portable facilities will suffice; more units will be needed to handle increases in park use.

Summary

Beechwood State Park contains a large number and variety of existing facilities traditionally used by youth organizations. Unfortunately, many of these facilities have deteriorated from a lack of maintenance, and require significant work before they could potentially be utilized again. No facilities in Beechwood State Park are currently connected to electricity, water, or wastewater infrastructure, and the need for bathroom facilities remains a limitation on immediate group use in the park. An exception to substandard conditions in many structures, the lake-view lodge, the Romany picnic shelter, and several individual group campsites can be used immediately or with minimal repair. Overall, Beechwood State Park contains an extensive assembly of group use facilities and has great potential for future group use.

Potential Visitor Center Facility

Introduction

Visitors and groups using Beechwood State Park could greatly benefit from a visitor center that provides educational information on the species and habitats found in the park, trails, and locations for recreational opportunities (e.g., fishing in Maxwell Bay). The center could also be the location for checking in overnight groups. This section discusses options for a visitor center.

Visitor Center Location

Several factors were taken into consideration to determine which portion of Beechwood State Park would be suitable for the development of a visitor center. The area inside the dashed line was determined to be the best location for this type of facility (see Figure 16). This area was determined by taking into consideration property setbacks, zoning regulations, utility lines, soil types along with on site vegetation, and ease of access. The potential visitor center site is located on Lake Road, providing easy automobile access, as well as strong visual and physical connection between the road, visitor center and the park. By locating the building in this location along the primary park axis, user groups could be monitored along with vehicular flow. There is potential for low or high level of development at this location.

This developable site could be the location of a potential visitor center offering many educational opportunities. This facility may consist of exhibit space, classrooms, office space as well as restrooms. The exhibit space could educate visitors about the park's history, vegetation, wildlife and connection to the region. Beechwood State Park has a unique site history as a Girl Scout Camp. Vegetation and animals found within Beechwood may also provide an interesting exhibit which could focus on native and invasive species. These exhibit spaces could be changed seasonally or yearly depending on the management views.

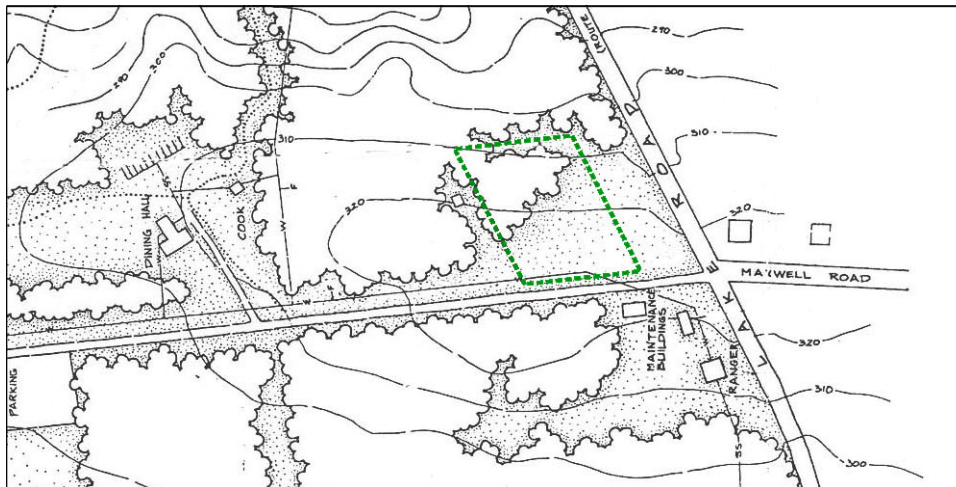


Figure 16. Potential Visitor Center Facility Location (dashed line). The area is currently overgrown with low vegetation, shrubbery, saplings, and mature trees.

Zoning Regulations/ Building Permits

The town of Sodus, in Wayne County, New York has specific zoning regulations that must be considered before any construction takes place. The entire Beechwood State Park land parcel is

zoned agricultural, meaning a visitor center could be placed on any location within the park. Any built structure must be located a minimum of 100 feet from the centerline of Lake Road and 50 feet from side property lines. The building must be designed by a state licensed engineer, who will take into account energy compliance standards while drawing the plans. This engineer would work with the park management and the town in designing a facility with the desired characteristics. The design will then be turned in to the town zoning/building inspector. If it meets all criteria, a building permit will be issued. In addition, a septic tank will also have to be designed, based on the expected use of the facility. It will be important to work with zoning officials throughout the entire planning process.

The site location, noted in Figure 16, does not appear to conflict with any zoning ordinances. Also, there are no wetlands on this portion of the property, so there is no need to procure a wetlands permit. While the engineer designing the building should be aware of building code regulations, it is important that the park managers procure any necessary permits and be aware of any relevant zoning ordinances before any plans are made.

Utility Access

Utilities such as water and electrical systems are located at the intersection of Lake and Maxwell Road. Connecting to water lines would require that a connection be made at the street for piping to the property.

Rochester Gas and Electric provides electricity services to the region and should be consulted during planning the facility. There are several steps involved with installing power. Once an account is created with RG&E, they will send out an inspector from the local RG&E office to perform a site inspection. The park's service would be considered commercial, so a Commercial Electric Load Sheet would need to be completed. Depending on the final facility design, a utility pole or underground service would need to be installed. The park's master plan should be considered when determining the load the park will use since future power used on the property may not just be needed for the visitor center, but for the entire park. Once the facility is built, an inspection agency would have to be hired to inspect the electrician's work; if it meets the National Electric Code, RG & E will be notified.

Soil Suitability

Soil suitability is an important factor to consider in locating facilities. The soil types for Beechwood State Park were determined by looking at the *Soil Survey of Wayne County, New York*. The soil types located at the site are the Ira Series and Elnora series, which are moderately well-drained soils comprised of glacial till and outwash, and are generally suitable for building construction. If another location is chosen for the visitor center, the soil type should be determined first to avoid any structural and zoning differences.

Vegetation and Views

The proposed site was inventoried for existing vegetation and views. Vegetation found at this location is edge vegetation and the placement of a facility at this location would not lead to extensive damage to the interior vegetation. When looking at views, the intersection at Lake Road and Maxwell Road is the best location for a new facility because Lake Road becomes flat providing maximum visibility reducing the risk of motor vehicle accidents.

Summary

In summary, Beechwood State Park has great potential to be a tourist attraction for Wayne County, and especially for the town of Sodus. The park is small, but boasts many attractions including the beautiful beech trees, Lake Ontario, Maxwell Bay, and the apple orchards. The presence of a Visitor Center would strengthen the park considerably. It would provide a meeting place, source of information, entertainment for park visitors, and a control point for management. By placing the building at the entrance to the park, visitors would be given a clear destination with which to begin their visit. Visitor center exhibits and educational programs would provide visitors with high quality experiences. A visitor center would also provide valuable information about park use and rules, which can help minimize user conflicts.

With regard to the feasibility of developing a visitor center on-site, the soils are appropriate and the location well-suited, with easy access and pleasant surroundings. There will be plenty of work involved (e.g., clearing the area, becoming aware of any standards that must be met, contacting the appropriate contractors and obtaining the proper building permits, and the final construction), but the only major considerations seem to be cost and overall decision whether or not to have a visitor center at this park.

Recreation and Interpretation Programs for Visitors

Introduction

Beechwood State Park is a hidden gem located in the town of Sodus, NY on Lake Ontario. The park provides exceptional views and recreational opportunities for visitors, as well as a wide variety of trees such as black cherry, beech, and tamarack. There are also numerous wildflowers, both native and non-native, that attract a variety of wildlife. However, Beechwood State Park is an underutilized resource for an assortment of reasons, all which will be discussed in this assessment.

History of Beechwood

Beechwood State Park has a long history in the Sodus area. The property was originally owned by the Girl Scouts of America from 1929 until 1999. When the Girl Scouts used this site, they

had a few sites for cabins, as well as a dining hall, swimming pool, and theater. They also had full access to Lake Ontario, Maxwell Creek and the nearby orchards. The Girl Scouts offered a variety of programs (including swimming and theater) which coincided with their Girl Scout badges.

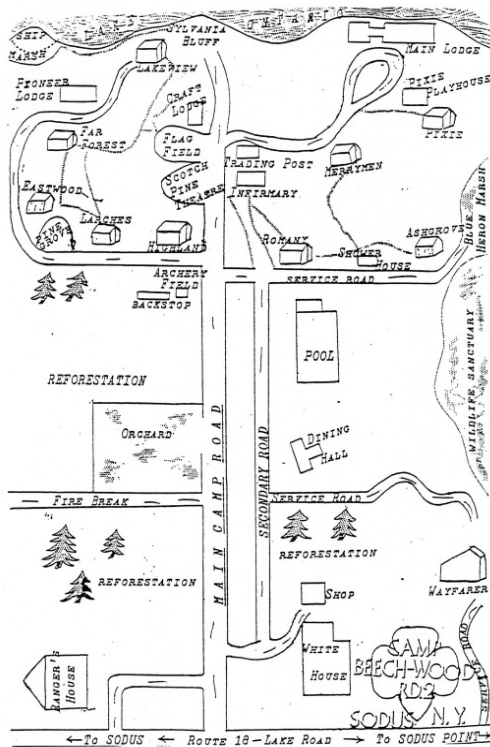


Figure 17. Camp Beechwood map from 1960.

In 1999, New York State bought Camp Beechwood, changing its name to Beechwood State Park. The park was opened to the public; many of the trails, buildings and access points were in good condition at this time. There was ample access to the water for boating and many people went to Maxwell Creek for fishing. The vast trail system allowed people to hike the 150 acres to discover the old camp, forest, and orchard.

Beechwood Today: Infrastructure

Since the state purchased the site, many of the structures have fallen into disrepair. The cabins, pool, and main buildings are too dangerous to use today.

There are few structures that, with a little work, could potentially be used in the near future.

Not only does the infrastructure need to be repaired, but a majority of the trails need to be cleared. The trails system is mostly still intact; however, there are no markers or maps that show trail locations. Often times the trails are muddy, overgrown and covered in leaves that disguise the edges of the trails. The buildings and the trail system need to be repaired in order to keep the public safe and draw more people to the park.

Beechwood Today: Programs

Even with the limited infrastructure for day use, many of the programs that have existed in the past still exist today. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and other youth and family organizations are the majority of the users at the park and most of the programs are geared toward these groups. Many groups come to the park to use the trails, which provide the opportunity to practice

orienteering and GPS skills. A few of the trails lead to Lake Ontario and Maxwell Creek for boating or fishing, and provide a beautiful view of the area. Other recreational opportunities that exist on site include bird and animal watching, plant identification, and rare plant observation.

While there may be endless recreational opportunities for the people coming to Beechwood State Park, there is no easy way to get equipment down to the waterfront or further into the park. This inability to move equipment within the park may limit future programs.

Since Beechwood is located right on Lake Ontario, there is winter snow accumulation. The park managers will have to decide if they want the park to be open during the winter, and to what extent. Winter recreation opportunities abound, but use of the facilities in winter may not be feasible. If the park is kept open during the winter months, interpretation programs could be incorporated into winter activities. Visitors could have an interpretive guide through the snow-covered park to learn about how the animals and plants survive the winters.

Visitor Demographics

There are several different types of groups that Beechwood State Park could attract. Adults and young adults could come to Beechwood State Park in order to do activities such as hiking, birdwatching, and fishing with or without an interpretive tour. Families, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts would be able to come and enjoy the park with the overnight camping and the educational tours. School groups could also come to Beechwood in order to enjoy one of the guided hikes and walks to learn about the park area.

Interpretation

There is a major lack in interpretive programming at Beechwood State Park. There are no interpretive websites or brochures dedicated to the park or its facilities and programming (although basic information about park access is available online). The park has beautiful views and opportunities for recreation that could be mentioned on the Town of Sodus website to encourage community use. The only mention of the park is on the ‘I love the Finger Lakes’ website. The website contains a brief overview of the park’s location and focuses largely on “what there is not”. In order to promote the use of the park, promotional materials need to state the programs and facilities that the park *does* have.

A major issue within the park is the lack of interpretive signs. There are no signs that discuss the diverse flora and fauna, or explain the history of the site. Beechwood is rich in all of these areas and the information could educate visitors of the park. The park also needs a system of way-finding. This could be through trail maps, trail markers or a trailhead kiosk. These would explain how the trails work and what can be seen along them. Having way-finding facilities on the site will enhance park use and insure that people do not get lost.

Conclusion

Beechwood State Park is a beautiful park that needs a strong group of volunteers and some TLC. There are many opportunities and resources that can be capitalized on in order to increase the attendance to the park. A wide variety of people could come to use this park to learn about the history of Sodus, to learn about native and invasive plants, or just to relax and recreate.

Youth Programs

Introduction

The rich history of youth group usage makes Beechwood an ideal place to restore in order to revitalize use of the park. Since the 1920s, the park had been used as a Girl Scout Camp, and later by the Boy Scouts and other youth groups. The buildings have since fallen into a state of disrepair; however, the site can still provide multiple uses. With many different ecosystems and access to water, this park could become an educational facility with a plethora of activities.

Program Opportunities

Beechwood rests on the Sodus Bay watershed, and also has a great diversity of ecosystems in the 150 acres of land it fills. Orchards, old growth, new growth, lakefront, wetland; each of these has much to offer in the way of education. Each has its own microcosm of species and environments with enough material available to create multiple education programs for youth groups.

Beechwood's wetlands provide a great opportunity for youth programs. Wetlands have diverse speciation and play an important role in the environment as a nurturing ground for organisms. As a natural filtering system, wetlands help to maintain the balance of chemical and organic waste. Wetlands also provide important food sources for both resident and migrating species.

Beechwood's new growth and old growth forests can also provide important educational opportunities for youth groups. The differences in fauna and flora for these two types of forests are perfect for introducing youth to the excitement of the environment. In addition, these woods have a rich history of use by both native peoples as well as more recent use. The current state of the trails prevents these forests from being used to their full potential.

Beechwood's orchards are not a natural setting for teaching wildlife classes; however, they are perfect for teaching youth groups about human use of the natural world. The orchard also can offer the ability to teach how people use the resources to their advantage and how they can maintain a healthy relationship with these resources. It is also an opportunity to teach children about farming with relation to orchards.

Hindrances to Youth Programs

As wonderful as Beechwood's natural resources are, there are some aspects of the park that prove challenging for use for educational programs. Specifically, there are portions of the park that are currently dangerous for youth. Many buildings and facilities (e.g., the pool) are unsafe, some trails need repairs, and there is no fencing to keep youth back from the high bluffs along the waterfront.

At the moment, restroom facilities are limited to portable toilets. Permanent facilities should be considered for both the use of employees and visitors alike. If the park wants to have an overnight camp re-instated, then permanent bathrooms should be considered.

Currently, there is neither a visitor center nor a centralized education center on the grounds. A well-planned center could be a focal point for youth programs, and could simplify the overnight camping registration process.

The trail system needs repair. While it is a good thing that there is already a trail system in place, the state of the trails is poor. All the trails need to be well marked with trail markers and/or signage. Marking the trails will help to keep visitors on the trails, preventing them from getting lost or wandering into areas that could have hazards like poison ivy, dangerous structures, or unstable ground. Signage could also help to prevent visitors from wandering into adjacent residential areas.

Conclusion

Our youth are our future. If we have programs that excite and involve our youth, we will be investing in our future as well as theirs. Beechwood has ample resources to teach our youth about the natural world and its cultural history.

Festivals and Events

Introduction

The Town of Sodus has much to offer in the way of natural beauty and relaxation, and Beechwood State Park is no exception. The Park itself is situated on the borders of two scenic water bodies -- Lake Ontario and Maxwell Creek. These bodies of water allow for beautiful views and recreational opportunities. In this section we will discuss the suitability of Beechwood State Park for Festivals and Events.

Past Festivals and Events

The town of Sodus holds a number of events every year. One such event is the October Harvest Fest, planned by the Sodus Chamber of Commerce. In order to become involved in the event, the park may wish to contact the Chamber of Commerce to consult and collaborate with the planning and execution of events. The Fest consists of arts and crafts, food, music, and homemade goods. The festival also contains a watermelon seed spitting contest, pumpkin chuckin & drop, children and adult themed activities, vendor booths and much more. The park itself is already known to most of the community as a place for recreation, cross country skiing, and fishing; participation in a popular community event would be beneficial for Beechwood in gaining support from the community. In addition to the Harvest festival, a Fourth of July Festival and numerous other events are held at the town Firehouse and Country Club. Collaboration with these established events may allow Beechwood State Park the opportunity of hosting specific festival events.

Benefits and Costs

Park management must consider the costs and benefits when they begin thinking about hosting festivals and events. A festival or event can have many benefits. One is to spark community involvement in the area. Another is to educate the community about the historical context or resources of an area.

There are also costs associated with participation in events. For the Harvest Fest, to purchase booth space, there is an option for a \$30.00 12'×12" booth or a \$50.00 24" x 12" booth. A 10% discount is available for Town of Sodus Chamber members and there is no charge for any Sodus Central School groups; there is no discounted booth space for nonprofit organizations or businesses. For more information regarding the "Harvest Fest" call (315)-576-3818 or send an email to chamber14551@yahoo.com.

Should Beechwood decide to host its own events, multiple portable toilets will be needed. Costs related to renting toilets for Beechwood State Park hosted events are available through portable toilet providers such as Mesa Waste Services (<http://www.mesawasteservices.com/providers-Sodus-NY.html#>). This company specializes in toilet rental, and operates in the town of Sodus. Attendance to existing local festivals should be considered when determining the number of portable toilets to rent.

Beechwood had the potential of offsetting festival costs by offering vendor booths. The income from booth use by vendors could be utilized to pay off the rental of toilets and other necessary event/festival related purchases.

Nearby Community Resources

The cost of working with well established museums and societies would be minimal, while the benefits of these partnerships would be enormous. Appearing at events of these community-supported facilities would provide publicity to the park. Additionally, the museums could host festivals and events for the park until the park gains facilities adequate to host their own events. Below is a listing of town museums and societies that are either in the immediate township of Beechwood State Park or from the region surrounding Beechwood.

Table 6. Local community museums and organizations.

Facility/Organization	Area
Sodus Center Baptist Church	Sodus
Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum	Sodus point
Sodus Point Custom House	Sodus
Schooner, Lotus	Sodus Bay
Wallington Cobblestone Schoolhouse	Wallington
Wallington Cobblestone Tavern	Wallington
Alasa Farms	Alton
Butler Historical Preservation Society	Butler
Galen Historical Society	Clyde
Museum of Wayne County history	Lyons
Marion Museum	Marion
Hoffman Clock Museum	Newark
Newark-Arcadia Historical Society & Museum	Newark
Cligerman's Wildlife Museum	Newark
Sodus bay country cub	Sodus Point
Sunshine radio Museum	Sodus
Vineyards	Sodus
Visitor Center	Sodus

Summary

Beechwood State park has great potential for hosting festivals and events. However, there are a few infrastructural issues that must be addressed before any actual events can take place at this location. The availability of restrooms must be improved. The limited parking at Beechwood State Park is another issue that is of special concern for events. In addition, parking lots are not lit, lack handicap spots, have overhanging limbs of trees that could cause damage to vehicles, and have no signage. Roads in the park are one lane and lack emergency vehicle lanes. To accommodate the high volume visitation created by festivals and events, overflow parking (e.g., at the parking areas on Lake Road) would be needed. Transportation to the event from Sodus Point could also be made available to the event.

The facilities at the old girl scout camp would be suitable for hosting some events following renovation. The amphitheater and other structures are beneficial to future festivals and events that may be held at Beechwood, but may also be too long a hike for festival/event goers. For other recreational events (such as cross country ski events) the park is perfectly suited; however, consideration for snow plowing and removal would be needed for winter events.

Market Groups: Visitor Demographics

Introduction

This assessment will identify existing and potential visitor markets for Beachwood State Park. A state park can be a resource for the members of a community as well as travelers from afar. Beach Wood State Park has the opportunity to attract many visitors with many different interests. In the town of Sodus as well as the rest of Wayne County reside many families. These families would be a valuable focus for a market group for the park. Advertising the park includes promoting an environment perfect for youth groups and families that wish to enjoy the Beachwood State Park experience.

Present and potential markets for Beachwood State park

- Local residents: Families and individuals whom reside in the Town of Sodus.
- Visitors and recreationists: Families and individuals interested in participating in local recreational events and venues.
- Summer residents: visitors who reside in Sodus during the summer season.
- Weekend visitors: Visitors who visit the park for a weekend trip.
- Day users: visitors coming to the park for a day or less.
- School/Youth groups: organizations for children.
- Summer Camp: Employees, employers, and campers attending a summer camp.

Demographics

Town of Sodus, NY. The 2000 Census reported the following for the Town of Sodus, NY:

- 8,949 people
 - 21.8 % under the age of 18
 - 11.2% from 18 to 24
 - 28.2 % from 25 to 44
 - 25.1% from 45 to 64
 - 13.8% 65 years of age or older
 - 50.9 % are females
 - 49.1% males
 - The median age was 37.95 years
- 3,436 households
 - 2,388 families
 - 32.3% of which had children under the age of 18
 - 42.6 % had married couples
 - 7.0% had a female householder with no husband present
 - 36.7% were non-families
 - 51.1% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older
 - The average number of individuals in each household was 2.46
 - The average family size was 3.10
- Income
 - The average household income \$39,528
 - The median income for a family \$46,286
 - Per capita income \$18,170
 - 8.5% of families and 12.2% of the population were below the poverty line

- Education
 - 39% are High school graduates
 - 28.6% have some college, or associate's degree
 - 6.4 % have Bachelor's degrees
 - 4.9 % have Master's, professional or doctorate degree
- The population density was 132.7 people per square mile
- The racial makeup of the town:
 - 87.79% White
 - 8.38% Black or African American
 - 0.23% Native American
 - 0.50% Asian
 - 0.86% from other races
 - 2.23% from two or more races
 - Hispanic or Latino of any race was 2.55% of the population

Rochester. The 2000 Census reported the following for Rochester, the closest large population center to Beechwood:

- 219,773 people
 - 8.1% under 18
 - 11.6% from 18 to 24
 - 32.2% from 25 to 44
 - 18.1% from 45 to 64
 - 10.0% who were 65 or older
 - The median age was 31
- 88,999 households
 - 47,169 families
 - 30.0% had children under 18 living with them
 - 25.1% were married couples living together
 - 23.3% had a female householder with no husband present
 - 47.0% were non-families
 - 37.1% of all households were made up of individuals
 - 9.2% had someone living alone 65 or older
 - The average household size was 2.36
 - The average family size was 3.19
- Income
 - The median income for a household was \$27,123
 - The median family income was \$31,257
 - The per capita income for the city was \$15,588
 - 23.4% of families and 25.9% of the population were below the poverty line
- The population density was 6,132.9 people per square mile
- Racial makeup:
 - 50.3% White
 - 43.2%% Black or African American
 - 0.9% Native American
 - 3.3% Asian

- 5.4% from other races
- 0.1% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- 3.0% from two or more races
- Hispanic or Latino of any race comprised 13.6 % of the population

Wayne County. The 2000 Census reports the following for Wayne County:

- 93,766 people
 - 27.40% under the age of 18
 - 6.80% from 18 to 24
 - 30.10% from 25 to 44
 - 23.50% from 45 to 64
 - 12.20% who were 65 years of age or older
 - The median age was 37 years
- 34,908 households
 - 36.10% had children under the age of 18 living with them
 - 56.70% were married couples living together
 - 10.30% had a female householder with no husband present
 - 28.20% were non-families
 - 22.40% of all households were made up of individuals
 - 9.30% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older
 - The average household size was 2.64
 - The average family size was 3.08
- Income:
 - The median household income was \$44,157
 - The median family income was \$51,495
 - The per capita income for the county was \$19,258
 - 6.00% of families and 8.60% of the population were below the poverty line
- Racial Makeup:
 - 93.80% White
 - 3.25% African American
 - 0.26% Native American
 - 0.47% Asian
 - 0.01% Pacific Islander
 - 0.87% from other races
 - 1.34% from two or more races
 - Hispanic or Latino of any race was 2.41% of the population

Summary

Beachwood State Park is in a good location to be an important tourism destination for the town of Sodus. The park can attract local markets by enhancing its facilities and promoting its recreation opportunities. The park has the opportunity to draw in not only locals but travelers all around central New York. From the demographics presented above, there is a significant number of families and young adults that can take full advantage of the park's resources. Beachwood State Park has a tremendous opportunity to benefit the community by increasing visitors, enhancing economic growth, and providing a pleasing and beautiful environment to enjoy.

Promotions Assessment

Introduction

There are plenty of recreational opportunities available at Beechwood State Park to promote. In identifying a brand for Beechwood State Park, a list of resources was compiled. These resources include aspects of the physical landscape, opportunities for recreation, and natural features such as Lake Ontario, flora and fauna, the trails, cultural history, apple orchards, and the proximity of Chimney Bluffs State Park and Sodus Point. Recreational activities worthy of promotion include fishing, hiking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and the potential for interpretive programs.

Brand

Drawing from these excellent opportunities, two brands were developed (only one should be chosen and used by Beechwood for its promotional efforts). Both brands focus on the park's impressive old growth forests and a sense that the park is headed in a new optimistic direction in the future. These brands are:

- "From old growth to new growth"
- "From beech to beach"

Several different approaches can be taken for promoting the brand and the market statement to the groups who might visit the park. Ads on websites and word of mouth would be the most cost-effective way to communicate about Beechwood State Park.

Assessment of Current Promotion Situation

Currently the resources available for promoting Beechwood State Park are limited mainly to the internet. While limited in number, there are currently several resources available online for those interested in exploring Beechwood State Park; addition websites are available for those interested in the Sodus Bay area and Wayne County. Online resources provide information regarding recreational resources, activities in the area, travel information, and other promotional information for Beechwood State Park and the areas immediately surrounding it. Three websites are a Finger Lakes exploration website, a trail information website, and a Central New York hiking website.

The Finger Lakes tourism and recreation guide website, www.ilovethefingerlakes.com, provides an exceptional guide to Finger Lakes area attractions. There is a Beechwood State Park link and this provides excellent promotional information regarding the recreation opportunities the park offers. The link can be found at: <http://www.ilovethefingerlakes.com/recreation/stateparks-beechwood.htm>. The website clearly identifies the address and contact information (telephone number) for the park, and provides a coded list for services the park accommodates. According to the list, these services include a boat launch, fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and scenic views. The website provides detail about the opportunities available for each type of recreation including the two miles of trails, eroded beachfront, and informal canoe/kayak launch which provides access to Lake Ontario; the website also includes a section discussing the facilities that are not provided. A substantial section is included about the nearby recreational opportunities including Maxwell Creek, Sodus Point Light House, Chimney Bluffs State Park, Thrope Vineyard, and the Seaway Trail.

Trails.com, a website for hiking enthusiasts, also provides an exceptional, although not entirely thorough, promotional website for Beechwood State Park. The website can be accessed at: http://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.aspx?trailid=XFP001-228. The website is designed for hiking enthusiasts, and provides a brief background of the park's history, a topographic map of the area, a travel guide to get to the area, and a trail rating for the park. This site rates the trails and provides Beechwood State Park with a decent review, highlighting the various sites on the trail including the dilapidated cobblestone building, the various trees and wildlife visible, as well as the scenic view of Lake Ontario visible from the trail. Overall the site rates the trail as easy and the duration at about a half an hour. This site provides a good (although not terribly thorough) promotional service to Beechwood State Park.

Another exceptional promotional website for Beechwood State Park is the Central New York hiking website, accessible at: <http://www.cnyhiking.com/NYSP-Beechwood.htm>. This website provides directional information on how to get to the park, an address, and telephone number. Also provided are a brief historical outline and an eight-minute-long YouTube video depicting people participating in recreational cross-country skiing in the park. The video outlines some of the scenery of the park, noting the lake effect weather that can happen, and does a good job of promoting the park for cross-country skiing.

Summary

Based on the recreational resources available, there is definitely an opportunity for the park managers to promote Beechwood State Park better. From these website examples, it is clear that the information is out there to promote the park. Some considerations for the managers of the park would be to get in contact with the editors of these websites to provide updates of information provided by them. Also, links to these websites could be provided on the town of Sodus website or the Wayne County website. Furthermore, besides online materials, there is an opportunity to provide this same information in alternative forms such as informational pamphlets at the visitor center in Sodus, brochures to be distributed to local rest areas and visitor centers located along the major area thoroughfares, and potentially even a television or magazine advertisement to reach a greater audience.

Transportation Assessment

Introduction

Beechwood State Park is located in central New York along the southern coast of Lake Ontario, near the villages of Sodus and Sodus Point; the nearest major road is State Route 104. It is important to know the modes of transportation available for visitors traveling from these areas and other urban centers (Tables 7 and 8).

Table 7. Distance to local villages.

Village	Time of travel	Miles to Beechwood
Sodus Point, NY	7 minutes	3 miles
Sodus, NY	10 minutes	3.8 miles

Table 8. Distance to regional cities.

Municipality	Time of travel	Miles to Beechwood
Rochester, NY	46 minutes	35 miles
Syracuse, NY	1 hour, 17 minutes	63 miles
Buffalo, NY	2 hours, 11 minutes	111 miles
Albany, NY	3 hours, 37 minutes	197 miles
Poughkeepsie, NY	4 hours, 55 minutes	256 miles
Plattsburgh, NY	5 hours, 21 minutes	270 miles
Manhattan, NY	5 hours, 34 minutes	307 miles

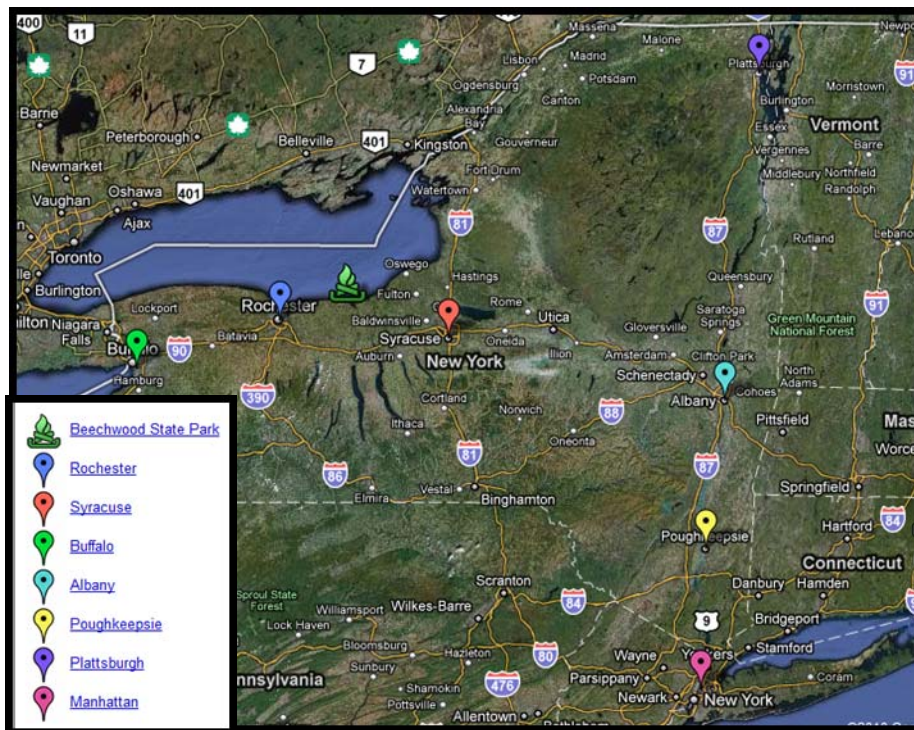


Figure 18. Map showing large cities around New York State.

Travel by foot

Local residents and visitors can walk to Beechwood State Park from nearby homes, bed and breakfasts, and campgrounds. However, there are no sidewalks around the park, so visitors would have to either walk on the paved shoulder of Lake Road or on the uneven land alongside the road.



Figure 19. A segment of Lake Road, showing the lack of a sidewalk or bike path and uneven terrain on the sides of the road.

Travel by bicycle

Local residents can bike to Beechwood State Park. However, there are no bike paths connecting the town to the park, so visitors would need to bike on the road. The paved shoulder of the road is about 2 feet wide, slightly less wide than the 4 to 6 feet width recommended for biking.

Travel by automobile

Most visitors who visit Beechwood State Park will drive, and many will be travelling on State Route 104 and Lake Road to get there. Lake Road is part of the Great Lakes Seaway Trail, a National Scenic Byway that parallels 518 miles of shoreline. More information can be found at: <http://www.seawaytrail.com/>

Travel by train

There are no Amtrak stations in the Town of Sodus; the closest stations are in Syracuse and Rochester. For more information: (800) USA-RAIL; amtrak.com

Travel by Air

Visitors traveling a long distance to New York may choose to travel by plane. Airport locations and distance from Beechwood State Park is in Table 9.

Table 9. Distance from local airports to Beechwood State Park.

Airport	Location	Miles to Beechwood
Williamson-Sodus Airport	Williamson, NY	7 miles
Oswego County	Fulton, NY	31 miles
El Reno Regional Airport	Seneca, NY	39 miles
Ovid Airport	Ovid, NY	44 miles
Syracuse Hancock International Airport	Syracuse, NY	60 miles
Greater Rochester International Airport	Rochester, NY	42 miles

Travel by Boat

Visitors can arrive to Sodus Point by boat. There are no facilities in Beechwood State Park for boats to dock, thus boats would need to dock their boats elsewhere. Information about docks and marinas can be found at: <http://www.sodusbayyc.org/soduspoint/index.htm#marinas>. Small boats, such as kayaks and canoes can enter Maxwell Bay from Lake Ontario, and can be pulled up on shore.

Summary

There are a variety of ways for visitors to get to Beechwood State Park, but most visitors will likely drive. Roads are typically in good condition, and, although there may not be many signs along roads and highways pointing out where Beechwood State Park is located, the use of modern technology via GPS or online mapping can allow drivers to find their way. Visitors arriving by boat, plane, or train would need additional transportation services to arrive to Beechwood State. However, with promotion, it would be possible to attract visitors who wish to paddle a small boat or bike to Beechwood.

Working with Local Businesses

Introduction

The Town of Sodus and Sodus Point are comprised of many local businesses including recreation services, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and boat launches. These businesses could be important collaborators for the park, depending on the time of year and other considerations. In this assessment, the list of businesses has been broken down into recreational businesses; boat launch, rentals and dockage; and other businesses.

Recreational Businesses

Table 10 below identifies some of the recreation-related businesses that could collaborate with Beechwood State Park, including kayak and paddle boat rentals, sport fishing charter boats, apple picking, skiing and bowling locations in or near the Town of Sodus. As a recreational business, these involve families, youth groups and adults; similar users that the park is focused on attracting. Many of the businesses offer lessons and training about local recreational activities like sailing, kayaking, and skiing. Recreational businesses can collaborate on events and festivals, and also partner on summer or fall activities for families. The recreation businesses and farms that sell outdoor equipment or food could help sponsor or donate materials needed for youth groups that go to Beechwood.

Boat Launch, Rentals and Dockage

Table 11 includes marinas and boat launch facilities located on Sodus Point or nearby. This list is included because Sodus Point is one of the top destinations near Beechwood; people using these marinas may wish to visit the park. There are many more places in the area but these all have at least ten docking slips or are a public boat launch. Marinas are located within this section because in the summer months one of the main attractions is boating on Lake Ontario; having these businesses help promote Beechwood could increase visitation.

Other Local Businesses

Other businesses include those that might be able to provide financial support, sponsorship and collaboration to Beechwood. Table 12 contains includes businesses in the area such as local restaurants, bed and breakfasts, art galleries, and a landscaping business. These local businesses could collaborate with the park for events or promotion. Each businesses is another destination that visitors might go to during their time in Sodus. The list below does not include all local businesses but the ones that seem to already have community ties and would be able to help Beechwood attract more visitors.

Table 10. Recreation businesses.

Business	Contact/Address	Services
Sodus Point Lodge	(315) 879-7707 8528 Greig Street	Kayak & Paddle Boat Rentals
Sodus Bay Ice Boat Club	(315) 483-8600 7582 4th Street	Ice safety information, pleasure sailing and regattas
Sodus Bay Yacht Club	(315) 483-9550 7431 Irwin Street	Sailing, boat launch
Stingray Charters	(315) 374-9277 405 Howland Road Shortsville, NY 14548	Sport fishing charter boat tours
Sodus Point Bait Shop	(315) 483-2183 8538 Greig Street	Tackle and boating supplies
Fishing Fantasy Charters	(315) 483- 1030 8604 1/2 Greig Street	Sport fishing charter boat tours
Burnaps Farm	(315) 483-4050 7277 Maple Avenue	Apple picking, corn maze, Garden Café for food
Lagoner Farms	(315) 589- 4899 6895 Lake Avenue Williamson, NY 14589	Fall: apple and pumpkin picking, cider. Summer: pick strawberries and blueberries. Winter: floral shop and gifts.
Cherry Lanes	(315) 483-9443 6742 Maple Ave	Indoor bowling
Brantling Ski Slopes, Inc.	(315) 331-2365 4015 Fish Farm Road	Skiing/snowboarding for families, day camps for youth, teens and adults.

Table 11. Boat launches, rentals and dockage.

Marina	Phone Number	Boat Launch	Boat Rental
Arney's Marina	(315) 483-9111	yes	no
Bay Bridge Sport Shop	(315) 587-9508	yes	no
Davenport's Marina	(315) 483-6371	no	yes
LeRoy Island Bait Shop	(315) 587-9817	yes	yes
Oak Park Marina	(315) 587-2300	yes	no
New Horizons	(315) 483- 6947	yes	no
Sodus Point Park Launch	(800) 527-6510	yes	no

Table 12. Other local businesses

Business	Contact/Address	Services
Silver Waters B & B	(315) 483-8098 8420 Bay Street	Within walking distance of the beach, boat launches, historic light house, restaurants, marinas, historic 1830's home
Maxwell Creek Inn B & B	(315) 483-2222 7563 Lake Road	Open year round, play tennis, canoe, kayak and fish on Maxwell Creek, historic 1846 Cobblestone House
Truck's Oven	(585) 967-8789 8487 Greig Street	Restaurant: Pizza and submarines
Finch's Great Escapes	(315) 402-9896	Hardscaping, water features, new garden install lighting
El Rincon Mexicano	(315) 483-4199 6974 Ridge Road	Restaurant: Mexican
Sodus Bay Heights Restaurant/ Golf Club	(315) 483-4767 7030 Bayview Drive	Membership golfing and all American restaurant
Abe's Waterfront Boathouse Bar & Grill	(315) 483- 4444 8527 Greig Street	Restaurant: All American food including many great seafood dishes; clam and crab bar. Closed for winter.
Gallery at the Point	(585) 615-7475 8515D Greig Street	Museum/Gallery: local artists and artisans, paintings, jewelry, ceramics, wood working. Open year round.
Lukacs Studios Pottery	(315) 483-4357 7060 Route 14	Pottery demonstrations. Products: vases, candles and lighting, tableware, musical instruments.

Local Organizations and Agencies

Introduction

The region of Sodus, New York is a vibrant community boasting a wealth of citizen-based organizations and agencies. The revitalization of Beechwood State Park will undoubtedly bring a diverse range of social, academic, cultural, and economic benefits to the area. The Scouts of America, ALASA Academy, Sodus Rotary Club, and the EPA have previously supported Beechwood State Park; however, there is more work to be done. This is a great opportunity for local residents to play an integral role in creating a wonderful park. Table 13 is a list of active groups throughout Wayne County (many of which already collaborate on other projects) who may have resources to offer the park. Table 14 is a list of federal, state, county, and municipal agencies who may be able to assist.

Table 13. List of organizations in Wayne County.

Organization	Category	Description	Contact Information
<p>Boy Scouts of America</p> <p>Local troop-Williamson Troop 90</p>	Youth development	The Boy Scouts of America provides a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. They seek to combine educational activities and lifelong values with fun. Beechwood has worked with them in the past, providing an educational and recreational location for their various programs.	<p>Local Council- Seneca Waterways Council</p> <p>474 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607-1992 (585) 244-4210 http://www.senecawaterways.org/</p> <p>Local Troop- Scout Master: Adrian Reid areid@hahnauto.com</p> <p>http://www.scouttroop.org/ny/bsa/90/index.htm</p>
Save Our Sodus, Inc.	501(c)	Save Our Sodus, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving, protecting, and preserving the water quality in Sodus Bay and its surrounding watershed. They focus on water-related issues, primarily weed management.	<p>President : Chuck Frederick 315-594-9081</p> <p>P.O. Box 424 Alton, NY 14413</p> <p>saveoursodus@gmail.com</p> <p>http://www.saveoursodus.org/</p>

Table 13 (continued). List of organizations in Wayne County.

Organization	Category	Description	Contact Information
The Alternative Learning Academy for Student Achievement Inc.	Community improvement	They seek to provide access to an engaging, non-traditional, structured environment where children can use exploration, creativity and technology to develop their full potential as healthy, happy educated adults and contributing leaders of the world.	President: Sharon Maher 6578 Hunters Point Road North Rose, New York 14516 (315) 573-1470 smaher45@aol.com .
Sodus Garden Club	501(c) Community Recreational	This organization is listed online and could be a resource in continued land management; however it is unclear if they're an active community organization seeing as they have no informational material easily accessible.	Contact: Sandra Kirin 20 Gaylord St Sodus NY, 14554-1110
Sodus Rotary Club District 7120	Community improvement Service	They strive to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. In the past they have sponsored buildings at Beechwood.	President: Lynn Carlyle PO Box 225 Sodus, New York 14551 (315) 483-6343 lcarlyle@spincometal.com http://www.sodusrotary.org
Seaway Trail, Inc.	501(c)	The mission of Seaway Trail Inc. is to increase tourism revenues and to enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for travelers, communities, and members throughout the Great Lakes Seaway Trail by managing and marketing it as the leading scenic byway.	Project Manager: Lynette Lundy-Beck PO Box 660 Sackets Harbor, NY 13685 (315) 646-1000 lynette@seawaytrail.com http://www.seawaytrail.com/

Table 13 (continued). List of organizations in Wayne County.

Organization	Category	Description	Contact Information
Sodus Bay Sportsman Club	Local Club	As a recreationally focused group the Sodus Bay Sportsman Club will be able to provide information and services around activities that Beechwood may offer, such as fishing. However they offer little information online.	(315) 483-0051 7812 Margaretta Rd, Sodus Point, NY 14555 Contact: Mark Johnson 5330 Steel rd Sodus, NY 14551-9732
Audubon New York Local center: <u>Montezuma Audubon Center</u>	Society Recreation	Conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.	200 Trillium Lane, Albany, NY 12203 (518) 869-9731
Sodus Bay Chamber of Commerce	Local organization Business network	Members advocate on behalf of the business community. For Sodus, the Chamber of Commerce keeps track of all the local governmental information. This includes town and village boards, town and village zoning, and town and village planning.	President: Mary Jane Mumby P.O. Box 187 Sodus, NY 14551 (315) 576-3818 chamber14551@yahoo.com

Table 14. List of public agencies.

Organization/ Agency	Category	Description	Contact Information
Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2	Federal Government	The EPA works hard to ensure clean air, pure water and better-protected land. Their efforts help provide for healthy communities and ecosystems, compliance with environmental regulations and environmental justice and stewardship. They contribute to conservation, education, policy, and funding efforts on a national scale.	290 Broadway New York, NY 10007-1866 (212) 637-3000 http://www.epa.gov/
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation - Region 8	State Government	The NY DEC strives to conserve, improve and protect New York's natural resources and environment and to prevent, abate and control water, land and air pollution, in order to enhance the health, safety and welfare of the people of the state and their overall economic and social well-being.	Avon Office -Region 8 Headquarters 6274 Avon-Lima Rd. Avon, NY 14414-9516 (585) 226-2466 region8@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Wayne County Department of Youth and Aging	Local government	The Wayne County Department of Aging and Youth exists to promote the independence, dignity, health, and quality of life of Wayne County residents and their families; to identify and prioritize community needs; and to plan, fund, and administer a coordinated system of services to meet these needs.	1519 Nye Rd., Suite 300 Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5624 http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/departments/ageyouth/ageyouth.htm
Wayne County Planning Department	Local Government	This department provides resources that empower citizens to improve their quality of life by advancing social, economic, environmental and public health goals of their community.	Director: Sharon Lilla 9 Pearl St. Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5919 http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/Departments/planningdept/planningdept.htm

Table 14 (continued). List of public agencies.

Organization	Category	Description	Contact Information
Wayne County Office of Tourism	Local government	Agency responsible for promoting attractions and events in Wayne County.	Wayne County- Peter Evans 9 Pearl St., Suite 3 Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5460 tourism@co.wayne.ny.us
Historians	Local Government	Knowledgeable in the cultural history of the park.	Town of Sodus- Sandy Hopkins 63 Orchard Terrace Sodus, NY 14551-1123 (315) 483-4812 Wayne County- Peter Evans 9 Pearl St., Suite 3 Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5470 historian@co.wayne.ny.us http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/departments/historian/historian.htm
Wayne County Highway Department	Local Government	The Highway Department crew of 52 serves 94,000 residents and maintains 405 miles of paved roads. Their duties include maintaining and improving the state of signs, roads, bridges etc for the county.	Superintendent: Kevin Rooney 7227 Rt. 31 Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5600 http://www.co.wayne.ny.us/departments/highwaydpt/highwaydpt.htm
Wayne County Department of Building and Grounds	Local government Parks	Trees/parks maintenance	Superintendent: David Sloane 7312 Rt 31 Lyons, NY 14489 (315) 946-5830
Sodus Central School District	Local Government	Grades K-12	President: Philip Rose 36 Maple Avenue Sodus, NY 14551 philrose@aol.com (315) 553-2050 http://www.soduscسد.org/

Table 14 (continued). List of public agencies.

Organization	Category	Description	Contact Information
Cayuga Nation	Government	Neighboring sovereign nation	Cayuga Nation P.O. Box 803 Seneca Falls, NY 13148 Phone: (315) 568- 0750
B.O.C.E.S.	Grants	Wayne County- Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services	Chris Semler (315) 332-7436 Email: csemler@wflboces.org
SUNY-ESF F.O.R.C.E.S.	University	Great resource for student volunteers.	Office of Student Life and Experiential Learning: Liz Mix emix@esf.edu (315) 470-4909
NYS OPRHP	State Government	The office of parks, recreation, and historic preservation is a great resource for information as well as publicity.	Finger Lakes Regional Office Contact Information: 2221 Taughannock Road Trumansburg, NY14886 (607) 387-7041
Cornell Cooperative Extension	University	Great resource for volunteers and educational programs.	Cornell Cooperative Extension 1581 Route 88 North Education Center Newark, NY 14513 Phone: (315) 331- 8415
Sea Grant	Educational	State program administered by the Cornell Cooperative Extension that works on educational programs related to the Great Lakes.	New York Sea Grant SUNY Oswego Oswego, NY Contact: David White, Great Lakes Coordinator (315) 321-3042

Regional Connections

Introduction

Numerous opportunities exist to connect Beachwood State Park to the surrounding region. The charts below examine opportunities to connect to other parks, community events, and attractions within a 30 mile radius. The Village of Sodus Point has a large number of community events, ranging from a summer concert series to parades, to celebrations. The accessibility to outdoor recreation activities such as boating, fishing, hiking, and swimming make the Sodus Point area an ideal destination in the summer months. The development of camping facilities and youth programs at Beechwood Park would bring families into the area, and allow them to partake in the parks, events, and attractions that the area has to offer.

Beechwood State Park would be an excellent area for visitors to use as a "base camp" for exploring the Town of Sodus, should camping facilities be made available to the public. Camping for a long weekend would allow visitors to explore the park, surrounding parks, experience local events, and explore area attractions. There are numerous activities, ranging from trout fishing to museum to concerts.

Table 15. Nearby parks.

Name	Contact Information	Experience Provided
Chimney Bluffs State Park	7700 Garner Rd. Wolcott, NY 14590 315-947-5205	- four miles of hiking trail along the south shore of Lake Ontario - unique towering sand cliffs sculpted by wind and water.
Maxwell Bay Access	NYS DEC (631) 444-0285	-owned by NYS -excellent fishing -accessible by boat from Lake Ontario
Maxwell Creek Park	Wayne County (800) 527-6510	-owned by Wayne County -beautiful waterfall -excellent fishing
Sodus Point Beach Park	7958 Wickham Blvd, Sodus Point, NY 14555 315-946-5836	- picnicking - swimming area - beach - playground - bathhouse

Table 16. Local events.

Attraction	Contact Information	Experience Provided
6th Annual Holiday Fest	Village Of Sodus Point P.O. Box 159/8356 Sodus Point, NY 14555 315-483-9881	-1 st Weekend in December - Annual Holiday Fest at Willow Park sponsored by the Neighborhood Association of Sodus Point - Fire Truck Rides, Christmas carolers, tree lighting ceremony
CENTRALS Regatta	7431 Irwin Street Sodus Point, NY 14555 (315) 483-9550	-2 nd Weekend in July at the Sodus Bay Yacht Club - junior and master levels competition
"The Happening at the Heights"	C/O Vicky Trimble PO Box 314 Sodus Point, NY 14555-0314	- 3 rd Friday of July - held at Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club -Sponsored by the Neighborhood Assoc.
July 4th Celebration	Village Of Sodus Point P.O. Box 159/8356 Sodus Point, NY 14555 315-483-9881	-Kiddie Parade -Annual 5K Run & Walk, Childrens 5K Run & Walk, benefit auction
Sale Around the Point	Village Of Sodus Point P.O. Box 159/8356 Sodus Point, NY 14555 315-483-9881	- 1st Saturday in June - village wide garage sale
SPFD Parade	8364 Bay Street Sodus Point, NY 14555 (315) 483-9210	- 1 st Friday in August - parade, food, and fire truck rides
SOS Shore Line Cleanup	P.O. Box 424 Alton, NY 14413 saveoursodus@gmail.com	- 3 rd weekend in September - volunteers help clean up the shoreline.
SOS - Clam Bake	P.O. Box 424 Alton, NY 14413 saveoursodus@gmail.com	- 2 nd Weekend in September at the Sodus Bay Heights Golf Club - Annual clam bake and fundraiser

Table 16 (continued). Events.

Attraction	Contact Information	Experience Provided
Sterling Renaissance Festival	15385 Farden Road Sterling, NY 13156 (315) 947-5783	-open Saturdays and Sundays July- August - more than 200 professional actors and stage hands recreate an English Renaissance village
Water Chestnut Harvest	Linda Edinger (315) 483-6337 ledinger@rochester.rr.com	- 2 nd Saturday in July -volunteers harvest water chestnuts to protect the Bay. - Sponsored by Save our Sodus (SOS)

Table 17. Attractions.

Attraction	Contact information	Type of attraction
Community Center	8356 Bay Street Sodus Point, NY 14555 (315) 483-9828	-fitness classes - community meetings
Thorpe Vineyard	8150 Chimney Heights Blvd. Wolcott, New York 14590 Phone: 315-594-2502 Fax: 315-905-4205 www.thorpevineyard.com/	- wine tasting & tours
Seaway Trail	Seaway Trail, Inc Corner of Ray & Main Street PO Box 660 Sackets Harbor, NY 13685 1-800-SEAWAY-T 315-646-1000 info@seawaytrail.com	- 518 miles of National Scenic Byway paralleling the St. Lawrence River, Lake Ontario, Niagara River, and Lake Erie - scenic views, unique landscape, coastline, and historic markers
Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum	7606 N. Ontario St. P.O. Box 94 Sodus Point, New York 14555 Office: (315) 483-4936 http://www.soduspointlighthouse.org/	-museum -tours -summer concerts
Village of Sodus Point Visitor Center	Village Of Sodus Point P.O. Box 159/8356 Sodus Point, NY 14555 315-483-9881	-Located at Willow Park, next to the playground in the center of Sodus Point. -Open Memorial Day Weekend, and June-September 10 A.M.- 5 P.M. - provides guides to local business, maps, trail books, kayak and sail boat rental information, and concert information.
Wallington Community Center	5818 S Geneva Rd Sodus, NY 14551 (315) 483-9791	- Museums and Art Gallery

Emergency Services

Introduction

This assessment discusses current risks to visitors within the park. Emergency service providers are also included.

Visitor and Park Safety

Currently, throughout the park, are park facilities and resources that expose visitors, volunteers, and park staff to safety risks. The buildings within the park are old and are in various states of disrepair. These pose risks to visitors, especially younger visitors, and adequate signage is not available to warn visitors of these risks. For instance, the fence to the drained pool was open and unsafe. The old buildings are also a risk to those who partake in either the dismantling or restoration the facilities. The power lines and telephone near the pool and showers are leaning and in bad shape, and should be replaced.

Lake Ontario is another risk that should monitored closely as more people and groups visit the park on a regular basis. There is no beach, so there will not be a lifeguard, but the lake poses a threat to drowning and injury on the rocks, as well as a potential danger for kayakers, canoe users, and boats that decide to come near or on shore. The trails around the lake are eroded and in need of repair, with loose sand and gravel giving way to the water and sloping shores, especially along the bluffs. There are also many other portions of the trails that are eroded, with sections of stairs that are either rotting or non-existent. There are overhanging snags that could cause damage or injury if a storm or wind-event blows through the park. The trails, picnic areas, and youth camping areas should be cleared of hazard trees. All of these issues expose park staff, volunteers, and visitors to risks related to maintenance and upkeep of the facility. It is imperative that these hazards are illuminated to reduce the chances of harm to park visitors and liability concerns for the Town of Sodus and OPRHP.

Emergency Services

Many emergency services are available in the Town of Sodus; these are listed in Table 18. Beechwood State Park needs to have an emergency plan in plan that incorporates emergency contact information. In addition, visitors coming to the park are likely to need other forms of emergency services such as car assistance or assistance with bicycle repair; these services are list in Table 19.

Table 18. An inventory of emergency services in and around the town the Sodus.

Service/Service Type	Address	Contact Number	
Hospital Services			
Newark-Wayne Community Hospital	1250 Driving Park Avenue Newark, NY 14513	(315) 332-2022	
Rochester General	1425 Portland Avenue Rochester, NY 14621	(585) 922-4000	
Highland Hospital (Univ. of Rochester.)	1000 South Avenue Rochester, 14621	(585) 473-2200	
Unity Health System	89 Genesee Street Rochester, NY 14611	(585) 368-3883	
Eastside Urgent Medical Care	2226 Penfield Road Penfield, NY 14526-1922	(585) 388-5280	
Williamson Pediatrics	4425 Old Ridge Rd. PO Box 934 Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 483-3280	
Fire Departments			
Sodus Fire Department	14 Mill Street Sodus, NY 14551	(315) 483-4531	
Sodus Point Fire Department	8364 Bay Street P.O. Box 139 Sodus Point, NY 1455	(315) 483-9210	
Sodus Center Fire Department	<u>Mailing Address</u> PO Box 246 Sodus, NY 14551	<u>Location</u> 5521 Main St Sodus Center, NY	(315) 483-6328
Alton Volunteer Fire Department	<u>Mailing Address</u> PO Box 2 Alton, NY 14413	<u>Location</u> 5755 New York 14 Alton, NY 14413	(315) 483-4368
Williamson Fire Department	6286 New York 21 Williamson, NY 14589-9501	(315) 589-6741	
East Williamson Fire Department	6329 Marion-E Williamson Rd East Williamson, NY 14449	(315) 589-9122	
Wallington Fire Department	P.O. Box 57 7863 Old Ridge Road, Wallington, NY 14551	(315) 483-8992	
Pultneyville Fire Department	4049 Lake Road, Pultneyville, NY 14538	(315) 589-8029	

Table 18 (continued). An inventory of emergency services in and around the town the Sodus.

Ambulance Services			
Sodus, Town of d.b.a. Sodus Area Advanced Life Support Service	14-16 Mill Street Sodus, NY 14551		
Sodus Town Ambulance Corps, Inc.	7060 Ridge Road East Sodus, NY 14551		
Sodus Point Fire Department	8364 Bay Street P.O. Box 139 Sodus Point, NY 1455		(315) 483-9210
Sodus Center Fire Department	<u>Mailing Address</u> PO Box 246 Sodus, NY 14551	<u>Location</u> 5521 Main St Sodus Center, NY	(315) 483-6328
Service/Service Type			
Alton Volunteer Fire Department	<u>Mailing Address</u> PO Box 2 Alton, NY 14413	<u>Location</u> 5755 New York 14 Alton, NY 14413	(315) 483-4368
Williamson Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc.	6334 New York 21 Williamson, NY 14589-9501		
Police Services			
Sodus Police Department	14-16 Mill Street Sodus, NY 14551		(315) 483-9353
Sodus Point Police Department	7950 Lake Road Sodus Point, NY 14555		(315) 483-0480
Wayne County Sheriff's Department	7368 Route 31 Lyons New York 14489		(315) 946-9711
New York state Trooper Troop E-Zone 2	3957 Route 104 Williamson, NY 14589		(315) 589-2046
Search and Rescue			
United States Coast Guard	1 Lake Street Oswego, NY 13126-1318		(315) 342-0086
Oswego County Search and Rescue	200 North 2 nd St Fulton, NY 13069		(315) 625-7266
Sodus Point Fire Department	8364 Bay Street P.O. Box 139 Sodus Point, NY 1455		(315) 483-9210
Wallington Fire Department	P.O. Box 57 7863 Old Ridge Road, Wallington, NY 14551		(315) 483-8992
New York State Trooper Troop E-Zone 2	3957 Route 104 Williamson, NY 14589		(315) 589-2046

Table 19. An inventory of emergency services for visitors.

Car Service Stations		
Performance Automotive Technologies	7878 Ridge Rd Sodus, NY 14551	(315) 483-1790
Steve's Auto Service	8225 Ridge Rd Sodus, NY 14551	(315) 483-2646
Wayne County Garage	8225 South Geneva Rd. Sodus, NY 14551	(315) 483-2193
Rowe Automotive Service	16 Green Street Sodus, NY 14551	(315) 483-4958
George's Garage	7914 Margaretta Rd Sodus Point, NY 14555	(315) 483-2118
Williamson Automotive Truck and Trailer Service	4846 State Route 104 Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 589-8397
Sewilo Automotive	4753 State Route 104 Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 589-6900
Henner Automotive	4304 State Route 104 Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 589 4036
Steve's Truck Repair	3976 Railroad Ave Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 589-4969
King's Auto Service	4090 Ridge Rd Williamson, NY 14589	(315) 589-9754
Bicycle Services		
Huntsfield Equestrian	2900 West Walworth Road Macedon, NY 14502	(315) 986-1141
Terry Precision Bicycles for Women Inc.	1657 East Park Dr. Macedon, NY 14502	(315) 986-2103
Marine Repair Services		
Bill Kallusch Boats	7203 State Route 14 Sodus, NY 14555	(315) 483-6371
The Pro Shop	7559 North Fitzhugh St. Sodus Point, NY 14555	(315) 483-8567
Great Lakes Marine Works LLC	7399 State Route 14 Sodus Point, NY 14555	(315) 483-9102
Katlynn Marine Inc.	7448 State Route 14 Sodus Point, NY 14555	(315) 483-9102
Sodus Marina LLC	7399 State Route 14 Sodus Point, NY 14555	(315) 483-6947

Park and Town Organization and Staff

Introduction

Currently, there is no formal management structure in place at Beechwood State Park. The park lacks paid staff, an operating budget, and functional facilities. In addition, park regulations, job positions, budget, funding, and the role of the public and volunteers will have to be determined prior to beginning operations.

Current Organizational Structure

Since Beechwood State Park's purchase and transfer to the OPRHP in 1999, there has been a lack of funding to manage or operate the property. Upon its purchase, initial studies were conducted to examine the cultural resources, ecological diversity, and quality of the site. Despite finding a historically and ecologically rich site, no funding or staff was allocated for Beechwood State Park after an initial period where a park manager was assigned to the property. State involvement has been limited to occasional patrols by DEC Officers to prevent hunting on the property. This has led to a decay of infrastructure in Beechwood State Park as maintenance was indefinitely deferred and relied on the efforts of concerned citizens.

Future funding is of concern for Beechwood State Park. Eleven years without management, maintenance, or a budget from the state has left the buildings and grounds of Beechwood in need of extensive attention in order to be ready for public use. While community involvement and aid from the Town of Sodus and other government agencies will help rejuvenate the facilities, there will still be significant expenses related to the operation of Beechwood State Park. Possible sources of funding are limited to grants, donations, revenues from admissions, events, fees and fundraising, and funds allocated by the Town of Sodus.

As a result of the inability of the OPRHP to fund the operation of Beechwood State Park, there is no existing management structure in place for potential park employees. In most circumstances, parks similar to Beechwood have a small permanent staff usually consisting of a Park Manager, Maintenance Manager, and a Park Patrol Officer. This small staff would be augmented during the busy summer season by seasonal hires including interpretive guides, booth attendants, lifeguards, and additional maintenance staff as shown in Table 20.

Table 20. Potential Beechwood State Park Employees.

Permanent Staff	Seasonal/Event Staff
Park Manager	Maintenance Staff
Grounds and Facilities Manager	Lifeguards
Park Patrol Officer	Booth Attendants
	Educational Staff

Current Operations and Staff

Though managed and operated by the Town of Sodus, Beechwood State Park is the property of New York State, therefore management actions must comply with all existing regulations for state properties. Existing OPRHP regulations address such management issues as removing and classifying hazard trees, locating and maintaining trails and roads, controlling erosion, and fire safety. Managers are also responsible for following codes set by other state and federal agencies

pertaining to bathroom facilities, accessibility for handicapped users, the layout, location and number of campsites, and other management issues.

Currently the Town of Sodus has no Parks Department to assume responsibility for the operation of Beechwood State Park. The town may wish to allocate funds to hire a small year-round staff to prepare the park to open and oversee its operation into the future. Some of the maintenance of the park may also be assigned to the Highway Department, which is equipped with mowing equipment, vehicles, and other equipment necessary to make the improvements and aid in regular maintenance needed to operate Beechwood State Park.

Community Involvement

Volunteers will play a key role in the success of Beechwood State Park. Opening the park to the public will require more staff hours than would otherwise be possible for the Town of Sodus without assistance from the public in preparing the grounds and facilities, promoting the park, and fund raising. Volunteers including groups like the Boy Scouts, and local residents have already been helping to maintain the park, in response to the lack of state funding, by helping keep the facilities functional, protected from vandalism, and aesthetically pleasing. While their contributions are significant and vital to the success of the park, it is also important to note that volunteers are not a substitute for the skilled labor that will be required to open and maintain the park.

Organizing and training volunteers will be vital to the managers of Beechwood State Park. Many similar properties benefit greatly and rely heavily on organized groups of dedicated individuals who work together towards park improvements and maintenance. Returning volunteers are more valuable as they are familiar with the property, are skilled in the tasks the group is assigned, and have the ability to attract and train more volunteers. By creating an organization for these dedicated individuals, park management helps focus their efforts to maximize benefits and promote increased volunteer activity on the property.

Many parks (like Beechwood State Park) whose operations rely on support from small communities require involvement of local benefactors, contributors and volunteers. In order to ensure continued local involvement and support, many of these parks have established formal methods of communication with the community. Methods for receiving public comment include regular public meetings, establishing a foundation or partnership group for community members interested in helping steer the park's goals and objectives, and accepting public comment in written form through the post, email, or a comment box.

Summary

Though Beechwood State Park lacks an existing framework for its organizational and monetary structure as a public park, there are numerous models focusing on community involvement and site improvement already in place elsewhere. These parks and organizational schemes serve as prime examples for establishing a successful management hierarchy with opportunities for public comment, and ample efficient allocation and appropriation of funding.

Volunteers and Training

Introduction

It is no secret that Beechwood State Park is entirely reliant on volunteer efforts. Currently the park is operated, monitored and maintained by the town of Sodus in conjunction with a great deal of volunteer support.

Examples of volunteer support are prevalent in the park. Recently, the apple orchard on the property needed attention for an insect infestation problem; park volunteers, along with OPRHP staff, brought in SUNY-ESF's Woodsmen team to remove the infested trees. Additionally, both the Boy Scouts of Sodus and of neighboring town Red Rock have helped with basic clean-up, tent platform repair, and yard work, while other not-for-profits, like Trailworks, have provided extensive trail maintenance. The not-for-profit organization ALASA, or Alternative Learning Academy for Student Achievement, has provided Beechwood State Park with educational programs through the implementation of three one-week long day camps in the summer.

Assessment

There is much opportunity for volunteer efforts in the future at Beechwood State Park. While the walking trails of Beechwood are useable, its buildings and infrastructure require much care. Much of the infrastructure is rotting, weathered, or falling apart. In addition, the park lacks the resources to provide Sodus with educational and interpretive programs. By examining volunteer efforts in other parks in New York, opportunities for volunteer involvement in Beechwood become apparent. Table 21 shows the organizations that have volunteered in New York State Parks this year, while Table 22 shows the organizations that have volunteered at Beechwood State Park.

Summary

Beechwood State Park is currently operated, monitored and maintained by volunteers. Due to budget cutbacks, the park has been unable to receive state funding for the projects necessary to re-open the park to the public. As a result, Beechwood State Park relies on the Town of Sodus and on volunteer efforts. Beechwood has seen a great deal of support at varying levels of community service— from trail and site renovations, to preserving the park's facilities, to education, interpretation, and outreach programs. While the walking trails of Beechwood State Park are in good condition, its buildings require serious and immediate attention. Much of the infrastructure is rotting, weathered, or falling apart. Additionally, with the exception of ALASA and the Girl and Boy Scouts, the park lacks educational and interpretive programs that engage the natural sciences directly. More organizations and even academic institutions could benefit from the diverse ecosystems of Beechwood State Park. Multi-faceted community engagement is necessary to foster the park revitalization needed to benefit town of Sodus residents and visitors.

Table 21. Not-For-Profit Groups and Community Organizations that have volunteered in NY State Parks *this year*.

Organization	Responsibilities	Type of Volunteering	State Park	Not-for-profit?
SUNY-ESF S.C.I.E.N.C.E.	Participated in “Environmental Field Days”, taught 6 th graders wildlife curriculum in an outdoor setting	Education, Interpretation, and Outreach	Green Lakes	Yes
SUNY-ESF F.O.R.C.E.S.	Constructed wood nesting boxes for ducks to supplement their natural habitat, working to control the Canada geese population; preserve water quality	Data Collection; Trail and Site Renovations; Education, Interpretation, and Outreach	Varies	Yes
Council of Park Friends	Removal of invasive species; fish survey; organization and cleaning of nature center; improvement of interpretive trails	Data Collection; Trail and Site Renovations; Education, Interpretation, and Outreach	Clarks Reservation	Yes

Table 22. Not-for-profit groups and community organizations that have worked at Beechwood State Park.

Organization	Tasks	Type of Volunteering	Level of Training Needed	Not-for-profit?
Girl and Boy Scouts of Sodus; Boy Scouts of Red Creek	Yard mowing, basic clean-up	Trail and Site Renovations, Public Health and Safety	Low. Any age. Lawn mower instruction, basic waste receptacle knowledge	No
Wayne County Court “inmates”	Brush clearing, debris clean-up, painting/staining, firewood stacking, some building	Trail and Site Renovations, Public Health and Safety	Moderate. 18+ years of age. Basic construction/clearing skills, painting experience	No
ALASA (Alternative Learning Academy for Student Achievement)	Repairing buildings, steps, decks; removing hazards. Ran 3 week-long day camps this summer.	Trail and Site Renovations; Public Health and Safety; Education, Interpretation and Outreach	High. 18+ years of age. Adequate construction experience, hazardous waste knowledge, camp counselor/facilitator experience	Yes
Trailworks, Inc. <i>(started in Wayne County)</i>	Clearing trails; marking and mapping trails for hikers and cross country skiers; held a hiking event on November 6 th ; promotes trail-hiking in an effort to combat obesity.	Trail and Site Renovations; Public Health and Safety; Education, Interpretation and Outreach	Low to Moderate. Any age. Basic trail/hiking knowledge.	Yes
SUNY-ESF Woodsmen Team	Removed apple trees from abandoned apple orchard to mitigate pest problem.	Public Health and Safety	Moderate to High. 18+ years of age. Tree cutting experience required.	Yes

Maintenance and Management

Introduction

Beechwood State Park was maintained prior to 1999, while under the ownership of the Girl Scouts of America. When purchased by the state of New York, maintenance and management decreased drastically due to a lack of funding. Minimal maintenance still takes place on the property, but is completed on by volunteers. The property presents a challenge as it contains numerous structures and facilities, some of which pose potential risks to visitors. Furthermore, park infrastructure has seen little attention over the last decade and must be considered, especially if the park is to facilitate youth groups in the future. This assessment will discuss the condition and recent maintenance strategies of the various facilities and infrastructure that exist on the Beechwood State Park property.

Recent Maintenance

Daily maintenance is not possible in the park currently due to the lack of funding for park maintenance. However, volunteers have aided in various projects throughout the park over the last few years. The most regular maintenance is the mowing of the property adjacent to the Ranger's House on the south end of the property with the use of a volunteer's tractor. Volunteers have also boarded up nearly all of the structures on the property to prevent vandalism. In addition, an open well in the North-central portion of the park has been boarded over to prevent visitors from falling in. This past summer, volunteers associated with a Boy Scout Pack brought in a Kubota to mow the area to the North and East of the Dining Hall. This mowing is crucial to the proper function of the Dining Hall's evaporative leech field. A handful of large black cherry trees in close proximity to the lakeshore have been marked to be removed; the selected trees show signs of rot in their trunks and pose imminent risk to hikers on nearby trails. Extensive maintenance and renovation projects have not yet been pursued on the property, again as a result of a lack of sufficient funds.

Table 23. Building and Structure Inventory.

Building or Structure	Current Condition	Notes/Observations
Ranger House	Good	Usable Condition
Dining Hall	Fair	Needs Roofing
Swimming Pool	Poor	High Risk, Unsalvageable
Well House	Unknown	-----
Maintenance Building	Good	Usable Condition
Zonta Lodge	Fair	Structurally Sound, Needs Refinishing
Carriage House	Poor	High Risk, Crumbling Stonework
Infirmery	Unknown	-----
Pioneer Lodge	Good	Usable Condition
Shower House	Fair/Poor	Inundated with Sumac, Needs Roofing
Romany Lodge	Good	Usable Condition
Counselor's Cabins	Fair/Poor	Inundated with Sumac, Needs Roofing
Camping Platforms	Good	Usable Condition

Parking

Two main parking locations exist on the property. One gravel lot is located in the South-east corner of the park, adjacent to Maxwell Creek. A second grass lot is located in the interior of the park to the West of the main road. Neither of these lots have received any type of maintenance. Upkeep of these lots (grading, mowing, erosion control, lining) will be necessary if park visitation increases.

Roads

One main road runs North-South through the central region of the park. This grass/dirt road is a single lane and has very narrow shoulders for most of its length. Drainage ditches are non-existent on roadsides and simple crowning is the only management practice in place to keep this road dry. Erosion of the road surface is minimal, except for a single location at the north end of the road. This single section is steeper than most portions of the road and is angled towards the lake, making it more susceptible to erosion.

Trails

Maintenance of the trail system throughout the park has been minimal other than minor clearing projects conducted by youth groups and citizens fulfilling court mandated community service hours. Large portions of the trails are in good condition, consisting of highly packed, erosion resistant soils. One trail on the north end of the property, sloping towards the lake, contains stairways and a boardwalk. The stairways are decaying and will need to be repaired to provide safe use for visitors. The boardwalk, which spans a swampy section of the trail, is missing numerous rails. This structure is also a potential safety hazard for visitors.

Waste Removal

The park currently operates on a carry in, carry out policy. However, with increased visitation, especially in the form of youth groups, garbage receptacles and recycling bins may become necessary.

Infrastructure

When the park was under the ownership of the Girl Scouts of America, the principal source of water was Lake Ontario. Today the lake is no longer a viable potable water source. City water lines do exist adjacent to the park on Lake Road (Route 18); however, connection to these lines will be costly. The electricity of the park in the past was provided through an above ground system of telephone poles and wires. Due to high winds from storms, repair of this type of electrical supply will be very costly. No modern restroom facilities currently exist at the park. In order to host youth groups, the park will need some type of human-waste removal system.

Summary

Beechwood State Park has not seen extensive maintenance and or management in over a decade. This lack of maintenance can be seen in the poor condition of the numerous structures and facilities throughout the property. In order to provide a safe environment for visitors to recreate, imminent hazards and potential risks must be addressed immediately. Once these risks have been resolved, maintenance can then begin to focus on the enhancement of recreational activities within the park.

Funding Opportunities

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to identify possible financing sources for Beechwood State Park. Funding can come in a variety of forms: grants, loans, donations, user fees, and/or local taxes. There are several sources for grants and loans: federal, state and local government programs as well as not-for-profit groups. Included are descriptions of the funding sources along with a table containing the list with the contact information and/or application information (Table 1).

Grants, Loans and Other Funding Sources

OPRHP grants. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has several programs that can provide potential sources of funds.

- The Parks Program is a matching grant program for the acquisition or development of parks and recreational facilities
- The Historic Preservation Program is a matching grant program to improve, protect, preserve, rehabilitate or restore properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places.*
- Certified Local Government Program is a matching grant program for the expansion and maintenance of the National Register of Historic Places and support of historic preservation activities. It is only available to local governments and is funded by the National Park Service but administered and managed by NYSOPRHP.*
- Recreational Trails Program is a matching grant program for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of trails and trail-related projects. This project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration, but administered and managed by NYSOPRHP.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund is a matching grant program for the acquisition, development and/or rehabilitation of outdoor park and recreation facilities. This project is funded by the National Park Service, but administered and managed by NYSOPRHP.

* These programs would require some portion of the park designated as a historical location on the State or National Register of Historical Places. Two possible historical uses that may allow entry onto the Register are the usage of the park by the girl scouts or the cobblestone building on the property. Registry designation and criteria for evaluation are available at:

<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/national-register/>

USDA grants. The National Park Service has a Historic Preservation Grants program. Eligible applicants are, among others, Certified Local Governments where there is no State program. The program is a matching grant to assist in expanding historic preservation activities.

The USDA runs a Rural Development Grant Assistance Program that provides direct or guaranteed loans, grants, technical assistance, research and educational materials. There are many different programs that can be utilized. The following is just a sample of the types of programs that can be accessed for grants and assistance: renewable energy systems, rural economic development, community facilities and water and waste disposal. The list of available grants and assistance is quite large and determining which programs will be useful cannot be determined until decisions have been made as to what will be developed at Beechwood. The

assistance programs available could be used in the decision making processes in determining what can be done at Beechwood.

Other funding sources. Legislative grants are another source of funding for Beechwood. There is no specific method or program in which to get legislative grants. These grants would come from state officials finding pet projects. Working with the state senator for the 54th state senate district could potentially yield additional funding for Beechwood State Park.

Other possible sources of funding could come from historical society organizations like the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum or the Sodus Rotary Club. They could potentially provide direct grants or donations, or could potentially become partners for fundraising and volunteers. User fees for day use or for overnight/facility use can be a source of continual funding. Another source of funding could come directly out of the town budget.

Table 24. Sources for grants, loans and other funding sources, their associated programs and their associated website.

Grant Source	Purpose	Website
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation	Parks	http://nysparks.state.ny.us/grants/state-funded-programs.aspx
	Historic Preservation	
	Certified Local Government Program (Historic places)	
	Recreational Trails	
	Land and Water Conservation	
NPS Historic Preservation Grants	Historic Preservation	http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/HPF/index.htm
USDA Rural Development Grant Assistance Program	Rural Economic Loan and Grant	http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html
	Renewable Energy Systems	
	Community Facilities	
	Rural Community Development Initiative Grants	
Legislative Grants	Unspecified	Senator Michael Nozzolio http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/michael-f-nozzolio
Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum	Unspecified	http://www.soduspointlighthouse.org/about.html
Sodus Rotary Club	Unspecified	http://www.sodusrotary.org/about.htm

Summary

This report identifies several funding options for Beechwood State Park. OPRHP has several matching-funds grants available, though one requires a designation of a historical location first. The USDA Rural Development Grant Assistance Program has grants, loans and technical assistance available. There are other potential funding sources through legislative grants as well as partnering with local organizations, such as the Sodus Bay Lighthouse Museum or the Sodus Rotary Club, for grants, donations and fundraising. There is also the opportunity for funding for the park through use fees and/or local tax dollars.

Budget and Finance

Introduction

Beechwood SP has no official budget at this time, so it is appropriate to look at similar sized state parks in the area in order to get an idea what a budget for Beechwood may look like. One such park is Clark Reservation in Jamesville, NY.

Clark Reservation Annual Budget

Clark Reservation State Park is the site of the Central Region Headquarters Complex. Some of the operating costs for the park will include items not normally associated just with the park. The information gathered has come from Tim Gray, the Park Manager, and he has tried to separate the costs of the Park from the Headquarters Complex. Below is a table with the 2009/10 fiscal year operating costs for the whole Headquarters Complex and the portion of that attributed to Clark Reservation.

Table 25. Central Region Headquarters Complex operating costs with the portion attributed to Clark Reservation State Park.

Item	Headquarters	Clark Reservation
Personnel (3 Permanent & 5 seasonal)	\$136,000	\$80,000
Gasoline	\$21,600	\$6000
Electricity	\$5300	\$5300
Telephone	\$800	\$800
Propane	\$500	\$500
Diesel	\$2100	\$2100
Water	\$700	\$700
Landfill	\$625	\$625
Internet	\$650	\$650
Discretionary Funds	\$10,000	\$5,000
Total	\$178,275	\$101,675

Summary

Clark Reservation State Park is a park that is comparable in size and scope to Beechwood State Park. Adjusting for the additional costs that Clark Reservation gets from having the regional headquarters on site, the annual operating budget is approximately \$100,000 annually. Depending on the final master plan decided for Beechwood, it can be expected to cost about the same to operate.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Introduction

Monitoring and evaluation are two important areas in which public and privately owned parks should spend time and money. Monitoring allows for adequate management decisions, as well as giving the park a solid base to compare trends in park visitation. Monitoring and evaluating parks on a routine basis leads to safe trails, adequate visitor counts and an overall assessment of the park. Five parks were reviewed for this assessment. The parks that were reviewed were: 1) Green Lakes State Park, 2) Glimmerglass State Park, 3) Chimney Bluffs State Park, 4) Rams Horn Marsh and the 5) Black Creek Preserve. Beechwood State Park is in the planning stages which allows for monitoring and evaluation to be implemented early on in the planning process.

The Parks

Three of the parks reviewed are owned and operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Table 1). Green Lakes State Park, located in Fayetteville, NY, features two glacial meromictic lakes, and an 18-hole golf course. People use the golf course to snowshoe in the winter, and there are 10 miles of trails used for hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country skiing. Glimmerglass State Park, settled along the banks of the Otsego Lake in Cooperstown and Springfield, NY, is home to beaches in the summer and snow tubing in the winter. The park also has vast cultural and historic resources. Chimney Bluffs State Park is a waterfront park that is best known for its sandy cliffs, dramatically sculpted by wind and water.

Two of the parks are managed by not-for-profit organizations. The Rams Horn-Livingston Sanctuary is co-owned and co-managed by the National Audubon Society and Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Inc. This sanctuary is located in Catskill, NY on the Hudson River. Black Creek Preserve, located in the town of Esopus, NY, is owned and managed by Scenic Hudson. The park's trails run along the Black Creek corridor.

Table 26. New York State Public and Privately Owned Parks

Name	Location	Acres	Owned By	Open?	Fees	Educational Programs	Monitored?
Green Lakes State Park	Fayetteville	2,100	NYSOPRHP*	Year Round	\$8.00/car in summer	Yes	Yes
Glimmerglass State Park	Cooperstown	500	NYSOPRHP*	Year Round	\$8.00/car & \$5/person in winter	Yes	Yes
Chimney Bluffs State Park	Wolcott	597	NYSOPRHP*	Year Round	Free	NA	Yes
Rams Horn-Livingston Sanctuary	Catskill	620	Scenic Hudson Audubon Society	Year Round	Free	Yes	Yes
Black Creek Preserve	Esopus	762	Scenic Hudson	Year Round	Free	Yes	Yes

*NYSOPRHP= New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Educational Program Evaluation

For all parks reviewed, the staff members responsible for educational programs are either paid by the agency/organization, or are volunteers. Scenic Hudson, Inc. has a full time educator on staff that spends most of her time in area elementary and middle schools. This staff member works with the teachers to create lessons plans according to NYS standards. Before going out in the field to the parks, students are prepared with journals, vocabulary and other pertinent documentation which will be needed. In the classroom they are educated on the habitats, animals, plants and soils in which they might observe. Occasionally a DEC educator may coordinate efforts to bring more educational programs to the park.

As for the OPRHP-owned parks, the Natural Resource Steward Biologists and Naturalists often run the educational programs on the State lands. The naturalist typically runs the programs under the direction of the Natural Resource Steward Biologist and can record visitor attendance to programs. There is also often a partnership between the park's manager and volunteers. Glimmerglass State Park, for example, has a 'Friends of Glimmerglass' group which helps to provide educational programs throughout the summer.

Depending on the park, monitoring of educational programs is often done during events. Volunteers and staff share responsibility for monitoring educational programs, and park attendance data is reported to each state park's regional office. For the two private parks, monitoring is done by written documents and getting feedback from the schools. Teachers give evaluations of the students and the educator, and monitoring is done on the students' test scores. The schools and organization have proven that, since the start of the park outings, test scores have increased. For all parks assessed for this project, the costs associated with monitoring educational programs are minimal, since the monitoring is integrated into the educational programs.

Monitoring Visitor Numbers

For all parks reviewed, the park manager/steward oversees monitoring of visitors. Two of the parks had trail counter devices that count everyone who walks on the trails, giving the park managers a good idea of the number of trail users. Using a trail counter provides an estimate of trail use only, because animals can trip the counters as well. Monitoring forms are filled out each time a monitoring visit has occurred. The manager/steward records how many people they see on the trails and at the park for a specific time period, as well as how many cars are in the parking lot. Two parks assessed have a ticket booth that is staffed by paid seasonal employees from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Off season, an automatic car counter provides a count of the cars coming into the park.

For two of the State Parks, the ticket booth is manned from eight o'clock (or nine) in the morning till six o'clock (or seven) in the evening. Having a staffed booth allows for a car count, but the data collected is not as specific as for visitor counts. Since the number of visitors varies between cars, OPRHP uses a per car estimate (i.e., 3.5 visitors per car) to estimate the number of visitors coming into the park. After hours at the staffed parks, the car counters take over. The number of cars are entered into an attendance sheet that is reported back to the State of New York. This report is extremely important to keep the parks funded and open.

The cost of the manager or the steward's salary is included in the parks operating budget. It is difficult to get volunteers to monitor visitor numbers because it does take time at random days of the week to get a large population variance. The car counter and the trail counter cost money, along with upkeep costs as well.

Park admission and camper registration allow fairly effective visitor use documentation for parks. Two of the parks charge daily fees from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the other three parks are free admission.

Monitoring the Well Being of the Natural Resource Base

Monitoring the well being of the natural resources of the park is done by the park managers. Volunteers can be utilized during specific times of the year, but it takes time and finances to train volunteers. Ecological assessments are contracted out on the two private parks, to save time from the regular staffing hours. The park managers monitor the lands almost daily, and must report when they have done so. The State Parks do not have one specific staff member for natural or environmental issues, so most parks utilize biologist Tom Hughes who works with other area parks.

Monitoring is constant and continual. Though some parks have actual monitoring forms and specific times that the park must be monitored, many of the park managers monitor on a daily basis. They monitor for trees that are down along the trails, as well as vandalism that may be occurring on the infrastructure. These reports state what animals and species were observed as well as what the weather was like on that specific day.

The park managers who monitor go through the park on a routine basis and draft field notes once they are done. As stated before, monitoring of the park is constant and continual, enabling the park staff to react quickly to problems that may arise. Trash is removed quickly, trails are groomed to remove blow downs, and trails sections with poor drainage or erosion are repaired. Parks also rely on the direct observations of park visitors; if someone observes issues or has comments, communicating them to park staff can help correct the problem.

Though some of the parks' monitoring budgets are included in the operating budgets, other parks strategically place donation boxes at the entrance of the park. While one Scenic Hudson park would get \$20.00 in donations a day, a neighboring park might only get a few pennies. It is important to have a line in the operating budget for monitoring, because relying on donations is not a feasible way to keep the park in tip-top shape.

Summary

The Green Lakes State Park, Glimmerglass State Park, Chimney Bluffs State Park, Rams Horn-Livingston Sanctuary and the Black Creek Preserve were all researched to prepare the assessment for Beechwood State Park. Researching two large state parks, two small not-for-profit owned parks and a park in the near vicinity of Beechwood, allows for a comprehensive assessment. Monitoring of the park is important and should be high on the priority list for Beechwood.

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the proposal details specific recommendations for the various aspects of the park listed in the assessment section. The order of the recommendations mirrors the assessment section in order to make it easy to find and match up assessments to recommendations.

Protecting Habitats, Flora, and Fauna

Protect Threatened Species

Use educational signage, and if necessary fencing around critical habitat for threatened species such as Jack-in-the-Pulpit. An effective sign may explain to guests the importance of such species and the effects of trampling and picking on native wild flower populations, as well as pictures and identification characteristics of the species.

Eradication of Nuisance Introduced Species

Species that cause problems for guests and natural processes should be removed from park property. Multiflora rose, swallowwort, and other invasive species cause problems for the enjoyment of park facilities by guests and should be removed by cutting and the use of herbicides. Herbicides should be administered by professional, certified specialists to prevent harm to native species.

Species Checklist

Create a species checklist as a pullout within a park brochure for guests to use as they travel around the park. The guests may then fill out the checklist and return for a prize for the most species found or for certain interesting species found. This checklist may also be used as an annual biological inventory for the park.

Reroute Trails

Arrange trails so that they do not invade critical habitat for threatened or rare species in the park. Most threatened species occur in the northern most areas of the park near the shoreline. Routing trails so that they avoid these areas is critical for species of special concern.

Visitor Education

Set up a visitor education program that may be part of interpretive programs. This education program will be focused on protecting native flora, fauna, and critical ecosystems within and outside of the park. "Leave No Trace" would be an excellent lesson for youth and adult visitors alike so that native flora and fauna are left undisturbed and no new alien invaders are brought in unexpectedly.

Pets

Pets may be permitted in the park; however, pets should be placed on a leash that is no longer than 6 feet in length so as the pet will not disturb native flora and fauna, or harm other guests and their pets. Pets also should be cleaned up after to avoid spread of disease and ensure that guests are able to fully enjoy park facilities. It may also be important to keep pets out of areas of high importance to native flora and fauna.

Identify Development Zones in the Park

As Beechwood State Park usage increases, the need for development will inevitably increase. When development occurs it is very important that it takes place on the appropriate sites and at the appropriate times. It is recommended that no development occurs at the northern part of the park and near Lake Ontario border in order to maintain the natural character of this area. Other areas that should be avoided for development purposes are any steep slopes that are susceptible to erosion, wetland areas, as well as areas that contain soils with poor to very poor drainage classes. Areas that could handle future construction without much disturbance to the natural habitats are the apple orchard/old fields, forest plantations and successional forests.

Roads and Parking

Road and parking area improvement

Creating a map of the entire park will help identify and locate areas of concern for roads and parking, and assist in avoiding fragile areas. Analyzing environmental features such as topography, drainage patterns, and soils are also important factors in improving roads and parking areas within the park. The following is a list of concerns and their locations.

- Waterlogged roads on the main park road, Eastwood Road, and parking area
- Over hanging tree limbs on the main park road
- Erosion on steep section of park road
- Lack of road signs throughout the park

Reconstructing roads to help with water runoff

Preventing and controlling runoff by applying best management practices to the roads can have a dramatic impact on maintenance costs over time. The type of road surfacing is an important factor in the quality of road built in the park and will determine the amount of maintenance that will be needed for repairs in the future. Restructuring the main park road and Eastwood Road by using the crown method will assist in water retention by directing water off the road surface. When water is accumulated on the road, it allows damage from the tires of vehicles. The rest of the roads within the park are in adequate condition.

Parking area

The surface of the parking area is a mixture of soil and grass and was not sloped for water drainage. The flat parking surface can create poor water drainage. During wet weather the parking area may get saturated with water and may hold water for a longer amount of time. Putting in a gravel parking lot will allow rain water and snow melt to infiltrate through it quickly. A gravel parking place will help the parking area from becoming muddy, and help reduce damage from vehicle tires. Having a gravel parking area is also less expensive than asphalt and easy to maintain.

Turn-abouts

Turn-abouts should be created at the end of Eastwood Road and Pioneer Road. These roads are going to be mainly used by youth groups and also during large events in the park. The park roads will be used to transport large quantities of equipment and supplies. The turn-about's turning

radius should be large enough for a full size vehicle plus trailer. Gravel should be placed in turn-around areas to help create a stable area for vehicles to turn around without damage to the area.

Passing areas

The main park road is a one lane road with little room for vehicles to pass. Constructing passing areas along the main park road will help prevent accidents by giving room for passing vehicles. During high-attendance events in the park, the passing areas will be an important for allowing vehicles to pass one of another if necessary. Passing areas should be laid with gravel to protect them from getting muddy and rutted.

Creating road ditches

Creating proper drainage areas on the sides of the roads is important to help remove standing water. An adequate ditch is shaped and lined using appropriate vegetative or structural material and does not cause flooding, erosion, or sedimentation (NYSF 2005). A well vegetated ditch slows, controls, and filters runoff providing an opportunity for sediments to be removed from the runoff water. These should be placed carefully in order to prevent a hazard for people driving on the shoulder of the road.

Parking area borders

Barriers or signage should be in place to show the entrance and exit of the parking area. The parking area is an open grassy area and does not have a single focus access point. Natural looking barriers such as local rock, wood, or native vegetation should be placed in between the entrance and exit areas of the parking lot. These barriers will help to create two access points and also act as a home to wildlife in the park.

Hazard trees

The main park road has several tree limbs overhanging the road and these limbs should be removed immediately for visitor safety. These limbs pose safety risks to park visitors and staff. Regular inspections should be taken to mark and remove such dangers.

Road signs

Placing clear and concise roads signs in areas where visitors can easily see them is important for visitor safety. Three stop signs should be placed as follows: at the intersection of the main park road; on Shoreline Road; and on Eastwood Road.

A speed limit sign should be placed at the entrance of the park. Having a speed limit will control traffic speed for the park and will help prevent accidents. A speed limit will also increase the longevity of the roads.

Having animal crossing signs will help visitors to avoid hitting wildlife. The park is responsible for accidents that occur within the park. Reducing the speed limit and having animal crossing signs will help in prevent accidents and provide safe passage for visitors within the park. Signage should also be placed where people are likely to be crossing the road, such as where trails cross the road.

Trails

Create and implement a kiosk design

Having a kiosk designed specifically for Beechwood would give the park a greater sense of identity. The necessary attributes of a functional kiosk include: A permanent trail map, educational information about park resources and history, posted rules and regulations of the park (including where day users are permitted should separation of youth groups and day users be needed), and some sort of overhead cover to protect the information and visitor while they are reading. Other attributes that can be added based upon available money and manager preference would be: park pamphlets, park maps for visitors, extended information about local attractions, suggestion boxes for the park, sign in sheet, enough overhead shelter for a group of people, and seating connected to or placed nearby to kiosk (See Figures 20 and 21).

Kiosk placement throughout the park

Multiple kiosks or trailhead fixtures of some sort should be placed throughout the park. A first recommendation would be to have kiosks with educational information and pamphlets for visitors at the two main trail heads (i.e., on the main entrance road near the manager's house and in the parking area at Maxwell Creek); should a trail be developed in the orchard area, a third kiosk may be needed there as well. Installing a kiosk would make information available to visitors at all times of day. The kiosks should include the features described above in "Create and implement a kiosk design."

Trail markers

Many types of trail markers and directional signs would be suitable for Beechwood's trails. For trail markers, simple colored posts pounded into the ground would be simple to install and maintain (Figure 22). The colors on the posts would match up to the colors used for trails on the trailhead kiosks. This type of post would also be the most environmentally friendly because old fence posts could be repurposed for this use. Markers and blazes placed on trees could also be used. Colored plastic disks (matching the trail colors on the kiosks) could be nailed to trees with aluminum nails. The problem with using this type of marker is that it can damage the trees. Another tree type would be painting a colored blaze on the tree (Figure 24). The bark of the tree is first scraped somewhat smooth and then painted, usually in a rectangular shape. Tree blazes often need to be redone yearly, and involve a great deal of labor to create and maintain. Overall a sturdier sign would be recommended. Directional signs, comprised of a small sign on a post with writing used to direct visitors, should be installed at trail intersections to prevent visitors from becoming lost (Figure 23).

Trail map creation

A map displaying the trail system in the park would be extremely useful for visitors. Having this map would give visitors a higher comfort level while they are touring the park because they would know where to turn to bring them to their desired location. A basic map is relatively easy to create with limited computer knowledge of either Adobe Photoshop or Paint. This map would display the trail system and would also label the trails' length and type. This map would be displayed at the kiosks and visitor center, and could also be used in pamphlets (See Figure 25).



Figure 20



Figure 21



Fig. 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25. Potential trail system map for Beechwood State Park.

Day Use Areas and Facilities

Maxwell Bay Area

- **Create canoe/kayak launch.** Form a gradual slope entering the water approximately four feet wide and up to at least one foot deep into the water. This will increase the convenience of launching a canoe or kayak into the water because the boater can simply push their boat down the slope into the water without any obstacles in the way.
- **Create picnic area.** Remove the old lean-tos and designate the area as a day use area. If possible, use deconstructed materials to construct approximately three to four picnic tables and two benches, placed at the water's edge. If funds are available, match each picnic table with a small park charcoal grill.
- **Access to drinking water.** Giving visitors access to drinking water would greatly enhance their experience at the park. If possible, install one water fountain or spigot for this area.
- **Fish cleaning station.** Because this area is a popular fishing location, installing a small fish cleaning station would ensure that fish are not cleaned in inappropriate locations. This should consist of a sink with running water, a table top working area, and a receptacle for unwanted remains.
- **Install portable toilet.** A port-a-john should be installed adjacent to the parking area. This will prevent improper waste disposal near Maxwell Creek.

Lake Ontario Shoreline

- **Create picnic area.** Construct approximately two to three picnic tables and two benches, placed at the water's edge. Placing grills at this location may not be ideal because of the dense vegetation.
- **Access to beach.** Clearing some of the fallen debris off of the beach will greatly enhance its appearance and allow it to be safely explored by visitors. It is also important to designate a safe path down onto the beach. Installing a small set of stairs to gain access to the beach may be necessary. It is crucial that the stairs have traction because they will become wet and slippery, posing a threat to visitors.
- **Access to drinking water.** If possible, installing one water fountain at this location would be very beneficial for visitors.
- **Fish cleaning station.** Since fishing is popular at this location, installing a small fish cleaning station may ensure that fish are not cleaned in inappropriate locations. The same style station as suggested for the Maxwell Creek/Bay is recommended.
- **Install portable toilet.** A port-a-john should be installed adjacent to the parking area. This will prevent improper waste disposal near the lake.

- **Create canoe/kayak dock.** If funds are available, create a canoe/kayak pull-up area to improve boating access to the park. Gravel should be used to harden the pull-up area.

All other areas within the park, specifically the flag field

- **Create picnic area.** A picnic pavilion will allow families and other groups to host a picnic at the park, and will give visitors a shaded area, protected from the elements. Picnic tables can also be placed at specific locations away from the pavilion.
- **Access to drinking water.** Specifically at this location, the installation of at least one water fountain would be ideal for visitors to the park. Access to running water at this location is particularly important because it will be the largest picnicking area within the park.
- **Access to restrooms.** While portable toilets will be useful in the short term, a traditional restroom facility is recommended for the park. This facility could be incorporated into a visitor's center.

Group Use

Continue to secure deteriorated and unused facilities

Structures that have fallen into disrepair represent a liability to the Town of Sodus and hold the potential to attract vandalism and other unwanted activities. Continuing to properly secure these facilities (including the boarding of windows, locking of doors, and fencing around hazards like the old swimming pool) will minimize risk to visitors while protecting the Town of Sodus. Volunteer assistance could come from local BOCES, trade schools, and local contractors. The level of training required for doing this work is relatively high; volunteers should be at least 18+ years of age and have thorough construction experience/knowledge.

Prioritize creation of bathroom facilities

Bathroom facilities are a necessity if Beechwood State Park is to be used by groups and organizations, and would also benefit day-users. Locate bathroom structures close to parking areas for convenience to hikers and accessibility for cleaning and maintenance. Also consider separate facilities for youth group use in order to avoid overlap with the general public. Since funding may initially not be available, consider portable toilets as an immediate alternative.

Communicate the availability of group use facilities to the local community

Beechwood State Park currently contains facilities which may be utilized year-round by groups and organizations. Lakeview Lodge, Romany Picnic Shelter, and Maxwell Creek Access shelters represent structures available for immediate group-use and should be advertised in the community as such. Direct communication with the ALASA Academy, 4H Groups, and local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, as well as service organizations like the Sodus Garden and Rotary Club, holds great potential to attract interest.

Repair youth group campsites

These campsites need minimal repairs, including the replacement of rotten boards, sanding, and painting. Local youth or service groups may be interested in undertaking these project. Once

repaired, youth group campsites will provide a unique opportunity for adolescents to camp in a familiar setting, and hold the potential to attract organizations from throughout the state.

Enlist local organizations for repair work, monitoring, and other park needs

Beechwood State Park facilities need extensive repairs, and volunteer efforts represent a feasible way to complete this work. Soliciting labor, donations, and other types of service will also serve to strengthen the relationship with local groups, providing opportunities for local service projects while benefiting the park.

Allow local adult organizations to adopt a building

Encouraging the “adoption” of a building within Beechwood State Park by organizations like the Sodus Garden Club or Sodus Lions Club has the potential to encourage use of the park by the organization, as well as foster stewardship for deteriorated facilities. Organizations could be rewarded with a plaque within the structure in exchange for repair and regular upkeep of buildings within the park.

Consider hosting a large scale youth group event

Boy scouts and girl scouts often hold “jamborees” to gather many troops for a camping weekend. Scouting groups, 4H groups, and other youth organizations also hold rallies to practice skills like wilderness survival, first aid, or orienteering.

Visitor Center

Two options for visitor center development were considered: low level of development and high level of development. Recommendations for both are given below.

Low Development Option:

Construct a small on-site visitor center

Build a small single room visitor center that would shelter display racks and exhibit space. This facility would be best located at the main entrance into Beechwood Park. The function of this building would focus on exhibit space demonstrating local flora and fauna and site history. Restrooms are suggested to be located within this facility; due to staff limitations, doors to the restrooms should be located on the outside of the building to enable use after hours. A trailhead kiosk should be placed near the visitor center at the trailhead on the main park road. If funding prevents the construction of a small building for a visitor's center, a large "shelter-like" kiosk should be considered to house small exhibit panels and a trail map.

In designing the new facility and trail systems, universal access has to be considered. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has set standards that need to be incorporated in the park to make it accessible to everyone. These standards focus on entrance route width and restroom accessibility. When these facilities are designed, the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design need to be reviewed and implemented.

High Development Option

Construct a large visitor center

The construction of a multi-room Visitor Center at the entrance to the park would greatly enhance the park's image. It would provide direction to new visitors as well as a meeting place, and a number of services could be offered there. A larger facility would also provide office space for park staff.

Offer exhibits on various topics

Exhibits may include things like local flora and fauna, historical artifacts from the area, diagrams and specimens representing Lake Ontario, or more focused topics such as Beech trees or apple orchards. Topics could be changed biweekly, monthly, or however often suits the park managers. An open exhibit room would permit visitors to walk through at their own pace. It may also appeal to people who do not like being in a group, or who prefer to explore without park staff.

Provide a meeting room/classroom for indoor activities

An activity room would be very useful. It could be equipped with tables and chairs, a whiteboard, and craft supplies. The room would be available for indoor activities, whether they be planned that way or used as back-ups for rainy days. It would be a perfect place for school groups or families with young children.

Create a centrally located information desk for visitors' easy access

Another feature a highly developed visitor center should have is an information desk/area. This would most likely be staffed, and provide maps and brochures relevant to the park and the nearby region. An employee could be available to answer general questions.

Provide a restroom facility. As described for the low development option, restrooms facilities should be available at the visitor center whenever the park is open.

Provide office space to park employees

There could be a small office for volunteers and staff to utilize. This would provide a private, quiet place to work, and may also house resources such as interpretive guides, a computer, activity books, ecology information, and employee files.

Medical facility

While not expected to provide medical services, the park would be better served if there were a small first aide area to handle non-emergency medical issues.

Build sustainably

It is highly recommend that sustainable building techniques be considered. This may involve the design of the structure, the materials used, and the power source for said building. Building sustainably, or green, can help promote the park in a unique way, as well as be more environmentally friendly.

There are many books and websites that deal with sustainable building; *Materials for a Sustainable Site*, by Meg Calkins, and *Sustainable Landscape Construction, Second Edition* by J.

William Thompson and Kim Sorvig. Also, greenbuilding.com, usgbc.com (U.S. Green Building Council), and greenbuildingservices.com are just a few of many useful websites. The EPA's sustainability department and the Department of Energy would also be excellent sources to consult.

There are many building materials and techniques that are more eco-friendly than conventional ones. For example, reusing wood from old structures, insulating with cellulose, or even hay bales or old tires, south-facing windows to heat more efficiently, maximize the amount of daylight to save on energy for lighting, or installing rain barrels.

Meet all ADA building requirements

Consult with the 2010 ADA Standards for Building Design. New construction projects must comply with the 2010 or the 1991 standards. Things to consider may include, but are not limited to, doorway width, turning radius, access ramps, and height of wall structures such as sinks. This would be done in conjunction with the engineer designing the structure, who will be aware of such regulations.

Recreation and Interpretation

Provide a map for park visitors

A map is the best way to encourage people to stay on the trails. The map should include a number of features that ensure that people do not get lost. Trails on the map should be color coded (to match the color of trail markers) and a description of the sights along each trail should be provided. The map should clearly mark where the bathroom, picnicking and specific camp sites facilities are as well. The maps should be conveniently located in either the visitor center, or in a weather-protected brochure rack at the main trailhead kiosk.

Self-guided tour brochure

Visitors can also be educated by self-guided tours. A self-guided tour brochure could be created which leads visitors to interesting sights in the park and informs them of the significance of each sight (e.g., Lake Ontario, the apple orchard or the location of the old Girl Scout camping sites).

Guided tours

Guided tours could be led by volunteers who are knowledgeable about the park's resources and history. The volunteers can educate families about the natural beauty and environment of the area. Tours could be promoted through local organizations and free listings in local media.

Trailhead kiosks

Interpretive information can also be posted on the proposed trailhead kiosks. Informing visitors of important native plant and animal species is essential to the protection of park resources. In particular, creating "wanted" posters for harmful invasive species might be useful for preventing the spread of invasives.

Building plaques

Small signs interpreting the history and dates of construction of the unique building in the park (e.g., cobblestone building) would be useful in educating visitors about the history of the park. Simple and inexpensive silk-screened signs would be suitable for these signs.

Youth Programs

Centralized Educational Building

To be most effective, youth programs should have a centralized location for programs, preferably a dedicated building for this purpose. The old mess hall would be an ideal place and could be used if work was taken to repair and renovate the building. The building could provide the dual purpose of kitchen/dining area for small overnight groups as well as an education center. The center could house wildlife exhibits such as tanks of native fish and amphibians, and small rescued reptiles as they make great teaching tools. Bathrooms of some sort will be needed near the building, whether they be permanent facilities or portable toilets.

Merit Badge Programs

Scout groups looking for programs that will cater to their merit badge programs will be more inclined to use and return to a site. If Beechwood Park created programs that met the requirements of scout badges while at the same time conforming to the park's educational theme, then the programs will draw more scout groups in and increase the number of visitors and youth groups using the park. Both Boy and Girl Scouts have several nature and culture-related badges for which volunteers at Beechwood could create programs. Creating different programs that fulfill different badges ensures that the groups return. These programs could range from two hour programs to multiple day programs and could be customized for the needs of the groups themselves.

Example of a program: Orienteering Badge

Equipment needed: Map, Compasses, notebooks, string, meter stick, pie plates or similar marker.

Preparation: Hang pie plates from trees and note location on map. Note the location of each plate on a trail map.

Activities: Learn the basics of pacing and pace counting. Next is simple compass use and direction familiarization. Third, practice finding easy way points and writing down directions and paces. The final activity is to find the "hidden" way points (i.e., the pie plates) by following basic compass headings and distances.

Launch "Annual Invasive Species Teach-in" at the Park

Several invasive species threaten Beechwood, including pale swallow-wort and multiflora rose. In order to combat these threats, educational programming on invasives is needed. This type of programming would involve the community with the park, establish a volunteer base for removing invasives in the park, and provide local park users with tools on how to treat invasive around their home. This event would be a community day event held once a year in the spring. Local businesses would be encouraged to donate food for volunteers and visitors, and participate in the event.

Family Events

Mommy and Me events and programs are great for those that are too young to come out to the park on their own. These kinds of events and programs can range from small group workshops to large brunch classes. By bringing in the parents, the program provides a family-centered activity that caters primarily to the children but to the parents as well. These kinds of programs tend to be popular with parents who want to take their kids out to enjoy nature in a controlled environment, as well as with parents who have small children that they don't want to leave alone. These events can be tied into larger seasonal festivals. A reindeer brunch could be tied into the winter season and could use the idea of reindeer as a herding animal to explain the movement and habits of similar animals like native white tailed deer. Other examples are late night events, such as sky watching for seasonal meteor showers or bat and owl walks.

Marsh Path

A boardwalk leading into the marsh area along Maxwell Creek will provide access to a very rich educational site for all visitors and for birdwatchers in particular. A boardwalk wouldn't sink into the marsh and would prevent damage to fragile wetland vegetation. The marshes are a key habitat for many species, including migrating bird species, making them ideal locations for bird walks for youth groups.

Marketing and Promotions

Ensure visitor safety prior to promoting the park

It is important to have all hazards in the park either posted with hazard warning signs or sealed from visitor entry prior to promotions. This will protect the visitors from potential harm and protect the Town of Sodus from liability. For other recommendations regarding visitor safety, see the " Emergency Services and Visitor Safety" section on page 94.

Create a Beechwood Logo

A unique logo for Beechwood State Park would be useful for advertising and can be used on brochures, bumper stickers, shirts, bookmarks, and other items that can promote the park. A local contest can be held for who can create the best logo for the park. The winner may be entitled to a prize, cash, or whatever is appropriate. This contest will also spark community interest and can involve people of all ages.

Improve the Park's Entrance Signage and Directional Signage

Adding an entrance sign at the park entrance and at the Maxwell Creek parking area will let visitors know that they have entered the park. Directional signs to the park are also needed on major roads to encourage visitation from those who are not otherwise going to the park, and to guide visitors to the park.

Create a Beechwood State Park Official Website/Blog

Determining an affordable way to obtain a domain name and publish information about Beechwood State Park on the Internet would provide visitors a list of the activities and sights

available at Beechwood State Park. The website should include directions on how to get to the park, a list of recreational opportunities available at the park, a calendar of events, interpretive information, and links to recreational opportunities in the surrounding area. The park website should have links posted from the following websites: Town of Sodus, NYSOPRHP, Seaway Trail, Wayne County Office of Tourism, and the I Love NY Program.

Create a Beechwood State Park Official Brochure

Create a brochure which covers the same material covered on the website, but is available in a print format for distribution at rest areas along the Seaway Trail, in visitor centers, and at area businesses. The brochure should have clear directions on how to get to the park, identify the recreational opportunities available at the park, and provide the website address for more detailed information. The brochure materials should be placed at Thruway rest areas in their brochure bins as well as at local Sodus and Sodus Point businesses and local visitor/information centers.

Get involved in county-wide promotions

The Wayne County Office of Tourism produces attraction brochures and event calendars in which Beechwood and programs at Beechwood can be promoted.

Promote the Park Using Newspaper and Radio

A calendar of events for park programs should be provided to local radio stations and newspapers. The news releases should be submitted at least two weeks prior to events and activities.

Create Partnerships with Local Area Businesses

These businesses can include, but are not limited to, recreational (boating, skiing, kayak and canoeing, fishing), restaurants, marinas and boat launches, local tourist destinations, and bed and breakfasts. These places can help get the word out about the park and attract visitors to it. There can be flyers or brochures at these businesses which would help spread the word not only about the park itself but events that are happening at the park.

Individually Promote the Park to Youth groups

A representative from park management should continue to act as a formal liaison between the park and youth groups in the area to promote camping trips. A one-page campsite reservation flier can be produced to make the reservation process simpler for youth groups. This flier should be posted on the park's website.

Develop Regional Tours of the Area

Developing and promoting local tours can highlight Beechwood State Park as well as other area attractions to visitors. Examples of these tours can include:

- A birdwatching tour of parks and wetlands in Wayne County.
- A bicycle tour incorporating Beechwood and the Seaway Trail.
- An agritourism tour that takes visitors to the orchards of Beechwood as well as local farms.
- A kayaking tour from Sodus Point to Beechwood.

Host Community Events

Beachwood State Park can be used to bring the community closer and create a bond between community members and the park. Hosting activities and events such as nature walks, kayak tours, spooky walks, and performances will attract many people and engage potential volunteers to help with the park. Reservations for the use of Lakeview Lodge can also be promoted for local organization meetings and retreats.

Develop an interactive display for community events

Bringing a display to community events will help provide name recognition for Beachwood State Park. A display could be used to advertise the park to potential visitors (particularly families and school groups), and would be a good way to recruit volunteers and gain support from the community.

Local Businesses, Organizations, and Agencies

Maintain & Enhance Existing Relationships

There are a number of organizations that have shown Beechwood support throughout the years. Their cooperation has been central to the existence of Beechwood and, by continuing to cater to their interests and needs, Beechwood can potentially develop concrete support for their expansion efforts. It is recommended that not only should contact with these organizations be maintained, but also that communication efforts should increase in order to provide these organizations with the opportunities they desire. Because they are proven Beechwood supporters, it is also recommended that the activities and events of these organizations be kept in mind when going forward with Beechwood development to be sure that they can be accommodated in the future. Outreach into the Sodus community will be an essential component of revitalizing the park for the delight of generations to come.

Connect Local Businesses with Recreational Activities

Beachwood State Park is home to many recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, kayaking and Cross country Skiing. Connecting these recreational activities to local business (e.g., sports shops and tackle shops) will benefit local businesses and the park. These shops would benefit most if certain aspects of Beachwood State Park were improved (e.g., improving the kayak/canoe launch on Maxwell Creek would make it easier to beach kayaks and canoes). Making equipment available for rent is also a great way for businesses to introduce people to new activities and increase interest in the park. Local fishing, kayaking, and hiking guides can help park visitors enjoy their experience. Offering programs that require collaboration between the park and visitors (e.g., a kayaking camp or a summer environmental camp that utilizes rental equipment) can also benefit both local businesses and the park.

Decrease Reliance on Government Agencies Regarding Monetary Needs

Most government agencies are currently experiencing deep budget cuts. Because of these cutbacks, relying on federal and state support is both risky and unwise. However, "in-kind" resources will be invaluable to the development of Beechwood. For example, given the park's location on a National Scenic Byway, Seaway Trail, Inc. should be contacted about the potential of including Beechwood in its marketing efforts.

Generate Community Support from Local Organizations

The town of Sodus has a wealth of community service organizations. Organizations such as Save Our Sodus, the Sodus Garden Club, the Sodus School District, the Cornell Cooperative Extension, and SUNY ESF F.O.R.C.E.S can all be an important source of volunteers for park restoration efforts. By involving local organization and citizens, it's predicted that Beechwood's development goals will be infused into local society, generating interest in and increasing local support for the park.

Utilize the Expertise of Local Organizations

Local garden clubs are often interested in community projects and Beechwood may be able to utilize the talents of their members when attempting to identify flora, reconstruct gardens, plant new species and remove invasive plants. The Sodus School District will prove to be an enormous resource in that Beechwood could serve as a local, educational site for science classes, physical education classes, research opportunities and after-school activities. It is also recommended that Beechwood coordinate with the school's National Honors Society, since each member is required to fulfill community service.

Emergency Services and Visitor Safety

Risk assessment report

It is important to properly observe, report, and manage any possible emergencies that could occur within Beechwood State Park. Establishing a risk assessment report provides a framework and a process for managing risks associated with park activities, both internal and external, in a transparent, systematic and credible manner. A proper risk assessment for Beechwood State Park would ensure that any activities that occur on the park do not result in an increase in human injuries or fatalities. The first step is to determine the hazards that occur on the park, which is explained in detail in the assessment report for the Park. A risk assessment would be designed to identify and manage risk throughout the park, improve community and visitor confidence and trust, establish a reliable basis for decision making and planning, and minimize risks.

Reduce and sign hazards

In order to reduce hazards, park managers should focus on maintaining visitor safety throughout the park, and on posting hazard signs near hazards. Overhanging limbs and hazard trees should be removed based on the OPRHP manual and guidelines. Trail maintenance should be continuous and ongoing to ensure users a safe experience. Proper signage should be established in areas that have potential for dangerous situations, as well reduce the parks liabilities in case something could happen. Areas most important for signage include Lake Ontario and the bluff areas. Lake Ontario should be properly signed with no swimming signs. Warning Signs and no entry signs should go up near the dilapidated buildings and pool area. The bluffs should be posted with "unstable soils - stay away" signs.

Establish safety and emergency protocols

Establishment of protocols for safe operation of the park and procedures to handle emergencies is recommended. First it is important to provide a list of emergency services within the Town of

Sodus that could be used by park staff in case of an emergency. This inventory can be left in the visitor center, or at the entry kiosk to be used and made accessible to everyone for convenience. Along with the list, there should be a safety catalog designed to provide staff and volunteers with the proper procedures for handling specified emergency situations. Employees and volunteers should be properly trained for the projects they are to embark on. All employees should have first aid and CPR certification based on the Red Cross standards.

Increase safety awareness

Ensuring and maintaining visitor safety, as well as establishing park protocols, should be coupled with ongoing community awareness education. Hosting an annual safety day or week would give local emergency workers and services an opportunity to instruct, or demonstrate their search and rescue techniques, fire trucks, K-9 and emergency practices, etc. in a fun way for youth groups and community residents. These three management objectives, as well as establishing a risk assessment would ensure a safe and fun experience throughout the park.

Park Organization, Volunteers, and Staff

Determine How Beechwood State Park Fits in the Town of Sodus Government

Operating Beechwood State Park will require funding and management which is unique among existing departments in the Town of Sodus. A new categorization in the town government such as a Parks, or identifying a supervisor of parks within the Highway Department is necessary to assimilate Beechwood State Park. Creating such a department will prevent park management from being restricted by laws intended to govern other departments, and streamline the allocation of funding.

Establish Responsibilities of Town Departments for Beechwood State Park

Beechwood State Park will require expertise, equipment, and labor from town departments such as the Highway Department. This cooperation could reduce costs by preventing redundant spending for the Town of Sodus. Some examples where cooperation with the Highway Department would save money include mowing grass, supplying and operating heavy equipment, plowing, garbage removal, and constructing roads, sewers and ditches in Beechwood.

Create Management And Employee Positions for Beechwood State Park

As Beechwood develops into a youth camp and active place for day use, it will likely become necessary to hire paid staff to supervise and manage day-to-day activities. Beechwood State Park will need both permanent and seasonal staff to maximize recreation opportunities during the peak summer season. Full time, year-round positions could include a manager, grounds keeper, education director and park patrol officer. Seasonal staff should be hired during the late spring to early fall including lifeguards (if swimming is eventually permitted), attendants for the visitor center, and additional education and maintenance staff.

Create "Friends Group" for Beechwood Volunteers

Volunteers and community involvement will be crucial to the success of Beechwood State Park. The purpose of a formal volunteer organization would be to maximize the effectiveness of volunteers by offering training for complex tasks, increasing the involvement of volunteers in the

park, coordinating fundraisers and community events, increasing community involvement, and providing feedback on management actions. Such an organization will be a vital resource for the park staff, which will need additional assistance to maintain and open the park, as well as help with fundraising and community outreach.

Provide Opportunities for Public Comment on the Management Plans

Public commentary and feedback is vital to maximizing the recreation opportunities and quality in any park. Opportunities for public comment should be provided in multiple forms to allow feedback to be provided by all users. Some forms of public participation that should be considered include public meetings (either organized annually or when public input is needed) to discuss ongoing and future management activities in Beechwood State Park, and passive forms of leaving feedback (e.g., comment boxes; email address for comments).

Maintenance and Facilities

Create and Maintain a Safe Atmosphere for Park Visitors

All on-site structures should be evaluated at least on a monthly basis to ensure that boards are in place on windows and doors. Signage should be used to warn visitors of the dangers associated with the pool, bluffs, lakeshore, deteriorated buildings, and the cobblestone field house. Fencing should be maintained around the pool to prevent visitors from entering this structure.

Trails Should Be Maintained Regularly

Initial trail modifications should be made so that the trails are safe and in usable condition (see trails recommendations). The entirety of the trails system should be walked on a weekly basis; any obstructions should be cleared from the pathway. Trail areas having significant erosion should be addressed quickly in order to prevent the erosion from worsening. Trail condition evaluations should occur promptly after severe weather events.

Provide and Maintain Lake Ontario Access

Access to the Lake Ontario shore should be provided on the North end of the property at the site of the old ten platforms (NOTE: access to the lake via the bluff area is not recommended due to the potential for harm to visitors and severe erosion). Shoreline access should be monitored at least on a weekly basis as this area is prone to wind/water erosion due to exposure to the lake, and following severe weather events.

Provide and Maintain Orchard Access

At the very least, trails should be mowed throughout portions of the apple orchard to allow for hiking. Occasional brush hogging will be needed in this area to prevent the orchard from becoming overgrown with brush. Brush and pricker bushes should be allowed to take over along the edges of the orchard to keep visitors off adjacent private lands.

Provide and Maintain a Group Meeting Space

Some type of structure should be provided for group meetings. Currently the Lakeview Lodge provides the best opportunity for groups meetings. This building should most likely be used on a

permit only basis. After each permitted use, the building should be inspected and all garbage removed.

Provide and Maintain Functional Restrooms

Restrooms must be provided for the park to be able to facilitate large groups. At this juncture installing portable toilets is the least labor intensive and most cost effective option. Depending on levels of use, these facilities will have to be cleaned and restocked (toilet paper, hand sanitizer, etc.) on a weekly basis.

Maintain Park Roads and Parking Areas

Park roads and parking lots will need to be mowed on a weekly basis in the summer to allow for visitors to drive and park vehicles in the park. Dirt and gravel roads/lots will need to be inspected in the spring and after severe weather events for erosion or washouts. Grading and leveling may be necessary to provide level parking areas and travel surfaces for visitors.

Mowing

Mowing should be conducted weekly (depending on season/weather) in heavy use areas of the park. The field north of the dining hall should be a main focus of this mowing. It is also recommended that mowing continues around the Ranger's House. Mowing should only be conducted in areas that see frequent use as this practice is costly and time consuming.

Electricity

Above ground wires should be inspected biweekly to look for any hazardous conditions. Inspection of these wires is crucial after severe weather events. Running underground electricity should be pursued when funding allows.

Water

At this point, funding will not allow for the installation of an underground water system. Furthermore portable toilets are not dependent on water. Groups using the park should be notified that potable water is not available in the park and that they need to bring their own water. Should use of the park increase, water lines and spigots will be needed.

Garbage Removal

The carry in, carry out policy should stay in place. Signage that advertises this policy should remain at park entrances. A trash receptacle should be provided in group use facilities and this receptacle should be checked and emptied if needed after each permitted use.

Implement a Reservation System

A reservation system will need to be implemented for use of Lakeview Lodge, and use of group campsites. At present, a phone number contact will be adequate; in the future, if reservations are needed more often, an automated, web-based system may be needed.

Implement a System to Separate Youth Groups and Day-Users

In order to ensure the safety of youth groups and prevent youth groups from negatively impacting the recreational experiences of day users, it will be important to separate these user groups as much as possible. Group use of the Lakeview lodge (or any other renovated structure

in the park) should be on a permit basis only. Permit holders should be instructed to not enter youth camping areas; reservation forms should require an organization's agreement with this stipulation. Similarly, youth groups should be instructed as to which areas of the park they are permitted to use. For day users, trailhead kiosks could use a park map with color coding to communicate to visitors where day use is permitted (i.e., areas intended for group use will be shown in one color, while areas intended for day-use will be shown in another).

Grants and Funding

Develop a Master Plan

In order to assess what the financial needs of the park will be, a Master Plan for Beechwood State Park should be developed. Knowing what buildings and infrastructure need to be built will enable the Town of Sodus to apply for the appropriate grants. We recognize, however, that development of a master plan may take time and some projects may need to be started first.

Short-term Funding

Fundraisers. Work with local groups identified in other portions of this report to hold fundraisers. These could be in the form of direct donation requests or volunteer-based sales (e.g., bake sales) at booths at local community events.

Loans. Loan options are listed in the assessment report. The difficulty with loans lies in how they will be repaid.

Town budget. The Town of Sodus is already providing funding for park maintenance through its Highway Department. Additional funding could be provided within town budget limitations.

Hire an Experienced Grant Writer

Due to the importance of procuring grants, we recommend that a professional grant writer be hired if the town of Sodus does not already have one on staff. It may be possible to find an experienced grant writer from the area who is willing to volunteer his/her time to write proposals.

Apply for Grants

Many of the grants listed in the assessment plan are available each year. Not all projects in the park will be ready for a grant in the first year. Consideration for grants should be based on the projects of high priority (e.g., facility renovations, hazard signs). Grant sources should also be researched periodically, since the grant sources listed in the assessment are not all of the possible grants available. The grant writer for the park should research other grant sources that may be appropriate.

Legislative Grants

We recommend starting conversations with local legislative representatives about procuring legislative grants. We recommend having a representative of the Town of Sodus talk with legislators about the plans for the park and the need for funding. Specific projects and funding amounts should be discussed.

Establish a Park Sponsor Program

A park sponsor program could provide the funding or materials needed for park projects, in exchange for recognizing local sponsors such as individuals, families, and businesses. An example of this could be bench donations with plaques that may say “in memory of” or “donated by.” Different types of donations could be solicited for different levels of recognition. There could be options for benches, bricks, exhibits, building renovations, and trailhead kiosks.

Estate Donations and Dedications

It may be possible to gain funds through estate donations. The Girl Scout camp has been here for a long time and many people in the community have fond childhood memories of the park. We recommend asking these people if they would consider donating to the park through their estate. Another option might be to ask for donations that are dedicated to loved ones who have recently passed.

Park Fees

The decision of whether or not to have park fees will likely be determined during the master plan phase. Specific ideas on which users should pay, and how much they pay, are beyond our ability to recommend at this time. We do recommend, however, that park fees be considered for groups who use facilities or who stay overnight. Day users should remain free in order to encourage day use and to reduce staff time required to collect admission fees. Facility users and overnight campers are putting more wear and tear on the things that cost money to build, and therefore should be charged for that usage. Installing a donation box is recommended near the park entrance. It could have a sign saying something like, “help us keep the park free for day-users,” or “support your local park.”

Sales

If a visitor center is built, it may be possible to sell park-related and local craft items to visitors. If a visitor center is built, a committee (comprised of the park manager and a few members from the community) could be organized to decide the details of what should be sold. There are many factors to consider when deciding what to sell; having community input will ensure that nobody is upset by decisions. We recommend that the committee work with the local community to identify items to be sold that are unique to the area. It may be possible, and prudent, to work with local businesses to sell products on consignment. Other items to consider selling would be items directly related to the activities and programs that are created for the park as well as any NY state related items. We also recommend considering creating a logo for Beechwood State Park and selling some collectibles with the logo.

Budget

Short-term

For the short term, it is recommended that a park manager be identified *before* the master plan is developed. This manager could then provide professional insight and experience into the development of the master plan. At the same time, the manager could take over the job of park maintenance, start the early processes of securing grants and other funding, work to form the "Friends of the Beechwood" group, and start work on many of the other recommendations listed

in this report. A recommended salary for a paid park manager would be \$40,000 before benefits. This number could potentially be reduced if the ranger house were supplied as housing for the manager. The manager should be provided with an operating budget to cover the expenses of the park. We recommend an initial \$5,000-\$10,000 budget for the first year. Review of the first year's expenses will help determine what the operating budget would be for the following year.

Accountant

There are financial and time costs associated with reviewing the park's financial records. Consider looking for an accountant to work pro-bono from a local bank or business, or utilize an accountant associated with the Town of Sodus. Monitoring the budget on a regular basis will allow the park to correct budgetary concerns before major issues arise.

Long-term

It is difficult to determine what the master plan for Beechwood will look like, and therefore it is difficult to recommend a specific annual budget. It is recommended, however, to look at the budget of a similar park, Clark Reservation State Park, and base the long-term projections for Beechwood's budget on Clark's budget. Clark Reservation State Park's operating budget is approximately \$100,000 annually (Table 1).

Table 1. Clark Reservation State Park annual operating costs for 2009/10.

Item	Annual cost
Personnel (3 Permanent & 5 seasonal)	\$80,000
Gasoline	\$6000
Electricity	\$5300
Telephone	\$800
Propane	\$500
Diesel	\$2100
Water	\$700
Landfill	\$625
Internet	\$650
Discretionary Funds	\$5,000
Total	\$101,675

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitor Conservation and Sustainability Efforts

Park efforts towards conservation, green infrastructure, and renewable energy can be monitored by park staff or volunteers, with direction from the park manager. Each group, or group leader, that comes in for programs should be surveyed to see if the park is actually getting the message across to their constituents about specific conservation-related efforts. By evaluating park visitors, the manager will be able to gauge the benefits of investing in green infrastructure and renewable energy systems.

Monitor Recreational Experiences

To manage for and provide high quality, multi-use recreational experiences, it is recommended that the experiences of visitors be monitored by posting a 'suggestions' box and utilizing evaluation forms directly after each event held on the premises. The costs of such monitoring are time from employees and paper costs, along with the wooden suggestion box. The benefit of monitoring is the ability to enhance programs for future groups. In addition, monitoring of programs and events can be done during and after each event, asking participants if they enjoyed the program and taking suggestions for future events. Once formed, the "Friends of Beechwood" group could assist with monitoring park programs to reduce monitoring costs.

Park Facilities

To develop and maintain on site facilities, the park manager should monitor buildings and trails on a weekly basis for fallen trees, vandalism and other potential hazards.

Estimate Park Use

Estimating park use can be done in several ways. Installing trail counters at major access trails would provide an estimated number of day users visiting the park. While this method would not require staff time, trail counters can be expensive (\$300 to \$1,000 per unit). Another option is to have staff monitor parking facility use on random weekends and weekdays; visitor estimates can be derived from these counts. Records of the number of users in groups reserving the campsites should also be maintained.

Complete an Annual Park Improvement Inventory

Using the master plan to be prepared for Beechwood, park staff should monitor the park's restoration efforts on an annual basis by creating a complete list of the structures and infrastructures on the property, their current condition, and restoration efforts still needed. This inventory will keep park restoration efforts on track, enabling prioritization of the tasks still needed.

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