

Master Plan Updates: Key Issues

- Access and Community Connectivity
- Conservation & Sustainability
- Active Living to Address Preventable Health Problems
- Green Infrastructure
- Shared Use of Trails
- Waterfront Use and Access
- Dog Parks

- *Engineering
- *Education
- *Encouragement
- *Enforcement

IRONDEQUOIT BAY PARK WEST :

FACILITIES

- *Signage Improvements:* Make improvements to entry signage and directional signage.
- *Road Improvements:* Make improvements to surface conditions of existing roads.
- *Existing Marina:* Continue existing partnership between County and marina owners.
- *Glen Haven Area:* Preserve in natural condition. Possible future addition of facility for small boat launch.
- *Stormwater Management:* Abatement of existing drainage problems and address stormwater management issues.
- *Shared-Use Bicycle Trail:* Establish shared-use trail in Irondequoit Bay Park West that is suitable for intermediate cyclists.
- *Paddler Access:* Provide landing point for paddlers at Irondequoit Bay Park West, on narrow waterfront portion of park, halfway between main park and Empire Blvd.
- *New Trail Connection:* Utilize old railroad bed to provide waterfront trail corridor from Empire Blvd into the park. Would provide connection from parkland on south side of Empire Blvd. (Ellison Wetlands and Tryon Park).
- *Pedestrian Crossing of Empire Blvd.:* Develop a safe pedestrian and bicycle crossing of Empire Blvd.

PROGRAMS

- *New Park Name:* Consider re-naming the park to establish unique identity and increase public recognition.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Stream Bank Stabilization:* Stream bank stabilization strategies along ravines draining to Irondequoit Bay. There are several opportunities for stream restoration in the upper drainage basin in the western portion of the park.

TRYON PARK :

FACILITIES

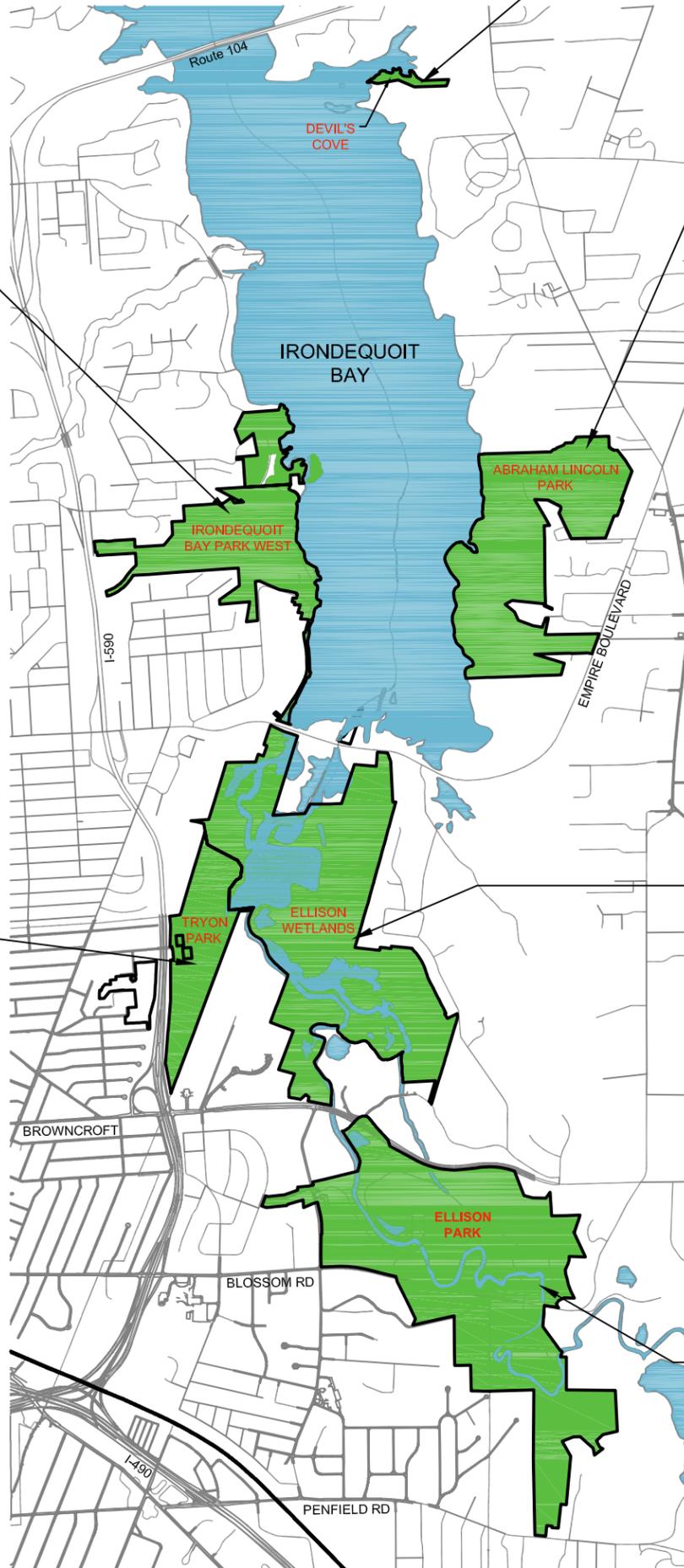
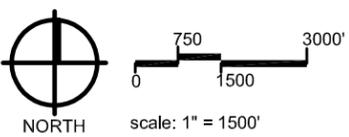
- *Access and Parking Improvements:* In coordination with Monroe County Department of Environmental Services, identify additional access, parking, and trailhead opportunities.
- *Biking-Hiking Interface:* Address the biking-hiking interface by placing bicycle racks at appropriate locations.
- *Tryon Park Expansion:* Investigate possible additional land acquisitions to expand Tryon Park.
- *New Signage System:* Develop a new signage system that includes entry signage, regulatory signage, interpretive signage, and wayfinding signage.
- *Upgrade Road/Trail:* Improve and upgrade the condition of the deteriorating paved road by removing the pavement and reverting it back to a trail.

PROGRAMS

- *Off-Road Cycling:* Open natural surface trails in Tryon Park to off-road cycling.
- *Off-Road Cycling Workshops:* Establish educational programs and workshops to encourage safe and responsible off-road cycling. Apply lessons learned from the successful shared-use trails in the area and the region.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Evaluation Period:* Establish an 18-month evaluation period to monitor impacts of policy changes on park use, facilities, and users.
- *Develop Partnerships:* Develop partnerships between the Monroe County Parks Department and community trail user groups for appropriate trail development and maintenance.
- *Ecological Enhancements:* Enhance small disturbed area in clearing where deteriorating paved trail terminates in the center of the park. One possibility would be to maintain this as an open area with native herbaceous plant species and shrub plantings.
- *Stream Restoration:* There are opportunities for stream restoration in the lower areas of the primary stream corridor that flows through the park, especially on the lower reaches before the confluence with Irondequoit Creek.



ALL PARKS:

FACILITIES

- *Waterfront Paddling Destinations:* Establish a linked circuit of waterfront destinations for paddlers around Irondequoit Bay.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Invasive Species Control:* Environmental enhancements to control invasive species. Could involve community labor and/or partnerships with community groups.
- *Park Boundaries:* Survey and delineate park boundaries.
- *Sustainable Trail Practices:* Establish sustainable trail practices for natural surface trails. Designate "wet weather trails" that have gravel surfaces and low slope angles that can tolerate more use under wet conditions.
- *Inventory of Existing Trails:* Complete a thorough inventory and analysis of existing park trails using GPS technology. Identify trail corridors and locate problem areas that are unsustainable (e.g. badly eroded, poorly drained) or dangerous.
- *Trail Monitoring Program:* Establish trail monitoring program to record trail use patterns and problem areas.
- *Park Maps (Except Ellison Park):* Develop illustrative, informative park maps that are comparable to the map for Ellison Park to inform users of available facilities and to delineate park boundaries. Make maps available on County website.
- *Utilize Internet and Web Tools:* Expand use of the Parks Department website; post park rules, hours, trail etiquette, park information, facilities information. Identify shared-use trails. Post and update trail conditions and user advisories.

DEVIL'S COVE :

FACILITIES

- *Paddler Access:* Provide landing point for paddlers at Devil's Cove Park.
- *Trail Access:* Provide walk-in trail access to the park from a small parking off of Bay Road. Potential access arrangements and/or property acquisitions could be investigated.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Water Quality:* Devil's Cove is a critical priority for aquatic habitat protection due to the high species diversity, important spawning and nursery habitat, and the presence of walleye.
- *Environmental Enhancements:* Environmental enhancements to improve habitat value.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PARK :

FACILITIES

- *Parking and Access at 1559 Empire Blvd.:* Provide new access, parking, entry signage, ADA-accessible nature trail and playground area, and trailhead at 1559 Empire Blvd.
- *Park Entry Signage:* Provide additional park entry signage at Smith Rd.
- *Repair Park Access Rd.* Provide surface repairs and improvements to park access road.
- *Interpretive Signage:* Provide signage with trail maps and interpretive information on natural and historical resources within the park.
- *Additional Parking:* Investigate the potential of additional parking spots along the park access road.
- *Playing Fields:* Possible future addition of playing fields on plateau in old nursery area, in partnership with Towns of local sporting groups.
- *Protect Old Lilac Nursery:* Inventory and protect the horticultural resources of the Old Lilac Nursery.
- *Construct New Waterfront Lodge:* Design and construct a new waterfront lodge, dock, and parking with multi-purpose functionality and enhanced waterfront recreational opportunities.

PROGRAMS

- *Maximize Partnerships:* Maximize partnerships with Bay View YMCA, Rochester Rowing Club and others.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Stream Bank Stabilization and Restoration:* Stream bank stabilization strategies along ravines draining to Irondequoit Bay. There are several opportunities for stream restoration in the upper drainage basins especially in the southeastern portion of the park.
- *Habitat Enhancements:* The old field/early successional forest adjacent to Smith Road, and outside of the Old Lilac Nursery, could benefit from a vegetative management plan to help naturalize and stabilize this area.
- *Native Planting Program:* Implement a native planting program to enhance biodiversity of native plant communities.

ELLISON WETLANDS :

FACILITIES

- *Construction of Empire Boulevard Access Point:* Construction of a new access, parking area and car-top boat launch.
- *Browncroft Blvd. Access and Parking:* New parking and access area possible on north side of Browncroft Blvd, at Landing Rd.
- *Parking and Access Improvements:* Minor parking and access improvements on Old Browncroft Blvd.

PROGRAMS

- *Environmental Education and Conservation:* Emphasize ecological conservation and environmental education. Organize nature-oriented programs and events.
- *Increase Use of Monroe County Wetland Center:* Increase use of Monroe County Wetland Center for environmental and recreational functions.
- *New Park Name:* Consider re-naming the park to establish unique identity and increase public recognition.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Habitat Enhancement:* Install root wads in the shallow water corridors and mud flats to increase and improve the amount of diverse habitat for aquatic wildlife. Partnership with NYSDEC.

ELLISON PARK :

FACILITIES

- *Dog Park:* Construction of a contained dog area inside Ellison Park, using privately raised non-County funds.
- *Upgrade Pavilion Lodge:* Stone chimney repointing, masonry chimney rebuild and repointing, exterior painting, replace basement stairs, replace exterior stone stair and railing, replace gutters and downspouts.
- *Structural Improvements to Existing Buildings:* Structural improvements to other existing buildings (canoe launch, restroom buildings, lodges, shelters, and Fort Schuyler).
- *Paddler Access:* Provide landing points for paddlers on Irondequoit Creek. Identify potential areas for paddlers to disembark and use park facilities. Strengthen connections between Ellison Park and the Ellison Wetlands.
- *Trail Improvements:* Improve trails from south entrance. Possible enhancements of trail surfacing on high-use trails, such as the Coyote Trail. Apply gravel surface to equestrian trails.
- *Re-open park road:* Re-open existing park road from Landing Road to creek bridge. Increase emergency access, public safety, and possible future addition of ADA parking and creek access.

MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE:

- *Stream Bank Stabilization:* Stream bank stabilization strategies along Irondequoit Creek.
- *Stream Bank Restoration:* Stream bank restoration along Irondequoit Creek in areas damaged by frequent dog use.
- *Habitat Enhancement:* Implement a planting plan to convert areas of maintained lawn to forest or shrub communities.

Ellison Park Area Master Plans

Monroe County, New York

Figure F: Park Improvement Recommendations