

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1

## VOLUME 1

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND.....	V1-3
1.1.1 SIGNIFICANT NEW PARK FEATURES AND DEVELOPMENT.....	V1-4
1.1.2 PARK ACQUISITION.....	V1-4
1.1.3 SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2003 MASTER PLAN.....	V1-5
1.1.4 SIGNIFICANT PARKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.....	V1-6
1.1.5 GRANTS OBTAINED FOR PARKS AND TRAILS IMPROVEMENTS.....	V1-7
1.2 PROJECT TEAM.....	V1-9
1.3 STUDY PROCESS.....	V1-10
1.3.1 PUBLIC CONSULTATION.....	V1-10
1.3.2 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS.....	V1-10
1.3.3 PARKS USER SURVEY.....	V1-13
1.3.4 MEETINGS AND WORK SESSIONS.....	V1-16
1.3.5 OPEN HOUSES (FINAL PUBLIC OUTREACH.....	V1-16
1.4 MASTER PLAN COMPONENTS.....	V1-16
1.4.1 INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND CONDITIONS.....	V1-16
1.4.2 ASSESSMENT OF ANALYSIS OF OPERATIONS AND MARKETING STRATEGIES.....	V1-17
1.4.3 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF EXISTING PARK PLANS.....	V1-18
1.4.4 WATERFRONT ACCESS AND TRAILWAYS.....	V1-19
1.5 MASTER PLAN DOCUMENTS.....	V1-19

### 2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 COUNTY OVERVIEW.....	V1-21
2.1.1 REGIONAL SETTING.....	V1-21
2.1.2 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.....	V1-21
2.1.3 LAND USE.....	V1-22
2.1.4 ERIE COUNTY HISTORY - ABBREVIATED VERSION.....	V1-22
2.2 NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE SETTING.....	V1-24
2.2.1 LANDFORM.....	V1-24
2.2.2 RIVERS AND STREAMS.....	V1-24
2.2.3 CLIMATE.....	V1-24
2.2.4 SIGNIFICANT HABITAT.....	V1-24
2.2.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE.....	V1-25

### 3.0 OVERALL SYSTEM FRAMEWORK

3.1 ROLE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COUNTY PARK SYSTEM.....	V1-27
3.2 MISSION AND GOALS.....	V1-30
3.2.1 MISSION STATEMENT.....	V1-31
3.2.2 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	V1-31
3.3 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS.....	V1-32
3.3.1 HERITAGE PARKS.....	V1-32
3.3.2 WATERFRONT PARKS.....	V1-33
3.3.3 SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS.....	V1-34
3.3.4 CONSERVATIONS PARKS.....	V1-35
3.3.5 FOREST MANAGEMENT AREAS.....	V1-35

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

3.4	PARK SYSTEM ASSESSMENT.....	V1-36
3.4.1	OVERVIEW OF INVENTORY.....	V1-38
3.4.2	CONCLUSION.....	V1-39
4.0	OVERALL SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS	
4.1	COUNTY ROLE IN RECREATION SERVICES DELIVERY.....	V1-41
4.2	OPEN SPACE SYSTEM PLANNING.....	V1-42
4.3	PARKS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.....	V1-44
4.3.1	PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FEATURES.....	V1-45
4.3.2	PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATURAL SYSTEMS.....	V1-46
4.3.3	ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PARKS MANAGEMENT.....	V1-46
4.3.4	GENERAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS.....	V1-46
4.3.5	PLAYGROUND SYSTEMS.....	V1-48
4.4	MARKETING STRATEGY.....	V1-50
4.4.1	INTRODUCTION.....	V1-50
4.4.2	CROSS-MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES.....	V1-51
4.4.3	MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.....	V1-52
4.4.4	PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.....	V1-53
4.5	RECREATION AND PROGRAMMING ANALYSIS.....	V1-54
4.6	OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ANALYSIS.....	V1-54
4.7	FINANCIAL ANALYSIS.....	V1-56
4.7.1	CURRENT CONDITIONS.....	V1-56
4.7.2	CURRENT COST RECOVERY .....	V1-56
4.7.3	PROPOSED COST RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS .....	V1-57
4.7.4	ADDITIONAL REVENUE POTENTIAL .....	V1-60
4.7.5	FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR SERVICE DELIVERY .....	V1-60
5.0	PARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	
5.1	PARK MANAGEMENT ZONES.....	V1-65
5.2	ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT.....	V1-70
5.2.1	MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION STRATEGIES.....	V1-70
5.2.2	NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY.....	V1-71
5.2.3	FORESTRY AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN PARKS.....	V1-71
5.2.4	WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION.....	V1-78
5.2.5	WATER QUALITY PROTECTION.....	V1-79
5.2.6	EROSION CONTROL.....	V1-81
5.2.7	ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.....	V1-84
5.2.8	ALTERNATIVE MOWING TECHNIQUES.....	V1-85
5.2.9	TECHNICAL RESOURCES.....	V1-87
5.3	PUBLIC AWARENESS EDUCATION.....	V1-87
5.4	VOLUNTEER/PROGRAM POLICY.....	V1-88
5.5	SIGNAGE SYSTEM.....	V1-88
5.5.1	PARK IDENTIFICATION AND INFORMATION SIGNS.....	V1-90
5.5.2	DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE.....	V1-90
5.5.3	REGULATORY SIGNS.....	V1-91
5.5.4	PARK RULES.....	V1-92
5.5.5	INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION SIGNS.....	V1-93
6.0	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES	
6.1	PARKS STRATEGIES.....	V1-95
6.1.1	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES.....	V1-95

6.1.2	REPAIR AND REMOVAL OF FACILITIES THAT COMPROMISE PUBLIC SAFETY.....	V1-95
6.1.3	RESTORATION OF SIGNIFICANT HERITAGE STRUCTURES.....	V1-95
6.1.4	IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES THAT EXTEND CORE RECREATION .....	V1-96
	OPPORTUNITIES	
6.1.5	PARK NATURALIZATION.....	V1-96
6.1.6	TRAILWAYS.....	V1-97
6.1.7	ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY AND IMPROVEMENTS.....	V1-97
6.1.8	ACQUISITION AND CONSOLIDATION STRATEGY.....	V1-98
6.2	PARKS OPERATIONS DISCUSSION AND STRATEGIES.....	V1-99
6.2.1	NRPA PARK METRICS BENCHMARKING.....	V1-99
6.2.1.1	OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES.....	V1-100
6.2.1.2	PERSONNEL.....	V1-100
6.2.1.3	WORKLOAD.....	V1-101
6.2.1.4	CONCLUSIONS.....	V1-103
6.2.2	ORGANIZATIONAL ANALYSIS.....	V1-103
6.2.3	STAFFING ANALYSIS.....	V1-104
6.2.3.1	STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS.....	V1-104
6.3	MARKETING RECOMMENDATIONS.....	V1-106

## VOLUME 2

1.0	INTRODUCTION.....	V2-2
1.1	CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTERS.....	V2-3
2.0	HERITAGE PARKS.....	V2-8
2.1	AKRON FALLS PARK.....	V2-9
2.2	CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK.....	V2-31
2.3	COMO LAKE PARK.....	V2-65
2.4	ELLICOTT CREEK PARK.....	V2-91
2.5	EMERY PARK.....	V2-125
3.0	WATERFRONT PARKS.....	V2-152
3.1	ISLE VIEW PARK.....	V2-153
3.2	BLACK ROCK CANAL PARK.....	V2-169
3.3	TOW PATH PARK.....	V2-179
3.4	WENDT BEACH PARK.....	V2-189
3.5	BENNETT BEACH PARK.....	V2-205
4.0	SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS.....	V2-220
4.1	ELMA MEADOWS PARK.....	V2-221
4.2	GROVER CLEVELAND GOLF COURSE.....	V2-233
4.3	SPRAGUE BROOK PARK.....	V2-243
5.0	CONSERVATION PARKS.....	V2-260
5.1	BOSTON FOREST PARK.....	V2-261
5.2	EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK PARK.....	V2-267
5.3	FRANKLIN GULF PARK.....	V2-275
5.4	HUNTERS CREEK PARK.....	V2-281
5.5	SCOBY DAM PARK.....	V2-295
5.6	BUFFALO RIVER NATURAL HABITAT PARKS.....	V2-305
5.7	LAKEVIEW POCKET PRESERVE.....	V2-341
6.0	FORESTRY LOTS (1-13) .....	V2-344

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

## VOLUME 3

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	V3-3
2.0 TYPICAL TRAILWAY CONDITIONS.....	V3-5
2.1 MULTI-USE PATH.....	V3-5
2.2 BICYCLE LANE.....	V3-5
2.3 WIDE CURB LANE.....	V3-5
2.4 PAVED SHOULDER.....	V3-5
2.5 SHARED LANE.....	V3-5
2.6 BICYCLE ROUTE.....	V3-6
2.7 NON-COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS.....	V3-6
2.7.1 UTILITY CORRIDORS.....	V3-6
2.7.2 RAILROAD CORRIDORS.....	V3-7
2.7.3 LOCAL AND STATE ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....	V3-8
2.8 MAINTENANCE.....	V3-8
3.0 TRAILWAYS AND CONNECTIVITY.....	V3-11
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	V3-11
3.2 COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.....	V3-11
3.2.1 CITY OF BUFFALO.....	V3-11
3.2.2 CLARENCE/AKRON AREA.....	V3-12
3.2.3 DEPEW/LANCASTER AREA.....	V3-13
3.2.4 EAST AURORA/WALES AREA.....	V3-13
3.2.5 HAMBURG/ORCHARD PARK AREA.....	V3-14
3.2.6 TOWN OF EVANS/BRANT AREA.....	V3-15
3.2.7 BOSTON/COLDEN/HOLLAND AREA.....	V3-15
4.0 WATERFRONT STRATEGY.....	V3-17
4.1 COUNTY'S ROLE ON THE WATERFRONT.....	V3-17
4.1.1 GENERAL.....	V3-17
4.1.2 NORTH SECTION.....	V3-18
4.1.3 CENTRAL SECTIONS (CITY OF BUFFALO) .....	V3-19
4.1.4 SOUTHERN SECTION.....	V3-20
4.2 BACKGROUND STUDIES AND INITIATIVES.....	V3-21
4.3 REGIONAL WATERFRONT SITES.....	V3-22
4.4 POLICY DIRECTION.....	V3-34
4.4.1 WATERFRONT PLANNING.....	V3-34
4.4.2 MANAGEMENT OF THE WATERFRONT RECREATION SYSTEM.....	V3-34
4.5 WATERFRONT PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS.....	V3-34
4.5.1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.....	V3-34
4.5.2 ACCESS AND LINKAGES.....	V3-34
4.6 CONCLUSION.....	V3-34
5.0 WATERFRONT TRAIL SYSTEM.....	V3-37
5.1 INTRODUCTION.....	V3-37
5.2 DESCRIPTION AND STATUS.....	V3-37
5.3 PRIMARY WATERFRONT RECREATION TRAIL SEGMENTS.....	V3-38
5.4 CONCLUSION.....	V3-44
6.0 INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	V3-47
6.1 RIVERWALK SECTION OF THE SHORELINE TRAIL.....	V3-47
6.2 TWO MILE CREEK GREENWAY.....	V3-67
7.0 SCHEMATIC PLANS.....	V3-77

**VOLUME 4**

1.0 INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF FEATURES..... V4-3  
2.0 WPA ASSESSMENT..... V4-32

**APPENDICES**