

3.0 WATERFRONT PARKS

3.1 BENNETT PARK

DESCRIPTION

Bennett Beach is a special place along the eastern shoreline of Lake Erie, having one of the last remaining natural sand beaches and dunes. This unique lakefront park is approximately 50 acres in size and is located in the Town of Evans. Old Lakeshore Road splits the park into two halves, with the western half as “beach-related” open space and the remainder as an undeveloped natural wooded area. The park is also bisected from the northwest to the southeast by Big Sister Creek, which is an attractive fishing spot. A pedestrian bridge provides access from an existing parking area over to the beach. In general, the park is very flat, except for the large sand dunes and an 8’ high berm north of the bridge along the Creek.

Limited facilities exist at Bennett Beach, including a comfort station located at the parking area. The former Bennett Mansion was removed from the park a few years ago. Also, on the beach are old concrete foundation remains, approximately 30’ long, which act as a break wall against erosion (however, it may inhibit natural dune processes). The old Angola Water Treatment Facility sits abandoned just to the south of the Bennett Beach property.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

Bennett Beach sits on the site of the old Bennett Estate. The property was originally acquired by the City of Buffalo, and more recently was acquired by Erie County. While most beaches along the eastern Lake Erie shoreline have either been destroyed, altered or are under private ownership, Bennett Beach is one of the very few publicly held waterfront parks in this part of the County. Bennett Beach still retains some of the historic landscape features that once were so common along the Lakeshore, including a natural sand beach and impressive sand dunes. In addition, there are back-dune wetlands remaining and the natural dynamics of Big Sister Creek’s outlet into the Lake.

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

- Restroom structure
- Pedestrian bridge
- Picnic area
- Natural sand beach and dunes
- Fishing access

It has been said that an “Old Growth” forest, with trees between 200 years and 500 years old, exists on the property immediately adjacent to the park to the north.

LOCAL CONTEXT

Bennett Beach is located approximately 23 miles south of downtown Buffalo, at the intersection of Old Lakeshore Road and Bennett Road. The beach-front property to both the north and south of Bennett Beach is primarily single family residential, with most housing options historically “summer” or “seasonal” cottages owned by people in the greater Buffalo area. Areas to the east of the park are generally low density, rural residential developments. Traveling south from Bennett Beach is the thickly settled hamlet of Lake Erie Beach (Evans), a popular summer resort area with a few seasonal commercial establishments. Recent years have seen more year round residents, as residential Lakefront property has become a very “hot” commodity. The lakefront areas to the north of Bennett Beach along Old Lakeshore Road are traditionally comprised of larger estates, many dating back to the early 1900s.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Bennett Beach is a passive-oriented park, offering no structured playing fields or courts.

Wendt Beach is another County-owned lakefront park situated only one mile to the north of Bennett Beach. However, Wendt Beach is of a much different character, with the distinct and historic mansion setting, stony beach (non-sand), and the expansive soccer fields.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *Bennett Beach does not appear to be maximizing its potential.*
- *The parking lot is poorly defined and in poor condition*
- *The existing restroom structure is inadequate and “out of character” for this beautiful lakefront setting*
- *The Old Concrete foundation on the beach is both an eyesore and a potential safety hazard in the future.*
- *The walk from the parking area to the beach is difficult on the ill-defined pathway.*



NEARBY PARKS WITH UNIQUE FEATURES

(WITHIN A 5-MILE RADIUS)

Town of Evans:

- Ayer-Stevenson Wildlife Sanctuary
A 20-acre wildlife sanctuary
- Evans Town Park
A resident-only beach park
- Lake Erie Beach Park
- Sturgeon Point Marina
Town owned and operated marina

Village of Angola:

- Point Breeze Campground
A private marina with camp sites
- Angola Rollercade

Town of Hanover:

- Evangola State Park
A 733-acre state park with beach access



MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

There are two potential development / redevelopment scenarios that are being considered for Bennett Beach Park in the Town of Evans. One scheme is based on a future acquisition by the County of the abandoned Water Treatment Facility adjacent to the park (at the end of Schwert Road); a second scheme assumes that the County will not acquire this facility.

ALTERNATE CONCEPT PLAN A (WITH WATER FACILITY ACQUISITION)

- *The County acquires the abandoned Water Treatment Facility, and undertakes an architectural / structural feasibility study of the building to review the most efficient and cost-effective measures for bringing the facility up to standards and appropriate park-related functions. A public-private partnership should be considered for this venture, including potentially bringing in an outside operator to establish this new facility. It is possible that it may cost more, given the building's current interior layout, to renovate/ rehabilitate the existing building rather than building a new facility. If total reconstruction is deemed the most practical method, the new structure should take advantage of the existing foundations and build on the current footprint (Also minimizing any disturbance to the lakefront setting).*
 - A new beach related facility in this strategic location on the beach could serve numerous needs and functions for Bennett Beach Park, including restrooms, changing rooms, concessions/restaurant, lifeguard station, potential storage, etc.
 - This new facility should offer large outdoor patio spaces for people to enjoy the magnificent beach experience and views, including even those who do not partake in beach related activities, including some Sr. citizens, persons with certain disabilities, etc.
 - Interpretive and educational information should be included to tell the story of the natural shoreline conditions of Lake Erie. Possible meeting rooms could be included for environmental education classes, i.e. an on-site laboratory.

ALTERNATE CONCEPT PLAN B (WITHOUT WATER FACILITY ACQUISITION)

- *Similar to the current park situation, a new beach facility would not be an option on the site of the water treatment facility. However, the existing restroom facility at the park is substandard and inappropriate for current park needs, and thus it is recommended that a new facility be built on or near the site of the former Bennett House.*
 - This facility and siting would have a similar relationship to the newly constructed Beach/Bath House at Woodlawn Beach State Park, and would be strategically located between the parking lot and the beach.
 - Park-goers would proceed to the beach past, or through, the new facility on the way to and from the beach, offering restrooms, changing rooms, concessions and lockers, etc.
 - An outdoor patio/deck could overlook the beautiful “back dunes” setting and Big Sister Creek.
 - Under this scenario, it is recommended that a secondary shelter (“half-way” house) be built over the bridge along the boardwalk system, to offer people a spot to sit and rest, or take in some shade, on the way to the beach.
 - Interpretive and educational information should be included to tell the story of the natural shoreline conditions of Lake Erie. Possible meeting rooms could be included for environmental education classes, i.e. an on-site laboratory.



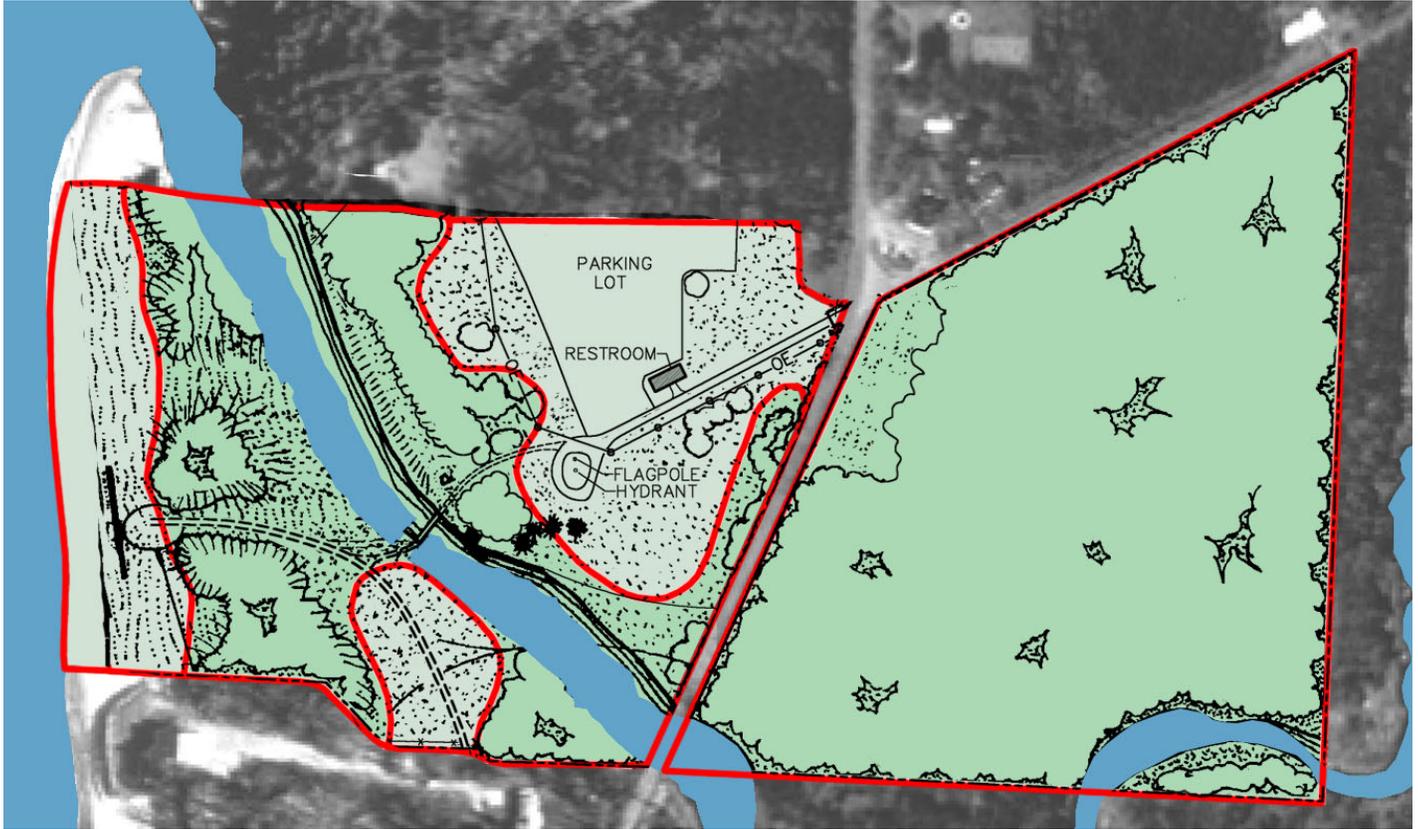
GENERAL IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR EITHER SCENARIO ABOVE)

- *Establish an ADA accessible boardwalk system through the existing “cut” in the natural sand dune to reduce further impacts and degradation to one of the last surviving natural sand dunes on the eastern Lake Erie Shoreline. This new boardwalk would allow for dune reinstatement/restoration, and would prevent further water erosion and debris build-up following every major storm along the lake.*
- *Incorporate new backshore beach activities, i.e. first aid/lifeguard station, and potential rentals (wind surfers, kayaks); Introduce Volleyball Courts (sand and/or grass) and other beach-related activities into the recreational mix.*
- *Preserve and enhance overall dune environment;*

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- incorporate new beach grasses and vegetation on the front side of the dune to assure long-term sustainability.*
- Establish picnic groves on east side of creek;*
 - Enhance winter use of site, including sledding off the back side of the sand dune and the incorporation of a low flat lawn area for skating activities.*
 - Consider the unsafe conditions at the current entrance/ intersection; relocate the park entrance road to the south for better site distances and safety;*
 - Reorganize and beautify parking area; consider using a natural crushed stone surface as a more environmentally friendly surface material.*
 - Given the three distinct zones of the park (beach, back of dune to creek area, and between the creek and road), provide emergency access through the water treatment facility area (Schwert Road) to the beach, off Schwert Road for the back-dunes, and off Lakeshore Road for the main park area;*
 - Establish a unique backshore/back of dune nature area with a traditional wetland and nature trail. This could be enhanced through environmental education and interpretive signage opportunities;*
 - Increase and enhance fishing opportunities and access points along Big Sister Creek. Establish and maintain riparian corridor;*
 - Maintain area east of Old Lakeshore Road as nature reserve. Provide limited trail access through this natural area to offer access to the Creek.*
 - Offer interpretive opportunities about the Lakefront environment, harsh weather conditions, dune restoration, creek habitat, local history, Bennett House history, etc. An entire signage package should be developed, similar to that at Woodlawn Beach.*
 - Establish a stronger linkage between Bennett Beach and the local community through new sidewalks and/or trails, streetscape enhancements, wayfinding signage, maps, etc.; Provide clear linkages from Bennett Beach to area bicycle routes and trails. This is a strong, tight-knit lakefront community that comes alive in the summer months.*
 - Establish a more dominant gateway into the park from Old Lakeshore Road.*

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- Consider a “Corporate Sponsorship” program which encourages local businesses from getting more involved with the Park, including sponsoring certain events, upgrading park features, setting up an interpretive signage program, etc.
 - Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards other needed tasks.
 - Provide appropriate new native tree plantings and other indigenous vegetation throughout the park.

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Legend		Nature Reserve Zones	Recreation Zones <i>(Active and Passive)</i>	Heritage Zones	Service Zones
	Nature Reserve Zone	Includes significant natural features or areas that require management to ensure the long-term protection of the natural heritage, i.e. woodlands, wetlands, natural open space areas (meadows), waterways, ravines, gorges and escarpment faces, steep slopes, etc.	Includes the 'maintained' landscape areas of the parks in which facilities development is permitted to support low to moderate intensity recreation activities, i.e. sports fields, specialized activities, picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, etc.		
	Recreation Zone				
	Heritage Zone				
	Service Zone				
	Zone Boundary				



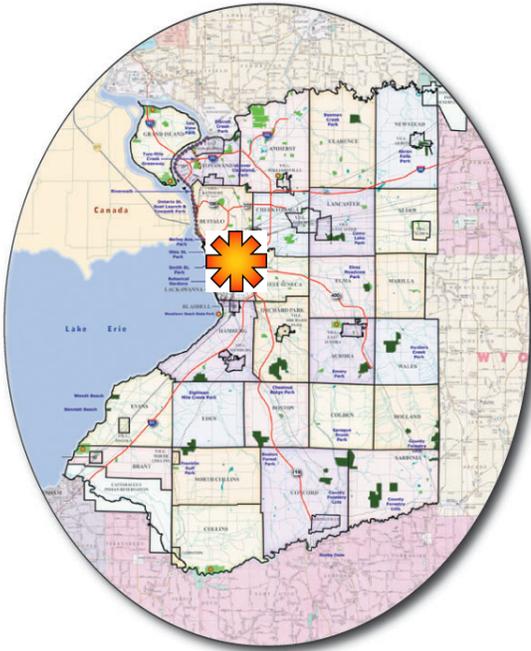
North

Bennett Beach Park MANAGEMENT ZONES

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*



3.2 BUFFALO RIVER PARKS

(OHIO STREET PARK, SMITH STREET PARK, BAILEY AVENUE PARK)

DESCRIPTION

Over the past few years, the County of Erie has taken a leadership role in the preservation and enhancement of the environment along the Buffalo River. This former industrialized corridor has seen much improvement with regard to water quality and habitat restoration. The County has worked closely with the City of Buffalo, New York State and various Federal Agencies to acquire three small, but notable, park sites along the Buffalo River, including Ohio Street Park, Smith Street Park and Bailey Avenue Park.

The Ohio Street site is a widely recognized fishing access site, and is a popular launch site for canoes and kayaks. A hidden gem lies at the foot of Smith Street along the Buffalo River, with excellent southerly views of the River and historic grain elevators. It also has a naturalized wetland / pond area which is more reminiscent of an earlier time in history, before industries took over the landscape. The Bailey Avenue site lies at the confluence of the Buffalo River and Cazenovia Creek. Both the Smith Street and Bailey Avenue park sites have become favorite fishing locations. A fourth County park site is currently being developed at the “Seneca Bluffs” site just east of the Bailey Avenue site at Seneca Street and Avon Place.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

All three Buffalo River Properties (Ohio Street, Smith Street and Bailey Avenue) have a similar story and history along the Buffalo River. There was a point in Buffalo’s history when the city was one of the largest and most powerful industrial centers in all the country, and the Buffalo River was at the epicenter of this industrial might. Ships once traveled up and down the river, servicing the numerous grain elevators, steel mills and other factories. It now seems hard to believe that heavy Industry once dominated this urban river-scape, and all three sites were formerly utilized for industrial related uses. Although some industry does still exist and some ships do pass through, it is a fraction of its former use, and now fish, wildlife and vegetation have come back to reclaim their historical homes.

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Ohio Street

- Parking area
- Canoe / Kayak launch
- Walkways and benches
- River Overlooks

Smith Street

- Parking area
- Fishing access
- Nature Trails
- River Overlooks
- Pond/wetland

Bailey Avenue

- Nature Trails
- Fishing access
- River Overlooks / seating areas

LOCAL CONTEXT

The area around the three park sites is former industrial lands and still shows signs of this former use. Urban neighborhoods that once were vibrant with factory workers living in the shadows of their employers, are now much less vibrant and many are in need of revitalization.

The **Ohio Street site** is closest to the mouth of the River and Downtown Buffalo. It is accessed directly from Ohio Street near the intersection with Louisiana Street. An active business lies to the south of the park site and a vacant lot lies to the north of the site. Across Ohio Street are residences within the City's First Ward, along with Conway Park, a city owned park active recreation area and former Ohio Street Turning Basin for the Erie Canal.

The **Smith Street site** is only a couple blocks south of busy South Park Avenue, and is easily accessible from the I-190 (Smith Street exit), yet is the most remote of the three River sites. It is hidden from any major views by the former railroad berm (the rail bridge abutments are still visible), and is situated between two very active railroad lines.

The **Bailey Avenue site** lies in a small triangular piece of land between the Buffalo River, Cazenovia Creek and Bailey Avenue. It is just south of the major intersection of Elk Street, Seneca Street and the I-190, and just north of the major city intersections of McKinley Parkway and South Park Avenue. Southside Elementary School lies across Bailey Avenue to the east.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

All of the Buffalo River Sites are passive, nature-based sites. Other area recreational offerings include:

- Tift Nature Preserve
- Conway Park
- Houghton Park

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *All three sites suffer from urban conditions and abuse*
- *The remoteness of the Smith Street site makes it hard to*





- patrol and to care for.*
- The Bailey Avenue site is overgrown and not a comfortable and safe setting.*

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

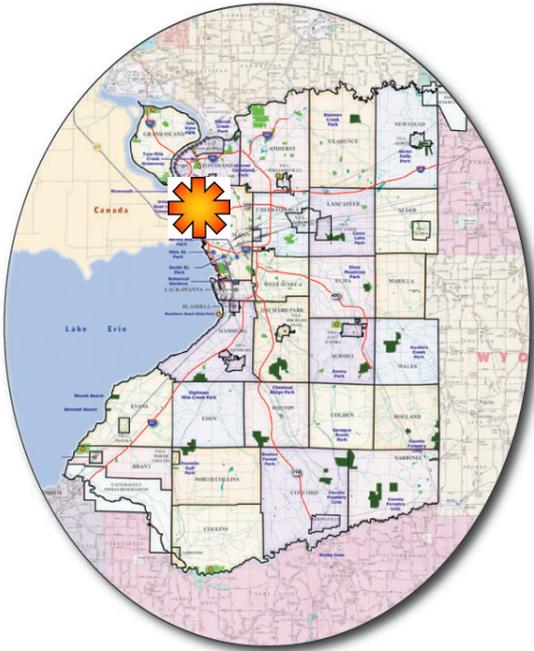
- Continue to support recent master plan efforts and restoration initiatives by the Friends of the Buffalo River, and recently completed park developments at all three County sites.*
- Continue to monitor natural systems at each property to assure future sustainability and habitat enhancement.*
- Provide additional safety measures; overgrowth of the Bailey Avenue site has created an uncomfortable setting for potential park users; Isolation of the Smith Street site will continue to be problematic until further activity can be generated in the area. Ohio Street has the most open visibility of the 3 sites, and yet has seen its share of vandalism of park features.*
- Provide additional fishing access points wherever possible.*
- Continue to promote public access to the River through trails, overlooks and boat launches.*

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IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*



3.3 NIAGARA RIVER PARKS

(TOWPATH PARK, ONTARIO STREET BOAT LAUNCH, ISLE VIEW PARK)

DESCRIPTION

Over the past few years, the County of Erie has taken a leadership role in the preservation and enhancement of the environment along the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers. The Niagara River Corridor is a world-renowned wildlife corridor and the past couple decades has seen much improvement with regard to water quality and habitat restoration. The County has worked closely with the City of Buffalo, New York State and various Federal Agencies to acquire two small, but notable park sites along the Niagara River, including **Towpath Park** and **Ontario Street Boat Launch**.

A hidden gem lies at the foot of Hertel Avenue along the shoreline of the Niagara River, with excellent westerly views of the River and adjacent Rich Marina. **Towpath Park** is a small, 5-acre County-owned facility, which is appropriately named for the historic towpath, which once passed through this area following beside the Erie Canal. The small “pocket-park” is primarily passive in nature and is popular for fishing, picnicking and as a resting area along the Riverwalk system.

The **Ontario Street Boat Launch** is one of the smallest and most unique of all of the County Park holdings in Erie County. It is approximately 1-acre in size and is a hard-surfaced boat ramp facility with an adjacent parking area for boat trailers. A concession stand is located on the grounds and is operated seasonally. This site is also a popular place for fishing, picnicking (limited facilities) and watching sunsets over the Niagara River. This small facility is also an important park node along the linear Riverwalk system between Tonawanda and Buffalo.

Both the Towpath Park and Ontario Street Boat Launch sites were once in the corridor of the historic Erie Canal. Both sites were once City of Buffalo facilities and have more recently come under the control of Erie County.

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Towpath Park

- Seating / Overlook area*
- Open Play Lawn*
- Parking lot*
- Connections to Riverwalk*

Ontario Street Boat launch

- Concession / Restroom Structure*
- Boat Launch*
- Parking area (includes boats and trailers)*

LOCAL CONTEXT

Towpath Park site is easily accessed at the end of Hertel Avenue on the west side of the I-190 expressway on the Niagara River. The small park is bounded by the Niagara River to the west, a high-rise seniors housing development to the north, the I-190 and the Riverwalk to the east and the Rich Marina facilities to the south. To the east of the highway is the Niagara Street commercial strip and the Upper Westside neighborhood.

The Ontario Street Boat Launch is located on a narrow strip of land between the I-190 and the Niagara River. It is near the foot of Ontario Street where it intersects Niagara Street.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Other area recreational offerings include:

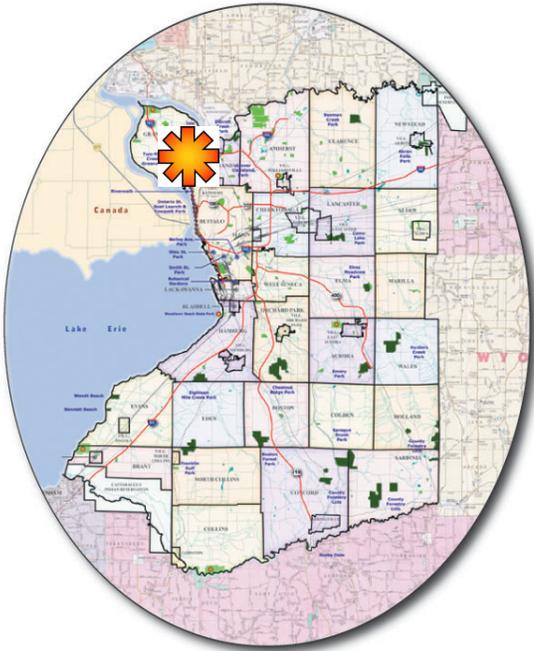
- Riverwalk
Riverside Park

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *All Niagara River park sites suffer from urban conditions and abuse*
- *Both Towpath and Ontario Street Boatlaunch sites are separated from the community by the NYS Thruway - I-190.*
- *There is little directional signage which highlight the locations of these facility to travelers along Niagara Street.*

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Provide additional fishing accommodations wherever possible. Add interpretive signage at both site, and at other key points along the Riverwalk, highlighting the many fishing “HOTSPOTS” along the Niagara River.*
- *Strengthen the connectons between the Riverwalk and the two Niagara River Parks*
- *Provide better signage from Niagara Street to promote more public awareness of the two facilities.*



ISLE VIEW PARK

DESCRIPTION

Isle View Park is magnet for people on a warm summer evening. This 49-acre linear County-owned park in the Town of Tonawanda, is part of the Riverwalk recreational trail system and is heavily used by bikers, joggers, walkers, roller-bladers and many others. Isle View lies adjacent to Niawanda Park and the Two-mile Creek Greenway, forming an extensive linear park system along the banks fo the Niagara River.

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

The park was acquired by the County in 1959, and is located on the site of the abandoned Erie Canal and Towpath.

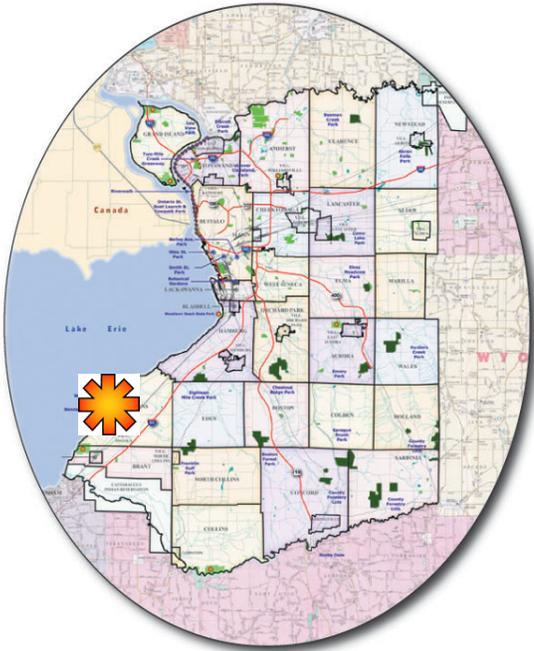
LOCAL CONTEXT

This popular linear park is located within the Town of Tonawanda, adjacent to the Niagara River. The Riverwalk travels through Isle View park in a north-south direction, linking to Niawanda Park at its northern end. This linear site is somewhat isolated from any major residential areas given that it is at the foot of a bluff overlooking the Niagara River, and is separated by River Road.

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Recreational trail system
Concession Building

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3.4 WENDT BEACH PARK

DESCRIPTION

Wendt Beach is a 178-acre, multi-purpose park with both beach-related, passive activities and active recreational offerings. The featured attractions at the park are the historic Wendt Mansion, the stony beach (non sand) and vegetated bluff and the numerous soccer fields. The park has two distinct characters; one is the expanse of mowed soccer fields and open lawns you see upon entering at the western edge of the park; the other is the more natural “heritage” setting near the lake, with the historic mansion, outbuildings, natural shoreline and large wooded areas. Both appear to serve different user types and activities. A park roadway bisects the park through the center from east to west.

Just inland from the south end of the beach the park includes a forested wetland area with protected plant species such as Trillium. Roughly half the park is forested, mostly on the south side. A bluff approximately 15 feet high runs the entire inland edge of the beach

PARK AND AREA HISTORY

The Wendt beach property has a long and storied history. The Park sits on the old estate of Henry W. Wendt, Jr., which the family later renamed “The Ridgewood.” The existing historic Wendt Mansion, with outbuildings and old stable structure, is reminiscent of an earlier era of influence, when the wealthy families of Buffalo recreated along the lakeshore during the summer months. The structure was built in the 1800s along the top of the dune and later moved to its current location. The interior of the main house is a remembrance of beautiful hardwood floors, a spiral staircase and railings of dark wood, window seats and bay windows, many of which overlook the lake and beach areas.

Some of the outbuildings also were part of the earlier estate. This includes the log cabin (once a playhouse and guest house), a caretaker’s cottage, a garage with chauffeur’s quarters, horse stables (now public restrooms), and the old pump house, where water brought in from the Lake was stored in a large tank and pumped through pipes to outside spigots for watering the gardens.

EXISTING PARK FEATURES AND FACILITIES

Wendt Beach is a unique park within the Erie County system. It is on the Lake, and yet is not a natural sand beach. Given its size, Wendt beach has become more of a multi-purpose recreation area, with its picnic areas, and numerous soccer fields. Specific features include:

- *Stony surfaced swimming beach.*
- *Historic Wendt Mansion*
- *Superintendent’s Residence*
- *Office*
- *Maintenance garage*
- *Storage Building*
- *Concession Building*
- *Life Guard Cabin (Old Log Cabin)*
- *Bath House / restrooms (Old Horse Stables)*
- *Pump House*
- *Play equipment*
- *Baseball diamond*
- *Pedestrian bridge between the mansion and lifeguard station*

LOCAL CONTEXT

Located in the Town of Evans approximately 20 miles south of Downtown Buffalo, Wendt beach is less than one mile north of Bennett Beach and is accessible via Old Lakeshore Road. The Wendt Beach property marks a transition point along Old Lakeshore Road where the larger properties and estates to the north towards Sturgeon Point and beyond transitions to the smaller seasonal “cottage” properties to the south towards the center of Evans and hamlet of Lake Erie Beach. In general, most of the area is rural in character.

RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Wendt Beach has a distinct and historic mansion setting, which overlooks a stony beach (non-sand). One must drive through a wide-open field area that is used for the local soccer clubs.

Bennett Beach Park is another County-owned passive-oriented park, offering no structured playing fields or courts one mile to the south of Wendt Beach.

CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

- *The Mansion is in need of extensive updating and repair if it is to be fully useable and “marketable.”*
- *The maintenance facility location detracts from the “Heritage” setting around the mansion.*
- *There is no appropriate “gateway” feature for such a beautiful park setting.*
- *The entrance to the park (through the mowed athletic fields) gives no idea that this is actually a “beach” park.*
- *The parking lot near the beach is in very poor condition*
- *The newer concession building is out of character from the beautiful beach and heritage setting.*

MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

- *Restore the historic Wendt Mansion. This is a very important “heritage” area within the County parks System. Identify potential adaptive re-use that compliments the park uses.*
 - *Secure National Register of Historic Places status for the house and setting.*
 - *Potential uses include and Inn/Bed & Breakfast similar to the Glen-Iris Inn at Letchworth State Park; a wedding/conference facility, restaurant or tea room, meeting*

NEARBY PARKS WITH UNIQUE FEATURES

(WITHIN A 5-MILE RADIUS)

Town of Evans:

- Ayer-Stevenson Wildlife Sanctuary
A 20-acre wildlife sanctuary
- Evans Town Park
A resident-only beach park
- Lake Erie Beach Park
- Sturgeon Point Marina
Town owned and operated marina

Village of Angola:

- Point Breeze Campground
A private marina with camp sites
- Angola Rollercoade

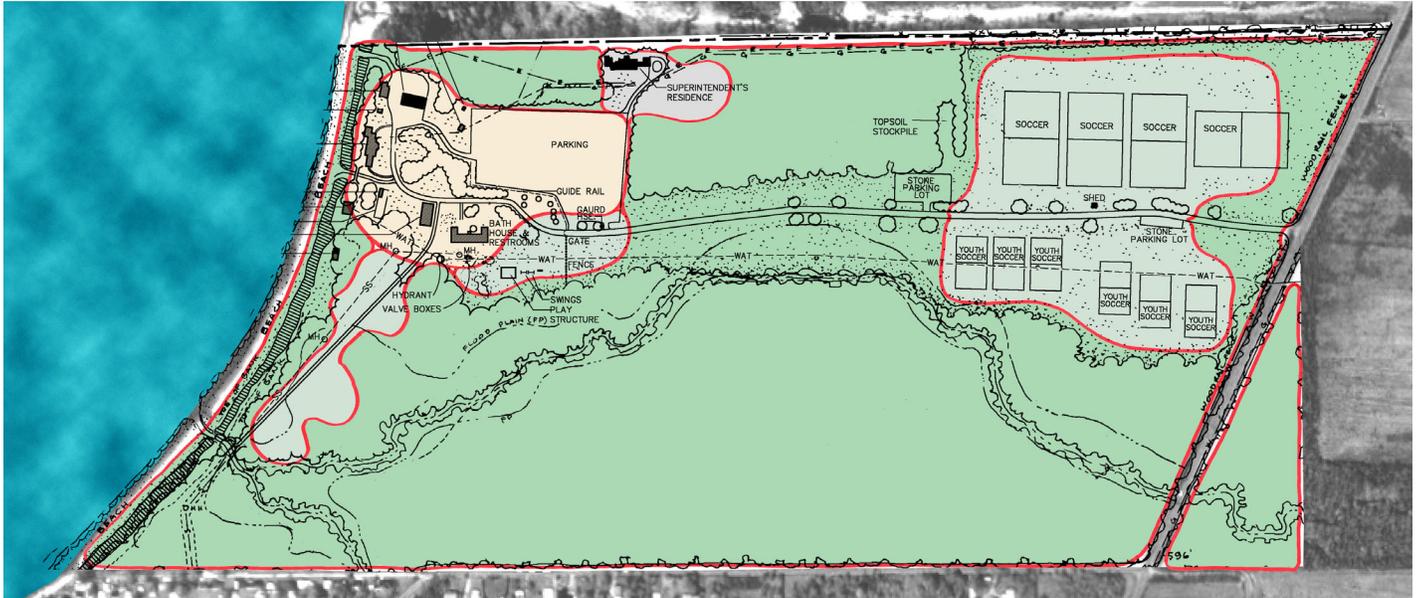
Town of Hanover:

- Evangola State Park
A 733-acre state park with beach access

- facility, etc;
 - Consider a public/private partnership when redeveloping this historic structure.
 - Develop / restore a gracious landscape setting around the historic mansion with formal lawn, gardens, strolling paths, tree lined entrance road;
 - Similar to the Emery Inn, the entire structure should be decorated with “period” furnishings. This authentic restoration could provide a “museum-like” setting, with photos and documents of the park’s history, the earlier history of the Wendt Homestead and Farm, etc. A small gift shop could be provided to sell local park-related items, historical maps, etc.
- *Relocate maintenance facility away from historic mansion and to a more inconspicuous spot adjacent to the superintendent’s house (off the back of the parking lot);*
- *Reorganize roadway and pedestrian zones to separate future “mansion” functions from public beach area;*
- *Horses have always played a big role in the history of the Wendt Estate, and the plan recommends restoring / rehabilitating the old horse stables (current concessions) into a historically accurate horse stables again which “looks” and “feels” like it is once again a part of the Mansion setting.*
 - In addition, horse trails should be developed throughout the natural wooded areas.
 - Overnight accommodations at the Mansion would make Wendt a potential magnet for equestrian related tourists.
- *In addition to the horse stables, retain and restore other minor structures related historically to the main house, i.e. pump house, etc.*
- *Maintain the location of the Log Cabin /Lifeguard station. This facility could be renovated for a more maximized use to include a meeting room (for environmental and historic related discussions, etc.)*
- *Develop west side of park as passive beach zone, i.e. picnicking, beachcombing. Introduce small parking/ picnic areas south of the mansion along the driveway, with turn-around loop; relocate current boat storage to a more inconspicuous location, still allowing for easy access to the beach.*
 - *Introduce Volleyball Courts (sand and grass) and other beach-related activities into the overall recreational mix at Wendt Beach*

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- Upgrade the east side of Wendt Park to include more formalized, “structured” parking opportunities (stone or asphalt lots) and a support facility (i.e. permanent restrooms, concessions) for the very large soccer crowds.
 - Enhance park entrance and identity at Old Lakeshore Road, with entrance feature. Provide a distinct transition zone between the two park sections and distinctive entrance to the heritage area of the site, i.e. possibly establish a secondary entrance feature past the soccer fields which would lead people towards the historic mansion and lake;
 - Undertake dune restoration; although Wendt Beach is actually a very rocky beach, it still has a use and charm that is attractive to the masses.
 - Enhance the opportunities for winter activities at Wendt beach, including the perfect setting for numerous cross-country ski trails, etc.
 - Provide new interpretive signage and informational kiosks that tie the park better “into the mix” with other local cultural and historical attractions.
 - Provide an interpretive “story-line” for the Park’s local history, i.e. How and when the property was first developed?; When was the area first settled?; What’s the history behind the Wendt mansion and the farm structures? Did Lakeshore Road once pass through the site near the dune area?; Was there a polo field on the site?; What were some significant historic happenings in the area, or in the park?; etc.
 - Consider a “Corporate Sponsorship” program which encourages local businesses from getting more involved with the Park, including sponsoring certain events, restoring older facilities and park features, setting up an interpretive signage program, etc.
 - Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards other tasks.
 - Provide new native tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the parking area and along Old Lakeshore Road.
 - Provide bicycle access through the site as part of the overall lakefront recreational trail system.

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Legend		Nature Reserve Zones	Recreation Zones <i>(Active and Passive)</i>	Heritage Zones	Service Zones
	Nature Reserve Zone	Includes significant natural features or areas that require management to ensure the long-term protection of the natural heritage, i.e. woodlands, wetlands, natural open space areas (meadows), waterways, ravines, gorges and escarpment faces, steep slopes, etc.	Includes the 'maintained' landscape areas of the parks in which facilities development is permitted to support low to moderate intensity recreation activities, i.e. sports fields, specialized activities, picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, etc.		
	Recreation Zone				
	Heritage Zone				
	Service Zone				
	Zone Boundary				



North

Wendt Beach Park MANAGEMENT ZONES

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES / PARK SPECIFIC ACTIONS

PRIORITY KEY

- S Short Term *(1 - 3 years)*
- M Mid Term *(4 - 10 years)*
- L Long Term *(11 - 20+ years)*
- O Ongoing *(Continuing Efforts each year)*