

Lakeview Wildlife Management Area

Southwick Beach State Park is adjacent to the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area, which contains the environmentally sensitive coastal sand dunes. Coastal sand dunes are created over thousands of years by waves, currents and winds forming sand ridges landward toward the beach. Dunes protect shorelines from erosion and property damage caused by storm and waves. The dunes, beaches and the shore environments they protect provide habitat for rare and unusual wildlife and plant species including the Common Tern, Black Tern, Piping Plover and Sand Dune Willow.

Park patrons are encouraged to use the park trails and the trails at LWMA. All patrons should adhere to the rules, which are designed to protect sensitive areas.

A Brief History of Southwick Beach State Park

Southwick Beach State Park was named after the Southwick family, who owned the property from 1870 to 1960. The beach area first became popular in the early 1920's, when a dance hall was built on the edge of the beach. The hall, opened on July 4, 1924, was the site of dances every Sunday until it mysteriously burned the next year.

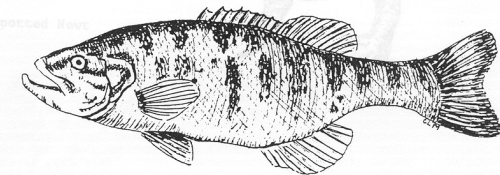
Soon after, a sportsman and promoter, Albert Ellis, leased the land and developed it as the "Coney Island" of Northern New York. In time, the beach boasted a roller coaster, bathhouses, a new dance pavilion, merry-go-round, midway, picnic tables, and so on. Ellis also built a baseball field and organized the Jefferson County Amateur Baseball League, attracting large crowds.

The end to good times came in the wake of The Great Depression, when patrons found they could not afford the gas for travel, much less pay for amusements. In 1938, Ellis dissolved the beach corporation, and for the next 20 years, only an occasional sun bather visited the beach. In 1960, the Leesi Management Corporation of Syracuse purchased the land from the Southwick family and operated the beach for five years.

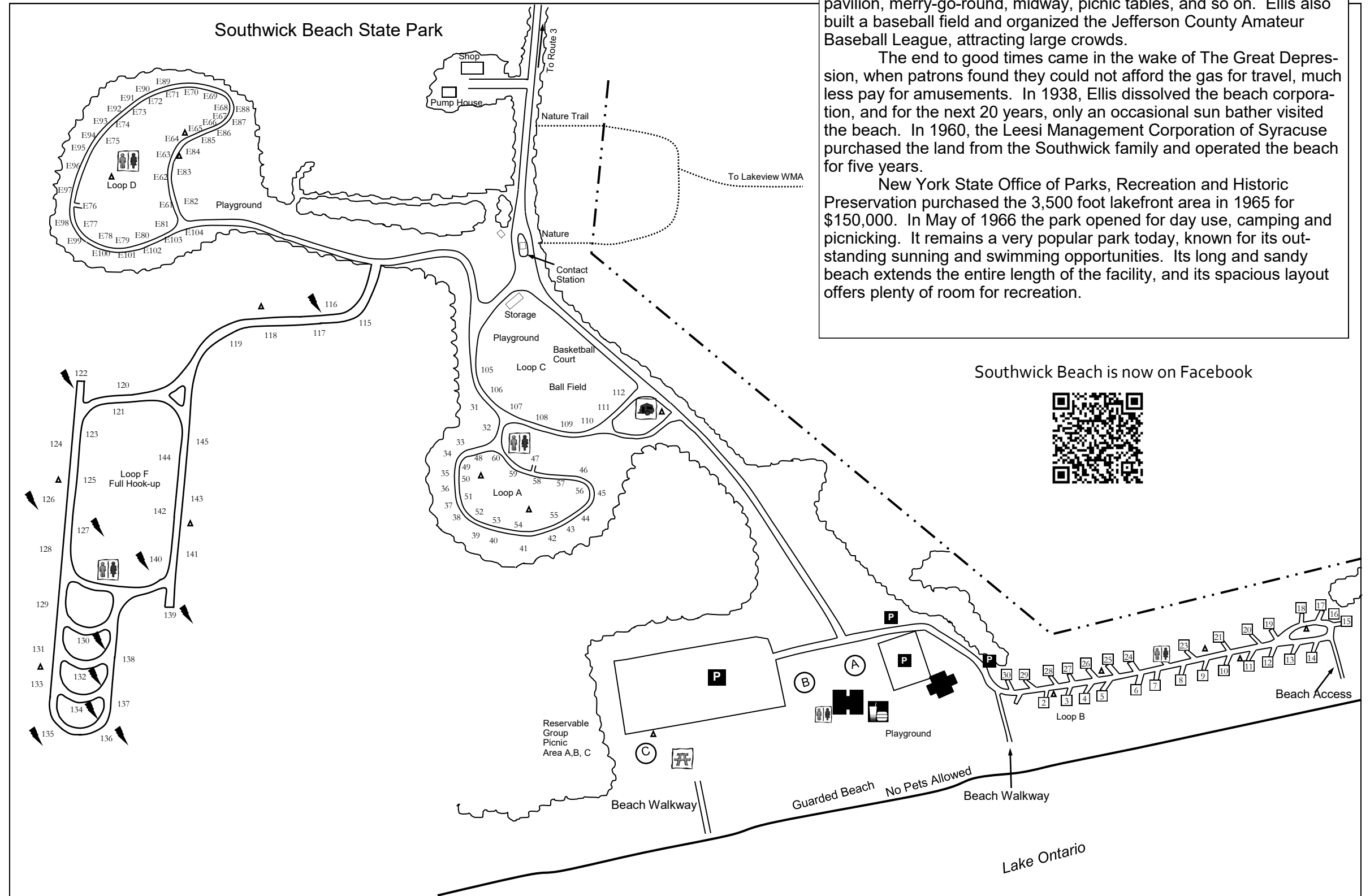
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation purchased the 3,500 foot lakefront area in 1965 for \$150,000. In May of 1966 the park opened for day use, camping and picnicking. It remains a very popular park today, known for its outstanding sunning and swimming opportunities. Its long and sandy beach extends the entire length of the facility, and its spacious layout offers plenty of room for recreation.

Park Rules

1. Quiet hours between 10 pm and 7 am are strictly enforced. Also, any use of generators will be limited to 9-11 AM and 5-9 PM.
2. All pets must be secured by a 6 foot or shorter leash and under complete control at all times.
3. Pets are prohibited in the beach area.
4. Hunting in designated area only.
5. All plants, trees and animals are protected by law.



- Comfort Station**
- Parking**
- Trailer Dump Station**
- Picnic Area**
- Reservable Picnic Area**
- Concession**
- E** **Designates Electric**
- Waterfront Prime Site**
- 50 AMP Electric**
- Water Spigot**



Southwick Beach is now on Facebook



