

Chapter 1: Introduction

Planning and Environmental Review

Planning

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) planning process adheres to three basic principles:

- **Planning is a continuing process:** Assumptions for the classification and management of park resources must be constantly re-evaluated in light of new information, changing needs and priorities, and resource character.
- **Planning must be comprehensive:** The information base, and pertinent additional research, should support the planning process and should encompass relevant social, economic and physical factors relating to the management and operation of the park and its resources.
- **Planning must be coordinated and provide for public participation:** Cooperation among appropriate governmental organizations, the public at large, special interest groups and the private sector is not only desirable, but necessary.

Environmental Review

The environmental review of proposed master plans for state park facilities is conducted in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). OPRHP fully integrates the planning and environmental review processes. This document serves as both the Master Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement for Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve.

Sustainability

Sustainability is a philosophy on how to improve, operate and maintain State Parks and Historic Sites while, at the same time, minimizing or reducing the impacts of State Parks and Historic Sites on the natural environment and ensuring future generations are able to enjoy and use these resources.

Sustainability looks at the whole rather than the individual parts to maximize energy efficiency and minimize environmental impact; reduce use of fossil fuels; reduce or eliminate hazardous substances; protect biodiversity and ecosystems; and use resources carefully, respectfully and efficiently to meet current needs without compromising the needs of other living creatures and the use of those resources by future generations.

OPRHP is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming more carbon neutral by adopting more sustainable practices in park development, improvement, operation and maintenance. Sustainable practices and alternatives were considered in the planning process and incorporated throughout the Master Plan.

Introduction to the Park

Establishment of the Park

Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve was created in 1961 when Robert Moses, the Chairman of the Long Island Park Commission, approached Ruth Pruyn Phipps Field, widow of Marshall Field III, to acquire the land for preservation as a state park. The Field Foundation of Chicago, Illinois and Mrs. Field sold the land to the State. The acquisition of Caumsett was beneficial to both Long Island and

the State because of the historic value of the property. Moreover, Caumsett is home to one of the last remaining structures from the Lloyd Family, the property was very well maintained, and its location and views of Long Island Sound and Lloyd Harbor are unmatched. The park also preserves the rich natural and open space resources.

Timeline

1961 – Property acquired by New York State Parks and Recreation

1976 – Park opens for use

1976 – New York State Historic Resources Survey/National Register of Historic Places Inventory—
Nomination Application

1979 – Caumsett is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

1995 – Field Analysis of Physical and Operational Conditions at Caumsett State Park

1997 – Caumsett is designated a “State Historic Park”

Planning that has been done in the past

The first plan for the park was developed in the 1960s but was never implemented. An Interim Management Guide was developed for Caumsett in 2004 and was updated in February 2007. The Interim Management Guide serves as a foundation for many aspects of the master plan. In addition, Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve is located within the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area and is included in the Long Island North Shore Heritage Area Management Plan approved in December of 2006. The park is also mentioned in the Lloyd Harbor Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP); the Lloyd Harbor Comprehensive Plan (updated in 2008); and the Town of Huntington’s Comprehensive Plan (also updated in 2008).

What has prompted the preparation of this report?

Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve has been in existence for over 40 years and increased use and interest in the park has yielded a need to evaluate how the park is managed. The Caumsett Foundation has also played a role in bringing about the master plan.