

# Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan

Focus Group: Historic Preservation

04.07.21



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

April 7, 2021



STARR WHITEHOUSE  
Landscape Architects  
and Planners PLLC



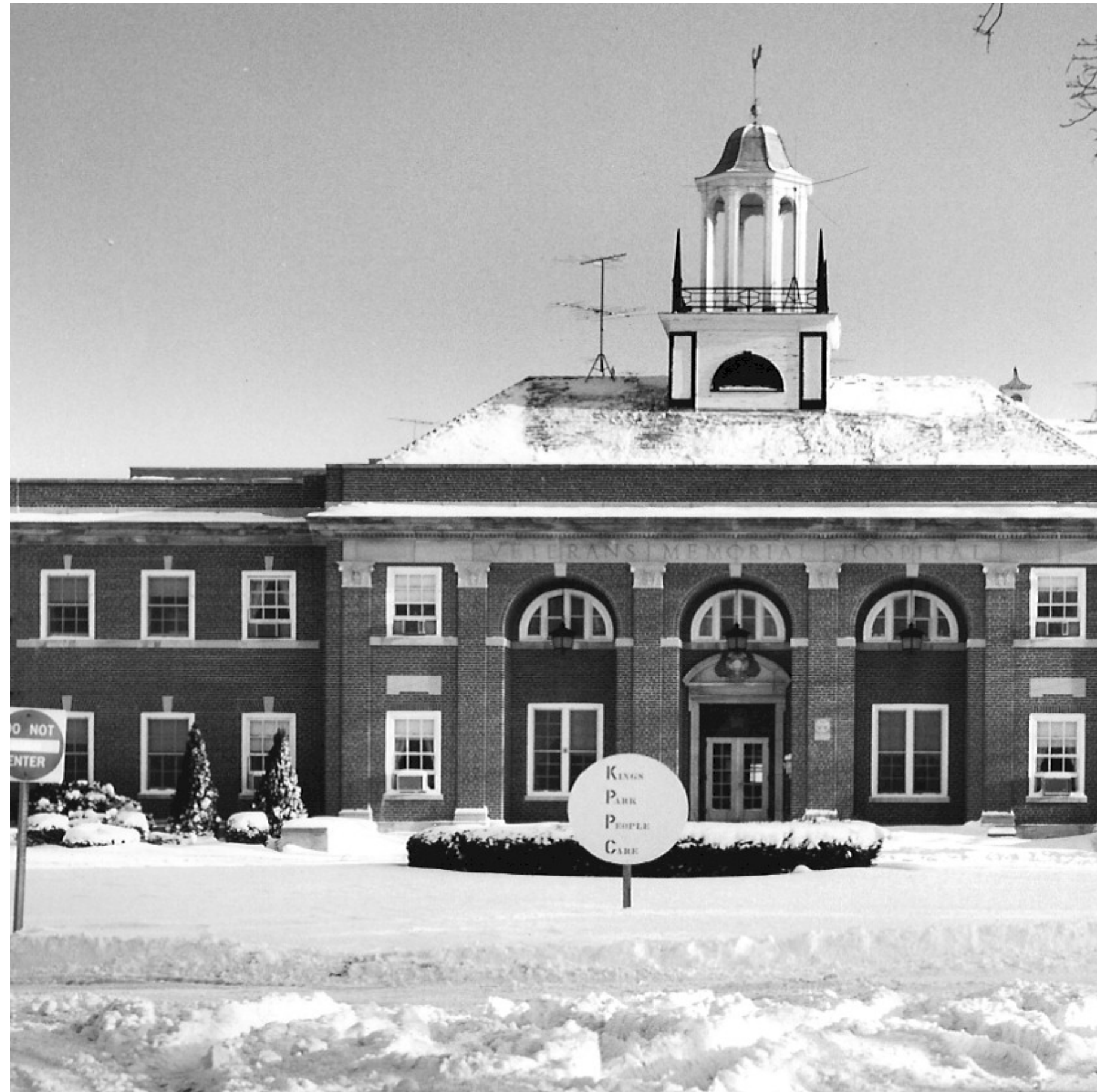


# Agenda

- Welcome and introduction of project team (5 minutes)
- Project presentation (20 minutes)
- Breakout groups (45 minutes)
- Report back and closing (20 minutes)

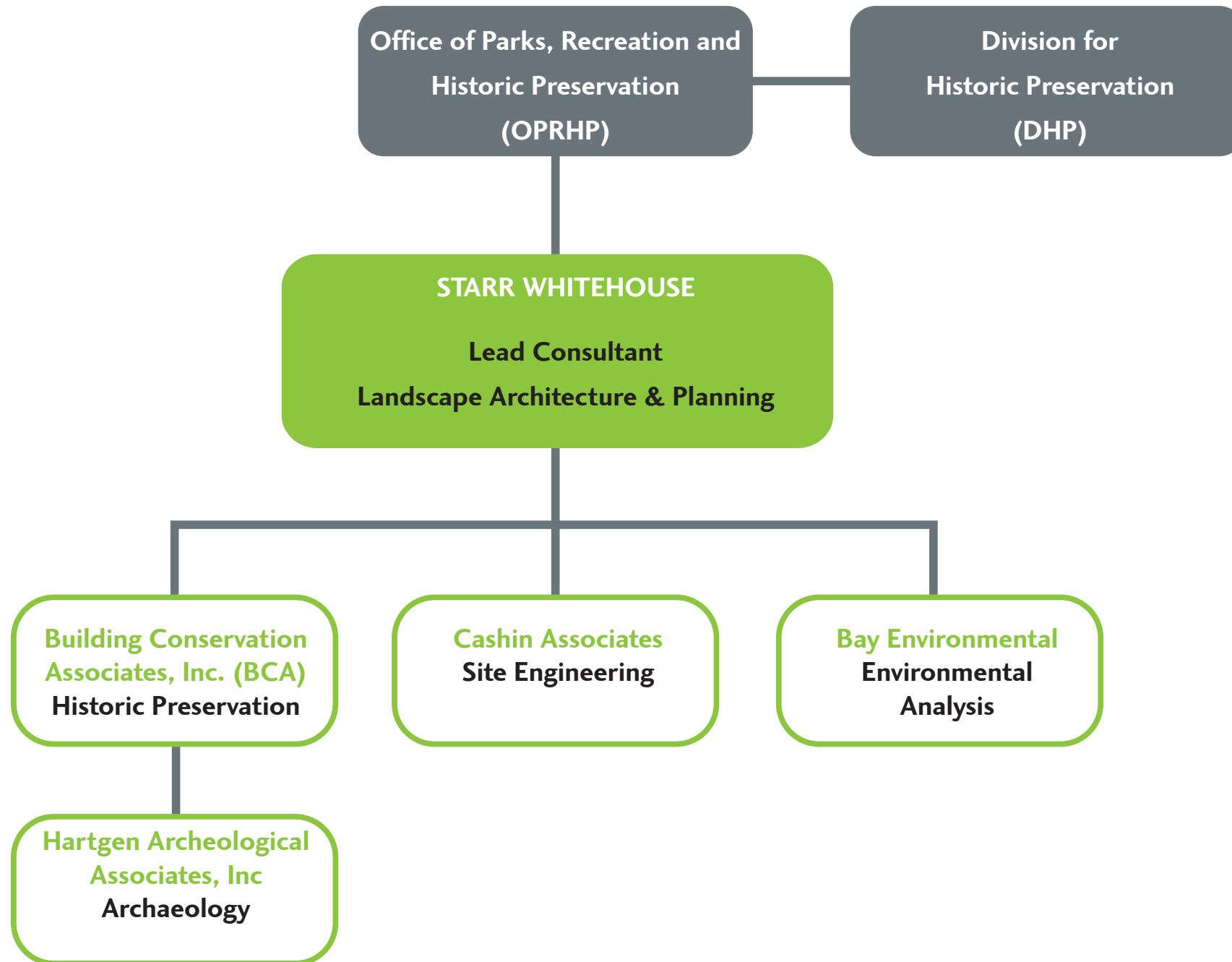
## ZOOM POINTERS

- Please list your name (and affiliation, if applicable) in your Zoom participant profile.
- Please remain muted, except during breakout group discussions



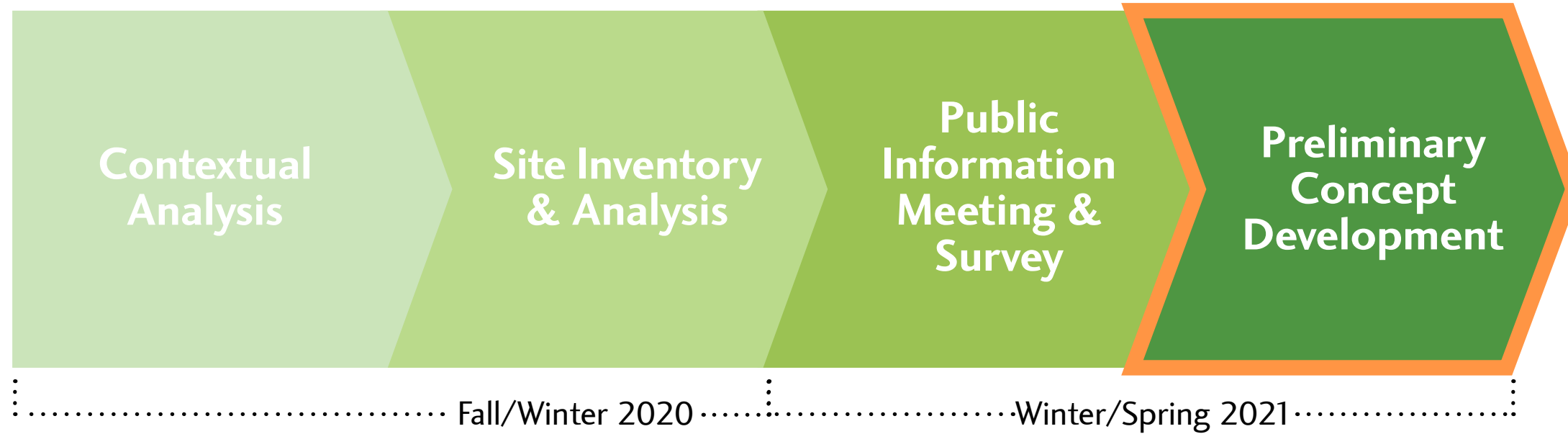


# Project Team

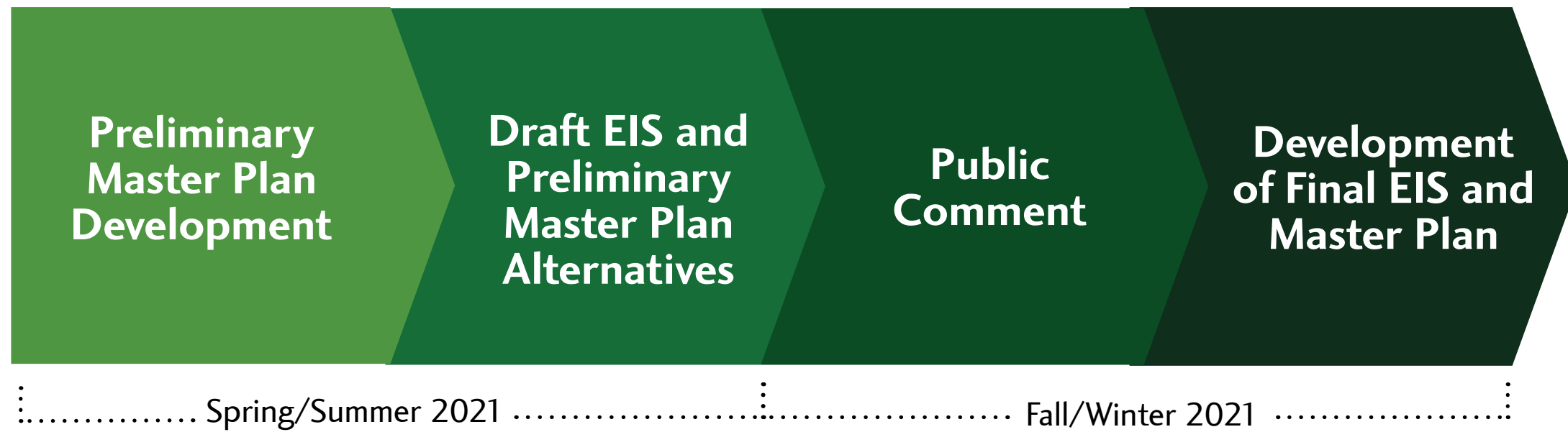


# Project Timeline

## PHASE I



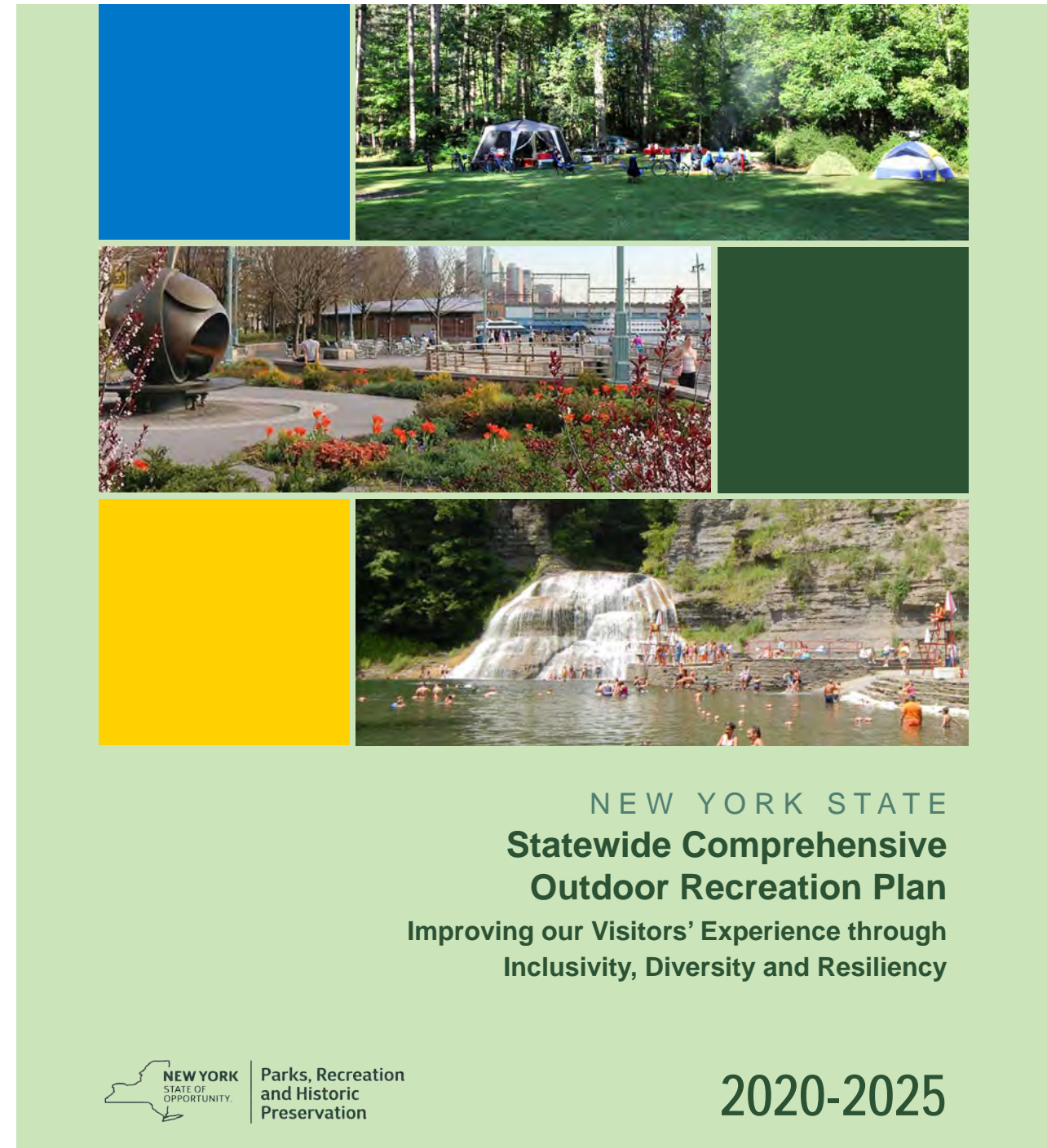
## PHASE II





# Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) Goals

- Expand historic preservation efforts across the State, at the local and regional level, and cultivate pride of place.
- Engage the public through programming.
- Expand and protect natural connections between parks and open space.
- Restore, conserve, and protect the State's biodiversity.
- Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Build a 21st century green and resilient outdoor recreation system; repair and green aging infrastructure and open new facilities.
- Reinvent and redesign the State's outdoor recreation system.
- Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities.





# Theme Goals: Historic Preservation

- Meaningfully commemorate the full history of the site through interpretive programming and architectural preservation.
- Maintain or re-introduce certain landscape features from the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center to preserve the historic character of the institution's campus.
- Introduce programming to historic buildings that draws visitors and activates the park year round.
- Enhance the safety and security of the park by renovating and activating select historic buildings, and evaluate strategic removal of attractive nuisances.
- Cluster cultural and historic programming nodes within the park to minimize disturbance of ecological communities along the perimeter of the park.



View north-courtesy of Smithtown Planning

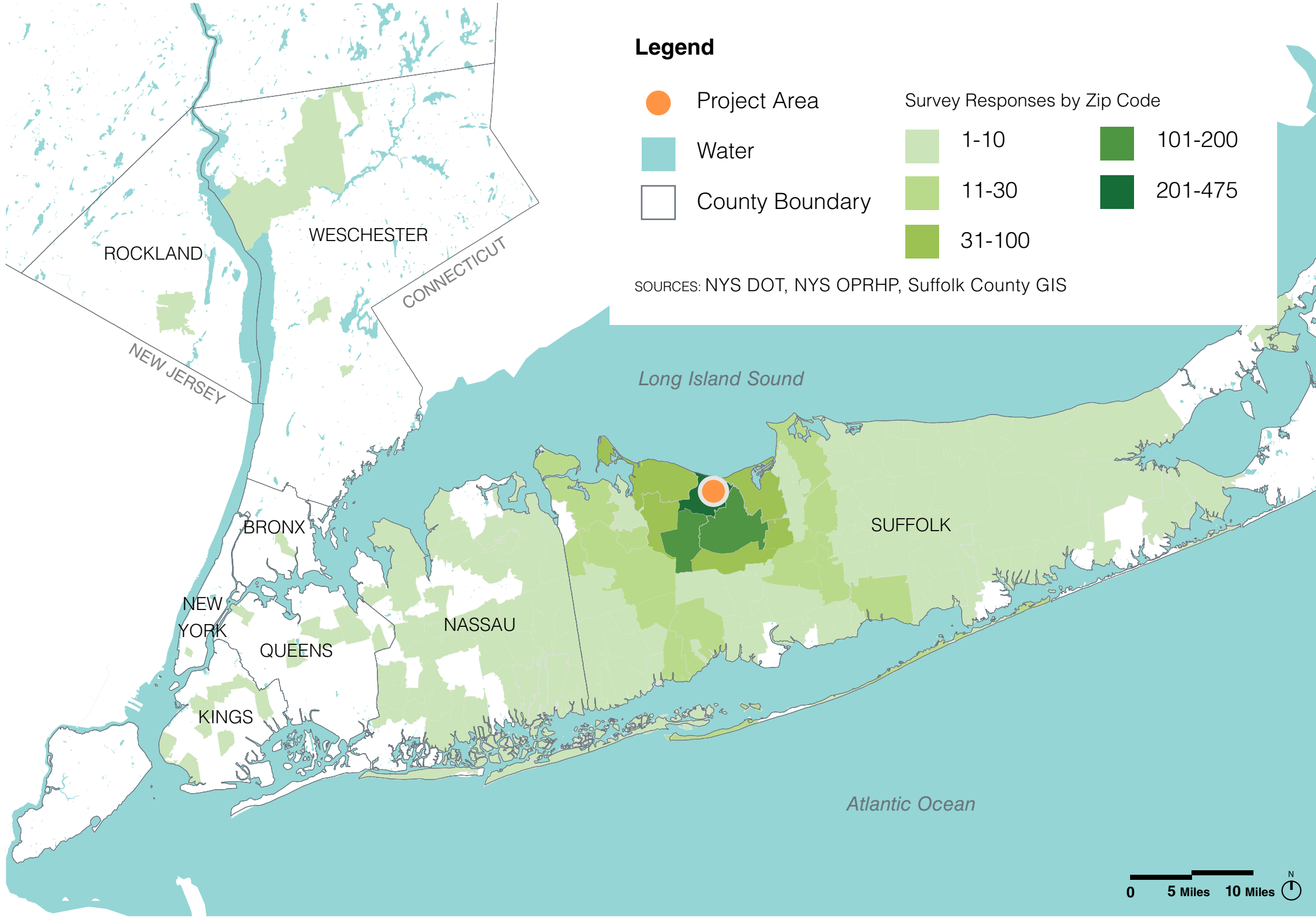




# Survey Results by Location

The recreational needs assessment survey was available online from February 3 - 17:

- 1653 people took the survey
- 51% of respondents live in Smithtown
- 76% of respondents live within 10 miles of the park
- Residents from 10 New York counties reported visiting the park in the past year:
  - Suffolk
  - Nassau
  - Queens
  - Kings
  - New York
  - Westchester
  - Rockland
  - Sullivan
  - Albany
  - Brockport

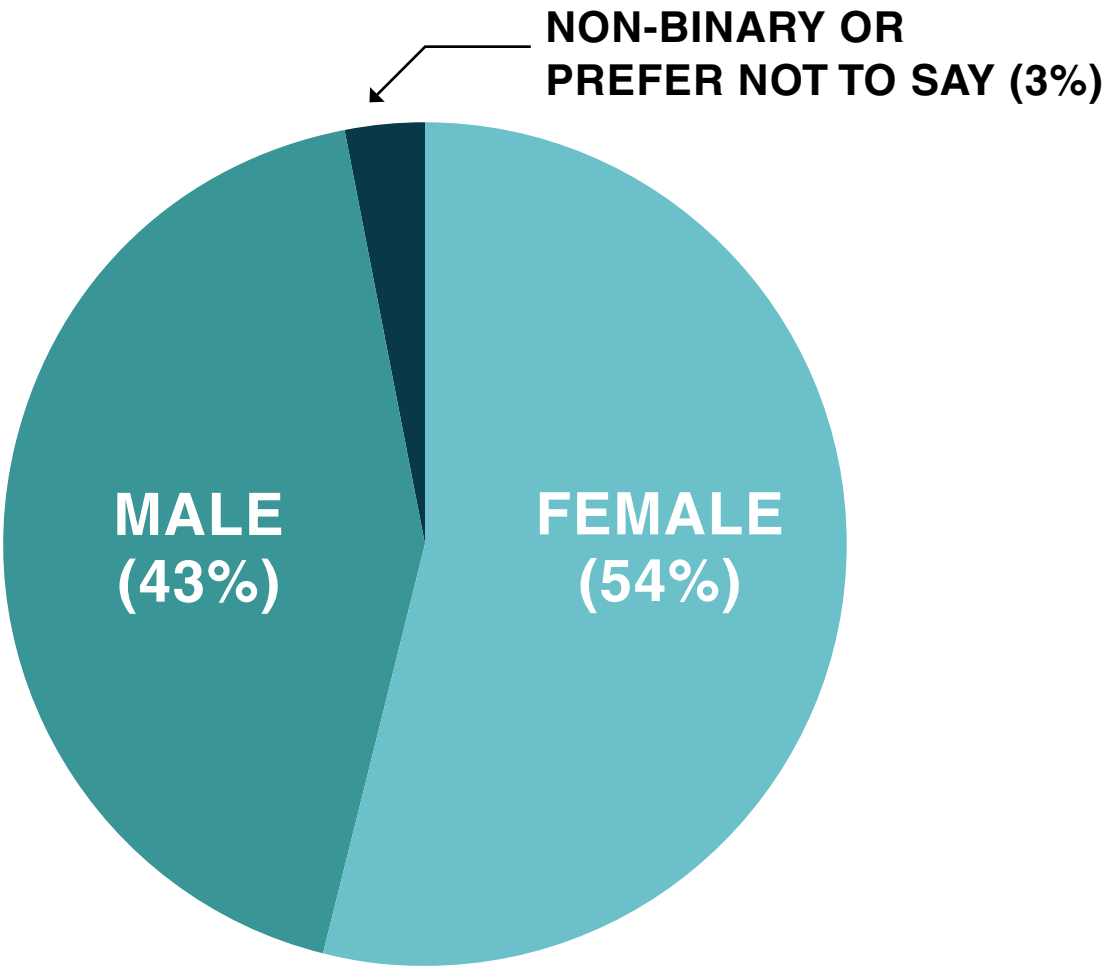




# Survey Respondent Profile

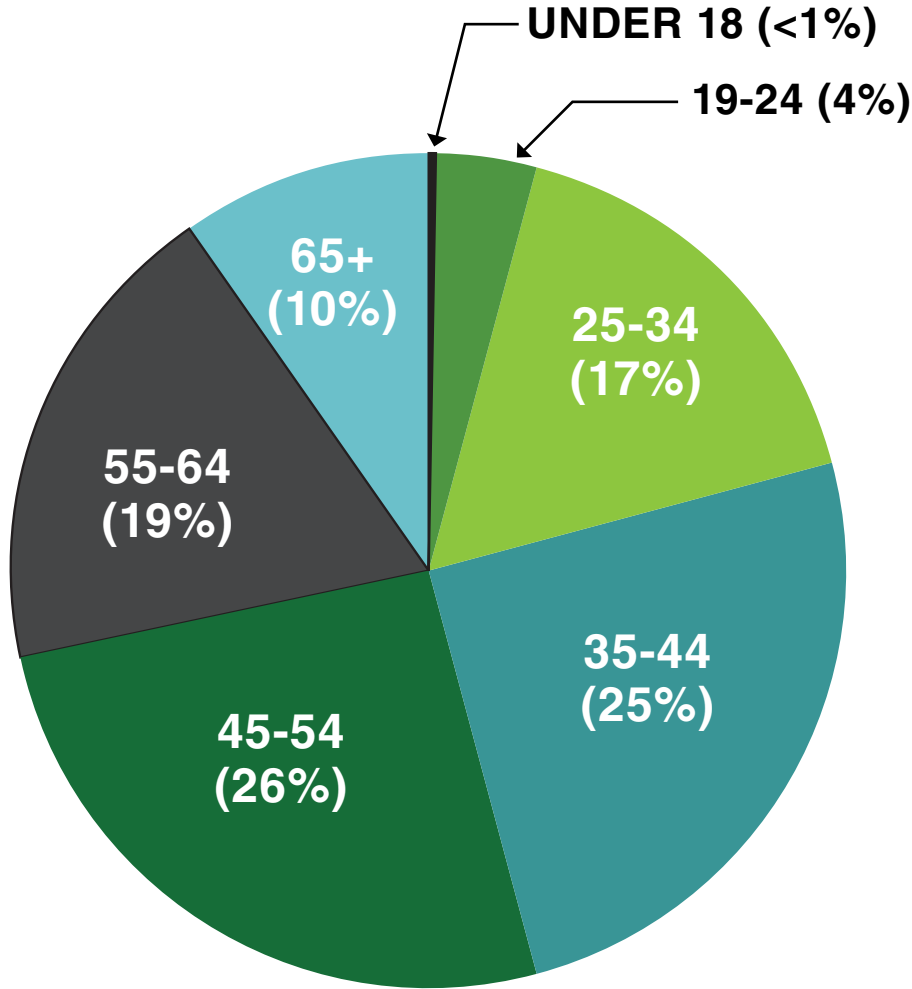
## RESULTS BY GENDER

- Female: 886 (54%)
- Male: 706 (43%)
- Non-binary: 8 (<1%)
- Prefer not to say: 53 (3%)



## RESULTS BY AGE

- Under 18: 6 (<1%)
- 18-24: 65 (4%)
- 25-34: 276 (17%)
- 35-44: 414 (25%)
- 45-54: 426 (26%)
- 55-64: 307 (19%)
- 65+: 159 (10%)





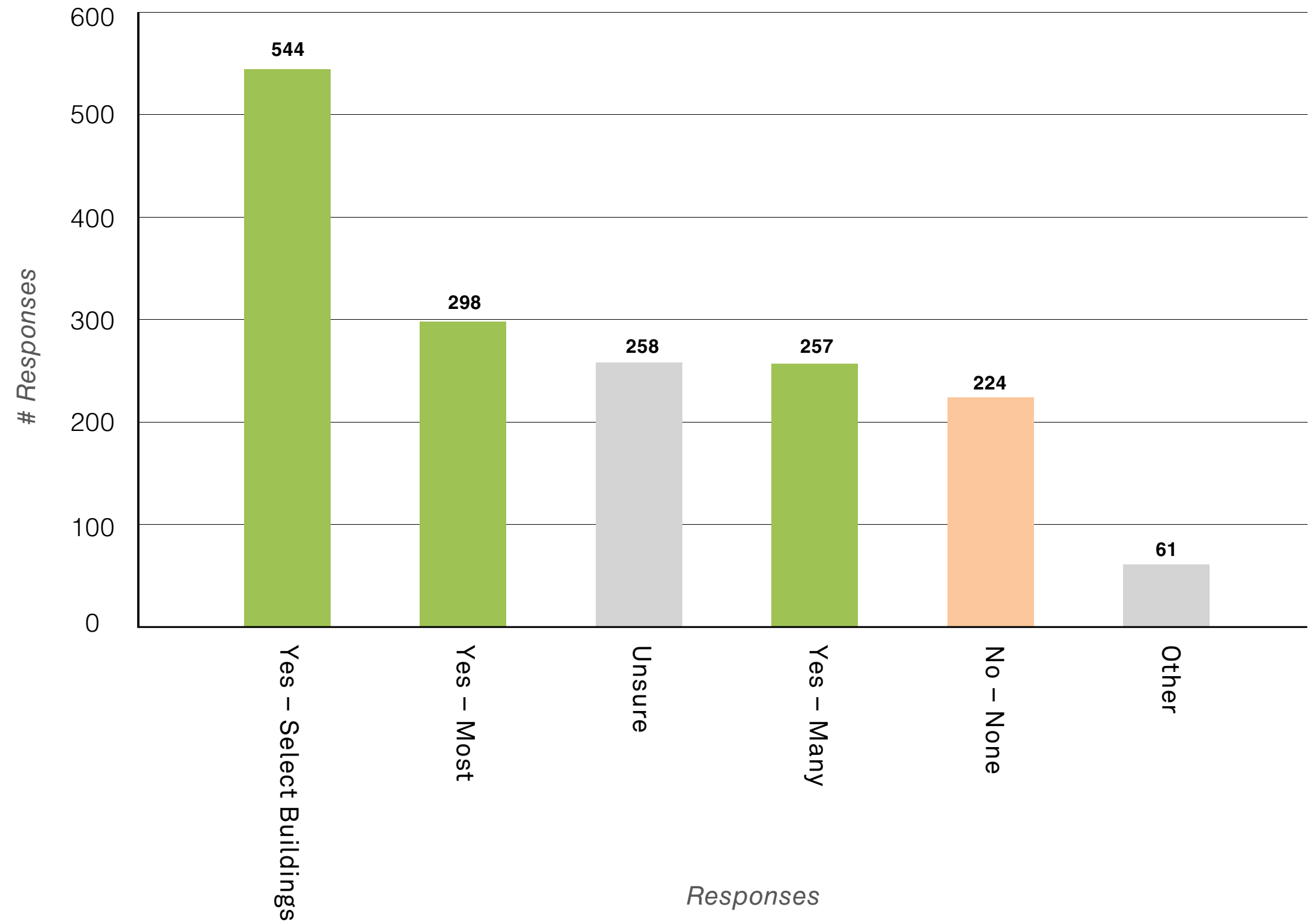
# Public Survey Response Regarding Building Re-Use

Does your vision for the future of Nissequogue River State Park include keeping and reusing the existing buildings?

Total Respondents: 1,642

67% of respondents said that some number of historic buildings should be retained and reused

The largest amount of respondents advocated for the retention of a select number of historic buildings.





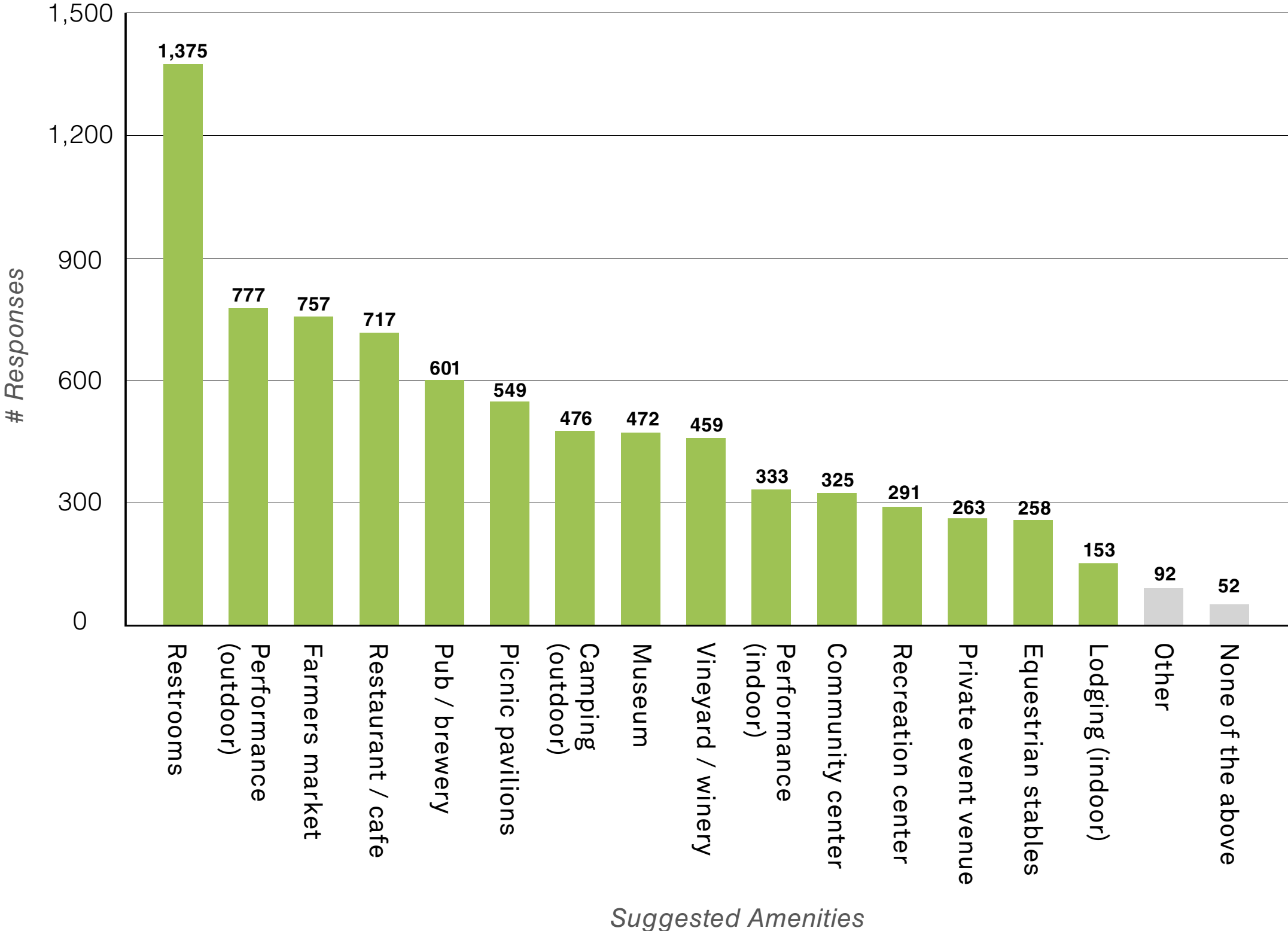
# Public Survey Response Regarding Building Re-Use

What facilities would you like to see at the park?

Total Respondents: 1,640

**Top 5 Facilities (% of respondents)**

- Restrooms (84%)
- Outdoor Performance (47%)
- Farmers Market (46%)
- Restaurant / Cafe (44%)
- Pub / Brewery (37%)





# Site Timeline

Pre-1665	The Nesaquake inhabited the area now occupied by the Nissequogue River State Park.
1665	Smithtown founded.
1884-1895	Kings County Farm and Asylum established.
1895	Kings County Farm and Asylum taken over by the State.
1900-1920	<u>Pre-War Period</u> : The Kings Park State Hospital (KPSH) undertook the first period of major expansion.
1920-1944	<u>Inter-War Period</u> : KPSH constructed many of the hospital's largest structures and building groupings.
1944-1960	<u>Post-War Period</u> : KPSH reached its peak population of 10,065 residents.
1975	KPSH renamed the Kings Park Psychiatric Center (KPPC).
1996	Kings Park Psychiatric Center permanently closed.
2001	Nissequogue River State Park established.



Spraying potatoes east of Old Dock Road, June 22, 1917

Image Courtesy of Kings Park Heritage Museum



Buildings C and D, circa 1900

Image Courtesy of Kings Park Heritage Museum



# Extant Historic Buildings

## Legend

- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Historic Building
- Modern Structures
- Other Buildings
- Water

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C., Building Conservation Associates, Inc.





# National Register (NR) Eligibility

## Historic Buildings and Structures

The buildings of the former Kings Park Psychiatric Center were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The 2007 Resource Eligibility Evaluation identifies the property's significance related to the areas of health and medicine and architecture during the period between 1890 and 1960.

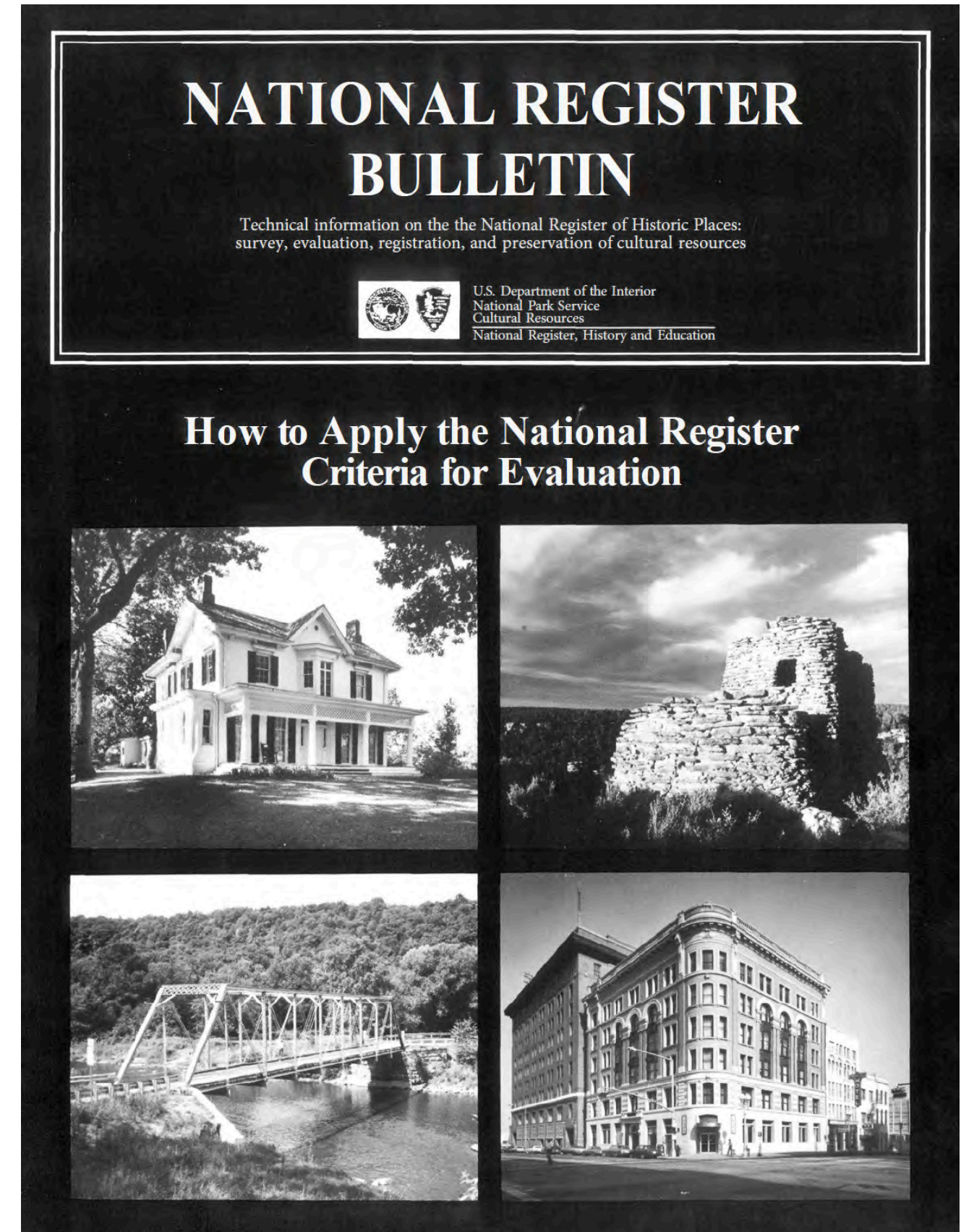
## KPPC Criterion

Criterion A: Associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history.

Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

## Building Inventory

- BCA completed a resource evaluation of the 52 extant historic structures to update the existing 2007 Resource Eligibility Evaluation.
- BCA analyzed building demolitions during and after hospital operations.
- Construction Phases:
  - 1890-1919: 5 extant buildings/structures
  - 1920-1944 (Interwar): 38 extant building structures
  - 1944-1960 (Postwar): 9 extant buildings/structures





# Benefits of National Register Designation

- Formal recognition of property's historical and architectural significance.
- Opportunities for preservation incentives, such as:
  - Preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation.
  - Federal and State of New York investment tax credits.
  - International building code, fire, and life safety code alternatives.
- Learn more at the National Register of Historic Places website:  
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister>



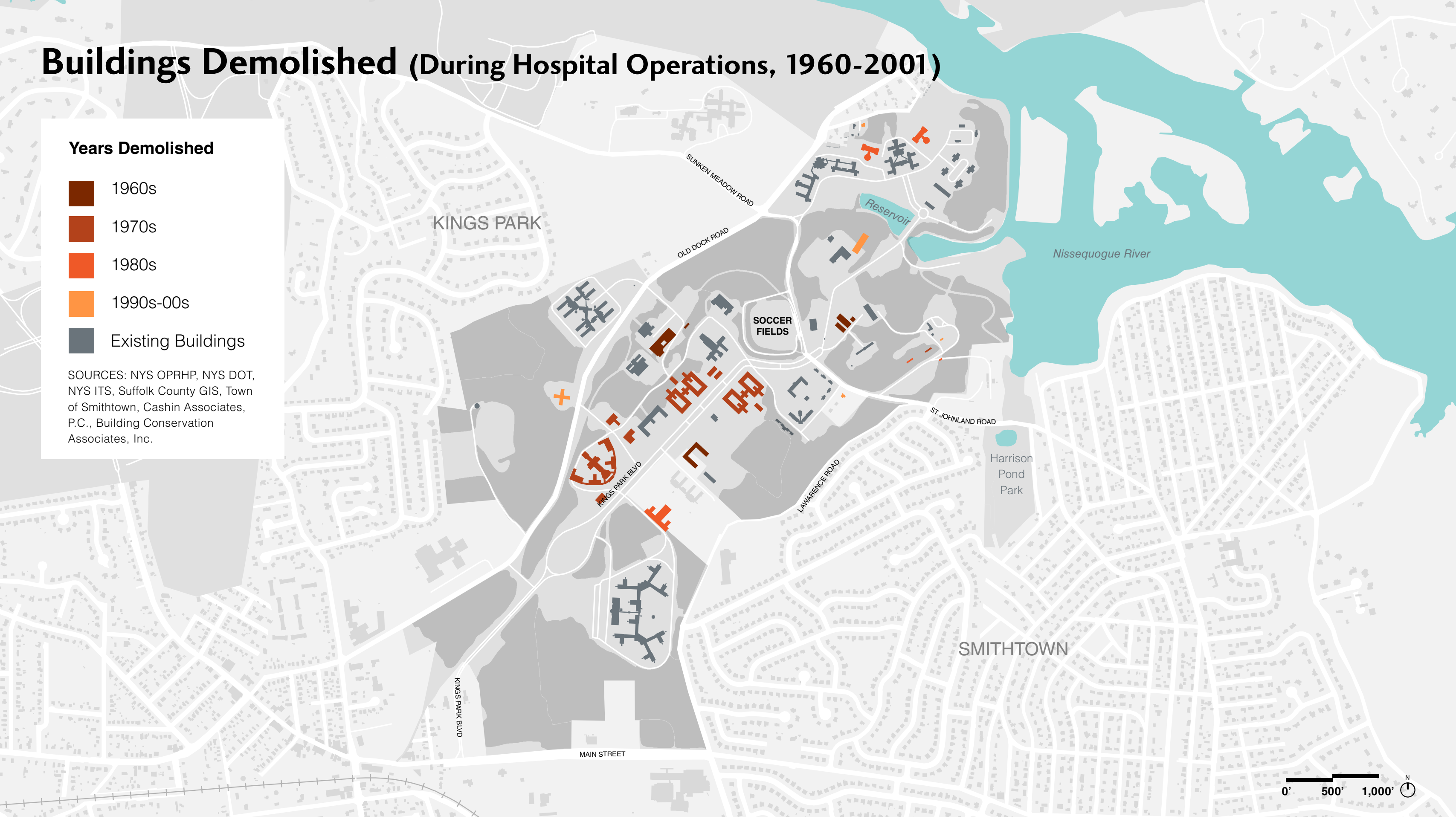


# Buildings Demolished (During Hospital Operations, 1960-2001)

**Years Demolished**

- 1960s
- 1970s
- 1980s
- 1990s-00s
- Existing Buildings

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C., Building Conservation Associates, Inc.



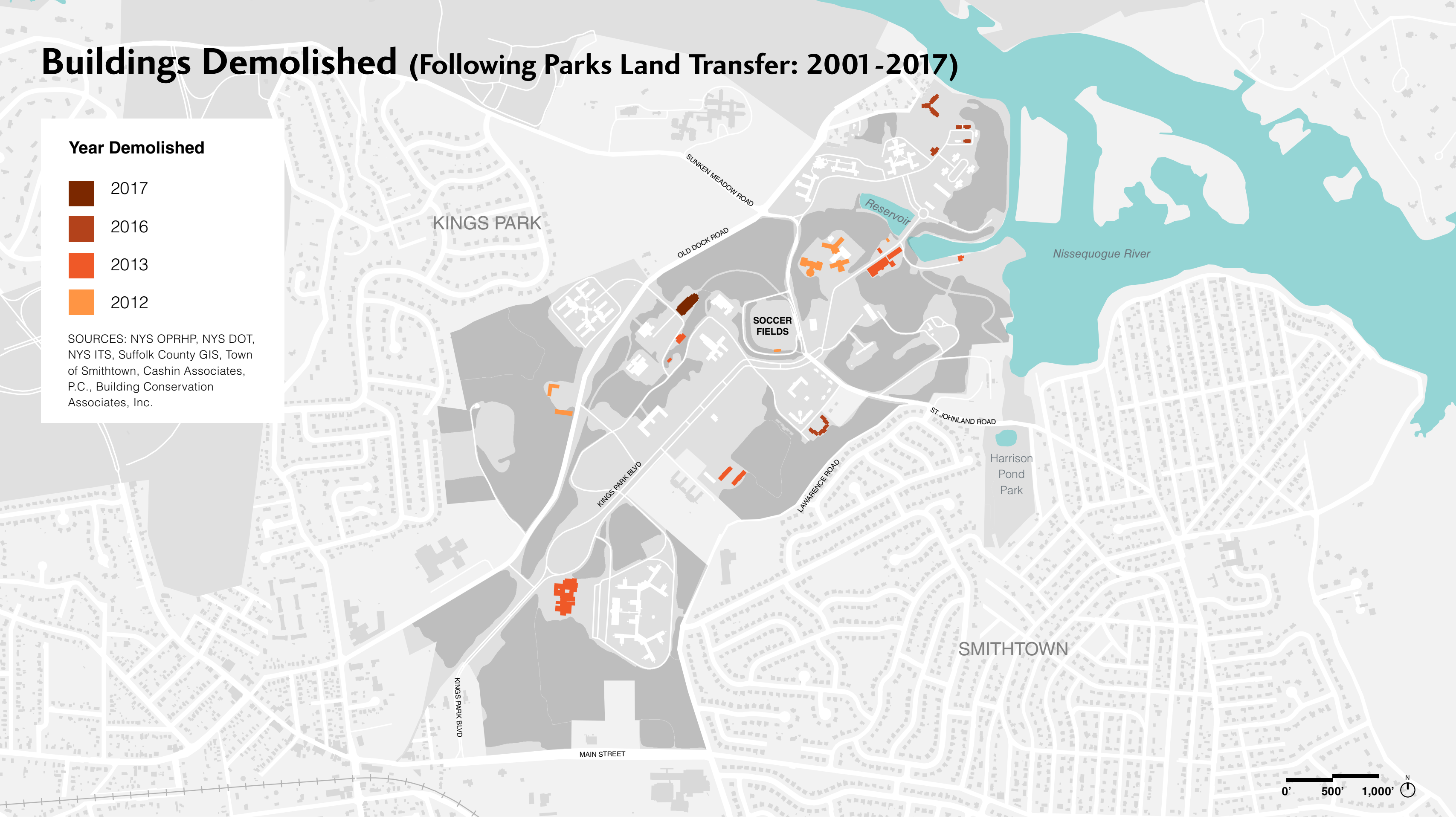


# Buildings Demolished (Following Parks Land Transfer: 2001 -2017)

## Year Demolished

- 2017
- 2016
- 2013
- 2012

SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C., Building Conservation Associates, Inc.





# Historic Landscape Features: Agriculture



1917



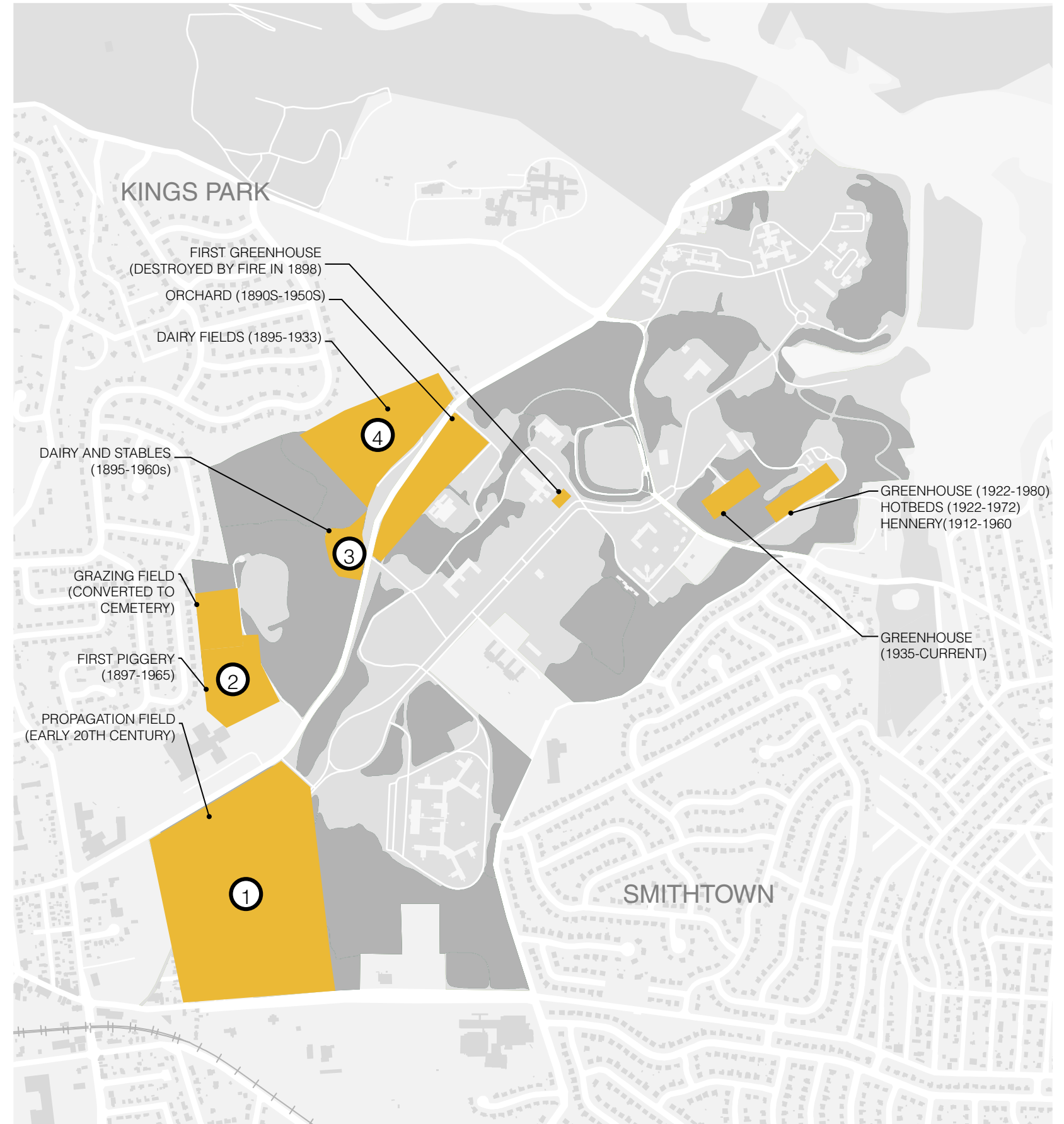
1915



1913



1917

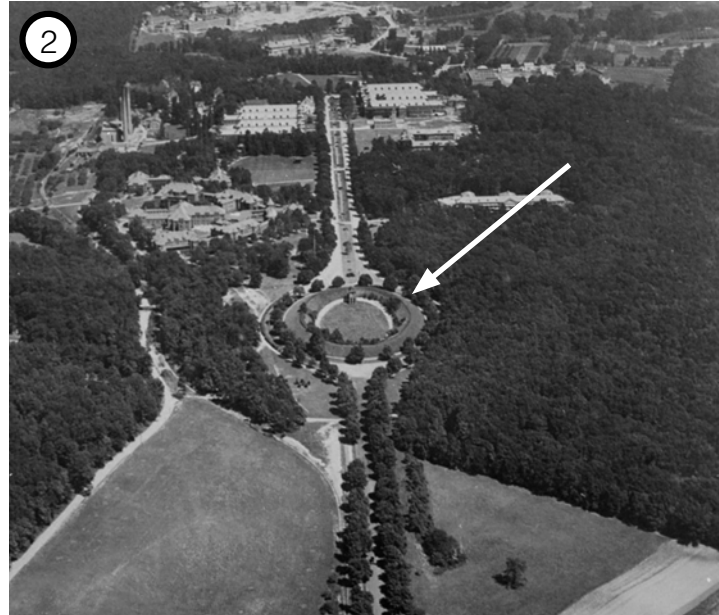




# Historic Landscape Features: Water Infrastructure



1920s



1920s



1932



Undated





# Historic Landscape Features: Recreation



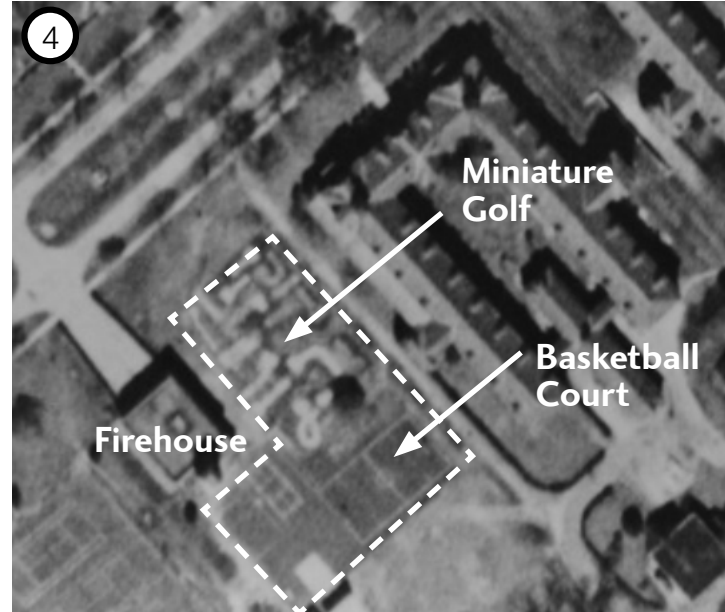
1930s



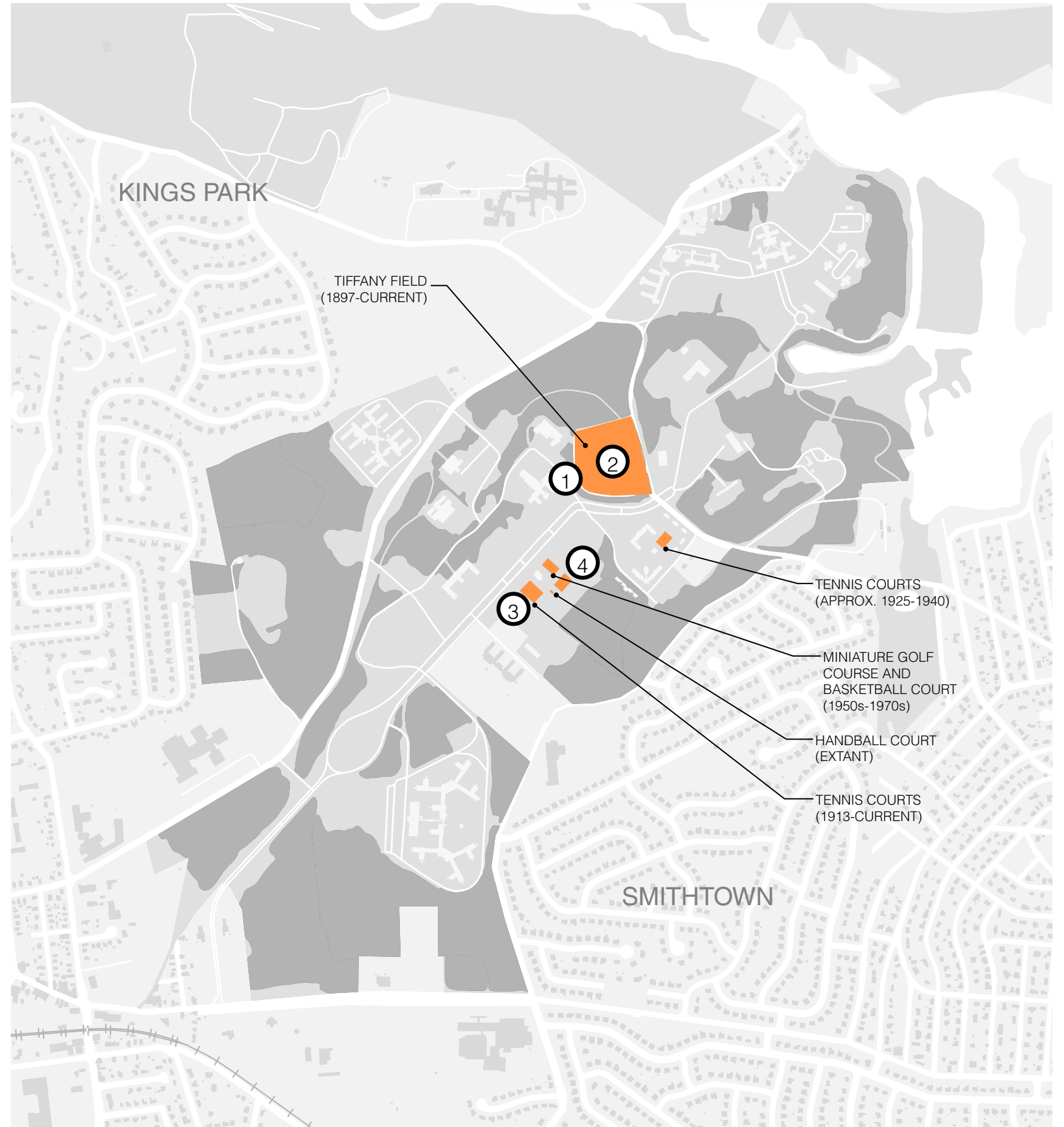
1930s



1972



1950s

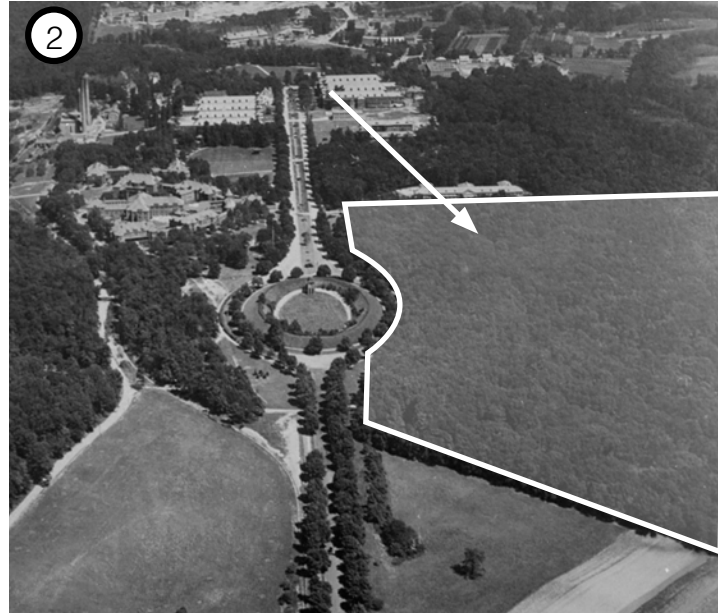




# Historic Landscape Features: Trees-Lined Streets and Boulevards



1910s



1920s



1910





# Historic Re-Photography: Extant Historic Buildings





# Building 93



1950s



2021





# Building 80 (York Hall)



1932



2021





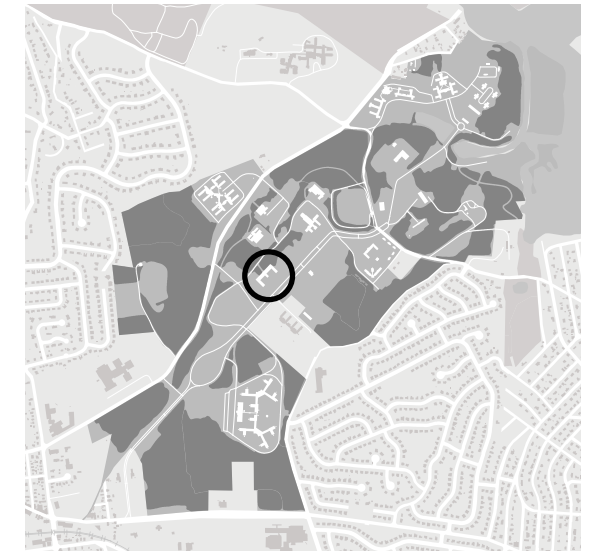
# Building 15



1940s



2021





# Building 90



1930s-1940s



2021





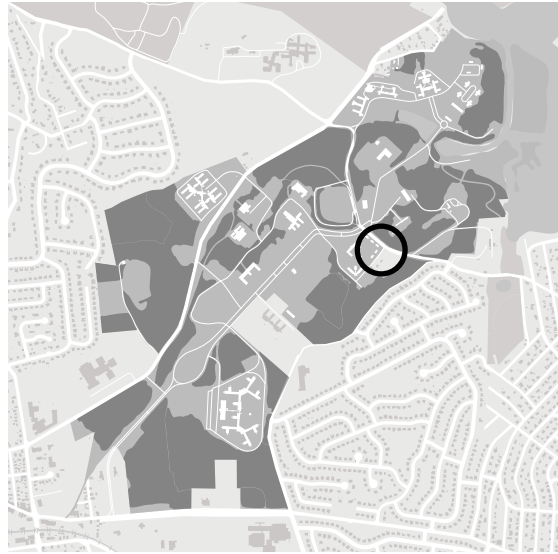
# Buildings 95-99 (Doctors' Cottages)



1925



2021





# Building 3



1940s-1950s



2021





# Building 138



1930s



2021





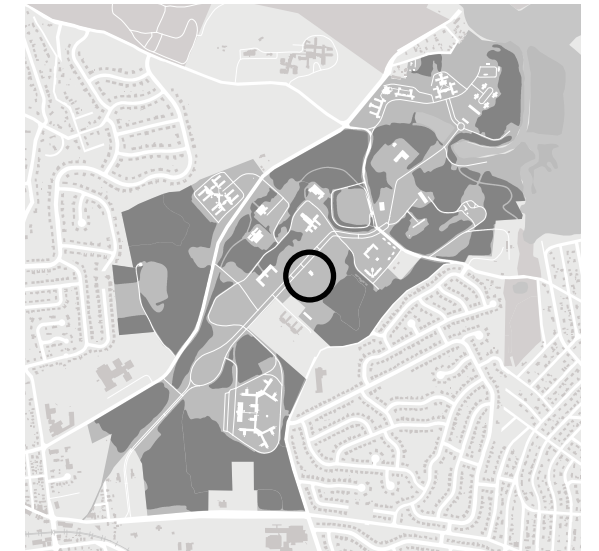
# Building 83 (Firehouse)



1930s



2021





# Historic Re-Photography: Kings Park Boulevard





# Kings Park Boulevard



1913



2021





# Kings Park Boulevard



1905



2021





# Kings Park Boulevard



1905



2021





# Kings Park Boulevard



1920s



2021





# Historic Re-Photography: Demolished Buildings





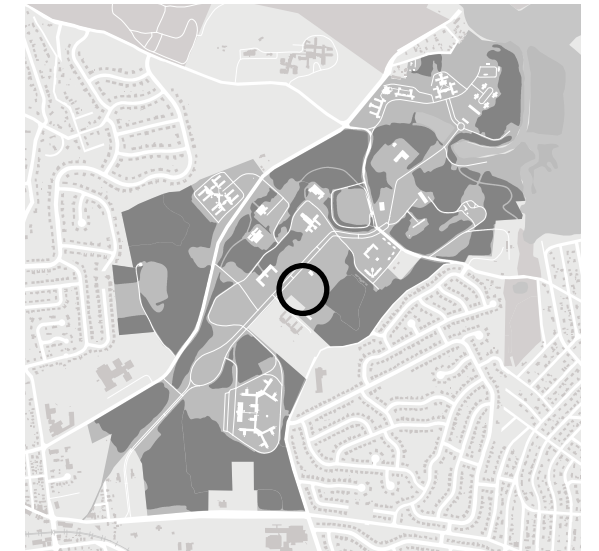
# Building 34



1910s



2021





# Group 1



1913



2021





# Building 2



1920s-1930s



2021





# Building 32



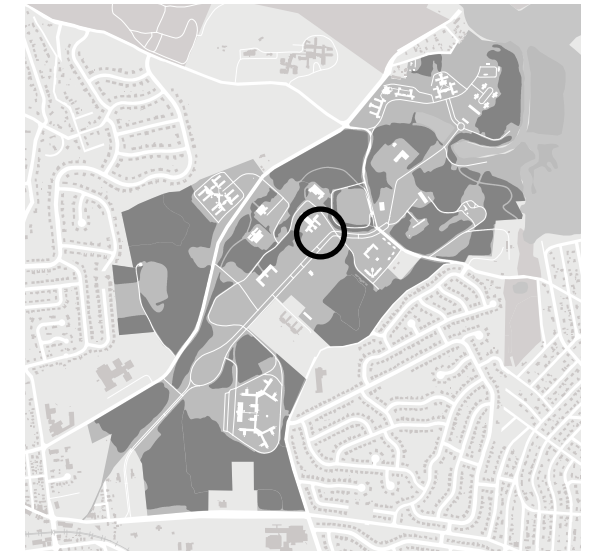
1909



1973



2021





# Park Aerial



1947



2020



# Next Steps and Contact

- EIS scoping and comment period: May - June 2021
- Release of draft Master Plan and DEIS: Summer 2021

Contact the project team at:

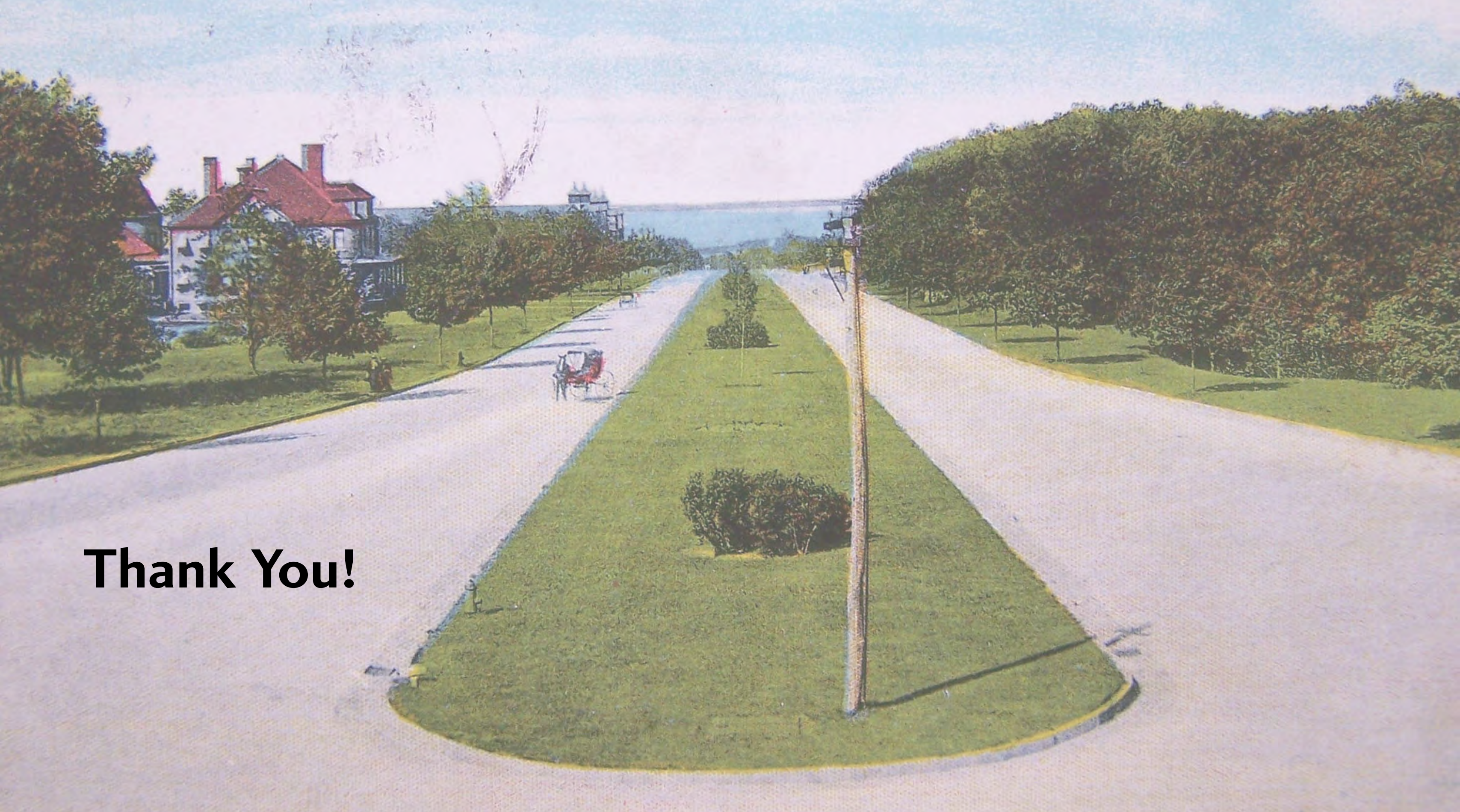
**[NissequogueRiver.Plan@parks.ny.gov](mailto:NissequogueRiver.Plan@parks.ny.gov)**

To access additional information about the Nissequogue River State Park Master Plan/EIS, visit:

**<https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>**







**Thank You!**



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
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Landscape Architects, Planners  
and Planners, PLLC



**Cashin Associates, P.C.**  
ENGINEERING • PLANNING • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

