

PROJECT GOALS & SCHEDULE



NOW

Nissequogue River State Park's future is inextricably tied to the site's rich history as a place of community building and healing. The former hospital campus is now being re-imagined as both a place of respite and recreation. NRSP will be a public destination distinguished by its naturalistic landscape and community resources, reestablishing its identity as a core element of both the surrounding towns, the wider Long Island region, and New York State Parks System.

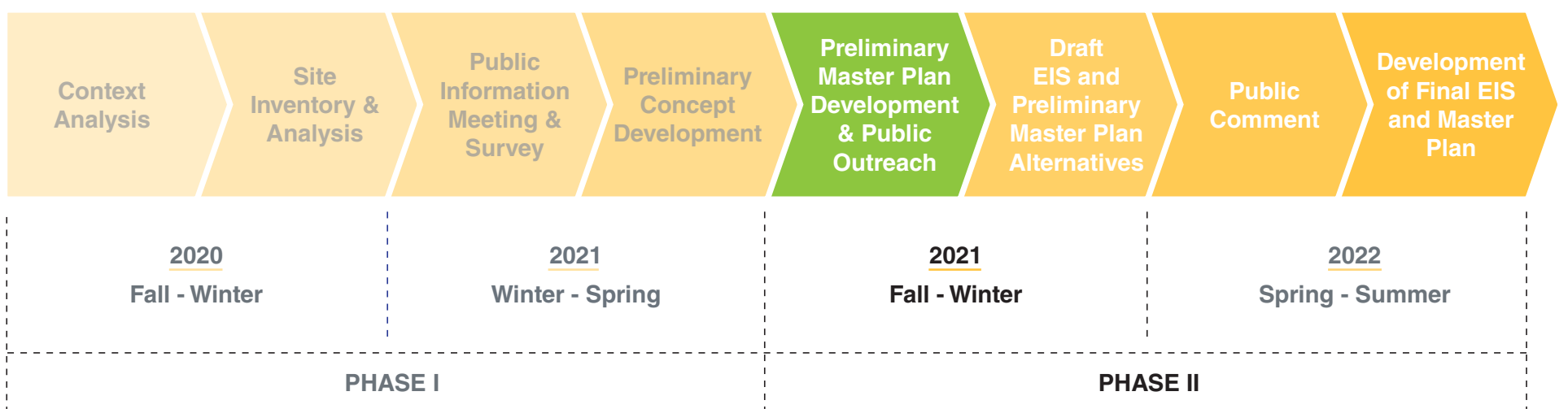
THEN

"The [hospital] should be in a healthful, pleasant and fertile district of the country; the land chosen should be of good quality and easily tilled; the surrounding scenery should be of a varied and attractive kind, and the neighborhood should possess numerous objects of agreeable and interesting character. While the hospital itself should be retired and its privacy fully secured, it is desirable that the views from it should exhibit life in its active forms, and on this account stirring objects at a little distance are desirable."

(Thomas M. Kirkbride, MD, pg. 7, *On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, 1854, p. 7)



PROJECT SCHEDULE



HOSPITAL HISTORY & TIMELINE

The Nesaquake inhabited the area now occupied by the Nissequogue River State Park.

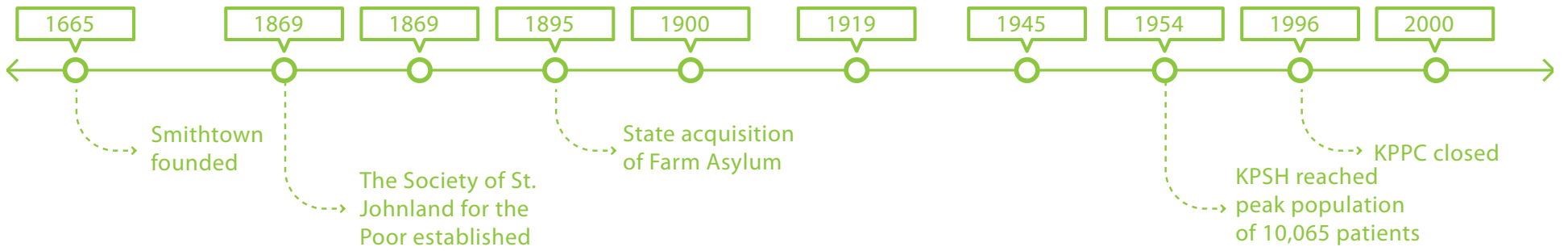
Kings County Farm and Asylum established and operated as a rural farming community with cottage-style buildings for mental health treatment.

The Kings Park State Hospital (KPSH) undertook the first period of major expansion and constructed Kings Park Boulevard.

KPSH constructed many of the largest structures and building groups, including the Veterans' Memorial Hospital Unit (VMHU).

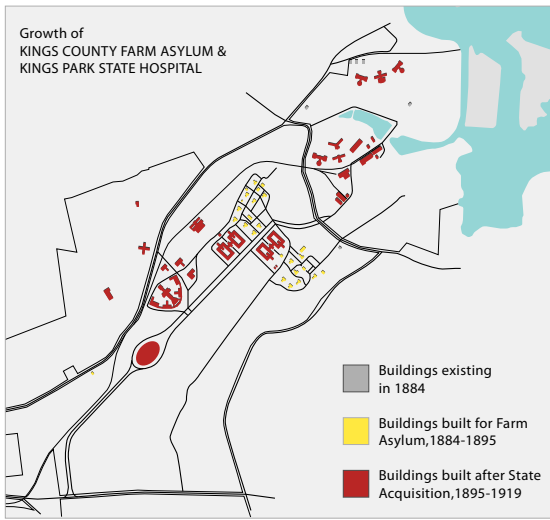
KPSH renamed Kings Park Psychiatric Center (KPPC); 32 buildings demolished and operations consolidated into new large buildings.

Nissequogue River State Park established.



FARM ASYLUM & STATE ACQUISITION

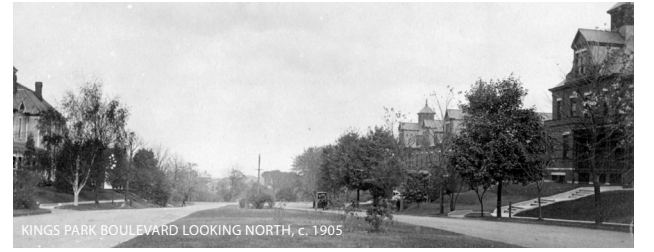
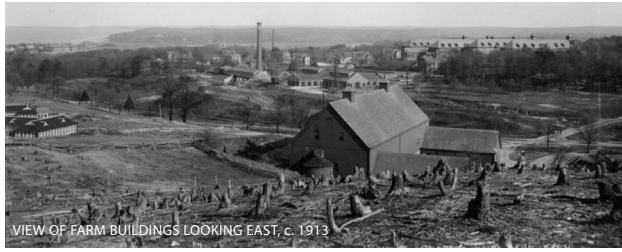
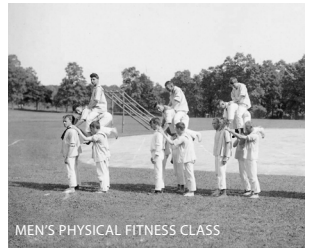
1884-1919



From 1884-1895, the Kings County Farm and Asylum operated as a self-sustaining community for treating mentally ill patients. Life centered around land cultivation, which was thought to provide a therapeutic benefit within a serene and controlled environment. Both patients and staff were housed in simple wood-framed cottages.

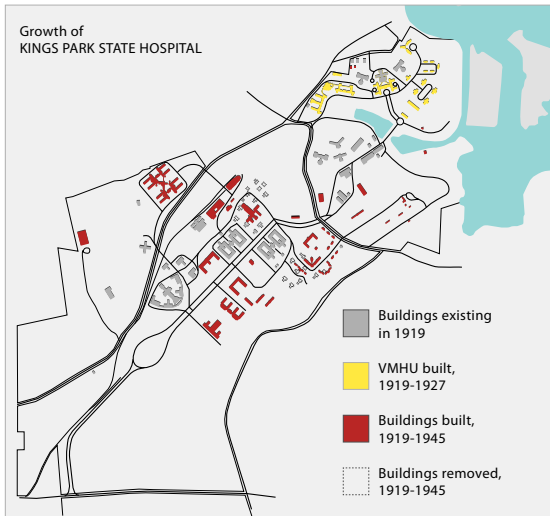


In 1895, the state assumed operations of the asylum and began to improve and expand the institution. By 1900, there were over 2,000 patients and staff, prompting the construction of larger, more permanent ward buildings and the development of active and occupational therapy programs.

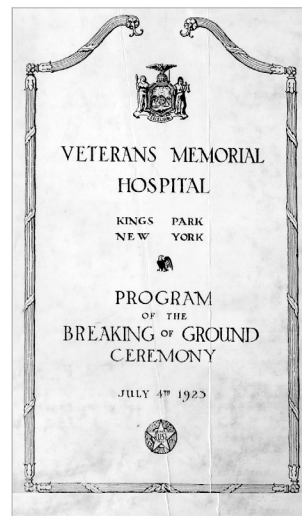


INTERWAR EXPANSION

1919-1945

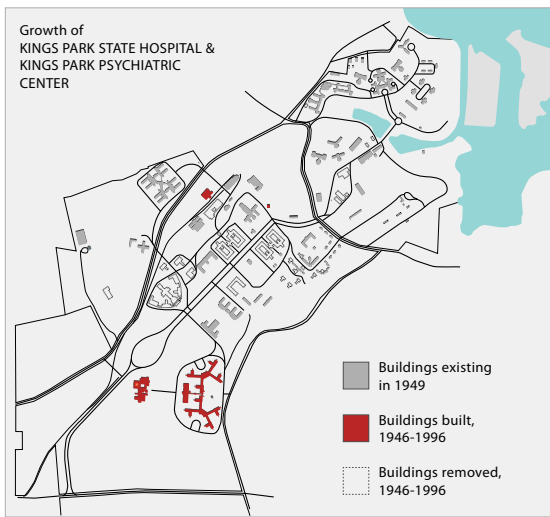


Following WWI, the hospital underwent its single largest phase of expansion. Known as the Veterans' Memorial Hospital Unit (VMHU), the development consisted of 21 buildings constructed at the north end of the campus. Opened in 1927, it was the first state mental facility dedicated entirely to the treatment of disabled veterans.



POSTWAR CONSOLIDATION

1946-1996



The hospital continued to expand after WWII and reached a peak population of 10,000 patients and staff by 1954. In 1955, Thorazine and other drugs used to mental disorders were introduced in the United States, making permanent institutionalization less necessary. Between 1960 and 1970, the hospital's population dropped by nearly 50% and the institution began to experience financial difficulties. Larger structures, like Building 7, were constructed to replace older, poorly maintained wards and consolidate operations. Between 1965 and 1975, the hospital demolished over 40 buildings, many dating from the late 19th-century.



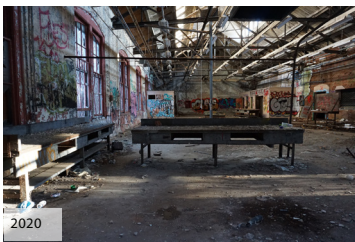
ANALYSIS & PRIORITIZATION

EVOLUTION OF LANDSCAPE



SITE REPHOTOGRAPHY

LAUNDRY (BUILDING 5)



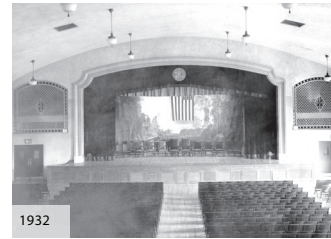
FIREHOUSE (BUILDING 83)



DOCTORS' COTTAGES



YORK HALL (BUILDING 80)



KINGS PARK BOULEVARD



BUILDING PRIORITIZATION

EXISTING SITE SHOWING BUILDING PRIORITIZATION PLAN

LEGEND

- Buildings Currently In Use
- Buildings Currently Under Consideration for Reuse
- Buildings to be Reconsidered for Reuse Prior to Removal
- Buildings Not Under Consideration for Reuse
- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Local Parks
- Water

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



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- + Building condition varies greatly throughout the site.
- + Larger buildings located in remote areas of the site are typically in poor condition.
- + Smaller buildings located along active vehicular and pedestrian thoroughfares are typically in fair condition.
- + Facilities proposed in public surveys (restrooms, markets, restaurants/cafe, museum) are best supported by buildings under 30,000 SF.
- + Buildings not under consideration for reuse are typically too large (over 30,000 SF) to support proposed facilities.
- + The Administration Building (125) has been renovated and can serve as a precedent for buildings proposed for adaptive reuse.
- + The Veterans' Memorial Hospital area has the largest percentage of intact historic structures. Smaller structures are generally more suited for future park uses and more manageable to restore.

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS



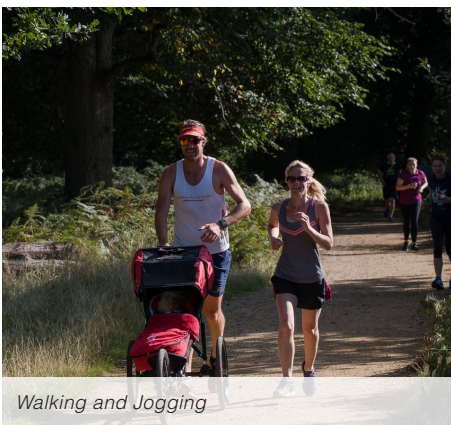
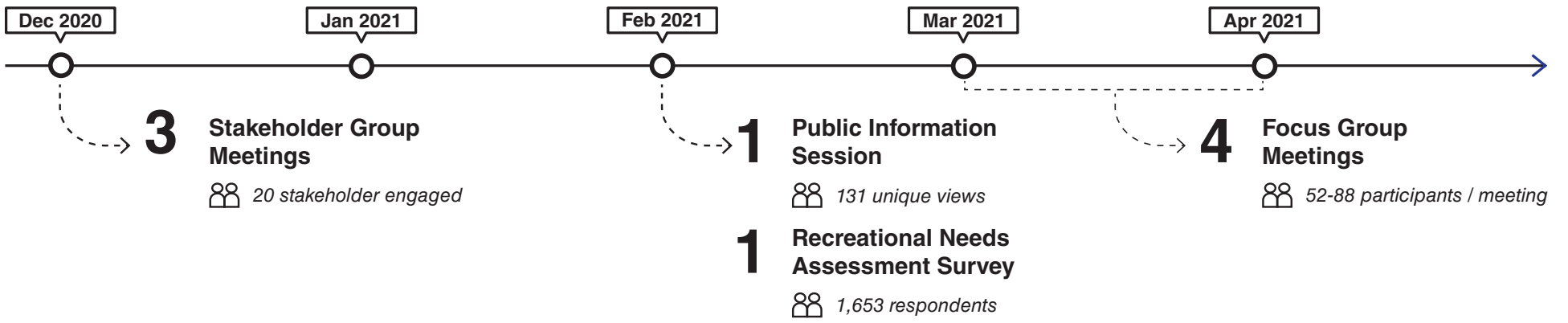
ASSETS / OPPORTUNITIES

- + Unsurpassed view of the Long Island Sound
- + Easy access to the Nissequogue River with waterfront access, kayak launch and marina
- + Unique history that can be incorporated into park's identity
- + Successional forests developing at varying states of maturity
- + Large open areas available for neighborhood park amenities such as tot lots, dog runs and recreational areas
- + Potential for new connections to the Long Island Greenbelt Trail and Hike and Bike Trail

CONSTRAINTS

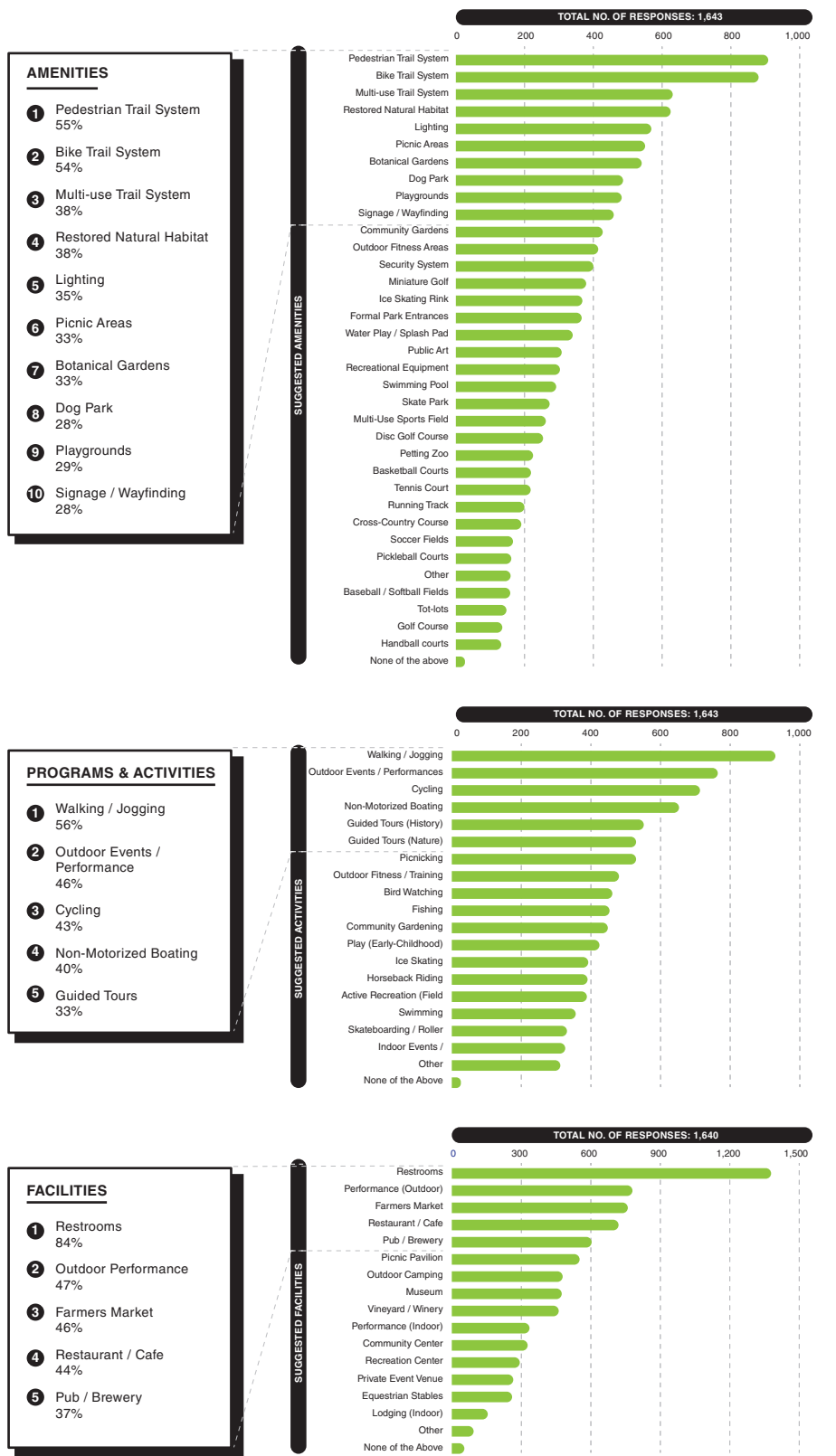
- + The park lacks a cohesive circulation network.
- + There are major safety issues for pedestrians at active road crossings.
- + Open spaces and habitats are fragmented by unused roads and parking areas.
- + Limited recreational facilities for residents of all ages and all abilities.
- + Former buildings no longer serve their original purpose and require extensive resources to stabilize, remove or re-purpose.

OUTREACH PROCESS

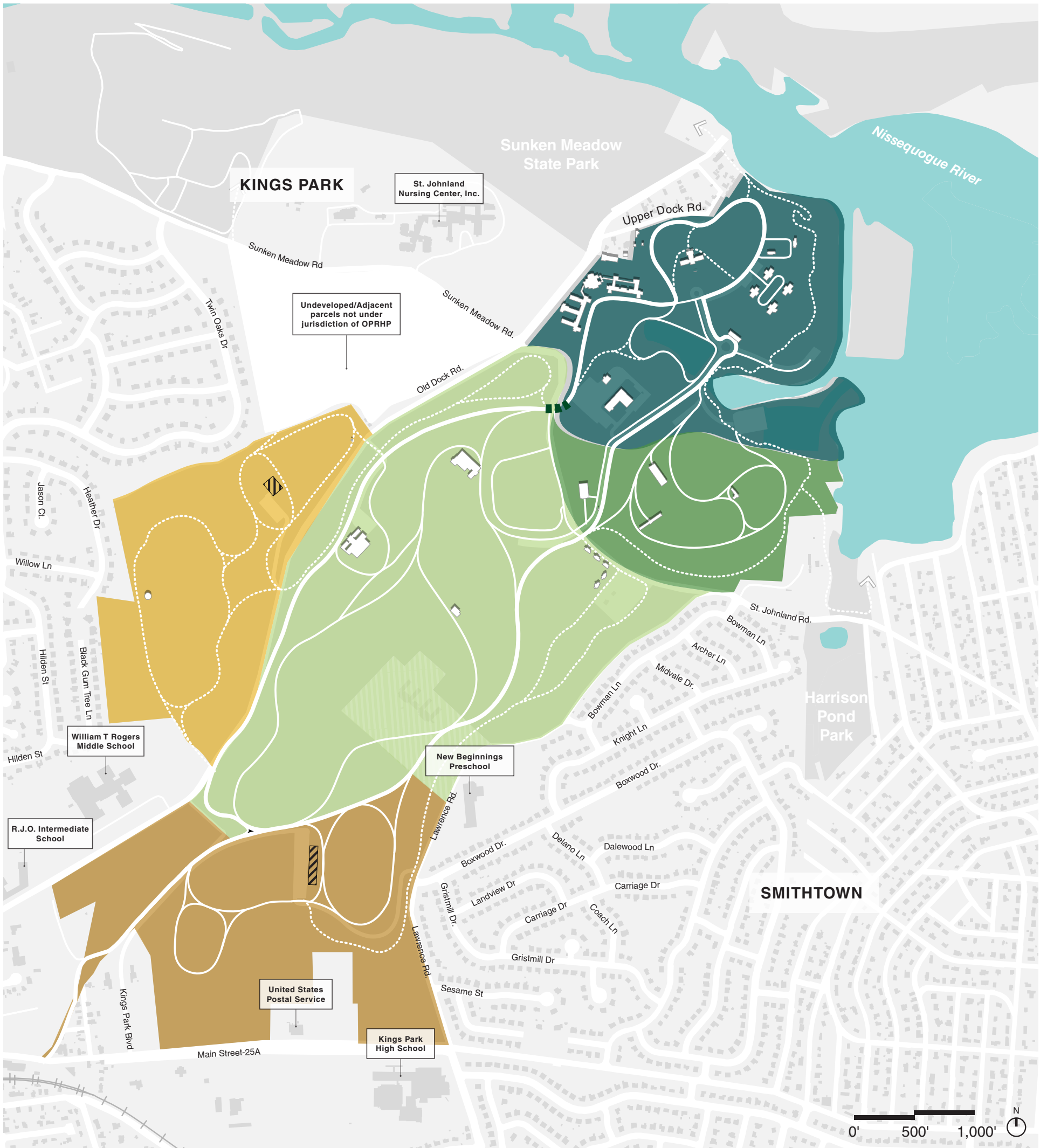


SURVEY DATA

What would you like to see at the park?



MASTER PLAN - EARLY LANDSCAPE CONCEPT



- SOUTH GATE RECREATION AREA
- NORTH WOODS
- PASTORAL CORE
- BOTANICAL DISTRICT
- WATERSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT

LEGEND

Preliminary Proposed Routes for Trails

- Hike and Bike Trail Extension
- Multi-use Paved Path
- Multi-use Soft Path

Sources: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.

WATERSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT VISION



GOALS

Create an Immersive Waterfront

- + Remove the existing fence and soften perimeter slopes around reservoir.
- + Create an accessible trail around reservoir.
- + Enhance pedestrian connections to the river.
- + Protect and restore aquatic habitats.

Provide a Destination Landscape

- + Open viewsheds to the river and Long Island Sound.
- + Enhance open meadow to support passive recreation and other events.
- + Protect and enhance bird habitat, while providing visitors with opportunities to learn about native species.
- + Provide intimate, serene spaces for moments of reflection and meditation.

Support Family Friendly and Flexible Programming

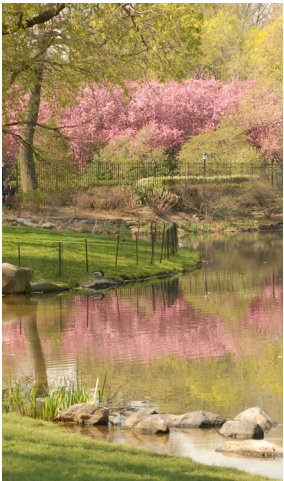
- + Explore restoration of historic buildings as event venues.
- + Dedicate one building for a KPPC museum.
- + Provide more facilities such as public restrooms, playgrounds including a playground for all needs, concessions/cafes for neighborhood residents and day visitors, and dog runs.

Provide Layered Circulation

- + Formalize woodland circulation routes with wayfinding and ADA-accessible paths.
- + Establish pedestrian access to a variety of ecologies.
- + Extend Hike & Bike trail through additional portions of the park to create a continuous loop with paved and unpaved options.
- + Improve pedestrian safety with grade-protected crossings and crosswalks.
- + Remove redundant automobile-oriented circulations and parking areas.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Would you like to have the following programs at the park? Yes, please! Maybe Nope



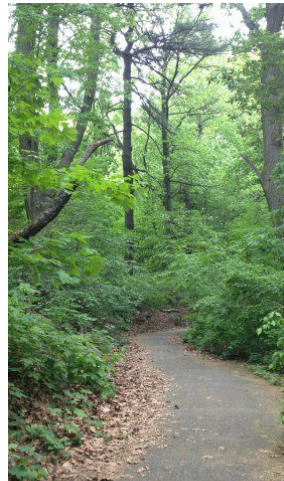
1 Softened, accessible reservoir edge



2 Waterfront concessions and activities



3 Educational and children's programs



4 Accessible woodland trails



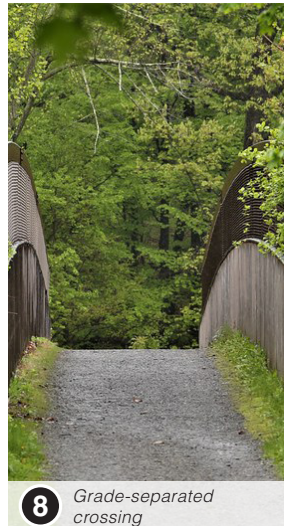
5 Flexible event meadow with enhanced viewshed



6 Concessions supporting daytime uses



7 Buildings supporting events, arts, and culture



8 Grade-separated crossing

BOTANICAL DISTRICT VISION



GOALS

Curate a Botanical Experience

- + Maintain and restore greenhouse for both OPRHP & public use-expanded as needed.
- + Manage invasives and protect historic specimen trees.
- + Plant climate-forward native trees.
- + Add additional ornamental plantings to enliven the landscape in all seasons.

Provide an Intimate Dining Experience

- + Restore Director's House as a restaurant/cafe and small event venue.
- + Incorporate public bathrooms into buildings
- + Restore views to the water.

Build Immersive Educational Trails

- + Provide accessible trails throughout the botanical garden and woodland.
- + Enhance trails with interpretive signage to educate visitors on the plantings and local ecosystems.

Support a Revived Cultural Scene

- + Restore York Hall to serve as a theater and performance venue, as well as a community event space.

Nurture Community Agriculture

- + Reclaim unprogrammed lawn and parking spaces for community agriculture, orchards, or a small vineyard.

Support Maintenance and Operations

- + Support maintenance and operations resources by improving the M&O garage.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

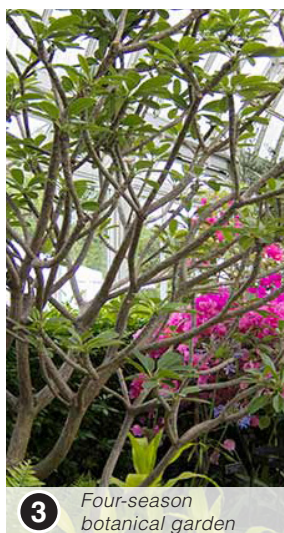
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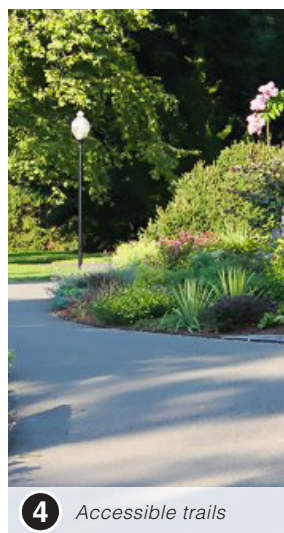
1 Intimate dining and small event venue



2 Community gardens and agriculture



3 Four-season botanical garden



4 Accessible trails

PASTORAL CORE VISION



GOALS

Create an Expansive Pastoral Landscape

- + Create well-defined flexible use lawn that preserves sightlines to the water.
- + Define smaller passive use areas with new canopy and flowering trees.
- + Remove unused pavement.

Provide Diverse Recreation and Fitness Facilities

- + Maintain Tiffany Field as sports and athletic area with fields and a bandstand.
- + Integrate fitness and play amenities for all ages and all abilities.
- + Consider discrete structures (restored and new) to support athletic and fitness programming.

Create Enhanced Woodland Walks

- + Create a robust system of paved and soft trail loops.
- + Prioritize pedestrian and cyclist access to the park's interior.
- + Enhance ADA access to the trail network.
- + Use soft trails in woodland areas to minimize disturbance; limit paved surfaces to previously disturbed areas.

Explore Unique Boutique Lodging Experiences

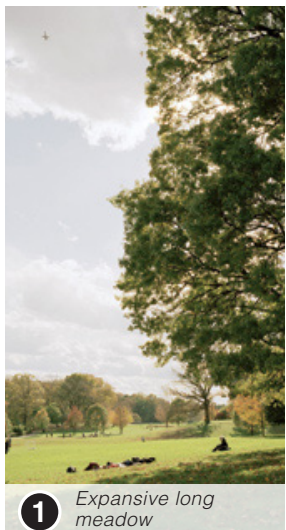
- + Renovate Doctors' Cottages (Buildings 95-99) for boutique rentals, short-term housing for artists-in-residence, and rehearsal/studio space for performance artists.

Expedite OMH Parcel Transfer

- + Transfer of jurisdiction of the OMH parcel to OPRHP will allow for the seamless continuation of the pastoral core and the trails along the park's eastern perimeter.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Would you like to have the following programs at the park? Yes, please! Maybe Nope



NORTH WOODS DISTRICT VISION



GOALS

Plan an Equestrian Center and Trails

- + Establish an equestrian center and Associated Riding Rings to support riding lessons, trail rides, and equine therapy.
- + Explore a network of riding trails to connect to Sunken Meadow State Park.

Create Immersive Hiking Trails

- + Develop a network of hiking trails to access the park's point of highest elevation, the cole ash landfill and water tower.

Provide a Flexible Picnic and Lookout Area

- + Maintain open meadow for picnicking and access to waterfront views.
- + Conduct light remediation of ashfill if required to ensure visitors have continued safe access to the site.

Preserve and Protect the Historic Cemetery

- + Provide interpretive signage about the history of the cemetery.

Introduce a Seasonal Market

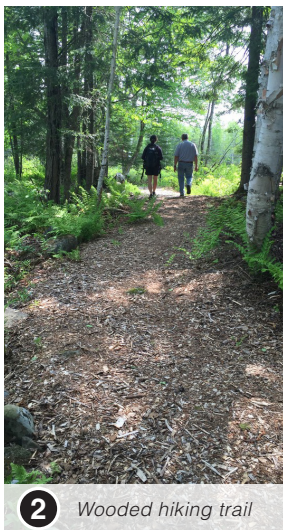
- + Convert laundry building (Building 5) into a flexible market space.
- + Facilitate connections to the Hike & Bike trail and surrounding trail network.
- + Provide vehicular access and parking via Old Dock Road.

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Would you like to have the following programs at the park? Yes, please! Maybe Nope



1 Picnic meadow and lookout



2 Wooded hiking trail



3 Horseback Riding



4 Seasonal Market Space

SOUTH GATE RECREATION AREA VISION



GOALS

Formalize Park Entrance and Trailheads

- + Create a more well-defined entrance and trailhead to Hike & Bike Trail.
- + Formalize connection to train station and enhance wayfinding to connect with neighboring commercial areas.
- + Prioritize access by pedestrians and cyclists and implement traffic calming measures.
- + Provide decentralized and accessible parking areas for new facilities and park destinations.

Provide Ballfields and Adult Fitness

- + Activate areas in closest proximity to schools and commercial districts with sports fields.
- + Add a field house/comfort station to support athletes and spectators.
- + Add a fitness loop trail around sport fields, weaving through the woodland buffer.
- + Provide visitor and spectator parking.

Create a Children's Play Area and Splash Park

- + Provide accessible, year-round children's play areas, including a seasonal splash park for children of various ages and abilities.

Provide a Field House

- + Construct a field house with equipment rentals, concessions, locker rooms, and restrooms to support athletics and other park recreational activities.

Let the Dogs Run! (Provide more Dog Runs)

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Would you like to have the following programs at the park? Yes, please! Maybe Nope

