

NISSEQUOGE RIVER STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

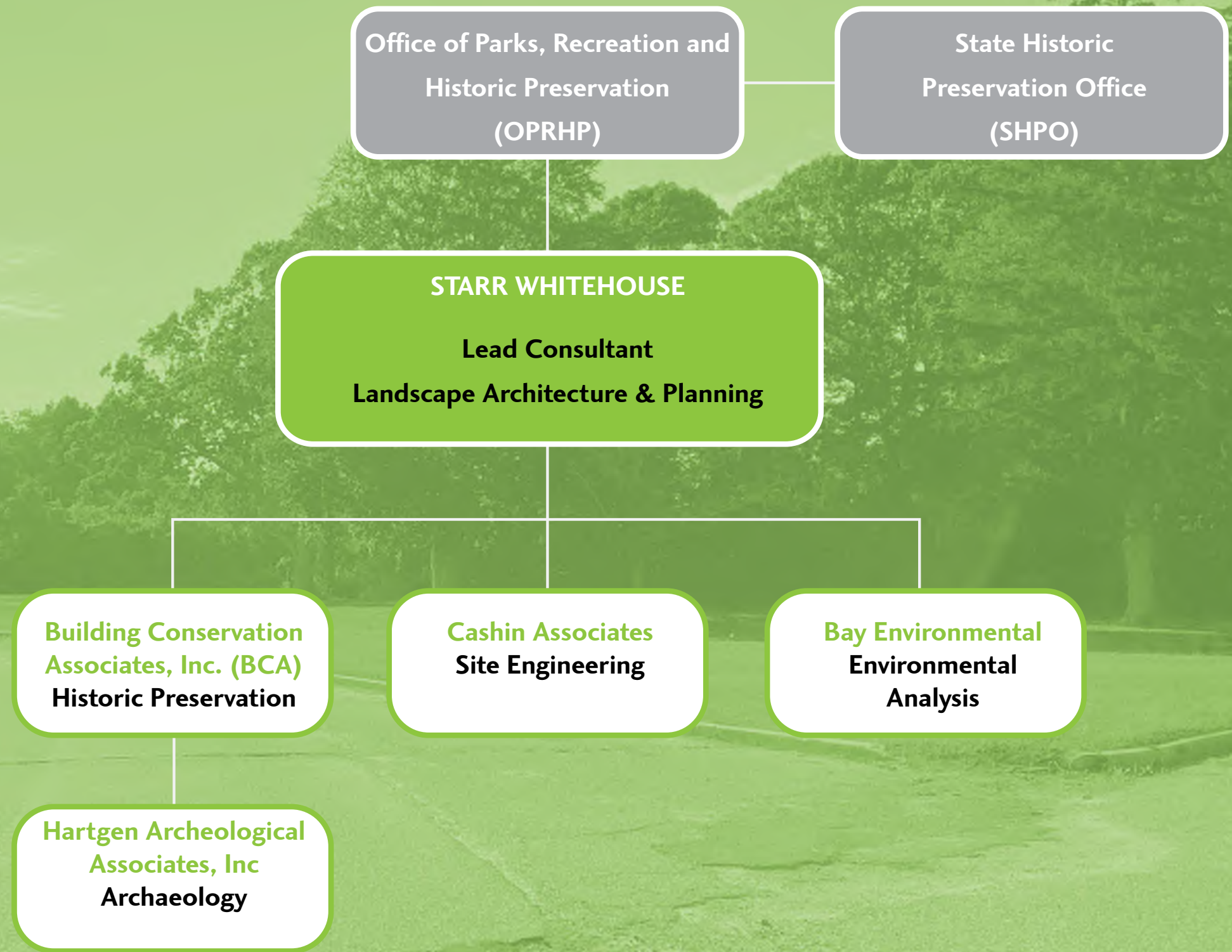
Phase II Virtual Public Information Meeting
October 27, 2021



MEETING AGENDA

- Team Presentations
- Discussion and Feedback
- Next Steps

PROJECT TEAM



PHASE I SURVEY DATA + SITE ANALYSIS

CIRCULATION

SITE HISTORY + BUILDING STRATEGY

EARLY MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

PROJECT SCHEDULE



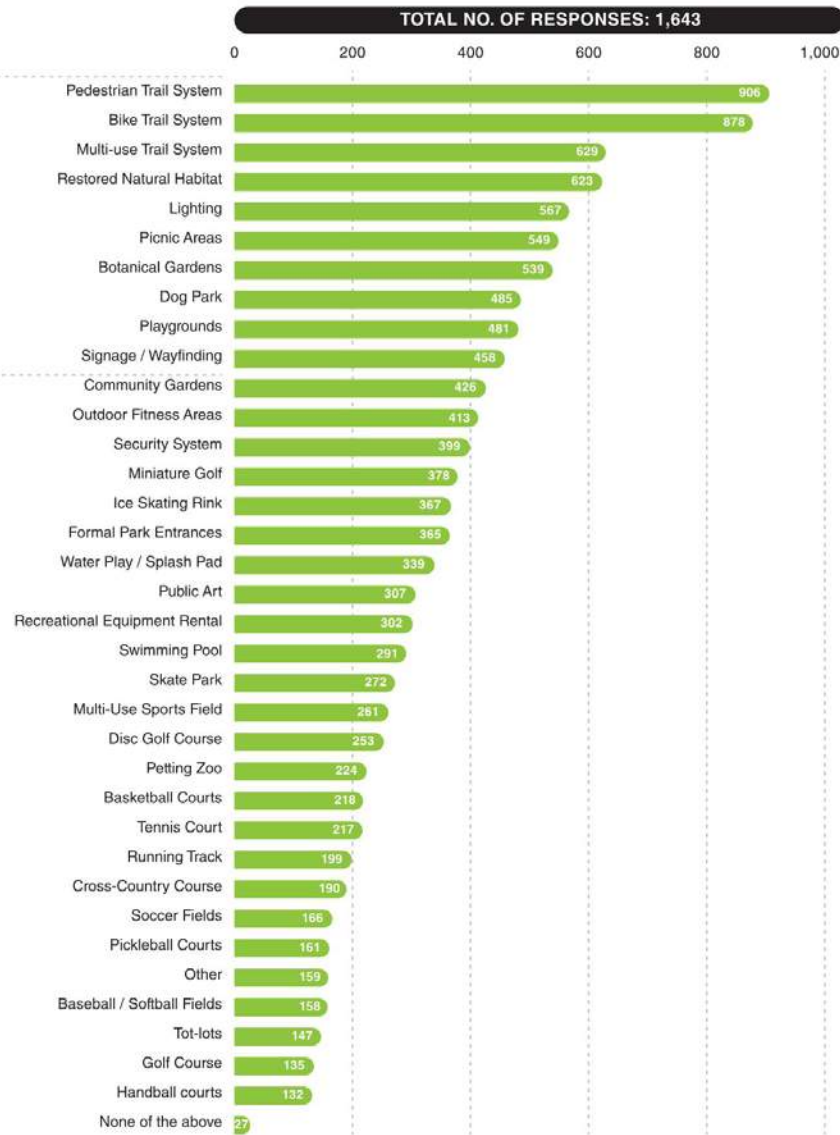
SURVEY DATA

What would you like to see at the park?

AMENITIES

- 1 Pedestrian Trail System
55%
- 2 Bike Trail System
54%
- 3 Multi-use Trail System
38%
- 4 Restored Natural Habitat
38%
- 5 Lighting
35%
- 6 Picnic Areas
33%
- 7 Botanical Gardens
33%
- 8 Dog Park
28%
- 9 Playgrounds
29%
- 10 Signage / Wayfinding
28%

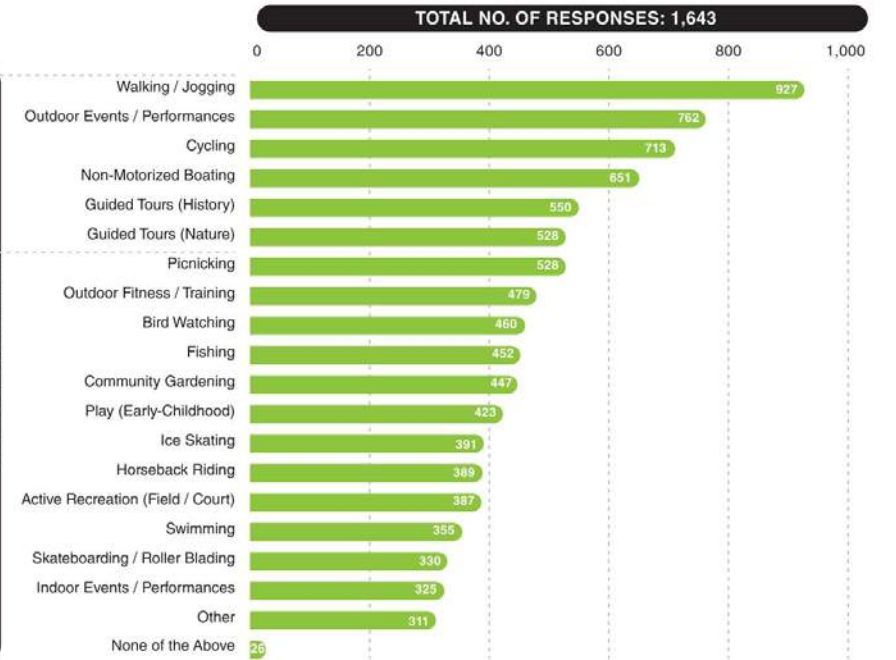
SUGGESTED AMENITIES



PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

- 1 Walking / Jogging
56%
- 2 Outdoor Events / Performance
46%
- 3 Cycling
43%
- 4 Non-Motorized Boating
40%
- 5 Guided Tours
33%

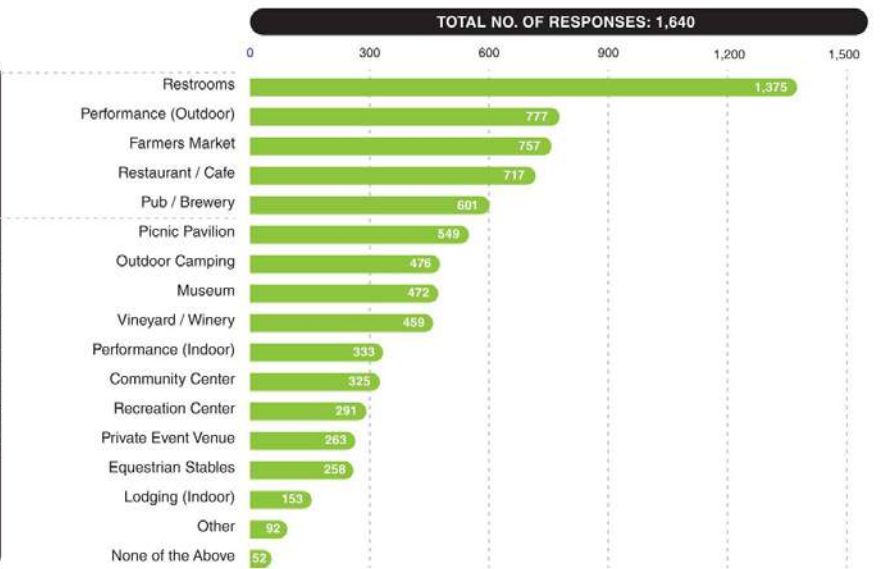
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES



FACILITIES

- 1 Restrooms
84%
- 2 Outdoor Performance
47%
- 3 Farmers Market
46%
- 4 Restaurant / Cafe
44%
- 5 Pub / Brewery
37%

SUGGESTED FACILITIES



SURVEY DATA



Soft Trail System



Bike Trail System



Walking and Jogging



Guided Tours



Botanical Garden



Outdoor Performance and Events



Restroom Facilities



Farmer's Market

SURVEY FINDINGS - EMERGING THEMES

The team heard three themes emerge from engagement that are corroborated by public survey data:

HISTORY

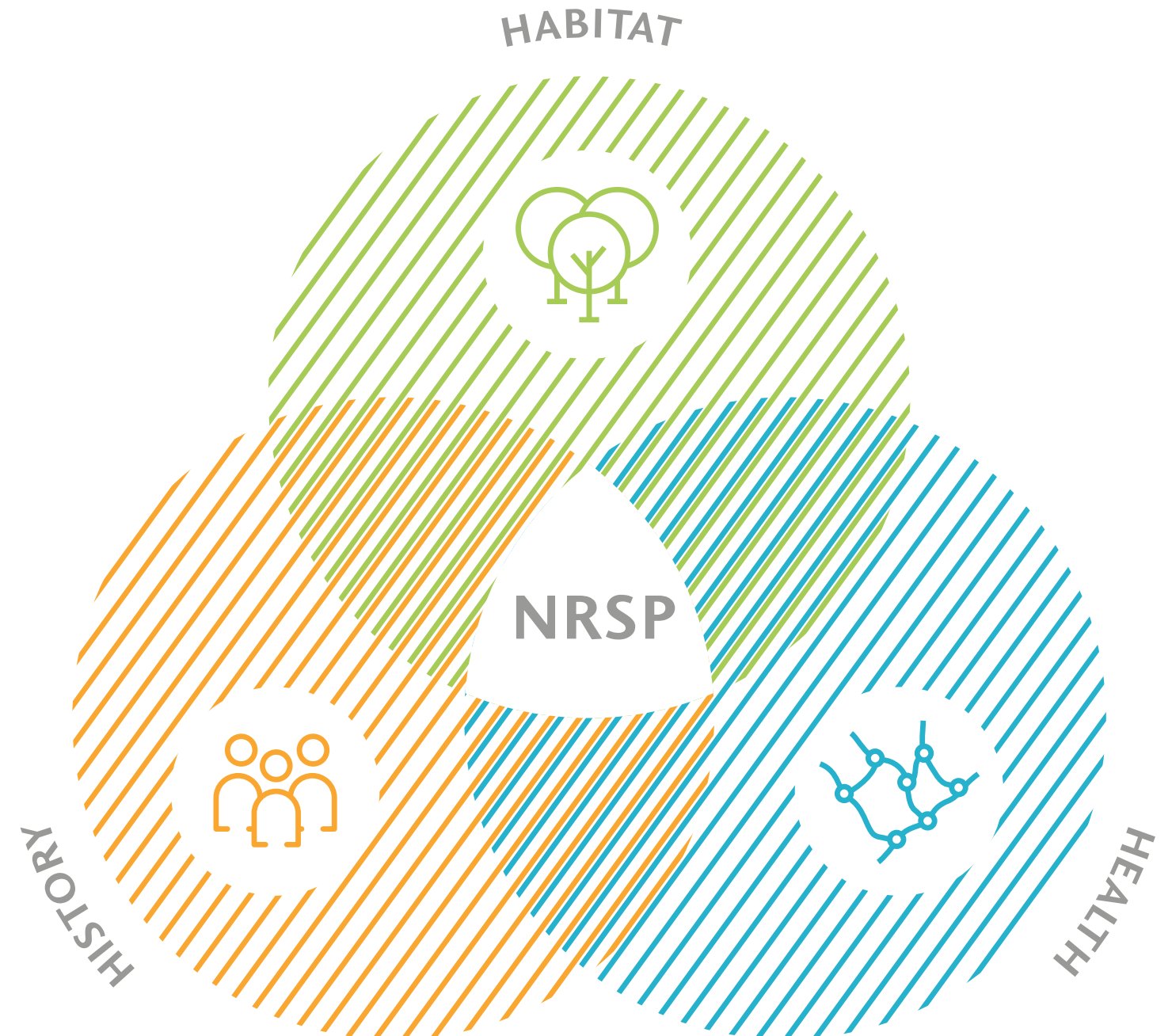
Preservation, programming, and interpretation

HEALTH

Recreation, education and community wellness

HABITAT

Conservation, restoration, and connection



EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS



ASSETS / OPPORTUNITIES

Unsurpassed view of 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 various stages of maturity

Large open areas available for neighborhood park amenities such as tot lots, dog runs, and recreational areas

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 abilities

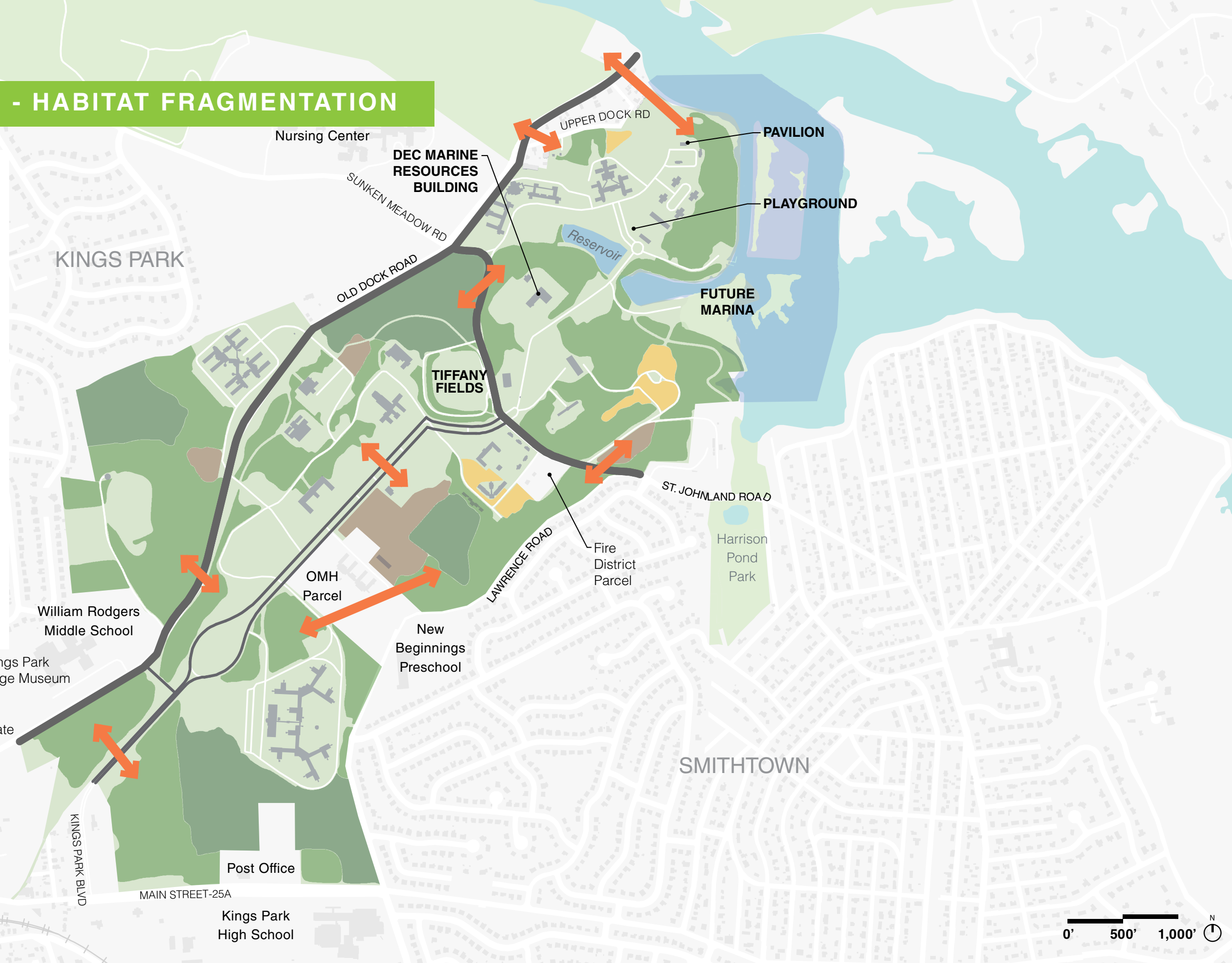
Former buildings no longer serve their original purpose and require extensive resources to stabilize, remove or re-purpose

ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS - HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Legend

- Mesophytic Forest
- Successional Mesophytic Forest
- Degraded Area
- Other Open Area
- Successional Old Field
- Wetland
- Public Road
- Fragmented Habitat

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



PHASE I SURVEY DATA + SITE ANALYSIS

CIRCULATION

SITE HISTORY + BUILDING STRATEGY

EARLY MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

CIRCULATION ANALYSIS: EXISTING SYSTEMS

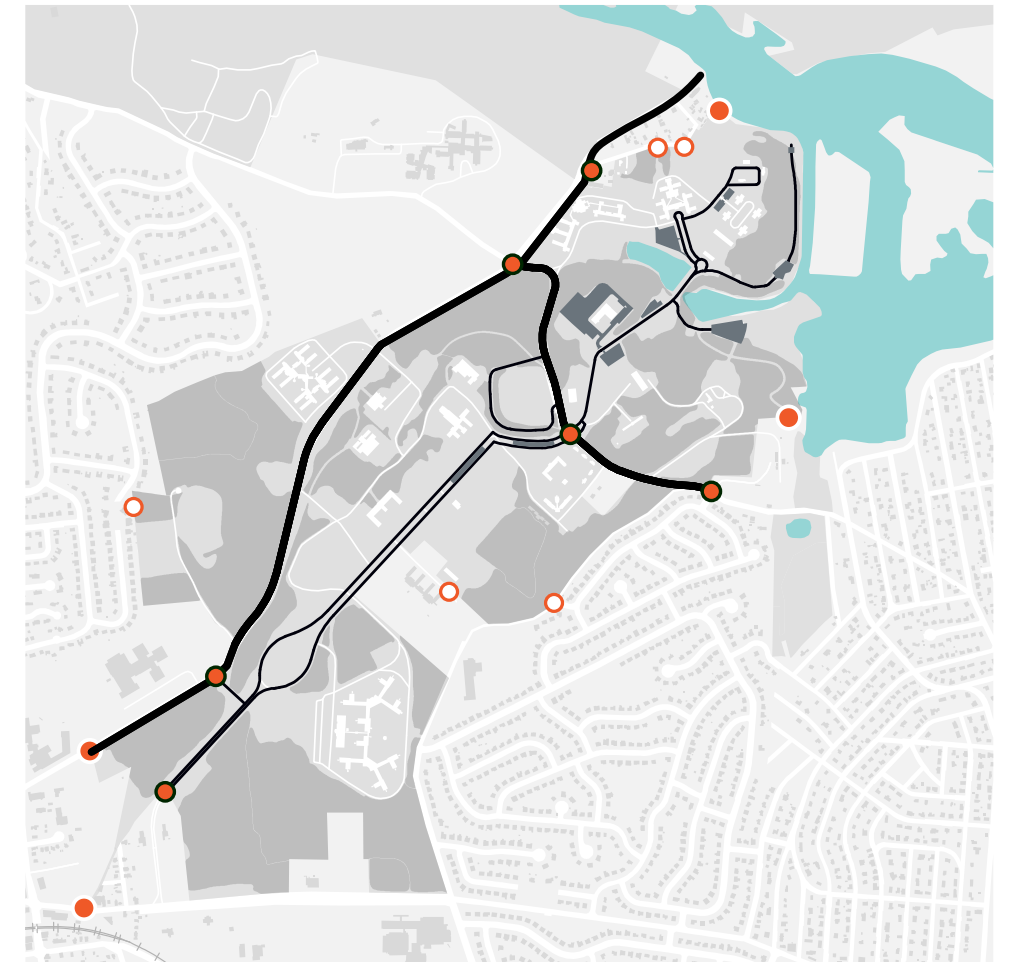
TRAILS



SIDEWALKS



VEHICULAR TRAFFIC




Legend

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Primary Trails | Park Sidewalks | Park Roads | Primary Pedestrian Entrances |
| Secondary Trails | Local Bicycle Routes | Public Thru Roads | Secondary Pedestrian Entrances |
| Old Trails | LI Greenbelt Trail | Parking Areas | Primary Vehicular Entrances |

EXISTING PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST CIRCULATION

Legend

- Primary Trails
- Secondary Trails
- - - Old Trails
- Park Sidewalks
- Local Bicycle Routes
- LI Greenbelt Trail
- + + + LIRR Line
-  LIRR Station
- Open Areas
- Woodland
- Buildings
- Water
- Primary Entrances
- Secondary Entrances



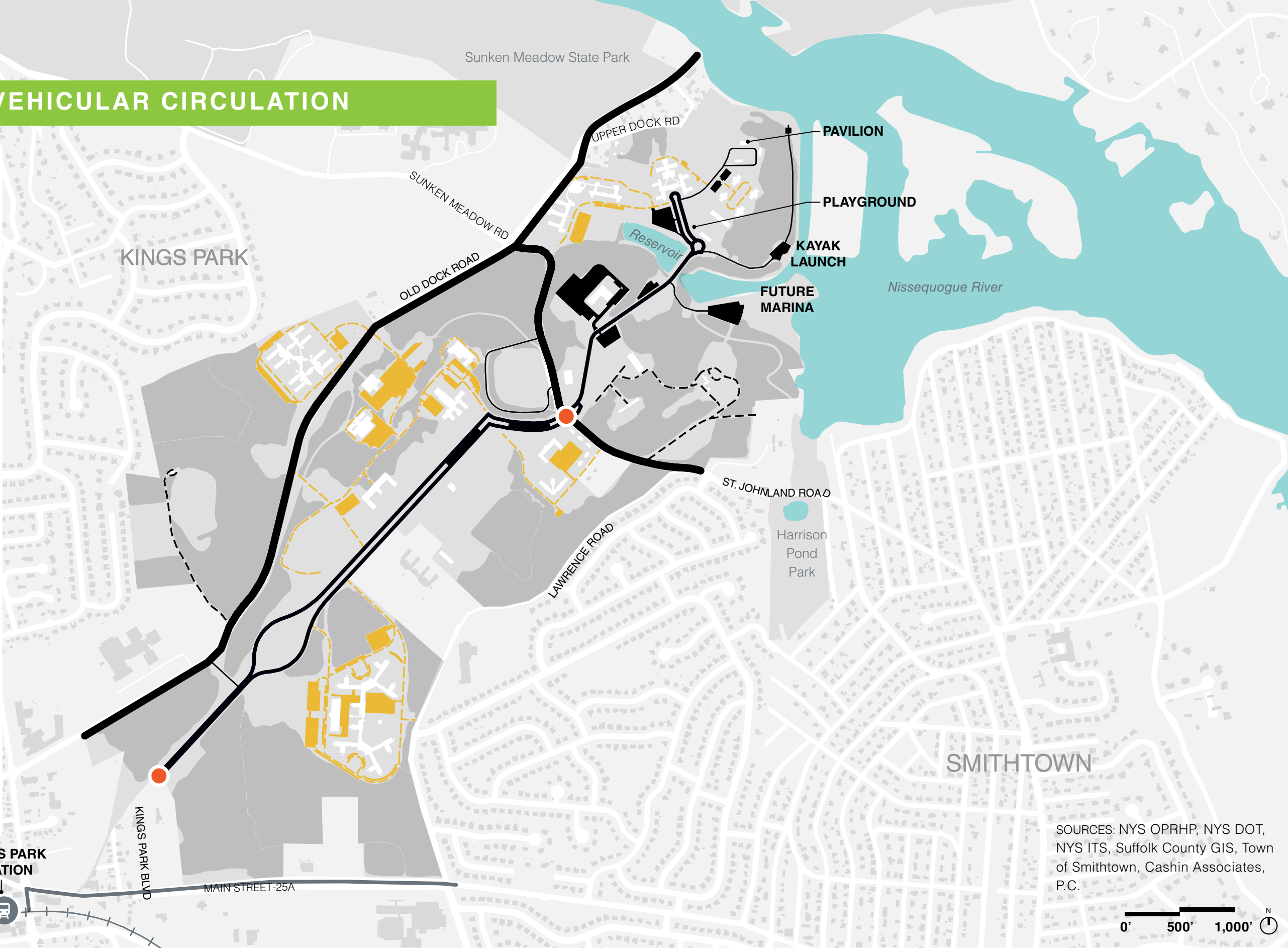
SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.



EXISTING VEHICULAR CIRCULATION

Legend

- Primary Entrances
- Public Through Roads
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Maintenance Roads
- Active Parking Lots
- Closed Park Roads
- Inactive Parking Lots
- LIRR Line
- T LIRR Station
- Bus Route
- Woodland
- Local Parks

















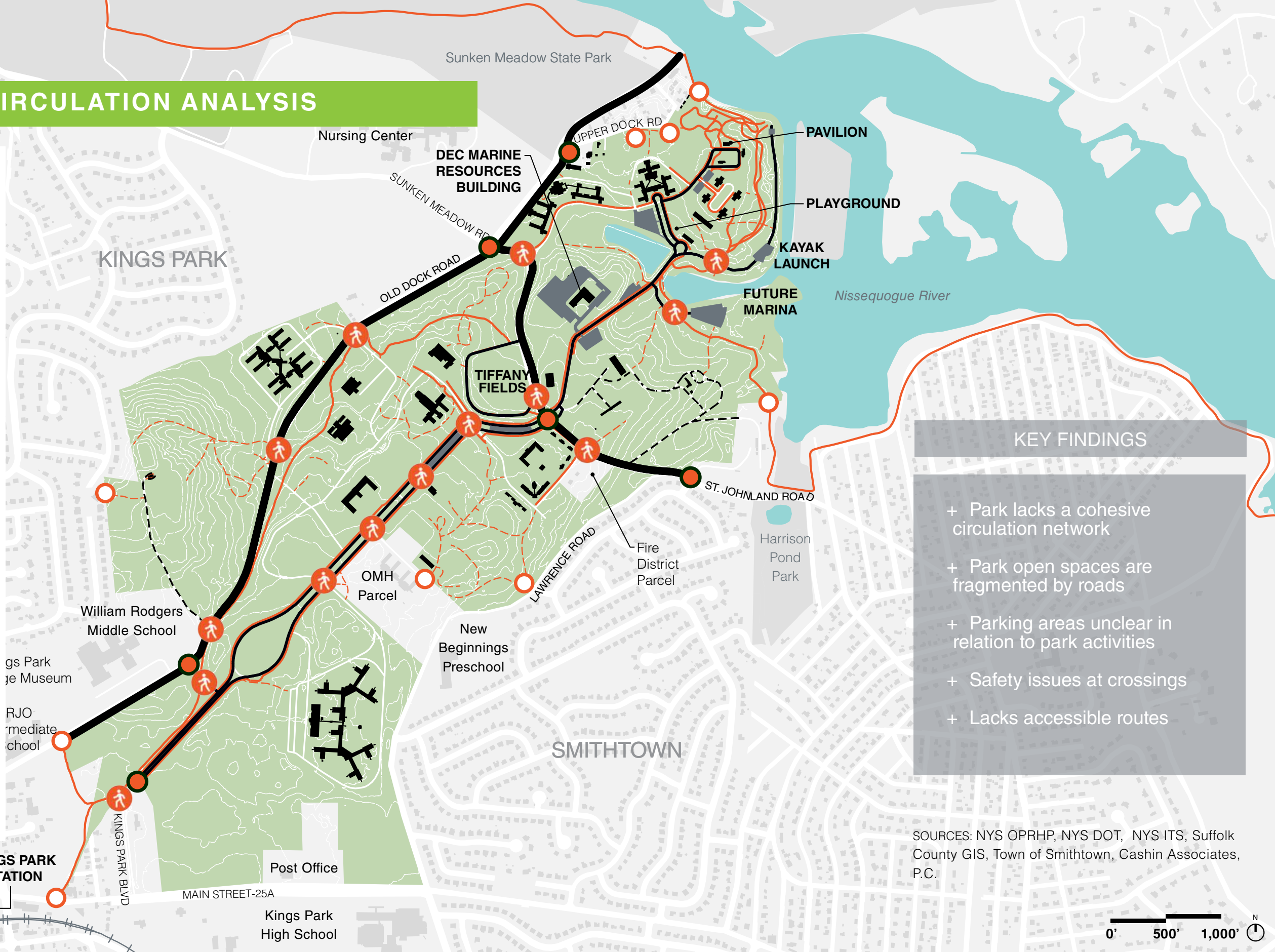
SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.



EXISTING CIRCULATION ANALYSIS

Legend

-  Vehicular Entrances
-  Pedestrian Entrances
-  Pedestrian Conflicts
-  Public Through Roads
-  Primary Roads
-  Maintenance Roads
-  Primary Trails + Sidewalks
-  Secondary Trails
-  LIRR Line
-  LIRR Station
-  10' Contours
-  Active Parking Lots
-  Park Buildings
-  Project Area



KEY FINDINGS



- + Park lacks a cohesive circulation network
- + Park open spaces are fragmented by roads
- + Parking areas unclear in relation to park activities
- + Safety issues at crossings
- + Lacks accessible routes

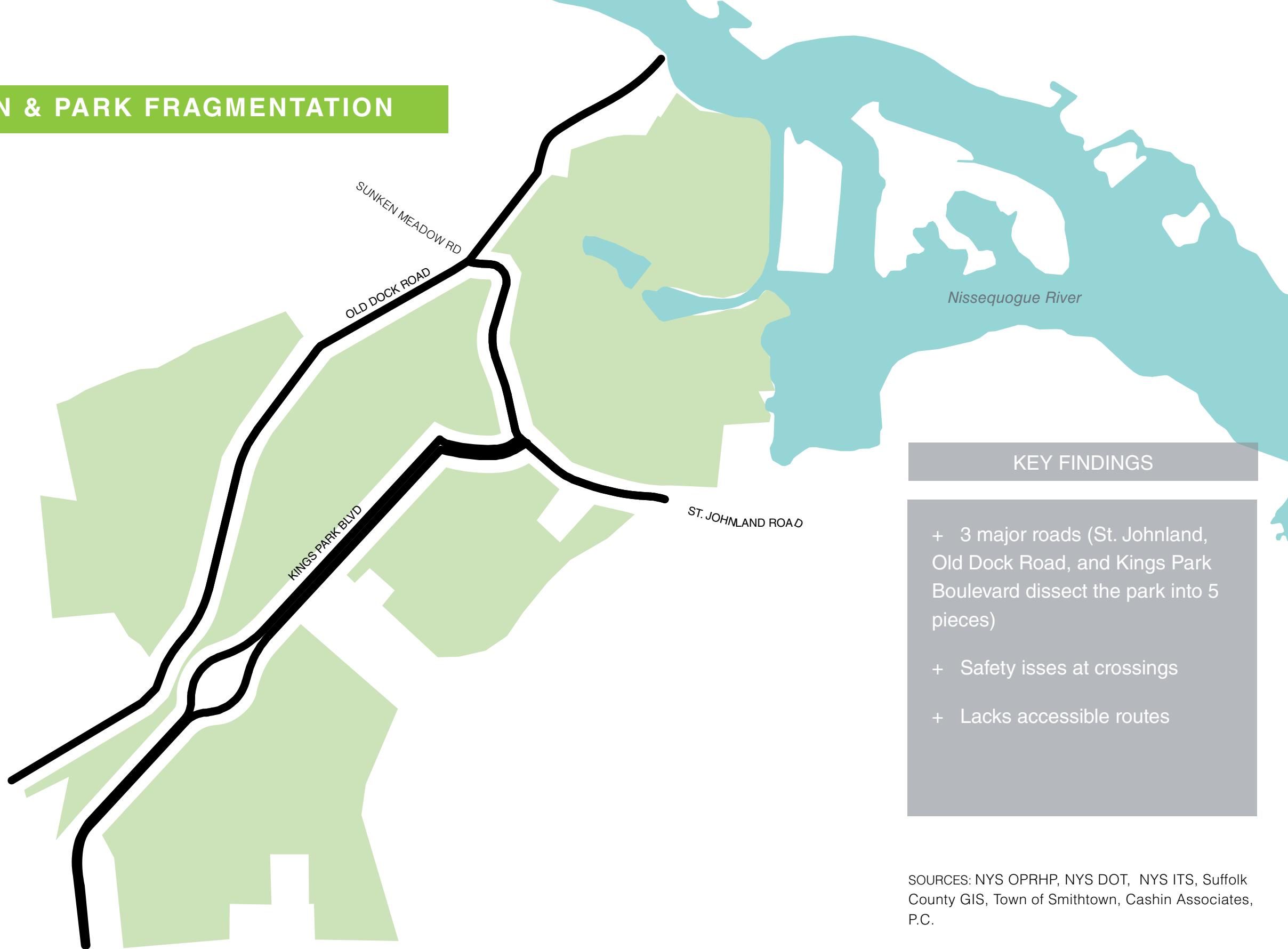
SOURCES: NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS ITS, Suffolk County GIS, Town of Smithtown, Cashin Associates, P.C.



EXISTING CIRCULATION & PARK FRAGMENTATION

Legend

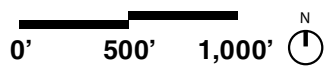
-  Major Park Roads
-  Park



KEY FINDINGS











- + 3 major roads (St. Johnland, Old Dock Road, and Kings Park Boulevard dissect the park into 5 pieces)
- + Safety issues at crossings
- + Lacks accessible routes

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



PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS - CIRCULATION

Legend

-  Hike and Bike Trail
-  Multiuse Paved Path
-  Multiuse Soft Path
-  Grade Separated Crossing
-  Park Roads
-  Existing Buildings
-  Proposed Park Facilities
-  Project Area
-  Pedestrian Crossing
-  Parking



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



PHASE I SURVEY DATA + SITE ANALYSIS

CIRCULATION

SITE HISTORY + BUILDING STRATEGY

EARLY MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

SITE TIMELINE

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



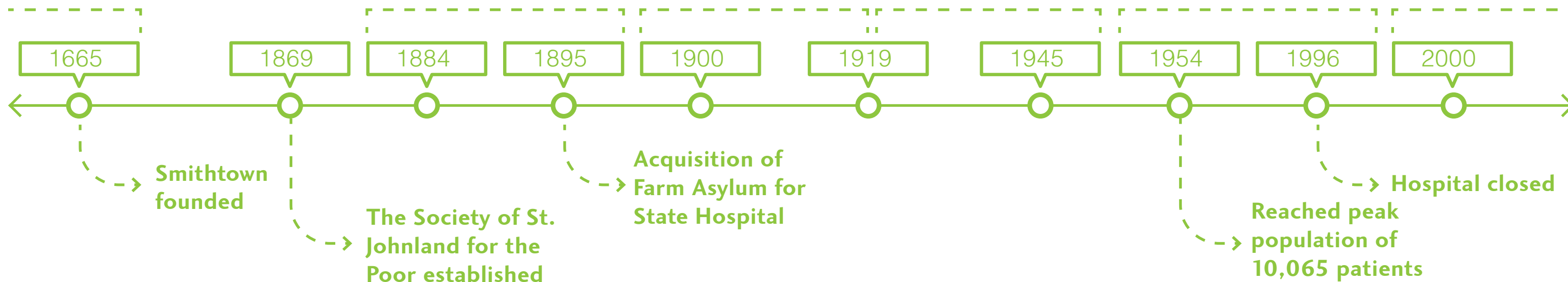
Kings County Farm and Asylum established for mental health treatment.

Kings Park Boulevard is constructed under state leadership.

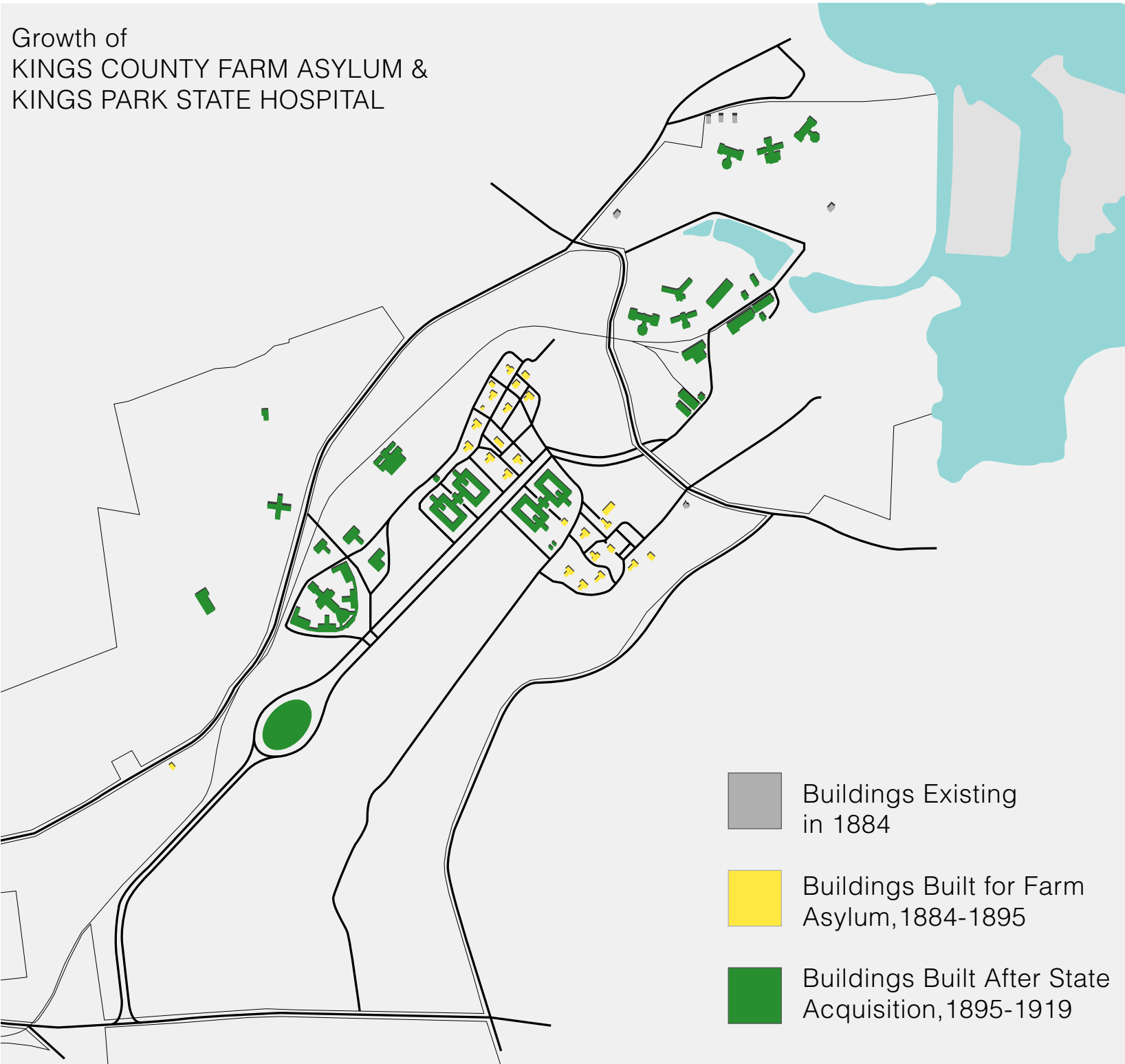
The Veterans' Memorial Hospital Unit is built following WWI.

32 buildings demolished and operations consolidated into new large buildings.

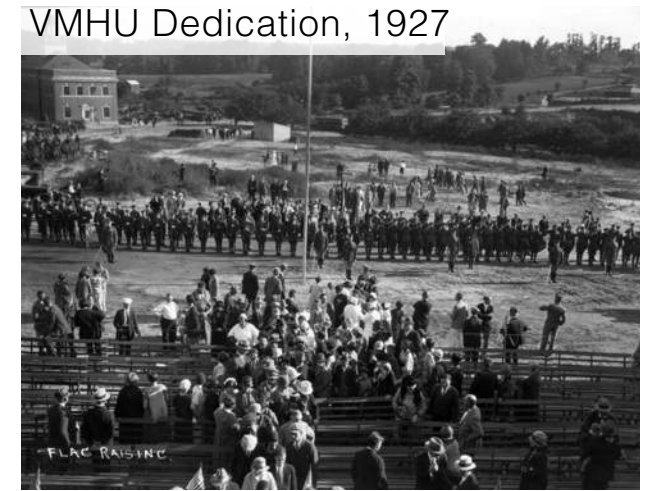
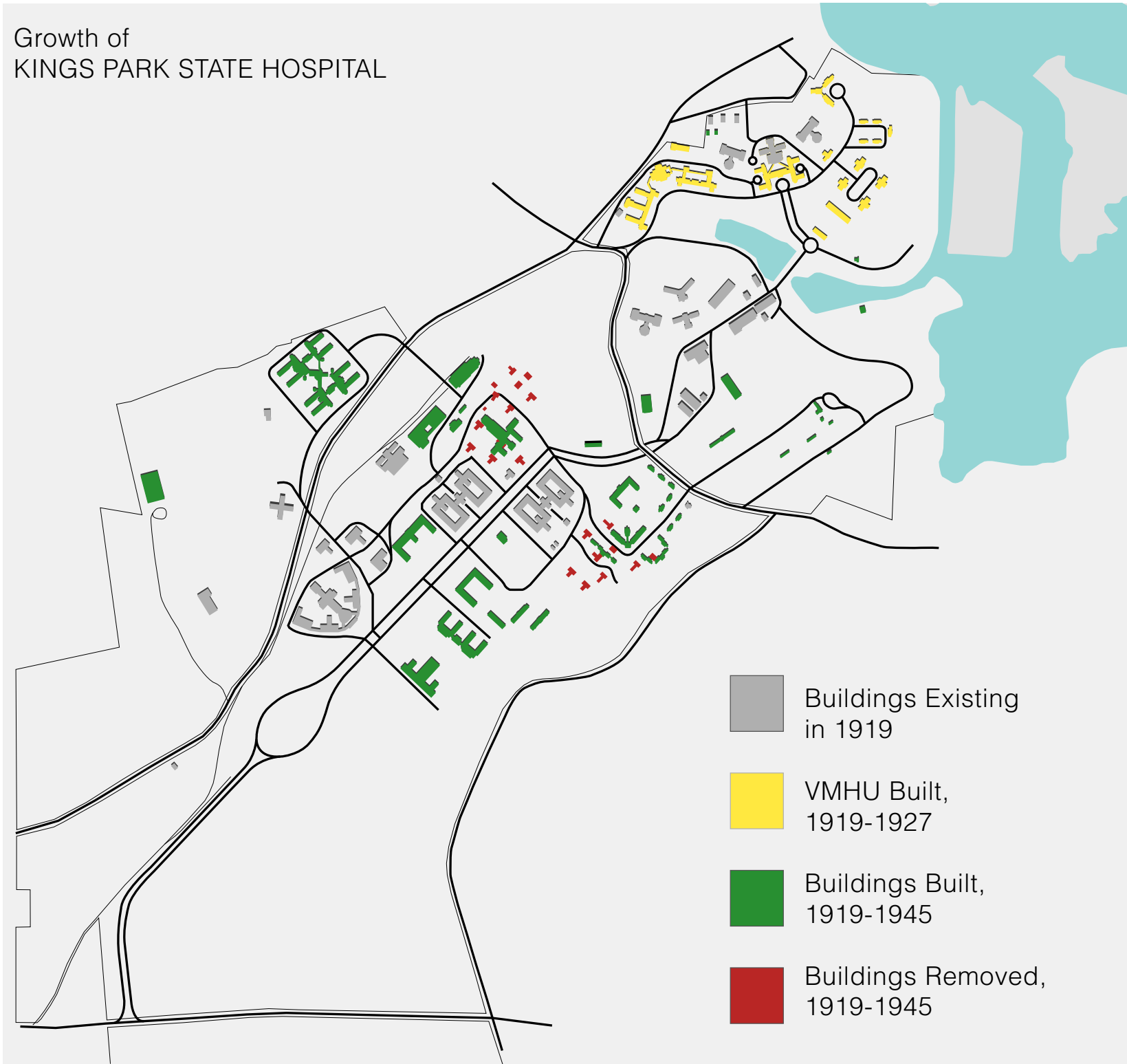
Nissequogue River State Park established.



1884-1919 FARM ASYLUM & STATE ACQUISITION

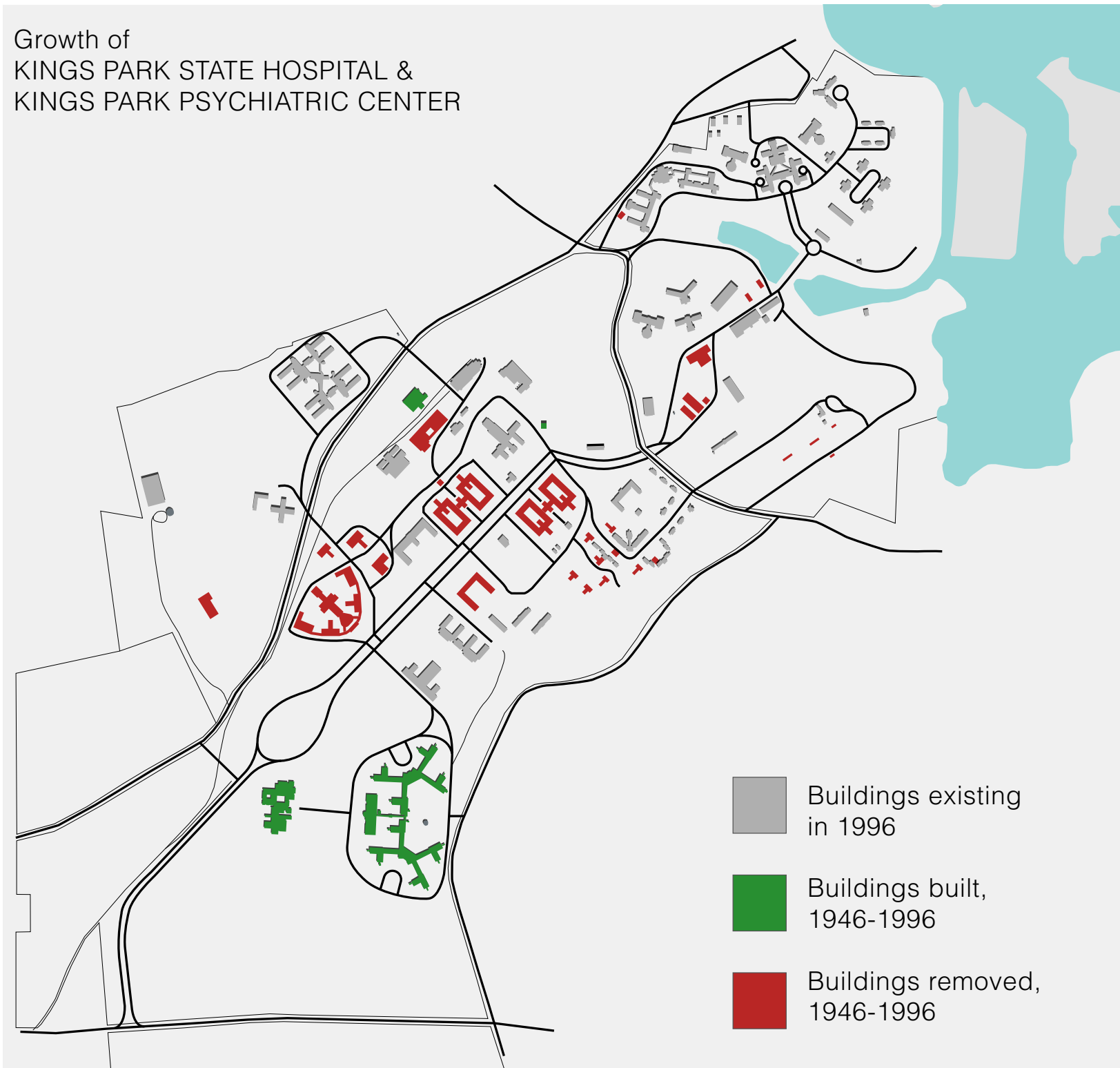


1919 -1945 INTERWAR EXPANSION



1946-1996 POSTWAR CONSOLIDATION

Growth of
KINGS PARK STATE HOSPITAL &
KINGS PARK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER



Building 7, 1966



Deterioration and Removal, 1970



Deterioration and Removal, 1970



1947-2020: SITE EVOLUTION

1947 AERIAL AT HEIGHT OF HOSPITAL OPERATION



2020 AERIAL SHOWING EXTENT OF BUILDING DEMOLITION



RE-PHOTOGRAPHY: SITE EVOLUTION

KINGS PARK BOULEVARD

1905



2020



KINGS PARK BOULEVARD

1905



2020



DOCTOR'S COTTAGES (95-99)

1925



2020



RE-PHOTOGRAPHY: BUILDING EVOLUTION

LAUNDRY (BLDG 5)

1910s



2021



FIREHOUSE (BLDG 83)

1930s



2020



YORK HALL (BLDG 80)

1932



2007

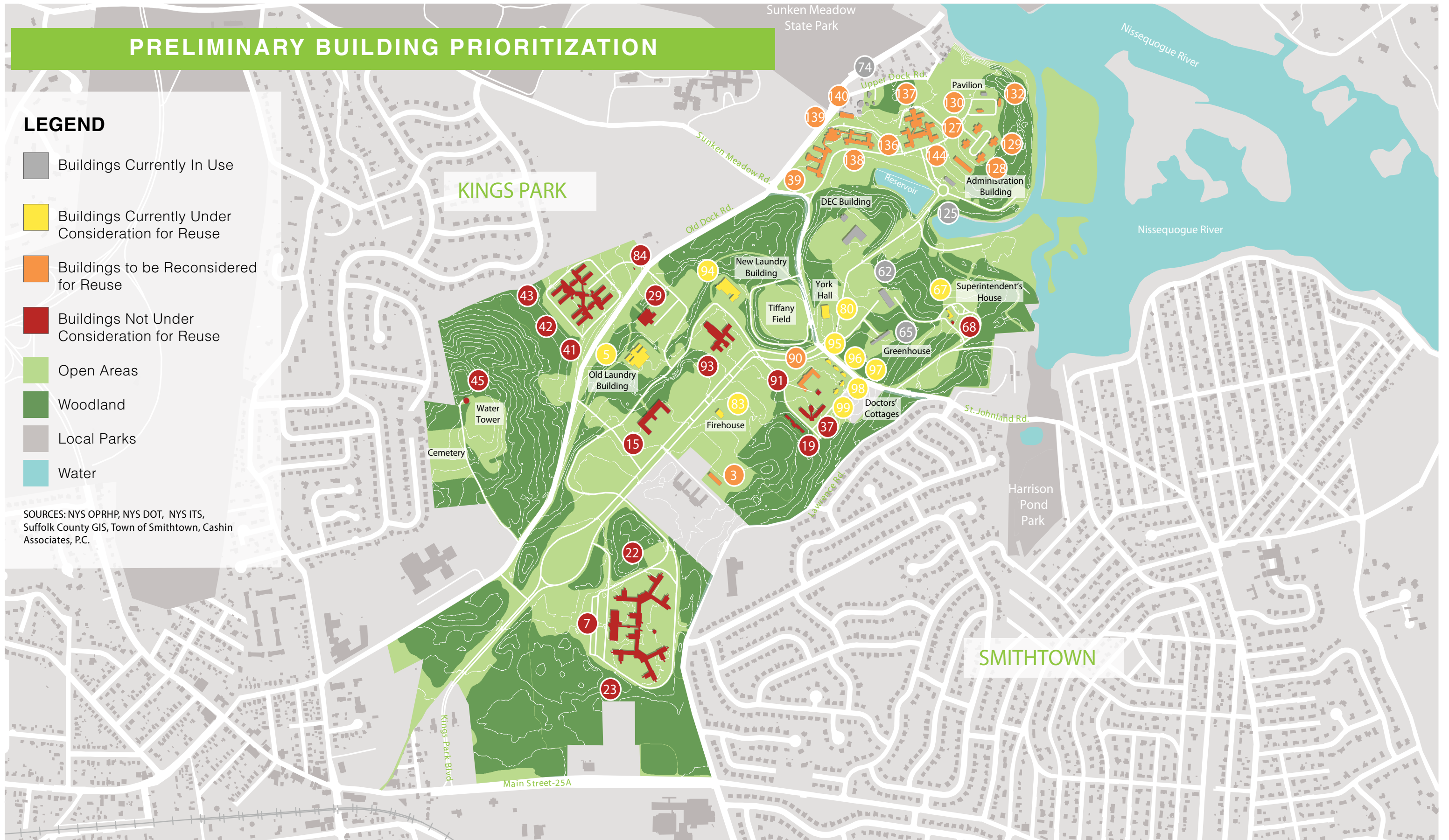


PRELIMINARY BUILDING PRIORITIZATION

LEGEND

- Buildings Currently In Use
- Buildings Currently Under Consideration for Reuse
- Buildings to be Reconsidered for Reuse
- 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.



PHASE I SURVEY DATA + SITE ANALYSIS

CIRCULATION

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EARLY MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

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)

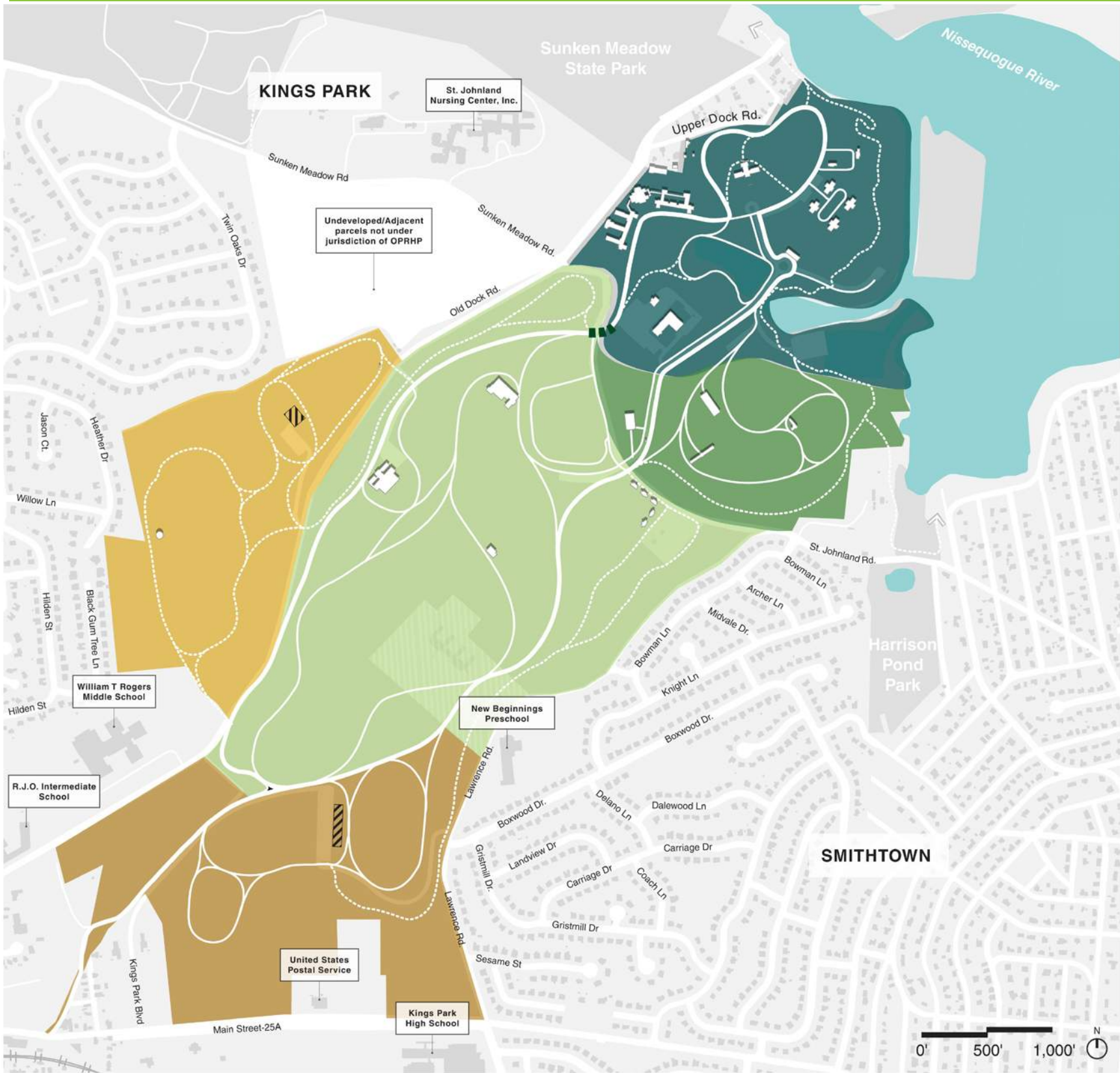




NOW

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.

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

The historic buildings and expansive landscape of the Waterside Cultural District will anchor the park geographically, culturally, and financially. Easy to reach by vehicle and offering unsurpassed views of the Long Island Sound, this hilltop ensemble can be re-oriented as a hospitality venue for weddings, conferences, and special events. The reconfigured landscape will include extroverted spaces for large events, as well as more introverted garden rooms for intimate gatherings. The backdrop of a waterfront landscape with an expanded network of trails and opportunities for waterfront recreation will provide another draw to this already compelling location.



WATERSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT



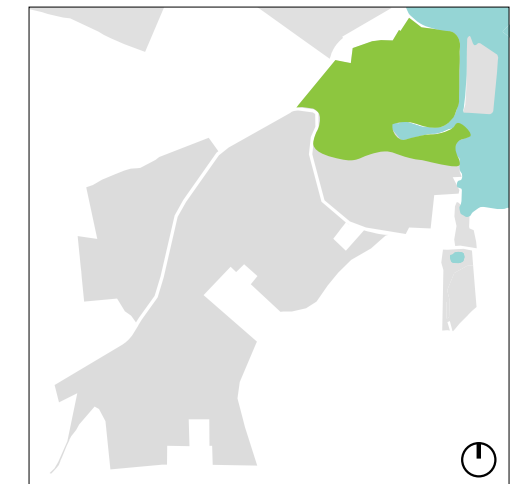
GOALS

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.



WATERSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT



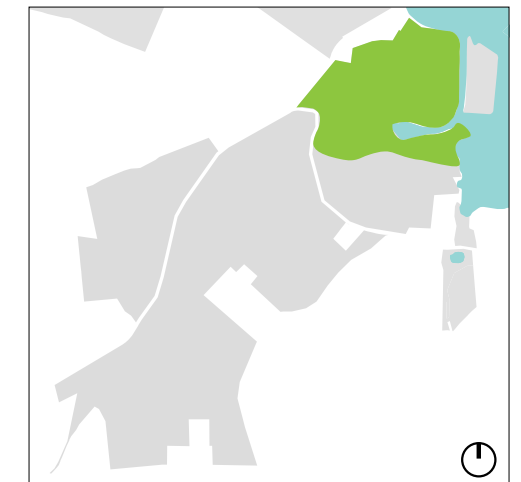
GOALS

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.

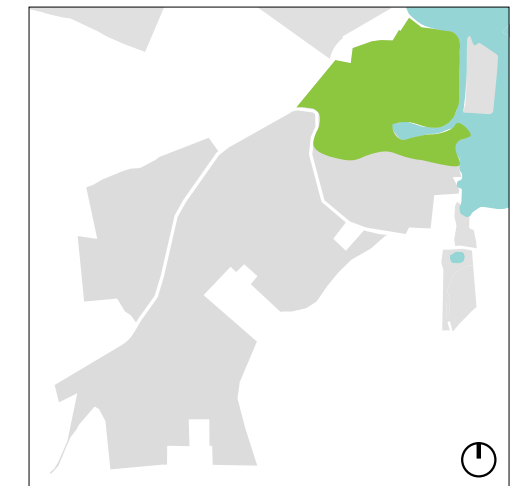
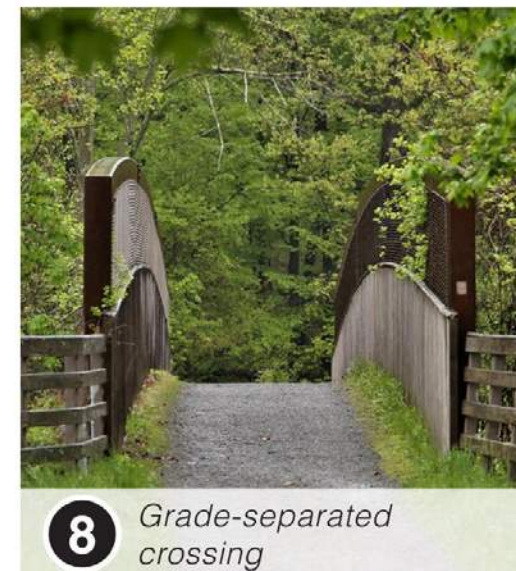
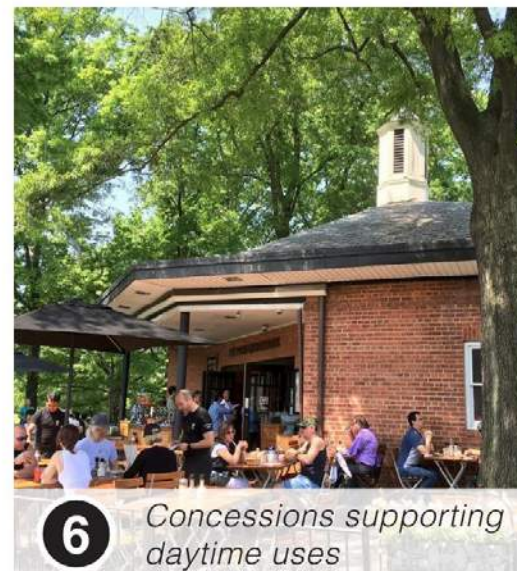
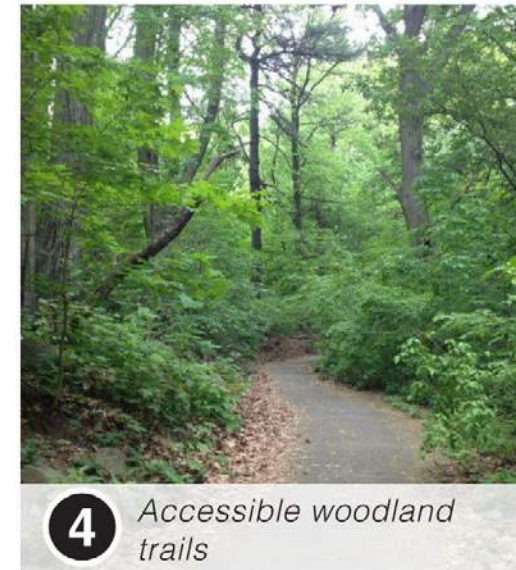
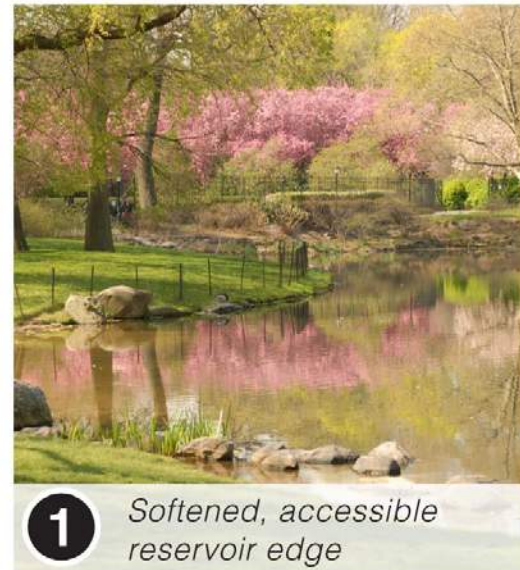
Provide a Destination Landscape

- + Open view sheds 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.



WATERSIDE CULTURAL DISTRICT

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS





BOTANICAL DISTRICT VISION

The gardenesque hilltop of the Botanical District will stretch towards band of woodlands leading to the water's edge. These areas will provide connections to hiking trails and expanded opportunities for bird watching.

The restored Director's House, set among perennial meadows and accentuated with ornamental plantings, will provide a peaceful, elegant place to dine after a day on the water, or before attending an evening theater performance at York Hall. Community gardens and horticultural programming will promote park stewardship while ensuring this portion of the park is activate in all seasons.

Weekend and night time performances at the reenvisioned York Hall will support community events, local performance artists, and traveling theatrical productions, attracting visitors from the broader region to this historic venue.



BOTANICAL DISTRICT



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

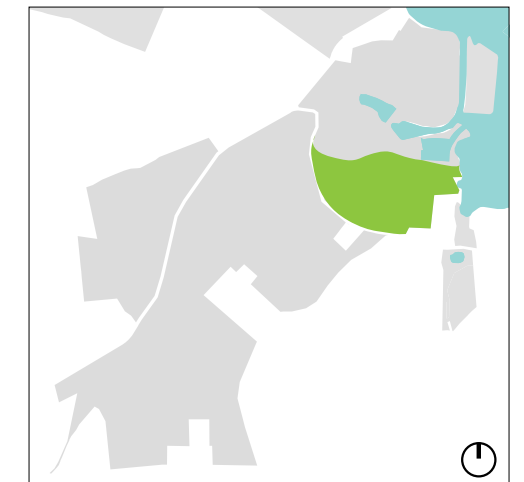
- + Restore York Hall to serve as a theater and performance venue, as well as a community event space.

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.



BOTANICAL DISTRICT

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



1 Intimate dining and small event venue



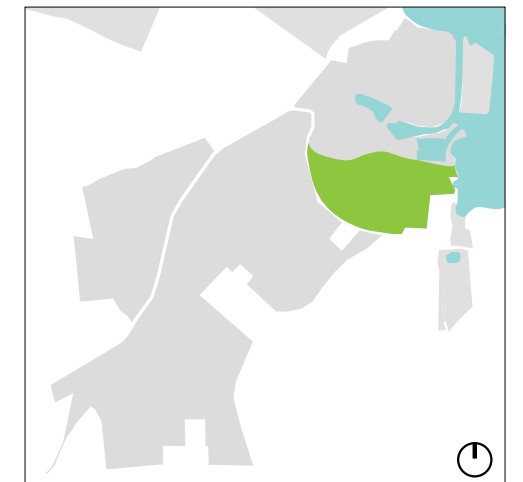
2 Community gardens and agriculture



3 Four-season botanical garden



4 Accessible trails





PASTORAL CORE VISION

This expansive open space, offering orchestrated views of the Long Island Sound, offers nearly 60 acres of gently sloping pastoral parkland to support passive activities such as picnicking, frisbee, and open space events. Surrounded by stately shade trees and a network of pedestrian and cyclist trails, the Pastoral Core will offer an inspiring canvas providing endless opportunities for park visitors to gather, recreate, and take in the scenery, complementing the more densely-programmed areas to the north and south.

Overnight visitors to the park will enjoy staying in renovated cottages with easy access to the waterfront activities, dining in the Botanical District, and performances at York Hall.



PASTORAL CORE



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

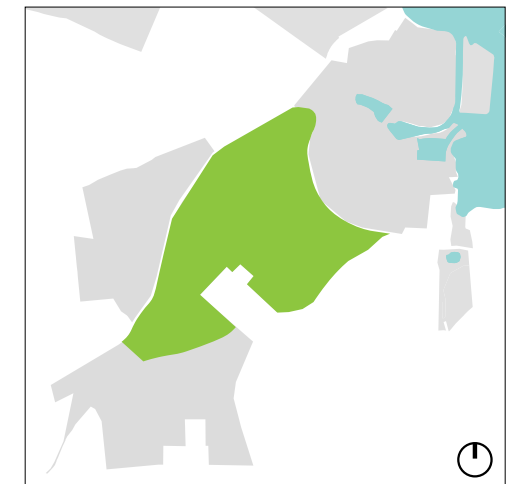
- + Maintain Tiffany Field as sports and athletic area with fields and a bandstand.
- + Integrate fitness and play amenities for all ages and all abilities.
- + Consider discrete structures (restored and new) to support athletic and fitness programming.

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.

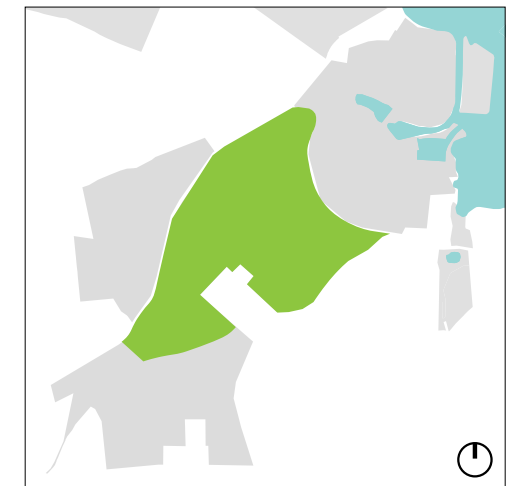
Explore Unique Boutique Lodging Experiences

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



PASTORAL CORE

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



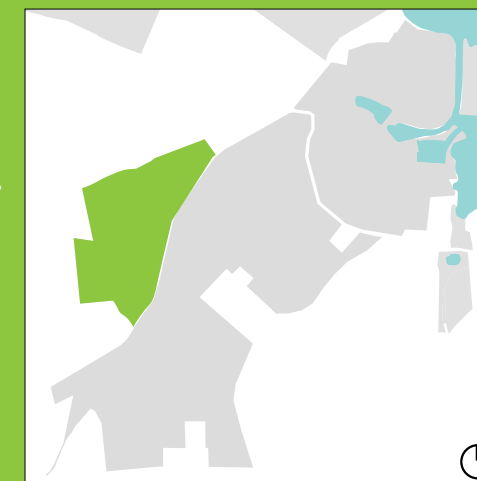


NORTH WOODS DISTRICT VISION

With rolling wooded terrain that gives way to a hilltop meadow, the North Woods will be a destination for park visitors seeking family-friendly hiking trails with rewarding views. The ashfill will become a destination for quiet contemplation; a place to reflect on both the institutional history of the park and the beauty of the waterfront.

An equestrian facility will offer an exciting alternative way to enjoy the trails of Nissequogue River State Park; riding lessons and equine therapy will keep this park district active in all four seasons. The acquisition of the St. Johnland parcel would promise the expansion of the park's perimeter to connect with Sunken Meadow State Park, benefitting visitors to both parks.

Across Old Dock Road, a seasonal market space will serve as unique park destination, supporting local businesses while celebrating the rich agricultural history of the site.



NORTH WOODS DISTRICT



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

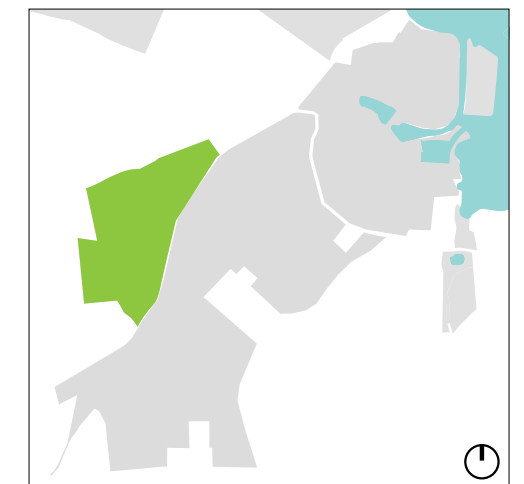
- + Maintain open meadow for picnicking and access to waterfront views.
- + Conduct light remediation of ashfill if required to ensure visitors have continued safe access to the site.

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.

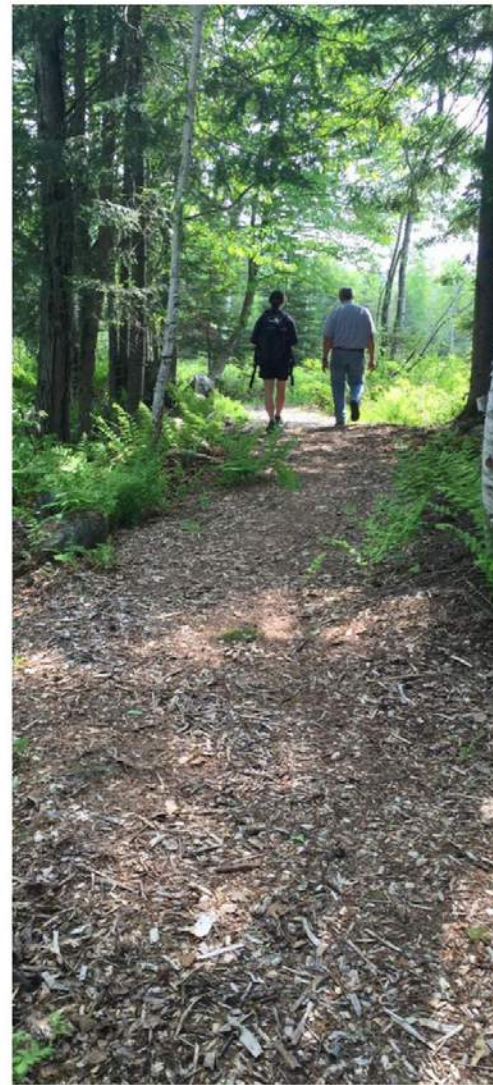


NORTH WOODS DISTRICT

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



1 Picnic meadow and lookout



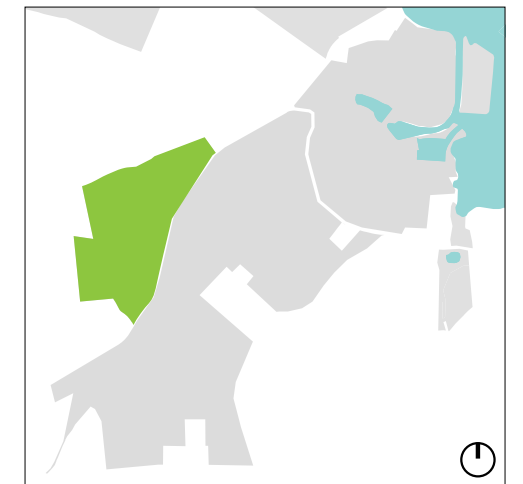
2 Wooded hiking trail



3 Horseback Riding



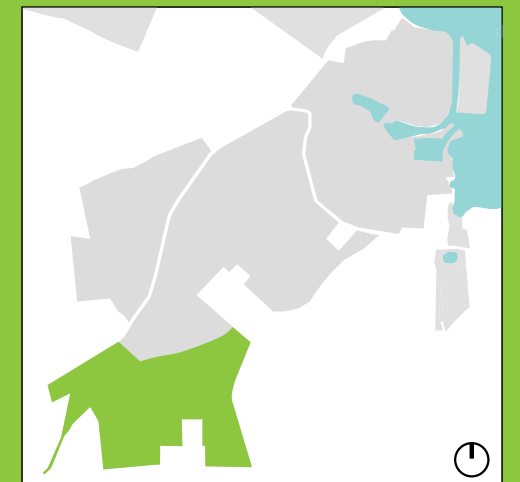
4 Seasonal Market Space





SOUTH GATE RECREATION AREA VISION

At the formal entrance to the park, the South Gate Recreation District will offer ballfields, play areas, and other opportunities for active recreation to serve the neighboring schools and surrounding communities. The district will cater to athletes and spectators alike; walking trails will connect ballfields, and a perimeter fitness loop trail with equipment stations will provide individuals opportunities to train in a structured outdoor environment. Trailheads will guide visitors to the park's waterfront, meadow district, and perimeter loop trails, and provide information on nearby transit stops and other community destinations.



SOUTH GATE RECREATION AREA



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.

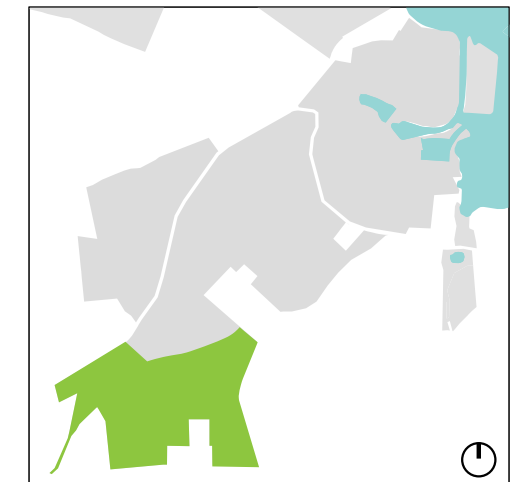
Create a Children's Play Area and Splash Park

- + 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)



SOUTH GATE RECREATION AREA

POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



1 Ballfields



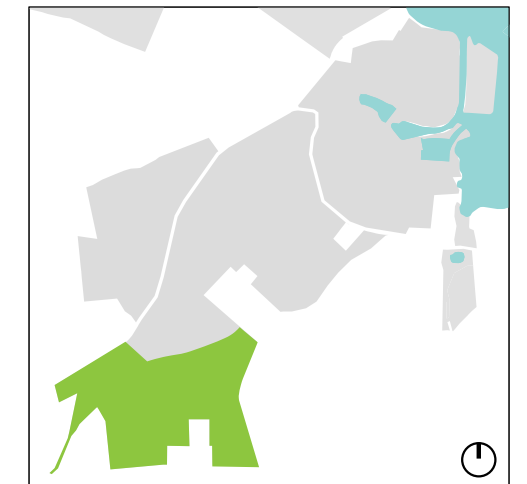
2 Fitness Loop Trail



3 Seasonal Splash Park

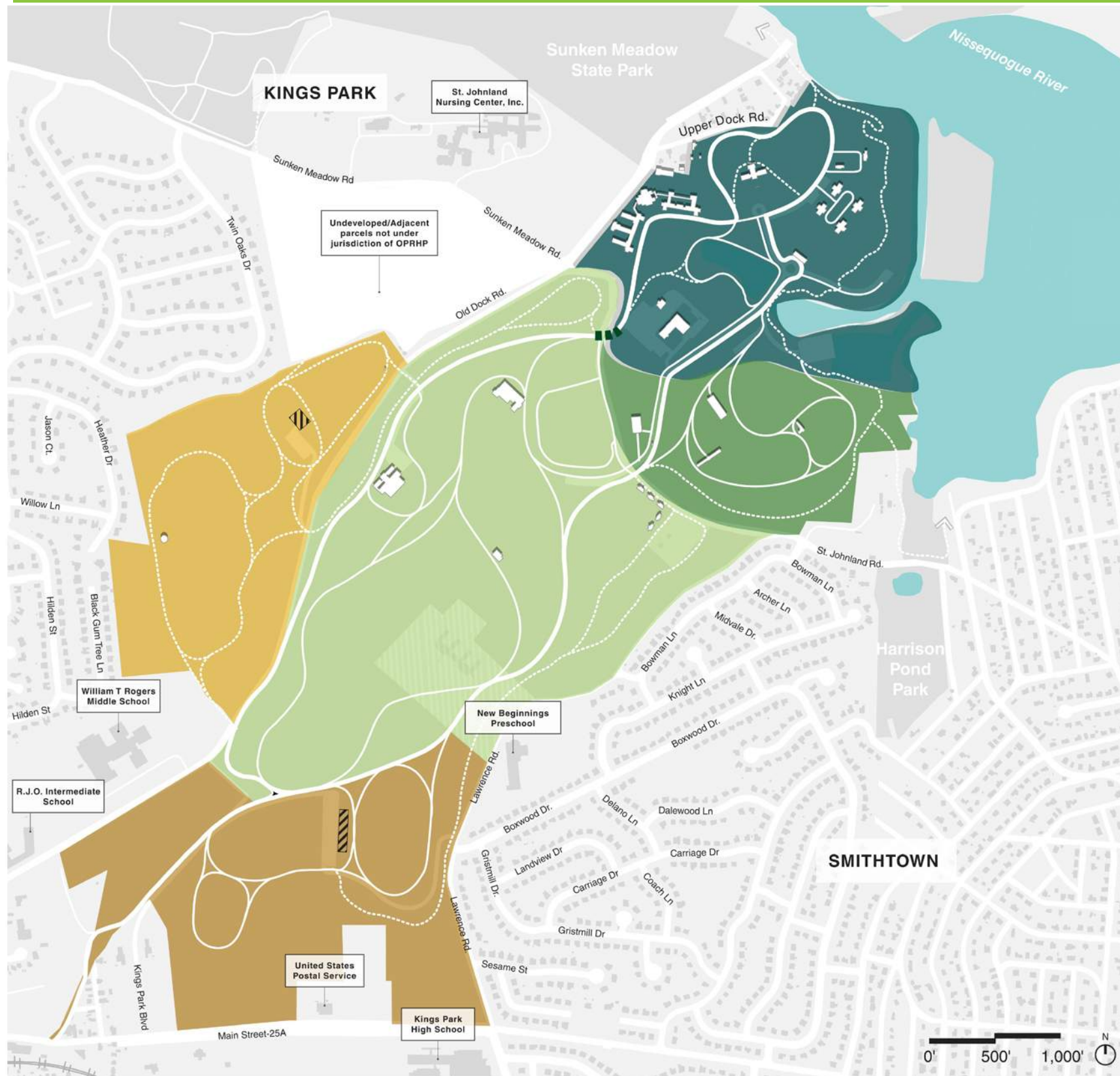


4 Bike Rental



BREAKOUT ROOMS

MASTER PLAN - EARLY LANDSCAPE CONCEPT



1: NORTH WOODS

Soft trails, equestrian center, event space, theater, farmers markets, café

2: SOUTH GATE

Site circulation, active recreation, biking, jogging, walking, equestrian center, fitness trails and loops

3: PASTORAL CORE + BUILDINGS

Lawn spaces, site history, site walks and tours, building strategy

4. BOTANICAL DISTRICT + BUILDINGS

Community agriculture, botanic gardens, site history, site walks and tours, building strategy

5. WATERSIDE DISTRICT

Marina and waterside access, programming opportunities at the coastline

NEXT STEPS

PROJECT SCHEDULE



THANK YOU!

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