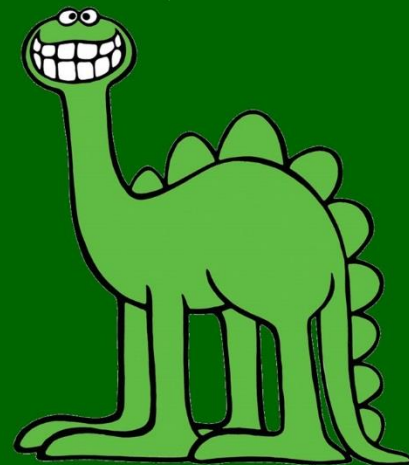




Broome County

Parks Plan

2019



Our Mission

Recognizing the vital role of recreation in the maintenance of physical, mental and social health, and its critical role in supporting area-wide financial health, Broome County Parks and Recreation strives to:

- Create public opportunities for leisure, both active and passive
- Promote both competitive and non-competitive recreational events
- Create and promote wellness activities
- Support events and attractions which promote area-wide tourism



Broome County Parks and Recreation

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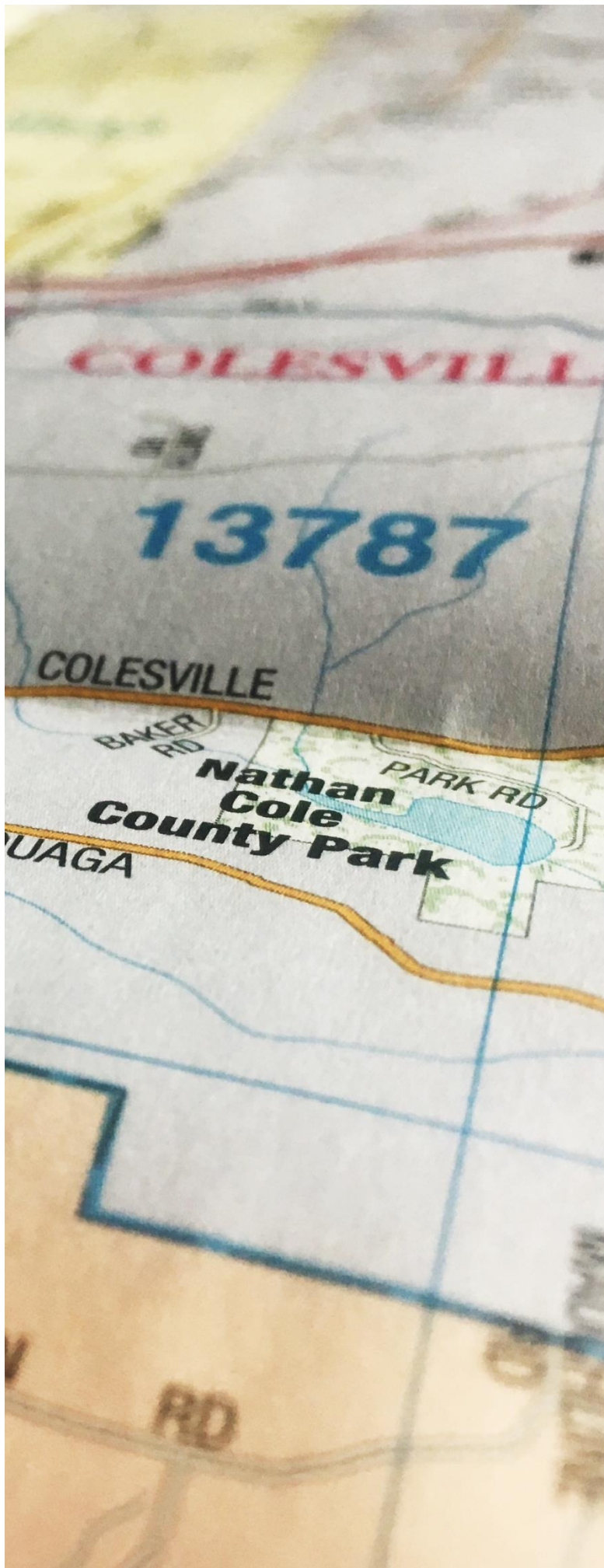
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Broome County would also like to thank the former Parks Commissioner, Matthew Gawors, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome, the Broome County Environment Management Council, the Maines Veterans Memorial Arena, the Broome Leadership Institute, and the hundreds of residents who participated in the survey and public workshops.



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Play Area at Greenwood Park

Why Parks are Important

Broome County maintains over 1,800 acres of parks. These 8 parks attract 2 million visitors each year, and that number is growing. Attendance at county parks has increased by 22% since 2011. Our parks offer nature trails, sports fields, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, sledding, beaches, bocce ball, camping, playgrounds, canoeing, picnicking, concerts and events, swimming, fishing and even sailing. Why do we make such an investment in our parks? Because parks make Broome County an attractive place to live, work, and play.

Parks Protect the Environment

Trees capture and store carbon. According to one urban ecosystem analysis, trees in Atlanta remove 19 million pounds of pollutants each year. Trees and parks reduce noise and counteract the heat that cities generate from asphalt, vehicles and building systems. Forests are a primary source of clean drinking water. New York City provides 1.1 billion gallons of fresh, clean drinking water by preserving 2,000 square miles of open space near three reservoirs in Upstate New York. Broome County's parks and open spaces help control storm water runoff and provide flood storage capacity. Trees, parks, and open spaces slow down the passage of rainwater to streams and rivers which reduces the volume and velocity of flood waters. Allowing storm water to spread out and sink in also filters out harmful pollutants before rainwater becomes drinking water. Parks are an important part of our storm water management efforts.

Parks Promote Health and Wellness

The American Planning Association produced a briefing paper entitled, "How cities use parks to improve public health" which aggregated findings from many different sources. According to this report, access to outdoor recreational space increases physical activity levels and reduces obesity. Studies have shown that contact with nature lowers blood pressure and cholesterol, improves chances of surviving heart attacks and lowers stress. Children with attention deficit disorders and teens with behavioral disorders show significant improvements when they have regular contact with natural settings. And "green exercise" in a park is more beneficial than physical activity in other settings. Active park users are less likely to be overweight and are less likely to need to visit their doctor than other people. In an age of rising obesity, parks are an important part of our public health programming.

“

I run through Otsiningo four times a week. So many people use this park for so many reasons and I love that. It brings much of the community together.

Public Survey Comment



Healthy Kids Running Series at Otsiningo Park

Parks Support Economic Development

Proximity to parks increase property values. Frederick Law Olmsted was one of the first to document the impact of parks on property values. To justify the \$13 million, he directed in the creation of New York's Central Park over 100 years ago, Olmsted tracked the value of adjacent properties. He found that over a decade and a half since its creation, there was a \$209 million increase in property values near Central Park. This positive impact from parks has been documented in many other places. One example: the value of condominiums adjacent to Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park more than doubled after the park was built.

Parks attract tourists and visitors. More people visit Otsiningo Park than visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore's Inner Harbor (1.5 million vs 1.3 million annually). Parks also attract and retain affluent residents. Accounting giant KPMG did a survey of 1,200 workers in high tech industries, and those workers reported that quality of life in a community increases the attractiveness of a job by 33 percent. Nearby access to high-quality park and recreation amenities is important to 92% of Millennials when choosing a place to live (and important to 85% of Americans overall). At the other end of the age spectrum are the growing number of affluent, active, seniors deciding to remain in their community or relocate after retirement. One study of affluent retirees found that scenic beauty and recreational opportunities were the top two features that they considered when making decisions of where to spend their retirement years. Parks are a critical part of our economic development efforts.

85%

of Americans consider
high quality parks as
an important factor
when they chose a
new place to live

*2017 Americans' Engagement
with Parks Survey; National
Recreation and Park
Association*



Cross Country Skiing at Greenwood Park

Why Write a Parks Plan?

We know that parks are a treasured asset in our community. In an era of declining resources and changing interests, we need to carefully consider how we manage our parks. Developing the plan provides an opportunity to hear from various interest groups and evaluate the resources, needs, and challenges facing the parks system. The objectives of the Broome County Parks Plan include:



**Assess changing
recreational needs of
residents**



**Develop goals and
strategies to enhance
our recreational
assets**



**Prioritize future
investments**

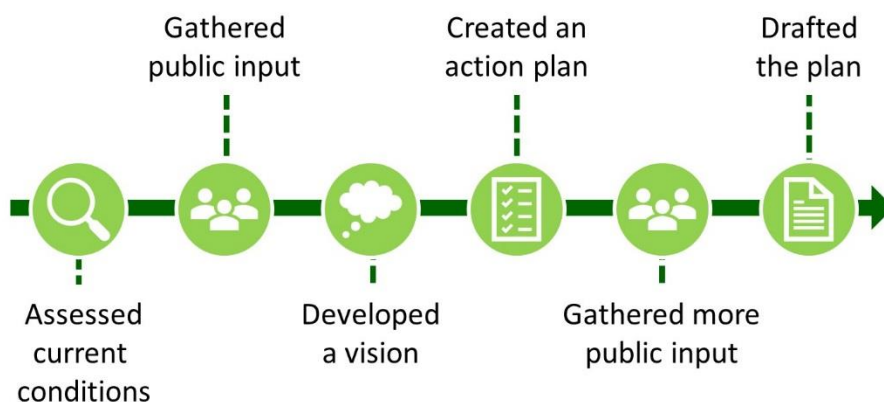


**Support future grant
writing initiatives**

The county's demographics are changing. As this happens, the recreational needs of residents are changing, and the parks must adapt. In addition, the nature of recreation itself is changing, uses that would not have been prevalent 20 years ago such as kayak boat launches, and dog parks are now in high demand. As needs and demands change, we must prioritize investments made in the parks to ensure balancing current needs such as ongoing maintenance while making sure the parks are engaging to future generations.

The Planning Process

The Broome County Parks Plan consisted of six steps:



RELATED PLANS

The following documents were used to inform the parks planning process:

Binghamton Metropolitan Greenway Study

Broome County Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan

Broome County Comprehensive Plan

Broome County Parks Dept. Annual Reports

Who is Writing the Parks Plan

To prepare the plan, the County created a steering committee consisting of:

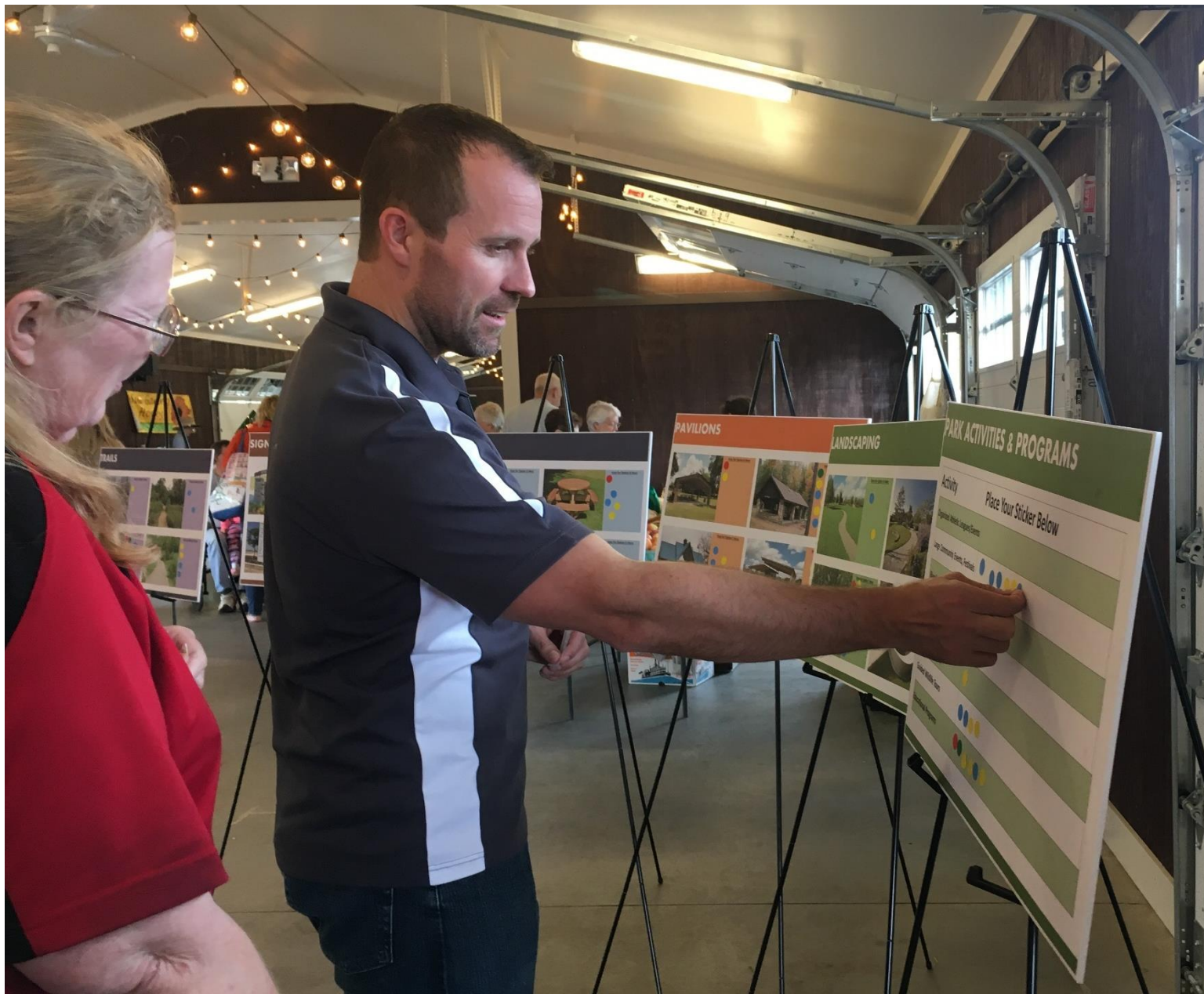
DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION Elizabeth Woidt

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING Frank Evangelisti

SENIOR PLANNER Beth Lucas

ENGINEER II Brenda Gowe

PLANNER Stephanie Brewer



You Spoke. We Listened.

Public engagement is a fundamental part of any planning process. Information gathered from the community identified what people like about Broome County Parks and what can be improved in the future. Broome County solicited input from the public through an online survey and multiple public workshops. The public's thoughts and ideas were used to determine the goals and strategies for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Our Vision

Broome County Parks should enable all residents, regardless of age or ability, to live an active lifestyle. Our parks need to provide a full spectrum of recreation from highly developed, event-oriented parks to serene, remote, wilderness areas. Our parks must be maintained to a high standard and take full advantage of the beauty and recreational opportunities of the land and the rivers. We should encourage physical activity by making our residents aware of the many recreational opportunities available and providing interesting programs and engaging amenities.

”

*We are an aging
population, please
don't forget the
handicapped*

Public Survey Comment



Broome County Office for Aging at Dorchester Park

How We Engaged the Public

A plan is only as good as its the community input. Fully engaging the public means the plan will be will well-informed by the true experts: the community. Public engagement also generates interest in the plan and may spur people and groups to partner with the County to achieve the goals of the plan.

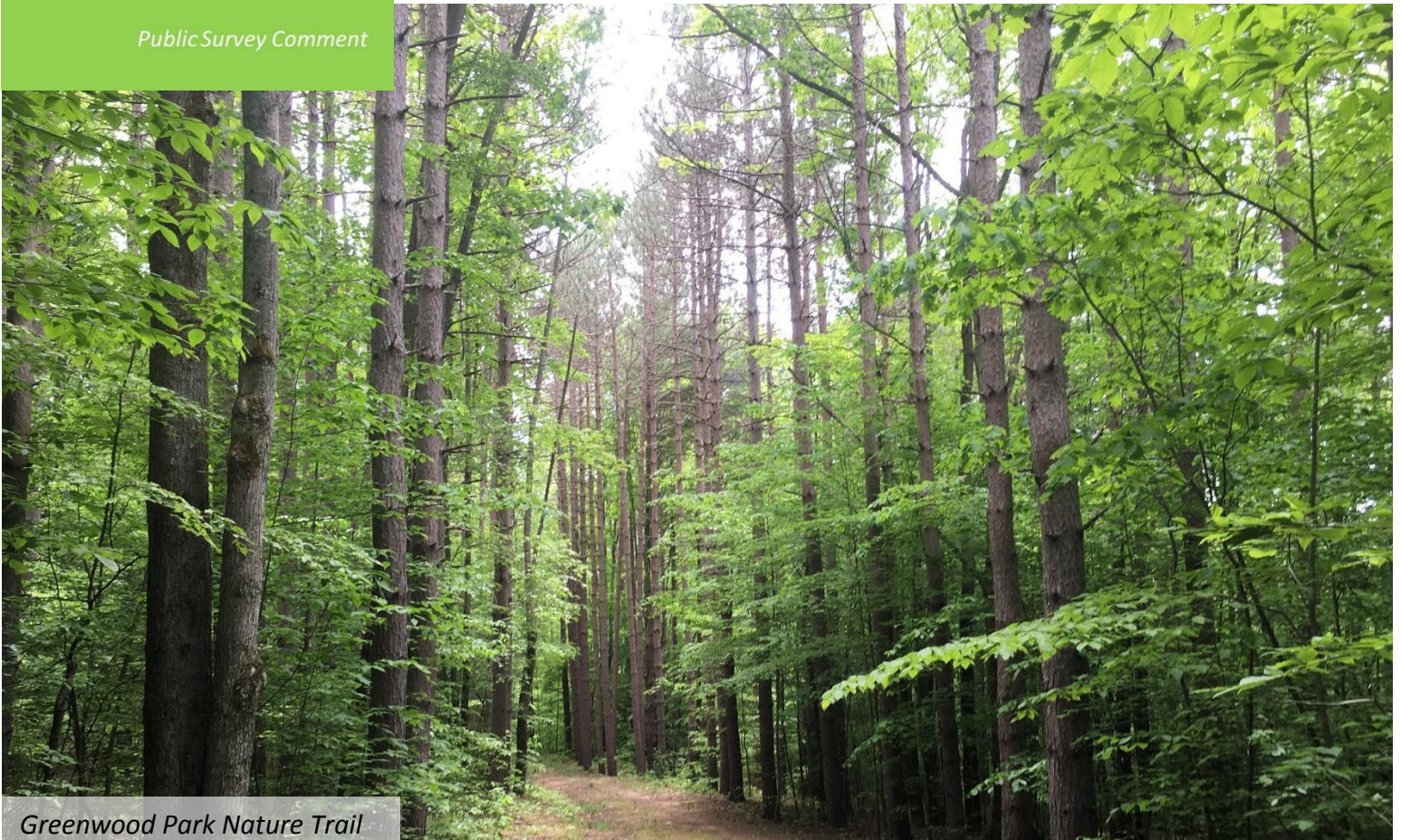
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People who come to or drive through Broome County always comment on 'how green it is' and the beauty of the tree covered hills. We have a responsibility to protect this natural amenity and help preserve the beauty of our area

Public Survey Comment

The primary method of collecting public input for the Parks Plan was the online survey conducted in the Summer of 2017. A total of 891 residents completed the survey and 300 respondents shared comments and suggestions. Broome County Planning held three open house workshops in the Fall of 2017 to identify features that would improve the experiences of park visitors. Finally, the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) held a public meeting for residents and groups representing a variety of recreational interests.

Talking to the users of our parks gave us insight into how the parks meet their needs, and where the parks fall short. Through this process, we learned about changing recreational interests and got an honest assessment of the parks' condition.



Greenwood Park Nature Trail

What We Learned

From all this engagement, we learned that there is some disconnect between the activities that residents are most interested in and what activities are available at Broome County parks. One thing we do well is accommodate hiking, walking, and running. The number one recreational interest of the community is hiking, walking, and running. This is also the number one activity that people do in the parks.

After hiking, however, people are most interested in nature observation and boating/paddling and these two interests are not in the top three list of activities that people do in our parks. Nature observation was barely nudged out of the top three activities. This tells us that we may want to better promote the nature observation activities at our parks. People may just not think of Broome County parks as a place to observe nature.

The two parks with the best opportunity for a passive activity like birdwatching or observing nature, Aqua-Terra and Hawkins Pond, have the lowest visitor numbers. Almost 90% of survey respondents do not visit Hawkins Pond even once per year. For Aqua-Terra, the number was almost 79%. By contrast, only 12% of survey respondents never visit our most popular park: Otsiningo.

Boating and padding was the third highest recreational interest, but it is well down in the list of activities that people participate in at our parks. When asked about barriers preventing residents from using the river for recreational purposes, the second highest response was a feeling that “river access is limited/unavailable”. Alarming, the number one barrier to recreational river use is a concern over the “pollution/debris levels of the river.” The County should consider improving recreational access to the rivers, and concerns about pollution/debris levels should be investigated.



*The rivers are the
county's greatest
natural recreation
assets*

Public Survey Comment



Three out of four survey respondents traveled outside of Broome County to another park facility. Of these, 10% left because they did not find the facilities that they wanted here. Similarly, when we asked what prevents or discourages you from using Broome County parks more often, the second highest response (after I do not have enough time) was “the recreational program/facility I am interested in is not offered at county parks.” When we asked people to get specific on what new amenities they wanted, the top three responses were a Fitness Track, Off-Leash Dog Park, and Bicycle Rental. For riverfront parks, residents wanted us to add more greenway trails, scenic overlooks, and boat launches/access sites. As we look to improve our parks, we should consider adding these amenities.

We also wanted to find out how people would budget the Parks funds if given the chance. This is an important question because it forces residents to be pragmatic about limited resources and gives us real insight into their priorities. The top priority of residents was to maintain existing infrastructure/facilities, and we need to not lose sight of this. After maintain facilities, residents want us to develop new trails and add new amenities. These survey results were corroborated by participants at the three open houses and the Environmental Management Council workshop.

We also focused on Aqua-Terra Wilderness Area and how people wanted that park treated in this plan. Aqua-Terra was originally a popular ski lodge which was acquired by the County in the 1980’s. Today, Aqua-Terra is an undeveloped park and is often used for passive recreation. Residents were given a wide range of choices for park enhancements and the top choices, picnic tables, portable restrooms, and a scenic outlook deck, represent a minimally invasive approach that should be respected.



The parks are a huge asset in this community and we can't let them fall into disrepair due to lack of on-going maintenance

Public Survey Comment

Residents favor a more natural aesthetic for landscaping, pavilions, trails, and signage as demonstrated by the results of the visual preference survey that we conducted at the public workshops. This should be used to inform design designs at county parks.

As we look at upgrades, one thing to keep in mind is that the number one priority of residents for the County parks budget was to maintain and upgrade existing facilities. This was ahead of popular choices such as develop new trails, add new amenities, and river access improvements.

Public Survey

The first method utilized to collect public input for the Parks Plan was the online survey conducted in the Summer of 2017. To encourage participation, thousands of postcards were mailed to randomly selected households, and social media/press releases were made inviting the public to take the survey. As a result of these efforts, 891 participants provided feedback. More than 300 respondents provided comments/suggestions for the plan. The full results of the survey are included in the Appendix.

Park Benefits Parks and recreation are invaluable assets to communities of all sizes. Broome County parks are free and open to the public, ensuring all residents and visitors have a chance to enjoy their benefits. The top benefits of Broome County parks are:



28%
Promotes
Health & Wellness



23%
Provides
Gathering Places



17%
Protects
Environmental
Resources

”

It provides a fun place for our family to go to for a "day" vacation when we do not have time or money for a longer or further away vacation

Public Survey Comment

What People Do at BC Parks Dozens of recreational activities are available to local park users. What activities people choose to do largely depends on which stage of life they are in. According to the survey when visiting a county park, respondents are most likely to be:



26%
Hiking/Walking/
Running



10%
Family/Group
Activities



10%
Picnicking



Outdoor physical activity for older adults. I've seen online parks in other places with stationary biking equipment and other things so seniors can exercise at the park

Public Survey Comment

Favorite Recreation Interests Parks users have diverse interests, which may or may not be offered at the county parks. Results show many respondents are generally interested in passive recreation activities such as:



25%
Hiking/Walking/
Running



13%
Nature Observation



10%
Boating/ Paddling

BC Parks Events & Activities Dozens of events and activities are hosted in the county parks each year. Most people are aware of these events and activities, but the majority did not attend. This suggests the public may not be interested in the events/activities offered or they do not have time. The most highly attended events/activities include:



44%
Spiedie Fest



27%
Rented a Boat



20%
Community 5k
Run/Walk

New Amenity Preferences Each Broome County park offers a variety of unique activities for users. However, if new amenities were added to county parks in the future, respondents said the following would improve their experience:



10%
Fitness Track



9%
Off-Leash
Dog Park



9%
Bicycle Rental

Riverfront Improvements Three county parks are located along the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. These riverfront parks are an important resource, but their role in recreation is not obvious to some users. Respondents feel the following park improvements will improve access and visibility of the river:



19%
Greenway Trails



19%
Scenic Overlook



15%
Boat Launch Sites

Riverfront Barriers Although some Broome County parks are located on the river, often they are underutilized for riverfront activities such as, boating and fishing. The following were identified as barriers to using the rivers for recreational purposes:



20%
Concerns About
Pollution/Debris



19%
Limited Access



16%
No Boat & Don't
Know Where to
Get One

Facilities/Services The condition of park facilities and services affects visitation numbers and use of facilities. The lowest rated facility was the condition of the bathrooms/changing areas. The top-rated attributes of Broome County parks include:



81%
Park Cleanliness



78%
Condition of Trails



64%
Condition of
Playground Areas

”

I have lived in two other states and several other counties and as far as I'm concerned Broome County Parks are the most cared for and cared about. Cheers to the Parks Dept.

Public Survey Comment

Park Visitation There are eight county-owned parks in Broome County that welcome about 2 million visitors annually. The County's undeveloped parks, Aqua Terra and Hawkins Pond, were the least visited. Respondents indicate the parks they visit most often are:



Otsiningo Park



Dorchester Park



Nathaniel Cole Park

Park Use

Patterns of park use often varies throughout the year. Low visitation in the morning and on weekdays suggests the parks may be underutilized at these times. Throughout the week, most Broome County park users visit the at the following times:



29%
Saturday



25%
Sunday



45%
12 PM to 4 PM



I think my family would use them even more often if there were more nature programs and activities available

Public Survey Comment

Park Use Barriers Numerous respondents did not visit a county park last year. While many indicate there were no reasons that prevented them from using our parks, others stated the following prevented them from visiting:



26%
Time Constraints



10%
Limited Programs
& Facilities



8%
Inconveniently
Located

Traveling Outside of Broome About three quarters of respondents traveled outside of the county to a park/recreational facility. While some reasons are outside the purview of the Parks Department, more can be done to encourage residents to play in Broome. The top cited reasons for traveling outside the county include:



27%
Wanted to Take
a Day Trip



27%
Unique Natural
Settings



23%
Out of Town for
Another Reason

Spending Priorities Broome County continually works to maintain and improve its parks. The Parks budget relies heavily on tax dollars, and its share has declined over the years. While there is strong support to improve the parks system, resources are limited. Residents feel the parks top spending priorities should be:



**Maintain & Upgrade
Existing Facilities**



**Develop New
Trails**



Add New Amenities

Park Investments Funds are disbursed among each of our parks based on the resources and level of service they require. When given a budget to allocate between the county parks, the top three parks respondents would allocate money between are:



Otsiningo Park



Dorchester Park



Greenwood Park

Aqua-Terra Aqua-Terra was formerly a local ski lodge, and is now a county Park used primarily for passive recreation. Overall, respondents want minimal development here. There are opportunities to add new features that will enhance user experience. If new features were added to Aqua Terra, most respondents would favor:



79%
Picnic Tables



77%
Portable
Restrooms



75%
Scenic Lookout
Deck

Volunteers Individuals and group volunteers help make Broome County parks great places. About 1/3 of respondents said they are interested in volunteering at our parks. Typically, they would like to participate in:



23%
Park Beautification



20%
Trail Maintenance



20%
Group Volunteer
Projects

Communications It is important to share information with the public and engage the community with news about our parks. Residents feel the following forms of communication would be the most effective:



24%
Social Media



21%
Email



17%
County Website



Binghamton University Volunteers at Otsiningo Park

Open House

Broome County held three open house workshops in the Fall of 2017. The purpose of these workshops was to identify features that would improve park users' experiences. Approximately 80 people provided input in a visual preference survey, identified activities and programs they want at county parks, and allocated \$500 to various parks/recreation activities. All participants had an opportunity to write additional comments for the plan.

VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY

A visual preference survey is a public engagement tool that gathers feedback based on various types of community design elements by allowing participants to select photos of features they favor.



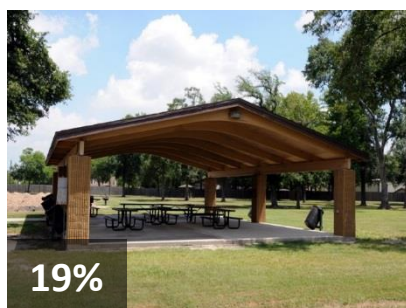
Landscaping

Broome County parks possess a range of landscape types. Our highly developed parks require more maintenance and care, whereas our natural areas are largely unmaintained. When asked about landscaping styles, participants mostly prefer semi-landscaped areas, with numerous trees.



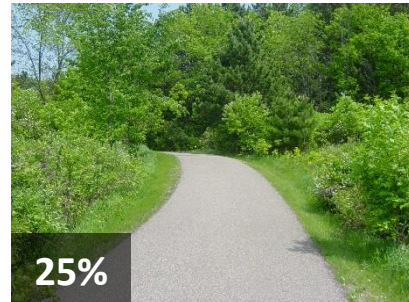
Pavilions

Park pavilions are one of the most widely utilized features of our parks as they offer opportunities for social gatherings and events. In total, our parks include 17 pavilions. In the future, older structures will need to be replaced, or there may be a demand to build new pavilions. When shown four different styles, participants largely favored rustic style pavilions that use a mix of stone and wood materials.



Trails

Recreational trails are a fundamental element of our parks and recreation system. Broome County parks contain over 20 miles of walking/hiking trails. Being one of the most popular activities among park users, there is considerable interest in developing new trails and on-going projects to expand existing trail systems. Results show many participants prefer gravel paths with natural settings, similar to what you may find at the IBM Glen.



Signage

Signage is an important element of park facilities. Signs establish a sense of identity, convey information, and provide direction. While most park users feel our signage is adequate, there will be a need to update signs in the future. When shown four options of entry signs, most participants prefer the style of Otsiningo's current sign, which includes a mix of stone and wood materials.



Tables

Picnic tables are a valued feature of our parks. These provide space for social gatherings and areas for park users to sit and relax. Our existing picnic tables are rectangular with bench-style seating. If new tables are needed in the future, participants would most like to see circular picnic tables made from wood materials.



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Participatory budgeting exercises allows the public to provide direct input on what they think spending priorities should be



Budget

Workshop participants were given fictional “Hartley Dollars” to allocate in areas where they feel future investment should be focused. Overall, participants feel funds should be used to improve upon our existing assets. Based on the totals, maintain/upgrade conditions of existing facilities was the most important priority, followed by develop new trails, river access improvements, and adding new amenities at existing parks. These results are similar to how people allocated money in the public survey.



Programs & Activities

Special programs and activities encourage residents to utilize parks and increase social interaction among users. Both private and county-sponsored programs provide a range of activities for all types of park users throughout the year. In 2017, there were over 40 different events that took place in our county parks. In the future, people would like to see: more large community events/festivals, riverfront activities, and guided wildlife tours at the parks.



WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Broome County EMC
Disc Golf
BMX/Mountain Bikers
Cyclists
Hikers & Runners
Paddlers/Kayakers
Educators

Public Workshops

In January 2018, Broome County hosted a public meeting with the Environmental Management Council (EMC). About 30 people attended the workshop representing a variety of recreational interests.

During this workshop, groups were asked to list individual assets, threats, and opportunities related to Broome County parks. From the multitude of responses, various themes emerged. There was some overlap of topics among the different themes, as what one person perceives as an asset another might view as a weakness. The purpose of this exercise was to understand what different park users value, along with assessing needs and gaps to help determine where future efforts should be focused. The Appendix includes a full list of responses.



Assets

Broome County parks are highly valued by the community. Groups were asked to identify assets, special features, programs, facilities, etc. that our parks currently provide. Nine themes arose from over 90 identified assets/strengths. The most frequent responses related to Water Interests, Convenience, and Facilities & Appearance themes.

ASSETS

Water Interests
Convenience
Facilities & Appearance
Culture & Environment
Run, Hike, Bike
Programs & Activities
Appeals to Diversity of Users
Winter Interests
Age-Friendly

Threats

While our parks provide numerous benefits to the area, there are some characteristics that may place them at a disadvantage compared to other areas. Six major themes arose from over 70 topics groups perceive as a threat or weakness. The most cited themes included Improving Existing Facilities, Maintenance, and Rules & Regulations.

THREATS

Improve Existing Facilities
Maintenance
Rules & Regulations
Administrative
Needs New Ideas
Improper Usage

Opportunities

It is important for the Parks Department to actively take advantage of opportunities that will aid in achieving larger goals and providing better service to its users. Eight categories containing over 80 ideas were collected from the groups. The most common themes cited were Trails & Connections, New Facilities, and New Amenities.

OPPORTUNITIES

Trails & Connectors
New Facilities
New Amenities
New Programs & Activities
Water Recreation
Long-Term Department Goals
Green Infrastructure & Solar
Events



Greenwood Park Lake

Where We Are Now

Broome County parks are part of a larger network of parks and public spaces. While each facility may serve a specific recreation demand, the entire system (including county and non-county owned parks) serves the collective needs of the community. Including the 8 county parks, there are 125 publicly-owned parks and recreation areas covering 19,402 acres, representing about 4% of the land area. The following classification system was adapted from other county parks plans and is used to establish the variety of existing park types, and help identify potential gaps in our public park system.

LOCAL PARKS are less than 100 acres and range in size from small pocket parks to mid-sized community parks that include a variety of active and passive amenities, serving one or more neighborhoods within a ½ mile. These parks are generally owned and maintained by local municipalities and are often used as gathering spaces for the community. Examples of local parks include Recreation Park in the city of Binghamton and Highland Park in the town of Union.

REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS are large multi-use parks that serve multiple communities and visitors. They provide both active and passive recreation opportunities and a range of facilities for all age groups. In Broome County, these parks are typically owned by county or state agencies. Some regional recreation parks include Otsiningo Park and Chenango Valley State Park.

OPEN LANDS are typically small areas, usually containing undeveloped land that have few passive amenities. Finch Hollow Nature Center is an example of open lands.

NATURE AREAS include areas larger than 100 acres and have environmental significance. Similar to open lands, nature areas often have few or no amenities. Popular nature areas in the county include the Binghamton University Nature Preserve and Jones Park in the town of Vestal.

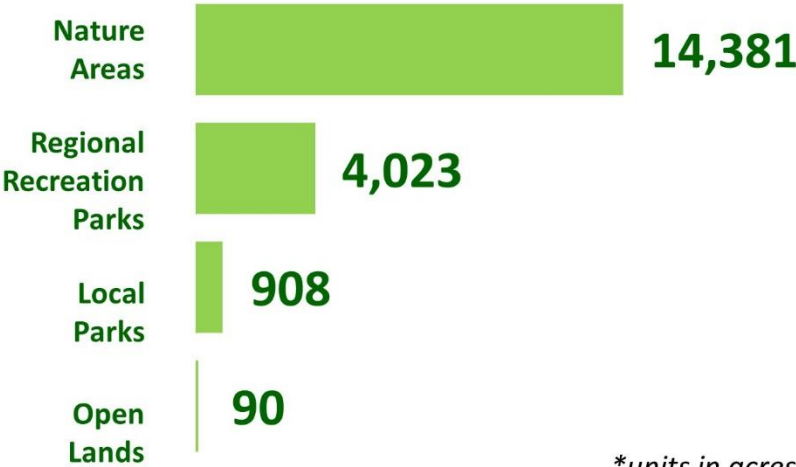
**OTHER
RECREATION
LANDS**

There are other types of recreational lands that contribute to the county’s open space network, but were not included in this plan’s analysis

PRIVATE OPEN SPACE
3,775 acres

**EDUCATIONAL OPEN
SPACE**
790 acres

PUBLIC OPEN SPACE BY THE NUMBERS



**units in acres*

Local Parks

Local parks are well-distributed throughout the urban core, but gaps exist in the northern and eastern parts of the county. These parks range in size from less than one acre to 86 acres and typically contain a range of recreational facilities and amenities.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 17C Sports Complex | 47 Julius Rogers Park |
| 2 ACA Memorial Park | 48 Kennedy Park |
| 3 African Road Park | 49 Klumpp Park |
| 4 Alfred Street Park | 50 MacArthur Park |
| 5 Argonne Neighborhood Park | 51 Maine Town Park |
| 6 Arnold Park | 52 Marie Lynch Memorial Park |
| 7 Baker Street Playground | 53 Mersereau Park |
| 8 Barlow Park | 54 Middendorf Park |
| 9 BAGSAI* | 55 Northside Park |
| 10 Boland Park (JC) | 56 Otsiningo North |
| 11 Boland Park (Binghamton) | 57 Phelps Park |
| 12 Booth Field/Kent Playground | 58 Port Crane Civic Fields |
| 13 Boswell Hill Park | 59 Recreation Park |
| 14 Broad Acres Park | 60 Richards Ave Park |
| 15 Brown Park | 61 Ross Park |
| 16 C Fred Johnson Park (CFJ Park) | 62 Sandy Beach Park |
| 17 Castle Creek Park | 63 Schnurbusch Park |
| 18 Castle Gardens Park | 64 South Side Veteran's Park |
| 19 Chenango Bridge Park | 65 Stair Park |
| 20 Chenango River Promenade | 66 Stratford Park |
| 21 Cheri Lindsey Park | 67 Struble Road Sports Complex |
| 22 Choconut Center Park | 68 Sullivan Park |
| 23 Clyde S. Woodward Park | 69 Sunflower Park |
| 24 Columbus Park | 70 Taft Heights Park |
| 25 Commercial Alley | 71 Twin Orchards Park |
| 26 Confluence Park | 72 Tyler Park |
| 27 Conklin Forks Park | 73 Union Park |
| 28 David Avenue Park | 74 Valley Park |
| 29 Deposit Fireman's Park | 75 Valley Street Park |
| 30 EJ Theme Park | 76 Vestal Center Park |
| 31 Ethel Place Park | 77 Vestal Little League Fields |
| 32 Fairview Park | 78 Vestal Memorial Park |
| 33 First Ward Park | 79 Vestal Memorial Pool |
| 34 Floral Avenue Park | 80 Vestal Multi-Use Field |
| 35 G. W. Johnson Park | 81 Veterans Field |
| 36 Glendale Park | 82 Veterans Park Gazebo |
| 37 Grange Hall Park | 83 Veterans River Park |
| 38 Harmony Park | 84 Virginia Ave Park |
| 39 Harold Moore Park | 85 Wallenburg Park |
| 40 Hider Park | 86 Walnut Street Park |
| 41 Highland Park | 87 Wayne Ave Field |
| 42 Hillcrest Park | 88 Webster Street Park |
| 43 Howard Avenue Park | 89 West End Park |
| 44 Jackson Park | 90 West Endicott Park |
| 45 Jeanne and John D Wifley Park | 91 William Hill Park |
| 46 Jennison Park | |

*County-owned facility

Regional Recreation Parks

Ten regional recreation parks are located throughout the county, typically surrounding rivers, lakes, or other water bodies. Broome County's regional recreation parks are large areas, ranging in size from 18 acres to over 1,100 acres. They have basic recreational facilities and amenities, but also accommodate a wide range of activities such as boat rentals, camping, and cross-country skiing. While most of these lands are managed for recreational purposes, two of the county parks are preserved as natural areas offering opportunities for sightseeing, hiking, nature observation, and other passive recreation activities.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 92 Aqua Terra Wilderness Area* | 97 Hawkins Pond Natural Area* |
| 93 Chenango Valley State Park | 98 Nathaniel Cole Park* |
| 94 Dorchester Park* | 99 Oquaga Creek State Park |
| 95 Greenwood Park* | 100 Otsiningo Park* |
| 96 Grippen Park* | 101 Roundtop Park* |

** More information about Broome County Parks is included in the following section*

Open Lands

There are six open lands areas covering approximately 90 acres, primarily located in the central and western parts of Broome County. These areas are designated as parks and are typically maintained by the municipalities, but have few or no built amenities or facilities for public use. The primary differences between open lands and nature areas are their size, amount of development, and ecological diversity.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 102 Finch Hollow* | 105 Riverview Park |
| 103 Fuller Hollow Park | 106 South Mountain Natural Area |
| 104 Magnolia Drive Park | 107 Town of Maine Natural Area |

**County-owned facility*

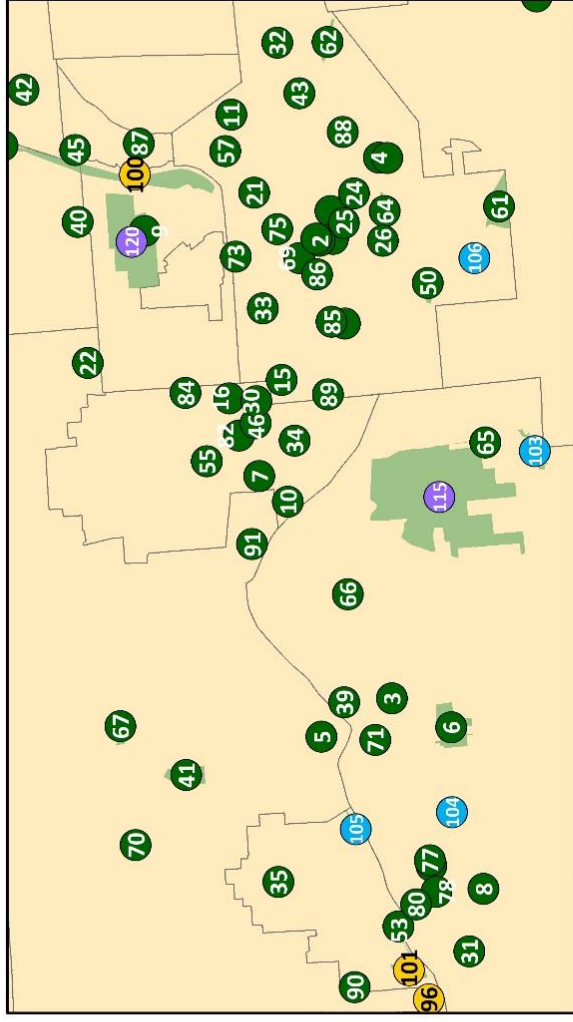
Nature Areas

Eighteen nature areas are scattered throughout the county, totaling 14,381 acres. Mostly, nature areas are designated conservation lands that allow for low-impact, passive recreation activities. These areas are important because they provide a unique aesthetic and contribute to the diversity of our park system. Many of the county's nature areas are NYSDEC State Forests and are open to the public for recreational purposes such as hunting and trapping. Timber management is practiced in some of the state forests. Typical nature area facilities may include nature trails, benches, and informational kiosks.

108	Beaver Dam State Forest	117	Melondy Hill State Forest (South)
109	Beaver Flow State Forest	118	Nanticoke Lake Mult. Use Area
110	Beaver Pond State Forest	119	Skyline Drive State Forest
111	Binghamton U. Nature Preserve	120	SUNY Broome Nature Area
112	Cascade Valley State Forest	121	Tracy Creek State Forest
113	Cat Hollow State Forest	122	Triangle State Forest
114	Hawkins Pond State Forest	123	Whitaker Swamp State Forest
115	Jones Park*	124	Whitney Point Mult. Use Area
116	Marsh Pond State Forest	125	Wolfe Park*

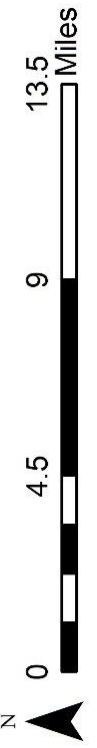
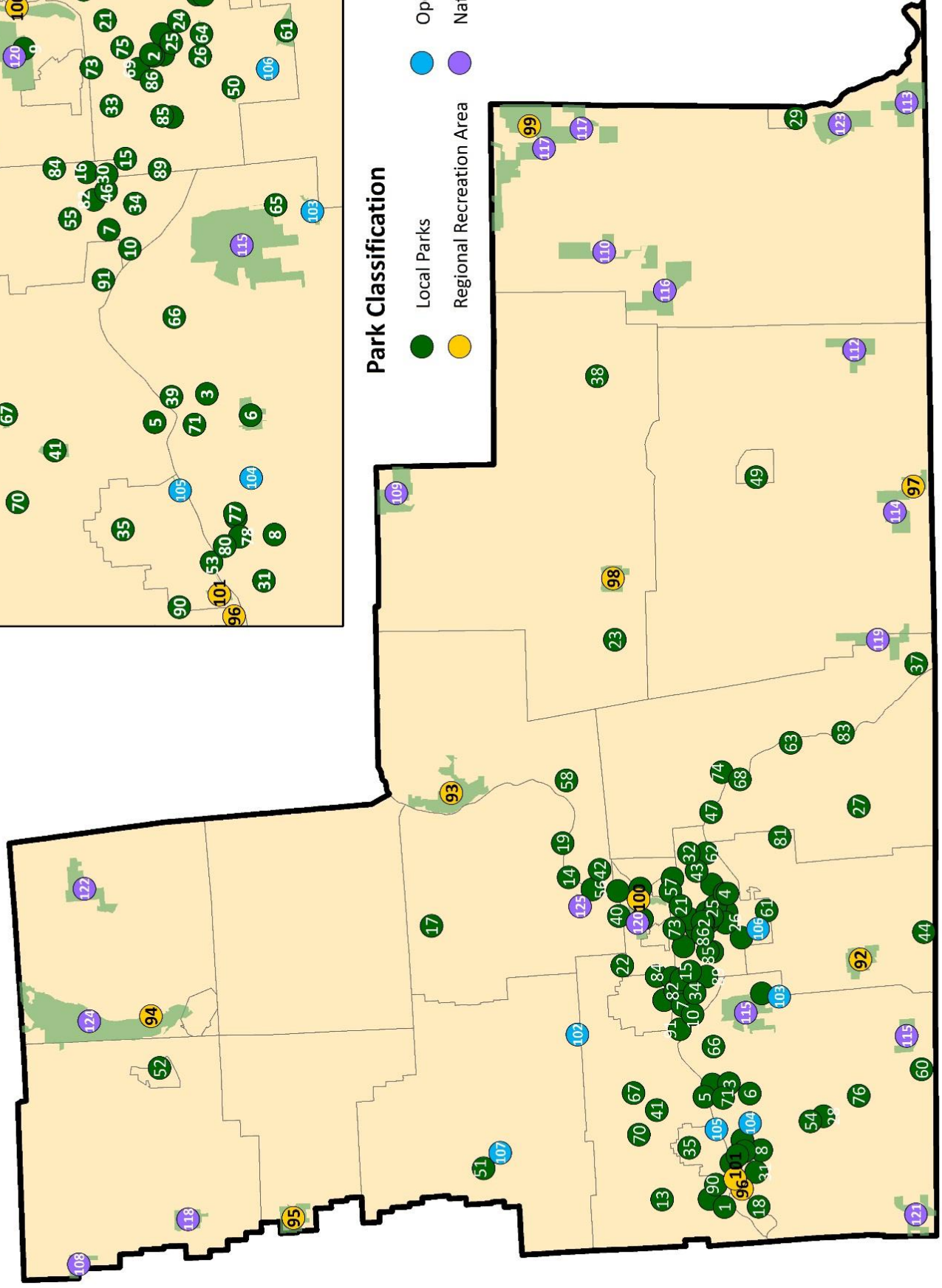
**Natures areas that are designated municipal parks*

Park Types



Park Classification

- Local Parks
- Regional Recreation Area
- Open Space
- Natural Area



Broome County Parks Inventory

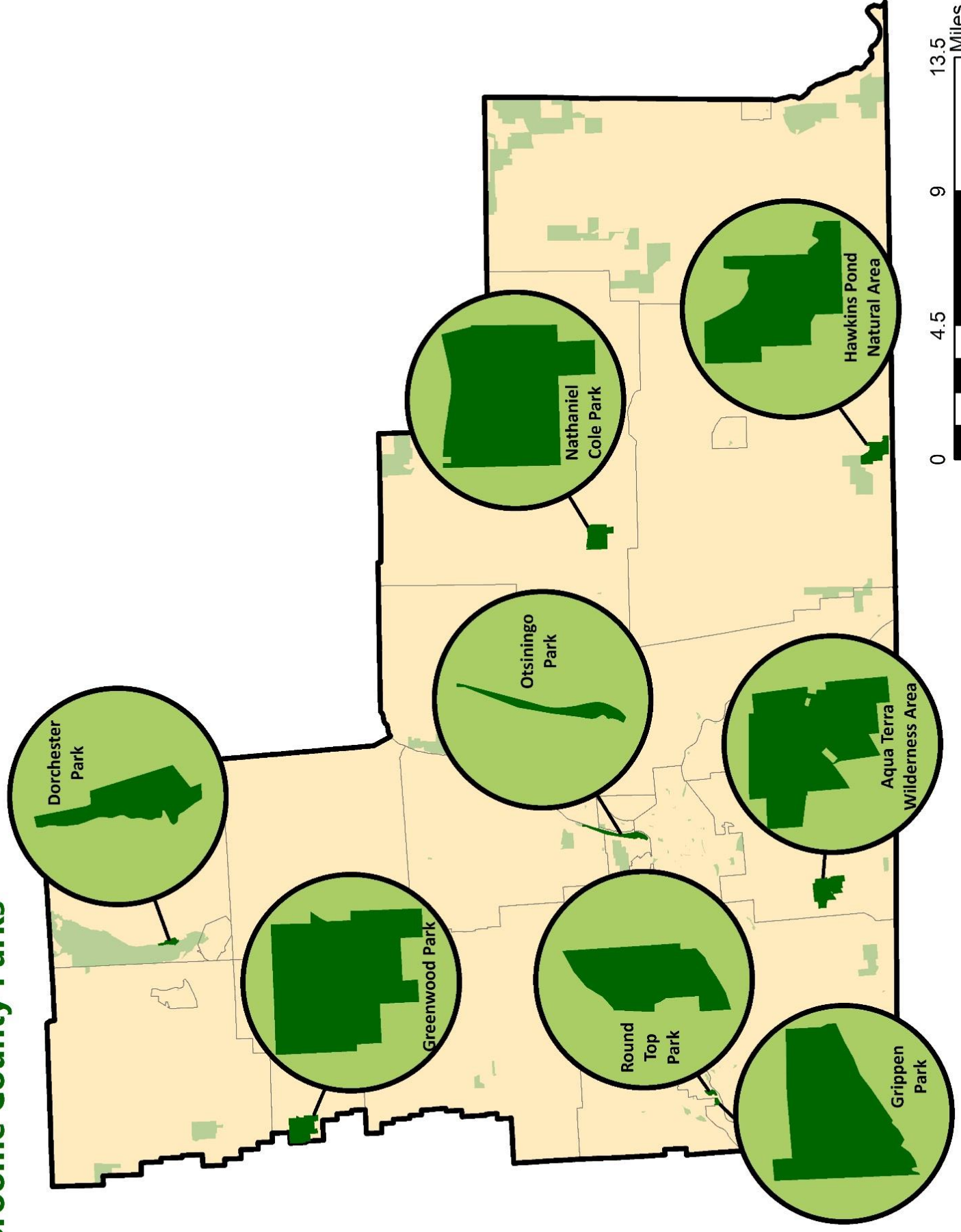
Our parks provide diverse, year-round recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The County maintains eight parks and recreation facilities totaling 1,847 acres which are all free and open to the public. Our parks offer unique activities that can improve mental and physical health, and overall enhance our quality of life. An inventory of the county parks is included in the Appendix.



Our Facilities

Broome County DPW Engineering Division conducted a facility condition assessment of county-owned parks, with respect to structures and grounds. This inventory will be used to prioritize future capital investments and it will serve as a benchmark to evaluate their condition over time; specific actions are included in the Recommendations chapter. In addition, Broome County performed a self-evaluation of the park's accessibility. Preliminary findings are included in this plan, but more data is needed to develop a complete ADA Transition Plan for the County.

Broome County Parks



Aqua Terra Wilderness Area

Aqua Terra is an undeveloped park in the town of Binghamton, located on Maxian Road near the town's border with Vestal. The park was formerly the Innsbruck USA ski resort and the Aqua Terra Sports Club. In the 1980s, Broome County acquired the property to remain as a park. In terms of area, Aqua Terra is the largest county-owned park, covering 459 acres. Today the park is primarily used for passive recreation activities including hiking, cross-country-skiing, dog walking, and nature observation

Park Facilities Assessment

There are no paved surfaces or facilities within Aqua Terra. A 1,000-foot reclaimed asphalt pavement access road leads to Aqua Terra's parking area; these surfaces are in good condition.



Location: Town of Binghamton



Attendance: Not Available



Size: 459 acres



Trails: 3 miles, unpaved



Amenities: Parking



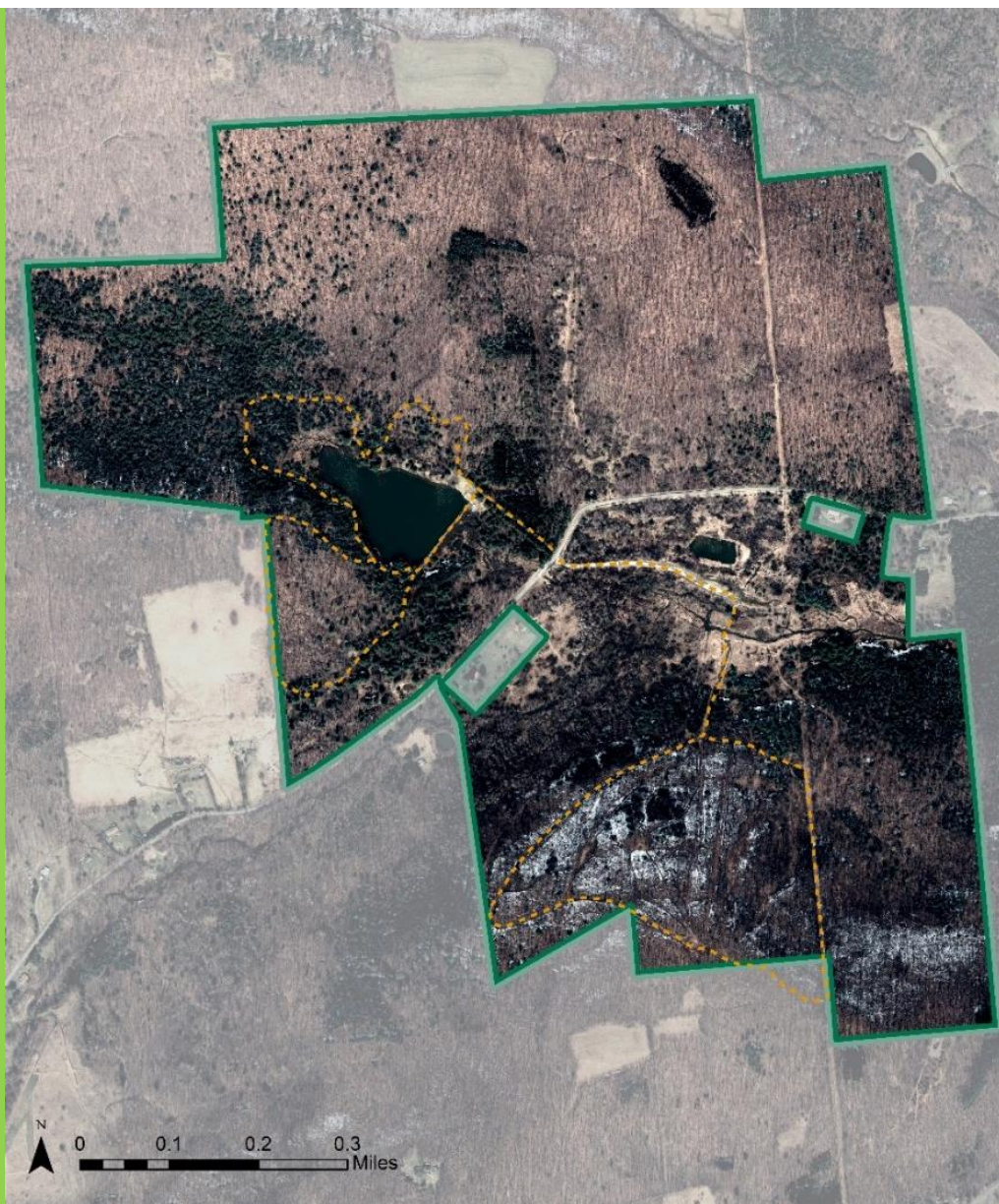
Activities: Hiking, fishing, nature observation



Notable Features: 6-acre pond, steep slopes



Issues: No bathrooms





Aqua Terra Pond

Dorchester Park

Dorchester Park, located in the town of Triangle, is a multi-use park consisting of 53 acres. The park is located on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control project, the Whitney Point Reservoir Dam and the Whitney Point Multiple Use Area; Broome County leases the parkland, agreeing to operate and maintain the grounds, roads, and facilities. Within the park, there is a NYSDEC-owned hard-surface boat ramp that provides access to the reservoir; this is one of two county parks where users can bring their own boat. Beginning at the park's southern border is a 2-mile multi-use trail that connects Dorchester to the Village of Whitney Point. Popular recreation events such as the Almost Annual Crappie Derby and the Broome County Triathlon take place at this park. In addition, part of the park is open to youth groups for camping throughout the summer.



Location: Town of Triangle



Attendance: 118,603



Size: 53 acres



Trails: 2 miles, paved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, benches, picnic shelters



Activities: Hiking, fishing, xc skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, boating, playground, biking



Notable Features: 1,200-acre lake, beach, boat ramp



Issues: Flooding, aging playground facilities



Park Facilities Inventory

Most of Dorchester's buildings and grounds were rated good to fair condition. The 750-foot entrance road into the park is in poor condition due to loss of pavement in some areas and major cracking. Other roads throughout the park are in better condition with only minor cracking. The parking areas are in good to fair condition with some minor cracking. The condition of the park's bridges and culverts varies from good to fair condition. Broome County recently received a federal grant for the Dorchester Park Gateway Project which will repair the vehicular bridge over Page Brook, make improvements to the entrance road, and install new sidewalks. Restrooms, picnic shelters, and other structures within the park are in good to fair condition. However, the bathrooms on the south end of the park experience septic issues.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

Dorchester's site assessment focused primarily on the south end of the park and included three parking lots and five segments of walking paths in the park. The parking areas are not ADA compliant because accessible spaces are not signed properly. The trails/pathways measured in the south end of the park comply with the ADA slope requirements.



Dorchester Park
Photo: Kageepan Kandasmany

Greenwood Park

Greenwood Park is a 439-acre park, located on the county's western border in the town of Nanticoke. Established in 1961, Greenwood Park is the oldest and most developed county-owned park. The 6.5-mile trail system guides users around the lake and through the wooded areas of the park. In the winter, hiking trails are groomed for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing; rentals are available for a small fee. The park's campground is one of the county's most popular campsites for residents and tourists. Additionally, the park is a popular location for family reunions throughout the summer. The 25-acre Greenwood Lake provides swimming, boating, and fishing opportunities.



Location: Town of Nanticoke



Attendance: 130,550



Size: 439 acres



Trails: 6.5 miles, unpaved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, benches, picnic shelters, concession stand



Activities: Hiking, fishing, xc skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, boating, camping, playground, volleyball



Notable Features: 25-acre lake, beach, campgrounds



Issues: Drainage issues, road/parking conditions, condition of campground facilities, park structures need upgrades



Park Facilities Inventory

On average, the condition of Greenwood Park's grounds and facilities are rated fair to poor. Roads within the park vary from good to fair condition, while the asphalt sidewalk is in poor condition. Minor cracking and potholes were observed throughout the park. The parking areas are in good to poor condition, where the primary parking lot in the south end of the park was showing signs of failure; some cracking and potholes were also evident in the parking areas. The park's culverts are in fair to poor condition; many corrugated metal pipe culverts are crushed or concrete culverts are seriously damaged. The culverts, in the northern area of the park where the RVs park, are in especially poor condition. The condition of Greenwood's facilities/buildings are fair; additional input from park staff is needed for a complete assessment.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

Several areas of Greenwood Park were evaluated including two parking lots and pathways within the main part of the park. Both parking lots lack accessible parking signage, and therefore are not ADA compliant. Four of the five pathways do not comply with ADA standards because they exceed the maximum slope.



Greenwood Park Campgrounds

Grippen Park

Grippen Park, an 18-acre park located in the village of Endicott, is home to the northeast's only covered BMX race track. Previously, the structure was used as an ice rink, until it was closed following the 2006 flood. The structure now houses a privately-operated BMX facility, which is closed to the public. The park's boat ramp provides boating and fishing access to the Susquehanna River; there is no boat rental at this park, so users must bring their own.

Future improvements are planned for Grippen Park. In 2018, Broome County received a State and Municipal Facilities grant for improvements to the boat ramp and a scenic outlook in the park. Broome County also received a federal ARC grant to extend the Chugnut Trail, a 3.2-mile multi-use trail that connects downtown Endicott to Glendale Park, through Grippen Park.



Location: Village of Endicott



Attendance: 94,282



Size: 18 acres



Trails: 0.25 miles, paved
proposed trail connection



Amenities: Parking,
restrooms, picnic shelter



Activities: Fishing,
boating, baseball, BMX



Notable Features: BMX
track, Susquehanna River



Issues: Flooding,
condition of BMX
structure



Park Facilities Inventory

Overall Grippen's grounds and facilities range from good to fair condition. The 550-foot entrance road to the boat ramp is in fair condition; large potholes and pavement deterioration were observed in various locations. Additionally, substantial cracking occurs throughout the road length and near the BMX facility. The parking lot is in good condition with minor cracking in some areas. Grippen Park has one picnic pavilion which is in good condition, however, there is a large crack at the corner of the concrete base which may have been a result of ground settling. In 2018, Broome County performed a structural assessment of the BMX facility and identified extensive upgrades that need to be made to the structure.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

Grippen Park's accessibility is relatively good, however, there are some areas of concern. There are no marked handicap spaces within the parking lot. In addition, a segment of the boat ramp path exceeds the maximum slope. Also, there is not a direct paved path between the BMX facility entrance and the restroom entrance.



Grippen Park BMX
Photo: Pics by Patty

Hawkins Pond Nature Area

Hawkins Pond covers 322 acres in the town of Windsor. Visitors navigate the nature area through 4 miles of hiking/cross-country ski trails which continue into the adjacent 539-acre Hawkins Pond State Forest. The 25-acre Hawkins Pond provides fishing opportunities; however, swimming and boating are prohibited. The park is largely undeveloped; there is one picnic shelter/restroom building located in the southern portion of the park. In 2018, the Parks Department began renovations on the structure.

Park Facilities Inventory

Hawkin's Pond Natural Area is accessed by a 590-foot gravel road which leads to the park's only picnic shelter; the shelter is in good condition.



Location: Town of Windsor



Attendance: 8,679



Size: 322 acres



Trails: 4 miles, unpaved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, picnic shelter



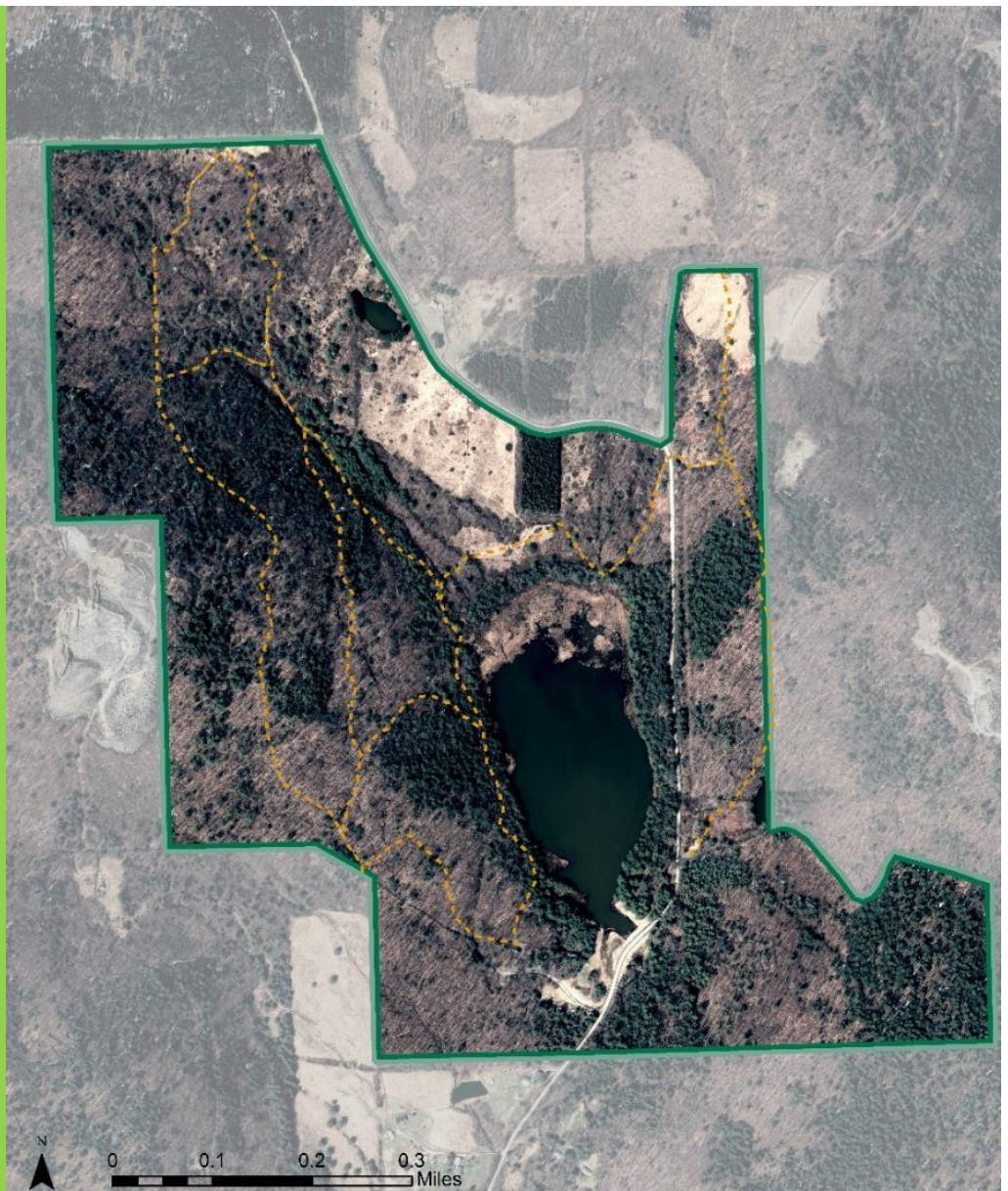
Activities: Hiking, fishing, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoe



Notable Features: 23-acre pond



Issues: Trail Maintenance





Hawkins Pond
Photo: Nowacki Farms

Nathaniel Cole Park

Nathaniel Cole Park, often referred to as Cole Park, is located in the town of Colesville. The park covers 367 acres and includes a 44-acre pond for swimming, boating, and fishing. This park also features a wide range of activities for users and a 1.5-mile nature trail loop that guides park users around the lake. In the fall, local high schools use Cole Park for cross-country races. While the public cannot camp here, the park is available to youth groups for camping in the summer.



Location: Town of Colesville



Attendance: 152,936



Size: 367 acres



Trails: 1.5 miles, unpaved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, benches, picnic shelters, concession stand



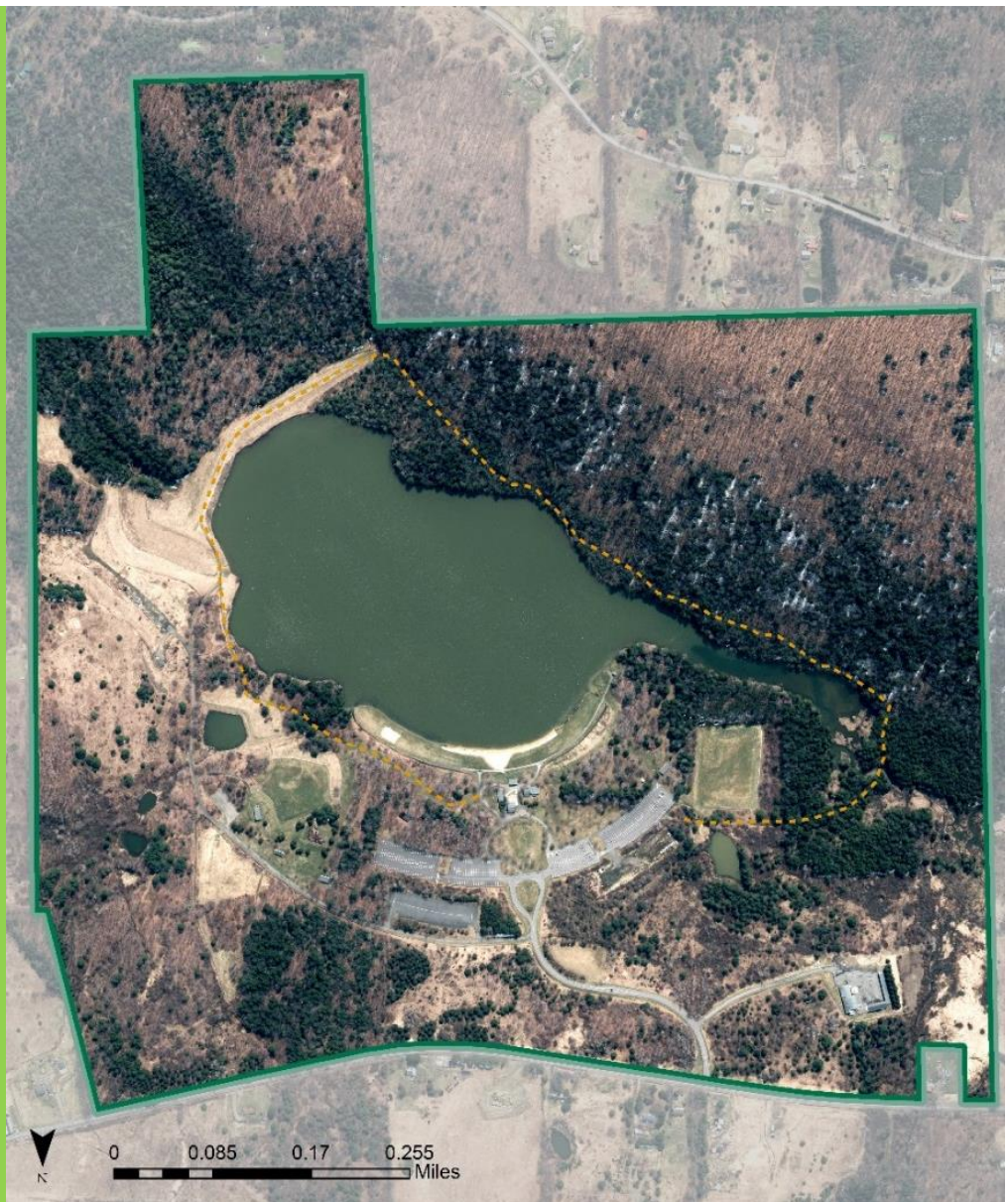
Activities: Hiking, fishing, xc skiing, snowshoeing, swimming, boating, playground, soccer, volleyball



Notable Features: 44-acre pond, watershed



Issues: Boat dock, park buildings need upgrades, condition of staircases



Park Facilities Inventory

Most of Cole Park's grounds and facilities are in fair condition. The park entrance road was recently repaved and is in good condition, while other road segments within the park exhibit potholes and cracking. The parking areas are in poor condition with signs of major cracking and pavement deterioration. There is a pedestrian bridge in the west part of the park which is in fair condition, and numerous culverts ranging from good to fair condition. Most of the park buildings are in good to fair condition, however, the maintenance building is in poor condition with rotted wood siding.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

Most of the areas evaluated in Cole Park were not in compliance with ADA standards. The four lots within the park did not have the minimum required number of accessible parking spaces based on total capacity. Also, the majority of the walking paths within the main park area exceeded the maximum slope.



*Cole Park
Photo: Drew Lewis*

Otsiningo Park

Otsiningo Park is a 150-acre multi-use park that runs along the Chenango River in the town of Dickinson. Broome County leases the park land from the NYS Department of Transportation, agreeing to maintain the park grounds and facilities. With more than 1 million visitors each year, Otsiningo is our most popular park, offering a wide range of activities for visitors. The park has a 3-mile multi-use trail that is part of the Two Rivers Greenway and connects it to Otsiningo North in the Town of Chenango. A private organization runs the community gardens located in the southern part of the park. Numerous community events such as various sports leagues, the Spiedie Fest and Balloon Rally, and Broome Bands Together take place in the park each year. In 2017, Broome County received a State and Municipal Facilities grant to construct a performance stage in the park; this project is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2019.



Location: Town of Dickinson



Attendance: 1,453,682



Size: 150 acres



Trails: 3 miles, paved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, picnic shelter, benches



Activities: Walking, biking, fishing, playground, soccer, volleyball, softball



Notable Features: Pond, Chenango River



Issues: Flooding and drainage issues



Park Facilities Inventory

Otsiningo Park's buildings and grounds overall are in good condition. Many roadways and paths have varying levels of cracking, but generally are in good condition. The parking areas are in fair condition, however cracking and potholes were observed. The park's facilities are in good condition; there is noticeable cracking in the slabs of the south picnic shelter and restrooms. The park's north facilities and culverts which were not included in this inventory.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

A preliminary accessibility assessment revealed that many parts of Otsiningo Park are not ADA compliant. Most of the parking lots did not have the minimum required number of accessible spots, or were not signed properly. In addition, the paths leading to the parking lots and the ramp leading to the bathrooms have slopes that exceed the ADA maximum slope standard.



*Otsiningo Park
Photo: Kathleen Al-Jallad*

Roundtop Park

Roundtop is a 32-acre park that sits atop Roundtop Hill in the village of Endicott. Broome County acquired this park from the Village in the early 1980s with plans to expand Grippen Park. While those plans never materialized, the County still owns and maintains both parks. Located above the Susquehanna River, Roundtop historically offered spectacular views of the valley; more recently the view has been obstructed by tree and brush growth. Part of the State and Municipal Facilities and Appalachian Regional Commission grants that Broome County received will be used for improvements at Roundtop Park including a scenic outlook and a spur trail that will connect Round Top to the Chugnut Trail along the river.



Location: Village of Endicott



Attendance: 58,907



Size: 32 acres



Trails: < 1 mile, unpaved



Amenities: Parking, rest-rooms, picnic shelter



Activities: Walking, fishing, playground



Notable Features: steep slopes, Susquehanna River



Issues: Overgrown brush



Park Facilities Inventory

The building and grounds at Roundtop Park vary from good to fair condition. There is a 1,300-foot entrance road that leads into the park which is in fair condition; there are multiple potholes and consistent cracking throughout the length of the road. The parking areas are in fair condition with substantial cracking. The picnic shelters are in good condition, however cracking in the concrete slab is noticeable. Similarly, the bathrooms are in good condition, but cracking occurs in the cement around the building.

Physical Accessibility Assessment

Gaps exist in the accessibility of Roundtop's features and structures. The east parking lot has one accessible parking space where at least two are required. Also, there was no direct connection between the east parking lot and the sunrise shelter. In addition, the pathway between the restrooms and the picnic shelter exceeded the maximum allowable slope according to ADA standards.



Roundtop Park

Park Visitation

About 2 million residents and visitors enjoy Broome County parks annually. Park visitation is variable from year to year, often influenced by weather, time, and other external factors. According to the public survey, peak visitation days for the parks are on the weekends.

Users experience outdoor recreation in unique ways at each park, but most commonly visit Otsiningo, Cole, and Greenwood parks. Otsiningo alone has over 1 million visitors each year, and visitors' favorite thing to do here was walking the trails and participating in family/group activities. The lesser-known parks with minimal development including Hawkins Pond and Aqua Terra (no visitation counts available) have less visitation throughout the year.

Year	Greenwood	Dorchester	Cole	Hawkins	Roundtop	Grippen	Otsiningo
2008	130,598	139,980	165,693	7,966	67,337	83,174	1,503,707
2009	141,184	94,761	179,860	10,530	57,202	106,010	1,437,330
2010	138,059	117,056	174,435	8,856	55,980	99,262	1,656,517
2011	124,686	114,966	165,186	8,335	50,684	99,921	1,261,965
2012	145,001	75,824	166,104	9,470	60,010	84,939	1,345,851
2013	121,694	112,712	148,022	7,787	63,860	98,057	1,486,818
2014	120,813	131,544	156,192	8,002	48,132	93,929	1,420,765
2015	123,248	122,834	135,677	8,610	57,927	91,512	1,389,668
2016	123,248	142,293	134,485	8,691	70,882	93,954	1,685,143
2017	136,964	134,055	103,708	8,543	57,053	92,058	1,349,059

**Counts not available for Aqua-Terra*

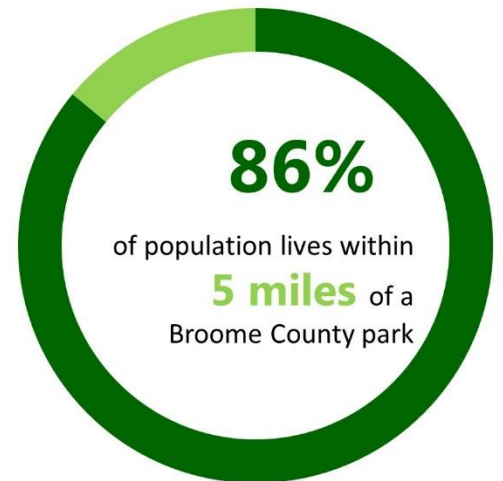
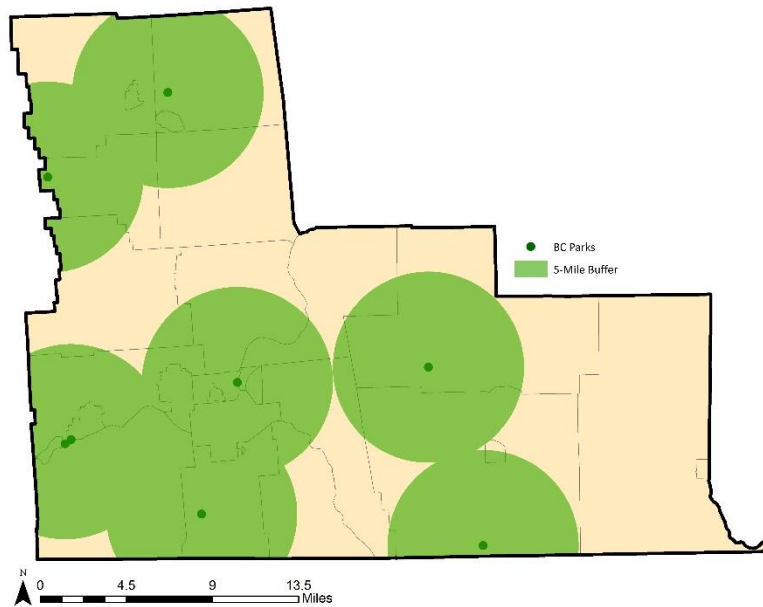
Total County Park Visitation (in millions)



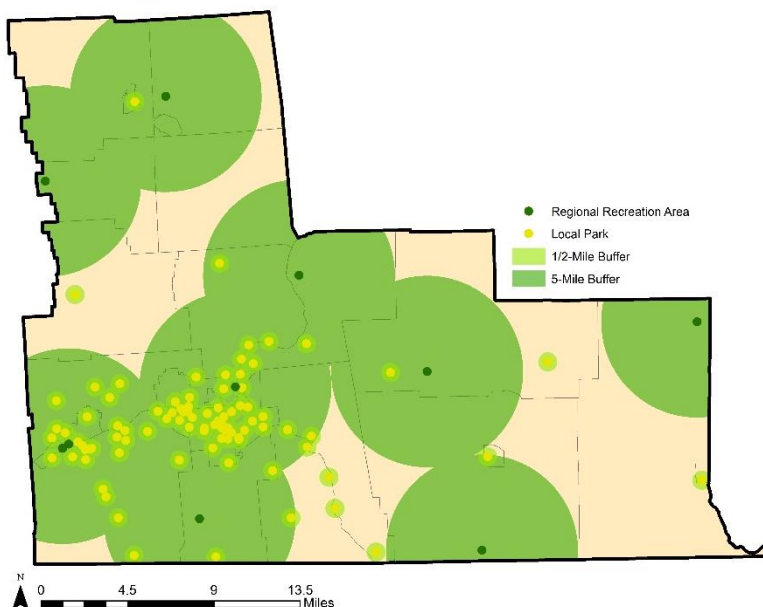
Park Distribution

Proximity to park areas influences park use among residents. While there are some visible gaps in the northern and eastern parts of the county, most of the population lives within the existing service areas of the county's park system. Countywide, 86% of the population lives within five miles of a county-owned park. Accounting for other park types, the percentage of the population that lives within ½-mile of a local park or five miles of a regional park increases to 92%.

Broome County Parks Service Area



Local and Regional Parks Service Area



Acres per 1,000 Residents

A common method of assessing adequacy of park service is determining the number of park acres per 1,000 residents. In Broome County, there are 9 acres of county-owned parkland per 1,000 residents, which exceeds the average of 7.4 acres per 1,000 for similar sized jurisdictions documented in the NPRA 2016 Field Report. Countywide, there are 25 acres of local and regional parks per 1,000 residents. With no major population increases expected, the County will maintain an adequate level of service in terms of park area into the future. However, Broome County should determine if the existing programs and facilities are meeting the needs of residents, as 15% of survey respondents said they traveled outside of Broome County for recreational purposes because a certain facility or program was not offered here.

Park Type	Acres	Acres per 1,000 residents
Local Parks	908	5
Regional Recreation Park	4,023	20
Natural Areas	14,381	72
Open Space	90	0.4
All Parks & Recreation Areas	19,402	97
Broome County Parks	1,847	9
Local and Regional Parks	4,931	25





Otsiningo Park Scarecrow Contest



Department Overview

The Broome County Parks Department serves to provide opportunities for leisure, promote recreational events, promote health and wellness, and support events and attractions which promote area-wide tourism. The department maintains over 1,800 acres of parkland, hundreds of facilities and amenities, and oversees the various events that take place in the parks throughout the year. This chapter provides a brief assessment of the department's organization and operations.

Park Staff

The Broome County Department of Parks and Recreation is charged with the management of the county's park system. The department has 18 full-time, 2 part-time, and 99 seasonal positions. Dramatic reductions in staff levels creates challenges for the level of service and park maintenance. Since 1998, the number of full-time positions decreased from 40 to 18, representing a 55% cut in staffing; these cuts are depicted in the organizational chart on the next page. Specific positions that were eliminated included arborists, the design division, engineer, and construction workers.

Maintenance and Operations

Fourteen staff members are responsible for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the parks system. These include: two park managers; one park equipment maintenance Manager; three assistant managers; one assistant recreation facility manager; three senior park technicians; and four park technicians. Typical responsibilities of the park staff include:

- Oversee seasonal employees
- Prepare park reports and records
- Park preparation and clean-up
- Perform building and equipment maintenance and repairs
- Maintain and repair recreational equipment
- Perform grounds keeping maintenance
- Maintains trails and athletic fields
- Snow removal from roads, parking lots, and sidewalks

In addition to working in the parks, a portion of the Parks staff works at the Arena from September through April, acutely limiting park maintenance capacity during these months.

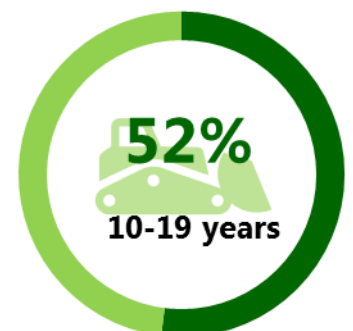
Equipment

Personnel indicated maintenance was one of their strengths, but the aging buildings and outdated equipment are issues affecting operations. Based on an inventory of park assets, there are 42 maintenance/operation equipment pieces, and the average age of the equipment is 15 years. Because resources are shared between the Parks and other County departments, if a piece of equipment becomes inoperable it will impact multiple parks and other County facilities.

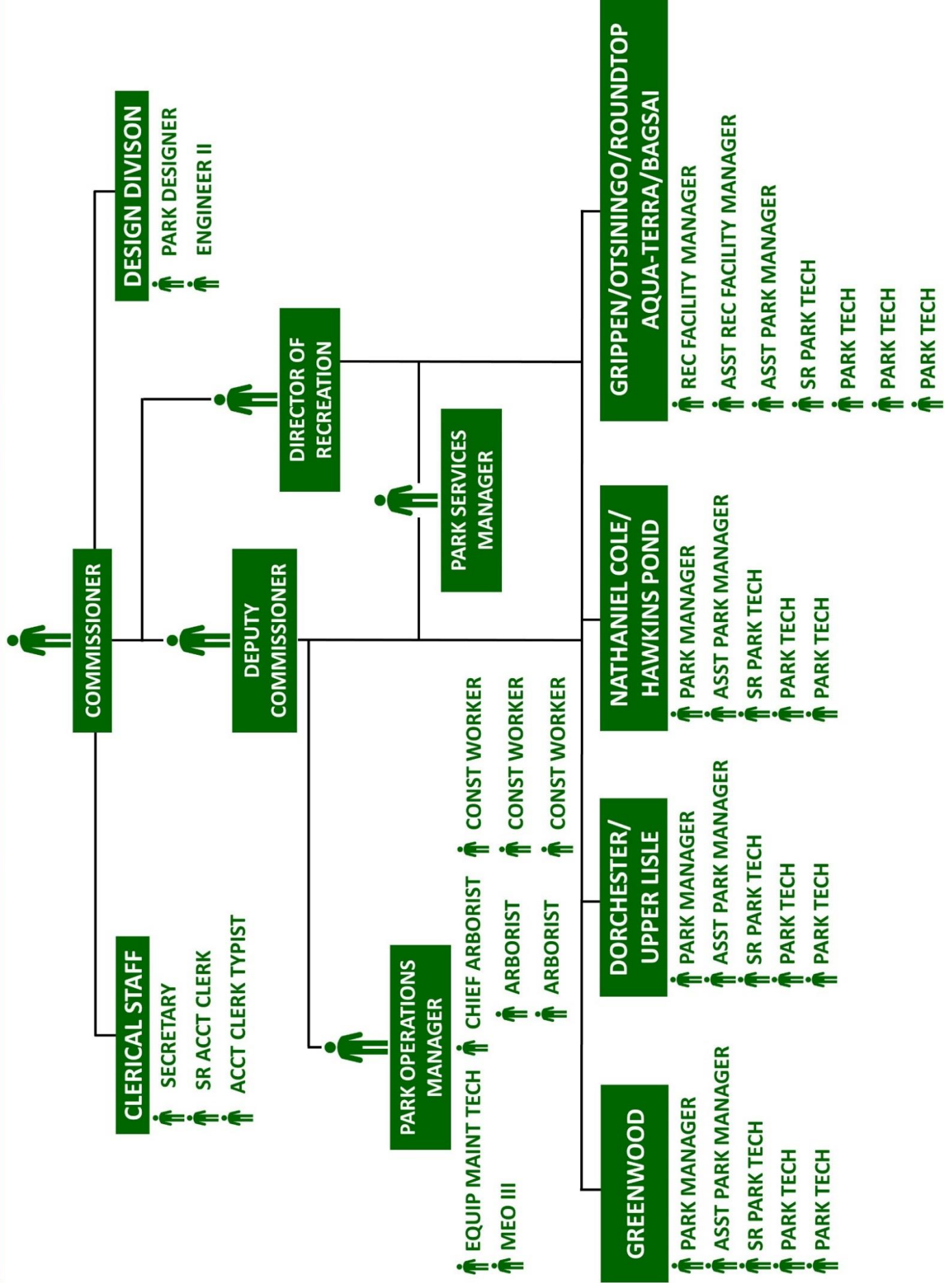
Reduced staff over the years has led to fewer people in parks providing maintenance and other services. Lost maintenance workers, program leaders, and people in the office.

Parks Managers Meeting

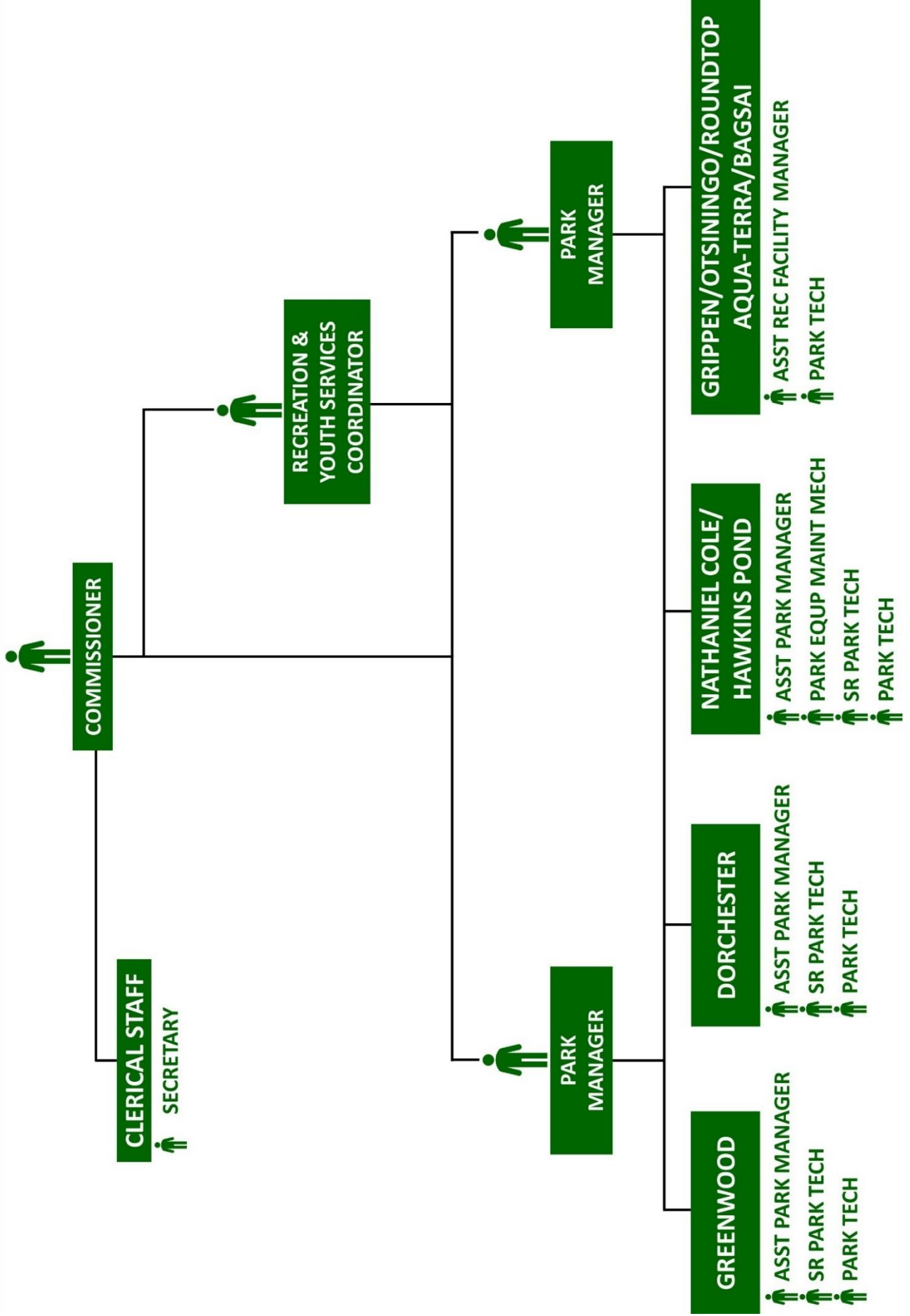
AGE OF PARKS EQUIPMENT



Department of Parks & Recreation (1998)



Department of Parks & Recreation (2017)



YOUTH BUREAU GRANTS

In 2018, the Youth Bureau awarded nearly **\$200,000** in grant funds to 19 different projects

Youth Bureau

The Parks Department has been given the responsibility of administering the Youth Bureau Program. The Youth Bureau has an 18-member advisory board which works to promote the physical, emotional, and social well-being of youth and families in Broome County. The Youth Bureau's primary function is to administer funding to youth recreation programs and youth-serving agencies made possible by NYS Office of Children & Family Services Bureau of Youth Development.

Partnerships

One reason why Broome County's parks are great public places is the on-going partnerships that build long-term commitment and investment in the parks. Both public and private partnerships contribute to their role as places where people build relationships and share experiences. Currently, the Parks Department's primary partners include:

- Adopt A Park Organization
- Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP
- Otsiningo Community Gardeners Association
- Grippen Park BMX

Special Events

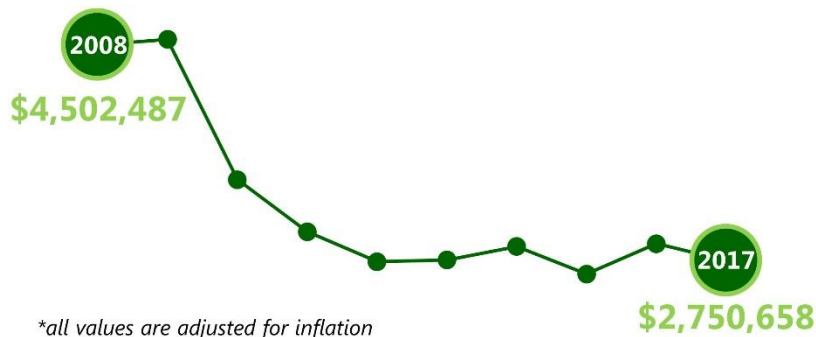
Dozens of special events take place at the parks each year such as, community walks/5ks, athletic tournaments, festivals, and more. Each event requires special assistance, set-up and cleanup efforts from parks staff. Events which the department sponsors/co-sponsors include:

- Almost Annual Crappie Derby
- Broome Bands Together Concert Series
- Broome County Parks Triathlon
- Movies in the Park
- Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally

Budget

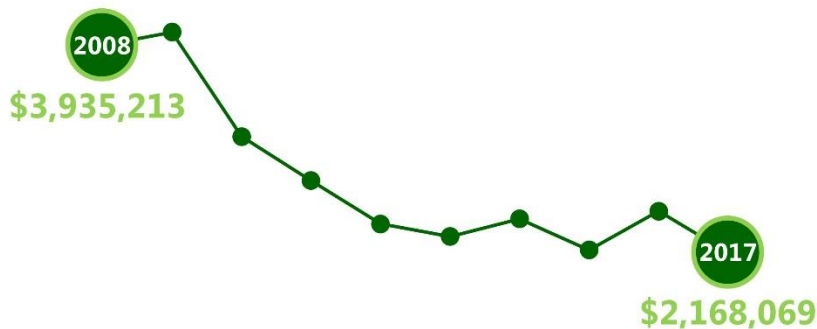
In 2017, the Parks Department administered a budget of approximately \$2.8 million to operate and maintain the park's system and Youth Services. Over the past decade, the park's budget decreased 39% from \$4.5 million in 2008 to \$2.8 million in 2017. Approximately 20% of the department's budget is allocated for administrative purposes, 14% for seasonal staff and special events, and 66% for parks staff and maintenance expenses.

Total Parks & Rec Budget



Broome County parks are free to the public and utilized by nearly two million people each year. Funding to maintain and operate the parks system comes from two primary sources: the County's general fund and income generated by the department. While the majority of the department's budget is supported by tax dollars, it accounts for less than 1% of the County's total budget and amounts to approximately ten dollars per capita. While County contributions fluctuated over the past decade, mainly declining since 2009, the Park's revenue increased slightly during that time.

County Contribution



Parks Income



*all values are adjusted for inflation

PARKS DEPARTMENT REVENUES

Revenue generated by the parks contributes to the departmental income. In 2018, **\$190,050** in Parks revenue came from:

- Food Concessions
- Boat Rentals
- Camping
- Shelter Rentals
- Ski Rentals
- Grounds Rentals

Capital Projects

The Broome County Capital Improvements Program (CIP) outlines the County's prioritized improvements, including Parks and Recreation. This document is the basis for physical improvements to the parks, trails, equipment, and public facilities. Over the past decade, the County apportioned about \$2.3 million for various projects and improvements. Each year the apportioned amounts for special projects and maintenance/operations varies. Proposed capital improvements for 2019 include \$200,000 for facilities repairs and renovations, facility development, and surface rehabilitation. Proposed CIP projects for 2019 include rehabilitation of Cole Park's parking lots, replacing the pedestrian bridge at Cole Park, building a culvert at Aqua Terra, reconstruction of two pavilions at Greenwood Park, and other general facility upgrades.

Charter and Code

The Charter and Code of Broome County identifies the rights, privileges, functions and powers of the County government. Chapter 281 of the charter and code establishes the following for Broome County Parks and Recreation Areas: rules, regulations, and prohibitions; fees and charges; penalties for offenses; and enforcement. The charter and code can be modified by legislative approval to alter existing or introduce new laws. A policy review was completed for the parks department which identified the following:

- The existing charter and code says persons are authorized to carry firearms within the park in designated hunting areas, however, there are no designated hunting areas. The document goes on to say hunting may be authorized by the commissioner, but if there are no designated hunting areas, hunting and firearms should not be allowed within the parks as it may impact park users' safety.
- The charter and code states ATVs are restricted to trails and areas provided for them, but the department's website says they are not permitted.

- Numerous events take place at the county parks each year, but the charter does address the requirements, permits, etc. for organizing such events.
- The Broome County Parks and Recreation General Regulations Guide addresses the following issues, but they are not stated in the latest charter and code. Information in the two documents should be consistent.
 - Park hours
 - Prohibiting feeding of waterfowl
 - Swimming rules
 - Permitting for groups larger than 25 people
 - Sound amplification
 - Smoking within parks
 - Group camping

”

I visit Cole Park almost every weekend all year. Really happy with everything kept as is. I can't say enough about how the maintenance staff keeps the park

Public Survey Comment








Environmental Resources

Broome County recognizes the connection between parks and environmental conservation. In the public survey, respondents identified the protection of environmental resources as one of the most important benefits of parks and open space. Each county park has valuable open space assets, including large forests, water bodies, wetlands, and various animal species. These assets are important to our natural environment, the local economy, and the quality of life for residents.

Threatened or Endangered Species


Parks provide habitats for diverse species, including endangered or threatened species. The Northern Long-eared Bat is a threatened species, and may be present in any of the county parks, most likely habituating within tree cavities, caves, or even man-made structures. This species is protected under Federal law, and projects require a special permit for activities that could disrupt their habitat. Broome County Parks should always consult with the appropriate agencies and avoid development in or near these areas.

The NYSDEC's Natural Heritage Program identified multiple rare or listed animals that could be present in or near the county parks. The protection of threatened, endangered, or rare species should be prioritized and used as a guiding factor when proposing future project that could affect these communities.

Species	Location	Habitat	Status
Arrowhead Spiketail 	Hawkins Pond	Streams and seeps	Vulnerable in NYS
Bald Eagle 	Grippen Otsiningo Roundtop	Near waterbodies	Threatened
Brook Floater 	Grippen Otsiningo Roundtop	Creeks and rivers	Threatened
Hellbender 	Roundtop	Streams and rivers	Special Concern
Tiger Spiketail 	Hawkins Pond	Streams, springs, and seeps	Critically Imperiled in NYS
Yellow Lampmussel 	Otsiningo	Rivers	Vulnerable in NYS

Fish Species

Fishing is a popular activity among many Broome County residents and visitors. Most parks allow for fishing either from the shore or a rental boat. In the winter, ice fishing is allowed (pending safe conditions) at Dorchester and Greenwood parks. A wide range of species can be found in the lakes, ponds, and rivers of the county parks. The table below highlights the primary species that can be found in county parks.

Fish species in Broome County Parks	AQUA TERRA POND	CHENANGO RIVER (OTSININGO PARK)	GREENWOOD LAKE	HAWKINS POND	NATHANIEL COLE POND	SUSQUEHANNA RIVER (Grippen & Roundtop)	WHITNEY POINT RESERVOIR
Chain pickerel							
Channel catfish							
Largemouth bass							
Muskellunge							
Northern pike							
Panfish							
Rainbow trout							
Smallmouth bass							
Tiger musky							
Walleye							

Migratory Birds

Broome County park's diversity of natural settings make them an ideal resting area for migratory birds. Certain birds are protected under federal law; Thirteen specific species of concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services can be found in the county parks.



Bald Eagle



Black-billed Cuckoo



Black-capped Chickadee



Bobolink



Canada Warbler



Cerulean Warbler



Golden Eagle



Kentucky Warbler



Northern Saw-Whet Owl



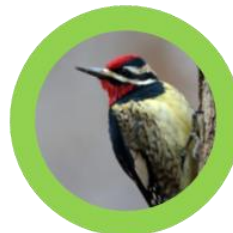
Prairie Warbler



Rusty Blackbird



Wood Thrush



Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker

Invasive Species

Invasive species are non-native species that pose a threat to the environment, public health, and/or economy. If left unmanaged, they can spread rapidly and disrupt native communities, causing loss of biodiversity and habitat. Invasive species are very expensive and almost impossible to eradicate. The following species have a known presence in the county, but more research is necessary to identify their presence and extent within the parks.

Current Invasive Species in Broome County Parks

The following invasive species have a known or likely presence in Broome County parks and should be assessed to identify effective management measures.

Species	Location	Impact
Emerald Ash Borer	Otsiningo	Defoliation, tree loss, threat to public safety, native plant and habitat loss
Japanese Barberry	Likely in all Parks	Native plant and habitat loss, labor intensive removal, increased presence of ticks
Japanese Knotweed	Hawkins Pond Otsiningo	Native plant and habitat loss, labor intensive removal
Japanese Honeysuckle	Likely in all Parks	Native plant and habitat loss, labor intensive removal
Japanese Stiltgrass	Hawkins Pond	Native plant and habitat loss, labor intensive removal
Purple Loosestrife	Likely in all parks	Native plant and habitat loss, labor intensive removal
Wild Parsnip	Likely in all parks	Causes severe skin/eye irritation, native and habitat loss

Other Invasive Species to Monitor

The following invasive species have a known presence within the county, but to this date have not been identified in any of the parks.

Species	Location	Impact
Giant Hogweed	None Known	Causes severe skin/eye irritation, native plant loss
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid	None Known	Severe damage/death to Hemlock trees, native plant and habitat loss
Kudzu	None Known	Kills other plants, reduces diversity and habitat, can damage buildings and utilities

Nuisance Species

Wildlife provides aesthetic recreational benefits to park goers, but overpopulation and increased human-animal conflict prompts the labeling of certain wildlife species as nuisances. Calls about geese are common for Broome County Parks staff. Even though the County has a specific role in wildlife management in the parks, Canada Geese are protected under Federal and State laws, so many actions require state and/or federal approvals and permits.





Canada geese are waterfowl that provide enjoyment to bird watchers and nature enthusiasts. However, goose droppings contaminate water and dirty trails/beaches, making them unusable at times. Some survey respondents expressed concerns over this. While population control may help reduce some negative impacts, control methods are expensive and highly controversial. Parks staff have implemented population control methods in the past, but no single method is completely permeant or cost-effective. To discourage geese from gathering at the parks, the feeding of geese and other waterfowl is prohibited within the parks.



Photo: Krystin Normile

Water Resources

Broome County's water resources are a defining element of its parks, and offer recreational opportunities throughout the year. With six lakes/ponds and frontage on two rivers, Broome County has a critical role to ensure the public has optimal access, so they can interact with the waterfronts in different ways. Despite considerable interest in aquatic recreational activities, survey respondents indicate they are not likely to participate in these activities when they visit a county park. This may be caused by inadequate access or lack of knowledge of available resources. Respondents feel improvements such as, greenway trails, scenic overlooks, and boat access/launch points would improve accessibility and visibility of the waterfront, and overall increase enjoyment of the county's water resources.

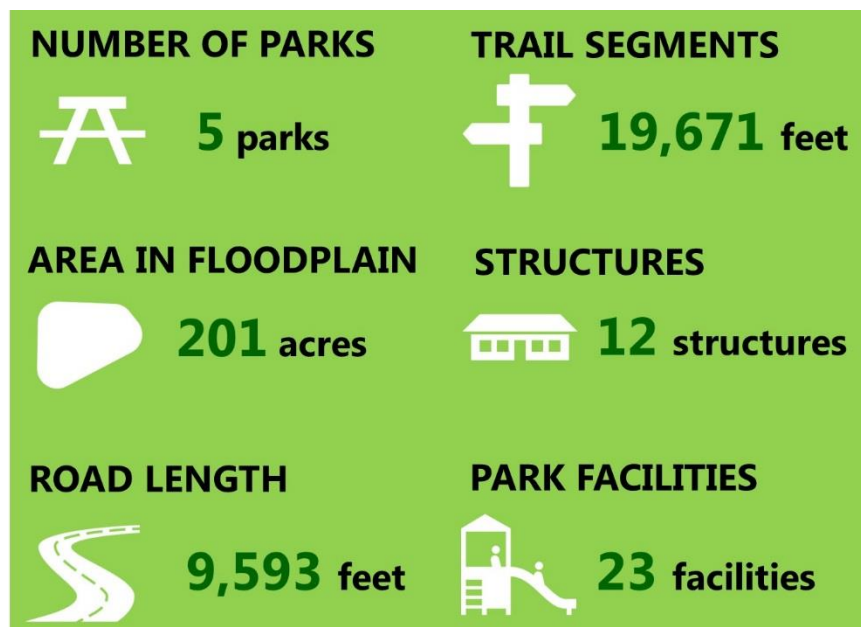
Broome County Parks Water Resources	Water Body 	River Frontage 	Streams 	Wetlands 
AQUA-TERRA	64-acre pond		4,000 ft.	14 acres
DORCHESTER	1,200-acre lake		1,028 ft.	11 acres
GREENWOOD	25-acre lake		6,886 ft.	37 acres
GRIPPEN		1,338 ft.		> 1 acre
HAWKINS POND	26-acre pond		4,282 ft.	45 acres
NATHANIEL COLE	64-acre pond		4,000 ft.	79 acres
OTSININGO	3-acre pond	12,204 ft.		22 acres
ROUNDTOP		1,064 ft.		< 1 acre

Wetlands

Wetlands are land areas that are usually saturated year-round and include marshes, swamps, and bogs. They have many important functions including wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, and they are protected on both private and public property. Broome County parks contain 41 federally and state regulated delineated wetlands, covering approximately 207 acres including: freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, freshwater ponds, lakes, and riverine. Any project that may disturb these wetlands and their adjacent areas require a permit, however, development in or near these areas should be avoided.

Flood Risk

Frequent flooding in Broome County demonstrates how parks are not only fundamental amenities, but important to flood mitigation. Parks are a favorable use within the floodplain because they reduce the impacts of flooding by creating floodwater storage, with minimal damage to infrastructure. Five county parks are located within the floodplain including: Dorchester, Greenwood, Grippen, Otsiningo, and Roundtop. These parks experience varying levels of flooding during major flood events and heavy rains. Generally, most of the county's park facilities can withstand flooding, but many resources are required to clean up the parks after an event, to ensure they are safe for public use.



Broome County Watersheds

Since 1950, Broome County (in partnership with federal agencies) has constructed multiple watershed structures (dams), all of which are owned, maintained, and inspected by Broome County. The purpose of the watersheds is to provide flood control and stormwater management by collecting runoff and storing water behind the dam temporarily, and water is slowly released over time. While the purpose of these structures is for flood protection, residents also enjoy their recreational and environmental benefits. Many people enjoy walking, fishing, and observing wildlife on the watersheds, however, these structures are not parks and are not maintained for these purposes. Watersheds are located in the following county parks: Aqua Terra, Greenwood, Nathaniel Cole, and Hawkins Pond.

Aqua Terra Dam*	Nanticoke Creek Dam #10
SUNY Broome/Public Safety Facility	Nanticoke Creek Dam #13
Brandywine Creek Dam	Nanticoke Creek Dam #7A
BC Corporate Park Dam #2	Nanticoke Creek Dam #7B
Deposit Bone Creek	Nanticoke Creek Dam #8
Deposit Elm Street	Nanticoke Creek Dam #9A
Finch Hollow Dam #1A	Nanticoke Creek Dam #9C
Finch Hollow Dam #3C	Nanticoke Creek Dam #9E
Greenwood Lake*	Nathaniel Cole Park Dam*
Hawkins Pond*	Palmers Pond Dam
Little Choconut Dam #2	Patterson Brixius Creek Dam #1
Little Choconut Dam #2A	Patterson Brixius Creek Dam #2
Little Choconut Dam #2B	West Corners Dike #7
Little Choconut Dam #2E	<i>*Part of Broome County Parks system</i> Public Access: ■ Yes ■ No

Water Quality

Broome County parks offer important water recreation resources for the community. Swimming areas are located at Dorchester, Greenwood, and Nathaniel Cole Parks. Beach areas are tested regularly to ensure waterbodies are safe for public use, and are closed when there is a known or likely health risk.

Algae Blooms

Algae are organisms that live in waterbodies, where they are a major source of food for other organisms and play an important role in carbon dioxide recycling. While algae are always present in the water, Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) can develop when there are excess levels of sunlight and nutrients. HABs prevent sunlight from reaching other plants and can produce toxins that are harmful to wildlife and humans. In 2018, Dorchester Park's swimming area was closed for one week in July due to algae blooms in the Whitney Point Reservoir.

Escherichia Coli

Escherichia coli (E. coli) is a bacterium that normally lives in human and animal intestines, but certain strains of the bacteria can cause serious illness. The most common path of exposure is swallowing contaminated food or water. To reduce exposure risk, Broome County Parks requires babies to wear diapers specifically designed for swimming and advises patrons to wash off before and after swimming. There have been no confirmed e. coli outbreaks within the parks in recent years.

Swimmer's Itch

Swimmer's itch caused by the parasite cercaria, and can lead to skin irritation for humans. It is caused when parasite eggs enter the water, which is typically passed in waterfowl feces, and comes into contact with human skin. In 2011, the parasite was confirmed at Greenwood Park, subsequently the Parks and Health Departments carried out remediation efforts.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

The NYSDEC regulates and oversees permits for stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) as required by Federal law. Broome County is a traditional non-land use MS4 entity, which applies to counties without land use control. This designation means all municipal facilities and projects must comply with the MS4 requirements. As an MS4 operator, Broome County must implement a Stormwater Management Plan which contains control measures and utilizes best management practices. Broome County's 2013 Stormwater Management Plan outlines goals and objectives for park maintenance practices. Broome County MS4 goals that relate to parks include:

- Train Parks staff to identify pollutants of concern and emphasize BMPs such as fertilizing practices and pet waste collection
- Report management activities and pollution control measures annually
- Develop pollution prevention techniques for parking lot sweeping, landscape & lawncare, pests, and pet waste collection
- Develop stormwater education kiosks for parks
- Detect and eliminate all illicit discharges

Contamination Sites

A preliminary review of the parks and adjacent areas (within 1/8 mile) was conducted to determine if there were any environmental concerns at the county parks. There were no significant environmental contaminations, however, eleven "incident or spill" sites and six sites with "activities that may have a potential environmental impact" were identified. While these spills and sites are not an environmental concern, they are still reported because of their potential or perceived environmental risk. There were two accidental spills that occurred within Broome County parks including:

- **Grippen Park:** 300 gallons of ethylene glycol from the ice rink
- **Dorchester Park:** Unknown substance and amount

Logging

Broome County has more than 1,000 acres of forested lands in its parks, providing a range of environmental, recreational, and health benefits. Timber harvesting in the county parks, particularly within the Aqua Terra Wilderness Area and Hawkins Pond Natural Area, was proposed in the 1990s and more recently in 2011. Timber harvesting is subject to State parkland alienation and Federal conversion processes, which effectively bans the practices in public parks. After assessing the options, Broome County decided not to pursue timber harvesting at any of the county parklands.

Historic/Cultural Resources

The county's natural and cultural heritage is an important part of our landscape. Each of the county parks are expressions of the community's local history and heritage.

- Purchased in 1960 for \$30,000, Greenwood Park was the county's first regional park. This park set the pace for the development of other regional parks.
- The Whitney Point Dam was built in 1942 in response to the 1935 flood, part of this area was developed into Dorchester park during the 1960s.
- Grippen and Roundtop parks are representative of the Endicott-Johnson era; both were recreational contributions made to the community. During the 1960s, the Endicott Rotary made many improvements to the park including the former ice rink, playground area, and boat launch.
- Aqua Terra, formerly the Innsbruck US ski resort, was the only ski resort in Broome County. It was acquired by the county in the 1980s, and relics of the ski facilities are still visible in the park today.
- Archaeological surveys were performed at Otsiningo and Roundtop parks, uncovering Native American artifacts. Broome County's LWRP recommends interpretative signage highlighting the history of the Native American settlements and the 1779 Clinton-Sullivan Campaign be installed at both sites.

Unique Natural Areas

Broome County parks contain a variety of natural habitats populated with diverse species of plants and animals. Using the Unique Natural Areas Inventory, developed by the Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) with Dr. Julian Shepherd, identified areas within the parks that contain significant natural features and ecological resources, or unique natural areas and should be actively managed and protected.

Broome County Parks Unique Natural Resources	
Aqua-Terra	Wetlands, Beavers, Wood Turtles
Dorchester	197 bird species including eagles, osprey, herons, and more
Greenwood	Mature forest with diverse flora, beaver pond, Jefferson Salamander, waterfowl
Grippen	River floodplain, various fish species
Hawkins Pond	Shrublands, wildflowers, mature forest, butterflies
Nathaniel Cole	Hemlock woods, wetlands, evergreen forests, >100 species of plants, deep forest birds, hawks
Otsiningo	River floodplain, unique tree species, rare Indian Plantain
Roundtop	Mature pine forest, unique habitat on cliff



Cole Park Nature Trail



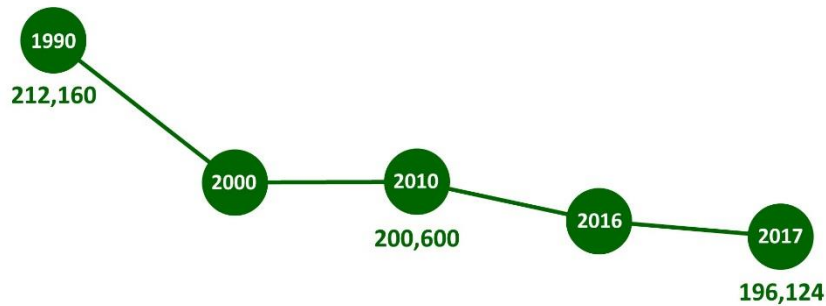
Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally

People

Broome County's parks offer a variety of facilities and activities for people from different demographic groups. These groups experience parks and recreational activities in unique ways and the demands for recreational facilities and services has changed since the parks were originally built. Understanding which groups are present in Broome County can help ensure the parks system fits the needs of the people living here.

Population

Broome County's population is declining. Since 1990, the county lost about 16,000 residents, dropping from 212,160 to an estimated 196,124 in 2017, an overall decrease of eight percent. Broome's population decline reflects regional outmigration trends which is expected to continue.



**2016-2017 are based on ACS estimates*

POPULATION DATA

Broome County population data comes from two sources:

Decennial Census

a 100% count that shows how many people live in the US, conducted every ten years

American Community Survey (ACS)

an estimate that shows the characteristics of the population, conducted every year

Households and Families

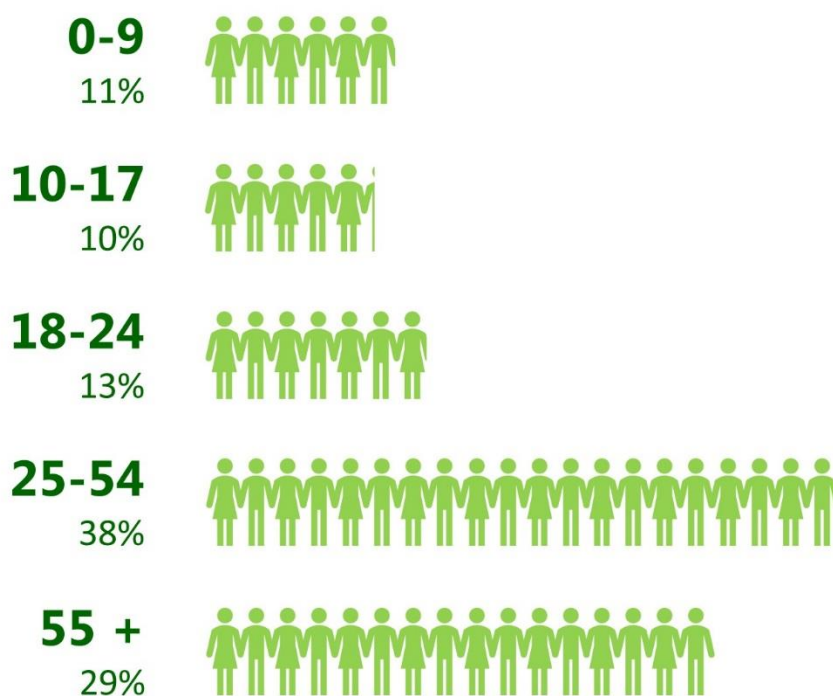
Broome County has an estimated 82,167 households, which represents a slight increase since 1990. Families make up the majority (59%) of households in the county, but the family structure is changing. The percentage of one-parent households is growing, and the share of family households with young children has declined over the past three decades. While parks provide an important service for family recreation and activities, changes in family structure and type suggest there may be an increased demand for non-family activities at the parks.



**Based on 2010 Census data*

Age

A resident's stage of life impacts participation in recreational activities and preferences of amenities and facilities. Children and adolescents make up one-fifth of the county's population; play structures, athletic facilities, and educational programs are key for this age group. Young adults (18-24) represent a smaller segment of the population (13%); among other recreational activities, their interests in technology increase the appeal for activities that utilize social media such as geocaching, and augmented reality apps.



**Based on 2010 Census data*

The largest age group (25 to 54-year-olds) includes recent college graduates and many family-oriented individuals, who may be more likely to travel elsewhere for leisure activities. It is important the county provides a range of facilities and activities such as, hiking/walking trails, athletic facilities, lifestyle programs, and arts/entertainment events that appeal to this age group. Empty nesters are the second largest age group and are expected to grow rapidly in the following decades. Passive activities such as walking, fishing, picnics, and nature photography are popular for this age group.

Race/Ethnicity and Language

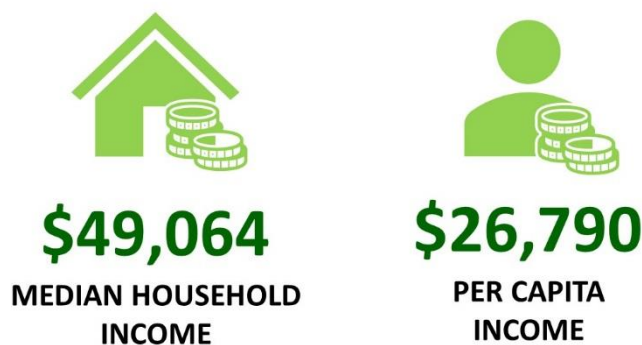
Broome County is slowly becoming more diverse. While the population is predominately non-Hispanic White (88%), the numbers of African-Americans, Asians, and people with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity (people who identify as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race) are growing, with each group doubling in size since 1990. The percentage of residents that speak a language other than English has declined over the past two decades. It is estimated that ten percent of the county's population speaks another language including: Indo-European (4%), Asian and Pacific Islander (3%), and Spanish (2%). The county should determine if new facilities and outreach techniques are needed to attract diverse populations to the parks.



**Based on 2017 ACS estimates*

Income

Broome County's median household income (\$49,064) and per capita income (\$26,790) values are lower than statewide and regional averages, and have experienced slight decline since 2000. Most households in the county make under \$50,000 a year. Broome County parks are free and provide recreational opportunities to users of all incomes. Any future facilities or programs provided by the county should keep income levels in mind, so these services can be supported by the local population.



**Based on 2017 ACS estimates*

Accessibility

Broome County parks are an important resource for all residents, however, accessibility of the parks and their facilities may act as a barrier to some residents. In Broome County, about ten percent of the population has vision (2%) or ambulatory/physical (7%) difficulties (2017 ACS estimates). In 2014, the Binghamton Rotary and the Adopt a Park Program raised funds to install accessible playground equipment at Otsiningo Park. In 2018, an ADA assessment of park's trails, ramps, and parking facilities was completed at the following parks: Dorchester, Greenwood, Grippen, Otsiningo, and Roundtop. Findings revealed multiple facilities were not in compliance with ADA standards; more information about the ADA Assessment can be found in the Where We Are Now chapter.



ADA Playground Equipment at Otsiningo Park
Photo: Dani Cronce



*Hawkins Pond Nature Trail
Photo: Kurt Zitzelman*

Recreation Trends

In addition to shifting demographic patterns, outdoor recreation preferences are changing. Each year the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) develops a list of significant trends in the field of parks and recreation. These emerging trends may influence the services we provide and how we choose to promote our parks. This chapter uses NRPA publications to identify current issues and trends that the Parks Department should consider while working to enhance recreation opportunities in the county.

“Barks Make Life Better”

A dog park is a designated, usually enclosed, area where dogs can run off-leash, and may also include equipment and other amenities. A small town outside Washington, D.C. conducted a survey, which suggested lack of a dog park resulted in lower park usage, especially among adults over 50.

NRPA, November 2018

Programming

Park programming can be used to engage residents from diverse backgrounds and create new experiences within the parks. NRPA stated, “with each supervised activity added to the program offering, there is a 48 percent increase in park use and a 37 percent increase in physical activity”. Currently, the Parks Department does not host any organized recreational programs, but various groups hold their programs at within county parks. Traditional programming includes sports-oriented activities, but park agencies across the nation are expanding their programming to include a broad range of activities for participants of different ages, abilities, and interests.

Dog Parks

The popularity of dog parks is growing across the nation, playing an important role in the quality of life for people and their pets. In a national study, 91 percent of people said dog parks were beneficial because they provide a safe exercise space, allow dogs to socialize, and they get owners physically active with their dogs (NRPA, November 2018). Every county park is dog-friendly, but dogs must be kept on a leash and are prohibited from the beach and swimming areas.

Technology

Advancements in technology are making dramatic impacts to the way people live, work and, play. Wi-Fi, augmented reality apps, geocaching, and social media networks can change the way park users interact with their surroundings, creating new experiences in parks. In addition, technology can be used to improve park performance, and make maintenance operations more efficient. Integrating innovative approaches into park systems such as, crowd sourcing apps to get feedback of various conditions of the parks, surveying conditions with drones, smart lighting, smart waste sensors, and more to streamline maintenance practices. Public input reveals that park users desire technology upgrades within the park landscape; in the visual preference survey, 39% of participants chose a solar-panel charging bench when asked which table style they prefer.

Community Gardens

The popularity and demand for community gardens is growing across the nation and in Broome County. Community gardens are shared spaces that help address various issues including obesity, food deserts, youth development/education, and can revitalize underutilized spaces. The Otsiningo Park Community Gardeners Association operates the garden in Otsiningo Park, and rents plots to the public. Developing community gardens in other parks can establish new relationships with other organizations including Volunteers Improving Neighborhood Environments (VINES) and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Broome County.

Skateboarding

Skateparks mostly attract teenagers and young adults, engaging those who skateboard, rollerblade, and ride scooters or bikes. Skateboarding will make its Olympic debut in the Summer 2020 Olympics, which is expected to increase interest in the sport (NRPA, May 2018). Skateboarding is permitted in the county parks, but there are no designated skateparks; the city of Binghamton houses the only public outdoor skatepark in the county.

Public Art

Public art in the form of murals, mosaics, sculptures, memorials, and more promotes a strong cultural identity, supports the local economy, and breathes new life into public spaces. Various counties around the nation incorporate public art into new construction and facility renovations. Broome County has supported public art by sponsoring public murals, securing grant funds to create new public art, and partnering with local school districts to paint murals at the Broome County Dog Shelter. These efforts should be continued within the parks.

Festivals

Local festivals and special events provide unique experiences for local residents and visitors. Broome County is home to many cultural festivals and the region's largest festival, Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally, which takes place at Otsiningo Park each summer. Other types of festivals that are gaining popularity across the nation include food truck, music/arts, craft beverage, and holiday festivals.

"Art, Parks, and Green Spaces"

Public art is art that is created for and accessible to the public, usually cited in a public space. Public art can take many forms, and is used to rejuvenate public spaces to create new user experiences, but it also can contribute to economic growth in an area.

NRPA, September 2016

Innovative Playground Design

Playgrounds are a fundamental part of any park system; they make parks interesting places, promote physical activity and healthy development, and encourage social relationships among their users. Playground designs across the nation are evolving to include natural playscapes, inclusive/accessible, multi-generational, and interactive playgrounds. During the development of this plan, park managers identified the county's aging playground equipment as an issue that needs to be addressed at multiple parks and multiple survey responses noted the need for new creative playground equipment at the parks, particularly at Dorchester Park. Future upgrades should provide modern, for current and future generations.

Indoor Recreation

Indoor sports and recreational facilities have become more common to meet the growing demand of multi-purpose indoor recreational space. Outdoor sports and recreational activities are limited to the spring and summer months, but indoor facilities allow users to play year-round. The County does not operate any indoor recreation facilities, but there are several privately-owned facilities in the community which include:

- Greater Binghamton Sports Complex
- The Edge Sports Complex
- The Sportsplex
- 434 Sportsplex
- Planet 3 Extreme Air Park

Regional Trail Systems

New York State has numerous recreational trail systems used for walking, biking, and hiking. In 2017, Governor Cuomo announced the Empire State Trail, a 750-mile trail system that will connect Buffalo to New York City. While Broome County does not currently connect to the initial phase of the statewide trail system, there are initiatives to create a multi-use regional trail locally. The Two Rivers Greenway is a regional trail that will connect Broome and Tioga counties along the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers. Currently, there are 10 miles of completed trail segments; part of the trail runs through Otsiningo and new segments are expected to be completed in Roundtop and Grippen Parks.



Two Rivers Greenway Signage

Rewards

One method park agencies are using to engage younger generations is promoting outdoor recreation activities with a rewards/points system. These types of programs encourage friendly competition while creating new experiences for users. The parks could work with various recreational clubs to organize activities such as a scavenger hunt or hiking challenges.

Sustainability

Survey respondents identified one of the most important benefits of our parks is the role they play in protecting environmental resources. One way to continue promoting this is to integrate sustainable practices into the operations and management of the parks system. Methods to improve sustainability at the parks may include, but are not limited to: developing public education programs, green infrastructure, and following best management practices for developing in the floodplain.

Parks as a Model for Sustainability

Parks and open spaces can enhance their role as environmental stewards by utilizing sustainable practices that will help preserve natural and cultural resources for future generations. These practices can be integrated into management, fleet, buildings and operations, and waste programs.

NRPA, April 2017



Grippen Park BMX Track
Photo: Grippen Park BMX

Recommendations

The Broome County Parks Plan will be used to guide decisions related to parks, recreation, and open space in the county. Input from the public and other stakeholders helped us develop goals and strategies that will enhance our recreational assets, help prioritize future investments, and support future grant writing initiatives. This section includes general recommendations to improve the parks system and management, and some park-specific recommendations.

What We Heard



TOP DESIGN FEATURES



Landscaping



Pavilions



Trails



Signage



Tables

Placemaking

Broome County parks are important gathering spaces for residents and visitors alike. Residents strongly identify with their parks. They are a source of great pride both for the community and the staff of the Parks Department. Creative placemaking can help rejuvenate our parks and ensure they have flexible spaces that can accommodate various groups and interests. By integrating creative placemaking into the parks, the County can help build relationships and develop strategies to enhance their attraction and usability. Steps the Parks Department can take to implement creative placemaking should include:

- Engaging the public through interactive workshops during the planning of new facilities and amenities
- Use the results of the visual preference survey to guide design decisions for new structures and amenities
- Encouraging the County to host more civic and social events at the parks
- Hosting a series of festivals in the parks throughout the year
- Hosting more musical performances at the parks during the summer
- Securing necessary infrastructure for new events
- Using low-cost and temporary techniques that allow users to imagine park spaces in new ways such as, pop-up dog parks and food truck days
- Exploring partnerships to create art throughout the parks

What is Placemaking?

A collaborative process by which a community shapes the public realm and facilitates creative patterns of use, paying particular attention to the physical, cultural, and social identities that define a place

Project for Public Spaces, 2007

Expand Partnerships and Programming

Broome County Parks has a long history of partnering with organizations to improve its parks, but more connections can be made to create new, exciting experiences in the parks. While park visitation has been steady over the past decade, the introduction of new classes and programs could increase visitation and expand the user base of parks. To do this, Broome County Parks should:

- Conduct an assessment of current parks programs, and identify interests of the community to develop new programs in support of those interests
 - Focus on the recreational needs of the elderly and individuals with special needs
 - Explore non-traditional programming that will diversify park clientele
 - Identify opportunities to enhance existing and develop new environmental, winter, and aquatic programs
 - Consider creating a new passport-style program to encourage visitation and use of the park facilities, or explore opportunities to update Wegmans Passport to Family Wellness brochure to include other recreational activities
- Expand partnerships with other public agencies and identify their role to fill existing programming gaps
 - Develop a protocol that encourages the establishment of new partnerships and use of volunteers
 - Set up volunteer protocols and organize activities for specific groups, providing quality volunteer opportunities at the parks
 - Include volunteer/partnership information on the department's website for interested groups and promote these opportunities on social media

10%

of survey respondents
feel the lack of
recreational
programs/facilities of
interest at Broome
County Parks
represent a barrier to
park use

BC Parks Public Survey



There are opportunities to be innovative and utilize new practices to make the parks' staff jobs easier, but cannot because lack of resources

Parks Managers Meeting

Increase Use of Technology in Parks

New technologies are improving park operations and management by automating systems and processes, and increasing the value of these public spaces. Technology also provides benefits to park users by increasing safety, improving trip planning, and enhancing their park experience. Broome County has been relatively slow to adapt new technologies for parks, but there are opportunities to integrate technology into current operations. To do this, the Parks Department should:

- Transition from paper to digital rental and permit system
- Update all payment systems to allow credit card transactions
- Identify needs and availability of smart technology tools to improve park operations performance
- Research digital counter systems to replace existing visitor counters
- Work with DPW and the Planning Department to identify ways that GIS can be used to enhance park management
- Improve Wi-Fi and broadband availability at the parks
- Integrate solar technologies into park buildings and other areas of the park
- Research and promote use of augmented reality apps such as, Play Biba! And Pokémon Go, that can enhance park user experience
- Establish geocaching activities in the parks

Use Communications More Effectively to Reach a Larger Audience

Many residents are unaware of the multitude of recreational resources that are available to them here in Broome County, and therefore some parks are underutilized. The survey indicated the best way to communicate information is through social media, email, or the Park's webpage. To bridge the gap between residents and the parks, efforts should be made to:

- Increase effectiveness of social media to promote more events and programs (county and non-county sponsored) that take place at the parks
 - Consolidate the individual Broome County Parks Facebook pages into one page
 - Utilize creative media formats such as videos and infographics in social media posts
 - Highlight park activities year-round, and promote unique recreational assets such as, the greenway/river trails and waterfront activities
 - Cross promotion with other agencies such as Office for Aging and Go All Out Broome
- Update the Parks webpage with information about upcoming events and important notices
- Work with news and entertainment media outlets to provide local spotlights on Broome County Parks
- Collect photos and videos from the public for social media and marketing promotions



Broome County Parks are a pure gem. They should be strongly promoted luring visitors to our area and should be used to recruit economic development

Public Survey Comment

BENEFITS OF BC PARKS

One of the top benefits of Broome County Parks is:

Protects Environmental Resources

BC Public Survey

Enhance and Protect Environmental Resources

Our scenic beauty and abundant natural resources are some of the county's greatest assets. Each of the parks has unique environmental resources that promote passive recreation and contribute to the county's quality of life. In order to maintain these important assets, Broome County should:

- Continue to promote and protect the environmental resources and unique natural areas at the county parks
- Develop educational signage that highlights important environmental features and functions of the parks
- Recognize and document New York State's prohibition of logging public parks

Broome County faces challenges related to impacts of invasive species including loss of habitat and biodiversity, and threats to human health and safety. In order to control the spread and negative impacts of invasive species within the parks, the County should:

- Complete a full invasive species inventory using GPS mapping to record species locations
- Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan
- Develop an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan
- Pursue funding for prevention and control programs
- Use social media to spread awareness about specific species that public should be aware of and report if detected

The Parks Departments works with the Broome County Health Department to test recreational swimming areas to ensure they are safe for public use. While waterborne illnesses are not a common issue the Department has to control, to prepare for potential outbreaks in the future, the Parks Department should:

- Develop a waterborne illness management plan
- Work with the Broome County Health Department to create public education materials related to waterborne illnesses

Broome County parks have about 3 miles of river frontage along the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers. At these parks we need to recognize their function as flood protection while providing social and recreational benefits. For example, respondents want new amenities that will improve access and visibility of the rivers such as, greenway trails, scenic overlooks, and boat launch sites. The County is working to expand the Two Rivers Greenway and enhance the riverfront in Roundtop and Grippen Parks, however, in order to protect the river while maximizing use of the riverfront, the County should:

- Prioritize flood mitigation benefits of riverfront parks by implementing best practices for floodplain development
- Investigate and educate the public about pollution in the rivers
- Arrange more frequent riverbank cleanups at the riverfront parks

20%

of survey respondents
said concerns of
pollution/debris levels
prevent them from
using the local rivers
for recreational
purposes

BC Parks Public Survey

“

*I wanted to go fishing
I'm handicapped and
in an electric chair.
And I do not know of
any and I ask if there
is fishing docks for
the handicapped in
Broome County and
the answer was
always no*

Public Survey Comment

Improve Accessibility in Our Parks

Providing accessibility to all users is important to the planning, construction and maintenance of our parks. Preliminary findings from the ADA Accessibility Inventory revealed there are many areas of our parks that need upgrades to be ADA accessible. As Broome County's population continues to age, the mobility and physical ability of residents will change. Multiple survey respondents also noted that some park facilities are difficult to access for those who have mobility impairments. To improve accessibility, the Parks Department should:

- Work with DPW to complete Broome County Parks Accessibility Audit of all park facilities and amenities i.e. trails, parking, restrooms, tables, benches, pavilions, playgrounds, water resources
- Upgrade existing facilities to be accessible to individuals with disabilities
 - Ensure any alterations or renovations of facilities are accessible to, useable by, and engage individuals of all ages and abilities
 - Prioritize high visitation parks, and facilities and amenities that are important for user experience
- Prioritize accessibility when developing new facilities and amenities
 - Utilize Universal Design practices when planning new facilities
- Focus on the recreational needs of the elderly and individuals with special needs
- Partner with groups to assure new projects are accessible to individuals with disabilities

Enhance Organizational Capacity

The Broome County Parks Department strives to provide quality recreational activities for residents and visitors. Decades of budget cuts have eroded the Department's ability to maintain and enhance the parks. Through this plan, the organizational structure and established policies/procedures were reviewed. The following items should be implemented to improve departmental operations:

- Communicate issues and needs with Broome County DPW to identify opportunities for sharing staff and resources
- Work with DPW to complete an asset inventory documenting location, quantity, condition, photos, issues, etc. of all infrastructure, facilities, and amenities
- Partner with Binghamton University to explore options of expanding their bike share program to include the larger community
- Continue to review and update Department policies and procedures. After an initial review, the following updates should be made:
 - Complete and document the Broome County Parks Maintenance and Operations Plan
 - Incorporate green infrastructure into park projects
 - Incorporate sustainability initiatives into park's operations and maintenance
 - Establish and document procedures to follow during a flood or other type of natural hazard event
 - Establish winter weather maintenance policies that specifically address snow removal protocols
 - Establish and publicize official public policy outlining the maintenance and use of county-owned watersheds



Parks can't add new facilities or activities because limited resources are overextended maintaining what they already have

Parks Managers Meeting



My son has been a lifeguard at Dorchester for a few years, they wish they had a big Swimming Rules sign to refer to when enforcing the many rules - the swimmers almost always get hostile and have left bad feedback online. The rules should be posted everywhere else too, brochures, websites, social media. People don't always understand it's about keeping people safe

Public Survey Comment

- Continue to review and update Department policies and procedures. After an initial review, the following updates should be made:
 - Update policies in the Department's Charter and Code:
 - Update the weapons and explosives section and remove language referencing use of firearms in county parks
 - Add statement restricting use of alcohol in water and boats
 - Review current policies regarding consumption of alcohol in Otsiningo Park
 - Update hunting and fishing section and remove language referencing hunting in county parks
 - Add language prohibiting feeding of waterfowl in county parks
 - Add language about supervision of children under 10, restriction personal floatation devices, and use of special swimming diapers
 - Review current policy restricting use of personal watercrafts on county-owned waterbodies
 - Update traffic section referencing use snowmobiles and ATVs to reflect the prohibition in county parks

Allow the Commissioner to establish rules for the following:

- Park Hours
- Groups over 25 need a permit
- Sound amplification
- Group Camping
- Establish Entertainment/Event regulations and requirements

Other topics that should be addressed in the Park's Department policies:

- Establish food vendor policy for special events and everyday operation within the park
- Create a stage rental permit form
- Smoking prohibited with the exception of parking areas and overnight campsites; update to include vaping policy

Capital Improvements

- Commit funding to the Parks CIP for regular maintenance, park upgrades, and maintenance equipment purchases
- Identify and document facilities and amenities that need to be upgraded or replaced and update status monthly
- Engage the public in planning of new park amenities and facilities

Individual Park Recommendations

The previous sections identified general recommendations that should be applied to the entire County Parks system. Each park has a unique character and specific needs, which will be addressed in the following sections. These recommendations focus on improvements to existing parks, and priorities for future facilities and amenities.



Aqua Terra needs better trail markers and maps. Put accurate trail maps on the Broome County Parks website

Public Survey Comment

Aqua Terra Wilderness Area

Aqua Terra is the County's largest and least developed county park. Based on the public survey responses, the majority of people want the park to remain undeveloped, but would like to see the addition of amenities including restrooms, picnic tables, and a scenic overlook area.

- Apply for funding to complete a master plan to guide future improvements and amenities
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Post "No Hunting" signage at entrance and along park boundaries
- Implement trail improvements including signage
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation

Dorchester

Dorchester park is the county's third busiest park. The parks inventory revealed there are flooding issues and aging facilities at the park, but generally the public has very positive perceptions of the park.

- Determine economic feasibility of creating a concession stand at the park
- Examine and repair septic holding tanks
- Build new pavilion between parking lot and lifeguard shack
- Cut down dead trees within the park
- When play area upgrades are made, include ADA and other innovative playground equipment
- Install ADA-accessible boat dock with flood resistant design
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Work with the federal government and the Whitney Point Rotary to develop walking trail around Dorchester Lake and make sure trail is wide enough for park maintenance vehicles
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Complete Dorchester Park Gateway Project
- Reconstruct road and parking into office
- Add to DPW pavement management inspection schedule
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement (parking lot)
- Reconstruct Greenwood parking lot with permeable pavement and other green infrastructure techniques
- Perform regular maintenance on culverts
- Evaluate and renovate south restrooms

”

I've really enjoyed discovering Dorchester Park. I boast that it is one of the cleaner more enjoyable parks in our area. I like that you can bring your own boat... some of the others don't let you and you have to rent from them, which is discouraging

Public Survey Comment

Greenwood

Greenwood Park is the county's oldest and most developed park. Despite its remote location in western Broome County, Greenwood attracts over 100,000 visitors each year. Stormwater drainage issues exist throughout the park, and some of the park facilities require upgrades.

“

At Greenwood Park, it is a dead zone for cell phones. Getting a signal is very spotty. We camp there and I sometimes feel unsafe without phone access in the camping area. I would suggest either a Wi-Fi or signal booster for the area

Public Survey Comment

- Campground upgrades: new electric lines, renovate restrooms, replace existing firing pads with new firing pads
- Replace two picnic shelters in the park near the volleyball court
- Repave main parking area, road to campground, and walkways between sacs
- Build new building for concession stand
- When play area upgrades are made, include ADA and other innovative playground equipment
- Make necessary repairs to maintenance buildings
- Install aluminum boat dock
- Update interpretive signage for nature trail
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Enhance campground to accommodate temporary housing during a natural disaster
- Spot repairs on damaged roads
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement
- Replace asphalt sidewalk in northern part of park
- Add to DPW pavement management inspection schedule
- Analyze subbase & subgrade to determine best action
- Rehabilitate south parking lot within 3-5 years
- Spot repairs in damaged areas (parking)
- Replace small culverts as needed
- Add large culverts to DPW inspection schedule
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings

Grippen Park

Grippen Park is the county's smallest park and is slated for special improvements to increase its riverfront accessibility and appeal. Most comments on the public survey were nostalgic about the ice rink, however flooding issues at the park have made restoring the ice rink impractical. Besides flooding, the poor condition of the BMX structure is another issue facing the park.

- Complete upgrades to improve safety, use, and aesthetics of BMX structure
- Ensure adequate access to public restrooms is available year-round
- Explore options of replacing play area woodchips with rubber mulch
- When play area upgrades are made, include ADA and other innovative playground equipment
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Complete Chugnut trail extension through the park
- Complete boat launch improvements
- Complete scenic outlook
- Continue to enhance riverfront access and amenities
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Partial rehabilitation on park entrance road
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement
- Rehabilitate pavement adjacent to BMX facility
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement (parking)
- Spot repairs in damaged areas (parking)
- Repair slab crack and determine if additional ground work needs to be completed

RIVERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS

The top three riverfront improvements the public would like to see include:

Greenway trails

Scenic outlooks

Boat access sites

BC Public Survey



The hiking trails at Hawkins Pond need help there are quite a few trees and branches down

Public Survey Comment

Hawkins Pond Natural Area

Hawkins Pond is another large undeveloped park with relatively low visitation compared to the other parks. The public sees this park as a great place to hike, but they were concerned with the condition and maintenance of the trails there.

- Improve condition of main trails with use of volunteers
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Post “No Hunting” signage at entrance and along park boundaries
- Upgrade park bathrooms
- Explore options to provide firewood with pavilion reservation
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation

Nathaniel Cole Park

Cole Park is the most developed park in eastern Broome County. Overall, the public is satisfied with the conditions at the park, but there are some mobility concerns, especially near the boat dock. The managers also identified the aging boat dock as an issue, along with the condition of the facilities.

- Develop new trail loop in southern portion of the park
- Upgrade lifeguard and west bathroom facilities
- Install aluminum boat docks and improve access from walking path
- Install new stairs from east parking lot
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Repave parking areas
- Explore feasibility of creating primitive campgrounds in western area of the park
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Maintain newly paved entrance road
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement
- Spot repairs on damaged roads
- Analyze existing parking areas to determine method of repair for parking areas
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement in some areas (parking)
- Repair/replace two CMP culverts in the east end of park
- Rebuild pedestrian bridge over Still Creek
- Rehabilitation/reconstruction of maintenance building



Can't access Cole Park boat launch on walker or wheelchair. The ground at Cole park makes mobility difficult. Chopping down tree routes or removal may not be an option but a paved trail by the playground area to the water would be great

Public Survey Comment

Otsiningo Park

Otsiningo Park is the County's most centrally located and most visited park. Being a riverfront park, there are obvious flooding issues, but there are also localized drainage issues within the park. The public noted this park is great for fitness and family activities, the geese droppings are a drawback of the park.



*An enclosed doggie
leash- free part of
the park would be
AWESOME at
Otsiningo park*

Public Survey Comment

- Complete construction of the community stage
- When play area upgrades are made, include ADA and other innovative playground equipment
- Explore options of replacing play area's woodchips with rubber mulch
- Establish policy that will allow food truck vendors to operate within the park
- Provide dog amenities such as pet waste stations and water fountains/wash stations
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation
- Install interpretative signage at Otsiningo Park: historical significance, education about flood storage, or effects of feeding waterfowl
- Increase access and make riverfront improvements
- Improve drainage issues throughout park, particularly for soccer fields 1 & 2
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement
- Spot repairs on damaged roads/walkways
- Crack sealing to prolong life of existing pavement (parking)
- Complete full inventory of park's culverts and repair as needed
- Establish method of repair for slab cracks
- Determine if additional groundwork needs to be completed to address underlying issues

Roundtop Park

Roundtop Park is a hidden gem that historically offered unique views of the valley. Currently the view is obstructed by trees and overgrown brush, which was a matter expressed by the public in the survey. Proposed improvements to the park would enhance the park's viewpoint and bring trails closer to the river.

- Improve existing trail connecting park to West Edward Street
- Increase riverfront access by completing Chugnut Trail and Roundtop spur
- Complete the scenic outlook deck
- Install interpretive signage telling history of the park and surrounding area
- Clarify park boundary lines with property markings
- Add bike racks to encourage use of alternative modes of transportation

”

*Round Top Park,
Endicott, scenic view
is very limited
because of years of
growth of brush,
weeds, and trees at
the rail surrounding
the upper East extent
of the active park
area*

Public Survey Comment



*Spiedie Fest & Balloon Rally
Photo: Pea-Nut the Flying Elephant*

Broome County Parks Plan Appendices

- A. Parks Inventory**
- B. Public Survey Results**
- C. Survey Comments**
- D. Demographic Data**
- E. EMC Public Workshop Results**
- F. Migratory Birds Photo Sources**

A. Broome County Parks Inventory

Broome County Parks Facilities/Amenities	Aqua Terra	Dorchester	Greenwood	Grippen	Hawkins Pond	Nathaniel Cole	Otsiningo	Roundtop
General								
Year Last Improvements Made	NA	2008	2017	2006	2018	2018	2018	NA
Acres	459	70	447	19	322	367	150	30
Acres within Floodplain	0	40	8	15	0	0	136	2
Steep Slopes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Accessibility								
Sidewalk Connection	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Distance from Highway Exit (miles)	6	2	6	2	4	3	1	1
Within 2 miles of population center	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Parking Spaces (#)	10	250	644	70	12	350	448	100
ADA Parking (#)	0	10	8	2	0	6	14	0
On Bus Route	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Bike Racks (#)	0	0	1		0	0	0	0
Utilities/Services								
Restrooms (# of buildings)	0	3	5	1	1	3	3	1
Drinking Fountains (#)	0	2	4	2	1	4	7	2
Lights	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Wi-Fi	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Wayfinding/Signage	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Concession/Store	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Electrical Outlets	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Total Campsites	0	NA	50	NA	NA	NA	0	No
Maintenance Garage/Storage	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Picnic/Events								
Picnic Tables (#)	0	300	250	10	6	300	83	24
Grills (#)	0	50	60	2	0	60	23	8
Pavilion/Picnic Shelters (#)	0	3	4	1	1	4	2	2
Trash Receptacles (#)	0	30	50	2	2	40	35	18
Sports								
Baseball/Softball	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Basketball	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
BMX Track	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Soccer/Rugby/Lacrosse	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Volleyball	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Exercise & Play								
Multi-Use Trails (miles)	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0
Playground	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
ADA Playground	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Swimming Area	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Horseshoes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Winter Activities								
XC Skiing/Snowshoe Rentals	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
XC Ski Trails (miles)	3	No	7	No	4	1	No	No
Sledding Hill	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Ice Fishing	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Leisure Activities								
River Access	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pond/Lake (acres)	6	1,200	23	NA	24	53	1.5	No
Fishing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Boat Launch	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Boat Dock	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Boat Rental	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Benches (#)	0	2	14	1	0	8	5	No
Nature Trails (miles)	3	0	7	0	4	2	0	1
Nature Areas	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Community Gardens	No	Planters	No	No	No	No	Yes	No

B. Public Survey Results

1. What do you see as the most important benefit(s) of parks and open space to you and your family? Select up to three	Number	Percent
Promotes health and wellness	820	28%
Provides gathering places for the community	690	23%
Protects environmental resources	507	17%
Increases sense of place and community identity	392	13%
Provides educational opportunities for all age groups	241	8%
Supports economic development: increased property values, attracts investment	206	7%
Other (please specify)	81	3%

2. Which recreational activities are you most interested in? Select up to three	Number	Percent
Hiking/Walking/Running	780	25%
Nature Observation	409	13%
Boating/Paddling	323	10%
Attending Events (athletic competitions, concerts, fairs, etc.)	287	9%
Swimming	238	8%
Camping	220	7%
Fishing/Hunting	181	6%
Cycling/Mountain Biking	158	5%
Snowshoeing/ Cross-County Skiing	112	4%
Ropes Course, Ziplines	79	3%
Participating in Organized Sports/Athletics	77	2%
Golfing	75	2%
Outdoor Yoga	72	2%
Rock Climbing	28	1%
Other (please specify)	96	3%

3. In the past 12 months, how many times have you visited the following Broome County Parks?					
Parks	Zero times	Once	2-3 times	3 - 10 times	More than 10 times
Aqua-Terra Park	79%	9%	6%	4%	3%
Dorchester Park	41%	20%	18%	12%	10%
Greenwood Park	51%	22%	17%	7%	2%
Grippen Park	77%	12%	6%	3%	1%
Hawkins Pond	87%	9%	3%	1%	0%
Nathaniel Cole Park	53%	22%	15%	7%	3%
Otsiningo Park	12%	12%	23%	25%	28%
Roundtop Park	69%	16%	9%	4%	2%

4. Based on the park(s) you visit most often, how would you rate the following Broome County Parks facilities/services?

Facilities	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
Park cleanliness	31%	50%	11%	2%	5%
Condition of recreational trails	27%	51%	11%	2%	9%
Condition of playground areas	23%	41%	9%	2%	25%
Availability of picnic tables/grills	23%	44%	12%	2%	19%
Adequacy of park signage	20%	54%	11%	2%	13%
Availability of pavilions/shelters	17%	40%	14%	2%	27%
Helpfulness of staff	15%	27%	9%	2%	47%
Condition of athletic fields/courts	13%	36%	10%	2%	39%
Condition of bathrooms/changing areas	11%	45%	23%	5%	16%
Process for reserving pavilion at park	7%	18%	7%	2%	67%
Condition of rental equipment	7%	21%	7%	1%	65%
Your overall opinion of Broome County Parks	27%	61%	7%	1%	4%

5. Which day(s) of the week do you most often visit Broome County Parks? Please select up to three choices

	Number	Percentage
Monday	173	7%
Tuesday	196	8%
Wednesday	248	10%
Thursday	182	7%
Friday	388	15%
Saturday	768	29%
Sunday	652	25%

6. What time of day do you most often visit Broome County Parks? Select one

	Number	Percent
Before 9 AM	68	7%
9 AM to 12 PM	272	27%
12 PM to 4 PM	463	45%

7. Have you participated or attended the following events/activities at a County park in the past year?

	Yes	No	Unaware of opportunity
Spiedie Fest	44%	55%	1%
Rented a boat	27%	68%	6%
Community 5k run/walk	20%	72%	9%
Rented a pavilion	19%	79%	2%
Youth sports league	17%	76%	8%
Broome Bands Together	16%	64%	20%
Went cross-country skiing	14%	79%	7%
Adult sports league	11%	79%	10%
Camped at Greenwood Park	7%	88%	6%
Broome County Triathlon	6%	83%	12%

8. In the past 12 months, did you travel outside of Broome County to a park or recreational facility?	Number	Percent
Yes	752	74%
No	247	24%
No Opinion	15	1%

9. If yes, what influenced your decision to do so? Please select all that apply	Number	Percent
I wanted to take a day trip away from home	399	27%
They offer unique natural settings not available in Broome County	392	27%
I was out of town for another reason	338	23%
They offer facilities not available in Broome County	149	10%
They offer programs/events not available in Broome County	79	5%
They are closer to my residence	23	2%
Other (please specify)	90	6%

10. When you visit a Broome County Park, which of the following activities are you most likely to be doing? Please select your top three	Number	Percent
Walking/running/hiking trails	723	26%
Family/group activities	283	10%
Picnicking	275	10%
Observing nature	253	9%
Attending an event	221	8%
Walking my dog	219	8%
Biking	168	6%
At the playground	164	6%
Fishing/Boating	163	6%
Swimming	140	5%
Snowshoeing/ Cross-Country Skiing	65	2%
Camping	64	2%
Using an athletic field or court	45	2%
Other (please specify)	30	1%

11. Which of the following (if any) prevent or discourage you from using Broome County Parks more often? Please select up to three choices	Number	Percent
I do not have enough time to visit a County Park	338	26%
The recreational program/facility I am interested in is not offered at County Parks	126	10%
The County Parks are not conveniently located	101	8%
I am not aware of the County Park facilities available	101	8%
I have safety concerns at County Parks	59	5%
Lack of transportation to/from County Parks	58	5%
County Park facilities are not well maintained	48	4%
County Parks are not maintained	43	3%
The operating hours of County Parks are not convenient	27	2%
There is a lack of handicapped accessibility at County Parks	25	2%
Other (please specify)	354	28%

12. If you were given \$100 to spend on Broome County parks, how would you spend it? Totals must add up to 100	Number	Percent
Maintain/upgrade conditions of existing facilities	19,687	20%
Developing new trails for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, etc.	14,892	15%
Add new amenities at existing park	12,097	13%
Purchase land for preservation and wildlife/natural conservation	10,373	11%
River Access Improvements	8,418	9%
Wi-fi capability	6,682	7%
Purchase land for development of new parks	6,418	7%
More organized activities/programs	5,876	6%
Create more community gardens	4,969	5%
Better signage/trail marking	2,801	3%
Undecided	4,087	4%

13. If you were given \$100 to spend, how would you allocate the money among the following Broome County parks? Totals must add up to 100	Number	Percent
Otsiningo Park	23,358	25%
Dorchester Park	16,164	17%
Greenwood Park	9,770	10%
Nathaniel Cole Park	9,356	10%
Aqua-Terra Park	9,227	10%
Roundtop Park	4,457	5%
Grippen Park	4,065	4%
Hawkins Pond	3,514	4%
Undecided	15,389	16%

14. From the list below, what would improve your experience at a Broome County Park? Select up to three	Number	Percent
Fitness Track	219	10%
Off-Leash Dog Park	202	9%
Bicycle Rentals	200	9%
Splash Pad	195	9%
Cabin Rentals	189	8%
Ice Skating	171	8%
Online Reservations (pavilions, rental equipment, athletic field, etc.)	170	7%
Kayaking/Paddling Lessons	158	7%
Climbing Wall	124	5%
Arts and Crafts Activities	112	5%
Indoor Meeting Facilities	92	4%
Summer Camps	88	4%
Tennis Court	70	3%
Equestrian Trails	46	2%
Skateboard Park	30	1%
Other (please specify)	213	9%

15. The Aqua-Terra Wilderness Area is a 466-acre undeveloped County Park, located in the Town of Binghamton. This park includes a pond and natural settings. If this park were to be developed in the future, what would you like to see at Aqua-Terra?	Yes	No
Picnic Tables	79%	8%
Portable Bathrooms	77%	10%
Scenic Lookout Deck	75%	10%
Winter Tubing/Sledding Area	67%	17%
Pavilion/Shelters	64%	16%
Paved Parking Lot	57%	22%
Primitive Camping	49%	23%
Zip Line/Ropes Course	48%	32%
Paved Pathways	45%	38%
Bike Racks	43%	21%
Community Garden	40%	32%
Disc/Frisbee Golf Course	32%	42%

16. What riverside improvements would you like to see to improve access and visibility of the river? Please select up to three	Number	Percent
Greenway Trails	450	19%
Scenic Overlooks	449	19%
Boat Access/Launch Sites	352	15%
Increase clean-up efforts	332	14%
Fishing Piers	207	9%
Boat Rentals	199	9%
Signage of Access Points and Amenities	167	7%
Educational Materials (brochures, maps, etc.)	128	5%
Other (Please specify)	54	2%

17. Which barriers prevent you from using the river for recreational purposes? Please select up to three	Number	Percent
I am concerned with the pollution/debris levels of the river	359	20%
I feel river access is limited/unavailable	347	19%
I don't have a boat and don't know where to get one	282	16%
I am unaware of the local river regulations	248	14%
I prefer using lakes/ponds for recreation	234	13%
I feel it is unsafe	170	10%
The river activities I am interested in are not offered here	57	3%
Other (Please specify)	84	5%

18. What is the best way for Broome County to provide you with information about the park news, updates, events, programs, etc. Please select up to three	Number	Percent
Social Media	512	24%
Email	445	21%
County Website	372	17%
TV or Radio	285	13%
Mail	249	12%
Flyers/Posters/Brochures	152	7%
Newspaper ad	116	5%

19. Would you be interested in volunteering at a County park?	Number	Percent
Yes	319	36%
No	575	64%

20. Which of the following volunteer opportunities would you most like to participate in? Select all that apply	Number	Percent
Park Beautification	172	23%
Trail Maintenance	151	20%
Group Volunteer Projects	151	20%
Park Events	140	19%
Park Education/Outreach	101	14%
Other (Please specify)	27	4%

21. Which municipality within Broome County do you live?	Number	Percent
City of Binghamton	148	17%
Vestal	110	12%
Union	107	12%
Chenango	71	8%
Endicott	70	8%
Town of Binghamton	49	5%
Fenton	45	5%
Johnson City	43	5%
Whitney Point	33	4%
Town of Dickinson	27	3%
Town of Windsor	26	3%
Kirkwood	21	2%
Colesville	16	2%
Barker	15	2%
Conklin	15	2%
Triangle	14	2%
Maine	12	1%
Town of Lisle	11	1%
Port Dickinson	9	1%
Nanticoke	7	1%
Village of Deposit	3	0.3%
Village of Lisle	3	0.3%
Sanford	2	0.2%
Village of Windsor	1	0.1%
I do not live in Broome County	35	4%

22. What is your age?	Number	Percent
Under 18	3	0.3%
18 - 30	119	14%
31 - 45	218	25%
45 - 65	383	44%
Over 65	150	17%

23. Is anyone in your household 12 years or younger?	Number	Percent
Yes	200	23%
No	681	77%

24. Is anyone in your household 65 years or older?	Number	Percent
Yes	241	27%
No	638	73%

25. Are you currently a full-time student at SUNY Broome or Binghamton University?	Number	Percent
Yes	20	2%
No	866	98%

C. Survey Comments

Camping is big. Used to camp at upper lisle all the time. When that closed we started using Greenwood. Greenwood could use some engineering in the campground to help dry it out. I said earlier and left my phone number, I would be glad to meet with and help figure out this problem of the wet campgrounds.

Safety

Cole Park... Feel that a minimum entrance fee should be reenacted, Maybe \$1 during the week and \$2-3 weekends. Park attendance seems to be high enough to justify this....

If the 'plan' involves finding a fair market value for those properties, and selling it to the highest bidder, I look forward to the results, but fear you've no such interest, and only seek to EXPAND your budget and disregard for tax relief to tax payers.

the west endicott park is a nice park and even though it is not a county park i wish something can be done to knock down the old EJ factory across the street since it can be a safety hazard to inquisitive children using the park. the town of union has been unsuccessful in solving the problem. perhaps someone in the county can help get it resolved!

Our parks with lake's need cabin rental's

I have chrones. My life revolves around bathrooms - I would volunteer but, range of bathrooms would keep me from doing this unless i was in proximity to bathrooms. cleanliness is also another issue, my immune system is compromised with other imunosupreeant diseases si I must be careful with germs and picking up something in the bathrooms at Broome Parks as the bathrooms are less than clean. Most times i am there toilets are not flushed/overflowing/floors are wet/NOT healthy conditions for me. So, when going to a Park I Reeaalllllly have to have ii very important to go. AND - there is NEVER any toilet paper (it's all stuffed in the toilet.) Broome needs to check the bathrooms VERY FREQUENTLY!!!! for people with stomach issues.

Help properly owners stay in there homes by lowering taxes ,parks can pay for them self ,charge fees not taxes ,so the people that benefit pay to keep them up !

The county parks are one of the nicest parts of a county that is struggling. It is something people can be proud of. Please do not cut funding.

Hawkins Pond, and the adjacent state land, would be more useful with better trail signage, particularly where county and state lands meet.

that broome county do a better job of maintaining all of the facilities at all the county parks. some times they get rather stinky.

One of the BEST things in favor of these locations is the free access. If Broome County was to start charging I would not come.

I love our parks, especially Dorchester. My biggest complaint is accessibility for swimming in the evenings and the bathroom facilities closing after labor day. September and early October are so beautiful and we would love to picnic there after labor day. You could really promote fall at the lake in Dorchester.

We visited Hawkins Pond about a month ago. Nothing was mowed and we felt that the park was not being maintained nor developed at all.

not at this time

I think adding some services that cannot be found at an affordable rate in the region (downhill skiing and motor boating) should be priorities. These offer great opportunities for the county parks to generate revenue if these services are marketed correctly, and people won't have to travel long distances to enjoy these great activities.

I run through Otsiningo Park 4 times a week. So many people use this park for so many reasons and I love that. I brings so much of the community together. It has so much potential. It would be great if there was even more located there. (splash park, kayaking on the river, dog park area, etc).

We have enjoyed the parks for years and will continue to use them.

vestal rail trail is a big hit- we could use more like this and interconnect them if possible

This is a pretty good comprehensive survey. I'd add: More places to sit and walk and bike near the rivers. Take advantage of the scenery for those who don't paddle and

better access for those of us that do with portable toilets. You didn't ask, but I've been on several of the rivers to paddle this year.

Lighting and water fountains along the trails at the parks. Better maintained, longer wooded trails.

Our parks are important. It is important to keep them clean and maintained. I truly appreciate the work that has been done and I hope that Broome County continues to invest in the quality of our parks! Thank you!

Guess my observations were covered above. Again thanks for your work.

Need for more activities for handicapped and elderly people.

Otsiningo does not have enough benches. Very sparse. Park is not kept up. Gardens would be a great addition along with more garbage cans. Also should be a traffic light when coming out of park.

I chose where to live based upon your wonderful parks. I run and swim at Dorchester, I run and bike at Otsiningo, and my kids play at the playgrounds at both. You folks maintain marvelous facilities and I'm quite grateful. Please keep Otsi open starting early in the mornings even in the winter for those of us who exercise before work. Please keep the playground equipment in good shape. The saucer shaped swing has been gone at Otsi for months and my kids miss it.

Low or no cost public transportation to the parks if not already available. But that begs the question for whom the parks are created for the have or the have not, educated or the not so, the respectful or the less so., etc? For example I would take my dogs to the dog park and recreation area in Binghamton until finding needles on the ground.

It is difficult for elderly to walk up to the pavilions at Round Top. It would be helpful to have vehicle access up the hill with a place to drop off a person.

I have lived in 2 other states and several other counties and as far as I'm concerned Broome County Parks are the most cared for and cared about. Cheers to the Parks Dept.

As previously suggested, put emphasis on building extensive sidewalk network (call it a linked park!) throughout Vestal enabling those able to bike or walk safely around this area. Right now it is extremely dangerous for children and even adults to walk anywhere in the Tri-cities area, especially in Vestal where sidewalks are non-existent. E.g. start with a sidewalk down the west side of African Rd that might connect the elementary school with Vestal Pkwy with a better regulated crossing (lights, etc.) that could continue to the existing bike trail, then in future extend beyond to a riverside

hiking/biking trail that can be extended as funds permit and further connected with N-S sidewalks across Vestal Pkwy and Rd.

More nature/ hiking trails are needed in this area badly!

My son has been a lifeguard at Dorchester for a few years, they wish they had a big Swimming Rules sign to refer to when enforcing the many rules - the swimmers almost always get hostile and have left bad feedback online. The rules should be posted everywhere else too, brochures, websites, social media. People don't always understand it's about keeping people safe...

We are so blessed to have these parks. We should promote them more and better. This year it was a bit better with the promotion. It is important, especially with the high obesity rate in the area. These parks are a huge asset to our area. I'm at Otsinego everyday. I see so much brush and broken trees pushed to the side. Could be better cleaned. It's an amazing place.

Increased effort in expanding cycling accessibility, road and mountain variants. Broome County is severely lacking in accessible cycling that isn't on poorly allocated roads and sparse trails. Not specifically a Parks and Rec issue though.

Maximize access by considering all options of transportation available for each park.

Investigate expansion of parks using 'bought-out' properties since 2006 & 2011 floods.

Hire more staff to run these parks... We pay high taxes in Broome County.... Shift some from the welfare offices to the outdoor park facilities... the Payees should have the amenities

Don't add any physical items without providing for staff to maintain them.

Parks need to attract more people of all ages and be easily accessible. More outdoor fitness equipment, trails, playgrounds, offer bike rentals, boat rentals, ect. Be well maintained with adequate trash bins to preserve cleanliness.

Off leash dog parks would be awesome.

Rock climbing would be awesome.

Easy access boat launches and/or rentals would be awesome.

Not sure how you would do it, but goose remediation at Otsiningo would be great.

Trees need to be trimmed to maintain good views at parks like Roundtop. Some of the great views from there are hindered by the trees blocking the view. I love trees, but part of the appeal of Roundtop is loss when you cannot see the views from the hill. Other parks have similar issues. There needs to be a balance.

The parks program is amazing. I have enjoyed the three parks I went and I feel is awesome to have several parks so close to the city areas.

Love our beautiful parks! Keep developing them to invite even more people to attend them!!

Thank you for this! I frequently talk to hikers who think that Ithaca is their best option, and I am always trying to steer them to our wonderful outdoor opportunities here in Broome. Keep reaching out, keep letting the public know! Get the word out to the universities and schools!

Rural people without transportation can't access rural parks through out BC. Take notes from Rec Park inclusive access for all playground. Make walking trails leading from rural communities into their parks.

Trim the trees. The directors running store sponsoring races seems like a massive conflict of interest. the maintenance is horrid. fix what you have.

Love the dinosaur! The parks are one of my favorite places to spend my free time on outdoor recreation. Please add disc golf

I am thankful for our local parks.

Parks are a wonderful under utilized asset in this area.

People who come to or drive through Broome County always comment on 'how green it is' and the beauty of the tree covered hills. We have a responsibility to protect this natural amenity and help preserve the beauty of our area. I realize it costs money but it would be nice if Broome County could purchase and preserve/protect some of these natural areas for habitat and wildlife corridors. Perhaps a Ridgeline Overlay District that local communities could adopt. Or a 'Natural Park' that is not as developed but allows people to get out and enjoy the natural beauty surrounding us. Broome County is lucky to have so many nice parks. It is important that we maintain them and keep them looking and working nicely so that people continue to utilize these important assets. It would also be nice to include some mileage markers along the internal trail systems so that people using the trails can see/measure their exercise.

no

make sure those employed by BC Parks use all the facilities so they know first hand what is needed, damaged, dirty and engage the local community groups for ideas, complaints, etc. Keep hiring active/athlete employees that use parks and facilities outside of BC.

I feel parks like Otsiningo should be kept a family-type park and I feel parks like Jones Park and Aqua Terra should be kept undeveloped. Keep the best of both worlds.

I would love options for more places to paddleboard.

Thank you for Round Top Park, Endicott.

Love our parks!

The general lack of fulltime personnel hurts the condition of the parks as a whole. The arena needs to stand on its own.

I like the information that has been up about ticks being around and how to identify them. This is important information and also great for learning how to identify them. Other things would be good like this for people to know. Or turn it into learning.

I think this is a wonderful investment and the parks should be allocated more resources.

We just moved here 9 months ago and we really enjoy the parks whenever we have time to visit. I've been following the 'All Out Broome' campaign on Facebook as much as I can and we've enjoyed visiting the parks whenever possible. Keep up the great work - you seem to be moving in a good direction, no complaints!

Broome County has pretty nice parks, with clean, safe facilities. It would be really great to have disc golf at the parks. At present, I travel out of town several times a month to play disc golf in other parks, or hike on the Finger Lakes trail. I'd use walking/bike riding trails on the river as they are further developed. Grippen was a great place to skate, and it would be nice to have ice skating again (in a park that won't get flooded).

Your employees are underpaid

Broome county loves Disc Golf

Add more creative playgrounds

CAMPING AT AQUATERRA!!! Go Broome County! You can do it!

Fall boat rentals at Dorchester Park.....kayaking there would be gorgeous there.....currently a missed opportunity

County parks are a great asset to residents of the county, but more centrally located parks near the population of the county (Otsiningo) would get more use than outlying parks (Dorchester, Greenwood). Organized activities that promote a healthy and active lifestyle are great for residents. The ability to have boat rental access near the river would be welcome.

Updating playground equipment is good, but often the equipment needs only a good power cleaning.....that could get a few more years of use out of it. Please keep grass short and add a few more accessible garbage cans to prevent littering. Should a fence ever be built around a playground, I've noticed on Long Island that there is only one gate to get in and out of the play area, this makes it easier to keep an eye on the kids. More benches in random areas are always welcome because they encourage people to stay, take a break after a hike, chat with a friend or read a book, etc. Less seating is not as welcoming to the public. Roundtop park in Endicott needs some sprucing up. Greenwood and Dorchester are beautiful as is. The old building across from the West Endicott park needs to be torn down. Please maintain our carousels to avoid accidents and injuries.

One of the greatest assets our County has are our parks. I love that they are free. I really like the idea of improving access to rivers as our natural resources are to be taken pride in. They can help maintain mental and physical wellness even when politics, economics and world events can weigh one down. In that our family spends so much time at Dorchester Park we would enjoy a snack shack such as Greenwood Park has. Basically though I just thank you for the money and maintenance the County dedicates to the existence and improvements to our park system in Broome County.

I am grateful that we have good parks and good people to take care of them.

Refer back to my comments on bringing back Upper Lisle Park.

I would just like to see more safe, pleasant, inviting parks available with walking trails and activities to promote health and wellness all through the out the year for all ages.

The county website needs to be updated more often, so things it promotes are no longer offered. Maybe the format could be revamped as it's not user friendly.

Please put a disc golf course somewhere.

Volunteer question should allow for 'would like more info.'

REMOVE THE GEESE AT DORCHESTER----ONLY THING NEGATIVE ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Nothing that I can think of at this time. Good luck with the plans!

Motor Boats available to rent even if it was a 3 or 5 horse motor

We need healthy alternatives here. Don't let druggies hang out and loiter making people feel nervous. Provide some kind of security. I would love bike rentals and more kayaking opportunities on the river.

Once my children are all grown and out of the house - I would be much more interested in getting involved in volunteering at a community park. I do think it would be a great way to give back to the area. Thank you so much!

I think Broome County should reopen Upper Lisle Park, many families grew up going to that park. My entire family and many of our friends camped there for many years and we all had a wonderful family camping experience. No it wasn't like your other parks, it was a quiet, off in the corner part of the world ,which we all need once in awhile.

Even though I didn't mark off anything about transportation challenges; now I just thought of 'Yeah, it would be nice to provide some type of bus/shuttle services. But I know that must be pricey... due to people will want to arrive/leave at certain times.

Please keep the bathrooms as clean as possible, mow the lawns when they get high and clear back branches and clean up the fallen limbs and brush.

I would go back to charging a small fee to go to the parks. People who will spend \$10+ for a pack of smokes, load up on tattoos, and buy beer by the case... but wont pay \$2-3 bucks to spend the day at a park... should stay home.

It would be great to bring an ice rink back to a Broome county park. We live in the Grippen Park neighborhood (and both my husband and I grew up in this neighborhood). The rink is greatly missed by everyone in our neighborhood. We often have conversations with neighbors about what our kids are missing out on. Most of us spent every day at the rink during the winter months.

Cross-sector collaboration and community outreach is essential in the planning process. Information is accessed in various ways. Please consider expansive outreach such as posters at local businesses, outreach to schools, door-to-door distribution in geographic areas of interest and underserved populations.

Work with assisted living centers to get seniors out and about more in the summer/early fall.

The parks are a huge asset in this community and we can't let them fall into disrepair due to lack of on going maintenance. Also, I participate in the Parks Triathlon, which is a

great event, and I would like to see other events that would draw both participants and revenue into the parks.

Brochures more available. Grocery stores etc.

Just please leave some natural space for peaceful appreciation of nature.

We have beautiful waterways that should be enhanced to parlay the appeal of our community

Having a way to connect some parks with bike/walking paths (paved) if this is at all possible.

Some parts need more pavilions and benches

I appreciate having taken the survey and it makes me aware that you are trying to improve are already beautiful Parks to Parks that people will access more often good job

Bring back the grip pen park ice rink- the western part of Brooke county needs an ice rink!

My answers are heavily influenced by the stage of life I am at currently. My children are in college, so my park attendance is low right now. But I could see that changing soon as I try to get more active. Also, just because I don't use much of what our local parks offer, doesn't mean that I don't think they are valuable. Our local parks increase the livability of our community as a whole.

The rivers are the counties greatest natural recreation assets. Please work on linear parks/greenways along them. It would be incredibly awesome to see the Vestal Rail Trail extend all the way to Binghamton and join another river front trail up to Otsiningo Park!

I am pleased with the parks and think they are well maintained. I would like to see them offer guided walks, etc that are educational.

The general appearance & upkeep are commendable. Well maintained trails.

Remember aqua terra is a county park

I think Broome County is fortunate to have such beautiful parks.

The contrast ratio on the answers to the questions on this survey and the background is not high enough. Please use a darker font color and/or a white background.

Be aware of pipelines and compressor stations! Otsiningo is currently within the 1/2 mile evacuation zone of the proposed Town Of Fenton Compressors!

I would love if the parks provided affordable 'getaway' spots- an opportunity to stay somewhere overnight that doesn't involve breaking the budget for travel, rental, etc. Also, that allows dogs!

I'd like to see primitive camping NO trailers tents only

Need to clean Otsiningo Park of goose droppings and do more to get rid of the geese there. Also fix up Round Top and restore the view. Need more broad interest events to attract people to Dorchester.

Would like for family children programs maybe guided walks or activities

My current schedule wouldn't allow time for more volunteer roles; so, I answered 'no' to the prior question. Should my schedule change, I could be interested in volunteering depending on the type of help needed.

I love that parks-keep up the good work!

No

Aqua Terra (old Innsbruck /sporting area) has the greatest potential for seasonal uses. The old sport club area could be hiking trails and primitive camping. A few bathrooms. Old Innsbruck could be hiking trails during the summer, possibly installing a luge ramp would be nice. Wintertime, x-country skiing, snow shoeing, pond area could be ice skating. A central building with bathrooms, snack machines would be nice. I would suggest a Ranger for emergency purposes. Also rental equipment would be great.

We definitely need to make the Rivers more usable for boating, kayaking, at cetera. I have no idea which parts of the river are safe, where boats can be put in at, and how far you can go before you will hit a dam or other barrier.

There is an avid geocaching population in Broome County. Perhaps hosting a big geocaching event would draw people to the parks

I think there has been considerable improvements through he greenways projects and I thank you for this. Good job

Keep all motorized vehicles out except at a designated parking area near the entrances.

Separate trails for bicycles and pedestrians.

Dorchester is so beautiful and could be a huge draw of people outside the area. Cabins might be the best thing. Boating and paddle Classes would also be great.

Thank you.

A Food Truck festival would be a fun event. Movies in the Park seem to be a big hit. An Art Festival or outdoor theater would be cool. A craft beer/cider/wine festival. Off-leash dog park Coordinated snowball fight sometime in the winter. ^Just some random ideas.

Please add a full playground at Dorchester

Make a better playground at Dorchester that is good for all ages and handicapped accessible. Also a splash pad. Not enough resource money is spent in northern Broome county, it's all spent in the cities. People need resources and fun things to do in rural areas too.

Love the parks, keep up the great work!

Trail around Dorchester lake would be great!

We would love to see improved playgrounds and camping open to all at Dorchester Park.

I live in Whitney Point, and would like to see the bikeway/walkway expanded, as well as camping at dorchester park.

Really would like to see a drivable road around Dorchester lake, with better launching facilities on the top of the lake (bridge area) .

Let the camp grounds stay open longer. How about winter camping.

County Government needs to fortify the Parks budget for growth and survival of the Dept for the future

Dorchester needs a playground

as far as i'm concerned they can be done away with to save the tax payers (MONEY)....

cleanliness, more employees present to render assistance and information, lighting and security so parks can be used more at night and in the months when it gets dark earlier. Parks are just not a seasonal facility, should be available more hours in the day, night and through out the year.

Offer projects to be completed by communities, associations and other clubs as well as Boy and Girl Scouts looking for opportunities to excel.

Thank u for asking and for having these great areas

You never cared before, don't both me now with any type of media. I think I can speak for most of my veterans too. Here's a suggestion: All of those 100 dollar bills you want to spend, find a homeless veteran and give him some of those 100 dollar bills.

Make people clean up after themselves, mostly for pavilions as well stop damaging pavilions and park equipment. Add cameras.

I use to frequent a few county parks in the past but recently haven't been able to due to work. Every time I spent at a county park I felt safe and enjoyed the surrounding nature. My recommendation would be to just ensure the paved trails are smooth and free of pot holes and/or obstructions.

I enjoy the parks when I visit them. We like to get away from the populated areas and enjoy the natural aspects of a park. Camping, fishing, quietness, and natural beauty.

The back access road (Kiebel Road) to Dorchester Park needs to have the holes filled in. It has gotten so bad and is not good to take your vehicle on anymore.

Nothing else.

The parks are an important benefit to living in Broome County. I have lived elsewhere and I know how rare and valuable they are. I am proud to live in a county with parks the quality of our parks.

Dorchester is a beautiful park and is an asset for Northern Broome.

Please seriously consider dredging of rivers and streams, in and out side the parks. Also, encourage more groups of young people, scouts, and others to participate in clean up more often than on Earth day...

A splash pad would be awesome!!

More parents being involved not only when theres free give away

I have short hiking trails on my own property and enjoy them, especially for children. But know very little about Broome Cty Parks. They are not advocated enough and are passed by my many. More PARK Campaigns would be good [as was this survey].

Adding in an ice rink at Grippen park. Loved going to skate and play hockey there as a kid. When our elementary school (CFJ) would have open skate nights, I would always attend and that was a lot of fun. Having a rink right in Endicott, is something a lot of people in the hockey community here miss.

Enjoyed the parks

Thanks for asking about Broome County Parks. They're one of the best features of Broome County.

Exercise classes would be great, especially yoga and meditation. Thanks for this opportunity to express one's input.

Keep up the good work!

No!

There should be more effective promotion on the amenities of each park. I would love to see more user-friendly river access sites along both the Susquehanna River and the Chenango River.

I prefer areas that are not overcrowded.

Its nice to be able to walk in nature without a lot of people or noise around.

Not sure how, but people who use the facilities need to clean up after themselves (& their dogs).

I've heard of several cases where cars were broken into while in parking lots. This needs to be addressed. While walking at Otsiningo, I've noticed several park security just sitting in their vehicles & also driving while on their phones !!! Certainly they aren't doing the job they're being paid to do.

Broome county has excellent parks!!!

Upgrade facilities, good work so far

Dorchester is the best

Love the parks ... more walking trails and signage. And more parks!

No.

Thank you for providing a survey to the community. We enjoy using the parks for walking on weekends. Obviously, Hickories isn't mentioned as it's in Tioga County. However, they have a dog park located within their facility, which is a wonderful attraction. Aqua Terra is an untapped facility with a great deal of potential, too.

The life guards at Greenwood Park were overly stern about the rule that street clothes may not be worn in the water. Many people wear T shirts, particularly children, to prevent sunburn. I think T shirts should be allowed.

As a citizen, I feel it's important to strike a balance between the development of our local parks and the conservation of the natural resources they protect. This is no easy feat and I wish you the best of luck and look forward to seeing the results.

Not enough activities for seniors over 70.

Contact by text?

Continued geese population control at Otsiningo Park.

Goose droppings at Otsiningo park should be addressed. Otherwise nice parks and like the 'local' BC comics characters used in some park signage. It's a nice touch!

We need an off leash Dog Park in Vestal.

ice skating!

Just an update on Bagasi...it's an undeveloped gem that is used from people throughout the state ... it's a poor reflection of our area

Allow hunting

I have said this a few times, but primitive dispersed camping would open up huge opportunities for hikers in the Southern Tier.

We enjoy using the parks as a family when we have the opportunity. I feel that it would be beneficial to take advantage of the public and get more volunteers to maintain parks and increase landscape to keep Binghamton beautiful. There are more people out there willing to volunteer that just need to be reached out to.

Make sure you have rangers to keep the druggies out. That's the biggest problem I see with Broome County. The welfare and drug population prohibits my family from enjoying the County.

I think that anything that we can do to encourage people/children to get outside into nature we should do. It's the only nature interaction so many children get.

Upper Lisle was a great place to camp & boat.....you could pull your boat right up to your tent. I realize flooding was a big issue, however, perhaps more flood-resistant options could be explored SO THAT IT COULD BE RE-OPENED!!!! A small per- night camping fee is not unreasonable. Patrol it with Dorchester /Co security as it used to be.....it was A GREAT PLACE!!!!!!

I enjoy Dorchester park a lot I live in the area some people would like to see some camping spots open at least on the backside on of the lake. This summer it was hard to rent a pavilion the three they have were booked up, think it would be nice to see 1 or 2 more added to the park !

Higher visibility of security needed.

The county really needs to do something about the geese. They are most annoying and can be aggressive. Personally, I'm tired of dodging goose poop all over the paved walkways and fields. It's a menacing situation.

BC Parks are one of the greatest assets of this area. The County needs to spend their money to maintain what is there not add a bunch of bells and whistles.

All the parks should have a disk golf course set up, its about \$1500 for the chains for 9 holes which could be used for several holes making 18 holes, Otstingo would be a great start.

24 hour access to the federal water through Dorchester park boat launch. Clean-up and re-development of the upper Lisle camp ground including additional parking and boat launch access to the river.

Increase awareness on cars speed especially at Otsiningo..they use it as a race track..as the road is set up so ...keep the speed bumps as long as possible. More security checks at all parks

I tend to use the parks that are closer more often. For example, I use Otsiningo quite often because of how close it is. When I get out of work it is too far to go to Dorchester, Greenwood, etc so they get left to the weekend. Also, in your survey I often could have picked more than 3 items. Sometimes I could have picked every one. I would love to be able to enjoy the closer parks after work in the early spring, late fall, and possibly the winter but this would require lighting of the walking trails.

nothing to add, thanks for the opportunity

No

nope..... the parks run well now. I am in my 60's and slowing down, I enjoy the peace and quiet while walking daily at Otsinango.

I want to see more equipment to get kids active and moving. Rock walls, bike rentals, skate parks, etc ... Maybe some plus size adult stuff as well, like swings and rock walls.

It would be nice to have tours of each park on occasion to let people know everything that's offered. Also more of a social media presence and videos of parks and everything they have to offer.

Please consider sprinklers at Otsiningo. That is the only reason i take my grandchildren to jc park instead. Too hot for the kids to play without the water sprinlers!! Also an enclosed doggie leash free part of the park would be AWESOME at Otsiningo park

none

Many people are not even aware of the parks in this vicinity. Definitely need better public relations focusing on the parks and how to reach them and that they are not just for campers.

Restrooms updating

more friendly

get involved with Town of Union development of floodplain below Argonne Street/River Road... Speed things up. Would be great to see something there sooner rather than later.

Are our parks that are homes to our Carousels included in this plan? If so, the GWJ Park on Oak Hill Ave. in Endicott needs much attention! Clean bathrooms, soap, paper towels and water fountains are a necessity, along with regular garbage pick-up. NONE of these conditions were met this past summer at this park. Unacceptable, especially since our 'Summer in the Park' program met there everyday.

I think It would be wonderful to have a DOG PARK area.

Another garbage can at otsiningo north -the space between the sport field garbage can and the next garbage can is too far, I feel.

None

I think Broome County Parks are GREAT, and hope they continue to improve!

Consider fencing in playgrounds to make it easier to monitor children.

Disc Golf courses and not charging for snow shoeing at Greenwood park

Please see my previous comment on the bathroom facilities at otsaningo park. Thanks!

A park for people to fly drones, because I don't want them in my backyard. Also consider a place for people to set off fireworks. I and other people don't want our houses burned down when they set them off on our street! Firecrackers is one thing, but the airborne stuff is scary!

To provide a safe family park.

I truly appreciate the efforts of park staff and volunteers. It is important to recognize their value. But in terms of plan going forward, more than anything working on maintaining a clean environment is most important for community members to get the most out of the parks. Thank you.

Not at this time~

Could you incorporate solar power as an energy source in a park? Could a bus give a free ride at scheduled times to select parks on a well publicized day and well publicized bus stops. Do 'Newcomers' kits include a brochure about county parks?

Promote natural hiking trails. Ski trails. Dog friendly. Primitive camping.

None

I like that the parks are free.

Keep up the good work!

communicating with the public in general here is almost impossible as we effectively have no local newspaper, and local tv news seldom mentions an up-coming event , only mentioning things after the fact....phone and internet alerts or messages are ok, however thye can clog the flow of usual information..... best way for anyone to communicate with everyone in the area is to get a good local newspaper with good internet and print additions..... we reallyly have neither here....

more benches, and possibly more bathroom facilities, I personally would like to see more flowers, or flowering trees. People travel all the way to Washington DC to see the cherry trees, and many other parks have gardens which are outstanding.

No

No entrance fees at high use parks

Increase security at Greenwood Park so that noisy and unruly campers are dealt with and not allowed to ruin another family's experience. Clean up the bathrooms at Greenwood Park...they are always nasty and could use a HUGE clean up in the shower stalls and windows have same dirt and cobwebs for the past 15+ years.

I've really enjoyed discovering Dorchester Park. I boast that it is one of the cleaner more enjoyable parks in our area. I like that you can bring your own boat....some of the others don't let you and you have to rent from them, which is discouraging.

Please keep our area beautiful and preserve our wildlife as you consider improvement projects. We all need spaces to go back to nature and simplify our lives, especially children who seem to be increasingly becoming lost in their technology and losing touch with the natural world.

I think that the parks are a valuable asset to our community and county. I also think that there is a lack of awareness about the parks.

the big box stores are selling cheap kayaks like crazy.... it's only a matter of time :/

I think it might be a good idea to charge a nominal fee to attend the parks in order to keep the class of people up, and to keep people away who might otherwise abuse the park.

I believe a continuation of the Vestal rail trail to Binghamton and Owego would be very popular to both bikers (due to length) and boaters (kayakers and canoists).

please keep in mind the many of us county residents in wheelchairs, thank you. I could help with req'ts, decisions as they should legally be wheelchair accessible.

pricing of campsites should vary the pricing for length of stay and do away with reserving fees

We are an aging population, please don't forget the handicapped.

Let's ATTRACT people to our area so we don't have to spend our money in their area. (:

Can't access Cole Park boat launch on walker or wheelchair. The ground at Cole park makes mobility difficult. Chopping down tree routes or removal may not be an option but a paved trail by the playground area to the water would be great.

Any decisions made in regards with what to do with our parks should have the maximum public input possible. I would say that what ever you think is the appropriate amount double it. We should all have a say.

Please install a traffic light at Otsiningo Park to be used during the 'on' season. In the 'off' season it could be programmed as a blinker light. Very difficult to turn left to cross over the river toward Chenango St.

White water park

The County Parks have been an important part of my life since I was a child. I worked at Dorchester during college. Some of my best memories are of the parks. Otsiningo has played a key role in maintaining my health and fitness over the last decade. I have traveled to other parts of the state and the Northeast and visited various county parks. I have found none that rival our park system here in Broome County. Dorchester is still one of the most beautiful and special places in the world to me. The current state of that park is better than it has ever been. The park management is top notch there.

I have only been to Dorchester and Greenwood Parks. Both are excellent. Keep up the good works. Parks are an excellent use of taxpayers dollars

I've always imagined a rail trail or safe walkway/bike path that connects our towns and cities in the area. Although the scope of this would go beyond the parks system and there are currently projects in place, it would be wonderful to be able to travel the area by foot or bike. This would improve our sense of community and well being. Just food for thought, cheers!

My property taxes are out-of-sight now. We cannot afford to do many of the wish list items you are looking at. Partner with private businesses to provide additional recreational activities and make them user subsidized.

have a special area for pwc such as (ski-does). they need to be away from fishing boats

The life guards really should be paid more. They work hard and have specialized training to maintain. They are called upon to save lives yet are not paid very well.

We need to keep up the high standards and professionalism of the county parks by employing professionals with at least a four year degree in parks and recreation to lead the department forward. Instead we have a sneaker salesman who has a conflict of interest and who sold sneakers at the Spiedie Fest, which was co sponsored by the parks department. Broome County Parks won numerous awards in the past as one of the top facilities in the country, and sadly, now it would never be in the running. As a long time Broome County resident, whose children grew up in all these parks, this makes me very sad.

Nothing

Develop the rivers for more recreation

Parks are very important to every community. Please keep them safe and clean for all members of the community.

I like the parks mostly the way they are. My biggest issue is that we take the grand kids to the pond at Otsiningo Park to fish. We don't expect to catch any giant fish and that is ok. There are 2 problems with it though. The lily pads in the pond seem to be getting out of control. More and more of the pond is almost unfishable at this point. I am not sure about the legality of clearing some of that out but it would help. The second problem has to do with the wildlife but not the geese. There seems to be a few large turtles (maybe snapping, not sure). The little ones are cute and fun to catch and release but I worry about the damage a large one could do, we have caught a few as large as a dinner plate, worry what that might do to 7 year old's hand.

We love the parks and the fact that they are free is fantastic!

The parks are wonderful parts of our community! Please continue to support them.

Suggestion: add more security...sometimes when the parks are somewhat empty, the lack of security monitoring can discourage people from using the parks.

I don't visit as often as I like since I am not living in the area anymore, but try to get to them when I am in town

I think the natural beauty of the susquehanna river should be considered in regarding the environmental impact of industrial waste.

Our parks are a very valuable resource. I'd like to see more programs to get kids outdoors for nature learning and appreciation.

I think it's vital that parents of young children be able to exercise just as much as their children are on the park playgrounds. Adding permanently fixed equipment for adults to use next to all playgrounds would be ideal, particularly at Arnold Park.

Our parks are a great asset to our community and they help bring in millions of people together. What is it about parks that are great? Why do they bring in so many people? What do they all have in common? Nature. Parks bring nature close to people. There are huge trees with lots of birds twittering to and fro in the branches. There are lots of different plants on the ground floor right next to the walking paths. There are sounds of kids playing and people chatting about their busy day as they walk their dogs. The ponds reflect the bright blue sky and record the clouds as they pass on by. The calmness of Nature in these parks brings people in and in return, helps people be more calm inwards. Parks help people stop for a moment and just breathe. Parks feed the soul. The best thing to do for the parks is to bring in more nature, to let people experience more calm and more peaceful surroundings. You can do this by creating edible landscapes. These are places where people can go and feed their tummies as well as their soul. An edible garden can be as simple or as complex as you want it. It can be as simple as planting a few perennial herbs and some strawberries. There are fruit trees, perennial vegetables, herbs, tubers that produce beautiful plants all mixed in with pollinators and plants that help the soil. The possibilities are endless with edible landscapes. Having edible plants around brings people together. A few towns that have introduced edibles to their parks are using that food for food pantries. They come together and harvest the edibles. Then they donate it to the food pantries in the area. This is a free source of food that could go to the homeless or those who have fallen on hard times. How great would it be to offer a fresh apple to a six year old whose family doesn't have enough money to buy fresh produce? Having a food forest doesn't stop at helping humans. It helps the other creatures as well. With more diversity brings more creatures. Honey bees have more flowers to visit. Squirrels have more nuts to store. The animals have more food. Some would say that making an edible landscape takes money and time. That is true but again, it's however big or small you want it. The bigger the space and the faster it goes in, the bill and time are going to be high. However, there are ways to cut down on costs and labor. Plants can be divided, propagated, and grafted from already established plants that are donated or brought from another park. Seeds would be the next cheapest option for ground plants. If money wasn't an issue, planting already established plants would be the best option. However, most of us, money is an issue and if we use our resources appropriately, we can make something truly great without an arm and a leg. Others would say that having edibles, especially fruit trees, around makes a mess. The apples fall off and lay on the ground to rot and get eaten by insects. I say, yes it does. That is Mother Nature's way with everything. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the fall. Nut trees are skirted with nuts in the fall. Plants die back every year. This is Her time to coat the earth with a blanket before the snow comes. I would strongly recommend leaving the apples on the ground if they fall. However, if it is offensive to people to have rotting apples on the ground, another option could be to make apple cider vinegar from the apples that fall on the ground. Parks often have

tucked in spots that not a lot of people visit. Why not make these areas edible where the occasional visitor can pluck a bean right off the vine or apples can be harvested every fall to be donated to food pantries? Our parks are a beautiful nod towards nature and all it has to offer. Why don't we make it a full hug with nature and instill edible landscapes in our parks?

I am very thankful and proud for our county parks. We love taking visitors to them and our children grew up going to them. Thank you for providing them. Each one is unique from the other.

County Parks are an important quality of life item. Continue to fund the parks.

a Tax Payer, Mother, Middle School Teacher, and Citizen, I am deeply concerned about the safety of our local parks (illegal activities and health associated risks due to ticks), especially at more remote ones like Aqua Terra. I am an environmentalist and do wildlife photography as a hobby so I do not promote development of land in this area. People need to learn how undeveloped land has inherent beauty and developing it destroys this. Land doesn't need to be developed to be used, respected, and appreciated. In fact, developing it drives out native species, destroys native plants, and creates fragmentation of forests which leads to even higher tick populations. Let's leave the fewer and fewer untouched pieces of nature untouched. If you must develop land, work on the already developed places and clean them up- like Otsiningo and Grippen parks. Thank you for creating this survey and for listening to input. It is greatly appreciated.

Just got me wondering what other parks outside of Broome County ~ what do they offer that you don't. Guess I will search the internet to find out.

Park are an important part of the community, keep them open and safe for all to enjoy!

Broome County Parks are a pure gem. They should be strongly promoted luring visitors to our area and should be used to recruit economic development.

Please continue to provide these opportunities for our community and families.

Need more information on how to find some of these park like Aqua terra. Also need to make parks more accessible to downtown residents such as buses or trolley then you would have more people enjoying the park that generally do not get to go to it. Also have tables at events downtown or the University telling people about all these parks or go to the elementary and middle schools during parent nights great way to access parents and send flyers home. Have special events at different parks the only events I know occur at Otsiningo park.

Tick & lyme prevention education

Better signage at Otsiningo park on the trails. I bike there and understand the rules of keeping to the right. Walkers and dog walkers more than frequently take up the entire path. Often times dog owners allow a large lead on the leash. It is dangerous for the animal and the biker. If everyone would understand the rules just as in driving a car, people would not get so angry when you politely ring a bell and pass on the left. Also access in and out of this park is difficult due to traffic during busy times of the day.

Many people can not go to outlying parks because they don't have cars.... How about a weekly shuttle bus? Our county has the most wonderful park system. Thank you for all you do.

Please allow 'Nature' to use our natural resources while allowing the public to enjoy alongside. Conserve, preserve, minimalistic disturbance.

Broome County is known for the variety of parks it has. The important thing you can do in your plan is to make sure that all parks are equally supported. The beauty of the parks is that there are many and located throughout Broome County. This allows the citizens of the county to have access to parks. The natural environment is more important now then ever for our young citizens. I live close to Round Top Park, and walk it daily. I want to thank you for changing the schedule and how it is maintained. Prior to this year (the past 3 years in particular) Round Top was not maintained, barely mowed, tree branches not picked up, trash overflowing and trails not maintained. I noticed a difference this year. I met the gentleman that you hired to maintain the park (a retired park employee). This is the kind of creative solution that I want to see in your plan. Brilliant idea- prior to this the staff from Otsiningo maintained the park- or should I say was assigned to Round Top-- they didn't care to really maintain it and it was going down hill. This year there was a noticeable difference. Someone cared- other than myself and the other people that use the park. Every park is important in the system. Every park is a gem. I want your plan to think about all parks. Does the parks still have a tree crew? When I worked for the parks many years ago the crew circulated around to the parks taking care of them, trimming, removing dead trees, clearing trails. I haven't seen any crew at Round Top in years. Parks need to be maintained... Some haven't been reviewed for current use in years. Round Top's garbage cans haven't been maintained. Many are located in areas that aren't used anymore. Again... current use. I think you should create a group of users from each park to meet and discuss current use and how the parks can maintain, upgrade and improve upon that current use. I would be interested in being a member of such group for Round Top. This group could help identify issues, concerns and ideas for making it better. Thanks for having this survey- I'm glad you are asking the citizens and users of the parks for their input-- it is important to do so. Good luck

The stop sign at the bottom of Round Top needs to be replaced. Cars come down the hill quite fast.

I love the opportunities for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing at Greenwood. The staff is always super friendly and helpful!

Please communicate frequently. Appreciate you offering this survey. I would also love to see paths connecting county parks with each other, eventually. Other communities have this.

Great park system!!

I think we have two pretty decent rivers that I feel we don't use enough, well, at all. There should be river activities the county could be in charge of. Big decks overlooking the river would be amazing! Scenic areas to gather. It will bring a sense of community while tying using the rivers that are arteries of this count, creating a great local experience. There should be a great park utilizing one of the rivers for recreation. Also, I long for an amazing park in the south side that's not too far away. Just where the houses end & the forest begins. A lot of folks would be able to visit more frequently, if they walk or bike. Also, I was thinking maybe the county could have a Park that's centrally located in the Triple Cities Area, geared towards groups & community. Like, purely a facility that has eight or ten indoor rooms available for rent & several man-made or natural outdoor secluded meeting spaces. Think of it like the dustpan for Broome, the place where everybody collects (goes to rent a private, indoor room to hold meetings of all kinds). Just a few ideas, thank you for reading!

Marked trails at Aqua-Terrace

Aqua Terra needs better trail markers and maps. Put accurate trail maps on the Broome County Parks website.

Zip lines, bike trails, outdoor programs!

I would like to volunteer to help, but I am a 73 year-old widow who has difficulty getting out for long periods of time. Perhaps people like me can help from home on our computers.

Other municipalities I've visited have extensive bike trails/greenways. It would be great if Broome County had something similar, especially one that would stretch from Endicott to Binghamton, or from Round Top to Otsiningo Park.

No, this survey is very thorough.

The geese seem to be a problem at the parks and feel that makes them unclean.

The playgrounds at a lot of the schools are really a poor fit for families with children of all ages. If you look at a lot of playgrounds in areas outside of Broome County, there's a ton of interactive ones and there's companies that work with the community to build them (keeping the cost affordable and the community invested). The splash park in Johnson City is always well attended (even crowded on hot days) and would be a wonderful addition to the County Parks. Check out <http://pbdplaygrounds.com/> They make accessible playgrounds all over the country (we've even been to one in Pensacola they made that totally ROCKS!). Combine a splash park with an accessible playground and I can guarantee you'll have people flocking to the county parks!

I visit Cole Park almost every wknd all year. I really don't visit the other parks mainly because it takes me 10 min. to Cole. Really happy with every thing kept as is. I can't say enough about how the maintenance staff keeps the park.

I met a park employee recently who mentioned the idea of an ice skating rink at Otsiningo in the winter - I absolutely love that idea. We have such long and cold winters here, it would be a nice way for the community to come together and have some outdoor recreation in the wintertime. A lot of other communities have similar programs. You could rent skates and have food trucks selling hot chocolate, etc. Other than that, I like the fact that the parks I go to most (Otsiningo and Aqua-Terra) are dog-friendly and I would encourage you to keep the parks that way. An off-leash dog park or even dog beach along a calm section of the river would be pretty awesome too. Thanks for all of your hard work!

Parks are at or near the top of the list for reasons to live, work, and raise a family in the Southern Tier. Our parks are second to none. Free access to county parks is a valuable asset for residents and needs to be maintained. We don't live in walking distance to Otsiningo Park, but we hope the pedestrian bridge over the highway remains and is upgraded along with the highway reconstruction. Critical for safe park access for Sunrise Terrace families and SUNY Broome students. County should advocate for that with the State.

Everything is pretty good so far, besides the goose poop. I like that there is no entrance fee. Most are open dawn to dusk. Very safe.

At Greenwood Park, it is a dead zone for cell phones. Getting a signal is very spotty. We camp there and I sometimes feel unsafe without phone access in the camping area. I would suggest either a Wi-Fi or signal booster for the area.

In a world where cellphones are the main source of contact and payphone nonexistent, the ability to be in contact with our elderly parents or ill family members while trying to enjoy all that our parks have to offer to help with stress relief is paramount. Cellphone

amplifiers installed throughout the parks possibly attached to several lamp posts around the park and in each camping circle might be a solution.

As someone who lived very close to a county Park, it was very beneficial that there is no parking fee. I was more likely to visit the park. I would like to see this continued. There also needs to be more camping opportunities.

Wish there was camping at Dorchester Park

Cleanliness and more cleanliness!

My suggestion is to transfer expenses from printed matter to making it all available to potential users on the internet. Then all that money can be utilized on the parks themselves. Minimize expenses on everything that takes away from the parks themselves.

More dog activities and trails

Please ban smoking and vaping and enforce it.

Telescopes at Round top

Start with the priorities that are the least costly and go from there. Focus on keeping parks family friendly.

Yes, please, please, please, please construct a dog park to mirror (at a minimum) the one at Hickories Park in Tioga County. I live in vestal, pay high taxes and have to drive all the way to Owego just to enjoy this feature with my dog and many other dog friendly patrons and canines. There should be a few rules, you can offer a yearly membership like Hickories Dog Park, I pay \$10.00 a year for membership and they keep me updated on park events for dogs and regulations. Dogs should be older than six months, treats should be left in cars, and all dogs should be neutered, rabies shots and registered with town. And of course doggie bags supplied for droppings. Pleeeaaaaassee create the best dog park anywhere.....

At aqua terra maybe put a couple of garbage cans so kids don't just leave it there and if people aren't supposed to camp out like they do there please keep an eye on that they make fire pits and then leave all their beer bottles when they leave and then me or someone else has to clean it up, thank you

Snack shacks should be at every park facility, not just cole park. I work at one of the other parks and people always ask me if they sell icecream, worms, or water. If I would improve something, this would be the first step! Also maybe have movie nights more

often. A lot of people liked them. And introduce a concert series to all of the parks to get more people to go out and explore all of Broome County not just Otsiningo.

I would like to see more activities / events for people and their dogs.

Perhaps employ youth/others for part time beautification projects (youth employment funding/grants?) - along with the typical teen lifeguards and those needed to run mowers, etc. Some projects could include disadvantaged youth that otherwise may not be chosen for this sort of work.

The hiking trails at Hawkins Pond need help - there are quite a few trees and branches down.

Our Parks are a jewel in our area. You should reach out to the user groups and seek their input and support for future initiatives. C. V. State Park has a huge mountain bike trail system developed almost solely by the local mountain biking community. If you provide the venue and some materials, you will be amazed at the volunteer effort you can get.

Clean up hawking pond !

I have noticed an improvement in our parks and I am sad that not many people take advantage of what we have. I really think more advertisement and more activities in the parks would be great.. You can invite vendors for a weekend just to get more to see it for the first time perhaps.

I'm concerned about deer ticks.

Snack bar of food resource.

Dorchester Park is a great place To take your kids, however I feel there could be a little more things for kids to do, a splash pad would be great for the park. It saves us parents a 25 minute drive to jc park.

A friend was fishing at Ousting Park and was told he could not fish in the river there by a park officer. I fish there all the time, and it is legal to access a public fishing stream from public lands and the officers and park staff should know that.

Its like on day I was riding through Binghamton and police officer told me to get out of the road, I'm 61 and have been riding since age 4, a police officer should know that bicycles have the same rights as cars on the road and it is in fact against the law to ride on the sidewalks, so here is a cop who was telling me to break the law??? Police should also know some of the basic laws since they are sworn to uphold them.

Athletic fields are not maintained for community programs (grass is too long, no lines and excessive amount of goose droppings).

At least some parks, nature is the main reason to go. Natural resources, habitat, nature itself is as important as outdoor sports/activities. Facilitating activities, outdoor sports, large events etc. are good, but not in all areas of all parks and/or in all parks. It's unfortunate that many people only enjoy the outdoors with an excuse of some outdoor sport; enjoying nature for the sake of nature is legitimate and healthy.

The addition of plenty of swinging ADULT benches would be wonderful. Every park that we have been to that has them is a special treat for sore knees and taking the time to enjoy a view when on a long walk for more mature adults. Children have their playgrounds with swings to enjoy, more mature adults also like to swing gently in a park setting.

The parks are a valuable asset for the county, not only as an attraction for potential industries, but also to engender an appreciation of the outdoors. Modern life does not lend itself to understanding the cycle of nature, though our very health depends on understanding and protecting our environment. The parks are perhaps the best way of fostering that awareness. Also, when my family comes to visit, the 10 of us make multiple trips to Cole and Hawkins, both of which are highlights of their visit for hiking and swimming.

Keep the planning process open and transparent

No

My age is 88 which influences my responses to this survey.

Beautiful parks.

The Twin Rivers Greenway signage needs to be installed along the rivers from Owego to Chenango Bridge or Port Crane.

Broome County should promote its natural resources and parks as a way to attract visitors, and retirees (e.g. target those from downstate) looking for an affordable place to live with great amenities.

free access via bus transportation for low income families

I love love love all the mountain biking and hiking trails in Broome County. It's a big reason I want to stay in the area. I think allowing more enduro mountain bike races in the area would be a great way to encourage more recent college grads to stay in the area to further develop our economy.

The county seems to have abandoned Hawkins Pond Park. The northern quarter of the park was sold off to a private individual without any public notice. Why did the county not acquire new park land with the proceeds from the sale? The rest rooms are locked. The portable toilet has been removed. The trails have not been maintained in decades. Of the three pond observation benches damaged in the flood of 2006, two are gone and the third is about to fall over.

Greenways, safe cycling opportunities, mountain bike trails, trail access and information more mountain bike trails.

D. Demographic Data

Year	Total	Change	Percent Change
1990	212,160	---	---
2000	200,536	-11,624	-5%
2010	200,600	64	0%
2016	197,381	-3,219	-2%
2017	196,124	-1,257	-1%

Decennial Census, 2016-2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Households and Families	Estimate	Percent
Total households	82,167	100%
Family households	48,646	59%
One-parent families	13,729	28%
Nonfamily households	33,521	40%
Households with children under 18 years	21,969	27%
Families with children under 18 years	19,875	41%
Households with people 60 years and over	23,318	28%
Average household size	2.32	NA
Average family size	2.92	NA

2010 Decennial Census

Age Group	Number	Percent
Total Population	200,600	100%
Under 9	21,237	11%
10 to 17	19,322	10%
18 to 24	26,065	13%
25 to 54	75,931	38%
55 +	61,710	29%

2010 Decennial Census

Race/Ethnicity	Total	Percent
Total	200,600	100%
White alone	176,444	88%
Black or African American alone	9,614	5%
Asian alone	7,065	4%
Other	7,477	4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	396	5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	82	1%
Some other race alone	1,912	26%
Two or more races	5,087	68%
Not Hispanic or Latino:	193,822	97%
Hispanic or Latino	6,778	3%

2010 Decennial Census Data

Language	Estimate	Percent
Population 5 years and over	185,876	100%
Speak only English	168,259	91%
Speak a language other than English	17,617	9%

2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Income	Estimate
Median household	\$49,064
Per capita	\$26,790

2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

Disability Status	Estimate	Percent
Total Population	196,124	100%
Noninstitutionalized Civilians	193,241	99%
With a disability	29,754	15%
Hearing difficulty	8,014	4%
Vision difficulty	4,579	2%
Cognitive difficulty	12,151	6%
Ambulatory difficulty	14,153	7%
Self-care difficulty	5,521	3%
Independent living difficulty	10,520	5%

2017 ACS 5-Year Estimates

E. January 11, 2018 EMC Public Input Workshop

Strengths

WATER INTERESTS

1. Water access
2. Water resources
3. Lakes
4. Beach
5. Sailing at Dorchester
6. Boating
7. Boat launches
8. Boat rentals
9. Boat rentals
10. Nice boating opportunities
11. Boat ramp to river at Grippen
12. Fishing
13. Fishing
14. Fishing
15. Swimming
16. Swimming
17. Swimming lap lanes

CONVENIENCE

1. Free
2. Free
3. Free admission
4. Free admission/parking
5. Good parking
6. Parking
7. Adequate parking
8. Accessible
9. Accessible
10. Accessibility
11. Online camping/picnic rentals
12. Social media presence
13. Diversity of locations
14. Spread out

FACILITIES & APPEARANCE

1. Parks look good- mowed, cleaned, restrooms are clean
2. Beautiful and clean
3. Clean
4. Cleanliness
5. Maintenance
6. Well-maintained
7. Friendly & dedicated parks staff
8. Picnic pavilions
9. Dorchester's new pavilion is good
10. Pavilions
11. Picnic areas
12. Picnic facilities
13. Refreshment stands

CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

1. Arts events
2. History
3. Diversity
4. Relaxation
5. Beautiful/rustic
6. Nature/Environment
7. Wildlife and habitat
8. Natural habitats
9. Diversity of wildlife
10. Tree cover
11. Aqua-Terra good not developed very natural and quiet, birds
12. Roundtop- nice views picnic area

RUN, HIKE, BIKE

1. Walking paths/trails
2. Hiking/walking trails
3. Nice hiking trails
4. Running
5. Biking
6. Cycling
7. Mountain Biking
8. Some have nice bike trails
9. Aqua-Terra mountain bike trails
10. BMX racing
11. Grippen BMX course

PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

1. Ballfields
2. Lots of volleyball courts
3. Multiple sports
4. Triathlons
5. Crappie derby
6. Walks for fundraisers
7. Scouts
8. Finch Hollow school programs
9. Youth leagues

APPEALS TO VARIETY OF USERS

1. Many diverse parks
2. Diverse activities
3. Diversity of uses
4. Good for a lot of different interests- boating, hiking, walking, biking; different parks have different uses
5. On-going activities all season
6. Otsiningo-good for walking, biking, gardens, skiing, widened trails, well-kept-new fields
7. Diversity of people

AGE-FRIENDLY

1. Kid-friendly
2. Kids stuff- playgrounds
3. Senior supports

OTHER

1. Think out of the box
2. They exist

Threats**IMPROVE EXISTING**

1. No river access
2. Hard to put sail boat in/out at Dorchester with new metal pier
3. Bike lanes could have more loops
4. Swim area too small and not deep enough, no lap lanes
5. Grippen needs help without ice rink; fix trail around park, connect to Round Top and Chugnut
6. Fix/repair Warren Anderson Trail on far side of Dorchester, fix it through Upper Lisle
7. Need creek crossing at Aqua Terra
8. Lack of parks in Windsor and Eastern Broome
9. Need more benches or trails
10. Modern amenities
11. ADA beach areas
12. Concessions at all parks
13. Lack of refreshment stands
14. Need separate trails- people walking/hiking, bicycles, ATVs

15. No heated indoor BMX
16. Not enough signage at Aqua Terra
17. Porta-potties or bathrooms on major long trails like at Otsiningo
18. Lack of signage going to, and at parks
19. More cookout grills
20. No cell services at Aqua Terra
21. Underutilized waterways
22. Geographic Diversity

MAINTENANCE

1. Be consistent with maintenance on all parks
2. Deteriorated lap lane ropes
3. Poorly maintained, undeveloped trails at Aqua Terra Park
4. Hiking and trails signage not maintained
5. Facility maintenance “looks tired”
6. Improved roads/pavement
7. Water drained & fish died
8. Canadian geese
9. Too many geese
10. Geese poop
11. Tree bugs infestation
12. Invasive plants (Japanese knotweed)
13. Invasive species (Japanese knotweed)
14. Obstructed views at Round Top
15. Tree trimming on all
16. Bathrooms outdated
17. Public restrooms
18. Dirty restrooms with no hot water
19. More maps- always out at boxes

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. No recreational fishing in some parks
2. Use of private boats on lakes prohibited
3. No large motorized boats at Dorchester
4. Enforce speed limit at Otsiningo
5. Unleashed dog walkers
6. Enforce boat trailer lot parking- make separate kayak/paddle boat
7. More speed enforcement
8. Rule enforcement
9. Over-regulation at swimming areas
10. Boat rental fees
11. Are local emergency services familiar with the layout of the parks- especially Aqua Terra

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ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Not enough educational programs
2. Poor environmental education & interpretation
3. Terrible promotion/publicity
4. Lack of promotion of parks/activities
5. Budget resources
6. Staffing levels
7. More advertising
8. Recycling minimal

NEW IDEAS

1. No disc golf
2. Lighting
3. Wi-fi
4. No publicly-owned ice rink, lack of ice skating
5. No RV park with full hook-ups or dump site
6. No camping at Dorchester
7. Miss farmers market at park

IMPROPER USAGE

1. Litter from visitors
2. ATVs in Aqua-Terra ruined trails
3. Dirt bikes and four-wheelers at Aqua Terra
4. Motorized vehicles at Aqua Terra
5. Vandalism at Aqua Terra

Opportunities**TRAILS & CONNECTORS**

1. More hiking trails
2. Greater hiking opportunities
3. Hawkins Pond lake loop trail- all around lake
4. Diversity corridors links or greenways needed between parks
5. Mountain biking at Aqua Terra
6. Connect Grippen to Chugnut Trail
7. Wayfinding signs from major routes
8. Trail signage at Aqua Terra
9. Trail kiosk at Aqua Terra
10. Designated paved (road) biking trails
11. Pump track at Otsiningo
12. Greenway trail system tie-in
13. More ski trails
14. Finish Dorchester Loop Trail
15. Trails and connections to local parks
16. More bike trials and loops
17. Mountain biking trails that are environmentally sustainable and accessible to riders at a variety of skill levels
18. Mountain biking
19. Connect everything: walkable/bikeable

NEW FACILITIES

1. Multiple disc golf courses (champion level)
2. Mountain bike cycle-cross
3. Indoor multi-sports domes needed
4. Indoor BMX track
5. Zipline
6. Rock climbing wall
7. Beer gardens
8. Lap lanes in Greenwood
9. Dog parks
10. Re-open Upper Lisle
11. Better athletic fields to host large tournaments
12. More camping areas
13. More campsites
- 14. Camping at Dorchester**

NEW AMENITIES

1. More picnic tables at Aqua Terra
2. More bathrooms at Hawkins Pond
3. Signage at Upper Lisle
4. Aqua Terra- fix or add bridge at dam outlet so you can cross without getting feet wet
5. Warm showers
6. Pet disposal areas
7. Bridge over creek at Aqua Terra
8. Nice heated accessible restrooms at all parks
9. Develop Aqua Terra more like Cole or Dorchester
10. Eating and drink concessions in developed parks
11. Concessions
12. Cellphone service

NEW PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES

1. More race opportunities: triathlons, mountain bike, adventure racing
2. Camping at Dorchester
3. Sports & recreation lessons (snowboarding, paddling, etc.)
4. Guided tours, lessons, skills (outdoors)
5. Increased nature education programs
6. Cross-promotion with Zoo at Ross Park
7. NY Path Through History cross-promotion
8. Sponsorship similar to Adopt a Park like Adopt a Highway program
9. Rental bikes
10. Bike rentals

WATER RECREATION

1. More recreational boating facilities
2. Nice boat ramp to Susquehanna from Otsiningo with ample parking for boat trailers
3. More Susquehanna/Chenango boat trailers
4. Open boating to over 10 mph boats
5. Canoe routes mapped
6. River boat rentals- kayak/canoe
7. More parks and boat ramps
8. Docks to put boats in and out of river
9. White water course
10. More fish for recreational fishing

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & SOLAR

1. Solar on buildings
2. Solar panels on all buildings in each park
3. Wetland creation
4. Permeable pavements
5. Green infrastructure
6. Composting toilets
7. Solar lighted parks for nighttime use

EVENTS

1. Large-scale events like Spiedie Fest
2. Larger quality music events
3. More community events like Harvest Festival
4. Relocate Spiedie Fest to safer location

F. Environmental Resources-Migratory Birds Resources

- Black billed cuckoo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-billed_cuckoo
- Black capped chickadee: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black-capped_chickadee
- Bobolink: <http://vt.audubon.org/conservation/bobolink-project>
- Canada Warbler: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/canada-warbler>
- Golden Eagle: <http://wildlife.ohiodnr.gov/species-and-habitats/species-guide-index/birds/golden-eagle>
- Cerulean Warbler: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/pa/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd888823>
- Kentucky Warbler: <https://feederwatch.org/community/participant-photo/kentucky-warbler/>
- Northern Saw-Whet Owl: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/northern-saw-whet-owl>
- Prairie Warbler: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie_warbler
- Rusty Blackbird: <https://www.audubon.org/news/why-you-should-start-searching-rusty-blackbirds>
- Wood Thrush: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/wood-thrush>
- Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker: https://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/featured_photo/bird.cfm?pix=yelow-bellied_sapsucker