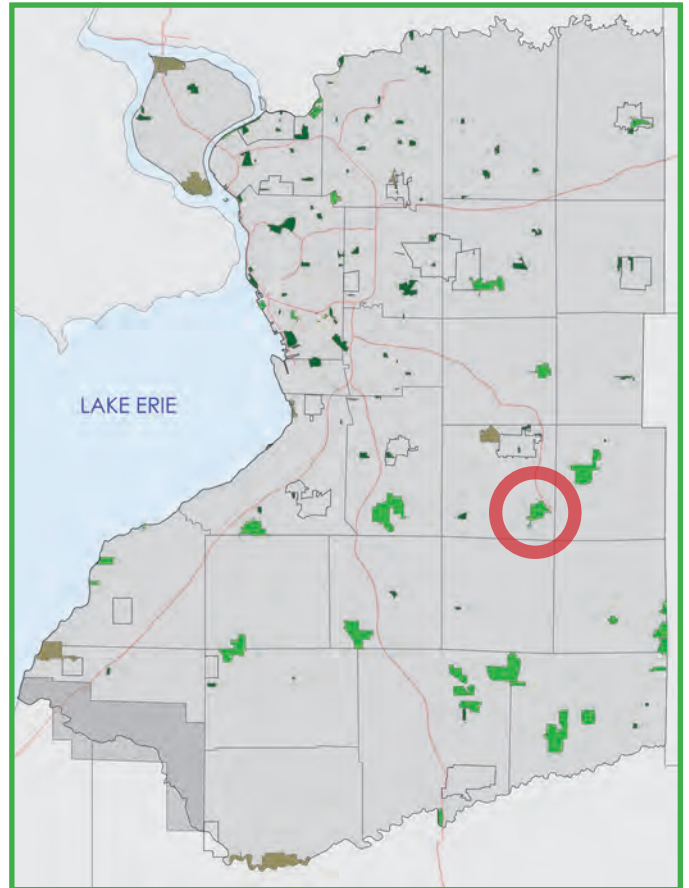


## EMERY PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Emery Park is one of the oldest five parks in the County System, being acquired in 1925. This 457-acre Heritage park is a multi-purpose recreation site, however much of the park is wooded and left to passive recreational pursuits. The most notable feature and asset in Emery Park is the ski-slope and lodge right off of Emery Road. The park also features many unique passive and natural areas including multi-purpose trails, waterfalls, large wooded areas, and scenic views. Increasing in popularity as of late at Emery Park is the 18-hole Black Diamond Disc Golf Course constructed by the Niagara Region Disc Golf Association (2008).

A major ravine cuts through the park from the southwest to northeast corners of the park, which helps to define the park's impressive sloping topography and rugged, natural character. This tributary flows into Cazenovia Creek, which cuts through the northeastern corner of the park property. The northeast section is an undeveloped forested area, a natural buffer against the acoustical and visual problems associated with the adjacent Route 400 (a four-lane expressway). The Richardson Cottage, a well-known picnic site, is located on the opposite side of Cazenovia Creek, and is accessed separately off of the Route 400 / NY16 split. The natural character of Emery Park is some of the County System's most beautiful and finest.



Park Location Map: Emery Park is located in the Town of Aurora off of Emery Road



WPA era historic pump shelter

### PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

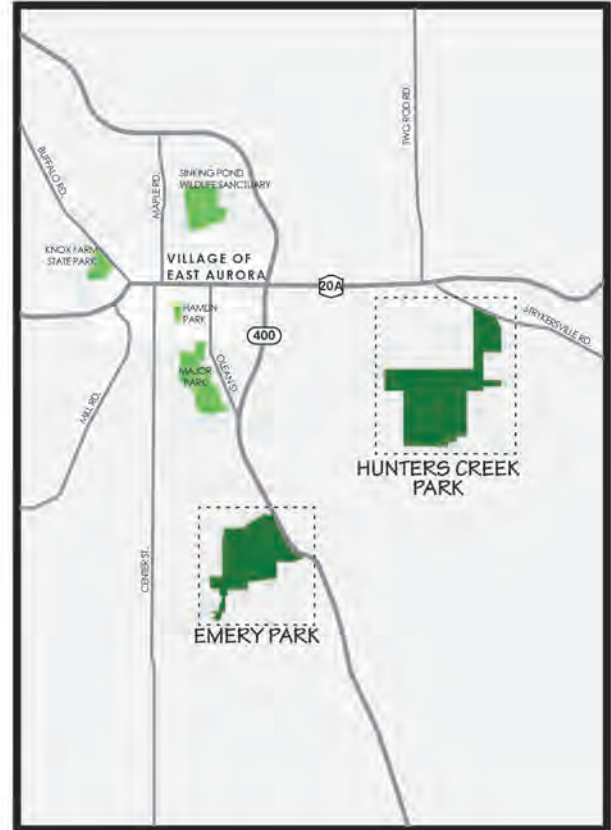
- **Preserve and enhance Heritage areas and special park features**, including: Repoint/clean stonework where needed, replace missing stones, replace or repair roofs, make improvements to concrete/asphalt floors, etc. to all historic structures and facilities, specifically many shelters on the southern side of the park.
- **Reduce lawn mowing** to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures.
- **Potential relocation of Disc golf holes** to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife from excessive foot traffic.

**PARK AND AREA HISTORY**

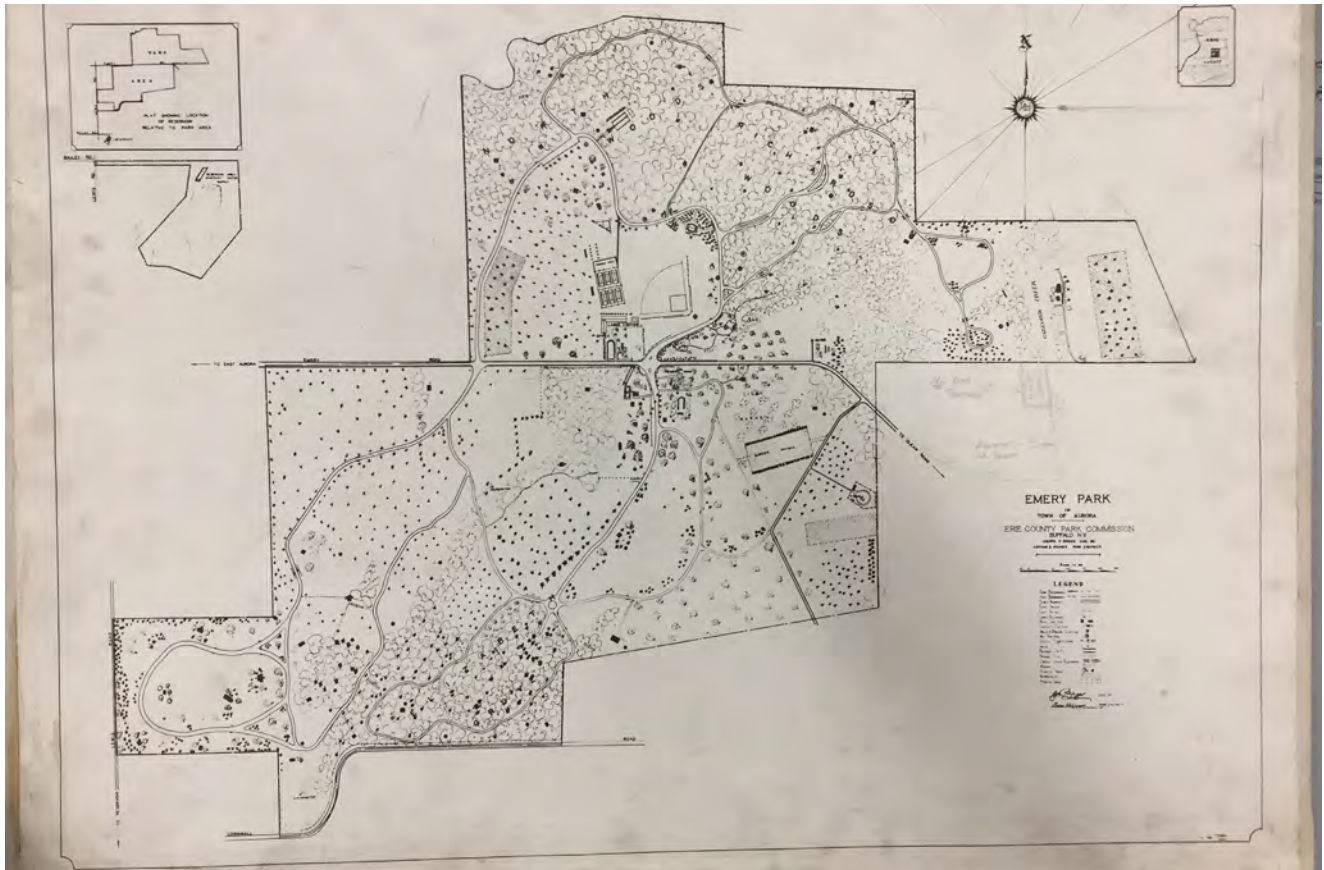
The Emery Inn and barn structures were part of the original Josiah Emery Farmstead. The Emery family lived on and worked on this land for over one hundred years since the early 1800's. In 1925, the Parks Commission of Erie County purchased the land from Helen B. Emery, forming Emery Park. Many of the original park structures and features still remain from the early development years of the late 20's and early 30's when WPA crews worked to establish this unique park. The historic Emery home was converted to a museum and restaurant after 1926, and has unfortunately fell into disrepair and was taken down.. Despite this, Emery Park has evolved into a 490-acre park of unmatched natural beauty.

**LOCAL CONTEXT**

Emery Park is located in the Town of Aurora adjacent to the hamlet of South Wales. It is located approximately 18 miles south of Downtown Buffalo and is just a few miles south of the Village of East Aurora. The area surrounding Emery Park is largely rural in character with only a scattering of residences throughout the countryside, with the exception



Local context map



1940's master plan





Historic photo near Rock Garden

of the thickly settled hamlet of South Wales. One of the area's notable institutions, the Gow School, is only a short walk away from the park. The Park is easily accessed from the end of the Route 400 Expressway where it transitions to Route 16 in South Wales. Direct access to the park is via Emery Road, which bisects the park in an east-west direction.

## RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

Emery Park is situated in a relatively rural setting, with few other recreational facilities around. However, given the low population in the area, the recreational demand is not as high as the more urban facilities, and much of the focus of Emery Park has remained passive in nature.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Emery Park is characterized by a combination of gently rolling grassy areas, forested slopes, and steep rocky gorges. Streams and waterfalls are major natural assets of the park. The park's relatively remote location lends itself well to an emphasis on naturalization and passive recreation. More central areas, nearer to major park buildings, are currently most used. It may be possible over time to consolidate park shelters so that maintenance becomes simpler, and mowed clearings less needed.

Some park roads, particularly in the north section of the park, have already been closed to vehicles. It may be possible to transform more roads into nature trails, thereby increasing recreational value and reducing environmental impacts, including those related to road maintenance. If possible, unneeded pavement should



Playground Emery Park



Quoit Beds Emery Park



View from Elizabeth Grove - Emery Park

be removed so as to reduce erosion due to runoff. Throughout the park, there are areas of lawn that can be converted to natural forest or meadow habitat. Many of these are small roadside pockets that serve no current purpose. Invasive species are not a serious issue at Emery Park at this time. Careful surveillance response is important in preventing non-native establishment and maintaining the high quality of the park's natural spaces. There are significant areas of erosion and soil compaction in the north forest section associated with disc golf holes.

### RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

The 2012-2017 Capital Improvements within Emery Park totaled \$1,762,760. Recent projects included:

- Stohrer's Lodge – Replaced roof, windows and doors, painting and associated carpentry.
- Maintenance Buildings – Replaced two roofs (including abatement) and windows on building.
- General repair/improvements to parking lots and roadways.
- Shelter #12 – WPA Era Stone Structure renovated utilizing existing stone ends, including new roof and concrete floor.
- Building demolition – 5 structures removed
- Demolished and removed Emery Inn.
- 6 Shelters – Complete roof tear-offs, creation of suitable parking areas, masonry/concrete work, new truss's, etc.
- Richardson Cottage and Shelter – New roofs, extensive foundation repairs on cottage, complete remodel inside and out, new blacktop road and parking area installed.
- Japanese Garden Shelter repurposed into pergola.
- Improvements to Storage Building.
- New guardrails installed near Ski Lodge.
- Installing magic carpet at Emery Park ski lift (2018)



*Pump shelter with hole in the roof*



*Old set of swings in the woods*



*Emery Ski Lodge*



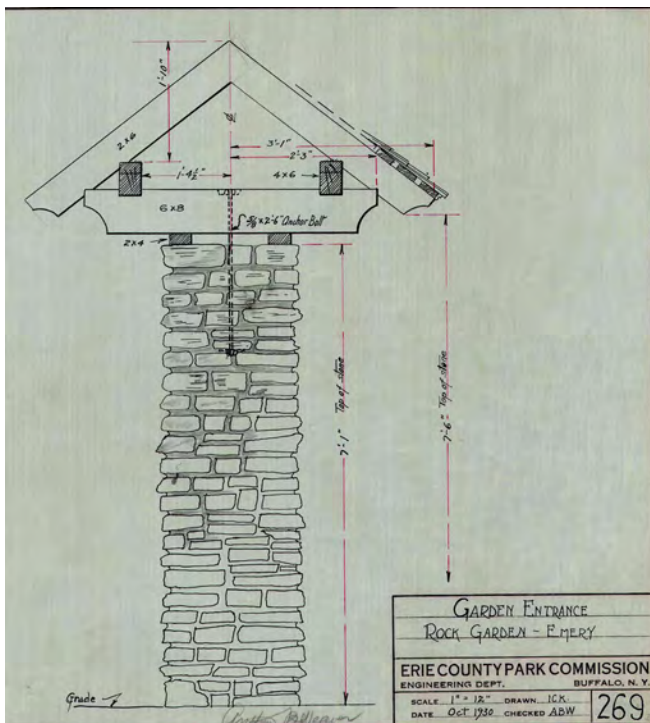
*WPA Pump Shelter*

**CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS**

- The park is showing deterioration in its older, historic stone structures.
- There is a lack of directional and interpretive signage highlighting the wonderful park structures and natural features.
- Currently, most of the open space in the park is mowed, including areas that are beyond the recreational use areas.
- Better linkages should be made within the park between the northern and southern sections of the park, on either side of Emery Road.
- There is an apparent underutilization of some of the park facilities.
- There are numerous outdated play structures that do not meet current safety or accessibility codes.
- Many shelters on south side of the park are seeing deterioration and vandalism.
- Erosion concerns along creeks.
- All shelters should be numbered. Many are missing numbers.
- Many Disc Golf holes are causing damage and issues in natural wooded areas of park.
- Lack of additional recreational opportunities.
- Difficult to find/locate trails; Lack of formal trailheads
- Tennis courts are showing wear
- Emerging invasive species



Repurposed pergola structure



Original drawing for the Garden Entrance at the Rock Garden; The same structure is photographed on the right

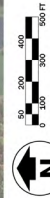


# MASTER PLAN EMERY PARK (NORTH)

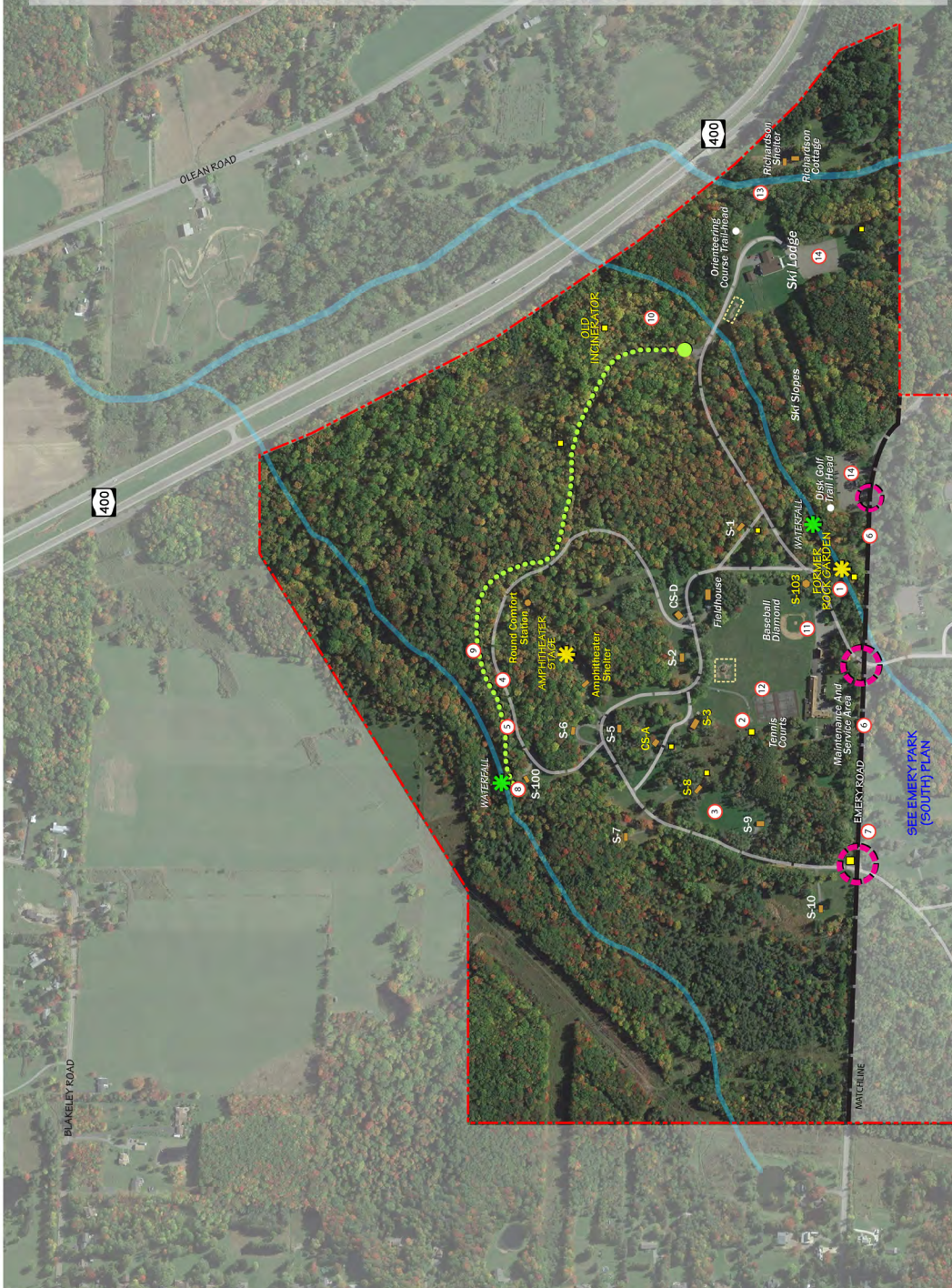
## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Specific Action Items - Ex. (A)

- 1 (C: 4.0-5.0, P: 1.0-6.0) Preserve and enhance "Heritage" areas and special park features, including: Restore historic stone structures, shelters, buildings and stone arch bridge, stone gateways, steps and bridges, old stone incinerators, etc.
- 2 Preserve and enhance stone shelters adjacent to tennis courts. Repurpose as potential interpretive stations highlighting park history and the ecology of the park.
- 3 (A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures.
- 4 (A: 16.0) Undertake roadway repairs and repaving throughout the park. Improve ditches and culverts wherever necessary. If roads are deemed not needed due to shelter removal, etc., they can be maintained as "trail only" path.
- 5 (C: 13.0) Improve safety along northerly gorge/ ravine trail system, i.e. setbacks and permanent railings. Provide new scenic overlook at falls.
- 6 (A: 10.0) Although Emery Road cuts the park in half, establish a smoother, "seamless" transition between the north side and the south side of the park.
- 7 (A: 15.0) Improve or replace fences along Emery Road - Repair or replace entrance gates.
- 8 (C: 11.0) Provide access to waterfall area off of Richardson Road near shelter 100.
- 9 (C: 11.0) Enhance viewing opportunities to many of Emery Park's scenic, historic and natural features, including the impressive ravines and remote rugged terrain.
- 10 (P: 7.0) Potential relocation of disk golf holes to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife. Possibly shift some holes away from wooded areas into already mowed lawn areas.



# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



**Legend:**

- Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations
- Existing Park Trails
- Park Boundary
- WPA Pump Shelters/Misc. Features
- Playground
- WPA Park Heritage Feature/Destination
- Natural Features
- WPA Comfort Station - (P) Park Park Use Structure
- WPA Shelter

- 11 Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage and partnership opportunities.
  - 12 (C: 6.0) Tennis courts should be resurfaced and restriped. There are currently 6 tennis courts; Explore the potential to provide additional recreational opportunities like a multipurpose sports court for basketball and pickleball.
  - 13 Improve fishing access and opportunities to the edge of Cazenovia Creek and possibly the old park reservoir.
  - 14 (C: 9.0-9.4) Improve and formalize key parking areas; Reduce parking lot surface and increase green space if possible. If drainage concerns exist, provide potential rain gardens to capture stormwater. Potential parking areas include:
    - o Ski Lodge parking lot
    - o Ski Lift parking lot
    - o Parking area at Arbor Garden
    - o Stohrer's Lodge Lot
- MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:**
- (A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
  - (C: 7.0-2.5) Provide interpretive signage in the park; Provide an interpretive "story-line" for the Park's geological and post-settlement history.
  - Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
  - (A: 6.1) Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.
  - (A: 6.2) Improve playground facilities throughout the park.
  - (A: 8.0-8.4) Provide consistent wayfinding signage and directional signage within the park.



# NATURALIZATION PLAN EMERY PARK - NORTH

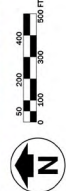
# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## TOTAL PARK MOWING REDUCTION:

Natural Regeneration: 12.5 acres  
 Low-Mow Meadow: 3 acres  
 Wildflower Meadow: 5 acres  
 Total: ~20.5 acres

## TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

- 1 **Natural Regeneration**  
 In these areas, which are currently mowed lawn, natural forests will be allowed to develop. In most cases, suggested natural regeneration areas are adjacent to existing forest, and serve to expand continuous forest habitat within the parks. Mowing will cease altogether, and woody plant removal will be limited to non-native species. Young native trees of species found in neighboring forest can be planted to speed natural reforestation, and native meadow grass and wildflower seeds can be planted to replace lawn until the tree canopy matures.
- 2 **Low-Mow**  
 These are areas that may potentially see different use in the future, and are not intended to be reforested. They would be mowed infrequently to prevent woody plants from establishing. Within the "low-mow" management category, there exists flexibility for tailoring management to a particular park or zone.
- 3 **Wildflower Meadow**  
 In locations with low use but high visibility, such as near park entrances, the Low-Mow Meadow treatment can be modified by the addition of significant native wildflower planting efforts. This will create a higher level of biodiversity and visual interest than simple mowing reduction.



**NATURALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS:**  
**Lawn Reduction**  
 The northern portion of Emery Park is mainly forested, providing valuable recreation opportunities and natural habitat. The majority of lawn reduction in this area will be Natural Regeneration.

Transforming the little-used northernmost road loop within the park into a foot trail could increase visitor opportunities for enjoying the forest while also improving connection between forest sections.

Select areas surrounding the more active zone can be converted to Low Mow or Wildflower Meadow without compromising flexibility for the future.

**Tree Planting**  
 The natural forest area is one of the main attractions of Emery Park. Planting young native trees in select areas can begin a process of increasing this valuable forest area.

**Forest Floor Restoration**  
 On the north side of Emery Park, certain areas of forest floor are suffering from significant soil erosion, soil compaction, and loss of understory vegetation due to heavy foot traffic. Redirecting activities away from steep or otherwise sensitive areas will allow a process of restoring the high quality habitat that has been lost to begin.

**Water Quality Protection**  
 Cazenovia Creek runs through the northeast part of the park, and suffers from localized bank erosion and disturbance due to foot traffic. Relocating the nearby disk golf hole away from the creek may significantly reduce this issue.

**Invasive Species Management**  
 Aggressive non-native plants are currently having a relatively low impact at Emery Park, compared with many public parks. It is important to keep monitoring for changes so that the current level of quality can be protected.



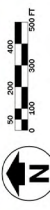
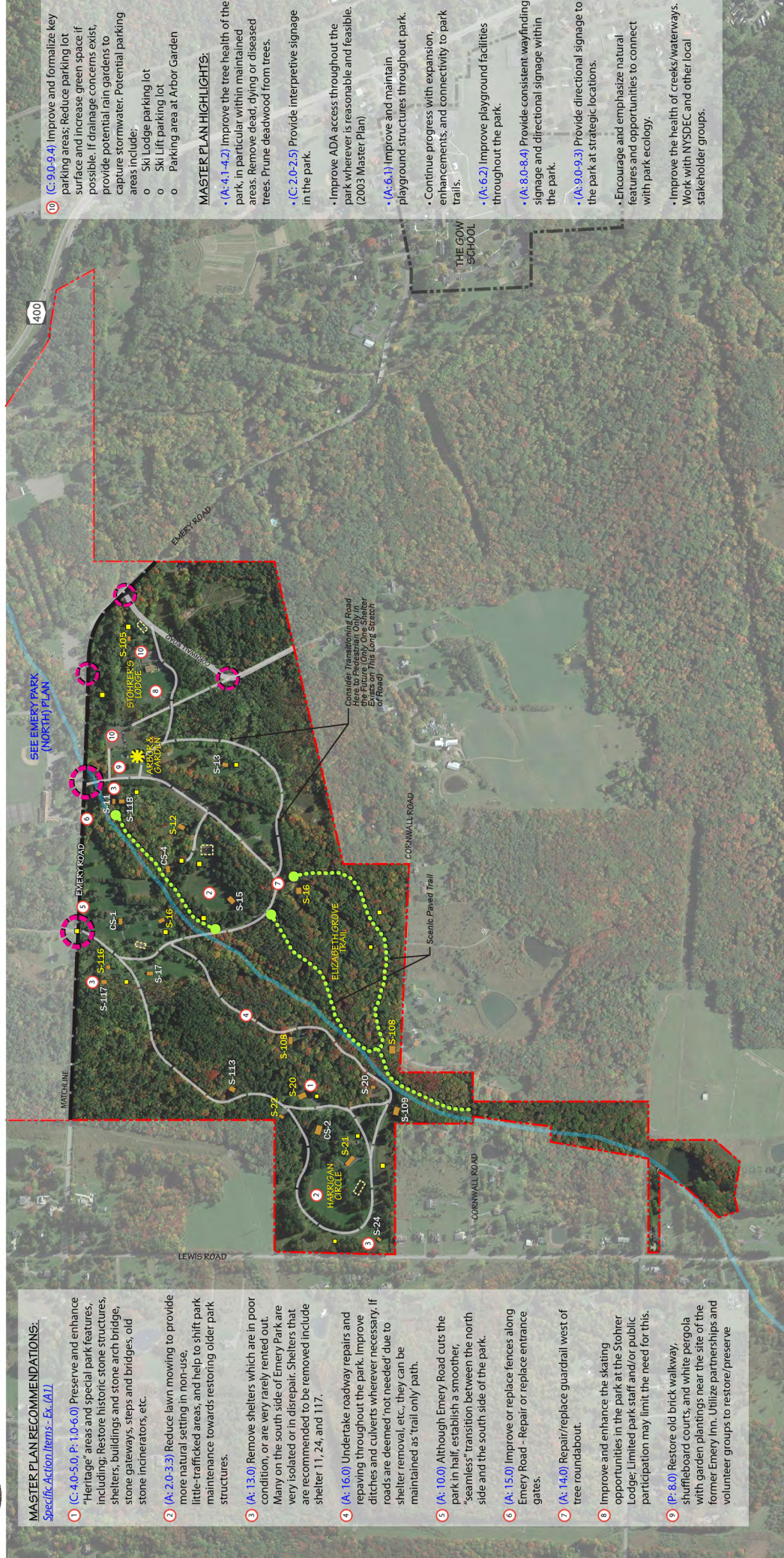
# MASTER PLAN EMERY PARK (SOUTH)

## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

*Specific Action Items - Ex. (A1)*

- 1 (C: 4.0-5.0; P: 1.0-6.0) Preserve and enhance "Heritage" areas and special park features, including: Restore historic stone structures, shelters, buildings and stone arch bridge, stone gateways, steps and bridges, old stone incinerators, etc.
- 2 (A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures.
- 3 (A: 13.0) Remove shelters which are in poor condition, or are very rarely rented out. Many on the south side of Emery Park are very isolated or in disrepair. Shelters that are recommended to be removed include shelter 11, 24, and 117.
- 4 (A: 16.0) Undertake roadway repairs and repaving throughout the park. Improve ditches and culverts wherever necessary. If roads are deemed "not needed" due to shelter removal, etc., they can be maintained as "trail only" path.
- 5 (A: 10.0) Although Emery Road cuts the park in half, establish a smoother, "seamless" transition between the north side and the south side of the park.
- 6 (A: 15.0) Improve or replace fences along Emery Road - Repair or replace entrance gates.
- 7 (A: 14.0) Repair/replace guardrail west of tree roundabout.
- 8 Improve and enhance the skating opportunities in the park at the Stohrer Lodge; Limited park staff and/or public participation may limit the need for this.
- 9 (P: 8.0) Restore old brick walkway, shuffleboard courts, and white pergola with garden plantings near the site of the former Emery Inn. Utilize partnerships and volunteer groups to restore/preserve.

# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



### Legend:

- Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations
- WPA Park Heritage Feature/Destination
- Natural Features
- WPA Pump Shelters/Misc. Features
- Existing Park Trails
- Park Boundary
- Playground
- CSA - Comfort Station - (6) (CS-1) WPA Era Structure
- S-1 - Shelter - (4) (S-1) WPA Era Structure
- W5 - Warming Shelter

- 10 (C: 9.0-9.4) Improve and formalize key parking areas; Reduce parking lot surface and increase green space if possible. If drainage concerns exist, provide potential rain gardens to capture stormwater. Potential parking areas include:
    - o Ski Lodge parking lot
    - o Ski Lift parking lot
    - o Parking area at Arbor Garden
- ### MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:
- (A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
  - (C: 2.0-2.5) Provide interpretive signage in the park.
  - Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
  - (A: 6.1) Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.
  - Continue progress with expansion, enhancements, and connectivity to park trails.
  - (A: 6.2) Improve playground facilities throughout the park.
  - (A: 8.0-8.4) Provide consistent wayfinding signage and directional signage within the park.
  - (A: 9.0-9.3) Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations.
  - Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.
  - Improve the health of creeks/waterways. Work with NYSDC and other local stakeholder groups.

Consider Transferring Road Here to Pedestrian Only in the Future (Only One Shelter or Road)

Scenic Paved Trail

CORNWALL ROAD

CORNWALL ROAD

CORNWALL ROAD

THE GOW SCHOOL

SEE EMERY PARK (NORTH) PLAN

400

EMERY ROAD

LEWIS ROAD

MATCHLINE

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# NATURALIZATION PLAN EMERY PARK - SOUTH

# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## TOTAL PARK MOWING REDUCTION:

Natural Regeneration: 12.5 acres

Low-Mow Meadow: 3 acres

Wildflower Meadow: 5 acres

Total: ~20.5 acres

## TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

### 1 Natural Regeneration

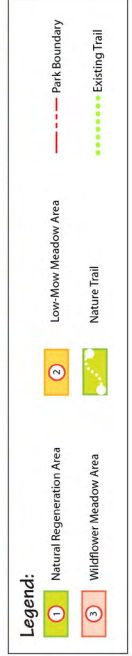
In these areas, which are currently mowed lawn, natural forests will be allowed to develop. In most cases, suggested natural regeneration areas are adjacent to existing forest, and serve to expand continuous forest habitat within the parks. Mowing will cease altogether, and woody plant removal will be limited to non-native species. Young native trees of species found in neighboring forest can be planted to speed natural reforestation, and native meadow grass and wildflower seeds can be planted to replace lawn until the tree canopy matures.

### 2 Low-Mow

These are areas that may potentially see different uses in the future, and are not intended to be reforested. They would be mowed infrequently to prevent woody plants from establishing. Within the "low-mow" management category, there exists flexibility for tailoring management to a particular park or zone.

### 3 Wildflower Meadow

In locations with low use but high visibility, such as near park entrances, the Low-Mow Meadow treatment can be modified by the addition of significant native wildflower planting efforts. This will create a higher level of biodiversity and visual interest than simple mowing reduction.



## NATURALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Lawn Reduction

The southern portion of Emery Park is currently mainly forested. The majority of lawn reduction in this area will be Natural Regeneration. There are many small roadside areas within this section of the park where mowing can be reduced, and native trees reintroduced. In some areas, transforming open spaces that are little used into new forest habitat can begin a process of enhancing what is one of the park's main attractions.

In select areas surrounding the more active zones, Low Mow or Wildflower Meadow can be created in order to increase natural habitat area without compromising flexibility for the future.

### Tree Planting

The existing natural forest area is one of the main attractions of Emery Park. Planting young native trees in select areas can begin a process of diversifying and adding resilience to this valuable forest resource.

### Water Quality Protection

Small headwater creeks run through Emery Park. Increasing natural habitat area can contribute to protecting these important parts of the watershed.

### Invasive Species Management

Aggressive non-native plants are currently having a relatively low impact at Emery Park, compared with many public parks. It is important to keep monitoring for changes so that the current level of quality can be protected.

**MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Key - (Project Type: Project Number)**

A - Action Item: Completed at low to no cost by Parks Staff  
 P - Assistance or completion of project by potential partner/user group  
 C - Capital project

**Historic Structures/WPA/Other Structures:**

- **(C: 4.0-5.0, P: 1.0-6.0) Preserve and enhance “Heritage” areas and special park features, including;**
  - Old Japanese Rock Garden, etc.
  - Restore historic stone structures, shelters, buildings and stone arch bridge, stone gateways, steps and bridges, old stone incinerators, etc.
  - Restore old stone picnic shelters and structures



Shelter #117: Recommend demolition



Shelter #13: Recommend demolition



Shelter #11



WPA round comfort station

- before building new picnic shelters and structures. (Consider the heritage “value” of these old park features for future tourism and visitor appreciation).
- Preserve and enhance stone shelters adjacent to tennis courts. Repurpose as potential interpretive stations highlighting park history and the ecology of the park.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: PBN/UB/In-House

- **(A: 13.0) Remove shelters which are in poor condition, or are very rarely rented out.** Many on the south side of Emery Park are very isolated or in disrepair. Shelters that are recommended to be removed include shelter 11, 24, and 117.
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House



- **(C: 2.0-2.5) Provide interpretive signage in the park: Provide an interpretive “story-line” for the Park’s geological and post-settlement history;**
  - i.e. How and when the ravines were formed?; When was the area first settled?; What’s the history behind the Emery Inn and the farm structures? What were some significant historic happenings in the area, or in the park?; When were the old stone structures built?; etc.
  - Harrigan’s Circle; i.e. How did it get the name? Who is Harrigan?; Hard to interpret exactly where Harrigan’s Circle is for average park user.
  - Geology and ravine formation
  - History of the Emery Family
  - History of WPA structures
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: In-House
- **Develop framework/design guidelines for the future construction and restoration of picnic shelters.** Many shelters are of different colors, building materials and form, making for a collection random architecture/ building types. Some do not fit in with historic WPA essence of the park.
  - Develop more shelters like the recent renovations of Shelter #12, by maintaining WPA stone work, earthtone colors, and timber materials.
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: In-House



Stohrer's Lodge: During construction and present day facility

- **(A: 1.0) Consider park for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places**
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House

#### Maintenance/Safety:

- **(A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures.**
  - One significant area to begin the naturalization process would be west of the Maintenance facilities behind the tennis courts.
  - Establish select zones of 'no-mow' naturalized areas where excess lawn is being mowed. There are large areas of mowed lawn which have no active recreation; these areas, especially those which abut wooded areas can transition into no-mow areas with potential meadows and wildflowers.
  - Include signage like "Regeneration Area", or "No-Mow Zone" to engage park users to learn about the landscape management technique. Include potential benefits of the practice being used; i.e. Increasing habitat for insects and wildlife; Saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions by not using mowers and equipment; Promoting sustainable landscapes; Improves water quality by filtering pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides that would have otherwise entered the water; Slows stormwater runoff; Encouraging native plant growth; Providing an environment for observation; etc.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 5.0) Improve awareness of steep slopes, uneven terrain, etc. for park patrons through signage.**
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 15.0) Undertake roadway repairs and repaving throughout the park. Improve ditches and culverts wherever necessary.**
  - If roads are deemed 'not needed' due to shelter removal, etc., they can be maintained as 'trail only' path. Some are already blocked off like this.
  - For abandoned roadways, remove existing blacktop surface and replace with natural landscaping treatments. Or just let them naturalize on their own.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House



Large expanse of lawn at Emery



Parking near gazebo structure

- **(C: 9.0-9.4) Improve and formalize key parking areas; Reduce parking lot surface and increase green space if possible.** If drainage concerns exist, provide potential rain gardens to capture stormwater and thus improve nearby streams and creeks. Potential parking areas include;

- Ski Lodge parking lot
- Ski Lift parking lot
- Parking area at Arbor Garden
- Stohrer's Lodge Lot
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House

- **At all designated park trails, trail safety improvements should be made.** (In addition to proper signage of potential hazards and user difficulties) This may include trail surface material upgrades, drainage improvements, vegetation clearing, railings and barriers, etc.

- Priority: Medium
- Partner: In-House

- **Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)**
  - New renovations can present opportunities to address standards in ADA accessibility. These can include for example, designing sports fields/courts for greater accessibility and seating, improved accessibility/updated surfaces to children play areas, and potential paving of new trails for people with mixed abilities.

- Priority: Medium
- Partner: In-House



Drainage issues on the northern ravine trail



Scenic waterfall on the north side of the park

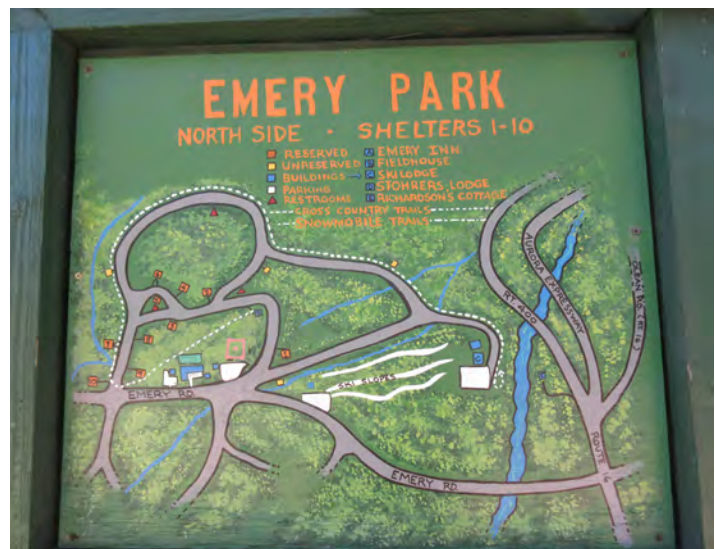
- **(C: 10.0) Repair/replace guardrail west of tree roundabout.**
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House/DPW
  
- **(C: 12.0) Improve/repair or replace fences along Emery Road - Repair or replace entrance gates.**
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House
  
- **(C: 13.0) Improve safety along northerly gorge/ravine trail system, i.e. setbacks and permanent railings.**  
Provide new scenic overlook at falls;
  - Improve and enhance nature trail system throughout the park with new interpretive signage and new trail connections, including providing a looped trail near the ski lodge and future connection to South Wales.
  - Provide new park benches along the nature trails in strategic locations.
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: In-House
  
- **(C: 11.0) Enhance viewing opportunities to many of Emery Park’s scenic, historic and natural features,** including the impressive ravines and remote rugged terrain. Provide possible new “strategically-placed” overlook platforms and viewing areas to these features with adequate methods of pedestrian safety to give the park more exposure to the public.
  - Provide ADA access wherever possible to important and scenic vista locations.
  - Provide access to waterfall area off of Richardson Road.
    - Install staircase and railing to allow access to creek and potential overlook area.
    - Provide secondary overlook at the top of the gorge. Potentially clear brush/branches to provide scenic view of waterfall and ravine. Provide railing.
      - Priority: Low
      - Partner: In-House/Grants



Emery Park entry



Existing signage



Existing signage

**Connectivity/Signage:**

- **(A: 7.0-7.5) Establish minor gateways, welcome sign and rules, for the following park locations:**
  - Richardson Cottage
  - East park border along Emery Road
  - West park border along Emery Road
  - South park border along Cornwall Road
  - Stohrer’s Lodge entrance off of Cornwall Road
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House



- **(A: 8.0-8.4) Provide consistent wayfinding signage and directional signage within the park:**
  - Provide directional signage to various points of interest
  - Provide overall park maps showing park features, comfort stations and shelters
  - Elizabeth Grove Trail
  - XC Ski Trail
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 9.0-9.3) Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations:**
  - Intersection of Olean Road and Emery Road
  - Intersection of Center Street and Emery Road
  - Intersection of Olean Road and Richardson Road
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 8.5) Provide and install a large trail map, identifying only the official marked trails with proper distance postings, trail conditions, and user difficulties.**
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House
- **All trail markings/signage need to be clearly understandable from a non-experienced trail user.**
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 10.0) Although Emery Road cuts the park in half, establish a smoother, “seamless” transition between the north side and the south side of the park.**
  - Pedestrian trails should link across the road in a visible and safe fashion;
  - “traffic-calming” measures should be considered for traffic along Emery Road.
  - Lower the speed limit of Emery Road within the park.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House



Waterfall near Emery Road

- **(C: 1.0-1.1) Establish enhanced gateways for the park at the following locations:**

- Main park entry roads along Emery Road
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House

- **Establish a stronger linkage between Emery Park and the hamlet of South Wales, including the Gow School, through wayfinding signage, maps, etc.;** Provide clear linkages from Emery Park to area bicycle routes and trails.

- Priority: Low
- Partner: In-House

#### Recreation:

- **(A: 6.1) Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.**

- Provide or replenish fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually.
- Replace swings/play equipment as needed due to wear and tear.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: In-House

- **(P: 7.0) Potential relocation of Disc golf holes to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife.**

- Possibly shift some holes away from wooded/forested areas into existing mowed lawn areas. Disc golf at Ellicott Creek Park and Como Lake

Park is played across their mowed lawn areas, and result in far less damage to the landscape. Work with Niagara Region Disc Golf to redesign the course into less environmentally sensitive areas. Provide alternate hole locations to reduce compaction.

- Priority: High
- Partner: Niagara Region Disc Golf

- **Continue progress with expansion, enhancements, and connectivity to park trails.**

- Consider the design of some ADA accessible trails where possible.
- Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations.
- Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife.
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House

- **(C: 6.0) Tennis courts should be resurfaced and restriped.**

- There are currently 6 tennis courts; Explore the potential to provide additional recreational opportunities like a multipurpose sports court for basketball and pickleball.
- Consider dual-striping a court or two to provide additional recreational opportunities like Pickleball.
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: Contractor/In-House



*Disc golf usage and foot traffic causing damage to the surrounding landscape*





Old metal slide



Existing baseball diamond located near maintenance buildings



Shuffleboard and Gazebo

- **(A: 6.2) Improve playground facilities throughout the park. Remove and replace oldest, non-compliant structures with newer equipment.** Consider earthtone colors in the Heritage park setting rather than bright, primary colors. Refer to system wide playground recommendations.
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House
- **(P: 9.0) Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage and partnership opportunities.** Coordinate with Visit Buffalo Niagara to explore tournament and recreation prospects.
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House/Visit Buffalo Niagara
- **Improve fishing access and opportunities to the edge of Cazenovia Creek and possibly the old park reservoir.**
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House
- **Consider the safety conditions at the existing ski facility;**
  - In the future transition the existing ski hill into a snow- board and sledding facility. Future safety improvements may be needed to provide the optimal conditions for these desirable winter activities.
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: In-House
- **(A: 14.0) Utilize skating area as available at the Stohrer Lodge;** Limited park staff and/or public participation may limit the need for this.
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: In-House
- **(P: 8.0) Restore old brick walkway, shuffleboard courts, and white pergola with garden plantings near the site of the former Emery Inn.**
  - Utilize partnerships and volunteer groups to restore/preserve unique area of the park.
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: Private Businesses/Community Groups
- **(P: 10.0) Potential mountain biking/shared trail systems could be established** with proper studies, usergroup funding/support, and if deemed appropriate (does not conflict with other park uses).
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: Usergroups/WNYMBA

**Environment:**

- **(A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas.**
  - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
  - Prune deadwood from trees.
  - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
  - Provide new native tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges (Consult County Forester and local experts to determine appropriate species to benefit wildlife).
  - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
  - Develop annual tree planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural image of the park.
  - Apply for funding from NYSDEC for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: WNY PRISM/ECSWD/Forestry
- **(P: 11.0) Address and remove threatening invasive species** like Common Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Chinese Privet, Purple Loosestrife, and Poison Ivy which are starting to gain ground in many areas of the park.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: WNY Prism
- **(P: 12.0) Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.**
  - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
  - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
  - Prioritize native pollinator friendly plantings for bird and butterfly habitats;
  - Designate potential native plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats;



Scenic trail off of the Elizabeth Grove Trail



- The County should encourage the development of outdoor classrooms through partnerships with local schools. Outdoor classrooms can be living laboratories for local children to immerse themselves in nature and our local ecosystem.
  - Priority: High
  - Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House
- **Improve the health of creeks/waterways. Work with NYSDEC and other local stakeholder groups.**
  - Focus projects should include stream bank stabilization and erosion control, habitat conservation and restoration, stormwater management, and contaminant reduction.
  - Continued improvements to the ecological status of the waterways and naturalization of the surrounding wooded areas can contribute to educational nature programs and trail/water recreation.
    - Priority: Low
    - Partner: NYSDEC/Waterkeeper/In-House



Cazenovia Creek

## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	2.0	Establish "Natural Regeneration Areas" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Establish "Natural Regeneration Areas" identified on the Master Plan	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	3.1	Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Establish "Low Mow Zones" identified on the Master Plan	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	3.3	Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Provide necessary signage along the "Low Mow Zones" to inform the public the reasons behind the practice and also to identify the areas to park personnel.	High	1-2 Years	In-House, Highway
A	4.1	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	5.0	Improve awareness of steep slopes, uneven terrain, etc. for park patrons through signage.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	6.1	Improve playground safety	Provide or replenish engineered fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually.	High	Ongoing	P.O.B.
C	3.3	Shelter #8 - Potential structural issues	Engage a consultant to review the structure and determine a course of action.	High	1-2 Years	\$15,000
P	6.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Stone Bridge. Reconstruct portions of failed bridge.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	High	3-5 Years	\$20,000
P	7.0	Reconfigure the disc golf route to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.	Coordinate with Niagara Region Disc Golf regarding a new course layout. Accommodate alternative hole positions to reduce compaction / erosion from repetitive foot traffic.	High	1-2 Years	\$17,500

**KEY:**

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POB: Parks Operating Budget



## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	11.0	Address and remove threatening invasive species like Common Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Chinese Privet, Purple Loosestrife, and Poison Ivy which are starting to gain ground in many areas of the park.	Work with WNY Prism and other partners to remove and address issue	High	1-2 Years	Partner
P	12.0	Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas; Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;	Designate potential native pollinator plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats.	High	Ongoing	Partner
A	4.2	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings	Develop an annual tree planting program.	Medium	Ongoing	P.O.B.
A	7.0	Establish Minor Gateways, welcome sign and rules, for the park at the following locations:	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	7.1	Richardson Cottage	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	7.2	East park border along Emery Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	7.3	West park border along Emery Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	7.4	South park border along Cornwall Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	7.5	Stohrer's Lodge entrance off of Cornwall Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House

## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	8.0	Provide consistent wayfinding and directional signage within the park: including large park trails map at main trailheads	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.1	Provide directional signs to various points of interest.	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce directional sign panels	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.2	Provide overall park maps showing park features, comfort stations and shelters	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce park maps	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.3	Elizabeth Grove Trail	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.4	XC Ski Trail	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.5	Provide large trail map showing all trails at main trailheads	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce trail maps and markers	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	10.0	Improve pedestrian safety, between the north and south portions of the park, along Emery Rd	Reduce the speed limit on Emery Rd to 15 MPH within the park boundary	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	12.0	Ensure that shelters, comfort stations and buildings are identifiable	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	13.0	Remove shelters which are in poor condition, or are very rarely rented out. Many on the south side of Emery Park are very isolated or in disrepair.	Shelters that are recommended to be removed include shelter 11, 24, and 117.	Medium	Ongoing	In-House
A	15.0	Undertake roadway repairs and repaving throughout the park. Improve ditches and culverts wherever necessary.	For abandoned roadways, remove existing blacktop surface and replace with natural landscaping treatments. Or just let them deteriorate on their own.	Medium	Ongoing	In-House
C	3.0	Prevent further deterioration of the following WPA Era picnic shelters	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	X

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## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	3.1	Amphitheater Shelter - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	3.2	Shelter #105 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	3.4	Shelter #16 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	3.5	Shelter #23 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	4.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Quoit Bed Shelters, 5 structures. Replace roofs	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$12,500
C	6.0	Seal and stripe (6) tennis courts	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$4,800
C	7.0	Improve pedestrian safety along Emery Rd. Construct high visibility cross-walks, advance warning and crosswalk signage.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	3-5 Years	\$5,700
C	8.0	Prevent further deterioration of the following picnic shelters:	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	X
C	8.2	Shelter #11 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	8.3	Shelter #13 - Replace concrete slab	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	8.4	Shelter #20 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	9.0	Improve and formalize key parking areas; Reduce parking lot surface and increase green space if possible. If drainage concerns exist, provide potential rain gardens to capture stormwater and thus improve nearby streams and creeks. Potential parking areas include;	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	6-10 Years	X
C	9.1	Ski Lodge parking lot	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	6-10 Years	\$30,000

## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	9.2	Ski Lift parking lot	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	6-10 Years	\$15,000
C	9.3	Parking area at Arbor Garden	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	9.4	Stohrer's Lodge Lot	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Medium	6-10 Years	\$15,000
C	10.0	Repair/replace guardrail west of tree roundabout on south side of park	Engage a contractor to perform the repairs	Medium	1-2 Years	\$1,000
A	1.0	Consider park for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places	Coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer assigned to Erie County to complete the required nomination forms and submit to a State review board.	Low	Ongoing	In-House
A	3.2	Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Begin an educational program, through the use of the County's website, to the general public which provides information regarding the "Low Mow Zone" program	Low	3-5 Years	In-House
A	6.2	Continue to improve playground safety	Remove playground equipment that is not compliant with current regulations, with the exception of "legacy" pieces of equipment	Low	Ongoing	In-House
A	9.0	Provide directional signage to the park at strategic locations:	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House
A	9.1	Directional signage - Intersection of Olean Rd and Emery Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House

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## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	9.2	Directional signage - Intersection of Center St and Emery Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House
A	9.3	Directional signage - Intersection of Olean Rd and Richardson Rd	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels, and coordinate with the road jurisdiction regarding placement of the signs.	Low	6-10 Years	In-House
A	11.0	Reduce damage to turf areas and reduce erosion by providing a resilient surface, such as crushed stone or millings at each shelter location.	Utilize parks staff to perform repairs	Low	Ongoing	P.O.B.
A	14.0	Utilize skating area as available in the park at the Stohrer Lodge; Perform necessary improvements	Limited park staff and/or public participation may limit the need for this.	Low	3-5 Years	In-House
C	1.0	Establish Enhanced Gateways for the park at the following locations:	Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape typology for each location.	Low	6-10 Years	X
C	1.1	Main park entry roads along Emery Rd	Engage a consultant to develop sign types including copy, structure and landscape typology for each location.	Low	6-10 Years	\$53,400
C	2.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park:	Coordinate with historical society to develop copy and obtain images for the interpretive content.	Low	Ongoing	X
C	2.1	Geology and ravine formation	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.2	CCC and its relationship with the park	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.3	History of the Emery's	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500

## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	2.4	History of Harrigan	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.5	History of WPA structures	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	5.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era "Round" Comfort Station. Repair roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$12,500
C	11.0	Provide access to waterfall area off of Richardson Road. Install staircase and railing to allow access to creek and potential overlook area. Provide secondary overlook at the top of the gorge. Potentially clear brush/branches to provide scenic view of waterfall and ravine. Provide railing.	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$100,000
C	12.0	Improve/repair or replace fences along Emery Road - Repair or replace entrance gates.	Engage a contractor to perform the repairs	Low	3-5 Years	\$15,000
C	13.0	Improve safety along northerly gorge/ravine trail system, i.e. setbacks and permanent railings. Provide new scenic overlook at falls	Engage a consultant to develop plans and contractor to construct the improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$5,000
P	1.0	Prevent further deterioration of the following WPA Era picnic shelters:	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	X
P	1.1	Amphitheater Shelter - Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	1.2	Shelter #105 - Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	1.3	Shelter #108 - Reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000

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## EMERY PARK: ACTION ITEMS

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
P	1.4	Shelter #21 – Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	1.5	Shelter #22 - Reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	1.6	Shelter #23 – Reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	2.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Elizabeth Grove Cottage. Reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	3.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Incinerators. Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	4.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era “Round” Comfort Station. Reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	5.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Comfort Station A. Clean and repoint mortar	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	8.0	Restore old brick walkway, shuffleboard courts, and white pergola with garden plantings near the site of the former Emery Inn.	Partnership opportunity with local schools, private businesses, and other local stakeholder groups	Low	3-5 Years	\$10,000
P	9.0	Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage	Coordinate with Visit Buffalo Niagara	Low	3-5 Years	P.O.B.
P	10.0	Potential mountain biking/shared trail systems could be established with proper studies, usergroup funding/support, and if deemed appropriate (does not conflict with other park uses)	Work with potential partner	Low	3-5 Years	Partner