



Long Point Park Master Plan December 2015



Town of Geneseo

The Town of Geneseo is committed to creating a fiscally responsible plan that preserves the natural and historic qualities of Long Point Park and provides diverse recreational activities.



Long Point Park Master Plan

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	3
	a. Formation of the Committee and its Purpose	3
II.	The Comprehensive Planning Process	4
III.	Local Demographics of the Town and Village of Geneseo	4
IV.	Recreational Land Use in Geneseo	4
V.	Long Point Park Budget	5
VI.	Public Services and Infrastructure	5
VII.	Overview of Long Point Park, Planning Area and Characteristics	5
VIII.	Survey of Current Uses	6
IX.	Strengths, Liabilities and Constraints	8
X.	Interested Parties and Stakeholders	9
XI.	Plan for Public Involvement	9
XII.	Vision Statement	11
XIII.	History of the Park by Friends of Long Point Park in Livingston County	12
XIV.	Goals	17
XV.	Recommendations	20
XVI.	Master Plan Matrix	24
XVII.	Appendix	37
	a. Approved Meeting Minutes	
	b. Open-ended Comments from LPPK – Town Link	
	c. LPPK Survey Final Report	
	d. LPPK Letter and Survey Tool	
	e. Additional Communications and Letters	
	f. Conesus Lake and Watershed 2013 Report Card	
	g. Maps	
	h. Environmental Quality Bond Act Project Agreement	
	i. 1987 EQBA Grant application	
	j. Conesus Lake Fisheries Survey	

Long Point Park Master Plan

I. Introduction:

In 1990 The Town of Geneseo purchased Long Point Park from the LaGrou family with funding assistance from the State of New York. The goal was to maintain the land as a public park and preserve public access to the shoreline on the west side of Conesus Lake. Since that time, the park has been converted to open space. Summertime swimming programs continue as well as scheduled events such as the Fiddlers Picnic, Summer Craft Fair, and other private and public gatherings. More recently, the bathrooms and changing areas were upgraded and moved closer to the shore. Outside showers were installed. In 2012 the Walter Kingston Long Point Museum and Visitors' Information Center was created.

In 2014, discussions began regarding the utilization of the swimming areas and commitment to ongoing support. That issue, coupled with the condemning and subsequent demolition of the cottage housing the museum, prompted the Geneseo Town Board to recognize the need for a long-term vision and plan for the park.

A. Formation of the Committee:

In December 2014, an advertisement was placed in the Livingston County News advertising for interested individuals to serve on a Long Point Park Master Plan Committee. Of the 15 respondents, 9 individuals were selected by the Town Board with the goal of providing a diverse set of idea and interests for the park. One individual stepped down leaving a working group of eight members.

Committee Members:

Kathryn Fitzsimmons- Village resident
Patti LaVigne- representing The Geneseo Town Board- co-chairman
Margaret Duff- representing the Village Board, Village resident
Bob Brennan- Lake resident and co- chairman
Joanne Harris, Lake resident and secretary
Kenny Hathaway- Lake Resident
Mary Patricia Fennell – Lake Resident
Georgene Ehmann- Lake Resident

II. The Comprehensive Planning Process

An organizational meeting was held with Town Board Representatives and appointed Long Point Master Plan representatives on January 22, 2015. The Committee was given the charge of:

- Surveying current uses, assets and seasonal needs
- Determine interested parties
- Develop a plan for public involvement
- Develop a Park Vision
- Creating a long-term (5-10 years) plan with recommendations for implementation, phasing plan, environmental coordination issues, permitting and funding.
- Be prepared to give status report at August Town Board Meeting at Long Point Park

Since January 2015-January 2016, the committee met twice monthly in open public meeting. The committee also established a link to the Geneseony.org website for comments from local residents. Comments were open-ended and reflected a variety of responses. In September of 2015 the committee contracted with Dr. Paul Scipione to conduct a randomized survey to elicit data related to current and future uses for the park. Results from the survey are further delineated in Section XI. The report and tables as well as the comments from the LPPK link are included in the appendix of this document.

III. Local Demographics of the Town and Village of Geneseo: Based on United States Census data from 2010, the Town and Village of Geneseo covers 43.94 square miles. It has a combined census of 10,483 which reflects a net gain of 829 over the 2000 census showing a population of 9654. The largest population groups are persons less than 18 years of age (11.6%), reflecting the college population and those older than 60 years of age (10.5%). Only 2.9 % of residents were less than 5 years of age, which is lower than the national average of 6.5%. The population is predominately Caucasian (90.5%). Fifty percent of individuals own their own home and median value of owner-occupied homes is \$158,000. There are 3005 total households with an average of 2.39 persons per household. English is the predominant language spoken, 91.8% of residents have a high school education or higher, 42% hold a bachelor's degree or higher. Median income is \$42,138.

IV. Recreational Land Use in Geneseo: According to the Town of Geneseo Open Space Study 2007 conducted by David Robertson and Coleen Garrity of the Department of Geography, SUNY Geneseo, there are 148 acres of land dedicated to recreational uses. They include Bowling Centers (7 acres), private golf country club (129 acres), athletic fields (3 acres) and picnic grounds (Long Point Park, 9 acres). Including the 15 acres in the Village of Geneseo dedicated as public parks and the 41 acres of the GVC's Island Preserve property would bring the total to 204 acres for recreational activities. However, only sixty five of the total 204 acres (32%) allow public access.

Table (1.) Lands Devoted to Recreation in Town and Village of Geneseo

Class	Acres
Public Parks	15
Picnic facilities	9
Athletic fields	3
GVC Reserve	41
Total	68

V. Current Long Point Budget:

For the budget year 2016, Long Point Park has been allocated \$50,500.00. Of that amount, \$12,000 is allocated for lifeguards, \$15,000 for personnel services (caretaker), \$7,500 for other personnel services, \$500.00 for telephone at Sheriff Station, \$2,500 for electric, \$ 1,000 for beach expenses, and \$ 12,000 for miscellaneous expenses. No monies this year were designated for equipment expenses, capital projects or projects in general. The budget set for 2016 was down slightly from \$ 50,800.00 from 2015

VI. Public Services and Infrastructure:

Long Point Park is located on State Route 256 directly to the west. Long Point Road terminates at Long Point Park and provides access to the Village of Geneseo. State Route 256 connects the park to Lakeville to the north and ultimately Conesus and Groveland to the south. The park has access to public water and sanitary sewer. Electricity is provided by National Grid. Telephone service is available at the Sheriff substation. There is no internet access established at this point although coverage is available in the area.

VII. Overview of Long Point Park, Planning Area and Characteristics:

Long Point Park is a 9.49 acre public park located in the Town of Geneseo. It is bordered to the north by private residences along North Point Drive, to the East by Conesus Lake, to the South by Long Point Creek and Creekside Lane and West Lake Road on the west. It includes approximately 325 feet of Lake Frontage.

Three zoning codes exist around the lake. The Lake Shore district is the area between Conesus Lake and West Lake Road. This area is mostly developed with seasonal and year-round homes. The Lake Residential District includes the west side upland parcels adjacent to West Lake Road. This area is incorporated in the Conesus Lake Watershed EPOD. The last district that incorporated Long Point Park is

the Lake Neighborhood Business District. This area includes the park and areas to the west, adjacent to Long Point Road and allows uses that will increase the functionality of Long Point Park and promote and enhance the recreational and commercial uses of the lake environment. It should be further noted that at the time of this writing the Town of Geneseo is undertaking a revision of its Zoning Code with expected completion in 2016.

VIII. Survey of Current Uses:

Current uses of the park involve mostly summer activities. Bathrooms are closed down and water turned off during the winter months from December until May. During the summer, swimming is held with lifeguard present 7 days a week from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. There is an area for hand launching non-motorized boats and 2 docks that allow fishing. The pavilion allows for private parties and grills around the park provide picnic areas. There are also 2 gazebos that can be used for private functions as well. Prior to this year there was a museum and visitor's center.

More formal activities include the Fiddlers Picnic and CLA Arts and Crafts Show and Sale. Other community organizations using the park include Geneseo Sports Boosters, Boy Scouts Troop 70, LCCOPS, Livingston County Assessors Association, Catholic Charities, SUNY Geneseo, CASA, St. Luke's, GCS Teachers, Geneseo Garden Club and the Geneseo Fire Department. SUNY Geneseo Crew Team houses their sculls at the park and holds regattas in April.

The town provides swimming from mid-June to late August. In 2015, the season began 6/5/2015 and ended 8/22/2015. A total of 6 lifeguards were hired, 4 full-time (36 hours) and 2 alternates, who worked on an on-call schedule. Beach hours were from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The range of swimmers in the water was anywhere from 0 to 198 during the 7 hour period. The range of people using the beach facilities during the same timeframe was 4-255. By and large; more people took advantage of the beach than the water. This may be related to the small swimming area (50 feet by 50 feet), poor footing and shallow depth (4.5 feet). Water and beach usage were also dependent on the weather and was more heavily used on weekends

Two major programs are hosted for at the park over the summer on an ongoing basis. One is the Conesus Lake Association Arts and Craft's festival in mid-July. This is a 2 day event that supports local craft vendor and public organizations. The other is the Fiddlers Picnic that occurs in late July or early August. According to event organizer, Howard Appell, the event draws anywhere from 800-1000 people over the daylong event. Peak attendance is around 2-3 PM and is estimated to be around 750. Kiwanis also offers a Chicken BBQ that is estimated to generate an additional 100-150 cars through the park of individuals who buy BBQ but do not stay for the music. Data gathered from a voluntary survey to support ongoing funding shows that the program draws participants predominately from Livingston and Wyoming counties, but also from Monroe, Steuben, Ontario, Erie, Wayne, Yates, Genesee, and Allegany counties as well. Many report having come to the event over several years in a row.

A. Assets

The stone-covered area of the playground measures 93' x 37'. A few new swings have been hung for the season. The toddler swings were removed because the material has cracked. They have been replaced. There is one small slide.

The restroom building is fairly new and appears to be in good condition. It measures 32' x 47'. It has no heat, so the facility cannot be used in the winter months. The entry must be barricaded or people enter and relieve themselves on the floor. The possibility of portable toilets for the winter months was suggested.

The sheriff trailer, shed and dock serve the purpose for which they are intended – to provide some storage and a base of operations for the sheriff on the lake and in the park for the summer season

The public/ fishing dock is fairly new and appears in good shape.

The new gazebo near the lake was a gift to the Town from a couple from Livonia who enjoy the park. It was new last year. There is a second gazebo at the west end of the park.

The crew team keeps a dock for launching the shells.

The life guard shed has been moved to a location near the south property line. It is now out of the way and does not block the view of the lake. It appears to be in good shape and of adequate size for storing the lifeguards' materials. It measures 12' x 8'.

The boathouse is used by the SUNY Geneseo crew team to store their racing shells. It appears to be in good shape and of adequate size for the shells. It was made longer in order to accommodate the shells. It measures 32' x 72'.

There is a garage behind the boathouse which is currently used by Boy Scouts for storage of camping supplies. They also store a trailer next to the garage. The garage appears to be in need of paint. It measures 24' x 25'.

The parking area is paved and measures approximately 268' x 105'.

The mini golf pads are still in place. They are used as surfaces for picnic tables.

The old caretaker's cottage has been removed due to deterioration. The footprint has been outlined with large rocks and small stones have been placed within the large rocks. The three octagonal picnic tables which were on the south side of the building have been placed within the rocks. On the south side of this is an older rectangular picnic table. There are plans for two new grills to be placed either side of this picnic table.

There is a garage on the north side of the park. It measures 32' x 52' and is divided into three bays. It is going to be refurbished for a museum. The old fireplace is still intact and some original light fixtures remain. Plans are to make the garage look less like a garage and use two of the bays for the museum, with new windows and doors.

The cooking pit measures 32' x 52' outside dimensions. It is fairly new and in good shape. A portion of it is available to the public for use.

The picnic pavilion measures 50' x 100'. Many of the picnic tables have been recently painted. Care was taken to remove staples from the tables prior to painting.

- B. Seasonal needs: The Park is currently closed from November to May (?); Individuals can gain access for ice fishing, skiing, snowshoeing and ice skating at their own risk. The town does not formally support any winter activities at the park. Summer activities are described above.

IX. Strengths, Liabilities and Constraints

- Strengths :
 1. Waterfront and beach allows for activities not available elsewhere in the town
 2. Bathrooms are available on site and are up to date
 3. Easy access off the road with parking
 4. Picnic shelter pavilion available on site
 5. Fire pit for BBQ available
 6. Playground with swings and slide
 7. Gazebo on waterfront and further back toward West Lake Road
 8. Size and large open spaces
 9. Horse shoe pits
 10. Sheriff trailer on site
 11. Docks- three of them for sheriff, crew team and public
 12. Relationship between town and SUNY Geneseo
 13. Volunteers and interested community members
 14. Numerous trees and shade
- Liabilities
 1. Depth of water at the beach (shallow), footing, size of beach
 2. Fire pit/BBQ, potential danger
 3. Uneven terrain in some areas
 4. Drainage- some areas are prone to temporary flooding
 5. Ash trees are susceptible to the ash borer
 6. Isolation- park located in area several miles outside the center of Village
 7. Geese pose problem
 8. Lack of visibility- people don't know it is here
 9. Activities somewhat weather dependent
 10. Loss of museum/meeting area
 11. Lack of public transportation to the area
- Constraints
 1. Government constraints exist as to park usage
 2. Park located in residential area
 3. Town does not have abundance of money for upgrades
 4. People lack time to use park

X. Interested Parties and Stakeholders

- Friends of Long Point Park
- NYSDEC
- Livingston County Planning and Health Departments
- Conesus Lake Association
- Geneseo Tourism Committee
- SUNY Geneseo
- Geneseo Garden Club
- Boy Scouts
- SUNY Crew Club
- Geneseo Conservancy
- Geneseo Planning Board
- Geneseo Central School
- Livingston County Historical Society
- Bicycle groups
- ARC/DDSO
- Lifeguards
- Office of the Aged
- Livingston County Sheriff
- Geneseo Fire Department
- Bordering communities, Livonia, Groveland and Conesus
- Rotary and Kiwanis
- Adjacent residents

XI. Plan for Public Involvement:

In the spring of 2015 the committee established a link on the Town of Geneseo Website. There were a total of 49 comment (located in Appendix B). There were 31 comments from Geneseo residents, 13 from non-residents and 5 that did not state residence. These comments were used to establish preliminary goals and objectives. In addition, meeting minutes were posted on the Town of Geneseo Website. Other methods of obtaining public involvement include focus groups, handouts, and social media such as Facebook

In September of 2015, the Long Point Park Master Plan Committee contracted with Dr Paul Scipione to conduct a public survey. Analysis of that study is included below and complete documentation is included in the Appendix C.

2016 Survey Summary:

Objective: The purpose of the study was to confirm or refute previously developed goals and recommendations. Secondly, it was to be used to assist the prioritization of recommendations in the final document

Design: This was a randomized study of active registered voters on the towns of Geneseo, Conesus, Livonia and Groveland. Prior to selections, notices were placed in the Livingston County News, the Penny Saver and local radio stations advertising the upcoming survey. A CD of all active registered voters was obtained from the Livingston County Board of Elections. The survey sample was obtained by selecting every fourth name from the list by the Town of Geneseo Assessor, who was not connected with the survey or the planning committee. Letters were then sent out on September 9, 2015 that invited selected individuals to participate in the survey and provided instructions about how to access the on-line survey tool. Approximately 1437 invitations were mailed. From this mailing, 454 usable surveys were obtained, that represented a 30.3% response rate.

Key Findings: Most of the respondents were older and lived in the area 10 years or more. The average number per household (2.62) was consistent with the county average. Only 14% of respondents had children less than 10 years of age. The survey also showed that people use the park predominantly in the summer months, followed by fall, spring and with only 9% using the park in the winter. Attractions that currently bring people to the park are the Picnic Pavilion, CLA Arts and Craft Fair and Fiddlers convention, playground and swimming.

Recreational priorities included (1) expanding the playground, (2) expanding the picnic facilities (3.) offering boat excursions, (4) enlarging the beach and (5) building an ice skating rink. Other recommendations included adding music and theater venues, summer day camp for kids, building a year round roller-skating rink.

Items ranked lowest were the purchase of near-by cottages and enlarging the parking lot.

Conclusions: Based on the results of the study, the committee removed purchase of adjoining property as a goal and as a recommendation. The committee added an objective of evaluating ways to increase utilization during the spring, fall and winter months. Other additions included addressing runoff and standing water issues, developing a plan that recognizes the size and scale of the park, and preserving historical character of the park with new building and renovation. Otherwise, the committee felt the survey accurately reflected previously developed goals, objectives and recommendations.

Study Limitations: The study had several limitations. Unfortunately, the questionnaire as revised by the committee was not the questionnaire that was posted on the survey website. The end result was that it made it difficult to evaluate several areas including a potential spray park, fitness and trails and basketball courts. In the actual survey, the spray park was listed as an existing use and the other two options were omitted.

Secondly, the sample population was limited to individuals greater than 25 years of age. The goal was to exclude college students who have not traditionally used the park (other than the crew team) and are not in town during the summer months. Twenty five may have been too high a threshold as the lower age groups seemed to be under-represented. Some of that

reflects Geneseo's population trends but we may have missed input from residents with younger children that was not necessarily reflected by older residents and grandparents.

Lastly, there were issues with accessing the survey tool, especially with older respondents. In hindsight, more explanation on the initiation letters could have increased response rate.

XII. Vision Statement:

The Town of Geneseo is committed to creating a fiscally responsible plan that preserves the natural and historic qualities of Long Point Park and provides diverse recreational activities.

The remainder of the report includes a history of Long Point Park, goals, objectives and associated recommendations for implementation. Lastly, the Master Plan Matrix delineates the priority of each objective and the anticipated timeframe need for completion.

The History was submitted per request by the Friends of Long Point Park and authored by Lore Disalvo. It provides a chronological history from the mid 1800's to the current day.

The Goals, objectives, recommendations and matrix reflect the evaluation and analysis of data gained through the surveys, interviews, online searches and group discussion.

The goals and objectives have been created to reflect the vision statement and provide a road map for carrying out the plan. The goals and objectives are organized around the following areas of concern:

- Sustainability
- Park Utilization
- Preservation of History and Education.

XIII. A History of Long Point Park

By: Lore DiSalvo and Joseph J. Ferrero

Submitted by: **Friends of Long Point Park in Livingston County**

Parks and Picnic Grounds

For over 171 years, Long Point Park on Conesus Lake in Geneseo, New York, is where people went and brought their children to picnic, play, and celebrate for generations. Long Point Park is rich in history, nostalgia, and memories with activities that have been unique, historic, and diverse while attracting people from around the country.

The Wadsworths of Geneseo

Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth (1743-1804) of Hartford, Connecticut was one of the wealthiest and most influential men of the post-Revolutionary War era. In 1788, he made the arduous trip to the Genesee Country to judge its worth, finding it richer than he ever imagined. After purchasing more than 200,000 acres along the Genesee River, Col. Wadsworth offered his young cousins, brothers James and William Wadsworth, 2000 acres of prime farmland in and around what would be Geneseo. The Wadsworth brothers acquired thousands more acres, becoming the largest landowners in Western New York. James and William were known far and wide for their philanthropy and innovative farming methods. This prominent family remains synonymous with the Genesee Valley to the present day.

Long Point

In 1844, when James Wadsworth died, he wanted to honor his brother William by dedicating over 25 acres of land on Conesus Lake to become what we now know as Long Point Cove and Long Point. In Colonel James A. McPherson's Conesus Lake Transportation Co. booklet from 1883, it is noted that James Wadsworth dedicated Long Point Grove as "a public picnic grounds for all time in memory of his 1790 2nd encampment at Lakeville en route to 'Big Tree' Geneseo from Canandaigua".

In the mid 1800s, railroads appeared almost overnight, and amusement parks built along those lines flourished. This process marked the dawn of the American amusement park industry. By 1899, 250 parks operated throughout the nation. Six years later, this number grew to 700. By 1920, more than 1,500 amusement parks bustled with a novel brand of family entertainment that included live concerts, vaudeville performances, and concessions within an attractively landscaped park. Long Point Park was part of this nationwide trend.

By the spring of 1882, excursions to Long Point were promoted by the Erie Railway Railroad and Conesus Lake Railroad Company. The trains would arrive at the Conesus Lake Station in Lakeville and then the boats and steamboats (like the McPherson later renamed Starrucca) would transport passengers to

destinations on Conesus Lake including Long Point and McPherson Point. Often, so great were the attractions of Conesus Lake and her mighty steamboats that the trains would have to run in two shifts consisting of 15 to 21 train passenger cars each.

The park became a destination location for people across western New York, often bringing crowds of over 10,000 people per day. In 1901, 20,000 people gathered at Long Point Park to attend the Livingston County Picnic there. Picnics with amusements like Merry-Go-Rounds have been documented at Long Point since 1896. Other rides such as the Helter Skelter (which was a curved slide, also referred to as the Cyclone House), Shoot the Chutes, a huge Toboggan Slide (built by the Town of Geneseo in 1886), and the Razzle-Dazzle (a giant pyramid like a teeter totter), were a few of the early rides at Long Point.

These amusements and picnic facilities attracted families from across New York State, helping Long Point to be recognized as the "first picnic ground in New York State" in 1906. In July 1906, The Livonia Gazette had an advertisement for the Erie Railway Railroad which stated "Long Point, a complete picnic resort, twenty acres of beautiful grove and acknowledged to be the first picnic grounds in the State, has been equipped with every convenience essential to entertaining large excursions. Good ball grounds, pavilions, Toboggan slide, Helter-Skelter, Circle Swing, Merry-Go-Round, etc. Church and society excursions are furnished a free stove, dishes, tables, benches, etc. Special trains will be run from Rochester connecting with the large, new, commodious steamer Conesus which carries 1,000 people and was built especially for handling large excursions. Special rates for excursions parties...call on Erie agent of address, H. T. Jaeger, general agent passenger department, Buffalo."

So popular was tourism to Conesus Lake that in 1891 presented before STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ALBANY, MARCH 25 1891. An Assembly Bill, introductory No. 51. entitled; an act to authorize Edward L. Thomas to establish and maintain a ferry across Conesus Lake from Long Point on the west side of said lake to McPherson Point on the east side of the same. But it is herewith returned without approval suggesting it should have been the County's matter by Gov David B. Hill. In 1895, an Electric Railway was even considered by the citizens of Geneseo to be built from the village to Long Point Park. (Livingston Democrat May 9, 1906).

Ice was harvested on Conesus Lake which helped make Conesus Ice Cream that was sold at Long Point Park as one of the refreshments for families to enjoy. Conesus Ice Cream was marketed in Rochester, New York and also sold at Silver Lake, New York.

By 1910, Miles Woodruff and his wife Kathryn were the Manager/Leasee of Long Point Park and the Long Point Hotel/House/Inn. Harry and Margaret Berry worked with him. Mr. Berry was a stationary steam engineer in Rochester before relocating to Long Point. He had come to Long Point with a partner to operate a carousel arriving via a steamboat at Lakeville Dock. They stayed in the Cobblestone House south of the driveway entering the park (which was the Long Point Hotel and Wadsworth home before that).

Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr. funded the building of the Conesus Lake Life Saving Corps. Station No 1 in partnership with the American Red Cross and Geneseo Normal School in 1923. This was the First Life saving station built and fitted in corporation with the American Red Cross in Livingston County NY

on Conesus Lake. Present research is leading us to believe that this station is possibly the First life saving station corp built in corporation with the American Red Cross in the United States! Also in 1923 the new large Dance Hall was built that brought in nationally known bands from across the country. It was the largest Dance Hall in the area. In 1949 the dance hall was adapted to become a popular roller skating rink.

A friend of the Wadsworth Family, Col Nathan Shiverick, had an idea of a military training camp which they experimentally ran at Long Point Park in 1922. Camp Wadsworth was established to train US Army Reserve officers (referred to as the R.O.T.C. - Reserve Officers Training Camp) from the Buffalo, Rochester, and Albany areas. The land was divided off from the picnic grounds and the dance hall area (between the creek and the Cobblestone Cottage). The Camp continued operating until 1941, when it was ended because of World War II. Camp Wadsworth became the first and last operational "Contact Camp" in the United States.

Over time, more features were added or improved to make the north end of the park more family friendly, such as improved concessions, a new Picnic Pavilion, and a miniature golf course. Carl Johnston came to Long Point in 1931 as an Auditor/Accountant, and he later became an Assistant Manager for Harry and Margaret Berry who were managing and leasing the land from the Wadsworths. During 1931 shuffleboard, archery, and the miniature golf course were added at Long Point along with later addition of a Chair-plane, Shooting Gallery and Miniature Gasoline Vehicles. The beer tent eventually became the beer garden and was improved by Carl Johnston.

Harry Berry started offering free lifesaving & swimming classes with trained lifeguards in 1924. A large float was anchored offshore for more experienced swimmers to enjoy. Colonel Tooev operated his motorboats for excursions and ran a ferry service to McPherson Point from Long Point Park.

Long Point's miniature golf course was greatly improved and renovated in 1942 and again in the 1960s. The park operated during the first two years of World War II, but as more and more local workers were drafted, the pleasure transportation was stopped, and closing was the only option. To support the war effort, Long Point Park was closed from 1943 to 1945.

Post World War II

The 1940s and 1950s marked a time of steady growth for Long Point, growth that grew on the success of another Upstate New York business: The Allan Herschell Co. Inc. Herschell manufactured carousels and other rides as early as 1883 in Tonawanda, NY. By 1945, this Buffalo area manufacturer had become the largest manufacturer of amusement rides in the world.

In 1946, Long Point Navigation Company, formerly Tooev's Boat Lines, consisted of three speed boats that reestablished a regular ferry service to McPherson Point. In 1949, Stephen and Irene LaGrou came to Long Point, bringing with them a Carousel/Merry-Go-Round with a pair of white goats. And soon thereafter, the Kiddie Speed Boat Ride was added to the children and parent's delight.

In 1950, Stephen LaGrou added the Tilt-a-Whirl, Little Dipper Roller Coaster, Rocket Ride, Kiddie Sky-fighter Ride, and Assorted Kiddie Rides from the The Allan Herschell Co. Business was so good that a new and larger carousel was purchased for \$14,250 in 1950. A carousel/merry-go-round has been the center point for Long Point Park as far back as 1896. In 1959, the Rocket Ride was sold and replaced with the Scrambler Ride in 1962. In 1958, John LaGrou brought a 1921 Big Eli Grand Mount Ferris Wheel built by the ELI Bridge Company to Long Point Park.

John and Alice LaGrou purchased the leasing rights/operations of the Park from Carl Johnston upon his retirement in 1967. John LaGrou officially took over operations on January 1, 1968. The multiple activities in the park complimented each other and provided something for everybody who came to Long Point Park. Some of the family could go get refreshments, ice cream or experience the infamous French Fried Potatoes with a splash of malt vinegar or ketchup. While others enjoyed putting on the Miniature Golf, taking a spin in the Roller Skating Rink or go for an excursion boat ride. The children could ride the rides while Mom and Dad could enjoy refreshments while socializing at the Beer Garden. Others could try their skill at Penny Arcade-Shooting Gallery, SKEE BALL, FIVE-O, 3-IN-A- LINE, Balloon Darts or have their picture taken in the Photo Booth. In the late 1940s and early 1950s you could watch a movie under the stars projected on to the back of the Concession House. All these things made some wonderful memories which continue to be passed on to future generations.

There was no admission fee, so you could go for one ride or spend the entire afternoon at the park. The locals enjoyed this park because you could bring your family there at a reasonable price, and ride all kinds of rides, and get something to eat while being in a family-friendly environment. It was also convenient to not have to travel a considerable distance to have an enjoyable and memorable afternoon or evening. It really became part of people's lives to come out and spend a day at the park or go bathing/swimming. Additionally, the Livingston County Sheriff's Department began having their annual springtime Ball/Dance at the dance hall in 1949. Later, in 1959, they also began the Annual Kiddies Days, where buses would transport thousands of children from all over Livingston County to spend the morning or afternoon riding all the rides and enjoying a free hot dog, drink and ice cream.

Another popular event was the annual Coca-Cola or "Coke" Days whereas you could get discounts on rides, food/drink, and boat excursions by bringing Coca-Cola bottle caps to use as money. The Anderson Coca-Cola Company in Dansville provided raffles and prizes.

Long Point Park was the kind of park that you could bring your family to and feel safe. The activities and fun created memories that were shared for generations. It was a wholesome park for young and older children and families. The park became known for inexpensive, clean, fun, family entertainment that was close to home. It became a part of the local fabric and was known for decades as the "Playground of the Genesee Country".

Long Point Park was still being leased out until Reverdy Wadsworth's sudden death in 1970. On November 2, 1973, Mr. and Mrs. John LaGrou purchased the park from the Wadsworth Estate.

On May 26, 1976 the “Memorabilia Building” was officially opened at Long Point Park. An amazing project initiated by the Conesus Lake Association with permission of John and Alice LaGrou to convert the first enclosed Dance Hall building of 1898 into a temporary museum in celebrating the Bicentennial. The east side of the building was filled with historical antiques, treasured items and pictures. It attracted over 10,000 visitors in the five months it was open that summer. The building of itself has an amazing and rich history. In 1898 it was built as the first enclosed Dance Hall when Matthew Tooley was Manager/Leasee and in 1923 it was converted into a Bathhouse for Camp Wadsworth's Officers. After WW II it housed the BINGO Game until 1951 when the game was outlawed by the Johnston Act. Then it was used by Jim Meagher the “Carnival Barker” for the FIVE-O Game until it moved to the new Roller Rink/Dance Hall in 1958 . The building was used for storage until it became the “Memorabilia Building” for the Bicentennial. Currently the SUNY Geneseo Crew Team uses the building for their activities.

Throughout the sunny days and warm moonlit nights on Conesus Lake, many people were able to share a ride on the carousel, or hold hands during couples roller skating. Lore and Vince DiSalvo (Honorary Long Point Historians) came together after roller skating at Long Point.

The Fire

On July 23, 1988, a fire devastated Long Point Park, destroying many of the buildings. The Roller Skating Rink /Dance Hall with the attached structures housing the FIVE-0 and SKEE BALL Games were destroyed. Sadly the historic Concessions House of 1880 with attached Arcade-Shooting Gallery was partially burned but the entire structure had to be razed. Thankfully the amusement rides escaped the fire and they were sold by auction in 1990.

Without fire insurance, the LaGrou family could not afford to rebuild the park. John and Alice were planning to retire and had received an offer from a land developer. Instead, the LaGrou family was able to negotiate to sell the land to the Town of Geneseo. The town saw that this park was valuable to the community, as the last public access to Conesus Lake on West Lake Road (with other access points at Vitale Park on the north end, and the boat launch on the east side), and the only permitted location for the general public to swim was Long Point Park. Thankfully, through the efforts of Geneseo's Town Supervisor, Walter Kingston Jr., the town was able to establish Long Point as a public park and to preserve public access on the west side of Conesus Lake.

On June 1, 1990, the LaGrou family transferred the property to the town of Geneseo. Sadly, John and Alice LaGrou and family had to bid a fond farewell to the park that two generations of their family helped to create over the last 41 years. Because of their devotion and the devotion of those before them, so many people young and old still have treasured memories. Many thanks go to Walter Kingston Jr., John and Alice LaGrou, the Town of Geneseo, Hop Manapol, and all who supported the efforts to keep Long Point Park a public park for others to enjoy and to honor James Wadsworth's request and legacy.

A New Beginning

Improvements to the park, funded by the town, included new bathroom facilities, and a barbecue cooking pit donated by Geneseo Kiwanis Club in memory of deceased member Ted McCauley. The wide open lawns of the park, where the buildings once stood, serve as open space available to the public, where the annual Fiddler's Picnic, Cops for Kids Day, and the Conesus Lake Association Arts and Crafts Festival.

Hop Manapol, a member of the Geneseo Town Board, took it upon himself to spearhead the beautification of Long Point Park in 2004, making the park a more attractive and tranquil location for families to enjoy. Hop and assistance from the Geneseo Garden Club members, have allowed the beautiful gardens at the park to flourish.

With limited resources, Hop was able to attract people to the park again, using the grounds for receptions, reunions, organization meetings, weddings and relaxation as it was when the park was founded. Hop also recognized the great history of the park, and in 2008 he started gathering artifacts from Long Point Park and around Conesus Lake. He created a museum at the former LaGrou Family cottage, renamed in memory of Walter Kingston Jr. Nearby schools started to take field trips to Long Point to learn about the history of the park and experience its beauty.

In 2015, the Town Board of Geneseo formed a Long Point Park Master Plan Committee to develop a plan for the future of Long Point. The Committee was inaugurated in January of 2015, and finished its work in December of 2015.

Please note: the information here is accurate as of the March 23, 2016. New historical discoveries are found each day, which could alter this posted history. For the most accurate and complete information on Long Point Park History, we suggest that you speak with the Town Of Geneseo's honorary Long Point historian – Lore DiSalvo

XIV. Goals

The goals and objectives of the Long Point Park Master Plan are organized around the following community concerns:

- Sustainability
- Park Utilization
- Preservation, History and Education

These goals and objectives are further delineated below:

A. Sustainability

GOAL: Maintain Long Point Park as a Town Park According to State Guidelines

OBJECTIVES:

1. Recognize Long Point Park as a valuable community asset
2. Develop a 1-15 year Long Point Master Plan

GOAL: Make Long Point Park Financially Self Sustaining

OBJECTIVES:

1. Review budgetary constraints and trends
2. Develop a long range partnering and fund-raising plan

Goal: Incorporate Environmental Best Practices

OBJECTIVES:

1. Participate in the Conesus Lake Watershed Plan
2. Effective management of storm water run-off
3. Use recycled products whenever possible

B. PARK UTILIZATION

GOAL: Create a Multiuse facility and environment

OBJECTIVES:

1. Preserve the aesthetic qualities of the park
2. Inventory trees for structural integrity and viability
3. Consider building a year round facility to hold museum and provide community gathering space

GOAL: Increase Park Utilization

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide activities that are cross generation and promote health and fitness
2. Partner with local community summer and recreational programs
3. Develop strategies to increase park utilization during spring, fall and winter months

GOAL: Maintain and Improve Water-Front Activities

OBJECTIVES:

1. Recognize swimming as a community asset and integral part of the park
2. Expand the variety of water-front usages and activities

GOAL: Study and Insure Safety of the Park

OBJECTIVES:

1. Ensure safe and appropriate recreational gathering facilities

GOAL: Make Long Point Park a Destination Location

OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase visibility and awareness of Long Point Park in the Community

C. PRESERVATION OF HISTORY AND NATURE EDUCATION

GOAL: Preserve the Park History

1. Recognize and promote activities that educate and inform visitors of the park and local history
2. Promote nature education with assistance of local organizations such as the conservancy or Audubon Society

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XV. Recommendations

A. SUSTAINABILITY

GOAL: Maintain Long Point Park as a town park according to state guidelines

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Obtain commitment from town and county officials to maintain use as park in perpetuity
2. Conduct legal review of permitted uses to guide future use
3. Investigate insurance policies in effect for the park that may limit uses
4. Develop a 10-15 year Long Point Master Plan, review and update plan every 5 years

GOAL: Make Long Point Park Financially Self -Sustaining

RECOMMEDATIONS:

1. Investigate sources of grant money for specific projects
2. Partner with the village and other near-by towns such as Livonia and Conesus for cost sharing
3. Partner with local groups, businesses and organizations to fund or sponsor specific projects
4. Update the park policy , rules and fee structures
5. Develop a fund-raising plan
6. Provide a mechanism to allow donations, establish a donation policy
7. Investigate the cost/benefits of having a town recreation department or central oversight of park projects and events
8. Create a steering committee made up of government representatives, local citizens and stakeholders to make budget recommendations and implement the LPPK master plan

GOAL: Incorporate Environmental Best Practices

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Ensure policies that avoid introduction of invasive species
2. Land care practices that prevent debris and grass from entering the lake
3. Continue carry in carry out policy, pet station for animal waste
4. Partner with the health department to monitor water quality and address blue-algae when appropriate
5. Portable toilet in off season to decrease waste entering lake

6. Public education to promote lake friendly practices
7. Develop a plan for cleaning accumulated aquatic plants and algae along the shoreline
8. Develop a plan for dealing with unanticipated massive fish kill and/or infestations
9. Develop and implement a plan to decrease runoff and increase infiltration and mitigate standing water and flooding of neighbor property

B. PARK UTILIZATION

GOAL: Create a Multiuse facility, environment

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Invest in the services of a landscape architect with expertise in parkland
2. Develop a landscaping plan that preserves large areas of open space, buffers noise and recognizes the limits of size and space of the park
3. Investigate visual shielding of Sheriff trailer and storage area
4. Identify vulnerable ash trees for harvest
5. Develop a re-forestation plan
6. Investigate NYS grant monies to assist in dealing with Ash Borer
7. Investigate relocation of equipment and renovation of existing garage/ Beer Garden
8. Paint south side garage
9. Investigate partnering with BOCES to build a new facility
10. Maintain relationships with Genesee Valley Educational Partnership Career and Technical Programs

GOAL: Increase Park Utilization

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Have more family centered activities
2. Determine appropriate placement and size of playground and update to accommodate multiple age groups
3. Offer some form of entertainment such as movies, concerts or dances
4. Provide bike racks/station for bike groups and involve in planning process
5. Offer food and concession stands
6. Bring back the mini golf and rides
7. Develop walking and/or fitness trails, basket ball courts
8. Offer educational nature programs
9. Investigate offering roller-skating
10. Investigate boat tours
11. Encourage more community sponsored activities
12. Partner with local community summer and recreational programs
13. Update the pavilion by adding rolling doors or curtains to extend the usable season within historical guidelines

GOAL: Maintain and improve water-front activities

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Obtain commitment from town and local officials to maintain swimming/water related activities
2. Investigate ways to improve the swimming area (size and/or depth, additional sand, water slides)
3. Investigate the feasibility of enclosing swimming area with docks
4. Add wading area to swimming area for toddlers
5. Explore ways to improve fishing opportunities
6. Offer boat launching for hand-launched craft
7. Investigate kayak rental/storage opportunities
8. Offer ice skating on the lake or by flooding the lawn
9. Expand swimming activities ie. Aqua aerobics, swimming lessons
10. Institute a program of weed management if swimming area enlarged

GOAL: Study and insure safety of the park

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Make the park handicap accessible
2. Inventory and review the structural integrity of the buildings on site and establish an ongoing maintenance plan
3. Develop a plan that maximizes utilization of existing facilities
4. Update picnic facilities such as tables and grills
5. Maintain pavilion netting
6. Review and update signage
7. Add portable bathroom facilities in off season months
8. Delineate traffic flow patterns especially to water front

GOAL: Make Long Point Park a Destination Location

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Poll town and village residents about current and future uses
2. Identify what makes us different and educate residents to the benefits of visiting the park
3. Develop promotional literature, marketing strategy
4. Partner with Geneseo and Livingston County tourist initiatives
5. Investigate addition of more picnic shelters to foster family celebratory events
6. Attend specialized training on developing a destination location
7. Expand website to include Long Point Park events

C. PRESERVATION OF HISTORY AND NATURE EDUCATION

GOAL: Preserve the Park History

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create a visitor center/museum
2. Investigate methods to ensure new buildings structurally reflect history of the park
3. Include LPPK history in museum and on-site around the park
4. Outreach to volunteer organizations to run the museum and other activities
5. Seek historic landmark/registry destination
6. Determine secondary storage site for museum artifacts during off season months

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Town of Geneseo
Long Point Master Plan

A. Sustainability

Goal	Objective	Recommendation	Legal/Zoning Review	Timeframe	Responsible party	Priority	Cost
Maintain Long Point Park as a town park according to the state guidelines	1 Recognize LPPK as a valuable community asset	1 Obtain commitment from town and county officials to maintain use as a park in perpetuity	Town Attorney	Short	Town Board (TB)	High	Minimal
	2 Develop a 10-15 year Long Point Park Master Plan	2 Conduct a legal review of permitted uses to guide future land use	Town Attorney	Short	TB	High	Moderate
		2 Investigate Insurance policies in effect for the park that <u>may limit</u> uses	Town Attorney, Insurance agency	Short	TB	High	Moderate
		2 Develop a 10-15 year Long Point Master Plan, review and update plan every 5 years	County PB Review, Public hearing, SEQR	Short	Steering Committee (SC)	High	Moderate
Make the park financially self-sustaining	1 Review budgetary constraints and trends	1 Investigate sources of grant money for specific projects	Town Attorney	Intermediate	TB, County, SC	Medium	Minimal

	2 Develop long range partnering and fund-raising plan	2 Partner with the village and other near-by towns such as Livonia and Conesus for cost sharing	Town Attorney	Intermediate	TB	Low	Minimal to moderate
		2 Partner with local groups, businesses and organizations to fund-sponsor specific projects	Town Attorneys	Short-Intermediate	TB/SC	Medium	Minimal to moderate
		2 Update the park policies, rules and fee structures	None	Short	SC/TB	High	Minimal
		2 Develop a fund-raising plan	Town Attorney	Intermediate	SC, TB	Medium	Minimal
		2 Provide a mechanism to allow donations, establish a donation policy	Town Attorney	Intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Minimal to moderate
		2 Investigate the cost benefits of having a town recreational department or central oversight of park projects and events	None	Long	TB	Low	Minimal
		2 Create a steering committee made up of government representatives, local citizens and stake holders	None	Short	TB	High	Minimal

		to make budget recommendations and implement the LPPK master plan					
Incorporate Environmental Best Practices	1 Participate in the Conesus Lake Watershed Plan	1 Ensure policies that avoid introduction of invasive species	None	Short	TB, county	High & Ongoing	Moderate to High
		1 Land care practices that prevent debris and grass from entering the lake	None	Done	TB, county, SC	High & Ongoing	Minimal
		1 Continue carry in , carry out policy, pet station for animal waste	None	Done	TB	High & ongoing	Minimal
		1 Partner with the Health Department to monitor water quality and address blue-algae when appropriate	None	Short	Supervisor	High & ongoing	Minimal
		1 Portable Toilet in off season to decrease waste entering the lake	None	Short	TB	High	Moderate
		1 Public education to promote lake friendly practices	None	Intermediate	SC	Medium	Minimal

		1 Develop a plan for cleaning accumulated aquatic plants and algae along the shoreline	None	Intermediate	TB, Highway dept (HWY)	High	Minimal
		1 Develop a plan for dealing with unanticipated massive fish kill or other infestations	County Review	Intermediate	TB, HWY	High	Moderate to high
	2 Effectively manage of storm water runoff	2 Develop and implement a plan to decrease runoff and increase infiltration and mitigate standing water and flooding of neighbor property -	Town Engineer, County Review	Intermediate	TB	High	Moderate to Very High
	3 Use recycled products whenever possible						

B. Park Utilization

Create a multiuse facility/environment	1 Preserve aesthetic qualities of the park	1 Invest in the services of a landscape Architect with expertise in parkland	None	Short	TB/SC	High	Moderate to high	
		1 Develop a landscaping plan that preserves large areas of open space, buffers noise and recognizes limits in size and space of the park	None	Short	TB/SC	High	Moderate	
		1 Investigate visual shielding of Sheriff trailer and storage area	None	Long	SC, TB, county	Low	Moderate	
	2 Inventory Trees for structural integrity and viability	2 Identify vulnerable ash trees for harvest	2 Identify vulnerable ash trees for harvest	None	Short	HWY, SC	High	Moderate to high
		2 Develop a re-forestation plan	2 Develop a re-forestation plan	None	Intermediate	To be determined	High	Moderate to high
		2 Investigate NYS grant monies to assist in dealing with Ash Borer	2 Investigate NYS grant monies to assist in dealing with Ash Borer	County Review	Short	TB	High	Minimal to moderate

	3 Consider building year round facility to hold museum and provide community gathering place	3 Investigate relocation of equipment and renovation of existing garage/Beer Garden	None	Short	SC/TB	High	Minimal
		3 Paint south side garage if remaining	None	Short	TB, HWY, volunteers	High	Minimal
		3 Investigate partnering with BOCES to build new facility	Town Attorney	Long	TB/SC	Low	Minimal
		3 Maintain relationships with the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership Career and Technical Programs	None	Long	SC	Low	Minimal
Increase park utilization	1 Provide activities that are cross generational and promote health and fitness	1 Have more family centered activities	None	Intermediate	SC	Medium	Minimal to moderate
		1 Determine appropriate placement of and size of playground an update to accommodate multiple age groups	Town Attorney	Short	SC/TB	High	High to very high

		1 Offer some form of entertainment such as movies, concerts or dances	None	Long	SC	Medium	Moderate to high
		1 Provide bike racks/station for bike groups and involve in the planning process	None	Intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate
		1 Offer food and concession stands	Town Attorney	Long	SC/TB	Low	Minimal to moderate
		1 Bring back the mini golf and rides	Town Attorney	Long	SC/TB	Low	Moderate
		1 Develop walking trails, fitness trails, basketball court	None	Short to intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate to high
		1 Offer educational nature programs	None	Long	SC	Medium	Minimal
		1 Investigate offering roller skating	None	Long	SC/TB	Low	Moderate to high
		1 Investigate boat tours	None	Short to intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate to high

		1 Encourage more community sponsored events	None	Long	TB	Low	Moderate to High
	2 Partner with local community summer and recreational programs	2 Partner with local community summer recreation programs	None	Long	SC/TB	Medium	Minimal to moderate
	3 Develop strategies to increase park utilization in the spring, summer and fall	3 Update the pavilion by adding rolling doors or curtains to extend the usable season within historical guidelines	None	Intermediate	TB	Medium	Moderate

Maintain and improve waterfront activities	1 Recognize swimming as an community asset and integral part of the park	1 Obtain commitment from town and local officials to maintain swimming/water related activities	Town Attorney	Short	TB	High	Minimal
	2 Expand the variety of waterfront usages and activities	2 Investigate ways to improve the swimming area (size, depth, additional sand, water slides)	County Health Dept Review	Short	SC/TB	High	Moderate to high

		2 Investigate the feasibility of enclosing the swimming area with docks	County HD	Short	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate
		2 Add wading area to swimming area for toddlers	County Health Dept	Long	SC/TB	Low	Moderate
		2 Explore ways to improve fishing opportunities	None	Intermediate	SC	Medium	Minimal
		2 Offer boat launching for hand –launched craft	County review, Town Attorney	Short	TB	High	Minimal to moderate
		2 Investigate offering kayak and boat rental/storage opportunities	Town Attorney	Intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Minimal
		2 Offer ice skating on the lake or by flooding the lawn	Town Attorney	Long	TB	Low	Minimal to moderate
		2 Expand swimming activities- aqua-aerobics, swimming lessons	Town Attorney	Intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate

		2 Institute program of weed management if swimming area is enlarged	County HD	Intermediate	TB, HWY	High	Moderate
Study and ensure safety and security of the park	Ensure safe and appropriate recreational and gathering facilities	Make the park handicap accessible	None	Ongoing	TB	High	Minimal
		Inventory and review the structural integrity of the buildings on the site & establish ongoing maintenance plan	None	Done	SC/HD	Done	Minimal
		Develop plan that maximizes utilization of existing facilities	None	Intermediate	SC	High	Minimal
		Update picnic facilities such as tables and grills	None	Short	TB	High	Moderate
		Maintain pavilion netting	None	Ongoing	TB	High	Moderate
		Review and update signage	None	Intermediate	SC,HWY,TB	Medium	Moderate

		Add portable bathroom facilities in off season months	None	Short	TB	High	Moderate
		Delineate traffic flow patterns especially to water front	None	Intermediate	HWY, TB	Done	Minimal
Make Long Point Park a destination location	Increase visibility and awareness of Long Point Park in the community	Poll town and local residents about current and future uses	None	Done	SC	Done	Moderate
		Identify what makes us different and educate residents to the benefits of visiting the park	None	Ongoing	SC	Done	Minimal
		Develop promotional package and marketing strategy	None	Intermediate	SC	Medium	Minimal
		Partner with Geneseo and Livingston County tourist initiatives	None	Intermediate	SC	High	Minimal
		Investigate addition of more picnic shelters to foster family and celebratory events (weddings)	None	Intermediate	SC/TB	Medium	Moderate

		Attend specialized training on development of destination location	None	Intermediate	SC	Medium	Minimal
		Expand Geneseo website to include Long Point Park Events	None	Short	TB, Town Clerk	High	Minimal

C. Preservation of History and Awareness

Preserve Park History	1 Recognize and promote activities that educate and inform visitors of park and local history	1 Create a visitor center/museum	Multiple	Long	SC/TB	Medium to High	Very High
		1 Investigate methods to ensure new buildings structurally reflect the history of the park	None	Long	SC	High	Moderate
		1 Include LPPK history in museum and on-site around the park	None	Ongoing	SC	Medium	Moderate
		1 Outreach to volunteer organizations to run the museum and other activities	None	Long	SC	Medium	Minimal

		1 Seek historic landmark/registry destination	None	Intermediate	SC/TB/ FLLPK	Medium	Minimal
		1 Determine secondary storage site for museum artifacts during off season months	None	Ongoing	SC/TB	Done	Minimal
	2 Promote nature education with assistance of local organizations such as the conservancy or Audubon Society		None	Ongoing	SC/TB	Medium	Minimal

Key

Legal and Zoning:

County PB = County Planning Board
 SEQR = State Environment Quality Review
 County HD = County Health Department

Responsible Party:

TB = Town Board
 SC = Steering Committee
 HWY = Highway Department
 FLLPK = Friends of Long Point Park of Livingston County

Costs:

Minimal = < \$1,000
 Moderate = \$1,001-\$7,500
 High = \$7,501-\$15,000
 Very High = > \$15,001

Time Frame:

Short = 6 months to 1 year
 Intermediate = 1-2 years
 Long = 2-5 years or more