City of Canandaigua

the Chosen Spot

PARKS INVENTORY AND

MASTER PLAN

DRAFT

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Purpose

A park is defined as an area of land, usually in a largely natural state, for the enjoyment of the public, having facilities for rest and recreation, often owned, set apart, and managed by a city, state or nation.[1] However, parks provide much more than greenspace and recreation but offer a sense of community and improve quality of life. In many ways communities' parks define the community. Nevertheless, a park can quickly transform from a community asset to become a liability. In order to prevent this transformation a plan to maintain, restore and upgrade parks must be in place. This document is intended to assist the City Council, City staff and residents as a planning tool for the community's parks and recreational facilities. This plan includes a description of each park owned, maintained or shared by the City of Canandaigua and is outlined to include all of the amenities and facilities provided at each park, plans for repair or replacement, and plans/ideas for additional amenities or facilities. Cost estimates for any proposed amenities and upgrades are not included in this plan. The proposed amenities and upgrades will be included in the Capital Budget and Plan. It should be noted that the additional amenities or facilities listed were developed without direct community input and are intended to be a conversation starter for the community.

Parks Overview

The City of Canandaigua is fortunate to have thirteen (13) parks that are enjoyed by residents and visitors. The City's parks include:

1. Atwater Meadows Park
2. City Pier Park
3. Frank Baker Park
4. Gibson Street Park
5. Jefferson Memorial Park
6. Kershaw Park
7. Lagoon Park
8. Lakefront Park
9. Northeast Park
10. Sonnenberg Park
11. Telyea Street Tot Lot
12. The Commons
13. Triangle Park

Dog Park

The community has shown an interest in establishing a membership dog park in the City where dogs may safely play, socialize and exercise. The dog park concept began as a grass roots effort initiated by a resident-formed volunteer group, Canandaigua Canine Campus (CCC). It is now a city initiative utilizing the group to provide well-researched input into the design of a dog park, create a business plan and fundraise when the concept becomes a project. Several locations for a dog park have been considered and rejected due to size (CCC estimates the need for about two acres), neighbor concerns, environmental issues, and/or estimated costs. At this time, there is no city-owned land that can accommodate a dog park. A privately owned parcel may need to be donated or purchased to move forward. Canandaigua

[1] http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/park

Canine Campus has continued to look for a location and has made a public appeal through the media and within its group to uncover any and all options not yet identified.

Dog parks are the fastest growing urban park category nationwide. Western New York has several parks (Rochester, Buffalo, Liverpool, Ithaca, Binghamton, Corning, Elmira and Amherst) and many more being planned (Farmington, Geneva and Auburn).

Comprehensive Plan – Parks and Recreation

The 2013 City of Canandaigua Comprehensive Plan listed the Parks and Recreation goal:
Provide a wide range of active and passive recreational uses in a manner that features and complements the Canandaigua environment.
This goal is further defined into five recommendations:

1. Expand public programs offered in existing city parks.
2. Expand winter activities in the parks, specifically ice skating.
3. Explore the feasibility of an intermunicipal sports complex.
4. Continue to expand intermunicipal cooperation of parks and recreational programs.
5. Maintain the defining characteristics of the city's historic parks.

Park Rules and Regulations

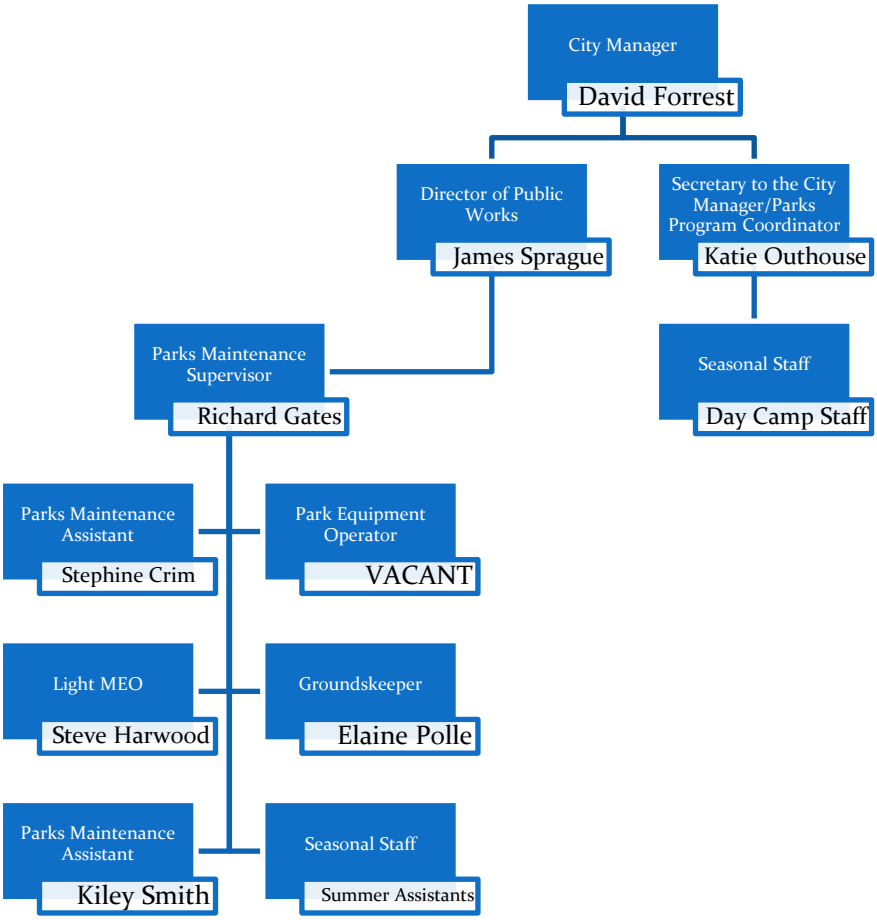
City Code Chapter 519 Parks and Recreation Areas establishes the hours of operation, rules and regulations for all of the City's parks. A copy of Chapter 519 is attached to this plan as Appendix A.

Parks and Recreation Department

The City of Canandaigua Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Department) is responsible for administering recreation programs, maintaining the parks, up keeping two cemeteries, and the planting and care of City trees along streets and in parks. The Parks Department strives to provide accessible green space and enjoyable programs in all seasons for the community and its visitors. The Department's goals are to:

- Create a positive relationship between staff and the public through mutual respect and cooperation;
- Provide opportunities for relaxation, experiential learning and socialization to enhance personal growth and well-being;
- Continuously improve the quality and safety of park facilities and services.

The Parks Department is currently a division of the Department of Public Works; however, programs are coordinated through the City Manager's Office by the Secretary to the City Manager. Below is an organizational chart of the Parks Department.


City Manager
David Forrest
Director of Public Works
James Sprague
Secretary to the City Manager/Parks Program Coordinator
Katie Outhouse
Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Richard Gates
Seasonal Staff
Day Camp Staff
Parks Maintenance Assistant
Stephine Crim
Park Equipment Operator
VACANT
Light MEO
Steve Harwood
Groundskeeper
Elaine Polle
Parks Maintenance Assistant
Kiley Smith
Seasonal Staff
Summer Assistants

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	Park Amenities	Atwater Meadows Park	City Pier	Frank Baker Park	Gibson Street Park	Jefferson Memorial Park	Kershaw Park	Lagoon Park	Lakefront Park	Northeast Park	Sonnenberg Park	Telyea Street Tot Lot	The Commons	Triangle Park
Access	Parking		X	X		X	X		X	X	X		X	
	Bus Stop					X								
	Connected to Sidewalks		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
	Bike Rack		X	X		X	X[2]		X		X		X	
Utilities & Services	Public Restroom		X	X		X[1]	X			X	X[1]			
	Drinking Fountain(s)		X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
	Lights		X	X		X	X				X		X	
	Dog Waste Bag Dispenser		X	X		X	X		X	X	X			
	Concession						X							
Picnic & Event Areas	Tables		X	X		X	X		X		X	X	X	
	Grills			X		X	X		X		X			
	Building/Inside Area			X[1]		X[1]					X[1]			
	Pavilion			X			X							
	Gazebo						X							
Sports	Vollyball Court					X					X			
	Basketball Court(s)			X		X					X	X		
	Baseball/Softball Field(s)					X					X			
	Football, Soccer, Lacrosse, Rugby Field(s)			X						X				
	Tennis/Pickelball Court(s)			X							X			
Exercise & Play	Playground			X		X	X				X	X		
	Swing Set			X		X					X	X		
	Swimming Area						X							
	Skate Park					X								
Liesure Activities	Fishing Pier/Outlook(s)						X	X	X					
	Small Craft Boat Launch						X		X					
	Boat Dock(s)								X					
	Benches		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		
	Walking Trail(s) OR Walkways	X		X			X	X	X		X			
	Public Art Space (Stage)												X	
MISC	Momument					X								X
	Statue						X				X			

Atwater Meadows Park

Atwater Meadows Park is an 18 acre forested park located on West Lake Drive (767 West Lake Drive) on the City's southern border with the Town of Canandaigua.

Originally, Atwater Meadows Park was purchased by New York State via the State Finger Lakes Parks Commission in 1968 with the intent on building a boat launching facility. However, the City of Canandaigua, Town of Canandaigua and Ontario County opposed the site due to traffic and ecological concerns. The City acquired the park after negotiating with the State Finger Lakes Parks Commission to exchange Red Jacket Park, now the New York State Marine Park, which already had a boat launch leased to the State Finger Lakes Parks Commission.

It should be noted that part of the park includes a ten (10) foot permanent easement for a dock, mooring facilities and a path. The permanent easement, which is associated with the property located at 861 West Lake Road, was included with the transfer from the State Finger Lakes Parks Commission as the State Finger Lakes.

Atwater Meadows Park is open to the public from 6:00 AM to sunset year round.

Park Amenities
Atwater Meadows Park is largely undeveloped, but does have some natural trails within the park.

Park Requests
Atwater Meadows Park is not very accessible as it lacks a parking area and is not connected to the City sidewalk network. Connection the city sidewalk network and/or the addition of a small parking area would improve the access to the park. West Lake Road is also heavily traveled by bikers and the park could also improve access with a bike rack. Once at the park visitors could benefit from a defined trail network and possibly small craft launch and/or small fishing piers. These amenities would help to provide another location for residents to enjoy the natural beauty of Canandaigua.

New Amenities

- Connection to Sidewalk Network
- Small Parking Area
- Bike Rack
- Defined Trail Network
- Small Craft Launch
- Small Fishing Piers

Capital Maintenance
None at this time.

City Pier Park

The City Pier is located off Lakeshore Drive. The City Pier serves as a home to a concentration of historic boathouses. The City Pier is open to the public from 5:00 AM to 9:00 PM from October 31st – April 30th and 5:00 AM to 11:00 PM from May 1st to October 30th.

Park Amenities
The City Pier provides a scenic view of Canandaigua Lake, fishing, temporary boat docks (3), seasonal restroom, drinking fountain and parking. There are also five (5) picnic tables, thirteen (13) benches and seven (7) garbage cans throughout the park.

Park Requests
Due to space constraints the City Pier cannot add many amenities unless parking and/or street changes are made. The park could potentially be expanded in the future by purchasing one of the two private marinas that are adjacent to the park should one be for sale in the future; however this prospect is unlikely. The brick walkway around the circle is in poor condition and is a potential tripping hazard. Some of the bricks have been removed by visitors and thrown into the lake. A stamped concrete walk (similar to Niagara Street) to replace the bricks is needed. City Pier also hosts food vendors that currently occupy parking spots. Vendors have requested a designated spot within the park which will allow for more free parking spaces.

New Amenities
- Possible purchase of an adjacent marina should one become available.
- Additional Picnic Tables
- Bike Rack
- Garbage/Recycling Containers
- Vendor Designated Spot

Capital Maintenance
- Restrooms
- Roadway
- Stamped Concrete Walk (Replace brick walkway)

Frank Baker Park

Frank Baker Park (Baker Park) consists of 23 acres of park land and facilities on Buffalo Street. Baker Park is commonly divided into two distinct sections: Upper Baker and Lower Baker. There is no exact divide between Upper and Lower Baker, but the distinguishing characteristic is the difference in topography that occurs around the playground area.

Baker Park is a great asset to the community as evidenced by its heavy use year round. The park has convenient parking and many amenities that can be enjoyed by all ages. The park is used for special events (5K races), family gatherings, and general recreation and play. It is a host to one of the City's summer day camps. It also serves as the home to the Canandaigua Area Soccer League (CASL) an independent sports organization which practices and plays games on the fields available at both Lower and Upper Baker. During the winter months, hills of Baker Park are used for snow sledding.

Baker Park is open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM from October 31st to April 30th and from 6:00 AM to 10:00 PM from May 1st to October 30th.

Park Amenities
Baker Park has a one (1) mile walking trail/jogging path that loops around the park and connects to Holiday Lane and Buffalo Street. Along the path are many benches and in several locations there are grills and picnic tables available for use.

Baker Park may be best known, however, for its sports facilities. The park has two basketball courts, four tennis courts (two of which are also lined for pickleball), soccer fields and a football/rugby field. There are also backstops that still exist, as the park once served as a host for youth baseball. The backstops could be used for an unofficial baseball/softball field or to reestablish a field(s) in the future. During the winter months, these areas are used by cross country skiers.
Baker Park also has a large playground that is popular among families. A pavilion and small indoor space is located near the playground. The pavilion as well as the indoor space can be rented for events and/or picnics. There are also seasonal restrooms and drinking fountains.

Park Requests
The original plan for the park included the construction of a pavilion at Upper Baker near the parking lot. This area was also considered for the location of a dog park, but due to neighborhood opposition was ultimately ruled an unsuitable location. Maintenance of the existing facilities is a necessary. The tennis/pickle ball and basketball courts were reconstructed in 2008, but require repainting approximately every five (5) years. The most recent repainting was completed in 2015. The playground was installed in 2005. The typical useful life of playground equipment is 15-20 years; however the overall condition and current playground regulations dictate replacement. A new playground should be planned for 2025. The

indoor area is uninviting, offers no amenities and has an intuitional feel. Further the restrooms are in need of updating for energy efficiency and aesthetics. Several surrounding communities have updated and inviting indoor spaces for residents to rent for events such as birthday parties and family gatherings. Many runners/joggers use the trail for exercise. Similar trails in other communities have exercise/workout stations which could also be a welcomed addition to Baker Park.

New Amenities or Upgrade

- Pavilion for Upper Baker
- Renovation of Indoor Area and Restrooms
- Exercise/Workout Stations

Capital Maintenance

- Repaint of Tennis/Pickleball and Basketball Courts (2020)
- Replace Playground (2025)
- Upper Parking Area (2016)
- Lower Parking Area
- Trail

Gibson Street Park

This one (1) acre park is located at the end of Park Street along Gibson Street (110 Gibson Street).

Park Amenities
Gibson Street Park is a passive park providing green space to the area. The small park has four benches that surround a landscaped center.

Park Requests
The park is limited by its size and surroundings as to the amenities that it can offer. With that said, a community garden might be a nice addition to the neighborhood. It could also be a location of community chess/checker tables.

New Amenities or Upgrade

- Community Garden
- Community Chess/Checker Tables

Capital Maintenance

- Benches

Jefferson Memorial Park

Jefferson Memorial Park, more commonly known as Jefferson Park, is 8 acres situated on Jefferson Avenue and Tillotson Street. Jefferson Park is open from 6:00 AM to Sunset year round.

Park Amenities
Jefferson Park features the City's skate park which was constructed in 2010 utilizing part of the parking lot. The park also features a heated multi-purpose room that can be rented, seasonal restrooms, a basketball court, a volleyball court, baseball/softball fields and a playground. The larger of the two baseball/softball fields has lights that can be rented to allow for evening games.

Park Requests
The park has limited space for additional amenities. The basketball court requires repainting every five (5) years with the most recent repainting taking place in 2015. The playground equipment was installed in 2007. The typical useful life of playground equipment is 15-20 years; however the overall condition and current playground regulations should dictate replacement. A new playground should be planned for 2027. The skate park that was constructed in 2010 is beginning to show wear and tear and will need to be repaired which is planned for in 2016. One of the proposed upgrades to the skate park is to have the park painted by a professional graffiti artist and then covered with an anti-graffiti coating. The park is anticipated to annex 195 Tillotson Street which could provide space to expand the skate park in the future or with the addition of adjacent property a dog park. There have also been requests for picnic tables and benches. The indoor area is uninviting, offers no amenities and has an intuitional feel. Further the restrooms are in need of updating for energy efficiency and aesthetics. Several surrounding communities have updated and inviting indoor spaces for residents to rent for events such as birthday parties and family gatherings.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Picnic Tables
- Benches
- Renovation of Indoor Area and Restrooms
- Expand Skate Park

Capital Maintenance
- Repaint Basketball Court (2020)
- Replace Playground (2027)
- Repair Skate Park
- Parking Area

Kershaw Park

If there was a flagship park of Canandaigua, Kershaw Park would be it. This cherished community asset is 9 acres and located on the north shore of Canandaigua Lake along Lakeshore Drive. Kershaw Park was redeveloped in 1996-1997, but was originally developed with fill between 1920 and 1936. The park provides visitors and residents an area to enjoy one of the regions greatest natural resources, Canandaigua Lake.

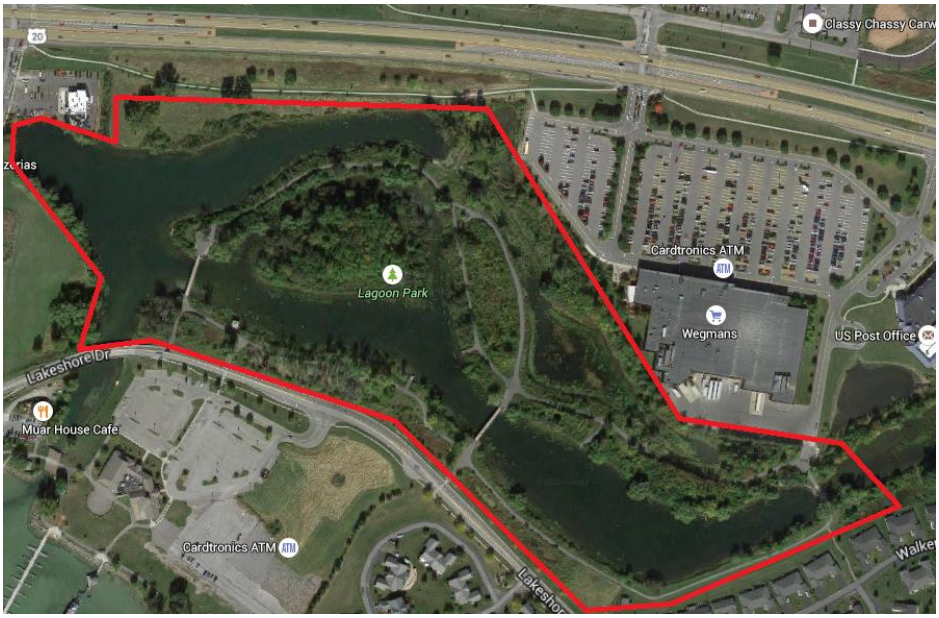
Park Amenities
Kershaw Park features lakefront walkways and benches, picnic areas and grills, five picnic pavilions, a gazebo, playground, fishing pier/outlook, small craft launch, two parking areas and a bike rack which is outfitted with a bike repair station. The park also has a beach area and boathouse which are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. City residents may purchase life-time passes for $1 (must provide proof of residency). Non-residents are charged a fee for each use, but can also purchase a season pass. Kershaw Park connects to Lakefront Park via a walking bridge and is served by two concession/eating vendors that contract with the City to operate from the bathhouse and the Muar House.

Park Requests
Kershaw Park has limited space for additional amenities, but serves its purpose of providing a family friend atmosphere to enjoy the vistas Canandaigua Lake and its waters through swimming or boating. A common request is for a larger swimming area which has been explored in the past and determine unfeasible for various reasons including space constraints and regulations. A possible compromise is the installation of a spray park. The playground was installed in 1996 and is approaching its useful life. The typical useful life of playground equipment is 15-20 years; however the overall condition and current playground regulations should dictate replacement. A new playground is planned for 2016, but will be reevaluated as part of the 2016 budget process. The boathouse is also approaching 20 years of age and should be evaluated for capital maintenance items. A bathroom for the western portion of the park was planned as part of the redevelopment in 1996, but a structure was not constructed. With that said the associated electrical service and plumbing was installed for the future facility.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Bathroom/Pavilion
- Spray Park

Capital Maintenance
- Bathhouse
- Pavilions, Picnic Tables, Benches
- Fishing Outlook
- Playground (2016)

Lagoon Park



Lagoon Park is the largest City park at 34 acres. The park is mostly wetlands with walking trails, bridges, and overlooks along the Canandaigua Lake Outlet. The park also is a wildlife preserve and as such not pets are permitted.

Park Amenities
Lagoon Park has many trails, bridges and fishing pier/outlooks.

Park Requests
Lagoon Park is a protected wildlife preserve. Other than cleaning and projects to remove invasive species the park only requires operational maintenance. With that said, the bridges and fishing outlooks will need to be monitored for future capital maintenance.

New Amenities or Upgrade
None Identified

Capital Maintenance

- Bridges
- Fishing Outlooks
- Trails

Lakefront Park

Lakefront Park is sometimes confused as part of Kershaw Park. The two parks are adjacent to each other and connected via a walking bridge.

Park Amenities
Lakefront Park features a public dock equipped with a boat pump-out station, small craft launch area, fishing outlook, picnic areas and a walking path. The park is also home to the Canandaigua Lady which is a private dinner boat cruise that operates off a permanent easement that runs through the park. The adjoining property (formerly Steamboat Landing) is currently a construction site for a new hotel. As part of this project, additional parking will be added and a new entrance to the site along with two detention ponds will be constructed.

Park Requests
The park is limited due to space constraints and has had recent additions of the small craft launch, fishing outlook and public dock. Maintaining these relatively new amenities should not require any major capital maintenance funding for the foreseeable future. When the irrigation system was installed at Kershaw Park, it was installed to provide for a future extension into Lakefront Park. There park does provide an opportunity for another pavilion and picnic area.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Irrigation System
- Pavilion/Picnic Area

Capital Maintenance
- Dock
- Fishing Outlook
- Small Craft Launch

Northeast Park

Northeast Park is located on Chapel Street and was developed as a collaborative effort between the City, Town of Canandaigua and the Canandaigua City School District. The park opened in 2009 and features soccer/lacrosse fields that are used by the Canandaigua City School District and local sports leagues.

Park Amenities
Northeast Park has three soccer/lacrosse fields along with a practice field and restrooms. The park also has a parking area and advanced irrigation system.

Park Requests
When the park was developed plans were discussed to add a playground, pavilion and amenities for the playfields (scoreboards, bleachers, lighting, practice wall). The proposed location of the pavilion and playground is currently used as a practice field. Because of the heavy use of the practice field, the playground and pavilion may not be supported by the most frequent users of the park. The parking lot was constructed/paved using recycled material and as a result the surface is rough which means that repaving the parking lot is a potential need.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Playfield Amenities (scoreboards, bleachers, lighting, practice wall).
- Repave Parking Lot

Capital Maintenance
- Bathroom
- Irrigation System

Sonnenberg Park

Sonnenberg Park is an eight (8) acre park located on Howell and Charlotte Streets. Open from 6:00 AM to Sunset

Park Amenities
Sonnenberg features three tennis courts (two of which lined for pickle ball), a basketball court, toddler playground (2015), playground (2007), softball field, tee ball field, enclosed pavilion with restrooms, picnic area and a ½ mile walking trail. The walking trail also includes several educational/historical information signs regarding the park. The park also has a small parking area that was constructed in 2012.

Park Requests
The tennis/pickleball and basketball courts require repainting every five (5) years with the most recent repainting taking place in 2015. The playground equipment was installed in 2007. The typical useful life of playground equipment is 15-20 years; however the overall condition and current playground regulations should dictate replacement. A new playground should be planned for 2027; however, the current playground should be reviewed for ADA (Americans with Disabilities) compliance. The park once had an ice skating rink, the base asphalt of the rink still remains. There has been interest in reviving this rink for ice skating or a multi-season rink/court. There is also the area where the playground was once located which is sandy and heavily shaded. A community sandbox has been suggested for this location. Many runners/joggers use the trail for exercise. Similar trails in other communities have exercise/workout stations which could also be a welcomed addition to Baker Park. Sonnenberg Park once hosted a statue that was vandalized. The statue needs to be restored prior to being returned to the park.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Multi-season Court/Rink or Ice Skating Rink
- Sandbox
- Exercise/Workout Stations

Capital Maintenance
- Building/Bathroom
- Playground (2027)
- Play Courts (2020)
- Statue Restoration
- Parking Art

Telyea Street Tot Lot

This one (1) acre park is a quaint neighborhood park located on Telyea Street.

Park Amenities
This small park has a nice playground that was installed in 2010, swing set and a half basketball court.

Park Requests
Due to the limited space available and to the fact that it is a small neighborhood park no additional amenities are identified for the "Tot Lot". The playground equipment was installed in 2010. The typical useful life of playground equipment is 15-20 years; however the overall condition and current playground regulations should dictate replacement. A new playground should be planned for 2030.

New Amenities or Upgrade
- Picnic Tables

Capital Maintenance
- Playground (2030)
- Swing Set
- Basketball Court (2020)

The Commons

The Commons, formerly known as the Downtown Minipark, provides a setting for special events Downtown.

Park Amenities
This small park features a performance stage and a decorative water feature which recalls the significance of the site in the development of the idea for the Erie Canal. Thanks to the fund raising efforts of Business Improvement District (BID), tables and umbrellas were installed in 2015.

Park Requests
There is very limited space available for additional amenities; however a public restroom might be appropriate. It is a commonly discussed as a location for a public art statue or mural which could be a nice addition to the park and Downtown.

New Amenities or Upgrade

- Public Art
- Bathroom

Capital Maintenance

- Stage
- Seating
- Fountain

Triangle Park

Triangle Park is easily confused as a traffic triangle located at the intersection of Lakeshore Drive, Main Street and the entrance of the City Pier. It contains a monument.

Park Amenities
This small park has a historical marker that commemorates the routes of the armies of General John Sullivan and General James Clinton.

Park Requests
None Identified.

New Amenities or Upgrade
None Identified

Capital Maintenance
None Identified