

THOMPSON PARK MASTER PLAN GOALS, JUNE 2023

This Master Plan builds on the historic Olmsted Brothers 1903 design, its relationship to the topography, natural areas and recreational needs of Watertown, while creating a sense of place in the 21st Century. The following master plan goals were developed through a combination of historic research, on-site assessment and stakeholder input.

The plan sets forth a vision for park restoration and enhancement, rooted in the Olmstedian belief of the social importance of parks in fostering community and a firm understanding in the restorative power of being in nature. The park design must balance needs for increased access with those of landscape preservation, ecological integrity and maintenance.

EXPAND PARK PROGRAMMING
Introduce programming to activate under utilized areas while improving connections to existing park programs, roads and utilities. Revive the park as a cultural and social destination with strengthened connections to Watertown and the region.

INCREASE CONNECTIVITY
Improve navigability of the site's dramatic landscape, expand and unify the path system, increase accessibility, preserve and enhance the emergent system of nature trails.

RESTORE HISTORIC STRUCTURES
Restore, revitalize and re-purpose historic structures. Celebrate the park's history through education and interpretation within the park.

ENRICH PARK IDENTITY & EDGES
Create a welcoming, accessible, and safe environment for people of all ages and abilities with reinforced planting, lighting and site furnishing schemes.

UPGRADE INFRASTRUCTURE
Preserve and upgrade existing roads, walls, staircases, pathways and structures thereby protecting the park's historic character and cultural assets. Add and upgrade essential infrastructure such as the lighting, water features and paved program areas, paths and roads.

ENHANCE EMERGENT ECOLOGIES
Enhance the park's ecological value by addressing invasive vegetation and creating meadow habitats for ground-nesting birds. Introduce new tree plantings to define program areas while remaining sensitive to historic view sheds and landscape character.

FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS
Engage local stakeholders in the Master Plan development and long-term park stewardship. Work with the Friends of Thompson Park, Zoo New York, schools and recreational organizations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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HISTORIC MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS:
National Park Service, Frederick Law Olmsted, National Historic Site

Expand Wetland
• Expand naturally occurring wet area to create a larger wetland feature at the edge of the open lawn, planted with species that mediate water runoff.
• Make accessible via pedestrian path which skirts extents of the wetland.

Extend Perimeter Path
• Extend existing paved path which runs the periphery of North Outlook to create a perimeter loop which encloses the park and can be accessed at new Gotham St. entrance.

Formalize Park Entrance
• A formal entrance at Gotham St. & Thompson Blvd. improves access to trails and park programming.
• Install traffic calming measures at key pedestrian crossings where park path network intersects with existing roads (typical).

Program Picnic & Play
• Install a nature play area, utilizing exposed walls of the former quarry for embankment slides.
• Include a picnic area and passive multi-use lawn area.
• Connect play area with an accessible route to new park entrance.

Create Outdoor Theater
• Build an outdoor theater with seating for approximately 250 people.
• Provide parking and public restrooms.

LEGEND

	Park Roads		Staircases
	Paved Paths		Lawn
	Soft Trails: Groomed		Pollinator Meadows
	Soft Trails: Mountain Biking		Deciduous Forest
	Parking		Evergreen Forest
	Structures		Existing Trees
	Park Boundary		Proposed Park Trees
	Zoo Fence Line		Ornamental Trees
	Vehicular/Shared Entrances		Wetland
	Pedestrian Entrances		Tee Box



Improve Parking at Park Loop
• Reduce park loop to one lane.
• Formalize parallel parking areas.
• Protect landscape areas with raised curbs.

Expand Tennis Courts
• Expand tennis courts and provide striping for pickle ball.

Preserve North Down
• Preserve the open, multi-use lawn.
• Introduce the next generation of flowering and canopy trees along the lawn's perimeter.

Restore State Street Entrance
• Infill trees in historic pattern

Restore Historic Stairs & Structures
• Restore and repaint historic stairs, walls and structures throughout the park.

Enter at Spring Ave.
• Provide small trail head access point, connecting park-goers to perimeter loop trail.

Implement Dog Run
• Utilize flat area at top of slope to create a dog run for dogs large and small.
• Buffer dog run with new plantings on either side.

Expand Parking
• Serve the trail system and Zoo NY's proposed Adventure Course with a satellite parking area.

Maintain Nature Trails
• Maintain park trails that traverse the all season Adventure Course.

Introduce Pedestrian Entrance
• Connect park-goers to paved perimeter trail and Zoo NY Adventure Course with trail head parking and new pedestrian entrance.

Connect to Adventure Course
• Synchronize proposed park plan with future ropes Adventure Course and zip line by Zoo NY.

New Park Entrance
• Create a pedestrian entrance to the nature trails and eastern portions of the park.

Introduce Lookout at Eastbourne Wood
• Optimize flat area at top of slope to create a lookout while maintaining hiking trails snake through Eastbourne Wood.

Protect Wooded Slopes
• Maintain and protect deciduous forest.
• Eliminate redundant paths to reduce erosion while improving existing nature trails.

Expand Mountain Biking Course
• Formalize area for mountain biking.
• Work with biking group to design and maintain trails.

Foster Pollinator Meadows
• Foster pollinator habitat at the margins of the forest and golf green.

Synthesize Trail Network
• Create a comprehensive hiking trail network that loops through natural areas such as Goose Pond.
• Close and re-vegetate redundant/informal trails.
• Minimize erosion and ensure paths are composed of natural materials.

Maintain Golf Facilities
• Golf Cart Storage to be proposed & Garage facilities to be restored and kept in place.

Implement Goose Pond
• This naturally low-lying area should be configured as a pond or wetland, as originally recommended in the Olmsted Brothers plan with Goose Pond.

Winter Village
• Create a program area for winter activities such as ice skating, snow shoeing and sledding.
• Area can also be utilized for outdoor recreation and fitness in the summer.

All Season Lodge
• Provide an all season structure that can support park programming, the golf course, and special events.
• Include public restrooms and parking.
• Includes space for a cafe or park concession stand.

