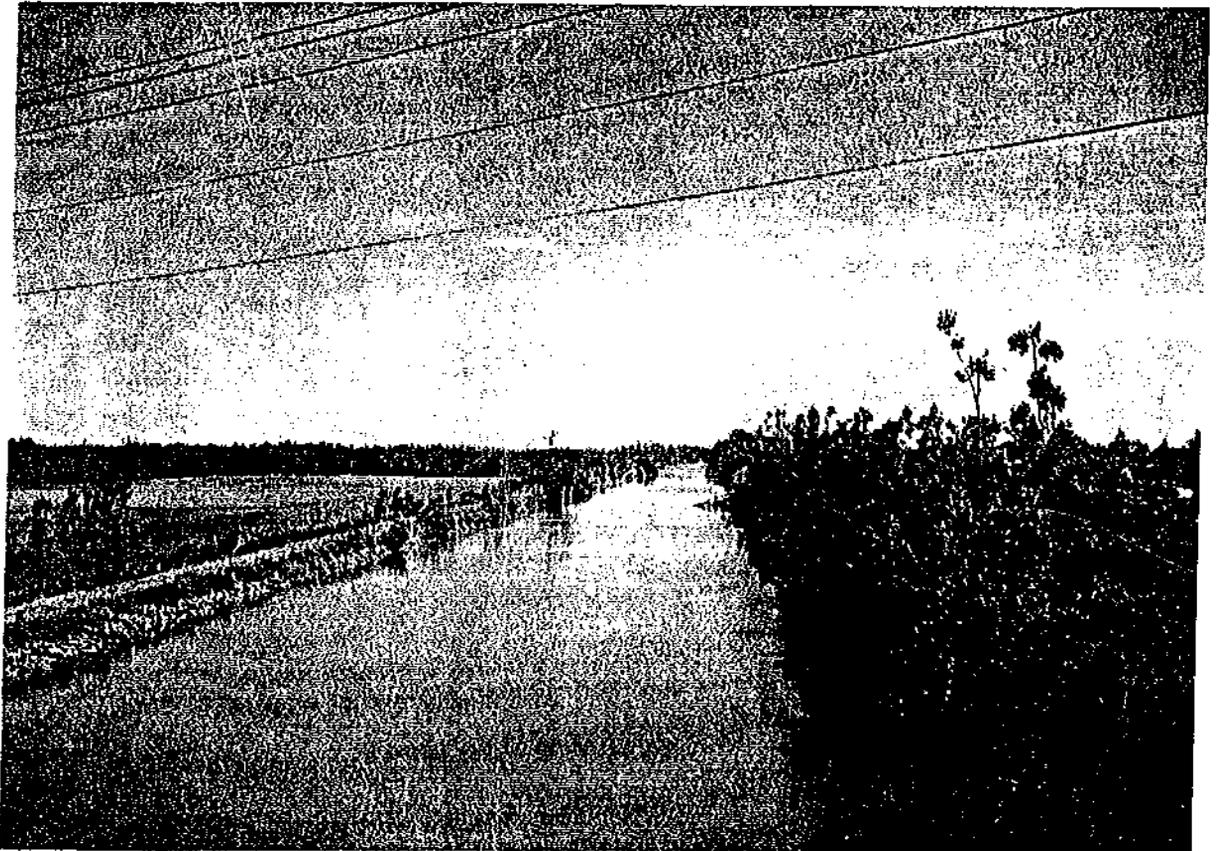


GREECE CANAL PARK



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS



Environmental Design & Research, P.C.

JULY 1994

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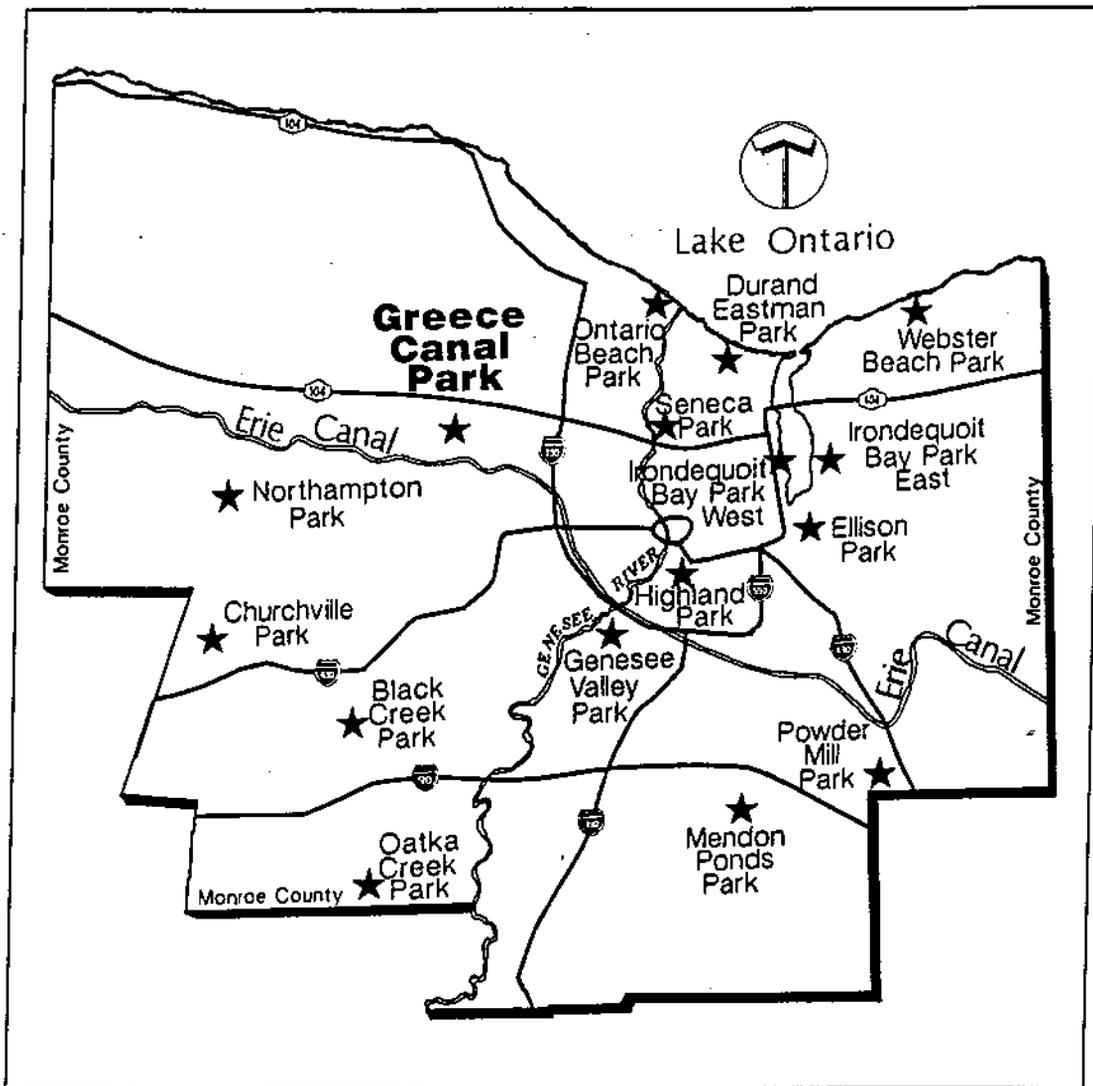
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Foreword

In compliance with directives set forth by the Monroe County Legislature, the Monroe County Department of Parks has undertaken a program to develop comprehensive master plans for each park under county jurisdiction. The purpose of the master plan is to identify the most appropriate uses for the Monroe County Park System in order to meet future recreational needs.

The initial objectives developed for all the park comprehensive plans were to:

- . Inventory existing conditions and identify environmental constraints.
- . Identify sensitive environmental conditions which need to be preserved or enhanced.
- . Identify areas of public concern complete with a recommended course of action.
- . Identify facilities or programs that are no longer functional or useable and need to be replaced or removed.
- . Identify needed improvements to existing facilities and operations and propose a means to bring them up to present standards.
- . Propose new facilities or programs necessary to keep pace with anticipated user demands.
- . Identify the need for additional park lands to be acquired.
- . Develop detailed goals and objectives complete with anticipated costs and suggested implementation programs.



Monroe County Parks System.

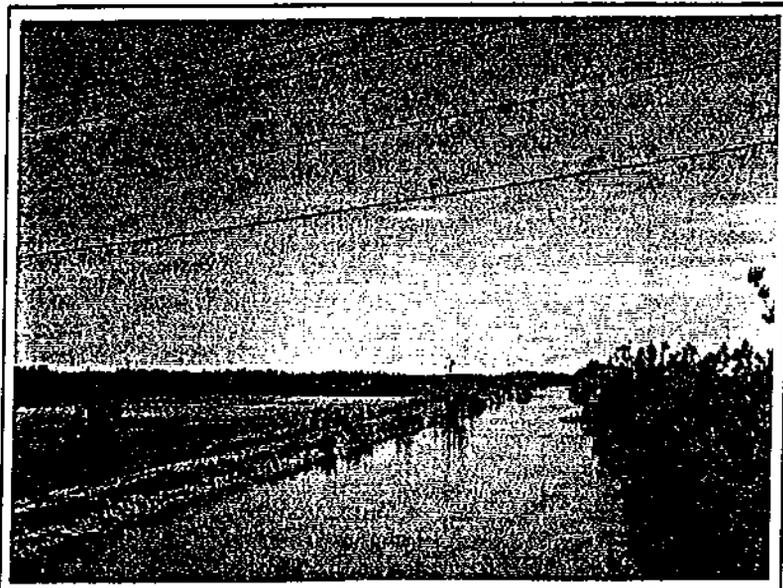
It should be noted that recommendations presented in this park master plan will work in tandem with programs and facilities that are either existing or proposed for other parks. Certain modifications to these recommendations can be expected as the Parks Department continues to develop a comprehensive master plan for each of its parks and integrates the individual plans into a county-wide program. The Parks Department will look at the merits of each park master plan and establish priorities to achieve a well-balanced program of improvements that will meet the needs and desires of the citizens in our community.

iv Greece Canal Park Master Plan Update

**GREECE
CANAL
PARK
MASTER PLAN UPDATE**

Introduction

The Greece Canal Park Master Plan Update was undertaken for the purpose of modifying the Greece Canal Park Master Plan, completed in 1980, in response to the expressed need of the community for development of park facilities, and for reexamination of the proposed program of uses to reflect current environmental values and conditions. The plan update is based on findings from a planning process centered on the identification and resolution of park issues in a public forum. It is also based on the evaluation of park resources for the realization of the greatest environmental, aesthetic and recreational value for the least cost. This updated plan of improvements and of inter-jurisdictional cooperation is intended as a flexible, well-grounded, framework for the management and development of the park through the next decade.



Easterly view towards Greece Canal Park from the Manitou Road bridge over the Erie Canal

Summary of Park Issues

The planning process benefitted from the participation of interested individuals and of representatives of groups and organizations wishing to have a voice in the planning of the park.

The process included three avenues of participation. First, the Greece Canal Park Advisory Committee met at each milestone in the project to discuss information and issues and to review and comment on the progress of the plan. Each committee meeting was open to the public. Second, two public meetings were held to elicit concerns and to disseminate information on the project. Finally, a survey listing issues of concern, was completed by members of the advisory committee and attendees at the first public information meeting. The purpose of the survey was to provide a vehicle for identifying areas of consensus among the interested public, and to provide a way for even the quietest voices to count.

The following conclusions represent our understanding of the major points of public consensus, expressed in the advisory committee meetings, public meetings and in the survey results:

- There is keen interest in the on-going development of the park to serve all County residents, and to better serve residents of the west side of the County.
- There is an expectation of support for ongoing development and operations by the County as well as contributions by the state, the towns and private interests.
- There is a clear preference for development of facilities for family and group picnics, hiking, cross-country skiing and associated activities which are within the tradition of the County park system.
- The Canal and the Canal trail are recognized as key resources. Improved access between the park and the Canal trail is considered critical to the value and identity of Greece Canal Park, providing a local link to the existing Canal recreationway.
- The natural character of the park landscape is another critical resource which should be preserved, enhanced and serve as an attraction for park-users.

- Identification of the park is needed to more fully utilize existing park resources and new facilities as they become available.
- Access to the park from the west is essential to serve park-users from western towns.
- Open space preservation of adjacent properties, particularly those on or near the Canal, is considered vital to preserving the character of the park and of the Canal trail.

These eight points of consensus have served as guiding principles in updating the plan.

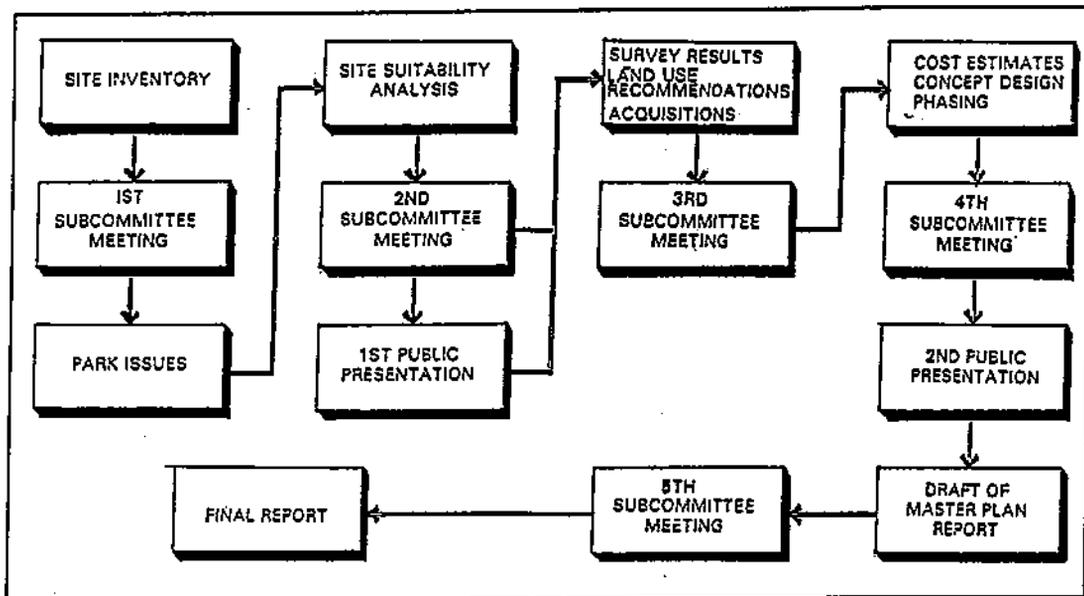
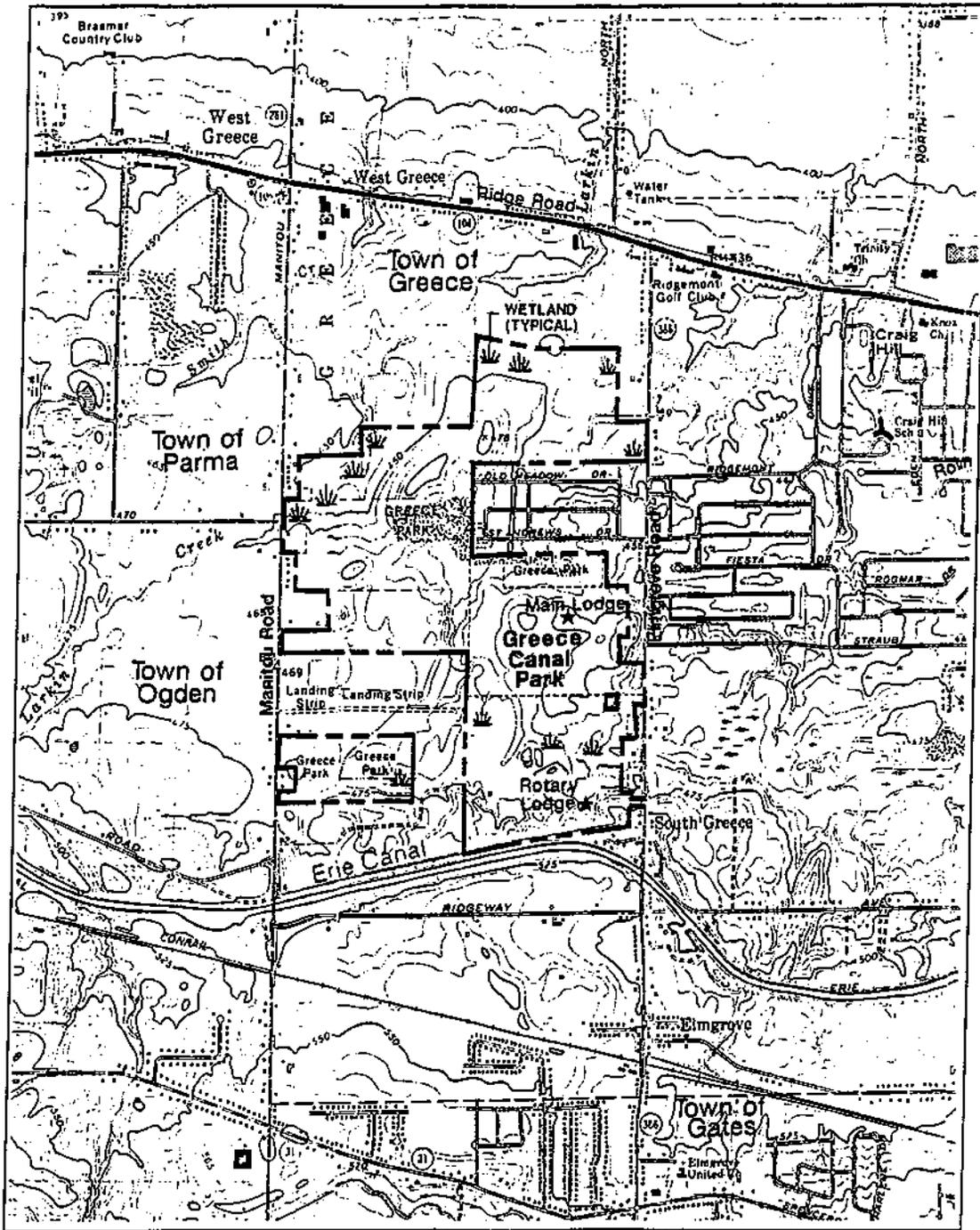


Diagram of planning process.



Greece Canal Park location map.

4 Greece Canal Park Master Plan Update

Summary of Park Resources

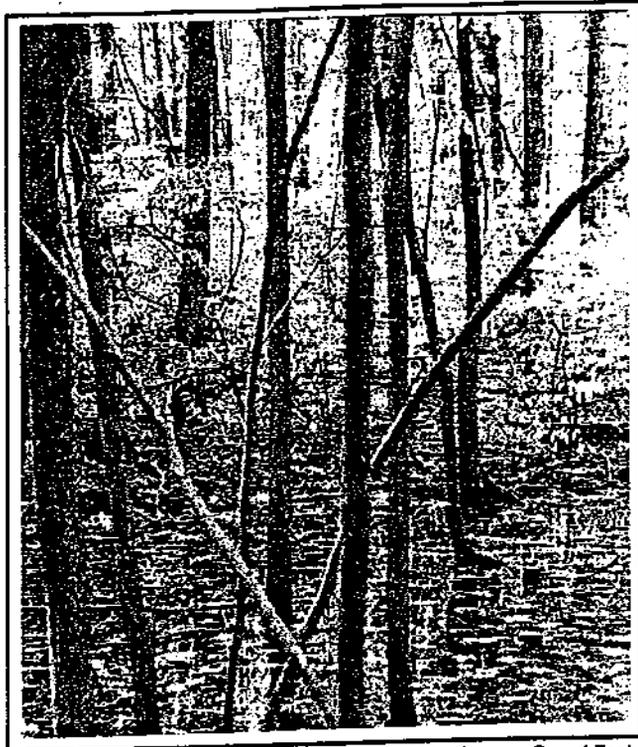
Location and Context

Greece Canal Park is located in the southwest corner of the Town of Greece, contiguous to the Towns of Ogden and Parma and close to the Town of Gates. The park includes two non-contiguous areas of 531 acres and 46 acres respectively. Both areas are contained within a block defined by the Erie Canal, Elmgrove Rd., Ridge Rd. and Manitou Rd. The edges of the park abut the rear of properties all around, with limited areas of road frontage on the east and west edges and Canal frontage on the south. The surrounding land uses include residential development along the east, privately owned open space to the north (buffering the rear of commercial strip development along Ridge Rd.), a mixture of residential and agricultural uses to the west and, to the south, the Canal, a few Canal-side residences and the orchards and farm fields which line the opposite bank of the Canal.

Park Features and Character

The Canal embankment forms a high steep edge, with gently rolling terrain sloping toward the north. The vegetative cover includes mature deciduous forest, pioneer woodlands, shrub uplands, meadows and wetlands. Most of the land was in agricultural cultivation, and hedgerows and stone walls are still in evidence along the edges of the old fields. The types of vegetation and the pattern of natural succession in the park are typical of the region. The greatest natural diversity and the best opportunities for viewing wildlife are found in the varied patterns of ecological succession of old fields in the western areas of the park. One indigenous plant, bayberry, which was classified as protected at the time of the original plan, has become abundant and is no longer protected. The park contains a deer wintering area, documented by NYSDEC. No rare or endangered species have been documented in the park. The park is part of the headwater area of the Buck Pond and Round Pond watersheds. Two branches of Larkin Creek are the primary drainageways, and a small area in the southeast area of the park drains into Round Pond Creek. The park contains forested, shrub and emergent wetlands, in eight areas comprising about 4% of the land area of the park.

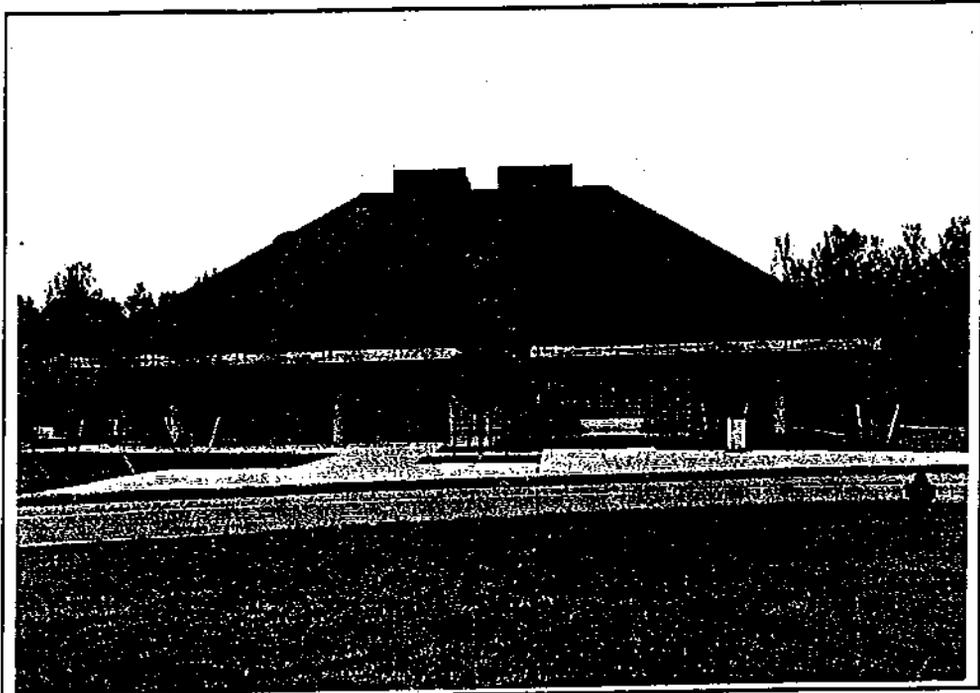
The hydrology of the park has been highly manipulated, first by the construction of the Erie Canal embankment, and by Canal-fed irrigation siphons which maintain flow in Larkin Creek even during dry periods. The Town of Greece has constructed a flood control detention basin with a dam and weir causing periodic flooding of parkland. The natural and man-made water features in the park present varied opportunities for enjoyment, but are not easily visible or accessible to park users.



One of several forested wetland areas within Greece Canal Park.



View looking westerly along the top of the earthen dam constructed by the Town of Greece.



Existing lodge building at the Main Lodge area.

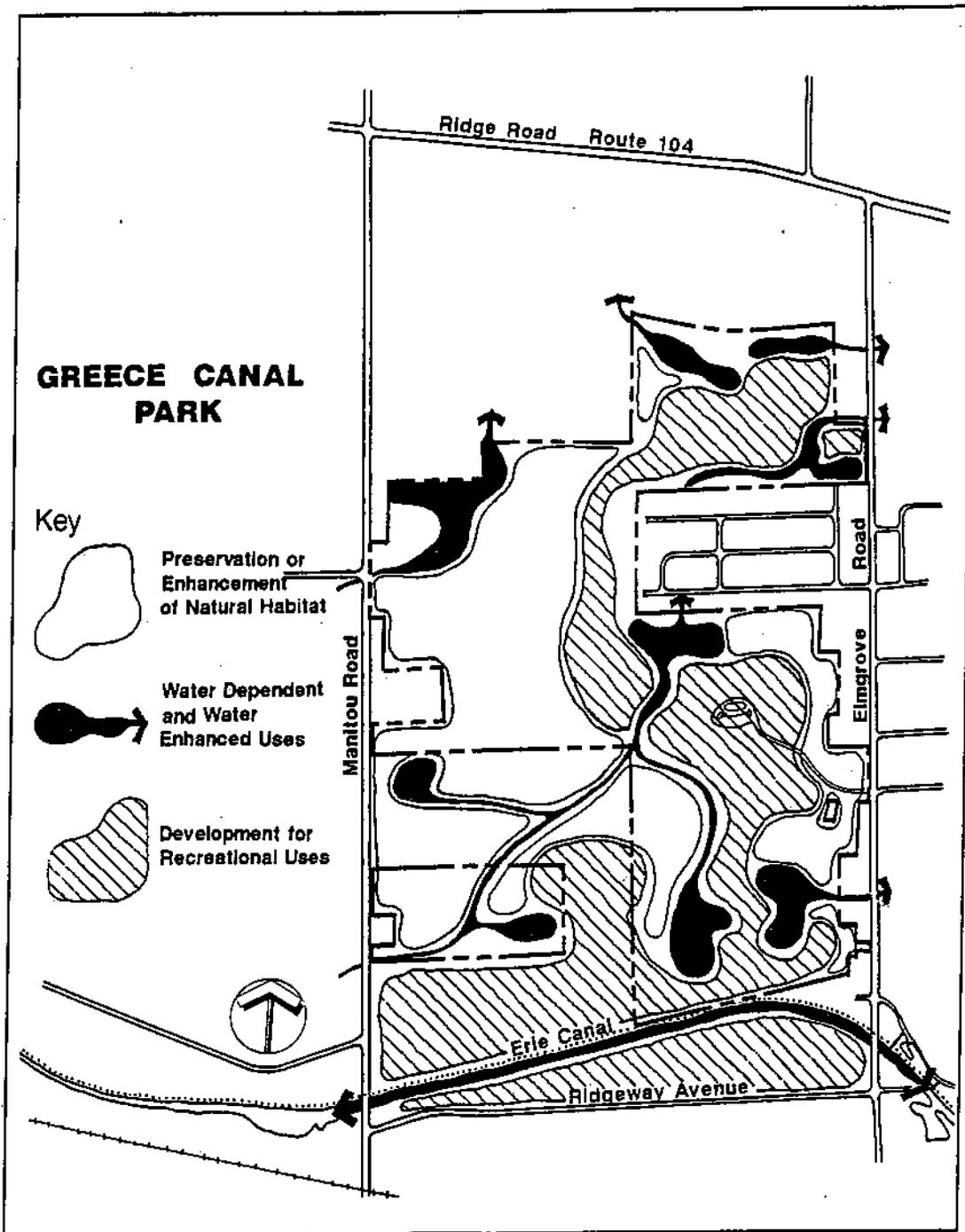
Existing Facilities

There are two existing use areas in the park. The Main Lodge area includes the lodge building with accessible restrooms, parking, a ballfield, a soccer field, tennis courts and a play area. The area is served by the main entry drive from Elmgrove Rd., and by water, electric and sanitary sewers. The area is used primarily for active recreation by groups and individuals.

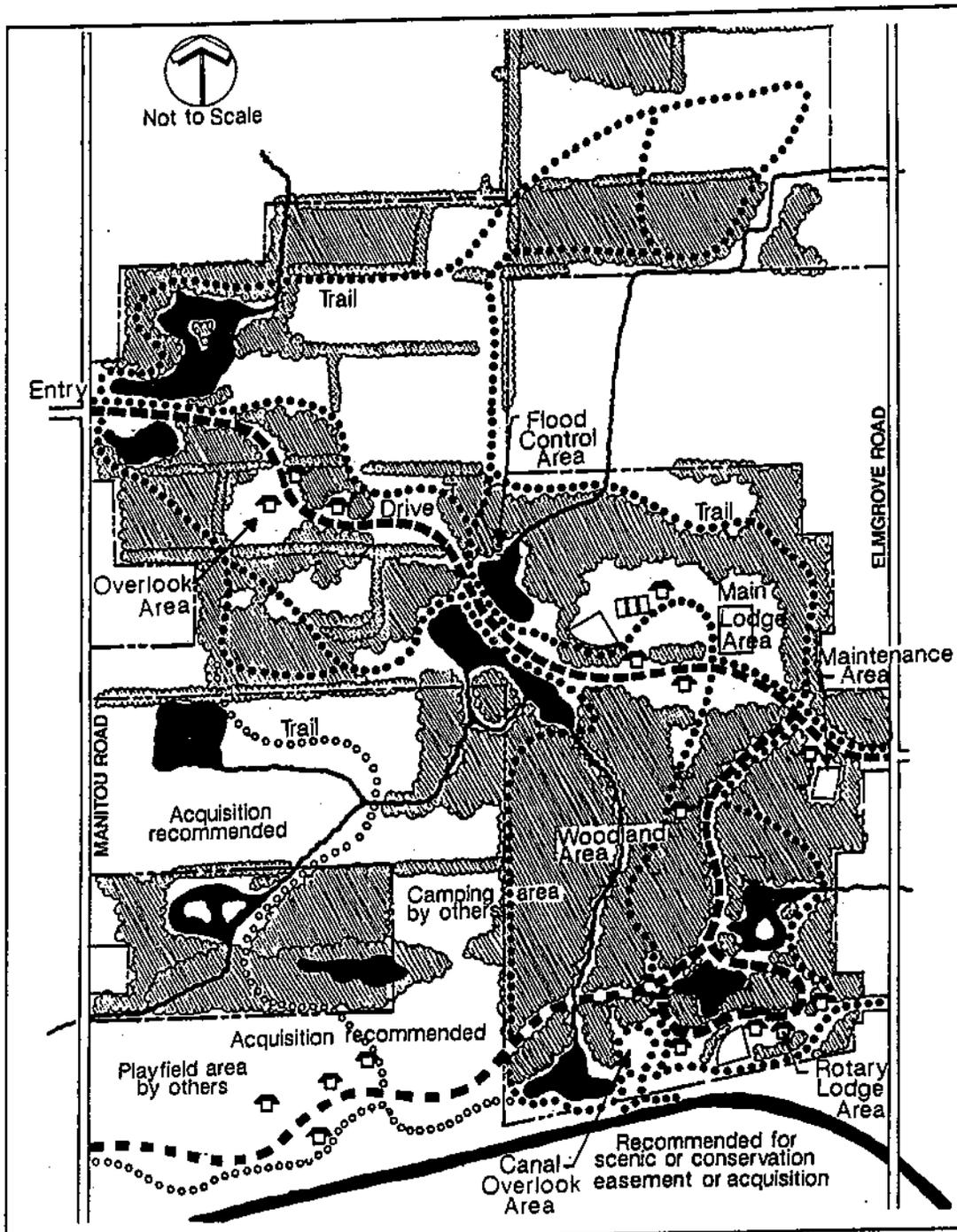
The Rotary Lodge area includes the lodge building, with restrooms, a sandlot ballfield and a play area. It is served by a narrow drive off Elmgrove with limited parking, as well as public water, electric and an onsite septic disposal system. The area is reserved by groups and individuals for events, and by Greece Rotary for programs. Although the area is close to the Canal trail there is no developed link, just a steep footpath.

Operations

Maintenance operations are based in Northampton Park, and are provided on a part-time basis. The maintenance area includes a storage building, accessible off the main



Suitability analysis of Greece Canal Park and adjacent lands.



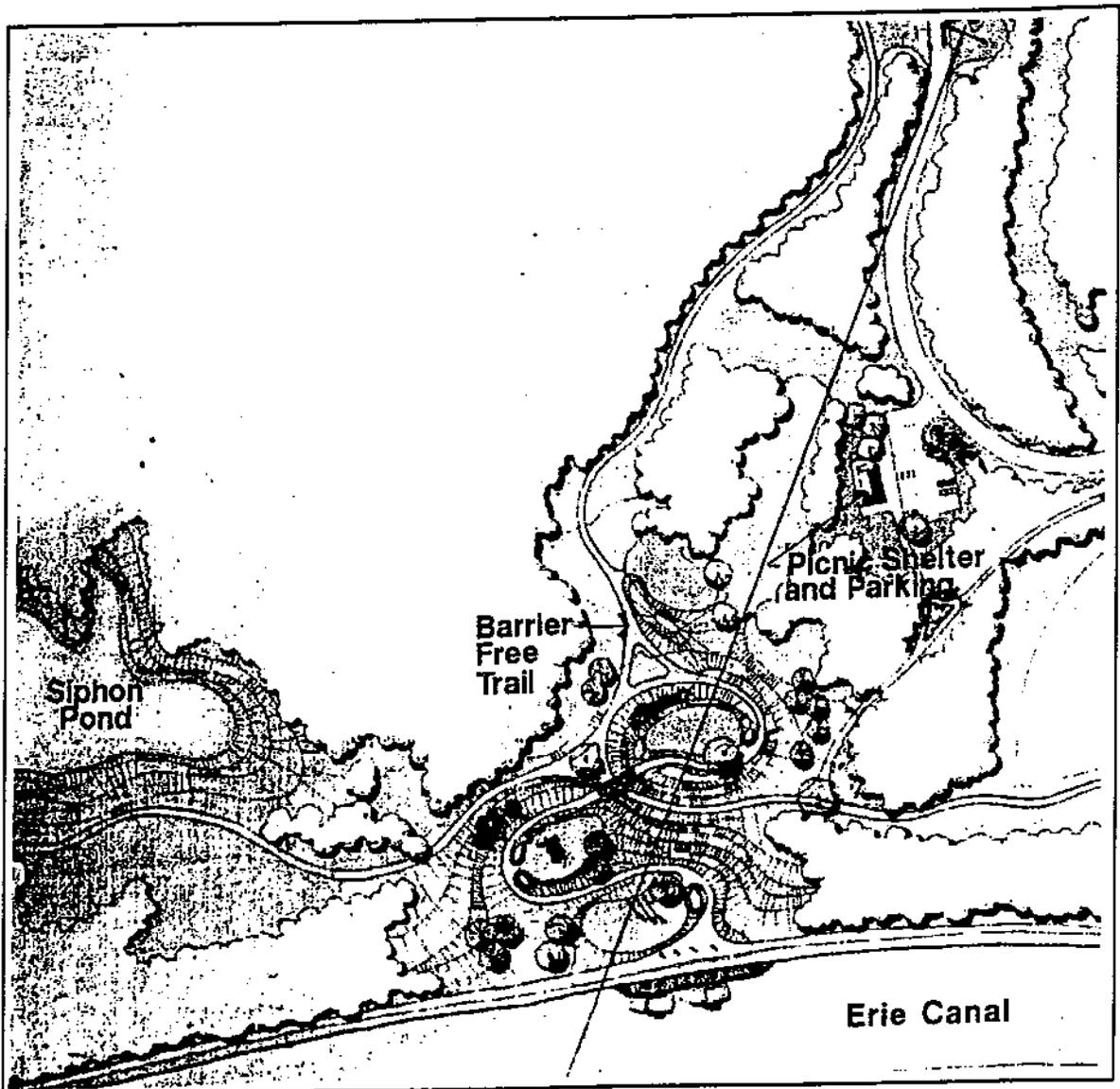
Location of areas within Greece Canal Park.

Summary of Recommendations

Development Concept

The development concept for the park includes the following components :

1. Open space system-preservation, enhancement and management of the park landscape so that the dominant character of the park remains natural, reflecting the patterns and remnants of post-agricultural ecological succession typical of the northwestern towns of Monroe County.
2. Rehabilitation of the existing activity areas and development of strategically located new areas for picnicking and play.
3. Clustering of lodges, shelters, parking and restrooms with common play structures and fields to minimize the extent of development and the cost of utilities and pavement, while maximizing opportunities for use.
4. Development of a park drive (a parkway) to link park areas, provide access from the east and west and provide park users with an unfolding sequence of views.
5. Development of a park-wide multi-use trail system to link areas, to provide low-intensity trail-based recreation and to provide access to and through a varied sequence of views and natural habitats.
6. Development of a system of ponds to achieve multiple benefits from the existing function of the park as an important retention/detention area for flood control in two watersheds. Providing visible areas of open water will increase scenic quality, diversity and viewing opportunities for wildlife and offer water quality and flood control benefits.

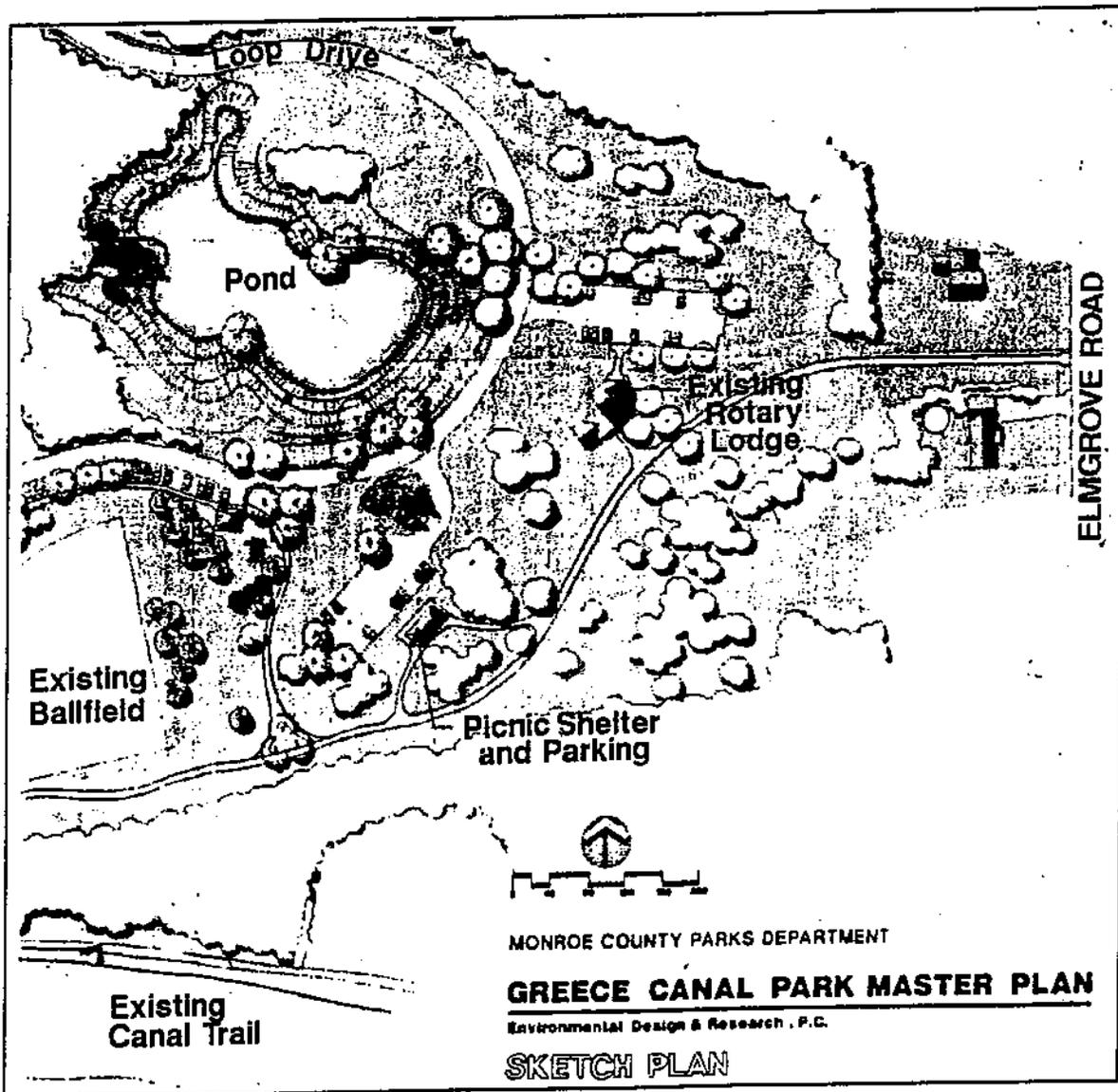


Sketch Plan showing conceptual design for the Canal Overlook and Rotary Lodge areas.

Recommended Projects

Canal Overlook and Rotary Lodge Area

The area of interface between the park and the Canal is a keystone of the plan. This area will provide the critical link between the park and the Canal to fulfill the concept of a Canal-side park.



It is intended as a multi-purpose resource, a traditional park picnic area, a point of origin for use of the Canal and a rest stop with support services for people who are passing by on the Canal or the towpath. The Greece Rotary Club has expressed an interest in continuing assistance in the development of this area.

The components of the Canal overlook area include:

A new drive from the main drive to a oneway loop at the existing Rotary Lodge area. The existing entrance drive to Rotary Lodge will be closed, to be used only for pedestrian and emergency access.

Parking at Rotary Lodge and reorientation of the entry of the lodge to the new drive.

An open-air picnic shelter with parking.

A new restroom building served by public water and sanitary sewer.

Relocation and upgrading of the play area for shared use by groups and individuals.

Creation of a canal landing with a barrier-free dock, an information Kiosk and barrier-free walk between the park and the towpath.

Creation of a system of ponds along the drive and at the existing Canal siphon. The excavated materials from the ponds will supplement the fill to be provided from Genesee River dredge materials for construction of the overlook walk and terraces. The siphon pond will provide both a physical and visual link between the Canal at the higher elevation and the diversion of Canal water through the park, and provide an opportunity for interpretation of the historic link between agriculture and irrigation from the Canal.

Main Lodge Area

Improvements to the main lodge area are recommended to build on the existing resources for active recreation, and to improve its usefulness for picnicking and reserved use by groups.

Recommended improvements to this area include:

Renovation of the lodge interior to create a larger area to accommodate large group picnics.

Relocation and expansion of the play area, planting of shade trees and provision of tables and grills for outdoor picnicking.

Addition of an open air picnic shelter.

Maintenance Area

Improvements to the maintenance area, to accommodate an on-site maintenance operation, will include heated workspace with electric service and restroom with water and sanitary sewer service.

Main Drive

The main drive is recommended to continue west to the intersection of Manitou Rd. and Ogden-Parma Townline Rd. to provide access to all park facilities from the west. The location of the entry was selected for clear sightlines as well as to emphasize the connection to Ogden and Parma and to welcome the population of park users from the western areas of the county. The park drive is intended to provide a parklike sequence of views as it traverses open water along both branches of Larkin Creek, curves around the base of a hill and crosses two hedgerows before connecting with the existing segment of main drive. The drive corridor will double as a utility corridor for electric, water and sanitary sewer service to subsequent development.

Manitou Road Entry Pond

The proposed west entrance to the park will require reconfiguration of the western branch of Larkin Creek. Creation of an impoundment on both sides of the new entry is recommended to make the creek visible and enhance the sense of entrance to the park.

Flood Control Impoundment Area

The recommended treatment for flood control along Larkin Creek, is to create a permanent impoundment area with excess capacity for instances of peak run-off, at the crossing of the park drive and Larkin Creek. This area is intended to make the flood control function of the park visible, to enhance the visual quality of the park landscape and orient park-users to the pattern and cycles of drainage in the park and the lake plain region.

Park Overlook

A new activity area, capitalizing on the views from an existing hill within a flat park landscape, is recommended on the west side of the park. The hill form should be enhanced by the addition and shaping of fill, excavated from the construction of the ponds. The recommended facilities include a lodge with parking for 30 cars, a shelter with parking for 15 cars, and a centrally located restroom.

Trail Project

A park-wide trail system, providing off-road links between park areas and throughout the natural areas is recommended. The trail is envisioned for low intensity non-motorized multi-season use.

Park Signage

A park signage system is recommended, including directional signs on both Elmgrove and Manitou Roads, park entry signs at both entrances, as well as a directional signs within the park for wayfinding and identification of areas.

Park Facilities

It is anticipated that improved access and utilization of the park will increase the demand for lodges, shelters and park facilities. As demand dictates, additional lodges and shelters should be added at the main lodge area, and at a new woodland area along the drive between the main lodge and the Canal overlook area. The intended character of this area is rustic and forested, with trail access to two existing wetland areas. Additional recreation opportunities which have a modest development cost, and which fit into the natural character of the park, may be considered for various areas of the park. One such facility is a multi-purpose play lawn in summer and an open air ice skating area in winter.



Typical example of existing trail and signage.

Acquisition of Adjacent Properties

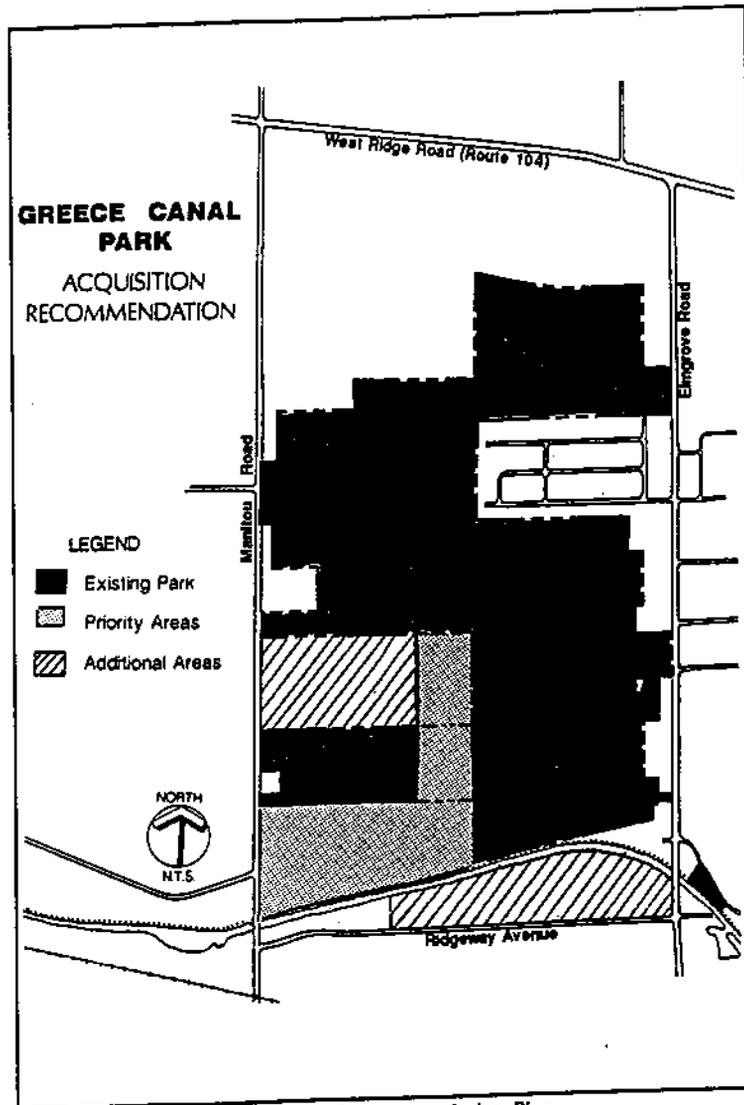
Additional development is to be contingent on the acquisition of adjacent properties and the cooperative funding and/or management of Canal-related camping and recreational facilities. The illustration of acquisition recommendation highlights priority areas, as well as, additional areas of consideration.

Implementation Concept

Inter-jurisdictional and public-private partnerships, which are coordinated by Monroe County are recognized as an important source of support for park development, operations and use. Some examples of significant contributions to Greece Canal Park include:

The donation of the Rotary Lodge by Greece Rotary, and the proposed donation of additional facilities.

The proposed donation by the NYS Thruway Authority of Genesee River dredge material for fill.



Greece Canal Park Acquisition Recommendation Plan.

- The potential for volunteer projects, including stone wall restoration, trail maintenance, and selective clearing of understory along the Canal embankment.

Also recommended are the following:

- Inter-jurisdictional funding of land acquisition.
- Open space protection by the towns through application of conservation or scenic easements to significant properties adjacent to the park, if acquisition is not feasible.
- Cooperative funding and/or management of specialized park programs, including Canal-related tent camping, sports programs and programs for children, the elderly or others.

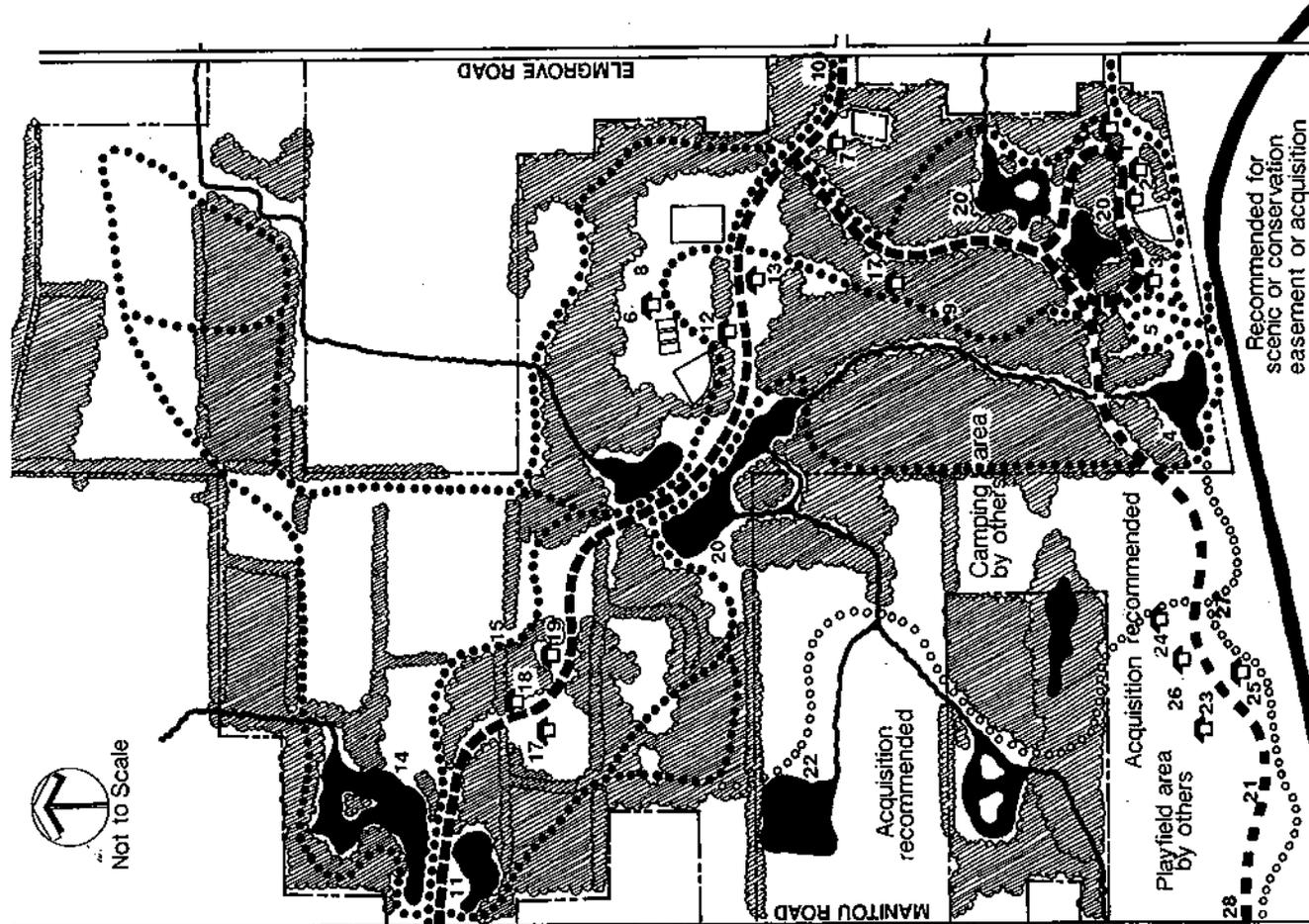
Phasing and Costs

The attached summary plan of recommended improvements indicates a recommended phasing of projects based on an appropriate sequence of construction, related work and limitations of funding available at one time. All the recommended projects are located within existing park land. Later phases of development are contingent on the acquisition of key properties adjacent to the park.

Cost estimates are based on the order of magnitude of comparable work in 1993 dollars, not including contingencies, fees, land acquisition or allowances for inflation. As the projects proceed through more detailed design, cost estimates will be more refined. Similarly, the operating costs estimates are at 1993 cost levels.

The annual operations costs were provided by Monroe County Parks Department and the electric installation costs were provided by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

	<u>Phase I</u>	<u>Phase II</u>	<u>Phase III</u>
Park Improvements Rehabilitation and Renovation Projects	\$1,024,500	\$1,213,000	\$866,000
Electric Power Supply Installation	\$28,000	\$3,000	\$50,000
Annual Operations	\$85,000	\$130,000	\$235,000



RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

Phase I. Projects

New Loop Drive:

1. Loop drive with utilities and parking for the new Rotary Club facilities.
2. New restroom building and parking area.
3. New picnic shelter and parking area

New Loop Drive Project Total

\$638,000

Canal Overlook Project:

4. New pond excavation and construction.
5. Canal Overlook area with dock, plantings and site features/furniture

Canal Overlook Project Total

\$211,500

Miscellaneous Rehabilitation/Renovation Projects:

6. Main Lodge Renovations
7. Maintenance Facility Renovations
8. Playground Rehabilitation
9. Trail Rehabilitations
10. New Signage and Park Graphics

Miscellaneous Rehabilitation/Renovations Projects Total

\$175,000

Phase I Total

\$1,024,500

Phase II. Projects

New Westside Drive Project:

11. Westside drive with utilities providing park access from Manitou Road

New Westside Drive Project Total

\$778,000

New Facilities and Ponds Project Total

\$410,000

ACTION PLAN

IMMEDIATE IMPROVEMENTS AT LITTLE EXPENSE:

- Existing trails maintenance
- Stone wall restoration
- Playground equipment; relocate and improve playgrounds
- Barbecues and picnic tables
- Tree planting
- Trailhead improvements and new signage on Manitou Road
- Improved signage on Elmgrove Road
- New Rotary shelter
- Understory clearing along Canal bank
- Utilize Canal dredge as fill material for Canal overlook area

Costs

Miscellaneous Rehabilitation/Renovation Projects:

15. Trail Rehabilitation

\$25,000

16. New Signage and Park Graphics

\$1,213,000

Miscellaneous Rehabilitation/Renovation Projects Total

\$25,000

Phase II Total

\$1,213,000

Phase III. Projects

New Facilities Projects:

17. Two new lodges and parking areas
18. New picnic shelter and parking area
19. New restroom and parking area

New Facilities Project Total

\$471,000

Pond Construction and Expansion Project:

20. Excavation and construction of three new ponds and expansion of one existing pond

Pond Construction and Expansion Project Total

\$449,000

Phase III. Total

\$866,000

Total for Phases I-III

\$3,013,500

Projects Contingent on Future Land Acquisition:

21. New park drive with utilities connecting the Loop drive to Manitou Road near the canal
22. New pond excavation and construction
23. New lodge facility and parking area
24. Two new picnic shelters and parking areas
25. New restrooms building and parking area
26. New playground area
27. Trail rehabilitation
28. New signage and park graphics

Projects Contingent on Future Land Acquisition Total

\$1,265,500

Note: Costs are in 1993 dollars with no fees and contingencies included.

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT
GREECE CANAL PARK
DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

Environmental Design & Research, P.C.
December 1993

Utilities

As further development of the park takes place, expansion and modification of the existing utility service within the park is recommended. The Rotary Lodge and Main Lodge areas are currently served with water and electric supply and have sewage facilities. The Rotary Lodge is on sanitary septic system and the Main Lodge is connected to the sanitary sewer on Staub Road via a pump station and force main. The Rotary Lodge septic system should be abandoned and the facility connected to a new sanitary sewer that would ultimately connect to the existing sewer on Melwood Drive. Likewise, the pump station and force main for the Main Lodge should be abandoned and the facility connected to the Melwood Drive sewer. The existing water and electric supply are recommended to be expanded as needed to serve new facilities within the park.

KEY

- MAIN VEHICULAR ROADWAY
- VAN TRAIL
- RUSTIC TRAIL
- SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN TRAIL
- OPEN WATER CREEK
- ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS
- HERSEPOLA
- WOODS
- SHRUB UPLAND
- MEADOW
- LAWN
- NEW PONDS
- NEW WESTSIDE ENTRY DRIVE
- SHELTER OR LODGE W/ RESTROOMS

PHASING LINE

PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER (GRAVITY OR FORCE MAIN)

PROPOSED WATER SERVICE OR MAIN

PHASE III UTILITIES

Proposed to serve area west of Canal Overlook and dependent on future acquisitions of property. Extend sanitary sewer from Phase I and bring a new water main into park from Manitou Road.

PHASE II UTILITIES

Proposed to serve new facilities at the Main Lodge area and future facilities on proposed thru road. Extend existing water service to new Main Lodge facilities. Relocate existing pump station to serve future facilities and bring new water main into park from Manitou Road.

PHASE I UTILITIES

Proposed to serve the new Canal Overlook area and the existing Rotary Lodge and Maintenance Facility. Extend the existing water service from the Rotary Lodge to the new facilities in the Canal Overlook area. Abandon the existing septic system. Install a new sanitary sewer with lift station connecting to the existing sewer on Melwood Drive to serve new and existing facilities.

MONROE COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT

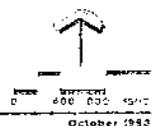
GREECE CANAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Environmental Design & Research, P.C.

Job # 90125.00

OVERALL SCHEMATIC PLAN

UTILITY PLAN (Water & Sanitary)



October 1993

Figure 3

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By Messrs. Auberger, Amato, Assini, Murray, Pelletier, Proud and Streibel

Intro. No. 450

RESOLUTION NO. 386 OF 1994

ADOPTION OF GREECE CANAL PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. The Legislature hereby adopts the Greece Canal Park Master Plan Update as a guide for the future management and development of Greece Canal Park.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

Recreation and Education Committee; July 25, 1994 - CV: 5-0
Planning and Economic Development Committee; July 25, 1994 - CV: 5-0
File No. 94-0392

ADOPTION: Date: August 2, 1994

Vote: 25-0

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: VETOED:

SIGNATURE: *Russell L. Taylor* DATE: 8/10/94

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: 8/10/94