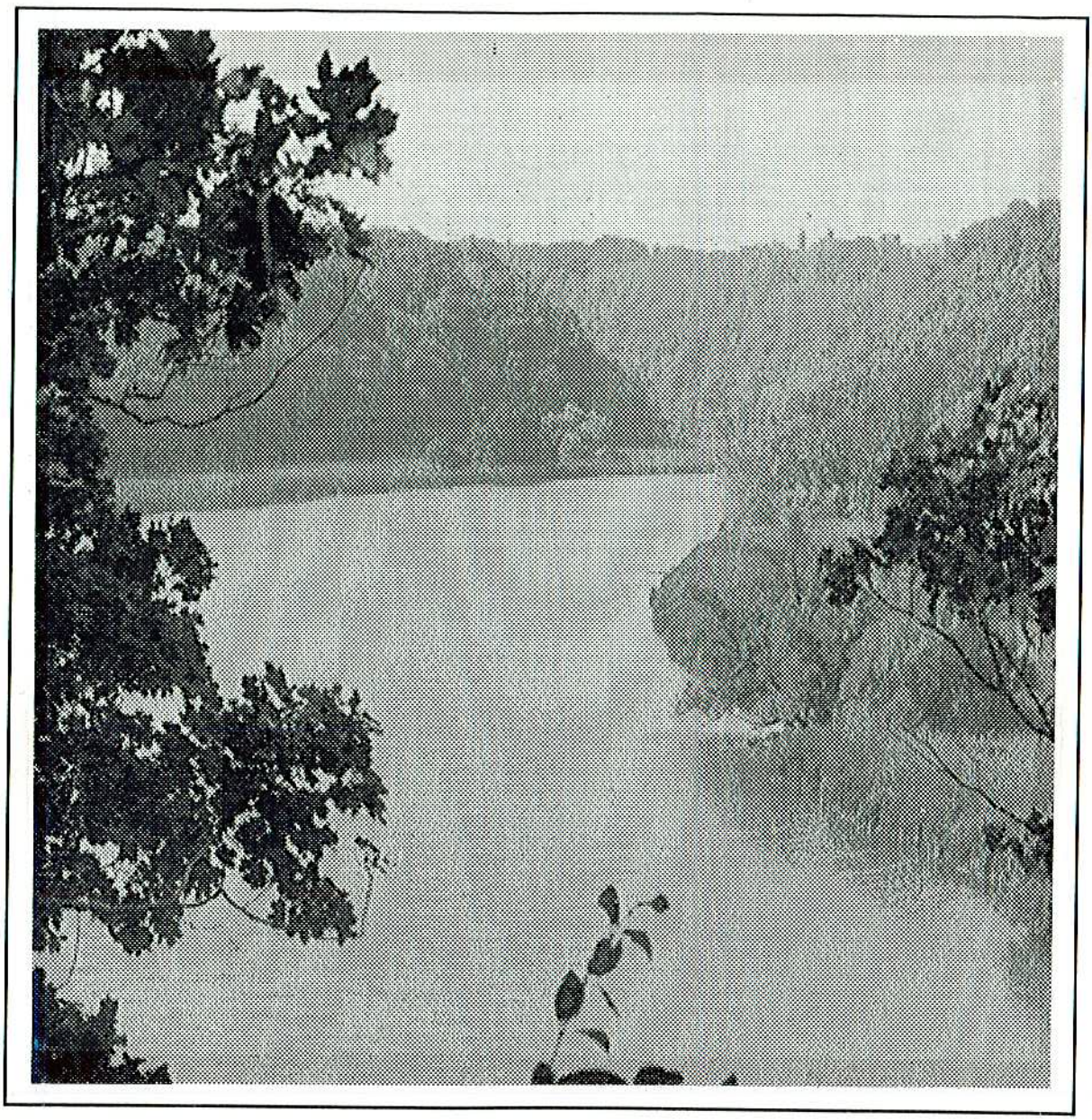

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

**Including Seneca Park, Lower Falls Park,
and Maplewood Rose Garden**

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Falls Park, and Maplewood Rose Garden

Consultant Team

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November 1990

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 plans is to identify the most appropriate uses for the Monroe County Park System in order to meet future recreational needs. Each comprehensive master plan has been prepared in coordination with a public participation process.

The initial objectives developed for all the park comprehensive plans are 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 usable and need to be replaced or removed.
- Identify needed improvements to existing facililties and operations and propose a means to bring them up to present day standards.
- Propose new facilitiies or programs necessary to keep pace with anticipated user demands.
- Identify the need for additonal park lands to be acquired.
- Develop detailed goals and objectives complete with anticipated costs and suggested implementation programs.

In working toward these objectives, each master plan is divided into two programs of near-term and long-term recommendations. The near-term program consists of project recommendations which are essential for improving health and safety conditions or are of immediate concern to the well-being of the park. This program incorporates recommendations for improving the operations and maintenance of the park and suggests ways to make more efficient use of staff and equipment.

The long-term program consists of improvements which should be undertaken once the near-term projects are completed or substantially underway. It may be necessary to implement some of the long-term recommendations prior to accomplishing all of the near-term programs to take advantage of special federal and state funding sources and similar opportunities that may develop. This plan is structured in such a way that Monroe County can take full advantage of these opportunities.

Seneca Park, Lower Falls Park and Maplewood Rose Garden are the park areas addressed in this planning project. This Seneca Park Master Plan updates and completes a comprehensive master plan process, hereby referred to as the Comprehensive Plan, which began in the mid-1980s. The consultant team was led by architect Herbert W. Riemer, P.C., and included the firms of Laventhol & Horwath: Marketing; Lawson Knapp & Pulver: Architecture; Donald J. Bergman Associates: Engineering; and Environmental Design & Research, P.C.: Landscape Architecture (Inventory). The Comprehensive Plan proposed in 1987 was the culmination of planning efforts that had commenced in 1982 with a Zoo Plan study. The Comprehensive Plan, although different from the Zoo Plan, followed and accepted the Zoo Plan's recommendations as a basis for park recommendations. Certain of those recommendations proposed alterations in circulation patterns and land use that generated concern about the subsequent impacts on the integrity of the historic, Olmsted design. It became clear that further research was needed to determine the extent of the historic significance of the study area, and, if warranted, the type of treatment that would be historically appropriate in planning future improvements.

In addition to the County's general comprehensive master plan objectives stated above, the consultant

team assembled for this task was given a two-fold mandate. First, integral to the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan's inventory and analysis, the team conducted research and documentation of the history of the park as an Olmsted landscape. Secondly, drawing upon that knowledge, the consultant team had been asked to designate, as part of the near-term recommendations for the park, a ten acre area of the park within which the zoo could expand with the least compromise to the integrity of remaining historic fabric. This report documents the process of that investigation. The master plan's recommendations for both near-term and long-term park improvements have been informed by detailed analysis of the parklands of the Lower Genesee River Gorge, not only as they exist today, but with an appreciation for how they were designed and built as well. This background laid the foundation for a concensus building process involving the public, the zoo consultants. It is within this framework that improvements to the park can proceed and by which a defensible resolution for the varying public use agendas has been achieved.

Acknowledgements

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The Consultant Team would like to thank all of the above as well as those jurisdictions, institutions, agencies, and individuals who contributed to this work. These include the City of Rochester, and especially Tim O'Connell of the City Department of Environmental Services, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, Rochester Museum and Science Center, University of Rochester Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, George Eastman House, the Local History Division of the Rochester Public Library, Rochester Historical Society, Town of Irondequoit, Tom LaRock and the Seneca Zoo Society, and Jon Coe, Principal, Coe Lee Robinson and Roesch, the zoo master plan consultants.

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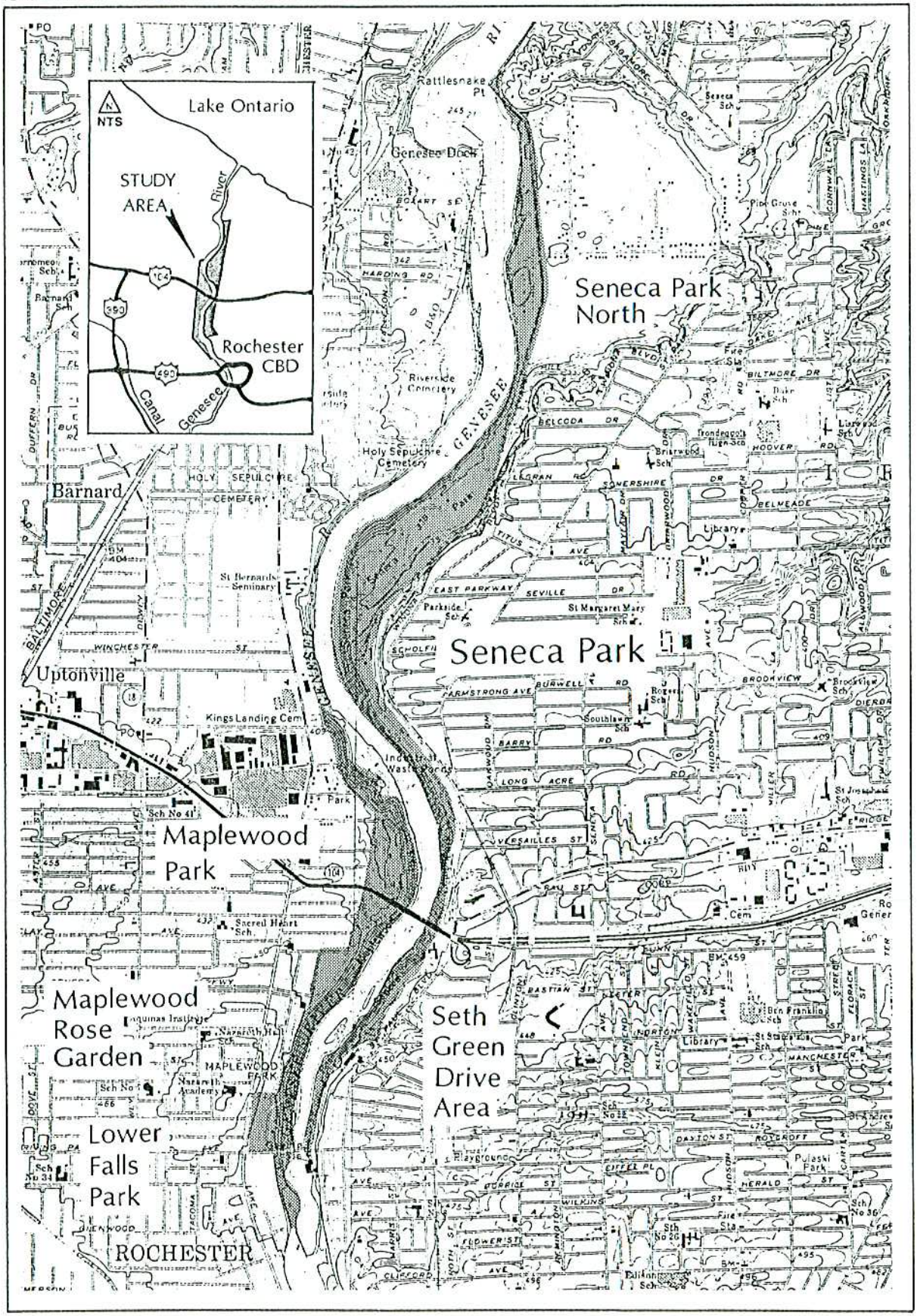


Plan Summary

INTRODUCTION

Study Area

The study area for the Seneca Park Master Plan includes lands on the east and west sides of the Lower Genesee River. The historic park, constructed following an 1891 design and later plans by F. L. Olmsted and Company, Landscape Architects, is the principal point of reference for this master plan. Seneca Park was designed, but not fully developed, as a unified, public landscape with an urban edge, gorge rim landscape, gorge forest and river edge embracing the Genesee River. As a frame of open space along the river, the park is a linear, narrow, public landscape. It was designed to preserve for public use the scenery of the Genesee Gorge below the falls, and to provide safe public access to views along the top of the gorge and along the shore of the river. It provided for contiguous carriage drives and pedestrian paths along the gorge edge, and proposed a variety of park landscapes on land alongside the gorge. Over time this extensive park has lost features and park lands and has been segmented into individual areas, taking on different names. These different areas are administered by either the City of Rochester or the County of Monroe, or are privately owned.

The master plan includes research, documentation, analysis and preservation planning for the lands known today as Seneca Park, Seth Green Drive Area, Lower Falls Park, and Maplewood Rose Garden. Of primary concern are Seneca Park and Seth Green Drive Area, on the east side of the river, which are or will be operated by the County of Monroe. Recently acquired lands north of Trout Pond extending to Rattlesnake Point are an addition to Seneca Park and are included as a subarea of it. The areas administered by the county are addressed in greater detail.

Maplewood Rose Garden, Maplewood Park and Lower Falls Park, on the west side are under city jurisdiction. They are considered within the context of the historic Olmsted design of which they were an integral part. In addition, the park edge drives on the west, and remnant park features on the east are areas that can be integrated into the linear public landscape. These remnant features are reviewed for opportunities to enhance public access and recreation and to address broad planning issues. These issues include the development of continuous pedestrian paths on both sides of the river within and beyond the area addressed in this project and the enhancement of park edge drives and parkways that adjoin and form entrys to the public park lands.

Purpose

This Seneca Park Master Plan has been undertaken to finalize the existing Seneca Park Comprehensive Plan (1984-87) which also included Seneca Park, Lower Falls Park and Maplewood Rose Garden. Review and update of that plan is required in light of subsequent, or ongoing, projects and related planning efforts, and to expand upon issues related to the consideration of park landscape values, including historic significance, and environmental and physical factors.

A key component of this update is the documentation and analysis of the park as an historic landscape. The consultant team was assembled specifically for this purpose. Dr. Charles E. Beveridge is a noted landscape historian, Olmsted scholar, and editor of the Frederick Law Olmsted Papers. He was assisted in his research at the local level by Rebecca S. Dewitt. Patricia O'Donnell, ASLA, APA, is a principal of Landscapes, an historic landscape, architect and a preservation planning consultant, whose credentials include planning and design in several Olmsted parks. Environmental Design and Research, P.C. was involved as a subconsultant in the former Comprehensive Plan team and has led the effort to complete this plan, coordinating all historic and contemporary components to reach a concensus.

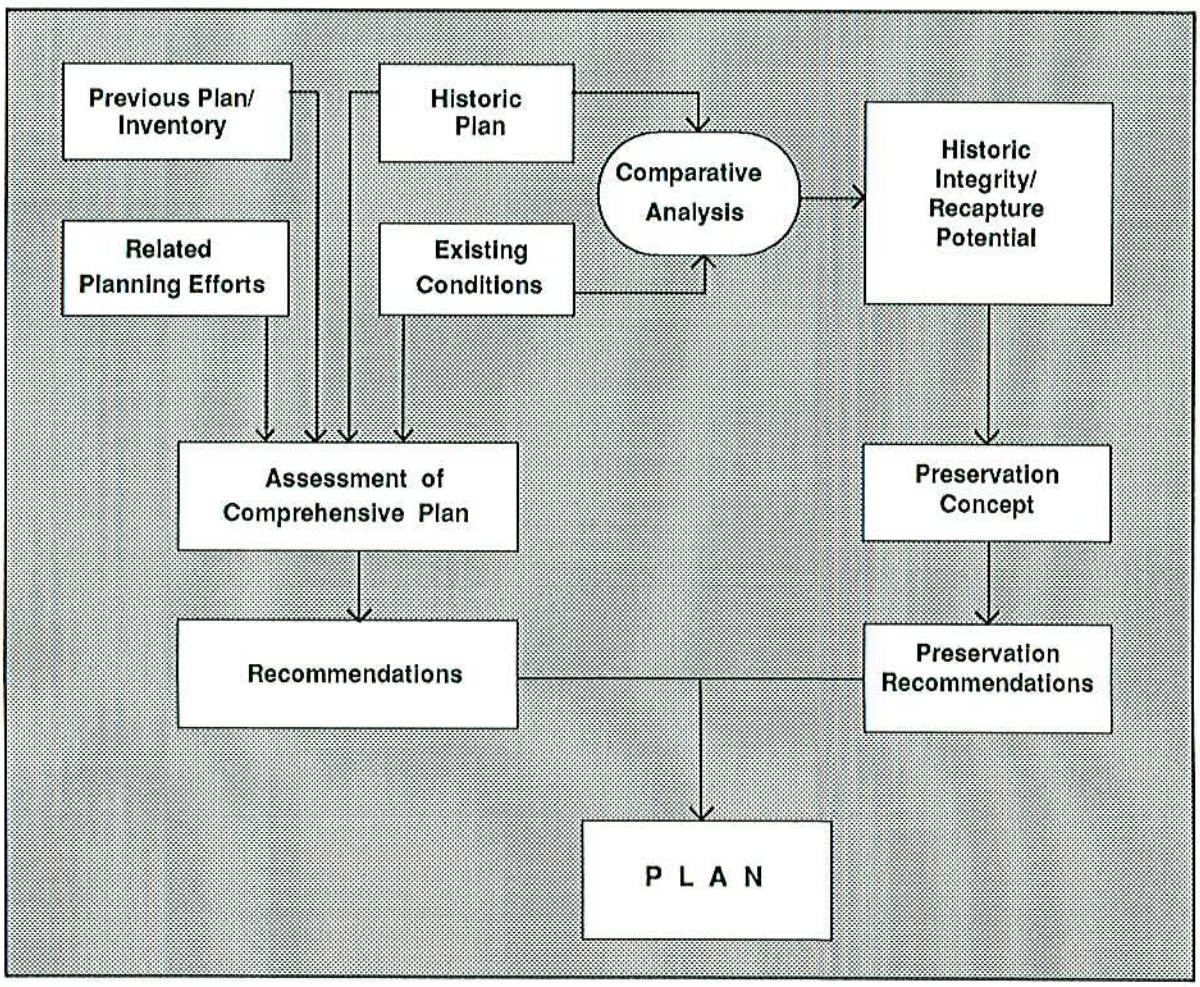
Methodology and Process

The study process is illustrated in the flow chart may be summarized by the following steps:

. review previous work
. research historic record
. assess previous work
. assess existing conditions and plans
. determine historic significance
. analyze historic integrity
. determine appropriate treatment
. prioritize recommendations

Building on earlier efforts as a basis for the current study, knowledge of existing physical conditions and related plans has been updated. Existing conditions have been analyzed in comparison with the 1891 Olmsted plan (Historic Plan) to determine the extent of historic integrity and range of appropriate preservation treatments. The 1985 Comprehensive Plan was examined in light of this updated inventory and analysis. A detailed assessment of the 1985 Comprehensive Plan isolated recommendations that warranted reconsideration in light of the updated inventory and the results of the historic analysis.

The investigation of the historic significance of the park uses as its basis the plan developed in 1891



by F. L. Olmsted and Company, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., Principal. The design intent of this plan, and verification of its execution and change over time, is supported by a body of written and graphic evidence. Research included primary and secondary sources. In a series of exhibits, the 1989 existing conditions plans are analyzed relative to the 1891 design (Comparative Analysis). This analysis determines the extent to which the present-day park reflects the original design in order to inform design guidelines for future application where historic treatment is desirable and feasible, and to identify sensitive or critical elements that, if lost, would irreparably alter the character of the historic plan (Historic Integrity/Recapture Potential). Based on this, a preservation concept has been proposed. Recommendations to implement that preservation concept include Schematic Design Guidelines for consideration in implementing the Master Plan.

This plan report offers a summary of the process and findings that complete the Seneca Park Master Plan. It documents the investigation and analysis of the historic park as planned, as constructed and as it exists today.

It was necessary to evaluate the extent and basis of the park's historic significance in order to develop a realistic preservation concept that could then be weighed against other component plan objectives, such as zoo expansion or the Urban Cultural Parks (UCP). The proposed expansion of the Seneca Park Zoo has demonstrated a clear public mandate. It was a key part of our mission to establish parameters for this expansion, to minimize impacts on the historic fabric of the park, to establish suitable interfaces between the zoo and surrounding parkland, and to maximize opportunities as they arise. The zoo master planning consultant, Coe Lee Robinson and Roesch, worked with us on the resolution and acceptance of conceptual guidelines, which will form the basis for zoo expansion and associated parkland restoration.

A detailed discussion of the consultant team's findings and recommendations are summarized as follows:

Systemwide:

- Develop a systemwide signage and interpretive system to relate parkland areas.
- Operate a people mover system within and between park areas to provide access and minimize parking demand.
- Retrofit for barrier free access throughout the park, wherever feasible.
- Acquire the railroad right-of-way as expansion area for the park, the zoo and the trail to the lakeshore.
- Support the City of Rochester Critical Environmental Area protection of the visual quality of the river gorge.
- Extend trail connections on both sides of the river to constitute a continuous, scenic trail system.
- Revegetate bare slopes to control erosion.

I. Lower Falls Park Recommend to the City:

- Support Urban Cultural Park Plans.
- Screen upland uses.
- Maintain meadow.

II. Maplewood Rose Garden Recommend to the City:

- Improve safety of access to the river.
- Reuse the Dovecote for restrooms.
- Redesign the upland area, drive, parking, rim path and outlook.
- Provide barrier free access to the Rose Garden.
- Recreate the Glen House Landing.

III. Maplewood Park Recommend to the City:
- Preserve parkland.
- Remove police station and restore landscape.
- Improve rim trail and linkages.
- Develop outlooks and seating on rim trail.

IV. Carthage Drive Recommend to the City:
- Develop the Brewer Street outlook.
- Plant street trees.
- Add outlooks and signage.

V. Seneca Park - Seth Green Area
- Recommend to NY DOT construction of a pedestrian footbridge in connection with improvements to Veterans Memorial Bridge.
- Establish ground cover for erosion control, path definition and scenic enrichment.

VIII. Seneca Park - Lower Seneca Park
- Study Trout Pond and feasibility of using it as a natural system for swimming.
- Expand the zoo within the historic buffer of Lower Seneca Park (north of the zoo and backslope of terrace), within the following performance guidelines:
  - visually screen via 50' minimum buffer
  - recreate an historic outlook
  - screen, blend and make recessive zoo facilities

IX. Seneca Park North
- Allow for natural succession with ecological monitored buffer on south end, selective clearing and replant with native species.

The following recommendations for capital improvements are summarized in tabular form. Estimates represent the cost of construction to public standards in 1990. They do not include the cost of design, administration, supervision, contingencies or adjustments for inflation. They also do not include costs for land acquisition, since it depends on a number of market forces, and is highly variable.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: NEAR TERM, FIRST PRIORITY

AREA/RECOMMENDATION	COST ESTIMATE
Lower Seneca Park (VIII) and Seneca Park North (IX)	
Rehabilitate historic trails at rim and within loop drive	499,000
Rehabilitate river access areas, gorge paths, outlooks and trail surface, signage; improve Olmsted Landing	121,000
Upper Drive (VII)	
Add a restroom facility to serve the picnic grove, play lot and pedestrian bridge	100,000

AREA/RECOMMENDATION	COST ESTIMATE
Seth Green Area (V)	
Provide a turnaround at the north end of Seth Green Drive to control turf parking, and protect existing trees	39,733
TOTAL NEAR TERM, FIRST PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS	$ 760,233

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: NEAR TERM

Lower Seneca Park (VIII)	
Relocate picnic shelters, restrooms and play areas inside the loop road	$ 241,560
Relocate parking	71,400
Install Buffer	400,000
Rehabilitate the pond edge as per historic design intent	150,000
Restore the picnic grove character via a developed forest management plan	99,975
Rehabilitate the loop drive	463,900
Rehabilitate the Wegman building to provide restrooms and meeting space and to improve appearance	60,000
Relocate Labor Center	350,000
Seneca Park Entry (VI)	
Redesign entry to improve continuity of the rim paths, scenic outlooks, parking, signage, erosion control and screening of Pure Waters building	123,458
Upper Drive (VII)	
Renovate the play area and parking appropriate to historic character	50,000
Seneca Park Seth Green Area (V)	
Improve the safety of the switchback trail	132,000
TOTAL NEAR TERM RECOMMENDATIONS	$ 2,010,293

AREA/RECOMMENDATION	COST ESTIMATE
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS: LONG TERM	
Lower Seneca Park (VIII)	
Provide a people-mover system through Seneca Park	$ 184,000
Replace the Wegman Building	250,000
Seneca Park Entry (VI)	
Improve pedestrian path/outlook	25,000
Seneca Park North (IX)	
Add a pedestrian trailhead at west end of Seneca Avenue with parking and signage	15,000
Seneca Park Seth Green Drive (V)	
Develop a footpath and bridge to Seth Green Island	56,000
Provide a Landing	40,000
Develop a built scenic outlook per historic design on the existing promontory	37,900
TOTAL LONG-TERM RECOMMENDATIONS	$ 607,900
TOTAL NEARTERM FIRST PRIORITY	$ 760,233
TOTAL NEAR TERM	2,010,293
TOTAL LONG TERM	607,900
TOTAL ALL RECOMMENDATIONS	$ 3,378,426

Historic Analysis

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED'S PLAN FOR SENECA PARK

Seneca Park represents the second of two designs created by Frederick Law Olmsted in Rochester in the 1890s by which he sought to reserve significant sections of the Genesee River and its banks for permanent public access and recreation. The first of these to be planned and constructed was Genesee Valley Park, which Olmsted referred to as "Meadow Park." It contained the pastoral landscape that he provided whenever possible in at least one park of every park system he planned. The level ground of most of the park site, and its closeness to the river, provided an ideal opportunity to create broad landscape effects. In contrast, the deep gorge of the Genesee River below the falls made possible a very different kind of public park. The main purpose of Olmsted's design was to preserve and make accessible the natural scenery of the gorge of the Genesee.

In the process, he created a unique combination of two design approaches that he had used earlier in his career. One of these was creation of scenic reservations, providing access to beautiful natural scenery in a way that permitted the maximum number of visitors with minimal damage to the scenery itself. Olmsted had dealt with this problem in the 1860s as chairman of the first commission in charge of Yosemite, and in the year before he began his park work in Rochester he had drawn up the plan for the Niagara Reservation. He viewed the problem of designing for safe access to the edge of the Niagara gorge as a most difficult one, and drew from that experience when he turned to designing Seneca Park. The problem was less great in the Rochester park, since there were many more vista-points along the Genesee gorge than the few near the falls to which visitors to the Niagara Reservation traditionally crowded. Moreover, the Genesee River did not pose the danger that was always present at the edge of falls of Niagara and along the swift-flowing rapids above them.

TREATMENT OF THE GORGE AND RIVER BANK

The Genesee gorge did, however, pose a danger of a different kind. Access to the river edge was possible only by descending the steep face of the gorge. To deal with this problem, Olmsted made special provision in both his circulation system and his planting plans. There were at least three existing roads down the side of the gorge with fairly gradual grades which he proposed to reconstruct as walking paths. These were Buell Avenue, running northward on the West side above Driving Park Bridge (which was joined by a path running to the gorge edge near Lower Falls); a road down to Hanford Landing on the west side, connecting with Hanford Landing Road above; and Genesee Avenue, running with two switchbacks down to Brewer's Landing from St. Paul Street on the east side. In six other locations, Olmsted planned paths with sets of steps that descended the gorge at a steeper angle. At one additional point, near a stream running down the gorge on the east side near Collingwood Street, he planned a winding path with few or no stairs. While he did not describe in detail how these paths and stairs should be constructed, all of his other design work indicates that they were to be carefully engineered, well surfaced and drained, safe and convenient to use during most seasons of the year. Both for considerations of safety and to maximize enjoyment of scenery, Olmsted took great pains to make sure that the circulation systems of his parks and scenic reservations were properly designed and solidly constructed.

Use of the gorge for recreation entailed another danger, which came from the threat of rockfalls that could injure visitors. To guard against this, the Olmsted firm proposed that "In some places it will, no doubt be desirable to plant trees very thickly near the base of the slope in specially prepared trenches, so they would serve to prevent rolling stones from injuring people who might be on the river walk below."[1] (Note: Footnotes for pages 10-19 begin on page 19.) Some protection from showers

was also desirable: Olmsted provided for roofed shelters at the eight boat landings that he placed along both sides of the river shore. These supplemented the shelter offered by the Glen House below Maple Grove, which he proposed to retain, and its nearby boat house.

As for the scenery of the gorge, Olmsted proposed for the most part to leave it as it was, but he did intend to introduce additional plantings at some places for greater richness of effect in an area that the old photographs show already had a rich profusion of plants, shrubs, and trees. The firm's instructions on plantings propose that "as a rule all the steep bluffs should be covered with trees, with an undergrowth of native shrubs suitable to dense shade, exposure, character of the soil, etc. . . . In general we would strongly advise that only trees and shrubs, vines and plants native to the locality should be used between the river and the tops of the bluffs, and great pains should be taken to do all planting in such a way as to produce as wild and natural an effect as possible below the tops of the bluffs." The instructions also observe that "there is, of course, an opportunity for an immense amount of detailed study in the planting of the Gorge. For instance, in moist places ferns might be introduced in considerable patches."[2] In this way the natural scenery was to be supplemented, and its visual effect strengthened, by planting additional native vegetation in the gorge.

At certain points also, Olmsted wished to control the vegetation on the face of the gorge in order to provide a clear view of it from above:

> "At numerous places . . . it is intended to keep views open from the drive and walk along the top of the bluff, and in some cases even plunging views all the way down the bluff. Therefore, in these places it will be necessary to omit all large-growing trees, and even sometimes to remove some of those already existing, and to cover the ground with low-growing trees, shrubbery and low growths, according to the distance below the point of view."[3]

This observation indicates how important to Olmsted's whole conception was the view he proposed to provide from the edge of the gorge.

TREATMENT OF THE EDGE OF THE GORGE

Since presentation of the scenery of the Genesee gorge was Olmsted's primary concern in Seneca Park, he planned a carriage drive and pedestrian walk that occupied almost the full extent of the edge of the gorge. In doing so, he drew from design principles that he had employed first, and most comprehensively, in his plan of 1873 for Riverside Park in Manhattan. There he created parallel drives and walks with separating lines of formally planted trees that stretched along the steep bank of the Hudson River between 72nd and 128th streets. With such a plan, he observed, "it would not be difficult, nor would it take many years to form a really grand promenade of much value to the whole city, having for long distances something of the geneal character of the Spanish Alamedas, with the great advantage of a prospect of rare extent, great beauty and much variety of interest."[4]

With a similar purpose in mind, Olmsted proposed to create along the edge of the Genesee gorge a public space for pedestrians and carriages that drew from the tradition of the Alameda of Spain. This meant the introduction of a formal element along the top of an area, the gorge, that he proposed to treat as a scenic reservation. The formality was to be provided by the evenly spaced single row of shade trees that was to run along the outside of the drive on both edges of the gorge (running the full length of the west side of the park and on the east to the point where the drive entered the wider tableland section at the northern end). In some areas the corresponding single row of trees at the edge of the gorge was to be planted formally, while in others the spacing and alignment was less regular, creating an informal effect, where the curves of the drive or adjoining landscape made such treatment appropriate. Visitors traveling along the drive and adjacent paths would have a nearly constant view of the gorge, but one that was partially obscured by the outside row of trees. Then,

at the best vista-points, Olmsted provided concourses for viewing the gorge, providing a foreground planting of shrubs and groundcover. There were two of these viewing areas on the west side: one was at the edge of the open park-like area halfway along the drive on that side; the other was a small concourse at a circle where Hanford Landing Road reached the edge of the gorge. On the east side the viewing concourses were more numerous. They began with a refectory on the gorge edge just north of Driving Park Bridge, followed by concourses on two headlands overlooking Brewer's Landing. Then came the widest viewing area, just north of the Ridge Road intersection. Here Olmsted planned a second structure, a shelter from which both walkers and those using carriages could enjoy views up and down the river. After this, the tableland of the northern section of the park broadened, in which there were to be six additional viewing points across the gorge from the drive.

TREATMENT OF THE NORTHEAST SECTION OF THE PARK

In order to provide for continuation of the gorge-side drive and walks in the northeastern section of Seneca Park, Olmsted proposed to move the tracks of the Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg Railroad to the east, beginning at Ridge Road. This permitted the park drive to continue along the edge of the gorge, with thick buffer planting between the drive and the city beyond, for an important portion of its length.

Although the northeastern end was the widest section of the park above the gorge, Olmsted did not intend it to be the most open. The only area with a broad expanse of pastoral scenery in his plan was a section on the Maplewood side, between two segments of the park drive, where the terrain made possible an area of greensward some four hundred yards in length and one hundred yards wide, within a narrow circle of scattered trees.

The more terrain of the northeast end of the park was divided into two sections, one of which was a narrow ridge on the eastern edge that Olmsted used primarily for thick border plantations to block out the railroad and the city beyond. In this area he also placed the station for railroad access to the park, and on the edge of the eastern ridge he proposed construction of vista-points and the third structure in the eastern section of the park above the gorge, a pavilion to accommodate the many visitors that he anticipated would travel to the park by rail.

On the tableland below, Olmsted ran the end-loop of the eastside park drive, using the wide area to introduce a landscape effect that contrasted with the views across the gorge along the rest of the drive. This was a landscape of scattered shade trees and small groves of trees that was far less open than the greensward area on the Maplewood side of the park. It was a landscape particularly conceived for that section of Seneca Park: an open "picnic grove" effect with trees and groups of trees up to 100 to 150 feet apart and no single expanse of greensward. None of the plans for Olmsted's other major parks contains a proposal for the particular kind of landscape effect that he planned for the Trout Lake area of Seneca Park. Within that area, the carriage drive that started at Driving Park Bridge looped around the "Pond," as Olmsted called it, which was to have heavy planting of shrubs and aquatic plants around its edge.

As the firm advised:

> It is . . . desirable to avoid a monotonous fringe of one or two kinds of water plants: as for instance the common water-lily, or the cat-tails. One great fault of artificial ponds in public parks is that their shores are either bare or monotonous, and we trust that you will be able to produce some very interesting and natural appearing effects. There is no necessity for using markedly exotic plants.[5]

In this area, Olmsted drew the carriage drive back from the edge of the gorge "principally because

it seems to us very desirable to allow people on foot, especially women with small children, an opportunity to stroll to some extent in the woods adjoining the path, without the anxiety incident to guarding against danger of passing carriages, which would be necessary if they had to cross the drive to go into the woods."[6]

North of Trout Lake the scenery changed again: in the center of the tableland was an extension of the open grove south of the lake, while between it and the edge of the gorge there were to be thick forest plantings that included a considerable number of White Pines.[7] This area, beyond the carriage drive and with only footpaths running along the edge of the gorge, was to have its own separate landscape effect and experience of wilderness and isolation from the city.

CONCLUSION

In his plan for Seneca Park, Olmsted created a variety of landscape experiences. At the same time his design was unified by its system of walks and drives, as well as by its focus on the river and gorge. In creating the plan, Olmsted drew from his earlier design work for scenic reservations and from his planning of such formal "Alamedas" as New York City's Riverside Park. In the process, he created a unique design that made full use of the opportunities offered by the impressive scenery of the Genesee River below the falls. He and his partners began work on Seneca Park in 1890 and continued to provide reports, advice, and plans for its construction until early 1897. The accompanying appendix of documentary material contains extracts from the correspondence of the firm during that time, and copies of reports of two visits by members of the firm, one in 1892 and the other in 1895. Also accompanying this report is a copy of a plan by the Olmsted firm that shows the walks, drives, and proposed planting treatment more clearly than does the printed lithograph of 1893. The only principal difference in planting treatment between this plan and the 1893 lithograph is that this plan does not show the dense forest planting along the gorge north of Trout Lake that appears so clearly in the lithograph.

SENECA PARK AS CONSTRUCTED

One of the most impressive aspects of the Olmsted plan for Seneca Park was the overall unity of the design, a unity that owed much to the system of walks and drives that ran from one end of the park to the other. In addition, the park envisioned in the plan consisted of several sections with different scenic and recreational qualities. The following discussion looks at the construction and use of ten distinct sections in the Olmsted plan. (Refer to Exhibits 5 and 6 on Foldouts 6 and 7.)

SECTION 1: ADMINISTRATION
(Maplewood Park, South of Driving Park Avenue)

Neither the administration building or the paths shown in the Olmsted plan were constructed in this section.

SECTION 2: PARKWAY AND PARK EDGE DRIVE WEST
(Gorge top from Driving Park Avenue to Maplewood Park Meadow)

Seneca Parkway was constructed as planned by the Olmsted firm, guided by recommendations on tree-planting of the firm.[8] Also, the park drive connection between the south end of Maplewood Park Meadow and Seneca Parkway [2.1] was constructed according to the Olmsted plan. However, the curvilinear park drive from Seneca Parkway south to Driving Park Avenue [2.2] was not constructed. Instead, Maplewood Avenue, reduced in width, was extended straight south to Driving Park Avenue. A major reason that this part of the plan was not carried out was the difficulty of acquiring the necessary gorge-edge property. Acquisition of the gorge-edge land east of Maplewood Avenue between Birr and Rose streets [2.3] was not completed until 1916, and other land in that area needed for construction of the drive as designed by Olmsted was not acquired by the city as late as 1932.[9]

Moreover, the city received Maple Grove park from its private owners in 1903, at the same time that those same owners transferred to the city ownership of all but the southernmost section the land between Maplewood Avenue and the gorge edge, from Driving Park Avenue to Birr Street.[2.4][10] Then, in 1904-05, the city developed that section of Seneca Park, in accordance with a plan drawn up by the Olmsted firm for Maple Grove (west of Maplewood Avenue) in 1904. Improvements carried out in this section east of Maplewood Avenue included construction of a path along the top of the gorge as far north as the park commission owned land (i.e., to Birr Street). The very detailed 1937 city Department of Engineering map of the park shows a path running along the gorge edge from Driving Park Avenue to Maplewood Park, and a late 1920s aerial photograph appears to show such a path as well. However, the curving drive of Olmsted's plan was not constructed. Maplewood Avenue was instead widened into a large parking lot east of Maple Grove. This deviation from the Olmsted plan, coupled with the acquisition of Maple Grove Park with its rose garden, meant that the focus on the gorge and its scenery that Olmsted had intended to be the principal theme and purpose of the section of Seneca Park West closest to the city was not achieved.

SECTION 3: GORGE AND RIVER EDGE WEST

Nonetheless, the city moved rapidly ahead after 1903 to carry out a portion of Olmsted's concept by providing access to the gorge and river. Fences were constructed at the dangerous places along

Buell Avenue as it descended the side of the gorge, and a path was constructed down to the Glen House and then along the river to a junction with Buell Avenue below Seneca Parkway. Another path continued from Buell Avenue along the course of an old road to Hanford Landing and then along the river bank and up to the top of the gorge at the north end of the park. Below Maplewood Park, an old Indian trail was repaired, leading from the river up the gorge.[11] Few of these paths were constructed in the place and manner shown on Olmsted's plan. The boat landings were not built, nor was the enrichment of the vegetation of the gorge edge that he proposed carried out. A landslide has carried away part of Buell Avenue, so there is now no safe and convenient access to the river. Over time the vegetation on the gorge edge has become sparse and lacking in variety, so that little of the richness portrayed in early photographs century can now be experienced.

SECTION 4: MAPLEWOOD PARK MEADOW

The basic Olmsted landscape plan was carried out, with preparation and seeding of the open lawn area, and planting of trees along the surrounding park drives. The path around the interior perimeter of the park was not constructed.[12] From very early, various structures and facilities were introduced into the open landscape of the meadow, including an administration building, maintenance sheds and toilets. Careful planting of surrounding trees and shrubs concealed these utilitarian structures, but at the price of filling up the open space in this section of the park. A pond was also constructed in part of the intended meadow. Recreational structures included a refectory/pavilion, tennis courts, and play houses.

In c. 1931 the access road to Veterans Memorial Bridge, and the west end of the bridge itself [4.1], cut through Maplewood Park Meadow. The 1937 Maplewood Park map indicates that this construction interrupted the gorge-top path for a distance of 800 feet, creating a break in the system that was never adequately repaired. Construction of the Keeler Street Expressway in 1966 further intruded into the park space, particularly the access ramp that takes up the section of the park south of the bridge [4.2]. In addition, what had originally been park drives were widened and served increasingly as feeders for bridge traffic while reducing ease and safety of pedestrian access to Maplewood Park Meadow. Construction of a police station and parking lot at the Pavilion site further reduced the amount of space available for recreational purposes.

SECTION 5: RIVER EDGE MEADOW, GROVE AND FOREST

Aside from building a path across this area to the gorge edge at Hanford Landing Road, little was done to develop this section for recreational purposes before its transfer in the 1920s to the Eastman Kodak Company for the site of a water treatment plant.

SECTION 6: ELECTRIC POWER

The Olmsted plan shows Carthage Drive [6.1] as a formally planted boulevard serving as entrance to a street that was to run south from there along the gorge edge in view of the falls. That street was not constructed. Instead, Carthage Drive was constructed as a street that turned right at the gorge edge and ran to Driving Park Avenue, taking the place of the pedestrian promenade and falls-viewing area that Olmsted planned for that part of the gorge edge. Eventually numerous plantings were made along Carthage Drive, using plant materials supplied by Charles S. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum. They consisted especially of hawthorns and crab apples, and so were more decorative than those intended by Olmsted.[13]

SECTION 7: GORGE AND RIVER EDGE EAST

Olmsted's plan for this section called for seven paths descending the gorge side to the river, all but two of them using a number of stairs. These paths were to join a riverside path running the length of the park with five roofed boat landings to provide shelter, views up and down the river, and facilities for boating. At the three places where roads already existed (and which Olmsted proposed to improve by new grading or by constructing stairs), access to the gorge was possible. All three appear both on C.C. Laney's topographical map of 1890 and on the Department of Engineering map of 1937 [7.1, 7.2, 7.3]. But none of these was improved according to Olmsted's plan, and neither the boat landings nor the riverside path were constructed.

In the 1950s an RG&E access road was constructed from Seth Green Drive at Norton Street down the face of the gorge and under Driving Park Bridge [7.4], with destruction by blasting of one of the most notable rock headlands shown in old photographs of the gorge. The access road has none of the appearance of a park drive and is inappropriate and visually intrusive in the park.

(Recently, two paths have been built to the river in the northern section of the park. The northernmost is unobtrusive, but not very sturdily constructed or particularly safe to use--certainly not as solidly constructed and safe as Olmsted intended such paths and stairs to be. The other is much more sturdy, but creates a gash in the gorge side, since it descends straight down in a series of switchback stairs and platforms, while all of the paths into the gorge on Olmsted's plan descend the gorge diagonally along the slope or by a series of traversing switchbacks. Additional planting between the platforms and along the sides could well ameliorate this visual intrusion.)

SECTION 8: FORMAL DRIVE AND PROMENADE

The principal feature of this area in Olmsted's plan was a gorge-edge path and drive running west of St. Paul, the drive lined with a row of trees on each side, sometimes evenly spaced and sometimes informally arranged, with breaks at viewing points into the gorge, usually where the drive and walks joined each other at a curb. For this whole distance, from Driving Park Avenue to the park entrance opposite Collingwood Street [8.1], the line of trees on the eastern side of the drive ran along the park boundary. The section of the drive beginning just north of Lowe Street (Genesee Street) [8.2], was constructed according to the Olmsted plan: the course of the drive, placement and shape of turnouts for viewing, etc., all follow his plan closely. However, no shelter structure was built just north of the intersection of Ridge Road, at the southern edge of a long open vista-concourse at the easternmost part of the bend in the Genesee River [8.3]). Instead, the existing structure just south of the site of Olmsted's refectory was retained and used as the park superintendent's house. The twentieth century plat-book maps indicate that the gorge-side path running west of the drive did not start until after the driveway to the superintendent's house.[8.4]

This large gap between the southern entrance to the park on the eastern side and the beginning of the drive and path was due to the difficulty the city encountered in purchasing all of the land between old Genesee Street, at the beginning of the old switchback road down to Brewer's Landing, and Driving Park Avenue. The city purchased much of the land adjacent to the avenue [8.5], and continued to add parcels in that area until as late as 1917, by which time it had secured a strip of land along the gorge edge 500 feet long and approximately 100 feet wide.[14] The principal problem was posed by the continued refusal of the Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes to sell the 600-foot strip of land on the gorge edge [8.6] needed to extend Olmsted's path and drive across its property. The city finally gave up the attempt, and in 1938 sold the land it had acquired on the gorge edge just north of Driving Park Avenue to the Eastman Kodak Company for what became the site

of the Hawkeye plant. The city also encountered problems in acquiring needed land between Norton and Lowe streets.[8.7] There, land needed for the drive was not acquired until 1923-30.[15] As an apparent result, the large concourse and viewing area on the bluff just south of the old road down to Brewer's Landing [8.8] was never constructed. The entrance at Norton Street and connecting drive to Lowe Street entrance was completed by 1930.[16]

The continuity from Norton Street northward was immediately broken by construction in 1931 of the Veterans Memorial Bridge and its approaches. However, the new traffic circle at the east end of the bridge allowed traffic on the park drive to cross the flow of bridge traffic. This ameliorating of major intrusions on the park design was not repeated when the Keeler Street Expressway and senior citizens highrise housing were constructed. With the Keeler Expressway, even the long concourse just north of the Veterans Memorial Bridge was lost, effectively obliterating what had been created of the gorge-side drive and walk that made up Section 8.

SECTION 9: SCENIC PARK DRIVE AND PICNIC

This section extended from the entrance off St. Paul Street near Collingwood to the point where the park drive diverged from the gorge edge and began to descend toward the Trout Pond [that is, at the present entrance gate opposite the Zoo entrance]. To make this section of the drive and path system possible, the tracks of the RW&O Railroad were shifted as much as five hundred feet to the east. In this area, the drive and path ran close to the top of the gorge, with several turnouts along the drive for views. Unlike the drive to the south, this section had open, parklike scenery to the east of the drive, consisting of lawn, scattered trees with dense buffer planting on the outer edge. The drive and walk on the edge of the gorge and the buffer plantings were installed according to Olmsted's plan, following the detailed plan for roads and walks prepared by the Olmsted firm in the summer of 1891. Paths constructed to the east of the drive did not correspond with the Olmsted plan, however.

Over time, two major intrusions appeared in this section: the swimming pool in 1934, and the Zoo parking lot in 1957, both of which had a negative effect on the intended landscape experience. The present plan for the park drive and path and Zoo parking lot in this section will go far to restore the intended character of this section. A recent major intrusion that likewise requires amelioration is the Pure Waters bridge, with its inappropriate and unparklike service buildings and walkway.

SECTION 10: PICNIC GROVE, POND AND PEDESTRIAN GORGE VIEWS

The Olmsted plan provided within this section for three divisions, each with a different use, as well as heavy buffer planting along the eastern edge.

The eastern plateau section, now the site of the Zoo, was to be a place for embarkation from public transportation, and was to provide vistas over the northern end of the park and the gorge beyond. The Olmsted plan indicated the site of the pavilion (later Girl Scouts Building) [10.1] and in 1894 the firm advised on architectural plans for the building (which was to provide views, shelter, food, and toilet facilities.)[17]

The central section consisted of a loop made by the park drive around Trout Pond, the northernmost point of the drive, which was to begin at Driving Park Avenue. Olmsted pulled the drive back from the gorge edge in most of this section in order to provide a different scenic experience--primarily glimpses of the pond through its surrounding plantings. (The drive came in contact with the path overlooking the gorge at only two points on the drive-loop around Trout Pond, both in the

southwestern part of the loop [10.2, 10.3].) Within the loop was an open picnic grove with lawn and scattered trees, and Trout Pond. The pond was to be heavily planted along its eastern edge, with a path running close to the shore on the western side and with one beach providing access to the water.

The third and western-most section consisted of open woods with walking paths, including one path running close to the edge of the gorge with overlooks and two paths descending to the river edge. Since the drive curved away from the gorge in this section, there was space for pedestrians to walk through the woods and enjoy the views of the gorge.[18] North of the Pond, pedestrians could range through the woods and along the gorge-edge path free from any contact with carriages.

In the eastern part of this northern section of Seneca Park, the pavilion was constructed in the position indicated on the lithographed plan of 1893, but the path and road system that was constructed was quite different from that shown in the Olmsted plan. The pavilion in time became the Girl Scout Building and its site has been absorbed by the Zoo, cutting off the general park users from the views originally enjoyed from the pavilion.

In the Trout Pond section, the drive and paths were constructed according to the Olmsted plan, following particularly closely the detailed plan of roads and walks of 1891.[19] The shape of the pond and the tree-planting also appear to have followed the Olmsted plan, judging from 1920s aerial photographs. However, two developments took place early in the history of the park that were not part of the Olmsted plan.

One development was the addition of a number of recreational activities with accompanying structures and play facilities. Ball-playing grounds were introduced before 1902, when they were moved to make room for gymnastics grounds. In 1902 a swimming pool was constructed north of the Pond, which by that time was referred to as Trout Lake. A structure for accommodation of swimmers was built in 1904 and a Merry-Go-Round was added by 1906. In 1908 two sand houses for children and a tennis court were added within the Trout Pond drive loop. In 1910 additional swings were installed, as well as a bandstand on the west side of the pond. By 1937, as the Department of Engineering map shows, there were four tennis courts inside the Trout Pond drive loop and a refectory had been constructed. North of the drive loop, near the site of the old swimming pool, the Wegman building was added in 1957.[20]

The second development not anticipated or intended in the Olmsted plan was the growth of a zoological collection in the park. In its early stages, several animal exhibits were installed in the picnic grove area, inside the drive loop. As early as 1894-95, trout were donated for the pond and Mongolian pheasants were introduced into the park. The first documented enclosure for zoological exhibits was an aviary constructed next to the lake in 1897. Large animals were soon added, elk being moved to the park in 1901 and bison c. 1904, both of which eventually were installed in pens inside the Trout Pond drive loop.[21] Following construction of the new Zoo building in 1931, most of these exhibits were moved to that structure or its environs. By 1937 the aviary next to Trout Pond was the only remaining zoological exhibit in that section.

Recreational activities also penetrated into the western division of this section--particularly picnic and play facilities on the west side of the drive near Trout Pond. These facilities were expanded in 1949, and still exist today. This development not only intruded on the gorge-side path at a very narrow place, but also introduced an element of danger due to the proximity of the gorge edge and the threat it posed to children using the play and picnic facilities. The principal activity of the western division, however, remained walking and viewing the gorge.

CONCLUSION

This overview of the construction and use of Seneca Park indicates that despite the large size of the park, there are few areas of any extent where the Olmsted plan was carried out and still retains integrity today. This is due primarily to three factors:

1. inability to acquire certain sections that were expected to be included in the park at the time the plan was made;
2. lack of construction of paths and other features in sections that were purchased for park use;
3. alienation of park land to nonpark use.

While it is still possible to realize Olmsted's original concept in many parts of the park, the northeastern end of Seneca Park, below the Zoo plateau, is the only area of considerable size where integrity of the Olmsted plan exists today, free from major intrusions. The integrity of the Olmsted-designed drive, pond, picnic and play areas, and gorge-edge path, is an important historical and recreational resource, and this fact should be respected as plans are made for the future of the park.

FOOTNOTES

1. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to C.C. Laney, February 20, 1897, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Vol. A50, pp. 393-95.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Frederick Law Olmsted, Report of the Landscape Architect on the Preliminary Plans for Riverside Park and Avenue in Third General Report of the Board of Commissioners of the Department of Public Parks (New York, 1873).

5. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to C.C. Laney, December 29, 1896, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

6. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to E.M. Moore, January 9, 1895, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Vol. A38, pp. 92-94.

7. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to C.C. Laney, February 20, 1897, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress.

8. F.L. Olmsted & Co. to C.C. Laney, December 24, 1892: Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Vol. A24, p. 204.

9. City of Rochester, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Design and Construction, Division of City Map & Survey, Title Map of Seneca Park and Adjacent Property, 1932, District 4, Map A.

10. City of Rochester, Department of Public Works, Title Map of Seneca Park and Adjacent City Property, 1932, District 9, Map A.

11. 1905 Park Report, p. 661.

12. 1901 Park Report, p. 645; 1902 Park Report, p. 681; Maplewood-Park: City of Rochester, Monroe County. Prepared under Project 65-21-3400 by City Map and Survey, Department of Engineering, for Bureau of Parks. Department of Public Safety, 1937 [50-scale].

13. 1907 Park Report, p. 669.

14. City of Rochester, Department of Public Works, Title Map of Seneca Park and Adjacent City Property, 1932, District 4, Map A.

15. Ibid; 1902 Park Report, p. 680.

16. Aerial photo, late 1920s, City of Rochester, Photo Lab, Bureau of Public Information, No. 0404884.

17. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to A.R. Selden, February 19, 1894, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Vol. A32, pp. 255-58 (see relevant text in "Olmsted Firm Seneca Park Documents," below).

18. Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to E.M. Moore, January 9, 1895, Olmsted Associates Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Vol. A38, pp. 92-94.

19. F.L. Olmsted & Co., Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass., "City of Rochester Park Commission, Seneca Park: Plan of roads & walks in North End" (August 3, 1891).

20. 1902 Park Report, p. 68l; 1904 Park Report, pp. 640-41; 1906 Park Report, p. 703; 1908 Park Report, p. 32; 19l0 Park Report, p. 652; Seneca Park. City of Rochester, Monroe Co., N.Y., Prepared Under Project 65-21-3891, City Map & Survey, Dep't of Engineering, for Bureau of Parks--Dep't of Public Safety (November 12, 1937).

21. Ibid.; 1894 Park Report, p. 654; 1895 Park Report, p. 422; 1897 Park Report, p. 664; 1901 Park Report, p. 645; 1904 Park Report, p. 640.

ELEMENTS OF HISTORIC LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION

There are three categories of historic landscape types: Park, Forest and Edge. Within each type three or four divisions are defined. Additional landscapes found in the park today are described under the heading Other Landscapes, including four landscape headings and one for built features. The historic categories are utilized in organizing the Schematic Design Guidelines. Where a topic is applicable to the entire park, it is simply stated in general. If it applies to a specific landscape category, it is noted and described accordingly. The Park, Edge and Forest landscapes vary considerably in character and appointments. Together they form the fabric of a dramatic public landscape that encompasses the Genesee River gorge. While they are each distinct, they also are continuous, flowing from one to another. The Olmsted concept for each landscape type should guide the rehabilitation of each park area, bringing it closer to what was intended over time.

HISTORIC PARK LANDSCAPES

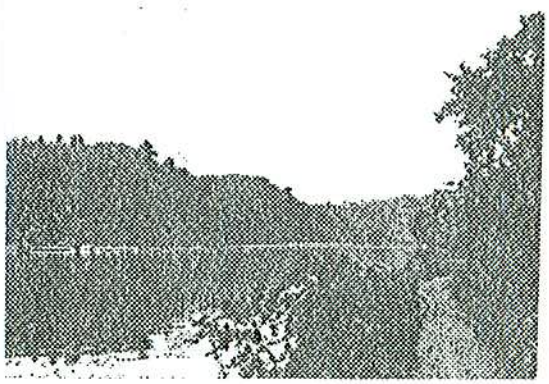
Picnic area southwest of Trout Pond

PICNIC GROVE: Lawn or meadow with scattered trees and groups, more shade than sun, open feeling, no expanse of greensward, small shrub clusters along some parts of edge.

Seneca Park Master Plan

Existing lawn in Maplewood Park

LAWN WITH TREES: Pastoral landscape with expanses of greensward, individual trees and small scattered groups, lots of sunlight (at Maplewood trees are along edges).



Historic view of Genesee River (from unidentified location showing dense shrubs at edge of path)

DENSE SHRUBS: Heavy shrub planting with occasional single trees. These are large masses of shrubs and herbaceous plants, low enough to afford views over foliage to near landscape, as around Trout Lake and at viewpoints to allow view over the gorge.

WATER FEATURES: The Genesee River is the key water feature of Seneca Park. The river and the gorge on both sides was the unique area of natural scenery that Seneca Park was created to preserve. Two ponds created within the park landscape, Trout Lake and Maplewood Pond, vary the park landscape by providing pastoral, water edge images and water recreation. The gorge side waterfalls, near Brewer's Landing and several smaller falls, are also scenic water features of Seneca Park.

FOREST LANDSCAPES

Typical upland forest

FOREST ON LEVEL GROUND (Upland Forest): Dense woodland with full canopy and thickly planted understory, varied vegetation, low herbaceous plants, shrubs, understory and canopy, primarily deciduous, limited evergreen, a wild natural woodland that serves as a transition from park landscape to the gorge forest.

Contemporary view of paths along the gorge

GORGE FOREST: Dense woodland on sloping ground, full layering of plants from ground cover to canopy, an enriched native forest, some areas with lower canopy, limited trees and/or low shrubs to allow scenic views to river and opposite shore.

Historic view of the site where today's RG&E drive is located, looking north from Lower Falls

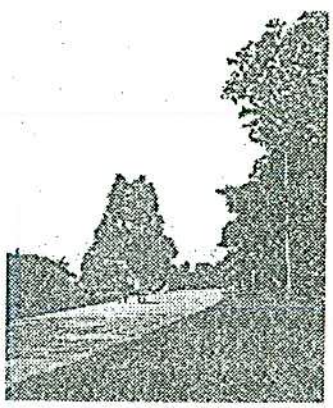
GORGE FOREST WITH ROCK: Woodland on step gorge side with visually dominant rock formations, significant rock faces, large boulders, etc. so that the rock becomes important to the passage of scenery.

Although this historic photo was taken from some point above the water's edge, the framed view of Seth Green Island illustrates the river edge woodland type

RIVER EDGE WOODLAND: Open canopy of deciduous trees with some shrubs and ground covers, more sunlight with views relatively open to river.

Example of remnant Formal Drive Edge
(Not from Seneca Park)

FORMAL STREET EDGE: A single row of regularly spaced trees in lawn along adjacent city streets and park drive, sometimes one side, occasionally both sides, deciduous canopy trees, generally monoculture, commonly oak, maple, elm or sycamore, often used when there is no space between street or drive and the top of the gorge.



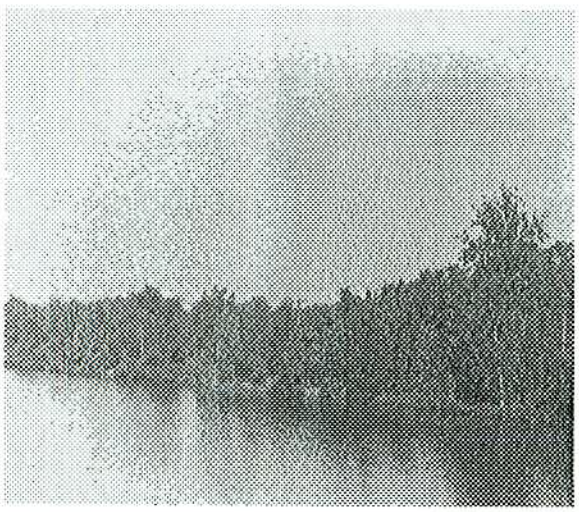
Historic view of Informal Edge
along a park drive

INFORMAL STREET EDGE: A single row of irregularly spaced trees in lawn, deciduous canopy trees of varied types, not a monoculture, used in narrow areas.

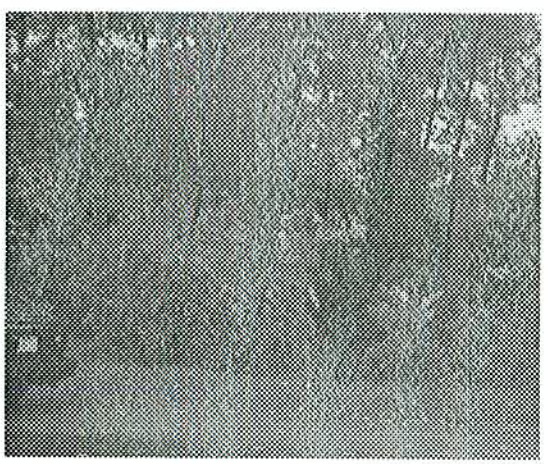
EDGE LANDSCAPES

Buffered edge along entry drive in Seneca Park

BUFFER: Dense layering of planting from shrub masses and understory trees up to high canopy, deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees. buffer plantings are deep enough to obscure views of the adjacent city. Generally found at park edges and particularly along the railroad .

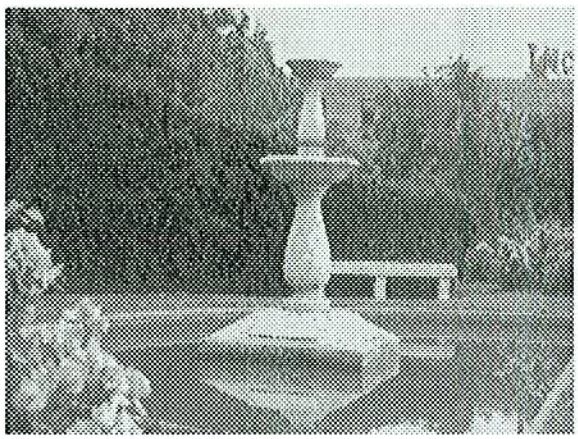


Historic view of east bank of Trout Pond with low foreground shrubs and layered vegetation



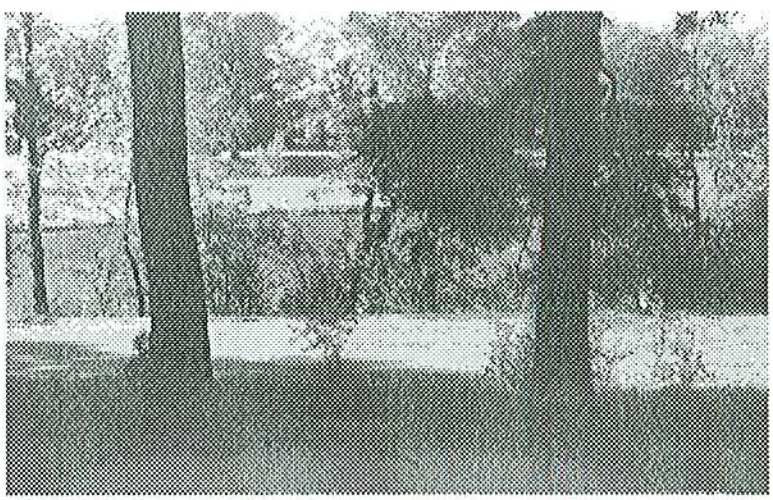
Buffer north of zoo and west of railroad

OTHER LANDSCAPE TYPES



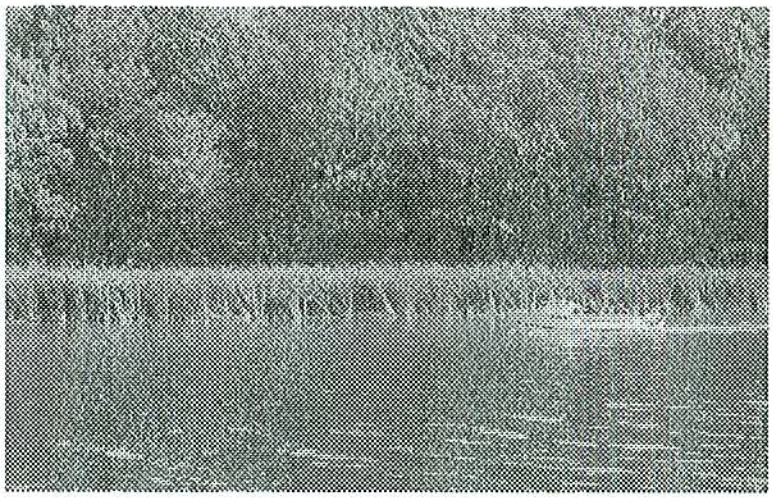
The fountain in Maplewood Rose Garden

FORMAL GARDEN/INTENSE MAINTENANCE
Maplewood Rose Garden and the Zoo entrance are isolated areas where intensively maintained gardens are located. The Olmsted Plan did not provide for such decorative plantings.



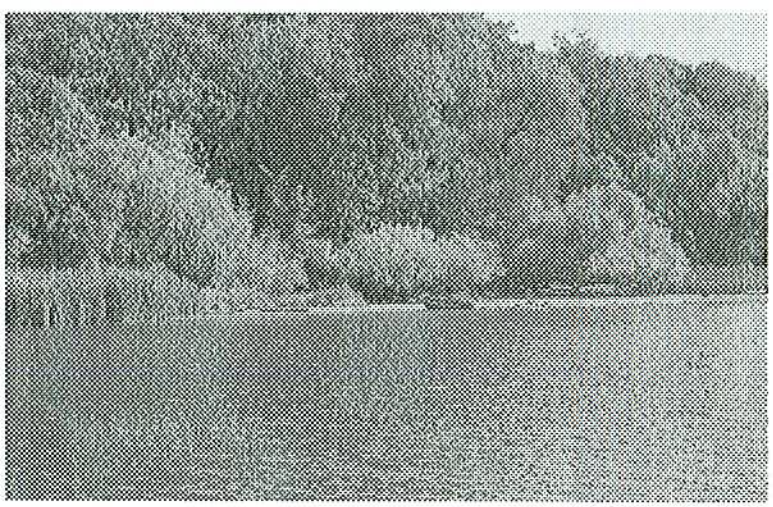
Looking west across loop road to Trout Pond

SHRUB BARRIER: Shrubs that are out of control with sapling volunteer trees. These plantings block views rather than providing a low foreground that enhances them.

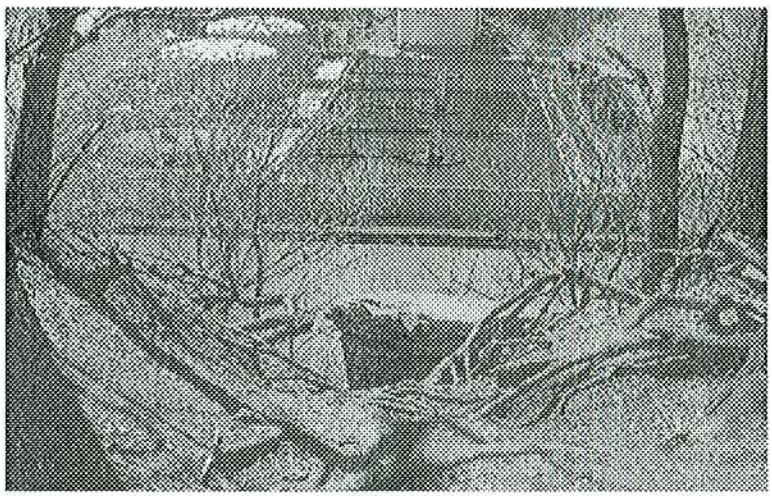


View showing scale and texture of uninterrupted wetland edge

WETLAND/EMERGENT: Predominantly cattail and phragmites at the river edge colonizing in large areas. The height of these wetland invaders limits visual access to open water and creates a uniform, not diverse edge. Flag iris and other wetland species, present along river banks in smaller concentrations, are more typical of natural river edge scenery.

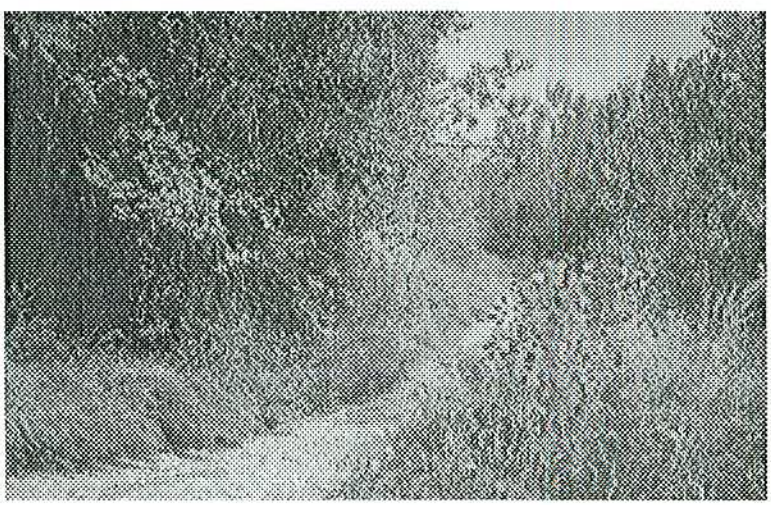


Forested river edge

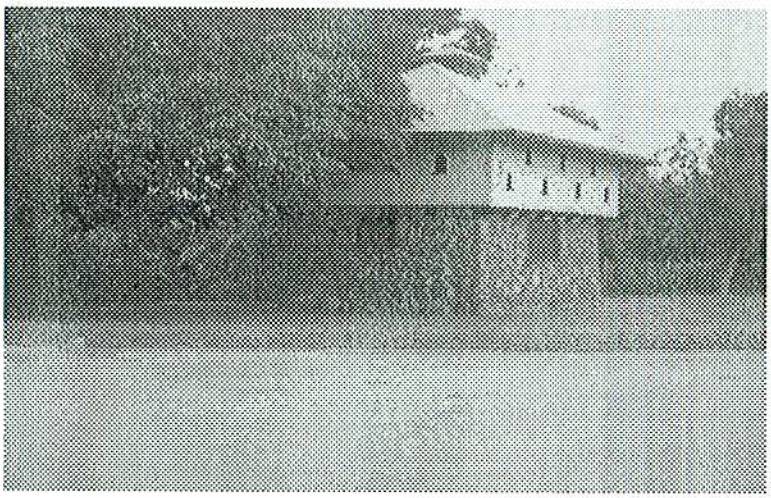


An unstable area on the east rim of the gorge across from Kodak Wastewater Treatment Plant is heavily eroded

PIONEER/DISTURBED: Heavily eroded, dump site, excavation, parking on earth, drainage problem area, pioneer volunteer vegetation, meadow or young forest species, released landscape being colonized by nearby seed sources.

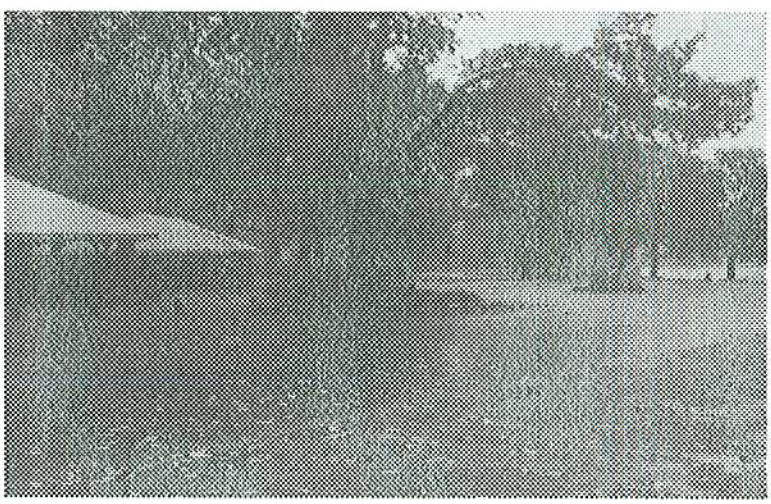


A disturbed area, now populated with pioneer vegetation. Path is kept clear because it is regularly used



The Dovecote in Maplewood Park

BUILT FORMS: Structures, parking lots and other significant built features that are not landscape areas.



Picnic shelters west of Trout Pond in Seneca Park as seen from the drive

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS PLANS: 1891 OLMSTED PLAN and 1989-90 EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

Four exhibits numbered 3, 4, 5, 6, have been developed showing both the Olmsted and Existing Conditions Plans. These four plans reveal the complex relationships between the two and fully inform the planning process by integrating the historic basis for the park with what we find today. Each of these plans is briefly discussed and graphically presented.

PLAN 3: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION ANALYSIS

The comparison of landscape composition within Seneca Park in the historic period and existing conditions, shown on PLAN 3: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION ANALYSIS, provides some insight into the changes in landscape quality, scenic effect and visitor experience. Plant materials are a primary resource in this historic, public park. The palette of plants for Seneca Park includes lawns, ground covers, flowering shrubs, flowering trees, evergreen trees and canopy trees in groupings that relate to the titles in the Symbol Key.

Native plant materials existing in the park were retained in the Olmsted development process while both natives and hardy imports were planted as the park developed and through the first few decades. The type, form, enclosure or openness of plant cover creates much of the structure of the park. The life span of many of these plants is 25 to 50 years. Others succumb to changes in use or abuse. Shifts in landscape composition over time change the structure of the park itself. A significant effort, both through individual projects and ongoing landscape maintenance, will be required to move the landscape back toward its historic form and content.

The 1891 and 1989-90 plans for the historic areas of Seneca Park are shown on this exhibit. Plan 3 shows four groupings of landscape types by area: Park Landscapes, Forest Landscapes, Edge Landscapes and Other Landscape Types. The definitions for each of the sixteen types were presented in the discussion of PLAN 1: LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION, and are included here for reference. Plan 1 portrays the existing landscape composition within the entire park, while Plan 3 shows the existing conditions in the areas originally designed by Olmsted and the landscape composition portrayed in the Olmsted plan of 1891. These plans are placed together for comparison purposes.

A cursory review will indicate that in several cases the landscape composition is given the same code on both plans. In these cases the basic intent remains while the specific plantings, their density, and general health have changed over time. The most prevalent example of this situation is found in the Gorge Forest (FG), Gorge Forest with Rock (FR), and River Edge Woodland (FE). Historic postcard views of these Forest Landscapes show lushly vegetated areas. Existing conditions are depleted, especially on the ground plane, from erosion, drainage problems and human-caused compaction. Replenishment of these plantings is a long term goal.

Where landscapes have changed over time, especially in the Park Landscape and Edge Landscape groups, the scenic quality, use, and visitor experience of the park is significantly altered. For example, in the areas surrounding Trout Pond, a water feature (PW) and Picnic Grove (PG) landscape, with rolling lawns and shady trees, dominated in the 1891 plan. The existing conditions shown in the 1989-90 plan is a simplified water feature set in a combination of Upland Forest (FU), Lawn with Trees (PL), and Shrub Barrier (OS), forming an entirely different landscape composition.

The Edge Landscape categories of Buffer (EB), Formal Street Edge (EF), and Informal Street Edge

(EI), have been altered over time. Remnant Buffer is found along the railroad lines. It is composed of older oaks, maples and other canopy trees with remnant shrubs, undesirable volunteer trees and saplings and has lost the ground cover layer, shrub masses and understory trees. Formal and Informal Street Edge landscapes are much diluted or entirely missing their intended design.

In the landscape composed on the gorge rim, visual relationships to the dramatic gorge scenery were articulated through the framing and managing of scenic vistas. Nearly all of these vistas have been lost through the growth of Gorge Forest trees. They have also been degraded through the intrusion of built elements into park landscapes.

The five groups of Other Landscape Types represent non-historic compositions. These are all changes, additions or evolutions over time. In the case of Built Forms (OB), the park landscape has been replaced by other elements and is not able to be recaptured. Wetland/Emergent (OW) landscapes are subject to protective regulations and therefore may not be reversible, while vegetation changes portrayed in Shrub Barrier (OS) and Pioneer/Disturbed (OD) are reversible.

The definition of these areas by Landscape Composition and comparison between the historic and existing conditions is a tool for providing understanding of current conditions and guiding future efforts. High priority should be given to areas where Olmsted design intent can be recaptured and is compatible with current park use.

PLAN 4: CIRCULATION, SCENIC and BOUNDARY ANALYSIS

Three distinct categories of information are portrayed on Plan 4 as a further comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions in Seneca Park, and is a companion exhibit to Plans 3 and 5.

The boundaries of Seneca Park have changed from 1891 to 1989-90. The Olmsted Plan boundary is shown on the 1989-90 base plan to illustrate the edges of the park as designed and point out those areas lost to non-park uses. The 1989-90 boundary, shown on the 1891 Olmsted Plan illustrates the components of the Olmsted design that are no longer within the public park.

The circulation system of Seneca Park was conceived by Olmsted to provide for scenic enjoyment of the near, mid-ground and far landscapes and access to park features as well as the natural wonders of the Genesee River Gorge. The vehicular system was designed primarily along the urban edge and the gorge rim. This system included internal park drives, parkways and park edge drive, drop-off/outlook areas and the Driving Park Bridge. Several of the intended park edge drives were never constructed (See Plan 6). The most important changes in vehicular circulation over time have been the addition of the Memorial Bridge and related access roads and the Keeler Street Expressway.

The pedestrian circulation system designed by Olmsted provided parallel paths along the gorge rim and river edge with frequent routes transitioning from gorge to river. While the gorge rim and upland park paths were constructed, much of the connecting and river edge system was not, although Indian paths and settlement access roads that pre-existed the park were upgraded for park use. An objective of the Master Plan is to provide continuous routes at the gorge rim and the river level with several connections between them for pedestrian use, thus reinstating the Olmsted intent.

The pedestrian system as it exists today is fragmented and incomplete. Large portions of the pedestrian system have been lost over time due to deferred maintenance and natural disasters such as land slides. An extensive system of desire paths, some of which mimic historic locations, is portrayed on PLAN 2: CIRCULATION and BUILT FORM. This system of user developed paths

demonstrates the need for a more fully developed pedestrian access pattern. A major addition to this system is the recent pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the river at the Pure Waters facility. While this bridge is a non-Olmsted element, it does serve park users effectively.

The scenic elements of Seneca Park as designed were significant. The Symbol Key shows five categories of elements that are noted on either the 1891 or the 1989-90 plans. A Scenic and Circulation Node is an area where scenic views and pedestrian or vehicular systems come together to form a group. On the historic plan nine nodes are found. These contain gorge rim viewing areas, pedestrian paths from gorge to river with flights of steps or switchbacks, and viewing outlooks at the river level landings. These integrated features afforded access and enjoyment of the park landscape and gorge scenery. Only three Scenic and Circulation Nodes are found in the park today. The first two, at the former Glen House and Brewer's Landing are in a much degraded form. The third takes a new form in the pedestrian and bicycle bridge that allows passage over the river without moving down the gorge and directly accessing it. The recapturing of these intended nodes is a potential for future efforts.

Since the drama of the Genesee River Gorge was the focus of Seneca Park, it is easy to see why so many scenic opportunities for vehicles and pedestrians were developed in the Olmsted Plan. Nine river level views were available from the proposed but unbuilt boat landings. Twenty-two gorge views framed sweeping of the scenery while five designed outlooks incorporated modest structures for shade and seating with enjoyment of the scenery. Only nine gorge and bridge views are found in the park today. These existing views often include visually dominant non-park elements which are also shown on the 1989-90 plan. The scenic qualities of Seneca Park today reflect only a small portion of the historic intent. More scenic opportunities, in original locations, should be reinstated over time.

PLAN 5: PARK SECTORS ANALYSIS

While the park was designed as a whole composition, in its historic design and its existing form it separates into smaller areas. These areas are defined by topography, landscape composition and circulation elements. The strongest definer in Seneca Park is the extreme topography. This linear park has east and west upland areas of varying width, parallel to sloping gorge forests, also varying in width, and river edge forests. All of these linear spaces frame the Genesee River. While these topographic divisions are clear, they are further articulated into ten sectors on the 1891 Olmsted Plan and into fifteen sectors on the 1989-90 Base Plan. A listing of the sectors by number and name is shown on Plan 5 and provided here as a reference. The sectors and sub-areas of the historic plan are described in detail in the historic chronology prepared by Charles Beveridge. These ten sectors are each separate landscape compositions. For example, Sector 2, Parkway and Park Edge Drive West, shows a discreet composition at the interface of city and park. Olmsted intended an easy transition from the urban setting to the park by providing these gracious streets with shade trees and pedestrian promenades. The Maplewood Park, Sector 4, with a Lawn with Trees landscape is distinct from neighboring Sector 2 because of the landscape composition developed by Olmsted in this broader Gorge rim area. At Trout Pond, Sector 10, the Picnic Grove landscape is distinct from adjacent Sectors 7 and 9.

The fifteen sectors of the 1989-90 plan indicate a more segmented park landscape. The changes to the park through lost land areas, non-park structures and bridges, generally disrupted the linear continuity of the park landscape. Several of the existing park sectors encompass non-park elements. The current park sectors are the basis for discussion of the Preservation Concept on Plan 6. The connection and re-integration of the segmented park landscape is a goal of the Master Plan.

PLAN 6: HISTORIC INTEGRITY ANALYSIS and PRESERVATION CONCEPT

In this exhibit the historic and existing conditions plans are again paired but have been annotated in different ways. The 1891 Plan serves as a record of what was actually constructed of the Olmsted design, what has been lost over time, what remains unbuilt and what portions of the historic plan have been affected by non-park features and post-Olmsted park elements. This exhibit brings together the chronology in a graphic form serving as a reference for the development of the Preservation Concept on the 1989-90 Base Plan.

The 1989-90 Base Plan is annotated with the Sector numbers as in Plan 5, and is further keyed with the level of Olmsted Recapture Potential (letters A to D) and Treatment Code (numbers 1 to 4). This annotation is described in detail in the following SENECA PARK PRESERVATION CONCEPT.

SENECA PARK PRESERVATION CONCEPT

PARK HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

As indicated in the discussion of park history, texts accompanying drawings #3 to #6, and graphically portrayed on these drawings, Seneca Park was originally planned and constructed as a continuous, accessible landscape. It is a park designed to celebrate the Genesee River and focus on its dramatic gorge scenery. Below the falls of the Genesee River, the linear Seneca Park was of an entirely different character than its companion parks above the falls: Genesee Valley Park with its open meadow Olmsted composition, and the hilltop sited Highland Park. These three distinct public landscapes each provides a different type of scenery and recreational opportunity to Rochester's citizens.

In Seneca Park most of the paths, roads, and overlooks along the top of the gorge were constructed according to the Olmsted design, except for sections of land that the city was not able to acquire. However, only portions of the access paths into and along the bottom of the gorge were constructed. Over time, diverse recreation facilities were added to Seneca Park, introducing a greater variety of use than provided for in the original Olmsted design. In addition, several major sections of the park have shifted from park lands to private ownership, to bridge and traffic connections or to other non-park uses. These removals, apparent on Plan #5, PARK SECTORS, have altered the intended continuity of this gorge side landscape. The recapture of this continuity for contemporary users is a prime objective of this Master Plan

LEVEL OF POTENTIAL FOR RECAPTURE OF THE OLMSTED DESIGN

In its present condition, Seneca Park contains the skeleton of the Olmsted design with much of the detail missing. Nonetheless, in a number of sections the design intent of the Olmsted plans for Seneca Park can be recaptured. In several areas where features called for in the Olmsted plan were not constructed, it is still possible to construct them. In other places, lost elements can be reconstructed that will increase the usefulness of Seneca Park in meeting the recreational needs of the City of Rochester and Monroe County. The great variation within the park from present conditions to the conception set forth in the Olmsted plan makes it appropriate to utilize several treatments to implement the plan.

The letters assigned to each sector indicate the potential for recapture of the Olmsted design, ranging from "A" significant recapture, to "C" very limited recapture through circulation system connections and visual relationships. Areas coded "D" are lands added to the park after the Olmsted design period. These designations are explained as:

A. HIGH: The basic structure and use of the historic landscape is generally intact. The preservation treatment of the landscape can reinforce the existing historic form.

B. MODERATE: While these areas are still within the Seneca Park boundaries, only remnant Olmsted design forms remain. The Olmsted design intent can, however, be reconstructed in areas where lost--or realized in unbuilt portions of the design--with considerable effort.

C. LOW: In these areas non-park intrusions or significant post-Olmsted features limit the potential to recapture the Olmsted design. Continuity is broken, areas are significantly reorganized or lands are lost to private and public non-park uses. Limited potential for recapture of the Olmsted design exists. Potential still exists for cross-connection of walks and drives, positive visual relationships to the river gorge and/or restoration of buffer.

D. IN HARMONY WITH OR SEPARATE FROM: Park lands have been added to historic Seneca Park over time. These areas can serve as an extension of the park, in the Olmsted vocabulary, or as clearly separate visual and functional areas.

PROPOSED TREATMENT

The number assigned to each sector of Seneca Park on Plan #6 is an indicator of the approach to this sector judged to be most appropriate to bring these public lands to full use and enjoyment, while recapturing the Olmsted legacy. The terminology applied to Seneca Park for this project is cited from a widely used published source that incorporates current National Park Service cultural resource management guidelines.[1] Preservation is "the act or process of applying measures to sustain the terrain and vegetative cover, and the form, integrity and materials of the landscape." The term treatment is basic to all interventions and is defined as "any strategy or combination of strategies undertaken in response to the landscape's historic value." With these two background terms, the following three terms: restoration, adaptive use, and rehabilitation, are applied to the indicated areas of Seneca Park on Plan #6 and are defined in the cited source as:

1. *Restoration*: The act or process of recovering the historic appearance of the historic cultural landscape. The restoration can address all or part of a landscape. According to proposed National Park Service guidelines, the selection of restoration treatment should meet the following criteria: (1) minimal conjecture is required, (2) the treatment is essential for understanding and appreciating the landscape, (3) the restoration is complete in its context, (4) the landscape's essential form and integrity is unimpaired, (5) when addressing a portion of the landscape, its relationship to other portions does not compromise the total. A restoration is often undertaken to remove incompatible natural or human-caused accretions and to replace elements.

2. *Adaptive Use*: Retains and reinforces the historic cultural landscape while accommodating contemporary uses, needs and conditions. A thorough research process addressing history, use management, maintenance, ecology and safety and other relevant factors should accompany adaptive use strategy development. The treatment should reinforce historic integrity and retain extant historic fabric while integrating relevant factors.

3. *Rehabilitation*: Treatment that improves the utility, function and/or appearance of a historic

cultural landscape. This often involves safety, environmental, natural resource or administrative consideration. The landscape's integrity and its historic fabric must remain following a rehabilitation treatment. Because several important features of the original design were never carried out, an additional treatment is applicable to Seneca Park. That treatment has been named "realization" by the authors and is defined as:

4. *Realization*: Where the historically significant design for the landscape was not constructed in the historic period. An opportunity to realize the design exists. The intended historic appearance or specific feature of the landscape, based on documentary research, is constructed.

1"A Preservationist's Glossary', Patricia M. O'Donnell, Editor, *Landscape Architecture*, July/ August 1987, pp. 96-98.

SPECIFIC AREA DESIGNATIONS

#1: **Electric Power** B-3: Moderate Recapture Potential, Rehabilitation

The new DOT path from Maplewood Park toward the lower falls can be integrated into the urban cultural park in the falls area. On the east side, judicious trimming of trees can restore the view of the falls provided for in the Olmsted plan.

#2: **Maplewood Rose Garden** D: Outside Historic Considerations

Maplewood Rose Garden is one of two areas that have been added to the park lands over time. It is a separate, formal public landscape. It should be conceptualized as a separate use area and a distinct park experience. Parking arrangements and plantings should be introduced that separate the use and experience of this garden landscape from use and experience of the gorge forest and river edge. The existing parking area and structures should be reconsidered as a potential for recapture of the drive and promenade shown in the Olmsted plan.

#3: **Salmon Fishing Gorge and River Edge** B-3: Moderate Recapture Potential, Rehabilitation

While connections of the drive north and south were not constructed or have been lost, Seth Green Drive can still provide views of the gorge, especially with construction of the concourse that Olmsted intended to have near the beginning of the switchback path down to Brewer's Landing (marked 8.8 on 1891 plan of Plan #5). That path can be constructed according to the Olmsted plan, and the barren gorge forest can be enriched with new plantings. A riverside path can be constructed, according to the Olmsted plan, from Brewer's Landing along the river edge to Driving Park Bridge, and walking and bicycle path connections can be made between this section and Sections 11 and 12 to the north. In addition, the RG&E access road can be given more of the appearance of a park drive, providing a link with the riverside path at its southern end.

#4: **Limited Access Gorge West** B-1: Moderate Recapture, Restoration

A number of features of the Olmsted plan that were constructed and then lost can be recovered, with

reconstruction of Buell Avenue and construction of a path from Lower Falls along the river and up to Maplewood Park at Veterans Memorial Bridge. A boat landing/shelter can be constructed near the site indicated on the Olmsted plan.

#5: **Remnant Parkway and Park Edge Drive West** B-2 & 3: Moderate Recapture Potential, Adaptive Use and Rehabilitation

While the curvilinear park drive and promenade on the Olmsted plan cannot be fully reinstated, a continuous connection from Driving Park Avenue to the Veterans Memorial Bridge can be established. This connection can reference the Olmsted plan and reflect the intended circulation to the extent possible. The existing parking lot in Maplewood Rose Garden needs to be significantly reconfigured. The amount of parking needed and the need for the through traffic barrier should be considered. The available area is large and through a new plan could reflect the Olmsted design while incorporating less obtrusive parking. The separation of Rose Garden to gorge forest could be made with this level area.

#6: **Memorial Bridge, Seneca Towers** C: Low Recapture Potential

Construction of the Keeler Street Expressway and Seneca Towers, and conversion of the park drives of Maplewood Park into feeders to Veterans Memorial Bridge, has lost this section to park use and has broken the continuity of paths and drive on both sides of the river. At least pedestrian and bicycle path connections across this sector should be restored.

#7: **Remnant Maplewood Park and Pond** B-1: Moderate Recapture, Restoration

The pastoral scenery that Olmsted intended for this area can be recovered, although for full success of this treatment removal of the police station and its parking lot is needed, along with provision of more convenient pedestrian access across the surrounding streets. The police station and parking lot should be recovered for park use possibly through the relocation of these elements to a nearby area.

#8: **Pedestrian Bridge and Pure Waters** C: Low Recapture Potential

The Pure Waters bridge, inlets, buildings and access ramps are visually intrusive with no effort made to use an architectural style compatible with park like character and use. The bridge can be utilized for viewing the gorge scenery, however, and the access ramps can connect with other pedestrian and bicycle paths. The ramps could also be utilized as places for presentation of scientific information relevant to the theme of the gorge and river and for interpretive information on the pre-history and history of the park lands.

#9: **Kodak Wastewater Treatment** C: Low Recapture Potential

This area has been lost to park use by alienation of park land to the Eastman Kodak Corporation

for a wastewater treatment plant. One portion of this sector is coded B. It is highly desirable to recover the upper rim of the gorge in this section for park use--particularly pedestrian and bicycle path connections to gorge-edge paths to the north.

#10: **Kodak Hawkeye, School for the Deaf and Remnant Park Edge** C: Low Recapture Potential

Much of this section was never acquired from the Western New York Institute for Deaf Mutes, and the land that was acquired was sold to Eastman Kodak in 1938. It is still desirable to secure this gorge-edge strip in order to complete the east-side path system of the park and possibly to treat the public street as a parkway, with rows of trees on both sides, to recapture a park setting.

#11: **Limited Access Gorge and River Edge, East and West** B3 & 4: Moderate Recapture Potential, Rehabilitation and Realization

A riverside path on the west side can be constructed, while on the east side a riverside path connecting with a similar path south of Veterans Memorial Bridge can be constructed, along with the four access routes to the river and three riverside boat landing/shelters shown on the Olmsted plan.

#12: **Remnant Park Edge Drive** B-2: Moderate Recapture Potential, Adaptive Use

Connection of the park drive and paths toward the south has been broken by the Keeler Street Expressway, but this crucial element of the Olmsted plan still exists as a stump of the drive and can serve as a viewing concourse. Some path connection to the south needs to be restored. A structure serving some park function could be constructed at the proposed site of the shelter shown at the south end of the concourse on the Olmsted plan (shown as 8.3, 1891 plan, Plan #5).

#13: **Remnant Scenic Drive, Pool and Playground** A-2: High Recapture Potential, Adaptive Use

The park drive, west-side walk and eastern buffer were constructed according to the Olmsted plan and are still in place. The new plans for the entrance drive and walk about to be implemented, with appropriate planting, will recapture the intended experience and use of the area. To complete this process, the swimming pool should be moved, and some way should be found to ameliorate the visual impact of the inappropriately designed Pure Waters buildings and ramp.

#14: **Seneca Park Zoo** C: Low Recapture Potential

This sector has been lost to historic park use by the concentration of zoo facilities in the area. This has meant in particular loss of the pavilion and the facilities for refreshments it offered, as well as the views it provided of the Trout Lake area and the Genesee River gorge.

#15: **Trout Lake, Picnic and Ball Field** A-1: High Recapture Potential, Restoration

The northeastern end of Seneca Park, below the Zoo plateau, is the only significant and sizeable part of the park that retains integrity of the Olmsted plan and has sufficient space to make possible a restoration of considerable extent. The drive and several paths are still intact, and the area is well

suited for the picnicking and viewing of gorge scenery for which Olmsted planned this section of the park. Special care should therefore be taken to preserve the integrity of the Olmsted design in this section to the fullest extent possible. The best solution is to retain the activities historically occurring within this end of the park, and to provide the best arrangement for each. The integrity of the Olmsted drive should not be compromised, nor should the recreational uses of the Trout Lake area infringe on the enjoyment of the scenery along the top of the gorge. Any expansion of the zoo should be arranged so that an adequate buffer exists between the zoo and the Trout Lake loop-drive and the paths along the edge of the gorge.

Seneca Park North: D

The recently acquired land north of Lower Seneca Park and extending to Rattlesnake Point was not part of the historic plan. It should be connected to the path system of historical Seneca Park and could be treated in an Olmsted vocabulary, similar to the designed areas of upland forest, gorge forest and river edge.

Recommendations

Seneca Park Master Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan recommendations are based on the following premises:

- Seneca Park is nationally significant as an historic landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and worthy of restoration, where recommended, as part of our cultural heritage.
- Historic restoration of parkland will yield benefits in scenic quality and enjoyment to present-day users by revealing the true impact of features long present but obscured.
- The park is a human-made landscape, designed as an "urban wild" for human enjoyment. It requires active vegetation management and provision of facilities to support, direct and control use.
- There is a need to maintain the same range of recreational uses in the park (swimming, picnicking, walking, jogging, etc.) at the same levels of use (intensity) but at a much higher level of service (safety, maintenance, accessibility, environmental quality and scenic quality).
- There is a clear public mandate for the renovation and expansion (by ten acres) of the zoo within Seneca Park.
- It is feasible for zoo expansion to be accommodated without detriment to the most historically valuable parkland.
- The guidelines provided in this plan are a sound basis for long-term budgeting, scheduling and conceptual design. However, ongoing input from an Olmsted historian is needed at each subsequent phase of design and implementation.

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The development of system-wide signage including: (1) entry, (2) directional for traffic and pedestrians, (3) identification, and (4) interpretive is recommended. Every area identification sign should be titled with the name of the specific area, identified as a part of Seneca Park designed by F.L. Olmsted, and highlighted on the historic plan. A metal photo-engraved plate, mounted on wood or stone has been used effectively in other parks, is relatively vandal resistant, and should be considered here. The rich history of the Olmsted legacy and the Genesee River gorge should be interpreted for park users. Prototypes of interpretive signage stations and a plan for ideal locations throughout Seneca Park should be developed. This type of educational signage system also presents an opportunity for nature and environmental study that could be coordinated with zoo programs.

Based on the linear character of the park, a people mover system is recommended to maximize access to Seneca Park during peak use times. It could originate in the drop-off zone at the present main zoo entry and follow the route of the loop drive. The feasibility of using privately owned industrial surface parking near Lake Avenue on the west side of the river, and the pedestrian bridge, as part of this system, should also be investigated for singular events that draw large crowds. This would potentially be an attraction in and of itself. It would extend the range of possible programming and reduce the need for extensive additional parking in Lower Seneca Park.

It is recommended that all areas on the plateaus serving the zoo and Lower Seneca Park be designed to provide barrier free access to the greatest possible extent. There is an opportunity for barrier free access to river level at the Seth Green Area also. The county should support barrier free access in

Maplewood Rose Garden and Lower Falls Park as well.

The railroad right-of-way is potentially valuable as an area for expansion of the park and continuation of park trails north to the lakeshore. Acquisition of this right-of-way should be a high priority.

The dramatic difference in elevation between the rim and the river bank levels provides many unique viewing opportunities. Due to the extreme depth and steepness of the gorge, and bends in the river, there are areas at river level where the sights, sounds and smells of urban life are completely obscured. Views across the gorge from the rim, however, are vulnerable to degradation. The river gorge is a designated

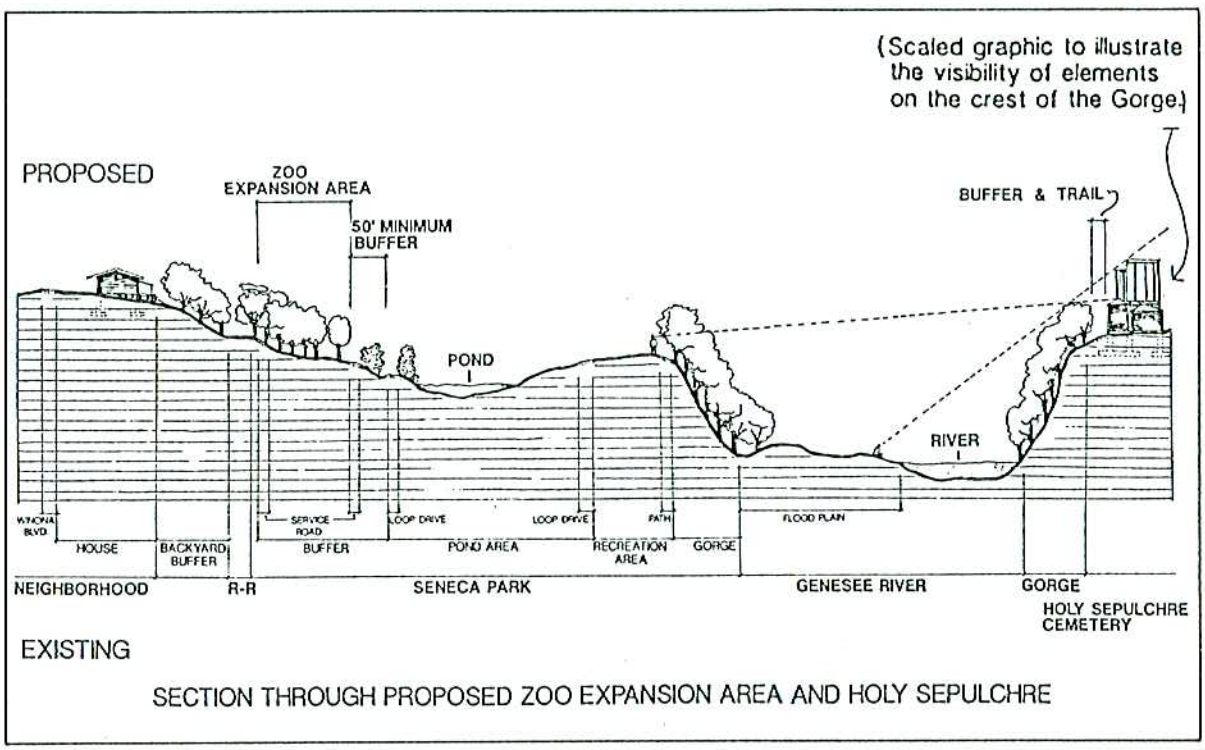


Illustration of views from rim and river level.

City of Rochester Critical Environmental Area (CEA). It is recommended that the county support protection of the visual quality of the gorge and riverfront open spaces in any SEQR review via this mechanism. A protected vegetative tree buffer, a minimum of 50' wide at the rim on both sides of the gorge, is recommended. The sketch section above illustrates the role of the rim buffers in protecting views from the river and rim.

SENECA PARK

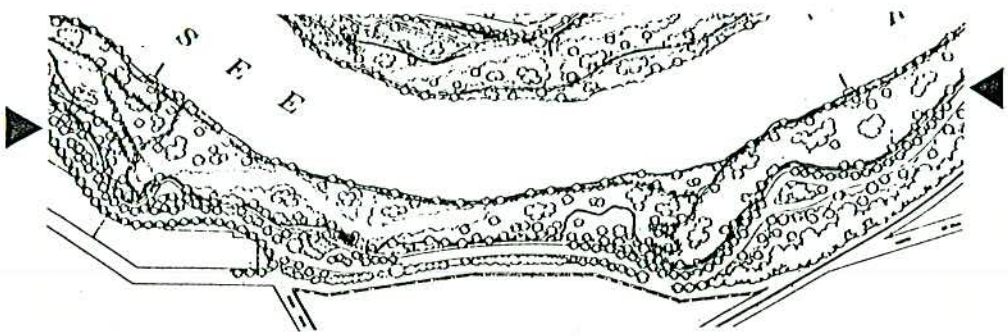
The present day Seneca Park includes the open space east of the Genesee River and north of Driving Park Bridge extending to Rattlesnake Point. The largest and most heavily used portion of the park is that area north of Veterans' Memorial Bridge comprising the main entry, the upper drive, the tableland known as Lower Seneca Park surrounding Trout Pond, and the Seneca Park Zoo. This is the park sector that is most readily associated with the historic park and it also has the highest recapture potential of the historic design.

Newly acquired lands north of, and contiguous with, the historic park offer trails for jogging and nature interpretation. More importantly, this is a significant addition to the open space corridor that provides public access to the Lower River.

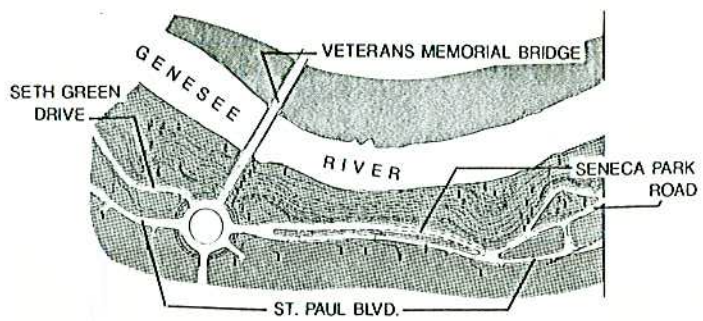
The Seth Green Area of Seneca Park comprises the gorge trails and river landing south of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge. Once part of a continuous park edge drive, Seth Green Drive is now isolated from the rest of Seneca Park. The bridge and Seneca Tower and its parking lot are built out to the rim, breaking the former rim trail connections. Each of these sub-areas is discussed separately in the recommendations that follow.

ENTRY AREA

The main entry area of Seneca Park extends from Memorial Bridge to the south end of the upper drive and includes the entry/exit loop, Pure Waters facility and pedestrian access to both Memorial Bridge and the Pure Waters pedestrian bridge. As originally constructed, according to the Olmsted plan, a continuous park-edge drive ran from the present entry southward to Seth Green Drive. In 1931, the construction of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge somewhat altered the continuity by introducing a rotary at the intersection with Ridge Road. (See illustrations I and II.) The drive connection was lost when the Keeler Street Expressway (Route 104) and Seneca Tower were constructed in the late 1960s and early 70s. The present wide bus lane and bus stop area is a remnant of the historic east-side concourse for viewing the gorge. The remnant park edge drive, paralleling a widened St. Paul Boulevard, is truncated by the limited access loops and St. Paul overpass at Route 104.

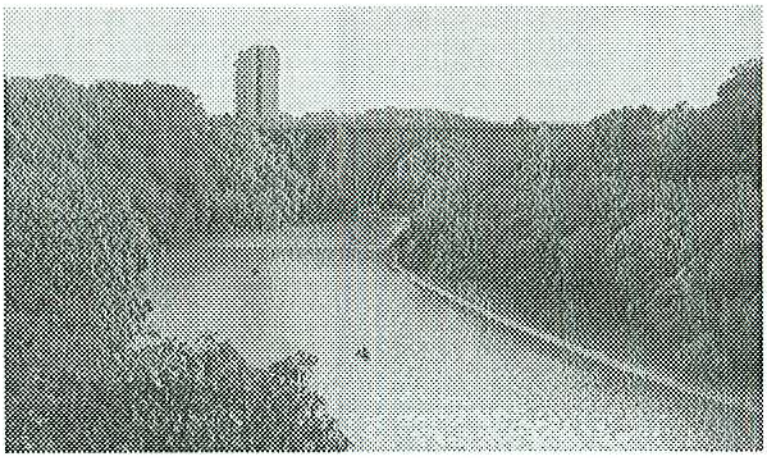


1891 Plan showing original, continuous park edge drive



1937 map showing location of remnant Seneca Park entry drive

It is recommended that the historic viewing concourse be rehabilitated as a broad pedestrian path and promenade. This promenade should be separated from the traffic along St. Paul Street through careful alignment and planting. The historic outlook should be reinstated for scenic views of the gorge. The connection between this outlook point and pedestrian paths leading south to the bridge should be strengthened by defining and rehabilitating the paths.



View of the gorge and Veterans' Memorial Bridge looking south from outlook at the entry loop.

The park's main entrance is in need of improvements to enhance the setting and character. The narrow shelf west of the exit loop has been planted to lawn, interrupting the rim path. Erosion along the rim has persisted despite some efforts to stabilize soils. Olmsted's intended transition from urban fabric to park setting is compromised by the gates, sign, Pure Waters structures and other obtrusive elements.

This entry area should be the subject of a detailed design project to comprehensively address and integrate the required elements. The drive loop is being rebuilt to improve the turning radius, drive configuration and drainage. At the same time, the rim path and historic outlook to the south should be restored. This outlook provides a view of the river gorge and the Veterans' Memorial Bridge that is of outstanding scenic quality. Pull-off parking and benches are needed to support visitors wishing to stop and enjoy the view. At the same time, additional vegetative screening of the Pure Waters buildings and an aggressive erosion control program on the gorge adjacent to the steps to the pedestrian bridge are needed. A new entrance sign for the park, appropriate to the historic character in size and materials, is recommended. The entry sign should identify Seneca Park and the Seneca Park Zoo.

UPPER DRIVE

Reconstruction of the Seneca Park upper drive and zoo parking lot is nearing completion. The design of these areas was guided by the historic plan for the drive's alignment, restoration of three gorge outlooks (vehicular pull-offs emphasized by a slight rise of the drive), restoration of the turf and landform at the drive edge, and enrichment of plantings. At the north end, the zoo parking lot has been designed to reduce the visibility of the parking areas. Berms, plantings, and, in the southern half of the lot, pavers with openings for grass to grow, have all aided the visual integration of the parking function. Rehabilitation of the rim path is recommended.

In the original design, the upper drive was the first section of the park drive, as it ran north, where a wide strip of parkland and thick planting separated the drive from the city streets and railroad. Introduction of the swimming pool altered the historic character of this section and the park experience it provided.

Rehabilitation, expansion, or removal of the swimming pool and bath house is currently being evaluated in a feasibility study. That study will assist in determining the future of this facility. From an historic

perspective, the swimming pool is in an inappropriate location within the park. In addition, the need to expand the pool deck to meet minimum standards, and to provide parking to serve pool patrons, are severely constrained by lack of space in this narrow section of parkland. Therefore, the preferred action would be removal of the pool and restoration of the landscape in this area.

An investigation of the feasibility of using Trout Pond as an alternative, natural, swimming area should be undertaken. This is discussed in the following section. Historic views indicate that swimming took place in a swimming pond that had been created on the north side of the loop drive. Reintroduction of swimming to Trout Pond is an appropriate use based on the historic record. In addition, as a naturally sustained water body, it may offer a significant reduction in the cost of maintenance compared to the existing pool. Public health and safety issues will require full consideration. However, the pond area is large and well suited to accommodating the parking, picnicking, active play, and associated uses that provide for a more fully integrated park experience. Another alternative, would be to pursue the provision of public swimming outside of the historic park.

The site of the existing pool, midway along the entry drive, is an area where the drive, pedestrian bridge entry ramp, play area and swimming pool facility converge. To reinforce the park setting along the drive, and to better encourage creative aspects of play, it is recommended that the play area be renovated using landforms and unobtrusive play equipment. Parking associated with the play space also requires planning. A restroom facility is needed to serve the picnic grove, play lot and pedestrian bridge. It should be a modest structure, recessive in its scale and siting to integrate it within the park landscape. The restrooms may be part of the pool facility if renovation at the present location proceeds. To serve all park users, access to the restrooms should be independent of the pool's operating schedule.

The upper drive is part of the Olmsted park entry sequence. It is recommended that the zoo entry zone be defined within that historic sequence. The location of the primary pedestrian entry to the zoo should be to the east of the buffer between the drive and the zoo parking area and along the north edge of the zoo parking lot. Directional and traffic control signage for the zoo parking lot should be consistent with scale and character of park signage.

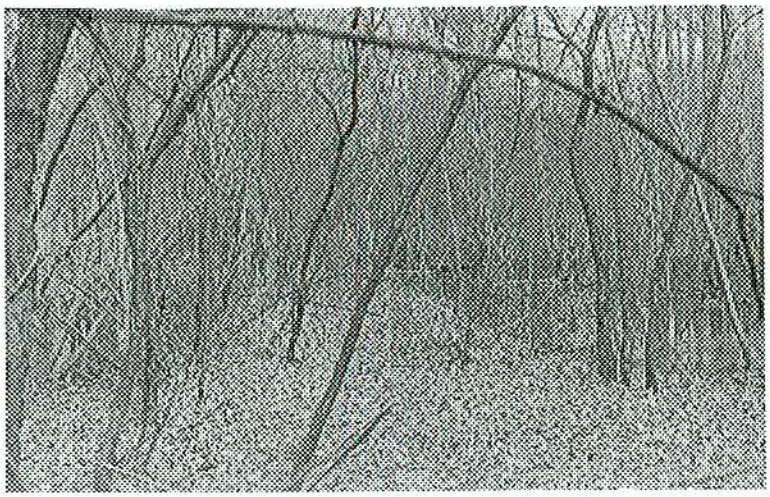
The final phase of the parking lot improvements occurs on the site of the Labor Building. When the time comes to complete the parking lot expansion, that building will be removed and its function replaced in another location. It is recommended that the replacement facility be located at the north end of Lower Seneca Park.

LOWER SENECA PARK: Park Restoration and Zoo Expansion

Lower Seneca Park, which includes sub-areas of the rim, the loop drive, Trout Pond (central), the ballfield, and the eastern park edge buffer, is the principal section where the Olmsted plan for Seneca Park is intact and can be readily restored. The Olmsted plan--and remnants of it in the park--are detailed and clear, so that little speculation is required. The park as a whole was more open and the plan indicates greater differentiation in vegetative cover types. The gorge rim path was a shaded walk with dramatic gorge outlooks. The gently sloping ground within the loop drive was planted with shade trees as a Picnic Grove with Trout Pond views. A complete pedestrian path system afforded easy access to all areas. Remnant paths and trees are evident on the ground today. The historic design is achievable and relevant to contemporary uses. The Trout Pond landscape should be reconstructed to match the Olmsted plan to the maximum extent possible.

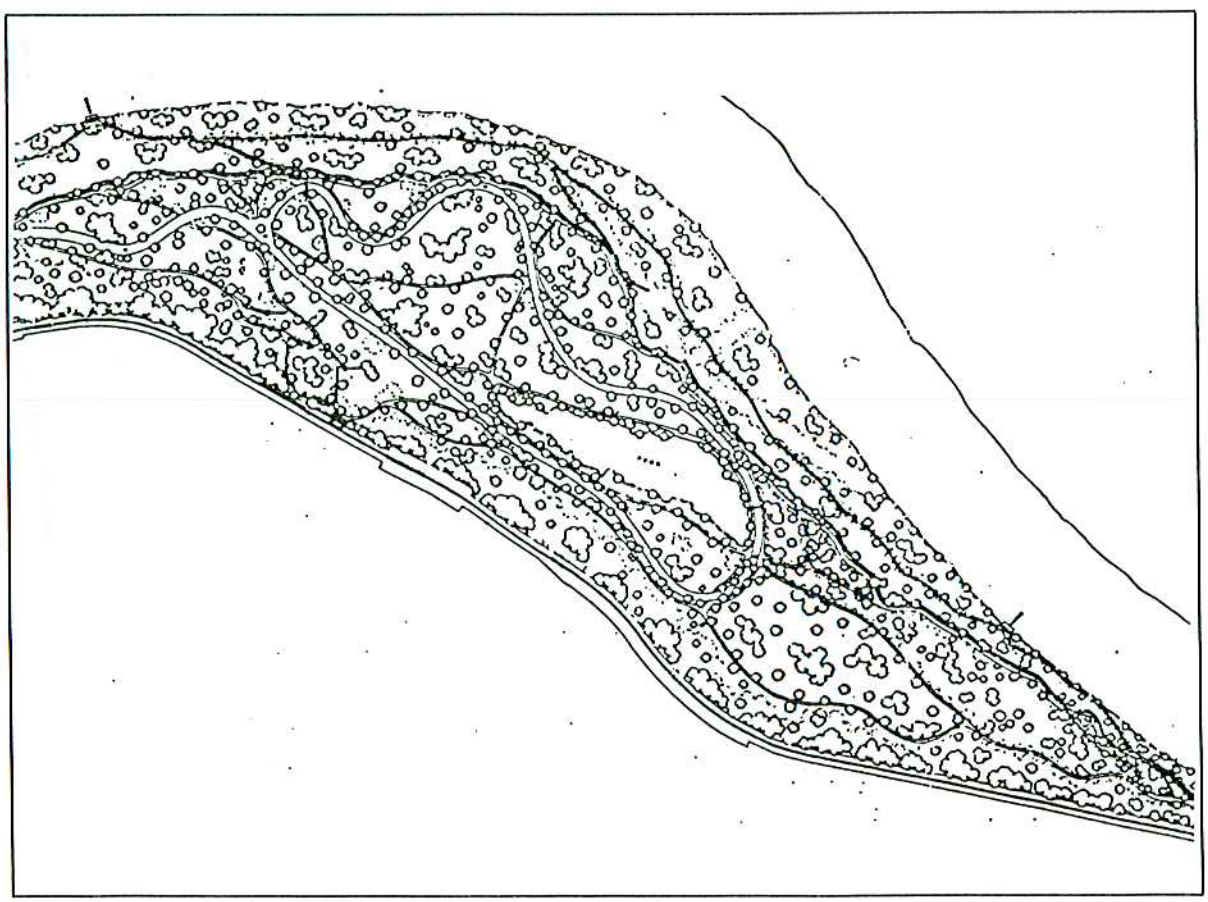
Although most of the descriptions of the historic design are illustrated in two dimensional plan form, it is important to understand the role of the different vegetation types in defining the vertical dimension of the

park's design and shaping the visitor's impressions of the park environment. (Refer to the "Elements of Historic Landscape Composition" defined and illustrated in the Historic Analysis.) For example, the Forest landscapes have layered canopies and understory vegetation that contain one's views to the foreground, and provide a feeling of seclusion. As one moves through this landscape, views along paths or through openings at outlooks provide contrast to the sense of enclosure.



Remnant historic path showing undertstory of Buckthorn

A very different sense of space is experienced in the Picnic Grove landscape. The overhead canopy of the Picnic Grove provides shade without understory. In this landscape, views are afforded in all directions, and variations in topography are readily apparent, as are alternatives for movement. Although the historic plan shows most of the Lower Seneca Park terrace as a Picnic Grove landscape, only remnants of it remain. Much of this portion



Detail of 1891 Plan showing circulation for Trout Pond

of the park has reverted to Upland Forest, and the pathways, landforms and views that were once clearly visible are now obscured. The term "Picnic Grove" is a type of landscape vegetative pattern which must not be construed as a behavior setting that is dependent on flat land. The historic plan shows Picnic Grove occurring on 1:4 and 1:5 slopes in many places, and the adjacent buffer edge is not coincident with the slope.

Dense vegetation can be used to good effect where it is necessary and historically appropriate, or desirable to screen--buffer--incompatible views or achieve privacy. However, the existing dense understory of invasive plants such as Buckthorn is a visual, physical and psychological barrier that fragments the park. It reduces the perceived expansiveness, and intensifies the linearity of the park. Restoring an open and continuous landscape--Picnic Grove--will integrate these fragmented areas and encourage options for movement and use.

Lower Seneca Park is also the one location within the study area which offers the most reasonable alternative for contiguous zoo expansion. This study has documented the historic design intent, qualified the historic integrity, and identified appropriate treatments for various levels of historic recapture potential. That process has informed the recommendations for accommodating an expanded zoo and defining a zoo/park interface that will be suitable for both settings.

From the perspective of restoring the park as an historic landscape, the optimal solution for zoo expansion is to integrate zoo and park wherever that can be achieved without compromising the historic character and intent, and to separate areas of inherent incompatibility. To achieve this, design at the interface must be carefully articulated. Where required, screening must be denser than the existing forest understory. Where opportunities for visual and physical integration are appropriate, there is potential for both programs to benefit from extended views and increased access. The following are detailed recommendations for each part of the Lower Seneca Park area and the park/zoo interface.

Trails

The Olmsted plan indicates a highly developed sequence of paths outlooks, rim paths and gorge trails with stairs leading to a river edge path. The historic plan, never fully executed, can be rehabilitated and realized over time. (The gorge rim is not fully realized today as a scenic pedestrian path.) The current location of shelters, restrooms and play areas concentrates active uses in areas that are intended to be passive--for scenic enjoyment and nature experience. These facilities compromise the historic system of paths and encourage a concentration of people on the gorge edge. As a consequence, safety fencing at the gorge edge is required. Also, these areas at the top of the slope are vulnerable to compaction and erosion. Path definition is vague and discontinuous. Where opportunities for viewing the river have become limited or unclear due to dense vegetation and erosion, unsafe desire trails have developed along the rim and the face of the gorge.

It is recommended that historic paths and outlooks be reinstated to provide a network for safe access and scenic enjoyment. Except where views have become degraded and are therefore undesirable to recapture, the historic design is valid and should guide the rehabilitation of the rim paths, outlooks and gorge access paths. Well defined paths of adequate width leading to attractive destinations will curb the use of renegade trails, improve safety, and reduce the need for obtrusive controls. Open views, adequate setbacks and Dense Shrub plantings at critical edges (Eg., slopes or water) offer practical, aesthetic and safe solutions.

The historic plan includes river access and riverside paths and landings in this area. These should be considered a long-term option to be implemented if feasible.

The predominant vegetative types in the lower park are Upland Forest and Lawn with Trees. This pattern of vegetative cover has introduced abrupt boundaries between park settings, while at the same time the

Example of well-defined Upland Forest Trail

lack of differentiation in trail surfaces has blurred the connections between them. Transitions between park paths and forest trails are to be indicated by changes in materials, as noted in the Schematic Design Guidelines. Changes in the character of vegetation, transitioning from Picnic Grove to Gorge Forest, are addressed generally in vegetation management guidelines. Both capital projects and ongoing annual vegetation management should address landscape composition refinement.

Much of the network of paths in and around the loop drive is overgrown or interrupted by poor drainage. The entire system of pedestrian paths should be reconstructed on the foundations of the historic paths which are visible throughout the area. All drainage improvements to achieve a passable lawn surface will be required. Wherever slopes and/ or space allow, paths should provide for barrier free access.

Vegetation Restoration and Management

Full realization of the historic landscape character must be recognized as a long-term but ongoing effort. A landscape management plan is recommended as a guide for incrementally restoring the proper blend of vegetation species and ages that will return Lower Seneca Park to a Picnic Grove landscape. The renewal of the park landscape should occur consciously over a period of decades. A thorough vegetation management plan that guides the (1) transition from existing conditions to desired landscape composition, and (2) guides the maintenance and continual renewal of these landscapes is needed. The development of such a two-part vegetation management plan is recommended. The plan should be based on an accurate inventory of existing woody vegetation that identifies specific cycles of regeneration. In the vicinity of Trout Pond, initial clearing and partial replanting should be done as a capital improvement project. The basic principles of this vegetation management strategy for the reinstatement of Picnic Grove landscape are:

- clearing and grubbing (where possible) of invasive species--especially Common Buckthorn and Norway Maple--sequentially, area by area as staff availability allows; care should be taken to use procedures that discourage regrowth and suckering;
- topdressing of surface areas to meet grade and establish shade and drought-tolerant grasses;
- hazard pruning of all mature canopy trees that remain;
- after removal of invasive species, planting of new deciduous shade trees, in historic locations and of historic varieties, utilizing historic plans and plant lists;
- initial planting should consist of 10% of intended number of canopy trees needed to effect the density indicated on the historic plan;
- continued annual planting of canopy trees from historic lists at the rate of 2% of the intended population of the area per year; over the period of fifty years this will achieve the goal of a mixed

age stand of trees, always leaning toward mature trees of a stature to give the desired Picnic Grove effect;

- a mowing regime that is low frequency but sufficient to curtail the establishment of undesirable woody understory growth.

An accurate inventory and detailed plan can be useful in determining costs and scheduling for maintenance on an annual basis, and will increase effectiveness of implementation to make the long-term realization of the intended landscape possible. Since the park landscape is dependent on vegetative composition for its character and structure, more detailed knowledge of existing conditions would provide a framework for review and coordination of the design of new features within the park.

Picnic Areas

The main picnic area is prominently located on the rim side of the loop drive. The surrounding landscape has deteriorated through ill-defined parking and circulation, resulting in rutting, compaction, turf failure and problems which are resistant to improvements in the course of normal maintenance efforts. The shelters are structurally sound, but too large in scale and visually dominant in this setting. Small or family groups are dwarfed in these large shelters. They serve park users in the sense of providing shelter, but detract from the overall appreciation of this area of the park through their appearance and prominence.

It is recommended that the picnic shelters, related parking, and restrooms be relocated to an area inside the loop drive. This would improve the present arrangement which is particularly dangerous because it puts family groups and people of all ages close to the gorge edge, and encourages foot traffic back and forth across the drive to the pond and open lawn areas. In addition to safer park use, the recommended action would provide for better access to Trout Pond, an improved scenic landscape, and the potential for restoration of the complete historic circulation system both along the gorge rim and within the loop drive. The topography and existing large trees at the south end of the loop drive affords a potential for good integration of the needed structures and facilities with limited visual impact on the park landscape. See Figure . The scale, siting and design of shelters should conform to the historic design intent. Shelters should be sized to accommodate between 30 and 70 people and be varied in size and shape. Parking is intended to be: (1) off the main drive, (2) not in the main views, (3) far enough back from the drive to buffer effectively, (4) defined and controlled to eliminate deterioration of the edge, (5) configured in such a way as to be indistinguishable from the character of the Picnic Grove landscape and (6) have a surface treatment appropriate to the natural character of the area.

A view of the picnic shelters that shows the desired visual integration with Picnic Grove landscape

Trout Pond

Trout Pond is an important feature in the pastoral landscape of this area. The Olmsted design for the pond shows a pond edge with greater variety of vegetation and a more varied outline than exists at present.

As recommended for the area in general, all the landscape within the loop drive should be drained properly and afford comfortable, easily traversed surfaces.

The pond has been stocked in the past and is used for fishing. It is proposed that the county investigate its suitability as a natural system for swimming. A study to determine public health feasibility of reintroducing swimming would include: determining the rate of flow to replenish the pond, pond depth, floor configuration and the need for dredging, conducting a microbial analysis, and reviewing the potential for surface and subsurface contamination within the watershed. At the same time, the study would be useful for evaluating the water quality and general biotic conditions that may require structural intervention to maintain this feature for the long-term. The considerations for a swimming area as part of Lower Seneca Park should include potential user capacity, compatibility with other proposed uses and sensitivity to historic character.

Like other features in the park, the pond is linear. It is recommended that the pond edge be restored with an articulated, carefully vegetated edge, scenic views and one area where the path comes to the water edge, as indicated in the historic design. Any support facility for bathing, or restrooms, should be modest and sited recessively against the slope, not on the drive or water edge. A comprehensive site design project for the interior of the loop drive would include attention to all factors of the park landscape and park user facilities, and would precede restoration of this area.

The Loop Drive

The drive is in need of repair, and it is recommended that this be done in the near term. The ideal solution for the drive edge is to install stone curbs so that vehicles do not continue to degrade drive margins. In order to retain the scenic quality of the open view across Trout Pond, on-road parking is not recommended. No net gain in either shelter or parking capacity is recommended; however, if more parking is needed it would be best to provide small lots for a dozen or so cars at appropriate points along the drive where the above parking criteria can be met.

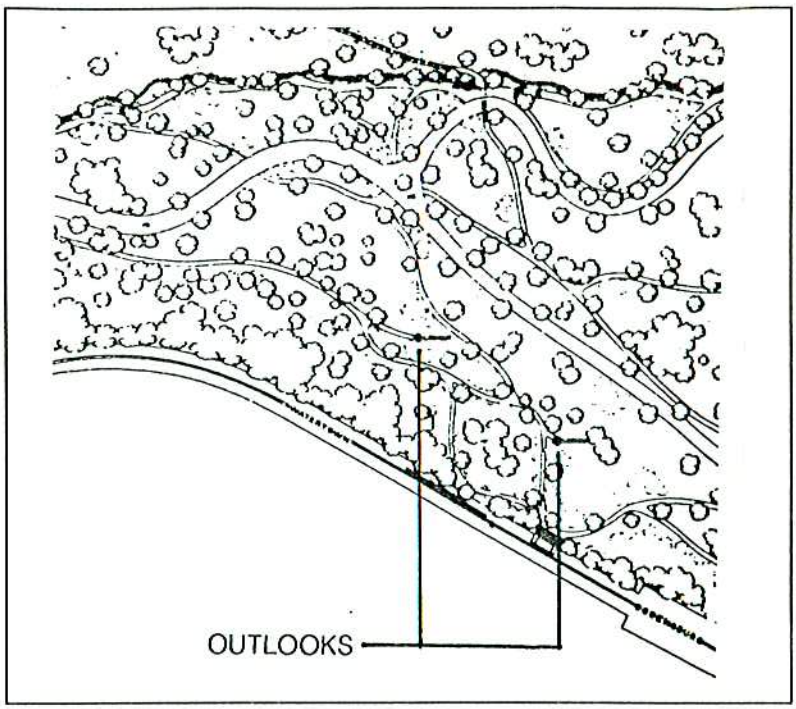
Loop Drive Intersection

The area where the loop drive joins with the two-way drive forms the entry into the lower park. This area has moderate relief and is currently vegetated in successional Upland Forest. It was formerly an open Picnic Grove with an extensive system of pedestrian paths. The existing dense understory obscures the landforms and visually separates this area from the picnic areas, views of Trout Pond and long views into the gorge. The historic plan indicates an open drive edge landscape for this area, framed by sloping ground that encloses and directs the view. This entry drive sequence before the loop drive is a carefully articulated introduction to the Trout Pond landscape expanse. It is a gateway and significant transition zone that establishes the character of this area of the park.

The flat portion to the east of the drive intersection is also important as the terminal view on the east facing leg of the loop drive as it exits the lower park. This park area has been proposed as a prime site for expansion of zoo facilities. Subject to intensive investigation by the master plan team in concert with the zoo master plan team, this study has focussed on the potential for restoring the historic landscape character while accommodating zoo uses. The conclusion was that zoo use could be integrated in the slope and toe of slope area which forms the eastern edge (and buffer/backdrop) of the area while restoring the Picnic Grove landscape on the terrace. Specific conditions and relationship of uses and elements in this area, accepted by both the master plan and zoo master plan teams, are outlined in the section on park/ zoo interface.

The alignment and edge of the road should be preserved. Uses appropriate to, and compatible with, the historic include pedestrian paths, and a limited number of benches and/or picnic tables that maintenance

staff can service from the drive.



Detail of 1891 Plan showing loop drive gateway and circulation

Zoo Expansion

A major objective in developing this master plan was to identify an area for zoo expansion that would provide the highest possible level of compatibility between an expanded zoo and the historic park. The entire park has been reviewed, taking a comprehensive view of ways in which the park and zoo could be better related.

The recommended area for zoo expansion includes three different parcels:

- the slope and east edge of the terrace to the east of the entry drive (discussed above)
- north of the existing zoo, in the former historic buffer area between the railroad and the eastern half of the loop drive
- north of the ballfield and south of the intersection of Swamp and Rifle Range Roads (for support facilities and off-exhibit use)

Not including a park buffer edge, this amounts to approximately ten additional acres for zoo use. In order to minimize impact on the historic fabric, and maximize the harmony of the zoo within the park, the following are general recommendations for zoo treatment:

- A minimum 50' vegetative buffer, as historic, between the loop drive and zoo. The buffer is intended to retain the character of the existing landscape within the park. By definition it will not admit visual penetration. Fencing will be in the east half of the buffer and should, as much as possible, not be visible. Once the extent and bounds of the improved zoo have been determined, establishing the buffer should be a near term project for the park, in anticipation of later zoo improvements.

  NOTE: The 50' depth of buffer was established, based on field investigation, as the minimum effective depth that would be required using vegetation that would satisfy the historic intent. The 50' dimension is also related to the desire for the buffer to be composed of a mix of deciduous and evergreen vegetation modeled on the historic planting lists. A narrower buffer might satisfy the functional criteria, but only if it were to be more densely planted, and intensively maintained, than typical. In some cases, even more width may be necessary to achieve the functional criteria of no visual penetration.

  Furthermore, the buffer is not intended to have a lineal wall-like effect along the edge of the drive, nor conform to the steep slope. The historic plan, which is the basic criteria, shows varying distances between the buffer and the drive, and an undulating line that floats up and down the slope. The actual proposed locations should be considered specifically, in response to existing field conditions.

- The ability to buffer the zoo and park is essential throughout, and the 50' buffer of vegetation

should provide an adequate minimum; however, zoo facilities should also be so arranged and constructed so that they will not call attention from the park.

- Zoo structures and support facilities, including fences, should be sited below or beyond the crest of the zoo plateau to avoid silhouetting of these elements along the rim.

- Runoff from the zoo must be directed and/or processed so as to avoid introducing additional nutrients which may promote contamination or eutrophication of Trout Pond.

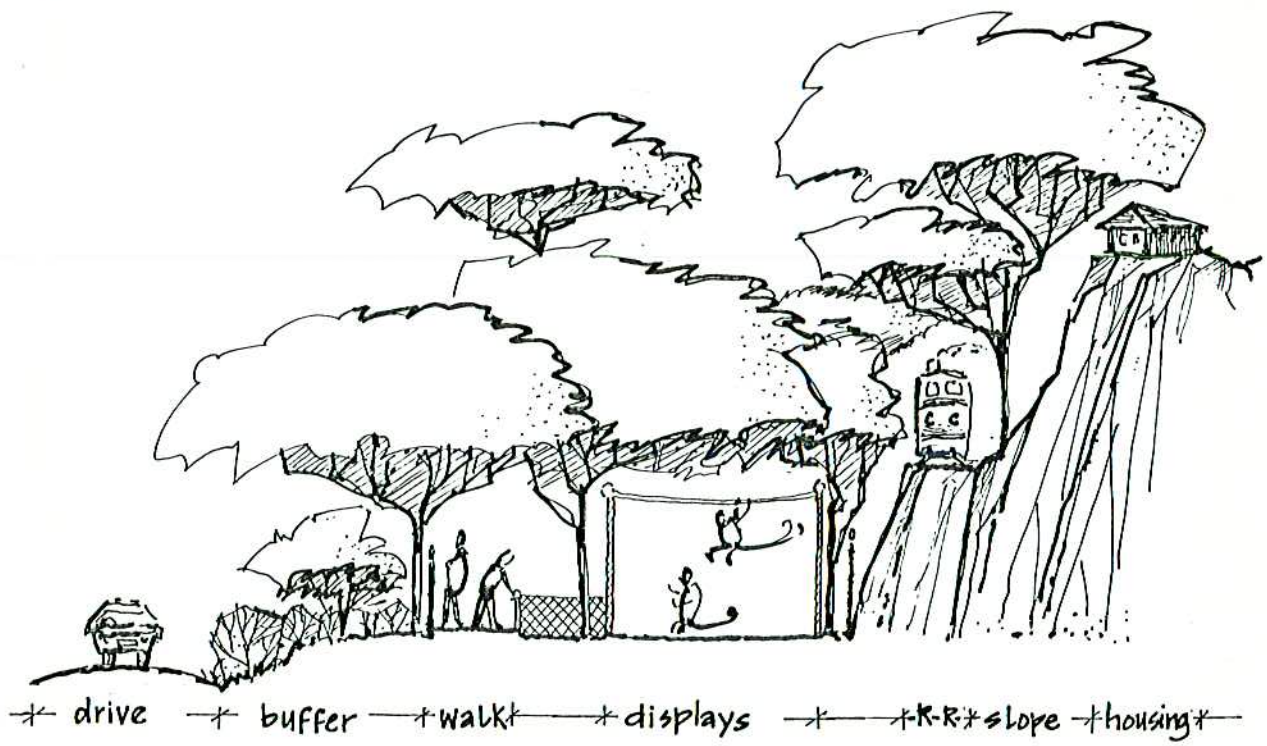
- Mature canopy trees in the zoo expansion area need to be retained to preserve the scenic framework of the park as well as the visual screen of adjacent neighborhoods at higher elevations.

Park/Zoo Interfaces

In contrast to screened buffer edge, special treatment is proposed for two distinct areas between park and zoo landscape: the toe of slope east of the entry terrace, referred to as the Terrace Area, and the northern historic outlook, referred to as the Zoo Outlook, at the rim of the zoo plateau.

Terrace area

The relationship of the zoo and adjacent parkland in the Terrace Area is distinct. Zoo facilities (as per the guidelines outlined later in this section) will be within the buffer zone of the backslope and toe of slope. Zoo visitors will experience the spaciousness of the restored Picnic Grove at the terrace but without physical access to the entire area. The park entry experience will be improved by restoration of the Picnic Grove landscape, edged by the backslope buffer. The intended interface is similar in concept to a one-way mirror, providing views from the zoo into adjacent parkland but restricting views from parkland into the zoo. This includes:



Typical sketch section through the most steeply sloped portion of the proposed zoo expansion area.

- restoration of landscape type to Picnic Grove and related buffer as historic;
- fencing, structures or non-park features which are screened, disguised or blended into the landscape so as not to be apparent;
- retention of tree canopy;
- preservation of slope with effective erosion control; and
- proposals for use of this area should be reviewed by the historic consultant to the zoo master plan team prior to implementation and historic concerns should be incorporated into the final plan.

In addition to the above stated general criteria for park/zoo interface, the following conditions for placing the proposed zoo exhibits on the slope and toe of slope have been established in concert with the zoo master plan team:

- Any structural elements and features of zoo facilities such as walks, enclosures, structures, and signage should be screened from the park. Events that occur along the zoo paths, ramps or stairs should be of a scale and character so as not to call undue attention to zoo facilities which may not otherwise be noticeable.

- A proposed viewing blind/berm near the toe of the slope in the Terrace Area, and the zoo path that runs around it on its western side, will be sited so as to be as little visible from the park as possible and to be in the background in this area. Existing and proposed vegetation should be utilized, with the landforms, to blend these elements into the landscape. The dappled light and shade created by the foliage will aid in creating this effect.

- The proposed hanging wire mesh park/zoo boundary fence through the Terrace Area should be located as close to the zoo paths as possible in order to secure a maximum range of vision in the park, and because the attention of zoo visitors will be focussed away from the fence and in the direction of the animal exhibits. It should be at least 50' from the drive to assure that it falls within the light/shade camouflage pattern of the tree canopy. The effectiveness of obscuring the hanging fence in an open grove landscape should be tested before this barrier option is selected, final siting is determined, and construction of the hanging fence is carried out.

- The stair structures and ramps on the face of the bank should be as modest in size and unobtrusive in materials, color, shape and finishes as possible; alignments should minimize view slots along their axes from any point within the park. Exotic animals or plantings should be screened from view.

- Precautions should be taken in the use of non-native vegetation to preclude it's becoming a seed source that could escape to parklands where it may be difficult to control.

- Planting will be especially dense at the bend of the road near the proposed south ramp, in order to screen the zoo ramp. This will also reinforce the heavily vegetated "entrance" effect intended by the Olmsted plan at this point in contrast to the open Picnic Grove landscape beyond. This organization of vegetation is shown on the historic plan.

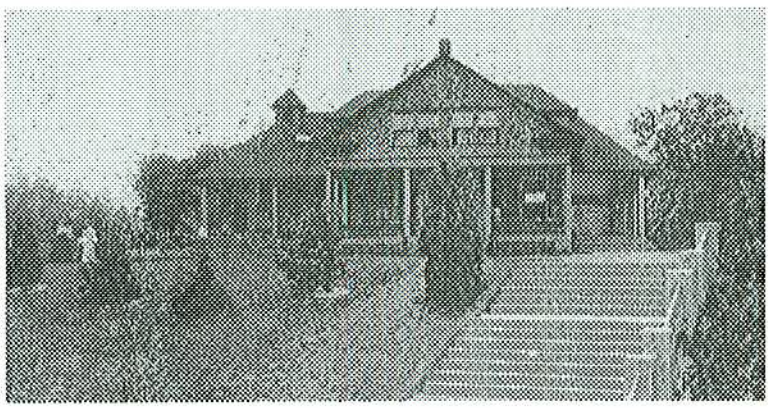
- Massing of shrubs for buffer purposes should occur along the rear, not the roadside, of the terrace. However, the edge of the vegetative buffer in the terrace area should vary in height and elevation on the face of the backslope, and flow in and out on the flat and sloping ground to form uneven bays and headlands of foliage.

Zoo Outlook

A second, centrally located, interface area is proposed that will recapture for park and zoo visitors a key historic outlook site and function. It will provide a unique view of the pond area to the west and possibly

to the gorge beyond. It is not intended to encourage a high volume of pedestrian traffic across the drive but would appropriately serve as an alternative egress from zoo to park. This feature may include a structure to function as a service center, which is park-like in character. The view can be restored with selective clearing while retaining vegetation to screen views toward the railroad to the east. A complete program for viewing, restrooms and concession is being considered in the zoo master plan. It may be connected to the lower terrace by a proposed path across the face of the slope that coincides in places with the path on the historic plan which is discernable on the ground today.

- Because of its prominent location, the proposed outlook structure on the edge of the plateau should be unobtrusive and parklike in scale, color, material and shape on each facade. It should be sited as close to the historic location as possible, and be modeled on the historic structures.



Former refectory at the site of the Zoo Outlook (from historic postcard)

- A proposed dual path linking the terrace to the north outlook (one inside and one outside the zoo fence) should be planned to retain existing mature canopy; the historic path will be retained, part within the zoo and part within the park; it is understood that the paths will be separated by an unobtrusive barrier similar to and continuous with that in the Picnic Grove; the historic path will be broken to provide for the zoo fence and buffer between park and zoo. This lost portion should be minimized.

Lastly, it is recommended that implementation of zoo and park master plans should occur in complementary phases to ensure that the rehabilitation of the surrounding park keeps pace with improvements to the zoo.

The North End

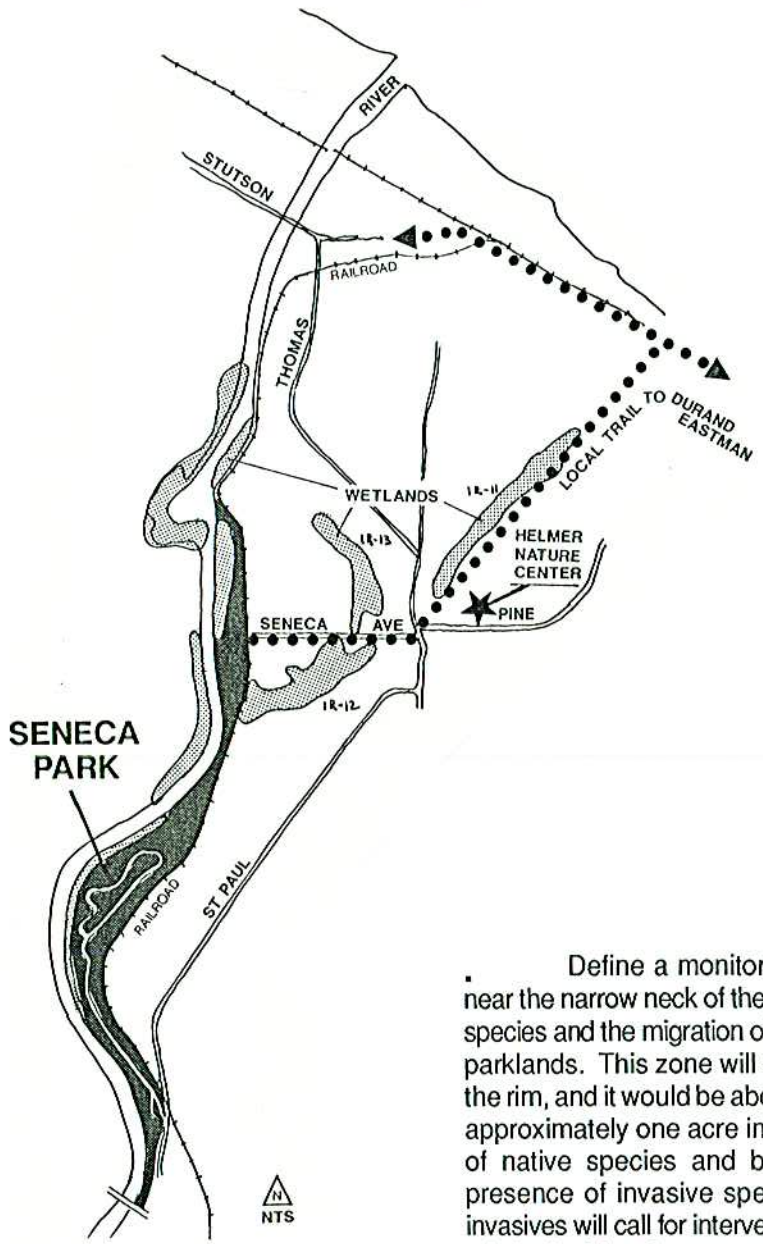
The remnant Picnic Grove of century-old oak trees north of the loop drive should be preserved. It has high historic significance and integrity, and is located at the drive's visual terminus. To the north and west of the grove is an expanse of open lawn that includes a vine-covered baseball backstop. It is recommended that the open lawn be retained in this area for viewing and active use.

The existing maintenance storage area north of the Wegman Building should be used as the park labor center with off-exhibit support for zoo functions as well. This area should be fully screened from park use areas, paths and trails. Initially accessible by Rifle Range Road, the entry should be moved to the railroad right of way as soon as this access is acquired.

The Wegman Building has potential as a multi-use service building for visitors to the park and nature trails. There should be access to restrooms, but the exhibit or meeting space in this building should be available by reservation to interested groups, and not staffed by the Department of Parks. This is not the most appropriate location for restrooms and a tour trailhead facility, but it could be adapted, with visual improvements, for near-term use. In the long-term, it should be relocated. A replacement structure should be sited and designed to blend into the landscape, yet be readily accessible to park and zoo users in the same general vicinity.

The area to the west and northwest of the existing building is part of the mature wooded gorge path and any disturbance for improvements should minimize impacts to established vegetation. Access and parking for maintenance and for users (6-10 cars maximum) should be sited unobtrusively and screened. The boundary of this parking area should be well-defined to avoid surrounding landscape degradation.

The footpath to the north, including outlooks (Red Bluff) and bridges, require improvements to trail surfaces, railings, and the revegetation of erosion/compaction areas for user safety, better access and ease of maintenance. The character of these improvements should be rustic, in keeping with this area of the park, but trails and outlooks should be well defined to minimize damage to erosion-prone slopes. These improvements should occur prior to or with the improvements to the Wegman Building in order to accommodate potential increased use.



Local trails linkage concept

SENECA PARK NORTH

The northern portion of Seneca Park, which extends from the historic park to Rattlesnake Point, consists of gorgeside and Upland Forests and meadow areas that are currently used for hiking and viewing. The trails are an extension of the gorge trails in the Trout Pond area. A trail guide has been developed for nature interpretive studies. The area is valuable for its undisturbed natural features, and existing access to the river. The recommended management strategy is to permit the natural succession of existing vegetation, with the following exceptions:

- Retain or define a substantial vegetative buffer along the eastern boundary to preserve the wilderness experience and direct users toward the river; and

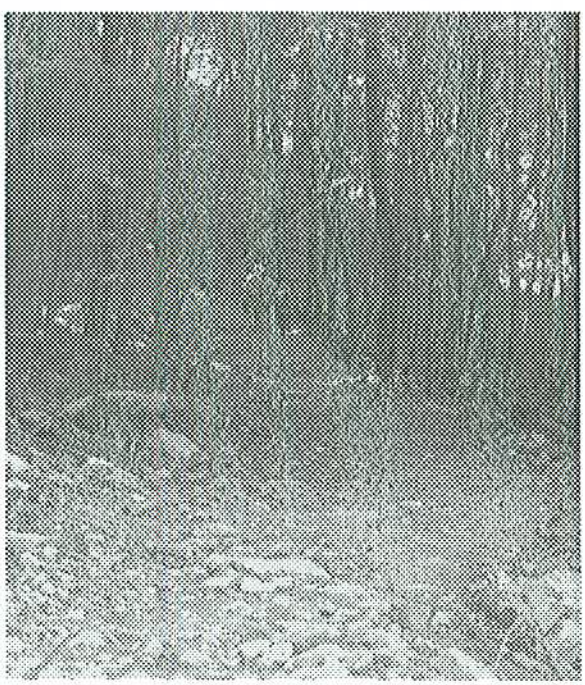
- Define a monitor zone on the south end of this area near the narrow neck of the park to annually review the vegetative species and the migration of invasive species toward the managed parklands. This zone will extend east-west from the railroad to the rim, and it would be about 200' wide north-south. It would be approximately one acre in area. It should consist of a diversity of native species and be systematically monitored for the presence of invasive species. Extreme dominance of some invasives will call for intervention to avoid disturbing the vegetative mix in the historic areas to the south.

Trails and access to elevated outlooks should be rehabilitated and stabilized. In keeping with the rustic character of the landscape, structural improvements in this area (landings, outlooks, trails), should blend in with the surroundings. The trails in Seneca Park North are a substantial component of the proposed continuous pedestrian riverway corridor. A continuous trail along the river to Stutson Street is feasible, although the connection is constrained by steep slopes. Trail configuration should anticipate future links to the Stutson Street area and Seaway Trail which is dependent on acquisition and reuse of the railroad right of way to achieve continuity. A small trailhead for local foot-trail access is recommended at the end of Seneca Avenue. The proximity of Seneca Park North, extensive protected wetlands, the Helmer Nature Center Preserve, Durand Eastman Park and the Lake Ontario shore, suggest the potential for a greenway system and even a local footpath connection. It is recommended that the county encourage any such local initiatives which may arise. Rapid development in the residential areas to the east--known as Seneca Flats--has limited the potential of significant additional land acquisition. Use of the northern site for vehicular access to the park is not recommended, but a small area should be secured for parking (6-10 cars) at the west end of Seneca Avenue.

SETH GREEN AREA

The Seth Green area of Seneca Park, on the east side of the river, is bounded on the north by Veterans' Memorial Bridge, on the east by Seth Green Drive, and to the south it extends along the gorge face behind the School for the Deaf. Drive access to the park is via the intersection of Norton Street, St. Paul Street and Seth Green Drive. Street connections in this area have changed a number of times over the past few decades. Recent street tree plantings on the south side of Seth Green Drive contribute to defining the street edge at this complex intersection.

The area is significant for the safe access it affords to the river's edge from Seth Green Drive. The RG&E service road provides pedestrian access to the base of Lower Falls. Both the Rochester Urban Cultural Park (UCP) and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) propose improving public access to river level via this route. In addition, a primitive switchback trail off the RG&E road provides limited access to the river level near Seth Green Island. Limited parking is available on the rim edge where the service road intersects Seth Green Drive. Farther north, the broad switchback path (formerly Genesee Avenue) to the site of Brewer's Landing is marked with a wooden sign on Seth Green Drive. There is no provision for parking at this point other than parallel street parking, which also serves local residents.

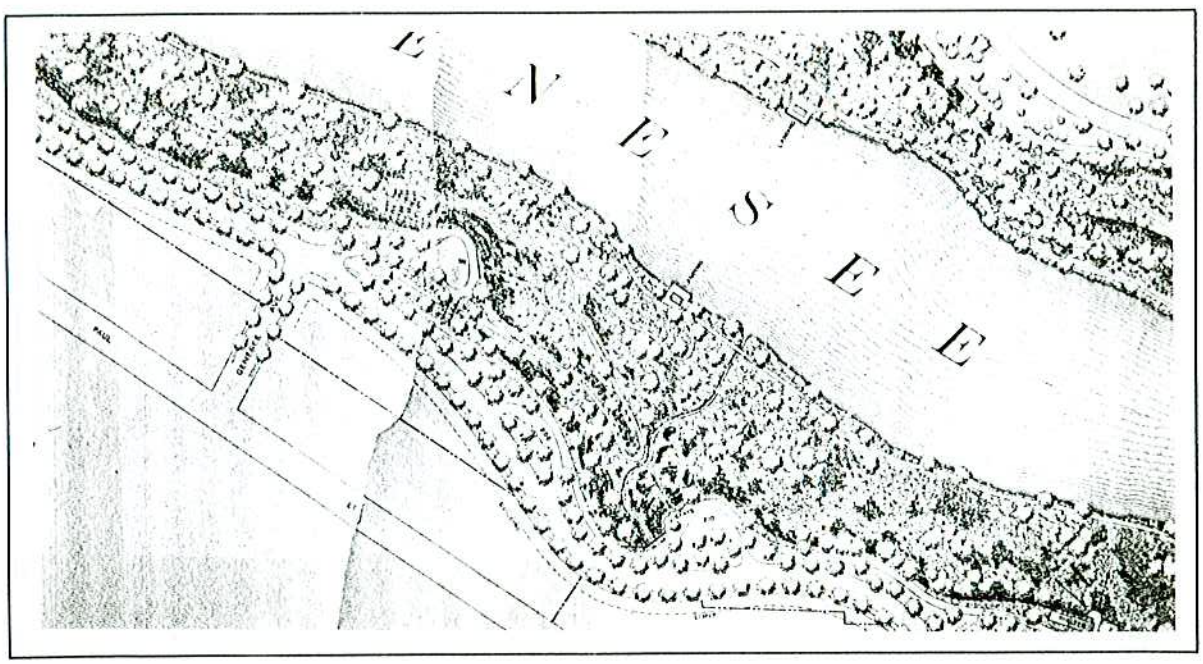


Stony ground plane of the trail to Brewer's Landing

The existing switchback path was an access route to Brewer's Landing at the time of an early settlement that predated the park. The Olmsted plan proposed a redesigned pedestrian path that followed the general course of the existing switchback path. It offers a unique experience of the gorge as it descends past a dramatic rock face and waterfall below Seneca Towers and terminates at the river's edge. It is recommended to continue its use as one of the primary points of access into the gorge.

The Village of Carthage is an archaeological site, requiring protection of archaeological resources. These resources include an existing foundation ruin at river level. Interpretive signage that explains the history of the Carthage settlement and Brewer's Landing is appropriate. Controlled access and low intensity use is recommended. A river landing at the bottom of the switchback trail is recommended for fishing and viewing. This area has a spectacular view of the gorge, Seth Green Island and the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

Extend river level access south, upgrading and stabilizing the existing switchback trails. Define and upgrade a trail to connect these trails at river's edge. Connect with a modest pedestrian bridge to Seth Green Island. The island and river bank have been built up from sand and soil washed down from the gorge and falls. This surface is somewhat unstable and subject to erosion. It supports a plant community that is unique within the gorge. Therefore, pathways and outlooks would best be determined in the field and improved as necessary to minimize negative impacts. The area has potential for providing barrier free access to river level. With its proximity to Seneca Tower, such access is particularly appropriate for use by the local elderly population. Determine the desirability and feasibility of such improvements as a next step.



Detail of 1893 Plan showing Seth Green outlook as designed by Olmsted

The character of vegetation in this area is quite different than in other areas of Seneca Park. It comprises a relatively even age stand of trees with a high, dense canopy. The stony substrate and dense shade support only a minimal understory. For safety, the area should be monitored and dead trees along the pathway selectively removed. As the tree stand matures, a vegetation management plan is recommended to maintain the spatial relationship of pathway and vegetation. In addition to addressing tree cover, this plan should include restoration of ground cover to define paths and protect slopes from continual erosion.

At rim level, the historic plan shows a carriage pull-off and outlook on the promontory above the footpath (Figure). A stair structure from the outlook was proposed as an alternate route. It is recommended that a rim level outlook based on the Olmsted plan be developed for pedestrian use. Vehicular use is not encouraged. A scenic view to the gorge from this outlook should be reinstated.

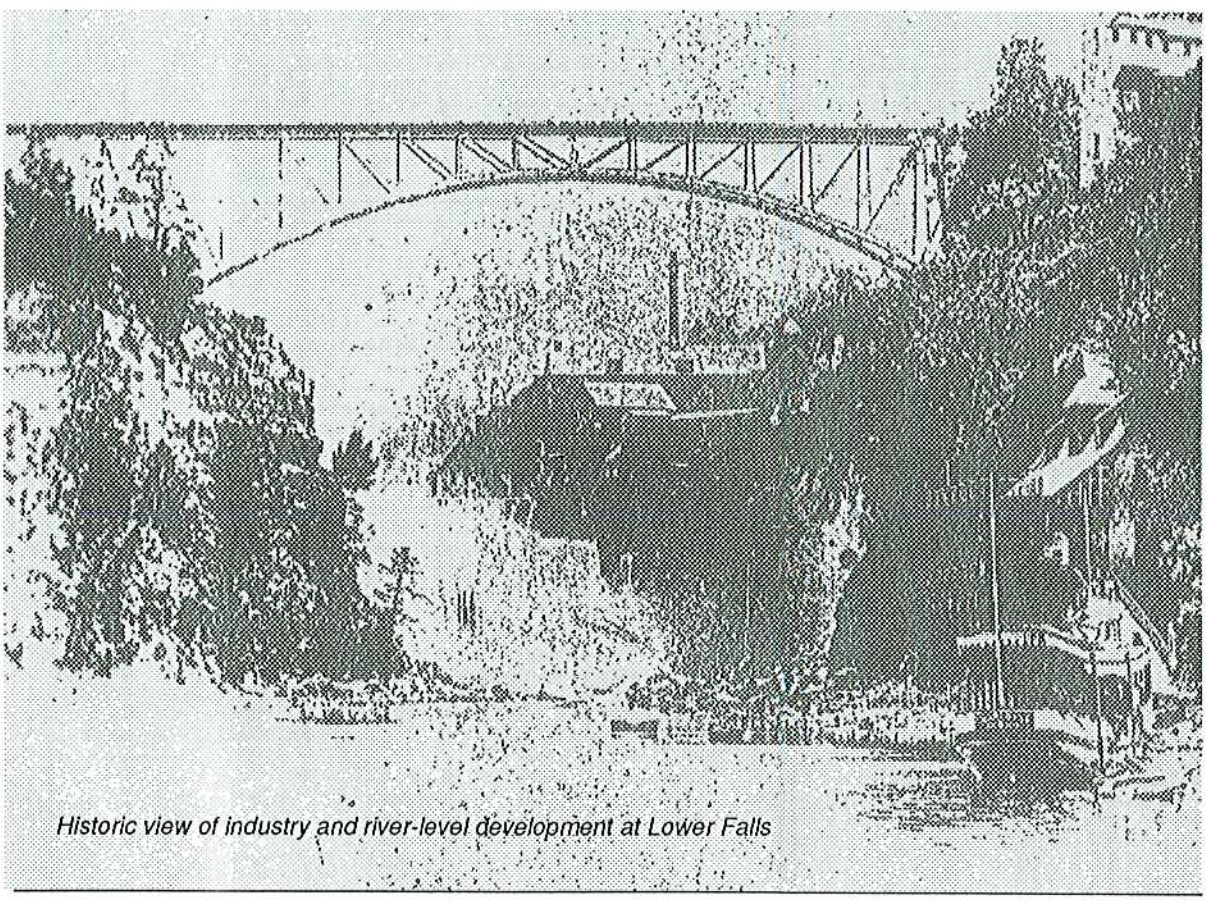
There is no northern outlet for Seth Green Drive. Provide a vehicular turn-around at the north end of the drive. Parking for Seneca Tower is extensive and has begun to encroach on park area. The trees at the rim contribute to the park edge and are essential to maintaining the visual quality of the east rim. Parking on the turf injures trees by compaction. The area requires definition of vehicular access and public parking using stone curbs.

The intersection of St. Paul Street, Seth Green Drive and Norton Street requires signage and sidewalks on the south curve of Seth Green Drive, as indicated in the UCP proposal for the RG&E plant. Street furnishings should be selected and sited to be compatible with the historic park and the UCP proposal.

LOWER FALLS PARK

Lower Falls Park lies on the plateau east of Hastings Street and south of Driving Park Avenue, and offers a unique view of Lower Falls. Pedestrian access to this site has been improved with a path and overlook built as part of the recent Driving Park Bridge replacement. However, the park is largely undeveloped and, although it is included in the Rochester UCP, there are no near-term plans for further improvements. Hastings Street access is restricted to maintenance vehicles, but provides alternative pedestrian access from Driving Park Avenue.

UCP recommendations call for Lower Falls Park to be developed "for passive recreational use. . .located and designed to take advantage of unique and dramatic scenic vistas. . .within the gorge." Public facility improvements would include ". . .picnic areas, shelters and restroom facilities, installation of interpretive



Historic view of industry and river-level development at Lower Falls

signage and new landscaping, as well as toxic materials testing." We concur with these recommendations.

In general, the UCP recommendations are not consistent with the Olmsted vision for the gorge. Since the Olmsted plan called for the Seneca Park administration to be located here and it was never carried out, this is a peripheral area to the Olmsted design. However, it is a critical area to the UCP. Ruins that are visible at the river's edge above the falls are likely to be remnants of the early industries of McCrackenville (Figure). The area is significant as an historic industrial site and could be interpreted for park users. The best use is to integrate the UCP in a park-like manner that is also integral with adjacent park areas and emphasizes scenic quality.

The density of development proposed in the UCP requires sensitivity in siting to avoid degrading the views which access is intended to provide. (Refer to LWRP Mitigation Guidelines.) The theme for Rochester's UCP designation is the interpretation of the natural environment in the statewide UCP system. Future improvements undertaken as part of this long-range comprehensive plan must hold the goals of 1) public access to views, and 2) scenic quality of the gorge, to the highest priority.

Foundation ruin in Lower Falls Park

It is recommended that the primary theme of the natural environment dominate at Lower Falls with secondary UCP themes of transportation and industry being emphasized nearer the urban core. Lower Falls Park is a focal point in the transition from commercial/ manufacturing to residential/open space zones. The pedestrian link that has been established by the bridge replacement is an important first step in defining such a transition, and it retains options for the continuous pedestrian corridor and bikeway called for in this and all related studies. Recommendations on landscaping include use of native vegetation to augment informal plantings that would be in keeping with the historic planting palette for the river edge and gorge. Historically appropriate native vegetation should be selected for this area. More detailed plans for development of this area should include a visual analysis study to ensure that proposed structures on the plateau and rim are in keeping with the scale, texture and context of the natural features. For the near term, recommendations include: instituting a mowing regime to encourage meadow and discourage volunteer trees that would block views; planting low native shrubs on river bank as physical, not visual buffer; planting the rim with tree buffer adequate to screen adjacent non-park uses; allowing a natural edge of vegetation to develop on the gorge side; protecting archaeological resources.

MAPLEWOOD ROSE GARDEN

Maplewood Rose Garden is the southern-most component of the open space known as Maplewood Park. The rose garden and lawn between Lake Avenue and Maplewood Drive are post-Olmsted additions to

the parklands. The Rose Garden is a formal landscape requiring intensive maintenance.

Changes to the Rose Garden area and adjacent gorge rim have resulted in a spatial configuration that compromises the historic design intent of focussing on the river gorge with a pedestrian promenade and scenic outlook opportunities along the rim. Parking has been accommodated by an extreme widening of Maplewood Avenue. This is an inefficient solution for parking that has resulted in construction of inappropriate and potentially intrusive structures and other facilities at the rim, interrupting the continuity of pedestrian circulation. A barrier prevents traffic from driving through the park to adjoining residences on the north. A stronger visual connection should be established with Maplewood Avenue and the rim footpath to the north.

Existing parking surface lacks definition

It is recommended that the parking and drive be reconfigured, and a pedestrian promenade that is modeled on the historic plan should be restored. A transition that clearly separates the decorative gardens and facilities from the informal rim and gorge landscape needs to be articulated. Strolling, jogging and enjoying the view are the intended rim activities. Uses that interfere with pedestrian movement should be avoided. Reestablish the scale of spaces indicated in the historic plan.

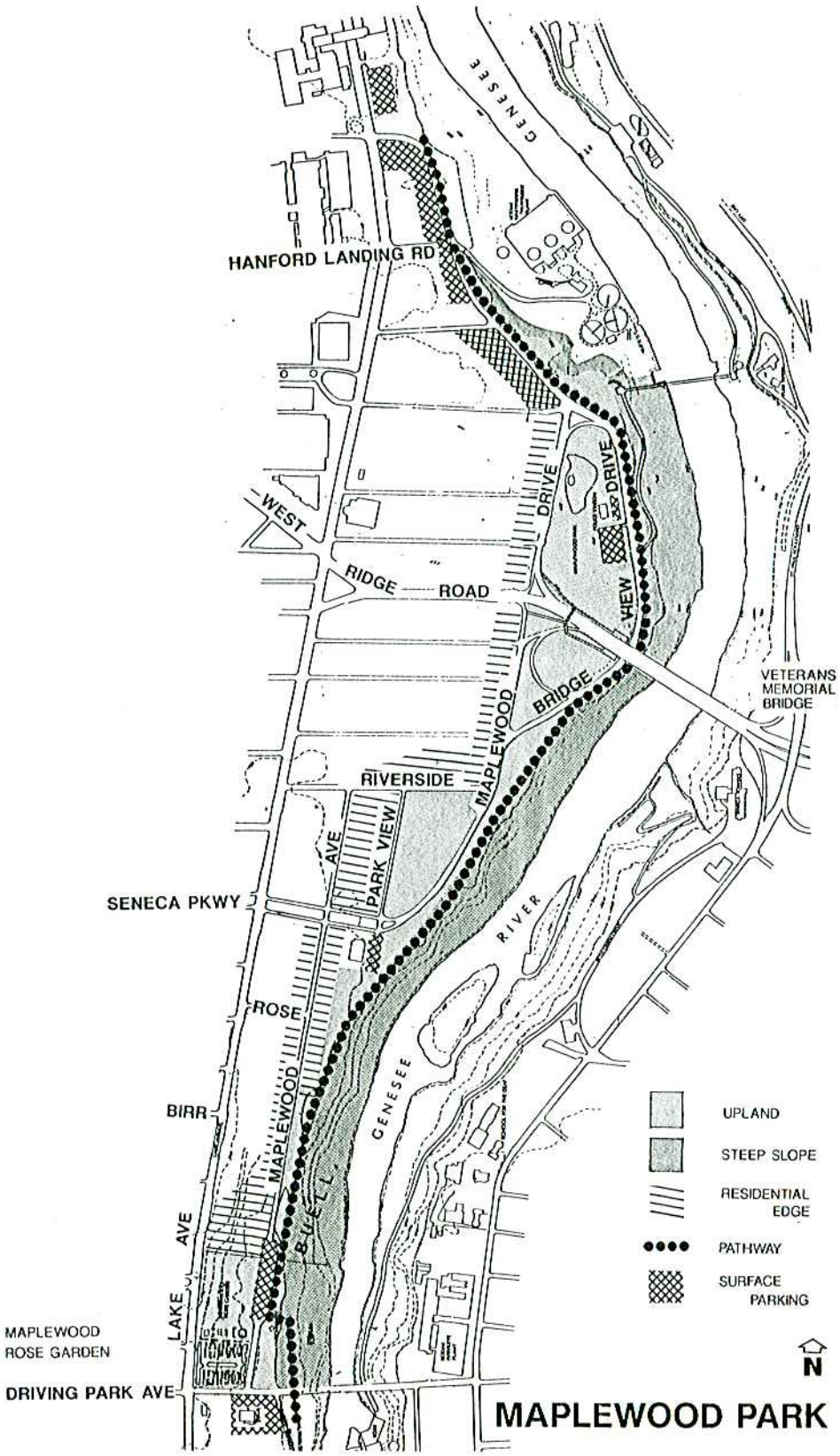
Recommendations concur with the previous draft Comprehensive Plan on the need to encourage programming that would provide for more regular use and surveillance and discourage uses that conflict with the adjacent residential atmosphere. The content and siting of such uses, along with the drive and parking recommendations should be the subject of a study that includes consideration of parking capacity and programming for the north end of site.

Additional recommendations include:

- add restrooms in the dovecote to support existing use;
- simplify maintenance of the rose garden by reducing the number of species displayed and consolidating some of the planting beds;
- implement barrier free access;
- develop safe access routes through the gorge from rim to river level to accommodate existing uses;
- reuse remnants of Buell Avenue and the Indian Trail where feasible to extend access opportunities;
- revegetate bare slopes with understory to minimize erosion;
- undertake annual species enrichment plantings or seeding of ground covers, and planting of shrubs, understory and canopy vegetation in the gorge.

MAPLEWOOD PARK

On the west side of the river, Maplewood Park extends north from Driving Park Bridge to Hanford Landing Road, and includes land east of Maplewood Drive to the river. The Maplewood Park area north of the

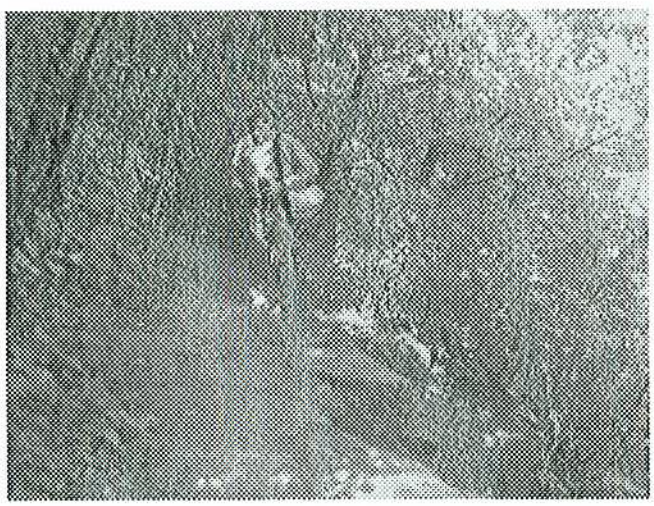


Detailed land use and location map for Maplewood Park

Rose Garden is considered in the recommendations because of its importance in the historic plan. Although portions of the Olmsted plan were never built, much of it was, and these remnants contribute significantly to issues of access and visual quality.

Seneca Parkway is a formal approach to the park from the west and it is currently planted with small flowering trees. The central median and verges at the sidewalks were intended to be planted with four rows of deciduous shade trees like American Elms or Red Oaks. As replanting is needed, this type of tree should be planted along the parkway to reinstate the intended tall canopy over it.

The block enclosed by Parkview, Riverside and Maplewood Drive serves as a gateway from Seneca Parkway and should retain its parklike character. The tennis courts are appropriate in their location and contribute positively to recreation within the park. The expanse of lawn north of Veterans' Memorial Bridge is a remnant of the historic park spaces which have been encroached on by bridge accesses that have fragmented the intended open lawn and trees. Much of the park has been permanently lost to non-park use since the construction of the bridge and its approaches. The remaining open space is further reduced by the presence of the police substation and parking lot. It is recommended that non-park facilities not be expanded. At such time in the future as it would be appropriate, the police station should be removed, and the area restored to the intended historic landscape of trees and lawn.



Existing rim face trail in Maplewood Park

The continuous north-south drive shown in the 1891 plan was never built. The areas surrounding the intersections of Maplewood Avenue, Seneca Parkway and Park View are established as residential properties. These land uses preclude realization of a continuous park edge drive, and, together with the traffic configuration at the intersection of Maplewood Drive and West Ridge Road, contribute to the fragmentation of the intended continuous open space. Maplewood Rose Garden is further isolated by its barrier across Maplewood Avenue, because vehicular access is confined to entering from one point off Driving Park Avenue. Pedestrian movement is similarly fragmented. While a continuous connection exists on the west side, consisting of rim trails and sidewalk, the connections are weak at intersections with public streets where vehicular movement dominates. Reinstating clear pedestrian access as a continuous system is recommended. Safe, readily apparent routes and traffic crossings will require detailed design and should be components of any study to improve this riverside corridor. A small plateau on the rim has potential as a sitting and viewing area along this trail, as intended in the historic plan. These improvements to pedestrian use and enjoyment are recommended.

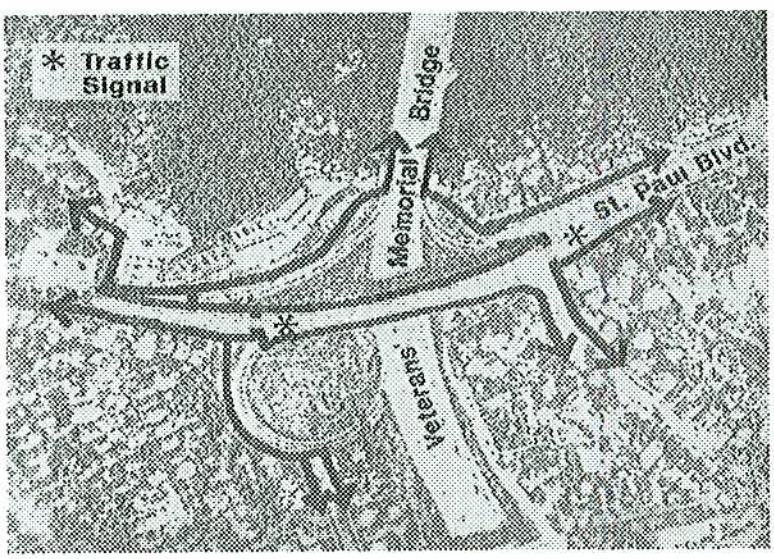
Maplewood Park lies within both the UCP and LWRP. Both these plans recommend continuous pedestrian corridors along the river from the urban center to Lake Ontario. We concur with their recommendations for Maplewood Park which include: an off-street bikeway and public walkway, safe controlled access to the river for fishing, adequate parking, additional trails, programmed activities in the Rose Garden and Maplewood Park (i.e., the open space at Ridge Road). To the fullest extent possible this area should be regained as a park landscape modeled on the Olmsted plan.

LOWER FALLS OUTLOOK EAST

The historic design for a refectory, park edge drive, promenade, formal street trees, rim path, gorge trail with stairs and river landing outlook at the south end of the park was never fully implemented. Still, some historically based improvements are possible on the south side of Driving Park Bridge. Carthage Avenue is a remnant formal entrance should be connected by steps to the outlook directly below it at the north end of Brewer Street. The existing Carthage Avenue along the rim was historically intended to be a small park with pedestrian paths. Views through the vegetation can be opened to recapture scenic intent. The intersection of Avenue E and St. Paul Street is a visual link between the east and west rim and open spaces at the south end of the park/urban interface. Street trees, where feasible, and directional or interpretive signage will strengthen connection of these streets to the park.

RIM AND GORGE ACCESS EAST

On the east side of the gorge, pedestrian access is fragmented. Except for trails within Seneca Park, access is not distinguished from the public streets and it is not park-like. The sidewalk configuration at



Pedestrian circulation at the east end of Veterans' Memorial Bridge

the intersection of Veterans' Memorial Bridge and St. Paul Street is complex and offers minimal protection for pedestrian movement across large-scale, hard edged spaces. Pedestrian connections leading to Seth Green Gorge Park are narrow, dangerous, difficult to find and follow, and are not park-like in character. Disjointed paved walks from Memorial Bridge and St. Paul Street thread through parking lots and lanes of moving cars. On both sides of the river, expanses of surface parking, especially at intersections, erode the sense of continuity and recreational purpose of the pedestrian corridors. An opportunity for providing a safer, more direct pedestrian crossing of Route 104 should be pursued.

The RG&E service road is utilitarian in all respects. Its surface, route, and edge vegetation are inappropriate for a park drive or walkway. It serves informally as pedestrian access to the east side of the river below Lower Falls, but it is not clear that public use is sanctioned. It is recommended that a public access agreement be developed that clearly identifies the portions that are publicly accessible, includes provisions for appropriate directional and/or interpretive signage, and outlines recommendations for park-

like improvements to the pedestrian portion of the corridor with connections to the secondary trail to the river at the south end, a bridge to Seth Green Island and a riverside path.

RIM AND GORGE ACCESS WEST

Industrial development has encroached on the west side of the gorge, removing lands from park uses and causing breaks in the pedestrian corridor along the west rim. The existing trail dead ends above the drive to the Kodak Treatment Plant where pedestrians must backtrack and cross Lake Avenue to continue north. It then moves away from the rim, using walks along Lake Avenue until it reconnects with the railroad right-of-way that leads past Bullocks Wood and on to Turning Point Park. A trail study is needed to develop guidelines for re-establishing a parklike, human scale route that emphasizes recreational access and scenic views. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a right-of-way for continuous pedestrian paths along rim and river with links between them and scenic viewpoints as conceptually portrayed in the historic plan.

There is a need to explore the feasibility of alternate routes within the open space along the rim, as well as to identify collector routes from nearby neighborhoods and offices. Routes that provide safe access to the gorge rim and river edge viewing platforms require stronger visual connection. Add directional and identification signage and street trees where the corridor runs along public streets for visual continuity along trail, and a clearer transition from the urban fabric to the public open space.

SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation basically affirm the retention of all historic fabric and advise the replacement of lost elements only when historic information is clear and speculation is limited. Identification and safeguarding of what remains of the historic Olmsted landscape is a base point. Treatment of lost or diluted park landscapes and features to rehabilitate, restore or reconstruct requires a further set of decisions. These guidelines are intended as a decision making tool. They establish, to the degree research has revealed, the original intent, materials and treatments within the park. This historic basis is then followed by a summary of comparable existing conditions. Both of these then lead to a recommended "Schematic Design Guide". The future form of Seneca Park needs to address and balance contemporary agendas, while remaining true to the historic record. The application of these guidelines will aid in the process of planning and implementation.

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE

VEGETATION: The plant materials palette for the park is documented in correspondence and Park Commission reports, historic postcard and photographic views and, in remnant form, on the ground today. Losses over time of original species diversity and quantities, especially of shorter lived understory shrubs, trees and ground covers, are evident and require attention. Annual renewal of plantings at the rate of 1% to 2% of the total desired amount of woody plants and specific capital projects are the vehicles for renewing the vegetative cover. Plantings will ideally duplicate the types and locations shown on the historic plans, and described under the headings above, to the greatest extent possible. Invasive volunteers and modern cultivars should be removed. Vegetation should be managed for scenic views. Three broad classes of landscapes have been developed for the entire Seneca Park landscape. Park, Forest and Edge landscape types are defined above. Each class of landscapes requires specific management strategies and maintenance programs to reinstate Olmsted design intent. Each type is addressed by specific headings of Schematic Design Guidelines, except where park-wide recommendations are appropriate. Quotes from the Olmsted correspondence are included as they relate to the topic.

PARK LANDSCAPES: "As much of the upland will eventually be in pretty close association with houses and other artificial improvements,it would not be inappropriate to use, in addition to native trees and shrubs, a moderate proportion of other sorts chiefly planted in gardens, provided, of course, they are in harmony in appearance with the general character of the planting: for instance, on the margin of the park next to private lands we would not object the Japanese quince, Forsythia, Syringa and the like in connection with wild Viburnums, cornels, etc." (J.C. OLmsted, February 1897) Park Pond "as a mirror of the sky and trees", aquatic plantings of "hardy native water lilies", he also states "It is, however, desirable to avoid a monotonous fringe for one of two kinds of water plants...we trust that you will be able to produce some very interesting and natural appearing effects." (December 1896)

Style	Pastoral	Remnant Historic Invasive, Less Plants	Recapture Historic Pastoral
Palette	Deciduous Shade Trees in Lawn, Shrub Borders	Remnants and New Cultivars	Use Historic Lists and Locations

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE
Trees	Deciduous, Broad Full Form Shade	Limited Remnants Recent Cultivars	Return to Historic Replanting Program To Augment
Trees, Oak, Maple			
Shrubs	Dense, Linear Masses Primarily Deciduous	Limited Remnants with Invasive Trees	Redefine as Historic By Area & Type
Turf	Large Areas Well Maintained	Segmented, Less Overall Fair Maintenance	Large Areas Improve Maintenance
Pond Style	Scenic, Pastoral	Bare Banks or Rampant Growth	Return to Historic Scenic, Pastoral
Pond Palette	Native Aquatic Plants Shrub Border, Edge Trees	Limited Aquatic Plants Uncontrolled Edge Growth	Return to Historic Plant Palette

FOREST LANDSCAPES: "There is, of course, an opportunity for an immense amount of detailed study in the planting of the Gorge: for instance, in moist places ferns might be introduced in considerable patches. In some places it will, no doubt be desirable to plant trees very thickly near the base of the slope in specially prepared trenches, so they would serve to prevent rolling stones from injuring people who might be on the river walk below. Along the margin of the river it would be desirable to plant trees which are especially common along the river bank, avoiding, however, too free use of willows, which would, we think be less appropriate in the Gorge than along the river above the city. In general, we would strongly advise that only trees and shrubs and vines native to the locality should be used between the river and the tops of the bluffs, and great pains should be taken to produce as wild and natural an effect as possible below the tops of the bluffs." (J.C. Olmsted, February 1897)

Style	Native, Picturesque	Remnant Historic Invasive, Less Overall	Model on Historic Picturesque
Palette	Trees, Shrubs & Grd. Cover Evergreen & Deciduous	Remnant & Invasive Loss of Evergreen & Ground Covers	Augment Historic Plant Palette, Trees, Shrubs, Grd. Covers, Evergreens
Trees	Varied, Native with Evergreen	Invasive, Exotic Less Diverse	Return to Historic Replant Annually & Projects
Shrubs	Native Understory	Limited Remnants	Redefine as Historic
Ground Cover	Ferns, Wildflowers Ivy, Vinca, Lush Cover	Limited Remnants Invasive Herbaceous	Reestablish Lush Cover Along Paths, to Halt Erosion As Historic Views Show

EDGE LANDSCAPES: For Parkway planting The Olmsted firm recommends the finest trees to use as the American Elm, otherwise, either Maple or Oak. "As both Elms and Maples are somewhat too commonly planted, it would be a distinct advantage to plant this parkway with a tree that would distinguish it from the ordinary streets of the city. The finest of the Oaks for avenue planting, we think, would be Pin Oak...The Scarlet Oak is likewise vigorous and handsome..." (Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to C. Laney,

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE

December 1892) "It would have a good effect to use the White Pine somewhat freely along the tops of the bluffs and in the border plantations. It would be advisable to leave the trees in the border plantations somewhat more crowded than would usually be desirable in order to force them to tallest growth...Trees which hold their lower branches well in spite of crowding should be preferred in the border plantations, and trees of various ultimate sizes and rates of growth should be mingled." (JCO, 1897 referring to the Edge landscape we call Buffer) "The border plantation of trees is fairly effectual, but needs some hemlocks and more shade-enduring undergrowth. I told Laney that the shrubberies near the walk and drive needed ground cover other than grass." (Warren Manning, Report of Site Visit, November 1892)

Style Street Edges	Formal= Monoculture Informal= Varied Types	Limited Remnant Invasive, Unclear	Model on Historic Clarify as Designed
Palette Street Edges	Row of Deciduous Trees, in Linear Lawn	Limited Remnants Some New Species	Replant as Historic Street Edge from 1891 Design
Trees Street Edges	Limited Palette See Favored Trees	Inconsistent, Exotic and Native	Return to Historic
Turf Street Edges	Large & Small Areas Well Maintained	Less Overall Fair Maintenance	Redefine Areas Improve Maintenance
Style Buffer	Dense Visual Barrier From Ground Plane Up	Open Remnant Limited Understory	Augment, Model on Historic From Ground Plane Up
Palette Buffer	Shrubs Masses, Understory Canopy & Evergreen Trees & Understory, Closely Planted	Limited Remnants Visually Permeable	Redefine as Historic Especially Evergreen

DRIVES:__On east side from St. Paul entrance, linear routes along edges of gorge, within park landscapes and at edges intended for slow speed pleasure travel along urban ways adjacent to park, scenic enjoyment, and access to interior park features. "...it seems to us that the drive, having followed close to the brink (of the Gorge) for a long distance, and the curiosity of visitors having largely been satisfied as regards the river views, it would be a pleasing variation to have their attention diverted to the sylvan scenes and the views over the pond, which are obtainable in the northern and broader portion of the Park." On the west side the only Park Drive is at Maplewood Grove, now compromised by Veterans Memorial Bridge and associated cloverleafs. Other park edges are city streets. Most of these were intended for formal treatment. Two Parkway segments were designed, one at the south end on the west side and one at Paine Street on the east side. Parkways were formal landscapes with multiple drive surfaces and several rows of evenly spaced canopy trees.

Horiz. Align.	Varying Radii, No Straight Segments, Curvilinear	Deteriorated Unclear, Some Straight	Recapture Historic
Vertical Align.	Rolling, Gentle	Variable, Angular	Rolling, Gentle
Width	32'to 40'	Varies 22' to 40'	Two Moving Lanes 11'

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE
	Wider at View		2 Bicycle 8' or 1 P Park 8'
Material	Coursed Gravel	Black Asphalt	Asphalt with Gravel
Grade	Crowned	Slight Crown or Unclear	Parabolic Crown, Raise View
Edge	Curb only at Path, Grass Swale	Unclear Edges, No Curb Deteriorated or Absent Swale	Stone Curb, No Guard Rail or Bollard
Grade Edge	Ogee Curve	Blurred	Ogee Curve
Parking	Short Term at Concourse and Viewpoint Only	Asphalt Parking Lots Drive Margins	Parallel along Trout Lake Drive, 90 at Ballfield, Viewpoints, No Large Asphalt
Speed Limit	Slow 10-20mph	Unposted, 20-45mph	Slow 20-25mph

PEDESTRIAN PATHS: Paths in the upland are for passive enjoyment. The drive is located some distance away from the Gorge "...because is seems to us very desirable to allow people on foot, especially women with small children, an opportunity to stroll to some extent in the woods adjoining the path, without the anxiety incident to guarding against danger from passing carriages..." Some are circuits, most are linear. Many movement patterns up and down Gorge slope proposed. Few carried out. Continuous routes designed, not repetitious because alternates available, Interrelated system for ease of movement. Safe, not in conflict with vehicles, with switchbacks or flights of steps to traverse Gorge grade. Intended for scenic enjoyment of park landscape, long views at specific locations, movement through varied landscape types and access to destinations within the park. Pedestrians, hikers, joggers and bicyclists and handicapped (especially in the upland park, to the extent possible with the extreme grades in the park) should all be provided for, without conflict.

Alignment	Well Constructed Curvilinear, Continuous Not in Conflict with Drive	Poorly Constructed, Vague Discontinuous, Sometimes Parallel Drive Closely	As Historic, Well Const Curvilinear, Continuous Not in Conflict with Drive
Access	Safe Access to Gorge	Unsafe, No Defined Path	Construct Safe Gorge Paths
Handicapped	Some Level Upland Paths	Unplanned Access	Plan Upland Path Access
Park Width	6-10' General Wider @ Inters.	5' to 15'	10' General Wider @ Intersections
Forest Width	?	Unclear, Variable	6'or more as grade allows
Edge Width	?	Standard Sidewalk Where Found	Standard Sidewalk
Park Path Material	Coursed Gravel	Asphalt, Earth Wood Chip	Stone Dust w/Edge

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE
Forest Path Material	Coursed Gravel	Asphalt, Earth Wood Chip	Stone Dust w/Edge or Wood Chip
Edge Path Material	Gravel or Stone	Concrete Sidewalk	Stone or Concrete Sidewalk
Edge	None	None	Metal or Rubber Edge to Define & Control
Forest Path Stairs	Not Built, Probably Stone	Wood Where Available Not Heavy Construction	More Frequent, Stone or or Substantial Wood

FURNISHINGS: Generally Park furnishings were intended to be simple, recessive accoutrements for visitor comfort. They were utilitarian not frivolous or ornate, but they fit in with the park surround. Signage and benches appropriate for city streets is not in character with a historic park. Current furnishings are often selected from catalogs and are of contemporary design. Historic research should clarify the palette of furnishings most suited to Seneca Park.

Signage Simple	Simple, Recessive	Large, Visually Dominant or Standard Street/Directional	Below Eye Level, Small,
Benches	Simple, Functional At Viewpoints, Features	Limited	As Historic, Not Ornate At Appropriate Locations
Lights	Simple, Serviceable Limit to Night Use Areas	Functional, Security Related, Wrong Types	Use Local Models, Historic Limited Night Use Areas

STRUCTURES: Structures within the park exist to support park uses, as places for visitor services, sited to provide a good outlook. "The shelter itself is an open floor, 25 feet by 60 feet, with an overhanging roof supported by posts. It is raised several feet above the level of the path and roadway which skirt the edge of the bluff, in order that it may have a pleasant outlook over the open ground to the westward, as well as into the Gorge of the river." (Description accompanying a sketch of a shelter, January 1898) They are secondary elements within the landscape and should be modest. Structures need to have a good scale relationship to the setting.

General	Modest, Good Details	Utilitarian, Visually dominant	Modest, Good Details
Structures	Small, In Scale Serving Park Uses Visually Recessive	Small to Large Utilitarian Visually Dominant	As Historic Park-Like Visually Recessive

TOPIC	HISTORIC SENECA PARK	EXISTING CONDITIONS	SCHEMATIC DESIGN GUIDE

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: The primary recreation for Seneca Park was walking and enjoying the incredible scenery of the River Gorge. Other recreation was encouraged, picnicking, pleasure driving, water recreation, boating, ice skating.

Recreation	Walking, Scenic Enjoyment Picnicking, Boating, Fishing, Pleasure Driving, Ice Skating, Swimming	All Historic, Nature Study Jogging, Biking, Baseball, Frisbee, Hiking, etc. Anti-Social & Degrading Activities, ie. Fast Driving, Drinking, Vandalism	All Historic Plus Compatible, Non-Degrading Social Activities

SCENIC VIEWS: Views where opened toward the river and along the Gorge through park or forest landscape passages. Views were framed from both pedestrian paths and drives. Multiple changes over time, loss of view locations to non-park uses, growth of volunteer trees, intrusion of built elements etc., have completely altered the scenic qualities of Seneca Park. Reinstatement of the historic intent should guide the Schematic design. Views should be located where appropriate to existing conditions. John Charles Olmsted, in a letter to Calvin Laney, February 20, 1987 describes the scenic views to be created in Seneca Park as follows: "As a general rule all the steep bluffs should be covered with trees, with an undergrowth of native shrubs suitable to dense shade, exposure, character of the soil, etc. At numerous places, however, it is intended to keep views open from the drive and walk along the top of the bluff, and in some cases even plunging views all the way down the bluff. Therefore, in these places it will be necessary to omit all large growing trees, according to the distance below the point of view.

Scenic Views for Current	Frequent Views, Placed at Best Points	Degraded, Unavailable Blocked by Vegetation	Review Historic Value, Reinstate or Relocate As Appropriate

FURTHER NEEDS FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH CONCERNING SENECA PARK

With the completion of the master plan for Seneca Park developed by EDR in collaboration with Landscapes and Dr. Charles Beveridge, the basic documents, plans, and historic photographs for the period before 1915 will have been located and copied for future reference. In addition, a description of Olmsted's design intent and the extent to which the park was constructed according to his plan will have been provided to Monroe County and the public. Major changes in park use and major intrusion of non-park use after 1915 will also have been identified and briefly described. The important task that remains, if the full story of the relation of the park to the community is to be understood, is to construct the history of the park after the time for which annual park reports were published -- that is , c. 1915. The principal source for this information will be local newspapers and periodical publications.

An additional source of great interest and value is the recollection of those who have used the park during that seventy-five year period. Much can be learned about park use, the attitude toward parks, and the

effect of various design and maintenance policies, that can be discovered in no other way. Moreover, private collections of photographs taken in the park can yield useful information both about park use and about its appearance at different periods. An oral history of the park of this sort is also a potentially effective means of increasing public interest in and awareness of the park, as well as support for its restoration and maintenance. The potential still exists for developing the gorge as a scenic reservation and of realizing the original design intent for the Trout Pond section: public awareness of the historic significance of these two areas because of Olmsted's involvement in their planning is something that should be increased.

A thorough history of Seneca Park in the post-1915 period will also identify the process by which certain parts of the original design were left uncompleted and by which major intrusions like the Kodak waste water treatment plan, the approaches to Veterans Memorial Bridge, and Seneca Towers, came about. The extent of public awareness of these developments, the kinds of concern expressed about them, and the operation of the governmental bodies involved them will greatly expand our understanding of the park. Such knowledge should also clarify how the government and management of parks has been carried out in Rochester and Monroe County, and will provide valuable information for future policy.

Appendix A

OLMSTED FIRM SENECA PARK DOCUMENTS

Reports of Visits, 1892, 1895, & 1902

Excerpts from Letters, 1892 - 1902

Compiled by Charles E. Beveridge
November, 1989

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SENECA POND CONSTRUCTION:
To CC Laney, May 20, 1892: A21:712

" In regard to the pond in Seneca Park, our usual practice is to make such a pond 8 feet deep, but to draw the water down in Winter, so that the depth will not exceed 3 to 4 feet, as a safeguard against people being drowned in case the ice gives way. The shores should be formed with two slopes: an easy slope at the top to form a beach, and a steeper slope below this to secure the depth which is desirable as quickly as possible. The upper slope should vary according to the nature of the material available for the beach. If coarse gravel is convenient, a slope of 6 inches in 5 feet will answer very well; but if the material is fine sand, it will be better to have the slope not exceed 6 inches in 10 feet. Unless the water level of the pond is likely to vary several inches, an easy slope to a depth of 6 inches is all that is necessary. Beyond the easy slope, the slope may be 1 to 2 or 1 to 5, according to the nature of the material. If ledge is struck, it will of course be left. It is very essential to make such ponds deep, in order to prevent them from being covered by growths of Algae or other larger water plants in Summer, and having a foul, stagnant appearance."

PLANTING OF TREES FOR PARKWAY
to CC LANEY, Dec. 24, 1892: A24: 204

Re parkway: finest tree to use would be American Elm. Otherwise, recommend either Maple or Oak.

"As both Elms and Maples are somewhat too commonly planted, it would be a distinct advantage to plant this parkway with a tree which would distinguish it from the ordinary streets of the city. The finest of the Oaks for avenue planting, we think, would be the Pin Oak, but we are not sure that a sufficient number of handsome, large specimens could be obtained in the nurseries. The Scarlet Oak is likewise very vigorous and handsome, and it is not as slow-growing when properly planted and cared for as most people suppose. It seems generally to hold its own as to rapidity of growth with the Maples..." (but first recommendation would be Pin Oak)

"If neighboring land-owners object to the Oak as being too slow-growing, you might offer to plant rows of Oriental Planes or Belsam Poplars in the private lands adjoining the parkway, which in five years would product very respectable size trees."

In regard to the number and spacing of trees, there are two courses to pursue. The simplest treatment would be to have six lines of trees, the two rows on each side of the sidewalk having the individuals planted alternately. The individuals of the two lines next the driveway would be opposite each other. If it be desired to go in for something more striking and more contrasted with the ordinary streets and avenues of the city, it would not cost an unreasonable amount in preparation and maintenance to plant the central grass plot with groups of shrubbery. In this case, the lines of trees on the grass plot would have to be omitted. As the avenue has several marked changes in inclination, and as the vistas, therefore, would not be remarkably impressive, we are inclined to recommend the planting of the central plot with groups of shrubbery."

(If commissioners want this, the firm will need plan showing where breaks in central strip come for existing or future cross-streets.)

"As to the spacing of trees in lines: if Elms are used, they should be 50 feet apart; if Maples or Oaks, 40 feet.

There is one thing that is of the utmost importance; and that is that the soil should be prepared in holes both deep and wide for the trees, and all other precautions taken to secure rapid and handsome growth of the trees."

SHELTER IN NORTHEASTERN SECTION OF SENECA PARK
OO&E to AR Selden, Feb 19, 1894; A32: 255-58

Have received blue prints of proposed pavilion for Seneca Park.

Objections: "Will not present a sufficiently simple and rustic or rural appearance. It has a somewhat fussy and gay effect more appropriate to a suburban street than to a rural park. We would strongly advise that the trimmings of the dormers and gables be omitted" etc. More important: change the "novelty siding" to shingles.

"Care should be taken to let the architect understand, if our suggestions are conveyed to him that so far as concerns design we are not in the position of criticising his design from an architectural point of view, but as designers of park scenery of which such building ought surely to be a subordinate part. He should understand that the building should not be designed to be a pretty thing in itself but to be a part of the scenery of the park, and that anything with attracts attention to itself by reason of its color or its decorations, and draws attention away from the surrounding verdure must be considered and decidedly impoertinent and objectionable. The idea should be, therefore, to make the building as simple, quiet and subdued in color and design and as low and inconsipicuous as the necessary requirements of convenience will permit, and any such building of necessarily large size should be placed where it will be unobtrusive. If it is desirable to have shelters on important points of view and where they will also be (in the nature of the situation) conspicuous, it is desirable that they should be small and low, and they would preferably therefore be isolated structures separated from the extensive provisions for public comfort which the present building is intended to provide."

OO&E to CCLaney Feb. 19, 1894: A32: 247

Have just received prints of proposed shelter in Seneca and have written proposing modifications, "the most important of which is that so-called open court should be made really open to the sky."

Jan 28, 1898, A56: 184

Olmsted firm sends a pencil sketch for proposed shelter in Seneca Park. "The shelter itself is an open floor, 25 feet by 60 feet, with an overhanging roof supported by posts. It is raised several feet above the level of the path and roadway which skirt the edge of the bluff, in order that it may provide a pleasant outlook over the open ground to the westward, as well as into the gorge of the river."

SENECA PARK PAVILION, CONT'D

To CC Laney, April 16, 1902:B78, #1108

Olmsted firm sends plans and recommendations for shelter in Seneca Park, for refreshments, rain shelter and toilets, also provide limited space for band concerts nearby.

Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot to CC Laney, Febuary 3, 1894; A32: 117.

The fact that you called the proposed building in Seneca Park "administration building" entirely misled us, as we have never used the term in connection with a pavilion or shelter such as you now describe."

If the building is to serve same purpose as the one erected in picnic grove in GVP, why not use that design or similar one?

"The site which you suggest would be perfectly proper for the purpose of a shelter, but we hardly feel able to give you any very definite advice in the matter without considering it upon the ground. If the site you suggest commands a view which has a marked character in one paticular direction, it would be desirable to plan the building that the outlook in that direction would be carefully adjusted to fit the view. At the same time, it is desirable that the long front of the building should fit the edge of the little bluff, which, as we understand it, the building would be placed upon. It would be preferable to place the building so that the main walk would pass in front of it, rather than in in its rear, if the building is to have attached to it toilet accommodations and provision for the sale of refreshments.---"

TREATMENT OF DRIVE AND LANDSCAPE IN TROUT LAKE AREA OF SENECA PARK

OO&E to EM Moore, Jan. 9, 1895; A 38: 92-94;

some explanation of Seneca Park Plan
1) Why the drive is not closer to edge of gorge:
The Olmstead firm has run footpath as close to gorge as possible. Since the carriage drive must then be back some "it seemed to us that it would be more agreeable on the whole to make the drive through a grove of trees, and to bring it boldly to the gorge as closely as possible, at those points from which really fine views are obtainable up or down the river. We were also influenced, in a minor degree, by the desire to avoid excessively numerous and quick turns in the road."
2) Why the drive is not as close as possible to gorge N of first picnic grove:
"We do not do this principally because it seems to us very desirable to allow people on foot, especially women with small children, an opportunity to stroll to some extent in the woods adjoining the path, without the anxiety incident to guarding against danger from drive to go into the woods. Partly also, it seems to us that the drive, having followed very close to the brink for a long distance, and the curiosity of visitors having been largely satisfied as regards the the river views, it would be a pleasing variation to have their attention diverted to the sylvan scenes and the view over the pond, which are obtainable in the northern or broader portion of the park."

Also, fewer good views down into the gorge from the brink in the northern part of the park than in the southern, etc.

To CC Laney, April 16, 1895; A39: 983

"We think both branches of the Seneca Park driveway would best be built in the quarry, because if one branch is built on the upper level it will lie within one hundred feet of the railroad tracks."

PLANTS TO USE IN SENECA PARK POND

to CC Laney, Dec 29, 1896

"...in our opinion, it would be out of harmony with the general character of the landscape to plant Egyptian Lotus in the pond, or in swampy places in Seneca Park, but there would be no objection to planting hardy native water-lilies. Indeed, it would desirable to do so. Caution should be used, however, lest the pond become entirely covered with lilies, which would, of course destroy much of its value in the landscape as a mirror of the sky and trees. To prevent water-lilies spreading it is customary to plant them in boxes or tubs, which confine the roots. It is not likely that they will spread, however, in the portions of the pond which are more than eight or ten feet deep, and if any considerable portion is so deep, no other precaution would be needed against their spreading. It is, however, deisirable to avoid a montonous fringe of one or two kinds of water plants: as for instance, the common water-lily, or the cat-tails. One great fault of artificial ponds in public parks is that their shores are either bare or montonous, and we trust that you will be able to produce some very interesting and natural appearing effects. There is no necessity for using markedly exotic plants."

PLANTING OF GORGE SIDE AND ON TOP OF GORGE

To CC Laney, Feb. 20, 1897 (A50: 393-95)

"Our plan for Seneca Park did not show shrubbery where you indicate, chiefly because of the difficulty of showing it on so small a scale without confusion. We wanted to show a good deal of hachuring [sic] in order to illustrate the characteristic topography, and so had to omit the shrubbery.

As a general rule all the steep bluffs should be covered with trees, with an undergrowth of native shrubs suitable to dense shade, exposure, character of the soil, etc. At numerous places, however, it is intended to keep views open from the drive and walk along the top of the bluff, and in some cases even plunging views all the way down the bluff. Therefore, in these places it will be necessary to omit all large-growing trees, and even sometimes to remove some of those already existing, and to cover the ground with low-growing trees, shrubbery and low growths, according to the distance below the point of view. Where there is any considerable breadth of tolerably level land on top of the bluff on the west side of the river, it is intended to have the ground covered with turf where the soil is suitable, but wherever there is a break in the ground, and chiefly along the margins of the river toward the private property and where there are narrow strips and other similar bodies of land, except the formal tree planting strips of the boundary road and except where the planting of shrubbery would obstruct the view or free passage upon the turf. [pencilled "?" in margin at this point] As much of this upland will eventually be in pretty close association with houses and other artificial improvements it would not be inappropriate to use, in addition to native trees and shrubs, a moderate proportion of other sorts chiefly planted in gardens, provided, of course, they are in harmony in appearance with the general character of the planting: for instance, on the margin of the park land next private lands we would not object to Japanese quince, Forsythia, Syringa and the like, in connection with wild Viburnum, Cornels, etc. Where the nearly level ground is broad enough to admit of its being used for ball playing, it would be best to omit shrubbery between the drive at the edge of the bluff and the boundary. A border of trees would, in this case, probably give all necessary sense of seclusion to those enjoying the views from the top of the bluff, while it would be impossible to prevent shrubs in connection with the playground from being injured. There, is of course, an opportunity for an immense amount of detailed study in the planting of the Gorge: for instance, in moist places ferns might be introduced in considerable patches. In some places it will, no doubt be desirable to plant trees very thickly near the base of the slope in specially prepared trenches, so they would serve to prevent rolling stones from injuring people who might be on the river bank, avoiding, however, too free use of willows, which would, we think, be less appropriate in the Gorge than along the river above the city. In general we would strongly advise that only trees and shrubs, vines and plants native to the locality should be used

between the river and the tops of the bluffs, and great pains should be taken to do all planting in such a way as to produce as wild and natural and effect as possible below the tops of the bluffs."

"It would have a good effect to use the White Pine somewhat freely along the tops of the bluffs and in the border plantations. It will be advisable to leave the trees in the border plantation somewhat more crowded than would usually be desirable in order to force them to the tallest growth. Most of the trees in the border plantations might stand permanently, at from 12 to 20 feet apart, and would better average about 12 to 15 feet. Trees which hold their lower branches well in spite of crowding should be preferred in the border plantations, and trees of various ultimate sizes and rates of growth should be mingled. In general edible nut trees and shrubs having attractive flowers or edible fruit should not be planted in public parks, as they tend to encourage disorderly habits.

You are not doubt familiar with out [sic] wishes in detail with respect to lists of trees and shrubs to be used in the park planting, but if you will submit lists of what you propose to us, we should be pleased to advise you in regard to them in detail."

ROCHESTER PARKS.....ROCHESTER, N.Y.
W. H. MANNING.....Nov. 20-23, 1802.

The work of construction in the park is undoubtedly in the same condition that it was during Mr. Olmsted's visit.

In the nurseries at Seneca Park there are a large number of shrubs and some trees which are in conditon to move in the Spring and which can be used in the planting of Highland Park if needed there. I recommended that a very much larger quantity of the shrubs which could be collected be placed in nursery rows for use in planting the banks and slopes in Seneca Park when they are made ready for this. Mr. Laney asked if the planting could not be done at certain points along the borders of the park nearest the railroad which are more or less unsightly, being either wet or barren. I said that there would be no objection and indicated a number of places where it could be done.

At Genesee Valley Park plantations were very vigorous and are now in a condition to be thinned. I explained this to Mr. Laney indicating the trees that are intended for nurse trees, and stating that they were to be cut out gradually to give room for the development of the permanent trees, and an interesting grouping along the edges of the road. Some of these trees may be available for the planting on the west side of the river, particularly the Willows. Some of them may also be used in the border plantations at Highland Park to good advantage to produce an immediate effect, such as Willows, Mulberries, Poplars and some Catalpas. Mr. Laney asked if the Japan and other Iris could not be introduced along the borders of the brooks to advantage. I said that there would be no objection to this provided they were not placed in dug beds, but were allowed to grow with the native grasses and other plants in the natural way.

At Highland Park I found the collection in excellent condition with comparatively few losses excepting among the Helianthemums and a few other small plants which were covered one night with dirt from a washout. A large number of the shrubs will be in condition to transplant in their permanent places in the Spring, but not all of them. Mr. Dunbar will use his discretion as to this. I went over the collection carefully with Mr. Dunbar, and indicated the varieties which should be protected either by banking up or in a frame. Of the varieties that are of uncertain hardiness I recommended that as a rule, one plant be left in the ground and protected by banking up with earth or covered with boughs, and the others placed in a frame. I spent much of my time on the ground here, locating beds and making notes to assist me in preparing the finished planting plan. Mr. Dunbar has collected and placed in nursery rows at Highland Park a quantity of native plants which will be very desirable in the planting, such as Rhus aromatica, Pyrus arbutifolia, Azalea nudiflora, Viburnum cassinoides. He has also propagated from cuttings this season a number of the Cornels. Many of these will be available for Spring planting in the border plantations.

SENECA PARK.
Rochester, N.Y.

J.G. Olmsted----------18th July, 1895.

Seneca Park - Westside. The drive is roughly graded from Parkway to north and the drive seems in general too far from the edge of bluff, and it would be desirable to cut enough trees on edge of bluff to open up views from drive at intervals. Question as to locating a shelter for picnicers [sic] and toilet, etc. for ball grounds, and visitors. Seemed best on edge of upper bluff about middle of mid-height terrace or shelf, with the only grove of good sized trees on ground suitable for picnicing [sic]. Upper floor to be open pavillion and lower floor a refreshment stand with gallery or balcony for tables, and where mothers can sit and watch their little children in grove below. This place is a short distance south of large sewer, to which the house sewer would run. The best view is north of this, from point where old quarry is to have a loop, but is a very poor place for picnics and not so accessible from the electric cars. On east side Seneca Park the drive has been graded and partly gravelled from the railroad crossing to the foot of the lake, and back near bluff to lower picnic grove. The lake looks pretty well, but needs planting and raming [sic] down of rough field stone wall of dam and time for plants to grow along east side that are already in. Little or no grading of side slopes has been done, and there is much brown and dried ground and no good turf to speak of. The railroad has been changed to its new location. The border plantation made up of large nursery stock and selected stuff has been planted, and is already quite effective from railroad crossing to picinic grove. More or less border planting has also been done along the railroad north of the picnic grove. The shelter north of grove is in use, but it is rather conspicous. There is a baseball field north of the lake, but it is little used, owing to its inaccessibility. From railroad crossing to picnic grove the drive seems not to be close enough to edge of bluff, but it is really as near as can be with due regard to curves, grades and slopes to bluff walk.

ROCHESTER PARKS.

J.C. Olmsted----------November 11th 1902 [sic].
Jones Square.

Drove to this park with Supt. C.C. Laney about 8:30 A.M. He had our plan with him. He has left several good elms scattering between center and border, and wanted to know whether they could not be left while new trees are growing, and eventually be cut. I said that practically the time would never come when they would be cut, and that it would be safer and eaiser to cut them now and have done with it. Some other trees in double border row especially, which we intended to cut seem not to have been, but I did not stop to look into the matter carefully. In general most of the trees we wanted cut or moved away have been. The square looks very much more open, yet not denuded. Nothing else has been done, except that a lot of street cleanings and earth have been roughly dumped over portions of the ground. The available funds gave out so work was stopped.

Mr. Laney said our plan would be carried out in the spring. He asked if the plan was not diffrent from out usual style. I said yes, that the case seemed to call for a formal style.

Lakeview Park.

This little park was completed so far as construction is concerned, but only three beds of shrubs at east end were put in. The trees were thinned elsewhere, and the surface seeded to grass. It looks simple and upretentious west of the shrubbery. It was loaded on to the Park commission for care and they have so little money they can do little caretaking of it.

Forest (?) Parkway.

This parkway looks perfectly neglected. It is planted with elms. I suggested that they be cultivated and pruned. They lean to leeward many of them, and most branch too low for a dignified effect when they attain their mature size. Few, if any houses, have been built in this neighborhood, and the adjoining land schemes appear to be dead.

Seneca Park West.

We drove down to the outlook. All the land for this park has not been acquired yet, so the Commission does not care to spend any money on it that they can help. The drives are graded and gravelled with local gravel. There appear to be no walks. The commission has lately laid out some golf links and are gradualy improving them. They spend $600 a year in maintaining them. This they can ill-afford, but they felt obliged to do it on account of one of Commission living there, and in deference to the usual clamor for a share in the park money. The scattering trees on the meadow have been planted, that is in the broad section, and the trees - ash - have been planted on the boundary street west of it. There are no fences and the border plantation is not planted. This section of park is not much used. Laney says it needs a building to attract people. They had one band concert last summer on the meadow to please the local park comissioner. He thought the shelter might be at the outlook at north end of meadow. It would command a fine view there certainly, but I feared it would be too conspicuous and preferred the site on the wooden slope for which we planned a building with basement for women and little children.

Seneca Park East.

We drove over the steel arch bridge to it. The bluff and narrow strip of land we planned for north of this bridge has not been acquired yet. The land south of the entrance near where the steam railroad touches the park has not been improved, so far as I noticed. The drives north of these are earth and local gravel. Some walks are graded, but not all. Shrubbery in open part looks very well and wild in effect, at this season. The border plantation of trees is fairly effecutal, but needs some hemlocks and much more shade-enduring undergrowth. I told Laney that the shrubberies near walk and drive needed ground cover other than grass. In the grove quite a zoological collection has developed, including a monkey house. It is very cheap-looking, but affords much amusement to visitors. A temporary (?) drive not shown on our plan has been run in there and continues to the shelter, which Laney called temporary, perhaps because it was not on our plan. This shelter is much too conspicuous, being in open land and on edge of a bluff east of drive. An electric railroad follows east boundary. It has double track and strip for it was cut out of border platation, which now needs to be extended west into the open land correspondingly. This street railroad has a loop in the northeast corner of grove, which is unfortunate. There seems to be no careful plan of walks for this vicinity and none for the arrangement of the zoo buildings. Laney says he is trying to keep the zoo, to native and other hardy animals, and people like the goats and sheep and donkeys as well as rarer animals. The refreshment privilege at the shelter yielded the commission $300 rental this year, and the lessee must have made money, because he is anxious to get the lease for next year. The band concerts are popular and one brought 20,000 people, it is estimated. The shelter and toilet accommodations proved so inadequate as to give rise to much dissatisfaction, which has led some of the Commissioners to moot the subject of getting an appropriation for another one - hence my visit. He said it was recognized to be desirable to up the next shelter further from the electric railroad terminal and he had thought of a site in the woods west of the little lake and near the big bluff. I looked at this site and favored it because the building would need to be large and in these woods it would be less conspicuous than in the open. I also favored transferring the band concerts to this wood to lessen the crowd in the other, and because a larger provision for shelter of crowds and for toilet rooms can be made here. I complained of the need of cutting so many trees and Laney suggested various other sites near by, but I did not like them because the building would be more conspicuous and the band-stand would have to be

on the wrong side. I claimed it should be east of building, so audience would face away from afternoon sun. I sketched a plan for a long building running about north and south to fit the ridge in this wood, and keeping east of some tall pines. I put band-stand in existing walk east of ridge, and said that a carriage concourse with three openings to drive could be laid out east of band-stand, and the flat ground west of it could be gravelled for a place for benches. The bank I said should have shrubs on it, and be fenced with three or five flights of steps up it. On top could be some more benches, and the veranda of shelter would afford space for still more. For other details see accompanying sketch. Owing to the rain I did not stop to take more paced location measurements, nor did I take photos, as I intended. Left about 11.45 or 12. Laney says the little lake is a great success and visitors throng about it. He says some Germans want a wading and bathing pool in hollow below dam, also sand-courts and a dressing-room and toilet. I thought the site suitable, but deprecated so many toilet places in so small an area. The baseball field is just east of this site. Laney says there is plenty of water. Says that in the unusual drought of two years ago he measured the overflow and found it to be at rate of 66000 gallons a day, and last summer when he tried it during drought, it was 100,000 gals. a day. In fact the springs in lake make it somewhat unsuitable for skating. I said he could put a tight wall or dam about each spring and pipe it to the outlet. The tops of these dams to be, of course, below summer level, but above winter level. Cheaper, of course, to fence off spring holes from good ice. I discussed many other points. Laney says Dunbar (in charge of Highland Park) has been made officially Assistant Superintendent, as I understand, through the intercession of William Falconer of Schenley Park. He says Sargent has been trying to get Dunbar for the Boston Park. Sargent has been over the Rochester Parks recently and commented favorably on them. He enlisted Dunbar in the study and collecting of native thorns. Possibly he wanted Dunbar for Charley Dawson's place. Glad he didn't get him, for I fear he has the usual gardener's love for stiff planting and little love of imitating wild growths. I may be mistaken though. Laney spoke as if he (Laney) had done the planting of wild shrub borders, and when I objected to the clipping of flowering shrubs, he said Dunbar had done it to make more show of bloom. The board needs a larger maintenance appropriation and is trying to get for next year an additional $10,000. The city could easily afford this, and also fair sums for improvements, but there is no sufficient motive on the part of the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor to do so, and public opinion is not sufficiently strong and definite in favor of the parks. Salaries and office force are perhaps disproportionately large, but it is hardly feasible to reduce it. There are two surveyors employed, but as they are proteges of some of the Commissioners, Laney cannot discharge them, although he says it would be cheaper to hire men as and when needed. One of them paints tree labels, however.

Genesee Valley Park

About 1.45 after waiting at the office some time, we drove to Genesee Valley Park by Plymouth Avenue on west of River. Asphalt extends to the park. In the ball field on left bank of river are two bare earth diamonds. Boats are let from the public toilet house designed by Shepley, Rutan & Coolige. Some border plantations along railroad are lacking, because the cost of necessary grading cannot be afforded. Improvements which he would like to make are set aside for improvements which individual members of the Board desire as there are 21 members, there is no lack of ideas, and they often carry against his judgement. Has been talked of to lessen number of Commissioners, as there are rarely over 12 or 13 at the monthly meeting, and it is usually with the greatest difficulty that even a quorum of 11 can be coaxed to attend, but none wants to retire, as they like the honor of office-holding, so a reduction is opposed. The park looks beautiful and the border plantations are a great success. They are 12 years old this fall, yet appear to be 36' high very generally, a growth of 3 feet a year. The oaks and hickories are perhaps half that height, but show up well. A great amount of thinning has had to be done, and Laney has done a great deal of planting of shrubbery borders and some undergrowth. Those drives that were gravelled have had none since, and yet are good, and serviceable since. The sheep number from 150 to 200, and Laney says he does not know how he could do without them. The shepherd was a farmer's boy and gets $1.50 a day and a house. Needs no help, even during lambing season. The shelter building south-east of grove has been doubled in size and is often crowded. The horse-sheds have proved very useful.

Appendix B

SENECA PARK
A Listing of Historic Sources

Prepared by
Rebecca S. DeWitt
in consultation with
Charles E. Beveridge

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. MAPS

1890 Topographical Map of Seneca Park (Lithograph)
Drawn by C. C. Laney, C.E.
Scale: 1"=200'
Description: Shows topography and tree concentrations prior to park construction.
Location(s): City of Rochester, Department of Maps and Surveys (hereafter referred to as C of R; original hand-drawn version shows common names for trees also and is located at County of Monroe, Department of Parks (hereafter referred to as C of M); copy of lithograph with lines to indicate lands acquired and other working detail is located at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site (hereafter referred to as Olmsted NHS).

1890 Map of Lands Along the Gorge of the Genesee River, forming the Westerly Part of Seneca Park
File: 1108, No.1, sheet 1 and 2
Drawn by C.C. Laney, C.E.
Scale: 1"=50' Size: 43" x 208" (each sheet)
Description: Shows existing conditions of Seneca Park lands, including city streets, contour lines, existing trees.
Location(s): Olmsted NHS

1890 Map of Lands Along the Gorge of the Genesee River, Forming the Easterly Part of Seneca Park
File: 1108, No.3, sheet 1 and No. 4, sheet 2
Drawn By C.C. Laney, C.E.
Scale: 1"=50' Size: 43" x 316" (each sheet)
Description: Includes location of trees, topo lines and properties in vicinity of N. St. Paul St. Proposed change for R.W. &O. RR indicated.
Location(s): Olmsted NHS

1890 Seneca Park Lands Purchased and Land Contemplated Purchasing
File: [1108-101]

Description: Shows boundaries of park lands with buildings, drives and path systems built to date.
Location(s): C of R; RP Library

1936 WPA Maps of Seneca and Maplewood Parks
Scale: 1"=50'
Description: Detailed renderings of parks, including, drives, paths, recreational facilities, concentrations of trees, etc. In color.
Location: C of R (copies of sepias available)

1979 Harbor Study (currently in use for base map - further information available through the Office of Community Development, C of R)

II. PLANS

1891 Preliminary Plan for Seneca Park
Drawn by F.L.Olmsted & Co.
File: 1108, No. 12 (2 sheets)
Scale: 1" = 200' Size: 29 x 39 (each sheet)
Description: Shows proposed drives and walks with landings and pond.
Location: C of R; blueprint at Olmsted NHS

1891 East Seneca Preplan Drive
No: 6047-008-64821-891-03-L
Location: C of R

1891 Olmsted Tree Planting (South)
No: 6047-002-64801-891-03-L
Location: C of R

1891 Seneca Park Realignment of Roads in Lower Park (with tree grid)
File: 1108
Location: C of R

1891 Roads and Walks, includes tree grid (north)
No: 6047-003-64801-891-03-L
File: 1108, No. 136 (?)
Location: C of R

1891 Plan for Walks from Brewer St. to Seneca Bridge and for Drives from Seneca Bridge to Institute for Deaf-Mutes
No: 6047-004-64301-891-03-L
Location: C of R

1891 Preliminary Plan for East Drive from Institute for Deaf-Mutes to RR
No: 6047-007-64821-891-03-L
Location: C of R

1891 Plan of Roads and Walks from Genesee Ave. to RR Crossing
Location: C of R

1891 RR Plan - Tree Survey (annotated)
No. 6047-006-64831-891-03-L
File: 1108, No. 74 (??)
Location: C of R

1891? (undated) Seneca Park - Circuit Drive in Wooded District
File: 1108, No. 21
Scale: none given Size: 31" x 54"
Description: Appears to be drive around pond. Shows surveying points to lay out curves.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1892 Working Map of Seneca Park - Roads and Walks
File: 1108, No. 23
Scale: 1" = 50' Size: 33" x 75"
Description: Shows proposed drives and walks in middle

portion of West side. Also shown is line for road leading to Hanford Landing.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1892 Map of Entrance to Seneca Park (Pen, ink & watercolor)
File: SEP-92
Scale: 1" = 50' Size: approx. 15" x 24"
Description: Shows entrance to Seneca Park West (Maplewood Park) from Seneca Parkway. Shows parkway, proposed path system, with formal arrangement of proposed trees along street and in the mall.
Location: C of M

1893 Seneca Park General Plan
File: [1108-100]
Scale: 1 1/4" = 2000' Size: 52" x 162"
Description: Shows 10 routes to river with 9 landings for both sides of river. East side shows informal arrangements on banks. Shows carriage drives and walks with overlooks. Trees look somewhat regular along walks at river's edge. West side along river tends to be more informal.
Location: C of R; Olmsted NHS

1893 Seneca Park - Revised Plan of Roads and Walks
Drawn By Olmsted, Olmsted & Elliot
File: 1108, No. 26
Scale: 1" = 50' Size: 37" x ?
Description: Pen, crayon and pencil sketch on linen. Alternative to plan no. 23.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1893 Seneca Park - Preliminary Planting Plan (tissue & graphite)
File: 1108, No. 27
Scale: 1" = 200'
Description: Shows pre-existing and proposed trees and massing of plants/trees with buildings.
Location: Olmsted NHS

undated Tree Planting Plan
No. 6047-009-68301-02-L
Location: C of R

1894 Seneca Park - Plans for Walks in Connection With Shelter
Drawn by Olmsted, Olmsted & Elliot
File: 1108, No.44
Scale: 1"=50' Size: 15"x24"
Description: Shows position of proposed shelter(station) with drives and walks, vines and plantings around it. Also shows proposed section of RW &O rail road.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1898 Seneca Park - Preliminary Plan for Location of Shelter
File: 1108, No. 48
Scale: 1" = 50' Size: 25" x 17"
Description: Shows shelter with steps to proposed path on what was apparently a plateau. Top of bank is noted above shelter near drive and also below shelter.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1901 Seneca Park (Blue Print)
File: 1108, No. 49
Scale: 1"=50'
Description: Shows rail road station, pre-existing trees and outline of pond.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1902 Seneca Park Preliminary Plan for Shelter as Enlarged
Drawn by W.G.S. Olmsted Brothers
Scale: 1" + 50' Size: 17" x 20"
Description: Enlarged version of shelter
Location: Olmsted NHS

1902 Seneca Park Preliminary Plan for Location of Shelter
Drawn by W.G.S. Olmsted Brothers
File: 1108, No. 56
Description: Shows contours of land, proposed drive and paths, shelter, band stand, service yard and carriage concourse, a few

trees.
Location: Olmsted NHS

1904 Maplewood Park - Preliminary Plan I
No: 6057-001-64001-904-T
File: 1113-4
Location: C of R

1904 Maplewood Park - Preliminary Plan II
No: 6057-002-64001-904-03-T
File: 1113-4
Location: C of R

1904 Maplewood Park - Preliminary Plan III
No: 6057-003-64001-904-03-T
File: 1113-4
Location: C of R

1904 Maplewood Park - Preliminary Plan IV
No: 6057-004-64001-904-03-T
File: 1113-4
Location: C of R

1910 Plans for Band Stand at Seneca Park
File: SEP-93A
Description: Architectural renderings for band stand as shown in photos and post cards on the western edge of Trout Lake.
Location: C of M

1990 Seneca Park Master Plan
Drawn By: EDR
Description: Shows circulation and built elements restored to original intent given the changed condition of the park.
Location: EDR, C of M

1990 Seneca Park Master Plan
Drawn By: EDR
Description: Shows circulation and built elements restored to

original intent given the changed condition of the park.
Location: EDR, C of M

III. PHOTOGRAPH AND POSTCARD COLLECTIONS

A. City of Rochester

Park Photographic Negative Collection

Approximately 1200 b/w photographs taken of a wide variety of scenes in the Rochester parks from the early 20th century. Index to views available through Department of Maps and Surveys. Varying stages of decay due to earlier neglect Now stored in the city's climate controlled vault.

Other Miscellaneous Photos

A random assortment of early 20th century photos are also available through the Department of Maps and Surveys. Views include aerial photos, construction shots of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge, other park scenes, etc. The total number is unknown.

B. Rochester Museum and Science Center

Stone Collection

The Stone Collection contains a vast number of photographs from a newspaper that is no longer in print, the *Rochester Herald*. The earliest photograph is dated 1904, but most were taken between 1910 and 1925. The collection is indexed. There are approximately 50 photos that pertain to Seneca Park and the gorge area. Each photo has the date it was published and the caption on the reverse side. Views taken in Seneca Park include scenes of Maypole dances, swimming contests and miniature yacht races, the music festival on Trout Lake as well as other landscape scenes.

C. University of Rochester

Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

Photos: The Department of Rare Books has a large collection of material on local history. There are at least 10 early photographs of Seneca Park to be found in Rochester publications of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some of the photos in these publications are dated as early as 1895. These photos are best retrieved through the department's own publication, an *Index to Views of Rochester and Monroe County.*

Postcards: Rare Books also maintains the 2nd largest collection of postcards with views of the Rochester parks. Most of the cards depicting scenes Seneca Park were not postmarked, but in all liklihood range in date from the 1st-3rd decades of the 20th century.

D. George Eastman House

Zoller Collection

The Zoller Collection is a series of autochromes taken by Charles Zoller between 1907 and 1932. It is significant here because it contains the earliest color photos to be found of the Rochester parks. Several views of Seneca Park are dated in the early 20's.

E. Rochester Public Library

Local History Division

Photos: Local History maintains photograph files on Seneca Park and the Seneca Park Zoo.

Postcards: Local History has the largest collection of postcards in the area. Seneca Park scenes are to be found under a number of headings: Seneca Park, Genesee River, Gorge, Lower Falls, etc. Views depict the landscape, community celebrations, the Zoo, etc. (Photocopies of views available upon request.)

F. Rochester Historical Society

The Rochester Historical Society maintains a file of photographs and postcards on the Rochester parks.

G. Other

Park Commission Reports

The Park Commissioners published four volumes between the years 1888 and 1917 that contain many excellent photographs of the parks. The publications are as follows:

Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1888-1898;
Union and Advertiser Press, 1898

The Public Parks of the City of Rochester, 1888-1904;
Democrat and Chronicle Print, 1904

Park Commissioners' Report, 1904-1905;
Union and Advertiser Co., 1905

Rochester Department of Parks: The 1917 Report;
Democrat and Chronicle Print, 1917

IV. PRIMARY WRITTEN SOURCES

The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted;
Library of Congress, Manuscript Division,
Washington D.C. 1977
See references in the following sections:
General Correspondence
Subject File

The Records of Olmsted Associates;
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
See references in the following sections:
Letterbooks, 1884-1899
Job File, 1871-1950, Job File Numbers 1100, 1108 and 1113
Reports of Visits
Nursery orders

Proceedings of the Common Council;
Rochester, N.Y. volumes: 1887-88 - 1915.
See references under the following headings:
Parks Commission Annual Reports
Superintendent's Annual Report
Other miscellaneous references

Park Commissioners' Reports:
Report of the Board of Park Commissioners, 1888-1898;
Union & Advertiser Press, 1898

The Public Parks of the City of Rochester, 1888-1904;
Democrat & Chronicle Press, 1904

Park Commissioners' Report, 1904-1905;
Union & Advertiser Press, 1905

Rochester Department of Parks: The 1917 Report;
Democrat & Chronicle Print, 1917

Dunbar, John; "The City Parks of Rochester;" Bulletin of the New York State Forestry Association, vol. II, no. 3; July 1915 pp. 20-22

Laney, Calvin C.; "Trees in Rochester Parks;"
Common Good; vol. 4, no. 2; November 1910 pp. 9-10

Olmsted, Brunner and Arnold; A City Plan for Rochester: A Report of the Rochester Civic Improvement Committee;
Rochester, N.Y., 1911

PLAN SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

I. LOWER FALLS PARK
1. Manage meadows
2. Retain and enhance buffer
3. Outlook

II. MAPLEWOOD ROSE GARDEN
4. Improve Rose Garden accessibility
5. Reuse dovecote as restroom facility
6. Realign drive and parking
7. Revegate slope for erosion control
8. Improve river access

III. MAPLEWOOD PARK
9. Replant trees
10. Retain as parkland
11. Retain tennis courts
12. Maintain trail
13. Maintain outlook
14. Improve pedestrian crossings
15. Align crosswalk with ramp to bridge
16. Screen parking
17. Remove police station
18. Extend rim trail to Turning Point Park

IV. GORGE ACCESS EAST AND WEST
19. Provide bi-level outlook
20. Replant street trees
21. Enhance outlook from rim
22. Improve service road access an d character
23. Improve path for river access

V. SENECA PARK SETH GREEN AREA
24. Provide bridge to Seth Green Island
25. Develop river level path
26. Install signage for Seneca Park, Seth Green Area
27. Develop outlook
28. Improve river access
29. Provide turnaround for cars
30. Improve outlook to falls
31. Build landing
32. Provide pedestrian overpass
33. Plant for erosion control

VI. SENECA PARK ENTRY
34. Improve outlooks
35. Improve path
36. Provide new park entry sign
37. Restore outlook and trail

VII. UPPER DRIVE
38. Remove pool/Improve play area and provide restrooms
39. Turf parking
40. Zoo parking lot
41. Zoo entry zone

VIII. LOWER SENECA PARK
42. Restore Picnic Grove landscape
43. Zoo expansion area
44. Restore Picnic Grove and paths
45. Locate shelters, restroom and play area
46. Provide zoo/park outlook
47. Develop swimming area with bathhouse
48. Remove shelters

LOWER PARK continued
49. Wetlands
50. Improve or restore outlooks
51. Preserve oak grove
52. Retain ballfield
53. Build park maintenance/ conservation center
54. Replace or renovate for restrooms and nature programs
55. Improve footpaths, outlooks, bridges
56. Restore rim trail and path system
57. Provide riverside path

IX. SENECA PARK NORTH
58. Ecological monitor zone
59. Reuse railroad r.o.w. as trail
60. Maintain nature trails
61. Improve outlooks, steps and landing
62. Develop pedestrian trailhead

Landscape Composition

PARK Landscapes

P_L LAWN WITH TREES: Pastoral landscape with expanses of greensward, individual trees and small groups scattered through, lots of sunlight, (ie Maplewood trees are along edges);

P_G PICNIC GROVE: Lawn or meadow with scattered trees and groups, more shade than sun, open feeling, no expanse of greensward, some small shrub clusters along some parts of edge;

P_S DENSE SHRUBS: Heavy shrub planting with occasional single trees. These are large masses of shrubs and herbaceous plants, low enough to afford views over foliage to near landscape, as around Trout Pond and at viewpoints to allow view over the gorge;

P_W WATER FEATURES: The Genesee River is the key water feature of Seneca Park. The river and the gorge on both sides was the unique area of natural scenery that Seneca Park was created to preserve. Two ponds created within the park landscape, Trout Lake and Maplewood Pond, vary the park landscape by providing pastoral, water edge images and water recreation. The gorge side waterfalls, near Brewer's Landing and several smaller falls, are also scenic water features of Seneca Park.

FOREST Landscapes

F_U UPLAND FOREST: Dense woodland with full canopy and thickly planted understory, varied vegetation, low herbaceous plants, shrubs, understory and canopy, primarily deciduous, limited evergreens, a wild, natural woodland that serves as a transition from park landscape to the gorge forest;

F_G GORGE FOREST: Dense woodland on sloping ground, full layering of plants from ground cover to canopy, an enriched native forest, some areas with lower canopy, limited trees and/or low shrubs to allow scenic views to river and opposite shore;

F_R GORGE FOREST WITH ROCK: Woodland on steep gorge side with visually dominant rock formations, significant rock faces, large boulders, etc. so that the rock becomes important to the passage of scenery.

F_E RIVER EDGE WOODLAND: Open canopy of deciduous trees with some shrubs and ground covers, more sunlight with views relatively open to river.

EDGE Landscapes

E_B BUFFER: Dense layering of planting from shrub masses and understory trees up to high canopy, deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees. Buffer plantings are deep enough to obscure views of the adjacent city. Generally found at park edges, along the railroad frontage in particular;

E_F FORMAL STREET EDGE : A single row of regularly spaced trees in lawn along adjacent city streets and park drive, sometimes one side, occasionally both sides, deciduous canopy trees, generally monoculture, commonly oak, maple, elm or sycamore, often used when there is no space between to street or drive and the top of the gorge;

E_I INFORMAL STREET EDGE: A single row of irregularly spaced trees in lawn, deciduous canopy trees of varied types, not a monoculture, used in narrow areas;

OTHER Landscape Types

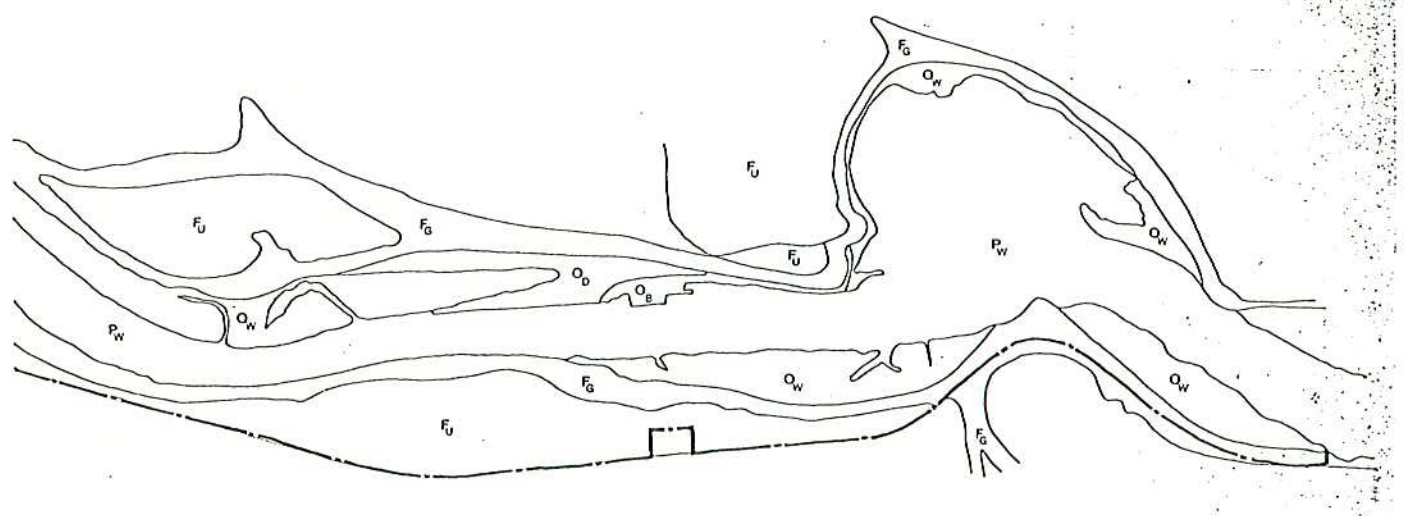
O_F FORMAL GARDEN/INTENSE MAINTENANCE: Maplewood Rose Garden and the Zoo entrance are cultured areas where intensively maintained gardens are located. The Olmsted Plan did not provide for such decorative plantings.

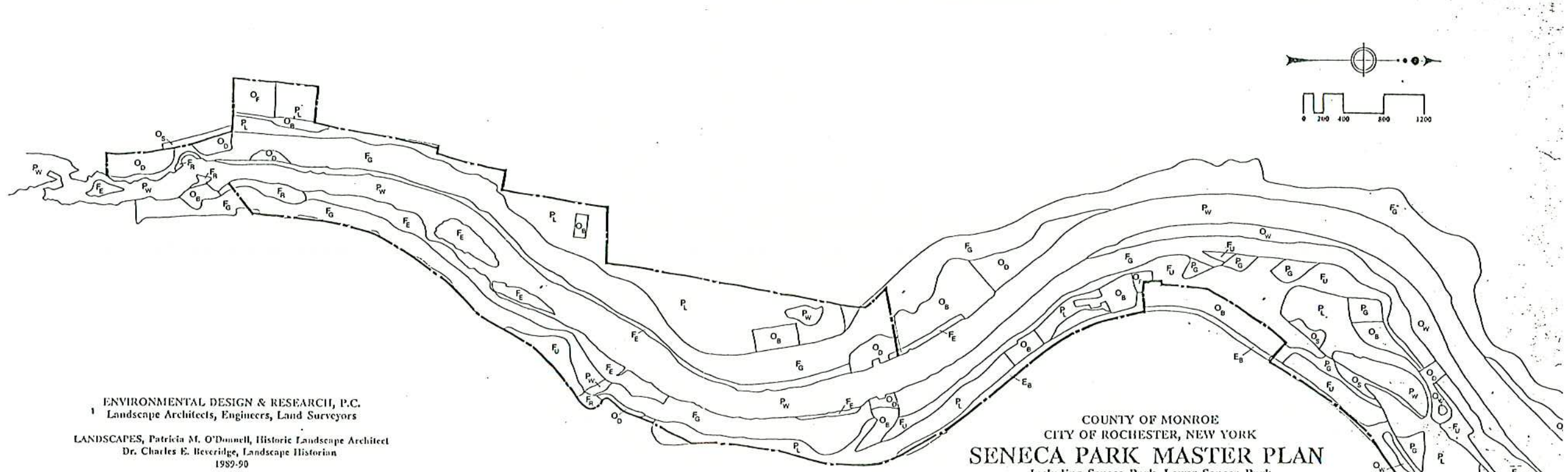
O_S SHRUB BARRIER: Shrubs that are out of control with sapling volunteer trees. These plantings block views rather than providing a low foreground that enhances them.

O_W WETLAND/EMERGENT: Predominantly cattail and phragmites at the river edge colonizing in large areas. The height of these wetland invaders limits visual access to open water and creates a uniform, not diverse, edge. Flag iris and other wetland species, present along river banks in smaller concentrations, are more typical of natural river edge scenery.

O_D PIONEER/DISTURBED: Heavily eroded, dump site, excavation, parking on earth, drainage problem area, pioneer volunteer vegetation, meadow or young forest species, released landscape being colonized by nearby seed sources.

O_B BUILT FORMS: Structures, parking lots and other significant built features that are not landscape areas.





ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & RESEARCH, P.C.
Landscape Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors

LANDSCAPES, Patricia M. O'Donnell, Historic Landscape Architect
Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, Landscape Historian
1989-90

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Seneca Park,
Lower Falls Park, Maplewood Rose Garden

Circulation and Built Form

STRUCTURES

VEHICULAR

- PARK DRIVE
- PUBLIC STREET
- SERVICE ROAD: May also serve as pedestrian access, either sanctioned or desire
- PARKING

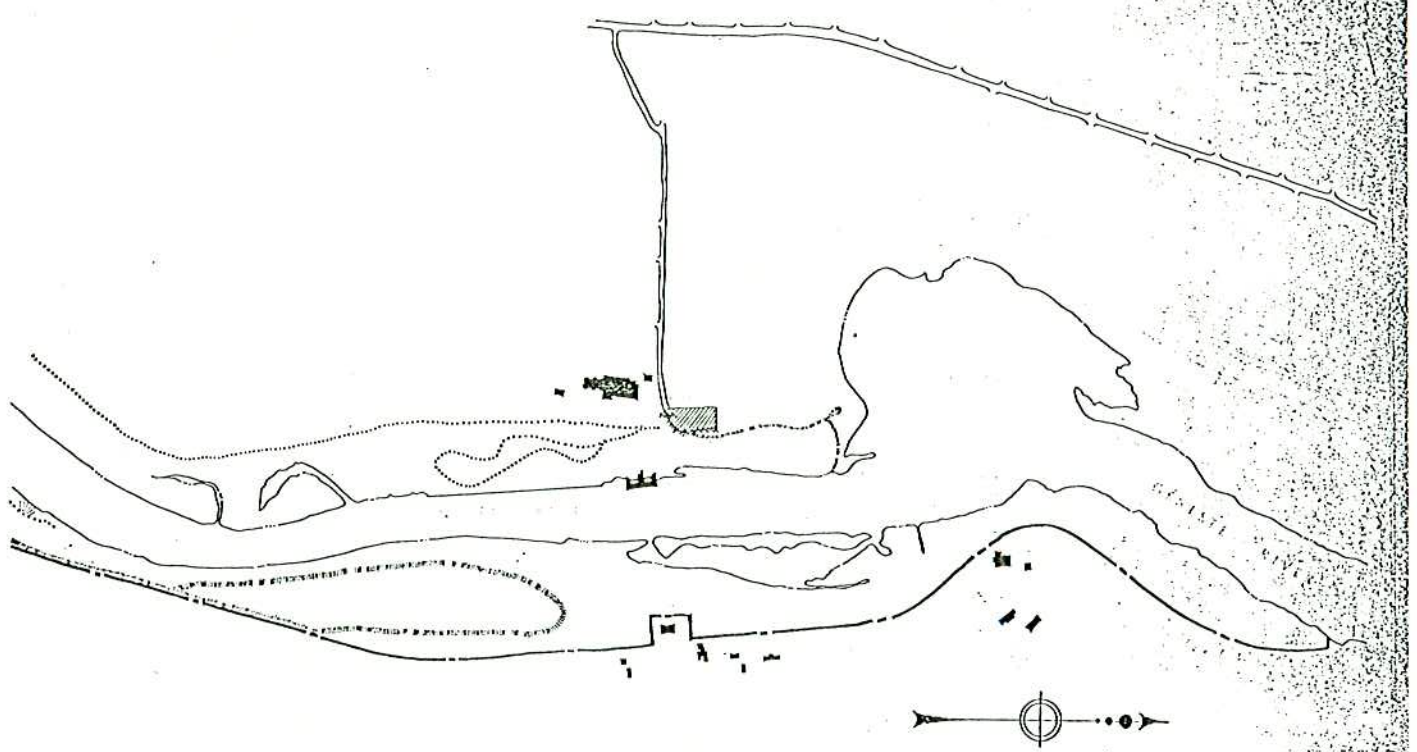
PEDESTRIAN

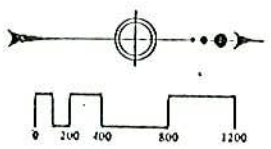
- SANCTIONED PATH
- DESIRE PATH

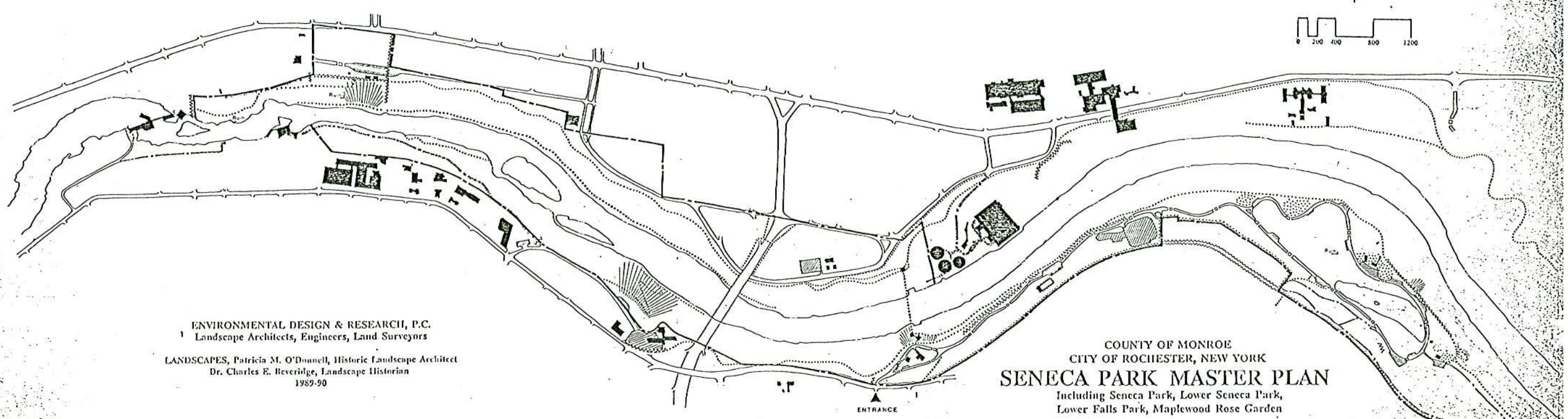
BARRIER Includes fences, walls, rails, ribbons of dense vegetation

EROSION

COMPACTION







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COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Seneca Park,
Lower Falls Park, Maplewood Rose Garden

1891

1989

SYMBOL KEY

PARK LANDSCAPES:
- LAWN WITH TREES — P_L
- PICNIC GROVE — P_G
- DENSE SHRUBS — P_S
- WATER FEATURES — P_W

FOREST LANDSCAPES:
- UPLAND FOREST — F_U
- GORGE FOREST — F_G
- GORGE FOREST WITH ROCK — F_R
- RIVER EDGE WOODLAND — F_E

EDGE LANDSCAPES:
- BUFFER — E_B
- FORMAL STREET EDGE — E_F
- INFORMAL STREET EDGE — E_I

OTHER LANDSCAPE TYPES:
- FORMAL GARDEN /INTENSE MAINTENANCE — O_F
- SHRUB BARRIER — O_S
- WETLAND/EMERGENT — O_W
- PIONEER/DISTURBED — O_D
- BUILT FORMS — O_B

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Seneca Park,
Lower Falls Park, Maplewood Rose Garden

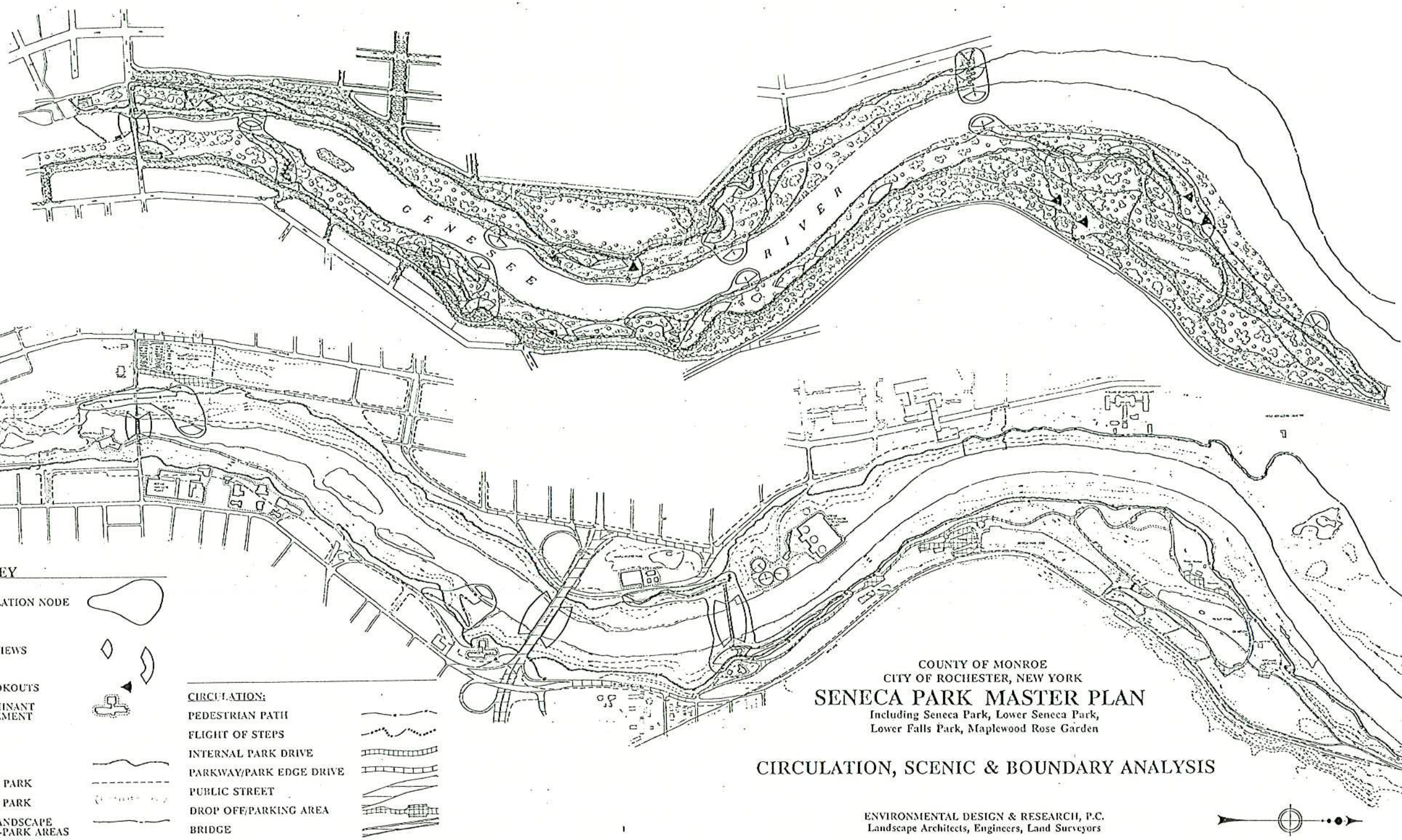
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE COMPOSITION ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & RESEARCH, P.C.
Landscape Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors

LANDSCAPES, Patricia M. O'Donnell, Historic Landscape Architect
Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, Landscape Historian
1989-90

0 200 400 800 1200

1891



1989

SYMBOL KEY

SCENIC/CIRCULATION NODE

SCENIC VIEWS:
RIVER LEVEL VIEWS
GORGE VIEWS
DESIGNED LOOKOUTS
VISUALLY DOMINANT NON-PARK ELEMENT

BOUNDARIES:
GORGE EDGE
1891 OLMSTED PARK
1989 CURRENT PARK
BORROWED LANDSCAPE SCENERY/NON-PARK AREAS

CIRCULATION:
PEDESTRIAN PATH
FLIGHT OF STEPS
INTERNAL PARK DRIVE
PARKWAY/PARK EDGE DRIVE
PUBLIC STREET
DROP OFF/PARKING AREA
BRIDGE

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Seneca Park,
Lower Falls Park, Maplewood Rose Garden

CIRCULATION, SCENIC & BOUNDARY ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & RESEARCH, P.C.
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LANDSCAPES, Patricia M. O'Donnell, Historic Landscape Architect
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1989-90

0 200 400 800 1200

HISTORIC INTEGRITY

△ UNBUILT

□ LOST

(+) ADDED PARK FEATURE

(-) NON-PARK FEATURE OR AREAS LOST TO PARK USE

★ REMNANT DESIGN

1891

1989

1891 OLMSTED PARK SECTORS:

1 ADMINISTRATION
2 PARKWAY & PARK EDGE DRIVE WEST
3 GORGE & RIVER EDGE WEST
GLEN HOUSE, INCLINED RAILWAY
4 MAPLEWOOD PARK
5 RIVER EDGE MEADOW, GROVE & FOREST
6 ELECTRIC POWER
7 GORGE & RIVER EDGE EAST
8 FORMAL DRIVE & PROMENADE
9 SCENIC PARK DRIVE & PICNIC
10 TROUT POND & PICNIC

RECAPTURE POTENTIAL

A — HIGH
B — MODERATE
C — LOW
D — IN HARMONY WITH OR SEPARATE FROM

PROPOSED TREATMENT

1 — RESTORATION
2 — ADAPTIVE USE
3 — REHABILITATION
4 — REALIZATION

1989 CURRENT PARK SECTORS:

1 LOWER FALLS, ELECTRIC POWER -B3
2 MAPLEWOOD ROSE GARDEN -D
3 SALMON FISHING GORGE & RIVER EDGE -B3
4 LIMITED ACCESS GORGE WEST -B1
5 REMNANT PARKWAY & PARK EDGE DRIVE WEST -B2,B3
6 MEMORIAL BRIDGE & SENECA TOWERS -C
7 REMNANT MAPLEWOOD PARK, POND, POLICE & PARKING -B1
8 PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE & PURE WATERS FACILITY -C
9 KODAK WASTEWATER TREATMENT -C
10 KODAK HAWKEYE, SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF -C
11 LIMITED ACCESS GORGE & RIVER EDGE, EAST & WEST -B4
12 REMNANT PARK EDGE DRIVE -B2
13 REMNANT SCENIC DRIVE, POOL & PLAYGROUND -A2
14 SENECA PARK ZOO -C
15 TROUT LAKE, PICNIC & BALL FIELD -A1

COUNTY OF MONROE
CITY OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

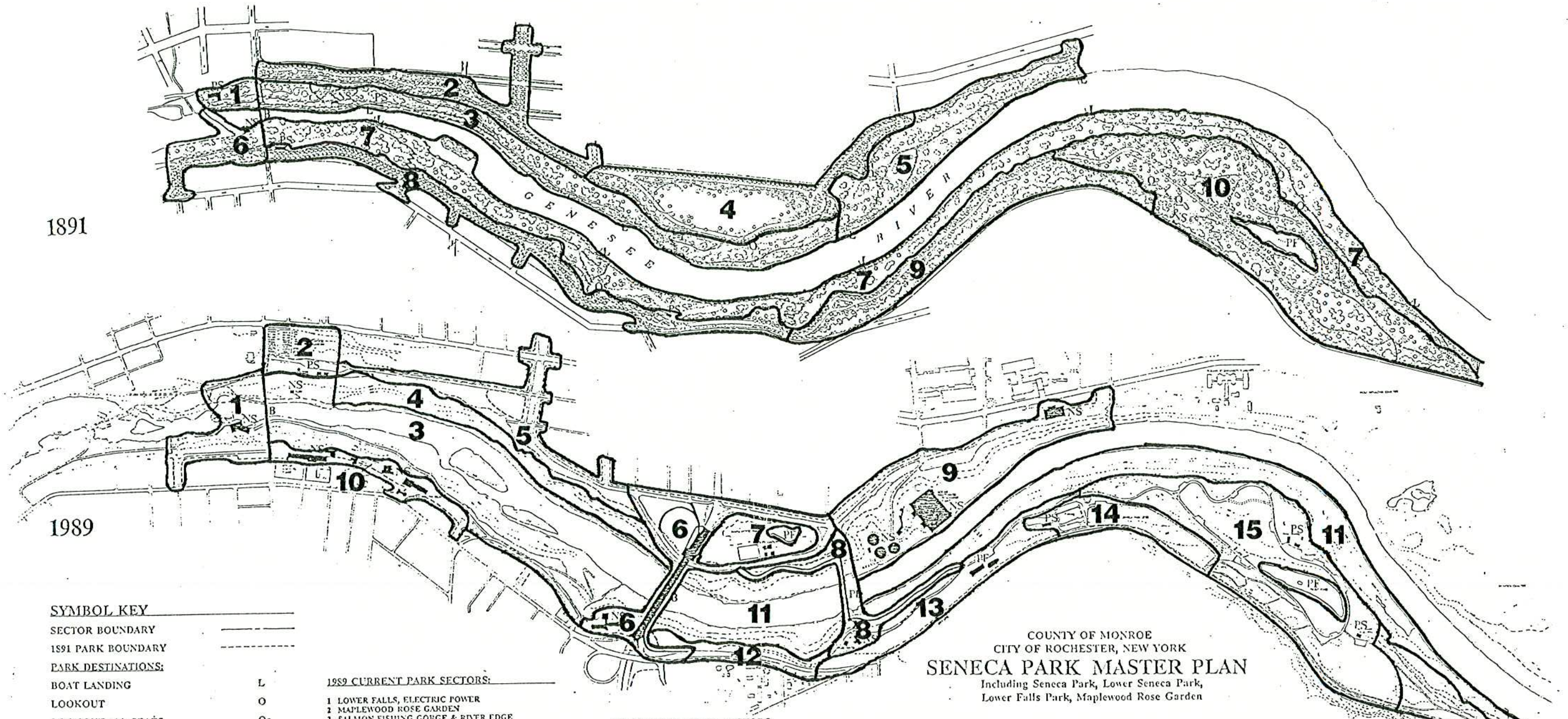
SENECA PARK MASTER PLAN

Including Seneca Park, Lower Seneca Park,
Lower Falls Park, Maplewood Rose Garden

HISTORIC INTEGRITY ANALYSIS AND PRESERVATION CONCEPT

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN & RESEARCH, P.C.
Landscape Architects, Engineers, Land Surveyors

LANDSCAPES, Patricia M. O'Donnell, Historic Landscape Architect
Dr. Charles E. Beveridge, Landscape Historian
1989-90



SYMBOL KEY

SECTOR BOUNDARY	
1891 PARK BOUNDARY	
PARK DESTINATIONS:	
BOAT LANDING	L
LOOKOUT	O
LOOKOUT with SEATS	Os
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE	Pb
PARK STRUCTURE	PS
PARK FEATURE	PF
NON-PARK FEATURES: within Olmsted Park Boundary	
STRUCTURE	NS
BRIDGE	B

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