

**Proposed 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program Public Input
Monroe County Planning Board**

Public Comment: Glen Haven Creek and the Park Connectivity efforts

Discussion and Department Responses:

- Irondequoit Park System Trail user survey: Parks received a total of 971 survey responses and additional 336 online map responses. It is anticipated that the Survey report will be presented to the County in the spring. While it is difficult to forecast the use of the trail survey without seeing the final results, we anticipate that some of the recommendations can be implemented without significant financial resources and/or further study.
- The tentative timeline for the Northampton park trail study:
 - Phase 1 – Project Kickoff & Public Engagement Phase..... March – July 2025
 - Phase 2 – Inventory & Assessment of Existing Trail System..... April – July 2025
 - Phase 3 – Trail Recommendations..... July - August 2025
 - Phase 4 – Trail Feasibility Report..... September – October 2025
- Parks trail kiosk and online map update: MC Parks, in coordination with the DES-GIS Division, is currently inventorying our maps and kiosks throughout the parks system and making improvements where necessary. Thus far, the Department has completed mapping, kiosks, and trail marking at Black Creek Park, North Hampton Park, Ellison Park, Webster Park, Mendon Ponds Park, and Lucian Morin Park. We are currently working on mapping and kiosks at Irondequoit Bay West and Greece Canal Park. This project is continual as trail mileage and connections are accessed, and new amenities are added for the public. Much of the work involved in the creation of mapping is done in partnership with DES-GIS Division, and as such is not at the direction of Parks. The Department continues to review any and all grant opportunities to onboard interns for in field data collection and map creation.
- Parks connectivity and Trail Improvement: MC Parks always seeks input from the community and remains interested in the interconnectivity of Parks. Connectivity was one of the driving factors in the decision to onboard a consultant for the Irondequoit Bay Park System Trail User Survey. Further, it is one of the driving factors behind the Northampton Park trail study. With regard to Trail improvements, the Department is dedicated to the maintenance of the existing trail system and continually makes improvements for the long term benefit of the Park and Park system, patron use and the environment. Trail maintenance is done on a continual bases throughout our parks system as our Park crews cut back overgrowth, remove fallen trees, fix drainage, and resurface trails regularly.
- Regarding the Glen Haven Creek Stormwater Abatement Project inquired by the comment, DES shared that there is no further actions taken or planned by DES for the near future. If a Glen Haven Creek project appears in the CIP, it would not be listed under “CSOAP” – Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Program – as that is for discrete physical assets associated with the tunnel system. As for a potential name, “Glen Haven” would be used if there was a specific project of which the majority of work was related to the creek. However, if any improvements to the creek are incidental to other work on a given project then “Glen Haven” may not appear in the title.
- There was also a question on drainage work on Empire Blvd at the 590 South onramp” in the summer of 2024. Empire Blvd is a state road, so that was a NYSDOT project and DES is unaware of any updates of the drainage work. Our knowledge is that the project was an unexpected repair and it was not a pre-planned project.

- Empire Blvd is a state road and Monroe County has been working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to enhance road safety and explore possibilities for multimodal infrastructure for Empire Blvd. In December 2024, NYSDOT was awarded a \$5.3 million grant to support these initiatives. The State is preparing to conduct a construction study later this year to develop design options aimed at improving traffic safety for all users.

Public Comment: Library System Fleet Replacement: The new trucks purchased by the county should be zero-emission. This kind of fixed path route of 62 mi/day is absolutely ideal for an electric vehicle.

Library Response: MCLS is a few years out from the purchase of new vehicles and will consider zero emissions alongside the truck capabilities necessary for safely and efficiently moving MCLS library materials.

Public Comment: The Division of Engineering and Facilities Management upgrades: Any time we upgrade/replace HVAC systems from now on, they must be heat pumps, which can both heat and cool the buildings in a much more efficient manner than gas and outdated A/C technology. We cannot have new gas infrastructure installed. The state will require retrofits in the mid-2030s in order to meet our climate goals and these will be stranded assets.

DES Division of Engineering and Facilities Management Response: Any upgrades to HVAC equipment, or any other equipment for that matter, will be done in accordance with proper engineering, regulatory and industry standards.

Public Comment: Spot Improvement Projects: I am grateful that the county has allocated \$500,000 each year of this plan for improvements to dangerous road segments and intersections. And I applaud the county's Active Transportation Plan as a whole. We must become less reliant on driving cars in our region and support alternative transportation. We need a culture change in our region – and that will only happen when the majority of people see our roads as safe for walking and biking - even for children.

Planning and DOT provide below input: In recent years, Monroe County has taken various initiatives to improve walking and biking safety throughout the County. In 2020, the County Department of Transportation (DOT) implemented a Complete Streets Policy within the department for all county road projects. In 2021, the County Legislature passed Carrie Ray's 3-Foot Passing Law, which requires motorists to provide a minimum of three feet of space when passing bicycles to ensure cyclist safety. In May 2023, the County enacted legislation to provide financial subsidies to towns, helping to offset the costs of sidewalk construction and incentivizing their participation in sidewalk construction. Additionally, in summer 2023, Monroe County completed its first Countywide Active Transportation Plan. This plan offers guidance on shaping the built environment to promote multimodal travel, aiming to make it easier and more appealing for people to walk and bike. To further advance these efforts, Monroe County DOT has applied for federal grants and is about to start the development of the County Active Transportation Implementation Plan. This implementation plan will explore and identify practical and achievable active transportation facilities within Monroe County's jurisdiction. The recommendations from this Implementation Plan will focus on enhancing multimodal capabilities and improving roadway safety for all users.

Public Comment: Sheriff's Vehicle Replacement: I am grateful that the Sheriff's Fleet includes electric vehicles already and hope that they will continue to expand their zero emission and electric options. They are superior vehicles in many ways and the total cost of ownership is equivalent to internal combustion vehicles.

(No department response needed.)

Public Comment: Climate Action Plan Implementation

Response: In 2022, Monroe County completed Climate Action Plan (CAP) - Phase I Government Operations - focuses on reducing GHG emissions from County-run sites, facilities, and operation. And in 2023 completed the Phase 2 Community-wide GHG Inventory. Implementation of the Monroe County Climate Action Plan is currently underway. To date, the County has already purchased a number of EVs and electric equipment, installed charging stations at multiple County facilities and are looking to expand through the development of our Clean Fleet Master Plan. The majority of County facilities, as well as streetlights and traffic signals, have been converted to LED lighting. A geothermal heat pump system will be installed as part of the Seneca Park Zoo upgrades. The County will be evaluating our renewable energy generation capacity in the coming years, in addition to the existing solar installations adjacent to the Northwest Quadrant Water Resource Recovery Facility and the inactive Gloria Drive Landfill.