

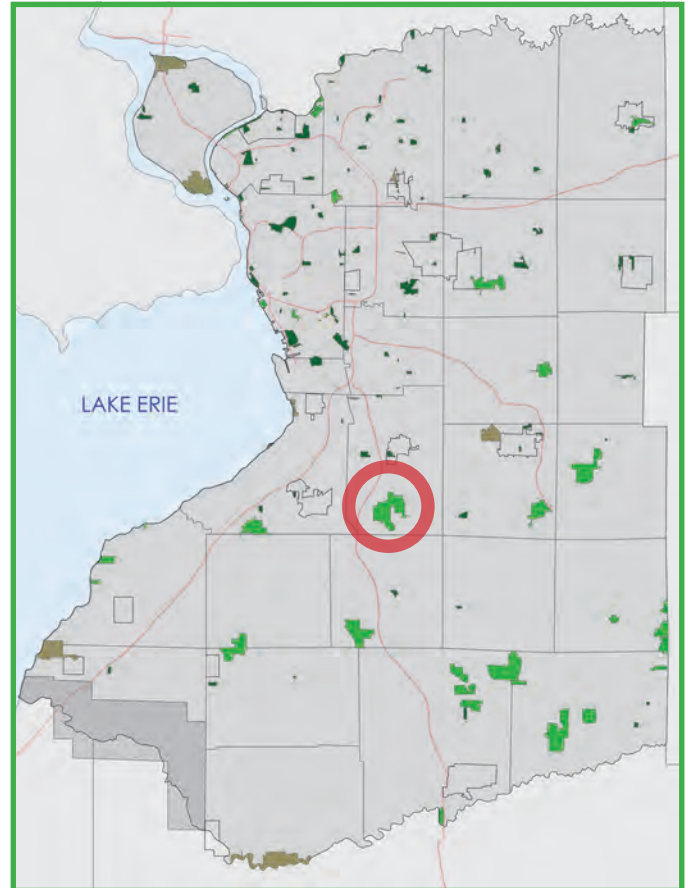
## CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK

### DESCRIPTION

Acquired in 1926, Chestnut Ridge Park is the largest and most heavily used County-owned park. This jewel of a property includes some of the most impressive natural scenery and vintage WPA-era park structures around. Located in the Town of Orchard Park, the 1,151-acre park is centrally located within the County Parks System, has convenient access and has always been a popular destination to residents all over Erie County. This is the largest County Park in the system and arguably one of the largest County Parks in the United States. The most well-known portion of the park is the large open grass hillside, upon which sits the old stone Park “Casino” building. This north-facing hillside allows for impressive vistas to downtown Buffalo, and has been a favorite in the snowy winter months for its sledding and tobogganing. Rugged terrain, deep ravines, mature woodlands, open meadows, scenic picnic areas and miles of nature trails has made Chestnut Ridge a popular getaway from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

The Eternal Flame, originally known as the “Burning Spring”, is now a regional destination on the ‘west’ section of the park. It has increased in popularity over the years with the addition of parking access and trailhead signage off of Chestnut Ridge Road, Route 277. It is within this remote section that nature is at its finest, with its seemingly primitive wooded ravines and a most unique natural feature: the constant emission of gas producing a small flame.

Chestnut Ridge Park’s popularity is not just for its natural wonder and unique assets, but also now for the increasing amount of events and activities that take place. Events such as “movie in the park” nights, kite flying events, tennis tournaments, 5K races, Santa Land, and Winterfest. These events have brought in thousands of people to the park, due in part to the help and support of the Chestnut Ridge Conservancy and continued efforts of park staff.



Park Location Map: Chestnut Ridge is located in the Town of Orchard Park off of Chestnut Ridge Road



Chestnut Ridge Casino

### PARK SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

- **Preserve and enhance “Heritage” areas and special park features**, including: Repoint/clean stonework where needed, replace missing stones, replace or repair roofs, make improvements to concrete/asphalt floors, etc. to all historic structures and facilities.
- **Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-use, little-trafficked areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures.**
- **Relocation of Disc golf holes to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife from excessive foot traffic.**

## PARK AND AREA HISTORY

Chestnut Ridge Park is one of the original Erie County Parks, beginning its development in 1926. Much of the park construction was handled through the WPA work force through the 1930s; this consisted of shelters, pump shelters, colony ovens, and pavilions. The most significant and prominent structure was and is the Casino, a stone building sitting atop a hill overlooking the surrounding park and community. The original timber Casino was built in 1925, and destroyed by fire in 1932. The present day stone Casino was completed in 1938 by nearly 50 employees of the WPA. The use of stone in the construction of the park during the days of the WPA provided its structures with a rustic feel. The flagstone area behind the building allows park users to gaze upon marvelous views out towards Buffalo and even far out beyond Lake Erie to Canada.

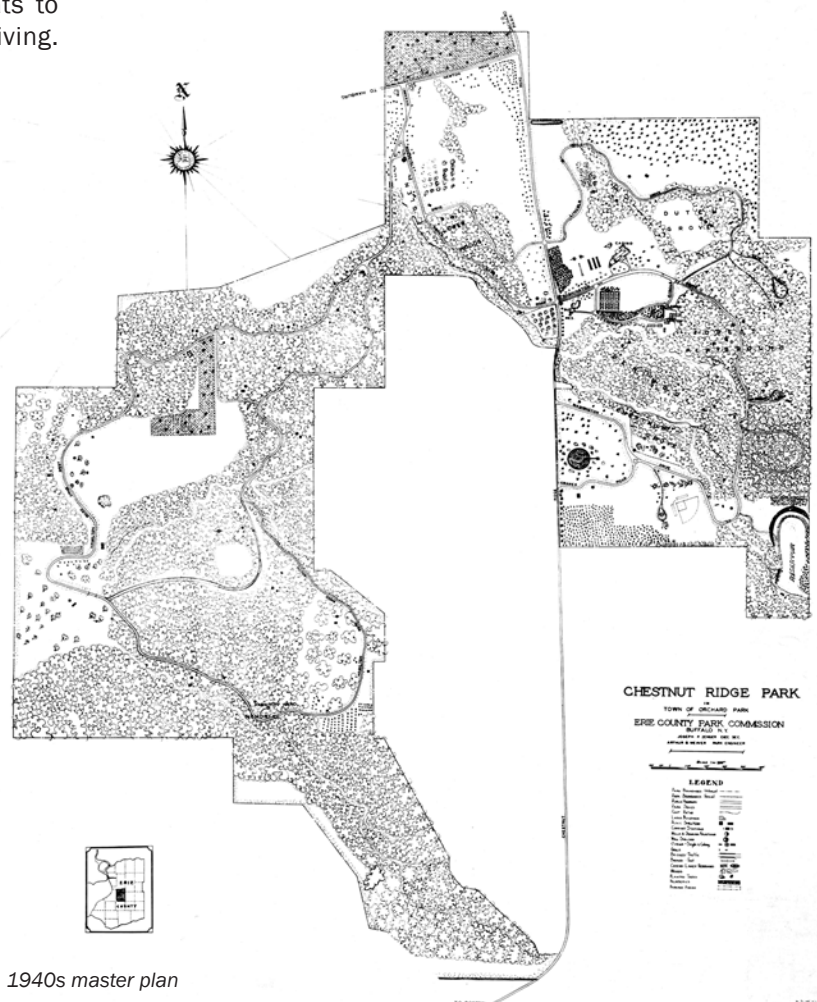
The design of bridges and cabins blended into the natural beauty of the park and 3.5 miles of roads were constructed to allow access to the natural areas of the park. The diversified forest provides many habitats to wildlife and opportunities for relief from urban living.



One of the original picnic shelters at the park (Photo Credit: Chestnut Ridge Conservancy)



Historic photograph - Playground at Chestnut Ridge



1940s master plan





Past and present views from the Chestnut Ridge Casino





Many of the historic WPA pump shelters are still present throughout the park, which is a reminder of the heritage value of these features and the park itself.



(Image Credit: Chestnut Ridge Conservancy)



Existing WPA pump shelter, all of them no longer function





Local context map

## LOCAL CONTEXT

Route 277, running north-south between the Village of Orchard Park and hamlet of North Boston, divides the park into two halves, with the park's most developed section lying to the east of the state highway. Chestnut Ridge Park is strategically located at the center of the County's overall park system holdings, and has easy and well-signed access from the local highway system (Route 219 to Armor Duells Road to Route 277 southbound). It also lies just off a major access route to the nearby ski areas of Ski Tamarack and Kissing Bridge, as well as off of the main route to Holiday Valley Ski Resort from points north (Route 219).

## RECREATIONAL CONTEXT

At one point, Chestnut Ridge served as a central recreation facility for the local residents, including both active and passive forms of activities. It has always been a magnet for regional park users for certain types of recreation (i.e. sledding, hiking, etc.) and special events. Although still utilized for some organized sports, the Town of Orchard Park and the Orchard Park School District have since developed their own recreational facilities that offer many of the active recreational courts and fields at a local level.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Chestnut Ridge Park is home to a number of popular activities and events, but is also characterized by high quality woodlands with dramatic terrain crisscrossed by small headwater streams. The majority of these wooded areas are not heavily impacted by invasive species, but should be a high priority for surveillance so that their current high level of quality can be maintained. Particularly on the west side of the park, broad footpaths and roads make the woodlands accessible to a wide range of visitors, but also have the effect of creating erosive runoff patterns in some locations. Streambank erosion is minor in many areas, but is a significant issue in the southwest corner of the park, downstream from the Eternal Flame. Throughout the park, small areas formerly occupied by structures provide opportunities for closing forest habitat gaps. In some areas, unused lawns are opportunities to create wildflower meadow habitat.



Historic view of people playing baseball at the park (Photo Credit: Chestnut Ridge Conservancy)



## RECENT PARKS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS / IMPROVEMENTS

The 2012-2017 Capital Improvements within Chestnut Ridge Park totaled \$2,719,032. Recent projects included:

- Entrances from Chestnut Ridge Road – New guiderails installed
- East Entrance Drive – Constructed median divider and island to define drive from parking, added lighting, sidewalks, crosswalks and accessible parking spaces
- Roadway Improvements – Repairs to Construction Road, Fire Tower Loop, Commissioners Cabin Road, and approximately 2 miles of roadway
- Maintenance Parking Lot – Repaired pavement including drainage
- Parking Lots – Repaired three parking lots including drainage
- Culverts – Replaced two major culverts at the lower end of the park
- Casino – Replaced doors, added sidewalks and repaved around building.
- Storage Building – Replaced roof, including portions of rotted deck, and electrical improvements.
- Mechanic Shop – Replaced roof, new siding, doors and windows
- Martin Lodge – Replaced floor and doors, upgraded restroom fixtures, repaired areas of damaged block/ masonry, and fascia.
- Many improvements to various shelters and comfort stations
- Tennis Courts – Twelve courts repaired, repaved and surfaced including new nets and posts
- New viewing binoculars were installed on top of the sled hill next to the Casino
- New Hamilton Ward Plaque installed at memorial site on west side of park
- New fencing installed at Eternal Flame parking area
- Roof completely torn off and replaced at Maintenance Shop
- Complete renovation of comfort station #8 including ADA accessible stalls
- Trail head kiosk and map installed at Eternal Flame parking lot



ADA Improvements to comfort station #8



New shelter construction



New sign kiosk installed at the Eternal Flame Trailhead







*WPA comfort station in poor shape - not functional*



*Erosion and damage to the environment*



*No screening to the large maintenance area at the park as you enter near entrance*

## CURRENT ISSUES AND PROBLEMS

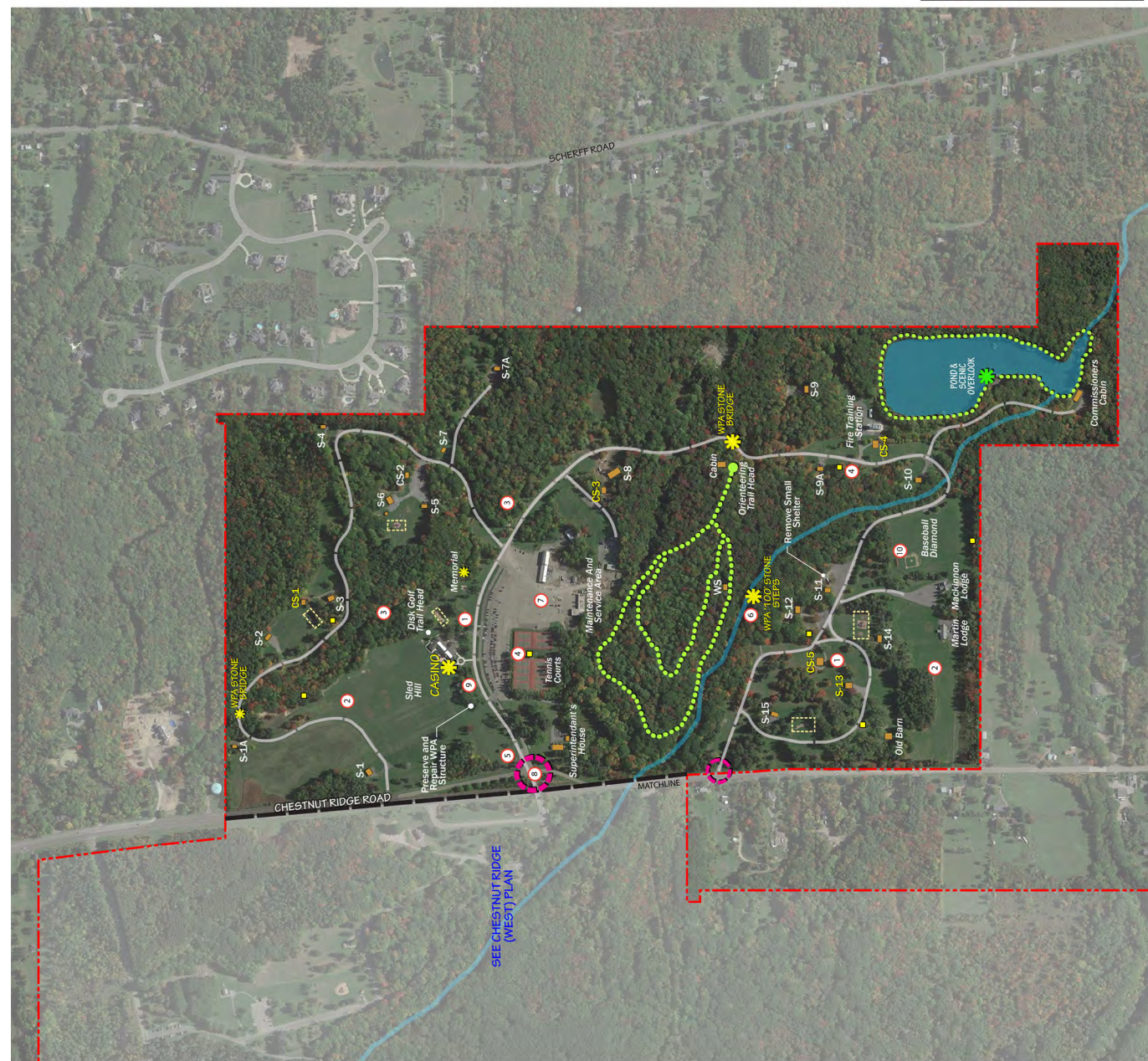
- The park is showing deterioration in its older, historic stone structures.
- The arrival to the park near the casino is underwhelming and “out of character” for this magnificent, natural park. A “sea of pavement” and views to the maintenance structures greets all visitors to the east side of the park.
- Threats to natural reserve areas including erosion of waterways, fallen limbs/trees, disc golf, and invasive species.
- Lack of directional and interpretive signage highlighting the wonderful park structures and natural features
- Most of the open space in the park is mowed, including areas that are beyond the recreational use areas.
- There is an apparent underutilization of some of the park facilities, i.e. main casino building, concession stand, Martin Lodge, etc.
- Popularity and heavy usage of the Disc Golf course is causing many environmental concerns to nature reserve zones including erosion, root/tree damage, and littering.
- The park still contains many old wooden picnic tables, and some are in very poor shape.
- There are numerous outdated play structures that do not meet current safety or accessibility codes.
- Limited staff to operate toboggan chutes.
- Safety concerns and other issues over the management and maintenance of the Eternal Flame Trail.
- Recent damage to trees from Emerald Ash Borer.
- Trails very rarely have information providing users with trail name, map, trail length, etc.
- No bathroom provided on west section of park during the winter - no heat.
- West section of the park contains one primary vehicular entrance which is on the northern-most portion of the park, which could be an issue for emergency responders.
- “Shale Creek” portion of Chestnut Ridge Park contains significant riparian and aquatic habitats that are at risk from erosion, sedimentation, invasive species and lack of ecology-based management plans.
- Runoff from Eternal Flame parking lot flows directly onto trail.



# MASTER PLAN CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK (EAST)

## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS: *Specific Action Items - Ex. (A: 1)*

- ① (C: 1.0-1.9, 3.0-15.0/P: 4.0-9.0) Preserve and enhance original Heritage Areas, particularly the area around the Casino building. Restore historic stone structures, picnic shelters, comfort stations, pump houses and original park buildings;
- ② (A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-recreational use areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures. (2003 Master Plan)
- ③ (P: 1.0) Potential relocation of disk golf holes to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife.
- ④ (C: 2.0-2.6) Provide interpretive signage throughout the park which can display historic images and content of significant park assets like the Eternal Flame Falls, Hamilton Ward site, WPA structures, etc.
- ⑤ (P: 2.0) Prevent further deterioration of Gateway pillars at Newton Road entrance. Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework and clean and repoint stonework.
- ⑥ (P: 10.0) Restoration of "100 steps" on east side of park would produce a new destination spot at Chestnut Ridge.
- ⑦ (C: 17.0) "Soften" the appearance of the existing large parking area between the casino and tennis courts by providing additional landscape treatments and trees to this important visual setting.
- ⑧ (C: 19.0) Need better transition/connection from east section of park to west section. Provide additional signage and/or painted crosswalks at the on/off ramps to route 277.
- ⑨ (A: 15.0) Upgrade toboggan chutes as necessary to maintain proper safety standards and continued recreational value. Increased staff is needed to operate toboggan chutes if repaired.
- ⑩ (P: 12.0) Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage and partnership opportunities. Coordinate with Visit Buffalo Niagara to explore tournament and recreation prospects.



# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- (A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
- (A: 8.0-8.10) Promote natural and cultural heritage interpretation and enjoyment throughout the park through an expanded trail system and park signage; provide new wayfinding system to bring awareness to existing trails and hidden park features.
- (A: 6.1) Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.
- (A: 14.0) Remove all old, dilapidated wooden picnic tables throughout the park. Dispose of rotten and decayed tables, and repair all those that can be salvaged.
- (A: 6.2) Remove the numerous old metal playground structures and equipment that dot the landscape throughout the park.
- Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology. Prioritize protection and enhancement of areas deemed appropriate for additional native plantings to make suitable for bird and butterfly habitats. Native plant gardens will promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats.
- Promote and expand four seasons use of the park, including winter use – e.g. tobogganing, sledding, cross-country skiing, weekend sleigh rides.

## Legend:

Potential Major and Minor Park Gateway Locations

Natural Features

WPA Park Heritage Feature/Destination

Existing Park Trails

Park Boundary

Playground

WPA Pump Shelters/Misc. Features

CS: Comfort Station - (#) (CS-A) WPA Era Structure

S-1: Shelter - (#) (S-1) WPA Era Structure

WS: Warning Shelter



# NATURALIZATION PLAN CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK (EAST)

## TOTAL PARK MOWING REDUCTION:

Natural Regeneration: 8.5 acres  
Low-Mow Meadow: 17.5 acres  
Wildflower Meadow: 8 acres  
Total: ~34 acres

## TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

### ① Natural Regeneration

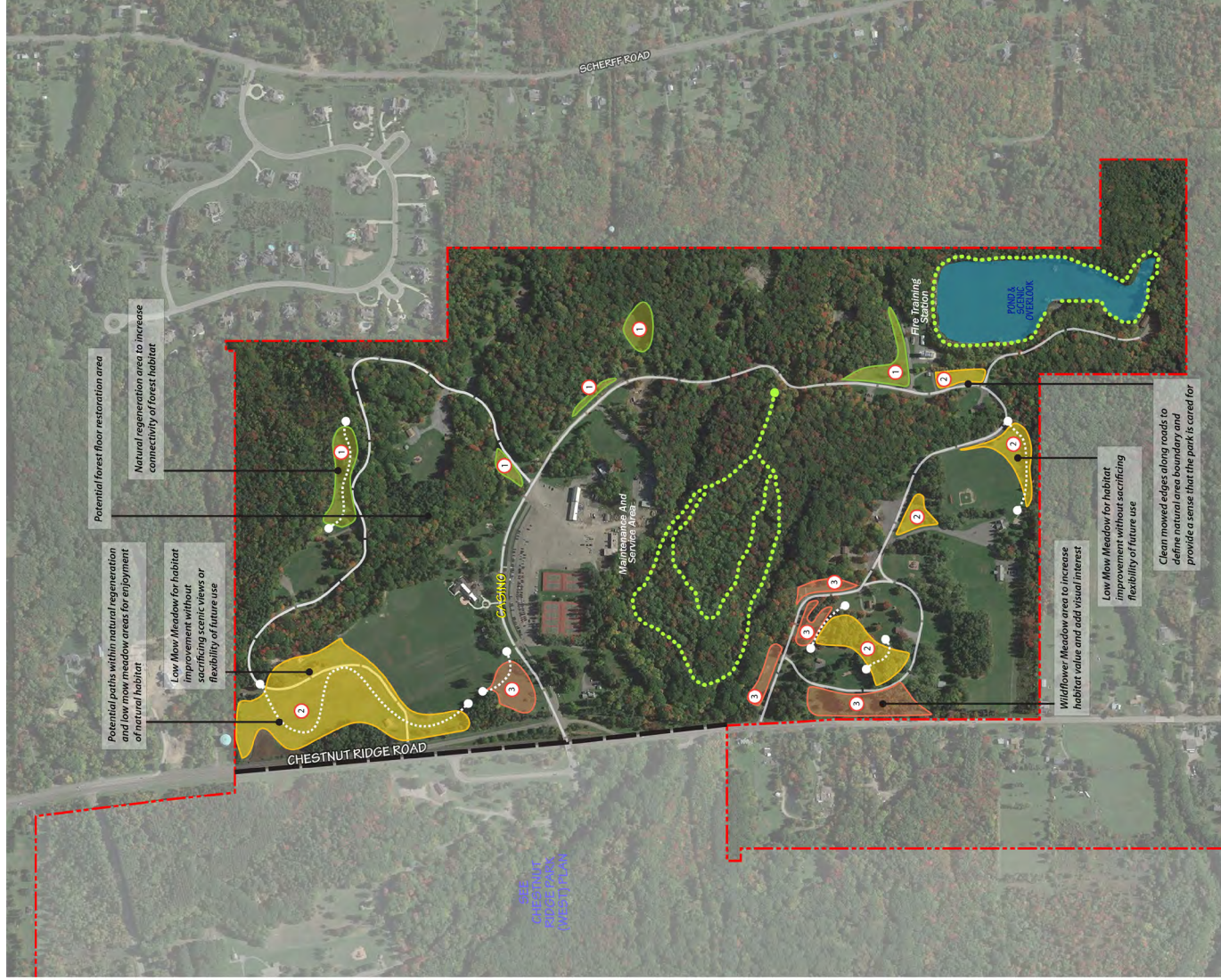
In these areas, which are currently mowed lawn, natural forests will be allowed to develop. In most cases, suggested natural regeneration areas are adjacent to existing forest, and serve to expand continuous forest habitat within the parks. Mowing will cease altogether, and woody plant removal will be limited to non-native species. Young native trees of species found in neighboring forest can be planted to speed natural reforestation, and native meadow grass and wildflower seeds can be planted to replace lawn until the tree canopy matures.

### ② Low-Mow

These are areas that may potentially see different use in the future, and are not intended to be reforested. They would be mowed infrequently to prevent woody plants from establishing. Within the "low-mow" management category, there exists flexibility for tailoring management to a particular park or zone.

### ③ Wildflower Meadow

In locations with low use but high visibility, such as near park entrances, the Low-Mow Meadow treatment can be modified by the addition of significant native wildflower planting efforts. This will create a higher level of biodiversity and visual interest than simple mowing reduction.



# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## NATURALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Lawn Reduction

The majority of Chestnut Ridge Park is forested, and much of this is high quality native woodland. Natural regeneration areas are recommended in small pockets within the park, for example where structures have been removed, or for areas once active but now infrequently used as activity types have changed over time.

In some locations, particularly near more active areas, low mow meadow is recommended as a way of increasing habitat value without sacrificing open views or flexibility for future changes of use.

### Tree Planting

The extensive natural forest area is one of the main attractions of Chestnut Ridge Park. Planting young native trees in select areas can begin a process of diversifying and adding resilience to this valuable forest area.

### Forest Floor Restoration

On the east side of Chestnut Ridge Park, certain areas of forest floor are suffering from severe soil erosion, soil compaction, and loss of understory vegetation due to heavy foot traffic. Redirecting activities away from steep or otherwise sensitive areas will allow a process of restoring the high quality habitat that has been lost to begin. The addition of signage such as "Restoration in progress" can aid in this effort.

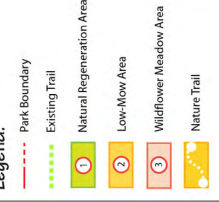
### Water Quality Protection

In some locations, streams that run through Chestnut Ridge Park are impacted by erosion. This is most noticeable at road crossings, and along stream banks in the southwest part of the park. Strategic use of erosion control measures such as check dams and streambank stabilization can help protect the health of these waterways.

### Invasive Species Management

Aggressive non-native plants are currently having a relatively low impact at Chestnut Ridge, compared with many public parks. It is important to keep monitoring for changes so that the current level of quality can be protected.

## Legend:



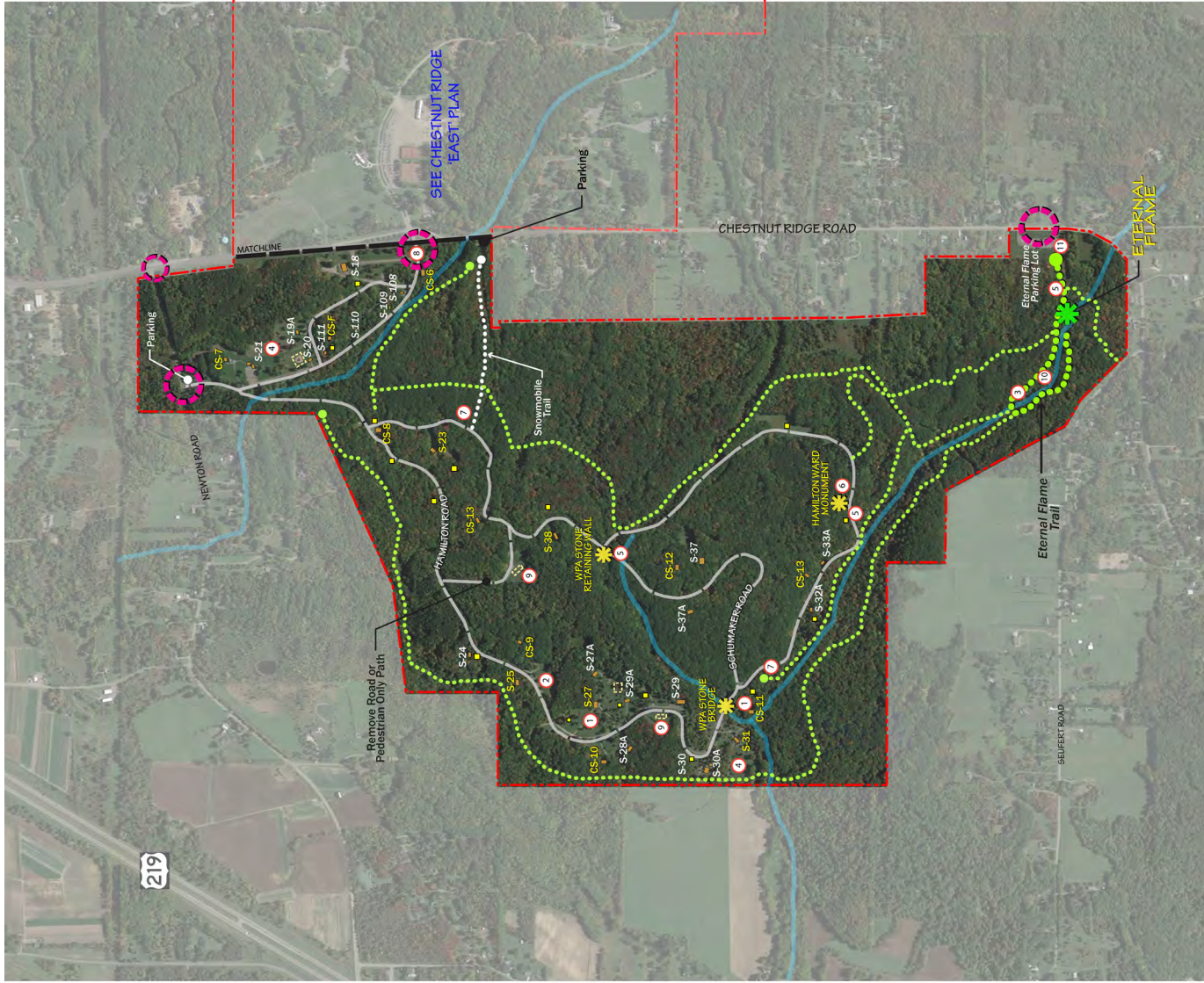
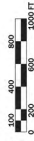


# MASTER PLAN CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK (WEST)

## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Specific Action Items - Ex. (A: 1)

- ① (C: 1.0-1.9, 3.0-15.0/P: 4.0-9.0) Preserve and enhance original Heritage Areas, particularly the area around the Casino building. Restore historic stone structures, picnic shelters, comfort stations, pump houses and original park buildings;
- ② (A: 17.0) Allow West section of park to become more "natural" and passive in use. Refrain from adding new playgrounds. Remove old backstops from ball fields not in use. Allow passive mowed areas to naturalize into meadows/natural reserve areas.
- ③ (A: 13.0) Prioritize the safety and maintenance of the main trail to the Eternal Flame. Stabilize trails and prevent erosion issues. Provide proper warnings and signage alerting users of the difficulties of the trail. Repair steps and provide possible railings in areas where applicable.
- ④ (A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-recreational use areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures. (2003 Master Plan)
- ⑤ (C: 2.0-2.6) Provide interpretive signage throughout the park which can display historic images and content of significant park assets like the Eternal Flame Falls, Hamilton Ward site, WPA structures, etc.
- ⑥ (P: 3.0) Restore Hamilton Ward Memorial: Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework, and clean/repaint stonework. Provide wayfinding signage to find/highlight the historic site.
- ⑦ Continue progress with expansion, enhancements, and connectivity among park trails. Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations.
- ⑧ (C: 19.0) Need better transition/connection from east section of park to west section. Provide additional signage and/or painted crosswalks at the on/off ramps to route 277.
- ⑨ (A: 16.0) Relocate smaller (3 piece) playground components out of West section of park. Playground features take away from the Heritage and natural scenic value of the park.
- ⑩ (P: 11.0) Design and construct alternative methods and viewing points to see the waterfall and the Eternal Flame. Provide a safe route which may reduce possible risk to park users wishing to see the natural feature.



# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

- ① (C: 18.0) Divert runoff from primary park trails wherever possible; especially at the base of the Eternal Flame trail where the trail starts at the parking lot. Install planting areas or rain gardens as a means of capturing runoff from parking area.

## MASTER PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- (A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas. Remove dead, dying or diseased trees. Prune deadwood from trees.
- Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever is reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)
- (A: 8.0-8.10) Promote natural and cultural heritage interpretation and enjoyment throughout the park through an expanded trail system and park signage; provide new wayfinding system to bring awareness to existing trails and hidden park features.
- (A: 6.1) Improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.
- (A: 14.0) Remove all old, dilapidated wooden picnic tables throughout the park. Dispose of rotten and decayed tables, and repair all those that can be salvaged.
- (A: 6.2) Remove the numerous old metal playground structures and equipment that dot the landscape throughout the park.
- Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology. Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas; Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park.

## Legend:





# NATURALIZATION PLAN CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK (WEST)

## TOTAL PARK MOWING REDUCTION:

Natural Regeneration: 8.5 acres  
Low-Mow Meadow: 17.5 acres  
Wildflower Meadow: 8 acres  
Total: ~34 acres

## TREATMENT DESCRIPTIONS:

### 1 Natural Regeneration

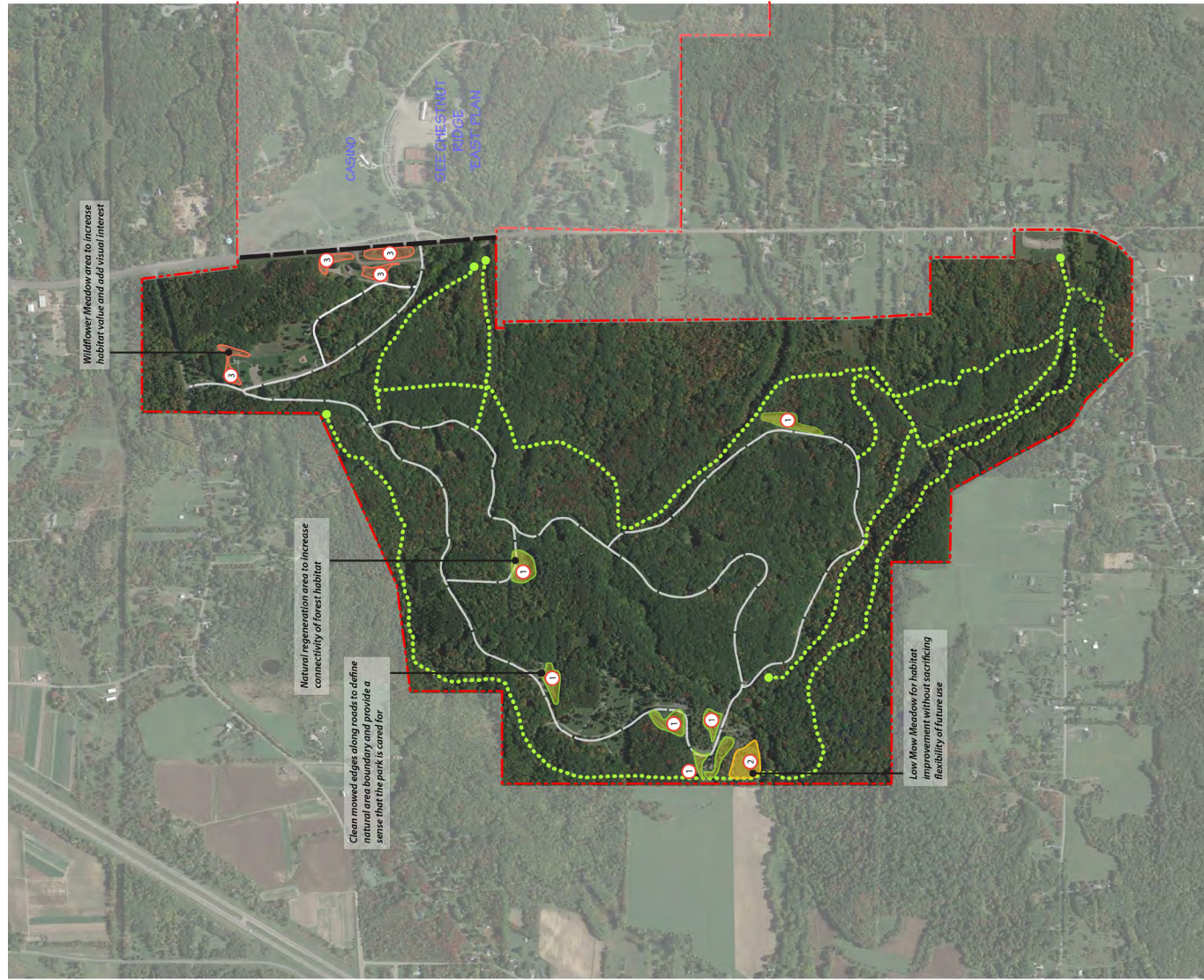
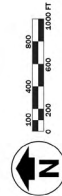
In these areas, which are currently mowed lawn, natural forests will be allowed to develop. In most cases, suggested natural regeneration areas are adjacent to existing forest, and serve to expand continuous forest habitat within the parks. Mowing will cease altogether, and woody plant removal will be limited to non-native species. Young native trees of species found in neighboring forest can be planted to speed natural reforestation, and native meadow grass and wildflower seeds can be planted to replace lawn until the tree canopy matures.

### 2 Low-Mow

These are areas that may potentially see different use in the future, and are not intended to be reforested. They would be mowed infrequently to prevent woody plants from establishing. Within the 'low-mow' management category, there exists flexibility for tailoring management to a particular park or zone.

### 3 Wildflower Meadow

In locations with low use but high visibility, such as near park entrances, the Low-Mow Meadow treatment can be modified by the addition of significant native wildflower planting efforts. This will create a higher level of biodiversity and visual interest than simple mowing reduction.



# ERIE COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

## NATURALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Lawn Reduction

The majority of Chestnut Ridge Park is forested, and much of this is high quality native woodland. Natural regeneration areas are recommended in small pockets within the park, for example where structures have been removed, or for areas once active but now infrequently used as activity types have changed over time.

In some locations, particularly near more active areas, Low Mow or Wildflower Meadow is recommended as a way of increasing habitat value without sacrificing open views or flexibility for future changes of use.

### Tree Planting

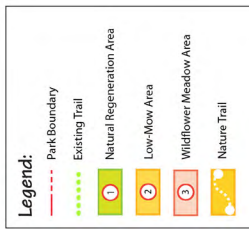
The extensive natural forest area is one of the main attractions of Chestnut Ridge Park. Planting young native trees in select areas can begin a process of diversifying and adding resilience to this valuable forest area.

### Water Quality Protection

In some locations, streams that run through Chestnut Ridge Park are impacted by erosion. This is most noticeable at road crossings, and along stream banks in the southwest part of the park. Strategic use of erosion control measures such as check dams and streambank stabilization can help protect the health of these waterways.

### Invasive Species Management

Aggressive non-native plants are currently having a relatively low impact at Chestnut Ridge, compared with many public parks. It is important to keep monitoring for changes so that the current level of quality can be protected.





## MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

### Key - (Project Type: Project Number)

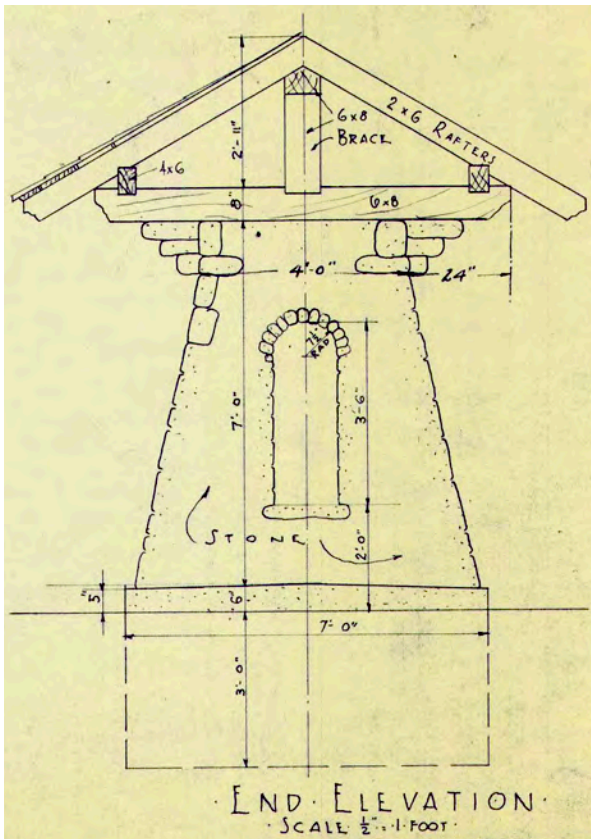
A - Action Item: Completed at low to no cost by Parks Staff  
 P - Assistance or completion of project by potential partner/user group  
 C - Capital project

### Historic Structures/WPA/Other Structures:

- **(C: 1.0-1.9, 3.0-15.0/ P: 4.0-9.0)** Preserve and enhance original Heritage Areas, particularly the area around the Casino building. Restore historic stone structures, picnic shelters, comfort stations, pump houses and original park buildings;
  - Restore old stone picnic shelters and structures before building new picnic shelters and structures. (Consider the heritage “value” of these old park features for future tourism and visitor appreciation). Consider the entire park for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places. (2003 Master Plan)
  - Repoint/clean stonework where needed, replace missing stones, replace or repair roofs, make improvements to concrete/asphalt floors, etc.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: In-House/ Chestnut Ridge Conservancy/PBN



Historic WPA pump shelter



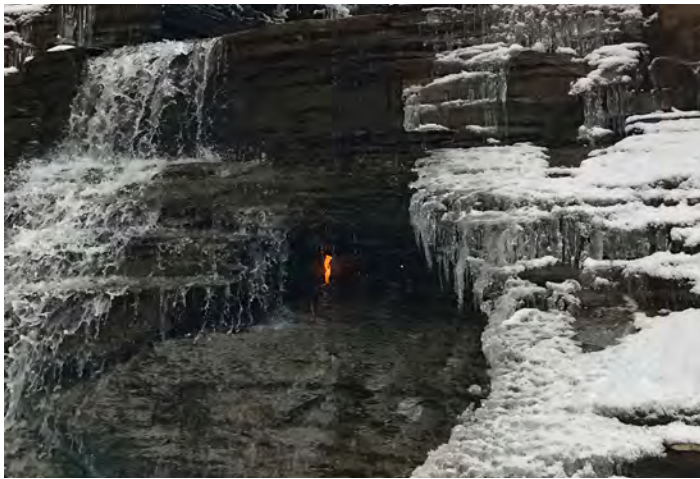
Original construction drawing of a typical parks pump shelter on the left; on the right is an existing pump shelter







Hamilton Ward Memorial site



Eternal Flame



WPA Shelter #25

- **(C: 2.0-2.6) Provide interpretive signage throughout the park which can display historic images and content of significant park assets like the Eternal Flame Falls, Hamilton Ward site, WPA structures, etc.**
  - Consider restoring and utilizing the numerous small stone pump shelters throughout the park as new interpretive signage and informational kiosks that would tie into the heritage park setting.
  - Provide an interpretive “story-line” for the Park’s geological and post-settlement history, i.e. How and when the ravines and rock formations were formed?
  - How did the park get its name? When was the Village and Town first Settled?
  - What’s the history behind the Eternal Flame? What were some significant historic happenings in the area, or in the park?
  - When were the WPA stone structures built?; What is the history behind the Round Barn site?; etc.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House
- **(P: 3.0) Restore Hamilton Ward Memorial;** Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework, and clean/repoint stonework.
  - Provide wayfinding signage to find/highlight the historic site.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: PBN/ In-House
- **(P: 2.0) Prevent further deterioration of Gateway pillars at Newton Road entrance:** Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework and clean and repoint stonework. Improve entry with additional landscape treatment, etc.
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: PBN/In-House
- **(C: 20.0) Restore a single hand pump to be a fully functional water source,** as a potential historic element to show respect to the history of the park and gives the youth a chance to operate a working pump.
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: PBN/ In-House



- **Investigate additional uses for Casino which may generate additional revenue;**
  - Potential Visitor Information Center for Overall Erie County Park System. This could house information for all of the parks in the County. In addition, the Casino could be the “headquarters” and central administrative “clearinghouse” for picnic shelter and facility rentals/ reservations for all of the parks.
    - **Priority: Low**
    - **Partner: Chestnut Ridge Conservancy**
- **(P: 10.0) Restoration of ‘100 steps’ on east side of park would produce a new destination spot at Chestnut Ridge.**
  - With sufficient staff and funds consider potential trails and connections at base of steps to allow for future exploration of the park and its scenic assets.
  - Continue to prevent access to stairs in the short term. Preserve steps for future long-term restoration effort.
    - **Priority: Low**
    - **Partner: Significant investment from Chestnut Ridge Conservancy and/or other resources/grants**
- **(A: 1.0) Consider park for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places. (2003 Master Plan)**
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: In-House**

#### Maintenance/Safety:

- **(A: 2.0-3.3) Reduce lawn mowing to provide more natural setting in non-recreational use areas, and help to shift park maintenance towards restoring older park structures. (2003 Master Plan)**
  - Consider a large portion of the bottom of the sled hill to become a low-mow area, with a nature trail connecting park users with various scenic locations of the park.
  - Establish select zones of ‘no-mow’ naturalized areas where excess lawn is being mowed with potential wildflowers and meadows.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: In-House**



Large mowed area in front of the Casino



Missing stones and damage observed at the ‘100 steps’





- **(A: 13.0) Prioritize the safety and maintenance of the main trail to the Eternal Flame.**
  - Stabilize trails and prevent erosion issues;
  - Remove fallen limbs and trees that increase risk of tripping hazards and falls for trail users trying to see the Flame.
  - Provide proper warnings and signage alerting users of the difficulties of the trail. Additional warnings and information may be needed (i.e. proper footwear, dangerous for young children, etc.)
  - Repair steps and provide possible railings (new railings to be sensitive to park aesthetics) in areas where safety and accessibility is a concern. Further studies needed to continue to properly maintain safety of the trail.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: In-House**
  
- **(C: 18.0) Divert runoff from primary park trails wherever possible; especially at the base of the Eternal Flame trail where the trail starts at the parking lot.**
  - Install planting areas or rain gardens as a means of capturing runoff from parking area.
  - Construction of drainage swales may also be appropriate to divert water from trails.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: In-House**



*Water was pooling into the trail from the Eternal Flame parking lot*



*A view into the snowy woods near the Eternal Flame Trail*





Eternal Flame waterfall



Fallen limbs in several cases nearly prevent people from getting to the Eternal Flame

- **(P: 11.0) Design and construct alternative methods and viewing points to see the waterfall and the Eternal Flame.** Provide a safe route which may reduce possible risk to park users wishing to see the natural feature.
  - Provide railings directly north of the Eternal Flame falls off the trail as it meanders towards the edge of the ravine. This can add a layer of safety for those trying to see the natural attraction from the trail itself.
  - Provide new steps down areas of the ravine where it is not as steep, to bring people to a possible overlook area over the creek.
  - This can be a concept that may be applied to other parks with similar situations, like Emery Park with waterfalls that are difficult to access.
    - **Priority: Medium**
    - **Partner: Chestnut Ridge Conservancy/Grants**



- **Improve ADA access throughout the park wherever reasonable and feasible. (2003 Master Plan)**
  - New renovations can present opportunities to address standards in ADA accessibility. These can include for example, designing sports fields/courts for greater accessibility and seating, improved accessibility/updated surfaces to children play areas, and potential paving of new trails for people with mixed abilities.
    - **Priority: Medium**
    - **Partner: In-House**
- **(C: 17.0) “Soften” the appearance of the existing large parking area between the casino and tennis courts by providing additional landscape treatments and trees to this important visual setting.**
  - Provide appropriate buffers and screening to the maintenance yard, such as landscaped berms and rain gardens. Screening the maintenance area creates a better sense of place upon arrival into the Casino/park area
  - Better organize and define the parking lot with painted spaces and driving lanes, landscaped islands, etc.
  - Prioritize methods of green infrastructure including rain gardens and other bio-retention strategies throughout the large lot. Better strategies of stormwater management will prevent contaminants and pollutants entering nearby streams/ravines.
  - Main lot at Chestnut Ridge is the priority, but other larger parking areas may also be suitable for possible rain gardens and planting medians.
  - Engage consultant to design improvements and engage contractor to construct improvements
    - **Priority: Medium**
    - **Partner: In-House**



*Renovated ADA accessible comfort station - As improvements to other structures continue, ADA accessibility should be considered*



*Large parking area is in need of additional landscape treatment*



*Large parking area is in need of additional landscape treatment*





Large parking area is in need of additional landscape treatment

- **(A: 14.0) Continue to remove all old wooden picnic tables throughout the park.** Dispose of rotten and decayed tables, and repair all those that can be salvaged. (2003 Master Plan)
  - Priority: Medium
  - Partner: In-House

#### Connectivity/Signage:

- **(A: 7.0-7.4) Establish Minor Gateways, welcome sign and rules, for the park at the following locations:**
  - Newton Road entrance
  - Eternal Flame Falls parking lot
  - Boy Scout Trail parking lot
  - South entrance to east side of park
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House/Highway
- **(A: 8.0-8.10) Promote natural and cultural heritage interpretation and enjoyment throughout the park through an expanded trail system and park signage;** provide new wayfinding system to bring awareness to existing trails and hidden park features, e.g. the 100 stone steps, stone monument area, impressive ravines, waterfalls, Commissioner's Pond, etc.
  - Provide ADA access to these important and scenic vista locations.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House
- **Continue progress with expansion, enhancements, and connectivity among park trails.**
  - Provide kiosks with trail maps and rules at select trailhead locations (develop similar models to the one recently installed at the Eternal Flame Trailhead)
  - Provide interpretive signage along the trails highlighting flora, fauna, and wildlife.
  - Design and provide distinct trail markers for better park orientation.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House/Forestry



Orienteering Trail



Commissioner's Cabin and pond

- **(C: 19.0) Improve transition/connection from east section of park to west section. Provide additional signage and/or painted crosswalks at the on/off ramps to route 277.**
  - Priority: Low
  - Partner: NYSDOT/In-House





**Recreation:**

- **(A: 6.1) Continue to improve and maintain playground structures throughout park.**
  - Provide or replenish fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually.
  - Replace swings/play equipment as needed due to wear and tear.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: In-House**
- **(P: 1.0) Potential relocation of some Disc golf holes to less environmentally sensitive areas to prevent continuous damage to natural areas and wildlife.**
  - Shift some holes away from wooded/forest areas into existing mowed lawn areas. Disc golf at Ellicott Creek Park and Como Lake Park is played across their mowed lawn areas, and result in far less damage to the landscape. Work with Niagara Region Disc Golf to redesign the course into less environmentally sensitive areas. Provide alternate hole locations to reduce compaction.
  - Further studies and analysis is needed.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: Niagara Region Disc Golf**



*Playground near the Martin Lodge*



*Heavy usage of the Disc Golf Course is eroding away the forest understory*



- **Enhance and promote fishing platform at Commissioner's Pond.**
  - Provide park rules sign at pond enforcing 'catch and release only', no boats, no ice fishing, etc.
  - Fish species include; largemouth bass, sunfish, and yellow perch
    - **Priority: Medium**
    - **Partner: In-House**
- **(A: 6.2) Remove the numerous old metal playground structures and equipment that dot the landscape throughout the park. These pieces of equipment are outdated, most are unsightly, and many do not meet any current playground safety requirements.**
  - Consideration should be given to several "legacy" playground pieces, such as the shoe slide. This equipment appeared to be in good condition and could be maintained in the park as a feature or considered artwork, without a fall surface which would encourage its use as a play event.
  - Consider earthtone colors for playground equipment in the Heritage park setting rather than bright, primary colors.
  - Reuse old playground equipment by reaching out to local artists and craftsmen. The metal parts could be used as installation pieces located throughout the park. (2003 Master Plan)
    - **Priority: Low**
    - **Partner: In-House**
- **Promote and expand four seasons use of the park, including winter use – e.g. tobogganing, sledding, cross-country skiing, weekend sleigh rides.**
  - Investigate opportunities for flooding area for ice-skating.
  - Current snowmobile trails should be properly posted to avoid future multi-use conflicts. (2003 Master Plan)
    - **Priority: Low**
    - **Partner: In-House**
- **(P: 12.0) Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage and partnership opportunities.** Coordinate with Visit Buffalo Niagara to explore tournament and recreation prospects.
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: Visit Buffalo Niagara/Chestnut Ridge Conservancy**
- **(A: 16.0) Relocate smaller (3 piece) playground components out of West section of park.** Playground features take away from the Heritage and natural scenic value of the park.
  - **Priority: Low**
  - **Partner: In-House**



*Toboggan chutes*



*One of the many old non-compliant metal playground pieces of equipment scattered throughout the park*



*Old non-compliant swingset with missing swings in the middle of the woods*





Baseball diamond on the east side of the park



Playground on the west side of the park is in a somewhat random location, this area should be low-mow/no-mow (Relocate playground to active area)



Large wooded area behind Shelter #2

#### Environment:

- **(A: 4.1-4.2) Improve the tree health of the park, in particular within maintained areas.**
  - Remove dead, dying or diseased trees.
  - Prune deadwood from trees.
  - Routinely monitor the tree population for indications of pest infestations.
  - Provide new tree plantings throughout the park, particularly along the roadway edges.
  - Develop a multi-pronged approach to tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings.
  - Develop annual tree planting program to restore tree canopy and improve natural image of the park.
  - Apply for funding from NYSDEC for example for purchase of trees and materials and for the tree inventory.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: WNY Prism/ECSWD/Forestry**
- **(P: 13.0) Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park.**
  - Address and remove threatening invasive species.
    - **Priority: High**
    - **Partner: WNY Prism/ECSWD**
- **(P: 14.0) Encourage and emphasize natural features and opportunities to connect with park ecology.**
  - Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas;
  - Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;
  - Prioritize plantings for bird and butterfly habitats;
  - Designate potential native plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements



- while increasing habitats for insect/bird habitats;
  - The County should encourage the development of outdoor classrooms through partnerships with local schools. Outdoor classrooms can be living laboratories for local children to immerse themselves in nature and our local ecosystem.
    - Priority: High
    - Partner: NYSDEC/Cornell Cooperative Extension/ECSWD/In-House
- **(A: 17.0) Allow West section of park to become more 'natural' and passive in use.**
  - Refrain from adding new playgrounds.
  - Remove old backstops from ball fields not in use.
  - Allow passive mowed areas to naturalize into meadows/natural reserve areas.
  - Remaining picnic shelters on west side of park should be evaluated in terms of usage. Shelters should be removed/or repurposed if significant repairs are needed or deemed unsafe. If they are historic or considered WPA, shelters should be preserved and repaired.
    - Priority: Medium
    - Partner: In-House



Shelter #117



WPA era pump shelter surrounded by low-mow area







*View down the Creek which flows along the Orienteering Trail, down through the Eternal Flame*



**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	2.0	Establish “Natural Regeneration Areas” to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Establish “Natural Regeneration Areas” identified on the Master Plan	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	3.1	Establish “Low Mow Zones” to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Establish “Low Mow Zones” identified on the Master Plan	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	3.3	Establish “Low Mow Zones” to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Provide necessary signage along the “Low Mow Zones” to inform the public the reasons behind the practice and also to identify the areas to park personnel.	High	1-2 Years	In-House, Highway
A	4.1	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time. Develop a multi-pronged tree planting strategy including contracted work, in-house staff and volunteer group plantings	Prune and/or remove trees if determined to present an increased risk to park patrons and employees.	High	Ongoing	In-House, Forestry
A	6.1	Continue to improve playground safety	Provide or replenish engineered fiber fall surfaces at playgrounds annually.	High	Ongoing	P.O.B.
A	11.0	Improve safety on pedestrian bridge near Commissioners Cabin	Review railing condition to determine if they can be repaired or require replacement	High	1-2 Years	In-House
A	13.0	Prioritize the safety and maintenance of the main trail to the Eternal Flame. Stabilize trails and prevent erosion issues; Remove fallen limbs and trees that increase risk of tripping hazards and falls for trail users trying to see the Flame. Provide proper warnings and signage alerting users of the difficulties of the trail. Additional warnings and information may be needed (i.e. proper footwear, dangerous for young children, etc.) Repair steps and provide possible railings in areas where safety and accessibility is a concern.	Utilize parks staff to perform improvements and repairs to trail during a routine basis	High	Ongoing	In-House
C	1.2	Shelter #7 - Posts have rot, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	High	1-2 Years	\$10,000

**KEY:**

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P: Assistance or completion of project by potential partner/user group

C: Capital Project

POB: Parks Operating Budget





**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	1.9	Shelter #12 - Potential structural issues	Engage a consultant to review the structure and determine a course of action.	High	1-2 Years	\$22,000
P	1.0	Reconfigure the disc golf route to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.	Coordinate with Niagara Region Disc Golf regarding a new course layout. Accommodate alternative hole positions to reduce compaction / erosion from repetitive foot traffic.	High	1-2 Years	\$15,200
P	13.0	Management and monitoring of invasive species is imperative to the health of the park. Address and remove threatening invasive species.	Coordinate with WNY Prism, ECSWD, and others.	High	Ongoing	Partner
P	14.0	Prioritize protection and enhancement of sensitive ecological areas; Propose appropriate additional native plantings throughout the park;	Designate potential native pollinator plant gardens to promote educational and interpretive elements while increasing habitats for insect/ bird habitats.	High	Ongoing	Partner
A	4.2	Increase tree health and tree canopy throughout the park. The overall age of the tree population at the Park is considered to be mature, with limited young trees to renew the resource over time.	Develop an annual tree planting program.	Medium	Ongoing	P.O.B.
A	5.0	Improve aesthetics along east entrance driveway, between Casino and parking lot through additional tree plantings.	Utilize parks staff to perform improvements	Medium	3-5 Years	P.O.B.
A	7.0	Establish Minor Gateways, welcome sign and rules, for the park at the following locations:	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	7.1	Newton Road entrance	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	7.2	Eternal Flame Falls parking lot	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	7.3	Boy Scout Trail parking lot	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway



**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	7.4	South entrance to east side of park	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the sign panels	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House, Highway
A	8.0	Provide consistent wayfinding and directional signage within the park:	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.1	Boy Scout Trail, only maps	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.10	XC Ski Outer Loop, maps and trail markers	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.2	Eternal Flame Falls Trail, only maps	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.3	Orienteering Trail, only maps	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.4	Reservoir Trail, maps and trail markers	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.5	Seufert Trail, maps and trail markers	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.6	Snowmobile Trail, maps and trail markers	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.7	Ward Hill Trail, only maps	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House

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**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	8.8	Ward Hill Walkway, maps	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	8.9	XC Ski Inner Loop, maps and trail markers	Coordination between Parks & Highways to develop and produce the directional sign panels, trail maps and trail markers.	Medium	3-5 Years	In-House
A	12.0	Ensure that shelters, comfort stations and buildings are identifiable	Coordination between Parks and Highways to develop and produce the sign panels.	Medium	6-10 Years	In-House
A	14.0	Continue to remove all old wooden picnic tables throughout the park. Dispose of rotten and decayed tables, and repair all those that can be salvaged.	Utilize parks staff to perform improvements	Medium	Ongoing	In-House
A	17.0	Allow West section of park to become more 'natural' and passive in use.	Educate parks staff on procedures and improvements	Medium	Ongoing	In-House
C	1.0	Prevent further deterioration of the following picnic shelters:	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	X
C	1.1	Shelter #4 - Replace roof and repair gable ends	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.3	Shelter #14 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.4	Shelter #19A - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.5	Shelter #20 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.6	Shelter #24 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.7	Shelter #33A - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	1.8	Shelter #37 - Replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	3.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Shelter #13. Replace roof.	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000
C	4.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #7. Roof repairs required	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$10,000



**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	5.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #12. Replace roof and fascia boards, repair broken windows.	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Medium	3-5 Years	\$12,500
C	16.0	Improve safety and accessibility on pedestrian bridge near Shelter #31. Construct railings and approach guiderails, provide a level transition to bridge approach. Potentially replace entire bridge with accessible structure.	Engage consultant to design improvements and engage contractor to construct improvements	Medium	3-5 Years	\$30,000
C	18.0	Divert runoff from primary park trails wherever possible; especially at the base of the Eternal Flame trail where the trail starts at the parking lot. Install planting areas or rain gardens as a means of capturing runoff from parking area.	Engage consultant to design improvements and engage contractor to construct or have parks staff to implement improvements	Medium	3-5 Years	P.O.B.
P	2.0	Prevent further deterioration of Gateway pillars at Newton Road entrance. Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework and clean and repoint stonework.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Medium	6-10 Years	\$6,000
P	11.0	Design and construct alternative methods and viewing points to see the waterfall and the Eternal Flame. Provide a safe route which may reduce possible risk to park users wishing to see the natural feature.	Significant investment from Chestnut Ridge Conservancy and/or other grants/resources, increased staff would be needed.	Medium	6-10 Years	\$200,000
A	1.0	Consider park for eligibility on the National Register of Historic Places	Coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer assigned to Erie County to complete the required nomination forms and submit to a State review board.	Low	Ongoing	In-House
A	3.2	Establish "Low Mow Zones" to reduce overall maintenance and provide wildlife habitat	Begin an educational program, through the use of the County's website, to the general public which provides information regarding the "Low Mow Zone" program	Low	3-5 Years	In-House
A	6.2	Improve playground safety	Remove playground equipment that is not compliant with current regulations, with the exception of "legacy" pieces of equipment	Low	Ongoing	In-House

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**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
A	9.0	Reduce damage to turf areas and reduce erosion by providing a resilient surface, such as crushed stone or millings at each shelter location.	Utilize parks staff to perform repairs	Low	Ongoing	P.O.B.
A	16.0	Relocate smaller (3 piece) playground components out of West section of park.	Utilize parks staff to perform improvements	Low	3-5 Years	In-House
C	2.0	Provide interpretive signage in the park:	Coordinate with historical society to develop copy and obtain images for the interpretive content.	Low	Ongoing	In-House
C	2.1	Geological history	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.2	Eternal Flame Falls	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.3	Hamilton Ward	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.4	Round Barn Site	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.5	100 Stone Steps	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	2.6	History of WPA structures	Engage a consultant to develop high resolution graphics and produce sign panels, installation In-House	Low	6-10 Years	\$3,500
C	6.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Old Comfort Station "L" (Note this comfort station is located near shelter #33A, as there are two comfort stations numbered with 13). Replace roof and fascia boards, repair broken windows and doors.	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$12,500



**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	7.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #22, south of Shelter #1A, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	8.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #14, east of MacKinnon Lodge, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	9.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #64, south of Shelter #27, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	10.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #58, near Ward Hill Trailhead, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	11.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #55, near Hamilton Ward memorial, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	12.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #51, east of Shelter #37, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	13.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era Pump Shelter #44, east of Shelter #38, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	14.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era stone shed near fishing pier parking lot, replace roof	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000
C	15.0	Prevent deterioration of Comfort Station #2. Clean, re-point and paint exterior CMU walls.	Engage contractor to perform repairs	Low	6-10 Years	\$7,500
C	17.0	Provide adequate visual landscape screening at the maintenance facility and storage yard. Remove a portion of pavement and construct a planted berm or rain garden, including evergreens, native trees and shrubs.	Engage consultant to design improvements and engage contractor to construct improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$17,500
C	19.0	Improve transition/connection from east section of park to west section. Provide additional signage and/or painted crosswalks at the on/off ramps to route 277.	Engage consultant to design improvements and engage contractor to construct or have parks staff to implement improvements	Low	6-10 Years	\$10,000

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**CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK: ACTION ITEMS**

Project Type	Project #	Recommendation	Implementation Strategies	Priority	Term	Estimated Cost
C	20.0	Restore a single pump shelter to be a fully functional water source, as a potential park destination and to show respect to the history of the park.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	3-5 Years	Additional Studies Needed
P	3.0	Restore the Hamilton Ward memorial. Replace missing stones, repair loose stonework and clean and repoint stonework	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	4.0	Prevent further deterioration of WPA Era incinerator west of Shelter #24. Repair loose and missing stones, repoint stonework.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$12,500
P	5.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #1. Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$20,000
P	6.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #5. Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$9,000
P	7.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #11. Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$9,000
P	8.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Comfort Station #12. Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$9,000
P	9.0	Prevent further deterioration on WPA Era Old Comfort Station "L" (Note this comfort station is located near shelter #33A, as there are two comfort stations numbered with 13). Replace missing stones, reset loose stones, clean and repoint mortar.	Refer to partnership opportunity with PBN	Low	6-10 Years	\$25,000
P	10.0	Restoration of '100 steps' on east side of park	Significant investment from Chestnut Ridge Conservancy and/or other grants/resources, increased staff would be needed.	Low	6-10 Years	Partner
P	12.0	Repurpose or restore baseball diamond based on usage and partnership opportunities	Coordinate with Visit Buffalo Niagara	Low	3-5 Years	P.O.B.





# SCHEMATIC PLAN CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK - MAIN PARKING LOT

