GENESEE VALLEY PARK WEST

MASTER PLAN

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T.B.D. AT FINAL MASTER PLAN PHASE

City of Rochester

Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC

This document was prepared for the New York State Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

JANUARY 2014

05

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Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC

LaBella Associates
Bero Architecture
Moffatt & Nichol
Dr. Charles Beveridge

Traditional Sports

Tennis, Golf, Basketball, Football, Hockey, Baseball/Softball, Volleyball, Cricket, Rugby, Soccer, Lacrosse

What Do We Do In Public Parks?

Programming Introduction

The following guiding principles were developed and reviewed by the project team based on the inventory and analysis findings. The project committee determined these eleven principles as being critical to the future success of the park. They represent broad themes for the master plan to engage in and include further guidance on specific analysis or potential programming that would help execute these concepts.

The more formal and comprehensive list of master plan recommendations found within this section has been based upon these guiding principles, input received from the Division of Youth and Recreation Services, input received from public meetings, and also includes proposed boathouse architectural programming developed with assistance from the Genesee Waterways Center.

11 Key Guiding Principles for the Park Master Plan

1 Park features and infrastructure should contribute to and enhance the park's role as a multi-modal crossroads.

Capitalize on the Canal: Erie Canalway Trail, Genesee Valley Greenway, Genesee Riverway Trail. Canal trail has an estimated 102,000 annual users alone. 75% are bike riders. Need to enhance ability for canal through riders to take advantage of recreational opportunities, camping, etc.

Enhance Community Walking Infrastructure: Rate of leisure walkers is very low. Relatively low neighborhood-level walking (walk to park), but rate of drive-to-park leisure walkers is high. Need to provide adequate multi-use trail network and adjacent connections to serve all types of users.

Bikes and Boats: Circulation and trails, including blueways, are a major component of the park and perhaps the most significant, considering the lack of general connection to the broader city grid. Park design and infrastructure must be dedicated to biking as multi-modal option. Park also serves as a hand-carry boat epicenter, allowing access to multiple nearby waterways.

Wayfinding: A number of trails converge in GVPW and wayfinding is a major issue for all orientation skill levels. A comprehensive wayfiding signage program should accompany circulation improvements.

Greenway Incomplete: Current missing link south of park limits access to all points south (unsafe road riding not suitable for recreational users). Trail is outside city boundary and park, but NYS Parks/NYSDOT must fix missing link in order to complete Greenway link to City.

Bus Infrastructure: Many bus routes serve the park and provide good mobility, however, the integration of bus facilities into the park circulation is poor and negatively effects park users. Redesign vehicular / bus circulation to minimize conflict with other park users (includes UR buses) / remove "park & ride" distinction.

2 Rethink spatial organization of park features that are no longer constrained by past limitations.

Constraints that No Longer Exist: Existing park layout and circulation is a direct design result of constraints that no longer exist, including former buildings and the railroad / canal.

Circulation Links are Fragmentary: Facilities / parking / recreation features have been added and removed for more than 100 years, creating retrofitted linkages without comprehensive circulation design.

Newly Contiguous Park Land: Park land has only been contiguous since late 1970s (after previous master plan) and funding has never been in place to rethink the park as a whole contiguous piece of land.

Historic Attempts to Relocate Railroad: Attempts to deal with design constraint of railroad began when park was originally designed (1890) Additionally, the park was designed at a time when the automobile was not in mass-production / wide acceptance.

Successful Use of Rail Corridor Since 1970s: City has successfully used rail corridor for trail development since it has been abandoned (and expanded parking) but holistic circulation design has not been developed.

Corridor Now Serves Utilities: Rail corridor now serves as major utility corridor which complicates reorganization of facilities. It is important to understand the new constraints of the utility corridor, which may impact feasibility of building locations or other major facilities.

3 Renew park ties with its significant history and re-establish visual ties between east and west.

Significant History: Defined as one of the six great pastoral Olmsted parks. Distinction has irreplaceable value. Cultural value will increase dramatically if rehabilitated. Genesee Valley is potentially more historically significant than much-loved Highland Park due to Olmsted's desire to work on the river above all else.

Significant Funding: Park is on a national stage because of its history. Public and private funding available for historic rehabilitation projects, and especially for Olmsted-designed public landscapes.

Secretary of the Interior Standards: Rehabilitation is the preferred overall Secretary of the Interior standards treatment - over preservation, restoration and reconstruction. Some restoration, reconstruction and preservation is appropriate on a feature/small-area basis (bridge, trees). Few features remain from the park's period of significance, but those that remain should be treated appropriately. Preserve / reconstruct bridge is short-term high priority.

Rehabilitate the Concept, Not Condition: Rehabilitate the park toward the historic concept, not the historic condition. Preserve the visual character of the wide river plain by minimizing visual impact of facilities in the main park area south of Elmwood.

National Register / National Landmark Status: Park (entire GVP) should be individually listed on the National Register, with ultimate goal of National Landmark status for the entire Olmsted park system. Must be rehabilitated towards original concept to make a contribution towards and achieve national register / national landmark status.

Period of Significance: Period of significance is determined to be wide ranging, from 1890 (Olmsted work began in Rochester) to World War II when park management shifted to a more utilitarian approach. Character of any new facilities should be clean, modern and appealing but reflect a style from the park's major historic periods. Any and all treatments must consider the entire GVP context as the period of significance pre-dates the County/City east/west management division

Resist Design Fashion in Infrastructure: Active recreation use of west side of river is potentially damaging to broader park experience without a long-range plan, as recreation demands increased facilities turn-over and is easily subject to whims and design trends that may be incompatible with preservation goals.

Less Traditional Sports

Bike on Trail, Bike on Road, Skateboard, In-Line Skate, Ice-Skate, Run on Park Road, Run on Trail, Fish, Throw a Frisbee, Throw a Ball, Frisbee Golf, Kickball, Pickleball, Hacky Sack, Rock Climb, Ice Climb, Wall Climb, Swim, Raft, Kayak, Canoe, Row (Crew), Sail, Throw Horseshoes, Lawn Bowl/ Bocce, Shuffleboard, Cross-Country / Nordic Skiing, Archery, Lift Weights, Do Exercises

4 Modernize building facilities to meet current and future demand.

Attendance and Demand: Sports Complex (ice/pool/ sport court) attendance is not as high as it should be based on population and services provided - comparative analysis to similar facilities in similar climate. Summer: 20K combined pool/court users vs. 30K+ for city with 30% less population. Demand is there for recreation services offered but users with choice prefer other facilities.

Downtime: Indoor sports complex requires 4 to 6 weeks per year downtime to change surface. Dedicated facilities would be more cost efficient and allow expanded use.

Water Sports Demand: Demand is high for Waterways Center / water sports access, but facility cannot accommodate more growth. Unplanned waterfront facilities growth (east side currently) causing impacts to broader park integrity - potentially

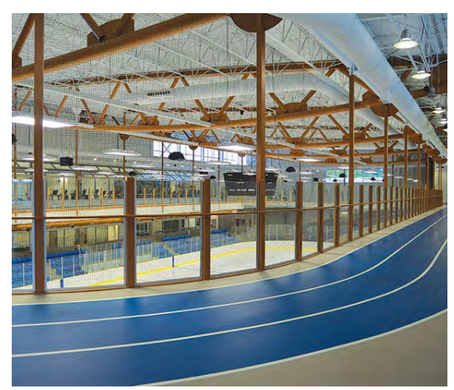
Field House: Field House is well-used but needs modernization/upgrades. There is no dedicated off-street parking for facility. Vehicles park on lawn around building. 1973 master plan placed useful life of building at 10 years (to 1983) but it continues to be used.

Competition from Private Facilities: Private / for-profit facilities with year-round access are gaining popularity for those who can afford fees. This reduces diversity of user base and can result in low-funding-low-maintenance loop.

Modernization and Appeal: All building structures need modernization and increased visual appeal. Many are beyond life expectancy. However, new infrastructure must be appropriate for the park's history.

Recent Upgrades: Recent equipment replacements partially extend life of facilities but do not attract increased attendance or offer additional services - maintenance-only replacements.

Bathrooms: Building bathrooms (GWC) not always obviously accessible or limited use during events, portable bathrooms are undesirable.



5 Re-prioritize and enhance sports fields, playgrounds and picnic areas.

Lack of Ball Field Amenities: Ball fields are used but given choice many leagues prefer alternate facilities with amenities. Fields have no dugouts, practice areas, some with limited shade and seating for spectators. Spectators use shaded grass over bleachers on hot days.

Ball field #4 has had some improvements but is not the preferred choice for hard ball leagues. Also impacted by alternate uses that increase maintenance costs (events, parking,

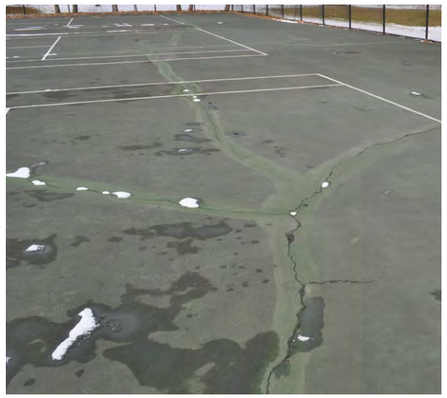
Ball fields north of Elmwood (#5 and #6) have drainage issues that often limit use. Need to balance usable sand-lot type fields for neighborhood use with fields that include desirable amenities. Ball field 3 impacted by nearby drainage issues, standing water around spectator area.

Multi-use Fields: Multiuse field is impacted by ball fields. No dedicated soccer/football area. Create dedicated multi-use / soccer or football fields that serve cultural populations that do not play base ball.

Tennis: Tennis courts are well used but require reconstruction or relocation due to ground water or insufficient base design. Relocate and integrate tennis courts into higher intensity, visible areas. Reorganize to share tennis parking with additional facility parking needs.

Playgrounds: Playground serves the neighborhood but is in poor condition and does not appeal to kids older than 5 despite age rating on equipment. Not appealing for kids, especially those with potential access to other facilities. Need to provide substantial and varied playground amenities for neighborhood kids of all ages. Create area-wide draw with playground to increase exposure to other recreation and fitness experiences at the park.

Picnic Areas: Picnic area and grills in grove are used heavily during summer / weekends but vehicles going off-road causing damage to significant trees, trash left everywhere. Need to eliminate vehicular access to wooded grove of significant trees. Provide drive-up picnic areas in another location and limit grove to walk-up use.



6 Establish a local benchmark of how park land should interface with the river, include green infrastructure and enhance the ecological recreation experience.

Stormwater and Green Infrastructure: Untreated storm water from pavements and park areas is discharged to river, increasing river pollution and water temperature. Need to develop green infrastructure plan for storm water capture and treatment before discharge into river.

River Bank Ecology: Ecological gradients (moisture) between land and river are not as diverse at they should be to create positive impacts on river and provide diversity of recreation experience. Increase diversity of riverbank ecology through selective bank cut, riparian-area development, and native plantings.

Vegetation: Shoreline includes thick understory vegetation and heavily wooded. Current maintenance scheme requires yearly cut back to allow visual and physical access. Process requires excessive maintenance and costs. More pronounced on east side. Selectively thin river bank trees for visual interest and replant understory with native mass plantings that compliment the riparian edge and do not require yearly cutting.

Significant Trees: Park includes significant historic trees that should be protected and managed. No succession plan is currently followed for significant trees. Trees are planted in all available non-recreation field open areas resulting in loss of visual diversity. Protect significant historic trees and develop a park tree management plan that protects the diversity of species and visual contrast.

Turf Maintenance: Maintenance costs for lawn mowing is substantial at more than $2K per acre/year for non-recreation field areas. Recreation field turf maintenance is substantially more. Convert non-recreation field turf to prairie, meadow or drainage wetland. Recreation management journals are new proponents of this conversion for economic reasons.

Sedimentation and Maintenance: River has excessive sedimentation, partially due to natural character of upstream soils but also due to agricultural land uses south of City. River characteristics do support healthier ecology than downstream (north) of urban center. Utilize dock and revetment infrastructure location and design that reduces impacts of sedimentation on water recreation experience.

Bank Cut Harbor: Natural resource-based recreation is highest growing recreation sector. Water sports recreation is heavily reliant on quality of river experience. Develop bank cut harbor to increase shoreline diversity, park experience, and provide alternate novice water sports area and kayak beach entry.

7 Plan circulation and facilities infrastructure to promote both the neighborhood and the regional draw.

Park is Surrounded by Barriers: Surrounding land uses are enormous barriers to connectivity and mobility. Park is surrounded on 3/4 sides by land uses that prohibit access. Park is only connected to the urban street grid on 25% of periphery the 19th Ward and PLEX.

Airport: Airport is 900 acre barrier that includes airport-centric industrial land uses.

Limited Access Choices: I-390 highway, Erie/Barge Canal and the Genesee River act as barriers that funnel pedestrian and vehicular traffic to choke points.

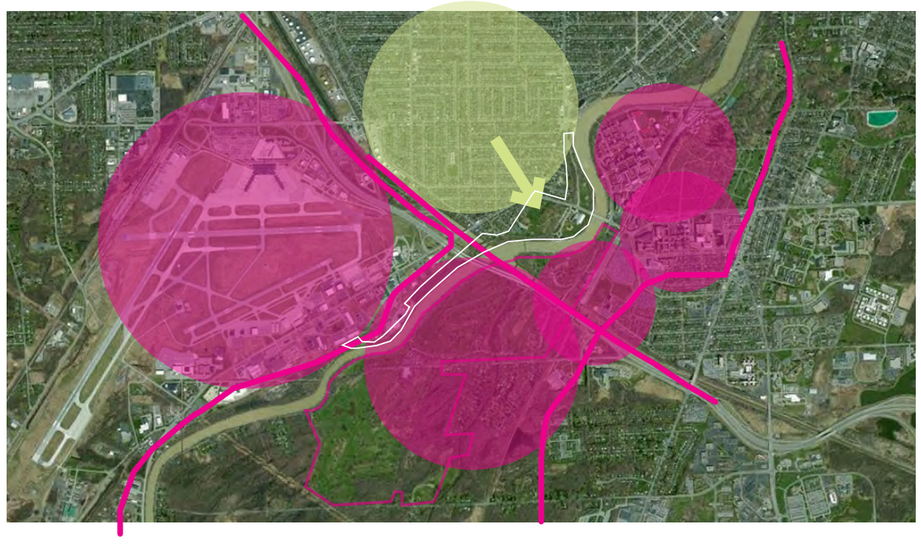
U of R Blocks Eastern Neighborhood Access: University of Rochester is pedestrian focused (internally) but acts as a large adjacent land use, separating neighborhoods from the park.

Medical Center and Parking: URMC Medical Center requires substantial amount of parking which has been placed at periphery of park. Created inhospitable access to nearby parkland from UR and Medical Center and neighborhoods beyond.

Park Size as a Barrier: Genesee Valley Park (eastern portion) also limits mobility to an extent, functioning as a large land use that separates neighborhoods from the active recreation experiences at GVPW.

Neighborhood Park with Regional Facilities: Park context makes it serve as a neighborhood park for 19th Ward and PLEX, but the park has facilities, infrastructure, size and natural resources of regional park.

Accommodate Vehicular Needs / Stop Off-Road Parking: Park's inhospitable land use context necessitates increased vehicular draw from surrounding areas to increase user base. The park would be much more successful if it were surrounded by more residential neighborhoods - but the current context requires careful consideration of vehicular circulation.



Other Active Recreation

Fly a Model Plane, Float Model Boats, Drive RC Cars, Play Tag, Chase, Hide-and-Seek, Use Playground Equipment, Swing, Dig in the Dirt, Play in the Water, Walk/Hike, Walk a Pet, Perform Music, Climb a Tree, Bungee Jump, Geo-Cache, Orienteering, Paddle Boat, Tai Chi, Have a Race, Fly a Kite, Hula Hoop, Ride a Horse, Camp Out, Falconry

8 Respond to the growing health care and fitness crisis by focusing on wellness and developing new public-private partnerships.

The Rise of Inactivity: Fitness remained stable throughout the 50s, 60s, 70s, but physical inactivity rats have risen more than 35% since 1980s. Lack of recreation and leisure experiences are directly linked to public health issues that are increasingly common and have had high-profile impacts on politics, society and the economy.

The Recent Trend of Health and Wellness: Recent "trend" toward healthy living is more than a "trend" - it is the early stages of a massive critical response to a genuine crisis.

The Impacts of Inactivity: 75% of all US health care expenditures are a result of chronic diseases, with a focus on those linked to inactivity and obesity.

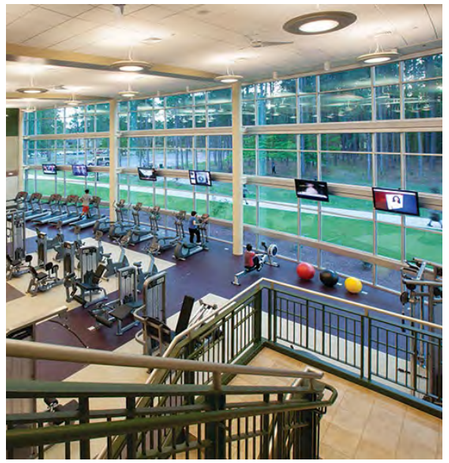
Inactivity Rates and Health Care Spending: New York has the 6th highest inactivity rate and health care spending is $8,342 per capita. Utah has the lowest inactivity rate in the nation and also has the lowest health care spending per capita ($5,031). This includes employer benefits and Medicaid spending.

3-Mile Radius Around GVPW: Out of pocket health care costs for households in the 3-Mile radius area around GVPW totaled $116,148,419 in 2012. This does not include portions of insurance paid by employers or Medicaid - only out of pocket expenses.

Tobacco Free Parks: A polarizing issue but trend is clear. Even 28% of smokers support tobacco-free parks. It's insincere to promote wellness and fitness while condoning a widespread public health issue.

Access to Fitness Equipment: This includes community gyms and fitness centers as well as outdoor gyms with weather and vandal resistant fitness equipment for strength and cardio training, free for all to use.

Shift and Increase in Recreation Resources: A radical increase in resources devoted to wellness and healthy living is the national strategy being developed to combat inactivity and heath care costs. Includes a proliferation of health and wellness programs and an increasing role of public-private partnerships and employer programs.



9 Plan facilities and programming to accommodate multi-generational, multi-purpose, and long-term recreation trends.

Unprogrammed Recreation Demand: Reductions in leisure time result in reduced demand for organized sports. Increased demand for flexibility, choice, unstructured gym time, personal outdoor experiences, no set schedules, no long seasons leagues or multi-week tournaments.

Economic Disparity and Diversity: Income is a key variable in participation rates. Equipment-focused sports are inaccessible for some households. Fees moving towards ability-to-pay rather than age-based. Diverse cultural participation requires broader programming, as some cultures only have interest in sports with simple equipment needs like soccer.

Facilities Consolidation: Trend for public facilities is the same as market-trends of less but larger, more efficient facilities, all under one roof. Facilities need to provide multi-purpose and multi-generational opportunities.

Resource-Based Recreation: Trails are the #1 desired amenity for all parks and open space. They are multi-purpose, self-programmed, and serve to enhance connectivity. Water sports are also seeing a demand increase for similar reasons (equipment costs and safety are an entry-barrier, learn-to swim is important). To encourage users trails and waterfronts must be monitored and managed similar to other "equipment" or users will quickly find better options if choice is available.

Sports Tourism: Mega-sporting events include community runs, marathons, regattas, and triathlon, and result in long-distance travel for many participants and families. Sports tourism has been good for local economies and is one of the fastest growing segments of the industry. It requires excellent facilities, and sophisticated marketing / planning. Events are often operated by non-profits or businesses that seek to use public facilities.

Aquatic Facilities: General trend is toward multi-generational/purpose facilities with pools, slides, spray areas, zero-depth entry, lazy rivers. Users will travel long distances to experience large and quality facilities. Aquatic facilities are popular for all ages and also allow for wellness programming such as aquatic therapy and injury training. Some trends move toward spray parks replacing pools, but swimming is a core skill for and is especially important for minority and lower income population where drowning rates are 300% higher.

Mobility/Accessibility: Accessibility includes not just required ADA access to buildings and facilities but providing recreational experienced to those with disabilities. Mobility trends show that increased resources are going towards planning for how users will get to a park, wether dedicated trails, community ride share, and ease of direct access from neighborhoods.

Technology: Digital fitness tracking expected to see incredible growth (32 million people by 2016, from nearly 0 in 2005). Devices now in cell phones, or other low cost electronics, to record workouts, collect performance data, goal setting, share with friends, doctors and insurance. May also contribute to lower individual health care costs similar to vehicle insurance for auto-tracking. Even as an immature technology it's a $70B/year industry.

Other: Natural / adventure playgrounds, looped/distance-marked walking paths, half-sized fields.

10 Focus on exceptional experience and attraction to the park over perceived demand and recreation “standards”.

Standards No Longer Apply: Recreation standards (number of facilities per capita) were discontinued by National Recreation and Parks Association in 1995. The NRPA revisions now function as general guidelines and they recommends that facilities planners consider local conditions and specific demand rather than a set number or ratio of facilities per capita.

The Experience Economy: Residents are increasingly seeking quality recreation experiences while cutting back on other necessities - even during a recession. But providing goods and services is no longer enough. Studies show that we receive more pleasure and satisfaction form investing in quality experiences over material goods - this is the Experience Economy.

Let Demand Rise Above Supply: Meeting perceived demand by maintaining a standardized number of facilities may be less important than actually making people want to use the park that has wonderful facilities. The best case scenario is that demand outstrips supply and the park is very well used and maintained, resulting in increased willingness to fund additional programs and services. Special attention needs to be directed towards equal opportunity of facilities - not pay-to-play however.

Desirability and Diverse User Base: Public parks are being used more than ever, but the Trust for Public Land notes that there is quickly a point where a park stops attracting people who have choices (more money and more free time). The park is unhealthy if it cannot attract a diverse user base and results in a low-use-low-maintenance feedback loop.

Those Who Can Pay Will Pay: Quality facilities significantly increases the willingness to pay by those who can afford it which results in increased operating expenditures. The trend is toward much higher quality facilities but less of them, as well as public-private partnerships.

11 Limit and Mitigate Physical and Visual Impacts from Adjacent Development and Non-Park Infrastructure

Rowing Infrastructure Pressure: Increasing popularity of rowing and watersports is a positive for Genesee Valley Park, the community and the river. However, pressure from various user groups continues to expand rowing and waterfront infrastructure along the river bank. New facilities designed inexpensively and hastily thwart the original purpose of the park – to provide the citizens with a meaningful natural river experience close to the City.

Brooks Landing Hotel and Hi-Rise: While new reinvestment and development at the Brooks Landing area is, in many respects, a positive effect for the community, the negative visual impacts on the Olmsted-designed park are significant. Existing visual impacts should be mitigated and new developments should be designed in the context of the park and consider its presence as the publicly-owned core of the community.

University of Rochester and the UR Medical Center: Much of the visual influence of the University of Rochester on the Park north of Elmwood Avenue is positive, with a well-maintained river edge and generally compatible buildings. The continued expansion and influence of both the UR and the Medical Center on the neighborhoods surrounding the park should be carefully controlled with respect to impacts to the public parkland. Current negative impacts, such as private parking on public lands, and private bus system using the park circulation infrastructure should be addressed. Long term impacts may be greatly unanticipated as the University expands.

Interstate-390: A comprehensive plan was prepared in the early 20th century to address the impacts caused by the canal being brought through the park. The same cannot be said for Interstate 390, which also bisected the park, albeit much later (1970s). The Interstate creates significant auditory impacts from high speed traffic. The sounds from the traffic can be heard throughout the park, including from the river.

Canal Authority Work: Lands adjacent to the canal function as park land but are actually owned by NYS Canal Authority. Dredging equipment is parked alongside a river overlook, at the foot of the historic pedestrian bridge, near a wooded grove of significant white oak trees. This is a visual nuisance and impacts from Canal Authority employees parking within the trees or driving off-road, or over sidewalks and trails to get to the barge are causing damage to the park landscape.

Monroe County Training Facility: The Monroe County Safety (Fire/Police) Training Facility was originally built on public parkland along the river front. The facility serves a public need, but negative visual and auditory impacts to park, trail and blue way users are high. These impacts include controlled fire burns, gunshots, chemical smells and possible environmental impacts from untreated stormwater discharge of a significant amount of paving area.

Industrial Land Use Along Scottsville Road: A considerable stretch of industrial land uses exist along Scottsville Road, with some adjacent to the park north of the Safety Training Facility. Town of Chili zoning and land use controls plan for future limited industrial investment to continue along this corridor. A select few parcels of former industrial uses just south of the Erie Canal on Scottville Rd are vacant. Any developments planned on these parcels should have potential park impacts assessed.

Division of Recreation & Youth Services Identified Program Opportunities

Passive Recreation

Eat, Drink, Gather with Friends or Family, Read, Write, Think, Sing, Garden, Yoga, Meditate, Watch Wildlife, Photograph Wildlife, Photograph People, Paint, Sketch, Drive a Car, Sit in a Car, Drive a Motorcycle, Visit a Nature Center, Build a Sand Castle, Search for Lost Coins/Jewelry, Sunbathe

The City's Division of Recreation & Youth Services worked with the project team to identify issues and opportunities that will guide programming recommendations. The following discussion points were either specifically requested or commented on by DRYS staff.

Concessions

There is a need for concessions / improved concessions services / area. Issues in the past with concessions contracts, City is actively trying to sign new contract, and would like updated infrastructure/facility. The arena and park use is very high and opportunities for concessions are not being fully taken advantage of. Many arena / park users comment on the need for concessions – noting that it's a large issue with the facility. However, there is still high use because of the quality of the ice and the customer service.

Outdoor "Patio" Area

Vendor would have ability to acquire liquor license to serves alcohol on adult game evenings or other large park events such as the Regatta. Arena complex could use outdoor patio area – "beer garden" – for event use and general improvement of experience. Current concrete pad outside of ice rink overhead door is sometimes used for BBQ events or outdoor gathering.

Indoor Sport Court / Synthetic Turf

Switch of sport court and ice rink take up recreation time. There are limited openings for sport court rental and high use/demand for the surface. A possible additional year-round sport court or synthetic turf facility would allow for greater range of programming. Need is there, commercial operators such as Total Sports Experience providing year-round facility.

Baseball Field #4 Use

Baseball Field #4 (full size hardball, lighted) is currently used too often for other park needs such as parking/trailers during the Regatta, other non-baseball sports leagues or users that want to rent the field with lights. This is due to the location right on the river, close to parking, between the Arena Complex and the GWC. There is a desire to either relocate the hardball diamond or somehow arrange future facilities so that the hardball field can be preserved for its intended use.

Ball Diamonds #5 & #6

Diamonds on north side of Elmwood are not as fully utilized as other fields on south side of Elmwood. This may change with the Little League starting up again. These diamonds received new backstops approximately 10 years ago.

U of R New Fields

Facilities that opened up last year at the University of Rochester have impacted amount of GVPW field use. Three teams moved their field use from GVPW to the U of R facilities. Without competitive quality infrastructure the park will not attract serious league play.

Tennis Courts

Severe issues with cracking / settlement of the tennis court surface. Thought to be due to high water table. Plan to reconstruct in the future at present location or a possibly new location. Have had some issues with crime at this corner of the park as it's far away from the rest of the facilities.

Field House

Building is well used by the community. Interior needs some upgrades but otherwise the location is good for the neighborhood and the demand is fairly high.

Baseball Facility

Dedicated baseball facility, including amenities such as dugouts, training/warmup area (batting cage), or other contemporary ball field complex infrastructure (bathrooms, practice area) would be well used.

Limited Public Skate Availability

Due to high demand for ice rink, time for public skating is limited. Would like to add additional slab due to high usage and availability to public (open skate). Rinks could be side-by-side and share infrastructure.

Pool Area / Aquatic Upgrades

Pool area needs gathering space and family space. This would allow users, parents, visitors watching events or children to be within the pool area. Spectators currently setup outside of the chainlink fence along the edge of the parking lot. An outdoor space with grass or other sitting amenities inside the fence would also greatly improve the experience of general open-swim leisure. Also a desire for indoor pool to allow for year round use – or a combination indoor/outdoor pool facility that will let sun in through the roof.

Spray Park

Spray park facilities are very popular and get intense use throughout the summer season. This water-play infrastructure mostly serves the local neighborhood. Closest spray facility to GVPW is Troup Street, which is extremely limited (only one very basic spray fountain) and nearly 2 miles away. Desire is for a larger facility that can accommodate many groups and families. Nearby Flint St recreation center (1.1 miles from GVPW) has a round outdoor pool that will likely be replaced with a spray park in 2014.

Circulation / Way-Finding

There are way-finding issues with through-trail users, which results in confusion and not knowing where to go to continue through the canal trail or Greenway Trail. Some trail users who have not been to the park before have trouble finding the continuing trail. Park staff has to prepare extra trail signs and/or remark the trails on a regular basis to help with way finding. This is less of an issue with Genesee River Trail users who use the trail on a more frequent basis. Also a need for trail way-finding signage directing users to downtown, corn hill and directions to nearby Brighton, Pittsford, U of R, RIT (Lehigh Trail)

Circulation Conflicts

Parks staff notes that the river front trail should be brought away from the boat house to lessen conflicts with rowing users at the water edge. The issue is compounded by the location of the trail/GWC waterfront and a nearby hill that tends to cause high-speeds right at the area where signs are directing bikers to walk their bikes (waterfront at the GWC facility).

Restrooms

Typically there are restrooms within the GWC building or other facilities for use. However, the restrooms in the GWC have experienced plumbing issues (sanitary line pump failures/backups) so these have generally been closed to public use. The City brings in portable toilets during the summer for the general park / recreation field use.

Skate Park

City is currently having a consultant perform a feasibility study for a large Rochester skate park down-river under the SBA-FD Bridge (east side). There may be desire for a small neighborhood-sized skate park.

Dog Park

Park is not currently heavily used for dogs and the City has not seen much demand for fenced dog parks.

Community Gardens

City has not experienced demand for community garden space within the park. There are a lot of vacant lots in the adjacent neighborhood and the City has a process for converting them to community gardens.

Programming Public Meeting Questions & Comments

General / Park Usage

Genesee Valley Park West is under-utilized, it needs to be heavily used

How are people using the park today? Are we tracking this usage? The consultant team has met with the Department of Recreation and Youth services to catalog all programmed events throughout the typical year.

Park activities should be recorded – tracking usage of vehicles parking where they should not be parking, garbage being thrown in the park. Cars are parked up on the grassy knoll near the picnic areas and grills. No respect or attention is paid to the rules or parking.

I am a long-time resident next to the park – for 50 years – and it is not as heavily used as it was years ago. We need to encourage heavier and wide-spread use again.

Town of Chili and Gates should be involved in the community input process. Genesee Valley Park West is used by these towns as well.

Discussion on how park land has been given to developers or used for non-park purposes. This needs to stop happening. Discussion on how and why the hotel happened and how to prevent something similar from happening in the future.

Request for the City to be fully open about the details of this project and listen to constituents, no more lip service. PLEX suffered the consequences of the hotel deal and the loss of parkland.

Restrooms for trail users and others passing through the park or using the recreation fields is critical. The port-o-potties are occasionally provided in the summer but they are awful and ugly and often get vandalized.

The area north of the 390 flyover, south of the canal, west of the river, and east of Scottsville Road should be cleaned up and incorporated into the park.

Circulation & Trails

We used to be able to drive through from Plymouth Avenue, now it is a one way in and out. It's confusing. What will this plan do to draw more people to use the park? Part of this reduced use is related to the condition of the ballfields (north of Elmwood) and the reduced connectivity to the park from the north when Plymouth Avenue was cut off.

Brooks Landing Phase II Public Improvement project will be improving the connection between the Brooks neighborhood and Elmwood Avenue through the park along the former Plymouth Avenue. There will be two way access to/from the park from Elmwood Avenue north to a turn-around, but only a one-way southbound connection from the public access easement, through the hotel parcel, and south to the turnaround.

Intersection at Elmwood to enter the park is badly designed and dangerous. It is very hard for people to cross and there is an issue with the traffic signal.

The entry into the park is confusing from Elmwood. It's very dangerous and hard to understand.

Need greater separation of vehicular from pedestrian. Vehicles often drive onto the internal park paths to access more remote locations.

Trail users get lost and have to often ask for directions when cycling through, especially canal trail users. There are serious way finding issues that need to be resolved to make it more clear for trail users.

Trail users have a hard time finding the Genesee Valley Greenway where it intersects with Scottsville Road. The trail system is disjointed. The Genesee Valley Greenway begins in GVP and extends to the south, off-road, until it meets Scottsville Road. From here it is on Scottsville and Ballantyne Roads for about a mile before it is once again off-road. From this point one can travel on the old rail bed all the way south to Sonyea, about 36 miles. Since you point out that GVP is the hub of all these regional trails it is imperative that the City reach out to the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway, the town of Chili and others to complete this connection.

If trail network is improved it would help make the park more accessible without driving cars and would be heavily used.

Genesee Valley Park West needs to be a gateway to the City from the south. City needs to work on connectivity with adjacent trails.

Sports & Recreation

Do not take the ball parks away.

Ball fields need to be improved.

A large baseball complex would feel very commercial. Would prefer a park-like setting with sports fields, not a large "complex".

Water is settling on the baseball fields north of Elmwood Avenue and limiting their use for the neighborhood. This needs to be fixed now. It is a very important issue for the entire neighborhood and the ball fields are an important activity for the neighborhood youth.

Discussion was held on preference for small-scale "sand-lot" style baseball fields vs. base ball "complex" with facilities. One attendee preferred small scale baseball fields, another would like to see something in between small-scale "sand lot" and a major ball field "complex."

Instead of having big bleachers for ball fields, why not incorporate grassed terraces like at the Saw Grass Golf Tournament.

Water Access & Boating

Would like to see more accessible boat launch for vehicles.

History & Cultural

Enjoyed the historic park development presentation and the attention paid to the park's Olmsted legacy. Don't want to repeat the same mistakes of the past with continually adding new infrastructure to the park based on styles and trends that will end up looking dilapidated and going against the ideals of Olmsted's original design.

Happy to see the significant work done on the historic research and the important Olmsted connection. New park features should really cherish the philosophy of Olmsted. Olmsted plans were beautifully drawn and it would be nice to see that level of work applied to this master plan.

Need to restore Olmsted's vision, stop staying from it and ignoring it like we have in the past. Every decision we make should be based on that original vision. The City has ignored it for too long and we have to say 'no more please.'

Are there any other Olmsted Parks with 6-lane highways built through them?

Environmental, Ecological & Views

Noise pollution from I-390 is bad. Would like to see something done to reduce this and make the park more peaceful. How can we reduce this noise? Would like to have areas that are quiet and meditative.

I envision beautiful nature as a background for sports and athletic fields. I would like to see special areas for preserving woodlands, old growth trees, and natural communities.

Nearby developments like Brooks Landing removed lots of vegetation from the park and opened up awful views from the old Genesee Valley Canal and Rail Road corridor.

Is the island sediment north of Elmwood Avenue going to be dredged out to remove the natural vegetation that has grown there? This should not be done. Leave the river natural.

Keep the Genesee Valley Canal / old rail road corridor treeless and free from disruption from stripmall-esque development. How can we screen of buffer the views of the hotel development? Similar to the buffering from the trial to the ice rink.

The tree inventory and age categorization are very interesting and should be used to inform the park design.

Other Positive Activities

Take a Nap, Pick up Litter, Sell/Buy Arts and Crafts, Sell/Buy Food, Stage a Concert or Play, Have a Party, Talk on the Phone, Surf the Internet, Send/Receive Email, Watch People, Homework, Kiss, Improvise Games, Hold a Class, Take Part in an Interpretive Walk, Watch a Historical Reenactment, Perform a Community Service, Restore a Landscape, Restore a Structure, Take Risks, Carry Out a Search and Rescue Drill

Meeting Comments Summary

- *Underutilized – needs to be more heavily used, not as heavily used as it was years ago*
- *Restrooms for trail users / recreation field users*
- *Clean up area near I-390 flyover – incorporate into park*
- *Elmwood entry intersection needs to be redesigned – dangerous, confusing*
- *Greater separation of vehicles and pedestrians in park – limit vehicle access to areas, remote areas of the park*
- *Trail users getting lost – need wayfinding, circulation*
- *Genesee Valley Greenway is incomplete (dangerous)*
- *Ball fields need to be improved (drainage, amenities, maintenance)*
- *More accessible boat launch for vehicles (better hand-carry access)*
- *Don't repeat the same mistakes – going against the principles of Olmsted's design*
- *Need to restore Olmsted's vision, ignored for too long – make all decisions based on the original vision*
- *Would like to have areas that are quiet and meditative – I-390 is noisy*
- *Want beautiful nature as a backdrop for athletic fields – create natural communities*
- *Screen views of Brooks Landing from park – development opened up negative views*
- *Do not dredge out the island sediment from the river, leave it natural*
- *Keep the Genesee Valley Canal / rail corridor treeless and free from incompatible development*
- *Use the tree inventory data to inform the park design*

Community Submitted Programming Comments

I have spoken to a number of neighbors and the following are suggestions for additional park use: Skate boarding, dog park, roller skate rink, bicycle racks throughout park, groom along river banks, but not as heavily as U of R side, basketball court, outdoor ice skating rink, Frisbee golf, picnic shelter, cross country groomed path (there is an organization that would pay for the grooming).

-Sheila Bazil

At yesterday's Southwest Common Council meeting, which we both attended, there was mention of consideration by the City to include an indoor rowing facility at the Waterways Center off Elmwood Avenue in Genesee Valley Park West. I would like to expand upon that idea in a way that would likely draw greater support. I suggest that the building include also a therapeutic "walking pool" and related facilities for persons recovering from strokes, injuries or impaired movement.

This would be a separate yet complementary facility to the swimming pool at the City's Recreation Arena on park land campus. It would benefit from the proximity to the University of Rochester Medical Center, URMC Sports Medicine Department, Sigl Center and local services for Veterans. The therapeutic pool facilities could possible offer a variety of features including water temperature control, buoyancy and water resistance. Some therapeutic pools offer a modified treadmill for walking. Mobility assistance features like ramps and overhead transfer slings could be incorporated in the design. Persons could transition to the indoor rowing facility option according to their abilities. When we conducted our public forums for our PLEX-SW Riverfront charrette we received consistent input from seniors that there were a lack of accessible rehabilitation, exercise and therapy options in the southwest quadrant. This could help address that gap. I am sending this reply to you and hope that you will pass it along to other City representatives and potential supporters.

-John Curran, Chair
PLEX-Southwest Rochester Riverfront steering committee

Proposed Boathouse Building Program (vs. Existing)

PROPOSED

Site

Rower parking spaces	TBD
Trailer Parking	TBD
Access to Canal Path	
Exterior Storage	800 SF

Admin/Office Space

Conference Room (100 cap.)	1,200 SF
Meeting Room #1 (20 cap.)	600 SF
Meeting Room #2 (20 cap.)	600 SF
Office, Director	200 SF
Office, Shared	200 SF
Office, Shared	150 SF

Boat Storage

Boat Bays include racing shell / oars storage, Safety Equipment, Cox Box Charging, Work Bench, Storage

Boat Bay 1	1,600 SF
Boat Bay 2	1,600 SF
Boat Bay 3	1,600 SF
Boat Bay 4	1,600 SF
Boat Bay 5	1,600 SF
Heated Repair Bay	1,600 SF

Toilet / Locker Rooms

Assumes public restrooms provided elsewhere in Recreation Facilities

Toilet / Locker Womens	1,400 SF
Toilet / Locker Mens	1,400 SF

Athletic Training

Indoor Rowing / Fitness Area	14,000 SF

Boat Livery / Public Rental Facility

Rental Office / Merchandise Sales	400 SF
Rental Office	200 SF
Rental Storage	1,000 SF
(canoes, kayaks, general storage	

Total Proposed Building Area **+/- 32,000 SF**
(not including site)

EXISTING

Site

Exterior Storage	10,000 SF

Admin/Office Space

Conference Room	800 SF
Office, Director	500 SF
Office, Shared	700 SF

Boat Storage

Big Boat House	5,120 SF
Little Boat House	3,200 SF
McQuaid Boat House	3,200 SF

Toilet (no lockers)

Womens Toilet	560 SF
Mens Toilet	560 SF

Total Ex. Building Area **14,640 SF**
(not including site)

Boathouse Program Background

The proposed boathouse program was developed by the project team based on a *baseline* proposed boathouse program established by the City of Rochester and supplemented with input from the rowing community and the Genesee Waterways Center. It represents the minimum program components that will allow anticipated growth for GWC programs. Note that rowing tanks were originally part of the proposed program but were removed due to rowing simulation technology advances that the rowing community believes will make rowing "tanks" obsolete within the next decade. The estimated 14,000 SF of area devoted to Indoor Rowing can accomodate either traditional tanks or rowing simulators.

Proposed
Site Character Zones

The Site Character Zones diagram was developed to recommend and establish the intent to rehabilitate the park to the historic Olmsted concept, that of providing natural views of the river plan and shielding "man-made" features as much as possible. These broad zones of visual character are meant to guide the master plan development process. The diagram is a guide for land recommended land use intensity and was used to develop initial site character concepts.

Olmsted-Design Integrity Areas

Rehabilitate these areas in the spirit of the Olmsted design intent and provide a compatible water-sports recreation experience. This includes low-impact, visually passive uses such as multi-use fields, open "meadow" views, and partial restoration of a continuous pastoral river plain. When structures are considered, they should strive to relinquish visual supremacy to the landscape and must be architecturally compatible with the period of historic significance.

Experientially Sensitive Preservation Areas

Preserve the natural and historic features currently existing in these areas as they significantly contribute to the park experience and character. Areas may benefit from rehabilitation of some elements or access and vegetative modifications performed in the spirit of conserving or enhancing visual buffers or significant features.

Neighborhood Fabric Connectivity Areas

Provide recreational, cultural and wellness opportunities that are accessible and integrated with the adjacent neighborhood fabric and Southwest Quadrant city-street grid. This includes higher-intensity recreational facilities and structures that do not require specialty natural resources (river) and would best serve the community by strongly integrating into it.

Recommended Park Character Concepts

Staying true to the proposed site character zones in varying degrees, three alternate park concept diagrams were developed to illustrate possible infrastructure levels and park land uses. Each concept is based on a theme as recommended by the master plan guiding principles. These include (A) Structures North of Elmwood Avenue, (B) Retrofit Existing Structures, and (C) Structures Into the Neighborhood Fabric. The concepts were reviewed by the City and project stockholders. Two were selected to further refine into preliminary master plan alternatives, including options A and C. Option B, the proposal to retrofit existing structures, was rejected by the reviewers.

Community /Bldg Infrastructure
Community-use buildings and structures
Fields & courts with associated structures
Multi-isle parking areas

Moderate Infrastructure
Small-footprint buildings and structures
Waterfront docking infrastructure
Large-scale fields and courts without structures
Lighted courts and fields
Limited multi-isle parking areas
Large-scale playgrounds

Limited Infrastructure
Large and small scale fields (unlit, no structures)
Single-isle parking areas
Trail amenities
Small footprint picnic shelters
Small-scale playgrounds

Preserve & Buffer Uses
Buffers to adjacent residential uses
Significant / historic trees

Option B “Retrofit Existing Structures” was rejected by stakholders.

Master Plan / Programming Recommendations

Historic Rehabilitation and Treatments

1 **Historic Rehabilitation:** Rehabilitate the park to its historic concept (not necessarily its historic condition of 1888), that being the preservation of unspoiled pastoral views across the river plain, while accommodating contemporary active recreation needs.

Period of Significance: The character of newly introduced facilities, building materials and features of the park should be clean, modern and appealing, but remain compatible with the park's established period of Significance, noted as 1888 to +/- 1940 (WWII).

2 **Remove Incompatible Structures**: Facilities and features that are not compatible with the Period of Significance should be removed from the park.

Site Character Zones: Park master plan should utilize the proposed Site Character Zones as a general guide for rehabilitation and siting new facilities. The zones outline broad areas that serve to distinguish important historic integrity areas, environmentally or culturally sensitive areas, and areas which may serve enhanced community connections or support facilities.

3 **Olmsted Bridge:** Restore or rehabilitate the State-owned pedestrian bridges designed by the Olmsted firm (all three within GVPW) as important an icon of the City's park system.

Genesee Valley Canal: Utilize interpretive design to highlight and evoke portions of the former route of the Genesee Valley Canal through the park and attempt to preserve portions of the canal prism that remain substantially intact.

National Register Status: The rehabilitated park (all of GVP) should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and ultimately contribute to the full nomination of Rochester's rehabilitated Olmsted park system to become a National Historic Landmark.

4 **Genesee Valley Park (East):** Future planning for Genesee Valley Park should be comprehensive and include the park's full context – both east and west sides of the Genesee River.

5 **Parkland Alienation:** Actively plan for the long term removal or relocation of factors and features that contribute to parkland alienation (non-park uses within the park boundary), such as the Public Safety Training Facility, UR parking use, Canal Corporation parking and equipment storage, and public transit/UR shuttle maintenance and queuing.

Olmsted Plant Palette: Future plantings should utilize a plant palette appropriate to the Period of Significance and the park's historic Olmsted-designed landscape plans.

Historic / Significant Trees: The master plan should promote the preservation and longevity of the park's significant and historic trees.

Bank-Cut Harbor: Develop long term plan for a bank cut harbor along the shoreline that both supports novice boating entry, ecological interest, and evokes the design intent of Olmsted's Red Creek "wetland" area historically planned for the opposite side of the river.

Historically Appropriate Trail Alignments: Redevelop portions of the park's trail system to be more compatible with the historic design style of the Olmsted firm, including longer and more broadly curving arcs, inclusion of stone or other appropriately edged paths, and the removal of unnecessary sharp turns, shallow arcs or other non-Olmstedian features.

6 **Vegetate the Elmwood Bridge Embankments:** Existing vegetation along the Elmwood Avenue bridge embankments includes smaller ornamental trees (Amur maples) and should be replaced with larger clusters of shade trees to be more compatible with the parks original master plan and planting plan.

X Numbered recommendations may be location specific or noted on the aerial park photo for clarity. See recommendations plan.

General Park Programming

Focus on Wellness: Park programming and facilities should focus on the future of recreation as an integral component of modern healthcare, new public health realities and likely future funding sources related to the personal fitness, health and wellness of the public.

Programming to Fit the Context: The park's unique river landscape and its historic character should play a primary role in assessing the limited capacity of the park to support active recreational facilities, fields and infrastructure.

Quality Over Quantity: Park programming and facilities should be designed to provide the highest quality experience that fits within the unique historic landscape, not meet perceived recreation demand by providing as many facilities as possible.

Community Mobility: Park plan should focus on community mobility and providing safe and efficient access for all types of users to park facilities from nearby neighborhoods, public transit use, and regional trails.

1 **Use the Waterfront Wisely:** Infrastructure and facilities visible along the river edge south of Elmwood Avenue and within view of the larger GVP context should be limited to recreational infrastructure that is water dependent. Visibility of non-water dependent facilities from the river should be minimized.

Smoking Ban: City should ban smoking in the park to support public health and wellness objectives. More than 900 municipalities in the United States have banned smoking in one or all of their public parks.

Fitness Technology: Park facilities and programming should incorporate popular health and fitness tracking-related technologies as a way to motivate and improve health and fitness among youth.

Picnic Shelters: City staff have indicated a strong desire for rentable picnic shelters to be incorporated into GVPW.

Restrooms: Safe, well maintained, and pleasing restrooms should be provided for park users.

2 **Link Across Elmwood Avenue:** Park areas north and south of Elmwood Avenue are poorly connected for pedestrians, trail users and general park use. A larger, more visible, and safer connection should be made.

3 **I-390 Treatments:** Positive treatments to either the landscape or use programming that better utilizes the neglected area below the I-390 overpass should be made.

4 **Connecting the Community:** Proposed community-based facilities that would typically be used on a regular basis by 19th Ward or PLEX residents should be located within easy access to the neighborhood (not away from the neighborhoods on the riverbank).

Outdoor Gathering Space: An outdoor gathering space should be provided for sports and spectator events at the park's ice rink facility, which may be associated with concessions.

Accommodate Sports Tourism: Provide adequate multi-use space, viewing areas, overflow parking or other features that support sports tourism events, including those that the park already hosts and future events.

Increase User-Defined Experiences: Increase infrastructure focus on user-defined recreation experiences and unstructured activities that recognize the trend toward reduced leisure time and the decline of participation in organized sports. These may include well-designed and attractive trails and walking paths, increased capacity for open gym/skate.

Lighted Recreation Fields: Lighted recreation fields intended for night use should be located away from the riverfront and be screened from both river views and neighborhood nuisance.

Canal Use: Capitalize on high annual Canalway trail use (102,000) by supporting through-rider needs, such as adequate trails, clear way finding and signage, observable bicycle repair stations, in-park overnight camping for canal cyclists or other opportunities.

Active Recreational Programming

1 **Relocate Recreational Structures:** Larger recreational structures and buildings not associated with watersports should be removed from the waterfront south of Elmwood Avenue.

Dedicated Facilities: In general, dedicated-use facilities that do not require prolonged downtime or annual reorganization are preferred over facilities that require seasonal modification.

Fitness Center: Park facilities should include a community-accessible fitness center, either associated with a new boathouse or incorporated into another facility within the park.

Indoor Skating: Long-term facility improvements should include a year-round indoor ice rink to replace the current seasonal indoor rink. As the City's only indoor public ice skating facility, keeping an indoor skating venue within GVPW meets a known demand. A dedicated year-round rink would be on par with regional private facilities and remove the twice-yearly downtime suffered by the current rink.

Outdoor Skating: Outdoor skating has been a tradition at GVP since its founding and a second, potentially smaller, seasonal outdoor skating facility should be incorporated into the park.

Indoor Pool / Aquatics Center: An indoor aquatics facility (which includes user-desired aquatics features such as pool, splash/spray zone, zero-depth entry, slides, lazy river) should replace the existing outdoor pool.

2 **Relocate Lighted Baseball Field:** Relocate full-sized lighted baseball field away from the riverfront and the Genesee Waterways Center to limit potential damage to field caused by use conflicts, parking or sports-tourism events.

3 **Tennis Courts:** Reconstruct or relocate the tennis court facility and maintain number of courts at current or higher levels (currently 8).

Field House: Existing field house should be rehabilitated to provide a more pleasing and desired experience, to be utilized for sports programming, private rentals or other needs. Facility may also be expanded or retrofitted to serve new adjacent needs such as baseball concessions. Field House may be removed if proposed park wellness and recreation center facilities are to be located at the community gateway area (corner or Elmwood and Genesee).

Artificial Turf Fields: City staff indicates desire for artificial turf to be incorporated into some or all of the baseball/softball and soccer/football fields in order to reduce maintenance expand the season of play considerably, and to compensate for reduced quantity of fields.

Baseball Field Amenities: Baseball field should include DYRS and publicly desired amenities that contribute to the play experience and attractiveness of the fields, including dugouts and warm-up areas.

4 **Little League Fields:** Park should include community-desired little league field drainage improvements or replacement of fields in another location. Low-infrastructure little league fields may be appropriate within river views.

5 **Football/Soccer Along the River:** Provide for football, soccer or low visual infrastructure multi-use fields along the river south of Elmwood Avenue.

Basketball Courts: Outdoor basketball courts should be provided to accommodate a known demand and to provide increased opportunity for individual unstructured recreation.

Cross-Country Ski Trails: Provide groomed cross-country ski trails throughout the park to support city-sponsored and individual winter recreation and fitness.

Half-Size Fields: Provide for half-sized fields where limited in space and to provide broader accessibility to youth sports programming for field sports such as soccer or football.

Enhanced Playground Experience: Provide for a greatly improved playground experience for both the adjacent neighborhood and organized sports or sports tourism visitors. Playground should include natural play areas, a children's garden, or adventure playground, and support a diversity of ages and experiences.

Outdoor Fitness Grounds: Provide an outdoor fitness area within the park with exterior grade fitness equipment. Fitness area should allow parents to exercise while watching their kids at a playground and/or support spontaneous use from nearby trail users.

Community Walking: Provide new community walking infrastructure that includes wide looped pathways, limited bike use, planned and marked distances.

6 **Fishing Access:** Improvements should be made to further define areas and opportunities for fishing within the park. This may include a combination of smaller, isolated fishing areas accessible by small trails or larger more passive fishing accessibility on proposed docks, waterfront improvement areas or formal vegetation clearings.

Park Waterfront Recreation and Watersports

1 **Upgrades Existing Dock Facilities:** Existing dock facilities should be upgraded in the short term, including removal of tripping hazards, retrofit for desired freeboard, and addition of floating debris guard structures. Additional suggested upgrades include provision of life ring and/or rescue rope stanchions, signage with emergency call numbers, near-dock emergency call boxes, dock-specific area lighting, and caps on the pin piles to lessen the likelihood of impale injury.

2 **Secure Existing HDPE Anchorages:** To ensure the retention of docks during high river velocity conditions, existing HDPE docks should be upgraded with more robust foundation anchorages, as the pin and pile systems show signs of movement and insufficient capacity.

New Boathouse: Provide a historically and visually compatible boat house within the park that meets the growing facility demands of the local rowing and paddling community and supports the City's long-term vision for the recreational use of the upper Genesee River and Erie Canal. The boat house should replace the existing facility and include needs previously identified by the City of Rochester and those identified by the Genesee Waterways Center. See proposed boathouse program.

3 **Boathouse Location:** A new boathouse is proposed to be located either north of Elmwood Avenue, or in approximately its current location with site modifications to make it more compatible with the park's historic rehabilitation.

Increased Dock Length: Provide for additional dock length at boathouse to support peak rowing demand, sports tourism events, and public launches. Include at least 50 additional feet of dock length, with a total length of approximately 500 to 550 feet, as feasible.

Safe and Robust Dock Systems: Dock systems should be provided that include provisions to minimize the effects of ice and debris within the river flow, including control booms, individual piles or pile clusters, or that are removable during normal winterization. New dock systems should potentially be designed as pile-supported or sleeve-piled permanent features to reduce maintenance and winterization costs and to better withstand natural forces. Docks should also include stable surfaces. Limit the use of HDPE modular units.

Desirable Dock Freeboard: Provide docks that achieve the recommended and desirable freeboard height above the water surface, which for rowers and paddlers is approximately 6 to 8 inches.

Boat Launch: Provide dedicated small-craft boat launch to support motorized chase boat use and possibly public motorized boat launches, as appropriate within the context and spatial limits of the park. A launch ramp may also be used to seasonally remove and reinstall floating dock segments.

Separate Motorized and Non-Motorized Facilities: Segregate, as much as possible, motorized and non-motorized craft for safety purposes. Consider providing a separate dock facility tailored specifically to the needs of the motorized boats, and located some distance away from the rower/paddler facility.

4 **Bank-Cut Habor / Beach Launch:** Provide beach-entry access to water for novice paddlers through a bank-cut harbor along the river edge, which also recalls the historic landscape, provides ecological interest and diversity, and creates a "natural" visual focal point along the river.

Waterfront Gathering Space: Provide promenade, additional dockage or other dedicated waterfront gathering space that can support physical and visual access to the river for park users, and potentially support event activities, spectator viewing and general public, or rower/paddler assembly.

5 **Sediment Accrual and Maintenance:** Monitor and evaluate water depths at dock areas and consider undertaking a maintenance dredging program should sedimentation accrual become problematic. Alternately, consider removing all docks, in their entirety, during the off-season which may allow the river to naturally flush some sediment from the site.

Car Top Public Launching: Provide more convenient arrangement for public car-top launch and retrieval, including both adequate lunching infrastructure and clearly identifiable circulation, parking and access.

Planning for Boathouse Growth: Plan for additional waterfront use and future boathouse development pressure by accommodating boathouse expansions in or near the park that do not compromise the park's rehabilitation.

Circulation

Enhanced Multi-Use Trail Network: Expand on and enhance the existing multi-use trail network by providing additional connections to adjacent neighborhoods, clearer routing and wayfinding, looped and measured paths, and dedicated bike or pedestrian lanes or trails. Enhancements should also include more adequate internal circulation between the park's periphery and recreational facilities.

Widen Trails / Trail Hierarchy: Trail improvements should include wider trails, at least 8 feet wide, or more in such cases where conflicts or heavy traffic may occur. Trails widths (and materials) should clearly exhibit a hierarchy that facilitates wayfinding and a pleasurable, safe-feeling passive use.

1 **Remove Rowing / Trail Conflicts:** Redesign trail system and boathouse waterfront area to reduce potential trail user (pedestrian/bike) conflicts with rowers, kayakers or other uses associated with the boathouse and dock area.

Enhanced Bicycle Infrastructure: Provide increased bicycle parking, repair and circulation infrastructure. General guideline is that bike parking should accommodate the equivalent of 10% to 15% of the number of provided vehicular parking spaces. Additional repair stations, located in an area more accessible to the Canalway Trail would be beneficial.

Reintegrate East and West Park Areas: Park plan should remove both real and perceived barriers between the park's original waterfront parcel and the later-added Frost parcel. This includes reorganizing park features without the significant constraints of the original park master plan (1888) and the latest master plan (1970s), which includes the former Genesee Valley Canal and the railroad.

Vehicular Access Further Into the Park: Vehicular circulation and general programming should take advantage of constraints removed since the 1970s by providing a historically appropriate parkway through the park that connects the river front with the current tennis court and upland areas.

2 **Improve Circulation North and South of Elmwood:** Future Elmwood Avenue bridge reconstruction should include moving the western bridge abutment further west into the park landscape to allow for a broad land connection under the bridge between the two portions of the park.

3 **Realign Elmwood Avenue Entry:** The park's main vehicular entry should be realigned to provide safer and more effective vehicular and pedestrian access into the park. Options include moving the entry drive on the south side of Elmwood further west to increase the distance between the light and the entry, or, perhaps more appropriately, realigning the north and south park entries to be associated with one single intersection.

4 **Elmwood Avenue Traffic Calming:** Elmwood Avenue is a significant barrier to the park's only adjacent neighborhoods and the streetscape along the park periphery should be modified to allow safe pedestrian access from the 19th Ward and PLEX into the park. With reduced traffic forecasted for Elmwood Avenue (due to new 390 interchange at U of R), changes should be made to the right of way that reduce traffic speeds and increase the street design focus on multi-modal use.

5 **Relocate Bus Drop-Off/Loop:** Current bus loop (and pool) prohibits realignment of entry intersection and should be removed. Bus loop is used by RGRTA and UR parking shuttles for queuing (including beyond the loop) and bus cleanup/maintenance, which is in a non-park use of parkland (alienation). Bus drop off should be sited within the Elmwood Right of Way or limited service may be provided to a more appropriate drop-off loop to future facilities.

Vehicular Access Control: A robust vehicular access control system should be provided to prohibit vehicular access to unanticipated/undesired areas which cause damage, maintenance problems and potential safety concerns. This is especially important for the periphery of the park and the wooded grove where existing picnic facilities are and may include curbed or more defined internal roadways and visually appropriate barriers or inhibitors.

6 **Remove U of R Parking:** Dedicated lease-based parking for U of R uses within the park should be eliminated due to parkland alienation concerns (non-park use of parkland) and incompatibility with the park's recreation use.

Adequate Parking: Due to limited existing use of the facilities, no additional parking is necessary for existing regular ice-rink or pool use despite being slightly below the required zoning requirements. However, future facilities improvements should accommodate possible increased parking demand, which supports the destination-based wellness and recreation services provided to a broader service area that primarily utilizes vehicular travel.

Trailer Access and Boathouse Parking: Provide for dedicated trailer parking in proximity to the proposed boathouse, including trailer access to docks, loading/unloading areas and/or boat launch as needed. Parking should be provided for at least five (5) trailers, which is the peak non-event (regular) trailer parking currently experienced by the Genesee Waterways Center. Additional parking for vehicles (without trailers) using public car-top launch facilities should be provided with easy access to both the boathouse and launch facility.

Arrangement and Location of Parking: Parking areas developed for lands south of Elmwood Avenue and within the viewshed of the eastern river bank should be small, clustered, and adequately screened. Larger parking areas for wellness and recreation facilities should be adequately screened from view to the river or sensitive areas of the park or park periphery, including pastoral meadows and adjacent residential uses.

Wayfinding and Signage: A comprehensive wayfinding and signage plan should be developed for the park that facilitates more convenient and clear pedestrian and vehicular circulation. This should facilitate enhanced wayfinding for both internal trails and external through-trails, such as the Canalway Trail, as well as vehicular parking, vehicular circulation and wayfinding for park facilities and nearby destinations outside of the park.

7 **Railroad Bridge Provides Access:** Rehabilitation of the former railroad bridge across the canal (along with associated trail additions) may provide handicapped access across the canal for park users. The adjacent Olmsted bridge currently (and may in the future, under a reconstruction scenario that maintains historic integrity) includes slopes in excess of accessibility guidelines.

Pedestrian Access Control: Introduced planting areas such as native habitats, green infrastructure installations, meadows, or no-mow lawn areas should include clearly defined peripheries that visually and physical provide some level of access control. Along with supporting signage, well-designed pedestrian access control can also identify special planting or habitat areas that are often misinterpreted as unkempt or unmaintained by park users or neighbors.

Universal Access: All facilities, including watersports / docks, trails, etc, should be fully handicapped accessible.

Genesee Valley Greenway: Though outside of the park boundary, the GVG route south of Rochester should be realigned and better connected, removing the undesirable and unsafe trail segment from Scottsville Rd and providing a dedicated multi-use trail. This will provide meaningful regional trail access to all points south, which is currently compromised by land ownership issues and an active rail crossing.

Views and Visual Character

1 **Views Across the River:** The location, architectural styles, massing and screening of buildings should be sensitive to the experience and views along the river. This is especially important in the context of Olmsted's historic park design, which strived to highlight the natural beauty of the river across GVP east and west and proposed to screen recreational facilities and/or only accommodate "man-made" structures north of Elmwood Avenue.

Spectator Opportunities: Selected areas of vegetation clearing, replanting and/or spectator supporting infrastructure should provided along the river to allow views of regattas or other watersports events. Spectator or river activity viewing infrastructure should be sensitively designed into the park landscape. Moveable or temporary structures sitting in the lawn should be limited or removed.

2 **Rehabilitate Olmsted Bridge and Protect Views:** Rehabilitating or reconstructing the Olmsted firm-designed pedestrian bridge and protecting views of the bridge and the viewshed from the bridge should be a priority. Vegetation at the foot of the bridge should be removed to restore, in part, the historic visual identity of the bridge as being connected to the land.

3 **Remove Vegetation Along River:** Reinforce the connection between the park and the river by clearing selected vegetation and opening up views to the river, the eastern side of GVPW, the City or other positive adjacent features. These may include the Olmsted bridge, pastoral fields, sight line areas to river features or interesting architectural features north of Elmwood, such as the UR's Interfaith Chapel.

4 **Remove Public Safety Training Facility:** The Monroe County Police / Fire training facility includes non-park or incompatible uses (parkland alienation) and should be removed from the park in the long-term. The facility is visually and acoustically (noises) incompatible with the park's Period of Significance, the adjacent character of the wooded trails and riverfront of the southern portion of the park. The facility should be more appropriately screened in the short-term, including more natural buffering (currently evergreen tree row) and possible trail realignments that reduce the impact of the facility on park users.

5 **Southern River Bank Views:** The southern wooded section of the park includes particularly limited opportunities to view the river or eastern bank. Views of the eastern bank of the river along this section of GVPW are also dominated by an intense vegetation buffer between the river and the GVP golf course. Both views of the river and the eastern side's golf course could be attractive from GVPW's wooded trails if carefully selected and some limited clearing may be appropriate.

6 **Mitigate Negative Hotel and Residential Tower Views:** Adequate and well-designed plantings should be included at the north end of the park (and in selected areas that receive negative visual influence) to mitigate negative views of redevelopment efforts in and near the north end of the park at Brooks Landing.

7 **Old Plymouth Avenue:** Framing of views and adjacent ball fields should be included along old Plymouth Avenue through the planting of appropriate trees and plantings.

8 **Manage Plantings in Wooded Grove:** New plantings in and around the wooded grove (the high point of the park) are negatively impacting the character of the grove, taking away small open grassy glades that provide diversity. Views into and out of the grove should be preserved or enhanced and new vegetation should be carefully planned in order to preserve the character of the grove. Open areas within the large wooded grove should also be preserved or carefully designed.

9 **Visible Connection Between North and South:** Provide enhanced visual connections between portions of the park north and south of Elmwood Avenue. In the short term, these may include trail realignments, vegetation removals, or Elmwood Avenue streetscape enhancements. In the long term this may include removal of structures and an expanded open and accessible land area below the Elmwood Avenue bridge (by moving the western bridge abutment inland to create connecting views at the ground plane.

Park Lighting, Amenities and Furniture: Park lighting, amenities, and site furniture should be both visually appealing, historically appropriate, and consistent throughout the park, including GVPW east. This includes the removal and replacement of incompatible lighting fixtures.

Intersection of Canal and River: Views of the landscape (and waterscape) where the canal meets the river should be protected from future incompatible riverside development. Interstate 390 and a recently constructed architecturally incompatible boathouse on \ the eastern shore are current negative influences on the viewshed and should me mitigated. Additionally, any new construction in this area should carefully be considered for visual appropriateness and negative impacts to the integrity of the historic landscape.

10 **Short Term Screening of Sports Complex:** Additional vegetation or plantings should be provided to more effectively screen views of the existing ice rink and sports complex in the short term. This includes screening views of the structure from the east side of GVP, across Elmwood Avenue and internally within GVPW areas south of Elmwood Avenue.

Views from Inside Buildings: In the short term provide and enhance existing views from inside buildings to the park and river to provide appealing and attractive indoor-outdoor visual connections to the park landscape and the river. New facilities should be designed to both blend into the landscape and take advantage of river and park views, providing more open and attractive building facades, allowing increased natural light and transparency that supports building uses such as fitness center, indoor track, swimming spaces.

11 **Picnic Area Access:** Vehicular and pedestrian access to the picnic area located within the significant tree grove should be redesigned to limit unauthorized vehicle use on park trails, walks, and lawn areas. Alternate picnic locations (including those with shelters, tables and grill) should be made more accessible to large gatherings and vehicles carrying coolers or other accessories that cannot typically be carried very far.

Consistent Signage: Provide more visually consistent signage and wayfinding infrastructure, which combines all potential signage needs of varying user groups into one consistent sign style for the park.

Consistent Dock Infrastructure: Provide more visually consistent and standardized dock infrastructure to reduce visual clutter along the riverbank.

Reorient Trail Segments to Views: Segments of the park's trail system should be realigned to better take advantage of positive views or reduce exposure to negative views. This may include existing views that should be mitigated (north end of park, hotel) and views that may be created by new facilities improvements.

Vegetation and Ecology

1 **Protect and Manage Historic Trees:** Preserve any Olmsted-era or significant trees identified within the park and make further assessments on health and disposition. Identified trees should be protected from impacts related to new park infrastructure.

Riverbank Character Plan: Include the identification of general treatments for the riverbank within the park, which may include preservation of "wild" areas, clearing of vegetation for views or historic integrity, introduction of native riparian species, or other appropriate treatments. Open areas should be created every 100 to 500 feet along the river to promote a rehabilitated Olmsted pastoral character.

Remove Invasive Species: Invasive species should be removed for the park. Species include any of those identified as invasive in by the NYSDEC, and may include species such as Burning Bush, Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites, Wild Grape, Norway Maple, Purple Loostrife, Multiflora Rose, Tree of Heaven, Russian Olive, Brandford Pear, Black Locust, among others.

Inappropriate Tree Species: Planting of inappropriate tree species should be limited or eliminated. These include excessive quantities of trees not included in the Olmsted planting palette, invasive species, or species that exhibit reoccurring problems with pests or disease, fungus or other negative characteristics such as weak wood, or extremely poor longevity.

2 **Clear Vegetation at Selected Bridge Landings:** Clear vegetation at selected bridge abutments and bridge landing sites to reestablish historic character or remove the "overgrown" look. Historically the bridges contact with the land was visible and the bridges did not "disappear" into tree canopy or vegetation.

Tree and Vegetation Management Plan: Park trees will benefit from the development of a compressive tree and vegetation management plan. The plan should serve to preserve identified historic trees, provide specific and well-designed process for reintroducing and maintaining the park's pastoral landscape, and individually assess tree health and provide vegetation maintenance recommendations on a regular basis. Maintenance recommendations should include identification of hazards, succession planning for older wooded areas, appropriate species identification (see Olmsted lists), site specific riverbank vegetation control, and identification and removal of invasive species.

Defined Landscape Contrast: Provide for more defined landscape contrast between maintained recreation, passive turf, "wild" wooded understory, or introduced meadow / low maintenance areas. This includes providing access control features and signage that may identify areas as "natural" rather than unkept.

Reduce Mowing Maintenance: Reduce the acreage of turf that requires mowing that is not associated with recreation fields (currently +/- 31 acres or 37% of park). A range of alternative treatments may include wildflower meadows, no-mow lawn, alternation of mowing schedule or introduction of additional "natural" native species planting areas.

3 **Expand Riparian Areas:** Expand the riparian landscape zone along portions of the river by regrading embankments, expanding inland reach and diversity of soil-moisture, and establishing pockets of native plant communities. Trail alignments should be modified to both accommodate these riparian area expansions and take advantage of the diverse landscapes created.

Green Infrastructure and Storm Water: Minimize impact of stormwater runoff on the river by limiting the quantity of impervious surface (currently 15% of park area) and introducing significant green infrastructure practices to treat all stormwater before it enters the river or stormwater system.

Olmstedian Plant Palette: Plant species specific to the park's original planting plan, or that are otherwise appropriate to the historic Period of Significance, should be utilized as much as possible to rehabilitate the park's pastoral design, frame and arrange views, and contribute to the park's user experience.

4 **Park Entry Enhancements:** Enhance plantings to include accent and ornamental features at the park's vehicular entry from Elmwood avenue and at other park entry nodes or access points.

Treed Parkways: Vehicular drives within the park should be supplemented with tree plantings to reinforce pastoral edges or define traditional parkways as appropriate.

5 **River Sediment Islands:** Maintain vegetated sediment "islands" at selected locations where they exist within the river and do not conflict with improvements. There is a public desire to keep these from being removed through dredging and they are part of the natural river process, which is of interest to many park users and paddlers.

Green Buildings: New construction within the park should incorporate green building technologies and maintain endorsements from sustainable development rating initiatives such as Sustainable Sites (ASLA) or LEED (USGBC) accreditation.

Selected Master Plan Programming Recommendations

See Master Plan Programming Recommendations List

- Historic Rehabilitation & Treatments
- General Park Programming
- Active Recreational Programming
- Waterfront Recreation and Watersports
- Circulation
- Views and Visual Character
- Vegetation and Ecology