



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

Robert G. Wehle State Park

Master Plan Amendment

Parking Lot Expansion

**Jefferson County
Town of Henderson**

July 27, 2020



MEMORANDUM

TO: ERIK KULLESIED, COMMISSIONER
FROM: Nancy Stoner, Environmental Analyst
DATE: JUNE 17, 2020
SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT ADOPTION FOR SIGNATURE

Enclosed for your signature is a master plan amendment for adoption, as detailed below. Please sign this cover memo at your earliest convenience. This memo serves as a record of the review and approval of the document by Counsel's Office, the Regional Office, the Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning and the agency's executive staff team.

Document Details:

Park/Historic Site: Robert G. Wehle State Park

Region: Thousand Islands

Document Type: ☐ New Master Plan
☒ Master Plan Amendment

Description:

In the almost 10 years since adoption of the Master Plan, there has been a modest increase in park usage. The Park has been slowly gaining popularity. This has been attributed to better publicizing of the Park and its amenities and the introduction of scheduled events, such as, 5K runs, kite days, kids' recreation days, and boy scout events. A decade ago, the parking lot was full to overflowing about 1-2 days per year for holiday/large events. Currently, the parking lot is full to overflowing 4-5 days per week during summer months (June-September). Presently, four (4) large events are scheduled per year, but the park would like to add more. However, due to a lack of parking and staff to direct, the park doesn't want to add these events until more organized parking has been expanded. Overflow parking occurs on the lawn adjacent to the parking area and can become muddy during rain events. As overflow parking is needed on a more regular basis, expansion of the existing parking lot and stabilization of the overflow parking area has been proposed. No Findings Statement is required as this is not an Environmental Impact Statement. A Short EAF was completed as the project is considered an Unlisted Action.

Review Record:

	Name & Title	Initials	Date
Region	Name: Mark Spaulding Title: Assistant Regional Director	Mark Spaulding Digitally signed by Mark Spaulding Date: 2020.07.09 11:01:50 -0400	7/9/20
Division of Environmental Stewardship and Planning	Name: Diana Carter Title: Deputy Division Director	Diana Carter Digitally signed by Diana Carter Date: 2020.07.09 12:42:30 -0400	7/9/20
Counsel's Office	Name: Shari Calnero Title: Associate Counsel	Shari Calnero Digitally signed by Shari Calnero Date: 2020.07.14 11:33:58 -0400	7/14/20
	Name: Kathleen L. Martens Title: Acting General Counsel	Kathleen L. Martens Digitally signed by Kathleen L. Martens Date: 2020.07.09 13:14:30 -0400	7/9/20
Executive Staff	Name: Tom Alworth Title: Executive Deputy Commissioner		7-15-20
	Name: Erik Kulleseid Title: Commissioner	EK Digitally signed by Erik Kulleseid Date: 2020.07.27 11:14:30 -0400	7-27-20

Development Team

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Introduction

Consistent with the intent of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) prepared a Master Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Robert G. Wehle State Park (Park) (OPRHP, 2010). Environmental factors were considered in evaluating the plan alternatives and in selecting the preferred alternative, i.e., the Master Plan document (2010 Master Plan). The environmental setting of Robert G. Wehle State Park is discussed in Chapter 3 of the 2010 Master Plan. The 2010 Master Plan/EIS can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/master-plans.aspx>

The 2010 Master Plan indicated there was no need to change or expand the parking layout at the Park. The paved 38-car parking lot, at the time of the Master Plan development, met the capacity needed for the existing and proposed park use and activities. The Park roadway and parking lot were noted in good condition and no changes were proposed. There are two small trailhead parking areas along local roads to access trails in the Park; no changes were recommended for these areas. See Figure 16 of the Master Plan (Trail Map) for parking locations. The Master Plan concluded that overall the additional amenities proposed in the Plan were not expected to significantly increase visitation of the park.

In the almost 10 years since adoption of the Master Plan, there has been a modest increase in park usage. The Park has been slowly gaining popularity. This has been attributed to better publicizing of the Park and its amenities and the introduction of scheduled events, such as, 5K runs, kite days, kids' recreation days, and boy scout events. A decade ago, the parking lot was full to overflowing about 1-2 days per year for holiday/ large events. Currently, the parking lot is full to overflowing 4-5 days per week during summer months (June-September). Presently, four (4) large events are scheduled per year, but the park would like to add more. However, due to a lack of parking and staff to direct, the park doesn't want to add these events until more organized parking has been expanded. Overflow parking occurs on the lawn adjacent to the parking area and can become muddy during rain events. As overflow parking is needed on a more regular basis, expansion of the existing parking lot and stabilization of the overflow parking area has been proposed.

All trail modifications proposed in the Master Plan were completed in 2016. No further trail improvements are scheduled at this time. Enhancements at the Park currently underway are installation of a new playground and rental cabin upgrades; the latter was called for in the Master Plan. Additional park enhancements, that are noted in the Master Plan and planned for installation in 2020, are the addition of a new picnic and overlook area and a group camping area. Two picnic pavilions are expected to be constructed in the next year or two.

Due to the modest increase in use of the Park, OPRHP has determined it is necessary to expand the footprint of the main parking lot to accommodate increases and projected increases in visitor use. The expansion of the existing parking lot and stabilization of the overflow parking area were not included in the Master Plan but are deemed appropriate and in lieu of developing a new parking lot elsewhere in the Park. The existing lot is central to the main park amenities including the visitor center/restroom, court games, and park office.

The information that follows describes the current project proposal, compares the master plan components to the new project proposal, provides a rationale why the proposed project is now preferred over the Master Plan, and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed project.

Together with the Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) (attached), project drawing and the information contained within the 2010 Master Plan/EIS, this document constitutes an Amendment to the 2010 Master Plan for Robert G. Wehle State Park.

Project Description

The Project/Amendment is the expansion of the existing main parking lot at Robert G. Wehle State Park. This involves expanding the existing 162'x168' parking lot by 100' to the WSW and adds approximately 40 spaces (totaling 82). The expansion includes: 12"-18" of compacted crusher run subbase; asphalt finish; topsoil to finish grade; a five-foot wide accessible (ADA) concrete walkway replacing the existing stone dust walkway; concrete filled bollards; and plantings. The existing kiosk will be relocated to the WSW side of the existing stone dust footpath adjacent to the parking lot for visitor orientation and education.

The project will also construct an approximately 130' x 130' (0.40 ac) overflow parking area to the NE of the existing parking lot. The overflow parking area will be stabilized using a geoblock turf reinforcement system. This system is much less obtrusive than a fully constructed parking lot. The system involves boxing out 8" of existing material, placing 6" of engineered subbase, laying the 2" geoblock reinforcement and backfilling with original topsoil and seeding. Once the lawn is reestablished, the system becomes unnoticeable. The system can handle fully loaded emergency vehicles, dump trucks and/or bus style recreational vehicles, which the park does experience. The RV's will take up two stalls of the current parking lot at a time.

The total expansion area is approximately 0.80 acres. The existing parking lot, as well as the small paved expansion, will allow stormwater to sheet flow onto the adjacent lawn. Experience shows that the water percolates through cracks in the shallow rock layer and ponding is not expected. No stormwater retention areas are planned for this parking lot. The design includes native tree and shrub plantings around the parking lot for visual appeal, vegetative screening from areas around the lot, and shading/cooling effects.

An expansion of the existing parking lot is proposed to accommodate the increased use, instead of developing a new parking area elsewhere in the park. As noted above, this location is central to the main park amenities and helps to limit the amount of vehicle use further into the park. The expansion occurs into an open grassy area with minimal impacts on vegetation.

Comparison of Master Plan/EIS to Conceptual Design Proposal

Category	Master Plan	Conceptual Design Proposal	Considerations
Parking	• 38 car parking lot meets capacity needed for park use • No expansion recommended	• Expand paved parking lot by 40 spaces, doubling capacity • Construct permeable overflow parking area for 50 spaces • Construct concrete walkway replacing the existing stone dust walkway • Tree plantings around parking lot included in design	• Existing increased public use of park warrants additional parking capacity • Overflow parking area on grassy area gets muddy and degraded with more consistent use; diminishes visitor experience • Expansion into an open flat mowed grassy area • Doubles parking capacity while expanding lot size by 40% • Impacts not addressed in the Master Plan
Historic/ Archeological resources	• No expansion.	• Ground disturbance will require Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) consultation	• DHP Consultation complete; no impact letter dated May 2019

Environmental Impacts of Project/Amendment and Proposed Mitigation

Transportation, Access and Traffic

This Amendment to the 2010 Master Plan does not significantly change traffic patterns or access to the Park. The parking lot expansion is simply accommodating the existing modest increase in use over the past ten years. The expansion will double the capacity of the small parking lot while only increasing in footprint size by 40%. The overflow parking area will better accommodate vehicles on busy days. The lot will continue to include accessible parking spaces. Traffic flow into and out of the park will remain the same with no changes to road alignments.

The Amendment concentrates the parking lot expansion construction and impact in one main area of the park and in close proximity to the high public use areas, thus reducing potential new construction and increased vehicular access further into the park. The parking lot will be expanded into an open mowed grassy area limiting potential impacts to vegetation. The expansion area is the current location of a stone dust footpath and kiosk leading to the visitor center/restroom. The kiosk will be moved further along the pathway and the footpath will be paved. Bollards will be used to keep vehicles from entering pedestrian sidewalks. The existing low wooden guardrail system will be extended to bound the expansion to keep vehicles off lawn areas.

Recreation and Park Development

The Amendment improves recreation at the park by expanding the parking capacity to accommodate visitor needs and enhance the visitor experience. Visitors will no longer need to park in overflow grassy (and sometimes muddy) parking areas on a regular basis. Recreation amenities and open space are maintained as provided in the 2010 Master Plan.

Land

The Amendment will result in some minor physical change to the land due to the expansion of the main parking lot. Physical disturbance is estimated at approximately 0.8 acres, including the expansion of the parking lot, overflow area, walkway, and plantings. The expansion area is open and flat; minimal grading will need to occur. The soil is about a foot deep to the bedrock layer. The expansion involves raising the surface with crushed stone subbase fill and asphalt, so no rock excavation is anticipated. Staging will take place in currently open, previously disturbed areas. Park roads will be used to access the project area.

Water Resources

It is not anticipated that the Amendment will have any adverse environmental impacts on water resources adjacent to or within the park. Lake Ontario is the primary water feature at the park; the project site is located over 1,300 linear feet from the lake's shoreline. There are no mapped state or federal wetlands in the vicinity of the project.

Any activity that disturbs soil can result in stormwater runoff or sedimentation. This area is flat with minimal grading and not near any water resources. Due to the small footprint of the lot expansion, no permits are required from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The project will result in an increase in impervious surfaces (~17,000sf). The existing parking lot, as well as the small expansion, will allow stormwater to sheet flow onto the adjacent lawn. Experience shows that the water percolates through cracks in the shallow rock layer and no ponding is expected. No stormwater retention areas are planned for this parking lot.

Floodplains

According to the National Flood Insurance Program maps for the Town of Henderson the park is located within a "Zone C" area which is an area of minimal flooding. These maps also indicate that

Lake Ontario at elevation 249' is within a "Zone A1" which is the 100-year flood zone. Any areas of shoreline at elevation 249' or below would be subject to such flooding. The project site is at an elevation over 300'. There are no expected impacts to the floodplain.

Biological Resources/Ecology

The Amendment is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on the natural resources at the Park. The project takes place in an open, mowed, grassy area directly adjacent to the existing parking lot. This focuses the development in one area close to existing amenities and infrastructure. Minimal vegetation will be impacted as this area has limited environmental sensitivity. The rest of the park will remain in its natural state, retaining open space as laid out in the Master Plan.

Ecological Communities

According to the New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) database, there are two significant natural communities in the Park: Alvar Pavement Grassland and Calcareous Shoreline Outcrop (NYNHP database, accessed July 25, 2019). These are located in the southern portion of the park and along the shoreline, respectively. There are no expected adverse impacts to these significant resources.

Plants

The Amendment does not include significant removal of vegetation. There will be some minor vegetation removal consisting of mowed grassy area and one tree. The NHP database indicates occurrences of Cork Elm (*Ulmus thomasi*, state threatened) in the park. There are no Cork Elms in the vicinity of the project, and this species will not be impacted by the project. All new vegetation plantings will follow the OPRHP Native Plant Policy (2017).

Animals

The park's wildlife is typical of the region and the rural setting. The park supports a wide diversity of mammals, birds, fish, amphibian, reptile and insect species that are common to the northeastern United States. There are no known occurrences of rare animals in the park.

Invasive Species

The park contains an extensive infestation of the invasive plant pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*). This is an aggressive invasive species from the milkweed family that can form dense patches that crowd out native plant species and impact wildlife habitat. Other invasive species known to occur in the park include multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

This Amendment is not expected to result in additional invasive species to the park. Introduction or movement of invasive species during and after construction will be minimized by cleaning equipment prior to arrival on site. Care will be taken during construction and planting to avoid inadvertent transportation of invasive plant material. All equipment, soils, straw and other construction materials used in the park will be inspected to assure it is not transporting invasive species. Other invasive species management and monitoring will follow the Master Plan Appendix B – Invasive Species Management Plan.

Cultural/Archeological Resources

The project contained in this Amendment has been reviewed by the OPRHP Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) in accordance with Section 14.09 of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law. The DHP is of the opinion that the project will have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places (Lynch, 5/9/2019).

Scenic Resources

The park is classified as a Scenic Park, which reflects the scenic nature and the type and level of development proposed within the Master Plan. The Amendment will not detract from the scenic nature of the park. The expansion takes place at the existing parking lot and vegetative screening of trees and shrubs are included in project design to minimize visual impacts to surrounding areas in the park.

Air Quality, Noise, Odor

There will be a minimal increase in air quality impacts as compared to the 2010 Master Plan as the Amendment results in an additional 40 parking spaces with additional overflow parking capacity. As the expansion is expected to accommodate existing use, there is not an expected increase in air quality impacts over existing conditions. Additional parking will increase long-term vehicle emissions but will not have a significant impact on air quality in the park and surrounding area. During construction, a short-term increase in vehicle exhaust and noise will result in additional minor impacts. There will be no long-term noise or odor impacts above ambient levels associated with this project.

Public Health and Safety

As noted in the 2010 Master Plan, public health and safety of patrons and staff will continue to be a priority. The Amendment will enhance public safety by providing additional paved parking and a stabilized overflow parking area. Facility design and construction will meet applicable health and safety codes, including compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The parking areas and pathways will be carefully designed for vehicular and pedestrian safety.

The majority of the park is noted as Site ID 623026 in DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database due to the Madison Barracks Target Range as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS). It was comprised of approximately 866 acres which includes a small arms range used for training purposes. (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3>, accessed 7/15/2019). This arms range is in the northern portion of the park and will not be impacted by this project.

Growth and Character of Community and Neighborhood

The Amendment doubles the capacity of the main parking lot by adding 40 parking spaces. This is expected to accommodate current use, nine years after adoption of the Master Plan. This enhancement will have a beneficial impact on the community through improved access to recreational and interpretive opportunities provided at the park.

Use and Conservation of Energy

The implementation of the Amendment will result in minimal increases in short- and long-term energy use. The short-term use of fuel will increase over the duration of construction and in the long-term due to the addition of vehicular access and parking.

Unavoidable Adverse Effects

There will be some minimal unavoidable adverse impacts associated with the implementation of the Amendment. There will be some minor vegetation removal in the form of grass and one tree. There will be the temporary adverse air and noise impacts as a result of construction activities. The addition of approximately 0.40 acres, as compared to the 2010 Master Plan, of impervious surfaces will increase short- and long-term stormwater runoff and potential for erosion. Site conditions are such and the parking lot is so small that no stormwater management treatment is required or necessary.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources

There will be the irretrievable commitment of public resources in the form of time, labor, and materials as a result of the development and implementation of the Amendment. There will also be an increase of short-term energy use for construction of the parking lot expansion.

Relationship to Other Programs

Robert G. Wehle State Park is located within New York's coastal area, specifically Lake Ontario. In accordance with the New York Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act (Executive Law Article 42) state agency actions within the coastal area must be evaluated for their consistency with the State's coastal policies. The overall objective of this program is to assure a balance between development and preservation of the State's coastal areas.

Robert G. Wehle State Park is not located within an area that has a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP); thus the Agency has evaluated consistency with State Coastal Policies. A Coastal Assessment Form (CAF) was completed to assist in the identification of applicable policies. OPRHP has determined that no further analysis is required for this project. Based on the review of the CAF, it is OPRHP's determination that the action will not substantially hinder the achievement of any of the policies and purposes of the State Coastal Policies as described in the New York Coastal Management Program.

Summary of Environmental Review

OPRHP has determined that this Project/Amendment constitutes an Unlisted Action under SEQR. This is because it involves the physical alteration of less than 2.5 acres of parkland while not being classified as a Type II action within Part 617 of SEQR regulations.

The 2010 Master Plan did not identify the need to expand parking capacity at the park, noting that overall the additional amenities as proposed in the Master Plan were not expected to significantly increase visitation of the park. Due to recent publicizing of the park and new events taking place there, visitation has increased modestly, and additional formal parking is warranted. The project will expand the existing parking lot and stabilize the overflow parking area in the main day-use area of the park, limiting potential new construction and additional vehicle access further into the park.

OPRHP acknowledges that some of the improvements proposed in the Master Plan have not yet been implemented. These include formalization of a group camping area, and formalization of an overlook with covered picnic shelters along the shoreline. Currently, a new playground is being installed. If future improvements, as called for in the Master Plan or otherwise, result in increased visitation requiring additional parking capacity, further environmental review and analysis will be required. OPRHP will need to reconsider the amount of use at the park and its potential impact on the resources.

Paragraph 19 of the Findings Statement of the 2010 Master Plan describes when supplemental environmental review is required. These include: new actions not addressed within the Plan that are not Type II actions within Part 617; any change from the preferred alternative for recreational and facility elements of the Plan that would result in significant adverse environmental impacts; and any leases, easements or other agreements between OPRHP and other entities that would affect resources in a manner that is not adequately addressed in the Plan.

Based on the above evaluation of environmental impacts, the preparation of a Short Environmental Assessment Form (attached), and the review of the 2010 Master Plan/EIS including Findings Statement, it was found that the Project/Amendment minimizes environmental impacts, avoids sensitive and significant resources, adds benefits to public safety, and increases protection of

resources. There are no significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the Project/Amendment and OPRHP has issued a Negative Declaration.

Resources

Lundgren, J. A. and K. J. Smith. 2008. Rare species and ecological communities of Robert G. Wehle State Park. New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and New York Natural Heritage Program, Albany NY.

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2019. Element Occurrence Dataset. New York Natural Heritage Program, State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Albany NY. Accessed July 2019.

New York Natural Heritage Program. 2019. Online Conservation Guide for *Alvar pavement grassland*. Available from: <https://guides.nynhp.org/alvar-pavement-grassland/>. Accessed July 25, 2019.

OPRHP. 2010. *Robert G. Wehle State Park Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Albany: Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Appendices

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

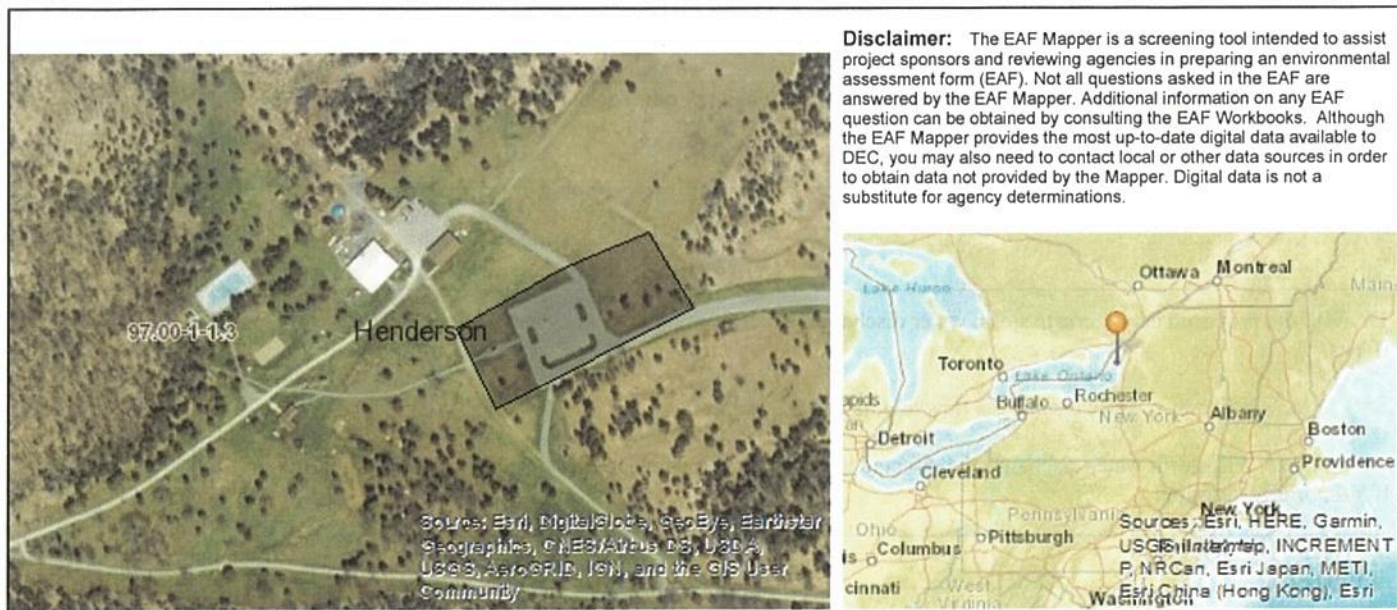
Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information			
Name of Action or Project: Parking Lot Expansion			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): Robert Wehle State Park, 5182 State Park Rd., Henderson, NY			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: Expand existing 162' x 168' parking lot by 100' to the SW. This will add approximately 40 - 10' x 20' stalls, totaling 82. Installation will include 12" - 18" of compacted crushed stone and four inches of asphalt. Topsoil to final grade. Trees to be planted for aesthetics, shade and screen. The Final Master Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement dated 11/17/2010 indicated that the parking lot, at that time, would not require expansion and would remain the same. However, since the writing and approval of that document, patron usage has increased considerably and demands more parking space to accommodate them. On maximum vehicle days, which occurs more frequently, vehicles are forced to utilize the overflow parking in the adjacent field. When the overflow parking area has wet soils, parking in this area becomes more problematic. Therefore, it is advised and proposed to expand the existing paved parking lot and construct an approximately 130' x 130' (.40 ac) overflow parking area to the NE. This overflow parking area would propose a permeable, reinforced grass system that would allow the weight support of heavy traffic while allowing grass to grow and water to permeate.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: NYS OPRHP		Telephone: 315-482-2593	
Address: 45165 NYS Rt. 12		E-Mail: daniel.pease@parks.ny.gov	
City/PO: Alexandria Bay		State: NY	Zip Code: 13607
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.		NO ☒	YES ☐
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval:		NO ☒	YES ☐
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		2.63 acres	
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		.80 acres	
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		1067 acres	
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. ☐ Urban ☒ Rural (non-agriculture) ☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☐ Residential (suburban) ☒ Forest ☐ Agriculture ☐ Aquatic ☐ Other(Specify): ☒ Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	☐	☐	☒
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	☐	☐	☒
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	☐	☒	
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area?	NO	YES	
If Yes, identify: _____	☒	☐	
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?	NO	YES	
	☒	☐	
b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action?	☒	☐	
c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?	☐	☒	
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements?	NO	YES	
If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: _____ Not Applicable	☐	☐	
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing potable water: _____ Not applicable	☒	☐	
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: _____ Not applicable.	☒	☐	
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places?	NO	YES	
	☒	☐	
b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?	☒	☐	
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?	NO	YES	
	☒	☐	
b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody?	☒	☐	
If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: _____ _____ _____			

14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply:		
☐ Shoreline ☐ Forest ☒ Agricultural/grasslands ☐ Early mid-successional ☐ Wetland ☐ Urban ☐ Suburban		
15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered?	NO ☒	YES ☐
16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan?	NO ☒	YES ☐
17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes,	NO ☐	YES ☒
a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties?	☒	☐
b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe:	☒	☐
18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment:	NO ☒	YES ☐
19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? If Yes, describe:	NO ☒	YES ☐
20. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe:	NO ☐	YES ☒
NYSDEC Environmental Site Remediation Database #623026		
I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE Applicant/sponsor/name: <u>Daniel J. Pease</u> Date: <u>03/02/20</u> Signature: <u><i>Daniel J. Pease</i></u> Title: <u>Region Landscape Architect</u>		



Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	No
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	No
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	Digital mapping data are not available or are incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	Yes

Project: Wehle_ParkingLotExpansion

Date: March 2020

Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	☒	☐
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	☒	☐
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	☒	☐
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	☒	☐
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	☒	☐
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	☒	☐
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:	☒	☐
a. public / private water supplies?	☒	☐
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	☒	☐
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	☒	☐
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	☒	☐
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	☒	☐
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	☒	☐

Project:

Date:

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

Physical disturbance involves establishing the expanded footprint of the parking lot and overflow area and surfacing and additional tree plantings. A small kiosk will be relocated to a nearby footpath. The lot expansion occurs into an open grassy area with two tree removals. Existing park roads will be used to enter/exit the project area. Staging areas will occur in developed or open areas adjacent to the project site.

The New York Natural Heritage Program (NHP) database indicates two significant natural communities in the park. The project does not take place near either one and is not expected to have any adverse impacts. Occurrences of the state-threatened Cork Elm has been identified in the park. There will be no impact to this species. Tree removals will follow the OPRHP Tree Removal Timing Guidelines for the Protection of Wildlife.

The project has been reviewed by the Division for Historic Preservation (DHP). DHP is of the opinion that the project will have no impact on archaeological and/or historic resources listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places (Lynch, 5/9/2019).

Lake Ontario is located to the west of the project site. The parking lot size is small enough as to not require stormwater management infrastructure. The overflow parking area will be permeable. There is no expected impact to water quality of the lake.

There will be minor temporary impacts of noise, odor and traffic levels due to the construction equipment and materials transport during the construction period. Appropriate signage and fencing/barriers will be installed to assure patron safety near the project site.

A State Coastal Assessment Form has been completed for the project.

The project will expand parking capacity to accommodate current needs. Additional expansion may be considered in the future with further environmental review.

The majority of the park is noted as Site ID 623026 in DEC's Environmental Site Remediation Database due to the Madison Barracks Target Range as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS); it was comprised of approximately 866 acres which includes a small arms range used for training purposes.

(<https://www.dec.ny.gov/cfm/external/derexternal/haz/details.cfm?pageid=3>, accessed 7/15/2019). This arms range is in the northern area of the park and will not be impacted by this project.

- ☐ Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
- ☒ Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

Name of Lead Agency

Peyton Taylor

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

4/2/20

Date

Regional Director, TI Region

Title of Responsible Officer

Nancy Stoner

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

Appendices

State Coastal Assessment Form

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Coastal Assessment Form

A. INSTRUCTIONS (Please print or type all answers)

- 1. State agencies shall complete this CAF for proposed actions which are subject to Part 600 of Title 19 of the NYCRR. This assessment is intended to supplement other information used by a state agency in making a determination of significance pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (see 6 NYCRR, Part 617). If it is determined that a proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment, this assessment is intended to assist a state agency in complying with the certification requirements of 19 NYCRR Section 600.4.
- 2. If any question in Section C on this form is answered "yes", then the proposed action may affect the achievement of the coastal policies contained in Article 42 of the Executive Law. Thus, the action should be analyzed in more detail and, if necessary, modified prior to either (a) making a certification of consistency pursuant to 19 NYCRR Part 600 or, (b) making the findings required under SEQR, 6 NYCRR, Section 617.11, if the action is one for which an environmental impact statement is being prepared. If an action cannot be certified as consistent with the coastal policies, it shall not be undertaken.
- 3. Before answering the questions in Section C, the preparer of this form should review the coastal policies contained in 19 NYCRR Section 600.5. A proposed action should be evaluated as to its significant beneficial and adverse effects upon the coastal area.

B. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

- 1. Type of state agency action (check appropriate response):
 - (a) Directly undertaken (e.g. capital construction, planning activity, agency regulation, land transaction) ____
 - (b) Financial assistance (e.g. grant, loan, subsidy) ____
 - (c) Permit, license, certification ____
- 2. Describe nature and extent of action: _____

- 3. Location of action:

_____	_____	_____
County	City, Town or Village	Street or Site Description
- 4. If an application for the proposed action has been filed with the state agency, the following information shall be provided:
 - (a) Name of applicant: _____
 - (b) Mailing address: _____
 - (c) Telephone Number: Area Code (____) _____
 - (d) State agency application number: _____
- 5. Will the action be directly undertaken, require funding, or approval by a federal agency?
Yes ____ No ____ If yes, which federal agency? _____

C. COASTAL ASSESSMENT (Check either "YES" or "NO" for each of the following questions)

YES NO

- 1. Will the proposed activity be located in, or contiguous to, or have a significant effect upon any of the resource areas identified on the coastal area map:
 - (a) Significant fish or wildlife habitats? ____ ____
 - (b) Scenic resources of statewide significance? ____ ____
 - (c) Important agricultural lands? ____ ____
- 2. Will the proposed activity have a significant effect upon:
 - (a) Commercial or recreational use of fish and wildlife resources? ____ ____
 - (b) Scenic quality of the coastal environment? ____ ____
 - (c) Development of future, or existing water dependent uses? ____ ____
 - (d) Operation of the State's major ports? ____ ____
 - (e) Land and water uses within the State's small harbors? ____ ____
 - (f) Existing or potential public recreation opportunities? ____ ____
 - (g) Structures, sites or districts of historic, archeological or cultural significance to the State or nation? ____ ____

3. Will the proposed activity involve or result in any of the following:
- (a) Physical alteration of two (2) acres or more of land along the shoreline, land under water or coastal waters? ☐ ☐
 - (b) Physical alteration of five (5) acres or more of land located elsewhere in the coastal area? ☐ ☐
 - (c) Expansion of existing public services of infrastructure in undeveloped or low density areas of the coastal area? ☐ ☐
 - (d) Energy facility not subject to Article VII or VIII of the Public Service Law? ☐ ☐
 - (e) Mining, excavation, filling or dredging in coastal waters? ☐ ☐
 - (f) Reduction of existing or potential public access to or along the shore? ☐ ☐
 - (g) Sale or change in use of state-owned lands located on the shoreline or under water?
 - (h) Development within a designated flood or erosion hazard area? ☐ ☐
 - (i) Development on a beach, dune, barrier island or other natural feature that provides protection against flooding or erosion? ☐ ☐
4. Will the proposed action be located in or have a significant effect upon an area included in an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program? ☐ ☐

D. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

If any question in Section C is answered "Yes", AND either of the following two conditions is met:

Section B.1(a) or B.1(b) is checked; or
Section B.1(c) is checked AND B.5 is answered "Yes",

THEN a copy of this completed Coastal Assessment Form shall be submitted to:

New York State Department of State
Office of Coastal, Local Government and Community Sustainability
One Commerce Plaza
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010
Albany, New York 12231-0001

If assistance or further information is needed to complete this form, please call the Department of State at (518) 474-6000.

E. REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Preparer's Name: _____
(Please print)

Title: _____ Agency: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Date: _____

Figure 1 – Project Location Map

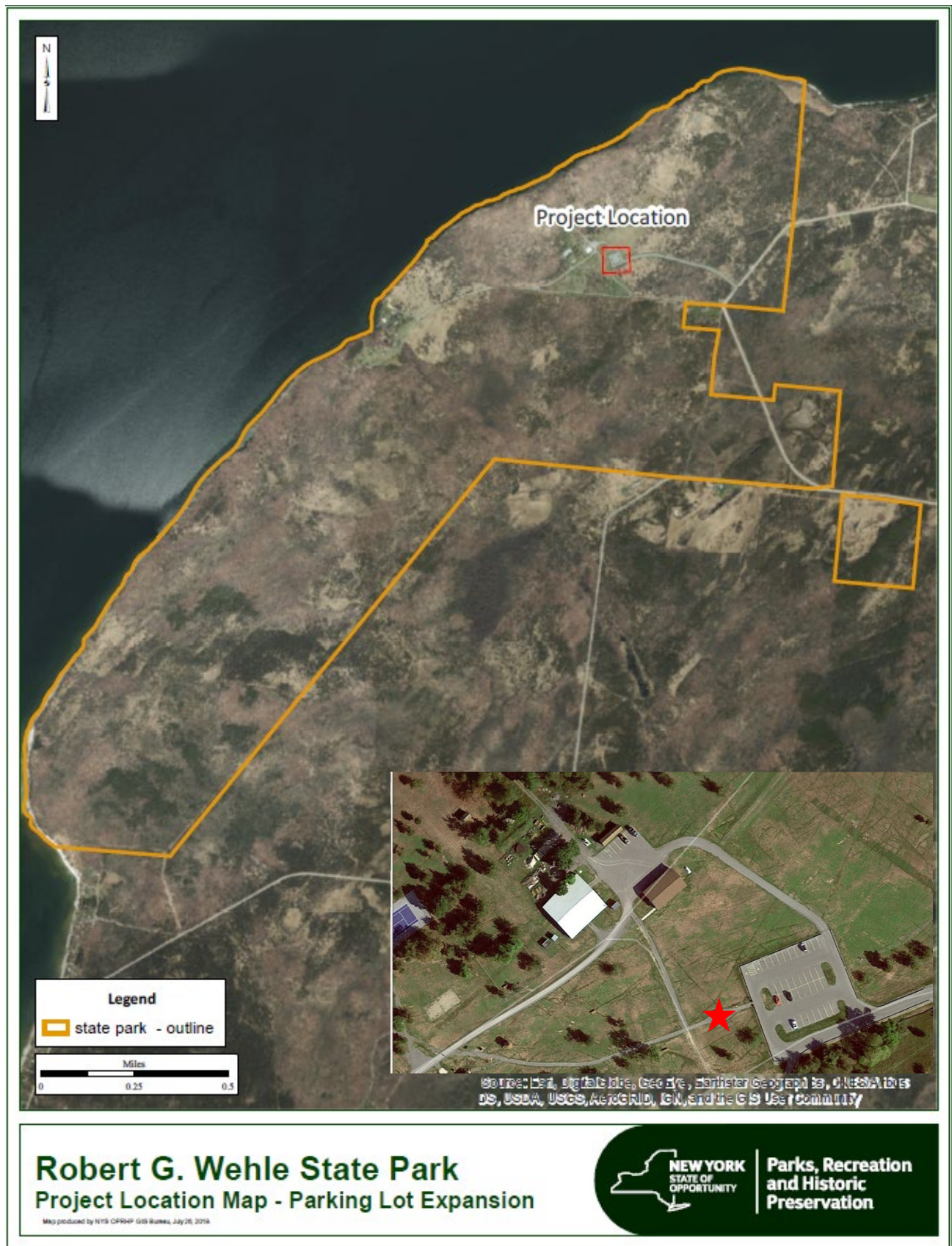


Figure 2 - Site Plan

