

Appendix F Habitats and Environmental Conservation

Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitat Rating Form

Name of Area: Sandy Creek
 Designated: October 15, 1987
 County: Monroe; Orleans
 Town(s): Hamlin; Kendall, Murray
 71/2' Quadrangle(s): Hamlin, NY; Kendall, NY

Score	Criterion
12	Ecosystem Rarity (ER) One of about 10 major New York tributaries to Lake Ontario; rare in the ecological subzone, but rarity is reduced by human disturbance. Geometric mean: $(9 \times 16)^{1/2}$
16	Species Vulnerability (SV) Least bittern (SC) nesting.
9	Human Use (HU) Recreational fishing attracts visitors throughout the Genesee Valley region.
6	Population Level (PL) Concentrations of salmonids and smallmouth bass are unusual in the Lake Ontario ecological subzone. Geometric mean: $(4 \times 9)^{1/2}$
1.2	Replaceability (R) Irreplaceable

SIGNIFICANCE VALUE = $[(ER + SV + HU + PL) \times R] = 52$

SIGNIFICANT COASTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITATS PROGRAM A PART
OF THE NEW YORK COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

New York State's Coastal Management Program (CMP) includes a total of 44 policies which are applicable to development and use proposals within or affecting the State's coastal area. Any activity that is subject to review under Federal or State laws, or under applicable local laws contained in an approved local waterfront revitalization program will be judged for its consistency with these policies.

Once a determination is made that the proposed action is subject to consistency review, a specific policy aimed at the protection of fish and wildlife resources of statewide significance applies. The specific policy statement is as follows: "Significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats will be protected, preserved, and, where practical, restored so as to maintain their viability as habitats." The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) evaluates the significance of coastal fish and wildlife habitats, and following a recommendation from the DEC, the Department of State designates and maps specific areas. Although designated habitat areas are delineated on the coastal area map, the applicability of this policy does not depend on the specific location of the habitat, but on the determination that the proposed action is subject to consistency review.

Significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats are evaluated, designated and mapped under the authority of the Coastal Management Program's enabling legislation, the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act (Executive Law of New York, Article 42). These designations are subsequently incorporated in the Coastal Management Program under authority provided by the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

This narrative, along with its accompanying map, constitutes a record of the basis for this significant coastal fish and wildlife habitat designation and provides specific information regarding the fish and wildlife resources that depend on this area. General information is also provided to assist in evaluating impacts of proposed activities on parameters which are essential to the habitat's values. This information is to be used in conjunction with the habitat impairment test found in the impact assessment section to determine whether the proposed activities are consistent with the significant coastal habitats policy.

DESIGNATED HABITAT: SANDY CREEK

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT:

Sandy Creek is located along the south shore of Lake Ontario, approximately twenty-two miles west of the City of Rochester. The creek flows through the Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, and the Towns of Kendall and Murray, Orleans County (7.5' Quadrangles: Hamlin, N.Y.; and Kendall, N.Y.). The fish and wildlife habitat includes the creek channel and associated wetlands and islands, extending approximately fourteen miles from the mouth of Sandy Creek (at Sandy Harbor Beach), to the confluence of the West and East Branches of Sandy Creek, just south of N.Y.S. Route 104. Sandy Creek is a relatively large, medium gradient, warmwater stream, with a predominantly sand and gravel substrate. The creek drains approximately 90 square miles of relatively flat agricultural and rural residential lands, and is bordered along most of its length by woody riparian vegetation. However, the lower three miles of the creek, including a flood pond wetland near the mouth, have been degraded by livestock grazing, shoreline property development, and use of the motorboats in the area.

FISH AND WILDLIFE VALUES:

Sandy Creek is one of about ten major New York tributaries to Lake Ontario. Despite a variety of habitat disturbances, Sandy Creek has significant spawning runs (unsuccessful in most instances) of coho and chinook salmon in the fall (late August through December). Coho salmon and steelhead (lake-run rainbow trout) are stocked in Sandy Creek by the NYSDEC, with approximately 50,000 and 13,000, respectively, released here in 1984. Spawning runs occur as far inland as Albion on the West Branch, and Holley on the East Branch, but actual population levels in these reaches are not well documented. Brown trout occur only in the lower reaches of Sandy Creek during the fall spawning period. From the County Route 19 bridge, in the hamlet of North Hamlin, downstream to the mouth of Sandy Creek, there is also a productive warmwater fishery. Warmwater species present include northern pike, smallmouth bass, and brown bullhead. Smallmouth bass spawning activity throughout Sandy Creek produces a large portion of the smallmouth bass population in this section of Lake Ontario. Bass migrate to the lake from as far away as the upper reaches of the West and East Branches of Sandy Creek. The streamside wetlands and islands in Sandy Creek provide limited habitat for wildlife species, but few studies of the area have been made. Least bittern (SC) was confirmed breeding at Sandy Harbor in the early 1980's.

The fisheries resources in Sandy Creek provide substantial recreational opportunities for residents of Rochester and the surrounding Genesee Valley region. Because of the accessibility of this stream, it has received heavy fishing pressure, estimated at 22,000 person-days of use in 1977. Sandy Creek may have additional recreational potential as the salmonid fishery in Lake Ontario expands.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

A **habitat impairment** test must be met for any activity that is subject to consistency review under federal and State laws, or under applicable local laws contained in an approved local waterfront revitalization program. If the proposed action is subject to consistency review, then the habitat protection policy applies, whether the proposed action is to occur within or outside the designated area.

The specific **habitat impairment test** that must be met is as follows.

In order to protect and preserve a significant habitat, land and water uses or development shall not be undertaken if such actions would:

- destroy the habitat; or,
- significantly impair the viability of a habitat.

Habitat destruction is defined as the loss of fish or wildlife use through direct physical alteration disturbance, or pollution of a designated area or through the indirect effects of these actions on a designated area. Habitat destruction may be indicated by changes in vegetation, substrate, or hydrology, or increases in runoff, erosion, sedimentation, or pollutants.

Significant impairment is defined as reduction in vital resources (e.g., food, shelter, living space) or change in environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, substrate, and salinity) beyond the tolerance range of an organism. Indicators of a significantly impaired habitat focus on ecological alterations and may include but are not limited to reduced carrying capacity, changes in community structure (food chain relationships, species diversity), reduced productivity and/or increased incidence of disease and mortality.

The *tolerance range* of an organism is not defined as the physiological range of conditions beyond which a species will not survive at all, but as the ecological range of conditions that supports the species population or has the potential to support a restored population, where practical. Either the loss of individuals through an increase in emigration or an increase in death rate indicates that the tolerance range of an organism has been exceeded. An abrupt increase in death rate may occur as an environmental factor falls beyond a tolerance limit (a range has both upper and lower limits). Many environmental factors, however, do not have a sharply define tolerance limit, but produce increasing emigration or death rates with increasing departure from conditions that are optimal for the species.

The range of parameters which should be considered in applying the habitat impairment test include but are not limited to the following:

1. physical parameters such as living space, circulation, flushing rates, tidal amplitude, turbidity, water temperature, depth (including loss of littoral zone), morphology, substrate type, vegetation, structure, erosion and sedimentation rates;
2. biological parameters such as community structure, food chain relationships, species diversity, predator/prey relationships, population size, mortality rates, reproductive rates, meristic features, behavioral patterns and migratory patterns; and,
3. chemical parameters such as dissolved oxygen, carbon dioxide, acidity, dissolved solids, nutrients, organics, salinity, and pollutants (heavy metals, toxics and hazardous materials).

Although not comprehensive, examples of generic activities and impacts which could destroy or significantly impair the habitat are listed below to assist in applying the habitat impairment test to a proposed activity.

Any activity that degrades water quality, increases temperature or turbidity, alters water depths, or reduces flows, would adversely affect the fisheries resources in Sandy Creek. These impacts would be especially detrimental during fish spawning and nursery periods (late February – July for most warmwater species and steelhead, and September - November for most salmonids). Discharges of sewage or stormwater runoff containing sediments or chemical pollutants (including fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides) could adversely impact on fish or wildlife species in the area. Efforts should be made to reduce stream disturbance by agricultural activities, especially grazing, through fencing and restoration of natural riparian vegetation. Stream channel alterations, including dredging, filling, or channelization, could reduce the habitat quality in Sandy Creek. Barriers to fish migration, whether physical or chemical, would also have significant impacts on bass and salmonid populations in the creek. Wildlife species occurring in the lower end of Sandy Creek would be adversely affected by further human disturbance or elimination of wetland vegetation. Activities affecting Sandy Creek as far inland as Albion and Holley should be evaluated for potential impacts on the fisheries resources of this area.

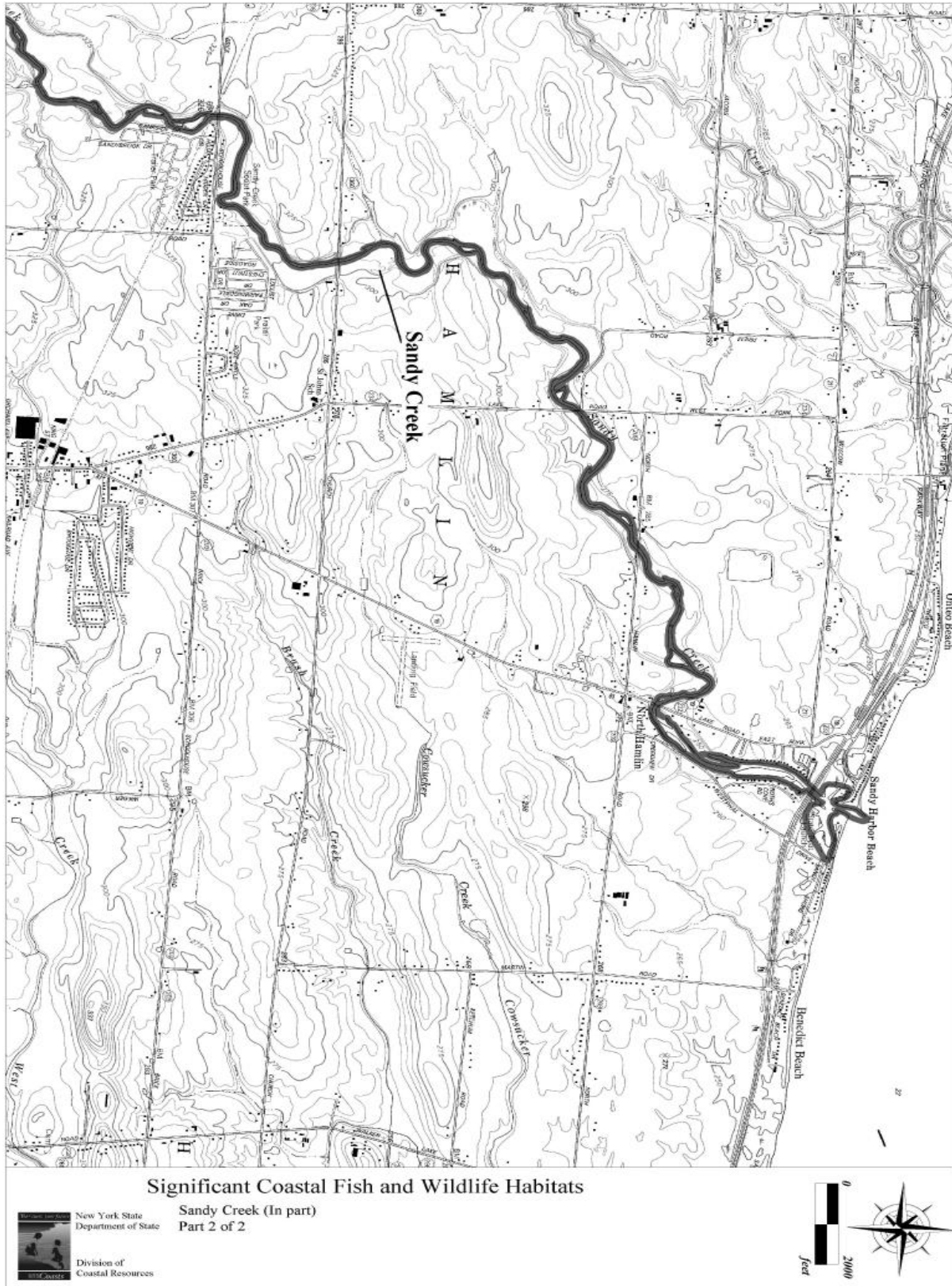
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THE HISTORY OF
HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK.

BY

LEON B. RANDALL

History of Hamlin Beach State Park

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank the many individuals who were interviewed during the process of gathering data on the early portions of the park history. Without their assistance, the knowledge they offered for future generations would have been lost forever.

The greatest assistance was furnished by Mary Smith, historian for the Town of Hamlin. With her valuable guidance, the background of the entire project was kept in perspective. The accuracy of many sources of information were verified, and leads of investigation were offered. The entire paper was proofread by her and areas were indicated that needed clarification.

The engineering and administrative staff of the Genesee State Park Region Headquarters assisted in the gathering of past annual reports and maps, and making them available for this report. Joseph Watson, staff photographer for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, provided needed leads in the acquiring access to the microfilm records of past copies of articles which related to the park areas.

Introduction

Hamlin Beach State Park is located on the southern shores of Lake Ontario, twenty five miles west of Rochester, New York. The park is frequented by thousands of people every year, and is a popular recreation and camping facility. Little, if any, material has been published or documented as to the history of the park, the division of land, or the people who have lived in the area. It is the purpose of this paper to present a comprehensive documentation of this history. The time frame will cover the geological formation of the land; the political subdivision of the land; the natives who first roamed the land, through present day recreational users; and the development as a state park.

The information available on the many themes discussed in the paper had to be narrowed to the eventual 1200 acres of the existing park. Presented herein is the evolution of a stretch of lake shore plain that was developed into a popular recreation resource.

The Land, Lake and First Inhabitants

The North American continent was covered by glaciers during the ice age of the Earth. Glaciers crossed the area of Western New York State five times, the last being the Wisconsin Sheet, about 30,000 years ago. These glaciers were up to 5000 feet deep and as they moved across the land; gravel, stones and dirt were pushed ahead of it. As the piles grew, the glacier would ride over the top and smooth it off, leaving a long, low hilly mound, commonly called a "Drumlin". Drumlins lie in northeast/southwest configurations, indicating the direction that the glaciers traveled. Traces of drumlins are still obvious in areas of Western New York. As the climate warmed and the glacier began melting, a large lake was formed on the southern edge of the ice sheet. This lake covered most of Western New York State and was called "Lake Warren". The water that rushed off the glacier cut into the earth and deposited debris in round-topped mounds called "Kames". These rivers also ran under the ice; during the winter months when melting ceased, the sediment sank slowly and settled in long ridges called "Eskers". As the glacier continued to melt and recede northward, Lake Warren disappeared and the water ran into an area north of present day Ridge Road, U.S. Route #104. Lake Dawson was located in the vicinity of the basin now called Lake Ontario.

The glacier shelf that blocked the eastern end of Lake Dawson finally disappeared and the waters' mixed with the salt waters of the Atlantic Ocean, creating a salt water body called the "Gilbert Gulf". As years passed, the weight of the ice diminished, and the land in the St. Lawrence Region rose, separating the ocean from the inland waters, creating "Lake Iroquois". The sand and gravel from the shores of this lake provided a base for the aforementioned Ridge Road. The lake continued to grow, and spilled over this land mass, cutting through the land and creating the St. Lawrence River. As freshwater diluted this salty body, the lake became fresh.

The body of water that formed is Lake Ontario, estimated to be 10,000 years old. Flora and fauna became abundant, attracting mammals to the area. Mammoth and Mastadon remains have been found in the Western New York area, dating to about 11,000 B.C. The first known human occupation was about 10,000 years ago, as documented by the discovery of "Clovis" spear points, left by Paleo Indians in at least five different locations in the area. Other Indians traveled and inhabited the area over the centuries, as indicated by archeological finds of stone and copper weapons, and primitive tools.

Later tribes were the Algonkians, descendants of Eskimo-like people who may have had European ancestry. Other tribes were the Laurentians, Vine Valley People and Mound Builders (mounds still exist in the area).

Around A.D. 1100 warlike tribes thought to be descendants of Latin American Aztecs entered the area. These tribes were the Owasco, Iroquois, Neutral, Erie and Huron.

Most of the tribes used the lake shore area contiguous to Lake Ontario for hunting, fishing and food gathering. No major villages have been found between the Genesee River, to the east, and the Niagara River to the west. Small village sites dating to A.D. 1300-1400 have been found south of the lake. These were in the western section of present day Orleans County and were inhabited by the Neutral or Attawandaronk Nation.

The Nation was so named (Neutral) by French missionaries, who were the first known white visitors to the area. The Seneca tribe, one of the several tribes that made up the Iroquois Nation, were blood enemies of the Hurons. They lived in the lands south of Lake Ontario and east of the Genesee River. The Hurons lived north of Lake Ontario, east of the Niagara Peninsula. The Neutral Nation separated these two warring Nations, and remained neutral. The Hurons raided the Eastern New York Mohawks, another of the tribes of the Iroquois Nation, in 1609; in retaliation, the Iroquois Nation, annihilated the Hurons between 1634 and 1650. Many Hurons sought refuge with the Neutral Nation. Fearing that they would be attacked by this new alliance, the Seneca overcame the Neutrals and Eries in 1651, and occupied their lands as far west as the Niagara Peninsula.

Land Development (1600-1900)

French explorers passed the region en route to the western end of Lake Ontario to establish trading posts with the Indians. Etienne Brule, a scout for Samuel de Champlain, sailed past the area on an exploratory mission in 1610, and again in 1615. Father Le Caron, a French missionary, noted passing the vast wooded area along the shoreline en route to the Niagara River, to seek passage to western lands. Other missionaries, Father Bre' beuf and Father Chaumonot later lived among the Neutral Indians during 1640 and 1641. Cavalier Sieur DeLasalle and two missionaries traveled to the shores near Irondequoit Bay in 1669, and returned ten years later to build a warehouse at the mouth of the Niagara River.

The first military exploration to the area was by a frenchman, Marquis de Denonville, in 1687. He landed at Irondequoit Bay, established a small fort, and traveled 30 miles inland. His purpose was to capture and destroy any Indian villages that he encountered. The Indians saw him advancing and escaped, losing villages and crops. He returned to Lake Ontario and set out for the Niagara Region. After traveling about 15 miles, he again put ashore to spend the night in the vicinity of present day Hamlin Beach State Park. His trip then carried him to the Niagara River, where he built a wooden fort.

Fort deSables was built near Irondequoit Bay in 1716 to establish friendly trade with the Seneca Indians. In 1721, two young Frenchmen from well-to-do families traveled the southern shores of the Lake enroute to Niagara Falls. They were probably the first tourists to travel through the area to look at the land and Niagara Falls.

During the French and Indian War, the British under General John Prideaux, led a campaign against the French at Fort Niagara. On July 5, 1759, the troops passed over the Hamlin Beach shore lands enroute to Fort Niagara where a victory was claimed on July 24th.

The American Revolution brokeout in 1776 and hostilities lasted until 1781. The British surrendered and peace was declared in 1783. A military expedition of American forces led by Clinton and Sullivan ended Indian control in western New York in 1779, and opened the land to white settlement. After peace was declared between the British and Americans, the Mohawks fled to Canada and the Federal Government subdivided the land of the Iroquois Nation.

The ownership of the western New York lands still had not been settled. In 1629, King Charles I gave a strip of land to the west to the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1664, King Charles II gave the same land to his brother James, the Duke of York and Albany. The Dutch later claimed all land west of Albany in 1738. Finally, in 1786 the ownership claims were settled at the Hartford Convention. New York State would own, rule and govern the lands from the Massachusetts border west to a line drawn from Sodus Bay south to the Pennsylvania border. West of this "pre-emption line", Massachusetts would retain title, but New York would have sovereignty and rule. Any person or developer who purchased this land would have to settle title claims with the Seneca Indians.

Realizing that individual sales of the land would be time consuming, Massachusetts sold the entire tract of land west of the pre-emption line to land agents Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham in April of 1788. The 6.5 million acres sold for about three cents an acre. The purchase was made with a "devalued currency" issued by the State of Massachusetts.

Shortly after the sale the currency regained its' value putting Phelps and Gorham in a bankruptcy situation. They surrendered the western two thirds of the original purchase in order to save their remaining portion. When they were still unable to pay for the land, a sale of unsold lots was arranged to Robert Morris in 1790. Morris also arranged to purchase the western portion previously returned to Massachusetts by Phelps and Gorham. He divided this territory into three sections. The center section was reserved for himself and the east and west portions were sold to other land developers in 1792.

When Phelps and Gorham owned the land near the Genesee River, they settled the title claim with the Indians for the land east of the Genesee River and a portion of land west of the river, called the "Mill Seat". This was sought to provide access to the water falls for milling purposes. The "Mill Seat" was to be 12 miles wide and 28 miles long, paralleling the river. The surveyor who was hired started at the base of the tract, and surveyed due north. The resulting section of land was more than 12 miles wide when the surveyors reached Lake Ontario. When Morris purchased the land it was re-surveyed by request of the Indians who believed a mistake had been made. The east and west boundaries were redefined, and this new section of land between the two surveys was known as the "Triangle Tract". Morris's son, acting as his agent, cleared the title with the Indians at the signing of the Big Tree Treaty in 1797.

Shortly after the title was cleared, this "Triangle Tract" was sold to New York land speculators LeRoy and Bayard. They hired a surveyor by the name of Stoddard to lay out the townships and sections of land. To facilitate sales and development, a road (presently Lake Road, State Route #19), was laid out in 1801, and ran through the center of the tract from just south of LeRoy, N.Y. to Lake Ontario. This road was 64 feet wide and was not included in the lots sold adjacent to it. The Ridge Road, a main route traveled by Indians and early travelers, was only 15 inches wide until laid out as a highway in 1809. It ran in a westerly direction from the Genesee River to the Niagara River.

The Triangle Tract was divided into five townships with an average of twelve sections each. The sections were further divided into between seven and twenty-two lots, which averaged 120 acres each. Some were as small as 69 acres, and others as large as 132 acres. As settlers moved west from Albany, towns and counties divided and subdivided every few years. The present town of Hamlin was formed as Union in 1852, and renamed Hamlin in 1861.

The area that is now the town of Hamlin was the last township settled in Monroe County. The first settlers had to travel north through more than two miles of swamp after they left Ridge Road before they reached solid ground. North of this swampy area was a growth of dense vegetation that barely let the light of the sun through at high noon. Malaria and Swamp Fever created hardships for the first settlers. When these swamps were finally drained, the resulting land was very fertile and desirable for farm crops.

James McCasson purchased the first land in 1804. The first settlers arrived between 1806 and 1808 and were Aretas Hascall, Isaac and Samuel Randall, and John Nowlan. Land sales were slow because of the swampy land and allowed only the heartiest to survive. The War of 1812 slowed development until the high prices of farm produce encouraged farm land development when the Erie Canal was built in 1825. Ten years later land values plunged during a depressed economy. When land owners couldn't meet mortgage payments or taxes, many left for the new "Western Frontier". New settlers began arriving in New York from Europe and purchased these lands in 1843.

The first recorded development of Lake shore land was the planting of an orchard by a Mr. Billings in 1807 near Sandy Creek. In 1812 a Knapp family reportedly settled near the shores of the Lake on land that is now part of Hamlin Beach State Park.

Once the land was cleared for farming, the areas' rich fertile soil and temperate climate, buffered by the warm waters of Lake Ontario, encouraged fruit farming. The lands in the town of Hamlin were acknowledged as some of the best in the country by local farmers. Portions of these farm lands are now part of Hamlin Beach State Park.

A Park is Born

The establishment of a Park was due primarily to demand of local residents and others who came to enjoy the clear water and sandy beaches.

As no public access was available, local residents enjoyed Lake Ontario at Hamlin Beach long before a park was established. People came to the lakeshore meadows of the Wolf and Parks farms by traveling the farm lands from Moscow Road. A group of local hunters camped on the shores near Yanty Creek as early as September, 1904. The Monroe County Legislature received requests for a park to be established along the lake. Plans were discussed in 1927 and the County took options on several parcels of farm land in 1928. The estimated cost was \$135,000 for 550 acres of land and would be called the Northwest Park. It was located five miles from Hamlin and two miles east of Troutberg. Officials of the County visited the site and described the park as follows:

A mile west of the junction of Hamlin and Moscow Roads, a farm lane leads north along the west line of the Charles Wolf farm, one of the farms included in the park lands, to the lake shore. Swinging northeast past the shoulder of a beach woods this lane opens suddenly on a broad stretch of sand, with the blue waters of Lake Ontario beyond. From this point the park beaches stretch away for almost a mile on either hand. To the left, the shore curves past a grove of maples, cedars and willows to some low bluffs topped by sloping pastures. This leads to the western boundary of the park, marked by Redman Road. A short distance beyond Redman Road, the view is cut-off by a forest-crowned height called Devil's Nose, a great, scar-faced point of land which juts into Lake Ontario. In old sailing ship days, it is said this point was well known to smugglers. It is still used by coastwise skippers.

To the right, from the shore end of Wolf's Lane the park beach winds in a succession of small coves and headlands to the east line of the Charles Baase farm, where Yanty Creek empties into a shallow bay. Far past the blue headlands lining the lake shore to the east, the lighthouse at Hilton Head sticks up above the haze of the lake level.

The County took possession of the lands in May 1929, with the exception of a 5.45 acre section obtained in May 1930. The total purchase was 597.14 acres and the price paid was \$169,373.45. The Wolf farm residence was used as the foreman's headquarters and home. The Parks farm house was used for the park caretaker with the barns and sheds used as the park maintenance center. Mr. Henry Wolf was hired as the first County Park foreman and started work on June 9, 1929.

The work of developing the Northwest Park began in the summer of 1929. A road was built over the lane on the west boundary of the Wolf farm, following the route County officials traveled the previous September. Swampy sections were drained to provide picnic areas; fireplaces and picnic tables were constructed, as well as wooden pit-toilets. Water was available from artesian wells and was piped throughout the park. Much of the labor for original construction was furnished by the Work Projects Administration (W.P.A.). The name of the park was changed to Hamlin Beach Park March 31, 1930 at a County legislative meeting. Local residents also presented a petition and numerous letters requesting bath houses and a small harbor at the mouth of Yanty Creek. During the summers of 1930 and 1932 park labor forces built two wooden changing buildings, an open picnic shelter and a concession stand.

With the exception of one changing building, all were still in use in the park in 1983.

Prior to 1930, the necessity of a parkway had been discussed. Its location was roughly plotted in connection with the establishment of Monroe County Parks. Construction plans were initiated in 1931 for a Parkway connecting the City of Rochester and Hamlin Beach Park. The Monroe County Parks Commission started work on the first sections of this project, which would run from Sandy Creek near present day Route 19, to Redman Road. A Civil Works Administration (C.W.A.) project worked on the eastern portion from Sandy Creek to Yanty Creek, and the W.P.A. crews worked in the park developing the section from Redman Road to Yanty Creek. Local farmers with horse drawn dump wagons were hired to haul dirt and stone fill. Over 1000 wheelbarrows were used to move fill materials loosened by dynamite or black powder blasting.

In 1933, the Monroe County legislature purchased a narrow-gauge railroad to be used on the road projects. The County Park Engineers felt the railroad would speed up the project as trucks were not available. During the first week of December, 1933, a "Dinky" engine was delivered to the Hamlin Station railroad depot. Along with it were 12 dump cars and a quantity of rail. The engine was powered by a Chrysler gasoline engine, a disc-drive type power unit.

The railroad equipment was moved by a town highway department trailer, and left near the intersection of Moscow Road and Sandy Creek, not far from Lake Ontario. The rails were about 30 inches apart and spiked to 2 inch by 10 inch planks. The first line ran from Sandy Creek to Yanty Creek, near the center mall of the present day Parkway.

When the money expired for the C.W.A. project the railroad was moved into the Park section of the Parkway. It ran from Yanty Creek to Redman Road, with a spur line to the mainenance center. The line was easily movable, and was relocated where needed to provide transportation for fill dirt, trail material or lakeshore rock fill.

With the creation of the Genesee State Park Commission in 1930, the State began looking for a Park to serve the residents of Monroe and Orleans Counties. At a meeting of the State Council of Parks in November 1931, plans were initiated by the State to acquire Hamlin Beach Park and the necessary lands for a Lake Shore Parkway. The County appeared to be interested in such an arrangement if the land that was owned by the state near Nine Mile Point was made available. The land in question was owned by Rochester State Hospital, part of the Department of Mental Hygiene, and was used as a summer camp and farm. The 60 acres of land were transferred from State Hospital ownership to the Genesee State Park Commission in 1934.

In June of 1933, the Monroe County Legislature voted to exchange Hamlin Beach Park in return for the Webster State Hospital Property. The purchase of the necessary lands for the construction of the Lake Shore Parkway was part of the exchange. The State Park Commission agreed to the exchange in June, 1933. The laws of New York State, passed in 1934 and 1935 (Chapters 651 and 514), authorized the transfer of County owned Park and Parkway lands (597.14 and 700 acres, respectively) in return for the Webster 60.27 acres.

State funds were allocated in October 1933, for a State Temporary Emergency Relief Authority (S.T.E.R.A.) project and were used to build Webster Park. The project was administered by Monroe County Parks Commission.

Clear titles to the lands designated for the Parkway right-of-way were delayed until 1937. When all titles and deeds were settled, the New York State Attorney Generals Office approved the transfer. The transfer was approved on November 26, 1937 by the County, and accepted by the State Park Commission on December 13, 1937. Hamlin Beach Park became Hamlin Beach State Park on January 1, 1938.

In April 1934, James Gavigan became County Park Foreman, replacing Henry Wolf. Some of the projects that had been completed in the Park by 1934 were: life guard chairs, stone jetty extending into lake for 50 feet, two miles of beach cleared, 1000 trees transplanted, 300 cords of firewood cut, 1500 bushels of grain grown to feed birds during winter months, unloaded 24 cars of cinders for use on park roads and parking lots and oiled same, and replaced the failing water wells with a six inch waterline from the Brockport Village Waterworks located at the east boundary of the park. A gravel road was constructed in 1935. It ran from Redman Road to the Brockport Village Waterworks, with a traffic circle and spur to the entrance on Moscow Road. The road was two and a half miles long and twenty feet wide. Frank Wolf was appointed to the position of County Park Foreman when James Gavigan left. He served until April 1938, when the State appointed Martin M. Trott as the first Superintendent of Hamlin Beach State Park.

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp

Prior to the appointment of Superintendent Trott in 1938, the then County park had been selected as a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp site (C.C.C.).

Unemployed young men from seventeen to twenty three years of age were eligible for the program. At the inception of the Corps the recruits had to be from relief families, but this stipulation was eventually eliminated. Salaries were thirty dollars a month, with the boy's family receiving fifteen dollars, the corpsman received eight dollars and seven dollars were held in trust for him until he was discharged. Initial enlistments were for six months with one six month extension allowed. The men lived in a military type environment, with skills and trades taught either during work experience on the job or in evening classes which ran from 6:15 to 10:00 each week night.

Camps were administered by the United States Army and the United States Department of Interior's National Parks Service. In New York State, the projects normally were located in State Parks, with 56 camps in operation in 1935. In early 1935, the State Park Commission requested a camp at Hamlin Beach Park. This was approved in April, if the Monroe County Parks Commission would co-sponsor the project until the state Park Commission concluded the transfer of the park lands.

Ground was broken for S.P. 53 on June 3, 1935, at the southeast corner of the Park, adjacent to Moscow Road, and construction started on June 18th. A Lt. Neener of the U.S. Army arrived in Hamlin and was in charge of construction. He used a shed owned by the Hamlin Highway Department to store his tools. On August 9, 1935, C.C.C. Camp 1252 arrived at Hamlin Beach. The camp originated at Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, N.Y., transferred to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, then moved to Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, Virginia before coming to Hamlin. The trucks arrived by road and the personnel (133 men) arrived with their personal equipment by rail, and unloaded at the Hamlin Station railroad depot. Project Superintendent for the Department of Interior was Owen C. Hoban; The U.S. Army representative was Captain J. Frank.

Some of the 74 scheduled projects for the C.C.C. were:

- Parking Area - West Woods
- Sea Wall - West Woods
- Concession Stand - West Woods
- Shelter - West Woods
- Foot trails
- Tree and Shrub Nursery
- Shelter - Comfort Station - East Woods
- Stone Drinking Fountains
- Moving and planting trees
- Power and telephone lines
- Stone walls - Moscow Road entrance

The camp buildings completed in the summer of 1936 were as follows:

Administration Building	20' x 120'
Project Office	20' x 32'
Technical Quarters	20' x 72'
Infirmary	20' x 36'
Officers Quarters	20' x 64'
Five Barracks	20' x 112' ea.
Oil House	8' x 12'
Army Garage	24' x 60'
Park Store Garage	26' x 120'
Utility Garage	26' x 60'
Blacksmith Shop	20' x 28'
Chlorinator House	8' x 8'
Park Oil House	16' x 12'
Recreation Hall	30' x 48'
with two wings	16' x 20' ea.
Mess Hall	20' x 116'
with wing	34' x 36'
Latrine	20' x 40'
Repair Shop	60' x 60'

Superintendent Hoban also advised the men that there was a locomotive and dump cars to assist in filling a swamp in the East Woods of the Park. This project reclaimed 90 acres of land and eliminated the mosquitoes. A harbor and breakwall was built with stone hauled into the park. By December 1935, 205 men were living at the camp. A sawmill and stone crusher were constructed to aid in the construction of work projects. A quarry operation was carried on at the Hulberton, N.Y. stone quarry. The quarry was started in the early 1930's as a W.P.A. project. Motorized equipment consisted of a cement mixer, bulldozer, boom-crane shovel, eight dump trucks, two stake body trucks and one pick-up truck.

Work progressed on the projects, and the men came and went as their enlistments were completed. By August 1938 the enclosed shelter and comfort station in the West Woods were finished. A concession building was completed in 1939. A bathhouse and stone jetty were built during this period by private contractors, not C.C.C. laborers. A listing of the structures in the park by Superintendent Hoban in August 1940 were East Woods: two changing buildings and a concession stand; West Woods: stone shelter, concession stand, comfort station, bathhouse, 300 foot jetty and 2800 feet of sea wall.

With the threat of World War II, enlistments in the C.C.C. camps declined. The recommended strength of each camp was 165 men. A decision was reached to close S.P. Camp 53. All operations had ceased by August 7, 1941. Superintendent Hoban had transferred to Pine Camp, Great Bend, New York and Julius Voss, formerly a camp foreman, was charged with closing the camp. He remained until September 11th. The major projects left unfinished were a playfield near bathhouse, sidewalks in West Woods, power and telephone lines installation and combination shelter and comfort station. This combination building was started and lacked windows and doors. It is presently located in Area 1 of the Park.

The Commission made application to the U.S. Army for possession of all camp buildings, the sawmill, the stone crusher and motorized equipment (bulldozer, shovel and cement mixer). The official transfer was completed on March 4, 1943.

Utilization During World War II

The C.C.C. camp site was idle between August 1941 and June 1943 when the Monroe County Welfare Department contracted with the State Park Commission to house farm laborers in the barracks. Jamacians were used during the 1942 season, and Bahamians during 1943.

As the war progressed a greater demand for labor in the agriculture and food processing industry existed. The War Manpower Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Employment Service, decided to establish a work force with prisoners of war. The Army would assign the labor and be responsible for security. The first prisoners from Italy were housed at Pine Camp, now known as Fort Drum, near Watertown, N.Y. in 1943. During 1944 the need for more labor necessitated a closer distribution point for P.O.W.'s. Fort Niagara, near Niagara Falls, N.Y., was established as the western New York distribution camp in June 1943. There were 13 branch camps located throughout western New York.

A branch camp which housed as many as 131 Italian P.O.W.'s guarded by 49 Army Officers and enlisted men was established at Hamlin Beach in November 1943. Their commanding officer was First Lieutenant Otley L. Smith of the 712th Military Police Battalion, Company C. Work was performed for local farmers and the Quaker Maid food processing company in Brockport, N.Y. This contingent of P.O.W.'s left on December 31, 1943.

During the spring of 1944 a group of food processors and farmers formed an organization known as the "Hamlin Growers and Processers, Inc.". The group raised \$20,300 from its ten members for up to 600 prisoners to work for them. The first 200 arrived in late June. The Park Commission leased the buildings at the C.C.C. camp for \$1,200 per year.

In August 1945, there were 336 P.O.W.'s at the camp, guarded by 36 Army personnel. They were housed in five barracks and seventeen tents. The Government received the prevailing work wage from the employers and the prisoners received 80 cents a day in coupons that could be spent in the camp canteen. Their work day consisted of nine hours which included travel time. They worked at farms and food processing plants in Hamlin, Brockport and Holley.

Prisoners worked as manual laborers, not on or around any machinery. No work was allowed in the Park. Leisure time activities consisted of fishing, soccer, ping-pong, English language classes, movies and church services. They also formed a nine member orchestra.

Many of these German soldiers had been drafted into the Army against their wishes. They were not in favor of the War, and were very friendly and cooperative while staying and working at the camp. Some returned to the western New York area after repatriation at the War's end. The camp closed in November, 1945. The prisoners were transported to Boston, Massachusetts, and placed on troop ships to be returned to Germany. Fort Niagara was closed as a P.O.W. camp on December 31, 1945.

The buildings that were once a C.C.C. camp became obsolete. Some had been removed before the P.O.W.'s arrived and others were sold to private individuals. The remaining barracks were dismantled and reconstructed near the Hamlin food processing companies, owned by Duffy Mott, Incorporated. The area was cleared and reverted to brush and trees. The only remaining memento of the former camp was the flag pole and the tree nursery planted around the camp. The flag pole eventually rotted and fell to the earth. The top was recovered in 1983, and was retained in the Park Offices at Hamlin Beach.

Devil's Nose

The most prominent physical feature of Hamlin Beach State Park is the Bluff Area purchased by the State in 1960, known as Devil's Nose. The origin of it's name is unknown, but is noted on the map drawn by land surveyor Richard Stoddard in about 1802.

According to local geologist Dr. Robert Adams of the State University of New York at Brockport, the major mass of Devil's Nose was formed by receding glaciers thousands of years ago. The accumulation of gravel and silt that was pushed or left behind by the glaciers, and the drop stones that are chunks of debris that fell from drifting icebergs, were covered by proglacial Lakes Townsend and Iroquois. Another theory presented, is that the Nose and it's subsequent shoal, were once an underground river running beneath one of the glacial ice masses. The top five to ten feet of the Nose consists of windblown sand and silt from the face of the bluff.

The Nose was at one time 150 feet high and reached over three quarters of a mile northward into the lake. The shoal or reef that extends beyond the Nose is over a mile and a half long, and lies eastward toward the Genesee River. This treacherous reef has been avoided by lake sailors for centuries.

A Lieutenant Woolesey was sailing from Oswego, New York, to Fort Niagara in 1809. The ship was on its maiden voyage, and as they reached Devil's Nose, the ship became becalmed. For three successive days they tried to pass the Nose and finally succeeded on July 4th.

Tales of ships that sank off Devil's Nose are unsubstantiated. Ships have been struck on the reef, but available records provide no account of ships sinking. In the early 1900's a coal barge became lodged on the reef. The coal was unloaded until the craft refloated. Residents of the area burned free coal for many months afterwards. During World War II, a Canadian Troop Ship, "Benetin", ran aground while on a training cruise. The training officer came ashore and used a telephone to call the U.S. Coast Guard for a tug boat to free the ship.

The coves and passages near the Nose were used by smugglers during prohibition days, according to local legend. The "importers" would run their boats in and around the reefs while being chased by the Coast Guard. A hollow tree on the crest of Devil's Nose housed a red lantern used as a signal light that could be seen only from the lake.

Residents of the area visited and played on the steep sloping bluffs for years. Sliding and jumping on the warm sands were popular with generations of children long before the State purchased the land. High water and erosion turned these bluffs into dangerous and steep drop-offs. Park officials closed the area to the public in the early 1970's. Barricades and signs warned visitors to stay out of the area. Even with these warnings, a young college student entered the area in March of 1981. He and three friends were climbing and walking near the shoreline banks when a wall of gravel collapsed, burying him. He was uncovered and rescued by fire department personnel, but died at a local hospital.

The Devil's Nose, as it has for centuries, still remains as a landmark for sailors as they pass on the lake to the north.

Hamlin Beach State Park Established

From 1938 to present a number of construction and building projects occurred which provided the recreation needs of the public that utilized the park.

Hamlin Beach became a State Park on January 1, 1938 and the formation of a Master Plan was announced. Martin J. Trott was hired as Superintendent, and J. McCool the Park Caretaker. Seasonal employees consisted of Charles Kincade, Labor Foreman and four laborers. A gate fee of 25 cents (\$.25) per vehicle was established and was charged on weekends and holidays. Work in the park was well underway by the C.C.C. forces. The construction projects that were being undertaken were funded and overseen by State Parks. The C.C.C. furnished the labor.

During 1940, a bathhouse in the West Woods area was completed and a 200 foot jetty was constructed in the center of the Park. These projects were bid and let to private contractors. The U.S. Army Air Corps approached the Commission with a plan to build an Air Field for fighter planes at Hamlin, to protect Rochester from future attack, should another World War breakout. At that time there were no Military Air Fields closer than Long Island or Illinois. The Park Commission turned down the request.

Superintendent Trott retired at the end of January, 1942. This was a previous agreement that he would retire when he reached age 60. On May 1, 1942, Homer Skinner was appointed Superintendent. He had been a project Supervisor for the C.C.C. at Letchworth State Park for ten years. The combination building (shelter/comfort station) near the jetty that had been started by the C.C.C., was finished in August. Charles Kincade was killed while dismantling the stone crusher left by the C.C.C. project. Other employees were injured, but none seriously.

During the war years of 1943 and 1944, attendance at the park was low, as a result of gas rationing and a ban on travel by the United States War Department. The Park Commission undertook a revision of the master plan for the Park, to align it with modern standards. The twelve points of this plan were announced in 1946. The General Railway Signal Company established a gun emplacement at the end of Redman Road during war years, to test a large caliber gun that they were manufacturing. It also was a backup defense installation in case of an attack.

The Park Commission started engineering plans for a small boat harbor in 1945 in cooperation with the U.S. Corps of Engineers. This project was to have an eight foot deep harbor and a ten foot wide channel, that would be built in the vicinity of the East Woods - Yanty Creek Marsh. It was approved by the Corps in 1947, and by the U.S. Congress in 1968, but the funds to complete the job were never budgeted. The entire project was dropped in 1981.

In 1948, a lakeshore cottage was moved to a proposed maintenance center near Moscow Road. The cottage was to be used as a Park Ranger residence. During 1949, the Commission made a purchase offer on the Witherspoon properties located at the northwest corner of the park. The property included 2178 feet of lakeshore and a total of 17.78 acres. Contracts were let to pave three parking lots and the main roads of the park. Proposals made in 1950 were to close Redman Road, build a maintenance center, Superintendents headquarters, and a new toll booth. The toll booth would replace the wooden shanty that was then in use. A new comfort station was planned and bid, in present day Area 1, but bids were higher than proposed funding. Park forces started building it themselves. The Witherspoon property, obtained in 1950, had three buildings included with the purchase. The house and garage were moved just west of Redman Road in 1951, to a parcel of property which was obtained in late 1950. The boat house remained where it stood, and was still in use in 1983.

The 1952 season brought an increase in the gate fee to 35 cents per vehicle. The maintenance building, superintendent's headquarters and toll booth were in operation by July 1. Park lands totaled 814.74 acres. The comfort station in Area 1 was opened for use during the summer and work was started to expand the park picnic area west of Area 3. Plans were established to build a 600 car parking lot, comfort station and enclosed picnic shelter/concession stand. The first 12 mile section of the Lake Ontario State Parkway (L.O.S.P.) was paved and open to public use from the Park to Payne Beach Road. The house, formerly used by the Park Superintendent at the Park Entrance, was dismantled in the summer of 1953.

The gate fee was increased to 50 cents per vehicle in 1954, and the first known drowning occurred on July 14, in an unguarded area of the West Beach. The Area 4 parking lot, shelter and comfort station were completed and in use. Park vehicle capacities were then 2,500 cars, in the four parking lots. More breakwalls were built along the shoreline to prevent erosion, and the seawalls were extended westward from Area 3. During 1955, the usage of the park shifted westward to the sandy beaches of Area 4.

Continuous erosion by high lake waters was a serious problem, and monies were requested yearly to build structures to retain the sand and shoreline. A sum totalling \$1,103,000 was requested in 1955 for replacement of 217,000 cubic yards of sand and fill. The shoreline protection money was removed from Federal and/or State budgets for over ten years until finally approved in 1974.

Homer Skinner was promoted to Principal Park Superintendent at Letchworth State Park in May 1957. His replacement as Superintendent, Joseph Gattong, arrived on June 1, 1957.

The Lake Ontario State Parkway was extended and opened from Payne Beach Road to Long Pond Road on August 26, 1957. Two cottages that had been purchased in the Redman Road area were renovated and opened to the public for rental during the summer of 1957. Construction and paving of the Parkway to Dewey Avenue was completed and opened on October 14, 1958. This brought the total mileage to 21.5 miles.

More land was purchased west of Redman Road in 1960 in anticipation of extending the Park and Parkway. The 220 acres included ten developed lots with eight cottages and brought the total Park acreage to 1,1085.30. Redman Road was blocked off and officially closed at the Cook Road intersection in 1960. Superintendent Gattong was transferred to the Taconic State Park Region and replaced by Superintendent Elmer Simmons, on July 28, 1960.

Mr. Simmons had been a Park Foreman at Letchworth State Park. In 1961 the last section of Parkway was opened, linking the City of Rochester with Hamlin Beach State Park. By the summer season of 1962 more land had been purchased east of Yanty Marsh, and total acreage was 1,117.73 acres. Fifteen usable cottages were then available and rented from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Nine were in use at the western section of the park near Redman Road, and six at the East Beach cottage area adjacent to the Brockport Water Works.

Elmer Simmons transferred back to Letchworth State Park on November 10, 1965 and was replaced by Superintendent Angus Miller. Before becoming Superintendent at Hamlin, Miller had been a Park Foreman at Letchworth Park and a Parkway Foreman on the L.O.S.P. Plans were readied in 1965 for a 60 unit camping area, with 50 sites cleared at the beginning of summer.

Attendance increased in the late 1960's as a result of Lake Ontario waters being declared unfit for swimming. Hamlin Beach was the only Park with an approved and clean beach in Monroe County. The City of Rochester sent residents to Hamlin Beach for their recreation programs. The Rochester Authority ran buses to the Park on a daily basis during the summer, until 1970.

Construction continued in the camping area through 1966: and on June 30, 1967, the 266 site area was opened to the first campers. The camping fee was \$1.75 per night. The camping area caretaker residence and contact station opened with the campsites. The recreation hall and camp store were not completed until the summer of 1968. Parking Area 4 of the park was expanded by fifty percent to a 900 car parking lot in 1968, and plans made to build two comfort stations, one enclosed shelter, and a snack bar. Plans were also initiated to build an Area 5 parking lot, paved roads to Troutberg, and an exit road. The West Beach cottages were closed on Labor Day 1968 to be moved into a new cottage area near Troutberg. The cottages were moved, but never reopened. Money was not available to extend utilities to the area, and by 1978 all had been torn down or sold.

On July 1, 1970, the Conservation Department of New York State was realigned. An Office of Parks and Recreation was established, and given control of all lands owned or controlled by the State that were related to recreation services. Hamlin Beach State Park came under control of the new agency.

The summer season of 1970 was modified by an austerity budget, resulting in the closing of the camping area 21 days early. The entire 1971 season was also affected, and lifeguards worked less hours, curtailing the beach program. The bathhouse was closed, and the camping area recreation program was not provided.

Construction of the new buildings in Area 4 were completed and opened to the public in 1970. The new exit road running from Area 5 to the park entrance was opened for use in 1971. This provided a safer highway in the park, as all traffic was traveling on one-way roads. Area 5 parking lot and two new comfort stations were completed in 1971, but not opened to the public until 1972. The park offices were moved from the Superintendent's residence to the camping caretaker's residence upon the caretaker's retirement in spring of 1972. A farm adjacent to the former C.C.C. camp was purchased in 1972 for potential expansion of the Park. This never took place and was declared surplus property in 1981 and sold in 1982.

High lake levels and destructive storms in the spring of 1973 resulted in the complete erosion of all beaches in the park, and the destruction of the East Beach Cottage Area. All cottages were damaged and later dismantled. During the summer season, the camper recreation program was reinstated, and an ice rink and small nature trail were established in the camping area.

Construction projects were instituted, with emergency Federal and State funding, to repair and replace the beaches in the park. Groins were extended into the lake and thousands of cubic yards of fill and sand were hauled in to build a beautiful sand beach. Work was started in 1974 and completed in 1975. The designs used prevented further serious erosion and the beaches remained stable.

In 1975, a Golden Age Pass system was instituted in the New York State Parks system. Any Senior Citizen resident of New York State could use this pass to gain free admittance to the park during the week. Camping fees were increased to \$3.50 per night, and daily vehicle access fees were \$2.00 per vehicle. A fish stocking program was initiated by the Department of Environmental Conservation and 360,000 fish were stocked in 1974, and 335,000 more in 1975. They consisted of Brown Trout, Rainbow or Lake Trout and Coho Salmon.

Superintendent Miller resigned on August 13, 1976. He was replaced on September 30 by Superintendent Leon Randall, a Park Patrol Officer, who had been working at Hamlin Beach since 1969.

A Comprehensive Educational Training Act project was instituted in 1977, to build the first stage of an Environmental Education Center in the Yanty Creek/Marsh Area. The resulting trail is self-guide design, with large print and braille signs. Half of the trail surface is hardened stone dust, to accommodate wheelchairs, and the remainder of the trail is wood chips. Total length is 9/10 of a mile. An informational building was reconstructed from an old wooden bathhouse built in 1930.

An Access Pass system was initiated in 1978, and allows handicapped citizens of New York State free use of all State Park fee-structured activities. A statewide seasonal pass system was also started in 1978, and this Empire Pass allows admittance to day-use areas, statewide, for \$20.00 a year. Groins and a breakwall system were constructed in Area 5 to halt erosion along the base of Devil's Nose.

Use of the park by handicapped persons had increased over the years, and an awareness that some areas were not accessible was made known. A master plan to overcome these deficiencies was developed and instituted. By 1983, all buildings, parking areas and pay phones in the park were accessible. The camping area had one modified comfort station/shower building providing access in the camping area. During the years of 1979 through 1981 water lines, power transmission lines and telephone cables were installed, replacing the utilities installed in the 1930's.

The fee structures in the camping area and day-use areas increased as the cost of living rose. The camping rate was increased to \$5.00 per night in 1979, \$6.00 in 1980, \$7.00 in 1981, \$7.50 in 1982 and \$8.00 in 1983. This included a \$1.00 charge for electricity. The vehicle entrance fee for picnic and beach area rose to \$2.50 in 1981, \$3.00 in 1982 and \$3.50 in 1983. This rate was in effect when the beach was open and lifeguards were on duty. When the beach was closed, the fee was one dollar lower.

Attendance at the park increased over the years. The beach drew people to the area when others in the county were closed because of pollution. The cottage rentals increased attendance as did camping area usage. Negative factors such as inclement weather or fuel shortages affected attendance as well.

Conclusions

The development of a State Park at Hamlin Beach met the recreational needs of the residents of Monroe and Orleans Counties. The picnic areas have been used by families for group outings, company picnics and reunions. College students are frequent visitors and enjoy the solitude to study or just relax.

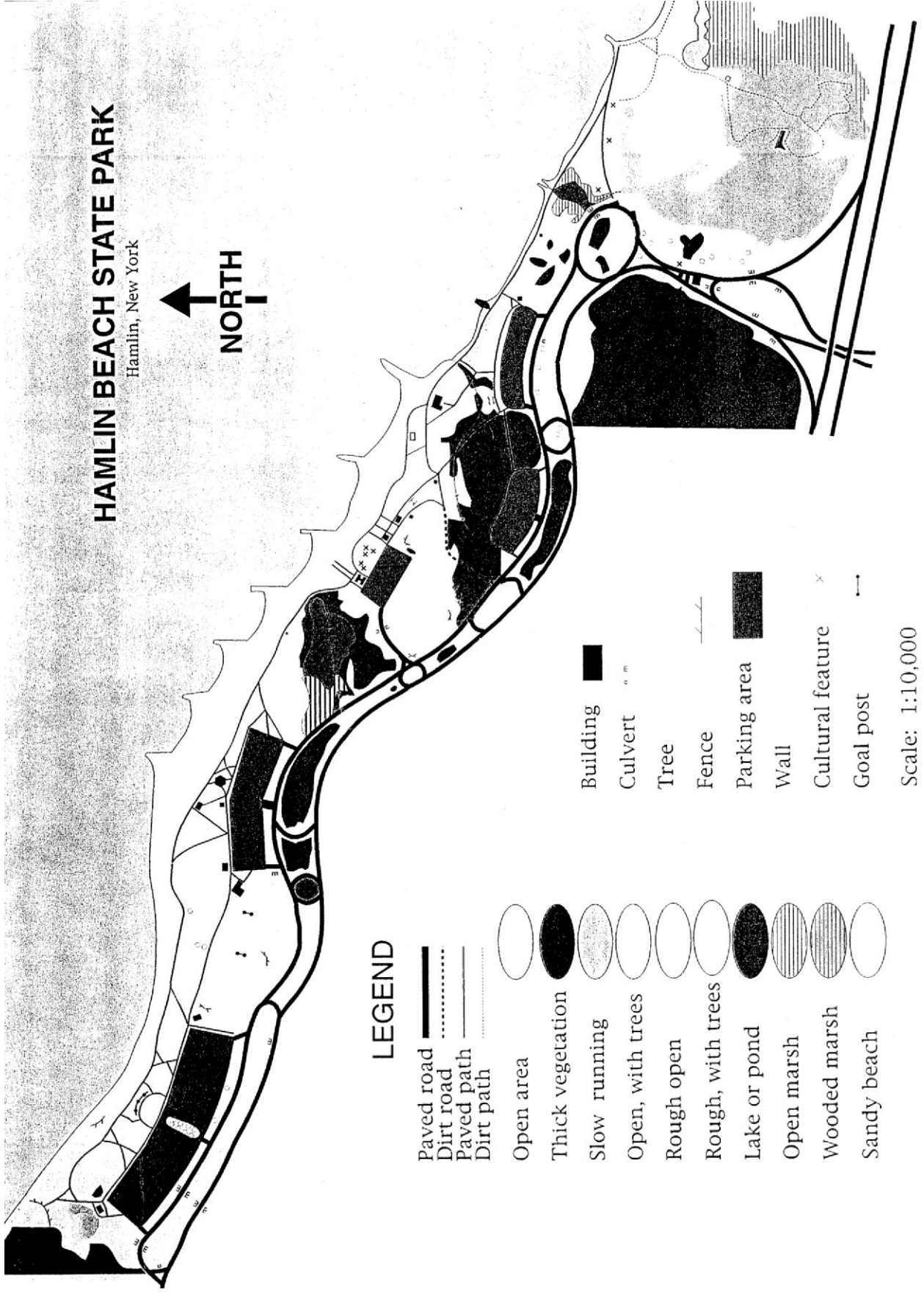
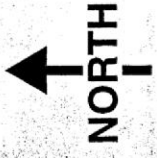
The camping area is the only developed camping facility in Monroe County. Residents spend their vacations or just a weekend relaxing in the natural setting of the park.

The guarded beaches provide the only beach in Monroe County on Lake Ontario that has been continuously free of pollution. Other beaches within a radius of twenty five miles are polluted during heavy rain run-offs and are closed by the Health Department.

The historical facts of the formation of the park are now gathered and provided in comprehensive form and are available to interested persons.

HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK

Hamlin, New York



LEGEND

- Paved road
- Dirt road
- Paved path
- Dirt path
- Open area
- Thick vegetation
- Slow running
- Open, with trees
- Rough open
- Rough, with trees
- Lake or pond
- Open marsh
- Wooded marsh
- Sandy beach

- Building
- Culvert
- Tree
- Fence
- Parking area
- Wall
- Cultural feature
- Goal post

Scale: 1:10,000

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY MASTER PLAN

- HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK -

December 1938

TOPOGRAPHICAL LOCATION:

Hamlin Beach Park is located on the shore of Lake Ontario in the Town of Hamlin, Monroe County, State of New York, and lies approximately twenty-one miles West of the City of Rochester.

It is comprised of 660 acres of gently rolling land and affords 1 1/2 miles of good sand beach frontage. It is approached by a County road on the West, and a County road on the South, and in the future by the Lake Ontario State Parkway from the East. The said parkway to run through the Southern section of the park to Redman Road on the West, and as general plans detail at the present writing, will then continue on West, eventually terminating at either Niagara Falls or Buffalo. The above mentioned beach is one of the best, for bathing and general recreation, West of the Genesee River, City of Rochester. There is existing within this park area approximately 90 acres of swamp land, 60 acres of wooded land of beech, maple, willow, ash, herabeam, and birch. A reforestation of red and white pines and maples comprises another area of some 75 acres.

The Lake Ontario State Parkway mentioned above, at the present date, runs twenty-one miles from the City of Rochester through Hamlin Beach Park. This parkway, with an average right of way of some 300 feet is now being developed by the Genesee State Park Commission, and will be a modern parkway, consisting of two 22 foot concrete lanes, divided by a center island of varying width, the whole to be planted with native trees and shrubs. At the Eastern terminus in Rochester is Durand Eastman Park, the largest botanical park in the Rochester City Park System, while to the West is the proposed extension to Niagara with additional Lake Shore Parks, wilder in aspect, to be developed along the way. At present, the Moscow Road entrance are used by visitors from Rochester, Batavia, Brockport, and intermediate communities.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT:

Hamlin Beach Park is individual in that it combines large open areas, ideal for intensive recreational use with wooded and marshy areas which afford beautiful views and opportunities for an attractive trail system. Fifty miles South lies Letchworth State Park, rich in historical, geologic, and rugged scenic interest. It is the purpose of the Genesee State Park Commission to supplement rather than duplicate these neighboring parks by developing this park for urban and rural use as a carefully planned recreational area, remote from workaday distractions.

This is being done for the reason that large state parks of similar character and close together, altho in separate state park regions, will not further the State park system as a whole. In developing Hamlin Beach Park, we must keep this general view in mind if we are to find a satisfactory solution for the recreational problem which confronts us in this region.

In the general development plans for this park area, we must very definitely consider that bathing and picnicing are the main features for which this park is to be used by the public of this section, and it might be stated that at the present writing Hamlin Beach Park is noted for its beach recreational possibility and this despite the entirely inadequate facilities now available. In the design of this park, an effort is being made to foster these interests and extend them over a greater area.

Between May and October in 1931, approximately 371,000 persons visited Hamlin Beach Park. No accurate running check of automobiles in the park was kept, but peak loads have run from 6,000 to 7,000 cars with 25,000 to 30,000 occupants in one day. Since that time, the increase in the use of motor vehicles and leisure time has brought a proportionate increased burden upon the park to such an extent that its use compares favorably with some of the waterfront parks in Westchester County and Long Island. It is reasonable to feel that with further facilities made available to the public that the use of the park will increase many times over what it is today. Consequently, our development plan shows large areas for bathing, picnicing, parking and other types of recreation in areas which, if necessary, can be enlarged considerably to meet the expected increase in the future.

It might be well to mention at this point that this supposed increase in the number of people desiring to make use of the facilities, which the State will provide in this area in the future, that the park unquestionably will have to be increased in size as time goes on. Such additional areas to the park are quite definitely outlined in our studies of use, and will amount to approximately another six or seven hundred acres to the West. This area has a terrain of a similar type as that of the present park, and affords by high bluffs on the Lake admirable opportunities to provide vantage points for scenic views to and from Lake Ontario. This area also includes a large parcel of wooded hillside, which unquestionably will be developed, both as a picnic and over-look area. This is the point which on the geodetic map is called "Devil's Nose".

By far the greatest portion of the Lake Shore from Rochester to the Niagara County line, with the exception of Hamlin Beach Park is privately owned. Bathers at present are forced to use the fifty foot right of way of County and Town roads which run to the Lake Shore.

On certain of these roads which provide access to a reasonably good beach, as high as eighty to one hundred cars have been counted at one time. Every road which reached the Lake has served to some extent as a bath house for bathers. The use of the beach at Hamlin Beach Park plus the use of these Town and County road beaches has indicated the absolute necessity of providing materially increased bathing facilities in this region.

At the Eastern edge of Hamlin Beach Park exists Yanty Creek, a winding stream which would lend itself admirably to development as a small boat harbor. This feature is very essential, both in the recreational aspect, as well as a safe anchorage for small boats on Lake Ontario. At present there are but two small boat anchorages between the mouth of the Genesee River and the mouth of the Niagara River, a distance of over 80 miles.

The average 300 foot right of way of the Lake Ontario State Parkway often widens to include woods, swamps and other area of little economic and agricultural value, but well suited to scenic and conservational use. There are a few such areas in the park, but the intensive use it now receives and will receive, to a greater extent, in the future has and will tend to discourage this feature. As a part of the development of Hamlin Beach Park, and the parkway combined, there will be many acres of such land available to the scrutiny and study of the populous desirous of such features which promote the conservation of wildlife through this section of the State.

Geographically speaking, the area of Hamlin Beach Park is comparatively new, as is typical of most of the South shore of Lake Ontario. It is made up of many previous shore line indications, which are noticeable as far South as the Ridge Road. Swamps and marshes, resultant of the general rise of the shore line and affording cover for various migratory and native birds and small animal life are seen in abundance along the Lake shore, as well as along the right of way of the Lake Ontario State Parkway.

The proposed development of this park will be under the jurisdiction of the Genesee State Park Commission. This Commission has and will have in the future, an adequate technical staff of landscape architects, architects and engineers, who will be definitely responsible to the Commission for all park and parkway developments in the third park region. The primary purpose of the park, such as the provision for bathing and picnicing, are to be the first development projected by the Genesee State Park Commission immediately after the title of the area is transferred to the State of New York, along with the necessary features of accessibility, clean-up, and sanitation. Beach improvement embracing, sea walls, jetties, sand fences, and erosion control must be carried to early completion, as well as additional comfort stations and suitable picnic facilities.

The dredging of the East marsh area for a small boat harbor will be an affective measure toward the abatement of mosquito and other pest nuisances and will supply ample fill and topsoil for use in the reclamation of other marsh areas within the park. The remaining areas are to be landscaped and reforested or otherwise developed as organized recreational areas.

There will be facilities developed in the future for any number of mixer sports and beach games, as well as areas developed for organized group amusements, such as, picnic races and games for large groups. It might be noted at this point that in the general development of this park, the active play areas, as well as the bathing and picnicing areas are to be kept some distance from the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Altho the traffic on the parkway will be regulated so that speed limit will be at a minimum, there is always the danger of people crossing and running out in the pavement in front of the highly traversed traffic lanes.

In the future it seems possible that segregated areas at the extreme Eastern section of this park area can be used for a Council Camp for the local Boy Scout Organization. The area used for this purpose would be directly East of the Yanty Creek marsh, and boat harbor area. This section of the park is practically isolated, due to the water areas, from the main useable section, and lends itself very satisfactorily to such camping development. It is not irrational to believe that there will be in the future located and developed at some designated point in this park, an area to be used for trailer camps. This again might be located in this Eastern section. This section of the park will have water, sewerage and electric facilities, and there now exists a very fine sand beach along the shore of the Lake, as well as the possibility of a second boat dock for the use of the boy Scouts or whoever else might use that area.

METHODS OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCING:

When this park area is turned over to the Genesee State Park Commission, that Commission in turn will set up, within this park area, adequate supervision and employees to maintain, develop and police the area. The budget of this Commission will include items for the development and maintenance of this park. The development plan has been approved by the State Council of Parks, headed by Mr. Robert Moses, and will be therefore a very definite item in the State Park program from this time on.

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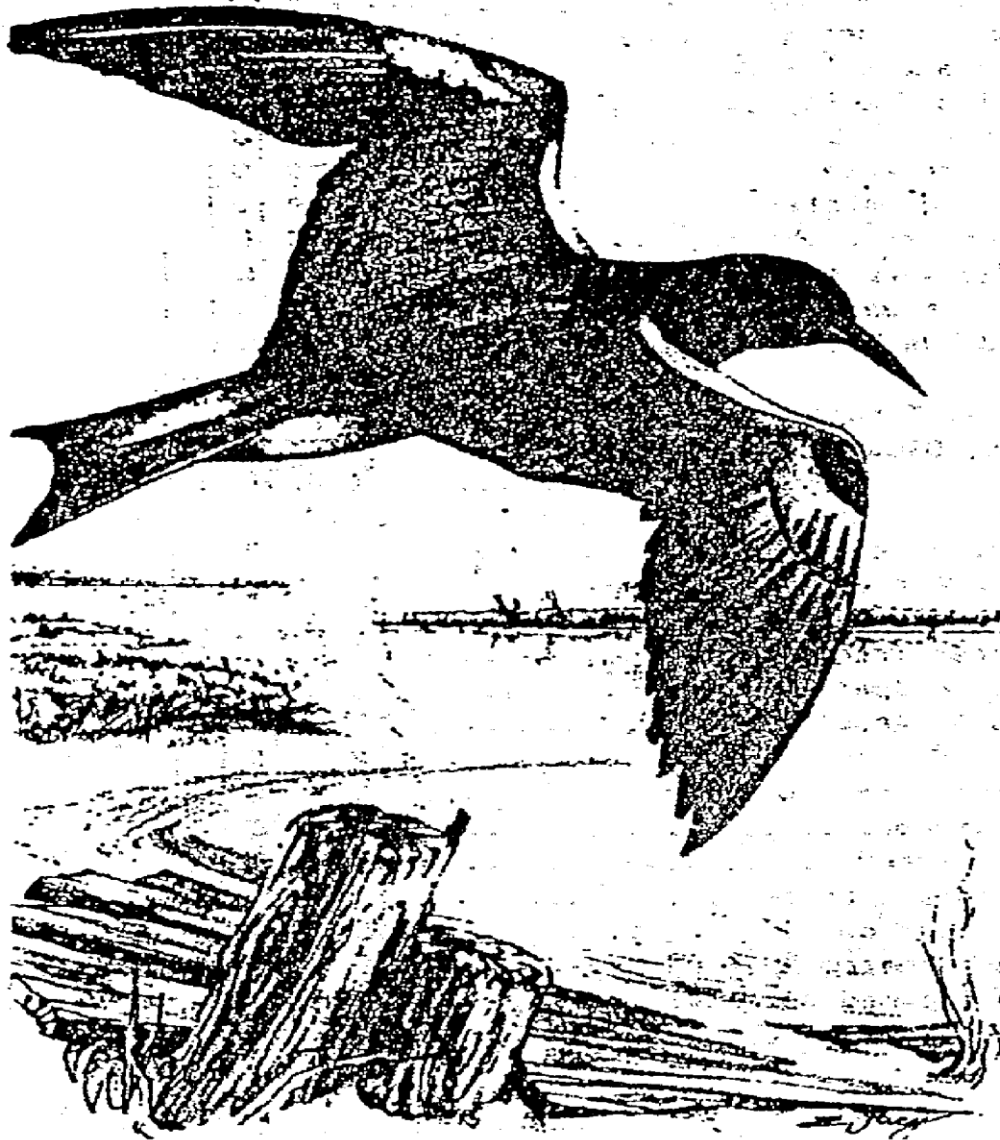
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BIRDS

OF

HAMLIN BEACH
STATE PARK



WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

What is its size? Compare with House Sparrow (S); Robin (R); Pigeon (P); or Crow (C). A size scale is provided.

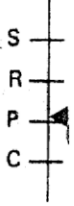
What is its shape? Chunky/slender body; pointed/rounded wings; short/long/curved/hooked bill; long/short tail; forked/square/pointed tail; flat/crested head; long/short legs.

What are its field marks? Color; plain/striped/spotted breast; wing bars; eye stripe/ring; tail, rump, head light/dark patches.

How does it fly? Soar; roller-coaster; alternate flap/sail; rapid/slow wing beat; straight/erratic path; single/flock.

How does it act? Dive/dabble; walk/hop; sit exposed/concealed; jump/patter from water; tail up/down/jerked; sits quietly/always active.

Where is it found? Old field; open water; cattails; brush; on an open perch; in conifers; flying overhead.



BELTED KINGFISHER *Ceryle alcyon*

From early May to mid-July, Kingfishers nest in holes in the sand bank at the east end of the park. You may see them along the lakeshore or along Yanty Creek. Listen for their loud rattling call.

The Belted Kingfisher is blue-gray above and white below, with one or two (on the female) broad breast bands. They may hover, then plunge into the water, chasing after a fish. Kingfishers may overwinter along area open waters, although they commonly migrate as far south as Hispaniola.

This brief guide is intended to point out a few of the commonly seen or heard summer birds typical of three of the habitats in the Yanty Creek Environmental Center. As you continue along the trail you may see other birds.

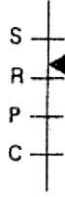
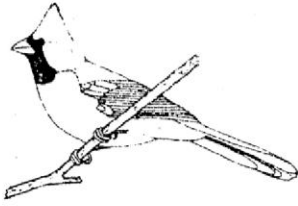
Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds* or the Golden Field Guide *Birds of North America* are inexpensive aids to birding. Other guides which point out additional natural-history features of the Center are available or are in preparation. We welcome your suggestions.

Yanty Creek Environmental Nature Center
Hamlin Beach State Park
Hamlin, NY 14464
716-964-2462



Text and design by:
Dr. Ronald C. Dilcher, SUNY College at Brockport

Consultants:
Genesee Ornithological Society
Sweden Environmental Board



COMMON CARDINAL *Cardinalis cardinalis*

You may see or hear these year 'round birds at the edge of the woods. Often, the male uses an exposed perch. The Common Cardinal's loud, whistled song ("cheer-cheer") is much more common here than it was 20 or more years ago. In 1914, this song was known in only two New York counties. The male is red, with a crest and black mask. The female is brownish and is "washed" in red.

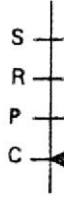
The Common Cardinal usually frequents and nests in bushes or hedges, within 12 feet of the ground. This bird's heavy, pink, triangular bill is a typical adaptation for seed eating. The cardinal has three broods between late April and mid-October. A similar bird is the Scarlet Tanager, which is red and has black wings.



EASTERN MEADOWLARK *Sturnella magna*

South of the woods, in the old field, you may see a brown, chunky bird with white outer-tail feathers. From the front, its yellow breast shows a heavy, black V. The flight of the Eastern Meadowlark is a heavy, straight path in which rapid wing beats alternate with a short sail.

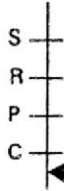
Although the Eastern Meadowlark is common in this area during winter, it migrates as far as northern South America. It usually arrives here in early March and leaves in late October. The nest is domed and is found on the ground in grassy fields. Two broods of 4 to 6 have been found between early May and early August. Meadowlark and Bobolink are both "black-birds" (Icteridae).



WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

This most colorful of our ducks nests in tree holes in wooded swamps and along tree-lined streams. You can see nesting boxes placed around the marsh to attract them. Look for Wood Ducks sitting among the button bush, and listen for the high-pitched "pee-eep, pee-eep" of the flying female. She is brownish and has a gray head, white-ringed eyes, and a long, square tail. Males out of breeding plumage look much like females.

Ducks nest early. Wood ducks have been observed in New York with eggs as early as March 28. Wood Ducks usually migrate in the fall to as far south as the Gulf Coast and Cuba.

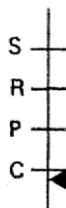


MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Among our most numerous ducks, Mallards commonly nest on the ground in or near marshes and ponds, or even sometimes quite a distance from water. In fact, weird things can befall a Mallard at nesting time. Nests have been found in a tree hole 20 feet above ground, or containing eggs of other ducks and even pheasants. A dozen eggs is not unusual in a Mallard nest.

The familiar green-headed, gray male Mallard is well known. The brown female can be identified by her large size, her white-bordered speculum (iridescent wing patch), and her white-edged tail. The last sketch in this booklet is of a dabbling female Mallard.

Mallards may overwinter locally, or may migrate to the Gulf states and the Bahamas. A dark brown, Mallard-like duck which lacks these field marks may be the Black Duck, as Mallards have been known to hybridize.

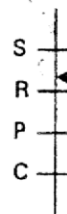
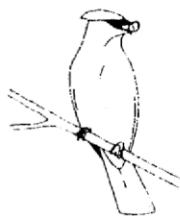


AMERICAN WIGEON; BALDPATE *Anas americana*

In the late summer, Wigeon are numerous on Yanty Creek. Males have a shining white forehead and crown. In flight, the dorsal, in board half of the wing is mostly white. (Do not mistake it for the Blue-winged Teal, whose powder-blue wing patches may appear white.)

Female Wigeon are brownish, with a grayish head and neck. Both sexes show a white belly and a pointed tail.

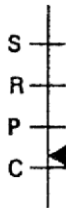
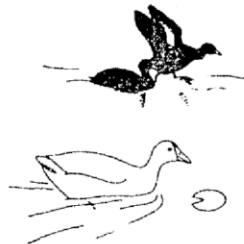
The Wigeon, a western bird, has increased its population in the Eastern U.S. recently. It was not recorded as a New York breeder until 1959. We don't know if it nests in the park.



CEDAR WAXWING *Bombycilla cedrorum*

The Cedar Waxwing is a sleek, brownish bird with a crest, a black mask, and a yellow-tipped tail. Both sexes look alike. In season, it is commonly seen feeding on cherries, in small groups. Its voice is a weak, wispy lisp. Like the Goldfinch, this bird is a late nester, nesting sometimes as late as October. It nests in deciduous and coniferous, semi-open habitats, sometimes several pairs in the same small grove, usually within 25 feet of the ground.

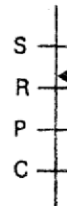
Cedar Waxwings feed mostly on fruit (Mountain Ash in winter), although they are characteristically seen "flycatching" near water in late summer. They winter from this area as far south as Panama. Look for the Cedar Waxwing in the cherry tree at the edge of the woods, near the parking area.



AMERICAN COOT *Fulica americana*

Coots are Marsh Rails (Rallidae) that sometimes gather in flocks with ducks in open water. Watch for them on Yanty Creek in late summer. They patter along the surface to get airborne. You may even see them awkwardly diving for submerged vegetation.

Although more abundant than Gallinules during migration, Coots are less common as breeders in this area. In fact, it is uncertain whether they nest in the park. Their nests usually are in more open areas of marshes than Gallinules. Coots overwinter from New York to the Gulf Coast. Coots have a white bill on a chicken-like gray body. The calls of the Coot are like that of the Gallinule, except they are more throaty.

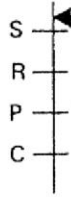


CATBIRD *Dumetella carolinensis*

This common, slate-gray bird nests wherever thickets occur. Although it is curious, it usually remains in the safety of cover. You may see or hear it at the wood's edge.

The Catbird's bulky twig nests are placed low and often contain grape-vine bark. Catbird calls include "meows," clucks and a series of unrepeated squeaks and whistles. Other Mimidae with somewhat similar calls, (which you may see in this area) include the Brown Thrasher (brown, striped breast, long tail) and the Mockingbird (light gray, with white flash patches on the wing and tail).

Catbirds usually arrive here early in May from as far south as Panama, and leave in late October (although a few may overwinter). Between early May and early August, the Catbird has two broods.

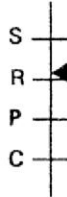


INDIGO BUNTING *Passerina cyanea*

This little, deep-blue songster is a finch (Fringillidae). In autumn it molts to a brown color, more like the streak-breasted female. In summer it commonly sits and sings, high at the south edge of the woods, overlooking the brush.

Indigo Bunting nests are usually in brush, within about 4 feet of the ground. Eggs have been found from May 26 to August 3. Usually there are two broods.

The song of the Indigo Bunting is a finch-like "sweet-sweet, chew-chew" series of doublets. This bird winters as far south as Panama.

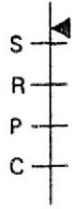
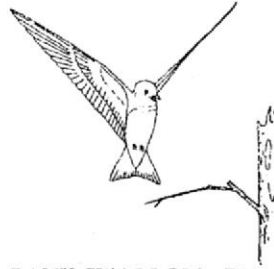


RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD *Agelaius phoeniceus*

Everyone knows this abundant marsh and grassy-field bird. This blackbird's territorial call in March ("O-ka-reee") is a sure sign of spring.

The Red-Winged Blackbird swarms by the tens-of-thousands during migration and in larger numbers on winter roosts in the South. It may be our most abundant bird. Its nests have been found here in the cattails and button bush from late April to early July. A sub-species apparently nests nearby.

Red-Winged Blackbird females are striped and brownish, whereas males are black with red epaulettes. Did you know that if the red epaulettes are dyed black the male is unable to "hold territory" or to attract a mate?



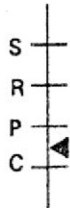
BANK SWALLOW *Riparia riparia*

These colonial nesters, usually seen flying over the marsh and old field, nest in sand banks at the west end of the park. They winter in South America.

Bank Swallows usually arrive in late April and leave by mid-September. They have brown backs and a dark band across a light breast. The Bank Swallow's tail is notched, but is not deeply forked as is the Barn Swallow's tail. The Rough-winged Swallow is similar, but has a dusky throat rather than a chest band.

The Purple Martins occasionally seen overhead probably live in Martin houses on a nearby farm. Martins are considerably larger than Bank Swallows. The males are blue-black above and below, and the females are blue-black above and gray below.

Bank Swallows have a short buzzy "brtt" call note, whereas Martins have a more throaty "chew" note.

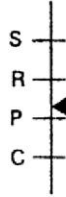
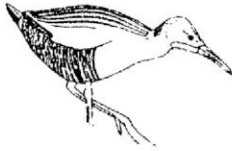


COMMON GALLINULE *Gallinula chloropus*

By now you should be near the first marsh overlook. Often you will hear a series of loud chicken-like calls—"Kurruk" and "Kik-kik-kik"—coming from the cattails. Gallinules are dark gray, chicken-like, marsh birds that sometimes skulk among the cattails or occasionally swim about near them.

Sometimes you can see families of Gallinules in early morning along the mowed portions of the parkway. They usually arrive from the Gulf Coast by mid-April and leave by mid-November. Their nests among the cattails and button bush are bulky affairs built about a foot above water level. Eggs have been found from mid-May to late July. Gallinules feed mostly on marsh vegetation.

The Common Gallinule's beak is bright red. White feathers on the flank distinguish this bird from the uncommon Purple Gallinule, which has a white patch above its red bill. Coots have white bills. All three of these birds "swim like a chicken," with a pumping head motion.

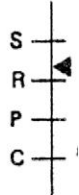


VIRGINIA RAIL *Rallus limicola*

This small, rufous-brown rail has gray cheeks and a long, downward-curved bill. It is not commonly seen on the marsh. Peterson describes its voice as "Wak-wak-wak" or "Kid-ick-kidick."

Sora, another shy, yellow-brown marsh rail, has a short, yellow bill. Its call, again described by Peterson, is a "plaintive whistled Ker-wee (with rising inflection)" or "a sharp Keek."

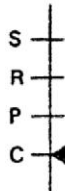
Eggs of these birds have been found in New York from early May to mid-July. Both birds build domed nests on platforms low in the cattails. Look and listen for each of these birds by the first marsh overlook.



WOOD THRUSH *Catharus mustelinus*

The brown-backed thrush, common to deciduous woods (Turdidae) has a heavily spotted light breast. Its head is a lighter rusty color than its back and tail. In contrast, the similar, less common Hermit Thrush has a rusty tail and a darker head and back. The Hermit Thrush is not known to nest in this immediate area. The Brown Thrasher (Mimidae) is larger, with a longer tail. Its whole back is a lighter rusty color.

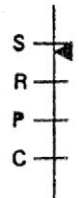
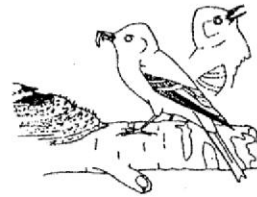
Wood Thrush have a beautiful, flute-like song, as well as coarser, staccato alarm notes. These birds arrive here in early May and leave for wintering grounds in Southern Texas and Panama in early October. Their eggs have been found in New York between mid-May and early July. Their nests are usually in trees, within 25 feet of the ground.



GREEN HERON *Butorides virescens*

A fairly common migrant, this dark, crow-sized heron may be seen flying about the marsh in early morning. When flushed, it commonly flies a short distance to an overlook, where it pauses, gawks, and flies again. The Green Heron has a coarse "skeow" call. It winters in our southern states and as far south as Central America.

The Green Heron's bulky, stick nest is often in low trees, up to 20 feet high, along streams or scattered in marshes. Usually four eggs are produced between late April and early August. The adult's back appears more blue than green; the head, neck, and breast are rusty brown. The Green Heron's yellowish-green legs trail in flight. Immature birds are brown with a conspicuously striped breast.



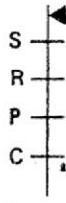
EASTERN WOOD PEEWEE *Contropus virens*

An olive-brown woodland flycatcher with two wing bars and a light breast, the Eastern Wood Pewee lacks an eye ring. The Eastern Wood Pewee's lower mandible is yellow. You may hear this bird's "pee-a-wee" whistle in the woods.

The Eastern Wood Pewee's nest, which it builds in both deciduous and coniferous woods, may be found as high as 40 feet off the ground. Eggs have been found from the end of May to early August. This peewee is usually seen in this area from mid-May until early October. It winters from Costa Rica to Peru.

The flycatcher family is called Tyrannidae, and it includes the Kingbird, which frequents open fields. The flycatcher you may see in the button bush as you stand at the first marsh overlook is probably the Traill's (Alder) Flycatcher. Listen for its "Fitz-bew" call, the only reliable way to distinguish among four nearly identical members of Genus Empidonax. All have wing bars and eye rings.

The large, white, heron-like wading birds you may see are probably Egrets. Look for all of these wading birds at the first and second marsh overlooks.

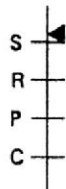


LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN *Cistothorus palustris*

More often heard than seen, this is a tiny brownish bird that hides among the cattails. Peterson describes this wren's song as "reedy and gurgling; cut-cut-cut-turrrrrrrr-ur." The Long-Billed Marsh Wren's voice calls from the reeds even at night. Listen for it at the first marsh overlook.

The Long-Billed Marsh Wren has a brownish back with black and white stripes and shows a conspicuous white eye line. This wren builds domed nests, colonially, in narrow-leaved cattails, 3 to 5 feet above water, between late May and early August. Sometimes they build dummy nests. Long-Billed Marsh Wrens arrive here in early May and depart for the southern states probably by October.

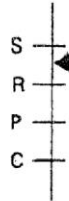
Short-Billed Marsh Wrens live in wet, grassy marshes. They lack the eye line of their long-billed cousin.



COMMON YELLOWTHROAT *Geothlypis trichas*

Warblers (Parulidae) have been described as the butterflies of the bird world. They are small, active, and have strong color patterns. Many migrate through the area, but only a few nest here. This common little "masked" warbler has a yellow throat and breast. The females lacks the mask. Each bird has a whitish belly. They usually nest in low wetland vegetation where you may hear their "witchity-witchity-witchity" call.

The Common Yellow Throat arrives from the Carolinas in early May and departs by the end of October. Watch and listen for it along the shrubby edge of the marsh.



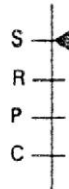
BOBOLINK *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*

Bobolink is another songbird seen in the old field. The male is black below and shows large white patches above. The back of the black head is a yellowish cream color. Females are yellowish buff, with stripings on the head and back.

Also known as the "Rice Bird," the Bobolink overwinters on the Pampas of southern South America. The long flight to its winter home explains why this ground-nester arrives late (in mid-May) and leaves early (in late July).

Bobolink are becoming scarcer, perhaps because their open nesting space is being destroyed or poisoned.

Peterson describes the Bobolink's voice as "reedy and bubbling, starting with low melodious notes and rollicking upward in pitch, given on the wing." Others hear its name, "Bob-o-link, Bob-o-link, spink, spink."

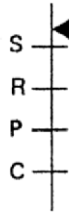


SONG SPARROW *Passerella melodia*

Song Sparrows have strong breast stripes and a black "stickpin" in the middle of the breast. Song Sparrows are common in most brush areas. Their nests are usually on the ground in grass tufts and have eggs from mid-April to mid-August. Sometimes there are 3 broods a year. Song Sparrows may be locally common in winter, although the Gulf states are their usual wintering area.

Sparrows have much variation in individual appearance. The Vesper Sparrow has white outer-tail feathers. The Savannah Sparrow has a yellowish eye line and a tail with a notch rather than a rounded tip. Both Chipping and Field Sparrows have unstriped breasts. Look for these birds on brush piles in the old field south of the trail.

Peterson describes the Savannah Sparrow's song as "tsit-tsit-tsit, tseeee-tsaay (last note lower)" whereas the Song Sparrow's song is "musical, usually starting with 3 or 4 bright repetitious notes."

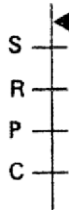


AMERICAN GOLDFINCH *Spinus tristis*

This little, yellow, black-winged finch winters throughout its nesting range. The female is a dull olive-yellow bird with dark wings. Both sexes have conspicuous wing bars. In winter the males look much like females.

The other common, small "yellow bird," the Yellow Warbler, lacks very dark wings and wing bars. The Yellow Warbler is more commonly found in willows near water, whereas the Goldfinch is often seen in the old field or adjacent brush.

The Goldfinch flies in a "roller-coaster" flight pattern, often giving a canary-like "perchickity" call with each dip. Some Goldfinches are migratory, arriving in this area in late March and leaving by November. The Goldfinch nests late, often late into September, in shrubs and small trees in open country. The nest is usually lined with thistle-down. As its thick, finch-like bill indicates, the Goldfinch is a seed eater.

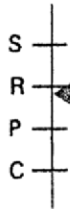


BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE *Parus atricapillus*

This tame, little, open-woods bird may be seen here year 'round, although it also migrates, sometimes in large flocks in mid-October. The Black-Capped Chickadee nests in tree cavities, and its eggs have been found from late April to mid-July.

Both sexes of this bird look alike. The small flocks seen at times other than nesting season are usually family groups. Black-Capped Chickadees have an interesting social organization.

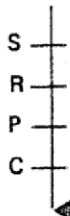
Chickadees have several "conversational calls," including a whistled "fee-bee." Like the two species of chickadee that appear in New York State, the Tufted Titmouse is a member of the Paridae family.



BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

In early summer, the tern is nearly all black. It flies low over the marsh with oar-like wing beats and with its head usually pointed down. The Black Tern's notched tail and wheeling flight make it appear to be a large swallow.

By mid-summer, the Black Tern becomes spotted with white as it molts to its lighter winter plumage. The nests (which are built in colonies) are found in matted, broken cattails between late May and late July. The Black Tern winters in northern South America. It arrives at its summer home in mid-May and leaves in late September. Spectacular fall migrations of Black Tern can be seen along the upper Niagara River.



GREAT BLUE HERON *Ardea herodias*

This great, 4-foot-tall bird is our largest heron. Its wings may extend to 6 feet in length. The Great Blue Heron flies with slow wing beats, head curved back, and legs extended.

Colloquially, this heron may be called "crane," but cranes are western birds that fly with their head and neck extended.

Great Blue Herons are gray with some dark patches. They nest colonially in tree rookeries deep in area swamps. None nest in the park.

Although they may be seen here year round, most migrate by late October to the southern United States.

**CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF
HAMLIN BEACH STATE PARK**

Hamlin Beach State Park is located on Lake Ontario along the Great Lakes flyway. Waterfowl and shore-bird concentrations as well as the spring hawk migration can be spectacular. More than 250 species of birds have been recorded with over 65 species nesting in the Park's diverse habitats. Most of the Park's habitats and perhaps the best birding is available on the east side along the Yanty Creek Nature trail. Hamlin Beach State Park was established in 1938 and today consists of over 1,200 acres of shoreline, marsh, numerous small woodlots, conifer plantations, shrublands and fields.

SEASONS

Sp Spring (March 1 - May 31)
Su Summer (June 1 - August 31)
F Fall (September 1 - November 30)
W Winter (December 1 - February 28)

STATUS

A Abundant--hard to miss in proper habitat
C Common--very likely to be seen in proper habitat
U Uncommon--present but not likely to be seen
O Occasional--unlikely to be seen; seen only 1-3 times per season
R Rare--seen at intervals of 2-5 years
* Breeding--breeding confirmed within park boundaries
Species designated by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation as endangered, threatened or of special concern

	Sp	Su	F	W
LOONS				
Red-throated Loon.....	U		U	O
Common Loon #.....	C	O	C	O
GREBES				
Pied-billed Grebe*.....	U	U	U	
Horned Grebe.....	C	R	C	O
Red-necked Grebe.....	U		O	R
GANNETS				
Northern Gannet.....			R	
CORMORANTS				
Double-crested Cormorant.....	C	O	C	R
BITTERNS AND HERONS				
American Bittern*.....	O	O	O	
Least Bittern* #.....	U	U	U	
Great Blue Heron.....	C	C	C	O
Great Egret.....	O		O	
Snowy Egret.....		R		
Green-backed Heron*.....	C	C	C	
Black-crowned Night-Heron*.....	O	O	O	
SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS				
Tundra Swan.....	O		O	
Snow Goose.....	O		O	
Brant.....	O		O	
Canada Goose.....	A	O	C	O
Wood Duck*.....	C	C	C	
Green-winged Teal.....	U	U	U	
American Black Duck.....	U	O	U	O
Mallard*.....	A	A	A	U
Northern Pintail.....	U	O	U	R
Blue-winged Teal*.....	U	U	U	
Northern Shoveler.....	O		O	
Gadwall.....	C	O	O	R
American Wigeon.....	U	O	U	R
Canvasback.....	U		U	O
Redhead.....	U		U	O
Ring-necked Duck.....	U		U	O
Greater Scaup.....	A	R	A	U
Lesser Scaup.....	A	O	A	U
King Eider.....				R
Harlequin Duck.....				R

	Sp	Su	F	W
Oldsquaw.....	C	R	A	C
Black Scoter.....	O	U	R	
Surf Scoter.....	O	U	R	
White-winged Scoter.....	A	O	A	A
Common Goldeneye.....	A	A	A	A
Bufflehead.....	C	R	C	C
Hooded Merganser.....	U	O	U	O
Common Merganser.....	C	C	C	C
Red-breasted Merganser.....	A	O	A	U
Ruddy Duck.....	O	O		
AMERICAN VULTURES				
Turkey Vulture.....	U	O	U	
KITES, EAGLES, HAWKS AND ALLIES				
Osprey #.....	O	R	O	
Bald Eagle #.....	O	R	O	
Northern Harrier #.....	O	O	O	R
Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	U	O	O	O
Cooper's Hawk #.....	U	O	O	O
Northern Goshawk.....	O	O	O	O
Red-shouldered Hawk #.....	O			
Broad-winged Hawk.....	U	O	O	O
Red-tailed Hawk.....	U	U	U	U
Rough-legged Hawk.....	O	O	O	O
Golden Eagle #.....	R			
FALCONS				
American Kestrel.....	U	U	U	U
Merlin.....	R	O		
Peregrine Falcon #.....	R	O		
PARTRIDGES, GROUSE, TURKEYS AND QUAIL				
Ring-necked Pheasant*.....	U	U	U	U
Ruffed grouse.....	O	O	O	O
RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS				
Virginia Rail*.....	U	U	U	R
Sora*.....	U	U	U	U
Common Moorhen*.....	U	U	U	U
American Coot*.....	U	U	O	
PLOVERS				
Black-bellied Plover.....	O	O	O	

	Sp	Su	F	W
Lesser Golden-Plover.....	O	O	O	
Semipalmated Plover.....	O	O	O	
Killdeer*.....	C	C	C	C
SANDPIPERS, PHALAROPES AND ALLIES				
Greater Yellowlegs.....	O	O	O	
Lesser Yellowlegs.....	O	O	O	
Solitary Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Willet.....	R			
Spotted Sandpiper*.....	U	U	U	
Upland Sandpiper #.....	O			
Whimbrel.....	O	O		
Hudsonian Godwit.....	R			
Marbled Godwit.....	R			
Ruddy Turnstone.....	O	O	O	
Red Knot.....	O	O	O	
Sanderling.....	U	U	U	
Semipalmated Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Western Sandpiper.....	O	O	R	
Least Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
White-rumped Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Baird's Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Pectoral Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Purple Sandpiper.....	O	O	R	
Dunlin.....	O	U	O	
Stilt Sandpiper.....	R	R	R	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper.....	O	O	O	
Short-billed Dowitcher.....	O	O	O	
Long-billed Dowitcher.....	O	O	R	
Common Snipe*.....	O	O	O	R
American Woodcock*.....	U	U	O	
Red-necked Phalarope.....	O	O		
Red Phalarope.....	R			
SKuas, GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS				
Pomarine Jaeger.....	R			
Parasitic Jaeger.....	O			
Franklin's Gull.....	R			
Little Gull.....	R	O		
Bonaparte's Gull.....	U	O	C	O
Ring-billed Gull.....	A	A	A	A

	Sp	Su	F	W
Herring Gull.....	C	U	C	C
Iceland Gull.....	C	U	R	R
Glaucous Gull.....	C	O	R	R
Great Black-backed Gull.....	C	O	C	C
Black-legged Kittiwake.....	O	O	O	
Caspian Tern.....	O	O	O	
Common Tern #.....	O	O	O	
Forster's Tern.....	R	R	O	
Black Tern* #.....	U	U	O	
PIGEONS AND DOVES				
Rock Dove.....	O	O	O	
Mourning Dove*.....	C	C	C	O
CUCKOOS				
Black-billed Cuckoo*.....	O	U	O	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	R	O	R	
TYPICAL OWLS				
Eastern Screech-Owl*.....	U	U	U	U
Great Horned Owl*.....	C	C	C	C
Snowy Owl.....	C	R	R	R
Long-eared Owl.....	R	R	R	R
Short-eared Owl #.....	R			
Northern Saw-whet Owl.....	R			
GOATSUCKERS				
Common Nighthawk #.....	O	O	R	
Whip-poor-will.....	R	R	R	
SWIFTS				
Chimney Swift.....	O	O	O	
HUMMINGBIRDS				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird*.....	O	U	O	
KINGFISHERS				
Belted Kingfisher*.....	U	U	U	R
WOODPECKERS				
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	R	R	R	
Red-bellied Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	U
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.....	U	U	U	R
Downy Woodpecker*.....	C	C	C	C
Hairy Woodpecker*.....	U	U	U	U
Northern Flicker*.....	C	C	C	U
Pileated Woodpecker.....	R	R	R	R

	Sp	Su	F	W
TYRANT FLYCATCHERS				
Olive-sided Flycatcher.....	R	O		
Eastern Wood-Peevee*.....	U	U	U	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.....	O	O	O	
Alder Flycatcher.....	R	R	R	
Willow Flycatcher*.....	U	U	O	
Least Flycatcher.....	U	O	U	
Eastern Phoebe*.....	U	U	U	
Great Crested Flycatcher*.....	U	U	U	
Eastern Kingbird*.....	C	C	U	
LARKS				
Horned Lark.....	O	O	O	O
SWALLOWS				
Purple Martin.....	U	U	U	
Tree Swallow*.....	C	U	C	
N. Rough-winged Swallow*.....	O	U	O	
Bank Swallow*.....	U	A	O	
Cliff Swallow.....	O	O	O	
Barn Swallow*.....	C	C	O	
JAYS AND CROWS				
Blue Jay*.....	C	U	U	C
American Crow*.....	A	A	A	A
TITMICE				
Black-capped Chickadee*.....	C	C	C	A
Tufted Titmouse.....	U	U	U	U
NUTHATCHES				
Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	U	O	U	C
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	U	U	U	U
CREEPERS				
Brown Creeper.....	U	O	U	U
WRENS				
Carolina Wren.....	R	R	R	R
House Wren*.....	U	U	O	
Winter Wren.....	O	O	R	
Marsh Wren*.....	C	C	C	
KINGLETS AND GNATCATCHERS				
Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	C	R	U	C
Ruby-crowned Kinglet.....	C	U		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.....	O			

	Sp	Su	F	W
THRUSHES AND ALLIES				
Eastern Bluebird #.....	O	R	O	
Veery.....	O	O	O	
Gray-cheeked Thrush.....	R	O	O	
Swainson's Thrush.....	O	O	O	
Hermit Thrush.....	O	O	O	R
Wood Thrush*.....	U	U	U	U
American Robin*.....	A	A	A	U
MOCKINGBIRDS, THRASHERS AND ALLIES				
Gray Catbird*.....	C	C	C	R
Northern Mockingbird.....	R	R	R	R
Brown Thrasher*.....	U	U	U	U
PIPITS				
Water Pipit.....	O	O		
WAXWINGS				
Bohemian Waxwing.....	R	R	R	
Cedar Waxwing*.....	C	C	C	U
SHRIKES				
Northern Shrike.....	R	O	O	
STARLINGS				
European Starling*.....	A	A	A	C
VIREOS				
Solitary Vireo.....	O	O		
Yellow-throated Vireo.....	O	O		
Warbling Vireo*.....	C	C	C	
Philadelphia Vireo.....	O	O		
Red-eyed Vireo*.....	C	C	C	
WOOD WARBLERS				
Blue-winged Warbler.....	O	R		
Golden-winged Warbler.....	R	R		
Tennessee Warbler.....	C	R	U	
Orange-crowned Warbler.....	R	R	R	
Nashville Warbler.....	U	U		
Northern Parula.....	O	O		
Yellow Warbler*.....	A	A	U	
Chestnut-sided Warbler.....	U	O		
Magnolia Warbler.....	C	O	C	

	Sp	Su	F	W
Cape May Warbler.....	O	O	O	
Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	O	R	U	
Yellow-rumped Warbler.....	A	R	A	O
Black-throated Green Warbler.....	C	O	U	
Blackburnian Warbler.....	C	O	U	
Pine Warbler.....	R	R	R	
Palm Warbler.....	U	U	U	R
Bay-breasted Warbler.....	U	O	U	
Blackpoll Warbler.....	U	O	U	
Cerulean Warbler.....	R	R	R	
Black-and-white Warbler.....	R	U	U	
American Redstart.....	C	U	U	
Ovenbird.....	U	O	U	
Northern Waterthrush.....	O	O	O	
Mourning Warbler.....	O	R	O	
Common Yellowthroat*.....	C	C	C	
Hooded Warbler.....	R			
Wilson's Warbler.....	U	U	U	
Canada Warbler.....	U	O	U	
TANAGERS				
Scarlet Tanager.....	U	U	U	
CARDINALS, GROSBEAKS AND ALLIES				
Northern Cardinal*.....	C	C	C	C
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*.....	U	U	U	U
Indigo Bunting*.....	U	U	R	
SPARROWS AND ALLIES				
Rufous-sided Towhee.....	U	R	U	
American Tree Sparrow.....	O	U	U	C
Chipping Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	
Field Sparrow*.....	U	U	U	
Vesper Sparrow #.....	R	R	R	
Savannah Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	
Fox Sparrow.....	O	O	O	
Song Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	U
Lincoln's Sparrow.....	O			
Swarm Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	U
White-throated Sparrow.....	C	U	C	U
White-crowned Sparrow.....	U	U	U	
Dark-eyed Junco.....	U	U	U	

	Sp	Su	F	W
Lapland Longspur.....			O	O
Snow Bunting.....	O		C	U
BLACKBIRDS AND ALLIES				
Bobolink*.....	U	U	O	
Red-winged Blackbird*.....	C	C	C	R
Eastern Meadowlark*.....	U	U	U	
Rusty Blackbird.....	U	U	U	R
Common Grackle*.....	C	C	C	R
Brown-headed Cowbird*.....	C	C	C	R
Northern Oriole*.....	U	U	U	
FINCHES AND ALLIES				
Pine Grosbeak.....			R	R
Purple Finch.....	O	O	R	
House Finch*.....	C	C	C	C
Red Crossbill.....			R	R
White-winged Crossbill.....			R	R
Common Redpoll.....	R	R	R	R
Pine Siskin.....	U	U	U	D
American Goldfinch*.....	C	C	C	U
Evening Grosbeak.....	O	O	O	R
OLD WORLD SPARROWS				
House Sparrow*.....	C	C	C	C

SPECIES SEEN LESS FREQUENTLY THAN
ONCE EVERY FIVE YEARS

Eared Grebe
American White Pelican
Great Cormorant
Little Blue Heron
Eurasian Wigeon
Common Eider
Wild Turkey
Wilson's Phalarope
Long-tailed Jaeger
Laughing Gull
Common Black-headed Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Sabine's Gull
Royal Tern
Boreal Owl
Black-backed Woodpecker
Fish Crow
Common Raven #
Boreal Chickadee
Loggerhead Shrike #
Kentucky Warbler
Connecticut Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Clay-colored Sparrow

OBSERVER FIELD DATA

NAME _____
DATE _____ TIME _____
WEATHER _____

NOTES _____

Special observations (breeding behavior, rare or out-
of season sightings, etc.) should be reported to:

Hamlin Beach State Park
Hamlin, NY 14464
(716) 964-2462



State of New York
George E. Pataki, Governor

Office of Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation
Bernadette Castro, Commissioner

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency