



Welcome!

**Houghton Park Master Plan
Public Workshops
August 16, 2023**

Today's Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Background
- About Houghton Park
- Review Houghton Park Master Plan Project Scope
- How to Interact with the Project and the Consultants
- Conservation Area overlap
- Your turn!
- Join us for our next events



Meet the Team

- Joy Kuebler Landscape Architect, PC
 - Project Leader, engagement and landscape architecture
- Kheops Engineers
 - Topographic survey and engineering
- ANPRA Architecture
 - Building conditions, and architect
- C&S Engineers
 - Building environmental and utility conditions
- Trophy Point
 - Cost Estimating



Project Background

Overall Project Purpose:

To develop a blueprint for future improvements for Houghton Park to realize the vision of feasible, equitable, accessible, safe, and functional park facilities.



Project Background

- New Master Plan for Houghton Stachowski Park (Houghton Park).
- One of eight City of Buffalo park master plans funded by the American Rescue Plan.
- Will include recommendations for rehabilitation of existing facilities as well as improvements to attract new and serve existing park users.
- Big-picture approach to defining priorities for updated and new facilities for Houghton Park including Houghton Conservation Area – also known as the Woods and the Fields.
- For the purposes of the Master Plan, Houghton Conservation Area is considered part of Houghton Park. Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust is the perpetual steward of the Conservation Area and the City of Buffalo, which owns it, is responsible for facilities within this area.



Houghton Park History

- Dedicated in 1925 and named for Frederick M. Houghton, archeologist and BPS administrator. His efforts established both the park and the school. Renamed Houghton Stachowski Park to honor Stanley J. Stachowski, City Parks Commissioner, 1965-1973.
- Many of the dead-end streets south of Clinton Street once ended at the Buffalo River! The original riverbed was filled in to straighten the river.
- The Conservation Area (the Woods) was a landfill from 1930 until 1973.
- In 1945, John E. Brent, Buffalo's first Black architect, designed an addition to the park that included a vision for what became the Woods.
- The 1956 Polish Falcons of America Quadrennial Convention was held in Buffalo. The Zlot (field meet) was held in Houghton Park. Olympic champion Stella Walsh (Stanisława Walasiewicz) ran.





John Brent, AIA

During his long and distinguished career, he also designed the wrought iron gates at the Buffalo Zoo.



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Houghton Park Today

- Houghton Park is a recreation and social anchor of the proud historic Kaisertown Neighborhood.
- At nearly 60 acres, Houghton is one of Buffalo's largest parks. Only Delaware Park, South Park, Cazenovia Park, Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Centennial Park, and Tifft Farms Nature Preserve are larger.
- It was actually renamed Stachowski Park but the name seems never to have stuck. So it's Houghton Stachowski Park, or just plain Houghton Park.
- A community garden maintained by the Kaisertown Friends Association is in the park behind the school.
- Get Every Kid in the Game co-ed youth flag football league is based in Houghton Park.



Plan Houghton Park!

The Master Plan project includes:

- Assessment of existing facilities including splash pads, play courts, athletic fields, playground, trails, and multi-use paths, picnic areas, open spaces, conservation area, shelters, etc.
- It also includes assessment of the park's entrances and exits, parking areas, the security of the park perimeter, and lighting.
- A list of priorities for park improvements will be developed during the plan. Not all of these can be funded right away. A list of priority projects will be developed to guide funding decisions in the future.
- The pool building will be analyzed for building and environmental conditions as part of the project. This analysis will be used to support future investments, but will not be included in the improvements planned for this phase of the work.



Plan Houghton Park!

The project will take place in phases:

- During the *schematic design* phase, we imagine what the park could look like in 20 years – that’s beginning now!
 - The schematic design phase will result in sketches and renderings of the future park that will be reviewed by the public and approved by the City of Buffalo, creating the Houghton Park Master Plan.
- During the *design development* phase, priority projects from the Master Plan will be advanced to landscape architecture, architecture and engineering documents, including cost estimates.
 - These will also be presented to the public for comment and the City for approval
 - The projects approved for immediate funding will advance to construction drawings and bidding in order for construction to start in 2024



Community Engagement

- How you can participate with us during Schematic Design
 - Today's Meeting
 - Take our online Survey !
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Houghton_Park_Master_Plan_Survey
 - Visit our webpage <https://www.cscos.com/planhoughtonpark/>
 - Community Conversation – Clinton Bailey Market on Aug 19
 - Visioning Workshop and Tour – in the park on Aug 24
 - Continued Visioning and Concept Design Workshop – on Sept 6



Some Survey Results so far

- Most respondents live right in Kaisertown and more than half visit Houghton Park at least a couple of times a month.
- Respondents' likes: walking paths, open spaces, playground and that the park is close to home.
- What they'd most like to change: Better maintenance and upkeep, updated facilities.
- The top characteristics respondents said were very important:
 - Quality and maintenance of sports facilities (92%)
 - Park and playground safety (91%)
 - Support facilities like washrooms and drinking fountains (86%)
 - Landscaping and appearance (86%)
 - Lighting (84%)
- Don't forget to take the survey and add your voice to these results!



Conservation Area Vision Plan Process

- Earlier in 2023 the Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust worked with the community to generate a Vision Plan for the conservation area over the course of four community workshops.
- That Vision Plan will be rolled into the overall Park Master Plan, and of course community voices are welcome to share their thoughts now to shift or add to that vision.
- If you participated in that process, you'll notice some of the activities will be part of this master plan process as well. We'll be looking now at the entirety of the park.



Conservation Area Vision Plan Suggestions

- This vision captures the community participation at the time
- These suggestions can be included in the Park Master Plan
- New ideas can be added



Conservation Area Update

- Spring of 2023, Waterkeeper and the Land Trust hosted a clean up day to remove litter and dumping
- Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to help with the removal of concrete and brick debris that remains in the natural area from the landfill era. That work will commence this fall.
 - That grant also allows us to host a Nature Inspiration Day on Sat Sept 23 with family friendly nature inspired activities
 - The event is part of the grant and is to continue interest and championship of the Conservation Area



Your turn!



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Open Question Portion



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Activity I

Hindsight | Insight | Foresight Cards

What is holding Houghton Park back?

If you could move those obstacles, what could be possible for Houghton Park?

What will it take for success for Houghton Park?

What partners or resources do we need for Houghton Park?



Activity II

Where Can We Play?

These are the facilities currently in Houghton Park:

Baseball Field	Pool Building	Shelters	Parking Areas
Football Field	Open Fields	Cooking Grills	Entrance Roads
Tennis Court	Ball Hockey Courts	Backstops	Paved Paths
Basketball Courts	Splash Pad	Bleachers	Unpaved Trails
Multi-use Field	Play Structures	Pathways	Waterfront
The Woods	Benches	Lighting	Fencing
Pool	Picnic Tables	Swing Set	Sculpted Animals

Did we miss any? What are they?



Activity II (cont.)

What is abundant? Underutilized? Adaptable?

Baseball Field	Pool Building	Shelters	Parking Areas
Football Field	Open Fields	Cooking Grills	Entrance Roads
Tennis Court	Ball Hockey Courts	Backstops	Paved Paths
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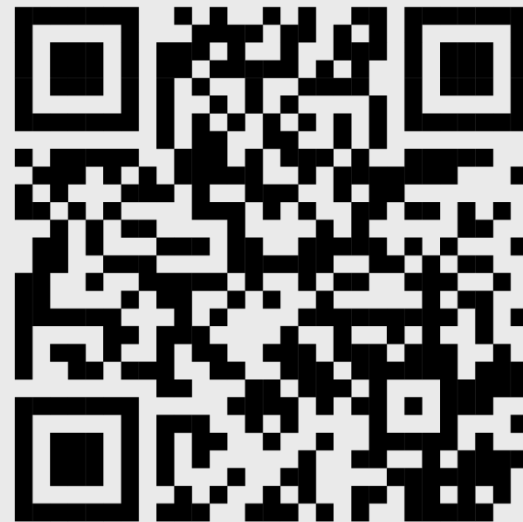
Stay in touch with us!

- We're at Clinton-Bailey Farmers Market on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Come see us!
- Join us next Thursday the 24th at 6 p.m. by the shelter for a walking tour and visioning in the park.
- We're back here at Autumnwood on Wednesday September 6 at 6 p.m. for another workshop.
- Take our survey! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Houghton_Park_Master_Plan_Survey.
- Sign up for our emails.
- Talk to us! Send emails to eholberg@jklstudio.com.



Follow us online!

<https://www.cscos.com/planhoughtonpark/>



Thank you!



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