

Lower Genesee River Access Assessment

**Center for Environmental Initiatives
Charlie Valeska**

Assessment Objectives

- * **Identify locations along the lower 6 miles of the Genesee River (downstream of the Lower Falls) which could be suitable for *shore fishing access, car-top boat launch access and/or a boater rest station.***
- * **Discuss potential projects & generate interest from interested parties.**
- * **Provide this information to interested parties (e.g., City of Rochester, Monroe County Parks Dept. etc.)**
- * **Be better prepared to submit project applications for funding consideration.**

Background

- * **March 2014**: USFWS & NYSDEC formalized a Settlement Agreement with Eastman Kodak for ~ \$4.3 million for natural resource damages to the Genesee River
- * **June 2015**: the Trustees issued a Request for Restoration Project Ideas to identify potential restoration projects
- * **June 2016**: USFWS issued the Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Genesee River
- * **Summer 2017**: Formal RFP for Restoration Projects

Lower River Access Points

1. Petten Street Site
2. Turning Point Park
3. Maplewood Park
4. Seth Green Island Site
5. Seneca Park Site #1
6. Seneca Park Site #2

* Caveat: These projects have been discussed with the interested parties but no final decision has been made as to whether to proceed or not.

Lower Genesee River Access Locations

Petten St Boat Launch Site

Turning Pt Park Boater Rest Station

Seneca Park Boater Rest Station #1

Seneca Park Boater Rest Station #2

Seth Green Boater Rest/Launch Area & Fishing Access

Maplewood Park Fishing Access

Lower Falls

Google Earth

Petten Street Boat Launch Site

Petten St Boat Launch Site

Google earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

2000 ft



Petten Street Site

- * **Provides: improved shore fishing access, car-top boat launch access, boat fishing access and boater rest station**
- * **Construct boat dock**
- * **Improved parking**
- * **Restroom facility**
- * **Picnic tables, benches**

Turning Point Park Boater Rest Station & Fishing Access

Turning Pt Park Boater Rest Station

Google earth

Image © 2017 DigitalGlobe

600 ft



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Turning Point Park

- * **Provides: improved shore fishing access and boater rest station**
 - * **Construct a boat dock**
 - * **Construct a raised fishing platform along the river's edge that could also be used by boaters, bikers, hikers, etc.**
 - * **Add picnic tables and some benches to this area for people to rest and enjoy a picnic near the water.**
 - * **Place a seasonal port-o-john in this area.**

**Turning Point Park
Proposed Boater Rest Station &
Fishing Access Location**



Maplewood Park Improved River Access

Improved Trail & Stairs to River

Maplewood Park Fishing Access

Existing Stairs (red line)
Existing Restrooms

Lower Falls



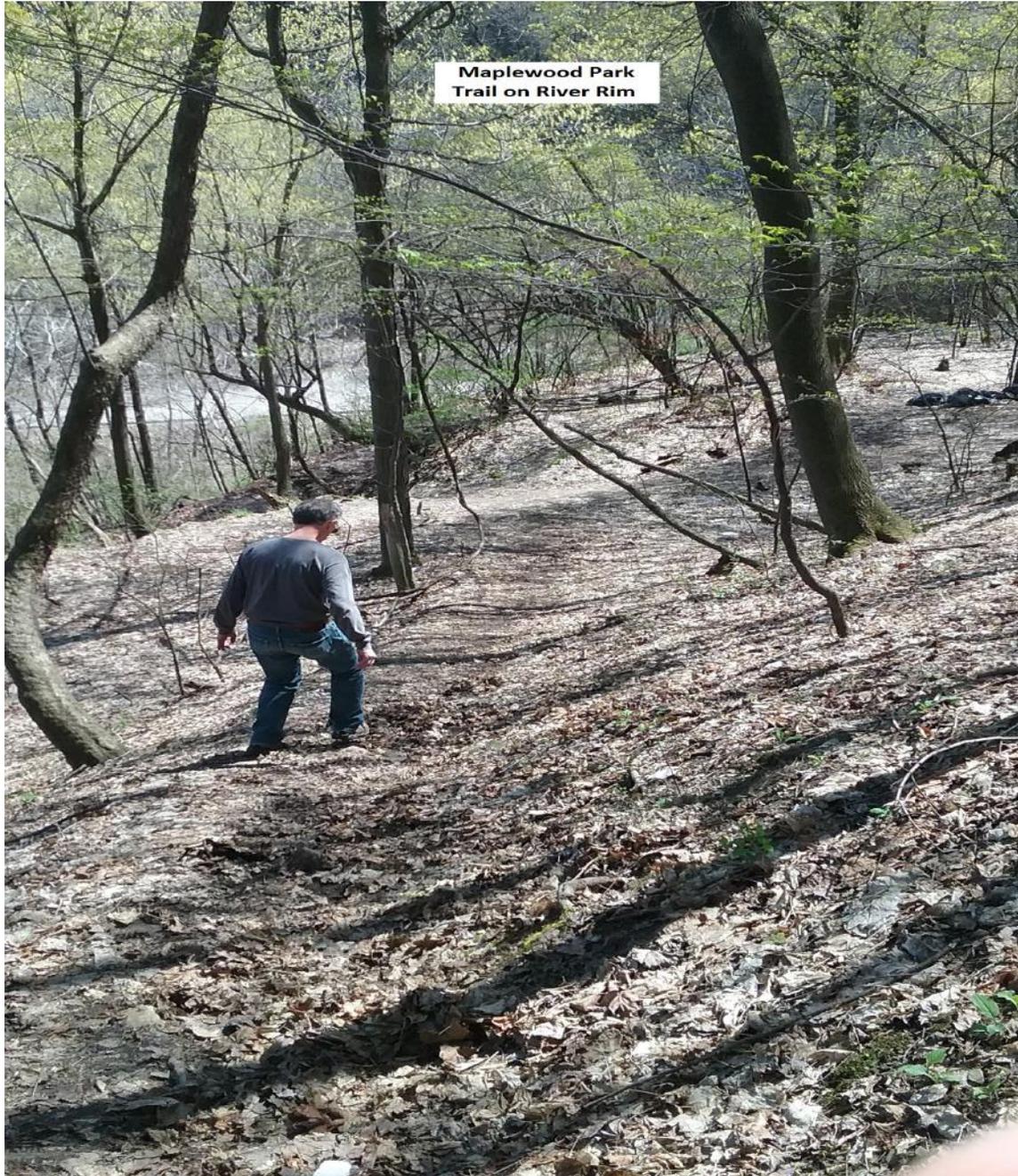
Maplewood Park

- * **Provides:** improved shore fishing access, hiking
 - * Improve the path leading to the River's rim leaving it in a natural state, using woodchips would be preferable.
 - * Install steps with railings down the rim heading north (following the current crude trail or within close proximity) toward the River's bank.
 - * Improve the trail at the bottom of the new stairs leading to the river.
 - * Place benches and vandal resistant picnic tables near river's edge.
 - * Upgrade the restroom facilities

**Maplewood Park - Start of
New Trail**



Maplewood Park
Trail on River Rim



**Maplewood Park:
Path to Gorge Needing
Improved Steps**



**Maplewood Park:
Area for Benches/Picnic Tables
at River Bank**



Seth Green Fishing Access & Boat Launch/Rest Station

Existing Parking Lot

Seth Green Island

Existing Road

Seth Green Boater Rest/Launch Area & Fishing Access

New Access Control Gate (to power ops)



Seth Green Island Site

- * **Provides:** improved shore fishing access, boater rest station & boat launch
- * **Boat Launch:**
 - * Install 2nd control gate at bottom of hill
 - * Set up on-line system for people to reserve launch time
- * **Boater rest station/fishing access:**
 - * Improve fishing access (e.g., improved stairs, access paths, railing, perimeter security fencing)
 - * Picnic tables/benches
 - * Seasonal port-o-john
 - * Fish cleaning station

**Seth Green:
Existing Gate at
Parking Lot**



**Seth Green
Boater Rest Station/
Boat Launch &
Fishing Access**





 **Seneca Park Boater Rest Station & River Access**

 **Seneca Park Boater Rest Station #2**

Seneca Park Boater Rest Station #1

& Habitat Restoration



Seneca Park #1

- * **Provides: shore fishing access, boater rest station and, possibly, habitat restoration**
- * **Replace the dilapidated stairs, add additional stairs and improve the path down to the water.**
- * **Construct a boat dock**
- * **Picnic tables/benches**
- * **Port-o-john near Wegman's lodge**
- * **Habitat restoration(e.g., potholes, cattail mangement, channeling, etc.)**

Seneca Park Boater Rest
Station & Hiker Access #1
(Habitat Restoration)



Seneca Park #2

- * **Provides: shore fishing access, boater rest station**
- * **Replace the dilapidated stairs, add additional stairs and improve the path down to the water.**
- * **Construct a boat dock**
- * **Picnic tables/benches**

**Seneca Park Boater Rest
Station & Hiker Access #2**



Conclusions

- * **Six (6) good locations were identified on the Lower Genesee River that could provide:**
 - * **Improved shore fishing access**
 - * **Boat fishing access**
 - * **Boater rest station, and/or**
 - * **Boat launch site**
- * **These are good candidates to apply for natural resource damage funding.**

Thank You

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- * **Tom Snyder, Seneca Park Zoo Society**
- * **Larry Sorel, Monroe County Parks Department**
- * **George Thomas, Center for Environmental Initiatives**
- * **Lorna Wright, Genesee Land Trust**
- * **Jeff Wyatt, University of Rochester**