

May Design Vision Exhibition – Public Comments

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library Downtown – 54 comment cards

- I like the waterfront and green space vision for the city.

Improve upon:
Remove pedestrian bridge from 4th street. Instead, create a berm similar to the west side of the 190 to bridge over the 190 (from Porter to Virginia Access Ramp). This will create a bigger and more unified park to waterfront.
- Taking out the Thruway ramps to create new access to park is a great idea!
- There should also be access through the “Waterfront Neighborhood” to the south of the park.
- Where will people be able to park for events??
- Looks great. Is there any thought concerning park – especially lagoon area – becoming overrun by Canadian geese? Perhaps spinning sculptures like at Wilkenson Point would deter geese.
- We want public transportation to the park. **Buses!!**
- Public transit needs to be considered – not everyone drives or has access to a car and driver – don’t even say Uber – just make sure NFTA has routes and stops – non-drivers pay taxes and deserve access.
- My idea is to create a fairy garden in the discovery area of the play garden. An area that would have small scale plants and would supply fairy figurines for children to use. Their imagination could use stones, twigs, branches, etc. to bring the fairies to life.
I love the year-round use ideas for the park and the fact that the park can be used by all ages. Pedestrian bridges are also a much needed upgrade!
- Overall, very good. Notes: ice skating? More splash pads and water features for kids.
- Stadium?
- Beautiful design, but it seems there is much less open green space. Do we need TWO soccer fields? Do we even need one?
I hope this isn’t going to be as commercial as Canalside. Also can we PLEASE keep the name LaSalle Park – or better yet give it a more traditional name from the native people who lived here first. Thanks!

- In general a wonderful creative plan. In its bold manipulation of topography especially in softening the water's edge.
It is important that the park be made accessible from the water not just for kayaks, but larger vessels especially transients. I would recommend moorings along the remaining straight sections of seawall. Also, a semi open pavilion under which maritime programs such as boat building and maritime crafts can take place. Buffalo Maritime Center does canoe building weekend projects for inner city kids, and programs with schools which would benefit from such a pavilion.
- I am in full support of the new Outcrop, Lagoon, and design as a whole. I fully support providing pedestrian access Via Virginia St. ramp.
Biggest concern: Let's have a warm shelter to assist family members and friends who do not do well in high winds and cold.
- I think it offers something everybody can do and enjoy. I feel like more family and kids are gonna come outside more often.
- I love the walkways!
- Where is the BUTTERFLY GARDEN? Too many athletic fields.
- Beautiful restoration it will bring more life to Buffalo. Keep up the Good work!
- Thank you for including bike paths. The athletic waterfront is my least favorite aspect. Losing trees that would provide shade in the picnic areas seems like a mistake.
- I love the entire layout, especially the addition of the beach and the lagoon. However, I would advise adding more emphasis to the splash pad at Centennial Park to serve as an alternative to swimming at the beach because of the pollution and strong currents. Also, try to involve local artists to add more murals and sculptures.
- More connections across the highway or highway elimination.
- Please consider **not** changing the name of the park. Why does everything need to be named after a guy who owned a sports team? Other organizations give tons of money to things and we don't rename everything after them. You're stripping an important part of our history by taking away the LaSalle name. Why not celebrate LaSalle and the Griffon instead? Football should not be all Buffalo is known for. It's a disgrace.
- Will there be a boat launching site again? There used to be one back in the 70s.
- "Walterland for Tots" – a Mini Theme Park for Toddlers and Kids. – [personal info redacted].
Rides/Shows?

- Looks great! Love the many varied uses. But, who are you focusing on using the park? (a) West Side residents (b) Metro Buffalo residents (c) tourists (d) combination of these three.
Access appears to be an issue. Only one road leading into and out of the park for cars. Possible traffic congestion? For metro rail riders into Canalside – will there be a shuttle or trolley to the park? It's a long walk. Thanks for your time.
- How will you keep the running paths safe for runners, particularly if there are narrow paths through trees and shrubs?
- Ensure that the trees planted by the lagoon do not block the lake views of the Lakefront Commons owners.
Construct the lagoon so that it doesn't become stagnant water.
Move or eliminate one basketball court for more parking
Add another walkway over the I-190 by the D'Youville Soccer Field
Have the state ban duck hunting offshore from the park.
- Dog park.
Security Kiosk
- Expand Metro Rail Please!
- I love that there doing more things with Buffalo I think the gun violence can improve and also poles in the street too!
- Where are the playgrounds
 - Skateboard parks
 - Picnic areas for families
 - More parking needed
 - Concert areas
 - Too many baseball areas (too many)

Plan needs to be re-vamped, not ethnic friendly. Just for white population
- I am a frequent user of the park – how wonderful!!
Hurry – I'm old and want to see this
- This looks very cool for kids, teens, and adults, but I think there should be a hockey or skating rink. Thanks!
- Chicago has an ice skating path in Millennium Park. Something similar could attract more people in the winter to LaSalle Park.

Making the park attractive with trees/landscaping and accessibility from downtown via public transport, foot traffic, and biking is the most important aspect of the project. Parking lots are a massive eyesore.

- The plan does not acknowledge or accommodate the norther connection to the existing Niagara River Greenway. Without acknowledging the need (or potential) to improve access and connectivity to the south (as was done with Virginia St Ramps and Waterfront/Emerson) the park will remain physically and psychologically removed from the downtown waterfront. The plan seems content with driving traffic and activity to and through lower income communities of color, but not the higher income predominantly white community.
- Love the access to the water, playgrounds, lagoon and pedestrian access. Great multiuse spaces. Multilingual signage please.
- I like the playground. So I also like the water.
- Pedestrian/cycling focus is good. Parking for cars should be minimal. Orient to neighborhood/public transportation.
- Absolutely pitch-perfect. You got it right. Kudos and congratulations. Most of all – thank you!
- Utterly Magnificent
- I would love to see a pedestrian bridge to bird pier. Take the trail to Ferry St.
- Don't like. When are we going to have Lakefront/Waterfront Park, land to relax and enjoy nature and peace and quiet, and not noise from crowds of animals making noise.
- Reduce/remove automobile roads throughout park. Put parking lots on the exterior and wheelchair accessible paths throughout. At the very least, reduce car speeds to 15 mph max.
- I think this is very good and should keep the city this way. Thank you
- Awesome!!
- I absolutely love the vision for the park – it would be such a major improvement! This is exactly the kind of grand vision that Buffalo so often lacks when it comes to design, planning and development. I truly hope this vision becomes a reality – you will have my full support!
- Very good, could use more texture tho - I could of done way better but good job

- Beautiful! I love it!!
- Love the outcrop area and access to the water. Grade change and topographic relief will be huge for this park for it's very flat as it is.
Buffalo has very long winters. How this park can stay activated and appealing in winter is crucial --> create pockets of relief from strong lake winds --> very windy here!
- Looks good
Question amount of parking and #/location of restrooms and public meeting place/band shell
Need for auto connection to Lakefront BLVD (limited access/eventually?)
- Decommissioning the Virginia-Carolina interchange is an intriguing idea. On the one hand it would be too bad to lose the interchange – on the other hand why should the neighborhood be held hostage to the auto when in the next 130 years car usage might be in a decline. I like the idea – very exciting.
- Be prepared for more drownings!
Maybe this will cure the LaSalle Park Litter Problem.
- Love the whole design. One question – Will there be enough parking?
- Wonderful! Love how it addresses year round family recreation (all seasons).
Would like to see more educational components (summer/winter camps, etc.)
- Make the park more handicapped accessible.
Beautify the pool and splash pad area.
- There needs to be a pavilion that is permanent NOT temporary.
- Chess tables

Canalside – 10 comment cards

- Looks fantastic
I hope you can pull off at least ½, 80% would be great!
Couple of issues/comments:
 1. Do not get rid of Niagara St exit off of I-190 (the Virginia-Carolina Interchange is highly used)
 2. Vehicle traffic thru a parking lot near dog park C/B issue – spaces, people crossing w. their dogs etc.
- Everything is great.
Wish things could be done faster.

- Lighting. Security. Maintenance. [All with a checkmark next to each word.] Great job!
- So happy to see the design centered around recreation. Anyway to connect LaSalle to the lighthouse that looks like an old camera? I think this area needs to somehow connect to the rest of the waterfront. Thanks, [Name Redacted]
- I love it [initials]
- This is amazing!
I wish there was no road along the water. People park there now and smoke pot.
- I like the skate boarding park. I also like the islands.
- If there are to walk so how will people drive.
- I would like to see a history museum.
- I love the attention to foliage and native species.
It would be great to include porous pavement
More winter uses – ice rink

LaSalle Park – 34 comment cards

- I think its Great!
Tennis courts would be nice ☺
- Please add swings for both: toddlers and young at heart
- Awesome. Thank you Ralph C Wilson JR
- I believe their should be more football related space possibly indoor for training and field should keep lights
- Not sure about comfort facilities – is one station enough?
Maintenance is critical
Removal of Virginia Carolina St on ram – how would that impact commuter traffic?
Overall, I think it is very exciting!
- Need more parking or shuttle from somewhere else. It is crowded now.
- Close thruway exit ramp to Porter
Keep Virginia open
Eliminate circle on Porter to LaSalle Park – very confusing + monumental mistake!
Keep band shell structure
Place along water for boats to dock
- Wonderful! Would love to see separate lanes for cycle traffic.
- Lights at the skatepark – can be on timer
Outdoor exercise gym for adults, pull up bars. Body weight exercise machines
Please have more than one entrance. Don't let the neighbors of the Waterfront Village hamper the parks success. Being able to access the park easily from downtown would be so much better than just Porter Ave entrance.
- Bike friendly
Kayak friendly
X-Country ski
- Great job, Bob!!
BTW now cars are going 40 mph along Lakefront Blvd!!

I'm on my bike, and it is frightening.

- Wondering if it would be possible to put an area for an outdoor gym.
- Love everything!
One suggestion: to accommodate commuter bikes, consider adding off the new bridge a direct bike path to downtown. We need to encourage more commuting via bike!!
- Cycling connectivity from North to South. Need better path through the park.
- Please move a more direct bike route off bridge to downtown
- Completely awesome. Bike ferry from Bird Pier to the outcrop!
- So happy Brendan was here! Very informative and pleasant. Excited to see the outcome!
- Looks great. Only concern is safety around waters edge!
- Access for dogs. Thank you
- Dog swimming is very needed
- Hope you are including the West Side Rowing Club in the plans!!
- Great design + model.
I love the water access and keeping Lakefront Blvd closed to vehicle traffic.
- Love the conceptual design – please less cars in park.
Keep walking, biking, park – safe for children.
Beautiful – walking trails, sledding
Water is so pretty.
Beautiful park.
- Ensure access to park from Lakefront Boulevard remains bike/pedestrian ONLY. NO VEHICULAR ACCESS.
- More improvement to splash pad maybe a fountain as entrance to park. Pad is very slippery for children, not well used now.
More concession stands dedicated food truck location and schedule.
More bathrooms even mobile ones that are stationary
- Hello, Brendan was very informative. Great to see Buffalo come alive! Ware are a beautiful city!
- Less car access. Prioritize bicycle/ped access over car access.
- The LaSalle skatepark is a great place! Excited to see a 3rd phase of construction. I really hope there is a BIG bowl to skate!
The skatepark would also really benefit from more seating like benches etc. It would be really cool to see a nice grill or grill pit installed close by, and a water fountain. The Buffalo skate community would also love to have lights B.C. we can't skate in the fall and winter when it's dark!
- Keep the water open for all to use and enjoy – put racquetball courts etc. on other side of the road! <3 Thanks! <3
- I am excited about the plans. I want to see more attention on fixing the streets and sidewalks and adding more signage and talking more about the history of Buffalo.
- Good things: playground, overlook, green space
Improvement: more bathroom facilities, maybe another ent to alleviate traffic during large events
Here's to 2024!
- It is not clear where public bathrooms are located.

There should be some near the picnic area near the natural pond – (lagoon) and also another near the playground

Also some near the baseball and soccer fields.

- Wonderful new ideas by the Wilsons funding to keep + to improve our waterfront. Thank you. I hope there will be permanent restrooms on both sides of the Route 190. I like the bike paths that tie into other Buffalo trails.
- Great look! I can't wait! Fishing sports, play area all are great access to water. A park for everyone young and old.

Northland Workforce Training Center – 32 comment cards

- Having interpretive signs for natural features, wildlife and plants, history, etc. would help connect people with the park.
- Having events at the park will require more parking. Last Sunday (May 19th) there was a bicycling event that filled up Porter Ave. More parking near the pumping station at the north end of the park is needed. Maybe some of the Pumping Station property can be used.
- Where is the covered pavilion? People love to come out for concerts. Elimination of the pavilion would make having concerts nearly impossible. There seems to be a heavy influence on sports. Is that simply in the name of Mr. Wilson and his affiliation with sports? There's more to a park than just sports.
- Please keep the pavilion in the park for free concerts in the park.
- Concession stand.
Indoor community room.
Outdoor fitness circuit
- More bathrooms – at all sides of the park and water fountains – N.E.S.W.
Pavilion for indoor rentals like Niawanda Park in the Tonawandas – NOCO Park. I'd rather use my money to invest in Buffalo
Stadium for music concerts
Bicycle parking
- Tennis courts
More bathrooms (handicapped)
Miniature golf
Concession stands
- Dog park is too small
- Great thoughts especially the community connection
[Illegible] 5/21
- What happened to amphitheater
- With all the new designs I would like to see a stronger police presence to deter trouble maker and it makes people feel safe. Especially tourist.
- Please keep the dog park (or a dog park) in the plans.
The pedestrian bridge must be covered or have high mesh sides to prevent anyone from throwing/dropping objects on cars below!!

The winter ice/ice flow will chew up that lovely lacey shoreline. What will you do to mitigate that?

The water areas will be an attractive nuisance for swimming temptations – this concerns me. I don't see enough restrooms and water for drinking.

I like the sledding!! You will need drainage for that [illegible]. If you want events there – it will be a muddy place in spring/summer.

Yes! Keep the closer bus stop in the park!

Please plant lilacs and things that smell good.

Like the 4 season plants.

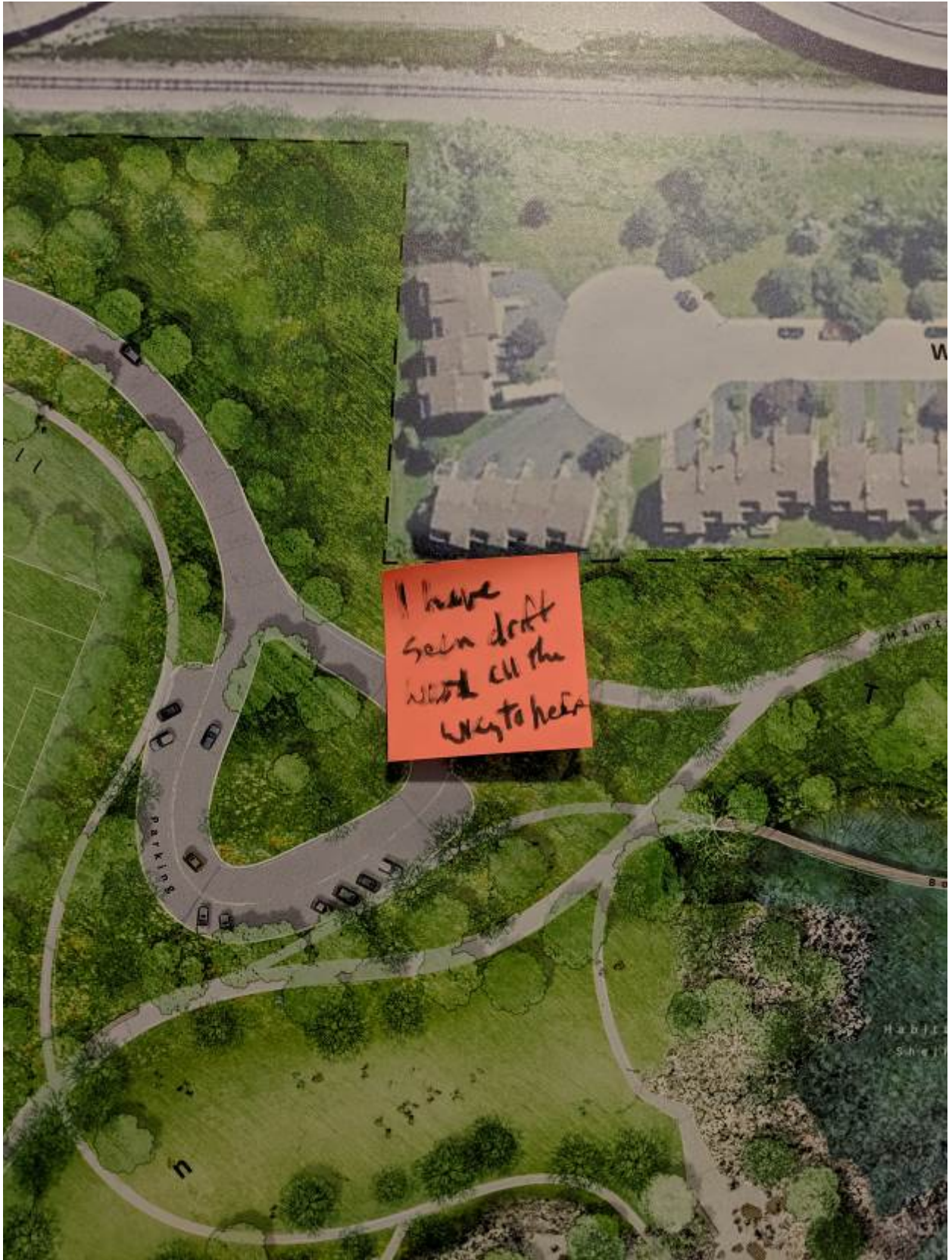
Will there be lighting for night-time?

Keep water-view picnic shelters

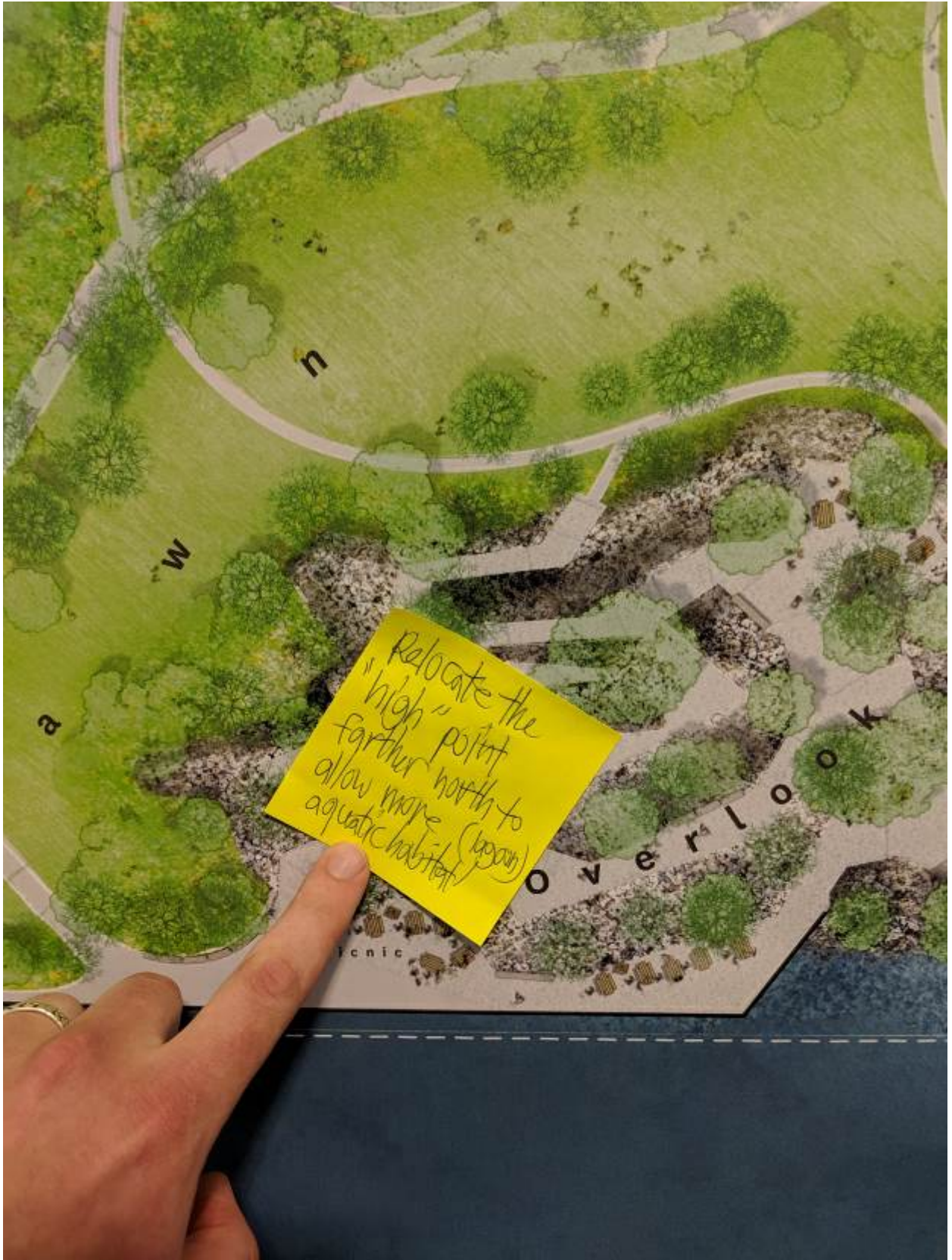
- Need much more emphasis on natural resources and wildlife habitat enhancement, especially in the upland portion of the park. Need to plant native species that provide food, cover, shelter for birds, both resident and migratory.
Need to include pollinator gardens at numerous locations throughout the park, not only in the lagoon area.
Need to include nectar-feeding plants for monarch butterflies which migrate through the park in the fall.
- Need to make an inventory of existing trees and shrubs in park to determine which are native species and which are non-native.
Currently existing in the park are Kentucky Coffeetree trees. These are an endangered species (51) in New York and should be preserved during development of the park.
- Fewer baseball diamonds! Why so much wasted space for a sport most people don't play?
Incorporate basketball into the main park.
Update the splash pads. They are very dull and boring.
- If the performance /festival stage is temporary, where does it come from? Where is it stored?
Who pays for the stage? Sets it up? Takes it down?
Or is it up to each event to set up and pay for themselves?
Storage areas? Dressing areas?
- Beautiful design, but there is no gateway to this outstanding new facility. Travelers on Niagara Street will have no idea that a park is just steps away via the new 4th street bridge. Establish a landmark entrance at Hudson and Niagara using the many vacant lots between Niagara and the 190 as a promenade. This would be a welcome addition in a neighborhood that has been woefully underserved for far too long.
- A beautiful space for community happenings, farmers markets, artisan markets, and areas devoted to health/wellness/physical activity – walking/running/biking paths
- As a resident of the West Side and person who runs the park – I would like to request:
 - A soft surface running path
 - Acknowledgement of the diverse cultures that shape the West Side community and Buffalo
 - Incorporate the use of the park for community events, activities, holidays
- Hi, The Buffalo running community is strong in numbers. We would love to see soft running surfaces around the park! Can't wait to run there!

- I think that you need to add a soft running surface for runners. As a minority individual, I think there also should be some sort of recognition for diverse cultures as well. Thank you!
- Soft running surface
- It would be helpful if there is a soft running track
- I like everything about the project. I suggest maybe having transportation for South & East & West Side of Buffalo other than the bus. It should be a train.
- Need more: bathrooms, garbage cans and access for sanitation dept., picnic shelters, just concrete slabs with roofs, trees. Consider compost aspect of garbage.
- Parking a potential concern.
Porter entrance from 190S likely to cause traffic congestion for larger events at peak usage.
Restrooms @ multiple locations
In general love the design.
- Infrastructure themed playground is a great ideal addition to park
I appreciate the consolidated bathrooms and not having that all over the park.
I appreciate the cars being moved away from dominating the riverfront and like the dispersed parking approach.
Excited about increased natural space.
I'm concerned about plan for maintenance with increased pavement of walking paths. Porous and durable surface (other than traditional asphalt) should be used for these paths.
Similar concerns for maintenance of trash bins and other amenities.
- As an avid member of Buffalo's strong running community – I feel that soft surface pathways are an important feature of our new park. Concrete and blacktop are easy to find in an urban area – what is rarer and better for the body and joints are soft surfaces such as cinders, woodchip, or clay. The soft surface can even be adjacent to a traditional concrete pathway.
Also for the 5k loop – accurate markers for each quarter mile are great motivators! Thank you for your consideration.
- Would love to see a (covered) pavilion.
That can accommodate inclement weather and include addressing room area.
The area around the great lawn should be wide enough for vendors and/or foods.
No pits near the great lawn and restroom area closer to great lawn
- I get an overall sense of “celebration” of the water. Much of it in light heart fun ways. It would be interesting if something could be done to promote environmental education/stewardship in a way that would promote positive action and outcomes
- I missed some of the presentation, but I want to ensure that public transportation services the park, and that parking is free. Don't you dare price anyone out of this public space.
- Most of design is awesome.
The waves really pound that shoreline particularly behind pumping station and in your new picnic/kayak access area. Seems like it would destroy your bocce courts, picnic areas etc. How would that be mitigated?
Need good restrooms.
Need good picnic shelters and pavilion area – very popular areas!

- Emergency water access [near lagoon]
- I have seen drift wood all the way to here [near last row of condos by existing soccer fields]
- Relocate the “high” point farther north to allow more (lagoon) aquatic habitat
- Showers [near sports fields]
- Restroom near pavilion
- Water fountain [near sports fields] x2
- Include theme of Erie Canal [playground]
- More restrooms [near playground/sports fields]
- Pavilion like the NOCO in Tonawanda [near Lake Erie Promenade]
- Concession stands (more than one)
- Soft surface pathway in place of or in addition to concrete, woodchip, cinder, + clay are all great
- Wider path near pavilion for venthe during sports
- Covered outdoor pavilion
- Permanent stadium for concerts
- Stadium permanent
- More bathrooms
- Too many baseball
- Pavilion or outdoor amphitheater
- Indoor pavilion to hold 200-300 people
- Potential traffic issues at porter entrance for large events
- Incorporate tour of pumping station?



I have
seen draft
work all the
ways to help



Relocate the
"high" point
farther north to
allow more (open)
aquatic habitat

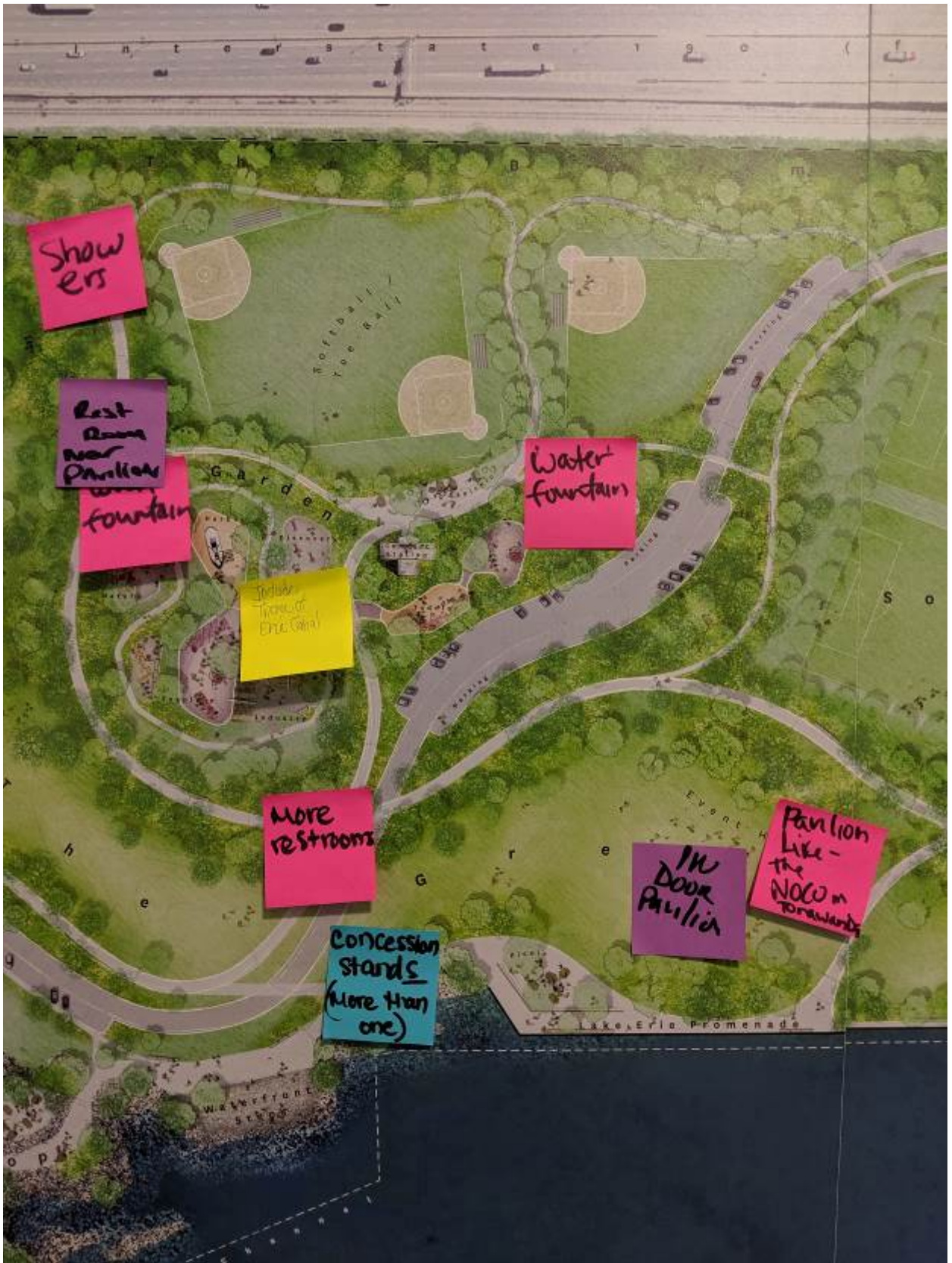
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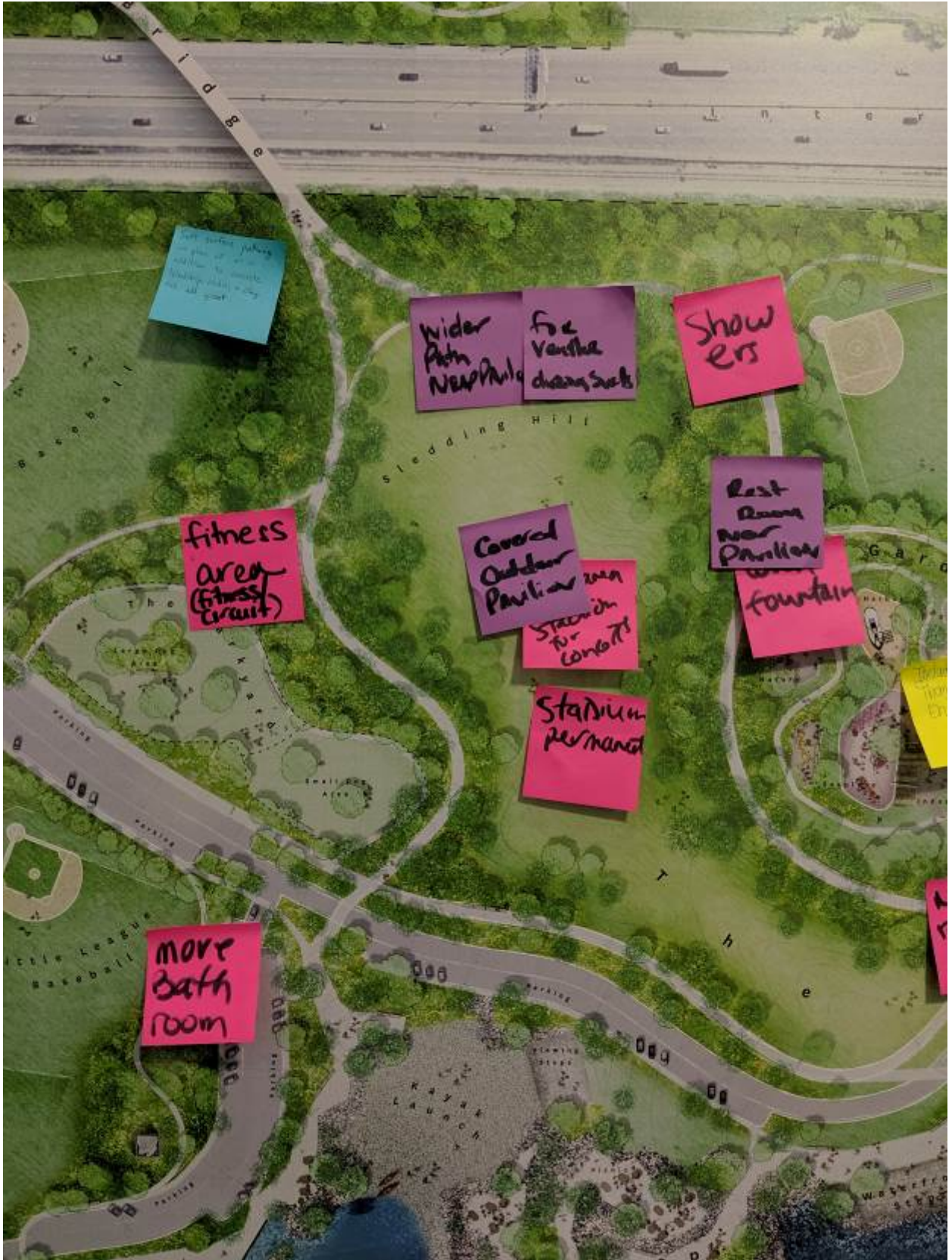
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Overlook

picnic





with parking
area for
additional
parking
near
the
entrance

Wider
Path
Near
Path

for
Vending
Machine

Showers

fitness
area
(Fitness
Circuit)

Covered
Outdoor
Pavilion
area

Station
for
Concert

Stadium
permanent

Rest
Room
near
Pavilion

fountain

move
bath
room



Too many Disinfect

Pavilion or outdoor amphitheater

Indoor Pavilion to hold 700-3000

Buffalo Skate Plaza

Football Field

Football Field

Parking

D.A.R. Drive

Francis G.

Piping Station

Operations and Maintenance

Amvets Drive

Parking

Parking

Parking



Handwritten note on orange sticky paper: "Handwritten note on orange sticky paper, text is illegible due to blurring and angle."

Handwritten note on yellow sticky paper: "Incorporate 'Law of Planning Station'?"



Emergency
water vehicle
access

Design Vision for Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial P

l waterfront location, LaSalle Park
favorite community resources.
Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial
l become even more welcoming
ision expands on the park's
nation for active recreation,
cular views of Lake Erie for

along I-190 will reduce road noise within the park, m
the park a comfortable destination year-round. New
will allow visitors to access overlooks and enjoy view
Lake Erie to the southwest and City Hall to the east. A
pedestrian bridge over I-190 will replace the Hudson
pedestrian overpass to provide a safer and more welc
connection between neighborhood and park.

Erie Canal Bicentennial Forum/ Building the Empire State Trail Event – 3 Comments

- It's about time. I like it – connect it to the River Rd section of Tonawanda/Niagara
- Is there any connection to R.C.W. Centennial Park from the rest of the Buffalo Waterfront? (Erie Basin marina/Canalside area)
LaSalle Park always seemed so detached – perhaps solely for the neighborhood around it rather than integrated into the more regional attraction of the Buffalo Waterfront.
- Seasonal Multi-modal Smart phone Interconnectivity Design Feature Statewide Initiative from the Statue of Liberty to Fort Niagara
National Bike Month (May)-October

Email Submissions sent in response to the Design Vision

To whom it may concern,

Unfortunately, I have been unable to attend community events/Q&A's, but! hopefully will be able to participate future ones. So I apologize if this is a topic already covered.

My only concern, as someone who utilizes the park often (sports, leisure, dog park), is garbage falling into the lake. In the past there have only been 1-2 garbage cans throughout the entire park. Ive watched them overflow during kickball nights and garbage accumulate in the BBQ/family areas where there are no available trash disposal systems in place. Ive watched as piles of garbage fly into the lake on windy days left over from family outings, garbage cans that have tipped over likely due to wind and, not so shockingly, being blown in from the city (talk about lack of public and shared space waste management, ugh).

Will there going to be any systems put in place, barriers or what have you, that prevent this level of pollution?

Hi y'all. Heres my little idea. How abt some type of warming building ? Solar or greenhouse. So tired of the cold. Thank you Mr & Mrs Wilson amazing generosity and vision

As I visit parks in other areas, I've found established, well-maintained restrooms in convenient locations. But in Buffalo parks, I'm struck by the fact that restrooms are few and far between. And at many times (for example, fall and winter) the few are often closed. Designing a park for families, athletic activities, and concerts, please include adequate facilities. Port-a-potties are just not acceptable, and reflect poorly on the community. Thank You!