

TOWN OF NIAGARA
COUNTY OF NIAGARA, STATE OF NEW YORK
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.

7105 LOCKPORT ROAD
NIAGARA FALLS, NY 14305



PHONE: (716) 297-2150
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www.townofniagara.com

Office of the Supervisor
Lee S. Wallace

January 12, 2021

Greenway Commission
C/O Mr. Greg Stevens
Executive Director
332 Prospect Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Mr. Stevens,

Please find enclosed the Town of Niagara's Greenway application and submission for the Greenway meeting to be held in March of 2021.

Should you require any further information, please contact me at your convenience.

Office Phone: 716-297-2150 Ext. 135
Cell Phone: 716-531-2206
Email: lwallace@townofniagara.com

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee S. Wallace", written over a horizontal line.

Lee S Wallace
Supervisor
Town of Niagara

**THE TOWN OF NIAGARA
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY PARK
MASTER PLAN
PHASE III & PHASE IV
2021**

Submitted by:

The Town of Niagara
Lee S. Wallace/Supervisor
7105 Lockport Rd
Niagara Falls, NY
14305

Submitted to:

Niagara River Greenway Commission
2136 West Oakfield Road
Grand Island, NY 14075

Project Registration Number _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Lee S. Wallace

Title: Town Supervisor

Business Address: 7105 Lockport Rd, Niagara Falls, NY

State: New York

Zip Code: 14305_

Telephone Number: 716-297-2150 Ext 135

Cell Number: 716-531-2206

Fax Number: 716-297-9262

E-Mail Address: lw Wallace@townofniagara.com

POINT OF CONTACT

Same as above

I. PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

The Town of Niagara is requesting Greenway Funding to complete phase III and phase IV of The Town's Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan.

Phase III and Phase IV consists of the following:

➤ Phase III

- ❖ Community Square: Includes a community use building that will house a concession stand, lavatories, and storage and an outdoor gathering area to include gas fire pits, patio seating and a pergola style roof.
- ❖ 30' Clock Tower: The focal point of the phase III project.
- ❖ Surrounding gardens and walkways and old fashion light poles.

➤ Phase IV

- ❖ Mini Golf Course
- ❖ Expansion of Elmer's Pond to include:
 - Widening and lengthening the pond
 - Excavating and deepening the pond to allow for expanding species of fish and wildlife.
 - Construction of a dock to increase fishing opportunities as well as make the pond handicapped assessable.
 - Gardens, walking paths and foliage in and around the pond.
- ❖ Construction of (6) bocce courts
- ❖ Construction of a large and small dog park

The Town has previously secured \$800,000.00 (Of which \$640,000.00 remain) from the Greenway for phase III of this project, which has not completed because bids received were significantly higher than the \$800,000.00 approved. The \$160,000.00 was expended on preliminary engineering, and design work.

We are now requesting an additional \$3,360,000.00 in Greenway funds to complete phase III & IV the master plan:

- \$1,277,000.00 to come from the funds that the town currently has in our Host Community Bank account.
- \$2,083,000.00 to be bonded for a period of 15 years, with the \$160,000 bond payment to come from a portion of our annual \$390,000 Greenway funding.

The purpose of the Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Project as submitted, is to complete phases III and IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan, which was approved by the Town of Niagara Town Board in January of 2017. Once phase III and phase IV are completed, more than 60% of the Veterans Memorial Community park master plan will have been realized, making this facility a destination for Town of Niagara Residents, visitors and surrounding communities within the Greenway corridor.

With the creation and approval of the Master Plan, the goal of the Town of Niagara, is to create a state of the art park with numerous family orientated amenities, programs, activities and events. The completion of phase III and phase IV will enhance the overall recreational components that exist throughout Niagara County as well as focus on creating a more active park that visitors and tourist commonly request. The footprint of Veterans Memorial Community Park is more than 125 acres total and adding phase III and phase IV to what has already been developed on site will still leave a significant portion of greenspace undeveloped.

2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

The Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park phase III and phase IV will promote the vision of the Niagara River Greenway by supporting the connective system and public parkland along the Niagara River to serve as a recreational gateway for visitors to the Greenway Corridor. Veterans Memorial Community Park provides a unique vast array of youth, adult and senior events, activities and programs throughout the year and phase III and phase IV of the master plan presents an opportunity for the Town to continue to build and expand the offerings, activities, programs and events for those within the Niagara Greenway corridor.

3. PRINCIPALS: The implementation of the Town of Niagara Park Development Project will meet the guiding principles of the Niagara Greenway Commission as follows:

Excellence: The Town of Niagara is committed to maintaining the excellence of all of its recreational facilities. The proposed project is in close proximity to other parks within the Greenway, including Reservoir State Park. Visitors can capitalize on the connection to the surrounding area's recreation amenities (playground equipment, recreation programs for youths, and sports fields), pristine natural beauty, and scenic vistas, thus contributing to the Greenway Commission's first-class standards.

Sustainability: Phase III and Phase IV of The Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan will promote the ecological, economical and physical sustainability for long-term viability and effectiveness. The Town's Parks and Recreation Department will conscientiously maintain this project as they have with other previously approved phases of the park master plan (Phase I & Phase II) which includes the splash pad and Memorial Square.

Accessibility

Veterans Memorial Community Park is located along the Niagara Corridor in the Towns of Niagara, thus facilitating improved public access to the Town's additional parks and the Niagara

River Vistas.

Ecological Integrity

Phase III and Phase IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan, will support the Town of Niagara's Parks and Recreation Mission Statement:

"Enrich the lives of the residents of The Town of Niagara by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities, programs, events and activities for people of all ages to play, learn, and build community stewardship".

This project will also enhance and improve health, vitality, and integrity by connecting the park's natural resources, wildlife, the ecological significance and natural landscapes that Veterans Memorial Community Park has to offer.

Public Well-Being

Within the proposed project area of the Niagara River and Greenway Corridor, the Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan Park Development Project will provide significantly increase recreational opportunities to a wide range of users.

This project will advance public wellbeing and promote physical and emotional wellness through the experience that it offers by providing access to both active and passive recreational opportunities, and amenities for those with special needs. The project will increase access for various recreational activities and will support a relaxing atmosphere for all visitors.

Connectivity

Veterans Memorial Community Park is located within miles of the Greenway Corridor and is directly connected via Elmer's pond located in the park. Elmer's pond is one of two important tributaries within the Town of Niagara that provides direct water access to the Niagara River. Elmer's Pond flows directly into Gill Creek and subsequently into the Niagara River providing an ecological connection to downstream communities and the river. As the largest and only formal park within the Town of Niagara, Veterans Memorial Community Park is also a critical asset within the community. Vets Park was designed and constructed to advance public use, increase ecology, and celebrate local history. The continued revitalization of the park, is important in creating a direct link within the Greenway while also advancing the principles, goals and criteria outlined in the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Restoration The restoration of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan with its additions has been described previously throughout this document.

Authenticity

Phase III and Phase IV of The Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Development Project will support the already established clear sense of "place" and identity that reflects the traditional spirit and heritage of the area.

Celebration

This project will be designed to increase diversity, cultural resources, and the natural and built environments, as well as seek to share this diverse tradition with residents and visitors to the

region. Once phase III and phase IV are completed, it will only strengthen the sense of celebration during the many community events and activities held at the park throughout the year that help build social interaction and shared experiences with other communities throughout the Greenway corridor.

Partnerships

The focus of phase III and phase IV of the overall Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan is to continue to foster cooperation and strengthen partnerships with the Towns of Lewiston, Wheatfield, the City of Niagara Falls as well as neighboring communities, which may lend itself to future coordination and integration of efforts within the Greenway.

Community Based

The Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan has been in the planning stages since 2015 and approved in 2017. The project is a vital part in creating a comprehensive fully developed parkland that will offer a wide range of amenities from active recreation to passive recreation, as well meet all ADA regulations as required for those living in the Town of Niagara and the surrounding communities.

GOALS

The implementation of the Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Project will meet the goals of the Niagara River Greenway as follows:

Improve Access

This project will serve as a recreational destination for residents and visitors from surrounding communities, and will enhance and create consistency and cognitively with other local festivals, scenic vistas, recreational activities and programs. Leisure park enjoyment and organized park activities will include sporting activities, concerts, holiday celebrations, family activities, as well as ADA fishing via Elmer's pond. Located between the City of Niagara Falls and the Town and Village of Lewiston, this project will increase the cooperation that currently exists between these communities.

Make Connections

Phase III and Phase IV of The Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan, will facilitate an increase in user participation from our neighborhoods and communities throughout the Niagara River Greenway corridor and Western NY in general, making Veterans Memorial Community Park a recreational destination for residents, visitors, and tourists alike.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems

This project will ensure that Veterans Park, continues to remain a viable part of the Town of Niagara's parks and recreation program, as well as preserve the surrounding environment from commercial and residential development.

Spark Revitalization and Renewal

This project addresses the heart of the Greenway's goal for revitalization and protection of green spaces and public recreational opportunities. Veterans Memorial Community Park serves as a recreational connection for visitors and much of the community's youths through its spring,

summer and fall sporting programs. As has been previously stated, Phase III and Phase IV of the overall Veterans Park Master Plan, addresses ADA accessibility which will offer a user-friendly and safe environment for all that use these areas.

Promote Long Term Sustainability

In 2000, the Town of Niagara purchased the 125 acres to construct and develop Veterans Memorial Community Park. The Town will continue to ensure that parkland and all amenities are maintained and updated to remain an attractive destination along the Niagara River Greenway.

Veterans Park has been and will continue to be conscientiously maintained well into the future through its recreational events and programs and its connection between other town parks, which will contribute to the vitality of the area as it continues to serve as an attractive and essential gateway along the Niagara River Greenway and trail systems. The Town of Niagara is committed to the yearly funding and manpower that are necessary to keep the park in top condition.

Extend the Legacy of Fredrick Law Olmstead

The Town of Niagara is committed to maintaining and updating a extensive comprehensive recreational park master plan for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. The overall parks and recreational master plan will provide local residents and visitors to the area with improved continuous access to the local festivals, scenic vistas, recreational activities and programs.

Celebrate History and Heritage

Phase III and Phase IV of The Town of Niagara Veterans Park Master Plan will meet the specialized needs of all that use this area, adhering to all ADA standards, thus providing additional recreational amenities to serve the steadily increasing population. The Town of Niagara is a small close-knit community within itself and with surrounding municipalities.

CRITERIA

Through Phase III and Phase IV of the Veterans Park Master Plan, the Town of Niagara meets criteria of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Consistency with Niagara River Greenway Principles

Phase III and Phase IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plant makes a significant contribution towards all the principles set forth by the Niagara River Greenway. The project fosters and promotes the vision for the Greenway, which was considered for project development.

Priority Status

The Town of Niagara's Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan was approved by the Town Board in January of 2017 and also included a plan to restore and enhance the recreational opportunities at our (5) pocket parks located throughout the town. The Town of Niagara is committed to increasing the number of leisure time activities, events and facilities and believes that in turn that effort increases community pride and support for our parks system.

Environmental Soundness

The conceptual plan has addressed the need to provide proper maintenance of landscaping and plant life, as well as to return any disturbed ground to its original condition.

Implementable

The town will develop an RFP, soliciting bids for the project and award the project to a general contractor will perform all work associated in the RFP. The project cost was determined by the Town’s engineering firm GHD and includes the following elements:

- Engineering and development of the RFP: \$ 400,000.00
- Construction: \$3,600,000.00
- Land Acquisition: (The Town already owns the property) \$ -0-
- *Operation & Maintenance: \$ 200,000.00

Economic Viability and Local Sponsor

All maintenance and upkeep associated with this project will be provided through a line item in the Town of Niagara’s Parks and Recreation Department Budget. The Town of Niagara will continue to provide stewardship for this project, and provide the necessary money, equipment, and manpower to further this project along from the design phase, to its completion and beyond.

Availability of Local Sponsor or Partner

The Town of Niagara is committed to maintaining this park as well as the other (5) pocket parks located in the various town neighborhoods. The town understands and is committed to providing the long-term responsibility for continued operation and maintenance as well as ensure that the park does not fall into disrepair.

Ability to Match or Leverage Funds

The Town of Niagara will provide added funding of approximately \$150,000 for various portions of the project which will be used as a contingency fund to cover any unforeseen expenses in addition, the Town will provide additional funding via manpower and equipment from the Town’s Highway, Water and Sewer Departments for portions of the project construction.

Clear Benefits

Phase III and Phase IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master plan will significantly increase the overall leisure time recreation offerings for those who visit the park.

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

Funding Amount	Funding Source	Encumbered	Comments
\$150,000.00	Town of Niagara Veterans Park Capital Projects	Yes	Town Funding
\$640,000.00	Greenway Funding	Yes	Secured via Greenway in the

			spring of 2017
\$1,277,000.00	Greenway Funding	No	Funding via the Town of Niagara's current Host Standing Committee account
\$2,083,000.00	Greenway Funding	No	Advanced Greenway funding with a bond payment of \$140,000.00 for a period of 15 years

The Town of Niagara will continue to provide stewardship for any and all phases of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan. The town will provide the necessary funding, equipment, and manpower to protect and maintain this project beyond completion.

As pervious stated, and listed in the chart above, the Town has previously secured \$800,000.00 from the Greenway for phase III of this project, which has not completed because bids received were significantly higher than the amount previously secured. We are now requesting an additional \$3,360.000 in Greenway funds to complete phase III & IV the master plan. We are requesting funding as follows:

- \$1,277,000.00 to come from the funds that the town currently has in our Host Community Bank account.
- \$2,083,000.00 to be bonded for a period of 15 years, with the \$160,000 payment for this bond to come from a portion of our yearly \$390,000 Greenway funds.

The total cost of phase III and phase IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan is \$4,150,000.00, of which the amount currently requested via the Greenway Commission to complete this project is \$3,360,000.00.

Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

This project, which has been in the planning phase for several years, and has received strong community support from residents, organizations, local representatives, and is fully supported by the local governing body for the Town of Niagara (see attached resolution). The Town of Niagara Town Board unanimously supported the project and Greenway funding on December 15, 2020. This project will provide excellent opportunities for environmental and geological education, outreach, and community involvement. Once completed, this project will:

- Restore and protect ecologically and geologically significant landscapes

- Create/enhance public access to a natural resource;(Elmer's Pond)
- Result in the restoration/improvement of an area, which has long been in the planning stages and underutilized.
- Protect and enhance those scenic, historic and cultural resources, which are readily identifiable as valued parts of the common heritage of New York's citizens; by facilitating connectivity/access to the Niagara River, and, maintain the critical natural-resource-based industries, recreation, and tourism.

Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animals species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

Phase III & Phase IV of the Town of Niagara Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plans is located in the Town of Niagara at 7000 Lockport Rd. and is owned/maintained by the Town of Niagara. Veterans Memorial Community Park is open daily, 365 days a year, with no set hours and adheres to all the latest ADA regulations.

The proposed project will see the further development of the Veterans Park Master Plan with the addition of the "Community Square" building, Clock Tower, Bocce Courts, Dog Park and renovation of Elmer's Pond. The ADA accessible floating dock will all be inherently connected to Gill Creek and subsequently the Niagara River.

The proposed project is consistent and has connectivity to the shores of the Niagara River, which puts this project in the heart of the Niagara River Greenway. There were no relevant studies necessary for this project, as the project site has been developed and has under gone previous ground disturbance, all SEQR documentation has already been filed for this area.

II. Niagara Greenway Vision Statement:

The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic, and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

III. Improve Access and Make Connections

The entire Town of Niagara is included in the geographic boundary of the Niagara River Greenway, and Veterans Memorial Community Park itself is within the Greenway focus area.

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Office of the Town Clerk-Tax Collector
SYLVIA VIRTUOSO

CERTIFICATION

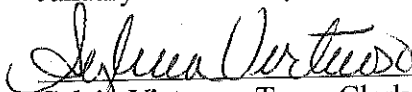
January 4, 2021

STATE OF New York)
COUNTY OF Niagara) SS:
TOWN OF Niagara)

I, *Sylvia Virtuoso*, Town Clerk of the Town of Niagara, New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of this Resolution with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original Resolution and of the whole thereof, as duly adopted by the Town of Niagara Town Board at a meeting duly called and held by teleconference (ZOOM) on December 15, 2020 by the required and necessary vote of the members of the Town Board to approve the following Resolution:

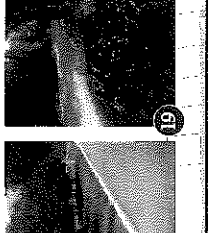
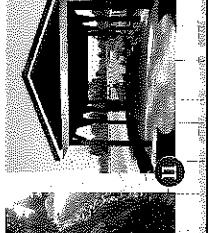
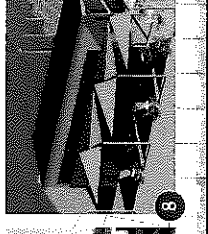
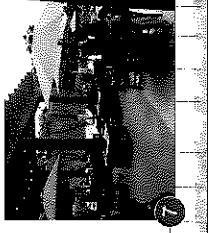
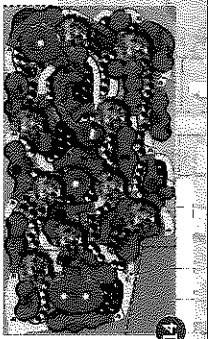
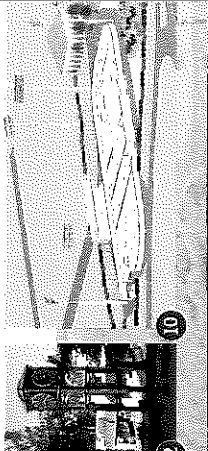
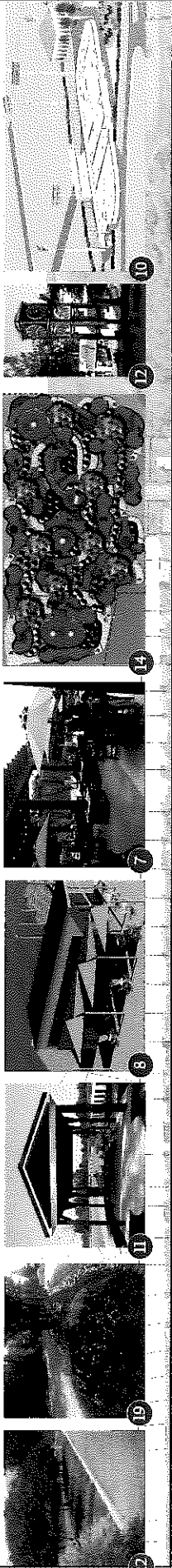
Resolution to approve Greenway funding in the amount of \$3,369,000.00 for Phase III & Phase IV of the Veterans Memorial Community Park Master Plan as per the attached application and architectural/engineering plan for submission in January of 2021 and presentation to the Niagara River Greenway Commission in March of 2021. (Wallace)

Witness My Hand and the Official Seal of the Town of Niagara, New York this 4th day of January 2021.

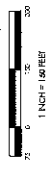


Sylvia Virtuoso, Town Clerk

Example Images (Landscape Medians | Park Pavilions | Concession Building | Water Features | Town Square | Mini Golf | Clock Tower)



- PARK ENHANCEMENTS KEY**
- 1. Proposed secondary entrance from Military Road
 - 2. Existing Storage Buildings
 - 3. Existing Community Center
 - 4. Existing Splash Pad and Playground
 - 5. Existing Mobile Stage for concerts
 - 6. Proposed Asphalt Path Expansion - 2019
 - 7. Proposed Concrete Patio & Trellis - 2019
 - 8. Proposed Concession/Restroom building - 2020
 - 9. Existing Soccer Fields to Remain
 - 10. Proposed Outdoor multi-purpose/ice rink - 2021
 - 11. Proposed Concrete Patio & restore existing Pavillion - 2019
 - 12. Proposed Clock Tower
 - 13. Resurface parking lot (B)
 - 14. Proposed Mini Golf
 - 15. Proposed fishing and bird observation deck
 - 16. Existing Remembrance Square
 - 17. Proposed Tennis/basketball courts
 - 18. Proposed bocce courts (C)
 - 19. Proposed Vegetated buffer along access road - 2020
 - 20. Proposed sidewalk connection - 2021
 - 21. Pave existing gravel lot (C)
 - 22. Existing Park Gateway Entrance

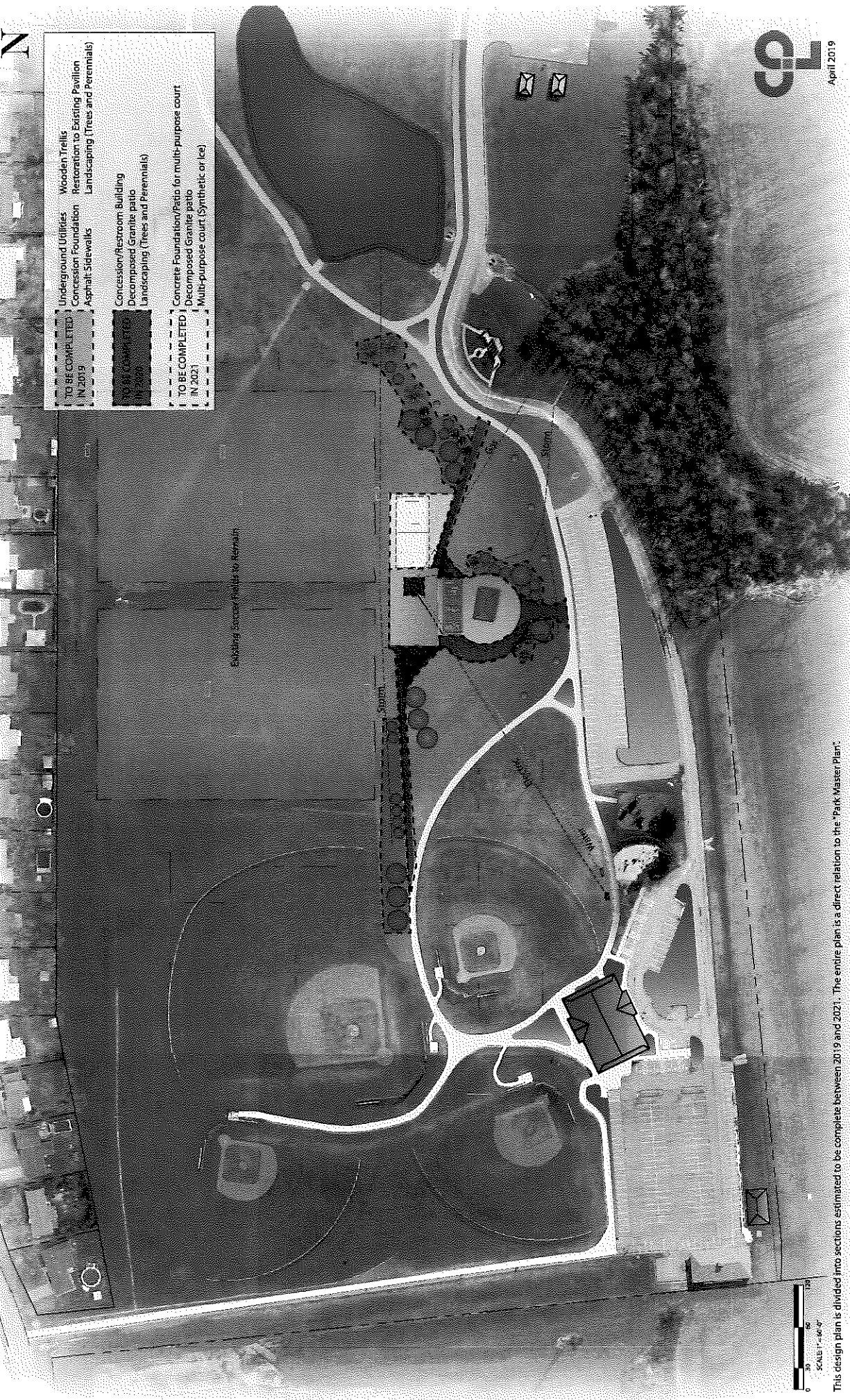


April 2019

TOWN OF NIAGARA - PARK MASTER PLAN DESIGN PHASES



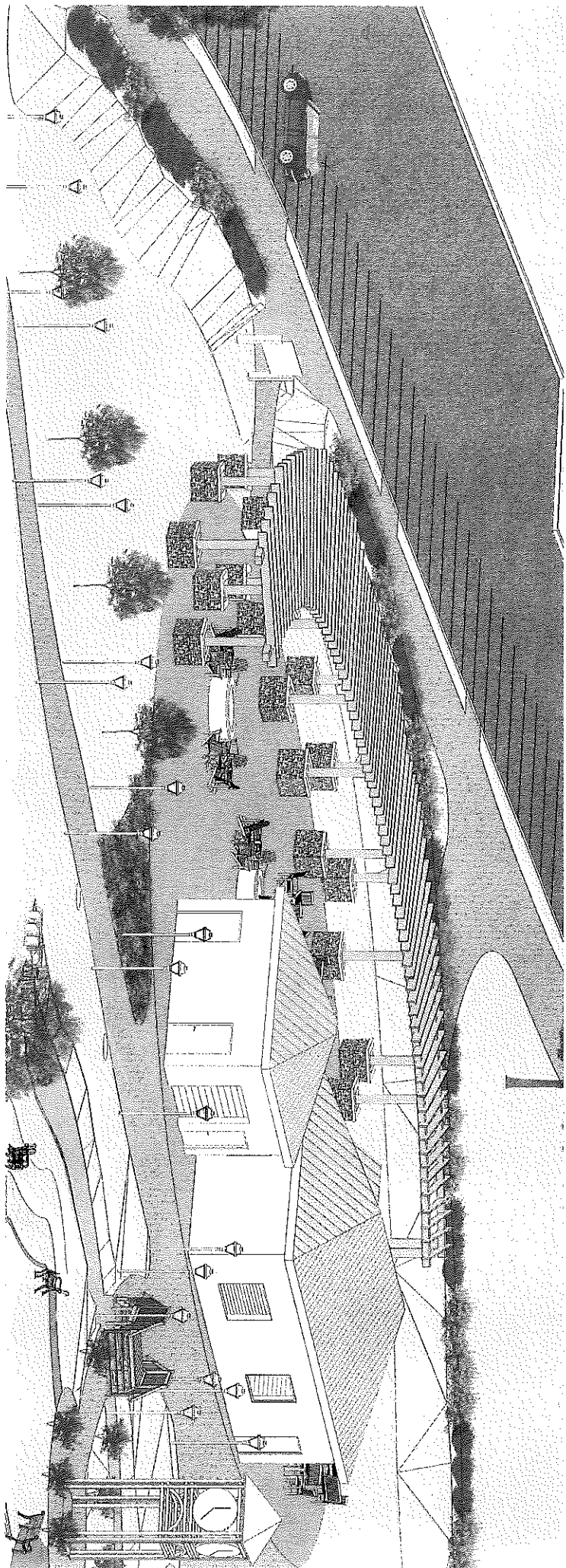
TO BE COMPLETED IN 2019	Underground Utilities Concession Foundation Asphalt Sidewalks	Wooden Trellis Restoration to Existing Pavilion Landscaping (Trees and Perennials)
TO BE COMPLETED IN 2020	Concession/Restroom Building Decomposed Granite patio Landscaping (Trees and Perennials)	
TO BE COMPLETED IN 2021	Concrete Foundation/Patio for multi-purpose court Decomposed Granite patio Multi-purpose court (Synthetic or Ice)	



April 2019

0 30 60 120
SCALE: 1" = 60'-0"

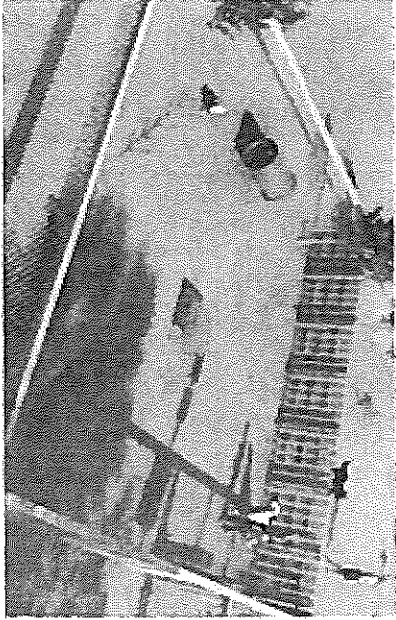
This design plan is divided into sections estimated to be completed between 2019 and 2021. The entire plan is a direct relation to the "Park Master Plan".



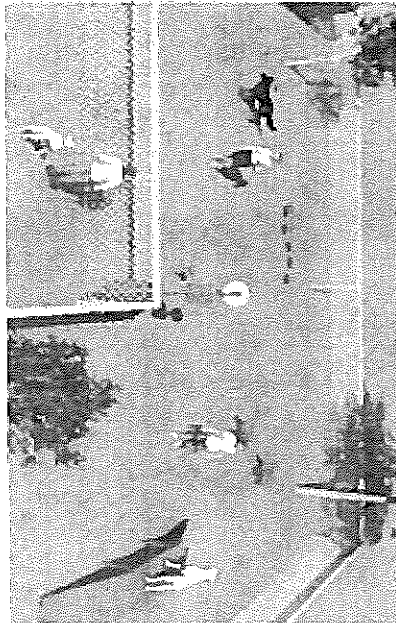
Clark Patterson Lee
ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING

TOWN SQUARE

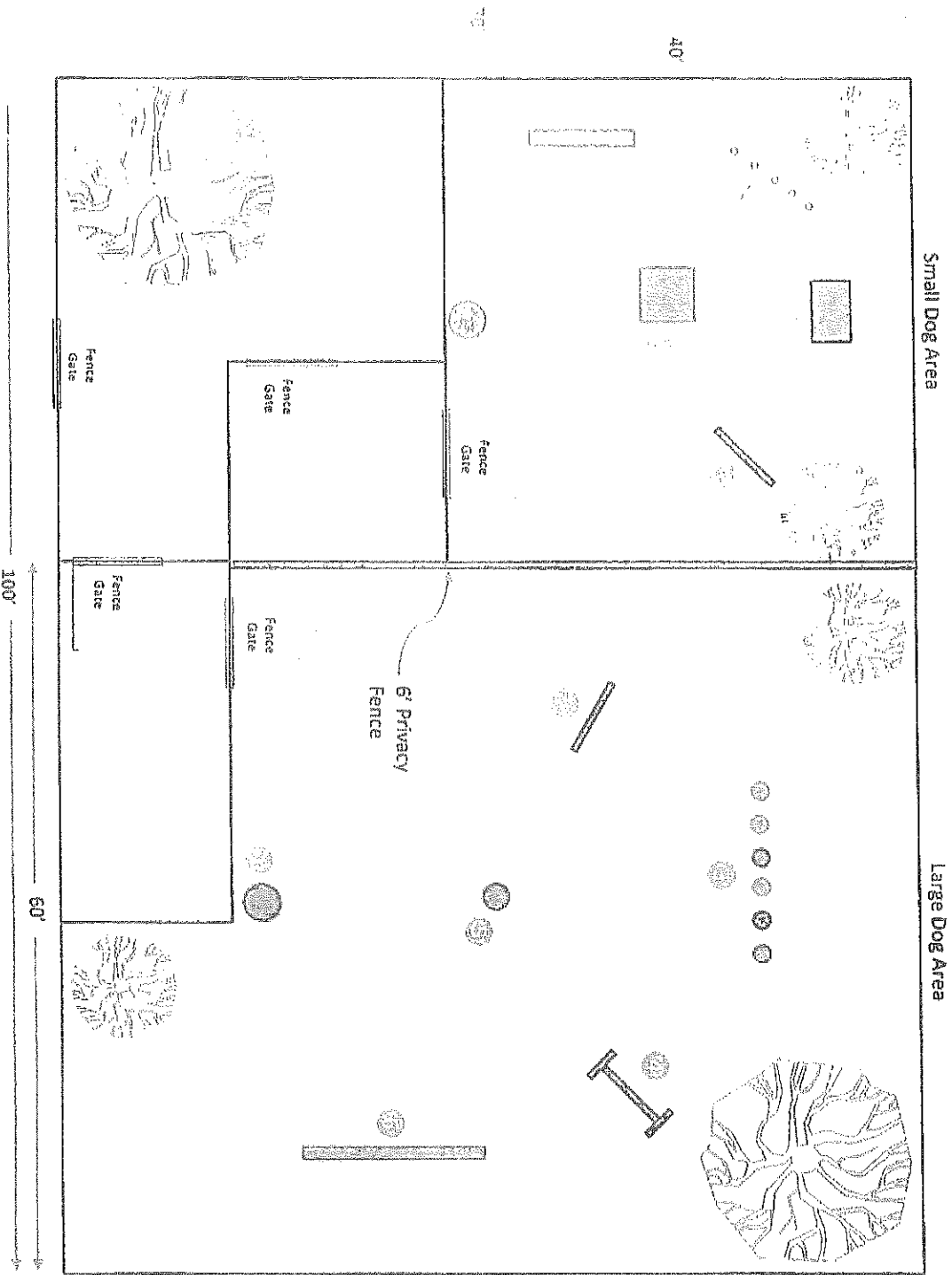
MAY 2017



SMALL DOG AREA



LARGE DOG AREA



Small Dog Area

Large Dog Area

Small Dog Area Components

1. PBARK-490 Pet Waste Station
2. PBARK-400 King of the Hill
3. PBARK-460 Weave Post
4. PBARK-491 Doggie Crawl
5. PBARK-420 Paws Table
6. TBARK-431 Small Hoop Jump

Large Dog Area Components

1. PBARK-490 Pet Waste Station
2. TBARK-430 Large Hoop Jump
3. PBARK-470 Stepping Paws (5)
4. PBARK-450 Rover Jump Over
5. TBARK-465 Fire Hydrant
6. PBARK-410 Dog Walk

6' Chain Link Fence

Elmer's Pond

