



Chapter 6

Activities that Sustain Us

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RESOURCE HISTORY

There are 18 parks currently in the Oneida Park System with many more in the planning stages. Oneida parks feature a variety of recreational opportunities including: leisure or passive activities, playground equipment, basketball courts, shelter and tables, and access to natural areas and trails. Oneida departments are collaborating more than ever to raise the standard of the parks and services available in order to provide the Oneida community with recreational and family outings right here on the Oneida Reservation.

Additionally, there has been a recent emphasis on developing an extensive trail network for leisure and exercise. Ten natural areas have also been designated to provide the Oneida membership with ease of access to the land and habitat for wildlife. Oneida departments including Parks, Recreation, Fitness, Experiential, and Planning work together to coordinate maintenance and programming of the Oneida Parks. The Parks Department strives to provide quality outdoor recreation activities and sports opportunities to the Oneida membership and has been serving the community since 1986. All departments continuously try to improve membership utilization of the recreational, sports and fitness areas available on the Oneida Reservation and has been serving the community since 1982.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

The following is a description of the 17 parks currently in the Oneida Park System, along with a map showing the location of each within the Oneida Reservation. The list details the basic amenities present in each, along with a list of needed items identified for each

location. There has been an emphasis over the past decades of locating parks in all new neighborhood developments. The Parks Team is looking to improve existing parks and also develop some into “model” parks for the community with advanced features and amenities.



Table 6.1 Oneida Parks

Parks Name	Location	Current Features/Amenities	Future Features/Amenities
Site II	Ranch Rd.	Swing set, 2 Tables, Slide, Basketball court	Swings, Jungle gym, Sand box
Green Earth Court	Cty. H	Spring buggy, Teeter, Large swings, Monkey bars	Small swings, Sand box, Slide, Table
Rolling Hills	Van Boxtel Rd.	Large and Small swings, Fire pole, Basketball court	Tables, Jungle gym, Slide, Spring buggy, Dozer, Sandbox
Sand Hill Circle	Town Rd.	2 Tables, Large swings, Spring horse, Teeter	Slide, Small swings, Basketball court, Jungle gym, Sandbox
Ridgeland Park	Skylark Dr. and Cty. EE	Small swings, 1 Table, Fire pole	Slide, Spring dozer, Teeter, Swings
Hillside Park	Wolf Dr. and Tip Rd.	2 Tables, Large swings, Basketball court, Spring teeter	Small swings, Jungle gym, Sand box
Cora Park	Jonas Circle	2 Tables, Jungle gym, Spring dozer, Spring buggy, Basketball court, Dinosaur climber	Large swings, Small swings, Sand box
Site I	Artley St.	2 Tables, Jungle gym, Basketball court, Swings, Spring teeter	Benches, Sand box
Three Sisters 1	N. Chief Hill Dr.	1 Table, Jungle gym, Small swings, Dinosaur climber, Spring teeter, Spring whale	Large swings, Sand box
Three Sisters 2	S. Chief Hill Dr.	1 Table, Jungle gym, Sand box, Large swings, Slide, Spring whale, Spring dozer	Tables, Benches



Table 6.1 Oneida Parks

Parks Name	Location	Current Features/Amenities	Future Features/Amenities
Standing Stone	Hwy. 172 and Cty. E	Large swings, Sand box	Slide, Spring dozer, Teeter, Benches, Jungle gym, Basketball court
Hurley Parkhurst (Elderly Park)	Cty. U and Riverdale	Small shelter (Gazebo)	Not identified
Ida's Way	Ida's Way	Basketball court	Playground, Tables, Grill
Cornelius Dr.	Cornelius Dr.	Playground, Grill, Shelter, Tables	Volleyball court, Soccer field
Path of the Wolf	Path of the Wolf	Basketball court	Playground, Tables, Grill, Volleyball court
Oneida Ball Fields	Hwy. 54 and Service Rd.	2 Baseball fields	Relocation being assessed
Turtle Where it Ends	Old Seymour Rd.	In development stage	In development stage
Standing Stone	Standing Stone Dr.	In development stage	In development stage



Improved Playground Area in Cora Park

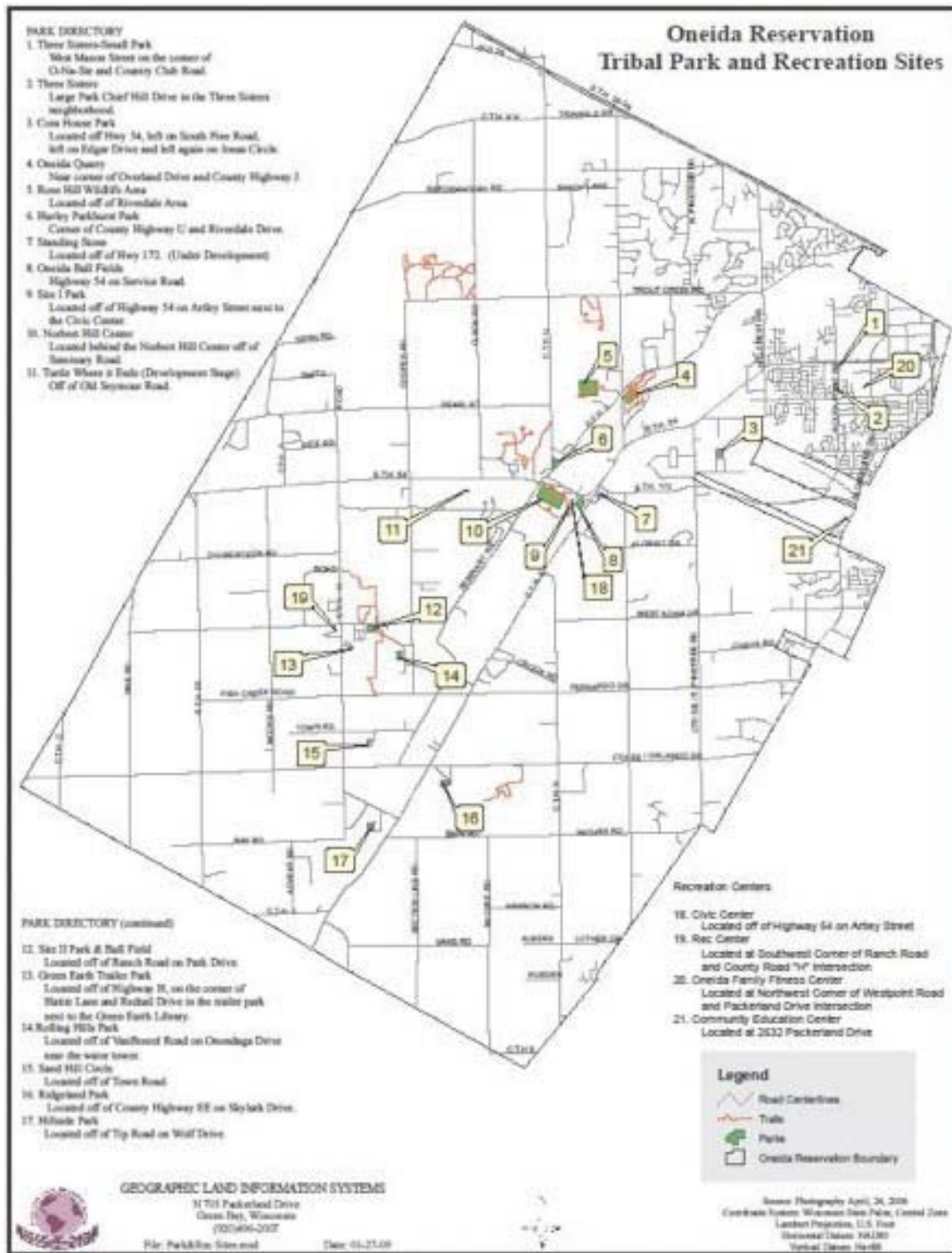
Oneida Natural Areas

The Environmental, Health & Safety Division (EH&SD) has worked in conjunction with the Division of Land Management, the Land Commission, and the Environmental Resource Board to designate Natural Areas on the Oneida Reservation. In 2007, the first Natural Areas & Trails Guide was produced describing these areas for Oneida membership. Many trail systems wind through these areas, and the Parks Team is reviewing how to better integrate Parks, Trails, Natural Areas, and Environmental Corridors into a flowing system within the Oneida Reservation. These areas feature wildlife, diverse habitats, and aesthetic environments for taking a break from day-to-day activities.

Table 6.2 Oneida Natural Areas

Rose Hill Wetlands	264 acres including diverse hardwood forests, swamps, open meadows, and a variety of wildlife.
Quarry Park	160 acres including a 5 acre pond, rolling hills, and camping sites.
Norbert Hill Woods	280 acre site features undisturbed and mature hardwoods and trails across rolling ridges.
Coyote Run	283 acres featuring waterfowl, wetlands, and reforestation.
Ducks Gathering	89 acres featuring waterfowl and wetlands.
Foxtails	449 acres including scattered ponds, food plots for wildlife, and wooded parcels.
Cty. Hwy. H and Ranch Rd.	766 acre site composed of primarily agricultural fields and used for pheasant release site. Site includes small food plots and three ponds.
Site II	380 acres surround by three housing sites and includes hardwood flats, swampy habitat and winding tributaries.
Cty. U and Hansen Rd.	246 acres featuring abundant trails, oaks and meadows.
Where the Buffalo Roam	400 acre site for Buffalo Project, waterfowl ponds, and viewing platform.

Figure 6.1 Oneida Reservation Tribal Park and Recreation Sites





Trails

An informal trail network has long been established by community members for leisure, recreation, and hunting. Over the past decade the trail system has been refined, including paved trails in more highly used areas by community centers. A cross-functional team is working on trail development through CIP (Capital Improvement Process) using grants and BIA Indian Reservation Road funding. Trails present in Oneida Natural Areas are mapped in the Oneida Nation Natural Areas and Trails Guide. Trail networks are part of comprehensive efforts to improve recreational, social, health, and quality of life opportunities.



Overlook shelter at "Where the Buffalo Roam"



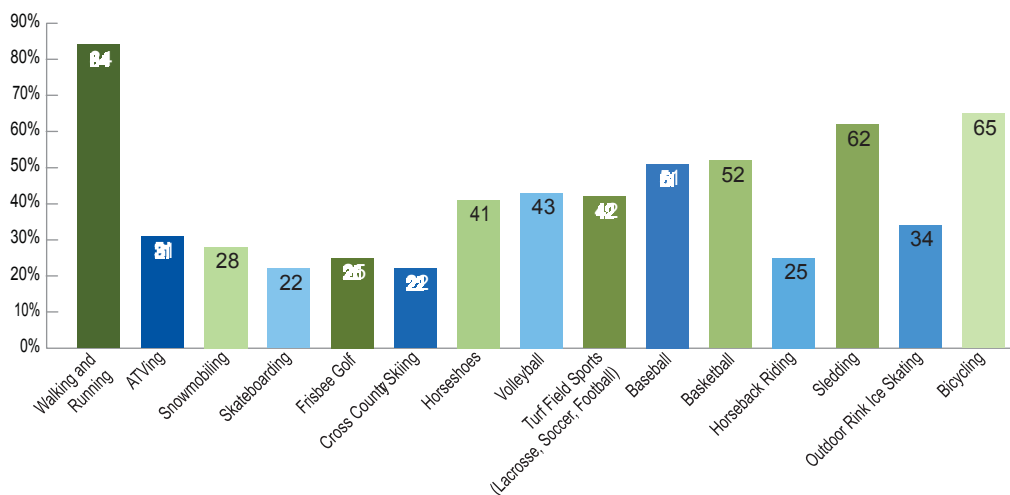
COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS & FEEDBACK

2009 Live Sustain Grow Survey

The Parks, Trails and Recreation survey section demonstrated the wide variety of interests Tribal members have in participating in recreational and cultural activities. 72% of respondents currently go to parks on the Reservation and 44% currently use one or more of the trails. General athletic activities that the majority of Tribal households enjoy include walking or running, biking, and sledding. Other activities such as baseball, basketball and turf field sports (lacrosse, soccer, or football) are popular with smaller subsets of the population. Community members reported walking and running as the activity with the highest participation of about 84%. Bicycling is the next most common activity with 65% having someone in the household who participates. Sledding, basketball, baseball, lacrosse, soccer, football, volleyball are other sporting activities popular in the community. ATV riding, snowmobiling, frisbee, golf, horseback riding, skate boarding and cross-country skiing are also enjoyed, but reported less frequently by the Oneida community.



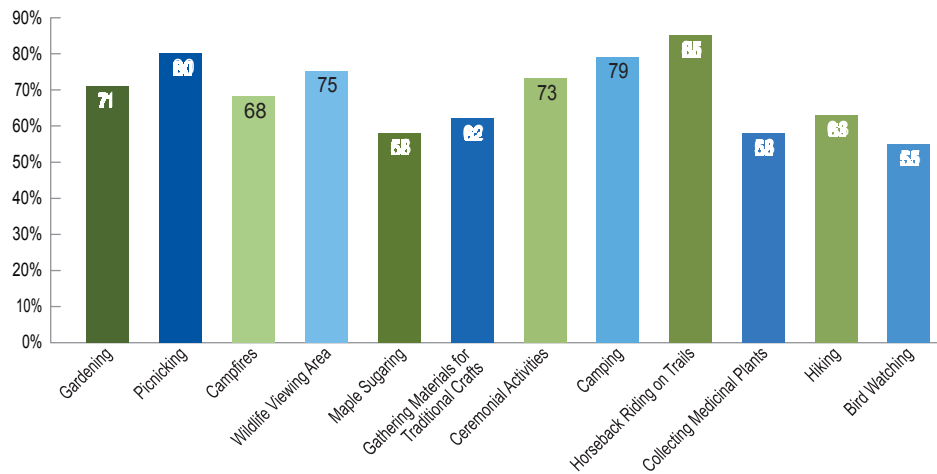
Figure 6.2 Participation in Specific Activities





Social activities in the natural environment are also an important part of the lifestyle and quality of life for the Oneida Nation. 80% of the respondents are interested in picnicking, 75% in wildlife viewing areas, 71% in gardening, 68% in campfires, 63% in hiking, and 55% in bird watching. Regarding participating in cultural and traditional activities of the Oneida Nation, the results were also strong, including: 73% participating in some form of ceremonial activities, 62% are interested in gathering materials for traditional crafts, 58% are interested in maple sugaring, and 58% have an interest in collecting medicinal plants. The Oneida Parks Team will use these results to coordinate programming and infrastructure planning regarding the further enhancements of outdoor opportunities for Oneida members.

Figure 6.3 Interest in Specific Activities on the Oneida Reservation





GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Oneida staff from Parks, Recreation, Experiential, Planning, Housing Authority, and EH&SD have been collaborating to improve the parks and recreation experience for Tribal members living on and visiting the Oneida Reservation. Prioritization of parks and selection of a model park for the community has been established. Past goals from the 1995 Parks Plan and the 2005 Comprehensive Plan have been reviewed and updated with current information and needs assessment.



Surveys from the Comprehensive Plan, Quality of Life Project, and Live, Sustain, Grow Project all identified developing a stronger parks system as a priority. Location of properties and their connection to demographic centers has been assessed, as well as community comments on how to best develop the Oneida Parks. The goal is to create a strong park system with quality parks at all locations, but providing different experiences at each park, varying between active recreational opportunities (sports, exercise, hiking/biking) and passive recreational opportunities (wildlife viewing, traditional activities, family time, relaxation).

Goals

Infrastructure

- Create an Oneida Community Events Area north of the Turtle School which includes two new baseball diamonds and benefits to numerous programs such as the Oneida Recreational baseball program, the North American Indigenous Games, and the Competitive Program Plus.
- Creation of new parks at Tall Feather Way, Oneida Lake, Green Valley and Equestrian Estates.
- Coordination between Parks, Recreation, Experiential, Planning, Housing Authority and EH&SD to pursue grant opportunities to enhance Cora House Park, Flying Leaf Park, Tall Feather Way Park, and Path of the Wolf Park (\$455,000 in improvements identified).



- Add bathroom facilities, park shelters, parking areas and other amenities to Oneida's parks where deemed appropriate.
- Develop Cora House into a model community park.
- Acquire maintenance equipment needed to maintain the Oneida Park system as a top-quality park system in Northeast WI.

Programming and Outreach

- Continue to assess avenues to add another staff to the Parks Department through creation of a new position or reassignment of existing staff.
- Update Natural Areas and Trails Guide to provide more detailed information to the community while "inviting them back to the land" by providing opportunities for recreation, family outings, and wildlife viewing.
- Update Comprehensive Parks Initiative.
- Continued development of an interconnected, Reservation-wide trail system.

BENEFITS ASSESSMENT

Environmental

- A robust park system is aligned with the vision of the Oneida Nation for a strong natural environment and assists in protecting land and resources for public recreation and enjoyment.

Social

- A stronger park system provides healthy opportunities for families to spend time together.
- Reconnection with the natural world provides educational opportunities and healthy outlets for youth and elders alike.
- Parks provide opportunities for recreation and exercise which assist in improving the health of Tribal members.



Cultural

- One goal of the Parks Plan is to integrate the traditional ceremonial and gathering activities of the Oneida Nation into the parks framework. This include providing access to traditional areas directly inside of parks or closely linked to parks via trails.

Food

- Providing easy access to gathering areas for foods and medicines is one consideration for Parks planning into the future.

Economic Benefits

- A strong parks system provides Oneida Tribal members with quality leisure time opportunities at no cost.
- The presence of parks, natural areas, and green spaces enhances value and brings opportunity for economic activities and small business enterprises.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The goals for the Oneida Park, Trails, and Recreational system go beyond improving infrastructure and into enhancing the social dimensions of the quality of life on the Oneida Reservation. This includes providing opportunities for families to recreate at no cost, exercise to augment healthy lifestyles, and reconnect to the natural world. The EH&SD has the objective of “welcoming people back to the land,” which provides expanded opportunities for gathering, ceremonial, and other traditional cultural activities. Experiential Education and Fitness staff are interested in expanding programming for sporting activities, summer programs, and exercise outings. Furthermore, community involvement and feedback remains an essential component of ensuring that Oneida services are meeting the needs of the Tribal membership. Continuing collaboration regarding planning, funding, and implementation will pave the way towards the next generations.

