WATERFRONT PARK
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

MASTER PLAN

The Waterfront Park Master Plan presents the visions and desires of the City of Saratoga Springs. The three tiers occurring on the site led to the development of a three terraced park connected visually with a strong central axis. The park terraces are physically connected via the traffic corridors on the west and east sides of the central axis for vehicular and pedestrian traffic, respectively. These terraces contain multiple and varied usable spaces. Large-scale open recreational greens can be found in both the waterfront terrace and the intermediate terrace. The intermediate terrace’s green invites spectators with its amphitheater wrapping around the green’s north edge.

An overlook plaza space on the upper terrace provides dynamic views across its neighboring terraces down to the waterfront and beyond to the eastern shores of the lake. This plaza also provides opportunities for a pavilion and interpretive signage. Smaller scale overlooks are located along the pedestrian corridor at the edges of the upper and intermediate terraces. Gathering spaces leading to a pier and its accompanying pavilion, as well as a scenic overlook plaza are located at the waterfront terrace. The pier provides the opportunity for small boat docking, as well as a potential revenue source should a tour boat eventually become established at the park. The pier pavilion is a destination and shelter for park users strolling, fishing, or boating; and an uninterrupted vista of the lake is available at the pier’s terminus.

The largest attraction of Waterfront Park is the beach and swimming area. It is sized appropriately for the neighborhood (75-100 bathers) and residents of Saratoga Springs. A small (non motorized) boat launch area is also proposed to allow access for people wishing to take their kayaks, canoes, or rowboats out onto the lake. Families have a multitude of opportunities in the park to find a spot to spend their visit at any of the picnic alcoves that dot the eastern side of the upper and waterfront terraces, as well as the existing and proposed picnic shelters. The upper terrace hosts a playground for children that is removed from the dangers of vehicular traffic. The existing restroom and changing room buildings are proposed to be renovated and new restrooms added to better provide necessary facilities for park visitors.

Parking spaces (76 total) are provided at both the upper and waterfront terraces, with overflow spaces (12) lining the entry drive. The majority of spaces (46) are provided at the upper terrace to encourage less vehicular traffic at the waterfront (12 parking spaces provided at waterfront terrace). Drop off areas occur on each terrace to ensure accessibility to the park for all visitors.