



11095 BETHANY CENTER RD.
EAST BETHANY, NY 14054

GENESEE COUNTY PARK & FOREST

FOREST - EST. 1915
PARK - EST. 1971

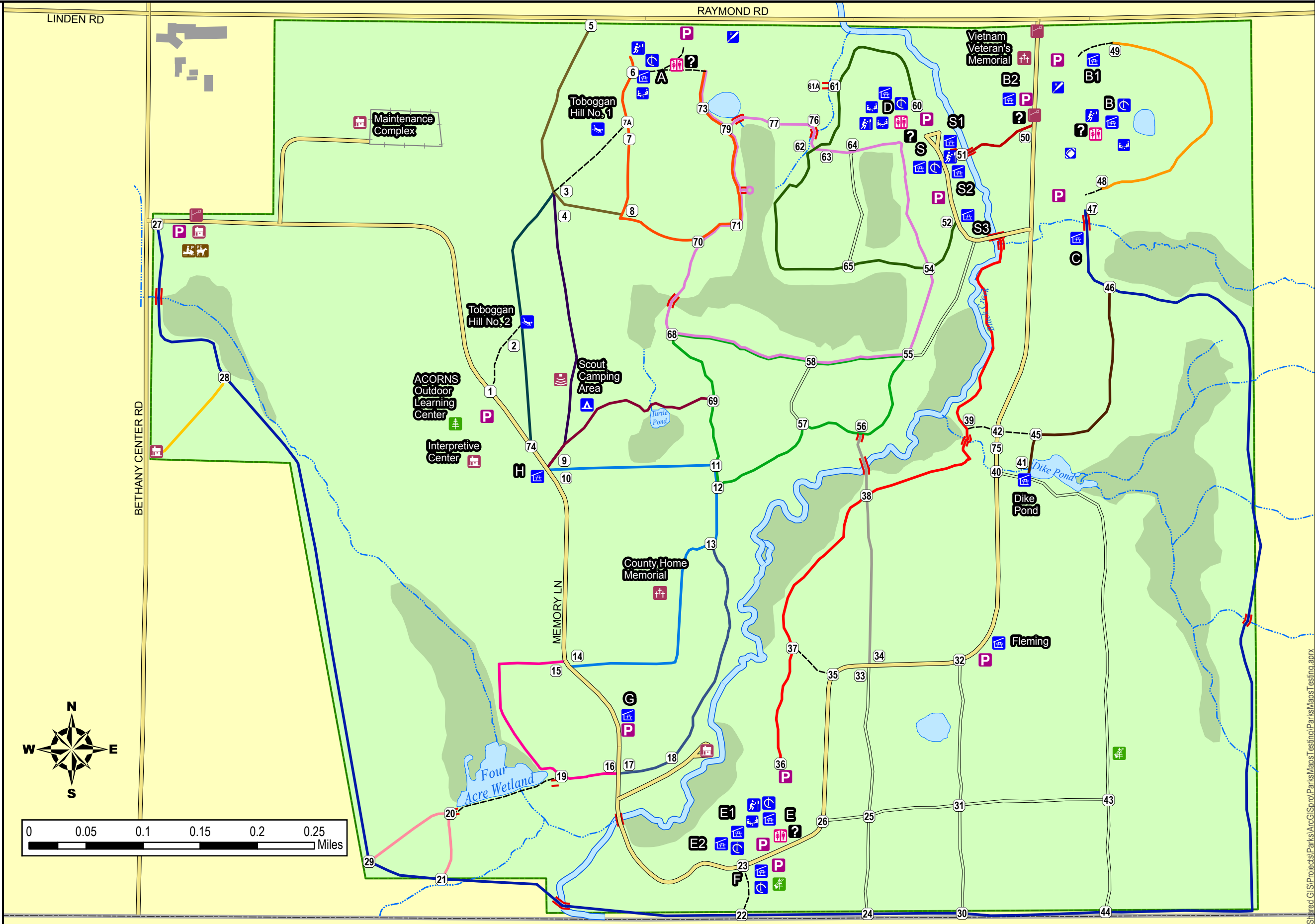
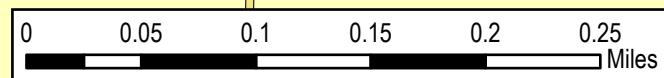
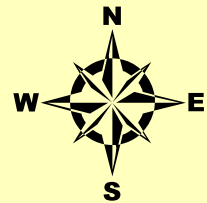
① Trail Intersection Marker

- Road
- Park Boundary
- County Boundary
- Parking Lot
- Creek Tributary
- Black Creek
- Pond
- Wetland

Trails

- B-C Connector Trail (.24 mi)
- B-D Connector Trail (.08 mi)
- Boundary Trail (2.14 mi)
- Creek Trail (.6 mi)
- Deathrow Trail (.43 mi)
- Deer Run Trail (.21 mi)
- Dike Pond Trail (.22 mi)
- Forestry Trail (.61 mi)
- General Conservation Trail (.87 mi)
- High Road Trail (.24 mi)
- Low Road Trail (.25 mi)
- Norway Spruce Trail (.14 mi)
- Plantation Trail (.5 mi)
- TB Hill #1 Trail (.23 mi)
- Tower Hill Trail (.1 mi)
- Turtle Pond Trail (.18 mi)
- Wetland Trail (.23 mi)
- Wilderness Trail (.26 mi)
- Wildlife Trail (.39 mi)
- Unnamed Trail

- Bridge
- Fire Break
- Amphitheater
- Baseball Diamond
- Building
- Camping Area
- Football Field
- Forest Management Sign
- Gate
- Horseshoe Pit
- Kiosk
- Memorial
- Outdoor Learning Center
- Parking Lot
- Pavilion
- Playground
- Restroom
- Sledding Hill
- Snowmobile/Horse Trailer Parking
- Volleyball Court



Email – County.Parks@geneseeny.gov

Website – www.geneseeny.gov

GENESEE COUNTY PARK & FOREST

11095 BETHANY CTR. RD., E. BETHANY, NY 14054 431 Acres

Park Office/ Reservations – 585.344.8508

Interpretive Nature Center – 585.344.1122

Trail Information

General Conservation Trail – (.87 mi.) This trail begins at Area A and is an easy walk with very little change in terrain. Along the trail, a variety of habitats are found including a pond, an open wildlife marsh and stream, woodlands, and an open field. The pond was excavated in the late 1960's and stocked with bass and grass carp. On a sunny day, painted turtles can be seen sunning on a log. Along the trail, look for the feeding station where many songbirds can be seen throughout the year; blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, robins and more. This is a great walk for birders all year. The boardwalk takes you across the wetland edge into the softwood plantations that include White Pine, Red Pine, and Norway Spruce. Marsh marigolds, sensitive fern, woodbine, yellow ragwort and wild geranium can be seen here in May. The open field of dogwood, hawthorn, mayapple and honeysuckle bring a chorus of songbirds.

Forestry Trail - (.61 mi.) A moderate walking trail with hilly terrain that takes you through the middle of the park. Along the trail a combination of hardwood and softwood tree stands are present. The hardwood stands have Sugar Maple, Black Cherry, American Beech, Bitternut Hickory and White ash tree species where the softwoods have White Pine, Red Pine, White Cedar, and Norway Spruce trees. Mounds of pinecones are found at the base of Spruce trees where squirrels have collected seeds and distributed for safekeeping. A biological desert is created by the growth of the tree canopy and the non-existence of light on the forest floor. A selective thinning has been completed in the hardwood stand during a recent timber harvest to bring light to the forest floor. The new succession of trees will begin the process of creating the next generation of hardwood trees. Deer, squirrels, woodpeckers, raccoons, opossum, and other wildlife can be seen along the trail throughout the day.

Wildlife Trail – (.39 mi.) The shortest of the trail loops is also an easy walk across relatively flat terrain. This trail also begins at Area A, and highlights a few of the natural habitats found within the park boundaries. The open wetland offers an opportunity to view ducks swimming, songbirds singing and feeding at the feeding station, and deer drinking water along the edge. An open field can be seen through a break in the trees where bluebirds, pheasants, and deer are seen daily in the summer. Along the base of the drumlin, watch for rabbits, woodchucks, and squirrels too. In 2016, a self-guided trail map was created with corresponding signage. Download map: www.geneseeny.gov

Plantation Trail – (.5 mi.) A short trail which begins and ends at Area D. This trail highlights many of the softwood plantations planted throughout the late 1960's. Larch, Norway Spruce, Red Pine, and White Pine are the main tree species found within the plantations. A section of the trail travels by a large open wetland where songbirds and raptors can be seen feeding throughout the day. Chipmunks can also be seen chasing one another and deer tend to come here to drink and settle each night.

Boundary Trail – (2.14 mi.) The longest trail that follows the perimeter of the park through moderate terrain. Woodlands, wetlands, and open fields are a few of the habitats the trail travels through.

General Park Information

Contact Info: Park Office/Reservations/Parks Supervisor – (585) 344-8508

Picnic Reservations: To make a reservation, a picnic permit is required. Complete and return with payment to 153 Cedar St., Batavia, NY 14020. If you have reserved a pavilion, bring your confirmation letter with you and present it to Park Staff upon arrival. For further information please call 585.344.8508 Mon. – Fri. (8:00 am – 4:00 pm) or visit the park website at www.geneseeny.gov

Genesee County Park & Forest Hours and Rules: Hours and Rules: Summer (May – Sept.) Park Hours: 9:00am – 9:00pm. Picnic reservations must begin clean-up one hour before closing as gates and cables will close promptly at 9:00 pm. **Winter** (October – April) Park Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

All County Parks are Carry-In Carry-Out. Please take all garbage with you and dispose of properly after you leave. Keg beer is permitted if marked on your picnic reservation permit. County Park staff will call the authorities if alcohol laws are being broken. Pets must be on a leash at all times. Horses and Snowmobiles are permitted along roadsides and designated trails only.

Please be aware of seasonal changes in trail conditions and be prepared for natural conditions such as mosquitoes and poison ivy in some areas.

Interpretive Nature Center Hours: Summer (May – September) it is open Thurs.-Sat. 10:00am – 4:00pm, Sun. 12:00pm – 4:00pm. **Winter** (October – April) Thurs. – Fri. 10:00pm – 4:00pm, Sat.-Sun. 12:00pm – 4:00pm.

History: The Genesee County Park & Forest, which attracts thousands of visitors each year, was established in 1915 and is recognized as the oldest County Forest in New York State. However, the land was originally purchased in 1882 in order to supply wood to the County's Poor House for cooking and heating. The County Forest was created through the efforts of George Fleming, County Home Superintendent, who initiated the planting of 31,000 trees. During the 1920's, New York State assisted in providing the evergreens and manpower to plant additional trees. By 1935 over 169,000 trees had been planted. As the park expanded, so did the need for long-term forest management practices. The first proposal for the creation of a County Park was entertained in 1949; however the project was not started until 1966, when the thinning and pruning of trees began. In 1971, the County Legislators appointed the first full-time Park Supervisor-Forester thus designating the Genesee County Park and Forest. For over 30 years the park has developed because of the interest and dedication of community groups and organizations such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, BOCES, Jaycees, Lions Club, Sertoma and Vietnam Veterans. These groups planted trees, constructed pavilions and playgrounds, an Interpretive Nature Center in 1997, cleared hiking trails and placed memorials. Today, residents can enjoy 431 acres of forested rolling hills, which includes over 12 miles of trails, five ponds, toboggan hills, 4-acre wetland, a variety of wildlife, trees and woodland plants all located within the Black Creek Watershed.

Visit www.blackcreekwatershed.org for more information.

Special Features

Interpretive Nature Center - The Interpretive Center was a two-year project that began in 1996 by the Genesee County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. The construction of the Center was done with volunteers from a variety of organizations including the Iroquois Job Corps, Naval Sea Bees, Gen. Co. Highway Dept., Gen. Co. B&G, and Park personnel. Funding was supplied by a Genesee County Capital project initiative, State Senator Mary Lou Rath, and through the NYS OPRHP 1986 Environmental Quality Bond Act. The Interpretive Nature Center opened its doors to the public on July 18, 1998. The Nature Center has become the center for environmental education programs throughout the County. The Center is staffed with an environmental education coordinator who provides public, scout, school and group programs both in-house and through outreach activities. Environmental displays include interactive dioramas featuring habitats within the park, animal taxidermy, a working honeybee hive, "Discovery Zone" and "children's nook". Visitors often view deer, rabbits, turkey and other wildlife from the elevated rear porch.

4-Acre Wetland: Located on the Southwest section of the park, it is easily accessible from Memory Ln. The wetland is man-made through the creation of a soil berm across the valley. Spillways were created for water overflow during the spring and fall heavy water flows. A water control structure was installed to assist in creating natural changes in water levels as would occur in natural wetlands. Many wetland animal species can be seen throughout the year including heron, ducks, geese, muskrat, and frogs. The USFWS, USDA and Ducks Unlimited provided funding.

Forest Management: The beginnings of forest management started with the original purchase of the property in 1882 to harvest fuel wood for the County Home. Active planting campaigns to convert the abandoned open fields to forests began in the 1920's; and throughout the next 15 years, over 169,000 conifer trees were planted. Thinning and pruning activities were conducted in the late 1960's followed by another planting campaign on the western half of the property. By the mid 1980's, over a quarter of a million trees had been planted across the property. In 2003, a Forest Stewardship Plan was created to manage the existing forested areas within the park in conjunction with all other property values and uses.

Volunteer Opportunities: In 2006, a group of dedicated volunteers at the Genesee County Park & Forest formed a group called Association for Conservation of Recreational and Natural Spaces (ACORNS). The mission of ACORNS is to serve the public by fostering environmental education, recreational opportunities and responsible environmental stewardship at the Genesee County Park. For more information regarding volunteer opportunities, please contact the Environmental Education Coordinator at (585) 344-1122 or visit www.geneseecorn.org

Acknowledgements: This map was made possible through the efforts of various Genesee County Departments (Parks, Planning, & IT), Soil & Water Cons. Dist. and the ACORNS – parks volunteer organization

Revised 1/25/18