

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Losson Nature Trails are located in Stiglmeier Park, a 308 acre recreation facility in the southeastern quarter of the Town of Cheektowaga. These trails meander throughout the park, offering hikers the opportunity to experience the beauty and variety of the entire area.

The development and maintenance of these trails is provided by members of the Cheektowaga Conservation Corps, a summer employment program administered by the Cheektowaga Department of Youth and Recreational Services.

WILDLIFE

The different areas through which the nature trails pass, including a mature climax forest, meadows, young aspen woods, floodplains, and a cattail marsh provide habitats for a wide variety of wildlife.

A few of the species which reside in the park include beaver, white-tailed deer, woodchuck, coyote, mink, raccoon, opossum, muskrat, chipmunk and squirrel.

Several spots along the trails afford excellent listening points for everything from early morning bird songs to a chorus of spring peepers in the late afternoon.

The observant hiker may also catch a glimpse of a red-tailed hawk, great blue heron, wild turkey, or some of the other eighty plus species of birds that have been recorded in the park.

Such varied wildlife and scenery make the Losson Nature Trails an excellent area for those who enjoy beauty in nature.



HISTORY

The records describing the park area indicate a fascinating past history. In the early 1700's, the Seneca Indians established a village along the northern shore of Cayuga Creek that they called "Ga-sko-sa-da" meaning Falls Village. It was originally located where Transit Road crosses Cayuga Creek. Every couple of years the village would be moved a few hundred feet downstream as the land they farmed wore out. In less than 100 years, the village was located in the Union Road area of Cayuga Creek.

After the American Revolution, the Indians were placed on the Buffalo Creek Indian Reservation. The northern boundary of this reservation ran through the center of Stiglmeier Park. The Indians lived here until 1842, when they sold the reservation.

With the reservation up for sale, the land was quickly sold to settlers and land speculators. For the next fifty years, the land in the area remained relatively rural, with farming as the main activity.

During the 1890's the central portion of Stiglmeier Park was purchased by the New York Central Railroad and developed into the huge Gardenville Freight Marshalling Yards. At one time this area contained 18 tracks, a roundhouse, car repair shops and a large dormitory. This railroad yard was the largest east of the Mississippi, and it is still very much in evidence in and around the park.

Also around this time a trolley line was established connecting Buffalo with the villages of Depew and Lancaster. The trolley was called the Buffalo, Bellevue, and Lancaster Electric Railroad, and serviced the area from 1892-1922. There is still evidence of this trolley line along the northern portion of Cayuga Trail. During the 1930's and 1940's, the railroad was slowly being phased out and farming activity adjacent to it was brought to an end. As a result of the change, nature began to reclaim the land.

During the early 1970's, the Town acquired a former hunting club and developed it into Losson Park. In 1982, the Town purchased an additional 224 acres and changed the park's name to Stiglmeier Park.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

Visitors interested in learning about the park's wildlife, trees, wildflowers, and history can schedule guided walks on the nature trails. Guides point out places of special interest, identify plants and animals and provide opportunities to learn about the ecology of the park.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Cheektowaga Department of
Youth and Recreational Services
Alexander Community Center
275 Alexander Avenue
Cheektowaga, New York 14211-2742
or call (716) 897-7207

LOSSON NATURE TRAILS

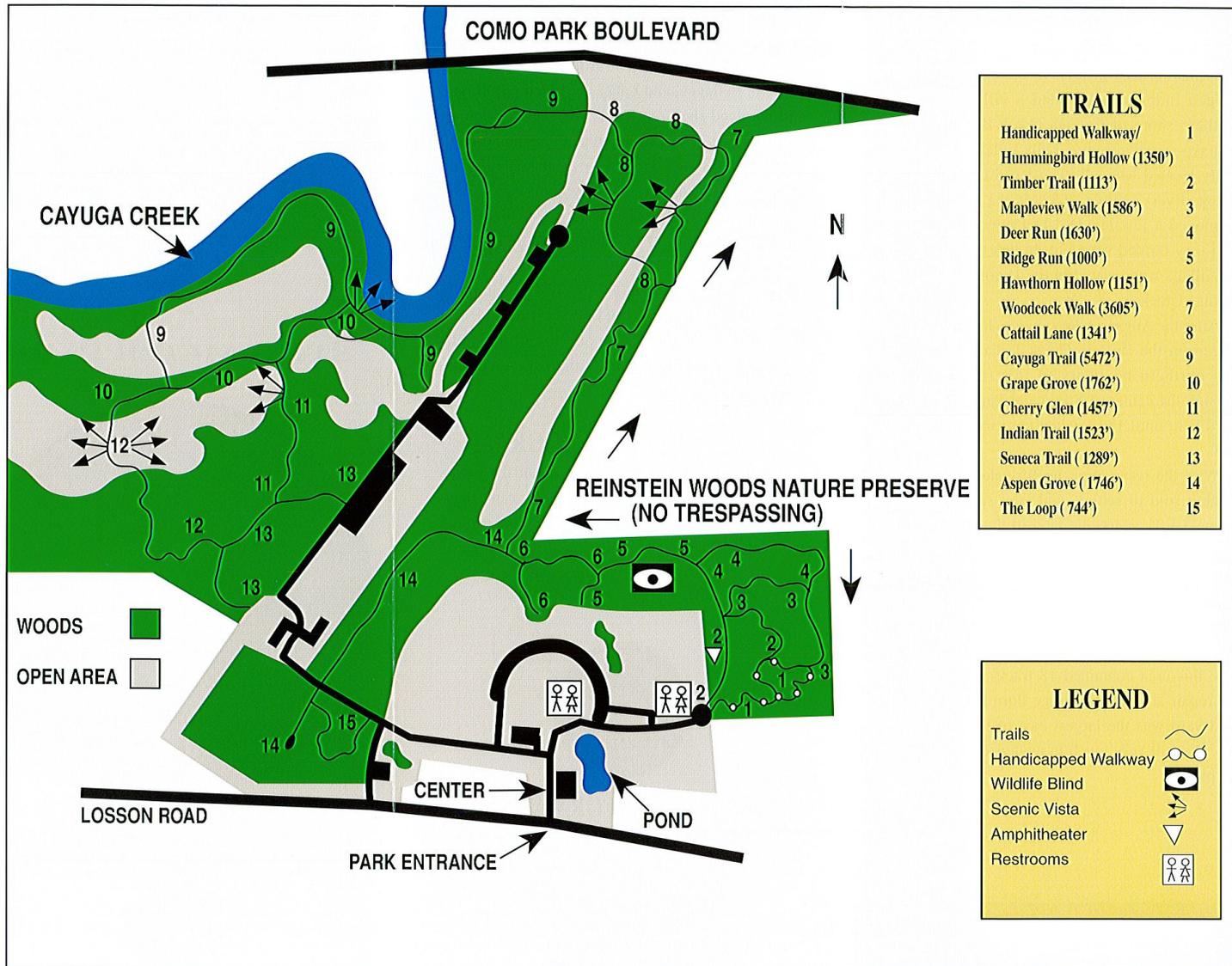


STIGLMEIER PARK



Town of Cheektowaga





TRAILS

Handicapped Walkway/	1
Hummingbird Hollow (1350')	2
Timber Trail (1113')	2
Mapleview Walk (1586')	3
Deer Run (1630')	4
Ridge Run (1000')	5
Hawthorn Hollow (1151')	6
Woodcock Walk (3605')	7
Cattail Lane (1341')	8
Cayuga Trail (5472')	9
Grape Grove (1762')	10
Cherry Glen (1457')	11
Indian Trail (1523')	12
Seneca Trail (1289')	13
Aspen Grove (1746')	14
The Loop (744')	15

LEGEND

Trails	
Handicapped Walkway	
Wildlife Blind	
Scenic Vista	
Amphitheater	
Restrooms	



PARK RULES

SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE TRAILS, PLEASE:

- Do not harass or remove wildlife from the park.
- Do not feed the wildlife.
- Do not litter.
- No firearms or weapons allowed.
- Do not pick plants or flowers. They make up much of the park's beauty. Park plants are protected by law.
- Do not smoke or build camp fires on trails.
- Do not ride bicycles on the trails. Please park bicycles at trail entrance.
- Do not wander in woods or off park property. Stay on trails at all times.
- No dogs please.

SAFETY TIPS

FOR YOUR SAFETY, PLEASE:

- Do not walk on trails alone.
- Beware that boardwalks are slippery when wet.
- Exercise extra caution during winter months.

Presented by
Cheektowaga Department of Youth and Recreational Services
Kenneth J. Kopacz, Executive Director