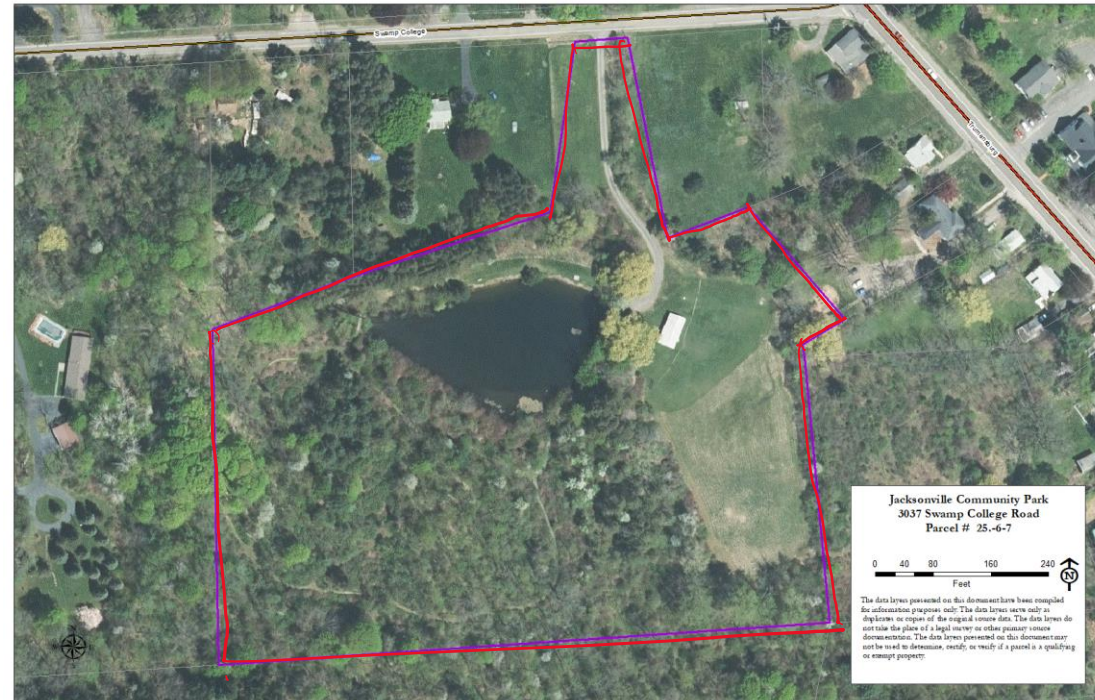


**Update for Ulysses Town Board
on
Jacksonville Community Park
Master Plan Progress**

May 2023

Jacksonville Community Park



10 Acres, Pond, Walking Paths, Pavilion

Jacksonville Community Association & Town of Ulysses

- The Jacksonville Community Association (JCA), a 501c-3, has owned and operated the 10-acre Jacksonville Community Park on Swamp College Road which includes a pond, walking trails and a picnic pavilion since 1960.
- JCA has been partnering with the Town of Ulysses to sustain and enhance the Park as a natural and recreational resource for residents of the hamlet and the Town since 2017.

Planning goals for Jacksonville:

The Town and County have identified development in Jacksonville as a priority for years. The Jacksonville Community Association which formed in response to the Mobil Oil gasoline spill in 1979 has advocated for the hamlet in multiple ways, including development of the Jacksonville Community Park.

- **The Town of Ulysses 2009 Comprehensive Plan called for the development of a special area plan for Jacksonville.**
- **A 2009 Rt 96 Corridor Study made recommendations for planning to make Jacksonville more vibrant.**
- **Tompkins County's 2015 Comprehensive 2015 Plan called for nodal development in Jacksonville.**

Recent Town Support for Jville

- 2017 **The Town purchased 3 properties in Jacksonville from Exxon Mobil** after the DEC concluded that the contamination from the 1979 gasoline spill was sufficiently remediated. The purpose was to preserve the old Methodist Church and reclaim parcels for re-development of the hamlet.
- In 2017, the **Town and JCA entered into a Memo of Understanding** to acknowledge their shared interest in maintaining and developing a park for all residents of the Town, not just those in the hamlet.
- 2018, **the church and one adjacent parcel were sold** in what the Town hoped would be the beginning of a community revitalization. The remaining parcels were auctioned off by Exxon Mobil later in 2018.
- In 2019, the **Town adopted zoning that protected the Jacksonville Park** as green space.

JCA Park Planning & Improvement Projects

- **2019 Park Master Plan** JCA, with help from the Town, engaged students from architecture and planning at Cornell through the Design Connect program to develop a masterplan for park development.
- **2019 Community Support for Restroom** Based on the Park Master Plan, JCA's first project was to build a restroom at the Park. The community came together to support the project: the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts hosted a community festival to raise funds; the Lions Club held a chicken BBQ to raise funds, and volunteers offered to help with a community build.
- **2019 \$5,000 grant to Town for JCA Restroom Phase I from TC Municipal Park funding**
- **2021 Maintenance and Accessibility Plan from Cortland Recreation Class** Will Glennon, the Town's Recreation Director who teaches at SUNY Cortland, helped connect JCA with a Cortland Recreation Administration class that created a Maintenance and Accessibility Plan to implement the Park Master Plan.
- Based on the master plan and accessibility plan, JCA identified a number of Park improvements to be done in sequence and has been systematically making incremental progress.
- In 2023, JCA requested but did not receive ARPA funds from Tompkins County to implement most of the improvements. This has required smaller, incremental steps.

***Master Plan Projects
Completed***

2019 -- 2022

Jacksonville Park Restroom Built with 2019 County Grant



Built with local
hemlock

by local volunteers

to be handicapped
accessible with

Utility Closet



Water Connection for Restroom

2019 - 2020



Water line ditched and laid December 2019



Pad for restroom poured by Houseworth and water line connected by Town in August 2020

Master Plan Projects Completed, cont.

- ✓ Construction of a restroom with local hemlock & volunteer labor. 2019 TC Park Grant for supplies and stipend for coordinator. Accomplished per grant deadline.
- ✓ Ditching and laying the water line. Highway Department labor & TC Park grant for equipment & supplies. Completed per amended County grant. Project report provided to Town & County 12/2019.
- ✓ Research, discussion and planning for waste system completed. Winter 2020
- ✓ 2020 Municipal Grant submitted to complete restroom; COVID caused County cancelation of grants.
- ✓ Water line connected to restroom pad by Highway/ Water staff and installation of a septic tank was donated by Houseworth Plumbing in August 2020. Tank bought with 2020 Town funds

- ✓ Relocation of the restroom from its construction site to the plumbed pad. Town funds used to rent equipment with labor donated by JDL Landscape.
- ✓ Creation of a new Park Sign on Swamp College Eagle Scout project
- ✓ 3 picnic tables built before Master Plan by Eagle Scout
- ✓ Pollinator garden created as a final project by Girl Scout
- ✓ Installation of temporary solar lights and park hours posted as security measures

Next Steps

- Installation of leach field to complete septic system- Planned for July 2023 with Town's 2022 allocation
- Installation of toilet, sink, grab bars and outdoor spigot when septic system is installed
- Create a handicapped-accessible gravel parking area and path to pavilion and restroom to support Town's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policy - Fall 2023 with 2023 Town funds.
- Electrify the pavilion and restroom
- Extend accessible path to Dave Shurman Pavilion
- Based on on cost estimates and Town Board support, seek \$5,000 in 100% reimbursable TC Municipal Park for electric and/or path extension. Grant due 6/19/23

Future plans

Contingent on available funds

- Extend accessible path to Dave Shurman Memorial Pavilion built by volunteers
- Replace the main pavilion, resurface it, and buy/make handicapped accessible picnic tables
- Build an accessible dock on the pond for fishing and weddings and events
- Make paths around the pond more accessible
- Build a walkway over the wetlands in the southeast corner of the park to connect to the hamlet center for pedestrian safety
- Create either playing fields or gathering space for Town-sponsored recreation programs, and/or special rentals to generate revenue.



Jacksonville Community Park Pond with Willow and Donated Bench