A VISION FOR OAKDALE LAKE
Friends of Oakdale Lake is working to rejuvenate Oakdale Park by partnering with, and promoting the ideas of, the Hudson community. Friends of Oakdale Lake aims to increase access to nature, improve the health of the lake, improve trail connectivity, and improve recreation infrastructure, strengthening opportunities for community activities, education, and enjoyment in Oakdale Park.

The Hudson Valley Initiative (HVI) at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation brought students and faculty to Oakdale Lake to lead community design workshops, develop design recommendations, and provide documentation that can be used to consult stakeholders, build strong community-oriented consensus, and raise consciousness.

The 8+1 Design Actions documented here can be used by Friends of Oakdale Lake and other stakeholders to secure funding and form partnerships for the redesign, buildout and renovation of Oakdale Lake.

HUDSON VALLEY INITIATIVE

Fall 2018

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Additional support during community workshops was provided by: Lee Altman, Alexandra Burkhardt, Richard Chou, Carolina Godhino, Devaki Handa, Sharvi Jain, Adi Laho, Keju Liu, Alaa Marrawi, David Mauricio, Noah Shaye, and Shou Yang.
AUGUST 2018
WORKSHOP WITH SUMMER CAMP
OCTOBER 2018
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP
To/From Middle School
8 min

To/From Bliss Towers
20 min

To/From Youth Department
20 min

Potential Future
- Boston - Albany Trail
- Future Empire State Trail
- Proposed Route
- Former Albany Hudson Electric Trolley ROW

To/From High School
15 min
- Proposed entrance
- Improved access
- From Spring Street

To/From JLE
8 min

VISION FOR OAKDALE
8+1 AREAS OF CONCERN

Roadside Bathing
+ North 6th St is very close to swimming area
+ Main pedestrian route between playground and beach is precarious

Fading Beauty
+ Defunct Volleyball & Wading Pool
+ No water access
+ Excess Phragmites at water edge
+ No direct access

Peeling Paint
+ Beach house is cluttered with storage uses
+ Bath rooms and changing area lack dignity
+ Concession caters to summer camp only and lacks space

Too Little Shade
+ Small pavilion provides only covered area and tables
+ Limited to summer camp use during camp hours
Fading Beauty
+ Defunct and limited play equipment
+ Summer Camp is in need of covered Area
+ no bathrooms
+ no direct access

Murky Waters
+ Leaves and other debris create excess nutrients that feed algae bloom and sediment at lake bottom
+ Dumping and left over infrastructure (concrete and steel) create uncomfortable swimming conditions

Summer is Too Short
+ Lifeguards are not on duty past 5pm or in most of August
+ Ice Skating and other year-round activities are discouraged/prohibited and lack infrastructure

Sad Playground
+ Defunct and limited play equipment
+ Summer Camp is in need of covered Area
+ no bathrooms
+ no parking or bicycle parking

Muddy Trails
+ Unsafe trail conditions
+ Garbage and homeless shelter in forest
+ Lack of Infrastructure

Asphalt Desert
+ Between Parking, Basketball Courts and Skateboard Area approximately 80,000 sf of asphalt are largely underutilized, but produce a heat island effect
+ Skateboard Area is not usable due to coarse surface
+ Vehicle entrance causes dangerous conflicts with summer camp activities
8+1 DESIGN ACTIONS

1 BEACH HOUSE & PLAZA
+ Renovated Beach House
+ ADA Access
+ Concessions Bar & Seating
+ New Lifeguard Station
+ Bicycle Parking & Repair

2 BOARDS, HOOPS & CARS
+ New Vehicle Entrance
+ New Multi-surface Area for Basketball, Skateboard
+ Improved Stormwater Drainage

3 LUNCH POINT
+ New Pavilion
+ New Boat Ramp
+ Multi-purpose lawn

4 DIVING BOARD
+ Long Deck for sunbathing
+ Toddler water play area
+ Plant buffer
+ Traffic Calming

5 PICNIC GROVE
+ New Entrance
+ BBQ and Picnic Tables
+ New Dock for swimming
+ “Date Nook” for quiet encounters, storytime

6 BEACH HOUSE & PLAZA
+ Renovated Beach House
+ ADA Access
+ Concessions Bar & Seating
+ New Lifeguard Station
+ Bicycle Parking & Repair

7 PICNIC GROVE
+ New Entrance
+ BBQ and Picnic Tables
+ New Dock for swimming
+ “Date Nook” for quiet encounters, storytime

8 DIVING BOARD
+ Long Deck for sunbathing
+ Toddler water play area
+ Plant buffer
+ Traffic Calming
**ICE SKATING**
+ Equipment for skating
+ Warming Hut
+ Operate Beach house in winter

**NATURE PLAYGROUND**
+ Bathrooms and Storage
+ Canopy for Summer Camp
+ Bicycle Parking
+ “Islands” with Play Equipment
+ Additional Play Stations along trail

**CLEAR WATERS**
+ Enzyme Treatment
+ Aquatic plants on edges
+ Floating Gardens
+ Fountain/aeration system

**FOREST CLASSROOM**
+ Improved Access from Spring St
+ Improved Trail Condition
+ Small stations to play, observe, rest, learn
+ Fishing Infrastructure
Vision:
The 1948 Beach House should be renovated and upgraded to improve bathrooms and locker rooms, provide space for a concessions kitchen, and provide ADA access to bathrooms and dining area. Extension and/or additional windows should be considered to provide optimal space for Youth Department offices and camp supervision.

To improve safety, the entrance should be closed to vehicles and limited to emergency only. Instead, a drop-off zone along North 6th Street allows for morning drop-off. The area in front of the beach house is open to bicycles, planted to provide shade and stormwater management and additional seating near the concessions kitchen. Facing the beach, an outdoor shower as well as seating provide additional amenities for summer camp participants and the general public. All lifeguard equipment (currently stored in the beach house) will be placed in a separate structure on the beach. Movable umbrellas add shade during the day on the beach.

Short Term Actions:
- Remove / Relocate existing benches
- Add movable planters to slow traffic flow in front of beach house
- Build seating alongside beach house on beach facing side to provide seating picnic space in the shade
- Relocate lifeguard equipment to container storage outside beach house
- Add movable umbrellas/tents for shade on the beach
2 BOARDS, HOOPS AND CARS

BICYCLE REPAIR

STAFF PARKING

STORMWATER FILTER

LUNCH POINT PAVILION

MULTI-PURPOSE LAWN

2 HALF COURTS
## 2 BOARDS, HOOPS AND CARS

### EXISTING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASPHALT</th>
<th>56,000 sf</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>14,500 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skateboard</td>
<td>8,000 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>33,500 sf (56 cars)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNUSED GREEN SPACE</td>
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### PROPOSED

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<tr>
<td>Skateboard</td>
<td>19,000 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>24,000 sf</td>
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<td>GREEN SPACE:</td>
<td>65,000 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose lawn</td>
<td>35,000 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Infrastructure</td>
<td>30,000 sf</td>
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</table>
2 HALF COURTS

EXPANDED SKATE AREA
7,000 SF

BASKETBALL COURT

REGULAR PARKING
45 SPOTS

SEATING

EVENT PARKING
MAX: 70 SPOTS

ADDITIONAL RAMPS

SKATEBOARD PARK
11,000 SF

STORMWATER FILTER

SOCCER
CONCERTS
PICNIC
SLEEPOVER CAMP
Vision:
Currently, approximately 80,000 sf of asphalt are largely underutilized. The full 75 parking spots are needed during events only, the designated skateboard area is not usable because of surface conditions and the two basketball courts -only occupied fully during a few tournament events per year- are surrounded by additional asphalt surface. Left-over asphalt or lawn space surround and separate all three areas. Consolidating these three uses into a new multi-surface landscape for skateboarding, Basketball, and parking, this arrangement of surfaces allows for flexible use of space and frees up to 35,000sf for a multi-purpose lawn for concerts, soccer or picnics. It adds bleachers to the basketball court, improves stormwater drainage, and moves vehicular traffic to the parking to North 7th Street. Select tree planting in-between spaces provides additional shade and reduces the heat island effect produced by hard surfaces.

Short Term Actions:
Paint parking area and entrance to calm traffic and allow play and skateboarding on unused parking area
Move skateboard ramps to designated areas on parking surface to utilize them.
3 LUNCH POINT
Vision:
Overall, there is a lack of covered areas around the lake for shade or to protect against rain or simply to provide designated areas for eating, play activities and gathering. Replacing existing and adding new pavilions throughout the park is an opportunity to highlight sights through special structures, making each pavilion its unique piece in the landscape. Here, a new and larger pavilion should replace the existing structure to provide space for breakfast and lunch for summer camp, and room for table activities and games such as fussball, Jenga, checkers, etc. Proposed as a system of segments that can be combined into varying lengths, it sits at the edge of a new multi-purpose lawn to the south and overlooking the beach to the north. It incorporates storage space for play equipment and flexible seating to allow for different group size and arrangements. Solar panels on its roof provide electricity for the park.

Short Term Action:
Utilize the momentum for already allocated funds to place solar panels on existing pavilion to jumpstart the design and construction of a new pavilion
Modular Design can be enlarged over time
Sediment of Decomposed Leaves
Algae Bloom
Falling Leaves
Run-off

AQUATIC PLANTS
ENZYME TREATMENT

4 CLEAR WATER
Falling Leaves
Algae Bloom
Sediment of Decomposed Leaves

VISION FOR OAKDALE
FLOATING GARDEN

VISION FOR OAKDALE
Vision:
Large parts of the lake are covered in algae or appear “murky” despite the excellent pollut-
ant-free quality of the water. Algae blooms are the result of an excess of nutrients (particularly phosphorus and nitrogen) in the water. This is caused by large amounts of leaves and other natural debris falling into the lake every year. In addition, rainwater run-off contaminated with pesticides may also contribute to the excess nitrogen. To provide not only clean, but clear water for swimming, this design action describes a multi-pronged approach using natural processes. The Youth Department should continue its application of enzymes that dissolve algae. In addition, strategic planting at the edges and on floating gardens may support this process by adding plants that “compete” with algae for nutrients.
Installing a pump or fountain in a strategic location may also contribute. Oxygen greatly reduces the growth rate of algae. As a fountain near the swimming area, this can create a visual playful element in the lake surface.

Short Term Action:
Plant edges and floating gardens as part of a summer camp/ Friends of Oakdale volunteer activity
Develop nature and science curriculum for summer camp or Kite’s Nest teens and incorporate enzyme treatment and floating gardens
Fundraise for fountain
MAPLE SYRUP HARVESTING

LEAF COLLECTION

WOOD STICK NEST
Vision:
The trail around the lake is about ½ mile long and lead along a number of interesting points including the old right-of-way of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trolley line, two ponds, a grove of maples, a wetland feeding into the lake and a number of natural fishing spots. The trail needs improvement to be accessible and safe year-round. In addition, small stations can invite to rest, learn or observe and convert the forest into an outdoor classroom. Paired with basic infrastructure such as trash receptacles they invite users to care and maintain the forest and lake.

Short Term Action:
Develop a design language for different stations and infrastructure that creates an identity
Organize volunteer crew for basic trail improvements and installation of stations
Incorporate the building of stations into summer camp activities
5 FOREST CLASSROOM

FLOATING ISLAND

HISTORY STATION

NEW BRIDGE

WATER ACCESS

AQUATIC PLANTS

FOREST CLASSROOM

Turtle Pond

Frog Pond

Albany-Hudson Electric Trolley Trail

Maple Trees

Wetland
AQUATIC PLANTS
FOREST CLASSROOM
NEW BRIDGE
WATER ACCESS
WETLAND
MAPLE TREES
ALBANY-HUDSON ELECTRIC TROLLEY TRAIL
TURTLE POND
FOREST CLASSROOM
WATER ACCESS
NATURE STATION
NEW BRIDGE
WETLAND
6 NATURE PLAYGROUND

- PLANTING BUFFER
- PLAY WALL
- CLIMBING ROCK
- PLAY ISLAND
6 NATURE PLAYGROUND

- Bug Hotel
- Play Station
- Bicycle Parking
- Climbing
- Play Island
- Aquatic Plants
- Bathrooms/Storage
- Canopy/Shade
- Gravel/Parking
- Play Island
- Vision for Oakdale

VISION FOR OAKDALE
Vision:
The playground at Glennwood Boulevard is the main summer camp location for 5-8 year-olds, where they spend the morning with free play. As a result of deferred maintenance, little play equipment is left and most is dated. A lack of bathrooms and especially a lack of any covered area impose huge challenges on the camp. When rain is forecast, camp has to be cancelled, because there is simply no space to spend the day dry. A new covered area that provides basic bathroom facilities and enough cover to shelter 50 people as well as storage space will be placed at the edge of the playground area along abutting private yards.

Three larger play “islands” containing new play equipment featuring natural materials are placed on either side of the path. They each feature different themes such as water play, rock climbing or wood structures. In addition, smaller play stations provide opportunities for breakout play, imagination or exploration.

Vehicle and bicycle parking along the entrance from Glennwood Boulevard encourage access use by the general public year-round and in addition to the summer camp.

Short Term Action:
Smaller play stations of logs or tree stumps, can be added to the existing equipment
A waterproof sun sail may low-cost temporary protection during rain days
Develop nature and science curriculum for summer camp and incorporate building a bug hotel or nature collecting/observing stations
Vision:
This area opposite the beach has great potential to be a place for a more quiet, private experience of the lake, a place for birthday parties, picnics or for teens and adults to have a little distance from the lively summer camp. To bring its potential to life, new picnic tables and barbecues should be positioned to invite families and small parties. A dock would allow easy access to the lake for swimming away from the beach. The “date nook” is a small pavilion providing views of the lake and the forest that invites quiet activities for small groups or protect a birthday party from a rain shower.
An additional entrance and ramp from Glenwood Boulevard provide direct access to this side of the lake, activating a shortcut through the forest to the nearby middle school.

Short Term Action:
(Re)move existing equipment as needed to activate the area
Build “date nook” as an attraction/destination on this side of the lake
Remove invasive species (especially phragmites at water edge and in former wading pool)
Organize a bond fire event/picnic with existing fire pit
“DATE NOOK”

PICNIC TABLES
8 DIVING BOARD
Vision:
The edge along North 6th Street is the main connection between the playground/picnic area and the beach, but very narrow and adjacent to traffic. Historically swimming contests have been held here. This Design Action proposes to improve this linear strip with a deck along the entire length of the lake to provide more space for walking as well as different ways to access the water from a toddler water play area at the southern end to places to sit and sunbathe on the deck, to jump in and swim where the water is deep enough. It offers a different experience than sand and is buffered with a line of shrubs and plants that block the direct view from North 6th Street.

Short Term Action:
Organize volunteer planting of buffer area
Remove existing defunct concrete and steel structures
8 DIVING BOARD

- PLANT BUFFER
- SEATING
- TRAFFIC CALMING / CROSSING
- ENTRANCE

North 6th Street

LIFE GUARD

TODDLER BEACH

SEATING

PLANT BUFFER

8 DIVING BOARD
RAMP
VOLLEYBALL
WATER ACCESS
PICNIC GROVE
DATE NOOK
BUG HOTEL
ENTRANCE
RAMP
+1 ICE SKATING