



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Lake George Beach and Battlefield Park

Draft Unit Management Plan Amendment #2

**CONSTRUCTION OF A FACILITY FOR THE INTERMENT OF 18TH
CENTURY HUMAN REMAINS FROM THE LAKE GEORGE AREA**

April 18, 2024

Unit History and Overview

Lake George Beach and Battlefield Park Intensive Use Area, Town of Lake George, Warren County

Area Features:

Battlefield Visitor Center,

Day Use Area,

Swimming Beach with bathhouse,

Picnic Facilities, 2 pavilions, tables, grills, rest rooms,

Monuments and sculptures commemorating historic events,

Wayside interpretive panels.

Boat launch and boat wash,



Lake George Battlefield – Chronology

- ca 9000 BC Indigenous occupation within the Park on the shore of a nascent Lake George.
- 1755 - Battle of Lake George, Fort William Henry constructed.
- 1757 - Eyre's Entrenched Camp captured along with Fort William Henry.
- 1758 - Stockaded fort, barracks, workshops, and storehouses constructed on site.
- 1759 - Construction of Fort George begun, never fully completed.
- 1775 - Fort George captured by Continental Army forces.
- 1775-1776 - Fort George is the headquarters for the American campaign in Quebec and the location of the theater General Hospital.



History of State Stewardship

1898 - Lake George Battlefield Park is established.

1898-1974 - Ongoing land acquisition expands facility size.

1903 - Johnson-Hendrik monument is erected.

1923 - Jurisdiction is assigned to the Conservation Commission.

1921- 1939 - Several additional monuments added.

1935 - Human remains, thought to be from the Battles of Lake George, reinterred on site.

1926 - Battleground campground is established.

1931- Adirondack Park blue line is extended around the site.

2022 - Visitor Center is constructed.



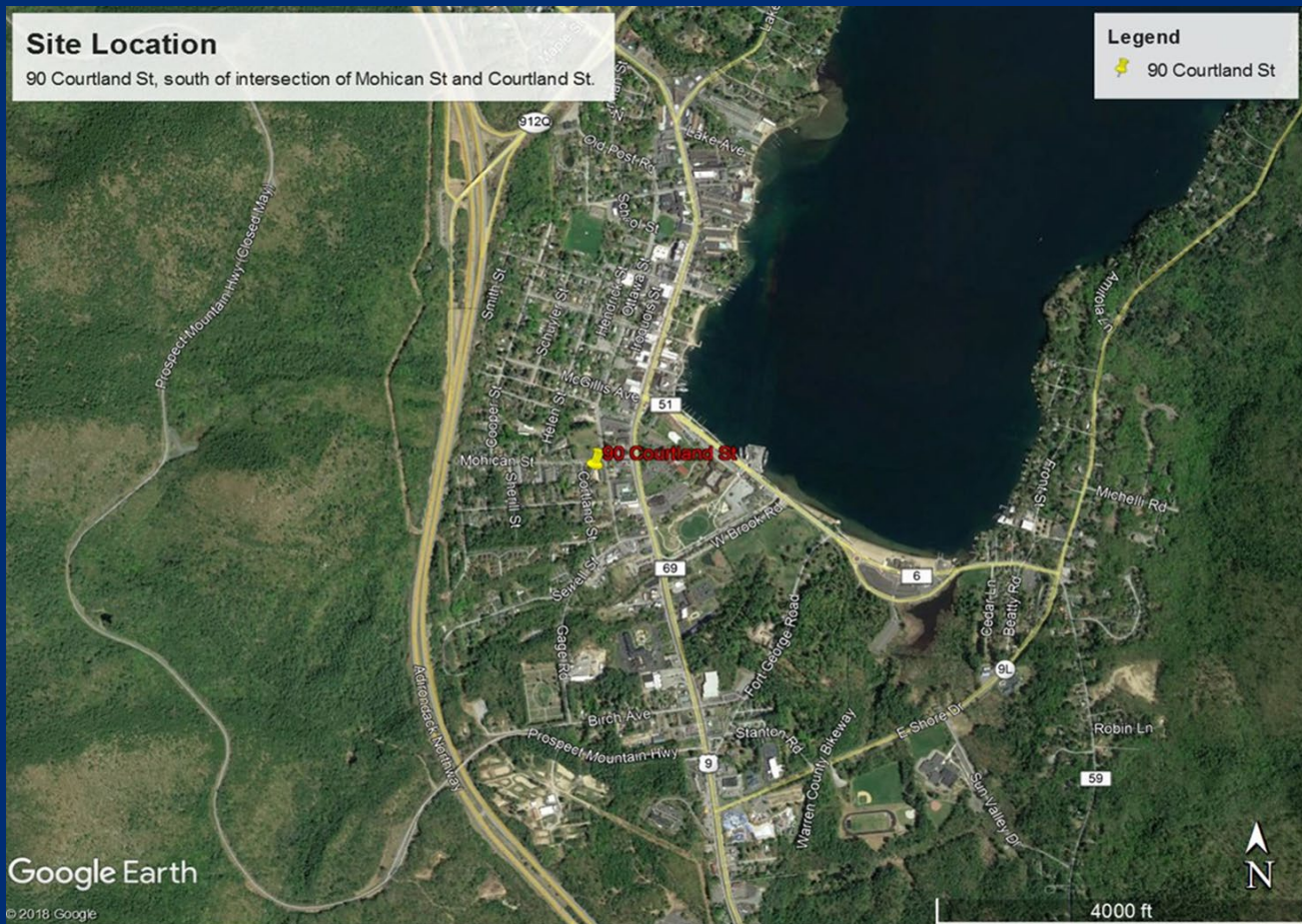


Site Location

90 Courtland St, south of intersection of Mohican St and Courtland St.

Legend

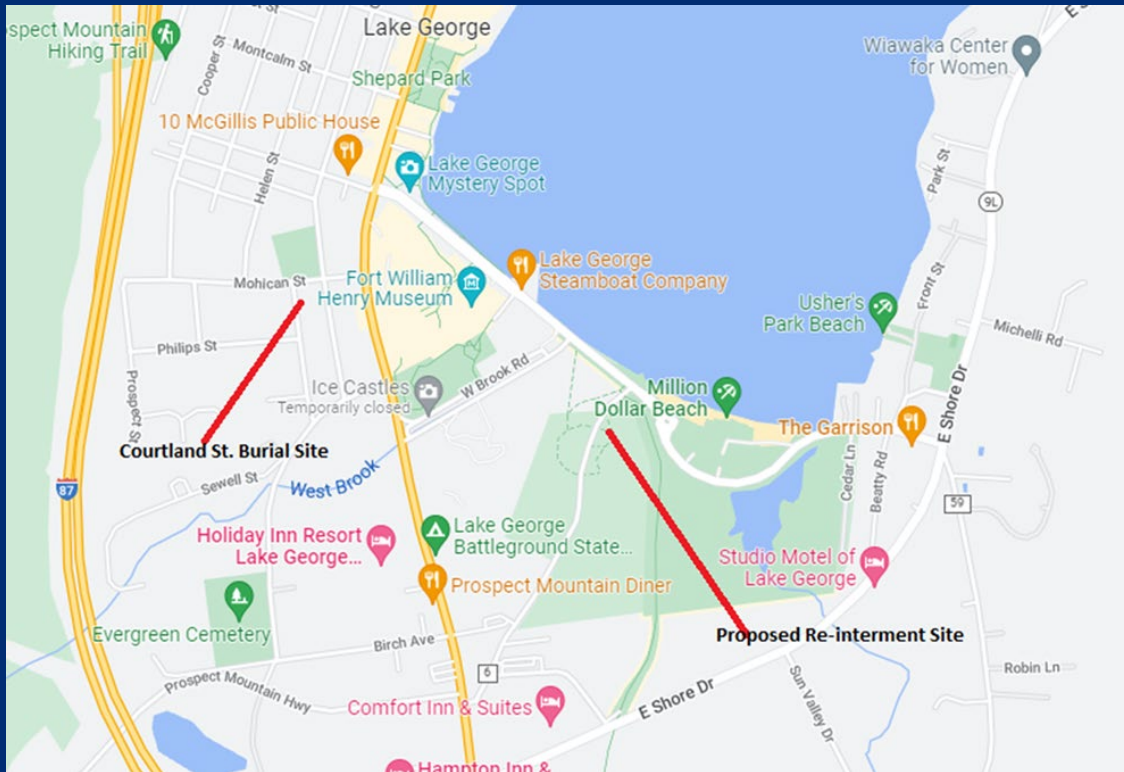
 90 Courtland St



Google Earth

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4000 ft



Courtland Street, Lake George burials

- Disturbed during basement excavation for a triplex apartment in February 2019.
- 11 partially disturbed graves containing partial remains of 13 individuals.
- More human remains noted in 600 m³ of excavated soil.
- 15-month effort involving over 100 volunteers.
- Fragmented and comingled remains of a minimum of 44 individuals recovered by sifting all of this soil.

Archaeology and History

- Artifacts (regimental coat buttons) from the First Pennsylvania Battalion found in 1 grave and sifted soil.
- 1st PA existed from November 1775 until November 1776.
- Part of the Army that invaded Quebec in 1775.
- Devastated by a smallpox outbreak in early 1776.
- Retreated to Mount Independence/ Ticonderoga and Fort George.
- Hospital established at Fort George.
- Houses several thousand sick in the summer of 1776.
- As many as 1000 or more died and were buried nearby.







Proposed Reinterment Facility

- Granite columbarium structures to house remains.
- Walking path connected to park path system.
- Stone benches.
- Low key landscaping with native plants.
- Interpretive panels.

The preferred alternative was selected based on several factors, including:

- Effectiveness of achieving stated project goals.
- Project site has an established commemorative purpose.
- Future disturbance of remains is extremely unlikely.
- Provides for a low key, yet present, memorial minimizing visual and aesthetic impacts.
- Project site is located near the original burial site.
- Minimizes impact to archaeological resources.
- Minimizes vegetation removal and landscape modification

Community Interest and Support

- Considerable community interest and support for the recovery project. Visitors daily on fieldwork days.
- Village of Lake George Board of Trustees resolution supporting reinterment at the Battlefield.
- Town leaders asked DEC to consider reinterment at the Battlefield.
- Proposal developed by members of the community including the LG Battlefield Alliance, and the Lake George and Warren County Historical Associations.
- Office of US Army Cemeteries is amenable to (but has not yet approved) the location.



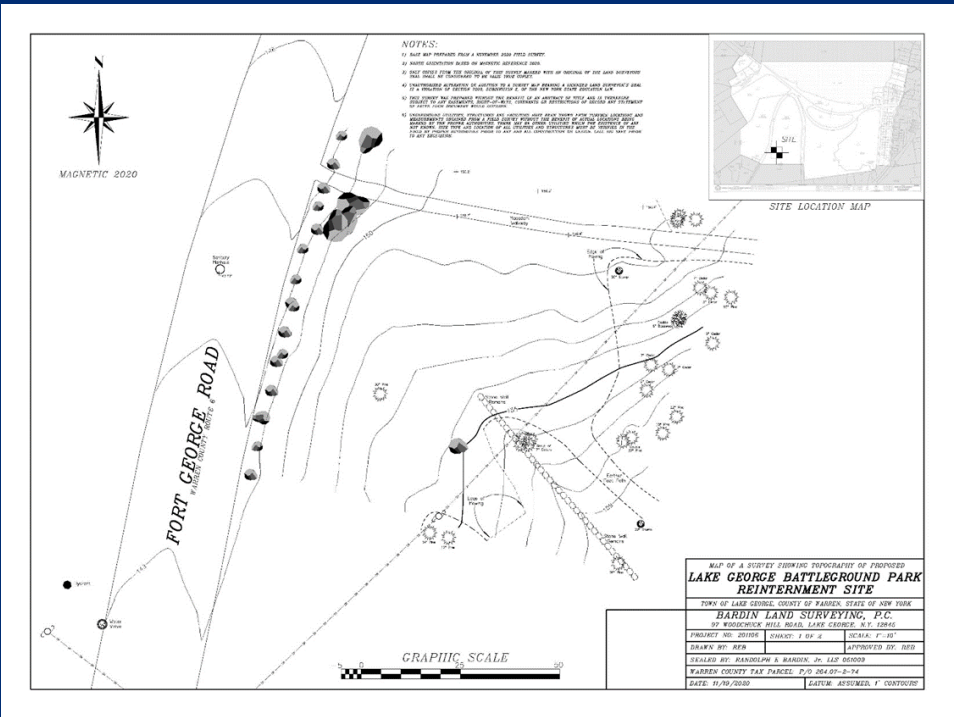


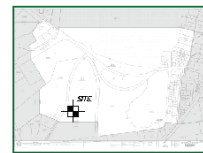
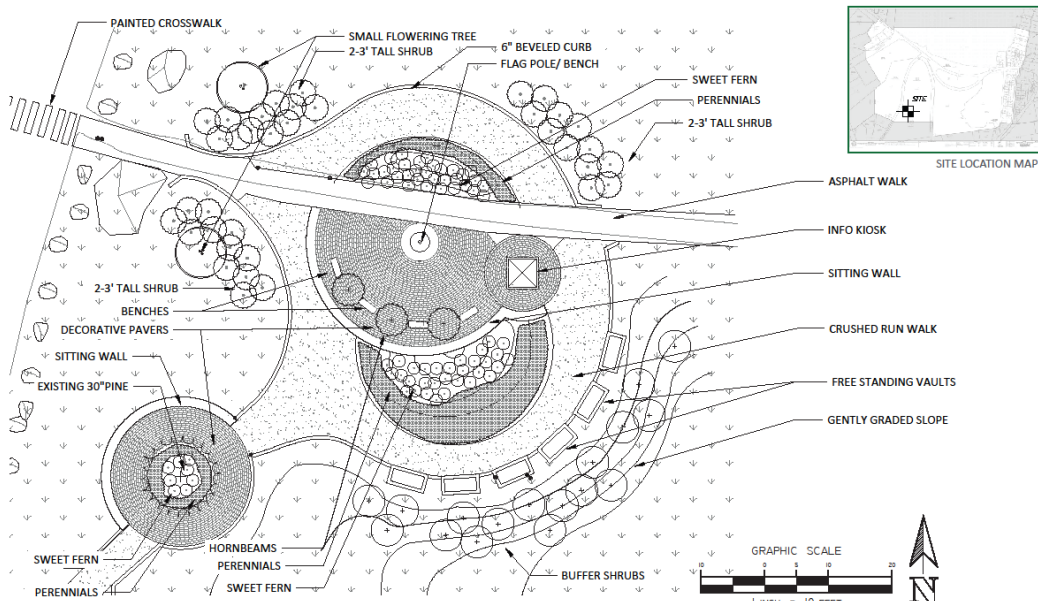




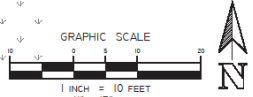








SITE LOCATION MAP

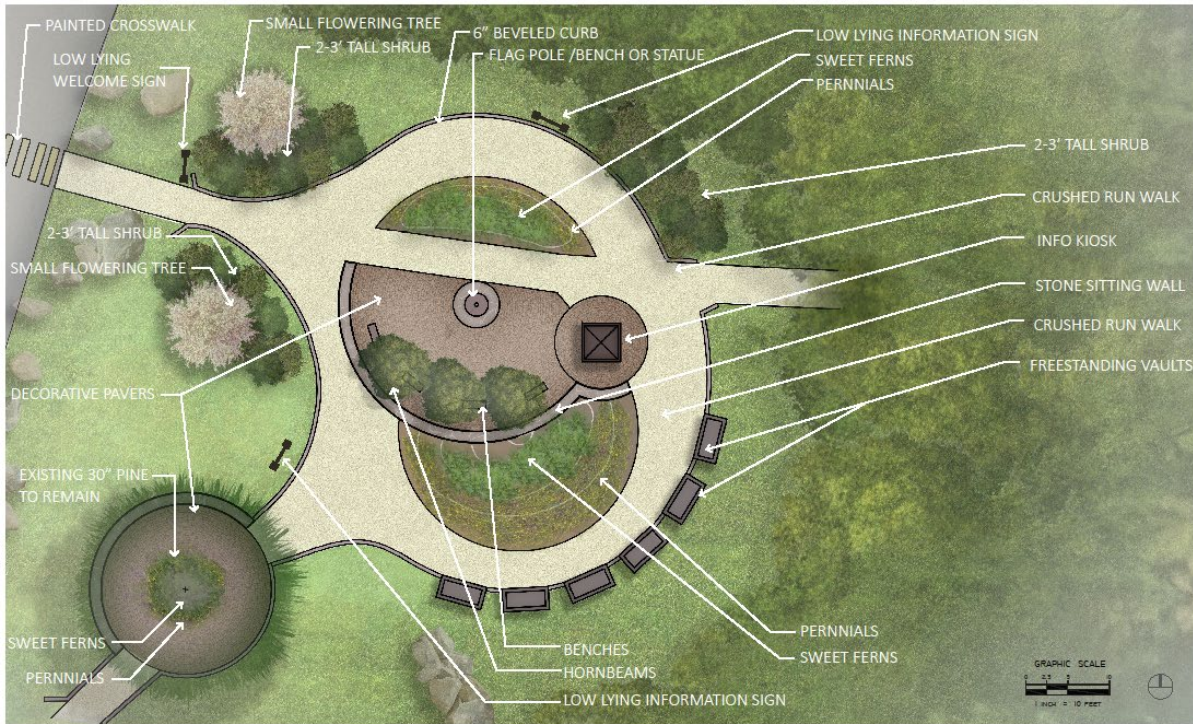


TITLE TO BE DETERMINED
 TOWN OF LAKE GEORGE, NY
 VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE, NY

CONCEPT PLAN
 11/18/21 • SA PROJECT NO. 21048

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TITLE TO BE DETERMINED

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Department of Environmental Conservation



TITLE TO BE DETERMINED

GATHERING SPACE

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Department of Environmental Conservation

Public Review and Comment

Amendment #2 was made available for review and comment by the public from January 12, 2024, through February 19, 2024.

41 comments were received.

The overwhelming majority (33) of commentors were supportive of the project and the preferred alternative.

Four commentors expressed support for alternatives other than the preferred alternative.

Three commentors expressed opposition to the project.



Thank You

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