CITY OF ROME
PARKS, OPEN SPACE, AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

Rome, New York

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1. Purpose + Objectives

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to outline the methods the City of Rome and consultant team (Fisher Associates, PROS Consulting, Inc, and ETC Institute) will use to ensure that adequate opportunities are afforded to stakeholders and the general public in the development of the Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan.

While the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan is intended to provide a framework for public participation, it is also intended to be a dynamic and flexible tool. As such, the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed with the flexibility to adapt, as necessary, to any changing needs that may occur over the course of the planning process.

1.2. CSEP Objectives

1. Document a public participation plan/process that provides interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the planning process.
2. Document methods to seek out and consider the needs of target communities impacted by the project.
3. Provide contact information for the City of Rome, prime consultant, and location of project information.
4. Document the general outline/plan for public meetings including meeting notifications.

Continuous community involvement and stakeholder engagement is essential to achieve the objectives of the Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan and to help ensure success of future parks and open space projects. The City of Rome will seek input from a wide variety of individuals, groups and organizations affected by the Rome Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Partnerships with other City departments, public entities such as Oneida County and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and private sector organizations also create opportunities to leverage multiple resources to ensure project success.

2. Project Contact Information

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3. POST Advisory Board

3.1. Overview

The POST Advisory Board is responsible for overseeing the progress of the project, providing guidance for project tasks and deliverables, and providing feedback to the project team. Specific expectations and responsibilities of the POST Advisory Board include:

- Attending periodic daytime virtual meetings to be scheduled through the course of the project to coincide with major milestones and public and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Reviewing and providing constructive feedback on project materials and activities with a unified voice as a committee.
- Providing crucial knowledge of Rome's parks, open spaces, and trails for the project team.
- Acting as a liaison between the City of Rome, Project Team, and the people and organizations you represent to relay details about the project and help spread the word for public engagement activities.

3.2. Members

Name	Affiliation
Jeffery Lanigan	Mayor, City of Rome
Kimberly Rogers	Chief of Staff, City of Rome
Joseph Guiliano	Commissioner, City of Rome Department of Public Works
Brandon Lovett	Director of Parks and Recreation, City of Rome
David Sbaraglia	7th Ward Councilmember, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, City of Rome
Dennis Perfetti	Resident Representative - 1st Ward
Brenda Klara	Resident Representative - 3rd Ward
John Reilly	Common Council - 5th Ward
Rick Dursi	Common Council - 6th Ward
Leo Capoccia	Resident Representative - 7th Ward
Aaron Carey	Athletic Director, Rome City School District
Rick Reichert	Deputy Commissioner, Oneida County Planning
Kevin Wyrick	Ft. Stanwix National Monument Superintendent, National Parks Service
Matt Moore	President, Rome Clean and Green

3.3. POST Advisory Board Meetings

Participation
POST Advisory Board membership was chosen by the City of Rome, with assistance from the Project Team, and includes representatives from City Council, City of Rome departments, Rome Central School District, Oneida County, the NPS, and public and private organizations with significant interest in the project.

Notification
Notification of the date, time, and agenda for each POST Advisory Board meeting will be provided by Fisher Associates to the City of Rome via e-mail. The City of Rome will be responsible for coordination with the POST Advisory Board via e-mail and will include Fisher Associates on correspondence with the POST Advisory Board.

Meetings
The Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan development process includes coordination meetings with the client and meetings with the POST Advisory Board to be held at key points/milestones during the project (POST Advisory Board not to exceed six (6) meetings). Approximate dates for each POST meeting will be determined as the project progresses and will be announced by the City of Rome via e-mail. Meetings will be conducted virtually and will be recorded for use by the POST Advisory Board.

Documentation
Documentation of each POST Advisory Board meeting will be the responsibility of Fisher Associates and will include meeting minutes provided by email within one (1) week and posted to the City of Rome project website approximately two (2) weeks after the completion of the meeting.

4. Stakeholder Outreach

4.1. Overview

The consultant team will conduct focus group meetings and/or interviews with key stakeholders. Stakeholders may include but are not limited to neighborhood interest groups, public agencies and officials, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, environmental groups, etc. Potential agencies and individuals who may represent the identified stakeholder groups include but are not limited to: New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), NYS Canal Corporation, Oneida County, Oneida County IDA (IDA/LDC), community resident organizations, youth and senior organizations, etc. Focus group meeting topics will be determined by Fisher Associates and the City of Rome to address key issues and subjects. The City of Rome and POST Advisory Board will work with Fisher Associates to identify key stakeholders early in the planning process.

4.2. Stakeholder List

A stakeholder list will be developed and maintained that includes the name, affiliation, and contact information from each stakeholder that provides information during stakeholder outreach. The list will track the involvement of each stakeholder and will be used for meeting notifications, including future public meetings.

4.3. Stakeholder Focus Groups

Five (5) focus groups will be established, based on common interests of the stakeholder groups. An initial round of focus group meetings will be held at the end of April/beginning of May 2025. Representatives from Fisher and the City of Rome will meet virtually with focus groups to help determine each focus group's perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails system. Information will vary depending on each focus group, but is intended to understand the how the specific organizations and the groups they represent utilize the parks and recreation system, challenges they are experiencing with existing facilities (such as maintenance or availability), what needs are not being met by the existing parks system, and where they see immediate opportunities for improvement in the system. Information from this meeting will help inform the draft vision for the parks systems and future recommendations.

Following these meeting, a set of "boots on the ground," meetings will occur with representatives from Fisher and select parks, open space, and trails sites within the City of Rome. Anticipated

outcomes and for the Fisher Team to directly see the SWOT items discussed in initial meetings, help develop the vision and goals guiding the project, understanding the physical constraints and characteristics of site, and establish a relationship with stakeholders throughout the project process.

Meeting Materials

Meeting materials will be created by Fisher Associates including agendas, handouts, exhibits, and presentations (as appropriate).

Documentation

Documentation of the focus group meeting will be the responsibility of Fisher Associates. Documentation provided will be in the form of a meeting summary which will include a summary of the presentation given by the project team and the comments/questions and feedback received.

5. Public Outreach

5.1. Public Events

Two (2) public events are included as part of the planning process. Meeting details are described below with specific objectives and formats. Public events may be attended by any member of the public, regardless of residency.

Specific guidance for public events, including location, furnishings, equipment, accessibility, is provided in Appendix B.

Accommodations

The project team will ensure that any reasonable accommodation that allows persons with disabilities to participate in a public meeting will be honored provided a request to do so is made in advance. Anyone seeking accommodation is requested to contact the City of Rome at least one week prior to the meeting.

Notifications

Notification will be provided by the City of Rome using various channels which may include, as appropriate, direct mail (targeted to those adjacent/near the study area), newspaper advertisement, press releases, posting on the City of Rome's project website, and social media outreach such as the City's Facebook page and meeting portal. Meeting notification, posting material/text and coordination of all meeting notifications will be the responsibility of the City of Rome, with support from Fisher Associates. All notifications will provide necessary information about the public meeting, contact information to enable access to more project information, and contact information to request meeting accommodation.

Meeting Materials

Meeting materials will be created by Fisher Associates including agendas, handouts, presentations, surveys, exhibits, sign-in sheets, and/or comment cards (as appropriate).

Documentation

Documentation of the public meeting will be the responsibility of Fisher Associates. Documentation provided will be in the form of a memo which will include a summary of the presentation given by the project team and the comments/questions and feedback received. The meeting summary and all meeting material used during the public meeting will be created by Fisher Associates and will be made publicly available on the City of Rome's project website approximately two (2) to four (4) weeks after the completion of the meeting.

5.2. Target Communities

To create a successful Parks Open Space and Trails Master Plan, input is needed from a variety of public groups which includes all residents of the City of Rome However, the City of Rome has identified target communities whose input is essential to the success of the Rome Parks Open Space and Trails Master Plan. These communities include:

- Active users of the City of Rome Parks System and other open space and recreation amenities.
- Youth and youth organizations representing youth interests and involvement.
- Seniors and senior organizations representing elderly interests and involvement.

Efforts will be made to ensure that voices from these groups are represented alongside input and feedback from the general public. These efforts may include targeted outreach including notification for public meetings, specialized outreach and engagement materials such as surveys, and targeted pop-ups and interactive activities in coordination with existing community outreach efforts.

Meeting Objectives & Format

Meeting	Objectives	Format
#1	An initial kick-off meeting and workshop to explain the intent of the Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan and the project's intent, draft Vision and Goals, and scope, and to solicit initial public input on the vision for the City's parks system	The meeting will include: 1. A presentation by the project team. 2. A forum for meeting attendees to provide feedback on interactive exhibits.
#2	A work-in-progress meeting that includes dashboard review of the Inventory Analysis, refined Vision and Goals developed from community and stakeholder outreach, and presentation of draft recommendations. This meeting will allow feedback on the presented materials.	The meeting will include: 1. A short presentation. 2. Breakout stations facilitated by the project team to present findings and draft recommendations and collect feedback from attendees.
#3	A presentation in coordination with the City of Rome Common Council Meeting/Work Session on the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan that walks the City Council and community through the Plan and final recommendations.	The meeting will include: 1. A short presentation to the Common Council and Public 2. Availability to talk with the Project Team outside the chambers during the reminder of the Common Council Meeting

6. Other Outreach Tools

Several tools will be employed to organize information, document input, and evaluate the stakeholder and public participation process. Additional outreach tools are described below.

6.1. Project Website

The project team will provide the City of Rome with project-related materials to host on its website. Web information will include, at minimum, information related to the scope and planning process, meeting announcements, and the project schedule. This may also include interactive StoryMaps, online/digital surveys, opportunities to leave questions and comments, information about the project status, draft documents for review, and other virtual public engagement tools.

6.2. Survey

ETC Institute will provide the City of Rome with a community-wide, statistically valid community needs assessment survey on recreation and park programs and facilities designed to elicit community input to guide the vision and goals for the City of Rome Parks System and Rome Parks Master Plan. The return rate should accurately represent a sampling of the population, including vulnerable populations, so that an analysis can be segmented by race, gender, age and other demographic groups. A minimum of 300 surveys will be completed offering a margin of error of +/- 5.5% at the 95% level of confidence. ETC Institute will summarize the survey results in the Rome Parks Master Plan and share with the project team as they develop strategies and recommendations.

6.3. Document Repository

Digital copies of project-related materials presented during public meetings will be provided by Fisher Associates to the City of Rome. The City of Rome will be responsible for providing review and comment upon request.

6.4. Traditional Media

Content for traditional media posts such as newspaper articles and press releases will be provided by the consultant team with input from the City of Rome. The City of Rome will release press releases as necessary.

6.5. Progress Meetings

The Project Team will complete progress meetings with the City of Rome, the POST Advisory Board, and Elected Officials. These progress reports will provide a presentation of the proposed planning process and provide an outline of specific deliverables which will be included in the completed project. The presentation shall include a realistic timeline for the project.

Attachment A - Project Schedule

CITY OF ROME PROS Master Plan

Project Timeline

2/26/2025

		2025										
		February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Task 1: Foundational/Project Administration												
1A	Project Scoping Session / Project Kick-off											
1B	Project Managment & Administrative Activities											
Task 2: Inventory												
2A	PROS Context											
2B	Existing Facilities											
2C	Existing Programs											
Task 3: Public Engagement												
3A	Public Engagement Plan											
3B	Community Needs Assessment											
3C	Visioning											
Task 4: Trends, Issues & Needs												
4A	Equity											
4B	Programming Trends & Standards											
4C	Inventory & Analysis											
4D	Statistically Valid Needs Assessment											
4E	Demographic Trends & Characterisstics											
4F	Presentation of Findings											
Task 5: Recommendations & Justification												
5A	Draft Recommendations											
5B	Community Review											
5C	Final Recommendations											
5D	Community Review											
Task 6: Parks & Recreation Master Plan												
6A	Draft Master Plan											
6B	Community Review											
6C	Final Master Plan											
6D	Vacant Lot Assessment											
6E	SEQRA LEAF											
Task 7: Capital Improvement Plan												
7A	Draft CIP											
7B	City Review											
7C	Final CIP											

Team Working Tasks
Meetings
Milestones/Deliverables

Attachment B – Public Meeting Guidelines and Outcomes

Public Meeting Guidelines for Fisher Associates Planning Projects

Updated February 19, 2025

Fisher Associates is committed to conducting public engagement processes that are informative, engaging, and inclusive. It is important that public meeting attendees feel welcomed and included, particularly in underserved neighborhoods and underrepresented communities.

We understand that in many communities, public meeting locations are limited and come with unique challenges. To that end, we have developed a list of basic needs to consider when selecting your public meeting venue. The location(s) of public events should be coordinated well in advance of each event to allow time for planning and promotion.

- ***Location –*** The venue should be easy to find and safely reached by vehicle, bicycle, foot, and public transportation (if available/practicable). Though some public events may take place outdoors to take advantage of existing community events or gatherings, most large public meetings should take place indoors.
- ***Comfort –*** Indoor venues should be heated and/or air conditioned (if possible) and properly ventilated for the comfort of attendees. Outdoor venues should provide adequate shade, seating, and if possible, a windbreak/wall to protect upright displays or exhibits.
- ***Safety & Security –*** All venues should be free of hazards, including trip/fall, fire, electricity, water, construction, and environmental. Emergency exits should be clearly marked, and buildings should meet all applicable codes and requirements for fire safety. Depending on the type of meeting and at the discretion and expense of the client, emergency personnel and/or security may be provided.
- ***Furnishing & Flexibility*** – Public meeting formats may vary. Meetings may require up to 100 movable chairs and 10-12 movable tables (5' rounds or 6'-8' rectangular tables), depending on expected attendance. Fisher will coordinate with the client prior to the meeting to determine specific needs.
- ***Lighting & Acoustics –*** Venues should have good natural and/or artificial lighting, and the ability to dim lights for presentations. In large spaces, acoustics should minimize echo and external noise.
- ***Accessibility & Accommodations*** – The meeting space, parking, and restrooms must be accessible to all. The project team will ensure that any reasonable accommodation that allows people with disabilities to participate in a public meeting will be honored provided a request to do so is made in advance. Anyone seeking accommodation is requested to contact the client in advance of the meeting.
- ***Technology –*** Audio/visual equipment should be available so that all participants may see and hear clearly. This includes a projector, screen or blank wall, microphone(s), and speakers. Fisher can provide a projector and small screen, if needed; other items may need

to be rented if unavailable. A person knowledgeable about the equipment should be available before and/or during the meeting to provide support/troubleshooting. The space should have Wi-Fi available, especially if the meeting is to be recorded and/or streamed. The Wi-Fi password should be made available to meeting facilitators prior to the meeting.

Please note that Fisher Associates' computers are for staff use only, and not for public use. Any computers intended for public use should be provided by the client or may be made available by Fisher Associates with advance notice.

- ***Responsibility –*** All public meetings should be attended by a client representative that is responsible for use of the venue. Any rental contracts or agreements should be signed by the client, not by Fisher Associates or its subconsultants. If the venue requires proof of insurance, the client will be responsible for obtaining and providing insurance coverage. Neither Fisher Associates nor its subconsultants shall be held responsible for any damage caused by meeting attendees. A client representative should be responsible for opening/providing access to the venue prior to the meeting and closing/locking the venue after the meeting.
- ***Setup/Breakdown*** **–** Most meetings require at least 1 hour of setup and at least 30 minutes of breakdown/cleanup time before/after the meeting. If additional setup or breakdown time is needed, Fisher will communicate those needs prior to the meeting and arrange for earlier access. Fisher will communicate room layout needs in advance if setup assistance is available. The venue should provide clear instructions for the removal of trash and recycling, resetting of furniture, cleanup, and closing procedures. Fisher Associates will adhere to all directions provided for setup and breakdown.
- ***Refreshments –*** In our experience, meetings may be better attended if refreshments are provided (and advertised). We generally recommend providing coffee/water and simple snacks like cookies, pretzels, fruit, etc. More substantial refreshments may be appropriate if meetings are held during mealtimes. Unless otherwise agreed upon, the cost of refreshments provided for public consumption should be the responsibility of the client. If needed, Fisher Associates can coordinate the provision of refreshments and invoice the client, separate from the contracted labor and expense fee.
- ***Signage –*** The client is responsible for providing (and removing) any directional signage needed outside of the venue. This may include lawn signs, sandwich boards, etc. The client is responsible for communicating the venue address, meeting time(s), parking information, and entrance details to attendees prior to the event.
- ***Sign In Table –*** A sign-in table should be provided at all public meetings. Fisher Associates will provide sign-in sheets. If possible, a client representative should staff the sign-in table to welcome attendees and assist with directions. If desired, the client may provide their own sign-in system.

Questions? Please contact Becky Timmons at btimmons@fisherassoc.com

Rome Parks, Opens Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 7:00-8:30 pm
Location: Rome City Hall
Re: Focus Group D – Advocacy Organizations

Meeting Attendance

Matt Andrews	(MAndrews)	City of Rome
Danielle Salisbury	(DSalisbury)	City of Rome
David Hinman	(DHinman)	Rome Waterways and Trails
Jamie Kowalczk	(JKowalczk)	Madison County Planning Department – Old Erie Canal Park and Empire State Trail
Joseph Wicks	(JWicks)	Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties
Mark Winopeaon	(MWinopeaon)	North Country Trails Association
Sarah Foster	(SFoster)	Oneida County Tourism
Terri Harrison	(THarrison)	Cornell Cooperative Extension
Bill Sprengnether	(BSprengnether)	Fisher Associates
Tyler Kuty	(TKuty)	Fisher Associates

Key Themes

A variety of key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- There is a need for a dedicated Right of Way for the Erie Canal Trial through the City of Rome that is not on the roadway network.
- Overnight visitors using trail systems and the Erie Canal are discouraged from visiting Rome due to the lack of adequate facilities.
- Participants believed the City of Rome is disconnected from its waterways, such as the Mohawk River Trail and the Erie Canal, and there are opportunities take advantage of the resources available.
- Winter activities are missing from the community, and family friendly winter programming would be welcomed.

A full meeting summary is included below.

Meeting Summary

BSprengnether gave an introduction of the project and the POST system, and introduced MAndrews and DSalisbury from the City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development. BSprengnether then asked participants from the meeting to provide a brief introduction, including their name and organization they are representing.

BSprengnether asked **for those that own/manage Parks Open Space and Trail (POST) amenities in the City Rome, What improvements do you/your organization have planned in the near future?**

MWinopeaon noted that he would like see improvement in South Rome, between route 46 and Muck Road. This includes getting the Empire State Trail off the roadways and onto a dedicated right of way, preferably in a natural setting. BSprengnether asked if he foresees this being a footpath or hardened surface suitable for bike and winter use. MWinopeaon stated that his organization is hiking trial oriented, so from their perspective, a stone dust path would be suitable. A proper trail from his perspective would connect with Fort Bull, and a raised trail in the wetland may be an option. DHinman agreed that this connection is something that cyclists often bring to his attention. He noted he would like to see a multipurpose trail connecting the Erie Canal Trail. MWinopeaon noted there have been issues in the past convincing National Grid to allows the trail to use their right of way. Both BSprengnether and DHinman noted there is precedent of using these rights of ways for trails.

BSprengnether asked **what types of facilities are missing in the POST System or are in very high demand.**

DHinman noted that Belamy Park is a lovely amenity and in a great location, but due to the condition and design of the of the break wall (specifically the use of large timber piers), boaters cannot tie off at the park. Creating a better condition would open up the city to a lot of tourism benefits, specifically with "looper boats" that travel the canal. SFoster noted that the heritage boat is planning to stop at the park during its bicentennial run.

SFoster noted that she has trail counts from the Canal Corporation for users along the Empire State Trail in the City of Rome. She also noted that from a tourism perspective, they are seeing a shift in what the public is caring about, including a shift to more activities such as trails and open spaces to complement their stays in the region.

BSprengnether noted that something the project team has heard is that less children are using the parks. He noted that this may be more because of the parents than the children and asked if there are ways to attract families to the parks.

DHinman noted that the parks once had park attendants that were stationed around the cities, which helped parents to send their kids off to parks unattended.

MAndrews noted that he often goes to multiple playgrounds throughout the City of Rome with his children, and there is often a lack of seating for chaperones, and when seating is available, it is unengaging. He noted the city is looking to deploy more swing bench seating and have already installed similar seating on the waterfront and in City Hall Green. He noted this is an opportunity to create memorable moments in parks, and a recommendation of the plan should explore seating options such as this. He also noted that the city sees a need for more amenities for populations 55 and older as the city's population is aging.

JKowalczk noted there is a need for more winter activities to get people outside during the colder months, including ice-skating, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. She noted in Madison County, they are working with the non-profit organization Frosty to groom trails in state parks. MAndrews noted that there are amenities that the city has worked on the attract facilities, such as installing a chiller system downtown to create a skating rink. SFoster explained that the area will experience winter no matter what, so creating amenities that will help sustain tourism businesses in the winter months will help for all seasons. She also noted that the media discourages people from going outside during the winter, and there are many negative perceptions. Oneida County is creating a "love where you live" initiative to instill local pride and inform the public on the amenities in the area. She suggested having a QR code that can direct people to get information on what to do in certain locations.

BSprengnether asked **if there are users with mobility issues or disabilities who are not able to access POST amenities.**

SFoster noted that accessibility in tourism is very important to the County and that there is a need to ensure parks facilities are built and upgraded to accessible levels. This includes making sure bathrooms are present at parks, which help both families and elderly when visiting parks. DHinman agreed and that he had heard from users of the Erie Canal Trail that some of the most important things for users were comfort stations with bathrooms and water available. MAndrews noted that a good outcome from the POST Master Plan would include how the city can better manage the bathroom facilities, as they often have issues with vandalism.

BSprengnether asked if there are bureaucratic processes involving the POST system that complicate the goals of their organization. DHinman noted that the recent clean sweep initiative was an example of how the city supports organizational efforts. Both DHinman and MWinopeaon noted that camping is not allowed in the City of Rome, which causes people using the trails for multi-day trips to pass over the City of Rome. MWinopeaon explained that bivouac areas (camping areas meant for single day stays with little amenities) would go a long way to encourage users of the trail to stay in Rome. He noted that little is needed for their sites – water, bathrooms, a place to pitch a shelter, and a sense of safety. To improve safety, he noted that a number to call to notify authorities that someone is using the site or frequent patrols would suffice. JKowalczk noted that some locations in the Adirondacks with increased traffic have seen hostels open to accommodate these travelers.

BSprengnether asked **what outcomes would groups like the see form the POST Master Plan**.

JKowalczk would like to see community groups and school groups increasing use of parks spaces. This includes the YMCA and summer camps working with the city to inform the public of the amenities available throughout the city. She noted a successful program in the Town of Moravia the bring summer camps to Fillmore Glen State Park and has successfully gotten kids outdoors.

MWinopeon noted that beyond what he stated earlier in the meeting, he would like to see more winter amenities such as a winter carnival or ice sculpture contest. He also noted that he would like to see a stronger relationship between Rome and the waterways. He noted that much of the focus has been at economic development on the former Griffiss Air Force Base, and there may be a need to diversity the city's focus. He pointed to successful revitalization efforts in Syracuse, and amenities located in Seneca Falls that offer free laundry, tie-ups, and power along the canal. DHinman noted that the Rideau Waterway in Ottawa, Canada had trash, recycling, lockers, and tents to rent out at the locks.

SFoster noted that Vancouver Botanical Garden has Christmas lights, firepits, and themed activities that often draw a large crowd. She explained that amenities often have to be "Instagram worthy" to get young families to events.

Participants also noted that the Erie Canal has some of the best fishing, kayaking, and rowing opportunities in New York and it is underutilized.

BSprengnether thanked participants for coming and provided contact information and next steps for the project.

Rome Parks, Opens Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Date/Time: Thursday, May 22, 2025 – 2:30-4:00 pm
Location: Rome City Hall
Re: Focus Group A – Cultural Connections

Meeting Attendance

Danielle Salisbury	(DSalisbury)	City of Rome
Matt Andrews	(MAndrews)	City of Rome
Amanda Mills	(AMills)	City of Rome
Dave Nolan	(DNolan)	Rome Rotary Club
Kari Kechum	(KKetchum)	Rome NAACP
Elizabeth Douglas	(EDouglas)	Mohawk Valley 50 Forward
Kelley Beesaw	(KBeesaw)	Nascentia Health
Bill Sprengnether	(BSprengnether)	Fisher Associates
Tyler Kuty*	(TKuty)	Fisher Associates

*Indicates virtual Attendance

Key Themes

A variety of key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- There is a need for more accessibility in the parks, which includes getting to and from parks and providing bathrooms, rest areas, and water foundations at parks.
- Pickleball has become popular, but is missing from the Rome POST System.
- Programming at parks is important, and there may be activities that surrounding communities do that would get more users, families, and elderly into the parks system.

A full meeting summary is included below.

Meeting Summary

Introduction

BSprengnether gave an introduction of the project and the POST system and introduced MAndrews and DSalisbury from the City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development. BSprengnether then asked participants from the meeting to provide a brief introduction including their name and organization they are representing.

BSprengnether then asked **what is the Rome POST system's identity.**

DNolan noted that the recently completed section of the Mohawk River Trail is a very excellent amenity that the city should be proud of. He noted that it is a good place to bring visitors and is a unique asset in the city.

Participants asked if the plan is looking at Delta Lake State Park – BSprengnether explain that the plan will not be making recommendations for amenities outside of the city's control but can look at better connections and access to these amenities.

KKetchum noted that she is proud of the POST assets in the City of Rome, with Vogel Park often a spot to bring family and visitors. However, she did note that there are issues with dumping along the Mohawk River near the DEC Fish Hatchery.

EDouglas noted she is new to Rome and is not familiar with the park system. From her impressions, she has a feeling that there is a lot of connection to history in the POST network.

KBeesaw, representing Nascentia Health, is from the Syracuse area but has visited POST resources. She wants to ensure that accessibility of POST amenities is a key goal in the plan. She explained that Nascientia owns the former Beeches property (7900 Turin Road), including 73 acres of land. At this time, the main building has been renovated into affordable senior living spaces, and there are plans to renovate the former inn. In some of the wooded areas, Nascentia plans to create a market rate assisted living community with open spaces, walking areas, a pool, and pickleball courts. There are currently walking paths around the property that the public uses.

BSprengnether asked if **there is a desire for residents of the Nascientia Health property to use the POST system, and if there is any programming that would help get them into the community?**

MAndrews noted that Nascentia property is very close to Lynwood Park/Hollis Hewitt Park, but there are no formal connections between the two. Residents of the existing and future development would need to walk along Turin Road where there are no sidewalks to get to the parks. He noted there might be the need to develop specific amenities to serve the neighborhood and Nascentia's residents at this park.

KBeesaw noted that approximately 40% of the senior citizens in their communities do not have access to a car, and that creating off-road connections to local parks would be very beneficial to these residents. Nascentia has received a grant from the Rome Community Foundation to create an accessible exercise trail on their property. She also noted that in Syracuse, many of their senior residents like to participate in events such as Shakespeare in the park. MAndrews asked if there will be golf cart pathways in the new community. KBeesaw noted that this may be the case in the market rate community. They are looking at options that would include multiple ownership structures and income ranges.

KKetchum noted that her sister-in-law had a motorized scooter but was limited to Madison Street due to the condition of accessible infrastructure in the city. She noted that improvements have been made throughout the city.

BSprengnether as **what POST amenities do organizations use the most**.

KKetchum noted that the NAACP uses parks throughout the summer. They try to spread events across the city - last year backpack giveaways took place at Franklyn Field where over 300 backpacks were distributed, Juneteenth was located at Bellamy Harbor Park, and Touch a Truck was held at multiple locations (Note: this activity is only made possible by a non-recuring grant) including the Polish Home in South Rome. This is because many of the population they serve live in low-income housing communities such as Park Drive Manor and Liberty Gardens and do not have access to a car or taxi, limiting access to parks. She also noted that for events with live music, there are great acoustics at Belamy Harbor Park.

DNolan noted there isn't a good sidewalk network in the City of Rome. An example he provided was from the Nascientia health property to Hannaford, a local grocery store on Turin Road - there are no sidewalks, and it may be dangerous due to the traffic conditions in

Rome. In other areas of the city the sidewalk network will end with no clear path to continue, or the sidewalks are in disrepair.

BSprengnether asked if participants agree that accessibility should be a goal of the Master Plan. KBeesaw noted there has been a study done on Turin Road and Chestnut Street, but there is nothing citywide. DSalisbury stated that the city has been told in the past it needs an active transportation plan, but one does not currently exist.

BSprengnether asked **if organizations have issues reserving city parks for events.**

KKetchum stated that for the NAACP, everything seems to work well.

EDouglas noted that other municipalities in the County have a backlog for reserving pickleball courts. She noted that they are very popular with the 50+ crowd, and the more courts that are built, the more people come to use them. She noted that from the County's perspective, this is great as it's a large social and exercise opportunity for seniors who might not normally have access to that. KBeesaw agreed that the most asked for activity at their properties is pickleball. DSalisbury noted that families are also active users of pickleball courts. It was also noted that lighting and seating are often issues at these courts and are needed to increase safety and comfort.

BSprengnether asked if there **are programs the city is missing that could increase use of the parks.**

EDouglas noted that walking groups are part of Oneida County's initiatives and may be appreciated in Rome.

BSprengnether noted that in other communities, parks passport programs have helped to get people out into the community.

KBeesaw noted that in the Syracuse Area, an organization called Book Van Gough brings used books into local parks as a book exchange and is a large draw for parks. KKetchum noted that the Rome Library is very involved in giveaways and arts programs.

EDouglas asked if there are any story walks in the community. BSprengnether liked the idea and said it could be a good activity to get people on the trails when weather conditions aren't perfect.

BSprengnether noted that the project team has heard that young people are using the parks less and asked if there are ideas on how to get parents and grandparents into the parks and communities.

DNolan noted that the Rotary sponsors a day for families and includes bouncy houses and rides. It is often a large draw for the community. He noted if there were more frequent events that include food or if food trucks were stationed at parks, it may draw more people due to the convenience of dinner at the park. He also noted that many of the parks don't have bathroom facilities, which discourages their use. He noted the sculpture trail at Griffis Air Force Base (GAFB) has bathrooms open all four seasons, frisbee golf, walking trails that are plowed in the winter, and many benches and relief areas. The trail is popular during the lunch hour for local workers at GAFB.

EDouglas asked if trails are groomed for cross-country skiing in the winter. It was noted that this happens at Delta Lake State Park. DNolan noted that the Black River Trail Association grooms trails to the north of Rome and often offers programming to school aged children.

BSprengnether asked **if there was one improvement to the POST system, what would the participants want to see?**

KKetchum would want to see restrooms at all parks - knowing there are clean safe bathrooms would be very helpful for many populations, including parents and the elderly.

KBeesaw noted that something that has been done well is to get private business engaged in activity, noting the success of Big Rig Day in Syracuse. She also noted that wayfinding and signage is very important with getting people to park and guiding them to nearby amenities.

EDouglas noted that an important activity to get families and older populations into the parks is providing more pavilions and shelters. She also noted that an initiative for Oneida County is to get information into the community, noting that many people don't know what amenities are in the backyard, and the noted the advantages of a consistent marking and branding such as the Taste of New York Program.

BSprengnether asked **what a good memory in the POST system is, or what would be a prefect day at a POST amenity.**

EDouglas noted that right after the tornado, she was tabling at an event. Even though the community had just experienced a tragedy, they still come out and banded together for events. She also noted how well Veterans Memorial Park is designed for outreach activities and events.

DNolan stated that as a child, Franklyn's Field was a hub of activity and an essential part of growing up in Rome.

KBeesaw noted that a perfect day in the park is going somewhere where you can spend the entire day without having to drive to multiple places. Essential features include walkability, a mix of sun and shade, places to sit, places to eat, potential bike, kayak, or roller blade rentals, and preferably a water feature and a level walking or hiking trail. She also noted that water refill stations are very helpful for families and the elderly.

KKetchum noted that she has been to almost every park in the city, but the Vogel Park holds a special place, especially during Christmas time when people are there with their families taking Christmas photos.

BSprengnether thanked participants for coming and provided contact information and the next steps for the project.

Rome Parks, Opens Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Date/Time: **Thursday, May 22, 2025 – 7:00-8:30 pm**
Location: **Rome City Hall**
Re: **Focus Group B – Youth Sports**

Meeting Attendance

Matt Andrews	(MAndrews)	City of Rome
Danielle Salisbury	(DSalisbury)	City of Rome
Amanda Mills	(AMills)	City of Rome
Richard Bohning	(RBohning)	Rome Select Basketball
Carla Banks	(CBanks)	Rome Colts Football
Bill Sprengnether	(BSprengnether)	Fisher Associates
Tyler Kuty*	(TKuty)	Fisher Associates

*Indicates virtual Attendance

Key Themes

A variety of key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- There is a large need for more indoor sports space, including for large events and tournaments. The Utica University Nexus Center, Accelerate Sports Complex, and a proposed center at Building 101 on Griffis Air Force Base were used as local precedents.
- Local sports are important to the community but are experiencing issues with maintenance, space constraints, availability, and amenities at existing spaces.
- There is a need to improve the key parks in the City of Rome and focus on amenities that will create local and regional draws to these facilities.
- There is a need for more youth programming, including during the summer.

A full meeting summary is included below.

Meeting Summary

BSprengnether gave an introduction of the project and the POST system, and introduced MAndrews, AMills, and DSalisbury from the City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development. BSprengnether then asked participants from the meeting to provide a brief introduction, including their name and organization they are representing.

BSprengnether then asked **what are participants favorite memory of the POST system?**

Responses included childhood memories in Guyer Field and Pinti Field. One participant noted that they lived near Pinti Field as a child and would often visit to get slushies. At some point they moved to Elmer Hill Road and no longer had access to a park, and in a short time moved

back near Franklyn Field where they welcomed access to amenities the POST system provides.

Another participant noted that as a child, there used to be significantly more programming at both the schools and the parks, with programs like fencing which may have only been beneficial to a few participants but were essential for those that participated. The discussion also noted that it is difficult for volunteers and parents to help run these sports programs, as other parents often are critical of volunteer efforts.

MAndrews asked **if there is a need for additional space for sports activities, including indoor spaces**.

CBanks noted that Rome Colts Football leases their property from Oneida County and maintain the space. In the off season, and as days get shorter, they have difficulty at their field as there is no lighting. When portable lights are not available, car lights are used to light the field. It was also noted that they have had to hire security and make changes to attendance policies at games to improve safety.

The Accelerate Sports Complex in the nearby Town of Whitesboro (Westmoreland [sic]) is available for off-season and late-night practice but is too expensive for organizations such as Pop-Warner to afford. it was noted that the financial numbers often don't make sense to run a facility of the size and nature – land, maintenance and electric costs can quickly add up. The Accelerate Complex also does not have amenities nearby, such as food, gas stations, or lodging, with visitors often needing to travel to New Hartford or Utica for such amenities. Tournaments often bring up to 2,000 people to the facility.

It was discussed that the City of Rome may be able to support a facility like Accelerate, and it would become an economic development driver. Participants noted that the City of Rome is in an ideal location, centrally located in in New York State and in proximity to Ontario, Canada. One participant noted the name for such as facility could be the "Roman Colosseum." Throughout the discussion, both the Utica University Nexus Center in nearby Utica and a proposed multipurpose sports facility in Building 101 of the Griffiss Air Force Base (GFAB) were discussed as regional and statewide draws but may not serve the needs of the local youth sports organizations on a day-to-day basis. The Spooky Nook Sports Complex in Lancaster PA was discussed as a good precedent, where thousands of attendees are a large economic development driver for the City of Lancaster.

It was also noted that other indoor space is available, such as the gyms at Rome Free Academy (RFA), but there are often issues with liability. It was noted that schools often try to accommodate youth sports, but that school programs (understandably) take priority, leaving odd times for youth organizations to use the spaces. RBohning noted that they use Rome City School District (RCSD) spaces but will often get unideal times and have noted there are not enough spaces for basketball around the City, including local churches and the Salvation Army gym.

Another indoor sports space, the Kennedy Arena, is owned and operated by the City of Rome. Participants noted their desire for Kennedy Areana to become profitable. It was also noted that the temporary floors for basketball at Kennedy Arena are not ideal for basketball, with the concrete floor beneath making the fours undynamic. It was also noted that Kennedy Arena has issues with heat in the summer and may need an affordable way to keep it cool.

Youth Hockey was discussed, noting that Kennedy Arena was closed for a time, driving people to go to the Utica University Nexus Center and the Junior Comets for programming. It

was stated that while Rome Youth Hockey is being built back up, the Junior Comets are a more advanced league, with games played across the Northeast, rather than just the region.

Participants explained that the Covid 19 pandemic was detrimental to all youth sports, with the effects still being felt in lower numbers of participants.

It was noted that the walking tracks were popular, but that many of the tracks, such as at the Rome School of the Deaf, have since been closed off to the public due to vandalism and littering.

MAndrews stated that including these kinds of facilities in a long-term plan can help to create longevity and cohesion across administrations and elected officials. The last parks plan has helped guide the city for 20+ years.

Participants asked if the purpose of the plan is to create more parks or close parks. MAndrews noted that an analysis will benchmark the city and its POST system on population, demographics, and spatial distribution to understand the needs of the community and determine where more amenities are needed and what might be oversupplied.

Participants asked if there is a model for a "new age park" – something that is more interactive. BSprengnether noted that splash pads and rock walls are often popular park amenities. Participants were excited at the prospect of a splash pad and noted that Pinti Field used to have a small wading pool as a child and was a large draw for families with young children. It was noted that there may be a stigma around public pools, and some pools are very underutilized, however Tossi Pool at Pinit Field is always crowded in the summer. Participants suggested it might be a good idea to concentrate on pools that are popular and transition other pools to different uses. Pools are present at multiple parks, including Guyer Field, Kennedy Arena, Stevens Field, Gryziec Field, and Pinti Field. Some of these pools are not operational. It was also noted there is a lack of programming, such as learn-to-swim programs. MAndews explained that there may have been a focus from the city to create amenities that have reduced maintenance, with the City's pools being maintained in an operating condition while lacking other amenities, including basic amenities such as shaded areas.

Participants felt that South Rome needs a park, which is Gryzeic Field, but it may not be in an optimal location.

BSprengnether asked **if there was one recommendation for the plan, what would participants want to see.**

Ideas included an indoor water park, potentially connected to a large sports facility such as Building 101 at GAFB, splash pads – potentially at Guyer field, and indoor recreational space and programs.

BSprengnether noted that the project team has heard that kids don't get outside as much anymore, and that parents might have something to do with that. Participants noted that there is very rarely a parent home, with many parents working, showing the need for an affordable drop off program. Participants also floated the possibility of having sports organizations and local professionals participate in summer programs. BSprengnether noted that a solution to outdoor recreation is getting a whole family to go, participants emphasized that families need a bathroom, water fountains, charcoal grills and picnic tables, and pavilions to feel like a space meets their needs.

Participants also noted that there are draws beyond city parks, such as the Bocce Ball World Series is held at the Toccolana Club and school playing fields such as Denti and Bellamy Elementary Schools. It was noted that Four Square is a simple solution that often gets children out and playing. Participants also noted the desire to bring arts to the parks, such as murals and painted pathways.

Participants felt that there are issues with Youth Baseball being part of the Kal Ripken League rather than Little League. There are 300+ little league participants in the neighboring Lee Little League, with most of them coming from Rome. MAndrews noted that a recommendation from the plan should be looking at the organizational structure of youth sprots and seeing if there can be improvements.

BSprengnether thanked participants for coming and provided contact information and next steps for the project.

Rome Parks, Opens Space and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Date/Time: Thursday, May 22, 2025 – 5:30-7:00 pm
Location: Rome City Hall
Re: Focus Group C – Sports and Recreation

Meeting Attendance

Danielle Salisbury	(DSalisbury)	City of Rome
Matt Andrews	(MAndrews)	City of Rome
Amanda Mills	(AMills)	City of Rome
Matt Moore	(MMoore)	Roman Runners
Christian Giardino	(CGiardino)	Edge to Edge Ski and Snowboard Service
Andrea Mercurio	(AMercurio)	SFM Skatepark
Stew Rood	(SRood)	Lake Delta Yacht Club
Ryan Hickey	(RHickey)	Rome YMCA
Jim Lister	(JLister)	Colgate Rowing
Anna Lindgren-Streicher	(ALindgren-Streicher)	Hamilton Rowing
Bill Sprengnether	(BSprengnether)	Fisher Associates
Tyler Kuty*	(TKuty)	Fisher Associates

*Indicates virtual Attendance

Key Themes

A variety of key themes were discussed during the meeting:

- There is a need to connect trails with amenities within the City of Rome and adjacent communities. This is particularly true with the Mohawk River Trail and Erie Canalway Trail.
- There is a desire to better connect the City of Rome with the waterways, particularly the Erie Canal. Bellamy Park is a good place to facilitate these connections but needs improvements.
- Amenities that are most needed are places for indoor sports, spaces for teens, and bathrooms at existing parks and open spaces where families frequent.

A full meeting summary is included below.

Meeting Summary

BSprengnether gave an introduction of the project and the POST system, and introduced MAndrews, AMills, and DSalisbury from the City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development. BSprengnether then asked participants from the meeting to provide a brief introduction, including their name and organization they are representing.

BSprengnether asked the **participants what their favorite memory from using the POST system in Rome.**

Participants noted their adult softball league. Also noted were the walking trails in the city. As kids have gotten older, some participants described going “park hopping” with their kids and

visiting at least 9 or 10 a day and noting what is great about the parks and what need improvements. Participants identified creating a park passport as an opportunity for the public to replicate this opportunity. Participants also noted that a great memory is being involved in the community long enough to see the improvement of the trails, including paving and cleanup, noting the they cried the first time they rode on the trails with their family.

Participants asked what the status of bringing the Mohawk River Trail to Delta Lake State Park is. MAndrews explained that there are two pinch points, Wright Settlement Road and Route 46 near the DEC Fish Hatchery that have require additional funds. The city has the funding in place to complete these improvements, but not to make the entirety of the trail ADA accessible. Funds to complete the final sections have been included in the Herkimer and Oneida County Transportation Council (HOCTC) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funding request.

Other participants noted that Franklyn's Field held many great memories as a parent and as a boy growing up. Participants explained that it is called the "Purple Park" due to the purple park equipment. Participants also noted that the park is embedded into the neighborhood, making it accessible to many people.

Participants also noted working at the Triangle Park as a teenagers, with it being a gathering spot for many local youths.

BSprengnether asked if parks are still staffed with a supervisor. MAndrews explained that parks with clubhouses have a supervisor, but not all parks. He also noted that it is more of a youth employment opportunity. At some times, the attendant to child ratio was very high (5-1).

JLister noted that during the COVID lockdown, the new Hamilton College boathouse was a connection to the Rome community. He noted that the boathouse is a partnership with the community and has benefited both the rowing program and the community. He also noted seeing people use the canal, the trails, and Bellamy Park. BSprengnether asked if there are parking issues at Bellamy Harbor Park during events. ALindgren-Streicher explained that at times it may get tight, particularly when buses and trailers are parked.

Participants also noted growing up fishing at Guyer Field and using Pinti Field and Franklyn Field. They noted that kids ride bikes from park to park utilizing the trail system. Participants also noted that the clubhouse at Pinti Field helps caretakers who needed to get to the parks but have amenities for children.

BSprengnether asked **what is an activity that isn't represented in the parks system or a type of facility that would be well used.**

Participants noted that they have to travel to Madison County for archery programs, even though they are through the Rome YMCA. They also noted that archery used to be taught in the school system. RHickey noted that the YMCA is looking to bring that to their facilities within Rome.

Participants noted that the trail system is great, but it is not well connected with regional assets. BSprengnether noted that the trail system could be a "spine", connecting to parks and other resources.

JLister and ALindgren-Streicher noted that they would like to see a focus on connecting people to the water and the waterways. Currently, Rowing and fishing are the main users, but there are more opportunities to get people connected into the canal. This includes watersport

opportunities on the canal as it is pleasant waterway to be on. They also explained that the Canal is one of the best rowing waterbodies in New York, due to its protection from the elements, low current, and straight features. Additionally, it is also a good water body for kayaking.

BSprengnether noted that Muck Road Landing will have a kayak launch, and there is another in Bellamy Harbor. Participants explained that while the Bellamy Harbor kayak launch is ADA accessible but there are issues with current. It was also noted that the YMCA has staffed lifeguards for the facility in the past. It was also noted that the Rome Yacht Club has a kayak launch it can donate.

Participants asked if there are plans for the former trailer park on S James Street. MAndrews noted that the trail is going to stay along the Erie Canal, but it will be more accessible with vehicle parking and a promenade along "Clintons Ditch."

BSprengnether asked **what some of the other parks and amenities people are using the most.**

Participants noted that shaded areas and playgrounds are in high demand, particularly at the school district. Participants also noted that the Tornado brough light to what was lost in a lot of the parks such as trees and shaded areas.

Participants also noted that safety is a concern at some parks, particularly with the increase in unhoused individuals in the City of Rome. This includes issues at showers and bathrooms at parks around the city.

BSprengnether asked if the **POST system meets the needs of the community and the needs of the user that you represent, including indoor areas.**

Participants noted that the closest/most convenient indoor sports facility is the Accelerate Sports Complex in nearby Whitesboro. This is where indoor soccer for much of western Oneida County happens, including the population that travel through Rome to get to the complex. It was noted that there are opportunities to create an indoor sports facility in Rome near Bellamy Harbor Park. The Utica University Nexus Center and sports facilities in Syracuse were noted as regional sports assets.

It was also noted that wintertime activities are lacking, both indoor and outdoor. Spaces for birthday parties are also lacking, and park facilities are often booked far in advance.

Participants noted that a lot of running tracks and walking areas have been lost to the community, including Stanley Elementary, the Rome School of the Deaf, and the old Rome Free Academy (RFA) fields.

BSprengnether asked **what is one thing that people would like to see introduced into the parks system.**

Participants wanted to see more amenities at local parks, such as a splash pad within the City of Rome. It was also noted that building an indoor sports complex near Bellamy Harbor Park would be key for the City of Rome. Some amenities focused towards teens would help them interact with the city's parks system. This includes skateparks, BMX park and pump tracks, and mountain biking. Participants also noted that places where graffiti is encouraged, art programs, and opportunities to express themselves artistically would be welcomed in the parks. However, participants noted the most important amenity needed for families would be to open bathrooms at parks.

Participants also noted making the canal trail connect off road through the City of Rome is essential for the POST resources in the City of Rome.

Participants also noted that trying to work with the city to close streets for an event like the Heart Run and Walk is difficult. It was noted that these types of events can bring thousands or tens of thousands of participants to the community. Representatives from Hamilton College agreed that these types of events are popular for their students. Representatives present from the city expressed they would like to change this perception and are open to coordinating with local organizations.

Representatives from Hamilton College would like to see more activities taking place at Belamy Harbor Park and along the Erie Canal. They noted creating a viewing area that can also act as a stands for races (such as large stone areas ro steps down to the water) would greatly improve the canal for races. BSprengnether asked if an amphitheater may also be possible. Participants noted that it would have to be located on the south side of the Erie Canal or floating on the water. Other participants noted that the City of Rome is the location where the Erie Canal met, and unique features such as the 25 foot lock system in the City is unique, and there is opportunities for history related tourism on the canal. It was noted that docking at Belamy Harbor Park is discouraged because of the structure of the wall, and boaters need to go to the nearby Town of Marcy or Village of Sylvan Beach to dock. Patients would also like to see more formal places to fish along the canal.

BSprengnether thanked participants for coming and provided contact information and next steps for the project.

First Public Meeting

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

Date/Time: **Tuesday September 30, 2025 – 6:00 pm**
Wednesday October 1, 2025 – 6:00 pm
Location: **Tosti Fieldhouse, Rome, NY**

Meeting Introduction

On September 30th and October 1st, 2025, Fisher Associates in coordination with the City of Rome conducted the first public meeting for the City of Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan. The event was held at Tosti Fieldhouse at Pinti Field, Rome NY. The meeting was held on both September 30th and October 1st to provide multiple opportunities for the public to attend. The City of Rome was responsible for all advertisement of the meeting.

A total of 37 people attended the meeting, with representation from the common council, Oneida County, and City of Rome Staff, as well as residents at the meeting. 19 people attended the meeting on September 30th and 18 people attended the meeting on October 1st. In addition, staff from Fisher Associates and The City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development were present to facilitate the meeting.

The room was set up for a presentation style meeting, with a large projector at the front of the room. Project Team Members from Fisher Associates gave a brief presentation, explained how to interact with the boards, and were available for questions from the public. Boards were displayed around the room with the opportunity for the public to provide input, and asked the following questions:

- *Comment on the proposed project Vision Statement*
- *Comment on the proposed project Goals and Objectives*
- *What post amenities are great?*
- *Which POST amenities need improvement?*
- *In relation to parks amenities, which would you like to see more of?*
    - *Sports facilities*
    - *Regional parks*
    - *Programming*
    - *Structures*
    - *Accessibility features*
    - *Safety features*
    - *Other*
- *In relation to parks amenities, which don't you want to see?*
    - *Sports facilities*
    - *Regional parks*
    - *Programming*
    - *Structures*
    - *Accessibility features*
    - *Safety features*
    - *Other*
- *In relation to aquatics facilities (natural and manmade), which would you like to see more of?*
    - *Splash pads*
    - *Kiddie pool*

    - *Poolside amenities*
    - *Viewing opportunities*
    - *Fishing pier*
    - *Boat/kayak launch*
- *In relation to aquatics facilities (natural and manmade), which don't you want to see more of?*
    - *Splash pads*
    - *Kiddie pool*
    - *Poolside amenities*
    - *Viewing opportunities*
    - *Fishing pier*
    - *Boat/kayak launch*
- *In relation to parks, let us know where you think additional gaps are. How should these gaps be filled.*
- *In relation to trails, let us know where you think additional gaps are. How should these gaps be filled.*
- *In relation to playgrounds, let us know where you think additional gaps are. How should these gaps be filled.*
- *In relation to aquatics facilities, let us know where you think additional gaps are. How should these gaps be filled.*

Key Themes

Parks:

Overall, attendees believed that the City's parks serve the community well, but they are lacking in specific amenities. These amenities include sports facilities such as ice skating, tennis and pickleball courts, and indoor multipurpose fields; support structures such as grills, picnic areas, and bathrooms, and safety features, particularly "blue light" cameras and proactive police patrols. Features such as a regional park and accessibility features were less popular, but it is important to note that no participants voiced opinions against these features.

Only Dyett Park and Ft. Stanwix Park were identified as needing improvements. Suggestions for Dyett Park focused on a mountain biking facility aimed towards adults and teenagers. Ft. Stanwix Park was noted as needing improvement by 5 attendees, with suggestions for tree maintenance and replacement.

Other general suggestions of note include better connecting existing parks with outlying areas through the existing or improved trail systems, making any "low hanging fruit" connections where trails pass in close proximity to existing parks, and providing increased amenities at natural areas such as restrooms and picnic areas to allow for longer stays. In addition, Bellamy Harbor Park was noted as a possibility for a regional park to improve economic development and recreation access to the city's waterways.

Aquatics:
Aquatics facilities include natural aquatic areas such as the Mohawk River, partially manmade structures such as the Erie Canal, and manmade aquatics features such as indoor and outdoor pools and splash pads. The most popular aquatics improvements for the public included splash pads and boat/kayak launches. Other amenities of note include improved facilities for youth activities at Municipal Pool, improving ADA access to the waterfront, and incorporating the local history of the Erie Canal into future designs.

Trails:

Attendees generally noted that the city's trail systems are often utilized for leisure trips, recreation, and commuting. It was noted that there are gaps on the trail particularly in the west of the city, connecting to the areas of Chestnut Street and Turin Road. Attendees also noted they would like to see better access to the new section of the Mohawk River trail (to be constructed) and local businesses along Black River Blvd, as well as study the possibility of extending the trail to Delta Lake State Park, outside of the City of Rome. Attendees noted that there are currently conflicts between walkers on the trail and bikers, particularly as e-bikes and other motor assisted mobility devices are becoming increasingly popular.

A common topic of discussion was improving trail conditions in the winter. It was noted that winter maintenance is needed along the Erie Canal Trail in the southeast of the City. Some attendees wished to explore the option of having the trail partially groomed for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. One area of note was the Chestnut Street Bridge of the Mohawk River, which is currently poorly maintained in the winter.

Detailed Comments from the Public Engagement event:
Below are all comments received during the public engagement events. Comments have been edited for clarity.

Project Introduction Board
Vision

- Great!

Other

- Better connect parks and open space via trails, especially in western part of the city
- Year round cyclists end up in the road during the winter since trails are not plowed
- Belamy Harbor Park
    - Floating docks
    - Restrooms
    - Visitors center

City Center Inventory
Parks that are great:

- Stanwix Park (1)

Parks that Need Improvement

- Stanwix Park (5)
    - Tree replacement

Other

- Boardwalks/passage around Ft. Stanwix monument
- Bellamy Harbor Regional District: Harbor area facilities as a destination areas more than a playground style area. Retail, shops, farmers market, sports expansion. City of Rome owns much of the property. Using Bellamy to increase tourism/economy is essential.
- Dyett Park – Off Turin Road behind Trees Architects
- Bathrooms at Chestnut Street Trailhead
- Stanwix Trailhead - TRASH, dog bags

Full City Inventory Map

Need Imrpovement

- Erie Canal Trail (1) (see note below)

Other

- Dyett Park – Mt. Bike Trail System (teens + adult)
- Connect trails to natural areas for all day trips – need restrooms + picnic areas
- Trails (ECT) – Requires winter maintenance
- ½ ski ½ plowed (in winter)
- Access battlefield from canal trail

Trails Gap Analysis

- Agricultural areas; some boggy; small population (*Northwest)*
- More signage for Mohawk River Trail for wayfinding + connections (*North)*
- Trails not well connected to NW Rome Thomas & Turin (*North)*
- No bike connections to trails for bikes without dangerous crossings (*North*)
- No connections from trail to plaza (*Price Chopper Plaza*)
- Griffis trail connection from Bell Ave (*North East)*
- Reopen the wood Creek Nature Trail at the Erie Canal Village
- Trail Maintenance & Cleaning (*Erie Canal Village*)
- Adopt a trail program – MRT/ECT
- Ownership limitations on trails
- Trails along the ECT at Stanwix Trail + West Rome/Charles St adopted by RWTAG thru PTNY
- Make 2 trails [ECT and MRT] a loop

Aquatics Gap Analysis

- Misting towers
- More youth centered buildings/activities would be good at Municipal Pool

Parks Gap Analysis

- No parks or any way to get to any on foot or by bike (*Northwest Rome*)

Parks Amenities

	Want to see more	Don't want to see	Notes
Sports facilities	11	0	Tracks for walking
Regional Parks	4	0	Protect floodplains
Programming	6	0	
Structures	9	0	Grills
Accessibility Features	6	0	Grants focusing on accessibility upgrades from ECNHC/Canal Corporation

Safety Features	10	1	

Other notes:

- Signs reinforcing rules
- Grilling areas
- Ice skating – free to the public and all abilities
- Free/low cost adult programs
- Special needs programs
- Restrooms
- Snowshoeing

Pools Amenities

	Want to see more	Don't want to see	Notes
Splash Pad	7	0	
Kiddie Pool	4	0	
Poolside Amenities	4	0	
Viewing Opportunities	3	1	More boardwalks + viewing points on trails
Fishing Pier	4	0	
Boat/Kayak Launch	7	0	Upgrade exiting boat launch

Other notes:

- Bike racks
- Dog poop bags
- More incorporation of local history
- ADA access to the waterfront!

Public Meeting #1 Engagement Boards

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

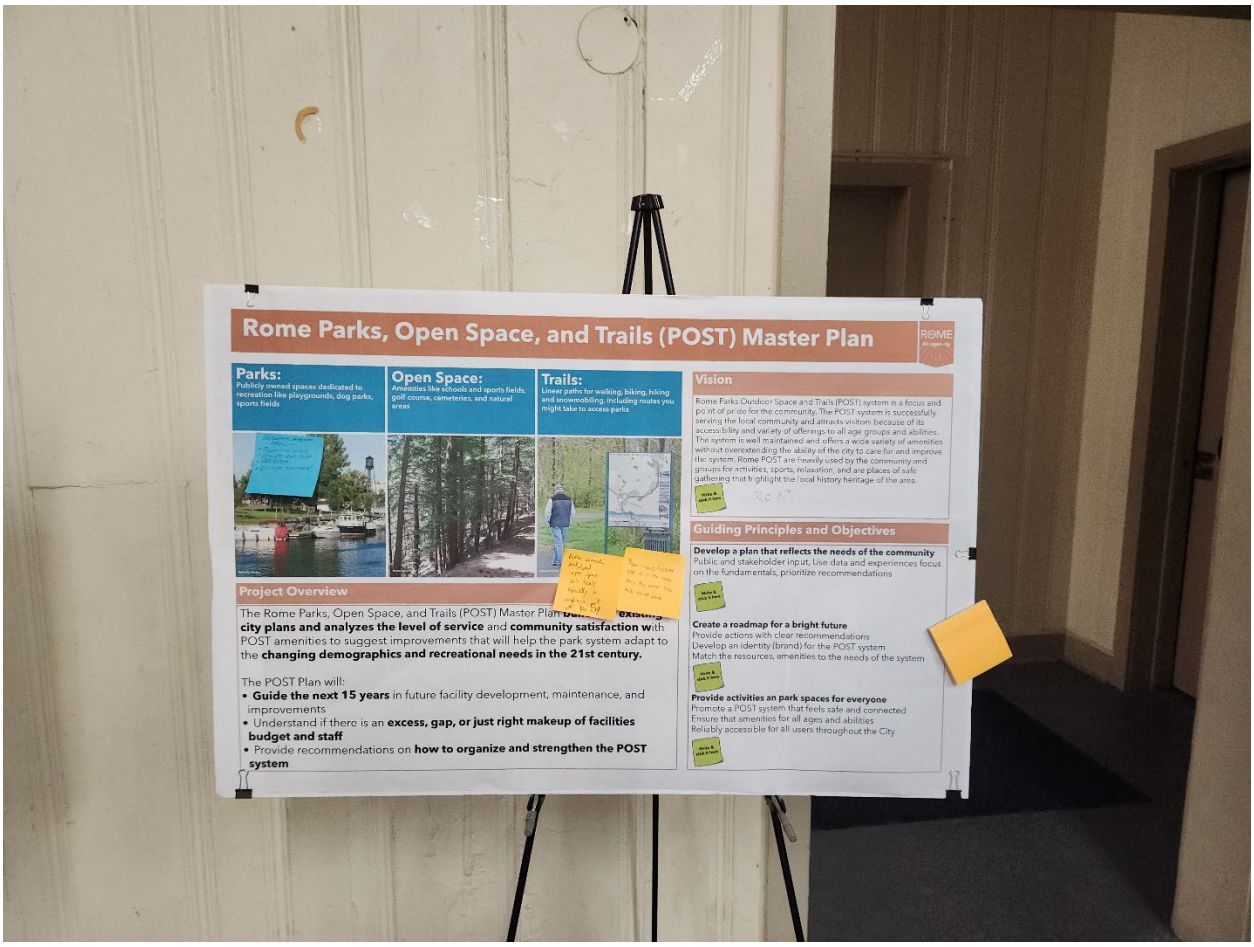


Figure 1: Introduction Board

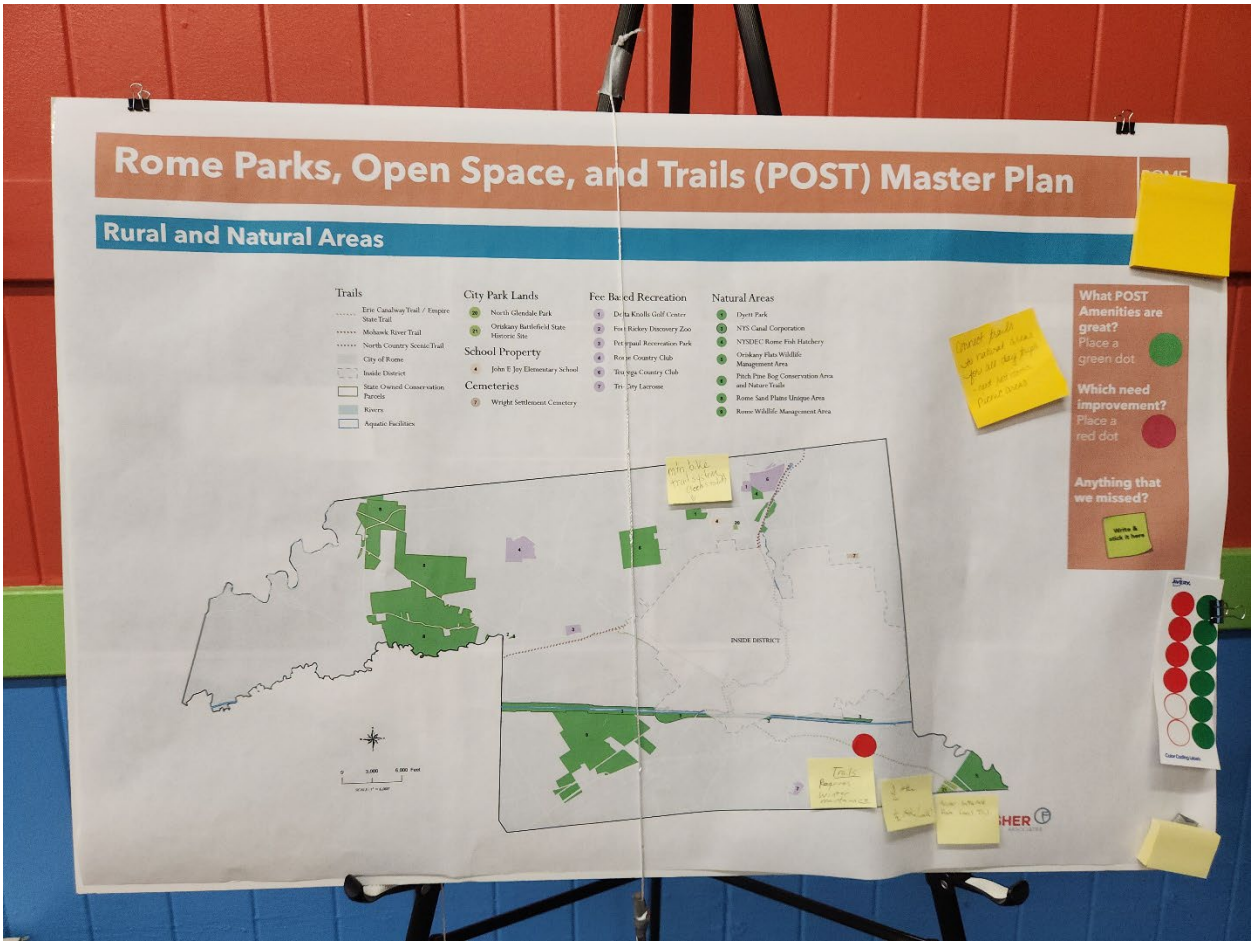


Figure 2: Full City of Rome Inventory Board



Figure 3: City Center Inventory Board



Figure 4: Trails Gap Analysis

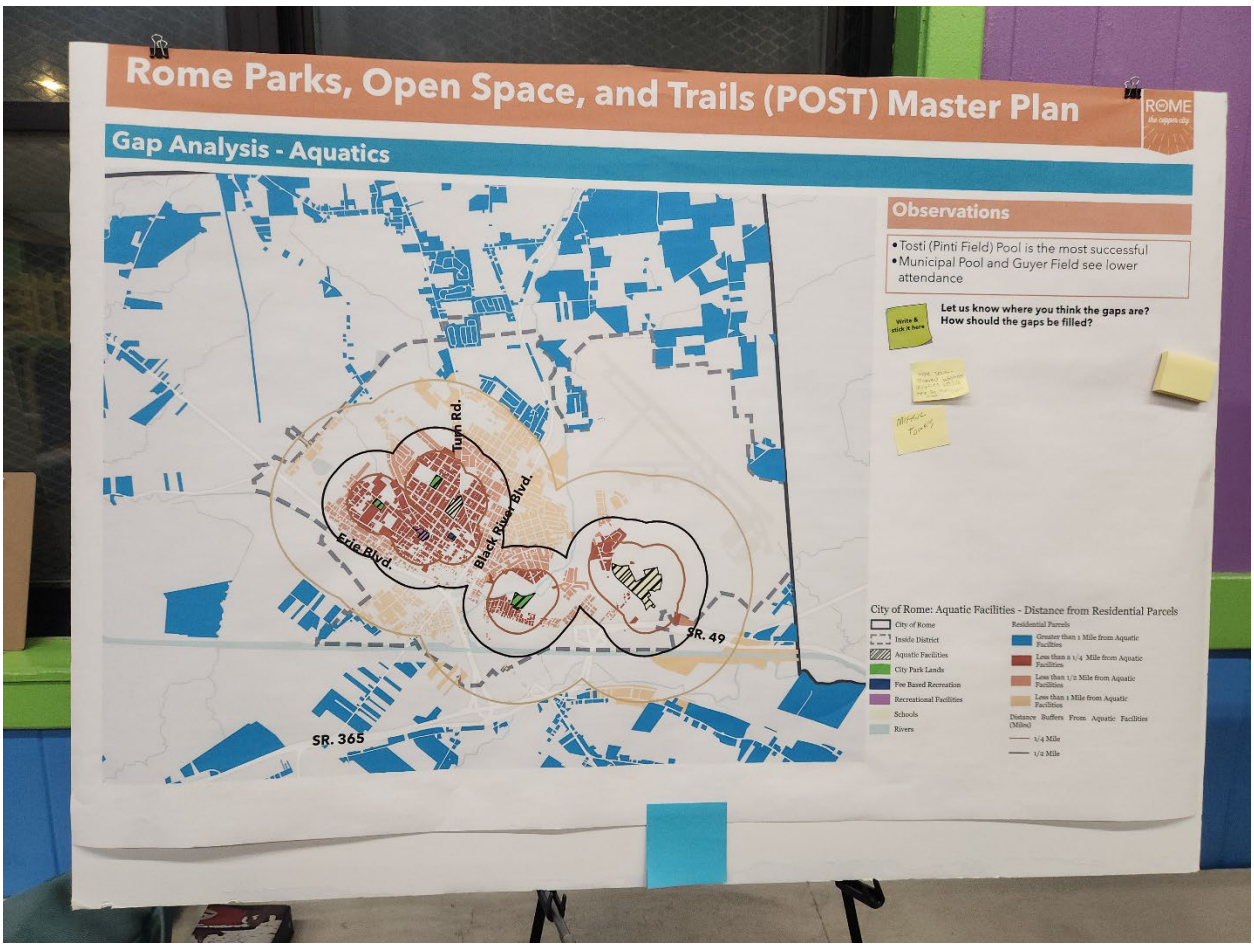


Figure 5: Aquatics Gap Analysis

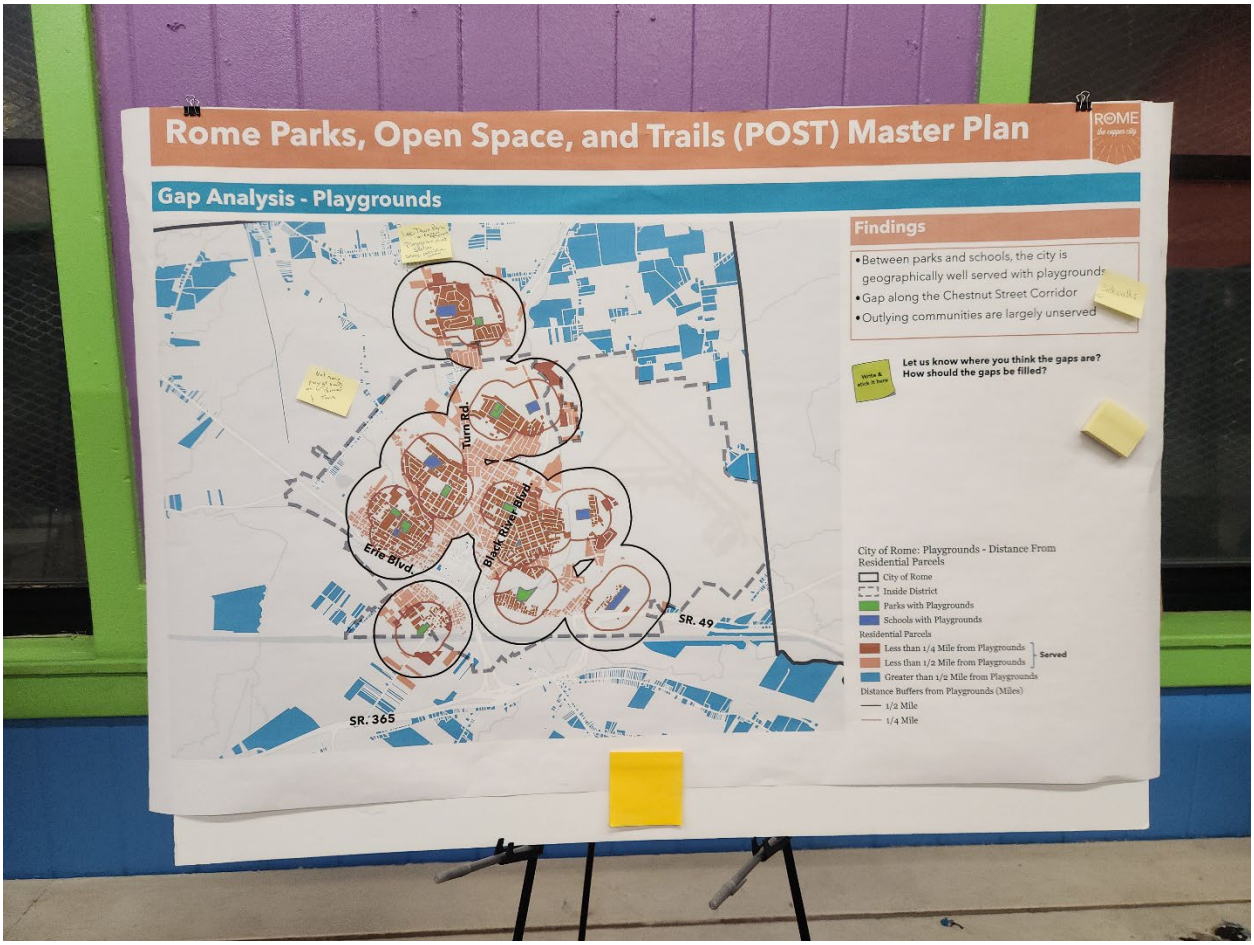


Figure 6: Playground Gap Analysis Board

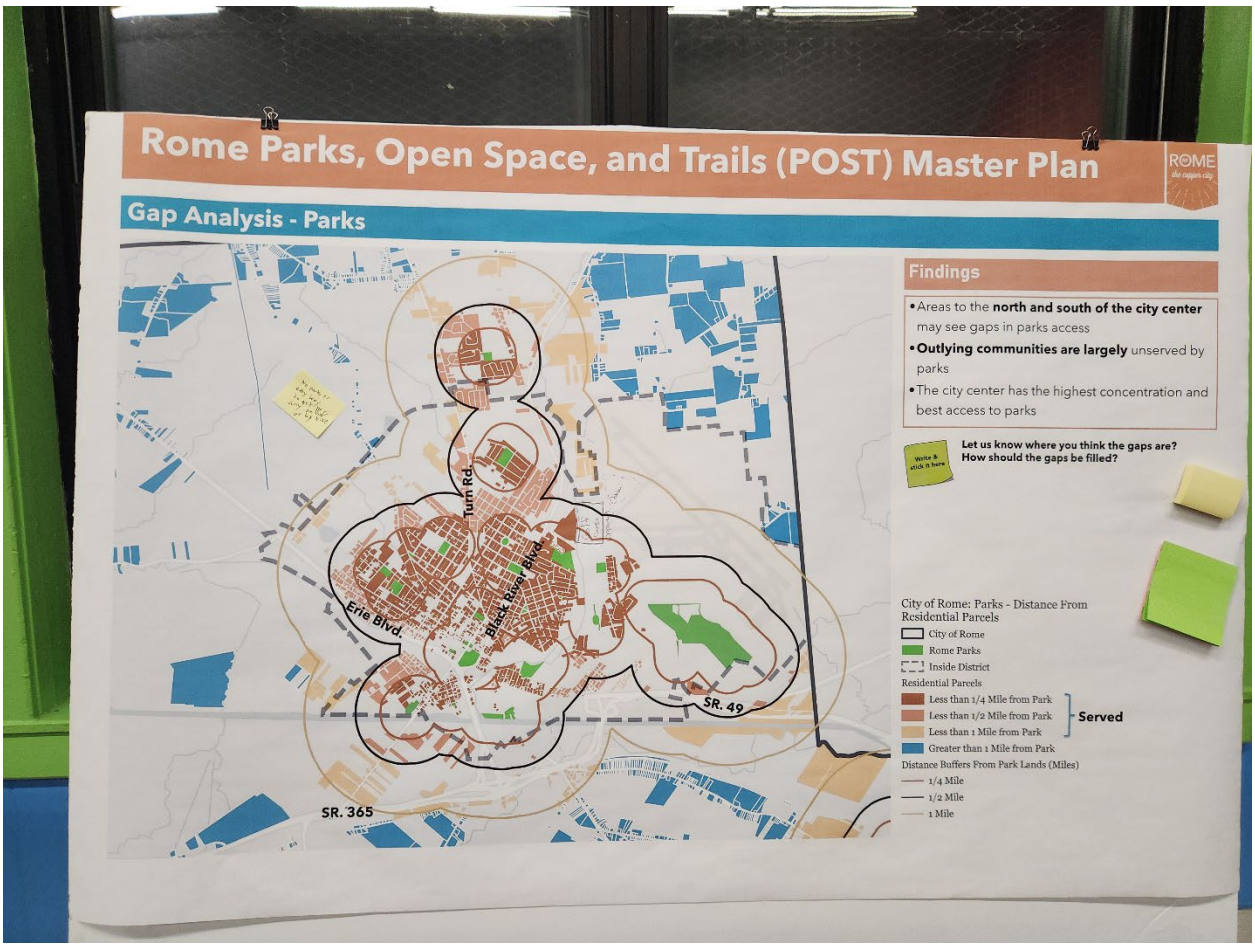


Figure 7: Parks Gap Analysis Board

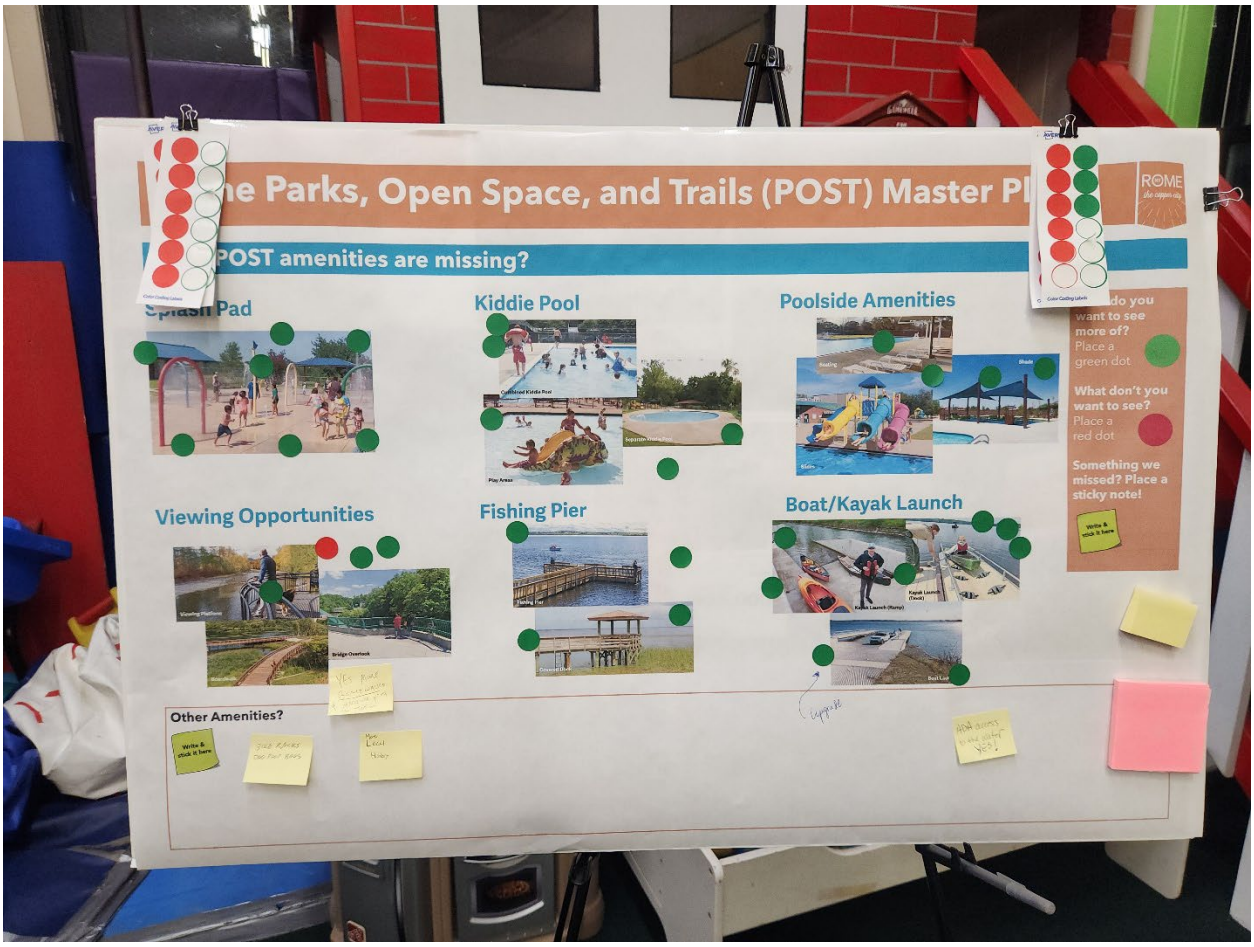


Figure 8: Aquatics Preference Board



Figure 9: Parks Preference Board

Public Meeting #1 Photos

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan



Figure 10: Meeting Presentation



Figure 11: Attendee Feedback Stations

Public Meeting #1 Sign-in Sheet

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

9/30/2025		
Name	**Neighborhood/Organization**	**Email**
Jimmy Wu	Rome Waterways and Trails Advocacy Group (WUTAG)	jimmywy013@gmail.com
John Reilly	5th Ward Park Rep	westbrook4414@yahoo.com
Leo Capoccia	7th Ward Park Rep	l.cap.rome.004@gmail.com
Christian	5th Ward Resident	
Andrea	5th Ward Resident	
Kimberly Rogers	Resident	
Dave Nolan	Resident	
Elizabeth Douglas	Livable Communities of Oneida County/50 Forward Mohawk Valley	edouglas@50forwardmv.org
Dave Sbaragglia	7th Ward Common Council	Sbaragglia@aol.com
Brandon Lovett	City of Rome	blovetteromecitygov.com
Stewart Rooel	Oneida County Legislature Candidate	stewartooel66@yahoo.com
Linda Fazio	#rd Ward Common Council	lfazio@gmail.com
Ken White	City of Rome	kwhite812.kw@gmail.com
Janet Bennett	National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Rome	janjanben@yahoo.com
Willie Talmadge	NAACP Rome	wtalmadge@yahoo.com
Christoper Cardello		Ccardello57@gmail.com
Nancy Hutchaw		Hulihan1@aol.com
Samantha Dart	BRIDGES	Sdartt@birdgescouncil.org
Frank Anderson	5th Ward Councilman	Fanderson002@twcny.rr.com
10/1/2025		
Leueylakect Page	Rome 5th Ward	llafuvestpage@gmail.com
John Reilly	Rome 5th Ward Park Rep	westbrook4414@yahoo.com
Brenda Antonowicz		
Hunter Stone-Gardner		hstonegardner25@gmail.com
Johnathon Z Mahejec-Waldu		
Noam Landis	RWTAG	
David Amidon	Resident	deltaboy2316@gmail.com
Mike Brown	Resident	Holbeedesigns@gmail.com
Erica Danieli	Resident	pcsenglish@yahoo.com
R&E Flaminio	Resident	
Chris Hunt	Resident	Tomatodado@yahoo.com

Dan Kemp	Resident	Kempd7@gmail.com
Michael Crosswell	Resident	michawlcrosswell@outlook.com
Joshua Reale	Business	Cayoindustrial@gmail.com
Wage Schiller	Resident	
David Hinman	RWTAG	DHinman9@gmail.com
Marc Mario	Resident	marm1115@aol.com
Selena Galatrza	Resident	Selenak354@gmail.com

Easter Egg Hunt Pop-up

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

Date/Time: **Friday May 19, 2025 – 3:00 pm**
Location: **Franklyn's Field, Rome, NY**

Pop-Up Introduction

On May 19th 2025, Fisher Associates in coordination with the City of Rome conducted a pop-up outreach event at the City of Rome Easter Egg Hunt at Franklyn's Field. The event was coordinated by the City of Rome and the Jervis Public Library in celebration of the upcoming holiday. Activities at the event included an Easter Egg Hunt geared towards youth ages 3+.

The Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan table was set up on the rear of the shelter pavilion, adjacent to the Jervis Public Library Table and the youth activities. The table was staffed by Fisher Associates Representatives.

The purpose of the pop-up was to gain initial knowledge from the community on how POST amenities are utilized throughout the city, what people value about POST amenities, how residents access these amenities, and what they believe is missing throughout the system.

Fisher Associates set up interactive activity boards including an explainer of the POST Master Plan and a large-scale printed map. Attendees of the events stopped and interacted with these materials which posed the following questions:

- *Why are Rome's Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Important to you?*
- *In one word or Phrase, how would you describe the Rome POST system? Today and In the future*
- *What is your favorite part of the Rome POST system? This could be a place, event, memory, or anything else that comes to mind.*
- *What is one action the city could take that would improve the way you interact with the POST system?*

The large-scale map asked attendees to perform the following activities:

- *Place a Green Dot on POST amenities that you think are adequate/good, and a red dot on POST amenities that needs improvements.*
- *What types of amenities are missing? Feel free to draw on the map or used posted notes.*
- *How do you get to these POST amenities? Use the markets to draw your path of travel.*

Fisher Associates engaged at least 30 people, including youth, adults, and the elderly. As this was the first public engagement event, most of the public had not heard of the POST effort but were encouraged to see the city taking the steps to study and improve POST amenities.

Key Themes

- Many of the city's POST amenities are well used, maintained, and loved by the community. This included Franklyn's Field, where the event took place, Vogel Park, and Guyer Field.

- Respondents at the event who lived within the City of Rome mostly walked and biked to the event, with many of the residents coming from the surrounding neighborhood adjacent Franklyn's field.
- At times, trails felt unsafe to users due to lighting issues and undesirable activities perceived to be taken place on the trails and in close proximity to the trails.
- Maintenance, such as landscaping and trash cleanup, felt inadequate at some of the POST amenities, including Gryziec Field and Fort Stanwix Park. In particular, youth were concerned about trash from POST amenities such as the Mohawk River Trail entering waterways and polluting wildlife.
- There is a need for amenities for disables populations in the city's parks and trails, including low-sensory spaces for autistic children and adults.

It is also important to note that while attendees viewed the POST Master Plan as a positive for the city, some attendees were concerned that POST amenities in low-income neighborhoods may be removed as an outcome of the project.

Detailed Comments from the Pop-Up Event

- *Why are Rome's Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Important to you?*
    - A place for kids to play ("Barney Park" at Franklyn's Field, playgrounds, and swings)
    - A place to meet friends and make new friends
    - A place to exercise (tracks at schools, trails)
- *In one word or Phrase, how would you describe the Rome POST system? Today and In the future*
    - Future – Safe, clean
- *What is your favorite part of the Rome POST system? This could be a place, event, memory, or anything else that comes to mind.*
    - Barney Park – many children and adults fondly recalled the purple dinosaur at Franklyn's field, canonically known as Barney
    - Trails – Mohawk River Trail, Erie Canal Trail
    - Connections to Downtown – attendees talked about how parks used to connect to a downtown shopping district and support these activities, through the shopping district is no longer there.
- *What is one action the city could take that would improve the way you interact with the POST system?*
    - Improve safety on trails
    - More concerts and events, including events at venues outside of Franklyn's field
    - More community playgrounds
    - More bathrooms, particularly near playgrounds and other areas where kids might play.
    - Improve Gryziec Field ("Muck Road Fields")
    - Bike Lanes and better connections from the community to local parks
        - Fix "bumpy sidewalks"
    - Things for children and adults on the spectrum, focused on low-sensory experiences
    - Build a skatepark

- *Place a Green Dot on POST amenities that you think are adequate/good, and a red dot on POST amenities that needs improvements.*
    - Green Dots were placed on Franklyn Field, Vogel Park, and Guyer Field
    - Red Dots were places on Fort Stanwix Park and Gryziec Field
- *What types of amenities are missing? Feel free to draw on the map or used posted notes.*
    - *No comments*
- *How do you get to these POST amenities? Use the markets to draw your path of travel.*
    - Biking was drawn from the west of Franklyn's Field to the park.

Honor America Days Pop-up
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan

Date/Time: **Saturday July 26, 2025 – 1:00 pm**
Location: **Franklyn's Field, Rome, NY**

Pop-Up Introduction

On July 26th 2025, Fisher Associates in coordination with the City of Rome conducted a pop-up outreach event at the Honor America Days Carnival at Franklyn's Field. The event was coordinated by the City of Rome and Rome Chamber of Commerce and included a parade, carnival, and fireworks. Activities at the event included a carnival geared towards youth ages 3+.

The Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan table was set up on the rear of the shelter pavilion, adjacent to food and drink station. The table was staffed by Fisher Associates Representatives.

The purpose of the pop-up was to gain knowledge from the community on how POST amenities are utilized throughout the city, what people value about POST amenities, how residents access these amenities, and what they believe is missing throughout the system.

Fisher Associates set up interactive activity boards including an explainer of the POST Master Plan and a large-scale printed map. Attendees of the events stopped and interacted with these materials which posed the following questions:

- *Why are Rome's Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Important to you?*
- *In one word or Phrase, how would you describe the Rome POST system? Today and In the future*
- *What is your favorite part of the Rome POST system? This could be a place, event, memory, or anything else that comes to mind.*
- *What is one action the city could take that would improve the way you interact with the POST system?*

The large-scale map asked attendees to perform the following activities:

- *Place a Green Dot on POST amenities that you think are adequate/good, and a red dot on POST amenities that needs improvements.*
- *What types of amenities are missing? Feel free to draw on the map or used posted notes.*
- *How do you get to these POST amenities? Use the markets to draw your path of travel.*

Fisher Associates engaged approximately 50 people, including youth, adults, and the elderly. Some attendees were aware of the plan and had already completed the project survey, while others had heard of the project for the first time.

Key Themes

- Many of the city's POST amenities are well used, maintained, and loved by the community. This included Franklyn's Field, where the event took place, Pinti Field and Guyer Field.

- Respondents at the event who lived within the City of Rome mostly walked and biked to the event, with many of the residents coming from the surrounding neighborhood adjacent Franklyn's field.
- At times, trails and parks felt unsafe to users due to lighting issues and undesirable activities perceived to be taken place on the trails and in close proximity to the trails. In particular, attendees expressed concerns with the limited safety at Pinti Field during the summer months.
- Maintenance, such as landscaping and trash cleanup, felt inadequate at some of the POST amenities, including Gryziec Field, Pinti Field, and Guyer Field. Mohawk River Trail entering waterways and polluting wildlife.
- There is a need for more summer activities in the parks, including sports programs, summer camps, natural exploration, and swimming opportunities (including splash pads).

In general, attendees were in support of the POST Master Plan, noted that

Detailed Comments from the Pop-Up Event

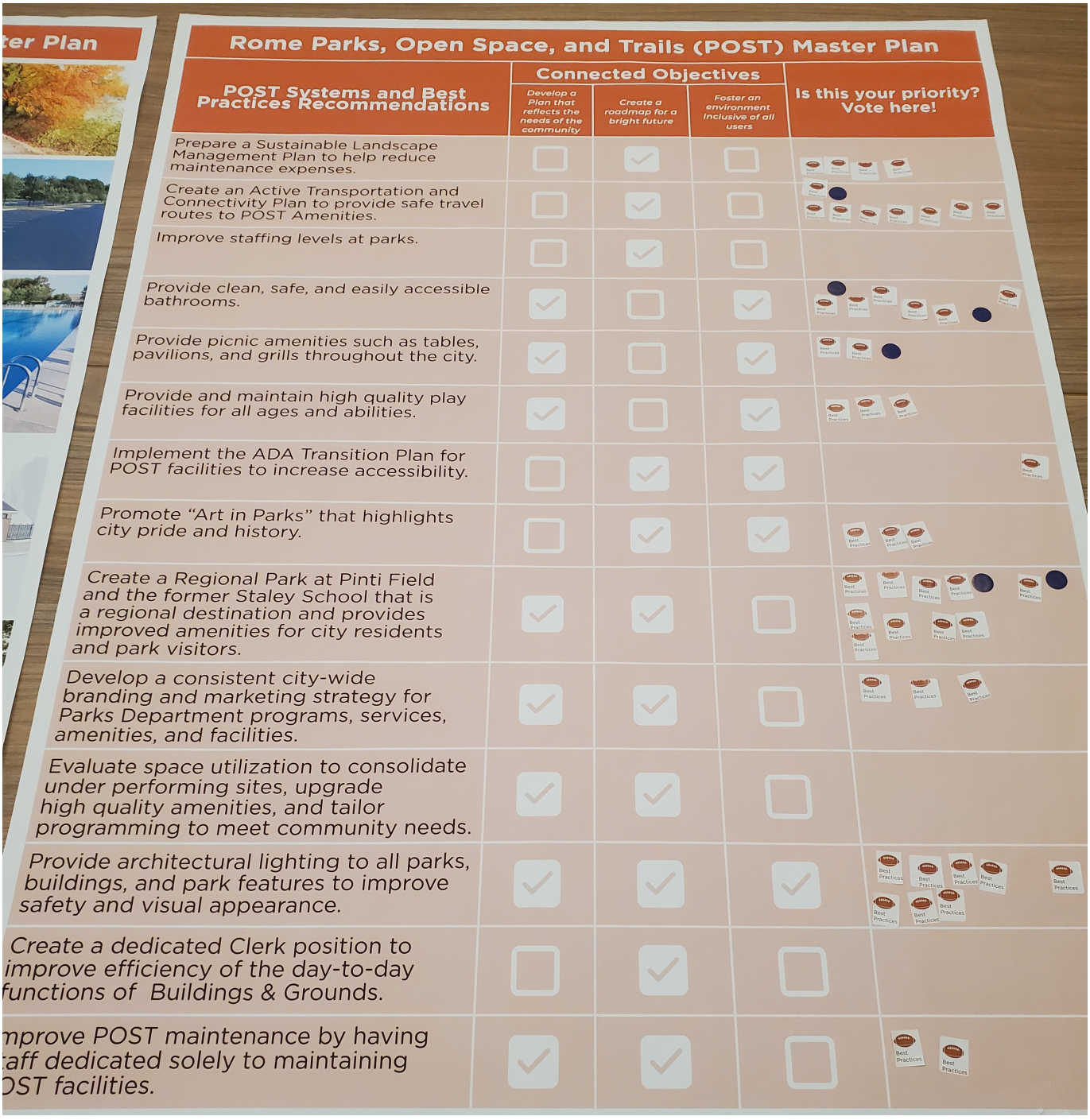
- *Why are Rome's Parks, Open Spaces, and Trails Important to you?*
    - A place for kids to play:
        - Tag
        - Playgrounds
        - Swinging
        - Swimming
    - A place for kids to make new friends and meet with existing friends during the summer
    - Well maintained area to experience nature
    - A great place to play sports
        - Basketball at Liberty Gardens and Franklyn's Field
        - Skateboarding at Pinti Field
- *In one word or Phrase, how would you describe the Rome POST system? Today and In the future*
    - Today – Well maintained, dirty, trouble
    - Future – A place to see animals, places to swim, full of open spaces and trails, a kid friendly place to play
    - Swinging on the swings
- *What is your favorite part of the Rome POST system? This could be a place, event, memory, or anything else that comes to mind.*
    - Liberty Gardens basketball
    - Events at Franklyn's Field
    - *Favorite Memory* – Solar Eclipse viewing party

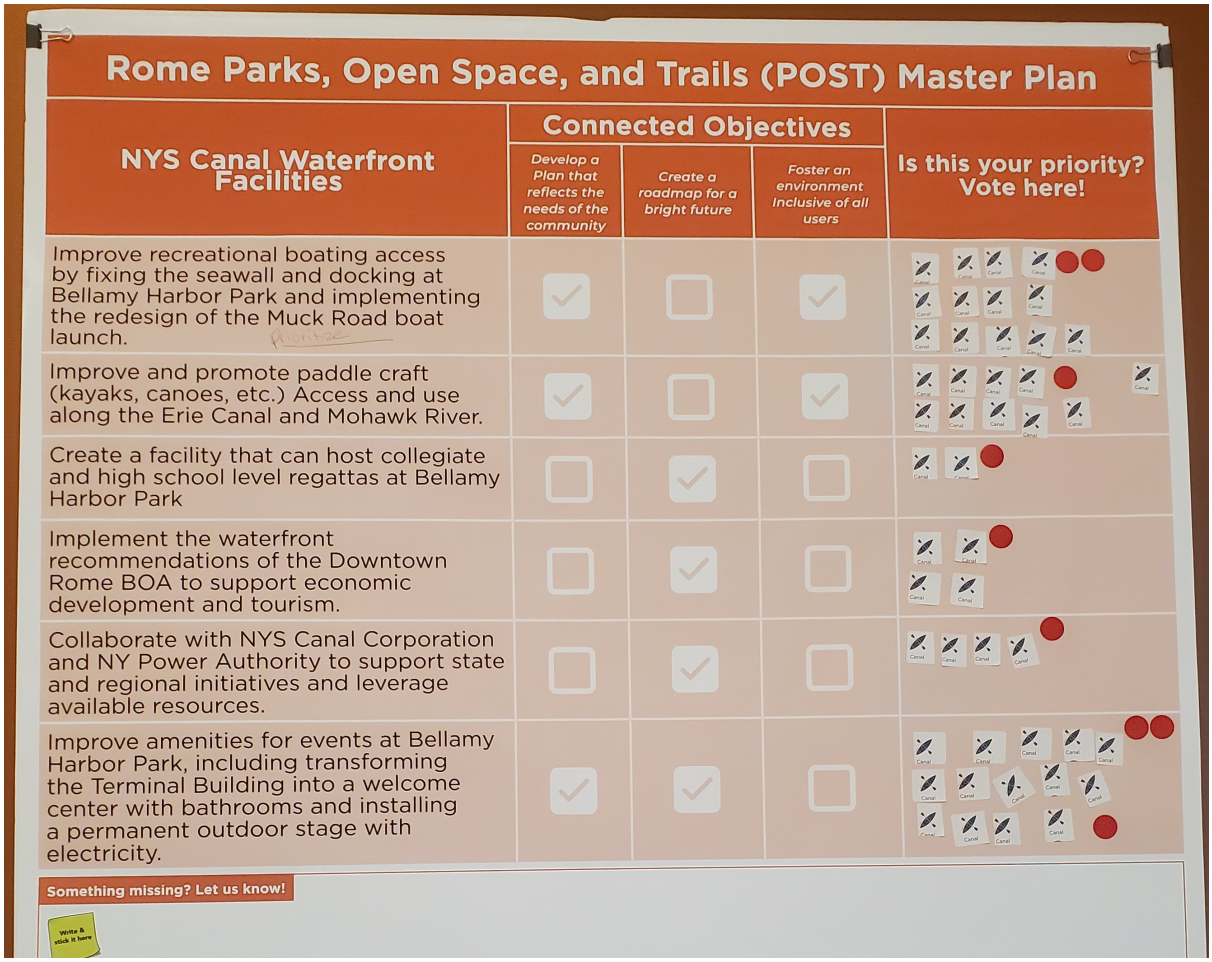
- *What is one action the city could take that would improve the way you interact with the POST system?*
    - Create more places to swim
        - Install slides at pools
        - Reopen closed pools
        - Install a splash pad at Grysiec Field, Franklyn's Field, or Guyer Field
    - Upgrade playground equipment
        - Provide tandem swings (toddler + parent)
        - Create an outdoor gym for parents at playgrounds

        - Improved slides and swings
    - Increase summer programing
        - Provide summer transportation to parks for kids
        - Host summer sports programs
    - Increase winter programming
        - Skating
        - Snowshoeing
        - Indoor spaces
    - Ensure parks and facilities are handicap accessible AND handicap pathways are well labeled
    - Improve security
        - "Blue Light" cameras on trails
        - Increase presence of police or park monitors
        - Quicker responses during incidents
    - Improve maintenance
        - Create a cleanup crew (possible coordination with the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities)
    - Install water fountains at all playing fields
    - Utilize the Erie Canal Village for school trips
    - More trails to walk
        - Walking loops at parks
        - Nature trails
        - Benches and bench swings along trails (Bellamy Harbor Park)
    - Improved fishing facilities on the Mohawk River
    - Provide bathrooms at all parks during open hours
    - Look to neighboring cities for examples
        - Procter Park, Utica
- *Place a Green Dot on POST amenities that you think are adequate/good, and a red dot on POST amenities that needs improvements.*
    - Green Dots were placed at:
        - Rome Sand Plains
        - Rome Wildlife Management Area
        - Franklyn's Field (5)
            - Amenities missing includes a splash pad, water fountains
        - Mohawk River Trail
        - Pinti Field (4)
        - Belamy Harbor Park
            - Amenities missing included a BMX park, open restrooms, and food vendors (noted Buffalo Outer Harbor as example)
            - Amenities people enjoy include the docks, kayak launches, free kayaks, and the future skate park
        - Guyer Park
            - Amenities missing included more seating areas and picnic areas and a splash pad
    - Red Dots were places at:
        - Stevens Field (3)
            - Amenities missing include programming and activities, consistent maintenance, and upgraded playground equipment
        - Pinti Field – noting security issues
        - Hollis Hewit Park – noting the need for more maintenance
        - Gryziec Field

Public Meeting #2 Engagement Boards

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan



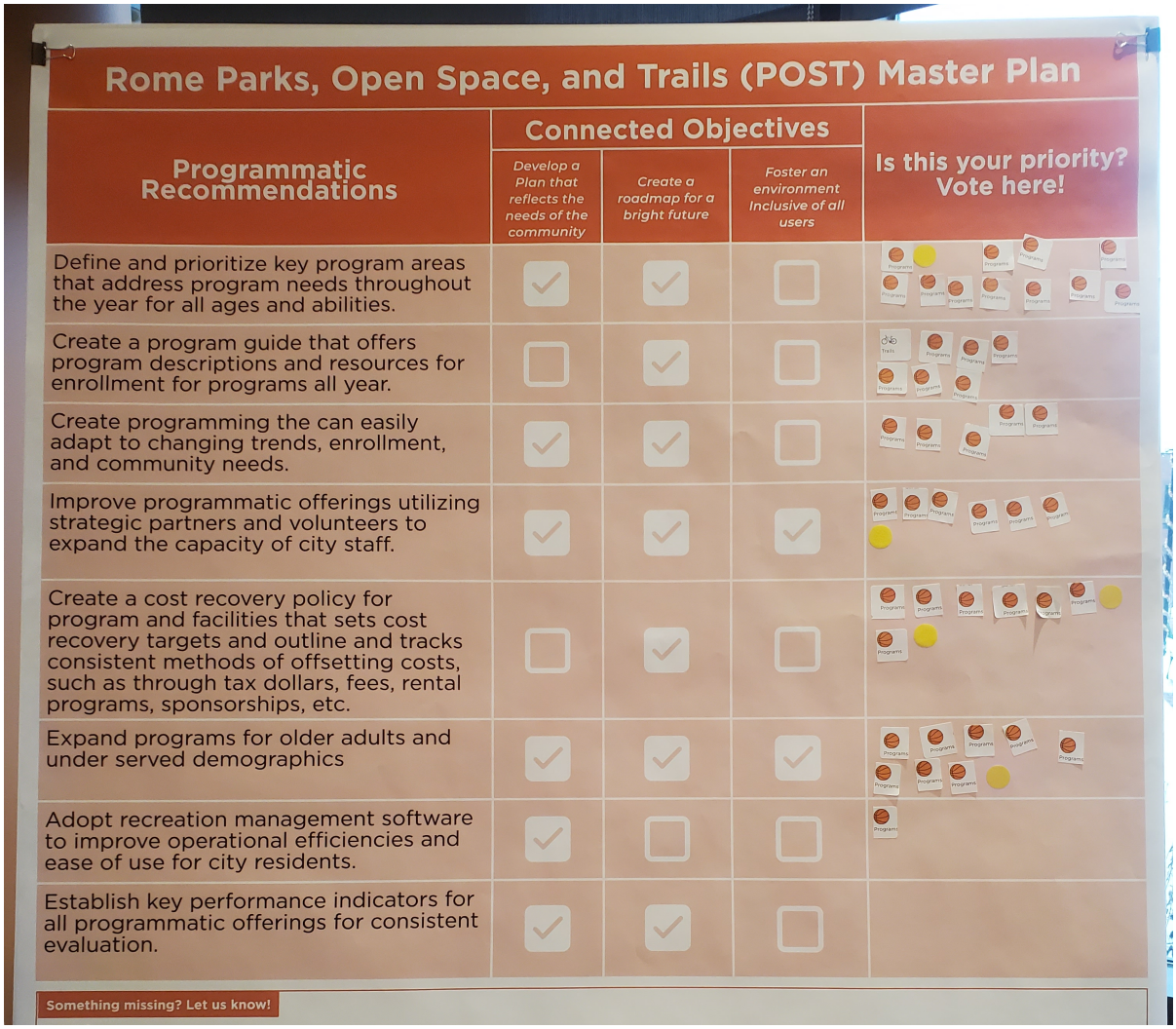


Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

NYS Canal Waterfront Facilities	Connected Objectives: Develop a Plan that reflects the needs of the community	Connected Objectives: Create a roadmap for a bright future	Connected Objectives: Foster an environment inclusive of all users	Is this your priority? Vote here!
Improve recreational boating access by fixing the seawall and docking at Bellamy Harbor Park and implementing the redesign of the Muck Road boat launch.	☑	☐	☑	
Improve and promote paddle craft (kayaks, canoes, etc.) Access and use along the Erie Canal and Mohawk River.	☑	☐	☑	
Create a facility that can host collegiate and high school level regattas at Bellamy Harbor Park	☐	☑	☐	
Implement the waterfront recommendations of the Downtown Rome BOA to support economic development and tourism.	☐	☑	☐	
Collaborate with NYS Canal Corporation and NY Power Authority to support state and regional initiatives and leverage available resources.	☐	☑	☐	
Improve amenities for events at Bellamy Harbor Park, including transforming the Terminal Building into a welcome center with bathrooms and installing a permanent outdoor stage with electricity.	☑	☑	☐	

Something missing? Let us know!

Write & stick it here



Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Programmatic Recommendations	Connected Objectives: Develop a Plan that reflects the needs of the community	Connected Objectives: Create a roadmap for a bright future	Connected Objectives: Foster an environment inclusive of all users	Is this your priority? Vote here!
Define and prioritize key program areas that address program needs throughout the year for all ages and abilities.	☑	☑	☐	
Create a program guide that offers program descriptions and resources for enrollment for programs all year.	☐	☑	☐	
Create programming the can easily adapt to changing trends, enrollment, and community needs.	☑	☑	☐	
Improve programmatic offerings utilizing strategic partners and volunteers to expand the capacity of city staff.	☑	☑	☑	
Create a cost recovery policy for program and facilities that sets cost recovery targets and outline and tracks consistent methods of offsetting costs, such as through tax dollars, fees, rental programs, sponsorships, etc.	☐	☑	☐	
Expand programs for older adults and under served demographics	☑	☑	☑	
Adopt recreation management software to improve operational efficiencies and ease of use for city residents.	☑	☐	☐	
Establish key performance indicators for all programmatic offerings for consistent evaluation.	☑	☑	☐	

Something missing? Let us know!

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Trails and Connectivity Recommendations	Connected Objectives			Is this your priority? Vote here!
	Develop a Plan that reflects the needs of the community	*Create a roadmap for a bright future*	*Foster an environment Inclusive of all users*	
Expand the trail network and protected on-road bike/ped. facilities to connect to regional attractions, economic centers, neighborhoods, and schools.	☑	☑	☐	
Complete the off-road connection for the Erie Canalway Trial from South Charles St. to Muck Road while improving trail access and safety of the on-road trail through the downtown corridor.	☑	☑	☑	
Invest in technology to monitor, report, and respond to safety incidents on trails and in parks.	☐	☑	☑	
Separate bikes and pedestrians on sections of trails where widths allow, especially in areas with sharp curves or low visibility.	☐	☐	☑	
Create and implement a Winter Maintenance Plan for the trail system, including trail parking areas	☑	☑	☐	
Create protected and dedicated trail infrastructure at challenging areas of on-road trails, such as bridges and overpasses	☑	☐	☑	
Create a Rome History Trail utilizing the trail network.	☐	☑	☐	
Create a volunteer-based Adopt-a-Trail program for the Mohawk River Trail, similar to what is in place for the Erie Canalway Trail.	☐	☑	☐	

Something missing? Let us know!

Write & stick it here

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

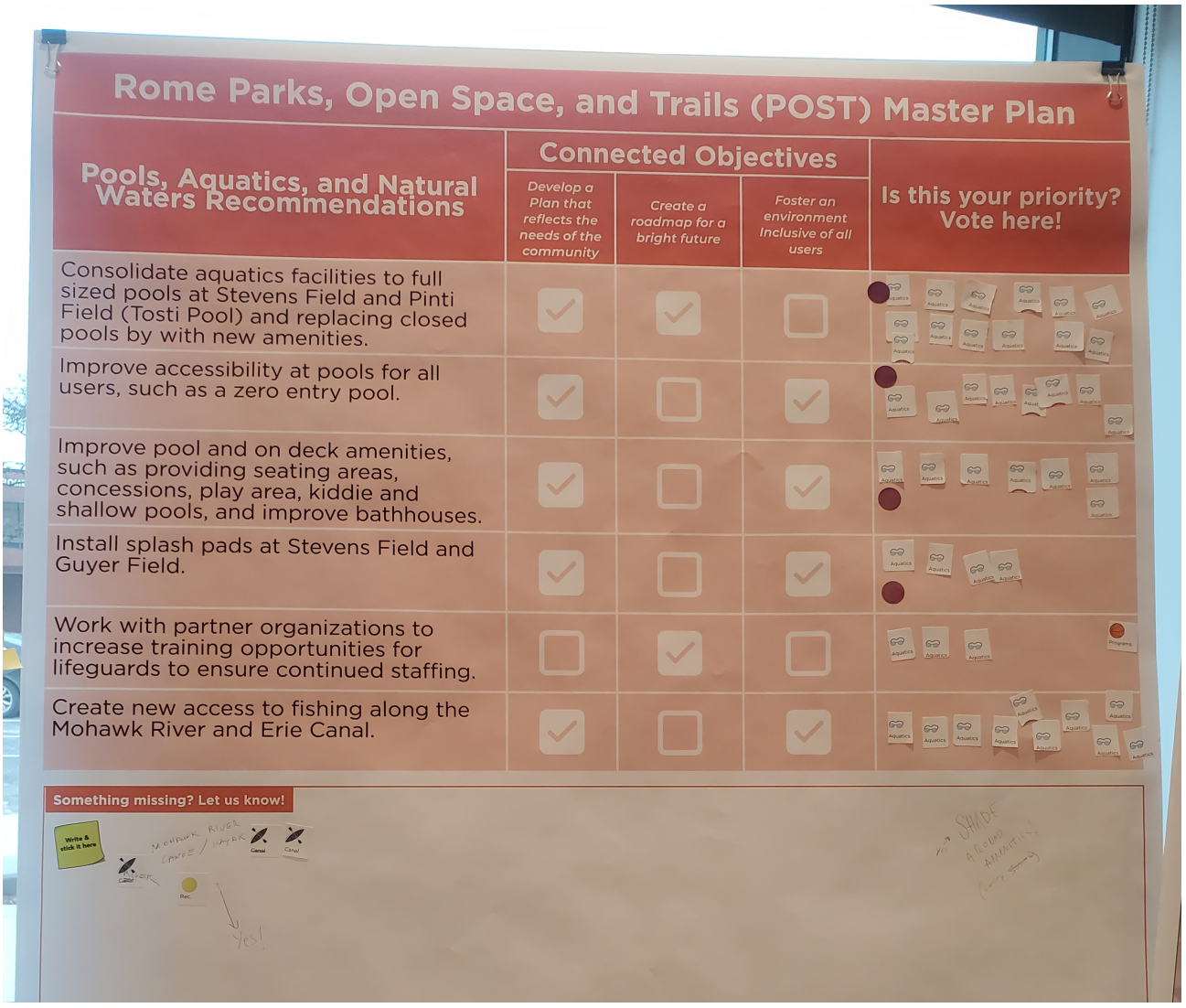
Indoor and Outdoor Recreation Recommendations	Connected Objectives			Is this your priority? Vote here!
	Develop a Plan that reflects the needs of the community	*Create a roadmap for a bright future*	*Foster an environment Inclusive of all users*	
Increase access to indoor and outdoor pickleball.	☑	☐	☑	
Develop a youth sports hub at Bell Road with improved lighting, bleachers, concession areas, and multipurpose fields that can be shared by organizations.	☐	☑	☐	
Create a committee to develop a plan to repurpose underutilized ball field for more in-demand uses.	☐	☑	☑	
Work with a partner organizations to create a nature education center.	☐	☑	☐	
Construct dedicated facilities for action sports such as BMX and mountain biking.	☑	☐	☑	
Construct walking loops at existing parks, where space allows.	☑	☐	☑	
Construct an indoor sports field facility that can hold activities during all seasons.	☑	☑	☐	
Reuse underutilized or vacant buildings to construct indoor sports court facilities for pickleball, basketball, and other hard courts	☑	☑	☑	
Repurpose the existing small baseball field at Franklyn's Field to a wiffleball field	☑	☑	☐	

Something missing? Let us know!

Write & stick it here

Dog Park at Franklyns Field Left side rear field (interfaces)

ROME
the copper city


Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Pools, Aquatics, and Natural Waters Recommendations
Connected Objectives
Develop a Plan that reflects the needs of the community
Create a roadmap for a bright future
Foster an environment Inclusive of all users
Is this your priority? Vote here!
Consolidate aquatics facilities to full sized pools at Stevens Field and Pinti Field (Tosti Pool) and replacing closed pools by with new amenities.
Improve accessibility at pools for all users, such as a zero entry pool.
Improve pool and on deck amenities, such as providing seating areas, concessions, play area, kiddie and shallow pools, and improve bathhouses.
Install splash pads at Stevens Field and Guyer Field.
Work with partner organizations to increase training opportunities for lifeguards to ensure continued staffing.
Create new access to fishing along the Mohawk River and Erie Canal.
Something missing? Let us know!
Write & stick it here
Yes!

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

Regional Park Concept Plan



Something missing? Let us know!



Public Meeting #2 Photos

Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails Master Plan




Roma Parks Open Space and Trails Master Plan
Programming


Roma Parks Open Space and Trails Master Plan
Engagement Activity
CODES
EXIT


Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Connected Objectives
Kennedy Arena & Municipal Pool Concept Plan
Regional Park Concept Plan
Canyon Park Concept Plan
DORITOS


Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan
Kennedy Arena & Municipal Pool Concept Plan
Regional Park Concept Plan
Canyon Park Concept Plan
DORITOS