

# Jamesville Beach Park History

In 1870, the Erie Canal Commission requested funds from the state to construct a dam on Butternut Creek, south of the village of Jamesville. This dam would create a reservoir which would help maintain the water levels on the canal and prevent larger boats from going aground. Completed in 1874 at a cost of \$130,000, the 250 acre reservoir had an average depth of 64 feet and a total capacity of 1,070,000 cubic feet, and could supply the canal with 2,000 cubic feet of water per minute for up to 60 days during the dry season. Swimming in the reservoir became popular among local residents near the dam and along the south side of the reservoir where the current park is located.

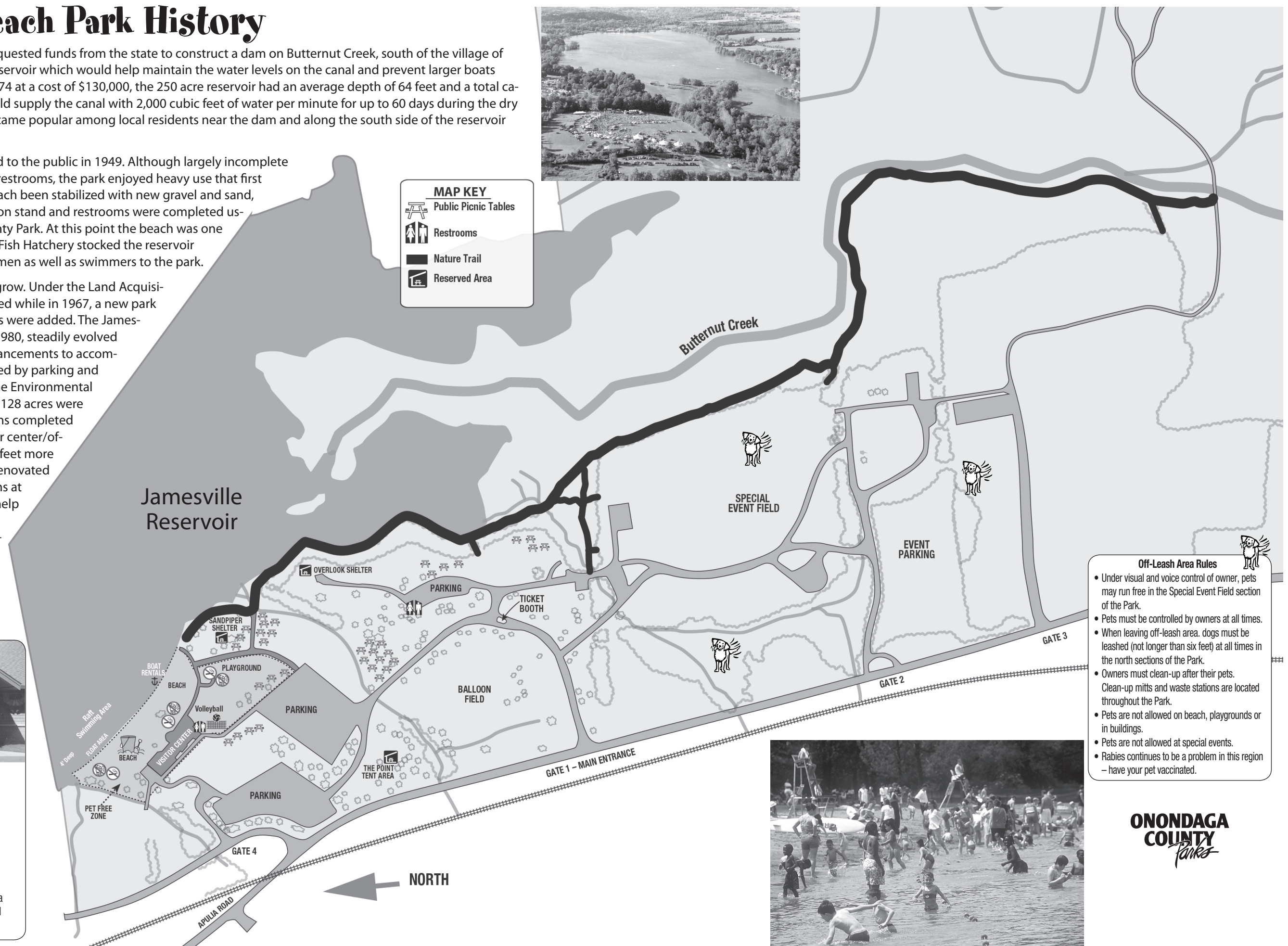
Jamesville Beach Park officially opened to the public in 1949. Although largely incomplete with only temporary bathhouses and restrooms, the park enjoyed heavy use that first summer. By 1950, not only had the beach been stabilized with new gravel and sand, but a permanent bathhouse, concession stand and restrooms were completed using lumber from Highland Forest County Park. At this point the beach was one half its current size. Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery stocked the reservoir with largemouth bass, bringing fishermen as well as swimmers to the park.

In the 1960's Jamesville continued to grow. Under the Land Acquisition Act in 1962, 80 acres was purchased while in 1967, a new park entrance, ticket booth and parking lots were added. The Jamesville Balloon Festival, which began in 1980, steadily evolved and provided rationale for facility enhancements to accommodate special event needs highlighted by parking and entertainment space. In 1996 under the Environmental Protection Fund Grant for Acquisition, 128 acres were purchased. Thanks to major renovations completed in 2000, Jamesville now boasts a visitor center/office building & maintenance area, 100 feet more beach, newer walkways and decks, a renovated Sandpiper Shelter, renovated restrooms at the Overlook Shelter and with a little help from the Friends of Jamesville Beach Park, a playground area. With the addition of the boat rental program and disc golf course in 2002, Jamesville Beach Park has become the perfect summer destination for all.



- At the Visitor Center**  
 Open 9am - 5pm during beach season
- Park Office/Information
  - Vending Machines
  - Tables with Umbrellas
  - Restrooms
  - Outdoor Showers
  - Disc Golf Discs & Scorecards
  - Season Passes

The shaded area surrounding the visitor center is a Pet Free Zone – for the safety and enjoyment of all visitors – no pets are permitted in this area.



- Off-Leash Area Rules**
- Under visual and voice control of owner, pets may run free in the Special Event Field section of the Park.
  - Pets must be controlled by owners at all times.
  - When leaving off-leash area, dogs must be leashed (not longer than six feet) at all times in the north sections of the Park.
  - Owners must clean-up after their pets. Clean-up mitts and waste stations are located throughout the Park.
  - Pets are not allowed on beach, playgrounds or in buildings.
  - Pets are not allowed at special events.
  - Rabies continues to be a problem in this region – have your pet vaccinated.



**ONONDAGA COUNTY**  
*Parks*