

# NEAHWA PARK

## DAMASCHKE OUTDOOR EXHIBITION City of Oneonta, New York



Outdoor Exhibition Plan  
Damaschke Field, Oneonta, New York

Damaschke Field, located in Oneonta, New York, has served as an important community gathering space from 1905 to the present. The field reflects the changing dynamics of the city and has provided a space for citizens to gather and interact through the sport of baseball. A future exhibition, located in the green space near the field's structure, will focus on the field and the community's history from the early twentieth century to the present day. Rather than concentrating on the story from the narrative of purely the history of baseball, the core of the exhibition will come from personal narratives of community members and those people affiliated with the variety of baseball teams that have used the space. The continuing use of Damaschke Field for sporting and community events allows this exhibition to tell an important, personal story for visitors to explore today.

The field, located in Neahwa Park, primarily serves visitors to Damaschke Field and the surrounding Neahwa Park grounds. Label copy and marketing materials will focus on local residents, college students, and families; audiences to whom the exhibition will attract. A rectangular patch of grass approximately 3,900 square feet in area is available for a permanent, outdoor exhibition, which will include panels and a seating area composed of benches. Due to concerns about safety and weather conditions, no objects will be included. However, digitized photographs and a list of players who started their careers in Damaschke Field and moved to the major leagues will be integrated into the outdoor panels.

A group of active community leaders has been assembled to consult on the project and assist in the direction of the exhibit's story. The proposed exhibition will drive visitation to the site and associated marketing materials will align with the city of Oneonta's overall plan to boost sports tourism to the region. This exhibition is currently not funded, but potential donors include community members, local organizations, and the city of Oneonta. Additional funding could be provided through grants related to New York's tourism initiatives.

Consultants from the Cooperstown Graduate Program will develop a concept plan for the proposed Damaschke Field outdoor exhibition site. The consultants will conduct research pertaining to the history of baseball in Oneonta, evaluate exhibition stories, recommend exhibition materials and types of panels, create a preliminary design model, meet with community leaders, and draft a budget for the proposed project.