FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Penfield Announces Sherwood Park Opening August 13, 12:00 PM
- New 82-acre passive recreation park in East Penfield-

PENFIELD, N.Y., JULY 29, 2011 – The Town of Penfield will officially open Sherwood Park and dedicate the park’s Don Cranson memorial bridge on Saturday, August 13 at noon. Sherwood Park, located in East Penfield along the north side of Route 441 (use driveway of Fire Station No. 3 to access parking), features 82 acres of meadows, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands, streams and wildlife with an integrated multi-use trail system.

The park occupies land once owned by Robert and Polly Sherwood, a couple committed to the environment and wildlife rehabilitation. The Sherwoods acquired the land in the 1980s from a developer that abandoned plans for a subdivision in that location. The Sherwoods then reversed the subdivision zoning back to a single lot. In 1992 the Sherwoods entered into an Open Space easement with the Town of Penfield, giving the town the right to purchase the parcel at a future date.

Sherwood Park includes a bridge on the main trail that crosses the Commission Ditch waterway. The bridge will be dedicated to Don Cranson, a prominent Penfield hiking and wildlife advocate. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremony at Penfield Fire District Station No. 3, adjacent to the park.

Sherwood Park is a unique piece of property nestled in east Penfield that ties together woodland, fields, meadows, the Commission Ditch and adjacent wetlands, as well as a series of walkways and bridges. This park experience is like no other in Penfield. Our community is indeed fortunate to have this 82-acre gem that supports a diverse wildlife habitat as an integral
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part of our open space plans. It is fitting to honor Don Cranson with a memorial bridge. Like the Sherwoods, Don was committed to preservation and conservation," said Supervisor Tony LaFountain.

The Sherwood parcel ranked high on the Town of Penfield’s 2006 Open Space Update list of desirable properties, and the property was ultimately purchased from Robert Sherwood in 2007. Mr. Sherwood was deeply interested in preserving the land to honor his late wife Polly, a passionate wildlife rehabilitator. Since purchasing the land the town has been working with consultants to evaluate the property, solicit public input on land use, and develop a plan for passive public recreation.

Consultants from Environmental Design and Research (EDR) developed plans that include a hierarchy of trails for recreational use balanced with conservation. The design also calls for enhanced wetlands, and consideration for wildlife habitats.

The trail system features primary and secondary loops throughout the park; primary trails are handicap accessible, made of crushed stone and re-purposed millings from Monroe County and town road projects.

Trails may be used for passive activities like walking, hiking, snow shoeing, birding, cross-country skiing, cross-country running and orienteering. No motorized uses are allowed including ATVs, snowmobiles or motor bikes.

EDR’s plan of Sherwood Park is available on the Town of Penfield website at www.penfield.org. (City of Recreation, Recreation Plans.)

The Town of Penfield has preserved nearly 1,300 acres of Open Space since the Open Space referendum in 2002. Sherwood Park is marked with the Town of Penfield Recreation Open Space seal.

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