The Richmond Aqueduct was built on the Enlarged Erie Canal in 1849 to carry its waters over the Seneca River. This magnificent structure was an innovative and creative engineering solution to crossing the Seneca River. It was the second largest aqueduct built with 31 arches, spanning 894 feet long.

Montezuma Heritage Park is being developed for its significant cultural and natural resources. It represents the history of both the Town and the Region, and tells a fascinating story through both its natural and manmade landscape.

It provides the community and visitors with a natural setting to improve fitness health and well-being while preserving and promoting its Erie Canal Heritage. Opportunities exist for physical activity, recreation, rejuvenation, preventative health care and cultural enrichment.

The park preserves the remains of historic canal sites as both a recreational and an educational resource. The scenic trails encourage appreciation for nature and cultural heritage.

Adapt the pace of nature, her secret is patience.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Supported in part by a grant from Parks & Trails, New York, funded by the Healthy Heart Program of NYS Department of Health; Logo by ArtCraft, Auburn, NY
Mural by Dawn Jordan

There are two trailheads, one at High Street and the other at Chapman Road. The above mural is located at High Street along the Erie Canal towpath where it joined with the Cayuga-Seneca Canal in 1828.

About the Park

Montezuma Heritage Park includes 140 acres being developed as a “passive nature park.” It includes trails with historic remains of early Erie and Cayuga-Seneca Canal structures.

Future plans include a canoe and kayak launch, picnicking and primitive camping sites. Seven trails are currently under various stages of development.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#1</th>
<th>Byron Lapp Memorial Trail - Trailhead #1 begins at the former junction of the Erie and C &amp; S Canals on High Street.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Aqueduct Trail — Trailhead #2 on Chapman Road leads to the remains of the Richmond Aqueduct that carried the Erie Canal Waters over the Seneca River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Lock 62 Trail is off Trail #2 on the south side of Lock 62, one of the last locks remaining on the Clinton’s Ditch. It loops to the north side on Trail #7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Paper Mill Trail is located on the Erie Canal berm (south) side of the Enlarged Erie Canal. Remains of the Paper Mill can be seen where flag (cattails) were made into heavy cardboard paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Drumlin Trail gradually inclines to a drumlin hill. It loops around a reservoir that supplied water to the Paper Mill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>C &amp; S Lock 11 Trail loops along the Enlarged Erie Canal’s berm side and Clinton’s Ditch. It leads to the remains of Meil’s Drydock, a marsh lookout deck, and Cayuga-Seneca Canal Lock 11.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>New - Lock Tender’s Trail is located on the north side of Clinton’s Ditch, Lock 62 site. Starting from Chapman Road Parking lot, it connects to Trails #2 and #3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location

Located in the heart of the Finger Lakes Region, the park entrances are off Routes 90 or 31. Enter the park from Trailhead #1 on High Street next to the Firehouse, or at Trailhead #2 on Chapman Road.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Park is a proud Point of Interest on the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. It connects with other towns and villages located on the 524-mile Erie Canalway Trail being developed from Buffalo to Albany following both active and historic sections of the Erie Canal.

The Friends of the Montezuma Heritage Park was formed by the Montezuma Historical Society to support the Town of Montezuma in planning, developing and maintaining the park. It is an all volunteer group leading this effort. If you would like to become a supporter or help as a volunteer, fill out and return the form below.

Name________________________________
Address______________________________
City________________State____Zip_______
Phone: (     ) ____________________
Email ________________________________

☐ I am interested in learning about more about volunteering opportunities.

I would like to become a Friends of the Park Supporter:

☐ $10 Ditch Digger
☐ $25 Hoggee
☐ $50 Sal the Mule
☐ $100 Lock Tender
☐ $500 Canaller

Make Checks Payable to:
Montezuma Historical Society
PO Box 476, Montezuma, NY 13117
Phone: 315.776.4656
Email: cml115@tds.net

http://montezumahistoricalsociety.org

Montezuma Historical Society is a Not For Profit 501(c) 3 Chartered Organization through the NYS Education Department.
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