

Meeting #4
July 7, 2022, 5:00 pm

VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE

LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM UPDATE

WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) MEETING #4





**Department
of State**

This presentation was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.





[Agenda]

1
Welcome /
Schedule Update

2
Public
Engagement
Update

3
Revised LWRP
Vision &
Discussion



4
Discussion of Proposed
LWRP Projects

5
Discussion of Local
Implementation

6
Next Steps

WELCOME / SCHEDULE UPDATE



PROJECT TASK	DEC 2021	JAN 2022	FEB 2022	MAR 2022	APR 2022	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	JUL 2022	AUG 2022	SEP 2022	OCT 2022	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	JAN 2023	FEB 2023	MAR 2023
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	△		△			△		△		△		△		△		
TASK 6: PROJECT MEETING	⬠															
TASK 7: COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN				◇	■				◇							
TASK 8: SECTION I - WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION AREA BOUNDARY																
TASK 9: SECTION II - INVENTORY & ANALYSIS																
TASK 10: FIRST PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING					●											
TASK 11: SECTION III - LWRP PROGRAM POLICIES																
TASK 12: SECTION IV - PROPOSED LAND/WATER USES & PROJECTS						⬠										
TASK 13: SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING									●							
TASK 14: SECTION V - TECHNIQUES FOR LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION																
TASK 15: SECTION VI - FEDERAL/STATE ACTIONS AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION																
TASK 16: SECTION VII - LOCAL COMMITMENT & CONSULTATION																
TASK 17: SEQRA COMPLIANCE																
TASK 18: DRAFT LWRP (INCLUDES DOS LEGAL REVIEW & 60-DAY REVIEW)																

*Schedule is subject to change.

SYMBOL	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY
●	Public Meeting (Web-Based)
△	Waterfront Committee Meeting (Web-Based)
△	Waterfront Committee Meeting (In-Person)

SYMBOL	ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY
■	Stakeholder Group Meeting(Web-Based)
◇	Village Board Update (Web-Based)
⬠	Site Visit

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

- Online via Survey Monkey
- Live from April 26th until June 17th
- **Total of 49 Responses**
- Publicity Methods:
 - Village website
 - Survey Cards



The survey card features the Saranac Lake logo on the left, which includes the text "DECIDEDLY SARANAC LAKE DIFFERENT" and "saranack.com". To the right of the logo, the text reads "Village of Saranac Lake Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update" and "WATERFRONT SURVEY". Below this, it says "Share your input and be part of the Saranac Lake LWRP Update!". Further down, it provides the instruction "To take the survey, scan the QR card on the back or go to this link:" followed by the URL "www.SaranacLakeNY.gov". At the bottom, it states "For more information visit the Project page at www.saranaclakeNY.gov".



This section contains a QR code and the text "Scan the QR code to access the survey on your mobile device". Below the QR code, it states "This survey was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund."



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

- 15 Questions
- Survey Topic Areas:
 - Participant Information
 - Village Waterfront Resources
 - Community Visioning
 - Other Thoughts



DECIDEDLY SARANAC LAKE DIFFERENT
Saranac Lake
@saranacknys

Village of Saranac Lake
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update
WATERFRONT SURVEY

Share your input and be part of the Saranac Lake LWRP Update!

To take the survey, scan the QR card on the back or go to this link:

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[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

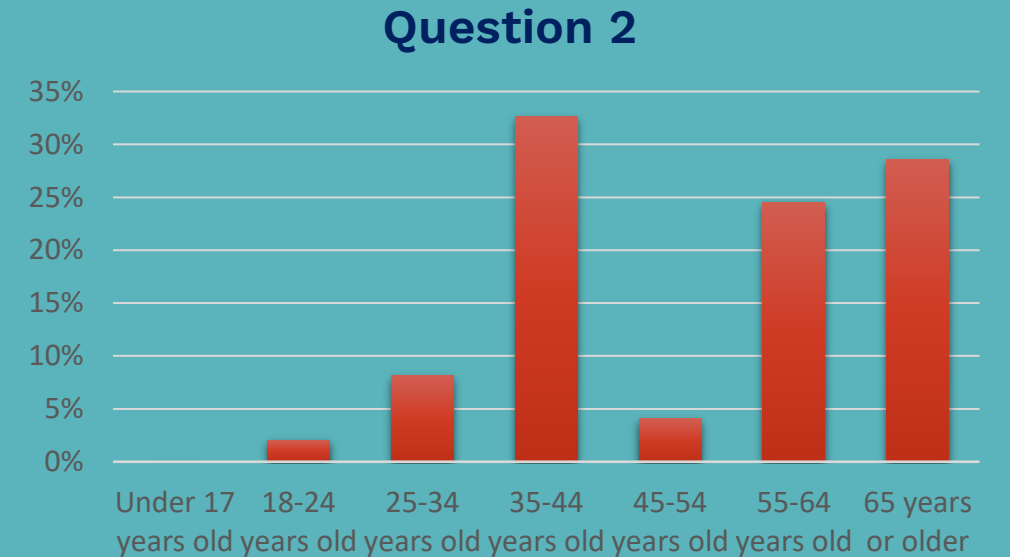
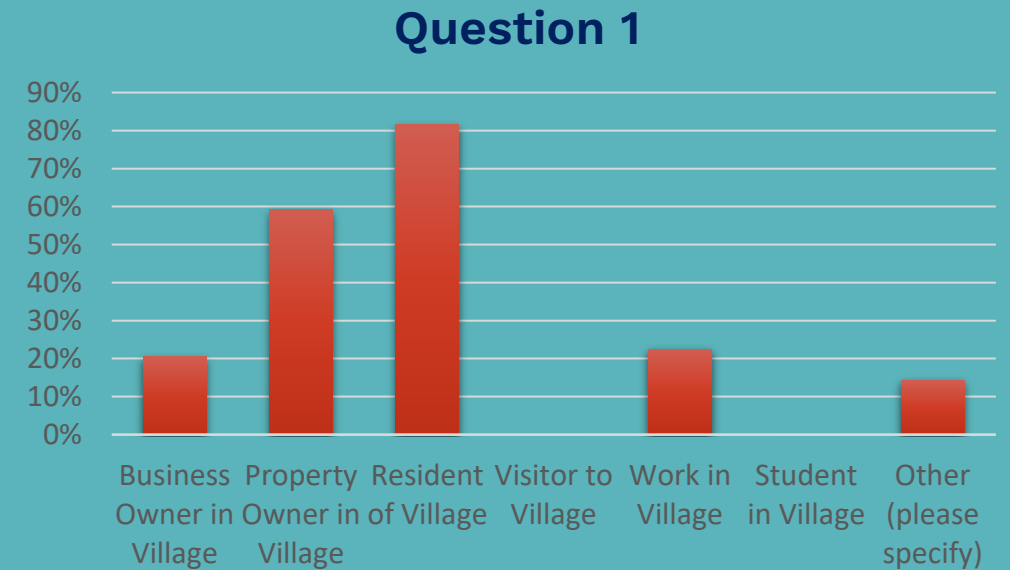
Participant Information

Q1: Please select all that apply to you.

- A majority of respondents reside/own property in the Village.
- No responses from students or visitors

Q2: Please indicate your age.

- Most represented age group was 35-44
- More than half of respondents 55+



[Public Engagement]

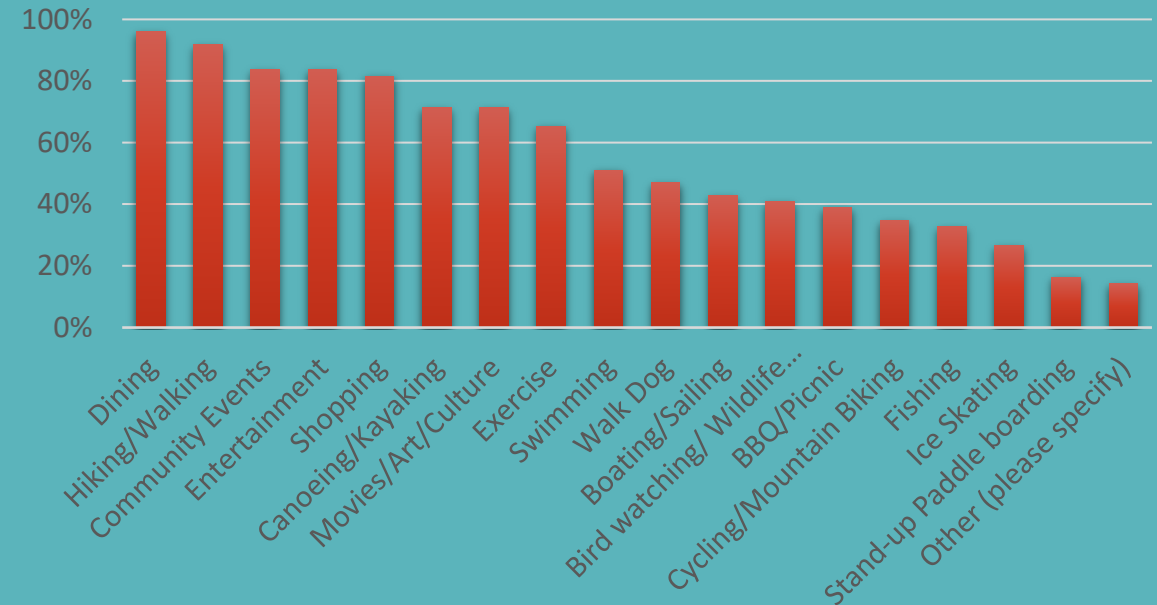
Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q4: Which of the following activities do you like to do within the Village of Saranac Lake?

- Almost all respondents indicated that dining was an attraction
- Other top responses included Hiking/Walking, Community Events, Entertainment, and Shopping
- Cross-country skiing, pickleball, and visiting the library were write-in responses to Other

Question 4



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q6: *Recreational resources within the Village include the following. Please select all that you have visited in the past year.*

- More than 4 in 5 respondents had visited Prescott Park/Ice Palace, Riverside Park, Berkeley Green, and the Saranac Lake Riverwalk in the past year
- Fewer than one-third of respondents had visited Ampersand Park, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Ward-Plumadore Park, and the Skate Park
- Approx. two-thirds had used the Rail Trail

Question 6



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q7: How do you usually travel to the recreational resources in the Village of Saranac Lake?

- Approx. 45% of respondents indicated that they walk to recreational resources
- Approx. 10% of respondents reported biking to Village recreational resources



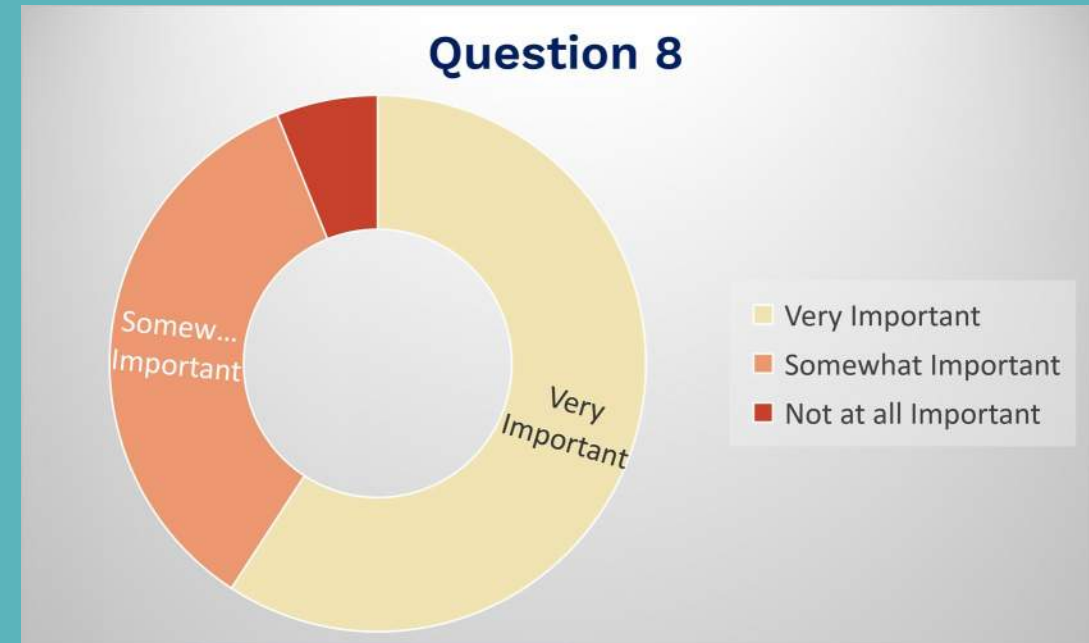
[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q8: *How important to you is expanding public access and connections to the waterfront?*

- Almost 60% of respondents indicated that expanding waterfront access is Very Important
- Only 6% of survey participants felt expanded access was Not Important at All



[Public Engagement]

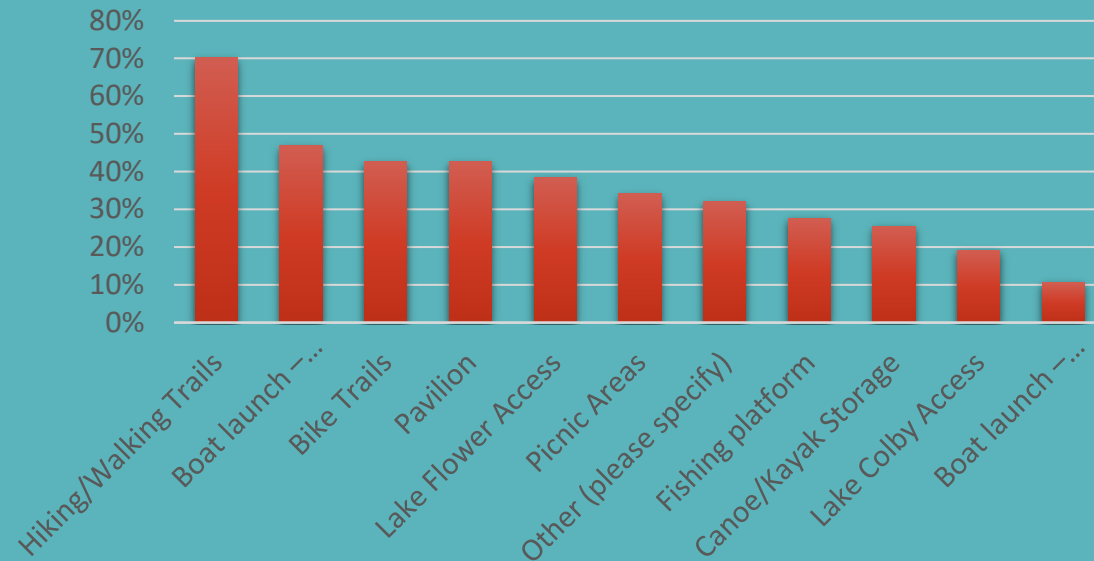
Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q9: *If additional waterfront opportunities were added within the Village, what would you like to see more of?*

- Trails received significant support: 70% for hiking/walking trails and 43% for bike trails
- A boat launch for canoes/kayaks/paddleboards was supported by 47% of respondents; only 10% supported boat launch for motorized boats
- Of those who replied Other, several identified pickleball/tennis/basketball courts

Question 9



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q11: *Please identify your top 3 concerns or challenges relating to the waterfront:*

- Forty (40) survey participants responded
- Three most prevalent themes among responses were access, cleanliness, and environmental conservation/protection
- Physical and *visual* access to the water mentioned numerous times
- Cleanliness issues included trash/goose droppings in waterfront areas
- Wide range of other concerns – noise, parking, beach development – included in comments



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Village Waterfront Resources

Q12: *Please identify your top 3 opportunities relating to the waterfront:*

- Thirty-six (36) survey participants responded to this question
- Three most prevalent themes among responses were:
 - Improvements to swimming/boating infrastructure
 - Enhancing the visual/aesthetic appeal of waterfront areas
 - Upgrades to the bandshell for live music
- Other respondents identified opportunities for educational features at the waterfront and opportunities to address perceived safety issues, among other ideas



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights

Community Visioning

Q13: *In a few words, describe your vision for the future of the Saranac Lake waterfront*

- Thirty-three (33) survey participants responded to this question
- The majority of survey participants included accessibility in response:
 - “A clean, well maintained easily accessible waterfront for everyone to enjoy”
 - “Accessible and aesthetically pleasing gateway to the Village”
 - “Accessible but with reasonable restrictions”
- Many respondents explicitly mentioned a desire to limit development in waterfront areas



[Public Engagement]

Waterfront Survey Highlights



REVISED LWRP Vision & Discussion



[Draft LWRP Vision]

LWRP Vision Overview

- The LWRP expresses a vision for the WRA and provides the means to achieve that vision
- A vision is a desired future
- Draft Vision incorporates WAC, Stakeholder and Public feedback.



[Draft LWRP Vision]

Draft Vision

“The Saranac Lake waterfront will be a destination, providing water access and amenities for all ages, abilities and income levels. Saranac Lake will leverage its unique location by improving public spaces, supporting water-based and water-dependent uses, and enhancing bicycle, pedestrian and blueway connections throughout the Village and region. The waterfront area will maintain a balance of development and resource protection through the implementation of green infrastructure techniques and best management practices.”



[Draft LWRP Vision]

Revised Vision

“Waterfront areas will act as the warp in the fabric of Saranac Lake life. Trailways for walking, cycling, paddling, and skiing will weave together the built environment with the water resources that make the Village so uniquely attractive to residents and visitors alike. Stewardship of the waterfront will reflect its status as a local treasure, balancing the goal of expanded access for all with the implementation of environmental practices that ensure the sustainable health of connected ecosystems.”



DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED LWRP PROJECTS

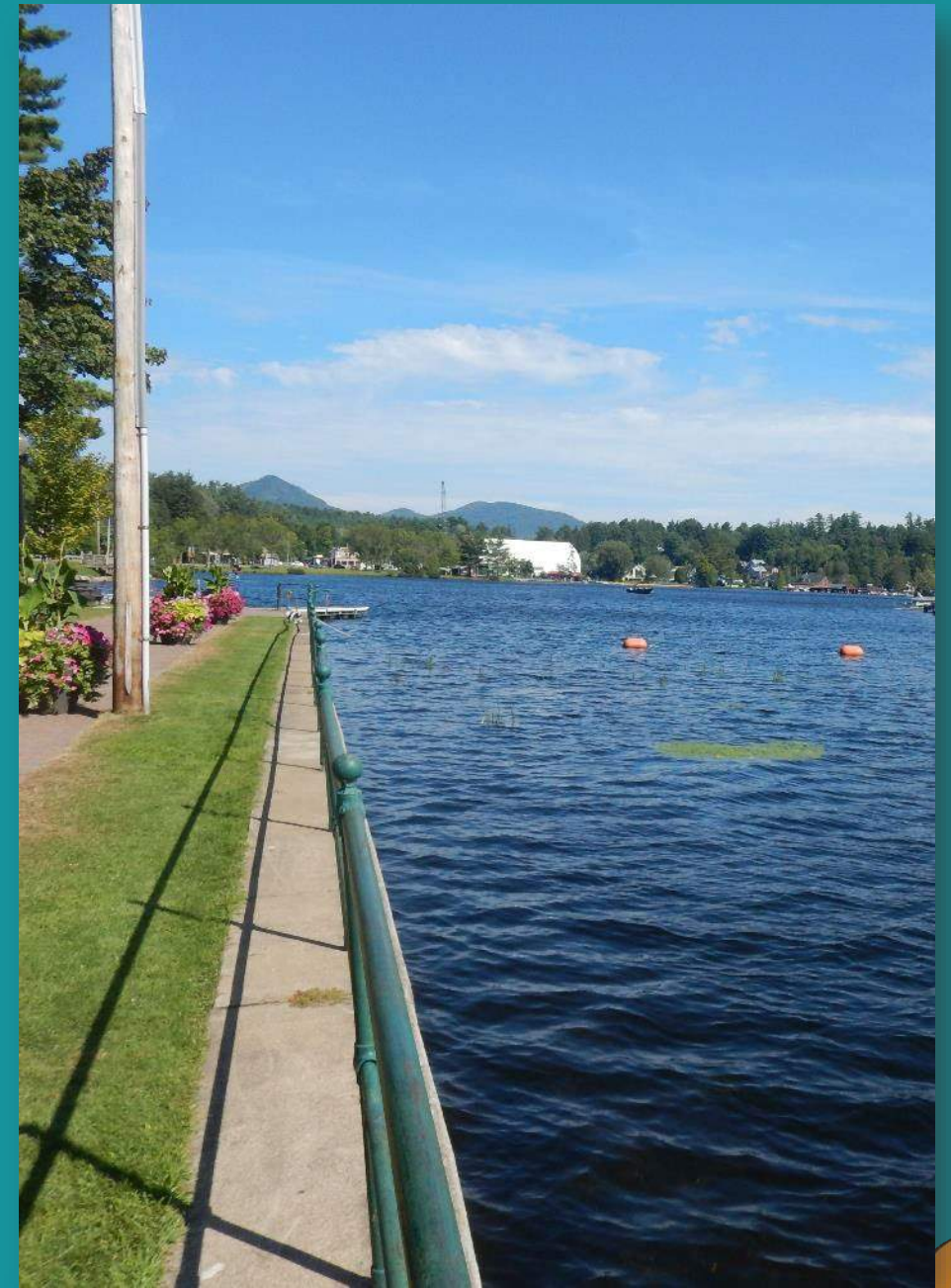


[Initial Projects]

Key Project Categories

(From WAC, Stakeholder and Public Input)

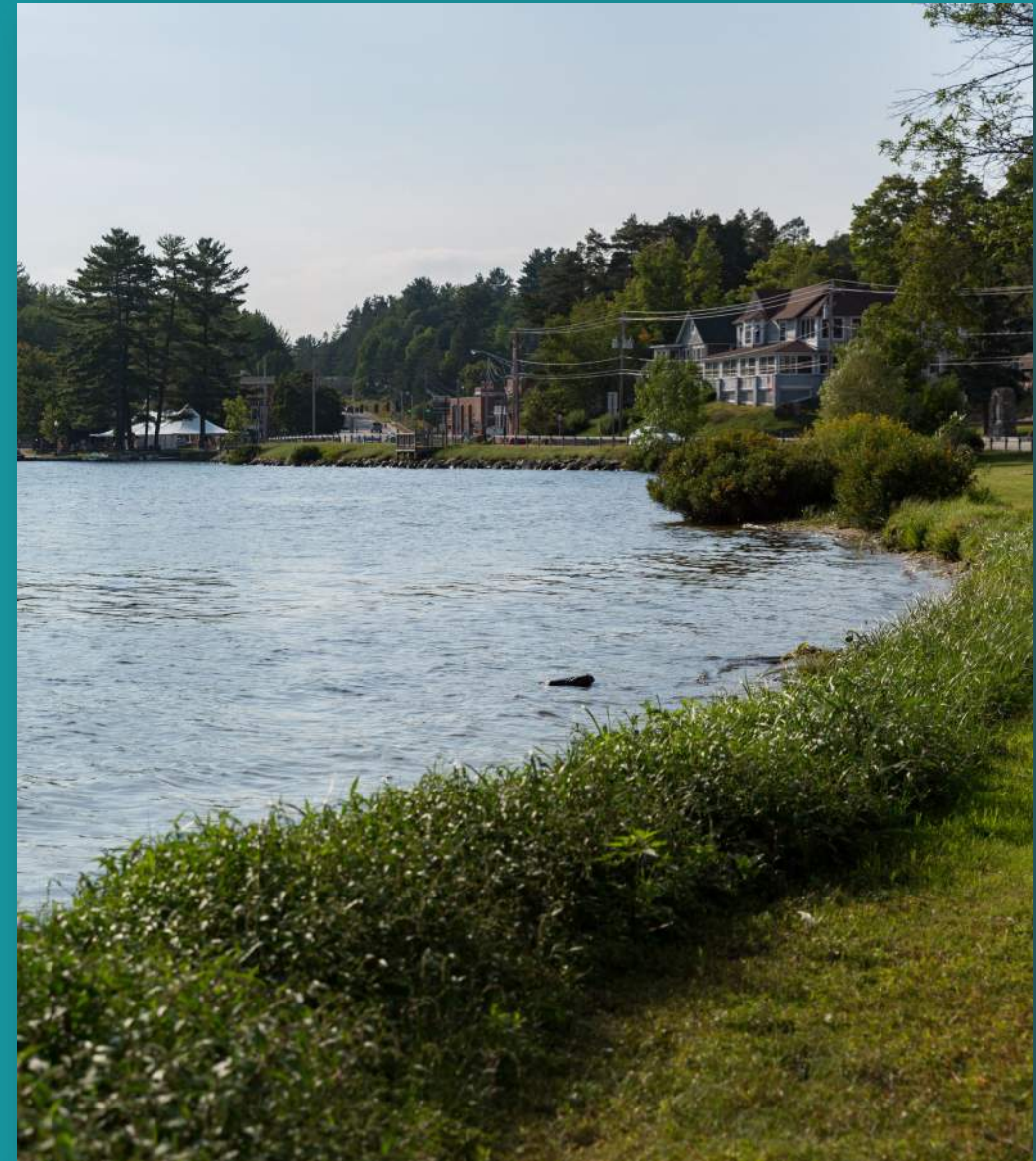
- Water Quality & Resiliency
- Connections
- Waterfront Access, Amenities & Improvements
- Education, Art & Interpretation
- Infrastructure



[Initial Projects]

Water Quality & Resiliency

- Green Infrastructure Planning & Implementation
- Shoreline Protection Program
 - Invasive Species Inventory
 - Shoreline Inventory/Monitoring
 - Landowner Education
 - Riparian & Native Plantings
- Partnerships with State Agencies on Water Quality (DEC, DOT)
 - Ex. Road Salt, Fish stocking, Boat Wash



[Initial Projects]

Connections

- Lake Colby Beach
 - Trail, ADA Improvements to Lake Colby Beach (Broadway)
- River Street Corridor
 - Rail Trail Connection Improvements
 - Protected Bike lanes
 - Pedestrian connections on River Street (crossings to Lake Flower)
 - Streetscape improvements
 - Signage/Branding Connecting Rail Trail to Riverwalk, Canoe Carry



[Initial Projects]

Waterfront Access, Amenities & Improvements

- Riverside Park Improvements
 - Public Restrooms
 - Seating improvements for all ages
 - Additional Docking, Kayak rack/rentals
- Prescott & Riverfront Park Improvements
 - Lake Flower Trail
 - Riparian & Native Plantings
 - Improvements to Canoe/Kayak Put-in
 - Fishing Access



[Initial Projects]

Waterfront Access, Amenities & Improvements

- William Wallace/Lake Colby Beach
 - Beach, Parking Improvements
 - Canoe/Kayak Launch, rack, rentals
 - Accessible fishing, launch access
- Kids Recreation Program
 - Free/low cost equipment rentals
 - Voucher program through ADK Lakes & Trails, seasonal lending permits.
 - Free/low cost Water Safety Courses



[Initial Projects]

Education, Art & Interpretation

- Lake Flower Art & Interpretation
 - Rotating Interpretation on Lake Flower Trail
 - Public Art at Riverfront Park (ex. Projection Art)
 - Refresh Riverwalk Murals
 - Inventory & Modernize Information Kiosks
- Programming partnerships for Educating Visitors & Residents
 - Free/Low Cost Boater Safety
 - Water Quality, Pollution, Invasive Species
 - Loon Center, Paul Smith's, ROOST, etc.



[Initial Projects]

Infrastructure

- Dam Improvement/Modernization Study
 - Identify long term needs, improve controls, modernization, hydraulic gates/turbines, resiliency.
- Water Infrastructure Improvements on NY86
 - Coordinate with DOT roadwork
- Wastewater Plant Improvements
 - Capture methane (Cogen)
 - Solar panels (on roofs over drying beds)



DISCUSSION OF LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION



[Implementing the LWRP*]

- Capital projects
- Apply for grants
- Local land use controls
- Ongoing process
 - Updating the LWRP
- Local Consistency Review of local actions



[Local Implementation]

- Local Laws & Regulations
 - Local Waterfront Consistency Review Law (Waterfront Assessment Form)
 - Zoning Amendments
 - New Regulations
- Local Management Structure
 - Procedures for Consistency Law and Waterfront Assessment Form

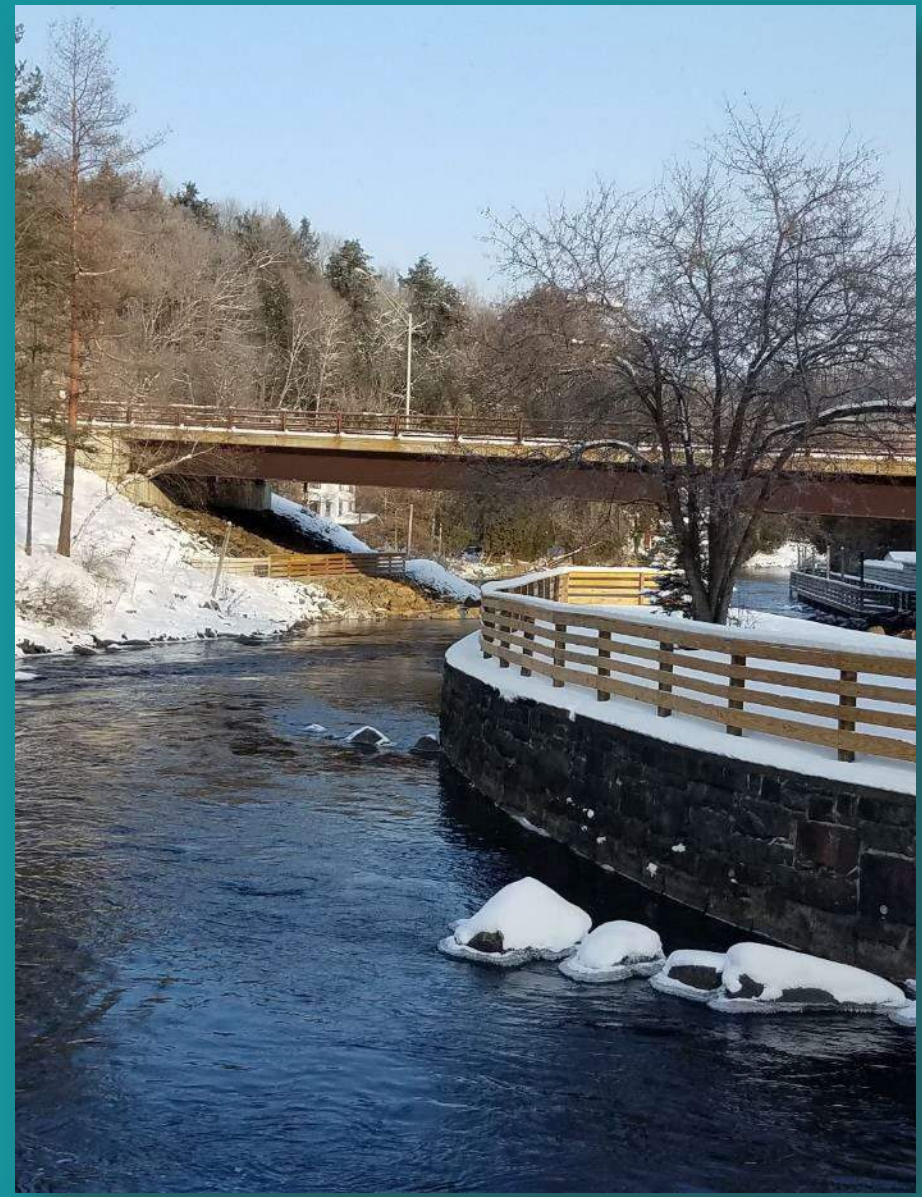


NEXT STEPS



[Next Steps]

- WAC #5 – September 8
- Public Workshop #2 – TBD Fall 2022
- Continue Inventory and Analysis
- MJ to Further Refine Projects



THANK YOU!

