

APPENDIX A

RESULTS OF LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (LWRP)  
SURVEY

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#### LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

##### A. INTRODUCTION

The following information summarizes the key findings gathered from the waterfront survey. Attachment "A" to this memo includes a summary tabulation of the total responses to each question. Twenty-three (23) people participated in the survey.

##### B. ISSUES RECEIVING AN OVERALL HIGH PRIORITY RATING

The majority of responses to the following issues were clustered in the "medium" and "maximum" priority columns.

###### 1. Niagara River

- a. Improve physical appearance of the River Road corridor.
- b. Promote continuous public open space wherever possible between the Town of Wheatfield boundary line and Robinson Street. (The responses by the Mayor and the Common Council gave this a low priority.)
- c. Expand boating and fishing opportunities.
- d. Address problems of inactive hazardous waste sites at Gratwick/Riverside Park.

###### 2. Tonawanda Island

- a. Improve physical appearance of the Island through landscaping and design controls.

###### 3. Downtown

- a. Promote the integration of downtown revitalization efforts with waterfront.
- b. Emphasize the historic character of buildings and sites along the Canal.

###### 4. Barge Canal-West and Barge Canal- East

- a. Encourage more stringent controls by NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding Barge Canal permits.

- b. Improve the availability of parking facilities for recreational users along the Canal.
- c. Protect scenic vistas along the Canal.
- d. Improve landscaping along the Canal.
- e. Increase and improve the supply of parking at the Service Drive launch ramp.
- f. Expand and improve facilities at Mayor's Park.

C. ISSUES RECEIVING AN OVERALL LOW PRIORITY RATING

The majority of responses to the following issues were clustered in the "low" and "no" priority columns.

1. Niagara River

- a. Promote residential and commercial redevelopment between Robinson Street and Gratwick Park with no provision for public access to the water's edge.

2. Barge Canal-West

- a. Widen the roadway surface of Sweeney Street.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

Comments written in at end of survey.

1. Niagara River

- a. Remove unsightly railroad tracks on west side of River Road.
- b. Remove all boathouses in the River Road/Goundry Street area; land should be converted to open space.
- c. Clean up area under the Seymour Street Bridge.
- d. Dredge slips at Fisherman's Park.
- e. Provide dredging, toilets, and lights at Fisherman's Park.
- f. Improve launch ramp at Gratwick/Riverside Park.
- g. Maintain waterfront for water-related uses; industrial expansion should occur on the east side of River Road.

2. Tonawanda Island

- a. Provide public access to a "free" pier extending into Niagara River on the west side of Island for fishermen.

- b. Transfer fire-training to another area - present site better suited for other uses.
- c. Reorient north end of Island for residential use.
- d. Fix bumps on bridge.
- e. Remove railroad tracks that cross Michigan Street by Taylor Devices.
- f. Widen Michigan Street
- g. Enforce "no parking" on Michigan Street.
- h. Because the Island is privately owned, government should avoid involvement and concentrate on public areas.

### 3. DOWNTOWN

- a. Complete transient docks project.
- b. Promote a uniform modernization program for downtown structures.
- c. No new construction downtown; work with existing historic buildings.
- d. Relocate the Farmer's Market to Manhattan Street behind Murphy's so senior citizens can walk to it.
- e. Remove all parking areas on the south side of Sweeney Street and restore it to former park area.
- f. Remove "one way" traffic on Sweeney between Webster and Manhattan Streets.
- g. Return the Bascule Bridge.

### 4. Barge Canal-West and Barge Canal-East

- a. Discourage junkyard (automotive) accumulation between Main Street and Vandervoort Street.
- b. Regulate marina operations along the Canal.
- c. Do not issue new NYS DOT permits for boathouses once existing ones expire.
- d. Begin removal and trimming of the willow trees.
- e. Pave shoulders of Sweeney Street.
- f. Going east on Sweeney Street, widen road at intersections where left-handed turns are made onto local streets.

- g. Require frequent checks to make sure boathouses are maintained.
- h. Along Mayor's Park, develop some type of wall for boats to use as docking facilities.
- i. Botanical Gardens parking is sufficient.
- j. Improve turning conditions off Robinson Street Bridge.

5. Other

- a. Encourage cooperation between public and private sectors in waterfront initiatives.
- b. Return waterfront to open space rather than industry.
- c. Improve the rear facades on Webster Street because that is the first impression people get of the City when traveling on River Road.
- d. Maximize recreational efforts along Canal River; construct a bike path along both waterways and connect to other city attractions.
- e. Downtown area should be redesigned to attract boaters to stop and shop; adequate parking, landscaping, and maintenance are essential.
- f. Promote the Tonawanda Iron Works site as the prime waterfront industrial site.
- g. End dual tax system.
- h. Provide tax incentives for private waterfront development.
- i. Assess waterfront improvements fairly.
- j. Promote recreational use of Canal and River by adding docks and launches at public parks.
- k. In regard to Weatherbest Slip, City should sell property to private owner, thereby encouraging improvements.
- l. Would like to see area from Fisherman's Park to Wardell's filled with residential uses and small shops.
- m. No heavy industry along the waterfront.
- n. Sweeney Street, from the Delaware Street Bridge to Niagara Falls Boulevard should be resurfaced.

o. The City and State should take an active role in enhancing the Tonawanda Iron Works site.

(1) The City should provide the proper sewer/water services to the property by installing an adequate sewer-water main along west side of River Road.

(2) The City should seek removal of the railroad on the east side of River Road. No commercial concerns will locate on the site because of the tracks.

ATTACHMENT "A"

WATERFRONT SURVEY  
CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK

PRIORITY MOST DESIRED FOR PARTICULAR WATERFRONT SUB AREA  
(SEE MAP)

Please place an X in the column which best reflects your position regarding the level of priority that the City's waterfront program should devote to each of the points described below.

SUB-AREA	<u>No Priority</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
1. <u>NIAGARA RIVER</u>				
This area extends from the Town of Wheatfield border to the Seymour Street Bridge along River Road (excluding Tonawanda Island).				
a. Improve physical appearance of boatyard and houseboat area between Seymour Street Bridge and Goundry Street	2	7	6	7
b. Improve physical appearance of River Road corridor with landscaping, sign controls, etc.	0	6	13	4
c. Promote continuous public open space wherever possible between the Town of Wheatfield boundary and E. Robinson Street.	4	5	7	7
d. Promote residential and commercial redevelopment between E. Robinson Street and Gratwick Park with no provision for public access to the water's edge.	8	6	3	6
e. Same as (d) above, but provide for public access along the water's edge in all redevelopment plans.	8	4	5	5
f. Continue to promote industrial use between e. Robinson Street and Gratwick Park.	3	3	5	1

SUB-AREA	No <u>Priority</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
g. Expand boating and fishing opportunities.	3	2	8	7
h. Address problem of inactive hazardous waste site at Gratwick Park.	2	5	4	11
i. Other (please specify below)				
2. <u>TONAWANDA ISLAND</u>				
a. Continue the promotion of industrial and commercial/marine uses.	3	6	7	7
b. Re-orient future Island development to recreational/residential uses.	4	7	5	7
c. Improve physical appearance of the Island through landscaping signage and design controls.	1	5	9	6
d. Provide public access to the southern tip of the Island thereby providing access to prominent scenic views.	4	6	9	4
e. Improve transportation/circulation patterns of the Island.	1	11	7	4
f. Other (please specify below)				
3. <u>DOWNTOWN AREA</u>				
This area follows Goundry Street off River Road to Main Street south to Sweeney Street.				
a. Promote the intergration of waterfront and downtown revitalization efforts.	1	1	6	15
b. Expand transient dockage facilities at the Packett Inn.	2	8	9	3
c. Increase and improve the supply of parking at the Packett Inn	4	7	8	4
d. Improve traffic circulation patterns in the downtown area.	0	9	8	5



SUB-AREA	<u>No Priority</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
e. Emphasize the historic character of buildings and sites along the Canal.	1	4	6	12
f. Other (please specify below)				
4. <u>BARGE CANAL-WEST</u>				
This area extends along Sweeney Street between the Main Street Bridge and the Twin Cities Arterial Bridge.				
a. Promote the removal of the unused railroad bridge.	3	8	2	9
b. Encourage more stringent restrictions by NYSDOT re: Barge Canal permits (e.g. disallow permits for boat-houses).	6	3	6	8
c. Encourage less stringent restrictions by NYSDOT re: Barge Canal permits (e.g. continue to allow permits for boathouses).	15	0	3	4
d. Improve the availability of parking facilities for recreational users along the Canal.	2	4	13	3
e. Protect scenic vistas along the Canal.	1	1	5	16
f. Develop a paved walkway along the Canal and acquire private property if necessary to provide a continuous trail system along the Canal.	10	2	6	5
g. Limit the development of paved walkways to publicly owned areas	7	6	7	2
h. Improve landscaping along Canal.	1	5	9	8
i. Widen the roadway surface of Sweeney Street.	6	8	4	4

SUB-AREA	No <u>Priority</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
j. Improve Sweeney Street without widening the roadway surface.	3	4	12	2
k. Other (please specify below).				
5. <u>BARGE CANAL-EAST</u>				
This area extends from the Twin Cities Arterial Bridge to the Botanical Gardens.				
a. Encourage more stringent restrictions by NYSDOT re: Barge Canal permits (e.g. disallow permits for boat-houses).	6	3	3	5
b. Encourage less stringent restrictions by NYSDOT re: Barge Canal permits (e.g. continue to allow permits for boathouses.	13	2	3	4
c. Protect scenic vistas along the Canal.	1	2	6	14
d. Improve landscaping along the Canal.	1	3	8	10
e. Improve the availability of parking facilities for recreational users along the Canal.	3	4	13	4
f. Widen the roadway surface of Sweeney Street.	7	6	4	5
g. Improve Sweeney Street without widening the roadway surface.	2	5	8	6
h. Increase and improve the supply of parking at the Service Drive Launch Ramp.	1	4	8	11
i. Develop a paved walkway along the Canal and acquire private property if necessary to provide a continuous trail system along the Canal.	8	5	4	6

SUB-AREA	No <u>Priority</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
j. Limit the development of paved walkways along the Canal to publicly owned areas.	6	7	7	2
k. Expand/improve facilities at Mayor's Park.	1	3	9	10
l. Improve parking and circulation pattern within Mayor's Park.	2	4	10	7
m. Other (please specify below).				