

APPENDIX A
ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNS

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PLANNING
AND
ZONING
SERVICES

APPENDIX A

March 26, 1985

To: Waterfront Advisory Committee
Village and Town of Athens

Subject: Analysis of Questionnaire Returns

As of March 22, 147 Waterfront Questionnaires had been returned. This represents a very good response--approximately one-third of those distributed.

Attached is a copy of the questionnaire with the total responses to each question indicated. (In most cases, the totals do not add up to 147 because not all respondents answered all questions.) Also attached is a random listing of additional comments provided by respondents.

Set forth below is a summary of the highlights of the responses.

Question #1

- * The replies were fairly evenly distributed between the Town (61) and the Village (73). As would be expected most respondents (78%) lived west of Route 385.

Question #2

- * Over 80% of the respondents indicated they enjoyed the view.
- * 44% picnicked on the waterfront and 37% either fished or boated.

Question #3

- * Of those who indicated a need for improved recreation facilities, swimming was the need most often expressed followed by picnicking and boating.

Question #4

- * The issue considered most important (almost 50% higher than that ranked second) was protection of natural resources.

- * Considered least important was future use of Middle Ground Flats.
- * On the basis of assigning 2 points for very important, 1 for important and 0 for not important, the issues scored as follows:

Protection of natural resources - 210

Preservation of traditional waterfront uses - 174

Restoration of historic Village Center - 131

Additional Public access to the waterfront - 127

Future use of Middle Ground Flats - 107

Question #5

- * The most favored uses for large parcels in the town were to preserve views and open space (97) followed by single family homes (78).
- * The most disapproved uses were apartments and condominiums (79), industrial development (64) and commercial development (59).
- * The "preference differential"--the number in favor less those who disapproved--is one measure of the strength of sentiment. The order was as follows:

Preserve views	+ 85
Single Family homes	+ 52
Agricultural uses	+ 34
Commercial development	- 10
Industrial development	- 21
Apartments or condominiums	- 53

Question #6

- * The most favored project was continued development of the Village's waterfront park (114) followed by removal of abandoned barges (91).
- * Every project listed was favored by a majority of those who responded (favored vs disapproved plus no opinion) except development of a boat launch at the sewage plant (even in this case, more favored than disapproved).

* The preference differential was as follows:

Continue development of waterfront park	+ 103
Remove abandoned barges	+ 73
Install stand pipe at Village park	+ 71
Acquire additional waterfront property	+ 63
Create hiking trails on White Elephant RR	+ 61
Extend Rainey Park to river	+ 54
Provide more dock space at Village park	+ 54
Develop scenic overlooks on Route 385	+ 50
Develop boat launch at sewage treatment plant	+ 9

Question #7

* See attached.

Waterfront Questionnaire

★ Return To: Village Clerk
2 First Street
Athens, NY 12015

SUMMARY TABULATION

Total responses: 147

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF ATHENS
 LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

The Village and Town of Athens are preparing a program for the use and protection of the Hudson River waterfront and its natural and man-made resources. The Waterfront Advisory Committee, made up of Village and Town residents, is seeking the opinions of local residents concerning a variety of issues. Please take a few minutes to complete as many of the following questions as you can so that we may have the benefit of your thoughts on this important project.

①. Check the two boxes which indicate where you live.

- a. Village of Athens 73
- b. Town of Athens 61
- c. Between the river and Route 385 28
- d. West of Route 385 97

②. Please check those boxes next to any recreational activity in which you participate on the waterfront.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|
| a. Fishing | <u>56</u> | f. Enjoying the view | <u>122</u> |
| b. Swimming | <u>29</u> | g. Picnicing | <u>65</u> |
| c. Boating | <u>54</u> | h. Other | <u>12</u> |
| d. Hunting | <u>21</u> | | |
| e. Hiking | <u>22</u> | | |

③. Of the activities listed above, which do you think need more or improved facilities?

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| a. fishing | <u>17</u> | f. Enjoying the view | <u>14</u> |
| b. Swimming | <u>34</u> | g. Picnicing | <u>25</u> |
| c. Boating | <u>24</u> | h. Other | <u>10</u> |
| d. Hunting | <u>6</u> | | |
| e. Hiking | <u>16</u> | | |

④. The following issues of concern in the coastal area have been discussed by the Waterfront Advisory Committee. Please designate each with a number: 1 = very important; 2 = important; 3 = not important.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | |
| <u>48</u> | <u>31</u> | <u>33</u> | Additional public access to the waterfront. |
| <u>41</u> | <u>49</u> | <u>29</u> | Restoration of the historic Village Center. |
| <u>66</u> | <u>42</u> | <u>13</u> | Preservation of traditional waterfront uses. |
| <u>93</u> | <u>24</u> | <u>6</u> | Protection of natural resources. |
| <u>35</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>43</u> | Future use of state land on Middle Ground Flats. |

5. Several large parcels of land in the Town, between Route 385 and the river, are undeveloped and could be used for a variety of purposes. Please indicate whether you favor, disapprove or have no opinion on each.

	Favor	Disapprove	No Opinion
a. Single family homes.	<u>78</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>
b. Apartments or condominiums.	<u>26</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>19</u>
c. Industrial development.	<u>43</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>12</u>
d. Commercial development.	<u>49</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>16</u>
e. Agricultural uses.	<u>59</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>
f. Preserve views and open space.	<u>97</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>

6. A number of specific projects have been proposed for the waterfront. Please indicate whether you favor, disapprove or have no opinion on each.

	Favor	Disapprove	No Opinion
a. Install stand-pipe for fire protection at Village Park.	<u>82</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>30</u>
b. Develop scenic overlooks on Route 385.	<u>78</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>
c. Extend Rainey Park to the river.	<u>78</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>
d. Create hiking or bike trails on the "white elephant" rail bed.	<u>79</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29</u>
e. Continue development of the Village's waterfront park.	<u>114</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>27</u>
f. Provide more dock space at the Village's Waterfront park.	<u>77</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>27</u>
g. Remove abandoned barges in the river.	<u>91</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>
h. Develop a Village/Town boat launch adjacent to the sewage treatment plant.	<u>48</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>33</u>
i. Acquire additional waterfront property which becomes available.	<u>81</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>

7. Do you have any other comments or suggestions you wish the waterfront Advisory Committee to consider? _____

Thank you for time and consideration in responding to these questions.

You may list your name and address if you wish.

Selected Comments

Athens LWRP Questionnaire

Commerical fishing would be an asset along with boating--Restore and renovate historic buildings along the waterfront.

More recreational facilities for children--promote skating; a place to skate, equipment to rent, lighting for night skating.

Boat launch needs repair--lighting for night use--also a place to swim on the river is needed.

Pier for fishing is needed.

Improve water activities--clean up water-feels it is polluted.

A place to go swimming or just sit and relax without garbage and broken glass etc.

Clean Water--no PCB's.

Better Swimming areas--better access, cleaner.

Improve water quality--grants or loans should be given to riverfront property owners for improvements or for landscaping of their property, repairing docks.

Public beach needed.

Need fencing for protection of children--would like shopping area on waterfront--quaint shops something unique.

Scenic overlooks on Route 385 need "no littering" signs--barrels for trash. Owns waterfront property which is for sale feels property owners should not be restricted on the usage or sale of their property.

Some of the vacant lots in the village should be built on--parks don't pay taxes people do!

Wants a closer look at delinquent tax roll--bring in more industry, before beautification and not burden tax payers with more taxes.

On the west side of the Hudson River for its entire length, very little has been done to make it attractive.

Park dock should have concrete slab over it.

More benches with backs and better lighting in park.

Creating hiking or bike trails on the "White Elephant" may cause problems for land owners.

Need more access to waterfront and better launches--develop the waterfront with private commercial and industrial section to increase the population and broaden the tax base, so the Town/Village will have more capital to work with.

Improve hiking trails and identify them. Do a needs survey about additional access to the waterfront-tree replacement program. Inspect new wood stove installation. Village/Town maintain views along 385 doing what DOT doesn't do. Regulation of satellite disks siting. Have DOT make wider shoulders on 385 to make jogging safer. Development of a walking tour of the Village for visitors.

Make waterfront park more accommodating to public.

More picnic benches, less trees that spoil the view.

Advisory committee should keep in mind while making future plans of how it will affect the taxes on the public.

Need abundant supply of good quality drinking water from June-September-- need a new water pipeline from the lake; need a traffic light at bank, very dangerous.

Clean up river.

More dock space--consider height limitations on new construction at waterfront so view won't be ruined.

Better Swimming areas--a beach could be created by dredging at Rainey Park.

Improve boat launch--it's a disgrace.

A lot of debris in the water--beach needs to be cleaned up.

Improve whole launch area & dredge channel going to river--extend existing state launch to include picnic facilities.

More beaches--improve swimming areas.

More tables and benches in picnic areas and viewing areas.

Leave waterfront natural.

Some of the shore line is a mess and inaccessible but should not be made unnatural or too fancy.

Town could use a motel in conjunction with waterfront activities and sports.

Better swimming facilities and picnic areas.

Need public boat docking facilities--also a public beach--would like the Village to be a stopping point for any large day-line type vessel that go up and down the river.

Look forward to Middle Ground Flats becoming a part of the State park system.

There are few places to hike along the river. Very enthusiastic about possibility of acquiring riverside land for recreation.

The fishing wall needs repair.

More money should be spent on water system i.e. storm sewers.

Fourth Street needs dredging and a raft--state launch needs dredging too.

A dock going out 50' into the river would help.

More tables and benches.

More benches and larger picnic areas.

Better docking facilities--large+small alike need it--area needs a phone booth.

Markers on water showing location of State launch.

More picnic tables & bathrooms; use pressure treated lumber in the building more tables would be cheaper in the long-run as they last much longer.

Make a public sandy beach--snack stand--lifeguards--bathrooms--should also be roped off, prohibiting boats--also cleaner water.