

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2005, the Town of Clay set out on the process of creating a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). This Program is a comprehensive plan for the development, redevelopment, preservation and enhancement of the Town's 26 miles of waterfront along the Seneca and Oneida Rivers. This effort was led by the Town Supervisor and the entire Town Council. To assist in development of the Program, a panel of citizens from the community was assembled. Members of this panel, referred to as the Waterfront Stakeholders Group, include private property owners, representatives of homeowners associations and business owners who live and/or work in the Waterfront Corridor. Each member of the panel has a particular interest in future development of the Town's waterfront. This panel, accompanied by the Town Supervisor James Rowley and Town Councilor Naomi Bray, met on four separate occasions to discuss interest in future waterfront development. A representative from Plumley Engineering, consultant to the Town in the writing of the LWRP, attended these meetings as well.

The Town recognizes the potential of the local waterfront and the promise that it holds for future development. Of particular interest to the Town is Three Rivers Point. Three Rivers Point, located at the confluence of the Seneca and Oneida Rivers, is steeped in history and presents a terrific opportunity for the development of water-dependent and water-enhanced uses. Other areas identified as having promise for future revitalization include former industrial sites on Maider Road, waterfront parcels owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town, and a Town-owned parcel along Black Creek Road near Lock 23.

What is an LWRP?

LWRPs are authorized by the Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act (New York State Executive Law, Article 42). An LWRP implements rules and regulations in New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Title 19, Part 600. Under the approach adopted by New York State, the State government can promote waterfront development and provide for the protection of critical resources, but it is recognized that municipalities are in the best position to determine their own waterfront objectives and to adapt statewide approaches to specific local needs. Accordingly, the New York State Department of State encourages waterfront communities to prepare their own LWRP. The Department of State provides financial and technical assistance to local communities in the preparation of an LWRP. The Town of Clay received a grant from the Department of State to support the Town's activities in completing their LWRP.

What are the benefits of an approved LWRP?

- The LWRP, through its various policies, enables local communities to establish the means to both protect and enhance local waterfront resources within the framework of Town regulations, projects and other implementation techniques.

- The LWRP protects local communities. State and Federal projects will be required by law to be consistent with the local Program’s policies and purposes once the LWRP has been approved.
- The LWRP is good for business. An approved LWRP can help attract public and private investment in waterfront projects since it demonstrates a community’s commitment to revitalization and resource protection. The LWRP contains conceptual plans for projects, which make the development process more predictable and efficient. These plans help to convince funding entities and private developers that the projects are realistic. Funding is more likely to go to projects that have the support of the community and are likely to be bolstered by realistic public and private investment.
- The LWRP projects will be fundable. With an approved LWRP, the Town is eligible to apply for grant funding assistance through the Environmental Protection Fund, enabled in Title 11 of the New York State Environmental Protection Act. This funding is available annually in a statewide competitive award program to assist with implementation of the LWRP.

What are the obligations of an approved LWRP?

- The LWRP does not obligate the Town to implement the proposed projects identified in the LWRP.
- The LWRP obligates those using State and Federal funding to ensure that their projects are consistent with the LWRP policies.
- The LWRP does not obligate the Town to accept funding which carries conditions for any specific project. The Town retains the right to review projects and conditions on a case by case basis, or to seek other sources of funding.

While development can be a very positive force in the community, it is not inevitably so. The Town’s objective in developing a LWRP is to establish goals for waterfront development that best serve the collective best interests of the Town as a whole. The LWRP provides a comprehensive plan for the Town as well as State and federal agencies to follow regarding future projects and actions along the waterfront.