

Section VII - Local Commitment and Consultation

Local Commitment and Involvement in LWRP Development

The City of Little Falls Planning Board was given the responsibility to initiate and oversee the preparation of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. This Board includes local residents with a wide range of interests and experience in business, recreation, and economic development.

The preparation of the LWRP, however, had its origins in the “grassroots” planning and waterfront revitalization efforts undertaken in the City since 1989. As noted in Section II, many diverse and active local groups and organizations have stepped forward to promote and improve the waterfront in Little Falls, and their efforts, concerns and ideas are reflected in the LWRP. These groups and organizations include the following:

- Canal Place Development Association;
- Little Falls Citizen’s Advisory Committee;
- Mohawk Valley Recreation Trail Task Force;
- Little Falls Historic Society;
- Mohawk Valley Center for the Arts;
- Little Falls Family YMCA;
- City of Little Falls Beautification Committee;
- Little Falls Urban Renewal Agency; and
- Little Falls Canal Celebration Committee.

The LWRP development process has also spanned the preparation of two Canal Corridor Initiative planning efforts, which have also been reflected in the LWRP. These efforts have included four public hearings, and extensive publicity regarding waterfront development and potential improvement projects. The initial Canal Corridor Initiative planning effort also involved extensive regional consultation efforts.

With respect to the preparation of the draft Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, the Planning Board and its consultant met several times with the staff of the New York Department of State to address and refine waterfront issues and enhance the LWRP

Related efforts that have contributed to the LWRP include consultation with the NYS Canal Corporation with regard to Benton’s Landing and Canal Harbor development, and close consultation with the NYS Department of Transportation with regard to the improvement of South Ann Street as part of an ISTE A project. The City also has worked cooperatively with the DOT in the preliminary planning of the reconstruction of the Route 167 Bridge and access ramps within the WRA.

Consultation and Review

The draft LWRP was reviewed and approved by the Common Council and forwarded to the New York Department of State. The DOS then initiated a 60 day review of the draft LWRP pursuant to the Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways Act and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). A total of 55 copies of the draft LWRP were distributed. Comments received on the draft LWRP were reviewed by the City and DOS, and were incorporated in the final LWRP.