

INTRODUCTION

The waterfront revitalization area of the Town of Red Hook presents many opportunities to maintain and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the Town and the surrounding areas. Over the years, the citizens of Red Hook have recognized the special value of the Town's natural, historic, agricultural, scenic and recreational resources and have been involved in many efforts to preserve, enhance and make wise use of these resources.

Much of what has already been accomplished in Red Hook forms the basis of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for the Town. Preparation of the LWRP gives Red Hook an opportunity to take previous efforts a significant step further and to create a cohesive and vital program to guide the future of its waterfront area.

This Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides the Town of Red Hook (excluding the Village of Tivoli) with an opportunity to establish objectives and specific projects and implementation steps as part of its planning and development process that will further opportunities to preserve and enhance the scenic and historic qualities of the Town, promote the beneficial use of coastal resources, avoid the impairment of these resources and establish a system to manage major activities that may substantially affect coastal resources. The Waterfront Revitalization Area boundary for Red Hook has been amended to be co-terminous with the Mid-Hudson Historic Shorelands Scenic District in order to continue and expand upon a variety of efforts already undertaken, including those discussed below, to protect and enhance the riverfront/coastal areas.

The Waterfront Revitalization Program for the Town of Red Hook has been developed in response to and consistent with national and state objectives as embodied in the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the New York State Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act of 1981 (Article 42, Executive Law) and the Coastal Erosion Hazard Areas Act of 1981 (Article 34, Environmental Conservation Law) and as presented in the State of New York Coastal Management Program and Final Impact Statement of August 1982.

The New York State Coastal Management Program describes the State's implementation of Federal coastal policies and regulations. It includes a series of forty-four policies outlining appropriate approaches to coastal land and water use activities. The State's Coastal Management Program has been designed to address important coastal issues by advocating specific types of actions enumerated in the summary of the Program:

...promoting waterfront revitalization; promoting water dependent uses; protecting fish and wildlife habitats; protecting and enhancing scenic areas; protecting and enhancing historic areas; protecting farmlands; protecting and enhancing small harbors; protecting and enhancing public access; providing research, data and information for participation of government agencies and citizens concerned with the State's coastal area; and coping with erosion and flooding hazards.

The Red Hook LWRP includes: a description of the waterfront revitalization area of the Town; an inventory and analysis of existing conditions in the coastal area including discussions of important coastal resources and major issues and opportunities apparent in the waterfront revitalization area; statements and descriptions of local and State policies addressed in the Town program coupled with descriptions of criteria or standards that will be used to evaluate compliance with the policies; description of proposed land and water uses and proposed public and private projects within the Town revitalization area; and a discussion of techniques for local implementation of the program including local laws and regulations and public and private actions. In addition, the Town's Waterfront Revitalization Program identifies Federal and State actions that should be undertaken consistently with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and those Federal and State actions that are likely to affect the implementation of this program. The LWRP describes consultation activities that the Town has carried out with adjacent municipalities and appropriate Federal, State and regional agencies and local activities that have been and are being undertaken to obtain commitment and support for the Waterfront Revitalization Program. The final section of the LWRP is a draft generic environmental impact statement assessing possible impacts of the Town's adoption of the program.

Moreover, while the Waterfront Revitalization Program for Red Hook concentrates attention on the Waterfront Revitalization Area of the Town, in some instances sites within the whole Town or issues affecting the entire Town exclusive of the Village of Tivoli are examined since some elements within the Coastal Area are parts of integrated Town systems. Where this is the case, e.g., in examination of recreation sites, the text will specify the area under consideration. In all other cases not so specified, the study area will be the area within the coastal boundary.