

Town of Germantown Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PLAN

October, 2021



Contract # C1001642

Task 7

Prepared by:



Town of Germantown
Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
(LWRP) Committee

With Assistance from:

Alta Planning + Design, Inc &
Peter Melewski, LLC

alta



Peter Melewski, LLC



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1.0 Introduction

Background

The Town of Germantown has received a matching grant from the New York State Department of State (NYS DOS) to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The purpose of the LWRP is to improve public access and recreational use of the Hudson River and Roeliff Jansen Kill while protecting and preserving natural resources. The LWRP’s long-range goals are to foster waterfront revitalization, sustainability and economic investment within the Town. The LWRP will build upon our 2018 Local Waterfront Revitalization Study (LWRS) to enhance existing waterfront access and recreational resources, identify issues and opportunities, develop conceptual plans for improvement projects and actions, and make recommendations for their implementation.

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program will guide future development along the Hudson River and Roeliff Jansen Kill waterfronts and adjacent areas in the Town of Germantown. In addition, the LWRP will help advance future improvement projects by making the Town eligible to apply for implementation funding through the Consolidated Funding Application and other applicable grants and loans.

Project Team

The Town of Germantown has established a Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning (LWRP) Committee (The Committee) to guide the Project and has selected Alta Planning + Design to facilitate its development. The Committee is comprised of Germantown volunteers, representing local community organizations who are invested in the Town’s waterfront and future. Note that the Town is also concurrently working towards Climate Smart Community (CSC) certification and will coordinate with the CSC Task Force Committee to ensure that both projects are developed with consistent visions and goals.

LWRP Committee

Name	Affiliation, Roles and Responsibilities
Jen Crawford, PE	LWRP Committee Chair, Member of Roe-Jan Creek Boat Club, Planning Board member, Firefighter at Germantown Hose Co #1, Project Manager at Crawford & Associates Engineering & Land Surveying, PC
Christina Bohnsack	Waterfront Advisory Committee Chair, Climate Smart Communities Task Force Coordinator, Germantown Park Commission Vice President, Member of Roe-Jan Creek Boat Club Member of the Germantown Garden Club
Jan Borchert	Member of the Town’s LWRP and CSC committees, member of the Board of Directors of Roe Jan Watershed Community, and former Head of Permitting and Hydrofacility Design at Current Hydro, with expertise in waterfront and riverine environmental permitting.
Jo August Hills	Member of the Waterfront Advisory Committee, Sampler for the Roe Jan Watershed Community, Secretary of Hudson River Historic Boat Restoration and Sailing Society, Cheviot area riverside resident
Martin Overington	Co-Chairperson of the Waterfront Advisory Committee, Annual River Sweep Organizer w/wife Kathy, Germantown Library: Makerspace and Buildings/Grounds Committees, Germantown Park Program, Lead Researcher Specialist at RPI Lighting Research Center
Barbara Hughey	Member Columbia County Environmental Management Council

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Karen Targrove	Small Business Owner, printing; company has been nationally acknowledged as top 5 companies with least impact on the environment; manufacturing plant powered by wind power; avid international kayaker
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3.0 Community Participation

Public involvement and participation will be critical in developing the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The Community Outreach Plan is intended to describe the methods by which the public and key stakeholders will be informed of and engaged in the Program. Interested residents, property owners, public officials and agencies and other stakeholders will be encouraged to identify priority issues and areas of concern and help shape the recommendations and future actions, building upon the work done through the LWRS.

A variety of community outreach and engagement activities will be used to inform the public and gather input to guide the Program including:

- Key Stakeholder Outreach
- LWRP Committee Meetings
- Community Visioning Workshops
- Digital Outreach
- Community Handouts

3.1 Key Stakeholder Outreach

The Committee has identified a preliminary list of public and private agencies and interest groups who will be contacted directly and encouraged to participate in the planning process. The purpose of engaging these groups is to ensure that there is a broad understanding and awareness of the LWRP, identify common goals and priorities and solicit diverse input from all interested parties. The Committee aims to involve all interested members of the public, particularly encouraging participation from populations who are frequently underrepresented in this process, including immigrants, refugees, minorities and the elderly.

- Town of Germantown Boards & Committees:
 - Planning Board, ZBA, Economic Development Committee, Climate Smart Communities Task Force Committee
- Town of Germantown Departments:
 - History, Highway, Maintenance
- Columbia County Sheriff Department
- Amtrak
- Bard College
- Bard College Center for the Study of Land, Air and Water
- Boy Scouts
- Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
- Churches... (3)
- City of Hudson
- Columbia Co. Planning/Ec. Development Dept.
- Columbia Co. Soil & Water Conservation District
- Columbia Co. Tourism Department
- Columbia Co. Environmental Management Council
- Columbia Co. Sanctuary Movement
- Columbia Land Conservancy
- Columbia-Greene Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Columbia-Greene Community College
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- CSX
- Friends of Clermont
- Germantown Central School District
- Germantown Garden Club
- Germantown Hose Company #1
- Germantown Library
- Germantown Lions Club
- Germantown Park Commission

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- Germantown Sportsmen’s Association
- Girl Scouts
- Hudson River Valley Greenway
- Hudson River Watershed Alliance
- Hudson River Watertrail Association
- Hudson Sloop Club
- Hudsonia Ltd.
- NY Sea Grant
- NYSDEC – Hudson River Estuary Program
- NYSDOS – Office of Planning and Development
- NYSDOT – Region 8 Planning & Program Mgmt.
- Open Space Institute
- Riverkeeper
- Roe Jan Navigators
- Roe-Jan Creek Boat Club
- Roe Jan Watershed Community
- Saw Kill Watershed Community
- Scenic Hudson
- Town of Catskill
- Town of Clermont
- Town of Livingston
- Village of Catskill
- Village of Tivoli
- Town of Copake LWRP Committee
- Germantown Climate Smart Committee

Additional outreach to local officials, including the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board will be conducted throughout the process to communicate and gain feedback on the regulatory impacts and zoning law modifications related to the LWRP. This will occur prior to the second and third public workshops.

3.2 LWRP Committee Meetings

The LWRP Committee is the primary group guiding the preparation of the LWRP. All Committee meetings are open to the public and the date, time and location will be posted on the calendar on the Town website. The regular monthly Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled to occur on the 2nd Monday of the month, using a blend of in-person and virtual meeting technology. A draft project schedule is included in Section 5 of this plan.

The Committee Chairperson, Committee members, and other attendees will strive to employ orderly procedures when conducting and participating in meetings. An agenda will be prepared and distributed prior to each meeting when necessary. Meeting notes will be taken and distributed to members via email.

3.3 Community Visioning Workshops (Public Information Meetings)

Three community visioning workshops will be held at key milestones in the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program process in order to inform and gather input from the public and other stakeholders. Each meeting will be publicized on the Town’s website and Facebook page, through notices in The Columbia Paper, by flyers at community gathering places and events, and through direct emails as appropriate. A written summary of each community workshop will be prepared and posted on the Town website.

It is anticipated that the Project Team will begin each workshop with a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period and small group break-out sessions, or conduct the meetings as open houses with boards and stations. Project Team members will be available in each small group to facilitate the discussion and record public sentiment. Presentation Materials and Boards will be set up to make it easy for attendees to record their opinions on particular issues. Due to changing restrictions and guidelines related to COVID, these meetings may be conducted over zoom, instead of in person. The content of each meeting will remain the same.

First Workshop: Boundary and Inventory and Analysis

At the first community visioning workshop the Project Team will present initial drafts of section I- Waterfront Revitalization Area Boundary and section II- Inventory and Analysis and will solicit public input. Emphasis will be placed on the work previously conducted as part of the LWRS and public comment through that process. Workshop activities will be designed to help participants reveal how they use and value their waterfront resources, and the varied relationships between the waterfront and the municipality. Participants will be encouraged to identify important issues and opportunities, discuss what they would like to change if they could, and articulate a vision for the future. The Project Team will prepare an updated section I and section II drafts based on public input received at the first community visioning workshop.

Second Workshop: Proposed Land and Water Uses and Proposed Projects

The Project Team will present the draft section IV – Proposed Land and Water Uses and Proposed Projects at the second public community workshop. Through facilitated discussions and activities, the participants will review and edit/revise the initial recommendations. Case studies and information obtained about waterfront development efforts in other communities will be shared, after which participants will explore alternative expressions of their vision as appropriate, consider alternative future choices, and begin to identify actions and means to implement the vision. The draft section IV will describe long term waterfront uses and short-term projects and actions needed to revitalize the local waterfront and manage waterfront resources.

Third Workshop: Draft LWRP

In conjunction with the 60-day review by DOS, the project team will conduct a third public workshop to present and solicit feedback on the draft LWRP in its entirety. Changes made to previous draft sections based on public input will be highlighted and any further revisions required after public meeting three will be noted and submitted to DOS. It is anticipated that this third public meeting will be coordinated with the SEQRA review process and will fulfill the public meeting requirement for SEQRA as well.

3.4 Digital Outreach

The Project Team will utilize the Town's website, a project website, youtube videos, multiple municipal social media accounts and email lists to share project information with the public and notify them of opportunities to participate in the waterfront revitalization planning process. Contacts acquired during LWRS outreach will be used as well. Materials available on the website will include meeting and workshop notices and community visioning workshop summaries. Materials posted may also include copies of presentation materials and maps, and surveys to gather further public input. An online survey will be conducted in conjunction with the second public meeting. As noted earlier, public workshops may be conducted virtually, instead of in person.

3.5 Community Handouts

The Committee members will also prepare flyers giving an overview of the waterfront revitalization project and advertising the community workshops. The flyers may be posted at gathering places such as Town Hall, the Kellner Community Activities Center and the Germantown Library, and distributed at events such as community stakeholder meetings, the River Sweep shoreline cleanup day and Town-Wide Yard sale and local businesses.

4.0 Review and Approval Process

Key Project Contacts

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5.0 Draft Project Schedule

The Project Team has prepared a draft schedule for the waterfront revitalization program, however the schedule may be revised as the project moves forward.

**Town of Germantown
 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program
 Draft Project Schedule**

Work Plan Task	Project Components	Roles	Anticipated Completion Date
6	Project Advisory Committee Meetings	Committee & Alta	07/12/2021
7	Preparation of a community Outreach Process and Plan	Committee & Alta	07/31/2021
8	Draft Section I – Waterfront Revitalization Program Policies	Committee & Alta	12/31/2021
9	Draft Section II – Inventory and Analysis	Committee & Alta & Town	09/30/2021
10	First Public Information Meeting	Committee & Alta	12/2021

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11	Draft Section III – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Policies	Committee & Alta	03/2022
12	Draft Section IV – Proposed Land and Water Uses and Proposed Projects	Committee & Alta	04/2022
13	Second Public Information Meeting	Committee & Alta	05/2022
14	Draft Section V – Techniques for Local Implementation of the Program	Committee & Alta	06/2022
15	Draft Section VI – Federal and State Actions and Programs Likely to Affect Implementation of the LWRP	Committee & Alta	06/2022
16	Draft Section VII – Local Commitment and Consultation	Committee & Alta	07/2022
17	Determination of Significance and Compliance with SEQRA	Committee, Alta, Legal, & Town	08/2022
18	Complete Draft LWRP	Committee, Alta, & Town	10/2022
19	Third Public Information Meeting	Committee & Alta	11/2022
20	Final LWRP	Committee, Alta & Town	04/2023
21	MWBE Reporting	Alta	05/2023
22	Project Status Reports	Committee & Town	05/2023
23	Final Project Summary Report and Measurable Results forms	Committee and Town	05/2023