

**AMHERST WATERFRONT PLANNING
LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (LWRP)
Results/Summary of the Public Meeting - December 3, 2018**

The following represents a summary of public comments received by those attending the first public meeting on the Amherst Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) held at Getzville Fire Hall. Approximately 42 people were in attendance.

What are your *THOUGHTS* on the proposed LWRP Boundary alignment?

Several comments were made concerning areas or sites that should be included in the LWRP boundary. These are:

- Both sides of North Forest Road
- Ransom Creek
- Former Lehigh Valley railroad right-of-way
- Nature View Park (Conservation Easement)
- UB area (to be eligible for grants)
- Former Westwood Country Club
- Park Country Club
- Area from Union Road to Audubon Parkway
- Muir Woods site
- Expand boundary north of Williamsville Village line
- Small area outside of the Village between Amherst State Park and Park Club Lane
- Evergreen Subdivision
- Admirals Walk development (northwest Amherst)

Other comments were to exclude certain areas/sites:

- All of Nature View Park is not needed within the boundary
- Residential subdivisions
- Concern about the scope of the project, although it's understood it will evolve. There are large areas of Amherst included that do not seem to be affected by, or affect, the waterfront.

The following overall comments regarding the boundary were offered:

- Keep development closer to Millersport Highway
- No new development or redevelopment on Maple Road
- How do wetlands fit in the boundary and are there any projects related to them?
- There should be new homeowner restrictions within the boundary
- Boundary should be waterfront focused – separate LWRP issues/opportunities and what can be addressed through Comprehensive Planning
- Every site does not have to be actively used or accessed

What *CONCERNS* should the Town understand in regards to the boundary or the area?

- Maintenance of Ellicott Creek (weeds, invasive species, fallen trees, etc.), especially between Niagara Falls Blvd and Sweet Home Road
- Oppose a north-south connection through Westwood, but there should be pedestrian/bike access

- Oppose a cemetery on Westwood
- Buildings above 2 stories should not be permitted on Westwood
- It is hazardous to launch a kayak in Ellicott Creek Park and paddle into Amherst
- How can a bike path be provided through the Park Country Club property?
- Address threats to environment (ie. fertilizers and invasive species, golf courses, run off)
- Erosion and channelized creek areas and shoreline rehabilitation and protection (to prevent runoff and pollution)
- Water treatment and discharge
- Farming runoff
- Sanitary and storm sewer capacity
- Testing for pollutants, toxins and/or heavy metals in sediment or fish/aquatic life
- Erosion of roads, as a result of runoff
- Reduce traffic speed near the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village (Amherst Museum)
- Active recreation should be on Audubon Golf Course (soccer, baseball)
- Passive recreation preferred (hike, bike, gardens)
- Old Niagara Falls Blvd and proposed Delta Sonic car wash
- Should not build up floodplain, as it pushes water onto other areas
- Wildlife migration routes should be considered
- Ellicott Creek near Westwood is polluted
- Preservation of green space (Amherst State Park)
- Canoe usage
- Collaborate with Town of Pendleton
- Follow the 'no wake' rule
- Important to remember that all properties included in the waterfront boundary are subject to LWRP consistency review.
- Use caution in Niagara Falls Blvd area as LWRP is not the appropriate vehicle to address public transportation issues or all sidewalk problem areas.
- Concern that the majority of focus may be with the social benefits of public spaces.
- The waterways and banks need attention, including where the waterways pass through residential areas that have no public spaces.
- Concern about water quality from sewage and effluent overflows. There are also septic systems in the floodplains and some of these systems are failing or have failed.
- Soil erosion and deposits in the creeks are a concern on both public and private property.

What *OPPORTUNITIES* exist along / within the boundary or the area?

- More kayak access (Fisherman's Wharf area)
- More boating access
- More connectivity for bikes and pedestrian trails
- Explore access from Westwood Country Club to Ellicott Creek
- More cultural facilities
- Canoes in Turtle Island area
- Shoreline fishing
- Expand Greenway Funds to include Amherst
- Opportunity for access, pedestrian safety, connectivity, particularly from Maple Road to Sheridan (ie, pedestrian bridges over Sheridan)
- Create as much public access as possible
- Trails should not dead end at an intersection
- Develop family oriented, accessible parks (ie. Billy Wilson Park)

- Agree with more public access along Tonawanda Creek
- Need parking areas to provide access points to the trails
- Consider Lehigh Valley ROW as a bike/walking trail to connect the Westwood property
- Development of trails for wheelchair accessibility, play areas with accessible equipment
- More trails and paddle sites especially if algae and invasive vegetation can be controlled
- Take advantage of Tonawanda's upgraded kayak launch at Niagara Falls Blvd and Ellicott Creek Road in Ellicott Creek Park.
- Preserve as much greenspace as possible.
- Need wildlife migration routes
- Bike repair stations along bike paths and at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village
- Passive use
- Create public access along Tonawanda Creek near Campbell Blvd, possibly behind the fire station.
- Improve more trail connections, shoreline fishing areas, more canoe/kayak access points, within watershed management, establishment of riparian buffers
- Walking space needed on North Forest Road from Millersport to Dodge Road
- Kayak/boat dock at Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village should be available for use by the police
- More dog parks
- Develop a plan for dredging and other cleanup of the waterways and funding for continued maintenance.
- Allow for passive uses like seating, rest stops for the bike trails and enjoying views

Other Comments:

- Livable Communities - concern with seeming lack of involvement of young families who will be the future users of Amherst
- Consider a moratorium on the LWRP properties till the full plan and "Overlay Zoning Districts" can be established.
- Tonawanda bike path is very popular
- Will Buffalo Waterkeeper group be involved?
- Consideration should be given to age-friendly communities that are more livable for older residents and people of all ages. The LWRP should include nodes identified for mixed use to include multi-aged residential, commercial, medical, gathering space(s), both exterior and interior, to be passive for seating and social participation. Active participation can remain in the currently developed complexes.
- LWRP project is a way to protect existing areas (natural areas and character of neighborhoods)
- Focus data collection on policy focus areas and project ideas
- This is a good program with social benefits and secondary commercial benefits for adjacent businesses.
- There are many opportunities to make small but significant improvements that are not capital-intensive
- Overall a very good project; thanks to those working to improve the Town
- The presentation and documentation on the LWRP are appreciated. It is encouraging to see the Town looking at our future development including input from all concerned residents.