Planning for an Inviting and Active Urban Riverfront

City of Watertown
Planning and Community Development Department
“A plan is a list of actions arranged in whatever sequence is thought likely to achieve an objective.”

- **John Argenti**, author and founder of the Strategic Planning Society
Sewall’s Island

Utilizing what we have
City of Watertown – Sewall’s Island Redevelopment

- Vacant since the early 1990s when a foundry closed.
- Buildings were demolished in 2001.
- New York Works Round II Statewide Capital Infrastructure Program.
- 90/10 split.
City of Watertown – Sewall’s Island Redevelopment

Redevelopment Plan

- Commercial development along Pearl Street.
- Park and trail development along perimeter and southern half of island.
- Potential whitewater access.
- Recreational trail would serve as the center piece of the project.
Recreational Trail

- Refurbish railroad bridges for pedestrian access.

- Provides connection to Factory Street, Factory Square Park and Veterans Memorial Riverwalk to the west.

- Provides connection to future one mile trail extension to the east and to Marble Street Park.

- Component of overall riverfront trail system.
Recreational Trail

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Huntington Street Trail

Linking the Black River to the City
Huntington Street Trail – Waterworks Park

• Adjacent to the Black River.
• Kayaking launch point.
• Fishing access.
• Short yet secluded hiking trails.
Huntington Street Trail – Waterworks Park

- CDBG funded.
- Huntington Heights Apartment Complex
- Block group with highest concentration of low income.
Huntington Street Trail – Waterworks Park

Components
- 1,800 linear feet of new trail
- 32 street trees

Benefits
- Connects Waterworks Park
- Implements part of LWRP
- Connects Huntington Heights
Huntington Street Trail – Waterworks Park

• Provide a pedestrian connection to an automobile dependant complex.

• Enhance pedestrian safety along fast-moving road.

• Trees improve aesthetic quality of the community.
J.B. Wise

Building a physical connection between Public Square and the Black River
J.B. Wise

- Downtown connection to river is impaired by parking lot and Black River Parkway.
- LWRP calls for a well-defined linkage between Public Square and the waterfront.
- Designed to encourage visitors and residents in the downtown area to continue on to the waterfront.
- Parking lot is a destination unto itself, providing public space.
Many of the new traffic islands were designed and built to be rain gardens.

Cleaner discharge into the Black River.
J.B. Wise

- Flexipave is a permeable paving material that allows stormwater to pass through and recharge into the ground.
- Pavilion downspouts redirected.
J.B. Wise

• Flexible - does not crack or settle.

• ADA Compliant - provides a safe, secure surface. Meets Federal Standards for wheelchairs and walkers.

• Minimal repairs due to breakage or settling.

• Sustainable - uses high volumes of recycled tires in its construction.
  • Uses 3 tires/10 sq-ft of material.
  • 1 parking space = 60 tires.