

Date: February 28, 2012

To: Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board

Waterfront improvements for George Freer Park.

A comprehensive plan needs to be drawn, involving the T/ Highway - recreation Department. There is a drainage problem in the south end of the park. They have extended the storm pipes, have put in a lot of fill, but I have never seen an overall plan to their work. The current status is not favorable to the walkers in the area.

Improvements would include: 2012

1. Finish the walking paths from Tilden and Minturn streets - and maintain
2. Maintain the hand launch area.

Possible grant improvements: Future 2013-2014

1. Rebuild the sea wall on the south end of the park. (or installation of riprap to stop erosion)
2. Put in a walking path along the shoreline from Hidden Harbor to Riverview property.
3. Install a row of low plantings to act as a deterrent for the Canada Geese. (see below)
4. Install new lighted flag pole (with flag).
5. Installation of upland "locking kayak racks"

Prepare plans, budget, approvals / search out funding sources - 2012

Seasonal deterrent techniques

Reduce the attractiveness of the site for breeding Canada Geese. Grassy expanses near water provide ideal goose habitat. Canada Geese are grazers and eat mainly short grasses such as those found in lawns, parks and golf courses. Geese also prefer good visibility to detect predators. They feed in open areas with clear flight access to ponds, lakes or marshes. Adjacent docks, beaches and yards provide secure places for preening and loafing.

- *Modify the grass*
It's a fact: Canada Geese prefer manicured lawns. Let the grass adjacent to the water body grow a little longer or plant coarse, tall grasses that are less appealing to geese.
- *Obstruct the shoreline*
Maintain an unmowed shoreline buffer of grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Obstruct bird access to the shoreline with low fences or rock walls. Natural barriers include trees, densely spaced brush, hedge or shrubbery near the shorelines of lakes, ponds, wetlands and streams.

Look for possible grants: 2012 – 2013

Environmental Protection Fund – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) provides grants to municipalities for planning, design and construction projects that help a community improve their existing waterfronts. LWRPs help municipalities develop a waterfront vision; establish partnerships with community organizations; understand their waterfronts' assets, issues and opportunities; and develop a strategy that will fulfill that vision. View grant opportunities here: http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/grantopps_EPF.asp.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grants

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program provides matching grants on a competitive basis to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

Eligible applicants include municipalities (villages, towns, cities, and counties) located within the State Coastal Area or along a major inland waterway designated pursuant to Executive Law, Article 42.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES:

Funding will be available for the following grant categories:

- Preparing Regional Strategies for Community and Waterfront Revitalization
- Completing or Implementing a Local or Regional Waterfront Revitalization Program
- Redeveloping Urban Waterfronts
- Revitalizing Downtowns and Hamlets
- Planning or Constructing Water Trails
- Improving Water Quality

AWARD, CONDITIONS & REQUIREMENTS:

Grants will be available for up to 50% of the total eligible project costs set forth in the application and as approved by the Department.

CONTACT/ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

For more information, eligible applicants should contact Ken Smith at the New York State Department of State, 99 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231, call (518) 474-6000 or visit <http://www.dos.ny.gov/communityprojects/funding.html>.