

## AGENDA

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December 15, 2022

Willow Island Park Enhancements Community Oversight Committee Progress Meeting

The following are items for discussion:

Major takeaways from the public informational meeting:

- Flooding and ice are a concern
- Since State Highway Route 11 bisects the island, safety and noise from traffic may interfere with performances though some have been held successfully with little issue.
- The project needs to protect habitat for riparian plants and animals
- The arts these was supported by most attendees
- Stage or bandstand for performances should be moveable and not too large for the site
- Flexible space for gathering is important
- A trail for walking would improve access
- Restrooms are likely needed but there are concerns about permanent buildings and/or lighting with the annual flooding
- Parking needs to be balanced with impacts to the island. It's not far to park and walk from downtown.
- ADA parking needs to be accommodated on-site.
- A children's play area is desirable but should use natural materials and safety adjacent to water needs to be considered.
- Native plantings are desired.

Design Progress

- Two initial concept diagrams have been developed.
- Matthew Mazzotta is interested in preparing a design for a sculptural piece that could function as a moveable stage.
- We are awaiting the floodplain mapping from Shumaker

Looking Ahead

- Once there is consensus on the concepts presented, we will revise into one concept to share with the committee first and later with the public.
- The next meeting could take the same format, or it could be an open house where printed materials are on panels that can be discussed with the public and notes taken.
- We can schedule the next public session in January or February. We are open to your suggestions
- We will continue to work with Matthew Mazzotta

Willow Island Project Committee  
Meeting  
12/15/22 4pm -- 5:30pm

	Printed Name	Organization	Signature
1	Barbara Beekman	Village	Barbara B. Beekman
2	LANCE RUSSGER	Village Tree Committee	L. W. Russger
3	Varick Buttenden	Grass River Heritage	Varick Buttenden
4	MIKE SCIMINIZEN	ACE	Michael Sciminzen
5	Leigh Rodriguez	Village	Leigh Rodriguez
6	Jeni Reed	Village	Jeni Reed
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## Meeting Notes

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December 15, 2022

### **Willow Island Park Enhancements Community Oversight Committee Progress Meeting**

December 15, 2022, 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Contract # C1001636

**Prepared by:** Mary Martin

#### **Attendees:**

Michele Palmer (Whitham Planning & Design, Consultant)  
Jacob von Mechow (Whitham Planning & Design, Consultant)  
Mary Martin (Whitham Planning & Design, Consultant)  
Matthew Mazzota (Artist)  
Barbara Beekman (Village Coordinator)  
Lance Rudiger (Tree Committee)  
Varick Chittenden (Committee Member)  
Mike Scriminger (Committee Member)  
Leigh Rodriguez (Village Employee)  
Jeni Reed (Village Employee)

#### **WPD Presentation Discussion**

Bathrooms (Trailer Porta-Johns shown)

- There is interest in composting systems as well as trailers.
  - The Village asks for feasibility. WPD research if it is allowed (adjacent to water).
  - It might be possible to have solar for ventilation system.
- If costs were the same, which would you prefer?
  - The Village is open to either (trailer or compost) but would need to get more feedback from community and people who manage/maintain spaces.

Reactions to Layout Alternatives

- The Village consensus is on having stage towards end of island as far down as possible.
- It was suggested that the stone seating be angled so you could see the stage from the front and not the sides.
- It was noted that the island is covered with ice floes in the spring around April.
- It was suggested that the sculptures be on high ground to be safe from ice damage. The highway is about 30' higher in elevation.
  - Consider locating the playground at higher ground as well. There is a 5' (plus) difference in elevation from front and back of playground now.
- It was noted that there is heavy beaver damage in regards to tree planting.
- The Village may be commissioning of permanent sculptures in future.

- If sculptures are to be located throughout the park, are there areas in the center that would be beyond the worst impact from ice? It was noted that lately the ice often only affects 30' from edge of island.
- It was noted that where the parking lot currently exists there is ownership by Grasse River and the Village. The 6' of north end belongs to Grasse River and the south to the Village. The Village is anticipating an MOU or other agreement to be executed between Village and Grasse River.
- Path
  - The path should be a minimum of 8' wide.
  - Accessible for vehicles for maintenance and performers to unload.
  - It was noted that there is a gravel road where the trail is (underneath the grass) in Diagram 2.
  - It was suggested that maybe the walking path doesn't have to be a driving path as people currently drive down the middle of the grass.
- Stage
  - It was suggested to angle the seating areas towards the trees more.

### **Matthew Mazzota Presentation**

- Wants to learn about ice floes impacting the island.
  - They occur mostly on the left side of island (viewed from highway).
  - Ice floes jam at rock on left of bottom of the island.
  - It was suggested that someone can take pictures of the ice in April?
  - Matthew commented that in photos of prior performances at the park the parking lot is the backdrop, which is not ideal.
- Concept:
  - People enjoy nature of the island.
  - How to design a non-theater?
    - One that disappears when it is not in use and doesn't break up sitelines.
    - Folds up during performances.
    - Maple leaf shape backdrop - can see through cut out.
    - Stage would need to be full shape to be level when down.
  - Playing around with idea of raising the elevation of the area around the stage.
  - Matthew is being funded by another group for his portion of the design work.
  - Seating would be in front of the stage.
  - The maple leaf backdrop would be down most of the time.
- **Discussion**
  - Having the stone seating on the sides wouldn't be primary seating.
    - It was suggested that the stone seating on the sides could also be a deterrent for the geese. People could also enjoy it when there is no performance.

- Some interest was expressed in having the stage slightly above ground level.
  - Would it address the flooding/ice?
    - There was interest in having the stage raised for certain events.
- Corten steel was noted to hold up in outdoor weather.
  - Won't be damaged by ice because flat on the ground.
- It was noted that this would be a unique feature for Canton.
  - Works with idea of sculpture garden.
  - Really sculptural by itself.
- There was interest in how the backdrop would function for acoustic purposes.
  - Would having it open in the back be an issue?
    - Possibly if the wind is blowing.
    - Need to have some amplification.
    - Wind screens?
- What is the scale?
  - What WPD heard was the performances would probably be small.
    - Would work well for that, but would not really accommodate larger performers such as a full orchestra but chamber music could be well accommodated.
  - Committee raised this question with band director:
    - 60-70 people when they have an orchestra performance.
    - Could always have chamber music 4-5 performers.
    - Could accommodate styles of music.
  - Matthew noted that movies are a big draw.
    - People could bring own chairs
- In agreement with concept?
  - Overall, the Village was open to the concept.
    - It was noted that the less material you must haul in and out for events is best.

### Looking Ahead

- Public outreach meetings will need to be arranged as the designs are moved forward to schematic design.
  - These may be less formal and a combination:
    - Brief presentation of concept and its development
    - Open house with graphics and stations for feedback
    - And allow people to engage with displays on their own or with a WPD staff member.
      - Will need to gather feedback formally.
  - It was noted that people need to be informed about how much work has already gone into the concept and will not be starting over.
    - The history of project and how much time spent could be mentioned.
      - Take home informational handout
      - State the information in presentation

- Based on research, outreach, engineering studies,  
etc...

### **Action Items**

- Formalize arrangement with Matthew Mazzota and plan to keep him involved (Village)
- Coordinate a time/date for regular monthly meetings (Village & WPD)
- Research compost toilets costs and regulations adjacent to river. (WPD)
- Make revisions and move concept forward in schematic design (WPD)
- Review grant agreement and determine best format for public informational meeting (Village)
- Arrange public informational meeting for schematic design in February (WPD & Village)
- Prepare visuals and information for public outreach meeting (WPD)
- Documentation of ice in spring melt? (Village)





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BY	
REVISION	
DATE	

WILLOW ISLAND  
**VILLAGE OF CANTON**  
MAIN STREET  
CANTON, NEW YORK, 13617

**COLOR CONCEPT PLAN 1**

1"=25'  
SCALE

202214 PROJECT NO.	MJE DRAWN BY
2022.10.07 DATE	JVM CHECKED BY

**L-001**



**WILLOW ISLAND CONCEPT DIAGRAM 1**



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BY	REVISION	DATE

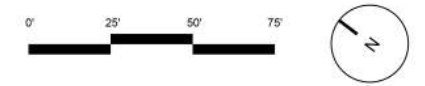
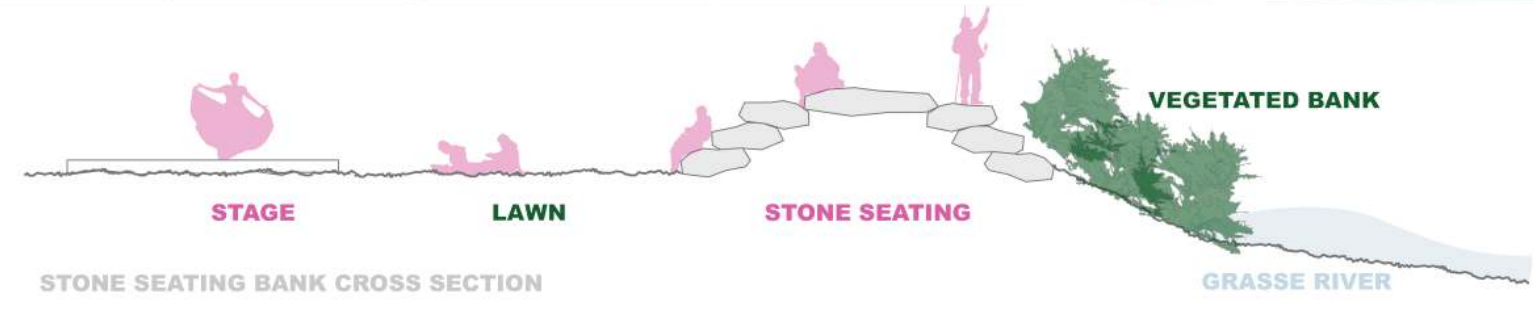
WILLOW ISLAND  
**VILLAGE OF CANTON**  
MAIN STREET  
CANTON, NEW YORK, 13617

COLOR  
CONCEPT  
PLAN 2

1"=25'  
SCALE

202214 PROJECT NO.	MJE DRAWN BY
2022.10.07 DATE	JVM CHECKED BY

L-002



**WILLOW ISLAND CONCEPT DIAGRAM 2**





*Log Toe-Wood Stream Restoration Install*



*Log Toe-Wood Stream Restoration Years after Install*



*Log Toe-Wood Stream Restoration Project*

## **TOE-WOOD STREAM RESTORATION**





*Fulmer Creek  
Stream Restoration Project  
Mohawk Valley*



## **BOULDER PLANTED REVETMENT STREAMBANK STABILIZATION**





*Willow and Recycled Material Pavilion*



*Willow and Recycled Material Pavilion*



*Willow and Recycled Material Pavilion*



*Waddled Willow Structure*

## **WILLOW STRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES**





*Pedestrian Glowing Asphalt Path*



*Glowing Asphalt Path During Daytime*



*Bike Lane Glowing Asphalt Path*

## **GLOWING ASPHALT ART PATH**





*Ives Park Playground, Pottsdam*



*Wild Center Tupper Lake*



## **NATURAL MATERIAL PLAYGROUND**





*Tunnel Tops at the Presidio  
San Francisco*



## NATURAL MATERIAL PLAYGROUND





*Log Play Structure*



*Log Playground Structures*



*Log and Mulch Playground Materials*

## **NATURAL MATERIAL PLAYGROUND**





Ameri-can Potable Toilets

## PORTABLE TOILETS







*The Water Cottage Potable Toilets*



**PORTABLE TOILETS**