

SUMMARY

March 9, 2023

TO: Leigh Rodriguez

FROM: Michele Palmer

RE: Willow Island Park Enhancements Public Informational Meeting March 9, 2023

Whitham Planning Design Landscape Architecture along with members of the Village Board of Trustees, Village and Town Staff hosted a public information open house on March 9, 2023 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. Artist Matthew Mazzotta was also present to share his potential sculpture project to be installed in the park. (6) 24" x 36" posters on easels were provided for discussion, attached.

Members of the public were requested to sign in, but it appeared that 5-6 people did not. The estimated total attendance was approximately 25 people, sign-in sheet attached. Written comment forms and post-it notes were provided. (1) comment form was completed.

In speaking with a variety of community members, the following verbal suggestions, concerns, and comments were heard (in no particular order or attribution):

- Park is a gateway to Canton, opportunity for gateway sign/landscape feature/ statue - specifically recommended some kind of canoe sculpture in reference to J.H. Rushton canoes, or "bucking bronco" in reference to Frederic Remington. Opportunity to display community identity.
- Suggestion to explore use of pervious asphalt for parking area as method to mitigate oil leakage from cars entering river.
- Several suggestions for using a portable stage, stage on a trailer, or other "stage on wheels" to resolve temporary nature of stage & flood/maintenance concerns. i.e. the same strategy used for the bathrooms.
- Opinion that any permanent structure (specifically any bathroom structure) would detract from the beauty of the park. Noted that abandoned park bathroom structures are common in the region due to maintenance requirements. Liked the trailer idea as an alternative.
- Expressed that it is extremely important that all park amenities be accessible, especially trails and bathrooms.
- Wanted to confirm that the new pathway would not take out any existing trees.
 - Saving existing trees re-iterated as a priority.
- Wondered if bocce ball, horseshoe pits, or other small-court games were being considered for inclusion in the design.
- Wanted to know if there could be a covered BBQ pit of some kind, for all-weather events.
- Noted that, while views from the island are nice, the exception is on opposite east bank where empty building and empty lawn/backyards are seen.

- Wanted to know what the maximum occupancy of the park would be for events, esp. ticketed events.
 - Would there be a limit posted, similar to how gathering halls have fire-safety limited number of persons.
- Another suggestion of "stage on wheels" - noted that they had seen an example of this function at an event at a Utica Art Museum
- Wondered if the possibility of widening the access driveway on the west side might provide additional parallel parking spaces. Noted that people park there now.
- Wanted to know if the current plans would be available for viewing online - for community members who were not able to attend.
- Suggested that the design team visit the Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg for inspiration.
- Some discussion about the potential for a pedestrian connection to the GRH park on the north end of the island under the Rt. 11 bridge:
 - we shared that we had reviewed the engineer's feasibility study of this from several years before and had made sure our design did not prevent any such connection from being made in the future.
 - we also shared that it was our understanding that the NYSDOT had not supported the idea, leading to it being shelved.
 - however, during conversation another member of the public stated that they understood the cause of this not moving forward to be the result of a more local decision making process.
- Question about the feasibility of a dedicated pedestrian bridge to provide access to the island.
- Concern expressed about relying on off-site parking during events - questions about pedestrian safety crossing rt. 11.
- Opinions voiced regarding the merit of the artwork currently on display.
- Questions about utilities crossing the existing gas easement.
- Concerns about the distribution of picnic tables.
- Noting that several of the existing trees are dead/dying or already removed by the village.
- Opinion that Bend in The River park being better suited for the hosting of large events.
- Inquiring about the 100yr floodplain and the impacts on the design.
- Additional anecdotes regarding the ice-flows and damage.

WILLOW ISLAND PUBLIC INFO

SESSION 3/9/23 @ 4pm

Name

Organization

Signature

Timothy Bacon
Herb Bullock
Scottie Bullock
Robert Martinez

Village of Canton
Village Tree Committee

~~JA~~
RK

Mike Crowe

self

Michael Crowe

Tom Lascell

Frank Palumbo

Village Resident

Barbara Beekman

Village of Canton

Barbara Beekman

Anneke & John Larrance

Grasse River Heritage
& Subcommittee

Anneke
Larrance

Pete Beekman

Village Resident

Pete Beekman

MICHAEL DALTON

VILLAGE OF CANTON

Michael Dalton

Louis Tremaine

Grasse River Heritage

Louis Tremaine

Anna Sorensen

Village Board

Anna Sorensen

Brooke Rose

Grasse River Outfitters

Brooke Rose

Marilyn Mentener

Business Owner (former Canton Mayor)

Brad Mentener

" "

 (John Taillon)

Town of Canton

Michael Scriminger

Village Canton Bus owner

Michael Scriminger

MIKE IVERSEN
MARK MCKENNA

VILLAGE RESIDENT
RESIDENT

Mike Iversen
Mark McKenna

March 9, 2023

Willow Island Enhancements Public Informational Open House

Thank you for attending this public information meeting. Your input is important!

What do you like about the ideas presented so far?

I like that majority of "hard scape" construction is located close to route 11; that majority of space is left open. I think the skating / stage conversion is cool

What concerns and/or recommendations do you have regarding the project?

~~being~~ concerned about ice flow damage in winter to the skating / stage

Is there anything missing? Is there anything that you think the team should know that has not been mentioned?

will this be a pet free park?? If not station for poop bag disposal.

OPTIONAL If you would like to share your contact information or if you would like us to contact you after the meeting, please complete the information below.

Name: Pete Beekman

Phone: 315-323-2720

Email address: pbeekman19@gmail.com

Would you like us to contact you? Yes No

only if you need to ☺

Willow Island

Public Information Session

Municipal Building

Courtroom
60 Main Street,
Canton, NY 13617

Thursday,
March 9th, 2023
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Join the discussion regarding the
future of Willow Island.



Department
of State

Funding for this project is provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Prepared for:
The Village of Canton
New York

Prepared by:
Whitham Planning Design
Landscape Architecture





WHITHAM
PLANNING DESIGN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, PLLC

142 East State Street Suite B Ithaca NY 14850

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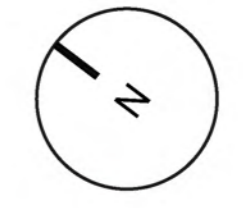
WILLOW ISLAND
VILLAGE OF CANTON
MAIN STREET
CANTON, NEW YORK, 13617

EXISTING
CONDITIONS
PLAN

1"=30'
SCALE

202214 PROJECT NO. JvM DRAWN BY
2023.02.21 DATE MP CHECKED BY

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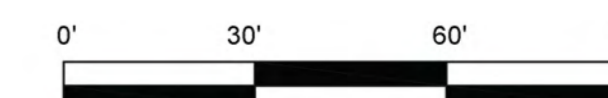
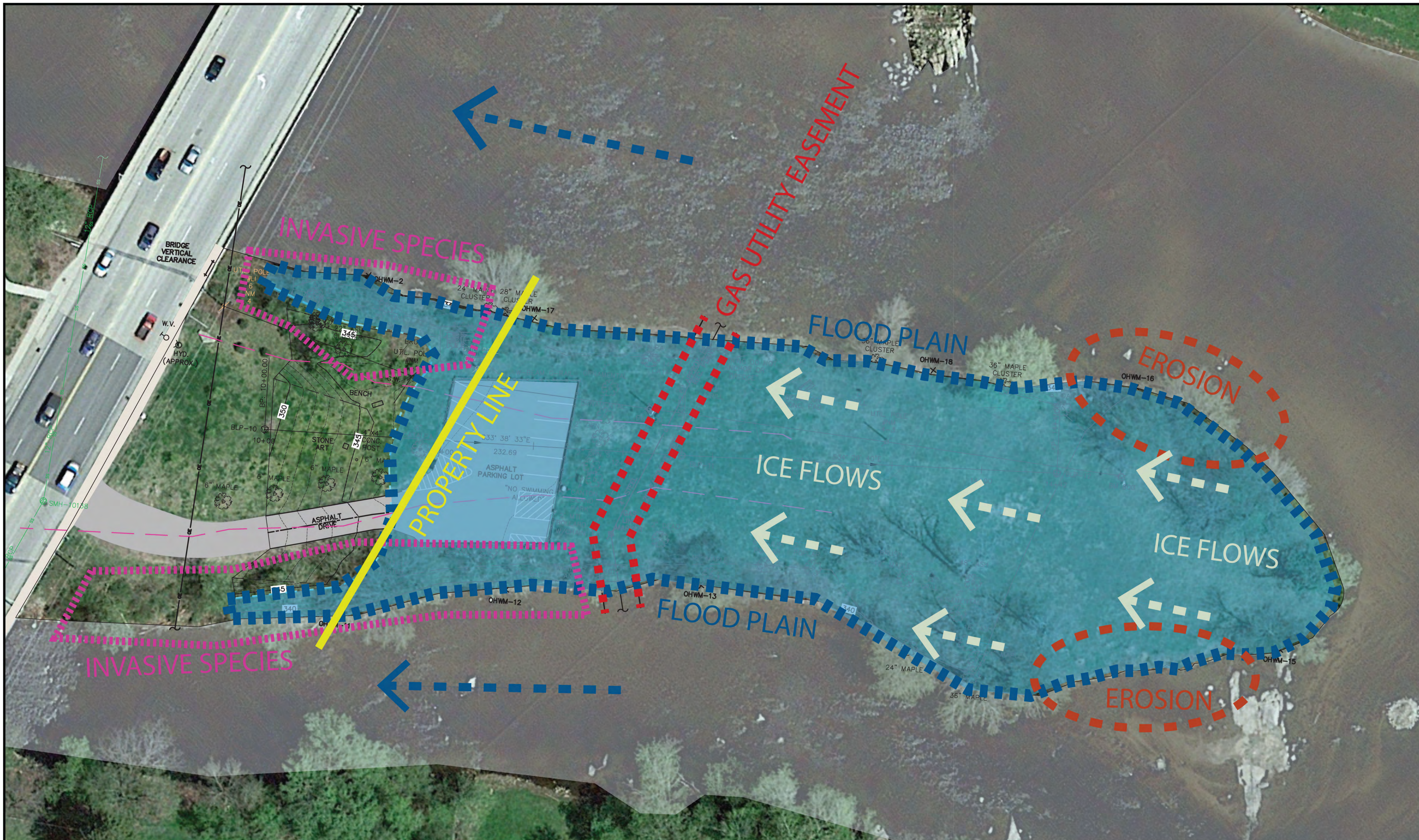
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VILLAGE OF CANTON
MAIN STREET
CANTON, NEW YORK, 13617

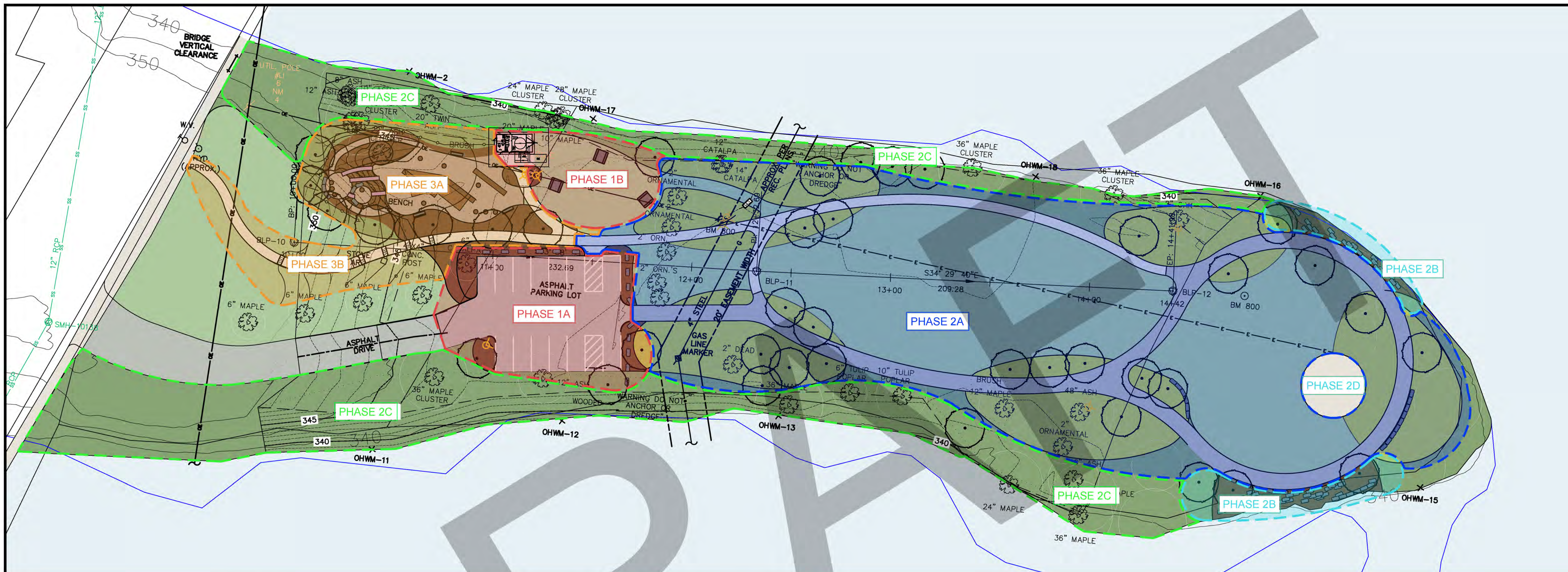
CONSTRAINTS
ANALYSIS
PLAN

1"=30'
SCALE

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

PHASING PLAN

1"=25'
SCALE

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| 2023.02.21 DATE | MP CHECKED BY |

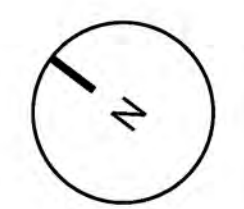
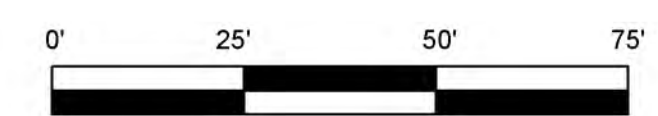
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| PHASE 1 | | |
|-----------|---|------|
| KEY | NAME | NOTE |
| PHASE 1A: | DEMO EXISTING PARKING LOT & ASSOCIATED FEATURES NEW ASPHALT PARKING LOT PAVING BOULDER SECURITY FENCE PARKING LOT LIGHTING PARKING STRIPING & SIGNAGE PARKING PLANTING (SHADE TREES) | |
| PHASE 1B: | BATHROOM SLAB BATHROOM UTILITIES BATHROOM PICNIC TABLES GRILLS BATHROOM AREA LIGHTING | |

| PHASE 2 | | |
|-----------|---|------|
| KEY | NAME | NOTE |
| PHASE 2A: | DEMO OF VARIOUS SITE FEATURES GRADING, BALANCED CUT/FILL UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL CONDUIT TO STAGE AREA 8' WIDE ASPHALT TRAIL 5' WIDE CONCRETE TRAIL TREE PLANTING MEADOW ESTABLISHMENT | |
| PHASE 2B: | STREAMBANK STABILIZATION | |
| PHASE 2C: | INVASIVE SPECIES REMEDIATION NATIVE BANK PLANTINGS/SHORELINE REESTABLISHMENT | |
| PHASE 2D: | STAGE | |

| PHASE 3 | | |
|-----------|---|------|
| KEY | NAME | NOTE |
| PHASE 3A: | DEMO OF VEGETATED AREA GRADING, CUT/FILL STANDALONE PLAYGROUND FEATURES BUILT-INTO SITE PLAYGROUND FEATURES (HILL SLIDES) 5' WIDE CONCRETE SIDEWALK CONNECTION TO BATHROOM SLAB PLAYGROUND PERIMETER FENCE BENCHES PLAYGROUND PLANTING | |
| PHASE 3B: | RELOCATION OF ART PARK SCULPTURES GRADING, CUT/FILL FOR PATH 5' WIDE CONCRETE SIDEWALK CONNECTION RAMP | |

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COLOR SCHEMATIC PLAN

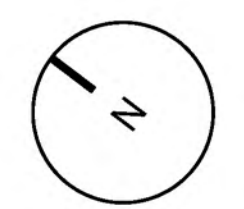
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SCALE

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Portable Restroom Example



Hill Slide Example



Natural Materials Swing Example



Natural Materials Climbing Structure Example



Streambank Stabilization Example



Perennial Bed Example

DESIGN PRECEDENT IMAGES

Prepared for:
The Village of Canton
New York



Funding for this project is provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.

Prepared by:
Whitham Planning Design
Landscape Architecture





Jeni Reed <jreed@cantonny.us>

C1001636 - Village of Canton - Willow Island Project Public Session

1 message

Jeni Reed <jreed@cantonny.gov>

Wed, Mar 15, 2023 at 9:07 AM

To: "Black, Katherine (DOS)" <Katherine.Black@dos.ny.gov>

Cc: Leigh Rodriguez <lrodriguez@cantonny.gov>, Michele Palmer <palmer@whithamdesign.com>

Hi Kate!

Attached please find notes and other documentation from the public information session held on 3/9/23 from 4-7pm to discuss the progress of the Willow Island Project.

This should correlate to Task #8 for the project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Jeni

Jeni Reed

Village & Town of Canton
Economic Development Assistant
60 Main Street
Canton, NY 13617
jreed@cantonny.gov
(315) 386-2871 x6
www.cantonny.gov

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Michele Palmer <palmer@whithamdesign.com>

Date: Tue, Mar 14, 2023 at 2:04 PM

Subject: Re: Public Info Session - Sign-in and Comment Sheet

To: Jeni Reed <jreed@cantonny.gov>

Cc: Jacob von Mechow <vonmechow@whithamdesign.com>, Leigh Rodriguez <lrodriguez@cantonny.gov>, Scott Whitham <whitham@whithamdesign.com>, Rochelle Thewet <thewet@whithamdesign.com>

Jeni,

Please see attached the informational summary and attachments. Let us know if you have any questions.

Best, Michele

Michele Palmer, PLA, ASLA, LEED GA


Senior Associate

Landscape Architecture | Planning | Project Management

607.280.6916 | direct

142 East State Street Suite B Ithaca NY 14850



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