

PHOENIX NY FORWARD PUBLIC MEETING # 1 SUMMARY

Public Meeting #1 – Tuesday, June 27th, 2023, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM White Pines Commons
Prepared by Highland Planning

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MEETING OVERVIEW:

The first public meeting for Phoenix's NY Forward (NYF) planning process provided an overview of the program. Forty-three people signed in and shared their thoughts about Downtown Phoenix during the small group discussion portion of the workshop.

Village of Phoenix Mayor Brian Borchik welcomed the community to the first NY Forward (NYF) public meeting. The consultant team's project manager, Phil Schaeffing with Stantec, then presented an overview of the NY Forward program and planning process and described highlights from the Village's application. The presentation also highlighted and promoted the Open Call for Projects which closes July 23.

After the presentation, Megan Morsch, Public Engagement Lead at Highland Planning, facilitated two public engagement activities. The first was an individual exercise for participants to review and comment on the draft vision statement on a worksheet. Next, participants talked in small groups to identify strengths, challenges, and opportunities for the Village and the NYF project area. These group discussions concluded with each group sharing their top five priorities with all meeting participants. Forty-two people signed in to learn more about the planning process and share their ideas about the Canal Waterfront District.

ATTENDEES:

Stantec and Highland Planning greeted attendees, gave a brief overview of the meeting format, and asked them a few questions about where they lived and what they were looking for in this study. The meeting was attended well attended by people who live or work inside and outside the study area.







First Name	Last Name	Organization
Susan	Lynch	

Jim	Lynch	
Donna	Datos	
Steve	Walts	Walts Excavation
Kristofer	Munga	Phoenix Martial Arts
John	McDonald	Phoenix Fire Department
Lucille	Mercer	Citizen
Michael	Henry	Citizen
Jan	Joker	
Ron	Joker	
David	Pendergast	Village Trustee
John	Adolfi	
Larry	Rawson	
Liz	Johnson	
Debra	Dates	
Amanda	Bell	
Gabe	Quattrorch	
Mike	Stissu	
Deb	Renfrew	
Linda	Stoutenger	
Ryan	Blowers	B3JRA LLC.
Sally	Woolson	
Kathy	Clark	
Dan	Ferazzoli	
Donna	Woodruff	
Ryan	Thorn	
Will	Considin	
Laura	Gonzalez	
Juan	Gonzalez	
Brandy	Posada	Live Well Beauty Bar
Michelle	Newvine	
Amy	Venshus	Democratic Committee
Zachary	Gelling	Town of Schroeppel
Joan	Clark	Democrats of Schroeppel
Pam	Breckenridge	
Stacey	Lawson	Special Kidz Sensory Gym
Ashley	Considine	
Roxanne	Derrio	
Tim	Derrio	
Brian	Borchik	Village of Phoenix Mayor

Sue	Rosenthal	
Doug	Rosenthal	
Jason	Creighton	

CONSULTANT TEAM IN ATTENDANCE:

Phil Schaeffing, AICP Associate and Senior Planner/Urban Designer, Stantec
Henry Bievenue, Stantec
Lydia Andraso, Stantec
Megan Morsch, Public Engagement Lead, Highland Planning
Mike Henry, Public Engagement Associate, Highland Planning
Holly Granat, Revitalization Specialist, Office of Planning, Development & Community
Infrastructure, New York State Department of State

DRAFT VISION STATEMENT EXERCISE SUMMARY:

The draft vision statement from the Village's NY Forward application was shared with participants. They were asked to write down which parts of the vision statement resonate with them, what could be better, and if anything should be added to the vision statement.

Draft Vision Statement

The Village of Phoenix seeks to protect and develop its economic, historic, and natural resources; enhance the Canal Waterfront District; and expand year-round cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities while maintaining adequate and affordable community services and improving the quality of life.

The main themes from the input received include:

- Economic development and natural resources: Many participants expressed support for the vision statement's focus on economic development and natural resources. They specifically mentioned the need to protect and develop the village's historic and natural resources, as well as to create more year-round cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities.
- Affordable community services and quality of life: Participants also expressed a desire
 for the village to maintain adequate and affordable community services and to improve
 the quality of life. They specifically mentioned the need to improve drainage, support
 small businesses, and provide more healthcare options.

Overall, the input from residents was positive and supportive of the vision statement. Some specific suggestions that participants made for improving the vision statement include:

- Add more details about how the village will protect and develop its economic, historical, and natural resources.
- Make it clear that the vision statement is not just about economic development, but also about improving the quality of life for all residents.
- Address some of the concerns that residents have raised, such as the need for more healthcare options and the potential environmental impact of a marina.

These suggestions will be considered as the LPC revises the vision statement and works with the consultant team to develop draft goals and strategies that support the vision. It will also help tailor the vision and goals to the specific interests and needs of the community. Full written documentation is included in Attachment B.

THEMES AND PRIORITIES FROM GROUP EXERCISES



Groups of 6-8 participants had a poster map of the NY Forward area that identified potential projects listed in the Village's application. Those project ideas were provided as examples of potential NYF projects only. Each group discussed four questions and wrote their answers on the posters:

- What do you love about this area?
- What opportunities do you see for the area?
- What are the area's challenges?
- What are your Top 5 priorities?

Themes from the responses to each of these questions are summarized below:

What do you love about this area?

- Sense of community
- Waterfront
- Clean and safe
- Events
- History
- Walkability
- Potential
- Small-town feel
- Nature

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Develop the island
- Create more recreation opportunities
- Enhance the tax base
- Attract new businesses
- Capitalize on boaters
- Market the area to tourists
- Improve signage
- Add amenities for kids and families
- Promote the arts
- Develop winter activities
- Create a destination

What are the area's challenges?

- People think it's "out of the way"
- Lack of restaurants downtown
- Lack of parking
- Not enough small businesses
- Sewage capacity
- Traffic congestion
- Housing
- Funding

What are your Top Five priorities?

- Develop the island
- Create more recreation opportunities
- Enhance the tax base
- Attract new businesses
- Market the area to tourists

Overall, the groups identified a number of strengths and opportunities for the Village of Phoenix. Participants also mentioned a number of specific projects that they would like to see implemented, such as a new dock, a mural, and an island development. They also identified some challenges that need to be addressed to realize the area's full potential. Taken together, this input will contribute to the Downtown Profile's assessment of local strengths, opportunities, and challenges as well as be used to develop goals and strategies for the NY Forward planning process.

Documentation of each small group's written responses is provided in Attachment C.

ATTACHMENT A: PRESENTATION **NY Forward** PHOENIX CANAL WATERFRONT DISTRICT CENTRAL NEW YORK NY FORWARD Public Meeting #1 Meeting Agenda 1 Welcome 2 NY Forward Overview **3 Village Application Review** 4 Next Steps **5** Visioning Exercises

2 NY Forward Overview

NY FORWARD

What is the NY Forward (NYF) Program?

\$100M investment* to communities nominated by the ten Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs)

> *\$4.5M for one community & \$2.25 for two communities in regions nominating three downtowns; or \$4.5M per community in regions nominating two downtowns.

Communities develop a **Strategic Investment Plan** to identify transformative projects to be funded in part through NYF

Learn more: https://www.ny.gov/programs/ny-forward

The NYF process is a partnership between

Local Planning Committee (LPC)

+

Community

+

New York State +

Consultant Team

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

LPC Members

Co-Chairs:

Brian Borchik, Mayor

Austin Wheelock, Operation Oswego County

John Adolfi

Sheila Dion

Brenden Backus

Natalie Curran

Amy Boyzuck

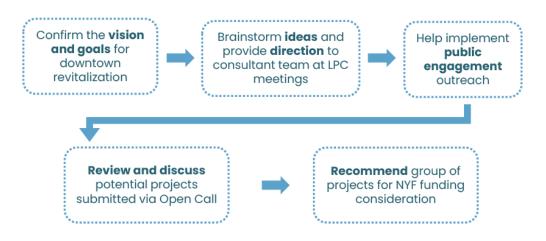
Paul Griser

Sally Woolson

LPC meetings are open to the public to observe. A public comment period is held at the end of each meeting.



Roles and Responsibilities



STATE TEAM







Team Members

Steve Kearney, Principal-in-Charge Phil Schaeffing, Project Manager Sarabrent McCoy, Urban Planner Isabel Oyuela-Bonzani, Urban Designer

+ partner firms with expertise in public engagement, project economics, retail, housing, and cost estimating

CONSULTANT TEAM EXPERIENCE

DRI ROUND 1 Oswego, Elmira, Oneonta











NYF Process

- · Village submitted an application to REDC and was awarded NY Forward funding
- Community planning process identifies potential NY Forward projects (now through October)
 - o Sponsors submit Open Call for Projects form
 - o Consultant team reviews project proposals
 - LPC votes to recommend list of projects for funding consideration (Strategic Investment Plan/SIP)
 - o Note: recommended projects should total \$6-8M in requested NYF funding
- State team reviews SIP and makes awards totaling \$4.5M to subset of LPC's recommended project list
- · Funded projects begin after contracting period
 - Note: NY Forward award is reimbursable grant (sponsor pays initially and gets reimbursed later, typically when project completed)

MAKING A SUCCESSFUL NYF PLAN

Key ingredients of a Strategic Investment Plan

A clear vision
for the
downtown

A clear vision

Goals and
strategies to
accomplish the
vision

Recommended
catalytic
projects to
implement the
plan

NYF PROJECT IDEAS

Eligible project types



New Development and/or Rehabilitation of Existing Structures



Public Improvements



Small Project Fund



Branding and Marketing (Physical Components)

X Ineligible project types

- · Standalone planning activities
- Operation and maintenance (include staffing, utilities, rent)
- · Pre-award costs
- · Property acquisition
- Training and other continuing expenses
- Expenses related to existing programs

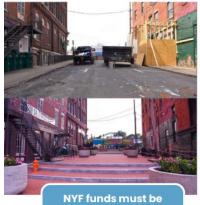
NYF PROJECT IDEAS

Eligibility Requirements

Projects must also meet the following eligibility requirements to be considered:

- Must be able to break ground within two years of receiving NYF award
- Large enough to be truly transformative to downtown
- Identified project sponsor with capacity and legal authority to undertake project
- Project sponsor has site control
- Financing commitments largely secured or demonstrated to be able to be secured
- Includes decarbonization techniques
 (if new construction, substantial renovation, or building addition)

Implementable Projects vs. "Good ideas"

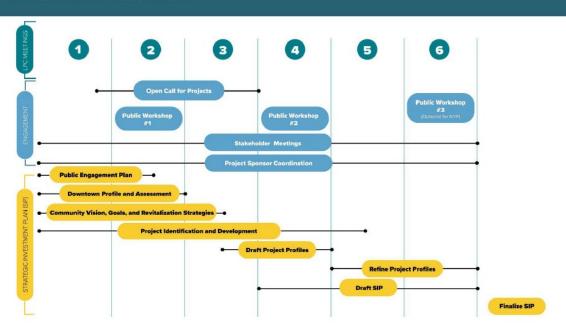






designated toward capital initiatives!

NYF PLANNING PROCESS TIMELINE



3 Village Application Review

NYF BOUNDARIES

Phoenix's Canal Waterfront District

Boundaries: Oswego River, Davis St., Volney St, Lock St, & the Rail Line



Vision statement draft

The Village of Phoenix seeks to protect and develop its economic, historic, and natural resources; enhance the Canal Waterfront District; and expand year-round cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities while maintaining adequate and affordable community services and improving the quality of life.

PROJECT IDEAS FROM VILLAGE'S APPLICATION

Project ideas from the Village's application*

Health & Safety

- * These projects will not be automatically considered by the LPC. All projects must submit an Open Call for Projects form, available online.
- · Wastewater Treatment Plant: expand and enhance existing plant
- Enterprise Fire Co: renovations for needed expansion and office space.

Business Development

- · Pascarella Marina: new marina spurring commercial and residential development
- Distillery & Waterside Club: provide expansion and enhancement of two spaces to support larger activities
- Small Business & Commercial Development: support a fund to assist the development of local businesses
- · Independent Pizza: provide renovation and expansion support

PROJECT IDEAS FROM VILLAGE'S APPLICATION



Civic Spaces

- North Island Transformation: enhance space for events and concerts
- Lock Island Improvements: provide additional waterside amenities and dog-friendly activities
- Henley Park: upgrade current amenities and the addition of a pavilion
- Marketing Campaign, Gateway and Wayfinding: improve pedestrian and visitor experience

PROJECT IDEAS FROM VILLAGE'S APPLICATION

Public realm/streetscape - existing conditions





Housing

 Neighborhood Revitalization Partnership: renovate and rehabilitate existing housing stock to energy-efficient and affordable home standards.

Project Ideas from Application = \$21.8M total development cost

Project ideas

- Village's application to the State identified potential project ideas
- Actively working to identify additional projects
- LPC has issued open call for projects to consider
- Projects must be within the NYF area boundary

SPREAD THE WORD!

Open call for projects

- Requires detailed information about project sponsor, confirmed funding, plans, etc.
- NYF focused on implementable projects, not just ideas
- Online form, office hours, webinar
- Consultant team available to discuss ideas <u>steve.kearney@Stantec.com</u>



Meetings

LPC Meeting #1: 5/30

Public Meeting #1: 6/27

LPC Meeting #2: 7/13

LPC Meeting #3: 8/3

• Public Meeting #2: 9/12

LPC Meeting #4: 9/28

LPC Meeting #5: 10/10*

LPC Meeting #6: 10/26
 *Additional meeting if needed

Open Call for Projects: 6/15 - 7/23

 Drop-In Office Hours for Project Sponsors: <u>Tomorrow</u>, 6/28 10am-1pm, Sweet Memorial Building

 Informational Webinar for Project Sponsors: 7/6 noon to 1pm, Zoom

Strategic Investment Plan: Oct/Nov



5 Visioning Workshop

HOW TONIGHT WILL WORK

Your role tonight

Discuss openly, but respectfully. There are no bad ideas!

Draw, write, speak – however works best for you.

Exercises

INDIVIDUALLY

Complete the Vision Statement and Goals exercises.

IN GROUPS

Discuss projects ideas, opportunities, and challenges of the NYF area.

Individual exercise:

- Review the vision statement and list of goals
- Write/Annotate:
 What resonates with
 you, what could be
 better



GROUP EXERCISE

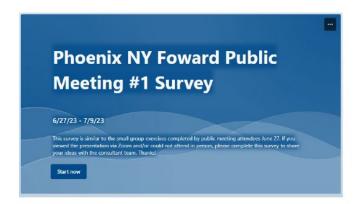
Group discussion:

- Identify a notetaker and a reporter at your table
- Identify assets, potential opportunities, and challenges
- Review and build on preliminary potential projects
- · Agree on 5 shared priorities
- Prepare to report back to the room on your 5 priorities



Zoom Participants

- This concludes the Zoom webinar.
- The workshop exercises are available online until July 9.
- https://forms.office.com/ r/tvTfZRKH16





ATTACHMENT B: INDIVIDUAL VISION WORKSHEET & FEEDBACK

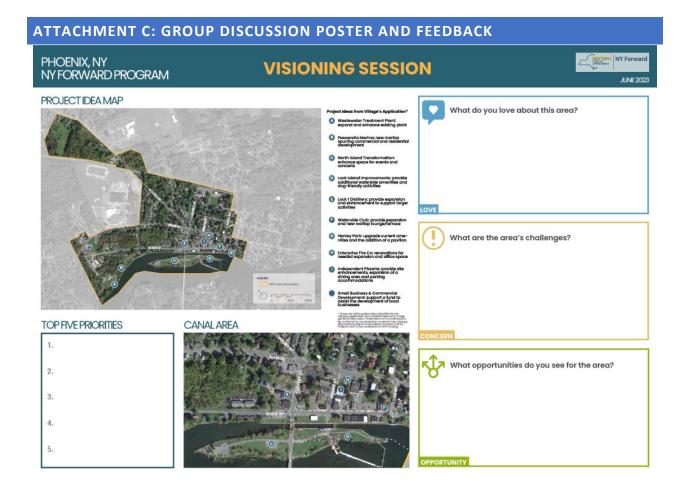
NY Forward - Village of Phoenix Individual Vision Statement Exercise Please help us build on the Phoenix NYF Vision. Read the draft vision statement that was included in the application and let us know what resonates with you, and what could be better. DRAFT VISION STATEMENT: The Village of Phoenix seeks to protect and develop its economic, historic, and natural resources; enhance the Canal Waterfront District; and expand year-round cultural, recreational, and entertainment opportunities while maintaining adequate and affordable community services and improving the quality of life. WHAT RESONATES WITH YOU: WHAT COULD BE BETTER / WHAT IS MISSING FROM THE VISION STATEMENT:

Feedback	Category
What resonates with you?	
Online Submission: Keeping the historic nature of our village.	develop and protect resources
Online Submission: Not having a lot of construction on the banks	
of the river	improving quality of life
Online Submission: Year-round and Canal District	improving quality of life

Online Submission: Family orientated activities and social family	
activities	affordable community services
Online Submission: Creating a safe, warm/ inviting community.	Improving quality of life
developing economic resources	develop and protect resources
protect & develop its economic, historic, & natural	
resources	develop and protect resources
affordable community services	affordable community services
improving the quality of life	improving quality of life
historic/natural resources	develop and protect resources
maintaining	affordable community services
improving the quality of life	improving quality of life
historic, cultural opportunities	develop and protect resources
maintain adequate and affordable community services	affordable community services
improving the quality of life	improving quality of life
year-round cultural, recreational and entertainment	
opportunities	year round opportunities
community service	affordable community services
protect and develop historic, economic and natural	
resources	develop and protect resources
improving the quality of life	improving quality of life
natural resources	develop and protect resources
natural resources	develop and protect resources
entertainment opportunities	year round opportunities
year-round cultural, recreational and entertainment	
opportunities	year round opportunities
natural resources	develop and protect resources
improving quality of life	improving quality of life
maintain adequate and affordable community services	affordable community services
improving quality of life	improving quality of life
natural resources	develop and protect resources
develop year-round recreational opportunities	year round opportunities
enhance the canal waterfront	enhance waterfront/downtown
enhance the canal waterfront	enhance waterfront/downtown
dock	enhance waterfront/downtown
Henley Park	develop and protect resources
little shops	enhance waterfront/downtown
mural	enhance waterfront/downtown
enhance storefronts and businesses	enhance waterfront/downtown
island could be put to better use	develop and protect resources
protect the quality of life	improving quality of life

	T
maintain proper drainage in the village - open ditch on 264 and 57	improving quality of life
inclusion - helping businesses that include & allow everyone	other
more dockage	develop and protect resources
no marina	other
improve bridgehouse brats area	other
island development	develop and protect resources
dog park	other
we need a restaurant and grocery store	other
not in favor of marina due to location	develop and protect resources
odor of sewage treatment plant	improving quality of life
potential for environmental problems	develop and protect resources
cleaning up of downtown area	enhance waterfront/downtown
make waterfront destination	develop and protect resources
small stores	enhance waterfront/downtown
use vacant land and properties	develop and protect resources
medical center/doctor's office	improving quality of life
What could be better/What is missing?	
Online Submission: We need to keep the small town feel this	
village has always had, no overwhelmingly large projects.	develop and protect resources
Online Submission: Expanding its private business quantity	Economic resources
Online Submission: I would love to see high end apartments for seniorsno section 8	Housing
health care	health care/doctor's office
more ways to bring the visitors	attractions
grocery stores	grocery store
restaurants	restaurants
handicap accessibility	handicap accessibility
doctor's offices	health care/doctor's office
restaurants	restaurants
grocery store	grocery store
handicap accessibility	accessibility
island development	enhance waterfront/downtown
dog park	other
family	other
boater scavenger hunt	enhance waterfront/downtown
supporting small businesses	other
inclusion	other
more dockage	enhance waterfront/downtown
water treatment plant	improve quality of life

keep small-town feel with growth	develop and protect resources
restaurants	restaurants
doctors offices	health care/doctor's office



Group 1 What do you love about this area?

- Ruralness
- Sense of community
- Waterfront
- Safe
- School district

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Shuttles can't get anywhere big
 - Accessibility
- North Island
- Short/long-term rental
- Marina
 - Public dock access
- Pool
- Trails

What are the area's challenges?

- Elderly and families
- Attract new businesses grocery stores, coffee

• Preexisting use of business center: underutilized waterfront

Top 5 priorities

- Develop island
- Concert & arts
- Places for kids/teenagers/pre-teens to hang out
 - Skate Park
 - Splash pad
 - Volleyball court
- Wastewater treatment
- Wasted area opportunities
- Shuttle/bike rental
- Marina: public and private, short and long-term rental
- Groceries
- Boating and hardware
- Pool surrounded by water kids need to learn how to swim
- Employ teenagers

Group 2

What do you love about this area?

- History of the village
- Waterfront
- Walkability
- Parking
- Potential
- Access to highways/route 31
- Small-town feel
- Community
- clean

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Waterfront underutilized
- Use open areas
- Draw people in
- Need signage
- Destinations
- Something for the kids
- Cultural/historical museum: Schroeppel historical society
- Wine tasting
- Pickleball courts

What are the area's challenges?

- People think it's "out of the way"
- Business downtown
- Restaurants/food
- People need to know what we have to offer
 - o Why do I want to go to Phoenix?

Top 5 priorities

- Destination opportunities
- Boat slips
- Enhance the tax base
- More recreation opportunities
 - Sport-related
 - Cultural
- Eateries/restaurants/winery or brewery

Group 3

What do you love about this area?

- Sense of community
- Water
- Clean and safe
- Events

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Create safe area (non-smoking areas)
- Signage walking community
- Recreational activities on the water
- Family fun center: splash pad, movies, etc.
- Dog park
- Back-end signage (waterfront signage)
- Winter activities (trails/snowshoe)
- Developing the island bathrooms
- Capitalize on boaters
- Create/display historic art to teach about the history

What are the area's challenges

- Marketing for events: getting small businesses to engage in community events
- Signage walking community needs it
- Attract and retail employees

Top 5 priorities

- Signage: walking community, canal front signage
- Dog park
- Family fun center: splash park, recreational activities year round
- Marketing/events
- Wellness center

Group 4

What do you love about this area?

- Dock area
- Henley Park
- Small shops (Sassy Sisters Hometown Crystals)
- Stores, lights, mural
- Historic look downtown

- BridgeHouse Brats
- Concerts in the park
- Pond

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Improve Canalside buildings and murals
- Fine arts center
- Restaurant/cafe
- Additional electricity at docks
- More flowers

What are the area's challenges?

- Parking
- Not enough small businesses
- Need restaurant/diner
- Not enough handicap doctors
- Put traffic light back up (Lock/Main)

Top 5 priorities

- Fix up downtown, keep historic look
- Parking, restaurants, café, small shops
- Reno to Doctor's Office on Bridge Street
- Additional dockage/electrical
- Annex village to Clarkcrest, money for sewers

Group 5

What do you love about this area?

- Small-town feel
- Quiet
- Nature
- Family friendly events (festivals)

What are the area's challenges?

- Small geographic area
- When the bridge is up (traffic)
- Sewage capacity
- Don't be like Baldwinsville (overgrowth)
- Economic growth
- Potential Marina location

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Restaurants
- Grocery store
- Small arts project (co-op)

Top 5 priorities

- Small-town feel
- No more apartments
- More restaurants
- Grocery stores

• No marina (or better placement)

Group 6

What do you love about this area?

- Waterfront
- Recent development/White Pines
- Youth activities
- Outdoor sports facility
- Small town feel
- Walkable
- Community
- tourism

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Rest/coffee shops/eatery/deli
- Outdoor recreation
- Micron
- Waterfront
- Boaters/tourism

What are the area's challenges?

- Funding
- Septic/sewer
- Housing
- Grocery stores/meat market

Top 5 priorities

- Waterfront development
- Sewer upgrades
- Rest/coffee shops
- Youth/recreation
- Health care

Group 7

What do you love about this area?

- Small-town feel
- Community events

What opportunities do you see for the area?

- Marina/docks on island
- Kid friendly area in village
- Residential improvements
- Clean up utilities on State Street/Lock Street
- Planters/lanterns to make quaint feel

What are the area's challenges?

- Lack of restaurants downtown
- Transfer station is an eye sore
- Housing

Top 5 Priorities

- Wastewater treatment plant
- North Island transformation
- Lock Island improvements
- Henley Park
- Small business

Online Submissions:

What do you love about this area?

- Some sections of it, like State St by Henley Park, is where most of our events happen. It works perfectly there.
- I like the boats going thru the waters & the views. I enjoy that people can enjoy the nature of the water so close to us.
- It includes most of the large vacant properties in the village.
- Very clean and well kept....
- I love seeing people improving homes in the area.

What opportunities do you see for this area?

- I would love to see a restaurant and grocery store come into the village in this area. Maybe a restaurant on State St by Henley Park and a grocery store by the middle school.
- Perhaps a community market, farmers market would be wonderful instead of the person selling across from ice cream place
- A marina with housing and restaurants.
- We could use a little diner.....and I would love to see a Subway

What are the area's challenges?

- Growing the villages economy while keeping the residents happy.
- Smell from the water plant. Fisherman not picking up after themselves
- People not maintaining their homes.....it is an eyesore in some neighborhoods...
- Old homes,

Top 5 Priorities

- Not Applicable to Online Survey

