



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Keaton T. DePriest | Director of Community Development | 716-256-1225 | kdepriest@village.williamsville.ny.us

Williamsville to offer public information meeting on Ellicott Creek's waterfront revitalization

Community input sought for plans to manage, protect creek

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY (Oct. 7, 2019) – The Village of Williamsville is in the process of preparing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, and as part of introducing the project to the community, village residents and other interested parties are invited attend a public information meeting set for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, at Village Hall, 5565 Main St.

The meeting will allow attendees to offer their input on what they feel is important for the future of Ellicott Creek waterfront, and to help the project planning team identify important issues and opportunities in this area of the village. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. at to allow the public an opportunity to review maps of existing conditions in the waterfront area.

A Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is an extension of the New York State Coastal Management Program. Having an LWRP enables the village to evaluate land use and waterfront resources, and also develop a comprehensive strategy to effectively manage and protect resources along Ellicott Creek.

The Village of Williamsville was awarded a grant from New York State for the preparation of the LWRP and in September 2018, the village entered into a contract for the provision of professional services with WWS Planning to assist with this project. WWS Planning, in conjunction with C&S Companies and the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, has been working with the village's Waterfront Advisory Committee – established in March – to collect and review information on existing waterfront conditions, including land use, community character, public access, recreation, flooding and erosion, historic preservation, scenic resources, environmental resources and water quality.

The information gathered at the public information meeting will be useful for revising the State's coastal management policies to better reflect issues and opportunities of local importance. This information will also help to determine where potential projects could be conducted for improving the use and enjoyment of the waterfront.

By applying a local focus on land use management and the maintenance, improvement and enhancement of important resources and features in the waterfront area, an LWRP strengthens the state's program and provides the village with a roadmap to guide land use and recognize opportunities. It also gives the village more local control over decisions made along its waterfront. The goal is to develop a village-specific program that properly manages land use and community facilities along the creek and effectively protects important natural resources.

As work continues on the LWRP project, draft materials and progress reports will be made available to the public for review and additional input. Ultimately, the Williamsville Village Board must take action to adopt the LWRP; therefore, public involvement is critical to ensure that this project can result in a waterfront program that protects and improves the Ellicott Creek waterfront.

For additional information on these meetings or the LWRP project, contact Wendy Salvati, WWS Planning, at 870-2724, or Keaton DePriest, the village's director of community development, at 256-1225

###