



City of Saratoga Springs

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, September 5, 2008

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Mayor Johnson is Tackling The Waterfront Park Property Now

SARATOGA SPRINGS - In late 2005, the former Waterfront Restaurant property on Saratoga Lake was purchased by the City of Saratoga Springs through the City's Open Space Bond Act Fund, for the sum of \$2,000,000. To date, it has not been developed or made available for use by City taxpayers who are paying for it.

In 2006, the City Council's representatives on the Waterfront Park Committee met with several workgroups gathering information and developing recommendations. The Committee's final report was presented the City Council in December of 2006 and published on the City's web site for public review and comment. Subsequently, after a public request for services, the LA Group was selected to proceed in developing a Master Plan for the property.

The City's consultant initiated their work by utilizing the established guidelines and involving four design teams to develop different ideas for the site. A seven-person committee comprising of members of the Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works and the original Waterfront Committee reviewed the proposals.

This Monday, September 8, 2008 at 6pm in City Hall, Michael Ingersoll of the LA Group presents the Master Plan of the two-phase construction project that not only incorporates those principles first envisioned by the City but in itself, represents the City's investment in the future recreational use of its Lakefront property. The required archaeological investigation and the demolition of the existing lakeside structure are planned for completion this Fall. The City Council is being asked to adopt this plan so that the construction can proceed with Phase One.

The first phase of the project will develop the Crescent Avenue level and portions of the shoreline level of the existing three level site. A subsequent phase will develop the intermediate level and complete the remaining lower portion.

The upper park level includes an entry plaza, vehicle parking and a park office and restroom facility, a playground recreational space, and an overlook. The mid level includes a wilderness overlook stair to an amphitheater and park. The lower level includes a beach and swim area, a kayak launch, new pavilions, changing rooms, a fishing and boating pier, a lagoon and overlook and a provision for accessible parking. The park will include educational components, utilizing interpretive display panels referencing Saratoga Lake's history and use as a cultural resource and incorporate a storm water management lagoon feature.

Since this project is included in the recommended Capital Plan for 2009 projects, presently before the City Council to vote on adoption by September 15, 2008, please come and see on Monday, September 8, 2008 the vision for development of a City treasure.

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