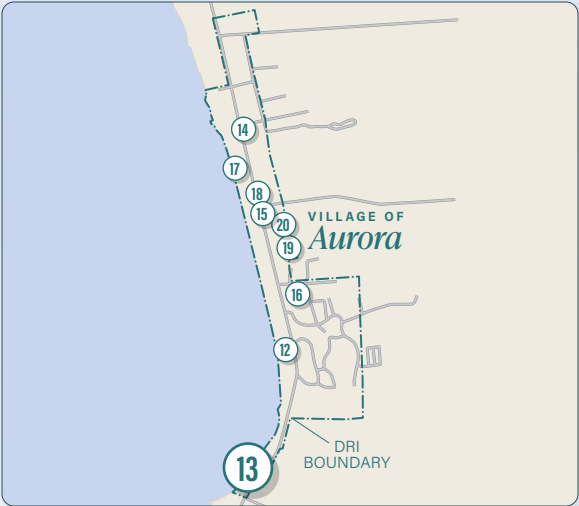


13

CONSTRUCTION OF A SOUTHERN GATEWAY:
AURORA WATERFRONT PARK
VILLAGE OF *Aurora*

ADDRESS/LOCATION	SPONSOR	TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT	TOTAL DRI FUNDS REQUESTED	% OF TOTAL PROJECT COST
Main Street, Aurora	Village of Aurora	\$773,000	\$773,000	100%

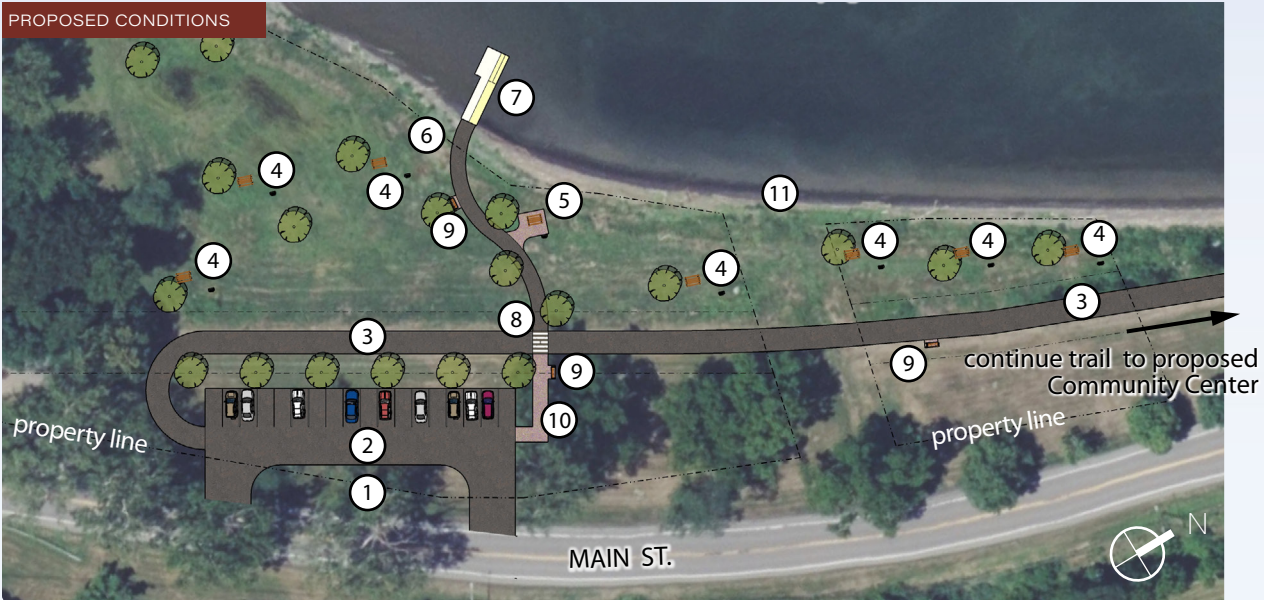


Property Ownership

The Village of Aurora is currently in the process of finalizing the ownership agreement for the Aurora Waterfront Park project property. The land will be donated to the Village and the agreement is expected to be finalized in Q1 of 2025.

Capacity

The Village of Aurora's Department of Public Works has led multiple successful public improvement projects, including the refurbishment



▲ Proposed Improvements

1. Park identification sign;

2. Asphalt parking area for 18 cars;

3. Asphalt shared-use trail, 12' wide (with fitness equipment added as a future phase);

4. Picnic table with grill and shade tree;
5. Accessible picnic table on concrete pad with grill and shade tree;

6. Kayak storage rack and Blueway launch site signage;

7. Accessible canoe/kayak launch;

8. Blueway Trail kiosk;
9. Bench (6' long) on concrete pad (also located every 200' along trail between Waterfront Park and Community Center);

10. Concrete sidewalk, 8' wide; and,

11. Beach improvements (future phase).

of the Water Tower, replacement of HVAC in the Village Fire House, and addition of speed bumps on Court Street. They have the capacity to work with engineering consultants to facilitate the project.

The Village's Planning Board and Local Planning Committee members will also work with the selected engineering consultants to finalize designs for the Aurora Waterfront Park.

Project Description

The southern gateway into the Village lacks notice of arrival into the downtown. With the recent closing of Wells College, the Village has lost its ability to provide residents and visitors with recreational and outdoor amenities. Main Street, located along Cayuga Lake, provides opportunities to increase recreation and waterfront access, and activate underutilized properties. The Village's Southern Gateway Aurora Waterfront Park project activates land available to the Village directly adjacent to Cayuga Lake.

The proposed park will feature the repurposing of an old railway bed into a durable, shared use, ADA-compliant trail. Other park features include a park identification sign, new asphalt parking area for 18 cars, new picnic tables with grills, and shade trees as well as an accessible picnic table and grill. The project will also include waterfront amenities including an accessible canoe/kayak launch, kayak storage rack and Blueway launch site signage, Blueway Trail kiosk, benches along the trail, and a concrete sidewalk.



EXISTING CONDITIONS



Later phases of the overall park plan could include fitness equipment and enhancements to the beach, and a future trail connection to the proposed Aurora Community Park located at 170 Main Street, which could tie the Village's waterfront recreation assets together.

Revitalization Strategies

DRI Strategies

- Develop inclusive spaces for gathering by improving ADA accessibility and programming within public spaces.
- Improve and provide additional public spaces and connections between public spaces throughout the downtown areas.
- Develop and improve existing waterfront gathering spaces along Cayuga Lake
- Continue investment in and support of waterfront recreation including kayaking, boating, fishing, swimming, and other paddle craft.
- Focus on active and passive recreation amenities such as pickleball and tennis courts,

playgrounds, walking trails, and sports fields within new and existing parks.

- Provide additional spaces along the waterfront for the public to view and enjoy the water.
- Invest in natural and recreational waterfront areas to ensure public access to Cayuga Lake.

REDC Strategies

- Invest in the built environment to support the economy of future generations, while investing in the preservation of the natural environment

Decarbonization and Environmental Resiliency

The Construction of a Southern Gateway: Aurora Waterfront Park project does not meet the threshold for decarbonization as the project does not include the renovation or development of new indoor space. Therefore, the project is not required to meet a decarbonization compliance path.

Public Support

The public is very supportive of construction of the Aurora Waterfront Park. Throughout the

Budget

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS OF FUNDS
Design	\$61,000	DRI	Requested
Construction (includes permitting)	\$671,000	DRI	Requested
Construction Administration	\$41,000	DRI	Requested
Total DRI Funding Request	\$773,000		
Total Funding from Other Sources	\$-		
Total Project Cost	\$773,000		
% Request of Total Project Cost	100%		

planning process, parks and recreation have been a top priority for many community members. In Survey #1, improving access to the waterfront and improving public gathering and green spaces were two of the top three priorities. In Survey #2, 81% of respondents noted they believe the project will be transformational. Survey respondents commented that Aurora currently lacks sufficient public waterfront access, especially with the future of the Wells Boathouse in question. One respondent commented that "this is an essential project for the future vitality of the Village of Aurora." Another commented that "this public park proposal will benefit generations to come!"

Budget Narrative

The project budget, which is based on standard construction estimating methods, was prepared by a licensed engineer and landscape architect familiar with the proposed design improvements associated with the project. The sponsor requested that the DRI funds cover the entirety of the public project. The Village does not have excess funds to allocate for this project.

Project Need and Impact

The proposed project realizes an important need for the Village of Aurora by revitalizing otherwise vacant and underutilized public land. The Southern Gateway park project will provide an entrance into the DRI community corridor and will become a place for residents and visitors to recreate along the banks of Cayuga Lake. The Village of Aurora's existing waterfront park does not have adequate accessibility and does not provide a large enough space for a social gathering. The construction of a new kayak/canoe launch will bring additional public access to Cayuga Lake that will help to draw regional visitors to the park and subsequently the DRI communities.

As a public project, the Construction of a Southern Gateway Park is not affected by real estate market conditions and is considered to be feasible. Potential increased cost of materials and labor for the finalization of design and subsequent construction may impact the project budget.

Timeframe for Implementation¹

SCHEDULE

Conceptual Design

- Develop Renderings
- Develop Project Scope
- Draft preliminary construction estimate

Completed

Regulatory Approvals

- Site plan approval
- NYSEQRA

2 Months

Design, Engineering & Bid Process

- Solicit design and engineering services
- Develop construction documents
- Obtain necessary permits and approvals
- Issue bid documents
- Award bid to selected contractor

10 Months

Construction

- Site work

18 Months

Total Time Frame

27 Months

¹. Renderings and a professional cost estimate have been completed for the subject project.

Regulatory Requirements

The proposed project will need to be reviewed by the Village of Aurora Planning Board for site plan approval and compliance with the NYSEQRA. The site plan will also be reviewed by Cayuga County as a fulfillment of the General Municipal Law 239m requirements. Permitting by the Village of Aurora and outside agencies including the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Department of Transportation will be required after approval of a site plan.