

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal: 9/23/2026

Project Registration Number (*office use only*):

Type of Review Required (please check one):

☒ Mandatory Consultation for proposals seeking Greenway Funding

☐ Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement for proposals not seeking Greenway Funding

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name:	Town of Grand Island
Mailing Address:	2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14072
Federal ID#:	16-6002263
Charities Registration #:	

PROJECT TYPE (Please check only ONE)

☐ Trail Development / Improvement

☐ Interpretation / Cultural Monuments

☐ Ecosystem / Riparian Habitat Restoration

☐ Stewardship

☒ Niagara River Greenway Placemaking / Public Access / Wayfinding

FUNDING COMMITTEE

☐ Host Community Standing Committee

☐ Ecological Standing Committee

☒ Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

☐ State Parks Standing Committee

☐ Unsure at this time / N/A

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$ 250,000

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	<u>Town of Grand Island – East River Kayak Launch & Trail head</u>
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	25.00-2-12.1
Project Site Address:	East River Road, Grand Island
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14072
Minor Civil Division(s):	
County:	Erie
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	Town of Grand Island - owner

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	<u>Peter Marston Jr</u>
Title:	Town Supervisor, Town of Grand Island NY
Business Address:	2255 Baseline Rd, Grand Island
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14072
Work Number:	716-773-9600 ext 616
Cell Number:	
E-Mail Address:	pmarston@grand-island.ny.us

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	<u>Elaine O'Neill</u>
Title:	
Organization / Firm:	Town of Grand Island, Grant Coordinator
Business Address:	2255 Baseline Rd, Grand Island
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14072
Work Number:	716-773-9600 ext 614
Cell Number:	
E-Mail Address:	eoneill@grandislandny.gov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following six items in the order that they are presented.

1. *In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.*

The Town of Grand Island intends to expand on the Scenic Woods Trail project that was funded by the Buffalo & Erie County Greenway Standing Committee in 2017 by installing a trail head and a much-needed kayak launch off East River Rd. The Town has completed phase 3 (see design drawing of total project in appendix) of the Scenic Woods project and is in the process of planning for phase 2, which is a more complex section of the trail due to several wetlands through the site. The proposed trailhead would mark the entrance to the phase 3 section of the Scenic Woods trail and the parking lot for the proposed kayak launch site across the street. This kayak launch will be the only town owned property with full water access and more importantly the only stopping point for paddlers on the entire east channel of the Niagara River. A launch at the Scenic Woods location is essential not only for convenience but for safety, because there are no launches to stop at from the East River launch at Beaver Island State Park all the way to Woods Creek at Buckhorn State Park, this stretch is over 11 miles. Adding a new launch at the Scenic Park location would pare down the distance between paddlecraft launching sites from over eleven miles to just 5.76 miles from Woods Creek to Scenic Woods and 6.36 miles from there to the East River Marsh. Establishing a public paddlecraft launch essentially established a string of mini harbors of refuge for paddle powered craft engaged in the circumnavigation of Grand Island.

Some of the key benefits associated with establishment of a paddlecraft launching site at this location include:

- improved safety, convenience and access for paddlers who would like to use the East Channel (Tonawanda Channel) of the Niagara River but now avoid it because of the more than 11-mile distance between existing launch sites.
- the proposed launch site is located near the wetland restoration area that is a part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area. The setting is much like that encountered at the East River Marsh so there is ample opportunity for waterfowl and wildlife observation as well as passive recreation and environmental education.
- vegetative screening using natural plant cover along the property perimeter is proposed which would establish a wildlife corridor between the river and the Scenic Woods greenspace. It would also provide a visual buffer between the new launch site and any adjacent privately owned property where such buffers do not already exist. Ecological values could be increased by using native plant species rather than ornamentals wherever possible.
- the project would add ecological and recreational values within the Niagara River Greenway and the Town of Grand Island along a section of river corridor where river access currently does not exist.
- the project advances the goals of the recently adopted Town of Grand Island Master Plan and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

2. *Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.*

- **Excellence:** The Town of Grand Island is an essential component of the Niagara River Greenway with a variety of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Collectively, the island ecosystems together with those of the rest of the Niagara River corridor have earned worldwide recognition as a Ramsar site and as an Audubon Globally Significant Important Bird Area. The marshes along the Niagara River adjacent to the proposed launch site are examples of these designations and therefore visiting them, observing wildlife and learning about the river ecosystem is a logical outcome of providing paddlecraft access to the Niagara River at this location.
- **Sustainability:** The project will promote long-term interest in the ecology of the Niagara River and its wetlands due to its proximity to those resources. Management of the launch site will involve minimal disturbance generally limited to monitoring and removing invasive species, deadfall of flotsam and jetsam. Adopting this approach will ensure that organisms at all trophic levels have an opportunity to flourish. Regarding the launch system structure, it will be removed at the end of each recreation season, stored and put back at the start of the following season minimizing impact on critical fall and spring migrations.
- **Accessibility:** The project, when completed, will provide a commanding view of the near-shore and offshore waters of the Niagara River while creating a safe, accessible, and inclusive point of public access to the waterfront. Designed using principles of universal design and ADA accessibility, the paddlecraft launch will improve opportunities for seniors and individuals with disabilities, including those with mobility limitations, to participate in outdoor water-based recreation. The accessible design will also provide youth and families with a safe and welcoming location to experience paddling, connect with the Niagara River. Paddlers entering the river from this launch site will have immediate access to the recently restored wetland adjacent to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area, or the opportunity to enter the open Niagara River and paddle to the next official paddlecraft launch site.
- **Ecological Integrity:** Working with native plant experts (<https://www.silo.city/holistic-urban-regeneration>) to design and install appropriate native plantings in the project area. Every effort will be made to establish and maintain the characteristic natural plant cover through minimal soil intrusion. Revegetation where needed will be accomplished using native trees and shrubs. No manicured gardens or ornamental plantings will be incorporated into the natural site landscape. Native vegetation will be oriented to establish a wildlife corridor permitting connection between the near-shore environment and the forested ecosystem of Scenic Woods Park.
- **Public Well-Being:** Access to the adjacent reconstructed wetlands owned by the State of New York is open to any paddle powered vessel. Motorized small craft while in the river cannot reach the new launch site because water depth is limited to just a few inches. This separation and the ability to access calm shallow waters provides a relaxing setting that enhances the quality of life and personal well-being.
- **Connectivity:** The proposed paddlecraft launch site through access to the Niagara River will facilitate connections to other segments of the Grand Island Blueway Trail as well as cross river connections to the Erie Canal.
- **Restoration:** In an indirect way the project provides access to the Niagara River and a large expanse of restored wetland nearby. The wetland itself is a sort of demonstration project which, if observed regularly by paddlers, will show the progress of restoration and the importance of applying restorative techniques to other stressed ecosystems.
- **Celebration:** The project will celebrate Grand Island's longstanding history and cultural connection to the Niagara River by creating a public waterfront destination where residents and visitors can experience the Island's natural and recreational heritage. The accessible launch and trailhead will provide opportunities for community paddling events, youth and family activities, guided nature outings, environmental education, and volunteer stewardship, bringing residents of different ages and abilities together. Interpretive signage and other educational elements will provide passive environmental education, allowing the natural landscape to serve as a living classroom while helping visitors understand Grand Island's waterfront history and natural resources.
- **Partnerships:** The project strengthens partnerships among the Town of Grand Island, trail and recreation organizations, waterfront stakeholders, and State and regional agencies. The trailhead and paddlecraft launch

will connect the Island's trail network with the Niagara River and Grand Island Blueway Trail. The Town will coordinate with NYS DEC, NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, USACE, Erie County, and other stakeholders on planning, permitting, design, construction, and long-term management. The Town of Grand Island Trail along with recreation organizations such as the Grand Island Nature Alliance, Sierra Club and Adirondack Mountain Club will support promotion, stewardship, and programming, strengthening the integration of Grand Island's trail and waterfront resources throughout the Greenway.

- **Community Based:** The proposed paddlecraft launch reflects the community's planning priorities for expanding waterfront recreation, improving public access, and protecting Grand Island's natural resources. Support for the project is identified in the Town of Grand Island Master Plan and the recently adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). The Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Master Plan also supports enhanced recreational opportunities and waterfront access. In addition, conclusions from a recent marketing study New York Forward outreach survey identify the potential for and public support of ecotourism and related business activity, providing further justification to expand recreational access to Grand Island's natural and waterfront resources.

3. *Define the budget for the total proposed project and include costs for the following:*

Planning	\$ 45,000
Construction	\$ 57,500
Acquisition	\$ 125,000
Administration	\$ 17,500
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$ 5,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 250,000

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

There are currently only two potential sources of funding for this project, Greenway Grant and Town of Grand Island. The Town of Grand Island estimates that approximately half of the project cost is to be in kind services by the town. These services would include, but not be limited to: Engineering, Design, Project Management, Construction, Labor Costs, Administration, Operation and Maintenance, Crosswalk and Parking Lot Striping, Pipe and Structures. The other half of the project cost would go towards most of the acquisition costs of the Paddlecraft Launch Platform, Native Plantings, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Products, Equipment Rental, Construction Materials Including: Stone, Clay Fill Material, Asphalt, etc. These monies would also be purposed towards Crosswalk Signage and Environmental Interpretive Signage.

The operation and maintenance will be performed by the Town of Grand Island Parks Department. These O&M duties will likely include snow plowing, lawn care maintenance, native plantings maintenance, seasonal removal and disposal of shoreline debris and seasonal removal and installation of the paddlecraft launch platform.

4. *Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a*

local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

The proposed launch has strong documented community and municipal support. The Town's 2025 Parks, Recreation & Senior Services Master Plan Survey identified water-based amenities as the community's greatest unmet outdoor recreation need. Residents specifically requested additional kayak and boat launches, improved waterfront access, river viewing areas, and stronger connections between parks, trails, and the river. The Master Plan subsequently identified "Open the Waterfront" as a long-term priority. Waterfront connectivity also ranked among the top three priorities in the Town's 2026 NY Forward public survey.

The project is specifically identified in the Town's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) as Project G-7: Eastern Paddlecraft Launch. The LWRP calls for additional paddlecraft access along East River Road and identifies these locations as destinations along Grand Island's Blueway Trail. The project also advances LWRP Policies 19, 20, and 21, addressing public waterfront access and water-dependent and water-enhanced recreation.

The Town has conducted direct outreach to property owners adjacent to the proposed launch site, providing information about the project and inviting comments and feedback. This outreach was intended to encourage community support, identify concerns early, and help ensure that the project is designed to serve the broader community while being respectful of neighboring properties. A petition and letters of support documenting community support are included with the application.

The Town of Grand Island will serve as project sponsor, overseeing project development, permitting, grant administration, construction, and long-term operation and maintenance. The Town will coordinate with applicable State and Federal agencies and with environmental and recreational stakeholders regarding permitting, natural resource protection, public access, and environmental education.

Together, the documented public demand, adopted LWRP designation, direct community outreach, and Town commitment demonstrate that the project is both community-supported and locally planned, with the Town prepared to oversee its implementation and long-term stewardship.

5. *Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.*

There will be some project related environmental impact associated. The actual shoreline (see attached photos) contains a well-developed riparian plant corridor consisting of shrubs and trees. When installing the ramp only the minimal amount of vegetation should be cleared to minimize damage to the riparian woodland corridor. This will likely become a condition in any permit that is issued by the NYSDEC and the Corps. Permit work is on-going and fully expected to be complete prior to the start of the project. To compensate for the loss of vegetation, native plants will probably have to be added along the landward perimeter of the existing riverfront woodland. Immediately offshore of the launch site there is a submerged aquatic plant bed. The ramp should be placed so as not to disturb this plant bed. During the growing season vegetation will likely prosper around the ramp

which could offset any minor losses that might occur.

6. *Please attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimated date for project completion/opening. If funded, it is expected that the project sponsor or point of contact will notify the Commission of the project opening date as it nears completion. (Note: This addition to the application was made September 2018.)*

The Town anticipates that the project can be completed within approximately six months from the time of award, subject to weather conditions, material availability, and potential supply-chain delays.

Key milestones include:

- Final approval from NYSDEC and USACE
- Project Award: Contract execution and authorization to proceed
- Procurement/Manufacturing: Order materials and coordinate fabrication of the custom paddlecraft launch
- Site Preparation: Complete necessary site work and prepare the launch/trailhead area
- Installation: Install the paddlecraft launch, walkway, and associated improvements
- Final Inspection/Project Completion: Complete inspections, punch-list items, and prepare the facility for public opening

Based on this schedule, the Town anticipates project completion and opening approximately six months following the award, with the final opening date dependent on weather, material availability, and supply-chain conditions. The Town will notify the Commission of the anticipated opening date as the project nears completion.



Paddlesport Launch Site, Overhead View



Paddlesport Launch Site, River View



Paddlecraft Launch Site, River View to the Northwest



Paddlecraft Launch Site, River View to the Southwest



Paddlecraft Launch Site, Street View to Northeast



Paddlecraft Launch Site, Street View to Southeast



Paddlecraft Launch Site Large Tree Northern Edge of Property



Paddlecraft Launch Site, Potamogeton Diversifolius



Paddlecraft Launch Site Emergent and Floating Aquatic Plants



Recent photo of the social path on town property that leads to the waterfront. This well-established path etched into the landscape by years of foot traffic is indicative of the public's desire to gain access to the Niagara River.



Example illustration of the proposed paddlecraft launch.

Note: This image is provided for illustrative purposes only to show the general walkway and launch arm configuration. The actual launch will be custom-designed and fabricated by the manufacturer to meet the Town's specifications.



Adult Osprey Hunting from dead snag, Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area



Mature Bald Eagle, Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area



Paddlers enjoying a day on the water – one of many programs offered through the Recreation Department and Golden Age Center



Paddlers enjoying a day on the water – one of many programs offered through the Recreation Department and Golden Age Center



● PUBLIC LAUNCH/RECOVERY SITE
 --- CANOE/KAYAK ROUTE

● PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION
 --- 11 MILE GAP BETWEEN LAUNCHES

TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND

East River Parking Area and Paddlecraft Launch
September 2026

Supervisor

Peter J. Marston

Councilmembers

Thomas Digati

Rhonda Diehl

Daniel Kilmer

Jose Garcia

Town Clerk

Patricia A. Frentzel

Town Attorney

Peter C. Godfrey, Esq.

Town Engineer

Robert H. Westfall, P.E.

Town of Grand Island Engineering Department

2255 Baseline Rd., Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

(716) 773-9600 ext. 635

PRELIMINARY




 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 441 RIVER STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014-2708
 TEL: (212) 264-3000 FAX: (212) 264-3001
 WWW.OIG.DO



EXISTING SITE PLAN AND TOPOGRAPHY
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"



PROJECT INFORMATION	
PROJECT NAME	1001 BAY PARKWAY, BAY A
PROJECT LOCATION	RESIDENTIAL LOT
DATE	12/31/2024
DESIGNED BY	12345
CHECKED BY	12345
APPROVED BY	12345
SCALE	1" = 20'-0"

PRELIMINARY



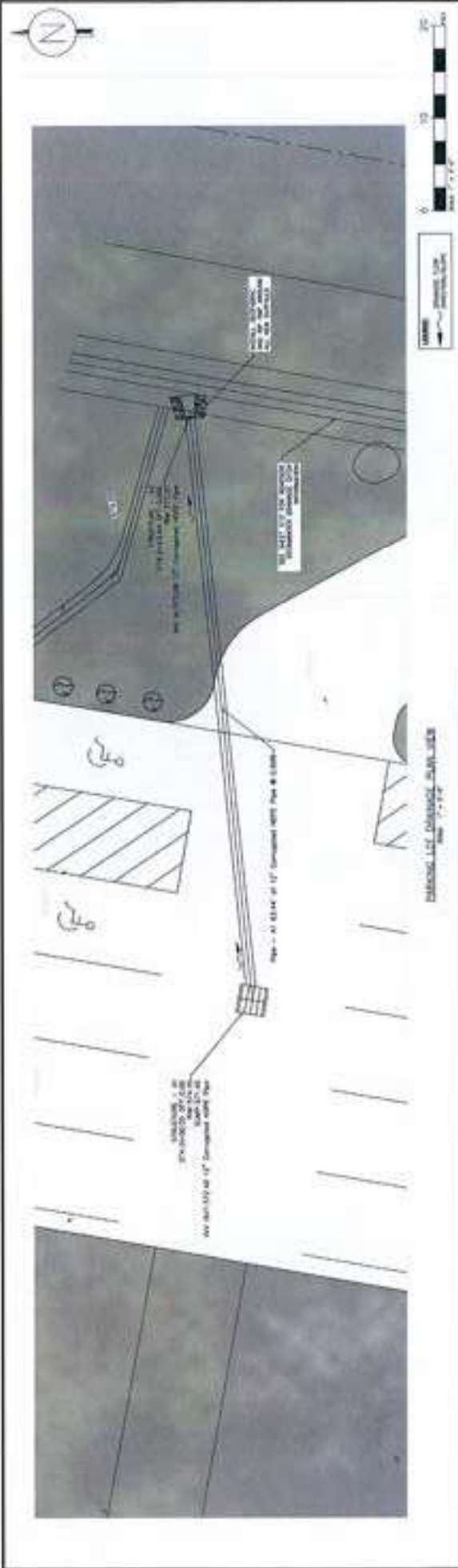
WASH. AREAS
SCALE: 1" = 20'-0"

AREA OF DISTURBANCE
AREA OF IMPROVEMENT
AREA OF INTEREST FOR
RECORD OF A NEW LAYOUT
AREA OF INTEREST FOR
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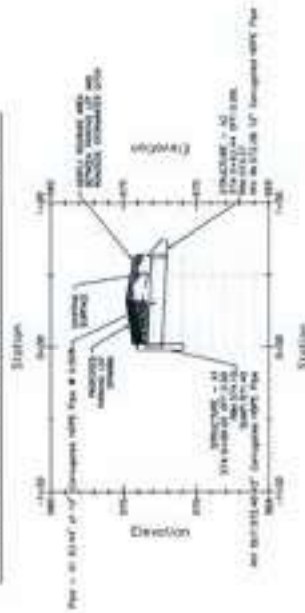


PRELIMINARY

PROJECT INFORMATION	
PROJECT NAME	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT LOCATION	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT OWNER	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT ENGINEER	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT DATE	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT SCALE	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT STATUS	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT
PROJECT NOTES	1000 10TH AVENUE S.W. PROJECT



Parking Lot Drainage Alignment Profile



Parking Lot Drainage Profile View

		California Department of Transportation Highway Engineering Division Planning and Design Section 1200 North First Street Sacramento, CA 95811 (916) 227-1500 www.caltrans.ca.gov
Project Name Project Number Project Location Project Description Project Status Project Date Project Engineer Project Designer Project Checker Project Approver	Project Name Project Number Project Location Project Description Project Status Project Date Project Engineer Project Designer Project Checker Project Approver	Project Name Project Number Project Location Project Description Project Status Project Date Project Engineer Project Designer Project Checker Project Approver

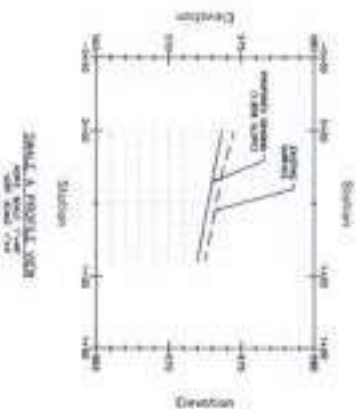
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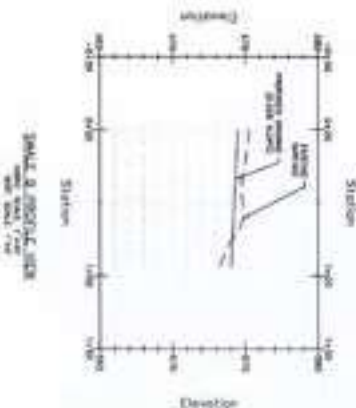
SWALE A, B, & DRAIN SLOPE



Swale A Proposed Grading PROFILE



Swale B Proposed Grading PROFILE

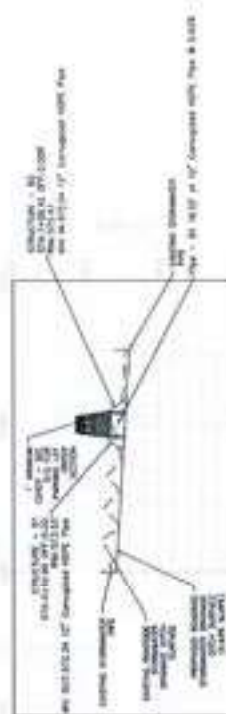
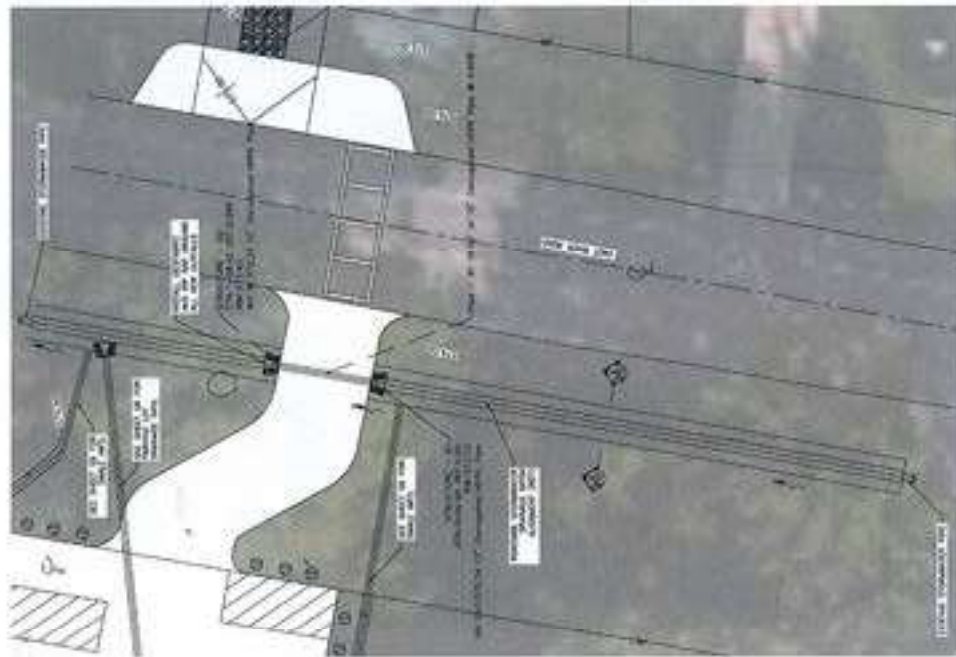


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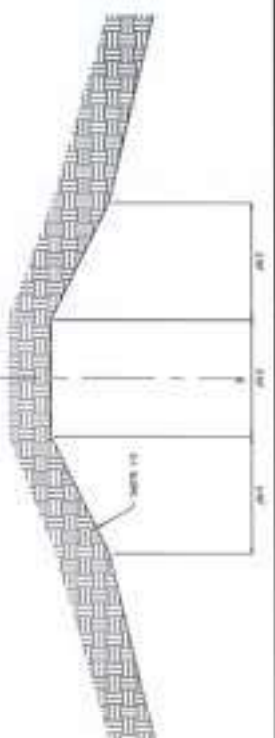
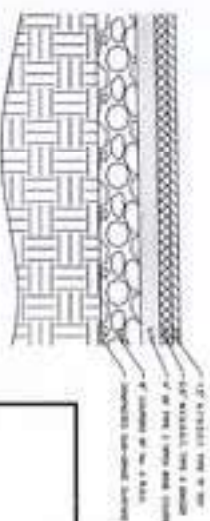
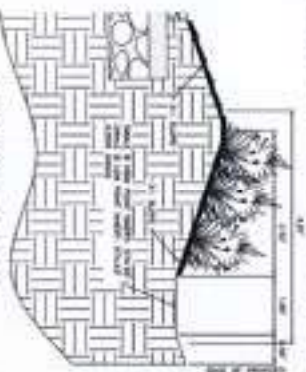
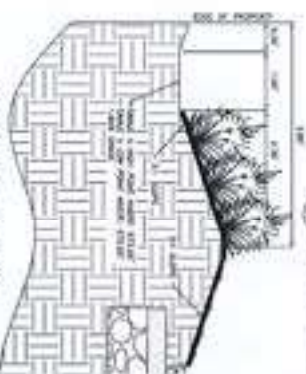
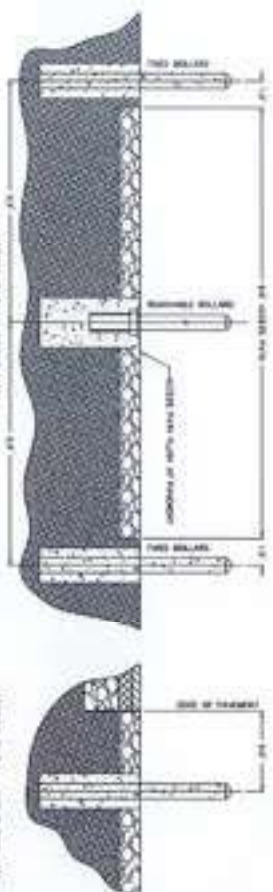
City of San Diego
Department of Public Works
Engineering Division

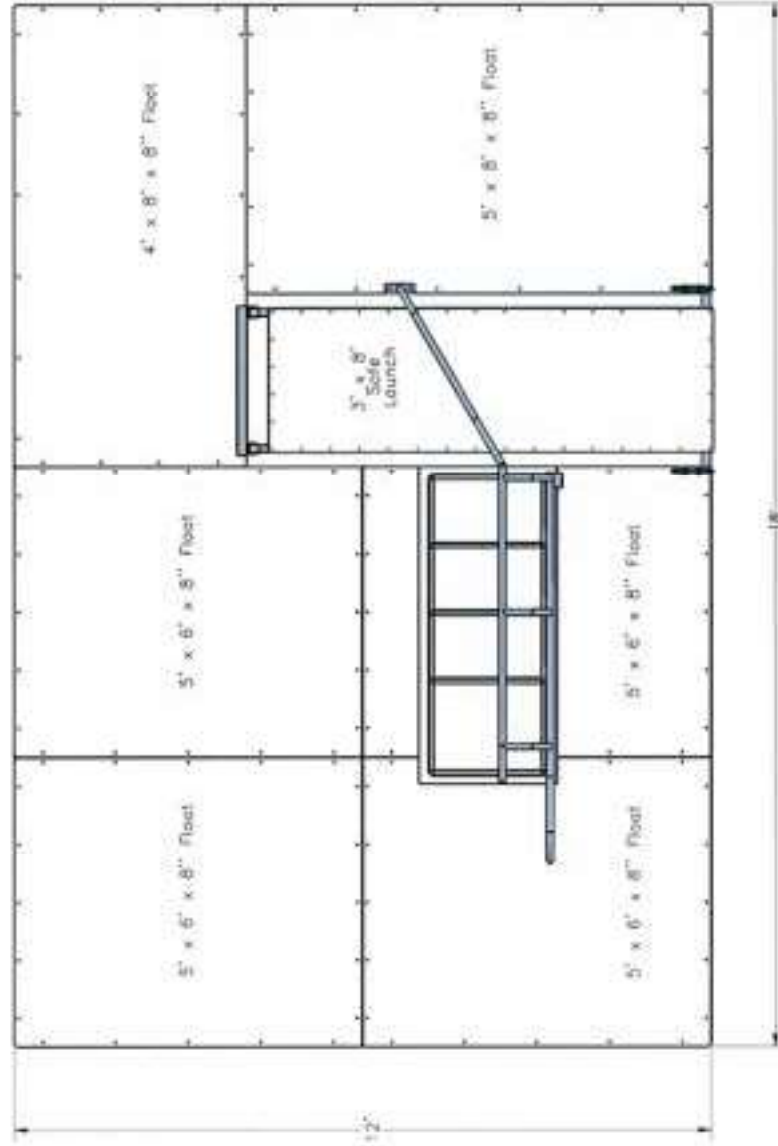
NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY	CHECKED	DATE	BY
1	ISSUED FOR PERMIT	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
2	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
3	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
4	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
5	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
6	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
7	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
8	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
9	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN
10	REVISED	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN	J. B. BROWN	08/11/2011	J. B. BROWN



PRELIMINARY

[illegible]

STREETSIDE GREEN PLANT LIST[illegible][illegible]



- NOTES:
1. ENDLECRAFT LAUNCH IS FULLY SUPPORTED BY FOUNDATIONS ON LAND - NO SUPPORTS TO BE INSTALLED IN WATER.
 2. REFER TO ADDENDUM 12' X 18' DECED ADA TRANSFER PACKAGE 1 DRAWING (SHEETS 1-3) FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PARTS LIST.
 3. SEE SHEET S12 FOR FOUNDATION DETAILS AND GANGWAY/CONTROL ARM ANCHORAGE INFORMATION.

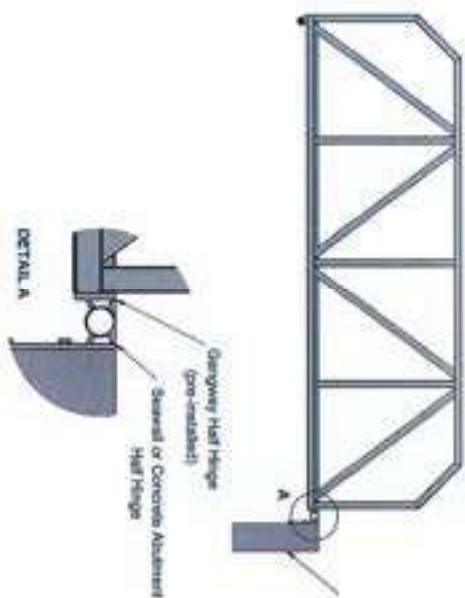
ENDLECRAFT LAUNCH PLATFORM - PLAN VIEW

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

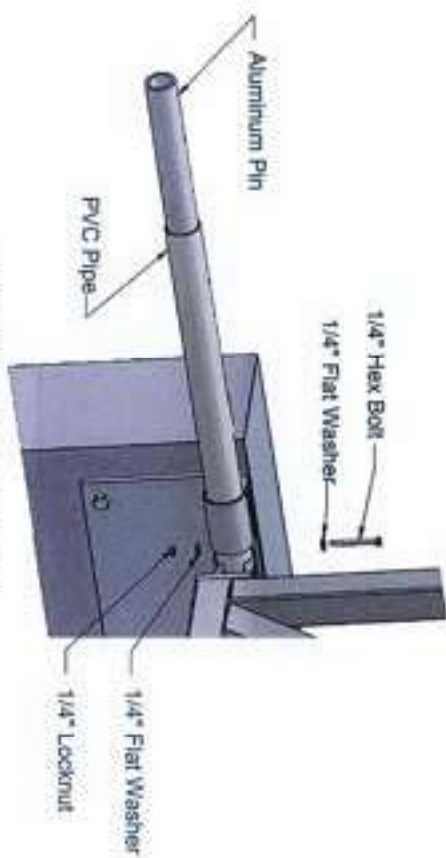
PRELIMINARY



PROJECT INFORMATION		REVISIONS	
PROJECT NAME	ENDLECRAFT LAUNCH	NO.	1
PROJECT LOCATION	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT NUMBER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT OWNER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT MANAGER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT ENGINEER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT ARCHITECT	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT CONTRACTOR	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT SUBMITTER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT REVIEWER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18
PROJECT APPROVER	12' X 18' DECED ADA	DATE	01/11/18



FOR THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535



CHERRYWAY/THAMES CONNECTION DETAIL B
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

PRELIMINARY



Figure 1

[illegible]

PUBLIC ACCESS POLICIES

POLICY 19

Protect, maintain, and increase the level and types of access to public water related recreation resources and facilities.

Explanation of Policy This policy calls for achieving balance among the following factors: the level of access to a resource or facility, the capacity of a resource or facility, and the protection of natural resources. The imbalance among these factors is the most significant in the State's urban areas. Because this is often due to access-related problems, priority will be given to improving physical access to existing and potential coastal recreation sites within the heavily populated urban coastal areas of the State and to increasing the ability of urban residents to get to coastal recreation areas by improved public transportation. The particular water related recreation resources and facilities which will receive priority for improved access are public beaches, boating facilities, fishing areas and waterfront parks. In addition, because of the greater competition for waterfront locations within urban areas, the Coastal Management Program will encourage mixed use areas and multiple use of facilities to improve access. Specific sites Section 4 23 Town of Grand Island LWRP requiring access improvements and the relative priority the program will accord to each will be identified in the Public Access Planning Process.

Within the Grand Island WRA, access to water related recreation resources and facilities which will receive priority for improved access are recreational trails, public parks, dedicated wildlife areas, public beaches, boating facilities, fishing areas and waterfront parks. In conjunction with the Town of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan and other local planning efforts, the Grand Island LWRP will encourage mixed use areas and multiple use of facilities to improve access in and around key areas of the Grand Island WRA, focused primarily on Whitehaven and Ferry Village.

The following guidelines will be used in determining the consistency of a proposed action with this policy:

- 1) The existing access from adjacent or proximate public lands or facilities to public water related recreation resources and facilities shall not be reduced, nor shall the possibility of increasing access in the future from adjacent or proximate public lands or facilities to public water related recreation resources and facilities be eliminated, unless in the latter case, estimates of future use of these resources and facilities are too low to justify maintaining or providing increased public access, or unless such actions are found to be necessary by the public body having jurisdiction over such access as the

result of a reasonable justification of the need to meet system-wide objectives. The following is an explanation of the terms used in the above guidelines:

- a) Access - the ability and right of the public to reach and use public coastal lands and waters.
- b) Public water related recreation resources or facilities - all public lands or facilities that are suitable for passive or active recreation that requires either water or a waterfront location or is enhanced by a waterfront location.
- c) Public lands or facilities - lands or facilities held by State or local government in fee simple or less-than-fee simple ownership and to which the public has access or could have access, including underwater lands and the foreshore.
- d) A reduction in the existing level of public access - includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. The number of parking spaces at a public water-related recreation resource or facility is significantly reduced. Section 4 24 Town of Grand Island LWRP
 - 2. The service level of public transportation to a public water-related recreation resource or facility is significantly reduced during peak season use and such reduction cannot be reasonably justified in terms of meeting system-wide objectives.
 - 3. Pedestrian access is diminished or eliminated because of hazardous crossings required at new or altered transportation facilities, electric power transmission lines, or similar linear facilities.
 - 4. There are substantial increases in the following: already existing special fares (not to include regular fares in any instance) of public transportation to a public water-related recreation resource or facility; and/or admission fees to such a resource or facility except where the public body having jurisdiction over such fares determines that such substantial fare increases are necessary and an analysis shows that such increases will significantly reduce usage by individuals or families and incomes below the State government established poverty level.
- e) An elimination of the possibility of increasing public access in the future includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Construction of public facilities which physically prevent the provision, except at great expense, of convenient public access to public water-related recreation resources and facilities
 - 2. Sale, lease, or other transfer of public lands that could provide public access to a public water-related recreation resource or facility

3. Construction of private facilities which physically prevent the provision of convenient public access to public water-related recreation resources or facilities from public lands and facilities
- 2) Any proposed project to increase public access to public water-related recreation resources and facilities shall be analyzed according to the following factors:
 - a) The level of access to be provided should be in accord with estimated public use. If not, the proposed level of access to be provided shall be deemed inconsistent with the policy.
 - b) The level of access to be provided shall not cause a degree of use which would exceed the physical capability of the resource or facility. If this were determined to be the case, the proposed level of access to be provided shall be deemed inconsistent with the policy. Section 4 25 Town of Grand Island LWRP
 - c) Access shall connect, to the greatest extent feasible, to existing trails, recreational areas, or waterfront facilities through physical or informational (i.e., kiosks, signage, etc.) means.
- 3) The State will not undertake or fund any project which increases access to a water related resource or facility that is not open to all members of the public.
- 4) In their plans and programs for increasing public access to public water-related resources and facilities, State agencies shall give priority in the following order to projects located: within the boundaries of the Federal-Aid Metropolitan Urban Area and served by public transportation, within the boundaries of the Federal-Aid Metropolitan urban area but not served by public transportation; outside the defined Urban Area boundary and served by public transportation; and outside the defined Urban Area boundary but not served by public transportation.

POLICY 20

Access to the publicly-owned foreshore and to lands immediately adjacent to the foreshore or the water's edge that are publicly-owned shall be provided and it shall be provided in a manner compatible with adjoining uses.

Explanation of Policy

In coastal areas where there are little or no recreation facilities providing specific water-related recreational activities, access to the publicly-owned lands of the coast at large should be provided for numerous activities and pursuits which require only minimal facilities for their enjoyment. Such access would provide for walking along a beach or a city waterfront or to a vantage point from which to view the seashore. Similar activities requiring

access would include bicycling, bird watching, photography, nature study, beachcombing, fishing, and hunting.

For those activities, there are several methods of providing access which will receive priority attention of the Coastal Management Program. These include: the development of a coastal trails system; the provision of access across transportation facilities to the coast; the improvement of access to waterfronts in urban areas; and the promotion of mixed and multi use development.

While such publicly-owned lands referenced in the policy shall be retained in public ownership, traditional sales of easements on lands underwater to adjacent onshore property owners are consistent with this policy, provided such easements do not substantially interfere with continued public use of the public lands on which the easement is granted. Also, public use of such publicly-owned underwater lands and lands immediately adjacent to the shore shall be Section 4 26 Town of Grand Island LWRP discouraged where such use would be inappropriate for reasons of public safety, military security, or the protection of fragile coastal resources.

The regulation of projects and structures, proposed to be constructed in or over lands underwater, is necessary to responsibly manage such lands, to protect vital assets held in the name of the people of the State, to guarantee common law and sovereign rights, and to ensure that waterfront owners' reasonable exercise of riparian rights and access to navigable waters shall be consistent with the public interest in reasonable use and responsible management of waterways and such public lands for the purposes of navigation, commerce, fishing, bathing, recreation, environmental and aesthetic protection, and access to the navigable waters and lands underwater of the State.

The following guidelines will be used in determining the consistency of a proposed action with this policy:

1) Existing access from adjacent or proximate public lands or facilities to existing public coastal lands and/or waters shall not be reduced, nor shall the possibility of increasing access in the future from adjacent or nearby public lands or facilities to public coastal lands and/or waters be eliminated, unless such actions are demonstrated to be of overriding regional or Statewide public benefit or, in the latter case, estimates of future use of these lands and waters are too low to justify maintaining or providing increased access.

The following is an explanation of the terms used in the above guidelines:

- a) (See definitions under first policy of "access", and "public lands or facilities").

- b) A reduction in the existing or anticipated level of public access - includes, but is not limited, to the following:
 - (1) Pedestrian access is diminished or eliminated because of hazardous crossings required at new or altered transportation facilities, electric power transmission lines, or similar linear facilities.
 - (2) Pedestrian access is diminished or blocked completely by public or private development.
- c) An elimination of the possibility of increasing public access in the future - includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Construction of public facilities which physically prevent the provision, except at great expense, of convenient public access to public coastal lands and /or waters Section 4 27 Town of Grand Island LWRP
 - (2) Sale, lease, or other conveyance of public lands that could provide public access to public coastal lands and/or waters
 - (3) Construction of private facilities which physically prevent the provision of convenient public access to public coastal lands and/or waters from public lands and facilities
- 2) The existing level of public access within public coastal lands or waters shall not be reduced or eliminated.
 - a) A reduction or elimination in the existing level of public access - includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - (1) Access is reduced or eliminated because of hazardous crossings required at new or altered transportation facilities, electric power transmission lines, or similar linear facilities
 - (2) Access is reduced or blocked completely by any public developments
- 3) Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the coast shall be provided by new land use or development, except where
 - (a) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security, or the protection of identified fragile coastal resources;
 - (b) adequate access exists within one-half mile; or
 - (c) agriculture would be adversely affected. Such access shall not be required to be open to public use until a public agency or private association agrees to accept responsibility for maintenance and liability of the access way.
- 4) The State will not undertake or directly fund any project which increases access to a water related resource or facility that is not open to all members of the public.

- 5) In their plans and programs for increasing public access, State agencies shall give priority in the following order to projects located: within the boundaries of the Federal-Aid Metropolitan Urban Area and served by public transportation; within the Federal-Aid Metropolitan Urban Area but not served by public transportation; outside the defined Urban Area boundary and served by public transportation; and outside the defined Urban Area boundary but not served by public transportation.
- 6) Proposals for increased public access to coastal lands and waters shall be analyzed according to the following factors:
 - a) The level of access to be provided should be in accord with estimated public use. If not, the proposed level of access to be provided shall be deemed inconsistent with the policy. Section 4 28 Town of Grand Island LWRP
 - b) The level of access to be provided shall not cause a degree of use which would exceed the physical capability of the coastal lands or waters. If this were determined to be the case, the proposed level of access to be provided shall be deemed inconsistent with the policy.
- 7) In making any grant, lease, permit, or other conveyance of land now or formerly underwater, there shall be reserved such interests or attached such conditions to preserve the public interest in the use of state-owned lands underwater and waterways for navigation, commerce, fishing, bathing, recreation, environmental protection, and access to the navigable waters of the state. In particular, the granting of publicly owned underwater or formerly underwater lands to private entities will be limited to exceptional circumstances only.

RECREATION POLICIES

POLICY 21

Water dependent and water enhanced recreation will be encouraged and facilitated and will be given priority over non-water-related uses along the coast.

Explanation of Policy

Water-related recreation and ecotourism includes such obviously water dependent activities as boating, swimming, and fishing as well as certain activities which are enhanced by a coastal location and increase the general public's access to the coast such as pedestrian and bicycle trails, picnic areas, scenic overlooks and passive recreation areas that take advantage of coastal scenery.

Provided the development of water-related recreation is consistent with the preservation and enhancement of such important coastal resources as fish and wildlife habitats.

aesthetically significant areas, historic and cultural resources, agriculture and significant mineral and fossil deposits, and provided demand exists, water-related recreation development is to be increased and such uses shall have a higher priority than any non-coastal dependent uses, including non water-related recreation uses. In addition, water dependent recreation uses shall have a higher priority over water-enhanced recreation use. Determining a priority among coastal dependent uses will require a case-by-case analysis.

Among priority areas for increasing water-related recreation opportunities are those areas where access to the recreation opportunities of the coast can be provided by new or existing Section 4 29 Town of Grand Island LWRP public transportation services and those areas where the use of the shore is severely restricted by highways, railroads, industry, or other forms of existing intensive land use or development. The Department of State, working with the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation and with local governments, will identify communities whose use of the shore has been so restricted and those sites shoreward of such developments which are suitable for recreation and can be made accessible. Priority shall be given to recreational development of such lands.

The siting or design of new public development in a manner which would result in a barrier to the recreational use of a major portion of a community's shore should be avoided as much as practicable.

Among the types of water dependent recreation, provision of adequate boating services to meet future demand is to be encouraged by this Program. The siting of boating facilities must be consistent with preservation and enhancement of other coastal resources and with their capacity to accommodate demand. The provision of new public boating facilities is essential in meeting this demand, but such public actions should avoid competition with private boating development. Boating facilities will, as appropriate, include parking, park-like surroundings, toilet facilities, and pumpout facilities. Harbors of Refuge are particularly needed along Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. There is a need for a better positional pattern of boating facilities to correct problems of overused, insufficient, or improperly sited facilities.

Water-related off-road recreational vehicle use is an acceptable activity; provided no adverse environmental impacts occur. Where adverse environmental impacts will occur, mitigating measures will be implemented, where practicable to minimize such adverse impacts. If acceptable mitigation is not practicable, prohibition of the use by off-road recreational vehicles will be posted and enforced.

PROJECT #G-7: EASTERN PADDLECRAFT LAUNCH

Paddlecraft usage has substantially increased on Grand Island with the establishment of the annual Paddles Up event organized by the Niagara River Greenway Commission, which brings hundreds of paddlers to Grand Island.

New paddlecraft public launch sites along East River Road, at Scenic Woods (at Ransom Road), Bicentennial Park, or at the NYS DEC Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area, may become new destinations and stop areas along the Grand Island blueway trail. An area for off-street parking also needs to be included in the design of the launch site. The sites could integrate fishing and scenic overlook areas.

The estimated cost of the planning and design phase of this project is listed below, together with the potential funding sources and partners.

Figure 4.14: Annual PaddleUp event



Source: Town of Grand Island

Figure 4.15: Example of paddlecraft launch



Source: Town of Grand Island

Estimated Project Cost:	\$64,000
Potential Funding Sources:	NYS DOS, NYS DEC, NRG, NYS OPRHP
Potential Project Partners:	NYS DOS, USACE, NYS DEC, NYS OPRHP, Erie County
Potential Approvals/Permits:	NYS DOS, USACE, NYS DEC, NYS DOT, Erie County
Estimated Timeframe:	Up to 5 years (short-term)

Town of Grand Island Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Master Plan
Public Input Survey Results

QUESTION 3. IN WHAT WAYS DID COVID-19 AND POST-PANDEMIC OUTCOMES CHANGE HOW YOU AND YOUR FAMILY UTILIZE PARKS AND RECREATION OFFERINGS?

Increased Park & Trail Use Many reported using parks and trails more often during and after the pandemic. Outdoor spaces became a substitute for limited indoor activities: walking, hiking, biking, **kayaking**, and playground use increased. Some discovered new trails and parks they hadn't used before, and these habits continued.

QUESTION 7. HOW OFTEN DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ON GRAND ISLAND'S TRAILS?

This survey question also included an option to write-in what they use trails for, which included **kayaking**, running, dog walking, birdwatching, disc golf, and winter XC-skiing/snowshoeing. However, many respondents said they use state park trails/launches. There were also requests center on more public boat launches, rentals, continuous/looped paths (e.g., around Veterans Park), safer on road biking, and accessible surfaces.

QUESTION 20. WHAT SHOULD BE THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND PARKS SYSTEM'S TOP PRIORITY TO ADDRESS IN THE NEXT 10 TO 20 YEARS?

Summary: Residents want a modern, connected, and inclusive parks system anchored by a full service community center and family water amenities. They also want the basics fixed, **safe access and waterfront use expanded**, and the Senior Center upgraded to serve all ages year-round.

Key Themes

Open the Waterfront: Create public boat launch(es) and more river access/viewing areas; add **kayak** amenities.

Stewardship & Safety: **Preserve green space/trees, maintain trails**, manage ticks/poison ivy, enforce leash and parking rules.

QUESTION 32. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER PROJECT IDEAS, COMMENTS, OR CONCERNS THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE GRAND ISLAND PARKS, RECREATION, AND SENIOR SERVICES MASTER PLAN?

What People Want

Waterfront access: public boat/**kayak** launches (esp. East River), places to sit by the water, clearer maps to ROWs, explore partnerships with NYS Parks; accessible hiking; **kayak ramps**

Town of Grand Island Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Master Plan
Public Input Survey Results

Programming & events: intergenerational activities, arts/theater/performance space or amphitheater, guided walks/**kayak trips**, indoor playground, adult-only times, teen spaces, community garden, farmer's market.

Generators of Tourism Activity: Grand Island offers an unparalleled range of outdoor and eco-tourism resources for a community in such close proximity to a major city. The Town's resources include:

Beaver Island State Park: Located at the southern tip of Grand Island, the 950-acre Beaver Island State Park is the centerpiece of the community's recreation and eco-tourism appeal. The park features a public beach, marina, boat ramps, golf course, hiking trails, and many other amenities...Beaver Island also serves as an important access point to Ferry Village (via the East River Trail) and the West River Parkway Trail.

Buckhorn Island State Park: This 895-acre park is located at the northern end of Grand Island and is bisected by I-190. It is a passive park that offers trails and water access for paddlers but has no restrooms or active park facilities.

West River Shoreline Trail: Opened in 2018, this 8-mile paved trail was fashioned out of the former West River Parkway. This trail offers a world-class bicycling and pedestrian experience along the Niagara River completes a gap in the Niagara River Greenway Shoreline Trail.

Marinas and Boating: Grand Island is one of the top boating and paddling destinations in Western New York. There are six marinas located in the Town with more than 700 total slips. There are also multiple private boating clubs including the Sandy Beach Yacht Club, Buffalo Launch Club, and Niagara Sailing Club. Paddlers have access to the Niagara River at eight different points in Grand Island: four at Beaver Island State Park, two at Buckhorn State Park, and two along the West River Parkway Trail. At present, there are no paddling access points along the east side of the island between Grandyle Village and Sandy Beach, but the town of Grand Island Town of Grand Island Market Analysis Study and Niagara River Greenway Commission are actively working to add a boat access point in the vicinity of Spicer Creek.

Hiking and Birding: Grand Island has an extensive network of pedestrian paths in various locations around the community. This includes the trail systems at both state parks that offer excellent opportunities for birding and wildlife watching. The Town also has its own trails at Nike Base Park and the adjacent Gallogly Trails, Scenic Woods, Veterans Park, and other locations. These trails are mainly used by local residents, but continued expansion of trails and potential connections through the Town Center area could make them appealing to visitors.

Festivals & Events: There are currently two significant visitor-oriented festivals held in Grand Island:

Town of Grand Island Market Analysis Study
February 2022

- Birds on the Niagara is a multi-day international birding festival held in February that has been held in-person in the past but was virtual in 2021 and will be again in 2022. The festival typically includes visits to multiple sites in Grand Island.
- Paddles Up Niagara is a one-day kayaking event held in July at Beaver Island State Park. The event includes eco-tours and a family-oriented fun paddle. This festival typically draws between 200 and 300 participants, including some from out of state and even from Canada.

Tourism Resources: Grand Island has outstanding outdoor and eco-tourism resources that attract paddlers, bicyclists, birders, hikers, boaters, and other outdoor enthusiasts.



Grand Island's appeal as a birding destination is exemplified by this image of flocks of northern migrating Dunlins and a Ruddy Turnstone along the East River Marsh Shoreline in the spring. Similar opportunities for birding are available all around the island at various times of the year. (photo credit: Paul Leuchner)

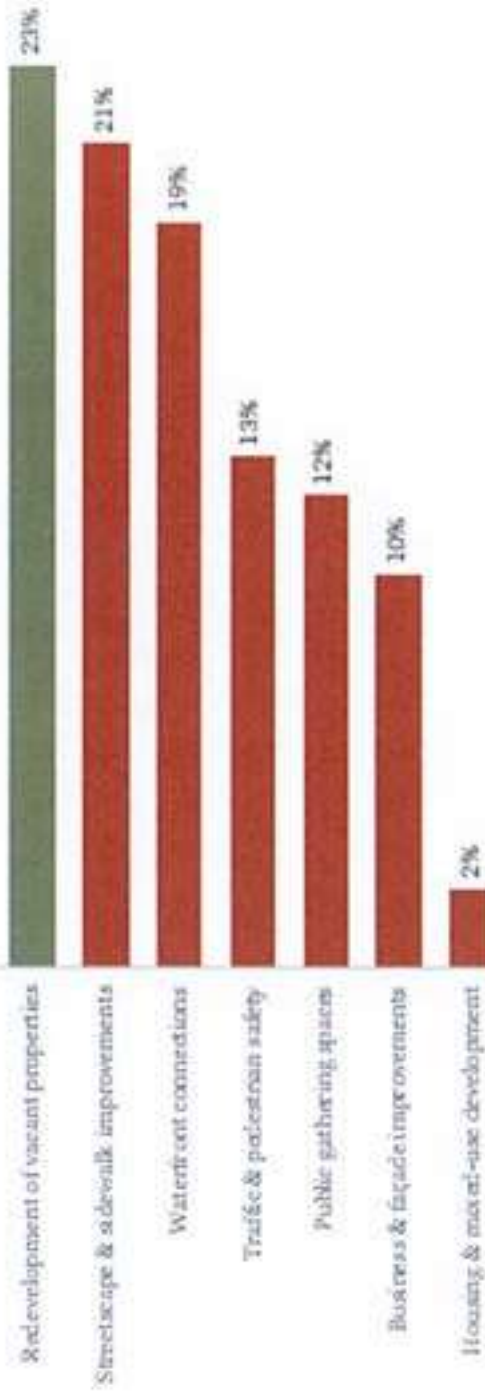


There are boat launches and water access points all around Grand Island. The East River Marsh launch site has a parking lot adjacent to Ferry Village with a hiking trail connection to Beaver Island State Park. (photo credit: Paul Leuchner)

Funding should target redevelopment and streetscapes

Highest priority investments for NY Forward funding • share of responses (n=410)

KEY MESSAGE:
Redeveloping vacant or underutilized properties tops the list, with streetscape and waterfront work close behind.



Source: NY Forward Public Input Survey - Town of Oneida Island, June 2024



Charles Robert 1914 Niagara River

taking wooded landscapes, open meadows and lush wetlands. You will pass through areas of historic significance and be able to see the remains of steamboats that once provided passage on Grand Island as well as the old wharves and barges that once served the Whitehaven settlement. The trail will bring you close to the emergent marshes and flooded forests at the mouth of Spicer Creek and a heron rookery on nearby Moor Island. Grand Island's only national register property, the Spaulding Boathouse, can also be observed from this trail. The trail passes through segments of the Niagara River that were once hunted and fished by former United States Presidents Grover Cleveland and Theodore Roosevelt.

Photos by Robert Schwartz



At points where the trail crosses the Niagara River, the trail crosses the Niagara River into the United States.



All photos courtesy Paul Lambert, Niagara River Greenway Commission, unless credited otherwise.

Niagara River Greenway Commission

On September 21, 2004, legislation was signed creating the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The Commission is responsible for developing a plan for a linear system of parks and conservation areas that will redefine the Niagara River in terms of its history, economic vitality and ecological significance. Key elements of this plan include public access opportunities along the Niagara River, development of a trail system connecting Lake Erie to Lake Ontario with complementary links to land and water across points and celebration of the region's cultural, environmental and industrial heritage. For more information about the Niagara River Greenway Commission and the annual Paddles Up Niagara event visit our web site at www.niagaragreenway.org



NY State Office of Parks, Recreation,
and Historic Preservation



New York State
Department of Transportation



Town of Grand Island



Niagara River Greenway Commission
2136 West Oakfield Road
Grand Island, New York 14072
716.773.5361

www.niagaragreenway.org



Paddles Up

The Paddles Up theme is based on a Native American custom. When canoe travelers approach a waterfront village, paddlers are signified by pointing their paddles upward!



Niagara River
Greenway
Commission

Paddles Up Niagara Trail

Grand Island, New York



Forced as the last glacier receded, the Niagara River connects Lake Erie with Lake Ontario. It courses through the diverse landscapes of the Niagara Frontier and includes the world famous Niagara Falls. In addition to serving as the international border between the United States and Canada, the river is steeped in history. Wars have been fought on its waters, its inherent power and strength have been the catalyst for industrial and technical innovation and its boundless beauty has drawn visitors for generations. The Niagara River is 36 miles in length and contains a diversity of natural areas and unique habitats. While the mighty Niagara River may seem wild and untamed, it has nevertheless served as an important transportation and recreational resource for both the United States and Canada.

The relatively slow-moving waters of the upper Niagara River have been enjoyed by the paddlesport community for many years. In 2006 the

Niagara River Greenway Commission took the important step of establishing a paddlesports trail in the Niagara River. Known as the Paddles Up Niagara Trail, it is 25 miles in length. The trail follows the perimeter of Grand Island that divides the Niagara River into an east and west channel before rejoining above Niagara Falls. Along the trail a number of public launch and recovery sites have been established for the exclusive use of paddlesport enthusiasts. Whether it's a short trip or a marathon voyage, experience the beauty and majesty of this watercourse, while turning the bragging rights of having paddled on the mighty Niagara.

The Paddles Up Niagara trail will take you through two New York State parks with breath-



Approximate Charted Distances in Miles between Launch Sites
From the East River Marsh Clockwise Around Grand Island

Launch Site	East River Marsh	River Lea	Little Beaver Marsh	Fu Road	Whaleoven Road	Eagle Overlook	Woods Creek
East River Marsh	0.0	0.7	2.4	4.8	7.4	10.2	13.4
River Lea	0.7	0.0	1.7	4.1	6.7	9.5	12.7
Little Beaver Marsh	2.4	1.7	0.0	2.4	5.0	7.8	11.0
Fu Road	4.8	4.1	2.4	0.0	2.6	5.4	8.6
Whaleoven Road	7.4	6.7	5.0	2.6	0.0	2.8	6.0
Eagle Overlook	10.2	9.5	7.8	5.4	2.8	0.0	3.2
Woods Creek	13.4	12.7	11.0	8.6	6.0	3.2	0.0

- Public Launch/Recovery Site
- Canoe/Kayak Route
- Existing Bicycle Trails
- On Street Bicycle Routes
- Park or Recreation Area





OFFICE OF THE TOWN SUPERVISOR
PETER J. MARSTON

September 22, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
P.O. Box 1132

Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Re: Letter of Support — Scenic Woods Paddlecraft (East River Kayak) Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission,

I am writing as the Town Supervisor of the Town of Grand Island to express my strong and enthusiastic support for our municipality's application for Greenway funding to complete the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch and trailhead. This project represents an essential piece of our long-term Scenic Woods development plan.

As Town Supervisor, it is my priority to protect Grand Island's green spaces while responsibly expanding accessible outdoor recreation. This proposed paddlecraft launch, situated on Town-owned waterfront along the Tonawanda Channel of the Niagara River, perfectly executes that vision. It physically connects the Grand Island Niagara River Blueway Trail to the robust, land-based trail systems already heavily utilized within Scenic Woods Park.

I strongly advocate for this project based on several key strategic benefits:

- **Addressing an 11-Mile Safety Gap:** Currently, an eleven-mile gap exists between legal public river access points at the East River Marsh and Woods Creek launches. Establishing this launch creates a vital Paddlecraft Harbor of Refuge on the Tonawanda Channel, exponentially improving safety parameters for regional kayakers and paddlers facing sudden weather or distress.

- **Reclaiming Public Waterfront Access:** Because a vast majority of Grand Island's shoreline is privately held, this project represents a rare and crucial opportunity to secure permanent, equitable public access to the Niagara River for our community.
- **Promoting Ecotourism and Environmental Education:** The trailhead sits in direct proximity to the successfully restored wetlands of the Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area. This positioning maximizes the region's potential for passive recreation, low-impact eco-tourism, and outdoor educational programming without disturbing sensitive local habitats.
- **Consistency with Town Planning:** This project is not a standalone initiative; it directly advances the conservation and waterfront access mandates outlined clearly in the Town of Grand Island Master Plan and our Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

Completing the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch is a high-priority community asset that will leave Grand Island better than we found it. I respectfully urge the Commission to approve this funding application and partner with us in delivering this long-awaited asset to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter J. Marston Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Peter J. Marston Jr.

Town Supervisor, Town of Grand Island

Town of Grand Island

Comprehensive Plan Review Advisory Board

2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, NY 14072

September 17, 2026

Grand Island Town Board
Town of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road
Grand Island, NY 14072

RE: Letter of Support — Proposed East River Kayak Launch at Scenic Woods (LWRP Project G-7)

Dear Members of the Town Board:

On behalf of the Town of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan Review Advisory Board, I am writing to express our strong support for advancing a public kayak and canoe launch along East River Road at the Scenic Woods site near Ransom Road — identified in the Town's 2025 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) as the "Eastern Paddlecraft Launch," Project G-7. We respectfully ask the Town Board to support this project and to help carry it forward with the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

The LWRP identifies Project G-7 as a new paddlecraft launch site along East River Road — at Scenic Woods (near Ransom Road) or the NYS DEC Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area — intended to become a new destination along the Grand Island Blueway Trail, and it specifically calls for off-street parking to be included in the launch site's design. The Advisory Board believes this project deserves the Town's active support for several reasons.

It can share parking with the Scenic Woods trail network. The launch site along East River Road sits adjacent to Scenic Woods, the Town-owned inland parcel with roughly 2.7 miles of trails through its mature forest. A single, well-designed off-street parking area at the launch site, already called for in Project G-7, could serve both paddlers and hikers using the Scenic Woods trails, getting more public benefit from one investment.

Demand for paddlesport access has grown sharply. The LWRP notes that paddlecraft use — kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards — has increased nearly exponentially over the past decade, now rivaling the number of traditional power boats on the Niagara River around Grand Island.

It closes a gap in the Island's paddling network. Grand Island's Paddles Up Blueway Trail (established in 2006 by the Niagara River Greenway Commission) already links seven public launch sites — including Beaver Island State Park, Buckhorn Island State Park, and Woods Creek — along the Island's nearshore waters. A launch at Scenic Woods would fill a notable gap along the eastern shoreline between Ferry Village and Buckhorn Island State Park, and is already anticipated as a trail-connection point in the LWRP's proposed trailhead and wayfinding project (Project G-3).

The site is ready for investment. The LWRP describes the Scenic Woods/Gun Creek Woods area as underutilized, with planned recreational improvements not yet realized. Pairing a new launch with shared trailhead parking would put an existing Town-owned asset to fuller use and reinforce the Island's growing recreational and eco-tourism economy, which already includes a local kayak eco-tour operator.

Accessible design is achievable and has local precedent. The Town and State already maintain ADA-accessible paddlecraft launches at Beaver Island State Park and elsewhere on the Island, demonstrating that an accessible, well-designed launch at Scenic Woods is both feasible and consistent with existing Town and State facilities.

The Advisory Board urges the Town Board to formally support Project G-7, to continue supporting the Town's Parks Department on siting, design, and shared parking for the launch and the Scenic Woods trailhead, and to help pursue funding through the Niagara River Greenway Commission and other state partners. We believe this modest investment will yield lasting recreational, environmental, and economic benefits for Grand Island residents and visitors alike.

Thank you for your consideration. The Advisory Board is glad to provide any further information or assistance the Town Board may find useful as this project moves forward.

Sincerely,

Jim Sharpe
Chair, Town of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan Review Advisory Board



THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND

2255 BASELINE ROAD
GRAND ISLAND, NY 14072
PH: (716) 773-9600

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Sam Clarke, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for the Town of Grand Island, and I am writing on behalf of the Board in strong support of the proposed project to construct a kayak launch and trailhead on town-owned property along the East River.

Through conversations with consultants, community members, and local officials, we have consistently heard that our natural assets are among the greatest strengths of our community. We are always looking for opportunities to build upon these strengths and provide greater public access to our natural resources, trails and waterfront.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has heard from numerous residents about the lack of public access to the water on the east side of town. The proposed kayak launch would help address this gap, while the accompanying trailhead would provide an additional point of access to the town's trail network and recreational opportunities.

The Advisory Board has received very positive feedback from the community regarding this project. The combination of a kayak launch and trailhead will provide residents and visitors with new opportunities to enjoy Grand Island's waterfront, trails, and natural resources, and we strongly support efforts to make the project a reality with the assistance of this grant.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sam Clarke
Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Town of Grand Island, NY

RECREATION DEPARTMENT
3278 WHITEHAVEN ROAD
GRAND ISLAND, NY 14072
(716) 773-8680 - Office
(716) 465-8370 - Cell
recreation@grand-island.ny.us



THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
Joseph A. Menter
Recreation Supervisor

September 14, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to express my strong support for the proposed East River Paddlecraft Launch on Grand Island, New York. This project will expand public access to the Niagara River and provide an important recreational resource for residents and visitors of all ages.

Paddlecraft sports provide an opportunity for low-impact outdoor recreation, exercise, social engagement, and connection with the Island's exceptional natural resources. Kayaking and canoeing can be enjoyed at a range of abilities and activity levels, making the facility an excellent complement to the recreational programs and activities offered through the Town's Recreation Department and Golden Age Center.

The project will also support opportunities for guided outings, nature observation, environmental education, and intergenerational recreation. Providing safe and convenient access to the waterfront can encourage residents to remain active and engaged in the community while enjoying the natural beauty of the East River and Niagara River.

Additionally, this proposed launch site will be a great compliment to the already existing East River Marsh and Woods Creek launch sites. For some paddlers, the current of the Niagara River can be challenging. This proposed site will give all paddlers the opportunity to see more of the East River corridor by providing a pull-out site instead of having to paddle back against the current. In this corridor you have three significant wildlife habitat areas: East River Marsh; Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area; Buckhorn State Park including Grass Island and Burnt Ship Creek marsh area.

The project is consistent with the Town of Grand Island's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), which identifies paddlecraft access and improvements to waterfront recreational opportunities as important priorities. The proposed launch will help advance the Town's long-term goal of improving public access to its waterfront while promoting recreation, environmental stewardship, and quality of life. For these reasons, I strongly support the East River Paddlecraft Launch and believe it will provide a lasting recreational and community benefit to Grand Island, including its growing population of older adults.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Menter

8/20/26

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

Re: Letter of Support — East River Paddlecraft Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Commission,

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Town of Grand Island's proposed East River Paddlecraft Launch and Trailhead Project.

This project represents an important investment in our community by expanding safe public access to the Niagara River while improving recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. The proposed launch will help address a significant gap between existing paddle craft access points along the eastern channel of the Niagara River, creating a safer experience for kayakers, canoeists, and other paddlecraft users.

Beyond improving safety, this project will encourage outdoor recreation, promote healthy lifestyles, and allow more people to experience Grand Island's unique waterfront and natural resources. The location provides exceptional opportunities for wildlife observation, environmental education, and appreciation of the scenic beauty of the Niagara River corridor.

The proposed launch also supports the Town's long-term vision for waterfront access and recreation by complementing the Scenic Woods Trail and advancing community planning efforts. It will strengthen Grand Island's role as a destination for outdoor recreation while enhancing connections between land and water-based trail systems.

Projects such as this benefit the entire community by:

- Increasing safe public access to the Niagara River.
- Supporting eco-tourism and local businesses.
- Encouraging healthy outdoor recreation for residents of all ages.
- Promoting environmental stewardship and appreciation of the Niagara River ecosystem.
- Enhancing Grand Island's quality of life and recreational amenities.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of funding and approval for the East River Paddlecraft Launch Project. This investment will provide lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations while strengthening the Niagara River Greenway.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of projects that improve public access to our region's exceptional natural resources.

Sincerely,

Sonia Merkel


Grand Island Nature Alliance (GINA)
26 Alan Ct. Grand Island, NY 14072
sonia.h.merkel@gmail.com/ 405-5016330



Grand Island
Nature Alliance

Niagara Frontier Chapter – Adirondack Mountain Club

<https://www.adk-nfc.org>

8630 Woodside Drive
Eden, New York 14057
edendds@gmail.com

September 14, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
P.O. Box 1132
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Re: Letter of Support — Scenic Woods Paddlecraft (East River Kayak) Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Niagara Frontier Chapter – Adirondack Mountain Club (NFC-ADK) to express strong support for the Town of Grand Island's application for Greenway funding to complete the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch and trailhead, the final element of Phase 3 of the Scenic Woods project. NFC-ADK members participate in frequent chapter outings to enjoy the Grand Island paddling opportunities and believe increased paddlecraft access would enhance enjoyment and safety.

This project will establish a paddlecraft launch on Town-owned waterfront along the Tonawanda Channel of the Niagara River, connecting the Grand Island Niagara River Blueway Trail with the land-based trail system in Scenic Woods Park. NFC-ADK members have mentioned the lack of access between the East River Marsh and Woods Creek launches during outings.

ADK's mission works to protect New York State wild lands and waters by promoting responsible outdoor recreation and building a statewide constituency of land stewardship advocates. The NFC-ADK organization supports this project for the following reasons:

- It closes an eleven-mile gap in legal public river access between the existing launches at East River Marsh and Woods Creek, creating a much-needed Paddlecraft Harbor of Refuge and improving safety for paddlers by expanding public access to the Niagara River in an area where the shoreline is largely privately held, adding a new access point to the Grand Island Blueway Trail.
- It supports ecotourism, environmental education, and passive recreation near the restored wetlands of the Spicer Creek Wildlife Management Area.

NFC-ADK urges the Commission to approve funding for this project. We look forward to seeing this launch completed and available to the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Franklin Meyer, DDS

Dr. Franklin Meyer, DDS
Chair, Niagara Frontier Chapter- ADK

**Sierra Club Niagara Group
PO Box 1127
Williamsville, NY 14231**

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

September 22, 2026

Re: Scenic Woods Paddlecraft (East River Kayak) Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Commission and Standing Committees,

Sierra Club's Niagara Group enthusiastically supports Grand Island's application for Greenway funding to complete the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch, the final piece of the Phase 3 trailhead.

This project will enhance Sierra Club's mission to protect lands and waters by providing much needed access to Grand Island's magnificent Niagara River shoreline. We believe when people can see and use such resources, they are soon enlisted to protect them.

This launch closes an eleven-mile gap in public river access along the Tonawanda Channel, giving paddlers a much-needed Harbor of Refuge between the East River Marsh and Woods Creek launches. It also adds a new access point to the Grand Island Blueway Trail, connects to Scenic Woods Park, and supports the ecotourism and environmental education already growing around the restored wetlands nearby. The project is consistent with the Town's Master Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

The Sierra Club Niagara Group urges you to support this important project.

Sincerely,

Laurence T Beahan, MD
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Niagara Group

Janet Lenicheck, Chair
Sierra Club Niagara Group

Paul G. Leuchner
1212 East River Road
Grand Island, New York 14072
August 27, 2026

Subject: Letter of Support Proposed Town of Grand Island Trailhead and Paddlecraft Launch, Scenic Woods Town Park, East River Road, Grand Island, New York 14072

James Sharpe, Chairman
Niagara River Greenway Commission
Beaver Island State Park
100 Beaver Island Park Road
Grand Island, New York 14072

Dear Mr. Sharpe,

It is my understanding that the Town of Grand Island is seeking support and funding via the Niagara River Greenway Commission for a planned enhancement of the eastern end of Scenic Woods Town Park at the Niagara River. Specifically, the proposed project consists of a connecting trailhead, parking lot and paddlecraft launch at a site that straddles East River Road and extending to the edge of the Niagara River. The project will establish a unique connection between land and water recreational resources on park property. When completed it will be the first Town owned recreational asset providing direct public access to a myriad of juxtaposed terrestrial and aquatic ecological resources.

As a past Niagara River Greenway Commissioner, I am honored to have been asked to write a letter of support for this project. The Niagara River Greenway Commission has been a paddlesports advocate since its inception in 2005. Over the course of history there has been a long standing association between paddlers and the Niagara River whether it be trade and commerce or recreation. Native Americans plied the waters of the Niagara in canoes well before colonization. French fur trappers plied these same waters during the early 1600's and today recreational paddlers explore the Niagara in kayaks, canoes, skiffs, sculls and stand up paddleboards. In 2006, the Niagara River Greenway Commission formalized its relationship with paddlesports establishing the annual family friendly Paddles Up Niagara gathering as their premier signature event. Since then thousands of people have had the opportunity to experience the river and all of its environmental, cultural, historic and scenic qualities. Paddles Up is the only organized paddling event on the Niagara River and just last month the Niagara Greenway Commission together with hundreds of paddlers celebrated its twentieth anniversary.

Complimenting this signature event, the Paddles Up Niagara Trail was established. This twenty six mile blue way trail, the first of its kind on the Niagara, follows the coast of Grand Island providing paddlers endless opportunities to experience the scenic river landscape. This island trail is connected together by a necklace of legal launch points more or less evenly spaced extending from Beaver Island State Park to Buckhorn State Park. Launch types vary, ranging from simple beach entry points generally preferred by sea kayakers to more sophisticated launch ramps capable of accommodating the full range of paddlers regardless of capability or physical limitation. At Scenic Woods the new paddlecraft launch will have the same state of the art design as the latter enabling paddlers of all capabilities to gain access to the Niagara River.

Subject: Letter of Support Proposed Town of Grand Island Trailhead and Paddlecraft Launch, Scenic Woods Town Park, East River Road, Grand Island, New York 14072

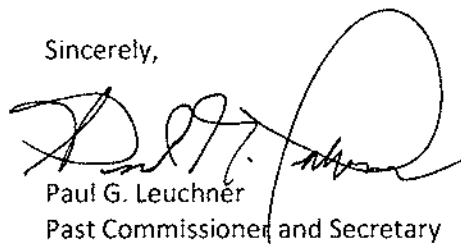
It's clear that this proposal will add value to the paddlesports resource base in place around Grand Island. To begin with, the trailhead and river launch will link two types of passive recreation together that are within the same park facility. The launch site itself will connect with the floodplain forests and wetlands that are a part of the nearby Spicer Creek Wildlife management area creating many opportunities for environmental education and ecotourism. Just as important, the new launch system satisfies a critical need for enhanced blue water trail safety. The east coast of Grand Island is privately owned and except for the Scenic Woods Park waterfront access point no other launch sites are available. A paddler today, choosing to transit the Niagara from the East River Marsh to Woods Creek, has to travel nearly 12 miles. The addition of the proposed launch at Scenic Woods Park cuts that distance in half. In essence, this new launch becomes an essential safety asset establishing a harbor of refuge where paddlers can stop, rest, recharge, pick up supplies, or put in to take shelter from inclement weather. Historically, harbors of refuge have always been available for commercial and recreational vessels but with the ever increasing numbers of paddlecraft trails and paddlers the harbor of refuge becomes an important safety component of any blue way trail.

The selected site for this paddlecraft launch will have a minimal impact on the natural environment. In fact, the project plans call for the addition of native riparian plant cover, removal of invasive plants, clean up of debris and the addition of screening vegetation shielding nearby privately owned residential structures. There will be no loss or impairment of the aquatic plant communities offshore of the launch site and with the addition of the proposed floating launch ramp it's likely that native aquatic plant cover will actually increase. The environmentally friendly features of this project, its broad array of recreational and safety benefits notwithstanding, make it fully compatible with the Town of Grand Island Master Plan, Town of Grand Island Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

The proposed project enhances resource value providing new opportunities to access and experience the Niagara River and the serene woodlands, meadows and wetlands that define Scenic Woods Town Park. It provides safe legal recreational access to the Scenic Woods Park trail system and a segment of the Niagara now minimally used by paddlers because of the lack of public launch facilities. Existing in concert with the Scenic Woods trailhead it offers visitors access to the full range of experiences envisioned for users of Scenic Woods Park. Once in place, visitors will be able to access park hiking trails whether arriving by water or land. They will also be able to launch their paddlecraft from a new site increasing the opportunity for environmental education, ecotourism or the ability to engage in a paddling experience along the Paddles Up Niagara Trail.

In summary, the proposed Scenic Woods Trailhead and Paddlecraft launch adds value providing a new opportunity to access and experience the Niagara River along with the serene woodlands, meadows and wetlands of Scenic Woods Park. I fully support the Town of Grand Island Scenic Woods trailhead and paddlecraft launch and I encourage the Niagara River Greenway Commission and the relevant Standing Committees to endorse and fund this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Leuchner', is written over a large, loopy circular flourish.

Paul G. Leuchner
Past Commissioner and Secretary
Niagara River Greenway Commission, 2005-2009

Paul Yaeger

2819 Baseline Rd

Grand Island, NY 14072

pcarveswood@yahoo.com 716 994-5233

September 29, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission

Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

P.O. Box 1132

Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Re: Letter of Support — Scenic Woods Paddlecraft (East River Kayak) ADA Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission,

I am writing on behalf of a Grand Island kayaker who uses the wonderful kayak launches to get fresh air, exercise, do a little kayak fishing, and to get some not so mobile people into a kayak to experience nature. I would like to express strong support for the Town of Grand Island's application for Greenway funding to complete the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch and trailhead, the final element of Phase 3 of the Scenic Woods project. I use the Grand Island Niagara River Blueway Trail with friends and a meetup paddle group who regularly come to the island to paddle. Adding safe and public access on East River is very important to the Bluewater East River trail as the access points on East River are too far from each other today.

This project will establish a paddlecraft launch on Town-owned waterfront along the Tonawanda Channel of the Niagara River. Connecting the Blue Water trail to the scenic woods trail just makes this location even more special and unique.

I support this project for the following reasons:

- It provides a much-needed access point between the East River Marsh and Woods creek existing public access points that are too far for the average recreational paddler to comfortably and safely paddle between.
- It expands East River public access in an area that is missing public access. This access point will make the East River Blueway trail significantly more useable.
- This proposed access will provide additional passive recreation and advance ecotourism.
- It is consistent with, and directly advances, goals identified in the Town of Grand Island Master Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

I urge the Commission to approve funding for this ADA compliant paddle craft launch. An ADA paddle craft launch gives equal access to those who aren't as able as some that can use just a public entry point. An ADA compliant launch also extends the paddling season on both ends of the season as it allows entry and exit while staying dry.

Sincerely,

Paul Yaeger

Ms. Elizabeth Zilbauer
736 Baseline Rd.
[Grand Island, NY 14072
E.Zilbauer@outlook.com | 716-510-6278

Aug. 28, 2026

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
P.O. Box 1132, Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Re: Letter of Support — Scenic Woods Paddlecraft (East River Kayak) Launch, Town of Grand Island

Dear Members of the Niagara River Greenway Commission,

I am writing to express strong support for the Town of Grand Island's application for Greenway funding to complete the Scenic Woods Paddlecraft Launch and trailhead, the final element of Phase 3 of the Scenic Woods project. I am a resident of Grand Island, member of the Grand Island Conservation Advisory Board, and kayaking enthusiast who frequents the Niagara River.

This project will establish a paddlecraft launch on Town-owned waterfront, providing ease of access where there has been none: along the Tonawanda Channel of the Niagara River, connecting the Grand Island Niagara River Blueway Trail with the land-based trail system in Scenic Woods Park. I have paddled within this section of the river only once, and it is specifically due to lack of access in close proximity. In full disclosure, the one time I did launch in the area was via Spicer Creek next to Whitehaven Cemetery, which is difficult to navigate and possibly not permitted- which is why I've never attempted it again.

I support this project for the following reasons:

- It closes an eleven-mile gap in legal public river access between the existing launches at East River Marsh and Woods Creek, creating a much-needed Paddlecraft Harbor of Refuge and improving safety for paddlers.
- It expands public access to the Niagara River in an area where the shoreline is largely privately held, adding a new access point to the Grand Island Blueway Trail.
 - I'm an amateur nature photographer. Many of my kayaking trips are opportunities for me to capture in pictures, Grand Island-specific flora/fauna for potential publication/promotion of local species. A majority of my photography focuses on birds. Grand Island's Niagara River Corridor is a designated Globally Significant Important Bird Area (IBA). According to bird-niagara.org, 'this corridor hosts birds of global significance. This includes arctic and neotropical birds that use this corridor as a hemispheric resource during all season migrations.' I have the pleasure of being able to personally attest to this, as I've had the thrill of encountering and photographing several species of these birds -exclusively on these kayaking trips. Because I want to save my energy for nature watching and photography on these trips, versus against-current paddling, I prefer to stick nearby launches. Our current configuration limits me to areas that exclude, for example, the ecologically significant stretch of river near i.e. Spicer Creek. Up to now, exploration and enjoyment of this area have been limited to the observation deck at Spicer Creek Wildlife Preserve.
 - In addition, this same corridor has the Ramsar designation (2019). Also from bird-niagara.org, "Ramsar is an important international designation that identifies the Niagara River as an important coastal fish and wildlife habitat, and a unique ecosystem type in the Great Lakes of North America." More public launch access will equal increased, ecologically-friendly opportunities to directly experience the natural wonders responsible for these significant designations.
- It is consistent with, and directly advances, goals identified in the Town of Grand Island Master Plan and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

In consideration of the above, I urge the Commission to approve funding for this project. As a nature enthusiast and conservationist who believes our Niagara River Corridor's significance is under-promoted, but key to high quality of life on Grand Island, I look forward to seeing this launch completed and available to the community.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Zilbauer
Grand Island Resident
Grand Island Conservation Advisory Board

Letter of Support

Town of Grand Island East River Paddlecraft Launch Project

9/9/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of **Waterbike Adventures LLC**, I am pleased to express my strong support for the Town of Grand Island's proposed East River Paddlecraft Launch Project.

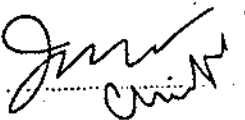
This launch will significantly improve safe access to the eastern channel of the Niagara River by reducing the long distance between existing launch sites. It will provide paddlers with an important access point and a much-needed safe stopping location along a stretch of river that currently offers few opportunities to get off the water.

Our customers value opportunities to explore the Niagara River while promoting responsible, low-impact recreation and environmental stewardship. This project will allow more people to experience Grand Island's unique shoreline, wetlands, and wildlife while encouraging safe paddling and greater appreciation of the river's natural resources.

We strongly support this project and believe it will become an important asset for the paddling community and the Niagara River Greenway for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Chilton
Owner of Waterbike Adventures

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Chilton", is written over a horizontal dotted line.



Town Of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, New York 14072
(716) 773-9600 EXT 614 grantsl@grand-island.ny.us

Do you support the construction of a public kayak launch on the Eastern Branch of the Niagara River between Beaver Island State Park and Buckhorn Island State Park to improve safe public access for kayaking?

NAME	COMMENT
Nan Stempier	yes !!
Krista Oresch	yes
Jennifer Peresue	yes.
Ashley Peresue	YEAH
Daniel Kuchmash	Yes
Mark Kogutowski	Y
Scott Johnson	Yes
Evelyn Wackett	Yes.
Chris Ryc	yes
J.C. Cook	yes
Danielle Marzo	great!
Kelsey Edmonds	yes!!
Chris Edmonds	yes
Nest Lamueli	yes !!
Pole Hah	yes



Town Of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, New York 14072
(716) 773-9600 EXT 614 grantsl@grand-island.ny.us

Do you support the construction of a public kayak launch on the Eastern Branch of the Niagara River between Beaver Island State Park and Buckhorn Island State Park to improve safe public access for kayaking?

NAME

COMMENT

Kylie B. Anfin

John Chiv

Mal Steg

BILL GUGINO

Linda Khreis

Philip Russo

Elizabeth Zilbauer

Sonia Markel

JAMES DAIGLER

LOUI ROBINSON

Ann Ruland

Mary StangCooke

Januszodonski

Patsy Goldy

Kim Kalman great idea!



Town Of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, New York 14072
(716) 773-9600 EXT 614 grantsl@grand-island.ny.us

Do you support the construction of a public kayak launch on the Eastern Branch of the Niagara River between Beaver Island State Park and Buckhorn Island State Park to improve safe public access for kayaking?

NAME

COMMENT

Sybil Dragey

Great Idea!!

Kathy Kratoch

Alice E. Gerard

I love Kayaking!

Mr. Mr.

Great Idea

JENN TUSATIER

I live there, fantastic!

MIRA TUSATIER

Marina Oldin

Jose Garcia

Love It!!

Rhonda Licht

Love it!!



Russell Clark JR

COLIN POWELL

KARIN PASSI

Karin



Tim Dyet

Go for it!

Farm Indipint

Sue Magro



Town Of Grand Island
2255 Baseline Road, Grand Island, New York 14072
(716) 773-9600 EXT 614 grantsl@grand-island.ny.us

Do you support the construction of a public kayak launch on the Eastern Branch of the Niagara River between Beaver Island State Park and Buckhorn Island State Park to improve safe public access for kayaking?

NAME

COMMENT

Rick Magro

All for it

Elaine O'Neill

Great Plan!

Jackie Voss

Yes

Kim Buchen

Yes

RHONDA TOLNER

Yes

Ronald Milke

Yes

Robin Wujek

Yes

Kevin Koch Jr

Yes

Jason Stiller

Yes

Daniel Clayton

Yes

Rich Dworak

✓

ALIS DANN

GREAT IDEA!

ROBERT MORTIMER

Yes!!

Ally

Yes!

Jaymie Hunter

Yes

THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
2255 BASELINE ROAD
GRAND ISLAND, NEW YORK
14072-1710
OFFICE (716) 773-9600
FAX (716) 773-9618



PETER MARSTON
Supervisor

THOMAS A. DIGATI
RHONDA DIEHL
JOSE GARCIA
DANIEL KILMER
Councilmembers

August 24, 2026

Dear Resident,

Residents of Grand Island have repeatedly engaged local officials to create more "public accesses" to the river. The Town of Grand Island has been researching opportunities to create shore accessibility to the Niagara River.

There are a couple initiatives in play, one being a proposed paddle-craft launch located where the Scenic Woods property meets the East River. A large part of any project like this is public outreach to both the population as well as residents that reside in the immediate vicinity. You are receiving this notification as you either reside or own property within 250' of this proposed project.

Included in this correspondence is a site plan of what we envision the site would look like.

The Town is in the process of applying for outside funding opportunities to potentially fund this initiative. This project will not proceed without outside funding.

Beyond the recreational opportunities this proposed paddle-craft launch would create; it would also benefit public safety. Safety based organizations (examples like The Coast Guard and The Grand Island Fire Department) have often stated that nautical rescues are difficult to coordinate in the East branch of the Niagara River due to limited access points.

The Grand Island Town Board believes in transparency and wants to share this proposal with neighbors in the immediate area. We welcome all comments, ideas and suggestions to improve the proposed project for all to enjoy. Please email Sherrie Pufpaff, Assistant to the Supervisor, at spufpaff@grandislandny.gov as she will compile all responses and disseminate to the Town Board.

Best Regards,

Peter Marston
Grand Island Town Supervisor

Council Members

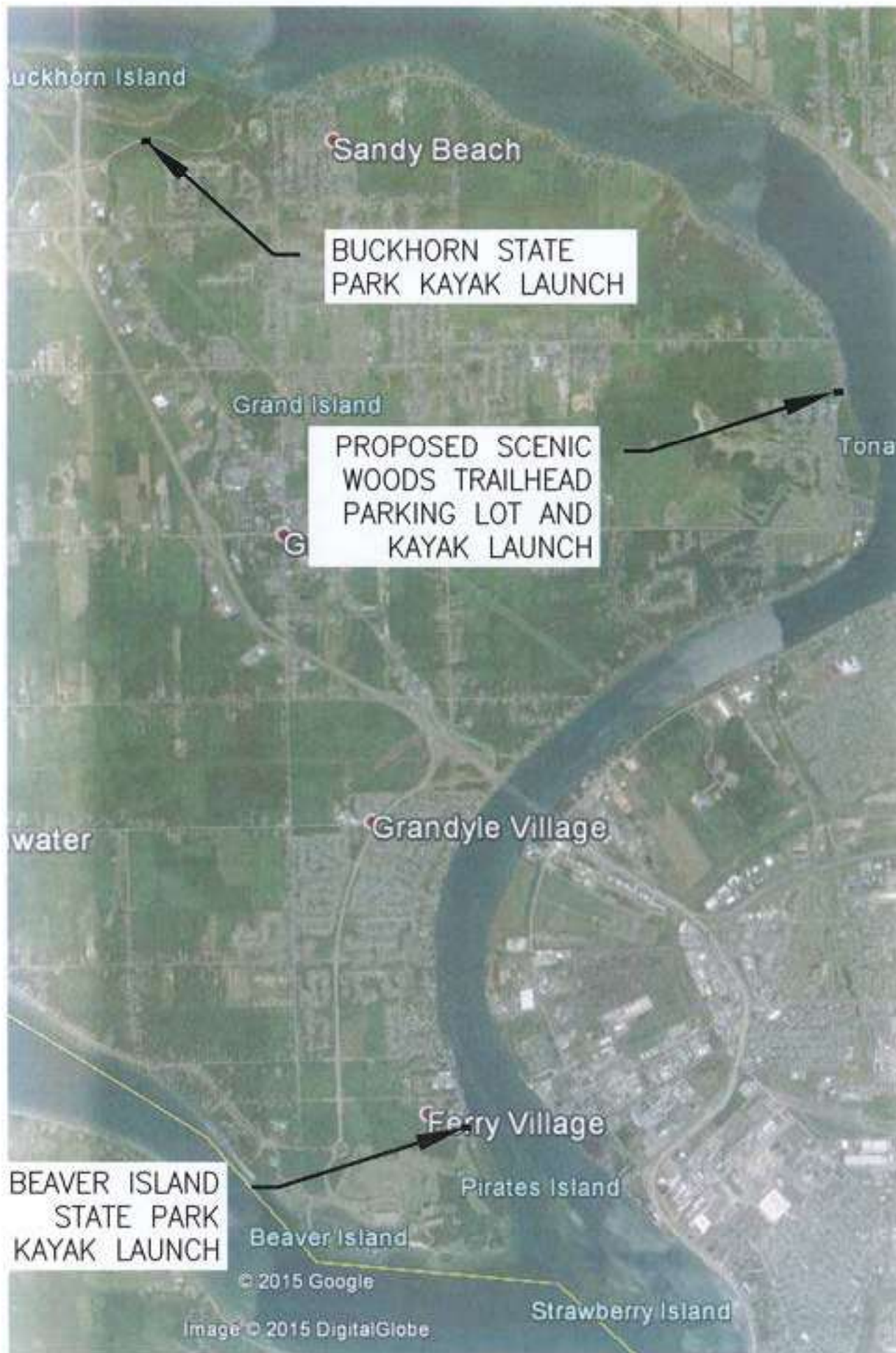
Thomas Digati

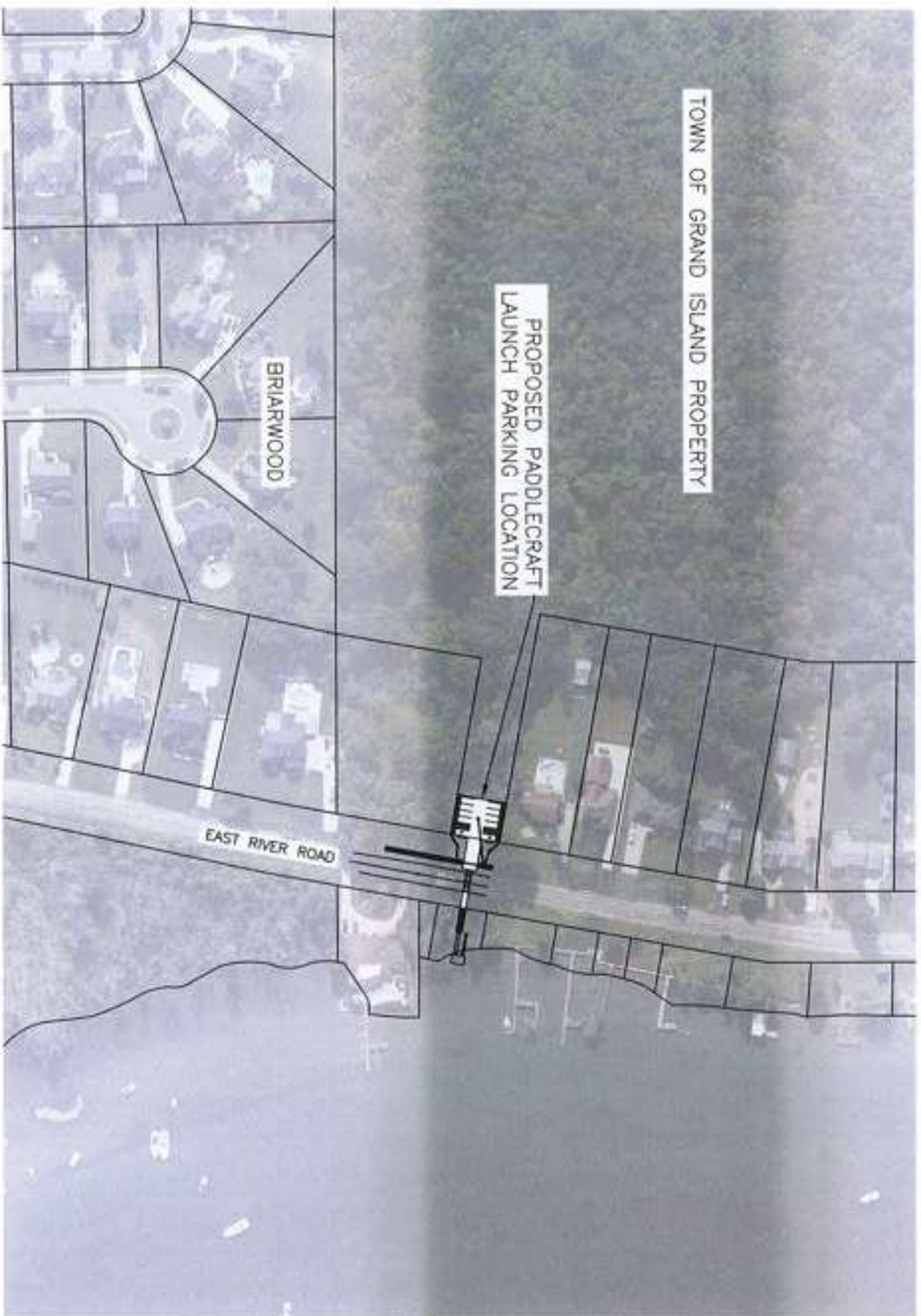
Rhonda Diehl

Jose Garcia

Daniel Kilmer

N





PROPOSED SITE PLAN VIEW



TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
ENGINEERING DEPT.
3225 BUCKINGHAM RD.
GRAND ISLAND, NY 14072

DATE				EAST RIVER PARKING AREA & PADDLECRAFT LAUNCH			
REVISION				PROPOSED SITE PLAN			
NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY	NO.	REVISION	DATE	BY
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