

City of Plattsburgh DRI: Downtown Streetscapes & Riverfront Access



Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Design
City of Plattsburgh, New York

Public Meeting
December 5, 2018

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ASSOCIATES

Welcome

Thank you for coming this evening.



Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Design
City of Plattsburgh, New York

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Agenda

PART I - Project Context

- The Downtown Revitalization Program
- Our DRI Projects
- Other DRI Efforts in the City

PART II – Priorities & Concepts

- Public Input to Date
- Preliminary Ideas & Concepts
- Schedule

PART III – Discussion & Questions

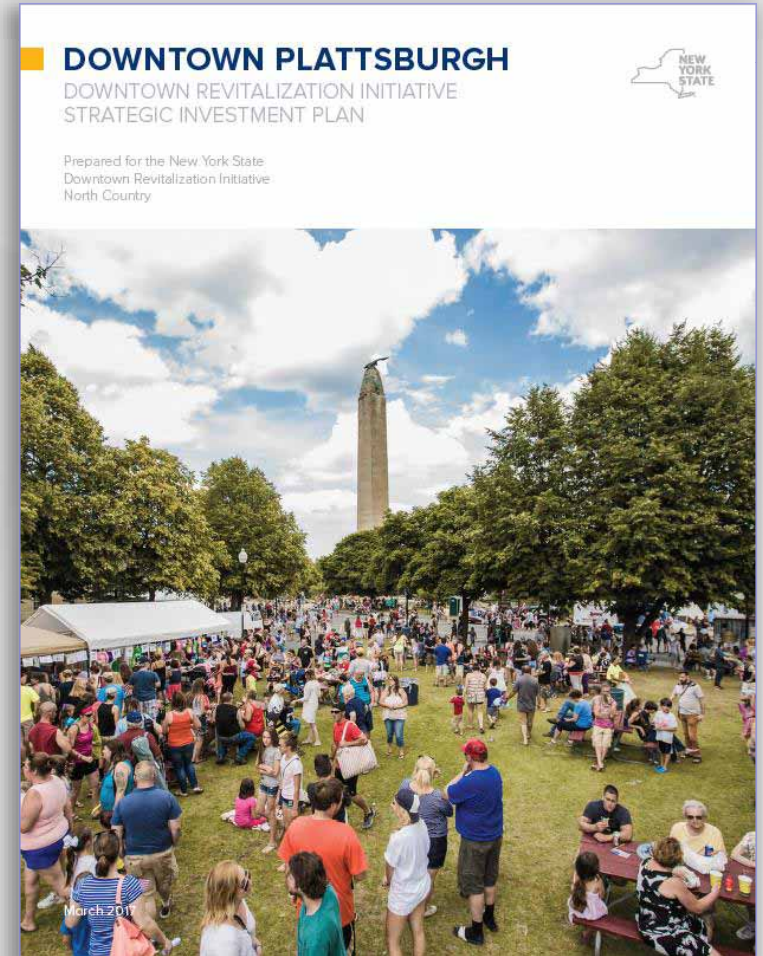
- Questions & Suggestions
- Look Ahead & Next Steps



DRI & Project Overview

Downtown Revitalization

- \$10M in State funding awarded to the City through 2022.
- Includes several different revitalization efforts
- Each effort Identifies a number of priority targets and projects
- Many of these projects are happening in parallel over the next several years



DRI Area



Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Design
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DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M



DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
- Riverfront Access: \$1.6M



DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
- Riverfront Access: \$1.6M



OUR PROJECTS

The focus of our
discussion tonight



DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
- Riverfront Access: \$1.6M
- Durkee Street: \$4.3M
- Dock Street: \$290,000
- Downtown Rehabilitation: \$1M
- Strand – Art & Innovation: \$495,000
- Strand – Capital Improvements, Marketing & Branding: \$260,000
- Downtown Plattsburgh Marketing, Branding & Signage: \$250,000

OUR PROJECTS



DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
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- Downtown Plattsburgh Marketing: \$250,000

OUR PROJECTS

Parallel efforts by other groups



DRI Overview

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
- Riverfront Access: \$1.6M



OUR PROJECTS

\$1,300,000	Downtown Streetscapes
+ \$1,600,000	Riverfront Access
<hr/>	
\$ 2,900,000	<i>TOTAL</i>
- \$ 100,000	Allocated to grant administration
= \$2,800,000	Available for design and construction



DRI Priorities

Riverfront Access

- Macdonough Park: lighting, landscaping, paths, amphitheater, waterfront landing
- Riverfront boardwalk at Durkee Street: widening, surfacing, extension, benches, lighting
- River overlook with lighting, seating, and informational plaques
- Kayak launch with pad, ramp, railings, and storage
- Improvements to other walkways



DRI Priorities

Downtown Streetscapes

- Improvements on up to five streets for pedestrians and bicycles
- Protected access on Veteran's Memorial Bridge
- Transformation of the park between Margaret & Durkee, including potential performance space



Downtown Streetscapes and Riverfront Access



Project Context

DRI Funding:

- Downtown Streetscapes: \$1.3M
- Riverfront Access: \$1.6M
- Durkee Street: \$4.3M
- Dock Street: \$290,000
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Parallel
Projects



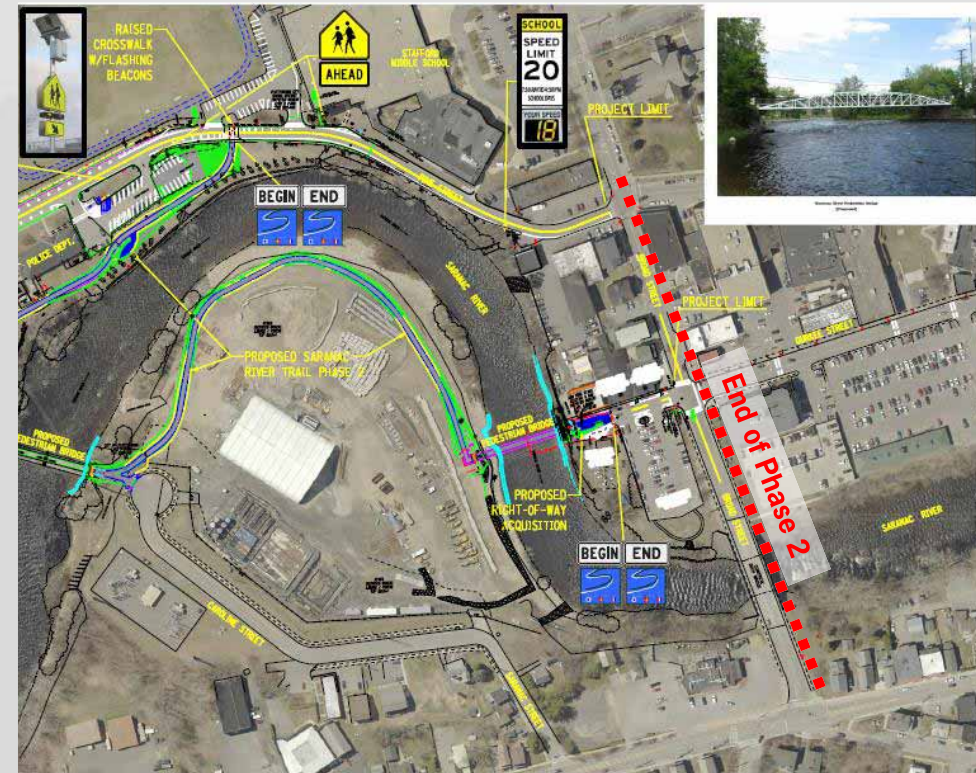
Parallel Projects

Saranac River Trail Phases 2 & 3

- Phase 2: up to Broad Street from the south (Spring 2019)
- Phase 3: near MLD/treatment plant (Dock Street to pedestrian bridge)

Dock Street Development

- Minimal effects on other projects
- Anticipated 2019/2020



SRT Phase 2



Parallel Projects

Durkee Street: City Center

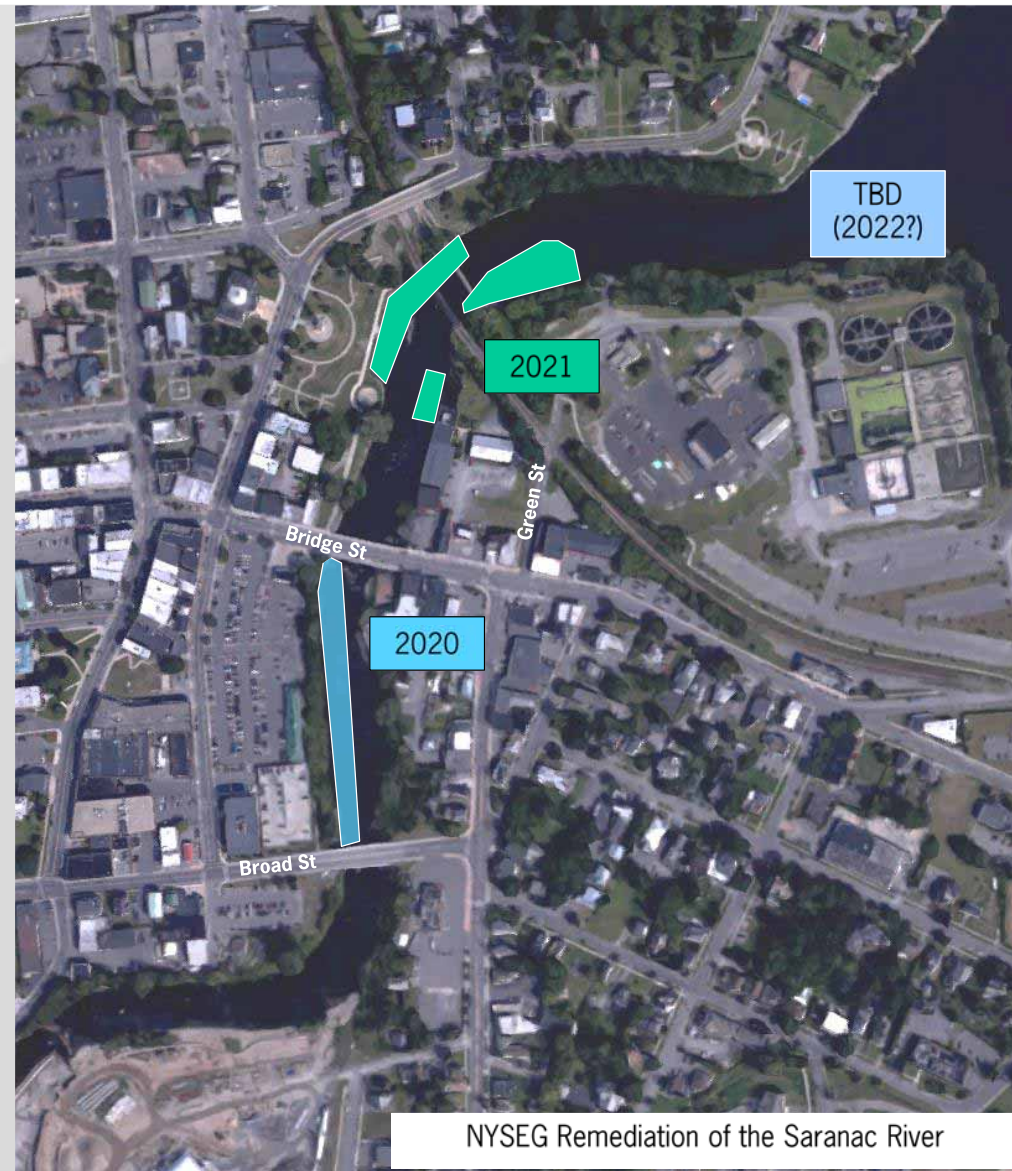
- Awaiting developer and concepts
- Retail/office/residential with outdoor space
- Possible 2019 start
- Design, approval & construction
- Need for parking plan
- Intersects with streetscapes (Durkee Street, Bridge Street) and riverfront boardwalk/overlook



Parallel Projects

NYSEG Remediation

- Phased, anticipated through 2023
- 2020: Broad St to Bridge St (access at Broad St)
- 2021: Macdonough area (access near RR tracks & MLD)
- 2022: potential mouth of river/MLD area (TBD per testing)
- Impacts to Green Street (access route) and river access (riverbank restoration)



Parallel Projects

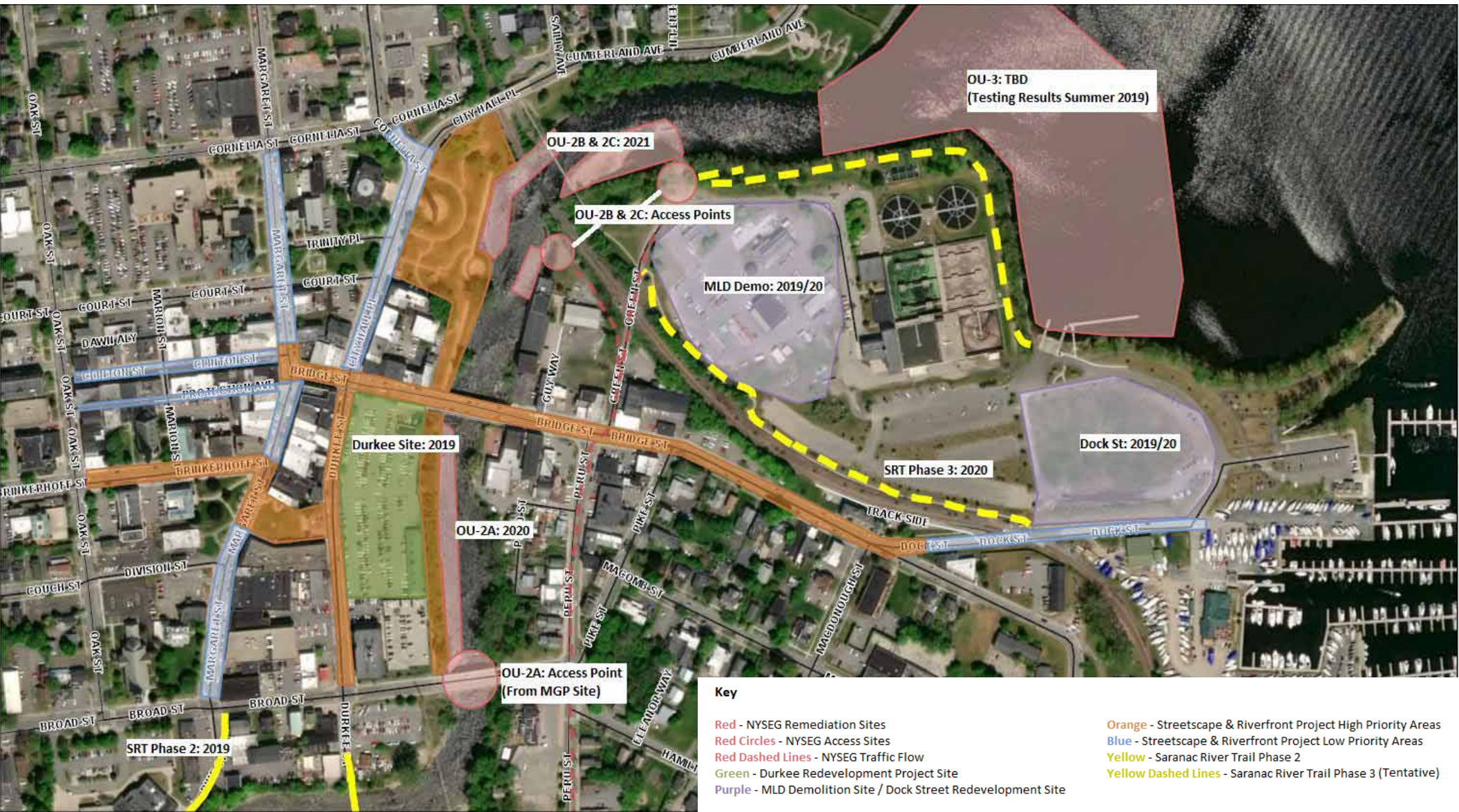
Downtown Marketing, Branding, and Signage

- Likely to be incorporated into streetscape and other projects: “identity”

Other Projects:

- MLD Redevelopment (2019/2020)
- Funds for Strand Theater
- LWRP goals – walkability, arts corridor, riverfront access, etc.





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Riverfront Access & Streetscapes in Context

Riverfront Access

- Macdonough Park: lighting, landscaping, paths, amphitheater, (waterfront landing)
- Riverfront boardwalk at Durkee Street: (coordinate design with development) widening, surfacing, extension, benches, lighting
- River overlook with lighting, seating, and informational plaques
- (Kayak launch) with pad, ramp, railings, and storage
- Improvements to other walkways

- Physical river access – delayed due to NYSEG work, but concepts can be developed for future CFA funding applications
- Can also improve visual access

Downtown Streetscapes

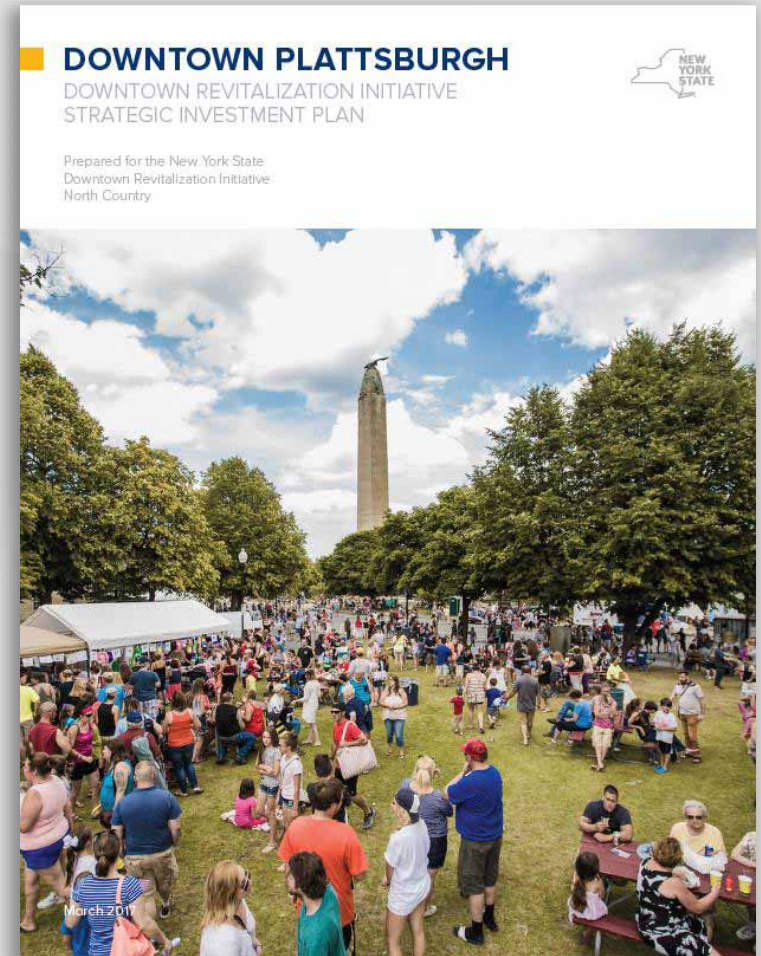
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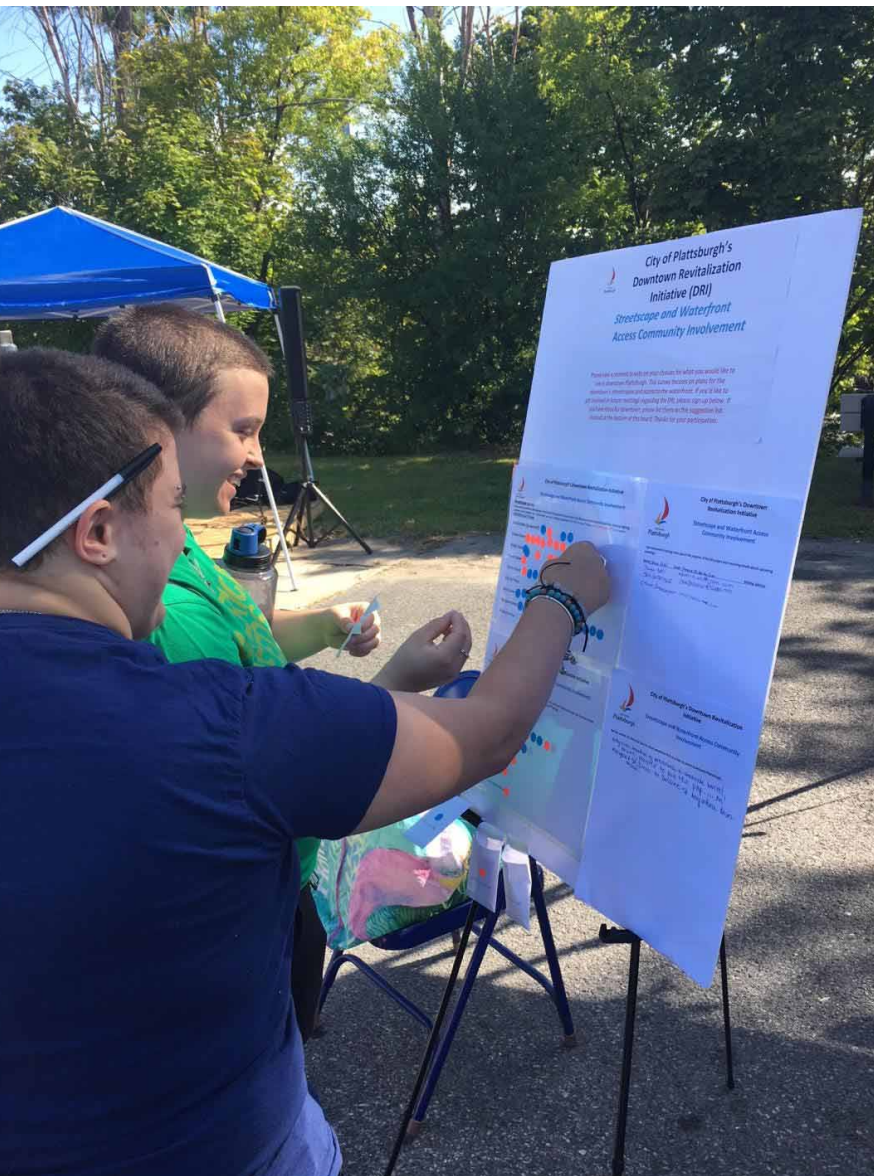


DRI & Project Overview

Downtown Revitalization

- Many moving parts to this effort which are interdependent
- Requires coordination & phasing
- Our team's focus is making the downtown streetscape and waterfront the best it can be with the funds available
- How best to put that money to use?





Public Engagement

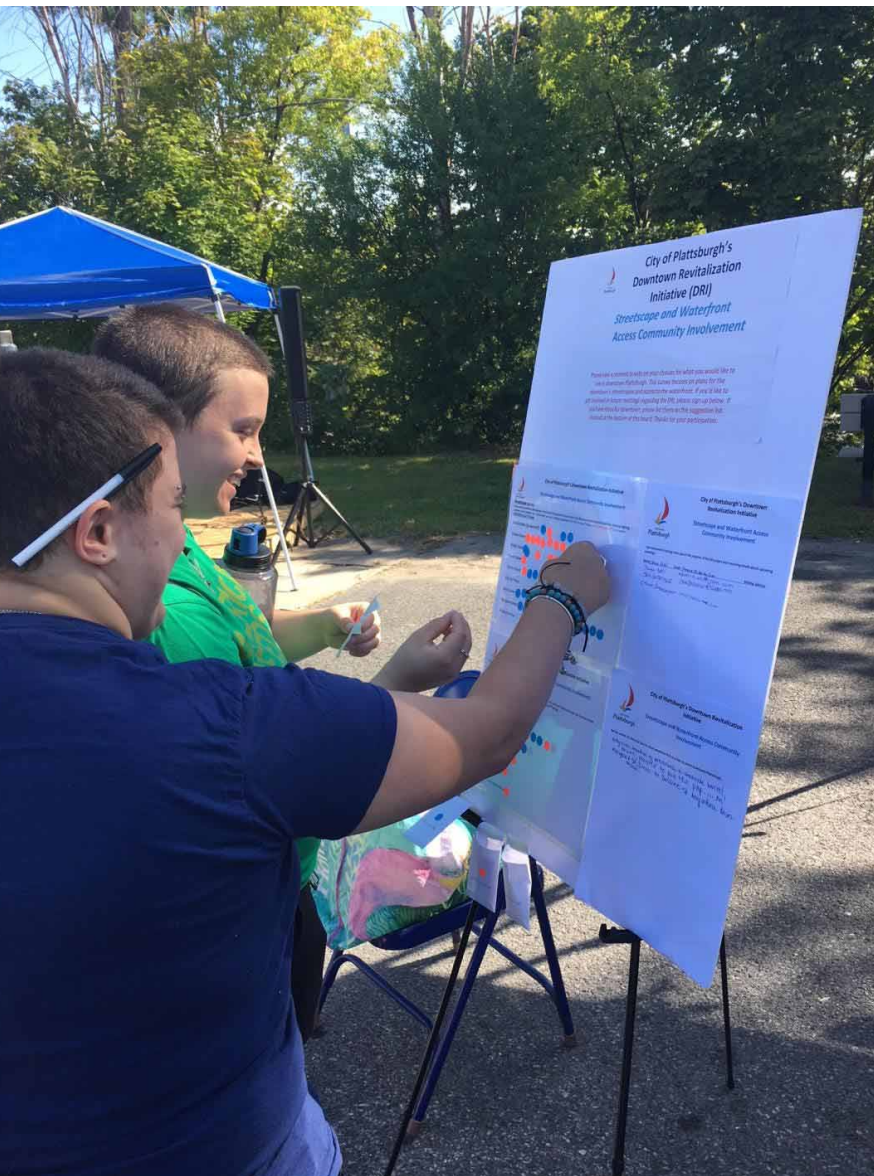
Dot Polls
Focus Groups
Mailed & Online Survey
Public Meetings



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Public Engagement

Dot Polling Stands

Available for 10 days at:

City Hall

The Bagel Pit

Plattsburgh Public Library

North Country Co-Op

Battle of Plattsburgh

Farmer's Market



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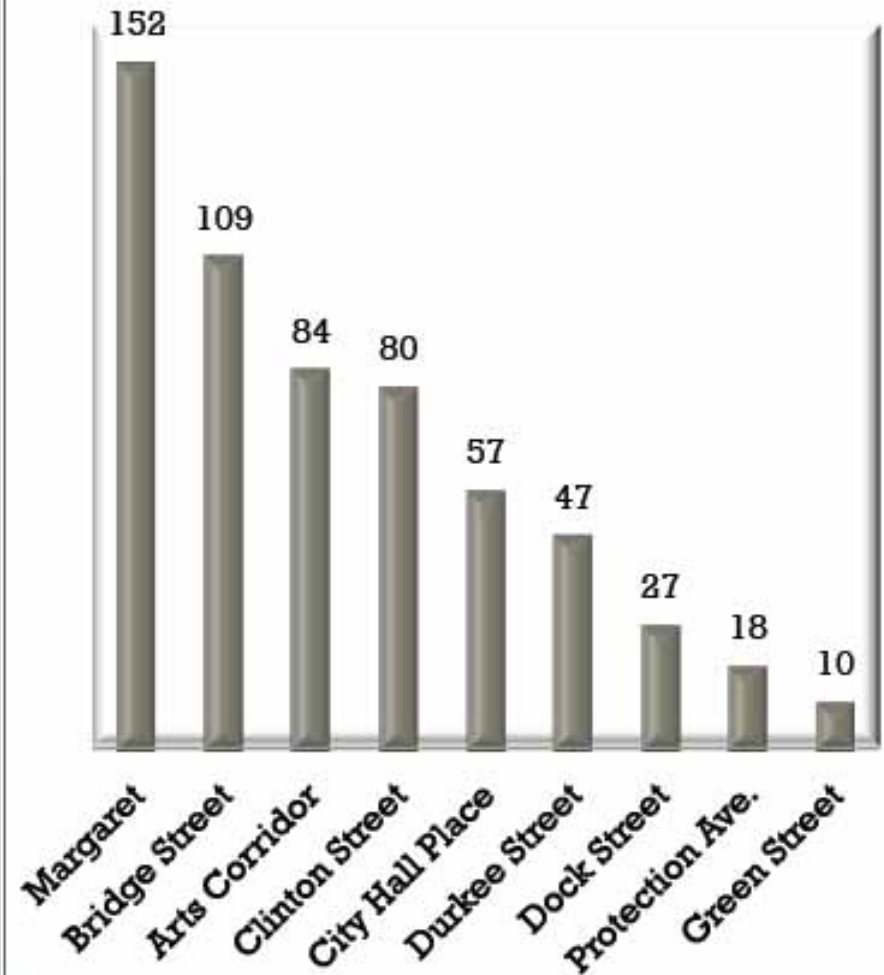
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Public Engagement

Which downtown street is in most need of work?

1. Margaret Street
2. Bridge Street

Ranking of Streetscapes Streets

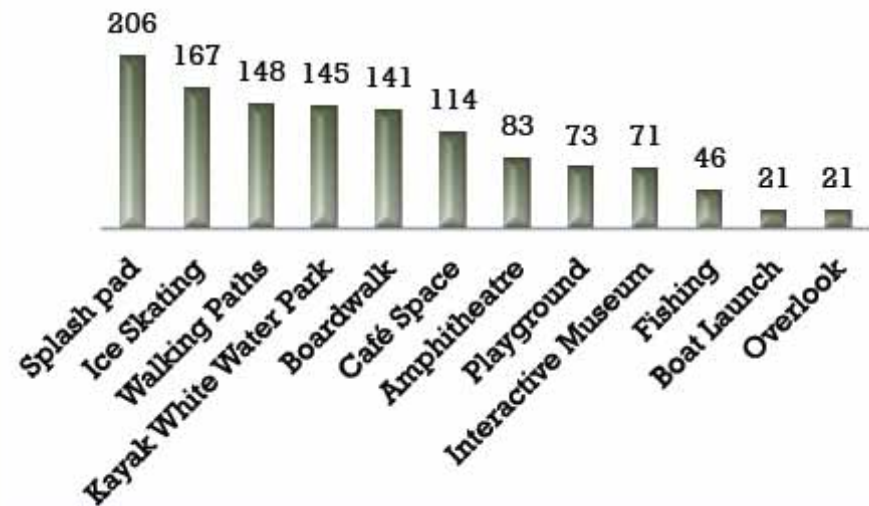


Public Engagement

Which recreational amenity is most needed downtown?

1. Splash Pad
2. Ice Skating Rink

Ranking of Desired Downtown Amenities



Public Engagement

Focus Groups

30-minute sessions:

- Senior Citizens Council of Clinton County
- Lake City Development Corporation
- Stafford Middle School
- Plattsburgh High School

Topics:

- Greatest Assets
- Desired Changes
- Barriers to Coming Downtown
- 5-Year Vision

Streetscapes

- More benches with water views
- Outdoor dining
- Outside art
- Plantings/educational
- Lighting (ped. bridge)
- Even, level sidewalks
- Bike lanes

Waterfront Access

- Capitalize on natural assets
- Year-round opportunities
- Program space (movies, cooking competitions, skating, curling, biking)
- Food truck space
- Gathering place for all ages
- River access from Farmer's Market



Public Engagement

Common Themes

Parking

- Future of downtown
- Effect of potential paid parking on businesses
- Current rules not enforced

Durkee Street Development

- Interested in its future
- Effect on other local businesses
- Want to learn more about project progress

Farmer's Market

- Future: effect of Durkee development
- Sightlines to river
- Building for longer season

North Country Co-Op

- Desire for programming area
- Parking for shoppers

Other Items

- Accessibility & snow removal
- Safety for walking & biking: distracted drivers; traffic flow
- Vacant lots
- Potholes (challenge for all)



Public Engagement

Mailed & Online Survey

Mailed to ~1200 addresses within the DRI
Study area

173 mailed responses

Online Survey Oct 26 – November 12

790 online responses



Public Opinion Questionnaire City of Plattsburgh Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Improvements

Hello!

The City of Plattsburgh is embarking on a project to design and construct improvements to the downtown streetscape and improve recreational access to the Saranac River. This project is one of the next phases of the [Downtown Revitalization Initiative](#). We will be a hosting public meeting in the coming months to present conceptual designs, and would like to get **your input now** on some of the improvements or features you would like to see. Please take a moment to fill out this brief questionnaire so that you can help us develop designs which will advance the revitalization of downtown Plattsburgh. **Please fill in the small circle with pen or pencil in front of your selection(s)—it looks like this:**

1. Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see along the Durkee Street waterfront? **(Please select up to three.)**
 - Improved fishing access
 - Improved visibility of the river along Durkee Street, including the thinning of vegetation
 - A scenic overlook of the river near the Farmers Market
 - A multi-use walking path along the river from MacDonough Park to Broad Street
 - A whitewater park and kayak/canoe launch near Broad Street
 - Additional connections to/extensions of the Saranac River Trail
 - Information kiosks, wayfinding signs and historic/environmental educational signs.
2. Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see at Macdonough Park? **(Please select up to three.)**
 - A performance amphitheater for special events
 - Improved landscaping and tree plantings
 - Additional seating, pedestrian lighting, bike racks and similar amenities
 - Formal path connection to the pedestrian bridge north of the park
 - Kayak/canoe launch
 - Information kiosk, wayfinding signs and historic information
3. In your opinion, what types of streetscape design improvements would most benefit downtown Plattsburgh? **(Please select up to four.)**
 - More street trees
 - Wider or improved sidewalks
 - Bicycle lanes
 - New crosswalks, crossing signals
 - Attractive outdoor café spaces
 - Bicycle racks, benches, trash receptacles
 - Small pocket parks / relaxation areas
 - New wayfinding signage / information kiosks
 - Wheelchair accessibility improvements
 - Improved lighting

Please turn page over.



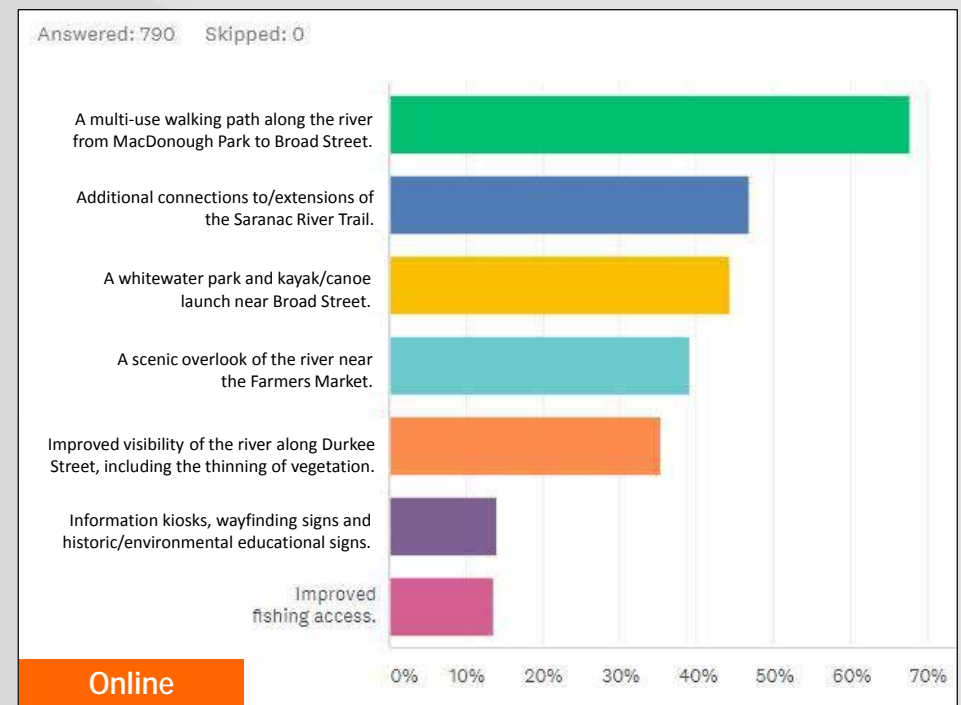
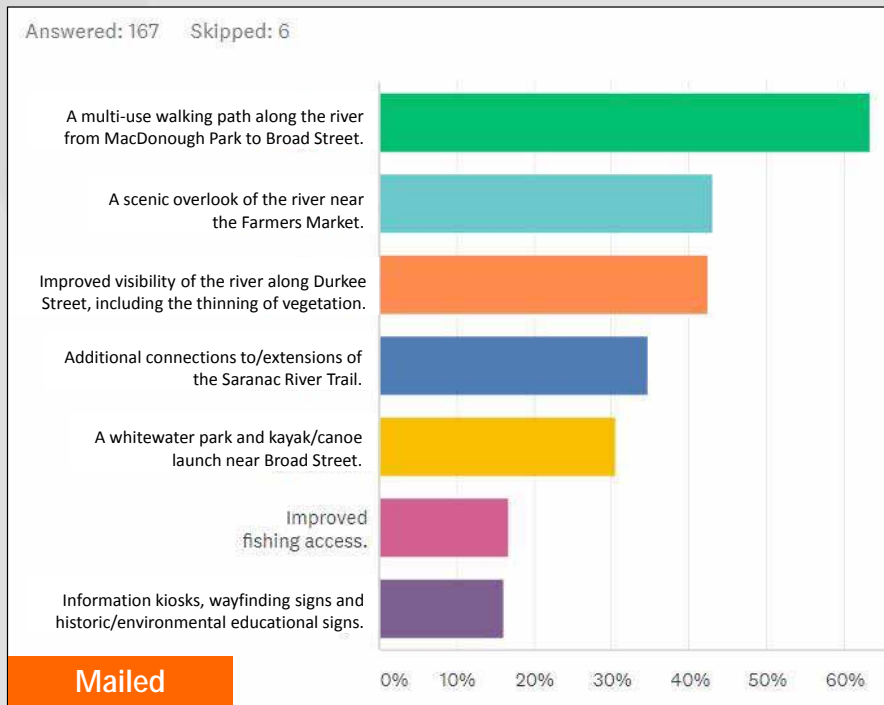
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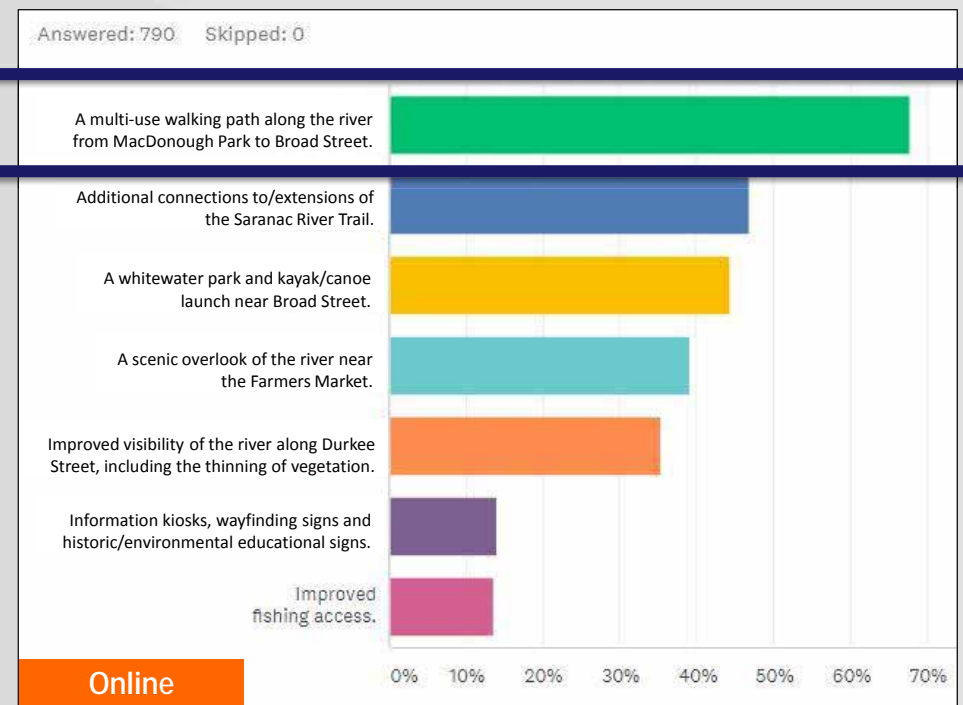
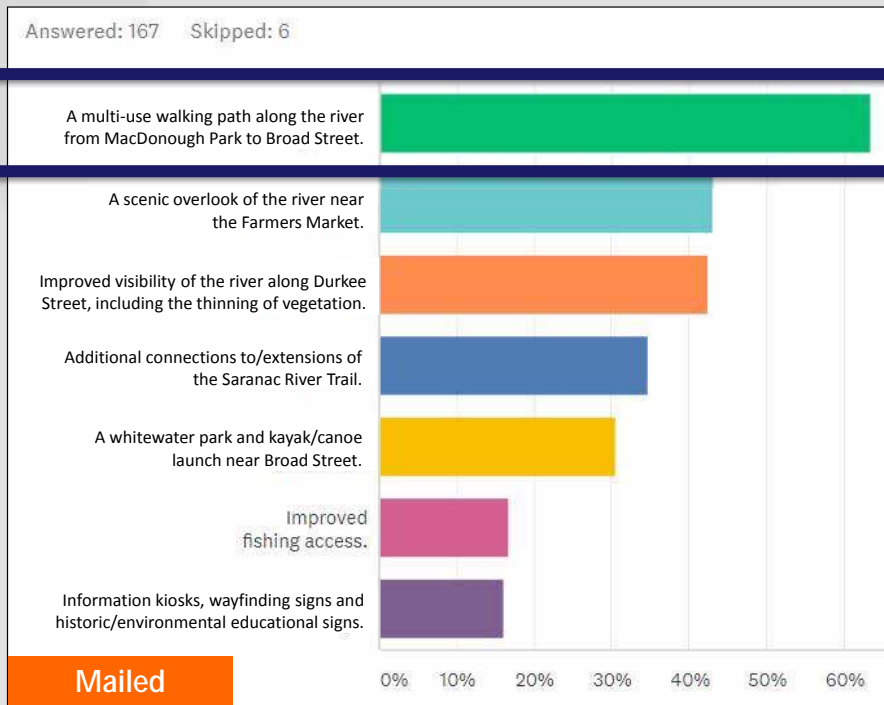
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Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see along the Durkee Street waterfront? (Select up to 3)

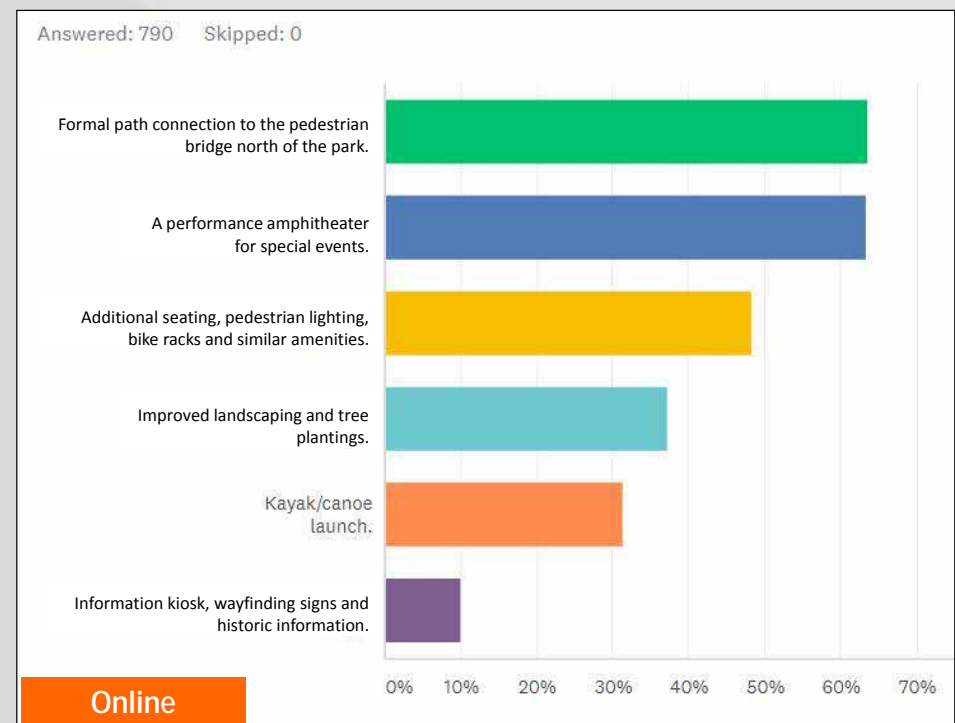
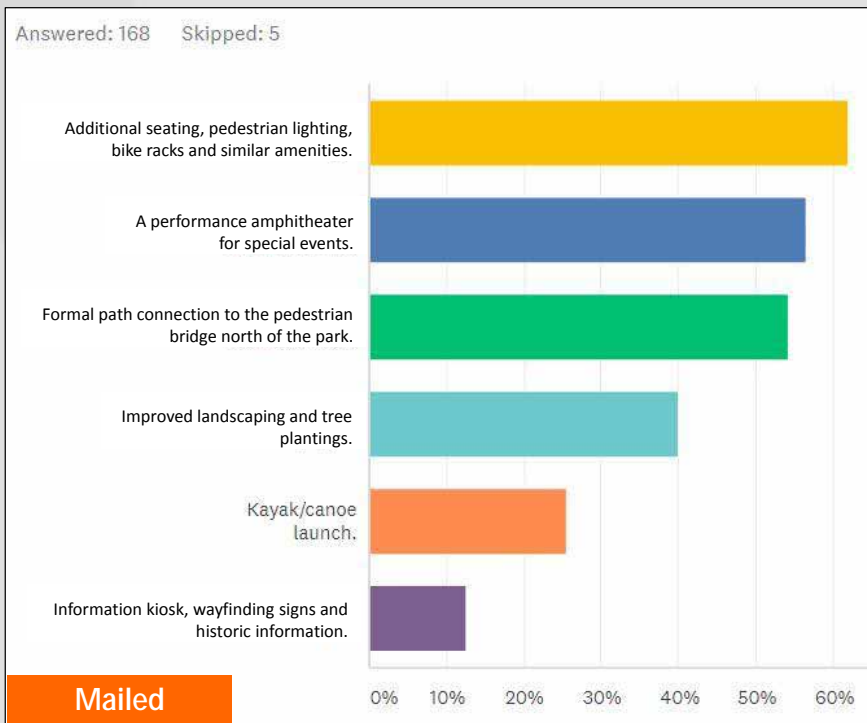


Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see along the Durkee Street waterfront? (Select up to 3)



Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see at Macdonough Park?

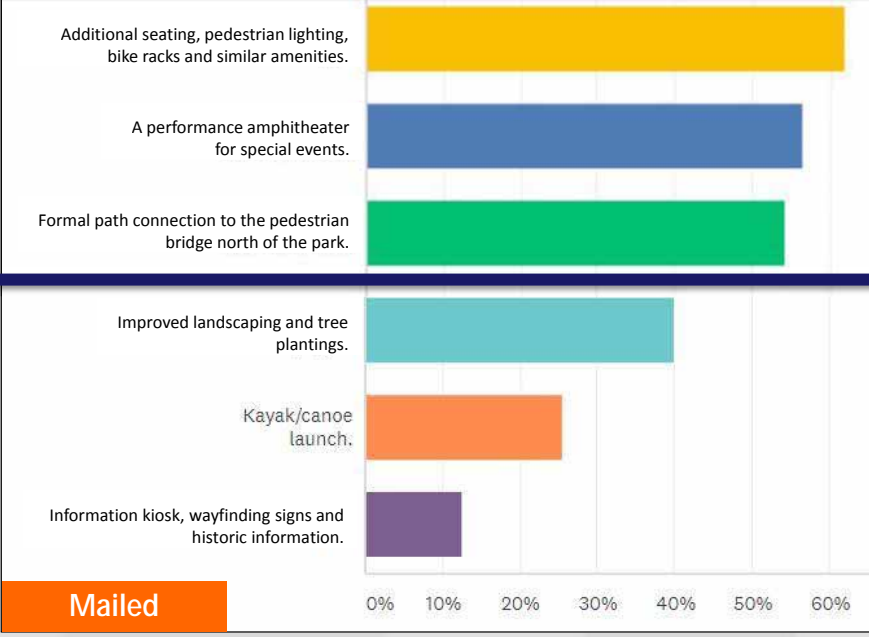
(Select up to 3)



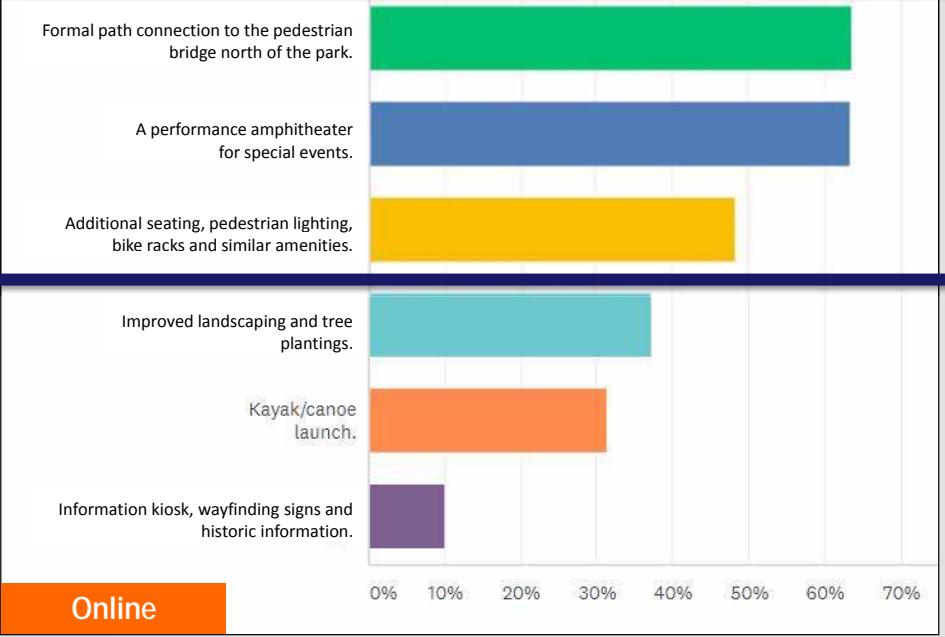
Which of the following riverfront access improvements would you most like to see at Macdonough Park?

(Select up to 3)

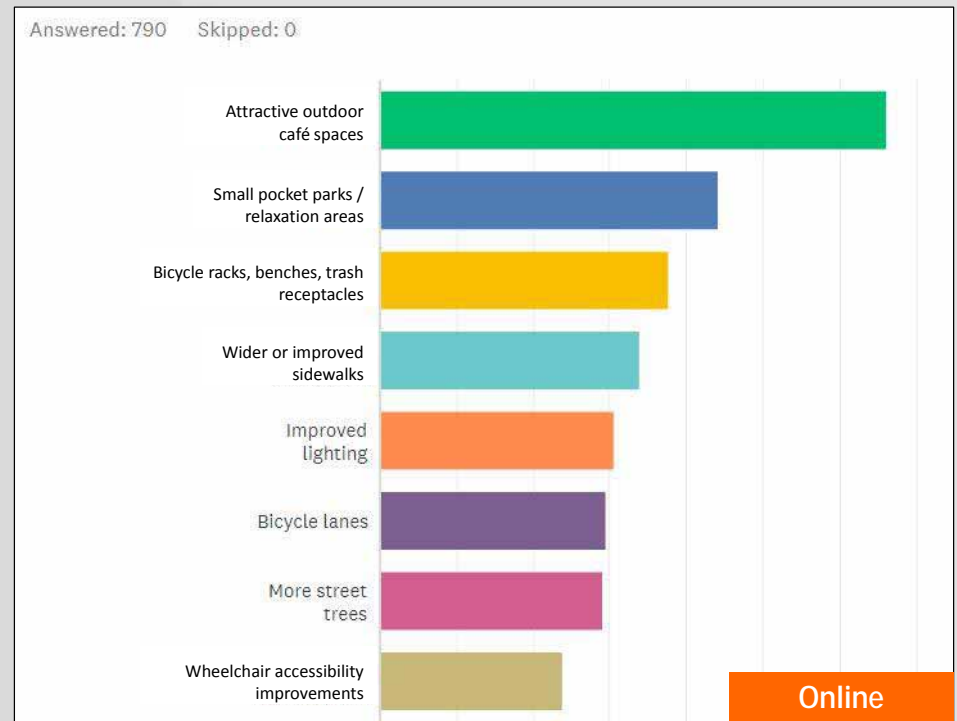
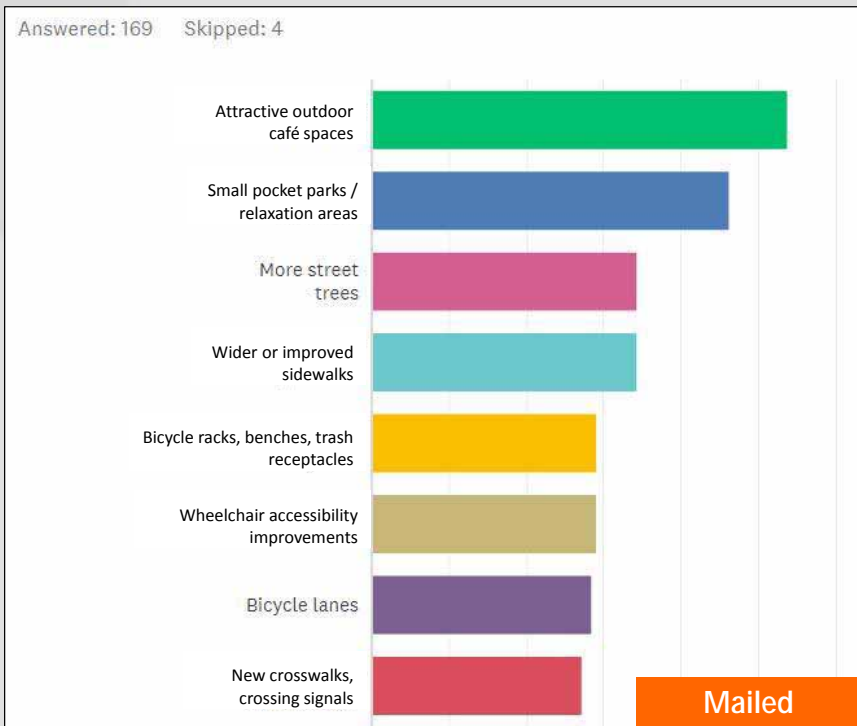
Answered: 168 Skipped: 5



Answered: 790 Skipped: 0



In your opinion, what types of streetscape design improvements would most benefit downtown Plattsburgh? (Select up to 4)



In your opinion, what types of streetscape design improvements would most benefit downtown Plattsburgh? (Select up to 4)

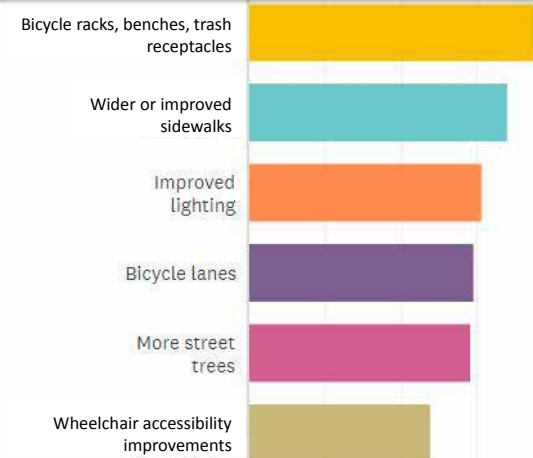
Answered: 169 Skipped: 4



Answered: 790 Skipped: 0



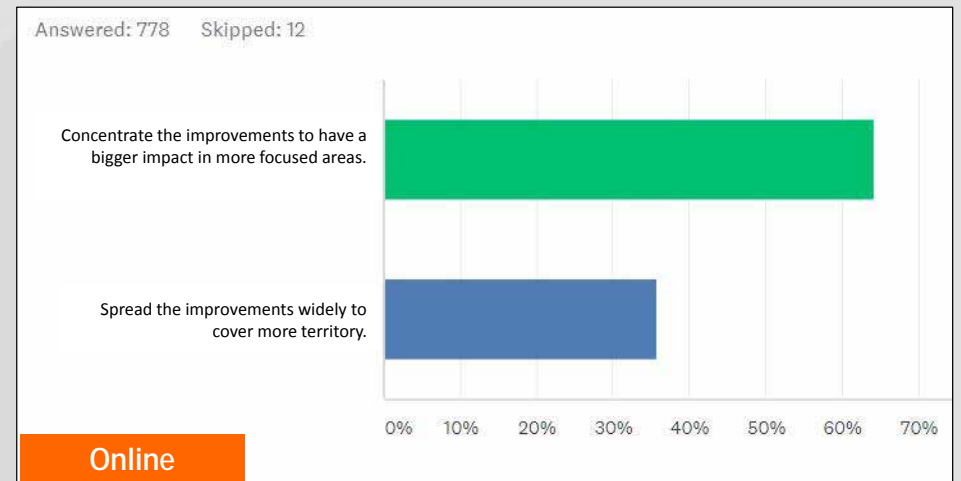
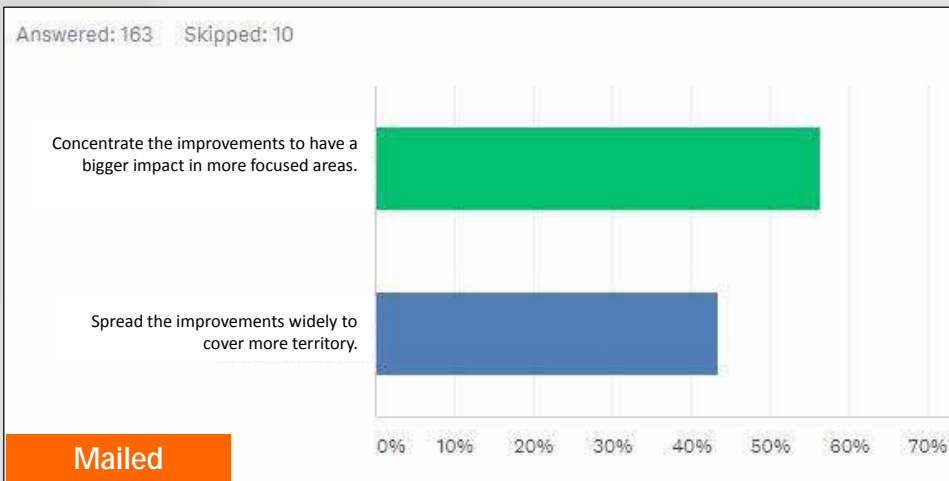
Mailed



Online



Recognizing a limited budget, how should the funding be allocated?



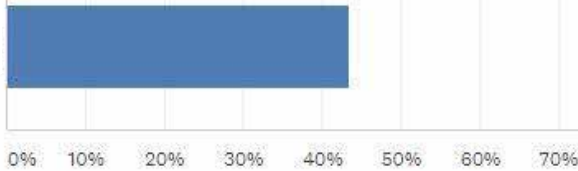
Recognizing a limited budget, how should the funding be allocated?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 10

Concentrate the improvements to have a bigger impact in more focused areas.



Spread the improvements widely to cover more territory.



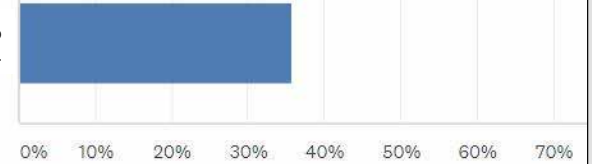
Mailed

Answered: 778 Skipped: 12

Concentrate the improvements to have a bigger impact in more focused areas.



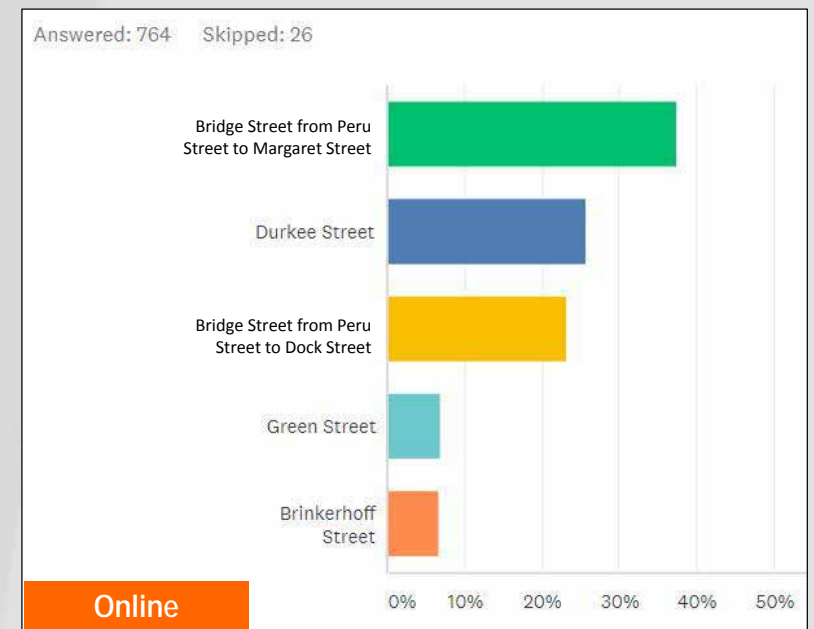
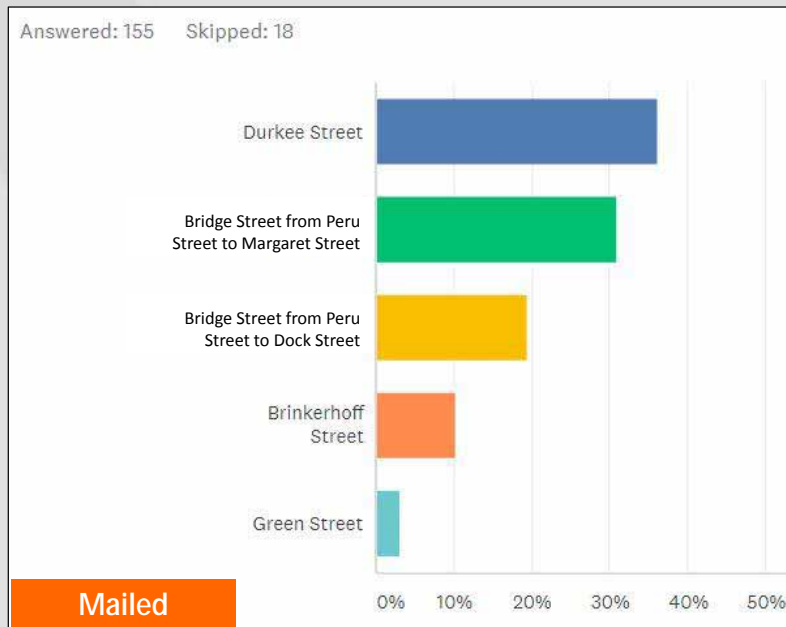
Spread the improvements widely to cover more territory.



Online

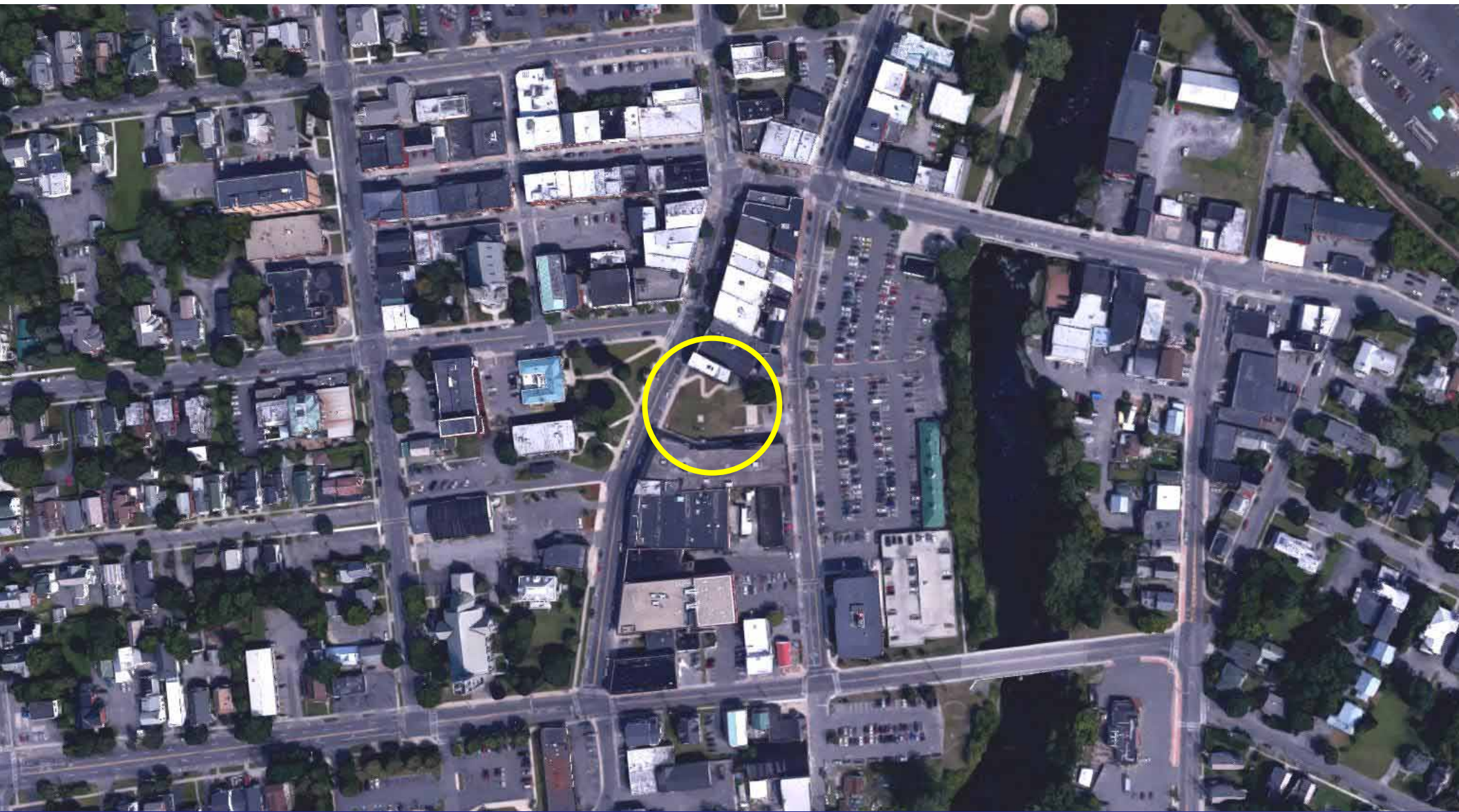


Which of the following DRI-identified priority downtown streets would benefit the city the most from some of the design improvements listed above?



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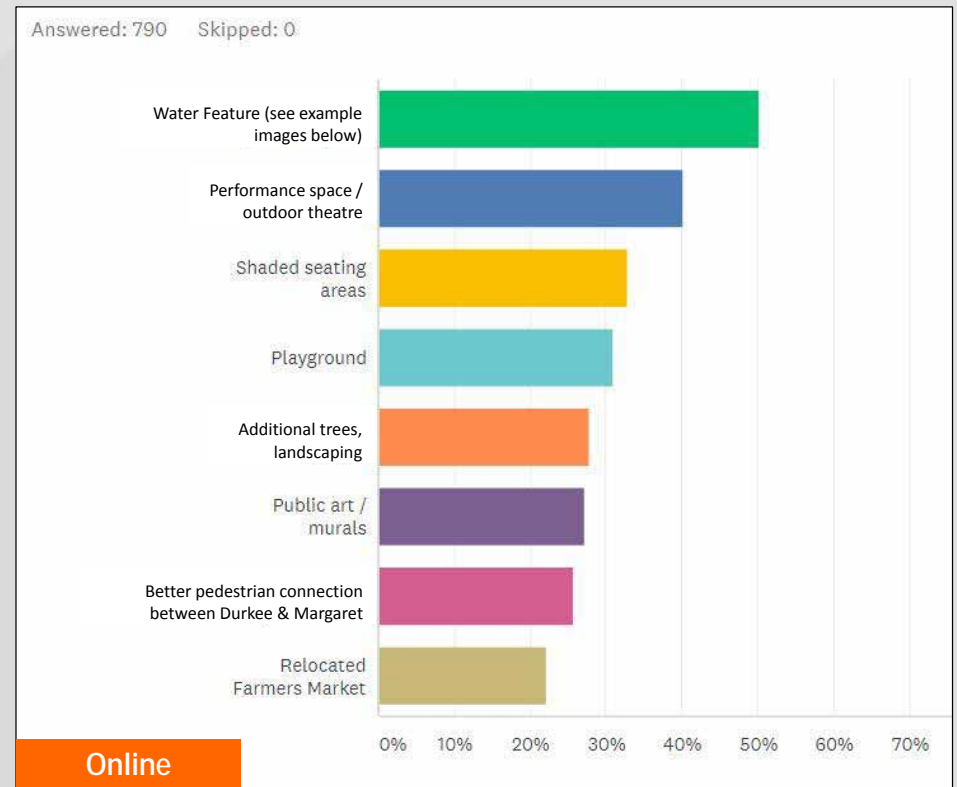
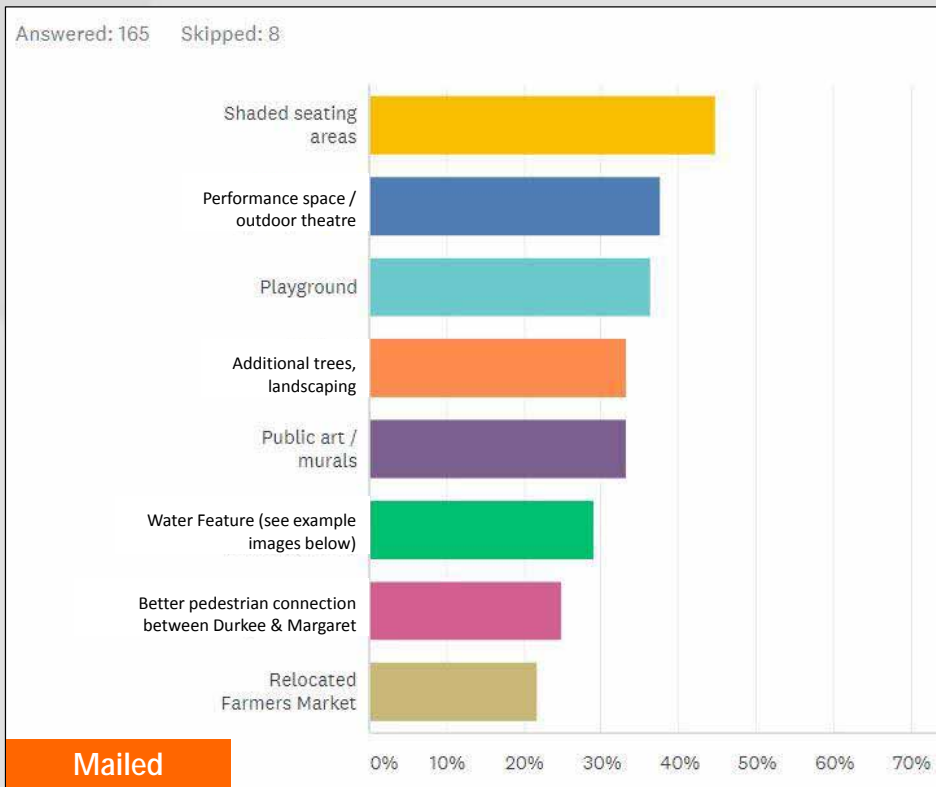


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What types of improvements would make the park a more welcoming and active place for people? (Select up to 3)



Written Responses

“Creating space for bicycles (bike lanes, parking) would attract more visitors to downtown Plattsburgh, *making it a destination*, rather than a “passing-through” area. Creating more bike and pedestrian friendly walkways would help beautify the area while limiting traffic and keeping it easily accessible.”

“Improved access to the waterfront and business support so that there are interesting reasons to *make downtown a destination.*”

“We walk downtown almost nightly in the summer with our young children but just loop and go home. If there was a playground to stop at, or a dock to throw rocks off of over the water, *we’d definitely stay down there longer.*”



Written Responses

Response Topic	Count
Paths	69
Access to waterfront/view of waterfront	68
Landscaping	53
Amenities	45
Accessibility	33
Lighting	32
Water Features	31
Whitewater Park	27
Amphitheater	22
Family friendly/places to gathering	24
Art	17
Playground	12

Conductivity safe navigable paths that connect downtown to the waterfront and adjacent trails

Amenities amphitheater, water features, white water park, playground, benches

Aesthetic Improvements art, landscaping, accessibility, lighting, view of the waterfront, access to the waterfront

“Something to draw people to downtown. The addition of an outdoor amphitheater which would have the **potential to draw people** and money to the downtown businesses.”



Full Survey Results

<http://www.cityofplattsburgh.com/428/Downtown-Revitalization-Initiative>



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Pedestrian & Bicycle Study

Five Intersections Studied

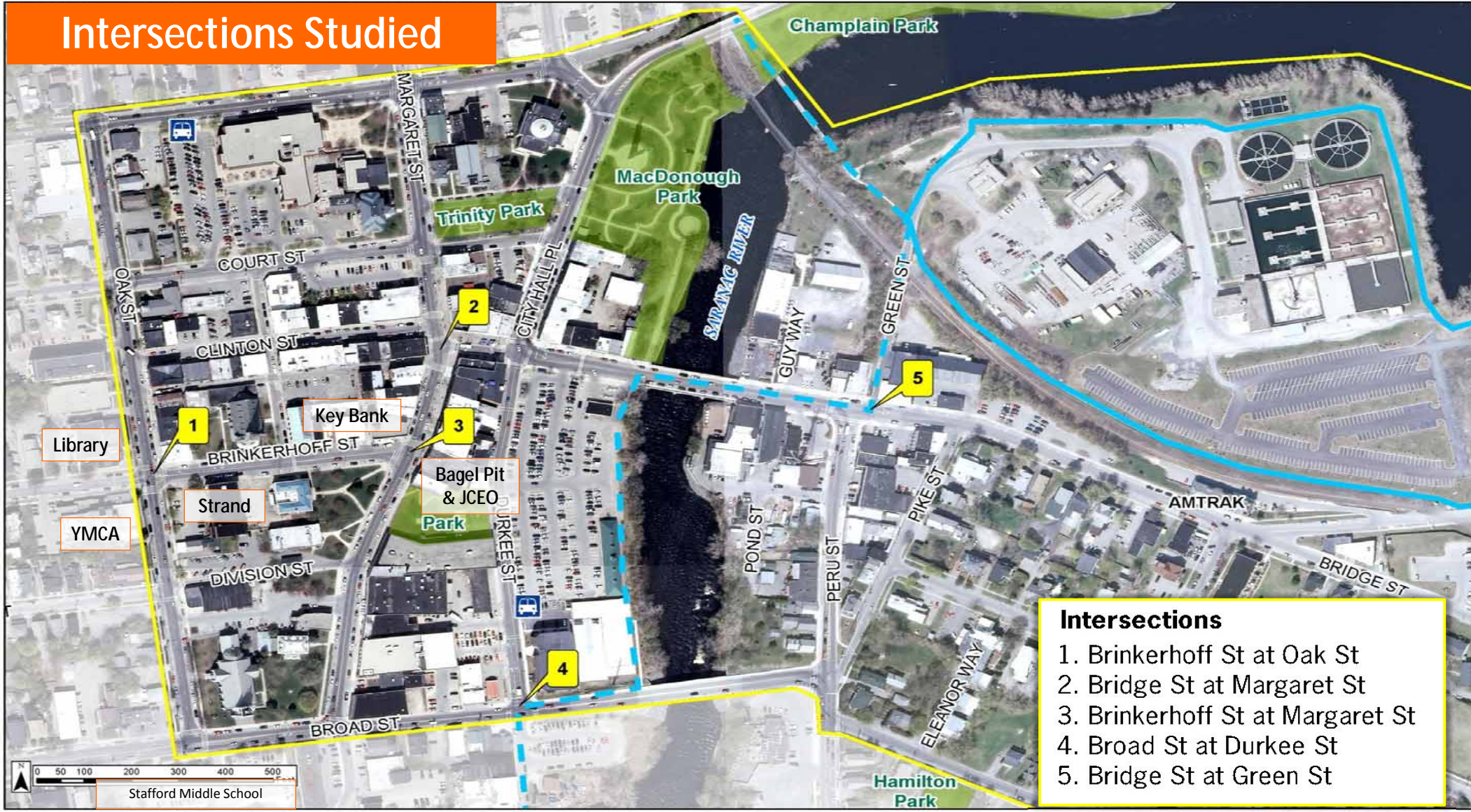
Thursday & Saturday in September

Highest traffic: Margaret/Bridge St. area

Peak times: Lunch, Dinner



Intersections Studied



- Intersections**
1. Brinkerhoff St at Oak St
 2. Bridge St at Margaret St
 3. Brinkerhoff St at Margaret St
 4. Broad St at Durkee St
 5. Bridge St at Green St



Thursday Traffic

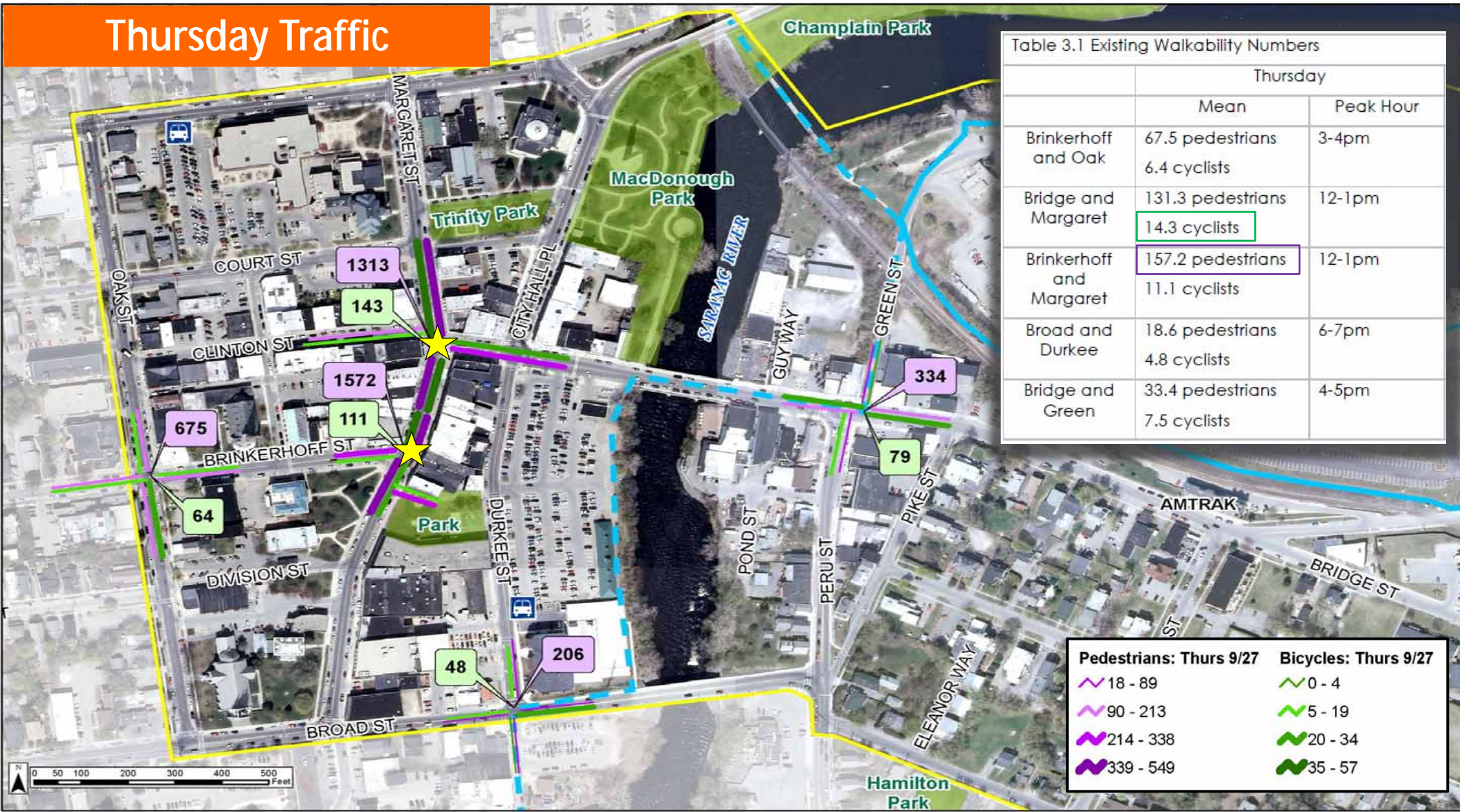


Table 3.1 Existing Walkability Numbers

	Thursday	
	Mean	Peak Hour
Brinkerhoff and Oak	67.5 pedestrians 6.4 cyclists	3-4pm
Bridge and Margaret	131.3 pedestrians 14.3 cyclists	12-1pm
Brinkerhoff and Margaret	157.2 pedestrians 11.1 cyclists	12-1pm
Broad and Durkee	18.6 pedestrians 4.8 cyclists	6-7pm
Bridge and Green	33.4 pedestrians 7.5 cyclists	4-5pm

Pedestrians: Thurs 9/27

- ~ 18 - 89
- ~ 90 - 213
- ~ 214 - 338
- ~ 339 - 549

Bicycles: Thurs 9/27

- ~ 0 - 4
- ~ 5 - 19
- ~ 20 - 34
- ~ 35 - 57



Saturday Traffic

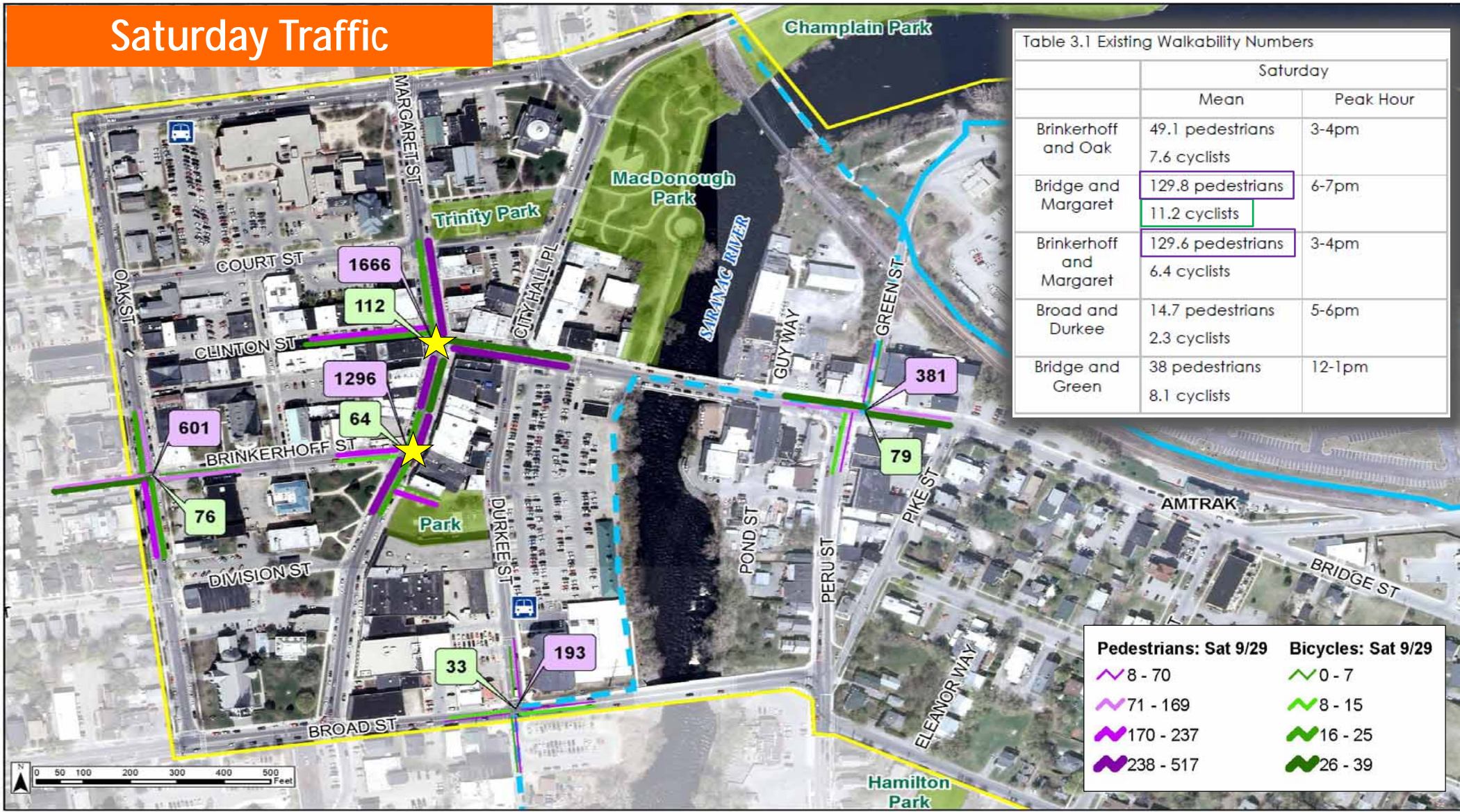


Table 3.1 Existing Walkability Numbers

	Saturday	
	Mean	Peak Hour
Brinkerhoff and Oak	49.1 pedestrians 7.6 cyclists	3-4pm
Bridge and Margaret	129.8 pedestrians 11.2 cyclists	6-7pm
Brinkerhoff and Margaret	129.6 pedestrians 6.4 cyclists	3-4pm
Broad and Durkee	14.7 pedestrians 2.3 cyclists	5-6pm
Bridge and Green	38 pedestrians 8.1 cyclists	12-1pm

Pedestrians: Sat 9/29	Bicycles: Sat 9/29
8 - 70	0 - 7
71 - 169	8 - 15
170 - 237	16 - 25
238 - 517	26 - 39



Spring 2019



Initial Impressions & Concepts



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DRI Priorities

Downtown Streetscapes and Riverfront Access



Looking Ahead to Streetscape Improvements



Streetscape Goals

- Pedestrian & bike improvements on up to 5 streets
- ← Protected access on Veteran's Memorial Bridge
- Highest pedestrian and bicycle traffic was observed on Margaret & Bridge Streets

Survey: Top Streets

- Bridge (Peru to Margaret)
- Durkee

Dot Polls: Top Streets

- Margaret
- Bridge
- Arts Corridor (Brinkerhoff)

Focus Group Elements

- More benches with water views
- Outdoor dining
- Outside art
- Plantings/educational
- Lighting (ped. bridge)
- Even, level sidewalks
- Bike lanes

Survey Elements

- Café space
- Pocket parks
- Sidewalk improvements, street trees, furnishings (benches, bike racks, lighting)





Sidewalks

Street trees

Accessibility

Lighting

Benches

Bike racks



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Cafe Space

High Score
Outdoor Seating
Lots of Activity

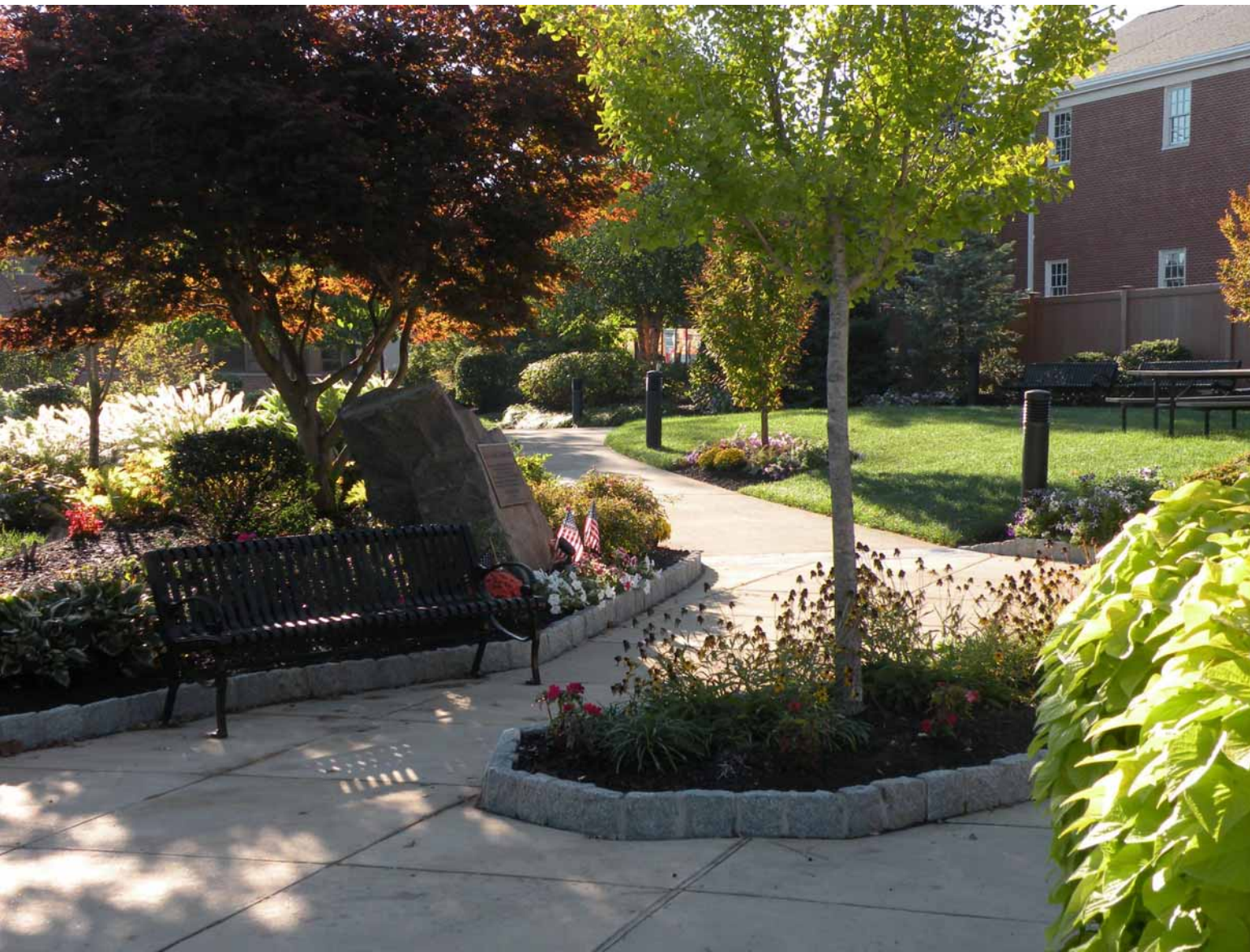
What are the
current issues?



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Pocket Parks

High Score

Relaxation

Shade

Landscaping

Where should
they be?



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Pedestrian Plaza

Pedestrian
Outdoor Cafes
Gathering Space

Can function as
cafe space and
pocket parks



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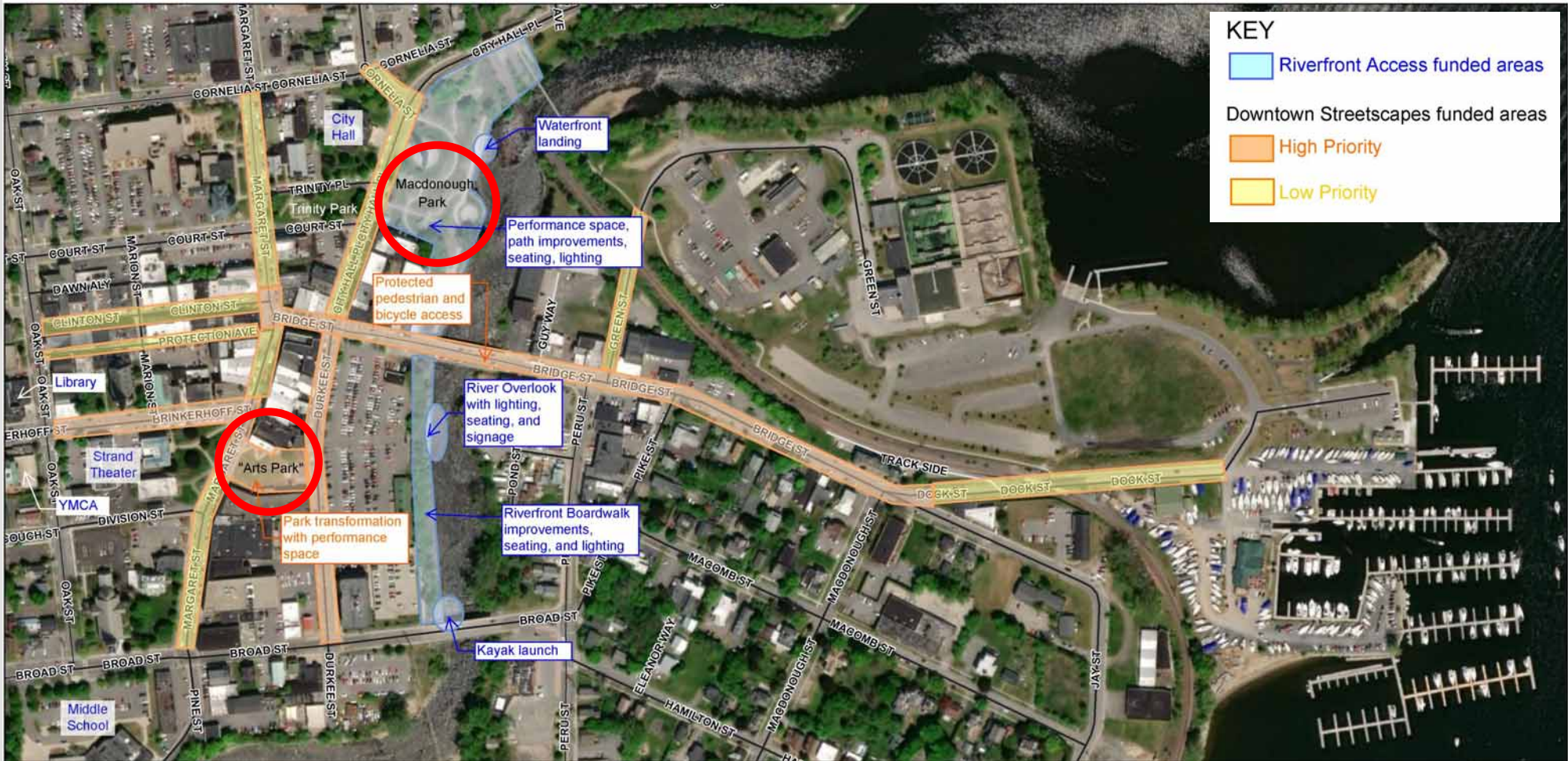
Sidewalk Improvements

Downtown Streetscapes and Riverfront Access



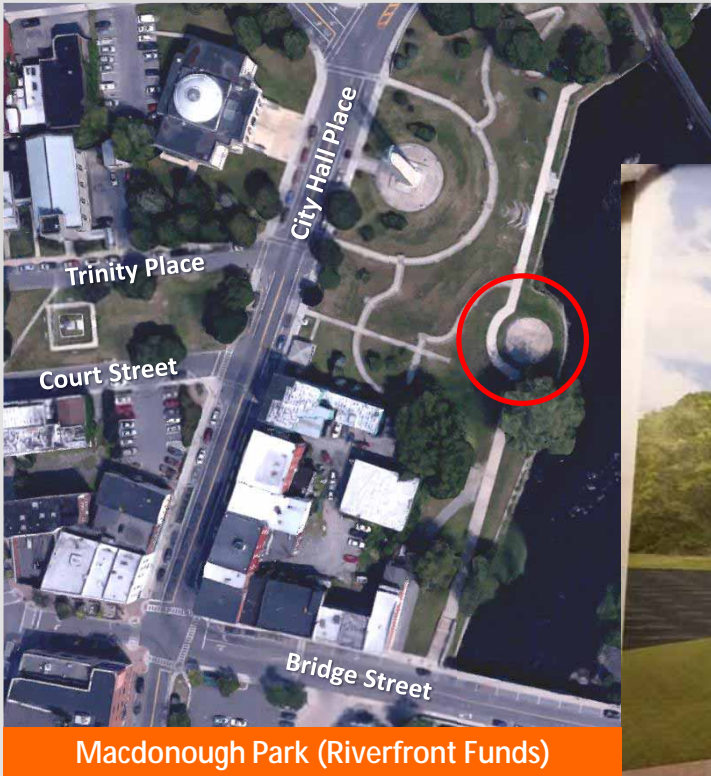
Potential Performance Space

Downtown Streetscapes and Riverfront Access



Potential Performance Space

Concept Sketches

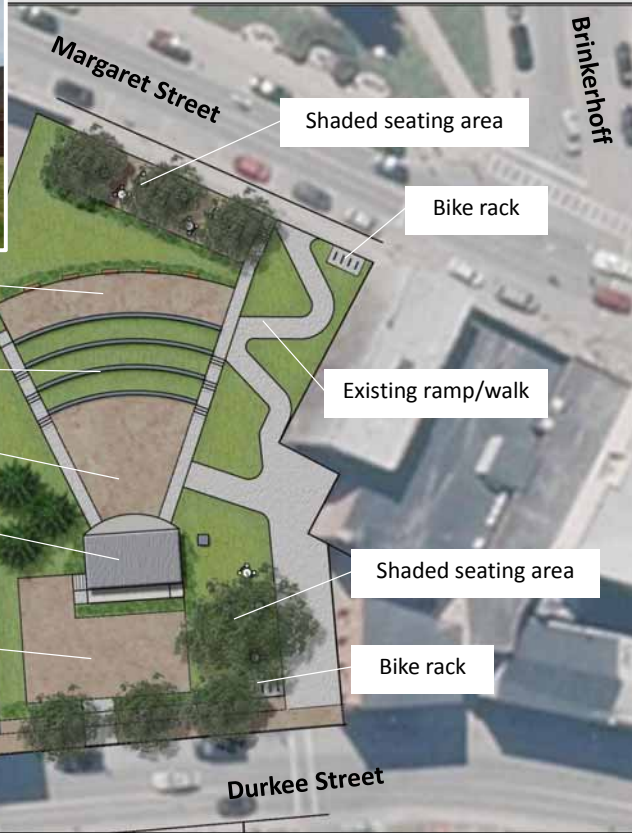


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Potential Performance Space Concept Sketches



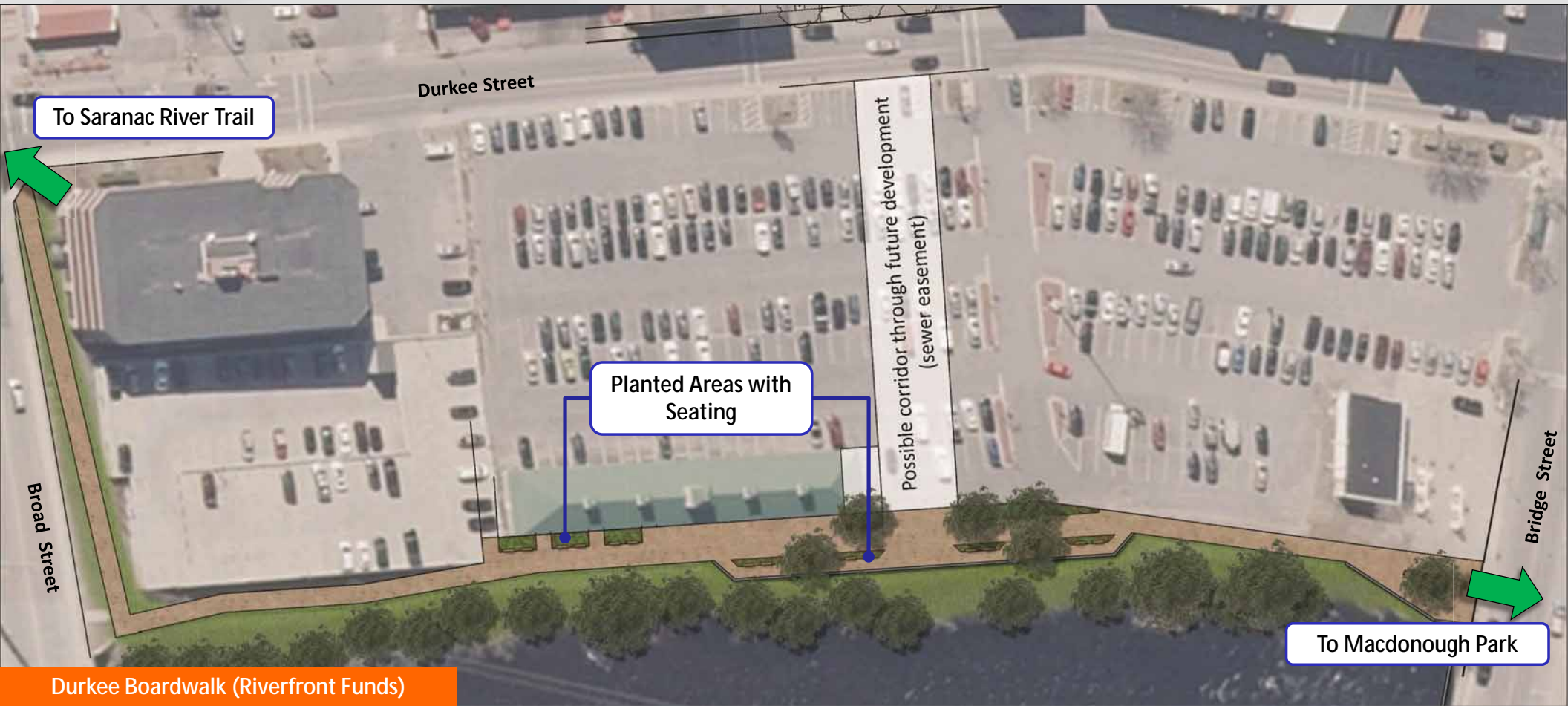
Arts Park (Streetscape Funds)



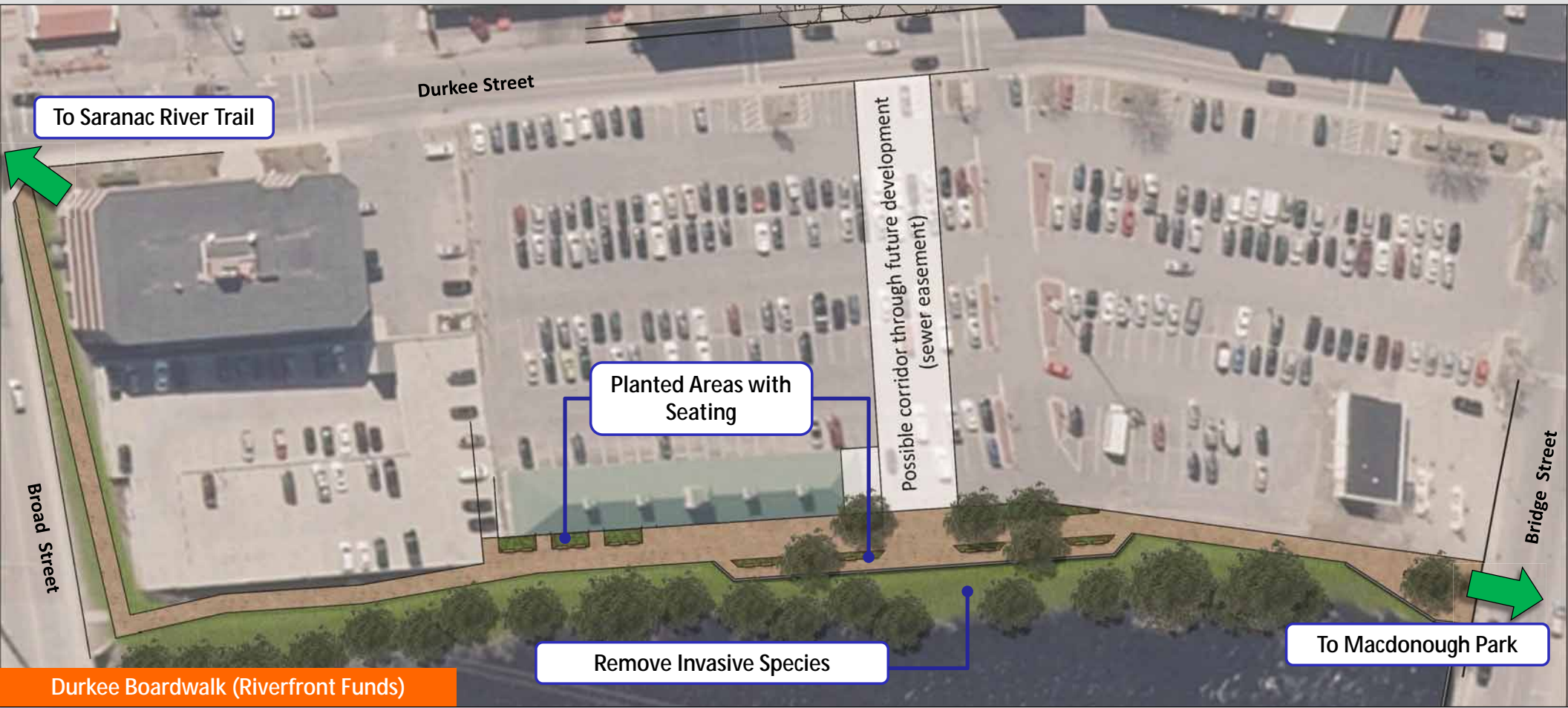
Macdonough Park (Riverfront Funds)



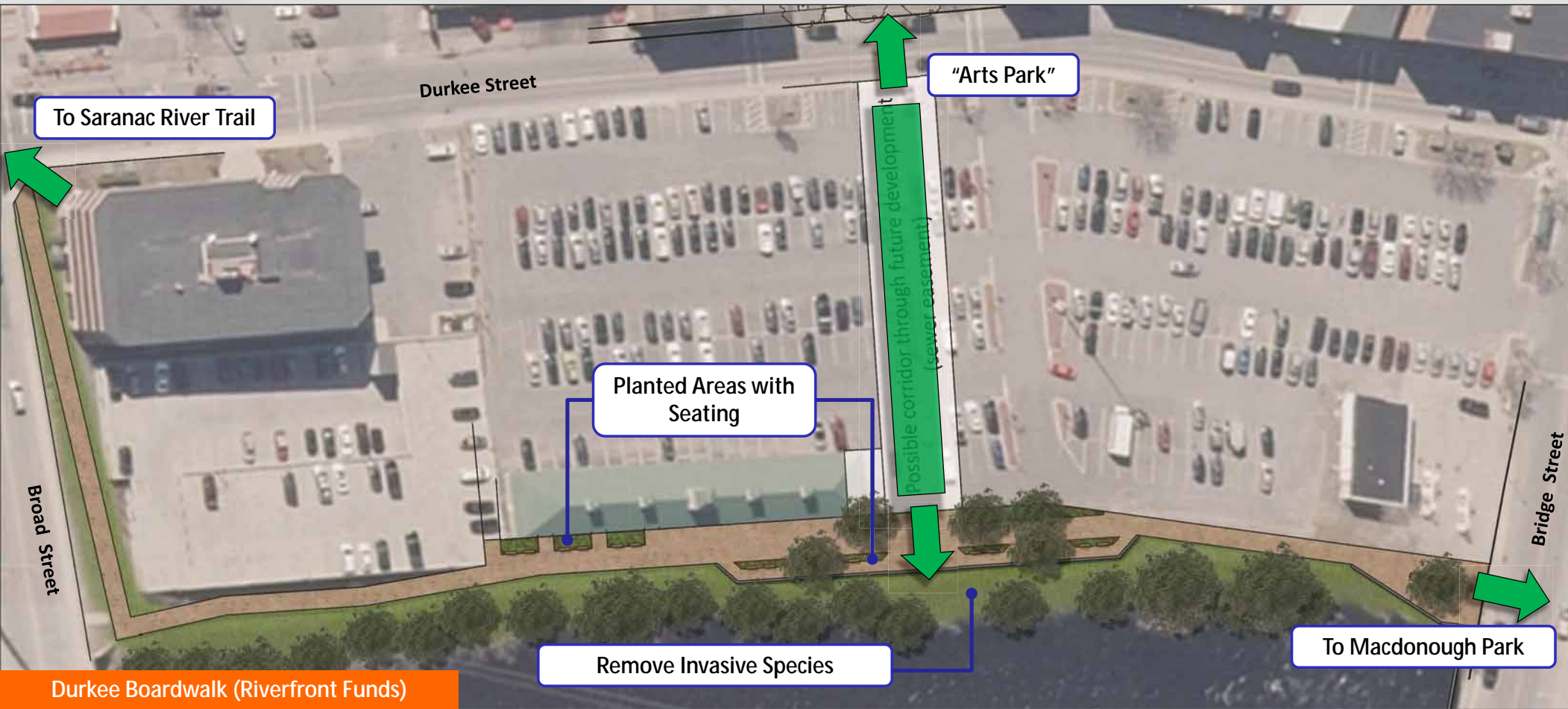
Riverfront Boardwalk Concept



Riverfront Boardwalk Concept



Riverfront Boardwalk Concept

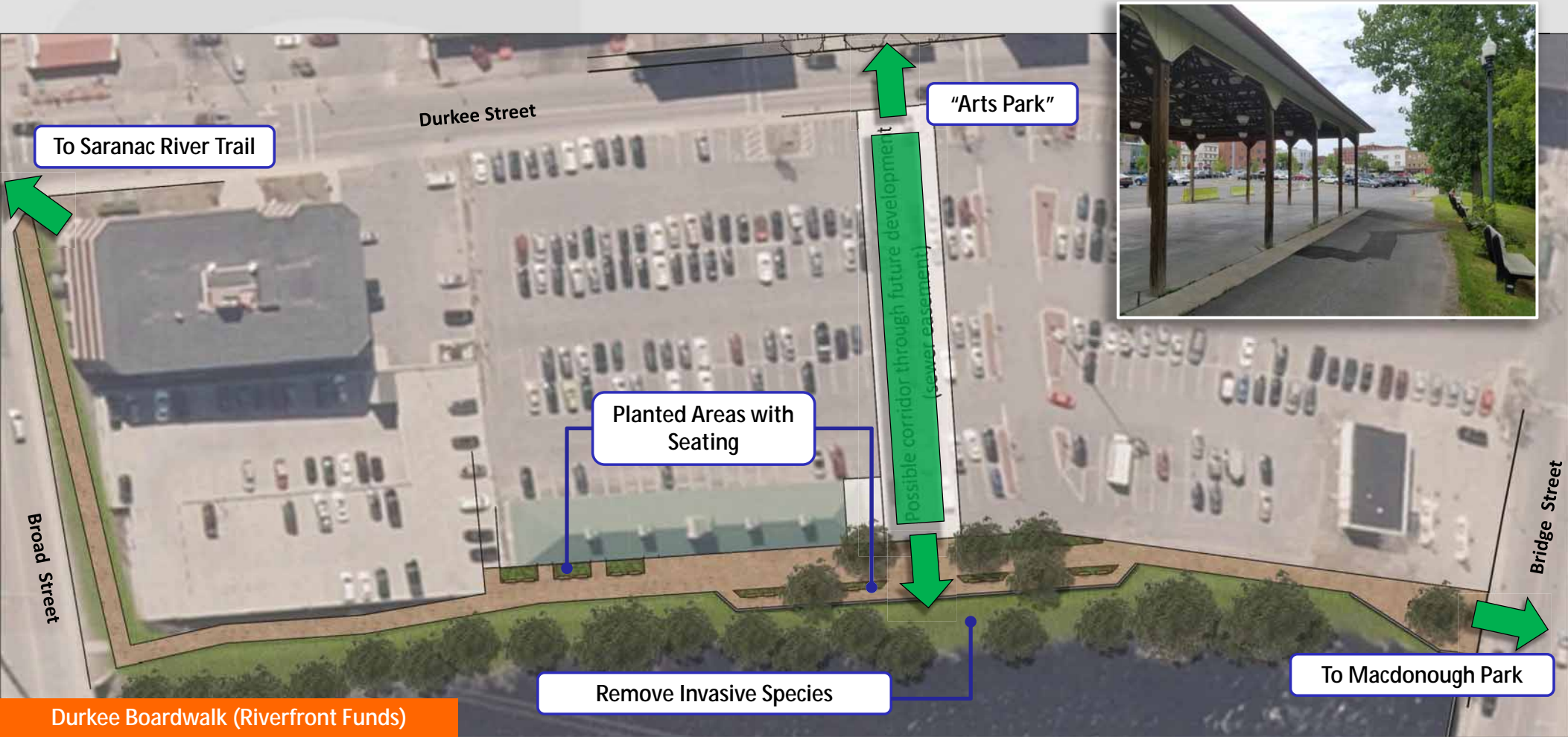


Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Design
City of Plattsburgh, New York

Public Meeting
December 5, 2018

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Riverfront Boardwalk Concept



Anticipated Schedule

2018 DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Today	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Next Steps

- January/February:
Review & Refine Concept Designs
- March:
Second Public Meeting: Streetscapes focus with update on park plans
- Spring 2019: Park Construction Begins
- April-August:
Review & Refine Streetscape Designs
- Late 2019/Early 2020:
Streetscape construction



Streetscape Enhancements & Riverfront Access

FIGURE 3-1: PROPOSED STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS Improve Streetscape and Connect the City to the River



FIGURE 3-2: IMPROVEMENTS TO PLATTSBURGH RIVERFRONT ACCESS Improve Riverfront Access



Overview:

These projects propose the design and construction of enhanced access to the Saranac River and improvements to streets and walkable areas Downtown. All streetscape enhancements and riverfront access improvements seek to add recreational opportunities and increase visitation, connectivity, and a better flow of pedestrian traffic.

Streetscape enhancements may include but are not limited to, sidewalk widening, public performance venues, traffic calming measures, and green space enhancements.

Riverfront access improvements may include, but are not limited to, reconstruction of riverwalk/boardwalk, waterfront landings, overlooks, and more.

Update: Jan 2018

On January 23rd, 2018, the City of Plattsburgh released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Consulting and Engineering Design Services for Streetscape Enhancements and Improved Riverfront Access Designs. Find the full RFP documents [here](#). Responses are due by 3:00 p.m. (EST) Friday, Feb 23rd, 2018.

Update: May 2018

At the regular meeting of Common Council on May 24th, the Common Council approved the Consulting and Engineering Design Services contract for the Downtown Streetscape and Riverfront Access Design project of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) be awarded to Saratoga Associates Landscape Architects, Architects, Engineers, and Planners, P.C.

Update: August 2018

On August 1st, the City hosted a kick-off meeting for the Streetscape Improvements and Riverfront Access Project, with City staff, a DOS representative, and Saratoga Associates. Saratoga Associates' next step is to review the existing conditions of the Downtown, review existing documentation and information, and start developing their public involvement plan.

Update: September 2018

Saratoga Associates' has begun their first round of public engagement. This includes dot polls in 4 different locations for 10 days at City Hall, the Bagel Pit, Plattsburgh Public Library and the North Country Co-Op. The dot polls were also available for 4 hours during the Battle of Plattsburgh as well as 2 hours during the Farmer's Market on September 22nd.

Focus groups also took place with 30-minute sessions at Senior Citizens Council of Clinton County, Lake City Development Corporation, Stafford Middle School, and Plattsburgh High School.

Saratoga Associates' also conducted a walkability study measuring the amount of pedestrian/bicycle traffic at select locations Downtown. This study will help Saratoga Associates determine the existing walkability numbers as well as to better understand the flow of people through the Downtown.

Questions?

Check DRI website for updates

<http://www.cityofplattsburgh.com/428/Downtown-Revitalization-Initiative>

(Or Google "Plattsburgh DRI")

(Click on the project name on the left)



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Questions / Discussion

- Outdoor cafes
- Pocket Parks
- Sidewalk improvements
- Performance spaces
- Other topics



DRI Project Area



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Thank you for attending this evening!

<http://www.cityofplattsburgh.com/428/Downtown-Revitalization-Initiative>



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