

SECTION IV – PROPOSED PROJECTS

1. COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION

1.1 Progressive Land Use Management Strategies

Communities in the River Corridor have varying levels and types of land use management practices as detailed in Sections II and VI. These practices do not necessarily take into account the social, economic, and environmental impacts of development as it relates to the River and to other communities along the corridor. Land use management practices must preserve the community character and environment associated with the River Corridor and its diverse communities, while not imposing regulations that are burdensome to other types of development such as housing, economic development efforts, and agriculture to name a few. A hierarchy of use density should be established, from open spaces to more densely populated areas such as hamlets, villages, and the City of Cortland. Corridor municipalities, in cooperation with one another, should develop and adopt progressive and innovative land use strategies that concentrate new development in and around established hamlets, villages and the City; preserve open space; protect and support agricultural uses; preserve and protect the environment, particularly wetlands and the river; and enhance sustainable economic development opportunities. These strategies may include traditional zoning and site plan review regulations, design guidelines, overlay districts, incentive zoning, form-based zoning, performance zoning, purchase or transfer of development rights, and development clustering among others. Costs for developing these strategies could range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per community depending on the size of the community and the intricacies of the strategies. A cooperative development among municipalities could significantly reduce the cost. More detailed discussions of recommended land use strategies are included in Section VI, Implementation Plan. Partners include all corridor municipalities, the Cortland County Planning Department, the Tioughnioga River Commission, and the NYS Department of State.

1.2 Revitalize Downtowns and Hamlet Centers

Each of the three Villages and the City of Cortland have a historic downtown. The hamlets of Preble and Truxton have small historic commercial centers. These centers serve as community gathering areas while and local shops and stores reduce the need to travel for basic goods and services. These downtowns have historic and architectural character that are important community assets. Many of these downtowns, however, have lost their once strong commercial base over the years, and many buildings are deteriorated or have “improvements” incompatible with their architecture or surrounding community character.

Concerted efforts should be made to revitalize and improve these downtowns and hamlets. The City of Cortland has already begun these efforts, and they should be duplicated in other downtowns. This includes following the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street™ Approach to downtown revitalization, instituting façade and building improvement programs for commercial center buildings, and recruiting new business that will provide goods and services to local residents as well as tourists. Implementation partners include individual municipalities, the local and County historians, Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Empire Zone, the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce, the Cortland Downtown Partnership, the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities, the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, property owners, and business owners. The revitalization of downtowns and commercial centers is an ongoing effort.

1.3 Remove Blighting Structures

Sections of the River's shoreline are blighted by structures that are in poor condition, are inconsistent with the character of the river, and/or are inappropriate for their location. This is particularly true for a series of commercial structures crowded on a narrow strip of land between Route 11 and the River near the border of the Village of Homer and the Town of Cortlandville south of I-81 Exit 12. These properties should be purchased and the structures removed in order to create a linear greenspace in this area. Existing businesses should be provided assistance to relocate if they are displaced. The use of Eminent Domain is discouraged in attaining this goal. Efforts to remove or improve blighting structures are not limited to this area, and should be done on a spot basis as needed throughout the Corridor. Initial efforts to address the structures on Route 11 should be completed within three years, while other efforts should be ongoing. The cost for the acquisition and removal of four to five existing structures is estimated at \$400,000. Implementation should be undertaken by Cortland County Business Development Corporation in partnership with the Village of Homer.

1.4 Development a Riverside Restaurant

There are no eating establishments or restaurants located along the River that take advantage of its waterfront location. Conversely, restaurants that are located on or near the river (primarily fast food restaurants) are oriented away from the River. A non-fast food waterfront restaurant or restaurants should be developed. The restaurant should be located in one of the Corridor's hamlets, three Villages, or the City of Cortland. Potential locations include the Circus House on Route 11 in Homer, the waterfront area of the Homer Central Business District, Riverside Plaza in Cortland, and the Village of Marathon. At least one restaurant should be developed within five years. The cost will vary greatly depending on the building, construction, type of restaurant, etc. Implementation will be undertaken by private developers in partnership with local municipalities, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, and the Small Business Development Center.

1.5 Downtown Connections

Downtown areas in the Corridor, including Homer, Cortland, Marathon, and, to a lesser extent, McGraw, have little in the way of thematic or physical connections to their waterfronts. Efforts must be made to better connect waterfronts to these downtowns and to utilize the waterfronts as a tool in downtown revitalization efforts. For instance, the Central Business District in the Village of Homer includes one block between Main Street and the River that is now mostly residential. New commercial development should be encouraged in this area. In Cortland, the downtown is a significant distance from the waterfront, and connecting streets and signage should be improved to create an attractive connection between the two. Marathon's downtown is located directly on the River, but buildings and businesses do not capitalize on this location. Improvements should be made to create or improve connections between downtowns and the waterfront. Implementation partners include the Villages of Homer, McGraw, and Marathon, the City of Cortland, various downtown business organizations, private developers, and the NYS Department of Transportation. This is an ongoing effort.

1.6 Redevelop Riverside Plaza and Surrounding Area

Riverside Plaza is an antiquated strip mall located between Interstate 81 and the River at Exit 11 of Interstate 81. The Plaza is located in an area dominated by vehicle-oriented business, including fast food restaurants, gas stations, and hotels. The area's structures are generic, commercial highway architecture and many have towering signs to draw vehicles off of I-81, creating a negative first impression of Cortland. It should be noted that a new sign ordinance by the City of Cortland will reduce the height of such signs in future years. None of the businesses take advantage of their riverside location. Riverside Plaza should be redeveloped into a multi-use retail, commercial, and residential development focused on its waterfront location. Its location in the City of Cortland and at Exit 11 makes it an attractive location not only for new businesses, but also for residents who may commute out of the area for work. The redevelopment project could create a unique living/working environment. The Cayuga Green development in the City of Ithaca provides a model of what could be undertaken at Riverside Plaza. New development, however, should be mindful of local flooding concerns, as the water table is high in some areas and much of the site is within a flood hazard area. Partners include private developers, the City of Cortland, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, Empire State Development, and the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities. Costs will vary significantly depending on the scope of the redevelopment effort, but will likely be in the range of \$7 million to \$10 million.

1.7 Create a Visual/Sound Buffer Between I-81 and Little York Lake

Interstate 81 parallels Little York Lake and the hamlet of Little York on the east site. Noise pollution from heavy traffic on the interstate negatively impacts the quality of life in and around the hamlet. A vegetation buffer should be planted to help mitigate the noise pollution while preserving the visual character of the area. Professional expertise should be employed to work with the NYS Department of Transportation to create a buffer that will have the desired impact and will withstand the harsh roadside conditions. The estimated cost of a planting buffer is \$50,000. Partners include the Little York Improvement Society, the Tioughnioga River Commission, the Town of Preble, the Town of Homer, Cortland County, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the NYS Department of Transportation.

1.8 Establish Retail Outlets For Local Water-Related Manufacturers

The Tioughnioga River Corridor is fortunate to be home to two nationally recognized manufacturers of water-related equipment: Cortland Line Company, which manufactures top quality fishing line and equipment, and Marathon Boat Company, which manufactures Grumman canoes and boats. Neither of these businesses has a retail outlet along the River. The feasibility of developing retail locations, or a single combined location should be investigated. The establishment of a retail outlet(s) with equipment testing on the River could create a significant tourist draw to the region, and boost the Tioughnioga River's visibility as a premier fishing location. Implementation partners include Cortland Line Company, Marathon Boat Company, the Cortland Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Sports Council, Cortland County Convention and Visitors Bureau, GOSC and Empire State Development. The estimated cost for developing these retail outlets will vary significantly depending on the scale of the development. This is considered a long-range project.

1.9 Development of Infrastructure

In order to preserve the character of the River Corridor, development should be concentrated in and around existing hamlets, villages, and the City of Cortland as previously mentioned. To this end, Corridor communities should limit the development and/or extension of public infrastructure, including water and sanitary sewers, to areas in or immediately adjacent to existing developed areas. Existing water and sewer infrastructure in the three Corridor villages, the Town of Cortlandville, and the City should be maintained to a high standard in order to meet current and future needs. Extension of infrastructure outside of existing developed areas should only be undertaken if it will not blur clearly defined community edges and will not promote sprawl development.

Outside of these aforementioned population center areas, the hamlet of Cuyler has a small wastewater collection and treatment system, and there are a number of private water supply systems. Municipal water and/or sewer should be developed or expanded in the hamlets of Cuyler, Polkville, and Preble/Little York in order to entice new development to locate within or adjacent to these developed areas rather than in open areas outside or established hamlets.

The development of water and sewer infrastructure in the hamlets of Cuyler, Truxton, and Preble/Little York is estimated to cost \$15,000,000. Implementation partners will be the towns of Cuyler, and Preble, the Villages of Homer, Marathon, and McGraw, the City of Cortland, Cortland County, Cortland County Health Department, USDA Rural Development, NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of Health, and NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. Infrastructure development is a long-term project that will take 10+ years to accomplish.

2. BLUEWAY TRAIL, SHORELINE TRAIL, AND WATERFRONT ACCESS

2.1 Blueway Trail

The Blueway Trail along the Tioughnioga River will benefit the community as a recreation and quality of life project as well as an economic, heritage discovery, and tourism development project. Once fully established, the Blueway Trail will allow for boat access to the river's West, East and Main Branches at several locations. Launch sites will be developed at appropriate intervals along the river. Each launch site will include access to the river for small boats, parking for at least 10 cars at each site, lighting, signs showing the trail's location and other area features, and a picnic area. Streambank stabilization and erosion control work should be incorporated into new or improved launch areas as needed. Access areas should also include interpretive and educational features on the river's environment, ecology, geology, and history. Four new launch sites are proposed to be located in Cortlandville, Messengerville, Marathon, and Blodgett Mills. Portages will also need to be developed where necessary, particularly between upper and lower Little York Lakes. To complete the construction of all launches, it is estimated that it will cost \$526,000. Implementation partners will be the Towns, Villages, and the City along the trail, the Tioughnioga River Commission, NYS Department of State, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Cortland County Business Development Corporation. The Blueway Trail is projected to be complete within a 10-year period.

2.2 Increase Fishing Rights and Access Points

The river predominantly flows through private lands. To capitalize on fishing opportunities and to allow the County to fully benefit from increased recreational and economic usage, the NYS DEC must expand the public areas available for fishing. All public fishing areas must have suitable facilities to allow the river to be accessed. When possible, new fishing rights will be contiguous to existing fishing areas with access points. Projects that increase public fishing areas and access points are proposed for all branches of the river, as shown on the Project Location Map at the end of this Section.

To complete all projects it will cost a minimum of \$50,000 and could be significantly more if easements must be paid for. The municipalities in which these proposed projects are located will partner with the NYS DEC to address these projects. Implementation partners include the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited. These projects will be ongoing. The individual projects that have been identified should be completed within an eight-year period.

2.3 Maps For Fishing and Access Points

Currently there are public fishing areas with access points on the river. However, there are no maps that identify where fishing areas and access points are located. To increase the number of fisherman on the river, a map will be developed to assure continued use of fishing resources. The map must be updated as new areas are added. This is an ongoing project and could be funded by New York State Tourism funds and managed by the Cortland County Convention and Visitors Bureau in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Cortland County Planning Department, Trout Unlimited, Cortland Regional Sports Council, and the Tioughnioga River Commission.

2.4 Develop Multi-Use Trails

There are currently no multi-use trails, outside of established parks, in the River Corridor. A 2002 study by Clough Harbour and Associates detailed development plans for a Tioughnioga River Trail. To date, funding through the federal TEA-21 Program has been awarded for the first section of this trail from the Village of Homer's Albany Street Bridge to the City of Cortland's Yaman Park. The environmental impact study for the entire Trail and engineering work for this section has been completed.

Multi-use trails have a number of benefits: they provide various year-round recreational opportunities, they offer alternative methods of transportation, and they provide access to waterfront and natural areas that are not currently available, to name a few. Multi-use trails should not be limited to waterfront trails, but should be considered wherever possible and appropriate including, but not limited to, abandoned rail lines; as part of new residential/commercial developments; and to connect neighborhoods to shopping and commercial districts. The use of Eminent Domain proceedings to acquire land for trail development is discouraged. Most of the easements for the first section of the trail have been secured. The estimated cost for the Tioughnioga River Trail is \$3,000,000. Implementation partners include local landowners, local municipalities, private developers, the Tioughnioga River Waterfront Development Commission, Cortland County, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Sports Council, the Cortland County Highway Department, SUNY Cortland Recreation Department, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Department of Transportation. Trail development will be completed in stages over a 10+ year timeline.

2.5 Increased Water Access At Parks

There are a number of public parks located on or near the Tioughnioga River waterfront. Only a handful of these take advantage of their waterfront proximity, such as Dwyer Park in the hamlet of Little York and Durkee Park in the Village of Homer; and, to a lesser extent, Yaman Park in the City of Cortland, the park in Blodgett Mills and Lovell Field in the Village of Marathon. All parks on or near the waterfront should improve access to the water, including trails, signage, fishing areas, boat launches, or simply the selective clearing of brush to increase views. A sidewalk is recommended along Main Street in the hamlet of Blodgett Mills to connect the park to the River. Implementation partners include the various municipalities affected, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Department of State. This is an ongoing project and costs will vary by municipality and park.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

3.1 Reclamation Plans For Gravel Mines

Gravel mining is the most significant industrial land use in the River Corridor. The Corridor has both active and closed gravel mines. The reclamation plans for these mines often call for the minimum level of reclamation allowed, have slow timetables, and often do not give adequate consideration to future reuse of the properties. Efforts should be made for more comprehensive and forward thinking reclamation plans, and should include aggressive timetable implementation. Gravel mine owners, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Cortland County Planning Department can partner in the implementation of this project. The development of revised and/or accelerated and comprehensive reclamation plans is an ongoing effort.

3.2 Cultural Resources Survey

The Tioughnioga River Corridor has a number of identified historic resources, including historic districts in Cortland, McGraw, and Homer and numerous individual buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Many other historic resources exist that have not been formally identified or inventoried. These include early homes, barns, and other agricultural buildings; dams and other waterfront structures; as well as monuments, commercial and civic buildings, and factories, all of which relate the history of development in the Corridor. A comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey should be completed to catalog the Corridor's historic buildings and structures, particularly buildings related to agriculture and early industry, and water-related structures. The survey should be undertaken in three phases: 1) a reconnaissance level survey to determine overarching themes and connections; 2) a review of structures to determine those that relate to overall themes and their relative historic importance and integrity; and 3) the completion of State Historic Preservation Inventory (Blue) Forms for identified structures where such Blue Forms have not been completed. This inventory of historic resources is the first step in interpreting their importance and preserving these structures. A Corridor-wide Cultural Resources Survey is estimated to cost \$95,000. Implementation partners include the Cortland County Planning Department, the Cortland County Historian, the Cortland County Historical Society, local municipal historians, the Preservation League of New York State, the NYS Council on the Arts, and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Cultural Resources Survey will be completed within three years.

3.3 Reconstruct Little York Dam

The dam at Little York Lake is older, and is nearing the end of its useful life. Cortland County, through its highway department, has undertaken a comprehensive study that indicates that the dam will need a complete replacement in five to ten years. A preliminary engineering report has been completed and estimates the replacement cost at between \$900,000 and \$1.5 million, depending on when the project is completed. Partners include the Little York Improvement Society, Cortland County, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cortland County Health Department, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

3.4 Agricultural Buffers

Agricultural uses that extend to river or stream banks create erosion and potential pollution problems. The creation of planted, “natural” buffers between grazing and/or planting fields or other agricultural uses is important in protecting the River’s environment and ecology. Involved agencies should work with local farmers to institute Best Management Practices to reduce pollution from agricultural runoff and to develop buffer zones along the River’s edge. The depth of buffer zones should vary depending on the physical characteristics of each site. Landowners should be compensated for acreage lost in developing buffers. There are two programs that could be leveraged to accomplish task. These are the New York State Farmland Protection Program, which provides for the purchase of development rights for farms, and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which compensates farmers for providing buffers along riverbanks. An estimated \$3,000,000 will be required to provide development buffers where needed along the River. Implementation partners include the Cortland County Planning Department, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Service Agency, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Cortland County Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local farmers. This is a long-term project that will take 10+ years to accomplish.

3.5 Minimize Agricultural Erosion and Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution

Agricultural uses, while vital to the Corridor, contribute to erosion and pollution problems. This is particularly an issue in areas immediately adjacent to the River, and along steep slopes. Negative impacts from agricultural erosion and non-point source pollution must be reduced by implementing Best Management Practices for farming, including creating buffers along riverbanks, detailed above. This not only includes physical changes to farming methods, but the education of farmers on the importance of limiting erosion and runoff. Partners in these efforts include local farmers, the Cortland County Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cortland County Planning Department, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, American Farmland Trust, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

3.6 Complete Flood Mitigation Study

Negative impacts from River flooding seem to be increasing along the River Corridor. This is due to an apparent increase in flood events, new development in the flood plain, and non-existent or poorly enforced stormwater regulations. The Villages of Marathon and McGraw, and the City of Cortland are most impacted by flooding, although the entire River Corridor is at risk. The first step to mitigating the negative impacts of flooding is to complete a thorough study of the entire Corridor. This study will determine the factors that create/exacerbate flooding hazards, and the most appropriate methods of flood control to employ in the corridor. This will ensure that future flood control efforts are effective in the long term. The recommendations of the study should be aggressively implemented once it is completed. Project partners include local municipalities, Cortland County, the Cortland County Planning Department, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Emergency Management Office, Federal Emergency Management Office, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

3.7 Control Invasive Weed Species

Foreign species, particularly Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels, have invaded Little York, Goodale, and other nearby lakes in the Tioughnioga River Corridor. The aggressive growth of milfoil crowds out native vegetation and clogs shallower portions of the lake. Various methods can be employed to control Eurasian Milfoil, including harvesting, mats, and chemical treatments. Lowering the lake level for a period of time, and/or dredging of Little York Lake, as detailed in 3.2, may also help to control the weed populations. The most appropriate and effective method for this weed control should be determined in concert with New York State, and then should be implemented aggressively.

Zebra Mussels attach themselves to underwater structures, including docks, boats, rocks, waterlines, etc. Appropriate control methods should be identified and implemented.

It is highly unlikely that any control method will eliminate Eurasian Milfoil or Zebra Mussels from the lakes and ongoing control efforts will be need to control them. The estimated costs for Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussel control will be need to be determined, based on the control method chosen. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Army Corps of Engineers, Cortland County, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Little York Improvement Society are potential implementation partners in this effort. Invasive species control is an ongoing effort, although efforts should begin within three years.

3.8 Develop Hazard Mitigation Plans For All Municipalities

To be eligible for future federal disaster mitigation funding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) now requires that all local governments must adopt a federally approved hazard mitigation plan. Current plans should be developed for all municipalities in the Corridor. These plans will complement the flood mitigation study and position Cortland County to be eligible for funding that will likely be necessary for structural measures to reduce future flooding.

Hazard Mitigation Plans include all types of hazards, however, flooding would likely be considered a major hazard in Cortland County and in the Tioughnioga River Corridor. Once all potential hazards are identified, they will be prioritized based on likelihood and impacts.

Hazard mitigation plans can be completed by individual communities, or in a collaborative effort by a group of communities. Given the regional nature of the LWRP, it would make sense to take a county-wide, or at least corridor-wide, approach. Some of the key components involved in developing a hazard mitigation plan include:

- Develop a planning group
- Identify hazards of concern
- Profile and prioritize hazards
- Estimate inventory at risk and potential losses associated with these hazards
- Develop mitigation strategies and goals that address the identified hazards
- Develop mitigation plan maintenance procedures

Potential implementation partners include local municipalities, Cortland County, Cortland County Planning Department, Cortland County Fire and Emergency Management Office, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, NYS Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Costs are estimated to be \$75,000 for the entire corridor, and more if undertaken by each municipality individually.

4. RECREATIONAL AND TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Develop a Visitors' Center/Museum

A non-profit organization, the Homer-Cortland Community Agency, has recently been established with the goal of developing a visitors center and museum on property located in the Town of Cortlandville. The site is between the Village of Homer and the City of Cortland, just off Exit 12 of Interstate 81. The proposed facility plans call for the interpretation of local history and industry. The centralized location of this facility, its easy access to and from I-81, and its nearness to the Tioughnioga River, makes this an excellent location for a visitors center. Such a center should not only interpret local history, but must provide information and services for the visiting public, i.e., location of other attractions, hotels, etc. Costs for developing the visitor's center and museum are estimated to be in the range of \$2,000,000. Partners include the Homer-Cortland Community Agency, the Brockway Truck Preservation Association, the Homeville Museum, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Cortland County, the Cortland County Historian, the Cortland County Historical Society, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Department of State.

4.2 Create Scenic Byways

The bucolic Tioughnioga River Corridor possesses an enchanting scenic beauty. The designation of a Route 11 and Route 13 Scenic Byways will formally recognize this scenic quality and provide economic benefits to the Corridor especially through increased tourism. A formal nomination from a local organization must be made to the NYS Department of Transportation. The nomination includes a resource inventory; a narrative, photographs, maps, and other supporting documentation; as well as the development of a corridor management plan. In addition, designation of the Tioughnioga as a Heritage River should be pursued. The estimated cost for preparing a nomination for Scenic Byways designation is \$15,000. Implementation partners include the local municipalities, Cortland County Planning Office, the Cortland County Business Development Corporation, the Cortland County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the NYS Department of Transportation. The submission of a nomination can be completed within three years, with the approval process taking up to another year.

4.3 Develop a Bike Lane Along Major Corridor Routes

The Tioughnioga River Corridor includes several major highways, including NYS Routes 281, 13, and 41. The development of a bike lane/routes along these highways will make biking safer and will encourage the use of non-motorized modes of transportation. Any new bike trails/lanes should connect with existing or proposed bike trails in the County. The estimate cost for developing bike lanes and routes is \$2,000,000, although they will likely be developed in sections rather than as a whole. Partners include corridor municipalities, the Tioughnioga River Commission, the NYS Department of Transportation, and the Cortland County Business Development Corporation.

4.4 Develop a Water Recreation Park

Kayaking, canoeing, and boogie boarding are growing in popularity across the country. Water-based recreation facilities to create conditions suitable for such activities are also becoming more common. The construction of a concrete and/or stone structure in the riverbed will direct water flow in times of low water, and create a whitewater “wave” during higher flows. Similar “water recreation parks” have been constructed on the Susquehanna River in Binghamton and the Owasco Outlet in Auburn. A secondary benefit from the structure will be fish habitat improvements that can be incorporated through the placement of boulders on the river bottom. Two potential locations for the park are the confluence of the East and West Branches in the City of Cortland, and the Main Branch just north of the Village of Marathon. In relation to this project, a website that provides daily updates on water levels and conditions would be beneficial in promoting use of the river for water-based recreation. This website could be expanded to include cultural and recreational opportunities available in the corridor as well as educational and interpretive information. Estimated costs for such a facility can vary significantly based on the scope of the project, but will likely range between \$250,000 and \$500,000. An initial feasibility study, the first step in such a project, will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Partners include local kayaking enthusiasts, the City of Cortland, Cortland County, the Village of Marathon, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and the NYS Department of State.

Map A following shows that location of major proposed projects in the Corridor.

PROJECT MATRIX

RIVER CORRIDOR																
LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE #	PROJECT	YEAR												COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING			
ALL	1.1	Develop land use management strategies that focuses development into existing developed areas, preserves open space, and protects the environment.		X	X	X	X								\$300,000	NYS Department of State, Small Cities CDBG Technical Assistance Program, Cortland County Planning Department, local municipalities
ALL	1.1	Discourage or prohibit construction of structures in the 100-year floodplain		X	X	X	X								included in 1.1	NYS Department of State, Small Cities CDBG Technical Assistance Program, Cortland County Planning Department, local municipalities
ALL	1.9	Encourage development water and sewer infrastructure in hamlets to spark denser development while retaining open space outside of hamlets												X		NYS Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, NYS Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, USDA Rural Development, Small Cities CDBG/GOSC
ALL	3.4	Create buffers between shorelines and agricultural uses to alleviate pollution and erosion problems				X	X	X	X	X					included in 1.1	NYS Department of State, Small Cities CDBG Technical Assistance Program, Cortland County Planning Department
ALL	1.1	Support active agricultural use as the preferred method for open-space preservation		X	X	X	X								included in 1.1	NYS Department of State, Small Cities CDBG Technical Assistance Program, Cortland County Planning Department, local municipalities
ALL	3.5	Implement “Best Practices” for agricultural uses to minimize erosion and other environmental impacts from agricultural use												X	N/A	USDA Farm Services Agency, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, American Farmland Trust

PROJECT MATRIX

LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES
ALL	3.6	Complete a detailed study on flood mitigation methods for entire Corridor, and implement Study recommendations			X	X	X				X		X	\$300,000	Cortland County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services
ALL	3.1	Reclaim abandoned gravel mines											X	N/A	NYS DEC, property owners
ALL	2.1	Create Blue Water Trail	X	X	X	X	X	X	X					\$526,000	NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, NYS DEC, SAFTEA-LU, local municipalities
ALL	2.2	Increase public fishing areas and access points											X	\$50,000	NYS DEC, NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, Trout Unlimited
ALL	2.3	Publish and routinely update a map showing all public fishing areas and access points in the corridor		X	X								X	\$50,000	NYS Tourism, County Convention and Visitors Bureau, NYS Council on the Arts
ALL	2.5	Municipal parks should provide for access or views of the River and increased recreational activities											X	N/A	NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, local municipalities
ALL	3.2	Complete an Historic Resource Survey in the Corridor				X	X	X	X					\$25,000	Cortland County, local municipalities, Rural NY/Preservation League of NYS, NYSCA
ALL	1.5	Strengthen the connection between City and Village downtowns as well as hamlets and the River											X	\$4,000,000	NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, SAFTEA-LU, Small Cities CDBG/GOSC, local municipalities
ALL	4.2	Seek designation for a Scenic Byway along major highways			X	X	X							\$15,000	Cortland County, Towns, Villages, City, Convention and Visitors Bureau
ALL	3.1	Expand/speed up reclamation plans for gravel pits											X		NYS DEC, property owners
ALL	1.8	Encourage the manufactures of water related recreational equipment to establish retail store in the Corridor				X	X	X	X					\$250,000-\$1,000,000	Small Cities CDBG/GOSC, local municipalities, subject businesses, Empire State Development
ALL	1.1	Develop design guidelines for commercial properties in the corridor				X	X	X						included in 1.1 above	NYS Department of State, Small Cities CDBG Technical Assistance Program, Cortland County Planning Department, Local municipalities

PROJECT MATRIX

LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES
ALL	1.2	Encourage the revitalization of Downtowns and Hamlets											X	N/A	Small Cities CDBG, NY Main Street Program, National Main Street Center, National Grid, Cortland County Empire Zone, NYS EPF, NYS Department of State
ALL	2.4	Develop Multi-Use Trails	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			3,000,000	NYS DOS, NYS OPRHP, NYS DOT, SAFTEA-LU, local municipalities
ALL	3.8	Develop Hazard Mitigation Plan(s) for all Corridor municipalities			X	X	X	X						\$75,000	Individual Municipalities, Cortland County, NYS Emergency Management Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency

PROJECT MATRIX

EAST BRANCH																
LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES	
Town of Cuyler	2.2	Increase public fishing area North from the Rte 13 Parking area		X	X									\$5,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
Town of Truxton	2.1	Develop access points to the Blue Water Trail in Truxton park.			X	X	X	X						\$100,000	NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; NYS DOT; SAFTEA-LU; local municipalities	
	2.2	Increase public fishing area South from the Rte 13 Parking area		X	X									\$5,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
City of Cortland	2.1	Construct boat launch at Yaman Park	X	X										\$106,000	NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; NYS DOT; SAFTEA-LU; local municipalities	
	4.4	Construct a Water Recreation Park near I81 Exit 11			X	X	X							\$250,000	NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; local municipalities	

PROJECT MATRIX

WEST BRANCH																
LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES	
Town of Preble	2.2	Acquire public fishing rights in the Slab City/Baltimore area and create an access point with parking			X	X	X	X						\$20,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
	4.3	Create bike lane along Route 281						X	X	X	X			\$500,000	NYS DOT; SAFTEA-LU	
Town of Homer	2.2	Increase public fishing area by connecting two existing segments of public fishing adjacent to Rte 281			X	X	X							\$5,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
	2.2	Create a parking area and access point for the public fishing areas adjacent to Rte 81			X	X	X							\$10,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
	3.3	Upgrade and/or replace the dam at Little York Lake				X	X	X						\$200,000	Cortland County; NYS DEC;	
	4.3	Create bike lane along Route 281				X	X	X						\$500,000	NYS DOT; SAFTEA-LU;	
Village of Homer	1.4	Develop a restaurant along the River in the downtown area					X	X	X					\$500,000	SBA; Small Cities CDBG/GOSC; Empire State Development; Local Loan Funds; Banks; private funds	
	1.3	Remove blighting structures along Route 11 near Homer		X	X	X	X							\$250,000	Small Cities CDBG/GOSC; Cortland County, Village of Homer; BDC;	
Town of Cortlandville	2.1	Make the dam at Albany International passable for water travel		X	X	X								\$100,000	NYS DEC, NYS DOS, Town of Cortlandville, Cortland County,	

PROJECT MATRIX

LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES
City of Cortland	1.4	Develop a restaurant along the River on River Street			X	X	X							\$500,000	SBA; Small Cities CDBG/GOSC; Empire State Development; Local Loan Funds; Banks; private funds
	1.6	Remove blighting influences and increase economic and recreational benefits in the Exit 11/Riverside Plaza	X	X	X	X	X	X						\$1,000,000	City of Cortland, GOSC, NYS DOT, Cortland County Empire Zone, Private

PROJECT MATRIX

MAIN BRANCH																
LOCATION	PROJECT NARRATIVE	PROJECT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	ONGOING	COST	POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES	
Town of Cortlandville	2.2, 2.5	Construct boat launch at Blodgett Mills				X	X	X						\$100,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited; Town of Cortlandville	
	2.2	Obtain fishing right along Trout Brook					X	X	X					\$5,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited;	
	2.5	Construct sidewalks from the Park to the River along Main Street in Blodgett Mills	X	X										\$50,000	GOSC, Town of Cortlandville	
Town of Virgil	2.1	Construct boat launch at Messengerville					X	X	X					\$100,000	NYS DEC, Town of Virgil	
	2.2	Create parking pull offs with signage for footpath access points along Rte 11.	X	X	X									\$10,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited; Town of Virgil	
Town of Lapeer	2.2	Create parking pull offs with signage for footpath access points along Rte 11.	X	X	X									\$10,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited; Town of Lapeer	
Town of Marathon	2.2	Create parking pull offs with signage for footpath access points along Rte 11.	X	X	X									\$10,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited; Town of Marathon	
Village of Marathon	2.2	Create a parking and access point to public fishing along Mill Street Ext.			X	X	X							\$10,000	NYS DEC; NYS DOS; NYS OPRHP; Trout Unlimited; Village of Marathon	
	1.4	Develop a restaurant along the River on Cortland Street or Mill Street				X	X	X						\$500,000	SBA; Small Cities CDBG/GOSC; Empire State Development; Local Loan Funds; Banks; private funds	