

Esopus Riverfront: Access and Connections Study



Review of Public Draft Recommendations

July 7, 2020

Esopus Town Board Meeting



Introductions



*Margaret Phelan
Eli Schloss
Dale Wolfeld
Marion Zimmer*

*James Banks
Diane Dintruff
Carol Carson-Tomassetti
Vincent Coq*

*Chet Allen
Susan Barbarisi
Supervisor Shannon Harris
Councilwoman Kathie Quick
Alex Dean, Community Outreach
Coordinator*

Project Partner - Scenic Hudson

*Rita Shaheen, Dir. Of Parks and Community Engagement
Heather Blaikie, RLA, Park Planner*



4 Computer Drive West • Albany, New York 12205
(518) 458-7112 • www.labergegroup.com

Project Consultants – Laberge Group

Project Funding

Provided by the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program
Nancy Beard, Assistant Public Information Officer



A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Purpose of the Study...

- Enhance waterfront access for all ages and abilities to the Hudson River and tidal portion of the Rondout Creek
- Identify new recreational amenities
- Establish new trail connections
- Plan and design for anticipated sea level rise and increased severity of storms



Study Locations

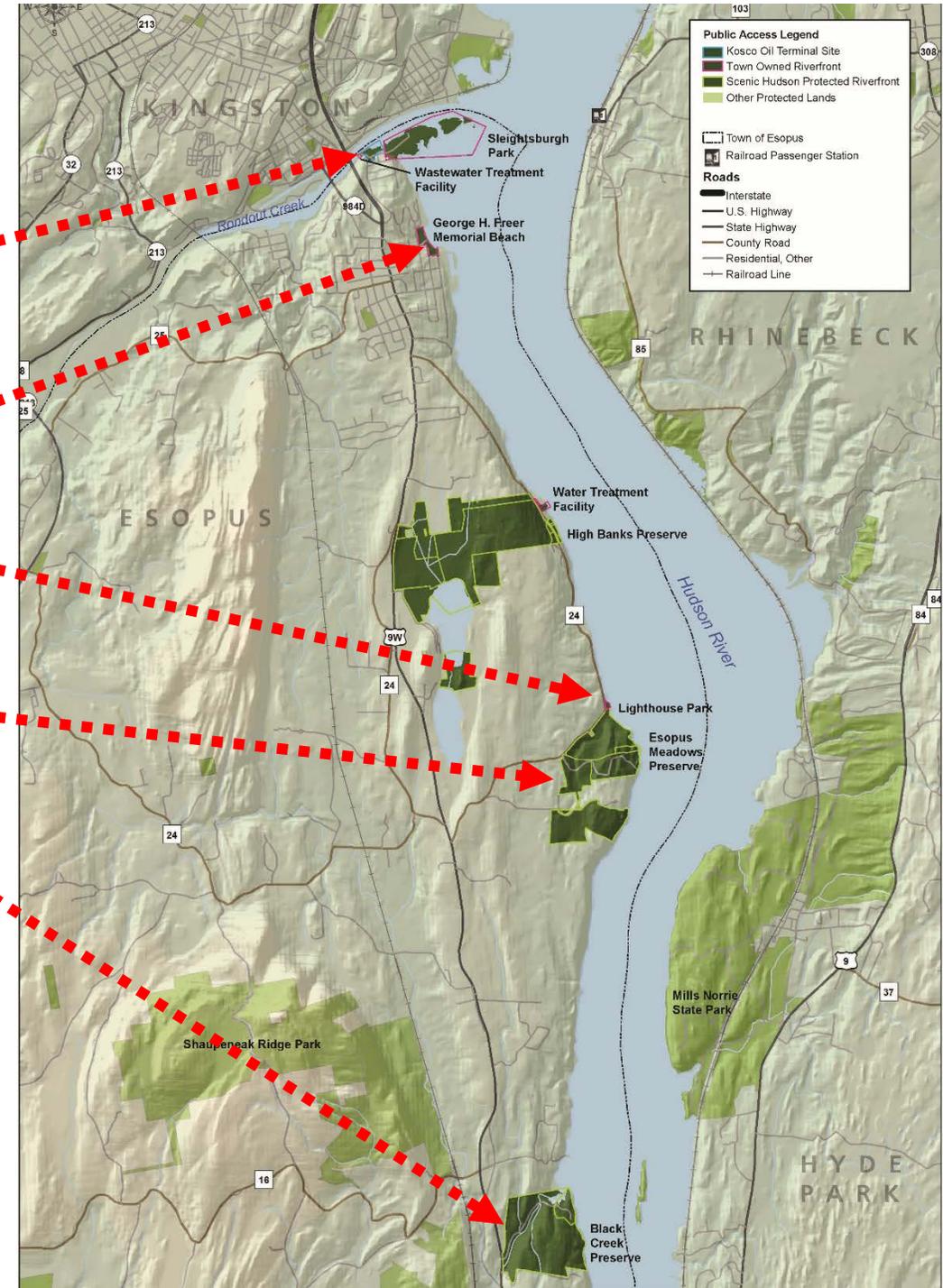
Sleightsburgh Park

George H. Freer Memorial Beach

Lighthouse Park

Esopus Meadows Preserve

Black Creek Preserve



Effort to Date

- November 2018: Grant Awarded
- March 2019: Kickoff Meeting
- April 2019: Site Visits to all Parks/Preserves
- May 8, 2019: 1st Committee Meeting
- May 22, 2019: Public Informational Meeting #1
- June 5, 2019: Stakeholder Meetings
- July 1, 2019: Site Visits with NYSDEC Staff
- July 24, 2019: Public Design Workshop
- August 28, 2019: ADA Site Visits with RCAL
- December 19, 2019: NYSDEC Pre-Application Meeting
- May 2020: Draft #1 to Committee
- June 24, 2020: Committee Meeting #8.
- July 6, 2020: Release of Public Draft.



Report Organization

1. Introduction/Overview of the Planning Process
2. Review of Past Relevant Plans
3. Existing Conditions
4. Project Recommendations
5. Implementation Plan

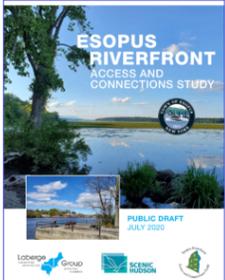
HOME ▾ ABOUT ▾ GOVERNMENT ▾ BUSINESS ▾ VISIT ▾ CALENDAR Search ...

What is the Riverfront Access Study?

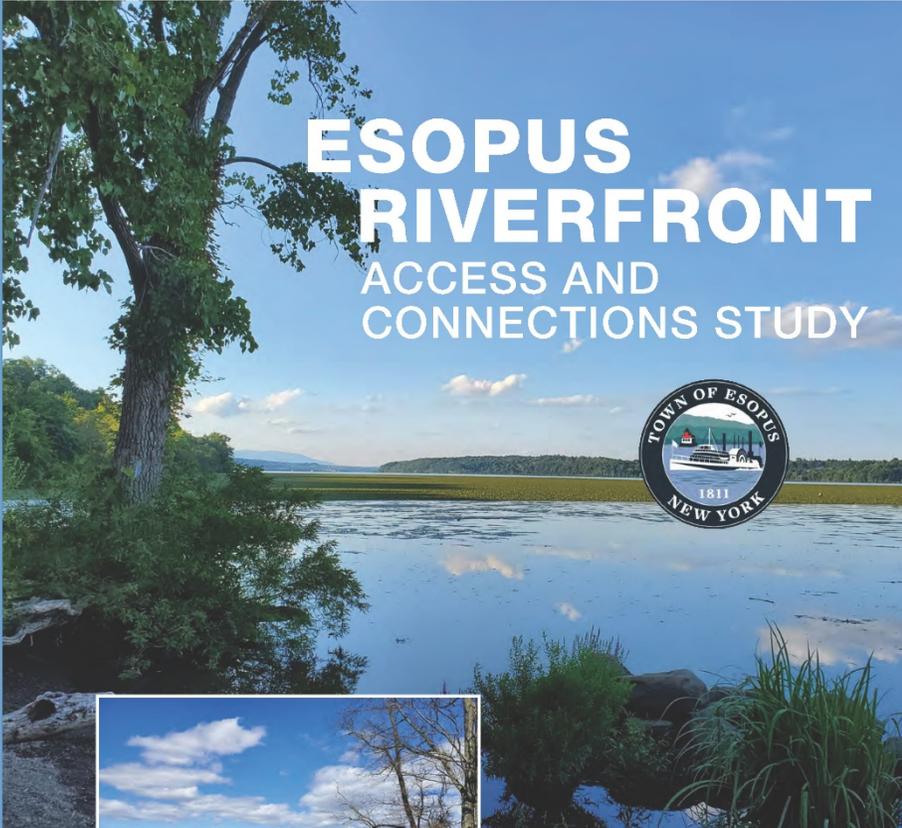
The Town of Esopus has over 24 miles of shoreline along the Hudson River, Rondout Creek and Wallkill River as well as numerous streams, lakes and ponds nestled among its ridges, valleys and forestlands. Unfortunately, public waterfront access is limited. Recognizing the Town's significant shoreline amenities and limited access, the Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan recommends increasing public waterfront access and associated recreational opportunities and connections.

To implement this Comprehensive Plan Goal to better leverage the Town's waterfront assets and address the public access deficit, the Town of Esopus and Scenic Hudson are collaborating to prepare the Esopus Riverfront Access and Connections Plan. This Plan will evaluate opportunities for new, enhanced and universal access to the Hudson River and Rondout Creek along with new recreational amenities and opportunities to connect these various parks and preserves through on- and off-road trails. The Town received a grant from the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary program to assist in preparing this Plan.

Riverfront Access & Connections Study
Public Draft AVAILABLE NOW



To download and review the Study in its entirety, [click here](#). (File size ~21 MB)
To download and review only the Study's recommendations, [click here](#). (File size ~5 MB)



ESOPUS RIVERFRONT

ACCESS AND CONNECTIONS STUDY

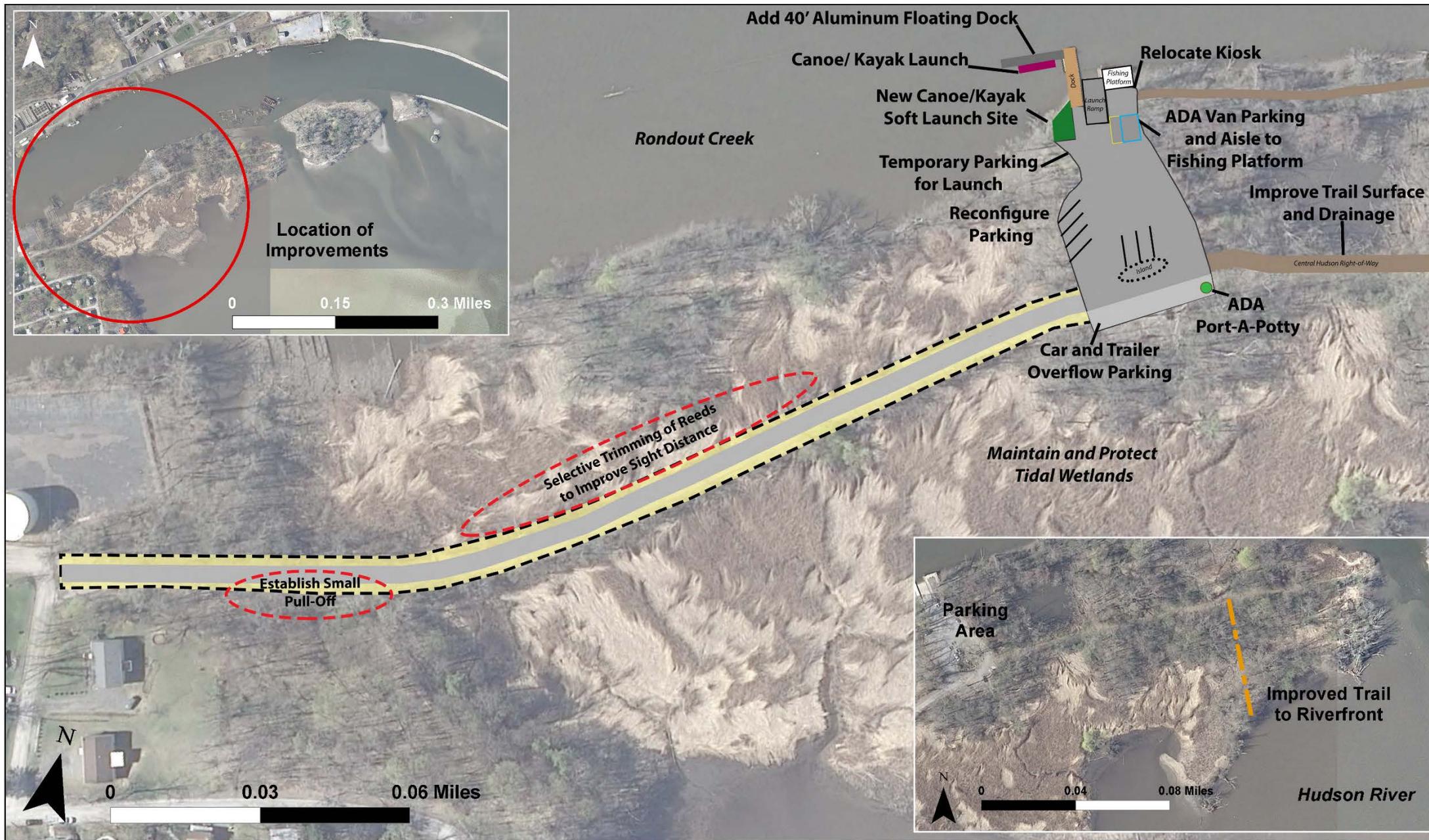


PUBLIC DRAFT
JULY 2020



Laberge Engineering Architecture Group Surveying Planning
SCENIC HUDSON

4 Computer Drive West • Albany, New York 12205
(518) 458-7112 • www.labergegroup.com



Hudson River Estuary Program

A Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 This Project has been funded in part by a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



Sleightburgh Park Concept Design Esopus Riverfront - Access & Connections Study



Rondout Creek

Add 40' Aluminum Floating Dock

Canoe/ Kayak Launch

**New Canoe/Kayak
Soft Launch Site**

**Temporary Parking
for Launch**

**Reconfigure
Parking**

Dock
Launch
Ramp

Fishing
Platform

Relocate Kiosk

**ADA Van Parking
and Aisle to
Fishing Platform**

**Improve Trail Surface
and Drainage**

Central Hudson Right-of-Way

Island

**ADA
Port-A-Potty**

**Car and Trailer
Overflow Parking**

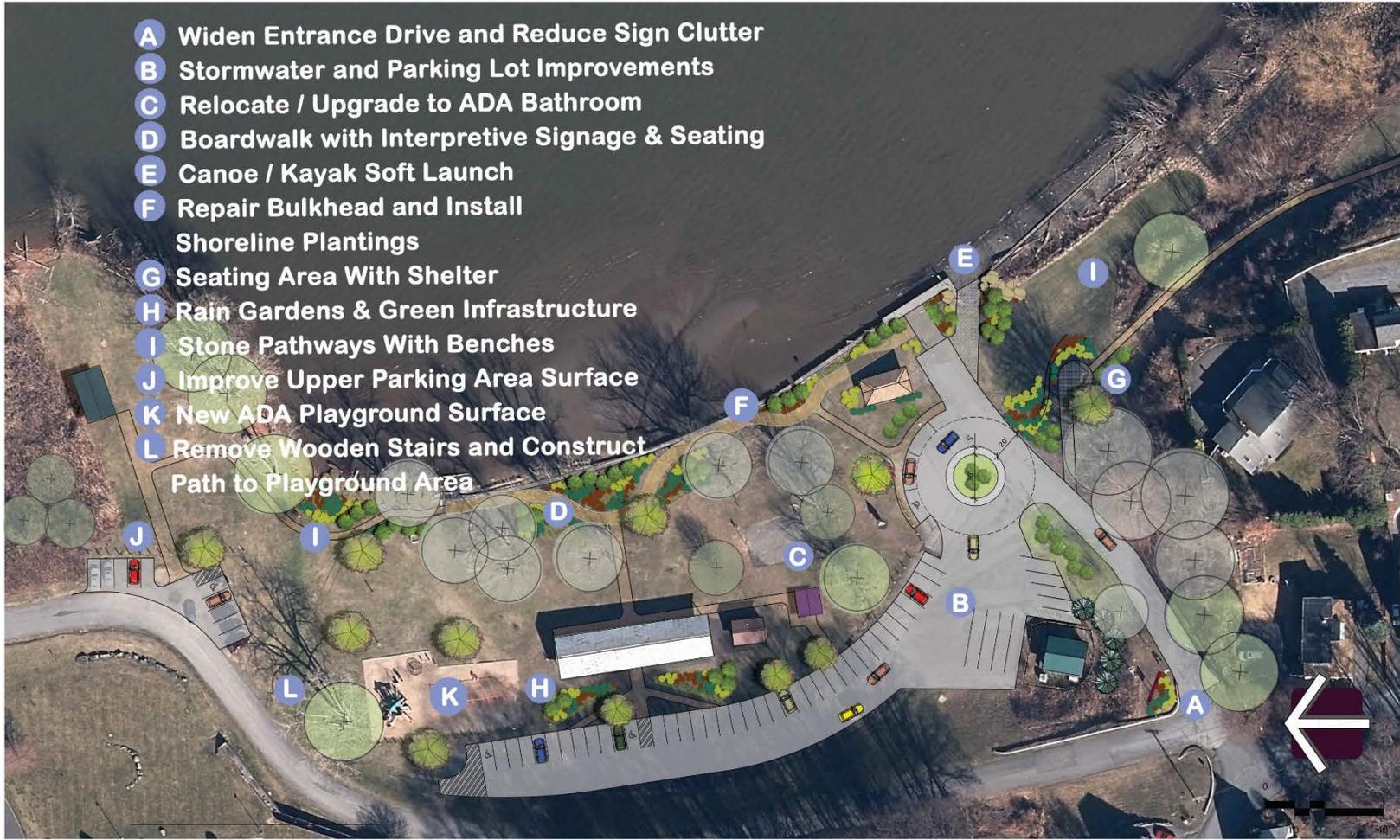
**Selective Trimming of Reeds
to Improve Sight Distance**

**Maintain and Protect
Tidal Wetlands**



Sleightburgh Park Concept Design
Esopus Riverfront - Access & Connections Study

- A** Widen Entrance Drive and Reduce Sign Clutter
- B** Stormwater and Parking Lot Improvements
- C** Relocate / Upgrade to ADA Bathroom
- D** Boardwalk with Interpretive Signage & Seating
- E** Canoe / Kayak Soft Launch
- F** Repair Bulkhead and Install Shoreline Plantings
- G** Seating Area With Shelter
- H** Rain Gardens & Green Infrastructure
- I** Stone Pathways With Benches
- J** Improve Upper Parking Area Surface
- K** New ADA Playground Surface
- L** Remove Wooden Stairs and Construct Path to Playground Area



1 TYPICAL BOARDWALK AND RAIN GARDENS
 CLA-1 SCALE: N.T.S.

FREER PARK

Town of Esopus
 Ulster County
 State of New York
 07-01-2020

PREPARED FOR:

Town of Esopus
 284 Broadway
 Ulster Park, New York 12487
 Phone: 845.339.1811



NYS Hudson River Estuary Program
 NYSDEC Region 3
 21 S Putt Corners Rd
 New Paltz, NY 12561
 Phone: 845.256.3016



CONSULTANT TEAM:

Laberge Group
 4 Computer Drive West
 Albany, New York, 12205
 Phone: 518.458.7112



CLA Site Landscape Architecture,
 Engineering & Planning, P.C.
 58 Church Street
 Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
 Phone: 518.584.8661



CONCEPT PLAN

CLA-01

- A** Widen Entrance Drive and Reduce Sign Clutter
- B** Stormwater and Parking Lot Improvements
- C** Relocate / Upgrade to ADA Bathroom
- D** Boardwalk with Interpretive Signage & Seating
- E** Canoe / Kayak Soft Launch
- F** Repair Bulkhead and Install Shoreline Plantings
- G** Seating Area With Shelter
- H** Rain Gardens & Green Infrastructure
- I** Stone Pathways With Benches
- J** Improve Upper Parking Area Surface
- K** New ADA Playground Surface
- L** Remove Wooden Stairs and Construct Path to Playground Area

FREER PARK

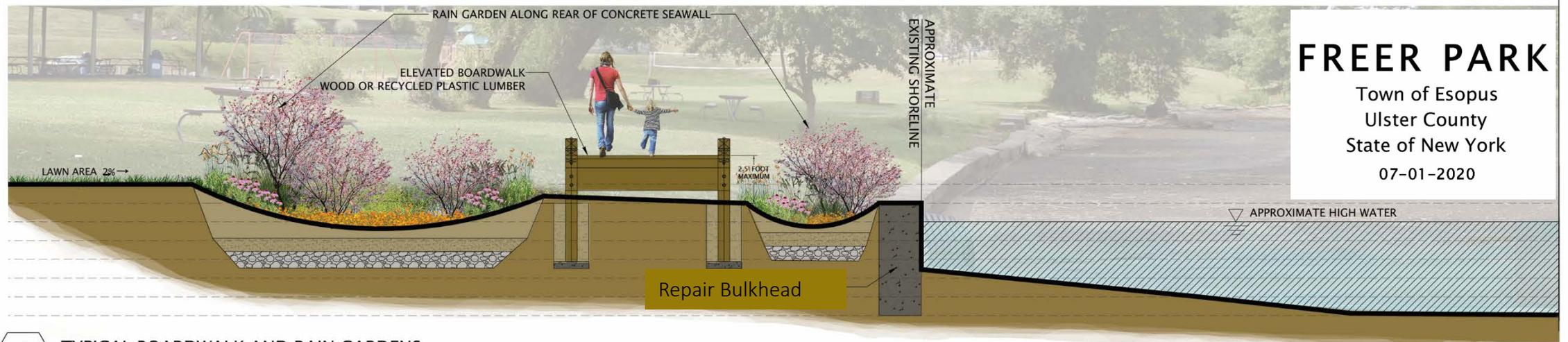
Town of Esopus
 Ulster County
 State of New York
 07-01-2020



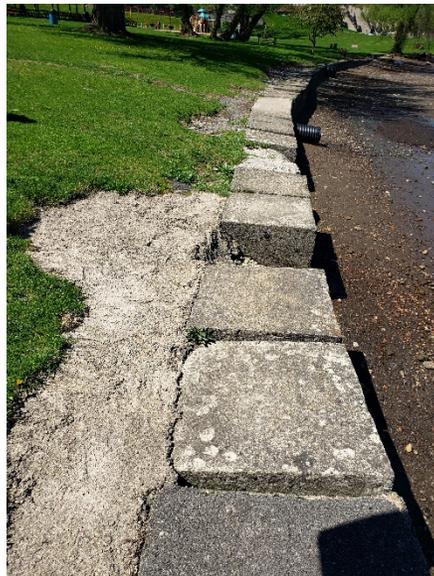
FREER PARK

Town of Esopus
Ulster County
State of New York

07-01-2020



1 TYPICAL BOARDWALK AND RAIN GARDENS
CLA-1 SCALE: N.T.S



Evaluate and Repair Wall



Preserve southern shoreline



Formalize Hand Launch Area

- A Shoreline Remediation
- B Canoe / Kayak Launch
- C Kiosk and Pavilion (Optional)
- D Parking Improvements
- E Reconfigured Picnic Area
- F Preserve and Enhance Existing Shoreline Trail
- G Green Infrastructure
- H Stone Pathway
- I Relocated Memorials
- J Selective Tree Thinning to Open Views to Esopus Meadows Pavilion



LIGHTHOUSE PARK

Town of Esopus
Ulster County
State of New York

October 18, 2019

PREPARED FOR:

Town of Esopus
284 Broadway
Ulster Park, New York 12487
Phone: 845.339.1811



NYS Hudson River Estuary Program
NYSDEC Region 3
21 S Putt Corners Rd
New Paltz, NY 12561
Phone: 845.256.3016



CONSULTANT TEAM:

Laberge Group
4 Computer Drive West
Albany, New York, 12205
Phone: 518.458.7112

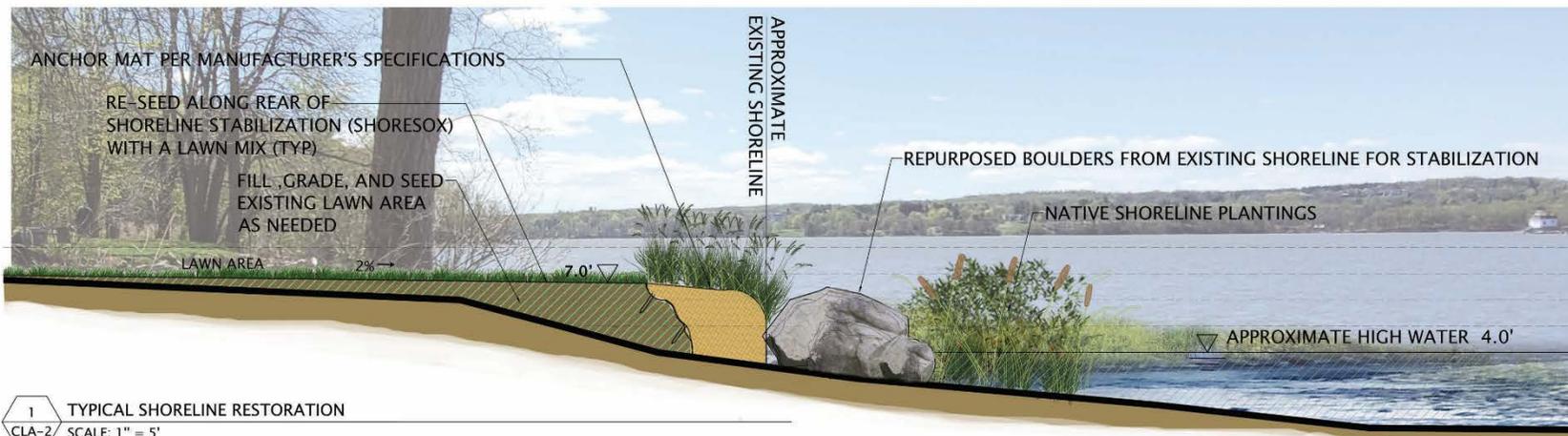


CLA Site Landscape Architecture,
Engineering & Planning, P.C.
58 Church Street
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866
Phone: 518.584.8661



CONCEPT PLAN

CLA-02



1 TYPICAL SHORELINE RESTORATION
CLA-2 SCALE: 1" = 5'

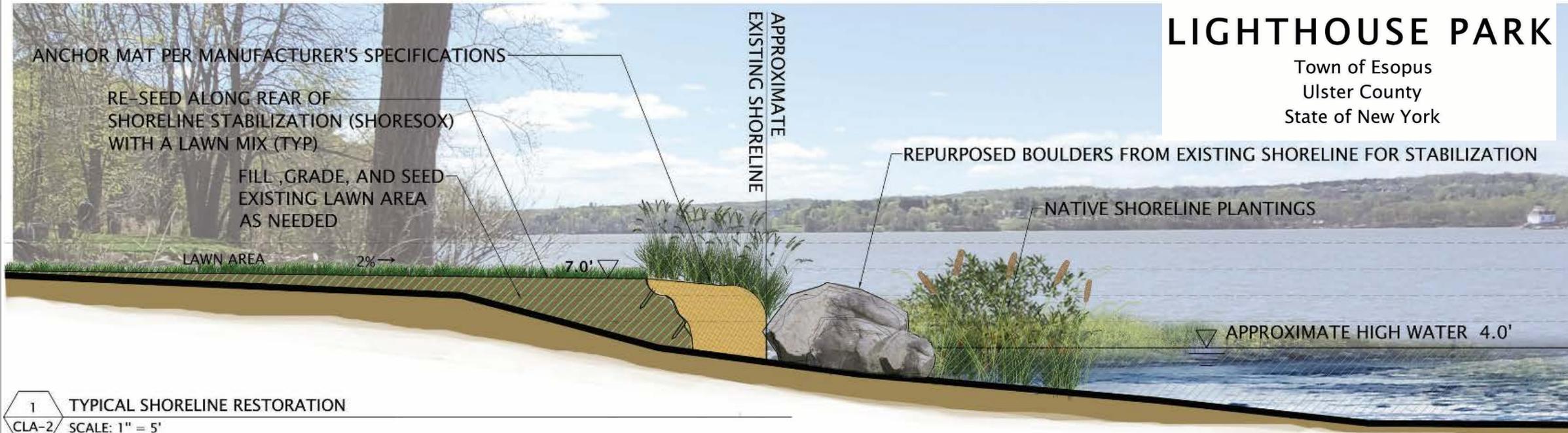
- A** Shoreline Remediation
- B** Canoe / Kayak Launch
- C** Kiosk and Pavilion (Optional)
- D** Parking Improvements
- E** Reconfigured Picnic Area
- F** Preserve and Enhance Existing Shoreline Trail
- G** Green Infrastructure
- H** Stone Pathway
- I** Relocated Memorials
- J** Selective Tree Thinning to Open Views to Esopus Meadows Pavilion



LIGHTHOUSE PARK
 Town of Esopus
 Ulster County
 State of New York

LIGHTHOUSE PARK

Town of Esopus
Ulster County
State of New York



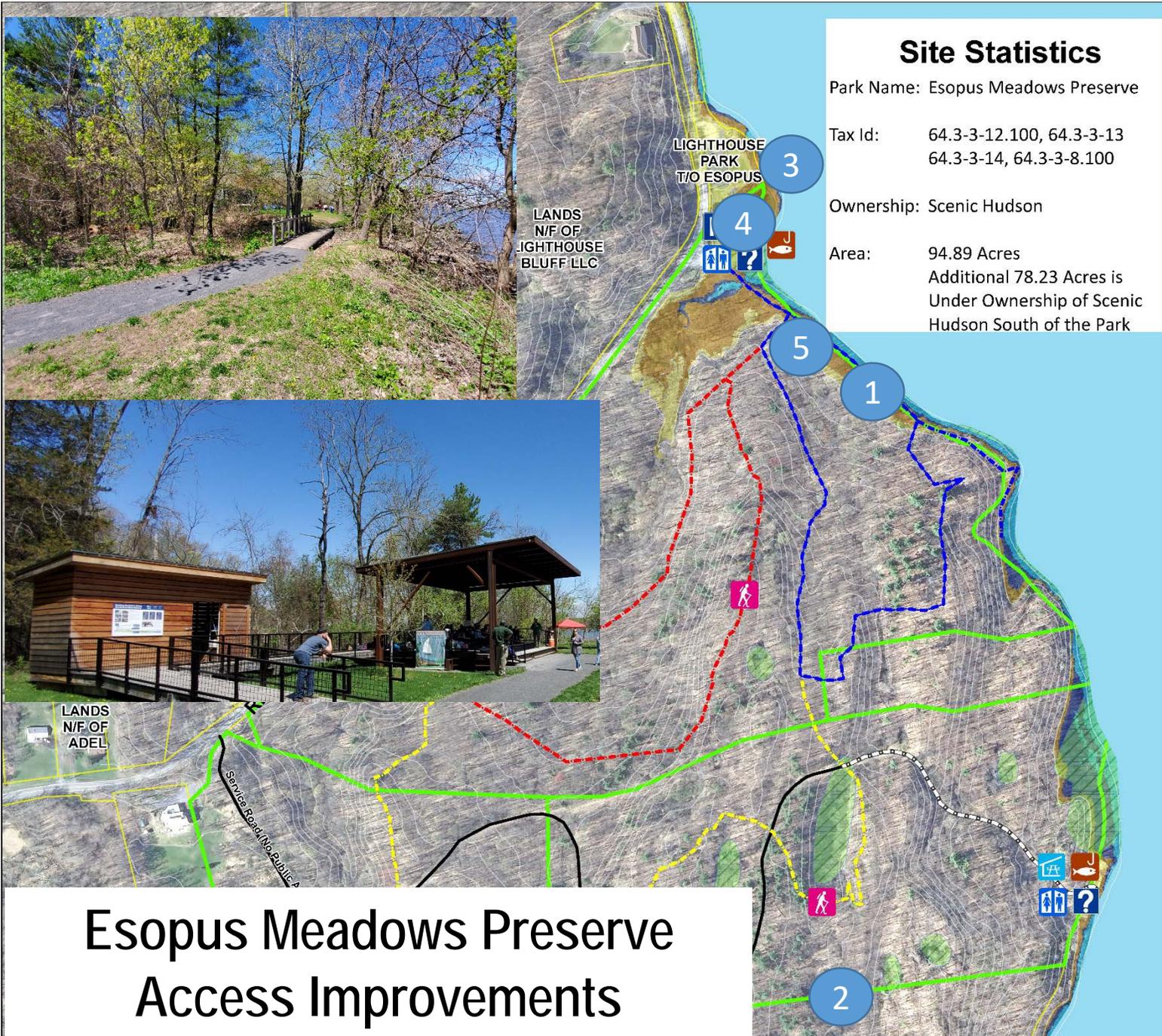
Eroding Shoreline



Rocks in tidal zone to be relocated to shoreline



Parking lot to be expanded



Site Statistics

Park Name: Esopus Meadows Preserve

Tax Id: 64.3-3-12.100, 64.3-3-13
64.3-3-14, 64.3-3-8.100

Ownership: Scenic Hudson

Area: 94.89 Acres
Additional 78.23 Acres is
Under Ownership of Scenic
Hudson South of the Park

1. **Hudson River shoreline Restoration:** Installing coir logs and/or re-routing the Blue Trail upland from the shoreline.
2. **Expand Trail Network:** Long-term goals to expand the existing trail network south to adjacent Scenic Hudson-owned parcels.
3. **Improve Park Connectivity:** Remove thick vines and invasive trees between Lighthouse Park and Esopus Meadows. Potential to add an additional footbridge.
4. **Improve Day-use Pavilion:** Add additional picnic tables within and adjacent to the pavilion for park visitors.
5. **Evaluate formalization of fishing trails to shoreline:** Improve existing access trails to shoreline off Blue Trail. Evaluate impacts to natural resources

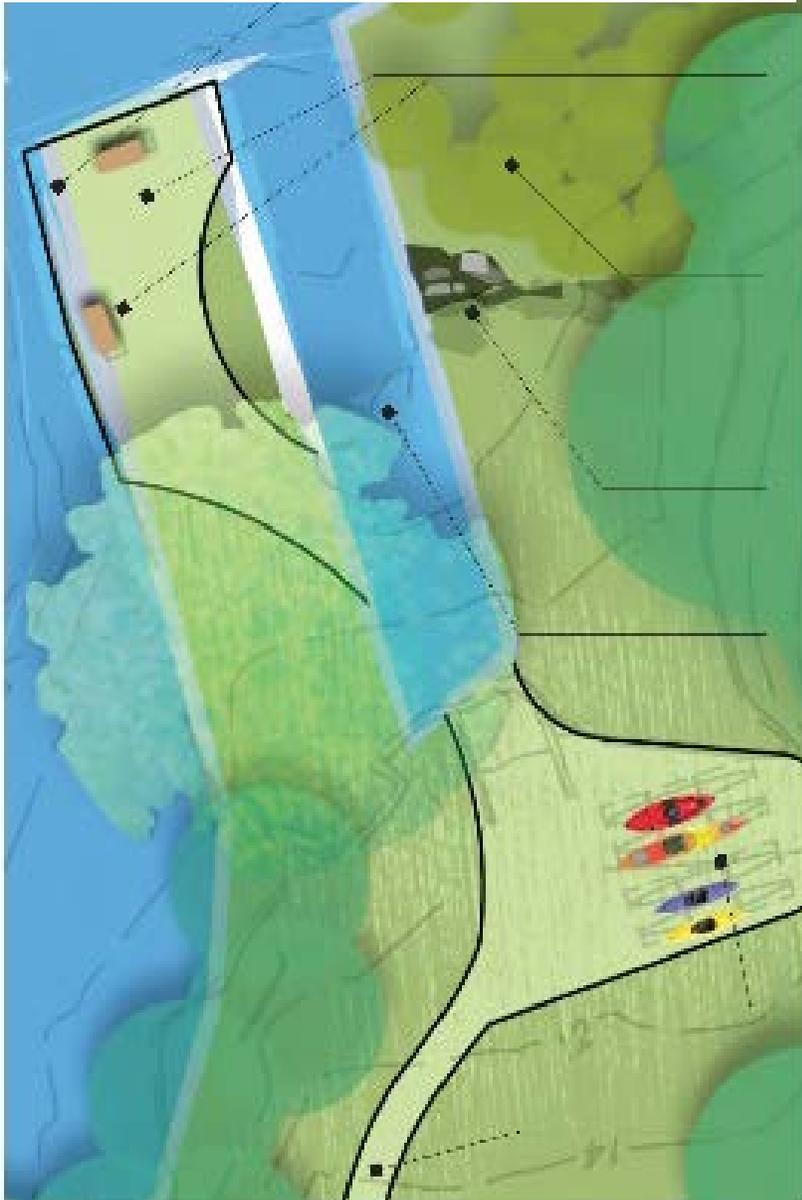
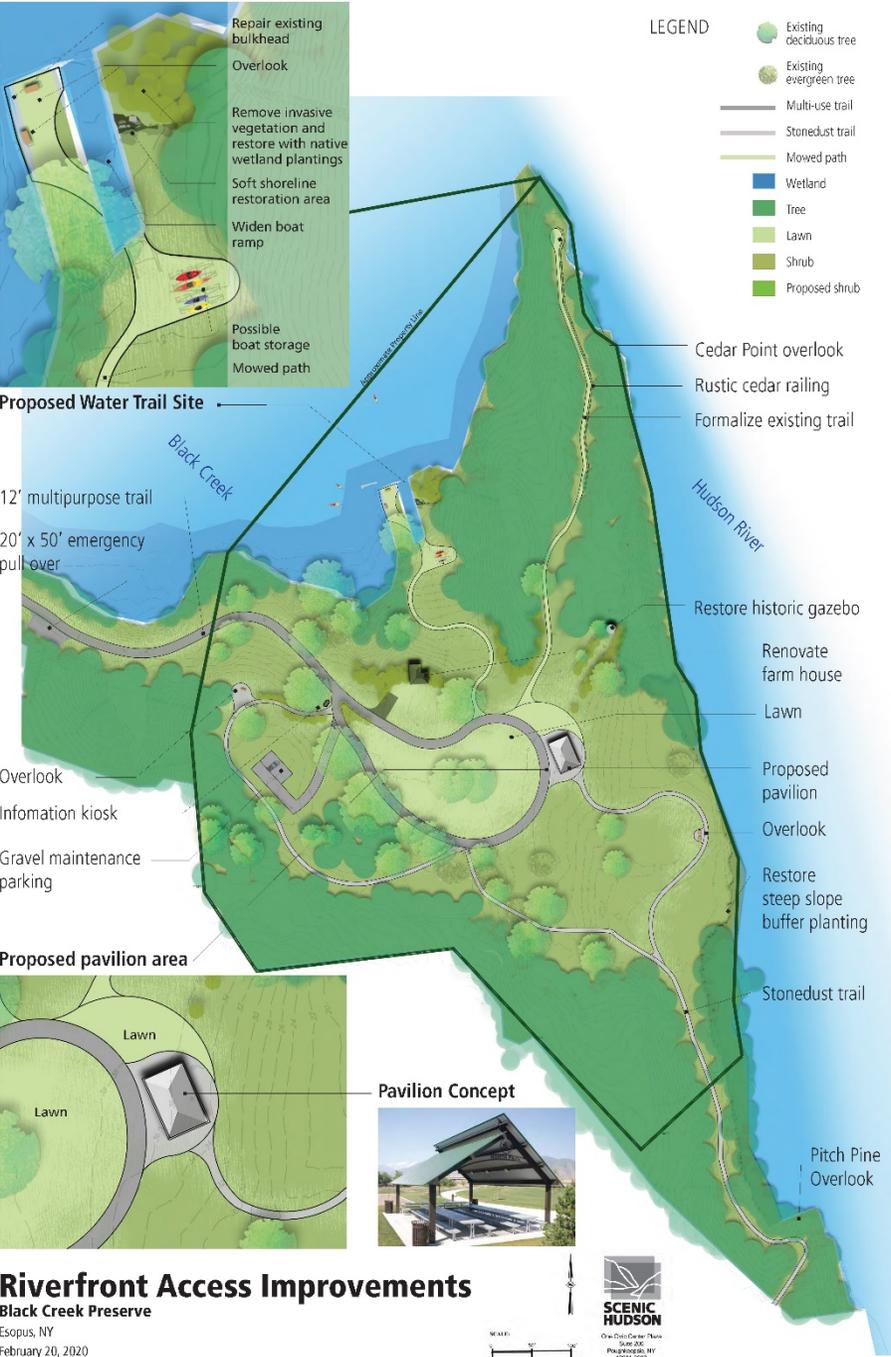
Esopus Meadows Preserve Access Improvements

Riverfront Access Improvements

Black Creek Preserve

Esopus, NY

February 20, 2020



Repair existing bulkhead

Overlook

Remove invasive vegetation and restore with native wetland plantings

Soft shoreline restoration area

Widen boat ramp

Possible boat storage

Mowed path





**Parking Lot Expansion and Access
Driveway Improvements**

Riverfront Access Improvements

Black Creek Preserve

Esopus, NY

February 20, 2020



Next Steps

- ***Accepting public comments through July 17 – Town Website***
- July 22: Next Committee meeting to review comments, identify any final revisions and prioritize recommendations.
- August 4: Town Board meeting to accept Study.
- August: Boundary and topographic surveys for Freer and Lighthouse Parks and bulkhead evaluation.
- August 26, 2020: Kick-off meeting to begin the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.
- Evaluate potential 2021 grant opportunities for implementation of select projects.



Comments, Recommendations, Questions?

