



Town of Esopus, NY

Esopus Riverfront: Access and Connections Study

Public Design Workshop

Public Design Workshop – Summary of Public Input
July 24, 2019

On July 24, 2019 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm the Town of Esopus Riverfront Access Committee held a public design workshop to gauge public reaction to preliminary Committee recommendations and to receive additional input and recommendations from those in attendance. Large poster boards depicting the preliminary recommendations at Freer Park Beach, Lighthouse Park, Sleightsburgh Park, and Black Creek Preserve were available for review. The Committee, Scenic Hudson, and Laberge Group were on hand to discuss the preliminary improvements and answer and questions. Those in attendance were asked to provide their input and offer recommendations. The Town left the poster boards at Town Hall to allow for continued public input. The preliminary concepts were also posted on Facebook and the Town’s website to provide the public with additional opportunities for review and comments. The following is a summary of input received to date.

George H. Freer Memorial Beach:

- Concept looks good.
- What happened to Freer Beach?
- Will the bank at Freer Beach be maintained – it looks awful? [Clarification needed].
- Rebuild seawall in place.
- Yes to seating and greater ADA accessibility.
- Need access to water at all times.
- Playground:
 - Relocate to basketball court.
 - Resurface like at Glasco Mini Park (rubber chips).
- Include a car charging station.
- Request for a fenced in dog area.
- Have Town continue to mow trail area (at southern end of the park) as it needs little to no improvement.
- Include teen and adult activities.

Sleightsburgh Park:

- Overall support for proposed improvements; Trail improvements are great! Support for wetland boardwalk.
- Why so little improvement here? This is the only boat access that is not on the river
- Need a bathroom.
- Electric gate access; Car traffic control device; Allow for right of way (widening?) so no pull-off area is needed.
- Improve trails, add trash cans.

Lighthouse Park

- Love the Town of Esopus and Scenic Hudson partnership, keep it up.
- Why add a kiosk?
- Interconnect bike areas and keep bikes safe and off busy roads.

Black Creek Preserve Riverfront Park:

- Need private vehicle access to waterfront for use of kayak launch and pavilion for parties (X3).
- No Meadow Trail, TICKS.
- Needs benches on trails.
- Interpretive signs and trails. Share as much information as possible.

General Comments:

- Please keep all the launches accessible to kayaks so we have as much local river access as possible- bathrooms or portable toilets help. Thanks for all you do.
- Please do what you can to curb the growth of water chestnuts so the water is kayakable.