

Black River Rediscovery Project

City of Watertown, New York

The Black River in downtown Watertown is a lost treasure. For more than a century, the river supplied power for manufacturing and related heavy industries. As the mills and factories shut down, the riverfront was forgotten. Recently, the Black River has been making a comeback, emerging as one of the best natural whitewater venues in the country and providing opportunities for waterfront trails, parks, and festivals that serve as a catalyst for the City's revitalization.



In 2002, the City received state funds to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to transform the Black River corridor into a destination for kayaking and build a network of riverfront parks and access points to promote use of the river. The Draft LWRP for the Black River has been completed, and the City is implementing plan recommendations on an annual basis.

Phase I, II, and III of the Black River Rediscovery Project using state LWRP grants and local matching funds will complete the following implementation projects:

- ▶ Creation of a pedestrian walkway from Public Square to the Black River waterfront;
- ▶ Upgrade boater and spectator access at the "Hole Brothers" former mill site;
- ▶ Improved boater and spectator access to the "Route 3 Wave" water feature;
- ▶ Improvements at Bicentennial Park and Marble Street Park adjacent to the river including bathrooms, multi-purpose pavilions, picnic areas, walking trails, and signage;
- ▶ Completion of an Erosion Control Plan to ensure improvements do not damage shoreline areas.
- ▶ Improvements at the "JB Wise" parking lot including improved pedestrian access to the Black River.

Funding

Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grants (2005 - 2007):	\$ 1,372,500
City match (at least 50%)	\$ 1,967,500
Total to date	\$ 3,340,000



AVALON ASSOCIATES prepared the funding applications for all of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program implementation grants.