DL&W Trail
Creating a Community Vision

Open House – March 21, 2018
Project Committee

- Aniela Baj, Councilman Franczyk’s office
- TuWanner Cleveland, Erie County Legislator Barbara Miller-Williams’ office
- Chris Fahey, Congressman Higgins’ office
- John Fell, Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning
- Tom George, NFTA
- Sara Heidinger, The Old First Ward Community Association
- Jill Jedlicka, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Tom Kilianski, The Valley Neighborhood Watch Association
- Bonnie Lawrence, Erie County Dept. of Environment & Planning
- Bonnie Lockwood, Congressman Higgins’ office
- Connie Lydon, Lydon Landscape Design
- Shannon Patch, Senator Schumer’s office
- Emily Reid, Senator Kennedy’s office
- John Williams, Perry 4 Life, President of Tenant Council
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Open House – March 21, 2018
DL&W Rail Corridor

Lake Erie

First Ward

Perry

South Park Ave

I-190

The Valley
An Emerging Vision
Goals for the community visioning process (short-term)

• Engage the community about reusing the DL&W rail corridor
• Ensure that future use of the rail corridor is good for the community
• Create a vision for a new trail
• Secure funding for additional phases of work
Goal for this project (long-term)

Catalyze the transformation of the abandoned DL&W rail corridor into an iconic, innovative, accessible, environmentally friendly and economically sustainable linear park and multi-use trail.
Timeline: Fall 2017 through Summer 2018

• Project Committee (October, January, April)
• Focus Group Meetings (October-January)
• Survey (January-February)
• Community Open House (March)
• Other Presentations (throughout)
• Vision Plan (June)
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Next: Design Competition (supported by M&T Bank)
Planning Context

• Buffalo’s Green Code
• Buffalo River Greenway Plan
• Perry Choice Neighborhood – Commercial Revitalization Plan
• Professor Hiro Hata’s and Harry Warren’s UB School of Architecture and Planning Studios
Images by Hiro Hata Studio, UB School of Architecture and Planning
Dequindre Cut Greenway, Detroit
The 606
Chicago
High Line in Manhattan

Photo by Friends of the High Line
Rail Park, Philadelphia
QueensWay
Queens NY
The BentWay
Toronto
It is too early to accurately estimate the costs of implementation.

Similar projects around the country have price tags in the millions.
We are committed to listening to the community.

We are committed to having an open process.
What amenities would you like to see?

- Walking paths: 92%
- Bike paths: 76%
- Fishing access: 33%
- Winter Activities: 44%
- Quiet places for relaxing: 24%
- Play spaces for children: 35%
- Nature – trees, wildflowers: 83%
- Gardens: 54%
- Art: 33%
- Music: 22%
- Interpretive history: 32%
- Other (please specify): 21%

n=457
Draft Vision

• The DL&W Trail will be a memorable and inspiring place alive with the history and voice of the surrounding neighborhoods.
• More that just a trail, the reimagined DL&W corridor will be a vibrant, safe and welcoming space for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to connect with each other, nature and the waterfront, throughout the year.
• The DL&W Trail will be the focal point of a revitalized community and a restored ecosystem.
Draft Guiding Principles

1. Respect the character and history of local communities while improving quality of life for neighborhood residents
2. Embrace and enhance the natural regeneration and wildlife that thrive along the corridor
3. Provide different kinds of recreational uses year round
4. Link existing assets, and plan for future projects, needs and growth
5. Design with long term use, maintenance and safety in mind
6. Catalyze investment and opportunity
How you can help

1. Register to attend an upcoming event (wnylc.org/get-involved/events/)
   • April 14 GoBike traffic calming “pop-up”
   • April 17 presentation at the Saturn Club sponsored by Goldfarb Financial
2. Sign up for our emails (wnylc.org/get-involved/stay-connected/)
3. Become a member (wnylc.org/support-our-work/become-a-member/)
4. Donate to this project (wnylc.org/support-our-work/donate-now/)
We need your ideas and suggestions!

Thank You

www.wnylc.org
info@wnylc.org