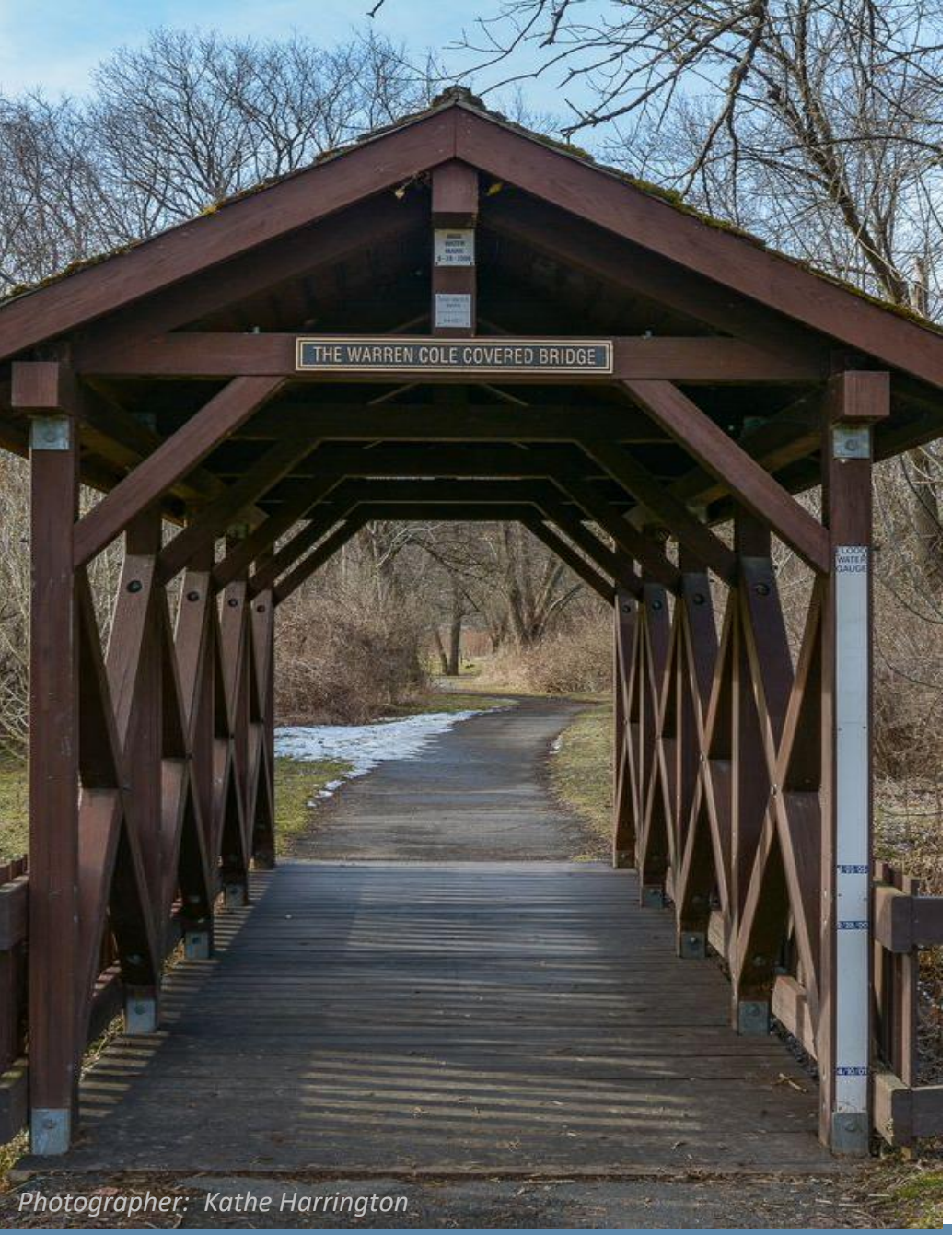
SIDNEY, NY
Susquehanna River
GreenPlain
Naturally Resilient

Envisioning
Sidney's Waterfront

Photographer: Kathe Harrington



Photographer: Kathe Harrington

Welcome

Welcome

- It's time to update our vision for publicly owned waterfront land
- Federal financial support for climate adaptation and resilience will be available soon at a record level
- We need to be ready ASAP
- We need a shared vision about how to move ahead
- Thanks to The Nature Conservancy for making this project possible

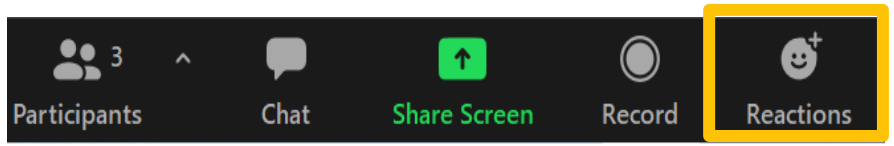
Agenda

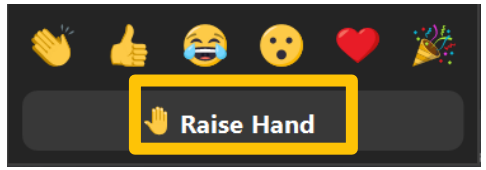
- What are the goals of the project?
- How did we get here?
- What can we do with our publicly owned land?
- What's next?

"Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world"
– J. Barker

Engaging Through Zoom

- We're excited to meet with you online! Please note that this meeting will be recorded and rebroadcast on the project website
- At the end of the presentation, we will have a **Question & Answer** session. Please hold your questions until then
- **How to engage with speakers during Q&A:**
  - Use the 'raise hand' function to get our attention!





Raise your hand if:

- You were born in Sidney?
- Your home or business flooded in 2006?
- Your home or business flooded by Tropical Storm Lee?
- You moved to Sidney after 2011?
- You moved to Sidney recently?
- You live in the waterfront neighborhoods (in the floodplain)?

- Or - use the chat function to send messages to the hosts. We're monitoring the chat and will ask the speakers on your behalf
- Please keep your microphone muted when you are not speaking
- If you experience any issues interacting, send us a message us in the chat

A Consensus Vision

We will build a **consensus vision** for community-supported and environmentally resilient uses of the **publicly owned land** along the Susquehanna River

Together we will take a closer look at lands that will be owned by the Village of Sidney as a result of donations and flood buyouts

In addition to retaining and filtering stormwater, the land can be used for a wide variety of community resources, recreational spaces, and gathering places

Resilient design and reuse of our waterfront land to hold floodwater and much more…

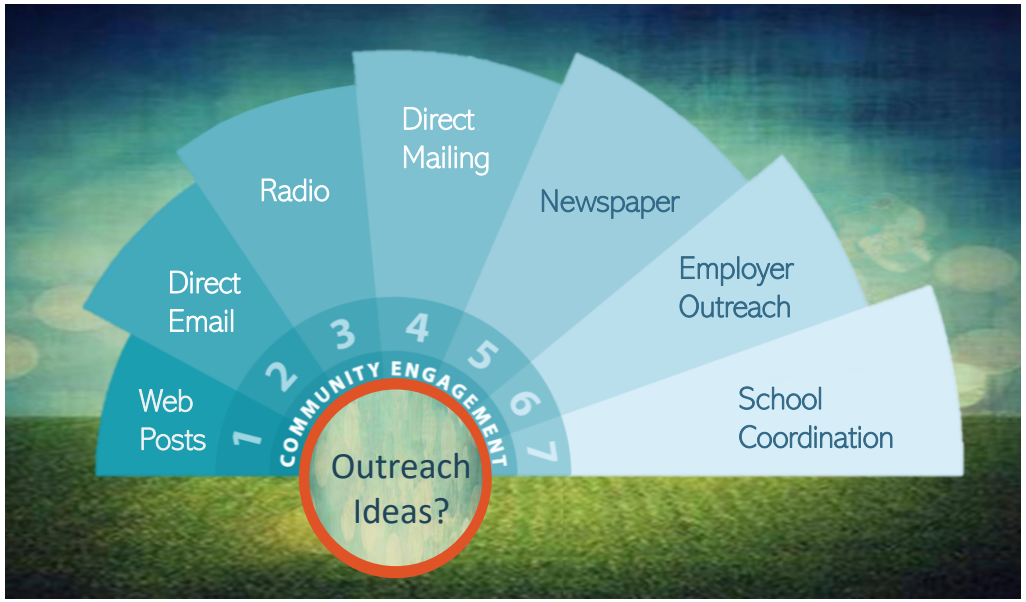
This project complements our development of a new Comprehensive Plan, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Land Use Ordinances

The process will engage residents and stakeholders in three workshops, three discussion forums and a series of surveys

"Vision is tomorrow's reality expressed as an idea today" – O. Woodward

Engagement Team

Your participation is critical



"For a true visionary, today started yesterday" – C. Lounsbrough

COMMUNITY

THE VILLAGE OF SIDNEY

- Andrew Matviak, Mayor
- John Redente, Grants Administrator
- Clarissa Walrath, Assistant Grants Administrator

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

- Michael McCann, Climate Adaptation Specialist

CONSULTANTS

LEAD CONSULTANTS

- River Street Planning & Development
  - Margaret Irwin, Principal
  - Christina Snyder, Planner
  - Monica Ryan, Principal Planner
- PLACE Alliance Northeast
  - Andy Bohne, Principal
  - Jeff Dawson, Designer

CONSULTANTS

- Streamworks – James Woidt, Principal
- Skytop Digital Media - Michael Sellitti, Aerial Photographer
- Future of Small Cities Institute - Reif Larsen, Founder
- Dr. Nicholas Pinter, U.C. San Diego – Managed Retreat Specialist

How did we get here?

- Post 2006/2011 flood buyouts and donation of land
- Commitment to work with nature
- Vision for the Sidney Susquehanna GreenPlain
- Grant from The Nature Conservancy in 2021
- Need to diversify partners and funding

We Need To…

- Revision Sidney Waterfront GreenPlain
- Reach shared consensus about how land will be reused over time
- Outline flexible framework that can adjust to change
- Report on strategies that work as a model for other communities

Photographer: Kathe Harrington (both images)

"A clear vision, backed by definite plans, gives you confidence and power." – B. Tracy

Who?

TNC is providing a grant to help Sidney develop a consensus vision for reuse of bought out waterfront land

- The Nature Conservancy
- **The Village of Sidney**
- NYS Department of State

We're updating our Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code & Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) with NYS DOS grant funds

How?

Envision the Sidney GreenPlain

- Broad Community Input
- Surveys, Workshops, Storytelling Lunches…
- Waterfront Neighborhood Advisory Group

You can set the direction for how publicly owned land is reused

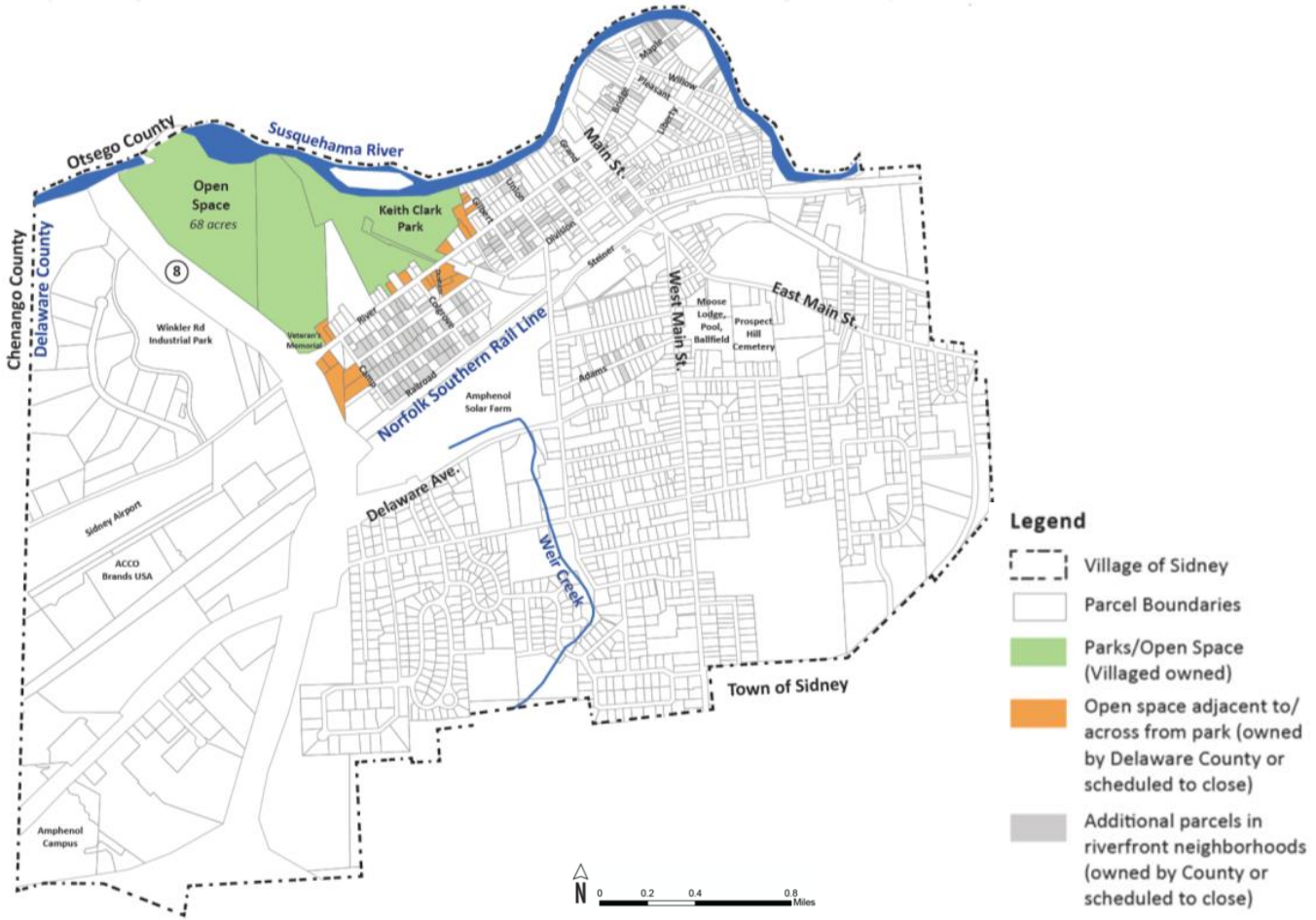
"Create the highest grandest vision possible for your life, because you become what you believe" – O. Winfrey

What?

- **Consensus Vision** — A bold statement of our goals for the future
- **Resilient Waterfront Projects** — 5-10 years' worth of community inspired projects
- **New Land Trust Conservancy** — A new conservation partner to help manage land
- **New Partners** — A broader base of partners to help us achieve our vision

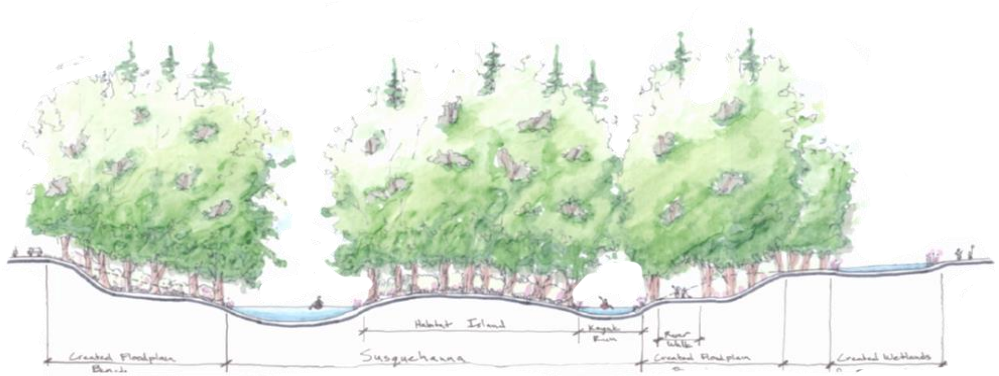
Resilience Plans and Projects

Publicly Owned Riverfront Land



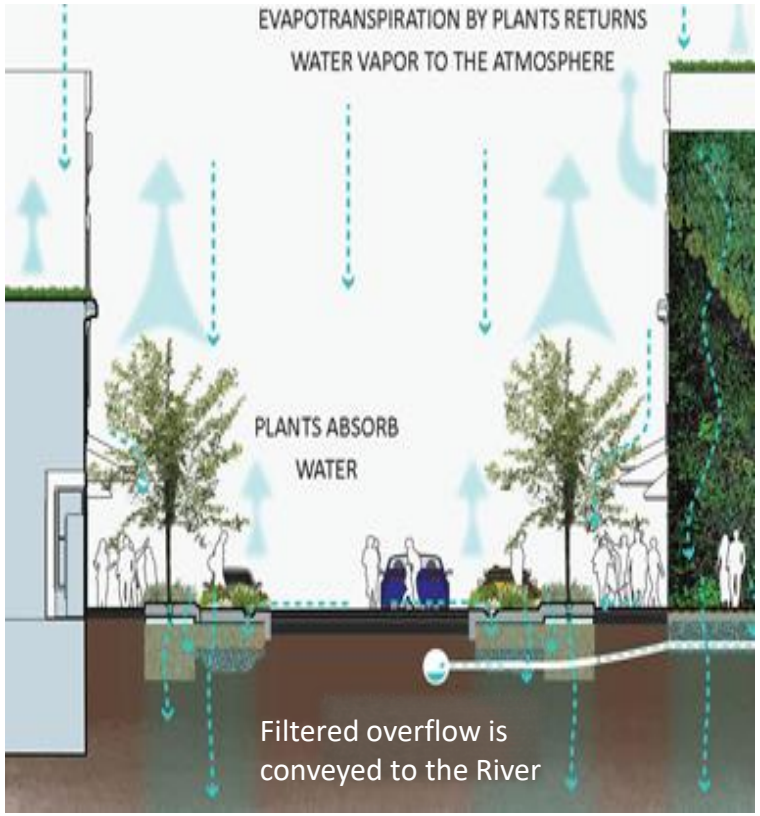
"Visionary is what we call people who were wise enough to not listen when we called them delusional." – S. Maraboli

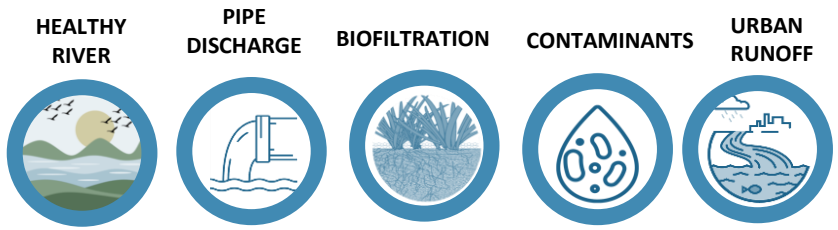
RESILIENCE PLANS AND PROJECTS	
Long Term Community Recovery Plan	2013
NY Rising Reconstruction Plan	2014
Green Infrastructure Main Street	2015 - 2018
GreenPlain Feasibility and Design	2017- 2021
Peckham Reservoir Dam	2017-2018
Downtown Sidney Senior Housing	2017
Sidney Comprehensive Plan Update	Underway
Sidney Land Use Codes Update	Underway
Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan	Underway
Sidney GreenPlain Construction	2022 - 2023
Sidney Flood Mitigation Buyouts	2008 & Ongoing

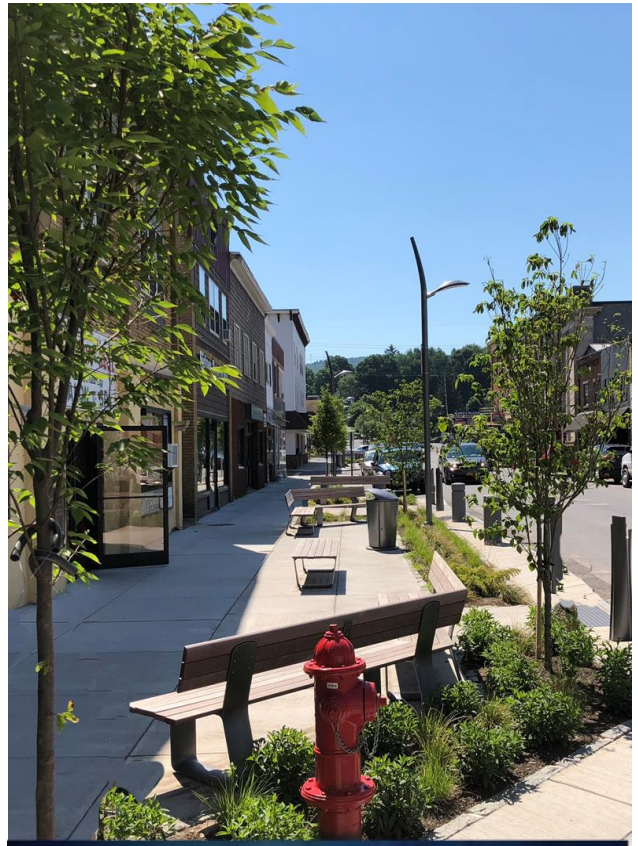


Long Term Community Recovery Strategy (2013)

- Introduced green infrastructure through the Sidney GreenPlain
- Village commits to work with nature to reduce flood risk
- Green Main Street streetscape and stormwater management
- Conceptual design for new residential neighborhood at Riverlea Farm







Green Main Street Project
Completed 2 blocks of Main St. resilient streetscape, stormwater retention & filtration system

NY Rising Plan (2014)

Advanced managed retreat and natural mitigation.

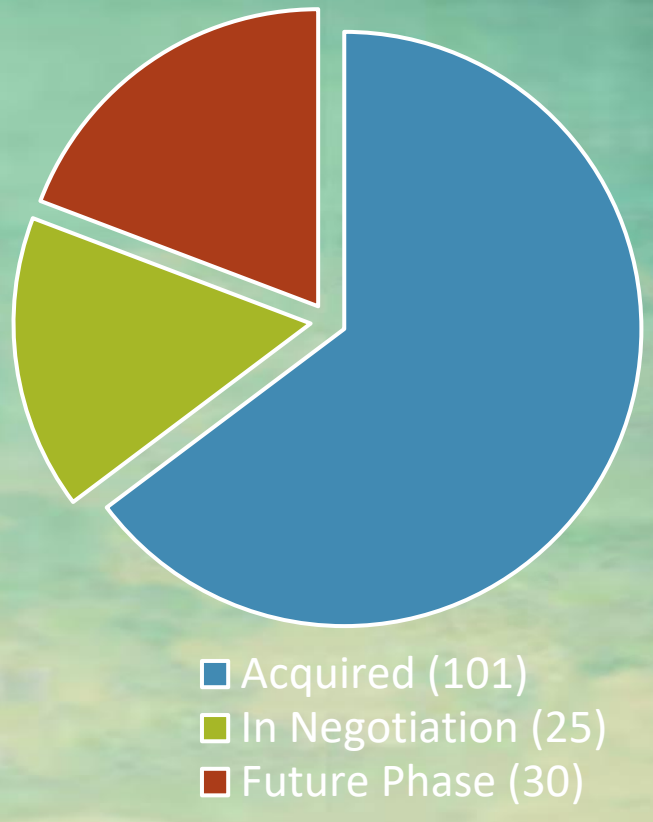
2014 VISION STATEMENT

Sidney is a progressive, dynamic and resilient place with the friendly feel of an historic, close-knit community. We embrace our waterways and make sustainable choices that protect our Village residents, our neighboring communities, and our region

Our green waterfront reduces future risks while offering entertainment, culture, arts, and recreation. The Village's vibrant downtown, flood-safe neighborhoods, and social support systems appeal to everyone, young and old

Sidney is a strong community devoted to family, fostering businesses large and small, and working together to face any obstacle

Progress Acquiring High Risk Land

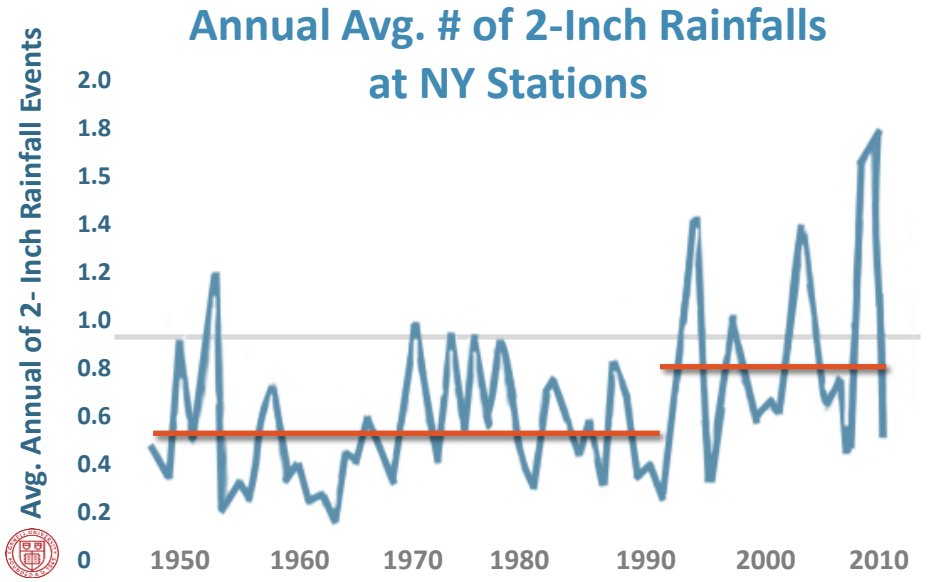


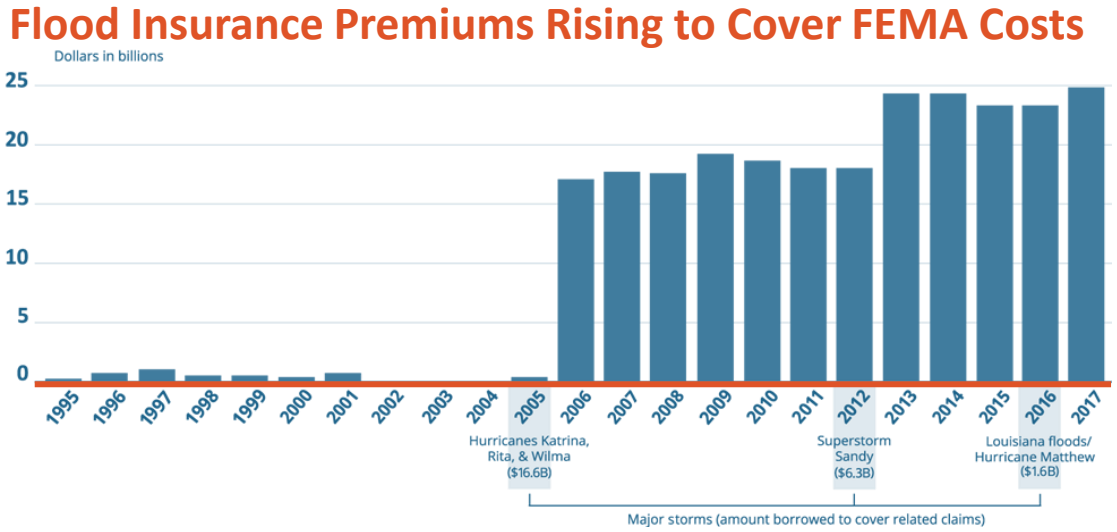
- 70 acres of land donated by the Sidney Community Fdn.
- Delaware County is leading post-2006/2011 flood buyouts

- 2 buyout programs are incredibly complex (and slow)
  - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - HUD CDBG - Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR)

Flooding and Flood Damage Will Get Worse

Flooding in 2006



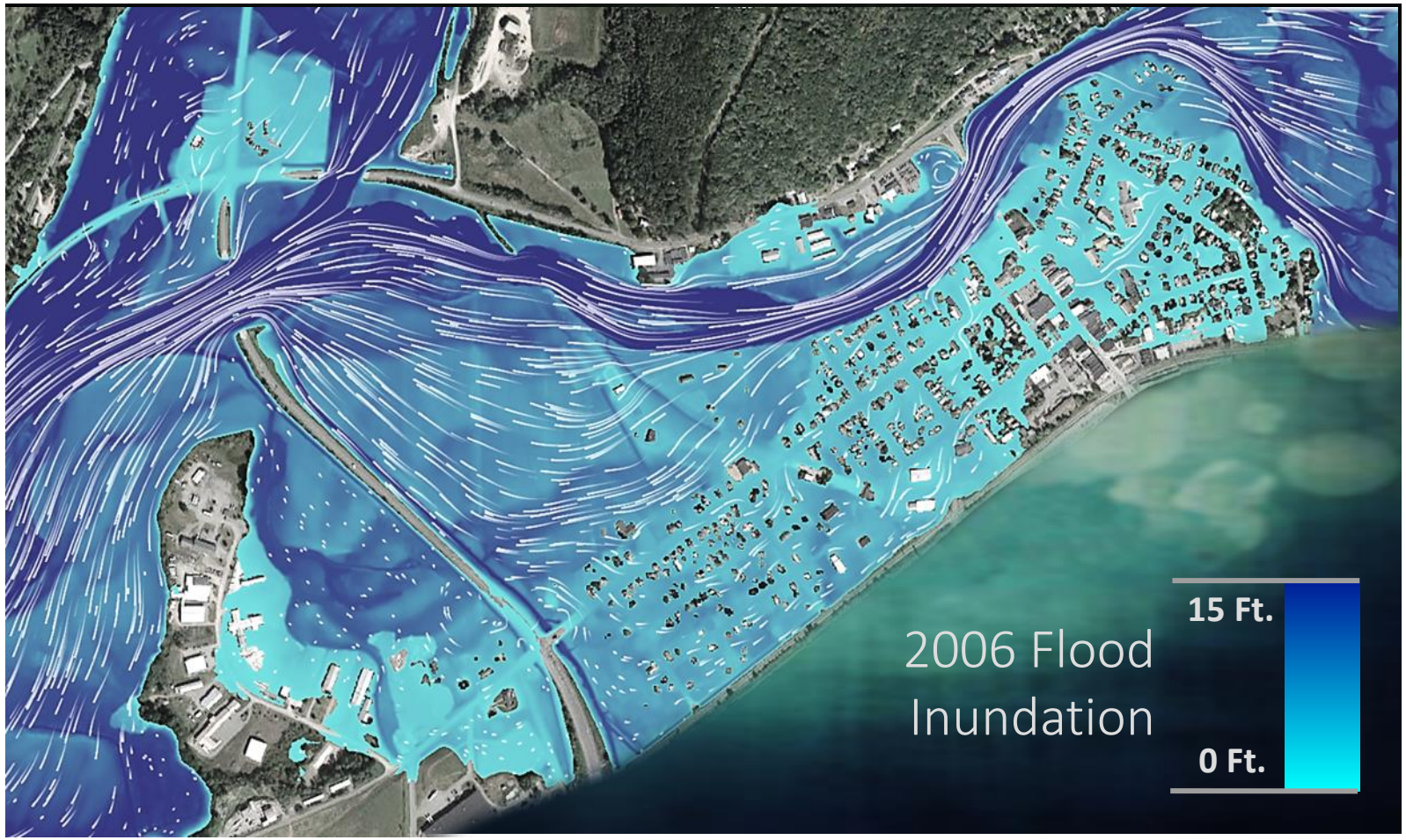


Flooding in 2011

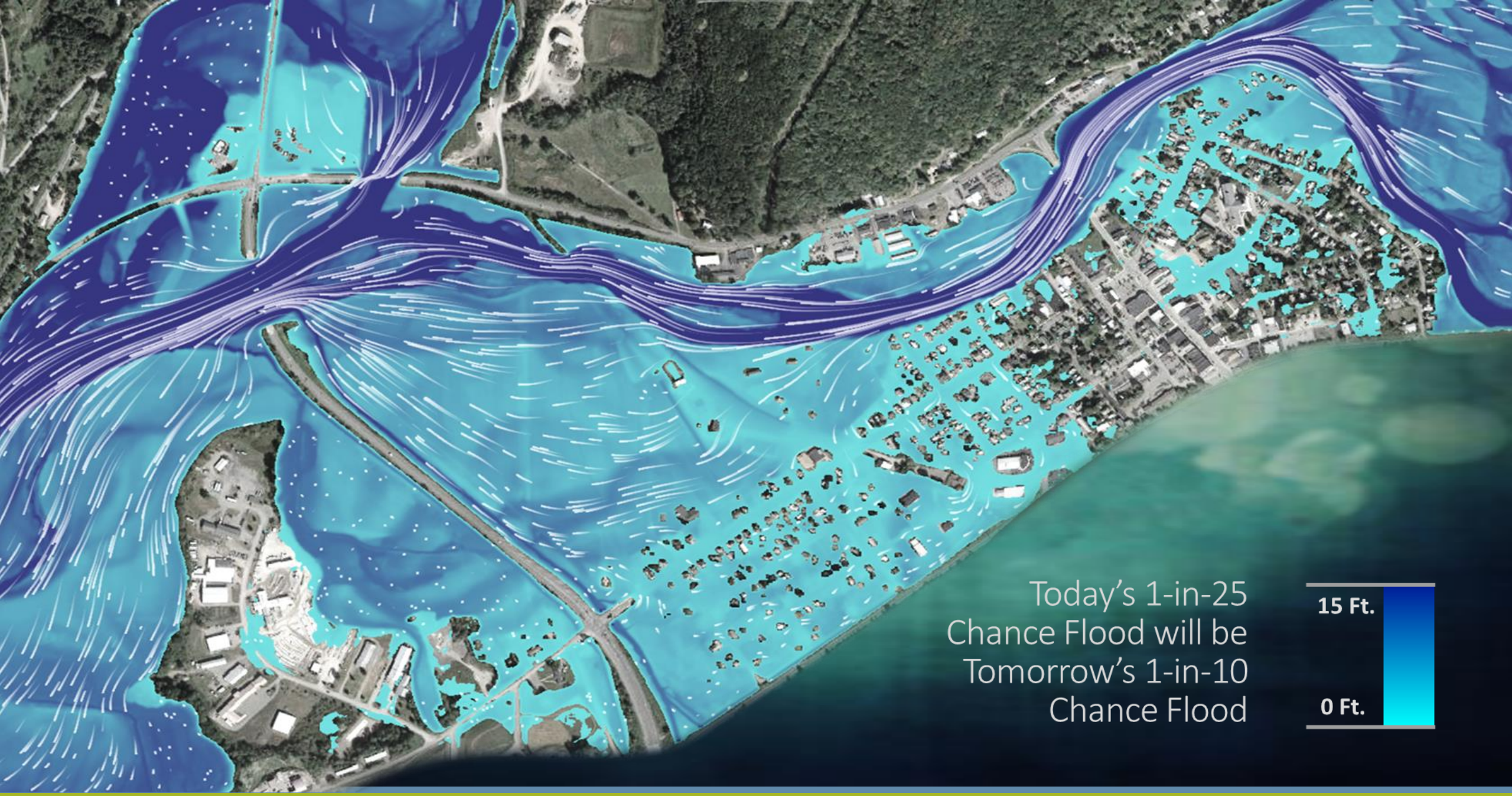
Climate Adaptation

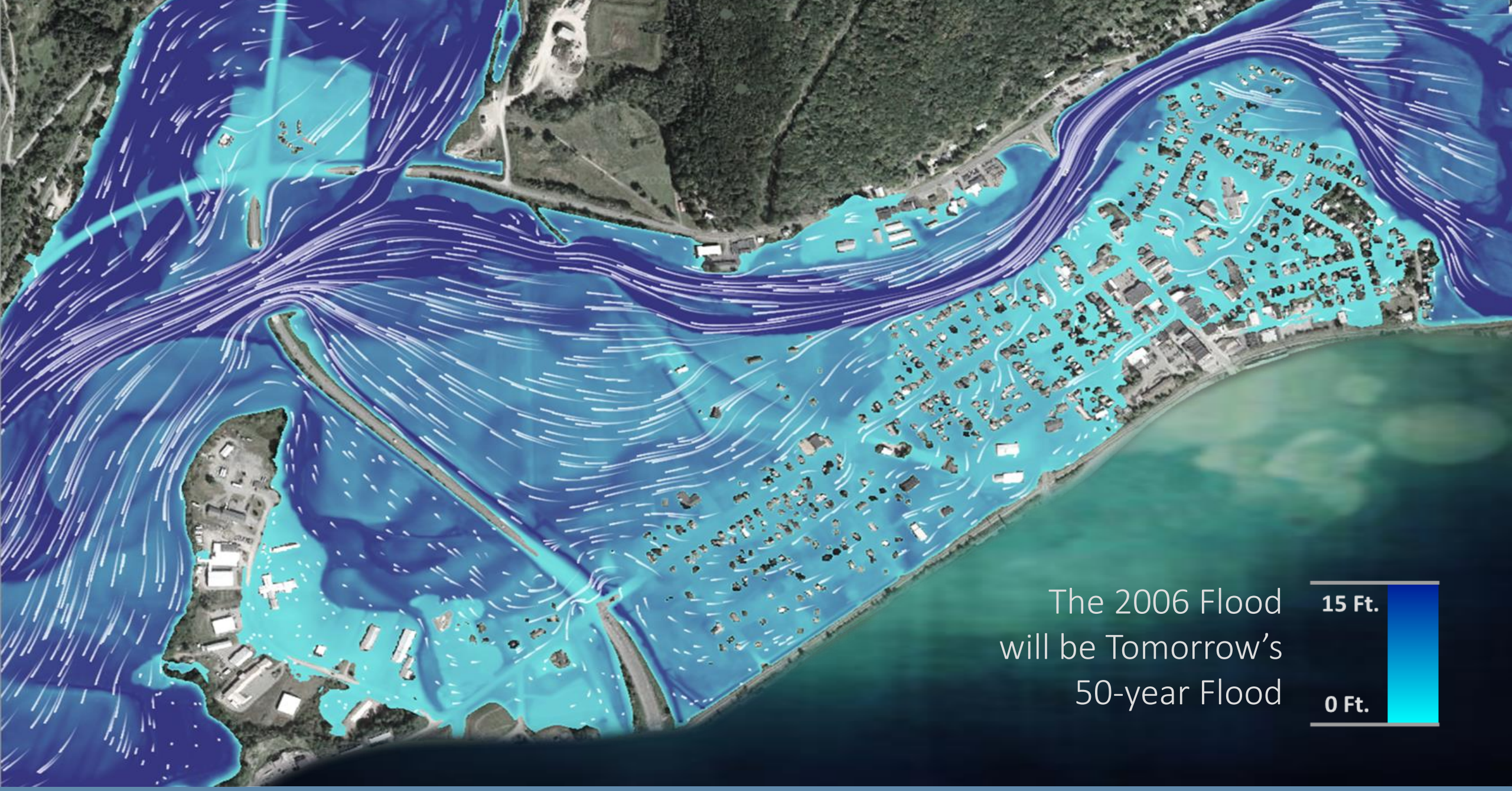
Community Risk & Resilience Act

- Climate change is anticipated to increase flood elevations 1 to 2 feet
- Because of climate change, twice as many homes (+63) will be flooded by the 10-year flood as would be today
- Because of climate change, an average 80% increase in residential flood damages compared to today's conditions is projected
- Damages more than double for the 10-year event



"Vision is a picture of the future that produces passion." – B. Hybels


Today's 1-in-25
Chance Flood will be
Tomorrow's 1-in-10
Chance Flood
15 Ft.
0 Ft.


The 2006 Flood
will be Tomorrow's
50-year Flood
15 Ft.
0 Ft.

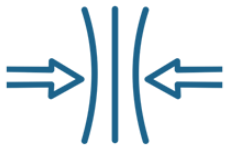
Climate Adaptation

Sidney chose "managed retreat" as its primary mitigation strategy after Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.

- Relocating people, services or infrastructure to floodsafe locations permanently through buyout and new development
- Managed retreat moves families out of the flood zone and reclaims the floodplain
- Goal is to provide replacement housing in the same community – this has been a struggle in Sidney

Flood Mitigation

Reducing risk of flood damage by floodproofing, elevation, protective structures or reclamation



Resilience

Designing systems to withstand flooding, minimize damage and rapidly recover

Climate Adaptation

Adjusting human action to nature and the changing environment

Natural Mitigation

- Reclaim and enhance the natural floodplain to reduce flood damage, hold and filter stormwater, while also providing recreation and gathering areas.

United Nations Global Compact

Nature based climate solutions value harmony between people and nature, as well as ecological development and represent a holistic, people-centered response to climate change. They are effective, long-term, cost-efficient and globally scalable.

BENEFITS

Benefits

- Expandable/Scalable
- Adaptive
- Multi-purpose Use Landscape
- Habitat Enhancement

Co-benefits

- Posterity
- Cost Effective
- Increased Social, Financial and Environmental Value

SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Extension of heavily-used Keith Clark Park walking path
- Consolidate and re-establish fragmented neighborhoods
- Flood-compatible community asset near downtown
- Advancement of dog park and pickleball courts with CFA to NYS Parks and Recreation

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

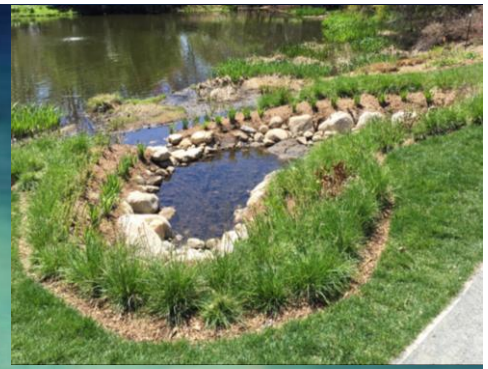
- Reduce flood damage costs
- Reduce impact to infrastructure
- Reduce operation and maintenance by consolidating public infrastructure
- Improve property values

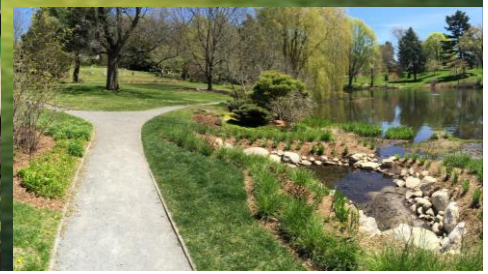
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Re-establish productive and diverse riparian ecosystem
- Minimize impervious cover (roofs, driveways, etc.)
- Improve water quality promoting infiltration
- Increase groundwater recharge

Nature Based Solutions

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." Native American Saying

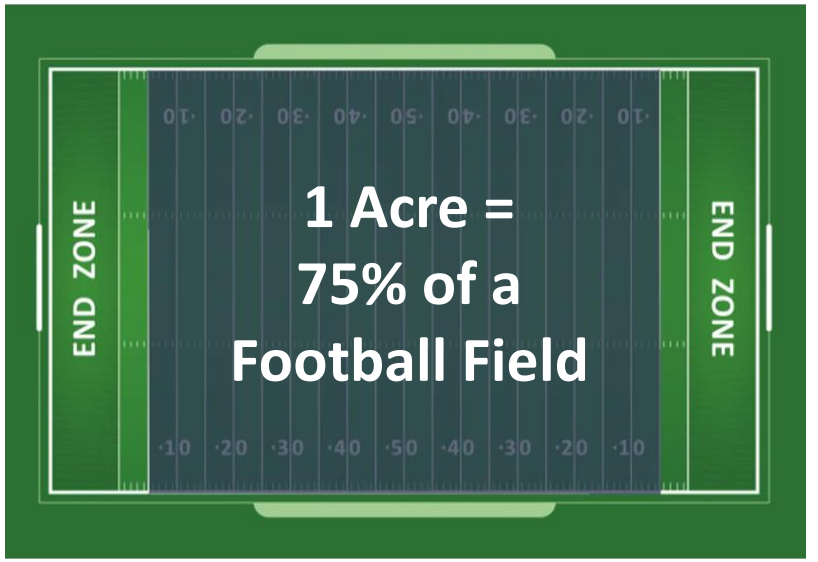




"Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others."
– Jonathan Swift
VISION

How can we use our acquired land?

- Sidney's acquired land can be used to hold stormwater and improve water quality as well as for parks, recreation, open space, gardens, events or other uses that can safely flood
- The Village-owned open space next to the Susquehanna River occupies nearly 100 acres
- For reference, one acre of land can fit:
  - 16 tennis courts
  - 350 community garden lots (100 SF)
  - around 150 cars
  - sustain 5-8 goats on pasture



It takes a person, on average, 36 seconds to walk across an acre of land.

How can we use our acquired land?

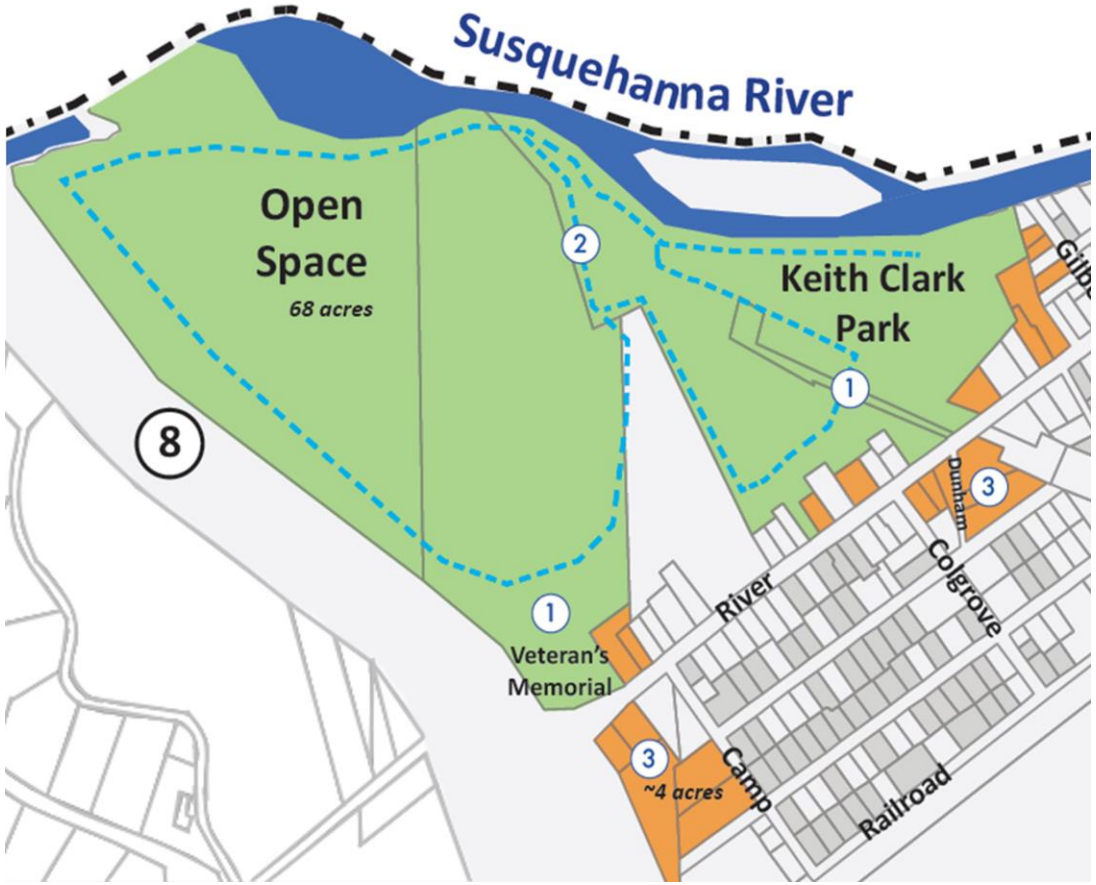
"Acquired sites are maintained in perpetuity for the conservation of natural floodplain functions." *-FEMA*

- Parks for outdoor recreational activities
- Wetlands management
- Nature reserves
- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Camping
- Unpaved parking lots
- Buffer zones
- Other uses FEMA determines compatible

Parks or open space owned by the Village.

Open space adjacent to/across from park (owned by Delaware County or scheduled to close).

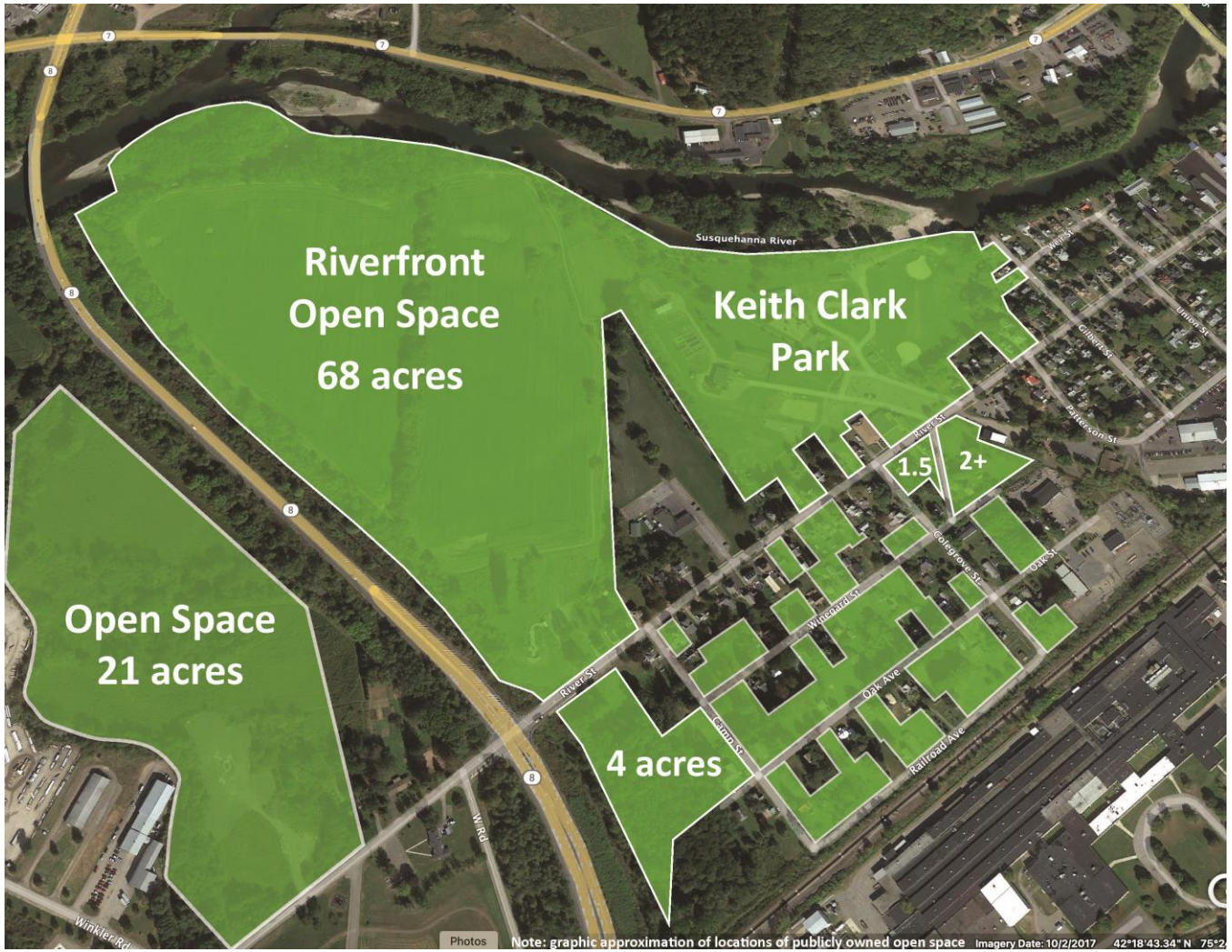
Additional parcels in waterfront neighborhoods (owned by Delaware County or scheduled to close).



Traditional Interpretation:

- No new structures or improvements will be built
- Allows a "public facility open on all sides that is compatible with open space"

Susquehanna GreenPlain Parcels



Public Land to be Reused	Acres
Total acres publicly owned lands	100+
Community Foundation open space donation	68
Keith Clark Park	32
Parcels adjacent to Keith Clark Park: range - under ¼ to ¾ acre	3.5
Large parcels directly across from open space/Keith Clark Park: range from 1.5 to 4 acres	7.5
Clustered/connected parcels in riverfront neighborhood: range from +/- 1 acre up to 3.5 acres	1 - 3.5
Small, largely unconnected parcels in riverfront neighborhood: Each ¼ acre or less	2.5

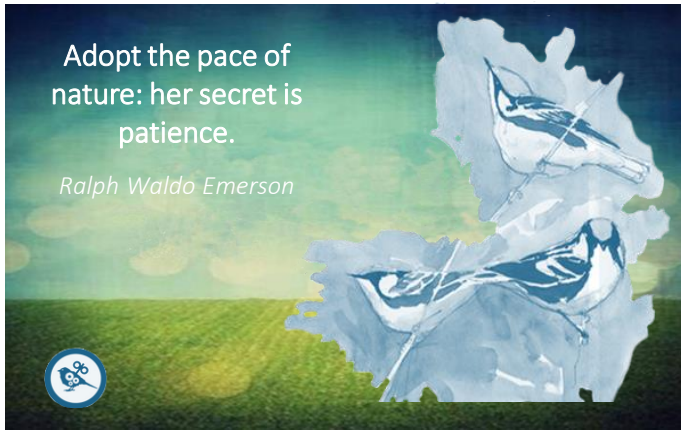
Visual Preference Survey: Summary

What types of outdoor spaces & recreation would you like to see in Sidney?

30+ SURVEYS SUBMITTED SO FAR. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

* **TOP RESPONSES IN EACH CATEGORY (SELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF RESPONDENTS)**

* **MOST POPULAR RESPONSES ACROSS ALL CATEGORIES**



Share your input at: www.resilient-Sidney.com/surveys

Visual Preference Survey: Summary

* **Top responses across all the categories focused on PASSIVE RECREATION & NATURAL/OPEN SPACE USES**

Outdoor Amenities for Children & Youth

Playground

Tot Lot

Splashpad

Skatepark

Park Games

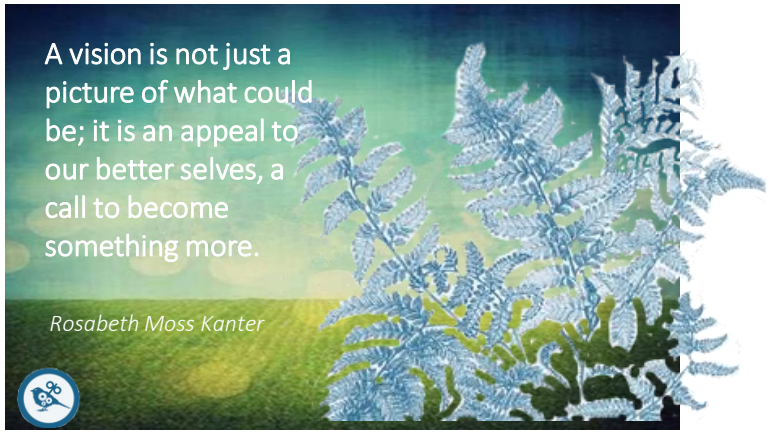
Teen Playground

Zip Lines

Natural Playground

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Teen Playground
- Splashpad



Active Sports & Recreation

Pickleball

Volleyball

Tennis

Soccer

Baseball

Football

Basketball

Lacrosse

Track

Fitness Course

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Outdoor Fitness/ Exercise Course

Respondents seem satisfied with active sports and recreation in the Village.

Fun and Leisure Activities

Disc Golf Course

Putting Green

Mini Golf Course

Archery

Paint Ball

Lawn Games

Rock Climbing Wall

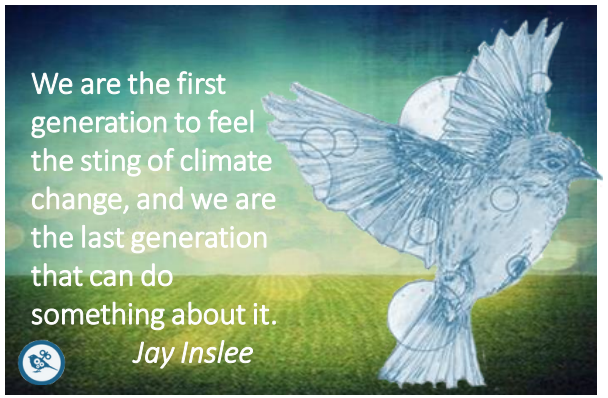
Ice Skating Rink

Adventure Park

Mountain Bike Skills Center

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Ice Skating Rink
- Adventure Park



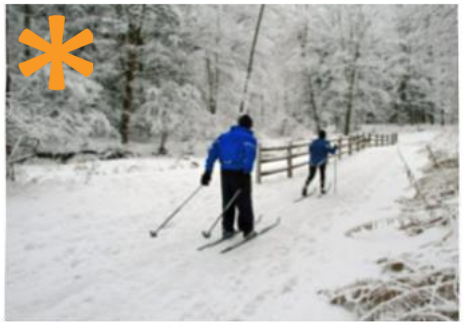
Low impact or passive recreation

Nature Photos/Drawing

Nature Viewing

Bird Watching

Multi-Use Trails



Cross Country Skiing

Snowshoeing

Horseback Riding

Bike Paths

Mountain Biking Trails

* TOP RESPONSES

- Multi-Use Trails
- Bike Paths

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Nature Photography
- Nature Viewing and Bird Watching
- Snowshoeing
- Cross-Country Skiing

Low impact or passive recreation

Canoeing/Kayaking

Fishing

Fitness Space/Yoga

River Floating

Dog Park

Camping

Picnic Sites

Grilling

Park Games (chess…)

TOP RESPONSES

- Picnic Sites
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Fishing

TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Dog Park
- Fitness Space/Yoga

Natural or open space uses

Riverfront Path

Riverfront Overlook

Community Lawn

Wildflower Meadow

Formal Gardens

Pocket Parks

Mowed Lawns

Wetlands

Nature Walk/Boardwalk

Multi-Use Plaza

* TOP RESPONSES

- Riverfront Paths
- Riverfront Overlooks
- Nature Walks/ Boardwalk

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Community Lawn
- Multi-Use Plaza
- Wildflower Meadow

Local food related uses

Edible Gardens

Orchards

Community Gardens

Farm Stand/Market

Bee Keeping/ Pollinator Gardens

Grazing/Pasture

Demonstrator Gardens

Pumpkin Patch

* TOP RESPONSES

- Community Gardens
- Farm Stand

* TOP RESPONSES IN THIS CATEGORY

- Orchards
- Edible Gardens

Outdoor cultural/ events activities

Sculpture Garden/Art Park

Amphitheater

Festival/Event Space

Wedding Venues

Art Fairs

"Cherish your visions and your dreams, as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements" – Napoleon Hill

* TOP RESPONSES

— Art Fairs

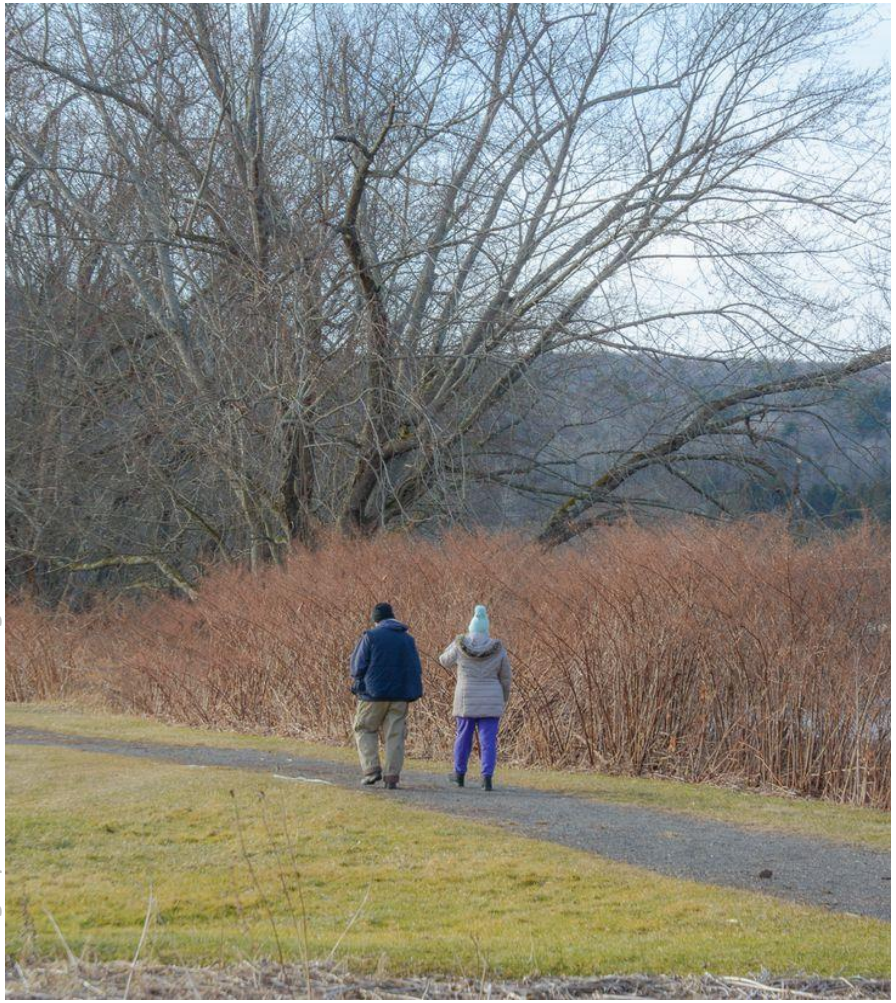
* TOP RESOURCES IN THIS CATEGOTY

— Amphitheater
— Festival/Event Space

Brainstorming and Discussion

What do you love about Sidney?

- What do you love about Sidney?
- What would you like to change?
- Where is the best place to meet up with a friend and go for a walk?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity?
  - Summer
  - Winter
  - Spring
  - Fall?



Photographer: Kathe Harrington

What Activities do you like to do?

- What outdoor activities do you travel to other places to do?
- What amenities would you like to see in Sidney that don't currently exist here?
- What outdoor amenities would you like to see expanded?

When your vision is accomplished how will the waterfront sound, smell, feel, and look?

Topics for Discussion in December and January 2022

Story Telling Lunches

- Check the website for storytelling lunch dates in December.
- Call in, join online or attend a discussion at Village Hall.

What would you like to talk about?

- Your family's "story of the storm"?
- How did you use recreation resources during the pandemic?
- What else?

Photographer: Kathe Harrington

January 2022 Workshop

- Review design ideas.
- Do you feel comfortable attending an in-person meeting?
- Is a Saturday meeting better than a weeknight evening?
- Do you have ideas for other ways we could reach people and encourage participation?
- Are there other topics you would like to discuss?

Timeline

November

- Survey Design
- Visual Survey
- Community Workshop
- Aerial Photography

December

- Survey Published
- Story Telling Lunches
- Community Design
- Draft Vision and Plan

January

- Outreach
- Preference Survey
- Online Polling
- Workshop Two to Review Designs

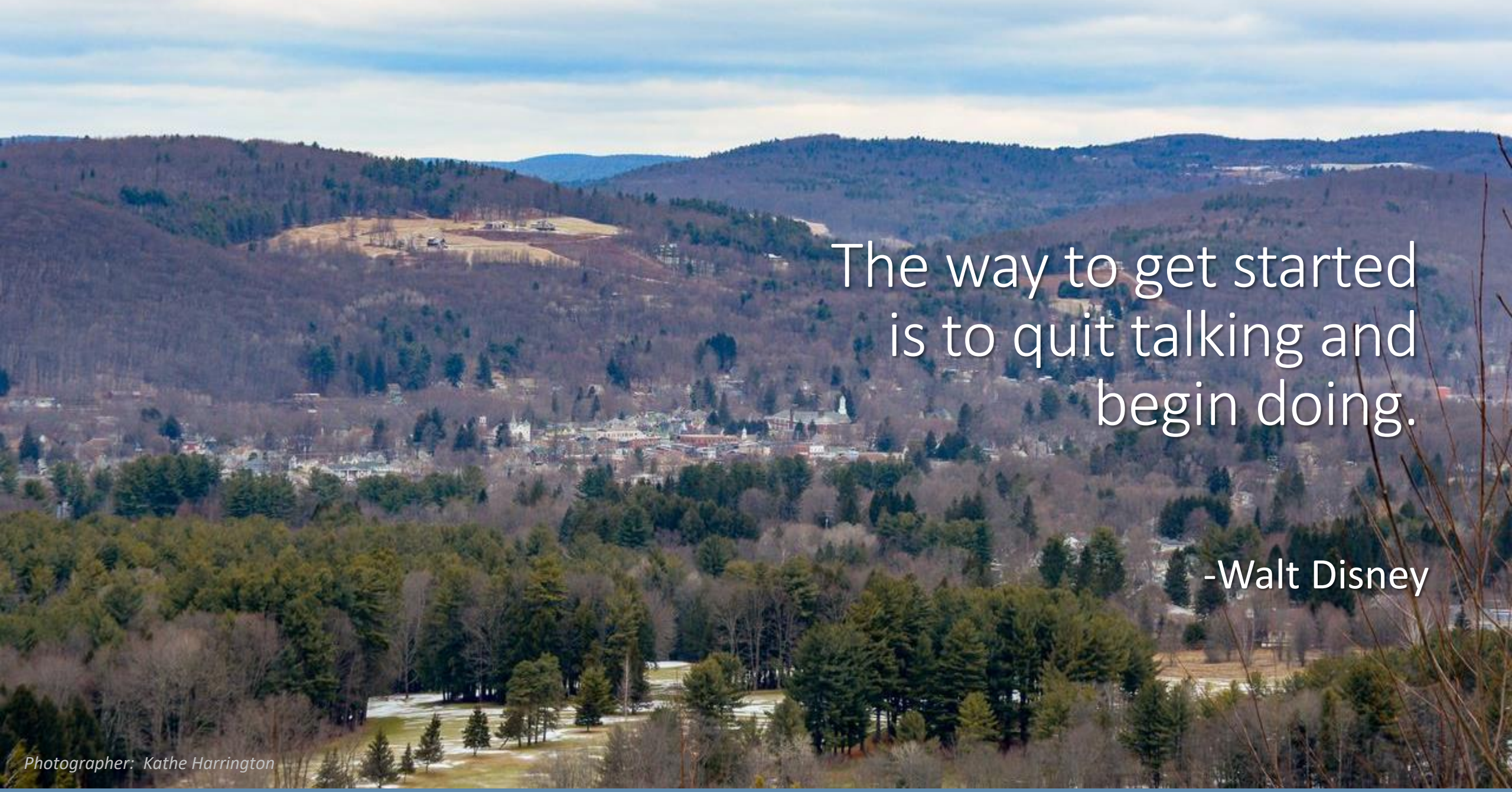
February

- Draft Vision and Designs Posted
- Outreach and Plan for Final Workshop
- Workshop Three

Next Steps

www.resilient-sidney.com

Please do the visual survey with your kids and grandkids


The way to get started
is to quit talking and
begin doing.
-Walt Disney
Photographer: Kathe Harrington

Thank you

VILLAGE OF SIDNEY, NY GREENPLAIN AND WATERFRONT VISIONING

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