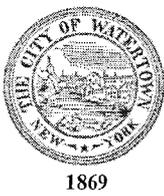


Watertown City Council  
Monday, September 8, 2014  
7:00 p.m.

Work Session Agenda

Discussion Item:

1. Newell Street River Walk Traffic Report  
Kurt W. Hauk, City Engineer
2. Park Rules  
Kenneth A. Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator



CITY OF WATERTOWN  
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT  
MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4 September 2014

TO: Sharon Addison, City Manager

FROM: Kurt Hauk, City Engineer

SUBJECT: Newell Street River Walk Traffic Report

This report and the enclosed slides will discuss the feasibility of opening the River Walk portion of Newell Street to one-way traffic.

History: This section of park land was opened for one-way traffic briefly from June 2003 until December 2004. The one-way traffic was rescinded at the December 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting by a 4-1 vote. The meeting minutes cited the opposition from local business owners and the lack of use by motorists as the major cause for the change back to pedestrians only.

Regulatory approval: Since this section was previously approved for one-way west to east (eastbound) traffic by the Office of Parks and Recreation, it would seem reasonable for the approval to be granted again.

Scope: Slide 1 shows an overview of the River Walk which essentially parallels the Black River Parkway. The River Walk is being evaluated for one-way traffic either eastbound or westbound. This section must also support a dedicated multi-use trail (pedestrians and bicycles) to be feasible. A multi-use trail requires a width of 13'.

West Entrance: Slide 2 shows an aerial view of the western entrance and demonstrates how pedestrians and bicycles could be accommodated where the multi-use trail ends. Pedestrians will need to use the walkway around the pavilion while the traffic lane would become a shared bicycle lane to the intersection. The intersection of Arch and Newell Streets would need to be reconfigured to allow the crossing traffic for a three-way stop if westbound or two-way stop if eastbound. This is shown in Slide 3. The pedestrian crosswalk would also need to be reconfigured to meet ADA since it would essentially direct wheelchairs into an active street.

East Entrance: Slide 4 is an aerial view of the eastern entrance to the River Walk and is much more problematic than the western end. The first issue is the multi-use trail itself. It currently ends a block away from the entrance at Factory Street and needs to be extended the entire length if street traffic is to be introduced on the section. This is shown as the dashed yellow line. Moreover, the pedestrian entrance is being expanded as part of the Factory Street project with the primary goal of increasing bicycle and pedestrian traffic to the River Walk by making it the preferred pedestrian/bicycle path of travel versus Black River Parkway.

From the end of the current pavement markings for the multi-use trail there are five major conflicts with the extension of a travel lane in conjunction with the extended multi-use trail and are also shown on Slides 4 through 6.

Slide 5 shows the first three conflicts. The first is a curb bump-out that would need to be removed. The second is a raised sanitary manhole that cannot be removed without a large expense. The third conflict is the walkway steps from the J.B. Wise parking lot with the required 5' landing area by ADA. This conflict essentially shuts off the traffic lane since it would abut the extended multi-use trail. At least two, but possibly all three of these conflicts were not present when this was originally opened for traffic back in 2003.

Slide 6 shows the fourth conflict which is the perpendicular parking. There is insufficient width to accommodate the multi-use trail extension, the traffic lane and vehicle backing. The parking in this area would need to be eliminated or significantly altered.

The fifth conflict is that this area is used as a mustering point and bus staging/turnaround area for an adjacent business.

Attempting to flip-flop the lanes to avoid the conflicts would require the pedestrian railing along the bank edge to be replaced with vehicular railing. This would be a significant expense.

Mill Street Intersection: Slide 7 shows the vehicle queuing that occurs from the traffic signal on Factory Street. This will make left turns for eastbound traffic and left turns for northbound traffic problematic. Eastbound lefts will likely cause excessive wait times, and northbound lefts could back up traffic into the Factory Street intersection disrupting Public Square and Factory Street traffic during peak hour volumes.

These conflicts would need to be mitigated prior to opening the River Walk to traffic. The abutting businesses should also be contacted regarding the parking and mustering point usage.

Encl

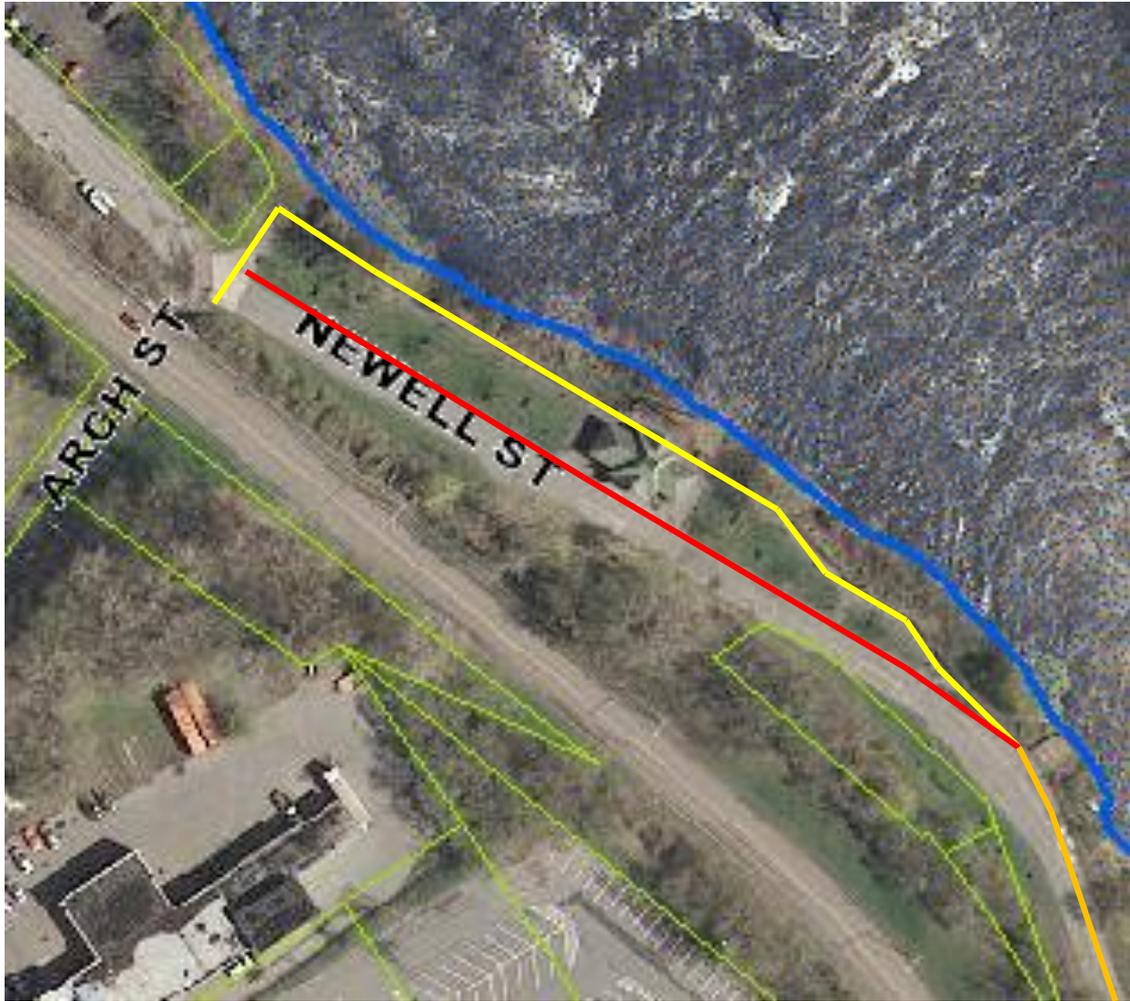
Cc:

Gene Hayes, Superintendent of Public Works  
Ken Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator  
Jim Mills, Comptroller  
Justin Wood, CE-II

Slide 1  
Newell Street River Walk  
City of Watertown



Slide 2  
West Entrance  
Newell Street River Walk



-  Pedestrian Path
-  Shared Bike/Traffic Lane
-  Multipurpose Trail

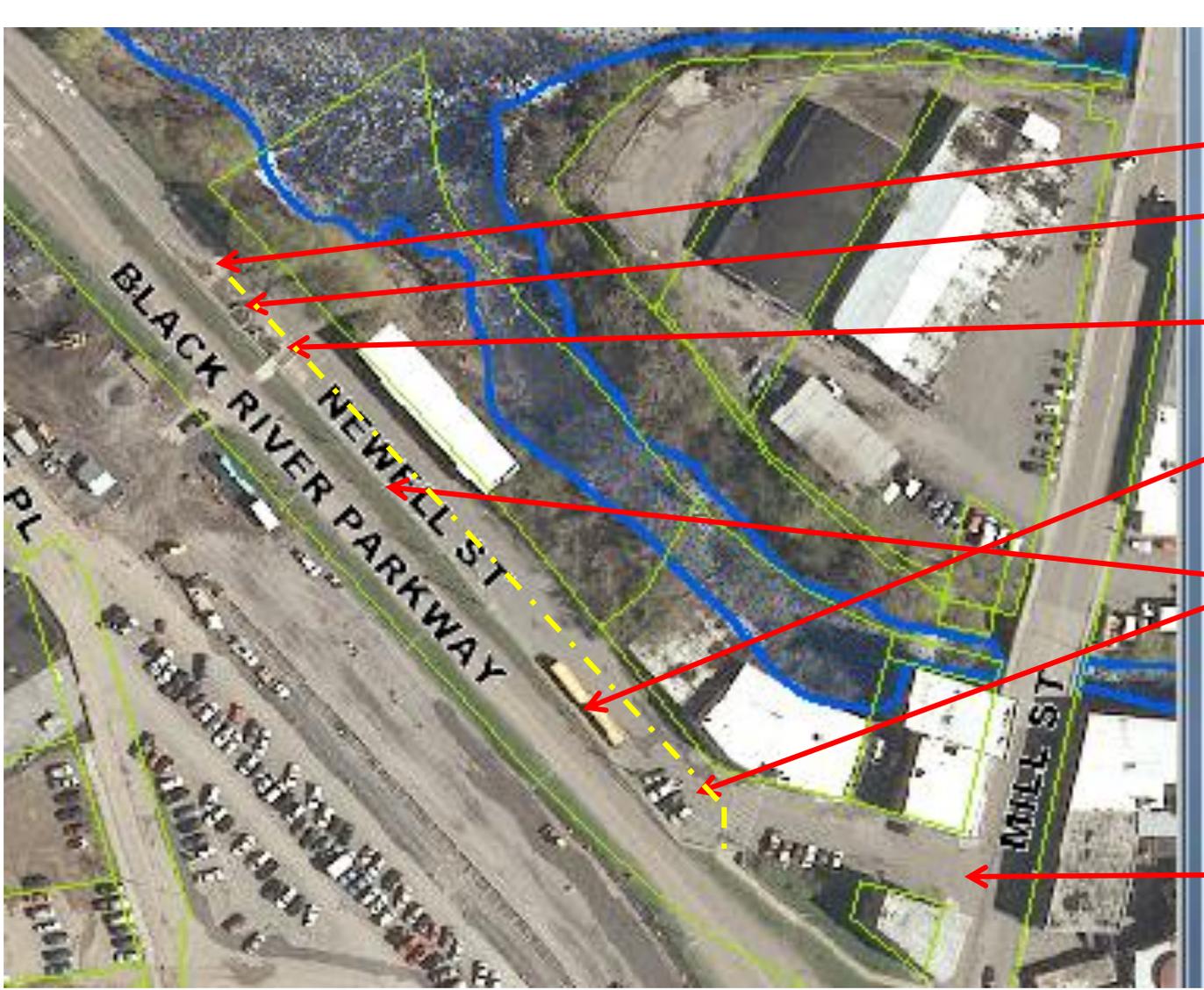
Slide 3  
West Entrance  
Newell Street River Walk



Reconfigure Intersection for  
3-way Stop

Reconfigure Crosswalk to  
meet PROWAG ADA

Slide 4  
East Entrance  
Newell Street River Walk



--- Approx. Edge of extended Multi-use trail

Curb bump-out conflict

Elevated sewer manhole conflict

Walkway steps and ADA landing area conflict

Area used for bus turnaround for local business

Perpendicular parking in conflict

Queuing traffic impact to turning vehicles

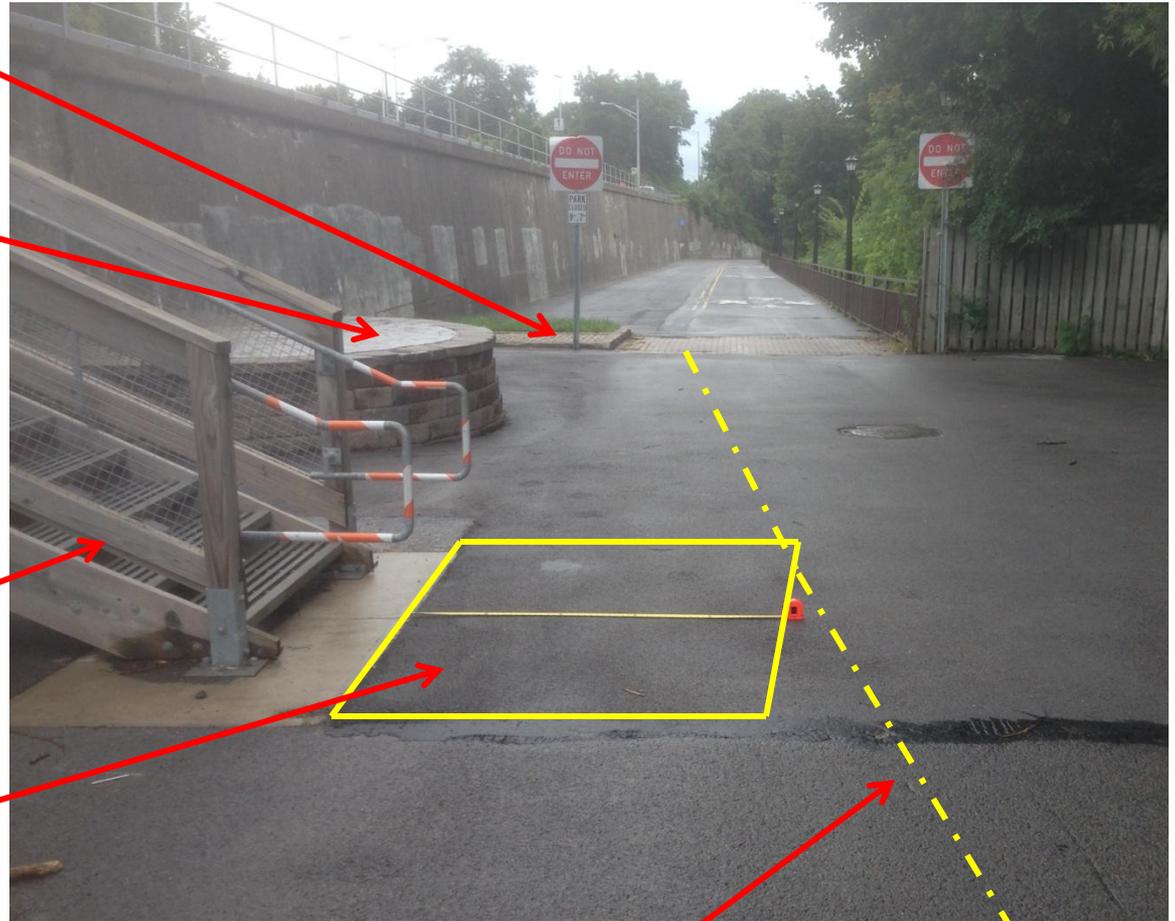
Slide 5  
Traffic Lane Conflicts  
Newell Street River Walk

Curb Bump-out conflicts  
w/ traffic lane

Elevated sewer  
manhole conflicts  
w/ traffic lane

River Walk steps conflicts w/  
traffic lane

Required ADA landing area  
for steps



Approx. edge of extended  
multi-use trail

Slide 6  
Traffic Lane Conflicts  
Newell Street River Walk



Perpendicular parking provides insufficient width for multi-use trail and travel lane with vehicle backing

Slide 7  
Traffic Lane Conflicts  
Newell Street River Walk



Queuing traffic at intersection interferes with  
eastbound left and northbound left turns

September 4, 2014

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From: Kenneth A. Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator  
Subject: Park Rules

A memo that was on the agenda for the City Council's December 16, 2013 meeting with the latest draft of the proposed Park Rules is attached. The Council did not discuss the substance of the report at that meeting, but agreed to have further discussions at a future Work Session.

Examples of signs are also attached that were drawn based upon sketches provided by Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham.

December 11, 2013

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council  
From: Kenneth A. Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator  
Subject: Park Rules

Attached is the latest draft of the proposed Park Rules. Please note the following changes made based upon the discussion at the City Council Work Session on November 12, 2013 and further thoughts by Staff:

Kostyk Field has been moved from Playgrounds to the Parks and Recreational Areas list.

Designated parking areas within Thompson Park have been listed based upon the signs in place today. The current Ordinance references a map that cannot be found.

How the closing hours are described has been changed to “no person shall enter or remain in...”, instead of stating the parks are “closed.” The new proposal allows everyone to drive through Thompson Park during the closed hours instead of just Golf Club members.

Tobacco products are restricted to designated areas within Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Kostyk Field, Marble Street Park and John Q. Adams recreation fields.

The sections on rubbish, bicycles and dogs have been deleted because they are covered by other laws.

The section on fishing was permissive so it has been eliminated.

Motorized boats may now be launched at the Route 3 Handicap Fishing and Boating Access.

We are working on sign mock-ups for City Council’s review.

Proposed Amendments to the City Code for Parks and Recreational Areas – 12/10/13

**Chapter 216: PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, AND RECREATIONAL AREAS**

**ARTICLE I General Provisions**

**§216-1. Enumeration of parks, playgrounds, and recreational areas.**

The rules set forth in this chapter apply to the following parks and recreational areas:

**PARKS AND RECREATIONAL AREAS**

Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds  
Bicentennial Park  
Factory Square Park  
Fairgrounds Trail  
John C. Thompson Park  
John Q. Adams Recreation Fields (aka North Elementary Fields)  
Kostyk Field  
Marble Street Park  
Route 3 Handicap Fishing and Boating Access  
Veterans' Memorial Riverwalk  
Waterworks Park  
Whitewater Park

**PLAYGROUNDS**

Academy Street Playground  
Emerson Place Playground  
Hamilton Street Playground  
Jefferson Street Playground  
Portage Street Playground  
Taylor Playground  
Thompson Street Playground

**§216-2. Driving and parking of vehicles.**

- A. No person shall operate any motor vehicle, as defined in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law § 125, as the same may be amended from time to time, within any park, playground, or recreational area, other than on asphalt or stone drives, unless authorized by the City Manager.
- B. No person shall operate any limited use vehicle, snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle, as defined in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §§ 121-c, 2221 or 2281, as the same may be amended from time to time, within any park, playground or recreational area.
- C. No person shall park any motor vehicle any place within a park, playground or recreational area other than in a parking lot or designated parking area, unless authorized by the City Manager.

- D. Designated parking areas in Thompson Park are:  
North side of North Tower Drive  
South side of South Tower Drive  
East side of East Tower Drive from southern edge of South Tower Drive to northern edge of North Tower Drive  
West side of West Tower Drive from the southern edge of South Tower Drive to the rock monument in front of the flag pole  
East side of West Tower Drive from North Tower Drive to Oak Walk  
South side of West Entrance Drive from Watertown Golf Club Entrance to the sand trap  
South side of West Entrance Drive from East Tower Drive to the parking lot  
Along the overlook wall on West Entrance Drive.

**§216-3. Closing hours.**

- A. No person shall enter or remain in any playground from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- B. No person shall enter or remain in any park, except John C. Thompson Park, Veterans' Memorial Riverwalk, Waterworks Park, Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Bicentennial Park, and Whitewater Park, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- C. No person shall enter or remain in John C. Thompson Park from 12 a.m. to 5 a.m., except for the purpose of driving through without stopping other than for traffic signs.
- D. No person shall enter or remain in Veterans' Memorial Riverwalk or Waterworks Park, from one hour after sunset to 6 a.m.

**§216-4. Glass containers.**

No person shall possess, deliver or use any type of glass container within any park, playground or recreational area.

**§216-5. Alcoholic beverages.**

Consumption of alcoholic beverages within any park or recreational area shall be governed by City Code Chapter 75, as the same may be amended from time to time.

**§216-6. Tobacco Products.**

- A. Use of tobacco products shall be prohibited in all playgrounds and within 100 feet of any playground structure located in a park.
- B. Tobacco products shall only be used at Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Kostyk Field, Marble Street Park, and John Q. Adams Recreation Fields within areas designated by the Superintendent of Parks & Recreation and identified by signs.

**§216-7. Open Fires.**

Open fires are prohibited, except within the confines of cooking grills, fire places, or fire pits, if provided, within any park, playground or recreational area.

**§216-8. Boats.**

Motorized boats shall not be launched from any park, except the Route 3 Handicap Fishing and Boating Access.

**§216-9. Swimming.**

Swimming is prohibited in the Black River at all parks and recreational areas.

**§216-10. Enforcement.**

This Chapter shall be enforced by the City of Watertown Police Department.

**§216-11. Penalties for offenses.**

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$250. Each day of a continued violation is a separate and distinct offense.

## Proposed Amendments to the City Code – 12/10/13

### CHAPTER 75: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

#### §75-1. Restrictions, permits.

- A. Consumption of alcoholic beverages in public places within the boundaries of the City of Watertown is prohibited unless such consumption takes place in duly licensed commercial premises which are licensed by the State of New York for the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages or unless such consumption is pursuant to a duly authorized permit of the City of Watertown. A "public place" is defined as property, either publicly or privately owned, which is used by the public for the normal transaction of everyday business or which is held open to the public for its use.
- B. The City of Watertown shall control the issuance of permits to allow consumption of alcoholic beverages as follows:
- (1) The Parks and Recreation Department or Police Department may issue a permit to consume alcoholic beverages in the following parks and recreational areas:
    - Bicentennial Park
    - Factory Square Park
    - John C. Thompson Park
    - Marble Street Park
    - Veterans' Memorial Riverwalk
    - Waterworks Park
    - Whitewater Park
    - Pavilion in J.B. Wise Parking Lot
  - (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in all other parks, playgrounds and recreational areas.
  - (3) The Police Department may issue a permit to consume alcoholic beverages in all other public places.

#### §75-2. Evidence of consumption.

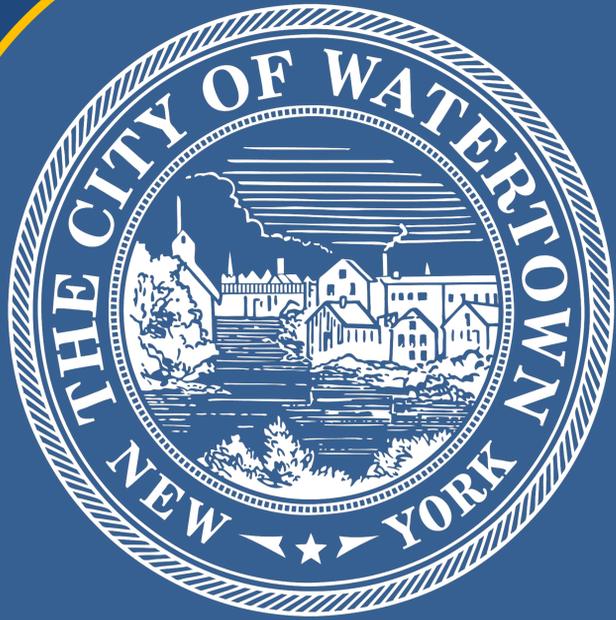
The possession of an open container of any form of intoxicating beverage shall be prima facie evidence of such consumption.

#### §75-3. Community events waiver.

The City Council may waive the requirement to obtain a permit to consume alcohol for community events.

**§75-4. Penalties for offenses.**

Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50.) nor more than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.) Each day of a continued violation is a separate and distinct offense.



Welcome To

# Veterans' Memorial Walkway

- 
- ❖ The park is open sunrise to sunset
  - ❖ Alcohol by permit only, no glass containers
  - ❖ Swimming and launching boats are prohibited
  - ❖ Please pick up and use provided trash cans
  - ❖ Park in designated areas only

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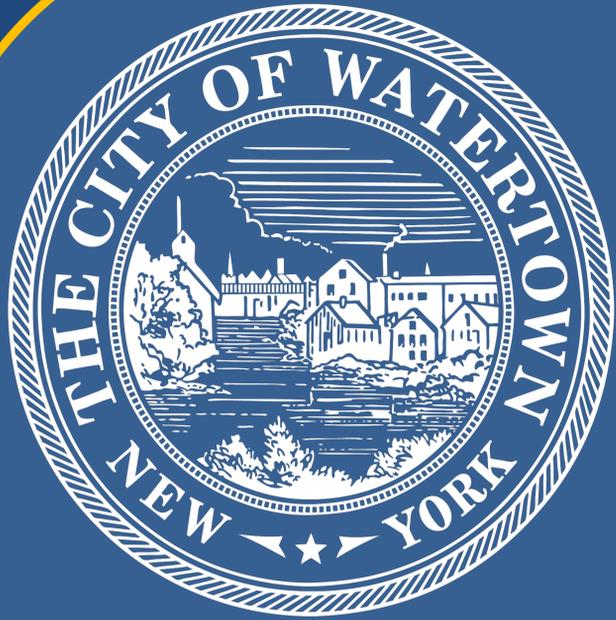
## Enjoy Your Park

Come Back Soon!

[www.watertown-ny.gov](http://www.watertown-ny.gov)

Information: 785-7775

Emergency: 911



Welcome To

# Thompson Park

- 
- ❖ Park facilities close after sunset, except by permit
  - ❖ Alcohol by permit only
  - ❖ Please park in designated areas
  - ❖ Please use provided trash cans
  - ❖ Respect other users; no unreasonable noise

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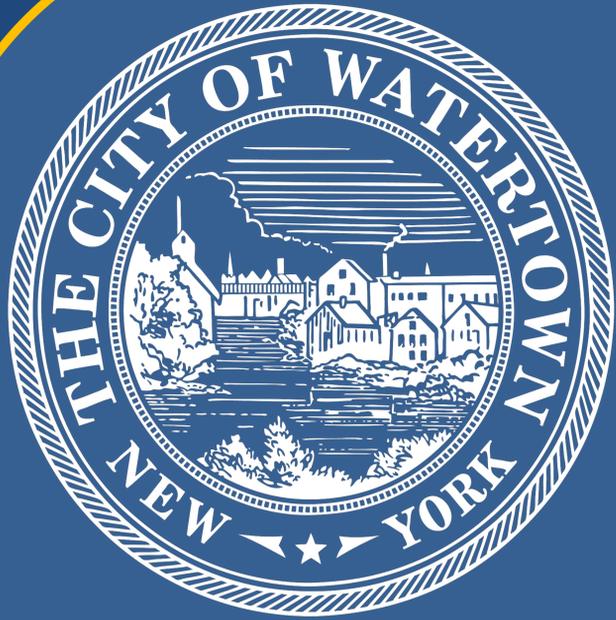
## Enjoy Your Park

Come Back Soon!

[www.watertown-ny.gov](http://www.watertown-ny.gov)

Information: 785-7775

Emergency: 911



Welcome To

# Portage Street Playground

- 
- ❖ Park hours: 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
  - ❖ No alcohol or tobacco use
  - ❖ Please keep ground clean, no glass containers
  - ❖ Respect other users

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## Enjoy Your Playground

**Come Back Soon!**

[www.watertown-ny.gov](http://www.watertown-ny.gov)

**Information: 785-7775**

**Emergency: 911**