AMENDMENT
TO THE CITY OF WATERTOWN'S
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM YEAR 2023 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
DRAFT – NOVEMBER 5, 2026

On May 1, 2023, the City Council of the City of Watertown adopted the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year (PY) 2023. The plan included various projects for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year, one of which was the Black River Trail – Final Design project in the amount of $26,350. This amendment increases the budget for that project using CDBG program income and modifies the project description.

The list of projects and their originally approved budget amounts are listed below:

Proposed Project	**Approved Budget**
Burlington Street - Street Reconstruction Project	$275,000
Northwest Target Area ADA Ramp Project Phase 3	$75,000
Northwest Target Area Tree Planting Project	$15,000
Watertown Housing Authority Sidewalk Reconstruction Project	$30,000
542 Cooper Street Demolition	$40,000
Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	$196,000
Homebuyer Program	$196,000
518 Pine Street Transitional Housing SRO Program	$25,000
Fair Housing Education	$5,000
WCSD Food for Families (Backpack) Program	$8,000
Black River Trail - Final Design	$26,350
Program Administration	$22,112
Total	**$913,462**

CDBG regulations and our Citizen Participation Plan allow some flexibility for changes in project costs as the City implements the various programs and projects. The City may increase or decrease individual budget line items by up to 25 percent without amending the Annual Action Plan. However, in the case of the Black River Trail – Final Design project, the actual cost is proposed to be $19,600 more than the original cost, which represents an approximately 74 percent increase from the originally budgeted amount. The increase in this budget line item and the modified scope necessitates an amendment.

The change is necessary to pay increased design fees associated with modifying the scope of the project to lower the projected construction cost.

Below is the revised CDBG Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan budget, following all approved revisions:

Proposed Project	**Amended Budget**
Burlington Street - Street Reconstruction Project	$275,000
Northwest Target Area ADA Ramp Project Phase 3	$75,000
Northwest Target Area Tree Planting Project	$15,000
Watertown Housing Authority Sidewalk Reconstruction Project	$30,000
542 Cooper Street Demolition	$40,000
Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	$196,000
Homebuyer Program	$196,000
518 Pine Street Transitional Housing SRO Program	$25,000
Fair Housing Education	$5,000
WCSD Food for Families (Backpack) Program	$8,000
Black River Trail - Final Design	***$45,950**
Program Administration	$22,112
Total	***$933,062**

*Includes the addition of $19,600 in Program Income.

The following is the modified description for the above identified project:

Black River Trail – Final Design:

The City of Watertown received a Transportation Alternatives Grant (TAP) grant from the NYS Department of Transportation during the 2021 Award Round (announced in 2022) to construct an extension to the Black River Trail. The new trail segment will start at the Eastern Boulevard Bridge/Marble Street Park area and will follow Marble Street to Water Street. It will then connect to and follow an old railroad bed to Sewall's Island where it will terminate at a new western trailhead. The Black River Trail – Final Design project specifically involves preparing the final design plans and specifications for the project.

Citizen Participation

The City's Community Development Block Grant Program has an adopted Citizen Participation Plan that outlines various steps that the City must take in order to engage the public in the development of our Annual Action Plans and any amendments to them. While developing this amendment to the City's Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan, the City Council is expected to schedule a public hearing on the proposed amendment for 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2026, in the City Council Chamber of City Hall.

On November 5, 2026, the city advertised in the *Watertown Daily Times* to notify the public of the public hearing date and time and to announce the start of a 30-day public comment period that will last from November 6, 2026, to December 5, 2026. The City also conducted outreach to several agencies and businesses by email notifying them of the proposed changes and made the proposed amendment available for review at City Hall in the Planning and Community Development Department, the City Clerk's Office and at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, at the Watertown Housing Authority and on our website at www.watertown-ny.gov.

Summary of Public Comments