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Madison County Wins \$1.5 million for Canal project

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Wampsville, NY – Today in Rochester, the NYS Canal Corporation and the New York Power Authority announced that a proposal by the Madison County Planning Department is the 1st place winner for the “Reimagine the Canals” Competition. Madison County Planning Department submitted a proposal called the Canalside Pocket Neighborhoods, as the winner the project will receive \$1.5 million to assist the Village of Canastota redevelop a 2.5-acre canalside parcel into a residential development.



Canalside Pocket Neighborhood team winning Reimagine the Canals competition. Courtesy: Madison County Planning Department

The “Reimagine the Canals” competition sought applications from around the world to apply to reimagine and repurpose the Erie Canal. According to New York State 145 entries were submitted, representing nine states and seven countries. Madison County’s proposal was among seven finalists.

The Canalside Pocket Neighborhood project would create canal-side pocket neighborhoods that would take advantage of the Erie Canal and its Trailway. Homes would surround a common greenspace and have direct access to the Canal. It would be walkable to shopping, restaurants and other amenities.

“This opportunity provided by the NY Power Authority and the NYS Canal Corporation has the ability to transform the way in which New Yorkers interact with the Canal,” said Scott Ingmire, Director of the Madison County Planning Department.

Jamie Kowalczyk, Assistant Director of the Madison County Planning Department said, “Madison County’s winning proposal, centered on the Canal in the Village of Canastota, aims to reimagine land use along the Canal through the development of a pocket neighborhood, which will provide mixed use living and working opportunities for a range of incomes close to downtown and with direct access and connection to the Erie Canal.”

As one of the seven finalists, Madison County received \$50,000 to move forward with Phase 2. Under Phase 2, the teams had 3 months to develop their ideas further and then resubmit them. That was done this past July. With the funds, Madison County Planning Department hired Stream Architecture out of Ithaca to design the pilot canalside pocket neighborhood in Canastota. They also hired Camoin Associates to do a housing market analysis for Canastota to help inform price points and market demand for the project. A video of the proposal can be found here <https://youtu.be/qWzd1QArpRU>.

“We want to thank our project partners Stream Collaborative, Camoin Associates, the Village of Canastota, and Julie and Derald Jayson,” said Sarah Krisch, Planner with the Madison County Planning Department.

"The Reimagine the Canals Competition is an imaginative way to bring the very best ideas together to transform our canals and reinvigorate local economies," said Madison County Chairman John Becker. "With the winners now selected, it is exciting to know that underutilized canalside spaces will get new life with these innovative proposals. I thank Governor Cuomo for providing the funding to get these projects jump-started, and for prioritizing New York's iconic canal system as we work to boost our economy and create sustainable attractions to be enjoyed by generations to come."

For more information visit: www.canals.ny.gov/reimagine/neighborhood.html.



Jamie Kowalczyk and Sarah Krisch. Courtesy: Madison County Planning Department

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