

A Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) is a land and water use plan prepared by a community, as well as the strategy to implement the plan. The Program may be comprehensive and address all issues that affect a community's entire waterfront, or it may address only the most critical issues facing a significant portion of its waterfront.

As a planning document, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a locally prepared plan for a community's developed, natural, public, and working waterfronts. It provides a comprehensive framework within which a community's vision for its waterfront can be formalized. Working in partnership with the New York State Division of Coastal Resources, a community reaches consensus on the future of its waterfront, establishes local policies, and outlines the implementation techniques it will use to achieve its vision. As a strategy, a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program provides the organizational structure, local laws, projects, and on-going work that implements the plan. This is the part of the Program that will make the difference to your waterfront - it is the implementation that matters.

Completing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program can significantly increase a community's ability to attract appropriate development that will take advantage of, but also respect, the unique cultural and natural characteristics of its waterfront. Presenting a unified vision for the waterfront also increases a community's chances to obtain public and private funding for waterfront projects. Funding to develop and implement Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs is available from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

The LWRP's 44 policies and sub-policies consider the economic, environmental, and cultural characteristics of a community's waterfront. The policies represent a balance between economic development and preservation that will permit beneficial use of and prevent adverse effects on coastal resources. They also represent the enforceable policies of the New York State Coastal Management Program for the waterfront area subject to this LWRP. The policies are comprehensive and reflect the community's concerns.

Once approved by New York State's Secretary of State, the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program forms the basis for coordinating the State and federal actions needed to achieve the community's goals for its waterfront. State permitting, funding, and direct actions must be consistent with an approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. Within coastal areas, federal agency activities are also required to be consistent with an approved Program. This "consistency" provision is a strong tool that helps ensure all government levels work in unison to build a stronger economy and a healthier environment.

The Village of Ocean Beach last adopted its LWRP in 2010. While the Village's overall character has remained mostly unchanged, several capital improvement projects following Superstorm Sandy are planned, underway, or completed – notably, the new ferry terminal, public safety building, walkway and bulkhead improvements, as well as the Army Corp of Engineers Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) Reformulation Study and associated initiatives. The ongoing update to the Ocean Beach's previously adopted LWRP will contemplate these and other key initiatives of the last decade and update the Village's policies and plans for the next 10 years.