

HISTORY AND TIMELINE OF VERPLANCK WATERFRONT PLANNING EFFORTS FROM 1990 – 2021 (TO DATE)

1990

- Formation of the Verplanck Waterfront Preservation Committee

1991

- Resident James Martin gifts the Town 26 acres of adjacent waterfront property.
- The Cortlandt Town Board votes to protect public access to Steamboat Dock.

1992

- Cortlandt Town Board allocated \$100,000 to the Steamboat project.
- The former Hudson River Boat Sales property located at the end of Broadway is acquired by the Town of Cortlandt with the aid of Scenic Hudson.

1993

- Cavendish Partnership completes first Waterfront Master Plan (Cavendish Plan).

1994

- Town Board dedicates the Town of Cortlandt Shoreline Trail.
- Steamboat Dock improvement is awarded a \$133,000 grant.

1995

- Shoreline restoration work takes place along the area of former Newman property.
- Cavendish conducts public informational hearings for the park design.

A proposed sidewalk entitled "Riverwalk" connecting Steamboat Dock to Kings Ferry road is awarded an ISTEPA Grant for \$285,000.

1996

- The upper parking area is created to the left of the Overlook allowing for parking for future events.
- Construction commenced at the Steamboat Dock (September 10, 1996)

1997

- Steamboat Dock completed and rededication ceremony is held

1998

Soil monitoring wells are installed as part of the Federal Brownfields Cleanup at the grassy area in front of the Overlook. Informational meetings open to the public are held on the Overlook, Riverwalk and Brownfields Cleanup. (Brownfields Cleanup was completed and closed by NYSDEC and the Federal Government in 2018).

1999

- Overlook construction is complete and a grand opening ceremony held.

2000

- NYSDEC completes the construction of a new fishing pier.
- Public Informational meeting is held on final Riverwalk design. Riverview Avenue becomes a “one-way” street from Kings Ferry Road to allow ample space for sidewalk/Riverwalk.
- Brownfields cleanup and monitoring continues with NYSDEC oversight.
- The Riverwalk Project is the recipient of the NYS Waterfront Re-Discovery Award.

2001

- Cleanup around clay hole is completed by Town Staff connecting the Riverwalk and for the first time in years, people can appreciate the view.
- TB authorizes the demolition of the dilapidated Campbell house at Steamboat Dock.
- Brownfields reclamation project continues with NYSDEC oversight.
- NYS approves the Riverwalk final design (7 years after project start).

2002

- Riverwalk (Riverview Avenue sidewalk) from Steamboat Dock to Lake Meahagh construction is complete.

- Broadway Streetscape plan – a multi-phased project to build sidewalks from the River to 16th Street and possibly to the Village of Buchanan is funded by a matching grant of \$520,000 (½ from the State, ½ from the Town)
- June 29, 2002 – the Marie Pritchard Pavilion is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Marie Pritchard who led the fight to preserve Steamboat Dock.

2003

- NYSDEC Brownfields monitoring continues at the Overlook.
- Kings Ferry Road/Lake Meahagh Sidewalk is awarded a grant through the Transportation Efficiency Act for a total of \$410,000.

2004

- NYSDEC determines that enhanced remediation is needed at Brownfields site near Overlook. Remediation of Grassy Area will include a geotextile fabric new soil across the entire site. (Project closed out in 2018)
- Broadway Streetscape is cut into “Phases”. Phase I to be from 5th to 8th streets, Phase II from the River to 5th and Phase III from 8th Street to 16th street.

2005

- Port-o-san installed at Steamboat Dock
- VRA website is launched

2006

- Brownfields geo-textile fabric project is begun resulting in the installation of 2 feet of new soil over the entire site.
- Patriot’s Weekend - a Revolutionary War era re-enactment is held in September at Steamboat Park including “The Crossing” a historical re-enactment of the crossing between Verplanck’s Point and Stony Point.
- TB authorizes the removal of underground storage tanks in the area of 6th & Broadway.
- Lake Meahagh Floodgate is re-designed and re-built to address concerns of flooding and to allow for construction of new sidewalk over top of the floodgate.

- Mr. Martin passes away formalizing the transfer of approximately 21 acres of waterfront property to the Town. Cortlandt creates a “Martin Staff Committee” to focus on future plans for this 21 acre area.

2007

- NYS Grant provides \$50,000 grant for “historic design” lighting at the Kings Ferry Road sidewalk
- Cleanup of the former Sturgeon Boat Club is completed by Town.
- Construction completed on Kings Ferry Road Sidewalk
- Construction in progress on Broadway Streetscape Phase I from 8th Street to 5th Street.
- Bench is installed near the Clay hole along the Riverwalk.

2008

- Historic Street Signs depicting Broadway as part of the Washington Rochambeau trail are installed in Broadway Phase I
- Installation of duratherm medallion at intersection of 6th & Broadway are completed as part of Streetscape improvements.
- Former Martin property demolition/cleanup continues at sea plane base
- \$175,000 grant is awarded to the Town for Landscape Improvements at turtle pond near the former Martin brick house

2009

- Work is begun on updating the 1993 Waterfront Master Plan.
- Additional cleanup/demolition takes place in areas formerly owned by Mr. Martin.

2010

- Construction of Emergency Services Boat Launch \$75K Grant is completed at the easterly end of the Park.
- Installation of Historic Plaques at Overlook honoring the Quadricentennial Celebration of the Hudson River and depicts Verplanck’s Revolutionary War history.
- Demolition of the former Martin Brick Building and cleanup of site

2011

- Work is conducted by Cortlandt DES to extend Steamboat Park to include the former Sturgeon Boat Club area - regraded, seeded and linking the Overlook area to the former Martin area.
- Hosted several Verplanck Enhancement Plan (VEP) Meetings with the Town Supervisor and Town Board to discuss projects in Verplanck.

2012

- Park is renamed "Cortlandt Waterfront Park".
- Veterans Memorial is created in the Cortlandt Waterfront Park
- Construction is begun on a public boat launch.
- Aviation themed playground is officially dedicated in honor of James Martin.

2013

- Eaglefest is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt. (This is an annual event ever since 2013)
- Cortlandt Community Rowing Association (CCRA) is formed and plans are begun to encourage rowing or "crewing" along the Hudson River at Cortlandt Waterfront Park and at Lake Meahagh.
- New Public Boat Launch Dedicated 5/16/13 at Cortlandt Waterfront Park
- In October A 5K Race is held by Cortlandt with the finish line at Cortlandt Waterfront Park. (This has also become an annual event at Cortlandt Waterfront Park from 2013 to current)
- CCRA signs agreement with the Town to utilize buildings on site for the storage of rowing sculls.

2014

- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- RFP for planning and design services for an update to the Verplanck Waterfront Master Plan is conducted.
- Planning and design contract awarded to I.Q. Landscape Architects

- Cortlandt Community Rowing Association (CCRA) has a Grand Opening weekend in May to encourage rowing or "crewing" at Lake Meahagh and along the Hudson River at Cortlandt Waterfront Park
- The Verplanck Nature Preserve Designs and Construction are completed in the area between Turtle Pond and the Clay hole in the area of the former Martin house.
- Town forms New Verplanck Waterfront Master Plan Advisory Committee with volunteer residents of Verplanck appointed by the Town Board.

2015

- Public Outreach Meeting is held on both Verplanck Waterfront Visioning Process and the Comprehensive Master Plan
- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- The Targeted LWRP for Verplanck is completed and available (<https://www.townofcortlandt.com/cn/webpage.cfm?TPID=14875>)
- Town launches annual Cortlandt Waterfront Park Summer Outdoor Concert and Movie Series with food trucks, live music and movies holding 6 to 8 events every summer since.

2016

- The award-winning Sustainable Master Plan is adopted by the Town including proposal for the "Waterfront Sustainability District" in Verplanck.
- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- Spectra Energy starts construction on the Cortlandt portion of the Algonquin Incremental Market project to expand segments of its high-pressure methane gas pipeline, from New Jersey through Rockland, Westchester and Putnam counties to New England.
- Town receives \$2.8 million from Spectra Energy as mitigation for the use of land for the project and uses the money for the acquisition of the 99-acre former Con Edison/Verplanck Quarry property.

- Town begins negotiations to relocate residents of the Martin Trailer Park after 10 year lease expired including hiring the Housing Action Council to assist.
- Town of Cortlandt constructs new floating boat dock at Cortlandt Waterfront Park
- Cortlandt Waterfront Park Summer Outdoor Concert and Movie Series with food trucks, live music and movies holding 6 different events continues.

2017

- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- Town releases RFP for the reuse and redevelopment of the former Verplanck Quarry property with family and neighborhood oriented recreation.
- Town begins discussions with numerous different operators looking to establish a waterpark or other forms of recreation at the former Verplanck Quarry.
- Cortlandt joins multiple riverfront communities to fight against the creation of commercial shipping anchorages in the Hudson River.
- Cortlandt Waterfront Park Summer Outdoor Concert and Movie Series with food trucks, live music and movies holding 6 different events continues.

2018

- Outdoor Waterfront Concert and Movies Series continues with food truck, live music and movies.
- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- Town receives grant funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program to develop a concept plan for a Hudson River Discovery Center at Cortlandt Waterfront Park.
- Martin Trailer Park property becomes part of Cortlandt Waterfront Park. Town makes improvements to parking area and installs picnic areas.
- The Town constructs additional improvements at Lake Meahagh Park

2019

- Cortlandt begins a Town wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP) and appoints a citizens advisory committee.
- Outdoor Waterfront Concert and Movies Series continues with food truck, live music and movies continues.
- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- CCRA receives a \$50,000 grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program to renovate one of the former sea plane hangars as a boat house.
- National Park Service establishes trail markers and information panels along the Washington-Rochambeau Trail route which passes through Montrose and Verplanck.
- Town develops and executes plan to control the excessive growth of various aquatic weeds, at Lake Meahagh

- **2020**

- COVID-19 forces many adjustments including transition to virtual public meetings and cancellation of our Annual Concert and Movie Series.
- Verplanck Residents Association reorganized with new President, Vice President and regular monthly meetings.
- Industrial Port and manufacturing facility for Windmills ("Port Cortlandt") is proposed for waterfront in Verplanck. After many hours of virtual meetings and massive resistance from Verplanck residents and surrounding neighborhoods– the application was withdrawn
- Town receives \$3.6 million Federal EDA grant for the development of infrastructure on the former Verplanck Quarry property for proposed developments of Cortlandt Pitch (indoor soccer) and Merchants Daughter (cidery). This is on the same 99 acres that the Port was proposed for.
- A bill permanently banning the establishment of new oil barge anchorages on the lower Hudson River passed in the House of Representatives defeating the anchorage proposal in the Hudson River in the areas of Verplanck/Montrose.
- Let It Shine opens a socially distanced Farmer's Market in Verplanck with plans to move to the waterfront in 2021.
- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.

2021

- Eaglefest Annual event is held at the Cortlandt Waterfront Park with co-sponsors Teatown Reservation and the Town of Cortlandt.
- VRA holds monthly meetings.
- Joint Cortlandt/Buchanan Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and Public Outreach continues.