

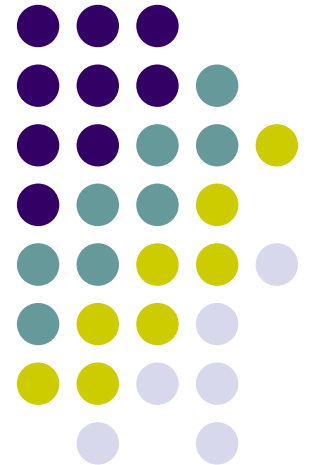
Jones Ferry River Access Center

2008 Proposed Park Improvements

**City of Holyoke
Parks and Recreation Department**

January 18, 2008

Presented to the City Council



Project Goals



- Primary Goals

- Design site and building
- Demolish existing buildings
- Construct new pre-fabricated building with adequate storage, community meeting space and ADA-compliant facilities
- Create additional riverfront green space and park amenities
- Re-build boat ramp for improved access

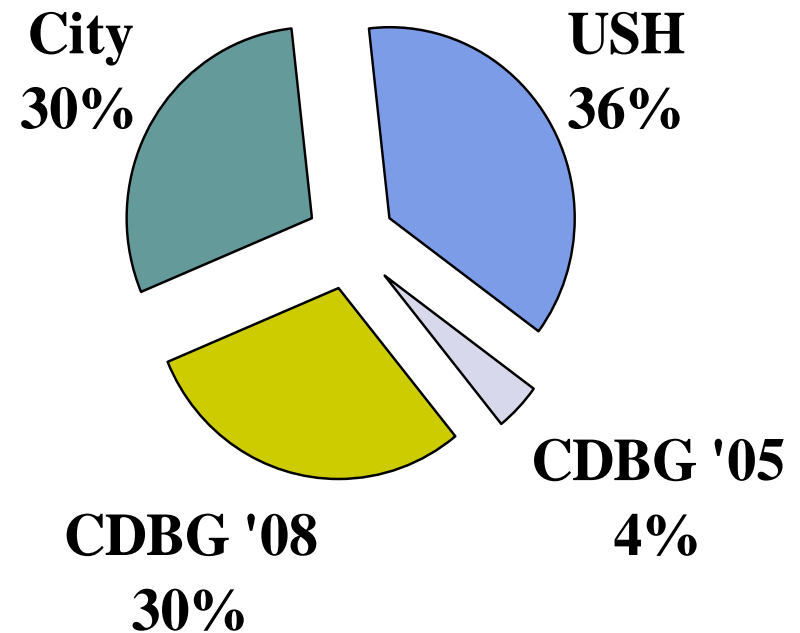
- Secondary Goals

- Increase local awareness of site availability
- Increase regional users in cooperation with HG&E campaign
- Increase tracking of user groups
- Increase revenues by space rental at new facility

Project Budget



- Total = \$1.3 million
 - \$500,000.00 from Urban Self Help Grant
 - \$400,00.00 from CDGB-FY 2008
 - \$55,000.00 from CDBG-FY 2005 for site design
 - \$400,000.00 City contribution



Urban Self Help Grant Program



- Established in 1977 by Commonwealth of Massachusetts to assist cities and towns developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.
- **Only** projects that are to be developed for ***suitable outdoor recreation purposes***, whether active or passive in nature, shall be considered for funding.
- Grants are available for the acquisition of land, and the construction, restoration, or ***rehabilitation of land for park and outdoor recreation purposes*** such as swimming pools, zoos, athletic play fields, playgrounds and game courts.
- **Access** by the general public is ***required***.
- Is a ***reimbursement program*** requiring the applicant to raise, borrow or ***appropriate the total project cost, and then be reimbursed a portion of that cost by the grant***.
- Requires a ***local investment*** and therefore only reimburses on a sliding scale to each municipality, from 52% to 70% of the total project cost up to a maximum grant limit of \$500,000.
 - ***Holyoke has a 70% reimbursement rate and received the maximum grant award of \$500,000.***
- Involves a competitive project selection system.
 - ***For FY 2008, only 21 of 46 proposed projects were selected for funding including Jones Ferry.***

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) Q&A from Linda McQuade, Deputy Director



- How much CDBG funding will the City receive next year?
 - As of this date, we have not received from HUD Holyoke's 2008 CDBG allocation. However, we do know that Congress approved a national appropriation that was 3.5% less than 2007 and that additional entitlement cities have been added to the distribution. Therefore, it can be concluded that Holyoke's CDBG amount will be somewhat less than the \$1,379,733 it received as of July 2007.
- What other projects will be competing in this category?
 - January 11, 2008 was the deadline for proposal submittals. The Jones Ferry River Access project would be vying for funds with proposals such as the Neighborhood Improvement Program, Demolition, Sidewalks, Feldman Pool, Front Street Reconstruction, and Solutions CDC.
 - Any funding to the Jones Ferry River Access Project will be part of the construction/economic development category and will not affect the public service category. The maximum allowed for public services is set by statute and cannot be increased.
- Explain the funding mechanism.
 - For the Jones Ferry Project, the estimated cost is \$1.3M. While the City Council must initially approve funding the \$1.3M, the City will need to come up with only \$900,000 as the \$400,000 CDBG will be available as of July 2008. The City would then be reimbursed \$500,000 from the USH at project completion. Net cost to the City for \$1.3M in improvements will be \$400,000.
 - The City would need to determine the mechanism for fronting the funds, through free cash, short term borrowing or bond, knowing that it will receive the \$500,000 USH reimbursement by June 2009.



Why invest in Jones Ferry?

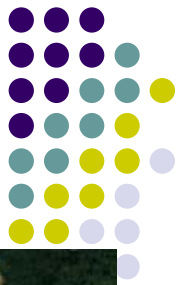
- JFRAC is a City-owned facility in need of updating, repair and enhancement.
- JFRAC is the **only** public access point to the Connecticut River in Holyoke along twelve miles of riverfront- **a community whose founding was based upon its proximity to the river.**
- JFRAC is the **only riverfront park** with river access below the Holyoke Dam to the Enfield Dam.
- JFRAC provides **unique recreational opportunities** not available anywhere else in Holyoke and limited in the Pioneer Valley- canoeing, fishing, boating, sailing, rowing, waterfront-picnicking, naturalist activities, river education- for eight months each year.
- JFRAC is a **local and regional facility** bringing users and their dollars to Holyoke and **builds on the efforts of the Department of Public Works** to clean the river through its CSO work.
- JFRAC was identified by community survey as a community **priority** for re-development in **2005 Open Space and Recreation Plan.**

Jones Ferry 2007 Use Profile

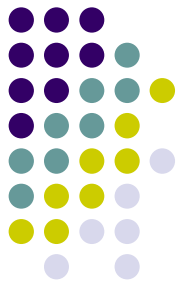


- **Holyoke Rows Rowing Program**
 - 2007- 85 adult participants in beginner or experienced programs
- **Regional High School Rowing Team**
 - 12 to 30 students/season (30% Holyoke students)
- **Annual Holyoke Cup Canoe/Kayak Race- 2005, 2006, 2007**
 - World class paddlers including several former US and Canadian team members compete over a 40K marathon course from Holyoke to Springfield and back.
 - 2007 featured 55 participants (25 out of area requiring overnight accommodations and 30 local participants)
- **Annual CT River Clean-Up at Jones Ferry**
 - 2007- 70 participants
- **Connecticut River Watershed Council Canoe Trip from Holyoke to Bondi's Island**
 - 2007- 25 canoes participated
- **Summer Programs by Trustees of Reservations, Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., etc.**
 - Serving 100 Holyoke youth for weekly summer activities
- **Springfield College**
 - Home base of collegiate crew program
- **Two open houses**
 - 70 attendees at each open house to learn about program offerings
- **Commonwealth of MA Universal Access Program**
 - 20 disabled adult athletes served by adaptive rowing/kayaking program (30% Holyoke residents)
- **Boat Ramp**
 - Available 24/7 for River access to all water craft

Holyoke Cup



Project Schedule

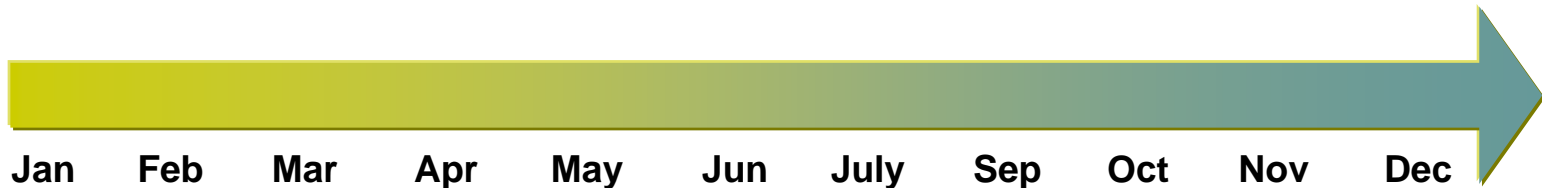


- Grant must be accepted by February 2008 or **it will be given to another community** per requirements of Urban Self-Help Program.
- Project must be completed by May 2009 per requirements of Urban Self Help Program.

**Grant Acceptance, Site Design,
And Permitting**

Demolition & Site Work

**Construction to be completed
by early winter 2009.**





Additional Information

- A community meeting was held on July 23, 2007 to seek opinions on the City's intent to request Urban Self Help funding for Jones Ferry. Attendees were overwhelmingly supportive of the application.
- Site design will begin when project funding is accepted and secured.
- Community input will be sought on the proposed design.
- JFRAC is a ***park*** which provides access to the river; it is not a marina (i.e.- no docking, fuel, repair, lifts).

Proposed Site Design



- **Sample** Pre-fabricated Building Design with Architectural Details to Enhance the Site
- Site to be designed with maximum setback from river and ample green space

