

Geneva Beach Feasibility Study Response to Comments

The following are questions and comments received in response to the “City of Geneva: Beach Feasibility Study” presentation, posted to the City website in September 2020. Responses from the project team follow each question or comment.

Question 1:

The wastewater pipe for the option 1 extends 400 feet into the lake. Pipe is pretty inexpensive, so why don't we expand the reach well past 750 of the beach bathing perimeter? For example, add another 400 feet of effluent piping.

Response: The Feasibility Study evaluated each site based on current conditions. The relocation of the discharge point was identified as a potential step to increase the feasibility of a public bathing beach at Option 1. However, based on current conditions, the shoreline falls within the 750' radius of the discharge point, creating a conflict under Department of Health guidelines.

The extension of the discharge pipe to a terminus greater than 750' distance from the beach swimming area is possible; however, it would require further evaluation, including, at a minimum: determining whether the current SPDES permit would require revisions -to be determined by consultation with NYS DEC; extending the current bathymetric survey to evaluate the extended pipe terminus and the floor of lake at that location; conducting an evaluation of prevailing currents of lake in that area; evaluating other area potential sources of nutrient loading and surface water runoff; performing a structural evaluation of the current pipe to determine whether an extension can be adequately attached so that there is no leakage at the newly created joint; and developing a cost estimate for installing a pipe extension that is of adequate length.

Costs for further evaluation, development of design documents, and installation of a pipe extension would likely cost several hundred thousand dollars and its construction would not guarantee that the bacteriological concerns raised during sampling in 2021 would be fully mitigated.

Question 2:

So where does this project go from here?

Response: After review of the Feasibility Study, the City of Geneva will make a decision regarding the viability of beach enhancements and whether to move forward with design for a public beach at either location. The City may consult with the Department of State (which funded this study) regarding project feasibility. Should the decision be made to move forward, the next step would be design development for the chosen location.

If the City chooses to further evaluate the potential for extension of the discharge pipe at Site Option1, it is highly recommended that the Publicly Owned Treatment Works engage NYS DEC regarding the potential impacts to the current SPDES permit for the Marsh Creek Discharge Location. If Site Option 1 is still

Geneva Beach Feasibility Study – Response to Comments
November 2020
Page 2 of 3

considered a viable choice following that discussion, the evaluation process identified in Response 1 is recommended.

Question 3:

Why was site 1 not expanded to 750 feet beyond the treatment outlet? The boat launch ought to be moved anyway to the new marina spot. Isn't that sound logic?

Response: Locations to be studied were identified by the City of Geneva in the Request for Proposals, consistent with the City's DRI and previous planning efforts. Relocation of existing constructed amenities was not considered as part of the study. See response to Question 1 regarding the outlet point.

Comment 1:

I wanted to make a comment regarding some suggestions about changes to “Jennings Beach” and the path to it. That little walk is one of my favorite spots in Geneva. Until the DOT no trespassing signs went up, Mr. Jennings maintained a very nice gravel path, water permeable and appropriate to the site. Seeing the lake through the natural trees and pausing at the boulders to look out on the water are great pleasures. I would be very sad to see the path covered with cement and the natural tree line cut down to “improve” the view. It is a rare spot where the public can have access to a natural shoreline.

If you make changes to make a hand launch site there, where would the boaters park? Would they carry their boats all along the path to get to the beach? The kayak launch beach already designated takes care of that need very well and is close to parking.

I would like to see Jennings Beach maintained in the way Mr Jennings has done it. It is a gem as it is.

Response: The concept for the development of a public beach at “Jennings Beach” acknowledges the use of the existing waterfront walkway for recreational purposes. However, the concept proposes upgrading the surfacing of the path to provide an accessible (ADA-compliant) route to be enjoyed by users of all abilities. In response to concerns for public safety and visibility, the concept proposes the thinning of understory vegetation to open sight lines. This initiative would prioritize maintaining healthy trees, while removing invasive species and reducing understory growth if needed to improve safety; however, care would be taken maintain shoreline stability and ecological health.

Regarding the development of a hand launch, the report acknowledges that parking does not currently exist at this location. Additionally, use the property itself would require either acquisition or an easement, as it is currently owned by NYS DOT as a right-of-way. However, if this location were development for non-motorized craft, it would provide a second access point for paddlers, who may wish to travel between this location and the existing launch, or use this area as an alternative, away from motorized boating.

Geneva Beach Feasibility Study – Response to Comments
November 2020
Page 3 of 3

Comment 2:

I have looked over the Beach Feasibility Study 2020 and have one comment. I cannot tell from the drawings, but I urge you to continue to provide a walking path all along the City of Geneva lakefront connecting to the State Park. I, and many others, use this path daily. It is a common good and irreplaceable by playgrounds, golf courses, beaches, etc.

Response: The Waterfront Activation Opportunities map (Figure 12 of the report) does make the recommendation to improve the existing waterfront trail, particularly south of the Lakefront Playground, increasing accessibility for all users, and expanding access from the Jennings Beach area to the State Park.