

Living with
Water
Community
Meeting

Nov. 14, 2017

Funding:



Cornell University

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Cornell Cooperative Extension
Broome County

Victoria Giarratano and Beth
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Office of Economic
Development Robert
Murphy

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

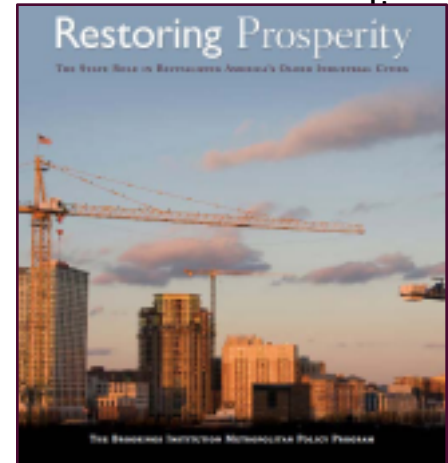
George Homsy,
Ph.D.



According to the Brookings Institute's *Restoring Prosperity* research, **New York State is home to seven cities with the potential for radical reimagining.**

They are Albany, Schenectady, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo and Binghamton, cities that up until the mid-twentieth century were engines of commerce, industry, education and

Today the collective energy, knowledge, innovation and creativity of many is needed to help shape and navigate these same cities from rust towards green and resilient futures.





university-community knowledge network engaged in
actionable community research, design and
development
fostering change from *rust to green* resilient places

launched “from the ground up”
with R2G Utica in 2010 and Binghamton in 2014

aspires toward “democratic civic engagement” model
(*with not for*)

Saltmarsh, J., Hartley, M. and P.H. Clayton (2009)

re-storying the rust belt



How do we live in a changing
world?

| Living with...



Binghamton's Rivers

Living with Water City Council 2017

Rust 2 Green Summer Scholars

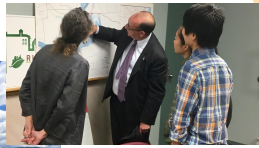
Sophia Clark

Luna Oiwa

Quan Yuan

Allison Zambito





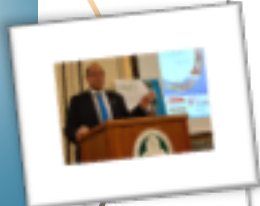
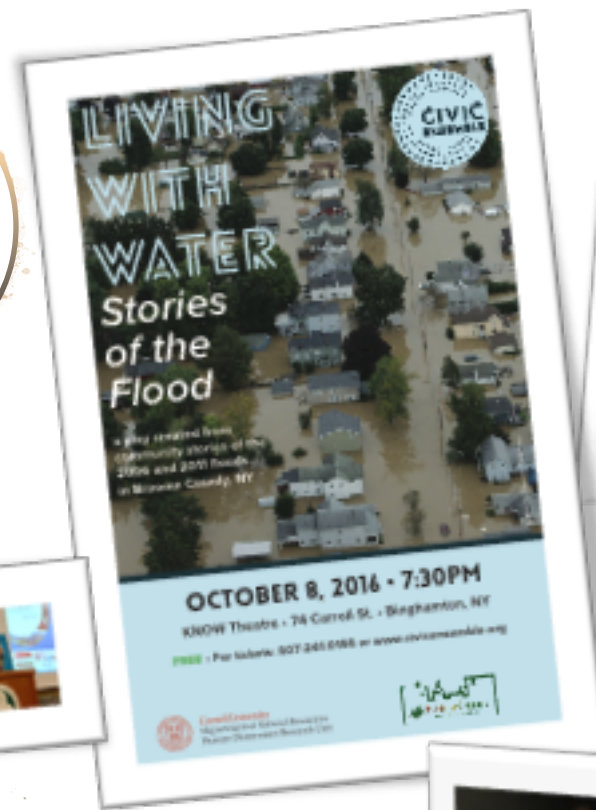
R2GB Summer Scholars at City Hall



Partnerships



Convening



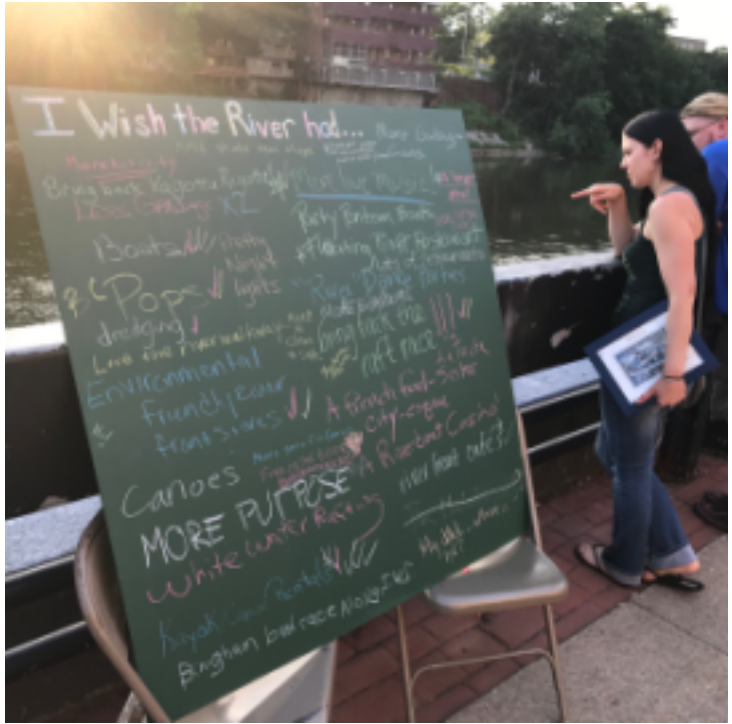
Story Circles





Placemaking in Binghamton: Live on the Waterfront

Live on the Waterfront



The River is...

Peaceful

Under-utilized

Perpetual Motion...Always

Forward

In need of clean up





Interviews

Interview Format

Intercept Interviews:

- Short interviews around 5 minutes
- Interviewees selected from people around the riverside during weekday noon and afternoon hours
- 16 Respondents

In-depth Interviews

- 30 minutes to one hour
- Interviewees selected from several contacts within the community. Includes government officials, business owners, and community leaders.
- 20 respondents



Themes: Flooding

“ We live near a river, and everywhere that has rivers now floods. I mean, it's just a reality of our life.” - Binghamton Water Enthusiast

“I had the run-in with the water, Chenango overflow, and you we've got a flood, couple of times, but otherwise that was all. But I do like to have the rivers. I think it does something to the community, have it come through like it does.”

- Binghamton Resident



Theme: Safety

“The thing with the Susquehanna River, what got me is the history, the stories that I used to hear. How people were drowning in there and firemen had went down...”

~ Binghamton Resident



Themes: Underutilization

“I mean this river's absolutely underutilized for this area. You can take a look at other markets that have made great use of their rivers. Pittsburgh area is a great example...Other cities have made great use of their rivers. This city has not.” - Binghamton Community Leader

“And there's nothing now. It's tough for youngsters, I feel sorry for them. Like graduates from college, there's nothing here for them.” - Binghamton Resident



Theme: Access and Visibility

“I think you can put in a boating access. But other things might be more difficult just because there are regulations around.”

~ Binghamton Resident



Theme: Beauty

“I think that it’s beautiful. I think the fact that we have the confluence of the two rivers is unique, and I think it's also kind of serene. There's just something about being near the water that I think most people are drawn to and I think it just gives you a sense of calm.” - Binghamton Resident



The impact and reception of river events



Possibilities for sustainable economic development



- Small-group events
- Whitewater course
- Map of access points
- Water quality information sources
- Bring business to waterfront
- Reduce costs to promote private investment
- Develop parks and facilities
- Boat and kayak rentals
- Improve signage and safety
- Appeal to college-age residents
- Ask around for unique assets





The Survey

1. Crandall and Edwards
2. Laurel Ave
3. Duke Street
4. Bigelow Street
5. Woodburn Court

Survey Questions

River Usage

- Description
- Importance of rivers
- Accessibility and current use
- Asset or not
- Suggestions for future use

River Quality

- Perceived concerns: litter, chemicals, flooding, sewage plant, etc.
- Deterrents from use
- Water quality information sources

Binghamton City

- Downtown area frequency of visit and perceived safety
- Place attachment and character





Conclusions and Questions

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Visit our Website!

www.rust2greenbinghamton.com

Thank You!

