

# The Future of Kingston's Waterfront

December 13, 2005

*Concerns:*

## #3 Natural Resources

**Last chance to comment:**

Please write (by 1/17/06) to  
Mr. Lee Molyneux, Planning  
Board Chair  
Kingston City Hall, 420 Broadway  
Kingston, NY 12401

## Save Natural Resources on Waterfront to Create World-Class Development

*Nesting pair of federally protected bald eagles could be threatened*

**Developer's Plan:** To build 2,182 housing units and additional commercial development on Kingston's waterfront, AVR Realty would disrupt a wide array of natural resources. Although formerly industrial, the site is home to forests, wetlands, and numerous government-protected species – including a pair of bald eagles who nest on the opposite shore. The developer's plan to remove vegetation and topsoil to make way for buildings, roads and other impervious surfaces will damage natural resources that could benefit the project and community.

**Reality Check:** Friends of Kingston Waterfront (FoKW) has asked the City of Kingston Planning Board to revise the developer's plans. We urge the planning board to protect critical habitat while allowing development in less sensitive areas. The request is backed by data and maps created by Scenic Hudson and FoKW during a year-long investigation using methods endorsed by leading scientific organizations such as Hudsonia and the New York State Natural Heritage Program. In addition, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has written to the developer requesting more details on how the project would impact the eagles and a protected bat species.

*for Research Findings see back page*

**9 species at proposed site qualify for state and federal protections, including:**

- **THREATENED**  
(Federal List)  
bald eagle (active nest listed directly across river from site)
- **ENDANGERED**  
(Federal List)  
shortnose sturgeon (off shore)
- **SPECIAL CONCERN**  
(State List)  
least bittern

### Info:

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Visit us on line at [www.FriendsofKingstonWaterfront.org](http://www.FriendsofKingstonWaterfront.org) or [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org).

Prepared by Scenic Hudson for Friends of Kingston Waterfront



# Quotes

***“Healthy ecosystems make for healthy people. Treating these biological resources properly is very important to the continued revitalization of Kingston’s Rondout and Hudson River waterfront.”***

–Jeanne Gural, habitat restoration specialist with Scenic Hudson

***“Preserving critical environmental resources...will enhance property values, enrich quality of life...and make this project more of an attraction for visitors.”***

–Gregg Swanzey, executive director for Hudson River Sloop Clearwater

***“Progressive cities are figuring out that natural assets are as critical to economic success as cultural and financial ones are.***

–Melissa Everett, executive director of Sustainable Hudson Valley

## Federal- and State-listed species that could be threatened during development



Least Bittern  
STATE LIST –  
SPECIAL CONCERN ANIMALS



Frank's Sedge  
STATE LIST –  
ENDANGERED



Bald Eagle  
FEDERAL LIST –  
THREATENED

Shortnose Sturgeon  
FEDERAL LIST –  
ENDANGERED



For ECOLOGICAL MAPS go to:  
[FriendsofKingstonWaterfront.org/maps.htm](http://FriendsofKingstonWaterfront.org/maps.htm)

*Continued from front:*

**Research findings:** Special natural characteristics of the property include:

- Approximately 106 acres of healthy, mature forest and approximately 132 acres of secondary forest.
- Nearly 37 acres of diverse wetlands include areas that support wildlife.
- Submerged aquatic vegetation in the Hudson adjacent to the site provides a functioning nursery for several native fish species and offer habitat for water fowl.
- Turtles and other wildlife rely on the property for nesting and food foraging.