

HIGHLAND COMMUNITY PARK DESIGN WORKSHOP

September 27, 2011

ENVIRONMENT



COMMUNITY



RECREATION



- Introduction

Thomas DeSantis, Senior Planner, City of Niagara Falls

- Opening Remarks

Mayor Paul Dyster

- Summary of Master Plan

James W. Pitts, J.W. Pitts Planning & Development

- Community Meeting Agenda

Edward Watts, AIA, Watts Architecture & Engineering, P.C.

- Breakout into 3 Work Groups

Brainstorming and Park Design

- Refreshments

- Work Group Presentations

Next Community Meeting:
Mid-November, 2011

for more information:

Alan Nusbaum,

Department of Planning

716.286.4462



**People &
Possibilities Inc.**

WATTS
ARCHITECTURE &
ENGINEERING, P.C.



Honeywell

Public hearing will discuss transforming Tract II site into park

**By Mark Scheer
Niagara Gazette**

NIAGARA FALLS — A portion of a North End brownfields site the city has been attempting to reclaim for years would be turned into a new recreation area under plans to be discussed during a public meeting today.

City officials and consultants who have been working on an effort to revive the so-called Tract II industrial site off Highland Avenue will host a community input session to give residents the chance to offer their input on the park proposal. The meeting will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Doris W. Jones Family Resource Center, 3001 Ninth St.

“We’re actually getting pretty close to seeing things happening on the Tract II and Power City sites,” said Mayor Paul Dyster, who is scheduled to kick off the discussion with an overview of the park plan. “We’ve been talking about this for a long time and now it’s getting to the point where we are going to see some things changing.”

Located at the corner of Highland and Beech avenues, the Tract II parcel was formerly home to the manufacturing firm, Moore Business Forms. It is now in line for a large-scale environmental cleanup project that state officials say could cost in excess of \$12 million. Soil samples taken by the state Department of Environmental Conservation last year revealed hazardous levels of lead contamination in nearly half of the waste and fill materials found on the property.

The DEC has previously indicated that wastes present on the eastern portion of the site were likely associated with the former manufacturing activities at the adjacent Power City Warehouse property. The wastes include plastic battery casings and other granular fill materials. The DEC has said that once the materials are removed, the area would be suitable for recreational and commercial use.

Re-use will require remediation and the price tag for the DEC’s proposed cleanup has raised questions about how such a project will be funded. Dyster said it appears as though progress is being made on that front as the project partners continue talks with representatives from Honeywell International Inc., a company identified by the DEC as a “potentially responsible party.”

“We’ve been in discussion with Honeywell for some time now and we are very encouraged by what we’ve heard from them,” Dyster said.

Tonight’s meeting is part of an ongoing effort to gather public input on the redevelopment of the property. The meeting will be led by representatives from Watts Architecture and Engineering. James Pitts, head of J.W. Pitts Planning and Development, LLC, one of the consultants involved in the Tract II planning process, will be on hand to provide a summary of the work that has been done to date. As part of the



Plans for the vacant brownfield at the corner of Highland Avenue and Beech Avenue will be discussed during a public meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Doris W. Jones Resource Center, 3001 Ninth St. Dan Cappellazzo

meeting, residents will be asked to offer their thoughts on conceptual designs and components for the proposed park based on general themes, including recreation, community and environment. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"It's important for the Highland Community to come together and continue to make progress happen," said Pitts, whose firm has been working with the University at Buffalo's Center for Urban Studies and the environmental firm, Pan-American Environmental, to develop a plan for the eventual re-use of the property.

Niagara Gazette 310 Niagara Street Niagara Falls, NY 14302

JOIN US:
**HELP DESIGN A NEW PARK FOR
THE HIGHLAND COMMUNITY**

**Tuesday, September 27
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
Doris Jones Family Resource Center
3001 Ninth Street
Niagara Falls, NY**

The City of Niagara Falls is hosting a community meeting to gather your ideas and input for the design of a new park for the Tract II site in the Highland Community.

Speakers/facilitators will include Mayor Paul Dyster, James Pitts, and Watts Architecture and Engineering, which will facilitate the meeting.

Themes for breakout sessions will include:

- Recreation – a park as an amenity for supporting a healthy lifestyle
- Community – integrating the park into the neighborhood
- Environment – connecting the community to nature

All Highland Community residents are encouraged to attend.

Light refreshments will be provided. Doors open at 5:30 P.M. Please contact Alan Nusbaum in the city's Department of Planning at 716.286.4462 if you have any questions.



Honeywell

