RIVERSPACE - Nyack High School
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Site History: Riverspace was once home to Cinema East, a single screen movie theater, once the largest in Rockland County. In 1996, it became known under the new owners as the Helen Hayes Performing Arts Center. In 2006, the Friends of the Nyacks and Riverspace Arts take control. In 2011, a flash flood dumps seven feet of water into the building. The flood prone area has been struggling to find tenants ever since. Revamping this area will greatly increase its social and economic impact on Nyack in general.

Site Plan:

Climate Smart & Water Smart Initiatives

Permeable pavement in the parking lots will reduce a lot of runoff. Along with this, planting vegetation along the daylighted river and the lower portion of the building will reduce chances of erosion and flooding. All while adding an aesthetic appeal. Since the largest building’s lower section is prone to flooding, adding these features will reduce flooding as well as acidic runoff.

Note the new daylighted river and vegetation, as well as the permeable pavement to reduce flooding and increase this area’s appeal.

How do you see it?

Project Summary: We plan to connect the community by daylighting the river and adding green spaces and other features to the area. By choosing to daylight the river we create jobs and generate tourism. Our space also includes aspects to reduce flooding in this flood prone area, allowing for businesses within the area to grow.

Making connections

This project will keep all of bus transportation services already offered in the Riverspace parking lots. This will allow all people to come visit Nyack, and have easy access to other parts of New York. Besides the bussing, the renovations will make this area a landmark for people to visit and meet at.

Social opportunities, business & service features

The daylighted river will allow for people to come together in this area as it provides an aesthetic appeal. More people will come to the Farmer’s Market, increasing local taxes and tourism.

Working with stakeholders/community groups:

The M&T Charitable Foundation supports community projects that promote environmental sustainability and community involvement. They would be a great stakeholder because the M&T Bank is located within this area that we are redeveloping, and the project would directly benefit their business. We would also attempt to partner with the other businesses in the area and the Historical Society.