

ERIE CANAL HARBOR DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

# Buffalo Outer Harbor Phase II

Buffalo, New York



*From top: Map of areas that will see improvements, credit: Erie Canal Harbor Development Corp; Aerial view of Outer Harbor Area today, credit: Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape Architects, LLP*

Located in the “Outer Harbor” section of Buffalo’s waterfront, this phase of the Buffalo Outer Harbor project encompasses over 165 acres along the Lake Erie shoreline within a protected harbor, formed by an outer break wall built in the late 19th century. Historically, the Outer Harbor provided deep water port facilities and industrial uses, but the site has been vacant for decades. The site now includes areas where pioneer vegetation has volunteered, attracting birds and other wildlife.

Community engagement resulted in the preservation of this area’s habitat potential, including the recreation of naturalized ecologies, with recreational and interpretive elements integrated

*A large-scale creation of new ecologies on a formerly industrial lakefront site offers an ever-increasingly rich, biodiverse setting for outdoor enjoyment.*

into enhanced habitats. The proposed improvements include a visitor hub, bike path extension, recreational spaces, overlook/art installations, a bike park, signage, a large event space, and a flexible, multi-use space on the Michigan Avenue Pier. The Phase II Environmental Site Assessment was used to characterize environmental conditions in the key areas where improvements are proposed.

Biohabitats provided habitat recreation/restoration and living infrastructure support services as a sub-consultant to Trowbridge Wolf Michaels Landscape Architects. A detailed ecological assessment was performed for the portion of the site with regenerated vegetation, including vascular plant and insect inventories and analysis with regard to system quality, plant community description, and species rarity. Services also

included evaluating aquatic habitat restoration alternatives. Restoration priorities, implementation strategies, cost/budgeting information, and habitat potential for various elements were provided to help the team evolve the concept and inform the community engagement process. The concept plan was formally adopted, and Biohabitats will be providing continued ecological support as part of the TWM team for detailed design and construction of the next phases of capital improvements, including habitat restoration and the integration of green infrastructure elements into access, gathering, and interpretive features.

## SERVICES

Engage  
Assess  
Plan  
Evolve  
Regenerate



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