



### The Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative has been created to:

- Develop the economic strength of neighborhoods, the community, and the region;
- Extend direct access to our waterfront from Riverside to South Buffalo and everywhere in between;
- Revitalize our waterfront neighborhoods and connect them to the water;
- Protect and repair the health of our water, land, and wildlife along the waterfront; and
- Create a magnificent International Gateway at and around the Peace Bridge.
- Make a better waterfront transportation corridor – for the sake of the waterfront and transportation.

SPECIAL THANK YOU to the following, whose generous donations support the Buffalo Waterfront Conference:

- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- American Planning Association of Western New York
- Nussbaumer & Clarke

## About the Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative.

Buffalonians have been dreaming, thinking, talking and planning about recapturing our beautiful waterfront for decades.

The time is ripe for action now.

The Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative is an action program to organize for change on our waterfront starting right now.

The goals of the program are based on bedrock values that Buffalonians cherish – a prosperous economy, strong communities, and a healthy environment.

The Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative is not a planning exercise. Rather, it will offer a way to resurrect all of the good ideas and hard work that have gone into twenty years of planning and translate them into action – now.

The Initiative has already begun with a review of waterfront plans over the past two decades and more. Careful analysis of more than 120 different plans and nearly 700 project proposals has revealed a strong community vision for waterfront accessibility, environmental quality, economic development, and transportation quality.



THE TIME IS RIPE FOR ACTION NOW.

The myriad waterfront stakeholders, public agencies, and the general public are being asked to review and prioritize goals and viable projects for Buffalo's waterfront – including at the May 17 conference.

Later this year, the priority projects will be turned over to those agencies – public and private – that have the ability to get those things done.

An Implementation Council made up of the leadership of those agencies will meet regularly to solve problems, hold each other accountable, and turn plans into reality.

Lucy A. Cook of the Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning manages a project team that includes Wendel Duchscherer Architects and Engineers, PC ([www.wd-ae.com](http://www.wd-ae.com)) and The Urban Design Project ([www.urbandesignproject.org](http://www.urbandesignproject.org)) in the University at Buffalo's School of Architecture and Planning. Ms. Cook can be reached at 851-5077 or via email [lcook@city-buffalo.com](mailto:lcook@city-buffalo.com).

The Waterfront Corridor Initiative is funded by the City of Buffalo and the Federal Highway Administration, with support from the New York State Department of Transportation.

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## Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative



[www.city-buffalo.com](http://www.city-buffalo.com)

“The City of Buffalo grew up from its waterfront. We need to reconnect with our waterfront to grow again.”

Anthony M. Masiello

### Mayor to Address Buffalo Waterfront Conference

Mayor Anthony M. Masiello will outline the citizens' vision for the Buffalo waterfront at the second annual Buffalo Waterfront Conference, Saturday May 17th at The Pier on Fuhrmann Boulevard.

The Mayor will be joined by Rep. Jack Quinn, County Executive Joel A. Giambra, and New York State Assembly member Brian Higgins to update the public on waterfront development and to hear citizen comments on priorities for the future.

David Karem, Executive Director of the Louisville, KY Waterfront Development Corporation will be guest speaker. Karem, also the dean of the Kentucky State Senate, will talk about two decades of work that have resulted in a magnificent new riverfront park in Louisville.

Mayor Masiello's presentation of the citizens' vision for the Buffalo waterfront will draw deeply on decades



of citizen activism and public action to make our river and lakefronts more accessible, safer, more wholesome, and more economically productive.

The Mayor's vision also acknowledges that Buffalo's waterfront includes one of its most vital transportation corridors. Making a better waterfront must take into consideration Buffalo's transportation needs – and vice versa.

Part of the conference will give participants an opportunity to review, critique, and prioritize both the goals of Buffalo's waterfront program and specific projects and proposals now being developed.

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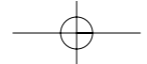
### Nine Key Projects Moving Ahead

Participants in the Buffalo Waterfront Conference will also hear a further update on nine ongoing waterfront development projects from Congressman Jack Quinn.

The keystone **Erie Canal Harbor** project is back on track with construction continuing on the new Naval Basin and Veterans Park. New funding agreements for the reconstruction and restoration of the historic Commercial Slip and construction of a transit plaza, waterfront esplanade, and maritime facilities are also in place. Public information meetings are planned for this fall and full completion is projected for 2006 or 2007.

The **Buffalo Intermodal Transportation Center** will integrate a new Amtrak station with Metro-Rail,

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## Mayor to Address Buffalo Waterfront Conference *(continued from page 1)*

### Conference Registration

To attend the conference visit the City of Buffalo website: [www.city-buffalo.com](http://www.city-buffalo.com) or call 851-5040 no later than May 12.

These citizen perspectives will help inform work toward the completion of Buffalo's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (See page three) and the work of the Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative as it focuses on implementation of ready projects (more on page four).

The conference will also feature displays – photographs, drawings, maps and information – on dozens of projects planned or currently in development from South Buffalo to Riverside and everywhere in between.

These displays will become part of a Buffalo Waterfront Showcase to be housed in City Hall as a way of providing updated information on waterfront progress to citizens and visitors alike.

The conference is sponsored by the City of Buffalo with support from The Buffalo Niagara Partnership, the American Planning Association of Western New York, the Friends of the Buffalo Niagara Rivers, the Urban Design Project, Wendel Duchscherer, and Nussbaumer & Clarke.

To register, visit the City of Buffalo website ([www.city-buffalo.com](http://www.city-buffalo.com)) or call 851-5040 no later than May 12. There is a \$20 charge for the conference to cover the cost of lunch and other expenses. Financial assistance is available. ■

## Nine key projects moving ahead *(continued from page 1)*

Erie Canal Harbor access, Riverwalk and Greenway Trail system. Funding has been identified but design is on hold pending resolution of plans for the Urban Entertainment Project (see next).

Developers have been selected for creation of an **Urban Entertainment Project** at sites including Memorial Auditorium, the Donovan Building, the Webster Block, DL&W Terminal, and Erie Canal Harbor. The concept is to create a retail, entertainment and tourist destination on Buffalo's downtown waterfront.

Preliminary work on a **Waterfront Parking Ramp** has been completed, financing has been identified, and construction expected to start in fall 2004. The ramp will serve all of the visitor destinations on the downtown waterfront as well as to provide additional parking for downtown offices.

The much-revised **Southtowns Connector** project will re-engineer the Outer Harbor transportation system including the reconfiguration of Route 5/Fuhrmann Boulevard, reconstruction of Ohio Street, and construction of new arterial connector from I-190 to Tiftt Street. Public hearings will be held later this year, with the final design in 2004, and start of construction in 2005, contingent on funding.

Construction will begin this summer on the **Union Ship Canal** urban office and light industrial park – Buffalo's premier "brownfields" redevelopment project. The 200-acre development will provide a much-needed urban alternative to suburban office



and industrial locations. Environmental remediation on the site is complete.

The **Greenway Trail** to link the downtown waterfront at the DL&W Terminal with the Outer Harbor via Ohio Street may begin construction as early as this fall, pending approval of a federal grant application. The project will incorporate elements of a long-proposed Industrial Heritage trail.

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority hopes to start construction in fall 2003 on its **Outer Harbor Greenbelt** project – an effort to cap "brown-field" land and stabilize the Lake Erie shoreline between The Pier restaurant and the Bell Slip. The project will make possible public access possible along the Greenway Trail.

Erie County, the City of Buffalo and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are moving forward with a collaborative project to remake **Times Beach** as a public wildlife sanctuary. The Corps is working to confine disposed wastes and restore the ecosystem. The County is responsible for constructing new access facilities to the site. A feasibility study is being completed, to be followed by design and construction. ■

## LWRP will Guide Development on Buffalo Waterfront

In partnership with the NYS Division of Coastal Resources, the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning is working to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). A LWRP is a locally prepared, comprehensive land and water use plan for a community's coastal resources including its natural, public, and working waterfronts. It provides a comprehensive framework within which critical coastal issues can be addressed. The LWRP will serve as the waterfront component of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

The LWRP is composed of an inventory of existing conditions, policy statements about the use and management of the City's waterfront resources, a land use plan, a list of projects and an implementation strategy. To date, the City of Buffalo has prepared an inventory of waterfront resources, draft waterfront policies and an analysis of waterfront planning over the past 20 years and beyond.

Through the Buffalo Waterfront Conference and other public outreach efforts this spring, the City will develop a waterfront land use plan and list of projects for implementation. Over the summer, the City will outline an implementation program designed to turn LWRP visions into reality.

The City's adoption of the LWRP will bring the following benefits:

- **Clear direction** – The LWRP reflects community consensus regarding use of its waterfront. As such, it can significantly increase a community's ability to attract appropriate development that will both take best advantage of and respect the unique cultural and natural characteristics of its waterfront.
- **State and federal consistency** – State and federal permitting, funding, and direct actions must be consistent with



an approved LWRP. This "consistency" provision is a strong tool that helps ensure all government levels work in unison to build a stronger economy and a healthier waterfront environment.

- **Financial assistance** – An LWRP presents a unified vision for the waterfront. Therefore, it increases a community's chances to obtain public and private funding for waterfront projects. Funding for both the development and implementation of Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs is available from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.
- **Technical assistance** – The LWRP establishes a long-term partnership between local government and the state, providing a source of technical assistance to prepare and implement a Local Program. ■

