



Written Comments for Buffalo Planning Board - January 16, 2018

21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor, Inc. is a “**public parkland advocacy group**” for the Outer Harbor of Buffalo.

It was formed in 2011 to advocate for a park for public use, to connect our city, our Olmsted Park System, our neighborhoods and the Niagara River Greenway to our waterfront on Lake Erie, which is the southern anchor of the Greenway.

(We are also a member of the Our Outer Harbor Coalition.)

Our comments are regarding ECHDC’s plan for the Outer Harbor south of the Bell Slip to the terminals.

- Our group is pleased with the following features and changes made by ECHDC and their responsiveness to our requests:
 - the extension of the greenbelt pedestrian/bike path
 - the large event space was moved so the terminals could be a staging area for large events
 - the visitor center will no longer be adjacent to the sensitive environmental area near the Bell Slip
 - the plan respects and enhances habitat areas
 - the plan offers a variety of areas for healthy exercise. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranks Buffalo **last of all the cities in NYS in terms of health outcomes including life expectancy**.. The opportunity for greater access to healthy outdoor space is a vital quality of life issue that the Outer Harbor can deliver.

-an aspect of the plan we are opposed to is the **Mountain Bike Track**. We question the appropriateness of placing it on prime waterfront land when other locations would be more suitable;

-we question the rigorous nature of mountain bike riding and the possibility of exposing contaminants when the soil is disturbed. But if the track must be located on the waterfront, we recommend it be reduced in size so dangerous, conflicting intersections can be minimized and more and be available for nature trails.

-we also suggest that liability issues for this usage be examined by the appropriate legal departments.

- **The Outer Harbor is too important a project to develop without an overall master plan..** Over the past 7 years, part of the Outer Harbor has been developed into Wilkeson Pointe, the Buffalo Harbor State Park and now the acreage near the Terminals is planned for....**but an overall master plan still does not exist.** We strongly recommend that a master plan be developed for the remaining 62 acres between the Bell Slip and the Michigan Avenue Pier, and that this plan also coordinates and integrates everything from the State Park to the Lighthouse and the First Buffalo Marina and everything in between.
- In closing, we ask for a **transparent and public process in planning the remaining sections of the Outer Harbor.**

Thank you.

Joanne Kahn, Co-Chair
Joanne.kahn@icloud.com
885-4855

and Joan Bozer, Co-Chair
jkbozer@gmail.com
861-1639