

OUR OUTER HARBOR

Coalition www.ourouterharbor.org

MONDAY OCTOBER 29, 2018

For Immediate Release

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The **Our Outer Harbor Coalition** will be hosting two events on Monday, October 29, 2018

-The organization will be holding a **public meeting** from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm at **Buffalo Riverworks**, 359 Ganson Street, Buffalo to discuss progress on Outer Harbor development strategies and to help inform the public regarding the upcoming Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) upcoming public meeting on November 19, 2018.

-The organization will hold a **press conference** at 10 am at Buffalo **Riverworks**, 359 Ganson Street Buffalo, NY, to release an extensive report that it commissioned on the cultural significance of the Outer Harbor. The report titled **The Buffalo New York Outer Harbor as a Cultural Landscape** has been completed by kta preservation specialists.

It details and creates an overview of how the Buffalo Outer Harbor region, once a pristine wetland area, has been developed and used by people, including industry, commerce, recreation, and shoreline modification.

Cultural Landscape Report

The Our Outer Harbor Coalition is pleased to announce the completion and release of an extensive report that it commissioned regarding the cultural significance of the Outer Harbor. The report titled **The Buffalo New York Outer Harbor as a Cultural Landscape**, has been completed by **kta preservation specialists**. The report details and creates an overview of how the Buffalo Outer Harbor region, once a pristine wetland area, has been developed and used by people, including industry, commerce, recreation, and shoreline modification. Speakers will include NYS Assemblyman Sean Ryan and Jessie Fisher of Preservation Buffalo Niagara.

Find the Complete Cultural Landscape report here: <https://goo.gl/cm4oY4> or by going to our website www.ourouterharbor.org.

Assemblyman Sean Ryan said “The Outer Harbor is one of our regions greatest assets and the Cultural Landscape Report will help us identify and define appropriate development opportunities that will allow the Outer harbor to be enjoyed by generations to come. I’m pleased that the Our Outer Harbor Coalition commissioned

this report and I'm excited to see how it will help us develop the cultural and natural heritage of the Outer Harbor.

Jessie Fisher, executive director of Preservation Buffalo Niagara says "This is a fundamental assessment of the historic and important region that we recognize today as Buffalo's Outer Harbor. It will help our communities define appropriate development here with a profound cultural historic and nature oriented perspective."

Lynda Schneekloth of the Western New York Environmental Alliance says that this report outlines, in one place, the importance of the Buffalo Outer Harbor to the history of this region. The report articulates the depth of the cultural legacy of this area and compliments the extraordinary natural heritage of this single place along Lake Erie. We need to know the importance of our place to inform our choices in the future ranging from habitat and natural restoration to climate resiliency.

Our Outer Harbor Public Meeting, Riverworks October 29 5:30-7:30 pm

The Our Outer Harbor Coalition coalesced in response to a 2014 development agenda and plan released by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC). They had proposed new residential and commercial neighborhoods throughout the Outer Harbor starting at the Coast Guard Station. The groups that joined the Our Outer Harbor Coalition protested and worked together to resist making public property at this location into private development. The initially planned private development would have included condos and construction limiting public access to shorelines and green spaces along Lake Erie for the public, that we are able to enjoy today.

We are pleased to report that the wide ranging citizen outcry demanding more public input into decisions, and led by the OOH coalition has been heard. Now, the Our Outer Harbor Coalition is been working with the Erie Canal Development Corporation, other state agencies, elected officials, and the public to promote a more park environment to include habitat, recreation, and public use. During the past several months, the ECHDC has been engaging the citizens of our region, including the Our Outer Harbor Coalition, as they make new plans for the development and preservation of the Outer Harbor. ECHDC has announced plans that include an upcoming public meeting that will be held on November 19 at a time and place to be announced by ECHDC In preparation for that meeting and to provide the public with updates about a number of initiatives, the Our Outer Harbor Coalition will be hosting a community meeting, **TONIGHT**, Monday October 29, 2018 at 5:30-7:30 pm at Riverworks at 359 Ganson Street in Buffalo.

Sam Magavern of the Partnership for the Public Good, and the Niagara River Greenway Commission says: We are extremely pleased that we have the opportunities to make connections between people, recreation, nature and critical places that uplift the citizens of our region. Now it is important to alert everyone to the fact that ECHDC is in its final decision making process to creating a master plan, and that people have to be prepared to come to the ECHDC public meeting on November 19.

Jay Burney of the Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve and the Pollinator Conservation Association says: Since our initial concerns that inappropriate development would do a great deal of harm to the Times Beach Nature Preserve the state and citizens have found ways to work together to insure that the ecological sanctity of the Outer Harbor is considered and conserved. We are very pleased that we have found ways to work together and expect the Outer Harbor to become one of the most important economic generators for our region.

Margaret Wooster of the Our Outer Harbor Coalition says:

“It is fundamentally important to understand the relationships between economic strength, clean water, ecology, and climate resiliency. The Buffalo Outer Harbor is in so many ways ground zero for development and decision making that will make our region thrive for our own and for future generations.

The Our Outer Harbor Coalition consists of many individuals and organizations including:

Buffalo Waterkeeper; the Western New York Environmental Alliance; Partnership for the Public Good; the Sierra Club; League of Women Voters; Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo; Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve; Pollinator Conservation Association; Trout Unlimited; Erie County Federation of Sportsmen’s Clubs; Designing to Live Sustainably; 21st Century Park Outer Harbor; Preservation Buffalo Niagara.

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