



*A Proposal to develop*

# *A Waterfront Community Center*

*On the Buffalo Waterfront*



# The Center For Community Water Sports®

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## Executive Summary

We propose to build and operate a community water sports facility in Buffalo on the Outer Harbor. It will become the center of activity for all boating and water related activities offered to the general public as opposed to the gated and locked harbors only for the use of private boat owners. It will offer training and rental or charter opportunities. It will be a waterfront facility for area schools, public service organizations, youth organizations, veterans' organizations, and anyone else who wants to participate. It will be fully equipped to serve the needs of the physically and developmentally challenged and will put special emphasis on motivating and enabling them to participate to the fullest extent possible.

The Buffalo waterfront is a major asset for Western New York. It's past history and fragmented development has left the region with no single place where people can go to enjoy, learn, and participate in the various activities the lake, the river, and the shoreline has to offer.

There are many parks and waterfront vistas but there is no *one area site* that relates to water sports and maritime related activities that is accessible for use by the general public.



The area needs a professionally designed, properly equipped, safe yet exciting place on the waterfront to serve children, youth, families, and the general public. This waterfront project will also enhance tourism based on fishing, sailing, boating, and other water sports as well as offering first class teaching and exhibit space focusing on the maritime traditions with an emphasis on creating an accessible experience for all.

Requests from volunteer and public service groups, as well as an overwhelming response to pilot programs, suggests a multi stage development program.



**Phase I**, will put the site to good use immediately. A mobile shallow water dock along with the dozen or so beach boats, dinghies, jet skis, kayaks etc. will allow us to offer several programs on an immediate basis. The improvements would all be temporary until the proper long term planning and review process can be completed.

**Phase II** will be a comprehensive new facility specifically designed for the program needs of all the various organizations and activities resident at the facility, and for the widest possible use by the public.

We propose the facility be publicly owned and operated by the Great Lakes Water Sport Institute, (a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with particular expertise in marine and water sport activities), and guided by a board of advisors representing a wide range of community, civic, educational, and recreational interests. This business model is typical of many successful similar programs around the country.



The plan has been enthusiastically endorsed by many groups that hope to use the facility and the collaborative nature of the project makes it a winner for everyone, particularly the general public.



There are numerous successful community centers in Buffalo but none focus on activities related to the lake and the waterfront. We hope to bring this treasure to everyone, not just the privileged few.

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