



21st Century Park

O U T E R H A R B O R

Web: 21stCenturyPark.org

Facebook: [21stCenturyParkontheOuterHarbor](https://www.facebook.com/21stCenturyParkontheOuterHarbor)

April 20, 2016

Dinash Lal, Chief of Staff
Common Council Central Office
1413 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202

RE: Draft Green Code Comments on the Outer Harbor

Honorable Members of the Buffalo Common Council:

21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor, Inc. has reviewed the draft Green Code and have suggestions that we feel will best protect and preserve the approximately 150 acres between Times Beach and the Terminals on Buffalo's Outer Harbor (hereafter referred to as "Outer Harbor"). Our goal is to see this public land retained for public use as a unique active and passive regional, recreational and environmental water-related park for the residents of our city and tourists to enjoy.

The Outer Harbor is our last opportunity to enhance Frederick Law Olmsted's legacy and vision of connecting a lakefront park to South Park and the Olmsted park system. **We strongly recommend going beyond Green Code considerations and formally designating this site as "parkland" to provide it with additional protection under law, similar to our Olmsted parks.**

Due to state ownership of this land, the New York State Legislature may pass legislation to officially designate the Outer Harbor as "parkland" for these protections to exist. **We recommend that the Buffalo Common Council introduce a resolution in support of "parkland" designation to demonstrate united community support to our New York State leaders.**

While we work towards the goals stated above, we have the following recommendations for the existing draft Green Code:

1. We support the League of Women Voters' request for an extension of time to address the concerns raised at the last public hearing.
2. We strongly advocate that only 8-10% or less of the Outer Harbor be eligible for building cover and pavement. The suggested zoning of the Draft Green Code allows for up to 50% of this land to be covered, which is far too great for an area of this size.

3. We suggest a sliding scale formula be established so that smaller parks that include community centers are allowed a greater percentage for buildings whereas larger park areas like the Outer Harbor be restricted to less.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

The Board of 21st Century Park on the Outer Harbor, Inc.

Submitted by:

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