

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED  
BY LEGISLATOR MAZUR**

**RE: Supporting the Development of a Feasibility Plan for the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Park on the Outer Harbor”**

WHEREAS, the Niagara River Greenway represents our community’s best opportunity to create a signature regional attraction showcasing Western New York as a progressive, exciting place to live and to work; and

WHEREAS, the organization “21<sup>st</sup> Century Park on the Outer Harbor Inc.” has proposed a 135 acre Outer Harbor Park, which would become the southern anchor of the Niagara River Greenway, embracing Buffalo’s greatest natural resource – Lake Erie; and

WHEREAS, creating an enticing amenity on the waterfront for residents and tourists alike would assist in workforce retention and recruitment by greatly enhancing the quality of life land place in the Buffalo Niagara region; and

WHEREAS, public investment in infrastructure such as parks creates value by exponentially increasing the value of all surrounding real estate, as seen in the cities of Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Toronto, New York City and our very own Queen City of the Lake – Buffalo – by way of the emerald necklace created by the Olmsted Parks and Parkway System; and

WHEREAS, since cultural, eco- and heritage tourism are the fastest growing sectors of the tourism industry, we would be able to strategically tap into the eight million visitors that are attracted to our region’s greatest natural magnet – Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, these visitors would extend their stays to take in other natural attractions in Buffalo and along the Lake Erie shoreline; and

WHEREAS, the Greenway encourages connections, with the proposed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Park serving as a vital link in the 50 miles of greenways, bikeways and waterways from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie and beyond, and would finally connect Frederick Law Olmsted’s unparalleled park system to Lake Erie as he first envisioned in 1888; and

WHEREAS, at that time, City of Buffalo leaders opted to use the lakefront site Olmsted originally selected for South Park for industry instead of public access and asked Olmsted to redesign and relocate South Park further inland, where it remains to this day; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Park would showcase Frederick Law Olmsted’s timeless design and sustainability principles as well as examples of the innovative design concepts he planned for the original South Park, which were never implemented; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Park would be dedicated to Olmsted’s magnificent landscapes on the Niagara Frontier, including the Buffalo Olmsted Parks and Parkway System

and Niagara Falls Reservation State Park, another creation of this renowned landscape architect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature support the efforts of "21<sup>st</sup> Century Park on the Outer Harbor Inc" in developing a feasibility plan for the Outer Harbor; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the plan will determine the economic viability of creating a major, modern recreational park on the approximately 135 acres of land currently owned by the NFTA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Park could become the centerpiece of a comprehensive plan for the Outer Harbor that places public access first and foremost among all considerations and could become the southern anchor for the Niagara River Greenway; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby authorized to forward certified copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew Cuomo, County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Mayor Byron Brown, Sam Hoyt (Regional President of Empire State Development Corporation); Howard Zemsky (Chair of the NFTA Board of Commissioners); Robert Gioia (Chair of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation) Thomas Dee (President of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation), the WNY Delegation to the State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: None for resolution.