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MEMORANDUM

COUNTY OF ERIE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

TO: Involved and Interested Agencies

City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning
City of Buffalo Department of Public Works
City of Buffalo Sewer Authority
City of Buffalo Building Department
US Army Corps of Engineers
NYS Department of Transportation
NYS Department of State
NYS Department of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
NYS Department of Environmental Restoration, Region 9
NYS Canal Corporation
Northwest Community Center
ERIE County legislature

EE

FROM: Maria Whyte, Commissioner

M. Whyte

DATE: January 23, 2012

SUBJECT: Black Rock Canal Park Improvements

Please find attached the Negative Declaration, Notice of Determination of Non-Significance for the propose improvement project at the Black Rock Canal Park, aka Ontario Street Boat Launch.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Pawenski at 858-2950 or Mark Rountree at 858-80008.

Cc: Tom Dearing
Chris Pawenski
Mark Rountree
Troy Schnizel

3D-8

MW/cp

NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act - SEQRA) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, as SEQRA Lead Agency has determined that the proposed action described below will not have a significant effect on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Name of Action: Black Rock Canal Park Improvements which consist of Entry Road Sign and Road and Turnaround Improvements.

SEQR Status: Unlisted Action. Consistent with SEQRA regulations, this action has been defined as an Unlisted Action. This project has been reviewed through the Coordinated Review requirements of SEQRA. SEQRA Lead Agency solicitation by the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning initiated November 10, 2011 and concluded December 12, 2011. Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and sponsor application circulated to interested and involved agencies at time of Lead Agency solicitation. Interested/involved agencies agreed that the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning should serve as Lead Agency for this action. The Erie County Department of Environment and Planning assumed Lead Agency status December 12, 2011. No adverse environmental impacts were identified through the SEQRA review process.

Description of Action: The action involves Black Rock Canal Park Improvements which entail the following improvements:

The improvements to Black Rock Canal Park will be comprised of the following work:

1) Entry Road Sign - the park only has one access point which is Aqua Lane (also known as Black Rock Harbor) at the intersection of Niagara Street (Route 266) and Ontario Street. Curbing, asphalt sidewalk and limited grass area exist along the Aqua Lane entrance. This portion of the project consists of installing a monument gateway sign near Niagara Street.

2) Road and Turnaround - a majority of the park consists of a long roadway adjacent to the Niagara River. The roadway currently allows for parking, fishing and scenic walks along an asphalt sidewalk that overlooks the river. The roadway also allows continuation of a bike trail that exists throughout the City of Buffalo and Niagara region. This portion of the project consists of removing the existing asphalt roadway and parking areas. A narrower road with defined parking spaces, street trees, decorative plantings, park lighting and a turnaround area will be constructed. In addition to the road being narrowed, it will also be shortened. This will allow for more green and recreational areas for visitors. A ten foot wide asphalt bike path will also be constructed.

Location: Black Rock Canal Park (Parcel ID 77.72-1-1.1) is located in the northwest area of the City of Buffalo, adjacent to the Niagara River off of Aqua Lane to the west of Niagara Street.

Reasons Supporting this Determination:

1. **Impact on Land and Agricultural Resources:** Proposed project will not negatively impact land and agricultural resources within the area. Project is located in a dense urban environment and will involve enhancement of an existing recreational resource.
2. **Impact on Water:**
Proposed project will improve drainage on site by reducing the amount of paved surface.

Removed pavement will be replaced with landscaping and additional green space. This will result in less water runoff into the Niagara River.

- 3. Impacts on vegetation or fauna, fish, shellfish or wildlife species, significant habitats or threatened or endangered species.** Proposed project will have no impacts on the above listed items. Proposed removal of paved surfaces will result in less water runoff, reducing the amount of pollutants entering into the Niagara River.
- 4. Impacts on Archaeological and Historic Resources:** Proposed project will not impact any archaeologically sensitive areas and/or historic resources.
- 5. Impacts on Transportation:** Proposed project will result in the reduction of overall asphalt, however, this will not impact overall parking on the site as parking is currently not defined. Parking spaces will be defined with new striping that is currently missing from the existing site. In addition, a new multi-use paved path will be built to separate pedestrians and bicyclists from vehicular traffic along the park road.
- 6. Noise and Odor Impacts:** Proposed project will not adversely impact noise or air quality in or around the site.
- 7. Impact On Public Health:** Proposed project will not have any impacts on public health. Site is served by City water and sewer.
- 8. Impact on Growth and Character of the Community:** Proposed project will not impact the growth of the community. The enhancements will positively impact the character of the community by upgrading and enhancing a recreational resource that is frequently used by residents and visitors from surrounding areas.

For Further Information:

Contact Persons: Mark Rountree, Planner
Erie County Department of Environment & Planning
95 Franklin St., Room 1007
Buffalo, NY 14202
Phone: (716) 858-8008
Fax: (716) 858-7248