

UTICA

HARBOR POINT



Becoming Build Ready



Utica's Harbor Point comprises more than 100 acres of waterfront real estate uniquely situated around the City's historic harbor, between the Mohawk River and Erie Canal. The City of Utica and the Utica Harbor Point Development Corporation (UHPDC) are advancing the transformation of this underutilized former industrial area into a year-round destination for residents and tourists. As part of this process, the UHPDC has completed a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) for the Utica Harbor Point Master Plan, as a means of advancing the project for redevelopment.

www.uticaharborpoint.org



Harbor Point Master Plan



This document was prepared for the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund Act.

What is a GEIS?

The primary goal of the GEIS is to evaluate potentially significant adverse impacts related to the implementation of the Utica Harbor Master Plan. The Draft GEIS also considers a range of reasonable alternatives and mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts.

Why do we need it?

A GEIS is integral to informed decision-making and planning for success. Typically, each developer would be responsible for conducting its own surveys and research that has been completed through the GEIS process. By completing a GEIS, the UHPDC has improved the project's build-ready status and compiled information necessary to promote and guide the fulfillment of project objectives.

What did we learn?

The Draft GEIS findings are promising. The information and data gathered and evaluated in support of the Draft GEIS will be used by developers to design a project, which will: (1) not adversely impact the environment, and (2) result in positive, long-term community and economic benefits. The following table illustrates key findings of the Draft GEIS process.

| Topic | Key Findings |
|---|--|
| Zoning, Land Use, Public Policy & Community Character | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is consistent with the City's previously prepared community plans. Special permits are necessary for proposed recreational uses. |
| Community Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will increase demand for services, but will result in expanded and enhanced passive and active recreational opportunities. |
| Geology, Soils & Topography | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts are primarily limited to construction phases and can be mitigated through implementation of standard construction safeguards. Importation of fill material will be necessary to infill the NYS Canal Corporation's Dredged Spoil Containment Area. |
| Natural Resources (Plants & Animals) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impacts on endangered/threatened species, critical habitats or critical environmental areas are anticipated. |
| Groundwater & Surface Water Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation will be required to minimize sedimentation impacts during reconstruction of the harbor walls. Stormwater management facilities will be required to mitigate stormwater runoff due to an increase in impervious surfaces. Wetlands will be avoided to the extent possible; permits will be required for work within water bodies (including wetlands). |
| Flooding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development is proposed in the floodway. Development within the 100-year floodplain will adhere to regulatory requirements and will not significantly affect the 100-year flood elevation. |
| Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient infrastructure capacities exist to support the project. |
| Traffic & Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed road and access improvements will mitigate for anticipated increases in traffic to and from the project area. |
| Air Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term dust impacts during construction will be mitigated through implementation of dust control measures. |
| Noise, Odor & Light | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant adverse noise and odor impacts are anticipated. Special events will operate within permit requirements. Lighting will be "dark sky" compliant. |
| Socioeconomic Conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will create full-time jobs and tax revenues. |
| Cultural Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modifications to facilities within the Barge Canal Historic District will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office. |
| Visual Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will create beneficial vistas of the City skyline. |
| Hazardous Materials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project sponsors will continue to coordinate with the NYSDEC, National Grid and the NYS Canal Corporation regarding ongoing remediation and use restrictions. |
| Solid Waste Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will generate solid waste (and recyclables), which will be managed off-site in accordance with applicable regulations. |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term construction impacts will be managed through the implementation of standard construction safeguards. |



Where do we go from here?

Through the end of 2015, the Draft GEIS will be finalized and the resulting Final GEIS will be utilized by the City and other involved agencies to make the important decisions. To review the full Draft GEIS or submit feedback, visit uticaharborpoint.org.

What is the Harbor Point Redevelopment Project?

In 2013, the City of Utica began a planning and design process to redevelop the City's inner harbor. Led by the Utica Harbor Point Development Corporation (UHPDC), in collaboration with City staff, private property owners, state agencies, and City residents, a Harbor Point Master Plan was developed. The plan calls for creating a mixed-use destination attraction for Utica that enhances the existing waters' edge with public and private investments. The plan realizes the goals defined in the City's Master Plan (2011), as well as those identified in the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Study (2014) and the Local Waterfront Access Plan (2011).

Questions? Comments?

Go to uticaharborpoint.org or contact City of Utica Department of Urban & Economic Development Commissioner Brian Thomas at (315) 792-0181 or bthomas@cityofutica.com.