

Harbor Beach Water Enhancement Project Description

The Waterfront Enhancement Project is multifaceted involving the property and bottomlands that once housed a United States Coast Guard Station. The project calls for the improvement of a drive to allow vehicle access to parking adjacent to a newly constructed 540 foot pier jetting out into Lake Huron. The drive and parking will be paved. Running parallel to the drive will be a section of the Harbor View Trail, 1,240 feet in length. This section of the path will be 10 feet wide and will also be paved. The pier will be 12 feet wide and constructed of steel beams spanning concrete piers and covered with wooden dock planks. Guard railings will be installed on the sides of the pier. The drive, path extension, parking area, and pier will be illuminated with LED lights. A kayak putout will be established next to the pier. The pier and kayak launch will be connected to the Harbor View Trail and parking areas by sidewalks. Trash receptacles, recycling bins, benches, way finding, and interpretive signage will be incorporated in this project. Trees and grass will be planted long side the drive and trail. Other landscaping, along with shore protection will be incorporated in the project.

A separate project will take place at the same location of the Waterfront Enhancement Project. This project's focus will be to restore two old United States Coast Guard structures. One being a garage and the other the cupola off the top of the old Coast Guard Station. The garage will serve as a museum of sorts for historic maritime artifacts, a classroom and meeting place, and the base for the Lighthouse Preservation Society. The cupola will be preserved as a historic structure. The public will have access to this structure to view the lake from an elevated platform. This is not part of the Waterfront Enhancement Project, but it is important to understand the scope of the project in relation to the plans for the entire site. The garage will have restroom facilities which will also compliment the Waterfront Enhancement Project.

The entire project will take careful consideration to universal design. LED lighting will be used to light the trail, drive, parking area, and pier to optimize energy usage. The parking area next to the Harbor View Trail and the Water Trail will provide additional access to each trail.

The Waterfront Enhancement Project will be constructed in a fashion to protect the environment. The banks of the shoreline will be cleaned up, unsightly brush removed, and rip rap and native vegetation will be placed along the banks to restore its natural look. This extension to the Harbor View Trail running out on a peninsula in close proximity to the shoreline and the pier extending into Lake Huron will increase opportunities for the enjoyment of the waterfront and Lake Huron.

Kayaking in the area has gained in popularity in the past several years. The kayak putout will allow public access for those wishing to kayak along the shores of Lake Huron, while the harbor provides a square mile of protected water for those wishing to venture not too far from shore.

In conjunction with the Noble Odyssey Foundation, the project will provide individuals opportunities to learn to dive. This will open an entire new area for recreational activity and natural resource access including but not limited to: lake access below the surface; bird watching from the path and pier; fishing from the pier, kayak or boat; and scuba diving in the harbor or further out in the lake.

The Waterfront Enhancement Project and the Coast Guard building restoration projects represent a potential \$750,000 investment in the City of Harbor Beach.