



**Erie Canal Harbor  
Development  
Corporation**



**For Immediate Release:** May 27, 2016

**Contact:**

Pamm Lent (Governor's Office) | [pamm.lent@esd.ny.gov](mailto:pamm.lent@esd.ny.gov) | (716) 846-8309 | (800) 260-7313  
Laura Magee (ESD/ECHDC) | [laura.magee@esd.ny.gov](mailto:laura.magee@esd.ny.gov) | (716) 846-8239 | (800) 260-7313

## **ECHDC Announces 2016 Season and New Outer Harbor Landing for Queen City Bike Ferry**

Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) today announced the kick off of the 2016 season for the Queen City Bike Ferry, which now has a brand new landing site on Buffalo's Outer Harbor. The \$825,000 landing on property (2 Fuhrmann Boulevard) owned by the New York State Power Authority (NYPA) is designed to improve the pedestrian-bicycle trail system along the waterfront, providing a direct link to the water's edge, rest area for riders and enhanced experience. ([see picture here](#))

"The Queen City Bike Ferry is a success because it was well planned for from the very beginning," said ECHDC Chairman Robert Gioia. "The design of the new landing was underway before anyone even knew there would be more than 50,000 riders jumping aboard. Thanks to the ECHDC team taking the lead, the new landing will make the adventure of exploring the waterfront even more enjoyable."

Designed by DiDonato Associates and built by Pinto Construction Services, Inc., the new landing replaced a group of existing boat docks and installed amenities to permit the expanded Queen City Bike Ferry service. Also, a paved pedestrian pathway was created, which extends from the water's edge through a landscaped waiting area, and terminates at Fuhrmann Boulevard. Additional site amenities and aesthetic features include signage, benches, planters, accessory structures. ([see picture here](#))

"The bike ferry provides easy transportation from Canalside to the Outer Harbor and NYPA is proud to be a part of this revitalization," said NYPA Chairman John R. Koelmel. "Now the entire ferry ride experience has been enhanced with the completion of a landing that offers another beautiful spot to relax and appreciate the transformation of Buffalo's waterfront."

NYPA funded the project as a result of relicensing agreements tied to the Niagara Power Project.

The Queen City Bike Ferry begins its 2016 season with hopes of breaking last year's record of more than 50,000 riders. Passengers will again board the 50 foot vessel from the Commercial Slip dock at Canalside. The ferry will then carry passengers and bikes across the Buffalo River to the new landing. The actual trip takes about seven minutes. The cost to travel on the ferry is \$1.00 per person each way. Dogs can travel for free but must be on a leash. The Queen City Bike Ferry is operated by the Hilliman family.

"The ferry experience just got a whole lot nicer with the addition of the beautiful landing on the other side of the river," said Captain Rich Hilliman of the Queen City Bike Ferry. "The landing makes it easy for people to get on and off the ferry and provides a relaxing place to enjoy the waterfront while waiting to catch a ride to Canalside."

**Queen City Bike Ferry Schedule (Beginning May 27):**

Monday-Friday	Noon to 8 p.m.
Weekends	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Once passengers disembark at the landing they will have easy access to Wilkeson Pointe, Bell Slip, Buffalo Harbor State Park, Times Beach, Buffalo Lighthouse and a variety of new activities being offered this year by the Outer Harbor Management Group. ([see calendar of events here](#)). Don't worry if you don't have a bike, rentals are available on both sides of the Buffalo River at Canalside and Wilkeson Pointe.

"The new Outer Harbor landing is now the gateway to all of the new activities at the Outer Harbor," said Jonathan Dandes, President, Rich baseball Operations. "Whether you want to kayak, play volleyball, ride around the beautiful trails or relax and enjoy a beverage at 'The Pointe' concession area at Wilkeson Pointe, the Bike Ferry provides a unique and entertaining way to take in all the Outer Harbor has to offer!"

For more information on the Queen City Bike Ferry please visit <http://www.queencityferry.com>.

**About Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation**

The ECHDC is governed by a nine-member board consisting of seven voting directors and two non-voting, ex-officio directors. The seven voting directors are recommended by the New York State Governor and are appointed by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development as sole shareholder of ECHDC. The two nonvoting, ex-officio director positions are held by the Erie County Executive and the City of Buffalo Mayor.

As a subsidiary of Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation supports and promotes the creation of infrastructure and public activities at Canalside, the Ohio Street corridor and the Outer Harbor that is attracting critical mass, private investment and enhance the enjoyment of the waterfront for residents and tourists in Western New York. Its vision is to revitalize Western New York's waterfront and restore economic growth to Buffalo based on the region's legacy of pride, urban significance and natural beauty. For more information on ECHDC, visit [www.eriecanalharbor.com](http://www.eriecanalharbor.com).

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