Harbor District Presentation to the Brownfield Study Group
May 17, 2018
The Harbor District

- 1,000 acres
- 9 miles of waterfront
- Port of Milwaukee
- MMSD
- UWM School of Freshwater Sciences

Locations:
- Walker’s Point
- Bay View
- Third Ward
- Walker Square
- Mitchell Street
- Lincoln Village
1870s
A PLAN FOR A 21ST CENTURY WORKING WATERFRONT

As Milwaukee began to focus on its opportunities as a freshwater hub, people began to think about the opportunities in the Harbor District:

- A "catalytic project" in the ReFresh Milwaukee Sustainability Plan;
- A "core area" for the state’s Strategic Action Plan;
- Home to a major investment by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The City of Milwaukee and its non-profit partner, Harbor District, Inc., received a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency to create a plan to revitalize this valuable part of the city.

6 FOCUS GROUPS

30 ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEWS

5 PLAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETINGS

286 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDEES

1,354 ONLINE SURVEY RESPONDENTS
WHAT KIND OF PLACE SHOULD THIS BE?

What did we learn from all the public input and consultants?

One thing came through loud and clear, over and over:

“A WATERFRONT IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.”

- Support Port Milwaukee
- Model for a Water Centric City
- Walkable and urban development
- Historic preservation
- Mix of land uses
- Cleanup contamination
- Improve habitat
- Increase public spaces and water access
- Housing and employment opportunities that are accessible to a wide variety of people
The most important element to the Harbor District’s unique identity and character is the water. Yet, almost all of the Harbor District’s nine miles of waterfront is off-limits to the public. The area was built up at a time when we wanted to limit waterways and waterfronts for use by the ships and factories that needed them. However, the city has changed, its economy has changed, and its relationship with water has changed. The Harbor District represents an opportunity to develop a new type of waterfront that invites the public to explore and enjoy, maintains its role as a working port and commercial harbor, and provides space for natural ecosystems to flourish.

This catalytic project lays out a series of recommendations that will move the Harbor District towards a multi-purpose multi-use waterfront. Recommendations include new public spaces and amenities to allow people to access the water and projects to improve water quality ensuring the experience of visiting the water is enjoyable.

- 4.5 Miles of Riverwalk
- 7 to 10 Acre Waterfront Park
- Water Access
- 5 Canoe/Kayak Launches
- New Boat Launch
- Fishing Access
- Trash Wheel
CATALYTIC PROJECT #3

GRAND TRUNK WETLAND AND DEVELOPMENT

483 NEW JOBS
$41 MILLION IN NEW VALUE
Almost every means of transportation converges in the Harbor District—
from ships and boats large and small to bicycles to passenger and freight
rail, and of course trucks, buses, and personal vehicles.

At the same time, it can be one of the most difficult places in Milwaukee to
get around. Rivers and rail viaducts create barriers and dead ends.
Trucks and bikes, and freighters and pleasure boats, struggle to safely
share space. This project makes recommendations to improve access for
all types of users.

- New Public Streets & Dedicated Bicycle Routes
- Existing Off-Street or Improved Bicycle Routes
- Proposed Improved Bicycle Infrastructure
- Continuous Habitat Network Connecting the
Lake and the Rivers
MITCHELL STREET EXTENSION

PROTECTED BICYCLE ROUTES

NEW COMPLETE STREETS

SHARED USE PATHS
Map of Current Land Uses

Map of Proposed Future Land Uses

46.5% 13.7% 8.2% 8% 17.8%

40% 13.4% 11% 8.6% 8.1%
HOW WILL MILWAUKEE BENEFIT?

We looked at completed projects in the Menomonee Valley, along Milwaukee’s rivers, and elsewhere within the City to see what kind of impact redevelopment in the Harbor District could have. We applied those same outcomes to properties identified as likely to change here to generate estimates of potential jobs and new property value.

★ $864 MILLION INCREASE IN PROPERTY VALUE
★ 5,663 NEW JOBS
  1,477 OFFICE/COMMERCIAL JOBS
  3,839 MIXED USE JOBS
  348 INDUSTRIAL JOBS
★ 3,343 JOBS EARNING UP TO $40K/YEAR
★ 2,320 JOBS EARNING MORE THAN $40K/YEAR
Next Steps and Questions

• Various entities are addressing larger sites, what do we do for smaller property owners facing contamination issues? What resources are available?

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