

OVERVIEW OF ONE BAYFRONT - A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BLUEPRINT FOR ERIE'S WATERFRONT



About the Project

Erie's Bayfront is more than a place—it's a shared legacy and a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create something lasting for today's community and those who will follow. It is also a place where people earn a living, supporting industries that have long shaped Erie's identity and continue to offer opportunities for jobs and economic growth. Today, competing demands for industry, public access, and redevelopment are converging on the waterfront, making this a critical moment to plan intentionally. **One Bayfront: A Community-Driven Blueprint** for Erie's Waterfront brings together voices across generations to guide what comes next, by honoring the Bayfront's history while strengthening its role as a working waterfront and creating new opportunities for future residents, visitors, and families.



Photo: VisitErie



Photo: VisitErie



Photo: VisitErie



DRAFT VISION STATEMENT



DRAFT VISION STATEMENT

The Opportunity

Erie's waterfront is a **year-round, world-class waterfront** that attracts residents, businesses, and visitors to the Bay. It reflects Erie's maritime heritage, celebrates the region's diversity, protects the environmental assets of Presque Isle Bay, and is shaped through a **dynamic relationship with the community**. Connecting generational experience and legacy, Erie's waterfront creates a high-quality Bayfront experience for generations to come.

The Approach

New and strengthened physical, social, and cultural connections create a seamless experience between Lake Erie and the people who love it. These connections provide comfortable, well-designed places for people to gather, spend time, and enjoy the Bayfront setting, while also maintaining accessibility. Views of the Bay, the city, and other destinations are preserved, **creating memorable and inviting public spaces, while equitable economic opportunities for businesses are embraced**. Together, these improvements support a mix of recreation, cultural, commercial, institutional, and maritime uses.

The Result

The result is a **vibrant, accessible, and welcoming Bayfront** that provides public space for people to engage, links neighborhoods, enhances the natural landscape, creates new economic vitality, and defines how Erie presents itself to the world.



Photo: Infinite Erie

Do you agree with the DRAFT vision statement?

Take a sticker and vote how you like the draft vision in the scale below.

Love It!

Neutral

Needs Improvement

What do you like about the draft vision statement? What would you add or change?

Use the sticky notes to share your thoughts.

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE



ONE BAYFRONT GOALS



Use your four (4) sticky dots to vote for your priorities for One Bayfront. Place them all on one goal or spread them across several.



Access and Connectivity

Goal: Provide direct, safe, and seamless connections to, from and around the Bayfront – whether on foot, bike, car, or on the water – allowing people to move easily between downtown, neighborhoods, and the Bay.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE



Environment

Goal: Protect and strengthen the Bayfront's natural setting while adapting to a changing climate, so the shoreline remains resilient, accessible, and part of everyday life for future generations.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE



Economic Sustainability

Goal: Create a Bayfront that supports and enhances Erie's economy by creating jobs, attracting new businesses and generating tax revenue, while building something people want to use and continue to invest in over time.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE



Variety and Opportunity

Goal: Offer a mix of experiences and activities that attract visitors and Erieites to the Bayfront on a year-round basis – on land and on the water, for people of all ages and interests.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE



Uniquely Erie

Goal: Build on what makes Erie special – its history, people, culture and its Bayfront – to create a place that feels unique, authentic and welcoming to Erie-ites and visitors alike.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE



Beautiful and Thoughtful Design

Goal: Shape a Bayfront that is attractive, durable, and a pleasure to use—where views of the Bay are protected, buildings and nature work together, and public spaces are welcoming, and improved over time.

○ PLACE DOTS HERE

Are there ideas, priorities, or goals we didn't include?

Use the sticky notes to share your thoughts.

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE



LEARNING FROM PEER CITY CASE STUDIES

Duluth, Minnesota



Photo: Chrisographer, via Wikimedia Commons (CC-BY-SA 4.0)

A Great Lakes city with a strong, recent history of waterfront redevelopment and activation while maintaining a working waterfront.

- **Working waterfront + destination uses:**
Maintains a balance of maritime/industrial activity alongside major visitor attractions, trails, open space, and parking.
- **Celebration of historic identity:**
Restoring and repurposing historic structures to reinforce the waterfront's distinct character.
- **Four-season programming:**
Offering winter events and attractions that bring people to the waterfront beyond peak summer months.
- **Incremental redevelopment:**
Long-term, phased projects on the waterfront rather than a one-time investment.
- **Financing to jump-start investment:**
Strategic use of multiple financing methods, including tax incentives, to encourage redevelopment.

Which ideas do you think are most applicable to Erie?

Use the sticky notes to share your thoughts.

PLACE YOUR STICKY
NOTES HERE

Buffalo, New York



Photo: Perkins Eastman

A Lake Erie city transforming its waterfront through sustained public-sector leadership and investment while retaining elements of its industrial identity.

- **Parks to spur investment:**
Significant early investment in public spaces to attract private development.
- **Waterfront as a year-round destination:**
Integration of history, recreation, and entertainment to create a regional draw with seasonal programs and events.
- **Maintain some waterfront industry:**
Select preservation of industrial and maritime uses.
- **Public-sector leadership:**
Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) model as a dedicated organization to guide implementation.
- **Structured incentive strategy:**
Use of tax credits, payment in lieu of taxes from local organizations, and state support to encourage development.

Which ideas do you think are most applicable to Erie?

Use the sticky notes to share your thoughts.

PLACE YOUR STICKY
NOTES HERE

Toledo, Ohio



Photo: Adobe Stock Images

A riverfront-facing city leveraging its waterfront as an economic development engine through private-public partnerships and investment in open space.

- **Signature investment in parks:**
Well-designed parks as primary drivers of waterfront transformation, positioning the waterfront as a hub for outdoor activity.
- **Reconnecting downtown to the water:**
Coordinate downtown and waterfront revitalization to support each other.
- **Begin with high-impact projects:**
Early investment in high-impact projects builds momentum and attracts additional development.
- **New residential development:**
Introduction of housing to support a more active, mixed-use waterfront district.
- **Public-private partnerships:**
Collaboration with major employers and institutions to fund and develop infrastructure.

Which ideas do you think are most applicable to Erie?

Use the sticky notes to share your thoughts.

PLACE YOUR STICKY
NOTES HERE



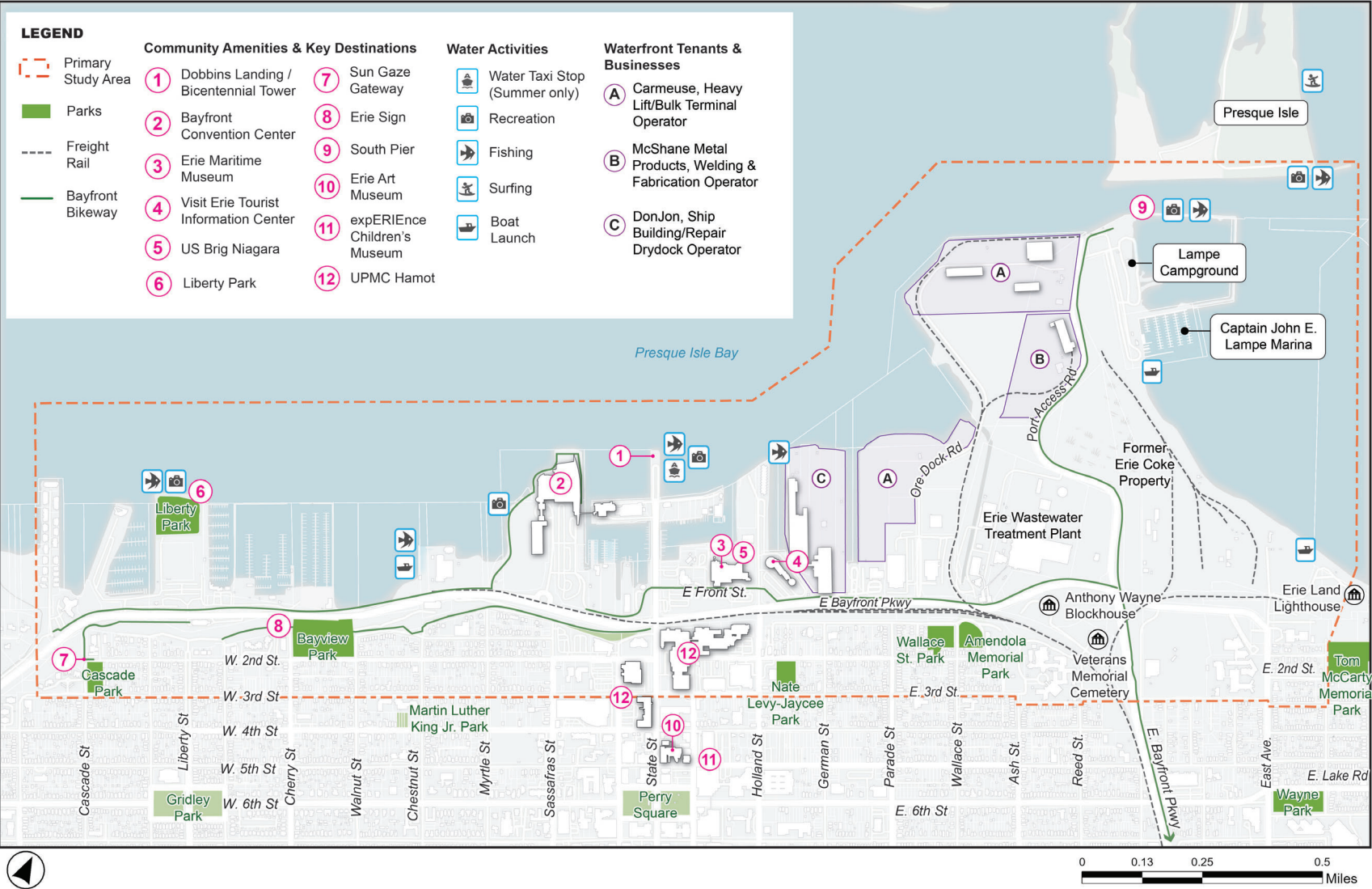
UNDERSTANDING THE BAYFRONT TODAY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Waterfront Destinations

Drop a pin on your most frequently visited destinations



What are your purposes of visit on the Bayfront (for work, for exercise, for family and friends gathering, for relaxing etc)? How well do these destinations meet your needs?

PLACE YOUR STICKY NOTES HERE



UNDERSTANDING THE BAYFRONT TODAY

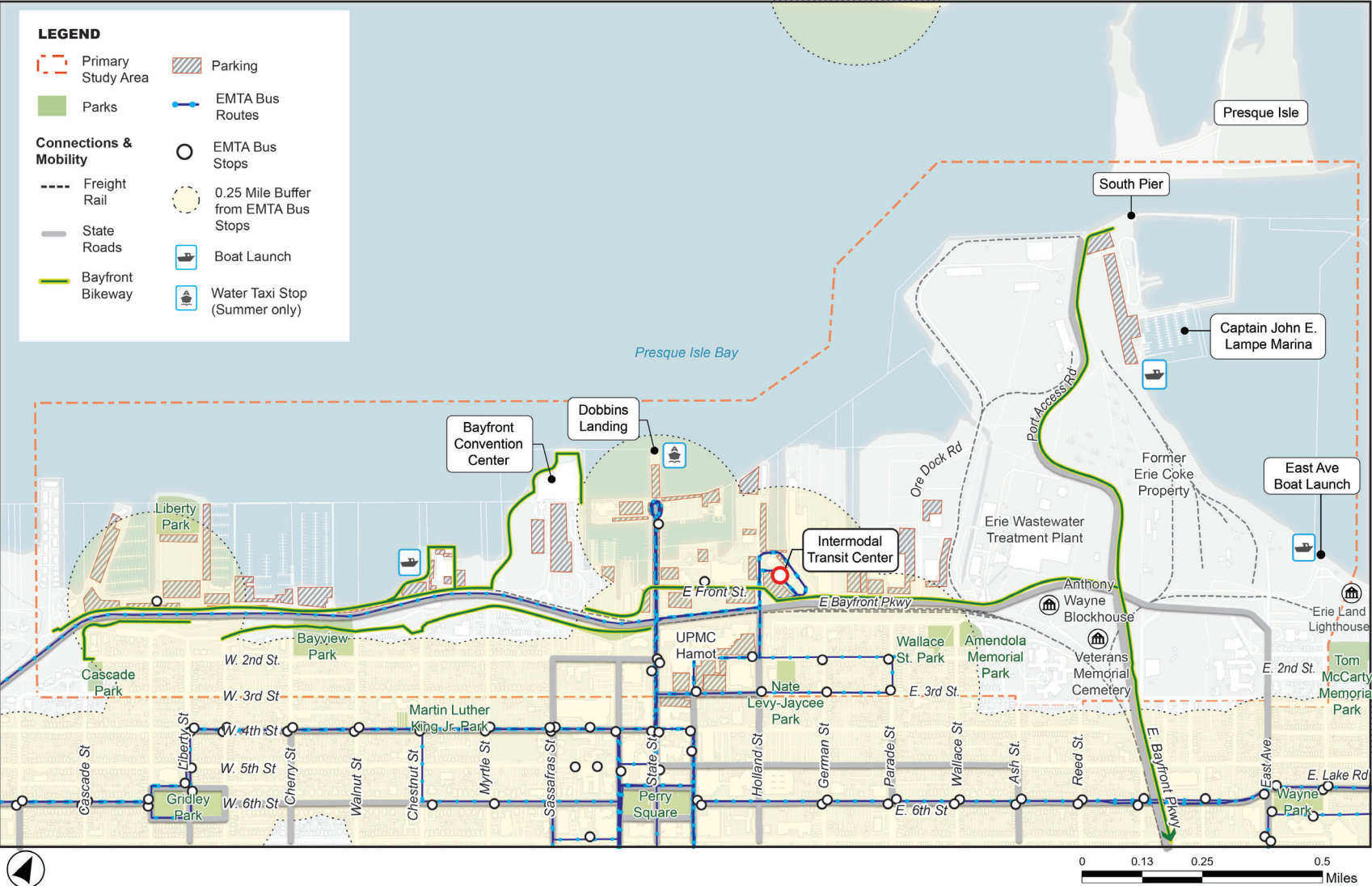
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



Mobility

Drop a pin to mark where getting to places on the Bayfront feels easy.

Drop a pin to mark where getting to places on the Bayfront feels challenging.



Describe what makes travel to the Bayfront easy or challenging. How do you travel to the Bayfront (walk, bike, drive, transit, boat)?

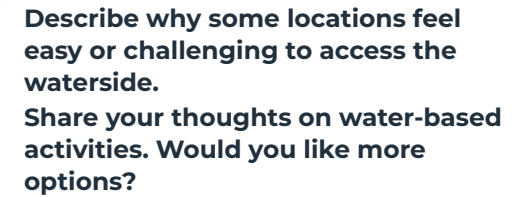
PLACE YOUR STICKY NOTES HERE



**ONE
BAYFRONT**
A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BLUEPRINT FOR ERIE'S WATERFRONT

Drop a pin where you feel it's easy to access the waterside.

Drop a pin where you feel it's challenging to access the waterside.



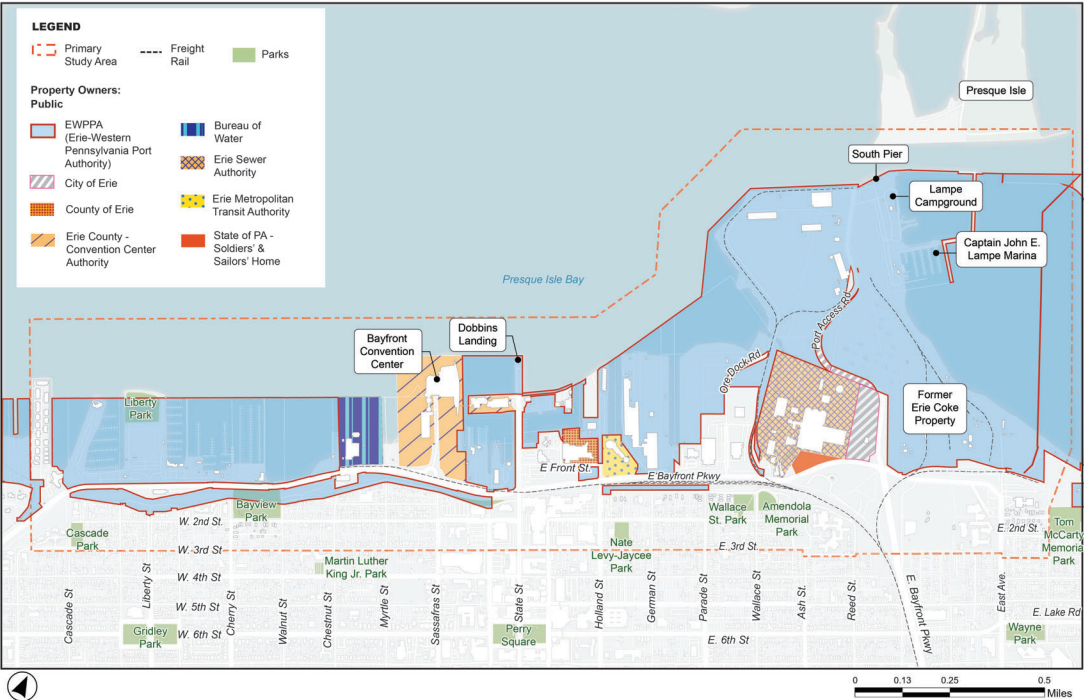
**ONE
BAYFRONT**
A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BLUEPRINT FOR ERIE'S WATERFRONT

UNDERSTANDING THE BAYFRONT TODAY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



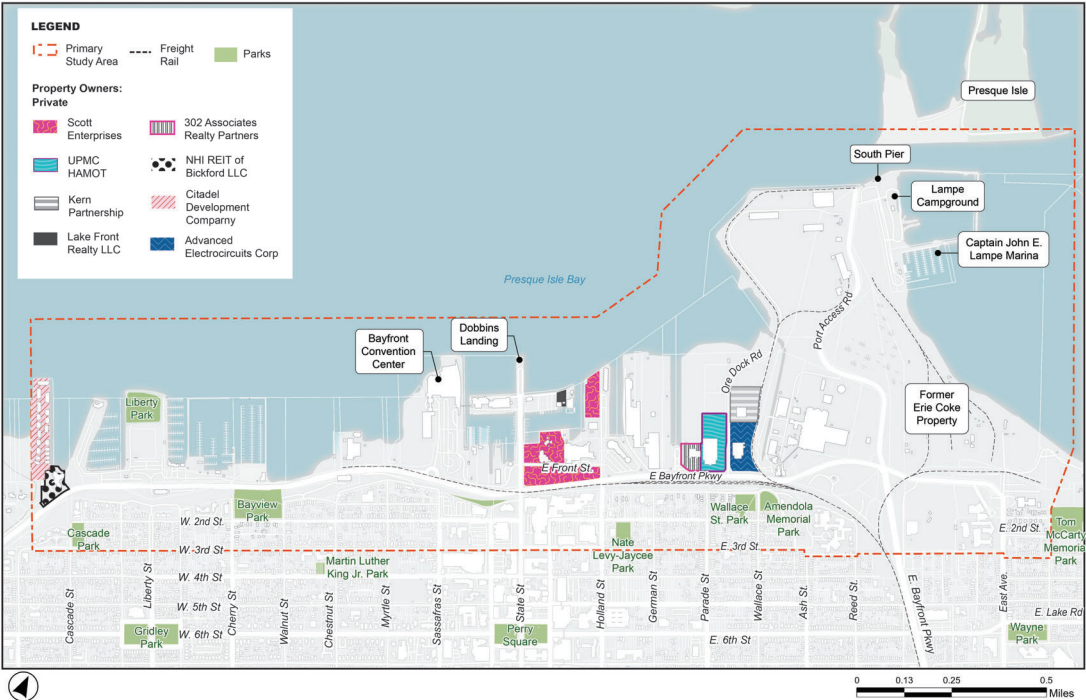
Public-owned Parcels



What should public land prioritize? (1) Open space and access; (2) Jobs and economic activity; (3) Community amenities; (4) Environmental protection; (5) Other

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE

Privately-owned Parcels



What, if anything, should new private projects give back to the community? (1) Public amenities; (2) Trails; (3) Open Spaces; (4) Other

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE



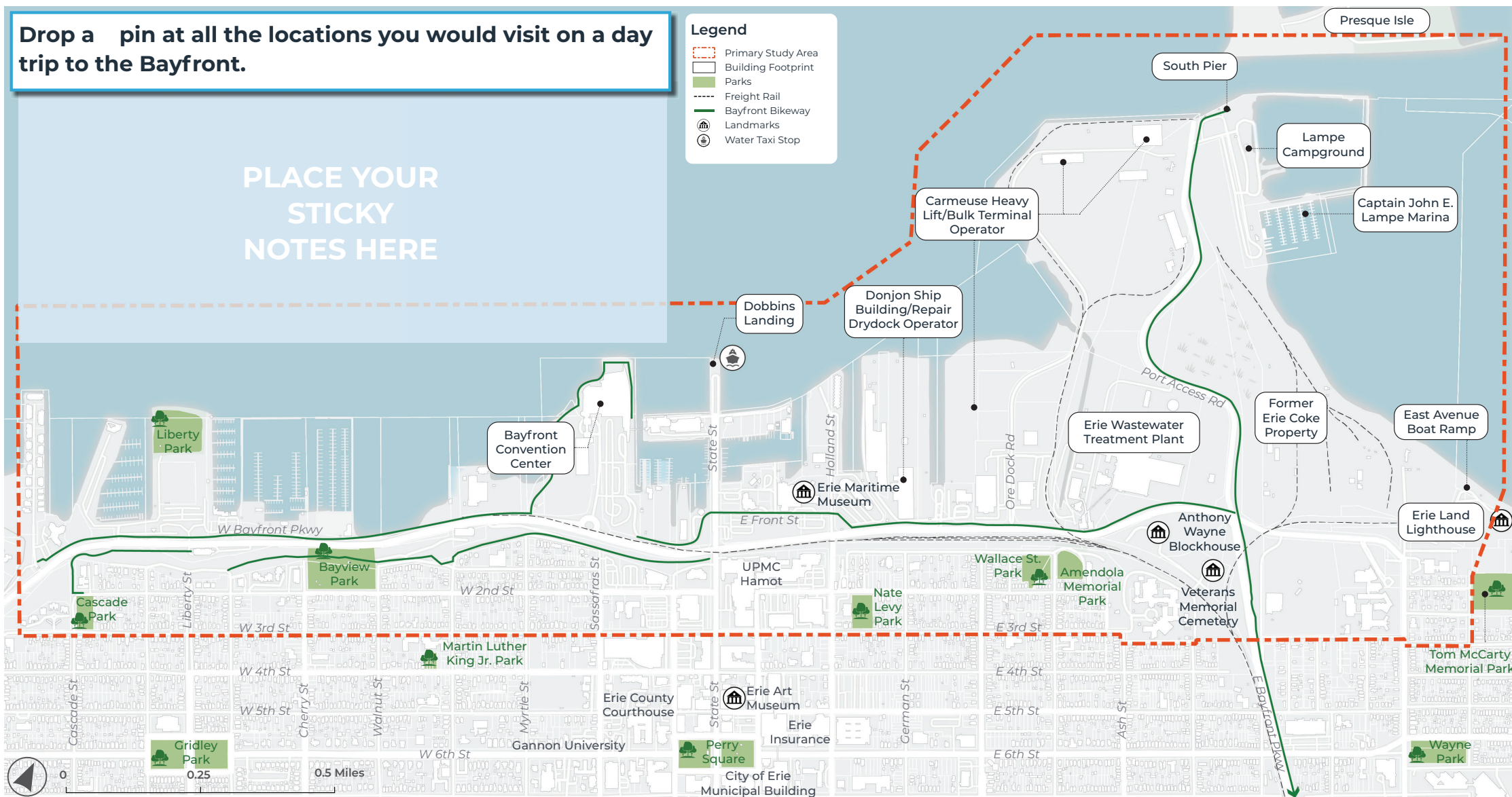
A DAY AT ERIE'S BAYFRONT: MAPPING THE PRESENT

Drop a pin at all the locations you would visit on a day trip to the Bayfront.

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE

Legend

- Primary Study Area
- Building Footprint
- Parks
- Freight Rail
- Bayfront Bikeway
- Landmarks
- Water Taxi Stop



in partnership with



One Bayfront
A Community-Driven Blueprint for Erie's Waterfront

For more information, scan the QR code or visit us online at:
www.infiniteerie.com/bayfront



A DAY AT ERIE'S BAYFRONT: IMAGINING THE FUTURE

**ONE
BAYFRONT**
A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN BLUEPRINT FOR ERIE'S WATERFRONT

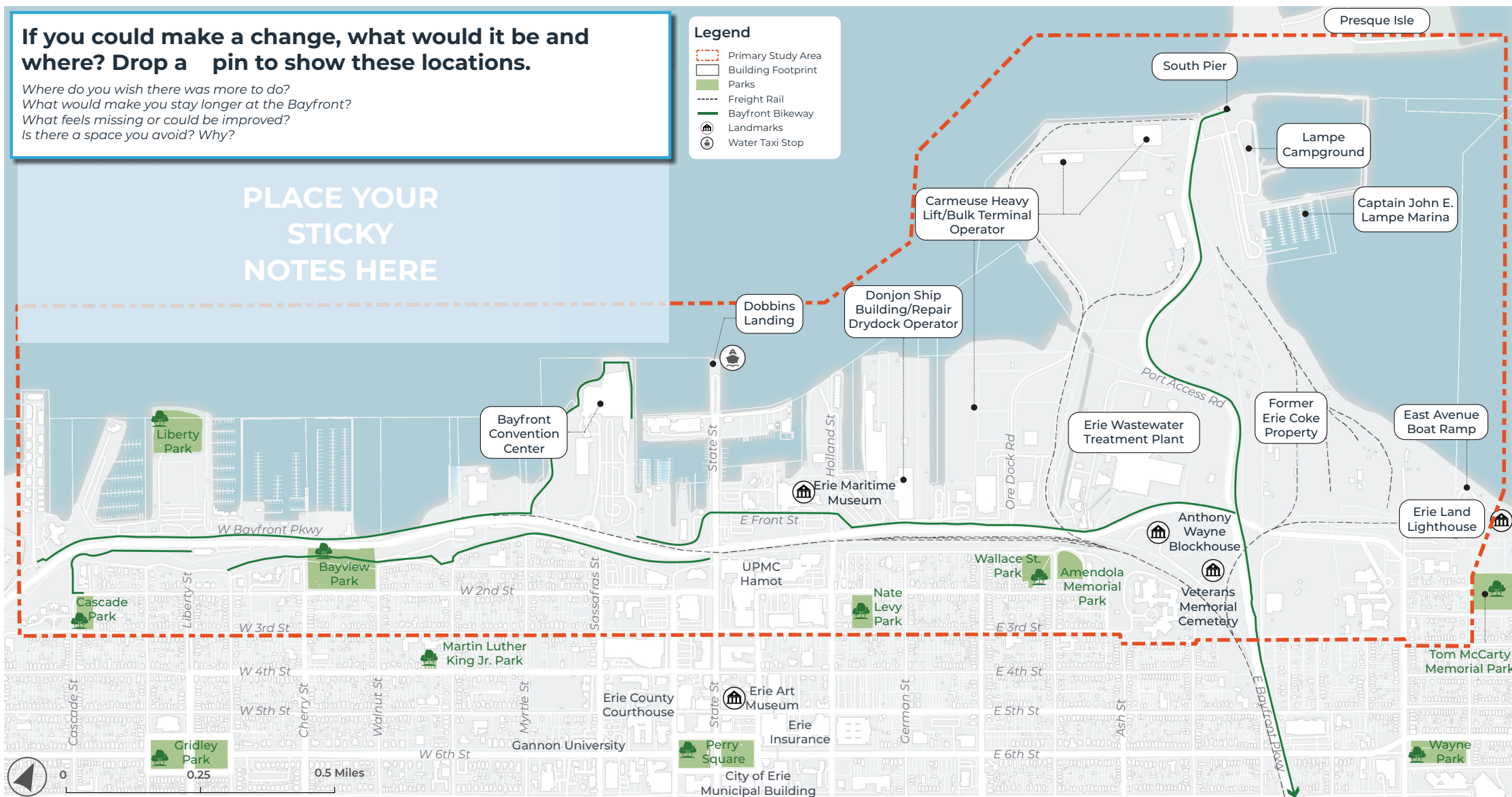
If you could make a change, what would it be and where? Drop a pin to show these locations.

Where do you wish there was more to do?
What would make you stay longer at the Bayfront?
What feels missing or could be improved?
Is there a space you avoid? Why?

PLACE YOUR
STICKY
NOTES HERE

Legend

- Primary Study Area
- Building Footprint
- Parks
- Freight Rail
- Bayfront Bikeway
- Landmarks
- Water Taxi Stop



in partnership with



One Bayfront
A Community-Driven Blueprint for Erie's Waterfront

For more information, scan the
QR code or visit us online at:
www.infiniteerie.com/bayfront



TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ON ERIE'S BAYFRONT



Tell us more about what you like about the Erie Waterfront and where you see opportunities for improvement. Share your thoughts with a sticky note.

What matters most to you at the waterfront?

- Think about -
- Public access to the water
 - Parks & green space
 - Trails & connectivity
 - Events & activities
 - Restaurants & local businesses
 - Quiet/nature areas

- Family-friendly spaces
- Year-round uses
- Well-paying jobs
- Maritime use
- Port Function
- ...

PLACE YOUR
STICKY NOTES
HERE

What could be improved about Erie's waterfront?

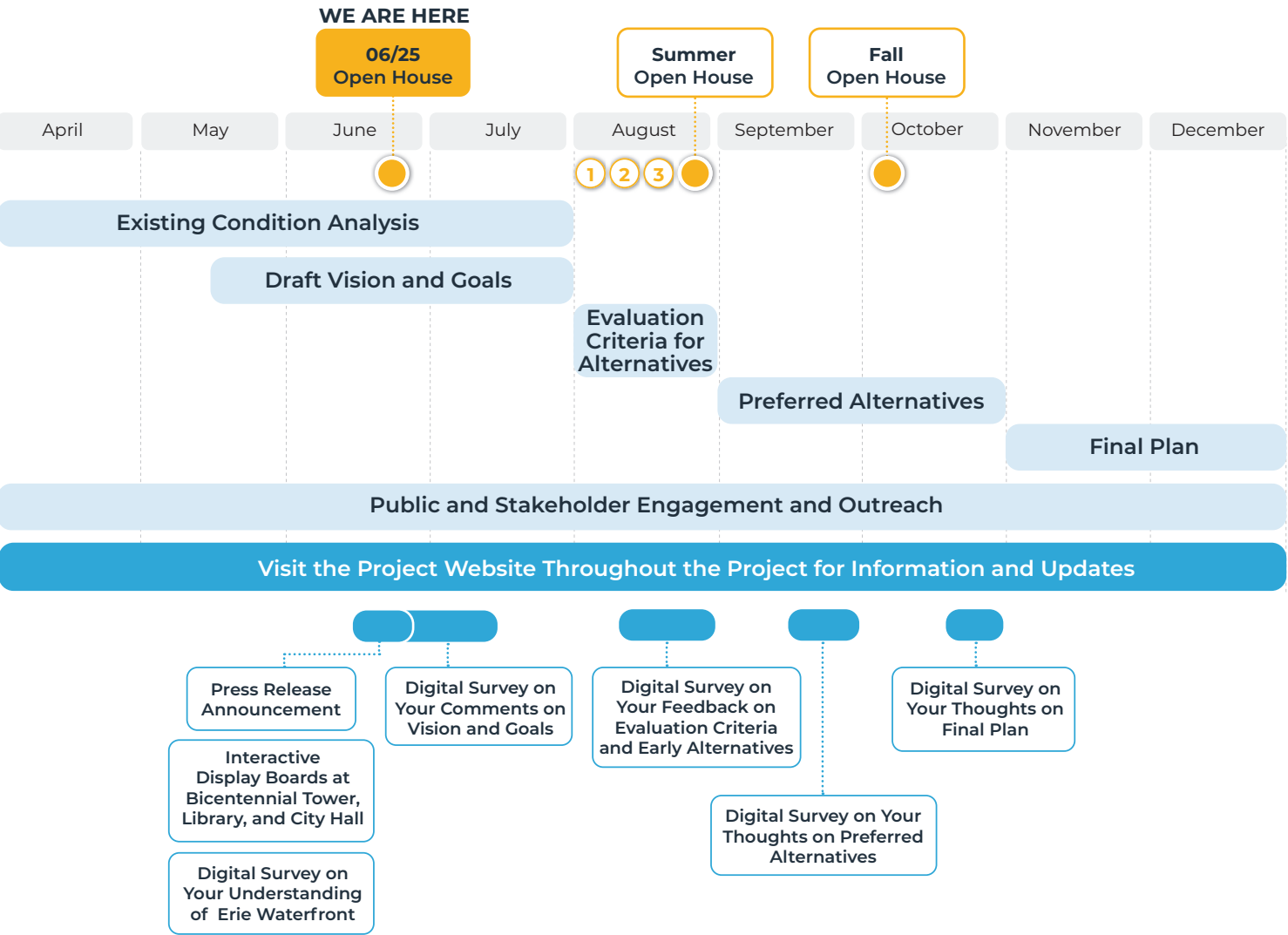
PLACE YOUR
STICKY NOTES
HERE



HOW TO STAY INVOLVED



Project Schedule



We are looking forward to seeing you at these upcoming events!

- 1 Erie Jazz & Blues Festival
- 2 National Night Out
- 3 Celebrate Erie

We will be at other community events throughout the summer. Visit our website for event dates and details!

Why is it important to get involved?

One Bayfront invites the Erie community to participate in shaping a community-driven blueprint for Erie's waterfront.

Visit our website and stay involved on the most updated event schedule



Scan the QR code or visit us online at www.infiniteerie.com/bayfront

