

## Introduction



The Town of Hamburg is located along the southern shoreline of Lake Erie, in the southwestern portion of Erie County, in New York State. The Town enjoys approximately 9 miles of shoreline along the lake. The Town is suburban in character, with much of the land in the waterfront area in residential use. Commercial development is limited and found primarily in small business districts along NYS Route 5 (Lake Shore Road). The waterfront contains Woodland Beach State Park, a 106-acre area that offers a 24-acre area of sand beach, wetlands and vegetated dunes. Two other water recreational uses in the Town include the Town Park and the Seaway Trail Visitor's Center.

The shoreline along the lake includes vast areas of coastal bluffs and narrow rocky beaches. The waterfront does not contain any marinas or permanent docks.

The Town first prepared an LWRP in 1987. Since that time, the waterfront has experienced change and the Town felt the need to prepare an update that more effectively addressed current issues and opportunities.

Harbor Management - Article 42 of the New York State Executive Law, Section 922 – Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterways – authorizes local governments to prepare Harbor Management Plans (HMPs) as part of their Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). In the course of preparing an LWRP, the Town of Hamburg considered the need for adopting a Harbor

Management Plan and investigated the required elements of such a Plan, as found in 19 NYCRR 603.3 – Harbor Management. Based on the findings of the Inventory and Analysis developed for Section II of the LWRP, the Town of Hamburg determined that the adoption of a formal HMP was not appropriate for the following reasons.

- (1) The Lake Erie shoreline within the Hamburg LWRA is not heavily developed with water-dependent uses. The only water-dependent use is the Southtown’s Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are also three water-related recreational facilities. The waterfront is primarily developed with private residences and a few commercial uses (restaurants) that are enhanced by their waterfront location (Section II 4).
- (2) There is limited navigational use along the Hamburg waterfront. There are no designated navigation channels, no designated harbors and no permanent dockage for vessels (Section II C 2).
- (3) There are no marinas or permanent docks within the LWRA (Section II.C.1). The Town Park includes a single boat launch with a floating dock that is removed each winter; this is the only public location that allows water access for recreational boats and other small craft.
- (4) There are no commercial fishing or boating facilities, or tourism services found within the LWRA (Section II.5).
- (5) The rugged bluff topography along much of the lakefront constrains development and prohibits the future construction of dockage (Section II.H). There are no locations that would allow for the development of harbor or marina infrastructure without the investment of extensive capital, making such development cost prohibitive for the Town.