

Sec. 1. Strengthening Our Economy

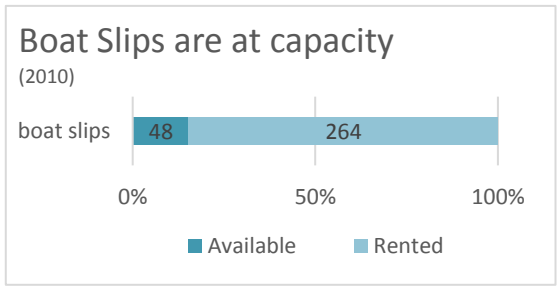
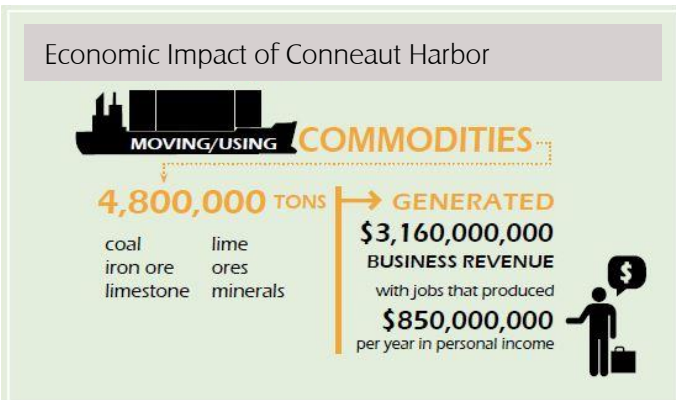
Sec. 1A. LAKEFRONT AND HARBOR PEDA



Existing Conditions

The 0.3-mile breakwater is used for fishing. A series of wooden boardwalks connect parking areas to the beach and shore.

- Build on Previous Planning Efforts:
- 2011 Conneaut Port Authority Recreational Boating Analysis and Waterfront Plan
 - 2013 Ashtabula County Coastal Management Plan
 - 2014 Port Charrette/Visioning Report
 - 2016 Port Design Proposal Update



annual averages
40,000 cubic yards = **5,400 dump trucks** filled and lined up **31 miles**

Source: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

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Guiding Objectives

The Harbor is the City’s biggest asset. Conneaut Harbor will be a premier recreational destination and year-round tourist attraction on the shores of Lake Erie.

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Enhance recreational offerings: Expand recreational and entertainment offerings which combat seasonality and supportive retail and services with encourages longer stays. Fishing, boating and birding

Enhance connectivity: Connect the main hubs of the city to each other including the park network, Downtown District, and throughout the Harbor Area.

Preserve historic features and cultivate a sense of place: Capitalize on and preserve Conneaut Harbor’s unique identity.

Increase housing options: Cater to different types of households to in this ultra desirable area.

Improve property maintenance: Enhance the appearance of the area by encouraging in property investment of residential and commercial properties.

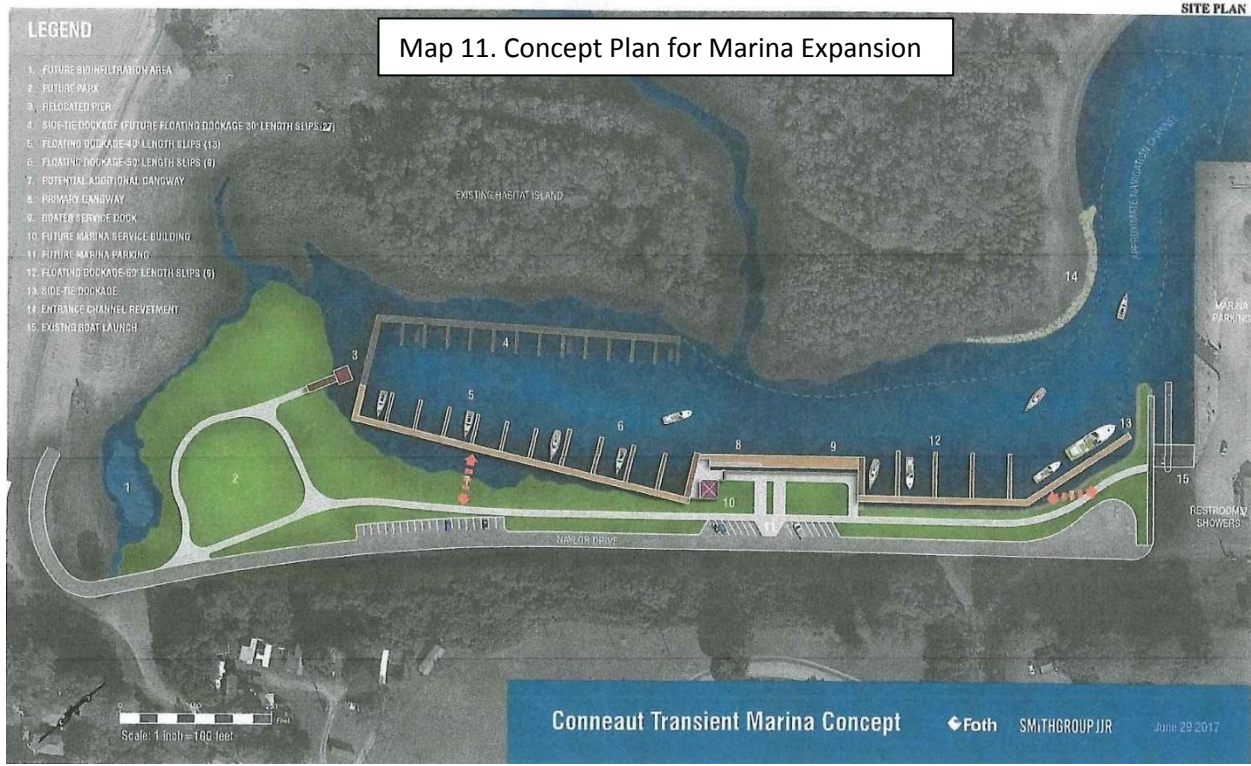
Diversify the economy: Balance the active – yet shrinking– port industry with a vibrant tourism-based economy to revitalize the Harbor District. Economic diversification will help to combat seasonality of a tourism economy and utilize the historic infrastructure that remains one of 7 active ports in Ohio.

Policies & Strategies

1. **Expand the Marina.** The City’s two public marinas, as well as the private Conneaut Boat Club (CBC), are operating at capacity during the boating season, and recent studies prepared for the Conneaut Port Authority highlight the need for another marina. Conneaut should capitalize on the regional demand for boat slips that can accommodate larger boats. Expanding the Marina will fuel economic development for the city while also expanding recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.
 - 1.1. Dredge the lagoon area next to Naylor Drive (south of the Sandbar) to enable the construction of new boat slips.
 - 1.2. Build new floating docks that provide large enough slips to accommodate larger boats (50 feet), as shown in the conceptual drawing below. Provide additional amenities for boaters, such as rentals, showers, restrooms. In addition, add transportation facilities, such rental bikes or golf carts, to enable visiting boaters to patronize local businesses and other amenities beyond the Harbor area. The goal is the construction of 100 new slips, which could be constructed over two or more phases.

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1.3. Develop a Sediment Management and Use Plan that identifies ways for utilizing the dredged material. Dredged material can be used as construction and landscaping material and can improve public spaces by enhancing soils, providing new landscape features and restoring ecosystems.

2. Increase and improve public access to and recreational use of the lakeshore. In addition to the Marina, the sandbar and Township Park provide access to the lakeshore.

2.1. Continue to promote diverse uses of the Sandbar. Promote a wide range of recreational offerings and supporting concessions, and continue to allow parking on a portion of the Sandbar. See also Sec. 2B. Parks and Recreation Improvements.

2.2. Improve Naylor Drive to provide a connection between Township Park, the sandbar and the marina.

(a) Create a boardwalk or multipurpose path, and consider restricting vehicle traffic.

(b) Prioritize and invest in infrastructure improvements (i.e. water, sewer, electricity) to Naylor Drive to enable utility extensions to the sandbar that could attract new concessions.

2.3. Build a public pier or boardwalk over the existing break wall to increase fishing opportunities.

2.4. Investigate the potential for public or private rental facilities for bicycles, kayaks, canoes, and other types of recreation equipment.