
Harbor Management Plan Development

The Great Sodus Bay Experience

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Introduction

- **Funding**
 - **NYS Department of State**
 - **Wayne County**
 - **Municipalities**
 - **Town of Sodus**
 - **Village of Sodus Point**
 - **Town of Huron**
 - **Save our Sodus (SOS)**
 - **Great Sodus Bay Association**

Introduction (Continued)

- **Two Year Project**
 - **Started Contract – July 2004**
 - **Inventory and Analysis – 2004-2006**
 - **Draft Plan – 2006-2008**
 - **Expected Completion – Winter/Spring 2009**

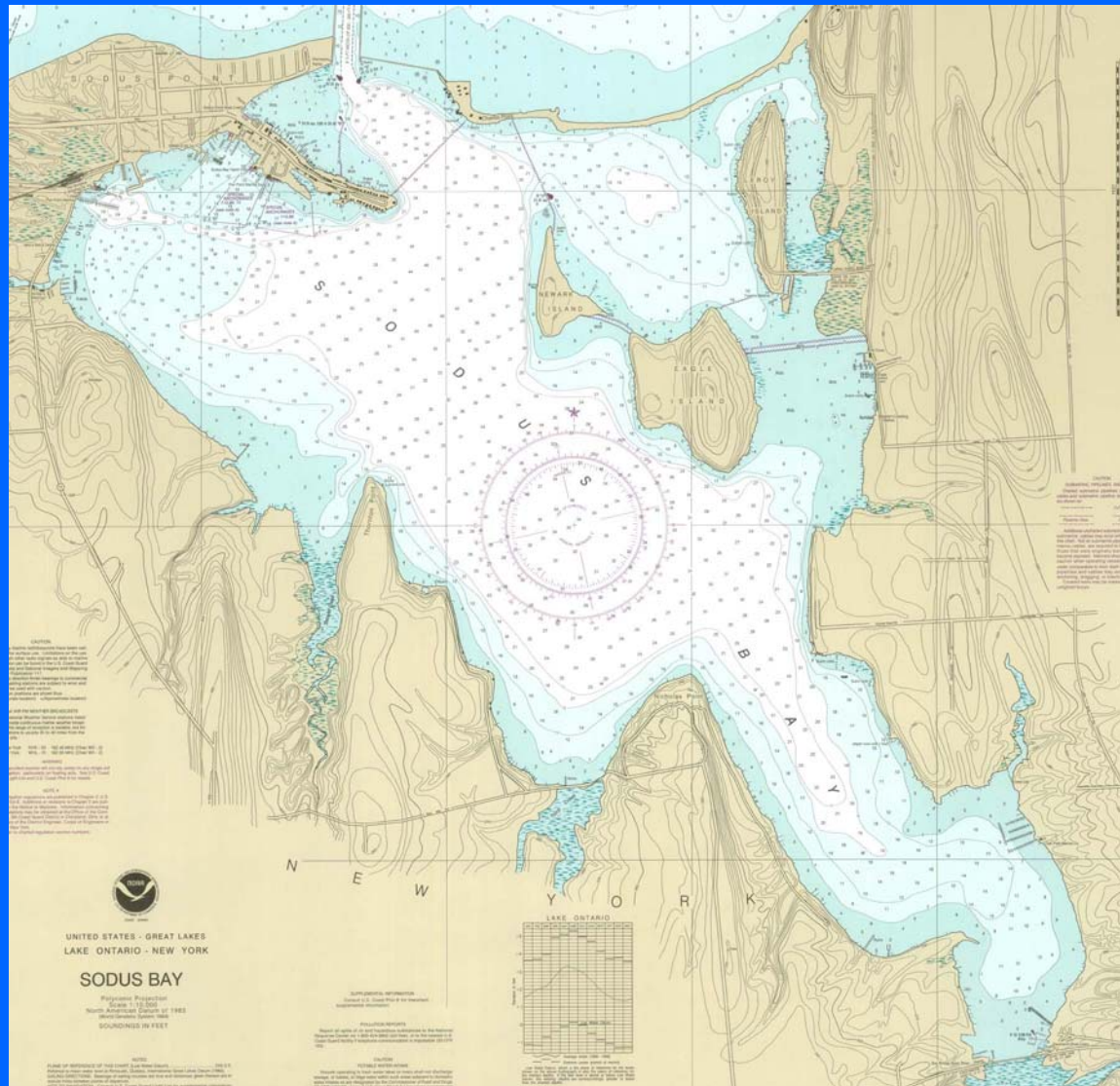
Basic Facts

- **3,200 acre embayment**
- **46 square mile watershed**
- **Protected channel to Lake Ontario**
- **Formerly important Great Lakes port for lumber and coal shipping**
- **Shoreline developed with commercial, marine related uses and seasonal/year-round residences**

Location



FIGURE 1: Sodus Bay Location Map



Opportunities

- **Location and features gives it world class potential for recreational boating**
- **Capacity available for expanded boating use, especially for non-peak periods**
 - **Weekday and week-long tourism during the summer**
 - **Expanded winter activities and tourism**
- **Ideal for world class research, ecotourism and enhanced large vessel use**

Issues

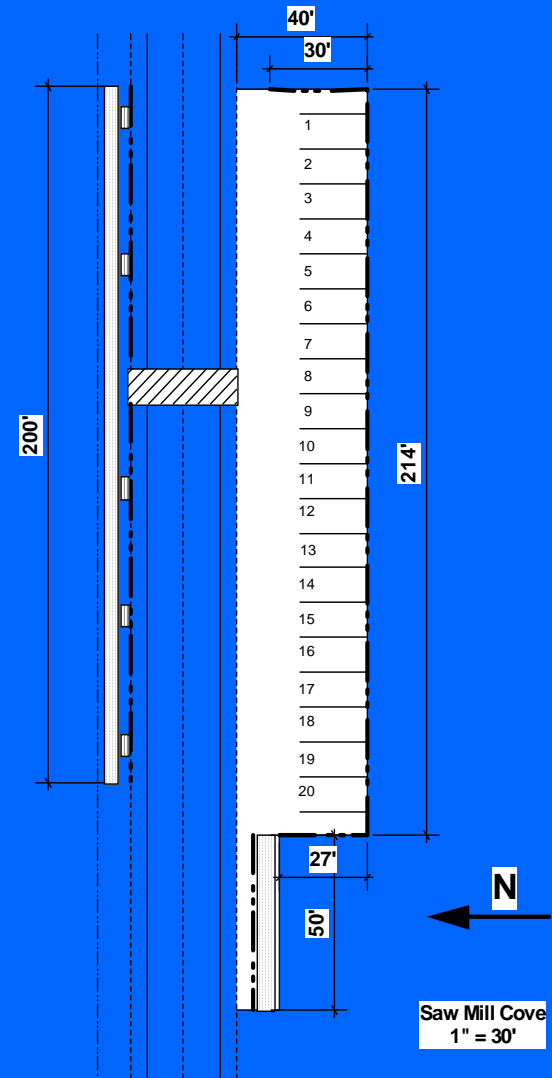
- Lack of public destinations
- Limited public access to shoreline
- Limited public launch capacity - can not meet current peak weekend demand
- Support for winter use is needed
 - Parking/Access
 - Trash
 - Restrooms
- Better boater education and navigational markings

Some Recommendations

- **Establish public pier in Village**
- **Establish new launch and upgrade existing launch**
- **Provide shoreline access improvements**
- **Establish fund to purchase barrier bar properties for new public park**
- **Establish uniform substantive standards for docking and mooring laws**

Proposed Saw Mill Cove Improvements

- Paving & striping
- Guardrails
- Cross-walk
- Walkway
- Benches
- Concrete ramp
- Cost: ~ \$40,000



Public Access/Park at Crescent Beach barrier bar

- Long-term project.
- Goal is to protect sand spit and eventually have a public park accessed only by boat.
- Would be a unique, natural area.
- Properties to be acquired as they become available, from willing sellers.



Uniform, Substantive Standards for Dock and Mooring Laws

- Key Features
 - Maximum number of docks and boat slips per parcel based upon frontage and land use
 - Minimum setbacks from property line extensions
 - Maximum dock lengths and surface areas
 - Eliminate new boathouses - Grandfather existing ones as non-conforming uses

Things That Worked

- **Intermunicipal Committee**
- **Web Site**
- **Frequent contact/discussion with local political leaders**

Things That Were Or Could Be Problems

- **Sustaining volunteer activity**
- **Snowbird phenomena**
- **Getting State agency feedback in timely manner**
- **Meshing State goals/policies with local reality**

Advise from the Trenches

- **Work closely and continuously with participating community leaders to get consensus – use advisory committee or similar**
- **Emphasize benefits of recommended actions**
- **Put off funding determination until implementation – get plan buy-in and let the funds find the projects**
- **Be willing to back down/drop particularly controversial elements**
- **Work closely with State agencies**

Questions or Comments

