



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



PROJECT TITLE:

2020 River Road Waterfront
Trailhead & River Access Project



PROJECT APPLICATION:

Town of Wheatfield, NY



FUNDING SOURCE:

Niagara River Greenway Commission (2026)



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



NIAGARA RIVER
GREENWAY
COMMISSION

OUR RIVER. OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER

APPLICATION

	Applicant Information	1
	Project Narrative & Description	3
	Advancing Niagara River Greenway's Vision (Goals, Principles & Criteria)	4
	Project Budget	12
	Local Support	14
	Environmental Setting	15
	Project Timeline	17

ATTACHMENTS

	Maps & Photographs	18
	• Project Map	
	• Project Fact Sheet	
	• Existing Environmental Conditions	
	Project Oversight, Administration and Partnerships	22
	Budget & Conceptual Drawings	24
	• Project Budget	
	• Project Funding Strategy & Master Matrix	
	• Project Funded Components	
	• Conceptual Design Schematics (Platform, Signage & Waterfront Amenities)	
	Project Timeline	31
	Local Planning Documents	33
	• BRS, Inc. Conceptual Park Map	
	• Town of Wheatfield Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP), Section II	
	• Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Habitat Conservation Strategy	
	Authorizing Resolutions & Letters of Support	45
	• Approved Resolution	
	• Letters of Support	



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



NIAGARA RIVER
GREENWAY
COMMISSION

OUR RIVER. OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal:

Project Registration Number (office use only)

Type of Review Required (please check one):

☒ **Mandatory Consultation for proposals seeking Greenway Funding**

☐ **Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement for proposals not seeking Greenway Funding**

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name:	Town of Wheatfield, NY – Don MacSwan (Town Supervisor)
Mailing Address:	2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14120
Federal ID#:	LFM5VU2FAXR3
Charities Registration #:	N/A

PROJECT TYPE (Please check only ONE)

☐ Trail Development / Improvement

☐ Interpretation / Cultural Monuments

☐ Ecosystem / Riparian Habitat Restoration

☐ Stewardship

☒ Niagara River Greenway Placemaking / Public Access / Wayfinding

FUNDING COMMITTEE

☒ Host Community Standing Committee

☐ Ecological Standing Committee

☐ Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

☐ State Parks Standing Committee

☐ Unsure at this time / N/A

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$203,800.00

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount
EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant	\$425,000.00
NYS DOS Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction (Pending Award)	\$650,000.00
LWRP Implementation (Pending Award)	\$491,900.00

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	2020 River Road Trailhead and River Access
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	43.072609, -78.943807
Project Site Address:	2020 River Road, North Tonawanda (Wheatfield)
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14304
Minor Civil Division(s):	N/A
County:	Niagara County
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	The Town of Wheatfield owns the project site

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	Don MacSwan
Title:	Town Supervisor
Business Address:	2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14120
Work Number:	716-694-6680
Cell Number:	N/A
E-Mail Address:	Supervisor@wheatfield.ny.us

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	Amy Schifferli
Title:	Director of Planning and Brownfield Development
Organization / Firm:	Niagara County Department of Economic Development
Business Address:	6311 Inducon Corporate Drive, Sanborn
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14132
Work Number:	716-278-8754
Cell Number:	N/A
E-Mail Address:	Amy.Schifferli@niagaracounty.gov



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project

Section 1 – Project Narrative

“Creating a Destination-Quality Niagara River Waterfront Park Through Ecological Restoration and Public Access”

The Town of Wheatfield proposes to transform its only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into the 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project—a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that advances the mission of the Niagara River Greenway by restoring ecological resources, expanding universally accessible public access, and enhancing regional recreation along one of New York's most significant waterfront corridors. Located on a former brownfield at 2020 River Road, the project combines habitat restoration, climate-adaptive design, and nature-based shoreline improvements with exceptional recreational, educational, and scenic opportunities.

Niagara River Greenway funding will construct the trailhead's signature visitor amenities, including a 2,580-square-foot universally accessible river observation and fishing platform overlooking approximately 200 linear feet of Niagara River shoreline, a Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead kiosk with interpretive and wayfinding signage, visitor seating, and bicycle parking. Following a 2027 grant award, the Town will complete final design, engineering, permitting, and bid documents during 2027–2028, with construction beginning in spring 2029 and substantial completion anticipated by fall 2029.

The project implements priority recommendations identified in the Niagara River Greenway Plan and the Town's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program while advancing the Buffalo Niagara Habitat Conservation Strategy, the Town Comprehensive Plan, the NYS Region 9 30x30 Strategy, and One Region Forward's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. As a new gateway along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail with direct connections to the Empire State Trail and Great Lakes Seaway Trail, the project will strengthen regional trail connectivity, expand waterfront access, promote environmental education, and enhance cycling tourism, eco-tourism, and outdoor recreation throughout the Niagara River corridor.

Greenway funding complements an ongoing \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant and additional state investments that together leverage more than \$1.77 million in coordinated public funding. These investments will transform a long-vacant brownfield into a resilient public waterfront destination featuring enhanced wetlands through removal of contaminated soils and restoration with clean soils and native vegetation, restored shoreline habitat, universally accessible river access, and high-quality visitor amenities. The project represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to establish a signature Niagara River Shoreline Trail destination that will benefit residents, visitors, and future generations while advancing the long-term vision of the Niagara River Greenway.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Section 2 – Advancing the Greenway Vision

"Advancing the Niagara River Greenway Vision Through Restoration, Recreation, and Regional Connectivity"

The proposed 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project directly advances the vision, goals, principles, and evaluation criteria established in the Niagara River Greenway Plan by transforming the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead. Through ecological restoration, universally accessible public river access, climate-resilient design, environmental education, and regional trail connectivity, the project creates a lasting public asset that restores a former brownfield while strengthening the Niagara River Greenway. By leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment, the project exemplifies the Greenway's commitment to environmental stewardship, recreation, sustainability, partnerships, and world-class waterfront experiences.

Consistency with Greenway Principles

Excellence

The project will transform the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that reflects the global significance of the Niagara River. High-quality, resilient design, universally accessible public access, ecological restoration, and interpretive amenities will create an exceptional visitor experience while advancing the Greenway's vision for world-class waterfront destinations.

Sustainability

The project promotes long-term environmental, economic, and recreational sustainability through wetland enhancement, native habitat restoration, nature-based shoreline stabilization, and resilient green infrastructure. Removal of contaminated soils, replacement with clean soils, and establishment of native vegetation will improve ecological function while durable public amenities—including a universally accessible river observation and fishing platform—will provide lasting public benefits with minimal maintenance.

Accessibility

Universal accessibility is fundamental to the project. ADA-compliant parking, trails, site circulation, seating, interpretive signage, and a 2,580-square-foot universally accessible river observation and fishing platform will ensure visitors of all ages and abilities can safely experience the Niagara River. The project removes barriers to waterfront access while creating an inclusive destination along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail.

Ecological Integrity

The project restores ecological health by transforming a former brownfield into resilient waterfront habitat. Wetland enhancement, invasive species removal, native vegetation, shoreline stabilization, and



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



floodplain restoration will improve habitat quality, biodiversity, water quality, and natural floodplain function while protecting approximately 200 linear feet of Niagara River shoreline.

Public Well-Being

The project creates a welcoming public destination that promotes physical activity, mental well-being, and outdoor recreation. Visitors will enjoy fishing, walking, cycling, wildlife observation, environmental education, and scenic overlooks within a safe, universally accessible waterfront setting designed to remain functional under future climate conditions.

Connectivity

Located along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail with direct connections to the Empire State Trail and Great Lakes Seaway Trail, the project establishes a new regional waterfront trailhead that strengthens recreational connectivity throughout the Niagara River corridor. Bicycle facilities, trailhead orientation, interpretive signage, and universally accessible river access encourage residents and visitors to explore the Greenway while supporting regional cycling tourism and eco-tourism.

Restoration

The project exemplifies the Greenway's commitment to restoration by converting a contaminated brownfield into protected public open space. Leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment, the project restores wetlands, enhances shoreline habitat, improves water quality, expands biodiversity, and creates lasting public access to the Niagara River.

Authenticity

The project establishes a strong sense of place by celebrating the natural, cultural, and recreational heritage of the Niagara River. Interpretive exhibits will tell the story of the site's transformation from a brownfield to a resilient public waterfront destination while highlighting the river's ecological significance, scenic beauty, and historic importance to the region.

Celebration

The project celebrates the Niagara River as one of Western New York's defining natural resources by creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the waterfront. Scenic overlooks, the universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, interpretive displays, and trailhead amenities will encourage appreciation of the river's environmental, recreational, and cultural significance while fostering stewardship of Greenway resources.

Partnerships

The project demonstrates exceptional collaboration among local, regional, state, and federal partners. Guided by the 2020 River Road Steering Committee—including the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, and the Niagara River Greenway Commission—the project leverages a \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant together with additional state investments to coordinate remediation, ecological restoration, public access improvements, and long-term stewardship.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Community-Based

The project reflects years of community planning and public investment through implementation of the Town's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and regional Greenway planning efforts. By transforming the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead, the project fulfills longstanding community priorities while creating lasting environmental, recreational, economic, and quality-of-life benefits for residents and visitors.

Consistency with Greenway Goals

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project embodies the Niagara River Greenway vision by transforming the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead. Through ecological restoration, universally accessible public access, regional trail connectivity, environmental education, and climate-resilient design, the project advances each of the Greenway's core goals while leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment to create a lasting public asset for residents, visitors, and future generations.

Improve Access

The project significantly improves public access to the Niagara River by transforming an underutilized former brownfield into the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront destination. As a new Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead, the project will provide universally accessible parking, pedestrian circulation, scenic overlooks, bicycle amenities, interpretive signage, and a 2,580-square-foot universally accessible river observation and fishing platform overlooking approximately 200 linear feet of Niagara River shoreline. These improvements remove physical barriers, expand recreational opportunities, and ensure visitors of all ages and abilities can safely experience one of Western New York's most significant natural resources.

Make Connections

The project strengthens regional connectivity by establishing a destination-quality trailhead along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail with direct connections to the Empire State Trail and Great Lakes Seaway Trail. Trailhead amenities, bicycle parking, interpretive and wayfinding signage, and universally accessible waterfront access will encourage walking, cycling, fishing, wildlife observation, and environmental education while linking residents and visitors to the broader Niagara River Greenway network. The project enhances recreational connectivity while supporting regional tourism and outdoor recreation throughout the Niagara River corridor.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems

The project protects and restores environmental systems by transforming a contaminated brownfield into resilient public open space that enhances ecological function along the Niagara River. Wetland enhancement through removal of contaminated soils, replacement with clean soils, invasive species removal, native vegetation, shoreline stabilization, and green infrastructure will improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat, strengthen floodplain function, reduce erosion, and increase biodiversity.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Nature-based design allows ecological processes to function while creating meaningful opportunities for environmental education and stewardship.

Celebrate History and Heritage

The project celebrates the natural and cultural heritage of the Niagara River by creating opportunities for visitors to experience one of New York's most iconic waterfront landscapes. Interpretive exhibits and educational signage will highlight the river's ecological significance, indigenous and industrial history, and the site's remarkable transformation from a former brownfield into a resilient public waterfront destination. Scenic overlooks and universally accessible river access will foster appreciation for the Niagara River's history, character, and enduring importance to the region.

Spark Revitalization and Renewal

The project exemplifies revitalization by converting a long-vacant brownfield into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that expands public access, recreation, and environmental stewardship. By leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated public investment, the project will stimulate additional waterfront improvements, support tourism, increase community pride, and demonstrate how strategic investment in ecological restoration can catalyze long-term community renewal.

Promote Long-Term Sustainability

The project promotes long-term sustainability through climate-resilient planning, durable public infrastructure, and nature-based shoreline restoration. Flood-compatible design, native landscaping, wetland enhancement, and green infrastructure will reduce long-term maintenance requirements while improving resilience to flooding, erosion, and changing climate conditions. Investments in walking, cycling, environmental education, and outdoor recreation encourage sustainable transportation and healthy lifestyles while ensuring the Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead remains a lasting public asset.

Extend Olmsted's Legacy

The project extends Olmsted's legacy by embracing the principles of landscape conservation, public access, and thoughtful integration of recreation with the natural environment. Consistent with Olmsted's vision that parks should protect significant landscapes while providing restorative public experiences, the project restores ecological resources, preserves scenic river views, and creates universally accessible opportunities for people to connect with nature. By transforming the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead, the project continues the Greenway tradition of connecting people with the Niagara River through exceptional public spaces.

Consistency with Greenway Criteria

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project exemplifies the Niagara River Greenway's evaluation criteria by advancing a coordinated vision of ecological restoration, universally accessible public access, regional connectivity, and long-term environmental stewardship. By



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



transforming the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property from a former brownfield into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead, the project delivers meaningful environmental, recreational, cultural, and economic benefits while leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment. The following responses demonstrate how the project satisfies and advances each of the Greenway's core evaluation criteria.

Consistency with Principles

The proposed 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project exemplifies the Niagara River Greenway Principles by transforming the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead. Through ecological restoration, wetland enhancement, universally accessible public river access, climate-resilient design, environmental education, and regional trail connectivity, the project restores a former brownfield while creating lasting recreational, environmental, and community benefits. Leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment, the project demonstrates the Greenway Principles of excellence, sustainability, accessibility, ecological integrity, connectivity, restoration, partnerships, and long-term stewardship.

Priority Status

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project directly advances the Niagara River Greenway's highest priority goals by creating a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that expands universally accessible public access to the Niagara River, strengthens regional trail connectivity, restores ecological function, enhances environmental education, and catalyzes waterfront revitalization. The project transforms the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property from a former brownfield into a resilient public destination featuring a universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, wetland enhancement, interpretive exhibits, and trailhead amenities. By leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated public investment, the project simultaneously improves waterfront access, supports an integrated regional trail and park system, restores the Niagara River ecosystem, promotes interpretation of the river's natural and cultural resources, and demonstrates how strategic public investment can revitalize underutilized waterfront properties for the benefit of residents and visitors.

Focus Area

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project is located entirely within the Niagara River Greenway Focus Area on the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property. Situated directly along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail and Great Lakes Seaway Trail, the project establishes a destination-quality regional trailhead that expands public access to the Niagara River while strengthening connections throughout the Greenway corridor. The project directly implements priority recommendations identified in the Town's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program by transforming a former brownfield into a resilient public waterfront destination featuring wetland enhancement, shoreline restoration, universally accessible river access, environmental education, and climate-resilient public infrastructure. Its location within the Greenway Focus Area maximizes regional recreational, ecological, and tourism benefits while advancing the Greenway's long-term vision for waterfront revitalization.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Environmental Soundness

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project goes beyond minimizing environmental impacts by actively restoring and enhancing the ecological health of the Niagara River corridor. The project transforms a former brownfield into resilient public open space through wetland enhancement, removal of contaminated soils and replacement with clean soils, invasive species removal, native vegetation, green infrastructure, and nature-based shoreline stabilization that improve habitat quality, water quality, biodiversity, and floodplain function. The 2,580-square-foot universally accessible river observation and fishing platform is strategically located landward of the ordinary high-water mark and will be supported by low-impact helical piles or engineered timber piles, providing exceptional public access while avoiding in-water disturbance and protecting shoreline and aquatic resources. Flood-compatible design, careful site planning, and compliance with SEQR, floodplain regulations, and all applicable state and federal permitting requirements will ensure the project delivers lasting environmental benefits while strengthening the ecological integrity of the Niagara River Greenway.

Implementable

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project is implementation-ready and supported by completed planning, environmental investigations, conceptual design, and a comprehensive funding strategy. The Town owns the project property, has secured a \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant that is actively remediating the site, and has established a multidisciplinary Steering Committee to guide implementation. The attached detailed project budget, phased implementation schedule, and master funding matrix demonstrate realistic project costs, coordinated funding sources, and clearly defined project components with no duplication of grant-funded activities. The proposed Greenway investment represents a stand-alone project that provides immediate public benefit while complementing other independently funded improvements. Following award, the Town will complete final design, engineering, permitting, and bid documents during 2027–2028, with construction anticipated in 2029. The project is supported by Town Board resolution, numerous letters of support from regional partners, and strong collaboration among Niagara County, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, and the Niagara River Greenway Commission, providing a clear and achievable path to successful implementation.

Economic Viability

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project has been planned for long-term economic viability and sustainability. Upon completion, the Town of Wheatfield will own, operate, and maintain the park through its Highway and Parks and Recreation Departments, with routine maintenance, habitat management, and infrastructure inspections funded through the Town's annual operating budget. The Town currently owns and maintains multiple public parks and recreational facilities and has the organizational capacity and experience necessary to successfully operate and maintain the completed improvements. The project incorporates durable, low-maintenance materials, including composite decking for the universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, native vegetation that reduces long-term landscaping needs, and flood-compatible infrastructure designed to withstand periodic flooding and minimize future repair costs. By leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local investment, the project transforms a former brownfield



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



into a lasting public asset that supports recreation, cycling tourism, eco-tourism, environmental education, and community quality of life while minimizing long-term municipal operating costs.

Local Sponsor or Partner

The Town of Wheatfield will serve as the lead project sponsor and provide long-term ownership, operation, maintenance, and stewardship of the 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project. The Town has demonstrated its commitment to the project through years of planning, adoption of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, property ownership, and investment in the redevelopment of its only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property. Niagara County will provide experienced grant administration, while a qualified consultant team will complete final design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration. The project is further strengthened by a Steering Committee that was established in 2024 and includes representation from Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, the Niagara River Greenway Commission, Niagara County, and the Town of Wheatfield. Together, these partners provide technical expertise in ecological restoration, waterfront planning, regulatory permitting, habitat management, and public recreation, ensuring the project is successfully implemented and responsibly managed for future generations.

Matching Funds/ Leveraging

The proposed 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project demonstrates exceptional leveraging of public investment. A Niagara River Greenway award of \$203,800 will leverage more than \$1.56 million in coordinated federal, state, regional, and local funding, including a \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant, a pending \$650,000 New York State Department of State Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant, and a pending \$491,900 New York State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant. Greenway funding is strategically targeted to complete the project's signature public access improvements, including the universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, trailhead kiosk, interpretive signage, bicycle facilities, and observation platform seating. The accompanying project funding strategy infographic illustrates how each grant supports a distinct project component, ensuring complementary investments with no duplication of costs or grant-funded activities. This coordinated funding strategy maximizes the value of every public investment while transforming the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead and regional waterfront destination.

Consideration of other Planning Efforts

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project is the culmination of years of coordinated planning and directly implements priority recommendations identified in the Town of Wheatfield's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The project also advances the goals and recommendations of the Niagara River Greenway Plan, Buffalo Niagara Habitat Conservation Strategy, Town of Wheatfield Comprehensive Plan, NYS Region 9 30x30 Strategy, and One Region Forward Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Collectively, these planning efforts call for expanded public access to the Niagara River, ecological restoration, climate resilience, habitat enhancement, sustainable recreation, and stronger regional trail connectivity. By transforming the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead, the



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



project translates years of local, regional, and state planning into a coordinated, implementable project that reflects best practices in resilient waterfront design, nature-based solutions, environmental stewardship, and universally accessible public access.

Clear Benefits

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project delivers substantial and lasting benefits to the Niagara River, the Niagara River Greenway, and the surrounding region by transforming the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property from a former brownfield into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead. The project restores ecological function through wetland enhancement, native habitat restoration, invasive species removal, and nature-based shoreline stabilization while expanding universally accessible public access through a signature river observation and fishing platform, trailhead amenities, and environmental interpretation. By strengthening regional trail connectivity, enhancing outdoor recreation, supporting cycling tourism and eco-tourism, and promoting environmental stewardship, the project advances the Greenway's vision of a world-class waterfront corridor where exceptional public access and ecological restoration are achieved together. Leveraging more than \$1.77 million in coordinated public investment, the project creates a lasting regional destination that will benefit residents and visitors for generations.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER



Section 3 – Project Budget

“Strategically Leveraging \$1.77 Million in Coordinated Public Investment to Deliver a World-Class Waterfront Destination”

The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project represents a coordinated investment of more than \$1.77 million that leverages federal, state, regional, and local funding to transform the Town of Wheatfield's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead. Niagara River Greenway funding is strategically focused on the project's signature public access improvements, while complementary funding sources support environmental remediation, shoreline resilience, and park infrastructure. A project funding strategy infographic accompanies this application and demonstrates that each funding source supports a distinct project component with no duplication of grant-funded activities.

Category	Total Cost	Primary Funding Source(s)
EPA Brownfields Cleanup (Environmental Remediation)	\$425,000	EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant
Professional Design, Engineering & Permitting	\$75,000	DOS LWRP
Shoreline Resilience, Wetland Enhancement & Habitat Restoration	\$650,000	DOS Community Resilience Grant
Accessible River Observation & Fishing Platform	\$283,800	Greenway / DOS LWRP
Pavilion & Gathering Area	\$80,000	DOS LWRP
ADA Restroom Facility	\$135,000	DOS LWRP
Trailhead Visitor Amenities Package	\$39,800	Greenway/ DOS LWRP
Utility Connections	\$25,000	DOS LWRP
Site Road Access	\$12,100	DOS LWRP
Construction Oversight	\$45,000	DOS LWRP
TOTAL PROJECT	\$1,770,700	Federal, State & Local Funding

Greenway Specific Budget	Amount
Planning	\$0
Construction	\$203,800
Accessible River Observation & Fishing Platform (Greenway Share)	\$180,800
Educational Kiosk & Interpretive Signage on Platform	\$6,500
Project Signage at Trailhead	\$6,500
Bicycle Racks	\$5,000
Benches on Observation Platform	\$5,000
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$0
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$0
TOTAL GREENWAY REQUEST	\$203,800



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



The 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project has a total estimated cost of \$1,770,700 and is supported through a coordinated funding strategy that leverages federal, state, regional, and local investment. Each funding source supports a distinct project component, ensuring there is no duplication of grant-funded activities while maximizing the overall public investment.

Funding Sources

- **EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant – \$425,000 (Committed):** Environmental remediation, including contaminated soil removal, wetland enhancement through placement of clean soils, environmental monitoring, and site preparation for park redevelopment.
- **New York State Department of State Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Program – \$650,000 (Pending):** Final design and construction of shoreline stabilization, wetland restoration, habitat enhancement, invasive species removal, native plantings, green infrastructure, floodplain restoration, and other climate resilience improvements.
- **New York State Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program – \$491,900 (Pending):** Final design and engineering, utility connections, ADA restroom facility, pavilion and gathering area, site road access improvements, trailhead visitor amenities, and construction administration.
- **Niagara River Greenway Commission – \$203,800 (Requested):** Construction of the universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, trailhead kiosk, interpretive signage, bicycle racks, and waterfront benches that complete the project's signature visitor experience.

Operation and Maintenance

Upon completion, the Town of Wheatfield will own, operate, and maintain the park through its Highway and Parks & Recreation Departments. Routine maintenance, habitat management, inspection of resilient infrastructure, and replacement of public amenities will be funded through the Town's annual operating budget. The project incorporates durable, low-maintenance materials, native vegetation, and flood-compatible infrastructure to minimize long-term operating costs while ensuring the park remains a resilient, high-quality public asset for future generations.

The requested \$203,800 Niagara River Greenway investment serves as strategic gap funding that completes the project's signature public access improvements, leveraging more than \$1.56 million in complementary federal and state funding to create a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that advances ecological restoration, recreation, tourism, and environmental stewardship.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Section 4 - Community Support, Local Planning Consistency, and Project Partners

“Broad Community Support and Strong Regional Partnerships Position the Project for Success”

The proposed 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project is the culmination of more than a decade of coordinated planning, public engagement, and interagency collaboration. The vision for transforming the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property into a resilient public destination was first established through the Town of Wheatfield's 2014 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and has since been reinforced through the Town Comprehensive Plan, Town Board discussions, and continued municipal planning efforts that identify the site as a priority for waterfront revitalization, ecological restoration, climate resilience, and expanded public access.

Community input has been incorporated throughout project development through the public participation process associated with the LWRP, Comprehensive Plan outreach, Town Board meetings, and a dedicated public information meeting held on May 27, 2026 to present the EPA Brownfields Cleanup project and proposed waterfront park improvements. Additional outreach has included ongoing coordination with adjacent property owners, local residents, anglers, cyclists, trail users, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders whose feedback helped shape the project's emphasis on universally accessible waterfront access, habitat restoration, environmental education, and regional trail connectivity.

Project planning has been guided by the 2020 River Road Steering Committee, established in 2024 to coordinate implementation among key project partners. The Steering Committee includes representatives from the Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, and the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Together, these partners have provided technical guidance on brownfield redevelopment, wetland restoration, shoreline resilience, environmental permitting, public access, and integration with the Niagara River Shoreline Trail and broader Greenway network.

The Town of Wheatfield will serve as project sponsor and long-term owner of the completed park. Niagara County will provide grant administration and technical assistance, while a qualified consultant team will complete final design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration. Municipal resolutions authorizing grant applications, letters of support from regional partners, and adopted planning documents are included with this application, demonstrating broad community and governmental support, strong organizational capacity, and a shared commitment to implementing and stewarding this destination-quality waterfront park for future generations.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Section 5 – Environmental Setting, Existing Conditions, Property Ownership, and SEQRA

“Transforming a Former Brownfield into a Resilient Public Waterfront That Protects and Enhances the Niagara River Ecosystem”

The proposed project encompasses a 4.59-acre Town of Wheatfield owned brownfield site located along the Niagara River within a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area. Historic dumping activities resulted in soil contamination that is currently being remediated through a committed \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant. Existing site conditions include degraded shoreline habitat, extensive invasive vegetation, reduced ecological function, and the absence of formal public access despite the property's location adjacent to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail.

Following environmental remediation, the project will restore the site through wetland enhancement, native habitat restoration, invasive species management, green infrastructure, nature-based shoreline stabilization, and construction of a universally accessible river observation and fishing platform designed to expand public access while protecting shoreline and aquatic resources.

Environmental conditions and restoration opportunities are documented in the attached Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Habitat Conservation Strategy, which identifies wetlands and invasive vegetation throughout the site. Invasive species including Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, Mugwort, Japanese Knotweed, and Bush Honeysuckle currently comprise an estimated 40% of the site's vegetation and represent the primary threat to ecological health. Their removal, combined with habitat restoration and native plantings, will improve biodiversity, habitat quality, water quality, and long-term ecological resilience. Collectively, these improvements will restore native ecological communities, increase habitat connectivity, improve floodplain function, and strengthen the long-term resilience of the Niagara River ecosystem.

Please see the attached photographs, conceptual plans, and preliminary schematics documenting existing site conditions and proposed park improvements.

The Town of Wheatfield will serve as SEQRA Lead Agency. Park development is classified as an Unlisted Action, and the SEQR review will be completed upon final design. Because the property lies within the 100-year floodplain, the project will also obtain a local Floodplain Development Permit and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local permitting requirements.

A New York State Department of Environmental Conservation SEQR Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) review and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) screening identified no known significant upland habitats or occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species within the proposed project area.

The proposed improvements have been intentionally designed to function within the active floodplain using resilient, flood-compatible design practices that protect natural resources while providing safe,



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



equitable, and sustainable public access to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements demonstrate how brownfield redevelopment, ecological restoration, and climate adaptation can be integrated to create a model waterfront project consistent with the vision of the Niagara River Greenway.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



Section 6 – Project Timeline

“Implementation-Ready with a Clear Path from Final Design to Public Opening”

Please see the attached Project Timeline illustrating the major project milestones and anticipated completion dates.

Following a grant award, the Town of Wheatfield will execute a funding agreement with the Niagara River Greenway Commission and initiate project implementation. During 2027–2028, the Town will retain a qualified consultant team to complete final design, engineering, construction documents, permitting, bid package preparation, and construction administration. All required environmental reviews, regulatory approvals, and permitting will be completed during this phase to prepare the project for construction.

Construction contracts will be procured through a competitive public bidding process in accordance with New York State municipal procurement requirements, with bid advertisement and contract award anticipated in late 2028. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2029, with Niagara River Greenway funding supporting the park's signature public access improvements, including the universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, trailhead kiosk, interpretive signage, waterfront benches, and bicycle racks.

The completed waterfront park is anticipated to open to the public in fall 2029, followed by final inspections, grant closeout, and a public ribbon-cutting ceremony recognizing the contributions of project partners and funding agencies. Upon completion, the Town of Wheatfield Highway and Parks & Recreation Departments will assume long-term ownership, operation, and maintenance of the park.

The Niagara River Greenway investment represents one component of a coordinated implementation strategy that also includes EPA Brownfields Cleanup funding, New York State Department of State Community Resilience funding, and Local Waterfront Revitalization Program funding. Together, these coordinated investments will transform a remediated brownfield into a resilient, destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead that expands public access, restores ecological function, and enhances the Niagara River corridor.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



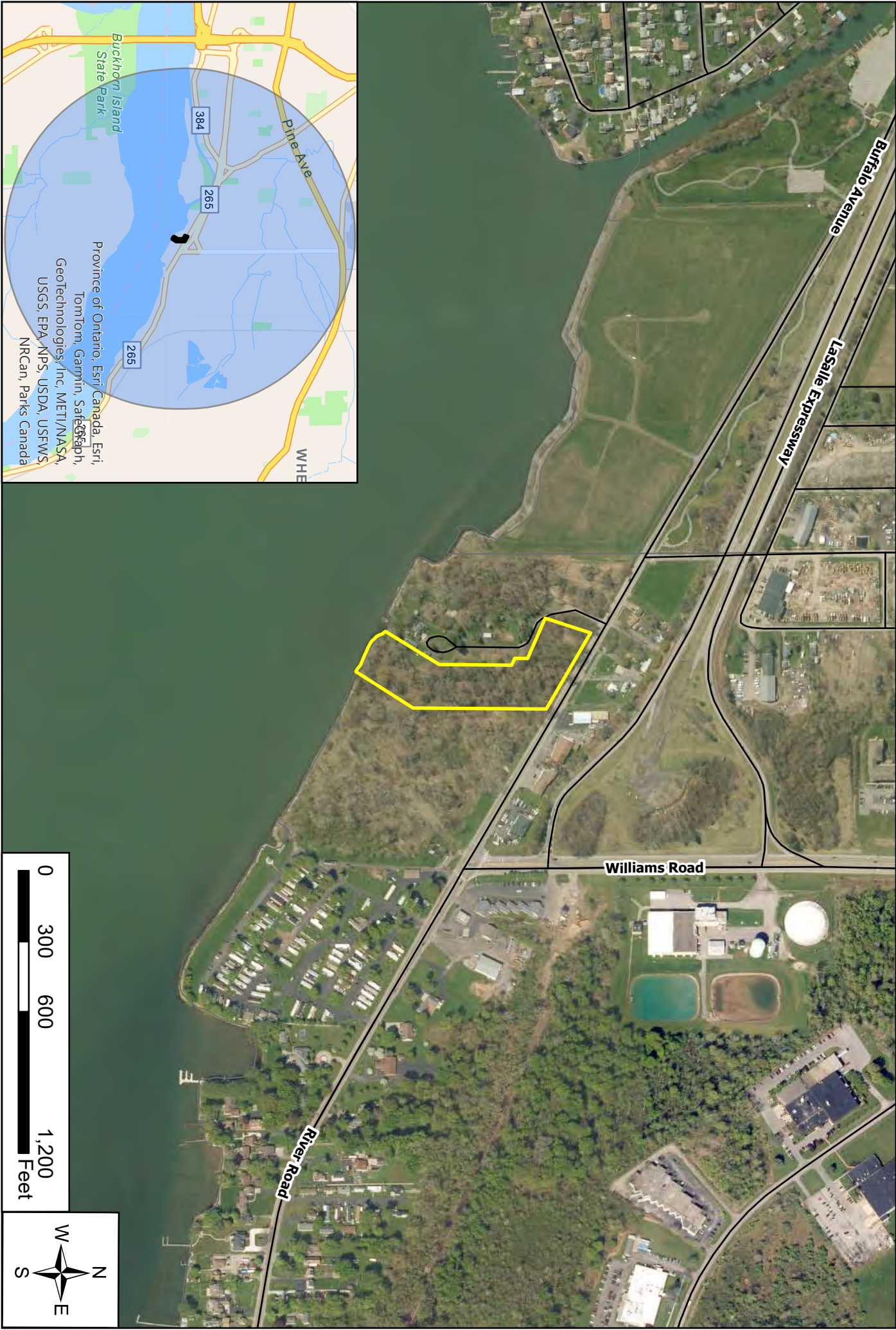


MAPS & PHOTOGRAPHS



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

2020 River Road, Wheatfield, NY





PROJECT FACT SHEET

2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT RESILIENCE PARK & HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Brownfield remediation
- Green infrastructure and flood-resilient design features compatible with FEMA 100-year floodplain
- Habitat enhancement and wetland protection through invasive species removal and native pollinator vegetation
- Living shoreline stabilization
- Provide only town owned public access to the Niagara River
- Accessible trails and river viewing areas
- ADA-accessible fishing platform
- Environmental education and interpretive signage

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Town of Wheatfield is seeking to transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned property at 2020 River Road into a flood-resilient waterfront park and habitat restoration area along the Niagara River. The project will leverage an ongoing \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant and implement a priority project identified in the Town's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The site is located along the New York Great Lakes Seaway Trail, the New York State Scenic Byway, and adjacent to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail. The project will enhance eco-tourism, recreational fishing opportunities, wildlife viewing, cycling tourism, and public enjoyment of the Niagara River corridor.

PROJECT PARTNERS

An active 2020 River Road Steering Committee is guiding project implementation and includes: Town of Wheatfield, Niagara County, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Parks, and the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

WHY THIS PROJECT MATTERS

- ✓ Flood Risk Reduction
- ✓ Climate Resilience
- ✓ Habitat Restoration
- ✓ Waterfront Revitalization
- ✓ Public Access Improvements
- ✓ Brownfield Redevelopment
- ✓ Recreation and Tourism
- ✓ Environmental Stewardship

CONTACT:

Amy E. Schifferli, AICP,

Director of Planning and Brownfield Development
Niagara County Department of
Economic Development

Email: amy.schifferli@niagaracounty.gov

Phone: (716) 278-8754

TRANSFORMING A FORMER BROWNFIELD SITE INTO A RESILIENT, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE NIAGARA RIVER DESTINATION

EXISTING CONDITIONS



FORMER BROWNFIELD
Vacant industrial land with legacy impacts



RESTORED WATERFRONT PARK
Vibrant public park and gathering space



CONTAMINATED SOILS
Environmental contamination



CLEAN, REMEDIATED SITE
Soils remediated for long-term safety and public use



INVASIVE VEGETATION
Non-native plants dominating the site



NATIVE WETLANDS AND HABITAT
Native plants, wetlands and thriving habitat



NO CURRENT ACCESS TO NIAGARA RIVER SHORELINE
No public access to the riverfront



ADA-ACCESSIBLE RIVER OBSERVATION & FISHING PLATFORM
Welcoming access for all to enjoy the river



DEGRADED SHORELINE
Erosion, instability and poor water quality



NATURE-BASED SHORELINE STABILIZATION
Restored shoreline with native plants and natural erosion control



LIMITED ECOLOGICAL FUNCTION
Low habitat value and high flood risk



ENHANCED HABITAT AND FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE
Stronger ecosystems and green infrastructure for a resilient future



A LASTING LEGACY FOR OUR COMMUNITY. A HEALTHIER RIVER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —





PROJECT OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION AND PARTNERSHIPS



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION & DELIVERY TEAM





2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —





BUDGET & CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

2020 River Road Waterfront Park Visitor Amenities Budget

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total	Greenway
Site Furnishings and Access Improvements					
Accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform	2,580	SF	\$ 110.00	\$ 283,800.00	\$ 180,800.00
Benches on observation platform	5	EA	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Bike racks	2	EA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Platform educational kiosk	1	EA	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
Project signage at trailhead	1	EA	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST					\$ 203,800.00

July 15, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Cost Estimate Methodology – 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project

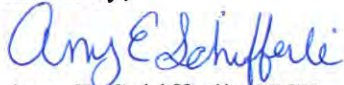
Dear Review Committee:

The project budget for the 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project was developed using planning-level cost estimates prepared with assistance from BRS, Inc., a professional environmental and engineering consulting firm currently supporting the Town's EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant at 2020 River Road. The estimates were based on preliminary conceptual plans, site-specific environmental investigations, anticipated construction quantities, current regional construction pricing, professional engineering judgment, and recent bid experience from comparable waterfront restoration and public access projects.

Niagara County reviewed the estimates to verify that the proposed costs are reasonable, cost-effective, and consistent with the anticipated scope of work. Budget items include only those expenses necessary to complete the proposed project and were coordinated with the project's overall funding strategy to ensure there is no duplication of costs among the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant, New York State Department of State funding programs, and the Niagara River Greenway request.

These estimates represent appropriate planning-level costs for grant application purposes. Final quantities, construction costs, and professional service fees will be refined during final design and confirmed through a competitive public bidding process in accordance with New York State procurement requirements.

Sincerely,



Amy E. Schifferli, AICP
Director of Planning & Brownfield Development

PROJECT FUNDING STRATEGY

2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project Town of Wheatfield, New York

TOTAL COORDINATED PUBLIC INVESTMENT
≈ \$1.77 MILLION

Transforming the Town's Only Municipally Owned Niagara River
Waterfront Property into a Destination-Quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail Trailhead



EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT

\$425,000

PURPOSE: Environmental Remediation

- ✓ Brownfield Cleanup
- ✓ Contaminated Soil Removal
- ✓ Wetland Soil Replacement
- ✓ Site Preparation
- ✓ Environmental Monitoring

OUTCOME

Prepares the property for public redevelopment.



NYS DOS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

\$650,000

PURPOSE: Climate Resilience &
Ecological Restoration

- ✓ Shoreline Stabilization
- ✓ Wetland Enhancement
- ✓ Native Plantings
- ✓ Green Infrastructure
- ✓ Floodplain Restoration
- ✓ Habitat Restoration

OUTCOME

Creates a resilient waterfront landscape.



NYS DOS LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

\$491,900

PURPOSE: Public Park Development

- ✓ Engineering & Permitting
- ✓ ADA Restroom
- ✓ Pavilion
- ✓ Trailhead Visitor Amenities
- ✓ Utility Connections
- ✓ Site Road Access
- ✓ Construction Administration
- ✓ Greenway Share of Fishing Platform

OUTCOME

Builds the park infrastructure.



NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY

\$203,800

PURPOSE: Signature Visitor Experience

- ✓ Accessible River Observation &
Fishing Platform
- ✓ Trailhead Kiosk
- ✓ Interpretive Signage
- ✓ Bicycle Racks
- ✓ Benches

OUTCOME

Creates the destination-quality waterfront experience.



1
EPA Cleanup
Environmental
Remediation



2
Clean Site
Ready for
Public Redevelopment



3
DOS Resilience
Restored
Shoreline



4
DOS LWRP
Public Park
Infrastructure



5
Greenway
Destination
Waterfront Trailhead



Habitat Restoration



Niagara River
Shoreline Trail



Universal
Accessibility



River Observation &
Fishing Platform



Climate Resilience



Environmental
Education



Bicycle Tourism



Waterfront
Revitalization

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Transform former brownfield into resilient public waterfront park
- Restore wetlands and shoreline habitat
- Improve approximately 200 feet of Niagara River shoreline
- Create a destination-quality Niagara River Shoreline Trail trailhead
- Construct a universally accessible river observation & fishing platform
- Expand recreation, tourism, and environmental education
- Leverage approximately \$1.77 million in coordinated public investment
- Deliver long-term environmental, recreational, and economic benefits

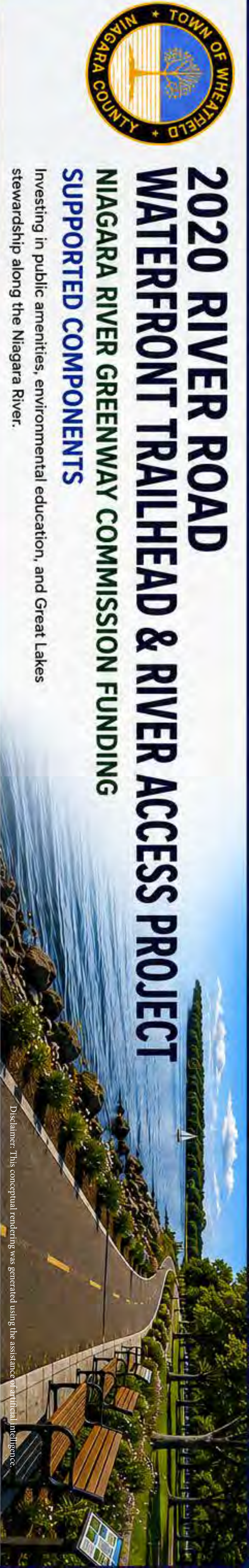


2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION FUNDING SUPPORTED COMPONENTS

Investing in public amenities, environmental education, and Great Lakes stewardship along the Niagara River.

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



COMMISSION FUNDING

The Niagara River Greenway Commission's support enhances public access, encourages sustainable recreation, and protects the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Niagara River corridor.



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Habitat Restoration
- Improved Water Quality
- Floodplain Resilience
- Nature-Based Infrastructure
- Great Lakes Stewardship
- Community Resilience & Flood Risk Reduction

FUNDED PARK AMENITIES & FEATURES

1

FISHING & OBSERVATION PLATFORM

Universally accessible platform at or below the high water mark for fishing, wildlife viewing, and scenic overlooks.

2

BICYCLE RACKS

Convenient bike parking to encourage active transportation and connect visitors to the waterfront and regional trails.

3

WATERFRONT BENCHES

Comfortable seating along the shoreline for relaxation, reflection, and enjoying views of the Niagara River.

4

TRAILHEAD KIOSK

Park information, maps, events, and wayfinding to welcome visitors and promote exploration.

5

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Learn about the Niagara River, local history, biology, ecology, and wildlife through engaging educational displays.

6

GREAT LAKES STEWARDSHIP

Protecting our shared natural heritage and supporting a healthy, vibrant Niagara River ecosystem.

PROJECT IMPACT

- ENHANCED RECREATION**
Expands opportunities for fishing, birdwatching, walking, and scenic enjoyment.
- ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**
Informs and inspires visitors of all ages about the Niagara River and local ecosystems.
- ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITY**
Supports active transportation and healthy lifestyles.
- TOURISM & ECONOMIC BENEFITS**
Attracts visitors and strengthens our local economy.
- COMMUNITY CONNECTION**
Creates a welcoming destination that connects people to nature and to each other.
- RESILIENCE & STEWARDSHIP**
Invests in nature-based solutions that protect our shoreline and build a resilient future.

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- 4.59 ACRES OF PUBLIC WATERFRONT PARK
- FORMER BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT
- FEMA FLOODPLAIN RESILIENCE
- NIAGARA RIVER SHORELINE TRAIL ACCESS
- GREAT LAKES SEAWAY TRAIL CONNECTION
- TOWNS ONLY MUNICIPALLY OWNED WATERFRONT

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Recreation
- Tourism & Local Economy
- Environmental Education
- Fishing
- Birdwatching
- Cycling
- Walking & Scenic Viewing

FUNDING PARTNERS

- NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY
- EPF Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Niagara River Greenway
- Greenway Funding for Resilient Waterfront Improvements

With support from the Niagara River Greenway Commission, the Town of Wheatfield is creating a vibrant, resilient, and accessible waterfront park that enhances quality of life and protects the Niagara River for generations to come.

Our River. Our Community. Our Future.

FEATURE 1

FISHING & OBSERVATION PLATFORM

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING & DESIGN DETAILS

A universally accessible platform located at or above the 100-year flood elevation to provide fishing access, wildlife viewing, and scenic overlooks along the Niagara River.



KEY FEATURES

- Elevated platform above the 100-year flood elevation (592.5')
- Universal access connection to waterfront trail
- Steel pile supports minimize impact to riverbed and habitat
- Durable, low-maintenance materials
- Integrated seating and viewing areas
- Fishing access with protective railing
- Enhances public access, recreation, and environmental education

CONNECTION TO TRAIL



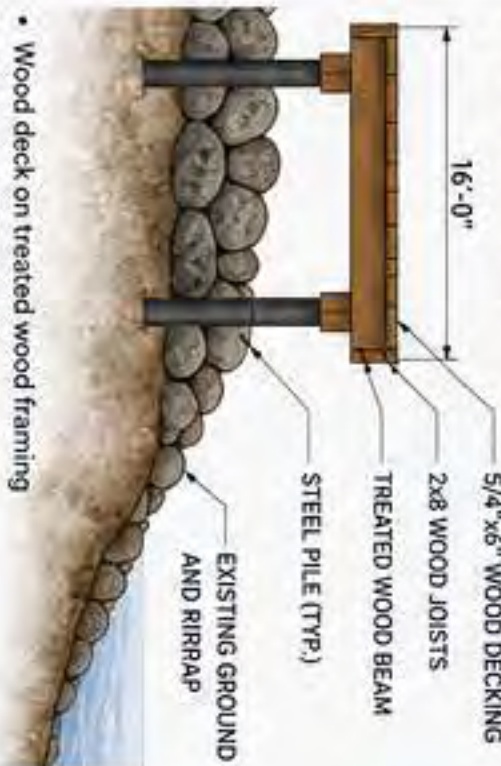
- 10' wide ADA-accessible trail (max 2% cross slope)
- Gentle transition to platform entry
- Safety railing at entrance

TYPICAL PLAN & DIMENSIONS



- Open viewing area with seating
- Fishing access along full length
- Defensive railing around perimeter

TYPICAL SECTION



- Wood deck on treated wood framing
- Steel pile supports (typ.)
- Minimizes disturbance to riverbed



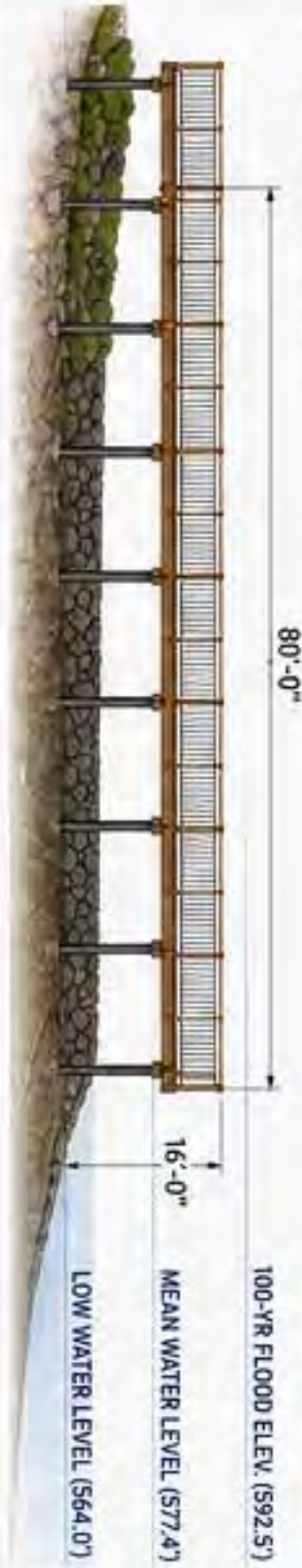
2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access Project

WHEATFIELD, NEW YORK

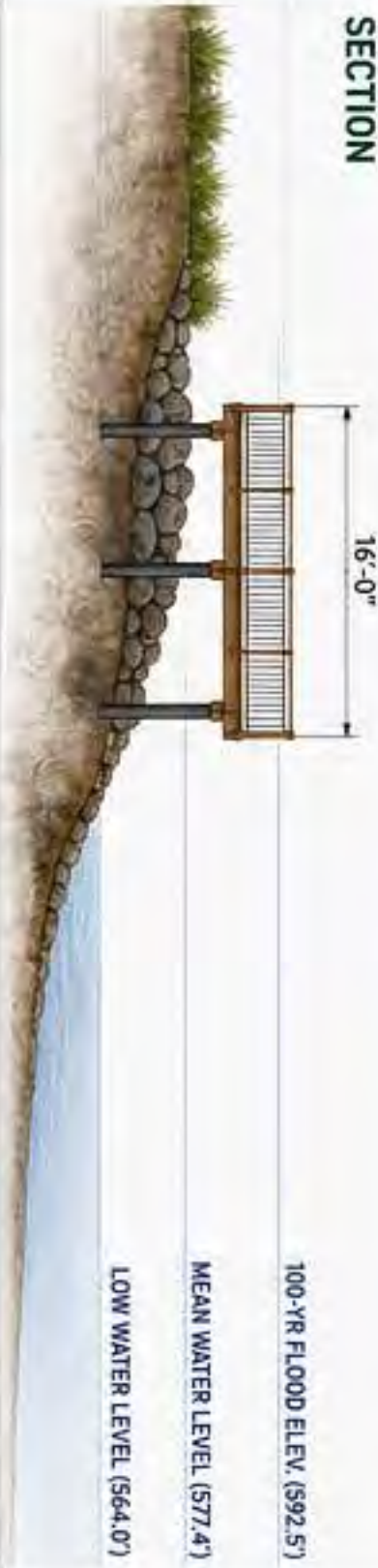
PLAN VIEW



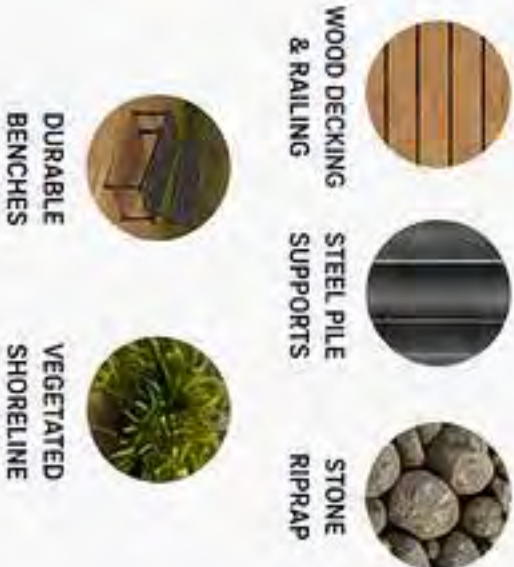
ELEVATION (RIVER SIDE)



SECTION



MATERIALS



ACCESSIBILITY & SAFETY



- ADA-compliant design
- 42" high railing with pickets
- Non-slip decking surface
- Fishing access with clear viewing
- Safety lighting (solar bollards)



INVESTING IN OUR SHARED FUTURE: This project enhances public access, restores natural habitats, improves resilience to flooding and erosion, and builds a healthier, more connected community along the Niagara River.

Our River. Our Community. Our Future.

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

FEATURE 2 & 3

BICYCLE RACKS & WATERFRONT BENCHES

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING & DESIGN DETAILS

Convenient amenities that support active transportation, rest, and enjoyment along the Niagara River waterfront.



2020 River Road
Waterfront Trailhead &
River Access Project
WHEATFIELD, NEW YORK

BICYCLE RACKS – PERSPECTIVE



KEY FEATURES

- Convenient bicycle parking at trailhead and waterfront
- Powder-coated steel for durability and low maintenance
- Encourages active transportation and healthy lifestyles
- Concrete pad for stability and accessibility
- Located near trail access and amenities

PLAN VIEW



SECTION



ELEVATION



PLACEMENT CONTEXT – BICYCLE RACKS



MATERIALS

- POWDER-COATED STEEL
- CONCRETE PAD

DIMENSIONS & NOTES

- Rack Type: Inverted U
- Capacity: 2 bikes per rack
- Spacing: 2'-0" between racks
- Set in concrete for stability
- ADA-compliant clearances
- Surface: Powder-coated steel

WATERFRONT BENCHES – PERSPECTIVE



KEY FEATURES

- Comfortable seating with scenic views of the Niagara River
- Durable materials for long-term performance
- Positioned along the waterfront for rest and enjoyment
- Supports recreation, relaxation, and community well-being
- Enhances the overall visitor experience

PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION (FRONT)



SIDE VIEW



PLACEMENT CONTEXT – BENCHES



MATERIALS

- RECYCLED PLASTIC WOOD SLATS (WEATHER RESISTANT)
- POWDER-COATED STEEL FRAME

DIMENSIONS & NOTES

- Bench Length: 6'-0"
- Seat Height: ~17"-18"
- Durable, low-maintenance materials
- ADA-accessible seating locations
- Anchored to concrete pad for stability



INVESTING IN OUR SHARED FUTURE: This project enhances public access, restores natural habitats, improves resilience to flooding and erosion, and builds a healthier, more connected community along the Niagara River.

Our River. Our Community. Our Future.

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

FEATURE 4 & 5

TRAILHEAD KIOSK & INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



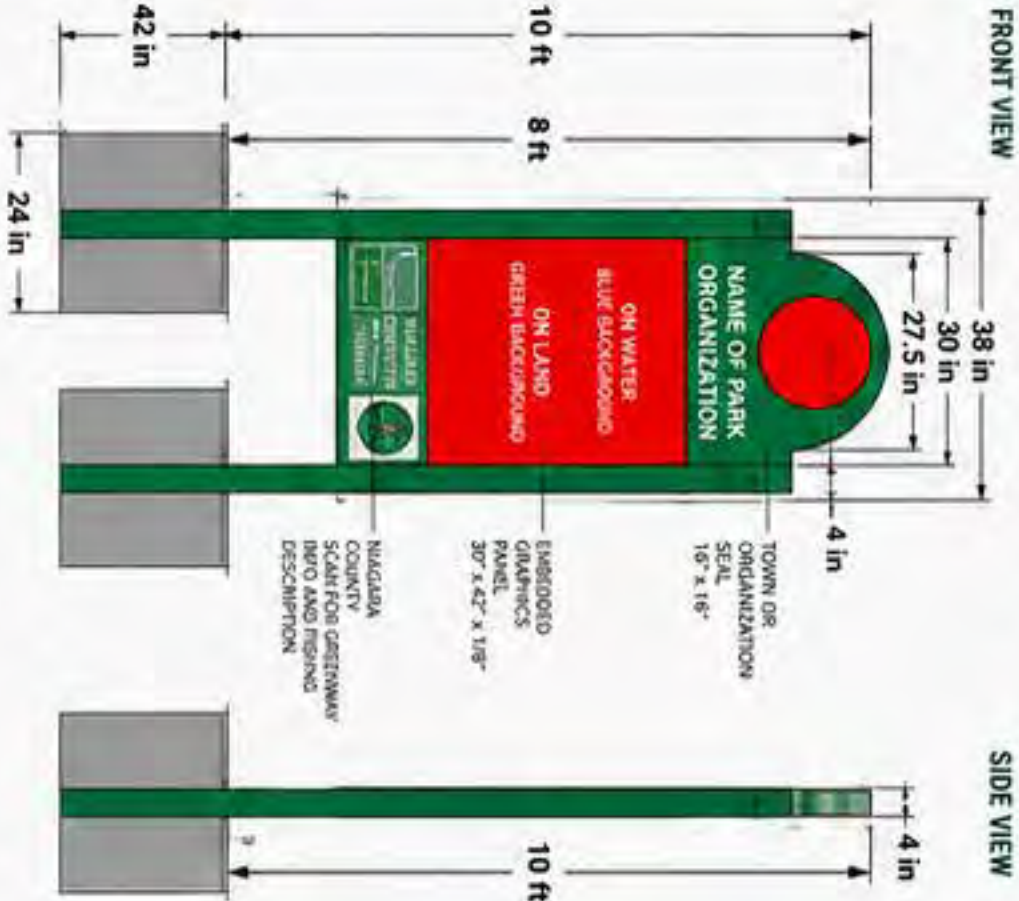
2020 River Road
Waterfront Trailhead &
River Access Project
WHEATFIELD, NEW YORK

Inform, inspire, and connect visitors to the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Niagara River.

TRAILHEAD KIOSK – PERSPECTIVE



TRAILHEAD KIOSK – ELEVATIONS



KEY FEATURES

- Welcomes visitors and provides wayfinding information
- Map of trails, park features, and regional connections
- Highlights rules, safety, and stewardship messages
- Durable, weather-resistant materials
- Enhances visitor orientation and experience

MATERIALS



DIMENSIONS & NOTES

- Kiosk Width: 7'-0"
- Overall Height: 7'-8"
- Roof: Standing seam metal
- ADA-accessible location near trail entrance
- Set in concrete footings

PLACEMENT CONTEXT – TRAILHEAD KIOSK



MATERIALS



DIMENSIONS & NOTES

- Kiosk serves as the main information hub
- ADA-accessible location near trail entrance
- Clear sightlines from parking and path
- Low-maintenance, long-lasting materials

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE – PERSPECTIVE
(ALONG WATERFRONT PLATFORM)



KEY FEATURES

- Shares the story of the Niagara River and local heritage
- Highlights ecology, habitats, and conservation
- Engages visitors of all ages with educational content
- Positioned along the waterfront for high visibility
- Encourages exploration and stewardship

PLACEMENT CONTEXT – INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE – PLAN VIEW



ELEVATION



SIDE VIEW



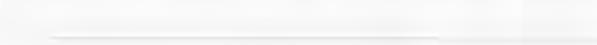
MATERIALS



DIMENSIONS & NOTES

- Sign Panel Width: 3'-0"
- Top of Panel Height: 3'-6"
- Tilted for readability
- ADA-clear viewing zone required
- Anchored in concrete for stability and durability

PLACEMENT CONTEXT – INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



INVESTING IN OUR SHARED FUTURE: This project enhances public access, restores natural habitats, improves resilience to flooding and erosion, and builds a healthier, more connected community along the Niagara River.

Our River. Our Community. Our Future.

Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —





PROJECT TIMELINE



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

A phased implementation plan to create a resilient waterfront destination that restores habitat, increases public access, and builds community.

TIMEFRAME	PROJECT MILESTONE	KEY ACTIVITIES / DESCRIPTION	PHASE	ICON
Late 2026 / Early 2027	Greenway funding award and grant agreement execution (anticipated)	Anticipated award by the Niagara River Greenway Commission and execution of grant agreement.	PLANNING	
Spring 2027	Consultant procurement and project kickoff	Procure qualified consultant team and conduct project kickoff meeting.	PLANNING	
2027-2028	Final design, engineering, environmental permitting, construction documents, bid package preparation, and project management	Complete final design and engineering, environmental permitting, construction documents, and bid package preparation. Includes project management and implementation support.	DESIGN & PERMITTING	
Late 2028	Competitive bidding and contractor selection	Advertise for bids and select contractor in accordance with New York State procurement requirements.	PROCUREMENT	
Spring 2029	Construction begins	Mobilize contractor and begin construction activities.	CONSTRUCTION	
Spring-Summer 2029	Greenway-funded improvements	Construct Greenway-funded improvements, including the universally accessible fishing and observation platform, trailhead kiosk, interpretive signage, bicycle racks, and waterfront benches.	CONSTRUCTION (GREENWAY FUNDED)	
Summer-Fall 2029	Project completion and final inspections	Substantial completion of all work and final inspections.	CONSTRUCTION	
Fall 2029	Park opening and ribbon-cutting	Official opening of the park and ribbon-cutting celebration with project partners and the community.	OPENING	
Late 2029 / Early 2030	Grant reporting and closeout	Complete grant reporting requirements and closeout.	CLOSEOUT	
Ongoing	Operation and maintenance	Long-term operation and maintenance of the park by the Town of Wheatfield Highway and Parks Departments.	OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	

PART OF A LARGER INVESTMENT

Greenway funding represents one part of the overall \$1.77 million implementation strategy, leveraging EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant and NYS Department of State funding to transform a remediated brownfield into a resilient waterfront park.

OUR COMMITMENT

Restore habitat and water quality

Increase public access for all

Build climate resilience and protect the shoreline

Strengthen community and regional partnerships



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

NATURE-BASED PLATFORM
AT OR BELOW HIGH WATER MARK

GREENWAY-FUNDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Universally Accessible Fishing & Observation Platform
- Trailhead Kiosk
- Interpretive Signage
- Bicycle Racks
- Waterfront Benches

These projects will enhance public access, restore habitat, and build a more resilient shoreline for future generations.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

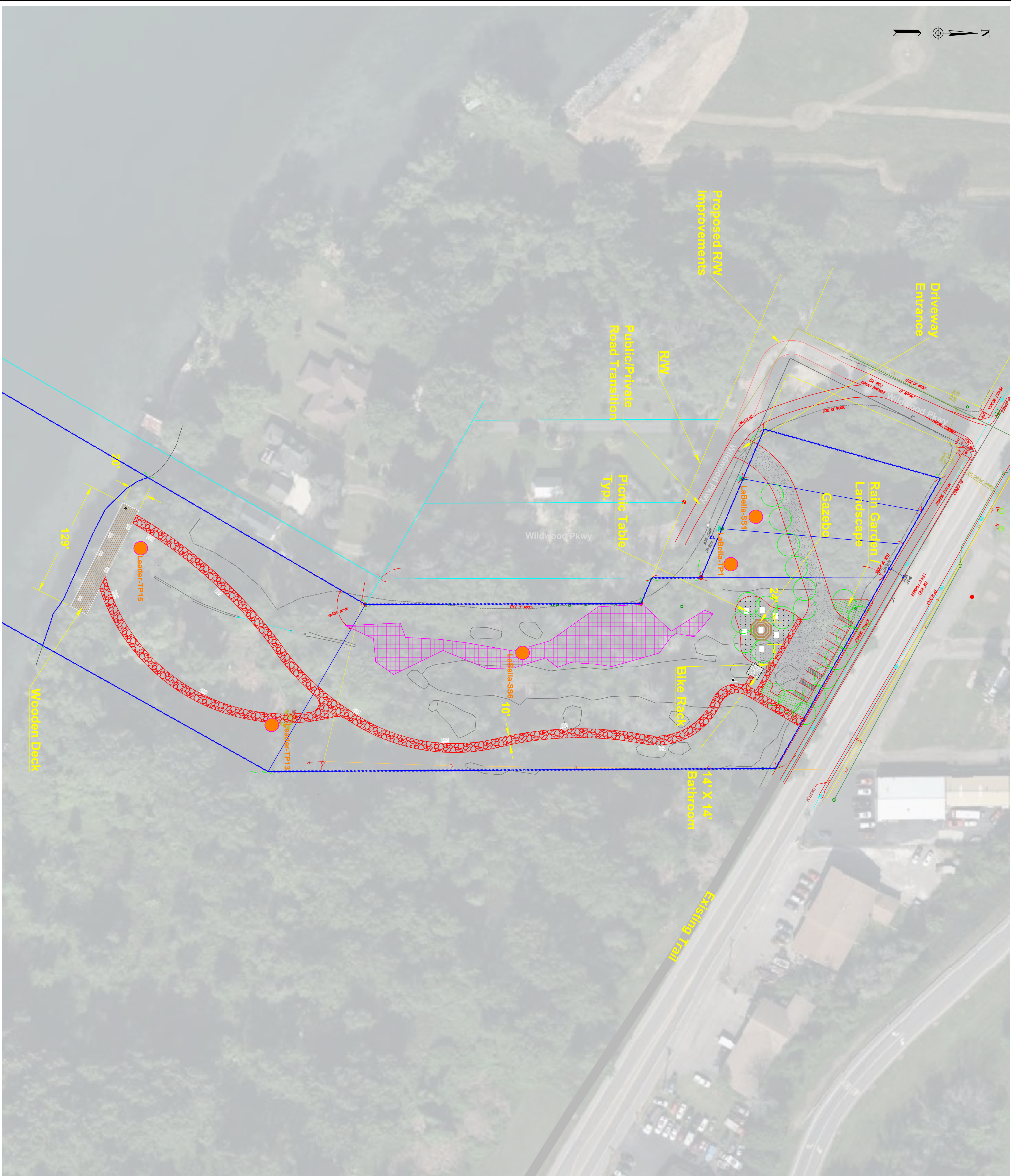
— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —



LOCAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

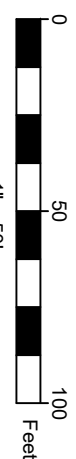


- NOTES:
1. Benches are oriented to be facing west, towards the wetlands.
 2. Trail built along the edge of the wetlands. Gives minimum 25' of dense brush at all points along the trail.
 3. Signage installed at 150' feet intervals along the trail, notice to stay on trail.
 4. Plantings of 25' diameter trees to be installed where brush is thinner.
 5. Signage will warn visitors against launching boats or other watercraft from the platform.
 6. 9 proposed parking spaces.
 7. Final deck design shall be supported by a structural engineering report evaluating potential river ice forces, including ice sheet movement and lateral loading during freeze/thaw conditions. Design shall account for seasonal ice impacts along the river edge.

Sample ID	Depth	Contaminant
SS1	Surface	Barium - 1,290 mg/kg
SS6	Surface	Arsenic - 20.8 mg/kg
TP1	2-4 ft	Arsenic - 24.4 mg/kg
TP-13	4-5 ft	Arsenic 28.3 mg/kg
TP-15	0-2 ft	Lead -39,400 mg/kg

Proposed Concept Area Takeoffs	
Amenity	Area SQ.FT
Entrance Drive and Parking	10080.25
Walkways	12617.8
Picnic Area	3589.08
Wooden Deck	2576.19
Rain Garden/ Landscape	2615.2

- LEGEND
- PROPOSED 25' DIAMETER TREES
 - PROPOSED ASPHALT DRIVEWAY
 - PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED BENCHES
 - ON SITE WETLAND BOUNDARY
 - PROPOSED 10' WIDE HARDSCAPE TRAIL
 - PROPOSED INTERPRETIVE SIGN
 - PROPOSED PROPERTY WARNING SIGN
 - WOODEN DECK
 - SOIL CONTAMINANT TESTING LOCATION
 - RAIN GARDEN / LANDSCAPE AREA



DRAFT CONCEPTUAL PLAN

PREPARED FOR:
NIAGARA COUNTY
BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
TOWN OF WHEATFIELD, NIAGARA COUNTY, NEW YORK



DESIGNED BY:
JL

DRAWN BY:
JL

CHECKED BY:
JT

APPROVED BY:
JT

DATE:
JANUARY, 25 2024

REV	DESCRIPTION	DRN	DES	CHK	APR	DATE

SCALE: AS NOTED
DATE: MARCH 2026
CDD FILE:
400-NIAGRA-CONCEPTUAL-1112026.DWG
SHEET: 1 OF 1
REV: A
SIZE: 11x17
FOUR: 1

D

Over the past few decades, the area has become increasingly attractive for residential use, with many cottages (over 90 percent) transitioning to year-round residences. The Sub-Area 1 waterfront includes distinct neighborhoods, which are characterized by narrow roadways lined with small homes and mature trees. These areas include Sunset Drive, Hird Street, York Road and Willow Lane. In addition, the area includes a mix of residential and commercial uses along River Road and a large manufactured/mobile home park. Access to the Niagara River in Sub-Area 1 is gained from private docks situated on residential properties that front along the river. There are no public parks, marinas or other waterfront amenities in this area.



Sub-Area 1: Niagara River



Sub-Area 2: Erie Canal (Tonawanda Creek)

The Erie Canal portion of the waterfront (Sub-Area 2) follows properties along Lockport Avenue, which extends below Niagara Falls Blvd., essentially splitting the area into two sections. Both sections are residentially developed. The eastern side, abutting West Canal Marina Park in the Town of Pendleton, has housing along both sides of Lockport Road, whereas the western section, near the City of North Tonawanda only has housing on the upland side of Lockport Road. This area is rural in nature, with limited access to the Canal.

2.3 Overview of Coastal Resources Planning Efforts

2.3.1 Regional Planning

There are a number of regional plans that are available to help guide land use and other activities in the Town of Wheatfield and Niagara County, as a whole.

- [Framework for Regional Growth for Erie and Niagara Counties](#)

The Framework for Regional Growth for Erie and Niagara Counties, New York is the regional planning document. The Framework was finalized in October of 2006 and establishes basic policies and principles to guide the future growth and development of the region. Specifically, the Framework provides:

- A vision for how the region should grow over the next 15 years.

- Direction regarding growth and redevelopment matters for County decision makers and other regional organizations that are linked to the two counties by way of funding, membership or other relationships.
- Information on the ways local governments, private sector and non-profit actions and initiatives can reinforce the overall regional vision.
- Mechanisms to insure that the goals, concepts and recommendations of the Framework for Regional Growth are implemented in an efficient and accountable manner.

The Framework's recommendations build on the recognition that the Region's communities cannot effectively plan in isolation or independently address important issues, as almost every challenge faced by a locality has a regional dimension. The Framework is not a conventional zoning or land use plan or capital improvement program. It is designed to help County and regional leaders make better policy and investment decisions, more effectively leverage limited resources and provide more consistent direction and useful support to municipalities.

The Framework for Regional Growth establishes planning policy areas that define, in broad terms, where County policies encourage development and public investment, where development and public investment may be appropriate subject to careful evaluation and where conservation strategies generally take precedence over plans for development and public investment. The planning policy areas include Developed Areas, Developing Areas and Rural Areas. The Town of Wheatfield waterfront area falls into the Developed Areas category because it is situated between the Cities of Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda, and includes suburban development that is served by public sewer, water and transportation infrastructure. The policies and strategies for the Developed Areas include:

- sparking investment, attracting new households and businesses,
- supporting the conservation and stabilization of existing neighborhoods,
- supporting new compact, pedestrian oriented, mixed-use development on vacant and underutilized sites, and
- improving livability and economic vitality.

■ *Niagara Communities Comprehensive Plan*

The Niagara Communities Comprehensive Plan (NCCP) is a county-wide planning document that emphasizes a multi-municipal approach for planning and decision making. The NCCP provides a framework for achieving five high priority goals:

- Encouraging desirable and appropriate growth and development,
- Strengthening the local economy,
- Improving the delivery of services,
- Prioritizing and coordinating capital improvements, and
- Improving the quality of life for County residents.

The Niagara Communities Comprehensive Plan is intended to unify existing county wide planning efforts, while recognizing the important planning initiatives undertaken at other levels of government, as well as the efforts of community organizations and agencies. The Plan is a guiding document for assisting future decision making by providing direction for ongoing and future planning efforts. The Plan also recommends various strategies and potential projects, and will be helpful for securing funds necessary to undertake these initiatives.

Niagara River Greenway Plan

The Niagara River Greenway Plan is a guidance document for creating connections between the various constituents, organizations and municipalities that comprise the Niagara River Greenway. It is an initiative with broad-based support aimed at fostering consensus. Under the umbrella of the Niagara River Greenway, these entities can advance local and regional agendas for community livability, environmental sustainability, tourism and economic revitalization.

The Niagara River Greenway Plan (NRGP) establishes a unified vision and a set of principles for the Niagara River Greenway. It identifies assets and resources that make up the Greenway. It sets priorities that suggest the types of activities to target in the near-term. It identifies potential funding sources, partnerships and linkages, and, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), addresses key transportation issues that affect the Greenway. The Plan also discusses several high priority Implementation Concepts, which describe system-wide approaches and strategies for Greenway development.

The principles and goals for the NRGP represent the general values for guiding greenway planning toward achievement of the vision. These principles and goals are centered on promoting high-quality, ecologically sensitive and sustainable activities and development.

The central theme is aimed at improving access to the Niagara River, making connections between communities and filling gaps in the trail system, protecting and restoring environmental systems, celebrating the history and heritage of the region, sparking revitalization and renewal, promoting long term sustainability and extending the Frederick Law Olmsted legacy for future generations.

A fundamental goal of the Niagara River Greenway Plan is riverfront preservation and restoration to fulfill the vision for Lake Ontario to Lake Erie access along the shoreline. Recognizing that much of the waterfront is held in private ownership, increasing public access and awareness through trails, conservation easements and other means is important. The recommendations in the Niagara River Greenway Plan identify two projects for the Town of Wheatfield waterfront. These include the development of a proposed multi-use pathway extending along the length of the waterfront connecting the Town with the adjoining communities of Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda, and the development of a waterfront park on a five-acre shoreline parcel owned by the Town.

- *2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for Erie and Niagara Counties*

The 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan sets forth the vision for making bicycling and walking an integral part of daily life in the Buffalo and Erie/Niagara region. This plan recommends projects, programs and policies for the next ten years to encourage use of these practical, non-polluting and affordable modes of transportation. The plan looks at streets for cycling and walking, parking, transit connections, education and marketing (health promotion), law enforcement and implementation. The plan contains goals and objectives, with over 100 suggested actions that detail how to implement the objectives in realistic, meaningful and cost effective ways.

The express purpose of the Master Plan is to provide coordinated guidance for the implementation of a safe, efficient and accessible transportation system designed for walking and bicycling. By reassessing previous goals and objectives, the intent is to adjust and reaffirm a regional vision regarding bicycling and pedestrian activities, including the establishment of interconnected bicycle and pedestrian networks for transportation. Such networks provide for focused treatments and sometimes separate facilities to promote walking and bicycling, and add a critical multi-modal element to a transportation system often geared toward motor vehicle travel. It furthermore reflects current federal goals to increase the amount of local bicycling and walking, and to increase safety by reducing the number of accidents. The Master Plan serves as a framework for facility investments and assists in promoting mobility options, healthier lifestyles, reducing air pollutants, and decreasing traffic congestion.

The goals of the 2008 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan align with the Town's goal to construct a multi-use pathway along the abandoned railway corridor, situated north of River Road. The plan outlines objectives that support the Town's vision for the waterfront pathway, including the adaptation of existing roadways to allow for safe and convenient bicycle travel, the incorporation of innovative designs to expand and enhance the regional bikeway network, making intersections bicycle and pedestrian friendly, and identifying and eliminating hazards to pedestrian and bicycle movement.

- *2035 Long Range Transportation Plan Update*

This plan acts as the multimodal blueprint for transportation systems and services and is aimed at meeting the transportation demands of existing and future development in Erie and Niagara County. The plan provides forecasts for the year 2035 for both population and employment. The plan devotes 70 percent of funding to maintaining the existing transportation infrastructure system.

- *Transportation Improvement Program, 2011-2015*

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the capital programming component of the Long Range Transportation Plan consisting of all federally funded roadway, transit, and

major transportation projects being considered within the region through 2015. The TIP also includes those regionally significant transportation projects being advanced by state and local entities with non-federal funding.

- *Niagara County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)*

This plan was developed to enhance Niagara County's ability to manage emergency situations, with the focus on rapidly and adequately responding in order to minimize injury and speed recovery. It consists of three components: disaster prevention and mitigation, disaster response, and disaster recovery. The CEMP defines roles and responsibilities in prevention, response, and recovery, including a detailed chain of command during an emergency. The plan places an emphasis on the role of local jurisdictions as first-line responders, but identifies the key role that County departments play in the process. The CEMP points out the importance of land use controls and development regulations in hazard-prone areas (e.g., floodplain development) for disaster avoidance and minimization.

2.3.2 Local Planning

- *Town of Wheatfield Comprehensive Plan*

Local planning plays a big part in how the waterfront in the Town is used and developed. The Town has been pro-active in planning for growth in the Town and adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2004, which was updated in 2012. Although the Town acknowledges that some of the information in this plan is falling out of date, the Plan still provides guidance for managing land use along the waterfront. The Comprehensive Plan recognizes that the waterfront areas are largely developed, and no major changes are expected in the area south of River Road or along Lockport Avenue. As public access is lacking in the area, the plan suggests recreational uses, such as trails to tie into the waterfront.

- *Stormwater Management Plan*

The Town of Wheatfield is a member of the Western New York Stormwater Coalition. The Coalition developed a Stormwater Management Plan as a shared resource to help local municipalities comply with the NYSDEC General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). This Plan, which was adapted for the Town of Wheatfield, provides policy and management guidance, including minimum control measures and best management practices for Public Education and Outreach, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post-Construction Stormwater management, and Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. In support of this Plan, the Town adopted a local law for stormwater management and erosion and sediment control and a local law for prohibiting illicit discharges, activities and connections to separate storm sewer systems. The town also appointed a designated Stormwater Management Officer.

- *Town of Wheatfield Greenspace Master Plan*

The Wheatfield Greenspace Master Plan was developed to help the Town preserve and incorporate greenspace into future development to maintain the ambiance and character of the community. The Plan includes an inventory of all parklands and greenspace for public access; identifies future greenspace areas for public access, emphasizes passive and active recreational needs and defines the quality of life in Wheatfield. This Plan, which is currently being updated, recommends capitalizing on the abandoned railway corridor to create a trail connection between Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda (at the east and west ends of Sub-Area #1) and other areas of the Town. It also recognizes the undeveloped Town-owned property located on the Niagara River shoreline, which proposed for use as public parkland.

RIVERSIDE PARK

Municipality: Wheatfield

Acreage: 4.59 acres

Location: River Road

Ownership: Town of Wheatfield

Site Description: Riverside Park is a town-owned parcel that is undeveloped, but it is occasionally used by the public for fishing. The parcel is comprised of mostly palustrine forested wetland with piles of dumped fill material. The Town of Wheatfield has a preliminary plan for parking and a trail at the site to make it accessible to the public and connect it to the Greenway trail; nonetheless, a lack of funding and potential contamination at the site from Love Canal or other nearby industries has prevented this from moving forward.



The site has approximately 200 feet of shoreline along the Niagara River with a well vegetated bank. Most of the land area consists of wetland that has been degraded through placement of fill with some upland areas along the western and northern edges of the parcel. In addition to potential soil contamination from fill materials, invasive plant species are a primary threat to ecological health and account for an estimated 40% of the site's vegetation. Invasive aquatic plant species Phragmites and Purple Loosestrife were observed at the northwest corner of the site and in varying densities across the site. The most heavily impacted area is located east of the fill ridgeline in a graded swale under a power line that runs through the parcel. This area is dominated by Mugwort but also contains a Phragmites patch at the southern end of the swale and an extensive Japanese Knotweed stand that covers a linear elevated berm near the eastern parcel boundary (Map 4.24).

Conservation Strategy: Contribute to the creation of a Niagara River Greenway by protecting and connecting natural areas.

Proposed Action/Restoration Potential: The following actions are recommended as priorities for the parcel:

- Address contamination concerns following the recommendations outlined in the Phase 2 report (2013) which may include mitigation measures to address potential for exposure to the fill at the site;
- Enhance shoreline habitat through the addition of fish attraction structures in the nearshore area at intervals. Linear barrier islands could protect the shoreline by dissipating wave energy and depositing sediment to encourage the formation of vegetation beds or emergent habitat parallel to the shoreline. The locations of emergent or submerged habitat enhancements would depend on the siting and design of the barrier islands. This technique was implemented successfully at Little Beaver Island as part of the Niagara River Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Habitat Improvement Projects (Map 4.25);
- Enhance fishing opportunities. This could be completed by installing a fishing platform, or large stepping stones (limestone stackers) placed between the shoreline and barrier islands. Bank

reshaping, grading, or removal of fill material would be required to support shoreline restoration (Map 4.25);

- Link park design with habitat restoration design. A single trail from the proposed parking lot to the shoreline with lateral sections along the river and possible spur trails in the interior of the parcel would correspond well with the size of the site and restoration needs. A single trail could be constructed by grading the existing ridge of fill piles to create an elevated path between the two depressions. Avoidance of trail construction through the wetter habitats would preserve old trees and patches of native vegetation. A modified and less extensive trail route would result in a reduction in impervious surfaces. Additionally, a trail on the elevated fill material not only avoids impacting wetlands further but also provides greater interpretive values by providing enhanced views of the wetlands and other portions of the site. Parking lot size should be reduced from the proposed 42-car paved lot, located at the northeast corner of the property, and the town could use a pervious pavement (Map 4.25);
- Investigate potential funding sources to purchase the 11-acre lot to the east currently for sale in order to expand the park;
- Protect the park area from encroaching land uses to the west. This could occur in the form of strategically planted trees or shrubs, or a fence; and,
- Control and manage invasive species as part of a phased habitat restoration design. Independent of trail construction, invasive plant control and management followed by introduction of native plant communities in all vegetation layers would enhance habitat quality and increase resistance to invasive plant recruitment and regeneration (Map 4.24).

Potential Implementers/Partners: Town of Wheatfield

Potential Funding Sources: Community Foundation of Great Buffalo - Niagara Area Foundation Grants, Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program Grants, NYS Consolidated Funding Applications, NYSDEC Environmental Restoration Grants



Left: Riverside Park shoreline facing south. Right: Western swale of higher quality habitat, looking south toward shoreline. The proposed loop trail follows the depression of the western swale south to the shoreline. The proposed route would require extensive site clearing through this wetland habitat. Avoidance of trail construction through this area of the property would preserve old trees and remnants of native vegetation. The existing depressions could potentially support enhanced wetland plant communities.

Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy

Map 4.24 Riverside Park: Existing Conditions



Data Source: ESRI 2012; Ecology and Environment, Inc. 2014.

Map 4.25 Riverside Park: Opportunities



Note: Additional opportunities include invasive species removal in locations depicted in Map 4.24. The “swale representing the site’s most natural habitat” represents the most important area for conservation.



2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT TRAILHEAD & RIVER ACCESS PROJECT

— CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY TO THE NIAGARA RIVER —





AUTHORIZING RESOLUTIONS & LETTERS OF SUPPORT



Disclaimer: This conceptual rendering was generated using the assistance of artificial intelligence.

TOWN OF WHEATFIELD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

I, Kathleen Harrington-McDonell, elected Town Clerk of The Town of Wheatfield, 2800 Church Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120, do hereby certify that the following resolution was adopted at the regular meeting of the Town of Wheatfield held on July 13, 2026, at 7:00 pm, and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting and that said resolution has not been altered.

Moved by Councilman Helwig and seconded by Councilman Doktor;

BE IT RESOLVED:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION HOST COMMUNITIES STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020 RIVER ROAD WATERFRONT PARK

WHEREAS, the Town of Wheatfield owns four parcels collectively known as 2020 River Road, identified as SBL Nos. 174.07-3-6, 174.07-3-7, 174.07-3-8, and 174.07-3-9; and

WHEREAS, the property represents the Town's only municipally owned Niagara River waterfront property and has been identified as a priority project in the Town of Wheatfield Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP); and

WHEREAS, the Town seeks to transform the property into a publicly accessible Niagara River waterfront park and trailhead along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail. Work includes environmental remediation, habitat restoration, shoreline improvements, trail enhancements, construction of an accessible fishing access dock, scenic overlooks, interpretive features, bicycle amenities, and other recreational improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation has awarded the Town a Four Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$425,000) EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to support environmental remediation activities necessary to prepare the site for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Communities Standing Committee provides funding for projects that enhance public access, recreation, environmental stewardship, and quality of life within Niagara River Greenway host communities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Niagara River Greenway Plan by expanding public access to the Niagara River, enhancing recreational opportunities, strengthening connectivity along the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, restoring natural resources, and advancing implementation of the Town's adopted LWRP; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

That the Wheatfield Town Board hereby authorizes submission of an application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Communities Standing Committee for funding to support implementation of the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park.

This motion was CARRIED: AYES 5- NAYS 0.


Kathleen Harrington-McDonell
Town Clerk

Seal of Municipality



NIAGARA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

NIAGARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
175 HAWLEY STREET
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 439-7105
(716) 439-7114 Fax

Claude A. Joerg

County Attorney

Katherine D. Alexander

First Assistant

R. Thomas Burgasser

John S. Sansone

Gary H. Lisowski

David W. Koplas

Bradley D. Marble

Christopher Bopst

Assistants

August 5, 2026

Don MacSwan, Supervisor
Town of Wheatfield
2800 Church Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access -
Niagara River Greenway Project

Dear Mr. MacSwan:

The Niagara County Ad Hoc Committee on Recreation and Tourism Legislator Richard L. Andres, Chairman, requested that our office, on its behalf, thank you for your presentation. Your application for funds that Niagara County receives from the New York State Power Authority and through the relicensing agreement for Greenway projects that are a part of the Niagara Greenway, is acknowledged.

The committee has further reviewed your documentation and taken into consideration your presentation. The Committee is happy to inform you that they will be recommending your project to the full body of the Legislature for approval as to sponsorship. Should the Legislature pass the resolution, you will then need to present your application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission for consultation and then to the Host Community Standing Committee. This last Committee is part of the Niagara County Power Coalition, in which there are eight members.

If you wish to note the protocols for this next step in your application, they are on the Niagara Power Coalition's website. If you have any trouble obtaining those, you may contact the undersigned and we will provide the same to you. I would appreciate your contacting us and staying in touch so that we can advise you with the date for Legislature approval and then the date for the meeting of the Host Community Standing Committee. You will need to be prepared to present your presentation to that body at the date established; once the Niagara County Legislature has approved sponsorship of your project and consultation with the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Specifically, upon all consultations and approvals, you will be receiving a grant pursuant to the terms and conditions as set forth in the relicensing agreement and the protocols as set forth in the Host Community Standing Committee and those protocols as set forth by Niagara County in the amount up to \$140,000. This amount was arrived at after taking into consideration

Date: August 5, 2026

Page: 2

Re: 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead & River Access -
Niagara River Greenway Project

the principals and goals set forth in the Niagara River Commission Plan. Once the Niagara County Legislature has approved sponsorship; you will be notified.

You will need to add into your budget signage of at least a headway sign. Templates were sent to you. The cost you will need to confirm this with a signage company of your choice. You shall use the single template form chosen by the County for the head sign.

You also need to remember that this is a reimbursement grant and payment will be paid through the audit and purchasing department in the County of Niagara after their review of the contracts' invoices as presented once the project is complete (unless waived by the Committee), including signage and approval of all work by the County Auditor.

The sponsorship by the Niagara County Legislature, if approved, and any approval of funding by the Host Community Standing Committee is also subject to the requirements of Niagara County.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



R. Thomas Burgasser
Assistant County Attorney

RTB:clm

cc: Richard L. Andres, Chairman, Niagara County
Ad hoc Committee on Recreation and Tourism
Niagara County Legislator Randy R. Bradt
Niagara County Legislator Jesse P. Gooch



July 7, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street, Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, I am pleased to provide our strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible river observation and fishing platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper supports this project because it combines habitat restoration, shoreline resilience, and improved public access into a single comprehensive initiative. Expanding opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the Niagara River while restoring ecological resources reflects the shared commitment to protecting and celebrating Western New York's waterways.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Root, Director of Ecological Programs





Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council

438 Main St, Suite 503 | Buffalo, NY 14202 | 716-856-2026 | www.gbnrtc.org

July 14, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

**RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission
Funding Application**

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) and One Region Forward, I am pleased to provide my strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

As the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, GBNRTC is focused on a comprehensive, coordinated, and continuing transportation planning process for Erie and Niagara Counties. GBNRTC's Moving Forward 2050 Regional Transportation Plan and Bike Buffalo Niagara Master Plan highlight the importance of advancing a more environmentally friendly, multi-modal transportation system which includes safe and convenient options for walking and biking for all ages and abilities in our region which this project addresses.

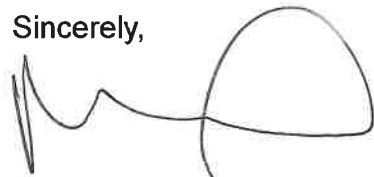
This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support the construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

In addition, by connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the Empire State

Trail, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway and strengthening regional trail connections, the project also aligns with One Region Forward, a broad-based collaborative effort led by GBNRTC to promote more sustainable forms of development through clean and efficient transportation options, enhancing access to greenspace and other resilient measures.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a large circular flourish at the end.

Richard Guarino, AICP
Interim Executive Director, GBNRTC



July 13, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Destination Niagara USA, I am pleased to provide our strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Destination Niagara USA recognizes the project as an important tourism investment that expands visitor experiences along the Niagara River. The accessible observation and fishing platform, scenic overlook, bicycle amenities, and trail connections will create a distinctive destination that encourages visitors to explore beyond traditional attractions while strengthening Niagara County's outdoor recreation economy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Frank Campbell

Frank Campbell, Director of Outdoor Promotions
Destination Niagara USA





**Buffalo Niagara River
Land Trust**

July 6, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust, I am pleased to provide our strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust strongly supports this project because it preserves and enhances public access to one of the region's most valuable natural resources while protecting important shoreline habitat. The combination of conservation, recreation, and environmental stewardship creates lasting benefits for current and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Fletcher, Executive Director
Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust



June 22, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

As the Niagara County Legislators representing Wheatfield, NY, we are pleased to provide our strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

This project represents an important investment in community quality of life, public accessibility, and economic vitality for Niagara County residents. Expanding recreational opportunities while improving access to the Niagara River supports healthy communities, regional tourism, and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessie Gooch
County Legislator

David Godfrey
County Legislator

Mike Casale
County Legislator

July 13, 2026

Andrea Klyczek
Commissioner

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the Niagara County Department of Economic Development, I am pleased to provide our strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Investments in accessible waterfront destinations and trail-connected amenities help attract visitors, encourage longer stays, and reinforce Niagara County's reputation as a premier outdoor recreation destination.

Niagara County is committed to partnering with the Town throughout project implementation and will provide grant administration, project coordination, compliance oversight, and reporting support if funding is awarded. Amy Schifferli, Director of Planning and Brownfield Development, has been involved with the property since the initial environmental assessments and currently administers the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant. Amy has successfully managed more than \$20 million in state and federal grant funding and established the 2020 River Road Steering Committee to coordinate project development among local, state, and regional partners. Savannah Betkowski, Environmental Management Assistant, will provide additional project and grant support throughout implementation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,



Andrea Klyczek, Commissioner
Department of Economic Development



Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation

July 10, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

On behalf of the Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation, I am pleased to provide my strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Trailhead and River Access Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

Greenway funding will complement an ongoing \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant from the Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation. This project is an excellent example of transforming a formerly underutilized property into a vibrant public asset. By pairing brownfield cleanup with accessible waterfront recreation and environmental restoration, the project demonstrates how strategic redevelopment can stimulate tourism, improve quality of life, and create lasting economic and community benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. I respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy E. Schifferli".

Amy E. Schifferli, AICP, President
Niagara County Brownfield Development Corporation

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

July 14, 2026

Lisa Vitello
Administrative Coordinator
Niagara River Greenway Commission
3160 DeVeaux Woods Drive
Niagara Falls, NY
14305

Dear Ms. Vitello,

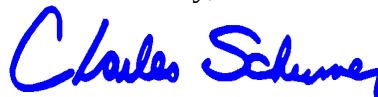
I write in support of the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding. Such funding will enable the town to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

The Niagara River Greenway Commission seeks to fund planning projects that support the health of the Niagara River and further economic development efforts. The Town of Wheatfield's application aligns seamlessly with this goal. With funding, the proposed project will transform a 4.59-acre town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination. Through the construction of an accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront, the project will expand recreational access and restore shoreline habitat. By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation.

Upgrades will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor for residents and visitors alike. The combination of brownfield redevelopment and accessible waterfront improvements will create substantial long-term benefits for the community, spurring tourism and spending in the region. Funding from the Commission would be a timely investment in the vitality of the entire Wheatfield community.

I applaud the Town of Wheatfield for their foresight and hope their application for funding meets with your approval. For additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Grants Director, Kaia Moore, in my Washington, D.C. office at grants@schumer.senate.gov. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY
26TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

WASHINGTON OFFICE
423 CANNON HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3306

DISTRICT OFFICE
726 EXCHANGE STREET, SUITE 601
BUFFALO, NY 14210
(716) 852-3501

800 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3C
NIAGARA FALLS, 14301
(716) 282-1274



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
MARITIME SECURITY

HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATIONS

REGIONAL WHIP, NEW YORK STATE

CO-CHAIR, NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS

July 14, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

Dear Chairman Andres,

I strongly support the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a town-owned 4.59-acre brownfield site along the Niagara River into a climate resilience demonstration area and vibrant public waterfront destination. The project will directly advance Wheatfield's adopted Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, showcasing innovative resilience strategies while expanding public access to the waterfront.

Through shoreline stabilization, habitat restoration, invasive species removal, public fishing access, trail improvements, environmental education features, and nature-based flood risk reduction measures, the project will enhance public access while restoring and protecting valuable shoreline resources. The site's location along the New York Great Lakes Seaway Trail State Scenic Byway further enhances its regional significance and long-term economic, recreational, and environmental benefits.

Through these efforts, Wheatfield has leveraged a \$425,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to remove environmental barriers and support the site, transforming community spaces into vibrant, accessible parks that will serve future generations to come. Investment in the 2020 River Road Waterfront Resilience Park and Habitat Restoration Project would bring meaningful investment, expanded recreational opportunities, and renewed community pride to community members and visitors throughout Western New York.

For these reasons, I strongly support the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Should you have any questions, I welcome your call.

Sincerely,

Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress (NY-26)

ALBANY OFFICES
ROOM 909 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2070

ROOM 315 STATE CAPITOL
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247

ROBERT G. ORTT
62ND SENATE DISTRICT
SENATE MINORITY LEADER

DISTRICT OFFICE
175 WALNUT STREET
SUITE #6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680

E-MAIL
ORTT@NYSenate.GOV

WEBSITE
ORTT.NYSENATE.GOV

July 7, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres
Chairman, Niagara County Parks Recreation & Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094

RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway Commission Funding Application

Dear Review Committee:

I am pleased to provide my support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitat. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks, and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path, and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism, and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing, and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

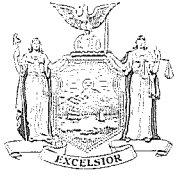
This project creates significant public value by improving access to the Niagara River, expanding recreational opportunities, and supporting continued investment in Niagara County's waterfront communities. It represents an excellent partnership between local, state, and federal initiatives that will serve residents and visitors for decades.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors, and future generations. I respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration. Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact my office at 716-434-0680 or via email at ortt@nysenate.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robt G. Ortt'.

Senator Rob Ortt
New York State Senate – 62nd District



ANGELO J. MORINELLO
Assemblyman 145th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

MINORITY LEADERSHIP
Deputy Minority Whip

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Committee on Codes

COMMITTEES
Ethics and Guidance
Economic Development, Job Creation,
Commerce and Industry
Labor
Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development
Veterans' Affairs

Legislative Commission on
Toxic Substances and Hazardous Wastes

July 14, 2026

Honorable Rich Andres, Chairman
Niagara County Parks Recreation and Tourism
Ad Hoc Committee
175 Hawley Street
Lockport NY 14094

**RE: Support for the Town of Wheatfield Niagara River Greenway
Commission Funding Application**

Dear Review Committee,

I am pleased to provide my strong support for the Town of Wheatfield's application for Niagara River Greenway Commission funding to implement the 2020 River Road Waterfront Park Project.

This project will transform a 4.59-acre Town-owned brownfield along the Niagara River into a resilient public waterfront destination that expands recreational access and restores shoreline habitats. Funding will support construction of a universally accessible River Observation and Fishing Platform, interpretive trailhead kiosk, bicycle racks and benches along the waterfront to create a waterfront destination to the Niagara River. Together, these improvements will create an inviting gateway to the Niagara River corridor while significantly enhancing the visitor experience for residents and visitors alike.

By connecting directly to the Niagara River Shoreline Trail, the New York State Bike Path and the Great Lakes Seaway Trail National Scenic Byway, the project will strengthen regional trail connections, promote bicycle tourism and expand opportunities for fishing, environmental education, scenic viewing and outdoor recreation for residents and visitors alike.

This project reflects New York State's commitment to expanding outdoor recreation, improving public access to the waterfront and investing in resilient community infrastructure. The project will benefit residents, while creating a destination that attracts visitors from throughout the region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. This project represents a meaningful investment in the Niagara River Greenway, providing lasting benefits for residents, visitors and future generations. We respectfully encourage the Ad Hoc Committee to give this application its full and favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Angelo J. Morinello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A".

ANGELO J. MORINELLO,
Assemblyman, 145th District

AJM/cld