



**Niagara River Greenway Commission  
Greenway Related Projects and Programs**

**PROJECT CONSULTATION and PROJECT REVIEW**

**for**

**The Riverline – Invasive Species Management**

**Prepared by the Western New York Land Conservancy**

**January 15, 2024**

**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:	Western New York Land Conservancy
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 471, East Aurora
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14052
Federal ID#:	22-3160426
Charities Registration #:	05-27-68

**PROJECT TYPE (Please check only ONE)**

- Trail Development / Improvement
- Ecosystem / Riparian Habitat Restoration
- Niagara River Greenway Placemaking / Public Access / Wayfinding
- Interpretation / Cultural Monuments
- Stewardship

**FUNDING COMMITTEE**

- Host Community Standing Committee
- Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
- Unsure at this time / N/A
- Ecological Standing Committee
- State Parks Standing Committee

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED**

**ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES**

Source	Amount

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Project Name:	The Riverline – Invasive Species Management
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	Former DL&W rail corridor Coordinates: 42.86982337200004 Lat, -78.86078656899997 Lon. Census Tracts: 5 and 164
Project Site Address:	City of Buffalo – Old First Ward and Valley neighborhoods
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14204, 14210
Minor Civil Division(s):	City of Buffalo
County:	Erie
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	Memorandum of Understanding with Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (land owner)

**AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL**

Name:	Marisa Riggi
Title:	Executive Director
Business Address:	P.O. Box 471, East Aurora
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Cell Number:	(716) 628-6009
E-Mail Address:	mriggi@wnylc.org

**PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT**

Name:	Jeffrey Lebsack
Title:	The Riverline Director
Organization / Firm:	Western New York Land Conservancy
Business Address:	P.O. Box 471, East Aurora
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E-Mail Address:	jlebsack@wnylc.org

**PROJECT NARRATIVE**

Please attach material which responds to the following six items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.
2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.
3. Define the budget for the total proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$
Construction	\$
Acquisition	\$
Administration	\$
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$</b>

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.
5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.
6. Please attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimated date for project completion/opening. If funded, it is expected that the project sponsor or point of contact will notify the Commission of the project opening date as it nears completion. *(Note: This addition to the application was made September 2018.)*

**1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.**

The Riverline is a project of the Western New York Land Conservancy that will transform the former DL&W rail corridor in Buffalo into a 40-acre, 1.5-mile multi-use nature trail and greenway. Habitat restoration will be central to The Riverline. Much of the corridor suffers from infestations of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, mugwort and buckthorn that provide little habitat value for native wildlife, contribute to erosion of soil, and interrupt succession to native trees and shrubs. The work will include professional removal of invasive species currently impacting the majority of the acreage, followed by the planting of native herbaceous perennials, trees, and shrubs. The shrubs and trees in particular will improve air quality and combat greenhouse gas emissions by removing emitted carbon from the air through natural photosynthetic and respiration processes, and help offset effects from urban heat by providing cooling shade in an area that has previously been inaccessible to the people who reside around it. Our plans for native habitat restoration will introduce levels of biodiversity not seen on this land in decades, encouraging more diverse wildlife and strengthening climate resilience. This proposal is for an invasive species monitoring and removal program that will take place over 3 years. The initial phase of the program will focus on removing Japanese Knotweed from the section of corridor along Mackinaw Street between Alabama and Hamburg Streets. This section is the site of the future Mackinaw Street Play Garden, a key asset along The Riverline. Subsequent phases of the program will monitor and remove invasive species such as buckthorn and tree of heaven along the section The Riverline between Chicago Street and Alabama Street. Information about invasive species in these two sections of The Riverline are described in the attached Invasive Species Survey conducted by Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management in June 2020.

**2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.**

The Riverline is perfectly aligned with the Niagara River Greenway Plan and will help achieve the vision for the Greenway. As an urban multi-use nature trail and greenway within the Niagara River Greenway focus area, it will enhance the world-class “corridor of places, parks and landscapes” in the Greenway, and provide “access to and connections between” assets and attractions on Buffalo’s waterfront, its parks and trails. Additionally, it will connect to other trail networks in the region. By incorporating the history and heritage, both past and present, of the surrounding neighborhoods, Indigenous communities, and the DL&W corridor into the final design, The Riverline will “celebrate and interpret our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources”. Finally, The Riverline will become a destination in its own right, “giving rise to economic opportunities for the region”.

The Riverline is guided by the same principles as those of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

1. Excellence: In the Western New York Land Conservancy’s more than 30-year history, it has protected over 8,000 acres of land, including farms, forests, and scenic vistas on nearly 100 properties. Nineteen are publicly accessible parks or nature preserves. In all of this work, the Land Conservancy has adopted and strives to exceed the Standards and Practices set forth by the Land Trust Alliance, a national conservation organization that establishes best practices for regional land trusts. The Land Conservancy is a nationally-accredited land trust, first accredited in 2015 and reaccredited in 2020. Our expertise in implementing projects to remove invasive species on many of our properties is key to attaining the standards of excellence we strive to achieve.
2. Sustainability: Green design features and habitat restoration are key components of The Riverline. Proper removal of invasive species along the corridor both before construction begins, and over the long-term

will ensure that the trail, greenway, all public art, and other amenities that will be part of The Riverline corridor will be sustained for years to come. The Land Conservancy has expressed its commitment to this in the Equitable Development Framework by stating that the project will be designed with long term use and maintenance in mind. The Riverline will establish a stewardship fund to help pay for long-term maintenance and management.

3. **Accessibility:** Invasive species removal and maintenance will be essential to ensuring accessibility to The Riverline. The Equitable Development Framework for The Riverline states that the trail “will be a vibrant, safe and welcoming space for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.” Thus, properly stewarded and maintained, the trail will give people access to the waterfront, parks and other trail networks and universal access will be central to the design.
4. **Ecological Integrity:** A guiding principle from the Equitable Development Framework is to embrace and enhance nature that thrives along the corridor. The removal of invasive species currently impacting the corridor will encourage and protect important wildlife habitat, including native plants and trees to support numerous rare and threatened species of birds and reptiles that live along the corridor. Invasive species removal will restore a more biodiverse habitat along the corridor as well.
5. **Public Well-Being:** The ongoing monitoring and removal of invasive species as part of an overall program of habitat restoration and maintenance along The Riverline will provide access to nature in underserved urban communities. Access to nature improves emotional and mental health by providing green places of refuge from the hustle and bustle of the city, while also improving physical wellbeing by providing places for both active and passive recreational opportunities. Additionally, properly maintained urban green spaces contribute to better air, soil and water quality.
6. **Connectivity:** The Riverline will connect to Ohio Street in the west near downtown, giving users access to Canalside and waterfront parks and trails. This same connection will give users access to larger trail networks such as the Empire State Trail, the Niagara River Greenway Trail, and the Shoreline Trail. On the eastern end, users will be able to access Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park and a planned Buffalo Blueway paddlesport launch. We will prioritize a connection to the historic Larkin District. Street improvements for pedestrians and bicycles can enhance connections to Mutual Riverfront Park, the Michigan Street African American Corridor, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Cazenovia Park. The project will connect gaps in an emerging city-wide bicycling network. It will complement new systems of rails-to-trails circling the city and shooting outward like spokes on a wheel.
7. **Restoration:** The ecosystem surrounding The Riverline has suffered degradation over many years. The Riverline corridor is currently dominated by invasive plant species such as Japanese Knotweed, mugwort, tree of heaven, and buckthorn. Through this project, the Land Conservancy will restore and protect wildlife by working to control invasive species and replacing them with native species, thus creating more biodiverse and beneficial habitats.
8. **Authenticity:** Invasive species removal and maintenance will ensure that The Riverline becomes a community gathering place alive with the history and voices of the surrounding neighborhoods. The Land Conservancy will incorporate this history into the design and maintenance of the corridor. The planning process for The Riverline will continue to be guided by extensive community engagement in order to ensure that results reflect community values.
9. **Celebration:** The Riverline will celebrate our region’s cultural and natural heritage. Through careful and considered wildlife habitat restoration, including a program for invasive species monitoring and removal, the project will contribute to the celebration of our region’s diverse ecosystems. The Riverline will create a shared space for local residents, building social interaction and community cohesion.

10. Partnerships: The Land Conservancy will continue to work closely with residents of surrounding communities, community leaders, elected officials, businesses owners, institutions, and other not-for-profits. A Project Committee of diverse stakeholders has been meeting regularly since 2017 and will continue to meet. The committee includes representatives from the Office of Congressman Brian Higgins, Office of Senator Charles Schumer, Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Office of New York State Senator Timothy Kennedy, Office of New York State Senator Sean Ryan, Office of New York State Assembly Majority Leader Crystal Peoples-Stokes, Office of New York State Assembly Member Patrick Burke, Office of New York State Assembly Member Jonathan Rivera, Office of County Legislator Howard Johnson, Office of Buffalo Common Council Members Mitch Nowakowski and Bryan Bollman, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council, GObike Buffalo, Old First Ward Community Association, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority, Valley Neighborhood Watch Association, UB School of Architecture and Planning, other neighborhood residents and organizations, and the Land Conservancy.
11. Community-Based: This project is guided by the community, as reflected by our commitment to the focus areas and strategies in our Equitable Development Framework and our continued engagement with and outreach to all community constituents. Specifically, the Mackinaw Street Play Garden, the site of this proposal's first phase of invasive species removal plans, has been consistently identified by local residents as a high priority.

The project achieves all of the goals of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

1. Improve Access: Ongoing removal and monitoring of invasive species along The Riverline corridor will increase access for all, not only to The Riverline corridor itself, but also from it to the waterfront, to nearby parks, attractions, recreation, businesses, local trails and larger trail networks.
2. Make Connections: A well-monitored and maintained trail will connect people to a wide variety of amenities in and around Buffalo, as well as trail networks that reach far beyond the city. It will also restore connections between neighborhoods cut off by the original construction of the DL&W railroad corridor and other transportation infrastructure. Residents of the Old First Ward, Perry, and Valley neighborhoods will become more joined up to one another, creating opportunities for connection that may not have been there before. Additionally, by incorporating the history and voice of the past into the design, residents and tourists will be connected to the heritage of the Buffalo region. The Riverline will create a sense of interconnectedness, not only with other residents but also with nature and the waterfront.
3. Protect and Restore Environmental Systems: The Riverline is part of a much larger movement to protect and restore environmental systems in Buffalo and Western New York. Habitat restoration, invasive plant species control, and adding new native plant species are all central to The Riverline project. Green design features will help absorb and filter stormwater runoff. Once completed, The Riverline will complement other restoration projects in the vicinity including at Red Jacket Riverfront Natural Habitat Park. Taken together, these projects will contribute to restoring the health of the Buffalo River and the adjacent land areas that impact it.
4. Celebrate History and Heritage: Celebrating the history and heritage is a major component of The Riverline project and is another of the focus areas for change in our Equitable Development Framework. In fact, we have already secured funding and implemented public art projects to highlight the rich history of The Riverline area including the Haudenosaunee communities in our area, the area's industrial past,

and the culture and character of the surrounding neighborhoods. Design features, murals, interpretive signage, educational events, and programming are just some of the ways we will incorporate this goal into the project.

5. **Spark Revitalization and Renewal:** Buffalo is experiencing an economic renaissance, with environmental restoration, waterfront revitalization, and outdoor recreation as key drivers of this growth. This project will contribute to this. As stated in the Community Vision Plan, the project is meant to serve as a catalyst for additional investment and opportunity. This project will achieve this goal by creating yet another high-quality space where people can connect to the waterfront, to nature, and to each other. Projects like this around the country have generated significant new development and business opportunities.
6. **Promote Long Term Sustainability:** One of the guiding principles in our Community Vision Plan is to design the trail with “long term use, maintenance, and safety in mind”. The Land Conservancy will ensure that The Riverline is maintained so that many generations will be able to enjoy it. The Riverline will establish a stewardship fund to help pay for long-term maintenance and management of The Riverline.
7. **Extend Olmsted’s Legacy:** The Riverline will help achieve Olmsted’s vision of a necklace of open spaces along a waterfront that is connected to the Niagara River. The Riverline corridor connects to the Buffalo River, which is a major tributary of the Niagara. Like the region’s Olmsted parks, The Riverline will be open to the public, free of charge. It will beautify its surrounding neighborhoods and improve quality of life.

And lastly, the project meets the evaluative criteria established in the Niagara River Greenway Plan’s “Action Plan”:

1. **Consistency with Principles:** As noted already, the proposed project is guided by the same 11 principles that guide the Niagara River Greenway Plan.
2. **Priority Status:** The Riverline addresses many of the priorities in the Niagara River Greenway Plan: with a new nature trail that connects users to the Buffalo River, Red Jacket Riverfront Natural Habitat Park, Outer Harbor, Canalside, the Larkin District, and other parks and places of interest, along with connections to our city-wide bicycle network, regional trail systems, and the Empire State Trail, this project will be part of an *integrated trail and park system*; the protection of this property and restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitats will support the *restoration of the Niagara River ecosystem*; and incorporation of habitat restoration, the history of Native American communities, industrial uses, and the diverse surrounding neighborhoods will enhance *interpretation and education about the region’s cultural, natural and historic resources*. It will help revitalize Buffalo River neighborhoods contributing to the *revitalization of urban centers*.
3. **Focus Area:** The Riverline’s connection to the Buffalo River places it within the Niagara River Greenway Focus Area.
4. **Environmental Soundness:** Invasive species monitoring and removal, green design and wildlife habitat restoration will be central to this project. Through the Equitable Development Framework, environmental justice strategies will also guide the project.
5. **Implementable:** The Land Conservancy has a long track record of managing invasive plant species on its properties. The Land Conservancy has support for this phase of work from the property owner (the NFTA) and many other community leaders, elected officials, institutions, partner organizations, and local residents.
6. **Economic Viability:** The cost for properly removing and managing invasive species is economically viable when the long term ecological and climate resilience benefits from such management are considered. The Riverline will establish a stewardship fund to help pay for long-term management.



7. Local Sponsor or Partner: The Western New York Land Conservancy will be responsible for implementing the project.
8. Matching or Leveraged Funds: The Land Conservancy will apply for funding from other local, state and federal grants, and will raise funds from local foundations and private donations in the community for this ongoing work.
9. Consideration of Other Planning Efforts: The overall project to create The Riverline is aligned with statewide, regional, and local plans as follows:
  - The Riverline’s aims of nature-based solutions to protect intact landscapes, restore degraded ecosystems, improve air and water quality, provide safe walking and cycling options, and improve equitable access to open space for all residents are aligned with the goals of the **Erie County Climate Action Plan**, of which the Land Conservancy is an action item partner.
  - The Riverline is aligned with the **NYS Open Space Conservation Plan**. The plan recommends: promoting outdoor recreation and improving recreational access to public and private lands (p 16); focusing recreational enhancements in areas close to where people live, providing opportunities for a greater diversity of New Yorkers to enjoy the outdoors, and encouraging and enhancing watchable wildlife opportunities (p 17); promoting universal access (p 18); connecting children with nature (p 19); meeting the open space needs of urban communities (p 21); promoting access to urban waters (p 22); connecting urban parks to each other and with places of work and neighborhoods (p 23); creating trails in Western New York, especially in the Niagara River Greenway, (p 150-151).
  - The Riverline is aligned with the **Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**. The plan’s goals include: connecting children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities (p 88); with recommended actions to: identify new outdoor recreation opportunities for underserved communities; promoting greenways and water trails as a means of urban recreation and transportation; encourage the expansion of universally accessible trail systems.
  - The Riverline helps implement the **One Region Forward** plan, a sustainability plan for Erie and Niagara County funded by the federal government, which recommends: increasing public access to our waterfronts (p 119).
  - The Riverline is aligned with the City of Buffalo’s comprehensive land use plan, called the **Green Code**, a new form-based zoning code. The Green Code zones the majority of The Riverline corridor as open space.
  - The Riverline is consistent with the **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)**. The Riverline is within the boundary of the LWRP. The Riverline corridor is mapped as open space in the LWRP future land use plan. The LWRP proposes a new Buffalo open space and recreation master plan, and suggests that the plan’s development process shall include a review of the Del proposals (The Del is a local name for The Riverline corridor). The LWRP recommends preserving the DL&W “Del” corridor for future passenger rail service and/or greenway open space. The Riverline perfectly aligns with the goals of the LWRP, specifically in seeking to: protect the state’s coastal economic, social, and environmental interests; and provide for public water access in support of the public trust. The LWRP supports: development of the Buffalo River Greenway as the southern complement to the Jesse Kregal Creekside Trail system; reinforcement of Ohio Street as one of two primary multi-modal local waterfront transportation corridors; and a project to revitalize the DL&W terminal, which is located at the western end of The Riverline.
  - The Riverline is aligned with the City of Buffalo’s **Buffalo River Corridor Brownfield Opportunity Area** study. This plan developed three alternative scenarios for revitalizing nearby neighborhoods. Two

scenarios that featured a multi-use trail on The Riverline corridor received a combined 80% of the public’s support. Of these, the top choice received 60% of the overall vote and project planners noted that “key to this support was expanded recreation and access”. (p 65).

- The **Perry Choice Neighborhood Commercial Revitalization Plan** specifically cited the potential of a multi-use trail atop The Riverline berm, with connections to an on-street bicycle and pedestrian network as well as the existing waterfront trails to the Outer Harbor and Canalside. (p 29)
- The **Buffalo River Greenway Plan** — created by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper in 1996 and updated in 2006 and again in 2014 — proposed a series of pedestrian and bike trails and reconstructed bridges along the corridor near what is now called Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park.

10. Clear Benefits: The Riverline offers many clear benefits to the region and to the Niagara River Greenway, as detailed throughout this application. It provides new waterfront access and publicly accessible greenspaces along the Buffalo River. It creates new connections to existing amenities and trails in Buffalo and beyond. It adds to the environmental system improvement of the region. It will invest in and help revitalize underserved and diverse neighborhoods. And it will transform inaccessible and obsolete infrastructure into a vibrant and engaging asset that can be enjoyed by all.

**3. Define the budget for the total proposed project and include costs for the following:**

Planning	\$5,000
Construction	\$0
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$5,000
Operation and Maintenance / Year 1	\$10,000
Operation and Maintenance / Year 2	\$20,000
Operation and Maintenance / Year 3	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL PROJECT COST</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

The project planning costs include developing an implementation plan and informing the public about the purpose and schedule for the project. Administration costs include grant administration over a three-year period. Operation and maintenance costs for year 1 include the initial removal and treatment of knotweed at the area of the proposed Mackinaw Street Play Garden between Alabama Street and Hamburg Street. Year 2 costs include follow-up treatments at the Mackinaw Street Play Garden area and initial removal and treatment of invasive plants on the section of The Riverline between Chicago Street and Alabama Street. Year 3 costs will be for follow-up treatment of the section between Chicago Street and Alabama Street

**4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.**

The Riverline is aligned with local, regional, and statewide planning documents that were based on significant public engagement. Since 2017, the Land Conservancy has conducted an extensive community engagement process based on collaboration, communication, and consultation. This includes:

- Three to five meetings per year with The Riverline Project Committee comprised of representatives of the NFTA, elected officials, government departments, community leaders, and other stakeholders. (See the full list in “Consistency with the Greenway Plan / Principle 10: Partnerships.”)
- Regular meetings with representatives from the NFTA, the City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, among other elected officials, community leaders, stakeholders, and partner organizations.
- Multiple focus group meetings with direct neighbors, community residents, business owners, and topic leaders.
- Multiple large public open houses with hundreds of attendees.
- Multiple presentations at community centers surrounding the corridor.
- Door-to-door canvassing in communities surrounding the corridor.
- Community engagement events such as Family Fun Days, The Riverline Community Arts Program, and clean-up and planting events with residents and teams from local businesses.
- Outdoor recreation programs with partner organizations for neighborhood residents.
- Online questionnaires that have had thousands of responses.

The Riverline is supported by elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels. Federal and State funding has been secured for the development of Design Approval Document, and design of the first section of The Riverline.

**5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.**

Since ceasing to operate as a working rail line in the 1960s, the 40 acres comprising the DL&W corridor have reverted back to natural vegetation as forests, meadows, and wetlands. The corridor connects to the Buffalo River, which has seen many shoreline ecosystem restoration projects in recent years that provide wildlife habitat. The corridor is two miles from the Niagara River which is internationally designated as a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA).

Native tree species along the corridor include oaks, dogwoods, and ash, as well as native wildflowers such as asters and goldenrods. There are also many invasive plant species including Japanese Knotweed, glossy buckthorn, phragmites, mugwort, and tree of heaven.

According to the NYS Herp Atlas, seven species of reptiles and amphibians have been found in similar habitats in the vicinity of The Riverine corridor, including the Snapping Turtle which is considered a Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) by the NYS Wildlife Action Plan. Using eBird data from the adjacent Red Jacket Natural Habitat Park, The Riverline corridor supports at least 49 species of birds, although many more are likely present. Two of these species are listed in NYS, including one threatened species (Common Tern) and one special concern

species (Cooper's Hawk). One of these species is listed as a High Priority SGCN by the NYS Wildlife Action Plan (Brown Thrasher), and three are considered SGCN (Horned Grebe, Common Tern, American Kestrel). According to the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas and considering habitat preferences, many of these NYS listed or SGCN species are likely to nest at the DL&W corridor (Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Brown Thrasher).

This project will include habitat restoration activities, the control and management of non-native invasive plant species, and the addition of native plants. These activities will benefit the wildlife supported by the corridor. The project will ensure that sensitive habitats are not impacted by this work.

The Riverline and the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in March 2023 agreeing to bring to fruition The Riverline project. The MOU is attached.

Federal and State funding has been secured for the preparation of a Design Approval Document, which will include the completion of both NEPA and SEQRA environmental determination. This work will be completed in the fall of 2024.

The Riverline was awarded \$900,000 in federal funds in the FY 22 budget. The funding was provided to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), and the Initial Project Proposal (IPP) was approved by NYSDOT in April 2023. The project is included in the NYSDOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan as PIN 582575. Matching funds of \$225,000 have been secured through the New York State 2023 budget. The NFTA has selected a consultant to prepare the Design Approval Document, including the following information and documentation:

NEPA Classification - The project is expected to be classified as a Categorical Exclusion with Documentation due to the potential contamination within 2,000 feet of the project. NYSDOT will be the lead agency for the NEPA process, with final determination expected in the summer of 2024.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) - The project is expected to be designated as a Type I project, as the total area to be physically altered is greater than 10 acres, The NFTA will be the Lead Agency for making the project classification. Based on the initial completion of the Full Environmental Assessment Form, the project is expected to receive a "Negative Declaration." meaning that the project has no significant environmental impacts.

**6. Please attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimated date for project completion/opening. If funded, it is expected that the project sponsor or point of contact will notify the Commission of the project opening date as it nears completion. (Note: This addition to the application was made September 2018.)**

**Proposed Project Timeline**

Task	2024-2025				2025 - 2026				2026-2027			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
Anticipated Award												
SEQRA completion*												
Invasive removal – site 1												
Follow-up - site 1												
Construction – site 1*												
Invasive removal - site 2												
Construction – site 2*												
Follow-up – site 2												
Project Completion												

\* Work done under separate contracts

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. MOU with Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority
2. Western New York Partnership for Regional Partnership for Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) Survey Report, June 2020
3. Photo of existing knotweed at proposed Mackinaw Street Play Garden
4. Rendering of proposed Mackinaw Street Play Garden
5. Concept Plan for The Riverline

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN**  
**THE NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, AND**  
**THE RIVERLINE, LLC**

Whereas the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) owns the former DL&W rail corridor in the City of Buffalo, County of Erie (the “Corridor”), which is shown as Exhibit A attached hereto; and

Whereas this Corridor is an unused former railroad in Buffalo’s Old First Ward, Perry, and Valley neighborhoods; and

Whereas the land has existed as an unused former railroad corridor for more than fifty years; and

Whereas the Western New York Land Conservancy (the “Land Conservancy”), through a limited liability company, The Riverline, LLC (“The Riverline, LLC”), recognizes the unique opportunity to reimagine the Corridor as a vibrant, welcoming public space for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to connect with each other, nature, and the waterfront, while at the same time preserving future opportunities for public transportation purposes using all or part of the Corridor; and

Whereas the realization of such a public space has been the focus of community engagement and study with NFTA participation over the last six years, and the NFTA recognizes the value in working with the Land Conservancy to develop a multi-use nature trail; and

Whereas representatives for the NFTA, City of Buffalo, County of Erie, State of New York and Federal Government have demonstrated support for the transformation of all or part of the Corridor into a multi-use nature trail and greenway called “The Riverline”; and

Whereas The Riverline, LLC has worked collaboratively with the NFTA, the local community, and elected officials for the support, planning, conceptual design, and creation of The Riverline and has conducted fund-raising, research, advocacy, and other efforts on The Riverline’s behalf; and

Whereas The Riverline, LLC has invested over \$1.3 million for planning and developing concept plans for The Riverline and the NFTA received \$900,000 in federal funding in 2022 for the environmental approvals/preliminary design (NYSDOT design phases I-IV as outlined in the New York State Department of Transportation Local Project Manual) of The Riverline, which will be applied by the NFTA to obtain design approval of The Riverline;

The NFTA and The Riverline, LLC do hereby agree to the following Memorandum of Understanding regarding NYSDOT design phases I-IV, Detailed Design, Construction, and on-going maintenance of The Riverline.

The following expectations will be detailed and expanded within a “to be negotiated” Agreement(s) between the parties.

The Riverline, LLC is expected (among other things) to 1.) provide funding for the NYSDOT design phases I-IV work (using the \$900,000 in federal funding received by the NFTA), detailed design, construction and on-going maintenance for the duration of the Riverline project through donations or its own grant applications without any financial contribution from the NFTA. The Riverline, LLC is also

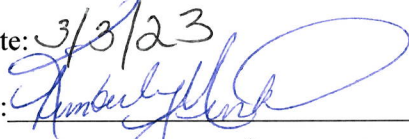
expected to pay for the local match required as a condition of the federal funding, which is expected to be \$225,000, 2.) agree to specific performance measures, milestones, and parameters with protections for a default; 3.) provide appropriate indemnification/insurance for the duration of the project; and 4.) provide reports and documents to give the NFTA adequate time to review, comment, and request modifications for any infrastructure that is contemplated in the Corridor.

The NFTA is expected to 1.) provide the \$900,000 in federal funding received on behalf of The Riverline to be used for NYSDOT design phases I-IV work; 2.) provide site control to The Riverline, LLC for all or a portion of the Corridor; 3.) assist with future applications for Federal or State grants for public monies that The Riverline, LLC cannot make on its own and that do not compete with the NFTA's public transportation mission and specific funding needs; and 4.) provide other in-kind services. Except as noted above, the NFTA is not expected to contribute financially to any portion of the project including the environmental analysis, design, construction, and on-going maintenance of the project.

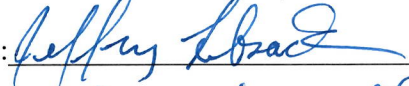
This Memorandum of Understanding is solely for the purposes of convenience in assisting the parties named herein to bring to fruition The Riverline project. This Memorandum of Understanding is nonbinding and, without limitation, nothing herein shall constitute a binding obligation of either party to fund or to enter into any agreement contemplated herein. All actions contemplated herein to be taken by the parties are subject to all applicable respective approvals by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Understanding on the dates set forth below.

**FOR: NIAGARA FRONTIER TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Date: 3/3/23  
By:   
Kimberley Minkel, Executive  
Director  
Print Name and Title

**FOR: THE RIVERLINE, LLC**

By:  3/1/2023  
Chief Executive Officer  
Print Name and Title

**EXHIBIT A**

Map of the former DL&W RR, Parcels owned by Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority







# Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

## WNY PRISM Invasive Species Survey Summary

Prepared by Jason Kappan, WNY PRISM Invasive Species Management Assistant  
June 23, 2020

### The Riverline

The Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) is one of eight regional partnerships within New York State that were created to address invasive species issues. Our mission is to proactively identify, evaluate and address invasive species priorities in western New York using a coordinated partnership of local professionals, organizations and private citizens to improve, restore and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources. As part of this mission, we work with our partners to survey for the presence and distribution of invasive species on their properties, and to assist with invasive species management and planning. The following summary is intended to give you a broad idea of the species found at The Riverline, offer general guidance for prioritization of those species, and provide some Best Management Practices for treatment. If you have questions about anything presented in this summary, or would like to discuss things further, please contact Lucy Nuessle, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Projects Manager at [nuessl1m@buffalostate.edu](mailto:nuessl1m@buffalostate.edu) or 716-880-6151.

The WNY PRISM Crew (Crew) conducted an invasive species survey at The Riverline, owned by the NFTA, on Wednesday, May 27 and Monday, June 22, 2020. This survey represents a general assessment of invasive plant species found on the property and does not include every individual plant observed. Polygon data and observation points are presented in the attached map, the GIS files of which may be shared with the Land Conservancy upon request. Alternatively, all observation and assessment data can be accessed at [www.nyimapinvasives.org](http://www.nyimapinvasives.org). In order to access this data, you will need to login to iMapInvasives via a user account. If you do not have an account, you may request one on the iMapInvasives website. The data was entered into the project "The Riverline – WNY PRISM".

The Riverline will soon be a 1.5-mile elevated greenway that connects downtown Buffalo to the local environment. The Riverline property encompasses 40 acres of the former DL&W rail corridor and extends through Red Jacket Park and neighborhoods such as the Old First Ward and Perry. This elevated walking and biking trail will engage the community with public art and an opportunity to explore the native fauna and flora.

The most abundant invasive species present are knotweed (*Reynoutria* spp.), mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). These species are found throughout The Riverline, most often in well-established monocultures. Invasive species found at lower densities include wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), *Phragmites* (*Phragmites australis* var. *australis*), crown vetch (*Coronilla varia* L.), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and woody species such as bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.), multi-flora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) and Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*).

WNY PRISM sets invasive species management recommendations based on Best Management Practices and species prioritization, which is determined by multiple factors including infestation data, spread potential, species impact and management effectiveness. WNY PRISM recommends the targeted removal of reed



## Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

canarygrass, *Phragmites*, Canada and bull thistle and wild parsnip due to their current distribution, lower percent cover and high spread potential.

*Phragmites* and reed canarygrass removal is crucial for the successful restoration of ecosystem health and should be considered the top priority. Both perennial invasive plants can overtake hundreds of acres and provide minimal habitat utility for wildlife. The Best Management Practice for the single infestation of reed canarygrass and few, scattered infestations of *Phragmites* is foliar treatment with systemic herbicides. Both species spread via underground rhizomes, making manual removal both less effective and more often than not, a cause of further spread.

Canada and bull thistle should be considered high priorities for management as well. These two species spread vigorously and displace native plants but were only found in 6 small, scattered infestations within The Riverline. The Best Management Practice for Canada thistle is herbicide treatment in the spring or early summer, prior to flowering. However, treatments made after the plants have finished seeding in the fall have also demonstrated success. Bull thistle can be manually removed if care is taken to remove the entire tap root.

Wild parsnip is present near sidewalks and trails and should be addressed before opening the area to the public, as it poses a risk to human health. The sap of wild parsnip reacts with sunlight and can cause long-lasting skin irritation, scarring and blistering. To properly manage wild parsnip, WNY PRISM recommends the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). When managing individual plants, cutting the root or digging up the entire plant can be effective, but for larger infestations it is recommended to treat with systemic herbicides.

Invasive trees and shrubs have significant negative impacts on all aspects of ecosystem health. Common buckthorn and tree-of-heaven leaf out early, shade out native species, suppress tree regeneration, reduce insect biomass and biodiversity, and have been linked to low bird nesting success rates. Tree-of-heaven is also a host plant for the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), an invasive insect that can decimate native hardwoods, fruit trees and grape vines. Due to the large size of the infestations, these species may be considered lower priority, however as time and funding permit, we strongly recommend removal. Best Management Practices for invasive shrubs include cut-stump or basal bark treatments.

The two most abundant invasive species observed within The Riverline are knotweed and mugwort. Knotweed is an herbaceous perennial that emerges early in the spring, forms dense stands and negatively impacts infrastructure as plants can break through concrete and asphalt. Mugwort, also an herbaceous perennial, flowers in late summer to early fall and outcompetes native species for sunlight and nutrients. This invasive species frequents disturbed habitats such as roadsides and railroad beds, pastures, ditches and restoration areas. The Best Management Practice for the large infestations of both species is foliar treatment with systemic herbicides. Manual removal of either species is not effective due to the extensive root systems, aggressive growth response to physical damage and their ability to resprout from root fragments.

The level of infestation along The Riverline is not surprising due to the long history of human development within the project site. Management and restoration will require significant effort but will be both possible and sustainable if done with strategic use of Best Management Practices. After 3-5 years of invasive species treatment, annual monitoring combined with manual removal of seedlings should provide long-term success and help make The Riverline an ecologically significant addition to the Buffalo community.



## Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

*Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species*

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In total, 17 species were identified and entered into iMapInvasives for The Riverline. Included in this summary you will find a GIS map and iMapInvasives report that corresponds with the Crews findings. Please note some species data points and polygons overlap in the GIS map. Refer to iMapInvasives to filter by species and see their true extent.



# The Riverline

## Report Name: The Riverline

This report was generated by [iMap Invasives](#)

**Report Type:** Species List By Geography

**Created By User:** Lucy Nuessle

**Date Of Report Request:** Mon Aug 03 2020

**Layers Queried:** Confirmed Presences

## Filter Parameters Specified:

**Project(s) Selected:** The Riverline - WNY PRISM

## Report Results:

### Presence Records:

Scientific Name	Common Name	Confirmed Count
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	3
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-heaven; Chinese Sumac; Ailanthus	8
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	3
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Alder, Black Alder	1
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> var. <i>vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	17
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle, Creeping Thistle	1
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bull Thistle	6
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch	6
<i>Ligustrum</i> spp. (species unknown)	Privet (species unknown)	1
<i>Lonicera</i> spp (species unknown)	Honeysuckle (species unknown)	2
<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White Sweet-clover	1
<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	Wild Parsnip	8
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canarygrass	1
<i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	Common Reed, phragmites, Common reed grass	7
<i>Reynoutria</i> spp.	Knotweed (species unknown)	16
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn	12
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora Rose; Rambler Rose	4



# The Riverline Invasive Species Survey 2020

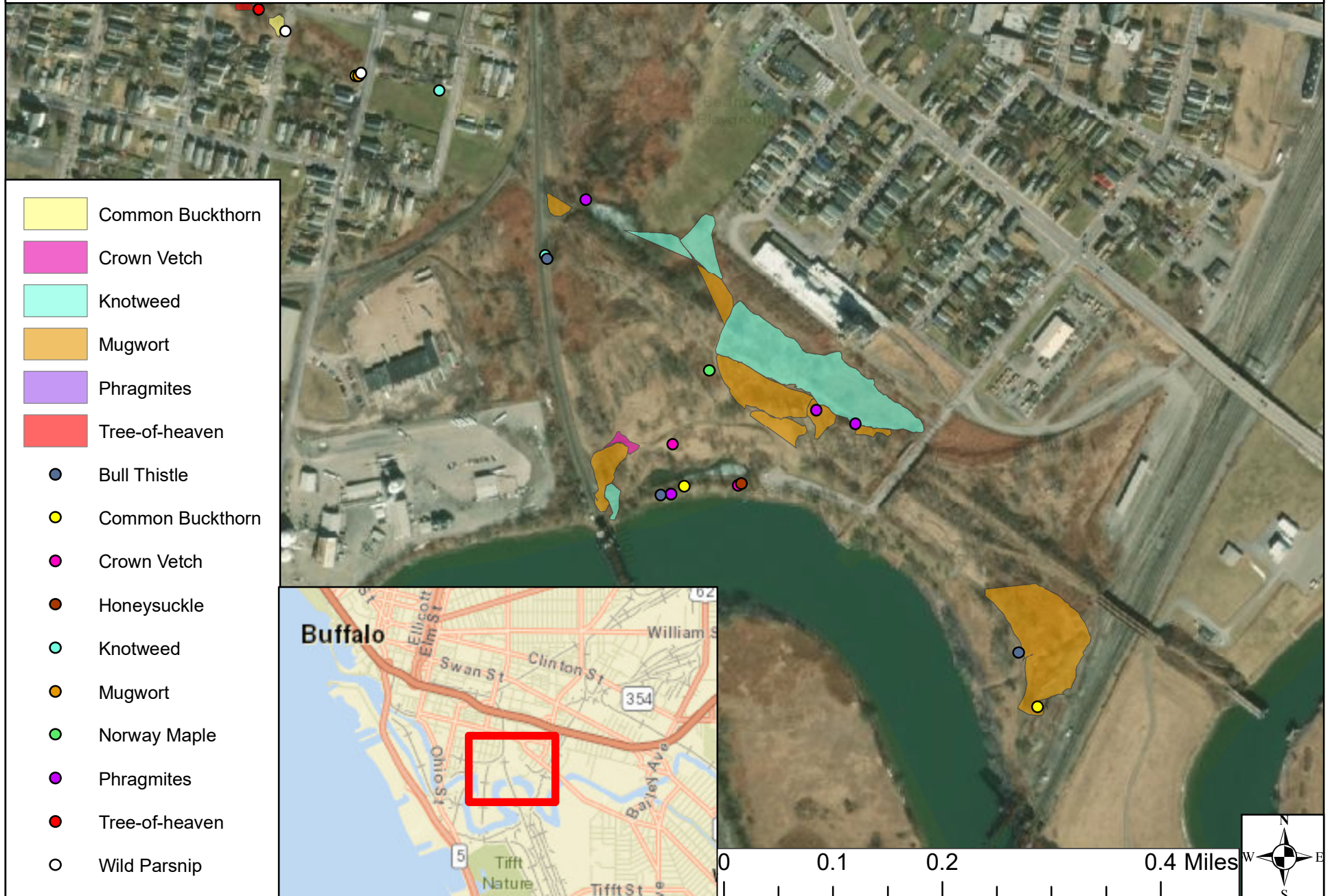
Map 1 of 2





# The Riverline Invasive Species Survey 2020

Map 2 of 2



**EXISTING CONDITIONS**



Knotweed along embankment on Mackinaw Street between Hamburg Street and Alabama Street



Knotweed at the intersection of Hamburg Street and Mackinaw Street

## PROPOSED MACKINAW STREET PLAY GARDEN



The need for a community playground has been consistently identified by neighborhood residents as a high priority during more than five years of community engagement work for The Riverline. The Play Garden was endorsed by residents as a key social gathering place, providing recreation for children and the opportunity to connect with nature in the city. These neighborhoods have not seen the effects of revitalization as much as other areas of Buffalo and lack adequate local spaces for relaxation, social gathering and play. The Play Garden will contribute to better physical and mental health and wellness for children and families and address existing health inequities. The fact that it is situated in the center of the project, within walking distance of thousands of local residents, makes it an ideal amenity for these neighborhoods.



# THE RIVERLINE

## LINKING BUFFALO TO NATURE, HISTORY & THE RIVER

The Western New York Land Conservancy is developing The Riverline based on a vision created by the community. The Riverline will transform the elevated former DL&W rail corridor along the Buffalo River into a string of vibrant and engaging experiences in nature that everyone can enjoy—right in the city, only minutes from downtown.

## CONECTANDO A BUFFALO CON LA NATURALEZA, SU HISTORIA Y SU RÍO

La Western New York Land Conservancy está desarrollando The Riverline en base a una visión generada por la comunidad. The Riverline transformará el viejo ferrocarril elevado de la DL&W a lo largo del Río Buffalo en una experiencia natural excitante e interactiva que todos podrán disfrutar—aquí mismo en la ciudad, a sólo minutos de downtown.



- A** The Moore Street Gateway
- B** Moore Street Plaza
- C** Moore Street Overlook
- D** Chicago Street Welcome Garden
- E** Chicago Street Neighborhood Connector
- F** The Del Refuge
- G** Ohio Basin Heritage Gateway
- H** Louisiana Street Neighborhood Connector
- I** The Del Cycleway
- J** Alabama Street Crossing
- K** The Del Woodlands
- L** Mackinaw Street Play Garden
- M** Hamburg Street Neighborhood Connector
- N** Sidway Street Crossing
- O** The Junctures Woodlands
- P** The Junctures Neighborhood Connector
- Q** The Junctures Overlook
- R** The Wetland Trail
- S** The Highland Trail
- T** Smith Street Gateway
- U** The Industrial Heritage Trail
- V** The Basswoods Cove
- W** Double Bridge Crossing
- X** The Basswoods Rail Garden
- Y** The Bridges Gateway
- Z** Half Bridge Overlook

- Trail Entrances
- Trail Features
- NFTA Transit Stops
- Parking
- Buffalo Blueway Sites
- Buffalo Blueway Future Sites

# THE RIVERLINE

The Riverline será un lugar de congregación inspirador que nos conectará al agua, la naturaleza, y a unos con otros. Este priorizará plantas y animales nativos, arte público, y comunidad; inspirará curiosidad, conexión y exploración; y ayudará a edificar una ciudad saludable, inclusiva y llena de oportunidades con vitalidad en cada vecindario.

The Riverline ofrecerá una variedad de experiencias, jardines naturales y lugares de recreo en la naturaleza, de exploración, autodescubrimiento y maravilla.

La variedad de tipos de sitios a lo largo de esta vereda fue diseñada apropiadamente para sus alrededores: The Del—donde vecindarios muy íntimos colindan con la vereda misma; The Junctures—donde la herencia del ferrocarril se convierte en punto de conexión; y The Basswoods—donde la naturaleza toma escenario central. Las entradas

también fueron diseñadas para respetar el carácter de las comunidades. Habrán portales que proveerán puntos de alto acceso público, mientras que los conectores vecinales proveerán un acercamiento más sutil a la vereda para quienes viven a lo largo de ella.

Estos diseños demuestran cómo llevar The Riverline de idea a realidad. Para conocer más sobre The Riverline y mantenerse al día con el progreso del proyecto, visite [theriverline.com](http://theriverline.com)

The Riverline will be an inspiring gathering place that connects people to water, nature, and one another. It will prioritize native plants and animals, public art, and community; it will inspire curiosity, connections and exploration; and it will help build a healthy, inclusive, and opportunity-rich city with vibrancy in every neighborhood. The Riverline will provide a variety of experiences, natural gardens and places for nature based recreation, exploration, self-discovery and wonder. The variety of place types along the trail have been designed to be appropriate to their surroundings: The Del—where tight-knit neighborhoods come right up to the trail itself; The Junctures—where the legacy of the railroad becomes a place of connection; and The Basswoods—where nature takes center stage.

Entrances have also been designed to respect the character of the communities. Gateways provide high profile public access points while neighborhood connectors provide more subtle approaches for those who live along The Riverline.

These designs provide the pathway for taking The Riverline from idea to reality.

To learn more about The Riverline and stay up to date as the project progresses, visit [theriverline.com](http://theriverline.com).

## SECURITY PROTECCIÓN



Edges  
Perímetros



Wayfinding  
Portales



Closed Streets  
Calles cerradas

## SHELTER REFUGIO



Bridges  
Puentes



Pavilions  
Pabellones



Trestle  
Paseos elevados

## SOCIETY SOCIEDAD



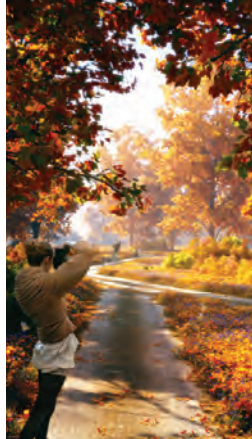
Gathering Spaces  
Áreas de reunión



Welcome Garden  
Plaza del mercado



Art  
Arte



Site Lines  
Vistas ininterrumpidas



Play  
Juego



Lighting  
Alumbramiento

## SANCTUARY SANTUARIO



Trail  
Caminos y senderos



Wildlife Viewing  
Observación de la naturaleza



Gardens  
Jardines

## THE RIVERLINE AS REFUGE

These concepts are built around a common theme: The Riverline as a place of Refuge. A refuge can be many things to many people: a place of security, or of shelter or safety; a space for small social gatherings; a place of sanctuary. The history of the land surrounding The Riverline corridor is long and storied, involving indigenous heritage, waves of immigration, economic innovation, and working class residents of various backgrounds, races and ethnicities who contributed to the building of Buffalo.

The Riverline is a place of coming together and a place of personal growth: a place we can find ourselves amongst a living history and heritage along our shared waterfront.

In times of uncertainty, these concepts provide a place for residents to find refuge, in whatever ways they define it.

## THE RIVERLINE COMO REFUGIO

Estos conceptos están centrados en un tema común: The Riverline como lugar de refugio. Un refugio puede ser muchas cosas para mucha gente: un lugar de seguridad, o de asilo o protección; un espacio para pequeñas reuniones sociales; un santuario.

La historia del terreno que rodea The Riverline es extensa e interesante, e incluye herencia indígena, ondas migratorias, innovación económica, y residentes de clase trabajadora de diversos trasfondos, razas y etnias que aportaron al desarrollo de Buffalo.

The Riverline es un lugar de convivencia y desarrollo personal: un lugar donde podemos encontrarnos en medio de la historia viviente y herencia de nuestra ribera compartida. En tiempos de incertidumbre, estos conceptos permiten a los residentes encontrar refugio, como sea que lo definan.



### A MOORE STREET GATEWAY

The Riverline connects to the Niagara Greenway and to downtown Buffalo with a lush public plaza and scenic overlook.

### ENTRADA MOORE STREET

The Riverline une al Niagara Greenway con downtown Buffalo con una lozana plaza y mirador escénico.



### F THE DEL REFUGE

The Del Refuge provides an immersive and accessible experience in nature, while enhancing privacy for neighbors.

### REFUGIO THE DEL

El Refugio The Del proporciona una experiencia inmersiva y accesible en la naturaleza, a la vez que mejora el sentido de privacidad para los vecinos.



### P THE JUNCTURES NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTOR

As the trail approaches the Junctures, a soaring bridge provides an inspiring new perspective and connection to the Buffalo River waterfront.

### CONNECTOR VECINAL THE JUNCTURES

Según se acerca el sendero a The Junctures, un puente ascendente presenta una nueva e inspiradora perspectiva y conexión al río Buffalo.



### G HALF BRIDGE OVERLOOK

The terminus of The Riverline soars over the Buffalo River, anchoring The Riverline to its industrial heritage and its bright future.

### MIRADOR MEDIO PUNTE

El término de The Riverline se eleva sobre el río Buffalo, anclando The Riverline a su pasado industrial y su futuro brillante.



### I CHICAGO STREET WELCOME GARDEN

The Welcome Garden at Chicago Street is a place for neighbors of all generations to connect with nature and with each other.



### J ALABAMA STREET CROSSING

Bridge crossings over public streets and a cycle track at street level ensure safety and enhance the experience for all users.



### K MACKINAW STREET PLAY GARDEN

The Mackinaw Play Garden provides kids and families a unique structured but natural play space.



### L SMITH STREET GATEWAY

Approaching The Riverline from Smith Street, users will choose from a variety of pathways and experiences within and above this important natural habitat.

### JARDÍN DE BIENVENIDA CHICAGO STREET

El Jardín de Bienvenida en Chicago Street es un lugar para que los vecinos de todas generaciones se conecten con la naturaleza y entre sí mismos.

### CRUCE CALLE ALABAMA

Puentes sobre calles públicas y una ciclovia al nivel de la calle para asegurar la seguridad y mejorar la experiencia de todos.

### JARDÍN DE JUEGO MACKINAW

El Jardín de Juego Mackinaw provee a los menores y sus familiares un espacio estructurado único pero natural donde jugar.

### ENTRADA CALLE SMITH

Acercándose a The Riverline desde Smith Street, los usuarios podrán escoger de una variedad de caminos y experiencias dentro de o arriba de este hábitat natural importante.

Funding for the Concept and Schematic Design phase comes in part through an Environmental Protection Fund grant (EPF #180842) administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Additional funding is provided by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York Blue Fund; KeyBank in partnership with the First Niagara Foundation; Moog Inc.; the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's IMPACT! Grant Program; the East Hill Foundation; Kathy Lasher and Scott Bieler; Peggy and Jay Elliott; Nancy and Tom Smith; and other individual community donors. The Land Conservancy continues to seek additional funding for The Riverline.

Fondos para la Fase de Concepto y Diseño Esquemático de The Riverline provienen en parte de una subvención del Environmental Protection Fund (EPF #180842) administrado por la Oficina de Parques, Recreación y Conservación Histórica del Estado de Nueva York. Fondos adicionales provienen del Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York Blue Fund; KeyBank en conjunto con First Niagara Foundation; Moog Inc.; Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor's IMPACT! Grant Program; East Hill Foundation; Kathy Lasher y Scott Bieler; Peggy y Jay Elliott; Nancy y Tom Smith; y otros donantes individuales de la comunidad.