



Niagara River Greenway Commission
Project Consultation & Review Submission

September 2025



Date of Submittal: September 17, 2025

Project Registration Number: _____

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Type of Review Required: ☒ **Mandatory Consultation**

☐ **Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement**

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Mailing Address: 721 Main Street, Buffalo

State: New York

Zip Code: 14203

Federal ID# 22-2993054

Charities Registration #04-91-05

PROJECT TYPE

Check only ONE:

☐ Trail Development/Improvement

☐ Interpretation/Cultural Monuments

☒ Ecosystem/Riparian Habitat Restoration

☐ Stewardship

☒ Niagara River Greenway Placemaking/Public Access/Wayfinding

Funding Committee Request:

☐ Host Community Standing Committee

☒ Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

☐ Ecological Standing Committee

☐ State Parks Standing Committee

☐ Unsure at this time

Total Amount Requested: \$213,485

Additional Funding from Other Sources: n/a

PROJECT INFORMATION

ProjectName: Buffalo Niagara Blueway - Eagle Overlook Design: Integrating Habitat, Access and Greenway Connection

Location: Eagle Overlook

Site Address: West River Parkway

State: NY Zip Code: 14072

Minor Civil Division(s): Grand Island

County: Erie

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): Other

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Jill Jedlicka

Title: Executive Director

Business Address: 721 Main Street, Buffalo

State: NY, 14203

Telephone Number: 716-852-7483 x 21

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E-Mail Address: jedlicka@bnwaterkeeper.org

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Jeanne Beiter

Title: Senior Program Manager

Organization/Firm: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Business Address: 721 Main Street, Buffalo

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PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. IN A BRIEF PARAGRAPH, DESCRIBE THE PROJECT AND ITS PURPOSE, HOW AND WHEN IT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT.

Over the past five years, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (BNW) has implemented the Buffalo Blueway through the creation of new and/or upgraded public water access sites along the Buffalo River and Outer Harbor. In 2024, the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee supported BNW's efforts to expand the Buffalo Blueway beyond the limits of the Buffalo River and City of Buffalo into other Western New York municipalities and rebrand the Buffalo Blueway as the Buffalo Niagara Blueway.

The purpose of the Buffalo Niagara Blueway is to connect a network of vibrant public access points to Western New York Waterways, specifically the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers and Lake Erie by designing and implementing an interconnected multi-modal water trail system. This water trail system will provide new and enhanced access to water recreation activities such as paddling, fishing, and boating by including fishing piers, scenic overlooks, paddle sport launches and other amenities. The expansion of the Buffalo Blueway to connect and include sites outside the City of Buffalo will allow for the creation of a region-wide Buffalo Niagara Blueway linking communities throughout the Niagara River watershed and providing nature-focused refuge. All residents, regardless of social and economic class, will benefit from connected and improved access points along our local waterways to enjoy passive and active recreational opportunities such as fishing, paddle sports, walking and birdwatching.

The Buffalo Niagara Blueway will link the Niagara River Greenway to our waterfront in an expanded network of public access and recreation points. This Blueway-to-Greenway network forges together history, culture and nature. By connecting these prized assets, the Buffalo Niagara Blueway will spur tourism and revitalization, bring together communities, and improve the social well-being and health of residents. Through continued community partnerships and engagement, BNW envisions the creation of opportunities for universal and equitable access through the connection of the Blueway Trail system to the Niagara River Greenway and Shoreline Trails and the improvement of water-based recreation while expanding regional eco-tourism.

In 2024, BNW led a robust effort to explore opportunities for enhanced water access in the portions of the Niagara River Greenway that fall within Erie County. Each municipality in this geography underwent a detailed desktop analysis to identify publicly owned and publicly accessible waterway-adjacent lands that present the best opportunities to improve access to waterways. Preliminary design concepts were then developed for the top sites identified through this analysis.

One of the priority sites identified as part of this effort is Eagle Overlook on Grand Island which is owned and operated by NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). BNW, in partnership with OPRHP, is requesting funding to advance design development for the Eagle Overlook Blueway site. Eagle Overlook is an underutilized public access site within Buckhorn Island State Park on Grand Island, NY. The site is located along the Niagara River and currently lacks the infrastructure to support safe, inclusive public use. The existing kayak launch is a steep dirt path, there is no formal area to view the water, parking spaces are limited, and restrooms and seating areas are absent.

This project will build upon existing conceptual designs, developed by BNW and approved by OPRHP, to create a complete final design package. BNW will contract with a qualified consultant team to evaluate and refine the key features proposed in the conceptual plans through site data collection and analysis. The resulting construction-ready drawings will emphasize ADA accessibility, climate resilience, and habitat restoration. Key features to be developed include:

- Enhancements to existing walking paths, including regrading and resurfacing to improve slope and drainage.
- Reconfiguration of the parking area with designated accessible parking stalls and drop-off zones, incorporating green infrastructure such as bioswales and native plantings.
- Shoreline stabilization elements are designed to reduce wave energy, control erosion, and stabilize the launch beach under varying water levels.
- A new water overlook structure and informal boulder seating areas to support shoreline viewing and passive recreation.
- Riparian habitat restoration throughout the site.
- Site furnishings including benches, signage, kayak racks, and fencing.
- Formal connection between the Eagle Overlook site and the Niagara River Greenway-West River Shoreline Trail.

Once constructed, Eagle Overlook will become an official Buffalo Niagara Blueway site, further strengthening the region's interconnected system of publicly accessible water access locations along the Niagara and Buffalo Rivers. Completion of final design documents through this grant will position the site for capital construction funding and future implementation. Deliverables will include construction-ready drawings, permit submissions, and an engineer's estimate of probable cost.

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.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The proposal meets all eleven principles as defined by the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Excellence: BNW and the OPRHP are committed to ensuring that this project is completed with excellence. Making progress towards enhancing an important waterfront access point within the Niagara River Greenway will promote and connect people to the globally significant water resources, recreational fishery, and cultural/heritage assets in the Greenway while contributing towards the creation of a world class network of universally accessible public water sites and attractions.

Sustainability: The Eagle Overlook improvements will be designed to be sustainable, and as a primary project partner, OPRHP is committed to maintenance and operation. In addition, studies throughout the country about the economic impact of Blueways share a common theme regarding both their direct and indirect economic impact: "Increased tourism around water trails could bring new money to circulate in the community to aid population growth and lead to increased amenities and standard of living."

Accessibility: This project will generate vast improvements towards this guiding principle by strategically increasing physical and visual waterfront access at Eagle Overlook to a wide range of users including paddlers, boaters, bikers, anglers, tourists, and residents. The site improvements will be designed to provide universal access where possible.

Ecological Integrity: Ecological enhancements will be incorporated into the project design, primarily focusing on riparian enhancements in which BNW has extensive expertise in designing and executing through our Living Shoreline program.

Public Well-Being: A major focus of the Buffalo Niagara Blueway is to promote community health and wellness. The project will promote healthy lifestyles by enhancing and expanding universal access for residents and visitors to experience a variety of recreational opportunities at Eagle Overlook including fishing, wildlife observation, and paddling.

Connectivity: Eagle Overlook is located directly along the West River Shoreline Trail which has recently undergone extensive investment to convert a portion of the former parkway into a multiuse recreational trail that is part of the Niagara River Greenway. This trail allows for easy access via foot, bike, or boat from Eagle Overlook to nearby areas such as Buckhorn State Park and Beaver Island Park. Multiple informal water access sites also exist along the West River Shoreline Trail that can be accessed via Eagle Overlook or vice versa.

Restoration: The restoration of ecological resources will be a major focus of the design for Eagle Overlook in addition to recreational improvements.

Authenticity: “Water defined our region’s history, and it will define its future.” Western New York’s character and heritage is directly linked to our prime location within the Great Lakes. With 85% of North America’s fresh water flowing past our community, internationally significant birding areas, world-class fishing opportunities, and vast cultural resources to name a few; improving accessibility to our freshwater resources aligns with the heritage, culture, and history of the area Greenway.

Celebration: The Eagle Overlook improvements will enhance and promote access to our region’s prized historical, cultural, and unique natural resources. Once implemented, the improvements will attract visitors to create shared experiences that celebrate the valuable regional assets that have both shaped our heritage and sparked recent revitalization.

Partnerships: BNW has a record of successfully collaborating with over 200 partners and coordinating diverse stakeholder groups in the region in order to advance some of the region’s most complex environmental problems. The continued development of the Buffalo Niagara Blueway through this project will be closely coordinated with OPRHP and other partners, as needed, to leverage knowledge, expertise, and resources to engender united regional progress towards revitalization in the Western New York region.

Community Based: The Town of Grand Island recently completed their Local Waterfront Revitalization plan which was adopted on May 20, 2024. The development of the document included input from town residents and community members via public meetings and events. This project is identified in the plan as project S4 - “Identify, design, and implement improvements to State operated kayak launches at Eagle Overlook.”

GOALS

The proposal meets all of the goals defined by the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Improve Access and Make Connections: Once constructed, Eagle Overlook will offer a resilient, well-maintained, and ecologically rich public space where visitors can paddle, walk, view wildlife, and enjoy the river in a safe and inclusive setting. An official Buffalo Niagara Blueway interpretive sign will be installed to highlight the site's natural significance and provide paddling route information to upstream and downstream Blueway destinations, encouraging exploration of the wider water trail network. Eagle Overlook will be the first Blueway site on Grand Island, filling a geographic gap in the network and creating a vital link between existing and future destinations along the Niagara River.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems: The design for this project will incorporate the protection and restoration of natural resources and wildlife habitats to the greatest extent possible. This includes aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat opportunities.

Promote Long Term Sustainability: OPRHP is committed to sustaining the site improvements at Eagle Overlook long term once they are implanted. Additionally, an economic development report commissioned by the North Forest Canoe Trail, and supported by USDA, found that water trails (aka Blueways) encourage local entrepreneurship, foster regional destination tourism, catalyze collaboration, and bring new visitor spending to a region.

Extend the Legacy of Fredrick Law Olmsted: This project will further Olmsted's vision of a "necklace of parks and open spaces along the length of the River" by enhancing an important waterfront green space within the Niagara River Greenway.

Celebrate History and Heritage: A new Blueway interpretive sign will orient visitors to paddling routes, highlight the site's natural and cultural history, and connect them to upstream and downstream destinations.

Spark Revitalization and Renewal: Supporting common assets, such as the "public trust" resources of our local waterways can be a great "equalizer" in terms of health, recreation and quality of life improvements for all.

Sustainable design and complementary restoration benefit natural resources as well as people, and the recent success of the Buffalo River corridor demonstrates that these goals can be accomplished through public-private- nonprofit partnerships, a story that is now globally recognized.

CRITERIA

The proposal meets all of the criteria as defined by the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Consistency with Principles: As detailed earlier, this project aligns with all of the principles outlined in the Greenway Plan. The Eagle Overlook project has particularly strong connections to promoting accessibility, public well-being, developing partnerships and are community-based, and authentically celebrating our significant regional assets.

Priority Status: This project advances a number of elements listed in the Greenway Plan under 'Priority Status' including:

- Improved access to waterfront resources: this project will support the design of public access improvements at Eagle Overlook including water access for canoes and kayaks, scenic overlooks, and interpretive signage

- Restoration of Niagara River ecosystem: project design will support ecosystem improvements, primarily riparian restoration
- Interpretation and education about the region's cultural, natural and historic resources: a new Blueway interpretive sign will orient visitors to paddling routes, highlight the site's natural and cultural history, and connect them to upstream and downstream destinations

Focus Area: This project is located within the Niagara River Greenway focus area.

Environmental Soundness: All of BNW's work is closely tied to enhancing environmental quality. This will remain a priority consideration in the design and implementation of the Eagle Overlook Blueway site.

Implementable: BNW has many years of experience developing and implementing shoreline restoration and public access improvement projects. This institutional knowledge will be incorporated into the design and implementation of this project. The expertise of our partners at OPRHP will also be incorporated throughout the development of this project as a primary project partner. Additionally, a NYS licensed engineering firm will be hired to develop project designs, making sure they are sound and fully implementable.

Economic Viability: An economic development report commissioned by the North Forest Canoe Trail, and supported by USDA, found that water trails (aka Blueways) encourage local entrepreneurship, foster regional destination tourism, catalyze collaboration, and bring new visitor spending to a region. These positive impacts on the regional economy can then be invested into maintaining the Buffalo Niagara Blueway system, including the Eagle Overlook site, for future generations. Additionally, OPRHP receives annual funding through the State budget that can be utilized to support any ongoing maintenance needs as needed once the project is implemented.

Local Sponsors or Partners: OPRHP is the primary partner and will assume long-term responsibility for the continued operation and maintenance of the project.

Consideration of Other Planning Efforts: The design process for the Eagle Overlook Blueway site will incorporate priorities and recommendations from the Niagara River Greenway Plan, Grand Island LWRP and other local and regional documents to advance a shared vision and build off of already completed work.

Clear Benefits: Enhanced public access and experiences through the establishment of Eagle Overlook as a Buffalo Niagara Blueway site will connect the community to the unique ecological, historical, and cultural assets that the Niagara River Greenway has to offer. The Buffalo Niagara Blueway also shares the Niagara River Greenway vision of creating a world-class corridor that maximizes benefits to our economy and environment while promoting our regional heritage.

3. 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.

Project Budget:

Planning /Design	\$ 184,910
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Construction	\$ n/a
Acquisition	\$ n/a
Administration	\$ 28,575
Operation and Maintenance per Year	\$ n/a
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 213,485

Matching Funds:

No matching funds currently exist for this project; however, the project team will leverage this investment to secure funding for implementation of the design that will be generated through this project.

Operation and Maintenance Plan:

Long-term operation and maintenance of this site will be completed by the landowner, OPRHP. OPRHP receives annual funding through the State budget that can be utilized to support any ongoing maintenance needs once the project is implemented.

Leveraged Funds:

In total, since October 2018, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has leveraged the support of federal, State and foundations to secure nearly \$14.7 million in matching funds to support the Buffalo Blueway. BNW has a strong ability to secure the funding needed to implement projects and as such, we believe the vision for the Buffalo Niagara Blueway including the Eagle Overlook site will be fully sustainable and implementable through its completion.

- 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 project builds on years of planning and partnership with the Town of Grand Island and OPRHP as well as other regional stakeholders and directly supports BNW's 5-year programmatic plan for the Buffalo Niagara Blueway. The project is identified in the Town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan as project S4: "Identify, design, and implement improvements to State operated kayak launches at Eagle Overlook." It also advances goals in the New York Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2020–2025, particularly *Goal #1: Connect children and adults with nature and recreation by improving access to outdoor recreation opportunities*. As SCORP states, "Public recreation providers have an obligation to provide the opportunity for varied recreational experience to all members of their community, and the State

continues to make substantial progress toward a more inclusive system.”

Eagle Overlook’s ADA-accessible pathways, formalized parking, universally accessible river overlook, and shoreline habitat restoration address SCORP’s recommendations to expand universally accessible trails, promote water trails, and retrofit facilities to meet the needs of an aging populace. By becoming an official Buffalo Blueway site, the project also fulfills SCORP’s *Goal #2: Inform the public about outdoor recreation opportunities* through on-site interpretation and regional promotion. A new Blueway interpretive sign will orient visitors to paddling routes, highlight the site’s natural and cultural history, and connect them to upstream and downstream destinations.

Role of municipalities/stakeholders/consultants/volunteers/others involved:

As the primary project partner, OPRHP will be involved in all aspects of design development. BNW will conduct a competitive bid process to select a qualified consulting firm to lead the formal design development process. Check-ins with project partners will occur at 30%, 60% and 90% design development. The consultant will develop technical specifications and documentation needed to proceed with project construction once funding is implemented, including securing all necessary permits.

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.

The Eagle Overlook project will transform an underutilized section of Buckhorn Island State Park into a safe, inclusive, and engaging public destination along the Niagara River. Currently, the site offers only limited and informal access, with a steep dirt path for launching kayaks, minimal parking, and no designated space to enjoy shoreline views. These conditions limit who can use the site and reduce its potential to serve the community.

By advancing Eagle Overlook to final design and permitting, this project will enhance accessibility, interpretation, resiliency, and preservation of a valuable public resource. Planned improvements include ADA-accessible pathways, formalized parking with designated accessible spaces, and an overlook structure designed for all visitors to experience the river. Shoreline stabilization measures will reduce erosion, improve safety, protect riparian habitat, and restore native vegetation. An official Buffalo Niagara Blueway interpretive sign will be installed to highlight the site’s natural significance and provide paddling route information to upstream and downstream Blueway destinations, encouraging exploration of the wider water trail network.

Once constructed, Eagle Overlook will offer a resilient, well-maintained, and ecologically rich public space where visitors can paddle, walk, view wildlife, and enjoy the river in a safe and inclusive

setting. It will preserve and enhance the natural resource by expanding recreational and educational opportunities and inspire lasting connection to the Niagara River for generations to come. A conceptual design of the proposed improvements is attached to this proposal.

The SEQRA process will be completed as part of the permitting process for this project. It is anticipated that permits will be submitted at 90% design. No RTE species, wetlands, or significant habitats currently exist at this site.

6. Attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimate date for project completion/opening.

BNW is seeking consistency approval to complete this project in 2026-2027. Our anticipated start date will be May 2026 and target end date will be December 2027.

May 2026 – September 2026

- Develop request for proposals for design consultant, complete bid process, select consulting firm, execute contract and landowner agreement if needed

November 2026 – June 2027

- Complete preliminary through 60% design and engineering with check ins at the 30% and 60% design phases
- Pre-application consultation with permitting agencies

June 2027 – December 2027

- Develop 90% and 100% final designs and technical specifications
- Finalize and submit all required permits, secure all permits before project close out (in our recent experience, permits have taken up to 6 months to secure)
- Project Close Out.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Letter of Support from NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.
- Appendix B: Existing Site Conditions photos.
- Appendix C: Eagle Overlook Preliminary Conceptual Drawing.



**New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation**

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RANDY SIMONS
Commissioner Pro Tempore

MARK MISTRETTA
Regional Director

September 11, 2025

Niagara River Greenway Commission
PO Box 1132
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), I am writing to confirm our support and participation in Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's (BNW) proposal to design public access elements at the NYS State Parks' Eagle Overlook on Grand Island. We fully support the application to the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Staff from OPRHP and BNW have been working together throughout the development of Blueway Beyond Phase 1, funded by the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee, which assessed and identified sites for public access enhancements along the waterfront in the portions of the Niagara River Greenway that fall within Erie County. Through this effort, Eagle Overlook, an OPRHP-owned waterfront access site along the Niagara River on Grand Island, was identified as a priority for future improvements. The site is currently underutilized and OPRHP desires to work with BNW to implement improvements at the site that may include parking and walking path enhancements, shoreline stabilization, a waterfront overlook, benches, signage, lighting, and kayak racks. BNW and OPRHP have worked on developing an initial concept design, included as an attachment in their proposal, which depicts the potential improvements that will be further explored and developed through this proposal.

OPRHP is committed to working closely with BNW throughout the implementation of the proposed work. If funded, this request will complete full design and engineering for the improvements at Eagle Overlook and will poise project partners to seek funding for implementation. We will partner with BNW to execute site improvements once funding is secured and will lead maintenance activities once implementation is complete.

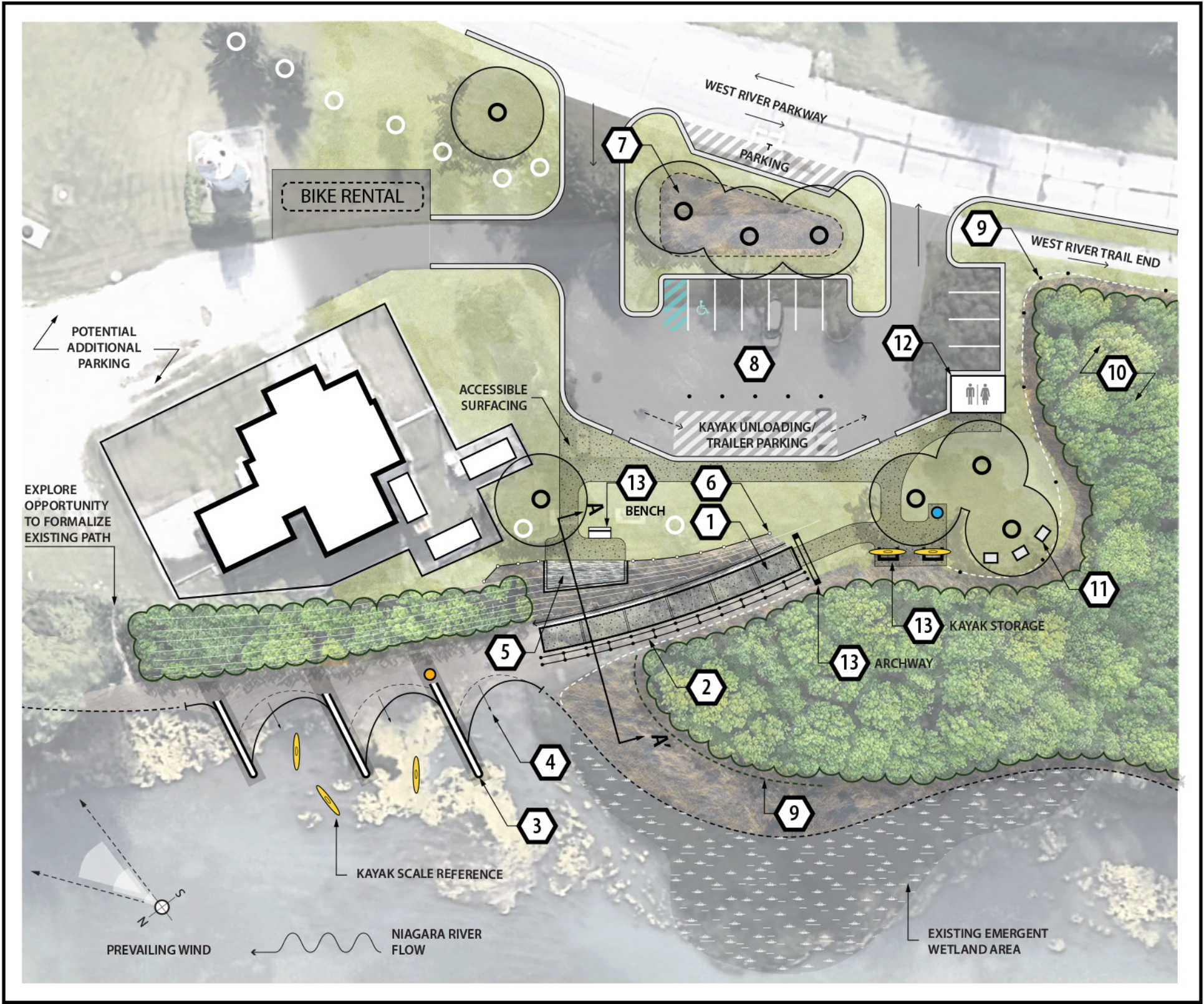
OPRHP has successfully worked with BNW on the completion of a number of projects including a large-scale restoration project at Little Beaver Island and on BNW's RestoreCorps Program. We look forward to working with BNW to achieve public access improvements along the Niagara River through this proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mark V. Mistretta, RLA
Director, Niagara Region

EAGLE OVERLOOK CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS





▼ PROPOSED CONDITIONS PLAN

SCALE: 1"=40' NORTH

CONCEPT PLAN KEY:

SAND/GRAVEL BEACH

MEADOW AREAS

RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT

MOWED LAWN

WETLAND AREA

CONTOUR LINE (white)

NEW CANOPY TREE

EXISTING TREE

BLUEWAY SIGN

BLUEWAY MARKER

APPROX. SHORELINE

NO-MOW LINE W. MARKERS

- CONCEPT NOTES:
1. Proposed enhancements to an existing foot trail include widening the path to at least 6 feet wide to allow kayak transport to the launch area, regrading to achieve a softer slope, resurfacing, and creating a drainage swale to capture and convey stormwater flowing down the hill.

2. A kayak slide rail is proposed adjacent to the improved walking trail, allowing for easier paddle craft transport between the launch area and the parking lot.

3. A series of stone groynes (also called spurs) are proposed along the shoreline. These features extend into the waterway, perpendicular to the direction of the current. They attenuate wave energy, buffer from ice scour, and can capture sediment carried by the current.

4. Current conditions at the site can support on-grade launching from a gently sloping sand/gravel beach. However, the beach changes in size depending on ice scour and water levels. As the groynes capture sediment, the sand/gravel beach can expand, ensuring launching can be sustained during high-water years.

5. An overlook structure is proposed at the top of the slopping bluff, offering improved water viewing opportunities.

6. A new split rail or similar fence is proposed at the top of the slope to improve safety at the site. Improvements to the plantings on the hill will focus on low-growing native species to preserve water views while stabilizing sediment and providing habitat for beneficial insects.

7. An expansive parking median offers opportunities for green infrastructure plantings to receive and treat stormwater runoff generated by the parking area.

8. Improvements to the existing parking lot create space for trailer parking and kayak drop-off near the launching area.

9. Meadow areas of herbaceous plants add seasonal interest, define spaces, and buffer sensitive habitats. Shorter species are intentionally selected in certain areas to preserve open sight lines through the space and to the water. Meadow markers help to define mowing patterns and convey intention to the public.

10. Existing riparian areas are improved through invasive species removal and understory plantings of native species.

11. Informal seating areas can be created with large flat-topped boulders. These are placed near the launch area so visitors can sit and prepare for their paddle.

12. Explore options for upgrades to bathroom facilities on the property.

13. Site furnishings, such as benches, signage, archways, and kayak racks are proposed. These features match the Blueway aesthetic established at other regional waterfront sites. Refer to the Blueway furnishing cutsheet for more information.



Gently sloping shoreline beaches accommodate on-grade launching at the Eagle Overlook launch site. A mixture of fine sand and rounded rock is present along the shoreline, which is less damaging to boat hulls. However, on-grade beach launching can be challenging for less experienced paddlers.



Stone groynes (similar to spurs or jetties) are composed of rock or strong timbers. They extend into the waterway perpendicular to the direction of the current. They attenuate wave energy, buffer from ice scour, and can capture sediment carried by the current, leading to shoreline accretion over time.



Overlook structures can be made of many materials, the least expensive being wood, like the example above. When cantilevered off the edge of a sloping bank, these structures can provide excellent viewing opportunities of natural areas while diverse riparian plants surround the viewer.



'Slide rails' can assist with boat transport when a launch area is at the bottom of a steep bank. The image above shows a version of this adjacent to stairs. It's unlikely that the Eagle Overlook launch site will require stairs, but a kayak slide rail such as this can assist with transporting boats to the beach.

PRECEDENT IMAGES



PROPOSED CONDITIONS SECTION

SECTION NOTES (re: sheet 14.1)