

## CHAPTER 2: INVENTORY

### 2.0 GREENWAY RESOURCES

There are a wealth of assets and resources in Western New York that contribute to the character and strength of the region. The Greenway enabling legislation, as noted in the Introduction, requires an inventory of these resources as part of the Greenway Plan. The written discussion of the resources that make up the Niagara River Greenway focuses on the municipalities that fall within the Niagara River Greenway boundary. At the same time, the very nature of some of these resources transcends the Niagara River corridor. Therefore, the accompanying figures show the resources on a regional basis, including inland communities.

#### A. Existing Parks and Public Lands

Parkland resources throughout the Buffalo-Niagara region and along the Niagara River corridor are numerous. These resources include State, County, and local park facilities. Figure 2 illustrates the location of parks and parklands throughout the region.

The most prominent and highly visited park within the Niagara River corridor is Niagara Falls State Park, which encompasses the lands and waters surrounding the Falls. Visitation at this park is estimated to be approximately 8 million visitors per year. Niagara Falls is the anchor attraction for tourism and tourism development in the region. In addition to Niagara Falls State Park, there is a chain of State Parks along the length of the River that continues both north and south to Lake Ontario and Lake Erie shorelines. State owned lands located within the defined boundary of the Niagara River Greenway from south to north are shown in the table on the following page.

There are several county parks and numerous local parks within the boundaries

of the Niagara River Greenway, and many parks in adjacent upland communities, as shown on Figure 2. Most of these parks were designed to serve the recreational needs of local residents, but many are important resources along the Niagara River, attracting visitors from the Western New York region and across the State. These parks include the Tift Nature Preserve, the Small Boat Harbor, Erie Basin Marina, LaSalle Park, Squaw Island Park, Broderick Park, the Bird Island Pier, Tow Path Park and Riverside Park in the City of Buffalo; Isle View Park in the Town of Tonawanda; Niawanda Park in the City of Tonawanda; Gateway Harbor in the Cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda; Fisherman's Park and Gratwick Park in the City of North Tonawanda; and Lewiston Landing in the Village of Lewiston.

The Frederick Law Olmsted parks in the City of Buffalo and the City of Niagara Falls are also a unique resource of this region. In Buffalo, Olmsted Park System includes Riverside Park, Delaware Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park., Front Park, Cazenovia Park and South Park as well as a number of connecting parkways and circles. In the City of Niagara Falls, Frederick Law Olmsted was instrumental in the preservation and restoration of the lands that now comprise Niagara Falls State Park, also known as the Niagara Reservation. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) manages the Olmsted landscapes in Niagara County, while the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, a not-for-profit organization, is charged with the oversight of the Buffalo Olmsted Parks. Both groups have or are in the process of developing master plans to preserve these landscapes for their cultural and historic value, as well for their open spaces.

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<b>State Parks and Public Lands</b>	
Strawberry Island and Motor Island Nature Preserve	Niagara River south of Grand Island: Significant habitats. Not developed as parkland, although informal passive recreational use occurs on Strawberry Island. Some remedial work to halt erosion and restore habitats has been completed; additional remedial work is underway. Strawberry Island is considered part of Beaver Island State Park. Motor Island Nature Preserve is under the jurisdiction of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.
Beaver Island State Park	Southern end of Grand Island: wide range of active and passive recreational facilities, including a beach, marina, nature trails, bicycle/pedestrian paths and golf course.
Buckhorn Island State Park	Northern end of Grand Island: marshes, wet meadows, riparian woodlands and upland forests. Passive recreational area with water and land trails and wildlife observation. Additional wetland restoration work and the addition of more trails is planned
Niagara Falls State Park	City of Niagara Falls: Oldest State Park in the United States; originally designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. Major tourism site with numerous scenic overlooks. Access to the Niagara River rapids, the Falls, Goat Island and Prospect Point. Facilities include an interpretive visitor center, Niagara Gorge Discovery Center, Observation Tower, Maid of the Mist and Cave of the Winds tours, trails, scenic trolley.
Whirlpool State Park	City of Niagara Falls: Overlooks of the Niagara River whirlpool and gorge with passive recreational facilities (picnic areas and playgrounds) on the gorge rim. Stairs provide access from the gorge rim to trails and fishing access points along the rapids of the lower Niagara River.
DeVeaux Woods State Park	City of Niagara Falls: old growth woodland, passive recreation, limited active recreational facilities. Adjacent to Whirlpool State Park.
Devil’s Hole State Park	City of Niagara Falls: upstream of the New York Power Authority project. Scenic overlooks of the gorge and the lower Whirlpool rapids. Trails follow the gorge and provide access to popular fishing spots.
Reservoir State Park	Town of Niagara: Active recreation facilities including athletic fields and designated areas for kite flying. Includes an overlook for Robert Moses Power Plant Reservoir, fishing access and other passive recreational facilities.
Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park	Village of Lewiston: Dramatic and visual arts, classes, workshops and cultural Implementations. Includes a performing arts theatre, nature trails and the Lower Landing Archeological District (historic site).

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State Parks and Public Lands	
Joseph Davis State Park	Town of Lewiston: Passive and some active recreational facilities; handicapped accessible fishing access. Nature trails. Adaptive reuse of former pool complex.
Fort Niagara State Park	Town of Porter: Boat launching facilities, swimming pool, trails, scenic views of mouth of River and Lake Ontario. Mix of active and passive recreational facilities.
Old Fort Niagara State Historic Site	Town of Porter: Adjacent to Fort Niagara State Park. Includes historic Fort Niagara, the old Niagara River Lighthouse and a visitor’s center.  Future plans include development of a museum at the former Officers Club.
Four Mile Creek State Park	Town of Porter: Campsites (275 sites) including 21 sites on the shore of Lake Ontario. Scenic views, hiking trails, wildlife areas, picnic areas, playground. (Sited on Lake Ontario, not the Niagara River)

The above list addresses State lands only. It is emphasized that there are many other parklands and open space across the Buffalo-Niagara region that contribute to the quality of life of the area. These parks are valuable resources along the Greenway. They are depicted in Figure 2.

The region also has an extensive network of both land and water trails, which can be considered “linear parkland.” Figure 3 depicts the existing trail network through the waterfront region and connecting trail systems. Several new trail systems are in the planning and development stage, including a scenic trail between Lewiston and the City of Niagara Falls, trails in the Town of Tonawanda tying into the Riverwalk, and the Outer Harbor Trails in the City of Buffalo, which will provide waterfront access along previously inaccessible Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) lands. There are also numerous proposals for completing segments of trails throughout the region that are in the process of obtaining funding.

Trails can also be important connectors between the Niagara River Greenway and upland and interior communities. In particular, there are three state-designated trail systems—the Seaway Trail, the Erie Canal and the Niagara Wine Trail—that provide linkages beyond the region.

The New York State Seaway Trail is a state and nationally designated scenic by-way covering a 454-mile scenic route paralleling Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. A well-marked, scenic alternative to interstate highways and toll roads, the Seaway Trail leads the visitor to eye-opening treasures one might otherwise overlook. A portion of the Seaway Trail parallels the Niagara River Greenway and also extends eastward along the Lake Ontario shoreline and south along the Lake Erie shore. Seaway Trail, Inc., a not-for-profit membership organization, works with local governments to promote and advocate for the Seaway Trail through educational, recreational programming, promotions and marketing, and planning efforts.

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The goals of the Seaway Trail are to:

- Pursue an increased but stable rate of economic development and growth of the tourism industry throughout the Seaway Trail region,
- Protect and enhance the scenic, natural and cultural resources of the Seaway Trail region, and
- Develop the Seaway Trail region as a high quality experience for recreation and vacations.

The Erie Canal runs concurrent with the Niagara River Greenway in the Cities of Tonawanda and North Tonawanda, and extends eastward across New York State. The Erie Canal is also a federally designated national heritage corridor: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. That portion of the Canal that runs through Western New York is also designated as the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor, part of the New York State Heritage Area System. The Erie Canal and multi-use trail represent both a water based “blueway” and land based system which connects the Niagara River Greenway by land and by water to points east. Several management plans guide projects along the Canal. Projects identified in these plans that improve the connectivity of the Canal trail and the Greenway can contribute to the implementation of the Greenway plan.

The Niagara Wine Trail is a state-designated trail that links a number of wineries and other attractions across Niagara County and into Orleans County. It overlaps the Niagara River Greenway in the western end of the Trail, extending from the City of Niagara Falls north to Lewiston. The Niagara Wine Trail continues eastward along Route 104 and some adjacent roadways to connect the wineries along the route of the Trail.

These state-designated connecting systems, which are depicted on Figure 3, link the Greenway to upland and interior communities and help integrate the Greenway into wider systems. A wealth of heritage resources and highly scenic landscapes can be found along these connections. These and similar linkages improve access to the Greenway and to the many resources and attractions of this region that fall outside the designated geographic boundary of the Niagara River Greenway.

The Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) is leading an effort to implement a “Shoreline Trail” system. The Shoreline Trail will run along the Lake Erie and Niagara River shorelines from the southern end of Erie County in Brant to the mouth of the Niagara River in Porter. Completion of the Niagara River section of the Shoreline Trail is also a priority for the Niagara River Greenway. More information about the existing trails, trail gaps and efforts to complete the network is included as one of the Implementation Concepts in a later section of this Plan.

There are also a number of important waterfront access sites along the length of the River. Many of these sites are associated with public parkland. Figure 4 indicates the location of water access, including boat launches, marinas and official fishing access points. There are also many locations along the length of the River and its tributaries where there are informal fishing access spots and locations where paddle powered boats such as canoes and kayaks can be launched.

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### B. Ecological Resources

The ecological resources of the Niagara River are clearly of critical importance to the Greenway. These resources form the foundation of the unique environmental character of the region. The inventory of ecological resources is described at length in the Generic Environmental Impact Statement section of this report (Chapter 6). In particular, the region includes many unique wetlands and NYS significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats, which are listed and described in Chapter 6. The issue is also addressed as an Implementation Concept in the Action Plan (Chapter 4), which illustrates conceptual ways of protecting, preserving and restoring important ecological resources such as uplands, riparian-floodplain areas, wetlands, aquatic habitats and impaired habitats. Figures 5 and 6 illustrate significant ecological resources including designated significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats, tributaries to the River and State and Federal wetlands.

### C. Heritage Sites

The Buffalo-Niagara region has a rich history that has achieved national recognition. For example, the National Park Service has recently completed the *Niagara National Heritage Area Study* (2005). This study is the first step in the designation process for a National Heritage Area that would extend along the Niagara County portion of the Niagara River. There are currently only 37 National Heritage Areas or National Heritage Corridors across the United States. The final designation will require an act of Congress. Bills in support of the designation are currently before both Houses of the United States Congress. Official designation would provide national support for the development of a management plan, as well as technical and financial support for implementation of its recommendations. Efforts are underway to

capitalize on this region's rich heritage, including its architectural, industrial, and historical resources.

There are dozens of properties in the region that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the nation's official list of significant buildings, sites, properties, archeological and cultural resources. Properties on the National Register have been evaluated according to set criteria and are officially designated by the National Park Service as worthy of preservation due to their architectural, cultural and/or historic significance. Many of these historic sites are located along the Niagara River. There are also a number of historic districts, areas where there is such a concentration of historic or architecturally significant structures that the entire neighborhood is designated as historic. These sites and districts are depicted on Figure 7. In addition, there are many historic and culturally significant sites and buildings across the region that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, but have not been officially designated. Figure 7 also depicts significant sites that have been identified in local planning documents but that are not officially on the National Register.



**Old Fort Niagara**

Among the sites that are listed in the National Register are over a dozen properties in Erie and Niagara Counties that are designated as a National Historic Landmark or National Historic Site. Designation as a National Historic Landmark or National Historic Site is the

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highest level of historic and/or architectural significance that can be achieved, and there are fewer than 2,500 such sites in the United States and its territories. Evidence of the strong heritage of this area is the fact that the Buffalo-Niagara region has more officially designated National Historic Landmarks than some States do. All but one of these landmark sites is located within the boundary of the Niagara River Greenway.

### D. Additional Lands that Contribute to the Greenway

A required element of the Niagara River Greenway Plan is the identification of additional lands that would contribute to the purposes of the Greenway through acquisition, dedication or redevelopment. The State legislation establishing the Niagara River Greenway Commission does not give the Commission the authority to own or hold real property, and the Commission can not directly acquire any lands. However, there are categories of lands that contribute to the Greenway and should be targeted for preservation, either through acquisition or other means. The Commission can facilitate such actions by bringing together parties with mutual interests.

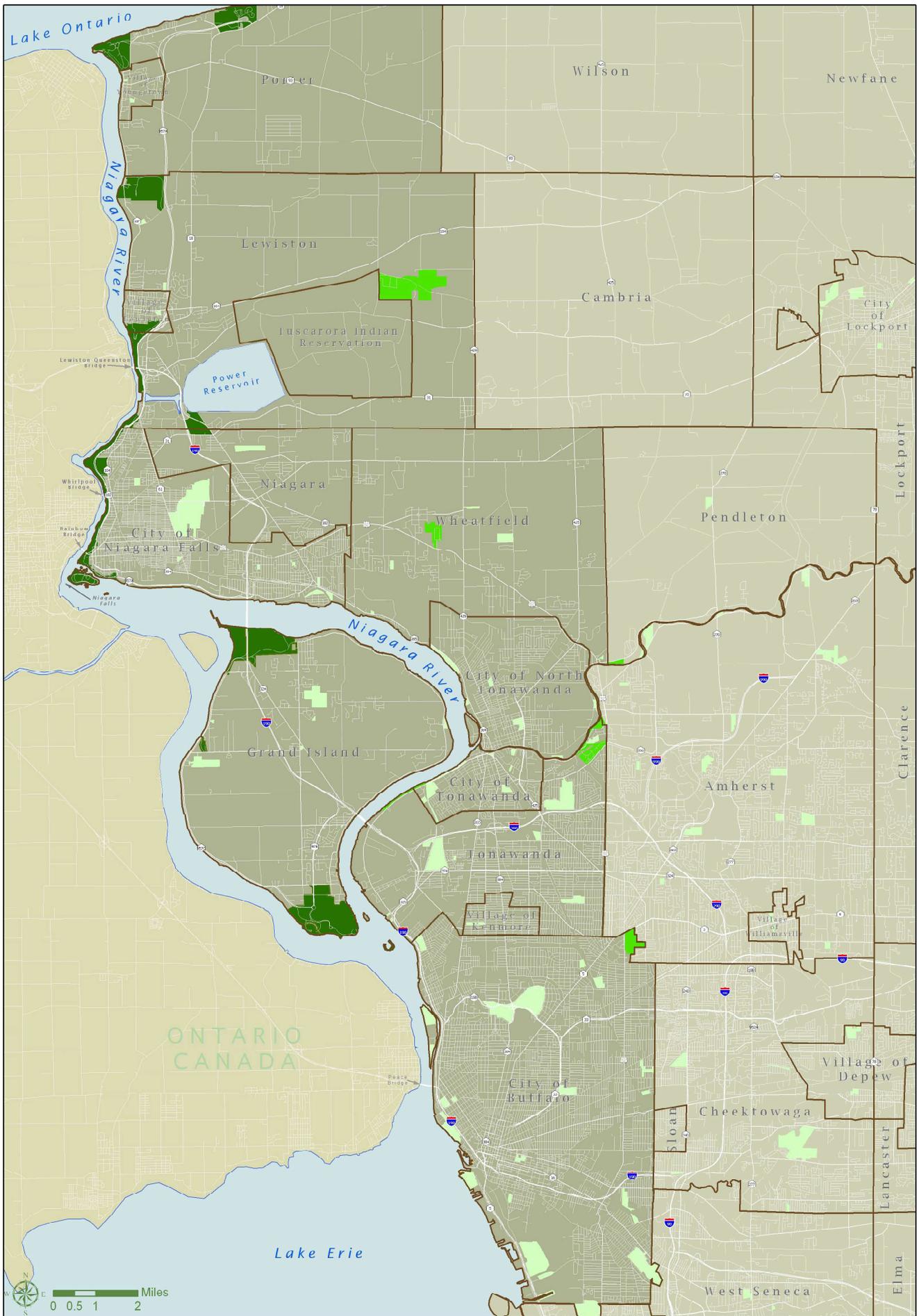
The Niagara River Greenway Plan supports open space preservation, prioritizing significant ecological areas, areas that provide recreational opportunities, and/or promote water resource protection. It supports existing local efforts, and encourages future activities toward this goal. The Plan does not explicitly list all specific tools that can be used to encourage open space preservation in order to avoid limiting options, and to enable maximum flexibility to the local project sponsors in developing appropriate methods for achieving their open space goals.

The New York State Open Space Plan (2006) has established priorities for the types of sites that should be targeted for acquisition or dedication for open space, including sites within the Niagara River Greenway. The recommendations for each region in the Open Space Plan have been made by regional advisory committees with input from State staff, local governments and the public. Updated every three years, the New York State Open Space Plan is the most comprehensive source for this type of information and therefore, it has been used as the basis for identifying lands for conservation.

For the western New York region, the highest priorities for open space acquisition are projects that protect significant ecological areas, provide recreational opportunities and/or promote water resource protection. These include projects that protect important habitat areas, unique ecosystems, such as the escarpment, and important resources, such as old growth forests. Lands along the Niagara River are explicitly included as a priority. Potential stewards of open space include the State, local governments, counties, school districts, public benefit corporations, environmental groups, such as the Western New York Land Conservancy, or private owners who agree to institute conservation easements, deed restrictions or other long-term methods of ensuring the resource's preservation.



**Woods Creek, Grand Island**



**NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY**

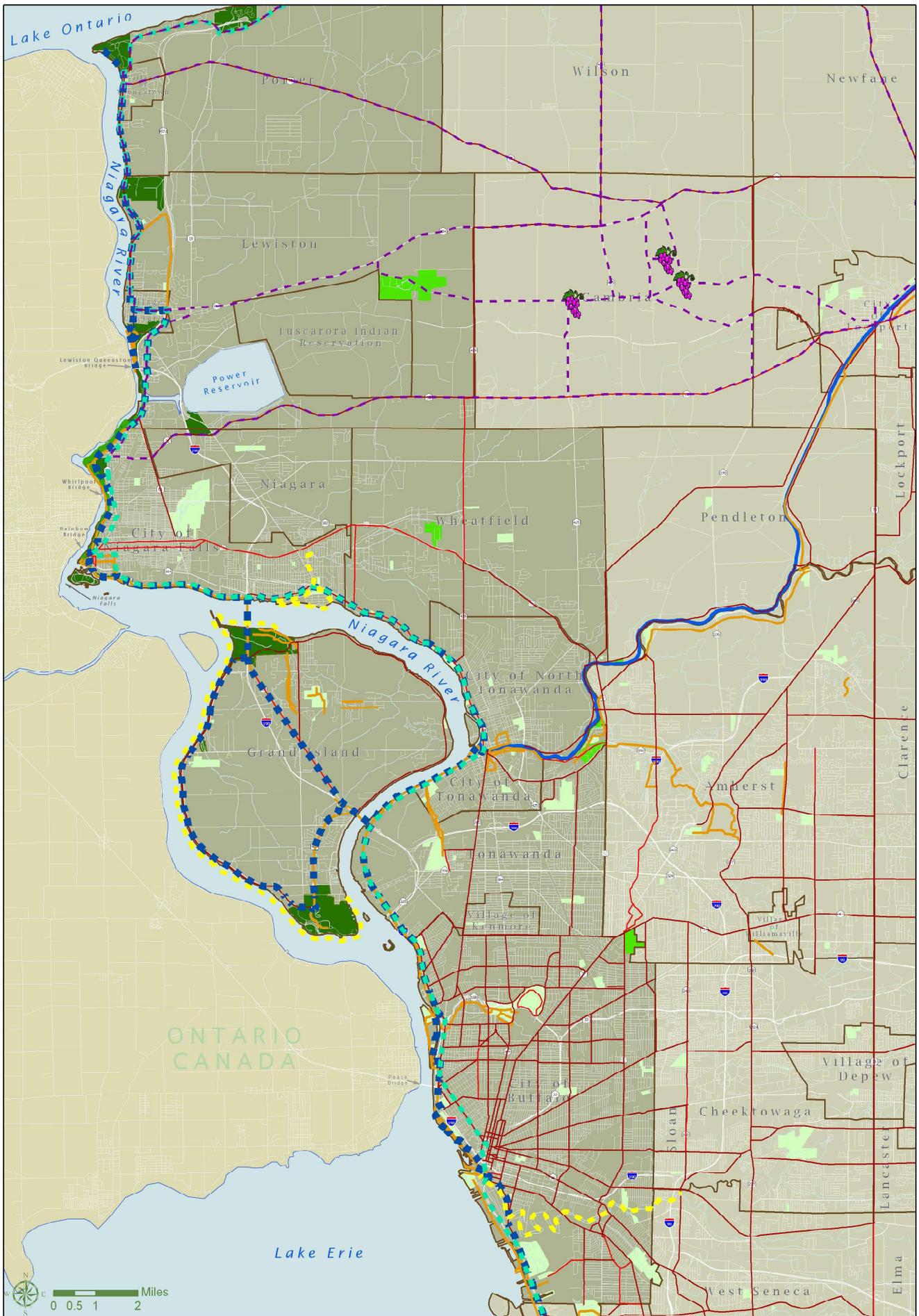
**State, County, and Local Parks**

- Local Park
- County Park
- State Park

Figure 2

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax

Map Created: March 20, 2007 WD Project # 427001



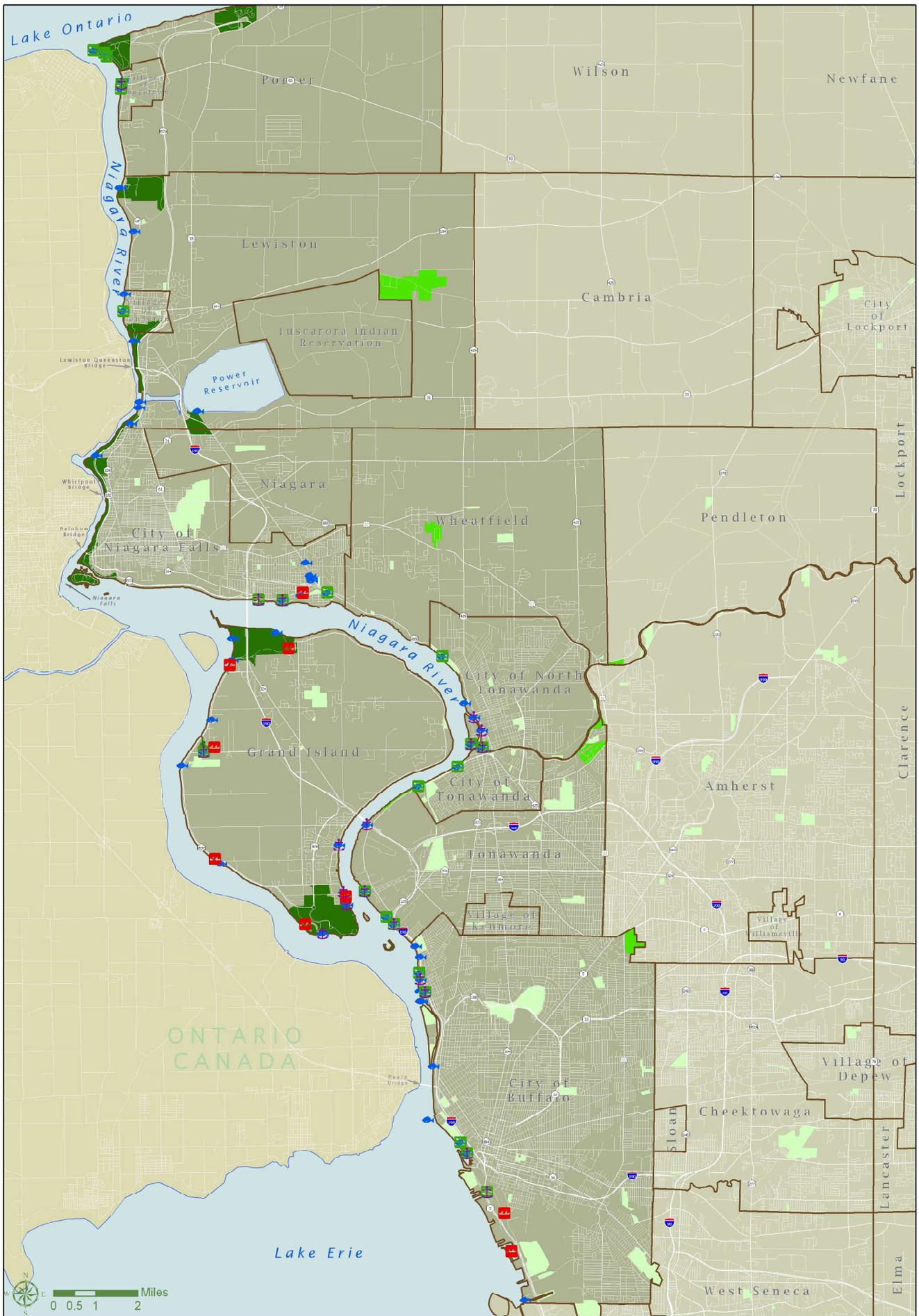
**NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY**

**Trails and Byways**

- ERIE CANAL TRAIL
- HIKING
- MULTI-USE
- DESIGNATED BIKE LANES
- BIKE
- SHORELINE
- SEAWAY TRAIL
- Canoe & Kayak Trails
- WINE
- Wineries on the Niagara Wine Trail

Figure 3

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax



NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY

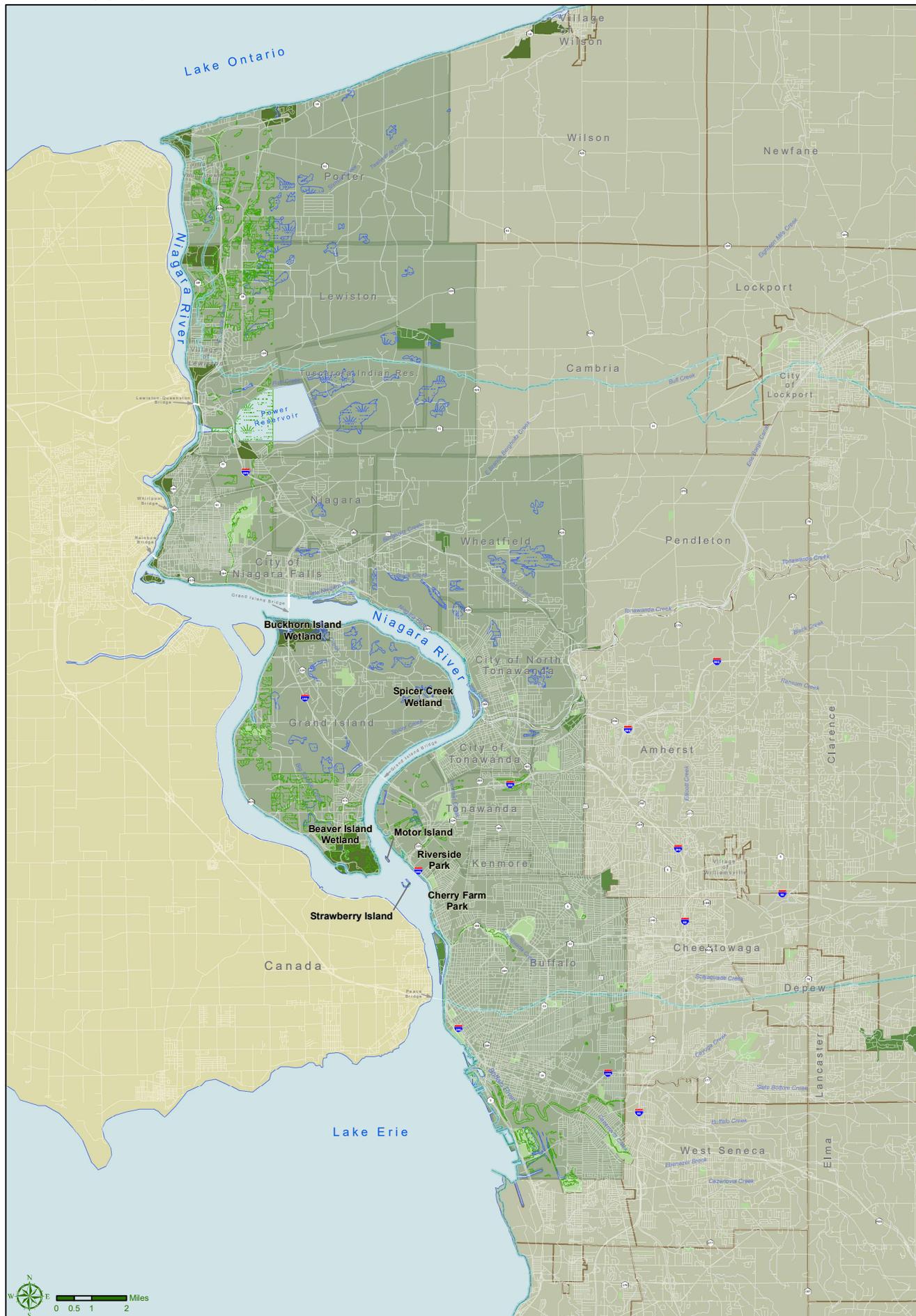
Water Access

- ⚓ Marina
- 🚤 Boat Launch
- 🐟 Fishing Access
- 🚣 Canoe Launches

Figure 4

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax

Map Created: March 20, 2007 WD Project # 427001



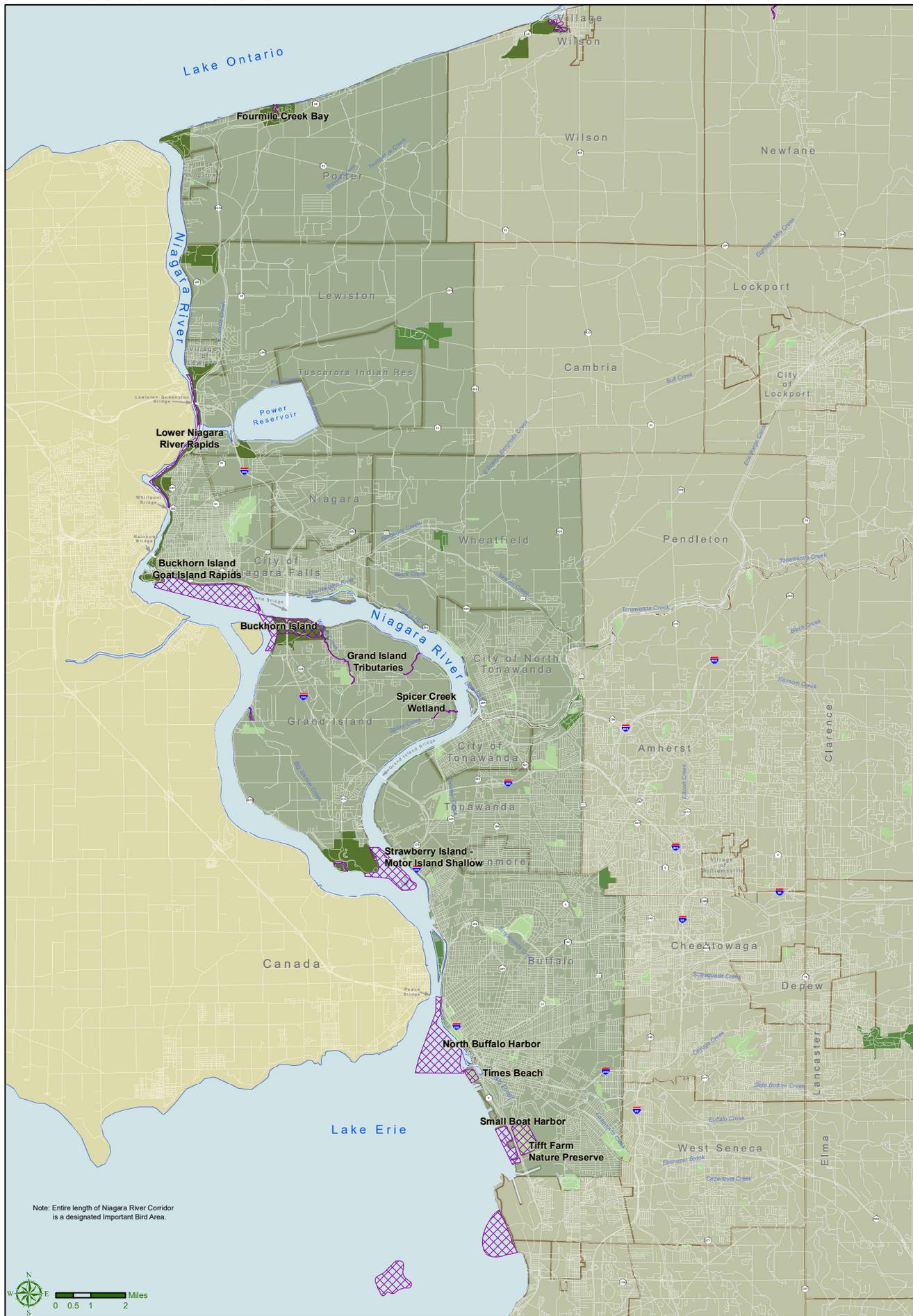
### Niagara River Greenway

### Water Features and Wetlands

- Greenway Boundary
- Stream
- Watershed Boundary (HUCs)
- DEC Wetland
- NWI Wetland

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Department of Conservation

Figure 5



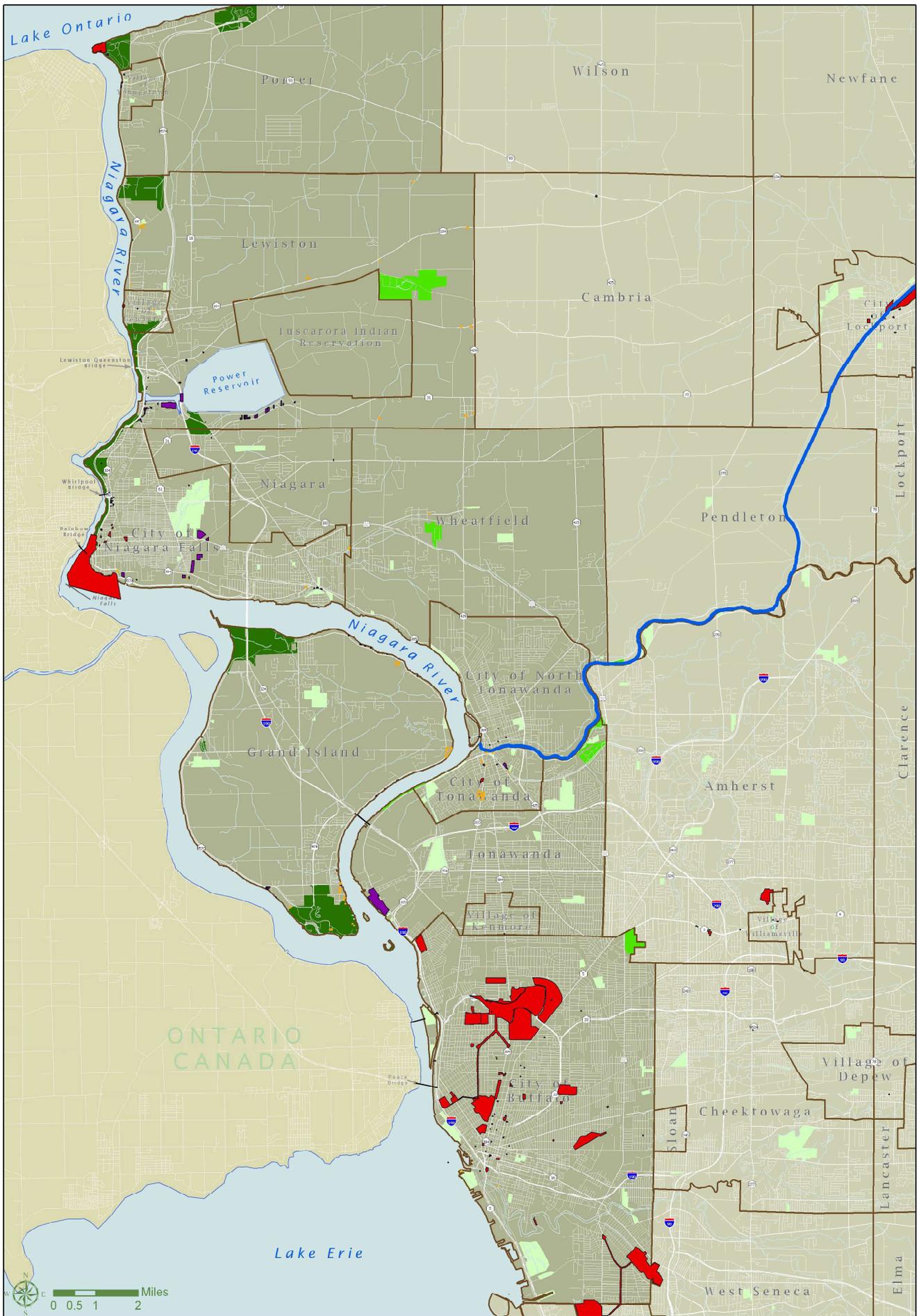
### Niagara River Greenway

### Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Areas

-  Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Boundary
-  Greenway Boundary
-  Stream

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax, NYS Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources

Figure 6



NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY

Heritage

■ National Register 
 ■ Eligible for National Register 
  Locally Significant 
 ~ Erie Canal National Heritage Area

Figure 7

Data Sources: New York Power Authority, Erie County Office of Geographic Information Systems, Niagara County Office of Real Property Tax

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The following list presents categories of properties that should receive priority consideration for preservation for conservation purposes. The Niagara River Greenway Plan does not identify nor target specific parcels of land for acquisition.

<b>Priority Conservation Projects</b>	
Tonawanda Creek Watershed	Protection of Tonawanda Creek and its tributaries. Associated features include wetlands, open field habitats, occasional occurrences of old growth forest amid second growth forest. Threats: development, bank erosion, pollution, stormwater runoff.
Buffalo- Niagara River Corridors	Enhancement of public access to Lake Erie, Buffalo River, Niagara River, improve vital wildlife habitats in corridor. Threats: development threatens relatively undisturbed forests in urban Buffalo area.
Ecological Corridors	Protection of existing linear corridors and creation of new greenway corridors to link public lands, historic sites, improve recreational access and protect fish and wildlife habitats, including areas contiguous to water bodies, existing linear corridors. Niagara River Corridor specifically listed as important corridor.
Exceptional Forest Communities	Preservation of remaining forest remnants that exhibit old growth characteristics throughout WNY region. (e.g. DeVeaux Woods, White Oaks on Grand Island)
Niagara Escarpment	Protection of diversity of ecologically significant habitats along the length of the Niagara Escarpment in Niagara County through acquisition or easements. Preservation focused on forested tracts, protection of shellbark hickory wetland forest, abandoned farmland, wetland and floodplain habitats.
Urban Wetlands	Urban wetlands provide resident and migratory habitat for wildlife and public access to ecological resources lacking in most urban landscapes. May require establishment of upland buffer zone through acquisition or easements on adjacent properties in addition to wetland acquisition. Priority areas include the Klydel wetlands in the City of North Tonawanda and the Tiffit wetlands in the City of Buffalo. Additional sites are located in Tonawanda, North Tonawanda, Amherst, Cheektowaga, Lackawanna, Buffalo and Niagara Falls.
Great Lakes Shorelines and Niagara River	Major resources of statewide importance with variety of habitats and features, recreational and cultural resources. Fish, bird and wildlife habitats, including threatened and endangered species. NYS Open Space Plan specifically lists Niagara River Greenway corridor.
State Forest and Wildlife Management Area Protection	Protection and enhancement of existing State Forests and Wildlife Management Areas; improve access; eliminate in-holdings; provide buffers to protect resources, improve recreational and cultural opportunities.

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Priority Conservation Projects	
New York State Canal System	Major recreational corridor for hiking, biking, boating, water access and recreational opportunities. The Erie Canal Greenway, the Niagara River Greenway and the Hudson Valley Greenway collectively make up the proposed “Empire State Greenway.”
State Park, State Historic Site Protection	Protection and enhancement of existing State Parks and State Historic Sites. Improve public access; eliminate in-holdings; provide buffers to protect resources; enhance recreational and cultural opportunities.
Statewide Small Projects	Acquisitions that promote one of six subcategories. Projects may not exceed \$250,000 or 200 acres. Public Fishing Easements; Waterway Access (including canoe & kayak access); Enhancement of Public Lands (improve access, provide buffers); Significant Rare Habitats; Significant Historic Archeological Resources; Trail & Greenway Connections (connecting links in trail systems)

Source: NYS 2005 Open Space Conservation Plan (Draft), November 2005

In addition to conservation of lands for environmental purposes, this Plan supports the reuse of brownfield sites and redevelopment of vacant or underutilized properties within the existing urban centers, neighborhood business districts and downtown “Main Streets” areas adjacent to the Niagara River. Rebuilding within already developed areas will help local economies and help to relieve development pressures on open spaces.

### E. Existing Plans and Plans under Development

In recent years, there has been a great deal of planning activity in the communities along the Niagara River. These plans have helped establish community visions for waterfront lands and broader municipal areas. All of the local governments that front the Niagara River have undertaken some level of planning for their waterfront, either through developing Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs, local Comprehensive Plans, greenspace plans and/or strategic plans. As illustrated in the

following table, seven of the eleven municipalities fronting the Niagara River have prepared Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs (LWRPs) pursuant to Article 42 of the NYS Executive Laws. This list includes the Town of Grand Island, whose LWRP was approved by New York State in December 2006. While the City of Niagara Falls does not have an LWRP, it has completed a waterfront plan. The Town of Niagara and the Village of Kenmore do not have waterfront lands.

LWRPs seek a balance of economic development and natural resource protection and are, therefore, important mechanisms for communities to use in implementing the Niagara River Greenway Plan. An important feature of a LWRP is that once adopted, state and federal actions must make an effort to comply with the LWRP. In partnership with the Department of State, Division of Coastal Resources, all Niagara River Greenway communities are encouraged to prepare a Local Program. Existing LWRPs should be amended to incorporate the Niagara River Greenway.

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Several communities have committees charged with waterfront planning, and a number of municipalities are actively implementing projects, plans and programs

set forth in their planning documents. The following table summarizes the status of planning efforts for the communities along the Niagara River.

<b>Municipal Planning Documents- Greenway Communities</b>	
City of Buffalo	City of Buffalo LWRP (Draft: 2005) City of Buffalo Waterfront Corridor Initiative (Draft: 2005) Queen City in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century: Buffalo's Comprehensive Plan (2004) Queen City Hub: A Regional Action Plan for Downtown Buffalo (2003)
Town of Tonawanda	Town of Tonawanda Comprehensive Plan (2005) Town of Tonawanda LWRP (1997), (Draft Amendment: 2004) Town of Tonawanda Waterfront Land Use Plan (2002)
Town of Grand Island	Town of Grand Island Comprehensive Plan (1995, revised 1998) Town of Grand Island LWRP (2006)
City of Tonawanda	City of Tonawanda Comprehensive Plan (2002) City of Tonawanda: Staged Program of Erie Canalfront Actions (1996) City of Tonawanda LWRP (1987)
City of North Tonawanda	City of North Tonawanda Downtown Redevelopment Plan (2006) City of North Tonawanda Comprehensive Plan 1990-2010 (1990) City of North Tonawanda LWRP (1988)
Town of Wheatfield	Town of Wheatfield Comprehensive Plan (2004) Town of Wheatfield Greenspace Master Plan (1995)
City of Niagara Falls	City of Niagara Falls Strategic Plan (2004) Achieving Niagara Falls' Future: An Assessment of Niagara Falls' Waterfront Planning (2002) City of Niagara Falls LWRP (Draft: 1996) Comprehensive Plan for the City of Niagara Falls (1992)
Town of Niagara	Comprehensive Plan (1972)
Lewiston Town	Town of Lewiston Comprehensive Plan (1981: revised 1998 as Master Plan Executive Summary)
Lewiston Village	Village of Lewiston LWRP (1991)
Town of Porter	Town of Porter Comprehensive Plan: Connecting Our Past with the Future (2004) Toward a Smart Growth Master Plan (2003)
Youngstown Village	Village of Youngstown LWRP (1990)

In addition to the planning efforts being undertaken by the local jurisdictions with direct control over land use and zoning, there have been a number of regionally based or intermunicipal planning efforts, where cooperative partnerships across municipal lines have begun to occur. These documents also provided valuable insight into the potential for the Niagara River Greenway to help coordinate activities and serve as an organizational framework for planning activities. The following list summarizes the major regional and intermunicipal reports and studies that have been conducted in the region.

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<b>Additional Planning Documents</b>
Framework for Regional Growth- Erie + Niagara Counties (2006)
Niagara National Heritage Area Study Report (2006)
Options for Managing Lake Ontario & St. Lawrence River Water Levels and Flows (2006)
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Niagara County, NY (2006)
New York State Open Space Conservation Plan (2006)
Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor: Final Preservation and Management Plan (2006)
Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Management Plan (2005)
A Cultural Tourism Strategy (2005)
Erie County Shoreline Wind Study (2005)
Revealing Niagara: Heritage and Cultural Tourism in the Bi-National Niagara Region (2002)
Frederick Law Olmsted studies (various)
Various site specific studies, plans and documents

Several communities are working on implementing the recommendations and actions developed in their planning documents. The Town of Porter is developing new zoning regulations to further the vision set forth in their recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Cities of Niagara Falls and Buffalo have a number of initiatives underway designed to help accomplish the goals set forth in their plans. These include brownfields studies, transportation studies, neighborhood plans and area strategic plans, as well as specific

project-based planning efforts. Nearly all of the communities within the Niagara River Greenway area have identified specific action items that they want to see accomplished, and many have begun to take steps to achieve those projects and activities.

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has received lists of projects and concepts from municipalities and various interest groups, stakeholders and membership groups across the region. These proposals are summarized in Chapter 5 of this report.