

Priority Conservation Areas – WNY Land Conservancy

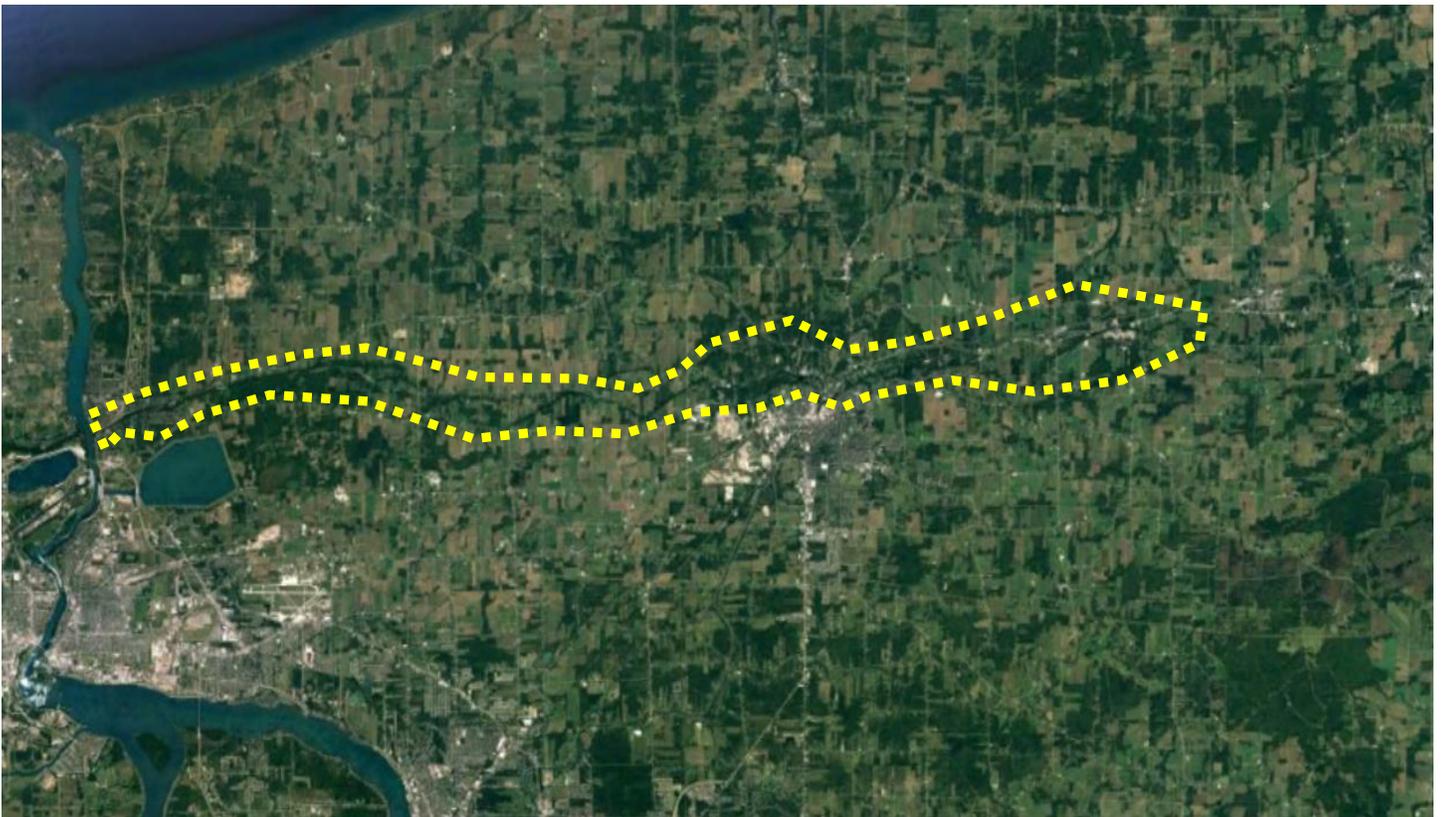


Lower Niagara River

- This priority conservation area stretches from the Village of Lewiston to Lake Ontario. It includes land between the Niagara River and the Niagara Scenic Parkway (formerly the Robert Moses Parkway), along with some land east of the parkway.
- This area includes large tracts of forests, meadows, and wetlands, as well as long stretches of Niagara River shoreline. It is incredibly scenic.
- There are already several large protected areas here, including the Stella Niagara Preserve, a Lewiston Town Park, Joseph Davis State Park, and Fort Niagara State Park, among others.
- Protecting more land in this area can connect and expand these already protected areas, and can complement the proposed bike trail system.
- Protecting these shorelines and forests will help protect spawning fish in the river, as well as the massive congregations of waterfowl and gulls that come to the river in the winter.

Niagara Escarpment

- This priority conservation area includes the portion of the Niagara Escarpment in Niagara County. The Niagara Escarpment is a ridge of rock extending from western New York, through Niagara County, into Ontario along the Bruce Peninsula, along Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and into Wisconsin. The Niagara Escarpment is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Ontario.
- Throughout its extension, the escarpment is home to unique geology, hydrology, and micro-climates that result in diverse and rare plant communities.
- In Niagara County, the escarpment includes large tracts of mature forests, rare limestone alvars, and grasslands. Many forests along the escarpment are home to incredible ephemeral wildflowers.
- The Tuscarora Reservation encompasses a large portion of the escarpment.
- You pass over the escarpment as you go from Niagara Falls to Lewiston. Niagara Falls formed as the Niagara River tumbled over the escarpment, slowly carving its way south and forming the Niagara Gorge. The Niagara Escarpment joins the Niagara Gorge in Lewiston at ArtPark.



North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve (expand)

- This priority conservation area includes the North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve (Klydel Wetlands), a preserve jointly protected by the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Land Conservancy, and undeveloped lands surrounding the preserve.
- As a wooded wetland, the preserve provides important wildlife habitat and ecosystem services for the surrounding community.
- The wetland was once much larger, but remnants surrounding the preserve can still be protected to expand the preserve.



Grand Island

- This priority conservation area includes undeveloped lands throughout Grand Island.
- These areas includes large tracts of forests, meadows, and wetlands. It also includes several creeks that are important tributaries of the Niagara River.
- Many forests on Grand Island are at the headwaters of the Niagara River. The wooded wetlands on the southwest portion of Grand Island are a statewide priority for conservation.
- There are several large protected areas on Grand Island, including the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary, Scenic Woods, Buckhorn Island State Park, and Beaver Island State Park, among others.
- Protecting more land here can connect and expand these already protected areas. It will also help protect breeding amphibians, such as frogs and salamanders, as well as migratory songbirds.

