



Niagara River Greenway Commission Project Consultation & Review Submission

RAYMOND KLIMEK VETERANS PARK Living Shoreline Project Proposal

March 2020



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 all that apply: Environmental Cultural/Heritage Land or Water Public Access
 Cultural Trail Educational/Interpretive
 Waterfront or Land Based Development Signage
 Recreational Other

Funding Committee Request: Host Community Standing Committee
 Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee
 Ecological Standing Committee
 State Parks Standing Committee
 Unsure at this time

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: Raymond Klimek Veterans Park Living Shoreline Project

Location: North Tonawanda, New York

Site Address: 700 River Rd, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

State: New York Zip Code: 14120

Minor Civil Division(s): _____

County: Niagara

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

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Jill Jedlicka Title: Executive Director

Business Address: 721 Main Street

State: New York Zip Code: 14203

Telephone Number: 716-852-7483 x21 Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: jedlicka@bnwaterkeeper.org

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Emily Root Title: Director of Ecological Programs

Organization/Firm: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Business Address: 721 Main Street, Buffalo

State: New York Zip Code: 14203

Telephone Number: 716-852-7483 x21 Cell Number: 240-643-6036

Fax Number: 716-885-0765

E-Mail Address: eroot@bnwaterkeeper.org

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

This project is a continuation of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's (Waterkeeper's) Niagara River Riparian Restoration Program (also referred to as Living Shoreline Program). The program was developed in response to several planning initiatives and data analysis revealing the vast loss in natural shorelines and coastal wetland habitats within the Niagara Region. Modeling best practices from similar shoreline restoration programs around the nation, Waterkeeper's Living Shoreline Program aims to address the gap between interested waterfront landowners and required resources for on-the-ground restoration. This program leverages the skills and existing resources of conservation partners to increase riparian restoration activities in the Niagara River Greenway while increasing community engagement and awareness of shoreline best management practices. To date, and with funding from the Greenway Ecological Fund, Waterkeeper has implemented four successful shoreline restoration projects through this program at Sandy Beach Park Club, Hyde Park Lake, Ellicott Creek Park, and Tiff Nature Preserve. We are currently working on a fifth project at the North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens. The completed projects have been successful in restoring degraded shoreline areas while demonstrating the benefits of nature-based landscape management.

The proposed project area is located at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park along the Niagara River in North Tonawanda. This waterfront park offers fishing, picnic areas, a playground, and memorials to the US Navy and US Marine Corps. In 2017, Greenway funding was allocated through the Host Community Standing Committee funds in order to install a bandshell which is used in the summer for concerts and other public events.

The project site focuses on an existing inlet within the park, once utilized for boat docking that is no longer in use, and currently attracts unwanted debris, lacks vegetative diversity, and fails to reach its potential as an environmental or community asset. Uniquely situated along the Niagara River, this site offers a rare opportunity to repurpose existing infrastructure to create vital and much needed fish spawning and resting habitat, among other benefits associated with living shoreline restoration.

The improvements achieved through this project will contribute towards the overall revitalization of Raymond Klimek Veterans Park, which is an important part of the Niagara River Greenway. The goals of this project are to revitalize the existing inlet to create an ecological sanctuary, address debris accumulation and sedimentation issues, improve water quality, reduce maintenance, and create immersive spaces that increase public enjoyment and understanding of the Niagara River and riparian ecosystems.

Project components may include:

- Installation of a structural buffer to protect the inlet from debris accumulation while still maintaining flow within the area;
- Plant the shoreline with diverse native vegetation that will protect from erosion while filtering runoff therefore improving water quality, and also provide important wildlife and pollinator habitat;
- Enhance aquatic and nearshore habitat through incorporation of additional snags and rootwads, create topographic irregularities, install substrates, and plant native submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation in order to create beneficial fish and wildlife habitat;
- Create better access for fishermen at desired access points; and
- Provide educational signage that will convey the ecological importance of the river corridor and promote the use of natural and nature-based management techniques in waterfront areas.

See concept in Attachment A for a visual describing proposed project elements.

Methods:

Waterkeeper will lead this project in close coordination with partners including the City of North Tonawanda. The existing conceptual design may serve as a starting point for the design process. Waterkeeper will convene local partners in order to gather feedback on the conceptual design to ensure all project components are consistent with landowner goals and current and future uses of the site. A design consultant, selected through a competitive bid process, will then move forward with developing the design from schematic to full construction documents based on feedback and with guidance from Waterkeeper. The consultant will also be responsible for identifying whether additional pre-design analyses and surveys need to be completed and will gather all necessary information. Waterkeeper will meet with the consultant several times throughout design development to ensure all elements and details remain consistent with goals and objectives. The consultant will be responsible for completing all required permit applications, and ensuring permits are secured prior to construction. Upon completion of construction documents and specifications, a competitive bid process for a construction contractor will take place. Waterkeeper will continue to oversee project implementation, ensuring goals are met, and guiding the design consultant administration of construction activities. In addition, Waterkeeper will develop educational signage to be installed by the construction contractor.

TIMELINE:

August 2020- October 2020: Secure design funding from standing committee. Execute access agreement with landowner, go out to bid and secure design consultant, complete preliminary data and survey collection.

November 2020- January 2021: Develop design (and engineering if necessary) with periodic check-ins with partners.

February 2021- March 2021: Finalize design, apply for permits, go out to bid for contractor, share final design with community.

April 2021- May 2021: Secure contractor and permits.

June 2021-September 2021: Complete restoration implementation (as weather allows). Design educational signage & contractor install.

September 2021- September 2022: Complete monitoring (Waterkeeper staff and community stewards). Contractor to complete any required replacements/repairs during this time. Remove vegetation protection fencing once plants are established. Develop maintenance plan and review with landowner.

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 Living Shorelines Program has been found consistent with the Greenway Plan and the Settlement Agreement by the Greenway Commission. Restoring, preserving, and enhancing unique and sensitive environmental resources along the Niagara River corridor is specifically called out as a priority in the Niagara River Greenway Plan. Specifically, the Greenway Plan highlights the “terrestrial and aquatic elements of the Niagara River ecosystem, recognizing the habitat and functional importance each element plays in the overall health and vitality of the ecosystem as well as the educational opportunities provided to increase public understanding of ecological issues.” This project will directly enhance and restore fragile nearshore habitat along the Niagara River corridor, a habitat that has largely been lost compared to what existed historically.

GOALS

The proposal meets several goals as defined by the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

- **Improve Access and Make Connections**

This park is directly on the path of the Shoreline Trail. Improving the waterfront experience of the park with a more naturalized shoreline will make it an even more desirable point of interest along the Greenway.

- **Promote Long Term Sustainability**

A variety of environmental features will be incorporated to ensure this Living Shoreline is ecologically sustainable. These features include diversified native plant species and a strengthened riparian zone. Strengthening the ecology of the shoreline at our project site will foster the growth of a natural system that is self-sustaining, self-repairing, and generates positive feedback from the local community for years to come.

- **Protect and Restore Environmental Systems**

The shoreline will be directly improved through planning, design, and implementation efforts that correct previously negative effects on the ecosystem and return it to a state of ecological health. Restoration outcomes of the project will include increased aquatic and shallow water habitat to create important spawning, resting, feeding, and nesting areas for a variety of fish and wildlife species, vegetation to improve water quality by filtering runoff and other inputs from entering the Niagara River, and shoreline vegetation to shield the soil from erosive forces, creating a self-sustaining habitat that grows stronger over time.

- **Spark Revitalization and Renewal**

As part of the Living Shorelines Initiative, this project is a component of a larger effort that is inspiring ecosystem revitalization throughout the Niagara River Riparian Corridor.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

Excellence

In congruence with the history of success of our Living Shorelines projects, Waterkeeper is committed to ensuring that this project is completed with excellence.

Restoration

The location of the proposed project currently lacks ecological value and debris from the river accumulates within the channel of the slip. This shoreline will be enhanced and restored through planning, design, and implementation efforts that correct previously degenerative effects on the ecosystem and return it to a state of ecological health. Restoration outcomes of the project will include improved water quality, creation of important fish and wildlife habitat, and a more resilient shoreline.

Celebration

This project will be designed to celebrate the natural water resources that typify this region in Western New York. As beneficiaries of this environmental restoration, local residents and visitors to the Living Shoreline Project will experience the beauty, tranquility, and joy generated from visiting a thriving natural setting.

Sustainability

Every effort will be made to ensure that the restoration master plan incorporates design concepts that will not only protect but also enhance the habitat value of the site. Our environmental restoration techniques will repair and enhance the shoreline into a natural system that is functional and self-repairing.

Authenticity

The Living Shoreline Project promotes authenticity as it directly addresses and reverses degradative effects on the river system. Human activities which have altered the natural setting, such as introducing hardened shorelines and mowing along the riparian edge and destruction of coastal wetland habitat, will be halted in order to promote the site return to its normal ecological conditions.

Accessibility

Restoration and enhancements will occur in a central portion of Raymond Klimek Veterans Park that is easily viewed and accessed from a number of points within the park. An existing boardwalk area also provides access to a portion of the slip, allowing the community to fully experience the restored area once implementation is complete. Project enhancements will facilitate further amplification of already-growing visitor presence along the shoreline in designated public access points while also ensuring shoreline protection measures are successful and sustained.

Ecological Integrity

Restoration, enhancement, and preservation of habitat within the project site presents a great opportunity for ecological integrity to be restored at this site in both in-water and upland areas. Restored conditions will improve the vitality and health of natural resources and wildlife habitat within the Niagara River Greenway.

Partnerships

This project will be undertaken with the approval and support of North Tonawanda Parks and Recreation.

Public Well-Being

Environmental and ecosystem benefits associated with this project also directly link to improved human health and public well-being. Reduced runoff generated improved water quality in the Niagara River, from which drinking water is drawn for many people downstream of the project area. Natural vegetation and habitats also generate oxygen and act as a carbon sink. Coastal wetlands specifically are referred to as 'Blue Carbon' due to their ability to contain large stores of carbon.

Connectivity

The site is in close proximity to other areas that have experienced habitat improvements through investments from Greenway and other funds. These include Gratwick Park, Tonawanda Island (Phase 1 Living Shoreline site), and fish attraction structures that were installed just offshore from the seawall at the park.

CRITERIA

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

Consistency with Principles: The project addresses the guiding principles as described in the previous section.

Priority Status: Restoration of the Niagara River ecosystem is described as a priority conservation project in the Niagara River Greenway Plan. The project will also offer improved access to waterfront resources, revitalize an area that is surrounded by urban land uses, provide restored natural habitat in an area that has been degraded, and will offer educational opportunities through signage.

Focus Area: The project is in the Greenway Focus Area and in proximity to the Tonawandas Gateway Cluster specifically identified in the plan as an opportunity zone.

Environmental Soundness: Through the implementation of the Living Shoreline Program, Waterkeeper's team has gained extensive knowledge, partnerships, and technical expertise required to administer and lead restoration

projects like the one proposed here, as demonstrated through the success that has been achieved through both phases of that program to date.

Implementable:

Additionally, Waterkeeper has experience in implementing large-scale and complicated projects throughout the region. We will also consult with local partners and technical experts and utilize the expertise of our consultant and contractor throughout project development and implementation to ensure all aspects remain feasible and implementable.

Economic Viability: This project is economically viable, and will incorporate the highest level of sustainability possible.

Local Sponsors or Partners: Waterkeeper will be the lead sponsor of the project and will work closely with North Tonawanda, along with other partners, to successfully complete this effort.

Consideration of Other Planning Efforts: Consistency with other regional plans is detailed in the section below.

Clear Benefits: Riparian buffers are proven to effectively reduce stormwater and degrade, extract, contain, or immobilize contaminants and excess nutrients from soil and water, and reduce shoreline erosion. Increasing the tree canopy and shoreline vegetation will improve structure in soils will create areas of infiltration that support regional green infrastructure by providing flood protection and reducing nonpoint source pollution. Newly created aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats will provide beneficial resources for a multitude of fish and wildlife species. Enhanced public access and experiences will also help connect the community to the unique ecological and cultural assets that the Niagara River Greenway has to offer.

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.

Total project costs are estimated at \$400,000. This budget estimate is not yet based upon a design so will be further refined and additional details defined as the project progresses and a specific funding request is developed.

Matching Funds: The City of North Tonawanda may provide matching funds towards the implementation of this project. The full details of matching funds have not yet been determined, but may include in-kind services and donated materials.

Operation and Maintenance Plan:

For one year following substantial completion of restoration activities, the selected contractor will be held to a Period of Establishment which ensures that any project components under to contractor’s control that are not successful are replaced or repaired. Following this, the North Tonawanda Parks Department will conduct maintenance activities at the site. The restoration design development will consider the need for long-term maintenance activities, ensuring that they are simple and easy to follow. In implementing the suite of living shorelines projects to date, Waterkeeper has gained knowledge of how to design the features of a project to consider the width and turning radius of maintenance equipment and other relevant factors. The landscape is designed to require little maintenance, and to reduce the amount of work and frequency of maintenance activities from current regimes. Waterkeeper will develop an easy-to-use guide for maintenance activities and will review them on site with maintenance personnel prior to the end of the period of establishment.

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 park land is owned by North Tonawanda. Waterkeeper has presented this project for support to the North Tonawanda Common Council on 2/25/2020, and a vote was held on 3/3/2020 in favor of supporting the project at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park. Waterkeeper will work closely with project partners throughout the planning and implementation of this project.

The restoration of shoreline and coastal habitats is a regional priority outlined in numerous local and state-wide planning efforts. The vitality of coastal habitats provides a broad range of social, ecological, and economic benefits including: protection and improvement of water quality, improved community resiliency and mitigation of impacts from climate change, reduced runoff and shoreline erosion, enhanced access and enjoyment of local water resources, and sustained populations of native wildlife species.

The Niagara River Remedial Action Plan cites the loss of fish and wildlife habitat and biodiversity along with degradation of nearshore habitats as major issues affecting the health of the Niagara River ecosystem. The Living Shoreline Program directly addresses this critical impairment, while advancing goals found in other important documents including: the Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy, Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, NY State Forest Action Plan, NY State Open Space Plan, NY Wildlife Action Plan, Great Lakes Action Agenda, and NYS Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

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 current environmental setting at the park includes mostly mowed lawn, park structures (i.e. picnic tables, docks, memorials, planting beds), and structural components including parking areas. Most of the shoreline along the Niagara River consists of hardened sheet pile walls, offering no habitat value and creating a vast separation between the land and water. Other areas of the shoreline are protected with rubble and concrete chunks. The inlet (where the project focuses) is currently mowed to the edge of the water, and contains a significant build-up of debris from the river.

As described in Question #1, and depicted in Attachment A, restored conditions will:

- Provide for more natural shoreline protections to reduce erosion;
- Establish much needed fish spawning and resting habitats
- Increase the riparian buffer environment that supports lower water temperatures and native habitat for numerous wildlife species; and,
- Improve the sustainability of the shoreline environment, helping to reduce maintenance and operations activities.

Waterkeeper does not anticipate the requirement of SEQR for the proposed project. We will hold a pre-application consultation with US Army Corps of Engineers prior to submitting a joint application for the project in order to determine the required state and federal permits and approvals. Waterkeeper will also seek necessary permits and approvals from North Tonawanda prior to construction. Waterkeeper is not the owner of this property; a letter of support from North Tonawanda is provided as Attachment B.

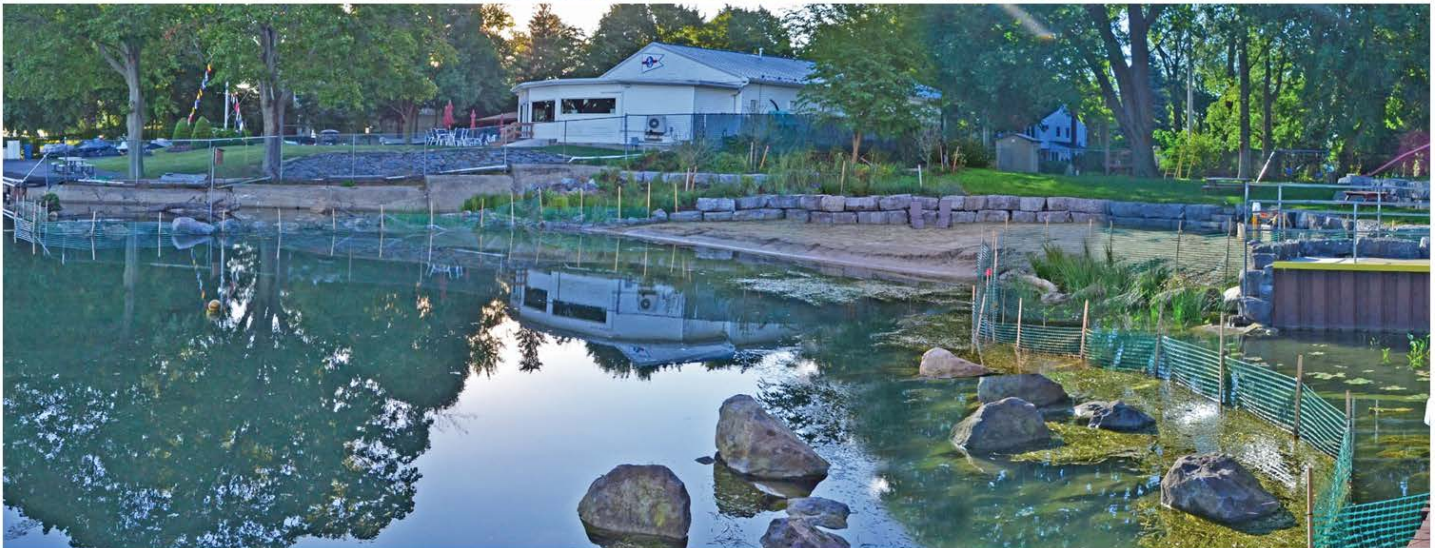
PHOTOS - EXISTING CONDITIONS





EXAMPLES OF COMPLETED RESTORATION PROJECTS THROUGH BNW LIVING SHORELINE PROGRAM

Sandy Beach Park Club, Grand Island NY- Before and After

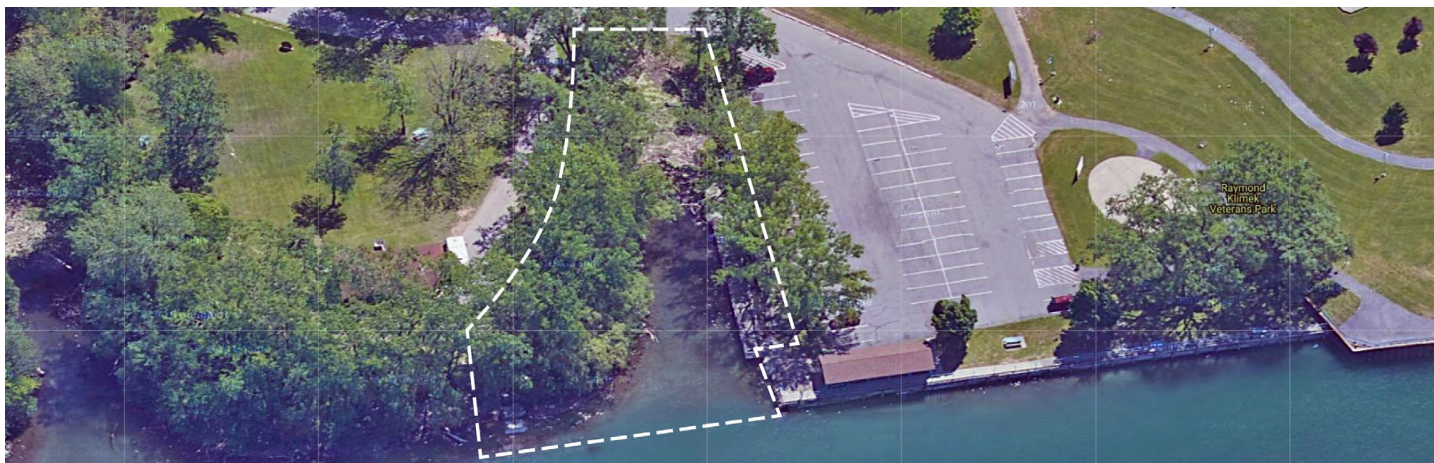


Hyde Park Lake, Niagara Falls NY- Before & After



Hyde Park Lake, Niagara Falls NY- Restored Shoreline Habitat



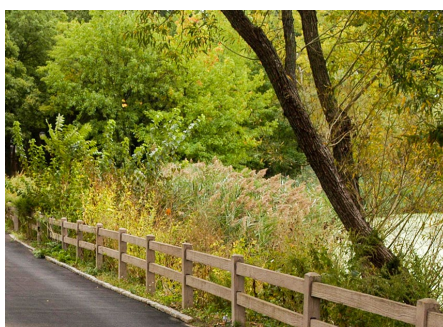


Raymond Klimek Veterans Park

Proposed Living Shoreline Site Enhancements



Stone breakwaters to protect plants and deflect debris.



Expanded and defined riparian buffer zones.



Diverse in-water topography and plant palette.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE

If funding is secured, Spring 2021

ESTIMATED COST

\$350,000 – \$400,000
(Project Total)

Funding Source(s):

New York Power Authority
Greenway Ecological Fund
Presentation & Grant Application
Contingent on Consistency Outcome

Niagara River Greenway Commission
Project Consultation & Review Submission
Application Due March 10th

Note: Match funding / in-kind contributions would not be a requirement of this funding source. However, if supplementary funds, materials, or in-kind services from the city are available or could be discussed prior to the formal GESC submittal in July those opportunities could be of value in bolstering the application.

Project Description:

The Raymond Klimek Veterans Park Living Shoreline Project would aim to transform, protect, and enhance an existing inlet and surrounding shoreline to a more natural and self-sustaining form, utilizing a combination of natural materials, native plants, and bioengineering techniques. As part of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's Living Shoreline Program, emphasis will be placed on increasing aquatic, riparian, and upland habitat availability along the Niagara River corridor.

The project will be designed to maintain sight lines and designated public access to the water, inviting the community to experience new natural and cultural resources at the site while enjoying already popular activities like fishing.

Key Features Proposed:

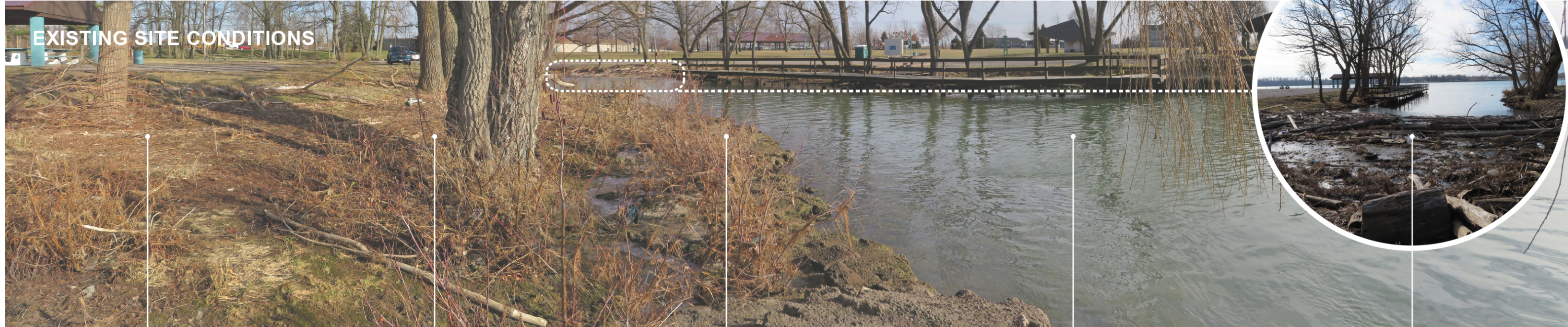
- Establish a mechanism to deflect excess debris and buffer sensitive riparian planting areas from direct impacts of the Niagara River channel;
- Expand the riparian zone to increase natural resiliency with diverse native plantings – helping to mitigate erosion and prevent establishment of invasive species;
- Introduce targeted habitat features in support of local wildlife, specifically much needed fish spawning and resting habitats along the Niagara River;
- Provide natural green infrastructure that filters inputs from runoff, improving water quality on site and in the Niagara River; and,
- Improve the sustainability of the shoreline environment, helping to reduce Park maintenance and operations activities.



RAYMOND KLIMEK VETERANS PARK

Living Shoreline Project Proposal - Site Objectives & Preliminary Approach

February 25, 2020



EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

INCORPORATE ACCESS & EDUCATION

Designated low-impact access routes help to preserve existing uses such as fishing and also facilitate ease of maintenance. Educational signage also provides an enduring experiential component, communicating project goals and features but also more generally informing upon ideal appearance and assets of a healthy shoreline even long after construction.

DIVERSIFY PLANT PALETTE

Focus on planting the shoreline area with diverse native vegetation (trees, shrubs, grasses, flowering perennials, emergent and aquatic species) that will protect from erosion while filtering runoff and absorbing other inputs to improve water quality within the slip and subsequently into the Niagara River.

EXPAND RIPARIAN ZONE

Propose to enhance the existing structure of the inlet and remnant shoreline materials to form a complex of emergent and aquatic habitat critical for spawning fish and other wildlife that relies upon healthy riparian environments. Cove-like areas with topographic irregularity and vegetative complexity is not often found along this stretch of the Niagara River making this specific site enhancement a great asset to the surrounding area.

ENHANCE IN-WATER HABITATS

Reuse and/or incorporation of additional substrates, snags, log revetments, and emergent/submerged aquatic vegetation would help diversify opportunities for fish and other wildlife to utilize this expanded wetland area for spawning, resting, feeding and hunting. Surrounding buffer enhancements will also provide additional shade, structure, and food sources.

DEFLECT DEBRIS & MAINTAIN FLOW

Enhancing this area as a more diverse wetland environment is contingent upon being able to prevent or subdue the level of debris entering the channel. Staggered stone breakwater structures are proposed to break the natural pull of a dead-ended inlet with fast moving current outside without cutting off the flow completely.



INCREASE VEGETATIVE DIVERSITY

PRESERVE ACCESS ROUTES FOR MAINTENANCE AND RECREATION

MANAGE EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES

Utilize protected backwater pockets created from remnant shoreline structures

Extend project work to farthest extent of slip by parking lot

Utilize existing assets like intact pedestrian overlook to increase educational opportunities.

Diversify underwater topography to create pockets of shallow and deeper water habitat

Add breakwater system to deflect debris while maintaining flow between wetland area and Niagara River.

Breakwater structure can be dually utilized for supporting vegetation or creating unique fishing access points.

February 27, 2020

North Tonawanda Common Council
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**Re: Letter of Support for Proposed Living Shoreline Site Enhancements
At Raymond Klimek Veterans Park in North Tonawanda**

To Whom it May Concern,

As discussed at our recent workshop on 2/25/2020, I am writing on behalf of the North Tonawanda Common Council, pledging our support to move forward with the process of submitting applications for funding as our body has expressed being in agreement and to vote at our next Council meeting on March 3rd 2020 to support the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and their project proposal to transform, protect, and enhance an existing inlet and shoreline along The Raymond Klimek Veterans Park to a more natural and self-sustaining form by utilizing natural materials, native plants, and bioengineering techniques. This will maintain sightlines and designated public access to the water making it more inviting to the community and enhance the fishing access as well as other activities. The estimated cost of \$350,000-\$450,000 for said project would be funded via submitting applications for approval to the NY Power Authority Greenway Ecological Fund Grant and Niagara River Greenway Commission and no matching City funds or in kind contributions would be required for this project. Please submit this letter of support to the appropriate authorities to move forward with this process.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Eric Zadzilka
NT Common Council President

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka **SECONDED** by Alderman Pecoraro
That the Common Council hereby approves and supports the partnership with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper to proceed with an application for funding to cover costs of a proposed Living Shoreline Site Enhancements at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park.

Ayes: Alderman Braun, Schmigel, Pecoraro, Tylec, Zadzilka (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.