**Scajaquada Creek Restoration Community Advisory Group Interest Form**

If you are interested in working with your local community and Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper to help us create a plan to protect and restore Scajaquada Creek, consider applying to be a Community Advisory Group Member!

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper (BNW) is creating a community-driven watershed-wide plan for Scajaquada Creek restoration. This plan will serve as a resource for future decision-making by providing an overview of the current conditions and projects along the creek, advancing two projects identified via previous engagement/planning projects with the intention that they could be ready for near-term implementation, and identifying additional areas for ecological restoration and revitalization throughout the watershed. We are looking for members of the community to work with us and join the **Scajaquada Creek Restoration Community Advisory Group (CAG)** to guide the creation of the restoration plan that is driven by the needs and concerns of those closest to the creek and ensure the plan’s development is as transparent and accessible as possible.

Learn more about Scajaquada Creek here: <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/scajaquada/>

**COMMITMENT AND COMPENSATION**

The CAG meetings and correspondence will be coordinated by BNW staff. CAG Members will participate in two meetings per year and stay connected to the group via regular emails and other informal conversations and collaborations. CAG Members will provide input and feedback on the progress and draft materials of the Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan, an outreach plan, and a long-term community engagement plan, committing roughly 20 hours per year over a two-and-a- half-year span. BNW will also connect the CAG to the other active regional planning processes underway in the Scajaquada Creek corridor. CAG members will represent community interests and ideas at CAG meetings and ideally make connections between the restoration planning work and other projects, priorities, and desires/amplify the holistic restoration planning work in their own neighborhoods and networks. The community’s participation in the restoration planning process is invaluable. A stipend of $595/year will be provided to CAG members as a token of our appreciation.

**TO APPLY:**

Fill out an interest form using a google form [HERE](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfO8vu2sYvZERHLixoF3_whaB81Dez07RFIzYcdT-GBhPXM0Q/viewform?pli=1) or visit [**https://bnwaterkeeper.org/scajaquada-restoration-plan**](https://bnwaterkeeper.org/scajaquada-restoration-plan)to download an interest form. Interest forms will be accepted via google form, email, or mail. Interest forms can be emailed or mailed to: Bonnie Majda, Administrative Assistant, bmajda@bnwaterkeeper.org, 721 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203.

* Interest forms must be received by midnight **12/18/2023.**
* If needed, interviews will be conducted virtually **Jan. 10, 11, and 12, 2024.**
* Selected members will be notified by **1/15/24**.
* The first CAG meeting will be the evening of **Jan. 25, 2024**. \*Winter weather date is evening of Feb. 1, 2024.

Any questions? Please reach out to us at **716-852-7483** or email **info@bnwaterkeeper.org**

**Scajaquada Creek Restoration: Community Advisory Group Interest Form**

Name:

Email:

Phone number:

Zip code:

\*NOTE: Any information collected will be retained for our use in reviewing community interest and selecting CAG members. Nothing will be shared outside of the organization's use regarding the community-driven watershed-wide plan for Scajaquada Creek restoration.\*

*We are looking for CAG members who care about their community and Scajaquada Creek, and understand that it takes more than one person, group, or organization to make a real change. Applicants who have personal interests and goals that align with the project are encouraged to apply.*

1. Why are you interested in joining the CAG? Is there one topic related to Scajaquada Creek that you are concerned about, connect with, or are interested in specifically? Please include any issues you think the CAG should address as part of the planning process.

*CAG members will bring their lived experience and insights about community and ecological resiliency and restoration to identify challenges and opportunities in the Scajaquada Creek watershed. In addition to CAG members from different geographic areas along the creek, the CAG should also be a genuine reflection of what diverse people living along the creek envision for this unique waterbody. We strive to create a CAG that has members that range in age, gender or racial identity, cultural background, profession/vocation, familial status, neighborhood, relationship to the creek etc.*

1. In what ways do you identify yourself and how does that reflect your perspective as a community member living/working/playing in the Scajaquada Creek Watershed?

What section of the creek are you most connected to?

r Headwaters & Middle section of the creek (Cheektowaga, Depew, & Lancaster)

r Buried section of the creek (the neighborhoods of Hamlin Park, Trinidad, Cold Spring, Parkside, Leroy, Kensington, Kenfield, Schiller Park, Genesee Moselle, Delevan-Grider, MLK Park, Masten Park, and Kingsley on the east side of Buffalo)

r Daylight section and mouth of the creek (Forest Lawn Cemetery and area to the west, Elmwood Village, Black Rock and Riverside neighborhoods, Niagara Street community)

r Other: ­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Beyond the CAG, BNW wants to connect with a broad range of community members, groups, and organizations to reach folks all along the creek and across the watershed. Ideally, CAG members will be able to share information about Scajaquada Creek and the restoration planning process with target communities, collect community feedback, and communicate any suggestions back to BNW.*

1. How are you involved in your community?

*We are looking for people who can make at least a year's commitment to the CAG, ideally some CAG members will be involved the full two-and-a-half-years, until the project ends in June 2026. The CAG will require no more than 5 hours of meetings per year (about two meetings total per year) in addition to informal communications (e.g. emails) and collaborations (e.g. optional events) in between the meetings (approximately a 20 hour per year commitment). The meetings will occur during evenings outside of business hours or Saturdays.*

1. Please check only one box below:

r I am able to commit one year to participating in two CAG meetings and staying in touch with the CAG and BNW via informal communications and collaborations until January 2025.

r I am able to commit at least one year to participating in two CAG meetings and staying in touch with the CAG and BNW via informal communications and collaborations until January 2025. I intend to remain committed to the CAG after one year and until the end of the project (June 2026).

r I am not able to participate at that level.

r Other: ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*We are striving to make participation in the Community Advisory Group as inclusive and accessible as possible by providing the necessary support for all those who want to participate as a member. Please share any relevant information below to help us achieve this goal. Please note that the following questions are optional and do not affect the status of your interest form.*

What is your preferred mode of communication (Phone call, email, text, etc)?

Do you foresee any barriers to your attendance (transportation, childcare, language access, etc)?