



Outreach and Engagement Strategy

for the Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and Community Partners



**BUFFALO NIAGARA
WATERKEEPER®**

Project Partners

- Trinidad Neighborhood Association
- Friends of Freedom Park
- BWELL
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Grassroots Gardens WNY
- BRR Alliance
- Buffalo United Front, Inc.

Community Advisory Group

- Maryrose Kotlowski
- Amanda Almorabi
- Kelly Dumas
- Reggie Dumas
- Mohammad Uddin
- Aurora Sliwinski
- Ken Young
- Heather Ault
- Stephanie Lee
- Dr. Cortasia Solomon-Carter
- Katrinna Martin-Bordeaux
- Mike Ferguson
- Marcia Ladiana
- Terrence Robinson
- Emma Brittain
- Steve Lane
- Laurie Anderson
- Ari Daniels
- Dr. Kate Haq
- Eve Shippen
- Fran Wagner
- Gabrielle Graham
- Britney-Bay Croyle
- Paul R. Nevergold
- Ryan Sjadak
- Logan Sauer
- Ms. Ellen Harris-Harvey
- George Johnson
- Nakia Harris
- Belinda Johnson
- Tim Chen
- Slyvin Ashbrook
- Loc Tran
- Deana Guarino
- Cassie Pelz
- Anne McCooey
- Mary Ann Kendron
- Zhi Ting Phua
- Kaden Shea
- Will Siegner
- Rosaleen (Rosey) Nogle
- Gabrielle Harrington
- Kayla Baker

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INTRODUCTION

Project Overview

In June 2023, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create a community-driven, watershed-wide [Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan](#). The plan will be completed by June 2026.

This plan will serve as a resource for future decision-making by:

- providing an overview of the current conditions and projects along the creek;
- answering questions identified from prior engagement/planning projects; and
- identifying additional areas for ecological restoration and revitalization throughout the watershed.

Scajaquada Creek

Scajaquada Creek is a 13-mile stream that drains a watershed of 29-square-miles in Erie County, New York. The spring-fed headwaters of the creek are in the Town of Lancaster. The creek flows through the Village of Depew and Town of Cheektowaga before it is buried for approximately 3.7 miles under the east side of the City of Buffalo at the Cheektowaga/Buffalo border. Scajaquada Creek comes back above ground in Forest Lawn Cemetery and flows through Buffalo's Olmsted Park System ultimately reaching its mouth at the Black Rock Canal where it meets the Niagara River. Scajaquada Creek is a major tributary in the Great Lakes watershed – the largest surface freshwater ecosystem in the world.

Scajaquada Creek is a highly impaired waterway in a densely populated watershed. Despite the creek's impairments, it hosts a resilient ecosystem and serves as a backbone to many valuable public green spaces. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's vision for a restored Scajaquada Creek Corridor is based on the belief that water is the common thread which binds together community, economy, and ecology. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is committed to working closely with the community and decision-makers to achieve a common vision of creek restoration and community revitalization, and advocate for state, federal, and local resources to be dedicated to Scajaquada Creek restoration.

What's a watershed?

A watershed is the land area that drains rain, snow, and all precipitation to a shared body of water. Watersheds are nested systems where the water flows from smaller watersheds into larger ones. The Niagara River Watershed is made up of 12 waterways, including Scajaquada Creek, which all flow into the Niagara River, then into Lake Ontario, and finally to the Atlantic Ocean via the Saint Lawrence Seaway.

Why is this important?

Practices on the land affect the body of water at the heart of whatever watershed you are in - whatever happens to the land, happens to the water! Thinking of our waterways in the context of the watershed they exist in helps us better understand the health of our waterways and identify restoration opportunities. All of our local waterways in Western New York are part of the Great Lakes Watershed, one of the largest surface freshwater sources in the world.



MAPPING SCAJAQUADA

SCAJAQUADA HYDROLOGY

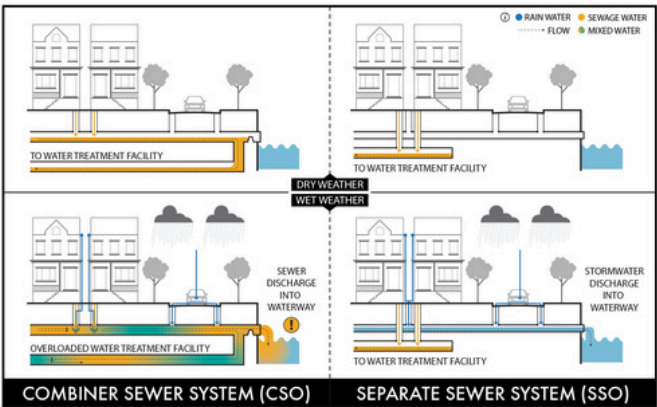
CREEK FLOW, CHANNELIZATION, AND STORMWATER DISCHARGE

This map outlines Scajaquada Creek's unique and complex hydrologic system and how it interconnects with municipal sewer systems throughout the watershed. The impact of sewer systems and stormwater on the creek is important because it directly impacts the water quality and health of surrounding ecosystems. The more areas of land that support living infrastructure like plants and trees, the less untreated water we have entering the creek and overloading our sewers.

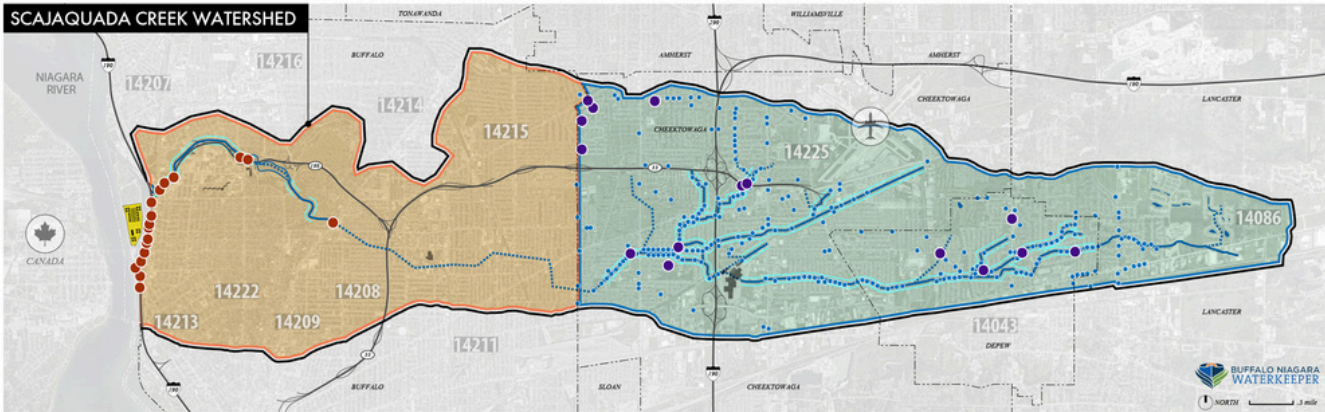
In the Combined Sewer Systems of Buffalo, rain and snowmelt (stormwater) flows directly into the sewer system via the storm drain. That combined water flows to the Buffalo Sewer Authority where it is treated and discharged into the Niagara River. During heavy rainfall, the system can reach its limit, causing Combined Sewer discharges of untreated water into Scajaquada Creek. In the Separate Sewer Systems of Cheektowaga, Depew and Lancaster, stormwater discharges directly into the creek without treatment and sewer water flows separately to the water treatment facility.

MAP KEY:

- SCAJAQUADA CREEK
- SCAJAQUADA CREEK (BURIED)
- CHANNELIZED CREEK SEGMENT
- CSO DISCHARGE LOCATION
- SSO DISCHARGE
- STORMWATER DISCHARGE
- CSO WATERSHED AREA
- SSO WATERSHED AREA
- BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY
- Bird Island Treatment Plant



SCAJAQUADA CREEK WATERSHED



SCAJAQUADA LANDMARKS

PUBLIC & PRIVATE GREEN SPACES, BROWNFIELDS, & HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The Scajaquada Creek Watershed encompasses 29 square miles of land that flows through the Town of Lancaster, Village of Depew, Town of Cheektowaga, and City of Buffalo. This map identifies parks, green spaces and a few of the many cultural landmarks this watershed supports. This illustrates how water is the common thread which binds together community, economy, and ecology.

The vacant lots and brownfields in the City of Buffalo are also highlighted on the map to visualize green space potential and living infrastructure opportunities like rain gardens and shoreline enhancements that elevate neighborhood resiliency and naturally absorb stormwater pollutants. Brownfields are areas of previously developed land that are no longer occupied and, in many cases, hold contamination or pollution from industrial use (i.e. utilities, chemical production, metal process, gas stations). There are efforts to repurpose this land, and it is important to highlight how to incorporate elements that would improve water quality and communities.

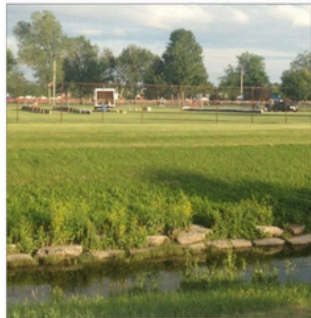
MAP KEY:

- SCAJAQUADA CREEK
- SCAJAQUADA CREEK (BURIED)
- PUBLIC GREEN SPACE
- PRIVATE GREEN SPACE
- BROWN FIELD OPPORTUNITY AREA (BOA)
- BROWNFIELD PARCEL
- VACANT PARCEL (Buffalo Only)



FOREST LAWN CEMETERY

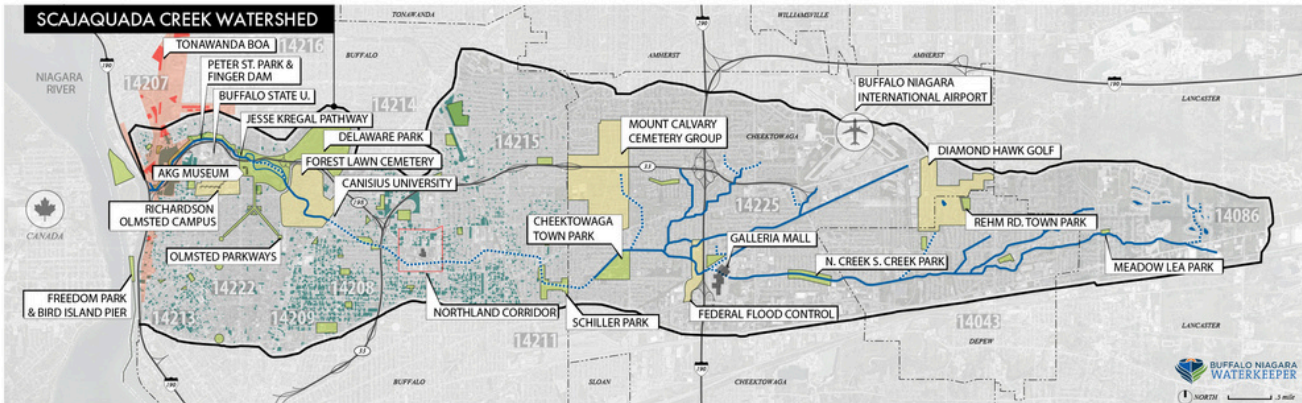
This floodplain restoration project showcases native plants that can be viewed from trails and overlooks.



CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN PARK

Scajaquada Creek flows through this park before being tunneled under Buffalo's East Side Neighborhoods.

SCAJAQUADA CREEK WATERSHED





THE WHY: Intention

Approach to Community Engagement

For over 35 years, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper has been a leader in community engagement in Western New York and a visible catalyst for change through policy, scientific research and planning, and community stewardship. Staff engage community members in volunteer cleanups, plantings, citizen science programs, outdoor recreation, and education programs for all ages. Our engagement methods aim to educate communities about their local environment and enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to enact change.

Why is Community Engagement Important for this Project?

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper strives to create a **Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan** that directly and equitably benefits the communities closest to the creek. These benefits could include creating green spaces, improving water quality, and improving public access. By June 2026, with the completion of the plan, it will serve as a resource to share information publicly about Scajaquada Creek and identify feasible, transformational, ecological restoration projects for future implementation that integrate community aspirations, concerns and values.

- 1. Community engagement leads to improved outcomes** Community engagement improves efficiency, legitimacy, and transparency through collective decision making. We want the plan to have value to the entire community and incorporate projects that not only benefit the surrounding ecosystems, but are driven by those closest to the creek.
- 2. Inclusive community engagement supports access and community empowerment** This project aims to provide the tools and educational opportunities to empower communities and support advocacy for solutions to the many challenges that face the Scajaquada Creek corridor.
- 3. Community engagement makes connections and fosters collaboration** Momentum is building throughout the Scajaquada Creek watershed, including restoration and revitalization projects that are in the planning and implementation process. We believe Scajaquada Creek itself is at the heart of what can bind together the richly diverse neighborhoods and communities.



Signatories for USACE 1135 Flood Control Project.



Hoyt Lake, Delaware Park.



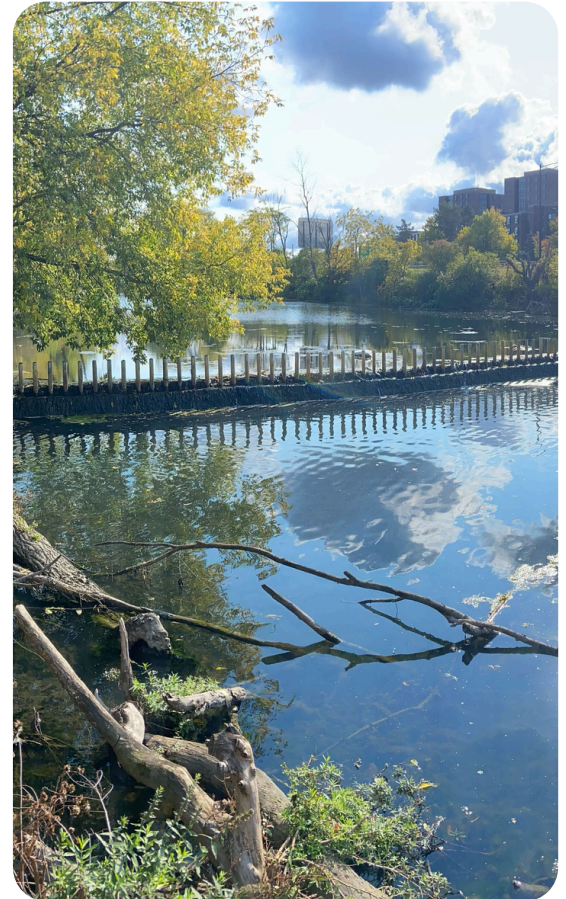
THE WHO: Collaborative Structure

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will be responsible for coordinating, conducting research, analyzing, writing, and hiring technical consultants for the **Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan**. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will also lead and support community outreach and engagement throughout the creation of the plan.

The Scajaquada Creek Restoration Community Advisory Group (CAG) is the foundation of our community engagement for this project. The CAG will guide the development of the **Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan** and ensure it is transparent and accessible and is informed by the needs and concerns of those closest to the creek.

At the core of the CAG are Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's Project Partners. Our partners are community leaders with strong relationships throughout the watershed and local knowledge of Scajaquada Creek. They worked alongside us to create a framework for this project, including the creation of the CAG and will continue to support the development of the plan. See the following page for more details on each partner organization.

We recognize that not everyone who may be affected by what this project proposes can be involved in the CAG. In addition to working closely with community residents on the CAG, we are also working with government, political and funding agencies as Collaborators. Collaborators represent municipalities, other non-profit organizations, and government agencies. Collaborators can support the community process by actively listening during CAG meetings, providing guidance on funding, and sharing information about the project with other decision-makers.



THE WHO: Collaborative Structure (cont.)



Grassroots Gardens

Grassroots Gardens of WNY



BWELL

BWELL (Buffalo Women of Environmental Learning & Leadership)



Blackrock Riverside Alliance

The BRRAlliance, Inc. (BRR)



Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System



Buffalo United Front

Buffalo United Front



Friends of Freedom Park

Friends of Freedom Park



Trinidad Neighborhood Association

Trinidad Neighborhood Association



THE WHO: Collaborative Structure (cont.)

Sections of the Scajaquada Creek Watershed

To better identify areas along the creek in the plan, we will examine the creek in three different sections to identify unique challenges to better inform restoration opportunities.

Upper Section

Includes sections of the Town of Lancaster, Village of Depew, and Town of Cheektowaga (roughly south between Walden Ave. and north to George Urban Blvd., bounded by Pavement Rd. in Lancaster to the east and Pine Ridge Rd. in Cheektowaga to the west)

- Topics of focus: Development pressures; channelization; diversion and degradation of the headwaters spring; sanitary sewer overflows; and habitat loss from flood control projects.

Middle Section

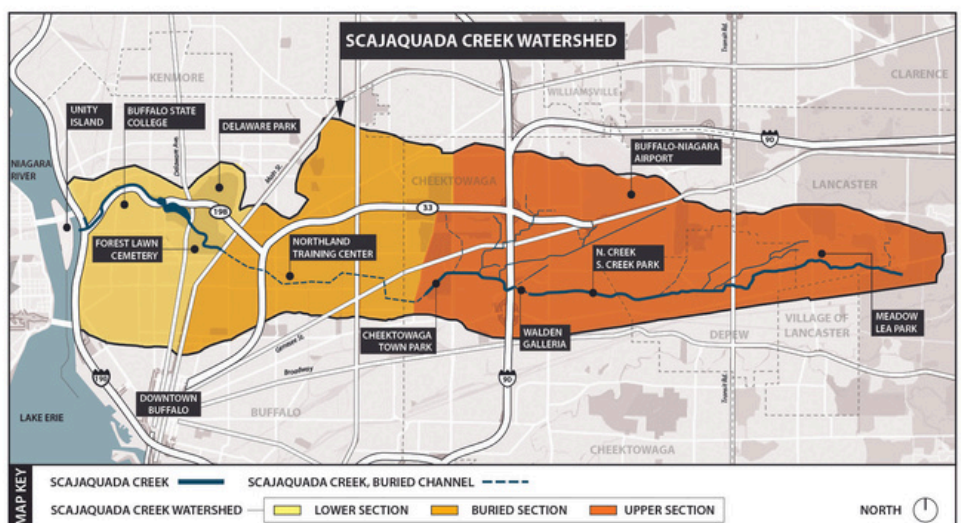
Includes sections of the City of Buffalo's East Side (roughly south between Doat St., East Ferry St., and Best St. and north to East Amherst St., bounded by Pine Ridge Rd. in Cheektowaga to the east and west to Main St.)

- Topics of focus: Scajaquada Creek is buried under several neighborhoods in this section, during heavy wet weather, rainwater combines with sewage and overflows into Combined Sewer Overflow 53 located in Forest Lawn where the creek daylights after Main St.
- Access to green spaces and legacy contamination.
- Alterations to Scajaquada Creek's natural hydrology and connection to sewer system.

Lower Section

Includes parts of the City of Buffalo's West Side (roughly south between Summer St. and north to Hertel Ave., bounded by Main St. to the east and west to the Niagara River)

- Topics of focus: Grant Street "finger" dam, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) legacy & ongoing contamination, transportation infrastructure and recreation.





The What: Impact

The final goal of this project is to create a community-driven **Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan**, a document to serve as a resource for decision making when it comes to implementing future development and restoration projects. The plan will provide a framework for in-the-ground restoration and/or development and will focus specifically on ecological restoration. The plan will:

- Include any publicly available research related to Scajaquada Creek ecology that could be used to support advocacy for restoration efforts.
- Work with the community to determine which ecological restoration projects are most relevant to and the highest priority of the community members residing in neighborhoods closest to Scajaquada Creek.
- Identify which ecological restoration projects are feasible in the Scajaquada Creek Corridor.

In order for the community to drive the development of the plan, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper developed baseline questions to ask communities throughout the watershed to better understand what the priorities are in each section of the creek. The questions are as follows:

- Are people aware of Scajaquada Creek in their neighborhood?
- If not, what are their initial thoughts about the creek, and what would they be interested in learning more about?
- Do they think it's important to restore the creek?
- Would they be willing to have more plants, trees, and wildlife in their neighborhood if that meant the creek was restored? Why or why not?

The answers from the community will help build and inform our outreach and community engagement methods and identify what topics are most meaningful to the community to support future restoration. In addition to these baseline questions, as appropriate, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will also utilize other methods to create a multi-pronged, multi-layered strategy that maximizes the ability for the community to influence project decisions. Specific outreach and engagement methods are described in the next section, “The How.”



THE HOW: Method Selection

Reaching the Community

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and our project partners will prioritize utilizing engagement strategies that can facilitate effectively removing barriers and reaching people where they are, rather than a passive approach of simply “inviting in” to a process. The following best practices will be utilized:

- All community partners and individuals participating in longer, more in-depth interactions will be compensated for their time.
- Outreach and engagement activities will be flexible in time and location to ensure adequate opportunities for all community members to attend.
- Events will be hosted outside of government buildings and within the community at-large, whenever feasible.
- Outreach materials will be developed using plain language that is understandable and information will be translated for non-English speaking communities, where appropriate.
- Interpreters for the deaf, transportation support, and other accessibility resources will be available upon request.

Outreach and Engagement Methods

Our outreach and engagement methods and strategies are continuously evolving in response to community feedback throughout this project.

- Connect with existing groups: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is involved with many organizations and projects in the Scajaquada Corridor. We continue to identify block clubs, community groups, faith-based organizations, and other groups along the corridor.
- Youth education: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper collaborates with local schools in the Scajaquada Creek watershed, as part of our [Young Environmental Leaders Program \(YELP\)](#), a mentorship program that exposes students to local waterway issues that impact them, while earning college credits that will help them to satisfy degree requirements.
- Volunteer events: There are ongoing opportunities for volunteers to engage with Scajaquada Creek.
 - *Cleanups*: Every year, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper hosts the Spring Sweep, a community clean up with several sites along Scajaquada Creek. Volunteers are encouraged to collect litter data year round as part of our Solo Sweep program.
 - *Plantings*: Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper also provides opportunities for volunteers to become ecological stewards as part of the [RestoreCorps Program](#). RestoreCorps volunteers have been instrumental in keeping the completed restoration sites on a proper path of establishment by planting native plants and seeds and managing invasive species.

Example engagement questions to help us narrow in on specific potential projects:

- Can you think of any underused green space, parking lots and vacant lots that could be improved in your neighborhood?
- Can you think of public spaces (schools, parks, trails, libraries, church etc.) that could use trees or other nature-based enhancements in your neighborhood?
- Can you think of any stretches of streets that have no trees/shade?
- Can you think of any areas that always flood in your neighborhood?
- Do you ever notice smells or unsightly debris around the creek in your neighborhood? Can you share where or when you notice it?
- What methods for evoking the creek would you be interested in – outreach materials, signage along the creek, or public events?



THE HOW: Method Selection (cont.)

- *Water quality:* Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper monitors water quality at four locations along Scajaquada Creek (West Avenue Bridge, North Creek/South Creek Park, Ledyard Ave., and Delaware Ave.) as part of our water quality monitoring program, Riverwatch. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper staff train a group of highly motivated volunteers to conduct baseline water quality testing at over 80 sites across the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed. This data is then compiled and published in our annual Riverwatch Report that is publicly accessible.
- *Volunteer Ambassadors:* Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's [Volunteer Ambassador \(VA\) Program](#) raises community awareness of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and our mission to protect, restore, connect, and inspire by bringing watershed education and stewardship opportunities to communities in the Niagara River/Lake Erie Watershed. Volunteer Ambassadors receive special training to be prepared to represent the organization at various community, school, and organization events and programs.
- *Social/Traditional Media:* Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will utilize our robust social media network to promote events, provide project updates, and share information about Scajaquada Creek. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper utilizes Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube social media platforms, as well as its website, for these types of digital engagement. Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will also utilize traditional news media outlets to secure earned media exposure for the project and report on progress and milestones throughout the project.
- *Project website:* The project website plays a vital role in facilitating communication, engagement, transparency, and education within the community, ultimately enhancing the success and impact of the project. Throughout the project, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will utilize the website as a repository for project-related documents, presentations, and media assets.
- *Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper e-Newsletter:* Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will provide Scajaquada Creek Updates in our Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper Newsletter. These updates could include CAG updates, events, watershed-wide news, and project milestones. Sign up for the newsletter here: [BNW Newsletter Sign Up](#).
- *Outreach materials:* Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper continues to create outreach materials about the project and Scajaquada Creek. Outreach materials will come in the format of fact sheets, brochures, flyers, etc.

Timeline

The [Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan](#) will be completed in June 2026. Throughout the creation of the plan, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper will continually engage with the community and conduct outreach. All our events and outreach will be rooted in partnerships with other community groups and existing projects in the Scajaquada Creek Corridor. See our website for more information: www.bnwaterkeeper.org/scajaquada-restoration-plan



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP



■ **Amanda Almorabi (she/her)**

Amanda is from Depew, where she grew up living with Scajaquada Creek in her backyard. She has countless fond memories as a child and teen playing in the creek and now her family lives in the house next door, she shares her love for nature with her daughter while spending time making new memories living alongside the Scajaquada creek.



■ **Laurie Anderson (she/her)**

Laurie serves as a Community Outreach Coordinator for a local non-profit organization in Buffalo, New York. A free-spirited woman who believes in creating opportunities for those who want to evoke change in their neighborhoods.



■ **Sylvin Ashbrook**

Land Stewardship Coordinator at Grassroots Gardens WNY. Sylvin moved to Buffalo in 2018 and instantly became drawn to the Scajaquada creek. At Grassroots Gardens WNY, they use their background in GIS and Native Plants to look at long-term community garden protection and impacts these green spaces have on managing water movement in an urban landscape.



■ **Heather Ault**

Heather is a graphic designer, volunteer activist who lives in Cheektowaga. She's passionate about improving the health and access to the Scajaquada Creek in Cheektowaga's Town Park and helping the watershed become a recreational destination for residents in the historic Pine Hill and East Side neighborhoods. Over the years, Heather has contributed to numerous political campaigns, women's rights initiatives, and local efforts and looks forward to future projects.



■ **Emma Brittain (she/her)**

Emma Brittain-Hardy (She/her) is an artist whose art focuses on the relationships between humans and nature. She believes in promoting action through hope and connection. She works with two nonprofits located on the East side of Buffalo near where the creek was buried.

■ **Britney-Bay Croyle (she/they)**

Britney is from Niagara Falls, NY but currently resides on the West Side of Buffalo near where the creek meets the Niagara River. I am a local artist and a mom to a daughter, River! Our local environment and the botanicals that grow wildly inspire my art daily and I love connecting with these spaces!



■ **Ari Daniels**

Ari's connection to Scajaquada Creek is historical and spiritual. My family has old roots of living in the Cold Springs and my childhood home sits in the Pine Ridge area of the creek. Many of my passed loved ones are at Forest Lawn Cemetery. I spend a lot of time meditating and daydreaming by the creek. She connects me to my past and resets my focus on the present and future.



■ **Kelly Dumas**

Kelly Dumas is a licensed mental health professional and founder of Dumas R.I.S.E. (Restoration In Sound Environments), which focuses on increasing the number of mental health professionals of color to serve our communities. She is the proud wife of Reggie Dumas and Scajaquada Creek runs in their backyard.



■ **Reggie Dumas**

Reggie Dumas is a lifelong musician, father to three, and husband to Kelly Dumas. He enjoys hosting free live music concerts, especially behind the house. Scajaquada Creek runs in the backyard of the house and is often a topic of discussion for house guests.





COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP



■ Mike Ferguson

■ Gabrielle Graham (they, them, theirs)

Gabrielle lives on the Upper West Side near the daylight portion of Scajaquada Creek. Before moving to Buffalo in 2017, they lived in Florida and developed a lifelong interest in clean water, spring-fed estuaries, and public education on human-impacted natural resources. They are the Community Engagement Manager for the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, and in their personal life they are a crafty ADHDer with a love of patterns, plants, animals, and food.

■ Deana Guarino (she/her)

Deana is a member of Buffalo Women of Environmental Learning & Leadership, sharing her love of hiking and connecting with women who want to protect the outdoors. She spends time enjoying nature in the city, which led to wanting to protect Scajaquada Creek, saying it offers a connection to the outdoors in so many ways!

■ Kate Haq, PhD. (she/her)

Kate is co-founder and Vice President of Operations and Curriculum Development at Mother Earth Literacies LLC., and has been a professional educator since 1985. Connected to the Scajaquada Creek through proximity and love of outdoor spaces in urban areas, Kate lives, works and plays primarily in the Parkside and Eastside neighborhoods of Buffalo, NY.

■ Ellen Harris-Harvey

Ellen is President of the Trinidad Neighborhood Association Block Club, located in a historic community in the buried section of the Scajaquada Creek. She is also a community representative and advocate with the Scajaquada Corridor Coalition, the NYSDOT 33 Kensington project, and the GBNRTC 198 Scajaquada project stakeholder meetings.

■ Stephanie Ibarra

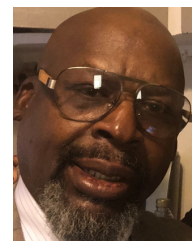
Stephanie is the Urban Community Engagement Fellow at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Natural Resources: Conservation Biology. Growing up, she did not have much access to recreational activities in natural spaces. With this experience, she is dedicated to bringing support and resources to similar audiences.

■ George Johnson

George has lived in Buffalo his whole life. He enjoys spending his free time down at Freedom Park. Mr. Johnson is the President of Buffalo United Front, Eastside Bike Club as well as the Friends of Freedom Park.

■ Belinda Johnson

Belinda has lived in Buffalo her whole life. She loves spending her free time with her community work. She works with the organizations Buffalo United Front and the Friends of Freedom Park.





COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP



■ **Maryrose Kotlowski (she/her)**
Maryrose lives across the street from Scajaquada Creek at the headwaters. There are plants and animals around it, but also garbage and litter. She's hoping to make sure the start of the creek is clean so the rest of it, as it flows to Niagara River is in better condition for everyone else.



■ **Marcia Ladiana (she/hers)**
Marcia is a recently retired Environmental Engineer with a career focused on environmental protection and regulation. She has lived on Humboldt Parkway south of the covered section of Scajaquada Creek for more than 35 years and hopes to see a rehabilitated creek for all forms of life to enjoy.



■ **Steve Lane**
Steve traces his lineage back to Tonawanda's first settler and has always been invested in the community. He and his wife Ellyn raised their family here. He is the Rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church, upholding the legacy of one of Buffalo's first historically black churches. Steve served as president at Buffalo First, and serves as a Chaplain for the Buffalo Police.



■ **Stephanie Lee (she/her)**
Stephanie was raised and currently works in Buffalo. She comes from a large family and compassion was instilled in her at an early age by her parents. This guided her professionally and as a community representative. She is on advisory boards for Buffalo AKG Art Museum, GOBike, Buffalo Urban Development Corporation, University of Buffalo Citizens for Regional Transit and more.



■ **Katrinna Martin-Bordeaux**
Katrinna is a mother of four who lives in the Genesee-Moselle community. She is a registered nurse with an extensive travel history as a contract nurse, working between New York and California. Her career has given her a unique outlook into different styles of urban development, community planning, wellness initiatives, government & corporate responsibility, community engagement and how it impacts a region. Her goal is to see equity for the people and communities adjacent to waterways.

■ **Anne K.C. McCooey (she/her)**
Anne's passion for environmental stewardship was fostered as a child when her mom would let her plant weeds and things in the yard and spent summer days playing in the woods and creek behind her house. As Executive Director of BRRAlliance, her dedication to the environmental health of the North District waterfront of Scajaquada Creek and the Niagara River over the past five years led to an award winning Habitat Project as well as participation in the Erie County Community Climate Action Plan.



■ **Paul R. Nevergold**
Paul is a geologist by trade and a teacher by compulsion. He has a B.A. in Geology and an MEd in Science Education from the University of Buffalo. Paul has taught in junior high school, high school, college, and, after several retirements, taught in after-school programs at grammar schools.



■ **Cassie Pelz**
Cassie is a board member of Buffalo Women of Environmental Learning & Leadership and spends time outdoors hiking, kayaking, or reading a good book in a hammock. She loves sharing the wonder that is nature with others! While Cassie does not directly live in the Scajaquada Corridor, she wants to lend a helping hand to better other communities.



■ **Terrence Robinson**

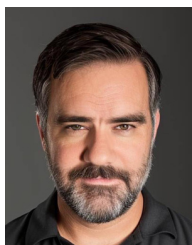


■ **Eve Shippen (she/her)**
Eve is a mother, environmental science teacher, and resident of the Grant-Amherst neighborhood who lives near the creek. She would like to take what she learns from the CAG back to her classroom to provide place-based education about local waterways and how to better protect these resources. She wants to see Scajaquada cleaned up and restored so more people can enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities.



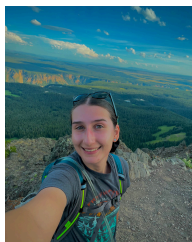


COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP



■ Ryan Sajdak (he/him)

Ryan is an ardent advocate for environmental stewardship, teaches Environmental Science and Chemistry at McKinley Vocational High School, situated on the banks of the Scajaquada Creek. Ryan envisions the restored waterway as a living classroom that inspires both his students and the community.



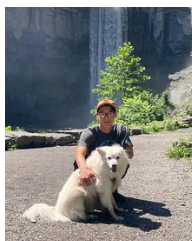
■ Aurora Sliwinski (she/her)

Aurora is an aspiring environmental biologist. Growing up in Cheektowaga allowed her to create a unique bond with Scajaquada. This group continues her passion for the environment and dedication to making a positive change for all future generations.



■ Dr. Cortasia Solomon-Carter (she/her)

Cortasia has lived in the Schiller Park area for 30 years and has a strong connection to Scajaquada Creek. She is committed to improving the quality of life for its residents, believing that community service is fundamentally about serving this overarching purpose.



■ Loc Tran (he/him/his)

Loc is the program manager at Grassroots Gardens. As a part of Grassroots Gardens, he believes in serving the community and helping connect people and nature. He also believes in using gardening as a way to uplift and empower communities.



■ Mohammad Uddin

Mohammad is an architect who worked six years for the New York City Department of Buildings. He now lives near the Cheektowaga Town Park and is looking forward to supporting the Scajaquada Community Advisory Group.

■ Fran Wagner

Fran is a lifelong Buffalo resident and nature lover. He is a founding member and current president of the Scajaquada Canoe Club, an organization devoted to advocating for the environmental health and recreational accessibility of Scajaquada Creek.



■ Ken Young

Kenneth is a 30-year long Cheektowaga resident and his home overlooks the Scajaquada Creek where he and his wife raised a son and two daughters. He has a long history in public service, having been the President of the Town Park Community Association for 14 years and a member of the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals, Police Reform Task Force, and Board of Assessment Review, as well as a member of St Joseph's Patient Advisory Committee.





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