

# An Overview of Scajaquada Creek

Pre-1800

## Conjockety

The name Scajaquada originates from the Native American, Phillip Conjockety, or Kenjockety, (over 90 different spellings have been recorded) who was known as the “last survivor” of the Neutral Nation and lived at Black Rock.

1800-1850

## Early Development

Industrial revolution brings shoreline development and the creek was heavily altered to create the Black Rock Canal.

1850

## Cholera Outbreak

Cholera broke out due to dumping and waste in creeks and waterways. Jubilee springs, which recharges Scajaquada Creek, becomes Buffalo's drinking water source in what is now Forest Lawn Cemetery.

1850-1890

## Waste

Industrial dumping and municipal waste continues to harm and pollute the creek, making it contaminated and a human health hazard.

1920s

## “The creek must go”

The creek is buried through Buffalo's East Side due to health concerns and polluted conditions. There were no modern pipes in this area at the time.

1920-1960

## Persistent Problems

The overdevelopment and changes along the creek continue to negatively impact creek health. Flooding, contamination and dumping persist.

1960-2000

## Development

Unnatural modifications to the creek continues as the region grows. This includes the 198 expressway, channelization to alter hydrology, and the destruction of wetlands for the Walden Galleria Mall project.

2000-2025

## Investment

A Watershed Management Plan is created while community partners envision improvements along the creek.

*The Scajaquada Creek Watershed is an area of land covering 29-square-miles, starting in Lancaster and flowing out to the Niagara River in Buffalo. Scajaquada Creek is a highly impaired waterway in a densely populated area (over 100,000 people) that hosts a resilient ecosystem and provides the backbone for many valuable public green spaces. BNW is dedicated to continued work with our partners, decision makers, and communities most connected by the creek to create a watershed-wide restoration plan to serve as a resource for decision making that prioritizes protection and habitat restoration in this waterway for future generations.*



Concept of Scajaquada Creek by SUNY Buffalo State University

# Watershed Project Highlights

## Scajaquada Expressway Downgrade

Over 18 months of research, planning, and community outreach led to the “Preferred Scenario for Region Central” downgrade. The Preferred Scenario was shared with the public in 2023 and represents a range of possibilities for the future of mobility in the corridor.

## Army Corp, Feasibility Study

This study aims to identify opportunities for ecosystem restoration within the creek’s watershed to enhance or offset the footprint of a historic federal Flood Risk Management project in the Town of Cheektowaga.

## Consent Order

The Town of Cheektowaga is required to improve and modernize its sewage treatment system to reduce sewer overflows that result in raw sewage draining into area waterways, such Scajaquada Creek.

## USDA Tree Grant

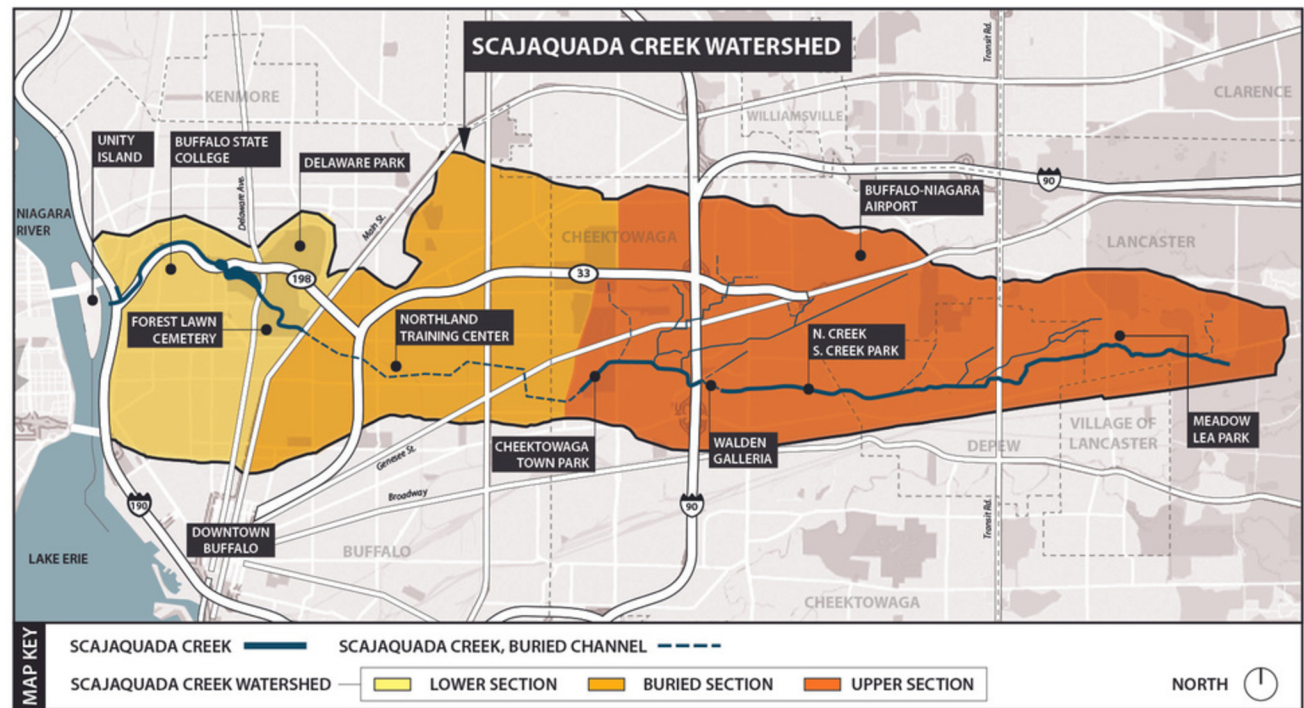
Action items for this grant call out the need to plant trees in disadvantaged communities. This includes areas that will overlap the Scajaquada Creek corridor.

## Waterfront Revitalization Plan

The City of Buffalo Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is a locally prepared comprehensive land and water use plan for the city’s natural, public, and developed waterfront resources along Lake Erie, Hoyt and South Park Lakes as well as the Niagara and Buffalo Rivers and Scajaquada and Cazenovia Creeks.

## Niagara River Greenway

The Niagara River Greenway Plan was created as a result of a relicensing settlement with New York Power Authority. Funds may be available for Scajaquada Creek projects.



## GOBike, East Side Trails

GOBike Buffalo is leading a planning project to connect residents of Buffalo’s East Side to the existing system of trails - such as the existing off-road Scajaquada Creek path in Cold Springs - greenways, and on-street bicycle facilities in Buffalo, along with investments in safe infrastructure within East Side neighborhoods.

## Great Lakes Remedial Investigation

The Great Lakes Legacy Act Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study is a project initiated under the Great Lakes Legacy Act to address the problem of contaminated sediment in areas of concern around the Great Lakes. The section of Scajaquada Creek within the City of Buffalo is one such area designated as an area of concern due to historical industrial activities that have led to contamination of its sediments.

## Buffalo Sewer Authority

The Buffalo Sewer Authority’s Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan outlined a multi-year plan for implementing projects to reduce overflows in the sewer collection system.

## BNW, Coastal Resiliency Study

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper is working on a study to assess shoreline resiliency, flood potential and asset risks along the City of Buffalo shoreline on Lake Erie, the Niagara River, as well as the lower reaches of the Buffalo River and Scajaquada Creek

## BNW, Restoration Planning Project

BNW received funding from NOAA to lead the development of a community-driven, watershed-wide Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan. This plan will serve as a resource for future decision-making and identify additional areas for ecological restoration and revitalization.

Learn more at:

**[BNWaterkeeper.org/  
scajaquada-restoration-plan/](https://BNWaterkeeper.org/scajaquada-restoration-plan/)**