Welcome CAG!

NOAA Scajaquada Restoration Planning Project

Community Advisory Group Meeting

October 28, 2025

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER

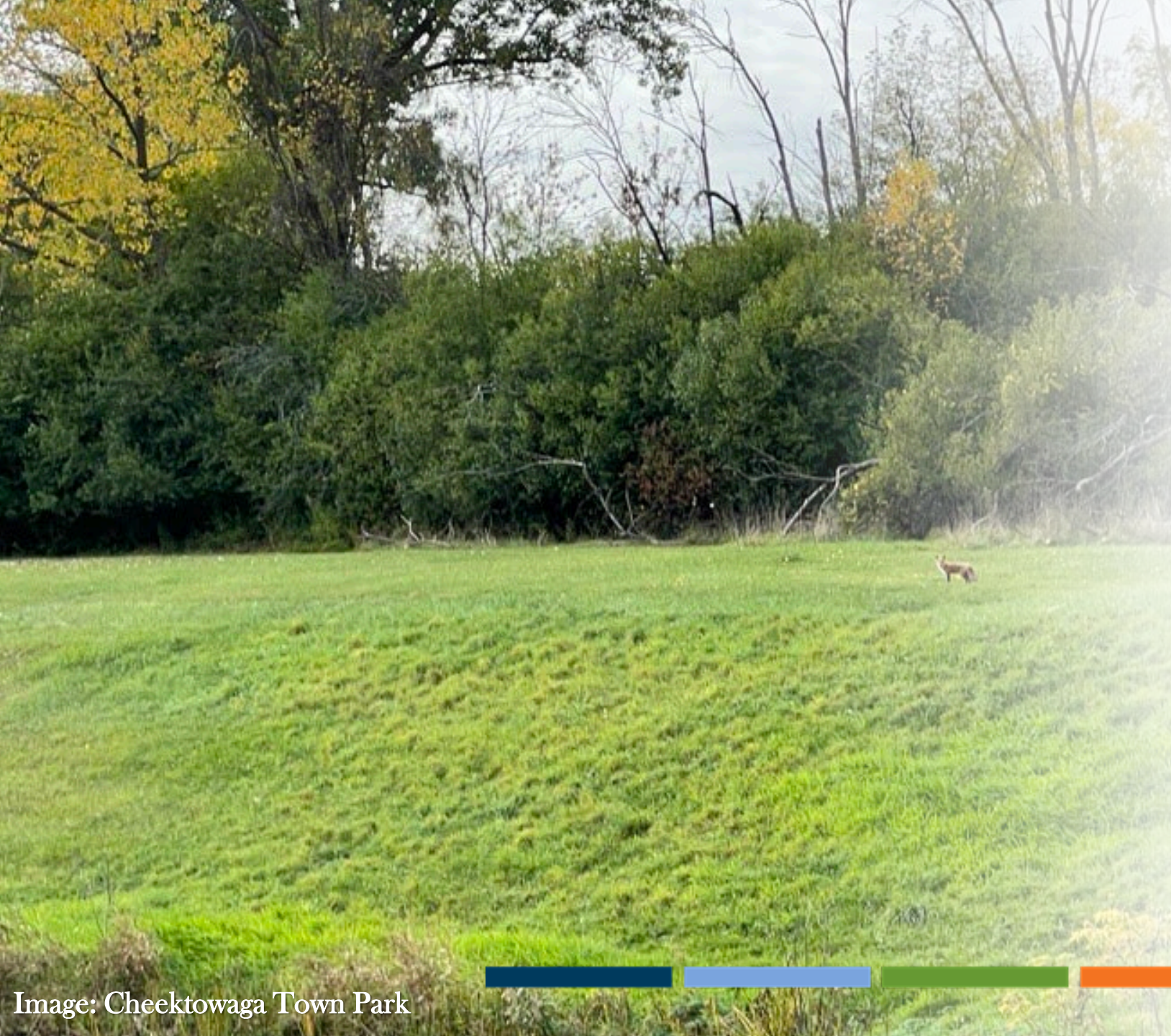


Image: Cheektowaga Town Park

Agenda

- Introductions & Dinner
- Presentation
  - **BNW**
    - **2025 In Review:** Community Survey Analysis, CAG Mapping Activity results, Cheektowaga Feasibility Study Public Comment
    - Scajaquada Watershed Updates
  - **Anchor QEA and Highland Planning**
    - Scope of Work
    - Scajaquada Creek Existing Conditions
    - 2026 Calendar
- Break Out Discussion
- Report back and next steps
  - CAG/Partner Updates

Image: Japanese Gardens in Buffalo

Scajaquada Creek Watershed

SCAJAQUADA HYDROLOGY

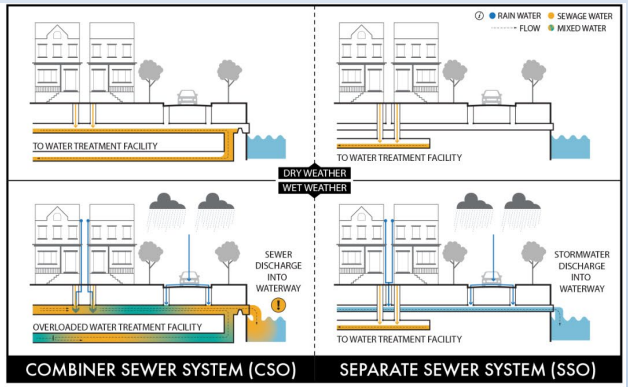
CREEK FLOW, CHANNELIZATION, AND STORMWATER DISCHARGE

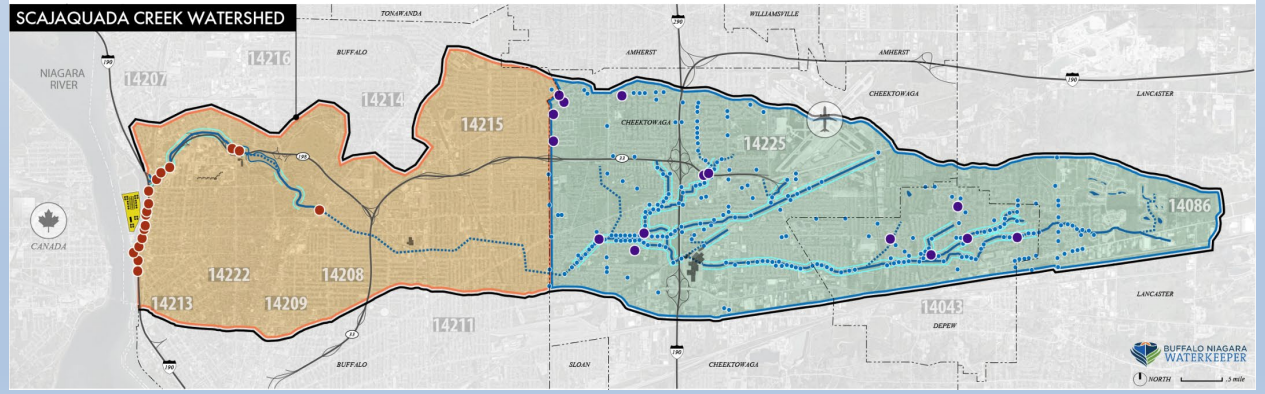
This map outlines Scajaquada Creek's unique and complex hydrologic system and how it interconnects with municipal sewer systems throughout the watershed. The impact of sewer systems and stormwater on the creek is important because it directly impacts the water quality and health of surrounding ecosystems. 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.

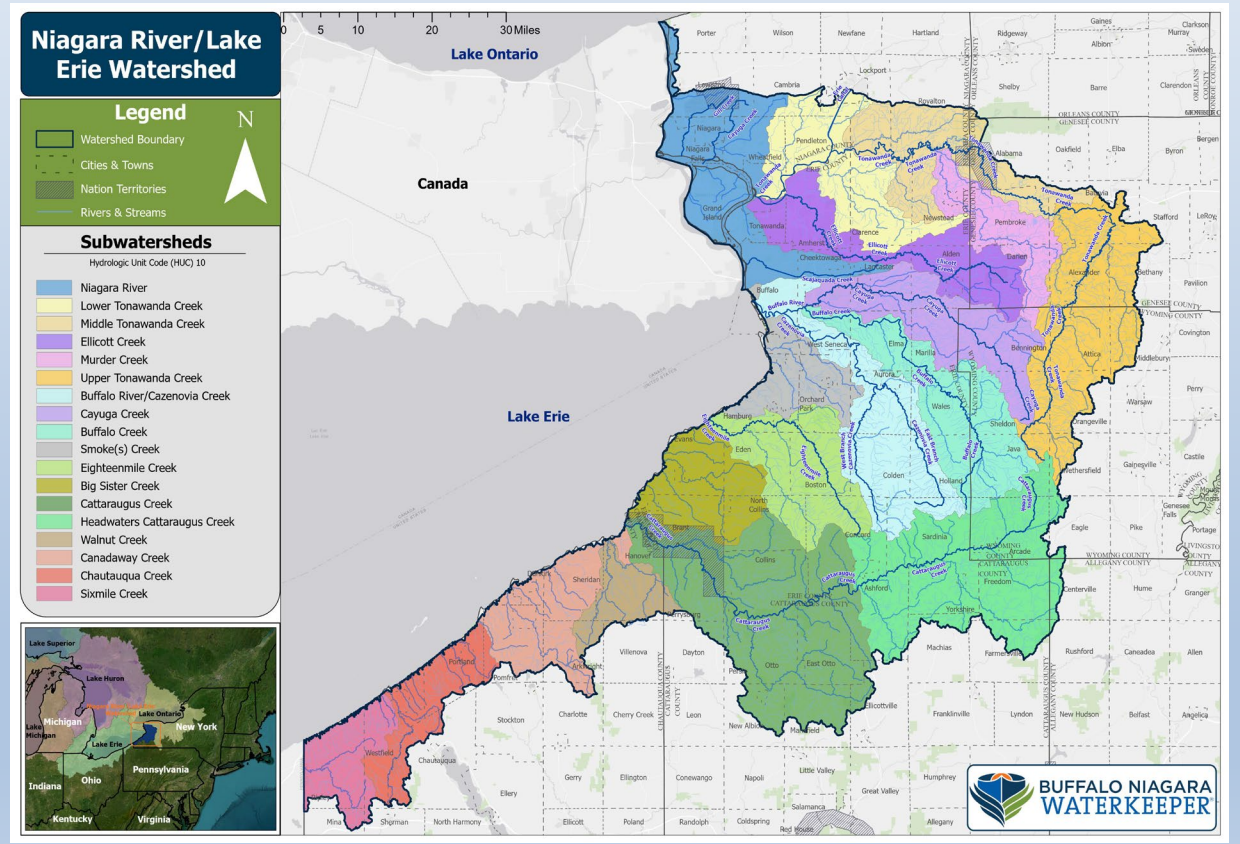
In the Combined Sewer Systems of Buffalo, rain and snowmelt (stormwater) flows directly into the sewer system via the storm drain. That combined water flows to the Buffalo Sewer Authority where it is treated and discharged into the Niagara River. During heavy rainfall, the system can reach its limit, 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*







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Scajaquada Creek Restoration Plan

The SCRP will provide an overview of existing conditions and highlight recommendations for ecological restoration in each section of the watershed.

Recommendations will include the dam removal at Peter St Park in the lower section.

Other projects will be identified alongside the watershed community with guidance from the Community Advisory Group – you! Projects could include green infrastructure, identifying where data is needed to implement ecological restoration, or evoking the creek through art & education.

B Well

BRR|Alliance
Black Rock Riverside Alliance

BUFFALO UNITED FRONT, INC.

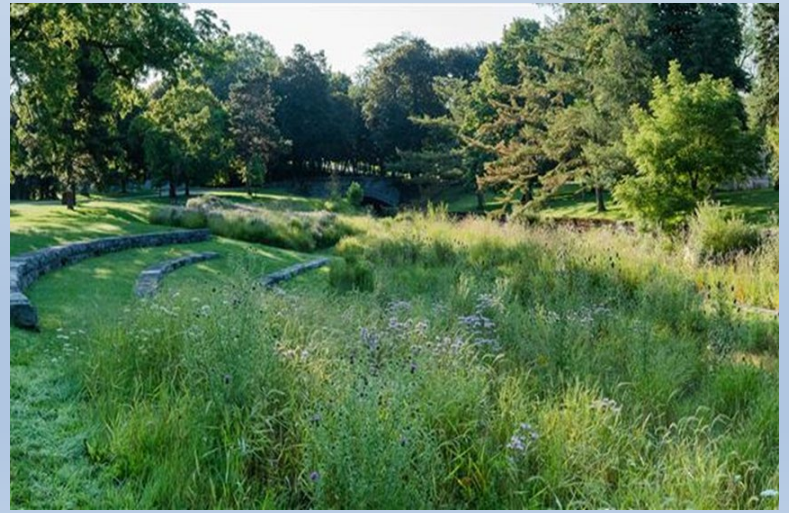
Friends of Freedom park

GRASSROOTS GARDENS WNY

TRINIDAD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEIGHBORS CARING FOR NEIGHBORS

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Ecological Restoration: An ongoing process of ecosystem recovery from damage and/or degradation



Hardened Shoreline -> Native shoreline

Grey -> Green infrastructure -> Evoking

2025 Scajaquada Community Survey Results

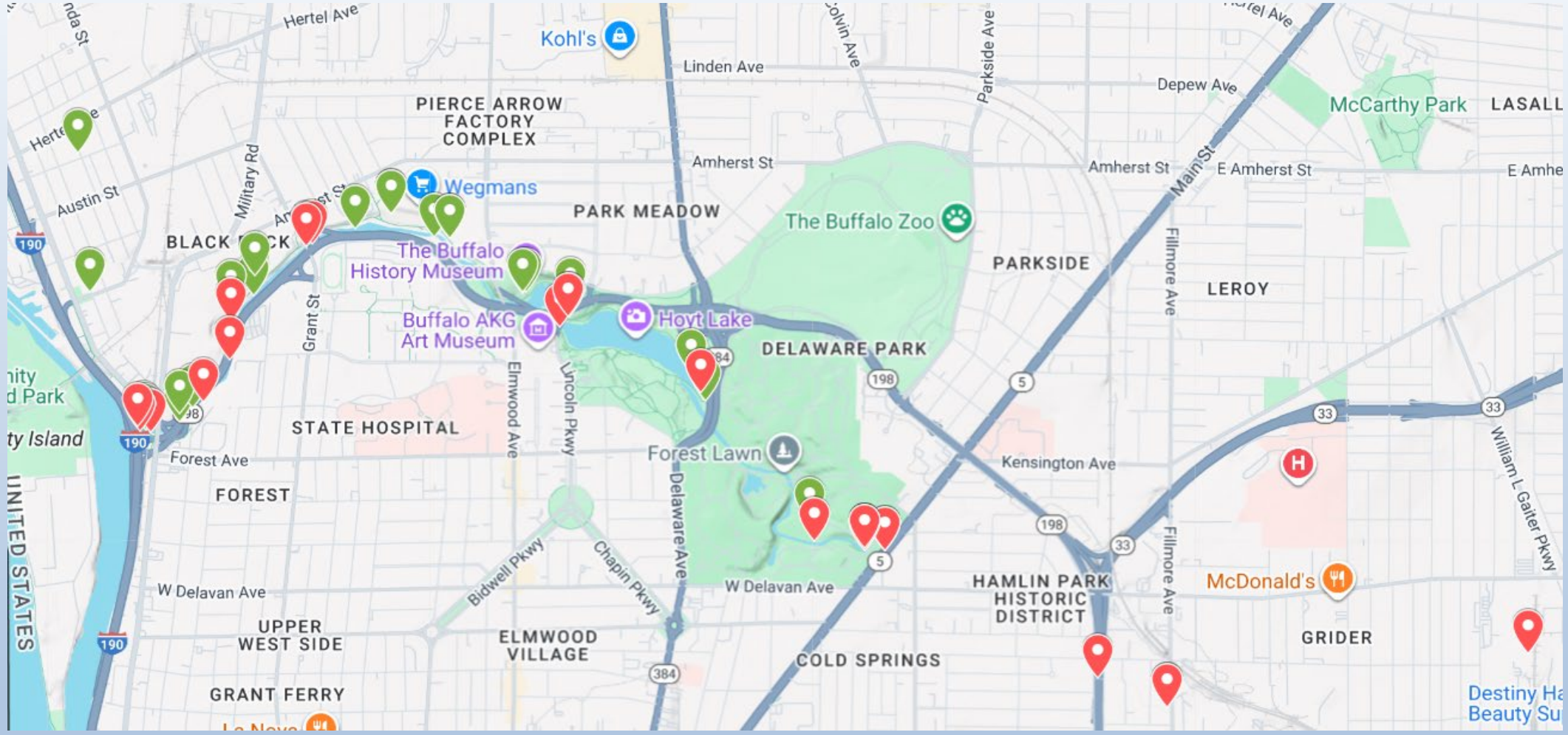
2024

- **288** Community Members Filled out the survey
- **83%** of participants live within the watershed
- **26%** are NOT aware of Scajaquada Creek (in their neighborhood or not)
- **93%** answered yes, they would like to see more trees, plants and/or wildlife in their neighborhood

2025

- **487** Community Members Filled out the survey
- **91%** of participants live within the watershed
- **20%** are NOT aware of Scajaquada Creek (in their neighborhood or not)
- **99%** answered yes, they would like to see more trees, plants and/or wildlife in their neighborhood

CAG Mapping Activity Results – Lower/Daylit Section



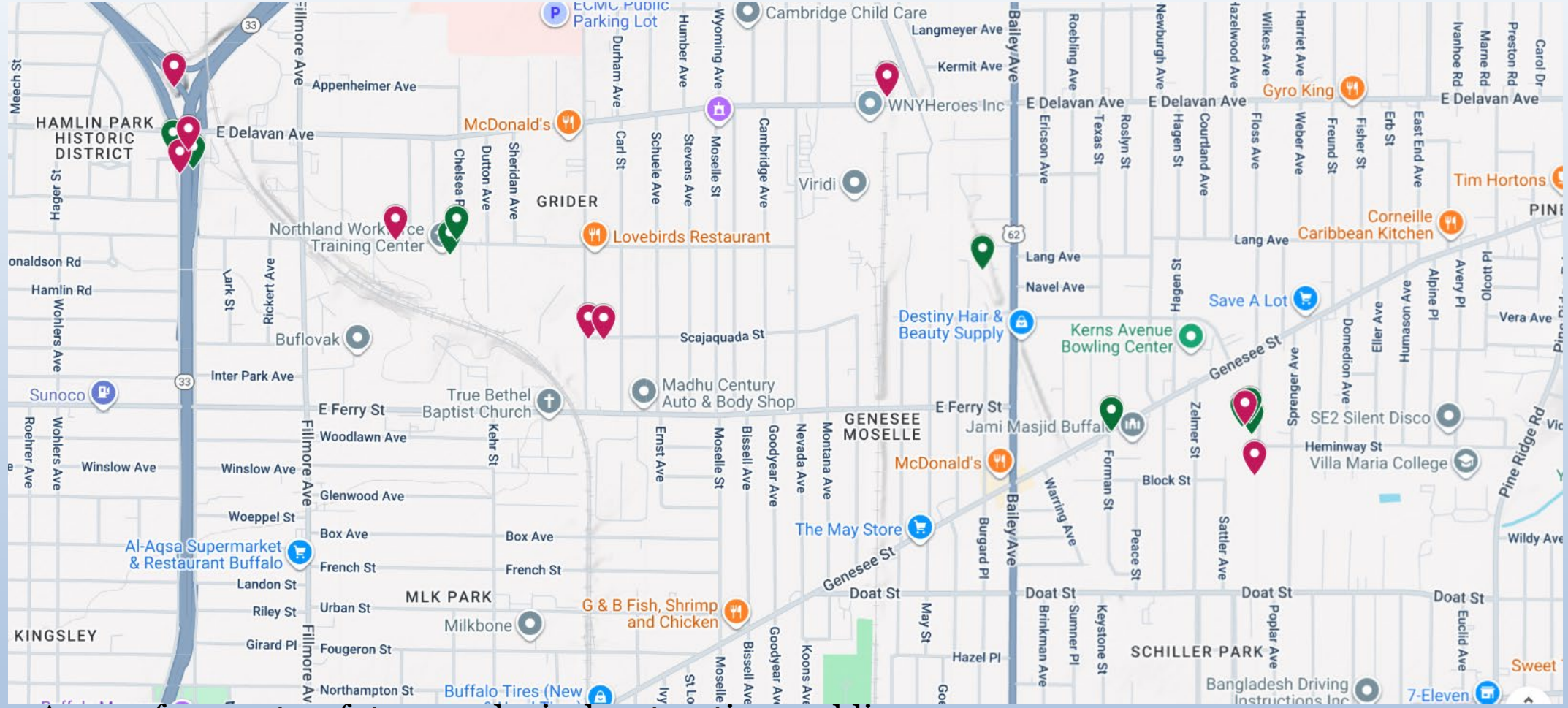
<u>Green – Areas of current or future ecological restoration, public access or education</u>

- **Jesse Kregal Pathway**: Mouth, S of Grant St, Japanese Gardens.
- **Delaware Park at Hoyt**
- **Forest Lawn**
- **Square Community Garden**

<u>Pink - Areas of interest for study</u>

- **Jesse Kregal Pathway:** Mouth, Grant Street
- **Delaware Park at Hoyt**
- **Forest Lawn:** Serenity Falls
- **33, Square Community Garden, American Axle**

CAG Mapping Activity Results – Middle/Buried Section



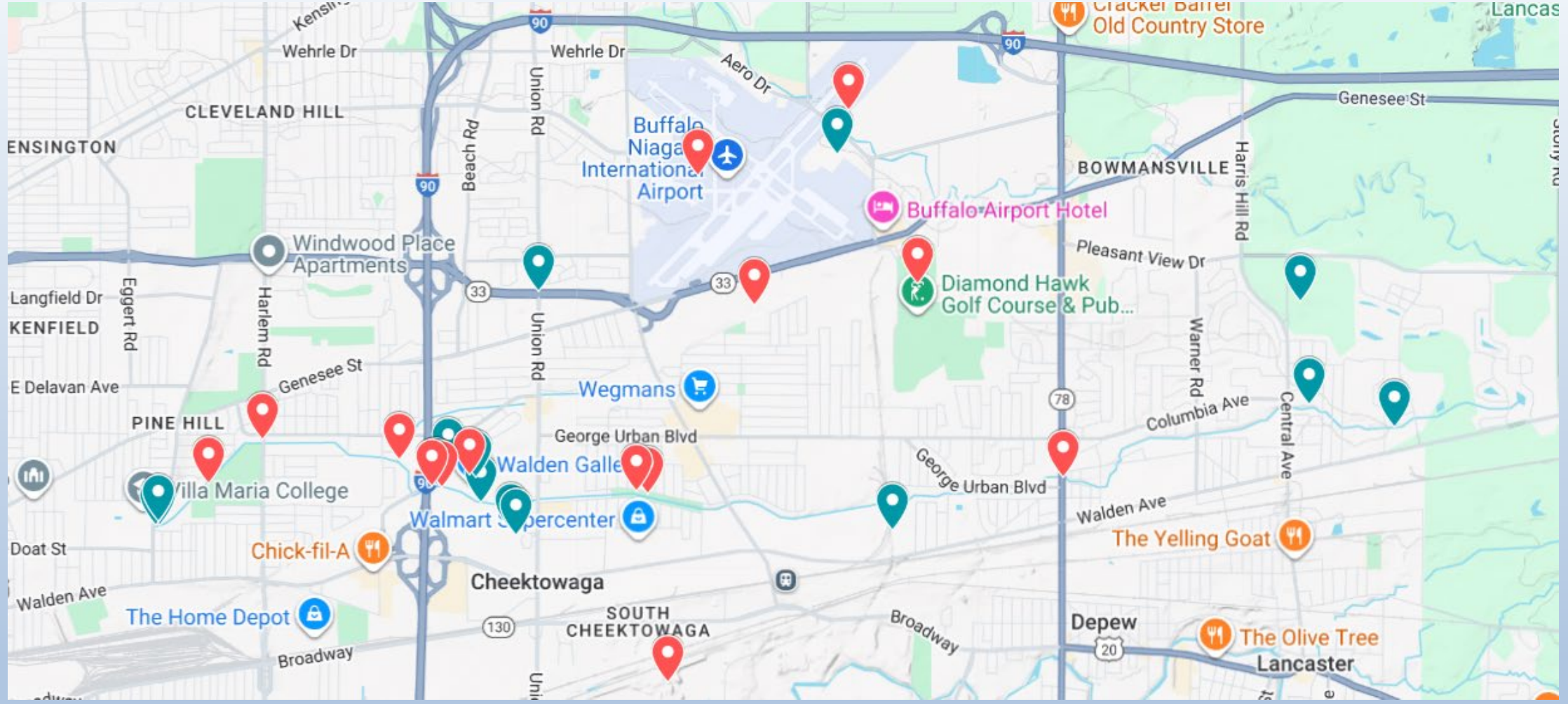
Green – Areas of current or future ecological restoration, public access or education

- **Humbolt Expy 33/198 connection**
- **Northland Corridor**
- **Schiller Park**
- **American Axle**

Pink - Areas of interest for study

- **Humbolt Expy 33/198 connection**
- **Scajaquada Street**
- **Schiller Park**
- **Northland, American Axle, Genesee**

CAG Mapping Activity Results – Upper/Headwaters Section



Green – Areas of current or future ecological restoration, public access or education

- **Cheektowaga Town Park**
- **Galleria Mall**
- **33 at Union Rd, Headwaters retention basins**

Pink - Areas of interest for study

- **Cheektowaga town Park**
- **Galleria Mall**
- **Airport, Golf Course, GUB & Transit**

Feasibility Study for Ecological Restoration along Scajaquada Creek in the Town of Cheektowaga

- Monday December 8th - Public Meeting at Anna Reinstein Memorial Library with Army Corp
- Cheektowaga Town Park shoreline restoration project will be highlighted
- Appendix will include recommendation for ecological restoration of the retention basin surrounding the Galleria Mall through wetland establishment
- Public Comment Period:

  12/8/2025 – 1/8/2026

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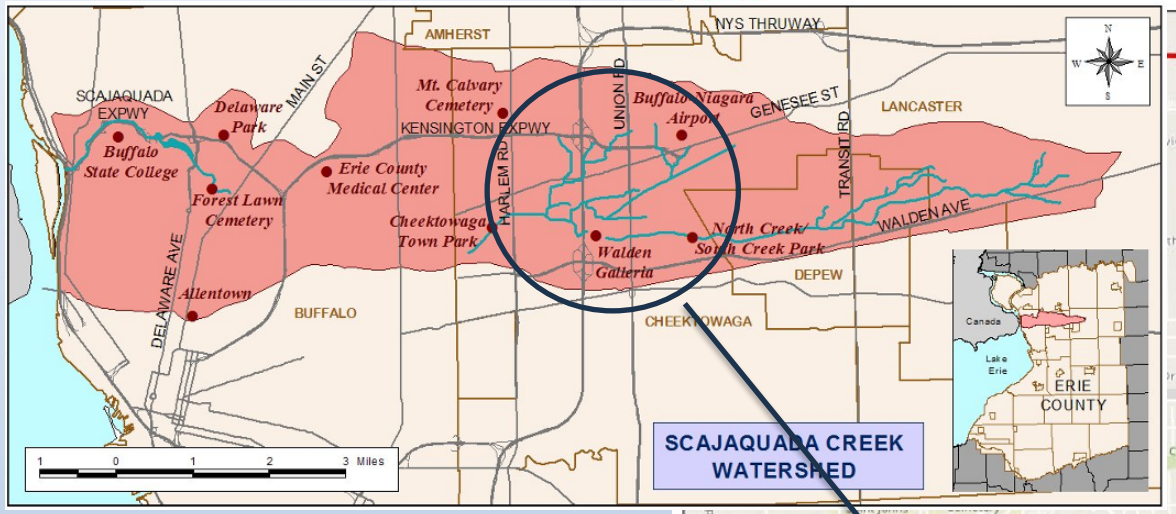
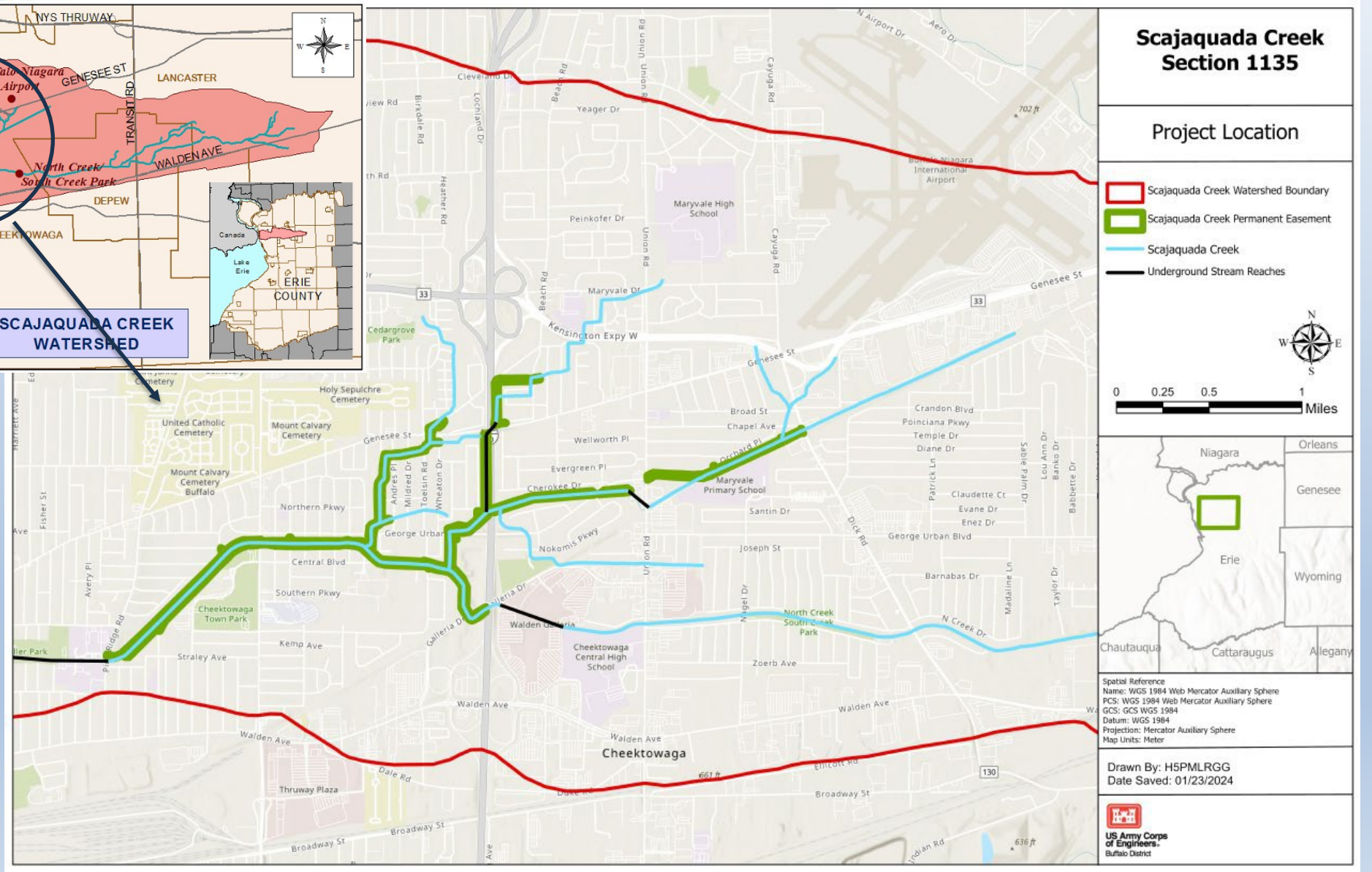
Scajaquada Creek 1135 Feasibility Study





1135

SCAJAQUADA CREEK

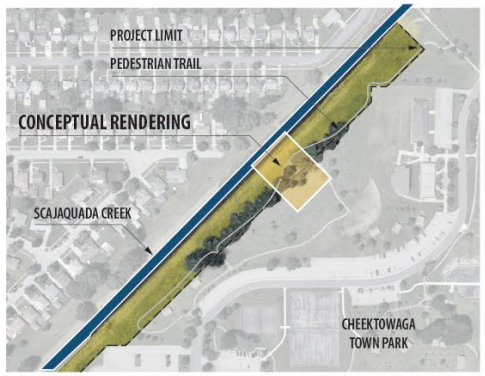
PROJECT MODIFICATION & ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

As part of the Scajaquada Creek Feasibility Study led by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cheektowaga Town Park has been identified as a potential site for ecological restoration. The project aims to mitigate the negative environmental impacts of past flood control efforts by restoring natural stream function, improving water quality, and enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife.

PROJECT LOCATION

CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN PARK

42.916437, -78.788243



PROJECT FOCUS AREA

NORTH

PROJECT PARTNERS:

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER

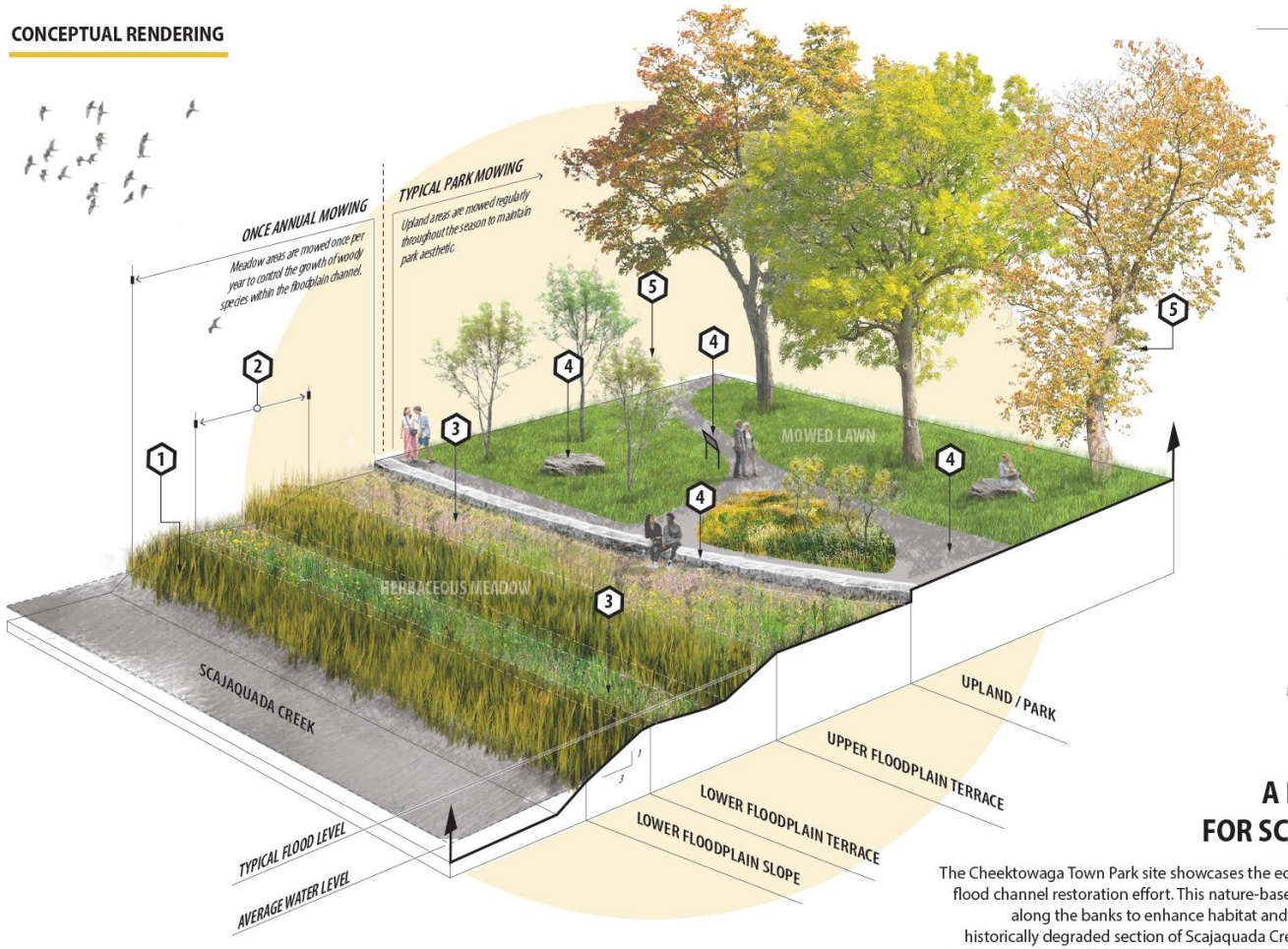
US Army Corps of Engineers®

RALPH C. WILSON JR. FOUNDATION

MARGARET L. WENDT FOUNDATION

This project is supported through the USACE Section1135 Authority, with BNW serving as the the non-federal sponsor and funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING



DRAWING NOTES:

SHORELINE MARGIN: 1

Shoreline margin and wetland plant species control erosion along the shoreline while providing food and habitat for frogs, water birds, and various fish species.

FLOODPLAIN BENCH: 2

The existing slope is modified to create a flat topped area that holds water after flooding or rain events. This improves water quality and creates diverse growing conditions for wet meadow plants.

FLOODPLAIN MEADOW: 3

This area is composed of herbaceous plants that provide critical habitat for birds and beneficial pollinators. High species diversity means there is something blooming all season long.

ACCESS + ENGAGEMENT: 4

Trails, signs, and seating options are important components that integrate the project into the surrounding park landscape. Limestone seat-walls can also help define mowing patterns.

WOODY VEGETATION: 5

Small trees are planted near the bank to provide shade and seasonal interest. Larger trees planted further away to reduce the risk of debris jams in the creek from limb dropping or wind-throw.

A BALANCED VISION FOR SCAJAQUADA CREEK

The Cheektowaga Town Park site showcases the ecosystem benefits of a two-stage, flood channel restoration effort. This nature-based design incorporates meadows along the banks to enhance habitat and improve ecological function in a historically degraded section of Scajaquada Creek. By integrating diverse native plants and natural features, the project aims to enhance resilience, support wildlife, and promote long-term ecological health improvements along the creek.

PLANTS & PRECEDENTS

Wetland plants, such as Blue Flag Iris, may occupy the shoreline margin providing seasonal interest in mid spring and erosion control along the water.

Grass species, such as Canada Blue Joint (shown above) or Little Bluestem provide excellent erosion control in the floodplain meadow areas.

Joe Pye Weed is one of many wet-meadow species that will take root in the floodplain terrace and lower slope providing habitat and seasonal interest.

Small tree species, such as Serviceberry, will provide shade with and beauty near the floodplain while minimizing the risk of debris jams in the creek.

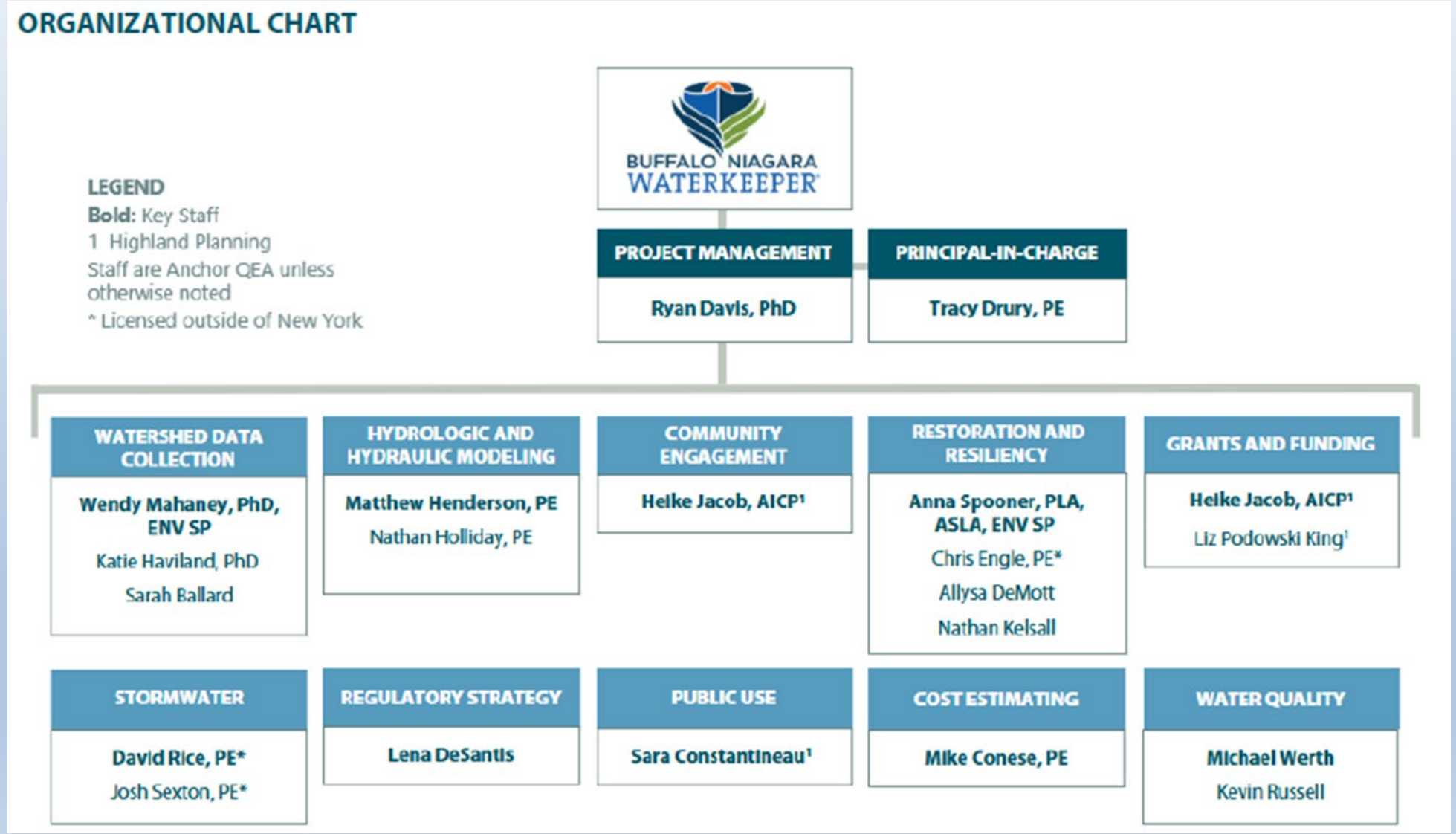
Limestone seat walls help to define the space and create opportunities for observing the plants and wildlife found in shoreline habitats.

Limestone seat-walls have the added benefit of controlling mower access and clearly defining mow and no-mow areas.

Signage is an effective tool for communicating project goals and educating the public about shoreline ecosystems.

ANCHOR QEA
and
Highland Planning

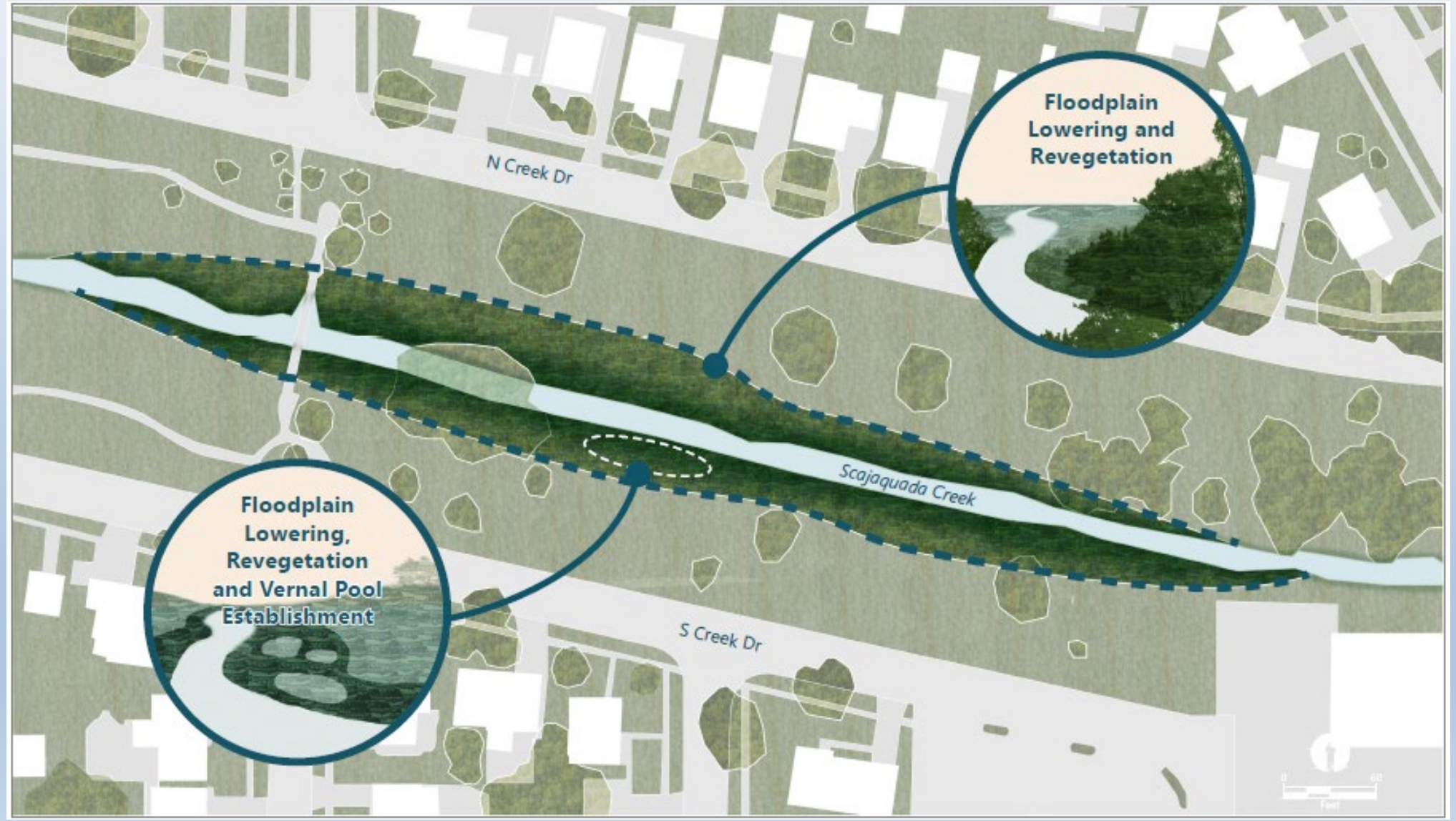
Organization Chart



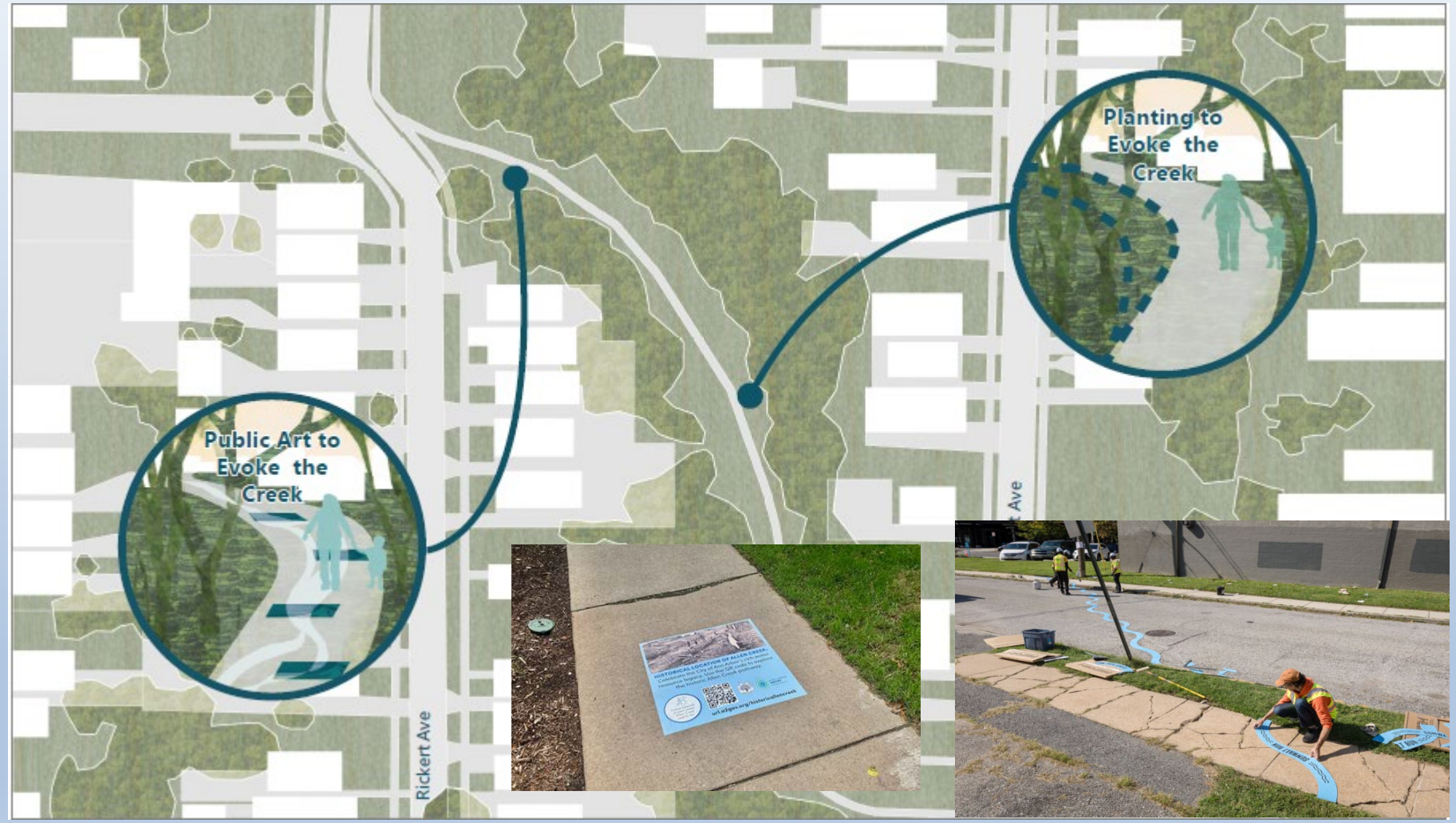
Scope of Work

- Background Information / Existing Conditions
- Development of the Scajaquada Creek Ecological Restoration and Resiliency Plan
  - Draft and Final Plans
  - Identify 1 or more project in each section of the creek
- Detailed Feasibility and Analysis for Select Sites

Potential Approach



Potential Approach



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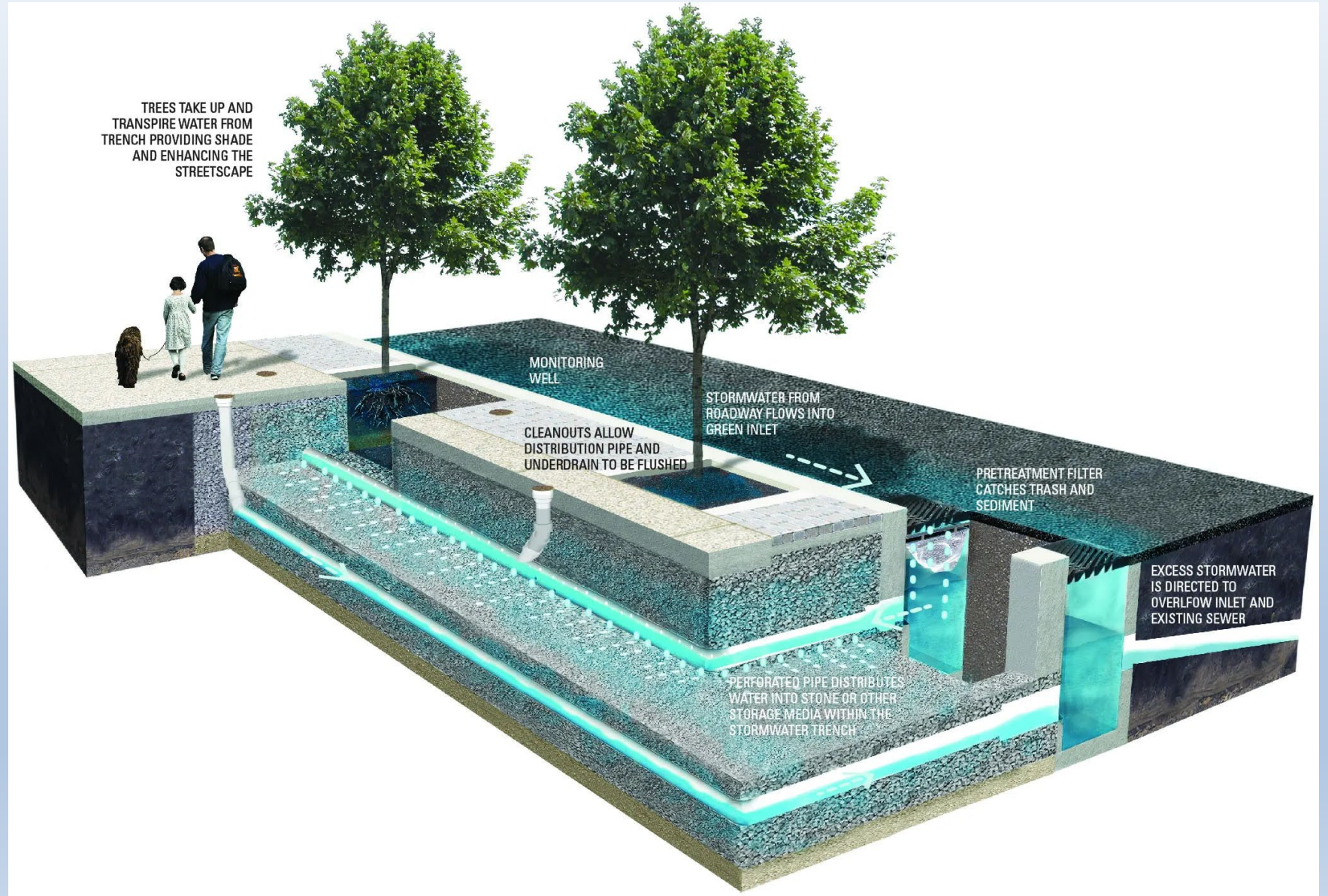
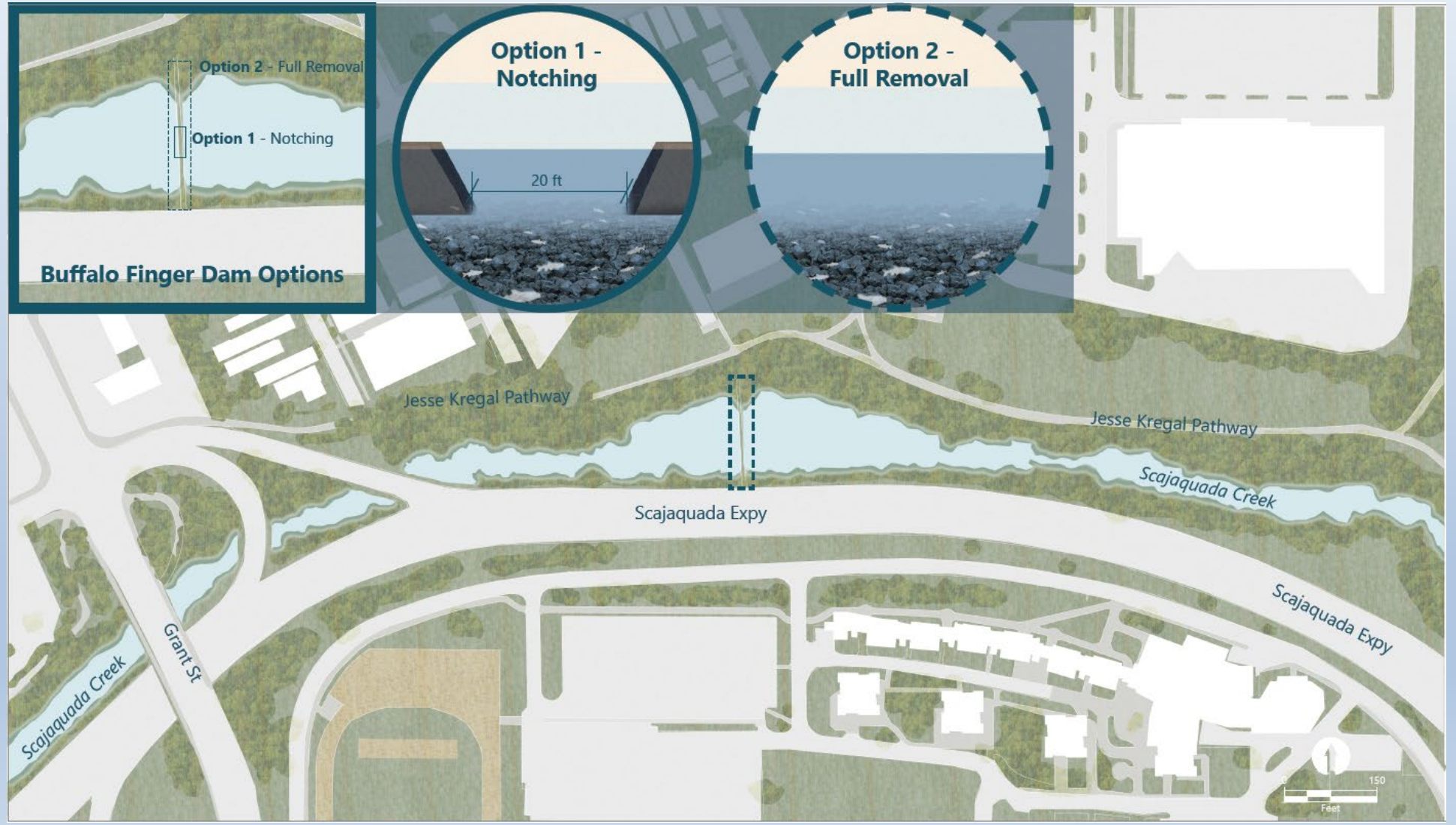


Potential Approach



Community Engagement

- Two rounds:
  - Issues, Opportunities, and Community Goals: January/February 2026
    - Three public workshops, one in each section of the watershed
  - Recommendations of Draft Plan/Preliminary Conceptual Designs for Priority Sites: June/July 2026
    - Three public workshops, one in each section of the watershed
    - Pop-ups

Pop-ups

- Held at high-traffic locations or existing community gatherings
- CAG members and partner organizations will be trained to lead these events
- Highland Planning/Anchor QEA will provide materials

Communications Plan

- Social media (including targeted ads)
- Press releases
- CAG/partner organization networks
- Libraries/community centers
- E-newsletter
- Project website
- Block clubs
- E-mail blasts

All materials will be translated into Spanish, Arabic, and other commonly spoken languages in the watershed.

Break Out Discussion

1) Do you have any questions or concerns about the proposed engagement approach?

2) In the top 2 areas of interest in your section, what approaches to restoration would you like to see?

Upper/Headwaters: Cheektowaga Town Park & Area around Galleria Mall

Middle/Buried: Humbolt Pkwy, Schiller Park

Lower/Daylit: Jesse Kregal Pathway, Delaware Park

Share Back

Scajaquada Watershed Updates

Please share any events, projects or news happening in your neighbor hood & around the watershed!

- Scajaquada Corridor Designation

- Spread the word: Public Meetings – January & February

- Next CAG Meeting: Spring 2026