

**New York Projects in the
Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Database**
as of 1/1/2009

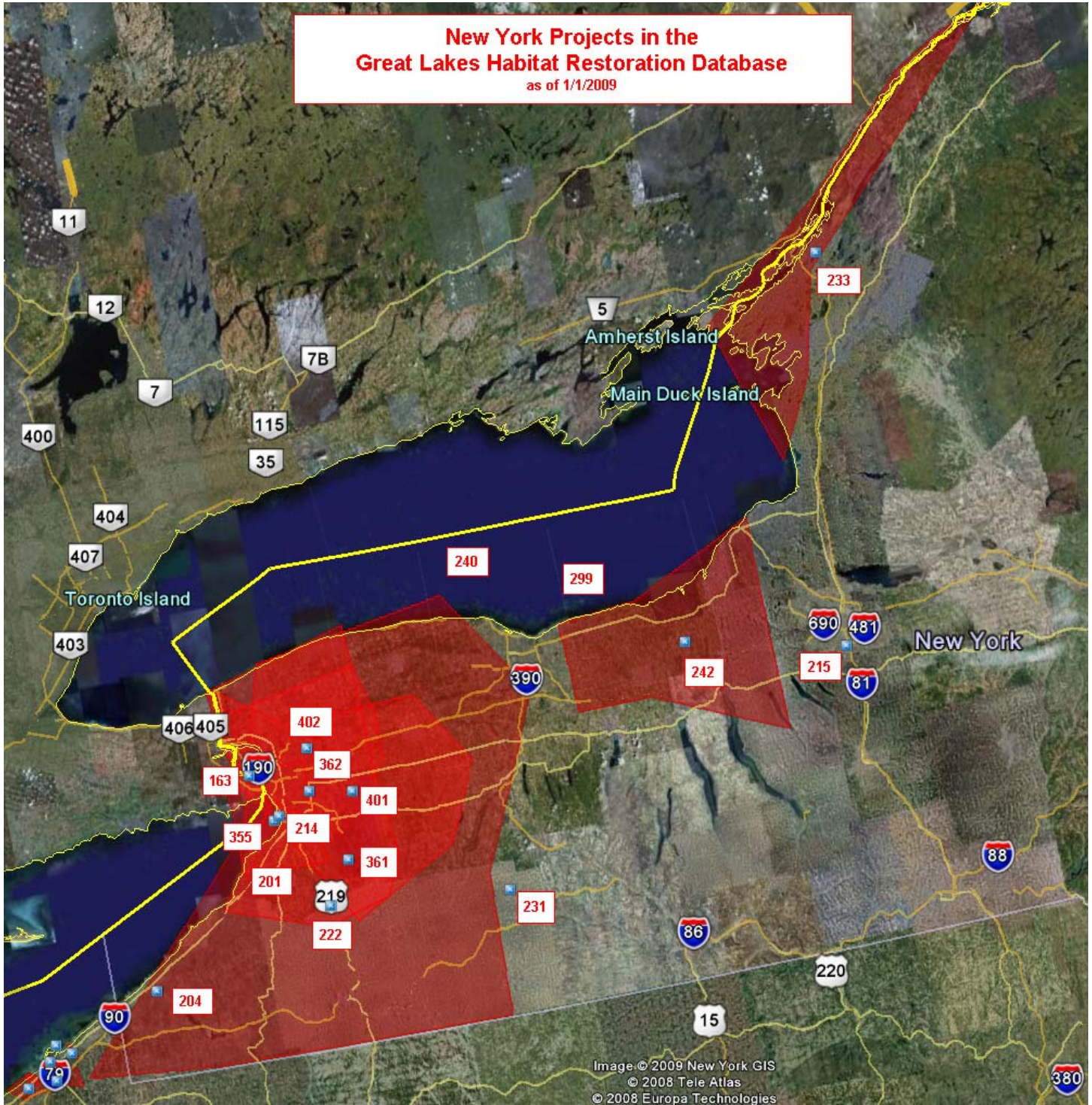


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New York Projects in the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Database

sorted by project phase
as of January 1, 2009

RESTORATION / REHABILITATION / CREATION / ENHANCEMENT / PROTECTION PROJECTS

Project ID: 233

Project Name: St. Lawrence Valley Initiative

Project Phase: Implementation Started

Location: The project is located within the coastal watershed zone of Lake Ontario (U.S. House District 23), in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, New York

Abstract: The SLVI has a five-year goal of protecting, restoring and enhancing 2,500 acres of wetland and upland habitat. Eighty percent of the protection would be through utilization of conservation easements while 20% would be through acquisition. It is intended for this program to also establish essential buffers and corridors to existing conservation lands in an area where development is threatening to further fracture the landscape. Lands protected will also be restored to wetlands, riparian buffers, and/or native prairies and uplands. The acres conserved will add to the Habitat/Species and Non-point Source goals within the GLRC Restoration Plan, conserving wetlands and adjacent uplands, and conserving critical wetland wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.

Contact: Peter Gibbs, pgibbs@ducks.org

Project ID: 231

Project Name: Keaney Swamp Wetland Restoration Project

Project Phase: Design Completed

Location: Keaney Swamp Wildlife Management Area. Town of Birdsall, Allegany County. 8 miles Northeast of Village of Angelica.

Abstract: Restore approximately 100 acres of marsh habitat through development of low level dike and weir.

Contact: Mike Ermer, emermer@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Project ID: 242

Project Name: Montezuma Wetlands Restoration Program

Project Phase: Design Completed

Location: The project is located in the coastal watershed zone of Lake Ontario, within the historic Montezuma Wetlands Complex. This encompasses Wayne, Cayuga and Seneca Counties (including the towns of Brutus, Cato, Victory, Rose, Savannah, Galen, Butler, Aurelius, Montezuma, Conquest, Mentz, Seneca Falls and Tyre) of New York state (NY Congressional Districts 24 & 25).

Abstract: The MWRP has a five-year goal of securing 3,000 acres (80% acquisition and 20% conservation easements) of existing valuable wildlife habitat and restorable habitat and restoring 2,000 acres of wetland habitat. This program has tremendous potential to provide additional habitat to a critically important region of the Great Lakes watershed.

Contact: Sheila Hess, shess@ducks.org

Project ID: 163

Project Name: Beaver Island Wetland Restoration

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: The project is in Beaver Island State Park, located on the south shore of Grand Island, in the Niagara River, Erie County, NY. Grand Island is upstream of Niagara Falls and splits the Niagara River into 2 channels: the Tonawanda Channel and the Chippewa Channel. The park includes both channels of the river. The project is on the Chippewa Channel side.

Abstract: A crescent shaped area of open water and wetlands on the inside of Beaver Island (known as Little Beaver Marsh) historically (before 1960) included hemi-marsh (marsh interspersed with shallow open water with irregular edges and in roughly even proportions) with excellent structural and vegetative diversity. Around 1960, this area was filled and the hemi-marsh was replaced with poor quality habitat such as mowed lawn. This project would restore hemi-marsh and shallow pools to the inside (northeast shoreline of Beaver Island through removal of fill, site grading, plantings, and invasive species control.

Contact: karen.terbush@oprhp.state.ny.us

Project ID: 201 ******INCOMPLETE ENTRY; REVISIT PROJECT AREA******

Project Name: Buffalo River Section 312 Environmental Dredging

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: The Buffalo River is located adjacent to the city of Buffalo in western NY. The 312 study area is comprised of the lower 6.2 miles of the Buffalo River in addition to the navigable portion of the City Ship Canal.

Abstract: This project would remove and/or remediate contaminated sediments in the Buffalo River. The Buffalo River and its sediments have been impaired by past municipal and industrial discharges and heavy industrial development along the riverbanks. Chemical contamination of river sediments and physical disturbances to the river bottom and shoreline have virtually eliminated fish and wildlife habitat along the river. Other impairments include restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, fish tumors or other deformities, degradation of benthos, and restrictions on dredging activities. The Section 312 Authority allows the Corps of Engineers to investigate and possibly implement dredging or other remediation measures in the Federal navigation channel. Specifically, Section 312 of WRDA 1990 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to remove contaminated sediments from the navigable waters of the United States. There are two distinct authorities in Section 312. Section 312(a) provides for removal of contaminated sediments outside the boundaries of and adjacent to a Federal navigation project as part of the operation and maintenance of the project. Section 312(b) provides for removal of contaminated sediments for the purpose of environmental enhancement and water quality improvement if such removal is requested by a non-Federal sponsor and the sponsor agrees to pay 35 percent of the cost of removal and disposal. After sediment clean-up, other Corps authorities may allow for environmental restoration opportunities (e.g. wetland creation) along the lower Buffalo River

Contact: byron.r.rupp@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 204

Project Name: Chautauqua Creek Fish Passage, Chautauqua Creek, New York

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: Chautauqua Creek is located in southwest New York State, approximately 50 miles south of Buffalo, New York in Chautauqua County. Approximately five miles upstream from the mouth are a pair of small dams located 300 feet apart. These dams are known as the Westfield Water Works Dams.

Abstract: The Chautauqua Creek project area is located in the village of Westfield, Chautauqua County, New York, in the vicinity of the Westfield Water Works Dams. The dams, which lie approximately 300 feet apart, are located approximately five miles upstream from the mouth of the creek at Lake Erie. The uppermost dam serves to pool water which is routed to a nearby reservoir and then used for public water supply for the Village of Westfield. The lower dam does not serve any present use. The approximately 5-mile reach of Chautauqua Creek between the two dams and Lake Erie provides important spawning areas for a number of Lake Erie fish species. However, it is the runs of rainbow trout/steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* – referred to as steelhead) that are of particular importance from both an ecological and angling perspective. Although the section of Chautauqua Creek downstream of the dams does support limited natural reproduction of steelhead and other fish species, natural reproduction levels are greatly limited by the amount of habitat suitable for successful spawning due to the presence of the dams. The project as proposed entails removing the uppermost 4 feet of the lower dam, with two feet left in place to act as a barrier to spawning sea lamprey; removal of the entire portion of the upper dam left of the water intake; construction of a stone raceway approximately 100 feet upstream to direct the flows necessary to provide for water intake (with associated weir); and construction of an erosion protection system for the left bank to protect the water supply pipeline. The proposed project would realize an increased ecological output value of 800 Ecological Output units over the Without Project Conditions in Chautauqua Creek. A Federal project at the Water Works Dams on Chautauqua Creek will significantly increase the amount and quality of habitat available for steelhead spawning by providing access to approximately 10 miles of high quality spawning habitat located upstream of the Water Works dams. The implementation of this project would also contribute to goals outlined in a Great Lakes basin-wide management plan developed by the GLFC.

Contact: michael.j.greer@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 214

Project Name: Smokes Creek Relocation – Lackawanna, NY

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: Smokes Creek runs through the city of Lackawanna, Erie County, NY and is the city adjacent to the city of Buffalo, NY. A portion of the creek flows through an area which once housed a steel mill.

Abstract: The Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) for this study recommended relocation of Smokes Creek to a new channel location 2,500 feet south of its present location. This new channel would redirect the flow of the lower 3,900 feet of the creek between Lake Erie and the road which once housed an integrated steel facility. Current channel configuration has sheet-pile which is not suitable for walleye, other Lake Erie fisheries and is devoid of any other terrestrial habitat. Other project features include creating a wetland in the existing channel location and providing public access features.

Contact: laura.v.ortiz@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 222

Project Name: Springville Dam, NY

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: Springville/Scobey Hill dam is located approximately 30 miles south of the city of Buffalo and is the natural county border for Cattaraugus and Erie County, NY.

Abstract: The Feasibility Study is being conducted under the Section 506 authority will be evaluating the most efficient environmental measures to creating a measure which will allow fish passage to the upstream reaches of Cattaraugus Creek. The feasibility study will also evaluate the effectiveness of implementing a sea lamprey assessment trap. The study will evaluate an array of fish passage options including the no-action plan. The initial feasibility meeting is being held in late May 2007.

Contact: Laura.v.ortiz@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 402

Project Name: Niagara Watershed Shoreline Habitat Restoration Program

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: The Buffalo and Niagara River Areas of Concern and their tributaries in Niagara, Erie, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties, NY

Abstract: Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will work with public and private shoreline owners to restore and permanently protect riparian buffers of maximum practicable depth along the Niagara River and its tributaries. Currently, waterfront landowners along the Niagara River and its tributaries typically manage the shoreline buffer zone as highly manicured lawn space and/or erosion control areas through heavy rip rap armoring or sheet piling. Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper will aggressively recruit shoreline owners to enroll in a technical assistance program to improve shoreline habitat through the re-establishment of native shoreline vegetation and erosion resistant slopes. Buffer plans will be executed in conjunction with Riverkeeper volunteer programs where possible to encourage landowner participation and minimize costs. To the maximum extent possible, Riverkeeper will seek permanent protection of established buffers through conservation easements. Local municipalities will be encouraged to reflect land under easements in tax assessment activities.

Contact: Julie Barrett O'Neill, jboneill@bnriverkeeper.org

Project ID: 215

Project Name: Onondaga Creek Syracuse Lakefront Section 206, NY

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: The city of Syracuse has identified three potential sites for ecosystem restoration. At each of these sites, there is potential to link in-stream designs with the city's Onondaga Creek Master Plan and the developing Onondaga Creek Revitalization plans that focus on habitat and water quality improvements. During a future feasibility study phase, each site will be investigated for determining the location with the highest potential benefit with associated costs. The specific aspects of the proposed ecosystem restoration include Dynamics, In-Channel Habitat Structure, Channel Continuity, Off-Channel Connectivity, and Riparian Corridor. At Arsenal Park, the area available is lower in elevation and could support adjacent wetlands along the creek edge without exposing nearby residential blocks to flooding. In addition, this site lends itself to limited riparian restoration. At McCarthy Island, the site offers opportunities to reconfigure an existing long reach of straight channel. By providing a more natural sinuous alignment, velocities and erosion effects can be reduced. All land is city-owned and available for the proposed ecosystem restoration project. The area available is higher in elevation than the creek proper, but could still support creation of limited adjacent wetlands along the creek edge without exposing nearby residential blocks to flooding. Limited riparian restoration is also possible. At Meachem Park, the site offers opportunities to further enhance an existing reach of slightly curving channel. By providing a more natural sinuous alignment, velocities and erosion can be reduced. All land is city-owned and available for the ecosystem restoration project. Limited riparian restoration is also possible.

Abstract: Three targeted Areas of Concern include creek reaches between the Onondaga Nation Territory (Town of Nedrow) and Onondaga Lake, including the Syracuse Inner Harbor and Onondaga Lake Inlet/NYS Barge Canal. Project is in its initial stages; no defined project plan has been developed to date. The city of Syracuse has informally indicated that it would be the local cost-share sponsor for the project. An official Letter of Intent (LOI) will be required upon the city's acceptance of the Proposed Restoration Plan. The Proposed Restoration Plan (PRP) has been submitted to the city of Syracuse for review and comment as of 29 January 2007. As of 14 May 2007 there have been no comments received from the city. Each targeted area consists of approximately 5 acres. Aquatic and terrestrial habitat quality is severely impaired due to decades of pollution, re-alignment, and neglect. Restoration is vital to

improving both qualities as well as contributing to the restoration of Onondaga Lake, another severely impaired water resource that is on EPA's National Priority List (NPL)

Contact: daniel.n.green@usace.army.mil

Project ID: 361

Project Name: Niagara River Emergency Habitat Protection Fund

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Erie and Niagara Counties, New York, Congressional Districts 27 and 28.

Abstract: This project will remediate the loss of habitat in the Niagara River Area of Concern. Once one of the most unique ecosystems of the Great Lakes system, the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers have been severely damaged by industrial and hydropower development. For nearly 20 years, the Niagara River Areas of Concern has recognized loss of fish and wildlife habitat as a beneficial use impairment. This project will build upon the habitat acquisition and protection elements contained in the recent relicensing agreement for the Niagara River Power Project. In particular, based upon Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's current Niagara River Habitat Inventory and Assessment Project, this effort will create an emergency acquisition fund for endangered habitat areas in the Niagara River watershed.

Contact: Julie Barrett O'Neill, jboneill@bnriverkeeper.org

Project ID: 362

Project Name: Niagara River Area of Concern Stormwater Management

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Erie and Niagara Counties, New York, Districts 27 and 28

Abstract: The proposed project will remediate existing ecological impairments of water quality caused by combined and sanitary sewer overflows to the Niagara River and its tributaries. The project will (1) generate GIS-based data regarding pervious and impervious surfaces in the Niagara watershed at a sufficient level of detail so as to allow analyses of various stormwater and sewer management best practices; (2) develop detailed information about the costs and benefits of implementing the following stormwater best management programs in the Buffalo and Niagara River sewer boundaries; and (3) implement the proposed projects in four areas based upon the feasibility analyses. Reduce the incidence of sanitary and combined sewer overflows improving both water quality and habitat quality in the impacted areas of concern. Create new habitat areas in the urban center where habitat loss has been identified as a major use impairment. Slow the loss of habitat in the upper watershed. Reduce the incidence of beach closings within the watershed.

Contact: Julie Barrett O'Neill, jboneill@bnriverkeeper.org

Project ID: 355

Project Name: Buffalo River Watershed Management

Project Phase: Proposed

Location: Buffalo, New York, 27th Congressional District in Erie County, NY

Abstract: The largest remaining contributing factor to the impairment of the Buffalo River AOC is nonpoint source pollution generated from stormwater runoff. Reducing stormwater inputs into the combined sewer overflow (CSO) system provides the benefit of preserving and protecting critical wetland, riparian, and at-risk upland habitat. Land acquisition and protection and restoration of ecologically valuable greenspace, wetlands, and upland habitat will contribute to CSO and nonpoint source abatement and increased habitat opportunities throughout the watershed.

Contact: Jill Spisiak Jedlicka, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

Monitoring / Management / Research / Education Activities

Project ID: 299 ****RECLASSIFY AS OTHER PROJECT TYPE****

Project Name: Development of biological control of invasive *Phragmites australis*

Project Phase: Design Completed

Location: Nationwide, not restricted to Great Lakes Region

Abstract: Introduced *Phragmites australis* is one of the most serious wetland invader in North America. Failure of chemical, physical or mechanical means to control populations resulted in the initiation of research to assess the feasibility of biological control. Since 1998, work in Europe and North America has identified several promising stem-mining moths species as potential biological control agents. Preliminary host specificity tests have indicated that these species have a strong preference for the invasive *Phragmites* genotypes and do not appear a threat to endemic North America subspecies *Phragmites australis americanus*. Before any introductions occur, these preliminary data need to be supported by more extensive testing of different genotypes of the endemic subspecies plus testing of other native plant species and a stakeholder survey. This work is currently ongoing at Cornell University, University of Rhode Island and with support by CABI Bioscience Switzerland.

Contact: Bernd Blossey, bb22@cornell.edu

Project ID: 240

Project Name: Biological control of invasive *Phragmites australis*

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: This study will occur throughout the Great Lakes region and North America.

Abstract: Invasive introduced genotypes of the grass *Phragmites australis* continue their invasions throughout the Great Lakes watershed. Associated with the invasion are reductions in biodiversity with particular negative impacts on native plants, birds and amphibians. Current control methodologies (e.g., herbicides) are unable to control the plant long-term or prevent expansion. Biological control is anticipated to reduce the invasiveness of *P. Australis* and restore native communities, but long-term information about impacts on local food webs must be collected before control agents are released.

Contact: Kurt Anderson, kanderson@ducks.org

Project ID: 401

Project Name: Niagara River Emergency Habitat Protection Fund

Project Phase: Planning Initiated

Location: The habitat areas to be protected would include habitat areas in the Buffalo and Niagara River Areas of Concern and along the River tributary corridors including areas in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegeny, Wyoming, Erie, Niagara, Genesee and Orleans Counties, NY

Abstract: This project will remediate the loss of habitat in the Niagara River Area of Concern. Once one of the most unique ecosystems of the Great Lakes system, the Buffalo and Niagara Rivers have been severely damaged by industrial and hydropower development. For nearly 20 years, the Niagara River Areas of Concern has recognized loss of fish and wildlife habitat as a beneficial use impairment. This project will build upon the habitat acquisition and protection elements contained in the recent relicensing agreement for the Niagara River Power Project. In particular, based upon Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's current Niagara River Habitat Inventory and Assessment Project, this effort will create an emergency acquisition fund for endangered habitat areas in the Niagara River watershed.

Contact: Julie Barrett O'Neill, jboneill@bnriverkeeper.org