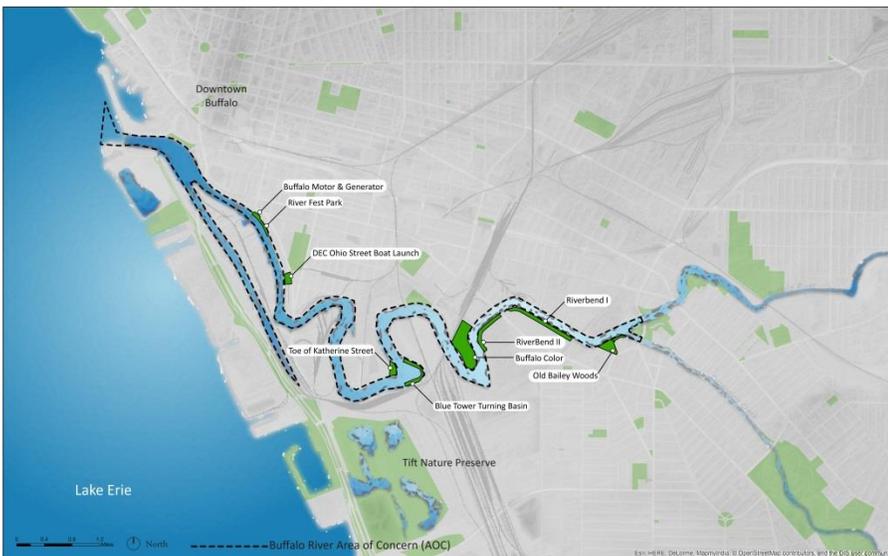


Buffalo River AOC Habitat Restoration

Restoring Habitat in the Buffalo River Area of Concern

Eight project sites will restore and enhance nearly two miles of shoreline and 20 acres of habitat along the lower Buffalo River, setting the stage for the river's removal from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern



Project Highlights

- Enhancement and restoration of nearly two miles of shoreline and twenty acres of habitat
- Increase natural and stabilized shoreline
- Aid in the treatment of stormwater, reducing erosion and limiting sedimentation
- Global example of economic health being directly-related to the health of water, ecosystems and surrounding communities
- The projects are funded by the NOAA-GLC Partnership and implemented by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper.

Environmental Benefits

Contribute to AOC Delisting
Enhance fish and wildlife habitat

Economic Benefits

Recreation
Tourism
Sport-fishing enhancement and revitalization

Community Benefits

Increased water-based recreation
Improved water quality and ecosystem health



BMGC and River Fest Park



NYSDEC Ohio St. Boat Launch



Toe of Katherine St. Peninsula



Blue Tower Turning Basin



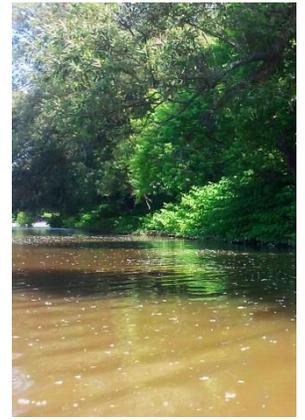
Buffalo Color Peninsula



RiverBend Phase II (SolarCity)



RiverBend Phase I (JW Danforth)



Old Bailey Woods

Background of the Buffalo River AOC

The legacy of the Buffalo River is one of heavy industrialization and subsequent contamination of sediments, poor water quality, and degraded and altered habitat. The Buffalo River was considered biologically dead as recently as the 1960s, with extremely low levels of dissolved oxygen, high temperatures, stagnant flows, and lack of any life other than extremely hardy or pollution-tolerant plant and fish species. In 1987 the Buffalo River was declared an Area of Concern (AOC) by the International Joint Commission due to possible impairment of 14 beneficial uses. Since being designated an AOC, nine of fourteen Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) were declared to be “Impaired” or “Likely Impaired” by the Buffalo River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Remedial Advisory Committee. The ultimate goal of the AOC program is to address each Beneficial Use Impairment and “delist” the AOC. The Buffalo River RAP Delisting Targets call for implementing the Buffalo River Habitat Action Plan, and with a goal of restoring a minimum 25 percent of the AOC’s shoreline to natural slope, shallows, and aquatic native vegetation, including naturalizing areas of the City Ship Canal shoreline. Since its designation as an AOC, much has been accomplished in the Buffalo River AOC, especially in remediating hazardous waste sites. Significant work to remediate contaminated sediment, which will aid in delisting seven of the AOC’s nine BUIs, is nearly complete.

Project Progress

The RiverBend Phase I and II sites are both complete and will continue to be managed and monitored in 2017 and 2018. The other six sites (Buffalo Motor and Generator Corp., Blue Tower Turning Basin, NYSDEC Ohio St. Boat Launch, Toe of Katherine St. Peninsula, Buffalo Color Peninsula, and Old Bailey Woods) are in the design phase with construction anticipated to be complete in 2017. Monitoring and post-restoration management will continue through spring and summer of 2018 with all project work complete by fall 2018.

Funding and Partners

Over \$4.7 million is being provided for these projects by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through a regional partnership with the Great Lakes Commission. Funding comes from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a regional program that is supporting implementation of a comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes, including restoration of the Areas of Concern. The projects are being managed locally by Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER, which has been participating and coordinating the restoration of the Buffalo River for more than 25 years.

For More Information Contact:

Susan, Kornacki, Communications and Development Manager
Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER, 716-852-7483 x38, skornacki@bnriverkeeper.org

Heather Braun, Project Manager for Habitat Restoration,
Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, hbraun@glc.org

