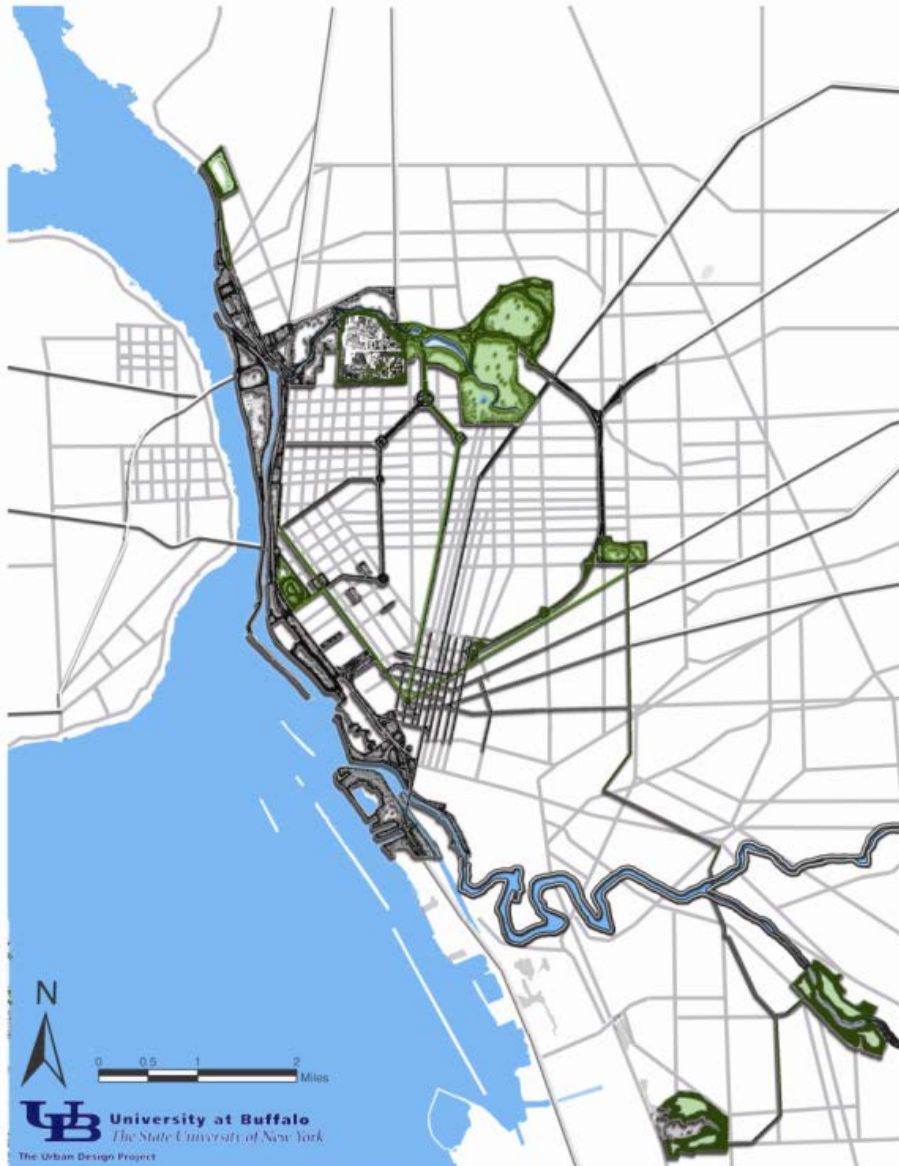


## Ellicott, Olmsted, and the Water



**Buffalo Is  
A City of Good Bones!  
It's "... The best planned  
city in America"**

**There is a quality of “comeback” story that we need to challenge if we are to understand the process of remaking healthy and sustainable Great Lakes cities.**

**For Buffalo, we have some successes. That said  
there was no “silver bullet.”**

**There was no turning point.**

**No white knight or superstar mayor.**

**No stand alone corporate or philanthropic  
angel.**

**There was no overnight success...**

**Even if the national media seems to have discovered our changes in the course of a 24-hour news cycle.**

**What we have achieved has been done  
over decades, not years.**

**It has involved thousands of people  
across dozens of different efforts.**

**And it's not done.**

**We have a long, long way to go.**

**Besides, it's never done.**

**City-making and the stewardship of our  
water resources in the process are never  
done.**

**Underlying all this work were, instead, a series of powerful civic discourses that have driven planning, policy-making, and action across our region.**

**They express what we believe we need to do to create the kind of place we want to live, to become the community we want to become.**



**They happen everywhere.**

**Across kitchen tables and in coffee shops  
and taverns.**

**In the public prints and on-line.**

**In the proceedings of public and not-for-  
profit organizations.**

**And in planning meetings. Lots of  
planning meetings.**

**They are persistent, repetitive, hortatory.**

**They can be plaintive, even whiny.**

**Through persistence, they move ideas  
from contestable to common sense.**

**But ultimately, the stories they tell drive  
what we do.**



We must diversify our economy.



























# What does the Buffalo Niagara economy look like?

## Buffalo Niagara Labor Market by the Numbers

Buffalo Niagara  
Population **1.53 million**

Number of Firms **37,400+**

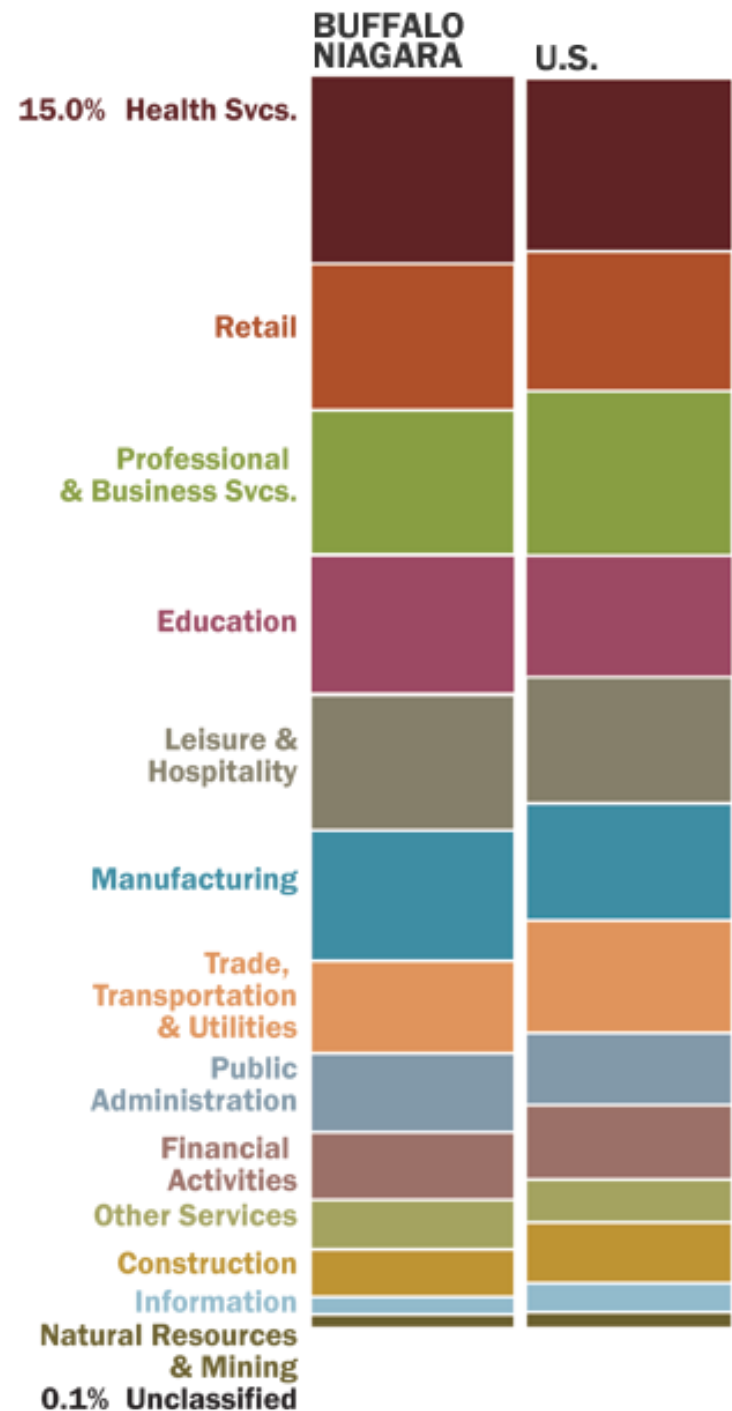
Number of Jobs **660,000+**

Number of People in  
the Labor Force, 2009 **793,000**

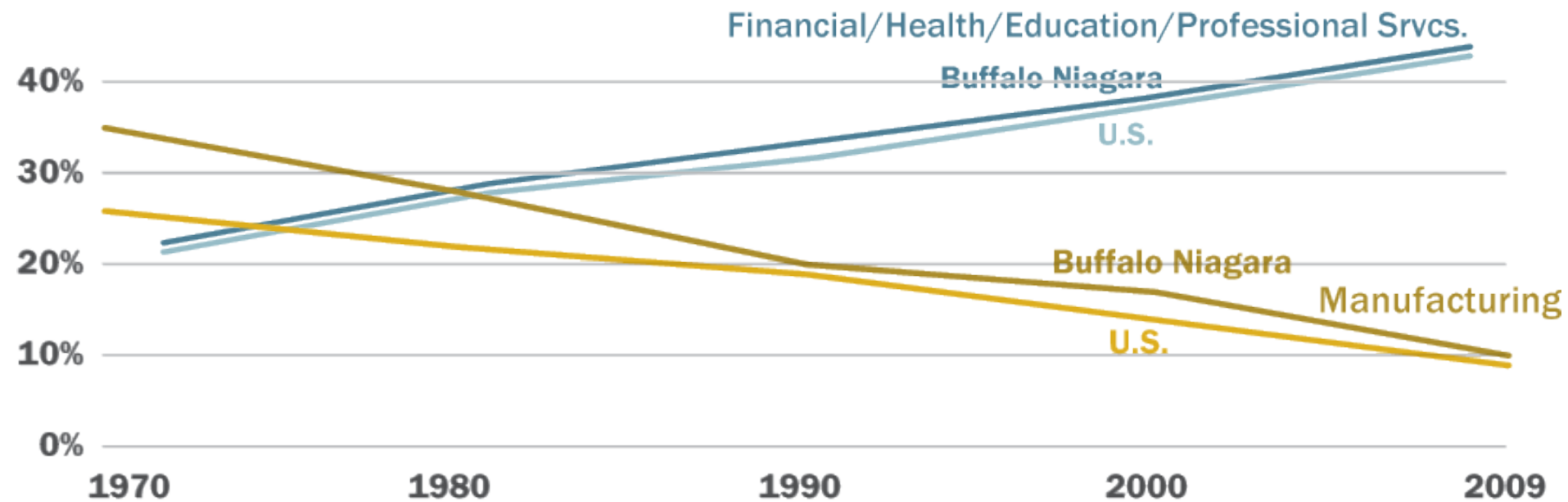
Gross Metropolitan  
Product, Erie & Niagara  
Counties, 2008 **\$44 billion**

# Industry Composition by Total Employment, 2009

Total Jobs = ~660,000



# Manufacturing no longer dominates; services now drive the economy.



% Total Employment in Manufacturing and  
Financial/Health/Education/Professional Services,  
Buffalo Niagara and U.S., 1970 to 2009



A green-tinted photograph of a waterfront scene. In the foreground, two people are standing on a paved walkway with a metal railing, fishing with rods. The walkway runs along a body of water. In the background, a long truss bridge spans the water. The sky is overcast, and some trees are visible on the far bank. The entire image has a monochromatic green tint.

**We must reclaim our waterfronts**











OUTER HARBOR / SOUTH BUFFALO

BUFFALO RIVER

INNER HARBOR / DOWNTOWN

GATEWAY / WEST SIDE

BLACK ROCK / SCAJAQUADA / RIVERSIDE



# CITIZENS' VISION

economic development / environmental quality / public access / international gateway / efficient transportation / connected neighborhoods













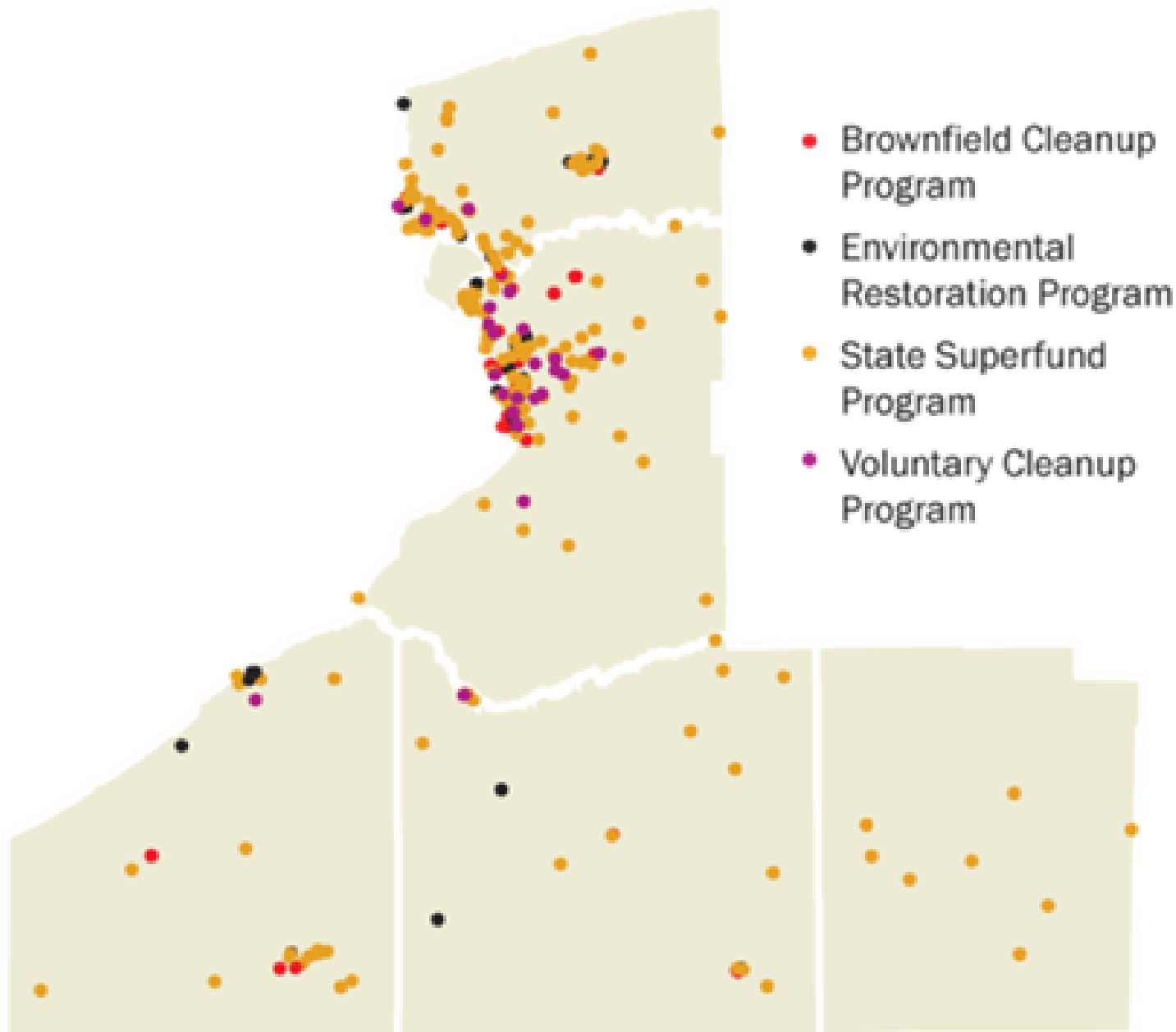
**Old industrial sites are a  
resource for the future**



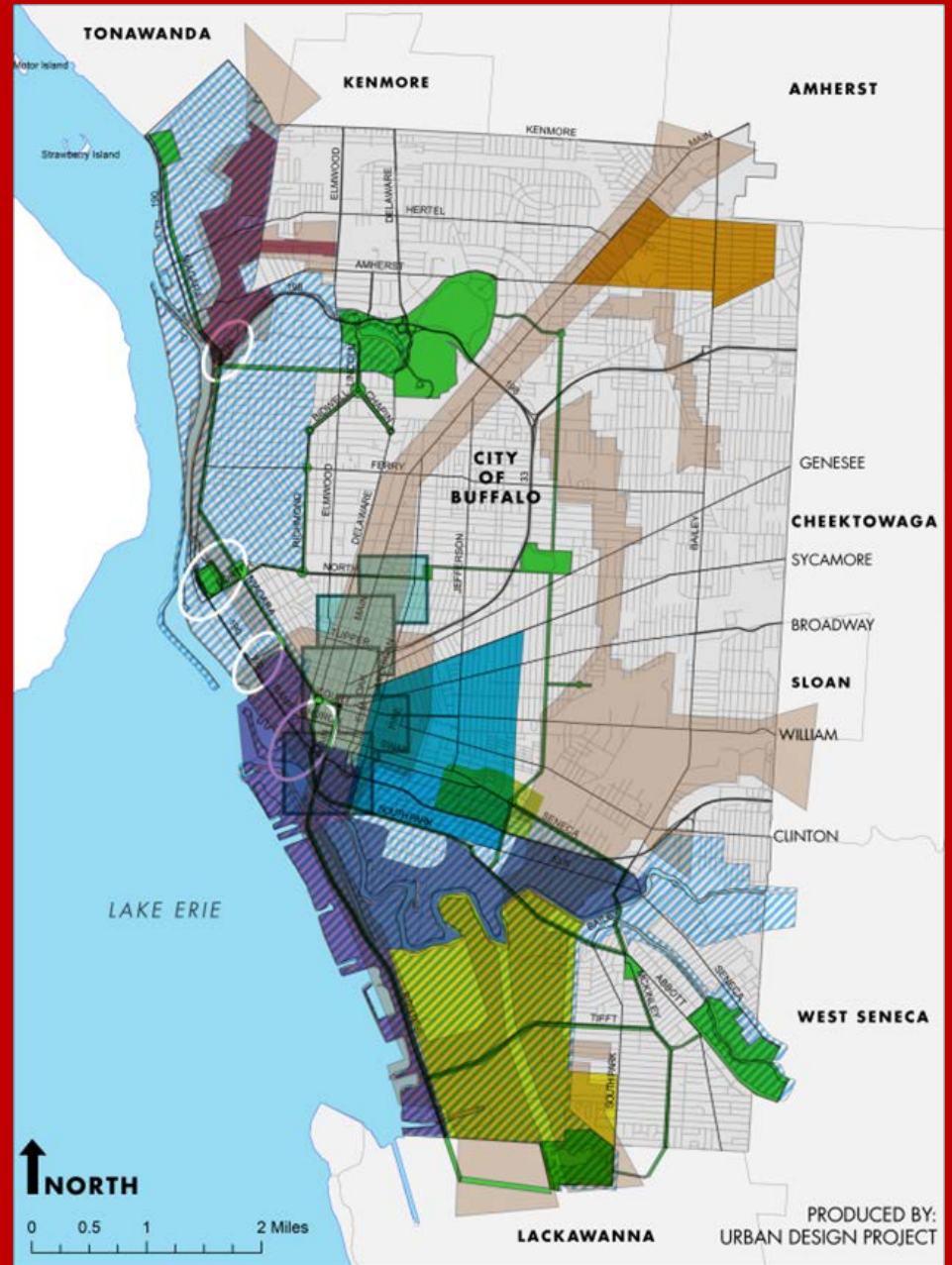
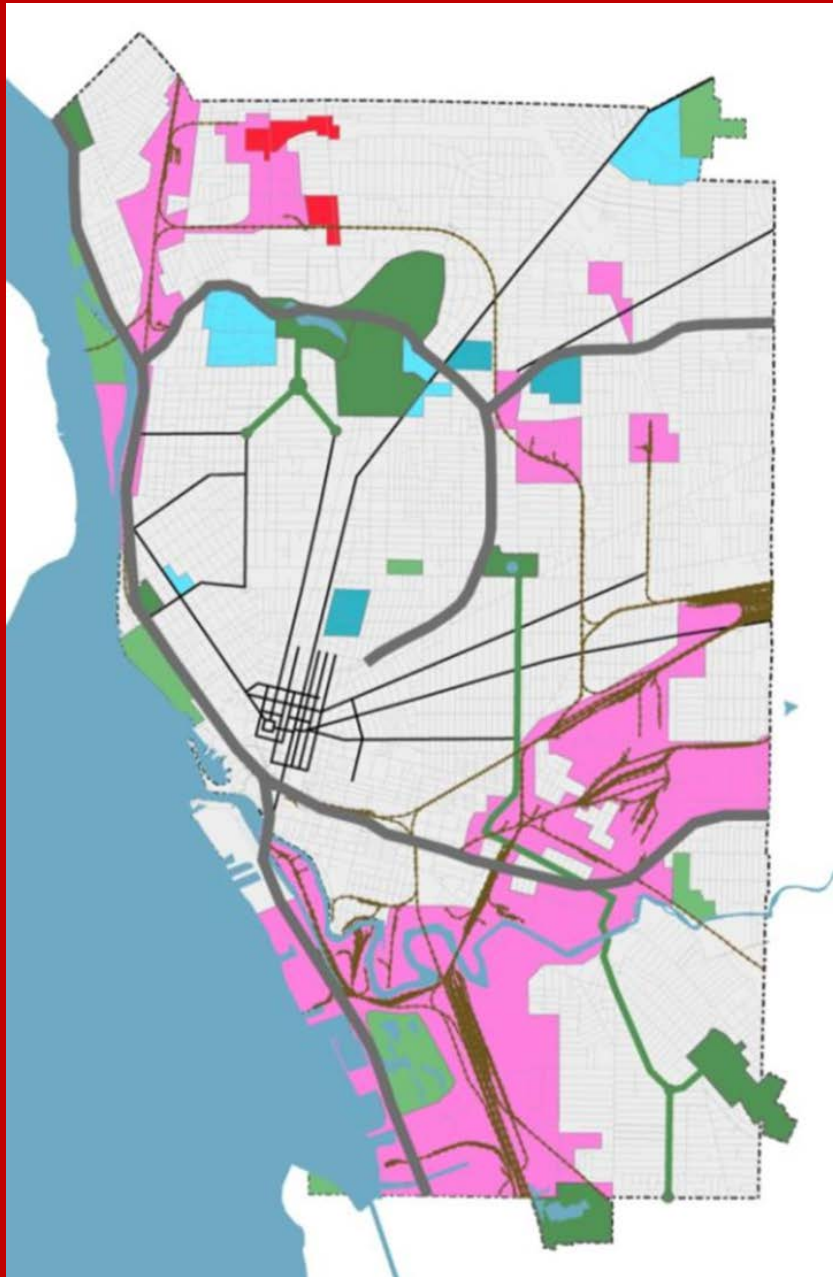














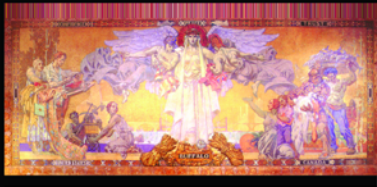


**Great city regions have great downtowns.**





## Vision



*A regional hub and the neighborhood of neighborhoods!*



**Project Participants**  
The City of Buffalo  
Buffalo Place Inc.  
The Urban Design Project at the School of Architecture and Planning, State University of New York at Buffalo

**Funding Partners**  
The Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency  
The Margaret L. Vande Foundation  
The John C. O'Brien Foundation  
The Bond Foundation  
The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo

**Downtown Buffalo 2002!**  
c/o Buffalo Place Inc.  
407 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
phone: 716.466.4130  
www.downtownbuffalo2002.org

*A place to live, work and play unique to Buffalo and the region!*

1804 Joseph Ellicott Radial Plan



## Strategic Investment Areas



THE ERIE CANAL HARBOR AND WATERFRONT DISTRICT



DOWNTOWN EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY CAMPUS



FINANCIAL DISTRICT AND GOVERNMENT CENTER



THEATRE DISTRICT



BUFFALO NIAGARA MEDICAL CAMPUS

*Focus on strategic investment areas to fix the basics and build on the strength of two decades of development!*

# The Queen City Hub

## Regional Action Plan for DOWNTOWN BUFFALO



A City of Great Streets

## Putting It Together



Source: Vision for Buffalo



*Link Olmsted's park and parkway system and all of Buffalo's waterfront to Downtown!*

An interpretation of the Olmsted Park and Parkway System

Erie Canal Harbor  
& Waterfront District

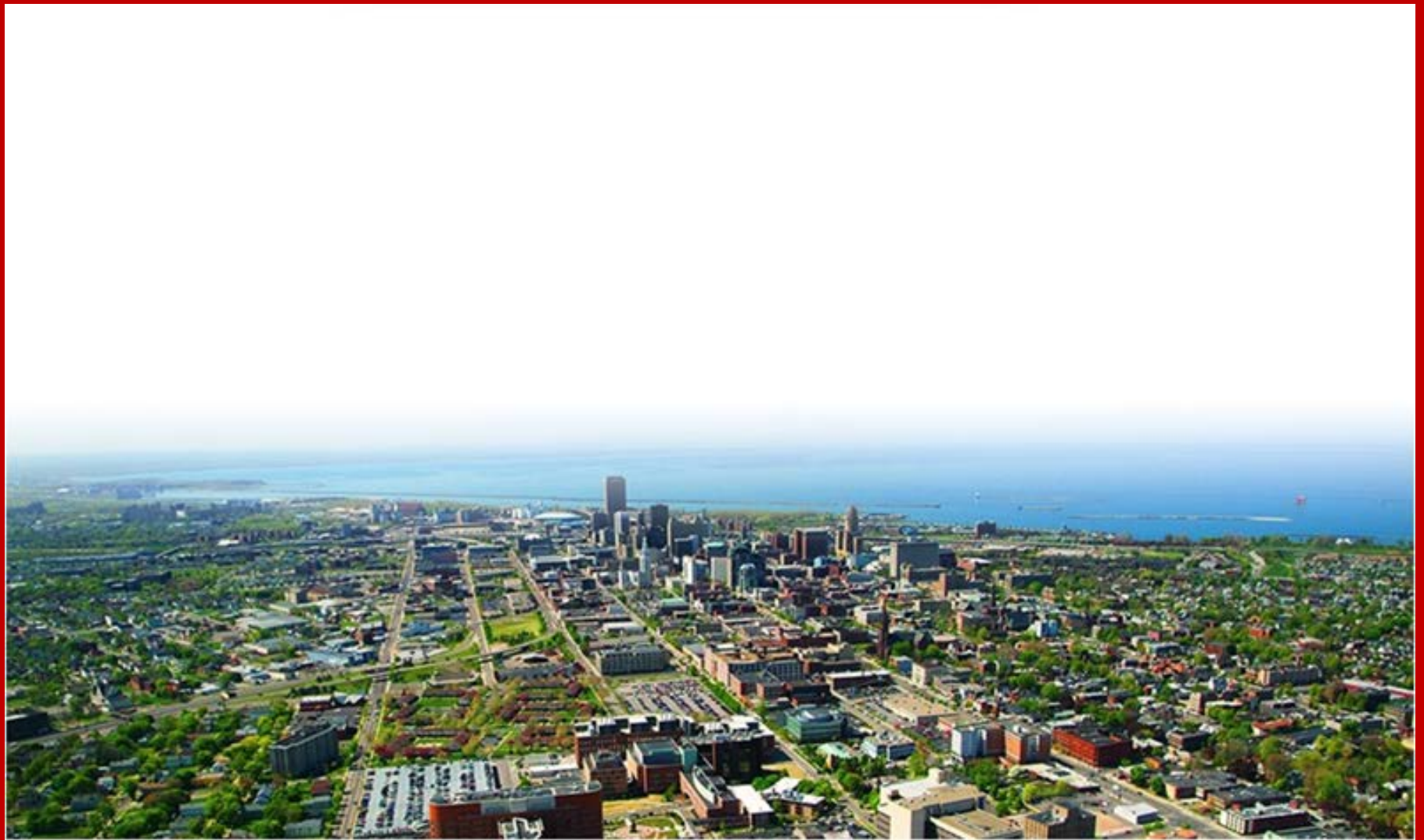
Government Center  
& Business District

Theater District

















**New ways of working together**









**Frame opportunities to tell these stories**











## A GREEN CODE FOR 21ST CENTURY BUFFALO

We need your help • Make your voice heard

The City of Buffalo is creating a "Green Code" to guide the rebuilding of our city for the next twenty years and beyond. We need citizens to be a part of the process. Plan to attend the upcoming workshop in your neighborhood. Our future depends on it.



### Northeast Community Workshop

It starts with a land use plan.

That's what the experts call it. Think of it as a development plan for rebuilding our city. It will guide public and private investment in our neighborhoods, local business districts, and larger employment centers.

The plan makes our vision a reality.

Citizens have already shared their vision for Buffalo in *The Queen City in the 21st Century: Buffalo's Comprehensive Plan*. It describes the strategy for rebuilding Buffalo. Land use plans will fill in the details of how to make the vision a reality in every part of the city.

The plan becomes *The Green Code*.

The land use plan will be the basis for the creation of a new zoning ordinance known as *The Buffalo Green Code*. It will give the comprehensive plan the force of law by governing what property owners can build on their land. It will give the plan some "teeth." *The Buffalo Green Code* will say whether you can build a house, a Tim Hortons donut shop, or a steel plant on your property.

#### NORTHEAST WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 1st  
6:30pm - 9:00pm  
Bennett High School  
2885 Main St.

- Ken-Bailey
- University Heights
- University Park
- Central Park
- Fillmore-Leroy



#### What are YOU concerned about?

- Fixing the blight of Central Park Plaza?
- Stabilizing Main Street business districts?
- Crime and dilapidation in University Heights?
- Reviving the Ken-Bailey commercial area?
- Addressing housing decay and vacancies?
- This is your chance to express yourself.

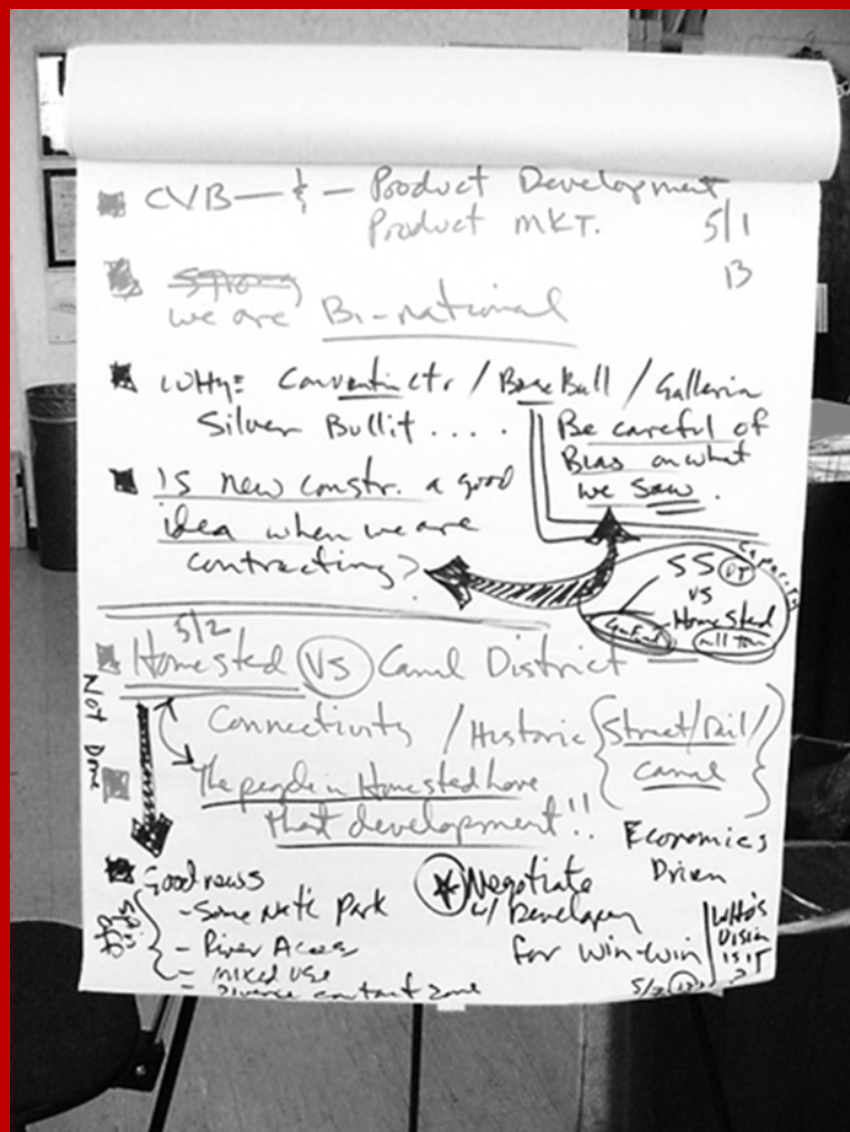
For more information, call 311 or go online to [www.buffalogreencode.com](http://www.buffalogreencode.com).













**So what?**

**We are ready as a region to take advantage of unexpected and unprecedented opportunities to fund implementation of our plans.**

# NYS Funding for Western New York



	Funding cycle	Annual Amount	Purposes
Consolidated Funding Application	Annual	\$50 - \$100M  50 – 100 projects  Avg award per project = \$365,000	Housing Community Development Tourism Infrastructure Waterfront Development/Parks Workforce Training Business Development Energy Efficiency/Sustainable Dev.
NYPA Proceeds	Quarterly	\$5 - \$15M	Working Capital or Capital expenses
Buffalo Billion	Annual Appropriation (rolling allocations)	\$ 75M Capital \$ 25M Tax Credits	Business Attraction Projects Capital Expenses only (buildings & equipment);  Tax credits for firms creating jobs Buffalo Billion Initiatives
ESD Business Development Assistance	Rolling	\$ 20M+	Businesses creating or retaining jobs



ONE  
REGION  
FORWARD

*towards a more sustainable  
Buffalo Niagara*

---

[www.oneregionforward.org](http://www.oneregionforward.org)



What will  
life in Buffalo Niagara  
look like in fifty years?



A word cloud of years from 2012 to 2062. The years are arranged in a sequence from left to right, with some overlapping. The colors of the years are: 2012 (green), 2014 (orange), 2015 (blue), 2020 (green), 2035 (purple), 2038 (blue), 2040 (yellow), 2046 (orange), 2055 (purple), and 2062 (green).

Year	Color
2012	Green
2014	Orange
2015	Blue
2020	Green
2035	Purple
2038	Blue
2040	Yellow
2046	Orange
2055	Purple
2062	Green

# Collaboration Pays Off

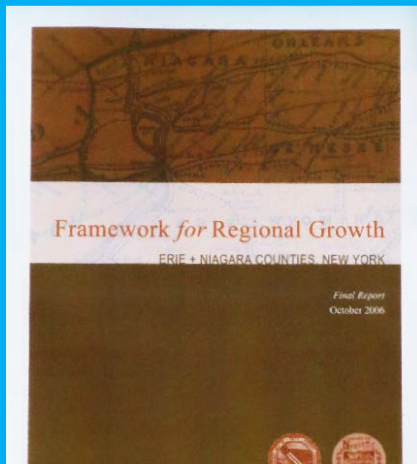
unique  
opportunity  
for our  
region

**Public, private sector and nonprofit partners** from the Framework for Regional Growth working group worked together to pursue funds from the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program.

Working Group  
Erie & Niagara County



Federal Program



# Collaboration and Coordination

A plan that makes Buffalo Niagara  
competitive and sustainable



## 5 Focus Areas

Land Use and Development

Transportation and Mobility

Housing and Neighborhoods

Food Access and Justice

Climate Change Action



#oneregionfwd



**More**  
than just a plan

#oneregionfwd





Engaging the private sector, local government officials and members of the community



At local events, community meetings, and a robust online engagement effort





We'll move  
One Region Forward  
**together**



*Check our website for details  
and sign up for eNews to get  
updates delivered to your inbox*



[www.oneregionforward.org](http://www.oneregionforward.org)

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*Join our online community*



**Our strategy is the same as many legacy cities.**

**Downtown. Preservation. Brownfields. Parks.  
Neighborhoods. Waterfronts. Compact  
development. New economies. Anchor  
institutions. Collaboration. Participation.**

**The difference – perhaps – is simply that this  
strategy is embedded in the language and the  
consciousness of a broad movement of citizens.**

**The civic discourses that drive the immanent strategy have also animated growth in civil society, governance, business, and the work of place-based anchor institutions.**

**A growth of organizational capacity and institutional maturity in civil society exemplified by the :**

- **Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper,**
- **Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy,**
- **Niagara River Greenway Commission,**
- **The Western New York Environmental Analysis,**
- **several local foundations**
- **and many others.**



**An approach to governance that is more forward thinking and more collaborative than ever before – addressing waterfronts, greenways, neighborhoods, old industrial areas, and our emerging economy.**

**The more entrepreneurial attitude of  
business leaders to make preservation,  
downtown housing, economic innovation  
districts and much more tangible realities**

**A willingness on the part of “anchor institutions” to build the community even as they pursue their organizational missions – UB, Kaleida, BNMC and others.**

**What are we missing?**

**Broader self-recognition of the strength of this strategy and the role of these publics.**

**We don't fully realize how successful we have been.**



**What are we missing?**

**A stronger connection between these stories, the people who propagate them, and the elected leadership of the city and region.**

**Civil society and business don't yet seem that well-aligned with the political world.**

**All of us have not yet understood how to make the comeback result in a more just and equitable city and region**

**As John Dewey put it so many years ago, the primary problem of the public is to constitute itself and find its own voice.**

**Addressing this primary problem of the public is culture making!!**

**We are doing that.**

**And it is at the core of whatever  
success we have achieved.**