



Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust

Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust Receives Conservation Partnership Program Funding for Western New York Waterfront Restoration Planning and Organizational Capacity Projects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUFFALO, NY – April 27, 2022 - The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust (BNRLT) was recently awarded \$63,366 in grant funding by the [New York State Conservation Partnership Program](#) (NYSCPP) and NY's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the [Land Trust Alliance](#) (LTA) in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation. These funds will support two projects. The first, entitled *Engaging the Community in Education, Restoration and Preservation*, will involve Kaizertown residents in development of a phased master plan for restoration and preservation of the undeveloped portion of Houghton Park. A matching grant of \$10,000 provided by Council Member Bryan Bollman, the City of Buffalo, and the Seneca Babcock Community Association will complement CPP funding for this effort. The second project, *Enhancing Organizational Sustainability Through Standards and Practices*, funded by the CPP and the BNRLT, will enable the BNRLT to build sustainable organizational capacity while advancing efforts toward LTA accreditation.

Regarding the first project, Council Member Bryan Bollman stated “Friends and families come together to share laughter, recreation, and enjoy nature at our parks. The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust is a great partner helping us preserve the natural areas in Houghton Park. Through our joint efforts we have made significant progress securing additional funding that will bring needed improvements for future generations.”

He continued “It's important to have community input, I'm grateful the Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust is committed to including Kasiertown residents in the planning process by conducting public meetings to hear from neighbors. Improving public access to parks and outdoor recreation is a priority of mine, and I look forward to seeing the this come to fruition.”



Council Member Bryan Bollman visiting with the BNRLT Board at Houghton Park

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Adam Walters, BNRLT Board President commented “The funds provided by the CPP and Council Member Bollman enable us to amplify the BNRLT’s efforts at a time when we are already dramatically increasing the acreage under our stewardship for the benefit of WNY residents. We are very excited about these projects and look forward to working with the community and our funders for the betterment of WNY’s waterfront.” The BNRLT’s core mission is to acquire, remediate and manage potentially contaminated lands along Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River and their tributaries for ecological protection and to improve public access to the water and waterfront.

The BNRLT’s flagship property located at 1660 Niagara Street is an ideal example of the way abandoned structures and contaminated soils can be removed and remediated to establish healthy and thriving ecosystems for all to enjoy. Over the coming year, the BNRLT expects to acquire and receive conservation easements on more than 100 acres of property. The BNRLT’s 2022 goals include improving community awareness about conservation and remediation efforts, generating awareness of the BNRLT’s mission and programming, and providing local communities with more robust connections to underutilized waterfront properties.



1660 Niagara Street after remediation and restoration was complete

About the Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust

The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust (BNRLT) was established in 2012 to enhance, preserve and protect shoreline properties located along the waterways of Western New York. We collaborate with local and regional conservation partners, government and quasi-government agencies, foundations, individual and corporate donors, and property owners to protect, preserve, and enhance waterfront property and public access in Western New York. Learn more about the BNRLT by [visiting our website](#) or viewing the [BNRLT 2021 Annual Report](#).

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