



**Buffalo Niagara River  
Land Trust**

## **Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust Receives Two Land Trust Alliance Grants**

*Funding will Support the Ship Canal Conservation Area  
and Organizational Capacity*

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June 26, 2023 - The Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust (BNRLT) is proud to be a recipient of two Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Conservation Partnership Program grants, recently announced by New York State Governor Kathy Hochul. The \$70,000 in funding will support the Ship Canal Conservation Area community engagement process and grow overall organizational capacity.

“These awards will help the BNRLT better protect regional shorelines and connect local residents to the beautiful natural resources in their own backyard, through community participation and enhanced greenspace access,” said Dan Riker, BNRLT’s Board President. “We appreciated being one of 45 state-wide land trusts awarded in this round, and are ready to put these conservation funds to work in Western New York.”

The LTA administers the Conservation Partnership Program in coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The \$3.075 million in Conservation Partnership Program grants and \$3 million in private and local funding will increase resilience of state lands to climate change and contribute to climate solutions by storing carbon. Natural climate solutions will have a significant role in addressing risks associated with climate change.

*Ship Canal Conservation Area Project Background: The BNRLT is in the final stages of acquiring an easement from CSX Transportation, Inc. on the Ship Canal Conservation Area. The property includes 13.4 acres along the west bank of the Buffalo Ship Canal, consisting of a former railyard. The property is adjacent to a waterfront trail that connects to the Buffalo River and Lake Erie. The BNRLT is engaging the community to help restore the site’s ecological integrity and create a safe and accessible waterfront greenspace with shoreline recreation opportunities like paddle sport launch spaces, viewpoints, and fishing areas.*

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