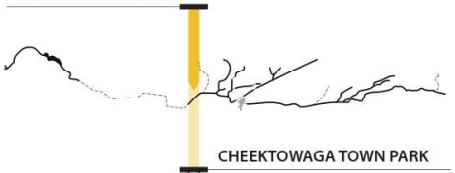
SCAJAQUADA CREEK

The authority under which the project is constructed in Section 1135 of WRDA 1986, as amended - Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment

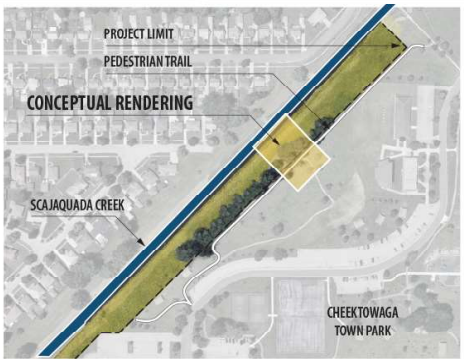
As part of the Scajaquada Creek Feasibility Study led by Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cheektowaga Town Park has been identified as the tentatively selected plan for ecological restoration. The project aims to offset the negative environmental impacts of past flood control efforts by restoring natural stream function, improving water quality, and enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife.

PROJECT LOCATION



CHEEKTOWAGA TOWN PARK

42.916437, -78.788243



PROJECT FOCUS AREA

NORTH

PROJECT PARTNERS:

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER

US Army Corps of Engineers

RALPH C. WILSON JR. FOUNDATION

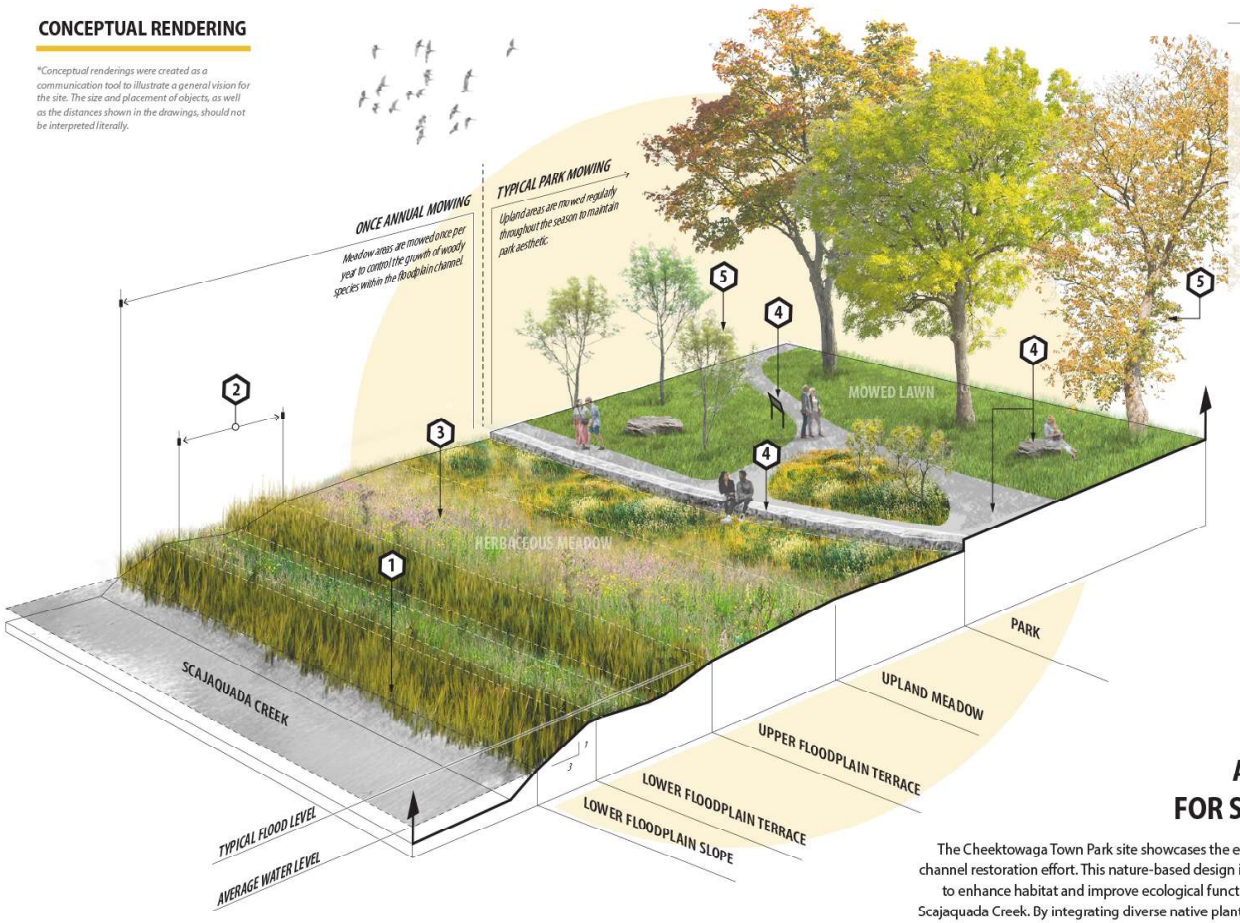
The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation

NEW YORK STATE Department of Environmental Conservation

This project is supported through the USACE Section 1135 Authority, with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper serving as the the non-federal sponsor and funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

CONCEPTUAL RENDERING

**Conceptual renderings were created as a communication tool to illustrate a general vision for the site. The size and placement of objects, as well as the distances shown in the drawings, should not be interpreted literally.*



DRAWING NOTES:

SHORELINE MARGIN: 1

Shoreline margin and wetland plant species control erosion along the shoreline while providing food and habitat for frogs, water birds, and various fish species.

FLOODPLAIN BENCH: 2

The existing slope is modified to create a flat topped area that holds water after flooding or rain events. This improves water quality and creates diverse growing conditions for wet meadow plants.

FLOODPLAIN MEADOW: 3

This area is composed of herbaceous plants that provide critical habitat for birds and beneficial pollinators. High species diversity means there is something blooming all season long.

ACCESS + ENGAGEMENT: 4

Trails, signs, and seating options are important components that integrate the project into the surrounding park landscape. Limestone seat-walls can also help define mowing patterns.

WOODY VEGETATION: 5

Small trees are planted near the bank to provide shade and seasonal interest. Larger trees are planted further away to reduce the risk of debris jams in the creek from limb dropping or wind-throw.

A BALANCED VISION FOR SCAJAQUADA CREEK

The Cheektowaga Town Park site showcases the ecosystem benefits of a two-stage, flood channel restoration effort. This nature-based design incorporates meadows along the banks to enhance habitat and improve ecological function in a historically degraded section of Scajaquada Creek. By integrating diverse native plants and natural features, the project aims to enhance resilience, support wildlife, and promote long-term ecological health improvements along the creek.

PLANTS & PRECEDENTS

Wetland plants, such as Blue Flag Iris, may occupy the shoreline margin providing seasonal interest in mid spring and erosion control along the water.

Grass species, such as Canada Blue Joint (shown above) or Little Bluestem, provide excellent erosion control in the floodplain meadow areas.

Joe Pye Weed is one of many wet-meadow species that will take root in the floodplain terrace and lower slope providing habitat and seasonal interest.

Small tree species, such as Serviceberry, will provide shade with and beauty near the floodplain while minimizing the risk of debris jams in the creek.

Limestone seat walls help to define the space and create opportunities for observing the plants and wildlife found in shoreline habitats.

Limestone seat-walls have the added benefit of controlling mower access and clearly defining mow and no-mow areas.

Signage is an effective tool for communicating project goals and educating the public about shoreline ecosystems.