

# NIAGARA GORGE CORRIDOR

## Niagara Scenic Parkway Removal Project

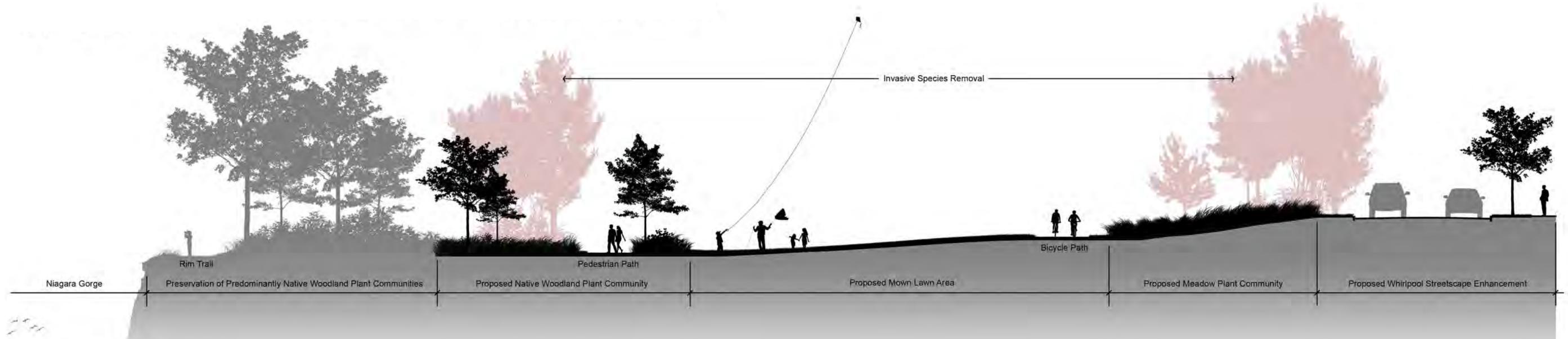
### MAIN STREET TO FINDLAY DRIVE

## Vegetation Management

### Tree Removal and Invasive Species Control

#### What are Invasive Species?

Invasive species means a plant species that is non-native to a particular ecosystem, and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic and/or environmental harm or harm to human health.\*



## Typical Section

#### Tree Removal Methodology

The following methodology was used to determine the tree removal and protection for the trees surveyed in the study area.

1. Trees identified as dead located in proposed landscape areas and to improve sight lines and viewsheds.
2. All trees identified as invasive species listed below:
  - *Acer platanoides* - Norway maple
  - *Robinia pseudoacacia* - Black locust
  - *Rhamnus cathartica* - Common buckthorn
  - *Ailanthus altissima* - Tree of heaven
  - *Populus alba* - White poplar
  - *Pyrus calleryana* - Callery pear
  - *Populus alba* - white poplar
3. All ash trees confirmed to have been invaded by the Emerald Ash Borer.
4. All trees located within 10 feet of proposed paths or in an area where the grade will change by 12 inches +/-, and measures to mitigate negative effects from the proposed changes cannot be implemented. Potential mitigation measures may included:
  - Relocation of paths to a minimum 10 feet from the tree.
  - Design protective structure around the tree to protect the tree from the proposed path or surrounding grade change.

#### Why are Invasive Species a Problem?

Invasive species can harm natural communities and systems (plant and animals found in particular physical environments) by out-competing native species, reducing biological diversity, altering community structure and, in some cases, changing ecosystems. Invasive species threaten New York's food supply, not only agriculture but also harvested wildlife, fish and shellfish; our landscaping, parks, gardens, and pets; and our recreation resources and even animal and human health. All New Yorkers have a stake in the invasive species issue.

\*(Cornell University, 2014. *New York State Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Plants*. Produced under contract with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. September 10, 2014. Available at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands\\_forests\\_pdf/isprohibitedplants2.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/isprohibitedplants2.pdf) (Accessed October 2017))

#### Invasive Species Control Methodology

While some areas of vegetation will be removed to construct new park features, other areas of vegetation are being removed due to their high percentage of non-native and invasive plants. The following methodology was used in the control of invasive species.

1. In areas where few healthy native species are identified, all vegetation will be cut down and removed.
2. Remaining stumps, cut stems and groundcover vegetation will be treated with herbicide.
3. New native seed mixes and plantings will then be reintroduced to these areas to help restore the natural native plant communities.