

Greetings!

I am writing today to let you know about a shoreline restoration project that the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Parks) is undertaking along the West River Shoreline Trail. The project will address major impairments along the shoreline such as erosion, invasive species and the loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

As you no doubt are aware, both shoreline wetlands and the shoreline itself have been heavily impacted by erosion over the years, with excessive damage within the past four years. The proposed project area for this work is approximately 600 linear feet with an overall area of 1.8 acres and is located along the Niagara River at the north end of the West River Shoreline Trail and entrance to Buckhorn Island State Park (Figure 1). The objectives of this project will be to restore and enhance the aquatic and shoreline wetland habitat, reduce the amount of erosion along the shoreline, and remove nuisance invasive species.

In order to meet the objectives of the project, our concept will provide protection from wave energy by the offshore rock reefs, the strategic placement of 3-sided log planting boxes in the river to encourage wetland expansion, and the placement of anchored logs along the shoreline for added stability and protection (Figure 1). These rock reefs and anchored logs aim to protect the existing and newly planted vegetation from wind-generated waves, boat-generated wake, and ice. Enhanced access to the river from the West River Shoreline Trail is included in our conceptual design.

The anticipated project implementation is scheduled for a late-2021 start with completion in mid-2022. Project design is underway and we are reaching out for feedback on this project. Please contact me through E-mail or through the mail if you have any questions or comments on the project, both addresses can be found below. An on-site or virtual meeting could be arranged as needed to address specific comments or questions.

Thank you for your time,

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Figure 1. West River Shoreline Project Conceptual Overview.

