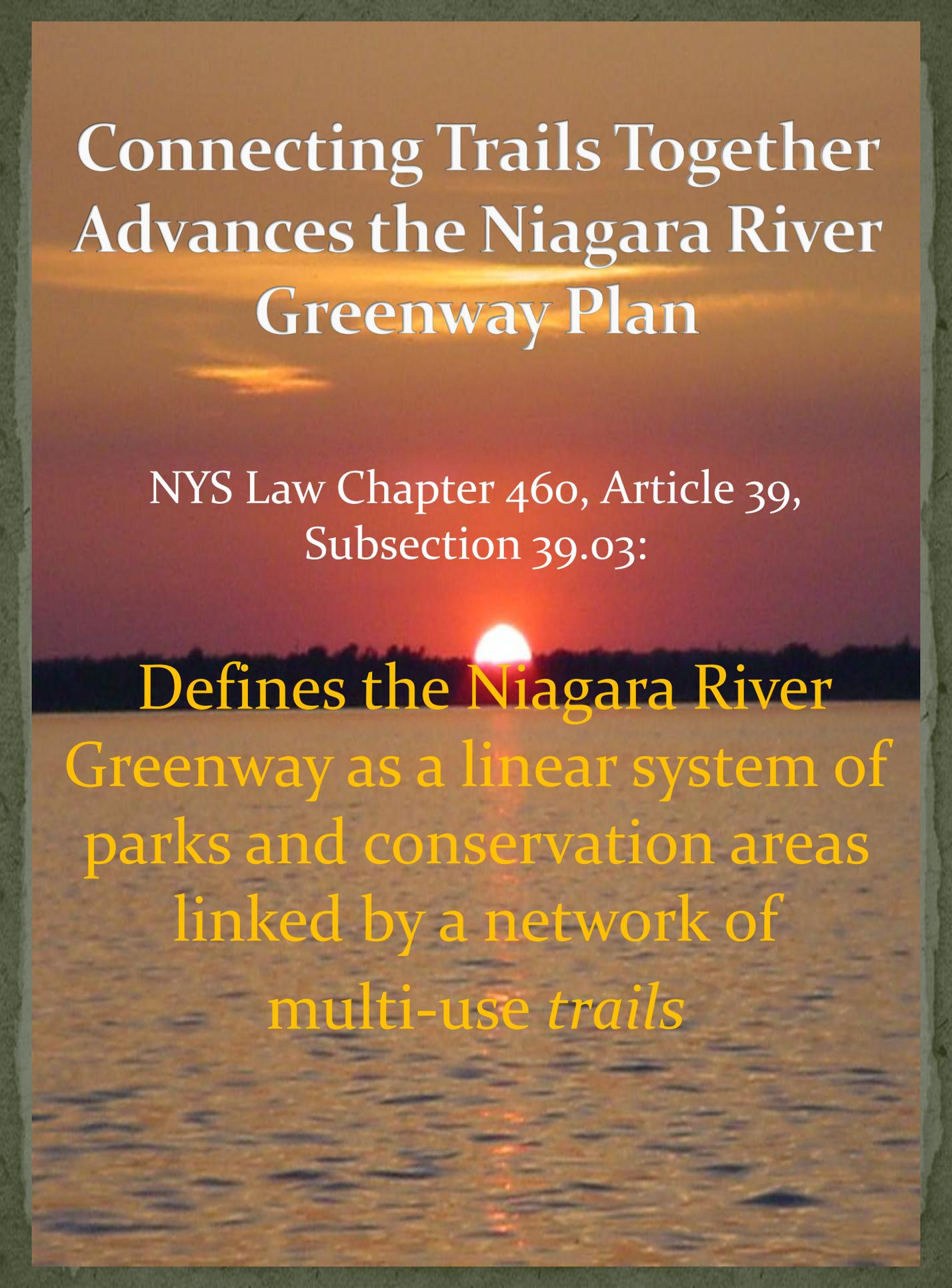


# West River Greenway Connector Trail Concept

A sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water's surface. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a darker purple and blue at the top. The water in the foreground is dark with shimmering reflections of the sun.

# Connecting Trails Together Advances the Niagara River Greenway Plan

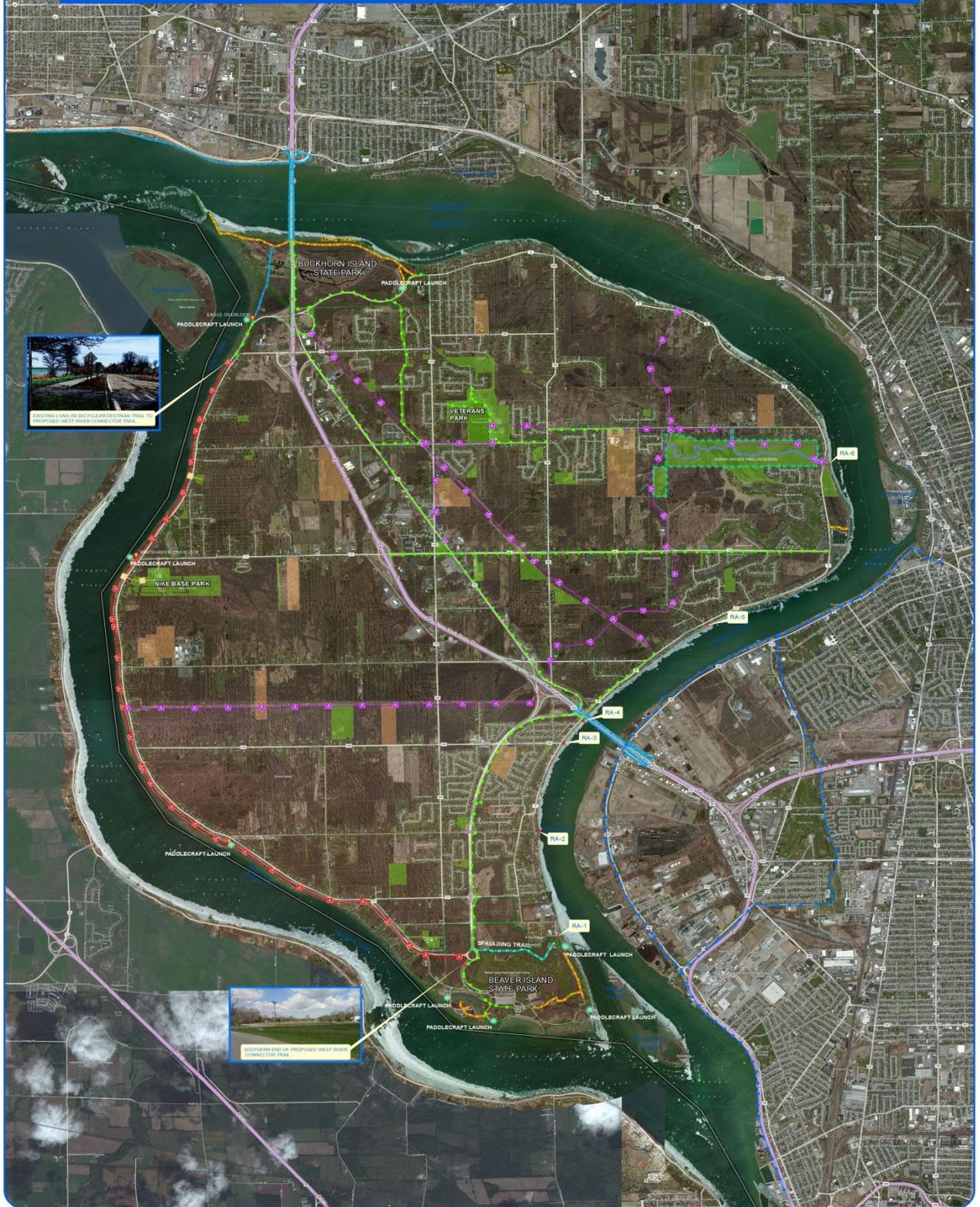
NYS Law Chapter 460, Article 39,  
Subsection 39.03:

Defines the Niagara River  
Greenway as a linear system of  
parks and conservation areas  
linked by a network of  
multi-use *trails*

# The Concept

- A multi-use multi-season trail on Grand Island overlooking the west channel of the Niagara River.
- The trail, 8 miles in length, would connect Beaver Island State Park with Buckhorn State Park.
- Includes a lateral connection to the Town of Grand Island Nike Base Park.
- The trail would link together overlooks and access points at the water's edge providing a unique opportunity to experience the Niagara River.

# West River-Greenway Multi-Use Connector Trail Concept



- Legend**
- EXISTING STREET SHARED BICYCLE NETWORK
  - EXISTING ERIE COUNTY RIVERWALK MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - PLANNED CONNECTION TO THE WEST RIVER MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - WEST RIVER GREENWAY MULTI-USE CONNECTOR TRAIL
  - FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK
  - MULTI-USE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE TRAIL
  - NATURE TRAIL
  - ◀ TOWN OWNED RIVERFRONT ACCESS
  - N.Y. STATE PARK
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

**MAP PREPARED BY THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND ENGINEERING DEPT.**  
 2255 BASELINE ROAD,  
 GRAND ISLAND, NEW YORK, 14072  
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Path 2 Working projects\GRAND ISLAND BIKEWAYS\_P1\_2-12-12\_Sign\_Panels.mxd

# West River-Greenway Multi-Use Connector Trail Concept North Segment



**Legend**

- EXISTING STREET SHARED BICYCLE NETWORK
- EXISTING ERIE COUNTY RIVERWALK MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PLANNED CONNECTION TO THE WEST RIVER MULTI-USE TRAIL
- WEST RIVER GREENWAY MULTI-USE CONNECTOR TRAIL
- FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK
- MULTI-USE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE TRAIL
- NATURE TRAIL
- ◀ TOWN OWNED RIVERFRONT ACCESS
- N.Y. STATE PARK
- PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
- PROPERTY OWNED BY THE GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



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# West River-Greenway Multi-Use Connector Trail Concept Central Segment



- Legend**
- EXISTING STREET SHARED BICYCLE NETWORK
  - EXISTING ERIE COUNTY RIVERWALK MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - PLANNED CONNECTION TO THE WEST RIVER MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - WEST RIVER GREENWAY MULTI-USE CONNECTOR TRAIL
  - FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK
  - MULTI-USE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE TRAIL
  - NATURE TRAIL
  - ◀ TOWN OWNED RIVERFRONT ACCESS
  - N.Y. STATE PARK
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# West River-Greenway Multi-Use Connector Trail Concept South Segment



- Legend**
- EXISTING STREET SHARED BICYCLE NETWORK
  - WEST RIVER GREENWAY MULTI-USE CONNECTOR TRAIL
  - TOWN OWNED RIVERFRONT ACCESS
  - EXISTING ERIE COUNTY RIVERWALK MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - FUTURE MULTI-USE TRAIL NETWORK
  - N.Y. STATE PARK
  - PLANNED CONNECTION TO THE WEST RIVER MULTI-USE TRAIL
  - MULTI-USE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE TRAIL
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLAND
  - PROPERTY OWNED BY THE GRAND ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
  - NATURE TRAIL

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Path 2: Working projects\GRAND ISLAND BIKEWAYS\_P\_3-12\_bing\_Panels.mxd

# Design Considerations

- The trail would be located within the mowed grass strip between the parkway and the river.
- Construction would not impact wetlands, woodlands or riparian habitat.
- Requires minimal land clearing.
- Existing highway drainage infrastructure is unaffected.
- At Big Six Mile Creek the trail would follow the existing bridge sidewalk.



# Trail Benefits

- 
- A scenic view of a riverbank with lush green trees and a bench. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. A wooden bench is visible in the middle ground, nestled among the trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.
- Closes a critical gap in the Niagara River Greenway trail thus establishing a contiguous trail network nearly 40 miles in length.
  - Adding those lateral trails that lead to the Niagara River Greenway increases the contiguous length to more than 60 miles.
  - With the addition of this trail segment the public will have uninterrupted access to more than 70 percent of the Niagara River Greenway waterfront.

- 
- A lush green park scene with a river, trees, and a bench. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with vibrant green foliage. In the foreground, a calm river reflects the surrounding greenery. A wooden bench is visible on a grassy bank in the middle ground. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and idyllic.
- Defines a key segment of the 177 mile long Conservation Trail that extends from the Pennsylvania border to the Bruce Trail in Niagara Falls, Ontario.
  - Promotes opportunities for fitness and wellness as well as eco-tourism.
  - Enhances public access along an under utilized segment of the Niagara River shoreline with its unique pastoral scenery, magnificent vistas and idyllic pathways leading to the water's edge.

- 
- Provides a safe and scenic off road trail alternative that will promote family friendly recreation.
  - Links neighborhoods to the Niagara River stimulating public pride and resource ownership.
  - Provides enhanced border security.
  - The new trail would open a myriad of possibilities to interpret and celebrate the cultural, historic and environmental attributes of the Niagara River

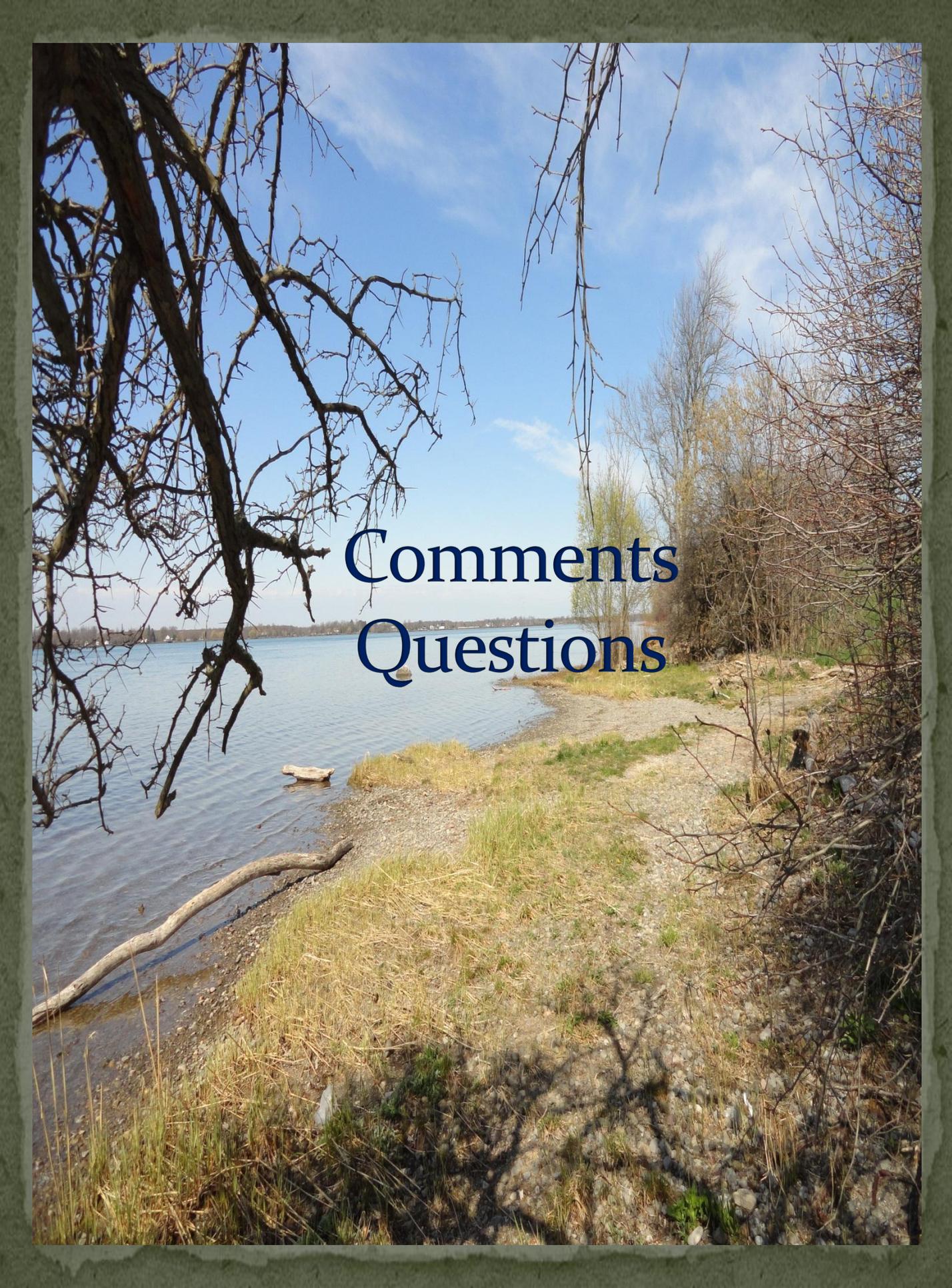
# Potential Funding Sources



- **State Parks Greenway Fund**
- **Erie, Buffalo, Olmsted Greenway Fund**
- **New York State Environmental Protection Fund**
- **New York State Quality Communities Grant Program**
- **Federal Highway Trust Fund**

# Next Steps

- **Develop the concept further.**
- **Build public consensus.**
- **Partner with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.**
- **Determine Consistency with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.**
- **Meet with the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (regional MPO) to prioritize project funding.**
- **Enlist the support of elected officials at the Federal and State level.**



Comments  
Questions