

HABITAT RESTORATION AND BIRD HABITAT ENHANCEMENT, JOSEPH DAVIS STATE PARK, LEWISTON, NY



October 26, 2010

Presentation to the Niagara Greenway ESC



BAS and JDSP

- Involvement dates back to plans to develop JDSP as a golf course
- Audubon identified in BCA Guidance Summary Document and the Park Master Plan
 - Natural science interpretative role
 - Habitat management role
- Coalition of groups developed to fulfill these roles



Explicit Goals of Niagara River IBA Conservation Plan and BCA Management Guidance

- Determine migrating songbird usage of the Niagara River Corridor;
- Provide habitats for breeding, shelter, migration, and sustenance of resident and neotropical migratory wild bird populations;
- Developing ecotourism and birdwatching opportunities in the Niagara River Corridor ;
- Promote communication and cooperation among Niagara River Corridor IBA partners, so that their respective actions are coordinated, efficient, cooperative, and value-added relative to each other.
- THIS PROPOSAL FOCUSES ON MEETING THESE GOALS

Niagara River Greenway Vision, Principles, Goals, and Criteria

- Ecological integrity; Restoration; Connectivity; Partnerships, sustainability & community involvement
- Improved access; integrated park & trail system; Restoration of Niagara River ecosystem; Interpretation and education
- Environmentally sound; Implementable; Economically viable; Local partners; Consideration of other planning efforts; Clear benefits
- **This proposal meets these goals, principles, criteria and vision and has been deemed consistent with the Greenway Plan**

Importance of JDSP

- Niagara River Global IBA
- Niagara River Greenway





Joseph Davis State Park

Importance of JDSP

- Delineated as an exception to the straight corridor of the Greenway
- 230 acres of shrubland and successional forests that provide habitat for numerous species of migratory and resident birds



Proposed Project

- Leverages preliminary work conducted by Parks;
- Accelerates Park restoration schedule
- Expands the scope of the restoration to larger areas
- Manages invasive species
- Develops nature interpretative trails and signage
- Develops community, NGO, government partnership for conservation

Project Organization

- **BAS: Management Lead**
- **E & E and Audubon New York: Technical Leads**
- **Phase I: Site Assessment and Field Investigations, Habitat Planning, Invasive Clearing – FOCUS OF THIS PROPOSAL**
- **Phase II: Implementation of Habitat Creation and Interpretative Trails**

Phase 1

- Site assessment and Field Investigations
 - Habitat Surveys, birding and plant surveys (native and invasive), gathering existing data.
- Habitat Planning and Initial On-site Management
 - Development of site plan for landscape restoration
 - Habitat modification recommendations
 - Initial habitat management (invasive plant control)
 - Plantings will make use of NREC native plant lists

Joseph Davis State Park

- Long term objective: a new kind of park that integrates bird conservation, bird focused recreation and ecotourism, and a focus on the Niagara River IBA.

