

NIAGARA RIVER YACHT CLUB
SHORELINE STABILIZATION & NATIVE
HABITAT PLANTINGS

PREPARED FOR



JULY 2013

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): Niagara River Yacht Club owns and maintains the property at 346 River Road, North Tonawanda, that is the location of the proposed project.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Mr. John M. Preisler Title: NRYC Board Member
Business Address: 350 Homestead Dr
State: North Tonawanda Zip Code: 14120
Telephone Number: 716-694-0690 Cell Number: N/A
Fax Number:
E-Mail Address: jp350@roadrunner.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Mr. John M. Preisler Title: NRYC Board Member
Organization/Firm: Niagara River Yacht Club
Business Address: 350 Homestead Dr., North Tonawanda
State: New York Zip Code: 14120
Telephone Number: 716-694-0690 Cell Number: N/A
Fax Number: N/A
E-Mail Address: jp350@roadrunner.com

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

The Niagara River Yacht Club is requesting \$192,200.00, of Greenway Commission funds for waterfront shoreline stabilization, and native shore line plantings along 300 feet of Niagara River shoreline.

The proposed project will focus on stabilizing 300 feet of shoreline with rip-rap. All of the existing invasive vegetation will be removed. Soil will be added and graded. Native plants will then be installed. The upper section of the shoreline, closest to the parking lot, will have a stone wall constructed to retain the soil and plantings (see attached sketch.)

In addition, an area on the Niagara River Yacht Club property, approximately 15 feet by 40 feet, will be allocated for use as a public rest area and overlook, for bikers and walkers. Picnic tables and benches will be added to this area at the north end of the property for public use.

The shoreline presently is unprotected and continues to erode. Several areas show extensive erosion (see attached photographs.)

The Niagara River Yacht Club was formerly located at 1010 River Road, North Tonawanda, New York. We have been in our new location at 346 River Road, North Tonawanda, New York, for approximately 5 years. We are continually improving the property, both inside the building and outside on the premises. The Club Rents dock space to the public and has designated transient docking for overnight stays.

The City of North Tonawanda is a key destination attraction to the Niagara River and Barge Canal. This project will add to the revitalization of the area waterfront for visitors and residents alike.

All project permits have been received, and the project is shovel ready.

2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

Niagara Greenway Vision Statement:

The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic, and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

The Niagara River Yacht Club project will offer the public a rest area and overlook along the Niagara River. The rest area is adjacent to the City of North Tonawanda's bike and walking path along River Road. This project will also enhance the shoreline with native plantings and shoreline protection.

This project incorporates the following goals of the Greenway Commission. This project will provide an accessible, environmentally friendly area for visitors, as well as preserving the natural beauty of the Niagara River and its shoreline. It will promote and further the vision of the Niagara River Greenway, by supporting public access, with a recreational and scenic area for visitors to the Greenway corridor.

Improve Access and Make Connectivity

This project will address the ongoing eroding shoreline along the Niagara River. This is the main corridor to the Barge Canal for thousands of boaters yearly. The natural plantings and landscaping will add to the beautification along the Niagara River shoreline for thousands of boaters and pedestrians alike.

This project will uphold the Greenway's goal for visitors and residents who utilize the waterway, bike and walking path. The area will encourage visitors to enjoy the Niagara River view, as well as the scenery along its banks. As a rest stop it will serve as a connecting stopover on the bike path either entering Erie or Niagara County.

This project will fit in with the continuing improvements along the area waterway within the City of North Tonawanda.

Protect and Restore Environmental Systems

This project satisfies the goal of protecting the Greenway's environmental resources. Maintaining and improving the shoreline is vital to restoring this region's environmental systems. This project will preserve the shoreline, and add natural plantings that will help eliminate further soil erosion.

Spark Revitalization and Renewal

The outcome of this project will ensure that the natural shoreline is preserved. Future erosion will be deterred due to natural plantings and new vegetation, which will provide a more stable environment shoreline. The overlook rest area will provide a welcome spot for city dwellers to relax and take in the atmosphere of the beautiful Niagara River.

Promote Long Term Sustainability

The Niagara River Yacht Club is committed to the preservation of the shoreline as a natural process. The shoreline project will require care for years to come, and the Niagara River Yacht Club members will ensure that required maintenance will be a priority.

Extend Olmsted's Legacy

The Niagara River is one of the main corridors to the Erie Barge Canal. This system is used by thousands of boaters each year. The environmental impact of a sustainable, protected shoreline, as well as the beauty of natural landscaping, are vital assets to the waterways and its patrons. The protection of our natural environment and ecosystems are in line with Olmsted's legacy and vision.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The implementation of the Niagara River Yacht Club's project will meet the guiding principles of the Niagara Greenway Commission as follows:

Excellence

This project will address the immediate need to stabilize approximately 300 feet of eroding shoreline along the Niagara River. The Niagara River Yacht Club intends to add a bike path rest area at the north end of the property, for the enjoyment of the public. This area will be offered to residents and visitors as an opportunity for a leisurely recreational viewing area. This project demonstrates a commitment to excellence as a comfort area as well as a goodwill gesture on the part of the Niagara River Yacht Club members. This rest stop will provide a sense of community to area residents.

Sustainability

The Niagara River Yacht Club project will promote the ecological and physical sustainability of its Greenway resources for long-term effectiveness. The project will be conscientiously maintained by the members of the Niagara River Yacht Club, to accomplish this goal.

Accessibility & Ecological Integrity

The location of the Niagara River Yacht Club is a key link between Erie and Niagara County Greenway resources. Implementation of this project will continue to provide a safe and structurally sound shoreline, as well as an ecologically considerate property. The bike path resting area will provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy the natural beauty of the Niagara River and its greenery.

Public Well Being & Community Based

In accordance with Greenway principles, this project is designed to provide a secure environment for both boaters, and public shoreline visitors of the community. The proposed bike path resting area will promote usage by the inclusion of picnic tables. The public will have access to the Niagara River as a viewing point, as well as a relaxation area.

Connectivity

This project increases connectivity and access to trails and water access. The improvements for access will serve as a stopover for the connecting waterways and trails along the Niagara River. This project connects the Niagara River to the Barge Canal and the two counties of Erie and Niagara.

CRITERIA

The Niagara River Yacht Club's project is consistent with the previously mentioned criteria of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

Priority Status

This project is vital to the preservation of the Niagara River shoreline. Providing a stable bank, with natural plants and vegetation will allow for the continuation of our waterway integrity. This project will also prevent further erosion of valuable shoreline. This project also showcases a highly visible parcel of land along the Niagara River. The rest area will incorporate ADA-compliant picnic benches.

Focus Area

This project is on the Niagara River. It is also adjacent to the City of North Tonawanda bike and walking path. This trail is used by many area residents as well as incoming visitors from nearby communities. The results of this project will have a local and regional impact on those who travel the path from Niagara and Erie Counties. This area is also one of the main entrances and exits to the Barge Canal which is seen by many area boaters, and boaters traveling the canal system. This area of the Niagara River is central to the Greenway system.

Environmental Soundness

The intent of this project is to maintain and restore the environmental soundness of the eroding shoreline along the Niagara River located on the Niagara River Yacht Club property. If this is left unaddressed, the shoreline will continue to erode. When the rip-rap has been put in place, the areas that have been eroding will be leveled off with fresh topsoil and landscaping plants will be placed on the 300 feet of riverfront.

Implementable

The proposed project by the Niagara River Yacht Club has gone through a design phase which included estimates for all phases of work, design drawing, and obtaining of the State and Federal permits required for this shovel-ready project.

Economic Viability

Improving the property will continue to attract residents and visitors to the area. This year we have a seasonal dock renter from Canada, who was attracted to the revitalization of the City of North Tonawanda. This project will add to the ongoing improvements to the areas waterfront.

Clear Benefits

This project demonstrates benefits to the Niagara River and the stated vision of the Niagara River Greenway as a corridor. The focus area of this project is a travel route to and from the Barge Canal by thousands of boaters each year. Immediate benefits will be the stabilization of the shoreline, and elimination of current erosion. There will be increased visual benefits, and aesthetics to the area. Property values will improve, and local businesses will benefit.

3. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$ <u>0</u>
Construction	\$ <u>197,200.00</u>
Acquisition	\$ <u>N/A</u>
Administration	\$ <u>0</u>
Operation and Maintenance/Year	\$ <u>Unknown</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ <u>197,200.00</u>

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

This project has been in the planning stage for well over a year. Stabilizing 300 feet of eroding shoreline, adding new landscaping by implementing native plants and a rest area along the bike/walking path will provide public access and maintain the scenic value of our waterfront. A letter of support from the City of North Tonawanda Community Development Office endorsing this project is attached.

Members of the Niagara River Yacht Club will volunteer significant hours to manage the project and administer the Greenway funds being requested.

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and the how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animals species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and / or enhanced. Cite any relevant project related studies.

The proposed project site is 300 feet of eroding shoreline, with overgrown vegetation along the Little Niagara River. The Niagara River Yacht Club owns and maintains this property. Several areas showing signs of this erosion and overgrowth can be seen in the attached photos.

This project will focus on 300 feet of new rip-rap to stabilize the shoreline, and new native plants to enhance and support the eroded landscape. Once the rip-rap is in place, fresh topsoil and mulch will be installed for the new landscaping. Based on the cost estimates (see attached), it is estimated that this project can be completed in three months.

This project will not cause any disturbance to the surrounding environment, including plant and animal life. Rather, the project will insure the stabilization of the shoreline from further erosion. Further, it will beautify the area, and add public access along the Niagara River Greenway corridor.

Niagara River Yacht Club

Shoreline Stabilization Permits

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Permit Number: 9-2912-00214/00002
- NYS Department of State
Permit Number: F-2012-0187
- Department Of The Army, Army Corps of Engineers
Permit Number: 2006-02625





City of North Tonawanda

Department of Community Development
500 Wheatfield Street
North Tonawanda, New York 14120
716-695-8580
716-614-0519 (fax)

July 3, 2013

John Preisler
Niagara River Yacht Club
350 Homestead Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Mr. Preisler:

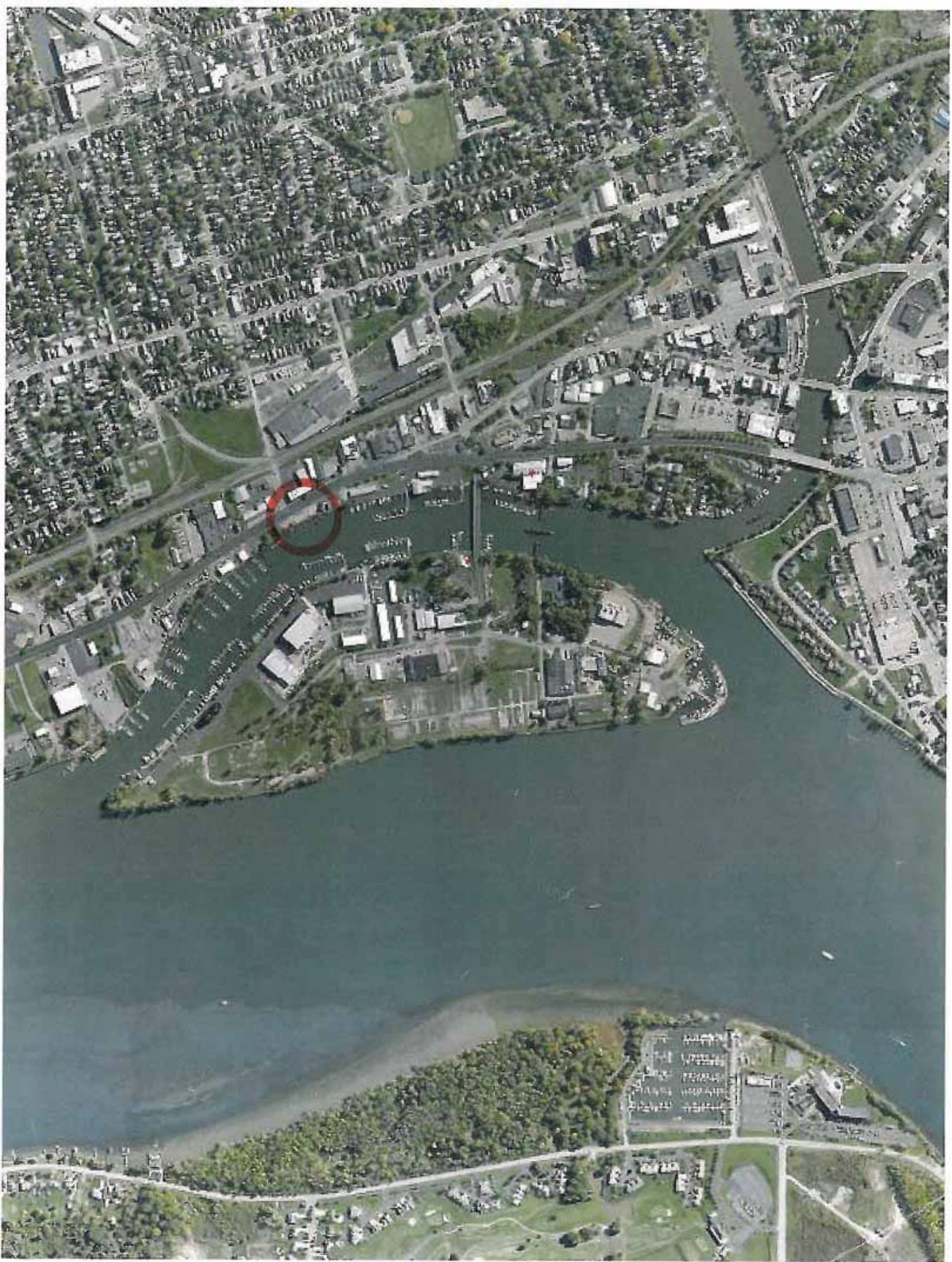
Thanks for meeting with me to review the Yacht Club's shoreline improvement plans. It is my understanding that the Yacht Club will be submitting an application for Greenway Commission funds that would be used for the proposed project.

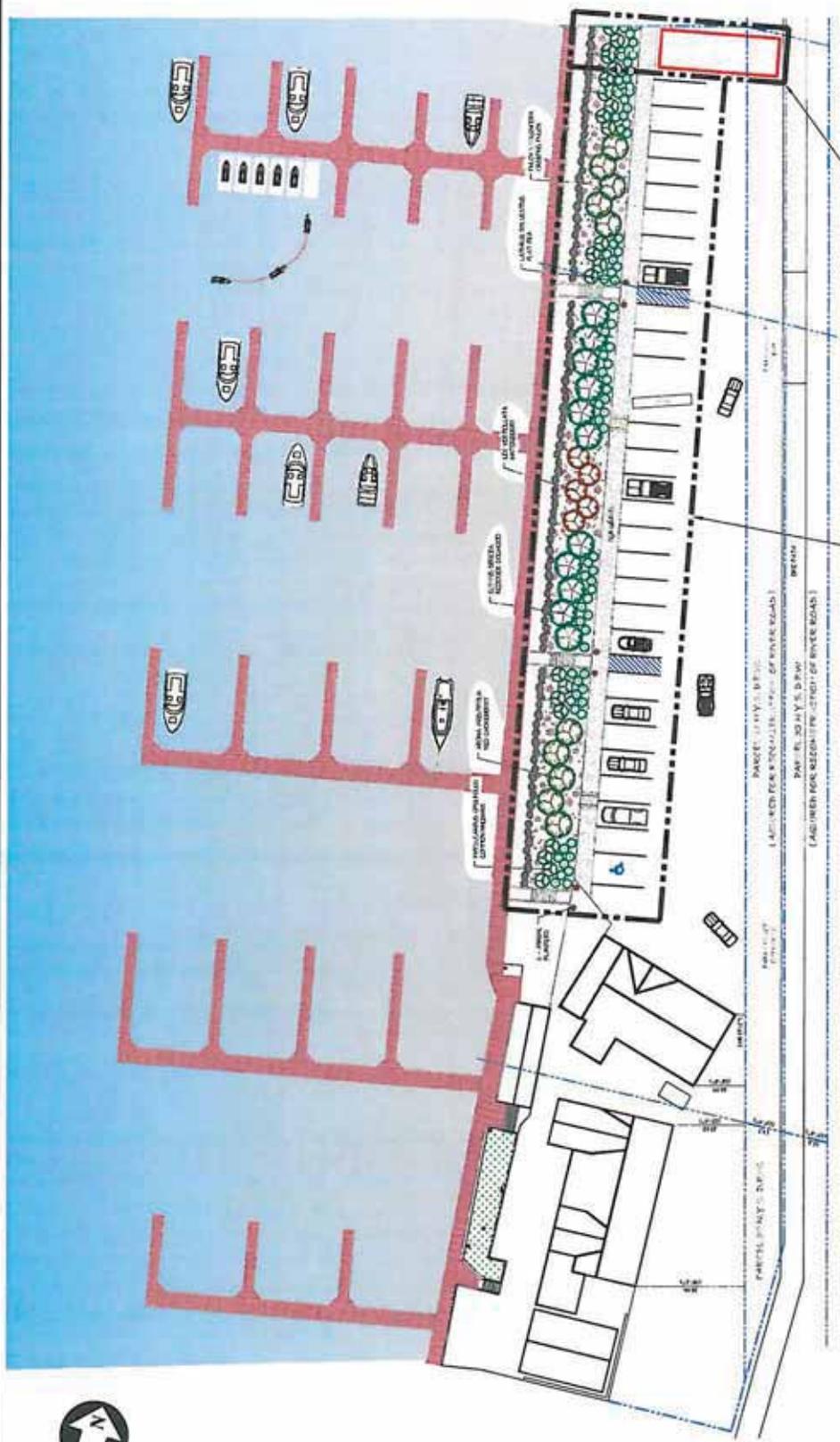
The proposed shoreline improvements will provide substantial benefits to North Tonawanda's waterfront that has become a focal point for future private development and investment. I also believe that the provision of improved green space accessible to the public off of the Greenway Trail will be an attractive and needed addition. Your project will also enhance the shoreline's riparian buffer that will enhance the ecological integrity of the Little Niagara River.

For all of the above reasons I fully support your Greenway Commission funding application, and encourage the Commission to consider approving it. If our office can be of any further assistance with this important project please contact us.

Best regards,

Richard Tindell
Community Development Director





BIKE/WALKING PATH
 REST AREA & OVERLOOK

PROPOSED AREA FOR SHORELINE
 RESTORATION & EROSION CONTROL

NIAGARA RIVER YACHT CLUB

South
10000
743-1000
\$1
Enrollment
Fee
40 Day
Fitness 19
3 Area
Excavation

2' HIGH STONE BOULDERS
SET 4" ABOVE
PAVEMENT

PLANTING
AREA

RIP-RAP



CURRENT CONDITION OF SHORELINE









CURRENT SHORELINE EROSION







LOOKING NORTH



LOOKING WEST

**ALLOCATED REST AREA & OVERLOOK ALONG EXISTING
BIKE / WALKING PATH**