



November 6, 2024

Niagara River Greenway Commission
PO Box 1132
Niagara Falls NY 14303

Attn: Gregory Stevens, Executive Director
RE: Rotary of the Tonawandas, Erie Canal Historic Site Rejuvenation

Dear Mr. Stevens,

On behalf of the Rotary of the Tonawandas, a Satellite club of the Rotary of Kenmore, please find attached our Project Consultation and Review form and related materials for your consideration to address the proposed project's consistency with the goals and objectives of the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

We look forward to hearing back from you and please let us know if you have any questions of concerns.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Jones, P.E.
Rotary Satellite Club of Kenmore-Tonawandas, President
3411 Delaware Ave
Kenmore, NY 14217
716-818-5638
Jjones2919@gmail.com

Cc: Rotary Club of Kenmore, Cathy Piciulo, President

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal:

11/6/2024

Project Registration Number (*office use only*):

Type of Review Required (please check one):

Mandatory Consultation for proposals seeking Greenway Funding

Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement for proposals not seeking Greenway Funding

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name:	Rotary Satellite Club of Kenmore - Tonawanda
Mailing Address:	3411 Delaware Ave suite 206, Kenmore
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14217
Federal ID#:	16-1511161
Charities Registration #:	

PROJECT TYPE (Please check only ONE)

Trail Development / Improvement

Interpretation / Cultural Monuments

Ecosystem / Riparian Habitat Restoration

Stewardship

Niagara River Greenway Placemaking / Public Access / Wayfinding

FUNDING COMMITTEE

Host Community Standing Committee

Ecological Standing Committee

Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

State Parks Standing Committee

Unsure at this time / N/A

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$50,000

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount
<i>NYS Canal Corps</i>	<i>\$24,000</i>
<i>Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Funds, Community Assets</i>	<i>\$24,000</i>

<u>Rotary District 7090</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
<u>Erie County</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>
<u>NOCO</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>Casella Waste</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
<u>NYS Assembly</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	<u>Erie Canal Historic Site Revitalization</u>
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	42°59'15.9"N 78°56'09.6"W
Project Site Address:	Adjacent to 4290 River Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14150
Minor Civil Division(s):	Town of Tonawanda
County:	Erie
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	Erie County. Empire State Trail

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	<u>Cathy Piciulo</u>
Title:	President
Business Address:	3411 Delaware Ave suite 206
State:	NY
Zip Code:	14217
Work Number:	(716) 874-1202
Cell Number:	716-830-8394
E-Mail Address:	Kenmorerotary.piciulo@gmail.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	<u>James Jones</u>
Title:	Chairman
Organization / Firm:	Rotary Satellite Club of Kenmore - Tonawanda
Business Address:	3411 Delaware Ave suite 206
State:	NY

Zip Code:	14217
Work Number:	716-818-5638
Cell Number:	716-818-5638
E-Mail Address:	Jjones2919@gmail.com

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following six items in the order that they are presented.

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

In 1999, the Town of Tonawanda, The Kenmore-Tonawanda Historical Society and Erie County partnered to establish recognition of a portion of the original Erie Canal with Tow Path along River Road in the Town of Tonawanda. A small path and clearing leads to a historical marker sign which describes the historical significance of the site. The Rotary of the Tonawandas seeks to revitalize and enhance this site with landscaping and access enhancements in preparation for the World Canal Conference being held in Buffalo, NY in September 2025 and in honor of the 200th anniversary of the canal’s completion.

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.

The Niagara River Greenway's vision is to create a world-class network of trails and greenspace along the Niagara River. The plan's guiding principles include: Preserving open space, improving habitats, developing recreational areas, protecting wetlands, improving public access, Supporting economic development. The proposed project hits all points of this now 20-year-old vision by adding enhancements to a directly adjacent and culturally significant site along the Shoreline (Empire State) Trail. Both federal and state wetlands are documented to be directly adjacent to the site however they are currently crowded by NYSDEC recognized invasive species. Intended work includes invasive species management and native plantings along with a much-needed rest stop for the trail users.

Trail usage on the Shoreline Trail is among the highest in New York State and these users are not only local but also documented as international guests seeking to enjoy the region’s burgeoning attributes and expanding multi-modal connectivity. Rotary excels at building community and partnerships and this project intends to showcase our care and attention to our Erie Canal heritage for all to enjoy and learn about.

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

Planning	\$40,000
Construction	\$105,000
Acquisition	\$0
Administration	\$2,000
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$3,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$150,000

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

NYS Canal Corps - \$24,000, Ralph C. Wilson Legacy Funds - \$24,000, Rotary District- \$15,000, Erie County- \$15,000, NOCO – \$5,000, Casella Waste - \$5,000, NYS Assembly - \$12,000. Presently, the club has met with and received encouraging support from those listed sources. Applications are contingent on Erie County providing Use and Occupancy support to continue operating and maintain the site. The Rotary Club, if permitted, has the ability to remove dead/dying trees, conduct initial clearing and disposal of invasive plants and amend existing soils and prepare and plant native plants based on experience under the Niagara River Greenway Commission Adopt-a-Trail program and the Rotary-Greenway Partnership pollinator garden program. Rotarian members in our partnership provide qualified expertise to conduct this work. Subsequent operation and maintenance would be similar to the current effort and in addition

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.

The Town of Tonawanda had secured an initial Occupancy Permit and a NYSDEC permit to perform site work in 1999. It is anticipated that Rotary will obtain similar permits to implement the project described and as shown on the attached presentation. Our club has had meetings with Erie County, the historical societies of the Tonawandas, the Town of Tonawanda and the NYS Canal Corporation. We are developing a Memorandum of Understanding between our club and Erie County to carry out the project. We have also been working with Brian Dold, formerly with Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy as their lead landscape designer

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 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 animal 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 project site is actually a portion of the original Erie Canal as it was constructed in the 1820's parallel to the easterly shoreline of the Niagara River and between River Road. The site is currently owned and operated by Erie County. The site is also directly adjacent to the "Cherry Farm" site which is a classified landfill owned by National Grid which is being operated and managed under a consent order from the NYSDEC along with Honeywell International. NYSDEC wetlands are directly adjacent to the side and the Town of Tonawanda had conducted a wetland delineation which indicated additional potential wetland inclusions within the site. To the north and south of the project site, the former Erie Canal has been filled in and no longer represent the context of the canal. The site is also within the town's Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan boundary.

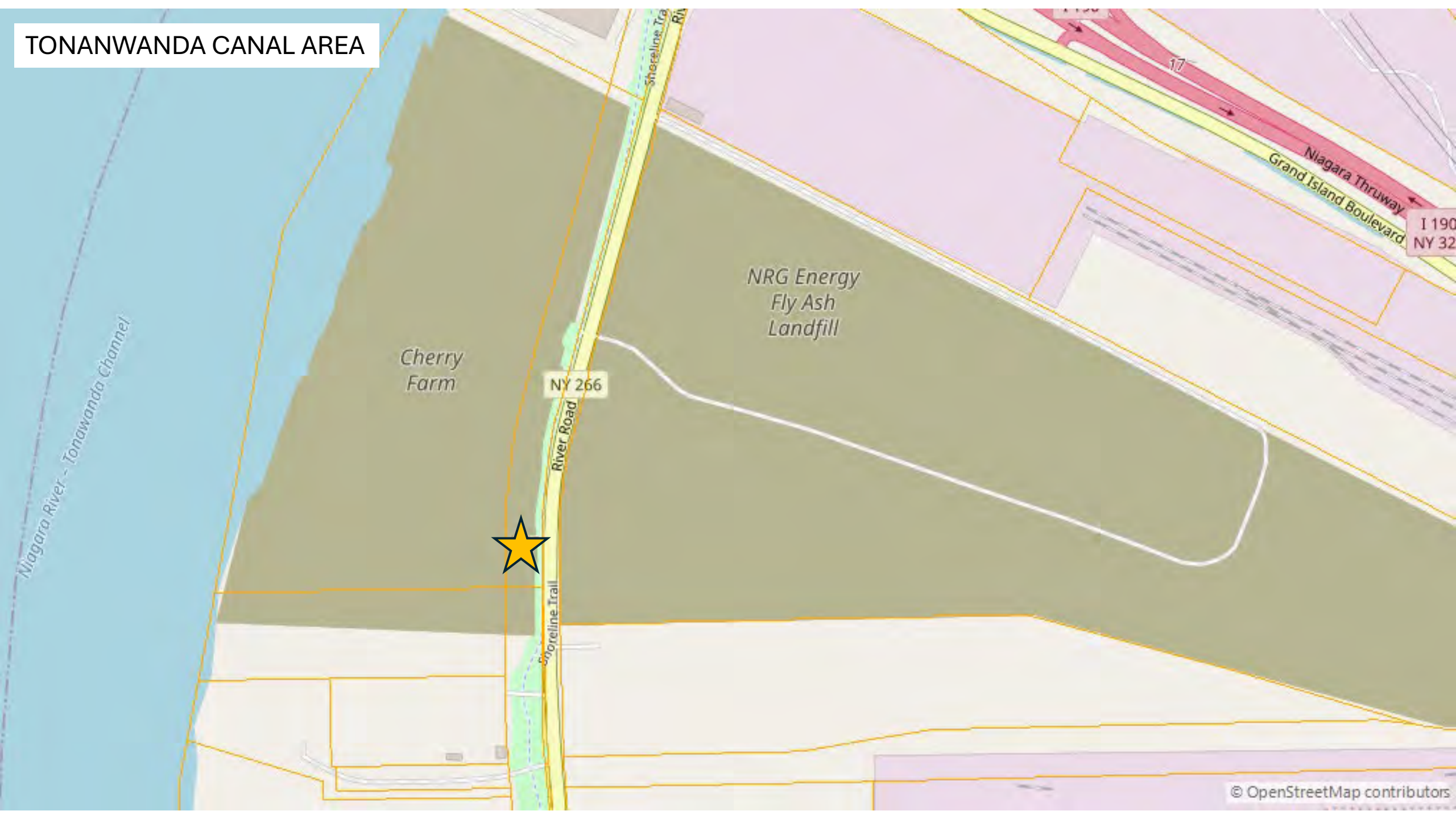
Our landscape designer has prepared conceptual schematics for the revitalization of the historic site which primarily includes replacement of invasive plant species with native plant species along with minor paved trails to accommodate ADA compliant access within the site. The scope of work necessary would

include conducting an update to the wetland delineation, surveying, invasive plant removal, native plant species plantings, interpretive signage and a picnic shelter which would be associated with the adjacent Shoreline/Empire State Trail. The 1999 permits previously described are included herein.

6. Please attach the proposed project timeline, identify any relevant milestones, and provide an estimated date for project completion/opening. If funded, it is expected that the project sponsor or point of contact will notify the Commission of the project opening date as it nears completion. *(Note: This addition to the application was made September 2018.)*

- *November-December 2024*
 - *work with Erie County Parks to remove and dispose of heavy invasive species vegetation biomass and dead ash trees.*
 - *Continue grant applications and fundraising as noted above*
 - *Coordinate with NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands Mapping efforts to delineate and survey project site*
- *January – March 2025*
 - *Begin survey and mapping of site*
 - *Develop interpretive signage*
- *March-May 2025,*
 - *Import wood chips which will be used with a layer of cardboard to suppress*
 - *Preliminary engineering and construction document preparations related to installation of connectivity paths, signage concrete slab bases, picnic shelter and landscaping enhancements*
- *May – September 2025*
 - *Construction bidding*
 - *Construction*
 - *Native species plantings*
 - *Install interpretive signage*
- *September 2025*
 - *Plan and coordinate bike tour of completed site for World Canal Conference attendees*
- *October – December 2025*
 - *Planning for addition of public art features*

TONANWANDA CANAL AREA



TONANWANDA CANAL AREA

CHERRY
FARM

RIVER ROAD



1:500



TONANWANDA CANAL CONTEXT MAP



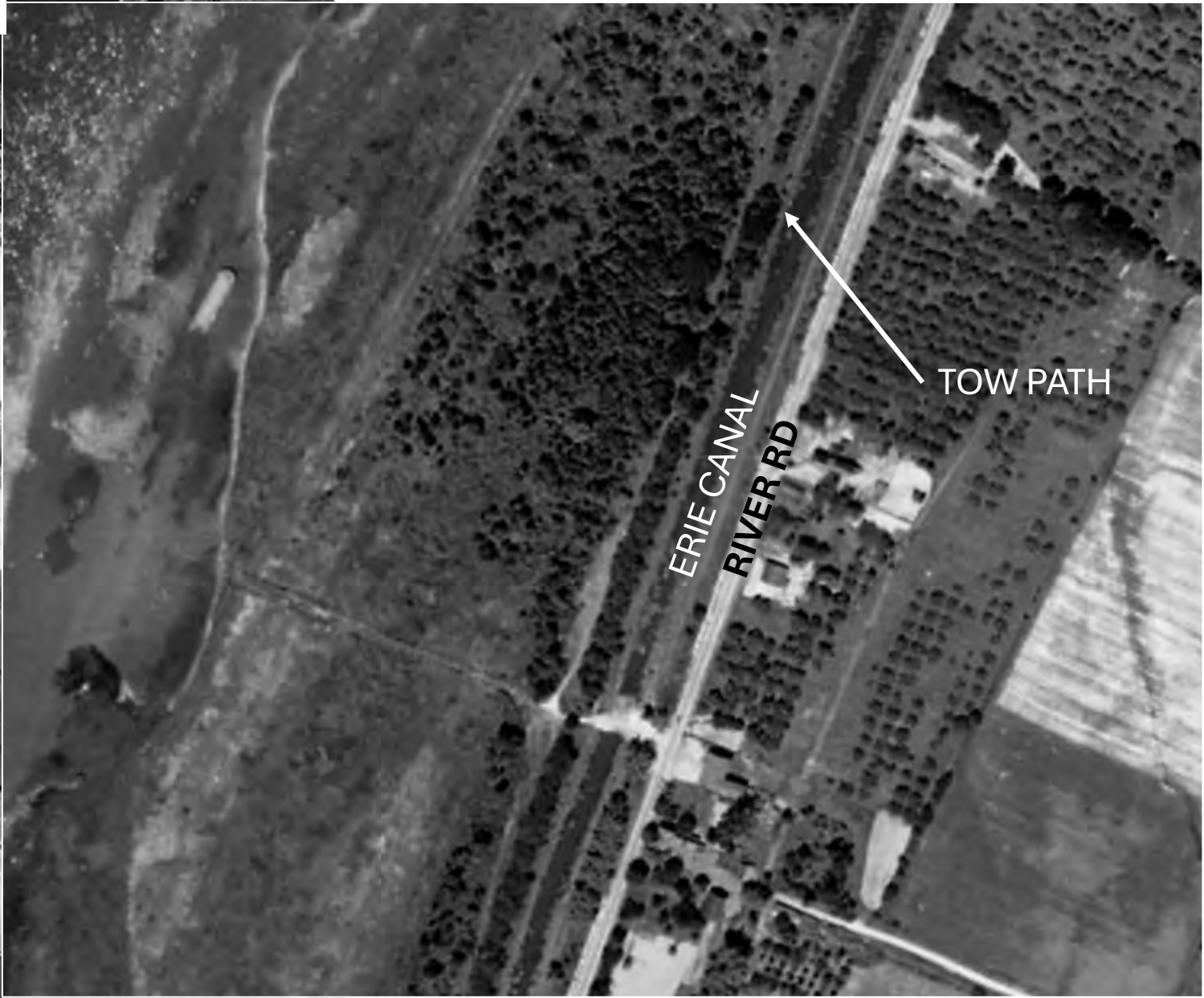
TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – PHOTOS



TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – 1927 AERIAL



FAIRCHILD AERIAL SURVEYS, INC. N.Y.C.



0550

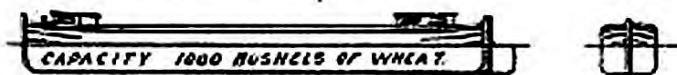
ERIE CANAL – HISTORIC PHOTO



ERIE CANAL BOATS

1817 - 1830
1830 - 1850
1850 - 1862
1862 - 1899

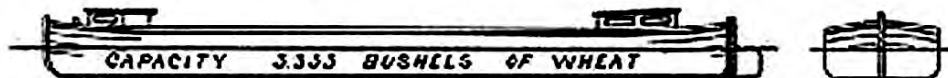
FIRST BOATS 61' x 7' x 3½' DFT 30 TONS.



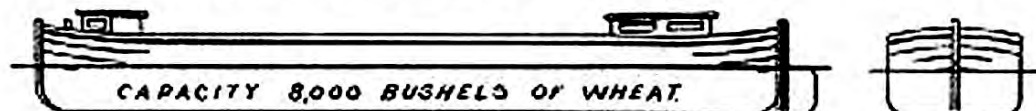
LATER BOATS ON ORIGINAL CANAL 75' x 12' x 3½' DFT 75 TONS.



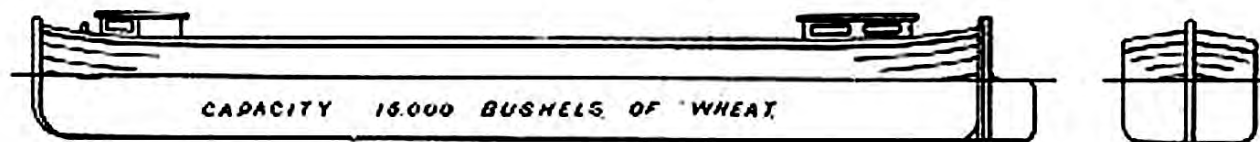
LARGEST BOATS ON ORIGINAL CANAL 90' x 15' x 3½' DFT 100 TONS



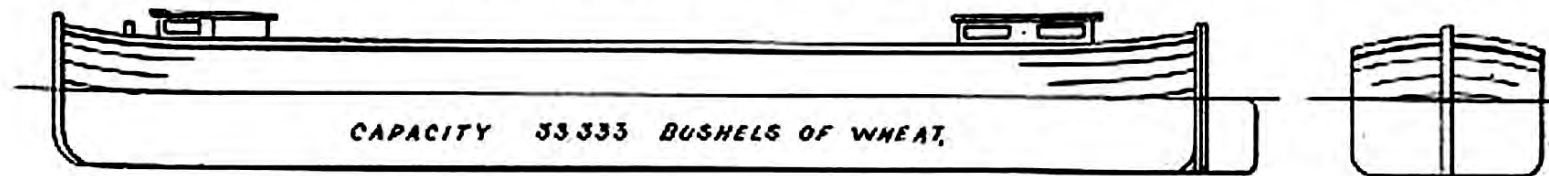
AFTER ENLARGEMENT OF 1862-BOATS 98' x 17½' x 6' DFT 240 TONS.



SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENT BOATS 125' x 17½' x 8' DFT 450 TONS

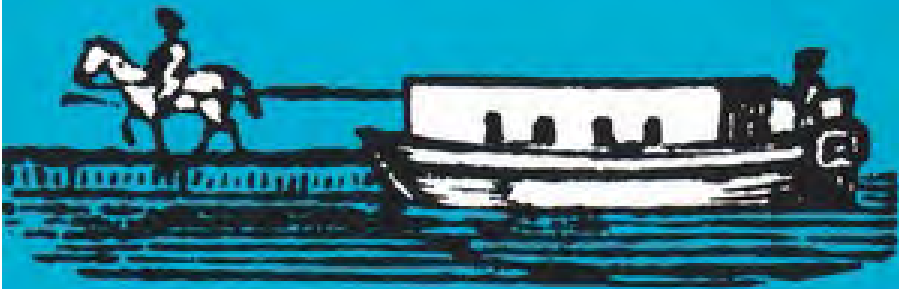


RECOMMENDED ENLARGEMENT BOATS 150' x 25' x 10' DFT 1000 TONS.



CANAL BOATMAN

My Life on Upstate Waterways



RICHARD GARRITY

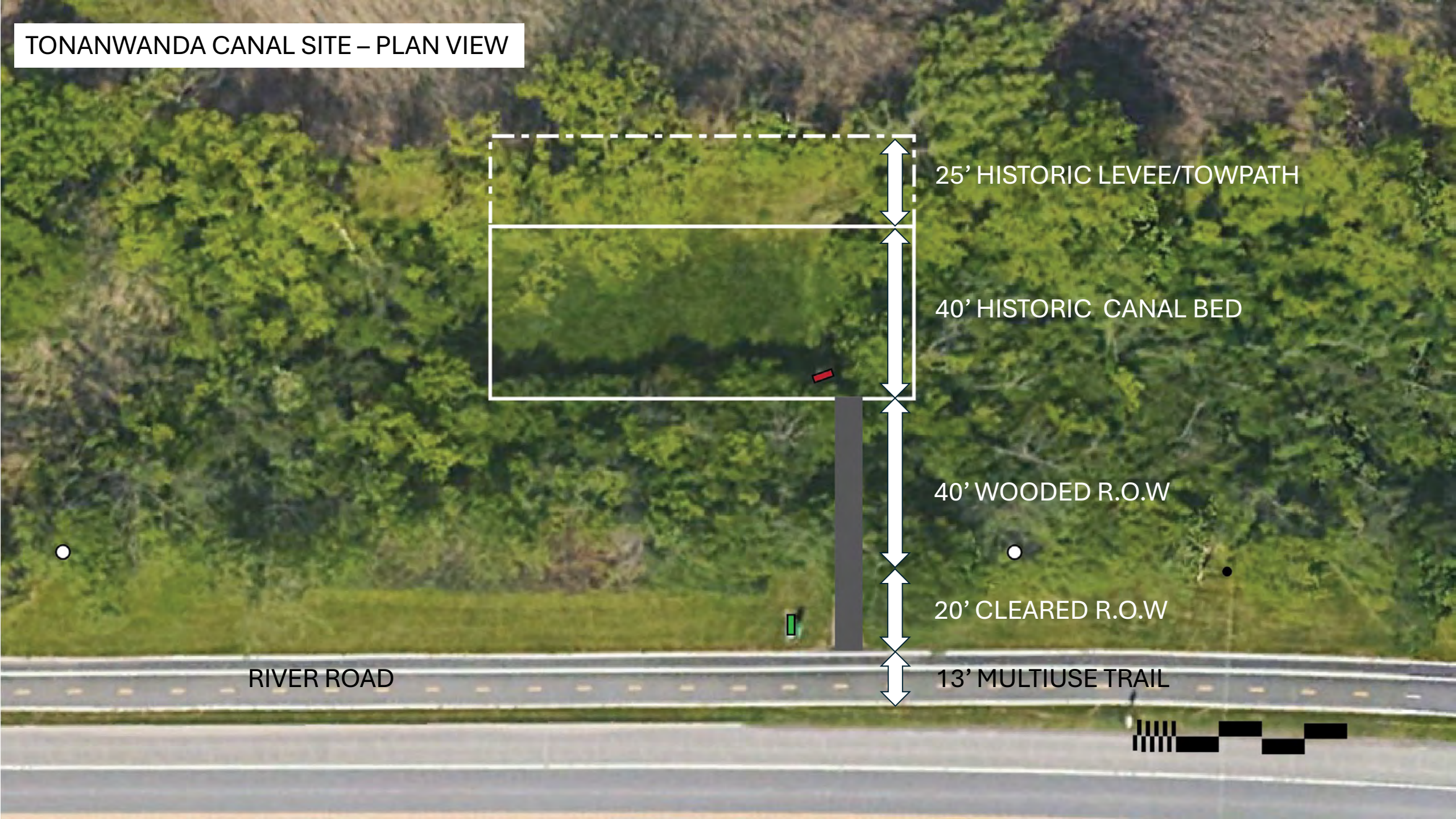
"Five Americans . . . A sweeping panorama of customs, canal life and the nearly vanished folkways dating over three half of this century, and personal memories and facts that are as engaging as they are unique." — PUBLISHERS WEEKLY







TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – PLAN VIEW



25' HISTORIC LEVEE/TOWPATH

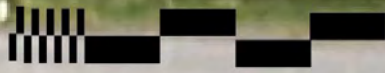
40' HISTORIC CANAL BED

40' WOODED R.O.W

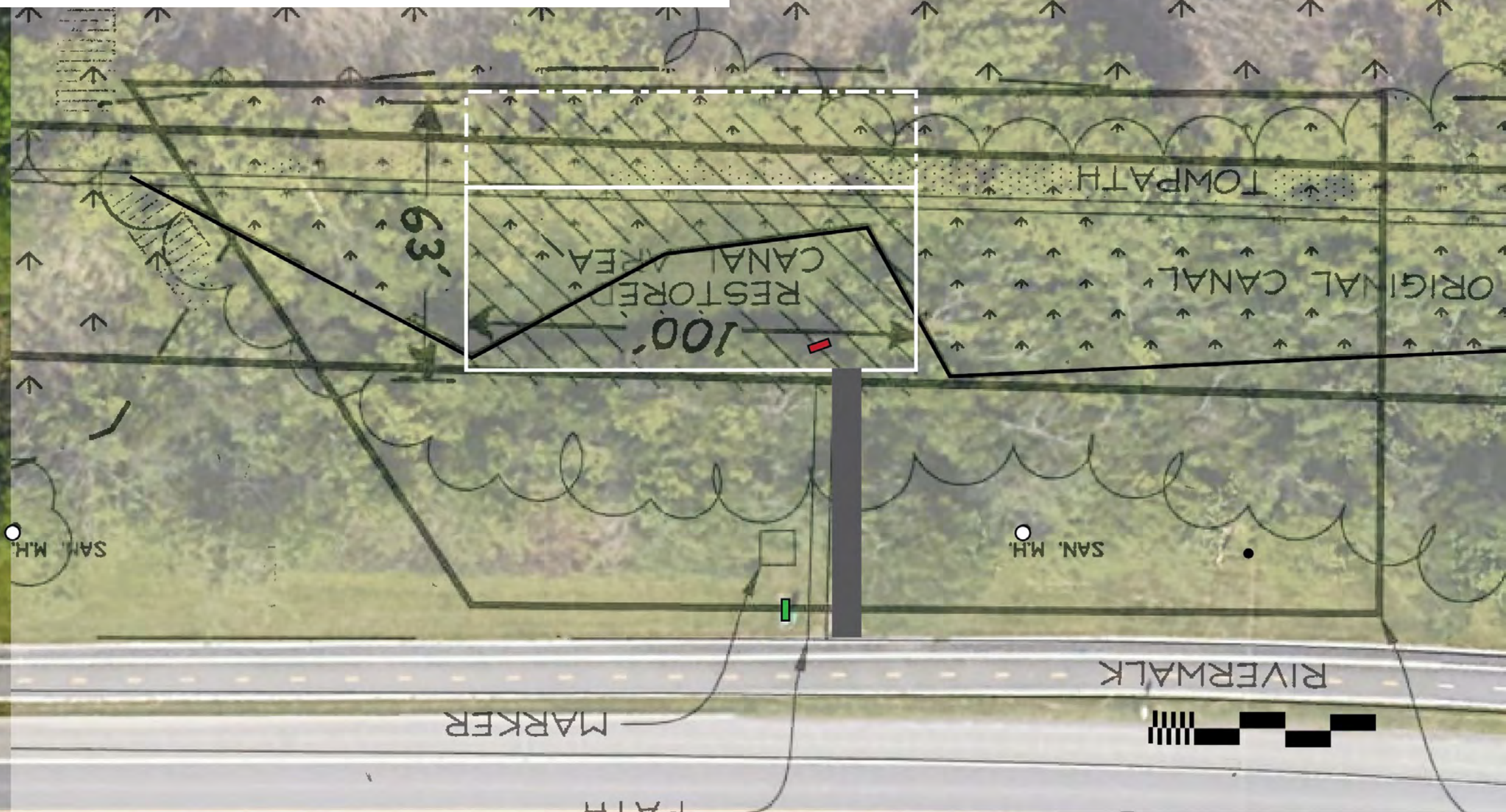
20' CLEARED R.O.W

13' MULTIUSE TRAIL

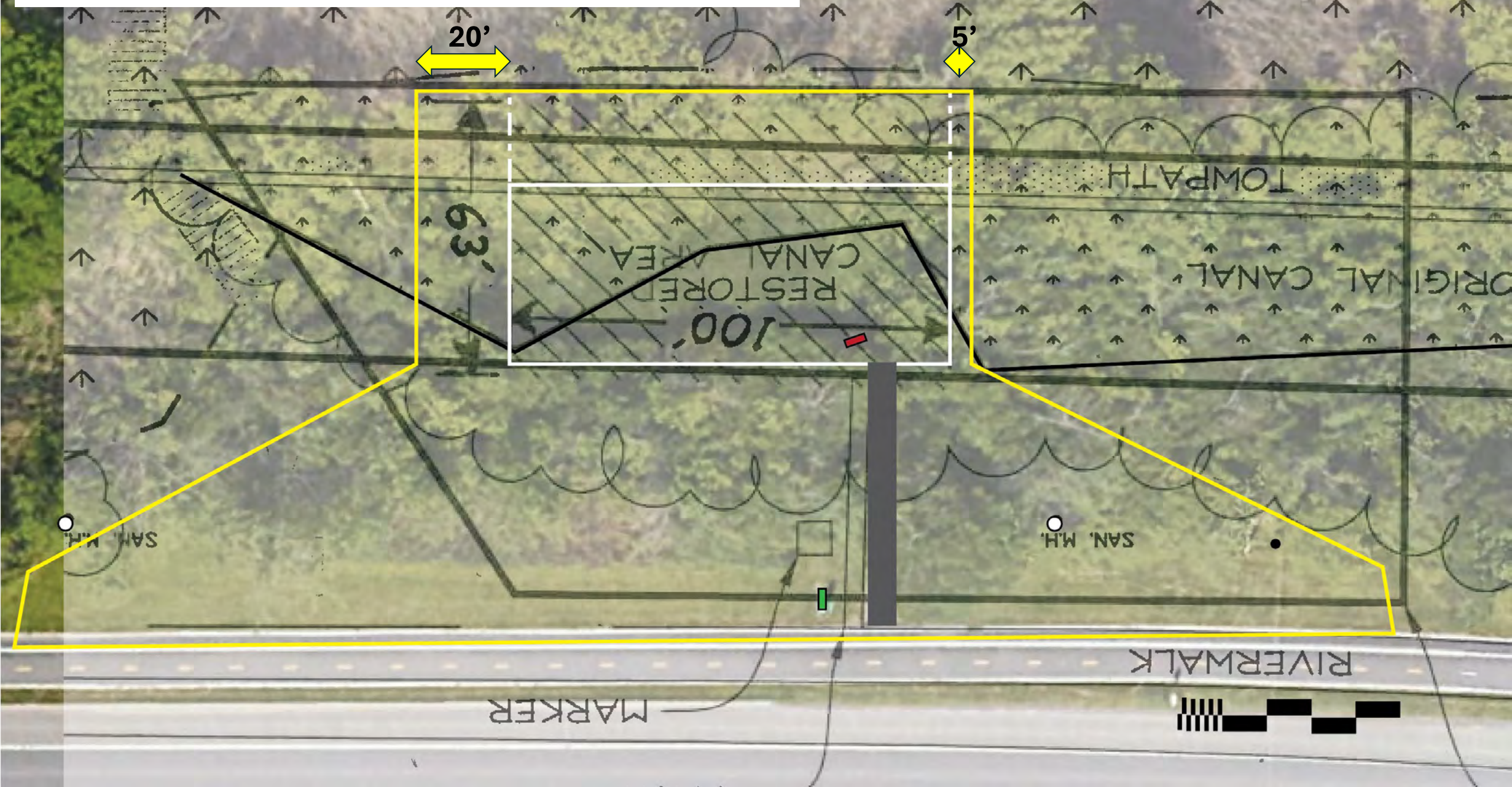
RIVER ROAD



TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – 1999 WETLAND DELINEATION



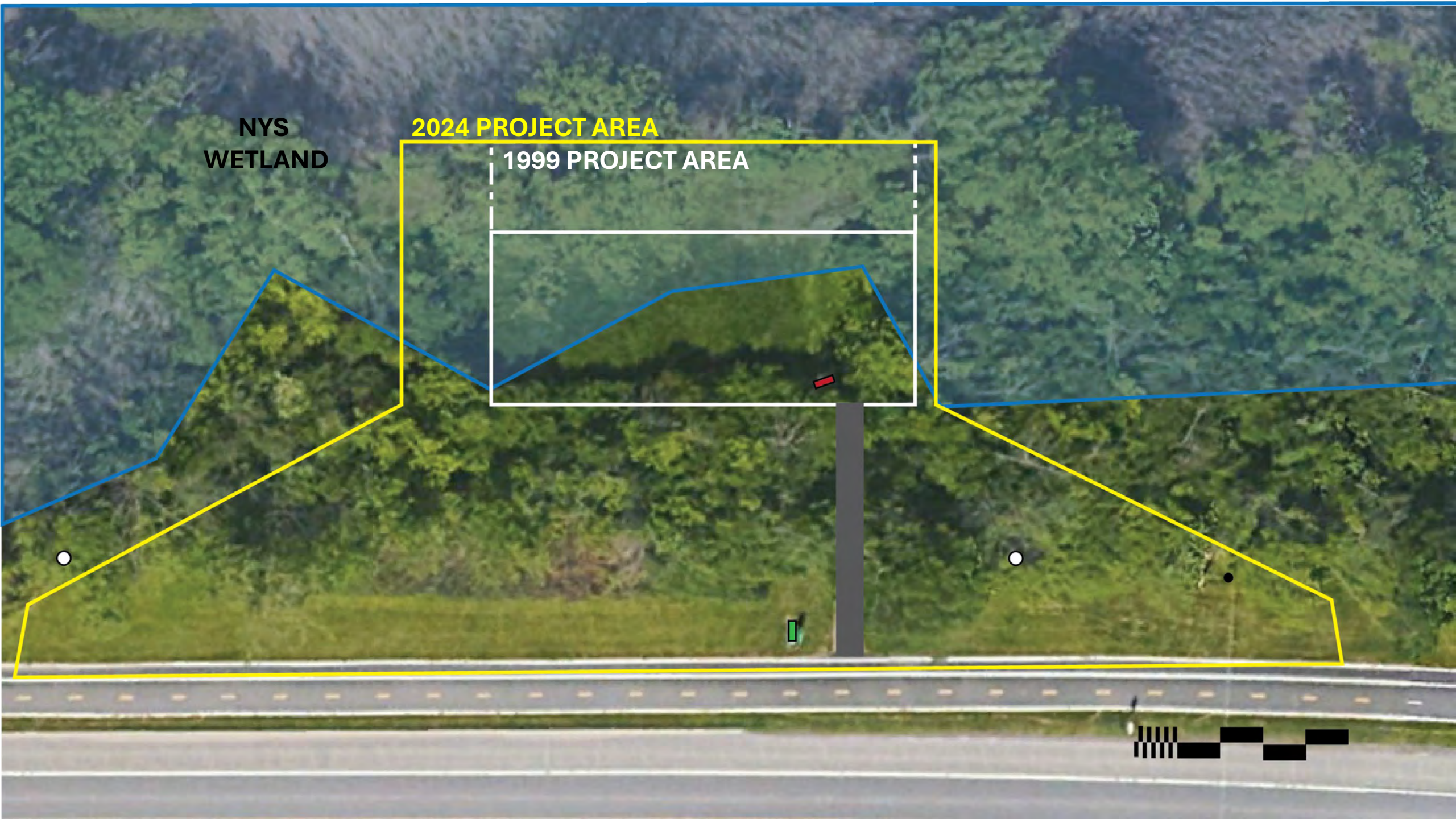
TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – 2024 PROPOSED PROJECT AREA



**NYS
WETLAND**

2024 PROJECT AREA

1999 PROJECT AREA



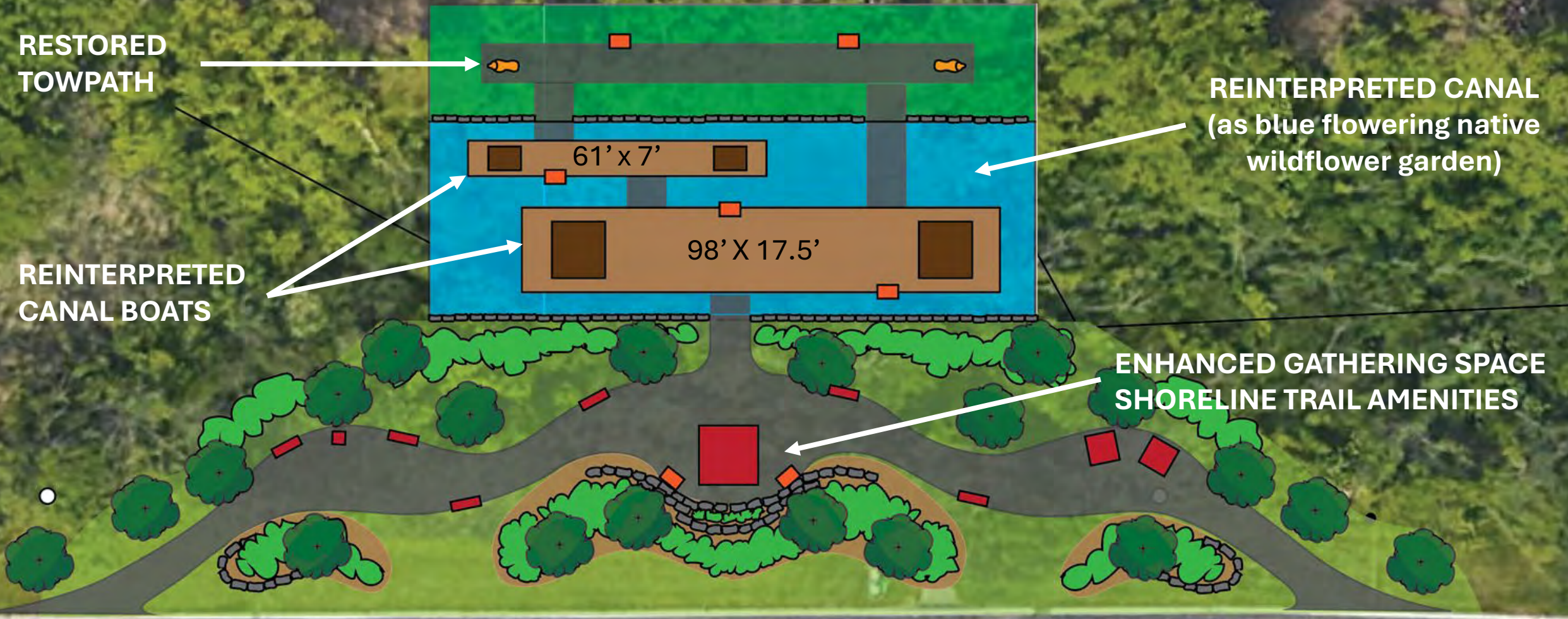
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT PLAN

**RESTORED
TOWPATH**

**REINTERPRETED
CANAL BOATS**

**REINTERPRETED CANAL
(as blue flowering native
wildflower garden)**

**ENHANCED GATHERING SPACE
SHORELINE TRAIL AMENITIES**



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT PLAN

FIRST BOATS ON CANAL

1817 - 1830

FIRST BOATS 61' x 7' x 3½' DFT

30 TONS.



REINTERPRETED
CANAL BOATS

61' x 7'

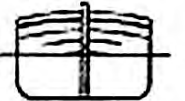
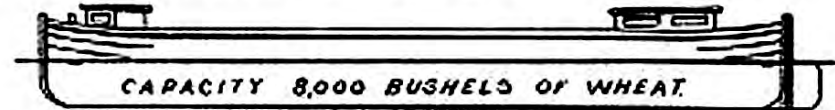
98' X 17.5'

GARRITY BOAT

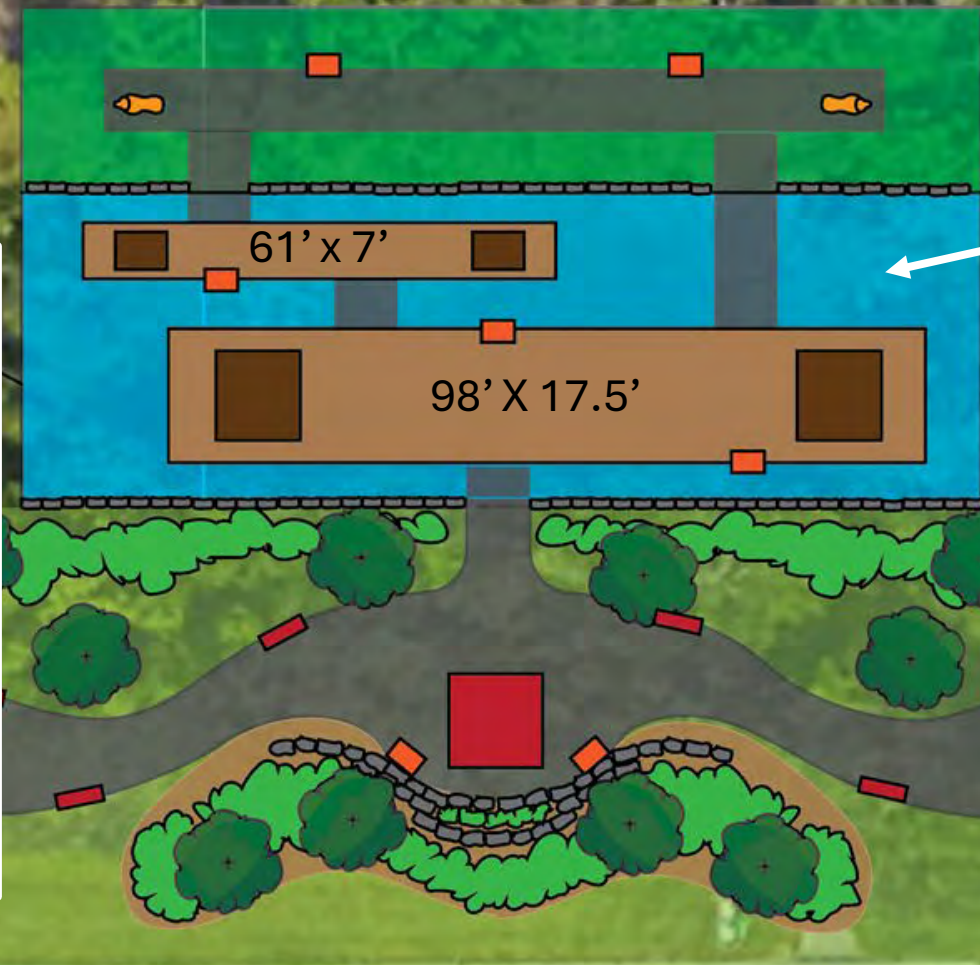
1862 - 1899

AFTER ENLARGEMENT OF 1862-BOATS 98' x 17½' x 6' DFT

240 TONS.



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT PLAN

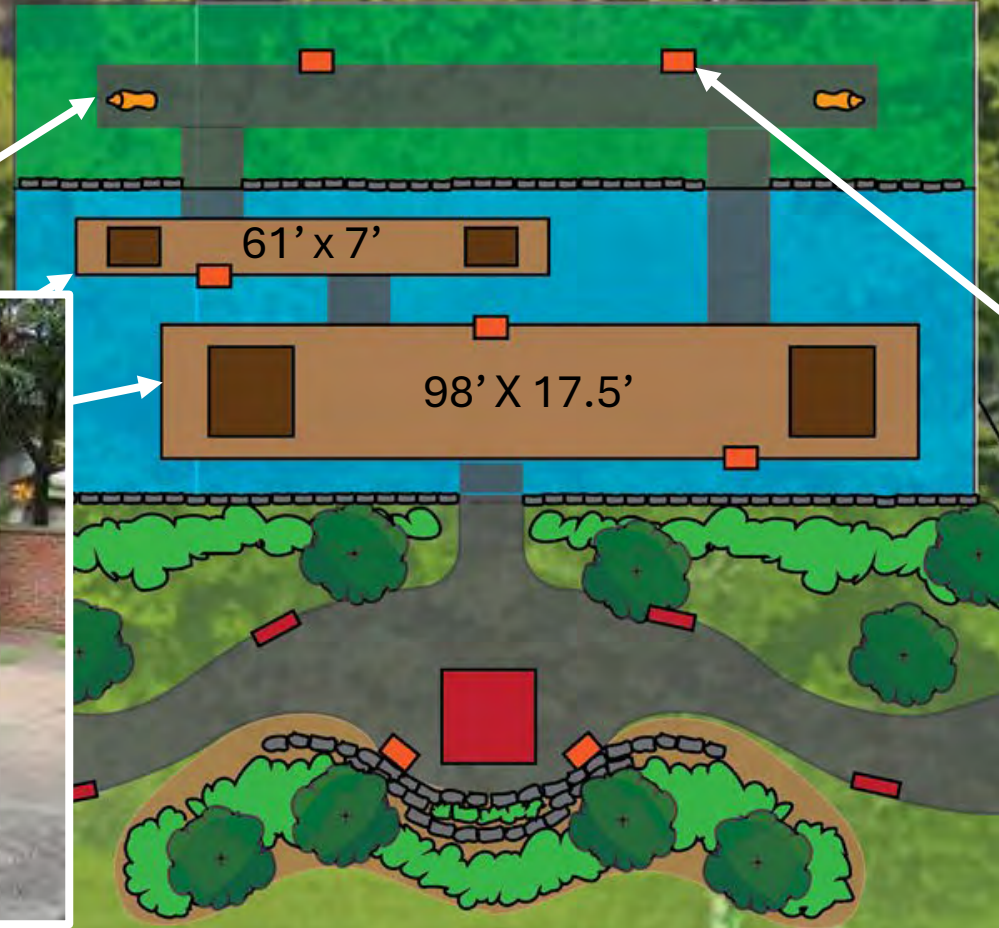


REINTERPRETED CANAL
(as blue flowering native
wildflower garden)

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT PLAN

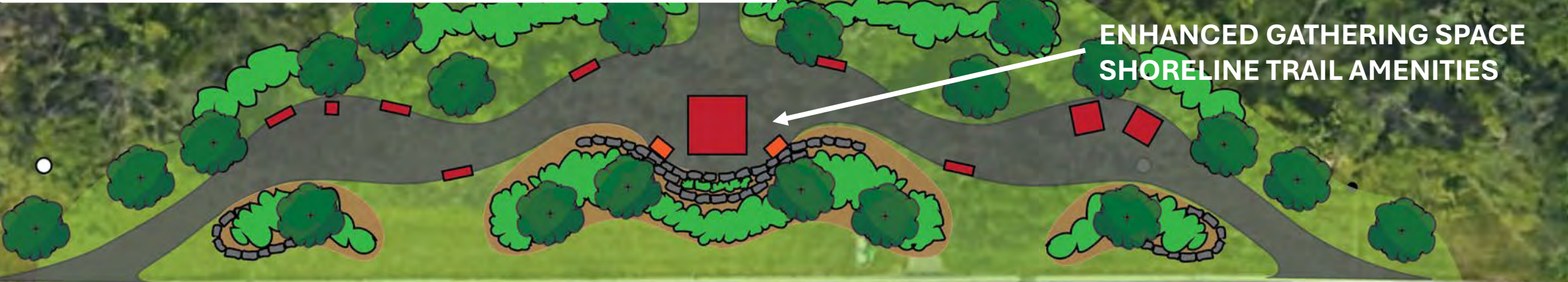
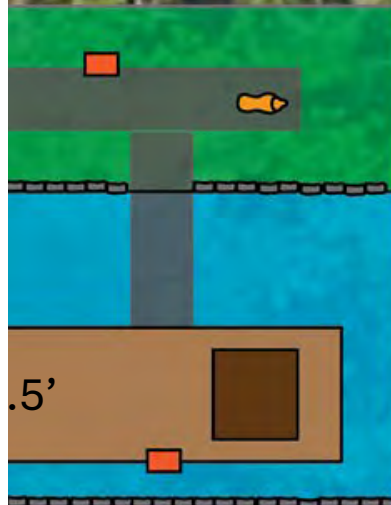
RESTORED
TOWPATH

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



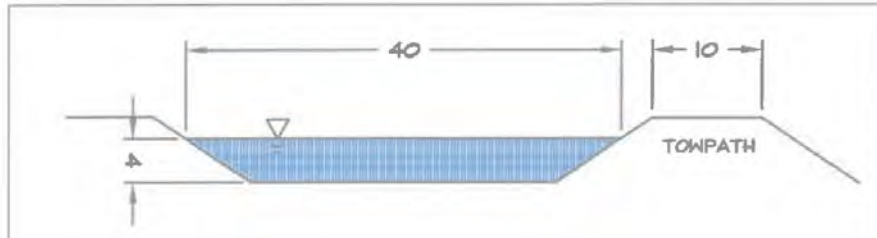
SCULPTURE





**ENHANCED GATHERING SPACE
SHORELINE TRAIL AMENITIES**

TONANWANDA CANAL SITE – CROSS SECTION

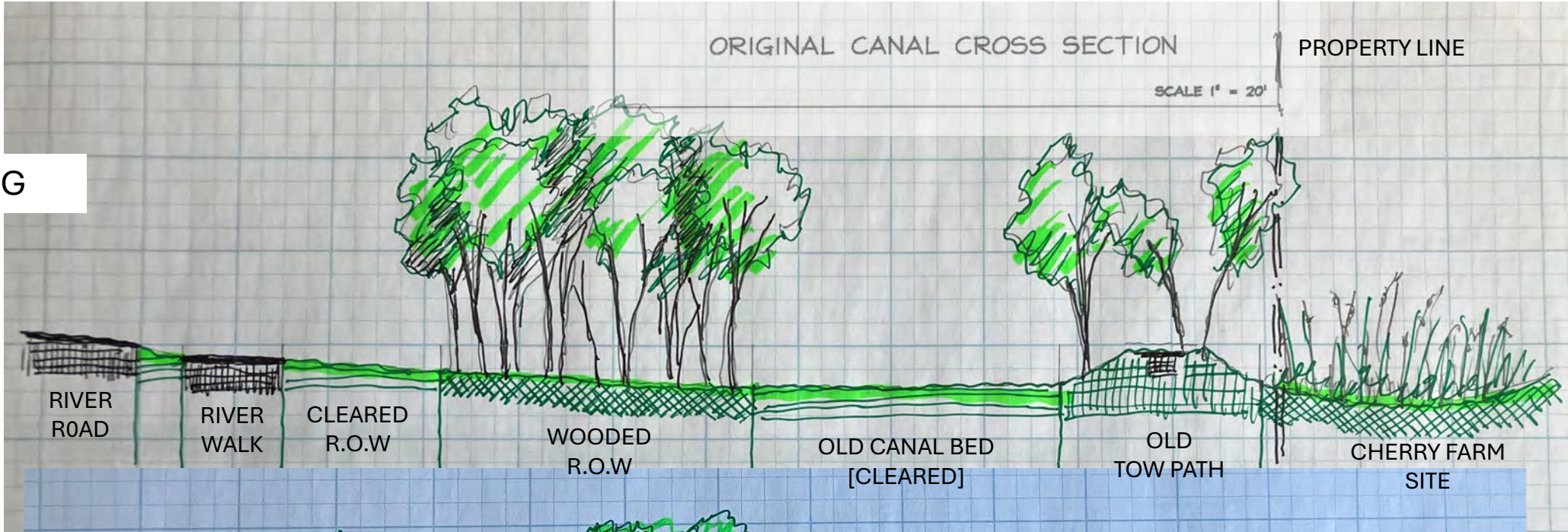


ORIGINAL CANAL CROSS SECTION

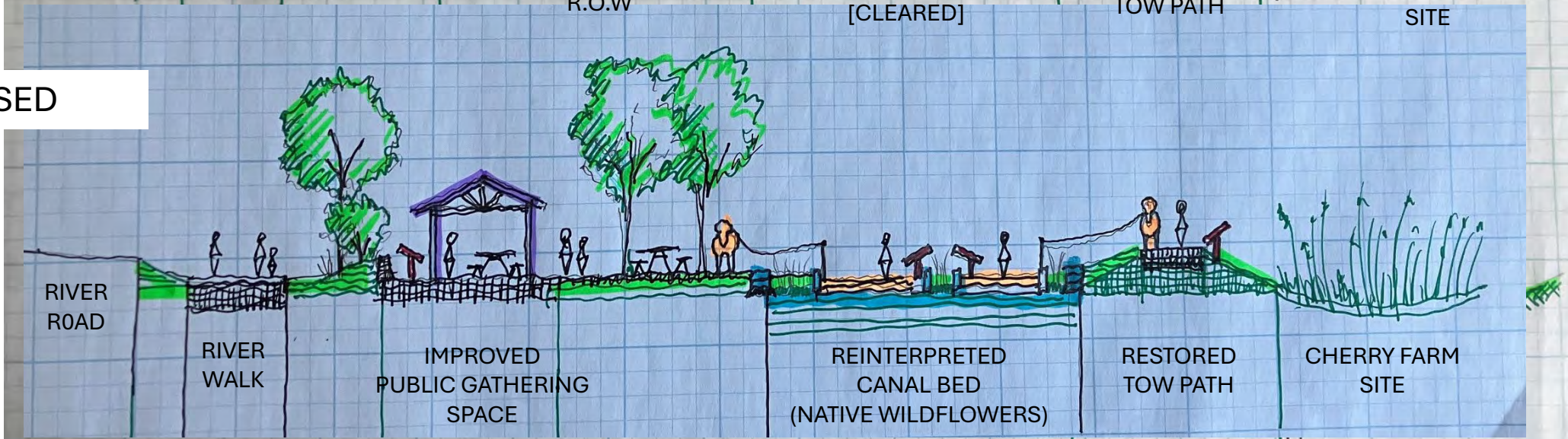
PROPERTY LINE

SCALE 1" = 20'

EXISTING



PROPOSED



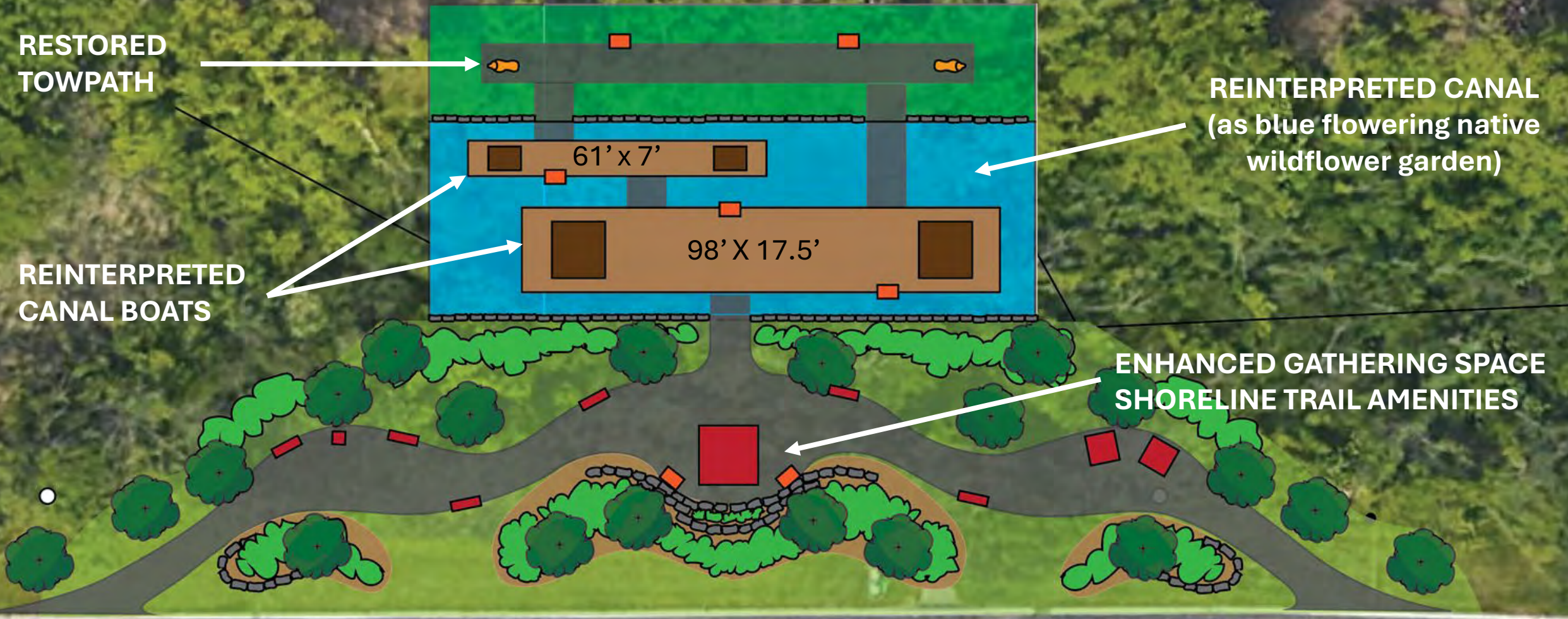
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT – CONCEPT PLAN

**RESTORED
TOWPATH**

**REINTERPRETED
CANAL BOATS**

**REINTERPRETED CANAL
(as blue flowering native
wildflower garden)**

**ENHANCED GATHERING SPACE
SHORELINE TRAIL AMENITIES**





COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 22, 2024

Chairman Jim Jones
Rotary of the Tonawandas
182 Claremont Ave
Tonawanda, NY 14223

RE: Rotary of the Tonawandas Grant Application to the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

Dear Chairman Jones,

On behalf of Erie County, we welcome the opportunity to enhance the existing Erie Canal historic area on River Road in the Town of Tonawanda. The initiative proposed by the Rotary of the Tonawandas, featuring invasive species management, native plantings, accessibility connections, interpretive signing, a picnic shelter and public art would be greatly appreciated by county residents and users of the Empire State/Shoreline trail.

The site is the only original section of the historic canal in Erie County and owned by the county. Working with the Rotary club and their Niagara River partners will be a welcome addition in preparation for the canal's 200th anniversary and the World Canal Conference coming to Buffalo in September 2025.

We recognize that next year's celebration will be quickly upon us and that the club has much to do with respect to securing grants, fundraising and hard work. We support the Rotary of the Tonawandas efforts and look forward to working with them in a mutually beneficial manner to make the site successful, sustainable and a highlight of canal's bicentennial celebration in 2025.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive



COUNTY OF ERIE

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY



JAMES K. McDONALD
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PARKS

TROY P. SCHINZEL
COMMISSIONER

KATE HILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF RECREATION

October 22, 2024

Rotary of the Tonawandas
182 Claremont Ave
Tonawanda, NY 14223

RE: Rotary of the Tonawandas Grant Application to the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee

Dear Chairman Jones,

On behalf of Erie County Parks, Recreation and Forestry, we wholly support the opportunity to enhance the existing Erie Canal historic area on River Road in the Town of Tonawanda. The initiative proposed by the Rotary of the Tonawandas featuring invasive species management, native plantings, accessibility connections, interpretive signing, a picnic shelter and public art would be greatly appreciated by county residents and users of the Empire State/Shoreline trail.

The site is the only original section of the historic canal in Erie County and also owned and maintained by our department. Working with the Rotary club and their Niagara River partners will be a welcome addition in preparation for the canal's 200th anniversary and the World Canal Conference coming to Buffalo in September 2025.

We recognize that next year's celebration will be quickly upon us and that the club has much to do with respect to securing grants, fundraising and hard work. We support the Rotary of the Tonawandas efforts and look forward to working with them in a mutually beneficial manner to make the site successful, sustainable and a highlight of canal's bicentennial celebration in 2025.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy P. Schinzel", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Troy P. Schinzel

Erie County Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Forestry



New York State and Local Sales and Use Tax Exempt Organization Exempt Purchase Certificate

Single purchase certificate

Blanket certificate

Your exempt organization number is **not your federal employer identification number** (see instructions).

Exempt organization number (6-digit number issued by the New York State Tax Department)

EX- 211 | 5 | 311 | 2

Name of seller			Name of exempt organization/purchaser		
Street address			Street address		
City	State	ZIP code	City	State	ZIP code
			Kenmore Rotary Charities Inc		
			c/o Ken-Ton Chamber 3411 Delaware Ave		
			Kenmore NY 14217		

The exempt organization must be the direct purchaser and payer of record.

You may not use this form to purchase motor fuel or diesel motor fuel exempt from tax.

Representatives of governmental agencies or diplomatic missions may not use this form.

Carefully read the instructions and other information on the back of this document.

I certify that the organization named above holds a valid Form ST-119, *Exempt Organization Certificate*, and is exempt from New York State and local sales and use taxes on its purchases.

I also certify that the above statements are true and correct. I make these statements with the knowledge that knowingly making a false or fraudulent statement on this document is a misdemeanor under section 1817 of the New York State Tax Law and section 210.45 of the Penal Law, punishable by imprisonment for up to a year and a fine of up to \$10,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a corporation. I understand that the Tax Department is authorized to investigate the validity of the exemption claimed or the accuracy of any information entered on this form.

Print or type name of officer of organization	Title
CATHERINE D. PICIULO	Vice President
Signature of officer of organization	Date issued
<i>Catherine Piciulo</i>	12/6/17

Need help?



Internet access: www.nystax.gov
(for information, forms, and publications)



Fax-on-demand forms: Forms are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. 1 800 748-3676



Telephone assistance is available from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (eastern time), Monday through Friday.

To order forms and publications: 1 800 462-8100

Business Tax Information Center: 1 800 972-1233

From areas outside the U.S. and outside Canada: (518) 485-6800



Hotline for the hearing and speech impaired:

If you have access to a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), contact us at 1 800 634-2110. If you do not own a TDD, check with independent living centers or community action programs to find out where machines are available for public use.



Persons with disabilities: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will ensure that our lobbies, offices, meeting rooms, and other facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have questions about special accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call 1 800 972-1233.



If you need to write, address your letter to:

NYS TAX DEPARTMENT
BUSINESS TAX INFORMATION CENTER
W A HARRIMAN CAMPUS
ALBANY NY 12227