

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal:

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:	Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment
Mailing Address:	2489 Whitehaven Road, Grand Island
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14072
Federal ID#:	83-0894898
Charities Registration #:	Under Review; Submitted 6/08/2023

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

\$ 105,000

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount
<u>Private Funding</u>	<u>\$121,000</u>
<u>WNY Land Conservancy funding to Nicole Gerber</u>	<u>\$144,000</u>

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	<u>Alt Nature Trail and Alt Nature Center Improvements</u>
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	2489 Whitehaven Road (SBL 36.00-1-8); adjacent Alt Boulevard; adjacent parcel (36.00-1-20) Longitude: -78.98, Latitude: 43.02
Project Site Address:	2489 Whitehaven Road (SBL 36.00-1-8); adjacent Alt Boulevard; adjacent parcel (36.00-1-20)
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14072
Minor Civil Division(s):	Town of Grand Island
County:	Erie
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment has a land access agreement with Nicole Gerber for the property. Per the agreement the "Alt Nature Center," and lands and other outbuildings appropriate for environmental education are provided to CCWE for the headquarters of CCWE, environmental education, community gatherings and collaborations, wildlife tours, and similar purposes.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	<u>Dave Reilly</u>
Title:	President, Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment
Business Address:	P.O. Box 1212, Grand Island
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14072
Work Number:	716-774-8571
Cell Number:	716-525-5628
E-Mail Address:	ccweinfo@gmail.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	<u>Dave Reilly</u>
Title:	President
Organization / Firm:	Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment
Business Address:	P.O. Box 1212, Grand Island
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PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. The Alt Nature Preserve is an historic property of approximately 36 acres in the center of Grand Island. It is one of the few remaining farmsteads in the community and was recently established with a conservation easement through the WNY Land Conservancy. The property includes approximately 10 acres of forested land that meets the ecological definition of a rare Swamp Oak Hickory Forest Ecosystem. Approximately 23 acres is meadow (successional old field) and home to a number of NYS threatened bird species including bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, and Marsh Hawk. The remaining property is a homestead dating back to the 1860s that includes an historic farmhouse, Grand Island Schoolhouse #8, an historic icehouse, a restored barn built in the 1870s, and an original plank construction shed. The schoolhouse was recently renovated to serve as the Alt Nature Center under the management of the environmental non-profit Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment. This will be a space for environmental education; for teaching and training about ecological gardening, native plants, and habitat protection; and to serve as an information center for free public access to the trails on the Alt Nature Preserve. To complete the renovations and establish a functioning nature center a water line needs to be laid from Whitehaven Road to the Nature Center, a septic system needs to be installed, and the interior bathroom plumbing needs to be finished. To complete the Alt Nature Trail, the former Alt Boulevard – which has been adjoined to the Alt Nature Preserve – is being transformed to a publicly accessible trail for birdwatching and nature hikes. Completion of this work requires the planting of native plants to support bird and wildlife species, grooming of the trail, establishment and landscaping of a trailhead, and development of signage. Expected completion date is October 2025. This work is important for preserving history and heritage, for protecting habitat, and for promoting public access to nature and wildlife.

2. The Niagara River Greenway Plan outlines a vision and strategy for implementation of steps to “bring the Niagara River corridor to life and reveal this region’s interdependence, its place in history and its connections to the natural and built environment.” Our project combines the environment and heritage of Grand Island – a location entirely within the Niagara River corridor – and creates a publicly accessible site that will educate and offer opportunities for engaging with nature and history. The Alt Nature Preserve is located a quarter-mile from the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary and the Western New York Welcome Center, within easy access of three camping locations, centrally proximate to three NYS parks (Beaver Island State Park, Buckhorn State Park, West River Trail) and on the border of Erie and Niagara counties. Accordingly it meets the Niagara River Corridor objective to “serve as a circulation system for the region that will improve access and connections throughout the area.”

Beyond the location, the Alt Nature Preserve is consistent with the Greenway Plan to “promote high-quality, ecologically sensitive and sustainable activities and development.” The Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment has been established to protect habitat and promote compassionate coexistence with wildlife. We do so by educating about the importance of biodiversity, ecological health, and preservation of nature. We move beyond education to action through events such as the 2022 Plant for Nature event at the WNY Welcome Center, funded by the Tonawanda Community Environmental Benefit Fund and which included participation by the Niagara River Greenway, where we distributed nearly 500 native plants to local families and organizations to start the process of creating humane habitats in our backyards.

In 2021 the process of transforming the Alt Farm into a nature center and preserve began, and involved collaboration with the WNY Land Conservancy to establish a land conservation easement for the property.

With the resources provided through this easement the process of renovating the historical buildings on the property and transforming the Grand Island one-room Schoolhouse #8 (which was moved to the Alt Farm in 1917) into a nature center was initiated.

This is an ideal site for a nature center. The Alt Farm has been an agricultural location since the 1870s. Its agricultural history includes serving as the site of an apple orchard, a cattle farm, a haying field, and has been farmed for various crops. The meadow on the property is one of a shrinking number of open spaces on Grand Island, and serves as a home to many species of threatened and endangered birds and wildlife (see the list of species identified on the property below). Its flora is also significant with many native plants and a wet oak hickory forest ecosystem (see the list plant species below).

Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment is already providing environmental educational opportunities and has opened the site to the community. It has served as a location for Erie Community College students to conduct research on types of bluebird boxes and their success rate for attracting bluebirds, tree swallows, and other species of interest. The students presented on their work and their recommendations for native plantings to support wildlife at the Alt Nature Center. Elementary school classes have visited for experiential learning about plants, animals, and habitats. The WNY Native Plant Collaborative will be holding its monthly meeting in the Alt Nature Center at the end of June 2023. The Alt Farm is an annual site in the Grand Island Garden Walk, at which people from across WNY can walk and see the native plant gardens. The University at Buffalo’s Native American Studies Program has been invited to use the property and Alt Nature Center for their courses and research. And Niagara University’s environmental student organization, NU CARES, has been invited to participate in internships and hold meetings on site. The center is open, free of charge, to any environmental organization whose mission is consistent with our efforts to protect and preserve ecological integrity and sustainability.

To complete the restoration and renovation efforts at the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail, we seek funding support from Niagara River Greenway for two specific and interrelated initiatives. First, we plan to connect the Nature Center to the municipal water line, to install a septic system, and to complete internal plumbing so that we can offer bathroom facilities to hikers, guests, and visitors. Second, we seek funding support to complete the Alt Nature Trail on the former Alt Boulevard that is on the western border of the Alt Nature Preserve. That property was recently returned to the Alt Farm with the understanding that it will become a publicly accessible nature trail. The physical trail requires grooming, the establishment of a parking area, landscaping with native plants and removal of invasive plant species, and signage to inform and educate visitors.

Principles	
Sustainability	The Alt Nature Preserve is established to protect and preserve habitat. The Alt Nature Center will serve as a hub for environmental education and activity. The Alt Nature Trail will be a model for ecologically focused trail development and will use the most current research on effective sustainability initiatives to ensure ecological health and preservation. With a conservation easement in place, the location will never be developed and will remain a natural site in perpetuity.
Accessibility	Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment is committed to operating the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail as publicly accessible and free resources for the community. The trail and nature center will follow ADA guidelines, making them accessible to all people of any age and physical condition.

Ecological Integrity	The goal of the Alt Nature Preserve is to restore the natural ecosystem through native plantings, removal of invasive species, and protection of the land (through a permanent conservation easement). Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment will promote ecological health and integrity at the site through educational activities.
Public Well-Being	Recent scientific research has demonstrated the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems to public health. To foster and promote healthier ecosystems in order to improve our public health, Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment will utilize the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail to foster citizen environmental education and stewardship.
Connectivity	Located centrally within the Niagara River Corridor, the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail are located a quarter-mile from the Margery Gallogly Nature Sanctuary and the Western New York Welcome Center, within easy access of three camping locations, centrally proximate to three NYS parks (Beaver Island State Park, Buckhorn State Park, West River Trail) and on the border of Erie and Niagara counties. The location is ideal to connect trails and access to nature across Grand Island and between eco-tourism destinations.
Restoration	The installation of the bathroom facilities in the Alt Nature Center will complete the restoration of Grand Island Schoolhouse #8 – the building within which the Alt Nature Center is located. This 1800s one-room schoolhouse is one of only two remaining on Grand Island. Together with the historic barn, ice house, plan construction shed and historically-designated house (ca. 1870), the Alt Nature Center will become a destination for learning about the heritage, ecology, and history of agriculture on Grand Island.
Partnerships	The Alt Nature Center is open, free of charge, to any environmental organization whose mission is consistent with Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment’s efforts to protect and preserve ecological integrity and sustainability.
Community Based	Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment is committed to operating the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail as publicly accessible and free resources for the community. It will be utilized for community activities and will be available to school groups.

3. **Planning:**

Planning for the water and septic implementation has been completed.

Planning for the trail system will include consultation with local environmental experts, landscape architects, and ecologists to obtain expertise in native plantings with experience in environmental projects that include conservation and restoration. The goal is to identify the best plantings for the local ecosystem that will support the native fauna and create an immersive nature experience for all visitors who walk the trail.

Construction:

Construction will include both phases of the project. For the water connectivity and septic system construction this will include hiring a contractor for the septic system and the laying of water pipes connecting the nature center to the Grand Island public water system.

- Septic system
- Water connection
- Internal plumbing

Construction for the trail will include the following:

- Removal of invasive plant species
- Purchase and planting of native plants to support bird and other wildlife species along trail
- Purchase of mobile watering system (water tank and hoses)
- Grooming of the trail and addition of any necessary natural surface amendments and filler
- Establishment and landscaping of a trailhead
- Creation of parking area
- Creation of signage for trail to highlight environmental features and the local farming history

Administration:

This will be accomplished through volunteers working with the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment. No costs will be incurred by Niagara River Greenway for administration of this project.

Operation and maintenance:

Operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment and will be accomplished through volunteer work. No costs will be incurred by Niagara River Greenway for operation and maintenance of this project.

Current costs incurred by the private landowner with the renovations to the original Grand Island Schoolhouse #8 and the historic barn from 2022 to present total approximately \$265,000.

This includes attorney costs, closing costs & fees, tank removal, excavation, soil testing, soil remediation, architect, survey, accountant, barn renovations, schoolhouse renovations (including addition), driveway stone for parking and access.

The land conservation easement for the Alt Nature Preserve, finalized in December 2022 and arranged in conjunction with the WNY Land Conservancy, provided funding of \$144,000 which was applied directly to these renovations to the property and structures. The additional \$121,000 was sourced through private funding from Nicole Gerber – owner of the property. Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment has signed a land access and use agreement with the private landowner.

Planning	Water/Septic: None Trail: \$10,000
Construction	Water/Septic: \$35,000 Trail (including elements listed above): \$60,000
Acquisition	None
Administration	This will be accomplished through volunteers working with the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment. No costs will be incurred by Niagara River Greenway for administration of this project.
Operations and Maintenance/ Year	This will be accomplished through volunteers working with the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment. No costs will be incurred by Niagara River Greenway for administration of this project.
Total Project Cost	\$ 105,000

4. Since 2019 there have been ongoing discussions between the principals of Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment and the Town of Grand Island regarding the development of a public trail on the undeveloped Alt Boulevard. With the Town Government support for this initiative, the private landowner (Gerber) reacquired the Alt Boulevard property adjacent to 2489 Whitehaven Road for the expressed purpose of implementing a nature trail.

The undeveloped Alt Boulevard has been included on Town of Grand Island Long-Range Planning maps as a future location for hiking trails (see attached map from the Town of Grand Island 2018 Comprehensive Plan, adopted September 17 2018, p. 60; <https://www.grand-island.ny.us/DocumentCenter/View/351/Comprehensive-Plan-2018-Adopted-9-17-18-PDF>).

With the process of creating a nature preserve on the Alt Farm, owner Nicole Gerber received a letter of support from Town of Grand Island supervisor John Whitney for the then-proposed land conservation easement.

Additionally, the property at 2489 Whitehaven Road is included within the Grand Island Agricultural Districts. These overlay districts were created to “allow agricultural practices inherent to and necessary for farming to proceed and be undertaken free of unreasonable and unwarranted interference or restriction” (Town of Grand Island Code 145-1, <https://ecode360.com/15666085#37934836>). This includes “development and improvement of agricultural land... for its natural and ecological value” (145-4). The creation of the Alt Nature Center and Alt Nature Trail and opening access to both will provide for education related to agriculture and nature and ecology.

As a multi-use property, 2489 Whitehaven Road is zoned M-2 General Industrial which explicitly allows for educational facilities (see Town of Grand Island Code 407-81 and -85).

In the process of renovating the historic schoolhouse for the purpose of establishing a nature center, property owner Nicole Gerber has received all of the necessary building permits associated with the construction, electrical work, foundation work, and addition to the structure.

5. The environmental setting and existing conditions are described in detail above. The Alt Nature Trail will be sited on a tractor path that has been used as such for more than 100 years. No excavation will be required to establish the trail. There will be no impact on existing trees and minimal impact to existing vegetation beyond the removal of invasive plant species and the planting of native species to support wildlife and a healthy ecosystem.

The land conservation easement for the Alt Nature Preserve explicitly allows for the establishment of hiking trails.

Regarding the Nature Center within the historic Grand Island Schoolhouse #8, with the exception of the bathroom facilities (water, septic, plumbing) the Center is ready to open and is operational minus the bathroom facilities.

6. With funding support, the bathroom facilities within the Alt Nature Center can be completed by June 2024. This includes the installation of water lines, septic system, and interior plumbing.

With funding support, the Alt Nature Trail can be completed by October 2025. This includes the following anticipated completion dates:

- Purchase and planting of native plants to support bird and other wildlife species along trail: August 2024
- Purchase of implements to support watering and care of native plant species
- Grooming of the trail and addition of any necessary natural surface amendments and filler: June 2025
- Establishment and landscaping of a trailhead: August 2025
- Creation of parking area: August 2025
- Creation of signage for trails: September 2025
- Official opening of Alt Nature Trail: October 2025

About Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment (CCWE):

The Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment aspires to be the voice of wildlife and the stewards of our environment. Through education and action we resolve to protect our ecosystems. We know that working to improve the environment and the lives of animals will improve our lives as well. We join together to encourage and enlist citizens in the practice and promotion of compassionate coexistence and the realization of a kind and compassionate world.

Our goal is to engage in advocacy, education, and action:

ADVOCACY

- For protection of the environment and for compassionate coexistence with wildlife
- Bringing together individuals, organizations and agencies for collective strength and action

EDUCATION

- Staying informed on topics, issues and actions that affect wildlife and the environment
- Receiving notices of educational events, meetings and trainings

ACTION

- Being apprised of local, state and federal legislative actions and initiatives
- Being a member of a collective voice that speaks and acts for wildlife and the environment

CCWE has conducted and participated in similar educational events in the Western New York community for over seven years. Experts in wildlife species and behavior, native plants, and ecosystems have been invited to present to the community in different venues in the area. We coordinated the logistics, operations and communications for the events. CCWE also created and coordinated a WildLIFE Appreciation and Education Day event at Erie County Community College. We had four speakers educate on the importance of plants and animals to a healthy ecosystem along with over 12 local non-profits focused on native plants, wildlife appreciation and protection of the environment tabled to provide educational resources. Bringing in experts to conduct presentations enhances and supports the mission and goals of the like-minded organizations that participated in the event.

In 2021 we received a Tonawanda Community Environmental Benefit Fund grant to hold an environmental event entitled “Plant for Nature.” This involved a native plant giveaway and educational event to educate about how healthy ecosystems promote healthy communities, enlist citizens to contribute to environmental action, and provide plants and information so that participants can transform their own yards and properties to promote biodiversity and ecological balance. We invited the public from across Western New York to participate in the following: (1) presentations on topics of ecological and habitat restoration in our backyards and in community spaces; (2) tabling by local, regional, and national organizations who shared ideas, knowledge, and tools for creating healthier ecosystems; and (3) a native plant giveaway that provided each participant with a tree, bush, or flowering plant so that they can start the process of transforming their own spaces into a more healthy environment.

Citizen Coalition has organized and led more than twenty-five events involving presentations and tabling. Our outreach has been to diverse groups, organizations, and communities, and we have connected with audiences across a broad spectrum of ages, interests, and demographics. Among the audiences and venues are the following:

- Allegany Nature Pilgrimage
- Wilson Library (on Ecological Gardening)
- Continuing Education Program of Grand Island (on reconnecting your yard with nature)
- Errick Road Middle School, North Tonawanda (on How and Why to Make Your Backyard a Habitat)
- Erie Community College North
- Ecumenical Environmental Group of Grand Island
- Niagara University
- Riverside-Salem Environmental Sanctuary
- Grand Island Nike Base Community Center
- Medaille College
- Huth Elementary School (Grand Island)
- Harlem Road Community Center in Amherst, NY, in cooperation with the Town of Amherst Youth and Recreation Department
- Niagara Heritage Village
- Elmwood Festival of the Arts
- WNY Environmental Alliance, Daemen College
- Rochester VegFest
- Buffalo VegFest
- WNY Peace Center

In all the events that the CCWE has initiated, conducted and participated in, there has always been an emphasis on the “coalition” part of our name. Our mission and our work have been to bring together organizations and individuals to support endeavors and activities that protect and preserve wildlife and the environment. We seek to support organizations in the community that focus on creating and ensuring healthy environments by caring for the plants, animals and the environment around them.

The Alt Nature Trail – Concept:

The development of the Alt Nature Trail will focus on the creation of a walking trail open to the public that will highlight the environmental features already existing on the former right-of-way Alt Boulevard lands, as well as the natural environment that exists on the lands directly adjacent to the Alt Nature Trail. The former Alt Boulevard lands were farmed years ago by the Alt family and the adjacent lands that run the length of the Alt Nature Trail consist of meadows and woods that are owned by Nicole Gerber. That property, consisting of more than 36 acres, is preserved and protected through a land conservation agreement with the Western New York Land Conservancy.

The Alt lands have been reviewed and assessed by environmental specialists who have identified the existence of established and emerging wetlands, meadow/grassland habitat, and woods consisting of a unique forest type of wet oak-hickory. The wildlife species existing on or using the land are varied (insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, etc.), with some being endemic to the Island and region and some being seasonal or migratory. The lands have been identified to have NYS Department of Environmental Conservation-designated endangered species and species of special concern. The lands provide critical ecological communities for wildlife (wetlands, vernal pools, meadow lands) which are in danger of habitat loss across Grand Island.

With the special habitats and biodiversity of the lands, the goals for the trail and the property include: protecting the existing natural features, habitats, and biodiversity; enhancing the environment with native plantings that are beneficial to the endemic and migrating wildlife; and educating the public by providing a nature experience along with educational signage.

The Alt Nature Trail will have a trailhead with availability for parking using the frontage on Whitehaven Road. The trail will be created to run south to north, from Whitehaven Road to the northern boundary property line of the conservation easement land. The trail will be designed for pedestrian, non-motorized vehicle use, to protect the natural features and the wildlife. This main Alt Nature Trail will also be connected to additional trails that will be created in the meadows and woods on the 36 acres of the conservation easement property. Signage will be placed on the Alt Nature Trail and on the easement trails which will provide education on the flora and fauna species, the unique habitats, and will also highlight the past farming history of the farmlands. Farming will also be celebrated through sculptures located on the trail, created from farm machinery.

The Alt family was one of the founding families on Grand Island and played an important role in the Island's history and farming community. Dr. Gerber is a 6th generation Alt, and the family farm consists of the 36 acres, the 1870 farmhouse, the 100-year-old barn, icehouse, and one of Grand Island's original one-room schoolhouses (Schoolhouse #8).

That schoolhouse is being preserved and rehabilitated into the Alt Nature Center open to the public to provide an educational space highlighting the special environmental features of the area and NYS species. The non-profit organization, the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment, will be operating within the nature center to partner with environmental organizations to provide educational opportunities to the community.

The Alt Nature Trail will be designed in consultation with experts; we are working with Erie Community College faculty to conduct a research project on the desirability of various bluebird house designs. They will also be providing guidance on the placement and predator-proofing of the houses and will work with us to develop a management plan for protecting and supporting bluebirds that nest in the houses.



Species Lists of Flora and Fauna at the Alt Nature Preserve, Field Report conducted on July 15, 2021 (K. Hojnacki, CC Environment & Planning):

Table 3 - Species Lists	
WOODY PLANTS/VINES	
Common Name	Genus/Species
American basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>
American beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>
American elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
American hop-hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>
American sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>
Black elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>
Box elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Common blackberry	<i>Rubus allegheniensis</i>
Common privet ¹	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>
Cultivated apple	<i>Malus pumila</i>
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
European buckthorn ¹	<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>
Gray dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>
Honeysuckle ¹	<i>Lonicera sp.</i>
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Multiflora rose ¹	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Pin oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>
Poison ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
Red raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
River birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
Riverbank grape	<i>Vitis riparia</i>
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier sp.</i>
Shagbark hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>
Silver maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>
Swamp white oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
White meadowsweet	<i>Spiraea alba</i>
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>

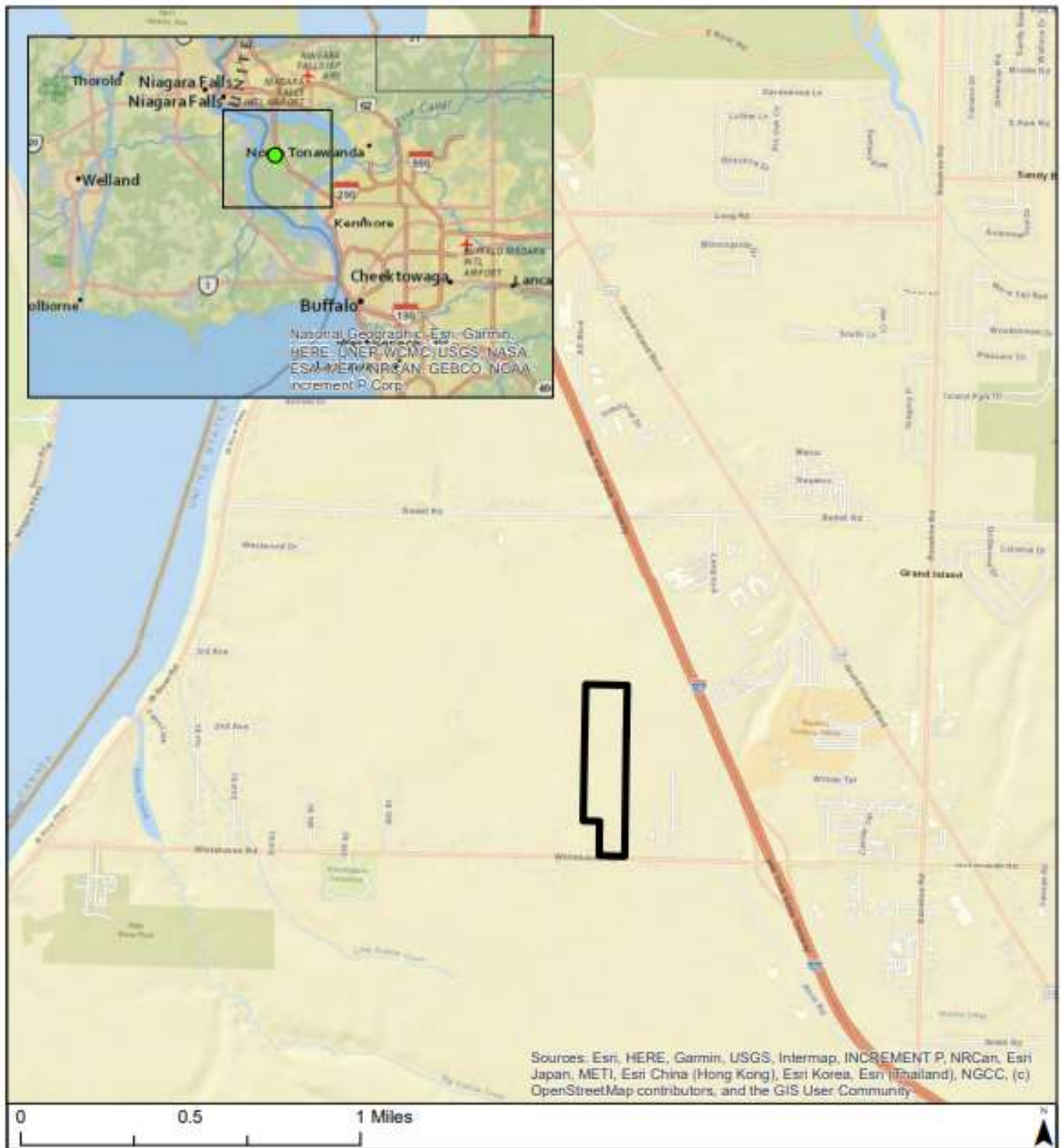
Table 3 - Species Lists	
HERBACEOUS PLANTS	
Common Name	Genus/Species
American water horehound	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>
Anemone	<i>Anemone sp.</i>
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>
Bee balm	<i>Monarda sp.</i>
Big bluestem	<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>
Bird vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Bittersweet nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Black bindweed	<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>
Black-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>
Blanket flower	<i>Gaillardia sp.</i>
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>
Bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>
Brown-eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>
Bull thistle ¹	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Butter-and-eggs toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>
Canada goldenrod	<i>Solidago canadensis</i>
Canada wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>
Catnip	<i>Nepeta cataria</i>
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Common bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Common dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Common duckweed	<i>Lemna minor</i>
Common milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>
Common plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Common ragweed	<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>
Common rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>
Common selfheal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
Common St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Common timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Common yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Coneflower	<i>Echinacea spp.</i>
Creeping jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>
Creeping thistle ¹	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>
Deptford pink	<i>Dianthus armeria</i>
Devil's beggar ticks	<i>Bidens frondosa</i>
Early goldenrod	<i>Solidago juncea</i>
Eastern enchanter's nightshade	<i>Circaea canadensis</i>
Field sow thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Fowl blue grass	<i>Poa palustris</i>

Table 3 - Species Lists	
Fowl manna grass	<i>Glyceria striata</i>
Fox sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>
Foxglove beardtongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>
Fringed willowherb	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>
Garlic mustard ¹	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Grass-leaved goldenrod	<i>Euthamia graminifolia</i>
Gray's sedge	<i>Carex grayi</i>
Hedge bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>
Hemp dogbane	<i>Apocynum cannabinum</i>
Hop sedge	<i>Carex lupulina</i>
Ironweed	<i>Vernonia sp.</i>
Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>
Jumpseed	<i>Persicaria virginiana</i>
Kentucky bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>
Lady's thumb	<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>
Large-leaved aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>
Little bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>
Necklace sedge	<i>Carex projecta</i>
Orchard grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Ox-eye daisy	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
Moth mullein	<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>
Narrow-leaved cattail	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>
Narrowleaf plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Paniced aster	<i>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</i>
Path rush	<i>Juncus tenuis</i>
Pennsylvania smartweed	<i>Persicaria pennsylvanica</i>
Perennial ryegrass	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
Philadelphia fleabane	<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>
Pointed broom sedge	<i>Carex scoparia</i>
Purple loosestrife ¹	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Purple-stemmed aster	<i>Symphotrichum puniceum</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red-rooted amaranth	<i>Amaranthus retroflexus</i>
Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>
Reed canary grass ¹	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>
Sideoats grama	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>
Smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>
Southern lady fern	<i>Athyrium asplenoides</i>
Southern water plantain	<i>Alisma subcordatum</i>
Spotted Joe-Pye weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>
Sulphur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Swamp milkweed	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>
Sweet vernal grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>

Table 3 - Species Lists

Switch grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>
Tall goldenrod	<i>Solidago altissima</i>
Tall meadow rue	<i>Thalictrum pubescens</i>
Water pepper	<i>Persicaria hydropiper</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White goosefoot	<i>Chenopodium album</i>
Wild carrot	<i>Dauca carota</i>
Wild garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>
Wild teasel ¹	<i>Dipsacus fullanum</i>
Woodland strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Woolgrass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>
WILDLIFE SPECIES	
Common Name	Genus/Species
American bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Black-capped chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>
Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
Galerucella beetle	<i>Galerucella</i> sp.
Gray catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>
Green frog	<i>Lithobates clamitans</i>
Groundhog	<i>Marmota monax</i>
Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
Eastern wood-pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Emerald ash borer ¹	<i>Agrilus planipennis</i>
European starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
House wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
Meadow vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaidura macroura</i>
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Red-bellied woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>
Red-eyed vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
Savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>
Wild turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>
Yellow-bellied sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>

¹Invasive species



Project Location Map

Alt Preserve BDR
 Town of Grand Island, Erie County, NY
 Western New York Land Conservancy

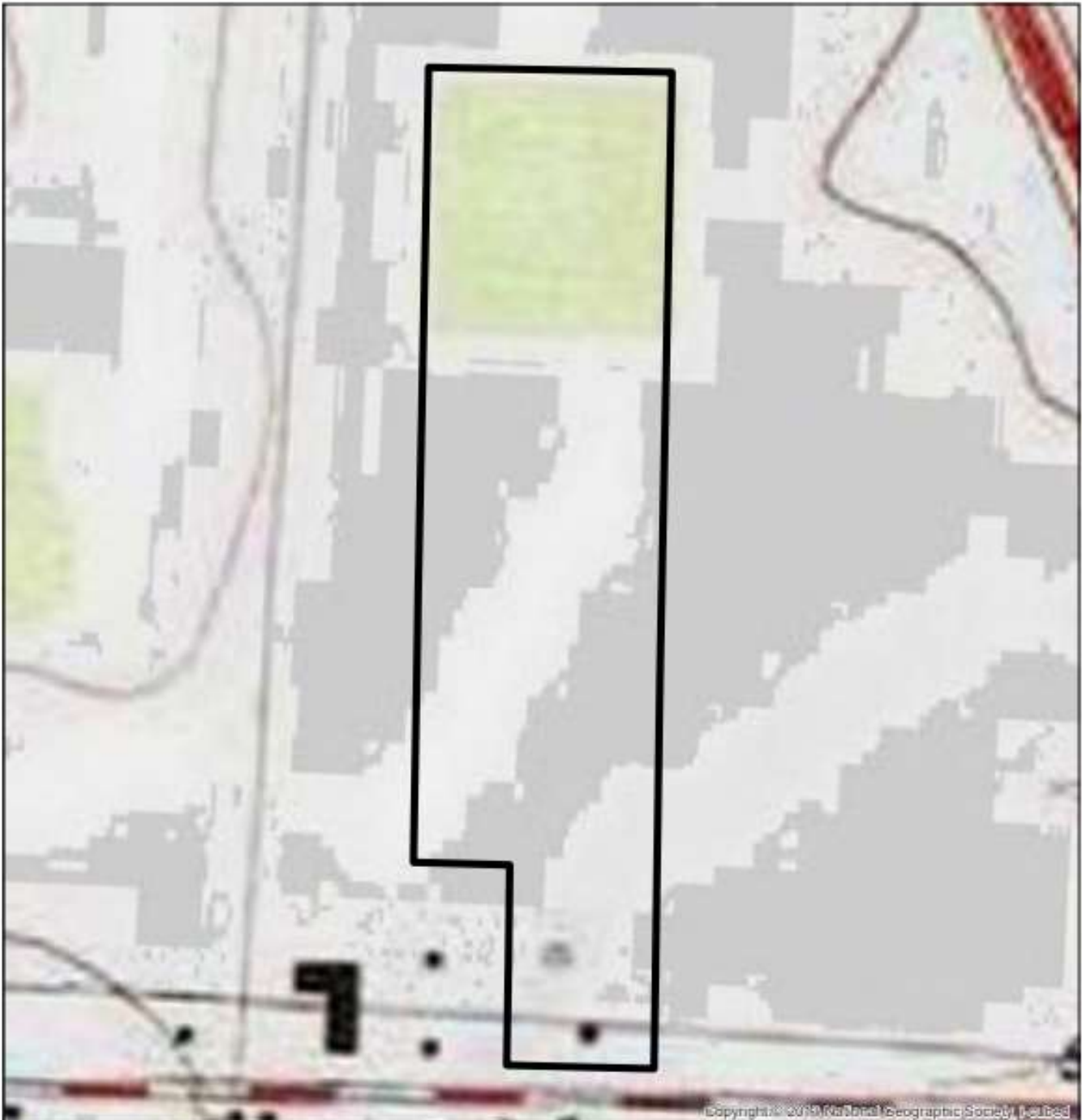
 Alt Preserve Boundary



CC Environment & Planning
 23 Jackson St, Suite 201
 Batavia, NY 14020
 (585) 219-4030

Figure 1

Prepared by K. Hojnacki, 7/20/2021




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0 0.075 0.15 Miles



Topographic Map

Alt Preserve BDR
 Town of Grand Island, Erie County, NY
 Western New York Land Conservancy

 Alt Preserve Boundary

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Figure 2
 Prepared by K. Hojnacki, 7/20/2021



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, AeroStar, DigitalGlobe, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

0 0.075 0.15 Miles



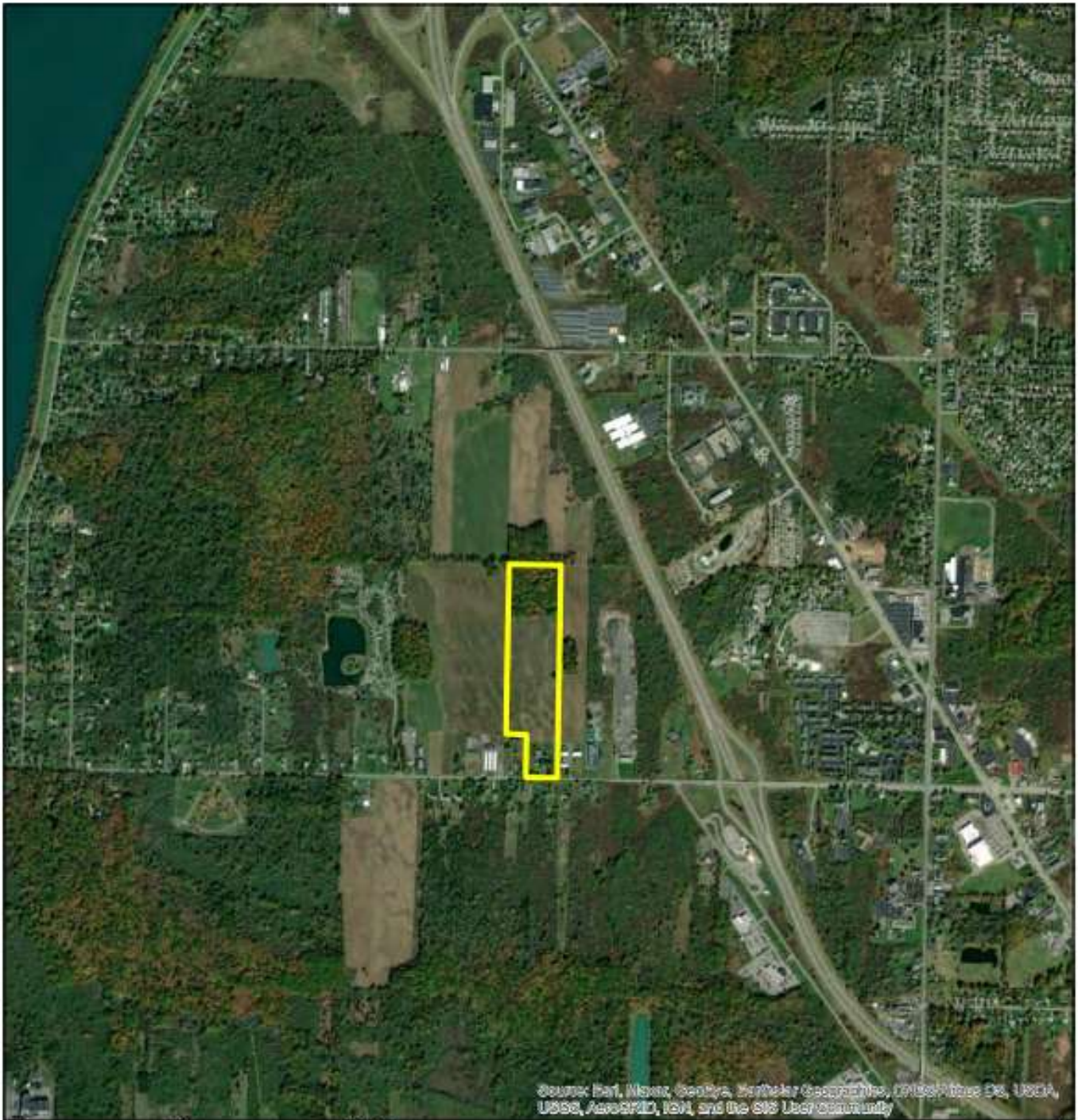
Aerial Photo - Parcel

Alt Preserve BDR
 Town of Grand Island, Erie County, NY
 Western New York Land Conservancy

 Alt Preserve Boundary

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Figure 9
 Prepared by K. Hojnacki, 7/20/2021




0 0.4 0.8 Miles



Aerial Photo - Vicinity

Alt Preserve BDR
 Town of Grand Island, Erie County, NY
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Figure 10

Prepared by K. Hojnacki, 7/20/2021

Alt Farm, Approximately 1950:



George Alt Jr. (Right) on Alt Farm with Neighbor Fred Ehlers:



Earliest Known Photo of Alt Farm:



Alt Family and Workers on the Farm, 1919:



Historic Barn on Alt Farm (Prior to Renovation):



Barn Following Restoration (2023):



Grand Island Schoolhouse #8:



Grand Island Schoolhouse #8 After Relocation to Alt Farm (in 1917); Functioning as Alt Chevrolet in 1936:



Grand Island Schoolhouse #8 Prior to Renovations:



Grand Island Schoolhouse #8 (Now the Alt Nature Center) Following Renovations, 2023:



Interior of Alt Nature Center During Renovations (2022):



Interior, Alt Nature Center, Following Initial Renovations (2023, Hosting Grand Island Garden Walk Committee):



Alt Nature Center (June 2023) During Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment Native Plant Event:



Presentation by Erie Community College Students at Alt Nature Center, May 2023:



Photos of Wildlife Taken at Alt Nature Preserve Along Alt Nature Trail Future Site:











Maps of Proposed Project Site:





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How we get there...

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Town of Grand Island : BRIDGING THE GAP