

# Public Information Session Agenda

## 6:00PM-6:30PM Poster Session

- Buffalo River Revitalization Projects

## 6:30PM-7:15PM Presentations

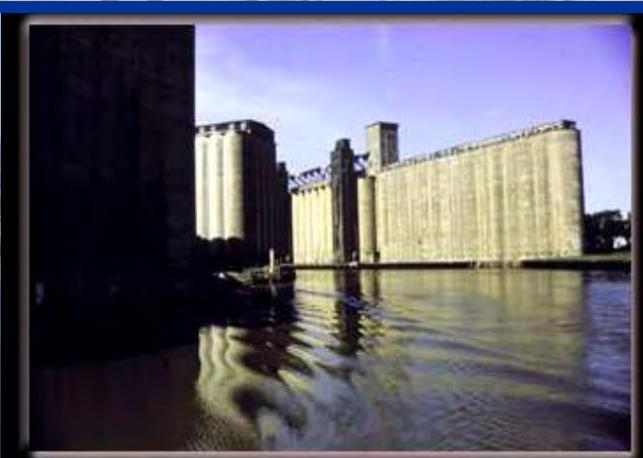
- Welcome, Introductions and Project Overview
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Great Lakes Legacy Act
- Next Steps
- Opportunities for community feedback and participation

## 7:15PM-8:00PM Questions & Answers

- Q&A related to pending river restoration

# Buffalo River Restoration Projects:

Public Information Session  
April 29, 2010 6:00PM-8:00PM  
Old First Ward Community Center

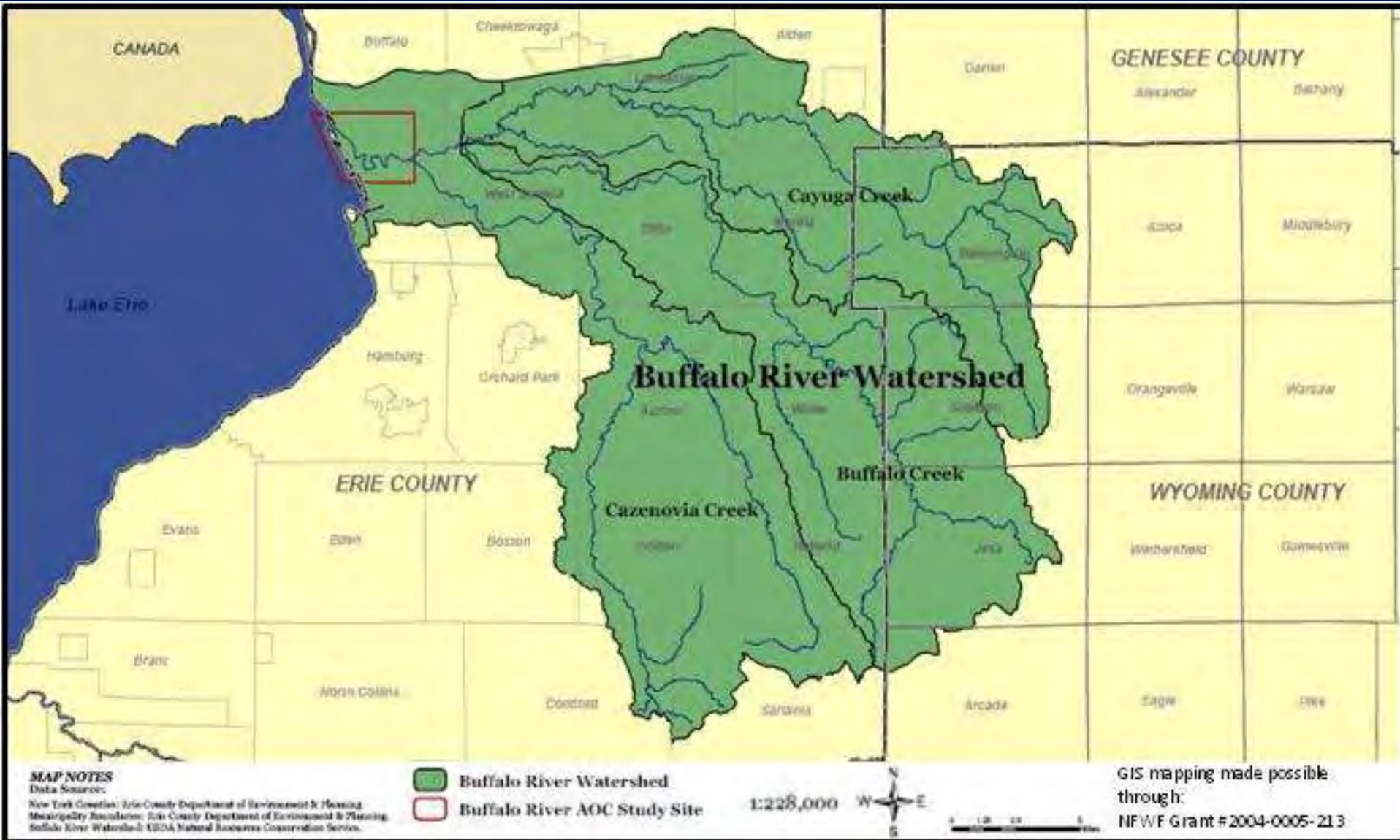


# Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs)

## Areas of Concern



# Buffalo River Watershed



# Buffalo River Area of Concern (AOC)



Buffalo Skyway Bridge

Michigan Street Bridge

Katherine Street Peninsula

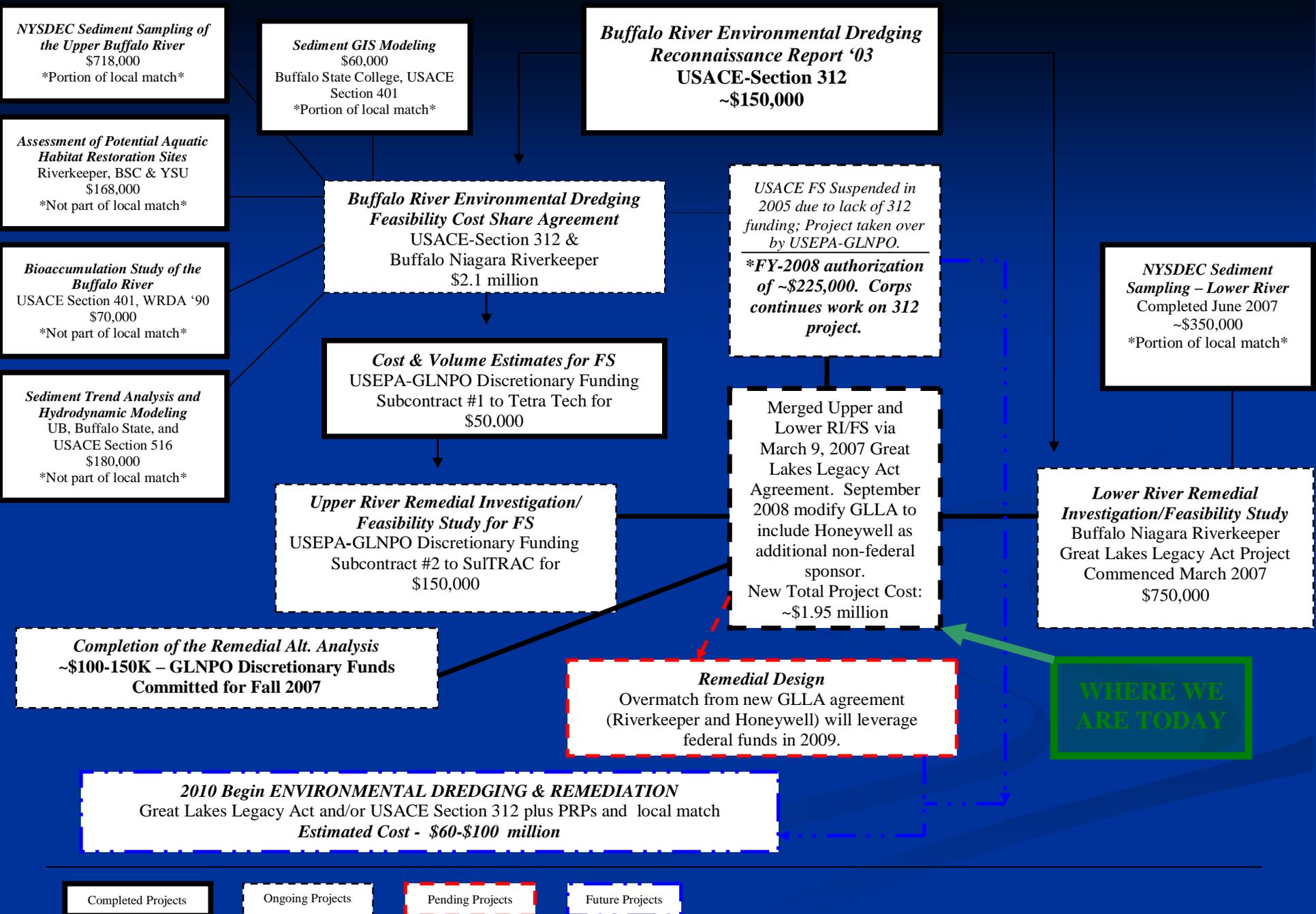
Ohio Street Bridge

Lower Conrail Bridge

South Park Avenue Bridge

The Buffalo River Area of Concern (AOC) consists of 6.2 miles of river (beginning at the river mouth at Lake Erie) and the 1.4-mile long City Ship Canal.

The center portion of the river and canal within most of the AOC is designated as a **Federal Channel** and has historically been dredged to depths of over 20 feet by the USACE to accommodate ship traffic.



# What's Happening in Your Backyard?

- Brownfield Clean Ups
  - Honeywell/Buffalo Color Site
  - Exxon Mobil
  - Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA)
- Sewer Abatement and Green Infrastructure
- Buffalo River Greenway Trail and Public Access
- Economic Redevelopment & Revitalization Efforts
  - Erie Canal Harbor – “CanalSide”
  - Buffalo Urban Development Corporation – “RiverBend”
  - “Green Energy Corridor”
  - Others (BOAs, RiverFest Park, Ice Boom Park, Railway Museum, etc.)
- Habitat Restoration and Shoreline Enhancement
- Sediment Dredging
  - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
  - Great Lakes Legacy Act





Naturally Sloped Shore near Bailey Avenue, North Shore



Sloped Stone Shore near South Park Avenue Bridge-South Shore



Concrete Cap on Timber Piles along NFTA Station-North Shore



Steel Sheet Pile Wall near Buffalo River Mouth, North Shore

Source: Hamm et al. 2007

**Figure 3-10 Buffalo River Shoreline Types**

**How does the  
*Great Lakes  
Restoration Initiative...***



**... impact Buffalo?**

# The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

\$475 M for 2010/2011 from Congress to restore the Great Lakes with a focus on:

- Most significant Great Lakes issues
  - Toxics Substances and Areas of Concern
  - Invasive Species
  - Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution
  - Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration
  - Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships
- Urgency
- Action
- Accountability

# GLRI Implementation

- USEPA is the manager of the funds:
  - Transfer half of the funds to other federal agencies to address the most significant Great Lakes problems
  - Great Lakes Legacy Act
  - Competitive Grant Programs
  - Great Lakes National Program Office

# Funding Breakdown by Focus Area

<b>Toxic Substances and Areas of Concern</b>	<b>~\$147 Million</b>
Invasive Species	~\$61 Million
Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution	~\$97 Million
Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration	~\$105 Million
Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships	~\$65 Million

# Toxics Focus Area

**~ \$147 M for Toxics**

**\$9.5M for USACE**

**Strategic Navigational  
Dredging**

**\$8.35 M for Buffalo  
River**



# **Buffalo River Dredging 2010-2011**

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Valley Community Center  
Buffalo, NY

April 29, 2010

Presented by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Buffalo District

Craig Forgette - Project Manager

Michael Asquith – Dredging Program Manager

Dr. Joseph Kreitinger - Environmental Toxicologist

Byron Rupp – Plan Formulator

Christine Cardus – NEPA Coordination

Dave Romano – Chief, Planning Division



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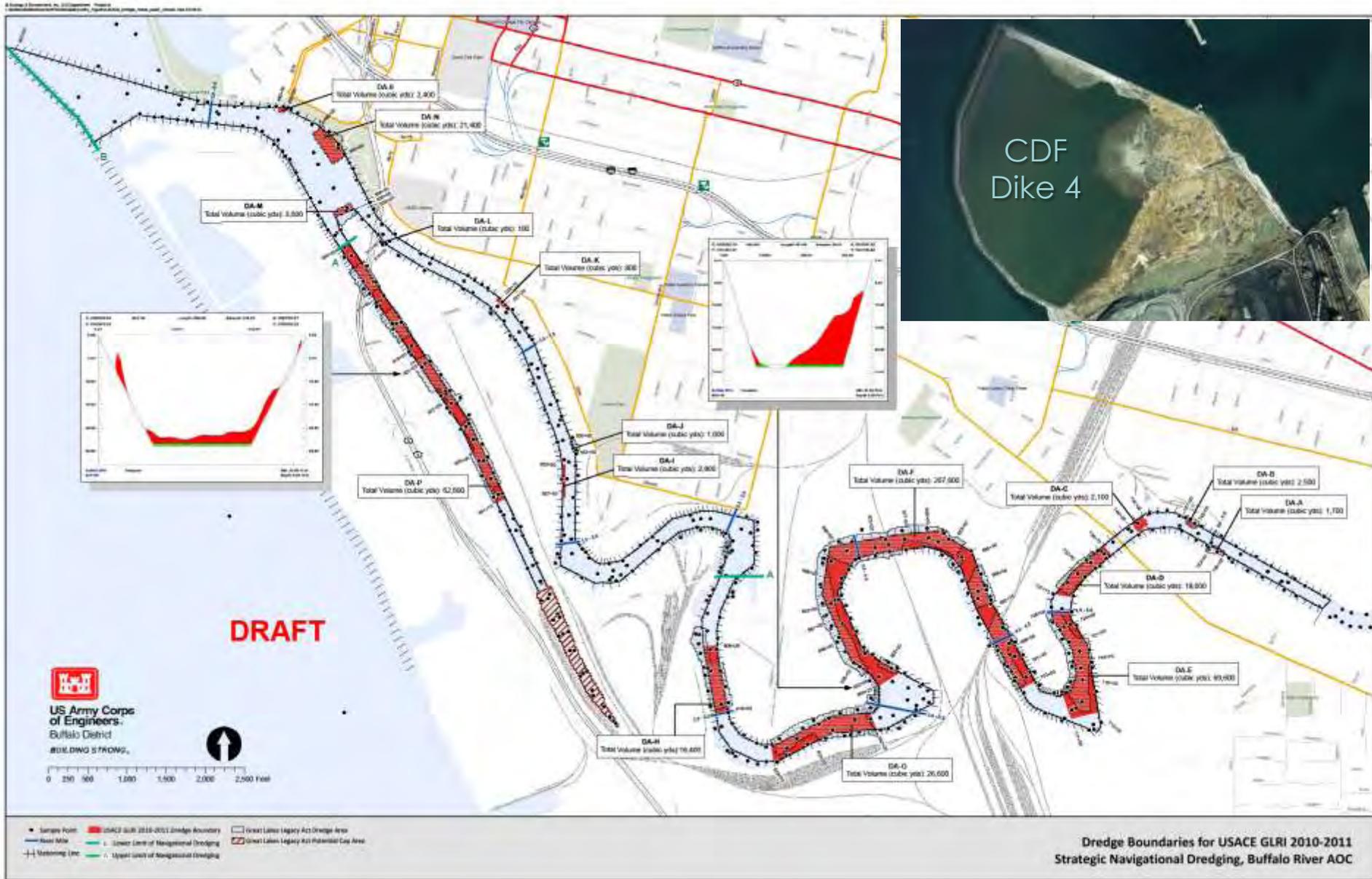
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# Agenda

- Background – Sampling and Analysis of Buffalo River Sediments
- Project Description & Dredging Locations
- Dredging Controls
- NEPA Process and Public Involvement
- Schedule



# Project Background & Dredge Locations



# Dredging Controls

- **Safety First!**
  - Hazard warnings for River navigation around work areas
- **Select Dredge Equipment to Reduce Sediment Resuspension**
  - Mechanical Dredge – Closed clamshell bucket, or
  - Cutterhead Dredge
- **Control Operations to Reduce Contaminants in Water Column**
  - Control rate of dredge movement in hot spots
  - Eliminate discharge of water from scows transporting dredge material
- **Protect Sensitive Fish and Wildlife**
  - Suspend dredging operations during sensitive breeding period for gulls and fish
- **Plan for the Unexpected**
  - Floating Booms for oil – Have booms ready for deployment



# NEPA Process and Public Involvement

- Scoping Document  
April 2010
- Environmental  
Assessment  
June/July 2010



<http://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/missions/BufaloRiver/index.html>



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# GLRI Dredging Schedule

JUL 2010 Dredging contract bid advertisement

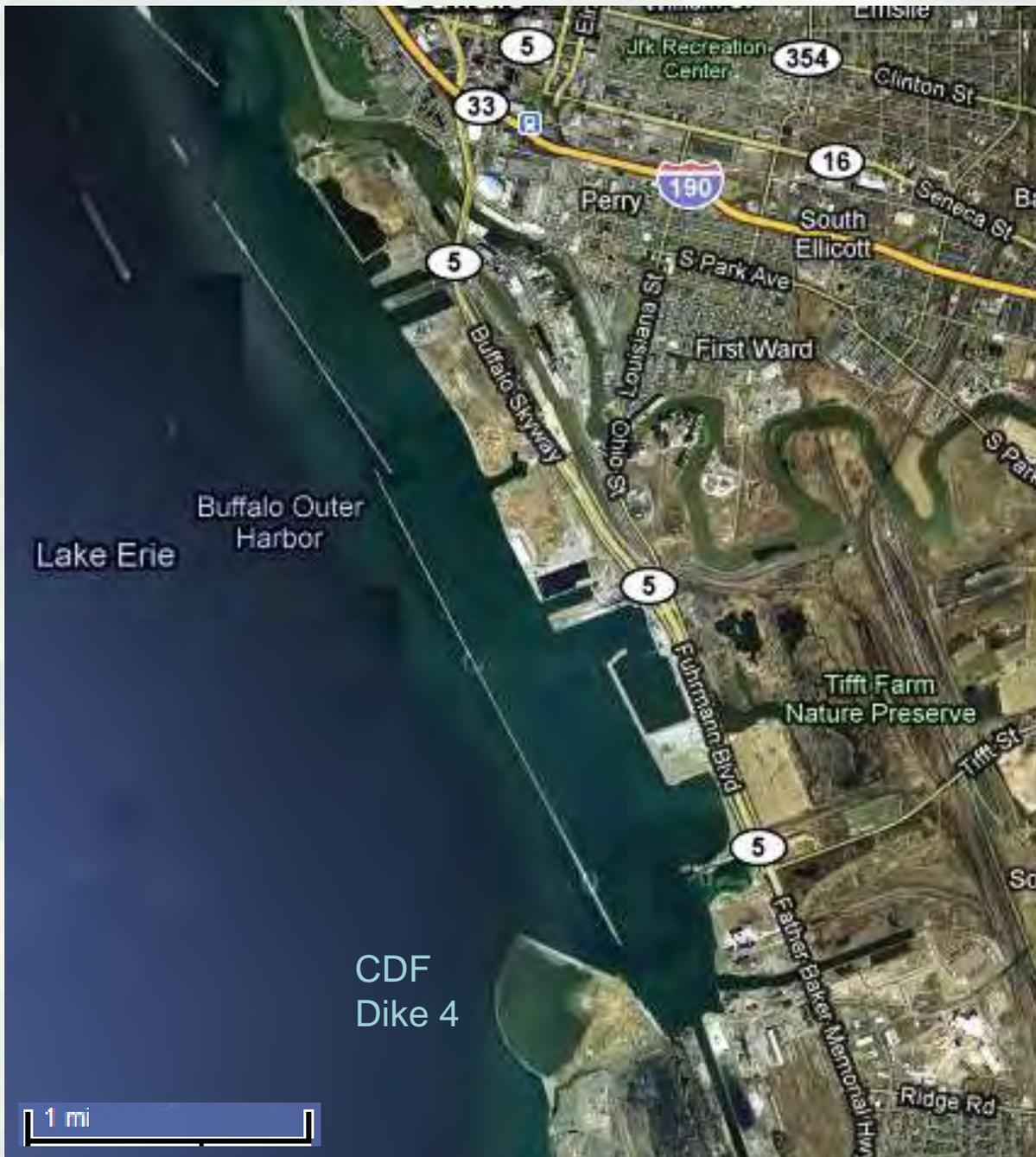
AUG 2010 Dredging contract award

OCT 2010 Commence dredging

FALL 2011 Complete Dredging

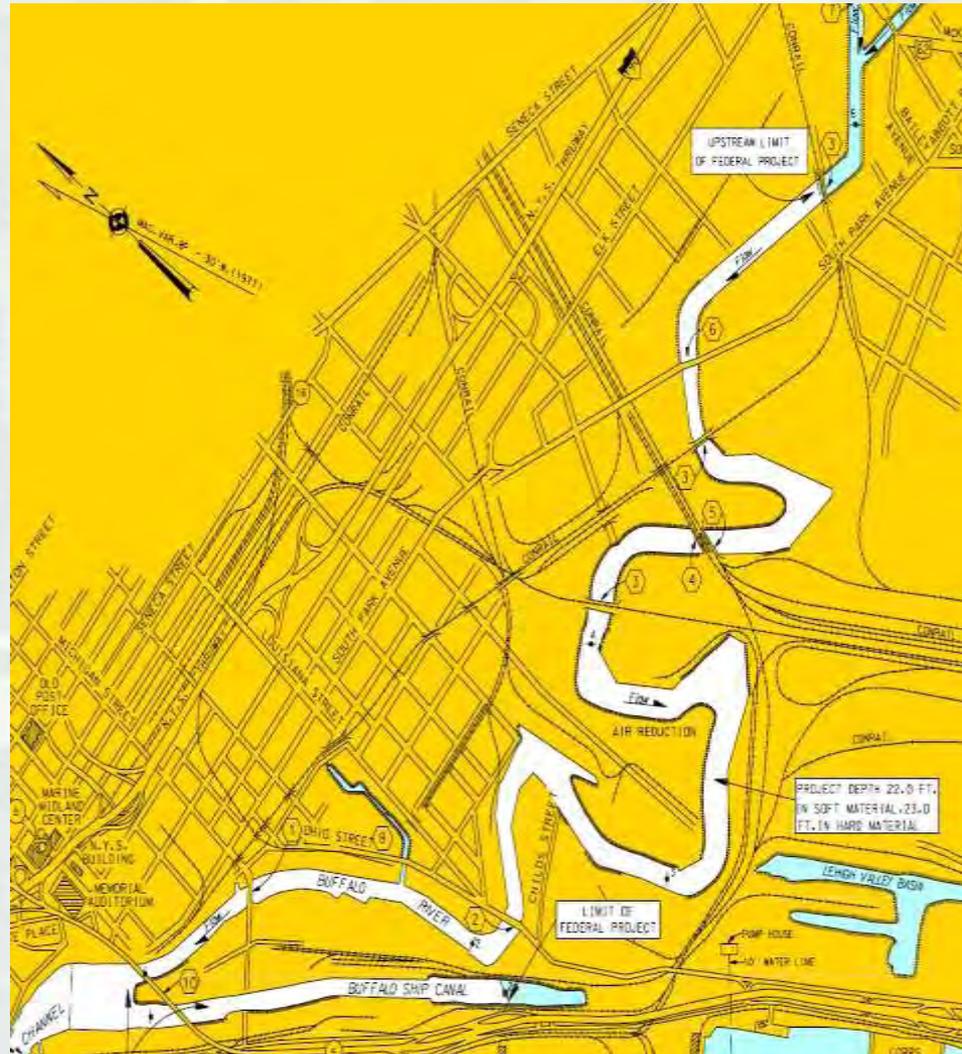


# Buffalo River GLRI Dredging Confined Disposal Facility

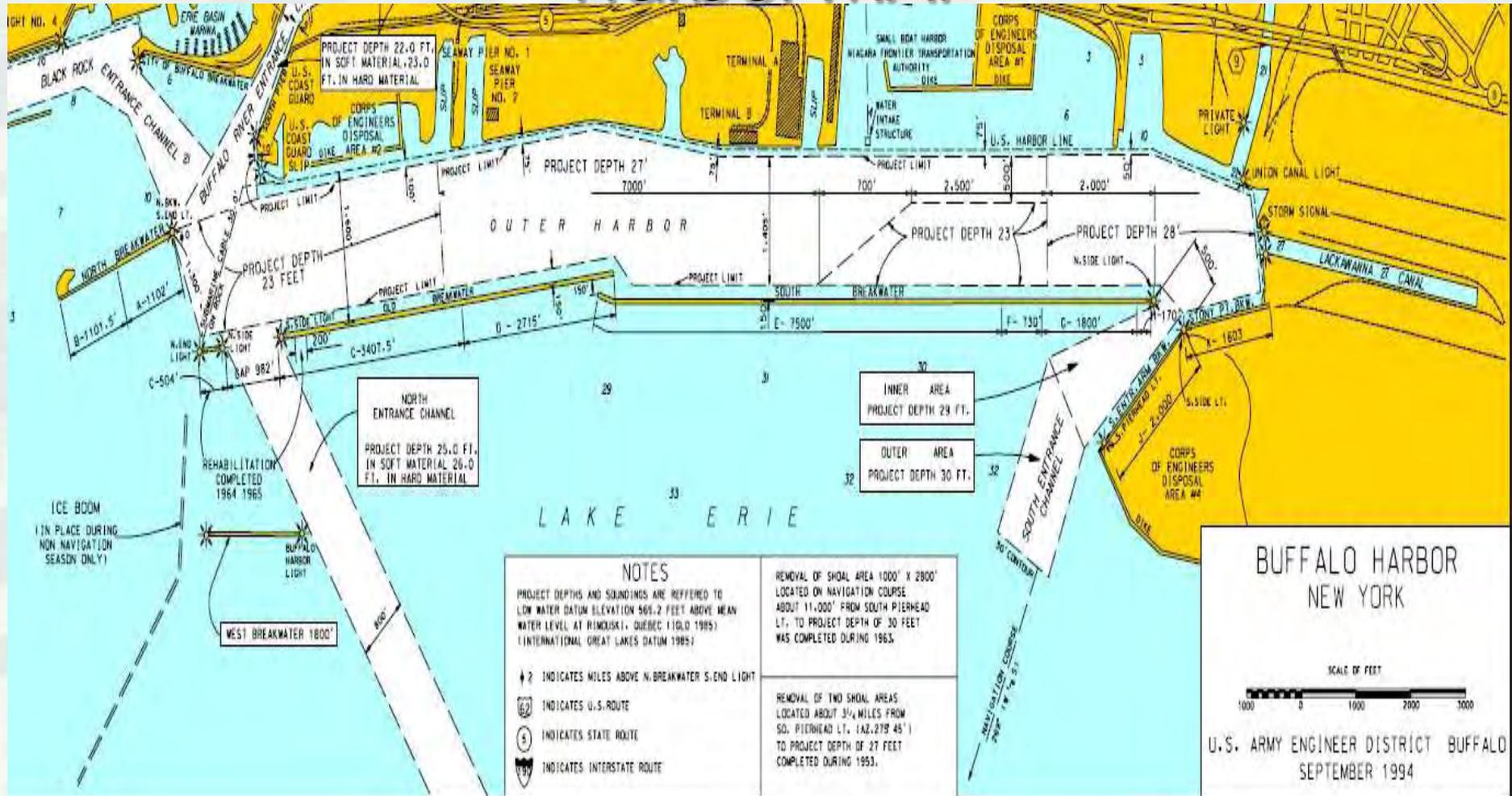


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# Buffalo DMMP PA Harbor MAP



# Buffalo DMMP PA Harbor MAP



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# Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) Program

- **Goal**: Accelerate the pace of sediment remediation at Areas of Concern (AOCs)
- **Mechanism**: Use partnerships (cost-share) to cleanup contaminated sediments

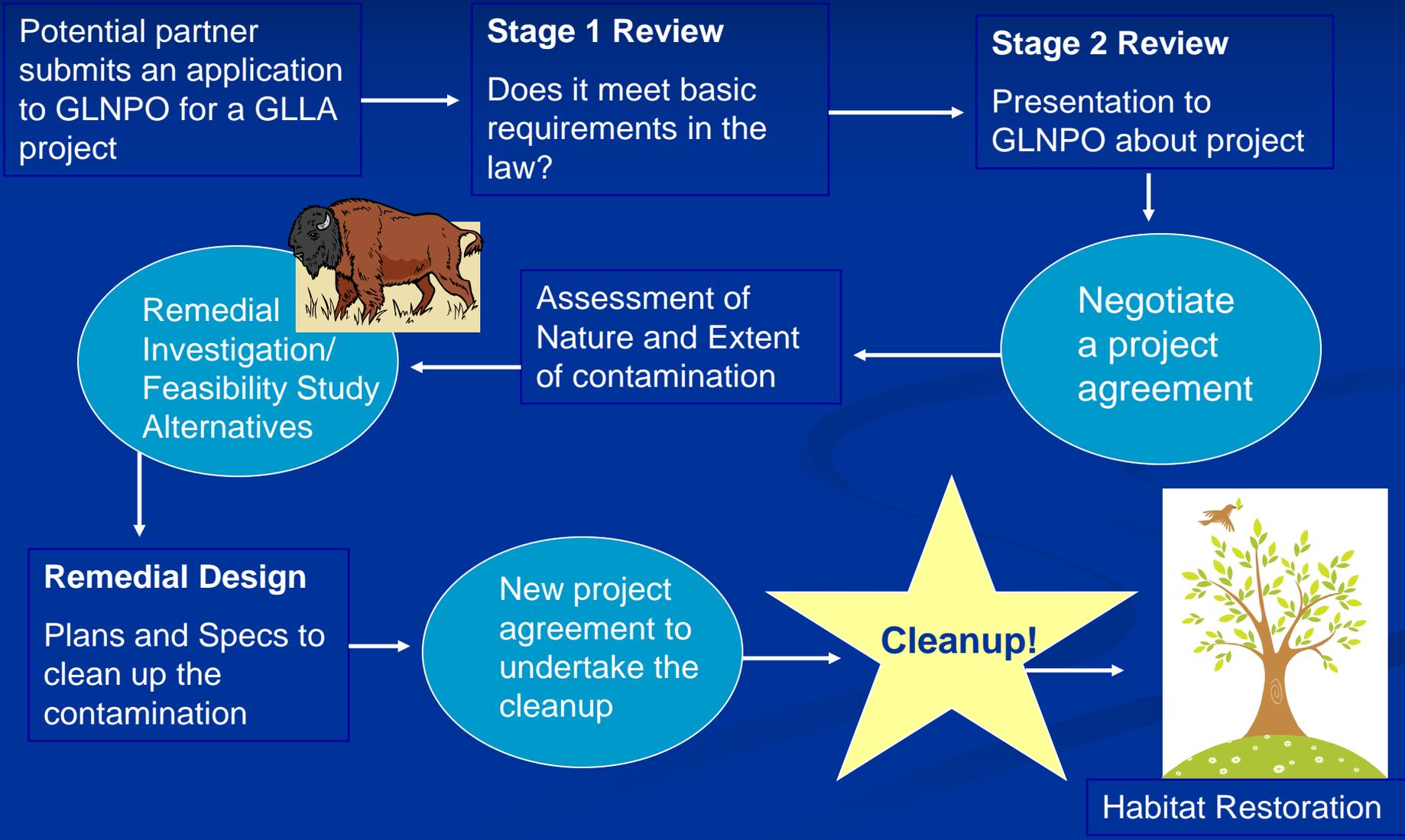
**All projects require minimum 35%  
non-Federal match**

# Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) Program

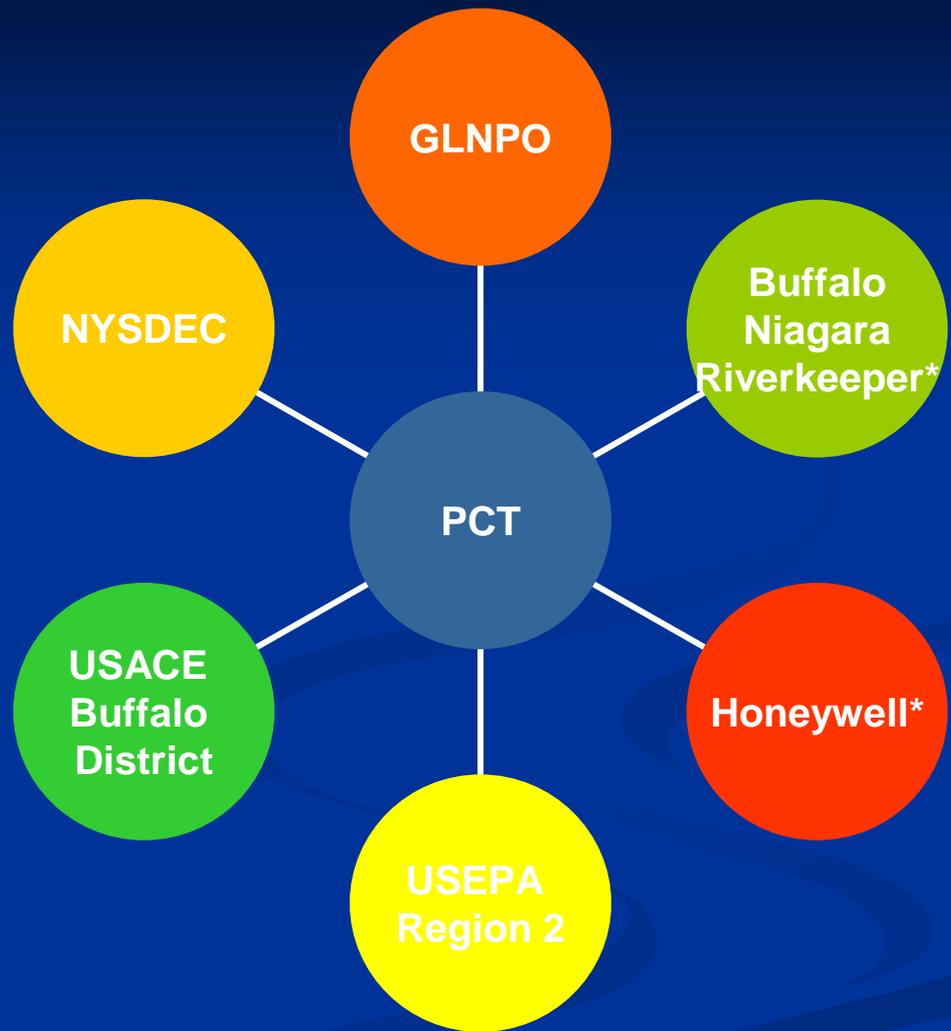
Must be in U.S. Areas of Concern (AOCs) and:

- 1) Implement a plan to remediate contaminated sediment (highest priority)
- 2) Monitor or evaluate contaminated sediment
- 3) Prevent further or renewed sediment contamination

# The GLLA Process



# Buffalo River Project Coordination Team (PCT)



\*Non-Federal Sponsor

# GLLA Feasibility Study

- Rely on the hydrological, ecological, and sediment data collected 2005-2008
- Develop cleanup goals
- Identify and evaluate remedial alternatives that are relevant to Buffalo River
- Compare alternatives and select one that best achieves goals

# Cleanup Goals/Objectives

- Reduce human health and ecological risks from contaminated sediments
- Relate back to Buffalo River AOC BUIs, whenever possible

# Proposed Remedy

- Dredging
- Capping
- Monitored natural recovery

# Schedule

- Finalize FS: May 2010
- Remedial Design: May 2010 – Summer 2011
- Remediation: Fall 2011 – Fall 2012

# Next Steps & Progress in 2010

- Buffalo River Dredging and Remediation Project(s)
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants (potential)
- Individual private, municipal and community projects:
  - Buffalo River Ecological Restoration Master Plan
  - Combined Sewer Abatement
  - RiverFest Park
  - NYPA Ice Boom Park
  - RiverBend master planning
  - CanalSide
  - Railway Historical Museum
  - Buffalo River Brownfield Opportunity Area
  - Green Energy Corridor

# Community and Public Participation Opportunities

- Army Corps NEPA Scoping Document Input (April 30, 2010)
- Legacy Act Feasibility Study Public Input and Information Session (June 2010)
- Army Corps Environmental Assessment Release and Public Comment (June 2010)
- Legacy Act Remedial Design Process Public Information Session (Winter 2010-11)
- Others (i.e.; Brownfields, BOA, Sewers, Habitat)