



Buffalo River Environmental Cleanup

Begins this Fall – Habitat Restoration to Follow

SEPTEMBER 2013

Transforming the Buffalo River into a Recreational, Economic, and Community Resource

Unique Public / Nonprofit / Private Partnership Will Restore Buffalo River

The Buffalo River Restoration Partnership, which includes U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER, and Honeywell, will begin environmental dredging of the Buffalo River this fall. Contaminated sediment close to the banks of the river will be removed, limited areas capped, and habitat restored.



This project follows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2011-2012 navigation dredging (shown above), which removed 550,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the middle of the river.

The Cleanup: 24 hours a day/six days a week with Minimal Community Disruption; June through December



The cleanup falls within the lower six miles of the Buffalo River and the City Ship Canal. The project was designed to minimize impact on river users.



LEFT: Approximately 488,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be removed using a clam-shell bucket. This is equivalent to about 33,000 truck loads.

RIGHT: Monitoring will help make sure the water flowing downstream meets water quality standards.

The material will be placed into barges and disposed of at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) about three miles south of the river, on the shore of Lake Erie. The CDF was specifically designed to contain dredged sediment. A small portion of the most contaminated materials will go to a government-approved landfill.

Environmental "silt" curtains will be used at a few locations, for short periods of time, to help prevent sediments from being dispersed. By law, dredging cannot impede navigation, so silt curtains will be moved if necessary. In order to enhance the remedy, capping material will be placed in a few areas. Capping isolates contaminated sediments from the ecosystem and also provides clean sediment habitat for small organisms that fish eat.

LEARN MORE:

Public Meeting

September 23, 2013

6:00 pm Doors Open

6:15 pm Presentation

Old First Ward

Community Center

62 Republic Street



COMMUNITY BENEFITS:

- Improved health of Buffalo River ecosystem
- Cleaner and revitalized river
- Enhanced habitat for fish and wildlife
- Improved navigation and access
- Opportunities for revitalization and redevelopment of Buffalo's waterfront and river corridor
- Improved recreational opportunities

PROJECT EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 2015.





Buffalo River Restoration

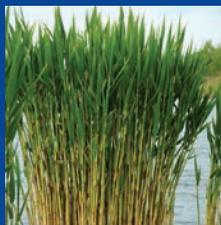
The Buffalo River flows through Buffalo, New York, and into Lake Erie. The river played an important role in the development of the city of Buffalo. However, many decades of industrial, residential, municipal and other uses led to the accumulation of contaminants in river sediment. The Buffalo River Restoration Project is sponsored under the Great Lakes Legacy Act program by EPA and non-federal sponsors including Honeywell and Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper.

Habitat Restoration Enhances Ecology of River

Following the cleanup, the Restoration Partners will implement habitat restoration projects. These projects will help restore select areas of the river. Restoration projects include new and enhanced vegetation and installation of structures that will provide habitat for fish and other wildlife.



SOFT RUSH



RIVER BULRUSH



TUSSOCK SEDGE



WILD CELERY



Learn more about the Buffalo River remediation and restoration

Public Meeting
September 23, 2013
6:00 pm

Old First Ward Community Center
62 Republic Street

Coordination with River Users

The Restoration Partners are working with river users to minimize disturbances. Please notify us if you are a river user, either commercial or recreational, so that we can coordinate schedules when possible. We also have speakers, a project mailing list, and website:

buffaloriverrestoration.org for continual updates.

Minimal Community Disruption

River users will continue to use the river. In any dredging project, the community may experience short-term inconveniences. For example, there will be large equipment in the river, such as dredge platforms, cranes, and barges, operating 24 hours a day/six days a week. While river users can continue to use the river, it is essential that a safe distance from the dredging is maintained. Barges and all equipment will be lit at night.

MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

buffaloriverrestoration.org

CONTACT US:

EPA: Mary Beth Giancarlo | 312.886.2253

Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER: Jill Jedlicka | 716.852.7483

DEC: Marty Doster | 716.851.7220

Honeywell: Jay Kelly | 716.827.6382



Tugboats and barges are part of any dredging project and can take up a good portion of the river throughout the day and night.