

# Public Meeting

# Buffalo Creek Floodplain Reconnection



TOWN OF  
**WEST SENECA**  
"PROUD PAST - UNLIMITED FUTURE"



Bright ideas.  
Sustainable change.



**BUFFALO NIAGARA  
WATERKEEPER®**



**HIGHLAND PLANNING**  
Better Dialogue. Better Decisions.

# Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Historical Flooding
3. Purpose & Objectives
4. Flood Benches
5. Proposed Project Area
6. Potential Impacts on Flood Stages
7. Project Timeline
8. Questions & Answers



# Welcome & Introductions

## Project Sponsors

- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- Town of West Seneca

## Project Team

- Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc.
- Highland Planning

# Historical Flooding



The Buffalo Creek watershed was chosen as a study site for the NYS Resilient NY Initiative.

2018

Winter  
2019

Significant ice-jam flooding caused the evacuation of the School Street Neighborhood.

Resilient NY Report identified Lexington Green neighborhood as a high flood risk.

2020

Winter  
2022

A severe flooding event caused emergency evacuation of several neighborhoods.



# Historical Flooding

**Flood Plain** – Area of low-lying ground adjacent to a waterway which experiences flooding during periods of high flow



# Purpose & Objectives

## Purpose

Reduce long term flood risk for properties and neighborhoods along Buffalo Creek.

## Objectives

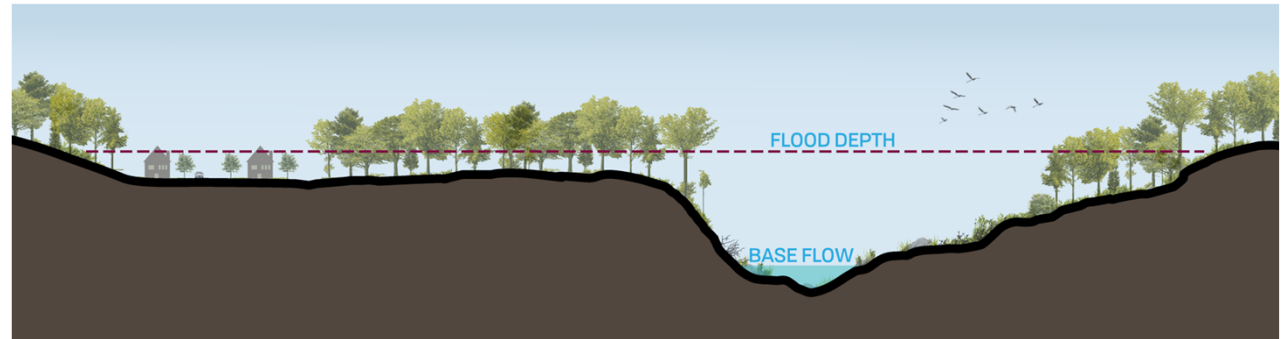
Construction of a flood bench along Buffalo Creek in targeted areas



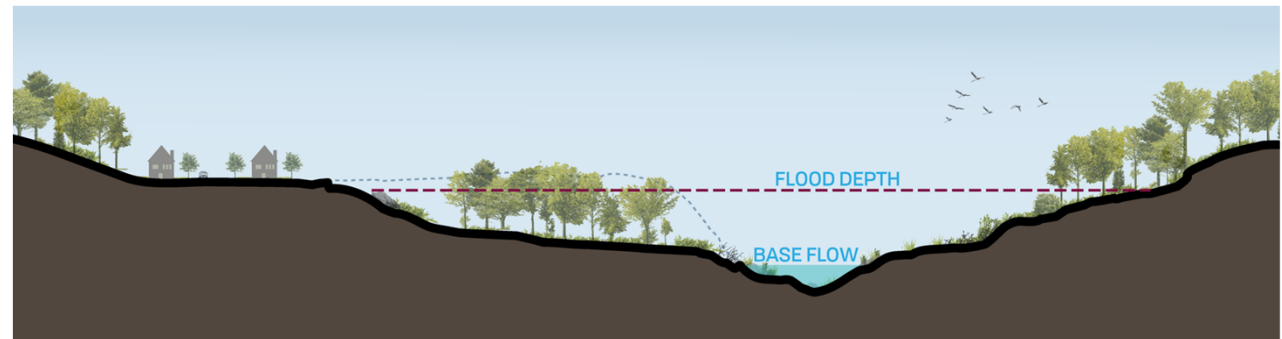
# Floodplain Benches – What is it?

A **floodplain bench** is an area, adjacent to a waterway that is purposely constructed to allow the water to expand resulting in lower flood stages.

## Floodplain Bench



Before installing a floodplain bench



After installing a floodplain bench

# Floodplain Benches – Benefits

- Environmentally friendly and adds aesthetics value
- Limited long-term maintenance for town and community
- Sustainable
- Continued access to the creek and land
- No permanent barrier installed







## Proposed Area – Tasks Completed to Date

- Identified land parcels between the abandoned railroad bridge and Oxbow Wetland – land could store water during high flow events
- Identified property owners
- Evaluated land parcels
- Contacted property owners



# Proposed Project Area

## Feasibility and Design of Floodplain Reconnection of Buffalo Creek

Buffalo Niagara Water Keeper in collaboration with Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. and Highland Planning

### Overview Map

August 22, 2022

Legend  
Primary Focus Area Boundary  
Tax Parcel Boundaries





# Potential Flood Bench Locations

## Feasibility and Design of Floodplain Reconnection of Buffalo Creek

Buffalo Niagara Water Keeper in collaboration with Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. and Highland Planning

### Potential Flood Bench Locations Map

August 22, 2022

- Legend
- Primary Focus Area Boundary
  - Tax Parcel Boundaries
  - Primary Flood Bench Location
  - Secondary Flood Bench Location





# Potential Impact of Flood Storage

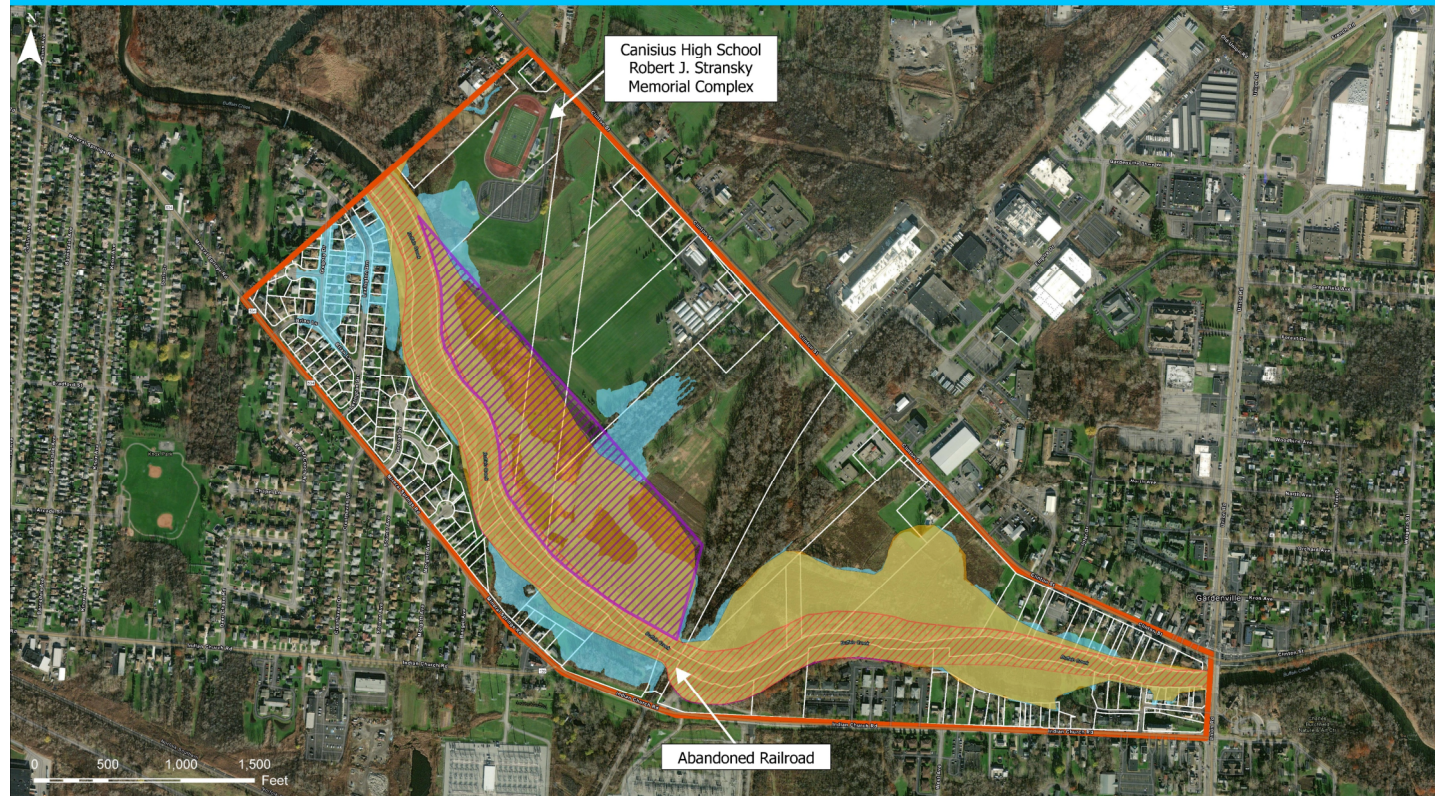
## Feasibility and Design of Floodplain Reconnection of Buffalo Creek

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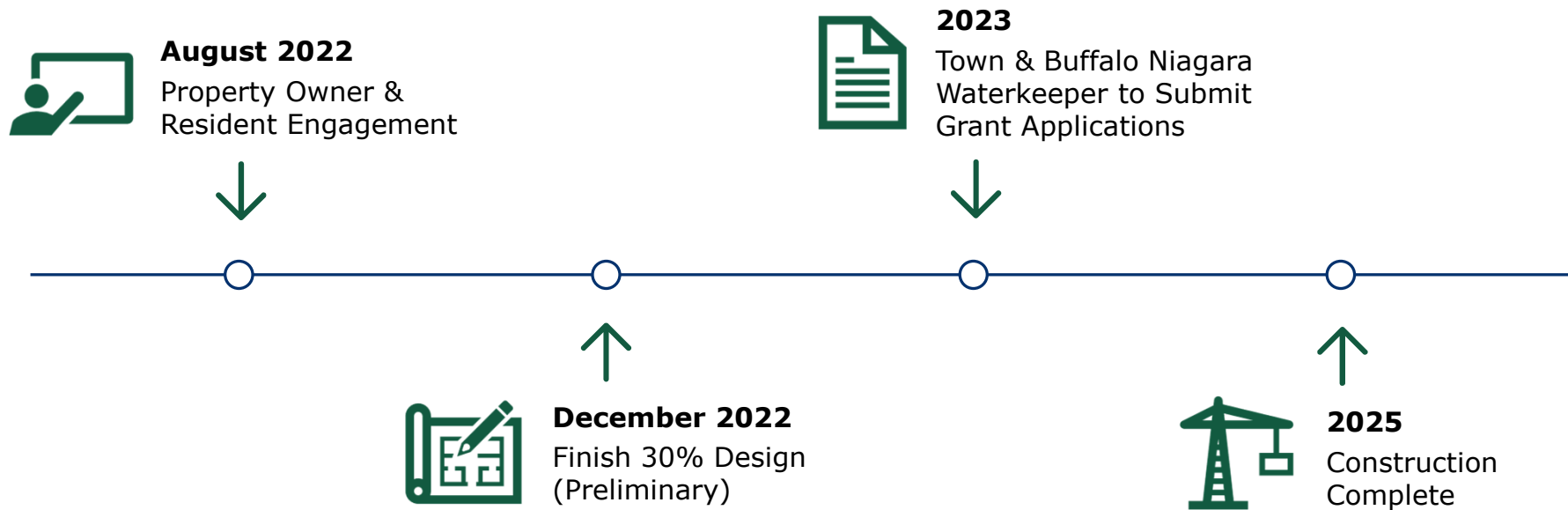
### FEMA vs Proposed Flood Bench Inundation Map (1% ACE/100-Year Flood)

August 22, 2022

- Legend
- Primary Focus Area Boundary
  - Proposed Flood Bench Alternative
  - Tax Parcel Boundaries
  - Flood Bench Alternative - 1% ACE/100-Year
  - FEMA Flood Zones
  - Regulatory Floodway
  - 1% Annual Chance 100-Year Flood Zone



# Project Timeline





# Questions & Contact Information

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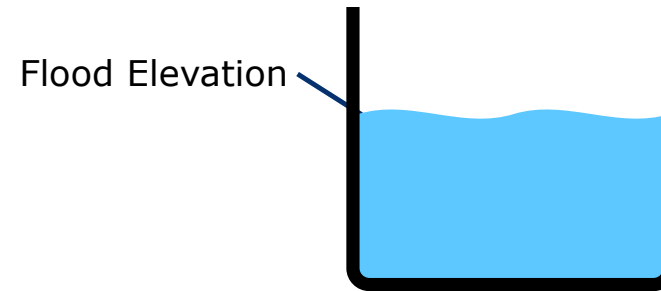
**RAMBOLL**

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Buffalo Creek Currently



Buffalo Creek w/ Floodplain Bench

