

# Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

## *North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve Land Acquisition, North Tonawanda, New York*

### Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), along with other Federal and State Agencies and Indian Nations are Trustees of natural resources and are authorized by Superfund legislation to restore natural resources that have been harmed by the release of hazardous substances, such as pesticides and other chemicals. The USFWS, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration settled natural resource damage claims related to the Love Canal, 102<sup>nd</sup> Street and Forest Glen Superfund Sites. A total of \$1.3 million was negotiated for natural resource restoration. One project funded was the acquisition of unique and threatened habitat in North Tonawanda, New York.

### Restoring Natural Resources in North Tonawanda

Settlement funds were used to acquire 8.8 acres of wetland and upland habitat to expand the North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve, a large forested wetland that is threatened by surrounding development. The Preserve was established in 2001 as a partnership between Citizens for a Green North Tonawanda, the Buffalo Chapter of the Audubon Society, the Western New York Land Conservancy and funding organizations. Significant features include diverse forested wetland habitat, marked interpretive trails and the rare Shumard Oak. The Preserve is part of Audubon's Niagara River Important Bird Area. With the acquisition of 8.8 acres using these restoration funds, this Audubon Preserve now includes almost 55 acres of owned and leased land.

### Highlights

- Purchased 8.8 acres of unique wetland in Western New York
- Habitat is now part of the North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve
- Wetland provides wildlife habitat, flood control, water quality benefits and recreational opportunities



North Tonawanda Nature Preserve is clearly visible as a wooded area surrounded by development (Image: Google Earth)



Audubon Preserve Manager Elizabeth Kaszubski next to Shumard oak within the Preserve (Image: Anne Secord, USFWS)

For more information, contact:

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
New York Field Office  
3817 Luker Road  
Cortland, New York 13045  
607 753 9334**

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