U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Habitat Restoration Funded with Love Canal, 102nd Street and Forest Glen Settlement

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, 102nd Street and Forest Glen Superfund Sites. A total of $1.3 million was negotiated for natural resource restoration. Projects completed or underway so far are described in this fact sheet.

Restoring Wetlands and Grasslands at Joseph Davis State Park

The USFWS used settlement funds to create 5 acres of vernal pool and pond edge wetland and restore hydrology to an additional 90 acres of previously drained shrub-scrub wetland. We also converted 5 acres of mowed field to native warm season grassland. The State Park expanded pond habitat in the western part of the park and added a boardwalk. Joseph Davis State Park is a New York State designated Bird Conservation Area and is part of the National Audubon Society's Niagara River Corridor Important Bird Area.

Joseph Davis East Wetland Enhancement Project (left), and new boardwalk (right)

Niagara Escarpment Habitat Restoration and Acquisition

Settlement funds were used by the Western New York (WNY) Land Conservancy to purchase the Fran Harrison property. This 36-acre property includes 1,000 feet of the Niagara Escarpment, a unique geological formation that is often associated with unusual plants and ecological communities. The WNY Land Conservancy has also begun site preparation for restoration of 79 acres of native warm season grassland and 10 acres of oak savanna.

Ribbon cutting ceremony at Frances Harrison Escarpment Property acquisition in 2011 (above). Harrison Property sign (top right). Harrison property grassland restoration site (bottom right).

Klydel Wetland Acquisition

Liz Kaszubski next to *rare* Shumard oak at Klydel Wetland

Settlement funds were used to acquire 8.8 acres of wetland and upland habitat to expand the North Tonawanda Audubon Nature Preserve (Klydel Wetland), 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 WNY 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.

Niagara County Grassland Restoration

The Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District converted 240 acres at 13 sites into native warm season grassland. Grass Species planted include switchgrass, big bluestem, Indiangrass, and deertongue. Other wildlife species planted include purple coneflower, blue vervain and New England aster.

(Left) Warm season grassland restored by Niagara County Soil and Water Conservation District

Tuscarora Nation Grassland Restoration

The Tuscarora Nation restored over 90 acres of warm season and cool season grasses.

Tuscarora Nation warm season grassland restoration site preparation (right) and results (above)

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