



Niagara River Greenway Commission

CITY OF BUFFALO PROJECT CONSULTATION

September 2008

Project Registration Number _____

***Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form***

Type of Review Required: _____ Mandatory Consultation
_____ Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Federal Id# _____ Charities Registration # _____

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply: _____ Environmental _ _____ Cultural/Heritage _____ Land or Water Public Access
_____ Cultural _____ Trail _____ Educational/Interpretive
_____ Waterfront or Land Based Development _____ Signage
_____ Recreational _____ Other

Project Name: _____
Location: _____
Site Address: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Minor Civil Division(s): _____
County: _____
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: _____ Title: _____

Business Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Business Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION CONSULTATION AND REVIEW APPLICATION

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

As a partner in the Buffalo Outer Harbor Parkway project, the City of Buffalo seeks \$625,000 in funding to transform Times Beach from a paved area to an elevated boardwalk stretching for 1000 feet of inviting pathway for walking, biking and observing nature. The boardwalk is a subset of a 3 mile multi-use path along the waterfront and adjacent to Fuhrmann Boulevard. Currently, over \$50 million in Outer Harbor Parkway improvements are underway with local, state and federal monies, and waterfront access points will be the jewels along the winding parkway. The recreational enhancements for the Buffalo Outer Harbor Parkway Project are designed to provide residents and visitors with waterfront access and leisure areas. Once a recreational beach, Times Beach is now a stopping point for migratory birds, and thus an ecosystem to preserve. Locally, Buffalo has a special interest in realizing the vision for the development of attractive destination points along a reclaimed waterway.

2. CONSISTENCY WITH NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY PLAN

The Times Beach waterfront boardwalk will advance the Niagara Greenway vision by providing accessibility to the waterfront, preserving an important ecosystem, and serving as a terminus for connectors from the city. To enjoy the opportunity for exercise, walkers, bikers, even skaters will make their way to this pathway enhancement.

Sustainability

The Times Beach location is a focus for sustaining a natural environment that is attractive to migratory birds, where man and nature co-exist. To protect the birds and their resting area, an attractive fenceline, designed to reflect the natural habitat, will border the boardwalk.

Accessibility

The boardwalk provides a more inviting experience with the waterfront than can be obtained on a drive along the scenic route. While the parkway provides the access to this recreational destination, the boardwalk creates the opportunity to get even closer to the water.

Ecological Integrity

The design for a decorative fence with silhouetted images of native flora and fauna brings an ecological integrity to a protective barrier for the wildlife and the natural environment they enjoy.

Public Well-Being

As an exercise and recreational destination, Times Beach will enhance the physical and emotional well being of visitors whether they are planning more vigorous activities such as skating, jogging or biking, or a sedentary stroll to appreciate the beauty of nature.

Connectivity

While the Times Beach boardwalk can be implemented as a standalone project, it has been packaged within a proposed \$3.1 million New York Department of Transportation Enhancement Project which will improve connectivity from South Buffalo to the waterfront. The installation of complementary streetscape along South Park Avenue and Tiftt Street provides a theme which connects urban roadways pointing to an enhanced Tiftt Street Pier from which pedestrians and cyclists can enjoy a 3 mile multi-use path leading to Times Beach. A more attractive streetscape and improved roadway will encourage bikers, drivers and pedestrians to follow the path to the waterfront, and will make the experience of traveling the short distance to the Outer Harbor a safer and more pleasant one.

3. BUDGET

Planning	\$	_____
Construction	\$	<u>625,000</u>
Acquisition	\$	_____
Administration	\$	_____
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$	<u>625,000</u>

The construction costs are estimated at \$325,000 for the boardwalk and \$300,000 for the decorative fence. The enhancement cost of \$625,000 is requested of the greenway

Sources of funding for the entire connectivity project would include \$2.5 million from the New York State Department of Transportation, if granted through a Transportation Enhancement Projects request submitted in June, 2008. The TEP funding would afford landscaping and streetscape upgrades for South Park Avenue, as well as connecting the streetscape theme to Tiftt Street, which is the feeder to the Tiftt Street Pier. In addition to a boardwalk, seating and naturalistic plantings at the Tiftt Street Pier, the connector project, if granted, will provide for a new pavilion, picnic extension and boardwalk extension at Gallagher Beach.

The City of Buffalo will contribute and estimated \$2,000 - \$4,000 value of in kind service for the annual maintenance of the Times Street Boardwalk to include debris removal, and seasonal cleanings of the boardwalk.

4. COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Planning for the Outer Harbor Parkway benefited from a partnership of government agencies, public/private partnerships including the Office of Congressman Brian Higgins, Department of Transportation, City of Buffalo, Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency. From December 2007 to February 2008 Congressman Brian Higgins convened a waterfront landscape and design panel consisting of planning professionals, community residents and transportation department representatives. Requisite hearings and public input for an Environmental Impact Study was obtained as required for transportation projects. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in cooperation with Erie County completed an ecosystem restoration project at Times Beach. Internal pathways and boardwalks were incorporated for visitors to observe the area. For citizen and neighborhood input, the South Buffalo/ Buffalo River Good Neighbors Planning Alliance has been a steady source of visioning and community planning for the neighborhood and the waterfront.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of Buffalo is the owner of the Times Beach property. Currently, the site consists of a paved pathway in need of improvement. The pathway falls within the 100 foot buffer area of a New York State Wetland.

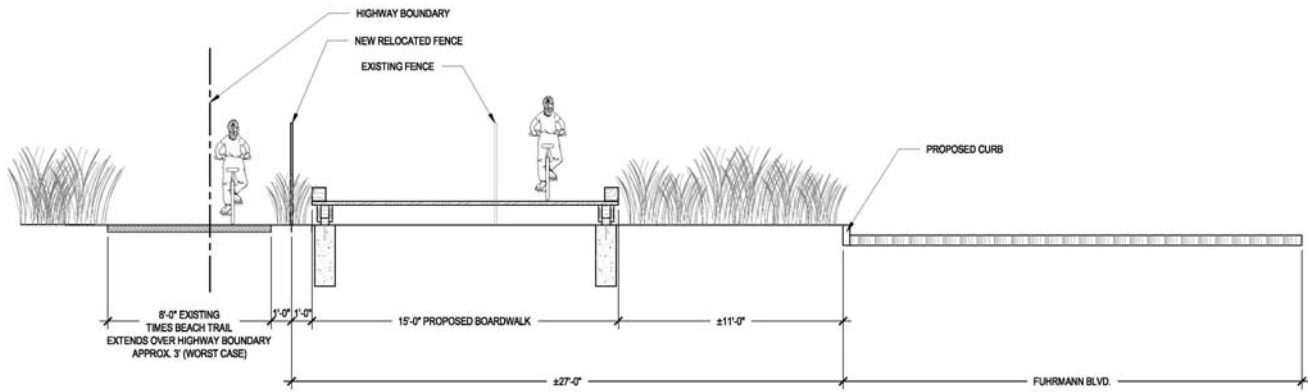
An artist's rendering of the proposed boardwalk indicates a very naturalistic walkway separated from the boulevard by greenspace.



In conjunction with the planning for the infrastructure improvements, there was consultation with authorities regarding the State Environmental Quality Review Act. If additional consultation is required for the boardwalk, the City of Buffalo in conjunction with the State Department of Transportation will take all necessary steps to insure compliance with SEQRA.

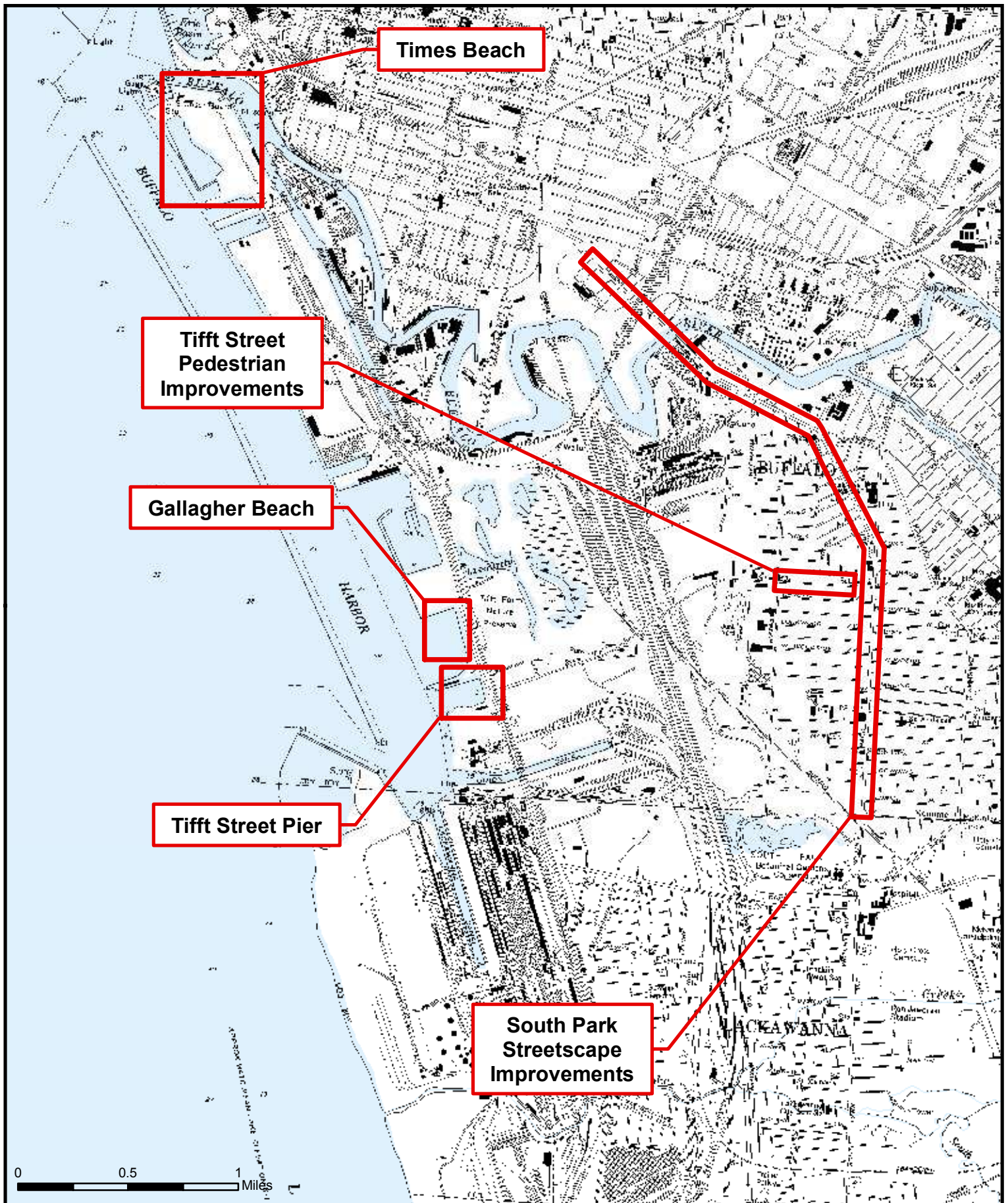
The presence of migratory birds will be protected by the decorative fencing separating the roadway and boardwalk from the habitat area.

The location of the current path and fence, as well as the proposed boardwalk and new fence, are depicted in the drawing below.



TRAIL SECTION @ TIMES BEACH
TROWBRIDGE AND WOLF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"
MAY, 2008



General Location Map

City of Buffalo Transportation Enhancements Proposal

New York State Department of Transportation
Transportation Enhancements Program

