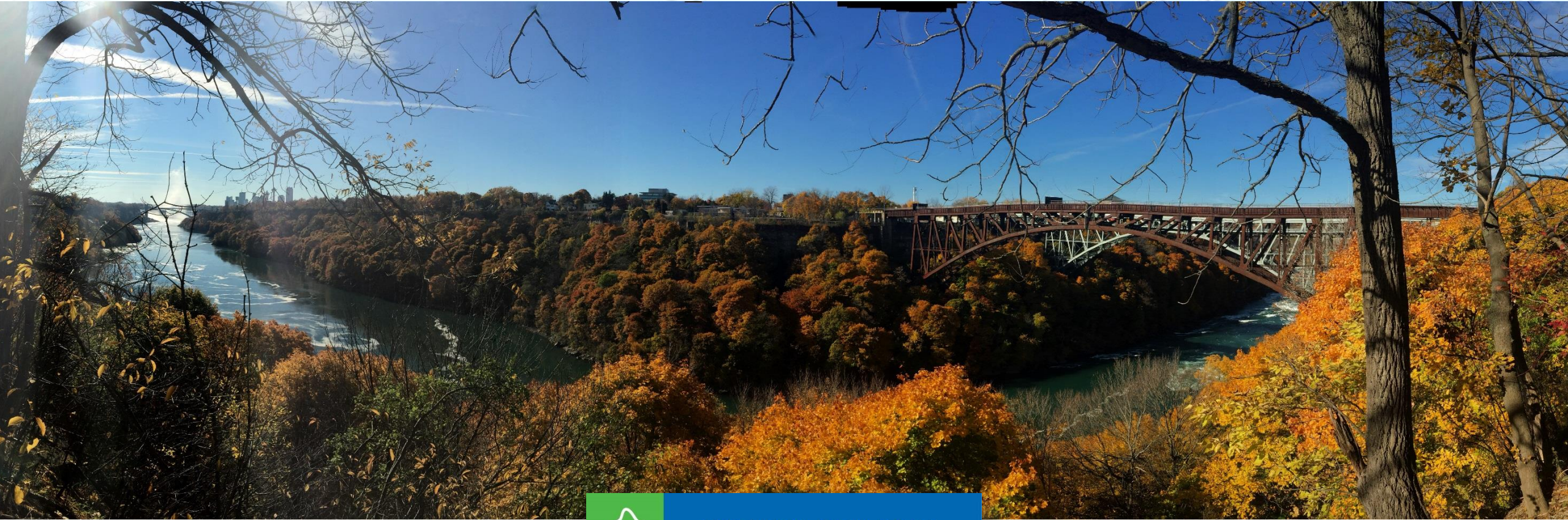


Restoration in the Niagara River Gorge





WESTERN NEW YORK
LAND CONSERVANCY

Who are we?

- 26-year old regional land trust
- Work in 8 counties of WNY
- More than 950 members
- 8 full-time staff
- 3 part-time staff
- Office at Kenneglenn Scenic & Nature Preserve in Wales



An aerial photograph of Western New York, showing the Niagara River and Lake Erie. Numerous blue dots are scattered across the land, representing protected properties. The dots are concentrated in the central and northern parts of the region, with a few isolated dots in the south and west. A small 'N' is visible in the top right corner of the map area.

We protect over 6,000 acres of farmland, forest, and open space on more than 80 properties in Western New York

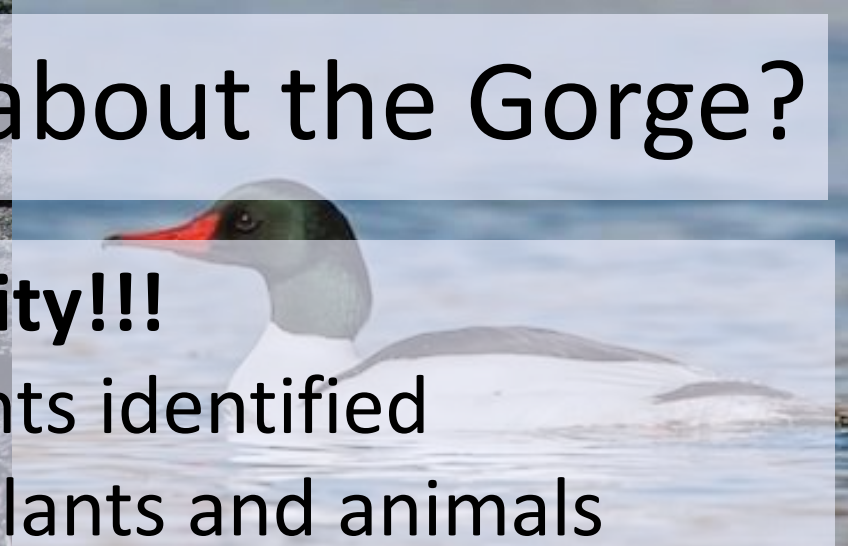
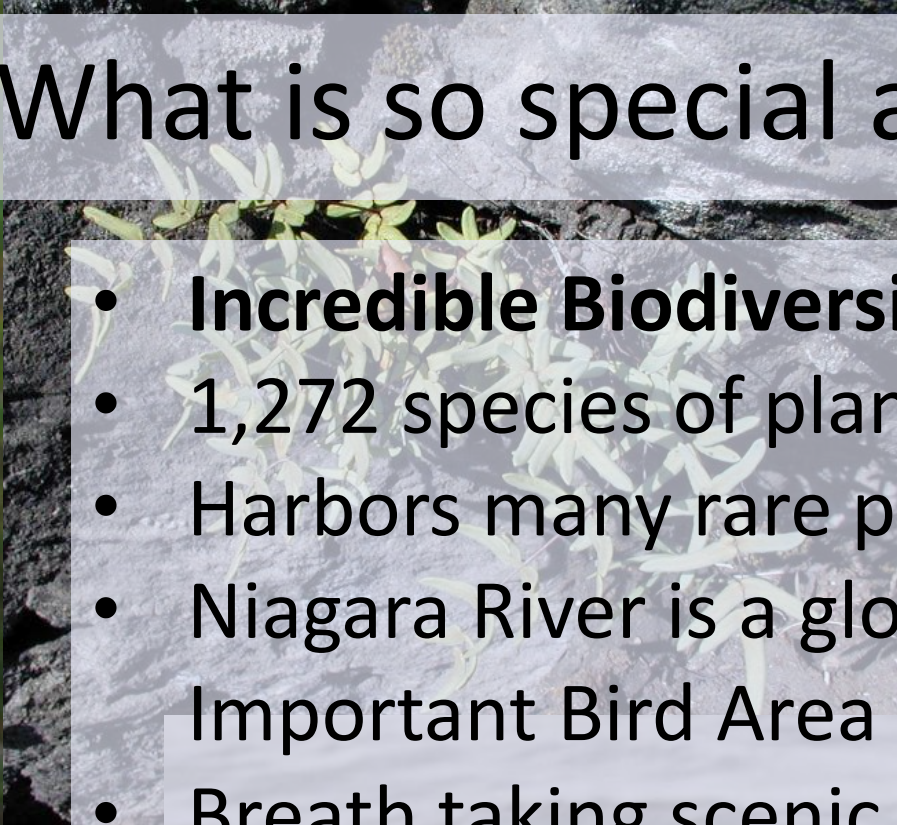
A close-up photograph of several autumn leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown, serving as a background for the text.

Methods of Protection:

Ownership
Conservation Easement
Assisted Transaction

What is so special about the Gorge?

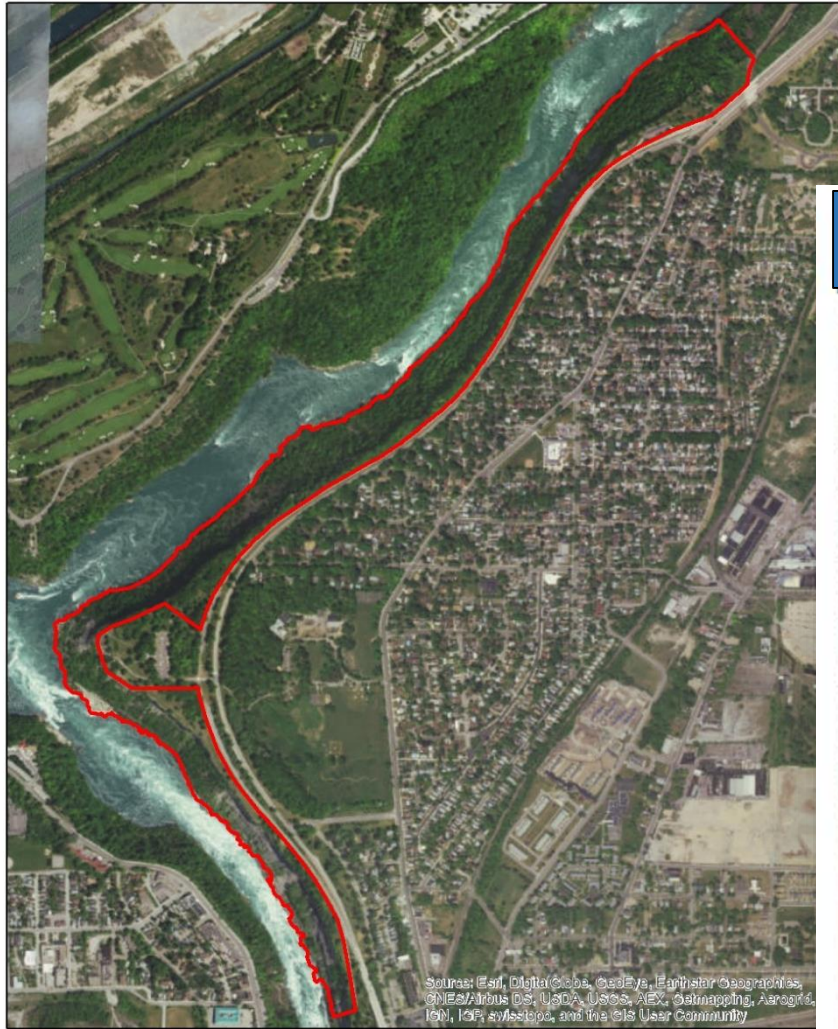
- **Incredible Biodiversity!!!**
- 1,272 species of plants identified
- Harbors many rare plants and animals
- Niagara River is a globally significant Important Bird Area (IBA)
- Breath taking scenic beauty
- 84% of North America's surface fresh water
- International ecotourism travel destination for millions of people



Project Team & Roles

Project Sponsor	Western New York Land Conservancy
Land Owner	New York Power Authority New York State Parks
Land Manager	New York State Parks
Municipality	City of Niagara Falls, Town of Lewiston
Consultant Team	Applied Ecological Services Landscapes of Place CC Environment & Planning Make Communities
Parkway Removal	Empire State Development/Niagara USA
Funding	Greenway Ecological Standing Committee Governor Cuomo's Buffalo Billion II ESD Yahoo! Community Fund for Niagara County New York State Sea Grant Small Grant Program

Whirlpool Northern Project Area



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

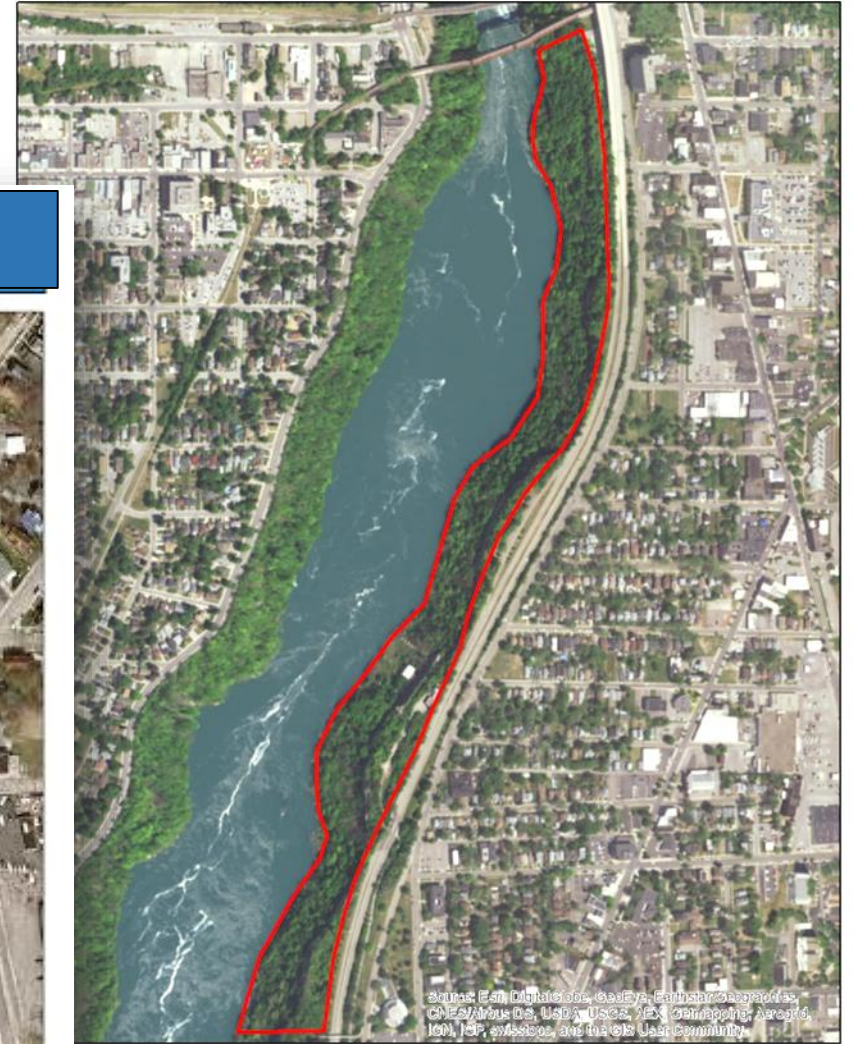
5-acres: Findlay & Whirlpool

Findlay & Whirlpool
Native Landscape



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

Discovery Center
Southern Project Area

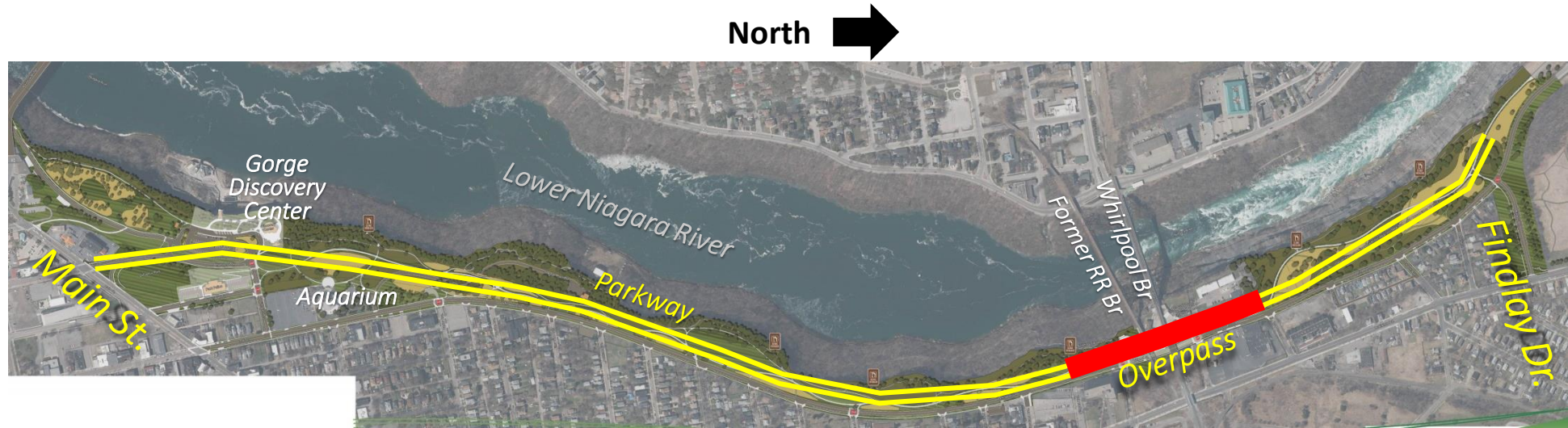


Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

198-acres: Whirlpool & Devil's Hole State Parks

34-acres: New York
Power Authority

Overview



- ~Two-Mile Corridor: Main St. to Findlay Dr.
 - Whirlpool Street: Cedar St. to Findlay Dr.
 - Third Street: Main St. to Cedar St
 - Other Streets/Facilities & Betterments
 - 2nd St, Walnut St, Discovery Way, Trolley Way, Spring St
 - State Park/City Parking Lots, Whirlpool Bridge area

Download Tonight's Materials

<https://parks.ny.gov/inside-our-agency/public-documents.aspx>

Scroll down to:

“Robert Moses Parkway - North Segment”



LEGEND:

PATHS & TRAILS:

- 10' WIDE BICYCLE PATH
- 6' WIDE PEDESTRIAN PATH
- 6' WIDE STONE DUST TRAIL
- 6' MOWED LAWN PATH

STREET TREES:



LAWN AREAS:



MEADOW AREAS:



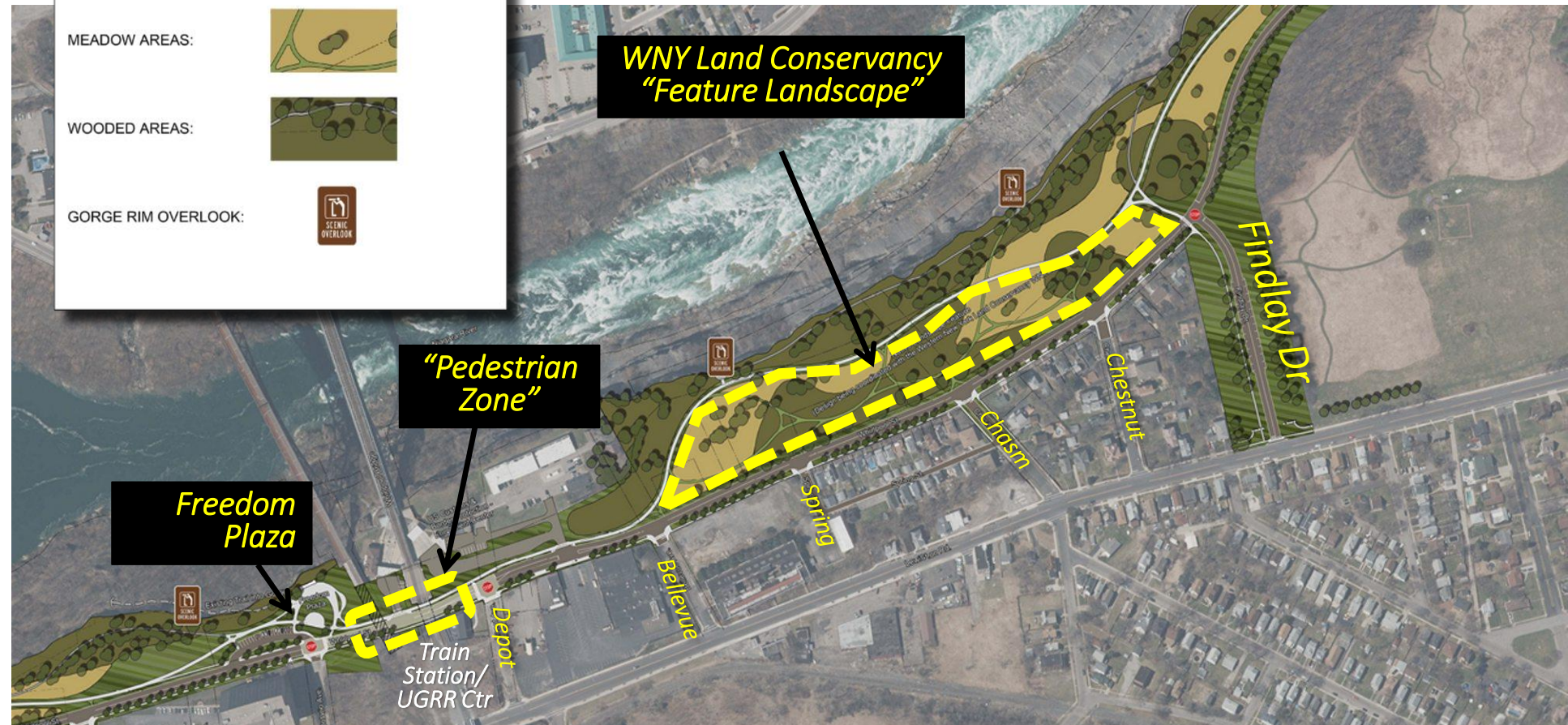
WOODED AREAS:



GORGE RIM OVERLOOK:



Overview



Findlay & Whirlpool Native Landscape



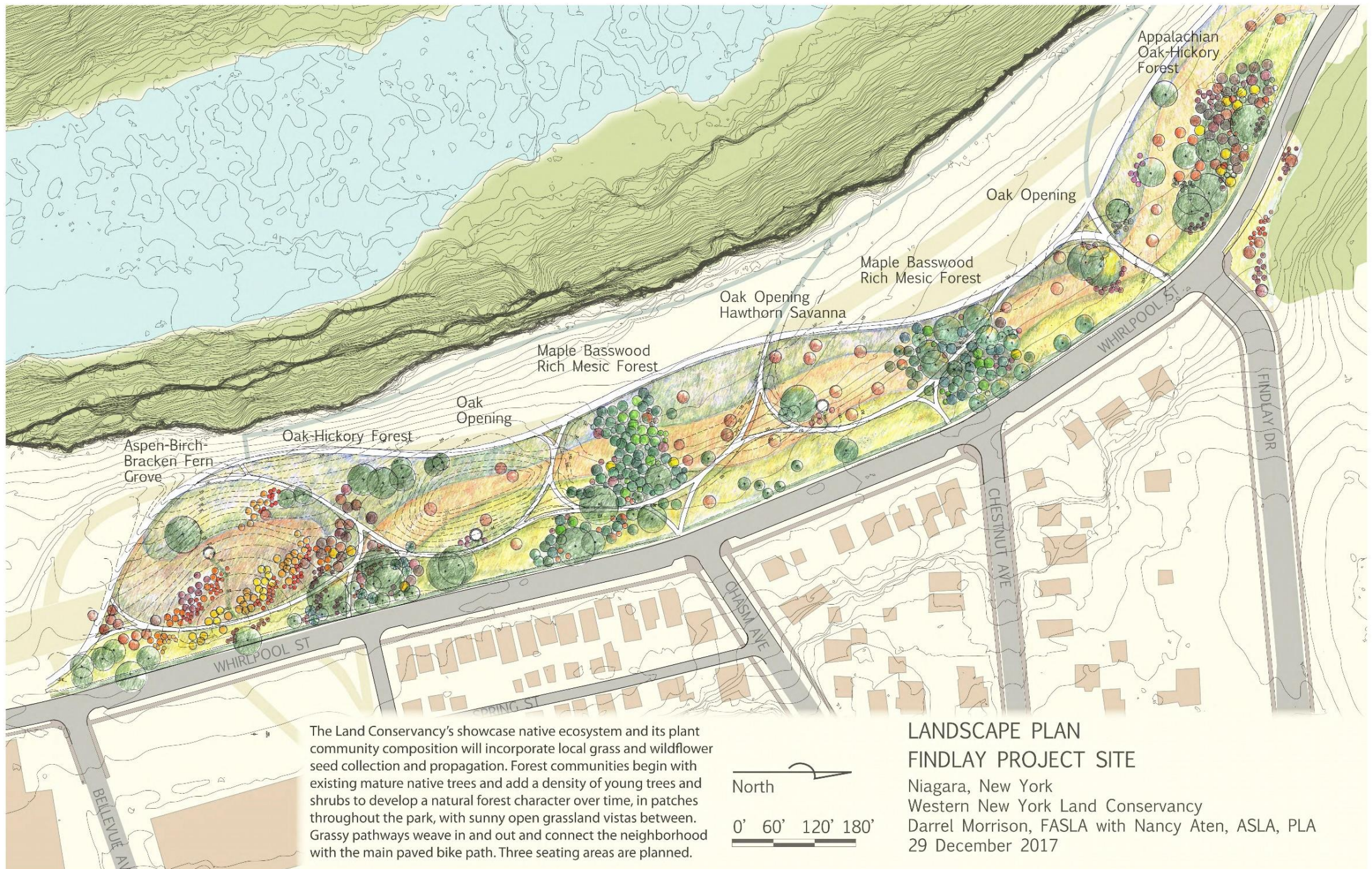
Findlay & Whirlpool Native Landscape

- Site preparation to control non-natives
- Extensive herbaceous and woody plantings
- The Land Conservancy work closely with the Parkway Removal team, but is taking the lead on this site
- Nancy Aten and Darrel Morrison (Landscapes of Place) will design the site
- Locally collected seed will be planted and used to propagate plants the site



Legend

 Findlay Grassland







Project Goals

- Enhance quality of life in the community
- Community involvement
- Restore and enhance ecosystem health and diversity

Working with the community

- Stakeholder Meetings (2017)
 - Ecological – April
 - Niagara Falls Community - May
 - Project Neighbors - July
- Public Presentation Meeting – Nov
- Gather community input and maintain stakeholder involvement throughout project
- Findlay Site Picnic – June 2018



Community Hikes & Events



Past Events

- Importance of Native Plants by Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*

Coming up

- Geology of the Gorge Hike – July 22
- Native & Invasive Plants of the Gorge Hike – August 1

Visit wnylc.org to sign up!

Ecological Goals

- Restore and enhance ecosystem health and diversity
- Control non-native invasive species
- Plant native species of reference ecosystems
- Use locally-sourced seed/plants when possible
- Protect rare, threatened, and endangered species



Project Timeline

Project Area

Timeline

Discovery Center Southern Project Area

Invasive Species Control

Feb. 2018 – Dec. 2019

Native Plantings

Spring & Falls 2018 – 2019

Whirlpool Northern Project Area

Invasive Species Control

June 2018 – June 2020

Native Plantings

Spring & Falls 2018 – 2020

Findlay & Whirlpool Native Landscape

Site Preparation

May 2018 – Sept. 2019

Planting Installation

Spring 2020 (*tentatively*)

Invasive Species Control



Norway Maple

Phragmites



Target Invasive Species

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree of Heaven
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European Black Alder
<i>Artimesia vulgaris</i>	Common Mugwort
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet
<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Autumn olive
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	European privet
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow's honeysuckle
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tartarian honeysuckle
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple Loosestrife
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn
<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	Glossy Buckthorn
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	Multiflora rose

Invasive Species Mapping

Cover Type

Arces

Norway Maple

10

Tree of Heaven (est. from field data)

2.0

Buckthorn and Honeysuckle

1.7

Evergreen

0.12

Cherry

0.13

Sugar maple/Boxelder

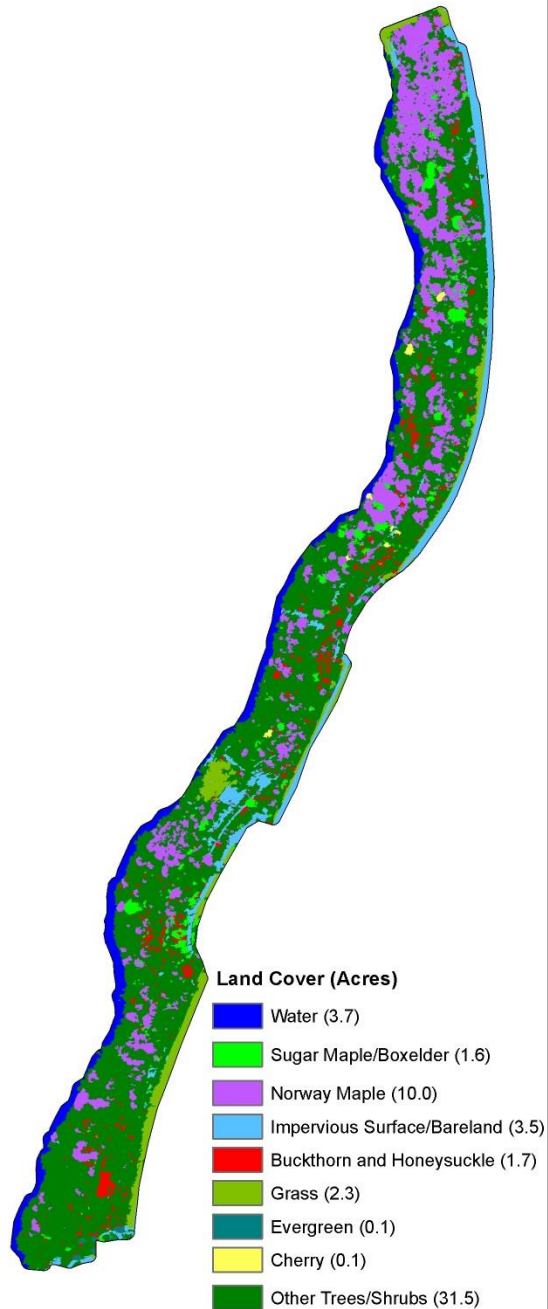
1.62

Other Trees/Shrubs

31.5

Ash(est. from field data)

0.10















Planting Native Species

- Establish ground cover to stabilize slopes and create conditions to establish native plantings
- Diversity ground cover with grasses, flowers, shrubs & trees
- Species list, quantities, sizes, plant material are TBD
- Follow Parks Native Plant Policy
- Use locally sourced plant material when available will be used



New York Natural Heritage Program

625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4757
(518) 402-8935 naturalheritage@dec.ny.gov



Report on Rare Animals, Rare Plants, and Significant Natural Communities

The following rare plants, rare animals, and significant natural communities**
have been documented in the Natural Heritage database for the

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	NY STATE RANK*
Whirlpool State Park				
Plants	Slender Blazing-star	<i>Liatris cylindracea</i>	Endangered	S1
	Lesser Fringed Gentian	<i>Gentianopsis virgata</i>	Endangered	S1
	Sky-blue Aster	<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	Endangered	S1
	Mountain Death Camas	<i>Anticlea elegans ssp. glaucus</i>	Threatened	S2
	Elk Sedge	<i>Carex garberi</i>	Endangered	S1
	Smooth Cliff Brake	<i>Pellaea glabella ssp. glabella</i>	Threatened	S2
	+ Puttyroot (1865)	<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>	Endangered	S1
	+ Yellow Giant-hyssop (pre-1888)	<i>Agastache nepetoides</i>	Threatened	S2S3
	+ Giant Pine-drops (pre-1888)	<i>Pterospora andromedea</i>	Endangered	S1
	+ Scarlet Indian-paintbrush (pre-1882)	<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>	Endangered	S1
Communities	Calcareous Cliff Community			S3
	Calcareous Talus Slope Woodland			S3



Few-headed Blazing Star

Growth and Development

- Habit: erect perennial forb/herb
- Height: 1' to 3'
- Leaves: rough linear leaves growing basally and on the stem, largest leaves are 3" to 9" and diminish in size up the stem
- Flowering: flower heads are a long raceme composed of 2 – 28 purple flower heads that appear in July – September
- Growing with: in the Niagara Gorge, this species can be found growing with other plants typical of open prairies such as butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardi*); areas with characteristic prairie vegetation should be examined closely for the presence of this species



Lesser Fringed Gentian



Gentianopsis virgata flower



Photo credits: Stephen M. Young

Scientific Name *Gentianopsis virgata*
 (Raf.) Holub

Family Name Gentianaceae
 Gentian Family

Did you know?

This beautiful gentian was first discovered in New York in 1833 in the Niagara Falls area and is still only known from there and a second location along the St. Lawrence River.



Golden-fruited Sedge (*Carex aurea*)



Smooth Cliff Brake



Pellaea glabella



Photo credits: *Troy Weldy*

Scientific Name *Pellaea glabella* ssp. *glabella*

Family Name Pteridaceae
Maidenhair-fern Family

Did you know?

Scattered throughout upstate New York in fewer than a dozen places, it is a mystery why this fern is so much more rare than its closely related species *Pellaea atropurpurea*.





Sky-blue Aster

Symphyotrichum oolentangiense flowers



Photo credits: Kimberly J. Smith



Scientific Name *Symphyotrichum oolentangiense*
(Riddell) Nesom

Family Name Asteraceae
Aster Family

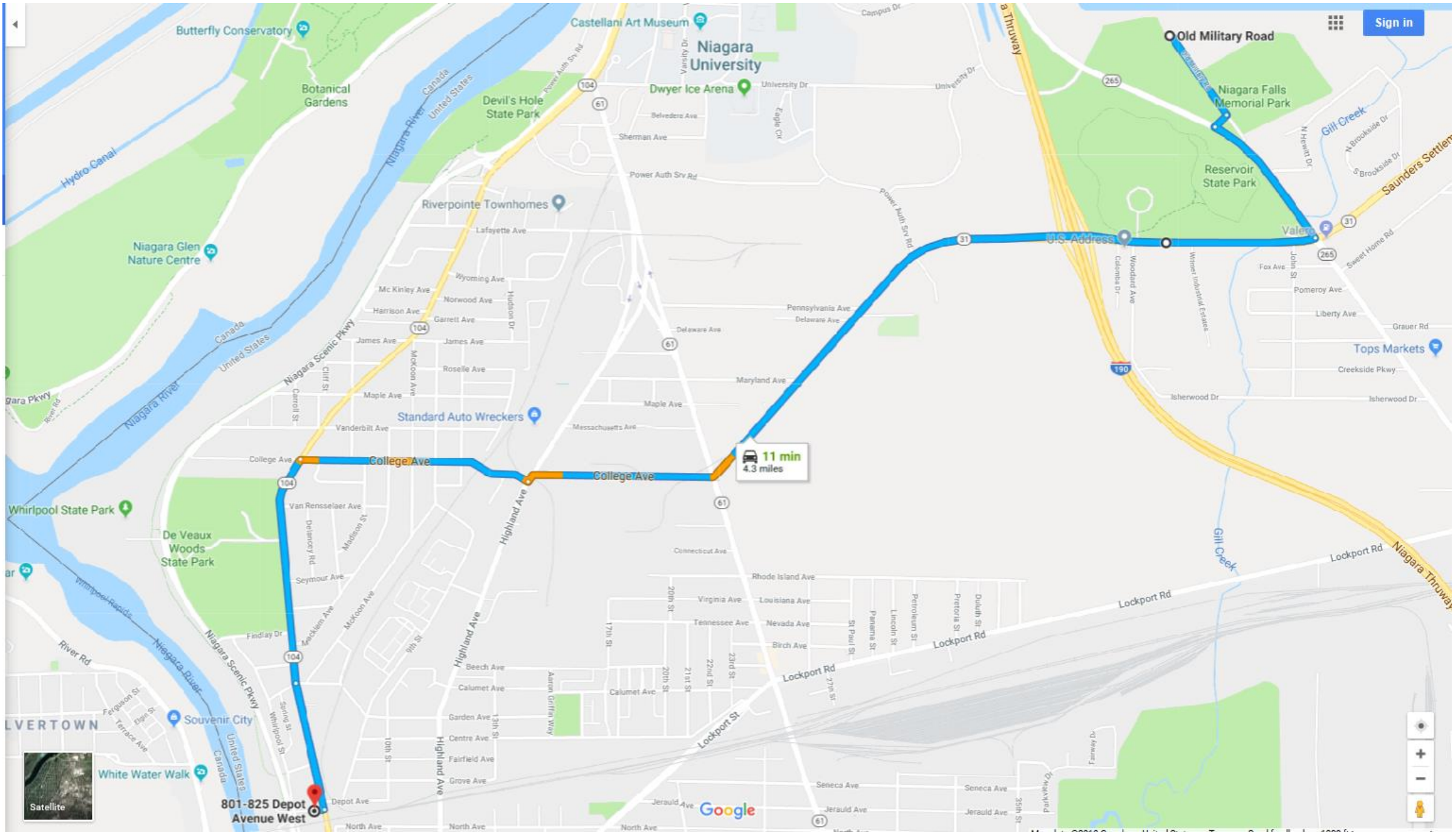
Did you know?

This beautiful aster was originally described in 1835 by botanist John Leonard Riddell and named *Aster oolentangiensis* after the Olentangy River in Ohio where he found it near Worthington, Ohio. Riddell misspelled the river name with two Os and thus the species has that spelling. Its name was later changed to *Aster azureus* to reflect its sky blue flower color. When the genus was changed to *Symphyotrichum* the older species name had precedence.





Thank You



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11 min
4.3 miles

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