

Buffalo River Ecological Restoration Master Plan Stakeholder Consultation Meeting

Thursday, January 24, 2010
5:00 – 8:00 pm

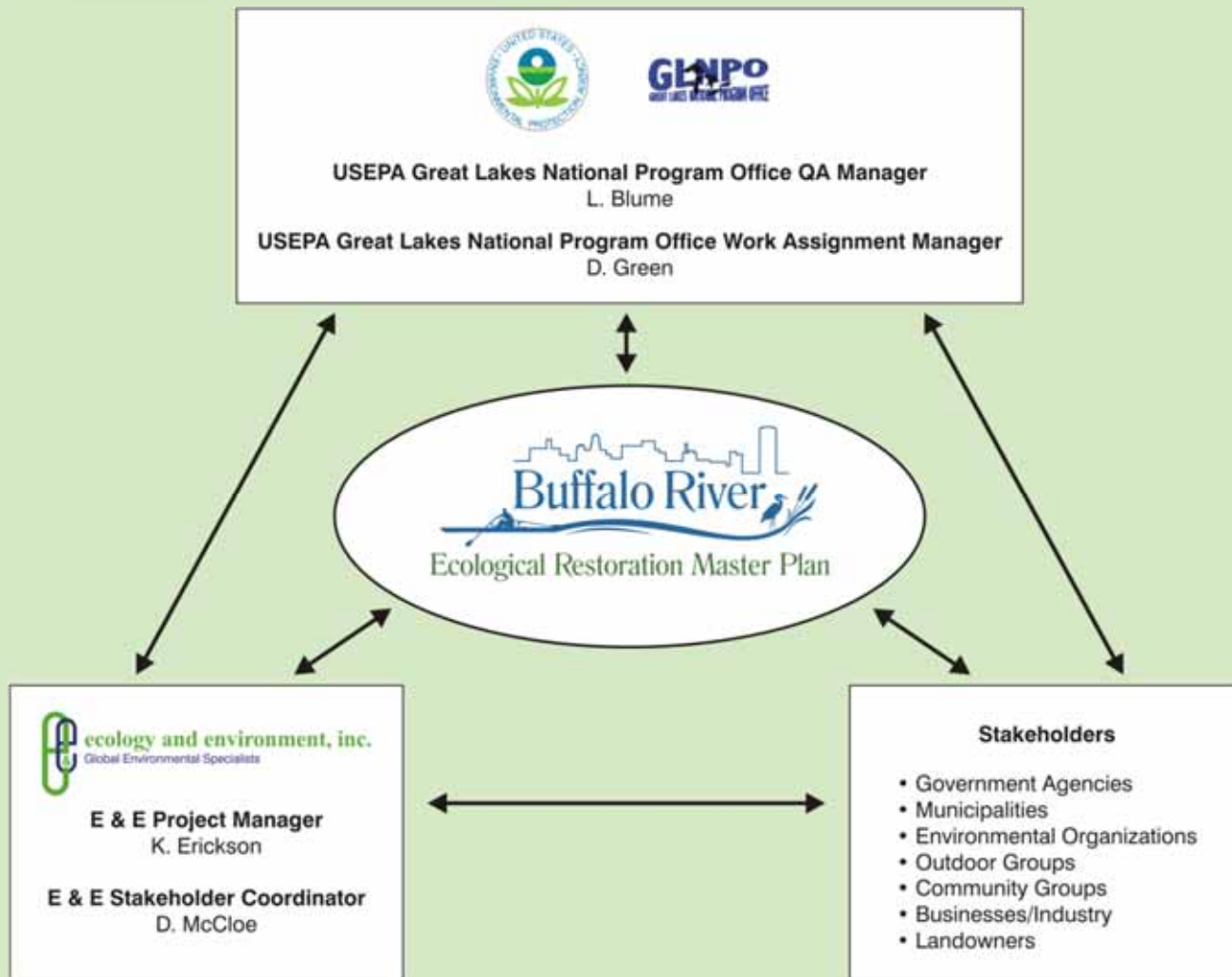
Millennium Hotel, Buffalo, New York



Introduction

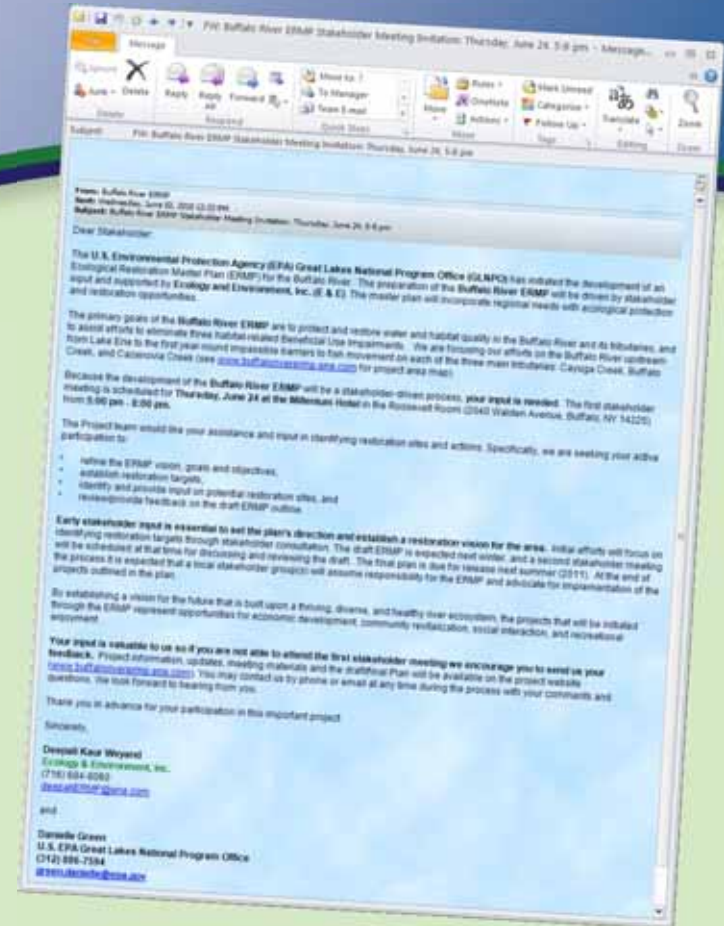
1. **Danielle Green**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO)
2. **Kris Erickson**, Project Manager - Ecology and Environment, Inc. (E & E)
3. E & E Project Team - **Deepali McCloe**,
Andy Francisco, **Larisa Romanowski**

Introduction: *Project Team*



Introduction: *Schedule*

- March 2010 project initiation
- Desktop studies and existing conditions review
- Phone calls and email/letter to key stakeholders
- One-on-one stakeholder meetings (as requested)
- Stakeholder Meeting #1 (June 2010)
- Project fact sheet
- Restoration target development, field assessments
- Draft ERMP (fall 2010)
- Stakeholder Meeting #2 (fall 2010)
- Stakeholder Consultation
- Final ERMP



Introduction: *Why are we Here?*

Today's agenda and objectives

- 1 hour presentation
- 1 hour small group discussion
 - Draft Mission Statement
 - Discuss opportunities and constraints
 - Input on potential sites, species, and habitats
 - List additional references and stakeholders
- Wrap up: 'Report out' to group

Background: AOCs

In 1987, the International Joint Commission (IJC) designated the Buffalo River as one of 43 Areas of Concern (AOC) across the U.S. - Canada Great Lakes basin. IJC identified AOCs as having one or more impairments of 14 beneficial uses of the Greats Lakes ecosystem

An Area of Concern (AOC) is a designated geographic area (river or harbor) that shows severe environmental degradation

<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/aoc>

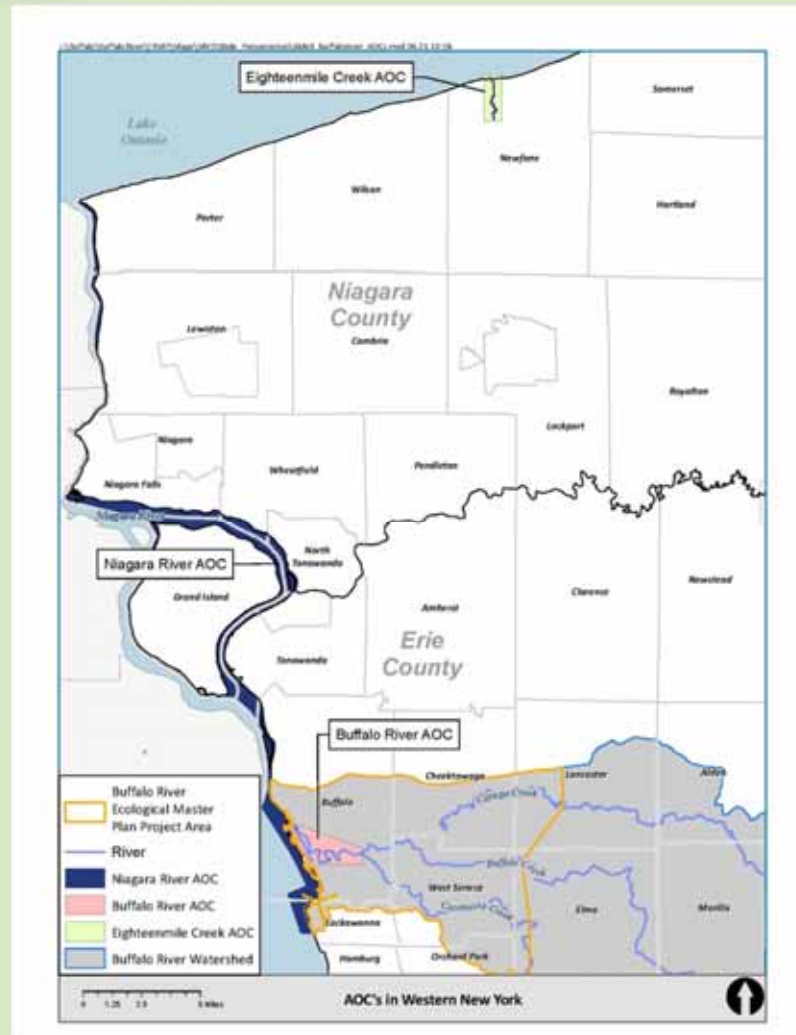
<http://bnriverkeeper.org/programs/watershed-planning/buffalo-river-rap/>

The U.S. – Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement required development of Remedial Action Plans (RAP) for each of the Great Lakes AOCs

Background: AOCs



Background: AOCs



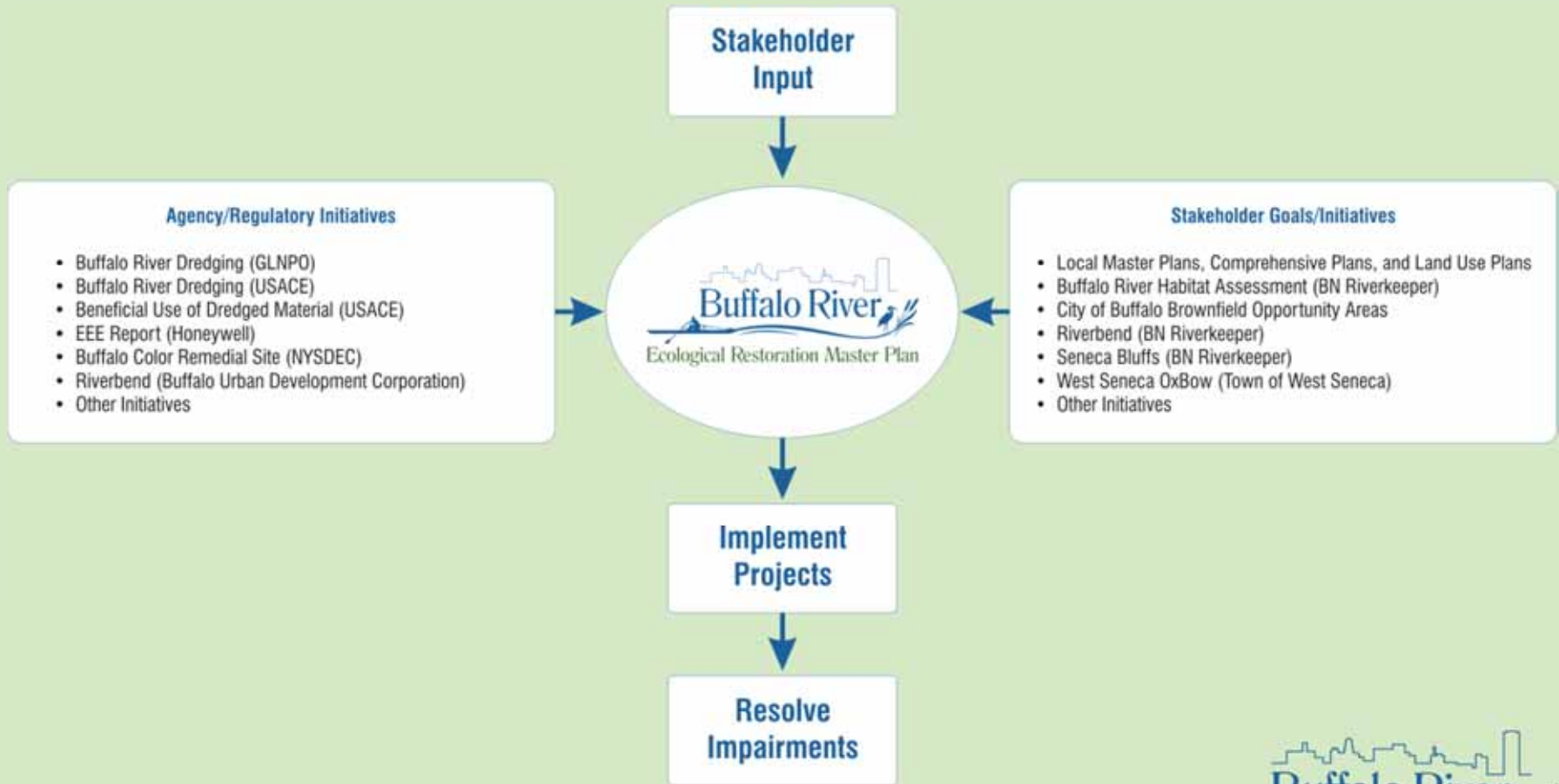
Background: *Project Description/Purpose*

Impairments to be addressed by the ERMP:

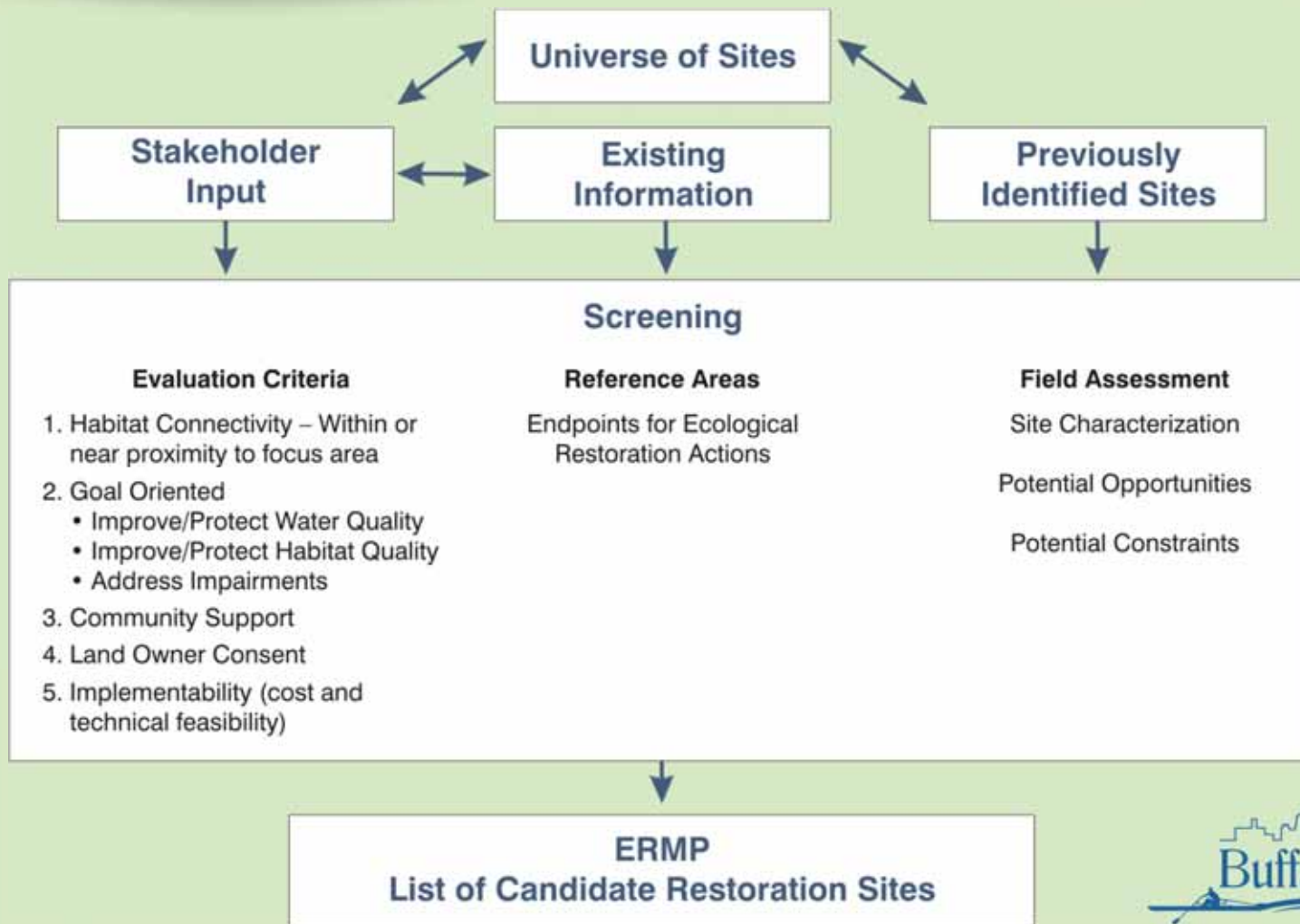
- Degradation of benthos (plants and animals that inhabit the bottom of the river)
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
- Degradation of fish and wildlife populations



Background: *ERMP* context



Background: *Methodology and Outcomes*



ERMP: *Vision and Goals*

Project Team:

Stakeholders



ERMP: *Vision and Goals*

Draft Mission Statement:

“To identify, facilitate, and implement opportunities for habitat restoration within the Buffalo River Corridor and its tributaries to support a healthy, sustainable system for the benefit of habitat, wildlife, and our community.”



ERMP: *Vision and Goals*

Impairments

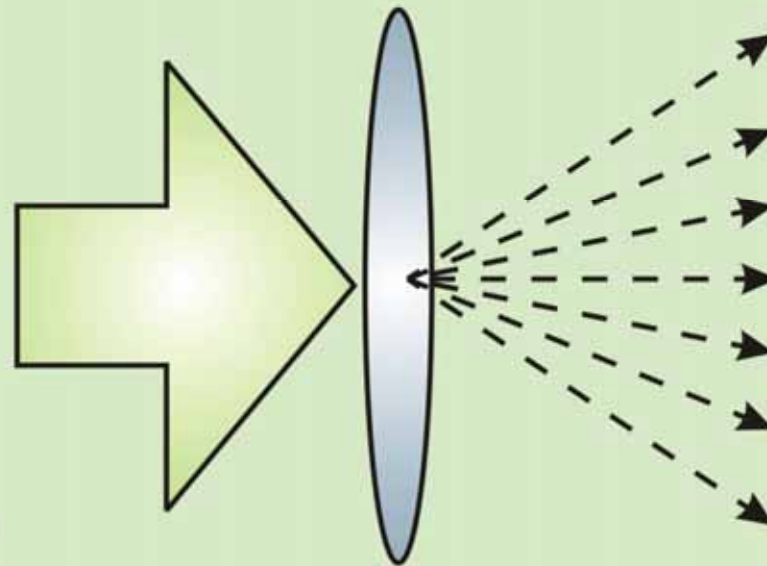
Degradation of Benthos

Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations

Vision

ERMP will focus on impairments to achieve goals



Goals

Improve/Protect Water Quality

Improve/Protect Habitat Quality

Support Delisting of Impairments

What we Know

So far, E & E has:

- Reviewed existing studies
- Reviewed databases
- Assembled list of 60+ potential restoration sites

What we Know: *Existing Studies*

- *Buffalo River Habitat Opportunity Areas.* Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR 2009)
- *Buffalo and Niagara River Habitat Assessment and Conservation Framework.* Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper (BNR 2008)
- *Buffalo River Section 312 Environmental Dredging Report* (USACE, Buffalo District 2008)

What we Know: *Existing Studies*

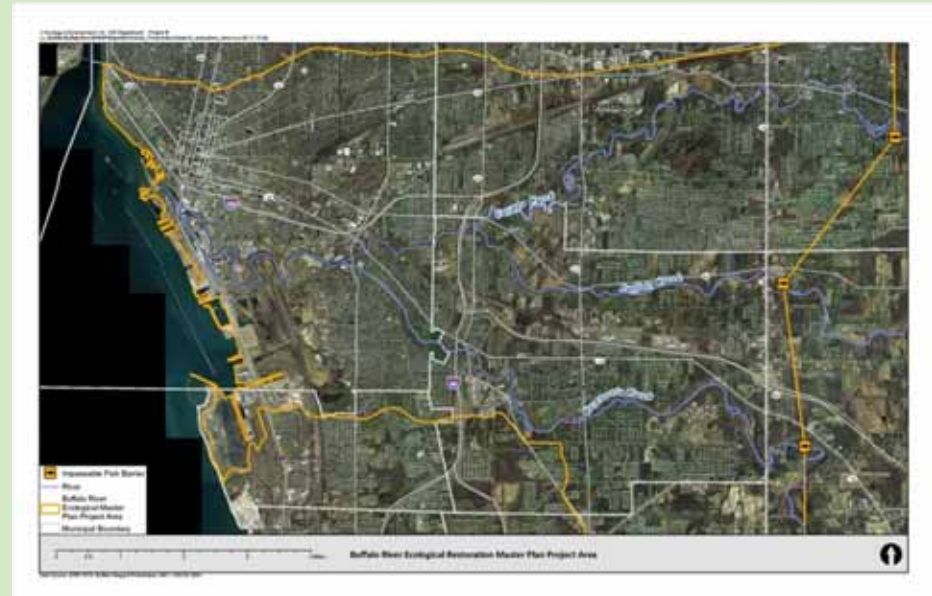
- *Ecology Engineering Evaluation Report, Buffalo River, New York* (ENVIRON International Corporation and MACTEC Engineering & Consulting 2009)
- *Assessment of Potential Aquatic Habitat Restoration Sites in the Buffalo River Area of Concern* (Irvine, et. al. 2005)
- *The DRAFT New York State 2010 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters Requiring a TMDL/Other Strategies* (NYSDEC 2009)

What we Know: *Existing Studies*

- *Head of City Ship Canal, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Buffalo River, Section 204 (USACE, Buffalo District 2010)*
- *Riverbend, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Buffalo River, Section 204 (USACE, Buffalo District 2010)*
- *Buffalo Color Area, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, Buffalo River, Section 204 (USACE, Buffalo District 2010)*

What we Know: *Database Review*

- Aerial photos
- Soils data (SSURGO)
- State and Federal wetlands (NYSDEC and NWI)
- Floodplain maps (FEMA)
- National Hydrology (Gauging Stations) and Elevation Data (USGS)
- US Census 2000
- Erie County Land Use/Land Cover
- Erie County Combined Sewer Overflows
- NYSDEC Remedial Sites



What we Know: *Existing Conditions*

NWI/NYSDEC Wetlands

- 22 wetlands – 254.5 acres (5.4%)



What we Know: *Existing Conditions*

Land Use in Focus Areas (acres):

- Residential – 1,227 (26%)
- Vacant Land – 860 (18%)
- Public Land – 207 (4%)
- Wildlife, Forested, Conservation – 143 acres (3%)

Land Cover in Focus Areas (acres)

- Developed – 1,464 acres (31%)
- Forested – 985 acres (21%)
- Pasture/Hay – 398 acres (9%)



What we Know: *Existing Conditions*

Brownfields – 13 sites within the Focus Area

Open Space Recreational Areas

- Recreational – 240 acres (5%)
- Developed Open Space – 519 acres (11%)



What we Know: *Existing Conditions*

Poor Water Quality

- Dissolved oxygen
- Water temperatures
- Ammonia
- Total dissolved solids
- Iron

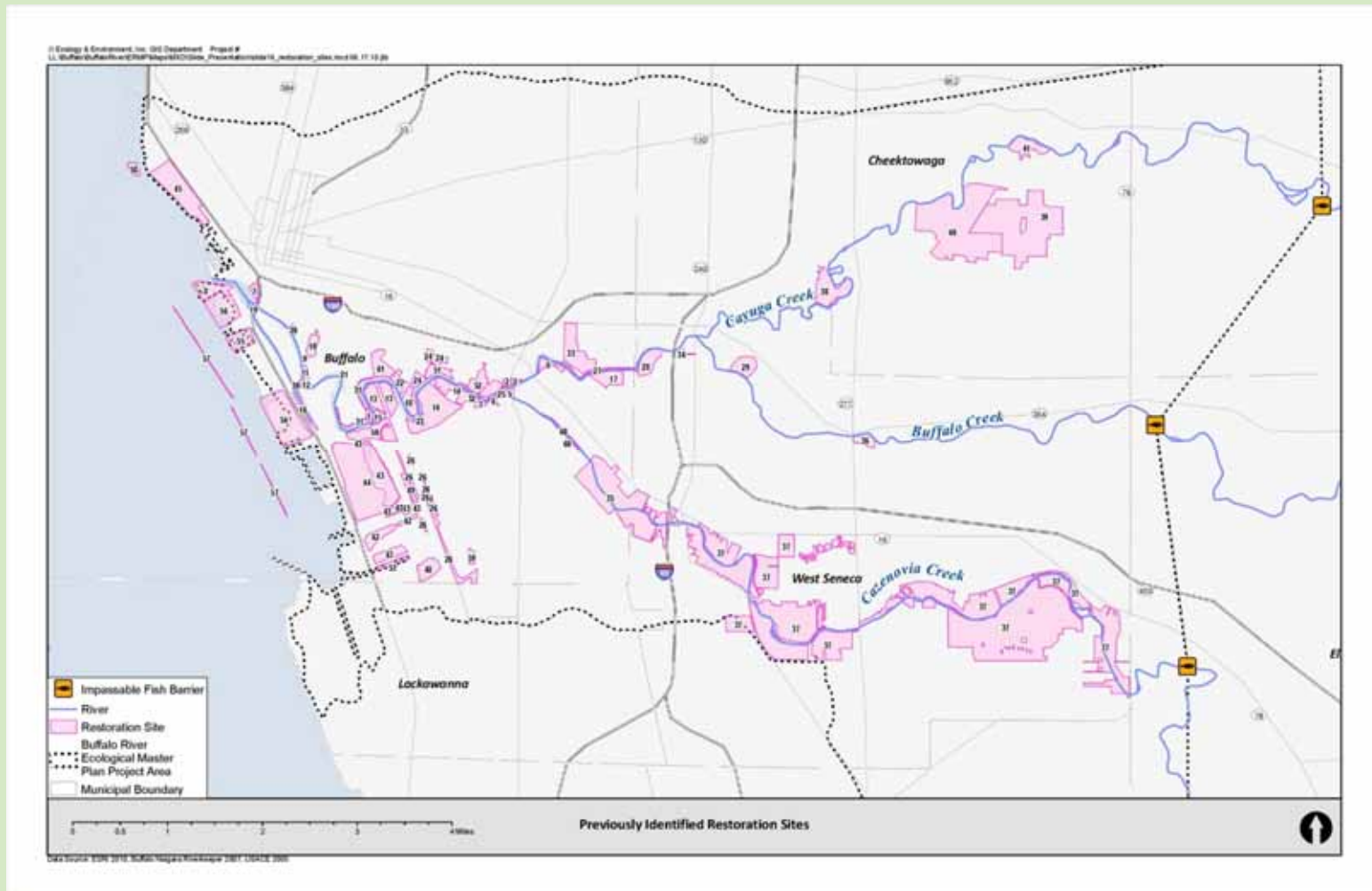
Invasive Species

- Floral – Common reed, Japanese knotweed, Tree of heaven
- Faunal – Round goby, Common carp, Zebra mussels

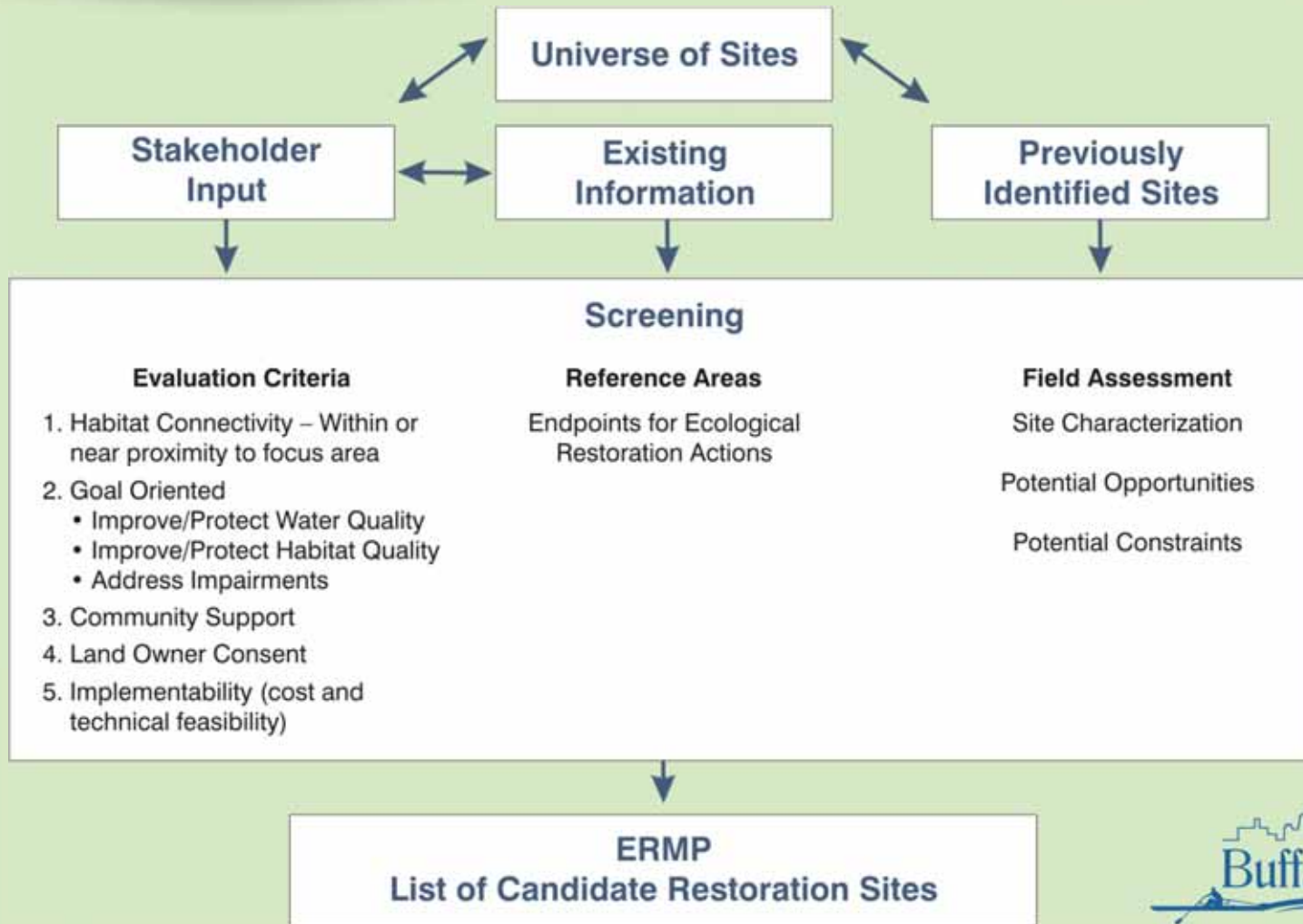
100-year floodplains

- 2,617 acres (56%)

What we Know: *Previously Identified Sites*



Review: *Methodology and Outcomes*



What we *Don't* know

We need your feedback/ideas on:

- Draft mission statement
- Opportunities and Constraints
- Restoration sites, projects, species, and habitat to include
- Additional references and stakeholders



Small Group Discussions

- Facilitated discussion
- Select note-taker/spokesperson
- Spend 1 hour providing input
- Report out (5 minutes per group)

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- Submit additional comments/questions to DeepaliERMP@ene.com
- Contact Danielle Green (GLNPO) at (312) 886-7594 or Deepali McCloe (E&E) at (716) 684-8060
- Visit www.buffaloriverermp.ene.com for updates and to sign up for Project List serv
- Attend Stakeholder Meeting #2 in Fall 2010