



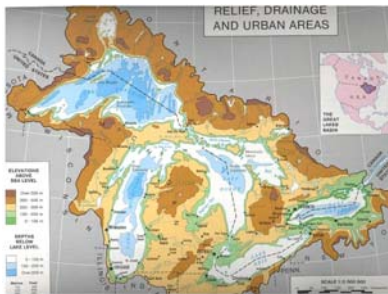
2007 Genesee River Conference
Lynda H. Schneekloth
Buffalo Niagara RIVERKEEPER

OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

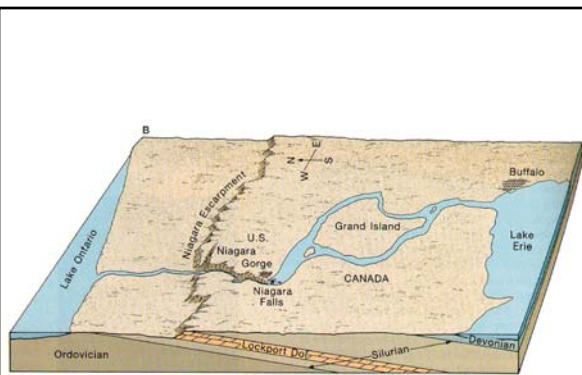
- The Rivers and Their Stories
- The Organization and its Story
- What have we learned?



The Rivers and their Stories The Great Lakes



The Niagara "Strait" and its watershed



Bringing people to the water
Even if only to clean up



Environmental Education
"The Buffalo River Rats"



Transforming the River
and Public Access
Habitat Restoration Sites



Doing our Homework
Becoming the 'experts'



Gaining Political Support



Transition: Taking a Stand Suing the City of Buffalo



New Parkland "Old Bailey Woods"



Institutional Expansion Strategic Planning 2001 – present Hiring Staff and Expanding Watershed



Niagara Power Project Relicensing

1. Millions \$ for Habitat Restoration and Greenway
2. NREC (30 WNY Environmental Organizations)



Settlement

Over \$450 for Habitat and Greenway
NREC (30 WNY Env. Organizations)



Joining in 2003 WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE



- "Name Recognition"
- Access to Resources
- Community of Watershed Organizations

RIVERWATCH Program



RAP Coordination since 2003

Addressing "beneficial use impairments"

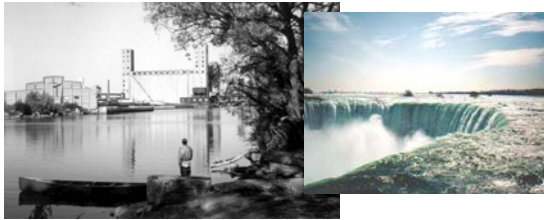
- Sediment Remediation - \$3 million plus
- Brownfield Opportunities - \$600,000
- Greenway Planning - \$300,000

RAP: Sediment Remediation Maybe someday we can eat the fish



Organizational: What's Next? Strategic Planning 2007

- Reimagining our Rivers and Waters
Greenways, Public Access, Stewardship
- Sewers and Stormwater
- RAP delisting
– Pollution Abatement, Habitat Restoration
- Capacity Building – for Riverkeeper and allied organizations



Getting People to the Water



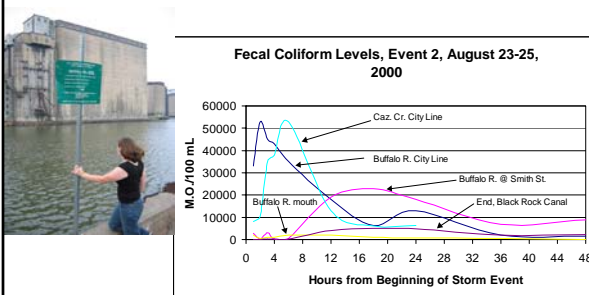
Education and Publicity Tours and Water Opportunities



RAP Delisting: Buffalo and Niagara River Habitat Project



Sewers, Stormwater and CSO's



Capacity Building

- Staff
 - 0 staff in 2001; 8 staff +2 interns in 2007
- Budget
 - 0 in 1989; \$36,000 in 2001; \$500,000 in 2007
- Partners
 - Niagara River Environmental Coalition (NREC)
 - Agencies, NYPA, Local and State Officials



- Restore ecological health
- Express and celebrate natural/cultural history
- Improve public access
- Encourage awareness and stewardship
- Support sustainable development
- Develop strong river advocacy organization

Thoughts on the work of Watershed Organizations

- Recognizing “place-based” organizations are responsible for everything
- Learning to focus; how to say “no”
- Taking advantage of problems and opportunities
- Doing “public housework”
- Celebrating achievements and uniqueness

These are
OUR
RIVERS!

