

Scajaquada Creek Restoration & Community Access Project



One of the many things that make Forest Lawn such a precious asset to this community is our incredible landscape. And one of its most distinguishing features is the water that naturally flows within our gates - the lakes, streams and the creek that runs through Forest Lawn.

Scajaquada Creek, which daylights in Forest Lawn and meanders through it, is part of the Niagara River watershed, making it one of the region's most important waterways. But it is also one of its most threatened waterways, as decades of land-use development, urban pollution, combined sewer overflows and other human

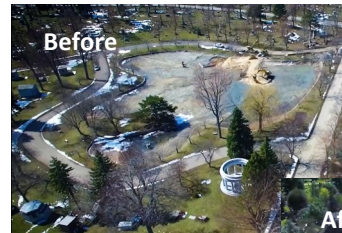
disturbances have taken a significant toll on the creek, reducing water quality and damaging the health of the ecosystem.

The good news is that through a unique partnership with a diverse group of private benefactors, cultural, civic and governmental institutions a major project to clean up the portion of Scajaquada Creek that runs through Forest Lawn was recently completed.

It required an investment of \$7 million and took nearly 10 years to complete.

The Scajaquada Creek Restoration & Community Access Project Included:

- Improved trash collection upstream of Forest Lawn Cemetery to reduce debris and trash in the Creek;
- Selective dredging throughout to address historic sediment accumulation, reduce water temperatures and improve creek flow. This included the dredging of Mirror Lake (for the first time in over 50 years!) See the photos here;
- Earthwork and plantings within the cemetery at the Chapel Meadow to reconnect the floodplain to the creek;
- Restoration of the Creek's banks to address invasive species, stabilize soils and provide overhanging vegetation and shade;
- Wetland enhancement of the former Swan Lake area of Forest Lawn Cemetery immediately east of Delaware Avenue, adjacent the creek and within the floodplain, to provide sediment storage, reduce flooding, and improve water quality by acting as a biological filter;
- Educational signage and improved trail connections to the water;
- Aesthetic improvements where the Creek enters the bypass around Hoyt Lake.



The Scajaquada Creek Restoration Project Team

Forest Lawn
Forest Lawn Heritage Foundation
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Buffalo Sewer Authority
US Army Corps of Engineers
NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
Olmsted Parks Conservancy
Greenway Ecological Standing Committee
Ducks Unlimited
Department of Transportation
Dormitory Authority of NYS
Private Benefactors/
Foundations

We are very pleased to report that the project is working!

- Nearly 4 new acres of wetland have been created within the gates of Forest Lawn, with walking paths and bridges that provide ready access for pedestrians.
- We're seeing the return of certain birds, fish and aquatic vegetation that have not been seen in Forest Lawn for many years, including trout, Blue Herons, Kingfishers and more —sure signs of improved water quality and a healthy ecosystem.
- More and more people are taking advantage of the unprecedented access to the creek to walk, jog, bird watch or simply relax in this wonderful new environment.



FOREST LAWN

Where memories live,
and the stories are told.