

## One Region Forward Scenario Modeling ABOUT THE MAP

-  **Parks and Conservation Areas** show publicly-owned parks and other natural areas with severe restrictions to development. These include municipal, county, state and federal parks, lands with steep slopes (above 25%), and wetlands or preservation areas regulated by the state or federal government.<sup>1</sup>
-  **Forested Areas** are green spaces with an abundance of trees on vacant parcels that are not legally protected from development.<sup>2</sup>
-  **Farmland** contains all land parcels currently classified as agricultural land for tax assessment purposes.<sup>3</sup>
-  **Buildings in Rural Areas** show the general locations of built structures of any use, including homes, businesses, etc..., located in rural places outside of the current urbanized land area.<sup>4</sup>
-  **Rural Areas** display all lands outside of the urbanized area that are not within farmland, or a protected park or conservation.
-  **Undeveloped Urban Areas** are parcels of land within the *urbanized area* (defined below) that currently do not have a built structure occupying them or an active use.<sup>4</sup>
-  **Urbanized Area** represents the land area that is already built-up and equipped with basic infrastructure such as water, sewers, and energy. The specific boundaries are defined by the US Census Bureau (2010) and are based on population density.<sup>5</sup>
-  **Rural Centers** are hearts of activity in rural towns and hamlets throughout the region. These areas include at least one of the following: a post office, a bank, retail, a library, historic buildings and a town hall.
-  **Greenways – Trails** depict the multi-use, scenic, recreational pathways that are used for hiking, biking and other non-vehicular modes of transportation that currently exist throughout the region.<sup>6</sup>

**Note: One square inch on the map scales to approximately one square mile.**

<sup>1</sup> Erie County Department of Environment & Planning (2012). Niagara County Department of Economic Development (2011), Parcel Boundary Data; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (2010), NYS Public Land Boundaries; NYS DEC (2012). New York State Regulatory Freshwater Wetlands. US Fish and Wildlife Service (2012). National Wetlands Inventory. US Geological Survey (2012) National Elevation Dataset.

<sup>2</sup> US Geological Survey, National Land Cover Database 2006; Erie County Department of Environment & Planning. (2012). Niagara County Department of Economic Development. (2011). Parcel Boundary Data.

<sup>3</sup> Parcels were selected using property class codes explicated as agricultural land - 100-199 and 241 (Primarily residential but also used in agricultural production). Source: Erie County Department of Environment & Planning (2012), Niagara County Department of Economic Development (2011), Parcel Boundary Data.

<sup>4</sup> Erie County Department of Environment & Planning (2012), Niagara County Department of Economic Development (2011), Parcel Boundary Data.

<sup>5</sup> US Census Bureau. (2011). TIGER\Line, 2010 Urbanized Areas.

<sup>6</sup> Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council. (2013).