Smart floodplains: Best practices to reduce flood risk and restore waterways

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Jeanne Beiter, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Shannon Dougherty, NYSDEC
Bart Roberts, UB Regional Institute

10:00 a.m. The Fundamentals of Proactive and Protective Floodplain Management
Learn about the function of floodplains and their benefits, as well as land use planning tools that communities can use to better manage their floodplains.
Mary Binder, CFM, NYSDEC

10:30 a.m. Nature-Based Floodplain Management Solutions and Case Studies
Hear from your colleagues about floodplain management techniques such as stream corridor/floodplain restoration, culvert right-sizing, floodplain benches, and nature-based streambank stabilization/restoration.
Graydon Dutcher, Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District
Shaun Kaleta, Town of Whitestown
Joshua Unghire, CERP, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

11:45 a.m. Closing Remarks
Jeanne Beiter, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
Shannon Dougherty, NYSDEC

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AICP members must be in attendance for the duration of the event in order to receive CM credit.

Please remember to log your credits online using the following event ID: 9207994
The 2020 Learning Series is part of One Region Forward’s ongoing efforts to provide technical assistance to municipalities and promote sustainable development in the Buffalo Niagara region. The Learning Series will explore topics in clean energy, water resilience, Complete Streets, land banking, and smart growth. These topics correspond with strategies and actions put forward in the One Region Forward Plan.

To learn more about the One Region Forward Plan, please visit: oneregionforward.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next installment of the Learning Series will be in spring 2021. To be the first to know about this and future events in the 2020 Learning Series, please subscribe to the One Region Forward mailing list by visiting oneregionforward.org and clicking on “Subscribe to eNews” in the upper right-hand corner. Please also follow us on Twitter (@OneRegionFWD) and Facebook.

JEANNIE BEITER
Senior Ecological Program Manager, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

Jeanne Beiter is a Senior Ecological Program Manager at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. She is an urban and regional planner with strong experience in developing manageable components for complex situations along with an extensive background in community engagement through the lens of conservation and regional planning.

Jeanne holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Le Moyne College and a master’s degree in urban planning from the University of Buffalo.
**TODAY’S SPEAKERS**

**SHANNON DOUGHERTY**  
*Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

Shannon Dougherty is a Watershed Coordinator with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Great Lakes Program, serving in this position for the past nine years. She is responsible for leading implementation of New York’s Great Lakes Action Agenda, and works in partnership with local, regional, and state partners to identify and implement water quality, habitat restoration, and community resilience projects across the state’s Great Lakes watershed.

Shannon holds a bachelor’s degree in Geography from SUNY Geneseo and a dual master’s degree in Natural Resources & Sustainable Development and International Affairs from American University.

**BART ROBERTS**  
*Associate Director of Research and Faculty Engagement, UB Regional Institute*

Bart Roberts is an urban planner and researcher who specializes in bringing together research and practice to advance projects related to sustainability, community development, and public participation. In 2011, he led the effort to secure a $2 million grant from the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities to launch One Region Forward, a regional planning effort to build tools and strategies for advancing sustainable development across Erie and Niagara counties. He continues to support that program, with planning advisement, research, community engagement, and local capacity building.

Bart holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Vassar College and a master’s degree in urban planning from the University at Buffalo.

**THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROACTIVE AND PROTECTIVE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

**MARY BINDER, CFM**  
*Environmental Program Specialist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*

Mary Binder is an Environmental Program Specialist in the Floodplain Management section of the Albany, NY, NYSDEC, Western Flood Hub, a position she has held since 2014. Mary is a Certified Floodplain Manager and has conducted over 250 Community Assistance Visits (Floodplain Tours) and 300 Community Assistance Contacts (Phone Conferences) in municipalities from the western Adirondacks to Buffalo.

Prior to working in the Flood Hub, Mary worked in DEC Environmental Permits; NYS Homes and Community Renewal, conducting SEQR/NEPA environmental reviews for low income housing projects; Albany and Dutchess County NY Soil and Water Conservation Districts working in erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, and pond construction; and the USDA, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs in Colorado and New Mexico as a Forester.

Mary holds a bachelor’s degree in Resources Management from the New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry.
GRAYDON DUTCHER

Stream Corridor Management Program Coordinator, Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District

Graydon Dutcher’s tenure with the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District has spanned nearly fifteen years: five as a Watershed Agricultural Program Civil Engineering Technician, six as the Watershed Agricultural Program Technical Coordinator, and 11 as the Delaware County Stream Corridor Management Program Coordinator. In his current role, Graydon is leading the implementation of the District’s Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Protocol.

Graydon became a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control in 2004, and has completed four levels of Rosgen training, Aquatic Organism Passage through Designed Crossings, Stormwater Regulations, and Vegetative Considerations for Streambank Stabilization Treatments.

Graydon is a 1998 graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse with a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Studies.

SHAUN KALETA

Supervisor, Town of Whitestown

Shaun Kaleta is Supervisor of the Town of Whitestown, a position he has held since 2016. As Supervisor, he is the Town’s chief fiscal officer, oversees all departments, and presides over board meetings. Prior to being elected Supervisor, Shaun served as a Village of Oriskany Trustee.

The Town is actively engaged and working with Oneida County and New York State on the Sauquoit Creek Channel & Floodplain Restoration Project. The project, in its entirety, involves channel widening, the creation of 12 floodplain benches, areas of bank stabilization, and the creation of a public access trail along a 1-plus mile corridor of the lower Sauquoit Creek.

Shaun holds a bachelor’s degree in Government and Politics from Utica College and a master’s degree in Public Affairs from the University of Missouri.

JOSHUA UNGHIRE, CERP

Restoration Ecologist/Planner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District

Joshua Unghire is a restoration ecologist and planner for the Army Corps of Engineers, Buffalo District. He has over fifteen years of professional experience in the environmental field with positions held in the academic, private, non-profit, and federal sectors. In his ten years with the Corps, he has acted as a technical lead for ecological restoration projects addressing coastal, riparian, fluvial, wetland, and littoral systems. As part of this work, he is involved in the development and design of ecosystem and habitat restoration plans, oversight of project construction, and monitoring and adaptive management.

Joshua holds a bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell and a master’s degree in Environmental Management with a focus in Ecosystem Science and Management from Duke University. In 2018, he received certification as an Ecological Restoration Practitioner through the Society of Ecological Restoration.