



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Community invited to DL&W Trail Open House

The Western New York Land Conservancy is asking the public for input on their latest initiative—a proposed iconic, innovative, and inspiring trail along the abandoned DL&W rail corridor in downtown Buffalo. The public is invited to attend an open house about the project on Wednesday, March 21 from 6 to 8pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Café in the Larkin at Exchange Building. Advanced registration is requested at [www.wnyc.org/events](http://www.wnyc.org/events) or by calling (716) 687-1225 if you don't have access to the internet.

The DL&W Corridor is a mile and a half long ribbon of green that runs through The Valley, The First Ward, and the Perry Neighborhood, from the Buffalo River near Solar City to downtown Buffalo near Canalside. The Land Conservancy has been working closely with neighborhood residents, business owners, and community leaders to develop a vision plan for the future of this corridor.

"We envision the DL&W corridor becoming a place where people can walk or ride a bike and where wildlife can find a home," said Nancy Smith, Land Conservancy Executive Director. "We hope to convert this remnant of our industrial heritage into a beautiful, engaging, and ecologically resilient linear park."

The open house will feature presentations by the Land Conservancy and community leaders, an exciting fly-over video of the corridor filmed by a drone, and draft guiding principles and strategies based on community input to date. Most importantly, the Land Conservancy wants attendees to come and share their thoughts and opinions about the early plans for the corridor. Once the community vision plan is completed in June, the Land Conservancy will kick off an exciting design competition for the corridor, sponsored by M&T Bank.

"This project has such great potential to enhance the Old First Ward, and Larkinville," said Larkin Development Group partner, Leslie Zemsky. "We are excited to host this open house and provide the community with the opportunity to be a part of the revitalization of these historic neighborhoods and build an asset that is enjoyed by the whole region."

"The DL&W trail could become the healthy urban greenspace that the community desperately needs," said Congressman Brian Higgins. "Our region is seeing incredible revitalization thanks to investments along our waterfront, and the Western New York Land Conservancy has the vision and expertise to bring a natural element to Buffalo's downtown."

The Land Conservancy is collaborating on this project with the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), who owns the land.

If you would like to support this project, donations can be made on the Land Conservancy's website ([www.wnylc.org](http://www.wnylc.org)), or by sending a check made payable to the "Western New York Land Conservancy" to P.O. Box 471, East Aurora, NY 14052. All donations for the DL&W project are tax-deductible. Contact the Land Conservancy with any questions or comments at [info@wnylc.org](mailto:info@wnylc.org) or (716) 687-1225.

The Land Conservancy began this community vision planning process thanks to a generous grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, and donations from Land Conservancy members. The Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, a 501 (C) (3) organization, was established in 1919 to enhance and encourage long-term philanthropy in the Western New York community. The Foundation's mission is: Connecting people, ideas, and resources to improve lives in Western New York. For nearly 100 years, the Community Foundation has made the most of the generosity of individuals, families, foundations, and organizations who entrust charitable assets to its care. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Funds were established at the Community Foundation to provide support to four areas that were important to Mr. Wilson: caregiving, community assets, design and access, and youth sports. Endowment funds, like these created to honor Mr. Wilson, are designed to grow over time and provide funding for charitable causes according to a client's wishes.

[www.cfgb.org](http://www.cfgb.org)

The Western New York Land Conservancy is a regional, not-for-profit land trust that permanently protects land with significant conservation value in Western New York for future generations. The Land Conservancy envisions a future in which open spaces, working lands, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty are cherished and protected as part of the landscape and character of Western New York. The Land Conservancy is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission and is one of 1000+ land trusts nationwide, including 90 in New York State. Land trusts have protected 56 million acres of land. For more information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or the mission of the Western New York Land Conservancy, please call (716) 687-1225 or visit [www.wnylc.org](http://www.wnylc.org).

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