
AWRA 2011 ANNUAL WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE
Albuquerque, New Mexico

November 7-10, 2011

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GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT
AT RIVERBEND, BUFFALO, NEW YORK

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ABSTRACT RiverBend is a 260-acre vacant brownfield site on the banks of the Buffalo River in Buffalo, New York. Its owner, the Buffalo Urban Development Corporation, seeks to return this site to its former stature as a regional employment center. A key ingredient of this plan that will distinguish it from competitor sites is its "city in the trees green design".

Sasaki Associates of Watertown, Massachusetts and Biohabitats of Baltimore, Maryland are collaborating in creating the site's plan and design. In this plan, ecological restoration, stormwater management facilities, buildings and roads are each optimized for value, aesthetic and function. The plan features:

- * Shoreline investment to support ongoing river restoration.
- * Creation of a well-treed urban environment to support development interests, ecological restoration and the site's stormwater management. The site's parks and other open spaces will delight employees and their visitors while serving as regional stormwater management facilities.
- * Reuse of a landfilled site as a working landscape whose design will be a hallmark of the site's new image while serving as a critical link to regional habitat restoration.
- * Creating a pedestrian path system through this site that will link residents from adjacent neighborhoods to each other and to the city's downtown.

In addition, the plan was developed to avoid any stormwater discharge into the city's combined sewer systems. Instead, its system of biofiltration, bioswale conveyances, wetlands, and regenerative stormwater conveyances will form a treatment train that promotes infiltration and evaporation of stormwater runoff, as well quality and quantity control. Ultimately, this water will flow to the Buffalo River, a water body subject of intensive government study and investment. Like RiverBend, the Buffalo River's story will be one where collaborating entities realize both natural and social goals. In this case, the city and region seek to restore the quality of the river, increase its recreational use, and create a well-loved pedestrian trail system along its banks. At this session, project representatives will detail their holistic approach to regenerative design and development that realizes the project's goals.

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