



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# Niagara Emerald Shiner Study, NY Great Lakes Remedial Action Program

Section 401(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1990, as amended

**Project Location:** Niagara and Erie Counties, NY, in the Niagara River Area of Concern (AOC)

**Description of Problem:** The Emerald Shiner, a prey fish and critical component of the Niagara River and Lake Erie food web, as codified in the *Fish Community Objectives* developed by NYSDEC, is obstructed from progression due to impassable water velocities and hastened by hardened shorelines in the Niagara River. The *Fish Community Objectives* define delisting targets for the Degradation of Fish Populations Beneficial Use Impairment for the Niagara River Remedial Action Plan.

**Project Description:** This project will entail close collaboration with the State University of New York (SUNY), Buffalo State College to study obstruction to fish movement and will include identification of passage obstruction areas, as well as planning and design of alternatives to promote passage. Small fish passage is an emerging area of study and requires thorough research and investigation prior to implementation.



Niagara River at Broderick Park

**Partners and Collaboration:** SUNY, Buffalo State College; contract with SUNY University at Buffalo

**Project Benefits:** This project will focus on passage in the uppermost two miles of the Niagara River. Improved passage of the Emerald Shiner will help meet *Fish Community Objectives* and address the Degradation of Fish Populations Beneficial Use Impairment in the Niagara River Area of Concern. Increased connectivity for Shiners, especially between Niagara River and Lake Erie, is an opportunity of technical, institutional, and bi-national significance.

**Project Status:** Contractor has proposed conceptual designs for a fish passage alternative. The USACE team has recommended implementation of a temporary demonstration project to measure the effectiveness and resilience of the alternative and is exploring options to conduct such a project.

Measure of Progress	Project Output
1.1.1 Area of Concern where all management actions necessary for delisting have been implemented	1
1.1.2 Area of Concern Beneficial Use Impairments Removed	1



<b>Project Milestones</b>	
Plans for Shiner Passage (received)	SEP 2017
Final research and design products from UB	MAY 2018

<b>Estimated Project Costs</b>	
Federal	\$1,520,000
Total	\$1,520,000

<b>Point of Contact</b>
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