

# GOOD NEIGHBORS PLANNING ALLIANCE (GNPA)

## HISTORIC BLACK ROCK WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL COMMUNITY PLAN



### Recommendations and Strategies

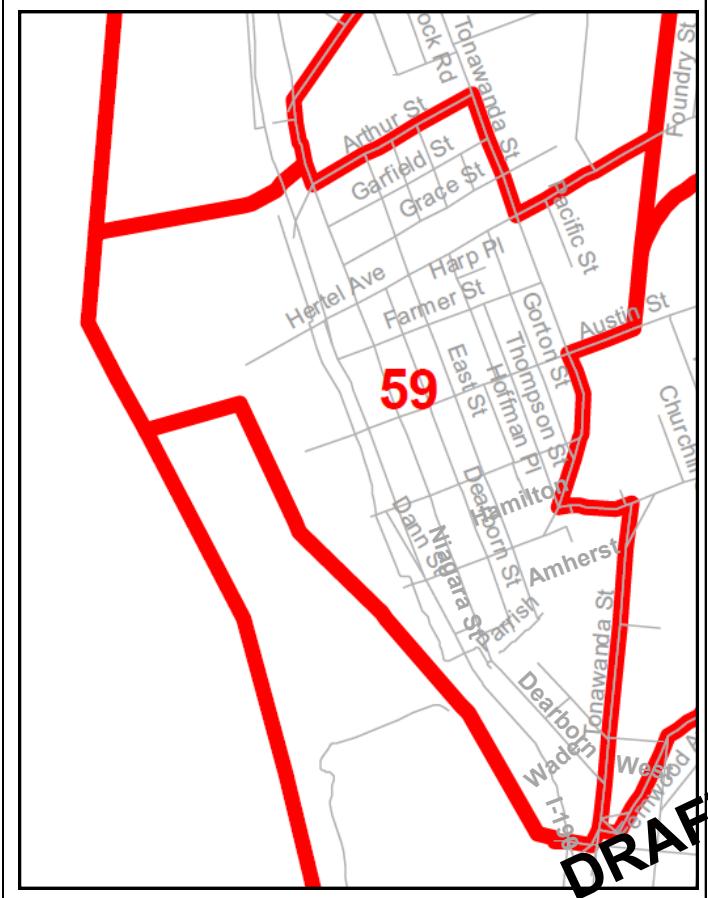
The *Historic Black Rock War of 1812 Bicentennial Community Plan* features seven goals and eleven action priorities:

1. Preserve and Strengthen Community Identity: Historic survey, historic district, historic resources, timeline, historic anniversaries, preservation-related activities, promotional materials, photo and artifact library, history museum, tie-in to other history related to the area.
2. Improve Housing: BRR NHS, new block clubs, code enforcement, housing court, new housing concept plans, handyman/contractor referral, connect homeseekers with potential properties, monitor property conditions, encourage homesteading, inventory infill lots, support art lofts, track owner occupancy levels.
3. Improve Public Safety: Support Weed & Seed activities, crime prevention efforts, community partnerships, Homeland Security operations and siting, aid proactive police measures.
4. Revitalize Niagara Street Commercial Area
5. Enhance Community Walkability while Leveraging Existing Transportation Advantages
6. Realize the Potential of Existing Recreational Assets and Seize Opportunities for New Ones within the Neighborhood (Parks, Recreation, Waterfront)
7. Make Distinctive Gateways and Street Themes, Leverage Land Development, and Improve Urban Design

### Action Priorities

1. Tonawanda St. Corridor Brownfield Opportunity Area Project for land redevelopment
2. Historic Resources Survey for historic district
3. Traffic Simulation Study for changes to Niagara St.
4. Business Association for Niagara St.
5. Streetscape Improvements
6. Highway Signage for traveler services
7. Planned Improvements to major waterfront parks
8. Protect Neighborhood Character
9. Black Rock Heritage Park at Dearborn & Hamilton
10. Life Learning Center as satellite for community services
11. New and Renovated Homes, partnering with BRR NHS

### Black Rock's community planning boundaries equal those of Census Tract 59



**BLACK ROCK**

DRAFT DOCUMENT



Founders of the Black Rock Historical Society on Niagara St. pose for a photo at the museum's grand opening in 2015, bringing to life a key goal (#1 above) of the community plan.

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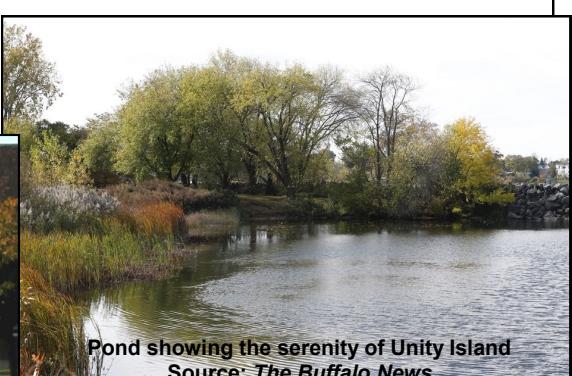
### Comprehensive Plan Neighborhood Component OVERVIEW

#### The Black Rock Community of Buffalo

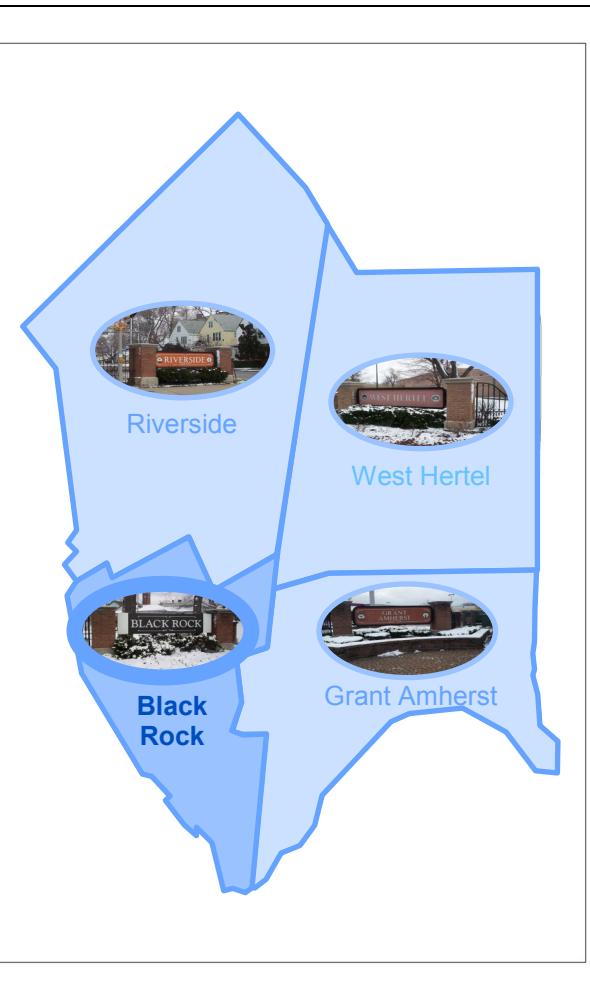
Black Rock is among the most historic areas of Buffalo, with the largest concentration of 1850s houses in the city.<sup>1</sup> Niagara Street offers shopping with a traditional “main street” feel. Buildings on Amherst & East Sts. feature distinctive architecture and form the core of the “Market Square Historic District,” listed on the National Register. Unity Island was where LaSalle’s *Griffon*, the first trading ship on the Great Lakes, was finished in 1679. The waterfront also served as a battleground during the War of 1812, when the HMS Detroit famously ran aground and turned after being commandeered by U.S. forces, British artillery burst upon Oliver Hazard Perry’s shipyard in Scajaquada Creek, and invading British forces alighted onto shore. During the industrial age the International Railroad Bridge was built, factories hummed, and highways and rail added quick access to downtown and the region. Today’s Black Rock features distinctive homes, churches, commercial buildings, and parks with locks, fishing, bike paths, and more, with abundant river views.



Niagara Street's historic charm



Pond showing the serenity of Unity Island  
Source: *The Buffalo News*



Black Rock is in the Northwest part of Buffalo

<sup>1</sup>According to the website of the Campaign for Greater Buffalo History, Architecture & Culture, accessed 2008.



The Buffalo Religious Arts Center protects rare artifacts