

NIAGARA PARKS

INTRODUCTION

The NPC is developing standards for its many Viewpoints along the Niagara River Corridor as one tactic for the management of the entire shoreline. These Viewpoint standards will help to create better and more sustainable views, and prioritize maintenance activities. The standards will also be used to identify new viewpoints or those that are unnecessary

INVENTORY

Characterizing 3 primary elements—the viewpoint, the viewed landscape, and the “viewers”

CLASSIFICATION

Developing a system based on location, function and user intensity that NPC will use to designate and organize its extensive list of viewpoints

ASSESSMENT

Identifying the criteria used to rank the scenic value of the view and viewpoint

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Developing maintenance performance standards based on best practices

INVENTORY

The Inventory documents the extensive characteristics from the perspective of the Viewer. The Viewpoint is the location the Viewer is looking from. The View is the location/area/scene the Viewer is looking to. These characteristics are recorded in photographic and text formats and include:



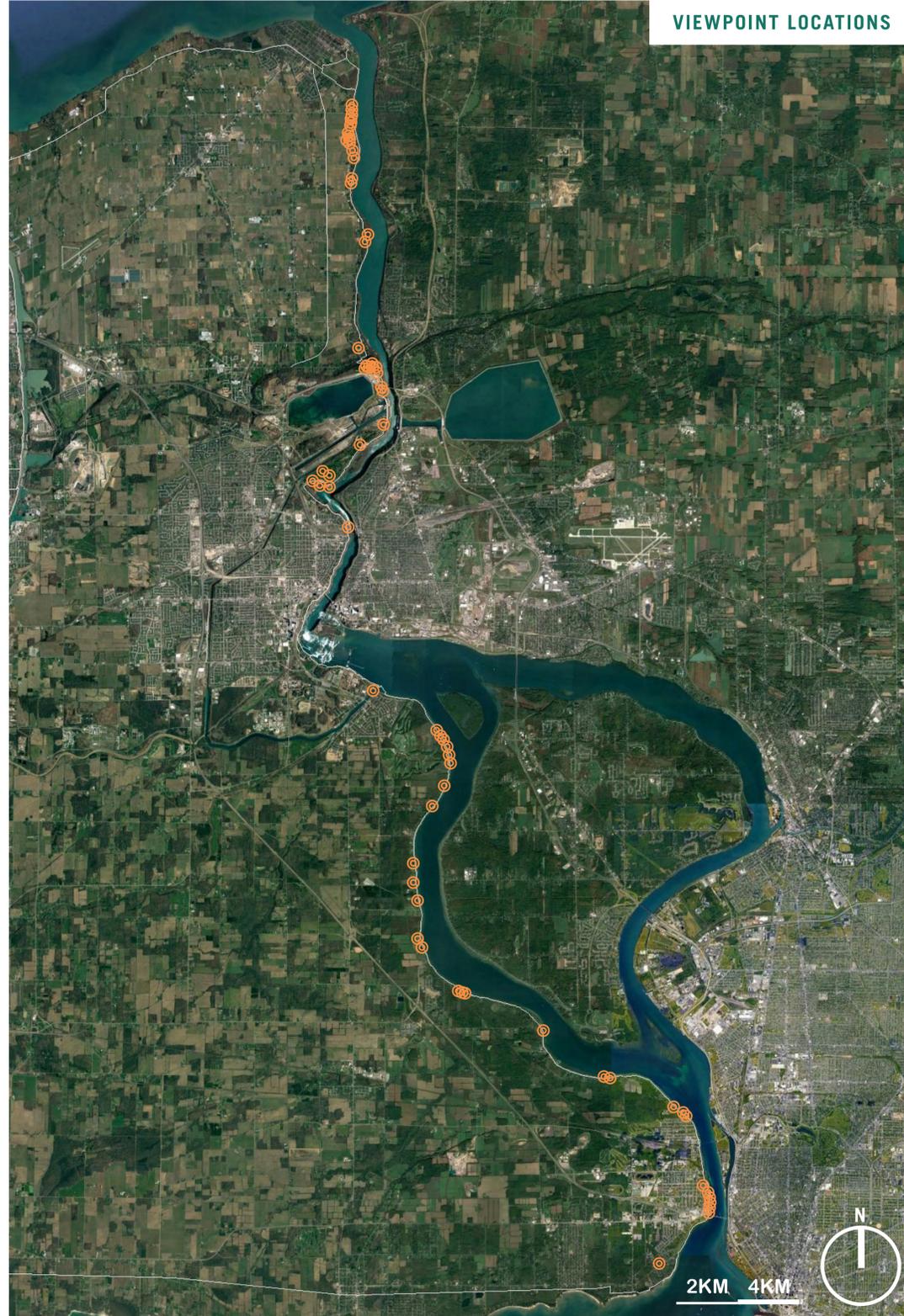
VIEWPOINT CHARACTERISTICS

- > Access and Location
- > Activities, Amenities, other Attractions, and Condition
- > Capacity and Visitor Intensity
- > Risks (e.g. bank stability or invasive vegetation)



VIEW CHARACTERISTICS

- > Position of the Viewer, the width and depth of the View
- > Landform, Land uses and Character of the area viewed
- > Importance of the viewed area (e.g. designated or protected)
- > Risks (e.g. development)



CLASSIFICATION

LOCATION

- > NPC district (north, central or south)
- > Development (rural or settlement area)
- > Physiography (shore, bank or gorge location)

FUNCTION

- > Destination: significant Viewpoint with a high value View
- > Route: Viewpoint that is intended as part of a sequence of views

VISITOR INTENSITY

- > High, intermediate or low levels of visitor use

DESTINATION 01



DESTINATION 02



DESTINATION 03



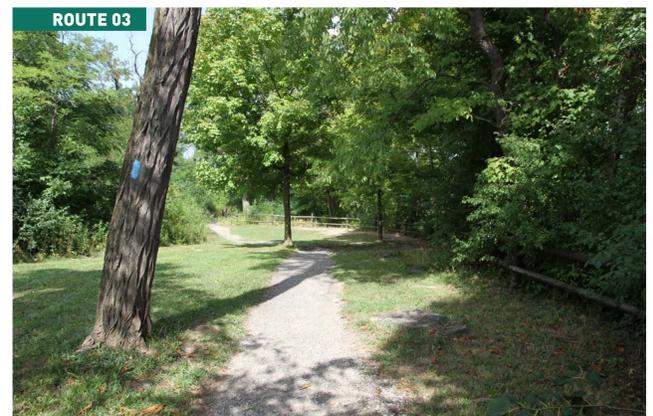
ROUTE 01



ROUTE 02



ROUTE 03



ASSESSMENT - VIEW

The assessment primarily considers the visual qualities of the view, but also assesses the viewpoint qualities and the number of visitors appreciating both. A rating will be assigned based on the scoring for all criteria

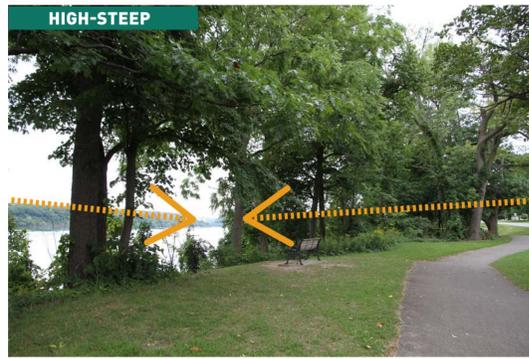
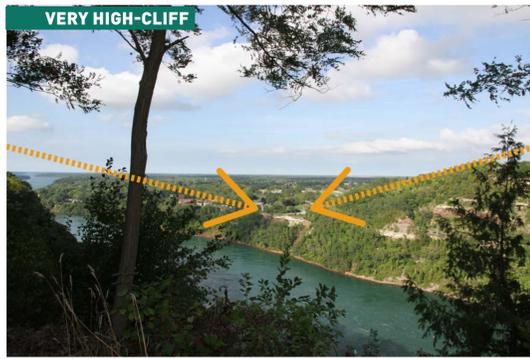
SCENIC QUALITY

How closely the view conforms to an idealized view of the Niagara River Corridor, including natural, cultural and heritage elements



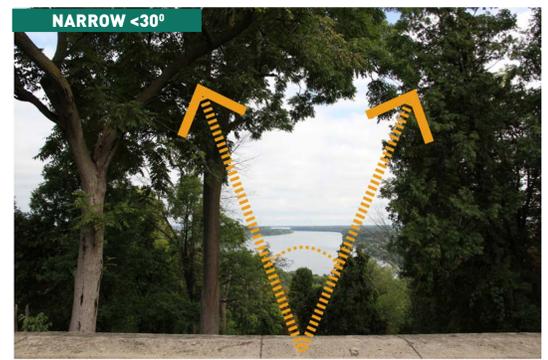
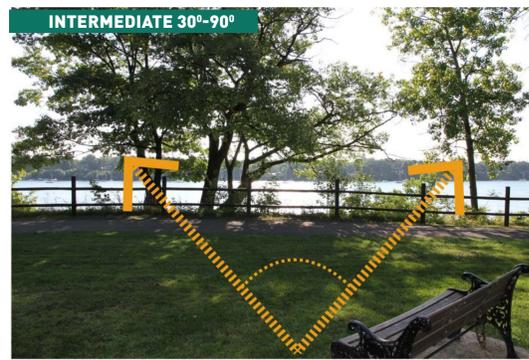
PROSPECT

Preference for a higher vantage point



PANORAMA

Preference for a wider field of view



DISTANCE

Preference to view a greater amount of distance



ASSESSMENT - VIEWPOINT

AMENITY & SERVICE

Higher levels of amenity and services results in a higher rating



ASSOCIATION

Additional activity or heritage attractions results in a higher rating



ASSESSMENT - VISITOR USAGE

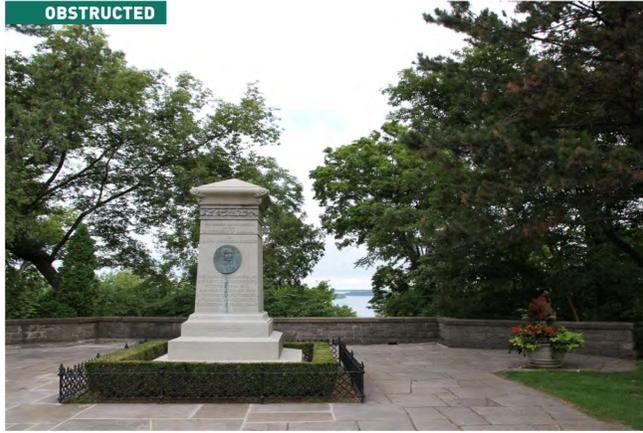
Higher use results in a higher rating

ASSESSMENT - VIEW POTENTIAL

Many Viewpoints could potentially be improved with vegetation management

VIEW IMPROVEMENT

Ranks the improvement to the view with the removal or addition of vegetation.



VIEW MODIFICATION

Vegetation modification will be required to to achieve the improved view. This can vary from preferred modifications (adding native vegetation; removing invasive species) to modification barriers (removing at risk or significant species)



ASSESSMENT - MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE STANDARDS BEING DEVELOPED FOR THE NPC VIEWPOINTS WILL ADDRESS TWO PRIMARY ISSUES:

- > The appearance or visual standard of the Viewpoint
- > The appropriate methods to achieve View improvement

The Classification and Assessment results will be used to determine the appropriate maintenance standards for each Viewpoint. Key objectives, such as ecological restoration or stabilization, will also guide the determination of the maintenance level.

VIEWPOINT APPEARANCE

Following the guidelines of the Canadian Landscape Standard for appropriate appearance and associated maintenance levels. Five levels are proposed:

- > **Well-Groomed:** always impeccably clean and well groomed
- > **Groomed:** neat, orderly, groomed appearance
- > **Moderate:** generally neat, moderately groomed appearance, with moderate "wear and tear"
- > **Open Space:** orderly appearance, with tolerance for obvious "wear and tear"
- > **Natural:** preserve habitat and ecosystem functioning while accommodating low intensity activity



There can also be variation within a Viewpoint to focus maintenance on the path and use areas, with alternative maintenance farther away.



VIEWPOINT IMPROVEMENT

If vegetation modification is appropriate to achieve a view improvement, the work could include tree pruning, shrub and tree removal or planting of native species.



Appropriate practices that are environmentally sound and safe for workers and public will be followed.

