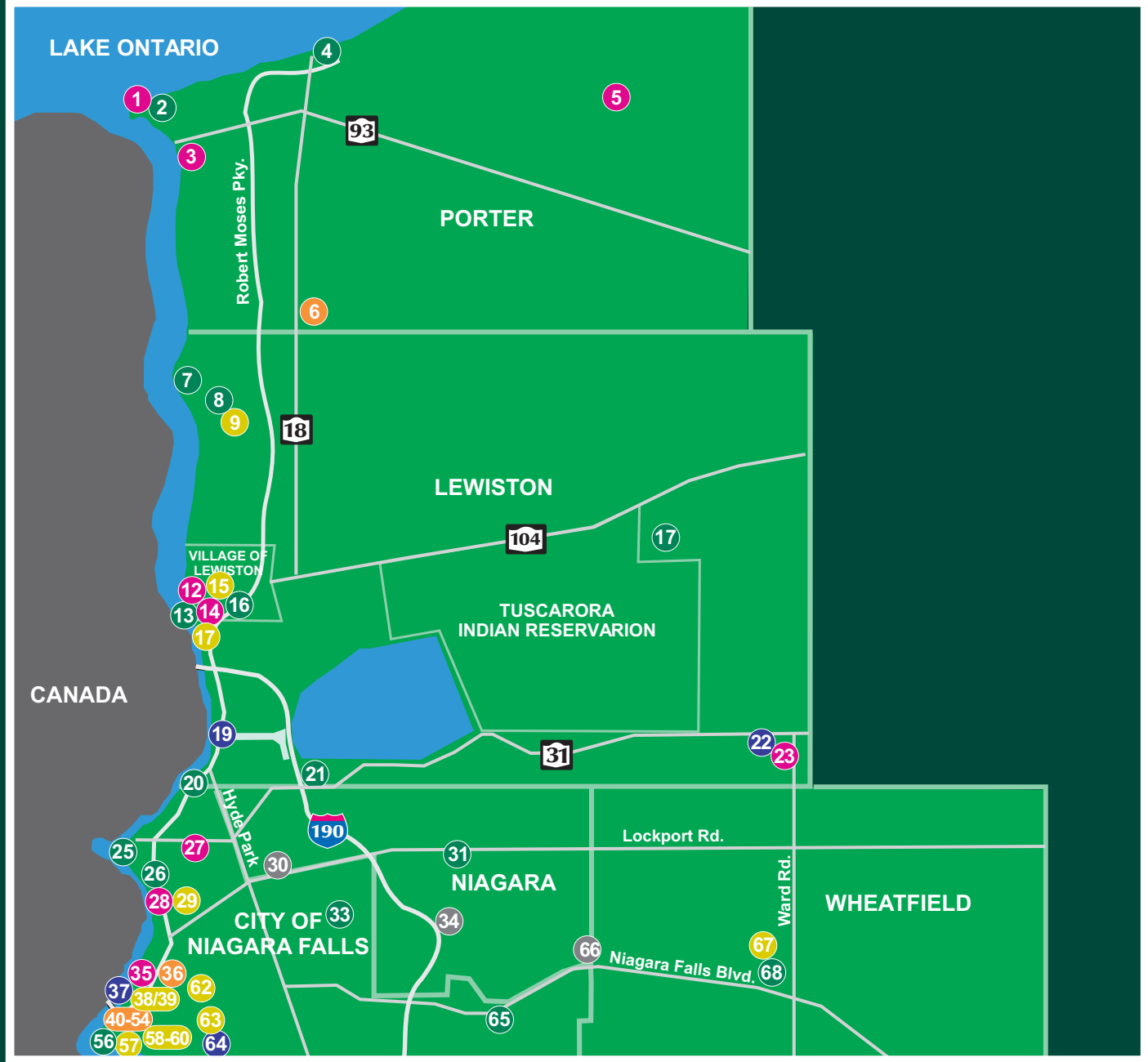


Lower River



THE LANDSCAPE

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THE LANDSCAPE

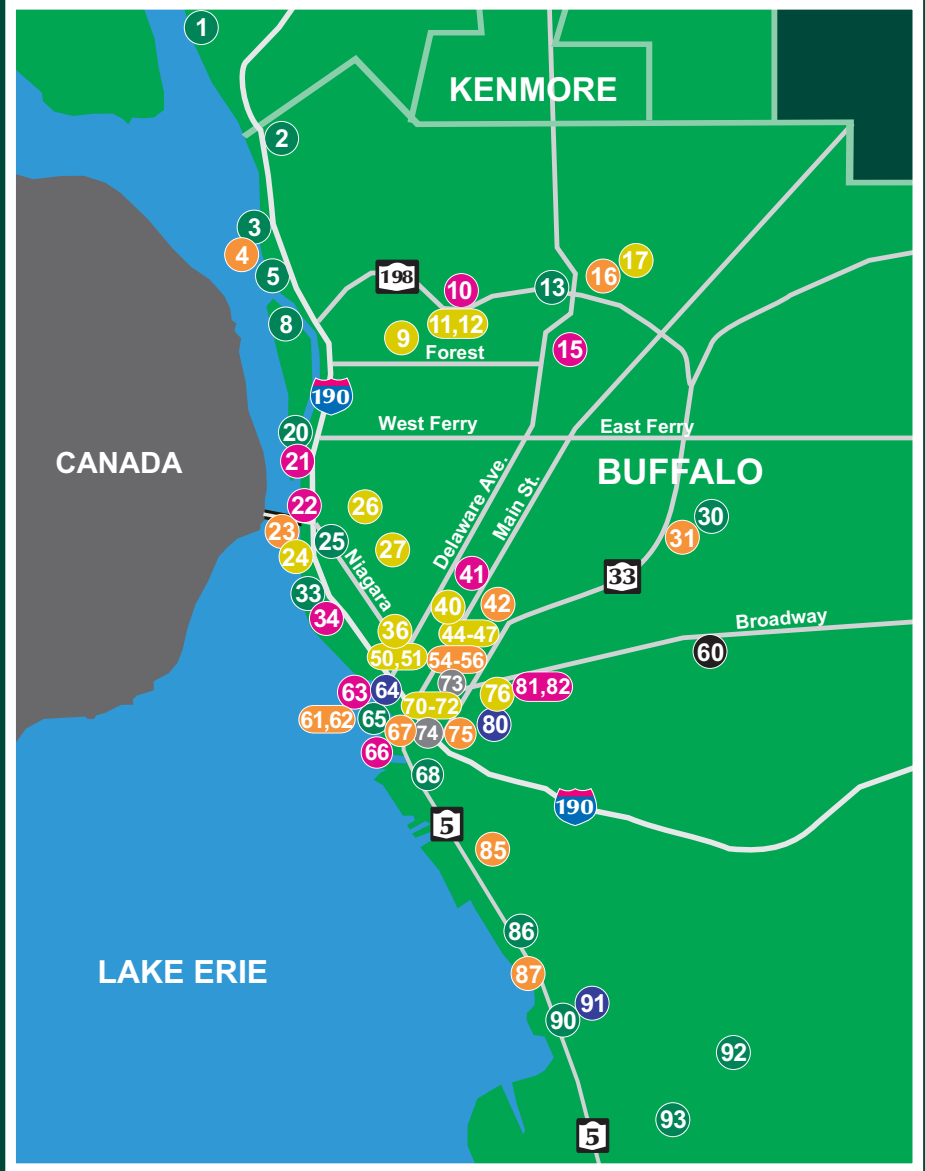
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- Frederick Law Olmsted City of Buffalo Park System (See Parks Listing Above)



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 - Photo Credits: Paul G. Leuchner, NYS OPRHP
- www.niagaragreenway.org

The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

Telling the Story of the Niagara River Greenway

There are many stories in the Niagara River Greenway that reveal its place in history and its connection to the natural and built environment. Although grounded in geography, the Greenway embodies a wealth of resources that contribute to the strength and character of this region. It's stories convey the incredibly diverse cultural, scenic, heritage and recreational assets that serve to both distinguish this region and connect its people together.

The Landscape

The Greenway is a celebration of natural diversity. Forests, open water, wetlands, and fields provide a variety of habitats to support abundant and varied wildlife. It is home to hundreds of acres of parklands, natural areas and recreational facilities including two masterworks by America's first and foremost landscape architect, Frederick Law Olmsted:

- The park system for the City of Buffalo features six major municipal parks connected by tree-lined parkways and traffic circles
- The Niagara Reservation, now Niagara State Park, is the oldest state park in the nation.

Connecting residents and visitors to the landscape are interconnected trail systems such as the Shoreline Trail that runs parallel to the Niagara River along its entire length.

The Bounty of Nature

One of the great traditions of the Niagara Region has been the excitement generated by the harvest. From June through October, nearly every municipality in the region hosts Farm Markets that bring forth a great bounty of locally grown fruit, vegetables, flowers as well as a variety of handicrafts. Fruit orchards, corn mazes and pumpkin patches attract thousands of visitors each year. The growing prowess of the Niagara viticulture provides another popular venue in the region. Wine connoisseurs make annual visits to the Niagara Wine Trail to sample their favorite vintages.

Enterprise In The Arts

It is often said that a community is defined by its arts. In the Niagara River Greenway, there is a treasure trove of visual and performing arts as well as momentous architecture. From Artpark to the Buffalo Theater District, there are always great performances to be experienced. The visual arts are well represented in the Albright Knox Art Gallery, Burchfield Penny Art Center and many other galleries in the region. The Greenway is also home to hundreds of architectural treasures, many of which acknowledged as National Historic Landmarks. These include works by Frank Lloyd Wright, H.H. Richardson, Louis Sullivan and E.B.Green.

Stories of War, Peace and Freedom

The Niagara River Greenway is steeped in history and its many stories include:

- Pre-Columbian aboriginal communities
- The Age of Exploration
- The Colonial Era and War of 1812
- The Erie Canal
- A strategic focal point for fugitives on the Underground Railroad
- A melting pot of cultural immigration
- The phenomenal growth of industry and commerce

The region's multifaceted history is an integral part of the Greenway's identity. There are many opportunities to learn about the peoples who lived here and how they impacted and were influenced by our national and global history.

The Wealth of a Region

Capitalizing on its strategic location on Lake Erie, proximity to Canada, terminus on the Erie Canal and abundant water power, this region witnessed tremendous growth in commerce and industry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Shipping, grain processing, steel production, auto and aviation manufacturing and electricity generation all played key roles in the rapid economic development of this region. Many aspects of this development are portrayed in the stories associated with this growth throughout the Greenway. These include chronicles of the individuals who pioneered these industries, the innovations developed and the great labor force that was amassed to make it happen.

