



# Niagara River Greenway Commission

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## **NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION INCORPORATES PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL COMMENT INTO DRAFT PLAN**

Grand Island, NY, February 28, 2007...The Niagara River Greenway Commission (NRGC) voted last night to revise the draft Niagara River Greenway Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement in response to the many constructive comments it has received from the public and municipal stakeholders.

“While none of these changes are significant or change the intent of the plan, these changes clarify various provisions and concepts and provide flexibility to those who wish to undertake Greenway Related projects,” stated Commission Chairman Robert Kresse.

Included in the new version were minor text changes, corrected grammatical errors and rephrasing. Minor editorial changes were made to add supporting text to several sentences assisting in defining and clarifying sentences. Several of the charts and figures in the draft plan were also updated to enhance and further define their purpose like adding local parks, changes to legend or adding industrial heritage sites. Indian Nations Projects was also added as a separate map.

Noting the intent of the Niagara River Greenway Act, the Commission also added the greenway’s economic opportunities and impacts to the vision statement as suggested in the comments received. The vision statement now reads:

*“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.”*

*“The River has always contributed immensely to the economy of the region. Our vision is that the river will continue to contribute in a sustainable way for generations to come.” Added Town of Tonawanda Supervisor Ron Moline who chairs the NRGC Local Government Committee.*

As of February 27, 2007 the Towns of Grand Island, Tonawanda and Youngstown, the City of North Tonawanda and the City of Tonawanda have already approved the plan. The Commission anticipates that with the text changes and additions additional municipalities will quickly follow suit.

“We listened very carefully to the comments which have been offered with particular attention to those comments offered by those municipalities which need to approve the plan. The updates which we have completed should clarify that this plan is good for each of the municipalities

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within the boundary of the plan, good for the region and contribute to the quality of life for all Western New York Residents.” stated North Tonawanda Council President Brett Sommer.)

Updates on the various municipalities approving the plan can be found by visiting the Niagara River Greenway website at <http://www.niagaragreenway.org/municipalupdates.htm> or more general information about the Greenway Plan and Commission is available at <http://www.niagaragreenway.org>.

The Niagara River Greenway Commission is a public benefic corporation established by Chapter 460 of the laws of 2004, and charge with the planning and development of a greenway of interconnected parks, river access points and waterfront trails along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario at the site of the historic Fort Niagara. The Commission must deliver a draft plan to the NYS Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for approval by March 21, 2007.

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