

**Niagara River Greenway Commission
Greenway Related Projects and Programs**

INSTRUCTIONS

PROJECT CONSULTATION and PROJECT REVIEW

October 2017

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Niagara River Greenway Vision

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.

Introduction

Approval of the Niagara River Greenway Plan on May 17, 2007 marked the beginning of a new era for the Niagara River and surrounding communities. The plan defines the vision that will guide the future of this internationally renowned water resource and the principles, goals and criteria that will serve to define this vision. The Niagara River Greenway Commission is responsible for the implementation of this vision and will work toward the achievement of this goal by carrying out its duties and responsibilities as defined in Chapter 460 of the Laws of New York 2004. The guiding blueprint is the Niagara River Greenway Plan which developed as a grassroots effort in cooperation with state agencies, municipal governments, stakeholder groups and the general public. The Niagara River Greenway Plan can be viewed at www.niagaragreenway.org.

Proposals brought before the Niagara River Greenway Commission include projects for funding under the various settlement agreements through the four standing committees that were established during the relicensing of the New York Power Authority Project. In addition, other projects not seeking Relicensing Greenway funds may be brought before the Commission when the sponsor is seeking review and endorsement in conjunction with their application for various grants or approvals other than Greenway funds.

Review Process

The Niagara River Greenway Commission has primary stewardship of the Niagara River Greenway Plan and implementation of the vision that will define the future of the Niagara River corridor. In this regard, the Commission will review projects in terms of their impact on the vision and its operative principles, goals and criteria. Project proponents are expected to provide sufficient documentation so that Commission members will be able to determine if a specific project is consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

The process used by the Niagara River Greenway Commission is unique in terms of its stewardship over the vision contained in the Niagara River Greenway Plan. It is not the intent of the Commission to duplicate the technical review procedures that may be employed by other government agencies with regulatory or advisory authority over projects within the Niagara River Greenway. However, the Commission reserves the right to assess any project element and specification that will have an impact on the Niagara River Greenway vision.

Niagara River Greenway Principles, Goals and Criteria

The Niagara River Greenway vision and its corresponding principles, goals and criteria is the standard upon which all projects brought before the Niagara River Greenway Commission are judged. The principles, goals and criteria along with the corresponding page numbers from the approved Niagara River Greenway Plan is as follows. The Niagara River Greenway Plan can be viewed at www.niagaragreenway.org.

Principles (pages 19 – 22)

Excellence	Restoration
Sustainability	Authenticity
Accessibility	Celebration
Ecological Integrity	Partnerships
Public Well-Being	Community Based
Connectivity	

Goals (pages 23 – 25)

Improve Access
Make Connections
Protect and Restore Environmental Systems
Spark Revitalization and Renewal

Promote Long Term Sustainability
Extend the Legacy of Fredrick Law Olmsted
Celebrate History and Heritage

Criteria (pages 27 – 35)

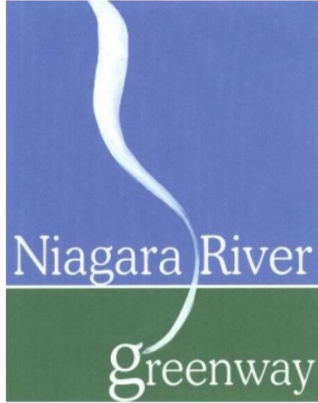
Consistency with Greenway Principles
Priority Status
Focus Area
Environmental Soundness
Implementable

Economic Viability
Availability of Local Sponsor or Partner
Ability to Match or Leverage Funds
Consideration of Other Planning Efforts
Clear Benefits

Greenway Commission (14 members)

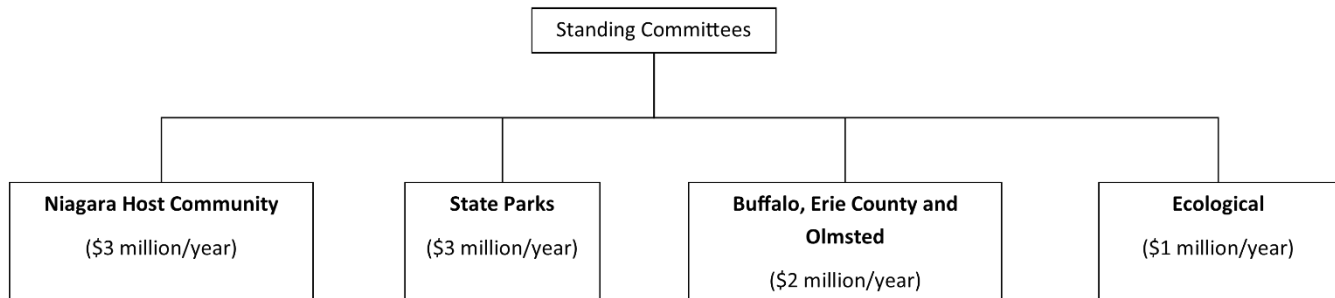
Six (6) Ex-Officio Members:
Empire State Development (ESD)
Department of Transportation (DOT)
Department of State (DOS)
Department of Conservation (DEC)
New York Power Authority (NYPA)
State Parks

Eight (8) Appointed Members:
Governor (4)
State Assembly (2)
State Senate (2)



The logo for the Niagara River Greenway features a stylized white river winding through a blue sky and a green ground area. The text "Niagara River" is written in white on the blue background, and "greenway" is written in white on the green background.

1. Greenway Commission provides Consistency Determination on Project Proposals.
2. Consistency Determination is forwarded to the appropriate Standing Committee.
3. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the proposal once consistency determination has been made.
4. Standing Committee makes funding decision based on submitted application to Standing Committee.



General Instructions

PROJECT REVIEW CONTENT AND FORMAT: Project information shall include all necessary information and project documentation and shall follow the order set forth above for Principles, Goals and Criteria that encompass the Niagara River Greenway Vision. Request for consultation or review will not be considered until all necessary materials have been provided.

PROJECT SPONSORS WHO ARE NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS: These sponsors must provide proof of their tax exempt status pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code.

PROJECT NAME: The project name shall be clear and concise.

PROJECT LOCATION: Provide the specific address for the proposed project. If the project is a State Landmark site or National Landmark site, use the full, official name of the property as it is listed in the appropriate State or National Register. The unofficial or popular name may be shown in parentheses after the official name. List the local historic designation, if applicable.

MINOR CIVIL DIVISION: A minor civil division is the incorporated boundary of a village, city or town in which a project is taking place. Some projects may involve more than one political boundary and if so, information shall be provided for each one.

OWNERSHIP INFORMATION: If the applicant is not the owner of the property on which the project will be located a letter or resolutions of support must be provided from the responsible property owner.

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL: This is the designated person who will receive official notifications from the Niagara River Greenway Commission about the project.

POINT OF CONTACT: The person who will act on behalf of the project sponsor, provide additional project information and participate in the consultation process. In some instances the Point of Contact may also be the Authorized Official. If that is the case a notation should be made on the project review form.

SOURCES & USES BUDGET: Provide all of the information that is required on the project review form and be sure to include the required operations and maintenance plan.

PROJECT NARRATIVE: A succinct project narrative shall be prepared following the order shown in the project review form. It shall be limited to a brief paragraph describing the project and its purpose, how it will be accomplished and why it is important.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: The anticipated project schedule must be defined. Include the project planning steps, project start date, duration of construction and completion date. In addition, a list of the required regulatory permits needed for the project must be provided.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS: Submit an original, 1:24,000 scale USGS or DOT planimetric map with the proposed project site identified. To obtain maps, project sponsors may contact the NYS Office of Cyber Security & Critical Infrastructure Coordination for Geographic Information at (518) 486-1092 or their webpage at <http://www.nysgis.state.ny.us>. Photographic prints showing the planned project area and existing site conditions shall be provided. If appropriate, include aerial photographs.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS: The project review form shall include conceptual plans and drawings that depict the existing site conditions and the same site with the proposed project. Highlighted sections of local planning

documents and/or a copy of a resolution adopting or reaffirming the local plan within the last five years shall be included with the application. If the proposed project is not specifically identified in a formally adopted local land use plan an approval or endorsement must accompany the proposal. The final attachment will be a brief description of the applicability of the State Environmental Review Act to the proposed project.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION: One hard copy of completed document shall be submitted to **Executive Director, Niagara River Greenway Commission, 3160 DeVeaux Woods Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305**. In addition, **one PDF file** (no larger than 7 MB) of the completed document shall be emailed to Jeanne.Leccese@parks.ny.gov. Upon receipt the Executive Director shall review the documents to determine that they are complete, and if necessary, the sponsor will be promptly informed of items missing in order to complete the submission.

**2018 NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION
PROJECT REVIEW SUBMISSION & DETERMINATION DATES**

<u>Project Submission Due Date:</u>	<u>Project Determination Date:</u>
January 16, 2018	March 20, 2018
March 20, 2018	June 19, 2018
June 19, 2018	September 18, 2018
September 18, 2018	November 20, 2018
November 20, 2018	January 15, 2019

FOLLOWING CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION: It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the proposal to the appropriate Greenway Standing Committee once consistency determination has been made. The applicant must have Greenway Commission consistency determination prior to the appropriate Greenway Standing Committee funding application deadline. **Each Greenway Standing Committee has a separate proposal application.** Review Greenway Standing Committee websites for additional information.

Niagara Host Community: <http://www.niagarapowercoalition.com/hcsc/index.php>

State Parks: same application as Greenway Commission - <http://www.niagaragreenway.org/>

Buffalo and Erie County:
<http://niagara.nypa.gov/RelicensingGreenwayFunds/BuffaloErieGreenway/BEdefault.htm>

Ecological: <http://niagara.nypa.gov/RelicensingGreenwayFunds/EcologicalGreenway/EcolDefault.htm>

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Applicants are required to present their project proposal in a public forum at a meeting of the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Comments received on specific project proposals from the public will be fully considered during the deliberations of the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Frequently Asked Questions

WHO CAN SUBMIT PROJECTS OR PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW?

Municipalities, municipal entities, state agencies, public benefit corporations, public authorities, not-for-profit corporations, non-governmental organizations and members of the public with an interest in projects that will advance the vision of the Niagara River Greenway.

WHY SHOULD MY PROJECT OR PROPOSAL BE REVIEWED?

Project sponsors seeking funding from any of the New York Power Authority Relicensing Settlement Agreements must submit a project review form and show evidence of consultation with the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Others not seeking these funds who are considering filing a grant application for project funding may accrue additional competitive benefits by receiving a finding of consistency and endorsement from the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

WHEN CAN I SUBMIT MY REQUEST FOR PROJECT OR PROGRAM REVIEW?

A Review or Consultation request may be submitted at any time.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY PROJECT OR PROGRAM TO BE REVIEWED?

To a large extent that will depend on the complexity of the proposal and funding cycles. Generally, Project Sponsors will be notified within fifteen (15) working days of submittal that their documentation is complete. The Commission will review completed submittals as expeditiously as possible subject to the availability of time and resources.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DOCUMENTATION IS FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE?

Failure to do so will delay the process until all necessary materials have been provided.

WHAT ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS?

The review and consultation procedures employed by the Niagara River Greenway Commission only consider how the project will advance the vision of the Niagara River Greenway. These procedures are not a substitute for the requirements of State Environmental Quality Review Act. Furthermore, applicants are responsible for coordinating with those State agencies that have regulatory or advisory authority over the proposed project. A finding of consistency or endorsement from the Niagara River Greenway Commission in and of itself does not give any project sponsor the right to proceed absent compliance with the requirements of Federal, State and Local law.

IS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

Yes, Commission staff, subject to the availability of time and resources, will provide guidance and assistance to prospective applicants. All such assistance will be limited to normal business hours.

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact Jeanne Leccese, Niagara River Greenway Commission Executive Director: Jeanne.Leccese@parks.ny.gov or 716-299-0804.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: _____

Location: _____

Site Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Minor Civil Division(s): _____

County: _____

Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: _____ Title: _____

Business Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization/Firm: _____

Business Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following five (5) items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.
2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.
3. Provide a Sources and Uses Budget. Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained. Complete the Sources and Uses Budget for the proposed project and include the following:

SOURCES OF FUNDS	
Loan #1	\$
Loan #2	\$
Grant #1	\$
Grant #2	\$
Other Source #1	\$
Other Source #2	\$
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS	\$
USE OF FUNDS	
Planning	\$
Construction	\$
Acquisition	\$
Administration	\$
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$
TOTAL USES OF FUNDS	\$
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$

4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project

(hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

Appendix A: Consistency Review Criteria

NIAGARA RIVER GREENWAY COMMISSION

Project Proposal - Consistency Review Criteria

Does the project fall within the Greenway boundaries defined by the Greenway Plan – within the municipal boundaries or located on a connector trail such as the Seaway Trail, Niagara Wine Trail, or Erie Canalway?	
<p>Does the project contribute to the Niagara River Greenway, defined by state law as a “linear system of state and local parks and conservation areas linked by a network of multi use trails.” Contributing to the Greenway includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding new parks, conservation areas, or trails; • Improving existing parks, conservation areas, or trails; • Preserving or restoring natural areas or ecological health in the Greenway, including its waterways; • Adding or improving amenities and attractions that draw people to the Greenway; • Educating the public about the Greenway. <p>Projects cannot be used to pay for operation/maintenance of amenities that existed before August 31, 2007.</p>	
Consistency with principles: excellence, sustainability, accessibility, ecological integrity, public well-being, connectivity, restoration, authenticity, celebration, partnerships, and community-based	
<p>Priority Status</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved access to waterfront resources 2. Development of an integrated trail and park system 3. Restoration of the Niagara River ecosystem 4. Interpretation and education about the region’s cultural, natural, and historic resources; 5. Revitalization of urban centers 	
<p>Focus area</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Projects within the focus area should be elevated 2. Projects outside the focus area should help establish strong linkages between the Greenway Focus area and the surrounding area 	
Environmental soundness	
Implementable	
Economic viability, including consideration of on-going operation and maintenance costs	
Local sponsor or partner	
Matching funds/leveraging	
Consideration of other planning efforts	
Clear benefits	
Total	