

The vision for the Niagara River Greenway will become a reality through hundreds of incremental steps and individual actions. The Criteria establishes the foundation that guides collective decision-making for the Greenway. The Niagara River Greenway Commission utilizes these criteria to help in the determination of an action or project and its consistency to the Plan.

**Criteria:**

**Consistency with Principles** – Projects and activities should strive to be consistent with Principles for the Greenway.

**Priority Status** – Improved access to waterfront resources, integrated park and trail system, and restoration of the Niagara River ecosystem, interpretation and education about region’s cultural, natural, historic resources and revitalization of urban centers.

**Focus Area** – Projects close to the river within the municipal boundaries of the Greenway and along State designated trails and related assets should be elevated.

**Environmental Soundness** – Greenway projects should evaluate potential impacts and seek to remove or reduce any negative impacts.

**Implementable** – Schedule realistic costs, including management, operations and maintenance. Public support should be evident through municipal resolution, public record or correspondence.

**Economic Viability** – A realistic assessment of anticipated economic viability including on-going operation and maintenance.

**Local Sponsor or Partner** – Sponsors or Partners will ensure the long-term viability of the project. The stronger the sponsor/partner the more likely the project will be a success.

**Matching Funds/Leveraging** – Dedicated Greenway funds should be seen as seed money used to leverage other investments or to match grants from other sources.

**Consideration of other Planning Efforts** – Projects should build on the great deal of planning efforts throughout the region and take local goals, values and vision into consideration.

**Clear Benefits** – All projects should clearly demonstrate the clear benefits to the Niagara River, the Niagara River Greenway and the stated vision of the Greenway as a world-class corridor.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: What is the Niagara River Greenway?**

A: The Niagara River Greenway boundaries are comprised of thirteen (13) municipalities along the Niagara River from the City of Buffalo to the Village of Youngstown. The Commission and the citizens of Western New York have the opportunity to re-define the waterfront in a way that creates a balance of welcoming waterfront environment with economic interest. Consisting of a linear system of state and local parks and conservation areas linked by a network of multi use trails along with the access to the beautiful Niagara River.

**Q: When is the Niagara River Greenway Plan expected to be completed?**

A: Adopted in 2007, the “Greenway” is an ever evolving process, concepts and ideas will continue to develop for years to come.

**Q: How can I submit a project for the Greenway?**

A: Projects can be submitted by anyone simply by going to the web-site “niagaragreenway.org” then click on the “Projects Submitted” button then click on “Consultation and Review forms” read instructions and complete forms as indicated.

**Q: How can I obtain matching funds for my project?**

A: There are many State and Federal agencies that offer grants for projects that would be consistent with the Niagara River Greenway Plan. We can help get you started in the right direction to make the grant process effective for you.

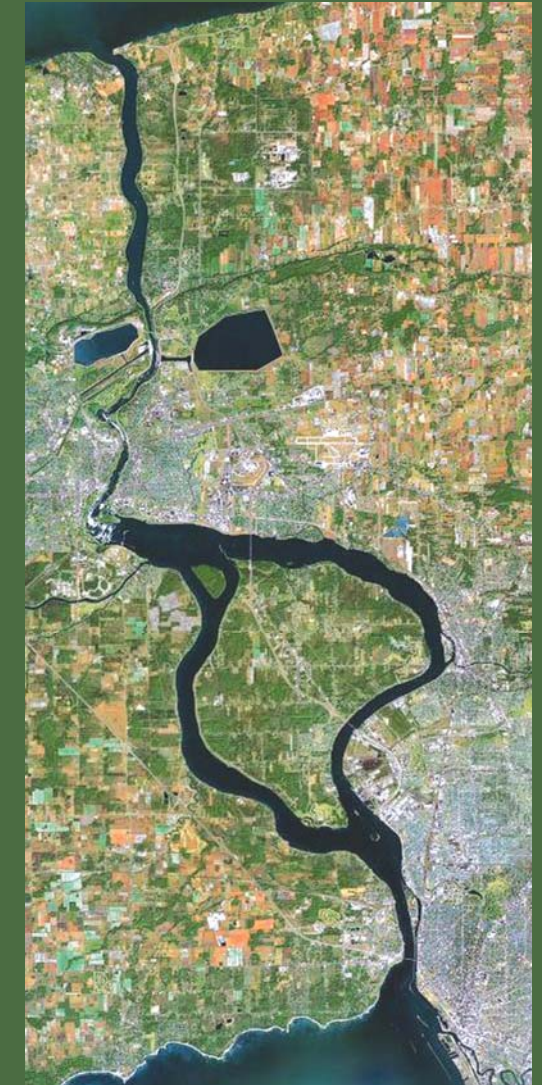
**Q: How can I become involved?**

A: You can become involved thru participation in the “Citizens Advisory Committee” which consists of representatives of local civic, commercial, educational, recreational, conservation organizations and the general public. Or the “Local Government Advisory Committee”, consisting of the chief elected official of each municipality adjacent to the Niagara River, or their designee. Meeting dates and times are posted on our web-site; better yet submit your information including e-mail address through the “Contact us” section at niagaragreenway.org to be placed on our mailing list.

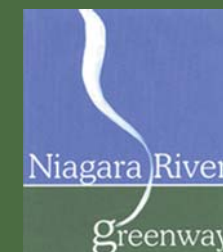
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# Niagara River Greenway



[www.niagaragreenway.org](http://www.niagaragreenway.org)





## Niagara River Greenway Vision Statement

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 Commission, first called for by then Governor Pataki in his 2004 State of the State Address and signed into law September 2004, with the charge of planning and the development of a greenway of interconnected parks, river access points and waterfront trails along the Niagara River from Lake Erie at Buffalo to Lake Ontario at the site of the historic Fort Niagara. The result is the Niagara River Greenway Plan, signed and approved on May 17, 2007. The Plan is a guiding vision that consists of Principles, Goals and Criteria that is the creation of Municipalities, Stakeholder Groups and the Citizens of Western New York. Over 150 meetings were held during Plan development with input from the general public from both Erie and Niagara Counties. The Niagara River Greenway Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement is a work of love and pride that all participants look to share with future generations to come.

The Niagara River Greenway Plan and Generic Environmental Impact Statement consist of specific Principles and Goals:

### Principles:

**Excellence** - The Greenway will meet world class standards.

**Sustainability** - The Greenway will promote ecological, economic and physical sustainability for long-term viability.

**Accessibility** - The Greenway will provide and increase physical and visual access to and from the waterfront and related resources for everyone.

**Ecological Integrity** - The Greenway focuses on maintaining and improving the health, vitality and integrity of natural resources and wildlife habitat.

**Public Well-Being** - The Greenway will promote physical and emotional wellness through the experience that it offers to the public.

**Connectivity** - The Greenway will connect trails, pathways, parks, water access, promote open space and provide connections to corridors and resources across the region and Canada.

**Restoration** - The Greenway encourages restoration of ecological resources, appropriate re-use of brownfields and the revitalization of existing urban centers.

**Authenticity** - The Greenway establishes a clear sense of "place" that reflects the traditional spirit and heritage of the area.

**Celebration** - The Greenway celebrates local history, diversity, cultural resources along with natural and built environments. Projects that support education, interpretation, events and activities that help build interaction and shared experiences to local residents and visitors to the region are encouraged.

**Partnerships** - The Greenway will focus on cooperation and reciprocal compromise. Partnerships will strengthen to achieve coordination and integration of efforts through out the Greenway.

**Community Based** - The Greenway will reflect the plans of local communities while respecting stated goals of the communal vision of the Niagara River Greenway.

### Goals:

**Improve Access** - Provide more opportunities to enjoy the many resources of the Greenway.

**Make Connections** - Link destinations and communities between the Greenway resources and its residents and visitors. Foster greater integration of stories, resources and features.

**Protect and Restore Environmental Systems** - Ensuring the future revitalization of the region's economic health through ecotourism, interpretive opportunities, habitat restoration and reclamation of damaged areas such as brownfields.

**Celebrate History and Heritage** - Increased opportunities to "Tell the Story" with consistent signage, wayfinding system, interpretive centers and coordination of interpretive activities.

**Spark Revitalization and Renewal** - Through sustainable revitalization, reinvestment and renewal in the cities and communities along the corridor an improved quality of life and tourism becomes a key factor.

**Promote Long-Term Sustainability** - The investment in existing resources and assets including rehabilitation of aging facilities ensure their viability and world-class stature.

**Extend Olmsted's Legacy** - The Greenway will continue to focus on the vision of Frederick Law Olmsted in achieving a necklace of parks and open spaces along the length of the River and extending a legacy for future generations.

