



Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition

721 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14213

*Adirondack
Mountain Club,
Niagara
Chapter*

DATE: 01-07-2020
TO: Niagara River Greenway Commissioners
FROM: Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition
RE: Comments on Proposed Greenway Projects

*Audubon New
York*

The Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition has reviewed the proposals before you today and submits the following comments.

*Buffalo Niagara
Waterkeeper*

General Comment

*League of
Women
Voters of Buffalo
Niagara*

Both the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy and the Niagara Reservation State Park Visitors Center Programming Study proposals include signage or other interpretive elements designed to promote wayfinding or placemaking at the sites and within the region. Specific to the development of these features, the two applicants and municipalities should consider the potential for collaboration in developing consistent interpretive elements and standards that can be used throughout the Niagara River Greenway, as well as expanded to other sites through the Greenway, by others, as opportunity occurs. This type of collaboration could result in a model for public communications regarding the history, natural resource base, and importance of the Greenway within the Great Lakes Basin.

*Niagara Musky
Association*

*Presbytery of
Western New
York*

*Sierra Club,
Niagara Group*

Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy: Buffalo Olmsted Park System Wayfinding and Interpretive Signage Project

*Western New
York Land
Conservancy*

Recommendation: Consistent with the Greenway Plan

- Prior to submitting a proposal for funding, NREC recommends that the applicant clarify the plan for coordination between the Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, the City of Buffalo, and the Niagara River Greenway to ensure consistent information is maintained and exchanged in creating interpretive elements that are located within the City of Buffalo parks, but also within the Niagara River Greenway.
- NREC recommends the applicant clarify the plan for the final adoption of the City of Buffalo Park System Wayfinding Standards Manual and the comprehensive interpretive plan for the Buffalo Olmsted Park System. As currently written in the proposal, it is unclear who maintains jurisdiction and authority of wayfinding standards when a property is also located within the Niagara River Greenway. Do the Greenway standards apply? Does the Olmsted Park System have its own set of standards? Do the standards of the City of Buffalo take precedent? Who develops the standards in the manual and who has the authority or higher jurisdiction to decide on standards if a conflict arises in the messaging between the City, the Conservancy, and the Greenway Commission?



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- NREC requests information about how we can be notified of any potential response to these recommendations as the project will seek funding before a committee that NREC does not participate in.

Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Society, Inc.: Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens Expansion Project

Recommendation: Consistent with the Greenway Plan

- Prior to submitting a proposal for funding, NREC recommends that the applicant clarify the details of the budget and specify the amount of funding it intends to seek from the Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee.
- We suggest a focus on native plants and living shorelines that demonstrate a clear connection to the Great Lakes Basin and WNY region.

NYSOPRHP- Niagara Region: Niagara Reservation State Park Visitors Center Programming Study

Recommendation: Consistent with the Greenway Plan (see intro comment)

City of Buffalo: Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park

Recommendation: Consistent with the Greenway Plan

Niagara Wheatfield Central School District: Niagara Wheatfield Eco Campus

Recommendation: Consistent with the Greenway Plan

- NREC suggests that prior to submitting a proposal for funding, the applicant coordinate with the Greenway Ecological Standing Committee in order to improve the focus and scope of their application.
- NREC recommends that the applicant include the use of permeable pavement, solar power sources, and LED lights.