

# Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition

721 Main Street  
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*Adirondack  
Mountain Club,  
Niagara Chapter*

*Audubon New  
York*

*Buffalo Niagara  
RIVERKEEPER*

*Citizens Campaign  
for the  
Environment*

*League of Women  
Voters of Buffalo  
Niagara*

*Niagara Musky  
Association*

*Presbytery of WNY*

*Sierra Club,  
Niagara Group*

*Western New York  
Land Conservancy*

DATE: December 23, 2015  
TO: Niagara River Greenway Commissioners  
FROM: Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition  
RE: Comments on Proposed Greenway Projects

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

## **Youngstown Water Street Sidewalk Project**

We recommend this project be found consistent. Providing safe equitable access to the Niagara River for pedestrians is a fundamental building block of the Niagara River Greenway.

### Recommendation:

Additional design and safety standard should be considered prior to constructing the pathway. Despite the fact that the current project proposal improve upon current access it has a lot more potential to encourage safer use and improve the aesthetic of area.

## **Mapping of the Niagara River generating multi-layer habitat maps for fish and benthic resources assessment and management in the upper Niagara River**

We recommend this project be found consistent. This research project will help us better understand the current conditions of the Niagara River and areas that need improvement.

## **South Park Lake – Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration**

We recommend this project be found consistent. The collective effort of the group has done a great job laying the groundwork for this project allowing them to leverage federal dollars to address much needed park improvements.

## **Scajaquada Trail – Phase 5 – Rumsey Woods**

We recommend this project be found consistent. This project improves recreational opportunities for park patrons along an important tributary, within the Niagara River Greenway.

## **Buffalo Skyline Gondola (Feasibility Study)**

We recommend this project be found inconsistent. As previously stated, improving access to the waterfront is a fundamental principal of the Niagara River Greenway. However, the end doesn't justify the means in this case. This project would directly affect the aesthetic quality of the waterfront and appears to provide access to a limited group of citizens.