



# Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition

721 Main Street  
Buffalo, NY 14213

*Adirondack  
Mountain Club,  
Niagara Chapter*

DATE: 09-10-2018  
TO: Niagara River Greenway Commissioners  
FROM: Niagara Relicensing Environmental Coalition  
RE: Comments on Proposed Greenway Projects

*Audubon New  
York*

*Buffalo Niagara  
WATERKEEPER*

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

*League of Women  
Voters of Buffalo  
Niagara*

**DeVeaux Comfort Station: NYS Parks – \$630,000**

Consistent. The project will comfortably allow for continued recreation of a State Park within the Greenway Focus Area.

*Niagara Musky  
Association*

We recommend signage at the comfort station which will draw the connection between the historic barn and new building, which may otherwise not be immediately clear to visitors. Additionally, we would like to see NYS Parks use the most updated cover sheet indicating which Standing Committee they will pursue for funding on future applications.

*Presbytery of WNY*

*Sierra Club,  
Niagara Group*

**Stairway Reconstruction: NYS Parks – \$2,100,000**

Consistent. Although there is an element of maintenance, we feel the project has a considerable focus on reconstruction. The project is necessary for the safety of many visitors in the Greenway Focus Area.

*Western New York  
Land Conservancy*

**Town Park Project: Town of Lewiston – \$700,000**

Consistent due to its access and recreation components within the Greenway Focus Area.

Recommendations for improvement:

- Reevaluate the amount of pavement, and its proximity to the shore, that will be required to meet the goals and accessibility for this project.
- Incorporate bioswales or rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff from the parking lot and hardscaping
- Use of native species only in plant design
- Maintain natural meadow habitat for pollinators, instead of mowing all grassy areas
- Time lighting appropriately to reduce the negative effects on wildlife (no lights between dusk and dawn)

**Tuscarora Interpretative Nature Trail: Niagara University – \$200,000**

Tentatively consistent pending letters of support. This project will provide free outdoor recreation in the Greenway, while educating visitors about native plant ecology & Tuscarora culture. The introduced

A photograph of the Niagara Falls water, showing white rapids and greenish water. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

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plants will be compared to USDA lists to ensure no invasive species are planted. The project has many excellent components that an exemplary Greenway project should include.

However, NREC would like to see a letter of support from the Nation before it is brought to the Ecological Committee for funding. We also request greater clarity on land ownership and applicant affiliation. It appears the applicant is the Niagara University and not the landowner. As per the Greenway criteria, if the applicant is not the landowner of the project area, a letter or resolution of support must be provided.