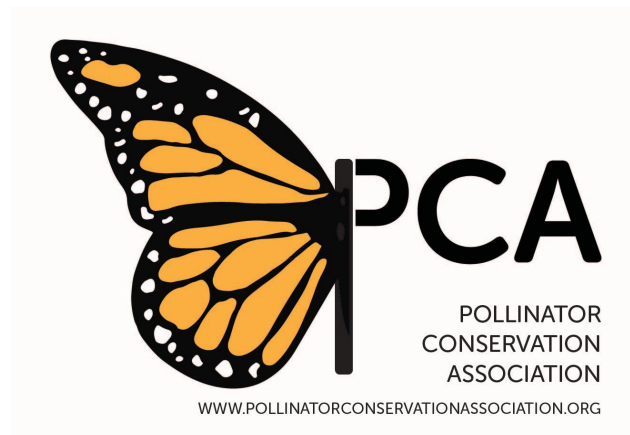




The Pollinator Conservation Association

Proposal

Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy Pollinator Conservation Supplement



November 2016

Project Registration Number _____

**Niagara River Greenway Commission
Consultation and Review Form**

Type of Review Required:

Mandatory Consultation

Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name:

Pollinator Conservation Association

Mailing Address:

83 Salem Street, Buffalo

State:

NY

Zip Code:

14220

Federal ID#

81-4169642

Charities Registration # _____

PROJECT TYPE

Check all that apply:

Environmental

Cultural/Heritage

Land or Water Public Access

Cultural

Trail

Educational/Interpretive

Waterfront or Land Based Development

Signage

Recreational

Other

Project Name:

Niagara River Greenway Pollinator Conservation Strategy

Location:

Various Greenway locations

Site Address:

various locations

State:

NY

Zip Code: _____

Minor Civil Division(s): _____

County: _____

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

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Jay Burney Title: Executive Director
Business Address: 83 Salem Street
State: Buffalo NY Zip Code: 14220
Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: 716 536 5723
Fax Number: n/a
E-Mail Address: greenwatch100@gmail.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: same as Authorized Official Title: _____
Organization/Firm: _____
Business Address: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: _____
Fax Number: _____
E-Mail Address: _____

1. Project Narrative: Niagara River Greenway Pollinator Conservation Strategy

The Pollinator Conservation Association (PCA) is a new Western New York based not-for-profit organization, that supports pollinator conservation through initiatives and action plans that promote community engagement, collaboration, education, and implementation strategies.

The PCA focuses on the conservation and restoration of pollinator populations and associated biota within the international Niagara Greenway and its associated bioregion. This is important because of declining biodiversity, declining native pollinator populations, and associated ecological systems, habitats, and places. It is important because the NRG has the opportunity to fund work that will help to restore and with long term plans, stabilize local and regional pollinator and habitat loss. This project will provide direct benefit to the ecology of the Greenway. We anticipate that with proper and collaborative outreach including consistent Greenway signage, special events, exhibits and displays, and media strategies, that project will directly benefit and and enhance visitor experiences.

The PCA is proposing to the Niagara Greenway Commission, a multi-year effort to provide resources for stakeholders (including public agencies and departments, communities, community groups, not-for profit, and private sector stakeholders) to include developing context, strategies, and educational and operational resources.

We propose a two phase project to begin in the Spring/Summer of 2017.

Phase One The creation of a detailed Pollinator Conservation Strategy supplement the the comprehensive and critical **Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy** (NRGHCS) prepared by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper in August 2015. All of the work in this Pollinator Conservation Strategy rests on or builds upon the original document.

Creation of this supplement will include collaboration and consultation with a wide variety of government, private, educational, not-for-profit, and community partners. The purpose is to both expose and develop concepts and strategies related to pollinator conservation within targeted areas of the Niagara River Greenway, and to engage stakeholders. It is anticipated that the initial target locations for this proposal will focus on properties in the vicinity of the Robert Moses Parkway; along and adjacent to the Grand Island shorelines; and Buffalo's Outer Harbor as well as landfills, brownfield, riparian areas, and critical places within the Greenway focus area.

Initial Phase Time-frame: Approximately one year.

Budget Phase 1: \$180,000

Phase Two: This is a long term (3-5 year) implementation of strategies, programs, and projects that are developed by the Phase One initiative. Phase Two project initiatives will include targeted outreach and educational programs, specific site collaborations including implementation of Pollinator Conservation strategies, collaborative planting strategies, and maintenance strategies

of targeted sites. We will also address Greenway visitor experiences with exhibits and special programs.

Budget Phase Two \$320,000 per year.

General Overview

Project Goals

1. To conserve and restore pollinators through the understanding of native pollinators, habitat, habitat loss, and restoration opportunities.
2. To identify and engage stakeholders and promote collaborative efforts, including public and private property owners and landholders, government agencies and departments, communities, community groups, not-for-profits, schools, and the private sector, in the goals of the Greenway Pollinator Conservation Strategy.
3. Develop and provide long term resources regards the development, maintenance, and management, including educational resources for this strategy.
4. Enhance visitor experiences with special programs, exhibits, targeted restoration locations, and publicity.

Project Objectives

1. Promote Pollinator Conservation Strategies
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration
3. ID and prioritize conservation sites.
4. Provide resources for developing and managing prioritized sites.
5. Model Best Practices, Policies, and Goals
- 6.. Long Term Contract (3+ years)

Project Strategies and General Workplan

Identify and engage stakeholders.

Promote collaboration

Develop outreach and educational programs and events including meetings and presentations, workshops, on-line resources,

To identify and provide services through a network of PCA members and private consultants created by the PCA.

Help to characterize and manage short and long term Pollinator Conservation planning strategies and initiatives for the Niagara River Corridor.

2. Advancing the Niagara River Greenway Plan.

Consistency with NRG Principles

The proposed Pollinator Conservation Association Pollinator Conservation Strategy for the Niagara Greenway is guided by the same principles as those of the Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy and Niagara River Greenway Plan:

1. **Excellence:** Although the PCA is a new organization, our board, partners and consultants have a long history of ecological advocacy, on the ground activities, and a profound relationship with the Niagara River strait, its ecological, economic and restoration activities and needs, and a vision for collaboration and restoration that is a flag waiver for conservation and community engagement.

2. **Sustainability:** The PCA identifies strategies and projects that have a long term impact. We clearly evaluate the social, economic, and ecological impacts of individual projects and overall contexts of Pollinator Conservation within the NRG and its associated environments. We are seeking long-term engagement, and a long term contract to help to insure that this will be a consistently developed and managed project.

3. **Accessibility:** The PCA NRG project is focused on public and other outreach and educational projects. We seek collaborations with the public, governments, educational institutions and the private sector. One of our primary values involves making information available to a wide audience of stakeholders. The accessibility of project sites, will focus on ecological restoration priorities and not public access. However we will encourage signage and online information about sites including advocacy contexts.

4. **Ecological Integrity:** Pollinator conservation is a profound gateway to address Ecological Integrity from many perspectives. Our international region as reflected by the Niagara River Greenway is a critical corridor and watershed effecting global as well as local and regional contexts. Pollinator conservation addresses native habitats, native plants, native wildlife, and threats to the above. Pollinator Conservation is also a gateway to public engagement and collaboration in a fundamentally popular way.

5. **Public Well-being:** Pollinator Conservation is a foundation of supporting diverse ecological systems and places. The support of biodiversity is an anchor for climate change defense, all life, and human life. This has health and economic contexts that promote sustainability that fundamentally connect environment with social and economic strategies. In addition, targeted places, combined with an educational and outreach campaign will engage the public in ways that will profoundly influence what we do, where we do it, and how we do it. Human health and well-being has to be a cornerstone of pollinator conservation.

6. **Connections:** This project will provide physical connections between places by helping to design and provide ecological corridors in the increasingly fragmented natural environment. In addition, this project will help to connect humans throughout the international Niagara River Greenway and beyond to concepts, projects, and other people. Collaboration is a human cornerstone of this project.

7. **Restoration:** This project will promote and engage in restoration projects that will include public and private lands. The first phase of this project will include identification of initial target properties and partners that can fulfill the mission of restoration in a long term Phase II of the project.

8. **Authenticity:** Our partners and collaborators related to the PCA represent science, nature, ecology, culture, advocacy, education, planning, project management and engagement. We are a diverse group that has broad based pollinator conservation as its operating system.

9. **Celebration:** This project is a green flag waiver and a NRGCC flag waiver. This project will focus on bringing diverse people, agencies, businesses, elected officials and the broad community together to celebrate our opportunities to promote conservation strategies. Pollinators are a gateway to ecological conservation, and human development.

10. **Partnerships:** the PCA is invested in creating a broad based network of collaboration, partnerships, and public engagement opportunities. These partnerships and collaborations, including international strategies related to the GreenWay and the Great Lakes are fundamental to our mission.

11. **Community-based:** The PCA is focused on place based advocacy, partnerships and collaborations with communities and people across the region.

Consistency with NRG Goals

The proposed PCA project achieves all of the goals of the Niagara River Greenway Plan:

- 1. Improve Access:** Our first priority is to create and provide access to habitat for pollinators. This will be done by creating and advocating strategies that promote long term funding, education, and management strategies for communities and targeted locations. Some projects may be less accessible by a broad public than other places. In all instances we will strive to create public benefit by creating places that can benefit human populations. These strategies will include recreation, education, science, and appropriate economic investments.. We will provide access to tools and information through our website, social media platforms, and other outreach programs. These programs will help to key on specific places and native fauna and flora, as well as provide credit to the NRG. We will have wayfaring and other branding initiative when possible.
- 2. Make Connections:** Partnerships and collaborations are broad based and are designed to engage connections between and within public contexts, government, education, community groups, advocates, and the private sector. In addition creating pollinator conservation sites and places throughout the Greenway will help to address the ecological fragmentation that characterizes so much of this area.
- 3. Protect and Restore Environmental Systems:** The PCA project will protect and restore unique and threatened ecological resources, including critical riparian and land based habitat. These habitats support declining rare, threatened and endangered species that depend on a number of habitat types.
- 4. Celebrate History and Heritage:** Our region has a long history of both conservation and development. We will celebrate human history by exploring how Indigenous culture perceives and lives with nature and how the contemporary culture of the most recent 200 plus years has contributed to a decline in ecological integrity. We will use this to help create the roadmap to restoring the health of the river, watershed, and other sensitive and threatened areas.
- 5. Spark Revitalization and Renewal:** We believe that our focus on pollinator conservation will stimulate science and educational investments that will help to make our region a Great Lakes, national, and international leader and clearing house for strategies, information, policies, practices and planning for restoration. We are planning large scale regional conferences, and long term connections to at least a variety of Great Lakes partners.
- 6. Promote Long Term Sustainability:** The concepts of Pollinator Conservation and our projects and products, are designed to address and reverse the current decline of ecosystems and the associated ecological services that this decline reflects. We have a long term action agenda.

7. Extend Olmsted's Legacy: We believe and aggressively advocate that a 21st Century Olmsted legacy involves native habitat and ecosystem restoration and public engagement. We proudly waive this flag, and expect to help move our regions Olmsted branding forward with this vision. We embrace an action plan that defends and engages with this legacy.

Consistency with Criteria

-Consistency with Principles: This proposed project is guided by the same 11 principles that guide the Niagara River Greenway Plan. (see above)

-Priority Status: Interpretation and education, and restoration of the Niagara River and associated biota ecosystems.

-Focus Areas: We have an oververaching goal to address the entire Niagara River Greenway geography including the watershed. Our priorities will focus on water adjacent properties and sites within the municipal boundaries and along State designated trails and related assets.

-Environmental Soundness: Pollinator Conservation seeks to remove threats and to encourage sound science based management plans and strategies.

-Implementable: Our budget is reasonable, pollinator conservation is becoming very popular so we will be able to engage the public, and our focus on multiyear funding, maintenance, and management strategies will help to insure that the Pollinator Conservation Plan will last for a long while. This long-term view is critical to implementation success.

-Economic Viability: In addition to Greenway funding, our project development strategy involves working with partners and collaborators to find and apply for a variety of funding resources for prioritized projects.

-Local Sponsors and Partners: The PCA is an association based on collaboration and partners. These partners do and will include municipal and other governments, agencies, schools, community groups, and the private sector.

-Matching Funds/Leveraging: A primary strategy of the PCA and the NRG Pollinator Conservation strategy is to use the funding to seed and build long term partnerships and funding strategies.

-Other Planning Efforts. Our board members, partners, and potential clients have long term investments and experience in a variety of planning efforts including One Region Forward, WNY-REDC, Queen City Hub, local comprehensive plans, the Buffalo Unified Development Ordinance (Green Code), The Niagara River Corridor Globally Significant Important Bird Area, Ramsar, The Erie Niagara Marine Sanctuary. and other regional planning initiatives including

NRG plans and projects. Many of our partners have helped to create these plans. Our objective is to make sure that the environment, conservation strategies, and ecological integrity become priority issues as various plans continue to be implemented and developed.

-Clear Benefits:

Ecological Integrity

The Niagara River Corridor is a world class place that will continue to benefit from ecological restoration and conservation initiatives.. Members of our staff, board, and many of our partners have been central to the creation of the NRG Commission, the Niagara River Globally Significant Important Bird Area, the Niagara River Ramsar proposal, and the Erie Niagara Marine Sanctuary proposal. We know how important pollinator conservation is to the preservation of biodiversity. We have world class partners and deep relationships throughout our region with elected leaders, officials, agencies, organizations, universities and science professionals, planners, and individuals. these relationships based on conservation strategies create a backbone for our project that will benefit the ecological goals and principles of the NRG.

Economic Development

Our outreach and education strategies include engaging and enhancing visitor and resident experience of the Greenway, through the promotion and flag-waiving contexts associated with conservation and pollinator strategies. We will identify places and programs that are both highly visible and ecologically beneficial. We will conduct programs and exhibits that will engage people and enhance tourism opportunities and development.

3. Budget

Phase I (one year)

Planning	\$ 30,000
Operation	\$ 75,000
Administrative	\$ 75,000
TOTAL:	\$180,000

Phase II (per year x 3-5 years)

Planning	\$40,000
Operation	\$185,000
Administrative	\$75,000

**TOTAL (Anticipated
yearly budget Phase II) \$320,000**

Planning- includes mapping and coordinating new and existing strategies, developing and maintaining context relationships with stakeholders and creating a white paper based on Pollinator Conservation Strategies for the NRG.

Operation- Program development and implementation including media and meeting development and coordination, materials and exhibit design and creation, website development (including developing policy and best practices guidelines) consultations and project development.

Administrative- Staff, associated overhead.

Funding Sources: One of our prime objectives is collaborative funding development that will help to ensure autonomous project and management and maintenance, or when appropriate, PCA project and site management. We will be seeking HERF and GESC funding with this proposal. In addition we will encourage the development of long-term stewardship funds for projects and project sites.

Allocated Funds: the PCA, as a new organization has been working with volunteers. Over 1,000 hours of volunteer time have been recorded in 2016, so far for this project.

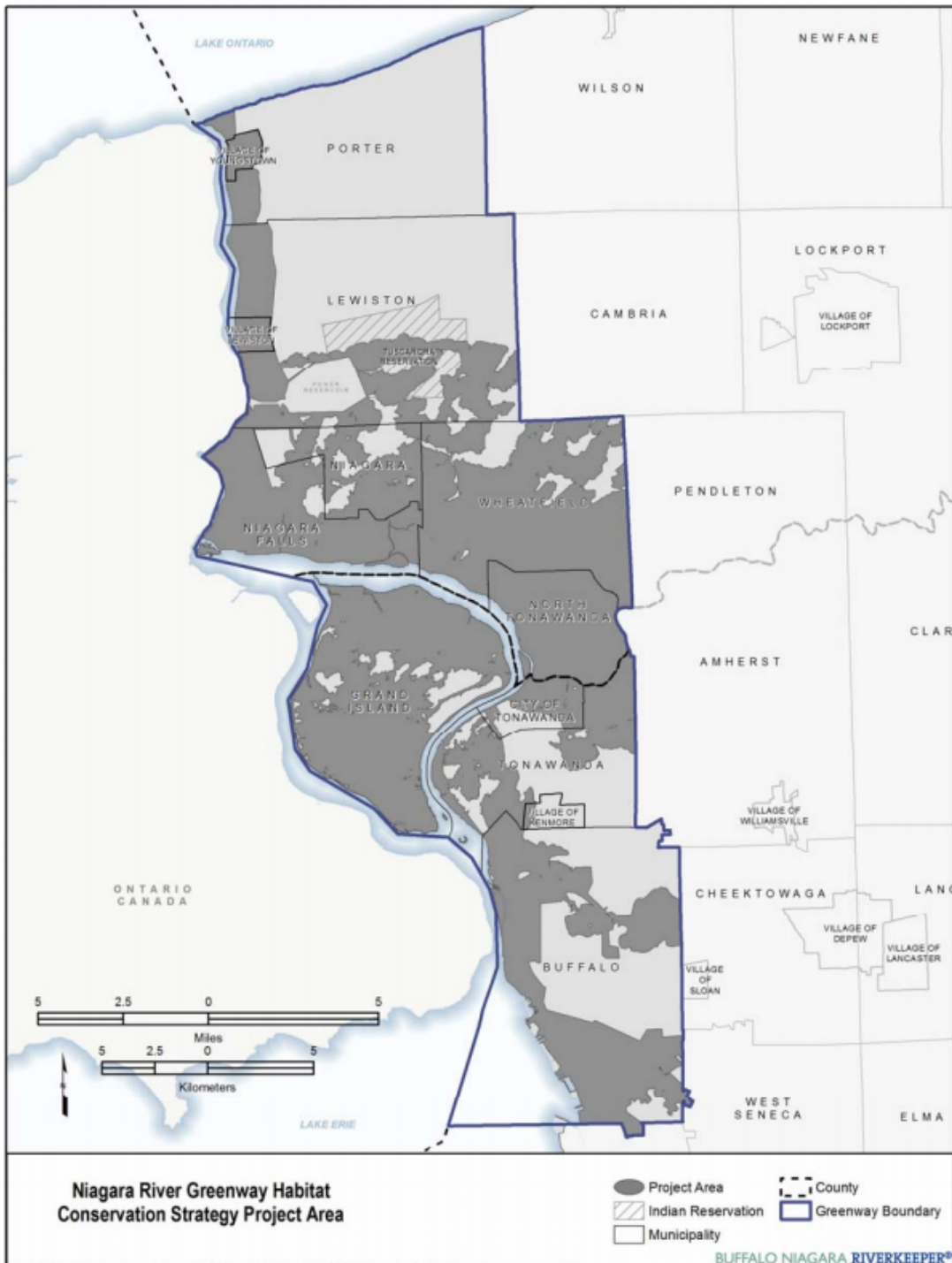
4. Community and Government Support

Members of the PCA have been meeting with stakeholders for over a year in anticipation of this project. We have met with City of Buffalo officials including the Department of Public Works, Olmsted Parks, Erie County Officials (Environment and Planning, Parks), DEC, ECHDC, EDC, NRG, and organizations including BNRK, Schools and Universities, and a wide variety of other organizations. We have spoken informally with representatives from Grand Island, the City of Niagara Falls, Niagara County and other local and regional elected officials. We have met with local Tribal leaders. We are working with private sector businesses including landscape and management experts. We are working with growers of native plants to service any potential markets that we help to develop. We are creating a coalition that will be served by these partnerships. We will use our staff and board experience to continue to create and manage these relationships. We will hire consultants and professional technical assistants. We have volunteers that include all of the above, and we hope to find ways to develop and help to manage funding strategies for the work that we will begin with this project.

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site.

We are not proposing to acquire any property with this proposal. We will be targeting and prioritizing conservation sites that provide both ecological benefits and public engagement. We are familiar with both the broad based and site specific ecological conditions throughout the NRG area. We are working with representatives from the DEC on calculating SEQRA initiatives and responses where necessary.

Map courtesy of Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper Niagara River Greenway Habitat Conservation Strategy.



July 2016, the Pollinator Conservation Association partnered with Erie County, The Friends of Times Beach Nature Preserve, and the Eastern Monarch Butterfly Farm to release butterflies at Times Beach.



Pollinator Conservation Areas introduced into Wyoming County in 2012 by current PCA members partnering with the Town of Sardinia, and the New York State Agricultural Working Group

