

Niagara River Greenway Commission Consultation and Review Form

Date of Submittal: 8/16/2024 Project Registration Number (office use only):

Type of Review Required (please check one):

- Mandatory Consultation for proposals seeking Greenway Funding
 Voluntary Review and/or Endorsement for proposals not seeking Greenway Funding

PROJECT SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name:	Mark Laurrie
Mailing Address:	630 66 TH Street, Niagara Falls
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14304
Federal ID#:	
Charities Registration #:	

PROJECT TYPE (Please check only ONE)

- Trail Development / Improvement Interpretation / Cultural Monuments
 Ecosystem / Riparian Habitat Restoration Stewardship
 Niagara River Greenway Placemaking / Public Access / Wayfinding

FUNDING COMMITTEE

- Host Community Standing Committee Ecological Standing Committee
 Buffalo and Erie County Standing Committee State Parks Standing Committee
 Unsure at this time / N/A

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED \$15,000

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

Source	Amount
City School District of the City of Niagara Falls	TBD

Frequently Asked Questions

WHO CAN SUBMIT PROJECTS OR PROPOSALS FOR REVIEW?

Municipalities, municipal entities, state agencies, public benefit corporations, public authorities, not-for-profit corporations, non-governmental organizations and members of the public with an interest in projects that will advance the vision of the Niagara River Greenway.

WHY SHOULD MY PROJECT OR PROPOSAL BE REVIEWED?

Project sponsors seeking funding from any of the New York Power Authority Relicensing Settlement Agreements must submit a project review form and show evidence of consultation with the Niagara River Greenway Commission. Others not seeking these funds who are considering filing a grant application for project funding may accrue additional competitive benefits by receiving a finding of consistency and endorsement from the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE DOCUMENTATION IS FOUND TO BE INCOMPLETE?

Failure to do so will delay the process until all necessary materials have been provided.

WHAT ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS?

The review and consultation procedures employed by the Niagara River Greenway Commission only consider how the project will advance the vision of the Niagara River Greenway. These procedures are not a substitute for the requirements of State Environmental Quality Review Act. Furthermore, applicants are responsible for coordinating with those State agencies that have regulatory or advisory authority over the proposed project. A finding of consistency or endorsement from the Niagara River Greenway Commission in and of itself does not give any project sponsor the right to proceed absent compliance with the requirements of Federal, State and Local law.

IS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

Yes, Commission staff, subject to the availability of time and resources, will provide guidance and assistance to prospective applicants. All such assistance will be limited to normal business hours.

WHEN CAN I SUBMIT MY REQUEST FOR PROJECT OR PROGRAM REVIEW?

A Review or Consultation request may be submitted at any time.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR MY PROJECT OR PROGRAM TO BE REVIEWED?

To a large extent that will depend on the complexity of the proposal and funding cycles. Generally, Project Sponsors will be notified within fifteen working days of submittal that their documentation is complete. The Commission will review completed submittals as expeditiously as possible subject to the availability of time and resources.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name:	Environmental Ambassador Summit
Location (include GPS coordinates if possible):	Niagara Power Vista
Project Site Address:	5777 Lewiston Road, Lewiston
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14092
Minor Civil Division(s):	
County:	Niagara
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other):	

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name:	Mark Laurrie
Title:	Superintendent - Niagara Falls City School District
Business Address:	630 66 th Street, Niagara Falls
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14304
Work Number:	716 - 286 - 4190
Cell Number:	716 - 870 - 4198
E-Mail Address:	MLaurrie@nfschools.net

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name:	Mark Laurrie
Title:	Superintendent, Niagara Falls City School District
Organization / Firm:	City School District of the City of Niagara Falls
Business Address:	630 66 th Street, Niagara Falls
State:	New York
Zip Code:	14304
Work Number:	716 - 286 - 4190
Cell Number:	716 - 286 - 870 - 4198
E-Mail Address:	MLaurrie@nfschools.net

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1. *In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.*

Purpose & Importance

The _____ school district is requesting Niagara River Greenway funding to support youth stewardship and the Environmental Ambassador Summit (EAS) in Niagara County schools. For the past two years, the EAS was offered to high schools within Erie County, and specifically the greater Tonawanda area as part of the Tonawanda Community Environmental Benefit fund. The program was a great success and should be offered to students in Niagara County as well. The purpose of the EAS is threefold;

1. To increase students' awareness and interest in our local freshwater ecology, while impressing on them the importance of the Niagara River at an ecological, cultural and historical level.
2. Implement appropriate scaled, student led projects that have a positive impact on our environment.
3. To prepare students for their future, by providing opportunities to practice project management skills and offering information on what a career path in the environmental sciences and/or sustainability might look like, hence preparing our future Greenway leaders of tomorrow.

In addition to these three main goals, the EAS helps foster a sense of appreciation and responsibility for our greenspace, so that this young generation will become good stewards of our land well into adulthood. Ultimately, these individuals can help grow the local volunteer base that many of the non-profit environmental organizations rely on to maintain their habitat restoration projects that Niagara River Greenway funds. The Greenway is always in need of volunteers to do litter cleanup to remove pollutants from our waterways, to remove invasive species that are crowding out our native pollinator plants and installation of native plants, trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity. With the ever-changing weather patterns; we have all been experiencing recently, now is the time to increase biodiversity, to help cool ground temperatures, and to help with flooding issues.

Project Description

Four high schools from Niagara County (Niagara Falls, Niagara Wheatfield, Lew-Port and North Tonawanda) will enroll up to two teams each of 10 students to participate in the 2025 Environmental Ambassador Summit. Teams will work with their teacher advisor, with support from Niagara River Greenway staff, to come up with an outdoor project that will benefit the environment within the Greenway area. Students will research current environmental issues that are important to them and that are impacting areas close to their school or on school grounds (within the Greenway boundaries). They will then come up with a plan to help improve the issue and submit a mini-grant application to Niagara River Greenway one month prior to the EAS. Completing the application provides students the opportunity to create a budget and a timeline, two important elements to successful project management.

Three environmental professionals will judge all the applications based on a predesigned rubric and will give a score to each proposal that will be one of three scores combined to arrive at the top three winners of the EAS. Scoring of the proposals is done prior to the EAS. Students then prepare a slide presentation that they will orally present the day of the summit to the same three judges. This provides an opportunity for the judges to ask