

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: City of Niagara Falls Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan
Location: Citywide
Site Address: Niagara Falls
State: NY Zip Code: 1430
Minor Civil Division(s): City
County: Niagara
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): Owned by City of Niagara Falls

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Paul A. Dyster Title: Mayor
Business Address: 745 Main Street, P.O. Box 69, Niagara Falls
State: NY Zip Code: 14302-0069
Telephone Number: 716-286-4310 Cell Number: _____
Fax Number: 716-286-4349
E-Mail Address: paul.dyster@niagarafallsny.gov

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Acting Director-Planning,
Environmental
Name: Thomas J. DeSantis Title: and Economic Development
Organization/Firm: City of Niagara Falls
Business Address: : 745 Main Street, P.O. Box 69, Niagara Falls
State: Ny Zip Code: 14302-0069
Telephone Number: 716-286-4477 Cell Number: _____
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E-Mail Address: desantis@nfez.org

The City of Niagara Falls proposes to develop a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) for the development of a cohesive waterfront revitalization plan. The plan will address not only the waterfront, but the entire city and surrounding waterfront areas. Building upon the *City of Niagara Falls USA Niagara River Greenway Vision and Project Proposals* and the *Comprehensive Plan for City of*



Niagara Falls USA 2009, the LWRP will address economic development, land and water use, public access and recreation, and water quality and natural resource protection necessary for improving public use and enjoyment of the waterfront area. Furthermore, the LWRP will enable the City to identify opportunities for water-enhanced project development to reinforce and advance ongoing waterfront improvement projects and strengthen tourism to attract more visitors and extend their length of stay. This project will include significant public participation to help shape policy guidance and recommendations (including proposed projects) that will help the City achieve its goals.

In recent years, Niagara Falls has received extensive public investment to improve the waterfront and strengthen State-owned recreational assets. These projects are increasing tourism and creating jobs and revenue. However, the City needs to identify and create additional tourism opportunities that build off prior successes and encourage visitors to remain in the area longer. Capturing and holding just a small percentage of the 8 million annual visitors to the area will provide huge economic results. Water-related projects that offer more attractions are critical to achieving this goal. The LWRP will focus on this important stage of economic development to create more jobs and more revenue to boost the local economy and visitor experience and help to reestablish Niagara Falls as an international tourism destination.



Waterfronts have been shown to bring new life and energy to their communities. The LWRP will address this by creating physical links with downtown centers and upland neighborhoods, redeveloping historic and abandoned structures, and restoring and protecting natural resources.

The City of Niagara Falls has received \$493,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund to

begin the development of an LWRP. The anticipated amount needed to complete the project is \$120,000. The City respectfully seeks funding from the Niagara River Greenway Commission for this valuable project as a means of furthering its goals.

The Niagara River Greenway is a world-class corridor of places, parks and landscapes that celebrates and interprets our unique natural, cultural, recreational, scenic and heritage resources and provides access to and connections between these important resources while giving rise to economic opportunities for the region.

A comprehensive LWRP will promote the Niagara River Greenway vision in several ways. The program will develop a strategic plan to reach consensus on the future of our waterfront, establish local policies and outline the implementation techniques need to achieve that vision. The program will develop the organizational structure, local laws, projects, and on-going work that implements the plan.

Consistency with Goals, and Principles

Excellence

When implemented correctly, the LWRP will significantly increase our ability to attract appropriate development that will take advantage of, but also respect, the unique cultural and natural characteristics of our waterfront. This project will provide clear guidance on creating a unified vision for our waterfront which will



lead to increased chances to obtain public and private funding for waterfront projects. Funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, in particular, is more likely to be awarded if it is based upon a NYS DOS-approved LWRP.

Improve Access/ Accessibility



Development of the LWRP will address improving public access to area resources, particularly the waterfront. It will assist the City in identifying opportunities for the improvement and expansion of visual and physical access to the river and creeks, shoreline parks, and public spaces in the waterfront area water-related projects while reinforcing and advancing ongoing waterfront improvement projects within the city. Emphasis will be

placed on the preservation/improvement of water quality and natural resource protection necessary for improving public use and enjoyment of the waterfront area.

Make Connections/Connectivity

The LWRP will address the development of possible connections between Greenway resources and its residents and visitors by identifying and assessing issues and opportunities along the Niagara River and local creek corridors to ensure the quality and availability of public resources. This may include the creation of new and improvement of existing pedestrian, bicycle and paddling trails that connect people to City and regional parks in the area, and other public places along the waterways outside of the City.

Sustainability

As a comprehensive plan for the waterfront, the LWRP will promote smart, sustainable growth in the Waterfront Revitalization Area. Policy guidance will support a mix of land uses that are concentrated in areas where infrastructure and public services are adequate to enable such growth. Policy guidance will also focus on the protection of important open space and natural resources in the waterfront area, where shoreline restoration and naturalization would benefit the environment. The water quality policies will support the use of green infrastructure technologies and the restoration



of natural landscapes, where the City will place greater emphasis on the protection and restoration of the quality of river and creek waters. Additionally, LWRP policy guidance will promote carbon reduction/abatement, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy to improve community resiliency, particularly through the continued removal of roadways.

Consistency with Principles

As previously stated, this project is in accordance with the Niagara River Greenway Commission principles of *Excellence, Sustainability, Accessibility, and Connectivity*.

Priority Status

This project seeks to improve access to waterfront resources and develop an integrated plan to develop the waterfront with respect to recreation, land adjacencies and cultural potential. The waterfront is an urban edge where the City and adjacent land interface. This urban edge will increase in value because of ongoing waterfront improvements and should be redefined to offer high-quality buildings, pedestrian streetscapes and a range of urban uses and amenities (water-enhanced uses and attractions) that will entice residents and visitors to explore the City, while adding value and tax base.

Focus Area

The Niagara River waterfront is the focus area of the Greenway Plan. While the City of Niagara Falls LWRP will not concentrate exclusively on the waterfront, the city's municipal boundaries are all within the core focus area of the Greenway Plan. Implementation of LWRP recommendations will create discrete, visible results that will have a local, regional and even international impact.

Local Sponsor or Partner

The City of Niagara Falls in conjunction with the New York State Department of State will oversee the long-term viability of the project, monitoring funding needs, operations and maintenance efforts.

Matching Funds/ Leveraging

The City has already secured funding from the New York State Department of State in the amount of \$493,000 for the development of the LWRP. The amount requested in Niagara River Greenway (\$120,000) reflects the amount needed to properly execute the project.

Project Schedule

The project is set to begin upon receiving a determination of consistency from the Commission and execution of a contract with New York State Department of State. Development of the LWRP should be complete within 24 months.

Budget

SOURCES OF FUNDS	
Loan #1	\$
Loan #2	\$
Grant #1: Environmental Protection Fund	\$493,000
Grant #2: Niagara River Greenway	\$120,000
Other Source #1:	\$
Other Source #2	\$
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS	\$613,000
USE OF FUNDS	
Planning	\$613,000
Construction	\$
Acquisition	\$
Administration	\$
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$
TOTAL USES OF FUNDS	\$613,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$613,000

Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.

The creation of an LWRP was approved by the Niagara Falls City Council in June 2018 when it approved the submission of a Consolidated Funding Application to the Environmental Protection Fund. The application included letters of support from the Niagara Falls Block Club Council, the Niagara Beautification Commission, the Niagara University Levesque Institute for Civic Engagement, Senator Robert Ortt and Assemblyman Angelo Morinello.

Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

While creation of the LWRP will not, in itself, have any bearing on the environment, the projects it ultimately recommends will affect their surrounding environment. Therefore, the LWRP will include analyses of existing land and water resources, opportunities and constraints for waterfront development, and reviews of information about topics such as the built environment, natural resources, historic resources, municipal services, circulation patterns, environmental conditions, land ownership, and waterfront access. Based on these analyses, policies and projects will be recommended that will have no negative impact on the environmental setting.

NIAGARA FALLS BLOCK CLUB COUNCIL

P O Box 2132

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

July 24, 2018

Rossanna Rosado

Secretary of State

Department of State, Albany Location:

One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave

Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Secretary Rosado,

I am writing in support of the City of Niagara Falls' application under the Consolidated Funding Application to undertake a comprehensive and serious Local Waterfront Revitalization Program planning and pre-development study for the Niagara Falls Waterfront.

As you know the public waterfront in Niagara Falls is one of the most visited on the planet, certainly in New York State. For the past three decades the City has struggled with socio-economic dislocations and has struggled to revive itself as a place of nature in the eyes of the world. It has not been an easy mission. While it is well known that the City has tirelessly worked to bring about this revival, it is also well known that the responsible agencies overseeing the direction for that revival have not always been on the same page and much of the past efforts ended in little being accomplished other than reinforcing the goals within the community and their pursuit for implementing an authentic, green, sustainable, and shared waterfront vision.

Fortunately, during the past decade there has been great progress made toward implementing a community vision. The City's 2004 Strategic Plan, the 2006 Niagara River Greenway Vision, and the 2009 Comprehensive Plan have enabled the City and the State of New York to achieve several "big moves" that now represent the foundation for true revitalization. In particular, the State and the City have managed to make great strides in removing the legacy impediment —the Robert Moses Parkway - now the Niagara Scenic Parkway. It is being removed and reconfigured into the largest expansion of public parkland since the Niagara Reservation's inception in 1885. First, the Riverway Project reconfigured the roadway and the Daly Boulevard interchange — now a roundabout, and restored the Olmsted design to NF State Park between Daly Blvd. and Prospect Pointe. Next up, the removal of the Parkway between Rainbow Bridge and Whirlpool State Park will re-establish the Niagara Falls waterfront as a place of nature and the city adjacent as the "city in the park".

Now the community is looking to further advance its waterfront-led city revitalization —farther and faster - with the assistance of the NYS-Department of State through the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). A new LWRP would enable the State and the City to continue in their collaboration creating a new, more detailed waterfront plan with a more detailed agenda of emerging economic development projects made ready for implementation.

For these reasons, I am pleased to support this project and look forward to the development of a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of our beloved waterfront. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

NIAGARA FALLS BLOCK CLUB COUNCIL

Norma Higgs, Secretary

July 23, 2018

Rossanna Rosado
Secretary of State
Department of State, Albany Location:
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001



Dear Secretary Rosado,

I am writing in support of the City of Niagara Falls' application under the Consolidated Funding Application to undertake a comprehensive and serious Local Waterfront Revitalization Program planning and pre-development study for the Niagara Falls Waterfront.

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For these reasons, I am pleased to support this project and look forward to the development of a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of our beloved waterfront. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Lowe, Chair
Niagara Beautification Commission

(716) 285-5030

Niagara Beautification Commission

PO Box 1945
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Niagara.beautification@gmail.com



*Levesque Institute for Civic Engagement
IMPACT/ReNU Niagara*

July 12, 2018

Rossanna Rosado
Secretary of State
Department of State, Albany Location:
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Secretary Rosado,

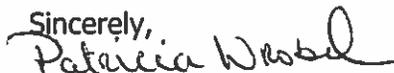
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Fortunately, during the past decade there has been great progress made toward implementing a community vision. The City's 2004 Strategic Plan, the 2006 Niagara River Greenway Vision, and the 2009 Comprehensive Plan have enabled the City and the State of New York to achieve several "big moves" that now represent the foundation for true revitalization. In particular, the State and the City have managed to make great strides in removing the legacy impediment —the Robert Moses Parkway - now the Niagara Scenic Parkway. It is being removed and reconfigured into the largest expansion of public parkland since the Niagara Reservation's inception in 1885. First, the Riverway Project reconfigured the roadway and the Daly Boulevard interchange —now a roundabout, and restored the Olmsted design to NF State Park between Daly Blvd. and Prospect Pointe. Next up, the removal of the Parkway between Rainbow Bridge and Whirlpool State Park will re-establish the Niagara Falls waterfront as a place of nature and the city adjacent as the "city in the park".

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For these reasons, Niagara University is pleased to support this project and look forward to the development of a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of our beloved waterfront. Thanking you for your consideration in advance.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wrobel

Executive Director, Levesque Institute for Civic Engagement

CHAIRMAN
MENTAL HEALTH AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CIVIL SERVICE AND PENSIONS
CORPORATIONS, AUTHORITIES
AND COMMISSIONS
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
HIGHER EDUCATION
LABOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



ROBERT G. ORTT
SENATOR, 62ND DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE:
815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2024
FAX: (518) 426-6987

DISTRICT OFFICE:
175 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 6
LOCKPORT, NEW YORK 14094
(716) 434-0680
FAX: (716) 434-3297

July 24, 2018

Rossanna Rosado
Secretary of State
Department of State, Albany Location:
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001

Dear Secretary Rosado,

I am writing in support of the City of Niagara Falls' Consolidated Funding Application to undertake a comprehensive Local Waterfront Revitalization Program planning and pre-development study for the Niagara Falls Waterfront.

As you know, the public waterfront in Niagara Falls is one of the most visited on the planet, certainly in New York State. Unfortunately, challenges have persisted over the past several decades and key areas of the city and the waterfront have struggled. In recent years, the community has coalesced around several shared goals to generate revitalization. For example, the State and the City managed to make great strides in removing the legacy impediment —the Robert Moses Parkway - now the Niagara Scenic Parkway. Its removal and reconfiguration is the largest expansion of public parkland since the Niagara Reservation's inception in 1885. First, the Riverway Project reconfigured the roadway and restored the Olmsted design to the park between Daly Blvd. and Prospect Pointe. The planned removal of the Parkway between Rainbow Bridge and Whirlpool State Park should re-establish the Niagara Falls waterfront as a place of nature and the city adjacent as the "city in the park".

In order to advance these efforts, the city is seeking assistance of the NYS-Department of State through the development of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP). A new LWRP would enable the State and the City to continue in their collaboration creating a new, more detailed waterfront plan with a more detailed agenda of emerging economic development projects made ready for implementation.

For these reasons, I am pleased to support this project and look forward to the development of a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of our beloved waterfront. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert G. Ortt".

Robert G. Ortt
State Senator, 62nd District



ANGELO J. MORINELLO
Assemblyman 145th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Veterans' Affairs Committee

COMMITTEES

Codes
Housing
Judiciary
Labor
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

July 23, 2018

Rossanna Rosado, Secretary of State
Department of State, Albany Location
One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave
Albany, NY 12231-0001

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For these reasons, I am pleased to support this project and look forward to the development of a comprehensive plan for the preservation and development of our beloved waterfront. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angelo J. Morinello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

ANGELO J. MORINELLO,
Assemblyman, 145th District

AJM/cld

